Welcome to a 360° view of one of the few remaining true small boarding schools in America.

Set amid the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains, we are proud to share what’s happening on our beautiful 300 acre campus.

If you have comments, letters to the editor, story ideas, and/or updated class notes, please contact us at marketing@asheville-school.org.

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Feature: Learn how two boys met at Asheville School by chance in 1940, lived remarkable professional lives, and remain friends today.
Elevate Your Mind: Our first ever Winterim program launches, providing opportunities to explore an array of interests during the nine-week winter break not offered during the traditional academic program.

Detour: Being from a low-income neighborhood in the Bronx, it wasn’t likely John Volquez ’13 would end up at Asheville School. But detours happen—and John and the School have been the beneficiaries.

Perspectives: A special salute to students from the Class of 2020, who overcame obstacle after obstacle to complete their high school journey in the year that will never be forgotten.

Above & Beyond: Philanthropist Bill Hypes ’42 makes a transformational gift to Asheville School. Read about the Blues Fund and the success of virtual Giving Days.

In Their Element: When long-time faculty members Jay Bonner and Jim Gardner met on a patio in North Asheville for our special Q&A session, no topic was off the table. Check it out.

Mile Markers: Learn where Asheville School grads are now. And enjoy our tribute to those who’ve passed on, including beloved math instructor, coach, and mountaineer, Larry Kollath.
Thank you, Asheville School Family. For everyone who’s gone above and beyond during the year of COVID-19, thank you. Thank you for going the extra mile, for remaining positive, for your flexibility, and most importantly, your steadfast commitment.
Meeting the Moment—
with a Thankful Heart
From numerous wars to the Great Depression and the financial collapse of 2008, Asheville School has met the moment, survived, overcome and, yes, even thrived to become better, stronger, and more united than ever before. Fast forward to spring 2020, and the worldwide health crisis we’ve come to know simply as COVID-19. When the pandemic tightened its grip across the globe, I wrote a letter in late April to our community stating:

"Asheville School can and will reopen in the fall with a full boarding and day program and will endeavor to remain operational all year. We will do it in a way that is both safe and healthy. There will be some areas of school life that we will need to modify to reduce the risk of illness. We will introduce some new traditions that will replace old traditions that present too much risk. What I can promise you is that it will all be in keeping with the fundamental school value of community building. We will be the same Asheville School that has meant so much to so many."

In 1899, Newton Mitchell Anderson took a train trip to destiny—as it’s described in the Asheville School history book (Amid Rugged Mountains)—to find land to build a first-class boarding school in the Southeast. Little did Anderson or partner Charles Andrews Mitchell know then of the many obstacles and challenges that would confront their beloved Asheville School in the decades to come.

This fall, even with most classes outside, masking up has been the norm.
In short, the vow I made was that the School would stand tall, that we would, with unflagging resolve, meet the moment. I write to you today—admittedly weary and certainly a bit humbled—to report that we have, in the face of incredible odds, done just that once again.

In this edition of 360 Views, our new School magazine, you will witness countless stories of Blues meeting the moment. From teachers and students masking up and heading outside to continue learning, to our Black alumni uniting to bring change to their alma mater, to two men whose improbable detours to Asheville started a lifelong bond, to a student who plants flowers simply so she can give them away to brighten other people’s days, this is a good read that will make you feel good—and who couldn’t use some ‘feel good’ right about now?

As I reflect on the last eight months, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. In this season of giving, in these extraordinary times, it seems only fitting to share my thanks here.

Dr. Kellett Letson: You came to us to teach math and landed on the front lines of our COVID-19 response efforts. You never blinked. You’ve kept us safe.

Maintenance & Staff Team Members: Hercules has nothing on you. Thank you for keeping this campus, and all of us, safe and secure.

Class of 2020: Without warning you were robbed of your final act. You persevered with maturity and grace. You made us proud.

Alumni: The outpouring of support and engagement has been overwhelming. Example: this magazine has over 20 pages of class notes!
Parents: You give us everything when you entrust us with the care of your children. We relish that opportunity, and we are in awe of all you do to support us in our work—especially now. Thank you.

Coaches: You motivated student-athletes to compete in shortened seasons with virtually no fan support. You found ways to keep the kids pumped up and happy. No matter the score or record, your efforts have been number one in our book.

Teachers: Boarding school work, even when the seas are calm, takes incredible sacrifice. The long days, the nights, the weekends…the dedication to live our mission—to serve the kids—is incalculable. Add a global pandemic to a job in which you’re already working 24/7 tending to teenagers and a really hard job becomes next to impossible. Wow. You’ve met this moment with poise, grit, resolve, and generosity that humbles me. Thank you. Finally, and most importantly…

Students: Against every instinct and impulse, you have resisted taking the easy road. You’ve masked up, kept your distance, and made sacrifices to keep yourselves, your peers, and your teachers safe. You have met this moment. I’d like to say I am surprised, but truth be told, I’m not. You’ve brought out the best in all of us.

As we look back on one of the most challenging years in our history, and forward to bright days ahead, I can’t help but think that Anderson and Mitchell would have been extraordinarily proud of how we’ve banded together to meet the moment.

Gratefully,

Anthony H. Sgro ’84
Head of School
The magazine has gone through many names, designs, and formats since then. We asked the man in charge of the new magazine, Asheville School Assistant Head of Marketing and Major Gifts Andy Hirt, how the magazine came full circle back to the roots of its original name.

“As we refresh and update the School brand, taking a look at the flagship publication made good sense. We wanted it to be tied to our history,” Andy said. “Since the School’s actual physical address contains the number 360 [360 Asheville School Road], and 360 degrees represents a full circle—or a full ‘view’—we thought 360º Views would be a clever, accurate, ideal name for the magazine and all we hope it accomplishes. That is, to provide a full, 360 degree view of everything happening on campus and to pay homage to alumni, friends, faculty, staff, and students, by telling their stories.”

The School’s idyllic setting in the Blue Ridge Mountains also played a part in the new name, because the campus offers an amazing, inspirational ‘view’ of its natural surroundings and the Pisgah National Forest.

“The magazine is designed to bring those who care about Asheville School up-to-speed,” Andy said. “Our hope is that it inspires those who love the School to reconnect and engage with their classmates and teachers. We hope 360º Views draws our community closer together, and that it makes people feel good—and that they read it and feel immense pride, as they should, in this fantastic School.”

We hope you’re enjoying the look and feel of our new alumni magazine: 360º Views. Interestingly, the School’s very first alumni publication, dated December 1932, was known by a similar name: Asheville School Views. It was a tad smaller—a 12-page, side-stapled newsletter, written by the co-founder of the School himself, Newton Mitchell Anderson.
### The Magazine: A Timeline

- **Asheville School Views** published first in December 1932. An 8–12 page, side-stapled newsletter written by co-founder Newton Mitchell Anderson. Same format until June 1940.

- Anderson died in 1936 and his wife, Elizabeth Close Anderson, and daughter, Elizabeth Arney Anderson, wrote and edited several issues of the magazine. Mrs. B. H. Arbogast (Virginia Lee), the wife of legendary football coach Hop Arbogast, also edited the magazine for a stint.

- After a brief hiatus, the alumni magazine was retitled *Asheville School Alumni Magazine* in December 1940, with a new look, heavier weight cover, and more content (16–24 pages). It was edited by alumni Henry Heedy and Woolsey Hunt Jr. "It is not the love of change for the sake of change alone which prompts the editors to alter with this issue the form and name of the alumni publication," the editors wrote. "We feel that this publication will be more attractive and practical in magazine form; also that the name, *The Asheville School Alumni Magazine*, is more descriptive than was the previous title."

- In March 1946, the size of *The Asheville School Alumni Magazine* was reduced to 8 x 10 inches, it grew in size to 20–32 pages, and it got a new logo and header. Pruden Smith ‘26 held the role of director/public relations from 1947–1950, in charge of the magazine.

- In March 1971, the name and format changed to *Asheville School Achievement*, a side-stapled publication on textured paper, intended to be a less expensive seasonal newsletter, published quarterly and edited by the Alumni Office (Jon Labahn, Mary Bates).

- Bob Searles was hired in summer 1974 and changed the cover for the fall 1974 issue with a new header. Bob left in November and Al Fort was hired as alumni/development director in January 1975. After 1974, the publication is called *Achievement: The Asheville School Alumni Newsletter*. It continued in newsletter format through November 1976.

- Nothing was published in 1977, then the magazine reappeared in fall 1978, titled *The Asheville School Achievement*, overseen by an editorial board and coordinator of publications. The magazine continued with this name and became a twice-yearly publication in 1987 (spring and fall). Donna Lewis (faculty, English) was the editor/head writer.

- The Fall 1990 cover featured color photography for the first time.

- In Fall 1996 the title changed to *Achievement: The Ongoing Record of Accomplishment at The Asheville School*.

- In Spring 1999 the title was reduced to simply *Achievement*.

- In Winter 2001 Elizabeth Bridgers became the editor and The Brite Agency, led by alumna Stephanie Smith ’89, designed the magazine.

- In Winter 2005 the magazine was a whopping 89 color pages, with Bob Williams as the editor; he held that title all the way until 2019.

- In Winter 2020, Assistant Head of Marketing and Major Gifts Andy Hirt and Associate Head of School for Advancement Leigh Ruhl pulled a creative team together to organize, create, write, edit, and design the new *360° Views*, with 96 pages and 140 Class Notes.
Detours are part of life. What we do with them can mean the difference between success and failure. In 1899, Newton Mitchell Anderson and Charles Andrews Mitchell took a detour from Ohio to Virginia—it resulted in the founding of the Asheville School. What’ll you do with your Detour?
While news cameras and television crews portray John Volquez’s ’13 South Bronx neighborhood on Hoe Avenue as “hell on earth,” John, now 25, remembers his close-knit community as one large, loving family of caring individuals who met each other’s needs and had each other’s backs. He’s currently writing a book and screenplay about his old stomping grounds as an Artist-In-Residence at Asheville School.
“My mom was a professional hair stylist. She worked out of a full salon in the back room of our apartment,” John says. “She’s always been like a therapist in the neighborhood, talking to everyone about their problems. Her famous iced tea is known all over the block as ‘Amy’s iced tea.’ She has a bag she ties to a rope that she fills with iced tea or cold water or food, and she lowers it down from our window to feed the streets below. People come by often—they know she’ll take care of them.” (Amy’s chapter in John’s book is aptly entitled, ‘Mother of the Streets.’)

Although John’s dad, Henry, had an accounting degree from the Dominican Republic, he would need more education to work in that field in New York, and the family simply couldn’t afford it. So Henry made a steady living doing manual labor, painting, and odd jobs.

**Ticket to Ride**

John’s worldview, confined mostly to Hoe Avenue, began to expand when he was accepted to De La Salle Academy, a private middle school (grades 6-8) that was on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. The school sought children from low income backgrounds with high potential. “By the time I was in seventh grade, I was at school from 7:20 a.m. to 7 p.m. I was spending half my days at school. That’s when I really began to hone in on academics,” John says.

With most students from De La Salle getting placed at the top day schools in New York and highly selective boarding schools in the northeast, John was a sure candidate for the schools he was pursuing, which included Westtown School in West Chester, Pennsylvania, and The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut.

When then Asheville School Director of Admission Andy Hirt and his wife Ali (then a Spanish teacher at Asheville School) showed up at De La Salle to give a presentation about their boarding school in North Carolina, they had a tough sell to make. Only about a dozen De La Salle students were considering boarding schools, and most of those planned on staying in the northeast.

“Our middle school counselor rounded up as many students as he could, so I went,” John recalls. “I sat in the front row and asked Andy and Ali a ton of questions about the student experience at Asheville School and what kids did for fun. Andy took note of my interest and energy, got my transcript, and offered to fly me down for a visit. So my mom and I flew down. That was a real point of pride for me, to be taking my mom places at that age.”

John is the son of Amy and Henry Volquez, who immigrated to the South Bronx from the Dominican Republic in 1971 and 1987, respectively. They raised John and his two older siblings, Joshua and Nashua, in a cramped third-story apartment on Hoe Avenue, squarely in the middle of some of New York’s most infamous poverty and crime.
Southern Detour

John says the trip to Asheville opened his eyes to the beauty that awaited him beyond the concrete jungle of the South Bronx. On his visit to campus he was promptly nicknamed “The Mayor of Asheville School,” and something began to stir within him. “When I set foot on campus, I immediately felt welcomed. It was one of those moments where I could see myself there for four years,” John says. “They showed they wanted me, specifically, as a person. They did all they could to make sure John Volquez, the individual, was at their school. No other school I visited made it so personal. Boarding school made sense for me because I wanted to focus on academics, and there’s no better place to do that than where you live. Plus, I wanted to see more of the world, so a school in the mountains made sense. When I got back to De La Salle from my visit, my counselor said, ‘They really want you down there, you should apply.’ So, that was the first big detour that landed me at Asheville School.”

John found a feeling of family at Asheville School that he thought could only exist back in the South Bronx. “It’s beautiful to be able to come back to a place like this, alone, knowing you’re going to find your people,” he says. “Asheville School has people from everywhere. You live with them and learn to get along. This place is all about creating community. Some of the best friends I have in the world are from Asheville School.”

While at Asheville School from 2009 to 2013, John served as a residential prefect and proctor, was a tour guide for the admission office, and was head of the game strategy branch on the Robotics Team. He says he appreciated how faculty members invested in students’ lives. “Your advisors and coaches and teachers live on campus and even down the hall from you,” John says. “They’re these people who come into your lives, like Virgil for Dante, and guide you on your own quest to find out who you want to be and how you want to live.”

John honed his love for writing, travel, and even nature at Asheville School. “This beautiful campus reminds me of what the world can and does look like, which is especially important for a city kid. It was a breath of fresh air to get out of New York where the buildings are towering over you and the people are all on top of each other. I’ve become a big fan of the outdoors, which I was not when I went on the freshman camping trip! Over the years it’s grown on me. Asheville is an interesting, small city—a great place to drop your anchor for a few years.”

Ivy League

John entered Yale University in 2013 and majored in Ethics, Politics, and Economics. He served as a freshman counselor in the Trumbull College Dean’s Office; was student director of women’s basketball operations; was a leader of Yale’s freshman outdoor orientation trips; and was solidarity chair for the Black Men’s Union.

In 2014, he spent the summer in Italy, participating in a language and culture summer session. The summer of his sophomore year he interned at Goldman Sachs in New York City. The following summer he interned with Lazard in Manhattan. Even though he was beginning to prepare for a career in finance, John’s senior year at Yale was writing intensive. He wrote many creative short stories, as well as his senior thesis about America’s responsibility to reform its prisons.

John spent a semester studying abroad at the University of Bologna in 2016, and when graduation rolled around in 2017, Lazard hired him as an investment banker. At the age of 22, he had made it from “hell on earth” to working full-time for the world’s leading financial advisory and asset management firm. “I lived at home in the Bronx while working at Lazard, so I had a 25-minute commute on the train,” John says. “After being away for eight years, it was great to be back home.”

“I think of myself as the new philosopher, replicating my favorite authors, like Richard Wright and James Baldwin.”

—John Volquez
Awakening the Creative Spirit

After two years working in the bustling world of finance in Manhattan, John decided he would take time off to write a book, which was an idea he had while working on his senior thesis. “I wasn’t finding what I wanted out of my job and decided to work on something that I found to be important for me and my people,” John says. He moved into an apartment with his best friend from Asheville School, Dorian Rutherford, and began to write.

Then, the COVID-19 pandemic hit. Everything changed, including John’s outlook on the present and the future. “New York suddenly turned into this dystopian place where no one was outside, and I’m living cooped up in an apartment in Harlem,” he recalls. “I had this vision of being back in Asheville, in the mountains, writing, without the noise and pressure of New York.”

John contemplated buying a house in Asheville and made the trip south to scout around. He spent time at Asheville School talking with some of his former teachers, and it wasn’t long before he got the idea to write the school a proposal to sit as an Artist-in-Residence on campus—marking John’s second detour to Asheville School.

“I live on campus, interact in different roles, contribute to the community, and spend the majority of my time writing,” John says. From his dining room table in Second Anderson overlooking the soccer fields at Asheville School, John puts pen to paper every morning, all morning, then spends his afternoons transcribing what he’s written onto his computer. He’s working on a nonfiction book about life in the close-knit community where he grew up on Hoe Avenue, as well as a screenplay that draws on those same influences—a Dominican kid growing up in the South Bronx.

“All the rich mob movies brush over issues of race, so my screenplay will centralize race and identity in the story, making it a mob story with a unique narrative. I want to put their racism on trial in the film,” says John, who is extremely interested in the Italian culture, especially being fluent in Italian, being an avid Dante fan, and having studied abroad in Italy for seven months. “Mob people value family, loyalty, and culture, but they are dangerously short-sighted in other areas. So the screenplay will bring a Dominican kid into the Mob family and show how they deal with that, while at the same time chronicling his personal journey of understanding his own identity.”
John’s book will take a deep dive into his neighborhood in the South Bronx, an oft erased community, through a personal narrative that shares those people’s very real voices. “I’ve done a ton of interviews with people from home, written letters back and forth to my people in prison, and all of their words are interwoven into the story,” he says. “It’s kind of a modern rendition of Dante’s Divine Comedy; instead of The Inferno, it’s Hell on Earth. Although it’s nonfiction, it’s written with somewhat fictionalized conversations, including my own stream of consciousness in the narrative, from when I was a kid to now.”

John hopes his book will serve as a broader American socio-political commentary one day, and that his stories will capture the heart and soul of his South Bronx neighborhood—and the beauty and depth of those people. “I’m shining a light into one of the darkest crevices of America, the inner city, painted by the media with violent images. But why not show the beautiful images of us loving and protecting each other, and serving as guardians for each other? After all, it’s those people who are responsible for my trajectory.”

When John made the decision to take time off to write, two things happened: 1) many people thought he was crazy to leave his big-time finance gig in Manhattan, and 2) because he hadn’t written in two years, atrophy had set in. When he sat down at his desk in Harlem, he mapped out a robust syllabus to get his mind back to where it needed to be to do the story of Hoe Avenue justice. When he arrived at Asheville School several months later, he met with his former English teachers who gave him the resources, guidance, and encouragement he needed.

“I think of myself as the new philosopher, replicating my favorite authors, like Richard Wright and James Baldwin,” John says. “I have a vision to create a new world in this America that we’ve inherited. When you’ve been part of so many communities you can see how you can create a new society that looks past what has been institutionalized and what people have gone along with because it’s always been done that way. I want to encourage an entire generation of people to accentuate the things that make them different in order to create an even more beautiful and vibrant community. Writing is a way to do that. I want my book to be read in American Studies classes as the quintessential American book. I want to continue to write screenplays and collaborate with others in the artistic realm.”

Giving Back

In his Artist-in-Residence role at Asheville School, John runs a foundational strength and conditioning program for young athletes and faculty members. As a member of the Black Alumni Council, he discusses, brainstorms, and comes up with action plans to improve the experience for students and faculty of color at Asheville School.

Life is one big Detour

In early November, after receiving and accepting a terrific teaching offer, John wrapped up his stint as Asheville’s Artist-In-Residence. Good luck, John! We can’t wait to see where this next “detour” takes you!

When John was a student at Asheville School in 2011, two new teachers of color arrived who changed his whole experience—Justin Leith and Elijah Weeks. “These were teachers and coaches who looked like me, talked like me, and who were older versions of what I thought I was; they were instrumental for me and my maturation. My experience would not have been nearly as rich without them,” he says. “That’s what I want to be for students at Asheville School—a person with whom they can identify.”

Besides his writing and roles on campus, John serves as the manager for his friend, JT Flowers, who is a burgeoning recording artist. In addition to continuing that work, John plans to see much more of the world. “I’ve always believed in exploring the world and think it’s important to be okay with leaving home for months at a time and discovering new places, people, and cultures, while maintaining close contacts at home.”

Thanks to John Volquez, that supportive, transparent, close-knit community that’s alive and well in the South Bronx is rubbing off on us here at Asheville School. Thank you, John.
When COVID-19 surged in 2020, Mary Elizabeth pondered what may happen to her School, her students and colleagues, and the core values they held dear. It didn’t take long to find out that when the pandemic was at its worst, her Asheville School community was at its best.
Mary Elizabeth Martin is a math instructor and assistant in the Learning Center. Over the past 16 years she’s worn many hats at Asheville School—as dean of students, director of the Learning Center, dorm dean, cross country coach, advisor, hall parent, and more. Her two sons attend Asheville School.

360°: With COVID-19 raging, were you apprehensive starting the school year, and when was the moment you realized it was all going to be okay?

Mary Elizabeth: I was most apprehensive when the shift occurred from the campus being very, very lonely and quiet, to being very busy. That moment was, like, wow, all the sudden we’re around a whole bunch of people again. We hadn’t seen the kids since they left for Spring Break so all we wanted to do was hug them and ask how they were, but a lot of that we couldn’t do the way we wanted to. We had to remind each other of that. But it didn’t take me long at all to realize everything was going to be okay. I’m pretty healthy. I was less worried about me and more worried about my children, the students, and my older colleagues. But I think we had fewer illnesses overall than normal this fall and I’ve had very few absences in my classes.

360°: What are the biggest changes you’ve had to make as a teacher because of COVID-19?

Mary Elizabeth: We’ve had COVID-19 and we’ve implemented a brand new schedule in which we’re teaching in a seven period rotation for 70 minutes, which we’d never done. So that has made me rethink how I teach—lesson plans, homework, in class work, outside class work. I think we’ve found a sweet spot with 70 minutes and I think the students would agree.

I was part of the team that moved furniture in Mitchell Hall with the measuring tape, marked the floor, and put the desks six feet apart. So, for the most part we’ve been inside and I feel very safe being inside. I teach freshmen, so I have to choose carefully when I want to go outside with them on a beautiful day. If I’m trying to teach a new lesson, they don’t do so well outside, they are distracted by everything. But when we are working on practice problems or something like that we will go outside.

The kids have been great about wearing their masks. That was something that was easy to do. It was the staying six feet apart that was a lot harder. But I think they realized how lucky they were to be at school.

So, being able to say, ‘We’re doing this so we can stay together,’ versus doing distance learning, which none of them are interested in doing, helped them tremendously. Now that we know how to do this I think we’re going to be able to come back in January and pick up right where we left off.

360°: What do the kids tell you or what do you sense that they miss most about “regular” school?

Mary Elizabeth: In the classroom we haven’t done a lot of group work or partner work, so it’s been a lot of teacher driven instruction versus kids going to the board or working with partners, which they love, so that’s been hard. Also, our seniors each give a talk during their senior year and, in the past, the entire community has come to listen. This year only a small handful of students get to attend chapel talks so we can stay safe. They miss those kinds of events and all school gatherings where we do fun, silly, spirit building activities. We’re missing those. The adults are missing the seated meals for lunch, and I’ve had older students tell me they miss that time to be with friends, and to

“What hasn’t changed is the care and attention we give to each other. Building connections with students is still a priority for us.”

—Mary Elizabeth Martin
meet new people. But I’ve been able to use meal time to meet with most of my advisees one-on-one, which has been really nice.

360°: From your viewpoint, what has not changed? What has endured?

Mary Elizabeth: What hasn’t changed is the care and attention we give to each other. Building connections with students is still a priority for us. Our excellent teaching has not changed. I still hold my students to really high standards, whether we’re inside or outside—we are still learning and we have not watered that down just to get through this year. Our sense of community is still very strong and I believe the adults and seniors on this campus are very sensitive to keeping that intact this year because of the challenges we’ve had, of being together, physically. Nothing, not even this pandemic, can take away or change our four core values—perseverance, integrity, respect, and compassion. It’s amazing when I walk my dogs on campus how many students I bump into now who are out walking or playing tennis or Frisbee golf. We’ve got 300 acres of woods and trails and fields, and kids are maximizing the campus and outdoor opportunities—and that’s been huge. Also, the deep love I have for this school and the students has not changed; in a way, I think it’s even deepened, because I so want this to work. I think I speak for the entire faculty when I say we worked all summer and came back in person and put all the risks aside because we love this place and these students so much.

360°: What was your best memory or moment of teaching during COVID-19?

Mary Elizabeth: We had a chat in the classroom about how it was going to work going outside for the first time and we went over what they needed to bring outside and how it was going to work. I had kids offer to help me drag out the white boards, then they went and picked up their chairs. It took us a minute to make sure everyone could see the board. The students checked in with each other to make sure they could see and that they had everything they needed. And at one point during class the bells from the chapel began to ring and I just stopped talking. And we just listened to the bells and took in the beauty around us—it was a moment to be thankful and grateful that we were together. It’s a highlight I will remember.

360°: What things have you appreciated most about students’ responses during the pandemic?

Mary Elizabeth: Their willingness to try their best to follow our guidelines in order to be here and be together. The Upper Formers did a great job welcoming the Third and Fourth Formers and helping them realize this is a bit of a wonky first experience at Asheville School, but we promise you it’s a wonderful place to be. So they have stepped up in taking care of each other and checking in with each other. They are always so kind to recognize the hard work that a lot of people did to make this work. They’re great about saying, ‘Thank you for setting up these safe classrooms,’ and, ‘Thank you for going the extra mile.’ They’ve been great to jump in and try their best. Even if only 20 of them can come to a soccer game they’re making the noise of 300.

360°: What’s it like to teach in a mask?

Mary Elizabeth: It’s hard. It’s gotten easier since it’s gotten cooler. I always say, ‘If you can’t hear me or can’t understand me, please stop me.’ We’re giving each other a lot of grace. If I’m joking around or trying to see if they understand, sometimes it’s hard to read the room if I can only see half their faces. I look forward to when we can have a giant party and burn our least favorite masks.

360°: Any lessons learned or silver linings we haven’t touched on?

Mary Elizabeth: We have seen a new level of coming together to make this school year the best it can be, and of people pitching in and doing whatever it takes to make it work. I’ve been astounded by my colleagues—the time, willingness, and effort they’ve put in to make sure we’re all safe. It’s been incredible. I worried the kids would be miserable having all these guidelines, but they have shown real resilience and perseverance in hanging tough, doing what they need to do, and finding ways to be together and to be safe.
A meeting of CHANCE
Lifelong friends by CHOICE

Stephen Jarislowsky ’42 and Levin (Lee) Campbell ’44 grew up in different parts of the world coping with mighty challenges presented by the Great Depression and World War II. Good fortune brought them together at Asheville School where they became fast friends and went on to live extraordinary lives. Perhaps most remarkable of all is the fact that today, at the ages of 95 and 93, respectively, they remain close friends with the best of memories from their days of youth at school in the Blue Ridge Mountains.
Stephen Jarislowsky ’42 was born in Berlin, Germany in 1925. One of his earliest, most traumatic memories is of his older brother, Axel, coming down with Scarlet Fever during a family ski trip in Czechoslovakia. “My father carried Axel back on the train in his arms and he ended up catching Scarlet Fever, too,” Stephen recalled. “My father got a new injection that didn’t work, and he ended up dying.”

Fortunately, the family was well to do and Stephen’s mother, Kaethe, one of the first women in Germany to earn a law degree (University of Munich), took over the family’s business and legal affairs. Since she had to remain in Germany to handle investor interests, she sent Stephen and his siblings to live in Holland in the town of Blaricum, southeast of Amsterdam. Although Stephen’s aunt and uncle lived a half-mile away, he says he and his siblings lived in their own house with a governess, maid, cook, chauffeur, and two dogs. He quickly learned to speak Dutch and they lived there for seven years.

In 1935, Stephen’s mother remarried, and in 1937, the family moved to France, where his stepfather was working. He and Axel attended a military boarding school where Stephen learned to speak his third language, French. “Every morning come hell or high water, whether it was raining or snowing, we had to run for 20 minutes around the estate and do French army exercises,” Stephen said. “But it was an excellent school.”

When the German armies converged on Paris, half the town left, including Stephen and his family. “I retreated with my school in the Loire Valley and we were housed by the French Calvary School in Saumur where some of us were involved in anti-aircraft fighting,” he said. “From there, my parents picked me up and we went to the Spanish border.” After a brief stay at Lourdes, the family moved to Aix-en-Provence where Stephen attended a Jesuit boarding school.

Stephen’s stepfather was friends with a Quaker who was working in Marseilles secretly helping people get out of France. “Someone revealed to the German secret police, the Gestapo, how the Quaker was helping people get out of France through Spain and to America and other places,” Stephen said. “The French government knew what we were doing, getting people out, and they immediately packed up the Quaker operation, including my family, and sent us to America. We boarded the SS Winnipeg in Marseilles in March 1941, together with 1,000 French marines charged with guarding the gold in Martinique. We then sailed on to Oran, Casablanca, Martinique, and finally to New York where my stepfather initially worked for the French government. The first thing my family did was put me on a train and sent me to Asheville School, which was quite a trip in those days.”
Lee was born at the Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey in 1927. He grew up in the idyllic suburb of Short Hills, where his father took the 8:17 a.m. train to Hoboken, then the subway to his law office at 90 Broad Street in Manhattan.

Lee's mother, Louise, was a dedicated homemaker who provided a wonderful, loving home environment for Lee and his older brother, Worthington, who was named after their father. Lee's father specialized in patent and trademark law, became quite successful, and was named President of the New York Patent Law Association.

White Plague

“I was quite sick as a boy. I had tuberculosis (TB) in fourth grade, so I was home for a year and was later forbidden to play much in the way of sports,” Lee said. “I could play tennis, but I couldn’t play baseball. I never could figure that out—why or what the difference was between the rigor of those two sports.”

TB at the time, also known as the White Plague, was an extremely dangerous epidemic. “I was quite thin and considered frail,” Lee said. “I recovered by taking the entire school year off and by doing minimal things. I was lucky. I had wonderful parents who hired a nurse who took very good care of me and saw that I kept up with my schoolwork. They found a specialist for me in New York. I did what I was told and was considered completely cured.”

Lee’s brother Worthington attended the St. Mark’s School near Boston and would later become a Naval officer and then an Episcopal minister—first in New Jersey, then in Nice, France followed by Brussels, Belgium.

“Because of the tuberculosis and their continuing idea that I should be in a warmer climate, my parents looked in the South and found Asheville School,” Lee said. “I remember my mother went with me to visit and we stayed in the Bement House. My mother hit it off with Mrs. Bement, who was the widow of one of the former headmasters [Howard Bement]. My mother liked her very much and liked the whole feeling of the school. She said, ‘This is a great place,’ and so I guess I agreed, and that was that.”

Paradise in the Mountains

Arriving at Asheville School was like walking into paradise for Stephen.

“The Asheville School was like a dream come true compared to how I had lived in France,” Stephen said. “We didn’t have enough to eat, there was next to no money around, there was no real fuel around, we were totally restricted. It was like going back to the Middle Ages. No one in Asheville really knew what was going on in Europe except somebody like myself, who had been there. So, imagine coming to peaceful Asheville School. It was absolutely heaven. Very, very pleasant. There were only about 100 to 125 students at the school then, all boarding students and all male, no women yet. Back then it was basically a rich man’s school—largely comprised of kids whose parents had either divorced, couldn’t have children around, or simply wanted a better educational option than their local high schools.”

Stephen was 14 at the time and spoke German, Dutch, and French—but no English. “I just tried to fit in as best I could. I had no trouble enculturing myself. I enjoyed speaking German with artist-in-residence Emil Holzhauer. I also got along well with my French teacher, Mr. Copenhaver, whose French was not as good as mine! Needless to say, I was a star student in French class.”

Of all achievements in medicine, the successful treatment of tuberculosis, or White Plague, has had one of the greatest impacts on society.
Stephen was a Fourth Former when he arrived at Asheville School, and the beloved David Fall was headmaster. Stephen immediately took two English courses and learned the language well in about six months. Because his education had previously been more advanced, he skipped to the Sixth Form his second year.

As a student in academic high standing, Stephen had the privilege of being invited to the Fall House for breakfast and tea periodically. Those privileges also allowed him to study in the Music House, his favorite building on campus, instead of attending formal study sessions in the library. It was at the Music House where he listened to classical music and met his future lifelong friend, Lee Campbell.

The Art of Living
Lee was 13 years old when he arrived at Asheville School in 1940. Within days of his arrival as a Third Former, Headmaster David Fall gave a talk that Lee recalls more than 80 years later. “Oh, I thought it was a very inspiring talk,” Lee recalled. “He said this was a chance for the school to reach out and help you. Anything you hadn’t done well in the past, now you could undo those things and you had a new opportunity to learn and get better. I was truly inspired and I believed that. It was very helpful.

“The grounds at the School were just spectacularly beautiful. I loved the great view of Mt. Pisgah in the distance,” Lee said. “They gave you a good education and the standards were very high. I liked English and history very much and tried to avoid math as much as possible. We had great teachers; they were really nice people who cared a lot about us. They were sort of like foster parents for us.” Lee recalls that his English teacher, Dr. Davies, prepared him well for college as he was able to place out of English A at Harvard. By his Sixth Form year, he became Editor-in-Chief of the Ashmoca.

Another teacher who stood out to Lee was artist-in-residence Emil Holzhauer, a fine artist who got Lee interested in oil painting, which he still does to this day, along with watercolors. “He was a German who came over after the First World War. He always said he didn’t remember more than 80 years later. “Oh, I thought it was a very inspiring talk,” Lee recalled. “He said this was a chance for the school to reach out and help you. Anything you hadn’t done well in the past, now you could undo those things and you had a new opportunity to learn and get better. I was truly inspired and I believed that. It was very helpful.

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want to sell his paintings to earn his living, he wanted to paint what he wanted to paint, and he would be a teacher so he could do that. He would go out many days with his easel into the Asheville countryside and he would take some of us with him. I went with him on many occasions and set up my easel and he would come over and tell me how to improve my technique. I could also go up with one or two other students and paint with him in the art room on the top floor of Mitchell Hall. He became a good friend.”

The place on campus that meant the most to Lee was the Music House. “That was an important part of my life at Asheville School,” he said. “They had a classification system. If you were a reasonably good student and kept your nose clean, you could wander around during assigned study halls and go to places like the Music House, which I loved.”

Kindred Spirits
At 95 years of age, Stephen still recalls with fondness all of the interesting people he befriended at Asheville School. “Lee and I got to know each other very well during our days spent at the Music House where we listened to classical music while we studied. The Music House had bakelite records of some of the great symphonies. The school was pretty much divided between the jocks and a group of us who were very interested in studies, culture, literature, and philosophy.”

Lee said he could tell Stephen had come from real danger in Europe. “This was a time when it was not safe by any means if you were in Europe. Stephen was from a different world. He was very bright. I enjoyed him immensely,” Lee said. “Stephen knew classical music very well and I learned a great deal from him. In the Music House, they had this enormous record player that would actually play each record on both sides. Most record players wouldn’t do things like this. So this gargantuan machine would lift the records up, turn them over, and drop them down—it sounded like a dishwasher.”

For fun, Stephen, and Lee and some of their friends would walk all the way into Asheville. “Asheville School was rather isolated from the town back then,” Stephen said. “But we were very interested in literature and we would walk to Asheville, which was pretty primitive in those days, and we would visit Thomas Wolfe’s mother.” The American novelist Thomas Wolfe had written four novels and many short stores by that time, and his mother still lived in the house where Wolfe was born on Woodfin Street.

The Second World War started in December 1941, and was raging when Lee and Stephen were together at Asheville School, and both recall those days with clarity. “I remember sitting near the radio in the common room listening to the announcer breaking into the regular programming to report the attack on Pearl Harbor,” Lee said. “And I remember the next day, we had a somber meeting in the assembly hall with Mr. Fall leading us, and they brought in radios so we could listen to Roosevelt declaring war on the Japanese and on the Germans. That was serious stuff.”

Stephen gave the valedictorian speech to his fellow graduating classmates of the class of 1942. “I can’t really remember much about the message,” Stephen said. “Something like, you need to study hard to get somewhere in life.”

Life Beyond Asheville School
Stephen won Asheville School’s physics and mathematics prizes and applied to a number of colleges. He’s quick to recall that he was denied by MIT and ended up attending Cornell University, where he earned a degree in mechanical engineering in under three years, because he studied right through each summer.

Stephen then entered the U.S. Army and was sent to Florida for infantry jungle training to prepare for war against the Japanese, but he found a different opportunity. “There was a fellow coming down from Washington to give a language aptitude test to someone in our regiment. They were looking for people to learn foreign languages. I wasn’t on that list. So I went to see this guy and I said, ‘How come I’m not on the list?’ He said, ‘Because you’re not.’ And I said, ‘I was told I was going to be on the list,’ which was a lie. Then I said, ‘What are you going to do about it? If you go back
to Washington and you didn’t give me the exam that would be stupid.’ So he said, ‘Okay you can take the exam.’ I took the exam and didn’t hear anything. But at the end of basic training, I was told to report in San Francisco for embarkation, then I was told I was going to the University of Chicago for nine months to learn Japanese.” He later was shipped to the Far East and spent a year with the Japanese occupation and served on a team that translated a critical log book confiscated from a Japanese sub commander.

Immediately upon his return from Japan, Stephen entered the University of Chicago under the G.I. Bill of Rights. He received an M.A. in Far Eastern Studies (Phi Beta Kappa). In 1949, he went to Harvard Business School where he got his MBA and graduated with distinction, and he married soon after. “My initial goal when I left college was to make $1 million by age 40, which in today’s money would have been $30 million, and to become Ambassador to Japan.” He went to work at Alcan Aluminum in Montreal but after three years he was forced to take a leave of absence and return to New York to run his in-laws’ publishing business.

He eventually sold the publishing company and started four other companies with various friends. One of those involved a system he’d developed that analyzed corporations for investment opportunities. The company began with a $100 investment—$67 from Stephen and $33 from his partner. After six months he took over the company, buying out his partner for ten times what he’d put in.

That company, Jarislowsky Brown, later became Jarislowsky Fraser Limited, which, for one stretch, grew at a rate of 39 percent a year for 37 years. “We never went to court with a client and never had a client complaint that went to the Securities Commission,” said Stephen, who ran the company for 63 years and made it one of the largest and most successful investment management firms in Canada. Stephen sold the company to a bank and it retains the same name today, is still a Quebec corporation, and still has an impeccable reputation. But Stephen is not involved. “I’m not a Monday morning quarterback,” he said.

Stephen’s lifetime achievements are remarkable. He’s served on more than 30 boards of directors, has 15 honorary doctorate degrees, and is recognized by the Canadian government as CC-Companion of the Order of Canada and GOQ-Grand Officer of the National Order of Quebec. He holds the International Entrepreneur Award from the University of Manitoba, the Corporate Director Lifelong Achievement Award, is a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors, and has been inducted into the Canadian Business Hall of Fame.

You Be The Judge

When Lee was preparing to graduate from Asheville School in 1944, the war was still going on and most colleges were operating year-round with three semesters, including summer. “Many of us expected to be drafted,” Lee said. “So I went to Harvard in the summer along with other friends from Asheville School, including Jim Coke, Ollie Roosevelt, and Clyde Eagleton. Several weeks later we were all assembled in Cambridge at Harvard, set to begin.” Lee served as President of the Harvard Student Council. As such, he had the opportunity after the war ended, to help in founding an eminent international seminar held in a castle in Salzburg, Austria. This was Lee’s first visit to Europe which left a great impression on him. The Salzburg Seminar in International Studies still exists today. At Harvard, Lee majored in English History and Literature. “The war was changing at that time, the Allies began to win, and I did not get drafted for World War Two,” he said. “A year later we dropped the Atom Bomb and...
ended the war with Japan.” Lee graduated and entered Harvard Law School. But soon, the Korean War broke out and he was drafted at the end of his senior year of law school.

“I thought it would be a good idea to take the bar exam before I went into the service in June 1951. So, as soon as my last exam at law school was finished, I raced out to take the D.C. bar exam in Washington,” Lee said. He went through basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey, entered the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, was promoted to First Lieutenant, went to work at the Pentagon for a stint, then served in Korea for a year trying major court-martial cases.

When the Korean War ended a year later, Lee went to work for the well-known law firm Ropes & Gray in Boston. He entered politics in 1963, serving one term as a State Representative from Cambridge and then went on to serve as a Division Chief for Edward Brooke, the first black Attorney General of Massachusetts and a man who would prove pivotal throughout Lee’s career. “Ed was a tremendously able, charismatic, marvelous guy,” Lee said.

In 1967, Brooke became one of the two U.S. Senators of Massachusetts and Lee continued to work in the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office, this time as First Assistant to Attorney General Elliott Richardson. Lee left that position after he was invited to be a Fellow at the Kennedy School at Harvard. The Massachusetts Governor Francis Sargent appointed Lee an Associate Justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court, making him a judge on the state’s principal trial court. “I loved being a trial judge,” Lee said.

But it wasn’t long before Senator Brooke called to ask if Lee would like to be a Judge on the Federal District Court. Lee said yes and became a U.S. District Judge in Boston by appointment of the President of the United States Richard Nixon. As a district judge, he continued to serve as a trial judge, but was now on the principal federal trial court.

One of Lee’s most interesting cases as a federal judge occurred when companies wanted to drill for oil at George’s Bank, off the coast of Massachusetts, and hundreds packed his courtroom to protest. “The courtroom was bulging with many people on both sides,” Lee said. “Environmentalists who wanted to preserve the area wanted an injunction against the drilling because they said it was going to pollute and kill the fish. I ended up granting the injunction. It was a big deal.”

About a year later, Senator Brooke asked Lee if he’d like to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit, and he agreed. The First Circuit includes Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, and interestingly, Puerto Rico. Lee served as Chief Judge from 1983 to 1990. Lee also served on the executive committee of the Federal Judicial Conference, a body that oversees the administration of the federal courts. Lee retired as a federal judge when he was in his early 80s.

**Ties That Bind**

Today, Stephen relishes his lovely home and lush garden in Montreal, which has a pleasant view of the beautiful park across the street. “The winter here will be tough, not like in Asheville,” said Stephen, who will head to the warmer climates of Scottsdale and Palm Springs this winter to be with friends and family. He’s been married to his wife Gail for more than 50 years. His hobbies include gardening, walking, good wine, music, art, and literature.

The two have remained in touch on and off ever since their days at Asheville School.

“I’ve always enjoyed talking with Stephen. We just spoke the other day on the phone,” Lee said. “We used to have great arguments at school; he was an argumentative guy. He loved to talk and was very smart. I thoroughly enjoyed him, and still do.”

“I can’t complain one bit. I’ve had a fabulous life with wonderful friendships, which have been very meaningful,” Stephen said. “Lee and I are still extremely good friends and always will be as long as we are alive.”

Lee lives in a retirement community in Concord, Massachusetts. He lost his wife of 63 years, Eleanor, in 2019. She had suffered from Alzheimer’s Disease for more than a decade. He’d recently married longtime friend, Sylvia Skinner, who lived in the same retirement community. Unfortunately, Sylvia passed away just before our interview with Lee.

One of the bright spots in Lee’s life today is painting, a love he picked up wandering the Asheville countryside with his easel, his teacher, and his friends from the Asheville School.

**Fond memories. Friends for life.**
School traditions are a curious and cultivated catalog of rituals and rites of passage passed down from class to class over the years. Some involve special articles of clothing—blazers, ties, or scarves—and others involve specific events or rivalries with opposing institutions. And still others involve food—like the one passed down for decades by Asheville School teachers and administrators such as Doc Embler, Irv Ornduff, Sly Lewis, and Jack Tyrer—who insisted there was a distinctly right way and wrong way to eat the Asheville School banana.
As far back as the 1930s, Asheville School embraced and celebrated the odd combination of Shredded Wheat and applesauce.

(Fun Fact: The school record for eating the most Shredded Wheat ‘biscuits’ and applesauce at one sitting is held by A. Z. Foster Wood, Jr. ’48 who consumed 26 in 1947.) But foremost among unique boarding school culinary traditions is the “Asheville School Banana.”

That peculiar tradition came into existence sometime in the 1960s – though the precise origins are clouded in mystery. Tom Marberger ’69 recalls an explanation provided by Jack Tyrer (Headmaster ’64 – ’92): according to Mr. Tyrer, the method of slicing a banana and adding sugar and lemon juice was introduced to the school by Senorita Corina Rodriguez Capote (Spanish Teacher ’63 – ’72) who worked at the school after fleeing from Castro’s Cuba. As Tom Marberger relates, “Jack suggested that she started the custom at her table. Sugar bowls and lemon wedges were typically on the tables anyway, so it would have been simple. So, I think she started it and over time enough students would have sat at her table that the custom would have become widespread.”

The novelty of this preparation and the incredible flavors it imparted to an otherwise humble fruit were a hit. And so, a tasty new tradition was born.

But what are the specific components of an “Asheville School Banana?” As someone who’s enjoyed almost 40 years of exposure to this peculiar tradition, I feel comfortable sharing the official recipe, in case you’d like to prepare this dish at home.

Ingredients:
- One banana (ripe… but not too ripe)
- Sugar (one spoonful)
- Lemon (the juice of one wedge)

Preparation:
1. After selecting the perfect banana, make two lateral incisions to remove the stems at either end.
2. Once the ends are safely removed, make a lengthwise incision along the banana’s axis of symmetry (See Figure 1).
3. Using a teaspoon and a steady hand, sprinkle sugar evenly over the two halves of the banana. (Third Form boys often undertake this step with excessive zeal, either depositing far too much sugar – thus creating sugar ‘mountains’ on each half – or recklessly spilling sugar onto the table.)
4. Holding the lemon wedge securely with one hand while using the other as a shield to limit overspray, squeeze the juice liberally onto the sugar-covered banana halves. Consideration should be given to the proximity of one’s tablemates during this process – an unexpected squirt of lemon juice in the eye is an unwelcome surprise one should always strive to avoid.

Consumption:
Your “Asheville School Banana” is now ready to be eaten. There are two principle techniques that can be employed as you consume this delicacy: the ‘scoop’ or the ‘slice’.

- If you’re a ‘scooper,’ you’ll use a spoon to carve out scoops of banana from the peel ‘boats’ holding your dessert.
- ‘Slicers’ will use a knife to pre-cut the banana halves into bit-sized segments; then, using a fork, those individual morsels can be stabbed and eaten.
Variations:
There are a few variations that can be employed when preparing your banana – though some banana purists might scoff at such deviations.

Variation 1 – Before applying the sugar and lemon, use a knife to cut grooves into the banana. According to proponents of this variation, it allows deeper penetration of flavors for a more harmonious bite. This was a later addition to the ‘banana ceremony’; Tom Marberger has no recollection of that from his time as a faculty member in the ’70s. I have a vague memory of Sly Lewis demonstrating this technique in the early ’80s, but after 2,824 Asheville School Bananas, I might be misremembering that detail.

Variation 2 – Controversially, some students have been known to apply the lemon juice BEFORE the sugar. Purists will consider this a ‘banana foul,’ but advocates claim that it improves flavor distribution. Much like the debate in Gulliver’s Travels between the “Big-Endians” and the “Little-Endians” regarding the correct method for eating a soft-cooked egg, this schism has been known to make tensions run high at a dinner table when both factions were present.

During the ’70s, ’80s, and ’90s, it was typical to have bananas for dessert at least once every few weeks. An interesting side-effect of that high volume of bananas in our dining hall was the frequent appearance of home-made banana pudding as a dessert, necessitated an effective way to re-purpose the leftover (and often over-ripe) inventory. In recent years, the frequency of our banana desserts has declined, but the enthusiasm for this treat continues unabated. Asheville School’s new faculty orientation still includes an introduction to our peculiar banana ritual. Table heads continue to provide step-by-step instructions to new students when bananas are served for the first time. Even ‘banana-themed’ clothing (bow ties, socks, cycling jerseys, etc.) is available for the proud Blue who wants to wear an Asheville School Banana for all the world to see. No matter how you slice it, this is a tradition well worth preserving.
At 5 a.m. on February 29, 2020, the Sixth Form reported to the front of Mitchell Hall to load buses for their trip Washington D.C. In the early morning hours, snow had begun to blanket the campus. Eager to get out of the mountains before the snow accumulated, the students hastily chose their seats and settled in for the journey ahead. No one had any idea that these would be their final moments on campus as a class.

Once in Washington D.C., the Sixth Form enjoyed spending time together while immersing themselves in the culture and history they had been studying all year. Visits to the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the United States Capitol Building, the Lincoln Memorial, and other landmarks captured their interests and imaginations. As they strolled the National Mall, they discussed plans for Spring Break. They were excited for a breather from school, but they also looked forward to returning to campus to finish out their senior spring.

This was not to be. Over the course of the next few weeks as COVID-19 spread throughout the United States and the world, they watched as the spring they had imagined began to disintegrate before their eyes. First it was a delayed return to campus, next was the loss of spring sports, then a move to remote learning with the hope of returning to campus. Finally, they confronted the harsh reality that on-campus learning was cancelled.

Grace Vo ’20, now a first-year student at Duke University, remembers, “In the blink of an eye, our Asheville School careers ended. Not in the sense that time flew by and graduation was here before we knew it, rather, just like that, it was all over. Albeit devastating, the circumstances brought on by COVID-19 only further highlighted the impregnable bond of the Asheville School family.” Indeed, the class of 2020 refused to dwell on what they had lost. Instead, they embraced remote learning and maintained strong connections with the school and each other. According to Vo, “Through the myriad challenges of virtual learning, the resilience, thoughtfulness, and support of all my classmates and teachers only deepened my appreciation for this remarkable community.”

Though classroom dress went by the wayside, the Sixth Form maintained inspiring habits of inquiry and scholarship while creating a network of friends and scholars that circled the globe. Instead of spending time in conference periods or congregating on Second Mitchell, students met online with teachers and each
“In the blink of an eye, our Asheville School careers ended. Not in the sense that time flew by and graduation was here before we knew it, rather, just like that, it was all over. Albeit devastating, the circumstances brought on by COVID-19 only further highlighted the impregnable bond of the Asheville School family. Through the myriad challenges of virtual learning, the resilience, thoughtfulness, and support of all my classmates and teachers only deepened my appreciation for this remarkable community.”

—Grace Vo ’20

“As for my last-year experience in Asheville School . . . I was heartbroken when I learned that I would be studying from home for the remainder of the quarter. I was especially saddened by the fact that there would be no Prom nor Senior Rock Painting, which I anticipated the most. I also looked forward to the Talent Show and my upcoming tennis season. Our tennis team was so strong that we could have gone to states my senior year. But all of that was gone because of COVID-19. Luckily, though, we still had a graduation ceremony. I remember how moved I was when I went through the heavy stack of letters from the teachers. They were all hand-written. Some were from my favorite teachers. I opened them one by one and read them carefully. I remember having tears in my eyes . . . I really enjoyed reading the letters. They reminded me of the good old days at Asheville School, when I made connections with everyone. It was as if I made these connections yesterday.”

—Proud Jiao ’20
other during virtual office hours. Humanities teacher Tim Plaehn recalls, “The thing I noticed is how desperately they wanted to be here. So many high school seniors get tired of their school and can’t wait to get out of there and head off to college. Our seniors felt robbed of their proper goodbyes, and you could feel that during our Microsoft Teams classes.”

When the academic year ended, the Class of 2020 could be proud of its efforts. Leah Lambert, Director of College Counseling, saw first-hand the results of the class’s steadfast commitment to excellence. “It was a banner year for the Class of 2020, who were admitted to 159 different colleges and universities in 34 states and six countries,” said Lambert. “They chose to attend 52 different institutions in 21 states and two countries. Their interests range from engineering to music production to business to the liberal arts.”

On August 1, 55 members of the class returned to campus to celebrate the completion of their high school journeys. Graduation looked different as chairs were spaced out, and the graduates sported masks along with their sartorial finery. However, masks and physical distance could not diminish the sense of pride and connection in this extraordinary class. Even those who were unable to attend felt celebrated and connected to the school.

Proud Jiao, now a first year student at UCLA, was at home in China on graduation day. But soon after, he received a special delivery from the school containing his diploma and more. He writes, “I remember how moved I was when I went through the heavy stack of letters from the teachers. They were all handwritten. Some were from my favorite teachers. I opened them one by one and read them carefully. I remember having tears in my eyes. I also remembered having confusion identifying some of the letters. Who does this lovely but hardly distinguishable handwriting belong to? It took me a solid minute to figure out that it belonged to Mr. Kriegler, one of my favorite teachers and one of the best swim coaches. Anyway, I really enjoyed reading these letters. They reminded me of the good old days at Asheville School when I made connections with everyone.”

When we look back on the challenges of 2020, Asheville School will also remember the contributions of this outstanding class. Head of School Anthony Sgro writes, “Members of the Class of 2020 were remarkable in their enthusiasm for the school. Every single day they were committed to being leaders and stewards of our school. This leadership continued even when the pandemic ended the year early. They were a presence even in an online space. I am personally grateful for all they gave to Asheville School.”

—Grace Vo ’20
Senior

Members of the Class of 2020 were accepted at hundreds of colleges and universities across the globe—they chose to enroll in the following schools, and we wish them all the best!

American University
Babson College
Belmont University*
Blinn College*
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Clemson University*
Columbia College Chicago
Columbia University
Connecticut College
Denison University
Duke University
Emerson College
Emory University
Fayetteville Tech
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
High Point University*
Indiana University, Bloomington
Lehigh University
Louisiana Tech University
Millsaps College
New York University, Shanghai
North Carolina State University
Purdue University—Main Campus*
Rollins College
Savannah College of Art and Design

Sewanee: The University of the South
Southern Methodist University
Stanford University*
Texas Christian University*
Tulane University
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*
University of North Carolina, Charlotte
University of North Carolina, Wilmington
University of Oklahoma
University of Pennsylvania
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Tennessee
University of Virginia
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University
Washington and Lee University*
Wellesley College
William and Mary
Wofford College*
Yale University*

* Multiple matriculations
A Creative Touch to a Serious Topic. If you were on campus this fall, reminders to mask up, wash up, and keep your distance met you at every turn. As usual, our signs had a creative spin, with admonitions coming from familiar voices in our community.
This summer, a group of engaged and passionate Black alumni came together to form Asheville School’s first Black Alumni Council (BAC). The group has met frequently since August and members recently sat down for a Zoom session with Sixth Formers, Kelsey Mann ’21 and Ray J McDay ’21, leaders from Asheville School’s Black Student Union (BSU), to share more about their work to-date, their goals, and how they hope to help their alma mater become a more equitable, inclusive, and supportive community—especially for Black students. The following are excerpts from the group’s most recent Zoom meeting.

On why the group formed this summer...

Daryl Brown ’05: We formed this alumni council particularly in response to the social unrest throughout the U.S over the past year, but truly in response to the systemic racism that still persists in this country. We, as alumni, know there is an aspect of the School’s culture that can continue to improve—the experience of Black and Brown current students and alumni. Given this need for social progress, it was about holding Asheville School accountable for what the School planned to do to be a part of the solution, knowing that we, as Black alumni, want to be a part of the solution as well. Our council connected with Black alumni, current students, and former faculty to identify institutional deficiencies and opportunities to improve Asheville School’s enrollment, retention, and graduation of Black students, as well as the equity and belonging within the campus culture.

On what the BAC would like to see from the School...

John Smith-Ricco ’03: The most important next step is visible action on some of the various areas that we discussed with the School—actions to achieve increased representation of Black people on the faculty and staff, and an increased level of cultural awareness and competency among faculty, staff, and students. On the issue of cultural competency, there is no shortage of resources, tools, consultants, and methodologies to help go down that path.

Miya Gray ’93: We’d like to meet quarterly with the administration to understand what has been done systematically to address the issues...specifically around cultural competency and faculty. So there are definitive things that can be done and we want to see them done and not just hear talk of them being done at some point. We want to see change.

On what advice they would give to Asheville School’s current students of color...

Miya Gray ’93: I would say, Asheville School is not so different than the rest of the world and the issues that you’re dealing with now are issues you’ll have to deal with as you go through life. Some of them won’t be as obvious and ignorant, but you do have to figure out how you want to address the kind of environment you’re in, because there are very few places where you’re not going to have to be with people who don’t understand you. And you have to take the initiative to educate people in some
I learned that at Asheville School.

exploring how you manage and navigate stress—
to just blow up…There’s a little bit of growing and
we need for this particular setting, and I’m not going
check you in a way that’s going to get the outcome
a really fraught meeting right now…and I’ll be like,
made me very emotionally measured…So I can be in
have hot water in your house?’...Things like that
from the Bronx? Are you from the projects? Did you
back of my Spanish class, he was like, ‘Oh, are you
arrived at Asheville School there was a kid in the
John Smith-Ricco ’03: I remember when I
arrived at Asheville School there was a kid in the
back of my Spanish class, he was like, ‘Oh, are you
from the Bronx? Are you from the projects? Did you
have hot water in your house?’...Things like that
made me very emotionally measured…So I can be in
a really fraught meeting right now…and I’ll be like,
let me just process what you’re saying, I’m going to
check you in a way that’s going to get the outcome
we need for this particular setting, and I’m not going
to just blow up…There’s a little bit of growing and
exploring how you manage and navigate stress—
I learned that at Asheville School.

John Volquez ’13: The other thing is, know your
worth at this School. I think the School does a lot
to make sure you realize this is a great opportunity
for you, but you need to also flip that and say, the
School is fortunate because we’re here and because
we’re valuable to the experience and community on
this campus. So, understand your value and don’t
be afraid to ask for what you know you deserve and
what your people deserve.

Daryl Brown ’05: Continue to stretch yourself. As
an example, if I could do it all over again at Asheville
School, I would have spent more time learning to play
golf or enjoying more of Asheville’s unique community.
Focus on expanding your perspective, your overall
skill set, and who you are outside of the classroom,
because that is really where you will find the value of
the Asheville School experience.

Kaleah Smith ’98: When I think about my
experience at Asheville School…honestly, the skill
that I honed in on the most was how to walk into a
room full of people who don’t look like me and
make them feel comfortable. And I have navigated
corporate America that way. But now I’m in a place
where I can walk into any room and be myself,
which is something I couldn’t do at 18. I encourage
you all to lean into whoever you truly are, even if
you are at Asheville School. Be brilliant, be bold, and
ask for the things you want. The second thing is, to
Daryl’s point about golfing, maybe it’s not golfing,
but maybe it’s hiking or horseback riding, when I
attended Asheville School, I didn’t go hiking, but
now, as an adult, I wish I had done because Asheville
is a beautiful place! White, Black, Brown, whoever
you are, there are so many beautiful experiences that
you can have while at Asheville School—so don’t be
afraid to be the only one doing it.

John Smith-Ricco ’03: I remember when I
arrived at Asheville School there was a kid in the
back of my Spanish class, he was like, ‘Oh, are you
from the Bronx? Are you from the projects? Did you
have hot water in your house?’...Things like that
made me very emotionally measured…So I can be in
a really fraught meeting right now…and I’ll be like,
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we need for this particular setting, and I’m not going
to just blow up…There’s a little bit of growing and
exploring how you manage and navigate stress—
I learned that at Asheville School.

On some of the things the group learned
through surveying Black members of the
Asheville School community...

John Volquez ’13: Some of the biggest responses
in terms of what Asheville School needs to improve
on is the cultural competency of students, faculty,
and staff—and the mental health support available
to black students. There are also current students
thinking about how to better transition to Asheville
School, and the student body being onboarded in a
more thoughtful and inclusive way. Other
responses pointed to the need to improve college
counseling and advising for students of color. And
the same thing with the overall academic experience,
the curriculum, and the course offerings at the
School. There’s clearly a strong desire for a more
diverse curriculum, for more opportunities to read
and discuss different voices, and for the School’s
humanities program to not be so Eurocentric. And
there are obviously concerns about the lack of Black
teachers and faculty at the School, which everyone
wants to see improve immediately.

On what’s next...

Daryl Brown ’05: Our next step is to further organize
as a Black Alumni Council to fully leverage and harness
the power of our strong community of Black alumni,
as well as reaching back to help the next generation of
students in as many ways as we can. We’re just getting
started…that’s our next step, as a group, to really be a
part of this positive change.

Andrew Dos Santos ’09: We’ve had meetings
every week since August, essentially, and the
camaraderie I’ve gotten from this, the people have
been very encouraging and helped me in my personal
and professional life. I’m looking forward to see what
we’re able to accomplish in the years to come.

Sixth Form Black Student Union (BSU) leaders,
Kelsey Mann ’21 and Ray J McDay ’21
Which one of your grandparents’ recipes do you treasure most? Which of Bob Dylan’s albums transports you to another time and place, another way of being? What do you need to know before you set off on a quest to hike the Appalachian Trail?

Science Instructor Frank Kriegler tends to his bees on Asheville’s campus. Kriegler will be teaching a beekeeping course this winter in the school’s inaugural Winterim session.
We’ve been calling both the teachers and the students pioneers in this endeavor, for they are helping to shape a program that we hope will continue well beyond COVID-19 times.

Our goal is to provide students and faculty the opportunity to explore interests, design experiences, and develop skills not offered during the traditional academic program. What’s more, with a nine-week break, we want to stay connected to students and keep them engaged with their teachers and peers, but we also want to provide some flexibility, some voice, and some choice.

“It’s such a great opportunity to explore a new model of learning,” says science teacher Laura Lawrence. “We’re not tied to a specific discipline or subject, but still able to apply the skills of scholarship that we otherwise wouldn’t be able to explore.”

Many of these courses provide real-world applications. One group of students will be creating an alumni survey and outreach program for our alumni of color. Another will be learning basic financial literacy: learning about compound interest, debt, filing for taxes, and building credit.

Designing and implementing this program has given a boost to our faculty and students. In August, teachers began to develop courses of interest. They’ve been working all fall to collaborate and fine-tune the selections. As their designs came in, they fell into six basic categories. Below is a smattering of the offerings that emerged:

**Math and Science:**
Financial Literacy - Your guide to “Adulting” with your money
Asheville School Sports Analytics

**Artistic Enterprises:**
- 3-D Design and Animation
- Get Your Craft On!
- Cross Stitch Family Portraits
- Jazz Dance: Peruse, Practice, Process, Present
- Halston, Gucci, Versace....Explore the Socio-Cultural Impact of High Fashion
- Bleep, Bloop, Buzz...Boom, Bap! Discovering Musical Circuitry
- Manipulation, Murder, and Madness in the World of Shakespeare

**Exploring the Natural World:**
- Adventure Trekking
- Beekeeping in the Appalachian Mountains
- Nature Journaling

**Social Justice and Current Events:**
- College Behind Bars
- Jesus and Social Justice
- The Election of 2020: What Just Happened?

**Creative Writing:**
- Daily Themes
- Blues on the Silver Screen: the Craft of Screenwriting
- Liberating Locks: Creating Poetry While Exploring Forms
- Writing Like We Mean It

**Literature and Film Study:**
- Let’s Go to the Movies! Film as Art
- Fairy Tales: Early Modern Classics versus Disney
- Exploring Ancient History Through Movies
- Film and the American Identity
- The Cinematic Work of John Hughes

If any of these questions spark an interest in you, just think how excited Asheville School students—and faculty—are to embark on their first Winterim.
This course will prepare you to learn the lifelong hobby of beekeeping. We will explore the history of beekeeping and honey production around the world with an emphasis on our Southern Appalachian Mountains. Much of the class will involve learning the techniques and equipment used to safely keep bees and extract honey. When we return to school you can expect to work with bees throughout the spring. If you like nature and enjoy spending time learning about our relationship with other living things, this is the course for you.
Cross Stitch
Family Portraits

We’ll start by learning the basics of Counted Cross Stitch. Then you’ll design and stitch a Cross Stitch family portrait (including pets!). You will also learn how to finish your stitch in a hoop and how to matte and frame it for display.

Ms. Ogle

Know Your Place!
Nature Journaling
Deeply Connects You to Your World

We only protect what we love. In this course, we will form a deeper connection to our surroundings by practicing artistic observational techniques in a Nature Journal. It does not matter if you are a beginner or a practiced artist; it does not matter if you live in an urban, a suburban, or a rural environment—the world is out there to be discovered. All you need is a notebook, a pencil, a black pen, your eyes, and a childhood sense of wonder.

Mr. Buddy
Inside the Mind of a Soccer Coach

If you have a passion for soccer and ever wondered what makes coaches tick, this course is for you. Students will learn how to develop individual soccer practices, how to develop a season plan, how to fit certain systems of play into the team program, how to analyze film, and more.

“I Can Do That:” Abstract Expressionism in the Studio

Ever looked at an Abstract Expressionist painting and thought, “I could do that?” You are not alone in your skepticism. Students enrolled in this course will learn why the intense color, large scale, and frenzied application of paint in the post-World War II paintings gained so much traction and are still revered by art historians, critics, and collectors today.
In Matters of Success, SWIM with the Current

This fall, Asheville School announced the formation of Blues Aquatics—the School’s first USA Swim Club.

Asheville School has found a “sweet spot” in swimming, earning consecutive conference championships over the last decade and winning the Boys and Girls NCISAA DII Championships in 2019. The Boys team repeated in 2020, earning another state title by a 270-point margin. The number of year-round swimmers who compete for USA Swimming has also grown over the years. Asheville School currently has 15 swimmers who swim year-round with Blues Aquatics. As this number grows, so does the success of the program.

The fact that North Carolina is considered the fastest swim state in the country played an integral part in the decision to start Blues Aquatics. The state produced more USA Swimming Scholastic All-Americans in 2019 than any other state. The program’s leaders believe competing against such excellent swimmers will only help the Blues Aquatics squad become stronger.

Sarah Bednar, Asheville School’s Head Swim Coach, has done considerable research on how to elevate the program to the next level. The top boarding school programs in the country all have successful USA Swim Teams. The existence of a club team at Asheville School provides brand recognition as swimmers compete year-round at regional, state,
and national championships. The Asheville School program will provide an exceptional place to train for student-athletes interested in a high level academic experience. It will also serve the regional community by providing local children a place to train and develop as competitive swimmers.

Blues Aquatics is excited to announce that Charlie McCanless will serve as Head Swim Coach for the program. Charlie is a lifelong competitive swimmer who served as captain and team record-holder at East Carolina University. He coached with programs such as SwimMAC in Charlotte and Charles River Aquatics in Boston. In 2014, Charlie was hired as head coach for the Smoky Mountain Aquatic Club, where he helped build the program into the most competitive in Western North Carolina. An ASCA level 5 coach, Charlie has significant experience working with both young and nationally-ranked swimmers.

With an Olympic year ahead, USA Swim club teams are predicted to grow by 25 percent. This growth, combined with all the benefits Blues Aquatics will bring to the school, make program leaders—and swimmers—confident that Asheville School is taking swimming to the next level. ▲
We see it in virtually every sport—student athletes are leaner, stronger, and more health-conscious than ever before. In 2016, Asheville School Director of Athletics Carl Boland ’99 laid out plans to develop a comprehensive strength and conditioning program as part of the School’s strategic initiative to safely and sustainably improve the competitiveness of the athletic program.
The program was designed to support every Asheville School athletic team, overhaul the Life Fitness afternoon program to provide more focused programming for varsity athletes and, most importantly, to promote safety and injury prevention/durability in all athletes both in-season and off-season. The program has been a success.

“The program has definitely helped me work toward my goals both in the weight room and on the court,” said Varsity Boys basketball player Nick Klipstein ’21. “We do a good mix of strength, conditioning, agility, and recovery during our workouts. The coaches design sport-specific workouts each session that help build strength and confidence, so we are better prepared for games.”

Coach Doug Harger, a Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist, has led the development of the program over the last five years. Operating under the premise that well-prepared athletes play more and incur less injuries (and less severe injuries, with faster recovery)—particularly overuse injuries—Coach Harger developed a summer program to help athletes return to school in August better prepared to compete and stay safe and healthy during the season. The program has expanded to utilize app-based technology to provide interactive instruction and support to athletes around the world during extended school breaks.

“Coach Harger has proven to be an invaluable resource to our student-athletes in their pursuit of excellence in the athletic realm,” said Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach Nick Whitmore. “During my time at Asheville School, I have felt as if our student-athletes always step foot onto the court or field prepared to compete at a high level due to their rigorous work in the weight room.”

In addition, a system of basic physical achievement standards for varsity athletes in all sports has been developed. The program recognizes exceptional physical achievements by individual athletes, posts a leaderboard in the facility that records both school and class records, and recognizes an athlete of the month for exceptional leadership and effort in strength and conditioning. In each year of the program, average team grades for physical performance have improved, and data shows overall injuries and subsequent recovery times are down.

As part of the effort to provide a comprehensive program to develop the whole athlete, Coach Harger also educates Asheville School athletes on nutrition, hydration, sleep habits, mental preparation and recovery techniques, including self-massage, stretching, and hydrotherapy.
Speaking Up & Giving Back

Last year, one of our favorite moments was at Pritchard Park in downtown Asheville, when we connected with the Asheville community to discuss their definitions of peace, and to fold paper cranes with our Fourth Form students.

This year, despite social distancing, we created the “Safe, Not Silent” project to provide resources and connect with the Asheville community. We invited students and faculty members to share the issues they care about through hopeful messages on reusable cotton masks designed with permanent fabric markers.

Asheville School created close to 200 one-of-a-kind masks for display in the Graham Theater lobby. We later washed and donated them to BeLoved Asheville for distribution, along with another 100 plain masks. What a fantastic opportunity to share creative energy with those in need beyond our campus. To quote the United Nations, “Even though we may not be able to stand next to each other, we can still dream together.”

BeLoved Asheville works to “create innovative solutions to some of the toughest challenges we face as a community. We try to put love into action daily through these solutions to make our community better.”

Learn more about BeLoved Asheville: BeLovedAsheville.com.

Community on Display

Over the years, Asheville School students have celebrated the United Nations International Day of Peace on September 21 through poetry, song, dance, music, visual art, and various service projects.

Above: Kathy Leiner, Chair of the Fine Arts Department.
After all, she grew up in a home filled with flowers because her mother is a garden designer. “I wanted to find a way to connect with people and spread awareness while doing one of my favorite things—being around flowers,” Mary Wells said. To that end, she built a street corner stand with a sign that read, “Free Flowers,” and—with the help of family and friends—gave away 800 flower arrangements to people in her community. With each bouquet, Mary Wells attached a note to inform people about various local organizations making a positive impact during the COVID-19 pandemic, including: Helpmate, Southern Poverty Law Center, Homeward Bound, and The Equal Justice Initiative.

Mary Wells also headed up a workshop at Asheville School where students made 50 flower arrangements for people in the campus community to enjoy. The bouquets were given away at a “Free Flowers” stand situated in front of the dining hall. “I’ve received a lot of sweet letters with heartfelt stories of how the flowers have impacted peoples’ lives,” Mary Wells said. “One woman said she was taking the flowers to her friend whose husband had just died of COVID-19. That was very touching.”

Right: Mary Wells Letson ‘22, well knows the loving power of flowers.

Flower Power

Right: Mary Wells’s father, Dr. Kellett Letson, is a math teacher at the Asheville School, and her brother, Austin ’16, attended Georgia Tech and now lives and works in New York City.
In March 2018, the late Congressman John Lewis addressed the Asheville School community and gave a moral mandate: “You have a moral obligation, a mission and a mandate, to speak up, speak out, and get in good trouble.” His message inspired then-Sixth Formers Nicole Alleyne and Maggie Chang to create change in their community. By tutoring and mentoring children from their area in afterschool and weekend programs, they built meaningful connections with their community and saw potential for Lewis’s vision to make a difference in the world around them.

Nicole and Maggie’s efforts led to the creation of Camp Good Trouble, a full summer day camp for children in kindergarten through fifth grade, hosted on the Asheville School campus. The purpose of Camp Good Trouble is to empower children of color to ensure that they have the confidence, skills, and motivation to disrupt the monotony of everyday life to cause “good trouble” and make the world a better place. The late Congressman Lewis said, “Our goal is to mentor campers by providing them with role models of color, teach them helpful skills to use in the upcoming school year, and inspire them to realize their potential—inside and outside of the classroom.”

“Camp Good Trouble is important to me because of the community it’s cultivated,” said Co-Founder Nicole Alleyne. “Starting the Camp has led me to understand what it means to be a community member—not just to live in Asheville or to go to school here, but to actively meet community leaders in the city who are doing amazing work in the field of education. Our community partners, Elinor Earle and Joseph Jamison from Youthful H.A.N.D. and Asheville Open Doors, respectively, have taught me lessons about leadership and education that continue to impact me today. Each summer provides the
chance for students from Asheville School, Asheville Open Doors, and Youthful H.A.N.D. all to work and learn together. It’s a rock star group of campers and volunteers that leaves me smiling each summer. We set out to be engaged in the education system and built lasting relationships with the community in return.”

The Camp works with community partners—Asheville Open Doors, Youthful H.A.N.D., and Students Shoulder to Shoulder—to provide a fun, safe, and supportive environment for local children to learn and play.

“Camp Good Trouble was the first real student-led project I ever worked on. It wasn’t like a class or an extracurricular activity; we didn’t have anyone grading us or any rubric to go off of, which was scary at first,” said Co-Founder Maggie Chang. “Nicole and I just found a community and a cause we were passionate about and ran with it and that passion forced us to step out into the real world for the first time. Our mentors, advisors, and peers at Asheville School supported us in the best possible way—they empowered us to take on the responsibility ourselves, but still offered their time, expertise, and encouragement to help us realize our vision and make a positive difference. It was my first experience with leadership, and I can’t think of a better place to have grown into it. Camp Good Trouble, to me, represents the courage it takes to step out and take responsibility for the issues you care about and to empower and support others to do the same.”

Maggie said her hope for Camp Good Trouble is that it continues to be a safe space for growth and connection. “Ultimately all of the songs, field trips, and activities are only the fun characteristics of a place designed to help people learn together. I hope that the relationships and skills that campers, counselors, and mentors form together will help all of us grow into compassionate individuals and caring citizens. As long as Camp Good Trouble remains a place where underrepresented children feel acknowledged, feel seen and heard and known, we’ve done what we set out to do.”

Sixth Former and Camp Director Kelsey Mann ’21 said Camp Good Trouble is close to her heart because it not only serves children with whom she has a personal relationship, but it also provides a place for them to see young adults who look like them be leaders in the community. “I think that representation has been a big part of what had made the Camp so impactful in the past, and it is something that I think we try to be very conscious of and intentional about,” Kelsey said. “My greatest hope for Camp Good Trouble at Asheville School is that it can be a sustained part of the Asheville School routine for years to come. I want this to be a project that most of our students can work on during their time here, and by having such strong community support, I hope we can expand the range of communities we serve. Most of all, I hope we can make service a habit, rather than a special occasion.”

Nicole said she hopes Camp Good Trouble will continue to be a hub for student activism, both for campers and volunteers. “Our goal continues to be to honor the legacy of our Camp’s inspiration, John Lewis, and to incorporate many of his teachings into our practices at Camp,” Nicole said. “Through Lewis’s teachings, it is my hope that our campers leave each summer understanding their worth, their power, and their potential.”

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ometric Co-founders of Camp Good Trouble, Nicole Alleyne ’19 and Maggie Chang ’19.
RAY J MCDAY
Recognizing and overcoming inequality

“What I urge you all to do today is find your voice and speak up for what’s right. Yes, we may have different political views, yes, we may be different races, and yes, we may be in different financial classes, but we cannot lose our sense of humanity.”

GABRIELLE TRICHON
Recognizing our power to make a positive impact

“If you could take only one thing away from this talk, it would be to use your power for good. Do something small to make someone else’s day better. It can be smiling at someone near you or writing a little pick-me-up note after a tough day.”

HELEN MILLER
Slowing down and embracing our surroundings

“During that moment of solitude, I learned to trust Mr. Kollath, and he reminded me to slow down and taste the dirt. I was reminded to take risks, and to appreciate what’s around me without disrupting it.”

MAC LASTINGER
Learning through travel

“Baboon liver tastes just as bad as you would think, especially if it’s barely cooked.”

VIVIAN GREGORY
Living a life without fear

“If fear and anxiety no longer held any power over me, I would be more like my younger brother Willie. He faces his own fair share of fears, but, unlike me, he doesn’t let those fears hold him back.”

EUGENIE SELSER
Realizing our potential

“What’s important is not so much what you’re born with, but it matters how you take advantage of your gifts.”

SPEAKING OF TRADITION
CHAPEL TALKS
NICK KLIPSTEIN
Maintaining an authentic sense of self

“What does matter is if you are happy, if you have a support system you can rely on, and if you feel confident going into the next chapter of your life. Because at the end of the day, if you don’t love yourself, who will?”

JOHN BARWICK
Addressing injustice with hope and perseverance

“When I was just a little kid, I had a very clear idea of who I wanted my role model to be in growing up. His name is Calvin, and he’s the six-year-old, blond haired co-protagonist and title character of Calvin and Hobbes.”

GRACE AHERN
Redefining success

“The narrative that defines success as ‘college’ and ‘running a business’ is truly nothing more than a societal concept. Unfortunately, it is taught as the truth, and as a result, people follow it blindly, spending their time waiting for their life to be fulfilled, rather than enjoying it.”

CONQUEST MARTIN
Striving to be vulnerable and authentic

“Acting is about combining the character’s perspective with the actor’s perspective, drawing from real emotions and desires to create a compelling performance. I cannot speak for everyone when I say this, but I think everyone should work harder to be our authentic selves.”

PHIL KRIELE
Discovering purpose through his mother’s example

“Even when a ‘22’ in practice seems undoable, I start to think about my ‘Why’ and ‘Why am I running this 22 right now?’ I make my mind clear that my ‘Why’ is my mother, and I want to be in a position one day that I can give my parents back what they have given me.”

JOHN MCCURRY
Addressing the power of vulnerability

“I have, as Brené Brown would say, been able to stand inside my vulnerabilities allowing me to now see them in a new light, not as weaknesses but as strengths.”

“We must strive to uphold and embody the principles that will bring change for the better. Each and every morning, we have to wake up and want to be better. By facing our own selfishness, we can begin to lead the world, and all its people, to a more selfless tomorrow.”

—CHARLIE KINGREE, Overcoming selfishness.

On June 16, our new chapel bells—a gift from Head of School Anthony H. Sgro ’84 to his wife, Faulkner—rang for the first time. As Anthony shared in his note to the students and faculty that day, “I hope everyone in our community enjoys the joyful noise of these bells for many years to come.”

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While they were comfortable with Alice and Hank being home alone for short periods of time—especially since they live and work on the Asheville School campus—they were not comfortable leaving the kids all day, five to six days a week, to manage their virtual school.

“Many other faculty have elementary school-aged children as well, and we were all facing the same childcare challenge,” Joe said. “As luck would have it, one of our young alums, Miranda Thompson ’16, had already decided to live in Asheville for a semester and help coach our tennis team before starting PT school. She emailed me saying, ‘If you ever need a sitter, I’ll be in town starting in August.’ I quickly replied, asking if she’d consider ‘nannying’ younger faculty children during the school day. She agreed, and we volunteered to host everyone at our house, which has a two-car garage and plenty of space inside. We felt it important to use the space we have to help other families.”

Nicknamed the One Room Schoolhouse, the Lambert home—under Miranda’s guidance—provided a unique and wonderful learning experience for the nine faculty children who attended each week. Mornings were structured with school work, which included Zoom meetings, class assignments, small groups, and assessments. From noon on it was lunch and play time, quiet and independent time, and play time.

“The first week required a lot of flexibility from both the students and me, as I found certain methods and tricks worked better than others when it came to scheduling, class time breaks, and play time,” Miranda said. “Luckily, everything fell into place after the first few days, and they all got extremely familiar with the structure of our days.”

Miranda said one of the biggest challenges was motivating the kids to engage in the Zoom calls. “Having completed my senior year of college during the beginning of the pandemic, I can sympathize with them—Zoom meetings aren’t the most exciting thing on the agenda,” Miranda said. “However, promoting different incentives and small rewards for good and diligent behavior definitely helped...
motivate them to adapt to the new style of learning. I also found that scheduling all schoolwork in the mornings allowed students to enjoy their afternoons more.”

Everyone was thankful for the use of the Lambert house, which featured a large garage for work and play space. Being centrally located on Faculty Drive, other neighborhood kids often came around to play outside at lunch time. “The trampoline proved to be a great way for them to get all their wiggles out, and activities like sidewalk chalk and cartoon drawing were great for our independent time,” Miranda said.

A huge morale boost occurred each “Fun Friday” when Miranda planned an hour-long activity to cap off the end of the week. Fun Fridays included planting pumpkins, tie dying T-shirts, enjoying birthday cake, decorating bookmarks, miscellaneous science activities, and making caramel apples. “I found Fun Fridays to be an exciting way to start off the weekend, and when Mondays rolled around, the kids were normally excited to come back to the One Room Schoolhouse.”
In an extraordinary act of generosity, William (Bill) P. Hypes ’42 chose to honor his alma mater with a bequest of $1.9 million. With this transformational gift, the William P. Hypes 1942 Endowment Fund was established to support faculty salaries and student scholarships in memory of Bill’s father, Samuel L. Hypes 1912.

Bill passed away peacefully on March 6, 2019, at the age of 94. He was an engaged alumnus who cared deeply about Asheville School and its future. Bill entered Asheville School in the Fifth Form from New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL. He played Varsity Basketball, Football and Baseball (Captain ’42), and served on the Student Council.

After Asheville School, Bill served in the U.S. Marine Corps (’42-’46), and earned his bachelor’s degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, NY, and his M.B.A. from the University of Chicago.

The first part of his career was spent in the merchandising business, where he was Superintendent of Operations, Store Manager, and Divisional VP of Administration at Carson Pirie Scott & Co., in Chicago. He then became Vice President of Investment Operations for Equitable Life Assurance Society in New York.

Bill retired to Vero Beach, FL in 1988. A loyal Asheville School alumnus, he attended reunions and receptions, and served on the Alumni Council prior to his election to the Board of Trustees in 1970. He took an active role in capital campaigns of the 1980s and 1990s, and was elected as an emeritus member of the Board in 1995. Bill remained close to his classmates throughout his life and met annually with fellow infielders from the 1942 baseball team.

Bill’s nephew, Pete Hellebush ’64, said one of Bill’s desires was to see that the excellent academic program at the Asheville School would be made available to as many young men and women as possible. “He wanted to extend well into the future the standard of academic excellence in a small boarding school environment, that is now very rare in our country. He understood that required a large endowment,” Pete said. “With his gift he intended to grow the endowment and he hoped to inspire other alumni to join him in his efforts to strengthen the School’s long-term financial stability.”

Pete said Bill took him to his first major league baseball game and they attended spring training games together as well in Florida. Bill was especially fond of Asheville School baseball coach and history teacher William F. Lewis.

Talmage Rogers ’56, who served with Bill on the Asheville School Board of Trustees and was a dear friend, said Bill had impeccable skills to help guide
the School. “He had excellent people skills, the ability to listen to and work in a collegial manner with even those whose ideas were counter to his own or counter to the direction in which he felt the School should be headed,” said Talmage. “I remember two distinct areas in which his counsel proved especially valuable and pivotal—the issues of going co-ed and management of the endowment.” Talmage said Bill was a quiet and effective leader, with exceptional insights and wisdom.

Bill’s daughter, Loyd Zisk, said: “Being able to give such a significant gift to the Asheville School was a tremendous joy to my father and, as was typical of his unassuming manner, he attached his father’s name to the gift.” In fact, Loyd said additional funds from the sale of Bill’s home will be added to the endowment in the near future. “He was, in every sense of the word, a true philanthropist.”
Norm Beecher ’40 appreciated all that his life’s journey gave to him. In 1993, he published a 400+ page book chronicling the story of his life titled, “Fortunate Journey.” During his time as a student, Norm did it all. He sang in the choir, participated in school debates, played in the band, served as managing editor of the school paper, and played track, tennis, and other sports. The friendships he developed as a student were lifelong.

Roommates were groomsmen in his wedding and continued to be friends for years after their time together at Asheville School.

After graduating Asheville School and attending the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to be trained as an engineer, Norm served in the Army in World War II. Returning home in the summer of 1946 was a sharp transition to his time in the service. He found therapeutic purpose in devoting his time and energy to restoring a Jeep he had acquired from Army surplus.

Arthur Brooks, an Asheville School teacher, emerged as a willing partner in the restoration project and a good companion in the work which helped Norm readjust to civilian life.

Norm continued to return to Asheville School throughout his life with his wife, Nancy, and their four children. The Beechers had such an appreciation for the School and the importance of education that they left a sizable portion of their estate to Asheville School to assure that future generations would be able to benefit from the Asheville School education.

We are grateful for the Beecher family’s commitment to the School and the financial assistance their gift will provide to countless future students through their endowment support of financial aid.
Asheville School’s Annual Fund has a new look! Formerly the Cody Fund, the Annual Fund has been renamed to reflect that the Fund benefits everyone in the Blues community. Gifts to the Blues Fund directly impact Blues students, athletes, and artists; they benefit our amazing faculty through salary support and professional development; and they provide financial aid to motivated students who may otherwise not have the opportunity to attend Asheville School. Every gift to the Blues Fund enhances the Asheville School experience. Without this critical funding source, we simply could not provide the scope and breadth of offerings to our past, current, and future Blues.

So, when you make a gift to the Blues Fund, you can be assured it is making a difference in the life of one of our Blues family members—it may be a student who is thriving in our close-knit community, a teacher who just attended an inspirational conference, an artist who’s honing the skills to express herself, or an athlete who is equipped with the latest protective gear.

Make your annual gift to the Blues Fund any time before June 30, 2021. Please return the enclosed envelope with your method of payment or contact Ashly Maag at giving@ashevilleschool.org to discuss a gift of securities or your company’s matching gift program.
In a year when we have all adjusted to working from home and spending more time on our computers, hundreds of Blues have come together in acts of solidarity and bold statements of support for Asheville School. More than 850 alumni, grandparents, parents of alumni, former trustees, and former faculty started the momentum in April when they joined together to support BLUES UNITE, our first online giving day. In October, more than 200 Blues parents from across the globe participated in the first ALL IN Parent Giving Day.

Each of these giving days provided essential unrestricted resources to allow the Board and administration to meet the School’s greatest needs.

Our heartfelt thanks to the more than 115 volunteer Alumni Boosters who stepped up to encourage their classmates and friends to contribute to BLUES UNITE. Twenty-six amazing Parent Boosters connected with Blues parents in their region to share why they are ALL IN for Asheville School, and to encourage giving to the Blues Fund. These volunteers provided the critical outreach that resulted in increased participation during these fast-paced, one-day events.

In a year that was anything but ordinary, our Blues family quickly pivoted and joined us in a new, interactive, and virtual fundraising platform. Thank you for your support! ▲▲
We welcome you to reach out to us frequently! Our primary purpose is to advance the mission of Asheville School by inspiring philanthropy, clearly communicating what makes us unique, and deepening the ties that bind us together. Go Blues!

(From L – R) Faulkner Sgro, Director of Special Events; Ashly Maag, Associate Director of Advancement; Leigh Ruhl, Associate Head for Advancement; Andy Hirt, Assistant Head for Marketing & Major Gifts; Megan Markovic, Manager of Advancement Services & Data; Emily Knapp, Assistant Director of Marketing & Communications; and Burt Gordon ’86, Director of Alumni Relations.
My recent conversation with Jay Bonner was like the 1981 Louis Malle film, *My Dinner With Andre*, except there was no dinner. The setting was a North Asheville patio instead of a Manhattan restaurant, and our friendship could draw from more decades than the movie characters could. And things were a little more upbeat, COVID-19 worries notwithstanding.

I knew the conversation would be a lively one, because Bonner takes to questions “like a philosopher to a millennium,” to borrow a simile from jazzman Mezz Mezzrow.

If the important thing, as Socrates suggested, is to keep the conversation going, well, Jay Bonner should don an Athenian tunic. He is a dialogist *par excellence*. A conversation with Bonner is peppered with many good-natured chuckles and emphatic crescendos of affirmation. There’s just not enough time to get in all the book, movie, and music recommendations.

But I’m biased, having bantered with Jay Bonner for some four decades now. We immediately took a mental stroll back to our days in Guilty Conscience, our short-lived ’80s rock ’n’ roll combo. We pondered how our lives might have been different.
had our jagged, noisy musical protests been more commercially successful (my short answer: Asheville School probably saved us both from undignified early demise of the rock ‘n’ roll cliché variety).

To begin our talk, I thought it would be fun to replicate *Downbeat* magazine’s old column, Blindfold Test. Around the time my recording apparatus decided to abruptly quit, Bonner was quoting Louise Glück from her poem, “Nostos:”

> Jim Gardner: Jay, is life a comedy or a tragedy? A cyberpunk dystopia, maybe? A sci-fi fantasy?

> Jay Bonner: [Chuckles, pauses.] You know, Kenneth Rexroth talks about it being more of a tragicomedy, right? It’s the two faces on the proscenium—the sad face and the grinning face. I forget how he put it—life is tragic, but we’re kind of comic characters in the tragedy. And I think that’s true. Human beings are tragically comic all the time, right? And we take ourselves too seriously.

> Now, death is pretty tragic. That is the one thing that gives us a potential for meaning in our lives, the fact that we’re gonna die. And if we keep that in front of us I think there’s an opportunity for us to do something with our lives.

> I mean, who cares about the gods in *The Iliad*? They’re adolescents who never grow up. It’s the [human] characters who put their lives on the line in that poem . . .

> Gardner: To make our way in the tragicomedy, we probably need to be kind—three times. Don’t tell anyone, but I’ve been saving Henry James to read later. Where did you find the “be kind” quote?

> Bonner: The “be kind” quote from Henry James I think I found in poet and Jargon Society publisher Jonathan Williams’ book *Quote, Unquote*. JW was a fountain of pithy sayings he culled from his readings and acquaintances.

> Gardner: Sometimes you have to prioritize your reading, and get those senior demos graded. How many senior demos do you think you’ve sponsored?

“We look at the world once, in childhood. The rest is memory.” —Louise Glück
Bonner: [laughs] Ahh. Sponsored, maybe 250? I guess, right? Over 30-some-odd years, so not quite ten a year, because early on I was only doing three or four and it's picked up over time. Two hundred to 250 would sound right to me.

I love 'em. I really do. For me, that's one of the highlights of the academic experience for our kids, and I love the opportunity to work with our students. When they work with me, that is! You get somebody like Erik Davies '08, for example. I remember working with Erik and being so excited to finally work with this guy, on Dante. I loved that he was wanting to take on Dante's Divine Comedy. And then Erik, to my chagrin, never worked with me. And then I read it and it was like, he didn't need to work with me! It was like, ghbbhh, what a blow to the ego, you know? [laughs] But, no, it was great.

Gardner: I'm not surprised that Erik could do that. So, when you're not punched in to the school clock and its demands on your time, do you have a favorite method for winding down?

Bonner: I love reading. At the beginning of the day, it's coffee and a book. Right? At the end of the day, it's a local ale and the newspaper. That, to me, is my most effective way to wind down.

I love to have the Times in one hand and the Journal in the other hand and see—How do the front pages look? Why does the Times have this story on page one and the Wall Street Journal have it on page five? What's that saying about what's important in the news? I love that. I love doing a kind of comparative of the two papers. I'm not being critical of the Wall Street Journal or the Times here; I'm just saying it just teaches me to understand that there is a different perspective and, what is that perspective telling me versus this other perspective—and to be careful of both.

But I [also] love reading the mail. I love getting letters and getting a chance to read letters at the end of the day. Those things are the ways I like to unwind.

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But I [also] love reading the mail. I love getting letters and getting a chance to read letters at the end of the day. Those things are the ways I like to unwind.
Gardner: Do you do the Hawthornian journal thing of keeping a list of potential book topics, titles, etc.? Band names?

Bonner: Yeah, I’ve been doing that a lot. The other thing I’ve been doing a lot with lately is epigraphs. John Lawrence and I, we flipped our medical humanities course, edged it, tilted it, to include pandemics, and to deal with COVID-19. One of the works we added was Katherine Anne Porter’s *Pale Horse, Pale Rider*. The last sentence in that is extraordinary, something like, “and now we have the rest of our lives.” [“Now there would be time for everything.”] This is after she’s lost this guy she’s only really known for ten days, but she’s been sick, she almost lost her life, people are dying. There’s this two-page sequence where there are three funeral processions and it’s no commentary from the author or any of them, but people are clearly dying like flies, and it’s this most devastating, ringing line. So I want to use that line either as an epigraph or as a title.

Gardner: Excellent. One last question, which I should know the answer to already but don’t: How do you take your coffee?

Bonner: Cream and sugar. Raw sugar, please, and half-and-half. I’m bitter enough, Jim, I don’t need coffee to help me. I’ve got to take some of the edge off.

Jim Gardner instructed a generation of scholars and rapscallions at Asheville School from 1994 to 2015. Find him at latéguitar.com or email him at d3j@mindspring.com.

Jay Bonner has been teaching, coaching, and generally terrorizing students at Asheville School for over 30 years. He has known Jim Gardner since they were both in high school. There is (almost) no amount of money that would tempt Jim to divulge any secrets from those—and subsequent—days. Want to connect with Jay to talk music, coffee, books, or whatever else is on your mind? Hit him up at bonnerj@ashevilleschool.org.

Gardner: Kate Tempest, “People’s Faces.”

Bonner: Kate Tempest? Yeah, I love her. But it’s funny, that piano piece at the beginning could have been something from The Beatles, right? Is this off her new one? I haven’t bought anything of hers in a while, although I love her. And I love that notion of just chatting, kind of talking over something. Nice little transition there too, from just ruminating to, now, much more emphatic, kind of assertive, like a fist raised or something.

More empathy, less greed, and more respect

Words for our time! Come on, doesn’t get better than that! I mean, this could be like an anthem for the virus days, right?
Feel things changing.
Feel things changing—2020! And again, a great line, “I love people’s faces.” And I can only see half of yours, right? [Ed. note—we are both wearing masks during the interview.] It’s this weird thing, Jim, that we’re in, this sense of isolation, alienation, and what we need is empathy and connection, right? But it’s harder. I’m teaching Third Formers this year and it’s just hard, you know. They’re all brand new to the school!

Gardner: Jeffrey Lewis, “Depression, Despair.”

Bonner: This is very ’80s, but it’s contemporary? Gosh, it could be the Violent Femmes updated. It could be the Modern Lovers updated, Jonathan Richman, you know . . . It’s not Car Seat Headrest, is it? Depression, despair—I’ll see you there! Ha ha! Again, the times, the times, apt for the times; could be the anthem of our time. [Laughs] Send me that, too, or the link so I can get to that. I like the dissonance, I like where they go.

Gardner: All the guitar sounds are played on an acoustic.

Bonner: Is it really? I would not have predicted that. That’s a lot of good electric sound out of an acoustic. Keep it simple. ▲
Class of 1946

James L. Gault wrote, “I have been fortunate over all these years, blessed with a wonderful wife and family. I am sorry I have not been able to visit the school more often, but the memories of my three years there remain vibrant. I continue to read the news about Asheville School with pride, following the inspiring progress of the school as carefully as I can. I wish our new Head of School, Anthony Sgro, the best of success. If any of my Asheville School classmates and friends are reading this, I hope you will seriously consider joining me as a member of the Wilbert Peck Society with a legacy gift.”

Class of 1950

“I continue to precept in endocrinology in the outpatient clinics and was given an Exemplary Service Recognition from Emory University for 20 years of volunteer service at Grady Hospital,” wrote George E. Shambaugh III. “In addition to keeping up with medical literature, I have carried on as a cherry grower in Michigan on the Old Mission Peninsula. I am working on an autobiography and do some banjo playing, and work out cooking new recipes with my wife, Roberta. Having retired from Northwestern University as Professor of Medicine Emeritus in 1999, and moved to Atlanta, I have taken advantage of many opportunities to reconnect with Asheville School and classmates. This continues to enrich my life.”

Class of 1958

Peden B. McLeod, a Walterboro native who worked in the South Carolina Statehouse for nearly 20 years, had a bridge named in his honor this fall. The bridge is on U.S Highway 17 and goes over the Edisto River. Peden, 80, served eight years in the SC House of Representatives from 1972 to 1979, and the SC Senate from 1980 to 1990.

Class of 1959

John D. Fageol: “Semi-retired, I pretend to work and they pretend to pay me. Still active (50+ years) in avionics engineering, things that fly, go boom, or liftoff. We have homes in Palm Springs and San Diego (travel for work). I’m still collecting and restoring Fageol Trucks from the 1920s of the last century. Rhonda is better than ever and we are looking forward to visiting the school again. Missing Europe. We were able to riverboat Paris-to-Normandy last year and glad now that we did get there. Cabo next spring and Asheville School in the future. Enjoying golf all over the USA.”
Class of 1962

Robert C. Quimby shared, “While there is nothing special about my life, I’ve been blessed to have a wonderful and caring wife (who is also a CPA), six children and 11 grandchildren, all of whom are healthy. My wife and I stay involved with some of the area non-profits, and in particular, VetsRoll, a tremendous organization. We’ve made five trips to Washington, DC with them as assistants to the 200 WWII and Korean veterans that make the trip annually. I’m involved in the local post of the American Legion as their finance officer and am the treasurer for the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Council. I’m probably one of your few male class members who is a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts. Earlier in my career my wife and I were both active in the Illinois CPA Society, including serving on their Board of Directors.”

Class of 1963

C. Barrett Graham shared, “In early 2017, I downsized my law practice from downtown Morehead City, NC, to a small building in our back yard in Newport, NC. I’ve managed to slow my practice down and shorten my office hours to four days per week. I guess I’ll retire completely when the mood strikes me.” He added, “I joined the fire service in 1979 while continuing to practice law and now crisscross NC on weekends, serving as an instructor for the Office of the State Fire Marshal. All of this led to a request from a publishing house in Durham, NC, in 2003 to produce a textbook/reference manual dealing with some of the legal aspects of the fire service in NC. In 2006, the first edition of North Carolina Fire Law was published. Last year, we released the third edition and fourth version of the book. It’s been an interesting experience. In 2016, I completed a monograph about my experiences in Vietnam, which I sent to my undergraduate alma mater, VMI. In 2018, Hurricane Florence really tore up the Newport, NC community, and we’re still cleaning up and repairing. It’s the price of living at the coast.”

Peter T. Robertson reflected, “One positive thing about the pandemic is that I have had the time to begin researching and writing a family biography of my grandfather, my father and my eldest brother, who all shared the same name, were Yale graduates, had very big personalities, and had very interesting and successful lives and careers. Because of our strong family connections to the School, I reached out to Burt Gordon and the School’s archivist to get assistance with some research, and they have been of tremendous help. This family biography work has convinced me that Asheville School provided a strong foundation for, and played a pivotal role in, my father’s and my eldest brother’s development as adults and in their many accomplishments later in life. The School not only gave each a very good education, but also taught them the value of discipline and hard work. In addition, the School’s athletic programs helped make them skilled and highly competitive athletes in a number of sports. They also learned the importance of involvement in non-academic activities, and each was very active in many of the numerous extracurricular programs that were available. Most importantly, Asheville School imparted to or reinforced in them some critical, intangible characteristics—honesty, integrity, morality, and loyalty. Those traits stayed with them for the rest of their lives and were an essential part of their characters. My wife Cathie and I have been married for 51 years. She retired six years ago after spending more than 35 years working at and running a very large and successful after-school program at a primary school in a neighboring city. Over the years, we have spent a lot of time traveling. In the last 15 years, we have concentrated our travels in two places—Belize (for the snorkeling, hiking, birds, fish, and other wildlife) and Italy (primarily in Tuscany and Rome—for the friends, food, olive oil, art and Roman and pre-Roman ruins). We are anxiously awaiting the reopening of the world so we can resume our travels.”
Class of 1964

James A. Fisher wrote, “Recently, Elizabeth and I enjoyed a wonderful trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway with good friends. We did a five-day trip that left Pinehurst on a Monday, traveled west to Little Switzerland Inn on the twisties of Hwy 226A, also known as ‘The Diamondback,’ then over the BRP in the clouds to the Pisgah Inn, with lots of stops along the way to see…the clouds. Another day, drove the famous ‘Tail of the Dragon’ (Hwy 129) for more sporty driving, stayed at the River’s Edge Tree House in Robbinsville, drove on the Cherohala Skyway, and finished the trip back north at Blowing Rock and the Meadowbrook Inn. Drove past the School on our way back north on a blustery, rainy day. It was a beautiful way to see the mountains of North Carolina, no matter the weather.”

Peter L. Hellebush shared, “For the past four years, I have been volunteering for a local organization entitled ‘Read Write Spell.’ It is dedicated to teaching kids to read. As you know, we have a national crisis of third grade reading proficiency rates well under 50%. I have been a tutor in schools, and have served on the Board. I am the incoming Chair for 2021. The current Chair is Michael Rogers ’90, Arthur Rogers ’88 younger brother. Michael’s two children graduated from Asheville School just last year, Class of 2020.”

Class of 1965

Richard M. Prior: “As I play out the skein, it seems I’ve done about everything except swim in the emperor’s moat. After graduating from Vero Beach (FL) H.S., I went to Stetson University in DeLand and was the number one player on the golf team. School didn’t seem as important as golf and Daytona Beach. The draft board noticed. Near the end of my Air Force enlistment in 1970, I was stationed at Hq. SAC in Omaha, NE, and finished tied for seventh in the Nebraska Invitational—their version of the state amateur golf tournament that year. I worked in New York City for a bit, then enrolled at NC State, where I graduated with three majors—history, English, and political science. I spent better than 27 years as a newspaper reporter and editor at five papers in North Carolina, Virginia, and Florida. For three years I was the features editor for U.S. Sen. Harry Byrd in Harrisonburg, VA. I interviewed and wrote features on five successive Virginia governors, from Gerald Baliles to Mark Warner, who is now a senator. It was my honor to spend a long time with Doug Wilder, the state’s first black governor since Reconstruction.

I wrote features on Sens. George McGovern and Bill Bradley. From 2003-10, I was the associate editor of The St. Augustine Record and covered circuit court all day, every day. There were 12 death penalty trials during that time. Production companies filmed my take on the proceedings and sentences for six of them. Some still make the rounds on programs such as Investigation ID. I’ve been married for 37 years to the finest person I know. We have four children and four grandchildren. These days I work in security, freelance some, and keep an eye open for the next chance to try something else. Indeed, I’ve managed to avoid the curse of being overpaid, but it sure has been fun.”

Class of 1966

George N. Bagley: “I am more than a year into retirement living on Cape Cod with my wife Beth, who works for a climate change research and advocacy group. I fill my days with cycling, sailing, pickleball, hiking, kayaking, and curling, in addition to managing an eBay store and involvement with a few charitable events. I am also working through a long list of the best of the best books that I have read and am now enjoying for a second time. I am also looking forward to resuming my tours of significant Civil War battlefields. Uncle Will would have corrected me by saying that they are all significant. Both of our children Gordon and Liza are engaged, which is very exciting. They live in Southern Pines and D.C. My siblings are spread all over the country and we long to get together soon. Beth and I both enjoy traveling, but all of those plans are necessarily on hold. The Cape is a wonderful place to live and we are blessed to have many outdoor options in this COVID-19 world. We enjoyed attending my 50th reunion and look forward to returning when we can. All the best to the Class of ’66.”

John W. Warren, Sr. shared, “I have six grandchildren, two in Tucson and four in Winchester, Virginia, where Carol and I live. Two of the four—Ella, nearly 13, and Charlie, 10, attend The Powhatan School in Boyce, Virginia. Their mother, Jen, teaches second grade and has taught at the school for 20 years. Ella and Charlie have both attended Powhatan since Pre-K, so Carol and I have a track record there for several years. From 1985 to 1992, a young fellow named Billy Peebles IV, was the head at Powhatan School. It was his first job as head of a school. He put the place on the map and introduced forward thinking curricula and a solid fundraising program. And then, sadly for Powhatan but happily for Asheville School, Billy Peebles succeeded Jack Tyrer as the head of school and stayed for many years before going off to The Lovett School in Atlanta. But 1992
was not the last time Powhatan School was going to see Billy! In July of this year, Billy returned to Powhatan as interim head following the retirement of Sue Scarborough. Billy plans to stay through June of 2021 when a new head steps in and Billy goes off to another interim assignment. How lucky is Powhatan to have a former head as the interim, especially in these times that can hardly be described as normal. With the knowledge of the school and the friendships of former trustees and community leaders, Billy has succeeded in opening the school, overseeing all the COVID-19 related requirements, and maintaining an order of sanity in this Pre-K through eight preparatory school. It’s been wonderful to have Billy at Powhatan again and it will indeed be a sad day when he leaves next year.”

Class of 1969

W. Bradford Gary shared, “Although not an active member of my class, I remember time together as happy, productive, and educational. We were a Vietnam era class so the conflict and related events occupied much of the framework of that time. After graduating from George Washington University I served as professional staff member in Congress. Following government service I represented several US corporations in Washington, as well as joining the Board of Directors of the Henry L. Stimson Institute—a National Security ‘think tank.’ My wife Susan and I visited the campus two summers ago and were pleased to see Asheville School doing well!”

Class of 1971

Alan L. Oppenheimer recently wrote Workplace Secrets Revealed. The book bridges the gap between the world of education and the world of work. Much has been written about preparing a resume and interviewing, but there is scant information on transitioning from the world of education to the world of work. This book provides insights and directions for dealing with many workplace issues and conundrums, shared by successful professions from a variety of career paths. alanloppenheimer.com

Class of 1973

After a long career as a CEO of technology companies around the world, Charles W. Upchurch III recently transitioned to CEO coaching five years ago as a Partner in a Paris-based group with clients across Europe. One of his clients offered him a new challenge a year ago and he is now the CEO of a medium-sized telecommunications company near Zurich. He shared, “The challenge is to build up the valuation and sell the company within two years, which is stimulating! I know many of my classmates are retiring now but I enjoy new challenges. My health and energy are fortunately still good and I will probably take on a new adventure after this one.”

Class of 1974

J. Arthur Pope was selected by the N.C. Senate to the UNC System Board of Governors.

Class of 1975

Keith P. Bishop is excited to share the news of the arrival of his second grandchild, Josephine Fiona Chang. Josephine’s mother, Katherine, visited the school in 2015 when she was pregnant with Josephine’s brother, Oliver Caspian Chang. Keith shared, “I continue to practice corporate and securities law in California and teach securities regulation at the University of California, Irvine. Having retired my horse from jumping, I spend my spare time running on the local trails and hiking in Nevada and Southern California.”

Willis J. Grant IV and the rest of the Class of 1975 were saddened by the untimely death of Chip Ausley, one of their classmates. Willis shared, “As a tribute to him and due to our 45th Class Reunion being postponed, we had a Zoom meeting and had 12 of our class attend. Life is short and unpredictable. We were able to recount many memories of our time at the school and with each other. Thank you to our classmate Charlie Moore for putting this together.”

Trustee David Stover ’74 shows his Blues pride on a recent flight!
Class of 1976

David C. Pencheon, founding director of the Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) for NHS England and Public Health England, has won The BMJ Outstanding Contribution to Health Award this year. The BMJ Awards are the UK’s top medical awards, recognizing and celebrating the great work being done by healthcare teams and individuals across the UK to improve patient care and public health. David Pencheon has been a world leader of efforts to tackle the climate emergency from within healthcare. He led the setting up of the NHS SDU in 2007, at a time when very few others had the foresight to make sustainability and climate their top priority. In the process he has been a major contributor to putting health at the heart of climate action globally and also to making climate action a normal and now essential responsibility for all healthcare professionals. Dr Fiona Godlee, Editor in Chief at The BMJ said: “David has been an inspiration to the many people within healthcare working to tackle the climate emergency and has inspired and encouraged the next generation of healthcare professionals working in the field of sustainability. With so many pressing issues, including now the COVID-19 pandemic, we must not let the real and present threat of global heating slip down the agenda. So I am particularly pleased that this year’s award goes to David, as someone who has so effectively championed climate action in healthcare and helped to normalize climate change and sustainable development as a health issue—not just an environmental issue.”

Dr. Helen M. Stockinger checked in with gusto, sharing, “Go class of 1976! We are the best! I’m still living and working in Spartanburg as a hospitalist/internist at Spartanburg Regional Medical Center. I never dreamed that in my medical career I would work amidst a pandemic and am currently working at the Restorative Care Hospital where we care for patients who are trying to recover from the severe cardiopulmonary complications of COVID-19. COVID-19 is one terrible virus if you are unlucky enough to have a bad case. I urge all of you to continue following safe procedures. Keep your masks on and social distance. My best to the Asheville School family. Take care. Miss being on campus. Maybe one day soon.”

Class of 1979

David Higginbotham received an undergraduate degree from Guilford College in Geology in 1983, and an M.S degree in Geology from the University of Alabama in 1985. He owns DH Energy Inc and is an Exploration Geologist, or “Wildcatter,” who has been exploring for oil and gas in the onshore east Gulf Coast states of Alabama and Mississippi since 1985. David’s wife, Irma, is a family practice doctor at the University of Alabama student health center.

Class of 1981

After four years serving on the Board of Advisors/Alumni Council, four more as President of the Alumni Association, and 12 as a member of the Board of Trustees, D. Tadley DeBerry is enjoying some time off from serving School. He wrote, “One of my final duties as a Trustee was to vote in favor of hiring Anthony Sgro, capping a great run where among other things I helped with four amazing campus renovation projects and two strategic plans. Although I was never able to get either of my girls to attend School, they grew up attending Christ School Weekend (Eleanor, age 25, first attended at one month old) and Alumni Weekend. Since then they have been regular visitors, as has my wife Barbara (Asheville High ‘81). It has been incredible to watch the changes on campus, but recognize the same things that made School special to us. We always try to reach out to classmates when we travel, and encourage the same if you are ever in the Triangle Area of North Carolina. Looking forward to future reunions, visits, and volunteerism!”

Class of 1983

Mark C. Martin left the law firm of Patla, Straus, Robinson & Moore, P.A. He now has his own firm, Martin Law Firm.
Class of 1984

Karla (Jacobson) Gay returned to the Asheville area in 2007 and lives there with her family—two girls in college (NC State and UNC Charlotte), husband James, cat, dog, and horse. She owns and manages Kadre Management, a consulting firm specializing in streamlining operations and conference planning for non-profit organizations. Karla and James also spend time renovating houses as well as managing their long-term and vacation rentals. They are awaiting the end of the pandemic so they can finally be empty nesters and visit everybody!

For the last four years Antonio R. Matta II has been visiting Asheville School regularly, as his daughter Margarita attended all four years. He shared the following reflection: "Now that she’s graduated and off to college (well, technically a Coronavirus inspired gap-year before she goes off to Penn) I’m really going to miss visiting some of the old haunts we knew 30+ years ago. It may sound corny, but hindsight and old age have led me to realize that Asheville School is good for the soul. During my daughter's time at Asheville, being on campus a couple/few times a year became one of the highlights of my annual travel schedule. It was particularly rewarding to see how much the town and the school have grown (who would have known that Asheville now has great beer and nationally-recognized restaurants!), but it was also fantastic to run into old friends and classmates, such as Burt Gordon, Tommy Shores, Jose Gonzalez, and Anthony Sgro just about every single time I made it to school. I've been in Miami, FL, for the last 10 or so years, and despite my love-hate relationship with South Florida it will continue to be home for a long time. I continue to work in reinsurance (the insuring of insurance companies), mostly focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean. Before the pandemic I used to travel internationally for business almost every week of the month, so—despite the horrors the pandemic has brought upon the world—for me personally the shutdown of air travel has brought me, for the first time in my career, the silver lining of six+ months of uninterrupted time at home and without a new stamp on my passport. I'd love to hear from classmates and alumni who spend time in South Florida and would welcome arranging to get together for dinner or drinks. Trust everyone is doing well, and Go Blues!"

Class of 1985

Daniel W. Carpenter: “After leaving Asheville in 1985, I spent four years in the U.S. Army (two in Germany and two stateside) where I worked as a mechanic. I earned a B.S. in Biology and went on to grad school where I earned my M.S. in evolutionary biology and population genetics at UT Arlington. I then went to BYU for my doctorate. Six years later, I began my teaching career as an adjunct instructor at Utah Valley University and Salt Lake Community College, which I did for 10 years. I met a wonderful woman in 2003 and after six years together we finally got married in 2009. In 2014, I was finally hired on full time at Salt Lake Community College where I have been ever since. Just this past year I received tenure after six years of dedicated work and I couldn't be happier. I hope all my fellow classmates are well and I wish the Asheville School all the best in the future. The School turned my life around and made it possible for me to achieve everything I have. Thank you!”

Class of 1986

Creighton B. Wright proposed to Kelley Goodsell Weninger at sunset on Sunday, October 18 in the Bement Garden on Asheville’s campus—she said yes!

Class of 1987

Robert B. Jones, Jr. shared, “I continue to live in Wilmington, NC, where I serve as a Federal Magistrate Judge on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. I have been married to my lovely wife Rachel, a physician, for 18 years, and we have two children in middle school. I had a noteworthy trip recently when I drove my teenage daughter to Washington, D.C. to pay respect to Justice Ginsburg lying in repose on the steps of the United States Supreme Court. Go Blues!”

S. Antanette Mosley was recently appointed to the Asheville City Council, filling the seat which has been vacant since Aug. 8. “I strongly feel that she is the person for the job. I think that she will bring a lot of valuable perspective to our deliberation based on her lived experience as a fifth generation native and her career experience as a successful black female attorney,” said Council Member Sheneika Smith. Mosley will be sworn in early December to finish the term, which expires in 2022.
Class of 1988

In 2017, Thomas R Quinn, Jr. co-founded Neon, an American film production and distribution company. The company is best known for releasing films, such as Ingrid Goes West, I, Tonya, Three Identical Strangers, and Parasite.

Class of 1989

“I completed my time at Asheville School as part of the class of 1989, after five years (I loved it so much, I repeated my Third Form year). I am very proud of my time with The Blues!” Michael N. Jackson, shared. Further recalling, “I made lifelong friends, learned more than I thought possible, and yes, I even learned the difference of your and you’re. I already had a great love of reading before I got to Asheville, but I got to know classics such as Shakespeare and Poe and the like in intimate detail. After Asheville, I went to Guilford College and found out that my writing skills were a bit above the norm. This would be a true shock to many of my classmates, but I’m sure they were finding out the same.” After giving it a go as a professional art photographer, Michael made a big change and become a professional pilot, where he once again called upon what he learned at Asheville School. “I’ve flight instructed, flown corporate jets, and now am at my fourth airline. But through perseverance I made it, and I’m currently a captain at Southwest Airlines and loving it…and life!” he said. Michael closed by saying, “Currently my wife of 27 years and I live outside of Brevard, NC. We love the mountains and all that they bring for activities—just another love I learned during my time at Asheville School. Go Blues!”

Class of 1990

Susan T. Daily is the Dean of Students at The Outdoor Academy, a semester school for high schoolers just south of Asheville, and also works with teenage clients as a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor. She said, “It has been a real gift to have students in person this semester. These are the luckiest teenagers in the country right now, because they can be outside, taking classes and doing outdoor activities and living in a close community together.” She lives on campus with her family, which includes two children, two cats, a puppy, and eight chickens. She, as well as the rest of her classmates, are mourning the loss of her good friend Kevin Jones, ’90.

The Class of 1990 took a gut punch with the news of Kevin Jones’ death. Dev K. Sethi shared the following reflection about his classmate: “Kevin personified the best of what Asheville School taught us. He valued education and athletics. He was an adventurer and community builder. And his warm smile brought everyone who spent time with him closer. As I thought about Kevin, and had the chance to talk to him and other classmates about him through the year, his courage and grit was front and center. Not just in his fight against cancer, but dating back to 1986, when he turned up in the hills of Western North Carolina from New York City. He was one of four Black students in our class and one of nine in the School our freshman year. He loved Asheville School, the friends he made, and the experiences he had. I know he would want to engage with the Black Alumni Council and share his perspective as a Black alumnus. In the end Kevin’s death was no surprise, but it was a shock. It provided a jolting reminder about the importance of maintaining our connections. We all have a unique shared experience that binds us together—over time and space. And I am very happy for that.” On a personal note, Sethi shared, “Just before the pandemic disrupted our lives, Michael Rogers, Arthur Rogers, Joe Larrier, and I found ourselves in Las Vegas, where Michael beat up the craps tables from the Four Queens to the Bellagio. I enjoyed reconnecting with so many classmates at our virtual 25th reunion, and can’t wait to see you all in person, on campus, soon! As for me, I am happily lawyering and living in Tucson. My kids are navigating their freshman and senior years of high school, and my wife, Olivia, and I are trying to figure out what comes next! If your travels bring you to Arizona, I hope you will let me know. I would love to see you out west.”

“In May 2020, our twins Anna and Michael Jr. graduated with the Class of 2020 after a wonderful three years,” wrote Michael Rogers. “It was terrific for me to reconnect with the School, with old friendships and new. The School is thriving. My work brings me to Asheville on a frequent basis, so I was able to check in on them quite often, which was something they liked at first! In September 2019, Dev Sethi ’90 and Wallace ’90 and Fran Saunders ’90 joined Michael ’90 and Jill Rogers in Nashville.
Class of 1993

Douglas Nabors checked in recently and shared, “I recently left Los Angeles after 20 years and relocated to Daufuskie Island, SC. The move from a city of 12 million to an island of 400 is a large lifestyle change, but a welcome one. I’m currently running a virtual reality company called Fun Train. Would love to keep in closer touch with some of my Low-Country classmates.”

Class of 1995

Dr. Lisa D. Björkman’s book, Waiting Town: Life in Transit and Mumbai’s Other World-Class Histories, was published in December 2020. She is Assistant Professor of Urban and Public Affairs at University of Louisville and Research Fellow at Max Planck Institute of Social Anthropology, Halle, Germany. To follow is an excerpt from Columbia University Press about the book: “Drawing on a decade of ethnographic research in the Indian city of Mumbai, Waiting Town is an unconventional little book - experimental in form - about how we come to know the worlds about which we write. The narrative follows the author’s fieldnotes diaries as they wend their way through a series of ethnographic puzzles that emerge in the wake of a high-profile mega-infrastructure project that became an internationally celebrated prototype and model. Waiting Town complicates this celebratory narrative by revealing the conflicting temporalities and procedural pretentions of ‘world class’ developmentalism. On one level, Waiting Town is a book about Mumbai - about housing schemes and scams, about ‘duplicate’ documents (and ‘duplicate duplicates’), and about the material wreckage wrought by the city’s ‘world-class’ ambitions. And at the same time, it has a larger story to tell about truth and falsehood, time and memory - and about the promises and pitfalls of knowledge production, interpretation and representation more generally.”

Gordon Owens IV served as president of his local Rotary club in Roswell, Georgia (Roswell Rotary) for the 2019-20 year. The club boasts 250+ members, 100+ service projects, and $200k annually raised to support local nonprofits. Gordon says, “It was a big honor for me to be asked [to serve as president] by what is essentially a group of community leaders (business owners, politicians, educators, faith leaders, etc.) to lead them.”

Mollie Willey was selected as Rashkind Saunders & Co.’s 2019 Realtor of the Year. Mollie was selected for this honor because of her commitment to the firm’s brokerage, her community, and—most importantly—her clients.

Class of 1996

In August, Natasha H Jethanandani was featured in YourStory.com’s TechieTuesday, From Microsoft and Google to Using Her Skills for the Unbanked - Journey of Natasha Jethanandani of Kaleidofin. YourStory.com is India’s biggest and most definitive platform for startups and entrepreneurs related stories, resources, research reports, and analysis of the startup.

Under the leadership of Gordon Owens IV ’95, the Rotary Club won “Club of the Year.”
**Class of 1997**

“"I still love working and living at Asheville School,” said James W. Pharr. Adding, “Lindsay is taking a break from the classroom, but enjoys tutoring Asheville School students in science. My kids—Hazel (10 in October), Theo (6), and Susanna (3)—all love living on campus and are especially excited to be sharing our new puppy, Cosmos, with our school neighbors. For the past few years I have enjoyed the chance to spend much of my time with the 6th Form teaching American Studies - History and helping the Student Life Office as the 6th Form Dean. Recently, I enjoyed reconnecting on a video chat with classmates Mark Hwang, Dev Gopalan, Jason Harrison, Patrick Reynolds, and John Taggart. It is always wonderful to hear from and see former teachers, classmates, students, and colleagues back on campus! Come back and visit!”

**Class of 1998**

After seven years as head of The Children's School in midtown Atlanta, Nishant N. Mehta joined Storbeck Search & Associates, a member of the Diversified Search Group, in August 2020 as Partner and Head of their Independent Schools Practice. In his new role, Nishant recruits transformational leadership for private, charter, and mission-driven schools across the country. In addition to his active role in executive-level searches, he offers consulting on strategy and DE&I, as well as leadership and governance coaching and training for education and nonprofit organizations. Nishant is also a trustee on the Asheville School Board, and is an active board member on several other local, regional, and national boards.

**Class of 1999**

After graduating from Furman University, John P Harloe III attended VCU Medical Center’s department of Pharmacology & Toxicology in Richmond. Five years of cannabinoid and endocannabinoid research later, he was awarded his Ph.D. Deciding he hadn't had enough schooling, in 2008 John went to law school at SMU in Dallas, adding a J.D. to his name and graduating cum laude. John spent the next 10 years in Dallas at the same small firm litigating drug and medical device cases. During this time, the firm settled over $800 million in claims and obtained numerous nationally-recognized trial verdicts. In 2015, John married the love of his life, the former Nell Bamford, and a few years later—with her support and advice—switched careers entirely, moving to Denver to take a job as General Counsel for one of the largest cannabinoid companies in the world. In the end, while John wouldn't recommend anyone follow the same path, all the years of school proved to be worth it. They now live in Denver with their two pugs, Rumples and Buddy, traveling around the country at every given opportunity to hike, fish, swim, and camp. Despite it all, John is still most proud of his continued role as mentor for his old friend Ash Cope.

**Ross D. Macartney** is currently a Motion Design Graduate student at Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta, Georgia. He is pursuing a career in Motion Design after a 12-year career in the field of corporate film and video production. Over the course of his career, Ross has served corporate clients including Walmart, AT&T, Disney, Johnson & Johnson, and the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture. His website is macpromedia.com

**Class of 2000**

John F. de Perczel: “I moved back to Japan in 2018 and currently practice international corporate law as an associate at the Tokyo office of Morrison & Foerster LLP, specializing in cross-borders M&A and other corporate transactions. Our office is open for business, though we mostly work remotely unless there is a client meeting or some other reason to come in. This July Mayumi Kobayashi and I submitted our marriage registration paperwork to

Emily Reback and Barry Carlstedt were married last year in Highlands, NC. They reside in Naples, FL, and they enjoy spending the summer months in Cashiers, NC.
the local ward office after dating for just over a year. We are planning on having a wedding ceremony in the US when global events allow. We will be traveling to NC for the Christmas holiday this year and are hopeful that we will have a chance to visit Asheville School. Attached is a photo of Mayumi and myself on our ‘wedding day.’

Geoffrey O. Prince and his wife Jennifer welcomed a baby girl, Olivia Maria Prince, on May 22, 2020.

Class of 2001

David Spear: “I currently reside in Southern California with my wife of seven years, Vy. We have a two-year-old son (Colin) and just welcomed our second son, Dylan. After living abroad in China, I’ve spent the last 10 years as an analyst in the healthcare industry while my wife works in communications for an independent luxury hotel brand, which helps fuel our passion for traveling. Our last international trip was to Maldives, which would have been an ideal place to spend most of 2020. As travel enthusiasts and parents, we learned to navigate the nuances of traveling with a young child last year (pre-pandemic), exploring Rocky Mountain National Park, Lake Tahoe, and Muir Woods National Forest. I participated in the Big Sur Marathon a few years ago and while I have stopped doing long-distance runs, I continue to enjoy trail running throughout Southern California. When I am not out hiking with my dog Turk (an almost 9-year-old Vizsla), I am usually woodworking in my shop (AS should consider a shop class!).”

Class of 2002

Hyung Duk Kim left NYC and has moved back to Korea with his wife and two kids. He is the Assistant Director Of Finance at Grand Hyatt Jeju.

Jenny (Kuklenski) LaForest has joined the Asheville School community once again. Her husband, Scott, accepted a faculty position teaching Math & Computer Science and coaching basketball and track. In July 2020, they moved into Lawrence Hall with their three kids, Maeve (7), Sylvie (4), and Nash (2). Jenny is a licensed physical therapist and is currently working remotely for the Holloway Family Foundation based in Texas. After living in Montana and Texas, Jenny is thrilled to be back in the mountains and sharing the beauty of Asheville School’s campus with her family.

Eric Olsson. “I am happy to announce that I will be returning to Asheville in January, 2021, as an Orthopedic Spine Surgeon at Southeastern Sports Medicine,” wrote Eric Olsson. “I will be moving back to Asheville, with my wife, Ashley, and two sons, Finn (7) and Ellis (3). We have enjoyed living in the Pacific Northwest for the past four years, but are excited to be coming home to Asheville where we will be closer to family.”
**Class of 2003**

**Walker E. Cobb** lives in Charleston and has two children who are 10 and 11 years old. After his deployment, he returned to Charleston and bought a FedEx route. Walker owns 10 trucks and routes. He is into flipping homes and is back in school to get his contractor's license so he can get into the rental and property management business. He still keeps in touch with Ben Schoer, Chris Boehner, Wilie Oakley, and Ian Grigg. They try very hard to have a yearly reunion.

**Lauren J. Northup** was recently featured in the Southern Heroes section of the May issue of *Garden & Gun* in a feature piece entitled, Lauren Northup: The Preservationist: Discussing Her Work To Bring To Light The Lives Of The Enslaved. Lauren is Director of Engagement at Classical American Homes Preservation Trust, Richard H. Jenrette Foundation.

**Richard Y. O. Odame** wrote, “I am commissioned as a second lieutenant in November 2018 and am currently stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base with my wife and our son, Taron. I enjoy weekly chats with Marcus Shephard ’03, Charles Wallace ’03, Chris Smith ’03, Chad Daughtery ’03, Logan MacPhail ’04, and their spouses/partners. What I have found remarkable is even though we all graduated and moved on with our lives, it is seamless when given the chance to reconnect with the friends you make while at Asheville.”

**Avery Ruzicka** moved to California from NYC and opened a bakery, Manresa Bread. Avery, a 2020 James Beard finalist, mills 90% of the primarily local grains in-house on 40-inch New American Stone Mill; sources high-quality artisanal and local ingredients; employs time-honored baking techniques; and uses natural fermentation processes to create a rotating selection of sourdough loaves and sweet and savory pastries. Manresa Bread has San Francisco Bay Area brick-and-mortar locations in Los Gatos and Los Altos, and an all-day café in Campbell. The breads and pastries are also available at the Palo Alto farmers’ market, at Verve Coffee locations in Northern California, and through national shipping to the lower 48. She is starting up a second bakery in her hometown of Greensboro.

**Christopher G. “Tex” Smith** and his wife, Lisa, gave birth to their second child on July 14, a boy, Braeden Edward Smith.

**Charles N. Wallace** is practicing medicine in England and enjoys keeping up with a handful of classmates. In the height of the pandemic in London, Charlie was redeployed to help with the COVID-19 cases coming into the ER at his hospital.

**Class of 2004**

**Addison L. Aman** married Katie Amacher on July 6, 2019, and are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Amelia Marie Aman, on September 7, 2020.

“I recently received my certification as a Certified Professional Counseling Supervisor, and I’m working toward national certification in Clinical Pediatric Hypnosis,” wrote **Shavontia Cochran**. “I’m the lead Pediatric Psychotherapist with AFLAC Cancer and Blood Disorders Center with Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta—one of the top-rated pediatric hospitals
in the U.S. I’m also really pleased to be involved with Asheville School’s Black Alumni Council, and the Black Alumni Network, where we hope to strengthen connections between Black alumni and create a system of support and mentorship for current Black students. When I’m not working, I’m taking care of two precocious dogs named Crockett and Tubbs, while also perfecting my baking skills, so I can hopefully audition for the Netflix baking competition series, *Nailed It!*

**Class of 2005**

Alice Johnson Adair married Houston restaurateur Nick Adair in Oct. 2018. Since the opening of their twelfth Houston restaurant, Adair Downtown, Alice and Nick purchased a small hotel in Fredericksburg, Texas, outside of Austin in the spring of 2020. Together they hope to slowly transform, and make their own, this already fully-operating hotel into a space where friends, family, and guests alike will come to enjoy a break from big city life. In the midst of this adventure, Alice and Nick are expecting their first child in April, 2021. Alice hopes you’ll stop by, and said, “If any alumni ever find themselves in the Texas Hill Country area, don’t hesitate to get in touch for a friends and family discount at The Trueheart Hotel”

Joseph M. Charlet started his new job on April 1, 2020 in Senator Feinstein’s (D-CA) office, in which he is a member of Senator Feinstein’s Senate Judiciary Committee staff as counsel for nominations and oversight/investigations.

Nathan Doane: “I am still in the U.S. Navy and recently had the privilege to put on the rank of Lieutenant Commander. For the past few years I have been stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, as the Navigator/Operations Officer on the fast attack submarine USS North Carolina (SSN 777) and more recently fast attack submarine USS Charlotte (SSN 766). I have had the opportunity to operate and lead on some of the Navy’s most capable ships, operated by some of the smartest sailors in the fleet, ranging from the nuclear reactor propulsion plant to the highly advanced tactical systems. Submarine life has been a fast-paced, high pressure environment helping mold me into a leader of today. Bottom line, I have had an awesome experience here in the Navy. My wife, Eileen, and I live in Kaneohe, HI, on Oahu. The Navy brought us here in 2016 and we look to stay here as long as possible. We both love it here and have settled in, becoming part of the local community and as leaders in our local church. Our biggest update is we were blessed to welcome to our family our daughter, Esther ‘Estie’ Anne last year in December. Joining the ranks of parenthood has been absolutely amazing and has been definitely keeping us busy despite this COVID-19 era. I miss everyone from Asheville School and had a chance to swing by a couple of years ago. Regardless of how awesome the campus still is, I miss the people more so and always like to connect. If you are ever in Hawaii, reach out so we can say hi!”

Derek M Hardison: “All is well here. I’ve been living in downtown Baltimore for about 10 years. I am working on my second master’s degree from Johns Hopkins Univeristy Carey Business School and am about halfway done. My first degree is in Computer Science. I’m still working in the area of software development but looking to shift into more project management work. I’d like to take—and pass—the PMP exam before they change it in January. Finally. I completed my private pilot license at the beginning of October, which I’m pretty ecstatic about. Since then, I haven’t flown too much as the rental planes are booked and/or the weather isn’t great. That works out since it’s not cheap and the financial break is great, but I need to fly before I forget how!”
Conner M. Hayes and his wife Colleen welcomed a baby girl this past Spring.

Louisa Peyronnin White married in June 2018 and had a son, Gus, born May 2020. She recently graduated with a PhD in Clinical Psychology and wrote, “Life as a mom is fun and hard! It’s been amazing to watch Gus grow and change, and I keep loving him more every day. I am so bummed we had to miss the reunion (COVID-19), but hope to visit soon!”

Class of 2006

“I’m still living in Charlotte, NC, and have been here for about nine years,” wrote Maddy Aman Piercy. “I got married in 2016 in Asheville of all places and have two dogs, Tucker and Murphy. In May of this year, I graduated with my MBA and am enjoying free time again even in the midst of a pandemic. I work for Duke Energy and focus on digital strategy and developing new digital channels to improve overall user experience and accessibility. While the regulated electric utility industry doesn’t sound like the sexiest thing, it’s actually super interesting and I love what I do.”

Giacomo J. Anchisi: “Been living in Barcelona, Spain since January 2010. Worked as TV and New Media rights Executive for Euroleague Basketball for six years where I also co-produced, interviewed and wrote the screenplay for the first five Euroleague Basketball short documentaries. Miscellaneous: Single and no kids; never married; no pets (on the road too much). Was an Extra in Game of Thrones season six. On average spend three to four days a week during the season on the road around Europe (Istanbul, Kaunas, Milano, Madrid, Munich, Athens, Moscow, Tel Aviv, Belgrade, Berlin, Valencia etc). Will most likely not make a Reunion anytime soon as April is Playoffs. Only been back to the US once in the last 11 years (no hard feelings). If anyone of you swing by Barcelona or Europe after this pandemic let me know. I may be able to give some recommendations or meet up.”

Austin H. Bell: “I’ve been working as a photographer and traveling (pre-COVID-19) while keeping my stuff in NC, most recently spending time in Hong Kong on a project shooting basketball courts. I had a show of aerial/landscape photography in November and am currently preparing a new show/book of bird photography. Other than that I’ve been using this quarantine time to do fun things like have my tonsils out, which I don’t recommend unless you’re a total masochist.”

Elise F. Benjamin moved to Washington, DC in 2011, where she attended grad school for Organizational Management at George Washington University, and currently works on firmwide human resources projects at Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, a global law firm based in DC. Elise and her husband, JT, were married this past November in New Orleans and are expecting their first child this fall. Elise, JT, and their cat, Bernadette, temporarily relocated to Greensboro, NC in early March and are enjoying their summer outside of the city (and on the golf course).

Two of Hannah Bonner’s poems were recently featured in Schlag magazine. Hannah is also changing course after leaving her PhD program. She wrote about that decision in a piece entitled, “Leaving My Ph.D. Program Was The Best Decision I Ever Made,” which was featured in the Now & Beyond portion of The Tempest in August.

Tiffany Brinkley (Mary Brinkley now goes by her first name, Tiffany) checked in, and wrote, “I live in San Marcos, TX. I have lived here on and off for 14 years now. I am a general manager for a local food chain. I have a 12 year old daughter who just graduated the fifth grade. She looks just like me (scary, I know!). I’m engaged to a great guy, Joshua Slickerman! I have three dogs: Bubba (Great Pyrenees), Lola (Pitt Bull Terrier mix), and Odin (Beagle Husky), all of which are rescues. I have three cats: Tigger (Orange Tabby), Houdini (Grey Tabby/rescue), and Annabeth (long-haired mix/rescue).”

Valerie A. Clarke: “After a long time of figuring out what I am meant to do, I am finally living my dream! I am the Head Field Hockey Coach at Converse College, a program at a Division 2 school in Spartanburg, SC. The program is still new (season four this year), and I have been running it since right after the first season. I run all aspects of the program, including day to day operations, recruiting, scheduling, budgets, and coaching! So much work, but I have never been happier. I can thank Asheville School for my start in the sport! My husband and I moved down and live in Greenville, SC, after eight years in Milwaukee. Loving the change of scenery and no winter! In 2016 I got married in the chapel at School to James, who is actually from Asheville (I knew him in high school)! Ask our classmate Ashley about that one :) We have our three year old chocolate lab, Sadie, and I am officially one of those obnoxious dog moms who has an Instagram account for their dog! We’ve got a house in the suburbs, and love trying new places to eat in Greenville, so please reach out if you are in the area!”
Madeleine H. Gale moved from SF to NYC in the fall and is working in film production, most recently as the assistant director of an upcoming TV pilot. During the quarantine she is also doing remote skin consultations using her training as an esthetician. Friend Austin Bell '06 said, “If anyone is interested, I did one and she is fantastic!” Madeline also recently ended her social media avoidance by getting an Instagram account.

“I’ve been out in Colorado for almost 10 years now. I was always right in downtown Denver, but moved to Golden about a year ago with my husband, Spencer, and dog, Wiggins,” shared Eleanor R. Goodman. “We welcomed our daughter, Julia, into the world in late June 2020. After working in market research for most of my career, I moved over to print/digital advertising for Mountain Living magazine about two years ago. I travel to Breckenridge, Steamboat Springs, Telluride, and Lake Tahoe to meet with architects/interior designers, so I can’t complain! If anyone is ever out in Colorado let me know!”

Jessica M. Luna: “I’m in Washington DC and have been for the past nine years. I live with my partner Ben, our cat Milo, and a rotating cast of tiny foster kittens (follow us @kittykatfostermom on Instagram for the latest). I am a Branch Chief (government speak for first-level manager) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service. I work on Federal food stamp (SNAP) policy—my Division is responsible for making sure States implement SNAP—the nation’s largest federal nutrition assistance program, correctly and efficiently. We’ve been super busy during these COVID-19 times to help States deal with the massive increase in applications for food benefits. I’ve been here for about five years, and I really enjoy it. It’s great to work for a program designed to help during times like these. Joe Charlet (’05) is also in DC and he is legal counsel for Senator Feinstein, so we’re basically running the place, ya know? Let me know if you are ever in the area.”

“My wife was just talking to me about the last reunion, and I think it’s safe to say we’re both looking forward to the next one,” shared Will Luther. “It’s crazy to think about all that’s changed since the last time I saw everyone. I still live just outside of Raleigh, but I’m now a highway construction inspector for NCDOT (contract employee). I’m also a husband (which the reference to my wife may have foreshadowed in sentence two.) I hope you’re doing well, along with everyone else from our class. I really do look forward to seeing everyone, and catching up.”

Mary Pat McCallum: “I have been living in Atlanta for three years and teach second grade there. I got married in Asheville four years ago. Some of you may have met my husband, Mac McCallum (he worked at AS for a while after we graduated college). This summer we had our first child on May 29, a baby boy named Duncan.”

Tylan A. Merkerson lives in Atlanta, GA and purchased his first home there in September 2019. “It was a fixer-upper but I enjoyed the process of finding a house and turning it into a home,” wrote Tylan. “My goal is to take on other fixer-upper projects soon! I work in media sales for an Out-of-Home/Billboard advertising company. I’m grateful for all business, but especially enjoy when I can work on campaigns in Times Square or ones that bring awareness toward a social cause. Would love to catch up if you’re ever in Atlanta and I hope to make it back for our joint reunion! It’s been way too long and I miss seeing everyone’s faces. Super proud of our class and wishing everyone a prosperous rest of the year!”

Maxwell T. Paderewski keeps in touch with his Asheville School buddies through Fantasy Football! He wrote, “Over 15 years ago, a group of young boys met each other on the football teams of Asheville School coached by Dale Earnhardt. We graduated, moved on, but never out of each other’s lives or that of Asheville School. We may not don blue jerseys and play football any longer, but our connection with one another grows deeper and deeper with each yearly reunion for our Fantasy Football draft. The virtual reunions began 10 years ago, but it is a creative and very competitive group of people, so we are always looking for one upmanship! We also try to hold our draft live and in person. Two years ago, the loser had..."
to sign up to take the SAT and share his score with the
group! This past year, Robert Kehaya ’05 was host in
Wrightsville Beach, NC.”

“Since I saw y’all at the last reunion a lot has
happened,” wrote Caroline Paul Doyle. “I graduated
from Business School (Boston University Class of 2017)
with concentrations in Marketing and Organizational
Behavior. I’ve been working in Product Marketing roles
in the Boston area ever since (first at a cyber security
company and now at a small start up, which I’m not so
in love with but working on a new gig). My husband
Teddy and I got a dog—her name is Sammy and she’s
a one-of-a-kind-designer-dog (a.k.a. a mutt) and is a bit
of a nut. Don’t be upset if you don’t meet her at reunion
because she’s sort of a giant jerk to new people. We also
bought a house in a little suburb north of Boston just
in time to welcome our first kid, Benjamin (a.k.a. Ben,
Ben-Jamin, The Benster, etc.), in January of 2019. He’s
pretty much awesome and will hopefully be around for
some reunion stuff as well as in the AS Class of 2037,
with a bunch of other ‘05/06 babies! Miss you all and
can’t wait to see you!”

“The big news is that my wife, Merideth, and I have
a healthy, happy son, Thadeus Jackson (‘Jack’) Pope,
Jr., who turned 1 year old in September,” shared
Thadeus J. Pope. He continues, “Recognizing I fell
off the bandwagon for a decade or so, let me take a
step back: Merideth and I met in college (introduced
by some mutual friends—Rob Kehaya ’05 and Jane
Beebe (Jones) Kehaya ’05 (since married to Rob’s
brother, Julian). Merideth and I got married in 2014,
Merideth became a Registered Nurse and I passed
the SC bar exam in 2013. In 2014, I commissioned
as an attorney (JAG) in the U.S. Coast Guard, and
I’ve been practicing law on active duty since then. I’ve
done a little bit of everything including hurricane and
disaster response, and a wide variety of legal practice
to include administrative law, government ethics,
fiscal law, environmental law, as well as criminal
prosecution and defense. Merideth is now a Nurse
Practitioner, and we live in Norfolk, VA, with our son,
Jack. Someday, we’ll really commit and get a dog. I’m
still enjoying the Coast Guard, but I long for the Blue
Ridge Mountains! Best to all, and Go Blues!”

Whitney B. Ranson: “I moved to Portland, OR in
2016 after graduating from Clemson with my Masters
of Architecture and have been working for a firm here
for the past four years. I’m focused primarily in our
sports market sector and for the last three years have
been working on the new Hayward Field at University
of Oregon, and am currently working on a football
stadium project at Oregon State University. I’m still
running a lot (Oregon is a runner’s paradise), so the
experience of designing a track and field stadium was
pretty awesome. The stadium was set to open in June
for the US Olympic Trials, which obviously didn’t
happen, but looking forward to hopefully watching
the 2021 Olympic Trials and the 2022 World
Championships at Hayward Field. Looking forward
to seeing everyone at the reunion next year, but in the
meantime let me know if you’re ever in the PNW!”

“In April I moved from Asheville to Hermosa Beach,
CA, and started work in Materials R&D at SpaceX,”
wrote Nathaniel F. R. S. Smith. “If you ever need a
friend in LA or just want to catch up, give me a call. I
would love to hear from you.”

Jessica M. Steele is living in Oakland, CA with her
partner Joe and their dog Zaya. Jess is the Director of
Research and Evaluation for a statewide mental health
agency that provides services to youth and adolescents.
She’s currently working on projects related to police/
crisis response efforts, disparities in mental health
outcomes among BIPOC youth, and how the switch
to Telehealth is impacting mental/behavioral health
service delivery. After bouncing around from New
York to Hawaii, Jess and Joe just bought a house in
Oakland and are finally setting down some longer
term roots. Jess is also 6.5 months pregnant! Mid-
October will be the start of a new adventure.

“I’m still in Asheville, and paradoxically, closer to our
high school then ever,” wrote Austin Stevens. “If
anyone needs a good porch or a guest room, I can
provide. My most recent changes are a puppy and
a kitten who are adorable and also a real handful.
Otherwise, still doing code and trying to make a video
game. If anyone knows a sound designer, let’s chat.”

Andrew C. M. Stuckey caught up with a few Asheville
folks around Boston recently, including Shane Kim ’05
who is in the area for business school. “It was like
we were in high school again,” shared Andrew. “We played arcade games in Fenway and had a lot of fun hanging out. I hope to see more people here soon. I can take you sailing around Boston harbor. My longtime girlfriend, Catherine - Zhiyan Zhou, and I live in West Roxbury, about 10 miles from downtown Boston. We have three cats and who knows what else may come in the future. In the meantime we use our free time to go kayaking, scuba diving, and to cook new recipes. I work in residential real estate and am about to hit a new record in sales this year from self-generated business. So that is exciting because it has been a long and challenging road to get to this point. I am looking forward to building my own brokerage business next year, and starting an investment company that remodels homes. Catherine wants to move into interior design and we’re going to get some projects on the board soon to build that business up. We’re infatuated with the concept of small homes that utilize space well. We can’t wait to start traveling again. Hope to visit some of you all soon or come visit us. We have a guest room and karaoke!”

Angela “Wei” Tchou is working on her first book about white supremacy and her brother’s psychotic break.

Robert L. Weir, Jr: “I am married and we have two dogs. I am the Exec. VP and a division head for the MarMac Manufacturing Group. We mostly produce PPE and fully encapsulated suits. My division also produces construction materials. I like IPAs, fast and/or off road vehicles, and boats. My wife Elizabeth is awesome. I am pretty much a redneck. Looking forward to the reunion!”

Class of 2007

Ben Johnson: “I recently graduated with my MBA from Simon Business School at the University of Rochester. I graduated in top 10% of class, Dean’s List, and Beta Gamma Sigma. I was president of the UnCorked Wine Club as well as VP of Case Competitions for the Marketing Association. I worked also as a Benet Career Advisor, advising MS and MBA students, editing resumes, and doing interview prep. During my MBA I was lucky enough to have travelled to 19 different countries throughout the two-year program, including studying entrepreneurship abroad in Israel! I got into two bus accidents in Jordan on top of a snowy mountain and the Jordanian military came to get us out. It was cold, but luckily Rochester prepared me for it. Since my MBA I have moved to Seattle and taken a job with Amazon and enrolled in their Retail Leadership Development Program. I currently work as a Sr. Instock Manager on Health and Personal Care. One of my main responsibilities is to source and procure toilet paper, paper towels, masks, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant wipes. So if you ever buy those on Amazon, think of me slogging away and slamming my head against my desk as I try to get those for you. I’m thinking about leaving Seattle and working remotely, so if anyone reading this has any beautiful mountain getaways with fast internet, please let me know!”

Tae Joong Yoon ’07, Chang Gun Lee ’11, Hyechang Rhim ’10, Hyechang Rhim ’10, Danny Yin ’09, and Dennis Kuzmich ’10 attended Peter Yoon’s ’09 wedding on December 29, 2019 in Seoul, South Korea.

Johnny G. Lloyd was recently featured in New York’s timeout.com’s theater section in an article entitled, Black LGBTQ+ Playwrights And Musical-Theater Artists You Need To Know. Johnny, a New York-based playwright and producer, has seen his work produced and developed at the Tank, 59E59, the Corkscrew Festival, the Samuel French Off-Off Broadway Short Play Festival, and more.

Class of 2008

Anne Archer Hinkle and her husband, Farley, welcomed their first child on August 8, 2020, a baby girl, Catesby Mahaffey Stephenson.

Maggie Frelinghuysen and her husband, Russell, are expecting their first child in January 2021. The baby will be the youngest resident in Lawrence Hall—Go Babies and Go Blues!

Matt Rebol has worked for Tupelo Honey (Asheville) for nine years and is a member of the management group. He is the Kitchen Manager at the downtown location, but he does float around to the various locations (a total of 15 now).
Class of 2009

Zachary N. DeBernardi: “I am extremely thankful to be voted and named one of Dallas’ Best Real Estate Agents again in 2020 by D Magazine. Voted on by brokers, fellow agents, industry colleagues, and past clients, I am thankful to be given this honor by those I work with on a daily basis.”

“After my time at Asheville School, I returned to Germany and studied law at the Westfälische Wilhelms University in Münster,” wrote Matthias Greulich. “After completing my law studies (summa cum laude) and my legal clerkship at the Higher Regional Court of Duesseldorf, I was admitted to the bar in Germany in September of 2019, and since then been working as a lawyer for Hoffmann Liebs, an internationally-oriented law firm with about 65 lawyers. As a lawyer with Hoffmann Liebs, I advise companies but also private individuals mainly in the field of media, IP and sports (focusing on intellectual property and copyright law, media law, press law, and the law of freedom of speech, competition and antitrust law, as well as data protection law). During my law studies and legal clerkship, I visited Asheville several times, but also received visits by fellow alumni in Germany. These visits revealed what you miss most: your Asheville School family, whether classmates or teachers, with whom you share profound memories, long rides to away games in the Asheville School bus, class trips to Charleston and Washington, D.C., walking ATS, taking a cab downtown (most of the times to Wild Wings Cafe), or just hanging out on dorm. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to have completed an internship in 2013 with Pat Patton (father of Matt ’08 and Will Patton ’11) and the Buncombe County’s District Attorney Office while living on campus for another six weeks with Mr. Gordon. Finally, I have some advice for younger alumni: Be grateful for the experiences you had at Asheville, and stay in touch. Asheville School’s alumni network offers you the chance to give something back and at the same time continue to benefit. Go Blues!”

Jude Han is currently serving his time, under South Korean law for male citizens, in the South Korean military. On May 20, 2019, Jude graduated from the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine.

Will Raynor was an executive producer for the movie, “Nine Days.”

Leigh Sowers is currently a member of the US Coast Guard.

Class of 2010

After graduating from Asheville School, Bret J. Fickes attended UNC Chapel Hill where he double-majored in Chinese and Ecology with a minor in Marine Sciences. After that, he wrote, “I joined the Peace Corps. I was stationed in Lanzhou, China, where I
volunteered at the Lanzhou Institute of Technology teaching English as a Second Language. The city was beautiful, located along the Yellow River and south of the Gobi Desert. I enjoyed my time and applied to extend my service, staying for a total of 3.5 years. While such an amazing journey cannot be summarized in this amount of text, I can provide some highlights: organizing cleanups along the Yellow River with my students, forming a band with people and playing a show to 100 people, running a half-marathon along the Yellow River, reading the entire Harry Potter series in Mandarin, and making a two-day journey to attend a music festival just to see my favorite Chinese band perform (and then getting to meet them!). My next stop was the University of Michigan, which happens to be the birthplace of the Peace Corps. I graduated in 2019 with an M.S. in Environment and Sustainability. During my time there, I taught two labs: Fluvial Ecosystems and Ecology of Fishes. I also conducted my master’s research at the University of Puerto Rico in Utuado, where I studied the potential of biomass to be used as an energy source in rural areas. On the side, I worked for an initiative that produces sustainability case studies and makes them available on their open-access web-based platform. This was done in collaboration with Tsinghua University, which is located in Beijing. I found myself back in China, investigating exciting topics such as degradation of panda habitat and lake management. Of course, I took time to return to my Peace Corps site to visit friends and ‘family.’ Now I work for that same sustainability case study initiative. It is funny how things come full circle! On a side note, I was very shaken to hear about Larry Kollath’s passing. Similarly, our relationship and the profound impact he had on me during high school cannot be summarized, but all I want to emphasize here is that he always encouraged me to pursue my passions. Music was not something my family particularly supported nor was it something that my friends were invested in. Time slipped away. However, when I heard what happened, something in me clicked. Since then, I have been busy building a home recording studio in my free time while also learning the ins and outs of music recording, editing, and production. I cannot wait to share my music with the world and make him proud. Other than that, I am happy and healthy. I hope this message finds my fellow Blues doing well!

Madeline A. Olsen: “After graduating from Northeastern University in Boston in 2015, I spent a month participating in a language immersion program in Málaga, Spain, before moving to the Orlando area. After a few years of working at Walt Disney World Resort, both in the parks and in their sales department, I moved back to Boston to attend graduate school. I am now a ‘Double Husky,’ having graduated from Northeastern this past May with my Master of Science in Media Advocacy. This was a brand-new hybrid program between the Journalism school and the School of Law, where my classmates and I learned about public policy issues and how to successfully use various forms of media to educate others and inspire change. This program further inspired me to pursue a career in the legal field, and I am taking the November LSAT and plan to attend law school beginning Fall of 2021. Recently, I joined the Board of Directors for the Multi-service Eating Disorder Association based in Newton, MA, and I am very involved in the Junior League of Boston.”

Cicely Upham and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first child on October 6, 2020—Carmela Rhudy Alsamadisi.

Class of 2011

“I recently moved from New England back down to Winston-Salem, NC, to pursue a career as a musician,” shared Spencer Ayscue. “In 2019, I started the band Migrant Birds and we played across the Southeast and released an EP and a few singles before COVID-19 hit. With the pandemic, while music is a bit on hold, I’ve been teaching lower school Spanish at Summit School in Winston and volunteering at a Remote Learning Center in town as the public schools continue remote instruction. Besides music and teaching, I’m also excited to get married to my longtime girlfriend this December in Montreat, NC, not far down the road from Asheville School.”
Carly M. Gillespie passed the SC Bar Exam in August and started a new position as Associate Lawyer at King Law Firm in Columbia, SC.

Min Ki Kim got married in January in New York, NY. The ‘COVID-19’ newlyweds expect to host postponed wedding celebrations next year. They currently live and work in Boston, MA.

Henry B. Mullin was named #36 out of the top 50 rental real estate agents in New York City, where he is a broker with Douglas Elliman.

Addie Navarro got married on Saturday, June 20, 2020, in Boone, NC, to Asaf Zemah.

“After several years at QIAGEN, I completed a five-week internship at Twin Leaf Brewing,” wrote Will Patton. “I left with the hope to find a job during my internship, but I had no firm commitments. I got lucky and landed a job that started right at the end of my internship. I am really enjoying my new job and have recently moved into working in the cellar. Since this is a new industry for me, I have lots to learn.”

Adria Shuford: “After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill with a B.A. in Public Relations in 2015, I moved to Charleston, SC, and began working for a public relations firm focused on technology, hospitality, arts, and cultural institutions. It took about 18 months to realize that my heart wasn’t in it. I felt that something meaningful and purposeful was missing from the day-to-day assignments. My next career move took me to Dee Norton Child Advocacy Center, a non-profit service organization that provides comprehensive services to children who have experienced abuse. As part of the communications and development team, I was responsible for creating digital and print content, fundraising initiatives, event planning, and volunteer management. The work was extremely fulfilling, and I had the honor of taking part in and witnessing children (and adults) heal from the trauma of abuse. I cultivated life-long professional and personal friendships with co-workers for whom I have profound respect. But I was still hungry for more. Having spent my entire life in the Carolinas, I felt like I needed to spread my wings and explore beyond my comfort zone. Hickory, Asheville, Chapel Hill, and Charleston will always be places I cherish. They mark certain times in my life for which I hold dear for different reasons. However, that voice in my head said, “Go west.” So here I am, writing this from my apartment in Los Angeles. And now I’m a famous influencer! Jokes aside and no shame in the influencer game, I set my sights on finding a job that would allow me to continue work for the ‘greater good’ that I started in Charleston. I am now part of the communications team at United Way of Greater LA’s Everyone In campaign. The mission behind the campaign is to build a community movement to end the homelessness and housing crisis by building public and political will to create solutions we know work: affordable and supportive housing in every part of LA County. Asheville School is where I discovered my love for learning and where my critical thinking skills were honed. When asked to submit an article, I wasn’t asked to give advice, but I offer it nonetheless. The learning never stops if we choose to stay wide-eyed. Stay hungry. Stay curious. Reach further. Acknowledge the privileges, talents, and skills you have. Use them to better the world around you. Go Blues!”

Emery Sloan is an intern at Nexsen Pruitt LLC. She is now the recipient of the Joseph O. Rogers Bicentennial Fellowship, a scholarship at the USC School of Law set up by the Rogers family in memory of Joseph O. Rogers ’51. She also is the Executive Articles Editor of the South Carolina Law Review at the USC School of Law.

Sami-Jo Wood-Greer got married this summer to Michael Deddo in Durham, NC.

Class of 2012

Christophe Agricola is a Sales Associate for the family business, Shield Properties, Inc. He graduated from the University of North Florida with a degree in International Studies in 2017. While still new to the industry, he has grown up in North Florida and spent his life around the timber and real estate industry. Christophe is fluent in Spanish. He is engaged to be married on May 8, 2021, to Lexi Rossow.
Davie Boone Brenegar married Stewart Brenegar on October 17, 2020.

Brennan Harlan married Jonathan Lovejoy on Saturday, May 16, 2020, at the Washington Duke Inn in Durham, NC.

Gabriel W. O’Friel: “I’ve been living as a monk for the past two and a half years in Gainesville, FL, at a Hare Krishna temple. I meditate and study the Vedic scriptures every morning and do full-time volunteer work for the temple, which (pre-COVID-19) was distributing roughly 1,000 plates of vegetarian food each day at the University of Florida. I spent a year traveling in a van with a few other monks through Texas, Michigan, New York, and nearly every state in between in the continental US in order to share the deep wisdom of Bhakti yoga with spiritually-inclined Americans. I also went on a month-long pilgrimage to the holy places of India to connect with the previous teachers and deepen my meditative practice.”


“This past summer I completed my third full year as an Assistant Project Manager with Brasfield and Gorrie, LLC. Birmingham, AL, is now where I call home after putting down roots and buying my first house in 2019,” shared Marissa Wolf. “If I am not on the jobsite with my hard hat and boots you can typically find me at a junior board meeting for a local non-profit, hanging with my friends or facetiming my family. I hope my future opportunities include the melding of my two passions: construction and Asheville School!”

Class of 2013

Mary Brown wrote to share the following news, “I got engaged to my boyfriend, Austin White in January 2020! We met in engineering school at Vanderbilt and have been together for five years. We’ve been living in Nashville, TN, and are planning our wedding for June 2021 near my hometown of Staunton, VA.”

After college (Millsaps), Jules R. Gonsoulin sold insurance, but quickly realized that it was not for him. He then took a job at the Budweiser distributor in Lake Charles, LA. He started out as a truck delivery driver, got his CDL, drove huge routes in Louisiana. Two years later, he was promoted to manager of sales and now has over 65 accounts.

Kirsten Jung’s research has been published and featured in an article this summer in *Nature Biotechnology*—her first co-author paper after years of work among amazing colleagues across the world. The article was published July 6, 2020, and focuses on cell-free biosensors for rapid detection of water contaminants.
Mary Grace Budd Lange married Patrick Lange on Saturday, May 2.

"After graduating from Appalachian State University, I decided to take a real shot at recording music," wrote Kyle DePraeter. "I spent time in Brooklyn, NY, to record my first single that was released in March called Angels, which can be found on Apple Music and Spotify. Due to recent global events, the process of releasing new music has slowed down, but I’ve been working on some exciting things for the future. In addition to music, I have continued to work on my art as well as recently starting a position as a Visual Designer for Tryon Direct at Tryon Medical Partners with my fellow graduate, Hill Gage ’14. It has been great to see a familiar face after all this time! Go Blues!"

Paula Rem: I finished two Master’s degree programs at the University of Vienna—Communication Sciences and Jewish Studies. For my Jewish Studies program, I attended the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a one-year exchange student. Meanwhile I published my third fiction book—a collection of stories, Golden Croatian Youth (2017), and wrote the fourth one—In the Name of the Capital, which is about to be published. Regarding these books, I was a guest at TV shows a couple of times. Additionally, I wanted to share that my father and I have connected with Jim Gardner, a wonderful former Asheville School humanities teacher. A talented musician, Mr. Gardner runs a webpage, Poetry DNA, where he turns poetry into amazing songs. My father and I worked with Mr. Gardner to turn three of my father’s poems, recited by me, into Laurie Anderson-inspired songs. These three songs—"It is," “Keep in Touch,” and “Not the Pain,” are known under the name “The Intimacy Triptych.”

Quin Thompson: "In a year that has already seen more changes than any of us anticipated, I’ve got a couple more coming your way. First, after almost five years since accepting my first internship offer, my last day at Microsoft is behind me. To all of my colleagues and mentors over the years, it has been an incredible ride; thank you for giving that wide-eyed sophomore the start he didn’t know he needed—I’ll be forever grateful. Moving forward, I am very excited to announce that I have accepted a Software Engineering position at NEXT Music, working on Sessions (sessionslive.com). Second, starting at the end of September, I will be pursuing my Masters in Computer Science part-time at the University of Washington, through the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science and Engineering Professional Master’s Program.”

Diana Song: "I graduated from UNC Chapel Hill in spring 2018 and took a gap year. Then I started pursuing a JD degree at the American University Washington College of Law in fall 2019 and am currently a second-year student. Before this summer, I participated in the school’s write-on competition and made it to the American University Law Review. I also interned for a judge at the DC Superior Court at the domestic relations branch. Some of the cases were emotional when kids were involved, but it was also rewarding knowing that I was doing something that could be helpful. I hope everyone is hanging in there during this unprecedented time and, hopefully, thriving. Best wishes to everyone! Please stay safe and healthy!"

Chase Jeffries. "In early March, I accepted a job as a researcher for a private security company in the DC area, wrote Chase Jeffries. “I recently passed six months with the
company and feel very fortunate to have a job in our current climate. On another note, in early January I submitted an article I wrote my final year in university (the same one I presented at two different conferences in October and January) to the Columbia Journal of History in an attempt to get published. I found out in July that my article was accepted and I will be published.”

Katie Krupnick moved to Denver after graduating from UNC Chapel Hill with a Public Policy Degree in May 2019, and getting licensed as a Certified Nurse Assistant at Durham Tech that same summer. Katie is working toward getting the clinical hours and science courses she needs to apply for Physicians Assistant programs. She works full-time as a CNA for Denver Health. The Observation Unit in which she has been working in the last six months has just been converted into an ICU for COVID-19 patients. In her spare time, she also takes a full course load at the University of Colorado Denver.

Hannah Rutty checked in, and wrote: “Hey, Asheville School friends and family! My Asheville School friends have stayed close to me since graduating and I talk to so many of them on a regular basis. I’ve planned trips over the years with Kaylee Pierson ’15 and Luis Sierra ’15, had visits from Todd Collett ’15 in Dallas and popped through Asheville and visited Olivia Ostlund ’15. I chat with my island sister Avery Kelly ’15 when our crazy schedules give us time to. I’ve even driven to hang out with Mark Broeffle ’16 in Austin. I graduated in the Fall of 2019 from Southern Methodist University (Pony Up!) with my BSE in Environmental Engineering and continued on to receive my M.S in Environmental Engineering as well. For those of you who remember me during my time at Asheville School, I have a strong affinity for our environment and mother nature. That persisted into my college years and I dedicated my time to finding a way to continue to develop our world all while preserving our Earth. I can say wholeheartedly I miss Asheville more than I imagined I would. I miss walking down to the pool with all my teammates chatting, laughing, and dreading what was to come from Mr. Kriegler. I miss the vibrance of downtown and getting time off campus. I miss the booming voice of Mr. Lambert yelling at me down the hall (with love always) or the laughter of Mrs. Galusha on our advisory trips. I can’t wait till I can get back on campus and to smell the mountain air. Go Blues!”

Class of 2016

Upon graduating from Emory University, Gabi Davis was honored with the Louis B. Sudler Prize in the arts. The Sudler Prize, given annually at Emory and a select group of colleges across the nation, including Princeton, Duke and MIT, is accompanied by a $6,000 award. Gabi is the first Sudler Prize recipient to come from Emory College’s Integrated Visual Arts Co-major, a program that allows undergraduate students to explore visual media and art making while developing creative skills in connection with a second major in any field of study at Emory. Gabi completed the study alongside a major in human health. Using her research in fear and anxiety disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder, Gabi created a portrait series documenting her peers and family members as they process emotions linked to fear, anxiety, and the associated stigmas and treatments.

“I graduated from Furman University in May 2020, with a Bachelor of Arts in French with the Childers Award from the French Department,” wrote Claire Kaplan. “During my time at Furman, I embraced my love for travel and was lucky enough to receive funding from the Childers Award and two academic scholarships to travel to some amazing places such as France, Germany, Switzerland, Canada, The Netherlands, Portugal, and England. My French major gave me the opportunity to live in France with a French host family for a semester while studying at The University of Versailles. Later on, I was able to stay with a Chicoutimi host family in Chicoutimi, Québec, Canada for a summer while studying Québécois, a French dialect much different from Parisian French. I adored both host families, and still keep up with both of them. I hope to host foreign French students in a home of my own one day! Ironically, my favorite French professor had suggested school counseling as a career for me. So,
currently, I’m living in Greenville, SC, and applying to Clemson University’s Master of Education with a School Counseling Specialization to ultimately become a Licensed Clinical Psychologist (LCP) in a school. After graduate school, I aspire to give back to the public school system somewhere in the South, hopefully in an elementary or middle school. In terms of my day-to-day life, I live with my mini, black GoldenDoodle girl named Teddy whom I adore. While I apply to graduate school, I nanny a sweet baby boy who’s only a few months old, and I absolutely love it! A new fun fact about me is that my favorite Furman course was a sewing class through which I learned to design my own clothes after not having known how to sew at all! It’s a gift, yet also a burden, to be the family and friend go-to seamstress! Please reach out if you’re ever in Greenville, SC!”

**Austin Letson** recently relocated to New York City where he works for Lunchbox. At Lunchbox he will be the Android developer for the food delivery service.

**Miranda Thompson:** “I’ve recently graduated from Elon University in May with a BS in Exercise Science and a minor in Business Administration. During my time as an undergrad student, I participated in independent undergraduate research with Elon’s Exercise Science department. My research examined the effects of a Beta-hydroxybutyrate ketone salt on females between the ages of 18–45. I specifically looked at the supplement’s correlation with perceived appetite, thirst, resting metabolic rate, cognitive function, and blood glucose and ketone levels. During my senior year, I was invited to present at the American College of Sports Medicine’s annual conference in San Francisco. Sadly, due to COVID-19 cancellations, I was unable to do so; however, I’m excited to say that I’ve finally submitted my research manuscript for publication by the Appetite Journal! I loved my time at Asheville School so much that I decided to return there during my gap semester! After I graduated, I was hired as the Assistant Girls’ Varsity Tennis Coach, and I was overjoyed to have the opportunity to work alongside my former coach and advisor Derry Babaoff! I had a fantastic time coaching girls on the team whose older siblings I had graduated with, as well as meeting lots of new faces and wonderful tennis players. During this time, I also worked with a group of faculty and their children to create the One Room Schoolhouse (ORS). When a majority of the schools in Western NC transitioned to online learning, we created the ORS so faculty kids could have supervision with their online work while still...”

**Chris Sebrechts** is in Seoul, Korea and shared, “I’m majoring in computer science and a biology minor, and am in my last year as an exchange student at Yonsei University. I’ve had four different internships, am the senior class rep for computer science, and president of the university’s anime club.”
having friends to play with! I was so thankful to have had the opportunity to supervise and hang out with them, as it made me realize how much I enjoy working with kids! Lastly, I’m very happy to announce that I was accepted into Elon’s Doctorate of Physical Therapy program, which will begin in January of 2021! Ultimately, although college was a fundamental part of my growth as an individual, I believe that the things I learned at Asheville School really shaped my work ethic, my people skills, and my passion for education. So thankful to be a part of this community. Go Blues!”

This August, Sophia Yang will start dental school at Harvard School of Dental Medicine. She wrote, “I feel so lucky and blessed to have the opportunity to learn from faculty and peers who are equally as passionate about dental medicine. I found passion in dentistry because I wanted to be an advocate for the vulnerable populations in the healthcare system. The people who are the most affected by healthcare policies happen to be those who have the least say in the access to care issue. HSDM’s vision is to ‘transform dentistry by removing the distinction between oral and systemic health.’ I hope to be a part of the movement in which the mouth is no longer being regarded as a separate entity from the rest of the body. Oral health is not an ‘elective’ part of the overall healthcare and should not be regarded as such. Lastly, I want to give thanks. The support system I’ve had in the nine years I spent in the U.S. reaches beyond App State and the community in Boone. At Asheville School, I met amazing people who I consider my mentors and friends for a lifetime. Thank you, for taking care of me, believing in me, and for sharing this important milestone with me today. I couldn’t have done any of it without you.”

Class of 2017

Nikki Montlick was admitted into the Dual-Degree Law Program at the University of Miami School of Law. She was granted early acceptance into the Law School and awarded the Dean’s Merit Scholarship. She will forgo her Senior year of undergraduate studies and enter the Law School in Fall 2020.

Elizabeth Thomas was awarded a National Merit 4-year ROTC scholarship at Wofford College.

“I would love to let you guys know that many things from Asheville School are still shaping who I am to this day!” wrote, Hector Turuhpial. “Dr. Hill’s class, for example, really influenced my view towards architecture and the environmental print from my career, so I can say he actually changed every design I have done so far, and the ones I haven’t done yet. Or every time I go to the many museums here, it’s common to see a painting from Thomas Cole or Winslow Homer, which we studied in Mr. Plaehn’s class! I sadly don’t have space to name everyone, but I don’t think I can name a teacher who didn’t make at least a slight (positive) change on me and my way to see the world. It’s always really gratifying to look back at my year in Asheville and see how that affected me today. Thank you and greetings to everyone at the Asheville School community!”
Nikolai Young married Paulina Noelle Kaminska on June 27, 2020.

Class of 2018

Gelsey Beavers-Damron is a freshman in college and recently directed and adapted The Trojan Women. It is showing at the Players Theatre in the Samuel Beckett Theatre at Trinity.

Oliver Smith: “Film has defined my experience since Asheville School. The first short I ever served as Producer on eventually got into the Cannes Film Festival. I was also incredibly fortunate to travel to the Sundance last February, where another Asheville School alum’s film, “Nine Days,” premiered. I am currently serving as the ‘Student Liaison’ with a new studio in Burlington, North Carolina, near Elon, where I am going to school for my Cinema and Television Arts BFA. We recently wrapped a shoot for a feature film trailer for Hallmark and Lifetime and are about to jump into hard prep for a television show, which we should be shooting by the time this magazine comes out. I am currently doing a remote internship with Eleven Three Production in LA. They recently released a movie called “Rising Hawk.” I have been creating content to promote the film and have had to teach myself tons on the job because I live by the motto, “when someone offers you an amazing opportunity, say yes, and then figure out how to do it.” That has led to a lot of stressful moments, but so far, so good! I also was lucky enough to give notes on a television show pitch that Eleven Three is currently developing. Hopefully, there is good news on that project soon! This spring, COVID-19 willing, I will be in LA to take the next steps into my crazy industry. I am often asked why or how I do so many things in these uncertain times. As strange as it is, this crazy busy lifestyle comes from my time at Asheville School. I learned just how much I could do in a day, and what it was like to go to school on Saturday, so whenever I have a weekend free, it always feels like the paragon of luxury. If you ever want to talk about film, give me a call! I am always happy to hear about people from Asheville School!”

Class of 2019

Rachel Kuehn, who won the 118th Women’s North & South Amateur at Pinehurst in July, was involved in championship golf in the Sandhills before she was even born—literally. Her mom, Brenda Corrie Kuehn, played in the 2001 U.S. Women’s Open at Pine Needles in Southern Pines when she was eight months pregnant with Rachel. Rachel has now one-upped her mom by winning one of the nation’s most prestigious and long-running amateur tournaments. A par on the first playoff hole, the par four 1st, gave Kuehn the North and South title and Putter Boy trophy 25 years after her mother, a former Wake Forest Hall of Famer, finished just short of the championship in the 1995 event. “I joke with my mom because she finished (short), and has been holding that over my head,” said Kuehn with a laugh. “I’m glad I could top her a little bit, but to add my name to the list of winners here is an unbelievable feeling.” Kuehn followed in her mom’s footsteps attending Wake Forest, where she earned All-American honors last year as a freshman.

Class of 2020

Jose Gonzalez Gerard is attending Babson College (MA) where he walked on to the tennis team.
Asheville School offers condolences to the classmates, alumni and families who lost loved ones over the last reporting period.

Mr. Murray J. Miller ’48, died November 2019.
Mr. David C. Clovis ’51, died December 23, 2019.
Mr. Stephen C. Morrison ’71, died January 1, 2020.
Mr. Mark S. Stubbs ’81, died January 7, 2020.
Mr. Charles D. Parker ’46, died February 7, 2020.
Mr. David P. Ivey ’56, father of Ms. Eleanor Campbell ’84 and Mr. George Ivey ’87, died February 12, 2020.
Mr. Hans-Dietrich F. Von Stein, father of Mr. Ulli von Stein ’87, died February 12, 2020.
Mr. Greene Fenley III ’47, died March 11, 2020.
Dr. Beverly Sgro, mother of Head of School, Dr. Anthony Sgro ’84, died March 12, 2020.
Mr. Richard A. Martin ’51, father of Mr. Greg Martin ’83, died March 19, 2020.
Mr. Martin H. Dodenhoff ’56, died April 20, 2020.
Mr. William C. Morris III ’72, died June 24, 2020.
Mr. Roger P. Conant ’42, died July 1, 2020.
Mr. Gregory C. O’Connor ’87, died July 3, 2020.
Mr. John W. Becker ’46, died July 28, 2020.
Mr. John D. Hager ’97, died July 31, 2020.
Mr. Kevin R. Jones ’90, died August 15, 2020.
Mr. Christopher Clark ’71, died August 15, 2020.
Mr. Michael M. Glancy ’69, died August 29, 2020.
Dr. J. Walter Jacobs ’63, died October 11, 2020.
Mr. Henry Hatch, III ’45, died November 2, 2020
Dr. Hugh A. Ragsdale, Jr. ’57, died November 7, 2020
Mr. Durwood Swindell Laughinghouse ’67, died November 20, 2020

PLEASE NOTE: Information included here is compiled from our database, which is continually updated. To submit a condolence please email: gordonb@ashevilleschool.org.
Dr. Mett Bagley “Chip” Ausley, Jr
Class of 1975
August 4, 2020

Dr. Mett Bagley “Chip” Ausley, Jr. of Lake Waccamaw, NC, died on August 4, 2020, at the age of 63. An avid outdoorsman, Chip entered Asheville School as a Fifth Former from Harrells Christian Academy in 1973. While Chip contributed to the Asheville School community in a variety of ways (Varsity Football, “A” Society, and Library Committee), mountaineering was his true passion. Every weekend he managed to be free, Chip went hiking, backpacking, and camping. Chip had great regard for Pop Hollandsworth, saying of Pop in a May 1985 letter, “I look back in deepest appreciation to you for helping make my experience at Asheville School an enjoyable and constructive one, and a critical influence on my subsequent direction . . . Indeed, the opportunity to participate in the mountaineering program was important in my decision to attend Asheville School, and I hope it can be continued in some fashion.” Over the years, Chip was an exceedingly generous, loyal, and consistent donor. As a member of the Tower Society he is recognized for 36 years of constancy in his giving, and most recently for stepping up with a big challenge gift during Blues Unite Giving Day. After graduation from Asheville School in 1975, Chip attended Wake Forest University where he earned his B.S. degree. He then attended UNC School of Medicine, receiving his doctorate degree in 1984. Chip completed his Residency in Pathology at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center from 1984-1988. He was a Surgical Pathology Fellow at the University of Minnesota Hospitals and Clinics from 1988-1989. In 1989, Chip established Cypress Pathology in Whiteville, N.C., where he practiced pathology in association with Columbus Regional Health Care System for over 30 years.

Chip is survived by his sister Margaret Ausley Hinnant and her husband Will, of Smithfield, NC.; nephew, Daniel Ausley Hinnant and his wife Erika of Apex, NC. Chip is predeceased by his parents Dr. and Mrs. Mett Bagley Ausley, Sr., of Warsaw, NC.

James “Jim” McNaughton Kellogg
Class of 1961
June 12, 2020

A true Blue, loyal alum, James M. “Jim” Kellogg died on June 12, 2020 on Mt. Desert Island, ME, a place he truly loved and spent much of his life. He was 77 years old. Jim came to Asheville School in 1956 from Hinsdale, IL, entering the school in the Second Form. During his time at the School, Jim played junior football, varsity basketball and tennis, and was captain of the varsity baseball team in 1957. Jim also served on the Library Committee for three years. He graduated from Duke University and the University of Michigan Graduate School of Business. Jim served in the Army in Vietnam. He became a vice president at Merrill Lynch in international investment banking. Over the years, Jim always remained in touch with the School, and was an active and generous donor. As a member of the Tower Society, Jim is recognized for 40 years of consistent giving. He also committed himself to the Wilbert Peck Society and contributed generously to the Montgomery Scholarship Fund. His most recent gift to the School provides outdoor furnishings for studying, dining and fellowship. Jim was a devoted husband and a true gentleman. His kindness, mild manner, intellect, and quiet sense of humor will be dearly missed and fondly remembered.

Jim is survived by his wife of 54 years, Sally Anne Kellogg of New York, and by several nieces and nephews.
Alyk Russell Kenlan
Class of 2014 | November 23, 2020

With great sadness, we share Alyk Russell Kenlan’s passing. Alyk had just completed the MSJ Program in August at Northwestern University’s Medical School of Journalism in Chicago; he was 24 years old. Anxiety and depression got the better of Alyk, and he succumbed to those burdens. He was born Alyk Xam Kenlan, but later chose Russell to be his middle name as his grandfather Don Cooper had such a part in stewarding his life. His initials became ARK, and his friends and classmates refer to him as ARK. Alyk was the most compassionate and caring of men. His sense of style is legendary. He was a real-world traveler and had visited seven continents before going to Carleton College in Northfield, MN, where he graduated in 2018 with a Cinema and Media Studies degree, minoring in music. He often said his time as a student at Asheville School were his best years ever! He was voted the most stylishly dressed student and the most accomplished swimmer. He was fluent in the Mandarin language, and his goal was to return to China or Taiwan to work. Faculty and classmates remember Alyk as kind, bright, and deeply committed to becoming a fine journalist. Jay Bonner, Alyk’s advisor while at Asheville, shared the following reflections on Alyk: “He was unfailingly polite and kind. There was a confident intelligence about Alyk, a maturity and comfort around adults. He absolutely adored the structure of Asheville School and thrived in its close-knit community.” Alyk leaves behind his bereaved mom Danie’le Albert Frost and stepdad Stuart Frost; his dad Geoff Kenlan and his partner Felicia Buske; his beloved maternal grandparents Lisbeth Riis Cooper and Don R. Cooper; his loved paternal grandparents. If you or anyone you know feels a need for support, please seek help, including the national suicide hotline (800-273-8255).

Durwood Swindell Laughinghouse
Former Member of the Board of Trustees
Class of 1966 | November 19, 2020

Durwood Swindell Laughinghouse, 72, of Raleigh, died peacefully November 19, 2020, from complications of Alzheimer’s Disease. Durwood loved life and lived it at full speed. He loved to talk and joke, and made friends wherever he went. Growing up on a large family farm in eastern North Carolina led him to love and respect the land and nature. He was passionate about lobbying, land, NC agriculture, farming, trains, education, hunting, wildlife, hiking, old Westerns, and NC State sports. Durwood entered Asheville School in the Fourth Form and was involved in Varsity Basketball, Cross Country, and Crew. He also found his way to the Library Committee and “A” Society in 1966 and 1967. After Asheville, Durwood earned his undergraduate degree at NC State University and a Law Degree from Wake Forest School of Law. Durwood became an attorney for the Department of Agriculture in 1974. Following several years back at his family’s farming operation, Durwood returned to private practice in Raleigh. He became a Resident Vice President for Norfolk Southern Corp in 1994 and retired after 24 years of dedicated service. He was proud to be awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine for his service to the state of NC at his retirement in 2018. Durwood’s commitment to Asheville School lasted long after he graduated. In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees, he gave generously to his alma mater for 23 consecutive years, including a recent gift to the At The Threshold campaign. He was also passionate about Blues sports and supported the renaming of the basketball court to honor Chuck Carter, his basketball coach and hall parent in Lawrence Hall. Durwood was born in Pantego, NC, on August 17, 1948, to Margarette and Fernie Laughinghouse, who predeceased him. On June 17, 1973, he married Connie McPherson of Graham, NC, who survives him. He is also survived by two daughters, Dr. Emily Laughinghouse Brazik (husband Dr. David Brazik) of Castle Hayne, NC, and Laura Laughinghouse Hrdina (husband Major Jason Hrdina, US Army) of Chapel Hill, NC; and three beloved grandchildren, Grayson and Quinn Brazik, and Seneca Hrdina. Durwood has one sister, Dianne Bowen (husband, Neil, and daughter, Kathryn) of Pantego, NC, who survives him.
Remembering A Giant

Lawrence Robert Kollath was born January 26, 1963, in Syracuse, N.Y. He graduated from Hamilton College, which he attended on a basketball scholarship. As a member of the U.S. Air Force, he was a Survival Instructor to pilots, teaching them to survive if their planes went down.

In 1993, Larry married artist Marbie Guyon, and they began their high school teaching careers at The Winchendon School in Massachusetts. Larry and Marbie subsequently taught at Marvelwood School in Connecticut, where Larry was also a basketball coach. To our great fortune, Larry and Marbie moved to Asheville in 2004, where Larry joined the Asheville School faculty as a math instructor and basketball coach. He later served as Dean of Faculty, Head Basketball Coach, Mountaineering instructor, and beloved advisor. In his time here, he won The William G. Hutchins Mastership Award (2008); The Stephen A. Jarislowsky ’42 Chair in Mathematics (2010); the William F. Lewis Award for Excellence in Teaching (2019); and The Harrison C. Stackpole ’34 Stackpole-Hall Foundation Chair (2019). All of those awards acknowledged Larry’s mastery of teaching, but were also tributes to his character, influence, and largeness of spirit.

Larry loved all living things, particularly animals. All four years I worked next door to “Mr. K” on 3rd Mitchell, my beagles entered the building in the morning, climbed the stairs, and went to Larry’s room for their morning treat. He called them both “Budboski,” and he always had salmon treats in his pockets for them. He relentlessly defended the underdog and the voiceless. He inquired about the lives and needs of the cleaning and kitchen staffs as often, as with as much care, as he inquired about his fellow administrators.

Larry eschewed technology in favor of personal contact; he walked down the hall to see colleagues or students, rather than sending emails. He never owned a cell phone. Instead, he studied the natural world and read voraciously. He took in—both by listening and reading—far more words than he spoke. In his last weeks, we visited the Waynesville Library and a rare bookstore, and read Dr. Seuss and Carl Jung aloud. In the past few years, he took French lessons on DuoLingua, practiced his sketching skills during every meeting, and took banjo lessons outside Skinner Library from former student Dylan Morris. Larry ate life.

Like any wise adult, he let teenagers come to him rather than pursuing them, except when he noticed children at Asheville School who needed a friend, a surrogate parent, or academic help. Those students, he sought out. He inspired us all to learn through games in the classroom, which often led to laughter, which led to what he cared most about—connection and community. Students described him as the person who helped them understand math for the first time; many said he helped them love it. When Larry won the Stanhope Chair in 2019, the student body stood, cheering, for five minutes. He changed minds, career paths, and lives.

Larry usually birdwatched after lunch with Mike Hill and Seth Buddy. They looked like three endangered birds themselves, living in the world of smells and songs and bugs. This school and its people are better listeners, readers, sketchers, and humans because Larry taught here. To say that he is missed is to expect words to explain something that they cannot contain. He was bigger than words.

Larry’s tribute was written and submitted by his friend, and former colleague, Deavours Hall, Director of Asheville School’s Learning Center.
TRUE BLUE

Remembering A Giant
Fourth Former
Gracey Abernethy

Fourth Former Gracey Abernethy cracks a smile during a September tennis practice.

There was plenty to smile about for the Girls Varsity Tennis team this year as they captured the team’s first State Title. The team finished 10-2, earning the NCISAA 3A State Title with a convincing 5-2 victory in the finals over Cape Fear Academy.

“In a season where so much was different, our team rose to the occasion and thrived under pressure. With limited fans, the girls adapted and learned to support each other more than ever before. We are thrilled to have made school history by being the first tennis team to ever win the state tournament.”

—Derry Roberson Babaoff, Head Coach