

Summer 2016

Oak and Ivy

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School Magazine



A Toast to the Future!

The Berry Performing Arts Center
The Jean and Sal Badalamenti Theater



What's Inside



Breaking Ground

Members of the *Imagine* Campaign Steering Committee stand with ceremonial shovels during the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the Berry Performing Arts Center and Jean and Sal Badalamenti Theater on June 2. Pictured, from left: Bill Jenkins, Assistant Head of School for Institutional Advancement, Peter Madsen '65, Emeritus Trustee, Andrew Webster, Head of School, Ted Osborne '71, Board of Trustees President, Jean Badalamenti, Emeritus Trustee, Jane Berry, and Board of Trustees members Robert Berry, Jeanne Barbet, Randy Rogers '81 and Noorali Sonawalla.



Lead donors Jane and Robert Berry

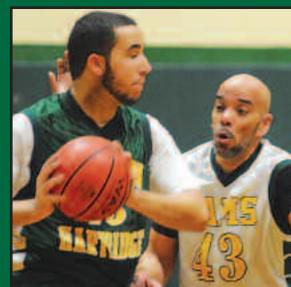
On the Cover

Ted Osborne '71, Board of Trustees President, makes a toast to celebrate the construction of the Berry Performing Arts Center at the Groundbreaking Ceremony on June 2 with W-H band and choir members in the background.



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A Letter from

Andrew Webster, Head of School



Andrew Webster, Head of School, thanks the many donors and supporters of the Imagine campaign.

Dear Wardlaw-Hartridge Community,

If you walk through the halls of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School on any given day, odds are good that you will encounter students engaged in some kind of performance or rehearsal. We keep a piano in the 1882 Lounge, just down the hall from my office, and students with free periods often bang out a tune or even a concerto, so often I don't even need to leave my office to hear students perform.

In my recent wanderings, I have heard one student practicing the piano part for *Guantanamera* for the Middle School concert, another practicing a rendition of Coldplay's *Fix You* for the Cookin' Cabaret, a saxophone quartet working on John Coltrane's *Night Trane*, Middle School students presenting their speeches as part of our public speaking program, Lower Schoolers singing a lilting melody in Spanish class and dancing *merengue* in a performance in the AP room, others working on pieces for the Lower School concert, ninth graders explaining in English class the sculptures they had created to

represent a poem of their own choice that they had studied, third and fourth graders presenting their formal speeches to a crowd of students and parents, seniors presenting their internships to panels of teachers, two seniors working through a rendition of Phillip Phillips' *Home* for a performance at Senior Dinner, Upper School choristers perfecting the soaring harmonies of *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, and a quintet of international students rocking a bilingual song by the Japanese group One Ok Rock, whose popularity had previously escaped my notice but whose mastery of the mid-tempo rock ballad clearly has universal appeal.

Some of these experiences are designed and guided by teachers, while others flow from student initiative. Some are fundamentally academic in nature, while others are more artistic. They share certain aims though, which are the development of mastery through practice, the inculcation of poise in demonstrating that mastery, and the practices of creativity and collaboration. The performances themselves are ephemeral, but the experience of creating them is of lasting value.

The Berry Performing Arts Center and the Jean and Sal Badalamenti Theater will have many uses, but the essential reason to build it is to provide a venue for our students to perform at the highest level they can attain, whether in drama, music, public speaking and presentation or other performance activities. It is truly gratifying to arrive at the construction phase of this project, which has required hard work and generosity from many people who are dedicated to the advancement of Wardlaw-Hartridge and to the excellence of the educational experience we provide here. We look forward to opening the new facility in Spring 2017 and to many years of student performances, with all of the learning opportunities they provide.

Best regards,

Andy Webster
Head of School

A Letter from

Ted Osborne '71, Board of Trustees President



Ted Osborne '71, Board of Trustees President, addresses guests at the Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Dear Wardlaw-Hartridge Community,

Exciting things will be happening at The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in the next 10-12 months. The Berry Performing Arts Center will change the face of our campus and provide a wonderful venue for plays and performances. Much of the funding responsible for providing this new performing arts center has come from your fellow alumni, parents, trustees and friends.

This marks a very important occasion in the history of our fine institution, one that symbolizes the beginning of a new era and great performances with all the accoutrements of professional lighting, professional sound, actual dressing rooms and comfortable seating - a real performing arts center. We are thrilled to move forward with a project that will complete our vision for the campus and enhance the lives and educational experiences of the next generation of students.

W-H was lucky to have a lead benefactor, the catalyst that was needed to assure the success of this campaign. Robert and Jane Berry made a gift that challenged the Board of Trustees and kicked off the major portion of the *Imagine* campaign and together with the Board raised almost half of the total campaign goal. We are honored to be able to recognize their gift by naming this new center The Berry Performing Arts Center.

Sal and Jean Badalamenti have been involved at W-H for over 25 years. Jean was a member of the Board of Trustees for 19 years and Sal was intimately involved with securing the funding for many capital improvements on campus. Just over a year ago, Sal lost his battle with pancreatic cancer. Since then Jean and many others who knew Sal and knew what W-H meant to him have stepped up to honor the Badalamenti family's influence on the accomplishments of our school. The theater will carry their name in honor of their service and contributions.

We also received a significant challenge grant from a longtime supporter and Broadway producer Ted Snowdon, an alumnus from the Class of 1965. And, of course, we must thank our Parents' Association. Their tireless efforts and many years of Gala event proceeds have made a tremendous difference in this campaign.

The guidance and support of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, led by Jeanne Barbet, Noorali Sonawalla and Robert Berry, along with past board presidents Randy Rogers and Peter Madsen, have been integral to the success of this campaign. The leadership of Andy Webster and Bill Jenkins have also been crucial.

There is still a lot of dirt to move, bricks to lay, curtains to hang and money to be raised. George Bernard Shaw said that "imagination is the beginning of creation." We have imagined this day for a long time and it's now time to start building.

Best regards,

Ted Osborne '71
Board of Trustees President

School Breaks Ground for N



Andrew Webster, Head of School, welcomes guests to the Groundbreaking Ceremony. Inset: Mark Badalamenti '08 joins his mother Jean near the area in which the stage will reside in the Jean and Sal Badalamenti Theater.

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School held a groundbreaking celebration for the Berry Performing Arts Center and the Jean and Sal Badalamenti Theater on June 2. The event was held in the front courtyard where the center will be built. Construction began in late June.

Andrew Webster, Head of School, welcomed the guests and expressed his thanks to all who have supported the project. Mr. Webster also shared his joy and excitement for the future and how the new structure will benefit the student artists.

“This is an exciting day for The Wardlaw-Hartridge School,” Mr.

Webster said. “We have worked hard over several years to design a performing arts center that will elevate the qualities of our performing arts program, which has been a strong and valuable part of the school for decades. Our students deserve to perform in a facility that supports their creative abilities and the discipline they bring to their music and theater work.”

Student performances by an instrumental jazz quartet and the MadJazz vocal ensemble followed Mr. Webster’s greeting.

Ted Osborne ’71, Board of Trustees president, shared an entertaining speech with quotes from William

Shakespeare and later delivered a champagne toast. Tom Lankey ’78, Edison Township Mayor, also made remarks and wished the school continued success.

Members of the *Imagine* campaign steering committee joined Sharon Byrne, Performing Arts Department Chair, and Mayor Lankey with ceremonial shovels to break ground, signaling the official beginning of the construction project.

The school has raised over \$5 million in its *Imagine* capital campaign, which has enhanced academic and athletic programs by funding the construction of the Sonawalla Center for Global

New Performing Arts Center

By Rudy Brandl '83



The guests are all smiles as they watch student performances during the Groundbreaking Ceremony. Inset: Edison Township Mayor Tom Lankey '78 offers his remarks and best wishes.



Learning, STEM labs in the Lower School and Middle School, and two turf fields. The Berry Performing Arts Center is the final project in the campaign.

The 10,200-square-foot Berry Performing Arts Center will feature the Jean and Sal Badalamenti Theater, a 340-seat auditorium with a large stage, changing rooms, a scene shop, superior lighting and sound capabilities, and a first-class audience experience.

“We are so excited to build an authentic performing space that is designated for the purpose of displaying the talents of our students,” Mrs. Byrne said.

Guests enjoyed refreshments and hors d’oeuvres before taking seats in the amphitheater. Mr. Webster acknowledged the hard work of the past four Board of Trustees presidents - Peter Madsen '65, Joe Bonk, Randy Rogers '81 and Ted Osborne '71.

Lead donors Robert Berry and Jean Badalamenti also delivered speeches in which they shared their motivation for supporting the project and their passion for the school.

“Our families, past and present, understand the importance of this project to the school, and have provided generous support to build the new facility. We are proud to

name it in honor of the Berry family, and to name the theater in honor of Jean and Sal Badalamenti. Both of these families have been pillars of our community, have had wonderful children attend and graduate from the school, and have provided tremendous leadership to help Wardlaw-Hartridge become one of the leading independent schools in New Jersey,” Mr. Webster said.

“As we begin construction, we thank them and all who rallied behind the project, and we look forward to moving into the new building in Spring 2017.”

W-H Teachers Share Insight on

Maggie Granados, Assistant Head of School for Lower and Middle School and Wardlaw-Hartridge's Dean of Studies PreK-Grade 12, recently sat down with the members of the Visual and Performing Arts Departments. In a lively exchange, the contentment and challenges of creativity - in their classrooms and studios and in their own lives - were shared. We thought you would enjoy learning more about the artists who, in turn, make the arts come alive for our Wardlaw-Hartridge students.

Maggie Granados: What makes a moment creative?

Shannon Sari (Lower and Middle School Music): I think what can make even a young student most creative is uncertainty. If given an open-ended task without a concrete example of the "right" finished product, the uncertainty of the outcome can inspire unique thoughts and ideas.

Gale Goldman (Upper School Art): I agree! The times when a student tries an approach to an artistic problem that no one else ever dreamed of - whether a success or failure - that's when the experience is truly creative.

Rick Fontaine (Instrumental Music): A student who can channel their artistic skills with minimal inhibition will generally have a more creative experience.

"My aim is to keep creating and experimenting, and to have a little fun along the way."

-Sue Howard, Visual Arts Dept. Chair

Maggie: Ah, yes, I suppose creative inhibition is something you all must battle in your art studios and music rooms. What are the other enemies to creativity? What are the other roadblocks to it that you face with your students?

Sue Howard (Lower School Art, Visual Arts Department Chair): It happens very early, children recognizing the work of their classmates and identifying them as "the talented students." So I work constantly to change it up so everyone can find a way in. I create projects that are varied, that students will enjoy, find challenging, and will feel a sense of success when they have finished. Clay may not be the thing, but maybe it will be drawing, or tempera paints, or mixed media, or something else.

Sharon Byrne (Middle and Upper School Music, Performing Arts Department Chair): Creativity needs time and space to happen successfully. Being overly grade conscious, scheduling issues, inadequate space for authentic performing experience...they all get in the way of creativity.

Rick: Lack of practice, too. To be sure, a certain amount of practice of fundamental skills in the arts is essential to success. The stronger the basic skills, the less inhibition - thus room for creativity.

Maggie: Rick, that freedom of inhibition, that creative impulse...you are reminding me that a great gift of a vibrant education in the arts is the confidence it can impart on our students. You all must have seen lots of moments here at W-H where the arts have built confidence in a student.

Tanda Tucker (Middle School Art, Upper School Sculpture): A few years ago I had a student who wasn't necessarily one of my shining art stars, but he had put forth his best effort with one particular project. At the spring art show that year, I had someone ask if the particular piece was for sale. For the record, this was not the parent of the student! The day after the art show, when I told this student someone had asked if it was for sale, he just lit up like a light bulb! The best part is, he decided right then and there he was an artist. His work increasingly improved throughout the remainder of Middle School and, in fact, he went on to win the eighth grade art award.

"Creativity needs time and space to happen successfully."

-Sharon Byrne, Performing Arts Dept. Chair

Shannon: It's true: the more you participate, the more you practice, the more a person grows as an artist. Each person will grow and develop in different ways and to different degrees, but talent is not limited to those few individuals in whom it is inborn. I think that is part of what makes the arts so powerful... it can be found in every person. It can impact every person. It can shape every person.

Sharon: I am thinking of an alum whose mother couldn't bribe him to participate in the musical when he was in middle school. I encouraged him to audition, he did, he fell in love with performing and since then

Visual and Performing Arts

music has been at the core of whatever he does. He was in every musical after that, was in Concert Choir, MadJazz, auditioned for and made every honor choir up to Nationals, and is very active in his a cappella group at college.

Gale: One of my very recent students was astounded when I recommended that he take AP Studio Art. Before he joined us he had never taken an art class. By the time the AP exam took place and he could look back on his journey and the excellent 24 pieces of work he had just submitted, he admitted to being astounded but was confident in his skills. He even talked about his journey in his senior speech.

Sue: My fourth grade students just learned about the artist, Degas - his insecurities as well as his successes. They selected an animal and then drew it. But then they learned about proportion, negative and positive space, and how to observe when drawing. They redrew their animal, transferring their drawings onto pastel paper. They were invested in their work as it developed before their eyes. We have all heard the expression, "process not product" and even our youngest students delight in seeing the result of all the process. They surprised themselves!

"I think that is part of what makes the arts so powerful... it can be found in every person. It can impact every person. It can shape every person."

-Shannon Sari, Lower/Middle School Music

Maggie: All of this creativity and confidence are so important for our students to develop. What, to you, are other powers of the arts?

Sharon: Many aspects of music can be taught, but unless one is open to it, like anything else, it will fall on deaf ears. The goal as a music educator is to teach the basic skills and to be ready for whenever you see the spark happen. Once the spark happens, I like to challenge that student and keep stoking the flames.

Sue: To give the students a lifelong appreciation of doing, of creating something from nothing, and an appreciation of art. To go beyond an exposure to artists but to foster such a love of art that they want to go to Giverny or step into van Gogh's yellow bedroom.



Third graders Jasteij Sappal, Kaya Singh and Samuel Faust perform in a recorder recital in the Oakwood Room.

Maggie: What a creative, confident and inspiring group of teachers we have throughout our Wardlaw-Hartridge Arts Departments! While we have just scratched the surface, you have shared so much of the potent power of our thriving arts program. I have to end by asking you all, what's the most creative thing YOU have done recently?

Sharon: I love singing professionally outside of school. I made a commitment to myself to freelance as a soloist and choral singer, and take voice lessons so that I can maintain and develop my skills.

Gale: I decorated my new apartment from scratch!

Sue: I carry my journal everyday. I love to draw and love to paint. Gouache is my current medium of choice. My aim is to keep creating and experimenting, and to have a little fun along the way.

Rick: Over the past couple of years, I have been honing my skills on the jazz guitar.

Tanda: My crazy clay Pepper People. I love clay. There is just something about molding my ideas out of something that comes from the earth that inspires me.

Shannon: Professionally, I would say the most creative thing I have done recently was our concert! I have never programmed a concert containing songs in 12 different languages. It was a huge stretch for both the students and me. Personally, this music teacher loves to paint. I love putting paint to canvas.

Alumni Thriving as Pro

Martin McDougall '82: An American Ex-Pat Acting in England

By Linda Harrison O'Brien '81

"I've been lucky enough to work with some great film directors like Steven Spielberg, Paul Greengrass, Luc Besson, Christopher Nolan, Fernando Meirelles and Roger Michell," said Martin McDougall, a 1982 graduate of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School who has worked as a professional actor since 1988.

McDougall, who earned a degree in theater and art history from the College of Wooster in Ohio and studied at Webber Douglas, a drama school in London for two years, cut his teeth in theater at W-H. But, to be completely transparent, acting was in his blood.

"Obviously, I was inspired to pursue a career on stage by my father, Alexander McDougall, who directed all the plays at W-H for many years. I spent most weekends in the all-purpose room from the age of 7, watching rehearsals and then, when I got old enough, getting parts in the productions. That was where it began."

For McDougall, who lives in south London with his wife, Desiree (a Norwegian-born circus performer and business owner), and 7-year-old son, Aksel, life is rich in a variety of ways. "Working primarily as an American actor in London means I have been able to work on a lot of big interesting movies that are shot over here or in Europe. I've been able to do a lot of theater, but since my son Aksel was born, I haven't been interested in doing stuff that keeps me away from him for any



length of time. Luckily, I get a lot of voice work, which I enjoy."

This American ex-pat has had a wealth of exciting work experiences. Among the most rewarding projects? McDougall rattles off the following ventures he's been associated with: "filming in the Atacama Desert was cool; doing parabolic flying in Star City in Russia, which is their version of NASA; getting my first play produced. I was also in a new play that went from a tiny shoebox to a big West End theater. That was very exciting."

With a résumé to be reckoned with, McDougall maintains tremendous humility. "It's a great life being an actor as long as you don't depend on it for happiness! I knew right away that I wouldn't become a star working in London. But, if you're lucky to get enough work and you're motivated to fill the quite incredible amounts of free time you

have with projects that inspire you, then it all works."

In addition to acting, McDougall has worked as a yoga teacher for 20 years. He also writes and produces music in "a little studio in our house." Describing his home McDougall said, "We live in small cottage on six acres of beautiful grounds. It's a bit like the old Hartridge campus, for those who remember."

This busy actor, writer, producer, yoga instructor, husband and father has carved out some time for a new hobby - one that he hopes to make a family affair. "In the last few years, I've started learning Wing T'sun, a very cool kind of kung fu that I really enjoy; so much so that I've started dragging my wife and child along to class so that I can have someone to practice on at home!"

Professionals in the Arts

Mary McCormack '87 Followed Dream, Passion for Arts

By Rudy Brandl '83

Mary McCormack has loved the performing arts since her childhood days when her family made trips to Broadway and later as she began starring in productions on The Wardlaw-Hartridge School stage in the mid-1980s. The 1987 alumna knew she wanted to be an actress when she left her Plainfield home for Trinity College in Connecticut. She learned many things about herself in a journey during which she discovered she was willing to make the necessary sacrifices to become an actress.

“I started acting in an amateur way fairly early and I loved it. I used to love going with my family to Broadway. I made sure to stay in school, but after college I knew that I had to try acting. It was a ton of work but it was worth it.”

McCormack cautions that being a starving artist or struggling actress isn't for everyone.

“You always test yourself and ask is this really, really what you want to do? Will you still want to do it when you're racing from one shift to another and then on to acting class, when your three best friends from W-H are all making way more money than you? There's an enormous upside to doing the thing that makes you happy for a living. But the downside isn't for everyone,” McCormack said.

While she maintains a healthy respect for the professionals who work in a variety of fields, McCormack has an interesting perspective on people who work in the arts and their importance to the world.

“There are fantastically important vocations, which allow us to live in the world: doctors, lawyers, engineers, lawmakers... and then there are vocations that give us something to live for. Those are the poets, novelists, musicians, actors and directors,” McCormack said. “I would never say that the arts are more important than anything else. But if you are someone who is called to spend your life telling stories of one sort or another, then

know that it is important, and it improves the world. We need stories and we need people to tell them.”

McCormack has many interesting stories to tell about her path to stardom. She made the most of her first big break at an audition for the ABC series *Murder One*. She went from waiting tables in three different restaurants to a leading role in a television series. McCormack, who said that audition changed her life, has since become an extremely versatile actress who has found success in film, television and on the stage.



A Broadway aficionado, McCormack listed her roles in *Cabaret* and *Boeing-Boeing* as two career highlights. She received a Tony nomination for her performance in *Boeing-Boeing*. Her breakout performance, however, came a decade earlier in *Private Parts*, a film with Howard Stern, who became “a best friend for life.”

She most recently starred for five years in USA Network's hit original series, *In Plain Sight*. Some of McCormack's other television and feature credits include NBC TV hits *The West Wing* and *ER*, the Stephen King thriller, *1408*; Christopher Guest's *For Your Consideration*; the Steven Soderbergh and George Clooney HBO political series, *K-Street*; and the USA Network miniseries *Traffic*.

McCormack offered sage advice for young people who aspire to a career in the arts:

“Be smart about it. Go to New York. Find a theatre company. Take your time. Don't fly out to LA (Los Angeles) until you have a story to tell about yourself. LA can be a huge, dark, scary place. But it can also be a wonderful sunny place to raise a family. It all depends on who you are when you get there.”

McCormack lives in Los Angeles with her family - husband Michael Morris and daughters Lillian, Margaret and Rose.

Donna Conklin King '81 Uses Art to Express the Human Condition

By Linda Harrison O'Brien '81



There is a 45-foot snake sculpture in front of the education building at Turtle Back Zoo in West Orange. The “King Snake” is intended to delight schoolchildren; youngsters are welcome to climb on the massive mosaic reptile as they exit the school buses that carried them to the zoo.

The sculpture is the work of Donna Conklin King '81, who was commissioned by the Essex County Parks Department to complete the piece made of glass tile and cast glass.

The Essex County resident has been awarded several public and private commissions. And, her drawing work is exhibited regularly, too.

“This past fall, I was invited to create a temporary storefront installation for Gallery Aferro during Open Doors in Newark, and last spring I had a sculpture curated into the Wildflower Sculpture Park in South Mountain Reservation.” Conklin King’s piece at South Mountain Reservation - “Restore” - is made with concrete, gold leaf and glass tiles and is permanently installed on site. The sculpture, a 20-foot fissure in the earth, was inspired by the Japanese art of Kintsugi, or, golden repair. Conklin

King said Restore “symbolically honors the restoration of the land in the preserve.”

A multidisciplinary artist, Conklin King said her work “explores a personal narrative, using art as a mechanism to give voice to the human condition.”

She has worked in bronze, iron, steel, concrete, glass and mosaic, but this environmentally conscious artist also repurposes objects such as porcelain tchotchkes, broken china, food containers, plastic bottles, and dryer lint in her sculptural work.

Donna said her work in mosaics was purely accidental. “When my children were young, I kept my studio practice going, but was not exhibiting as much. During that time, I was asked to be a visiting artist at the King’s Daughters Day School in Plainfield and taught myself mosaics to create a special project with the children there. This proved to be an amazing new material for me. I parlayed that into some commission work and found I could successfully teach it in workshops. It eventually led to me being hired to do the mosaic work for the 45’ King Snake at the Turtle Back Zoo.”

Conklin King found a mentor not only in her art teacher, but her English and history teachers as well.

Art teacher David Price “let me have a lot of freedom within the structure of the class assignments, taught me relief printmaking and helped me develop my drawing technique. (Barbara) Gubelman was my writing teacher and she encouraged my love of writing

which is an important skill for an artist to have. You must communicate your ideas through statements, grant applications, exhibition proposals and presentations. Max Munzel was a great mentor. He believed in me, encouraged me, coached me and helped me photograph my portfolio for college applications. He was also one of the inspirations for me to teach later.”

Conklin King also said her world “lit up” at Skidmore College. “I practically lived in the studios, drawing, painting and printmaking. At graduation, I was awarded the Pamela Weidman Prize for Printmaking. By the time I left Skidmore, I was drawing and making prints and my paintings were becoming more sculptural.”

Donna said her current work is inspired by “nature, social issues and my own family life. Right now I am thinking about our American culture’s relationship to food and working on a body of sculpture that incorporates food containers. I have three teenage boys and you can imagine the amount of food we go through is astronomical. My recycle bin is full of empty plastic salad boxes, cookie boxes, milk and water containers.”

Conklin King, who earned her MFA from Rutgers University in 1991, has taught classes at the college level, at the Montclair Museum and the Visual Arts Center in Summit. She was awarded a Fellowship in Sculpture from the New Jersey Council on the Arts in 1992.

Conklin King lives in Roseland with her husband, Warren, and her sons, Warren III, 15; Grant, 13; and Hudson King, 11. Her work can be seen at www.donnaconklin.com.

Mara Palumbo Capps '02: A Serendipitous Path to Success

By Linda Harrison O'Brien '81

Mara Palumbo Capps '02 believes in serendipitous encounters. The Wardlaw-Hartridge School alumna who graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University has good cause.

Like many college students, she worked while earning her degree. Capps, who majored in metal smithing and minored in sculpture at VCU, juggled a number of odd jobs including one as a handyman. And, it was her art degree coupled with her handyman experience that landed her a role building movie sets.

“The reason I worked in film was serendipitous,” she explained, “The father of a guy I was dating was working freelance on a film. He knew I worked as a handyman and he knew I had an art degree.”

So, Capps was introduced to the film industry. She said, “Give yourself a bunch of odd skills and sometimes one will propel you in the right direction.”

Although she decided that building sets wasn't her calling, she learned she *did* like working on film.

“It was a cool career path,” said Capps, who quickly earned another opportunity to work in the industry she found so thrilling. This time, though, she would assist with special effects makeup on a “low budget horror film.”

She explained special effects makeup application requires a careful hand: “You would think that special effects makeup is done with a heavy hand, but it's not. You've got to make it look like it's *not* makeup. Technically, it's heavy makeup but it's precise coloring. You must ask, ‘how does it look in this light and which colors cancel out other colors.’ My art degree helped with that.”

Capps, who honed her skills as a student at the Makeup Artist Studio in Richmond, VA, soon was working on films in New York. She worked on a movie titled *Death in Love*. And, when her boss fell ill, she found herself heading the makeup department on the production. That movie, she said, “was a turning point” in her career; she was now doing makeup for actors including Jacqueline Bisset, Josh Lucas, Emma Bell and Lukas Haas.

Today, she has a client list that includes not only actors, but authors, models, musicians and athletes. Politicians have benefited from her skilled hand, too.

Capps, whose father was a sculptor and mother is Upper School art teacher Gale Goldman, knew she would have a career in the field of art, but she wouldn't have guessed she would be the makeup artist to celebrities and political elite.

When President Obama gave his commencement speech at Rutgers last month, Capps was the one who made sure he was perfectly polished in appearance. Her list of clients includes political heavy hitters with last names such as Clinton, Gore, Bush and Biden.

In addition to the inspiration she received from her parents, Capps said she benefited greatly from her experience at W-H. She recalled her time as the “sole student” in Fran Faltermayer's AP Art History class.

“I was the only one in the class; just the fact that I was allowed to do that and be ahead of the game in college was pretty incredible.”

But she stressed that her learning went well beyond the art studio. “I had a lot of artistic opportunities (at W-H) - band, theater, fine arts. And, I loved how we could get into politics in school. I could always count on debate.” She added, “even if (our ideas) weren't in line with

teachers, they were always defended as viable. I was always encouraged to express my beliefs.” Capps noted that Dr. David Berry was especially influential in her learning years at W-H.

Capps lives in Queens with her husband, Brandon (a fashion designer and showroom owner), and her 5-month-old son, Russell Patrick. The new mother said the most satisfying part of her career these days is perhaps the flexibility it affords. Capps, who works freelance, says it can be challenging at times, but the flexibility is “priceless – I can be a mom *and* a career woman.”

For more information on Capps' work, go to www.maracapps.com.



Independent Film Festival



Features Alumni Panel of Judges

By Rudy Brandl '83

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School held its third annual INDIE Film Festival on Feb. 24 at the South Orange Performing Arts Center in South Orange.

Student filmmakers were escorted to the venue in limousines and entered SOPAC on a red carpet prior to the film showcase. They posed for pictures on the red carpet as the event took on the aura of a night at the Oscars.

This year's judging panel consisted of alumni judges who work in the television and film industry: Marc Kornblatt '72, Jerry Casagrande '86, Mary McCormack '87, J. F. Musial '04, Lindsay Stevens '05, Eric Prah '08, Ben Chalfin '08 and Mike Clay '08. W-H classmates Chalfin and Clay attended the event but all eight alumni judges reviewed the films and provided constructive feedback for the filmmakers.

Awards were presented to the students in the following categories:

Best Non-Narrative - *Imagine the Arts*, directed by Emilia Tobey '21

Best Narrative - *My Brother Kwame*, directed by Nathaniel Nyema '16, Claude Djan '16, Aryan Vavila '16 and Abdur Sajid '16

Best Cinematography - Astitva Soni '16 and Akash Dalal '16, for *Trigger*

Best Director - Zishan Sajid '17 and Raphael Genty '17, for *Convergence*

Best Editing - Emilia Tobey '21, for *Imagine the Arts*

Best Picture - TIE - *My Brother Kwame* and *Trigger*

Best Commercial - Varleine Coq '23, Chiupong Huang '23, Vineeth Reddy '23 and Nicholas Vargas '23

There were 12 films in the festival, which was open to students in grades 5-12. Nearly 400 spectators filled SOPAC for the event, which was sponsored by the Wardlaw-Hartridge Parents' Association.



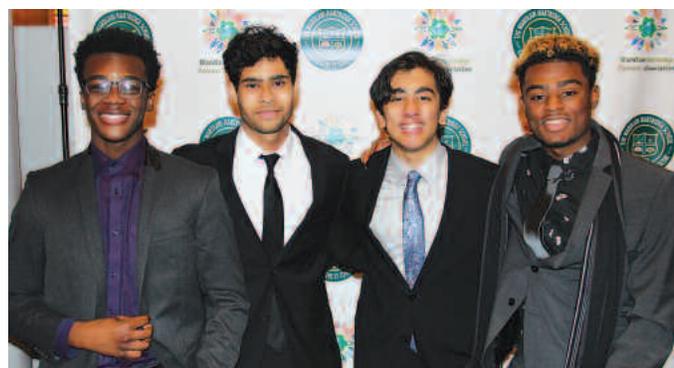
Astitva Soni '16, Cameron Cabrera '16, Cecily D'Amore '16, Akash Dalal '16 and Sahil Kassam '16.



Emilia Tobey '21 proudly displays the two awards she won at the INDIE Film Festival.



Rhona Eserner proudly poses with alumni judges Mike Clay '08 (left) and Ben Chalfin '08.



Award winners Claude Djan '16, Abdur Sajid '16, Aryan Vavila '16 and Nathaniel Nyema '16.

Meet Our Alumni Judges



Marc Kornblatt '72 started out as an actor in New York after graduating from Brandeis University. He turned to playwriting, earned an MA in journalism at New York University, and has since written for magazines and newspapers, published children's books, married, moved to Wisconsin, became a father and a school teacher. Making music videos with students led to short narratives, documentaries and the founding of *Refuge Films*. His first feature-length documentary, *Street Pulse*, aired on Wisconsin Public TV and was screened at festivals in Beloit, Cincinnati and Madison. His second feature, *Dostoevsky Behind Bars*, won a Wisconsin Film Festival 2014 Golden Badger Award.



After 20+ years of relegating writing to the status of a hobby, **Jerry Casagrande '86** pursued a career in non-profit work, economic development, and small business. In 2009, he dedicated himself to writing full-time. Jerry is drawn to writing screenplays and stage plays, preferring their concise formats and their demand that the writer tell a story in the present tense. His first play, a one-act entitled *Among Shrubs and Ivy*, played at Silver Spring Stage as part of SSS's 2011 One Act Festival. Jerry's first children's picture book, *The Birthday Train*, available on Amazon, was inspired several years ago by his then three-year-old son's question, "If my birthday is coming soon, how will it get here?" The *Birthday Train App* is available in the App Store. Jerry and his wife Tara have three children. Jerry's film, *On the Wing*, was released on Amazon and Amazon Prime in June. *On the Wing* is a family comedy-adventure starring Corbin Bernsen and featuring Shirley Jones. It is ideal for the "8 to 8th" set: kids age 8 to 8th grade. It is about four teens who take on some very comic villains to save bald eagles from the secret oil development plans of the villains. It carries a positive message for kids and adults and provides some good laughs along the way.



Mary Catherine McCormack '87 is a well-known actress. She has had leading roles as Justine Appleton in the series *Murder One*, as Deputy National Security Adviser Kate Harper in *The West Wing* and as Mary Shannon in *In Plain Sight*. Her film

roles include *Private Parts* (1997); *Deep Impact* (1998); *True Crime* (1999); *High Heels and Low Lifes* (2001); *K-PAX* (2001); *Right at Your Door* (2006), and *1408* (2007). Mary was nominated for the 2008 Tony Award for Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Play for the role of Gretchen in the 2008 Broadway revival of *Boeing Boeing*. In 2012, *The West Wing* cast reunited to create a video in support of Bridget McCormack '84, Mary's sister, who ran, successfully, for the Michigan Supreme Court.



J.F. Musial '04 is a producer and director, known for *APEX: The Story of the Hypercar and /DRIVE* on NBC Sports. His movie *APEX* debuted in November of 2015 in Los Angeles. J.F. attended Stevens Institute of Technology and founded his production company, Tangent Vector, in 2008. He has produced content for Ford, Porsche, General Motors, McLaren Automotive, Vespa, Lexus, Lotus, Maserati, and Pirelli and he's been featured in *Autoweek*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and the *New York Times*. Having debuted in 2012, */DRIVE's* diverse catalog of automotive video programming speaks with the authentic voice of the car enthusiast. The channel now boasts more than 1.6 million YouTube subscribers and a library of more than 1,200 videos captured in 14 different countries, all available on demand.



A Wardlaw-Hartridge lifer, **Lindsay Stevens '05** began her career in film publicity shortly after her graduation from The George Washington University in 2009. Currently, she acts as Director of National Publicity for Strategy PR/Consulting representing award-nominated films and talent. Lindsay has previously represented numerous actors including Edward Norton, Jennifer Lawrence, Ethan Hawke and Jim Parsons. In her role as a personal publicist, she's also represented filmmakers such as David O. Russell (*Silver Linings Playbook*, *American Hustle*), Kathryn Bigelow (*Zero Dark Thirty*) and Tom McCarthy (*Spotlight*). As a film publicist, Lindsay has contributed to theatrical and award campaigns for films including *Room*, *Steve Jobs*, *Birdman*, *Zero Dark Thirty*, *Argo*, *Boyhood* and *American Hustle* among others. Lindsay is based in New York City, but travels frequently to Los Angeles and works the International Film Festival Circuit.



Philip Michael Clay II '08 is currently a freelance director/editor and owner of a media content production company, Premiere Media Creations. While attending Seton Hall University majoring in Film and Broadcasting, Mike worked with the Intramural Athletic Department to produce a sports-based reality series entitled *Hardknocks*, which was viewed on Seton Hall's television station, Pirate TV. In 2015, Mike assisted in ESPN's production of one of its new short films, *The Redemption Song*, which is a part of ESPN's Emmy-nominated documentary series "30 for 30." *The Redemption Song* made its debut at the Tribeca Film Festival in April 2016. Under the brand iSwagTV, Mike directed and produced his first scripted web series entitled *PROPS* and has since entered the project into numerous film festivals including the American Black Film Festival, the Web Series Festival Global in Los Angeles and the Atlanta Independent Film Festival. Mike remains an enthusiastic member of the W-H community coaching Upper School cross country, track and field and basketball.



Ben Chalfin '08 is the Master Control Operator for Encompass, where he oversees many networks for quality control and timing. While a student at Quinnipiac University, Ben was the engineer for the student run network. Following his graduation from Quinnipiac, where he majored in Film and Television Production, Ben was hired as the Media Manager for On-Air Graphics at NBC Sports Group in Stamford, CT. In 2015 Ben won an Emmy for Outstanding Technical Studio for Premier League. During his years at W-H, Ben was the founder and president of WHTV and the stage crew's lighting manager for both the fall plays and spring musicals.



Eric Prah '08 won the Bronze Medal at the 39th Annual Student Academy Awards in Animation, while studying at Ringling College of Art and Design, in Sarasota, Florida, for his film *My Little Friend*. Eric is currently an animator at Blue Sky Studios, owned by 20th Century Fox. Eric's work at Blue Sky includes but is not limited to the films *Epic*, *Rio 2* and *The Peanuts Movie*. Eric is currently working on *Ice Age 5*.

W-H Students Sh

Damn Yankees



Congratulations to the cast, crew and production staff of *Damn Yankees*, the Wardlaw-Hartridge spring musical, which staged four wonderful performances from March 3-6.

The cast was led by Hannah Yates '18 as Meg, Claude Djan '16 as Applegate, Abe Golding '16 as Joe Hardy, Antonia Santangelo '16 as Lola and Steven Bessette '18 as Joe Boyd. The ensemble featured Upper and Middle School students, including some who were participating in their first production on the W-H stage. It was Antonia's 10th and final appearance in a W-H production and a fond farewell for all of the senior cast and crew members.

Concert



Students in all three divisions provided a treat for audiences at three entertaining spring concerts in the AP Room.

The Percussion Ensemble kicked off the Upper School concert, which continued with performances by MadJazz, the Concert Band, MadJazz Women, Jazz Band and Concert Choir. Concert highlights included *Route 66* by MadJazz, *In the Mood* by the Concert Band, *Night and Day* by the Jazz Band and the Concert Choir finale of *Bridge Over Troubled Water*.

The Middle School concert featured performances by several ensembles, including the Boys' Choir, Sixth Grade Band, Girls' Choir, Seventh Grade Choir, Seventh and Eighth Grade Band, Sixth Grade Choir, Jazz Band, Eighth Grade Choir and the Combined Choirs, who presented an entertaining rendition of *Guantanamera* as the finale.

Our youngest students provided a fabulous night of entertainment for a standing room only crowd at the Lower School Spring Concert. The show included vocal performances by all students from Junior Kindergarten through fifth grade. The Fourth Grade Beginning Band made a successful debut and the Fifth Grade Band played three wonderful tunes.

ine on the Stage

Music Recital

Many of the school's finest musicians and vocalists displayed their talents in a schoolwide showcase at the annual Spring Recital on April 10. The show included performances from students in all three divisions. While many of the students played classical pieces on piano, other featured instruments included flute, violin, cello, sitar, double bass and tabla. There were also two vocals and an instrumental ensemble. Congratulations to all of the students for providing a wonderful afternoon of music.



Abe Golding '16 - Double Bass Sonata in G Minor



Camila Fang '20 - The Swan, from "Carnival of the Animals"



Amy Chen '18 - La Folia

Cookin' Cabaret

Akash Dalal '16 and Jaden Dugenio '19 performed a delightful duet to Ed Sheeran's *I See Fire* during the seventh annual Cookin' Cabaret on May 24 in the AP Room. More than 200 patrons attended the show, which included a variety of vocal and instrumental acts, as well as spoken word, comedy and dance routines. Students from all three divisions performed in this annual showcase of talent.



Jason Kisare '21

Living a Dream in *School of Rock*

By Rudy Brandl '83

Jason Kisare has grown up like most 12-year-old boys, playing sports and socializing with friends, but he has always loved attending Broadway shows, playing drums and performing on stage. He attended his first Broadway show, *Mary Poppins*, as a 5-year-old. He has seen *Matilda* four times, but his favorite performance is *School of Rock*, which he has seen three times on Broadway.

Seven years after watching his first Broadway production, the Wardlaw-Hartridge rising eighth grader has made his way to the big stage. Jason was recently cast as an understudy in *School of Rock* for a six-month tour that began in June.

"I've liked Broadway since I was young," Jason said. "I've always dreamed of being on Broadway. Now that I'm there, it's really exciting."



Jason navigated the rigorous audition process this past winter. He submitted a video in February and was thrilled to receive a call back. He was asked to play the drums and sing at the second audition and required to dance at the next call.

"It was really nerve-wracking waiting," Jason said. "I wasn't nervous performing, but I was nervous waiting."

Jason eventually read for the part of Freddy the Drummer. He loves that role but is happy to be cast as an understudy.

"I like it because I can portray four different roles," Jason said. "I get to do a new thing and see how the characters vary."

"I'm extremely excited for him," said Dr. Charles Kisare, Jason's father. "Jason has educated me on the importance of determination and perseverance. This is something very positive in his life. So many kids have tried and never gotten a chance."

School of Rock is playing at the Winter Garden Theater and features eight performances per week, two on Saturdays and Sundays and one show on all weekdays except Thursday, when Jason will attend classes at W-H. He will stay on top of his academics with the equivalent of home schooling through an educational service.

"This is very exciting and it's definitely going to help me get more jobs on Broadway and other acting experiences," Jason said. "Broadway definitely sets you apart. It gives you an edge up."



Milika Griffiths '12

Lights up Stage in *Ragtime*



Milika Griffiths '12 recently wrapped up a year-long tour of *Ragtime* that covered 36 states across the US. One of her stops was the Morristown Performing Arts Center right here in New Jersey, where a group of W-H faculty and staff members attended the show in January. Pictured, from left, Liz Howard, the producer of the W-H plays and musicals, Linda Kraynik, Middle School administrative assistant, Becky Randazzo, the director of the W-H plays and musicals, Milika Griffiths, Sharon Byrne, Performing Arts Department Chair, Tanda Tucker, Middle School art teacher, and Lorna Griffiths, Milika's mom.

Milika took a year off from her studies as a musical theater major at Rider University to pursue this amazing opportunity on a national tour for a Tony award winning musical. She starred on the W-H stage in many plays and musicals, including *Grease*, *Tarzan* and *Once on This Island*. Milika also was a four-time member of the New Jersey Music Educators Association all-state chorus in her high school days.

She continued her stage success in college, performing four times in her first three years at Rider, in *The Full Monty*, *All Shook Up*, *Machinal* and *The Human Heart*. She plans to return to her studies in the fall, finish her degree and, before she begins auditioning for additional professional roles, grace the stage at Rider University once more.

Aubrey Mackay '19

Performs at Carnegie Hall

Aubrey Mackay '19 was honored, awed and inspired by the special opportunity to share his musical talents with other artists and an audience during the International Golden Key Music Festival at Carnegie Hall on June 4. Aubrey performed Prelude in C Sharp Minor by Sergei Rachmaninoff.

He performed the same piece in the Spring Music Recital at W-H in April but perfected it for the big event at Carnegie. Aubrey is grateful for the support of so many people who have guided him along the way.

"I feel blessed that God gave me long fingers and that music has enriched my life," Aubrey said. "Also, I appreciate my teacher, Mrs. Aronson, who believed in me and guided me to Carnegie. I am ever thankful for my mom's relentless support. Most of all, I am forever indebted to Wardlaw Hartridge for encouraging me and turning me into the person I am now."



Three Wardlaw-Hartridge Icons Retire

By Rudy Brandl '83



Rhona Eserner catches up with her old friend Fred Fischer, former W-H music teacher.



Bob Gould is joined by Dr. Howard Guss '82, who spoke on his behalf at the retirement reception.



Dr. Dave Berry chats with colleagues and friends at the reception.

Veteran educators Bob Gould, Rhona Eserner and Dave Berry enjoyed the chance to celebrate their upcoming retirement with colleagues, family, friends and alumni at a reception on June 4 in the AP Room. The trio of W-H professionals have a combined 99 years of service in many capacities.

Mrs. Eserner joined the faculty of The Hartridge School in 1973 as a math teacher and was later named chair of the mathematics and computer science departments at W-H. She later served as the Upper School Head before completing her W-H career as the Director of Global Learning.

Mr. Gould spent his entire 42-year professional career as a biology teacher at W-H, including 20 years as the chair of the science department. Mr. Gould also served as a tennis coach and peer leadership advisor for several years. He received the W-H Distinguished Faculty Award in 2015.

Dr. Berry inspired deep thinking in his English classes since 1998 and chaired the English department for many years. He also began the tradition of the annual Thoreau outing along the Millstone River and served as the faculty advisor to *Visions*, the student journal of poetry and art. Dr. Berry coached wrestling during his first decade working at the school.

Andrew Webster, Head of School, called the retiring trio “pillars of the Wardlaw-Hartridge community” and thanked them for their outstanding service to the school.

Betsy Cayer, the former headmistress of The Hartridge School who hired Mrs. Eserner, spoke on her behalf. Dr. Howard Guss '82 made remarks supporting Mr. Gould and Mara Capps '02 spoke about Dr. Berry.

Many former students and colleagues joined in the celebration. The guests mingled and enjoyed a buffet lunch after the ceremony, which also included musical performances by Dennis Zhao '16 on piano and Amy Chen '19 on violin.

Rhona Eserner Looks Back on Early Hartridge Years

By Chase Levitt '14

While Rhona Eserner retired this spring after four decades as a teacher and administrator, she still perfectly remembers her first day at The Hartridge School.

In May 1973, she was at the school interviewing with the headmistress, Betsy Cayer, for her first teaching position as a math instructor. From the conversation, Mrs. Eserner realized that Cayer's intelligence and devotion to students and faculty were shared by the whole faculty, an ideal environment for new teachers like her to start their careers.

"We were surrounded by these really incredible educators," Eserner said. "Every morning you would walk into the faculty room and they would be discussing something that someone had read or a play or what they did over the weekend. They were inquisitive with the world around them, they loved what they were doing, and they wanted to share that with younger teachers."

Mrs. Eserner taught nearly every math course before the school merged with The Wardlaw School in 1976 and continued teaching math after the merger. But she also developed a passion for computer science, teaching courses in the Pascal, C++, and Java programming languages.

This disposition to computer science led her to initiate the Anywhere Anytime Learning program with several other teachers in 2001. The reform gave Upper School students and faculty laptops to use for classes and placed interactive whiteboards in most Upper School classrooms.

"We thought it would help with communication among faculty and students," Eserner said. "The idea of virtual learning we thought had a lot of power to it."

Her passion for computer science was also evident when she chaired the combined Upper School department for math and computer science before continuing with the latter when they separated.

In 2005, she accepted a new full-time administrative role as Upper School Head, where she was responsible for all of the Upper School operations.

One of her favorite memories in this position came in the 2010-2011 academic year, when W-H applied for membership in the Asia Society Confucius Classrooms Network, which selects applicants with strong Chinese language programs for membership. The program provides schools with funding and a partnership with a school in China to enhance their Chinese educational experiences.

Enthusiastic about the program, Eserner repetitively checked her e-mail while in Israel during Spring Break in order to ensure it was successfully processed. Upon receiving a last-day e-mail that there was an error with the submission, the time difference gave her enough time to reach out to her colleagues in New Jersey to rectify the application. Thanks to this, the school was selected for the program and has been a member ever since.

"It was a very lucky thing that we were traveling because you read proposals and grants over and over again, you're finally happy with it, and you hit send," she said. "And



they thought they were done, but I knew it didn't work but that they had seven more hours to fix it."

In her last year at W-H, Eserner left the Upper School Head position to become the Director of Global Learning, in which she managed the Global Scholars Program that promotes education on worldwide topics. And while she was happy with the new position, part of her reason for staying an additional year was to continue supporting W-H involvement with the Confucius Classrooms Network, which she so strongly advocates.

"I'm really proud of the work that was done in those six years, and if I had to say why I did stay so long, it was because in the last few years I was very directed with helping our Chinese teacher Mrs. Hua Liu with growing the program," she said.

In retirement, Eserner plans to spend more time with her 94-year-old mother and hopes to travel to multiple destinations with her husband Michael, in particular to Israel for an extended length.

And this time without any last-day e-mails, she'll be able to enjoy the trip without interruption.

Robert Gould Appreciated Hardworking Students

By Chase Levitt '14

While science teacher Robert Gould retired this spring after 42 years at Wardlaw-Hartridge, one of his fondest memories is a recent class experience.

Just a few years ago, one of his students struggled in his AP Biology class, but it was not indicative of her incredible work ethic, which Gould greatly admired. He was so impressed that he wrote a college recommendation for the student, emphasizing her tremendous effort and his appreciation of it.

“I’d rather teach a hard working C student than a lazy B+ student or A- student,” Gould said regarding students like her. “I’ve really always put value on effort and hard work above just being brilliantly smart.”

It’s experiences like these, when students were able to overcome struggles and succeed, that Gould cherishes.

“I think the moments that stand out the most are where I have seen students who struggle somewhat and then kind of caught on and really became successful,” he said.

And while this was clear in the classroom, Gould’s motivation to see students overcome challenges was also evident in his additional responsibilities.

For nearly 25 years, he served as an advisor for the Peer Leadership Program, which links groups of freshmen with two seniors who regularly meet with their groups and guide them in adjusting to Upper School.

He also served for many years as an Upper School advisor for a small group of students, which he guided from freshman year until their graduation before adopting another group. In fact, Gould’s decision to retire after this academic year came from his desire to maintain guidance of his group through its graduation this spring.

But Gould also found enjoyment apart from helping students make adjustments. As a science teacher, he primarily taught biology, in which he was able to incorporate lessons in genetics, anatomy, and physiology. He greatly enjoys these subjects due to their applications to medicine, which he considered studying in college before focusing on zoology.



His enjoyment also came on the tennis courts, where he spent many years as a head coach for the girls’ varsity and junior varsity tennis teams.

He initially joined the junior varsity program to involve himself with a student extracurricular activity. But after several seasons, his participation evolved into a new passion for the sport.

“I actually fell in love with the sport of tennis by being a coach,” Gould said. “I’ve always loved athletics, but I never was really good in terms of participation. It was something I enjoyed - being a coach - even though my technical knowledge of the sport wasn’t always probably the best because I hadn’t competed.”

He held that role before taking the varsity head coach position, bringing stability to a program that had essentially seen annual coaching changes in the previous years before returning to the junior varsity position for another two seasons.

“I saw that this pattern of new coaches year after year after year wasn’t working, and in my mind I said what this varsity program needs is some stability,” he said. “I brought stability and with that stability, I think the program got better.”

In his retirement, Gould hopes to visit California and the Grand Canyon with his wife, Joyce, while adopting reading and exercise as hobbies. He also hopes to spend more time with his children, Christopher and Kimberly, and his grandchildren, Tamara and Sophia.

Dave Berry Made Impact on Students in Many Ways

By Chase Levitt '14

While English teacher David Berry retired following the 2015-2016 school year, it's an experience as the head varsity wrestling coach that he best remembers.

In the early 2000s, Dr. Berry and the team traveled to a tournament where Jim DuPont '03 was slated to face a favored Blair Academy opponent. According to Berry, DuPont trailed through the second period but then made a risky decision, locking up his opponent to perform a hip toss. He succeeded, and that allowed him to squeeze the opponent for an upset victory via the pin.

“That was a match that made us jump into the air screaming with joy and made the Blair coaches sit in surprised, unhappy silence,” said Berry, who observed the match while sitting just outside the wrestling circle. “There was a lot of happy chatter in the van on the way home.”

And while it's this one moment that Dr. Berry best remembers, it was wrestling that led him to join W-H in 1998.

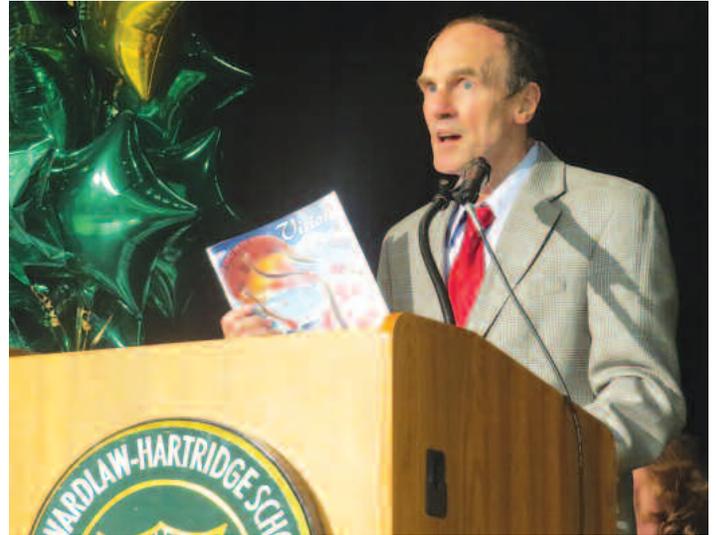
Having alternated teaching positions at various universities and private day schools, the veteran teacher sought a new, permanent position at a private day school. But he also wanted to serve as a wrestling coach, which he did during his previous positions.

When he learned that W-H had both openings, Berry headed to New Jersey. He served as the head coach from his first year through the 2004-2005 academic year, the team's final season before the program was cut due to an insufficient roster size.

Afterwards, he focused exclusively as an Upper School English teacher, mostly for 11th grade and AP English. He particularly took an affinity for teaching Shakespeare for its mimetic content.

“Shakespeare's understanding of human psychology is unparalleled by any other writer,” Dr. Berry said. “He really understands our feelings and our conflicts, and so when we read his plays, we come to understand ourselves and our friends much better.”

Encapsulated in his love of Shakespeare is a love for poetry, which he exhibited during his stay. Starting in the 2005-2006 academic year, he volunteered as a faculty advisor for *Visions* - the student literature and art magazine - and implemented several improvements.



First, he converted the cover of the magazine from black and white to color, which later led to a full publication conversion. He also required that students in his classes write short stories and poems for inclusion. This second change resolved the issue of insufficient submissions, which had constantly plagued past issues.

“Before that, I used to listen to the student editors beg students at morning meeting, ‘please submit material to *Visions*, otherwise we won't have a publication this year.’ And then sometimes, sadly, they would just publish their own poetry in bulk,” Dr. Berry said.

But *Visions* isn't the only place where he instituted change. In order for his 11th grade students to better understand Thoreau's nature-themed *Walden*, Berry proposed in the mid 2000s that they take a canoe trip along the Millstone River to observe such nature first hand. His idea was approved, and the annual Thoreau Outing became a staple in the Upper School experience.

Students have enjoyed this interdisciplinary trip to the historic Delaware and Raritan River Canal in Griggstown to try to recapture some of the intellectual freedom, awe for nature and introspection that Thoreau presented in his uniquely American masterpiece.

In his retirement, Berry plans to write poetry and essays in addition to starting a blog. He plans to base these writings on his personal experiences from both before and after his retirement.

Commencement 2016



Class of 2016 Matriculation List

Dana Afflu
Anisa Ahmed
Lara Jocelyn Albrechcinski
Laura Irene Arriaza
Joseph Bacalhau
Brandon A. Bandy
Russell Marcus Best
Maia Ian Guadalupe Bravo-Ravenell
Cameron J. Cabrera
Arianna Caiola
Cecily Diane D'Amore
Akash N. Dalal

Claude Kofi Djan

Fiorella Doglio
Diogo Felipe Silva Ferreira
Alexandra Garcés
Jiaze (Chris) Geng
Abraham Ethan Golding
Claire Elisabeth Greaney
Lacey Paige Gress
Rong (Gavin) Huang
Sydney Nicole Hughes

Michael R. Jesionka
Hyun Woo (Chris) Jin
Sahil S. Kassam
Anil Kondaveeti
Rahil S. Lakha
Stephen Vincent LaPrete
Zeying (Elaine) Li
Mark Neves Liberal
Qichao (Randon) Lyu

Boston University
Harvard University
St. John's University, Pharm. D. Program
Lynchburg College
Mount Saint Mary College
Rutgers University
Rutgers University
Goucher College
University of Maryland
Muhlenberg College
The George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology Honors Program,
College of Engineering
Temple University Honors Program,
Fox School of Business
New Jersey Institute of Technology
Cabrini College
Cabrini College
The New School, Parsons School of Design
University of Puget Sound
Fordham University
LIM College
Loyola University Chicago
Drexel University,
Westphal College of Media Arts & Design
Rowan University
New York University, College of Dentistry
Quinnipiac University
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Savannah College of Art and Design
Loyola University Maryland
University at Albany
Berkeley College, Honors Program
Centenary University

Salman Mansuri
Joshua Sem Marseille
Lydia Makena Mugambi
Max Evan Needle
Nathaniel Tarlah Nyema

Brendan Harrison O'Brien
Yuqi (Ramsay) Qiao
Alden Joseph Racz
Garrett William Racz
Abdur Rehman Sajid
Antonia Veronica Dominique Santangelo
Sonali S. Shah
Tal Rebecca Sherman
De'yon Zechariah Keshawn Smith
Astitva P. Soni

Brooke Imogene Sutton
Charlotte Anne Sweeney
Tyler Lee Thompson

Noah Mitchel Toney
Jonathan Trilleras
Ciara Anne Varley
Aryan K. Vavila
Rachel Anne Voeltzel
Xiao (Sean) Wang
Chufei (Rosalie) Xu
Lauren Michelle Yates
Zining (Ethan) Ye
Aafreen Zaidi
Zhonghao (Dennis) Zhao

HaoHan (Eddy) Zou

Rutgers University
Seton Hall University
New York University
New York University
University of Pennsylvania, School of Engineering
and Applied Science
Dickinson College
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
The College of New Jersey
The College of New Jersey
Johns Hopkins University
The American Musical and Dramatic Academy
Vassar College
Tulane University
New York University Shanghai
Rice University, Rice/Baylor
Medical Scholars Program
High Point University
Skidmore College
University of North Carolina at Charlotte,
The William States Lee College of Engineering
University of Virginia
Gettysburg College
Marist College
Wesleyan University
University of Miami
University of California, San Diego
Trinity College
Brandeis University
Carnegie Mellon University, College of Fine Arts
Rutgers University
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,
College of Engineering
Otis College of Art and Design

Students from the Class of 2016 gather for the traditional group photo wearing t-shirts and sweatshirts reflecting their colleges and universities of choice.

Congratulations to our newest Wardlaw-Hartridge alumni!



Graduation



Prom

2016 W-H Senior Award Winners



W-H Pin



Alumni Association Award



Parents' Association Award



Upper School Head's Award



Headmaster's Cup

W-H Pin

While Maintaining Own Academic Level,
Has Exhibited Loyalty, Generosity,
Dedication and Helpfulness
To Promote the Spirit and Philosophy
Of the School
Akash Dalal

The Alumni Association Award

For High Academic Achievement and
Outstanding Participation in School Life
Astitva Soni

The Parents' Association Award

For Significant Contributions to the
Extracurricular Life of the School
Cecily D'Amore

The Stevenson Award

For Highest Academic Achievement in the Class
Astitva Soni

The Upper School Head's Award

For Personal Growth, Dedication and Generosity
Of Spirit in Service to the School Community
Anisa Ahmed

The Headmaster's Cup

For Demonstrating Leadership and Dedication
To the Life of the School
Cameron Cabrera

The Hartridge Class of 1953 Prize

For Excellence in the Study of English
Anisa Ahmed

The Hawley-Katrusky Mathematics Prize

For Interest and Excellence in Mathematics
Dennis Zhao

The Elaine W. Bart Science Award

For Outstanding Performance in Science
Astitva Soni

The Mary B. Wells Prize

For Accomplishment and Excellence
In the Study of History
Abdur Sajid

The Ethel Cook Classics Prize

For Excellence and Interest in Classics
Astitva Soni

The Gabriel Garcia Márquez Award

For Excellence in the Study of the
Spanish Language
Anisa Ahmed
Akash Dalal

The Juliette Escoffier Award

For Progress, Effort and Interest
In the Study of the French Language
Nathaniel Nyema

The Confucius Award

For Excellence
In the Study of Chinese Language And Culture
Salman Mansuri

The Arthur Swenson, III Memorial Prize

For Outstanding Achievement
And Interest In Economics
Max Needle

The Wigton Cup

To the Most Outstanding Female Athlete
Lacey Gress

The Chambliss Trophy

To the Most Outstanding Male Athlete
Diogo Ferreira

The Robert B. Vietor Award

For Outstanding Commitment, Dedication
And Loyalty to the Athletic Program
Brendan O'Brien

The Wardlaw-Hartridge Scholar-Athlete Award

For Excellence in Athletics and Academics
Cameron Cabrera
Cecily D'Amore

The Charles H. Detwiller, Jr. Award

For Involvement and Achievement in the Arts
Eddy Zou

The Elizabeth O. Horne Award

For Excellence in the Dramatic Arts
Antonia Santangelo

The John Philip Sousa Band Award

For Interest, Achievement
And Leadership in the Band
Cecily D'Amore

The Louis Armstrong Jazz Award

For Interest, Achievement
And Leadership in Jazz Band
Akash Dalal

The National School Choral Award

For Interest, Achievement and Contributions
To the Vocal Music Program
Makena Mugambi

The Orpheus Prize for Music

For Performance Excellence and Service
To the School in Music
Zhonghao "Dennis" Zhou

The Patricia West Art Prize

For Excellence and Pleasure in Art
Ethan Ye

The Lewis B. Timberlake Award

For Contributions to Publications
Charlotte Sweeney

The Photography Award

For Skill, Creativity and Productivity
In the Photographic Arts
Ramsay Qiao



Middle School Stepping Up



Lower School Moving Up

W-H Students Enjoy Spanish Exchange

By Rudy Brandl '83

A group of 25 Wardlaw-Hartridge students and four chaperones enjoyed a wonderful 10-day trip to Spain during Spring Break.

The W-H students stayed with host families, attended classes at Colegio Altair in Madrid and bonded with their new Spanish friends. They also took the opportunity to enjoy sightseeing in places such as Cordoba, Sevilla, Granada, Toledo and Madrid. They visited a beautiful castle in Segovia, walked through a walled city in Avila and enjoyed a fabulous tour of Real Madrid Stadium. Some of the host families took their homestay students to a soccer match.

“Amazing, that’s the simplest way to describe the trip. There’s way too much to experience,” senior Akash Dalal '16 said.

The group also visited a few museums, including Reina Sofia and Museo de Prado, two art museums in Madrid. The students learned about the art in these museums during classes at the school in Altair.

“I think being engaged with all the different people every day made the trip even more fun and not only got me closer to the Spaniards but also to the other (W-H) students on the trip I didn’t know as well,” senior Alex Garces '16 said.

“During our time in Spain we all made new friends. These friendships have grown even stronger as we opened our homes to our guests from Madrid,” said Mrs. Rhona Eserner, the trip leader and Director of Global Learning. “Why do we encourage student travel? We want our students to see other places in the world and experience cultures different from our own. Travel can be a little scary, but once students figure out that they can connect with people despite differences, and they learn to navigate in new environments, students grow and become smarter, more competent individuals.”

Students from the school in Altair, Spain returned to the U.S. with the W-H students. Their visit included two trips to New York City, a three-day excursion to Washington D.C.

and two days attending classes with W-H students. The Spanish students appreciated some notable differences in the education system.

“Students participate more in class here,” said Cristina De La Guardia of Madrid, who stayed with Neha Chhabra and her family in Edison. “In Spain, we are always listening to the teacher. Here the students can give their opinion and talk about the assignment.”

On the final day of their stay, the visitors took classes in Taekwondo and yoga. They all loved their home stay experiences and many shared that they will miss their new friends.

“The family was so nice and they gave me everything I needed,” said Manuela Jimenez of Madrid, who lived with Sonali Shah and her family in Edison. “It was a great experience.”



Brendan O'Brien '16 *Runs for Worthy Cause*

By Rudy Brandl '83



Brendan O'Brien '16 hugs his parents, Cliff and Linda '81, as students cheer before his 15-mile run. Inset: Brendan makes his way over the Victory Bridge into Sayreville.

Brendan O'Brien '16 wasn't going to be satisfied with making a presentation for his Capstone project. The W-H senior was determined to make an impact and go that extra mile for his cause. He wound up running 15 miles.

Brendan completed a 15-mile run in support of mistreated military veterans during a steady rain on Feb. 23. With hundreds of supporters at school and at various points during his route, Brendan completed the Raise the Flag Run in just over two hours. Brendan was accompanied by as many as eight police escorts, including three vehicles that remained with him throughout the entire run.

Brendan received handshakes and best wishes from Edison Township Mayor Tom Lankey and Andrew Webster, Head of School, before departing from W-H on his run. Students cheered and waved American flags as Brendan embarked on his 15-mile journey through Edison, Woodbridge and into his home town of Sayreville.

"It was smooth sailing for a while but once I got into Sayreville, it hit me and I started to get real sore," Brendan said. "I had to keep going. It ran chills down my spine when people were cheering. This is a great thing and I'm so happy I did it."

Brendan continues to raise money for the Doylestown, Pa.-based Travis Manion Foundation. The

organization's mantra is "If not me, then who?" - words spoken by Manion, a first lieutenant with the Marine Corps, who was killed on April 29, 2007 in the Al Anbar province of Iraq when ambushed while searching a suspected insurgent house.

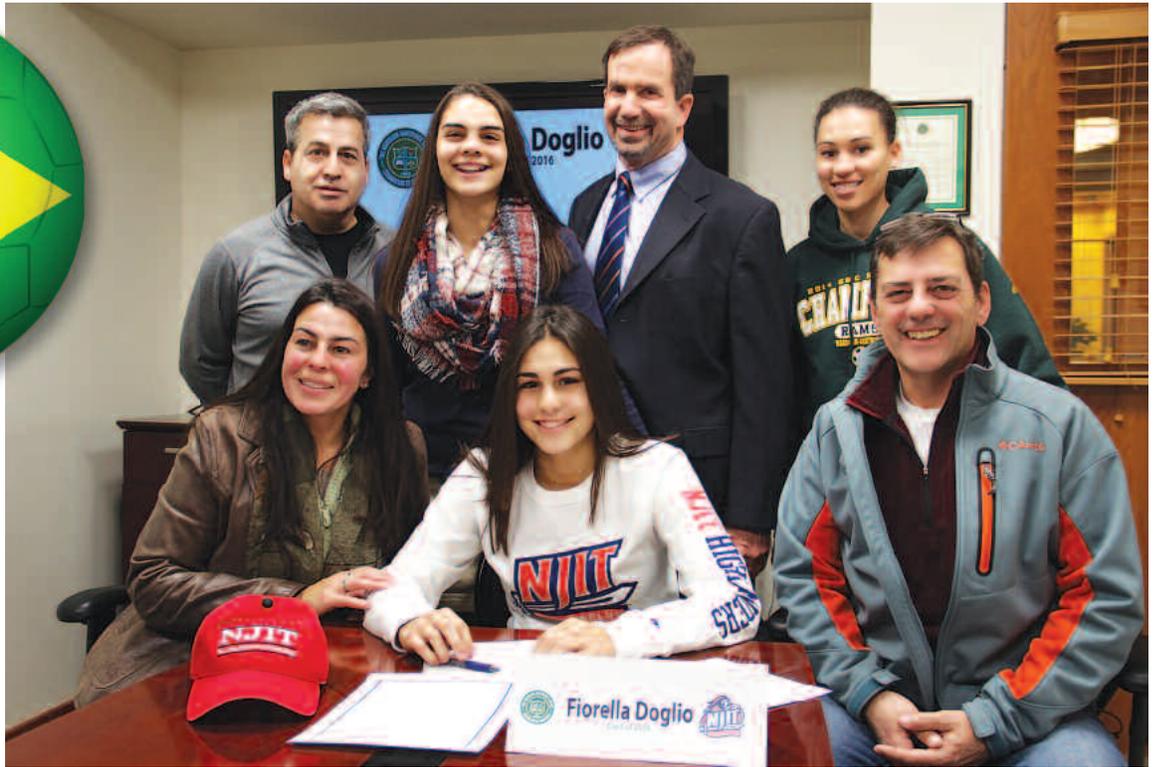
"I really wanted to raise awareness," Brendan said. "Kids are aware of so many social issues in our society but the mistreatment of veterans isn't one of them. It's easy to forget about them when they come home. I'm appalled at the extent of how badly they are mistreated and forgotten about."

Two months after his run, Brendan delivered an impressive Capstone presentation to his peers, faculty members, parents and friends in the Oakwood Room.

"The Capstone program allows students to dive deeply into topics and undertake personal action related to the topic they are studying," said Andrew Webster, Head of School. "Brendan identified a strong personal interest in the way our nation has failed to serve its veterans and he took personal action which was very meaningful."

Brendan received media attention from newspapers, websites and the Edison local television station. He was featured as the Travis Manion Foundation's "Character in Action" spotlight in March.

W-H Athletes Set to



Fiorella Doglio signs her National Letter of Intent as her parents, Silvia and Marcos (seated), W-H head coach Mike Romeo, her sister Antonella Doglio, W-H athletic director Karl Miran and assistant coach Kristen Edmonds (from left to right standing) look on.

Fiorella Doglio '16 signed her National Letter of Intent and accepted a partial athletic scholarship to play soccer at New Jersey Institute of Technology on February 18.

She was joined at a signing ceremony in the Admission Conference Room by her parents, Silvia and Marcos, W-H head coach Mike Romeo, her sister Antonella Doglio '19, W-H athletic director Karl Miran and assistant coach Kristen Edmonds.

"It's been a dream my whole life to play soccer in college," Fiorella said. "It's a dream come true."

Fiorella will join former W-H teammate Neema Liverpool at NJIT in the fall. Fiorella was looking for a school near home with a solid business program and competitive

Division 1 soccer team. She found the best of all worlds at NJIT and expects to fit in right away at her usual center attacking midfield position.

"She's ready," W-H head coach Mike Romeo said. "She has the technical and physical levels on par with Division 1 players. Nobody competes harder than Fi."

Fiorella controlled the midfield and sparked the Rams with 13 goals and 11 assists in her senior year. The combination of speed and skill makes Fiorella a dangerous presence for opposing teams to defend. She's ready to step up her game to a higher level at NJIT.

"I'm very good at creating plays, attacking and looking for other players," Fiorella said. "I know I have to improve physically and get stronger and more fit. The speed of

the game (in college) is faster and I need to work on my footwork and vision to compete for a position on the team."

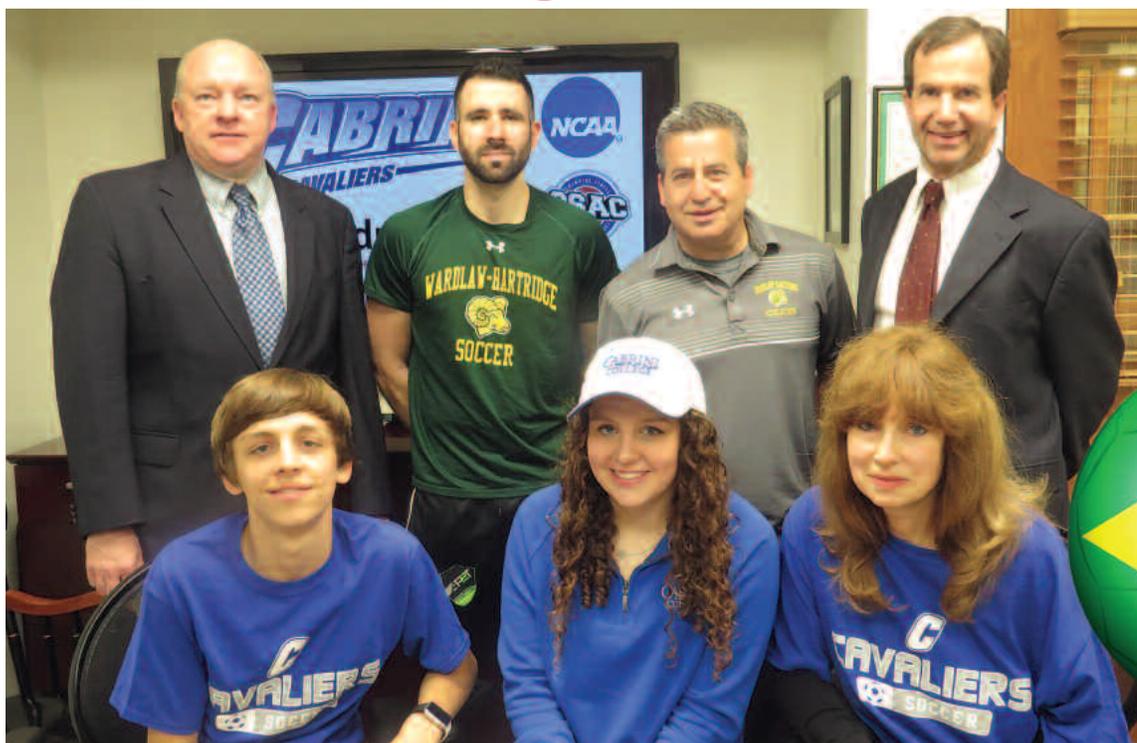
While she's a confident athlete, Fiorella is very humble about her success. She credited W-H with providing the academic preparation to help her thrive at NJIT and thanked her parents for the many sacrifices they have made.

"My parents are a big factor in everything I've done," Fiorella said. "They've always given me the best opportunities. They never complained about taking me to soccer tournaments that are eight hours away."

"The journey started 17 years ago when she was born," Marcos Doglio said. "We saw that she was a fighter and we're very proud. Fiorella is special."

Play College Soccer

By Rudy Brandl '83



Alexandra Garces is joined by her brother Ricardo and mother Nancy Ballek-Garces (sitting), Head of School Andy Webster, W-H coaches Mike Olim and Mike Romeo and Athletic Director Karl Miran.

Alexandra Garces has been playing soccer her entire life. She's always dreamed of the opportunity to play at the college level and she officially secured that goal in April by signing a letter of intent to play at Cabrini College in Radnor, PA.

Alex graduated as the leading scorer in W-H history with 62 goals and 38 assists. Many of her goals came in pressure situations when the Rams needed a lift. While Alex delivered several big shots with her powerful right leg, she also became a more complete player who saw the field and set up scoring chances for her teammates. She's determined to achieve similar success for the Cavaliers and plans to make an impact right away.

"I'm going to go in and fight for playing time as a freshman," Alex said. "They're losing one of their all-time leading scorers and I'm looking forward to getting out there. I hope to make a positive impact on the team."

Alex was joined at the signing ceremony at W-H by her mom, Nancy Ballek-Garces, brother, Ricardo Garces '20, W-H soccer coaches Mike Romeo and Mike Olim, Head of School Andrew Webster and Athletic Director Karl Miran.

It was an emotional day for Alex, who would have loved to share another special soccer moment with her father Rick, who passed away suddenly in March. Rick, a fixture on the sidelines taking pictures and videos, was his daughter's biggest fan.

"I'm very happy that I get to continue our thing," Alex said. "It's always been our thing."

Alex had to overcome injuries in the fall and grief in the spring but confidently looks forward to the next stage of her life.

"I'm very happy to find a small school like W-H that fits my soccer life and my academic life," said Alex, who hasn't decided on an undergraduate major but plans to go

to law school. "I felt the same sense of community there that we have here at W-H. Everyone there had a smiling face."

Alex is grateful for the wonderful academic and athletic preparation she received at Wardlaw-Hartridge. She will miss her teammates, classmates, teachers and coaches.

"Wardlaw-Hartridge taught me never to give up. Everyone pushed me through and supported me," Alex said. "Their constant support kept me going."

Alex's toughness and grit certainly haven't gone unnoticed. Her evolution and maturity as a player have impressed her coaches, who will miss her leadership.

"She was an extraordinary leader for us," Coach Romeo said. "She played through injuries and never missed a game. Watching her transformation into a leader has been one of the most gratifying moments of my coaching career."

Booster Club

Winter Games

The W-H community enjoyed the second annual Winter Games on Jan. 8. Although the four Upper School athletic teams fell short in their contests, there was plenty of excitement in Laidlaw Gym, Plumeri Gym and the Raymonds Aquatic Center. The varsity swim team posted a series of personal records in a tough loss to powerhouse Metuchen and the boys' varsity basketball team dropped a tough 44-40 decision to East Brunswick Vo-Tech. The Booster Club sold refreshments and W-H apparel and gear to the many fans in attendance.

The afternoon began with a pep rally, which included performances by the Middle and Upper School cheerleading teams and several faculty and student games. The varsity winter sports captains addressed their peers and championship banners were unveiled for the 2015 boys' tennis team and 2014 softball team.



Andrew Webster, Head of School, looks to shoot over Brian Machoka '15.



Members of the W-H Alumni Team (in green) and Booster Club/Coaches Team (in white) gather for a pre-game photo.



Max Hernandez-Webster '13 looks to make a pass to his brother Julian '15.



Justen Davis '13 dribbles up the court to begin a fast break.

Young alumni returned to their alma mater to participate in an Alumni vs. Boosters and Coaches basketball game in the evening. The alumni, coached by Rudy Brandl '83, Director of Alumni Relations, stormed back from an 18-point deficit but fell short by a 53-48 score. The victors were a team of coaches, staff and Booster Club members, who were coached by Karl Miran, Athletic Director.

Participants in the game included alumni Justen Davis '13, Jordan Del Sol '12, Julian Hernandez-Webster '15, Max Hernandez-Webster '13, TC Weber '15, John Pohopin '15, Ishmael Menns '14, Brian Machoka '15, Jvalant Desai '12, Liban Ahmed '12, Chase Levitt '14 and Drew Quarles '14. Mike Clay '08 played for the Boosters and Coaches team, which also included Head of School Andrew Webster and staff members Ryan Oliveira, Elizabeth Martin, Jamal Burden and Brendan Wagner.



Parents' Association *Spring Gala*

Parents, faculty and staff members and friends enjoyed *A Night on Broadway* at the annual Wardlaw-Hartridge Parents' Association Spring Gala on April 9 at The Westwood in Garwood.

Many guests embraced the Broadway theme and enjoyed a night out with the W-H community. The evening included the traditional live and silent auctions, mystery wine pull, 50/50 raffle and mystery box raffle. Mobile bidding gave the silent auction an interesting new twist. Proceeds from the event supported the new Performing Arts Center.

Thank you to Kevin Kornecki, Tammy D'Amore and all of the WHPA volunteers for another outstanding event.



Andrew Webster, Head of School, with his wife, Aurea Hernandez-Webster.



Parents' Association Spring Gala Committee volunteers



Theatrical masks adorn the table at the gala.



Tammy D'Amore and Kevin Kornecki draw the winning ticket for the Mega 50/50 Raffle.



Lopa Shah, with Yesenia Montague, was thrilled to win a guitar autographed by Bruce Springsteen.



WHPA members performed a Broadway dance to A Chorus Line at the gala.



Dave and Michelle Russell dressed up and enjoyed their first gala as new parents.

Young Alumni

Provide College Advice to Students By Rudy Brandl '83



Six recent graduates from The Wardlaw-Hartridge School participated in a panel discussion and answered questions about the college process and their transition from high school at Young Alumni College Day on Jan. 5. The program was designed to help juniors and seniors learn more from their peers about the next step on their educational journey.

This year's panel consisted of, from left in photo above: Julia Linger '15, a freshman at Emerson College; Julian Hernandez-Webster '15, a freshman at Bucknell University; Brian Machoka '15, a freshman at Penn State University; John Pohopin '15, a freshman at St. John's University; Divya Mehta '14, a sophomore at Princeton University; and Michael Olano '14, a sophomore at the University of Richmond.

Topics included time management, scheduling college classes, changing majors, different class sizes and

dorm life. All of the W-H alumni panelists agreed that their high school prepared them well for college, especially in the realm of time management. W-H students are required to juggle challenging academic workloads with athletics and multiple extracurricular activities, a routine which serves as wonderful preparation for college.

"Wardlaw-Hartridge gives you so many opportunities to do things that it forces you to manage your time," Michael Olano said. "We have to budget our time. At W-H, I learned really good study and time management skills."

Writing is another area in which the recent graduates agreed W-H provided outstanding preparation for college and beyond.

"A lot of my friends from public schools weren't as well prepared for writing research papers and essays," Aditya Dalal said. "Wardlaw-

Hartridge forced you to think a lot deeper about topics and write really comprehensive papers."

Many students also have benefited from the interdisciplinary Capstone course. This program provides senior students with the resources, framework, and instruction necessary to demonstrate long-term, integrated academic achievement.

"Capstone made my (college) writing classes a lot easier," Neema Liverpool said. "W-H really prepares you in writing. Taking Capstone was beneficial to me. It helped me understand the research process and my sources. It also broke down the process of how to write and not be repetitive."

Forty young alumni attended the pizza party, which followed the panel discussion in the Oakwood Room. Recent graduates reconnected with their W-H teachers and friends while enjoying pizza, soft drinks and dessert.



Class Notes

Kemmer Anderson '63



Kemmer Anderson '63 and his wife Martha visited Jerusalem last October. Kemmer Anderson's poetry books are available at Amazon: *Wing Shadows Over Walden Ridge* and *Songs of Bethlehem: Nativity Poems*.

Ted Snowdon '65



Ted Snowdon '65 and Duffy Violante were married on June 13, 2015 at Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz, NY. The officiate was their friend Evan Wolfson, the father of the gay-marriage movement, whose networking organization Freedom To Marry brought all the forces together for a positive verdict from the Supreme Court two weeks after Ted and Duffy's wedding ceremony.

James Broccoletti '70, who earned a BA from American University in 1975 and his J.D. from The College of William and Mary in 1978, has been appointed to the practitioners Advisory Group for the United States Sentencing Commission, which is responsible for formulating the U.S. sentencing guidelines to be used in all federal court criminal sentencing throughout the country. In addition, he is currently the Criminal Justice Act's panel representative for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, helping to ensure proper delivery of legal services to indigent defendants in federal court. James is the former chair of the Criminal Law section of the Virginia State Bar and former chair of the Ethics Committee for the Virginia State Bar.



Brian Flynn '83, pictured above, was named the seventh head boys' basketball coach of South Fork High in Palm Beach, FL.

"He is a high character-integrity guy, extremely hard worker, has a high basketball IQ and is very well respected by our players, parents, at South Fork as a teacher and in the basketball community," South Fork athletic director Tim Tharp said.

"It all starts with defense," said Flynn, who teaches American Government at the school. "You have to be able to stop the ball, you've got to be able to rebound and in addition to defense, we're going to run. So it's going to be pressure defense, get the ball out and go."

Flynn played point guard for W-H in the 1980s. He captained a Prep B state championship team in 1983 and played in two other state finals. He also started on the varsity soccer and baseball teams during his W-H athletic career.

Class Notes

1980s Coaches Reunite



The coaching staff of the W-H boys' basketball team from the 1980s still keeps in touch. Pictured, from left, during a recent reunion in Florida: Link Keur, Ray Kovonuk and Tom Wuest. Kovonuk was the head coach with Keur and Wuest as his assistants when the Rams won the State Prep B title in 1983.



Mara Capps '02 and her husband Brandon Capps are proud to introduce their first child, Russell Patrick Capps, who was born January 6, 2016 at 10:07 a.m. He was 8 pounds, 7 ounces and 21 inches at birth and has a very excited grandmother in Upper School art teacher Gale Goldman!



Greg Lamparello '10 / Katina Alamo '11
Congratulations to Katina Alamo '11 and Greg Lamparello '10, who became engaged in January at Disney World. They will be going back to Disney for their wedding, a small intimate event, on October 23.

John Gilman '12 was honored at Ringling College of Art and Design during its annual awards ceremony. John's feasibility study for one of his business courses was nominated by a professor as Best Business Project, and he won the top award. In addition, the President of the College selected one of John's photographs as Best in the Photography Department.

Micaela Lyons '12 led the Ursinus College Women's Swim Team to its third straight Centennial Conference championship. She capped her incredible Ursinus career with personal best times in the 50 free (24.31), 100 free (52.60) and 100 backstroke (1:00.16). She won gold in the 100 free and silver in the 50 free. She was also a part of the conference record-breaking 200 free relay, in which her split of 23.52 was the fastest in school history. She also won gold as a part of the conference record-breaking 200 medley relay team (1:46.10) and the 400 free relay team (3:31.55). Micaela was named Academic All-Centennial for the third consecutive year and selected by the College Swimming Coaches Association of America as a Scholar All-American in the final three years of her collegiate career.

Shruti Nadkarni '12 graduated a semester early in January 2016 from Kean University's New Jersey Center for Science, Technology and Mathematics with a 4.0 GPA (Summa Cum Laude) and is the valedictorian for the Class of 2016.

While at W-H, Shruti founded a tobacco-free education program called Tar Wars with a Twist in collaboration with the American Academy of Family Physicians and coordinated locally by the New Jersey Academy of Family Physicians, where she has taught over a thousand local school children the positive aspects of being tobacco-free. She continued with this program at college and was an invited guest speaker for the Tar Wars national conference in Washington, D.C. where she discussed this innovative program with eager Tar Wars coordinators from different states. At this conference she received the esteemed "Tar Wars Star Award." She also presented this program internationally, in India, to combat the smoking epidemic.

While maintaining a high GPA, Shruti also played for the Kean University Women's Tennis Team, where she was the only player last season to secure an NJAC nomination. Shruti will be continuing her education by attending medical school this fall.



Alex Barbet '14 is a physics major with a minor in Computer Science at Duke University. He also plans on getting a Certificate in AMI, Art of the Moving Image. He has been a member of the Duke Rhythm and Blue A Cappella Choir since the start of freshman year, continuing his love of music. He also competes on snowboard for the Duke Ski and Snowboard Team,

which came in first in the USCSA Southeast Division last year.

“College is an entirely different experience from high school. It’s important to understand that doing well in college is a lot like building a house: you’re going to need a strong foundation if you ever want to withstand the rain, wind, and whatever else life throws at you. Wardlaw-Hartridge has been that foundation in every way, propelling its students far ahead of the academic curve, fostering their independence, encouraging them to push their limits and providing them with the skills to survive the hurricane that life can often become in college. Wardlaw-Hartridge has been the driving force behind my success today, and for that, I am forever grateful,” Alex said.



Nick D'Amore '15, a freshman at Gettysburg College, was a double-winner at second doubles and fourth

singles in leading his team past Muhlenberg College 6-3 in Centennial Conference men's tennis action on April 2. D'Amore and sophomore Christian Deschappelles won 8-6 at second doubles to give the Bullets the lead going into singles play. D'Amore won his singles match 6-2, 6-2 to help clinch the team victory.

Surprise Visit!



Les “Doc Rud” Rudnyanszky, former W-H history teacher, returned to visit old friends and colleagues in May. Pictured, from left: David Berry, Jim Howard, Leaford Thompson, Bob Gould, Rudy Brandl '83, Doc Rud, Gerard Gonnella '89 and Emilie Marvosa '85.

Update your contact information and share your news with us! E-mail rbrandl@whschool.org or visit whschool.org/connect

Happy Reunion



Vail-Deane alumnae and friends enjoyed a gathering at LouCas Restaurant in Edison in February. Pictured, clockwise from left: Sue MacWhinney Ciufo, Anne Nebel Bergeron, Barbara Leboff, former VDS teacher and current W-H art instructor Gale Goldman, Robin Bogard Mower, Gerda Godley, Tara Floyd DiMizio and Nancy Goering.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth Laggren, Vail-Deane Teacher & Administrator



Elizabeth ‘Betty’ Forrester Barton Laggren, 94, of Union, NJ, passed away quietly at her home on March 8, 2016. Family, friends and many Vail-Deane alumni gathered to celebrate her life in an uplifting service at August F. Schmidt Memorial Funeral Home in Elizabeth on March 15.

Betty was a member of the Third Westminster Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth, which was also where she married her lifelong love, Carl John Laggren, 71 years ago. He will miss her dearly. She was the loving mother of two boys, Douglas John Laggren, who resides in California with his wife, Ann, and Lawrence Laggren (deceased). She boasts three grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and one great-great-grandchild.

Betty attended The Vail-Deane School in Elizabeth and went on to earn her teaching degree from Centenary College in New Jersey and Hunter College in New York City. Her teaching career spanned decades back at her beloved Vail-Deane, where she later became the headmistress of the Lower School. Betty remained an active board member for many years, as well as leading the Alumni Association.

Elizabeth and her husband, Carl, were active in the Union County Boys and Girls Club and spearheaded the “Senior Net” program, which introduced people over 50 to computers. Their lifelong giving and community service was reflected in the “Most Outstanding Stewardship Award” presented to them in 2004. Elizabeth remained active in her interests well into her 80s, enjoying social events with her friends and extended family members. Her heart and thoughts were never far from the family farm property, established in the 1800s, located in Dryden, NY, which she and her husband shared along with her brothers. Betty had a keen interest and pride in the family history and worked diligently to maintain it along with family traditions.



Eleanor Elmendorf, Hartridge & W-H Teacher

By Betsy Cayer

Eleanor Tashjian Elmendorf, a biology teacher at The Hartridge School and general science teacher at the newly merged Wardlaw-Hartridge (1969-1977), died April 18, 2016 at the age of 92. Elly was born to immigrant Armenian parents and grew up with five sisters and a brother in Newton, MA. A Radcliffe College graduate in 1945, Elly went on to work as a research scientist at Merck & Co. in Rahway, NJ, where she met her husband, Bill, and saw some of her research published in the journal *Science*. The Elmendorfs had three sons and one daughter and lived in Westfield for over 50 years. After leaving Wardlaw Hartridge, Elly worked at Overlook Hospital. She and Bill moved to Medford Leas, a retirement community in Medford, NJ in 2003. Elly’s husband predeceased her. She leaves her four children, seven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Elly was an excellent teacher; she enjoyed the students and cared about each individual’s progress. She was an outstanding colleague, a steady influence with a positive and cheerful nature and broad interests. On the Hartridge trip to Greece in 1972, she was a great traveling companion, fascinated by the geography and the vegetation, a sturdy walker, always congenial, and someone with whom people enjoyed spending time.

Her children testify to her traveling skills. When the children were young, the whole family drove in a camper cross country stopping at national parks in eight western states. Another summer the entire family camped for two weeks in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Her daughter says that Elly and Bill “instilled in the children a lifelong passion for adventure, the great outdoors, and an appreciation for our public lands.” At Medford Leas, Elly was involved in many activities and was an especially active gardener, developing a prize-winning bearded iris, and a true nature lover who enjoyed walking the local trails. Her daughter writes that indoors Elly and Bill were “fierce competitors” at bridge.

Elly’s many interests, her joy in what life had to offer, her love of nature and science, her commitment and devotion to students and to the school, made her a teacher who was a great role model for students, girls and boys alike, and ensure her legacy.

We Remember Rick Garcés *By Linda Harrison O'Brien '81*

It would be quite difficult, impossible really, to imagine anyone not smiling at the mention of the name Rick Garcés.

Rick, husband to Nancy and father to Alex '16 and Ricardo '20, died on March 29 at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick with his family by his side. He was 51.

To say that he was an enthusiastic supporter of his children's athletic pursuits and W-H sports would be a gross understatement.

A longtime member of the Booster Club, he was serving a term as president at the time of his death. His commitment to the organization was full-time; he had boundless energy and his dedication to the club went unmatched.

For Rick, serving as president meant not only leading the monthly meetings and directing the group's agenda, but getting his hands dirty doing the mundane. He was the first to sign up for tasks such as purchasing food for the Booster's seasonal functions or cleaning the club's storage garage.

"Rick was a great leader to the Booster Club, his devotion to the club was demonstrated at every event; he never missed any occasion, whether it was grilling at Fall Fair or organizing games at the Winter Games, he was always there," said Booster Club past treasurer Virginia Cabrera. "His laughter was contagious, his enthusiasm like no other and his commitment to the Wardlaw-Hartridge community was firm and consistent," she added.

Booster Club past president Steve Needle reflected on Rick's "infectious enthusiasm and passion for the school, the sports department and for the coaches." He said, "Rick would do anything and go anywhere to help (his children) in their respective sports."

Rick had an energy that passed to those who sat with him at Booster Club meetings and those who stood next to him at sporting events.

W-H girls' varsity soccer head coach and health and physical education teacher Mike Romeo said, "Rick epitomizes all the

qualities of what youth sports parenting should be about. But that's not to say that Rick just sat in his lawn chair and shouted 'great job girls!' I don't often notice what the parents are up to during the game, but I always knew when Rick was there because one second I'd see him engaging in friendly conversation and one second later, I'd hear him making sure all of our girls were ready for the next play. Then, I'd see him chasing the ball that went down the hill.



"This would all happen while seeing much of the game through a camera lens - getting video, not only for Alex, but for any player. In fact, he would share the videos with everyone through a postgame email. It was something I greatly appreciated from him. His enthusiasm was second to none. His commitment to serve our teams in any way he could was inspiring. No job was too big or too small for Rick. If it helped our teams - he would just do it - no questions asked."

Rick's gentle nature and ability to laugh put everyone around him at ease. And, although he was serious about sports - soccer, in particular - he never lost sight of what was truly important in his life.

"Rick cared so much about the experience for Alex and Ricardo, but he never took it too seriously. It was always about fun and enjoying the process," Coach Romeo said.

Athletic director Karl Miran added, "Rick was a great guy to speak with, whether it was on the sideline of a game where he was clearly invested in the outcome, or in some quiet moment. Rick was smart and had interesting stories to tell, but his greatest strength was his awareness that he was only a part of the world. He was always more interested in the other folks in the

room than he was in himself, which of course made him a man that everyone wanted to hang out with."

Miran noted that Rick's impact on the school will be long lasting. "The gift of the Booster Club Fields, like so much of what the Boosters did the past few years, was initiated by our president, Mr. Rick Garcés, who did so much to make it enjoyable for the Boosters to do their work."

Rick, who lived with his family in North Brunswick, worked with his brother at Garcés, Grabler and LeBrocq, PC, in New Brunswick.

In addition to his wife and children, Rick is survived by his mother, Xeomara "Chomy" Fernandez Garcés of Pennington; his brothers and sisters-in-law, William and Elaine Garcés of Oldwick; Leonard and Jeanine Garcés of Hillsborough; and his sister, Rebecca Garcés of Mercerville. He was son of the late Temistocles "Tom" R. Garcés.

In Memoriam

Family and Friends

John T. Yates, grandparent of Steven '14, Lauren '16 and Hannah '18 and father-in-law of Jan Yates, W-H Registrar, died Sept. 26, 2015.

Maurice Levy, grandparent of Peter Minnium Jr. '11, George Minnium '14 and Judy Minnium '20, died Nov. 22, 2015.

Errol Warner, alumni parent of Camille '85, Derek '88 and Leslie '90, died Dec. 27, 2015.

Ruth Hale, alumni parent of Robert '68 and Scott '75 and Greg '77, died Dec. 28, 2015.

Ricardo Garcés, parent of Alexandra '16 and Ricardo '20, died March 29, 2016.

Alumni/ae

Dorothea Waring H '36 died June 9, 2015.

Anne W. Finch H '48 died Oct. 6, 2015.

Margaret B. Cloud H '53 died Oct. 26, 2015.

Elizabeth Laggren, Emeritus Trustee and VDS '40, died March 9, 2016.

Carl H. Tiedemann W '45 died April 30, 2016.

James H. Pelton W '53 died May 10, 2016.

The Wardlaw-Hartridge School

Annual Report

2015-2016

Dear Wardlaw-Hartridge Community,

I'm pleased to introduce the Annual Report as part of the *Oak and Ivy* magazine this year. This report honors our donors who made contributions to The Wardlaw-Hartridge School either in the form of direct monetary gifts to the school or in donated goods or services during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

We are thankful for every gift that we receive and appreciate our donors who play a critical role in meeting the financial need that tuition alone does not cover. I extend my sincere and special thanks to the many donors who supported the *Imagine* capital campaign. Your generosity has made the new performing arts center a reality.

Thanks again!



William K. Jenkins
Assistant Head for Institutional Advancement



Thanks to our generous donors, we continue to grow!

Breakdown of 2015-2016 Contributions to The Wardlaw-Hartridge School

Annual Giving Summary

The success of our Annual Fund is a true reflection of our donors' belief in our school, its mission and our students. We are grateful for all contributions supporting our school. These gifts ensure that The Wardlaw-Hartridge School will continue to provide its students with an outstanding educational experience.

Summary of Contributions

Restricted Gifts	\$1,033,155.30
Annual Campaign	297,638.92
Booster Club Activities Support	29,434.51
Endowment	20,475.00
W-H Parents' Association Mini-Grants*	14,717.46
TOTAL GIFTS	\$1,395,421.19

*does not include contributions to Capital, Annual, Restricted or Endowment funds

Annual Fund Gifts by Constituent

Current Parents	\$72,384.05	24%
Foundations	53,166.00	18%
Board of Trustees	51,189.36	17%
Alumni	50,271.48	17%
Parents' Association	18,000.00	6%
Emeritus Trustees	15,450.00	5%
Faculty/Staff	12,573.36	4%
Corporations	10,104.80	4%
Past Parents	9,453.18	3%
Former Faculty/Friends	3,321.69	1%
Grandparents	1,725.00	1%
	\$297,638.92	100%

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association supports various activities at our school: hosting events for the school community and students, enhancing school life, supporting curriculum and programs, as well as faculty professional development. In addition, the Association provides annual support to its own Endowment Fund and Mini-Grant program to benefit all three divisions of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School.

Annual Fund Gifts:

Faculty Professional Development	\$13,000.00
Unrestricted	5,000.00

Total Annual Fund **\$18,000.00**

Grants & Endowment:

Mini-Grants:

Upper School: Graphic & Scientific calculators	\$2,760.00
Upper School: Model UN Club	2,500.00
Upper School: Senior Awards Dinner	2,000.00
Upper School: Professional Development	1,350.00
Middle School: Girls on Track	1,000.00
Lower School: Girls on the Run	1,000.00
Lower School: Dance to Learn	850.00
Lower School: Seesaw Learning Journal	735.00
Lower School: Art Supplies	634.94
Lower School: Garden area supplies	527.52
Upper School: Reading Lounge	460.00
Lower School: iEarn 12 month membership	400.00
Lower School: Digital Board/TV	200.00
Middle School: Classroom Books	200.00
Lower School: Reach the World Online	100.00

Total Mini-Grants **\$14,717.46**

W-H Parents' Association Endowment Fund **\$4,000.00**

Restricted Gift: Imagine Campaign - PAC **\$50,000.00**

Total Parents' Association Gifts **\$86,717.46**

Booster Club

The Booster Club supports the athletic program of The Wardlaw-Hartridge School and sponsors several school-wide events. In 2015-2016, the Booster Club made a generous pledge of \$100,000 to support the new baseball and softball fields, which will be named Booster Club Fields. This continues the Booster Club's commitment to helping the school provide excellent facilities for its athletes. The Booster Club also supported the following events, programs, equipment needs and improvements:

Pledge Payment – Baseball/Softball Fields	\$20,000.00
Track and Field Record Board	2,875.00
Baseball Team Spring Trip	2,250.00
Senior Banners – Spring Athletes	620.00
Senior Banners – Fall Athletes	580.00
Senior Banners – Winter Athletes	550.00
Athletic Department Signage	500.00
Fall Sports Banner	400.00
Tennis Team Championship Banner	350.00
Softball State Championship Banner	272.12
Matching Funds – Tennis	250.00
Matching Funds – Girls' Soccer	250.00
Parents' Association Gala Ad	250.00
Travis Manion Foundation – Brendan O'Brien Run	250.00
Miscellaneous Gift	37.39

Total Booster Club Contributions **\$29,434.51**

Annual Fund Gifts by Designation

Annual Fund (Unrestricted)	\$223,402.92
Financial Aid	61,086.00
Faculty Professional Development	13,000.00
Athletics	150.00

\$297,638.92

Gifts to Endowment

Financial Aid Endowment Fund	\$12,500.00
W-H Parents' Association Endowment Fund	4,000.00
The Evelyn W. and John E. Madsen Scholarship	1,600.00
Tom Glasser Memorial Fund	1,050.00
Hildegard Hellerson Endowment Fund	850.00
Vail-Deane Scholarship Fund	350.00
Williamson Faculty Professional Development Fund	100.00
Alice Platt Scholarship Fund	25.00

\$20,475.00

Restricted Gifts

Imagine Campaign – Performing Arts	880,839.97
Imagine Campaign – Center for Global Learning	50,000.00
Imagine Campaign – Athletic Fields	45,150.00
Imagine Campaign – Unrestricted	38,031.33
Fine and Performing Arts – Instruments	9,350.00
Imagine Campaign – Middle School STEM Lab	5,055.00
Alumni Awards/Hall of Fame Reception	2,550.00
Technology	2,000.00
iPad Reading Apps	179.00

\$1,033,155.30



ANNUAL FUND DONORS

Diamond Donors - (\$10,000 +)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Berry
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Nader
The Arnold A. Schwartz
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The Plainfield Foundation
The Tyler Foundation
Wardlaw-Hartridge Parents'
Association

Founder's Club - (\$5,000 +)

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Mr. Henry Parker III '44 and
Mrs. Audrey Parker
Mr. Rob Rizzo '89
Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Rogers '81
The Fanwood Foundation

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Mr. Sheldon Streisand
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Ms. Chongying Gong
Mr. Wenji Yin and Ms. Jun Yao

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 The Palisades Educational Foundation, Inc.
 The Plainfield Foundation
 The Tyler Foundation
 The Union Foundation
 Thomas Glasser Foundation

Gifts from Corporations

AJS Acquisitions, LLC
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 Custom Landscape Systems, Inc.
 Encon Mechanical Corporation
 Industrial Land Reclaiming, Inc.
 Mathnasium
 Oliwa and Company
 PGA Tour, Inc.
 Teleco Business Telephone Systems



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 Mr. and Mrs. Nathan A. Yates

Restricted Gifts

Alumni Awards/Athletic Hall of Fame Reception
 Columbia Bank
 Mr. and Mrs. William K. Jenkins
 Mr. Louis R. Rizzo '89

Confucius Classrooms Chinese Program

Asia Society

Fine and Performing Arts - Instruments

Mr. and Mrs. Tony Nader

DONOR RECOGNITION

Imagine Capital Campaign - Gifts and Pledges

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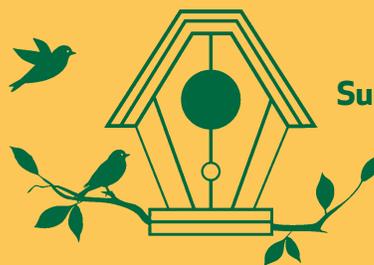
Looking Ahead to 2016 Special Events

W-H Community Welcome!

September 8	134th Convocation Day - First Day of School
September 15	Lower School Back to School Night
September 22	Middle School Back to School Night
September 29	Upper School Back to School Night
October 10-14	Wardlaw-Hartridge Spirit Week
October 14	Fall Fair Pep Rally
October 15	Fall Fair and Homecoming Day
October 15	Alumni Soccer Game
October 15	Alumni Awards Ceremony & Reception
October 31	Lower School Halloween Parade
November 12	Admission Information Session
November 18-20	Fall Play
December 1	Middle School Winter Concert
December 8	Upper School Winter Art Show & Concert
December 16	Lower School Winter Concert

Some dates are tentative.
For event starting times and more information,
please call the school at 908-754-1882
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Oak and Ivy



Summer 2016

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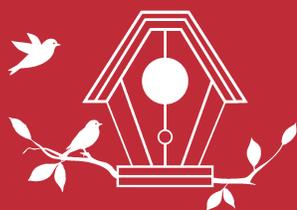
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