LANCASTER COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

CONNECTIONS

TWO-THOUSAND & TWENTY-FIVE



GET IN TOUCH

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CONNECTIONS

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL 03
ELEVATING OUR GAME 04
WHAT'S NEW ON CAMPUS? 06
ONE YEAR OF MAGIC & MOVEMENT 08
DRAWING HISTORY: CAROL BAGGER SKINNER '45 09
SPOTLIGHT: DR. GIOI SMITH-NGUYEN '74 10
ESPN STORYTELLER: SAM DUNCAN '18 12
THE BENEFACTORS' CIRCLE 14
SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS 16
GATHERINGS & GET-TOGETHERS 24
2025 COMMENCEMENT 28
CLASS NOTES 30
DOUG REBERT TRIBUTE 31





Dear LCDS Alumni & Friends,

It is paradoxical to think that as we head into a new calendar year, we have really just opened the doors to the 2025-26 school year – and the start of my tenure at LCDS and involvement in this wonderful community. I find myself reflecting on the legacy of Lancaster Country Day School – a place where, as one parent put it, "It is magic here every day." That magic, I've come to believe, is not only found in the traditions we hold dear or the vibrancy of student life, but in something deeper: the enduring spirit of this community across generations.

Whether you are a recent graduate of the last decade, or an alum of many years, I hope that you carry with you the same sense of belonging that I see in the hallways, classrooms, and gathering spaces on our campus today. This fall, I watched our Seniors take part in a longtime tradition as they proudly escorted our Kindergarteners through the main doors and into the new school year – a beautiful symbol of continuity and care across grade-levels and ages that defines our school. These small but powerful moments are part of a broader culture that values relationships, curiosity, and growth at every stage.

And, of course, without our dedicated and thoughtful faculty, this focus on relationships, tradition, and excellence would not be possible. Our faculty have proven to be committed to not just high academic expectations, but more so, to developing thoughtful, engaged citizens – as you'll see in the pages of this issue of *Connections*.

Our students today are challenged to think deeply and critically, to engage in democratic discourse, and to become scholars who not only consume information, but challenge it, synthesize it, and – ultimately – think for themselves. The intellectual rigor you likely remember continues to consistently thrive here at LCDS.

At the beginning of my tenure at Lancaster Country Day, I asked a few of our student leaders for their best advice, and they offered words that stay with me still: Be open to making mistakes. Be kind. Ask for help when you need it. Be someone your younger self would be proud of.

As I write this, I am in the midst of my first full year as Head of School – and I want to thank the many alumni who have extended a warm welcome or positive endorsement about the school's future. Like you, I know firsthand the lifelong impact of an exceptional independent school education. I see that impact unfolding each day here at LCDS, and I am proud to steward a community that balances tradition with transformation, with our students and families always at the center.

Whether you've stayed closely connected or are hearing from us after some time, I hope you'll always consider LCDS your home. You are part of the story we continue to write – a story defined by intellectual curiosity, great character, and deep care for one another.

With deep gratitude and warm wishes for the year ahead,

Emilie D. Kosoff
Head of School
Lancaster Country Day School

Roster of Supporters

ELEVATING OUR GAME

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***Elevating Our Game* Campaign Chairs:** Christina Jemison & Mike Jemison '02

TURF ATHLETIC FIELDS

In August, we broke ground on a pair of new synthetic turf fields – and ushered in a new era for LCDS athletics, bringing us in line with the rest of the Lancaster-Lebanon League. Once completed, our teams will not only benefit from the consistency offered by modern playing surfaces, but also a boost in school spirit that comes with such a state-of-the art facility. This whirlwind $4M project, led by Christina and Mike '02 Jemison, has been funded by more than 100 school patrons with a $2M principal gift from Sam and Dena Lombardo.



GRASS FIELDS

Not to be overlooked: When adding our turf fields, the school seized both the opportunity and – quite literally – the topsoil from the neighboring fields undergoing construction to allow a complete overhaul of our grass fields. The fields have been leveled and reseeded, and will be among the nicest natural playing surfaces in the region.



FUELED BY COMMUNITY GENEROSITY

The 2024-25 school year saw more $2.7M in gifts to operations. Our community's generosity delivered close to 20-percent of the school's annual budget. As a result, Lancaster Country Day School continues to be able to develop innovative programming, maintain our top notch facilities, keep tuition rates in-check, and retain gifted professionals.



SCIENCE GARDENS

Through the generosity of 2024 FundFest attendees – and the sweat equity and broad shoulders of volunteers – a new Learning Garden has been planted between the Hubbard Science Wing and Gardner Theatre. This space will facilitate lessons for students across all academic divisions.

THE RENAISSANCE OF OUR OUTDOOR & ATHLETIC SPACES

Over the past year, the grounds at LCDS have undergone a significant metamorphosis. These improvements can be seen around every corner and have all been achieved through your generous contributions.

RUSSO COMMONS

Even though it's a relatively new space on our campus, Russo Commons endures heavy use and – consequently – the furnishings in our upper level seating area had grown tired. A generous contribution allowed for the restoration and augmentation of the furniture in this space.

What Else Is New

ON CAMPUS?

As our students, staff, and parents have experienced, our campus has seen a series of dramatic improvements over the past year. Philanthropy has continued to shape the life of the school – thank you to everyone who has made these improvements possible.

LOWER SCHOOL PLAYGROUND

In fall of 2024, to the delight of every child in our Lower School (and more than a few in other divisions), LCDS opened the Castelli & Atlee Family Playground. Read more about this project on page 8!

SQUASH SCOREBOARDS

Perhaps less noticeable to some, our squash courts have just been upgraded to include the electronic scoreboards customarily found in squash centers. This, too, was a gift from a passionate member of our school and squash community.

SIGNAGE & WAYFINDING

As the school's complex has grown, it's been increasingly necessary to add additional signs/wayfinding in order to help people navigate our campus. It's our tremendous good fortune that an anonymous school donor funded the creation of both monumental entrance signs on President Avenue and Hamilton Road and also wayfinding signs to ensure visitors know how to arrive easily at their desired destinations.



JUNIOR AND SENIOR SPACES

Gone are the mismatched bean bags, sample seats from Gardner Theatre, and whatever might have been borrowed from a grandmother's basement. In place of rummage shop castoffs, our students now enjoy bespoke furnishings that fit the places where our 11th and 12th graders congregate. An anonymous donor put forth the investment for both the furniture and David Lyall's thoughtful design services.

FACULTY/STAFF ROOM

When surveyed several years ago, a number of members of the school's professional team observed that a fairly easy way to improve the daily experience of employees would be a makeover of the school's faculty room. When employees returned this August, that's just what they found, thanks to a generous school family!













One Year of MAGIC & MOVEMENT

It has been one year since LCDS cut the ribbon on the Castelli & Atlee Family Playground! The new Lower School playscape includes safe, modern, and whimsical features that continue to delight LCDS students and neighboring children. The playground replaced a tired, dated play area that was well past its prime. This new outdoor space serves the critical purpose of reinforcing the importance of physical health, facilitating coordination, and serving as a safe environment for social development and creative growth.



Photo Credit: Molly Mihovetz P '36 '40

Back to Contents

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

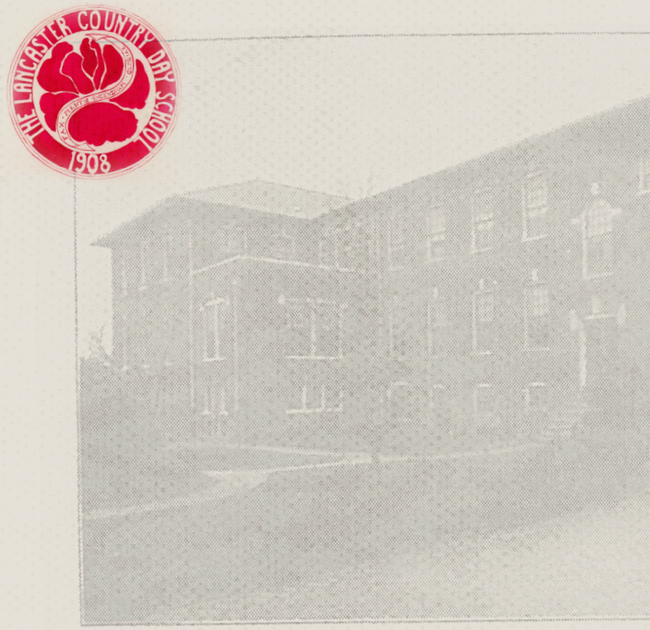
DRAWING HISTORY

The round rose of the LCDS crest is instantly recognizable to members of the school community, but few know its origins.

We celebrate Alumna Carol Bagger Skinner '45, who, as an Upper School student, designed the school's first crest – from which our current logo was born – while the campus was still located on Lime Street in Lancaster City.

We spoke with Skinner on the telephone this fall; she is currently 98-years-old and living in Maine. She shared that her beloved art teacher, Miss Nellie Appel, chose her for the significant task of designing the new school crest when Miss Shippen's School transitioned to Lancaster Country Day School in the 1940s. The school's administration at that time decided to replace the former Shippen daisy with the red rose of Lancaster – a motif Skinner incorporated into her drawing.

Her design has served as an enduring symbol for LCDS, and a source of pride for Skinner and her fellow alumni throughout the years.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DR. GIOI SMITH-NGUYEN '74

In the 1960s, as global political conflicts intensified, Southeast Asia became a center of instability, leaving countless civilians caught in both the literal and figurative crossfire.

Among them was the family of a boy named Gioi.

Gioi Smith-Nguyen '74 was an inquisitive, curious, and adventurous child – though his childhood was constrained by the realities of growing up in war-torn Vietnam. Basic necessities like food and resources were critically scarce, pushing the pursuit of a formal education far down the list of his family's priorities. Facing constant hunger and ever-present threats of conflict, Smith-Nguyen's loving parents made the extremely difficult decision to ensure his future: they chose for him to live in an orphanage, viewing it as the most secure path toward the stable future they desperately wanted for him.

Smith-Nguyen's extended time in the orphanage offered refuge and a marginal improvement in living conditions. Perhaps most crucially, his time living in the orphanage led to a life-changing introduction.

At this time, an American came to know Smith-Nguyen and, recognizing the boy's sharp mind, offered him the opportunity of passage to the United States. Smith-Nguyen now faced a profound choice: Would he decide to leave behind his family and all that was familiar, likely for the rest of his lifetime, for the chance at security and education? Driven by a profound desire for knowledge and a better future, Smith-Nguyen made the choice to accept the invitation.

In 1969, Smith-Nguyen arrived in the U.S. and was adopted by the Smith family, who had ties to Lancaster County and LCDS. Smith-Nguyen spoke no English and his formal education was understandably fragmented. However, those who met him – including Mr. Eric Smith and Former LCDS Headmaster John Jarvis – quickly recognized his powerful intellect and unyielding drive. Smith-Nguyen enrolled as a student at LCDS.

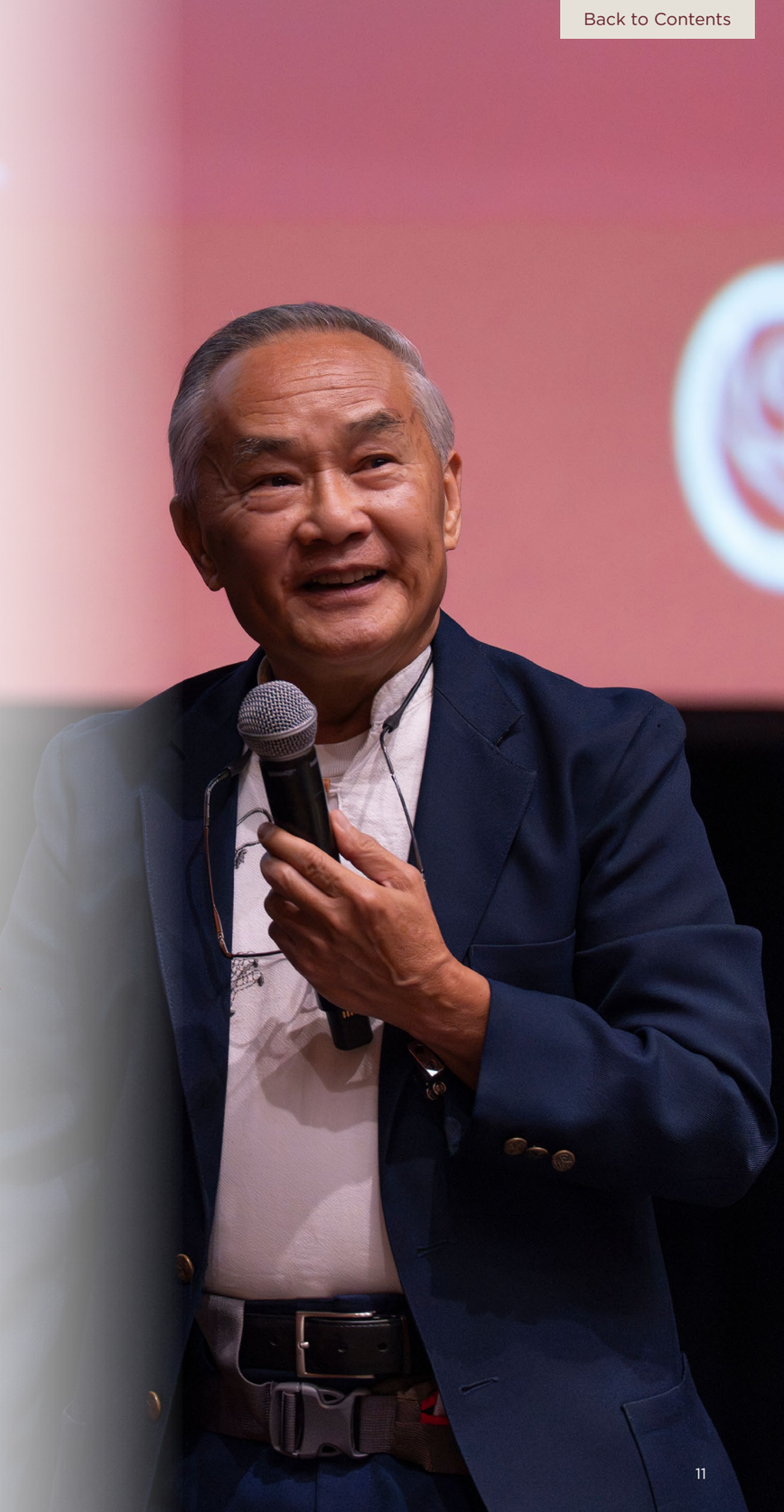
The initial transition was deeply challenging. Recognizing that immersion was key, Jarvis tasked LCDS upperclassmen with a critical mission: they would serve as dedicated academic and language tutors. The students accepted this charge, and what followed was a testament to both Smith-Nguyen's dedication and relentless effort, as well as the care and commitment of an entire school community.

Smith-Nguyen embraced the new language and the school's demanding curriculum, fueled on by his lifelong love of learning. More than just an academic, Smith-Nguyen also leaned into his innate creativity and emerged as a prolific and recognized artist. With consistent focus working in tandem with the scaffolding provided by the school community, his struggle quickly gave way to academic ascendancy. In fact, his own rigorous determination saw him move from needing to repeat a grade to graduating at the top of his class.

Smith-Nguyen's energetic and determined spirit has persisted throughout his lifetime. After earning his LCDS diploma and copious academic accolades, he set off for Franklin & Marshall College, eventually attending Temple University School of Medicine. After completing his residency, Smith-Nguyen served as an obstetrician in the United States Air Force and later in private practice in San Diego – a career that utilized both his academic acumen and his deep empathy for others.

Following a nearly 40 year career, Smith-Nguyen has since retired from medical practice. This fall, he had the chance to return to LCDS for Alumni Weekend 2025, where he reconnected with lifelong friends and shared his story with our current generation of students.

Hear Dr. Smith-Nguyen's story in his own words!



"You didn't let me fall down. You didn't abandon me. You picked me up. You encouraged me. You incorporated me into all the school activities – chess club, wrestling, art club, going to Outward Bound, playing basketball... If there's one thing I can embed on you, it's this line. Before me, there were a lot of refugees, a lot of immigrants. They all came here and they built the America that we know of today. When it came to my generation, I came here, I had some potential. I almost lost it. But you didn't let that happen.

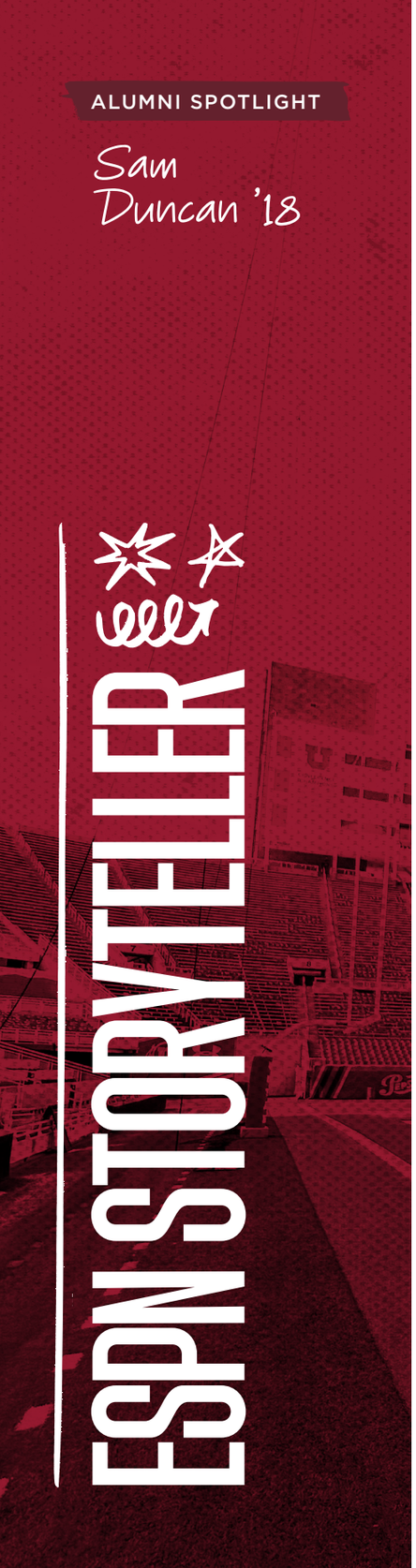
YOU HELPED ME, YOU PICKED ME UP. YOU SAID, GIOI, YOU CAN DO IT.

And now, behind me, there will be more refugees, more immigrants. The people come here with a big mental and physical potential that needs to be opened. You need this spark. You need the proton to unleash the nucleus' power for mankind. Just give them a chance. So that way, we can use that energy to be an American beacon of hope, and we live in liberty and justice for all."

Gioi Smith-Nguyen '74
During a Presentation to the LCDS Upper School, October 13, 2025

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Sam Duncan '18



WHEN DID YOU JOIN THE LCDS COMMUNITY?

I graduated from LCDS in 2018. I was not a Lifer. I was actually the opposite. I went to LCDS for just my Senior year. I know that's not very common, but in retrospect, it was one of the best decisions I made because some of my closest friends that I keep in touch with today are ones that I made at LCDS. Better late than never!

AFTER GRADUATION, WHERE DID YOU HEAD NEXT?

I went to Drexel University. I graduated in 2022 and studied entrepreneurship with a minor in marketing.

YOU'RE CURRENTLY PRODUCING ORIGINAL, NARRATIVE SERIES FOR ESPN'S YOUTUBE CHANNELS IN YOUR ROLE AS A DIGITAL VIDEO ASSOCIATE PRODUCER. WHAT DRAWS YOU TO A STORY, AND HOW DO YOU KNOW IT'S THE RIGHT FIT FOR ESPN'S DIGITAL AUDIENCES?

The goal for our team is to serve sports fans with stories that are niche and explore topics that dive deeper than what you might see in the typical day-to-day sports news cycle. This often takes the form of dissecting a variety of historical sports moments in both the distant and recent past and approaching them with a unique perspective that provides a larger cultural context.

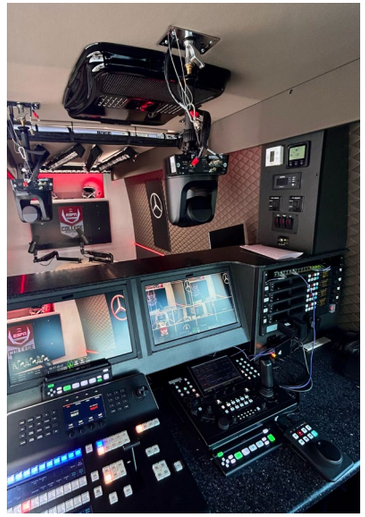
We enjoy leaning into our audience's appetite for nostalgia just as much as we like to highlight moments that may not have gotten the recognition they deserve. Historic seasons from unlikely teams, record breaking performances that place an athlete alongside elite company, a player's impact on their community outside the lines, or rehashing the most intense installments in a century old rivalry are all up for grabs. That is the intersection where we find the most success, so we consistently strive to deliver on whatever we feel is missing, underappreciated, or particularly intriguing on the grander stage of sports discourse.

WHAT DOES AN AVERAGE DAY AT YOUR JOB LOOK LIKE?

My day-to-day work load can take on a variety of forms. Since the team I'm on requires you to have a wide range of skill sets, each of us are often responsible for seeing our projects through from inception to delivery. This includes research, writing, shooting, audio mixing, editing, and motion design. So, my average day or week tends to depend on what stage of production my project is currently in. There are days or weeks where my sole focus is researching a story and drafting a script, some days I'll find myself coordinating with our on-air talent to schedule and produce shoot dates, and then there are times where I'm fully locked in on post production, whether that be putting an episode together in edit or designing supplemental motion graphics to increase production value.



Me sitting inside our College Football Podcast Van. It's basically a Mercedes sprinter van that was gutted and re-equipped as a mini studio to interview college athletes.



A behind-the-scenes shot of inside the van and the very tiny "control room."

HOW DID YOUR TIME AT LCDS SHAPE YOUR PATH INTO SPORTS MEDIA?

I had developed my passion for video production prior to coming to LCDS, but I can say that my time here allowed me to fully realize I wanted to make this my career. At a place like LCDS, it's exciting to think about your life after high school because it's a school where you feel you've been put into the best position to succeed in whatever field you choose to pursue. I was eager to jumpstart my career as soon as possible. I took on as much work as I could while balancing academics and athletics. I distinctly remember editing videos in the Senior Room in between classes, and the support I felt from my peers and teachers motivated me to keep going. LCDS, alongside other local programs like Attollo Prep, instilled a drive in me that I still leverage today and attribute the career opportunities I've been afforded.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO CURRENT LCDS STUDENTS WHO DREAM OF WORKING IN SPORTS MEDIA, ESPECIALLY IN SUCH A HANDS-ON, CREATIVE ROLE?

Start as early as you can. Offer to film games or practices for a local school or club team and put together an edit. Follow around a friend for the day and profile what it's like to be a student athlete. There should be a lot more *doing* rather than *thinking* when you're just starting out in any creative field. The stakes are low when it's a hobby and you can afford to make mistakes, so you might as well make them early and learn from them. I'm grateful that I was able to realize what I wanted to do at such an early age, and I'm even more grateful that I was able to make it a reality, but the fact that I started doing the work early is what I believe set me apart when it mattered most.

Challenges are meant to serve you, not discourage you. There will be times when you feel you aren't experienced enough to take the next leap, but the only way to expand your skillset is to jump into things you might not think you're ready for. Before you're good at something, you have to be bad at it first, so just embrace those opportunities to expose yourself to failure because that will be the baseline you compare your progress to.

Networking is essential in this industry. This goes for entertainment media as a whole, not just sports. Find someone that's doing the work you might want to do later in life and ask them how they got there. It may sound simple, but most people would be happy to talk your ear off about their journey (kind of like what I'm doing right now). Their answer, and the connection that ensues, will almost always be fruitful in one way or another.

Have a portfolio of your work. This is one of the few industries where you get to show what you're good at rather than just talk about it. This will become particularly important when you start to apply for jobs or try to land clients. Make a website or reel and put a link to it at the top of your resume or in your social media bio. It will allow your work to speak for itself and you'll leave a great first impression.

Where you start is not always where you'll finish. A couple years ago, I was working in video, but in an industry that wasn't fulfilling me creatively, and I felt stuck. A few years before that, I was editing music videos in my dorm room, thinking I would want to go on to work in the music industry forever. Neither of those things ended up being true, so allow yourself to adapt as your interests, ambitions, and circumstances change. The progression is never linear, but if you do the work, you'll end up where you're supposed to be.













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The Benefactors' Circle recognizes those who provide comprehensive leadership gifts to LCDS. We deeply appreciate the generosity these donors show in supporting our school's work and mission!

The Abraham Family • Christina *Minehart* Accomando '00 • Gabriela Raful & Lenin Agudo • Angela Ang-Alhadeff & Joe Alhadeff • Kate & Paul Allegretti • Melissa Sfida-Allen & Paul Allen • Anonymous (7) • Susan & Bill Ashcroft • Caroline & Farid Badri • Nancy Bair & John Bair '72 • Katie *Kozloff* Banks '99 • Caitlin *Rye* Banta '06 & Walter Banta • Danielle & Frank Bardo • Susan Bashore • Erin & Brent Bavington • Kari Bell • Chrissy & Michael Bercik • Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Homesale Realty • Matt Bilder • Kathy *Watt* Bisonic '71 & Ralph Bisonic • Shannon Nowotarski & Darren Blakemore • L.J. *Simmons* Bloom '87 & Ted Bloom • Joy & Reed Bohannon • Daral Boles • Brentwood Industries • Christin & Dave Buehler • Capital BlueCross • Dominique & Mike Caron • Shani Gunning-Carter & Sylvester Carter • Kathy Cerullo-Frick & Michael Frick • Karen & Alan Chachapoya • Charles F. Snyder Funeral Homes & Crematory • Kaci & Matt Christian • Jenny Park & John Chun • Clean Energy Property Maintenance LLC • Megan & Adam Collyer • Jessica *Bresler* Connaughton '87 & Rory Connaughton '88 • Amy & Michael Costello • Trish Del Grosso & Tom Coyne • Crispus Attucks York • Melissa Crognale & Sofia Ruiz Alfaro • Sandy *Hodge* Cross '59 & Gary Cross • Heidi Fuerst & William Crouch • Anne & Bill Curtin • Stacey & Craig Denlinger • Erica & Geoff DeWire • JoAnn DeWire • ECORE International Inc • Shannon Schultz & James Elly • Ephrata National Bank • Ferree Foundation • Filling's Clothing Store • Lesley & George Finney • First Citizens Community Bank • First National Bank of Pennsylvania • Laura & Justin Fisher • Molly Reckner & Geoff Ford • Alicia & Harry Forster • Fulton Bank • Fulton Family Foundation • Ann Fulton & Jack Fulton '88 • Judy *Farmer* Fulton '61 & Rufus Fulton '58 • Carrie & George Galanis • Sarah *King* Ganse '98 & Greg Ganse • Anne Downey Gardner '61 • Bernadette *Milner* Gardner '87 & Eugene Gardner Jr '84 • Barrie & Alan Gibby • Mary *Fulton* Gingrich '90 & Stephen Gingrich • Dana Gottloeb '73 • Nitya & Neerav Goyal • Rachana Murthy & Nitin Goyal • Groff Family Funeral Home • Dave Groff '85 • Tresha & Spencer Groff • Catherine & John Haddad • Sandra Urdaneta Hartmann & Karl Hartmann • Lisa *McSparren* Hatheway '75 & Frank Hatheway • Jeanette Hebel • Bernie & Bob Hendricks • Hendricks' Flowers • Henne Family • The Hershey Company • Highmark Inc • Laura *Maier* Hilton '01 & Nick Hilton • Hummer Turfgrass Systems, Inc. • Kathleen *Murphy* Jasaitis '84 & Edward Jasaitis • Christina Jemison & Mike Jemison '02 • The John K. Henne Charitable Trust • Angela & Brian Johnson • Jennifer Braun & Matt Johnson • Heather Haviland & Billy Jones • Jonestown Bank & Trust Co. • Justina Juvonen-Dodge & Art Dodge • Elizabeth & Leo Karwejna • Rebecca & Steven Keller • Miriam *Storb* Kimball '72 & Peter Kimball • Andrea Prats & Scott King • Meghan & John Knoedler • Hannah *Shenk* Koch '04 & Brett Koch • Lucy Song & Leo Kong • Nicole Bromley & Shelby LaMar • Lisa Yoo & James Lamberg • Lancaster County Career and Technology Foundation • Lancaster County Motors Inc • Lancaster Plastic Surgery Associates PLLC • Lancaster Squash Racquet Association Inc • Shelly & Duane Landau • Debbi & Gary Langmuir • Beth *Mitrani* Laub '04 & Evan Laub • Julia *Burlingame* Lazarus '02 & Matt Lazarus '00 • Leslie & Jim Lemonick • Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP • Lindsey Lin & I-Hsun Liang • Jen Lieb • Dena & Sam Lombardo • Jessica Heidecker Long & Toby Long • Kathleen Lyet & Paul Lyet '65 • M&T Bank • Lisa & Doug MacKinnon • Magical Vacation Planner - Megan Collyer • June & Andy Maier • Mail Shark • Stacie Molnar-Main & Don Main • Leslie & George Mann • Ann & John Martin • Sandi McCarthy • Peggy & Clair McCormick • Ryann McDevitt '08 & Jason Bauder • Sally *Vanderslice* McMorris '56 & Jim McMorris • Clark McSparren • Karen & Mike Mersky • Frances & Matt Micciche • Becky & Chris Miller • Alyssa Anderson & Noah Miller '04 • Molly & Monty Milner • Suzette Song & Kevin Muzzio • Marcia & Dale Mylin • Estate of Peggy Neff '43 • North Museum of Nature and Science • Oak Tree Development Group LLC • Orrstown Bank • Carly Abbott & Justin Overcash • Yaury & Vincent Pagano • Mina Meesala & Gotham Pasupuleti • Liz *Martin* Payne '04 & Geoff Payne • Katie Pletcher & Chris Pletcher '04 • PrimeCare Medical Inc • Lauren *Bergen* Pryor '98 & Chris Pryor • Anna Rakoczy • Rawden Joint Ventures Inc • Christian Rawden • Stephanie Rawden • Laurie & Doug* Rebert • Meg & Scott Reed • Kerma & Bill Reiss • Rosemary & John Rigas • Amy *Parr* Roak '84 & Christopher Roak • Fernanda & Joao Rodrigues • Rohrer's Quarry • Kristen & Brandon Root • Harriet Rosenstein • Holly & Mark Rosenstein • Emily *Sedlis* Russo '00 & Chris Russo '01 • Gina & Tom Russo • Chad Rutter • Michaele & Ian Ruzow • Leigh & Peter Rye • Sandra & Neal Salerno • Judy *Stauffer* Sandt '71 & Roger Sandt • Joseline Scheid • Suzanne High Schenck & Kurt Schenck • Libby Funk & Justin Schreiber • Caroline & Brad Schwalm • Susan & Rick Seavey • Sasha *Miles* Shand '02 & JP Shand '02 • Sharon & John Sheaffer • Victoria Wilkinson & Evan Shelby • Mary Louise *Herr* Shenk '72 • Sharon & Paul Sherban • Whitney & Tom Sherman • Krista & Tom Showers • Ellen Simpson '73 • Myra Sinz & Chris Sinz '74 • Kara & Anthony Skiadas • Chrissie & Niko Skiadas • Kurt Slacik • Jaime & Eric Slotkin • Smilebuilderz • April Ballou & Alex Snyder • Lee *Shand* Snyder '06 & Chad Snyder • Janet Spleen • Tony Spleen '82 & Thom Thompson • Ellen & Mike Stover • Amyla Strode '89 • Mark Strode '87 • Estate of Nancy *Neff* Tanger '41 • Phuong & Tuan Thai • Dorry & Lewis Thayne • Joan & Adam Thode • Marielle & Adam Tomlin • Trout CPA • Laura & Todd Trout • Twin Trees Foundation • Type A Events • UGI Storage Company • Univest Bank and Trust Co. • UPMC Health Plan • Utica National Insurance Group • Margaret Wagner '77 • The Wallace Foundation • Colleen & Brian Wassell • Sandy & Mike Wege • Linda *Lestz* Weidman '66 & Doug Weidman • Donna & Tom Weik • Weis Markets Inc • Mary Beth West • Rebecca Shepherd & Matthew Wiggins • Christina & Eric Wilcomes • "The Woods" Charitable Foundation • Willis and Elsie Shenk Foundation • Allison & Matt Wimer • Wohlsen Construction • Wohlsen Construction Company Foundation • Suzanne & Chris Woodard • Elizabeth & Tony Yanero • Vicki & Steve Zuckerman

This listing represents those who made leadership level gifts to the school between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025.





SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



THE POWER OF COMMUNICATION

The Middle School has introduced a focused, three-year Communication Series via their trimester classes. This innovative sequence, which spans grades 6 through 8, provides students with practical skills that complement their existing English and Humanities coursework – preparing them not just for Upper School, but for a world that demands clear, articulate expression.

Our sixth graders, led by Middle School Faculty TJ O'Gorman, focus each year on a bedrock of communication: writing. Students gain experience in various formats and styles of writing – from argumentative essays to personal narratives – and reinforce many of the skills learned in their English class, like grammar and mechanics.

Led by MS Faculty Ben Shipman, the seventh grade class has evolved far beyond traditional public speaking to encompass four key highlights: developing conversational skills (culminating in an interview with an adult in their life), mastering the presentation (including a business pitch), understanding negotiation, and finally, a capstone speech focusing on the rhetorical appeals of *logos, pathos,* and *ethos.*

Finally, taught by Performing Arts Faculty Steffan Bomberger, our eighth graders integrate these skills through a required theatre course. Acting as a capstone to the Middle School communications series, this class brings together the written and oral skills developed in earlier grades through the study of costume design, script writing, critical analysis of a play, and more.

"I want to show our students that it's fun to think, it's fun to stew, it's fun to write," Bomberger said. "Our culture has become apathetic to this worldview, but we need to seek out what makes us unique as humans."

MIDDLE SCHOOL MINIMESTER



This school year, our Middle School students are kicking off an exciting new program: a one-week academic intermission known as Minimester. Set for January 2026, this intensive program will replace the traditional academic calendar for one week's time, prioritizing experiential, project-based learning. Minimester was created to allow teachers to share their academic passions and develop unique, elective-style curriculum, an opportunity made possible by generous donor funding. All Middle School students will participate, selecting a field of study – such as culinary arts, psychology, or documentary filmmaking – through which they will dive into the theme, "Exploring Lancaster County Through…" alongside their peers and teachers.







A TRANSFORMATIVE TRIP TO CHINA

This summer, 22 Upper School students, mostly Chinese language students, and three faculty chaperones embarked upon a transformative, three-week journey across nine diverse cities in China. This unique trip combined travel, intensive language learning, and meaningful volunteer work.

Trip highlights include: volunteering at a panda conservation center and a breathtaking hike through the Tiger Leaping Gorge in Lijiang. The trip even earned attention from Chinese media organizations, with the group being featured on China Daily News.

"I believe that travel changes lives," said Catherine Haddad, the trip's leader and a member of the world language faculty at LCDS. "Through travel, our students become more open. They look at the world from a new perspective. If you really want to educate global citizens, travel is the way."





SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



THE ARCHITECTS OF TOMORROW

The Kindergarten launched a unique, hands-on project this year, bringing their annual world studies curriculum to life in miniature. Our Kindergarteners were tasked with imagining, designing, and constructing their own town – moving beyond flat paper to build a three-dimensional, collaborative community.

They began by designing individual homes, then quickly moved into city planning and problem-solving for essential needs like roads and hospitals. With the teachers stepping back from providing direct instruction, the "magic happened" as the young builders worked through challenges and failed house constructions together. This project offered a master class in student-guided learning – emphasizing communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving.



As Kindergarten Teacher Betsy Hedbavny '90 explained, the project was designed to be deeply engaging and to turn the (often entirely invisible) process of thinking visible.



"We encourage our kids to do their best work," Hedbavney said. "Not just finish a project and you're done. Live it, love it, stay in it."

This expansive project offered a lesson in more than just city planning – it became a springboard for deep learning across subjects. After designing their town, the Kindergarten drew flat maps, learned about map keys and symbols, and used clothespin people and matchbox cars to play and establish community rules. A real-life "mystery" – the case of four missing clothespin people – even led to an impromptu lesson on responsibility and care for one another.

The project's impact extended beyond the Kindergarten classroom, when 7th grade Spanish students visited the box towns. As the older students practiced Spanish vocabulary used to describe the parts of a community and offered their own constructed contributions to the town, the visit also offered the Middle Schoolers an authentic leadership opportunity.

FOUNDATIONAL THINKING



Our Lower School is on a mission to make the process of thinking visible! The Project Zero framework – pioneered at Harvard University Graduate School of Education – moves beyond memorization to foster a deeper understanding in our students. Knowing that teaching methods have changed more in the past generation than in the two centuries prior, our teachers have wholeheartedly embraced their identities as lifelong learners. Accordingly, we are committed to providing our faculty with exposure to the latest innovations in education – recently by sending a cohort of our Lower School teachers to explore the Project Zero program, an opportunity underwritten by a devoted school family. By encouraging each of our Lower School students to be curious, ask questions, and take intellectual risks, we're preparing them for a future where they can confidently take on any challenge.



MURAL MAGIC

During the 2024-25 school year, LCDS hosted Lancaster-based Multimedia Artist Keisha Finnie as an artist-in-residence. During her time on campus, Finnie met with art classes, student clubs and groups, and classes across divisions, presented her own portfolio of work, and collaborated with the school community to conceptualize, design, and paint a mural heading into the Dining Commons. Here's what Finnie had to say about her experience with LCDS:



"My first ever residency experience was more than I could have hoped for and expected. I've done community murals in the past, but never back in a school setting.



This experience brought back so many memories for me, as school was where I first fell in love with art and the beauty I could create, and, honestly, I felt like that was the first time I was noticed as a child. As the weeks went by and we came to a final design, that's when the fun began... Painting! The welcoming feeling from all of the teachers, especially the art faculty, was something that I'll carry with me forever. I'm sure students will look back years from now knowing which piece of the mural they helped bring to fruition."



A HOME RUN FOR ATHLETIC EQUITY

What started as a simple desire to help local teammates has blossomed into a massive effort to get baseball equipment into the hands of kids around the globe. This project began when Nikoli Bergeron ‘26 and Andrew Carlisle ‘26 – both longtime players on the J.P. McCaskey High School baseball team, which co-ops with LCDS – noticed a clear need in the Lancaster community.

“A lot of students were interested in playing baseball but didn’t have the supplies or equipment,” Bergeron said. “If someone wants to be able to play, we think they should be able to.”

The two launched their community service project while they were Juniors here at LCDS, initially emailing local athletic directors in the Lancaster-Lebanon League for donations. After collecting far more gear than anticipated – including a recent major donation from Seton Hall University – the pair quickly broadened their scope. They are now working with the nonprofit Pitch In For Baseball & Softball, which distributes equipment across the U.S. and around the world.

The sheer volume of their success speaks for itself: So far, they’ve collected an estimated $60,000 worth of equipment, even having to rent a U-Haul at one point because their received donations wouldn’t fit in a car.

Now in their Senior year, the pair are actively reaching out to regional athletic complexes, sports organizations, and club teams for donations of new and gently used cleats, gloves, bats, pants, and more. (They are even working to turn their project into an official nonprofit organization.)

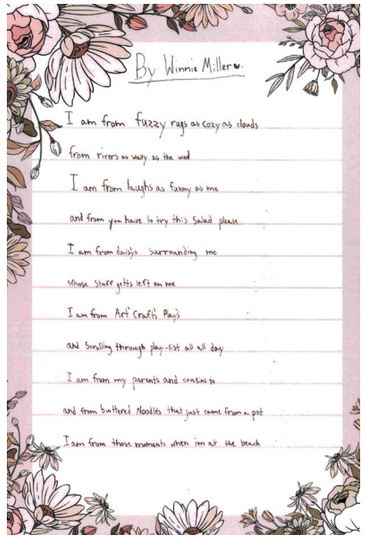
Now, Bergeron and Carlisle are inviting LCDS alumni to join their efforts. They are accepting both equipment donations and financial contributions to help them continue their work.

“Even just one or two alumni getting involved would do a lot,” Bergeron said.

“We thought we’d get eight pieces of equipment in a year, so really, anything helps,” Carlisle added.

If you’d like to support this student-led project, email their Faculty Advisor, Jerrill Adams, at DEIB@lancastercountryday.org.

Back to Contents



THE THIRD GRADE FINDS THEIR VOICE

On November 21, the warm chatter of visiting family members, a gentle clinking of tea and coffee cups, and the palpable energy of young storytellers filled our Lower School. It was the day of the inaugural Third Grade Writers’ Cafe, the brainchild of LS Faculty Jamie Dagen-Smith.

“This Writers’ Cafe is really such a beautiful celebration of third grade voices,” Dagen-Smith said. “This is the moment, the age, when our students are really starting to shine and find their own voice.”

For weeks leading up to the event, the third grade had been on a “writers’ journey,” practicing and collecting their most beautiful work across various forms – from detailed personal narratives to imaginative poetry. A core exercise involved crafting “I Am From” poems, designed to help each child recognize those small things that makes them who they are.

“I want my students to love writing,” Dagen-Smith said. “I always tell my students, *You have a beautiful voice and it deserves to be heard.*”

NETWORKING STARTS NOW

August Gallo ‘27 is making her mark at LCDS as the founder and president of the Upper School Women in Business Club. Now in its second year, the club is quickly gaining momentum as a supportive space for students to explore their professional futures.

For its 13 current members, the core of the club’s activities revolve around building real-world connections and experiences for our students.

Gallo and her team poll club members on their career interests – from journalism, which is August’s own passion (she’d thinks she’d like to be a foreign correspondent one day), to finance, nonprofits, and more – and then finds professionals in those fields to visit as guest speakers. These guest speakers offer a 30-minute or so talk, followed by a Q&A session with the club. The Women in Business Club also ventures off campus; this fall, they embarked upon a field trip to the PA Women’s Conference, which Gallo called, “Really big for us.”

“I love when people in the club feel really inspired after a guest speaker,” Gallo said. “That’s my main goal.”

Looking ahead, Gallo and her team are making plans to ensure that the club continues to grow and that they can bring in even more powerful speakers and take additional field trips.

Interested in getting involved with the Women in Business Club? They are actively seeking LCDS alumni who are willing to share their professional expertise and provide site visit opportunities. Email WIB@lancastercountryday.org.





SCHOOL SPOTLIGHTS



SISTER ACT

The Fisher sisters, Anna Fisher ‘26 and Lily Fisher ‘28, aren’t just remarkable field hockey players in their own right – they’re also a dynamic duo helping to drive the Cougars’ success in recent years. Both picked up the sport in third grade, inspired by their mom and a shared passion that drives their intensive practice schedule.

“We both put a lot of work into this sport,” Anna said. “We go outside every day and practice.”

Lily agrees, emphasizing their “passion for the game” and consistent effort. This effort has certainly paid off for Anna, who has committed to playing field hockey at the University of Pennsylvania next year.

However, the sisters are also the first to credit their teammates for the Cougars’ successes on the field. Lily notes that the team’s strength comes from its deep connection, which is evident in every game – and on their joyful team Instagram account.

Beyond scoring a record number of goals during her athletic career, Anna hopes that she leaves a legacy of encouraging other students to join the field hockey team.



With two more years to go in the Upper School, Lily hopes that their team’s culture of inclusivity continues, leading to growth in the program. She also plans for the team to keep their record-shattering winning streak alive.



THE ROSE REPORT IS ON AIR

LCDS now has its own podcast – *The Rose Report* – thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Middle School Podcast Club. The club was spearheaded by Charlie Teachworth ‘31, who is turning his passion for audio design and sound engineering into a powerful voice for the student community.

“The theme this school year is community,” Teachworth said. “The podcast is one way of keeping a connected community, in the same way as a newspaper or newsletter would.”

For the first episode of *The Rose Report’s* debut season, Teachworth interviewed Head of School Emilie Kosoff. In each subsequent episode, club members have interviewed LCDS community members or shared school-related updates.

Listen to Episodes of The Rose Report on Spotify Now!



BUSINESS IS BOOMING

Founded last year by Jack Burns ‘27 and Anthony Liu ‘26, along with Andrew Scheid ‘25, the Upper School DECA Club encourages students to take a deep dive into the world of business, finance, and marketing through education and competition.

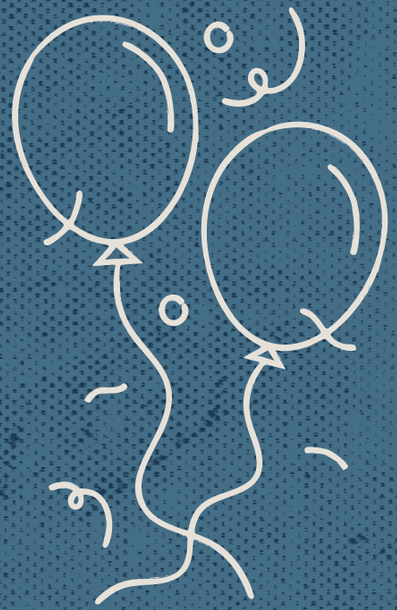
The club originally evolved from the former US Economics Club. Faculty Supervisor Owen Walsh – a member of the Upper School Math faculty who participated in DECA during his own high school years – was enthusiastic about the students’ initiative. Walsh notes that DECA’s structure, which focuses on four clusters – marketing; business management; finance and entrepreneurship; and hospitality and tourism – allows students to truly “grasp a niche.”

Regional DECA competitions begin with a written exam, followed by a 10-minute role-play wherein students act as industry professionals for a judge, playing the role of CEO or other executive. In its inaugural year (2024-25), the club saw impressive competitive success – all six students who competed at the district level progressed to state competition. Via other opportunities and competitive projects, a total of 11 LCDS students qualified for states. Two students – Owen Giunta ‘27 and Jason Liu ‘27 – then advanced to compete in Florida at the International Career Development Conference.

“We’re the biggest club at LCDS, and we’re super passionate,” Burns said of DECA, highlighting the club’s growth from 18 members in its first year to 36 students currently.

“Seeing the passion and motivation that these guys have has really impressed me,” said Walsh. “The passion and interest shown by our student leaders and members is why the DECA Club has grown so much in just the last year.”

LCDS Alumni, share your business expertise! Would you be willing to serve as a guest speaker, lead a workshop, or run a site visit for DECA students? Email DECA@lancastercountryday.org.



GATHERINGS & GET-TOGETHERS

There's nothing we love more than spending time with our amazing school community! From former faculty and staff to alumni of all ages, current families and students to friends of the school – we host a number of opportunities to spend time together, reconnect, and have a bit of fun.

Back to Contents





Alumni Weekend

A full weekend of merriment and reconnection for our amazing alumni







Shippen Society Luncheon

Celebrating our alumni who graduated 50-plus years ago



















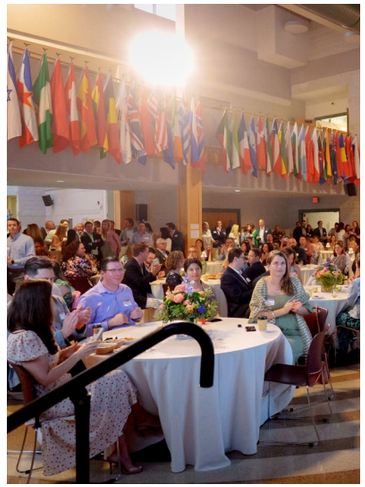
Lifers' Luncheon

Welcoming our newest class of LCDS Lifers each spring

























FunFest 2025

An evening of fun and fundraising, with dinner, drinks, and live and silent auctions to benefit our school

Each year, the parents of our Senior class offer to collect gifts to support the school. In turn, the aggregate parent gift serves as the opening bid for the Children's Challenge at FunFest. In April, the generous parents of the Class of 2025, as well as FunFest attendees, enthusiastically gave more than $100,000 for faculty and staff bonuses. Those bonuses were issued to those who do so much for our students and school in May.

Award Recipients

THE TRUSTEE PRIZE
NASTASIA PHILIP, JACKIE GREEN, NISHA MELE, NINA WIGGINS

Awarded to the Seniors with the highest grade point average.

HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARD
AIDAN NORTON & MCKENNA KRAFT

Presented annually by the Head of School, this award recognizes the Seniors most deserving of special praise for exhibiting qualities such as leadership, school spirit, persistence, and civic virtue.

FACULTY AWARD
ALYSSA LEE

Given to the student who embodies what the faculty most respects in a scholar and a person, an individual who has a true love of learning and is a model citizen.

RUTH HOSTETTER AWARD
SONIA GALLO

This award honors the memory of a Shippen School graduate from the Class of 1931 and recognizes a Senior who, over an extended period of time, has worked selflessly and enthusiastically to enhance the school community.

ANN MUSSELMAN AWARD
JACKIE GREEN

Given in honor of Ann Musselman, who was an LCDS teacher for 30 years, this prize is awarded to the student who has enthusiastic curiosity, takes intellectual risks, loves to learn, and lives life to the fullest.












2025

117TH COMMENCEMENT | *Class of 2025*

Keira Mei **Alhadeff**
Addison Claire **Allen**
Hussain Mohsin **Altufayli**
Raafae **Ayyaz**
Sophia Jeanette **Babar**
Ivan Joseph **Bene**
Owen Douglas **Biscoe**
Olivia Marie **Blocher**
Bruno Lessa Laudares **Bomfim**
Amelie Veronique **Breuninger**
Stella Rose **Brosi**
Caralina Ashley **Caplan**
Seth Alexander **Carter**
Zainab Hamid **Chaudhry**
Elizabeth James **Clark**
Siena Anne **Colarusso**
Cara **Costello**
Jack Anthony **DeCarolis**
Nikhila Sophia **Drew**
Christopher L. **Dukes, Jr.**
Chloe Virgina **Flatt**
Sophia Steele **Flatt**
Sonia Isabella **Gallo**
Michael George **Georgelis**
William Nicholas **Gould**
Jacqueline Rebecca **Green**
Daveion **Gross-McIntyre**
Elizabeth Sue-Yang **Haddad**
Sofia Miranda **Hartmann**
Declan Fitzmaurice **Jones**
McKenna Jones **Kraft**
Emmalin Jean **Kresse**
Alyssa Marie **Lee**
Annabelle Grace **Lieb**
Monica Rosalie **Lopez**
Rebecca Clair **MacKinnon**
Nisha Angelina **Mele**
Jason Arnaud **Micciche**
Zachariah Wayne **Neff**
Jonathan **Ni**
Aidan Michael **Norton**
Tarek Ibrahim **Omeis**
Jeremy Touamboye **Ouilikon**
Nastasia Mia **Philip**
Kaelynn Grace **Pulliam**
Cate Nicole **Quinlivan**
Fatima **Rehman**
Jamilex Denise **Rodriguez**
Sophia Marie **Sanchez**
Natalie Isabel **Scepansky**
Andrew Thomas **Scheid**
Ryan Jackson **Schenck**
Sydney Grace **Scheuren**
Charlotte Louise **Schmalhofer**
Maggie Louise **Schnader**
Nehemiah Calum **Smith**
Benjamin Boyd **Sponaugle**
Joceyln Michelle **Staley**
Samarth **Talwar**
Reagan Vincent **Tarvin**
Emma Jean **Trout**
Llarimar **Vidot**
Nina Helen **Wiggins**
Henry Oliver **Wilcomes**
Beckett Walz **Wohlbier**
Sophia Jaya **Wolf**
Andrew Joseph **Yanero**
Selina Le **Yang**
Sophia Isabelle **Young**
Jonathan **Zheng**
Ryleigh **Zimmerman**

Class NOTES

CHRIS PLETCHER ‘04

Chris has built a distinguished career in both business and public service. After earning his MBA from Cornell University, he led two companies in the metal coatings and industrial testing industries as President and CEO. He later served as Mayor of Saint Marys, Pennsylvania, a city of 13,000 residents, where he championed downtown investment, new parks, and economic development initiatives. Chris recently acquired and now leads First Alliance Logistics Management, a national pallet brokerage firm headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, as its President and CEO. He resides in State College, Pennsylvania, with his wife and their four young children, and is an active member of the Pennsylvania chapter of the Young Presidents’ Organization (YPO).



ASHLEY CHARLES DEAN ‘05

Ashley and her husband, Evan, welcomed their third son, Weston William Dean, on July 15, 2024. He joins big brothers, Logan and Mason.



MOLLY RIGAS MCDERMOTT ‘07

McDermott writes, *“My husband, Matt, and I recently welcomed our first child, Patrick John McDermott, on September 4. Patrick was born at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia, measuring a healthy 7lbs 2 oz and 19 inches.”*



CARSON BEYL STOCKDALE ‘08

Stockdale writes, *“Charles and I are living in Charleston, SC and just welcomed our 4th child, a baby girl named Jane.”*



ANNE VANASSE BIJMAN ‘10

Charles “Charlie” Roger Bijman
Born in Lancaster, PA on 4/29/2025
Parents: Anne Bijman (Vanasse) and Michael Bijman | 9 lbs 1 oz, 21.5 inches long

Bijman writes, *“After a long road of infertility and pregnancy loss, he is the rainbow baby we have always dreamed of!”*



ALI CHARLES DOLL ‘13

Ali and her husband, Eric Doll welcomed their daughter, Baker Elisabeth Doll, on October 1, 2025.



ASHLEY INGRAM ‘16

Ashley married Michael Panczner in May of 2025 at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, FL. The day was filled with love, laughter, and plenty of celebration surrounded by friends and family.



CARLIE ABRAHAM ‘17



Abraham writes, *“After graduating from Hamilton College in 2021, I began my career in New York City, working as a Paralegal in the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office and a legal assistant at Mythic Films, a production company. I am now a 3L at Boston College Law School, where I serve as President of the Business Law Society and have enjoyed learning law alongside classmates who have become close friends. This past summer, I was a Summer Associate at Goodwin’s HQ office in Boston. I worked on technology and life sciences deals, real estate transactions, private investment funds, and private equity M&A contract drafting. I happily accepted an offer to return as a Corporate Associate upon graduation from BC Law in May 2026 and am excited to begin my legal career!”*

KONRAD LOJEWSKI ‘19

Lojewski writes, *“Earlier this year, I packed up my car and drove west—stopping in Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Kansas—on my way to Denver to start a new role with Cin7. A big part of that move—what put Denver on the map, in fact—was my girlfriend Ally, a fellow LCDS alumna from the Class of 2019, receiving a promotion that relocated her there. The move marked an exciting new chapter in both life and career. My interest in SaaS began back in Lancaster during my time at Cargas Systems, where I discovered a passion for helping people use technology to make their work easier and more efficient. I first learned about Cin7 from fellow LCDS alum Carolyn Stonerook Vanaskie ‘07, now the company’s North America Director of Sales. In my role, I’m partnering with my manager, Cole, to build out our outbound sales team—testing new tools, standardizing processes, and driving growth as Cin7 continues to expand. The experience has challenged me to grow in computer science, business, and leadership, and I’m grateful for how much I’ve learned in such a short time. CIN7 is the leading inventory solution for small and medium businesses. My role has allowed me to combine my passion for entrepreneurship and technology in a way that makes a real impact!”*



THOMAS WESTBROOK ‘19

Thomas married Chloe Kilpatrick on August 9, 2025 in Rogers, Arkansas. The guests included many Country Day alums.

From left to right: David Del Terzo ‘19 , George Markley ‘19 , Lauren Lennon ‘19 , William Messick ‘19 , Kendall Kubis ‘19, Nick Hooper ‘19, Sadi Subedi ‘19, David Winner ‘19, Thomas Westbrook ‘19, Bradley Fry ‘19, Matthew Gerace ‘19, Eric Zuckerman ‘19, Daniel Ouilikon, Ajay Chatha ‘19



ARIELLE BREUNINGER ‘21

This past May, Arielle graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Bioengineering. During that time, she was also a member of Penn’s Division I Track & Field and Cross Country teams, winning the Ivy League team championship in Indoor Track in 2024. She credits her science coursework, science fair mentorship, and the French program at LCDS with much of her research and internship success in college, including a position as a cardiac tissue engineering researcher in a bilingual lab in Geneva, Switzerland. Currently, Arielle is pursuing a Master’s degree at Stanford University in Materials Science and Engineering and continues to enjoy running in her spare time.



Back to Contents



REMEMBERING DOUG REBERT

In December 2024, Lancaster Country Day School lost a passionate champion, Doug Rebert. During his long association with LCDS, Doug played many roles - both behind the scenes and on the literal stage.

Many knew Doug as the father of Jonah ‘20 who could frequently be found courtside during tennis season or later as the grandfather of Kathryn, Freddy, and Ellyannah (whose parents, Mark and Diana, help to carry forward his passion for the school). A fortunate few worked beside Doug on the LCDS Board where, among his many endeavors, he was able to pair his love for the school with his passion for real estate.

Doug’s involvement with the school’s fundraising efforts resulted in seismic improvements for LCDS. All while building one of the largest real estate firms in the country, Doug also found time to hold leadership positions in support of the school’s annual giving program and capital campaigns. Doug and his wife, Laurie, played key roles in every capital improvement made over the past quarter-century.

But it is his association with the school’s gala and auction for which he will be remembered so well and so fondly. For more than a decade, FundFest and Doug Rebert – microphone and bid paddle in hand – were synonymous. Doug worked in support of FundFest as its solo chair, as a co-chair with Laurie; and as a part of a supercommittee comprising all former chairs as the school reestablished the event as FunFest following COVID-19. Doug wished to support the school however possible and saw FundFest served as a means of creating good cheer within the community and also for putting the school in the broader regional spotlight.

True to his desires, LCDS is a better place for Doug’s service to the school and its students.

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