

The PotomacTerm

The Alumni Magazine of The Potomac School • Fall 2015



MORE THAN JUST MUSIC

*Stephen Hill '76 keeps BET
relevant and ahead of the curve*



COME TOGETHER

REUNION '16

April 29 & 30



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DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings from The Potomac School! We've had a busy fall, with students eagerly engaged in their classes, co-curricular activities, and initiatives in the wider community. There's terrific energy on campus as everyone works together to help our students learn and grow.

In October, a Virginia Association of Independent Schools visiting team was on our campus for three days. This visit was the culminating step in Potomac's 10-year reaccreditation process – an effort that has required much of our time and attention during the past 18 months. The process began with a strategic self-study, which required us to take a close, critical look at everything we do, to ensure that all of our programs and operations directly align with, and support, our mission. The essential question at the heart of the accreditation process is “*Do we deliver what we say we deliver?*” I am confident that, at Potomac, the answer is yes.

As this process unfolded, I found myself reflecting on “success” and “significance” and how these terms apply to our work as educators. Both are positive concepts and goals to which we aspire, yet it occurs to me that success and significance are really quite different.

I think it's fair to say that Potomac is a successful school. This assertion can be substantiated by various metrics: our strong enrollment, high test scores, low student attrition, outstanding college-placement record, athletic championships, honors and awards, and so on. These are important measures, and they are the results of good people doing good work.

Yet it is my contention that we cannot be satisfied with “success.” At Potomac we take a long view on education: Our goal is to create significant, enduring outcomes in the lives of our students. While we help students achieve success in academics, athletics, and the arts, Potomac also nurtures critical personal qualities and attitudes that are less easily measured.

This school is a place where character and good judgment are formed and where generosity of spirit flows. Here, students develop a sense of fairness, practice respect for themselves and others, and gain confidence in their own ability to create positive change. Potomac helps them understand that leading a life that provides significant value to others is what counts the most.



Our alumni know this. Their work, in a wide variety of fields, reflects a deeply held commitment to doing something that makes a lasting difference. In this issue, you will read about Stephen Hill '76, the president of programming at Black Entertainment Television; Jocelyn Kelly '98, director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's Women in War program; and four alumni who graduated between 1993 and 2012 who are using their diverse talents to create and run innovative businesses that address a variety of needs. You will also see an article about two recent graduates who chose to take a gap year to thoughtfully explore their future directions before moving on to university studies. All of these Potomac graduates' lives speak to the importance of doing something that one is passionate about – something significant.

Finally, I will mention this issue's Class Notes section and urge you to read through it carefully. There, writ small, are many lives and activities of great significance. From raising happy, healthy families to writing books, leading businesses, serving on nonprofit boards, and so much more, Potomac alumni are making a lasting difference. We are proud to be a part of their stories.

All the best,

John Kowalik
Head of School

The PotomacTerm

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

New Award Honors Seniors Who Exhibit Core Values

AT LAST JUNE'S CLOSING ASSEMBLY, Head of School John Kowalik announced the first recipients of Potomac's new Edith Blair Award. The honor, named after one of the school's founders, recognizes a graduating senior who is identified by his or her peers as exemplifying Potomac's core values of courage, humility, integrity, perseverance, and respect. The inaugural award went to two members of the Class of 2015: Blair Nagell and Matthew Spidi.

During her three years at Potomac, Blair served on the Honor Council, played field hockey and ran track, and founded the service organization The Puerta Project, which provides safe cook stoves for families in an impoverished Guatemalan village.

Matt, a Potomac lifer, was a scholar-athlete and All-League pitcher for the baseball team; he also volunteered with several service organizations, including the Embury Rucker Shelter in Fairfax and

the Yellow Ribbon Fund, which helps wounded service members recovering at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

In the eyes of their peers, both Blair and Matt set a strong example and influenced others to make a positive difference at Potomac and in the wider community.

In the audience at the Closing Assembly were George Boggs, his wife Emilie, and their son, Trenholm '99, as well as Jane Coleman Blair and her daughter, Elizabeth Blair Jones '69 – all relatives of Potomac founder Edith Blair, who died in 1939. For Elizabeth, mother of alumnae Eliza '03 and Katherine '06, the afternoon was a powerful reminder of the positive impact The Potomac School has on students' development. She observed, "This award is just one more example of Potomac's recognition of the importance of character development in education."

< Elizabeth Blair Jones '69, Jane Coleman Blair, Matthew Spidi '15, Blair Nagell '15, Trenholm Boggs '99, Emilie Boggs, and George Boggs

- ① Middle School students participate in Potomac's monthly Sandwich Day, part of the school's ongoing service learning partnership with Martha's Table.
- ② Upper School students clean riding therapy props at the Lift Me Up! Therapeutic Riding Center during Potomac's fall 2015 Service Learning Day.

Congratulations to all the members of the Class of 2015 who received special honors at the end of the school year!

ART AWARD

Caroline Sawyer Miller

ENGLISH AWARD

Clara Carstarphen Malley

HISTORY AWARD

Clara Carstarphen Malley

MATHEMATICS AWARD

Kyra Li Lasota

MUSIC AWARD

Andrew Lewis Dockser

SCIENCE AWARD

Ashley Marie Rodriguez
Joshua Grayson Tarplin

THEATER AWARD

Kyla Alison McLaughlin

WORLD LANGUAGES AWARD

John Paul Young

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS

Thomas Christopher DeSantis
James Edward Matthews

ATHLETICS AWARD

Clare Madison Kehoe
James Edward Matthews

HEAD OF SCHOOL AWARD

Thomas Christopher DeSantis

SETH-SMITH AWARD

Blair Tinsley Nagell

EDITH BLAIR AWARD

Blair Tinsley Nagell
Matthew David Spidi

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Making a Difference through Service Learning

B EING OF SERVICE TO OTHERS has always been an essential part of the Potomac experience. Last year, the school began to transition its service programming from a community service approach to a service learning model.

Potomac parent ACE Everett, whose children are in the fifth and eighth grades, is serving as the school's strategic consultant for service learning. She works closely with the Service Learning Committee, which includes faculty and staff from all four divisions. ACE explains, "The commitment to help others, to use our time and talents to make a positive difference, underlies both traditional community service activities and service learning. The difference is that service learning brings in an academic component, asking students to explore situations and needs, and propose actions that will have a meaningful impact."

She adds, "We use the phrase 'youth voice and choice' quite a bit when talking about service learning. There are so many needs out there in the world, so many opportunities to get involved, that it can actually be kind of overwhelming; it's hard to know what to focus on. The service learning approach helps young people develop the ability to make thoughtful, informed decisions and target their efforts."

Potomac's transition to service learning has been supported by a generous grant from the Byrnes Family Foundation. In April, funding from the grant enabled five faculty members and more than a dozen Upper School students to attend the National Service Learning Conference in Washington, DC. The featured speaker was author and educator Cathryn Berger Kaye, a nationally recognized expert on service learning. Ms. Kaye spoke about giving students the tools, resources, and freedom to explore complex issues and develop plans to create change. Sarah Coste, Lower and Middle School mathematics coordinator and a member of the Service Learning Committee, says, "I left the conference feeling incredibly energized! I learned about some tools and strategies that I couldn't wait to bring back to Potomac."

In July, funding from the Byrnes Grant enabled Sarah and Upper School science teacher Suzi Cervino to participate in advanced



service learning training at a conference in Albany, New York, entitled "Academics, Engagement, and Purposeful Action."

Faculty members weren't the only ones energized by these opportunities. Student participants at the April conference were excited to meet other young people from all over the country who are making an impact at the local, national, and global levels. Junior Jenna Barufka notes, "Service learning shouldn't be something reserved for one or two days out of the year. Hearing those presentations helped me think critically about ways to improve on some of the projects we're already doing at Potomac."

Last year, the Service Learning Committee defined the program's purpose and goals and identified four major areas of focus for Potomac's efforts going forward: poverty, hunger, and homelessness; the elderly; the environment; and literacy. This year, service learning initiatives are under way in all four divisions. Some build upon longtime partnerships with community agencies like Martha's Table and Cornerstones, while others involve exploring new avenues for action. In every case, students, teachers, and the entire Potomac School community are discovering ways to help create lasting change.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

A Commitment to Last a Lifetime

WITH ITS ABUNDANT GREEN SPACES, wooded trails, and ponds teeming with life, Potomac's campus is an ideal setting for outdoor education and environmental stewardship. Whether they're composting, working in one of the campus gardens, exploring the trails, or having a class discussion by the fire on the Morton Deck, students, faculty, and staff take daily advantage of this natural classroom that the Potomac community calls home.

In the 1950s, science teacher Dur Morton began establishing nature trails along the 90-acre campus's woods, streams, and ponds, to ensure that Potomac students could enjoy the combination of learning and nature. Later, trustee Richard Saltonstall, Jr., led the effort to expand and maintain the trails. Over the years, others like headmistress Carol Preston and science teachers Bill Doswell and Peter Munroe continued to advance Potomac's commitment to outdoor learning. Today, two alumni – the school's environmental sustainability coordinator, Bern Hoffmann '86, and environmental studies coordinator, Albert Pingree '00 – help to guide these efforts; they are joined by faculty leaders like Mary Cahill, Cathie Kaplin '73, Cort Morgan, and Greg Mueller, all of whom are committed to the principles of outdoor education. These individuals work with other faculty and staff to develop creative curricular and co-curricular activities that give the Potomac community diverse opportunities to enjoy, learn from, and protect the natural world.

Bern and Albert fondly recall their days as students, when they explored the "great outdoors" on Potomac's campus. Now, as stewardship leaders and educators, they hope to instill a passion for nature in today's students, beginning with kindergarten. Albert observes, "If kids learn to appreciate the outdoors at an early age, they'll be more likely to be passionate about protecting the environment later in life."

Young children love being outdoors and generally don't mind getting their hands dirty. At Potomac, each Lower School grade engages in a project to leave something behind for the next year's students; examples include kindergartners planting pumpkins in the spring for the following class to pick in the fall, and second graders putting in corn on Colonial Day in May for the class coming up behind them to harvest when autumn rolls around. "This creates a cycle of stewardship," Bern says.

But it's not just Potomac's youngest students who are getting outside to smell the roses. Teachers in all divisions have found ways to incorporate the campus's natural resources into their lessons. Last fall, Jenni Ashley used Potomac's expansive campus to bring a work of literature to life for her seventh grade English class.

Kirby Larson's *Hattie Big Sky* is set in Montana in 1917. It tells the story of a young woman who must clear and plant 40 acres of land in order to secure her homesteading rights. To help her students better understand the enormity of this task, Jenni took them outdoors and had



them create a human perimeter around one square acre – then asked them to envision an area 40 times that size. Later, to further illustrate the challenges Hattie faced, Jenni had the students clear brush and stones from a campus garden patch – again inviting them to think about what it would be like to have to prepare 40 acres for planting!

Upper School students also learn from, and help to maintain, the natural wonders of Potomac's campus. In the spring and fall, they can often be seen planting, weeding, and watering the campus herb and vegetable gardens. Thanks to their efforts, the US Dining Room offers a "garden-to-cafeteria program," with fresh, campus-grown salad greens available at lunchtime. The Students for Environmental Action (SEA) club and Parents for Environmental Action (PEA) also help to ensure that the campus is cared for. These groups participate in Potomac's stewardship days and, each April, they host a farmers market as part of the school's Earth Day celebration.

Potomac's wooded learning spaces offer myriad opportunities to teach and learn outside the traditional classroom. While most of these outdoor areas are great for the warmer months of the year, one – the Morton Deck – is especially suited for the rigors of winter. Equipped with a fire pit that Bern and Albert maintain throughout the winter months, this venue accommodates learning year round, making it a favorite among students and teachers. Classes from science to art to foreign languages meet on the Morton Deck to study next to a bright, warm fire. The deck's location on the outskirts of campus offers a sense of peace, solitude, and connection with nature that's hard to match so close to Washington, DC. Sometimes, during a lesson on the deck, students and teachers will see white-tailed deer grazing nearby.

Whatever their reason for getting outdoors, Potomac students value the fresh air and fresh perspectives that the school's campus offers. As they enjoy the beauty surrounding them, they are developing a love of nature and a commitment to environmental stewardship that will last a lifetime.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Singing, Science, Scholarships, and More

① Zoe Dubelier '19 explores the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay.
 ② Princeton Prize winners Nicole Roman '15 (left) and Marisa Colon '15 with Head of School John Kowalik ③ National Merit Scholarship winners James Matthews '15 and Thomas DeSantis '15



Students, families, faculty, and staff journeyed to 44 different countries via the food, exhibits, and talents on display in the Chester Gym and Langstaff Auditorium during Potomac's annual Around the World event.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced that Thomas DeSantis '15 and James Matthews '15 would each receive a \$2,500 scholarship. Of the approximately 1.5 million students who entered this year's competition, only 2,500 received National Merit Scholarships.

In April, Upper School a cappella group Quintessence sang at a luncheon for retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at Cafe Milano in Georgetown.

Cellist Naenah Jeon '17, percussionist Derek Kartalian '17, and violinist Michelle Song '15 performed with the prestigious American Youth Philharmonic.

The Upper School Robotics Team of Tyler Sanok '18, David Kiernan '18, and Alan Vo '18 finished as tournament finalists in the Open Division at the U.S. Open Robotics Championship in Iowa.

Twenty-five eighth grade students traveled to Port Isobel Island to spend three days with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, learning about protecting the Bay and its biodiversity.

During Spring Break, Potomac's Madrigal Singers toured Nashville and performed at various venues throughout the city, including the Country Music Hall of Fame Museum, Vanderbilt University's Blair School of Music, and the Grand Ole Opry Plaza.

Potomac hosted the 25th annual Washington Independent Schools Handbell Festival, welcoming 130 handbell ringers from Browne Academy, Holton-Arms, Landon School, Stone Ridge School, and Wakefield School.

After this year's May Day celebration, sixth graders recycled the flowers, making 70 bouquets that were donated to residents at the Powhatan Nursing Home.

Gail Carson Levine, the Newbery Honor Award-winning author of children's novels, including *Ella Enchanted*, read passages from her books and shared her love of writing with Middle School students.

Vicki Holcomb '15 was one of four local high school students to receive a Youth Service Award from the McLean Rotary Club.

In June, *Arlington Magazine* recognized Elliot Kim '16 as one of the 10 winners of its 2015 Extraordinary Teen Awards.

Marisa Colon '15 and Nicole Roman '15 were awarded the Princeton Prize in Race Relations in May. Princeton University created this honor to recognize young people across the nation who are working to increase understanding and respect among all races in their schools and communities.

During the Upper School's spring Service Learning Day, more than 400 students and faculty members braved the rain to take part in nearly 30 different service projects across the DC area. The participants shared their time and talents with such organizations as the National Arboretum, Alternative House, and Bright Beginnings.



SPEAKERS

Guests Share Their Insights with Potomac Students

DURING THE WINTER AND SPRING, Potomac students heard from a variety of exciting guest speakers, many of whom were alumni. In the span of a few months, students practiced Chinese calligraphy, got first-hand advice about entrepreneurship and careers in service, learned strategies for overcoming adversity, explored solutions for preserving the world's oceans, and gained new perspective on Muslim culture.

In January, master calligrapher John Wang demonstrated the basics of writing Chinese characters with traditional brushes and ink for students in Ingrid Larsen's Chinese Studies classes. Mr. Wang explained the four tools of calligraphy – the brushes, paper, ink stone, and ink stick – and demonstrated some techniques before letting the students practice writing the elaborate characters for themselves. “Calligraphy is not just an art practice,” he explained. “It’s a life study.”

A few weeks later, Upper School students learned the importance of networking and a few secrets about “the real world” from entrepreneur and business leader Doug Anderson. Mr. Anderson is the former president of Bisnow Media, a company that publishes e-newsletters for diverse business sectors. He talked about an organization that he founded to help high school students discover the careers of tomorrow, Gen-Z. “Use this time to acquire experiences,” he advised. “Look for the intersection between your passion and what you’re good at.” Gabe Miller ’16 led the formation of a Gen-Z club at Potomac in 2014, following the model established by Mr. Anderson.

In February, Zachary Leonsis ’07 was on campus to speak with the students in Gen-Z Potomac about sports marketing and the business side of professional



athletics. Zach, who works in business development at Monumental Sports & Entertainment, talked about his career path, what his job is like day-to-day, and future directions in his field. Monumental Sports & Entertainment owns and operates three professional teams: the Washington Wizards, Washington Capitals, and Washington Mystics. “Media and sports have come to a unique intersection,” Zach observed. “If you’re good at communication and interested in sports, there are great opportunities in the growing sector of sports media.”

To kick off Potomac’s spring Service Learning Day in early April, Edward “Smitty” Smith ’98 spoke to Upper School students about the importance of making service an indispensable part of their everyday lives. Smitty, who runs the Justice Grants Administration in Washington, DC, and was runner-up in the city’s 2014 election for Attorney General, spoke passionately about his call to service. “Be the change you want to see,” he advised. He went on to urge the students to be leaders who prioritize giving back over taking.

After spending the day volunteering at a number of local nonprofits, the





students returned to campus to hear a panel of alumni speakers offer guidance on pursuing careers in service. Jocelyn Kelly '98, Johanna Seltzer '83, and Jeremy White '92 reflected on their service careers and how they've made their passion for doing good financially viable.

Later in April, Potomac lifer Michael Murphy '04 talked with students about surviving the setbacks they may encounter in their lives. In 2007, an accident left Michael paralyzed from the waist down and "rerouted" his life. "Take care of today," he urged, "but always be ready for tomorrow." Michael has surmounted challenges through positive attitude and effort, goal-setting, and pursuing his passions; he advised students to do the same when they face adversity.

Today, eight years after his accident, Michael pursues his athletic passion by competing in handcycling races and other adaptive sports. He's a 10-time marathoner (with top-5 finishes in the New York and Boston marathons) and aspires to one day qualify for the U.S. Paralympic team. He

told his audience, "Your attitude and effort are the only things you can control in life. Use your passion to reach your goals."

Dr. Libby Jewett '78 spoke to Potomac students about the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) efforts to combat ocean acidification – a chemical change in ocean water that results from increased carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Libby, who is the director of the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program, stressed the negative impacts the phenomenon is having on ocean animals and plants, inhibiting their ability to survive. "We need to rethink some of our energy habits in order to save our oceans from this very serious threat," she said.

Later in the presentation, the students were given a virtual tour of an ocean acidification lab by Libby's NOAA colleague Daniel Wiczorek, a physical science technician at the Northeast Fisheries Science Center in New Jersey.

In May, Islamic scholar and author Jonathan "Jack" Brown '96, who teaches at Georgetown University, spoke with US students about the controversies and misconceptions surrounding Islam in Western culture. In an interactive presentation, Jack asked the students questions about various aspects of Muslim culture – including its rituals, customs, and other beliefs – in order to pinpoint and clarify some inaccurate perceptions. In closing, he advised, "Try to avoid making generalizations. And remember, it's hard to generalize accurately when you're talking about more than a billion people."

① Jeremy White '92, Jocelyn Kelly '98, and Johanna Seltzer '83 ② Master calligrapher John Wang
③ Gen-Z club members with the program's founder, Doug Anderson ④ Jonathan "Jack" Brown '96
⑤ Edward "Smitty" Smith '98 ⑥ Michael Murphy '04 ⑦ Gen-Z club members with Zachary Leonsis '07
(back row, fourth from left) ⑧ Dr. Libby Jewett '78

Clare Kehoe '15: Specializing in Being Well-Rounded

YOUNG ATHLETES TODAY are often advised to focus on a single sport in order to be successful competitors and earn that coveted college scholarship. This notion has been exacerbated by the rise of athletic programs – camps, travel teams, and Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) squads – designed to develop hyper-specialized athletes who train for and play one sport, year round. Given this context, Clare Kehoe '15 is a throwback of sorts – a student-athlete with varied interests and talents who excelled in not one, but three, sports during her high school career.

A Potomac lifer, Clare participated in a school sport during all 12 of her Upper School seasons, becoming one of only seven members of the Class of 2015 to have done so. But participation wasn't Clare's ultimate goal; she consistently came to win. With her sticks and her swimsuit, she proved that young athletes don't have to give up one sport to be great at another.

Clare's involvement in a potpourri of sports is no surprise, given her athletic lineage. Her grandfather was a star high school athlete, playing multiple sports but especially excelling in baseball. (He was recruited by the Cleveland Indians, but chose not to pursue a pro baseball career). Clare's dad, Patrick, was also a multi-sport athlete while growing up, playing basketball and baseball, and running in his free time. Today, Patrick competes in triathlons and runs marathons.

Clare's trifecta wasn't always field hockey, swimming, and lacrosse. Diagnosed with exercise-induced asthma at a young age,

she was advised to try swimming as a means of building lung capacity and endurance. Clare enrolled in the Northern Virginia Swimming League, and although she didn't initially love swimming, her mom encouraged her to stick with it because of the health benefits. Clare says that, besides helping her learn to control her asthma, swimming offered excellent cross training – which came in handy as she began to play more sports, including soccer, basketball, and lacrosse. Clare notes that lacrosse was her favorite, and she played on local club and travel teams nearly year round.

It wasn't until Intermediate School that Clare discovered field hockey – a popular fall-sport choice for many girls who play lacrosse. Most of Clare's seventh grade classmates had never played the sport before, either, so she wasn't the only one who was taking





on a new challenge. She says, “At Potomac, you’re encouraged to try new things. I never had any regrets about choosing to play field hockey; with each season I grew to love the sport more.”

By the time Clare arrived in the Upper School, it was evident that no matter what sport she played, she was committed to excellence. On the field or in the pool, Clare’s usual charming smile is replaced by a look of grim determination. Last fall, her will to win was on full display to nearly the entire Potomac community: It was the third day of her senior year and the third game of the field hockey season against rival Holy Child. Late in the second half, Clare was hit in the mouth by an errant pass, causing her left front tooth to fall out. Some players would have panicked about the missing tooth; Clare was more concerned about missing a crucial point in the game. “I didn’t like the thought of the game being out of my control,” she remembers. “I wanted to help the team win.” Clare begged Athletic Trainer Terry Cummings and her parents to let her go back in. With her adrenaline pumping, she returned to the field and helped the Panthers secure a 1-0 win. “Clare set the tone for that game, that season, and the whole sports year with her act of courage and perseverance,” Head of School John Kowalik said, reliving the moment during the Upper School Athletics Assembly this May.

Throughout her Upper School career, Clare’s competitive spirit and unrelenting effort translated into success in all three sports. She also demonstrated a great ability to adapt to a variety of coaching styles and work effectively with teammates. Girls Varsity Lacrosse Coach Claire Bordley observes, “It’s not often that I’ve come across a player as talented, and with as much maturity, as Clare Kehoe.”

These attributes were also on full display in the classroom, where Clare achieved great things; nearly all of her classes were accelerated, including four AP courses in her senior year. And in her “free time,” Clare helped to found the Upper School’s women’s empowerment club, X-Alliance.

As an All-League forward her junior year, Clare helped lead the field hockey team to a record of 11-4-2 and a second-place finish in the Independent School League (ISL) – the team’s best finish since 1991. As a senior, she captained the Panthers to the ISL quarterfinals and was named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association High School National Academic Squad.

During her winters in the pool, Clare broke records. As a junior, she was part of the girls 200-yard medley relay team that set a school record. The next year, as the team’s captain, Clare swam butterfly to help the relay break its own school record at the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Swimming & Diving Championships.

In lacrosse, Clare earned Academic All-American and All-League honors twice, including her junior year when she helped the team claim both the ISL regular season and tournament titles in the A division. In her senior season, she captained the team to a 12-5 record in the more-competitive AA division and a berth in the state tournament. All of these accomplishments were duly acknowledged when Clare received Potomac’s 2015 Girls Athletic Award, in recognition of “outstanding sportsmanship, leadership, and dedication” throughout her four years.

Although Clare went through the recruiting process to play Division I lacrosse in college, she says that she ultimately “chose the school that would be best for me academically, rather than the school where I would have the best chance of playing lacrosse.” This fall, Clare entered Duke University, where she plans to major in either chemistry or pre-med. She has already become actively involved on campus, where the offerings include club lacrosse and plenty of other opportunities to play sports. And Clare is well prepared: Before leaving for Durham, she packed her lacrosse and field hockey sticks and her swimsuits. She laughs, “It would be weird to just drop it all. I don’t know what I’d do with my free time if I wasn’t playing sports.” ☒

seniors commit to play collegiate sports

A number of student-athletes from Potomac's Class of 2015 have committed to play sports next year, including 13 who will compete at the Division III level; eight who will play at the Division I level; one who will play Canadian Interuniversity Sport, the highest level of play at Canadian universities; and another who will complete a post-graduate year:



Standing, left to right: Bennett Caplin (Williams College, wrestling); Phil Newsome (St. Mary's College, basketball); Josh Walker (Blair Academy, football); Ed Booth (Mount Allison University, football); Brendan Ryan (Virginia Tech, wrestling); **Seated, left to right:** Laura Persinski (Villanova University, lacrosse); Steven Logan (Tulane University, football); Taaj-Udeen Davis (Kenyon College, football); Stuart Read (Williams College, football); Michael Thompson (University of Maryland Baltimore County, track and field)



Standing, left to right: Connor Atkinson (Virginia Tech, track and field); Cole Bransford (Princeton University, track and field); Grant Voeks (Clemson University, track and field); Tessa Smalley (Ohio Wesleyan University, softball); Nghi Nguyen (Cornell University, squash) **Seated, left to right:** Chris Caskin (Trinity College, tennis); Brooks Arundel (Bowdoin College, football); James Gilbert (Tufts University, lacrosse); Gabrielle Smith (New York University, track and field); Olivia Kobayashi (New York University, track and soccer)

Not pictured: Alex Gerson (Washington University, tennis); Theo Mendez (Harvard University, squash); Matt Spidi (Washington University, baseball); Naim Rutledge (University of Mount Union, football)

WINTER AND SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

Potomac won the 2014–15 Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) Director's Cup for overall excellence in boys varsity sports. This is the school's second consecutive cup triumph and the sixth in its history.

The GIRLS OUTDOOR TRACK

4x800-meter relay team of Michelle Brouckman '15, Rachel Granovsky '16, Sophie Hearn '15, and Grace Moses '16 won the state title.

For **BOYS OUTDOOR TRACK**, Connor Atkinson '15 won the 300-meter hurdles state championship.

Fourteen Potomac **TRACK and FIELD** athletes qualified for the New Balance Nationals in June.

The **BOYS TENNIS** team fell just short of winning back-to-back state titles, losing 5-1 to St. Christopher's School in the Virginia state finals. The Panthers finished the season 16-3 and competed in their sixth state championship game since 2007.

Led by the strong pitching of Maddie Price '15, who recorded her 25th career victory, the **SOFTBALL** team (6-6) advanced to the Independent School League (ISL) tournament finals.

GIRLS LACROSSE finished its season 12-5 and earned a No. 7 seed in the state tournament.

Led by junior guard Grant Robinson '16, the **BOYS BASKETBALL** team finished its season 13-14 and advanced to the state tournament for the third consecutive year. The *Sun Gazette* named coach Levi Franklin its co-Coach of the Year and Grant its boys basketball Player of the Year for the 2014–15 season.

The **BASEBALL** team (16-5) topped Saint James 4-0 to win the MAC championship, its first MAC title since 2012. Joining in on the celebration was the **BOYS LACROSSE** team (12-8), which had clinched a conference championship of its own moments earlier; the Panthers defeated rival Flint Hill to secure their fifth consecutive title.



The **SWIMMING** team had an impressive season, with the girls 200-yard medley relay team of Sydney Grube '16, Clare Kehoe '15, Nicole Manning '18, and Elly Zhang '17 setting a school record at the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Swimming & Diving Championships. Individually, Grube set school records in the 100-yard breaststroke and 200-yard individual medley.



Led by All-American Nghi Nguyen '15, the **GIRLS SQUASH** team won its third consecutive Mid-Atlantic Squash Organization (MASO) tournament team championship and placed sixth at the U.S. High School National Championships.

In **WRESTLING**, Brendan Ryan '15 placed second in the 138-pounds division at states – the highest placement by a Potomac wrestler in six seasons. A week later, he made his second-straight appearance at nationals. In four years, he achieved a School-record 149 wins.

All-American Theo Mendez '15 led the **BOYS SQUASH** team to a 9-6 record and a tenth-place finish at the U.S. High School National Championships.

Tracy Jaeger, who was Potomac's varsity lacrosse coach from 1993 through 2001, was inducted into the Potomac Chapter of the U.S. Lacrosse Hall of Fame in February. Tracy, who is currently an Upper School Spanish teacher, led the **GIRLS LACROSSE** team to the Independent School League (ISL) AA Championship in 1994; her efforts that season earned her All-Met Coach of the Year honors.



- ① Ifechi Ugwu '15 ② Kyle Sanok '16
③ Jack Repke '16 ④ Matt Spidi '15
⑤ Camille Sommerfield '16

postseason awards

Congratulations, Potomac Panthers!

ALL-LEAGUE

Josh Hansan, Matt Spidi, Will Valentine (baseball); **Phil Newsome, Grant Robinson** (boys basketball); **Will Langstaff** (first team, ice hockey) **Ryan Kelly** (second team); **James Gilbert, Ethan Hunt, Ryan Kelly, Mark Kowalik, Jack Peele, Fitz Reese, Jasper Tyner** (boys lacrosse); **Clare Kehoe, Sheila Rietano** (girls lacrosse); **Lauren Long, Maddie Price** (softball); **Jason Kwak, Joe Nardini** (boys tennis); **Connor Atkinson, Cole Bransford, Kyle Sanok, Grant Voeks** (boys outdoor track and field); **Brendan Ryan** (wrestling)

ALL-STATE

Grant Robinson (second team, boys basketball); **Sheila Rietano** (first team, girls lacrosse); **Grant Voeks** (state champion, boys indoor track and field), **Cole Bransford** (second team); **Michelle Brouckman, Sophie Hearn, Lyla Jones, Caroline Spartin** (second team, girls indoor track and field), **Olivia Kobayashi, Paige Lighthammer, Bria Peace, Gabby Smith** (honorable mention); **Connor Atkinson, Grant Voeks** (state champions, boys outdoor track and field), **Cole Bransford, Michael Thompson, Miles Wilson** (honorable mention); **Michelle Brouckman, Rachel Granovsky, Sophie Hearn, Grace Moses** (state champions, girls outdoor track and field), **Olivia Kobayashi, Bria Peace, Chloe Searchinger, Gabby Smith, Emily Tran** (second team); **Jason Kwak, Joe Nardini** (first team, boys tennis), **Chris Caskin** (honorable mention); **Justin Kuo, Brendan Ryan** (wrestling)

ALL-MET

Matt Spidi (honorable mention, baseball); **Fitz Reese** (honorable mention, boys lacrosse); **Sheila Rietano** (honorable mention, girls lacrosse); **Cole Bransford, Grant Voeks** (honorable mention, boys indoor track and field); **Grant Voeks** (first team, boys outdoor track and field); **Joe Nardini** (honorable mention, boys tennis)

ALL-AMERICAN

Sheila Rietano (girls lacrosse); **Theo Mendez** (boys squash); **Nghi Nguyen** (girls squash)

ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICAN

Clare Kehoe, Emily Klein, Grace Meisel (girls lacrosse)



MORE THAN JUST MUSIC

***Stephen Hill '76 keeps BET
relevant and ahead of the curve***

by Kevin Hollister



Stephen Hill '76 started his career in music programming in the fourth grade. From the back seat of the family car, Stephen would spend his 30-minute morning commutes from Southeast Washington, DC, to The Potomac School persuading his mother to switch the radio station.

Wanda Hill, who gave piano lessons at Potomac in the 1970s and 80s, preferred listening to news and the occasional comic relief offered by *The Harden and Weaver Show* on WMAL. Stephen wanted to hear the R&B playing on WOL or WOOK. "Every morning was a constant battle over the radio," he remembers with a laugh.

More than four decades later, Stephen Hill is still programming music. Now, as president of programming for Black Entertainment Television (BET), he makes decisions that have a far-reaching artistic and cultural impact. While the scope of his choices today is much greater than WMAL versus WOOK, Stephen maintains the same determination he had in fourth grade – to hear and share great music. He has achieved what many hope for but few accomplish: channeling a childhood passion into a dream career.



photo: Kris Connor | BET

From Wanda's piano playing to R&B on the radio, Stephen's life was filled with music from a young age. Later, his experiences at Potomac continued to fuel his love of music. As a fifth grader in Winifred Edelson's class, he played the bass-baritone Dick Deadeye in Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Stephen observes, "Mrs. Edelson taught me the value of combining music and drama." In addition, Stephen credits music teachers Jack Langstaff and Robert Brachman and handbells teacher John Benaglia with helping him develop an appreciation for a wide variety of instruments and musical styles.

Once classes were finished for the day, there was still more music. Stephen usually rode home from school with the Burbridge brothers, Kofi '76 and Oteil '79 – both of whom went on to become Grammy Award-winning musicians. There was no conflict over the radio in the Burbridge car; they always tuned in to music stations. Stephen reflects, "It's no coincidence that Kofi and Oteil are musicians par excellence, and that I'm heavily

involved with music. If you had seen and heard us during those car rides – singing, moving with the music, talking about various artists – you could have predicted where we'd end up."

Those years as a radio listener helped prepare Stephen to be on the other end of the transmission. At Brown University, where he majored in applied mathematics and economics, he worked as program director for the campus radio station. After graduating from Brown, Stephen taught math for three years at Groton, the Massachusetts boarding school that he attended after completing ninth grade at Potomac. But he couldn't help flirting with radio programming. On the weekends, Stephen disc jockeyed for Brown's station. It was there that, by a stroke of luck, he got his break in the industry: A program director from Boston station WILD heard Stephen's show, liked it, and offered him a part-time job. "That was the luckiest break ever in the history of ever," Stephen told *My Groton* in 2012.

A fast and eager learner, Stephen asked a lot of questions: Why are we

playing these particular songs? How does our current playlist resonate with our audience? He found himself spending more and more time at the station. By this time, Stephen had left teaching to pursue banking. But when WILD offered him a full-time position, he was ready: Stephen resigned his post as a lending officer at the Bank of Boston, took a pay cut, and pursued his passion.

Clearly, that was the right decision. Within a few short years, Stephen was promoted to program director at WILD, and in 1993, he led the station to its highest ratings ever. Later, he became executive producer of the nationally syndicated *Tom Joyner Morning Show*.

Then, in 1995, after more than 10 years in radio, Stephen landed a music director position at MTV – switching to an entirely new medium, which relied on both music and images to make an impact. He was in charge of programming all genres of videos for airplay, making decisions about which artists to showcase on both MTV and its new commercial-free video channel, MTV2.



① Childhood photos of Stephen from his senior page in Potomac's 1976 yearbook

② (Left to right) Stephen with classmates Edward Tunney '76 and Broadway Jackson, Jr. '76





When Stephen joined MTV, the network was in transition, trying out different strategies to compete in an increasingly complex television landscape. The network had begun showing fewer music videos and more reality shows and soap operas. It launched MTV2 as a means of offering more music-related content. In a July 1996 interview with *Billboard*, Stephen talked about MTV's expanded focus, saying that it had

I've never thought about changing the world; I just want to entertain the hell out of it! But I hope that people have been moved and inspired by some of the work we've done at BET.

"developed into a music-based youth-culture network."

The wave of change had fully engulfed the music-television industry by the time Stephen joined BET as executive vice president of entertainment and music programming in 1999. He immediately saw that his new network needed to offer its primarily African-American target audience what MTV was offering

to its larger audience: reality television and original programming, including special events and award shows.

One of Stephen's first BET creations – the hip-hop and R&B music video show *106 & Park* – became the network's top-rated show almost overnight. Stephen had seen the success MTV had with its music video show *TRL*; he had also identified a gap that needed filling. Young R&B artists were not being showcased on other music

channels. Stephen created *106 & Park* to be that vehicle, and the show launched the careers of young urban artists like Bow Wow and B2K. The program quickly gained popularity, matching and eventually topping its rival *TRL* in the ratings war.

It was clear from the start that Stephen had a keen eye for recognizing emerging artists, as well as the creativity necessary to generate new and exciting



programs at BET. In 2004, five years after his arrival at the network, *The Source* named Stephen number one on its list of "Most Influential Executives" in the music industry.

Today, music videos have moved online and up-and-coming artists have begun to publicize their work independently. In the face of such change, Stephen continues to be innovative and forward-looking. He reflects, "At BET, we're agile. We've continued to find creative ways to present music on television – ways that you can't really replicate on other screens." An example is the *BET Awards*, an annual live-broadcast show that Stephen created to celebrate minorities in music, sports, and other entertainment fields. He also developed live shows like *BET Honors* and *Black Girls Rock*, which feature the lives and achievements of African Americans from many walks of life.

Still, Stephen is realistic about the changing media landscape; he understands that there is "a whole generation of viewers who don't know a time where there wasn't an iPad." People can now watch whatever they want, whenever they want, wherever they want. This defines the challenge facing cable television – finding ways to stay relevant and ahead of the curve in an entertainment-on-demand society.

To address this challenge, Stephen has made sure that if there's a screen to show

it, BET's programming will be available. Whether it's the hilarious reality-show satire *Real Husbands of Hollywood* starring comedian Kevin Hart, or the popular drama *Being Mary Jane* starring Gabrielle Union, all of the network's original programming is available online.

In February, just a few months after his promotion to president of programming, Stephen was named to *Billboard's* 2015 Power 100 List, an honor roll of the executives who power the music business. He's humbled by the recognition, noting, "Being in BET's top programming post is a reflection of all the people who taught me music over the years."

This spring, Stephen attended a Brown University presentation featuring Academy Award-winning film director and producer (and fellow Potomac alum) Davis Guggenheim '79. Davis spoke about his belief that the work that he does has the power to change the world. "That was interesting to me," Stephen says. "I've never thought about changing the world; I just want to entertain the hell out of it! But I hope that people have been moved and inspired by some of the work we've done at BET."

It's been 45 years since Stephen Hill argued for changing the channel on his mother's car radio on the way to Potomac. Now, he's not just changing the channel; he's changing the face of television. 📺



① Hosts Terrence J and Rocsi Diaz with Stephen (right) on the set of *106 & Park* (photo: John Ricard | BET)

② Stephen (left) with actor and comedian Kevin Hart at BET NYC Upfront 2013 (photo: Stephen Lovekin | BET)

③ Stephen with Rihanna at the 2015 BET Awards (photo: Johnny Nunez | BET | Getty Images)

④ Stephen (left) greets Will Smith on the set of *106 & Park* (photo: John Ricard | BET)

SCHOOL

MINDING

At the 2014 Baccalaureate Ceremony, senior Evan May was publicly reflecting on his career as a Potomac lifer. He told his classmates and teachers, “I realize now that the lessons I learned outside the classroom are as important as the ones I learned inside the classroom.”

Unlike most of his fellow graduates, Evan was not headed directly to college after Potomac. It wasn't that he didn't want to pursue a bachelor's degree, and it wasn't because he didn't get accepted at the school he hoped to attend.

Rather, Evan says, “I was kind of burned out by the demands of schoolwork. Jumping directly into four more years of tests and papers didn't sound so great. I wanted a change of scene and a chance to get re-energized before starting college.” So Evan deferred his admission to the University of Chicago and embarked on a different kind of adventure: a gap year spent in Israel. He laughs, “I was pretty sure that this would be a good way to get more of those ‘outside the classroom’ learning experiences.”

The gap year concept first became popular in England in the 1970s, when students finishing secondary school were encouraged to undertake extended international experiences during the eight-month gap between final exams and the beginning of their university studies, as a way to develop beyond the classroom and learn about different cultures. Today, a modified version of the concept is gaining traction among high school graduates in the U.S. and around the world.

According to the American Gap Association (AGA), the past five years have seen a steady increase in the number of first-time freshmen at four-year colleges and universities who waited a year to enroll. The AGA's website explains, “A gap year is a structured period of time when students take a break from formal education to increase self-awareness, learn from different cultures, and experiment with possible careers. Typically, these [goals] are achieved by a combination of traveling, volunteering, interning, and working.”

While the motivations for taking a gap year vary, burnout from the pressures of high school and a desire “to find out



more about themselves” are the two most common reasons students choose this option, according to Karl Haigler and Rae Nelson, co-authors of the book *The Gap-Year Advantage*.

For Evan, the decision to delay college for a year was not made lightly. He read articles and talked with family members and friends who had undertaken similar experiences. Ultimately, Evan enrolled in one of the top gap year programs in Israel: Year Course, offered by Young Judea.

Through the program, Evan and more than 200 other recent graduates from countries ranging from New Zealand to South Africa

worked with counselors and other educators to develop their leadership skills and participate in social-action projects. For the first four months, Evan lived in dorm-style housing in Baka, a small neighborhood in Jerusalem, while taking classes on Israeli culture and history and learning conversational Hebrew. He was also responsible for taking care of himself: He had to learn how to budget his money, coexist with roommates, and interact successfully with the local people to get things done, despite his limited grasp of the language.

Evan reflects, “This experience gave me the opportunity to really mature before college. I think a lot of people do dumb things in college because it's their first time living away from home, with so much freedom. I've already experienced that sense of freedom, but also the responsibility that came with living on my own in a foreign country and having to make decisions for myself.”

After his time in Baka, Evan traveled to Bat Yam, a suburb of Tel Aviv, where he tutored at a school for underprivileged children. Later, he spent two months in a military program called Marva, completing parts of the Israel Defense Forces basic training and immersing himself even more fully in the country's culture. The military experience was especially eye-opening for Evan because he got a glimpse of what his life would be like if he lived in Israel, where military service is mandatory for all citizens over the age of 18.

THE GAP UNIVERSITY

by Kevin Hollister

Throughout his gap year experience, Evan found it refreshing to escape America's prescribed notions of education, including the immediate succession of high school, college, and career. Living and traveling outside the U.S. helped him gain a broader perspective on the world and his place in it. He observes, "It was a wake-up call for me to see how another part of the world lives. I got to see what I'm missing and what I'm lucky enough to have by living in America."

Introspection and personal growth can be valuable outcomes of a gap year, but the experience isn't for everyone. Potomac's director of college counseling, Mike Oligmueller, observes, "Gap years can be great for kids who want to do them, but to be most beneficial for the individual, a gap year needs to be more than a 'year off.'"

He adds, "Students who are genuinely interested in this option should do their research, plan ahead, and be ready to make a full-time commitment once they identify what they hope to achieve."

Like Evan May, Ann Bellinger '10 planned ahead before jumping into her gap year. As a Potomac lifer, Ann had made time for her passion for horseback riding after completing her schoolwork and sports commitments – which included playing varsity squash and softball. By the end of her junior year, Ann knew what she wanted to do: She wanted a year devoted entirely to riding.

Ann's aunt, Rachel Renzy Meima '82, had attended Potomac through the eighth grade, then gone on to The Madeira School before enrolling at Sweet Briar College. But before attending college, Rachel took a year off from school to focus on riding and eventing – a decision that Ann found inspirational.

So, when she was accepted to Tufts University in the spring of her senior year, Ann requested a one-year deferment in order to pursue an apprenticeship with former Olympic rider Kelli Temple. "I did all the research and coordination for my gap year before making my decision," Ann remembers. "I also saved up money and worked with my parents to make a budget for the upcoming year."



photo: Lee Rouse

From September 2010 through mid-August of the following year, Ann worked six days a week at Temple's barn in Round Hill, Virginia, in exchange for free boarding for her horse, daily lessons, and coaching at competitions.

She learned a lot during those 11 months of hard work. Besides the rigors of getting up at 4:30 am each day to feed the horses and clean their stalls, Ann had to learn to live on her own and take care of herself. She also had to make difficult decisions – like choosing to work as a waitress at a nearby restaurant on her one day off each week, to earn money to help cover her personal expenses.

But in addition to the challenges, Ann's gap year brought great rewards, including the opportunity to really focus on riding. "I got the chance to ride amazing horses and have lessons from an Olympian," she says. "But I also realized that, while riding is something I really enjoy and will do my whole life, it would not be the basis of my career."

This spring, Ann graduated from Tufts, *cum laude*, with a bachelor's degree in computer science. Like more than 90 percent of the students who take a gap year, she went on to college the following year, more mature and more sure of the way forward. She reflects, "I made the right decision; I grew up during my gap year. I came to Tufts knowing what I wanted out of my college experience." In September, Ann began working at a computer software development firm near Boston, and she still finds time to ride.

Two different students, two very different gap years. As a college graduate, Ann can reflect positively on her experience with 20/20 hindsight, as Evan heads into the great unknown of college life. Although he doesn't yet know exactly how his time in Israel prepared him for his freshman year at the University of Chicago, Evan is certain that his learning outside the classroom has given him new-found maturity and drive. He says, "I'm in a much better place to start college now than I was a year ago." 🐾



You & What Army?

Jocelyn Kelly '98 fights fearlessly for change in central Africa

by Kevin Hollister

photos: Justin Ide | justinide.com



Rape committed during war is often intended to terrorize the population, break up families, destroy communities, and, in some instances, change the ethnic make-up of the next generation. Sometimes it is also used to deliberately infect women with HIV or render women from the targeted community incapable of bearing children.

In Rwanda, between 100,000 and 250,000 women were raped during the three months of genocide in 1994. UN agencies estimate that more than 60,000 women were raped during the civil war in Sierra Leone (1991-2002), more than 40,000 in Liberia (1989-2003), up to 60,000 in the former Yugoslavia (1992-1995), and at least 200,000 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo since 1998.

"Background Information on Sexual Violence Used as a Tool of War."
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION, MARCH 2014



When Jocelyn Kelly '98 first raised the idea of meeting with rebel combatants in one of the world's most troubled places – the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) – she was told it would be next to impossible. In the DRC, gaining access to an armed militia, especially as a foreign woman, would be uniquely challenging. The rebel combatants operate in far-flung places and are notorious for their abuse of civilians, and particularly of women. To some, it seemed a ridiculous idea.

But Jocelyn was determined to see her plan through. As director of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative's (HHI) Women in War Program, Jocelyn knows that creating real, sustainable change in a war-torn region is difficult. But it's not impossible, and it's surely not ridiculous. A passionate researcher, Jocelyn is determined to understand the impact of sexual violence on women and society, and to make others understand it as well, as a first step toward lasting change.

Undeterred by doubters, Jocelyn made creative use of her connections to achieve her goal. In the DRC, she reached out to someone...who knew someone...who knew someone else who was in a rebel militia. After months cultivating connections and getting pushback from low-level rebels, Jocelyn finally earned a meeting with a major, then a meeting with a colonel.

Above: Jocelyn at a remote mining site in North Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The further she got up the chain of command, the longer the people she had come to see made her wait; it was a way of asserting their power, and a test of her commitment. After a six-hour wait, the colonel arrived, in a temper. “This is foolish!” he shouted. “We are not interested in talking to you.” He wouldn’t even look at Jocelyn, much less shake her hand. “Well, you’re here now,” Jocelyn said calmly. “I’m here to listen to you. I want to hear about your perspective on the war.”

The colonel quickly calmed down and began to talk. “There’s a lot of power in letting people tell their stories,” Jocelyn says. “In order to understand a violent situation, it’s necessary to understand the people involved.”

Jocelyn and the colonel spoke for more than three hours. She listened to his concerns and his struggles with the ongoing conflict. When the meeting was over, the colonel got up and saluted Jocelyn. He would negotiate access to the rebels of the Mai Mai militia for her work going forward.

Jocelyn’s relentlessness stems from a lifetime of fighting social injustice. Growing up in the Washington, DC, metro area, she helped her grandmother write letters to the editor about issues ranging from women’s rights to the plight of Palestinian refugees. Being actively engaged on important issues – both domestic and international – was important for her grandmother, and it quickly became an integral part of Jocelyn’s life as well.

In addition to her grandmother’s influence, Jocelyn gained an appreciation for different cultures from her mother’s work in the U.S. Foreign Service. After ninth grade at Potomac, Jocelyn accompanied her mother to Germany, where she attended a German high school. She didn’t speak the language and simply learned through immersion. Despite the difficulties, Jocelyn embraced the challenge of developing fluency in a third language. (She had learned French from her grandmother, and from French teacher Connie Randall at Potomac.)



As she got older, Jocelyn spent her summers interning at the U.S. Embassy in Bonn, Germany, and traveling around Europe. To her, there was something addictive about experiencing new places and seeing the similarities and differences in people.

Eventually, she returned to the U.S. to earn a degree in cognitive science from Johns Hopkins University. Although she was working toward a science degree, her main interest was communication – listening to and telling meaningful stories. She naturally gravitated toward a career in journalism. After graduation, Jocelyn followed her mother to a new posting at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City; there, she took a job as a reporter for an English-language magazine.

While she enjoyed journalism, Jocelyn soon became frustrated by the “arm’s-length distance” that the career demands. Maybe it was impatience, or maybe it was a subliminal call toward her eventual position with HHI, but it wasn’t long before Jocelyn realized that journalism didn’t bring her close enough to the people and issues that she wanted to engage with.

Soon, she was volunteering at a local hospital and working with doctors to help people in Mexico’s impoverished Chiapas region. This was what Jocelyn wanted: active involvement, the opportunity to use her time and talents to solve problems and help people. Her experiences in Mexico pushed Jocelyn toward a career in public health.

Once again, she returned to the U.S., becoming a disaster response specialist with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Jocelyn was thrown into crisis response almost immediately, with the advent of Hurricane Katrina. She quickly found herself alarmed at how reactive and unprepared FEMA was in the face of that disaster. Instead of providing thoughtful, commonsense solutions to the affected parties, she says, people responding to a disaster too often have a “frantic, hair-on-fire approach.”

Inherent in this approach is the notion that there is no time to do research on the people affected. Jocelyn maintains, “When the stakes are high, thoughtful research and investigation are more – not less – critical.” She believes that if FEMA had talked with people in the communities affected by Katrina, using a holistic approach, the agency’s ultimate response would have been more effective, because it would have been focused on actual, rather than assumed, needs.

After Hurricane Katrina, Jocelyn enrolled at the Harvard School of Public Health. She wanted to use what she had learned from her experience, and she believed that her perspective could be of value in future emergency-response situations. While earning her master’s degree in population and international health, Jocelyn became familiar with HHI and was attracted to its commitment to advancing research related to humanitarian assistance.

In 2007, Jocelyn began working as a volunteer researcher with HHI, conducting records research at Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, DRC. Upon graduating the following year, she received a grant that allowed her to begin a full-time position with the organization, as a gender-based-violence research coordinator. This was the job she'd been waiting for. Jocelyn reflects, "The violence in the DRC is beyond imagination. The things I saw and heard there will stay with me for the rest of my life. This fuels my continued commitment to helping to create change."

Last winter, while walking home to her apartment in Northwest DC, Jocelyn saw more than a dozen homeless men and women sleeping on the street. It wasn't quite dark yet, but it was already freezing. Jocelyn knew that spending that night on the street would be a life-threatening situation. She thought,

"500 other people have probably already called for the homeless shelter van." Nevertheless, she dialed the number. The staff at the shelter were shocked; they hadn't been informed about those particular people.

"Everyone thought that someone else had called," Jocelyn says. "I think people forget that social justice is something you can work for all the time, every minute."

Never assume that someone else is going to solve a problem. That's a tenet that Jocelyn lives by, both in her work with the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and in her everyday life.

Jocelyn continued to receive grants for her work at HHI and eventually she founded and became the director of its Women in War Program. In this position, she has spent the past six years addressing the impact of violence against women in a war-torn African country,

and what can be done to mitigate the damage – one person and one community at a time.

Hearkening back to her days as a journalist, Jocelyn interviews all kinds of people throughout central Africa. She believes that all parties affected by the war should be empowered to share their experiences. She talks with women and helps them obtain much-needed medical care and counseling. She also talks with men who have been affected, and whose wives or daughters have been victimized. Many of them suffer terrible shame at not having been able to protect the women close to them; Jocelyn works to connect these men and their families with mediation, counseling, and other holistic services. By examining the perspectives of both women and men in communities affected by the violence, she has helped to address larger social problems, including family abandonment and dissolution of communities.

Also, by talking with rebel soldiers, Jocelyn has begun to understand the dynamics of combatant participation in sexual violence. She wants to learn more about how the rebels became who they are, so that HHI can be a presence that actively encourages and supports demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration.

By making thoughtful human connections, Jocelyn Kelly is giving people in a region devastated by war a voice; and with a voice comes renewed dignity and hope. There's a long road ahead, but eventually – with Jocelyn's leadership, passion, and dedication – women and men who are now victims may become forces for change.

Jocelyn observes, "Things that seem unattainable or far away always begin with small, concrete steps. If you're willing to go for it, you really can make a difference." 🐾



① Jocelyn visits a gold mine with local workers to understand the health and safety challenges of the DRC's mining sector.

② Children at a feeding program greet Jocelyn.



IDEA to ENTERPRISE

Potomac Alumni Practice
the Art of Entrepreneurship

BY LAURIE CALLAHAN



Dictionary.com defines an entrepreneur as “a person who organizes and manages any enterprise, especially a business, usually with considerable initiative and risk.” Potomac graduates demonstrate that, with the right combination of vision, determination, and skill, entrepreneurship can flourish in any field.

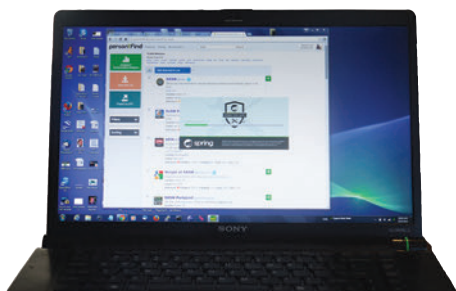
Chris Seline '93 has launched several startups; he specializes in creating efficient, scalable search engines, as well as data collection and analysis systems. Caryn Cramer '97 is an artist who works with textiles and interior design. John Backus '12 provides identity verification and anti-fraud services through innovative software. And Eric Huang '09 identified an unfilled niche in menswear and has recently begun offering clothes designed for men of smaller stature.

While their professional paths are diverse, these four have much in common. Chris points out, “The people who are entrepreneurs are usually the ones who *have* to be entrepreneurs. They can't sit still; they aren't happy working on something that's not their own. They have a passion to create something new and different.” Eric echoes this thought, saying, “There's this desire to fix a real-world problem and come up with a product that people can relate to.” With a touch of idealism, John adds, “Entrepreneurship is incredibly enticing because successful businesses do improve society in some fashion.”

But entrepreneurship is challenging. Caryn notes, “If you're going to follow this path, you have to be able to live with an incredible amount of risk. There are unknowns and things that are out of your control; there are ups and downs. So you have to love what you're doing and be fully committed to it.” She adds, “I'm always thinking about my work; I never just check out.”

Passion, initiative, creativity, perseverance – all are traits that these four intrepid alumni entrepreneurs share. Each of them has experienced the vicissitudes of launching a startup. A look at their paths to entrepreneurship reveals the challenges and rewards inherent in working to transform an idea into a successful enterprise.

The Journey and Lessons Learned



Going after a very broad market initially is probably not the best approach. Tackling a niche and then expanding is a smarter way of going about things. That's something I had to learn.



Chris Seline

Chris is the co-founder of DistilleryLab (distillerylab.com), which creates automated processes and data analysis to help businesses market more effectively on social media. This is not his first startup, but his earlier efforts did lead him to this point.

When Chris was finishing up his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering at Johns Hopkins University, he began building a prototype for a search engine and partnered with another Potomac School alumnus, Jon Kilberg, to create *2wrongs.com* in 1999. They were fortunate to receive startup funding from a company they connected with through the Northern Virginia Technology Council. In 2001, *2wrongs.com* was sold to Cyveillance, where Chris served as vice president of research and development until 2003.

Soon, the entrepreneurial bug again had him itching to create something new. Chris's next startup, Dumbfind, was a general search engine, developed in the hope that Microsoft might be interested in purchasing it. That didn't happen, and it soon became clear that the business wasn't generating enough profit to be sustainable.

Chris recalls, "We quickly shifted gears to social media and developed Searchles, a social search engine. We received plenty of hype for that and landed a few deals with companies, including *The Washington Post*. We had some buzz going but weren't making enough money to survive. We realized that this still wasn't the right direction."

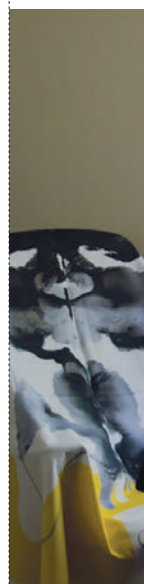
Chris's next effort was Twicsy, a much more focused search engine – just for pictures – that he established in 2009. He explains, "Going after a very broad market initially is probably not the best approach. Tackling a niche and then expanding is a smarter way of going about things. That's something I had to learn."

Twicsy started growing and now has more than five million unique visitors a month. However, it still doesn't generate enough revenue through advertisers to be a great business.

In 2013, Chris's partner in the Twicsy venture, Christian Olsen, discovered a niche market through his digital consulting work with public relations firms. Chris says, "These firms had very specific needs that were not being met. I was able to develop a technology to address some of those needs, and we started selling custom solutions for PR agencies. Our tool, Distillerylab, enables agencies to use social media analytics to improve online marketing strategies."

DistilleryLab was born out of a specific need in a specific industry; now, Chris and his partner are looking into ways to expand the business. He explains, "We want to make advertising on social media easier for people who don't have the time to learn the complex systems that are currently available, but still need to get the word out about their product and want to spend their money effectively. We hope to gain traction early on by offering some specific tools, then branch out into more general advertising – all the while keeping things incredibly simple, so that small business owners can get involved without becoming social media experts." DistilleryLab's latest product is PersoniFind, a tool for identifying and engaging with influencers and potential customers in a particular field.

"I learn something new with each startup," Chris points out. "In this one, I'm really focusing on business needs first, rather than just building something fun and cool that lots of people will use." And it's working. DistilleryLab is meeting a need while generating a good profit.





My biggest challenges have not been on the creative side, but on the business side – learning about accounting, product tracking, and computer software.



Caryn Cramer

Caryn has a successful textile design and interior design business (caryncramer.com), but the route to her goal was anything but direct. She majored in English literature at Carleton College, then earned a master's degree in postmodern philosophy from New York University, followed by a law degree from Vanderbilt University (specializing in copyright law), and – finally – a master's in interior design from the Corcoran College of Art and Design.

"My mind is my most valuable possession," Caryn explains. "All that academic training contributes to the critical thinking and concept formation that I put into my projects, both in interior design and textiles."

While Caryn thought that the law would be intellectually stimulating, she ultimately found creative work to be more satisfying. Art has long been part of her life. "My passion for painting goes back to The Potomac School," she says. "I'm so lucky that I was exposed to the arts at an early age. I've kept up painting and creative expression throughout my life."

That passion eventually led her to study interior design. "When I went

to design school, I wasn't expecting to start my own company," she says. But completing an internship for a textile designer in Copenhagen, Denmark, and developing a textile design project for her master's thesis gave Caryn the inspiration and confidence to branch out on her own. She established her company in 2012.

Caryn notes that the two aspects of her enterprise are complementary, with sometimes one, sometimes the other, taking more of her time. She observes, "My biggest challenges have not been on the creative side, but on the business side – learning about accounting, product tracking, and computer software." She wishes she had gotten good systems in place up front: "Once I got really busy, I didn't have time to be thinking about bookkeeping and accounting software, manufacturing systems, inventory tracking, and sub-parts inventory." Caryn ended up switching software a couple of times to meet her needs more effectively. Then there were production and delivery challenges on the textile side of the business, including a lost shipment that left her with no goods during one Christmas season!

With a strong commitment to sustainability and fair trade, Caryn experimented with providers until she found a digital printer that uses a green pigment process on her Belgian linen material. Starting with pillows and now branching out into fabric by the yard, she is working the trade shows and doing line showings at fabric retailers. Her creations are also available through her online store. Caryn finds design inspiration in literature, history, and diverse cultures, weaving together intricate ideas to form beautiful patterns.

In interior design work, Caryn enjoys the challenge of blending the personalities and aesthetics of her clients with the architecture of a space. "Once you have a concept for a project, you can start thinking through what materials to use," she explains. "I would never want to deliver just a trend."

Much of Caryn's work revolves around renovations, which bring inevitable surprises as walls are opened up. She notes with a smile, "Nimble thinking and weighing of various options are constant requirements in this business!"

John Backus

John is co-founder and CEO of BlockScore (blockscore.com), an identity-verification and anti-fraud business. His exposure to entrepreneurship started at home, as his father invests in early-stage tech startups.

John began experimenting with computer programming when he was 12 and continued his interest in computer science, as well as robotics, at Potomac. He also worked at tech startups during his high school summers. He points out, “My dad helped instill an intuition for startups in general, and the businesses I worked for during my summers taught me how much fun and how satisfying entrepreneurship can be.”

Like Chris, John did not find success with his first venture. At the end of his freshman year as a computer science major at Stanford University, he and fellow student Alain Meier worked on an idea focused on sending remittances. Lightspeed Ventures invited them to participate in its Summer Fellowship Program, which encourages student entrepreneurship by providing funding.

Ultimately, the remittance idea didn’t pan out, due to regulatory requirements. It did, however, lead to the idea for BlockScore. John recalls, “We experienced the process of finding an identity verification provider, which is one of the ‘know your customer’ regulatory requirements. We agreed that we could provide a more modern and efficient solution than anything that was out there.” And they have.

In addition to no upfront fees, simple pricing, and publicly available documentation, BlockScore provides a uniform application programming interface (API) that can be used in many countries. John notes, “This is difficult since addresses, identification types, and data sources widely vary around the world.”

By the middle of their sophomore year, juggling BlockScore and their studies became an issue. So John and Alain decided to take the spring quarter

In the early days, you are almost always the underdog. Larger companies have more negotiating power. And potential customers and partners may doubt you more when the company and the founders are young.

off, with Stanford’s approval, and devote their energies to the company for a few months. Revenue was growing, and they soon secured a big customer. But more funding was needed to ensure the company’s success.

John and Alain applied to Y Combinator, which funds early-stage startups, and began a series of venture capital meetings. John also applied for, and was granted, a Thiel Foundation Fellowship. Each Thiel Fellow receives a grant of \$100,000 to focus on his or her project outside the context of a university, and each is mentored by a community of investors, scientists, and entrepreneurs. Both Y Combinator and the Thiel Foundation helped John and Alain get BlockScore off the ground. The company is now generating strong revenue, and has \$2 million in venture capital backing.

The decision to interrupt their Stanford studies was not made lightly. If John and Alain had not reached a previously-agreed-upon benchmark by summer’s end, they would have returned to their full-time studies in the fall. But with BlockScore doing well, college remains on hold for the time being.

Like many entrepreneurial endeavors, this success story had its challenges. John reflects, “In the early days, you are almost always the underdog. Larger companies have more negotiating power.



photo: Beau Martino

And potential customers and partners may doubt you more when the company and the founders are young.” But, says John, the process taught him a lot: “I didn’t know much about management, financing, or structuring sales. My approach was to ask a lot of questions and read a lot of books.” Hiring good people has also been difficult, as highly skilled individuals are always in great demand. Today, John and Alain are focused on recruiting and sales, serving Blockscore’s existing customers, and developing new product features.

Eric Huang

Eric is co-founder of Ash & Anvil (ashandanvil.com), a Detroit company that designs “clothes that make guys 5’8” and below look and feel great.” Eric majored in entrepreneurial studies at the University of Notre Dame and has a technology and web-development background, so the fashion world was not initially on his radar.

Eric credits Venture for America (VFA), a two-year entrepreneur support program for recent college graduates, with helping him define a niche market and launch his company. The program encourages its Fellows to establish businesses in cities like Detroit and Baltimore that need more enterprise and jobs.

Eric and his company's co-founder, Steven Mazur, met through a VFA training program at Brown University; both interned with the startup *Stik.com*, a Facebook advertising reviews company in Detroit. "I learned a ton at Stik," Eric says. "I saw a lot of growth and change. I saw how companies actually perform – how you build a culture and find market fit."

VFA provided Eric and Steven with the framework and support to identify a market, develop a product, and obtain funding. Identifying a market niche was key. Eric's and Steven's "aha!" moment came when they realized that they both have had trouble finding clothes that fit their shorter frames. While women have petite and plus-size options, men only have regular and big and tall. That is, until now. "We're talking about

It's never too early to start developing a plan. ... Don't wait for tomorrow. Be bold; start now.



photo: Fares Ksebaty

the kind of clothes that guys like us usually can't find, especially at a reasonable price point off the rack," Eric explains.

Though neither Eric nor Steven has a background in fashion, Eric points out, "We are consumers, so we understand what we're creating here." He adds, "We've been able to get some really good advisors in the fashion space. For example, we are working with people from brands like DKNY and Aeropostale." They have even talked with entrepreneur Daymond John of *Shark Tank* renown.

Ash & Anvil's first product is a casual button-down, long-sleeve shirt – available in XS through XXL sizes – which was developed following extensive research and feedback from men in the company's target demographic. "One in three adult men in the U.S. is 5'8" or below," Eric says, "and one-third of the \$60 billion menswear market is \$20 billion." Ultimately, the plan is for Ash & Anvil to offer a full wardrobe of everyday wear for this overlooked population.

With assistance from VFA, Eric's company experienced good results with an initial crowdfunding effort through Indiegogo. The company officially launched its online store this September. Eric is proud that his business is based in Detroit, with the clothing designed there. He hopes eventually to bring the manufacturing to the city, as well. For now, the shirts are being made in Vietnam, where it's easier for an up-and-coming brand to manufacture.

Marketing and branding are currently a major focus for Ash & Anvil. "This opens up a whole different can of worms," Eric observes. "What do you call a short guy in a positive way? No man wants to be called short! Our aspiration is for our customers to say, 'Finally, clothes for me!' It's a rewarding experience to get clothes that fit and look great on you."

Advice from Those Who've Been There

To anyone considering launching his or her own business, Chris offers the following perspective: "You really have to be passionate. If the passion's not there, you shouldn't go for it because there are going to be times when you will be tested. It's going to be difficult. You may have no money, but you still have to keep going. Passion is what keeps you going through tough times."

He adds, a bit ruefully, "Also, expect everything to take about three or four times as long as you think it will. I keep telling myself that, but patience is still a problem!"

Caryn adds her words of wisdom: "Things are constantly changing, so you need fresh thinking. As an entrepreneur, you're always on the front lines. You need to be open to seeing new opportunities and ready to reach out and grasp them."

John believes that it's important for aspiring entrepreneurs to explore many different ideas. He notes, "Most of them won't work out, but some may lead to learning about other industries." His final word of advice: "Seek out people who will be brutally honest with their feedback. Many people didn't tell me that they didn't like our old business idea until after we had ditched it. It's painful initially when you get harsh feedback, but in the end, these people are trying to help you."

Eric's thoughts are directed to young people: "It's never too early to start developing a plan. While you're a student, intern with startups; build a network; take advantage of programs like VFA. When you're just out of college, it's relatively easy to take risks and be flexible. Don't wait for tomorrow. Be bold; start now."

Entrepreneurship is not an easy path, nor is it right for everyone. It requires the ability to juggle many priorities, and sometimes it seems that change is the only constant. Successful entrepreneurs recognize that they can't know and do it all, so finding good partners and advisors is essential. Even with great support, developing, running, and growing a business is a challenging endeavor, one that tests an entrepreneur's creativity and commitment every day. But it's also terrifically rewarding, and Chris, Caryn, John, and Eric wouldn't have it any other way. 🐾




FROM *Nursing* TO *Nearly New*



by Shelley Dutton

While The Potomac School continues to grow and evolve to meet its students' needs, it seems that some things on campus never change. There's the Turkey Tango at Thanksgiving time. Songs and dances around the Maypole each spring. Assemblies, treks along the campus trails, and creativity and intellectual challenge in every classroom. And there is one more constant, well known to recent generations of Potomac students and parents: the reassuring presence of school nurse Ellen Grass.

Ellen long ago lost count of how many skinned knees she has bandaged, how many headaches and upset stomachs she has helped to soothe. She laughs, "I've been here for 22 years, and we enroll around a thousand students per year. So that's 22,000 kid years so far!"

The youngsters who come to Mrs. Grass for care and comfort know that they will get more than a bandaid; they

also get Ellen's full attention. She says, "My office is a kind of sanctuary for a lot of people. It's a non-judgmental place, a place to pause and breathe if you're feeling overwhelmed or under the weather. And sometimes that's all a person really needs."

Ellen initially came to Potomac as a parent, in 1988. Her daughters, Lauren '01 and Julie '05, are both Potomac lifers. Ellen joined the staff in 1992, the year Julie began kindergarten. Previously, she had worked as a hospital staff nurse in New York City, a visiting nurse and an ob/gyn and pediatrics nurse for the City Health Department in Atlanta, and a nurse practitioner in a private practice in Hartford, Connecticut. Her husband, David, is a physician. She explains, "After we moved to Virginia, I stayed at home while our daughters were young. Once both of them were in school, I was eager to return to work. And what a privilege to do it at this wonderful school!"

Ellen brought more than her nursing skills to Potomac; she also brought boundless energy, tremendous compassion, and an innate dedication to service. She explains, "My mother was a great proponent of community service. She volunteered at church. She worked with kids and coached softball. In her retirement years, in Florida, she helped out at a thrift shop that raised money to benefit homeless boys; she would sit in the back room, sorting clothes, three days a week."

Ellen continues, "My dad was a policeman. He used to give blood all the time, and he would go out of his way to help anyone. I guess you could say that we have a family tradition of doing things for other people."

One way Ellen carries on that tradition is by spearheading Potomac's annual Nearly New clothing sale, which she describes as a "win-win-win" situation – great for those who donate

items, those who buy them, and the school (not to mention a number of local charities that also benefit).

Each spring, Potomac families are invited to clean out their closets and bring their gently-used clothing, shoes, and accessories to campus. In early May, bags and boxes begin to appear outside Ellen's door each morning – hundreds of bags and boxes, by the time all is said and done. Ellen and a committee of alumni, parents, and Upper School students sort the donated items (taking some home for laundering) in preparation for Potomac's annual carnival, Fall Frolics.

There, the items are arrayed for the school community's shopping pleasure. Ellen explains, "We begin with special 'preview days' for our faculty and staff. Many of the things that are donated are in excellent condition; employees can purchase lovely dresses, jackets, and shoes for just a few dollars. It's like a treasure hunt – people are so excited to go 'shopping' at Nearly New."

Even after the employees have snagged some bargains, there are plenty of treasures to be found, and Nearly New is always one of the highlights of Fall Frolics. Students, parents, alumni, and friends enjoy browsing through the attractively displayed items and often come away with amazing finds.

Ellen says, "We have standard pricing for each type of item: Dresses are \$5.00; a two-piece suit for a man or woman is \$10.00. Shoes are \$3.00. And we have tons of clothes for babies and kids! You can get some cute outfits for as little as 50 cents, and our highest price in that category is \$5.00 for a child's winter jacket."

Yet there are always a few really special things that merit a special price. Ellen laughs, "I call those our 'boutique items.' I remember one year, we had a like-new Chanel suit. I actually returned that to the donor, because I knew we could not sell it for what it was worth. I hope she took it to a high-end consignment shop! Another time, there were multiple pairs of Ferragamo shoes, brand new, still in their boxes. Those we

priced at \$50 a pair, and they went like hotcakes!"

The funds raised through Nearly New benefit Potomac. This year, the effort generated more than \$11,000, which will be directed to student scholarships and faculty development.

Nearly New is, itself, a Potomac School tradition. Ellen reflects, "I know that it has been going on at least since the '80s. I got involved as a volunteer in the early '90s, working with Potomac parents like Lea Shuba and Sheila Ryan, who helped coordinate the effort year after year.

Somewhere along the way, I took a turn being 'in charge' of the program, and the rest is history!"

Nothing put out for sale at Nearly New is too old, or stained, or damaged; items not suitable for sale are donated later, along with anything that doesn't sell. Ellen notes, "This initiative reflects the Potomac community's commitment to reuse and recycle. Some donated items ultimately become costumes for our school plays. Others go to Goodwill. Business clothing that's in good condition but doesn't sell goes to Suited for Change, a nonprofit that gives people in need appropriate clothing for job interviews and returning to the workforce. We also donate items to a local men's shelter. Nothing goes to waste; this initiative is about putting good things to good use. And we have a good time doing it!"

In her office, Ellen Grass keeps a small piece of orange paper covered with



a child's uneven handwriting. She found it on her desk seven or eight years ago, and she doesn't know which youngster left it for her. But she likes what it says, so she laminated it and keeps it always within reach. Its message:

Directions

1. First wash your hand under cold water, dry off
2. If bloodie put bandaid on
3. Treat yourself to a cough drop and the magic will work

Ellen smiles, "The washing and the bandaid and the cough drop are good, but the real magic is something else. It's taking the time to listen and care. It's doing what we can to be of service to others. I think that the Potomac community has that magic in abundance." 🍀

a little bird told me...



REUNION 2015 was great!

Clear blue skies and warm weather provided a perfect backdrop as more than 150 alumni and guests returned to campus for Reunion 2015. Alums from the '50s through 2010 reconnected with classmates, friends, and faculty for a weekend filled with memories and camaraderie.

The festivities kicked off on Friday, May 1, as alumni sat in on classes and visited with their favorite teachers. At noon, everyone met in the Arundel Family Library for lunch before heading out to the Tundra to enjoy the traditional May Day celebration. This year, former faculty member John Hebel, who for many years played the role of the Muffin Man, turned over his hat, apron, and muffins to Assistant Head of School for Academics Bill Cook, who seemed to relish his newfound role! As the celebration continued, alumni reminisced about the songs and the parts they played in years gone by.

Later in the day, Head of School John Kowalik hosted a celebration for two special classes: the Class of 1965, which was Potomac's first coeducational graduating class; and the Class of 1990, which was the first K-12 graduating class. As the sun began to set, alumni from all years filled the newly renovated Intermediate School Commons and Pingree Garden, ready to enjoy the All-Alumni Cocktail Party.

The next morning, alums and their families gathered to walk the nature trails with Potomac's environmental sustainability coordinators, Bern Hoffmann '86 and Albert Pingree '00. After an invigorating hike, the Reunion guests were ready for a late-morning brunch. As they ate, music teacher Jerry Rich played favorite Potomac songs on the piano, and the student a cappella group Mag 7 sang along. The afternoon concluded with remarks from Mr. Kowalik and seniors sharing stories and answering questions about their time at Potomac.

A sincere thank you to all the class reunion chairs and volunteers who helped organize this fantastic weekend! **Mark your calendar now for April 29–30, 2016.** Class years ending in "1" and "6" will be celebrating milestone reunions, and all alumni are invited to attend what promises to be another fabulous weekend of fun and friendship. For more photos, visit potomacschool.org and click on the Alumni tab.

photos by Belen Aquino '99



1



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15

Katie and Alissa are getting ready to go "back to class." But first, a llama pic.
[#PotomacReunion](https://twitter.com/PotomacAlumni)



3





2



① Marney Lindsay Morrison '65 ② May Day bouquets that were later donated to residents at the Powhatan Nursing Home ③ Alissa Kur Lepisto '05 and Katie Fabiani '05 ④ Elen Ivorian-Jones Rogers '85 greets Enrico Cecchi '85 ⑤ Class of 1975's Margaret Evans Beers, Alison Macdonald von Klemperer, and Lizzie Edgeworth Cantacuzene ⑥ Marianne Robinson Pingree '00 and husband, Potomac Environmental Studies Coordinator Albert Pingree '00 ⑦ Assistant Head of School Bill Cook, Claire Hebeler Harrington '83, Fiona Harrington, and former faculty members Sara and John Hebeler



4



5



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15

Who's this new guy playing the Muffin Man? Can you guess? #MayDay #PotomacReunion



6



7



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15
Now faculty and staff take their turn at the Morris Dance!
#MayDay



1



2



6



7



9



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15
Alums gather for a picture around the Maypole. #PotomacReunion
#MayDay





Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15
A Potomac tradition...everyone singing "Wild Mountain Thyme." #MayDay #PotomacReunion



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15
The Gold & Silver Reunion Reception is underway! It's a beautiful night! #PotomacReunion



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15
What a night! Everyone is having a blast reconnecting. #PotomacReunion



① Upper School Assistant Jeanette Bolton and Facilities Director Perry Swope ② Perrin Vallender Keeler '90 and Upper School art teacher Cort Morgan ③ Caroline Kettler '05 (left) introduces classmates Katie Fabiani '05 (center) and Alissa Kur Lepisto '05 to her kindergarten students ④ Kim Scott, Edward Scott '05, and former teacher Angela Bullock ⑤ Aaron Kur '07 (left), science teacher Mary Cahill, and Jeff Nichols '07 ⑥ Alumni and their families pose for a picture with the llamas before the nature walk ⑦ Class of '75 alums reunite around the Maypole: (left to right) Alison Macdonald von Klemperer, Elizabeth Leigh, Tzu-lin Li Toner, Margaret Evans Beers, Lizzie Edgeworth Cantacuzene, Dorothy Kerr, and Laura Blakeslee ⑧ The Class of 1990's Dudley Winthrop, Phil Holladay, Whitney Kroman Leslie, Edward Rossotti, and Tom Arundel ⑨ Jeremy White '92 reconnects with friends during May Day ⑩ Aaron Kuney '95 ⑪ The Class of 1965's Marney Lindsay Morrison, Daniel Gordon, Emily Train Rowan, Lindsay Holdsworth Aquino, Rich King, and Betty Lindsten Mulrey



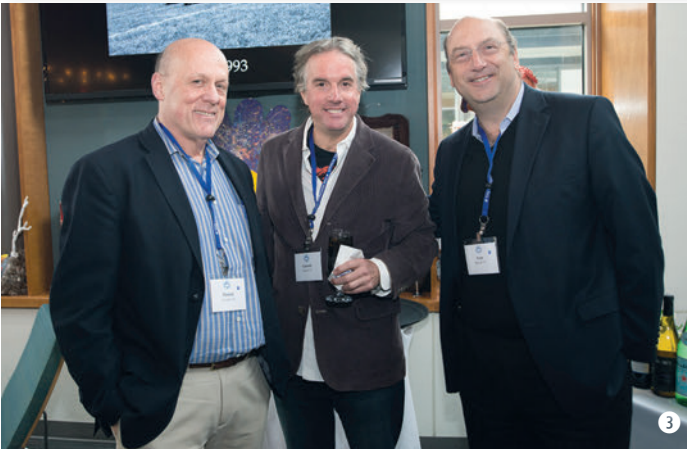
Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15

The night is gorgeous, the DJ is rocking...this Alumni Reception is in full swing! #PotomacReunion



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/01/15

We're just a couple of hours away from the Alumni Brunch. #PotomacReunion



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/02/15

Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Bern Hoffmann '86 leads a tour along the nature trails. #PotomacReunion



- ① Steve Miller, Elizabeth Reid Miller '95, Lindsay Byrnes, and Carter Byrnes '95
 ② Reed Landry '99, Julie Landry, and their son ③ Daniel Gordon '65, Garrett Jewett '70, and Ivan Blinoff '75 ④ Julie Landry, Reed Landry '99, and Sandy Gentles '94 head to the Nature Trails ⑤ Interim Director of Admission and Financial Aid Alex Thomas and Jon Rosenbaum '00 ⑥ Class Reunion Chairs Keith Weinstein '95, Maria McElwain '05, Lolly Cunningham Rivas '05, Emily Gideon Yosmanovich '00, Milly Hejtmanek '00, Margo Thronson '10, AJ Jones '10, and Nish Herat '95



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/02/15

Yum! It's time for brunch. Waiting for a performance from Mag 7. #PotomacReunion



The Class of 1975 broke records at Reunion 2015 by being the first class to win both of our alumni awards! They received the Alumni Governing Council tray for being the class that reached the highest participation in supporting the Potomac Fund; they also won the 1991 Reunion Giving Award bowl for being the class with the largest Potomac Fund gift. Congratulations, Class of 1975!

The challenge is on for Reunion 2016. Which class(es) will win these awards next year?

Whether or not you will be celebrating a milestone reunion in 2016, please consider making a contribution to the 2015-16 Potomac Fund. Your gift will help ensure that today's students and faculty have the resources and support they need to continue the traditions that made Potomac such a special place for you.

You can use the envelope in this issue of the *Term* to send in your gift, or log on to www.potomacschool.org and click "Support Potomac" to give online. Thank you for your generous support!

1975 classmates Peggy Griffin Begor, Ivan Blinoff, and Alison Macdonald von Klemperer accept the 2015 alumni awards.



Potomac Alumni @PotomacAlumni 05/02/15

Head of School John Kowalik shares some thoughts at the Alumni Brunch. #PotomacReunion



Bonding over a Fall Tradition

Nearly 100 alumni and their families enjoyed an afternoon of food and friendship at Potomac's 39th annual Fall Frolics carnival this October. Crowds gathered on the Upper School Tundra to revel in the day's festivities. The Alumni Governing Council sponsored a hospitality tent where alums could mingle with classmates and faculty members. As always, this event gave alumni a chance to have some fun and celebrate their Potomac heritage!



① Rebecca Lindner '08, Spencer Gopaul '08, and Cate Rooney '08 ② Prentiss Vallender Lay '85 and Ayse Uzer Crowley '85 ③ Upper School art teacher Ida Cook and Assistant Head of School Bill Cook ④ Lucy Gibson '11 and Niya Watkins '11 ⑤ Reed Landry '99 and his family reconnect with Katherine Pingree '01 and her family outside the alumni tent ⑥ Gillian Kilberg Hodge '97 with husband Yuctan and children Ayden '27, Brooke, and Mackenzie

A NEED FOR SPEED

Freelance writers, professional organizers, business people, and entrepreneurs were just some of the participants in the March Net@Night Speed Networking event, held at Sidwell Friends School. A number of Potomac alumni joined alums from Sidwell, Maret, and Holton-Arms for a career networking session based on the speed dating concept. The event offered an opportunity to meet more people than in a traditional networking setting, giving the participants opportunities to grow their businesses and expand their professional connections. Potomac will be hosting a Net@Night program this spring. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org.



(clockwise from left): Jody Morse Al-Saigh '94, Alisa Hyman '00, George Barsness '06, Jessica Andrus '98, Cate Rooney '08, and Christian Gomez '99

Harlan Work Takes the Stage

This spring, Potomac alumni, parents, and students were treated to a fantastic performance by Harlan Work '03 at Arena Stage. They enjoyed *The Originalist*, a play about the relationship between Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia and his law clerks, followed by a post-show talkback with Harlan and other members of the cast. Prior to the show's run, Harlan came to campus to talk with Mr. Bergman's theater students about developing their performance skills; he advised them to work to become theater "triple threats" (singers, actors, and dancers), noting that versatility will improve their chances of landing great roles.



① Members of the Class of 2003 come out to support Harlan Work (center): Eric Taylor, Scott Nelson, Mary Thomas, and Natalie Namrow ② Theater teacher Michael Bergman and Harlan Work '03



a LACROSSE FACEOFF

Perfect weather, a great group of players, and an enthusiastic cheering section came together this past May for a friendly game of lacrosse that pitted alumni against current student-athletes. That evening, players past and present honored Coach Ian Healy, who was preparing to move on from Potomac. Boys Athletic Director Rob Lee '78 worked the sidelines; and after the game, players, families, and staff enjoyed pizza and conversation. Special thanks to our host committee members, Win Huffman '01, Taylor Kettler '02, and Peyton Kettler '13.



① Adonis Hoffman '10 ② Lacrosse alumni smile for the camera after a hard-fought game. ③ Boys Athletic Director Rob Lee '78 with lacrosse alums

Summer @ Potomac

For many young alumni, summer at Potomac used to mean having fun as campers, but now it means serving as a Summer Programs counselor or part of the building and grounds crew. In July, the Alumni Office hosted a group of alumni summer employees for a pre-work breakfast and a chance to claim a pair of cool Potomac branded sunglasses. If you are interested in working for Summer Programs next year, email Mimsy Stirn at mstirn@potomacschool.org.



Class of '15 alumni Adam Shipley, Gillian Price, Diya Nuxoll, Madeline Price, and Nicole Roman



① Victoria Sylos-Labini '02, Milly Hejtmanek '00, and Interim Director of Admission and Financial Aid Alex Thomas ② Maddie Brennan '10 and Churchill O'Connell '10 ③ Alums enjoy the first NYC Potomac Midsummer Happy Hour at Cafe El Presidente.

Sizzling Summer Socials in DC & NYC

Potomac alumni enjoyed two great social gatherings over the summer. First, the seventh annual DC Potomac Midsummer Happy Hour was hosted on the rooftop at El Centro in Logan Circle. Surprise faculty guest Alex Thomas enjoyed spending the evening with a large group of young alumni. We thank our host committee members, Maddie Brennan '10, Tristan Dellar '10, Emily Duncan '00, Sarah Duncan '03, Cate Rooney '08, Robbie Shiver '06, and Margo Thronson '10 for helping to create such a great event!

Just one week later, the first NYC Potomac Midsummer Happy Hour was held at Cafe El Presidente. Thanks go to our host committee members, Lauren Clarke '05, CeCe Conner '10, Isabelle Conner '09, Hunter Craighill '05, Katie Fabiani '05, Dan Gavula '03, and Aaron Kur '07, who met up with 30 alumni and significant others and spent the evening having some hot summer fun!





CLASS OF 2015 *joins* the Alumni COMMUNITY

Congratulations to the 114 members of the Class of 2015, who were inducted into The Potomac School Alumni Association on June 3 at the annual PreUnion event. The graduates were honored at a lunch in Ramsey Assembly, where Director of Alumni Relations Laura Miller welcomed this newest generation of alumni.

All alums are encouraged to stay connected, so make sure to download the Potomac School Alumni app and log in to the Alumni Directory. For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.



① Recently inducted into the alumni community, the Class of 2015 poses for a group shot. ② Amaya Bullock, Amir Rachmat-Jones, and Clara Malley ③ Jack Chason, James Gilbert, and James Matthews ④ At PreUnion, everyone was all smiles!

Alumni Giving Challenge

In the eight days leading up to graduation, the Classes of 1990 through 2014 competed in the Alumni Giving Challenge, with the prize going to the class with the highest participation in the Potomac Fund on Graduation Day. Twenty-eight alumni from the Class of 2005 were the lucky winners and now wear their personalized Class of 2005 baseball caps with pride. Congratulations, and thank you!



DEAR ALUMNI,

I love autumn; the colorful leaves are a perfect metaphor for our constantly changing lives. Amid all the chaos of our day-to-day activities, it's nice to sit back and reflect – to remember our roots.

In October, I was fortunate enough to return to campus for two beloved Potomac School traditions: Fall Frolics and Homecoming. My family and I had the chance to spend some time reflecting on the past, while also looking forward to the future with friends, classmates, and former teachers. At both events, I met with alumni from all decades and listened to their stories. In these conversations, I heard the passion our alumni community has for Potomac; everyone had ideas and was anxious to get involved. The way that's done is through the Alumni Association.

I want to take this opportunity to share some information about the association and the many ways alumni can give back to Potomac.

The mission of the Alumni Association is to foster a sense of community among Potomac School alumni and to cultivate relationships with other members of the school community, including current students; current and past faculty, staff, and administrators; and current and past parents.

The Alumni Association includes every former Potomac student, even those who may have left the school prior to graduation. *Once you've attended Potomac, you'll always have a home here.*

Our alumni embody the values of Potomac. They live all over the world and have thriving personal and professional lives. You can stay connected with your fellow alums and ensure that you hear about networking events by clicking on "Update Us" on our website, potomacschool.org/alumni, and updating your contact information.

Potomac alumni volunteers are dedicated. Whether it's serving as class correspondents, class agents, class reunion chairs, or members of an event host committee, they're always finding ways to stay involved and make a difference. To learn about these positions and how you can become a more engaged alum, click the "Ways to Get Involved" tab on our website.

Ours is a diverse and dynamic alumni community, now over 4,000 strong! If you're interested in helping to plan



Christian Gomez '99, Potomac Trustee Stephanie Amann Kapsis '01, and AGC President Sandy Gentles '94

programs and events for your fellows alums, contact me at sandygentles@gmail.com or Director of Alumni Relations Laura Miller, at lmiller@potomacschool.org.

All the best,

Sandy Gentles '94

sandygentles@gmail.com

ALUMNI GOVERNING COUNCIL 2015–16

Executive Committee

Sandy Gentles '94, *President*
Reed Landry '99, *Vice President*

Cate Rooney '08, *Secretary*

Members

George Barsness '06
Bryan Bennett '01
Rory Byrnes '01
Malcolm Dille '07
Emily Duncan '00
Sarah Duncan '03
Katherine Fabiani '05
Rosalind Fennell '08

Daniel Gavula '03
Win Huffman '01
Aaron Kur '07
Nathan Marcotte '14
Erin Cleary Murtagh '93
Abby Sullivan '97
Margo Thronson '10
Frank Zarb '77

Student Council Representatives

Kyle Sanok '16,
Student Body President

Julia Marcotte '16,
Senior Class President

Be Connected

Class Notes is the most popular and well-read section of the *Term*. It provides a forum for alumni to share their news, from professional accomplishments and accolades to marriages, births, and anything else that fellow alums might find interesting. Thank you for sharing your updates!

This section would not be possible without the leadership of our class correspondents, who play a vital role in helping their classmates maintain a lifelong connection with Potomac. Throughout the year, they gather news and photos for the fall and spring issues of the *Term*. So when you get an email calling for news, please make it a priority! You can send your notes directly to your class correspondent, whose contact information is listed at the top of your class year. If no class correspondent is listed, please send your information to term@potomacschool.org.

If your class does not have a class correspondent and you would like to fill that role, contact Laura Miller, director of alumni relations, at (703) 749-6356 or lmiller@potomacschool.org.

DON'T SEE YOUR CLASS YEAR?

If your class year doesn't appear in Class Notes, it means we didn't receive any notes from your year. We really (really!) want to hear from you. Please send your notes and photos to term@potomacschool.org.

1940

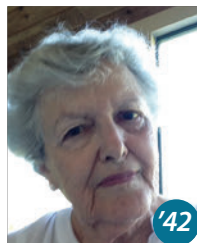
Bettie Huidekoper Clark writes, "My seven 'kids' (now retirees) were plotting my 90th birthday in September, so I practiced standing straight, seeing, and hearing. I have a delightfully challenging volunteer job mentoring and tutoring a second grader. I'm catching up on writing and art work while school's out."

1941 Reunion YEAR 75th

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 75th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

1942

Geraldine Zetzel is living contentedly in a senior community in Lexington, MA, doing some writing and teaching of poetry. She would love to hear from any others of her vintage.



1944

Class Correspondent
Juliet Gill Davis
julietdavis50@gmail.com

1946 Reunion YEAR 70th

Class Correspondents
Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett
allen.jerrie@gmail.com
Nancy Hamilton Shepherd
nhshepherd31@gmail.com

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 70th Reunion! Are you interested in serving as class reunion chair? Contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org or visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

Hetty Mackay-Smith Abeles writes, "I came to Potomac on California Street when I was 10, from the Shenandoah Valley, 70 miles away. I lived with the Hendricks and my new friend, Alice, who, in later years, was invited to teach a well-loved summer writing course at Potomac in McLean. I remember fifth grade recess, high-jumping on the courtyard pavement, scissors-kick style. Hard going. Alice and I were pleased to master knots in Girl Scout Brownie troop that proved to best our brothers' (we each had two).

The next year, I went to boarding school and then to my mother and grandmother's (day) school in Boston, where I met my Virginia husband, Chick. We lived in Washington (fancy that), and sent our three children – **Nat '78**, **Damaris '79**, and **Jessica '84** – to Potomac, then to Milton, their father's school in Massachusetts.

Now Alice's children and grandchildren come to Virginia from New England to occupy the Hondridge-Hardigg Willow Brook Farm down the road from our Farnley farm. We all see each other at our bonfires or riding the ponies, which I still raise, 70 miles west of Washington. Cheers! See you in April."

Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett reports, "Allen and I went to Maine on our annual pilgrimage to MacMahan Island, with hopes that my body would support me in walking over rocks and roots and getting in and out of boats. On the way, we spent the night with **Nancy Hamilton Shepherd** and her husband, Tom, as we have for so many years, and did some reminiscing about our Potomac days – thankful to be in touch with so many of you whom we knew almost 70 years ago. I recently discovered that a good friend and resident here, **Brenda Bowman Turner**, who lives on the floor below, went to Potomac for a year in the seventh grade and would have been in the class of 1942! I was amazed! She loved it and would have stayed had her father not moved the family to Honolulu. Since she just lived down California Street, she remembers the school well and, in particular, an English teacher, **Mrs. Post**, who walked with a limp and was one of the best teachers she ever had. Brenda enjoyed our conversation about Potomac so much that she's going to try to unlock some of her memories and keep it going. To me, synchronistic connections like this are infinitely fun!"

Judy Blair Green and her husband, Tom McDonough, have moved to a retirement community. “It seemed like the right thing to do,” she says, but “it’s a challenge.” They live in Cincinnati, where she has two sons. She has four grandchildren and two new great-grandchildren, close in age. Judy knew her own great-grandmother well when she lived in DC. She marvels at the fact that her great-grandmother was born when Lincoln was President, and her great-grandsons were born during Obama’s presidency! Judy reminded me that she was away from Potomac during the war years, but was back in ninth grade (just in time to be in our play, *Iphigenia*). She continues to be interested in politics and women’s events and loves to read.

Julie Merrell Harris and her youngest son, Dave, had a great trip in August to their family cottage on Lake Temagami, Canada. “It is beautiful and quiet up there,” she says, “with lovely paths to walk on.” She is in touch with **Carol Exnicios Tucker**, and with **Shelah Kane Scott** in Charlottesville, VA. Julie hopes, as I do, that lots of us from the class of 1946 will come to our 70th Reunion (April 29 and 30). It will be wonderful to share memories of the days at the California Street school, which meant so much to so many of us.

Millie Coe Huffman and **Nancy Hamilton Shepherd** had a good telephone visit recently. It is amazing that after all these years the connection with Potomac friends is still there. Millie spoke warmly of her husband, Dick Huffman, who died in February 2014. She says that, looking at all the pictures of Dick on the walls of their house, she feels that he is still with them. Millie is still living in her house by the Chesapeake Bay. She enjoys her exercise class, which meets three times a week and is called “Fit for Life.” She has 10 grandchildren! The eldest grandson got married in California in June, and another graduated from William & Mary last spring. Millie’s son, Ward, lives with his family in Japan and teaches English to girls in a private school. He visited with her in August. We talked about our ninth grade play, *Iphigenia*. She had memories of relay races at Potomac, and of enjoying our summer reading lists. She also remembered an art trip during which she saw and drew a fireboat on the river.

Marjorie DeWitt Robertson, who lives in Alexandria, VA, writes, “All goes well. In the last few years, I’ve become interested in learning more about the wildlife in my backyard and the small wooded park nearby. My geologist son, who, as a hobby, is a naturalist, has helped. The wildlife study works well with my lifelong fascination with Native American culture and crafts, which began in fifth grade, when I discovered an arrowhead on a gravel path near the Federal Reserve Building on Constitution Avenue in Washington, DC.”



^ Sandra McNeill Burditt '54 and her husband, Neil, in Italy this past summer

Nancy Hamilton Shepherd reports, “Tom and I are both in relatively good health, enjoying our lives, and still living in our old house in Stow, MA. We have 11 grandchildren, the youngest three of whom have just finished their first year in college. Four have graduated from college and are spread around the country; and Hanna Allen, the eldest, and her fiancée, Marsh Gooding, were married in Vermont on August 22. That was an occasion for the gathering of almost all of our family, plus many friends, and Marsh’s family. Tom and I are active in many ways, too numerous to mention here. Our church and our faith mean a lot to us. We hope to go to the Potomac Reunion of the Class of 1946 (our 70th!) and would love to be with many of you there.”

Carol Exnicios Tucker writes, “Yes, I plan to come up for our 70th, all things being equal. Was it really five years ago that we dined at Julie’s on her porch? As to ‘thoughts,’ I’m afraid I’m not like **Judy Blair Green** who seemed full of wisdom in her last communique. Julie and I try to talk every week, but our conversations are not the sort of thing either of us would want published in the *Term*. As to memories, I think how lucky many of us were to live within walking distance of school and not have to worry about car pools and buses. The only bit of news is that my daughter, **Elo ’80**, son, **Michael ’73**, and I went to a ranch near Cody, WY, for a week of excitement in August. This was a first for all of us.”

Maria Somary Twaalfhoven writes, “Bert and I recently came back from a family holiday in Switzerland. We are both coping with health problems, but still ‘kicking.’ We oldies carry on in Bert’s country, Holland, mostly enjoying

news and visits from children, grands, and great-grands. For instance, 16-year-old Eric, who wants to go to hotel school, comes every week (some eight miles on his bike), toting a backpack of food to cook us a gourmet meal.”

1951 Reunion YEAR 65th

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 65th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

1952

Class Correspondent

Louise Graham

lbgraham@myfairpoint.net

1954

Class Correspondent

Tina Knox Radigan

eradigan@va.metrocast.net

Sandra McNeill Burditt says, “This was a busy summer. We spent three weeks touring southern Italy. Then, a week and a half later, we moved to a different house. It has a bedroom and bath on the first floor, so we plan for this to be our last move. It is fun at this age to be starting fresh. With two dogs and three birds, a condo was out of the question. The children are spread from Brooklyn to Oregon. We would love to see anyone coming to the Cleveland area.”

John D. Casey says, “I am still teaching at the University of Virginia in the MFA program for fiction writers, one semester a year. The rest of the time I continue to write.

I'm three-quarters of the way through a new novel. Most recent books have been non-fiction, collections of essays:

Room for Improvement, about various sports I've been up to from age 42 to 72, and *Beyond the First Draft*, about how to write fiction – with a lot of attention to selected short passages from the great books that have meant the most to me. To see a full list of books, reviews, and random thoughts and photos, please go to my website: www.johndcasey.com.

I didn't create the website. I needed a bright grad student! I still write in pen and ink, and say 'ice box' instead of 'refrigerator'."

Anne Livingston Emmet wrote, "I celebrated my 75th birthday on June 30 – ye gods, how did this happen? All is well. I'm still painting and traveling; walked part of the Camino de Santiago in Spain last October; went to Holland this spring; fell in love with Dutch art and the tulips; and am returning to Israel in the fall. I am in touch with **Sandy Robinson Righter** from time to time. My health is good but I think I am slowing down. I just went to **Sammy Beach's** wife's funeral. She was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer right after Christmas and died in the beginning of March – just awful. I saw a lot of the old gang: **Guy Dove**, **Mallory Walker**, **Price Jessup**, **Parker Harrell**, and **Alfred Elbrick**."

Edie Murphy Holbrook continues to work with The National Committee on American Foreign Policy, primarily on programming focused on cybersecurity, partnership with West Point, and changing the nature of warfare. But she came to a full stop to undergo reverse shoulder replacement surgery. She is now a bionic woman, replete with metallic parts!

Tina Knox Radigan says, "We had a crazy winter last year. We planned to be in Florida for 3½ months, but after being there one month, my husband developed pain in his neck and down his right arm. After spending weeks in urgent care, we finally got an MRI and a neurosurgeon who diagnosed his problem as a herniated disc in his neck, and he had to have surgery. So we packed up and came home. I had to do the driving. I have never driven so far in my life, but we made it and he had four hours of surgery in Richmond on March 18. He is doing great now and is back playing golf. We went to Bethany Beach, DE, in August for two weeks, and all of our children and grandchildren were there. Our oldest grandchild, Laura, graduated *cum laude* from Tulane in May and is moving to Richmond this fall. She will work as an assistant midwife for a year to get the residency required for lower tuition at graduate school. She will



then go to medical school. It will be great to have her so close. We plan to go back to Florida this winter for 3½ months and hope all goes well. It is always great to see **Emily McLean** when we are there."

1956 Reunion YEAR 60th

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 60th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

1958

Barbara Kent Lawrence reports, "We're finally settling, and for me it is a wonderful return to Maine. I haven't written a word except an email or to-do list for six months but plan to get to work very soon. I'm still writing a book about my British family during WWII and starting to work with a scriptwriter on a script for *Islands of Time*. For more information, visit my website www.barbaralawrence.com."

1959

Patsy Cushing writes, "All I can say is that I am well, living in Brattleboro, VT. I'm seeing clients in my BodyTalk practice and learning constantly, which is a delight."

1960

Class Correspondent

Stephanie deSibour

sdesibour@ivymount.org

Stephanie deSibour says, "We had a great response from classmates for the last issue and I am hoping to match that for the next issue. Send news (and photos) anytime to sdesibour@ivymount.org. Thank you!"



1961 Reunion YEAR 55th

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 55th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni. If you want to get involved, contact **Laura Miller** at lmiller@potomacschool.org.

1962

Class Correspondent

Deborah Johansen Harris

debjohansenharris@gmail.com

Eleanor "Eldie" Acheson sends her recent news: "Twenty-two years ago, my friend, Emily Hewitt, and I left private law practices in Boston for what we thought would be a couple of years in Washington, DC, in the Clinton administration. One thing led to another, and with unexpected professional and political opportunities and, more importantly, the gift of time – with first my mother, who died in 2000, then an aunt, to whom my generation was very close, who died in 2003 – we stayed in DC and are still here. DC is our week and my work base (Emily has retired), and we are lucky to be able to spend a great deal of time on Cape Cod and in Jackson, WY. In my latest and presumably last professional gig, I am general counsel of Amtrak (since early 2007). The job is incredibly interesting and challenging and gives serving in the position I had at the Department of Justice a run for wildest and most fun job ever (for a lawyer, anyway). Very glad to have the class list and contact info, and I hope to be in touch and see at least some of you in the near future. Best to all."

Virginia "Gini" Brickwedde traveled to Great Britain and Amsterdam last May and June. She reports, "I went on my own to London, Edinburgh, and Amsterdam with only lodging arranged before leaving. London was spread out and I had to get adjusted to the time change, but I really enjoyed the nice-sized towns of Edinburgh and Amsterdam, just wandering around and picking out exactly what I wanted to do each day. A seventh-floor room with balcony looking directly over to Edinburgh Castle was a great start. In Amsterdam, the Holland Festival of performing arts was being held, and since my hotel was in the Theater District, it was great going to some kind of performance every night. Between London and Amsterdam, I went on a 10-day cruise around Great Britain – not as enjoyable as the sightseeing on my own."

Elizabeth Burke Dale writes, "My husband, Lewis, retired from General Motors and we decided two years ago to move full time to Belleair, FL, near Tampa. We are near the water and a golf course, so we are improving our boating and golf skills. We are both active in our Episcopal Church – I take communion to shut-ins or those in hospitals. I also serve communion from the altar and read the lessons, and Lewis is on our vestry. We are enjoying pretty simple things, but it's nice to be less active. We visit our three children and six grandchildren. Our son lives in Georgia with three children; our middle daughter lives in Kansas with three; finally, our youngest – just

married two years – lives in Aspen, CO. I'm on the board of our condo. That's it for now. I would love a class reunion here in the south. I'm one hour from Sarasota. Anyone who is interested just let me know."

Carol Eakin-Burdette says, "We are all healthy and doing well, which is our best news. My step-children live nearby with two grandchildren each, and our two sons are living in New York City – one married and another at Columbia Business School. I'm 'mostly' retired from my interior architectural design business, enjoying family, golf, gardening, and volunteering when I can. Life is good. I saw **Liz Murray Platts** and **Marianna Merrill Russell** in early August and we had a great time. We got together on August 4 at Liz's house because **Peak Mason Power** was in town."

Deborah "Deb" Johansen Harris reconnected with **Elizabeth Burke Dale** last spring in the process of contacting classmates for their 50th class reunion at Emma Willard School (EWS). Deb writes, "Although Elizabeth could not make it to EWS, we plan to get together when Ted and I are renting a house in Sarasota next February and March. We are hoping that we can host a mini-reunion for our Potomac class of 1962 for a weekend during that time and that many of our classmates can come enjoy the summertime weather in late winter."

Ted and I fulfilled our retirement plan to do as much traveling as possible while we were still physically able. We had 10 days touring Greece and her islands – and I (wo)manly climbed up the Acropolis, cane at the ready, to say a prayer of thanks to Athena for my making it to the top to see the Parthenon and Erechtheum. In late August, we had a leisurely sail down the Danube River. The rest of our summer was spent at our house in Wellfleet on Cape Cod, attending Tanglewood concerts, gardening, and just hanging out with the dogs. My mother is still going strong at 92."

Deena Breed Larlee writes, "I keep a framed photo of our class in my living room and always enjoy looking at it. We were damn cute. I am still in Orlando, FL, with my husband, Howard. We have now been married forever. Love our house, which is a mile from work and on a lake. Still own Orange Cycle, which is lots of fun. I grow most of my vegetables in my garden, although summer in Florida is pretty hard on them. I try to update my Facebook page once in a while because I enjoy keeping up with others. Went to my 50th Holton-Arms reunion last spring, and really enjoyed myself. Would love to come to a Potomac reunion."

Carol Mattusch's writing on ancient works continues to be published: "I wrote an essay in the catalogue for *Power and Pathos: Bronze Sculpture of the Hellenistic World*, a fantastic



< (l to r): Deena Breed, Antonia Caccia, Mimi Merrill, Snowdie Wainwright, Bobbie Lanahan, and Debby Johansen camped overnight on the nature trail for a goodbye BBQ for Mimi when she left school to go abroad with her family in 1960.

Chalmers Wood '62 with young friends in China



exhibition first shown at the Palazzo Strozzi (March through June 2015), then at the Getty Museum (July through October 2015). The show will end up at the National Gallery of Art in DC (December 2015 through March 2016)."

Peak Mason Power says, "I was back in Washington, DC, for July and August, housesitting in Chevy Chase. I spent as much time as possible with **Liz Murray Platts**, and we giggle now every bit as much as we did as kids. There's a rowing club near Key Bridge and I rejoined for 6:00 am sorties on the river. What a gorgeous way to start the day, watching the sunrise on the monuments. Only problem is that you're, well, rowing. I did a quick survey and discovered that I was three times as old as anyone else in the boat. They went off to run Capitol Hill, and I went home to take Advil and a very long nap."

Marianna "Mimi" Merrill Russell reports, "Grandchild #6 (Katie's second) was born early last March: another girl (five little princesses and only one boy!) We visited Katie last summer, helping her out while the daycare was closed. She had just gone back to work so couldn't take any vacation time. I had thought of calling **Deb Johansen Harris** but probably could not have gotten together as I spent most of the time holding a baby, who was really missing her mama! We had another mini-reunion in August at the home of **Liz Murray Platts** in DC with **Carol Mattusch** and **Peak Mason Power**."

Rhea Topping says, "I live near Upperville, VA, where I have run fly fishing schools and given private lessons for about 20 years. From January to April, I live in Patagonia (Argentina, not Chile) and make arrangements to have anglers come down to fish either with me in very small groups or on their own. Nowhere prettier on Earth, and the wine's not bad either! I ran the fly fishing ecology courses for the Yellowstone Institute for 17 years, but retired three years ago and now just enjoy summers in Montana and do

occasional clinics. Still hope to make a reunion one of these days!"

Chalmers "Chip" Wood writes, "Well, I've been in China now almost a decade, and it could not have gone better, though the first seven years required much more focus and hard work than did my war tour in Vietnam with Special Forces/Phoenix. In fact, in spite of some folks trying to kill me, that was a cakewalk in comparison. Here in Nanjing, I've paid my own way by teaching English so I could work diplomatically on the American-Chinese relationship, and every Saturday night I teach kids English in a park for free."

1963

Class Correspondents

Marisa Knowlton Domeyko

mdomeyko@comcast.net

Anne Williams

annegw200@yahoo.com

Amanda Kreglow has choreographed several dances that have been performed in Sonoma County, CA. Her novel, *White Smoke*, nears completion.

Wendy Millar Phillips reports that her family is well and she is enjoying spending time with her grandchildren.

Anne Williams worked in the Congo Basin for the Wildlife Conservation Society and with female Syrian refugees in northern Jordan. Grandson Easton continues to delight.



< Class of 1965 at their 50th Reunion this past May

1964

Class Correspondent

Alison Peake
alidee1@aol.com

Lisa Hunt has now moved to NYC, at least part-time. She and **Alison Peake** have been talking about having some sort of a mini-reunion as soon as they can organize one!

Margaret Martin is living in Europe still but was in NYC this past August, helping her daughter who was expecting twins!

Alison Peake reports, "My struggles with migraines continue, but I'm hopeful that I'm on the mend and can do justice to our Potomac class. Stay in contact with me with whatever news is printable (alidee1@aol.com)! I hope everyone is healthy, and I look forward to hearing from you any time."

1965

Class Correspondent

Sallie Ayers Barker
s2barkers@yahoo.com

In May, classmates came back to reconnect at Reunion 2015 for their 50th milestone. Thanks to **Lindesay Holdsworth Aquino** for providing a detailed booklet of our time at Potomac.

1966

Reunion
YEAR 50th

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 50th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni. Thanks to **Cricket Beauregard-Lewis** for volunteering to serve as class reunion chair.

1967

Class Correspondent

Thomas Macy
Potomac67@gmail.com



^ Edith Racine '68 in first grade at The Potomac School

1968

Class Correspondent

Kim Holdsworth
kimsworth4@gmail.com

Kate Holmes Caldwell writes, "My work as director of philanthropic planning for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra continues to be very rewarding, with the added benefit of attending concerts each weekend, ranging from Brahms to John Williams to Ben Folds. My vocal trio Trinitas completed its third CD, *Circle Round*, last year; all three CDs are available through www.cdbaby.com/cd/trinitas. I also enjoy leading 'community sings' – in the Jack Langstaff tradition!

Our oldest daughter, Alexandra (29), lives and works in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Global Health Fund. She will be returning in 2016 to marry a great guy from Minnesota who is doing his residency in Denver, CO. Our son, David (27), is starting his third year teaching English in Seoul, South Korea, while our younger daughter, Meredith (23), has just moved to San Francisco for a job at the University of California School of Medicine as a research specialist. Meanwhile, Harry and I continue to enjoy keeping in shape through long hikes, tackling the West Highland Way in Scotland this past May, and the Tour du Mont Blanc last year. And for two weeks each August we head to Deer Isle, ME. We often see **Lucy Jewett Lowenthal** and her husband, **Peter Lowenthal**, there."

Barbara Strong Kirk says, "Lots going on here. I am happily living and working in St. Augustine, FL, and taking the quick flight to DC where I (still) crash on my mom's sofa during visits. The big news is that son Sam and his longtime sweetheart, Mo, tied the knot in Boston in early August. While Mom no longer travels (and Dad died in 2007), I saw my three siblings there – Potomac alums **Sigrid Strong Reynolds '67**, **Dana Strong van Loon '70**, and **Henry Strong '72**."

The Strong family has been expanding: "Mom has 10 wild and wacky grandkids and two great-grandsons, with another on the way!" And speaking of Potomac ties, "imagine my delighted surprise to bump into **Tom Parker** at a 40th college reunion in New England this past June. And while we were catching up, bizarrely, I was exchanging voicemails with...**Perry Howze**?! A bit of (spooky) serendipity." Barbara also hinted about a new women's fitness business that she's starting down in St. Augustine.

Edie Fryer Racine says, "My mom passed away in March at 99 years, 364 days. My sister, "**Dede**" (**Eleanor Diane Fryer Hacking '63**), and I had a small service (just the two of us, out of respect for her wishes) at Glenwood Cemetery in Washington, DC. We then took a sentimental tour of DC, going by all her favorite places and ending at the Washington National Cathedral. We had lunch there at the cafe where the herb cottage once was. Then, we took a walk around the cathedral – taking pictures and remembering *Noye's Fludde* and Mahlers 5th performances, doing Flower Guild with my mother, my sister's wedding at St. Mary's Chapel, and more. I am no longer working in the thrift shop at church, but will be extending my education in ministry in some form in the near future. I have already started by sharing many different faith experiences this summer at churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples."

Rick Ridder writes that he still lives in Denver and continues to work as a political consultant: "My work is largely Colorado-based, but in the past couple of years I have worked in places as diverse as Turkey, Spain, and Uruguay. Recently, I have focused more on writing and media appearances. I have written for a number of political journals and daily newspapers, while appearing on *The Daily Show* and other broadcasts.

Two of our three kids live nearby, and one lives in Washington, DC. And I now have two grandsons."

Kim Bennett Rinehart retired in December 2013 and reports that she enjoys puttering around being retired! But then she slips up and mentions doing some long-range, on-deadline business. Aaah, Kim, you're probably far too energized to just putter! Living on the front range of the Rockies, a little outside Boulder,

CO, she says she “played a ton of tennis up until this year, but elbow issues have kept me off the courts since last September. I’ve had a new procedure (Tenex) done on both elbows; I am still keeping my fingers crossed that I’ll be able to play tennis again one of these days.” She also notes, “I have been traveling every January with a couple of friends to find beautiful beaches and great new snorkeling spots. The planning’s in the works right now.” Here’s wishing you a successful recovery and return to the competitive courts, Kimmie!

1969

Class Correspondent

Alex Dominick

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Peter Bross shares, “Looks like I survived another summer in DC – still at FDA looking for ways to save lives and cure cancer.”

Alex Dominick writes, “I’m happy and healthy, still living in Colorado; I’m playing golf, fly fishing, and hiking in these beautiful mountains. Engaged in a program to advance one of my life goals, to be a travel writer. Slightly disappointed that more of my classmates declined to share news and/or photos, especially in light of our not-too-distant 50th Reunion.”



1971 Reunion YEAR 45th

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 45th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

1973

Class Correspondent

Liza Gookin Hodskins

lhodskins@yahoo.com

Keith Ausbrook has had some life changes: “We are down to two at home and expect, if all goes well, to be down to one at the end of this school year. We moved in June to a house a few doors up from the **Hass’s** house and around the corner from **Alexandra Zu Pappenheim**, right

on the old Bus 2 route. It is nice to be closer to town but still close to Potomac, where I have a tenth grader. There are two other Potomac families in the neighborhood as well. Potomac is in good hands, especially now that I am off the board. The new Head of School is terrific and is transforming the school into a contemporary version of itself. I encourage everyone to pay more attention to the *Term* as it will give you lots of stories about life at Potomac, and not just donor lists.

In church the last few weeks, I have been struck by music we heard first at Potomac (and possibly not since) – “Bist du Bei Mir” (an aria attributed to Bach but probably from an earlier opera by another composer) and “Brother James’ Air” (the 23rd Psalm to music) (see Strunk and White for the use of the apostrophe). Despite his great interest in music class at Potomac, **Michael Tucker** does not remember the former, and I have not tested him on the latter. I have enjoyed seeing him off and on over the last couple of years, as he has escaped New Haven for part-time life in Philadelphia, a little closer to DC.

Never having traveled much for work, even in Congress where such opportunities (even legitimate ones) abound, I now find myself all over the world as a compliance consultant. It is sort of like being the prefect on the bus (which, of course, I was). I guess it was bound to happen. Hope everyone is doing well and will be in touch even if not at a reunion.”

William “Bill” Calfee shares, “A year ago we sailed the 4,500 miles from Panama to Tahiti via the Galapagos, Marquesas, and Tuamotus. Our longest sail was 3,030 nautical miles, which took us only 18 days (we were prepared for 25 to 30 days). We returned to the U.S. this winter to see what land life would be. This was our first time off the boat for more than 10 days at a time since we left in the fall of 2009. Well, we are back on the boat. We have learned lots out here: How to live simply in a small place; how to not work all the time (a boat is always breaking!); how to be bold and approach people from different cultures; and how to accept problems as part of life (as we sit in Papeete Harbor waiting for parts).”

Education for Isobel is everywhere. Science is the easiest, with the geology and natural history of the Galapagos, the fish and birds and sharks. The cultures of all the countries, learning Spanish in Central and South America, going to French school in Tahiti. Playing with kids from all over the world on other boats, as well as in every park, playground, and ice-cream shop. She learned her numbers by reading the latitude, longitude, and weather instruments in any passage of the logbook. We use math to navigate and read books about the places we visit. She’s maybe a little deprived because our computer is used only for navigating and communicating, with no games and not much Wi-Fi. She doesn’t have a cell phone! How long and where next? We are not sure. For more, check out the blog: <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/beherenowii>.”

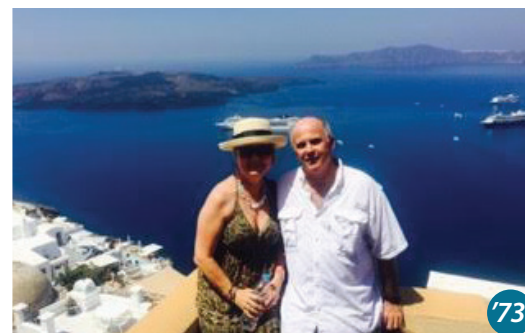
Chrissie Albert Carnes writes, “There is the work that I do for a living – being a veterinarian – which is important enough, and then the work I do for free – which is somehow MORE important: advocating for wolves, on the board for Alley Cat Advocates. Then there is fun. We took the whole family (12 of us now, with five grandchildren) to the Grand Canyon this year. I also enjoyed meeting up with **Liza Gookin Hodskins** during a weekend trip to DC. School friends are the best!”

John Chester says, “Our summer was all about the wedding of our son, Tommy, out in Minneapolis. Meanwhile, back in Vermont, we welcomed six llamas to our field – they make great lawn ornaments. I have taken up mountain biking to a somewhat obsessive degree and am even building my own trails now. Oh yeah, I also registered to run for president. Search ‘Chester for President’ on Facebook.”

Diana Morgan Gustafson says that she and her new husband, Tom, are living in Cleveland Park. She is in her “final year of training for priesthood in the Episcopal Church. I spent an intense and beautiful summer working in Baltimore as a chaplain intern at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Throw into the mix a newly-earned advanced yoga certification and you have spiritual nirvana. Come visit at Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Gaithersburg! Tom continues to work as a senior policy advisor on healthcare at Arnold and Porter and develop his awesome yoga practice. Julian (27) began his third year toward a doctorate in linguistics at the University of Chicago. Camilla (24) has a new job as assistant to the CEO at Blackbear Pictures in L.A.”

Alex Harvey reports, “My big news is that at long last I’m taking the step I’ve been wanting to take for many years. I’m retiring from the practice of law this fall. I’m thrilled to finally be moving on to Act 2 of my working life and have already taken on a big project with Partners in Health and joined two boards. My daughter is starting her second year at the University of Michigan, and my son is starting his senior year in high school. Once he leaves for college next year, I will move forward with my next venture, whatever it may be. In the meantime, I’ve been enjoying this stage of my children’s lives.

My husband and I and our kids had an amazing trip to Morocco last year, and we just returned from a two-week trip to Alaska, which has always been on my bucket list. We had a lot of fun trekking on glaciers, whitewater rafting, hiking, kayaking, etc. We’ll be staying in Boston for at least a few more years as my husband isn’t planning to retire yet, but we’ll be spending more time in Vermont and are planning some other trips we’ve always wanted to take.”



Charlie Spalding '73 with wife Patricia

< Mrs. Albert, Chrissie Albert Carnes '73, and Liza Gookin Hodskins '73

Lelee Frank Hazard went to Alaska this summer (did she and **Alex Harvey** pass like, er, on boats in the night?). She says the trip “could be a bucket list item but I’m far too young. Our son, Mitchell, transferred to Hampden-Sydney College. Other than that, same old same old.”

Liza Gookin Hodskins writes, “I apologize for being so remiss in my class correspondent duties, but some of you may know that my mother had not been doing well and died last year. I fixed up the house to rent but got a good offer and sold it. It was the right decision, but I feel a little lost now that I don’t have my DC connection. On the other hand, Steve and I bought a darling house and cottage at Rehoboth that we successfully rented out every week this summer and some this fall! (It’s dog friendly, with a pool! <http://tinyurl.com/ph29qlq>).

I’m still with Arlington County as aide to a board member and love my one-mile bike commute. I’ve been singing the National Anthem at various events with the county, and was accepted as part of the MetroPerforms! program again this year. If you hear someone singing “Sumer Is Icumen In” inside a DC subway station, now you know who!

I have recently reconnected with **Roxana Oppenheimer Day** '71, whose parents were at The Georgetown Residences with my mother, and **Claudia Krieger-Myers** '72 when she was in DC from her home in California to handle her mother’s home (see a common thread?) Classmates: Thanks for the submissions for those who got the message, but let me know if

you didn’t. We really would like to hear from you! And I know my dad still enjoys reading through all the Class Notes!”

Catriona McIvor is still living in Australia and just retired from high school teaching. She intends to spend the next however-many years fishing and looking for ambergris.

If you are a foodie living in New York, check out food critic **Adam Platt**’s reviews for *New York* magazine. You can also follow him on Twitter at [@plattypants](https://twitter.com/plattypants).

Louise Putnam-Stoner writes, “Healthy children = happy mama. All three of my children are flourishing: My youngest, Sarah, started her final year at UVA in the commerce school; my middle, Nick, is working in a laboratory outside of Washington, which is a nice change from the fisheries observer post that had him on the water all year round – good weather, bad weather, and everything in between; and my eldest, Jenny, is pursuing her master’s at Trinity College Dublin. So, are there any alums in Dublin that have an extra bedroom? I’ll be heading your way for a short visit someday soon!

Life in Boston is going well, except for the pesky winter weather and the fact that working too much has curtailed my social calendar. Luckily, my long-time beau and I are almost finished with a very simple place on St. John. The Virgin Islands are the perfect antidote to record snows and long dark winters. Renting may be in our future (although each trip down risks being

a one-way flight for me), so remember, you have a friend with a foothold in paradise when the weather turns bad. Drop me a line if it gets to be too much for you! Best to all.”

Nini Redway said it was pretty hot in California this past summer, but reminds us that “whenever I start to complain I think to myself, this is nowhere near as bad as DC was when we were growing up.

I am still living in Sacramento with my husband and pets. I retired from my job with the State of California last January and am enjoying long walks with the dog, getting some serious time to futz with art, and reading in the mornings. I visited with my brother, **Jon Redway** '75, and my sister, **Kate Redway Rosenfield** '70, at a family wedding last summer in Brooklyn.”

Charlie Spalding shares, “All is fine down here in Costa Rica. Patricia and I celebrated our 30th anniversary this summer by traveling and cruising in Europe. Here’s wishing everyone good health and warm regards!”

1974

Class Correspondent

Ann Brown

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Liila Swift Hass notes, “I am finally back in the U.S., after 21 years living overseas. I am truly excited to be here and really looking forward to attending a Potomac reunion and being able

Class of 1975 at their 40th Reunion this past May.



Peggy Griffin Begor '75 poolside with her dog, Charley



Watercolors by Dicky Saltonstall '75

to see you all again. Meanwhile, I put on a yoga and wellness weekend in the hills of Virginia in September. The setting was so gorgeous, right on the cleanest river in the state."

1975

Class Correspondent

Peggy Griffin Begor
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Peggy Griffin Begor enjoyed the summer in Oxford.

Blaise deSibour writes that "things in Blue Hill are good. Leslie and I have 10 acres in the middle of town, which are mostly gardens of some sort. I am still working at the Blue Hill Garage and have my own shop where we do auto restoration work and build the fun cars."

Dicky Saltonstall is living in Kodiak, AK, now. He reports that "life on the edge of the Pacific Rim is pretty exciting. We camped out this summer on a cliffside with a view; grey whales were everywhere. I woke up watching a large pod of killer whales drown and eat a grey whale calf. Then, walking the dogs around the block, I jumped a bear!" He also emailed copies of watercolors that he has been painting (see above, right).

Greg Scott is living in Warrenton, VA, where he works as a lawyer/lobbyist for a small number of clients. He writes that though his airline miles account is suffering, he shares more time with his family now and has "all in all a less stressful and happier lifestyle."



1976 Reunion YEAR 40th

Are you ready to come together again? On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 40th Reunion! Adam Randolph did a great job as class reunion chair in 2011. Who is going to volunteer this time around? Contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org for more information.

Check out the article on page 14 to read about what **Stephen Hill** is doing.

1977

Four Hewes notes, "Through this past June I worked in Boston for General Assembly, a 'bootcamp' training company, as coach and mentor to a twelve-week class for UX designers. After the bootcamp, I vacationed in New England. If you travel this fall to Boston, New Hampshire, Maine, or Vermont, please drop me

a line if you'd like to get together. I'm looking for consulting work in the DC area, helping companies develop and design products and build internal design teams. I'd love to hear from you on that front, too. I haven't seen any fellow alums for months."

Cass Field Powell shares, "This has been quite a tough year for me. My mom, Augusta Field, passed on June 25, and my dad, **Jonathan Field**, former Potomac School teacher from 1974–75, has been in declining health and is now in a nursing home in Keene, NH. I have been visiting my family up north as often as possible over the years. My sister, **Elizabeth Field '79**, lives in Lowell, MA, and my other sister, **Whitney Field '81**, lives in Keene. My niece, Jessica (Elizabeth's daughter), lives in New Hampshire as well. Thankfully, my two teens have been doing well after a few fairly challenging years. I found that it really helped if I connected to them through their interests; in music, gaming, YouTube, books, etc., and we have had a blast lately going to concerts and various other events up and down the East Coast. Looking forward to the next reunion to reconnect with old Potomac friends."

Frank Zarb is enjoying his new role as a member of the Potomac School Alumni Governing Council!

Frank Zarb '77 visiting St. Paul's Cathedral in London last spring with wife Sarah, Nathaniel (13), Emmie (9), and Anna (5)



Jane Sommers-Kelly '78 and her boys on vacation at Bald Head Island



Angus Kerr '78 in Iceland

1978

Class Correspondent
Julie Twiname Warder
jtwdan@cox.net

Gigi Jefferson Chaapel writes, "I am in L.A. still, married with no kids, and am involved in ministry."

Jane Sommers-Kelly says, "Hello, long-lost classmates. Shout-out to **Mittie Brooks Rooney** and husband Curtis who have been a delight to rediscover, and impressive as she combines running her own business with living a DC life full of purpose. I come to DC every two months from Chapel Hill to meet with my executive coaching clients. I am hosting a fundraiser for the family violence nonprofit I help, specifically for its work with adolescent girls, which they call Start Strong. I have two teenage boys, RQ (19) and Jeremy (18). I highly recommend the book by Chade-Meng Tan titled *Search Inside Yourself*. Be well. JSK."

Angus Kerr writes, "This September I will begin my 27th year as a special ed teacher in NYC. For summer break, my wife, Tomoko, and I went to Iceland before visiting family in Paris. I am now back home in Newport, enjoying the family and sailing. Regards to all my classmates."

Robert McDowell is serving on Potomac's Board of Trustees and wanted to take the time to honor his predecessor: "It has been an honor and privilege for the past year to succeed **Lola**

Singleton on the board. No one can ever fill her shoes, but at least representation from the Great '78 continues on that august body. Thank you, Lola, for all your service and devotion to Potomac!"

Ramin Oskoui checked in briefly to say that on a recent trip to Atlanta he visited with **Chuck Day**. "We had steaks!"

Carolina Kuczynski Reid moved away in fourth grade and really regrets not coming straight back to Potomac. She says, "The coolest people in the world go to this school!" Carolina lives in Austin and is doing a startup right now: www.djed.com.

Hildreth Willson shares, "We had an incredible summer! Italy for three weeks, and Martha's Vineyard for another two weeks shortly thereafter; it was intense touring followed by undiluted relaxation. I have been planning to go to Italy for more than 10 years. I wanted to go on my 40th but was pregnant, and I refused to go to a fabulous wine country unable to drink the wine! So we deferred and procrastinated until around my 52nd. It was amazing! Venice was the children's favorite, followed closely by Tuscany, where the castle we stayed at had tons of charm, a great pool, and other families to hang with; a perfect formula for the girls. The birds sang us to sleep and woke us in the mornings.

Rome and Florence figured happily as well, with lots of gelato to compensate the children for viewing endless paintings and statues. Finally, I have seen Venus on the half-shell! She

was unavailable when I was last in Italy in the early 90s; the Uffizi Gallery was closed due to a bombing two days before I arrived in Florence. Along with Botticelli's Venus, the Pantheon stands out in my mind strongly after this trip; it's a fantastic building! A wonderful country and a fabulous trip.

Now it's back to the alarm clock, shopping for growing children, resuming classes (I'm going to attempt the dreaded technical drawing class), and drawing up the PTA budget. Summer will look even better from that distance than it does now."

1979

Oteil Burbridge writes, "I'm honored and excited to share that I'll be joining Bob Weir, Bill Kreutzmann, Mickey Hart, and Jeff Chimenti of the Grateful Dead and John Mayer for a new venture – Dead & Company. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to try to help take this iconic band to new places. Check out more at www.deadandcompany.com."

Davis Guggenheim's new film *He Named Me Malala* documents the life of Nobel Prize winner Malala Yousafzai; it was released in select cities on October 2 and has been rolling out across the country throughout the fall. Davis says, "The theme of the movie is how an ordinary person can find their voice and how powerful you can be if you express that. Girls all over the world respond to this movie really well, and connect to this idea that speaking up is a vital part of their lives."

1980

Rylan Harris reports, “My daughter, Kennedy, is a junior in high school, president of her class, an honor roll student with a 3.875 GPA, and is touring colleges. My wife, Beverly, and I are traveling every chance possible – at 50 I feel like I’m 30! Several years ago I picked up motorcycling, riding Kawasaki cruisers. I’m president of my homeowner’s association, volunteer at Food & Friends, and am an avid drone and kite flyer and scuba diver. By the way, if any of my fellow Panthers are looking for a vacation rental, my wife and I have a three-bedroom, three-bath property in St. Thomas, overlooking Crown Mountain. You can look us up on Facebook at ‘Crown Jewel Villa’ or on ‘St. Thomas Sea Glass Properties.’”

Kassie McIlvaine is now regional director for Africa at Women for Women International, which focuses on social and economic empowerment of women living in conflict. Her son, Hassan Ndayishimiye, is taking a break from the professional tennis circuit and studying at Troy University in Alabama, which gives her excuses to visit parts of the U.S. she has never seen.



1981 Reunion YEAR 35th

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 35th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

1982

Class Correspondent

James Corrigan

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Rachel Renzy Meima writes, “My life has been completely consumed by Saving Sweet Briar since the awful announcement of closure by the previous Sweet Briar College president and Board of Directors on March 3 of this year. It has been a tremendous grassroots movement to have been involved in and one in which I am proud to have played my small part. There is still much work to be done and this is an ongoing effort by many, but we have been wildly successful and have proved the naysayers wrong. This success only proves the validity



Patrick Kennedy '83, Chris Kennedy '79, Anthony Shriver '81, Mark Shriver '79, Max Kennedy '80

and usefulness of a liberal arts education. It also proves the value of single-sex education and demonstrates how Sweet Briar College has produced strong women leaders and will continue to do so for many years to come.”

Nerissa Nields and **Katryna Nields '84** will be playing at the Barns of Wolftrap on Saturday, April 23, 2016, supporting their 17th album (XVII) and on tour celebrating their 25th anniversary in the music business. This show will be one for the record books! Their daughters might show up on stage with them, playing bass (Amelia Chalfant, Katryna's daughter, age 14) and violin (Lila Nields-Duffy, Nerissa's daughter, age 9).

1983

Class Correspondent

Jen Webber

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David Bryant writes, “I’m lost in Cali two miles from the beach with two daughters in college. One is in her second year at Northeastern in Boston, and the other is a freshman attending American University in Washington, DC.”

Jonathan Padwe writes that he is teaching anthropology at the University of Hawaii, after years of living in South America and Southeast Asia. He’s writing a book about the people of the highlands of Cambodia and Vietnam and their experiences in the turbulent 20th century. He manages to make it back to the DC area every summer with his wife, Jenny, and kids, Moses, Charlie, and Louisa. This summer they spent a wonderful week in Vermont with sister **Liz Padwe Muhlbaum '85**, her husband, **David Muhlbaum '83**, and their daughters.



The cover of The Nields' latest album, XVII

1984

Class Correspondent

James Quigley

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Wagon west! **Mary Day Fitzgibbon** has packed up her Albany roots and family and set a course for Colorado; Boulder it is. **Cathy Curran Butcher** pulled a rabbit out of a hat and sent me a VHS tape of our ninth grade play *Little Abner*, recently discovered in a box of artifacts of days past. Cathy was generous and implied that in 1984 she thought **Wendy Hoopes** and I were headed to Broadway. Congratulations to Wendy for achieving that dream. May brought on a lively discussion initiated by **Rebecca Baldwin Fuller** of the origins of “a faithful friend is a strong defense” and **Monica Larriue**, **Talby Reyner Taylor**, and a surprise appearance from **Chris Wolfington '83** capped the lively discussion. **Jennifer Maddox Sergent** continues to nail it with her *DC by Design* blog. If you get a chance, check it out; it is brilliant. Same to be said for **Ali Shapiro Cudby**. I’ve had a great time with **Matthew McGuire** and **Kenrick Skerritt** this summer and look forward to setting a time and place for all of you '84 DC dwellers to get together before 2016. Stay tuned!

1985

Kevin Munroe shares, “I’ve dreamed about moving out west ever since my father took me to his father’s ranch outside of Santa Fe, NM, when I was nine years old; it was one of the most beautiful and peaceful places I’d ever been. Then, we spent two weeks camping, bird watching, and insect collecting in the mountains of New Mexico – I was hooked! A dozen trips later (half of which were to the Pacific Coast), and now at 45, I’m finally making the dream a reality.



Class of 1985 at their 30th reunion this past May



The three children of Carrie Willwerth Brogden '90: Reece (12), Isabelle (10), and Layne (8), with their great-grandpa



Class of 1990 at their 25th reunion this past May



Josh Stinchcomb '91's daughter, Lily, born in December 2014

This July, I started working for the Laguna Foundation in Santa Rosa, CA (<http://www.lagunadesantarosa.org>). With a combination of redwood forests, Sonoma Valley wineries, and coastline state parks, I may have a hard time focusing on my new job! But it's a wonderful organization with a special team of people, and I look forward to becoming part of the community. Please call or stop by if you're in the area – I'd love to see some familiar Virginia faces as I also work on making new friends. I've already met someone in the nearby town of Occidental whose in-laws are connected to The Potomac School – such a small world!"



1986 Reunion YEAR 30th

Class Correspondent

Robert Cheek

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On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 30th Reunion! Thank you to **Rob Cheek** for volunteering to serve as class reunion chair. If you want to get involved, contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org.

Bob Der writes, "My book was published in October. I wrote it with a young mother from Nashville named Jenny Long. It's the story of Jenny and her two oldest sons, Conner and Cayden, who race together in triathlons as Team Long Brothers. Cayden has spastic cerebral palsy and cannot walk or talk, so Conner pushes, pulls, and paddles him through races. The book is called *Expect a Miracle*, and it was a tremendously rewarding project to work on, as Jenny has a message of redemption, inspiration, and hope that she wants to share with the world. I hope all my friends in the Potomac community have a chance to read it. All those years of writing in my Potomac journals paid off!"



Jennifer Epworth lives in Salisbury, Wiltshire, in southern UK. She's in-house counsel for the UK paint company Farrow & Ball, and married to another lawyer, Aster Crawshaw. They have three children: Magnus (13), Eleanor (11), and Matilda (8).

1990

Class Agent

Edward Rossotti

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Carrie Willwerth Brogden notes, "I have a 540-acre thoroughbred farm in Kentucky. I love what I do! I never work a day in my life, but all I do is work. I have taken many friends to the Kentucky Derby. We had two horses that we bred run there last year. I am always happy to have visitors!"

1991 Reunion YEAR 25th

Class Correspondent

Thea Lehming Brandt

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Class Agent

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On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 25th Reunion! Interested in being a class reunion chair? Contact lmiller@potomacschool.org.

Josh Stinchcomb and his wife, Alexandra, welcomed a baby girl, Lily, in December 2014.

1992

Class Correspondent

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Class Agent

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1993

Class Agent

Jay Zeiler

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Check out the article on page 24 to read about what **Chris Seline** is doing.

1994

Class Correspondent

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Class Agents

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Perry Aldige Shure

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Sally Steponkus Roche married Tom Roche on May 30, 2015, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown. The reception was at the Sulgrave Club.

1995

Class Correspondent

Erin Vagley

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Class Agents

Ashley Pehrson Storm

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George Wisecarver

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Nabeena Chatterjee Banerjee notes, "I am practicing medical malpractice defense law in Seattle. My husband and I recently purchased a beautiful home in the Shoreline area."

Ed McNamara shares, "My wife and I live in Great Falls and are celebrating the birth of our daughter, Reagan, born July 24. **Brian Pence** and **George Wisecarver** were among those providing tips and advice during the big week as we got together for dinner at Riverbend Golf Club."

Brian Pence is excited that his son Robert started first grade at Potomac this fall!

1996 Reunion YEAR 20th

Class Correspondent

Chris Cramer

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On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 20th Reunion! Thanks to Class Reunion Co-chairs **Libby Huffman Wilkinson** and **Peter Young**. For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

Sally Steponkus Roche '94 and new husband Tom Roche



'94

1997

Class Correspondent

Elizabeth Race Terborgh

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Check out the article on page 24 to read about what **Caryn Cramer** is doing.

John Morrison and **Kelly Johnston '96** were two of the 57 members of the Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue team that responded to Nepal on behalf of USAID after the 7.8 earthquake in April. Kelly served as a medical specialist and John was a planning section chief. While there, the team made two successful rescues from collapsed buildings.

Scott Trabandt became a father of two with the birth of his daughter, Emery Taylor, on August 20. Scott was kind enough to send us this note just hours before she was born: "As I write this, my wife, Anne, is about to give birth to our second girl. Our first, Siena, turns two in October. On the work front, my journalism journey is coming full circle. It started with my Potomac senior project at the NBC News Washington bureau with Bob Kur, and I am now working just down the hall as executive producer for NBC4, where I oversee the evening news broadcasts. Storytelling is the best part of the job, and getting to read the stories about Potomac and all of its incredible alumni is my favorite part of the Term."



'95



'97

Class of 1995 at their 20th Reunion this past May

Scott Trabandt '97 and wife, Anne, with daughter Siena

1998

Class Correspondent

Jessica Ohly

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Class Agent

Liz Oosterhuis Delasobera

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Charles Blake notes, "My wife, Heidi, and I welcomed our first child, Olivia Renee, into the world in January. She was born at Georgetown University Hospital, the same hospital where I was born (interestingly, the doctor who signed my birth certificate is still working there). In February, I received an offer to join the U.S. Foreign Service; I began orientation in early March. In April, I was given my first assignment, serving as a consular officer in Chennai (formerly Madras), India. We left DC in July; we'll be in India for the next two years, so anyone in our neck of the woods should give us a holler."

In terms of Potomac alumni encounters, I ran into **Edward Smith** shortly before leaving DC. My family also visited **Neel Premkumar** and his family in New Jersey, en route to India. They are all doing very well. In November, the Blakes plan on going to Cambodia for a week, where we will be hanging out with **Michael Pritchett**."

Check out the article on page 20 to read about what **Jocelyn Kelly** is doing.



< Charles Blake '98
with daughter Olivia



Nicole Yun Hirschmann '00 with
her band, Eternal Summers



< Class of 2000 at their 15th Reunion this
past May



^
Jon Haworth '00 and his partner, Nick Munn,
celebrating Jon's birthday in Morocco



'00

Christian Gomez '99 with his wife, Roxy, and
new daughter, Anabella

Sol Kuckelman shares, "In April, Linda and I had our third child, Niels Laurence, who joins Wren, 3, and Harlan, nearly 7. All are well."

Jessica Ohly writes, "I am teaching fourth grade in Denver, CO. **Sarah Swain**, who is working as a lawyer in Chicago, came to visit for a quick ski weekend last winter. This summer I spent two weeks in Peru, visiting the Sacred Valley and the Amazon River Basin. I also had an opportunity to catch up with Intermediate School mathematics teacher **Sharyn Stein** while in the DC area."

1999

Class Correspondents

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Christian Gomez

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Class Agent

Keith Huffman

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A big thank you to **Sahar Batmanghelidj** and **Christian Gomez**, who are joining us as class correspondents, starting with the next issue of the *Term*.

Christian Gomez is thrilled to announce "my wife, Roxy, and I had our first daughter, Anabella Sofia, on Cinco de Mayo at 7:14 pm. She weighed in at 6 pounds, 12 ounces, and she and mom are doing great."

Reed Landry shares, "On August 12, my wife, Julie, and I had our second baby boy, Payton Fields. He and Julie are both doing great."

Later this fall, I'll be opening a new restaurant and tavern at 14th and U, called Hawthorne. It will be four levels, including a roof deck with distant views of the monuments."

2000

Class Correspondents

Maura Myers Bisogni

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Jonathan Haworth

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Burke Brownfeld writes, "As many of you have seen, I am working together with an old friend, JT Theo, to develop a personal safety iPhone app. The basic goal is to provide a user-friendly method for people to get emergency help when they are experiencing a safety issue (e.g. attack, robbery, home invasion). The app, called SafeGo, will share your GPS location with friends, family, and 911. There are more functionalities in the pipeline, and we are about to start the patent process to protect some of them. When all is said and done, we believe that SafeGo will be the most innovative personal safety technology on the market. Let me know if you want to learn more. Thanks to those of you who 'liked' our Facebook page! Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/SafeGo360>."

Jon Haworth is still working as deputy foreign news editor for CBS News and Sky News in London. He has enjoyed traveling and most recently has been to Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt and Marrakech in Morocco. He was also fortunate enough to be asked to produce the entire UK election coverage in May for Al Jazeera America, which was a lot of work but very rewarding.

Milly Hejtmank writes, "I've had a great 2015 so far; I celebrated one year in my first condo. A Potomac alum was my realtor. And so far this year I've been able to visit Sweden (one week) and Cuba (two weeks), along with some travel around the U.S. to visit other Potomac alums and their growing families."

Nicole Yun Hirschmann and her band, Eternal Summers, released their fourth album on Brooklyn indie label Kanine Records, and they headed out on a three-week European tour in September and October. They were also recently written about in *Rolling Stone* in an article titled "10 Artists You Need to Know: May 2015."

Jendayi Croom Jackson started her own photography and interior design business recently. Check her out at www.jacreative.co. She works for Navient full-time as a manager of critical systems and lives in DC with her husband, Marcus, and dog, Cody. Jendayi and Marcus both serve as ministers and are looking forward to traveling to Thailand this fall to meet other ministers at a special convention.

Alana Morrall is currently the director of development and marketing for a nonprofit in Charleston, SC. The organization she works for helps low-income families by providing a variety of free services, including medical and dental care, financial assistance, job readiness, and more. In her spare time, Alana is usually with her dog, Bella, whom she and her boyfriend, Dave, rescued about a year ago from a nearby shelter.

Jennifer Rainey is now a physician assistant, having just graduated from Idaho State University. She got married last summer to her partner of nine years, and they are moving back to the DC area for the next few months. No kids yet but high hopes for a puppy this fall!

Louisa Thomas writes, "I am still writing for *Grantland*, and my second book, *Louisa: The Extraordinary Life of Mrs. Adams*, is coming out next April. (It's not about me! It's a biography of Louisa Catherine Adams, the wife of President John Quincy Adams.)"

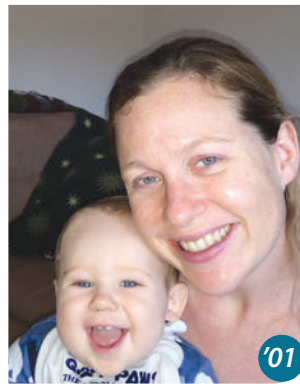
Jesica Wagstaff is entering her fourth year at the White House; however, she plans to transition into reproductive access and justice work in the near future. When not on Pennsylvania Avenue, she can be found running throughout Capitol Hill, as she has recently gotten over her prolonged fear of overuse injuries. Jesica plans to begin building a wooden tandem kayak with her boyfriend (who hates kayaking, oddly enough) this fall, in hopes of getting it out on the water in the spring. She is not married or with child, much to her mother's (and boyfriend's mother's) chagrin.

2001 Reunion YEAR 15th
Class Correspondent
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On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 15th Reunion! Thanks to **Rory Byrnes** for volunteering to serve as Class Reunion Chair. For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

Jamie Potter and his fellow-songwriter wife, Amy, put on their first-ever, full-on music festival this summer, "Boots 'N Roots Minifest," a tasty gathering of some of the best folk, bluegrass, and Americana music being performed from Charlottesville to Baltimore. Festival headliners The Honey Dewdrops (of *A Prairie Home Companion* fame) and Baltimore's favorite sons, Caleb Stine & The Brakemen, blew everyone away as they performed atop a thirty-foot haywagon (no joke!) setup in the shadow of the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains. If you want to learn more about great homegrown music concerts happening in your area, write Jamie at crookedangelsmusic@gmail.com. Cheers!

Kate Jackson Wendelboe '01 and her son, Alfie



Potomac alumni at the wedding of Andrew Weisgall '02 in June



Christine Varoutsos '01 in the Dominican Republic this past summer



Bennett, newborn son of Brendan O'Connell '02

Christine Varoutsos shares, "Summer highlights were traveling to St. John with my husband, Ted, for our second anniversary and then traveling to the Dominican Republic with an incredible nonprofit organization for educators called The Nobis Project. In the beautiful beach town of Cabarete, I spent a week at the wonderful Mariposa Center for Girls, completing a service project designed to enhance the teaching of literacy there. I am now in my eighth year teaching Spanish in the Intermediate School at Potomac."

Kate Jackson Wendelboe is still living in London with her husband, Adam, and her son, Alfie. She has just gone back to work at BT, where she is head of business development and strategy for their Media & Broadcast division.

Sartaj Ajrawat and some other 2002 all-stars had a great time at **Andrew Weisgall's** wedding in June.

Liz Cheek Sullivan married Wilson Sullivan in Charleston, SC, on February 21, 2015. The wedding party included Liz's brother, **Alex Cheek '01**, and bridesmaids **Kate Buchanan Brame**, **Jenna Linden** and **Kristy Zimmerman**. Other guests included **Sean Sullivan**, **Annie Harris Kettler '05**, **Taylor Kettler**, **Alexa Andrews**, **Philip O'Bannon**, and **Brendan O'Connell**. Liz lives in Charlotte, NC, with her husband.

2002
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Wynne Breed '02 in a hot air balloon over the vineyards in Temecula, CA



^ The Barris/Rosenthal wedding party and guests



^ Andrew Duncan '03 and fiancée Rebecca Elliott



^ Liz Cheek Sullivan '02 married Wilson Sullivan in February 2015.

Warner Lewis got married to Mary Maher on August 22, in Chicago, where they live. Guests included Potomac alumni from a number of different classes: **Andrew Weisgall, Chad McMahon, Sean Sullivan, Brendan O'Connell, Conor Hackett, Jason Nadeau '03, Lisa Rainey Fraser '03, Andrew Warin '03, and Meredith Shuba Watson '99** – not to mention Warner's two sisters, also Potomac alumni: **Ellen Lewis '98** and **Lucy Lewis Pilko '95**.

Brendan O'Connell reports, "I'm currently doing a fellowship in neurology and skull base surgery at Vanderbilt Hospital. My wife and I recently had our first child, Bennett."

Victoria Sylos-Labini is so happy for **Jim Albrittain** for getting engaged to her dear childhood friend, Erica Utegaard. Small world!

2003

Class Correspondents

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Class Agents

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Pamela Barris and **Eric Rosenthal** tied the knot this summer. A group of 20 Potomac School alumni helped celebrate this exciting milestone.

Pete Carrington is working as a school social worker at KIPP Infinity Charter School in Harlem, NY, with 5th through 8th graders. He is also working toward an M.B.A. at Baruch College.

KIPP continues to challenge the notion that low-income students are unable or unwilling to excel academically and professionally. KIPP

produces strong students but, more importantly, strong individuals who often return to address community issues following college. Pete says, "It is a thrill and a pleasure to be working among the talented and tenacious team here."

Pete gets together with other alums often and is excited that **Andrew Warin** recently joined the fray in New York.

Andrew Duncan says, "My girlfriend, Rebecca Elliott, and I got engaged at the end of June. We both live in San Francisco and enjoy seeing Potomac alums in the area!"

Sarah Duncan joined the Alumni Governing Council and is looking forward to seeing DC-area classmates at upcoming events. She enjoyed catching up with **Scott Nelson** at the Young Alumni Happy Hour this summer.

Elizabeth Fabiani Rooney lives in San Francisco with her husband and enjoys seeing classmates **Rachel Dyke, Leila Batmanghelidj, Mike Kirkman, Andrew Duncan, Peter Prowitt '04**, and now **Aleem Ahmed!**



Harlan Work appeared in *The Originalist* at Arena Stage this past spring. Many people from Potomac came to see the show – including faculty members **Michael Bergman** and **Mark McLaughlin**, alumni, past parents, current parents, and current students.

2004

Class Correspondents

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Class Agents

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Mackenzie Brown recently moved to Denver, CO. She is attending school to become a registered nutritionist and dietitian.

Katie Johnson Critchfield, a physical therapist in McLean, VA, is now recognized as a board certified specialist in orthopedics through the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties.

Delara Derakhshani serves as policy counsel in the DC office of Consumers Union, the policy arm of Consumer Reports, where she is the lead advocate on telecommunications issues before Congress, the Administration, and federal agencies. Delara is regularly interviewed and quoted by national media; she has been featured on NPR, Fox Business, and HuffPost Live. In June, she appeared on NBC's *Nightly News* to discuss wireless company practices that affect consumers.

Matthew Hassett '04: Fighting for Fairness

Matthew Hassett is using technology to empower middle- and working-class homeowners in New York City. As the director of policy and communications at the nonprofit Center for New York City Neighborhoods, Matthew works to promote and protect affordable homeownership, which his organization champions as an essential solution to the city's affordability crisis.

Matthew first became interested in housing policy while studying history at Brown University, where, in a course on the Civil Rights Movement, he was struck by how certain federal housing policies have led to systemic wealth inequalities along racial and ethnic lines. "It comes down to fairness," Matthew says. "Federal policies deepened already significant disparities, and we're living with the consequences today."

When Matthew arrived at the Center for NYC Neighborhoods in 2011, he applied his experience in real estate development and policy analysis to help address some of the threats New York homeowners are up against. He and his team noticed that skyrocketing housing prices and rising sea levels, threats in and of themselves, made homeowners more vulnerable to mortgage scams. Homeowners caught in a scam typically lose several thousand dollars – and they end up even further behind on their mortgage, putting their home and their family's future at risk.

"Unfortunately," Matthew says, "when homeowners are most in need of trustworthy support, they are also most vulnerable to scammers looking to profit from an environment of fear and misinformation. Using technology, we can empower homeowners – especially those who are the most vulnerable."



Over the last few years, Matthew and his team have worked with government partners and others to produce pioneering reports and innovative websites to help homeowners. Working with the city, the Center for New York City Neighborhoods built *FloodHelpNY.org*, where homeowners can learn about flood insurance and flood risk. The center developed *AGScamHelp.com* for New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and is now working with his office on a statewide marketing campaign to reach at-risk homeowners before scammers do.

Matthew concludes, "Owning a home should not be out of reach for middle- and working-class New Yorkers. As a city, we have to work together to keep homeownership affordable – because strong homeowners create strong communities."

Cooper Jones married Maureen McGee on July 11, on an island off the Maine coast. Fellow members of the class of 2004 who came to celebrate included **Michael Diamond**, **Matthew Hassett**, **Claire Linden**, **Binayak Mishra**, and **Oliver Cannell**.

Brent Locey moved to Chicago this past spring to open the city's and Midwest's first SoulCycle studio as an instructor. He writes, "I've really enjoyed this new chapter in my life and being able to combine my passions for athletics, fitness, and music. I continue to stay active in architecture as a consultant, currently working on projects in North and South Carolina, as well as back in the DC metro area."

Kevin Mayer writes, "Since getting out of the Marine Corps in May 2013, I moved to Manhattan and began working at Palantir Technologies, which is awesome. (Both the city and the job are nice upgrades from Afghanistan!) I'm a lead on the Commercial team at Palantir and have been driving some of our larger engagements in the Trader Oversight division. I'm also a member of the Interviewing/Hiring team, so if anyone is interested in hearing more about the company, send me a note at kmmayer34@gmail.com."

Steve Shashy graduated from UVA Law and sat for the Virginia Bar at the end of July. In October, he began working as an associate in the DC office of Latham & Watkins. He is excited to live in the DC area for the first time since high school.

Tesia Smith visited her sister, **Laura Smith '01**, in Brazil this past July. Laura and her husband run a company called Quixote Expeditions that leads trips to Antarctica, Argentina, and Chile. Tesia does social media for them and decided to visit them while in Brazil. She spent a week on board *Ocean Tramp*, hiking, snorkeling, and exploring Ilha Grande and other islands south of Rio!

Maria Tchijov writes, "My husband, Jordan, and I welcomed our beautiful twin girls into the world on June 5. They are both doing really well and have enjoyed hanging out with **Genna Beier** here in the Bay Area. In fact, last weekend Genna joined us as the girls hit up their first brewery."

2005

Grace Browning, principal harpist of the Dallas Opera, won a Gold Medal in the 2015 Young Texas Artists Music Competition with her performance of "Scintillation" by Carlos Salzedo.

Marcus Ginyard

says, "After witnessing the rise of the war in Ukraine in 2014, I thought for sure that 2015 would not be nearly as eventful, but I could not have been more wrong. As January rolled around, I found myself in New York City, quite a change of scenery when I normally would be thousands of miles away, playing for a team in Europe. This time, I was playing for the Westchester Knicks, NBA Development League affiliate of the New York Knicks. Two months later, I would be at home nursing myself back to health after tearing a ligament in my thumb. In March, I landed in Athens, Greece, to finish the season with B.C. Panionios, but due to contractual complications, I was unable to officially sign with the team. I was forced to return home to the U.S. to continue to train and search for another job. Shortly after, I was presented with an opportunity to travel to China with a team of Americans to play in a friendly series against the Chinese National Team. We played three games in a 10-day span, visiting three major cities: Beijing, Changchun, and Harbin. It was an unbelievable experience that I will not soon forget."



This summer I was able to host the fourth Marcus Ginyard Basketball Camp in northern Virginia. For the first time, we were able to have two locations: one week at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, and another week at The Langley School in McLean. Between the two camps, we were able to teach roughly 80 campers this summer!

I am now living in Nantes, France, playing for Hermine Nantes Atlantique for the 2015-16 season. I'm very excited to be living in France for a year and to have a chance to work on my French, which I started studying at Potomac back in 1999!

For more info about my camp and my career in Europe, you can visit my website: www.MarcusGinyard.com."

2006 Reunion YEAR 10th

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Class Agents

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Patrick Frailey

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On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 10th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

Thank you to **Patrick Frailey** and **Griffith Roberts** for volunteering to serve as class reunion chairs.

George Barsness has joined the Potomac School Alumni Governing Council and will be a reunion co-chair with **Win Huffman '01**.

Olivia Dewey Lee married Elisha Lee on April 11, 2015.

2007

Class Agents

Liz Frailey

liz.frailey@gmail.com

Aaron Kur

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We are looking for someone who wants to help keep this class connected! If you are interested in being a class correspondent, please email alumni@potomacschool.org.

Patricia "BG" Green got married in July 2015.

2008

Class Correspondents

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Anne Lenrow

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Class Agents

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Nick Thieme

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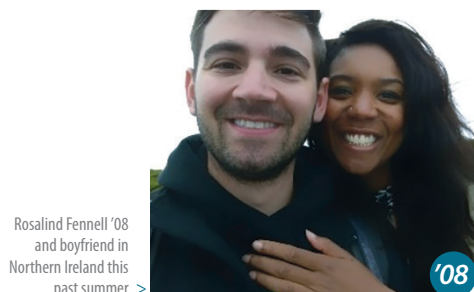
Brendan Burnett is working in Santa Monica, CA, as a digital marketing analyst at TaskUs, a company that provides outsourced customer care and back office support for many leading and innovative companies around the world.

In June, University of Tennessee basketball coach Rick Barnes announced that **Kyle Condon** is the new assistant to the head coach. Kyle is a Tennessee graduate who has been with the university's Athletics Department for several years. While he enters his first year in the role of assistant to the head coach, Kyle embarks on his seventh overall season with the basketball program. He was a student manager with the Volunteers for four years, then rose to a graduate position, which he occupied for two years before being promoted to his current full-time post. During the 2013-14 and 2014-15 seasons, Kyle was responsible for several basketball operations duties, handling equipment distribution, overseeing the managerial staff, and assisting with team meals and travel logistics. He also provided the program with a steady presence and superb institutional operations knowledge during the coaching staff transition in the spring and summer of 2015. Kyle was with Tennessee during both the 2010 Elite Eight run

Maria Tchijov '04 and her husband, Jordan, with their twin girls, born in June



Michael Diamond '04, Matthew Hassett '04, Claire Linden '04, Binayak Mishra '04, and Oliver Cannell '04 celebrating the wedding of Cooper Jones '04



Rosalind Fennell '08 and boyfriend in Northern Ireland this past summer



Grace Browning '05

Class of 2005 at their 10th Reunion this past May



Christian Dewey '05, Grace Dewey '12, Olivia Dewey Lee '06, BG Green '07, and Katie Martore '06



Paul Miller '09



Alex Aines '10 doing shark research in the Bahamas this past summer

Class of 2010 at their 5th
< Reunion this past May

and the program's charge to the 2014 Sweet Sixteen. Overall, he boasts nine games of NCAA Tournament experience as a manager or administrative staffer. Kyle was a member of Potomac's 2008 state championship team.

Rosalind Fennell is entering the final year of her graduate program to receive an M.P.H. in global health at The George Washington University. She is continuing her position as a senior research assistant in the Department of Health Policy and Management at GWU as well. This summer, Rosalind spent three weeks in Northern Ireland attending the Queen's University Belfast Summer School on Conflict Transformation and Social Justice, and an additional week traveling through the Republic of Ireland. Rosalind joined the Potomac School Alumni Governing Council this fall.

Ted Hall recently moved to Quincy, MA, and is working as a premier account analyst for Granite Telecommunications, the leading corporate communications service provider to multi-location companies across the United States.

Clara Labadie moved to Cambridge, MA, in the fall. She will be a middle school math teaching apprentice at the Shady Hill School while earning her M.Ed. from Lesley University.

Todd Langstaff remains in Chicago, where he continues his work at a global ad agency. He says that all are welcome to drop by for a visit; the Midwest is a friendly place!

Rebecca Lindner is continuing in her position as manager of membership and annual sponsors at the Economic Club of Washington, DC.

Katherine Mullins is continuing her medical school program at Georgetown.

2009

Class Correspondents

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Class Agent

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Philip Diamond writes, "After Potomac I attended Skidmore College. I graduated in three years with a B.S. in management and business. After graduation, I helped care for my grandmother for about a year, until she passed away. Following her death, I moved to Singapore, where I worked in finance, software engineering, marketing, and ad tech over the course of two years. Now I'm starting my own company called Audasis."

Check out the article on page 24 to read about what **Eric Huang** is doing.

Paul Miller stills live in the New York City/New Jersey area. He reports, "I currently work at Pandora Media in their Rev Ops Client Services Department, as a client service coordinator. I recently celebrated my one-year anniversary at Ohri Entertainment, which is an event-management company that I co-founded with two partners, under The Ohri Group. We offer services and exclusive venues to corporate companies, startups, and private clients. We were recently featured in *Industry* magazine for an event we curated for a Ferrari/Maserati dealership in New Jersey."



Colton Haney '13 interned at Priceline.com this past summer.



Sasha DiGiulian '11 soloing on "Bellavista" in the Dolomites last year

2010

Class Correspondents

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Maggie Nelsen

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Class Agent

CeCe Conner

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Alex Aimes writes, "I recently returned from a three-month internship in the Bahamas doing shark research. I was working specifically with hammerhead, nurse, tiger, and lemon sharks, examining habitat usage, survival rates, personality; we also tagged and tracked these sharks to look at their movements. In the fall, I will start my master's at Duke University. I will be pursuing a degree in environmental management with a concentration in coastal/marine management."

John Bennett moved to Seattle's trendy Capitol Hill neighborhood – the one with the fancy Starbucks Roastery – and transitioned to work for Accenture's strategy consulting practice. So far, this has involved helping a private equity group evaluate tech startups' financial performance, killer features, and market competition.

Enrique CuUnjieng will be in Singapore working for Google's High Potential Small Business Marketing Team for another year.

Tristan Dellar graduated from UVA with a degree in history this past May. He is currently in the DC area looking for jobs in marketing/PR. He is also working with several clubs in DC, doing marketing and promotion.

Mackenzie Foster recently finished working for the YWCA and Girls Inc., mentoring underprivileged middle school girls and inspiring them to be strong, smart, and bold. She is now preparing for the GRE and applying to grad schools for her Ph.D. She also got married last October!

Candace Johnson reports that she recently moved to Connecticut, where she is working as an athletic communications assistant at UConn. She will be covering seven teams, including women's basketball.

Taylor Jones shares, "I'm currently in Washington, DC, working in audience development and production for *National Journal's* digital project called 'Next America.' I started taking boxing classes and am trying to get into the running lifestyle. I will be applying for a Fulbright fellowship in the fall."

Maggie Nelsen is finishing up a year-long Fulbright grant, teaching English in an Islamic community in Malaysia.

Paul Pemberton finished his master's at the University of California, Berkeley/University of California, San Francisco this past June and

is now working in the Bay Area for a company called Proteus Digital Health. He is working on developing a sensor that tracks medication adherence.

Andrew Rubenstein reports that he has started blogging for *TheInertia.com*. Check out his posts to read about all things related to action sports.

David Will is entering his second year at UVA law school, where he is focusing on finance and law. He spent his summer working in the Enforcement Division at the SEC's New York office.

Pegi Ylli has moved to Vienna, Austria, to work for the World Bank Office for Southeastern Europe as an operations assistant consultant. She will be assisting with research and providing support for various country partnership frameworks, putting together Western Balkan events, working with social development and gender teams, and hopefully traveling, too!

Yazzy Zahar finished up her undergrad classes last December and has been traveling the world ever since as a tourist, wildlife conservation intern, sustainable agriculture volunteer, and explorer.

Ellen Overstreet '11: Pirouetting and Plié-ing Her Way to the Top

Ellen Overstreet '11 has kept on her toes the last few years. Since joining the Sarasota Ballet in 2013, dancing has been her full-time career. "It's far from a boring job," she says.

Instead of sitting at a desk, Ellen pushes her body to the limit on a daily basis. She works six days a week, with classes in the mornings to refine her technique and up to three rehearsals a day to learn each show's new and challenging choreography. "Even if you had a great day and great class yesterday, you pretty much start over the next day," she says. Her off days are spent resting and taking online college courses, going to yoga classes, and trying new brunch spots.

When she's touring – as she did this August, for the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Massachusetts – Ellen is on stage as many as six times in a weekend. She finds it gratifying to see what she has worked so hard to perfect come to life in front of an audience.

The Sarasota Ballet is the Gulf Coast of Florida's only professional ballet company, and Ellen was thrilled to be chosen as a company member at the age of 19. Her skills and work ethic have made for a quick climb within the company; she's been promoted each year. This March, she was named a junior principal dancer, the second-highest position in a company, behind principal. She's excited about the promotion and the new responsibilities it brings, but most of all, Ellen feels lucky to be pursuing her passion professionally. She says, "I get to do something that I love every single day."



2011 Reunion YEAR 5th Class Correspondent

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On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 5th Reunion! Thank you to **Zach Barsness** and **Aarti Rishi** for volunteering to serve as class reunion chairs. For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

Madeline AuBuchon has one semester left to complete her Bachelor of Science in industrial and systems engineering at the University of Southern California. She recently volunteered for the Special Olympics World Games 2015, held in Los Angeles.

This past August, **Sasha DiGiulian** scaled the Paciencia route on the north face of Mount Eiger. This peak, in the Swiss Alps, is known as the "Wall Of Death." Sasha was the first woman to climb this specific route. The mountaineering community

considers it the most difficult route on this face, and it was first climbed in 2008 by two Swiss men, Ueli Steck and Stephan Siegrist.

Aarti Rishi writes, "I graduated from Elon University in May and have been working in Washington, DC, at Edelman, a worldwide public relations firm. I am on the Food and Nutrition team and am learning a lot, working with cool and exciting clients and loving every minute of it. I was definitely sad not to be returning to Elon this fall, but I am really excited to see what the future holds."

2012

Don't be the only class without a class correspondent! If you are interested and want more information, email alumni@potomacschool.org.

Check out the article on page 24 to read about what **John Backus** is doing.

Keenan Lidral-Porter went through Hack Reactor, a coding boot camp based in San Francisco, late last summer. He now works as a software engineer for Surf Air, a startup airline based in California.

Russell Schmidt has been elected student body president and head of Honor Council at Washington & Lee.

Lauren Wackerle is starting her senior year at Yale University and her fourth year as a member of the women's varsity lacrosse team. She was a summer analyst for Morgan Stanley in New York and will return to their Global Capital Markets Division after graduation.

2013

Class Correspondents
Soraya Batmanghelidj
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Ellie Gilbert
epgilbert13@gmail.com
Class Agent
Parker Kobayashi
pkobayashi27@icloud.com

Colton Haney worked for Priceline.com this summer at their headquarters in Norwalk, CT, as the hotel sales promo coordinator. From consulting with hotels about how to increase bookings to analyzing rate issues, Colton thoroughly enjoyed getting to experience life at an online travel agency. Beyond his typical

duties, Colton participated in a company-wide photo day to find the new stock photos for the recruiting site!

2014

Class Correspondent

Vanessa Luehrs

vluehrs@villanova.edu

Class Agent

Ben Rietano

brietano@gmail.com

Hunter Heflin spent the majority of his summer working on his debut mixtape, *Press Play*, which was slated to come out in August. At the University of Pennsylvania, Hunter plays linebacker for the sprint football team and is not sure what he wants to major in yet. He also joined the Beta Theta Pi fraternity last fall and plays on the club lacrosse team.

Tiffany Luehrs spent the first five weeks of her summer studying abroad in Hangzhou, China. She traveled to Shanghai and Beijing and hiked the Yellow Mountain (the beautiful views at the mountain inspired the setting of the 2009 film *Avatar*). While in Hangzhou, Tiffany took a Chinese film and literature course and a globalization course. She also interned for the International Sales Department of a high-tech Chinese company called Yu Yang King, which specializes in producing motor controllers.

When she returned to the U.S., Tiffany came back to Potomac to work for the summer camps as an office assistant. In August, she attended a conference in Chicago as a member of the Kemper Scholars Program, Class of 2018. Kemper Scholars receive annual scholarships during their sophomore, junior, and senior years of college and work as interns in major nonprofit organizations in Chicago during the summer following their sophomore year.

Vanessa Luehrs spent two weeks of her summer touring Beijing and Xi'an, hitting all of the important historical sites, including the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warrior exhibits. She then spent four weeks in an intensive Chinese study program at Shanghai's Jiao Tong University. Vanessa appreciated being able to use her Chinese to communicate with local people and greatly improved her speaking and listening skills. She

enjoyed her time in China so much that she has decided to take on Chinese as a second major, and she hopes to return to China sometime in the near future. Vanessa is looking forward to starting her second year at Villanova University this fall.

Jamie Mahon recently changed his major from mechanical engineering to film and video studies, which may be a shock to some but maybe not so much for others. To start off his new career as a film student, he decided to do a study-abroad program hosted by his school, George Mason University, on Italian media and culture. He spent a month studying in Milan, with weekends in Venice, Cinque Terre, Turin, and Rapallo. By the end of the trip, he had made many great friends and learned a lot about Italian film and media.

Nathan Marcotte had a really great first year at Bucknell. This summer, he studied tropical marine biology in the U.S. and British Virgin Islands. He is excited to start his second year at Bucknell as an accounting and financial management major and a university tour guide. Additionally, Nathan joined Potomac's Alumni Governing Council.

Lucia McArdle enjoyed her first year at Tufts, where she works with various community service organizations, is involved with the outdoors club, and still hasn't decided on a major. She spent her summer working at a sleepaway camp in Vermont for children and adults with behavioral, emotional, physical, and intellectual disabilities.

This summer, **Hale Ross** completed coursework in psychology and economics (in which he tentatively plans to double major) at Georgetown University. Outside the classroom, Hale worked at Luke's Lobster in Penn Quarter, trained arduously for the upcoming cross country season, fine-tuned his golf swing, and was a key consultant for **Hunter Heflin's** debut mixtape, *Press Play*.

This summer **Natasha Urbany** reunited with Potomac friends **Olivia Givens**, **Hunter Heflin**, **Hale Ross**, and **Maina Kamau** at Hilton Head Island. She was also able to study abroad in Paris! She spent two months at Columbia University's international campus, studying French film and literature, and had plenty of time to be a tourist, hit the cafes, and visit family and friends in London and Madrid.

in memoriam

Janet Trowbridge Bohlen '43

Trustee Emeritus; wife of Curtis Bohlen; mother of Nina Bohlen '74, Curtis Bohlen '75, and Julie Bohlen Perry '79; sister-in-law of Nancy Trowbridge Holmes '41; aunt of Brock Holmes '67, Katharine Holmes Caldwell '68, and Sarah Holmes '74

Roberta "Bosey" Fulbright Foote '53

Sister of Elizabeth "Betsey" Fulbright Winnacker '51

Angelica Peale Ewing '50

John Knight '94

Son of Paul and Gayley; brother of Steven Knight '99

Elisabeth "Lisi" Oliver '66

Sister of Augustus "Gus" Oliver '64, Peter Oliver '68, John Oliver '72, and Nancy Chapin de Rochefort '74

Dr. Judson Randolph

Trustee Emeritus; father of Somers Randolph '71, Garrett Randolph '74, Judson Randolph Jr. '75, Adam Randolph '76, and Comfort Randolph Belbas '79

Walter "Sandy" Skallerup III '70

Brother of Paula Skallerup Osborn '67, Andrew '75 (deceased), and Nancy White Skallerup '77; uncle of Stephanie Osborn '98 and Andrew Osborn '02

Margaret Andrina Steinbeiser '61

George "Bruce" West II

Trustee Emeritus; father of George West III '71, Mark West '73, Jonathan West '77, and Charles West '79

Share with us!

If your class has a class correspondent, send your news to him or her; contact information can be found at the top of your class year. If no correspondent is listed, please send your updates to term@potomacschool.org or Alumni Office, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean, VA 22101.

We hear you!

Some Potomac community members have contacted us to say that they are receiving multiple copies of the *Term* at a single address. Why does this happen? Usually, it's because we don't have updated mailing addresses for those who don't live at "home" anymore.

Please help us achieve three important goals. We want to

- ensure that all members of the Potomac community are receiving timely news and information
- steward our school's resources responsibly
- practice sustainability and care for the environment

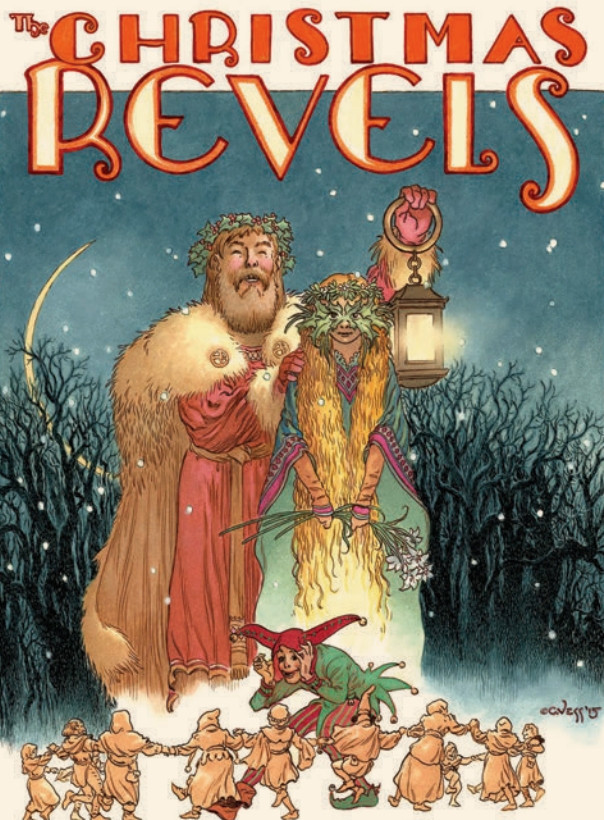
If you are receiving more than one copy of the *Term* at your home, or if you have moved and are not receiving the *Term* at your current address, please notify us by logging in to potomacschool.org/update or by emailing your information to alumni@potomacschool.org.

Thanks for your help!



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Amidst it all, enjoy rousing traditional music, powerful medieval songs, ethereal chants, seasonal carols, rollicking tunes on early instruments, familiar rounds, folk and courtly dances, a madcap "12 Days of Christmas," the eerily hypnotic Abbots Bromley horn dance, a topsy-turvy "Lord of Misrule," and an evocative mummers' play.

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Exclusively for members of the Potomac community: A special 20% discount is available on up to 100 seats (any location) at each of the shows (2:00 pm & 7:30 pm) on Saturday, December 5, at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC.

Offer available through Wednesday, December 2, or until 100 discounted seats (per show) are sold.

For information about Potomac's connection to Revels and to order tickets, visit potomacschool.org/alumni/events/revels

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