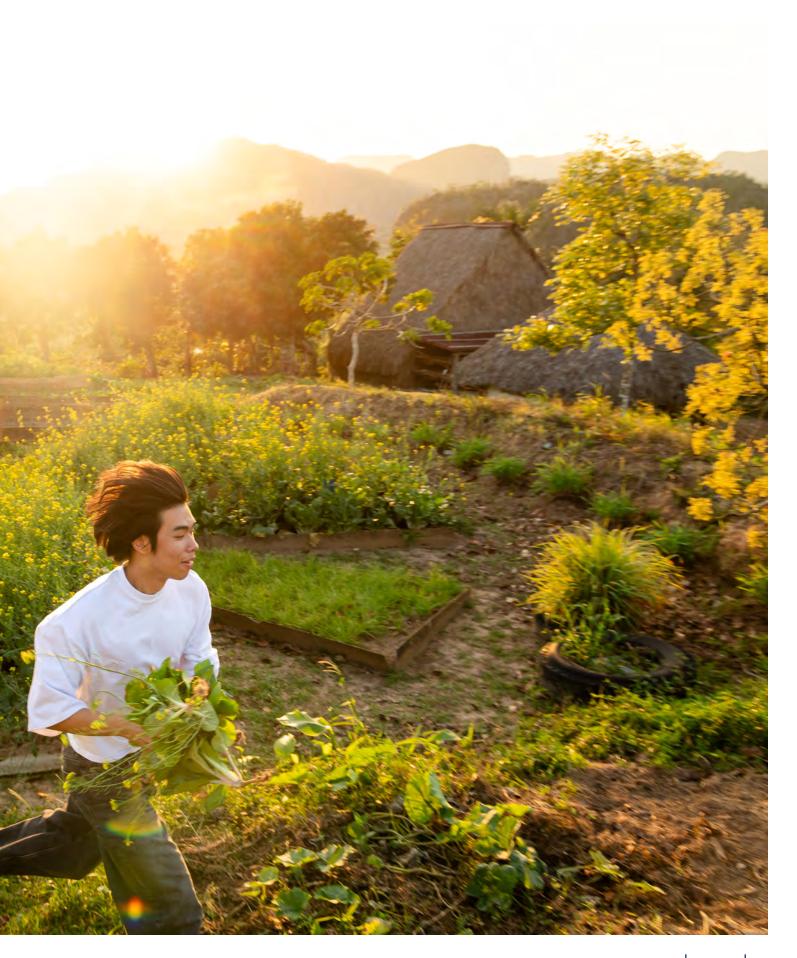


Photo by Director of School Photography Tyson Trish.

Tony Ni '25 lends a hand weeding the garden at Finca Agroecológica El Paraíso in Viñales, Cuba. After an afternoon of farm work, students shared a fresh meal and soaked in the stunning views from the porch.



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During a dedication ceremony in October, Blair officially opened the Center for Health & Well-Being.

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



"What sets the Blair experience apart is our commitment to in-person relationships, being present in the moment and putting down our devices to see—and celebrate—the good around us."

As we officially kick off our 178th year, welcoming 175 new students, faculty and staff to Blair this fall, the power of community is very much on my mind. Creating and sustaining a diverse student body from across the globe is as foundational to our mission as being student-centered; in fact, when Sarah and I first came to interview almost 15 years ago, it was this relationship-based philosophy and authentic focus on community that differentiated Blair and made us feel like our family had found our new home.

In an age where the sentiment of shared purpose seems to be dwindling everywhere we look, Blair is more intentional than ever about making our school a place where students truly know and connect with one another, as well as our faculty and staff—and not just through screens or technology. What sets the Blair experience apart is our commitment to in-person relationships, learning to be present in the moment and putting down our devices to see—and celebrate—the good around us.

It's this collective care and sense of belonging that makes a Blair education truly transformational, not transactional. And it doesn't happen by accident; it is nurtured and amplified in deliberate ways across campus. Whether in class, at School Meeting, during family-style dinner, riding the bus to Peddie Day, rehearsing before a performance, seeking extra help during conference blocks or simply relaxing with friends, Blair is committed to bringing people together, celebrating one another's triumphs and offering support in times of challenge.

You don't have to dive too deeply into the research to confirm that communal activities and civic engagement have long been on the decline—authors continue to document this phenomenon in depth and in passing. At Blair, we see every day the tension adolescents feel between the ease and appeal of solitary experiences—made even more tempting by streaming services, social media and AirPods—and the richness of communal ones.

This summer, a book that resonated deeply with me was Will Guidara's *Unreasonable Hospitality*. In an opening letter underscoring the power of great service and leadership in every industry, Simon Sinek reflects on how much communities have drifted apart thanks to digital communication and remote work. This is at odds with humans' innate need for a sense of belonging, which makes institutions like Blair and its focus on connection more important than ever.

As we embrace our Five Fundamentals and the theme of seeing the good throughout this year, we will work to bring our mission to life and foster enduring relationships. Certainly, our Center for Health and Well-Being has already become a gathering space that our students have welcomed as a tangible reminder of Blair's core values and commitment to being more than a school—but a home to which our graduates remain connected throughout their lives.

We will be standing by to greet you with unreasonable hospitality when you return to campus and see for yourself how this new facility and our upgrades to Mason and Freeman Halls have enhanced the student experience at Blair. With the transformation of the Bowl on the horizon next summer, this work will be ongoing as we keep people—the heart of Blair—at the center of all we do.

Cheers,

Peter G. Curran P'27 '27 Head of School

Peter G. Com

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

BELLA BIONDO '26 BRINGS BOSS DAY TO BLAIRSTOWN

dvocating for children with developmental disabilities runs in Bella Biondo '26's blood. It's a passion she inherited from

her grandmother, Ingeborg Biondo, who dedicated her life to supporting individuals with disabilities. After her passing, the Biondo family established the Ingeborg A. Biondo Memorial Foundation to honor her legacy and continue her work in the tristate area. Today, Bella plays an active role in that mission—while also forging her own path.

The foundation provides scholarships to local summer camps, offering children with disabilities a fun, educational and enriching experience. Last year, Bella helped the foundation assess how camps could better serve individuals developmentally, neurologically and physically. She then assisted them in applying for grants to support those improvements.

"Advocating for children with disabilities has always been a big part of my life," Bella explains. "I wanted to figure out how to bring that side of me to Blair."

To do so, she founded BOSS—Blair Outreach for Special Services—a student club focused on supporting children with disabilities in the local community. While many students use Thursday mornings to sleep in, Bella and her fellow BOSS members visit Blairstown Elementary School to read to and spend time with students with learning differences.

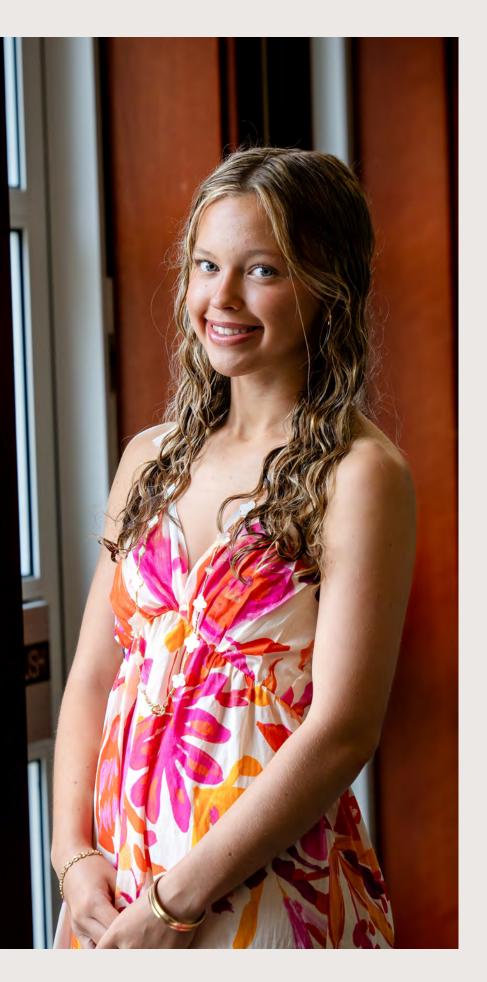
"We are hopeful to continue this partnership into next year and create even more opportunities and activities for the students at Blairstown Elementary," Dr. Alyssa Emili, supervisor of special services at Blairstown Township School District, remarks. "This is the type of partnership where everyone truly wins!"

As her efforts grew, Bella began meeting with parents and members of the local Special Education Parent Advisory Group to better understand the community's needs. With the support of club advisor and Dean of Students Andee Ryerson, BOSS Day was born.

"I've been so impressed working with Bella on her creation of BOSS," Mrs. Ryerson notes. "With the busy Blair schedule, it's so easy to have big dreams for a club and struggle to find the time to execute on them. But Bella had the dedication and made the time to accomplish her goals."

In May, students from BOSS teamed up with members of the Equity in Sports club, led by Naomi Sansone '26, Mayan Muchugia '26, Jazzy Maries '26 and





Andy Lee '26, to host a sensory-friendly event on campus for local families. While designed for children with developmental disabilities, the event welcomed all kids, offering sensory stations, an obstacle course, parachute games, crafts, bubbles and more.

By the end of the day, the impact was clear. "I've received emails from parents who've never seen their children so happy outside of their home," Bella shares. "We couldn't have done it without our student volunteers. So many of them were willing to help, spend one-on-one time with the children and make those connections. I'm astonished how much of an impact the event had on the kids."

Parents encouraged the students to host the event again, and Bella has already begun planning the next one. With the potential for nicer weather, she hopes to one day move the activities outdoors and introduce new games and field events.

"I wasn't expecting how fun it would be for the kids," Bella says, "and I think it really fostered the connection between Blair and Blairstown, showing the local community how caring and diligent Blair students are."

CHALL IN CAMPAIGN







Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of 6,000 donors and 28,700 individual gifts, *All In* has surpassed its initial \$140-million goal, achieving an impressive \$161.9 million. This historic effort would not have been possible without the unwavering leadership and support of Blair's Board of Trustees, Board of Governors and International Board of Governors. To celebrate the campaign's success, the community gathered for a festive celebration during Alumni Weekend to toast its impact and Blair's bright future ahead.

Since 2018, Blair has made strategic investments in its greatest asset—its people. By prioritizing the recruitment and retention of talented faculty and staff, and strengthening its commitment to a dynamic, inclusive community, the School has continued to foster the meaningful student-teacher relationships that are at the heart of the Blair experience.

Simultaneously, Blair expanded its curricular and cocurricular programs, enhanced campus facilities and fortified its long-term financial foundation. These efforts have culminated in some of the most significant achievements in the School's history. The campaign added \$60 million to the School's endowment, created 40 newly endowed scholarships, and funded a comprehensive faculty compensation plan to aid in recruitment and retention. It also established the Sigety Faculty Summer Institute, supporting professional development, and fueled the development of a dynamic curriculum that now includes more than 68 honors, advanced seminar and advanced survey courses. Signature academic initiatives such as the Integrated Science Research program and the addition of Intersession (formerly J-term)

further enriched the student experience while tying classroom learning to real-world applications. The School also documented two estate gifts of \$10 million each, bolstered the Blair Fund to support annual operations, and completed the construction or renovation of 15 buildings and spaces across campus.

"Every single person in this school has a say and a role in shaping the future of Blair. We want this campus to keep growing and improving. The only way that can happen is if we, as a community, continue to contribute and give back."

-Meena Grizzetti P'20 '22 '23 '26, Blair Trustee

As one of the most tangible manifestations of the campaign's goals, Blair opened the Center for Health and Well-Being this fall—a 23,000-square-foot facility that brings together health services, counseling and a new student union under one roof for the first time in school history. Renovations to Mason and Freeman Halls began this summer and will conclude next year, along with improvements to Marcial Field (aka the Bowl).

While the conclusion of *All In* winds down an extraordinary chapter, it also lays the groundwork for an even more promising future. Blair Academy is deeply grateful for the community's enduring commitment, support for and shared belief in the transformative power of a Blair education.

AT BLAIR, **NUMBERS TELL A STORY:**

THE LEADERSHIP AND GENEROSITY OF ALL IN SUPPORTERS ADD UP TO EXPONENTIAL POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE.

PILLARS OF THE All In **CAMPAIGN**

DONORS SUPPORTING ALL IN

OF CAMPAIGN GOAL RAISED

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YEARS All In **CAMPAIGN**

FACULTY MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN THIS YEAR'S SIGETY FACULTY **SUMMER INSTITUTE**

2,500 **GALLONS OF** WATER TO FILL THE **CREW CENTER'S** INDOOR ROWING TANKS





The first strategic priority of the campaign, developed by a team of more than 60 members of the Blair community, focused on people and the strong teacherstudent relationships that form the foundation of the Blair experience. Through All In, Blair has been better able to recruit, develop and retain outstanding faculty who represent our student body and are dedicated to knowing our students well—in the process, creating a richly diverse, dynamic and inclusive community where everyone feels a deep sense of belonging and students are supported in every endeavor.

At Blair, the role of faculty members extends far beyond the classroom. Educators serve not only as teachers, but also as coaches, advisors, dorm staffers and mentors—guiding and supporting students in deeply personal and impactful ways. In this setting, faculty become daily examples of leadership, integrity and care.

"As a parent, you want your child to be surrounded by educators and mentors who help them think critically, understand the world around them and grow into their best selves," Blair Trustee Keith Rauschenbach '76 explains. "At Blair, that means attracting and retaining outstanding teachers, advisors, coaches and dorm faculty who foster the exchange of ideas and embrace the transformative impact of boarding school life."

To do this, the School has invested in its faculty—not just through competitive compensation that affirms their value and makes Blair a compelling professional home, but also by supporting their ongoing growth. The demands of roundthe-clock engagement require real personal commitment, and, in recognition of that, campaign resources ensure our faculty can continue to develop both personally and professionally.

"What our faculty do is vitally important at a pivotal time in the lives of Blair students. As a community, we should be pleased about what this campaign has achieved. We've created a pool of resources that ensures we are in the best possible position to help our faculty grow in ways that are meaningful, benefit students and make it easy for them to continue to commit to their work."

-Keith Rauschenbach '76, Blair Trustee

The ultimate beneficiary of this focus is the student body. When faculty are supported, fulfilled and energized, they pass that sense of purpose and passion directly on to their students. All In has positioned the School for continued success, ensuring that every student who walks this hilltop leaves with a well-rounded education, prepared to confidently and creatively address the demands of college and an ever-changing global society.



RAISED: \$30 MILLION

Investing in forward-thinking programs that prepare students for a rapidly changing world was the second pillar of the *All In* campaign. Over the past seven years, Blair has expanded curricular and cocurricular offerings that promote growth, well-being and belonging for all members of the community. From the arts to athletics and academics to college counseling, campaign-funded initiatives have helped students become resilient, self-aware and confident young adults—equipped with the social, emotional and leadership skills they need to thrive at college and beyond.

Signature programs such as Integrated Science Research (ISR) and Intersession (formerly J-term) are prime examples of how Blair connects classroom learning to real-world experiences. Through ISR, students collaborate with scientists at renowned research institutions and publish their findings in meaningful ways, translating academic inquiry into real impact. Intersession has created a dynamic space for both students and faculty to explore interests beyond traditional coursework, often with expert guidance from alums and other community members—strengthening creativity, critical thinking and personal growth.

Campaign support has also transformed cocurricular life. The Richard Rubin '68 Music Endowment Fund, for instance, has enabled student musicians to perform at iconic venues like Carnegie Hall and King's College Chapel at Cambridge University. "These funds allow students to focus on the

music and the experience," says Director of Vocal Music and Director of Intersession Ryan Manni-Brennan. "It is the purest form of our student-centered mission and a wonderful part of working here."

"The addition of Intersession to our curriculum during the All In campaign reflects our mission to foster collaboration and deepen connections beyond the traditional classroom experience. As students engage in real-world learning, faculty are equally energized by the opportunity to innovate and expand their creativity. The campaign's support has been instrumental in bringing this dynamic, community-centered vision to life."

—Ryan Manni-Brennan, Director of Vocal Music & Director of Intersession

As Blair looks to the future, the lasting impact of these enriched programs is clear. They reflect a deep commitment to holistic education—one that challenges, nurtures and inspires. Thanks to the generosity of the Blair community, students now and in the years to come will continue to benefit from opportunities that not only shape their intellect, but also their character, creativity and sense of purpose.





The most visible success of the *All In* campaign is the remarkable transformation of Blair's campus in recent years. Alumni returning after decades away often marvel at the dramatic changes to the spaces they once knew. These updates have positioned the School to better serve its educational mission while enriching the academic, artistic, athletic and residential experience for students and faculty alike.

In 2017, Blair unveiled the Chiang-Elghanayan Center for Innovation and Collaboration—an open, tech-rich hub that houses the School's fine arts and technology departments—as well as a reimagined Weber Hall, now optimized for math instruction. By 2019, major additions like the J. Li Golf Center, Lulu's Place winter sports complex and renovations to the Bogle Science Center were completed. The 2021 opening of the Crew Training Center on Park Street marked yet another milestone in Blair's continued growth.

"The center gave us a consistent, high-level training environment, a place that reinforces the standards, structure and connection our teams need to thrive," Director of Rowing John Redos '09 explains. "Since then, we have seen sustained progress across both the women's and men's teams, including this year's double Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) championship victories. I am proud of the culture we have built and grateful to the *All In* campaign for making this kind of progress possible."

The campaign also supported enhancements to other athletic facilities and improvements to Meerwarth Courtyard, further enriching campus life. But perhaps no project has had a broader impact on community wellness than the addition of the Center for Health and Well-Being. This space not only provides areas for students to study, relax and access health resources, but also fulfills a key campaign goal: expanding and diversifying quality housing for Blair's faculty. Along with new apartments in the Center, five additional residences were made possible through *All In*, and existing housing in Mason and Freeman Halls was upgraded for Blair's dedicated educators.

"The expansion of high-quality faculty housing during the All In campaign is a powerful expression of appreciation—an intentional investment in the people who make Blair home for our students. Providing thoughtfully designed, top-tier living spaces not only enhances daily life, but also fosters the kind of shared community and meaningful connections that define the Blair experience."

-Leucretia Shaw, Dean of Faculty Life

As the School looks to the future, the momentum of the *All In* campaign will continue to shape the campus—fueling innovation, deepening community, and building the physical and cultural infrastructure needed for generations to come.



RAISED: \$50.6 MILLION

While new buildings and bold initiatives offer visible proof of Blair's progress, the foundation for the School's enduring strength lies in something less tangible but equally vital: a growing and robust endowment that provides long-term security, stability in the face of economic uncertainty and the flexibility to innovate. As one of the core pillars of the All In campaign, strengthening Blair's financial foundation ensures that the School is prepared not only for the needs of today but also for the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow.

"A strong endowment allows the School to bring in promising individuals who can help build the community and bring energy to Blair," Blair Trustee Emmanuel Bello '04 shares. "Jack Bogle '47, a scholarship student, is a prime example. I've heard so many stories about what he did as a student and as a leader in this community, and I went to Blair as a Bogle Brothers Scholar. It's a virtuous circle, but it can't start without the investment from the endowment."

Key goals included expanding endowed scholarship support, which helps Blair attract a diverse, talented student body by offering the financial aid necessary to open doors for deserving students. Endowed support also grew across Blair's broad academic and cocurricular offerings, from arts and athletics to leadership development and service, ensuring that meaningful opportunities are available to every student, every year.

While the endowment fuels Blair's future, the Blair Fund powers today—meeting annual essential needs from academics

"Establishing an endowed scholarship in my father's name was a meaningful way for us to honor his legacy while extending the transformative impact of a Blair education to current and future students. We were especially pleased knowing that the scholarship is enabling him to directly connect with the recipients. We're also gratified and inspired by others who have supported the scholarship to ensure that the values and principles he embodied—and the School has reinforced—continue for generations to come."

-Kirsten (Trommald) Bushick '82

to financial aid. Throughout the campaign, Blair made a concerted effort to strengthen annual giving through the Blair Fund. These gifts play a vital role in day-to-day operations, supporting everything from extracurricular programming and classroom resources to financial aid and faculty support. The campaign set ambitious goals annually through the Blair Fund to support the School's operating budget and sustain the exceptional experience that defines a Blair education.

"We don't collect enough in tuition dollars to support the full operations of the School," Emmanuel explains. "The annual fund does a great deal to offset this."

Together, endowment growth and annual giving form a powerful financial engine—one that fuels innovation, deepens accessibility and preserves the heart of the Blair experience for students and teachers, today and tomorrow.





What do we do with the leftovers from dinner? It's a question that every home cook—and every dining hall—has faced. At home, last night's roast chicken might turn into a savory chicken soup or hamburgers the base for a robust chili. But what happens to the rest?

This year, Blair's dining hall, managed by Flik Dining, has found a clever solution. Blair's dining hall general manager, Corey Dorn, explains: "As a company, Flik Dining has partnered with a program called Share My Meals, which connects surplus food with people in need." In the Blairstown area, Share My Meals works through the local organization Benny's Bodega.

Headquartered in nearby Newton, New Jersey, Benny's Bodega is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) food pantry that proudly gives every donated dollar back into the community. Three times a week, Benny's Bodega now collects Blair's leftover food, taking anything that is not repurposed for student meals.

"Some days they get three pans of pasta, other days it's chicken, beef or rice," Mr. Dorn says. "It just all depends on what our students eat—and what they don't."

The move is part of the dining hall's larger initiative to become more sustainable. Last year, Blair began composting, and the dining hall joined the Green Restaurant Association, an international organization that grades dining facilities on their



EVERY BITE





Blair's discarded food is composted through One Compost Can, a locally owned company that collects the material weekly and delivers it to a farm in Hopewell, New Jersey, where pigs, chickens and other farm animals accelerate the composting process. *Photos courtesy of One Compost Can.*

sustainability—their use of energy, water, waste, food sourcing, chemicals, disposables and infrastructure.

"They look at our entire operation, from our light bulbs to how much water comes out of the sink to where we purchase our food, and they grade us on our sustainable footprint. Do we compost? Do we use reusable products?" Mr. Dorn explains. Restaurants earn different levels for sustainability and last year, Blair earned level-one certification. This year, Mr. Dorn is excited to announce that the School will be applying for level two.

That progress is possible, in part, because of the dining hall's recent partnership with Genesis Farm, a community-supported garden just four miles from campus. Using biodynamic and organic farming practices, Genesis Farm provides fresh, seasonal produce directly to Blair's kitchen. "Last week, we got carrots, beets and kale," Mr. Dorn notes. "The fields are so close, we can almost see them from campus. It doesn't get any closer than that."

Soon, Blair will introduce "Fresh from the Farm Wednesdays." A small icon or card will indicate to students which produce is harvested locally, helping them better understand—and appreciate—where their food is coming from.

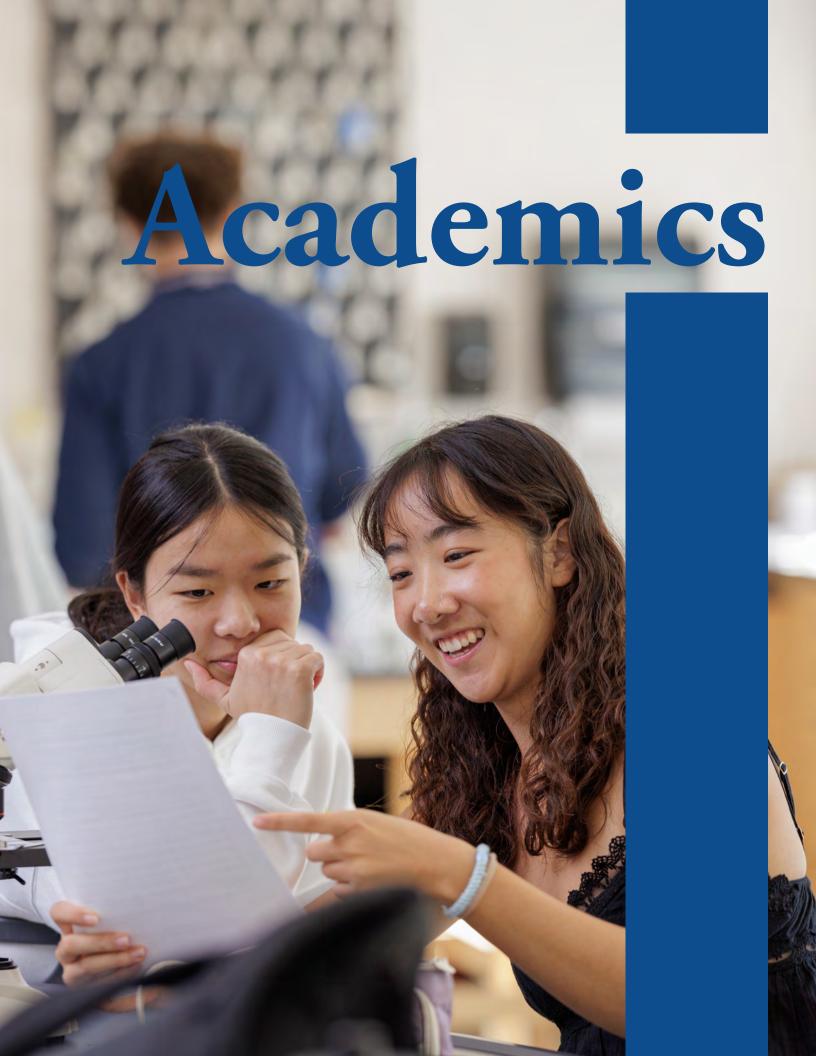
Mr. Dorn feels strongly that there are so many benefits to buying locally. In addition to supporting the local economy, buying locally requires less transportation, storage and packaging, which reduces the School's carbon footprint, and the fruits and vegetables themselves often have a richer taste, retaining maximum nutrients and flavor because they were harvested recently. "Using food from local farms is a win-win," he stresses. "Not only are we getting food of the highest quality, but we are supporting local farmers. It's a win for everybody."

He hopes that Blair's efforts will inspire other schools to take similar steps, partnering with area farms and local food pantries. "Every school has leftovers. Every town has families in need. This partnership with Benny's Bodega shows that connecting the two can be done—it just takes a little effort."

As these initiatives take shape, Blair's dining hall is not only reducing food waste, they are also providing lessons to students in the values of sustainability, of giving and sharing resources. So, at Blair, students are learning that food left behind can actually move communities forward. And, perhaps, the next time someone asks, "What do we do with the leftovers?" the answer might just be: "Share with a neighbor—and make every bite count."



Blair receives produce from the Community Supported Garden at Genesis Farm, which began as a small community-supported agriculture program in 1988 and has since expanded to offer more than 100 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs and grains.



Portfolio Symposiums Mark a May Milestone

Last May, after a year or more of rigorous study in Blair's advanced survey and seminar courses, Blair students prepared for a new kind of challenge: the Portfolio Symposiums. More than just an academic requirement, the symposiums offered

students a moment to pause, reflect and share how far they've come. In many ways, they marked both a beginning and an end—the final step in a year of deep inquiry and the beginning of a broader journey into lifelong learning. And, as part of Blair's

progression beyond traditional AP classes and into a more dynamic model of learning, the symposiums celebrated outcomes that matter: student agency, higher-order thinking, reflection and metacognition.



The juniors chosen for last May's portfolio symposium gather for a quick photo before sharing their work in the Chiang-Elghanayan Center for Innovation and Collaboration.

A New Kind of May Milestone

As the academic year drew to a close, a select group of 12th-grade students and advanced curriculum teachers gathered in the Chiang-Elghanayan Center for Innovation and Collaboration for the capstone experience. Designed as a stage for students in advanced courses to share the best of their yearlong experience—including wins, stumbles and lessons learned—the symposium was an invitation-only event. Select seniors, who were chosen on the strength of their portfolios, presented their work to faculty and advisors, engaged in scholarly discussion and responded thoughtfully to questions about their learning. Juniors were offered the same opportunity during a second symposium held during the last few days of classes.

After the first full year of Blair's new advanced curriculum, Assistant Head of School for Academics Nathan Molteni sees tangible results. "We set out to offer students both broad surveys and deepdive seminars in the program, designed by faculty members experienced with what works best for Blair students," Mr. Molteni explains. In the last year, the School has done just that. Faculty who create and teach these courses followed an exacting process: Each course began with a proposal and was shaped by feedback and fine-tuned during an audit to ensure that it aligned with Blair's vision for advanced coursework.

Psychology teacher Shelly Mantegna, as the School's Director of Advanced Curriculum, has had a front-row seat to the program's development. Tasked with ensuring that Blair meets its ambitious goals, she has closely monitored the progress of each advanced course. "The audit process really

matters," Mrs. Mantegna emphasizes. "It means that we have accountability, a way to maintain rigor and support learning outcomes."

In addition to one-on-one meetings with the teachers of all 45 advanced courses, key administrators like Mrs. Mantegna have also reviewed each student's portfolio. This additional layer of oversight has strengthened accountability and provided an opportunity to celebrate the depth, creativity and intellectual risk-taking evident across student work. It's one more way Blair remains focused on maintaining high standards while championing authentic learning.

Time to Think & Explore

"Not teaching to the test has meant more time in the classroom and lab—and more time to reflect," Mrs. Mantegna notes. Traditionally, for many courses, much of the focus in AP classes was on memorization. "Now," she continues, "classes like Advanced Survey: Why Art Matters [formerly AP Art History] have the time and freedom to pursue deeper study. This year, art students did primary research at New York's Center for Architecture and The Whitney Museum of American Art, something that would not have been possible under the traditional AP schedule."

This freedom has not only made room for intellectual exploration, it has also created space for metacognition. By encouraging students to think about how they think, Blair's advanced courses cultivate self-awareness, intentionality and personal growth. "Reflecting on their work helps students understand themselves as learners," Mrs. Mantegna reflects, making their work more meaningful and their progress more lasting. Through the symposiums, students are not only presenting what they know, but also how they've come to know it—truly owning their work.

Veteran math instructor Latta Browse, who has been teaching at Blair for 40 years, has noticed the same shift in his Advanced Integral Calculus course. "Since we no longer have to consider the AP test, we spend much more time on the theoretical underpinnings of calculus," he notes. Blair's budding mathematicians now explore the

epsilon-delta definition of a limit and prove complicated limits rigorously. The class spends more time on parametric and polar curves—topics previously condensed due to time constraints. The curriculum has also expanded to include first-order linear differential equations and a more thorough treatment of Euler's Method. "All in all, the new course better prepares students for the

third semester of college calculus that many will enter in their futures," Mr. Browse says.

The School's advanced curriculum, aimed at richer academic experiences, makes an impact not only in Blair classrooms; it also resonates beyond campus, catching the attention of colleges and universities.



Cat Zhang '26's symposium presentation focused on her evolving perspective on learning—specifically, her ability to learn, discovering a passion for it, growing through the process and learning to love her work. Notably, she reflected on recognizing her flaws not as failures, but as seeds for growth.

Colleges Are Listening & Responding

Blair is now one of more than 100 independent schools across the country that have moved to custom-designed advanced coursework, a movement that aligns with shifting expectations in higher education. With more and more colleges—including Brown University, Dartmouth College and California Institute of Technology—

moving away from awarding credit for AP exams, there is a growing need for rigorous, carefully designed alternatives.

"Schools that create their own advanced courses are able to uniquely challenge their students," says University of Vermont admission counselor Candice Duckworth.

who came to Blair last spring during one of the School's campus college fairs. For her, Blair's model does more than check a box—it mirrors the type of learning, complete with deep inquiry, strong communication and creative thinking, that colleges want to see

"While still new, Blair's advanced curriculum will help prepare students for the kind of work they'll experience as first-year students at a college or university," she notes. "Students selecting these courses will be prepared with critical thinking, research and communication skills that will set them apart from their peers."

That institutional validation is important—but even more valuable is seeing how that validation plays out in real time, through student voices, ideas and growth. That experience was on full display during the senior symposium.



Allie Blalock '26 speaks with a college admission counselor during Blair's college fair last April. The event gives Blair students the chance to connect directly with counselors from a variety of institutions.

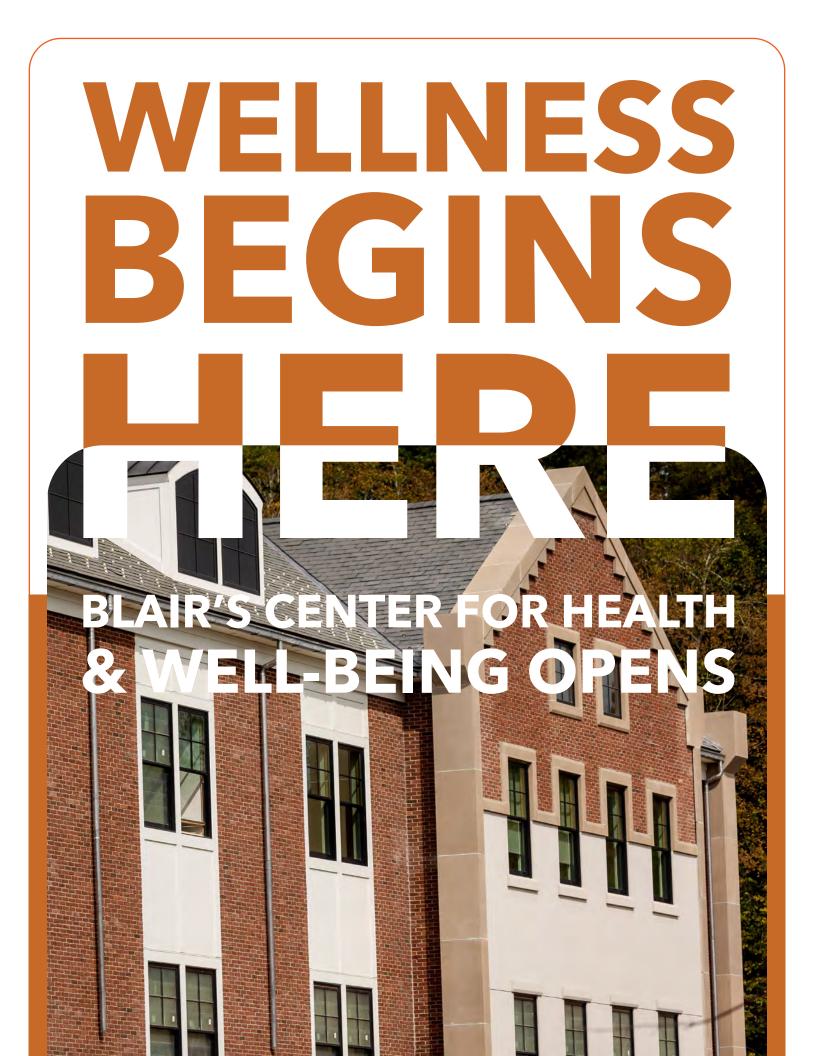


In his advanced symposium presentation, Shane Hadden '26 shared a major project from his advanced statistics course—an in-depth analysis comparing baseball statistics. He spoke with enthusiasm about how exploring a topic he's passionate about transformed his academic experience.

Beyond the Test —

As Mr. Molteni moved through the senior symposium, stopping to listen and ask questions at each presentation, he was struck by the students themselves—their confidence, curiosity and command of the subject. One of the night's challenges for students had been how to translate a year's worth of deep, often complex work for an audience that might not share their expertise. It was no small task. But, as he watched one student shaking hands with his advisor, beaming with pride, Mr. Molteni felt certain they had succeeded.

Already, his mind was thinking ahead to the next year and how Blair's advanced curriculum will continue to evolve. Twenty students had applied for a new advanced history course, Modern Global Thought, and other new advanced courses—in linear algebra, *The Odyssey*, and a class on Homer and Virgil—showed similar promise. There was much to look forward to. Though the May symposiums marked the end of the academic year, they also felt like the beginning of something bigger: a lifelong pursuit for Blair students of asking questions, digging in and thinking beyond the test.



This fall, the doors opened to the School's new 23,000-square-foot Center for Health and Well-Being, designed to support the physical, social and emotional wellness of Blair students. The opening marks a milestone in student health services on the hilltop, uniting the health services and counseling team for the first time. The state-of-the-art facility replaces the J. Brooks Hoffman '36 Health Center, which has served as the School's infirmary since 1956. Now, students have access to a welcoming and light-filled space where they can utilize health resources, learn, study, practice mindfulness and socialize.

Adjoining Hardwick Hall, the Center boasts three stories of intentional design. Visitors entering on the ground floor are greeted by a three-story atrium and a new student commons. The atrium and the student commons flow directly out to the Bowl via large glass walls and are connected to the Black Canteen, Hardwick Gym and the upper level health and well-being spaces via a monumental sculptural staircase, all capped by a large skylight that floods the space with welcoming natural light.

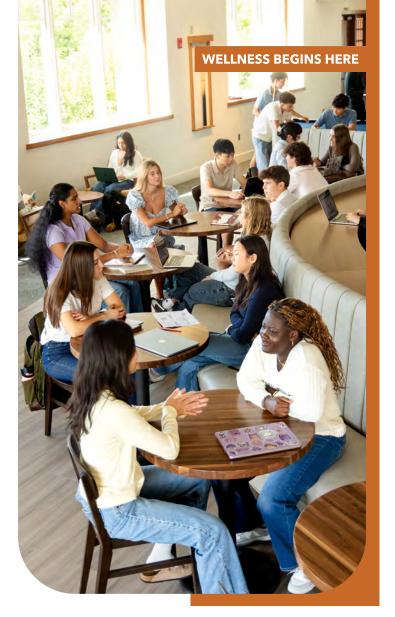
The second floor serves as the home of the School's health services team. Behind the front desk are several private overnight rooms, each with dedicated bathrooms. Nearby, an observation room, triage area, three exam rooms and a medication center support student care, in addition to a full classroom for education and training.

On the third floor, two apartments offer faculty spacious living quarters, as well as a new counseling suite, which features four private offices, a break room and new yoga studio.

A Nod to the Past & Future

Designed by Sparta, New Jersey's, award-winning HQW Architects, the new Center echoes Blair's historic buildings built in the Richardson Romanesque style while also embracing modern elements. "We've been working on the Blair campus since the winter of 1985, when a fire destroyed the School's Boiler House," offers Christopher Wolverton, AIA, LEED AP, principal at HQW Architects. In addition to work on many projects across the campus, HQW Architects most recently designed the Crew Training Center on Park Street and the Chiang-Elghanayan Center for Innovation and

Previous page: Although construction was still underway when this magazine went to print, here is an early look at the exterior of the new Center for Health and Well-Being.



The redesigned Black Canteen is now connected to the Center for Health and Well-Being and makes a perfect spot for studying, catching up with friends or grabbing a bite between classes.

Collaboration in the heart of campus. "We were able to pair the traditional Blair vernacular with modern touches, like the three-story glass atrium, which echoes the warmth of Annie Hall and the modern feel of the Chiang-Elghanayan Center for Innovation and Collaboration."

Visitors entering from the ground floor experience this firsthand. A two-story waterfall made of dark quartz creates a peaceful focal point, paired with a moss wall and tiered amphitheatre for teaching and group learning. "As you step in, you'll hear the burbling of water. The goal was to bring the outdoors in and create a truly calming space," Mr. Wolverton notes.

The 18-month design process for the building was highly collaborative, shaped by input from Blair's Board of Trustees

"It is essential that we give students the tools to cope in healthy ways with the stresses that life will inevitably bring. The combination of the quality and rigor of Blair's academics, its student-centered environment, and the teaching and nurturing of health and well-being tools, will ensure that every Blair student reaches their full academic and life potential."

-Maria G. Vinci Savettiere, Esq., P'17, Chair, Blair Academy Board of Trustees

and health services team, as well as research about other facilities opened by peer schools and institutions in higher education. "There were several rounds of discussion about flow, aesthetics and how to meet the School's health-care needs," Mr. Wolverton recalls. "We explored numerous iterations for the exterior before realizing the final design we see taking shape today."

Another priority was ensuring full accessibility. The inclusive, ADA-compliant building features overnight rooms, oversized for comfort, and push-button access at all entrances. An elevator links all three floors, supporting a fully navigable space for all.

Incorporating best practices from precedents set by industry-leading wellness centers at other private schools, the team brought the Center to life intentionally avoiding a self-contained feeling. "We looked at other campuses where the wellness center blended seamlessly with student life," Mr. Wolverton explains. "We very deliberately connected this Center to the Canteen, the Bowl and the Hardwick Hall athletic facility, integrating into the heart of campus life."

Sustainability also played a key role. Unlike older campus buildings heated by steam and oil, the new Center is powered by electric pumps that can be supported by Blair's existing solar panels on the roof of Hardwick Hall and in a nearby field across Route 94. Energy-efficient windows and exterior sun shades also help regulate temperature by mitigating heat gain from glass windows.

Beyond its technical features, the building carries personal meaning for the lead architect. "I joined this firm as an intern in 2006, and the first project I worked on was the athletic center. Now I am the principal in the company," Mr. Wolverton says. "To have worked on so many parts of Blair's campus has really helped bring continuity in style across campus. And, personally, it's been so rewarding—this project brings my career full circle. It's very gratifying."

Caring for Students, Every Day

For Blair's Director of Health Services Rosalyn Zamora, MSN, APN, FNP-C, the Center marks a long-awaited improvement. "One of our takeaways from the pandemic was the need to be flexible and prepared," she notes. "The new Health Center has significantly improved our ability to care for our students," Ms. Zamora continues. Multiple exam rooms optimize the staff's workflow and ability to handle large volumes of students. "With more than 470 students at the School, we operate around the clock. We have a big team, with up to 14 nurses and practitioners staffing at any time. Thankfully, the new Center has given us the space and amenities we need for smooth, 24/7 operation."

Longtime colleagues, Director of Health Services Rosalyn Zamora (*right*) and registered nurse Jennifer Lusardi (*left*) share a lighthearted moment together in one of the Center's bright new medical spaces on the second floor. The setting reflects not only the state-of-the-art facilities available to students but also the close professional partnership that underpins Blair's approach to student health and well-being.





An early look at one of the faculty apartments on the building's top floor reveals a contemporary, light-filled kitchen that is fully ADA compliant.

"Counseling is a resource to support students and provide them with tools to enhance their everyday well-being, and to prepare them with the skills they'll need to thrive beyond Blair. I've been fortunate to see the counseling program grow in my time here, and it means a lot to me to see the School investing time and resources into programming and new facilities that will help us continue that growth."

-Director of Counseling Ally Thomas, MSW, LCSW

"Now we can see and treat more than one student at a time. That is critical during busy periods," Ms. Zamora explains. In addition, the Center is equipped with new, automated medicine cabinets that are a necessity for students for whom the Health Center manages their daily medication. "The automated cabinets help us administer medications quickly and accurately, and keep them secured safely in the meantime."

According to Ms. Zamora, one of the most meaningful aspects of the new space is the design of the inpatient rooms. "The rooms were intentionally created to support healing and recovery, and they offer a quiet, comfortable place to rest when they're not well." Best of all, it offers users generous access to natural light and a peaceful outdoor patio overlooking the Bowl. She noted that these upgrades reflect the Center's overall purpose: "The changes are not just physical upgrades. They demonstrate our commitment to comprehensive, student-centered care."

"Overall, the new Health Center supports our mission to provide high-quality, accessible and compassionate health care to every student, every day," Ms. Zamora said.

As for the old Hoffman Health Center, it will be fully transformed into residential space. When asked about her feelings toward the new Center opening, Ms. Zamora is enthusiastic. "I can't wait," she says. "This space honors the past and works toward the healthy future Blair students deserve."

The construction of the Center, along with upgrades to Mason and Freeman Halls, cost approximately \$30 million and are being funded entirely through generous philanthropic gifts.

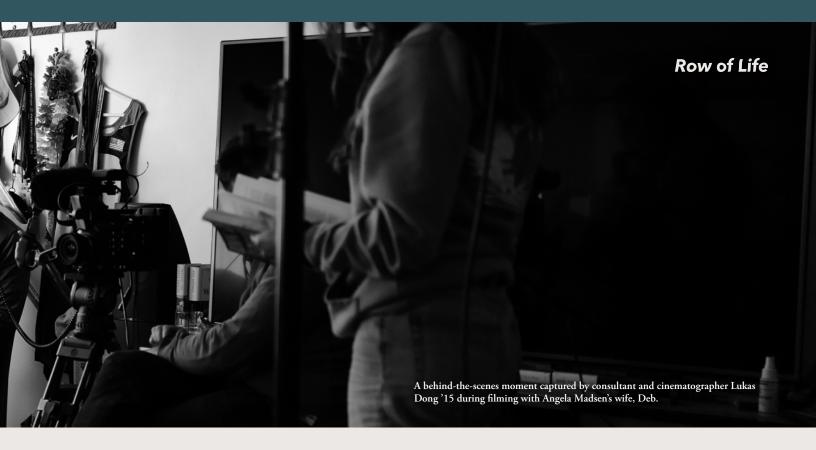


The Storytellers behind Row of Life

by Director of Communications Adele Starrs

In the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, amid the swells of dark, churning water, a 60-year-old Marine Corps veteran rows steadily forward. She is also a three-time Paralympian, a 14-time Guinness World Record holder and a woman determined to make history.

In April 2020, Angela Madsen pushed off from the dock in Marina Del Ray, California, in her 20-foot fiberglass rowing boat, *Row of Life.* It was around midnight, and as her boat slipped into the inky water, it was stocked with everything she needed to sustain herself for the three- to four-month journey: a generous supply of ready-to-eat meals, protein shakes, instant coffee and Ziplocs stuffed with treats from her wife, Deb. From her rowing seat, she could see a motto pasted to the inside of her cabin for inspiration: "*Well-behaved women seldom make history.*" A satellite phone tucked

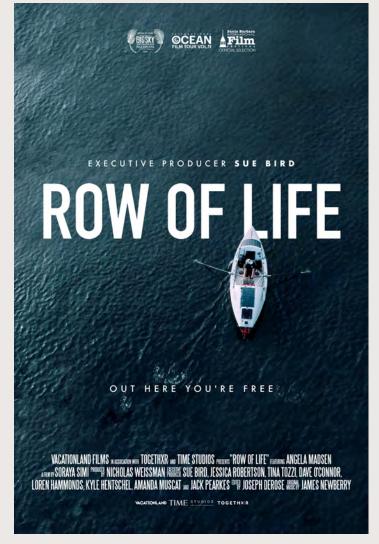




Angela Madsen training in her 20-foot fiberglass boat. Credit: ROW OF LIFE film.

in a pocket offered a lifeline and kept her tethered to those she left behind as she rowed, 12 hours a day, across 2,500 miles of open ocean.

Angela felt confident she was prepared for the trip. She had long been an accomplished athlete and was an experienced rower. At 33, she had been paralyzed following a spinal surgery that went horribly wrong at a U.S. Veterans Affairs hospital. Refusing to let the injury hold her back, she returned to competitive sports and found her way back to health. As a member of the U.S. rowing team, Angela won four gold medals at world championships and competed in three Paralympic Games—earning a bronze medal in the shot put in London in 2012. She also rowed across the Atlantic





Ocean twice, circumnavigated Great Britain and conquered the Indian Ocean, though always as part of a rowing team. Her name filled the pages of *Guinness World Records* and the dozen Paralympic medals she had earned in shot put and javelin sat on her shelves.

But she dreamed of successfully crossing the Pacific solo.

Row of Life, a documentary named after her boat, chronicles Angela Madsen's remarkable journey across the Pacific in 2020. Premiering at film festivals across the country, the film has received widespread acclaim for its stunning cinematography and moving portrayal of Angela's relentless determination in the face of adversity that would overwhelm most.

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with two Blair graduates, *Row of Life* executive producer Tina Tozzi '08 and Lukas Dong '15, who worked as a cinematographer and consultant on the film.

It's a coincidence that two Blair graduates ended up working on this film. Did you know each other beforehand?

– Aaron Goldstein, Spoiler Free Reviews

Lukas: We've never met before this interview. It's good to meet you, Tina!

Tina: You as well! I am the Class of 2008, so we did not overlap at Blair. This is the first time we've spoken.

How did this project come to you?

Lukas: Soraya [Simi], the director, and I went to film school together at University of Southern California. We've worked



on projects together for many years. She'd been working on this documentary for a while, and I'd always heard about it from her. At first, I helped casually, just as a friend, when she needed people on set, thoughts on notes or editing. Every now and then I would come shoot a day with her to help out. Over time, I got the pleasure of seeing it grow from nothing into what it is now.

Tina: I work on the development side, so the project came to me later than Lukas; he was involved in the production of it. I work for a women's sports media company and Soraya and the team came to us seeking an attachment through our female athletes. Sue Bird, the gold-medal-winning basketball player and a co-founder of our company, is connected to the film, which led to my involvement as an executive producer. I've mainly been involved with the festival circuit and distribution of the film.

What spoke to you personally about the film? Why did you want to be part of it?

Tina: Angela is just an unbelievable character. I was fortunate in that, when I came in, I got to see the film in its almost completed form, so I was able to come on board knowing what the story was going to look like. I found Angela so magnetic to watch. She is so compelling, and her story checks every box for us: sport, empowerment, resilience and revolution. Angela meets all those key points. It was an easy "yes."

Lukas: For me, when I started meeting the people directly, there was something about Angela's personality and her relationship with Deb that was so powerful and heartbreaking that drew me in. That's my favorite part of documentary filmmaking. You are living life as you do it, as you are going through these experiences. So, just being in the room, filming, as Deb was talking. That was such an interesting life experience for me—to watch that and see how she dealt with circumstances. You don't have to be specifically passionate about the subject or passionate about rowing to be swept away by this powerful story that draws you in in emotional ways.

What do you hope that Blair students will take away when they see this documentary?

Tina: Persistence in their creative endeavors. This movie took six years to make and it was an act of resistance to keep pushing forward and tell the story. I hope that students see the value in telling the often-untold stories of people who inspire. It's a reminder to stay true to your pursuit and creativity. These stories are worth telling.

Lukas: There's a scene near the end—without giving anything away—when everyone comes together to paddle out in the ocean. The Coast Guard is there; the entire community is there. Angela felt so alone through a lot of her life, and, yet, the ending of the film is about how people

Row of Life isn't just about one woman's attempt to cross the Pacific-It's about the drive to push beyond limits, the courage to face the unknown and the love that makes such journeys possible. Angela Madsen's story will stay with audiences long after the screen fades to black....

Overly Honest Reviews

unite. Maybe Angela didn't even realize that—the power of doing what you care about. I hope students take from that the power of showing up authentically in the world.

What is one of the lessons you, personally, took from the movie?

Tina: Angela's love for life is enviable. If Angela chose to be the person who said, "Every bad thing happens to me," most would agree. Whether confronting societal bias as a member of the LGBTQ+ community, adapting to life with paraplegia, breaking barriers as a female athlete or overcoming breast cancer, she meets every challenge with unwavering resilience. She has such a jovial personality type and she takes a lot of things on the chin. It's moving to watch. And her commitment to something with the risk of death challenges you to live more boldly, with a little less whininess. It makes you ask yourself: If Angela is not whining, how can I be? She has no pity for herself. That is very admirable and something I took away from it.

Lukas: For me, one of the things I took away is to persist. Over six years, there were so many periods of ups and downs where I wasn't sure how Soraya would handle the curveballs, and if it would even be finished. It just shows: If it's the right piece and you put the energy into it, it'll turn into something. Any piece of art worth making has those moments. Following the arc of this film is a good example

of examining all the different points where it made sense to stop, but they kept on. It was inspiring to see [Director Soraya Simi] just keep chipping away at this block of marble.

Tina: *Row of Life* is also my first executive producer credit, and it means a lot to me. It's obvious to me that I wouldn't have this job or this career without the Blair video program or [Blair drama teachers] Judith and Steven Kampmann. In a rural town in New Jersey, I had the experience of having teachers who had written films and acted and been part of the television and movie world. As a student, they made it feel tangible to have this dream. Blair made this career path feel like a reality, when it can often feel like a delusional thing to consider. I'll always be grateful for that.

Are you surprised by the response the film is getting?

Lukas: No, once I saw a rough cut, I fell in love with it. I hadn't been that emotional watching a film in a very, very long time. After I saw a bit of it, that's what I expected.

Tina: It's no surprise to me that the film resonates with people. The hardest part was always going to be getting it in front of people. Angela herself is such a compelling story. Watching people do impossible things is compelling.

It's exciting to have Blair graduates finding success in the film industry. What's next for you both?





Executive producer Tina Tozzi '08 smiles as she's presented with a gift—a hat proudly stitched with her role in the film.

Lukas: I'm working on a documentary called *Love*, *Chinatown*, premiering in Boston soon. It's about Chinatowns across America being overtaken by development and a story about the resilience of people who live in those communities. It's a really beautiful story and the central figure is this strong, charismatic woman who welcomed me like family. We see the story through her eyes, and she tells it like it is.

Tina: I work in development, so most of the things I work on are still in the pipeline. But I executive-produced season two of *Surf Girls*, which is on Prime Video. I'm currently focused on independent creative development in the unscripted television space. I'm really proud of what I'm building there.



Lukas and Director Soraya Simi, who studied film together at the University of Southern California.

While their upcoming projects vary, both Tina and Lukas share the same calling—to give light to stories that matter and endure. Their work reflects the message at the heart of *Row of Life* about the beauty of the human spirit and the power of resilience. Because, at its core, *Row of Life* is about far more than crossing an ocean—it's about finding the strength to keep going when the tides rise in life. Thanks to the work of filmmakers like Tina and Lukas, Angela's story continues to reach new audiences, encouraging all of us to live just a little more boldly.





Blair Honors Dedicated Faculty & Staff at Opening Dinner

As a new school year began and fresh faces were about to arrive on the hilltop, Blair took a moment to honor the familiar ones—those whose steady hands have long guided and welcomed newcomers into the community. At the Opening of School Dinner, Head of School Peter G. Curran honored six employees who have dedicated their time to moving Blair forward with warmth and care.

Faculty and staff members who marked 10-year milestones were gifted handcrafted wooden chairs engraved with the Blair seal. They include Associate Director of Annual Giving Kristine Scialla, Communications Project Manager Heather Sprague, Director of Alumni Relations Courtnay (Brennan) Stanford '95, Dean of Equity, Inclusion and Belonging and fine arts teacher Evan Thomas, and Director of School

Photography and fine arts teacher Tyson Trish. History teacher and head boys' golf coach Andrew Sykes was honored with an original painting in recognition of his 25 years of service to the School.

Alongside their peers in the Romano Dining Hall, these employees celebrated their momentous anniversaries, and Mr. Curran expressed the School's gratitude for their dedication as the new year began.

Retirements



Craig Stocker

In August, Blair bid farewell to grounds crew member Craig Stocker, who retired after 25 years of dedicated Since 2000, he has been a quintessential member of the team,

keeping Blair's campus beautiful in every season. He took particular pride in caring for the nine-hole golf course, but above all, he is most proud of his children, Craig '08, Matt '11, Ryan and Amy, and grandchildren.



Reanne Mauriello

After managing the school store since 1996, Reanne Mauriello retired from Blair with more than a quarter to the School. She arrived on campus joining her daughter, Sara (Mauriello) Breitbart '98, and has guided generations of

students while making meaningful friendships. Reanne and her husband, Phil, are proud parents of Philip J. Mauriello Jr. '04 and Sara, married to Michael Breitbart '97. Her decades of service as Blair's longest-running store manager leave a lasting legacy at the School.

Welcome, New Faculty & Staff

At the opening of school, the community welcomed several new faculty and staff members, and we are pleased to introduce them to the Blair family.



A group of Blair's newest faculty members gather under the Arch at the end of summer during orientation, just days before students arrived on campus.

Faculty



Education: Franklin & Marshall College, BA in English; Brown University/Trinity Repertory, MFA in theatrical studies

Directs: Blair Academy Players

Director of Theatre L'Oreal Carter joins our performing arts and English departments. A director, vocalist and acting coach, she brings a world of experience, most recently serving as a visiting adjunct professor of acting at both Franklin & Marshall College and Florida State University.

Faculty

Peter Cholnoky *History*



Education: Bucknell University, BA in history

Coaches: Thirds boys' soccer assistant; skiing assistant

Peter Cholnoky comes to us from the Forman School in Litchfield, Connecticut. Prior to that, he taught world history at Milton Area High School in Milton, Pennsylvania, and conducted in-depth research on U.S. covert operations in Latin America through the Emerging Scholars Program at Bucknell University.

Faculty

William Dollhopf Mathematics



Education: Wesleyan University, BA in mathematics and physics **Coaches:** Head JV boys' soccer; spring track-and-field assistant

Most recently, William Dollhopf completed a teaching fellowship with Generation Teach in Boston, where he taught two sections of engineering and led sports programming for middle school students. He is Blair's 2025 Hardwick Teaching Fellow.

Faculty

Anna Glosenger Science



Education: Rutgers University, BA in physics

Coaches: JV volleyball assistant; winter musical

Anna Glosenger is a 2025 graduate of Rutgers University and most recently worked as an intern in data analytics at The Bridge in West Caldwell, New Jersey.

Faculty

Zafi Levy Squash Coach in residence



Education: Williams College, BA in economics and political science; Springfield College, MA in sport science/education

Zafi Levy joins Blair as squash professional-in-residence, providing individual lessons while serving as head varsity boys' coach during Coach Compton's graduate school sabbatical. A top Israeli junior player who served as national junior coach, Coach Levy earned All-American honors at Williams College and, later, coached the men's and women's programs there for 21 years, regularly leading both teams to top 15 College Squash Association rankings and the finals in the annual New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) championships.

Faculty

Timothy
Patzelt
Mathematics



Education: University of Connecticut, BS in mathematics **Coaches:** Skiing assistant; head JV boys' tennis

Timothy Patzelt most recently worked at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire, where he taught Algebra 2 and precalculus, led STEM initiatives and advised capstone projects focused on artificial intelligence (AI).

Faculty

Emily Lunger '17 Language



Education: Pomona College, BA in French and anthropology; Middlebury College, MA in French Coaches: Girls' cross country assistant; spring track-and-field assistant

Emily Lunger comes to us from Dakar, Senegal, where she conducted research on sociopolitical issues in sub-Saharan Africa, and, prior to that, served as a teaching assistant in Paris and a teaching fellow at The Pennington School. She is the daughter of Eric Lunger and Penn Graves Lunger, former chair of the classics department and English teacher, respectively.

Faculty

Vicki Patterson English



Education: Rutgers University, BA in English; Penn State, MEd in special education

Coaches: Varsity volleyball assistant

Vicki Patterson has been a part of the Blair community since her sons, Owen '17 and Gareth '18, began ninth grade in the early 2010s. In addition to serving as an adjunct professor at William Paterson University, she has spent the past three decades teaching a variety of subjects to middle school students in the Allamuchy, New Jersey, school district.

Faculty

Kendall Rice English



Education: Williams College, BA in English and chemistry **Head Coaches:** Girls' varsity tennis; girls' squash assistant coach

New York native and volunteer firefighter Kendall Rice brings to Blair experience tutoring high school students in Williamstown, Massachusetts, where she designed and taught chemistry lessons as a private tutor, and at Williamstown Elementary School, where she taught reading analysis and writing skills to fifth and sixth graders.

Faculty





Education: High Point University, summa cum laude BA in French; Appalachian State University, magna cum laude MA in college student development

Directs: Model U.N.

With two decades of experience teaching French, Keith Ridgeway comes to us from the McDonogh School in Owings Mills, Maryland, following a previous role in Prince William County Public Schools in Manassas, Virginia.

Around the Arch

Faculty



Education: Clarkson University, BS in economics; Syracuse University, MPA in public administration

Jonathan Seamans most recently led financial and technology operations as the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs associate dean of finance and technology and, prior to that, as the Princeton Athletics associate director for finance and administration.

Faculty



Education: Union College, BA in French and Francophone studies Head Coaches: Varsity baseball; JV boys' basketball assistant coach

Matt Smith has spent 15 years coaching and teaching high school history at boarding, charter, inner-city and parochial schools, most recently at Brophy College Preparatory in Phoenix, Arizona. He began his career as a journalist at ESPN, where he created content for SportsCenter and Baseball Tonight, among other programs.

Faculty

Kailey Smith History



Head Coaches: Varsity volleyball; indoor track-and-field assistant

Most recently a teaching fellow at the Harvey School in Katonah, New York, Kailey Smith cotaught modern European history and psychology electives and proudly led the school's varsity girls' volleyball team to the best finish in school history.

Faculty

David Uhlig Science

Education: Temple University, BA in psychology

Coaches: Crew assistant

David Uhlig comes to us from the Hun School of Princeton, where he recently completed a teaching fellowship, teaching psychology and leadership seminars in addition to serving as an assistant strength and rowing coach.

Faculty



Education: Manhattan College, summa cum laude BS in mathematics; Purdue University, MS in mathematics

Coaches: Thirds boys' basketball assistant

With over three decades of experience teaching mathematics and statistics at the college level, including New York University, Manhattan College, American University and Drexel University, George Watson hails most recently from McDonogh School in Owings Mills, Maryland.



Executive Assistant to the Associate Head of School Student Life Office

Education: Berkeley College, associate degree in business administration and marketing

Jewelya Bussi comes to us from local bakeshop Defying Gravitea and Architeckt Music Academy, where she created weekly content for Facebook and Instagram, assisted with scheduling and supported event setups.







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Staff



Education: Southern New Hampshire University, summa cum laude BS in accounting

Linda Crump comes to us with more than two decades of experience in public and private accounting as a licensed CPA, most recently serving as the chief financial officer for Bishop Guertin High School in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Staff



Education: Albright College, BS in business administration/finance; Pace University, MBA in financial management; Seton Hall University, MS in accounting

Jeffrey Dulow, CPA, joins Blair with over 20 years of leadership experience in accounting, auditing and financial operations, most recently serving as controller at Brooklyn Law School. He previously held senior roles at Bergen Community College and CIT Group, while also teaching accounting at several colleges.

Staff

Madeline Kling Thees '13, Associate Director of



Director of Annual Giving Advancement

Education: Bucknell University, BA in psychology and education; Boston College, MA in higher education administration

Maddie Kling Thees continues her family's long Blair lineage by returning to the hilltop after nearly a decade of work in higher education, most recently, as an educational consultant for Marymount Manhattan College and the school's associate director for leadership and involvement.

Staff



Scott
Kushner,
Director of Annual Giving
Advancement

Education: Swarthmore College, BA in sociology and anthropology; MS in sport management from the University of Massachusetts Amherst

With over a decade of experience in fundraising, Scott Kushner comes to Blair from Lafayette College, where he managed a portfolio of 250 alumni, oversaw giving societies and executed major fundraising campaigns.

Staff

Lisa
Roycroft,
Admission
Coordinator
Admission Office

Education: County College of Morris, AA in social work; Kean University, BA in speech and hearing science

Lisa Roycroft joins Blair as a new admission coordinator, serving as the School's first point of contact for prospective families. With more than seven years of experience as an office manager and administrative assistant, Lisa has long supported school leaders, staff and families, most recently at Stillwater Township Elementary School.

Staff





Purchasing Coordinator Business Office

Education: Rutgers University, BA in communication and Spanish

With more than 20 years of experience in business management, marketing and customer service, Jodi Van Valkenburg has most recently served as a business manager at the Center for Technical Communication, where she oversaw financial operations, client communications and marketing, among other responsibilities.

Around the Arch



Holocaust Survivor Ernie Brod Bears Witness

A few weeks before his third birthday, Ernie Brod sailed into New York Harbor with his mother aboard the Portuguese ship Serpa Pinto. It was the spring of 1941, and the pair's journey had been long and harrowing. Before the Nazi occupation of Austria, the Brod family had been prominent film producers, living lavishly and frequently attending movie premieres alongside well-known actors and actresses of the era. But, in 1938, Ernie's father was imprisoned during the Anschluss, Nazi Germany's takeover of Austria. He died in prison a few years later, while his brother, Manfred, remained in hiding in England, sheltered by a Jewish couple. After a perilous escape that took them through wartorn Austria, France and Spain, Ernie and his mother finally secured safe passage to the United States.

So began the remarkable story of Ernie Brod, an 87-year-old Jewish Holocaust survivor who met remotely with Blair students this past spring from his home in New York.

History teacher Anna Raley, who teaches Modern European History at Blair, invited Mr. Brod to speak in the hope that students would understand the importance of bearing witness to these events in history. "Mr. Brod's story is different from the one all sophomores just read with Elie Wiesel's *Night*, and it is a unique experience that impacted many people but is also fairly unknown."

Blair history students have examined how the Holocaust didn't happen overnight—it was a slow, calculated process that eventually impacted the entire world. Mr. Brod reinforced this idea, explaining that the Nazi rise to power was methodical, beginning with their control of communication. The Brod family's company, Lux Films, was targeted, he believes, for this reason.

"The first thing they did was grab control of the methods of communications...the Nazis went after all the companies in those fields," he told the audience. "My grandfather's company [Lux Films] was accused of tax evasion, as an excuse for taking over the company. All the men who worked there were arrested. They were eventually sent to Buchenwald concentration camp."

Although Mr. Brod was too young to remember much of the German occupation firsthand, he later discovered a startling collection of family documents hidden in an old briefcase—letters between his parents, records of his father's imprisonment

and inventories of everything the Nazis forced his family to document before their belongings were confiscated. "Jews were required to make an exhaustive listing of everything in their homes—silverware, dishes, curtains—everything you can think of," he explained, sharing these chilling records with the audience.

Despite the trauma of his early years, much of Mr. Brod's story is one of resilience. When he and his mother arrived in the United States, they were sponsored by a relative, whom his mother eventually married. They settled in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, living modestly, and with a newfound sense of security. Mr. Brod had, he said, one goal: to become American as soon as possible. "I learned the fastest way to do that was to root for the Brooklyn Dodgers. I became the biggest fan the Brooklyn Dodgers had ever known."

Thirteen years after landing at Ellis Island as a refugee, Mr. Brod enrolled in Columbia University, part of a large cohort of Jewish students from New York City. He became an attorney and eventually spent 40 years as a corporate investigator, earning widespread recognition as an expert in his field. At age 21, when his mother became terminally ill, he also reunited with his brother, Manfred, who had grown up in England with his foster family. Their relationship, Mr. Brod happily noted, remains remarkably close to this day. "This past November was his 90th birthday. My wife and I traveled to London for it," he told the audience.

During the question-and-answer session that followed Mr. Brod's tale, students asked why he continues to share his experience today. "The frightening rise in antisemitism...has made me feel that I have a story to

tell," he replied. "There are people who deny and diminish the Holocaust, who feel that too much attention is being paid to the Holocaust and that we should move on."

He left students with this final thought: "Combating discrimination and hatred whenever you see it is something you need to do. Be aware of the thoughtlessness and, worse, hatred, that is around us....There is no easy way out of this. Please remember, there is a horrible possibility at the end of acts of discrimination and hatred. It happened in WWII and the Holocaust and it can happen again if we don't remember history and learn from it."

Mr. Brod's testimony was presented as part of The Alexander "ARob" Roberts Forum on Holocaust Education, established in 2022, in memory of Alexander Roberts '18. A beloved member of the Blair community, Alex was known for his kindness, leadership and a commitment to service that began with his Boy Scout Eagle Service Project, a memorial and



Among the treasure trove of documents hidden in an old briefcase—letters between his parents, records of his father's imprisonment—was Ernie's 1938 visa application to immigrate to the United States.

film to honor Holocaust survivor Ira Lulinski and others who perished, aiming to educate and combat denial. Today the forum continues his legacy, bringing speakers to Blair each year to discuss Holocaust-related topics and ensuring that Alex's commitment to remembrance lives on.



Ernie as a child. Credit: Ernie Brod.



A photo of Ernie's parents is shown during the presentation to Blair students, taken before his father's imprisonment by the Nazis.

Mason, Freeman & the Bowl Reimagined

This fall, Mason and Freeman Halls emerged with crisp new exteriors, renovated interiors and inviting outdoor spaces—all part of Blair's broader efforts reimagining the heart of campus. Built in 1966 alongside the field known as "the Bowl"* and adjacent to Blair's new Center for Health and Well-Being, the updated Mason and Freeman dorms reflect a renewed vision for student life on the hilltop.

The buildings now feature facades of limestone, stone and brick as well as new windows. Designed to better complement neighboring architecture, the renovations also include outdoor spaces between the dorms, soon to be complete with patios, firepits and comfortable seating where students can relax and connect.

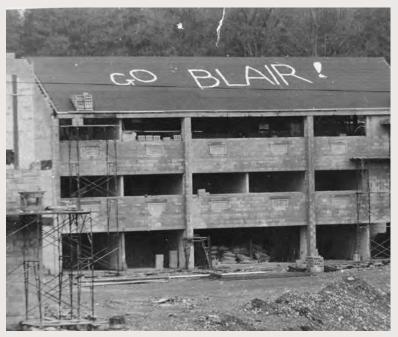
Inside the dorms, students enjoy a number of upgrades, including modern lighting, new carpeting and warm wood trim, as well as completely renovated bathrooms in both halls. Each dorm also now features a ground-floor bathroom, enhancing accessibility and adding convenience for everyone.

The renovations are part of a larger initiative to revitalize the area around the Bowl—Blair's historic central athletic field. "Given many team's preference for playing on turf, we currently use the Bowl only about three times per year for student life events such as Super Sunday, Blairstock or the finale of 'The Game,'" explains Head of School Peter G. Curran. But students from decades past may remember a different experience.

"The Bowl used to be the heartbeat of campus on game day," recalls Dean of Enrollment Teddy Wenner '96, who remembers the space being a hub for athletics from his days as a student. That shift reflects broader changes in athletics as a whole. "Colleges largely use turf now, so coaches at the next level expect to see athletes who are used to playing on turf," Mr. Wenner explains. "Our coaches are trying to prepare our kids for the game as it's played at the college level. You have to practice how you play."

To that end, the Bowl will be resurfaced with new turf next summer. Once complete, it will host field hockey, soccer and lacrosse games, bringing action back to the center of campus. With patios overlooking the field, Mr. Curran anticipates a lively





Photographs capture Freeman Hall circa 1966, offering a window into the dorm's construction—and vintage Buccaneer pride.

scene. "It's going to be a lot of fun for residents of Annie, Mason and Freeman to watch games now from their rooms and the new outdoor seating areas," he says.

Taken together, the dorm renovations, the recently opened Center for Health and Well-Being and the transformation of the Bowl will mark a new era for the heart of Blair's campus. "With all new landscaping and upgraded facilities, it's going to be one of the premier athletic sites in the state," adds Mr. Wenner. "It's going to become a signature piece of Blair's beautiful campus."



A peek into one of the dorm's renovated bathrooms shows the lime green tile is gone for good—and highlights just how far Mason and Freeman have come!



Opening just in time for the start of classes, students make the most of the refreshed dorms—gathering with friends, settling in and enjoying the first days of the school year.

*The field was renamed "Marcial Field" in 1984.

STATE OF ADMISSION

BY DEAN OF ENROLLMENT TEDDY WENNER '96

By all measures, 2025-2026 has been another exceptional season for Blair admission—and I'm delighted to share our latest highlights. Each year, we are attracting stronger applicants, with 1,450 applications for this school year, reflecting the rising strength and diversity of our applicant pool. This outstanding interest speaks to what families value most about Blair: our commitment to academic excellence, our strong dual-advisor support system and our culture of kind, high-character students.

This fall, our admission team is once again preparing to travel the globe, sharing Blair's story with prospective families. Last year, I spent over three weeks in Asia hosting receptions, conducting interviews and meeting with current parents. Many expressed their belief that the United States continues to offer the best education system to prepare their children for college and beyond. Notably, there is a growing emphasis on achieving a balance between academic excellence and personal well-being. Families are increasingly seeking schools like Blair—places where students are not only challenged but also cared for deeply.

This shift in perspective reflects a new generation of international families, many of whom have experienced the benefits of an American education themselves—often, at the college or graduate level and, in some cases, even during their secondary-school years. These parents now value factors beyond rankings, such as dynamic school culture and mental health support, and are drawn to institutions that both challenge and support. This evolving mindset aligns well with Blair's strengths. As we continue our work, we will further emphasize our commitment to providing top-tier academics within a connected, warm and welcoming community.

In fact, one of the most visible and well-received examples of this holistic approach—academic rigor balanced with care—



is our beautiful new Center for Health and Well-Being. During campus tours over the last year, families consistently expressed their appreciation that Blair is tangibly committed to integrating academic rigor with a strong focus on wellness.

"Blair's campus and facilities remain a key differentiator for us, showcasing the opportunities that exist for our students. Now, the new Center for Health and Well-being adds a new piece to our whole strategy of challenging students in a supportive environment."

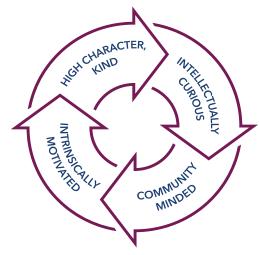
-Teddy Wenner '96, Dean of Enrollment

Thoughtfully designed with students at the center, the space is welcoming and accessible, encouraging connection, self-

care and easy access to a range of services. The layout fosters collaboration among counselors, nurses, health educators, and, importantly, it allows us to support students in more integrated and effective ways. The new space offers the privacy and flexibility students need—whether for a quiet moment before class, a medical appointment on Zoom, an in-person visit with a clinician or a yoga class that promotes mindfulness. And, student-led initiatives like Project Ally are already thriving here, using the space to host events and promote mental health awareness around campus.

It is no surprise, then, that the students most drawn to Blair, who excel and realize their full potential here, are those who value this balance between challenge and support. I am often asked what Blair looks for in an applicant. Although there is no single "golden ticket," we consistently seek students of kindness, high character and curiosity—young people who will contribute meaningfully to our community and grow from all Blair has to offer. As we continue to introduce

WHAT TYPE OF STUDENT DOES BLAIR ADMIT?



families to Blair—on campus and around the globe—I remain deeply grateful for all that you do to bring these exceptional students to the hilltop.



2025 SHINES THE





HROUGH RAINY ENCEMBER ENCEMBER 1

As a steady rain fell over the Blair Academy campus, the community gathered, along with friends, family, alumni and members of the Board of Trustees for a momentous occasion. And if the weather tried to dampen the spirit of the day, it failed—spectacularly. The Class of 2025, resilient as ever, brought the sunshine in their energy, enthusiasm and grace. As they processed proudly through the Arch—umbrellas in hand—their smiles said it all: This was their moment, and nothing—not even a few raindrops—could take it away.

From the very beginning of their senior year, this class was challenged to lean in—into curiosity, connection and the core values that make Blair more than just a school. Back in September, the message was clear: Live your Blair bucket list and embrace the Five Fundamentals. More specifically? Be curious. Suspend judgment. And the Class of 2025 did just that.

Throughout the year, they stepped forward with open hearts and inquisitive minds. They asked thoughtful questions, they listened—really listened—to one another and they sought understanding across lines of difference. Whether in

classrooms, dorms, dining halls or on athletic fields, they lived out what it means to build meaningful community.

Over these past four years, you've learned about yourselves, your strengths, your voices and your values. And now, here you are... standing on the edge of something new and exciting.

-Peter G. Curran, Head of School

"If, on the off chance, that all continues to go according to plan...one day we will forget what it's like to be what we are in this present moment, as individuals," said Emily Dou '25, class speaker and recipient of the George P. Jenkins '32 Prize as valedictorian of the class. "We collectively hurdle toward some sort of a conclusion. But despite that, through it all, it is empathy that tied us through the millenniums past."

The entire Blair community extends heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2025!



COMMENCEMENT



Class of 2025 College Matriculation List

American University

Amherst College

Babson College

Barnard College (2)

Baylor University

Boston College (3)

Boston University (3)

Brown University

Bucknell University

Canisius University

Carnegie Mellon University

Case Western Reserve University

Colby College

College of Charleston

College of the Holy Cross

Columbia University (2)

Cornell University (3)

Dartmouth College

Dickinson College

Drexel University

Elon University

Emory University (2)

George Washington University (3)

Georgetown University

Hamilton College

Haverford College

Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Indiana University (Bloomington)

Johns Hopkins University (2)

La Salle University (2)

Lehigh University (4)

Louisiana State University

Loyola Marymount University

McGill University

Middlebury College

Monmouth University

New York University (11)

North Carolina State University

Northeastern University (2)

Northwestern University (2)

Penn State University (University Park) (3)

Princeton University (2)

Providence College

Regent's University London

Rhode Island School of Design

Saint Francis University

San Diego State University

Stanford University

Swarthmore College (3)

Syracuse University

Texas Christian University

The University of Tennessee (Knoxville)

The University of Texas at Dallas

Trinity College

Tufts University (2)

Tulane University of Louisiana

United States Military Academy at West Point

United States Naval Academy (4)

University of California (Berkeley)

University of Chicago (2)

University of Colorado Boulder

University of Florida (2)

University of Georgia

University of Iowa

University of Maryland (College Park) (2)

University of Miami (3)

University of Michigan

University of New England

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2)

University of Pennsylvania (4)

University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh)

University of Richmond (2)

University of Southern California

University of St Andrews (2)

University of Toronto

University of Virginia (Main Campus) (2)

Villanova University

Wake Forest University

Washington University in St. Louis (2)

Wellesley College

William & Mary

Yale University







COMMENCEMENT







Faculty Awards

John C. & Eve S. Bogle Teaching Prize:

Math Department Chair Danyelle Doldoorian

Riether Residential Life Award:

Assistant Dean of Admission Chase Palanca '15

Lillian & Samuel Tedlow Teaching Prize:

Director of Athletics Paul Clavel '88

Headmaster's Faculty Prize:

Dean of Students Andee Ryerson

Student Awards

Headmaster's Prize: Genesis Medina & Minh Anh Vo
Blair Academy Trophy: Libby Russell & William Antunes
George P. Jenkins '32 Prize: Emily Dou
Appointments to the United States Service Academies:
Joe Alnwick, Jack Armbruster, Kaleb Nelson,
Samantha Pappas & Libby Russell









Though the years have passed, the faces linger—etched with time, a little wiser, gently lined—yet still unmistakably familiar. A quick smile and you suddenly fall right back to where you left off, English class in Clinton Hall or sledding down the front hill on lunch trays. Suddenly, it feels like no time has passed at all. That is the magic of Alumni Weekend, and this past June, the hilltop was brimming with it.

"Leaving Blair for the final time as a student was a bittersweet moment, but there was a new journey ahead," Garrett Long '20 shares. "What I've found is that all roads lead home and that's exactly what Blair is, a home away from home. Returning to campus as an alum brings so many amazing memories flooding back."

The celebration began on Friday as the Blair Cup Golf Scramble teed off beneath a clear blue sky. Alumni, old and new, gathered on the lush nine-hole course, their laughter and groans at missed shots proving that, club in hand or not, their Blair spirit never faded. Not far away, the Shipyard buzzed with energy as players of all ages took up paddles for the pickleball tournament. Cheers and lighthearted banter filled the air, culminating in a warm reception where stories were shared and awards handed out with smiles all around.

Elsewhere on campus, a different kind of journey was underway. Returning alumni wandered familiar paths transformed—buildings gleaming with fresh renovations, spaces reborn with new purpose. Current students stood ready to share their experiences, their voices bridging past and present during a lively panel discussion on what life at Blair means today. Inside Clinton Hall, the atmosphere softened with a touch of nostalgia. "Classrooms without

ALUMNI Weekend



From left, former Blair Board Chair Doug Kimmelman P'12 '13 '15 '22, Tommy Kimmelman '15, Scottie Kimmelman '22 and Head of School Peter G. Curran gather for the portrait unveiling during Alumni Weekend.

As a kick start to the Alumni Weekend festivities, Blair Trustees, faculty, alumni, family and friends gathered in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts to celebrate the portrait unveiling of Doug Kimmelman P'12 '13 '15 '22. Doug's legacy at Blair is one of transformative leadership, deep care for the institution and lasting impact. As Blair's 19th Board Chair, his visionary guidance over nearly a decade and the Kimmelman family's generous philanthropy elevated every aspect of student life, from academics, the arts and athletics, to residential and leadership experiences. Doug's generosity, strategic insight and a selfless dedication to the Blair community leaves behind a stronger, more vibrant Blair. Those at the unveiling embraced the opportunity to remember Carol Kimmelman, who served on Blair's Board of Trustees and was proud mom to Annie '12, Robert '13, Tommy '15 and Scottie '22.

"Thank you all for the painting, but thank you truly for a lifetime friendship and how you have embraced every aspect of my life and my children's lives," Doug said, addressing the crowd gathered at the portrait unveiling, alongside his sons, Tommy and Scottie. "None of you did it because you were supposed to, but because you genuinely cared about all of us, so for me and my family...how do you not try to leave [Blair] a little better than you found it?"

Quizzes" invited guests to once again settle into desks and absorb lessons. Many took the opportunity to attend English teacher Bob Brandwood's final official class, a bittersweet moment marking the end of an era. The evening concluded with milestone reunion gatherings that dodged patchy rain showers, a memorial service led by former chaplain Rev. Peter Amerman, the Class of 1975 Reunion Dinner and a

Welcome Back, Bucs! Party under the stars on Hardwick Quad as DJ Jeremy Duncan '01 kept the spirits high.

"It was a treat to reconnect with everyone, catch up with faculty and just enjoy being back on campus," says Kat (Hood) Nelson '05. "It will always feel like home."





Saturday dawned with the kind of energy only Blair Bucs can bring. From power walks and putting practice at the Urdang Practice Greens to morning hikes across the Siegel Property, alumni embraced the day with enthusiasm. The campus brimmed with anticipation for the 10th-annual Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, where the Blair community gathered to celebrate wrestler Ben "Buzzy" Bishop '66, runner Emily Ferguson '95, rower Christine (Geiser) Nalty '03, the 2009-2010 boys' tennis team, and longtime coach and Athletic Director Daniel Hazen (read more on page 54).

The spirit of the day carried into the Alumni Parade, a vibrant procession from the Arch to the Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. Spanning generations—from the Class of 1954 to 2020—the crowd radiated Blair pride. At the Head of School Assembly, that pride deepened as dedicated alumni and former employees were honored with the Peachey Awards, Alumni of the Year and Citation of Merit, recognizing the quiet leadership and lasting impact that makes these events memorable. While classmates caught up and stories flowed at the alumni lunch, Andy Peters '00







The event drew to a close with the *All In* presentation and Alumni Dinner and Celebration, a fitting finale for a historic occasion. As The Grooveline, led by 2023 Arts Guild inductee Jon Williams '89, filled the night air with music, the Blair family raised a glass to the historic campaign that shaped today's campus—and to the bright chapters still to come. In that moment, surrounded by laughter and legacy, it was as if no time had passed at all.





Peachey Award Recipients

Alumni Volunteer of the Year Cassandra (Barr) Davson '90, P'22 '26 Class Correspondent of the Year Class Representative of the Year
Kat (Hood) Nelson '05

Outstanding Reunion Committee
Class of 1975 & 2000

2025 Citation of Merit

Blair has long recognized exceptional dedication by awarding the Citation of Merit to the single individual whose devotion best exemplifies the School's values. This year, however, we honor and bid farewell to not one but nine retiring employees, bound together by their extraordinary dedication to Blair: a security guard, a maintenance worker, an administrative assistant, and teachers who have devoted their lives to shaping the minds and hearts of students in English, math, history and drama. They have served the School tirelessly for an average of 34 years and a combined total of 303 years, and each has left a profound mark on Blair in their own way.

One has been the warm, steady voice at the end of the phone line, offering reassurance to parents on calm days and in moments of uncertainty, connecting them to their children. Another is the kind soul who, in hurricanes and storms, spent countless hours in the cold and dark, restarting campus generators to restore warmth and light to Blair. A third is an individual who is synonymous with English at Blair, known to inspire and captivate students with poetry readings so beautiful that they leave his audience spellbound.

It is indeed bittersweet to say goodbye to a teacher who brought the Peace Corps' ethos with her to Blair, leaving an indelible mark on what it means to selflessly serve at Blair. Or the English department mentor who faithfully welcomed new teachers and advisees alike with wise counsel and baked goods, ensuring each felt supported. Then there is the pair who, for 40 winters, rose in the dead of night to plow the campus and ensure that students and teachers got to class safely and on time. Another showed students not only a boundless willingness to offer extra help outside of class, but also the freedom to express one's individuality. And, finally, there is the teacher who, when he was not building a stage with his own hands, directed more than 75

drama productions, coaching students out of their shells and making them feel welcome and challenged in his care.

In a world where long-term dedication to any one place is increasingly rare, these nine individuals stand as powerful reminders of the impact that generosity, care, loyalty and expertise can have on a community. Blair will simply not be the same without them. To honor all that they have given to Blair over the last four decades, we are proud to award this year's Citation of Merit to Bob Brandwood, Joanne Brandwood, Craig Evans, Kaye Evans, Steve Fields, Andy Gramberg, Dale Klaver, Dave Naysmith and Kathy Otinsky.

To view the full text of the 2025 Citation of Merit, visit www.blair.edu/citation-of-merit.



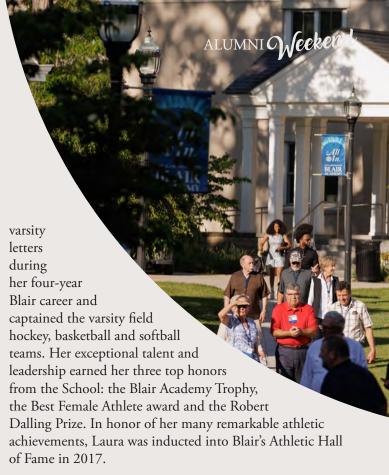
Head of School Peter G. Curran (*center*) presents the Citation of Merit to retiring employees (*from left to right*): Kathy Otinsky, Craig and Kaye Evans, Bob and Joanne Brandwood, and David Naysmith. Not pictured are Steve Fields, Andy Gramberg and Dale Klaver.

2025 Alumni of the Year Laura Cochran Morris '75

"When it hasn't been your day, your week, your month or even your year," there's one thing for sure....Laura Cochran Morris '75 will be there for you. It doesn't matter if they are fellow members of the Class of 1975 or years apart, Laura is a champion and cheerleader for her fellow alums and one of Blair's ultimate connectors. Her deep love for her alma mater and her classmates shines through in everything she does.

Laura comes from a proud Blair legacy, following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Lloyd Cochran 1918; her father, Jim Cochran '48; and her brother, James Cochran '79. She thrived as a day student, diving into sports and activities that filled her schedule to the brim. Laura also served as prefect and member of the Blue & White Key Society and *ACTA*, but the field is where she left her mark. Laura earned 12





After Blair, Laura continued to excel, earning a BA in psychology and secondary education from Bucknell University in 1979. After teaching history at Blair for two years, she completed her MBA at Fairleigh Dickinson University in 1987 and served as vice president of CIT Group/Capital Financing until 1993. Laura pivoted to a career in real estate, and she was an active member of many community organizations in her hometown of Wyckoff, New Jersey, while raising her children, Rebecca and Colby, with her husband, Larry.

At the turn of the century, Laura was instrumental in organizing the Three Decades of Women of Blair Academy program, celebrating the outstanding achievements of her fellow female alumni. Laura has faithfully served the School as a member of the Board of Governors, the class's reunion committee and alumni Trustee. With heartfelt appreciation for her unwavering dedication to the School and to her classmates—better referred to as friends—Blair Academy proudly recognizes Laura Cochran Morris as the 2025 Alumni of the Year.

To view the full text of the 2025 Alumni of the Year, visit www.blair.edu/alumni-of-the-year.





During the Blair Invitational in April, Lola Bambe '27 took first place in the 100-meter dash and long jump.

Sam Kowalick '25 makes a diving catch for the varsity softball team.

Jack Armbruster '25 helped the boys' varsity lacrosse team to a 11-5 record last spring.



Pitcher Shane Hadden '26 had the game of his career for Blair, earning a one-hitter, seven-strikeout performance on the mound, leading to a 8-0 shutout against Peddie for the NJISAA prep "A" state championship.



Yanin Jurangkool '25 aided the boys' varsity tennis team in securing back-to-back MAPL titles, the first time since 2011.



The girls' and boys' golf teams won the annual Swings Against Cancer tournament this year, with Serrena Khanna '25 leading the girls' team.

Athletics



Associate Director of Athletics Rhett Moroses '13 (*left*) and Director of Athletics Paul Clavel '88 (*right*) celebrate the newest class in the Athletic Hall of Fame with inductees (*from left to right*): Christine (Geiser) Nalty '03, Chris Wong '02, Cole Agin '10, former tennis coach Lew Stival, Emily Ferguson '95 and Ben "Buzzy" Bishop '66. Inductees not pictured are former coach and Director of Athletics Daniel Hazen and nine members of the 2009-2010 boys' tennis team.

Blair Honors 10th Class in Athletic Hall of Fame

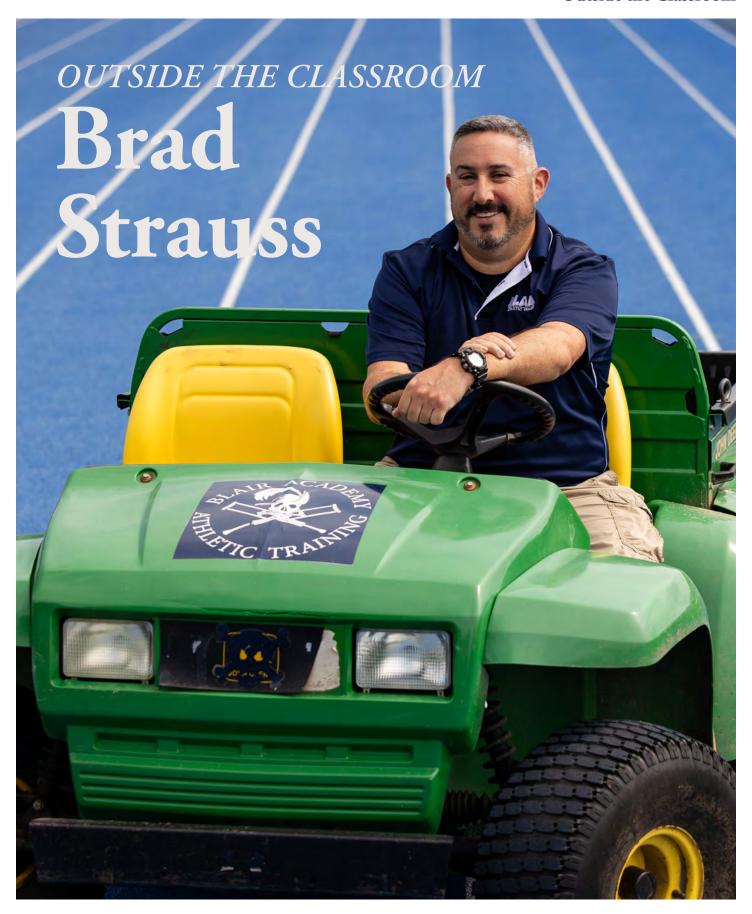
For 10 years, Blair Academy has been honoring athletes for their contributions to the hilltop and beyond through the Athletic Hall of Fame. Standout Bucs from every sport as well as the coaches who inspired their success have been inducted to the applause of teammates, mentors, family and friends who gathered to celebrate their achievements. This year's momentous class includes wrestler Ben "Buzzy" Bishop '66, runner Emily Ferguson '95, rower Christine (Geiser) Nalty '03, the 2009-2010 boys' tennis team as well as former Athletic Director and coach Daniel Hazen.

"Each athlete honored this year has left a lasting legacy on their respective team, serving as inspiration for future generations of Blair athletes," Director of Athletics Paul Clavel '88 shared. "It's an honor to induct the members of our 10th class into the Athletic Hall of Fame."

To recognize and celebrate the outstanding athletic achievements of its alumni and coaches, Blair established an Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016. In order to be considered for Hall of Fame membership, nominees must have exhibited the highest caliber of athletic accomplishment during their time at Blair and have been outstanding members of the School community in the areas of scholastic achievement, citizenship, integrity and moral character. Selection is based primarily on athletic accomplishments while a Blair student or coach, although

subsequent achievement in athletics or other areas may be considered. Finally, alumni nominees become Hall-of-Fame eligible in the 10th year following their graduation, while coaches become eligible after their retirement from Blair.

During the Alumni Weekend festivities in June, fellow athletes, friends and family gathered in Hardwick Hall to induct this newest class into the Athletic Hall of Fame. To read their biographies or nominate a Buccaneer for the Class of 2026, please visit the Blair Athletics website at www.blair .edu/hall-of-fame.



Outside the Classroom

If you ask Athletic Trainer Brad Strauss what yearbook superlative he thinks he would get, he's confident it would be "Most Sarcastic." But, admittedly, he's working on it. His colleagues, however, paint a different picture.

For Brad, whom everyone calls Strauss, they suggest "Most Dependable,"
"Most Likely to Lend a Helping
Hand" or "Most Kind."

And that's the way Strauss has operated at the Academy for 24 years. He doesn't collect the trophies that line Hardwick Hall. His name isn't on the championship banners or records that hang from the walls, but his presence and his care is felt everywhere you look. For this issue of "Outside the Classroom," we sat down with Strauss, in his athletic training room that has seen countless Bucs on the road to recovery, to learn a little more about the person behind the safety of our student-athletes.

How did you become interested in athletic training?

A: My junior year of high school at Peddie, I got injured and I saw the athletic trainer, and working with her and doing my rehab, I became interested in the whole process. Then my senior year, I worked as a student aide in Peddie's athletic training room.

What sports did you play growing up?

A: I played soccer and baseball. I was never the top athlete....I was okay, but I didn't have aspirations of playing in college. I tried club soccer at the University of Miami, but my previous injury set me on the path toward athletic training. And, somehow, I managed to rope my sister into following in my footsteps. She is an athletic trainer as well, and my brother is a doctor, so helping people runs in the family.



Brad Strauss at the wedding of fellow athletic trainer Tyler Saylor '14.



Moussa Kane '23 came back to visit Blair and Strauss, gifting him a signed jersey from Duke University.

Did attending the University of Miami during the height of their football program's success have any impact on your career path?

A: I was at Miami when we won a national title, and two of the players I worked with are in the NFL Hall of Fame now—Warren Sapp and Ray Lewis. One of my classmates and another football player I worked with was Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. I got to see some really special things, and back then, Miami was seen as the professional team in the area. The Dolphins were there, but we were a bigger deal.

Not only did I work with the Hurricanes, but I also worked with the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) at the Lipton Championships for two years, which is now called the Miami Open. It all taught me how to work with elite athletes, and we have a number of them here at Blair.

What's your role as Blair's athletic trainer?

A: My number one goal is athlete safety, preparing them to compete in a safe manner. Part of my job is to go out and check the fields, to make sure there are no hazards there. I've never won a prize or championship. Don't get me wrong, it's great when we win. But, to me, the real reward is seeing the athletes out there, healthy and competing at their highest level.

What do you enjoy most about working at Blair?

A: Working with the student-athletes is where I get the most joy. It's all about seeing a kid go from playing, to working with an injury, to getting back to their full ability and restoring what they've lost through the injury.

Outside the Classroom

A good number of athletes come through my door. I see 30 to 40 students a day, and a lot just for rehab—taping or small adjustments—but some of them are just new injuries that need to be evaluated and taken care of.

What is the number one piece of advice you give athletes to prevent injury?

A: Number one is listen to your athletic trainer. Follow our advice. But also, don't wait with an injury. It's a lot easier to treat a small injury, rather than sitting on it until it's something bigger. If you take a month with an injury, it's not going to get fixed in a day. Finally, don't rely solely on the Internet for your answers! WebMD is not your friend.

I really want students to know they shouldn't be afraid to come see us. Our job is not to keep players out—our job is to return players safely. If you don't need to sit out, we're not going to make you. That's one of the toughest things for new students to understand. My intention is always safety first and returning them when it's safe for them and not earlier.

How has your family influenced your approach to your work and how you support student-athletes?

A: Well, my work ethic comes from my mom and dad, who always taught us to go above and beyond. So I stay late when I have to, I come in early when I need to. I help out with everything else in the athletics department—whatever is needed. I learned early to pitch in, and if something needs to be done, don't wait for the ask.

Do you feel the same familial ties here in the athletic



Blair students don't hold back in highlighting Strauss' Peddie School alumni status during the annual pep rally leading up to Peddie Day.



The Strauss siblings are in the business of caring for people. Brad and Tiffany are both athletic trainers and eldest Scott is a physician.

department? I know former football coach Jim Saylor brought the motto "Ohana" to the football team during his prime.

A: There's definitely a strong sense of family. "Ohana" is not just for football; the whole Blair community has become like a family. And you love your family. You are always there to support them.

As a Peddie alum, who do you root for on Peddie Day?

A: I was at Peddie for four years. I have an older brother who went there for five years and a younger sister who graduated after I left. My parents live three miles from Peddie. We do have strong ties there, but

I've been here for 24 years, so time is on our side.

What does it mean for you to hear from the former studentathletes you worked with in the past?

A: It's great to hear from my athletes, interns and some of my past students who've gone into athletic training. Just recently, Moussa Kane '23 came back to visit from Duke, and he brought me a signed jersey. I love to hear how their seasons are going, and I'll text them periodically to see how they're

Outside the Classroom

doing—not only athletics, but how their academics are going and their overall well-being.

Outside of sports, what are some of your hobbies?

A: I like reading just to get out of my own head. I enjoy playing golf and the occasional fishing trip. I love traveling, and I take every opportunity to spend time with my friends and family. Every Thanksgiving, my family and I go to Saint Martin, and I've traveled with some Blair friends and former teachers. I'll head down to South Carolina to visit Jim Saylor and his son, Tyler '14, who's now an athletic trainer at Carolina Forest High School in South Carolina.

If you could only watch one sport for the rest of your life, what would it be?

A: That's difficult to say....There are times when I love specific sports, but at times, it's almost impossible, because each one brings something different to the table when you're watching it. With wrestling, you watch the methodical way people work to get their opponents in their positions. Then you have soccer and football, where there is the excitement of the goals and watching the defense and how it all comes together. I even like curling! It's a little mind-numbing, but it's fun to see the strategies. I don't think there's a specific sport that I can sit there and watch forever.

If you could put one totally ridiculous sport into the Olympics, what would it be?

A: Well, sometimes I'll watch *The Ocho* on ESPN, and they have slippery stairs. That could be an interesting one to put in the Olympics. There's really not much skill, just a bit of luck that you are able to get through the



Several students joined Head of School Peter G. Curran, Strauss and members of the advancement team for a Baltimore Ravens game last fall to see Odafe Oweh '18, David Ojabo'19 and Sanoussi Kane '20 play in the NFL.



Strauss is proud to mentor students into the field of athletic training, including Blair's own assistant athletic trainer Genie Lavanant '13, posing here during her own Blair prom with Strauss and Michelle (Fox) Kelley '12.

oily stairs quicker than anybody else while people are pelting you with things.

Looking back on your time at Blair, what stands out to you the most?

A: Working with teenage athletes is one of the best things that I've been able to do. They're energetic and mostly positive, but so many sometimes think they're invincible. So that's when they get to see me. I've enjoyed all the years I've worked here: the students, the athletes and the coaches.

As proud as I am of the achievements of my past and future athletes, which include professional, Olympic and collegiate levels, I am most proud of the students whom I have inspired and mentored into the field of athletic training. That includes Blair's own assistant athletic trainer Genie Lavanant '13, Haven Donovan '13, Tyler Saylor '14 and several interns we've had over the years from East Stroudsburg University. It's been a fun experience.





Blair Musicians Make Carnegie Hall Debut

Since its opening in 1891, Carnegie Hall has earned its place as one of the world's finest concert halls. Legendary musicians, including Tchaikovsky, Dvořák, Mahler, George Gershwin and Billie Holiday, have all graced its stage. This past spring, Blair students joined their ranks, offering a breathtaking performance.

A Broad Repertoire

Blair's musicians presented a carefully crafted program that reflected both their versatility and the weight of the evening on the Carnegie stage. "We aimed for a diverse group of composers and styles for this performance, and we also wanted pieces with gravitas within the orchestral and choral repertoire, that merited performance on such a historic stage," notes Director of Instrumental Music and chair of Blair's performing arts department Jennifer Pagotto.

For the Symphony Orchestra, one of the evening's most moving moments came with their performance of *Symphony No*.

2, Mvt. IV Allegro Vivace by Emilie Mayer, a composer from the post-Beethoven era whose music is finally receiving long-overdue notice. "She's a wonderful composer who hasn't received as much recognition, historically, as many stalwart male composers from the Western canon. We were thrilled to perform one of her pieces," says Mrs. Pagotto.

But, for senior clarinettist Brigette Starrs '25, it was the Symphony Orchestra's powerful rendition of *Boléro* by Maurice Ravel that stole the night. For her, the piece mirrored her own evolution that began as a new student at Blair. "It begins softly,

almost hesitantly and, by the end, it's this powerful force," she reflects. "That's exactly what it feels like to grow as a musician at Blair. Four years ago, I couldn't play a note without squeaking. Now, here I am, playing at Carnegie Hall."

The Chamber Orchestra, meanwhile, took on *Danzón No. 2* by Arturo Márquez. Originally championed by conductor Gustavo Dudamel and the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra, it brought a rhythmic energy to the hall, adding a vibrant contemporary touch to the program.

Voices That Soared

Blair's vocal ensembles added their own magic to the night. The Singers captivated the audience with *Indodana*, an isiXhosa choral masterpiece arranged by South African composers Michael Barrett and Ralf Schmitt. The song's rich harmonies and uplifting melodies "challenged the Singers to extend their respiratory endurance,"

harmonic stability and ability to maintain multiple parts beyond the usual four," notes Director of Vocal Music Ryan Manni-Brennan.

Meanwhile, the Chamber Choir delivered a tender and heartfelt *Good Night, Dear Heart* by Dan Forrest. "The choir performed this

piece several years ago on tour in Europe and last year at Merkin Hall," shares Mr. Manni-Brennan. "Chamber Choir was eager to return to it, rediscovering new moments of musical beauty and greater technical challenges."

A Second Chance

While Blair was originally scheduled to perform at Carnegie Hall in April 2020 and again in April 2021, both concerts were unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic. This year's performance marked the School's long-awaited debut at the venue, making the event even more meaningful.

Before the concert, a special reception held in the hall welcomed 125 current parents, past parents and alumni eager to watch the musicians perform. The gathering not only celebrated the students' dedication and hard work but also heightened the anticipation for the night ahead.

"Our students are just beginning to understand the significance of this performance," reflects Mrs. Pagotto. "Not just for them as students and musicians, but also in the broader context of what it means to perform at Carnegie Hall."

For Brigette, it was the perfect ending to her musical experience at Blair. "Tonight we played with everything we had," Brigette says, reflecting. "I hope we made Mrs. Pagotto proud. We came together and played in a way that felt just electric." Mrs. Pagotto could not agree more. "On one hand, we wanted them to simply experience the joy and magic of performing on such a world-renowned stage. But, more than that, we wanted them to take in the experience of working really hard toward their goal of learning this very challenging music, to pour themselves into it and then give this performance with their music colleagues. Any performance is an opportunity to create art, in the moment, and to share that with the world. Tonight, they did just that."



Director of Vocal Music Ryan Manni-Brennan and Director of Instrumental Music Jennifer Pagotto take a moment to thank the audience at the conclusion of the performance.



Class of 2025 Arts Guild inductees celebrate with those who inducted them. From left: Don Jay Smith '65, P'11; former teacher and theatre director Kaye Evans; Cristina Marie Vivenzio '00; former teacher and theatre director Craig Evans; Lukas Dong '15; Director of Instrumental Music and performing arts department chair Jennifer Pagotto; Timothy Sullivan '95 and former art department chair Rita Baragona.

Celebrating Blair's Class of 2025 Arts **Guild Inductees**

To celebrate the inspirational artistic achievements and contributions as performing or visual artists of its alumni and former faculty, Blair created the Arts Guild in 2022. The Guild's selection committee is proud to announce this year's class of alumni inductees. These artists have left their mark through music, film, stage and fine art, inspiring future Blair alumni to follow in their footsteps.

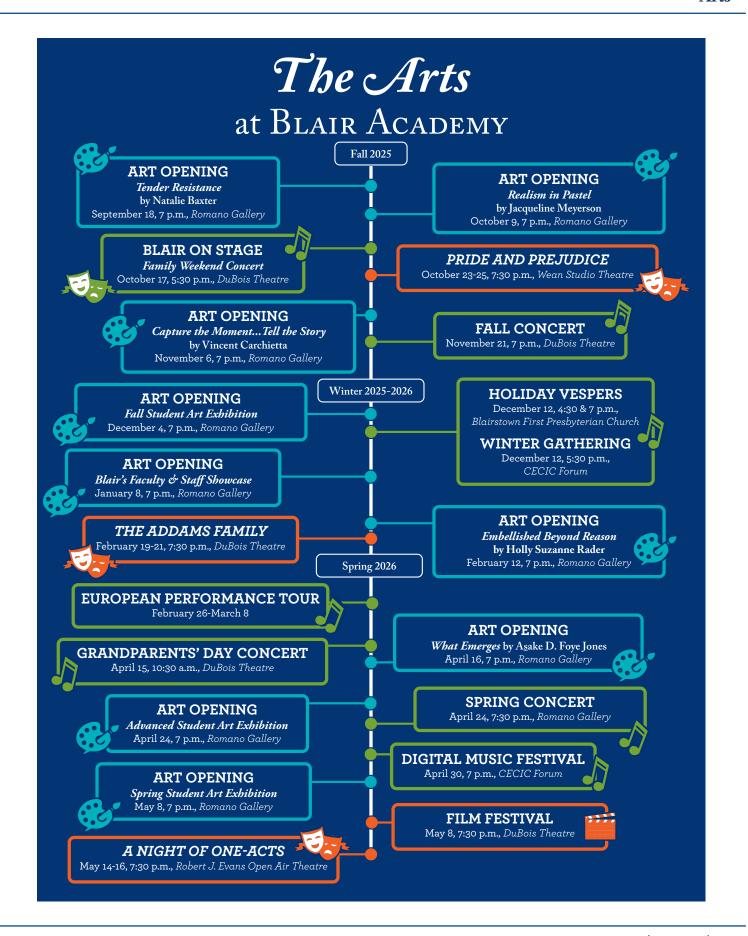
Don Jay Smith '65, P'11 has extensive experience in public relations and marketing communications, much of it in the arts and entertainment field. He has dedicated his life to preserving and promoting the arts in his community. Timothy Sullivan '95, known professionally as Tim Fite, is a multimedia and print artist, musician, singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist with 16 full-length albums and several EPs; he is now also writing and illustrating children's books. Cristina Marie Vivenzio '00, a Tony Award-winning Broadway producer, is senior vice president of

production and development at The Araca Group. She developed the Tony Awardwinning musical adaptation of The Outsiders and is currently preparing its national and international tours. At 17, Lukas Dong '15 became the youngest winner of "Best American Short Documentary" at the American Documentary Film Festival. He has directed films and interviews worldwide and has credits as director, producer, cinematographer and editor.

To be considered for the Arts Guild, nominees are evaluated on their involvement and achievements in the arts while at Blair, as well as accomplishments in the visual or performing arts that occurred after graduation. Nominees must have been outstanding members of the School community in the areas of scholastic achievement, citizenship, integrity and moral character. Finally, alumni nominees are Arts Guild eligible in the fifth year following their graduation, while former faculty become eligible after their retirement from Blair. The annual selection is overseen by Kate Sykes, fine arts department chair, and Jennifer Pagotto, performing arts department chair and Director of Instrumental Music, with a steering committee to aid in the process, including Director of Alumni Relations Courtnay (Brennan) Stanford '95.

"Blair's always had a strong and rich history in the arts," Mrs. Pagotto shares, "and we are committed to continuing in that tradition and building upon it."

Blair inducted this newest class of artists during Alumni Weekend in June, with a special dedication of the Arts Guild wall by the Class of 1965 in honor of Don Jay and his late wife, Linda, for their enduring support of the arts at Blair. To read their biographies or to nominate an artist for the Class of 2026, please visit www.blair.edu/ arts-guild.





CHEF & AUTHOR BECKY SELENGUT '88

DEMYSTIFIES MISUNDERSTOOD VEGETABLES IN NEW BOOK

Becky Selengut '88's profession has all the markings one comes to expect of someone premed. She wields a blade with expert precision, wears a white coat, operates in a sterile environment and helps people feel good. But Becky isn't a surgeon.

As an author, instructor, podcaster and chef based in Seattle, Becky found a career path that fulfills her passions and utilizes her vast skill set. And the world is taking notice! Her latest book, *Misunderstood Vegetables*, was named one of the year's top cookbooks by *Wired* and praised by *New York Times* food writer

Florence Fabricant. This year, Forbes published a lifestyle piece highlighting Becky and her collection of recipes and profiles on those unique vegetables that receive a bad rap through no fault of their own.

"Just because something is ugly, twisted or not pretty, doesn't mean there isn't a lot to gain from it," Becky explains. "Sure, I'm talking about rutabaga—but am I really? I've been misunderstood in my life; a lot of people thought I was different or unusual. Whether human or vegetable, the unfamiliar ones, the ones that sting you at first encounter usually hold the best secrets."

Becky thought she wanted to be a doctor but changed course while taking premed classes to embark on a field in the culinary arts. After graduating at the top of her class from the Seattle Culinary Academy, she spent many years honing her skills at some of the Seattle area's most well-known restaurants. Since then, Becky's career has moved beyond the traditional restaurant into everything but the restaurant, taking on such diverse jobs as cheffing on a yacht tour of the Inside Passage to teaching cooking to immigrants and refugees and finding them work in the food industry. In 2004, she started her private chef and culinary education business, and she

founded the educational website, Seasonal Cornucopia, two years later.

Becky co-authored Washington Local and Seasonal Cookbook in 2008, followed by her solo debut Good Fish, a sustainable seafood guide published in 2011. Good Fish was a finalist for an IACP Cookbook Award, named one of Seattle Magazine's best cookbooks of the year and recognized as a notable read by NPR. Her third book, Shroom: Mind-bendingly Good Recipes for Cultivated and Wild Mushrooms, was named one of NPR's top 10

cookbooks of the year. She also co-authored the humor-filled travel memoir *Not*

One Shrine: Two Food Writers Devour

Tokyo. Becky's fifth book, How to Taste: The Curious Cook's
Handbook to Seasoning and
Balance, From Umami to Acid and Beyond with Recipes, reflects her passion for demystifying flavor and technique. Across all her work, she blends culinary expertise with sharp wit and a deep commitment to sustainability. In addition to her books, Becky contributes freelance articles and develops recipes for

both local and national publications, and she regularly gives talks and keynotes on cooking, foraging, sustainability and flavor theory.

"There are so many things I thought I wanted to do that I still do in aspects of my life today, from cooking to teaching to volunteering with local food banks," Becky shares. "My favorite part of what I do is constantly changing. People who are creatives tend to get bored easily and don't like to get pigeonholed. I really enjoy focusing on justice, sustainability, foraging, environmental and lower-impact eating."

In every part of her work, Becky blends creativity with purpose—reminding us that the most overlooked things, whether vegetables or people, often have the richest stories to tell.

RISING STAR JACK JANUSZEWSKI '13

Jack Januszewski '13 spends a lot of time thinking about the future, and the world is taking note. As a vice president in Spring Mountain Capital LP's Social Impact group, Jack invests in early-stage companies that create technology solutions addressing health, educational and socioeconomic disparities in historically overlooked communities. For his leadership in that field, Jack was recently recognized by EdTech Chronicle as a Best in Education "EdTech Rising Star."

Jack was also interviewed in *Authority Magazine* as part of a recent series spotlighting tech leaders making significant, positive social impacts. The magazine interviewed "leaders of tech companies who are creating or have created a tech product that is helping to make a positive change in people's lives or the

environment."

"As an investor, I'm not building a specific technology that might change the world," Jack explained to *Authority Magazine*.

"Rather, I am investing in a range of companies that I believe may do so." One such example is IEP&Me, a Spring Mountain Capital portfolio startup that helps students, parents and educators collaborate more effectively on Individualized Educational Programs (IEPs). By simplifying the IEP process through a user-friendly digital platform, the company hopes to improve accessibility and advocacy in education.

Jack's journey into the field of education technology, he explains in the article, was largely driven by an early experience he had. "One of my teachers back in middle school offhandedly suggested that I 'might not be a math person' when I was very young and struggling with the subject. This offhand remark, which I am certain was not meant in a malicious way, deeply impacted my perception of my own self-worth, my intelligence, my ability to persevere and had the effect of paving the road for the remainder of my educational career."

Now working in financial services,
Jack has proven that assessment
wrong—and channels that
experience into this work.

"My goal in investing in education is to drive us toward a world where young students are not told they're a specific 'type' of learner or that they are 'more suited' to one topic or another.... Arming educators with tools that help them better identify the learning needs of individual students-something that can only be done through advancements in educational technology—is the

only way to achieve this long-term goal of truly personalizing learning."

Jack's story is a reminder that a good investment can be more than financial—it can be deeply personal. Through his work supporting technologies that empower students and educators, Jack is helping build a future where every student has the tools to succeed, no matter their starting point.

ASHLEY THOMPSON '08 CELEBRATES A DECADE OF MUSH

Blair Trustee Ashley Thompson '08 has spent the last decade revolutionizing the grab-and-go breakfast game. Now a nationwide brand, MUSH expects to sell its 200-millionth cup of oats this year, marking 10 years of business. On the *Today Show's* "She Made It" series, MUSH founder and CEO Ashley sat down

with host Jill Martin in July to share her journey of transforming her childhood breakfast favorite into a household name.

Ashley cofounded MUSH in 2015 with the conviction that easy, delicious and nutritious food can elevate the world in powerful ways. After receiving a degree in economics and mathematics from Columbia University, she started her career as a trading analyst at Goldman Sachs. Ashley was struck by the surprising lack of access to nutritious food, even on Wall Street. In an attempt to reconcile her strong beliefs with what she found unacceptable, she discovered an unmet need in the market. She quickly set out to create a healthy, delicious, convenient food product, inspired by her favorite hack as a kid: cereal and oatmeal soaked in milk.

Ashley began selling small, homemade batches at local farmers' markets, using customer feedback to refine the product. The company's turning point came in 2017, when MUSH appeared on *Shark Tank* and landed a deal with investor Mark Cuban. "We got 10,000 orders in the first couple days post-airing," Ashley recalls during

She quit her job and got to work.

the interview, "and we had never shipped a single cup of oatmeal directly to a consumer before."

MUSH's first product—plant-based, ready-to-eat oats—hit the sweet spot of being both good for you and easy to grab on the go. From the start, Ashley

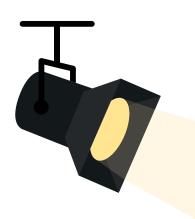
believed that eating well should be simple and accessible, and that belief shaped everything from the flavors and portion sizes to the pricing. Named

to Forbes' 30 Under 30 list in 2020, she's a

big believer in the idea that when you eat well, you feel better-and when you feel better, vou do better. That mindset fuels her mission to get MUSH into as many hands as possible. She's always thinking about how food impacts the way we live, and it drives her to keep improving and expanding what MUSH offers. Today, in addition to overnight

oats, you can find MUSH protein bars in refrigerated sections of stores across the country.

When it comes to advice for other entrepreneurs, particularly females, Ashley tells *Today Show* viewers: "You don't have to have all the answers upfront. No one does. To pretend would be a disservice to the journey, so keep pushing."



trustee spotlight

Ben Alexander P'26 '28

Ben, a real estate attorney who is a shareholder and board member at Jones Foster, oversees the firm's Palm Beach, Florida, office, specializing in real estate transactions for local and national developers, equity investors, business entities, entrepreneurs, financial institutions, and highend residential purchasers and sellers. The service-minded father of Benton '28 and Carlisle '26, Ben has a long history of

community involvement, including serving

as vice chair of the Board of Trustees for Palm

Beach Day Academy, president of the Royal Poinciana Chapel, treasurer of the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach, board member for the Chamber of Commerce of the Palm Beaches, and a member of the University of Florida Real Estate Advisory Board. A regular on lists of the best lawyers in Palm Beach and in America, Ben graduated cum laude from Wake Forest University with a BS in business and with high honors from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where he was named to the Order of the Coif.

David Bigley P'28



David brings over 20 years of leadership experience in the global insurance and reinsurance industry to the Board. He currently serves as executive vice president and head of ceded reinsurance at Sompo. David began his career at The Hartford and spent several years at Endurance Specialty before joining Sompo, where he has held a variety of senior roles.

David has led Sompo's global property, catastrophe, and workers' compensation reinsurance businesses, and has also served as

chief underwriting officer across these lines and affiliated third-party asset managers. His career has spanned insurance and reinsurance markets across the Americas, Europe and Asia. A Bermuda resident since 2005, David lives on the island with his wife, Mollie, and their three children, including Maddie '28. He is a graduate of the Peddie School, holds a BA in economics from Trinity College and earned his MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.







of other organizations, including as a member of the Global Board of Trustees of Asia Society, as an Honorary Trustee of The Women's Foundation and Save the Children Hong Kong. Stephanie graduated summa cum laude from Harvard College with an AB in biology and has an MBA from Harvard Business School. She is the proud parent of Timothy '28.





branch for many years. In 2011, Susan moved to Chester, New Jersey, to start her family. She still resides in Chester and is an active member at the Community Presbyterian Church there, having joined the Presbytery Highlands of New Jersey as financial administrator in March 2025. Susan's husband, Edward A. Johnson, was a student and 1995 graduate of Blair Academy.

Rev. Jeanne Radak

Jeanne is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she initially studied music before turning her focus to history and going on to earn a master's of divinity at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. A native of Caribou, Maine, Jeanne was ordained as an assistant pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Geneva, New York, in 1985. She would later serve as an interim pastor for congregations in Big Flats, New York; Davison, Michigan; Plymouth, Indiana; and Michigan City, Indiana. In 1994, she relocated to Syracuse, New York, and pastored at Elmwood Presbyterian Church until 2005,

when she became the associate executive for Congregational Ministry for the Presbytery of Philadelphia. In 2013, Jeanne began her role as the leader of the Newton Presbytery; eight years later, she was appointed to the same position for The Presbytery of The Highlands, a newly realigned organization encompassing seven counties in northern New Jersey, based in Randolph. Jeanne and her husband, Bronc, share two children, Joe and Maggie (and were thrilled to welcome in-laws Heather and John into their family, as well as become proud grandparents to grandson, Rhys).

Advancement



As we look back on 10 years of giving, we thank our generous community for their donations, which have raised more than \$2.7 million for the Blair Fund and strengthened learning opportunities for today's students by funding everything from extracurricular programs to scholarship aid.

Class of 2025 Invests in the Next Generation

Blair is a community rich in tradition, and one of its newer customs is creating a scholarship as the senior class gift—a way for graduating students and their families to come together one final time and leave a lasting mark on campus. Since 2019, these gifts have collectively raised more than \$1.4 million, all directed to scholarships that make a Blair education possible for deserving students of every background and experience.

This year, the Class of 2025 proudly continued that tradition. Through

the generosity of families, they raised \$156,545 for the Class of 2025 Scholarship. In an amazing show of support, an anonymous parent also generously pledged to match all donations to the Class of 2025 Scholarship, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$50,000, doubling the impact.

"One of the most powerful and appreciated gifts a donor can make is a contribution to Blair's endowed scholarship fund," said Anna Andrasek, Director of Parent Engagement &

Philanthropy. "Funds drawn from the endowment are distributed annually to support students who would otherwise be unable to attend Blair. Endowed scholarships are critical, as four in every 10 Blair students receive financial aid."

Our sincere thanks go out to all those who contributed to the Class of 2025's gift. Their generosity reflects the values of community and opportunity that have come to define the Blair experience—leaving a legacy that will open doors for generations of students to come.

From Sharpe House to Shanghai

It has been a bustling few months for Blair's advancement team connecting with alumni and prospective families around the globe. A 10-day trip to Asia in late spring saw Chief Advancement Officer Craig Hall and Head of School Peter G. Curran visiting Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai and Seoul, where they hosted receptions with new and current families, past parents and international alumni.

Closer to home, several well-attended events strengthened local Blair connections. Highlights included a wrestling reception at Sharpe House and reception in San Francisco hosted by Will and Parnell Eagle P'28 in January, a New Jersey Devils hockey game in March, and graciously hosted receptions in February in Ocean Ridge, Florida—courtesy of Trustee Neal '76 and Virginia Sigety P'16 '18 '19-and in the Hamptons in July at the home

of Jim Jenkins '66 and his wife, Nevitt. Trustee Jordan Price '97, P'25 also hosted a very popular "Blair Moms" event in Far Hills, New Jersey, and receptions in Washington, D.C., and New York City rounded out the summer. These gatherings reinforced not only the strength of Blair's enduring connections but also showcased the School's growing reputation worldwide. Below and on the following page, enjoy a few photos from these events.



Advancement









Fred Everett '61 Shares His Lifetime of Adventure with Blair

In the fall of 1957, a determined boy from a family of modest income stepped onto Blair Academy's campus and unknowingly began a journey that would span the globe, leave a legacy in art and ultimately circle back to where it all started. Fred Everett '61 entered Blair on a partial scholarship, armed with a strong work ethic and an open mind—and he's never looked back.

"Blair gave me an incredible foundation," Fred reflects. "It was my starting point, a good educational base that gave me exposure and confidence. It set me up to go to a wonderful college and build a successful career."

From his early days serving coffee in the Blair dining hall to his role as head waiter, cross country co-captain and West Hall prefect, Fred developed the drive and leadership that would define his career. During every school break, he worked delivering milk at 5 a.m. or cutting grass to help his family cover the cost of his education. "Working at the School and paying my way set the tone for the rest of my life," he says.

After Blair, Fred graduated from the College of William & Mary and earned his MBA from American University. He set off on a lifelong career in the frozen food industry, eventually breaking out on his own and forming a company with his business partners. Alongside his wife of 59 years, Beryl, Fred made the defining choice to channel their energy into two passions: entrepreneurship and global adventure travel.

That decision led to nearly six decades of rich, immersive exploration. From Africa's Great Migration to the icy habitats of polar bears in Canada,

Fred and Beryl have traversed all seven continents and more than 50 countries. But their travels weren't just about sightseeing—they became avid collectors of art and cultural artifacts, a hobby sparked by a visit to the home of their first African safari organizer.

"She had these extraordinary objects from all over the world, and we were smitten," Fred recalls. Since then, the couple has amassed a museum-worthy collection of more than 200 pieces, including oil paintings and sculptures from the American West, as well as African masks, Mayan artifacts, Asian

silks and indigenous art from New Guinea. "We started collecting seriously and with purpose. We wanted our home to tell the story of our travels."

Now they're making sure that story continues at Blair. In their will, Fred and Beryl have formally gifted the non-Western portion of their collection—110 pieces—to the School. The remaining art will go to the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia. This fall, a dozen pieces Fred and Beryl have generously gifted will arrive on campus for the Blair community to enjoy. Blair will also receive the balance of their estate, directed to the Academy's endowment. Part of their gift will support the construction of



With a planned gift, Fred Everett '61 and his wife, Beryl, share their love of art and travel with future generations of Buccaneers.

Planned Giving

secure display cases and the cataloging of the collection by Blair's fine arts department, offering students hands-on access to global cultures through visual storytelling.

"Blair is a fine institution, and it's small enough that our gift can truly make a difference," Fred says. "It's come a long way since 1961, and I hope this collection will inspire students to explore the world, appreciate different perspectives and see that art isn't just decoration—it's a form of education."

Fred encourages fellow alumni to reflect on the role Blair played in their own lives and to consider giving back. "Anyone who went to Blair understands it's a great institution and a great foundation," he says. "Anything an alum can do to support it will be well spent. I strongly recommend it."

As Fred puts it: "We consciously chose our path—we followed our dreams, followed our passions—and now we want to leave behind gifts for others." Through his generosity and vision, that legacy will live on at Blair, inspiring the next generation of global citizens.



One of the many pieces the Everetts are sharing with Blair, "Zero Tolerance" depicts the power and beauty of the African wilderness.



"He found a campus of 11 acres; he leaves a campus of over 300 acres. He found buildings few in number, poorly equipped; he leaves a large group of buildings finely equipped for every school purpose. He found a school provincial in type of 100 pupils; he leaves a cosmopolitan school of 300.... He found a school of only local repute; he leaves a school famous throughout the country."

—Albert Myrick Freeman, on the legacy of Dr. John C. Sharpe, Head of School, 1898-1927

The John C. Sharpe Society of planned givers embodies the spirit and ensures the vision of Dr. John C. Sharpe, one of Blair's most influential school leaders. Planned gifts are the cornerstone of Blair's endowment, and membership

in the John C. Sharpe Society reflects a special commitment to the School's future. Interested in learning more? To join Fred and Beryl and other members of the John C. Sharpe Society of planned givers, please contact Director of Advancement Cara Mohlmann to discuss including Blair in your estate plans. If you have already made a provision for the School, let us know by contacting Ms. Mohlmann at mohlmc@blair.edu.

ANNUAL REPORT

Thank-You from the Board Chair

Dear Blair Family,

This past year at Blair has been defined by extraordinary growth and the daily inspiration we draw from our curious, kind and thoughtful students—made possible by the steadfast support of the community. Together, we have advanced our mission in ways that will have a lasting impact on the lives of Blair graduates across generations and the future of the School.

The 2024-2025 school year was filled with highlights—chief among them, the successful launch of our advanced curriculum; our students explored their passions through cutting-edge and highly relevant coursework in more than 50 academically rigorous advanced seminar and survey courses that received glowing feedback from families in the first year. Blair continues to attract students who are intellectually curious, high character and eager to fully dive into all that the Blair experience has to offer. We remain committed to academic excellence and challenging students across all areas of campus life. At the same time, we are purposeful about ensuring that students balance academic, artistic and athletic pursuits with their own personal wellness—which is critical to reaching their full academic and life potential. The opening of the Center for Health and Well-Being this fall is a tangible symbol of our ongoing work to graduate students who understand how important well-being and resilience are to living meaningful and fulfilling lives at and beyond Blair.

In an age defined by rapid technological change and the rise of artificial

intelligence (AI), Blair's focus on human connection has never been more vital. We are teaching students how to leverage the use of technology while also emphasizing skills that will serve them for life. Emotional intelligence, creativity, empathy and the ability to collaborate across lines of difference are vital skills that will serve students long after they leave Blair. Our phone-free academic day encourages members of our community to engage fully with the world around them-to look one another in the eye, be present and build the relationships that are at the heart of the Blair experience. This is evident as I walk through campus and see students smiling and engaging with faculty, staff and one another. Connectiveness and a feeling of belonging are the most important factors in gauging the overall well-being and happiness of our students, and we couldn't be more grateful to our dedicated, studentcentered faculty for all they do to develop and sustain them at Blair. In their tireless efforts to make sure our students feel known, seen and valued, our faculty and staff are integral to Blair's "secret sauce" as we graduate leaders and changemakers the world needs.

The 2025-2026 admission cycle generated remarkable interest in Blair, with more than 1,450 applications. We welcomed 154 highly qualified students into a student body of 474 from 27 U.S. states and 26 countries to campus in August and September, with 37 percent supported by \$9.6 million in financial aid. Blair's reputation continues to grow in both new and established



markets, and our in-person and virtual programming—from "Wednesdays on the Hilltop" Zoom sessions to our more traditional in-person Revisit Days—have been instrumental in helping families personally experience and embrace the Blair difference.

We could not meet our goal of continually improving the student experience without the generosity of the extended Blair family. We achieved our best-ever year for overall fundraising, securing more than \$12.6 million in 2024-2025. We also closed the largest comprehensive campaign in Blair's history, *All In*, surpassing our \$140-million goal with more than

\$160 million raised since 2018. This remarkable effort has strengthened every aspect of Blair, from faculty excellence (\$8.8 million) and forward-thinking academic programs (\$30 million) to campus enhancements (\$49.6 million) and long-term financial sustainability (\$50.6 million).

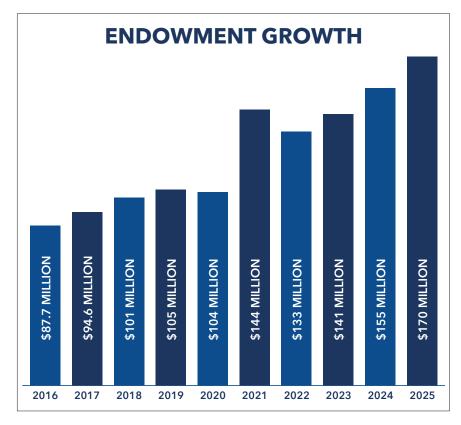
Thanks in large part to the success of *All In*, our campus continues to evolve as well. Phase one of the Mason and Freeman Halls work was completed as the 2025-2026 year opened, with phase two—including renovating interiors and transforming the Bowl into our second turf field—slated for next summer. Looking ahead, we will

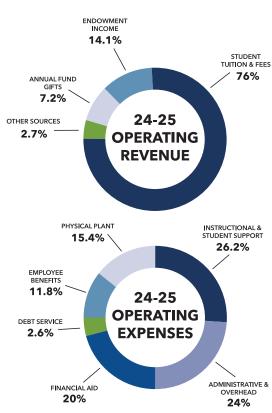
repurpose the first floor of Hoffman House for additional bed space by fall 2026 and convert another Main Street home, which will be known as "Nancy House," into faculty housing. These projects, along with more than 140 named scholarships, 20-plus class scholarships, and 79 faculty and staff members honored with gifts, reflect a deep and lasting investment in the Blair community.

From Blair Buzz Live webinars to our new "Blair Bound Family Orientation Series" for new parents to international travel and alumni gatherings hosted in 17 cities across 12 states and three countries, we are building bridges that strengthen Blair's presence around the globe. We look forward to deepening our relationships with families in Bermuda and Asia as Blair's global reputation grows.

None of this would be possible without you—our alumni, parents and friends—whose commitment ensures that Blair not only delivers on its mission today, but also prepares students to lead with intellect, empathy and fortitude in an ever-changing and complex world. Thank you for believing in our institution, our mission and our students. Your leadership, generosity and support makes all the difference.









LEADING CLASSES FOR PARTICIPATION

52% 50% 41% 38% 38% **CLASS OF 1965 CLASS OF 1959 CLASS OF 1954 CLASS OF 1962 CLASS OF 1960**

*Top-five list spans the classes of 1950-2024.



"During my years at Blair, I made lifelong friends and was taught by some of the most wonderful teachers I've ever had. I learned to be independent both in spirit and in mind. I love to give back by being our class rep. It warms my heart every time a reunion comes around and I get to spend time at Blair and see my classmates. I love Blair!"

—Donna (Salter) Haag '80

ALL-TIME REUNION CLASS GIFT RECORDS								
REUNION YEAR	HIGHEST PARTICIPATION PERCENTAGE		HIGHEST DOLLARS RAISED					
60th Reunion	Class of 1956	74%	Class of 1962	\$705,560				
55th Reunion	Class of 1956	91%	Class of 1953	\$1,094,448				
50th Reunion	Class of 1945	100%	Class of 1974	\$1,314,702				
45th Reunion	Class of 1944	59%	Class of 1976	\$746,391				
40th Reunion	Class of 1961	60%	Class of 1976	\$218,684				
35th Reunion	Class of 1956	46%	Class of 1974	\$80,040				
30th Reunion	Class of 1977	55%	Class of 1974	\$64,312				
25th Reunion	Class of 1990	58%	Class of 1997	\$91,006				
20th Reunion	Class of 2003	38%	Class of 2003	\$166,350				
15th Reunion	Class of 1981	39%	Class of 2008	\$172,084				
10th Reunion	Class of 2002	46%	Class of 2013	\$101,877				
5th Reunion	Class of 2008	75%	Class of 2006	\$12,482				

Note: Reunion records are cash donations only, except the 50th Reunion.

"We are truly grateful for the transformative experience Leslie had at Blair, for the immeasurable impact the School had on her growth and development over the last four years. Her self-confidence, achievements and love for Blair were due in no small part to the community of caring adults who are 'all in' for the students in every aspect of campus life—in the classrooms, on the athletic fields and in the dorms—pushing the kids to strive for their best while encouraging a collaborative and cooperative spirit. In turn, we are 'all in' to thank Blair for the memories, friendships and learning, and we are eager to support Blair's mission in order for others to experience the positive influence to become their best selves. Our time on the hilltop has come to an end, but we are proud to be a part of the Blair family."





"I am 'all in' because Blair gave me so many amazing opportunities and introduced me to so many amazing people. Giving back to Blair, volunteering and staying connected with the Blair community allows me to ensure that future Bucs have the same great opportunities and experiences I had. I witnessed countless acts of generosity during my time at Blair, so being 'all in' helps me do the same. Blair is a special place. Without it, I wouldn't be where I am today, and I am forever grateful for my time spent on the hilltop."



—Garrett Long '20

ANNUAL & CAPITAL FUND TOTAL	NO. OF DONORS	%	TOTAL GIVING
Alumni	1,493	23%	\$2,611,675
Current parent	375	82%	\$6,289,867
Parents of alumni	179	20%	\$960,618
Current students	53		\$3,444
Friend	157		\$2,501,829
Estate	5		\$447,111
Matching gift company	32		\$99,905
Foundation	38		\$2,211,755
Corporation	7		\$221,396
Alumni and current parent totals include matching gift company giving.	TOTAL		\$12,699,433

Current parents who are also alumni are recognized in both categories.

- Foundation giving has also been credited to the category of the donor who directed the gift.
- Friend totals include gifts from grandparents, as well as former and current faculty and staff.
- Note: The numbers in this publication are not audited and are for recognition purposes only.

LEADING CLASSES FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



^{*}Top-five list spans the classes of 1950-2024.



"Blair is more than simply where I went to high school—it was the place I called home for more than 30 years while my parents served as teachers and administrators. Many of the faculty and staff who served alongside my parents are like family to me, and I was privileged to see their unwavering commitment to building a welcoming environment where students' intellectual curiosity, athletic abilities and creativity could flourish. Being 'all in' for Blair means giving back to the community that helped shape me, and I am committed to ensuring that future students have the same great experience that my classmates and I did (shout-out to the Class of 2005 for the stellar turnout at Alumni Weekend!)."

—Lauren (Stival) Hopfer '05

ALUMNI WEEKEND REUNION ATTENDANCE RECORD

2025

Class of 2020

46%

2024

Class of 1974

43%

2023

Class of 1973

42%

2022

Class of 1962

25%



"My father told me a couple things:

- 1. If you've gained/benefited from education, try in some way to give back to that institution, whether it be yourself giving your time or a charitable donation.
- 2. Think of people less fortunate than you and try to help them with at least the same gain/benefit you experienced.

I have retained that advice throughout my entire life.... Although I was not an 'A' student, Blair taught me how to think and communicate rationally. I carry much of what I learned at Blair with me, even simple life experiences. I am truly indebted to the broad cultural education I received. The fact that I continue to have camaraderie with my teachers, classmates (even those from different years) and current staff gives me pleasure to be a loyal alumnus and contributor.

I donate to the scholarship fund with the hope that any student who doesn't have the financial means will gain help to pay for their education and benefit from at least what I have experienced."

-Billy Layton '65



CIASS OTES

1947

Elmer A. Bannan

1948

Martin S. Simon

1949

Robert A. Neff princetoneff@aol.com

[Howard I. LeVine, In Memoriam]

1950

Eugene Krohn eugenekrohn@gmail.com



Eugene W. Holland geneholland123@aol.com

[Lloyd J. Macklowe and William R. Martens, In Memoriam]

[C. Peter Tillotson, In Memoriam]

1954

Hobart D. Van Deusen

rtn.hoby@snet.net

News from Hoby Van Deusen...

In June, Nancy and I attended class reunions, the Blair Board of Trustees meeting and the celebration of the conclusion of the All In ambitious fundraising campaign. What a great weekend! Once again, as the oldest attending alumni, I had the privilege of carrying the 1954 flag that led the Alumni parade from the Arch, walking behind two bagpipers.

Bill Dudley writes: "On the Eastern Shore, the Canada Geese are flying north, the hummingbirds are arriving and bayside restaurants are opening. The Dudleys are thriving and expecting a visit from the New York kids and a grandkid who is hitting 10 years old this summer. The pool is finally warm enough for a swim. Donna is riding her bike beside Leila, our 6-year-old Samoyed Grand Champion. As for myself, I keep busy writing what I hope will be a publishable manuscript on "The Antebellum U.S. Navy, 1815-1861." Aside from that, I have a couple of articles recently in print: "The Sailing Saga of Joshua Penny" in The Trafalgar Chronicle (2024), and "R. Sidney Bowen (1900-1977): Dave Dawson Flies with the RAF" in From Soldier to Storyteller: Veterans Who Became Famous Children's Authors (2024). I have always had a penchant for military history of whatever service or country. Writing is a good way to keep the mind awake at a certain age. I have fond memories of our 70th Blair Reunion and the members of the Class of '54 who were able to attend. It was great fun! Best wishes to you and Nancy."

I had a nice talk with Bill Marcus but learned he had a very bad fall a while ago on a brick terrace, which turned his whole right side black-and-blue. Bill said it was very painful! He has recovered, but he is missing golfing on Cape Cod where he lives. And he is still not driving yet. The Marcuses have two daughters and three



Hobart Van Deusen '54 shared this portrait of the Head of School from 1951-1954, Ira Flinner, which was a gift from the Class of 1954 to Blair. It was painted by Ned Megargee '54's father. S. Edwin Megargee was a noted painter, especially of animal portraits.

grands from California and Pittsburgh who visited recently.

Mike Galesi is still running his commercial real estate firm in New Jersey but is gradually closing it down, with a 20-year goal of finishing! That takes him to a 2045 date! Good luck! In the meantime, Mike and Anni will make a summertime annual visit to Anni's property in Norway where her family is from. The property is on a lake with plenty of moose sightings. The Galesis came to our 70th Reunion last year.

I was able to talk with Tom Griffith in West Palm Beach. He is in good company with lawyers living on each side of his house. Tom forsakes cars and gets around on his bike! Unfortunately, his favorite cat, Missy, recently died around age 10. Tom was one of the first in our class to turn 90 years old! Good going, Tom.

Don McCree went this past spring on an amazing, 28-day, around the world flying trip hosted by National Geographic. The group of 75 people visited many countries and interesting sights. Don will be up in Vermont this summer and, no doubt, will be visiting Hanover.

Al Casazza and I had a very nice talk about his life. He was a couple years younger



Are those Blair bears making a surprise appearance outside Nancy and Hoby Van Deusen '54's home?

than most of our classmates for his one year at Blair. He is now 87. Al went on to become associate physician in chief at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. He retired from his medical practice a few years ago. Al splits his time now between Jupiter, Florida, and Middletown, Rhode Island. Al does not like to travel outside the United States anymore. He was president of the Block Island Power Company. His grands range from 5 to 30 years old.

Ned and Jill Megargee live by a lake in Florida. Ned told me stories about nearby alligators and occasional snakes in their grass. I'd rather see a bear than those critters! See picture above. Ned's father was a noted painter and Ned arranged to have him paint a portrait of our Head of School Ira Flinner, to be presented to Blair. It now hangs in Blair's library on the second floor. He also painted Mr. Mason's portrait on the first floor.

As always, I had a nice talk with Paul Heagy. He spent some time in the hospital since we last spoke. Speaking of that, Paul has donated almost 16,000 hours of hospital charitable work but is now down to ONLY one day a week. Paul also acts as a VFW honor guard when needed. His children, Patty and Michael, are both married. Michael was a master sergeant before retiring, and Patty works in a VA hospital.

I caught up with Dave Sleeper living in Maine. Dave has had several falls and is not looking forward to an operation. He is gradually selling part of his military collection. Parting with one's collection is not easy and is not as fun as collecting the items!

I was able to talk with Ted Horstmann, who now lives in Autumn Glen assisted living in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. Unfortunately, Ted's wife, Nancy, passed last year.

Here is a list of classmates I believe are still living but some are hard to contact: Jack Bofinger, Bill Bueno, Sonny Fenstermacher, Bob Gaver, Bruce Haselman, Mel Howie, Ed Levy, Art Mangels, Don McKeown, Howard Meyer, Balcolm Parcells and Rich Potter.

1955

George H. Brooks brooksie01@aol.com

Gene A. Losa galosa1@comcast.net



1956

Nelson P. Cohen charlcohen@aol.com

Courtney R. Fritts petefrittssr@att.net

1957 James H. G. Naisby jnaisby@ptd.net

News from Jim Naisby...

With the arrival of spring comes the fresh new sounds and sights of our world waking up with new beginnings everywhere. My pickup and plow were relieved by working to clean up after only three minor storms totaling 16 inches of the "powdery white." Yet, while my workload was generally less, a new



Jim Naisby '57 and Velma Lubliner P'05 '09, Blair's former assistant director of advancement for capital giving, reconnected during Alumni Weekend.

challenge was cutting up all the ash trees that have been decimated by the emerald ash borer in this area of North Jersey, leaving hundreds of dead or dying trees to be harvested and turned into lumber and firewood.

Another activity keeping many of our fellow alum hard at work has been the final push to complete Blair's greatest fundraising effort in its history, *All In*, which successfully raised more than \$160 million, thanks to those of you who participated. The activities on Alumni Weekend provided a great celebration for the successful fund drive.

Ed Cliff called to let me know he would make his next trip to campus in 2027 for our 70th. In the meantime, he will celebrate his 88th birthday staying healthy, walking two to three miles each day while enjoying reading and the Jersey Shore.

Woody Woodruff returned again for Alumni Weekend giving him the honor of carrying our class flag in the Alumni Parade behind Eric Walther, the only attendee from '56. His classmates can be proud. He was a fine representative of your class.

Captain Don Parsons learned from the last *Bulletin* that he and Woody live within 15 minutes of each other in Florida (Woody's winter home) and have planned to catch up later this year or the next.

Bob Pearl and I have enjoyed many conversations about past days at Blair,

our children with their successes and our pride, the ways of the world, and even a note on chats he has had with Steve Asch and Marty Newmark. I, too, have tried to speak to Mel Tabak, Ed Magee and Al Flessner but find their phones disconnected.

Bill Ovens is doing just fine with life and health for a Blair guy in his 80s. He and Jill are adjusting to their new home while putting the final touches on an updated kitchen and bathroom. Crossword puzzles have become a favorite pastime exercise. Bill is also involved with a weekly discussion group with subjects such as the gas turbine, critical think, the B-17 and B-29 made by GE and Pratt & Whitney, and what makes intelligence. This furniture maker engineer certainly is keeping his gray matter (brain) active. Keep it up, Bill.

This year the alumni Class of '55 celebrated their 70th Reunion, meaning our 70th will be celebrated in two years, June 2027. It will be great to see or hear from as many of our class members, so plan ahead. Many of us are challenged by the effects of age, but most can still write, send an email or call with updates on your present life events, children, grandchildren, retirement, family and life. Your classmates and I will enjoy whatever information you send. None of us know when this opportunity will pass. Do it now as part of a bucket list you have thought of.

Again, I thank you for your participation in *All In* and await the latest news from you with thoughts of attending Alumni Weekend 2027. "Y'all come back."

1958

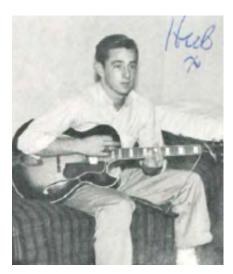
Norman E. Beatty norm.beatty@firsthope.bank

Peter J. Cleary ClearyPJ@aol.com

News from Norm Beatty and Peter Cleary...

On April 24's Zoom call, Bob Bolte, Alan Cole, Thorny Land, Glenn Smith, Steve Steiner and Greg Wanamaker joined Norm Beatty and Peter Cleary for a meeting with Kelly Hadden, science department chair, and Head of School Peter G. Curran. To say we were all blown away by the number and depth of science electives available to Blair students is a huge understatement! We all seemed to remember our science teachers to be Edgar Dangler in biology, Sylvanus Zimmerman in chemistry and Jim Pender in physics. We are planning a mid-fall Zoom get-together. Unfortunately, after speaking at some length with Blair's information technology department, we are unable to implement Charlie Merlis' recommendation that our Zoom sessions are recorded for those who miss it so they can view it later.

Hub Knox, from Palm City, Florida, could not join our Zoom meeting due to medical appointments. However, he recalled many fond memories with two roommates, Steve Steiner and Bill Varney. Hub wanted all of us to know his guitar playing is still in great demand, especially the old songs. He goes to physical therapy every day, has some balance issues and is dating. See Hub's picture in his East Hall dorm.



The Class of 1958 has lots of laughs together. Hub Knox '58 wanted all of us to know his guitar playing is still in great demand, especially for those oldies!

Class Notes

Alan Cole has had three fingers, this year, operated on for "trigger finger." The procedure really interferes with golf as the hands take a couple of months to heal. He and wife, Thelma, had a fabulous 10-day trip to Antigua this past spring. They swam with stingrays, fed and gave neck massages to tortoises, and got in some snorkeling and kayaking. This summer they plan to visit national parks in Colorado and Utah. When not traveling, Alan performs mentor duties for fifth graders at a local school and Thelma assists in a Phoenix hospital's neonatal unit, where they recently cared for identical quadruplets.



Bob Olshan '58's wife, Leigh, sadly passed away on March 19, 2025. They shared a remarkable bond, having been married for 64 years.

Bob Olshan's wife, Leigh, passed away this year on March 19. They were married 64 years, very possibly making Bob the first in our class to marry back in 1961. Those of us privileged to know Leigh discovered a very special lady who raised four daughters and greatly enjoyed her nine grandchildren. Bob's thought for all of us: "Don't take anything in life for granted but value each moment with those close to you."

Tony Battelle is alive and kicking in Henniker, New Hampshire. He still lives alone but occasionally requires some nursing assistance. He is nearly finished with a dissertation project that has been slowly progressing for decades. When completed, his efforts will prove whether all those Blair, college and law school writing classes did their job.

At this writing, three classmates are involved to some degree in their family's business. Henry Elghanayan's family work is in real estate for the greater New York City area. Henry is heavily involved along with his son in its management and shows no sign of reducing his high level of engagement. Greg Wanamaker and two of his sons operate numerous car dealerships in the greater Maryland area. Greg continues to be very actively involved as its leader. On the other hand, Norm Beatty, third generation president of First Hope Bank, retired from the bank nine years ago. Norm's mission since his 2016 retirement is watching the bank prosper under his son, Dan's, leadership.

1959 William L. Russell wruss70@gmail.com

1960



The Class of 1960's Craig and Mandy Dana (right), alongside Jim and Kathy Griffith (left), exemplify the Blair spirit we cherish during Alumni Weekend, proudly donning their matching 1960 classic Blair baseball hats.

[Eugene S. Taft III and Herbert A. Wilfert, In Memoriam]



1961

Frank H. Briggs betabriggs@gmail.com

[Philip L. Pecora, In Memoriam]

1962

Mark Gottesman

gottesmanmark@gmail.com

News from Mark Gottesman...

From Paul White: "I am planning to move to a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) so I am spending the warm months making minor repairs to my house in order to put it on the market. While in town, in addition to bridge and the book club, I plan to visit the aquarium and Battleship New Jersey in Camden, which I have never done. I may try to visit some places we lived in the past like Raleigh, Boston and Cleveland. No overseas trips until I get settled in the CCRC."

Frank Barnako writes: "Just back from 10 days in Paris. I went to photograph; Donna and a friend went to be inspired by other artists. The French were very welcoming. An apparent culture shift has made Paris clean, polite and organized, perhaps a result of the Olympic spending, which looks like it prompted new Metro cars, street repairs and homeless relocations. Highlights of the trip included a visit to the expanded Picasso Museum and lunch at the Jules Verne, a two-Michelin-star restaurant on the second floor of the Eiffel Tower. Magnificent. During a three-hour lunch, flavors came in waves of deliciousness. It was our third time there. Do it! No travel plans right now. I have identified my comfort zone. I want to be there. (Look it up on Google.)"



Will Johnson '62, his partner Diane Kurtz (*left*), and Donna and Frank Barnako '62 (*right*) at the Barnako's home in Hilton Head, SC.

Will Johnson, our avid class golfer! I jokingly asked his partner, Diane Kurtz, how many holes in one she and Will have had. "He has had four and I have had three. However, we have a lot more golf to play." And Will provided an extensive summary of their planned tours to different courses as they rate them. "What follows is our travel schedule for the remainder of 2025. Diane is a veteran rater for Golfweek Magazine and I am a rater as well. July: Hilliard, Ohio, to rate two to three private clubs and see a performance of Hamilton; Ohio Light Opera makes its summer home at The College of Wooster, my alma mater, and offers seven performances of classical musicals and light opera. We plan to take in two performances. August: Golfweek Raters Retreat at Foxwood Casino in Connecticut, where we will play three courses. Then we travel to western Massachusetts for the John Williams Star Wars trilogy at Tanglewood and proceed to Saratoga for a day at the races. September/October: 10 days at the Marriott Manor Club to rate both public and private courses with time to view the historic treasures of Williamsburg. December: 12 nights at the Sheraton PGA headquarters in Port St. Lucie to rate their three courses plus several local courses. Pickleball opportunities are nearby on all trips."

Our class has shared a number of "fishy" stories launched in the past by El Capitan Don Weinstein and Steve Shuart. But Bill McKinley provided a true fishing saga that was somehow missed in the last Bulletin. "I achieved a minor milestone this year in the arena of striper fishing in the state of New Jersey. The journals were howling with reports of abundant catches of striped bass from the ocean reefs, the beaches, the bays and the inlets. I went after them with confidence and the help and plentiful advice from my wife and fishing buddy. From April through November, I dragged bait and lures across the bottom of Barnegat Bay, in and out the Barnegat Inlet, and up and down the Barnegat Reef. I caught loads of fish but no stripers. Yesterday (in late December, no less), my fishing buddy and I decided to give it one last shot.

We booked passage on the fishing party boat The Gambler, out of Point Pleasant Beach. The day was indescribable—warm and sunny, gentle breeze, smooth ocean. It began slowly with just a few stripers being caught at the first few stops, but then the captain found where they were hiding. They were coming over the rail from bow to stern. My buddy caught 14 with many in the size range that could be kept. Hundreds were caught. Everyone caught stripers except me. I did not catch a single one! I believe I must be the only consistent fisherman in the state not to have caught one striper. Wait until next year." Join the distinguished club, Bill!

On a more substantive level, Bill writes: "Pat and I have been enjoying participation with the Institute for Advanced Study as 'Friends of the Institute' for the past 10 years. The Institute provides a free and open academic environment for selected scientists deemed to be leaders in their fields (the members). Room, board and other basic needs are provided for them and their families leaving them the freedom to focus on their primary areas of interest. For our annual contribution we are permitted to join the members in attending an absorbing array of lectures and presentations given by the members of the institute and visiting scientists (even Nobel laureates). Theatrical, musical and fun entertainment is provided for the members and us. In addition, the facility offers a broad menu of delicious food for the many social gatherings throughout the year. We have made many close friendships through our participation with the Institute, the core of our social life."

Don Mershon shares that he and his wife, Loretta, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary back in June. Don writes: "Not sure on the 'top' score for anniversaries...Broadly assuming that the majority of us went to college right after Blair and finished in four years, we might have a slight edge. (We married between my junior and senior years at F&M; Loretta graduated Rutgers-Newark on a Wednesday evening and we were married on Saturday afternoon

of the same week.)" Don and Loretta have an extensive family tree with a son and daughter, five grandsons and two granddaughters, and FOUR greatgrandchildren. The youngest, their first great-grandson, is only a year old and the oldest of three great-granddaughters is 11! I suspect that Don again has a "slight edge" over our classmates? Don is also lucky that a number of the above live nearby in Raleigh. Don adds: "Although I play a decent game of bridge, I don't really play enough to collect more than a moderate number of ratings points. Still, it's a nice hobby, and I am very pleased that someone invented an online version back during COVID. (It's a bit different, but still feels very much like a live game.) As I recall, many of the Blair bridge enthusiasts were also smokers, with many games taking place in the 'smoking room.' I recall that Paul played, as did Augie Kattermann."

[James R. Richart, In Memoriam]

1963

Robert D. Fulton bfulton106@aol.com

William S. Wildrick njhutch@earthlink.net

News from Bob Fulton...

The passing of Bruce Shinn—John Alden writes that he drove to Canaan, New Hampshire, to represent the Class of '63 at the celebration of life of Bruce Shinn. Bruce was the only member of the Class of '63 who started at Blair in 1957, completing grades seven through 12. A year later John, Doug Seaver, Steve Remington and Frank Osmers joined the eighth grade. According to John, the gathering in Canaan was a fitting tribute to Bruce and his many contributions over the 50 years to the community that was his home.

More and more members of the Class of '63 are using both new and familiar ways of staying in touch with one another on a regular basis. Here are four of them....

Class Notes

Zoom Calls: Three or four times each year, Al Woolf sponsors a Zoom call for the class to greet one another and exchange their latest news. Thirteen of us joined the May call and two others went out of their way to let us know that they wouldn't be able to attend and why. As the session unfolded, Barry Parker mentioned that he went skydiving in Orange, Massachusetts, which struck us all as being mildly longevity-averse at his age. But when he added that he had done so in 1961, we were all silent for a few seconds. Then Bill Wildrick said that he attended the 2025 Blair Commencement to witness the sixth consecutive Wildrick generation to achieve such a goal. John Alden added that his brother's grandson, thus John's grand-nephew, was in the same ceremony. Brian Clayton, currently pondering moving closer to civilization after more than 20 years of total grid independence, noted that a moose had casually wandered through his backyard that morning. And when those of us who purchased tickets to John Sebastian's Fort Pierce concert, which was subsequently canceled considered his well-being, Ray Burghardt recalled visiting John in his father's New York City apartment many years before.

Alumni Weekend: For some time, Blair has scheduled a June weekend to invite classes back to campus to celebrate their notable commencement anniversaries, typically at five-year intervals. Our last notable anniversary was in 2023, our 60th. But for many years, Larry Driever has defied the "every five year" tradition by representing our class on an annual basis, this year bringing his wife, Elizabeth. For the last two years, Bob and Jane Fulton have joined him as part of their annual Northeast friends and family reunion tour, and this year John Alden brought the group total to five! The food and fellowship alone make the return to Blair worthwhile, but the campus tour, student perspective presentation, the annual awards ceremony and other unique events make the weekend notable by any standard. For these and other reasons, we hope to see many more of you in Blairstown next June.

Summer and fall travels: While some of us occasionally find ourselves away from home regardless of the time of year, summer and fall seem to be the favored seasons for most to travel, vacation and otherwise seek a change of scenery. Bob and Jane Fulton will be in Annapolis, Maryland, for Thanksgiving this fall and plan to reach out to Blair classmates in the area while there. Others used the May Zoom call to schedule potential rendezvous.

Contributions to the *Blair Bulletin*: Finally, the Class Notes section of the *Blair Bulletin* is a place where we can all go to catch up with one another and renew old friendships. Every time you compose a brief note or two about your Blair memories or about special moments in your life since and send them off to Bob Fulton or John Alden, you will enrich the Blair experience for every one of us who came together more than 60 years ago.

[Bruce D. Shinn, In Memoriam]

1964

Clark W. Heckert

cwheckert@verizon.net

News from Clark Heckert...

While I was hard at work installing my ham radio into my antique 1953 Willys-Overland truck and unable to attend the Blair Alumni Weekend, Albert Grant attended to boost the event. Thanks, Albert. He reports that, "Even though the morning was wet with gloomy skies and the odds were against being able to have the Alumni Parade, just in time before 11 a.m., the sun came out, proving once



Albie Grant '64 (*left*) and Bill Cramer '64 (*right*) join the Alumni Parade.

again, that the sun shines on Blair alumni when they come back to honor their alma mater. For the Class of '64, we had Bill Cramer, accompanied by his lovely wife, Barbara, and myself, Albie Grant. Chuck Potter had reserved his place for the picnic but called me the night before to say he could not make it due to a health issue. Chuck also made a donation to Blair in memory of his brother, Wilfred M. Potter '48, who passed away recently. Before the Alumni Parade, I had a chance to speak with Mike Newbern '75, who was attending his 50th Reunion. I also spoke with John Dughi '65, who was there for his 60th Reunion. The parade wound its way to the Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts, where the speeches and awards ceremony were held in DuBois Theatre. Head of School Peter G. Curran gave an inspirational speech about this year's class at Blair and the full slate of activities available to them. Even though the sun shone on the parade, not wanting to press their luck with the weather, the organizers wisely hedged their bets and held the picnic inside the dining hall. Bill, Barbara and I were invited to join the Class of 1965 at their table and chatted with Keith Robertshaw '65. We had a fun discussion about the (harmless) pranks each of our respective classes played while at school and how we drove poor Assistant Headmaster Fernando Marcial crazy!

[Wayner P. Crowder and Robert V. Johnston, In Memoriam]

1965

Don Jay Smith

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News from Don Jay Smith...

I'm writing these notes just after returning from a fabulous time at Alumni Weekend. I have already heard from many of our class participants and they agreed; it could not have been better! If you missed it, we missed you!

We had quite a group on Saturday: Bob Lay, Bob Pollack, John McLachlan, Jeff



John Dughi '65 (*left*) and Don Jay Smith '65 (*right*) were all smiles as the Class of 1965 honored Don by naming the Arts Guild Wall in tribute to him and his late wife, Linda. Amazing work by the class, and can you believe we kept it a secret from him?



The Class of 1965 celebrated a memorable Alumni Weekend, filled with laughter and shared stories. Your efforts in naming the Arts Guild Wall in honor of your classmate exemplify the true spirit of friendship.

Corwin, Jack Benge, Bob Halley, Tom Tyrie, Bob Young, Bob Weiner, John Dughi, Elliott Trommald, Jim Krugman, Lynn Peachey, Billy Layton, Keith Robertshaw and Jim Trozze. I hope I didn't miss anyone! Most of us were there on Friday as well and many even stayed on campus!

Bob Lay was originally going to arrive on Friday with Pam, but she was sick so she stayed home and he came on Saturday. He attended lunch and dinner (and everything in between), but went to sleep early on Saturday because he had a 6 a.m. flight back to Dallas. He left Sunday night for a weeklong camp where he serves as a counselor. He spends three weeks every summer guiding young men as they navigate camp life. He still has his youthful enthusiasm!

Pam and Bob Pollack made the trip from Fort Myers, Florida, and it was great to see them. Bob has been retired from psychiatry for about 10 years and has taken up golf. As he says, "Everyone in



Bob Weiner '65 (*left*) was the inaugural recipient of the Pierce Trophy. As his class celebrated their 60th Reunion during Alumni Weekend, Director of Athletics Paul Clavel '88 (*right*) presented Bob with the award.

the family can beat me soundly." He has been learning about AI/VR and enjoys his Apple Vision Pro. Bob has been working as an advisor to several companies and has taken on some new board memberships. He recently wrote to express his thanks to all who were at the reunion and that "We are a unique group!"

John McLachlan brought his wife, Teri, and told me more than once that they had a great time and plan to return for our 65th Reunion! He and Teri live on an island north of Seattle but spend the winter in Arizona. On their trip back north this year, he wore a Blair T-shirt and was approached by someone who asked if the shirt was for Blair Academy. It turned out that the guy was a big wrestling fan and not a graduate.

It was great to spend time with Jeff Corwin, who still lives in Centennial, Colorado! Jeff has been retired from his insurance business but seems to be busier than ever, although a lot of that seems to be dealing with medical issues. His roommates (if you remember) were Jack Benge (who was at the reunion) and Tom Wean (who passed away back in 2010).

Yes, Jack Benge made it back to the reunion! He and Laura have left California (after living there for many years) and have moved to Toledo, Ohio, to be near their daughter, Rachelle. Unfortunately, Laura did not make the trip, but Jack wrote to tell me that he had a wonderful time and planned to return for other reunions. They have a lot of work to do on their new home and he plans to spend time this summer reconditioning

and painting the deck behind the house. As he wrote, "I'll have a lot of pleasant memories of our reunion to sustain me while I am so engaged."

As he promised, Bob Halley made it back, carrying two bottles of his wonderful pinot noir! We had it in Annie Hall on Saturday night. He wrote right after leaving Blair that, "This year's reunion was wonderful. It was so great to share time with classmates, some of whom I haven't seen in 60 years. And for those of you who couldn't make it, you were there in spirit. And we probably talked about you! After the initial catch-up between long absent classmates, the conversations usually turned to those not there. Everyone had some information about a few of our fellow Buccaneers, and between us, I believe we covered the entire Class of '65. Hats off to Smitty for all he's done for us all these years. Hope to see you in 2030!" And, I agree that we will celebrate our 65th Reunion in 2030, and I hope to see you!

Bob's close friend from Blair, Tom Tyrie, drove from New Hampshire on Friday, although he and Chris also have an apartment in Atlantic City, New Jersey. The apartment is on the 26th floor with a fabulous view of the ocean. They gave up their New York apartment. Although he occasionally talks about retiring, nothing happens and he continues to work at Kimball Physics. Their New Hampshire place is very much in the woods (no surprise), located on 12 acres and surrounded by 35 acres of conservation land. If you recall, Tom was an adventurer at Blair and remains so to this day. Their daughter, Leslie, is a trauma surgeon and lives in Manhattan.

I speak to Bob Young regularly because he still doesn't have an email address! He has retired from the family construction business and still lives in the same house in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He did say that he thinks about moving to North Carolina to be near his son, Greg, who graduated from Blair in 1999!

Pat and Bob Weiner are regular attendees of Alumni Weekend and this year was

Class Notes

no exception. Bob continues to churn out op-ed pieces and leads the National Press Club President's Award-winning program, recruiting young journalists. Last summer he got six of his Press Club interns credentialed and led them at the Democratic National Convention. An Alumni Weekend highlight for him was having his picture taken with Paul Clavel '88, Blair's Director of Athletics, and the original Pierce Trophy for Cross Country. As you may remember, Bob was the first recipient of the award and his name is etched into the first trophy.

One of the prime organizers of the 60th Reunion was John Dughi, who hosted a reception for the class after the Arts Guild presentation. It was an honor to serve with John and he deserves kudos for leading our class to a large class gift (reaching \$200,000), with 50% participation and about 20 classmates returning for the weekend. He thought the weekend would be the last hurrah for the Class of 1965, but several classmates plan to return annually for this gathering and certainly for the 65th Reunion in 2030! I will be at all of them and hope to see you!

It's hard to believe, but Elliott Trommald is still youthful in his late 80s and really enjoyed himself at the reunion. He lives in an assisted living apartment in Portland, which keeps him close to Dagne who, sadly, does not always know him and cannot travel at all. He still rides his bicycle every day and it was great of Connie and Jim Krugman to bring him. Connie and Jim spend considerable time at their home in Cayman Brac but return to their place in New York City a lot. Jim came to see me this spring as I recuperated from my broken hip and it was great to spend time with him. He and Connie have been very generous to Blair!

I have so much more I could write, but I will leave some news for the next *Bulletin*. I do have some sad news to share, however. Bill Driver, who was a Blair regular before the pandemic, began to show signs of memory issues about five years ago and finally was forced to face the reality

that he was not well. Unfortunately, he succumbed to Alzheimer's in November 2024 and passed away. I had been trying to get in touch with him before the reunion with no luck, so I finally called his son, Chris, who shared the sad news.

I have heard from many classmates leading up to the reunion, including Dave Allen, Bob Schaaf, Harry Joelson, Hal Steiner, Richard Jack, Eric Caleca, Billy Layton, Hon. Lynn Peachey, Greg Herbert, Bill Durland, Dan Gordon, Steve Driever, Mike Lane, George Phelps, Peter Nystrom and Dan Mackey's wife, Carla. Mark your calendars for Alumni Weekend, June 5-7, 2026!

Bob Weiner'65 thanked myself, Courtnav Stanford '95 and Emma Barnes O'Neill for "the great organizing" and said how wonderful it was to have the opportunity at the meals, events and social time to reconnect over fantastic national issues and personal conversations with many. Bob writes: "Congratulations to Don on your induction in the Arts Guild and the guild wall named in your honorwell deserved!" Thank you to Courtnay and Emma for persistence in finding the original cross country Pierce Trophy with Bob's name as the first winner etched into it and for arranging the cool photoop with Blair's Director of Athletics. Bob said he felt amazingly good about all that, despite being disappointed that the Wallace Pool wasn't open for attendee use throughout the weekend (something the School will consider moving forward).



1966

Christopher L. Barrington

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David H. Sculnick

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News from Chris Barrington...

Janet and I had a nice time during Alumni Weekend. See our photo from the weekend as we celebrated Buzz Bishop's induction to the Athletic Hall of Fame! Great to see so many friends over the weekend.



Trustee Jim '66 and Nevitt Jenkins hosted a Blair summer reception at their home in Water Mill, NY. Alums, current and past parents enjoyed time together with Jim, Nevitt and Head of School Peter G. Curran.



This year, Buzz Bishop '66 was inducted into the Blair Athletic Hall of Fame with support from his longtime friends. From left to right: Bob Dughi '66, Tom Bosler '66, David Bugen '66, Buzz Bishop '66 and Chris Barrington '66.



(*Left*) Chris Barrington '66 and his wife, Janet, alongside (*right*) Jim '66 and Nevitt Jenkins, spent time together during their visit to campus in June.

1967

Gregory U. Auger gaugerii@gmail.com

Barry H. Smith bhsmith5@gmail.com

News from Barry Smith...

From Larry Snavely: "Molly and I have been adapting to some aging challenges. We sold our condo in State College, although our son, Chris '96, still lives there, and are now in Naples, Florida, full time. We're currently looking to downsize from our home here in Naples.

We're anchored here due to church and friends but are hoping to move from our current home by the end of the year. Our other son, John, lives in Utah."

From Jeff Mohler: "Noreen and I split our time between Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Pinehurst, North Carolina, about 60/40. Getting our new church off the ground was very time consuming, but since we just celebrated our second anniversary in our new building, things have quieted down somewhat. We are both active volunteers but try not to let that get in the way of our family or golf games. Ashley, Ian and Clara (13) live in Arlington, Massachusetts. Jeremy, Mason (14) and Ophelia (8) are in Hershey. Brendan and Lindsey, along with puppy Pearl live and work in Manhattan. We celebrated our big (75th and 70th) birthdays last September with a trip to England (London area) for the Curtis Cup Match and Scotland (North Berwick and St Andrews) for golf and visiting friends. We are very blessed!"

From Nick Manero: "About a year ago I moved from Greenwich to the Residences at Summer Street in Stanford. My kids are all good. My daughter, Pamela, lives in Florida and Rhode Island depending on the season. Brett is a teacher living in Colorado. Lauren moved from Menlo Park to Long Beach and works for Facebook. Dan is the closest and lives in White Plains. I talk to Steve Glasser from time to time; he's retired from his medical practice."

From Bruce Sergy: "Carole and I are still in Long Beach. I am about to get off our condo board after a decade and look forward to that. More time on the golf course might help my game, where I've managed to 'grow' my handicap from four to double digits. We are hoping to do some more traveling in the future while we're still reasonably able. I retired almost 10 years ago from the aquarium manufacturing business. Carole has retained a loyal group of clients that see her regularly at her home salon. We are active in the downtown Long Beach community and politics. Generally, things are all good!"

From Doug Schwarz: "Susie and I remain healthy and busy. Some of this is due to racquet sports—tennis, paddle and pickleball. I continue to volunteer on boards at both the hospital and our small church in Bay Head. Our two sons, Brad and Chris, are relatively close by. Chris lives in Red Bank, New Jersey, with his wife, Brittanny. He is a producer on the *Up & Adams* show on FanDuel TV. Brad is the CIO for a Manhattan law firm. He and his wife, Mary, live in Westfield with their three children and summer with Susie and me."

From Barry Smith: "2025 has been a difficult year for our family. I suddenly lost my wife, Eileen P'09, my best friend and longtime life partner. Eileen and I loved living in Naples, Florida, and one afternoon, after a quick trip to North Carolina, we were taking a walk around our neighborhood. We were crossing a street in a crosswalk, when a large truck, whose driver was not paying attention, ran over us both. We were airlifted to a trauma center but, sadly, Eileen died in the helicopter en route. I am completely heartbroken and miss her greatly!! After moving to Florida, Eileen had continued her longtime private practice as a psychotherapist and university lecturer. Eileen loved education (and Blair!) and taught psychology at two universities over the years. I miss her greatly. On a happier note, we welcomed our first grandson, Grayson Smith (hopefully a future Blair graduate!), just a few weeks before the accident and Eileen had the amazing opportunity to hold him. Grayson is my



Together, Barry Smith '67, and his grandson, Grayson Smith, shared broad smiles.



A cherished photo of Barry '67 and Eileen Smith P'09 together as they joyfully welcome their new grandson.

son, Dan Smith '09, and his wife, Sarah Smith's, first child. He's a sweet little boy.

I know these Class Notes are not quite as robust as in the days before Surgery and Mohler "retired" (haha)! So, please, chime in with some of your own updates! The recent passing of Ted Hamilton and Bob Harmon should be a wakeup call for all of us to share some experiences and news while we can. I really hope to hear from you soon! Send me an email at bhsmith5@gmail.com."

[Kenton C. Dalby, In Memoriam]

1968

Richard A. Rubin

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[Stephen Dunn, In Memoriam]

1969

Frederick L. Mirbach

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News from Fred Mirbach...

Mates, "Imagine the impossible, and how wonderful it would be if it weren't." How wonderful it will be to receive a word from each of you. Impossible? Hardly, just wonderful. Please submit a line or two in time for the next *Bulletin*. Thank you.

[Steven W. Tanis, In Memoriam]



Frederick Mirbach '69 noted that he celebrated his 75th (or 3/4 of a century, more gravitas?) with his family on the Cape this past Memorial Day.



Alex Sloane '70 (*left*) and Ted Pearce '68 (*right*) played tennis together at the Granite Club in Toronto, Canada.

1970

News from Alex Sloane...

I want to report that Ted Pearce '68 and I found ourselves in Toronto playing on the U.S. tennis team against Canada. We had a great time and played doubles as partners in one of the matches. We shared memories of former Blair faculty Gordon Paul, Philip Salembier '67, Mike Apfelbaum Harvey '68 and others.

News from Steve Peck...

The Class of 1970's 55th Reunion was indeed a joyful time. Lots of recollections and catching up took place, primarily during the Friday and Saturday night Blair bashes. While some classmates could only attend for a few hours on Saturday, and some of us missed being there all together, any minute of any hour felt precious. Personally, I enjoyed seeing Brad Liva, George King, Jerry Bamel, Chip Fletcher and Jim Hindle. Most of my reunion time was spent with former roommates Rick Hunt and Peter Barrett. A highlight with Peter was a spur-of-themoment singing of the alma mater with much younger alumni on Friday evening. And Saturday night's food and music? Words cannot describe. We all noted that while the bed mattresses were not too comfortable, Blair's food offerings were spectacular. Many thanks to all who planned and put together the Alumni Weekend. At an age when my classmates and I have a hard time remembering what we had for supper last night, our reunion connections will remain unforgettable.

Even after seven years being retired from 43 years as an educator, my golf game continues to need improvement. I'm not fully retired, though, as I officiate sports all year long. I still blow a whistle and point for high school soccer (40 years) and middle school basketball (15 years). In the spring, I umpire softball at the middle-school level. As the saying goes: "It keeps me out of trouble." If I want trouble, it can usually be found somewhere as I try to maintain our nice Vermont country home, built in 1840. If it's an indoor repair needed, I know a few good handymen. Outdoors, I can hack, mow, shovel or paint our 200-foot-long picket fence. My wife, Candy, and I enjoy visiting our youngest daughter, Sarah, and grandson, Georgie, near Cleveland, Ohio, several times a year. Our oldest, Katie, lives with her husband near Burlington, Vermont. The whole family traveled to Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Michigan last summer to celebrate our 50th anniversary. For the past several summers, my former roommates and I, with our spouses, have gotten together at Rick and Gail Hunt's home in Long Beach Island, New Jersey. Peter Barrett and his wife, Judy, travel from North Carolina to visit, too. Our wives tolerate our adolescent Blair behavior, singing choir as well as The Beatles, The Four Seasons and Elvis songs, retelling tales of Blair dances that we had when a busload of young ladies from another boarding school would arrive to be our dates... enough said.





The Class of 1970 rocked their campus reunion! It was a blast catching this dynamic trio—Rick Hunt, Peter Barrett and Steve Peck—back on their old stomping grounds.



Can you sense the joy captured in this photograph? Was the class ecstatically chanting "B...L...A...I...R," or is this simply a reflection of the humor exhibited by the Class of 1970?



This foursome from the Class of 1970 reconnected during Alumni Weekend. Both Jim Hindle (*left*) and Rick Hunt (*right*) have homes on Long Beach Island, NJ. In the middle, Steve Peck (*second from left*) of Vermont, and Peter Barrett (*second from right*) of North Carolina, joined the LBI guys for some mini golf and libations. [FYI—the guy in the golf T-shirt may have won.]



1971 Michael J. Lieberman mjlieberman52@gmail.com

[Thomas S. Blankley Jr., In Memoriam]

1972 Carl R. Cramer cramercr@gmail.com

Kurt O. Kosack lindakurt01@gmail.com

Gregory A. Washburn

Gregory.wash.washburn@gmail.com

News from Greg Washburn...

Carl Cramer, Robert Plunkett and I met on Friday of Alumni Weekend and participated in the golf scramble. It was good to see one another. In addition, we were honored to have seen Bob Van Stone '69, our freshman year prefect. Bob Van Stone has been a steady supporter of Blair and has organized the golf scramble for many years.

[William L. Maxson Jr., In Memoriam]



An impressive group on the Blair golf course. Pictured from left to right: Greg "Wash" Washburn '72, Bob Plunkett '72, Carl Cramer '72 and Bob Van Stone '69.

1973

Thomas E. McLean tmclean1452@gmail.com

Bonnie A. Nault

bonnienaulthomes@gmail.com

News from Thomas McLean and Bonnie Nault...

I hope your weekend is full of fun and good times with your family, neighbors, friends or new acquaintances. Mine

was! Indiana was packed this weekend with the INDY 500, with over 350,000 people descending on our midsize urban community. The best part is that the international fans, when they arrive, really take in the city's offerings—albeit prices go up when they are here, too. I used to go to the 500, but nowadays, unless I can get my butt in the overpriced corporate suites and a police escort at \$300...I stay away.

Also since the WNBA Fever played a few nights before, and the Pacers played the same day as the INDY 500, I got my local sports fix. However, it's tough being an Indiana basketball fan this weekend (two losses). Though I still have a secret allegiance to The Liberty and The Knicks (I was a college camp counselor at one of Walt "Clyde" Frazier's camps at Upsala College. Doug Jeffries was a student there!). I was hoping neither game was in Indy this year. Hey, I don't mention NYC allegiance in this neck of the woods....It's blasphemy!

Guy Detrick shared, "You put the 'world' in world class. Everything is magnificent with Kelleigh and all of us in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. We are both very excited to fly to D.C. on June 5. Beautiful Erica is six months pregnant. Son-in-law Steven has been named deputy secretary of commerce and oldest son Kurt is campaigning to be president of the Virginia IAFF, a 12,000-member unit. He will win. He is a Detrick. My youngest son, Thomas, is following in my construction footsteps and is excelling. It is in his blood from generations. I'm planning to arrive for Alumni Weekend on Saturday in time for lunch. Staying in the dorm and then heading over to the family farm and church to pay honorage and respect. I trust that all is well and good with you and all you love and care about."

Andy Stern is going to take a Malawi trip this month with Habitat for Humanity. How cool is that?

Skip Waddell and his brothers, David '76 and Joey '78, and their sister, Wendy, gave a wonderful 90th birthday celebration

for their mother in Charleston, South Carolina, in May. It was a lot of fun.

I spoke to Dee Garrett, and she is doing well and still helping us with the FB/Meta Class 1973 page. Keep the information coming. Dee writes, "Melinda (Mitchell) Shumway was just on a great trip to Scotland and Norway. She posted a nice photo of her and Chris in a kayak."

I emailed Andy Heinze recently about a host of matters. Andy was recognized by his peers and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts as a recipient of their 2025 Individual Artist Fellowship. There were 939 applicants and Andy was one of the 107 recipients.

I continue to be on phone calls and an email chain that periodically includes some very cool and interesting personalities—Jordan Philibar, Modesto Ulloa, Mark Glass, Michael Rubin, Dave Fernandez, Mike Norton, Guy Detrick, and James "Jas" Earle, to name a few. Best one-liners and jokes...

Someone in our class asked recently about Jan Morgan and Aileen Gaumond—I said Aileen was traveling and "photographing the world," as she said to me at a reunion. Jan is still in the Midwest. Bonnie (Hagemeister) Nault is doing well. Her daughter, Katie, contacted me recently about beekeeping and her first hive. I found myself going into full "beekeeping nerd life" with rapid-fire suggestions for a first timer. Granted, I am a novice in many respects, too.

Jim Houston writes, "My apologies for the late response but I wanted to know which classmates are dealing with health issues so I can add them to my prayer list."

Guy Detrick and I represented the Class of 1973 in the wonderful parade and of course, the after-parties.... We tried to keep up with the younger classes, but to no avail. We got a chance to see Garland Graves '75, Rick Walker '76, Ralph Jacob '74, Jenny Woltjen '75, Linda (Dobozynski) Pettie '75, Carlos Ramirez '75 and a host of others. The Blair



It was delightful to see former Director of Development and Strategic Planning Monie Hardwick (*center*) alongside former Trustee Melinda Shumway '73 (*left*) and Board of Governor member Thomas McLean '73 (*right*) during the 50th Reunion Dinner for 1975

Academy staff did a wonderful job and were flexible despite the rain. There are pictures incriminating all of us (again).

News from Kate Jamison: "Since our 50th Reunion, I've become a GREAT-grandma! First, twin boys in January 2024, then a girl in October 2024 and now the twins—named "Double" and "Trouble" by me—are getting a baby sister in October! Other than that, we had a great snow season here this year—500+ inches in the mountains, six down here. You don't have to plow rain. Then there are the summer mountains, national parks, skiing in the morning, golf in the afternoon, fly fishing...."



"I have not let my schooling interfere with my education."

—Samuel Clemens
He wants to maintain at least a partial friendship
with everyone. A friend of his says "sincere,
overly logical and responsible-independent, optimistic. He is concerned with maintaining an image—he shells out constructive criticism, but is
careful not to absorb too much when given
back." He dislikes "teeny boppers and cliques"
... "I don't let my schooling interfere with my
education."

A groovy photo of Guy Detrick '73 and a note from his *ACTA*.



Guy Detrick '73 out with his dog for some exercise.



Guy Detrick '73 and Kelleigh Barrigan are all smiles in this sweet photo.

1974
Josefina I. Iglesias

David B. Lieberman dblieb@yahoo.com

Harry M. Ullmann hullmann56@gmail.com

News from David Lieberman...

Robert Ortiz was in Atlanta to attend a Knicks game, which he does regularly all over the country. He reached out to Marcus Lucas, who in turn reached out to me to get together for dinner. My

wife, Suzanne, went with me expecting Robert's wife to be there, but she was unable to make it. We had a very special conversation regarding what event occurred to open the door to attending Blair. The stories blew Suzanne away with how deeply we went and how much emotion there was, giving her a different look at who we were then and now.

My wife and I made plans to go out for dinner with Pete and Camille Engelhardt. During our conversation, Pete asked where we were staying. I told him we were staying at Suzanne's cousin's house, which happened to be at the clubhouse and I took a picture of the carpet that had the name of the clubhouse and mentioned the neighborhood. Pete told me that Lynn Peachey lives in that neighborhood. I sent the photo to Lynn saying, "Guess where I am?" Lynn's pickleball team was playing in the early afternoon and we had a chance to meet up.

It's been a big year for me. I turned 70 in February (my wife turned 70 in March) and I retired at the end of February. We decided to celebrate by traveling to Ireland, Hilton Head, Italy and Sweden, and hiking in Zermatt and the Dolomites while visiting several cities in the north. Retirement isn't all it is built up to be. I never know what day it is, so I just assume it's Saturday or Sunday.



Lynn Peachey, Hon. '65 '74 '77 and David Lieberman '74 met up by chance at a pickleball game.



Left to right: David Lieberman '74, Robert Ortiz '74 and Marc Lucas '74 celebrated years of friendship over dinner.

News from Harry Ullmann...

I spoke to Mike Kole in late May to extend personal birthday greetings from our class. Several minutes into our call, Mike told me he had open heart surgery in February to repair a damaged heart valve. Mike believes that his heart condition may have been with him since Blair. As a member of the swim team, Mike said he always had the speed, but lacked real endurance. The good news is that Mike is doing well. Mike bounced back nicely and our call actually took place while Mike was on his way back to Florida from Vermont. Mike and his wife, Alice, had been visiting with their daughter, Allison, and granddaughter, Phoebe. While heading home, Mike and Alice stopped by the Poconos to visit and spend time with Barb Pelak, who is Ray Pelak's widow. While Ray passed away in 2000, the friendship and bond between Mike and Ray's families continues to remain strong.

Here is a little known fact about the friendship between Mike and Ray...Mike was the best man at Ray's wedding on June 14, 1981. Only 48 hours earlier, Ray stood in as best man for Mike's wedding. It may be a stretch, but I believe Mike and Ray share the only back-to-back, best man classmate wedding ceremonies in Blair history!



Mike Kole '74 and Barb Pelak are all smiles catching up in May 2025.



Mike Kole '74 and the late Ray Pelak '74 at Ray's wedding on June 14, 1981.



Mike Kole '74, aka "Grandpa," doing his job with his granddaughter, Phoebe.

Mike admitted to easing back on the accelerator since his heart procedure. This is a good thing. You see, Mike's accelerator is generally attached to one of his seven motorcycles kept in mint condition at his home in Florida. I don't really believe Mike misses his motorcycles at all. Mike has moved very comfortably into the role as grandpa for his granddaughter, Phoebe. At the end of the day, this is truly what's closest to Mike's heart.

Sandi Scannelli informed me that after seven years of service, she was retiring from her role as the first president and CEO of the Shallow Ford Foundation in Clemmons, North Carolina. Under Sandi's guidance, the Foundation has grown exponentially in delivering on their mission to connect community with philanthropy. This is done in several ways, including grants to deserving nonprofit community entities and educational scholarships.

What has been closest to Sandi's heart is the effort to create and support proper child care services in rural communities. Sandi's determination took her from Clemmons to the state capitol, where she petitioned her representatives for the better part of a year, which apparently gained some attention.

Sandi was invited to speak in May 2025 at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond Conference in Roanoke, Virginia, on the need to expand child care access in rural communities and the collaborative strategies and solutions underway at Shallow Ford. Following the session, Sandi was approached by Tom Barkin, president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. You know you have made an important impression when someone of that level approaches you for

an extended conversation! In retirement, Sandi will continue advocating part time on behalf of Mama Jewell's ChildPlex, a model childcare solution designed to expand childcare in Clemmons and throughout Yadkin County.

I received a very nice note from Russ Collins where he shared his business was just named the 2025 New Hampshire Small Business Association (SBA) Veteran Business of the Year!



Sandi Scannelli '74 recently retired as president and CEO of the Shallow Ford Foundation.

Russ launched his home contracting and construction business (Home Innovations Corporation) in 2002. Before starting his own business, Russ worked in the medical device engineering industry before pursuing his passion to be his own boss and work within the home construction industry. The New Hampshire SBA holds military veterans like Russ in high regard. According to Russ, "There are many organizations that can teach us how to live better lives, and they are right at our doorstep-the Scouts, the U.S. Military, the SBA with its SCORE and VETERAN programs, and trade associations like the Home Builders. All we have to do is step in the door."

Beyond business, Russ's commitment to community involvement is also a hallmark of his success. He has been a community pillar in his home town of Epping, New Hampshire, sponsoring local sports teams, hosting food drives for the local Boy Scouts troop and contributing to initiatives like Hammers for Veterans, which supports housing for fellow veterans in need.

In a statement released by the New



Allan and Donna (Luzzi) Marteney '74 at their home in Leesburg, VA.



Russ Collins '74 posing by his company vehicle.

Hampshire SBA on May 9, 2025, Ms. Amy Bassett, New Hampshire SBA Director said: "The SBA is honored Russ's recognize achievements during National Small Business Week, acknowledging his dedication to excellence as a veteran and a business owner. His story serves as a beacon of hope for aspiring entrepreneurs and Veterans, emphasizing the importance of staying true to one's passion and leveraging available tools and resources to achieve success."

I really owed Donna (Luzzi) Marteney a call following our 50th Class Reunion. Donna was one of our first classmates to reach out shortly after we announced a proposed class event in 2026. I enjoyed a nice conversation with Donna this past May, and while she missed our 50th Reunion, she was on board to join in on any Alumni Weekend class activity in 2026. That's the spirit!

In 2023, Donna retired from a successful teaching career in Loudoun County, Virginia. She taught special education for 14 years, followed by high school English for an additional five. Since her retirement, Donna has been working with her husband, Allan, as a successful real estate brokerage duo for Fathom Realty. They reside in beautiful and historic Leesburg, Virginia.

I sent a note to Mary Beth (Lewis) DiMarco in April, when she was



(*Left to right*) Harry Ullmann '74, Richard Walker '76, Jim Dalis '74, former faculty Mike Brennan and Guy Detrick '73 catch up in the Romano Dining Hall!

contemplating the future of her four *ACTA* yearbooks. She had been cleaning out a closet at her home in Houlton, Maine, and wondered in an email if any classmate was interested in giving them a new home. I implored Mary Beth to hang on to her yearbooks given their historic status. You see, it is well known that Mary Beth is a member of the first class of four-year, graduating girls in 1974. I am not sure of the outcome, but I am certain Mary Beth did the right thing!

Several days later, she and I had a very nice conversation on her birthday. Mary Beth and her husband, Stephen, a carpenter and woodworker by trade, are living life on their own terms in Houlton, less than three miles from the U.S.-Canadian border. I mentioned to Mary Beth that it must be nice to live in Maine, where you don't need to look over your shoulder like one does in New York City. Not true. I was corrected immediately: "Oh, we look over our shoulders all right, but mainly for moose."

Mary Beth retired in 2020, after 32 years of classroom service at the Southern Aroostook Community School, in Dyer Brook, Maine. Mary Beth was a reading recovery teacher, a profession that calls for a great deal of passion and patience. Generally, young students in reading recovery programs require one-to-one instruction in learning to read and write.

Although retired, Mary Beth is very active at her church and in her community. Additionally, she is an ally of the Wabanaki Alliance Coalition, made up of four federally recognized Indian tribes in the "Dawnland" (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and Canada).



While all forms of freshwater fishing are Joe Skutches '74's forte, he is also an expert in training "small game" hunting dogs.



Joe Skutches '74 with one of his trained hunting dogs.

According to Mary Beth, the state of Maine continues to treat tribes more like municipalities as opposed to Sovereign Indian Nations. Because of this, the Wabanaki Nations are being denied the same rights, powers, privileges and immunities as other federally recognized tribes in the United States. Mary Beth and others who work as allies for the Alliance Coalition are seeking to correct and remedy this condition as soon as possible.

While on the subject of classmates who live life on their own terms, it was great to connect with Joe Skutches. Does anyone remember a television program called *The American Sportsman*? My conversation with Joe felt like an episode of that show.

Before all of this outdoor activity began, Joe was...a regular Joe. Actually, he built and sold two businesses. One was a home building company and the second was an electronic payment processing vendor (think credit card terminals). Once the last business was sold in 2021, Joe turned his attention to what he enjoys most: being outdoors to appreciate and respect the "sportsman life."

While all forms of freshwater fishing are Joe's forte, he is also an expert in training "small game" hunting dogs. This includes Labs as well as springer spaniels. Joe has six dogs of his own, and they are his constant companions when he travels annually to go "birding" in Kansas, Maine, Montana and Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

Joe and his wife, Joan, have three grown boys who are doing just fine. Last July, they welcomed their first grandchild (a boy) and one can only wonder when Joe will fit his grandson in a pair of "mini hip waders" to do some fly-fishing. Until then, the West Branch of the Delaware River is where you will find Joe and his family floating casually during the summer months of June, July and August.

[Margaret A. Ernst, In Memoriam]

1975

Laura Cochran Morris

lauracmorris21@gmail.com

A special congratulations to Laura Cochran Morris on receiving one of Blair's highest honors, the Alumnus of the Year award! Additionally, the 1975 Reunion Committee also received recognition as Reunion Committee of the Year.

We are grateful for the longtime support of Rob Sigety and thank him for his service as co-class representative as he steps down from this position.

News from Laura Cochran Morris... By all accounts, our 50th Reunion exceeded all expectations! We had a fabulous turnout and everyone greatly enjoyed the many events, gatherings, dedications, meals, dancing, and just relaxing and catching up with old friends.

I'd like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our fabulous Reunion Committee, who all did an amazing job of reaching out to so many classmates and generating excitement for our 50th Reunion! This awesome group also received the Peachey Award for Outstanding Reunion Committee. Thank you to Nancy (Stewart) Butterfield, Laura Cochran Morris, Anne Cramer, Anne (Bartlett) Jelich, Mike Kachidurian, Jeff Liva, Linda (Dobozynski) Pettie, Carlos Ramirez, Roy Redmond, Diane (Kievit) Schulthes, Rob Sigety and Dan Wyckoff.

We had 24 members of our class attend Alumni Weekend: Linda Pettie, Carlos Ramirez, Anne Cramer, Mike Kachidurian, Diane Schulthes, Rob Sigety, Jeff Liva, Roy Redmond, Nancy Butterfield, Dan Wyckoff, Barbara (Weiss) Morgan, Mike Newbern, Greg Duke, Gregg Foster, Eric Schneider, Chip Wollam, Pick Riker, Fritz McHugh, Jim Brown, Blair Gentry, Mark McLuski, Jenny Woltjen, Garland Graves and Laura Cochran Morris.

Our class proudly raised the funds to donate the sitting wall named "The Rendezvous" in the newly renovated and landscaped Meerwarth Courtyard in front of Clinton Hall by The Arch. Friday night we had a great 50th Reunion dinner with just our class that provided quality time to socialize and reminisce and we were presented with a memorable video created for us by the alumni office.

A few comments I received:

Jenny Woltjen writes: "After 50 years of not seeing most of my classmates, we had a lot to catch up on. Most of our lively conversations focused on what we had been doing for the last 50 years (ugh!) and what we are doing now. All positive vibes for sure. Some of my classmates I caught up with were Nancy (Stewart) Butterfield, Gregg Foster, Anne Cramer, Carlos Ramirez, Rob Sigety, Garland Graves, Blair Gentry, Fritz McHugh, Barb (Weiss) Morgan, Linda (Dobozynski) Pettie, Roy Redmond, Diane (Kievit) Schulthes, Dan Wyckoff and more. A lot of us stayed in the Lakeside Dorm, which was cool—we were able to hang out early and late. Many of us reminisced about our class pranks (Gregg Foster knew a lot of details). I heard all the details about how several of our classmates cornered a cow in a neighboring pasture and then "coaxed" her up to the top floor of Clinton. There were several other misdeeds that I did not remember, but no one mentioned the pantie raids or the bras hanging from the Arch...um. It was good to see former faculty member Ron Czajkowski and Mike Brennan make an appearance and spend some time with us.



For their 50th Reunion, the Class of 1975 named "The Rendezvous," a seating area in Meerwarth Courtyard in front of Clinton Hall. What a great gathering place!



1975! This class photo was a riot to set up—just look at those grinning faces! They are such an amazing bunch, and it's wild to think they just rang in their 50th Reunion.



The Class of 1975 enjoyed spending time together during a special dinner gathering on Friday of Alumni Weekend.



"So proud to be back at Blair today meeting current students and many familiar faces from the Class of '75! Many thanks to ALL who made it memorable," shared Diane (Kievit) Schulthes '75 (*right*). She and Barbara (Weiss) Morgan '75 (*left*) showed their Blair spirit and smiles as they returned to campus to celebrate their 50th.

I heard rumors of many of us returning in two years to celebrate with the Class of 1977 for their 50th."

From Linda (Dobozynski) Pettie: "It was great fun and so wonderful that so many folks returned. Anne (Bartlett) Jelich was unable to attend but sent her best as her Lab had six pups—so she had to attend the birthing! Sue (Noel) Rossilli also regrets missing the weekend but had a conflicting family event. Greg Duke and Mike Newbern came for the afternoon on Saturday—Greg is living near Lancaster, Pennsylvania, working with FedEx and is still involved with wrestling; Mike is also still involved with wrestling and lives nearby in Pennsylvania. Jim Brown and his wife are living near Blairstown; Jim is still working in the medical field. Pick Riker is retired, living in Vermont and working with fresh produce in local farms. Fritz McHugh came with his wife, Amy. He claims he left the insurance industry and became a veterinarian after feeling guilty about poor Buttercup's demise (the cow in Clinton Hall). They live in New Jersey near the shore. Chip and



These members of the Class of 1975 were laughing and smiling throughout Alumni Weekend.



Jenny Woltjen '75 and former faculty member Ron Czajkowski during Alumni Weekend.

Michelle Wollam have had careers in the State Department and are still working and living in Alexandria, Virginia. They spent many years in different countries in Africa. As for me—I am hoping to retire from real estate at the end of the year after 41 years, so that I can enjoy the outdoors at Deep Creek Lake in western Maryland with my husband. I invite anyone who might be coming to D.C. (where we live on Capitol Hill) to give a call and visit if they are in the area."

Our pictures speak louder than words as the fun continued with Saturday afternoon's lunch and then dinner followed by dancing to the awesome band The Grooveline!

News from Daniel Wyckoff...

I had a GREAT time at our 50th Reunion this past Alumni Weekend, and it was good to reconnect with Dr. Eric Schneider! Eric lives in New Haven, Connecticut, and is an associate professor of surgery and epidemiology at Yale's School of Medicine! He is doing well. Chip Wollam was at the reunion, too, with his wife, Michelle. They are doing well. What a career Chip has had, spanning the globe with the military and U.S. Foreign Service. Thank you, Chip! It was nice talking with Mark McCluski to learn about RVing in their classic 21-foot motorhome. He and his wife, Jennine, enjoy taking trips several times a year.



1976

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David L. Waddell

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News from David Waddell...

Notes from our 1976 classmate and friend, Ginger (Rivet) Bats, who lives in Prades-le-Lez, Languedoc-Roussillon, France: "Although I am dealing with some health issues, I plan to come to our reunion next year and reunite with some wonderful Blair friends. It's been a while since I have been to Blair, so this will be a special time for so many reasons."

Congratulations to David Waddell for the birth of his first grandchild and, with this, comes a new title as Grandpa!



Blair Pride! Picture of Blair brothers Skip '73, David '76 and Joe Waddell '78, with Thomas McLean '73. (*From left to right*) Skip, Mooch, Thomas and Joe had a great time celebrating Mrs. Waddell's (Mom's) 90th birthday. Blair folks travel well!



In April, the Waddell family: Skip '73, Mooch '76, Joe '78 and sister (the real MVP) Wendy gathered in Charleston, SC, to celebrate their mom's 90th birthday. Birthday wishes from Blair, Mrs. Waddell.

1977

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Harry D. Gates harrydgates@gmail.com

Richard T. Liuzzi rickliuzzi@gmail.com

News from Richard Liuzzi...

Another great Alumni Weekend is in the books. These are really weekends to escape the reality of day-to-day living, remember good times past and have new good times. The Grooveline band, led by Class of '89 alum Jon Williams, was another hit of the weekend. The rains came for a bit but held off for Saturday evening's festivities, and the dance floor was full. While attendance for our class was expected to be low (your humble three class reps) it turned out we rivaled the Class of '75 on their 50th. Among the unexpected to return were Eric and Jenny Maine, Hank Schmidt and Jude François. Word from overseas: Cal Ambrosy and his wife, Susan, are currently touring Greece and keeping their FB friends upto-date with photos and commentary.



Cal Ambrosy '77 (far right) and his wife, Susan, (left of Cal) with friends having dinner in Naxos, Greece.



Lisa Garner '77 and Bill Shope '77 celebrated the marriage of their daughter, Blair Elizabeth Shope, alongside their other daughter, Morgan Shope, on January 25 at the Addison in Boca Raton, FL.

1978

Joseph E. Waddell

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Thank you, Doug Linton, for your years of service as you step down as class representative.



Pictured from left to right: Denise and Bruce '78 Holenstein, Paul Holenstein '80, Richard Rubin '68, Director of Advancement Cara Mohlmann, Bill '82 and Jenna '84 Holenstein gathered for lunch and good conversation.

1979

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Susanne P. Ullmann susanullmann@gmail.com

1980

Donna S. Haag donnahair@hotmail.com

Katherine T. Henry-Schill

blairkths@yahoo.com

News from Donna Haag...

I am still coming down from Alumni Weekend! We weren't many but we sure had a great time! The folks at Blair outdid themselves this year. First, I'll mention the attendees from our class: James Kelley, Kim (Hemminger) Jessen, Jami (Edgar) Kogler, Greg and Susan Mohr, Scott Jones, Steve Newman, Alison (Monds) Ward, and Crissie Cooke-Gibbs along with her daughter, Maiya '15, and her granddaughter, Adeline. It was so great to see everyone! Some of us stayed

on campus in a new dorm, Lakeside Hall, where the old tennis courts were. We took a tour of the new Center for Health & Well-Being, attached to the old gym, sat in on two assemblies, carried our class flag in the parade, took a walk past the waterfall into downtown, walked all over campus, looked into all of the new classrooms, talked, ate, drank and had a blast! The dinners were absolutely wonderful, with food stations galore. There was pasta, seafood, tacos, dim sum, sushi, paella, brisket, tomahawk steaks, charcuterie, make-your-own cannoli, chocolate mousse....I could go on and on. The campus looks better than any of us ever remembered it. Saturday's dinner included The Grooveline band on the front lawn. They were fabulous and the dance floor was packed all night! We even got up there and showed off a few moves. There was a lot of reminiscing about the old days and if you ever want to find out exactly what happened when, just ask Scott Jones, who has the most incredible memory. It was great to even briefly talk to Darren Sacks '84, Laura Cochran Morris '75, Warren Washburn '82 and Bruce Holenstein '78. To those who didn't make it, you were dearly missed and fondly thought about. Please consider coming back for our 50th Reunion weekend in 2030. I promise, you won't be disappointed!

News from Katie Henry-Schill...

Wow! I have heard rave reviews of what a fun time reunion weekend was, but this girl did not attend, so I am getting a little news from a few who attended....

Special thanks to Greg Mohr, Paul Holenstein and Dan Griggs, who joined Donna and me on our outreach to the class. We have had a lot of laughs these past few months Zooming, and while we did not win the highest attendance award (not sure if that exists, lol) but, I can say, hands down...it was our wonderful enthusiastic 1980 classmates who were able to travel to Blairstown.

Regrets from Morgan Borer, whom I was able to catch up with over a delicious dinner...and shared with me his remembering of our rides with Sherry



Members of the Class of 1980 enjoyed spending time together at Blair for their 45th Reunion.



The 1980 Reunion was the life of the party, lighting up both our Zoom screens and the real world—this class is an absolute blast!

in her convertible back and forth from Connecticut a few times and his lostat-sea story while at Blair. He sent his regrets as he was on a Caribbean Cruise. Hopefully by now, Dawn (Hutton) Nassise is all healed from her spinal surgery that was happening around the same time in June. Bob Mastin hopes to be at the 50th, and while Dan Griggs had full intentions to attend with Scott Jones, Scott went solo after he dropped Dan off at the hospital in D.C. after he slipped and fell in the shower on their fishing trip prior to the reunion. Dan shared his photos and, with him being a nurse, was well taken care of at the hospital that he once worked at. As for Andy Wylie, he is busy prosecuting a double homicide and is also up for reelection as DA.

Paul Holenstein had a flight delay from Europe so he was unable to attend, and Neil Henninger had obligations at home in upstate New York, so I think this might have been his first one to miss.... Rhoads Fearn was busy working, Sherry (Skidd) Boyd was playing in a disc golf tournament in Massachusetts and directing a master disc golf tournament in Northern Connecticut. As for me, I had to stay on the West Coast this time around, but the texts from several attendees made me feel connected. I plan to be there next Alumni Weekend—definitely for our 50th. Kudos to the

alumni office for helping us plan and get the word out! We did get a new puppy, which is like having a toddler all over again, lol. For those who could not attend, please pencil in our 50th now. They will have golf carts to zip us around campus! Wishing you all good health, happiness and making new and fun memories. All the Best...Katie



1981

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1982 William H. Abbott wabbott24@gmail.com

Kirsten T. Bushick ktbushick@gmail.com

News from Kirsten Bushick...

Spring fever definitely struck the Class of 1982. We have grandparents galore in our class now, reminding us that we are all aging, even if we still feel like spring chickens in high school! Deb Nussbaum Cohen is a first-time grandparent to Elliot James Nussbaum Cohen, who was born in April to her son, Aryeh, and his wife, Abbi. Bill Holenstein and his wife, Jen '84, became "Big Pop" and "Gigi" to Ripley Jeanne five months ago. Sean Starke's daughter, Katherine, gave birth to Amelia on June 4 in Salem, Massachusetts. Gordon Dixon reached

out and said that not only did he retire in August after closing the doors on 34 years at Gordon Dixon Construction, but he and his wife are also now reveling in being first-time grandparents to Foster (whom they call "Fuzzy") as of December.

While I can't claim to be a new grandparent, I am proud to say I am a new grandpawparent to Snoopy, who was rescued by my son, Kyle, and his wife, Lucia (as of 9/2024)! I am super excited to meet him next month in California where the happy threesome reside. I, too, am beginning to taste the life of retirement, as is my husband, Bryan, who will be officially retired by the end of the year and is still working part time for now. We saw Melanie (Wolf) Hine this past weekend. It may be the last chance we have to visit them at their wonderful Lake Hickory property, as she and her husband have decided to take retirement back to the big city of Winston-Salem or Clemmons (still to be decided at the time of writing this). I also manage seeing a few other Blairites in the area once in a while...I run into Michael Ronco and his wife, Carolyn, at the grocery store every so often. Bryan and I meet Mike Cialdella and his wife, Adriana, for dinner and drinks before heading to the Durham Performing Arts Center as we both have season tickets!

It was also a treat to hear from George Landegger and Tom Falls, who went to New Orleans together for the Jazz Fest back in May. I won't say too much about this rendezvous, as I believe Bill Abbott will be writing a modest missive about their escapade. It may be the only notes he submits this year as he is too busy playing golf in his new Tennessee dwelling and coming to Charlotte when I am not in town! I will close out these notes with a missive that Bill Holenstein was good enough to send along: "The most significant event in my life since marrying Jennifer almost 40 years ago now occurred this past January, with the birth of our first grandchild, Ripley Jeanne. With her Gigi's green eyes and her mother's auburn hair, this spunky little one is consuming me with her contagious zeal for life and all things new. "Jen and I were back on the hill for dinner both Friday and Saturday this past weekend for the Class of '80 Reunion; through brother Paul's introduction back in the fall of '78 as a young frosh, I give them tremendous credit for forming me into the man I eventually became.

"Also instrumental in my formative years was Ray Castellani Sr., who stopped by for a cameo visit Friday evening escorted by Ray and Lorelei's dashing sons, Tristen and Jadon. Mr. C remains an inspiration and motivational factor for this old Buc.

"On Saturday evening, I was bearhugged from behind, reminiscent of when Warren Washburn tackled me in the same fashion behind the gym the spring before frosh year, put me in a double nelson, and introduced himself as a current eighth grader who wrestled with varsity in practice and would only let me up when I said 'uncle.' The perpetrator of this year's assault was none other than Elliott Trommald, in a bright yellow polo and a smile ear to ear: 'Hello Holly, it's good to see you!' He was looking for—and I hooked him up with—Alison (Monds) Ward and the '80s table."

I am looking forward to running into Sean Breslin '81 next year at his 45th. You can also! All you have to do is make the effort; if not then, how about in two years for ours? –Holly"

I, too, would love to hear from or see others before the next *Bulletin* submission, even though I know y'all are saving most of your energy for the BIG 45th in June 2027!

News from Bill Abbott...

Hello, everyone! George Landegger and Tom Falls went down to New Orleans for its annual Jazz Fest this spring and enjoyed the music, town and food. Both are well and appeared to be enjoying themselves. George continues to live in the White Plains, New York, area and Tom lives in New York City. Greg Morgan heard from Lisa Teitler last fall via text exchange. Lisa loves living in Europe—and is still singing professionally. I don't have a lot of details because of the nature of text

messaging, yet I was pleased she reached out to Greg so we could learn that all is well with her. The last update we had on Lisa goes back to my conversation with Celeste (Strunk) Haghani prior to our 40th Reunion, and I trust that Celeste and Lisa see and speak with each other on a semi-regular basis. We have reached that age where our childrens' high school graduations have turned into college graduations and weddings and we now even have a few grandparents among us. Oof-how time flies....Which reminds me: Scott Williams still loves living in Los Angeles and his son recently graduated from high school. Scott is in a band and does public shows frequently, yet not on a vocational level-he's "got a daytime job and doing all right"...And he still rides motorcycles, which means we have at least one classmate whose knees aren't wrecked! By the way, it seems like we have a good number of classmates who do this (public displays of musical talent), which I think is awesome. Marivelle Clavel-Davis has been at it for a long time and her band has even performed during Alumni Weekends (as you may remember me mentioning in the past). Last we heard from Ed Cooper, he was doing weekend gigs down in the D.C. area in his free time. Warren Washburn has been playing in and around the Blairstown area for the past couple years, and I'm sure there are more out there I just don't know about...send pictures/videos, y'all!. Charlie Eck and I share text messages regularly and he almost always asks me to pass on his very best to everyone. I mentioned previously that he's in Florida (on the east coast) and yet didn't know that he gets up to Lehigh from time to time, so I'm hoping he'll be back for our 45th Reunion in two years. (Maybe we play our last lacrosse game then, Charlie, and hang up our cleats at that point?!) Sooo, no long-winded stories from the past in this correspondence—I'm getting ready for a month-long trip to Montana for my niece's wedding, yet most of my time will be spent golfing and hiking. I'll save a longer missive I've been working on for the fall notes submission. Plus, I know that Kiki has a yarn to spin for this edition of the Bulletin and we have a brand new publisher—so I'm a-gonna take it easy on 'em...for now...

Hoping everyone is happy and healthy and that I'll have a chance to catch up with many of you in the back half of 2025. In the meantime, Kiki and I welcome any shout-outs from classmates—we'd love to pass on your goings-ons and whatnots to the rest of the class. Oh, and stories—I love to hear old stories. And pictures—send more pictures! All my very best! Bill

1983

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David A. DiGioia
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News from David DiGioia...

Hello, Class of 1983! I can't believe it's already been two years since our 40th Reunion. Since that great weekend at Blair, I have heard from many of you and I am happy to pass along these notes: I also spoke to Collen (Schneider) Corry—Colleen and I have been in touch regularly since the reunion. She loves retirement and has been traveling a great deal with all her free time. Colleen is traveling up to Vermont for the next month as I write this (June 25). Colleen and her husband,



Colleen (Schneider) Corry '83 (*right*) and her husband, Tom, ran into Sonny LaBrunda '83 (*left*) and his wife, Lea, at the Newark Airport on a flight out west. Sonny and Lea were heading to Denver to attend Bill '83 and Ginger Miller's daughter's wedding.



Bill Miller '83 walking his oldest daughter down the aisle at her wedding in Denver, CO.

Tom, ran into Sonny LaBrunda and his wife, Lea, at the Newark Airport on a flight to Denver (see picture). Sonny and Lea were heading to Denver to attend Bill and Ginger Miller's daughter's wedding. Also pictured is Bill Miller walking his oldest daughter down the aisle at the wedding. Sonny and Lea told me he went to a Queen Tribute concert and then invited them back to his bar, The Royal, and they actually showed up.

Eleanor Vance recently got remarried and lives in Virginia.

As for me, I still live in Lake Norman, Carolina, running CENTURY 21 DiGioia Realty business. I'm getting ready to hand it over to my son in the next few years so I can spend summers at our Ocean City, New Jersey, beach house-my favorite place to be during the summer.

We go up about six weeks a year to stay there, but rent it now during the season. Although we have been living in the Charlotte area for nearly 25 years, we remain big Philadelphia sports fans. Below is a picture of me, my wife, Nancy, and my daughter, Sophia, at The Eagles-Dallas game this past December. GO BIRDS—Super Bowl champs! I took my



Dave DiGioia '83 with his son, Anthony, Anthony's girlfriend, Caroline Steadman, and his daughter, Sophia, under the Arch during a trip to campus in late June.



Dave DiGioia '83, his wife, Nancy, and daughter, Sophia, at the Eagles-Dallas game in December.

kids (ages 25 and 28) to Blair for the first time on June 20 while we were in town for a family reunion-excited to show them the campus! I also occasionally hear from Harish Sehdev, who lives in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, is a doctor at the University of Pennsylvania and has recently purchased a house in Cape May, New Jersey. Roger Clarke and I stay in touch and are trying to get together soon. He lives two hours away near Raleigh, but his boys often have tournaments in Charlotte.

Alyson (Pool) Peacock reports: "The first half of 2025 brought a lot of adventure and change for me. In February, we found a new house in Sandwich, Massachusetts, but before we closed, we took a threeweek trip to Hawaii and Japan. We spent a few days on Maui to ease the time change and then headed to Tokyo and Kyoto, following Todd Lappin '85's touristy tips, which provided a wealth of helpful information. We had a lot of good food and fun and then headed south to start the Kumano Kodo Pilgrimage on the Kii Peninsula. We biked and hiked for a week and covered over 110 bike and 20+ hiking miles to complete one of two World Heritage Paths. We saw lots of shrines and temples and enjoyed onsens at the end of every day, along with amazing food.

Once we returned, we quickly closed on the house on the Cape and on April Fools' Day, I retired for good. After nearly 30 years at AT&T and four at Citi, I was ready to try something new, like relaxing at the beach. We sold our house in Dallas and landed in Sandwich in early May. We are currently enjoying all the Cape has to offer, including beaches, seafood and lots of conservation land to explore with our dog. If you visit the Cape, please let us know; we love to see old friends."

Kristine C. Lisi Kristine@Lisi.org

1985

Thank you to Amelia and Chris Wolfe as they step down as class representatives. We appreciate their support over many decades!

News from Chris Wolfe...

Greetings, all. It's hard to believe that we just celebrated our 40th Class Reunion in June! All that came enjoyed a nice, quiet dinner on that Friday where Amelia and I live then headed to Blairstown on Saturday to see Blair's picturesque campus. With a new health center being built and major renovations to both Freeman and Mason, there was much to see. Surprisingly, we saw many former faculty, including Mr. Amerman, Mr. Razz (Rasmussen) and (my favorite) Dr. Miller. After spending the day on campus, we came back to my house for a nice dinner and great conversation. So many memories. So much laughter!

Those who came from both near and far were: Me and Amelia; Mitch Friefeld with his wife, Emily, and their beautiful daughter, Rae; Brian Nester; Jim Redfern; Peter Tober and his wife, Kathy; Octavio Vallarino and his wife, Jeanette; Dave Dusek (who drove down just for the party) and last, but not least, Craig Haddow.



From left to right: The Class of 1985's Brian Nester, Mitch Freifeld, Octavio Vallarino, Amelia Wolfe, Craig Haddow and Chris Wolfe enjoying catching up over dinner.



Left to right: Class of 1985's Chris Wolfe, Octavio Vallarino, Mitch Freifeld, Amelia Wolfe, Craig Haddow, Peter Tober and Jim Redfern pose for the 40th Class Reunion photo during Alumni Weekend.



Left to right: Class of 1985's Mitch Freifeld, Chris Wolfe, Craig Haddow and Brian Nester celebrating their 40th Reunion.

Some news from others we heard from but couldn't make it: Tom Hulick, who lives in California, recently got remarried to his wife, Christine, whom he met as a teenager and reconnected with decades later. Tom continues to compete in triathlons and several Ironman races. He leads Strategy Asset Managers, an investment firm in Pasadena.

Amelia connected with the Locke girls Kim Hawkins, Debby (Popkin) Amsellem, Stacey (Post) Portnoy and Dori Ruderman, but they had other plans this year!

Lastly, after 35 years as your class representatives, Amelia and I have decided to step down. It was a bittersweet decision, but we felt that it was time. So, Blair is looking for someone to step up and fill our shoes. We wish you all nothing but the best and look forward to seeing and hearing from you in the future through social media, etc., and in 10 years for our 50th!



1986 Linda M. Fellows linda1507@aol.com

1987

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[Karen A. Redfern, In Memoriam]

1988

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1989

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Lesley H. Underwood lunderwood808@gmail.com

1990

Todd C. Smith

toddcsmith10@gmail.com

Congratulations to Cassandra Davson for receiving the Alumni Volunteer of the Year Peachey Award!



From left to right: Todd Smith '90 played a round of golf with Alex Butson '90 and Tyler Magnusson '90 in the Blair Golf Scramble during Alumni Weekend 2025.



The Class of 1990 stole the show over the weekend, with Alex Teller snapping the weekend's best moments. Don't forget to visit your class Facebook page for more epic pics and highlights!



Todd Smith has spent considerable time with Tyler Magnusson '90 over the past few years. The photo above features the pair along with their families.



The Class of 1990 celebrates their 35th Reunion over Alumni Weekend.



Sandra (Ruedt) O'Brien with classmates as they hold the Class of 1990 flag with great pride during the All-Alumni Parade.



For the Class of 1990, Alumni Weekend was a delightful whirlwind of nostalgia, laughter, spirited dance-offs during Grooveline's performance, late-night escapades in the dormitories, as well as golf outings and meaningful reconnections.



Left to right: Sandra (Ruedt) O'Brien, Alex Teller and Alex Butson were all smiles during their 35th Reunion.

Class Notes

News from Todd Smith...

I have been able to spend a lot of time with Tyler Magnusson the last few years as both of our Jakes are friends down at Lafayette College (my alma mater). My son, Jake, is a rising junior playing lacrosse and Tyler's son, Jake, is a rising senior and tennis captain at Lafayette. I've included a picture of us with our wives, Sheila and Mindy.

Was also able to get in a round of golf with Alex Butson and Tyler Magnusson on Friday afternoon.



1991

Meredith Magrone-Wiacek meri1999@yahoo.com

Elizabeth W. Webster websterew@gmail.com

Elisabeth J. Wenner elisabeth.wenner@gmail.com

News from Meredith Magrone-Wiacek...

Dr. Tracey (Sutton) DeMaria has released a book, How to Surf the Waves: A Sensory and Emotional Regulation Curriculum. You can check it out on her publisher's www.autismmovingforward.com, and watch the cool video she made. Congratulations, Tracey!

Zachary Kessin got engaged to Amanda Babineau on November 7, 2024. Congratulations, Zach!

I have decided, with only one child left in high school, that I have the time to earn dual graduate degrees. I am currently in a program at the University of Phoenix to obtain an MHA and MBA. My end goal is to open a diabetes support and education center for adults. I'll keep you posted!

Next year is our 35th Reunion—can you believe it? I'm hoping we get a lot of our classmates to participate. We will keep you posted as it gets closer.

Darryl M. De Marzio ddemarzio@portsmouthabbey.org

Daniel C. Millner danmillner@outlook.com

1993

Bernadette M. Clifford Clifford17@gmail.com

John J. Inkeles johninkeles@hotmail.com

Nicole Tipton nicusanti@gmail.com

John P. Weesner weesner4@gmail.com

Joanne L. Wrzesinsky wrzesinskyj@mercersburg.edu

1995

Stephanie J. Marcial Stephanie.marcial@gmail.com

E. Courtnay Stanford

ecourtnay@gmail.com

News from Courtnay Stanford...

Class of '95, what a blast hearing from so many of you as we geared up for Alumni Weekend to celebrate our 30th! We were a small but mighty crew over the weekend. Major kudos to a couple of our fantastic classmates! Inducted to this year's Arts Guild was Timothy Sullivan, also known as Tim Fite, a multimedia and print artist, musician, singersongwriter and multi-instrumentalist. It was amazing to see Tim and his mom, former faculty member Rita Baragona up on stage together with their shared love of the arts! Emily Ferguson was inducted to the Athletic Hall of Fame. Do you remember? During her two years on the hilltop, Emily took the cross country course by storm, setting records and cementing herself in Blair history. She set blistering records on both the 2.8- and 3.1-mile courses at 16:38 and 19:37, respectively. In 1994, Emily finished as first female in all dual meets while also leading the team as captain. She is the only Blair female to win the prestigious Canterbury Cross Country Invitational. She finished her senior year undefeated in cross country (I can still hear the cheers for her during school meeting back in Memorial Hall)!

Highlight of the weekend for me... wrapping up Saturday night with Kathleen (Wawrzyniak) Webb and Stacey (Gorski) Spring, throwing it back to those good ol' days! I thought it was 1995 for a split second!



Stefanie R. Kuhner stefkuhner@yahoo.com

Summer J. Passannante utvols_21@yahoo.com

Anthony C. Powell acpowell@me.com

1997

Christy L. Burkart christy.burkart@gmail.com

Ryan M. Pagotto pagotr@blair.edu

Natasha Leitch-Huggins writes, "I am the new vice principal for academics at Cathedral High School, a Catholic school in the Archdiocese of Boston network. I will start my new position in July, following 11 transformational years at Lawrence Academy in Groton, Massachusetts. I served under former Blair Academy faculty member and Lawrence Head of School Dan Scheibe and taught with Blair alumnus Sean Moyo '11 from 2017 to 2023."

1998

Jamiyl R. Peters jamiyl@gmail.com

We appreciate and thank Charisse Manzi as she steps down as a class representative.

1999

Bridget D. Hodakowski

bridget.hodakowski@gmail.com

Kathryn S. Piotrowski

katiepiotrowski@gmail.com

Mark T. Rosenthal

washington8080@gmail.com

2000

Logan K. Garrels

lkgarrels@gmail.com

Elizabeth McDowell

anyana@gmail.com



Class of 2000! What a wonderful turnout. It was a pleasure to see all of you across campus and to learn about the remarkable achievements of your class. A heartfelt thank-you to the reunion committee for their efforts in bringing your class together again!

Congratulations to the 2000 Class Reunion Committee on their honor as Reunion Committee of the Year!

Welcome Elizabeth McDowell as a new class rep!



2001

Kweighbaye Kotee

kkotee@gmail.com

Maria Lieberman Smalley

Marialsmalley@gmail.com

Kristen E. Salmon

kristenbogart0@gmail.com

E. Meredith Gal

emeredithgal@gmail.com

Stephanie A. Garbutt

stephanieleal@me.com

News from Steve Benedetti...

Andrew Johnson wrapped up a fantastic season coaching his son's flag football team. After a slow start, Andrew was inserted as the offensive coordinator and the scoring skyrocketed. His running plays hit harder than a golf ball on the old ninth hole!



Eddie Lehr '15 couldn't contain his excitement when he shared this gem. Jeff Graupe '02 is all about those flexed muscles, even after a dramatic flop on the 16th hole of the Cincinnati Reds' Annual Mini Golf Tournament. These two are a comedy duo!

Jessica A. Hess

jess.a.hess@gmail.com

Brandon D. Lucien

brandon.lucien@gmail.com

Christine L. Nalty

christine.nalty@gmail.com

Stephanie E. Tucker

hargis.stephanie@gmail.com

2004

Kaitlin G. Maillet

kait.maillet@gmail.com

Philip J. Mauriello

pmauriellojr@gmail.com

2005

Mary J. Hall

mjhall09@gmail.com

Martha C. McCauley mcd.dawson@gmail.com

Kathryn H. Nelson

kathryn.g.hood@gmail.com

News from Kat (Hood) Nelson...

We had a wildly successful turnout at our 20th Reunion! Huge thanks to Mollie (Dawson) McCauley, Staci (Alario) Gilbride, Ross Gitomer and Lauren (Stival) Hopfer for helping lead our reunion committee. We had 30 percent of our class attend the reunion, and we all agreed that the 25th is going to be even bigger and better. We hope to see you in 2030!

I also caught up with Steffa Collens while she was on the East Coast visiting family. She couldn't make it to Blairstown, but I was able to see her on my way home from Alumni Weekend. She currently lives in



There's something enchanting about your class hitting the big 2-0! The Class of 2005 is brimming with legends. Thanks for returning to campus for a classic Blair weekend reunion—it was a blast from the past!



Steffa Collens '05 (left) and Kat (Hood) Nelson '05 (right) met up after Alumni Weekend.

San Diego and works for Verto Education. She and I had lots to talk about given our backgrounds in experiential education. It was a nice cap to a wonderful weekend with so many '05ers!

Congratulations to Kat (Hood) Nelson on her recognition as Class Representative of the Year!



2006 Elizabeth A. Hinman Kelly L. Hoyes Anne E. Newall



Lara Bucarey Sternberg '06 and her husband, Mark, are thrilled to announce the arrival of their new baby, Phineas Benjamin Sternberg.

2007

Kymbia P. Ainsworth **Dennis W. Flores** Margaret L. Harding Marisa S. Nedderman Cooper A. Smith

2008

Madeline A. Hargis Alexa M. Jachowski Katherine I. Johnson Birchette Ashley H. Thompson Samantha M. Tilney

2009

Raleigh F. Dierlam Alyssa B. Drazin Elliot Parauda

Congratulations to Eric Panicucci and Isabella for their wedding held in May at Carmel Fields, Carmel-by-the-Sea, California.



Congratulations Eric Panicucci '09. From left to right: Erik Wilburn '06, Luc Lavanant '09, Pierre Lavanant '08, Stephen Patane '09, Genie Lavanant '13, Eric Panicucci '09, Isabella Panicucci, John Redos '09, Will Roper '09 and Blake Johnstone '09 on May 26 at Eric and Isabella's wedding at Carmel Fields, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA.

2010

Jin Ryang Chung Michael DeTogni Dillon R. Hoffman Saul Sparber Neil P. Zimmermann

2011

Anu C. Akinbamidele **Emily A. Collins** Margaret B. Hoffman Nicholas M. Hogan Quinn C. McKay Rebecca H. Smith-Fuentes

News from Emily Collins...

Hello, classmates! I had the pleasure of being back on campus in April for a Board of Governors meeting and, while it's great to read about the updates at Blair, there is certainly no replacement to seeing them in person! While there may be a new "food delivery hut" outside Hardwick Hall (no more late-night HoHos drop-offs at your dorm), a new wellness center, and facelifts coming to Mason and Freeman, I assure you, it's still the dear old Blair that we know and love! If it works out for you this summer or next fall, be sure to stop by campus. Grab some food from Gourmet Gallery and take a walk around, maybe see a play or hop in the bleachers for a home game. The memories will come flooding back!

Now, some updates from our class... Drew Sutherland and his wife, Jennelle, welcomed their second baby boy on May 28, 2025. Welcome to the world Robert Francis (Frankie) Sutherland!



Jennelle Sutherland and baby Ollie, Emily Snyder and baby Arthur, and Nicole (Lem) Beriont '11 and baby Benny.



Spencer Beriont '11, Art Snyder '11 and Drew Sutherland '11 together with their



Drew Sutherland '11 and his wife, Jennelle, welcomed their second baby boy on May 28, 2025. Welcome to the world, Robert Francis (Frankie) Sutherland!



Claire Daddino Gonzalez '11 and her husband, Danny, welcomed a new addition to their girl gang: Grace Gillian Gonzalez was born on April 13, 2025. Big sisters Ivy and Caroline are thrilled!

Claire Daddino Gonzalez and her husband, Danny, have a new addition to their girl gang. Grace Gillian Gonzalez was born on April 13, 2025. Big sisters Ivy and Caroline are thrilled!

Kristin (Jasinski) O'Malley and husband, Brendan, welcomed TWO darling little girls on March 27, 2025—twin sisters Addison Claire and Amelia Paige!

Maggie (Joest) Siam and her husband, Ty, welcomed baby girl Josephine Diane on March 3, 2025.

2012

Olivia R. Clavel-Davis Timothy J. Hettinger Ali N. Johnson Max Kaplan Timothy M. Kui Phoebe M. Norris



The Kimmelman family and close friends came together in Paris as they celebrated the nuptials of Annie '12. Pictured from left to right: Ashley Thompson '08, Sam Beck '12, former Blair Board Chair Doug Kimmelman P'12 '13 '15 '22, Annie and Isa Peil '12. A big congratulations, Annie!



2013

Hope C. Dawson Rebecca Hargis **Dong Hyun Kim** Madeline M. Kling Thees Benjamin Meisel Claire M. Ryder **Kyle R. Tierney**

2014 Sara C. Bullock Demetrius J. Daltirus Graham E. Merrifield Abigayle Troy



Paige Cordero '14 fishing with her Dad,



Paige Cordero '14 with a nice catch.

2015 Breanna Cavanaugh Lucy V. Drinkwater Sophia Elghanayan **Ethan Simon**

Morgan G. Valeo



The Class of 2015 did not allow the rain during Alumni Weekend to dampen their spirits. This class returned to campus filled with energy and excitement to see one another. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces. We take great pride in this remarkable class!



2016 Shoshana M. Geller

2017 Christopher J. Berry-Toon Jacob N. Saxton Lauren C. Tung

.....

2018 Clara C. McGrath Yingjian Pan Max D. Thorsheim

2019 Cornelia R. Sigety

2020 Kate M. Gerdsen Garrett M. Long

Class Notes



The Class of 2020 gathered for their Fifth Reunion, radiating with glamour and excitement.



Blair's best buddies boomerang back to campus for their Fifth Reunion, including (left to right) Elise Sigety '20 Kelsey Jackman '20, Katherine Holding '20, and Elizabeth McGinnis '20.

Congratulations to Garrett Long on receiving the Class Correspondent Peachey Award during Alumni Weekend. Many have not been on campus since 2020, yet the attendance was remarkably strong. It was truly wonderful to welcome such an exceptional class back to campus!

News from Elizabeth McGinnis... Kelsey Amelia Jackman graduated with her Master of Arts in national security and statecraft at The Institute of World Politics in May 2025.

Kirk Holton is starting his Master of Science in management at Wake Forest University in the fall, graduating in 2026.

Hannah Starorypinski is working as a press secretary in the U.S. House of Representatives.



2021 Grace C. Higgins Jayne M. Guinan Abney T. Whitehead



Sofia Kasparik '21 graduated from UCLA and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army in June. She is currently on active duty in the Adjutant General Corps of the Army.

Welcome Jayne Guinan as she joins Grace and Abney as a class representative.

2022 Archer C. Benedict Laila C. Davson

Thank you to Archer Benedict and Laila Davson for returning to campus to speak at the Class of 2025 Advancement Senior Dinner. Their speeches were inspirational and relatable to our newest class of alumni.



From left to right: Nour Hassan '24, Dylan Bentley '22, Allie Wolff '24, Sami Goldman '23, Isa Dugan '22 and Charlotte Devereux '24 at the Lake Wheeler Invitational in Raleigh, NC, on April 26, 2025.

2023

We thank Aniketh Bandi as he steps down as class representative.

Avery S. Andrasek Nathan M. Byrne Luis R. Jimenez Hayden H. Yau

Blair and the class thank Carter Neves and Joaquin Tahta as they step down as class representatives.

2025

Paige A. Celley Ashlynn L. Fenelon **Casey Gottlieb** Zhengze Li Dominick Lusardi Genesis S. Medina Courtney L. Payne Federica Rodriguez Leslie C. Sadayasu

Congratulations to the Class of 2025 for your dedication and hard work. We wish you all the best in your future endeavors. Welcome to the Blair Alumni Association!

Blair Academy IN MEMORIAM

1949	Howard I. LeVine June 1, 2025 Hallandale Beach, Florida	1962	James R. Richart May 11, 2025 Bound Brook, New Jersey	1971	Thomas S. Blankley Jr. August 23, 2024 Princeville, Hawaii
1952	Lloyd J. Macklowe September 7, 2024 Bridgehampton, New York	1963	Bruce D. Shinn March 26, 2025 Canaan, New Hampshire	1972	William L. Maxson Jr. August 22, 2024 Apopka, Florida
	William R. Martens December 5, 2024 Pownal, Maine	1964	Wayner P. Crowder August 24, 2025 Atlanta, Georgia	1974	Margaret A. Ernst May 31, 2025 Stamford, Connecticut
1953	C. Peter Tillotson August 31, 2024 Seaford, Delaware		Robert V. Johnston May 18, 2025 Overland Park, Kansas	1987	Karen A. Redfern June 16, 2025 Summit, New Jersey
1960	Eugene S. Taft III October 11, 2024 Rockledge, Florida Herbert A. Wilfert April 10, 2025	1967 1968	Kenton C. Dalby March 21, 2025 Freehold, New Jersey Stephen Dunn May 18, 2023		Former Faculty Michal Wright February 18, 2025 Oakton, Virginia
1961	Alexandria, Virginia Philip L. Pecora February 14, 2023 Toms River, New Jersey	1969	Simpsonville, South Carolina Steven W. Tanis April 19, 2025 Navarre, Florida		Past Parent Thomas E. Meyer March 30, 2025 Newton, New Jersey

In Memoriam

1949

Howard I. LeVine

Arriving in the fall of 1946, Howard attended Blair for three years and was deeply involved in the community. During his senior year, Howard maintained his honor roll status while participating in the chess and camera clubs, as well as the Varsity "B" Association and the Webster and Stylus Societies. After graduating, Howard earned his bachelor's degree in German literature from Princeton University in 1953. Howard met his loving wife, Rita, at a dance in the Waldorf Astoria and was instantly drawn to her. On August 19, 1973, they exchanged vows and went on to share 52 happy years of marriage. Howard had an impressive career, rising through the ranks to become a vice president at Prudential Life Insurance and becoming a renowned expert on pensions implementation. Upon his retirement, he started his own company, Retirement Management Inc. Howard found joy in tinkering with electronics, watching and reading science fiction, following the stock market and traveling and spending time with Rita. Howard was a supporter of the Blair Fund, making gifts in honor of his brother, Robert '45, and supporting campus life—a tribute to his active years on the hill. Howard was preceded in death by Rita and Robert, and is lovingly survived by his children and grandchildren.

1952

Lloyd J. Macklowe

Hailing from New Rochelle, New York, Lloyd studied at Blair for his senior year. He was active in the camera and dramatics clubs and played for the golf team. After he graduated from Blair, Lloyd attended the University of Miami and Lehigh University. He worked in advertising sales for local businesses

in New York while his wife, Barbara, worked as an elementary school teacher. Co-founder of Macklowe Gallery, Lloyd transformed a modest love for antiques into a decades-long career as one of New York's leading dealers in Art Nouveau decorative arts and antique jewelry. After buying their first Tiffany vase on an installment plan in 1965, Lloyd and Barbara began collecting and selling antiques. In 1971, they opened Macklowe Gallery, which grew into a celebrated destination for collectors, museums and celebrities. The gallery became the largest dealer of authenticated Louis Comfort Tiffany lamps and placed works in major museums. Lloyd leaves behind a legacy of artistry, entrepreneurship and generosity. Lloyd is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Barbara; their son and daughter; four grandchildren; and his brother, Harry Macklowe, who also attended Blair for the same year.

William R. Martens

A four-year Buc, Bill fully embraced the Blair experience and credited his teachers with providing the academic foundation that shaped his later success. Active all four years, Bill's senior year saw him singing for the choir, participating in the dramatics, flying and rod & reel clubs. He was also part of the Omicron Delta Kappa Society and ran track for four years. Throughout his life, Bill volunteered and gave back to Blair. He was a member of the True Blue Loyalty, John C. Sharpe and 1848 Leadership Societies. He served on the 1848 Leadership Society Committee for several years and was a part of his class reunion committee. Bill was honored at the 2019 Leadership Dinner for his many contributions to the Blair community. After Blair, Bill was a proud Bucknell University graduate and U.S. military veteran who retired with the rank of captain and built a fulfilling life marked by entrepreneurship, family and a deep love of the outdoors. After

beginning his career in the family's paint manufacturing business, he later founded and expanded Chilton Furniture in Maine. In 1975, Bill married Susan, a creative spirit and devoted partner, and together they raised a family while restoring a 19thcentury farmhouse in rural Maine. An avid hunter and passionate fly fisherman, Bill traveled widely in pursuit of game and sport, forging lifelong friendships along the way. He balanced his love of adventure with a deep commitment to his community, serving his church and charitable organizations. Above all, Bill will be remembered as a devoted husband, father, grandfather and greatgrandfather, whose rich, purposeful life touched many. Surviving family members include his wife, Susan; son and daughters; grandchildren, including Ally Eisenhauer '07 and Beth Martens '08; and great-grandchildren.

1953

C. Peter Tillotson

After graduating from Verona High School in Verona, New Jersey, Pete came to Blair for a postgraduate year. It was noted in the 1952 ACTA that he was a "wicked man with the soccer ball" and "extremely popular." He could be seen on the athletic fields playing for varsity soccer, as well as the basketball and baseball teams. He went on to Bucknell University, earning his bachelor's degree in aeronautics. Pete worked in contract administration for Marotta Controls, Inc. in Montville for more than 35 years. Sports were a lifelong passion for Pete. For 30 years, he filmed games for the Verona High School football team and dedicated 31 seasons to coaching 10- to 12-yearold boys on his White Sox team for Montville Township Baseball. He was also an avid fan of the NY Yankees and Pittsburgh Steelers and enjoyed fishing in his free time. Pete was predeceased by his wife, Florence, and is survived by his twin daughters, their husbands, two

grandchildren, and many friends and extended family.

1961

Philip L. Pecora

Phil attended Blair for the last two years of his high school career. He served as manager for the varsity baseball and basketball teams, was an active member of the chess club and was known for his skill as a Bridge player in his downtime. After Blair, he attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Phil dedicated much of his professional life to Ciba-Geigy in Toms River, New Jersey, where he worked as a laboratory technician for 35 years. Before embarking on his career in the lab, Bill served his country with honor as a member of the U.S. Army, stationed in Korea until 1967. After retiring from Ciba-Geigy, Phil remained active in his community by working as a mail carrier for Ocean County. From the time he took up this new role until 2015, he became a familiar and friendly face to the residents along his route. Outside of his professional and military accomplishments, Philip was also a passionate bowler. Phil was predeceased by his wife, Mary Alice, and is survived by two daughters and seven grandchildren.

1962

James R. Richart

After one year at Blair, Jim remained connected and supportive of the School for the remainder of his life. A valued member of the True Blue Loyalty and 1848 Leadership Societies, Jim supported his class scholarship, The Class of 1962 Dennis Wm. Peachey '62 Memorial Scholarship and the Blair Fund. Jim was a devoted family man, accomplished professional and compassionate community member whose life was marked by service, integrity and love. After graduating from Blair, he attended Rutgers University, where he earned a degree

in accounting. Jim then spent 24 successful years at Johnson & Johnson before joining Cardio Technologies Inc. Later, he brought his financial expertise to the Arc of Somerset County as director of finance, remaining active on its finance committee even after retirement. His generosity extended to organizations like Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA, People Care and several local churches, reflecting his lifelong commitment to helping others. In 2003, Jim married Deirdre, his beloved partner of more than two decades. As a husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, Jim was a steady, loving presence—offering guidance, unconditional support and endless pride in his family. Jim's spiritual life was central to who he was. Rooted in his longtime connection to St. John's Episcopal Church in Somerville, New Jersey, he later became an active member of Christ Church Greenwich in Greenwich, Connecticut, drawn to its inclusive values. His faith guided his advocacy for equality, compassion and justice, inspiring him to champion dignity for all. Jim will be remembered for his wisdom, humility and unwavering dedication to uplifting others. Jim is survived by Deirdre, his children and grandchildren.

1963

Bruce D. Shinn

One of the rare six-year Bucs, Bruce began his Blair journey in seventh grade and went on to excel in football (varsity captain), basketball and track. He earned All-New Jersey State honors in football, received the Blair Academy Trophy for best scholar-athlete and was awarded the Robert F. Harris Drama Award. Alongside his athletics, he was secretary of the Blue & White Key Society, vice president of the Varsity B, an Academy Player, wrote for The Breeze and ACTA and served on the chapel committee. He continued his studies at Boston University, playing football and earning a journalism

degree in 1967. Bruce led a rich, varied life filled with achievement, service and community spirit. Drafted into the U.S. Army, Bruce served in Korea as a Stars and Stripes correspondent and combat engineer, rising to the rank of sergeant. He then worked for Sea Land Shipping before becoming the Adidas sales representative for northern New England. In 1970, he moved his family to Canaan, New Hampshire, where he found his dream home—a classic, red farmhouse. After earning his master's degree from the University of New Hampshire, Bruce returned to Blair to work in alumni relations for several years. He later founded Business Growth Services, focusing on technology retail. Bruce also taught college courses, volunteered his computer expertise and was recognized as a trusted tech specialist at Staples. Bruce was passionate about writing, publishing books highlighting local lives and wit, and contributing to area newspapers. He shared his love of sports and music through coaching, playing in local music groups and participating in community theatre. Known for his positivity, generosity and humor, Bruce was a beloved figure at local events and church gatherings. His kindness, encouragement and zest for life left a lasting impact on all who knew him. Bruce is survived by his two sons, Dave Shinnlinger '90 and Andrew Shinn '93; their spouses; his former wife of 42 years, Susan Shinn; and his granddaughters.

1964

Robert V. Johnston

Student Council prefect Bob was a well-rounded Buc who received the Headmaster's Prize at graduation. During his time on campus, he served as the co-sports editor of The Breeze and earned varsity letters in three sports: basketball, baseball and soccer. He also captained both baseball and soccer. Throughout his life, Bob remained connected with Blair,

In Memoriam

1964 Former Trustee

Wayner P. Crowder

Wayner P. Crowder '64, a distinguished alum who dedicated himself in service to Blair for over six decades, passed away on August 24, 2025.

Wayner's journey at Blair began in 1961, and after graduating four years later, he earned a BA from Columbia University in 1968 and a JD from Harvard Law School in 1971. For many years, Wayner served as a senior attorney with the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority, and his leadership was recognized on the national scale when he was named chair of the American Public Transportation Association's Procurement Committee.

Beyond his professional achievements, Wayner's service to his alma mater never wavered throughout his life. He first joined Blair's Alumni Association Board of Governors in 1970, where he quickly showed a passion for advancing the values and mission of the School. That commitment continued when he assumed the role of Trustee in 1996, completing his first term in 2001 and returning for a second term in 2003. All of us at Blair remain grateful for all Wayner contributed during his time as a voting member of the Board and, since 2008, as an Emeritus Trustee.

Throughout his life, Wayner did much to wave the Blair flag and support the School, especially in his hometown of Atlanta, where he became Blair's best ambassador. He approached his work with other volunteer opportunities and nonprofit organizations in the same service-minded way, including the United Way, Literacy Action, YMCA, the Urban League of Greater Atlanta's employment center, the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the St. Francis Table Soup Kitchen. For many years, he also served on the advisory board of the Atlanta Youth Academy.

A true example of using one's time, treasure and talents for the benefit and betterment of others, Wayner leaves behind a legacy of service that stands as an inspiration to us all.

supporting the Blair Fund and the Class of 1964 Scholarship, After Blair, Bob earned a bachelor of science in economics and business from Lafayette College, followed by master's degrees in healthcare management from the University of Kansas and management information systems from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas. His professional career included leadership roles as director of finance at Sprint and administrator of the child development unit at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He also served his country in the U.S. Army, stationed in Korea. A devoted husband and father, Bob created lasting family traditions, especially at Christmastime. He was a lifelong sports enthusiast, a continuation of being captain during his school years at Blair and Lafayette, and enjoyed golf throughout

his life. Bob also had a passion for cats, particularly Maine Coons. An active member of the Cat Fanciers' Association, he and his wife raised and showed cats, and he was a respected show manager in Kansas City. Bob will be remembered for his leadership, warmth, and deep love for family and animals. Bob is survived by his wife and childhood sweetheart, Sandra, his children and his grandchildren. Bob was preceded in death by his brother, Richard Johnston '68.

1967

Kenton C. Dalby

A member of the outing, glee and projection clubs, K.C., known as Ken during his Blair days, also wrote for The Breeze and ran varsity track. He went on to attend Moravian University in

Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, where he was born and raised. Over the years, K.C. lived in several places before settling in Freehold Township in 1983, where he became a beloved figure in the community. He built a distinguished career in the steel manufacturing industry, focusing on safety and security at companies like Bethlehem Steel and New Jersey Steel. Later, he transitioned into a second career with RadioShack, working in multiple locations until his retirement. A man of service, K.C. volunteered with the East Allentown Township Ambulance Corps and was an active leader with Freehold area Boy Scout Troops 18 and 358. His lifelong passion, however, was mineral collecting. Known fondly as the "Fluorite Guy," he founded and served as president of the New Jersey branch of the Friends of Mineralogy, traveling

widely in pursuit of rare specimens. K.C. was deeply devoted to his family and will be remembered for his quick wit, dry humor and affectionate nature. Proudly referring to himself as "Dear Old Dad," he was the heart of his family, cherishing every moment with his children and grandchildren. His legacy lives on in the love he shared and the joy he found in life's simple pleasures. K.C. is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Betsy, their two children and their spouses, and six cherished grandchildren.

1968

Stephen Dunn

A native of Walpack, New Jersey, Steve was a day student at Blair and quickly made his mark on campus through his humor, intellect and athletic prowess. He served as a Student Council prefect and was active in the choir, glee club, Tweeds, ACTA, The Blair Breeze and multiple athletic teams, including varsity baseball, winter track, cross country and football, where he earned the memorable nickname "the tree with pie plates for hands." He was also awarded the Arthur Spring Dramatics Prize. Steve remained connected with Blair through attending reunion weekends, as well as serving on his 50th Reunion committee and supporting the Class of 1968 Society of Skeptics Endowment Fund and the Blair Fund. Steve graduated from Oberlin College, where he remained close to several classmates. He was known for his razor-sharp photographic memory—famously memorizing pi to 50 decimal places—and for his impeccable comedic timing, with stories of his antics becoming legendary among classmates. After college, he worked as a counselor in the Pittsburgh probation office, a role in which he brought empathy and a strong sense of justice. In later years, Steve was known for his love of motorcycles, his affection for Blair, and the humor and heart he shared with friends old and new. Steve

was predeceased by his wife, Alida. He will be remembered with admiration, laughter and lasting affection.

1969

Steven W. Tanis

Steven was a four-year day student at Blair, known for his talent on the varsity wrestling team. His skill and determination earned him the state championship title, which led to a scholarship at Penn State University, where he graduated in 1973. After college, Steven followed his adventurous spirit to Colorado to enjoy the skiing lifestyle, and in doing so, met the love of his life, Cynthia, who would become his wife of 47 years. Steven was known as a man of steady hands, strong values and an open heart. Steven and Cynthia built a fulfilling life together in Carbondale, Colorado, where they raised their family. Steven ran a successful landscaping business and proudly served as a Carbondale volunteer fireman for 17 years. In later years, after traveling and living in several locations, they settled in Navarre, Florida, to enjoy beach life. Steven is survived by his wife, Cynthia; his daughter and son; beloved grandchildren; as well as many other family members and lifelong friends.

1971

Thomas S. Blankley Jr.

A three-year Buc, Tom was deeply involved in campus life. He served as sports editor and editor-in-chief for The Breeze, held the role of head prefect, and was an active member of the press and French clubs and the varsity baseball team. Tom was recognized for his academic excellence as the recipient of both the English II Prize and the Harold F. Walker Memorial Prize. After Blair, he remained connected with classmates, served on the Board of Governors and maintained a warm and lasting friendship with former

Head of School James M. Howard Jr. He was a loyal member of the True Blue Society, generously supporting both the Blair Fund and the James M. Howard Fund—including gifts made in Mr. Howard's memory following his passing. Tom graduated from Bucknell University in 1975, where he was president of the Bucknell Students Association. He began his professional journey at Merrill Lynch in New York and quickly ascended in international finance, with postings in London, Hong Kong and Tokyo, where he became the first foreign member of the Tokyo Stock Exchange. He later transitioned to entrepreneurial ventures and executive roles in Hawaii, including leadership of Hale'ona, Inc., Diana Hanson-Young Corp. and Pahio Vacation Ownership, Inc. He also served as president of Access, Inc., as a trusted financial consultant and was appointed to the Kauai School Advisory Council. Tom is lovingly survived by his wife, Leona, as well as his stepchildren and their families.

1974

Margaret A. Ernst

During her one year at Blair, Margaret was known to frequent the Canteen often with friends and remembered for her love of horses. She also ran for the cross country and track teams. After Blair, Margaret graduated from University of Lynchburg. She began her career at the American Society for Microbiology and the American Cyanamid Company, then joined the National Chicken Council, where she worked for more than 30 years, most recently as senior director of meetings and member services. She resided for some time in Breckenridge, Colorado, where she became an accomplished skier, and for decades in Washington, where she enjoyed gardening at home and hiking in Rock Creek Park. She traveled extensively throughout the United States, Asia and Europe and

In Memoriam

had countless friends. Margaret is survived by her sisters, brother and their families.

1987

Karen A. Redfern

A proud four-year Buc from Sparta, New Jersey, Karen played on the varsity tennis team and cherished her time on the hilltop. In the 1987 ACTA, she wrote about favorite memories, including Christmas Vespers, late nights with friends and a special weekend in the Poconos. After Blair, Karen earned her bachelor's degree from the College of Charleston in South Carolina and went on to build a successful career in the finance industry. She served as vice president of human resources at Credit Suisse in New York City, where she was known for her dedication and professionalism. Spirited and athletic, Karen found joy in the outdoors and was an avid golfer, tennis player, skier and cyclist. She was a proud member of New Jersey's Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield and the Beacon Hill Club in Summit. Travel was one of her great passions, and she embraced every opportunity to explore the world. Above all, Karen was a devoted mother, and her son, Patrick, was the light of her life. Her warmth, strength and unwavering love for her family defined her. Karen is survived by her loving parents; her son; her siblings, including D. Jean Redfern-Brown '83 and Jim Redfern Jr. '85; and her adored niece and nephews.

Former Faculty

Michal Wright

Michal was a dedicated educator, coach and mentor who served as Blair's Assistant Dean of Admission and coached the football team from 2000 to 2003. While at Blair, Michal's path coincided with stepson Evan Paquette '02 and stepdaughter Danielle (Paquette) Mirza, who also attended

Blair for a period during that time. A 1981 Kent School graduate and inaugural member of its Athletic Hall of Fame, Michal returned to his alma mater in 2021 after earning his BA from St. Lawrence University. He was associate director of admissions at Kent School, where he also coached football, basketball, baseball and advised students. Michal is remembered for his warmth, kindness, and ability to make everyone feel seen and valued. Michal is survived by his wife, Sherry, his children and grandchildren.

Past Parent

Thomas E. Meyer

Father to three Blair graduates, Ed Meyer '97, Lily Meyer '00 and Sovann Stark '14, Tom will be remembered for his integrity, service, creativity and compassion. He was a man who left a meaningful mark on his community and everyone he touched. Tom was a generous supporter of Blair, and in 2006, he and his ex-wife, Susan Stark, established the Thomas E. Meyer Family Scholarship. That same year, he was honored at the Leadership Dinner. In establishing the scholarship, Tom reflected on how he had benefited from both good luck and the help of others throughout his life. After surviving a serious accident and head injury, he wished to share his good fortune with others. His commitment was also shaped by his family's experience during World War II, when a great uncle helped his family escape from Nazi Germany. Tom and Susan believed that because they had been the beneficiary of other's aid, they wished to assist others, knowing that in life, one's disadvantages may be changed forever by opportunity and education. For almost 20 years, Tom enjoyed meeting and connecting with students who received this scholarship. He remained connected with Blair after his children graduated through friendships with many faculty and attending Skeptics

lectures and the annual Leadership Reception.

A graduate of Pratt Institute, Tom began his career at Ford Motor Company, working on the Mustang project. In 1966, he joined the U.S. Army, serving as a first lieutenant in Vietnam and earning the Bronze Star. After his service, Tom worked as an industrial designer and later purchased Montague Tool & Supply, relocating it to Branchville, New Jersey, after a fire. He remained active in the business until his health declined. A lifelong cyclist and former captain of the Army Cycling Team, Tom also enjoyed kayaking, canoeing and rail travel. He restored a 1905 Pullman baggage car into a unique display beside his store. Tom was deeply involved in his community, serving on local tree commissions and advocating for the environment. In addition to the scholarship at Blair, he supported education by sponsoring children via The Sharing Foundation. He is remembered for his dedication, creativity and generous spirit. Tom is survived by his children, his beloved granddaughters and his partner, Victoria Jeffers.

FOUR THINGS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT

Tara Nicole Whitaker '98 Illustrates PBS KIDS' *Weather Hunters*

Have you seen Tara Nicole Whitaker '98's illustrations on PBS KIDS' *Weather Hunters?* Created by Al Roker, this animated series uses adventure and comedy to introduce 5- to 8-year-olds to Earth science and



The Atrium of the Center for Health & Well-Being

Is that a wild toucan you hear or did you just step into a rainforest?

The atrium of the Center for Health and Well-Being is breathtaking—with a dramatic water wall and lush greenery cascading from floor to ceiling, we like to think of it as a zen jungle disguised as a campus building.

Come see it for yourself!

Déjà Vu All over Again?

On August 11,
Blairstown's Main Street
transformed into a film
set as crews shot *Crystal Lake*, the prequel to
the *Friday the 13th*movie. While its
premiere date hasn't
been announced,
the series is slated
for Peacock's
2025-2026
lineup of new
streaming
shows.



The Blair girls' crew team capped their season

with a historic run to the finals at the prestigious Henley Regatta in the United Kingdom—the only American boat to make it that far. Their focus, discipline and relentless drive, supported by Coach John Redos '09, set them apart on an international stage and made us all proud. Above, the team trains on Paulinskill Lake.

Blair Academy

Post Office Box 600 Blairstown, New Jersey 07825-0600 Periodical postage paid at Belvidere, NJ 07823 and at additional mailing offices



Save the Date! | June 5-7, 2026

Questions?

Contact E. Courtnay Stanford '95, Director of Alumni Relations, at (908) 362-2059 or stanfc@blair.edu.

Visit www.blair.edu/alumni/alumni-weekend for more information.

