



LEGACIES

SPRING 2026



STILL WILDCATS AT HEART

Alumni reconnecting, relationships rekindled, and lifelong bonds renewed.

Pictured: The Class of 2005 at their "Cheers to 20 Years" Class Reunion.



Grady Bradshaw '13

President, Carolina Day School Alumni Board

A Lifelong Wildcat Connection: Our Alumni Community Continues to Grow, Lead, and Give Back.

Spring at Carolina Day School is a season of growth, connection, and renewed energy; our alumni community continues to reflect that spirit in inspiring ways. Being a Wildcat means belonging to a lifelong network, and it has been incredibly rewarding to see alumni remain engaged with one another and with the school we all share.

Over the past year, alumni involvement has gained meaningful momentum. One of our most exciting developments has been the growth of the Wildcat Connection Network, now more than 50 members strong.

Alumni are connecting with students through classroom visits, lunch-and-learns, and one-on-one conversations focused on career exploration and college pathways. Just as importantly, these connections have extended beyond the campus, with wildcats supporting one another through professional networking and job searches—we all know how helpful this can be!

As we look ahead, there are many ways to continue strengthening our alumni community. We invite those

interested in leadership and service to reach out to us to learn more about the Alumni Advisory Board. Board service helps guide engagement efforts and the future of alumni involvement at Carolina Day. Attending local and regional alumni events is another great way to reconnect, celebrate shared experiences, and build new relationships.

Philanthropy remains a vital part of our shared legacy. Support for the Annual Fund and scholarships such as the Blair Dismukes Scholarship directly impacts current students and ensures that a Carolina Day education remains accessible and transformative for future Wildcats.

Your connection to Carolina Day does not end at graduation—it evolves. I encourage you to explore the opportunities highlighted in this letter: attend an event, make a connection, or raise your hand to serve. Carolina Day's legacy is built by those who stay engaged, and we would love for you to be part of what comes next.

Cheers,
Grady Bradshaw



Still Here. Still your Crew.

Some of your favorite CDS teachers are still right where you left them and they'd love to hear what you've been up to. Are you still part of the crew?

Update your alumni contact information, share a quick life update, and we'll send you a fun pair of Carolina Day School crew socks as a thank-you. New address, email, phone number, and a few words about you now...that's it.

Scan the QR code to update your information. While you're there, we'd also love for you to complete the Wildcat Connection Form to connect with fellow alumni and current students for mentorship opportunities.

Because once you're part of the CDS crew, you're always part of the CDS crew. We can't wait to reconnect.

Scan the QR code & share with alumni!



carolinaday.org/alumni/contact-info

Homecoming 2025

What a Weekend!

A celebration of our community and spirit. Here are some of our highlights! Thank you all for making this weekend special. We hope you'll continue to connect with CDS and the Wildcat community.



Above: ACDS alumni reconnect at the Alumni Awards reception.



Above, right, and bottom right: Breakfast at the Grotto reunites SGP, GH, and SG-GH alumni for a morning of connection and shared memories.



Alumni Award recipients, Maggie Hilderbran '15 and David Singleton '84, spoke with Upper School students about their inspiring work in social justice and advocacy.





The Alumni Association honored the 2025 Alumni Award recipients (see page 6 & 7) at a reception with alumni, faculty, staff, and friends.



Alumni Pint Night in downtown Asheville closed out Homecoming weekend, celebrating the Class of 2005 and reconnecting alumni.

Recognizing Excellence: Alumni Awards & Updates



David Singleton '84

C. Robert Bell, Jr. Distinguished Alumni Award

David Singleton '84 is an accomplished attorney and professor with more than two decades of experience in advocacy and social justice. His legacy at the Ohio Justice Center and his core belief in “never write anyone off” have helped change the lives of many individuals. David continues his work at the University of the District of Columbia’s David A. Clarke School of Law, where he teaches and inspires students to become agents of change.



Alisa Harris '86

Artists Hall of Fame Award

Alisa Harris '86 is a multifaceted arts professional and proud mom with a 35+ year career in graphic design, talent management, and acting, including over 30 film and TV credits, including Netflix’s *Outer Banks*. At Asheville Country Day School, she thrived in theater, sports, and student government, laying the foundation for her creative journey. Alisa continues to champion the arts through acting and volunteer leadership, inspiring the next generation of artists.



D'Angelo Elliott '19

Athletic Hall of Fame Award

D'Angelo Elliott '19 reflects the Carolina Day School spirit of leadership and service. From playing on CDS basketball courts to competing professionally in the Dominican Republic, he has shown determination, adaptability, and skill. He now gives back by coaching and mentoring young athletes, officiating games, and pursuing work as a Certified Nurse Assistant while exploring cinematography.



Maggie Hilderbran '15

Young Alumni Award (Class of 2015–2025)

Maggie Hilderbran '15 is making meaningful change in data-driven social justice, bridging science, policy, and social impact. A UNC graduate and Marshall Scholar, she earned advanced degrees from the University of Edinburgh and the London School of Economics. Maggie has conducted environmental policy research at Stanford's RegLab and now applies her multidisciplinary skills at Recidiviz to help people reintegrate after incarceration and reduce repeat offenses.

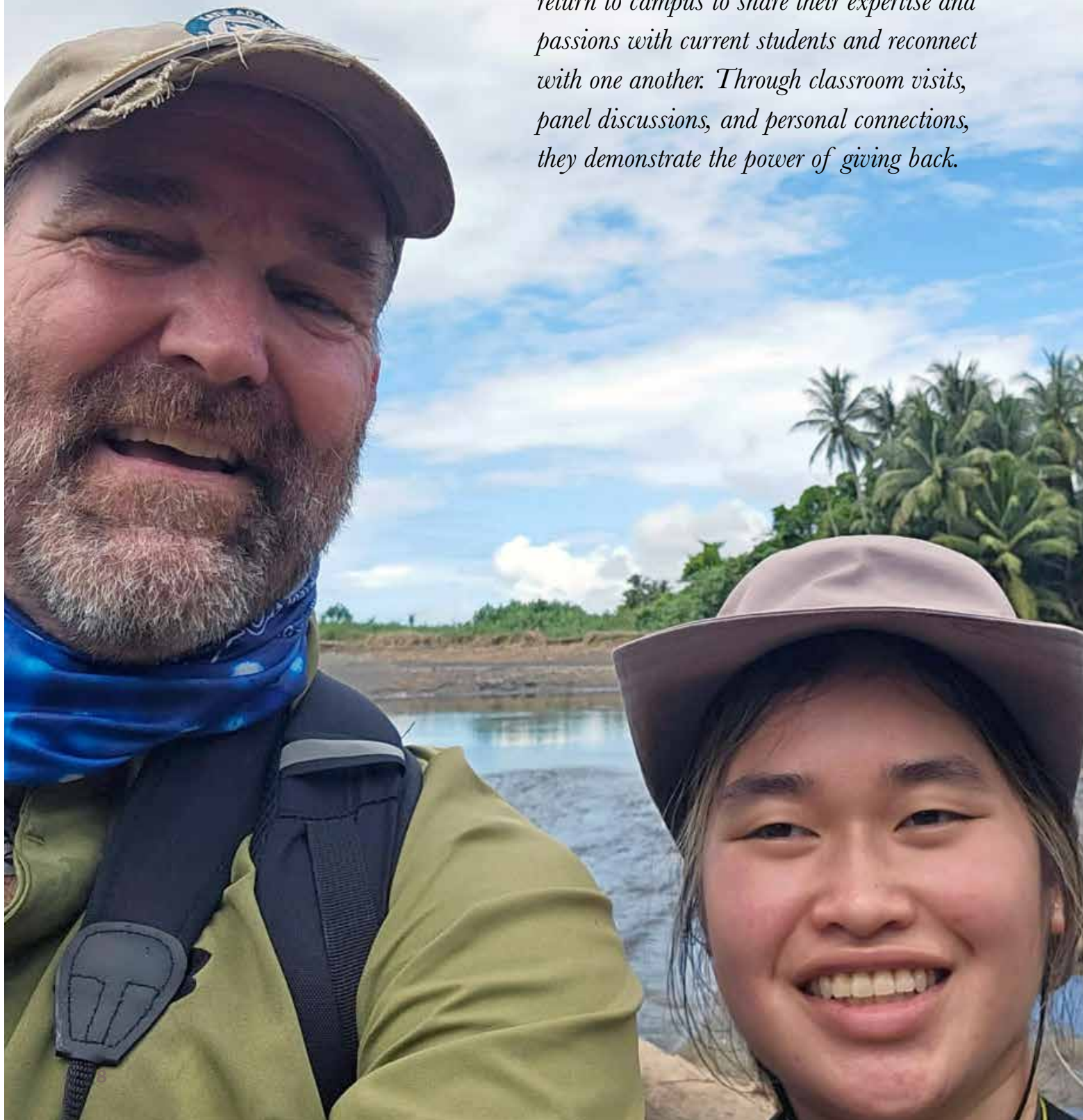
Call for Nominations!

Celebrate a graduate's impact and leadership—submit your nomination for the Carolina Day School Alumni Awards.

We're seeking amazing alumni to honor at our Alumni Association Awards during Homecoming on October 2, 2026. We recognize a Distinguished Alumni, a Young Alumni (Class of 2016-2026), and inductees into the Athletic and Artist Halls of Fame. Nominate alumni via the 2026 Nomination Form found at carolinaday.org/alumni or email alumni@carolinaday.org.

Connections that Count

Spotlighting alumni and former faculty that return to campus to share their expertise and passions with current students and reconnect with one another. Through classroom visits, panel discussions, and personal connections, they demonstrate the power of giving back.





Scan to watch Caitlin releasing sea turtles!



Wildcat Connections

A chance alumni connection opens the door to conservation research, mentorship, and unforgettable wildlife encounters in Costa Rica.

When Dave Johnson ACDS '86 and Caitlin Stout '21 connected through our alumni office, their shared passion for animals and conservation sparked an instant connection. Both have returned to campus to speak with students in BEAM and AP Environmental Studies about their wildlife work, and their connection has led to something even bigger.

This winter, Dave invited Caitlin to join him on a field experience in Tortuguero, Costa Rica, partnering with sea turtle and primate conservation teams. For Caitlin, a recent college graduate eager to find a job in the zoo world, this opportunity has been incredibly valuable. She gained research experience, had close encounters with wildlife, and received mentorship from experienced conservationists. And the best part? Dozens of baby sea turtles are hatching and making their way to the ocean.

A great example of Wildcat connections, opening doors for one another and making a difference along the way.



Join the Wildcat Connection

Connect with Students and Inspire the Next Generation

The networks and connections we build are invaluable in shaping new opportunities. For our students, these connections can open doors to colleges, majors, careers, and even support for Independent Research Projects. Your experience and insights can make a meaningful difference, helping us meet young Wildcats right where they are.

The **Wildcat Connection** offers a meaningful way to give back and stay connected to Carolina Day. By participating, you can guide students, serve as a role model, and help strengthen the community that makes CDS so special.

Interested in getting involved? Complete the Wildcat Connection form to join this growing network and help inspire the next generation of Wildcats.

Scan the QR Code or
visit [carolinaday.org/
wildcatconnection](https://carolinaday.org/wildcatconnection)



carolinaday.org/wildcatconnection



Lunch & Learns

We love Lunch & Learns! The Alumni Association hosted several engaging sessions this year, giving Upper School students the opportunity to learn from alumni and CDS parents about exploring pathways in the creative arts, athletics, business, finance, and entrepreneurship.

Creative Arts Lunch & Learn

The Creative Arts Lunch & Learn featured alumni and CDS parents working across music, theater, visual arts, writing, and film. The discussion explored how creative passions can grow through professional careers or lifelong pursuits, with insights on sustaining creativity beyond graduation.

Participants included actor and producer Alisa Harris '86, cartoonist Hope Larson '00, BFA Acting student Riley Oswald '23, touring musician Candler Rice '16, oil painter Genevieve Beatty '20, screenwriter and professor Brenda Lilly '69, along with photographer Jesse Kitt (CDS parent) and creative director Chris Irving (CDS parent). Students left inspired by the many ways artistic interests can grow into fulfilling career paths.

Student-Athlete Lunch & Learn

In September, the Student-Athlete Lunch & Learn (not pictured) connected students interested in collegiate athletics with alumni and a local college coach. Alumni Parker Truesdale '20, Ashlyn Browne '21, D'Angelo Elliott '19, and Olivia Sutter '20, alongside Coach Levine from the UNC Asheville Men's Basketball Team, shared candid guidance on recruiting and succeeding as a college athlete, both on and off the field. Representing sports such as basketball, golf, track and cross-country, and swimming, the panel offered encouragement and practical advice to students preparing for the next level.

Lunch & Learns



Business, Finance, and Entrepreneurship Lunch & Learn

Our Business, Finance, and Entrepreneurship Lunch & Learn was our largest and most dynamic gathering yet, bringing together alumni and students for meaningful conversation and connection.

We are grateful to our outstanding panelists—Ryan Guthy '04, Margueritte Norton '16, Ashley Schaper '13, Daniel DeBrecht '05, Jonathan Gach '05, Grady Bradshaw '13, and parent Michael Ye—for sharing their time, insights, and experiences.

Moderated by Upper School students in our Financial Literacy class and Investment Club, the discussion offered a powerful glimpse into life beyond CDS, with reflections on career paths, networking, and the value of staying open to possibility.





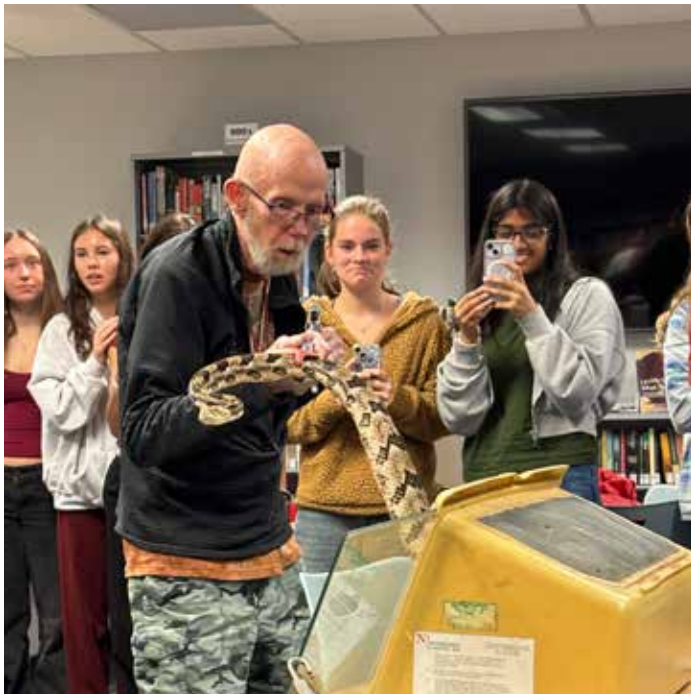
Back to School

Wildcat Connections continue, as alumni and former faculty bring real-world experience back to campus, helping students connect classroom learning with careers, curiosity, and lifelong passions.



Caitlin Stout '20 visits the BEAM Class

Susan White's BEAM class, an interdisciplinary science and ethics program, welcomed back alumna Caitlin Stout '21, who recently graduated from Eckerd College with a degree in Animal Studies. After reading *Glowing Bunnies!?: Why We're Making Hybrids, Chimeras, and Clones*, students explored animal rights, wildlife intervention, selective breeding, and bioengineering. Caitlin shared insights into ethical animal care and the standards accredited zoos follow to support animal well-being. Her visit helped students connect classroom learning to real-world applications in animal welfare and conservation.



ACDS teacher Steve Longenecker pays a visit

Mr. Steve Longenecker, who taught science at ACDS from 1967 to 1973, returned to share his passion for wildlife with Upper School students. ACDS alumni joined to watch him teach again, reminiscing about his immersive lessons that sparked their love of science more than 50 years ago.



Dave Johnson ACDS '86 talks conservation with AP Environmental Studies class

Alumnus Dave Johnson '86 spoke with the AP Environmental Studies class about the importance of conservation efforts to save endangered species and help animals and humans share this world together. We can learn a lot from animals and how they adapt, survive, and thrive in a variety of environments



Rachel Newcomb '11 shares AmeriCorps experience

Alumna Rachel Newcomb '11 joined AP Environmental Studies class online to discuss her work in environmental policy and nonprofit agriculture. She shared her experience with AmeriCorps supporting American farmers and her focus on regenerative agriculture, raising awareness of an often-overlooked career path that combines environmental stewardship, nonprofit work, and public policy. She also discussed the realities of building a career and lessons learned along the way.



Madi Huffman '20 talks to students about voting

As a Voter Engagement Coordinator, Madi is dedicated to educating our state's newest voters and helping them get to the polls. Madi spoke to students about how to register and participate in the democratic process, turning political discussions into personal ones that spark action, and the power of networking. Since graduating from UNC, Madi is looking toward an advanced degree in public policy, international affairs, or law.

Event Recaps



Decade Strong Reunion November 29, 2025

Over 70 alumni from the classes of 2010-2020 returned to campus for the Decade Strong Reunion. The special gathering featured live music from Candler Rice '16 and Eva Peterson '17. Alumni relived the past, leaving notes for the former teachers and reconnecting with friends and classmates. Here's to the memories made then—and now!



Holiday Hoopla Highlights - December 18, 2025

The annual Holiday Hoopla alumni and teacher/staff vs. varsity athletes basketball game packed Nash Athletic Center once again. The alumni team brought a full bench, including members from the Class of 2025 and our Interim Head of School, Ben Farrell. While the alumni team's three-year winning streak came to an end, the energy and excitement made it a memorable evening.





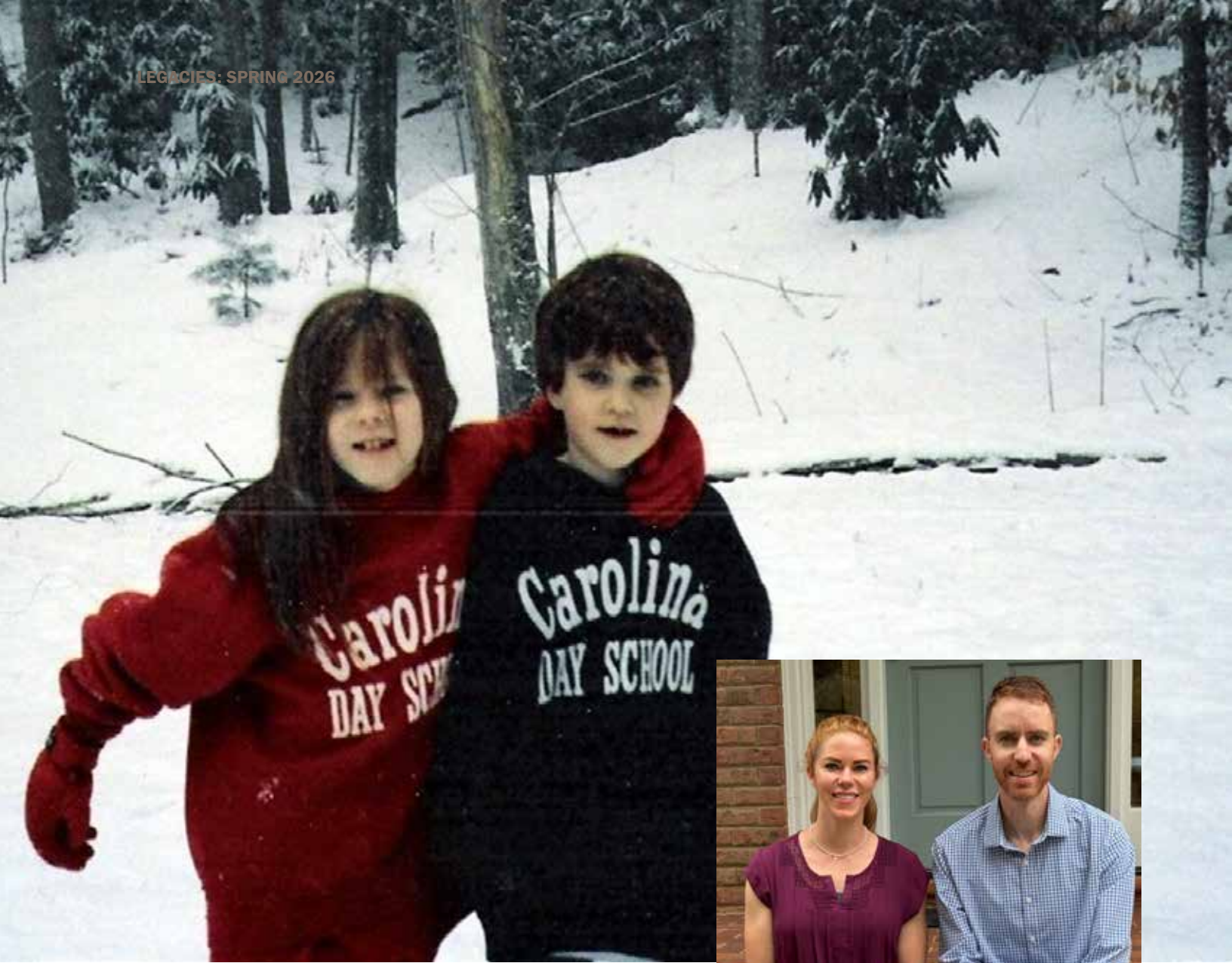
St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines Celebrates 118 Years!

We're proud to celebrate 118 years of St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines history and the alumnae who are part of our school's legacy. January 6, 2026, marked the anniversary of SGP opening its doors as a prep and boarding school in Asheville for young women ages 14-18. Over the years, SGP expanded to include a junior college, secretarial school, boys prep school, and co-ed day school before merging with Asheville Country Day School in 1987 to form Carolina Day School.

Alumni Historic Displays in McGregor Hall

We've been rotating alumni history displays in the Upper School Student Center, and one recent favorite explored how our houses: Pine, Bell, Cardinal, and Highlander got their names. Each house honors a predecessor school and its legacy. Like Hogwarts (but better!), our houses connect today's students to those who came before them.





Taylor Barr '04 and Thomas Barr '06, then and now.

The Power of Giving Forward:

The Barr Family Scholarship

For many in our alumni community, Carolina Day School is more than a place—it's a foundation. For Dr. Taylor Barr '04 and Thomas Barr '06, it is also the heart of a lasting family legacy.



Laurie Barr, volunteering in the classroom at Carolina Day School.

Twenty years ago, Taylor and Thomas' mother, Laurie Barr, passed away, leaving behind a legacy defined by joy, generosity, and a deep commitment to community. Today, that legacy continues through the Barr Family Scholarship, established in her memory and sustained by the Barr family.

"Carolina Day was like my home," reflects Taylor, who attended CDS from kindergarten through graduation. "I felt safe there. The teachers and students were my family."

Thomas, who began in preschool, shares a similar connection: "It was our foundation. I can remember almost every one of my teachers—especially in the early grades. They're very much part of me."

Laurie Barr embodied the spirit so many alumni recognize. She was a constant presence at school—volunteering in classrooms, supporting events, and investing deeply in the CDS community. Even while facing cancer twice, she remained focused on creating a joyful, grounded experience for her children.

When Laurie passed away during Thomas's senior year and Taylor's sophomore year of college, the CDS community responded with an outpouring of support. In asking how they could help, a meaningful idea took shape: the Barr Family Scholarship. The award honors students who demonstrate not only excellence in academics and athletics, but—most importantly—strength of character.

Both Taylor and Thomas credit CDS with shaping who they are today. Taylor points to the resilience she developed: "That work ethic you can't take away—it's what carried me through challenges, even earning my doctoral degree."

[continued]



“We never forget about Carolina Day, and we never forget about our mom. It’s such a blessing that we can do this.”

— Dr. Taylor Barr '04

[continued]

Thomas reflects on the values instilled in him: “Carolina Day allowed me to maintain my kindness. Our mom always told us that being a good person is what it’s all about.”

Over the years, the Barr family has connected with many scholarship recipients, each one reinforcing the purpose behind their gift. “The students selected are just phenomenal,” Taylor says. “I’m blown away by what they’ve accomplished and how kind and caring they are.”

For the Barr family, this scholarship is more than a tribute—it’s a continuation of both their mother’s values and the CDS experience they shared.

“We never forget about Carolina Day, and we never forget about our mom,” Taylor reflects. “It’s such a blessing that we can do this.”

As Thomas puts it, “We want to give back to another student because our lives were forever changed by Carolina Day.”

For alumni reading this, the story may feel familiar: a school that shaped your path, a community that stayed with you, and the opportunity to give forward. The Barr Family Scholarship is a powerful reminder that the CDS experience doesn’t end at graduation—it lives on in the ways we choose to invest in the next generation.

Upcoming Events

Alumni, mark your calendars and plan to join us!



Biennial Auction Gala

Saturday, April 25
6:30 p.m.

The Venue, Downtown Asheville

Join us for a night of radiant, bold, and vibrant celebration in support of Carolina Day School.

carolinaday.org/auction



Alumni Association Annual Meeting & Dinner

May 8, 2026 | 5:30 PM
Oreck Library, Love Hall

Local alumni are encouraged to attend. We are seeking new Advisory Board members for the 2026–2028 term. RSVP by emailing alumni@carolinaday.org.



Homecoming 2026

October 2, 2026
Carolina Day School

Join us Friday, October 2 for Breakfast at the Grotto, Alumni Association Awards, and Homecoming Pint Night. If you are interested in hosting Class Reunions over Homecoming Weekend, please contact Becky Vlachoyannis, Director of Alumni Relations & Rising Alumni Programs: alumni@carolinaday.org

Stay Connected



[linkedin.com/company/carolinadayalumni/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/carolinadayalumni/)



[facebook.com/carolinadayalumni/](https://www.facebook.com/carolinadayalumni/)



[instagram.com/carolinadayalumni](https://www.instagram.com/carolinadayalumni)

CDS Family & Alumni Business Directory

Discover and support the small businesses, private practices, and professional services owned by our talented Carolina Day School families and alumni. carolinaday.org/businessdirectory



Carolina Day School Alumni Association
1345 Hendersonville Road
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
ASHEVILLE, NC
Permit No. 450

IF YOU ARE RECEIVING MAIL FOR A FAMILY
MEMBER OR SOMEONE WHO NO LONGER
USES THIS ADDRESS, PLEASE UPDATE THE
ADVANCEMENT OFFICE:
advancement@carolinaday.org

