The Lexington School

SUMMER 2001

FAREWELL TO THE GREAT EIGHT

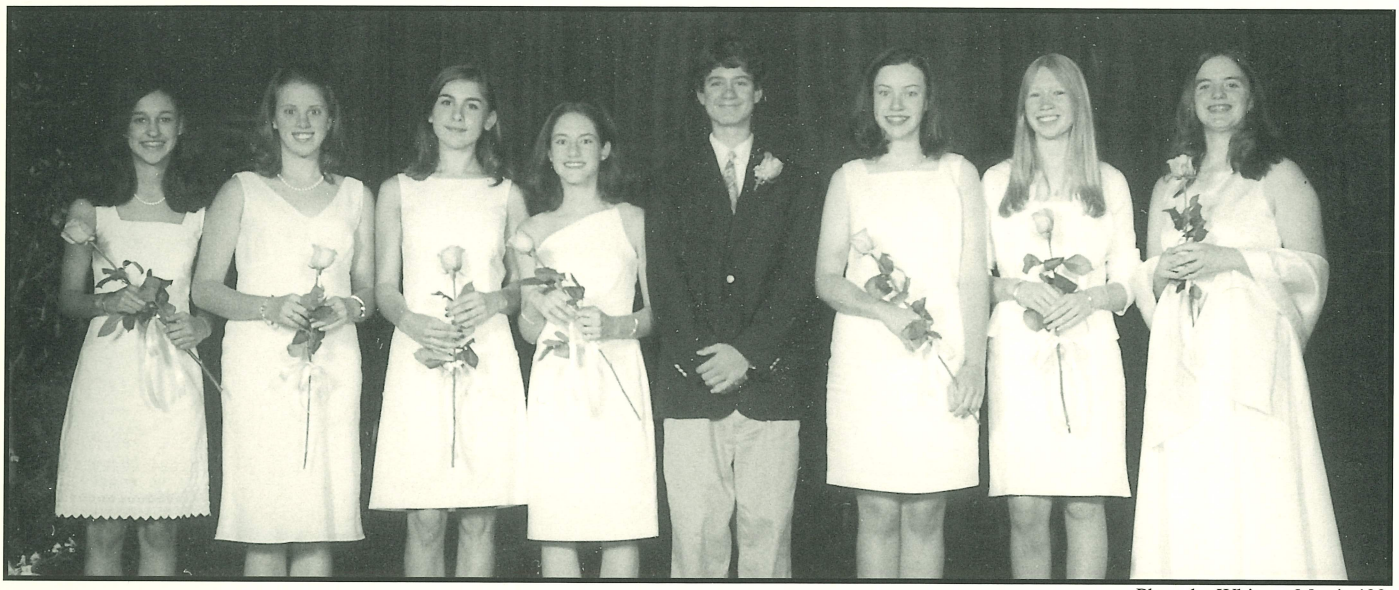


Photo by Whitney Martin '88

2001 Lexington School graduates from L to R: Luiza de Camargo, Jennifer Boone, Ashley Baldwin, Rachel Leep, James Frazier, Katherine Ruch, Claire Tri, Jessica Brown.

The Class of 2001 graduated in grand style on Saturday, June 2, 2001, capping off a special freshman year that will be long remembered by the graduates and the many people they touched. The ceremony began with a traditional processional and singing of the Alma Mater, followed by remarks by Headmaster John Fixx and President of the Board, Alex Boone '75.

Freshman class officers, Jennifer Boone, James Frazier, Ashley Baldwin and Luiza de Camargo followed with "Memories," a funny and nostalgic tribute to their years at The Lexington School. The theme of their speech compared their School journey to that of the characters from The Wizard of Oz—their early years reminiscent of "Munchkinland," and their subsequent years teaching them the lessons of the brain, the heart and courage. Their address ended with an analogy to the Emerald City and Dorothy's ruby slippers, saying that they would take their knowledge and lessons with them into their new worlds, but would always remember that "there's no place like home."

Academic awards were presented by Assistant Headmaster and Head of Middle School and Freshman Year, Una MacCarthy. Jessica Brown, Luiza de Camargo and Rachel Leep received High Honors for Spring Term and Freshman Year. Jennifer Boone and James Frazier received Honors for Spring Term and Freshman Year. Katherine Ruch and Claire Tri received Honors for Freshman Year. Rachel Leep was placed on the Permanent Headmaster's List for High Honors in seventh, eighth and ninth grade. Ashley Baldwin received the prestigious art award.

John Fixx honored Cafeteria Head Joyce Baker and English teacher Jennifer Stith for 20 years of service. Chris Young '90 followed with an inspiring graduation address.

After the presentation of diplomas, Freshman Advisor Laura Bonzo recognized each graduate with a poignant spoken reflection. Music for the event was provided by music teacher David Cooper and the Sixth Grade Girls Ensemble.

The graduates will attend the following high schools: Ashley Baldwin, Tates Creek; Jennifer Boone, Taft School; Jessica Brown, Foxcroft School; Luiza de Camargo, Sayre School; James Frazier, Lawrenceville School, Rachel Leep, Henry Clay; Katherine Ruch, Henry Clay; Claire Tri, Lexington Catholic.

—Whitney Martin '88, Newsletter Editor

2001 COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Good morning! Thank you, John, the faculty and staff of The Lexington School, the parents and most of all the graduating Class of 2001 for allowing me to speak today. I'm truly honored and humbled.

Of course, when John first asked me to come back and give the commencement address, my initial reaction was, "What in the world am I going to talk about? And more importantly, what in the world would I have to say that would mean anything to these graduates?"

But then I sat down and thought about all of the great, wonderful and challenging years that you are about to enter, and I must say I got a little jealous. To be able to go back to high school and college and live those 7 years again—I'm sure you've all felt the same way watching the fourth, sixth, or even the eighth graders walking through the halls. Always something to improve on, one decision made a different way, something you wish you had done, something you wish you hadn't done. It's easy to look back and see how everything should have been. The challenge is, how do you make the right decisions that guide you down the path that's before you?

If your graduation is anything like mine have been, you have undoubtedly been flooded with all kinds of unsolicited advice. For some reason, people always feel the need to give guidance whenever someone goes from one stage of life to the next; even I'm up here itching to give you some. The problem is, how do you tell the difference between good advice and bad?

As you are all well aware, as you go through life there are no official guideposts that say, "Go this direction!" or "Watch out, danger over there!" Life is full of seemingly small choices that ultimately add up to the reason we're all sitting, or standing, here.

Up to this point, your parents have played the roles of both chief decision maker and chief advisor, and they've done a great job. But you all are about to enter a period of life where, with each additional year, you will have to make more of those important decisions yourself.

Have you ever thought deeply about why people make the decisions they make, or more importantly, why you make the decisions you make? Why did you decide to stay and finish ninth grade at The Lexington School? Why did you decide to go to boarding school next year? Why did you decide to stay in Lexington for high school? These are all huge decisions in your life.

I'm certainly in no position to give you answers to these questions or any other decision you may make in your life. What I would like to talk about, however, is the importance of how you make decisions in your life. So, if I may, I will try to impart a little of what I've learned on this subject:

First, and most importantly, don't let others make decisions for you. (Before I get run off stage by a bunch of angry parents, let me clarify.) Certainly ask for advice, solicit opinions, take guidance; that's what your friends and families are for. Just don't let other people take you down a path you don't want to travel.

To illustrate how easy it is to get caught not thinking for yourself, let me tell you about my last few years in the business world.

About three years ago, I picked up and moved my life out to San Francisco on a whim. I went out to visit some friends for my birthday and interviewed at a company just to see what it was like. And four weeks later, I was living on a friend's couch two miles away from the Golden Gate Bridge.

After living and working in San Francisco for about a year, I got caught up in the Silicon Valley dream. You know the one, where the 24-year-old kid starts a dot com company, raises a ton of money from venture capital investors, gets a few customers, has an IPO, makes millions and retires to an island in the Caribbean.

Well, that was going to be me. Exactly two years ago today, a friend from college and I started a company called Miadora.com, with the intent of becoming the premier company for selling fine jewelry on the web. These were the days when companies were springing up right and left selling everything from dog food to baby supplies to bulk chemicals online. Well, nobody was selling jewelry at the time, and it seemed like a good idea; small items, high average order price, very big margins. Doing the math, we only needed a fraction of the number of customers buying $500 rings than companies who were selling dog food for $30 a bag.

So, we raised over $35 million from investors who had previously invested in companies like Cisco, Apple and Yahoo. We recruited managers who had run the Sharper Image, controlled the finances at Pier One and Bloomingdale's, been in charge of jewelry merchandising at Macy's. Five very experienced retial executives, 80 or so employees, and two 24-year-old kids.

So what happened? Prevailing wisdom in Silicon Valley was that it didn't matter how much money you spent, you could always get more; it only mattered how much revenue you got and how many visitors your site got. Where I, and the rest of the company, went wrong was in

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not questioning this logic. Let me explain the same thing using real numbers. Through advertising I pay 100 people $10 each to walk into my store and browse (that's $1000). Only one person buys something (that's about the fraction of visitors that actually buy something on a website) and they buy something for $500. So we spend $1000 to get one of 10 people to buy something for $500. It doesn't take a genius to figure out that's not going to make you any money.

This was a mania in Silicon Valley, and like a snowball picking up snow, it captured almost everyone, from the most successful venture investors to retail executives with 30 years experience, and even two 24-year-old kids.

These types of things happen on the largest of scales and also on the smallest. Lesson is, to the best of your ability, question everything. Just because someone seems to know what they're talking about, make your own decisions. This is your life. Think for yourself. That's what you're going to school for!

The second bit of advice about making decisions is, find out what's important to you. Figure out what makes you tick, what makes you smile, what gets you out of bed in the morning. Some of you are already pursuing your passions, and that's fantastic, keep chasing those dreams. Others won't find yours until much later. Only you know what is important to you. I'm certainly not just talking about the profession you choose, that's the last thing you should be thinking about now. Nor am I just talking about what you study in school. I'm talking about all of those little things in life that are important to you. Explore them, experience them, conquer them.

Three, challenge yourself. Don't always take the easy road. In fact, I would recommend attempting the impossible, putting yourself in uncomfortable situations, testing the barriers. The only way to truly know yourself and know what you're capable of, is by challenging yourself in everything you do. You might surprise yourself. Most people lead their lives taking the easy road. They lead successful, happy lives, but they're never quite sure what they could have achieved if they had actually challenged themselves and tried the impossible. Consistently choosing the easy path, it soon becomes the only path they know.

Psychologists say if you repeat something 19 times, it becomes a habit. Don't let complacency become a habit. Now is the time to challenge yourself.

Four, don't fear failure. You need both failure and success in life to truly define who you are and what you are capable of. And more often than not, you'll learn more about yourself and be a much better person if you do fail. In the end, of course, failure is not fun and failure is not good, but the important thing is to not fear it and to not be afraid to keep trying.

You are all about to enter new schools, with new freedoms, new challenges and new opportunities. Take advantage of them. Find out what you want in life, don't always take the easy road, and don't fear failing every once in a while. But, most importantly, ask questions and make your own decisions!

Congratulations and good luck in everything you do!

—Chris Young '90

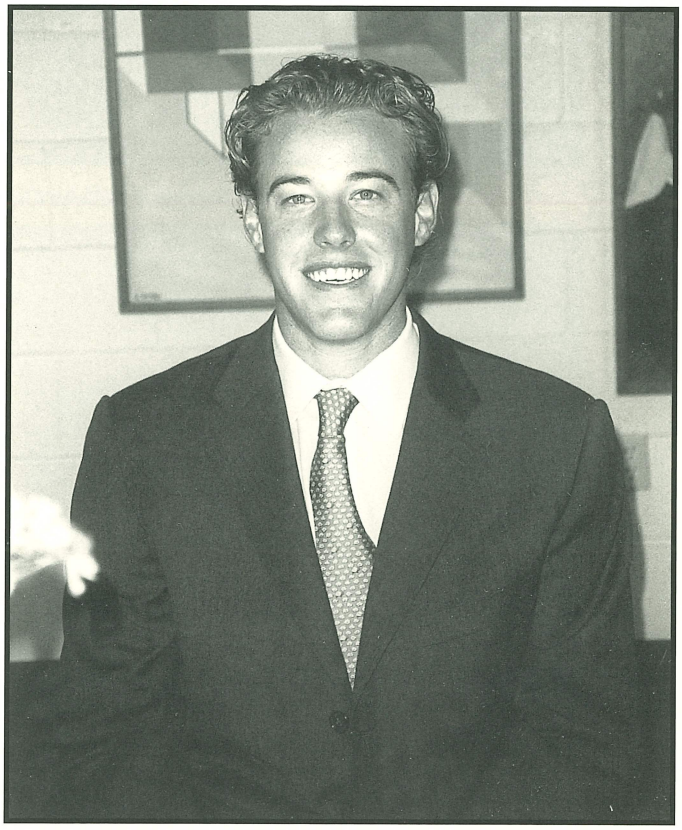
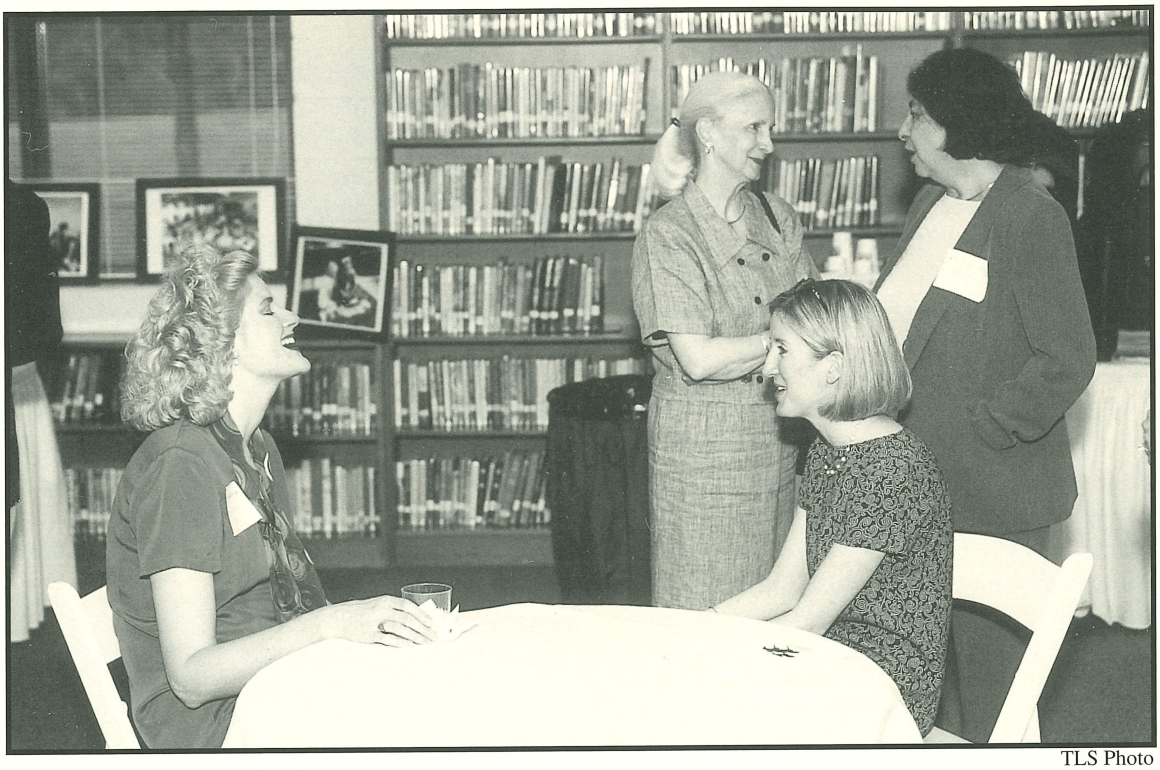


Photo by Whitney Martin '88

Chris Young '90 gave the commencement speech at The Lexington School 2001 graduation in June. Chris graduated from Henry Clay High School in Lexington, KY, and Duke University. He currently lives in San Francisco where he works for a technology company.

REUNION/CELEBRATION 2001



TLS Photo

Leila Salisbury '86 and Juliana Gregory '86 catch up at Reunion 2001.



TLS Photo

John McKinstry, Virginia Patterson, Bill Patterson '81, and Elizabeth Gay Freeman '79 at Reunion 2001.

REUNION/CELEBRATION 2001



TLS Photo

Kimberly Stigers, Lucille Little, Kelly Knight, and David Stigers at Celebration 2001.



TLS Photo

Enjoying Celebration: Andre Pater, Kasia Pater, John Fixx.

REUNION/CELEBRATION 2001



TLS Photo

Tom Foster, Marijo Foster and Prentiss Douglas '89 at Reunion 2001.



TLS Photo

George and Lorie Ward purchased the yellow lab puppy at Celebration 2001.

WHAT'S NEW WITH TLS ALUMNI

Emily Larish '98 graduated from The Taft School in Watertown, Conn. this spring and was inducted into the Cum Laude Society. She will attend Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA., this fall. This past summer she served as a sailing instructor and counselor at Camp Seafarer in North Carolina.

Stephen Chan '88 recently received the prestigious Raymond W. Sarber Award at a general meeting of the American Society for Microbiologists. He was recognized for his chemistry and molecular biology research.

Dan Kielar '81 and his wife Christine live in Concord, Mass. They have two children, Caroline, 6, and Andrew, 4. Dan runs a private software company.

Margaret Graves '79 and her husband welcomed twin boys, Hart and Wick, into the world on April 18, 2001.

Thomas Bell '98, **Matthew Craig '98**, **Lindsey Elliott '98**, **Reed Grimes '98**, **Evan Lewis '98**, **David Ravvin '98**, **Todd Rogers '98**, and **Emily Scarr '98** graduated from Henry Clay High School this past spring with GPA's averaging 4.0 and above. In addition, **Todd Rogers** received the 16th District PTSA Scholarship; **Emily Scarr** received the Junior League of Lexington Service Award; **David Ravvin** received the United States Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award; **Reed Grimes** received the United States Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award; **Evan Lewis** received a National French Exam Award; **Emily Scarr** was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist; and **Thomas Bell** received a Scholarship Trophy.

Kaitlin Chamblin '98 will be attending Emerson College in Boston, Mass. this fall.

ANNUAL FUND UPDATE

Let's Take Pride in The Lexington School's Annual Fund

- **More than $300,000 raised in support of the Annual Fund for two years in a row**
- **100% faculty and staff participation for eight straight years**
- **243 new or increased gifts from parents, alumni, grandparents and friends**
- **More than 4,000 hours of time dedicated by hardworking volunteers**
- **100% Board of Trustee participation**
- **Special recognition to the Class of 1999 for leading Alumni gifts with the largest number of donors**

THANK YOU!
We couldn't have done it without you!

SUMMER 2001 NEWSLETTER

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TLS Archival Photo

A girls' physical education class from the 1960s reaches for the stars.

The Lexington School admits students of any race, religion, color, sex, national or ethnic origin.