The Lexington School
Pinpoints

Living History with Margaret Cowling

"Mom, Miss Cowling is as smart as some whole families."

A former sixth grade history student, now 31 years old, remembers stories full of high adventure and rich detail of the ancients as if they happened yesterday. **Margaret Cowling '64** regales her second generation of budding historians with tales from the Peloponnesian War to the Civil War, from Agincourt to Zoroaster. Next year, Miss Cowling will celebrate her 40th year of teaching at her alma mater, and now is the time to celebrate some of her story.



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THE OCTOBER 2009 MAIN EVENT at the Horse Park gathered 800 Lexington School family members and friends to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary. During the evening, Head of School Chuck Baldecchi announced the name of each former head of school and asked every faculty member, student, family, and board member who had participated in the school leader's years to rise. Understandably, there was much happy commotion and shuffling of chairs as folks got up, sat down, and sometimes stood again if they had returned to school to teach after graduating. There was one person, however – only one person in that entire, huge tent – who stood the whole time, who has been at The Lexington School as student or teacher under every head of school, who was a fifth grader the first morning the school's door opened for classes, September 14, 1959: Margaret Anne Cowling. She loves her school as much as her students love her.



Throughout the anniversary weekend, Miss Cowling was greatly feted for authoring *The Lexington School: Our First 50 Years*. Colleagues and students, past and present, agreed it was most appropriate that the longtime history teacher pen the history of the school.

Tales from her sixth and eighth grade history classes have been fodder for fascinating family dinnertime conversations for decades. Parents have "audited" her classes after hearing rave reviews from their children. Alumni have come back often to see her and to seek her counsel on current history theses and topics. With lifelong devotion to her subject and abiding respect for the individual, Miss Cowling has instilled the love of learning and the love of learning history in students by the thousands.

Early Beginnings

MISS COWLING is influenced, still, by her favorite teachers, particularly Hillyer Rudisill III and Margaret Imrie. Miss Cowling is a teacher of history today in no small part because of Mr. Rudisill, teacher of Latin, English, and history, with whom she enjoyed reconnecting most recently at last year's Scarlet Gate 50th Reunion of the **Classes of 1963** and **1964**. Miss Cowling, with her double major in history and English from Indiana University and her master's in history from the State University of New York at Albany, holds her students to the same high expectations Mr. Rudisill commanded in his classroom. From Miss Imrie, third grade teacher and field hockey coach, Miss Cowling learned proper deportment for life and the intricacies of competition on Tuesday and Thursday physical education "late days." It is with special delight and great reverence for Miss Imrie that Miss Cowling relays pride in being captain of her Princeton (NJ) High School field hockey team, as the only "Kentucky" girl at the school.

> "She makes history class like a great soap opera…. She gave us intricately detailed background … would build to an eye-popping crescendo … and then the bell would ring!
> She did that on purpose!"
>
> *Lambsy Bennett Graves '84*

Hockey sticks retired, college degrees secured, Miss Cowling built on her New Jersey stage career that included playing Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Desdemona in *Othello* at the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival. She fulfilled a New York City dream of enrolling in the Stella Adler Studio of Acting, where she landed a part in King Lear with Shakespeare in the Park. To add to her full New York experience, Miss Cowling enjoyed living in the Barbizon Hotel, built in 1926, and, appropriately, on the corner of Lexington Avenue. "I've often thought that was very serendipitous," she reflects. "If my life were a story, the location would definitely be classified as foreshadowing."



The pull of Kentucky and of The Lexington School was irresistible, of course. Headmaster **Norton G. Pritchett Jr. (H'81)** offered her a position, and in August 1975, Miss Cowling returned to teach seventh grade history, drama, and composition. Intending to stay just a year, she demonstrates that the rest … is history: "I fell in love with the profession, the challenge, and the joy of it all, the fulfillment of it all. It's a job that's never done, never the same, never dull. I had to stay!"

In remembering the founding of The Lexington School by **Josephine Abercrombie (H'00)**, Miss Cowling emphasizes, "The school has always stressed the importance of knowing the facts and the sequence of events. The school has always stressed, too, the importance of independent thought and interpretation. These are cornerstones of TLS, some of the reasons we turn out strong citizens of the world. Our students are people who have done their homework, who know the facts, and who prize the encouragement of independent thought. This is a school that has always respected the individual, that has always made the effort to get to know the individual. We celebrate individuality here."

Among Miss Cowling's classroom treasures is a collection of students' papier-mâché recreations of canopic jars, modeled after those the Egyptians used for internal organs of the pharaoh during the embalming process.



Well beyond the doors of TLS, Miss Cowling has been the ambassador for The Lexington School's history department. Not content just to teach history to classrooms of eager TLS learners all day long, Miss Cowling sought out history in the greater Lexington community, as a tour guide at Henry Clay's Ashland, where she could study and share the legacy of the Great Compromiser. She also acted as head docent at both the Mary Todd Lincoln Home and the Hunt-Morgan House, organizing and authoring tours, and managing the gift shops.

Down the Nile

EARLY IN THE sixth grade school year, Miss Cowling introduces her students to Mesopotamia, the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Cradle of Civilization. Then it's on to Egypt, Cairo, the Nile, Rameses the Great and other pharaohs, to pyramids, sphinx, Thebes, and the Valley of the Kings, site of at least 60 royal tombs.

Miss Cowling has a particular fondness for stories of Tutankhamun, whose reign began at age 9 and was over before he was 20. It's impossible not to be enthralled by Miss Cowling's vivid descriptions of 18th Dynasty Egypt, inspiring students to incribe their own messages in brightly colored hieroglyphics, a language extinct since the



4th Century, but utterly alive at TLS. Student vocabularies – and horizons – have been expanded to include polytheistic, sarcophagus, cartouche, funerary, Isis, Akhenaton, and Osiris.



Miss Cowling becomes especially animated as she speaks of revered Egyptologists, England's 5th Earl of Carnarvon (George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Herbert) and Howard Carter, experienced archaeologist and trusted associate. With a collaboration in Egypt spanning 16 years, they shared many explorations, one of which was the tomb of Irtyru, undisturbed for 3,500 years, with bouquets of cornflower and wreaths completely intact and with original color. Irtyru's diadem still features the garland of delicate leaves and petals sewn together 35 centuries ago.

Lord Carnarvon and Mr. Carter are best known for their last discovery, King Tutankhamun's tomb, one of the most famous archaeological discoveries in history. The men were greatly respected throughout Egypt, but it was November 26, 1922, that their reputation gained worldwide notoriety. After clearing a passageway to the tomb, the only Egyptian tomb ever discovered intact, Mr. Carter was able to knock a hole through the door, revealing the antechamber, filled with chariots, statues, and furniture. Further inside were three additional rooms, packed floor-to-ceiling with treasures, containing provisions for the afterlife. The king's embalmed body was found inside three golden coffins, arms crossed in front of him, holding the two symbols of kingship, the crook and the flail.

In his diary Howard Carter wrote, "Presently my eyes grew accustomed to the light, details of the room within emerged slowly from the mist, strange animals, statues, gold … everywhere the glint of gold … for the moment an eternity…. I was struck dumb with amazement and, when Lord Carnarvon… enquired anxiously, 'Can you see anything?', it was all I could do to get out the words: 'Yes, wonderful things.'"

Miss Cowling's History Lessons

"SHE'S THE REASON I was a history major!" **Lambsy Bennett Graves '84** practically shouts. "She makes history class like a great soap opera; Miss Cowling's a storyteller from the get-go. She gave us intricately detailed background, would describe fascinating facts, build to an eye-popping crescendo … and then the bell would ring! Class was over … and it was usually a Friday; she did that on purpose! They were cliffhangers. Of course, she wouldn't tell us the end of the story, so we had to wait all weekend to find out what happened those centuries ago. That was in the days before the Internet, and all we had was a stack of *National Geographics*. She brought the people and the places alive. When she told us stories about King Tutankhamun, she made us feel as though we were climbing down those steps into the tomb beside Lord Carnarvon and Howard Carter."



Miss Cowling and some of her eighth graders celebrate stories from a recent history class.

As if it were last week instead of 30 years ago, Lambsy recites – almost verbatim – Miss Cowling's description of the Curse of Tutankhamun. Journalists reported an inscription near the door of the tomb, "Death shall come on swift wings to him who disturbs the peace of the King."

Already in poor health, Lord Carnarvon was bitten on the cheek by a mosquito as he relaxed on a dahabiyeh on the Nile. The bite became infected by a razor nick while he was shaving, and on April 5, 1923, within just weeks of the tomb's official opening, he died in Cairo's Continental-Savoy Hotel of pneumonia, brought on by septaecemia. At that exact moment and with no explanation whatsoever, every light went dark throughout all of Cairo. Concurrently, across the globe at Highclere, Lord Carnarvon's terrier Susie howled for hours, ran in circles, collapsed, and died. Shockingly, in Egypt Howard Carter's pet canary was found inside the mouth of a cobra. The first autopsy of Tutankhamun's mummy showed a healed lesion on his left cheek, close to the same spot Lord Carnarvon was bitten by the swift-winged mosquito.

Present day research indicates the Pharaoh may have died in January or February, with funeral preparations taking about 70 days. As the current Countess of Carnarvon relates, "Lord Carnarvon and Tutankhamun were each buried in the Spring, each chose lonely awe-inspiring burials, one in an arid desert foothill, the other on a windswept bleak Iron Age hill fort, the highest point on Highclere land. Each died from the effects of septaecemia."

Richard Bethell, Lord Carnarvon's secretary, died of heart failure four months after the opening of the tomb. Tutankhamun treasures were exhibited at museums throughout the world; both Arthur Mace of New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art and George Benedite of The Louvre in Paris died after the exhibitions.

Lady Evelyn, Lord Carnarvon's daughter who accompanied her father on the 2½-week journey from Highclere Castle to Luxor for the excavation, never returned to Egypt after her father's death. In 1972, she visited "The Treasures of Tutankhamun" in London's British Museum. Upon leaving, on the museum steps, she suffered a stroke.





Melanie Mauer Photography





History and Highclere Castle

TODAY, the 8th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon carry forward with honor the memory of his great-grandfather, the famed Egyptologist. The current Lord and Lady Carnarvon continue to live in Highclere Castle, North Hampshire, ancestral home since 1679, part of which was built in 1368. Throughout the year, they graciously welcome visitors into the Castle.

Sir Charles Barry, England's preeminent architect of the time who designed London's Houses of Parliament, transformed the Castle into its current magnificence in 1842, while Lancelot "Capability" Brown, Great Britain's most revered landscape architect, created proposals in 1770 for the 1,000-acre Highclere Park. Highclere gardening records date to medieval times, to 1218.

With specific interest in sharing their extensive Antiquities Collection, the current Lord and Lady emphasize that the castle is open to the public. Some 1,400 visitors come each day, a great number of them students. Today, housed in the Highclere cellars, the exhibition features, among other exquisite treasures, those rediscovered in 1987 at Highclere. As the 7th Earl unblocked the door between the drawing room and the smoking room, the longtime butler was the sole person who remembered items stowed inside a series of pigeonholes within the wall's thickness. Ironically, Howard Carter had described Highclere's long hidden artifacts, some of the 5,398 separate items found in the tomb, as "a few uninteresting items."

Within the tomb's Shrine Room is a series of four immense wall paintings, each masterfully represented at Highclere, from the ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead. Made of plaster and ochre, the detailed symbols and scenes give the Pharaoh knowledge necessary for his journey into the afterlife. Another popular exhibition highlight is the famed razor that Lord Carnarvon used on that fateful morning.

Sharing more recent history as well, Heroes at Highclere, this summer's centenary commemoration of the outbreak of World War I, drew a crowd of 15,000. As explored in the current Countess of Carnarvon's book, *Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey*, during the "Great War," Lady Almina, 5th Countess of Carnarvon, daughter of Alfred de Rothschild and wife of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, transformed Highclere into a hospital for wounded officers. Known throughout England as a thoughtful, caring woman, Lady Almina brought Highclere into the lives and hearts of many. With inspiration from Lady Almina, the current Countess continues Highclere's strong role in promoting peaceful global relations.

Egypt at Highclere: The Discovery of Tutankhamun and *Highclere Castle*, both written by Lady Fiona Carnarvon, 8th Countess of Carnarvon, offer deep insight into generations of the Carnarvon family and their beloved Highclere, known to many through the wildly popular



television program, *Downton Abbey*, first broadcast in 2010, now with a worldwide audience of 120 million.

The current Lady Carnarvon's book gives an in-depth tour of some of the 300 rooms, beginning with the great wooden doors of the gothic entrance hall, familiar to *Downton Abbey* viewers.

As Lady Carnarvon states, "Highclere Castle visitor books bear witness to the statesmen, writers, royalty, Egyptologists, journalists, friends and relations who came to stay."

Family portraits throughout the Castle unite the centuries of those who have lived at Highclere. The double library, shown often in the television program, features dark mahogany-painted double columns and gilded bookcases holding 5,650 volumes, dating from 1538. The ornately painted ceiling and 16th century Italian embroideries highlight the music room, which includes Napoleon Bonaparte's mahogany desk, "the most important piece of furniture in the house," as the Countess relates. The smoking room, morning room, the red staircase, gallery and gallery bedrooms are each well known to *Downton* devotees, as is the oak staircase, with its two 17th century tapestries at the base of the Great Tower. The saloon forms the heart of the Castle with its 50-foot vaulted ceiling, 20 painted heraldic shields, and splendid gilt leather wall hangings. In the dining room, much of the furniture was built specifically for the room, including the magnificent table, containing a mechanism for 12 extending leaves, allowing the table to seat 24. Sir Anthony van Dyck's impressive equestrian portrait of Charles I adds grandeur as well.

Stories of Highclere staff are popular, too, with those who watch *Downton Abbey*. Top floors of the Castle contain 50 to 80 bedrooms; the Carnarvon family and guests used approximately 35, while staff occupied the remainder. Maids lived on the top floors and footmen in the back wing; married staff were housed in cottages throughout the Park. The estate was managed by Lord Carnarvon's agent, who oversaw all aspects, from farming to forestry, the property at large, the Castle, and Highclere Stud.

Just as at *Downton*, within the Castle, the butler, Lord Carnarvon's valet, and the housekeeper were in great command. Highclere footmen wore smart navy liveries with Carnarvon crested buttons. Outdoor staff included 19 gamekeepers under the head gamekeeper, 20 gardeners under the head gardener, and 30 foresters under the head forester. The coachman had an under-coachman, 5 grooms, and a stable boy.

In working with her husband to keep Highclere history and tradition alive today, Lady Carnarvon says, "Opening the bedroom shutters here in the morning is still a privilege and peaceful."

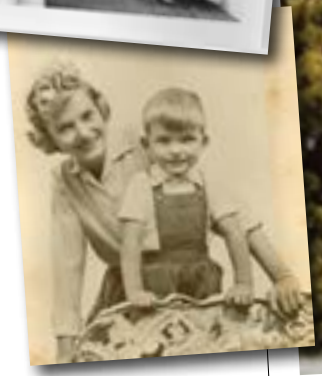
TLS Connections across the Ages and across the Ocean

NOT SURPRISINGLY, within the TLS family, there are a great number of connections with Highclere Castle, Highclere Thoroughbred Racing, and the Carnarvon family.

Kathy Brewer, wife of **Robert M. Brewer (H'72)** and mother of **Jeannie '77**, **Juliet '79**, and **Rob '85**, smiles warmly when she thinks of her longtime friend, Jean Wallop Herbert, the former Lady Porchester, 7th Countess of Carnarvon. The two women were roommates at Garrison Forest School, outside Baltimore, graduating in 1953. They have remained in contact over the years, seeing each other whenever possible, in Lexington; at Garrison Forest reunions, the most recent of which was their 60th last year; and in Big Horn, Wyoming, where the Dowager Countess grew up and still enjoys visit-

ing the Wallop family ranch. At right is Mrs. Brewer's photograph of her roommate on their Garrison Forest graduation day. Below that is a picture of the Countess with her first son, George, the 8th Earl of Carnarvon, the current Lord Carnarvon.







Mrs. Brewer, who enjoyed visiting Highclere as a house-guest in the mid-1950s after the Herberts were married in early 1956, consequently looks forward to each new series of the *Downton Abbey* saga. Of special interest to her is the 1838 Italian marble statue of two children on the lower flight of the oak staircase. Seen somewhat frequently throughout the television program, the sculpture is of the 4th Earl of Carnarvon and his sister Eveline. Eveline later married the Earl of Portsmouth, and their great-granddaughter, Jean Wallop, married Henry Herbert, the 4th Earl's great-grandson. Thus, Jean Wallop and Henry Herbert were third cousins.

During the 1970s, Elizabeth and Terence Collier, parents of **Allie Collier Barringer '93**, lived in Burghclere, near Highclere, in the County of Hampshire. Their house *(pictured above)* was located on part of the old Carnarvon Estate, and the Estate held the mineral rights. As Mrs. Collier notes with a smile, "In other words, if oil was discovered on our property, the money went to the Carnarvons, not to us!" Mr. Collier was very friendly with Michael Forsythe-Forest, stud manager of Highclere. Mr. Forsythe-Forest had numerous Jack Russells, one of which he had given to Lady Porchester, mother of the 8th Earl of Carnarvon and of Harry Herbert. The Colliers bought one of Lady Porchester's Jack Russell puppies, Jilly, and, Mrs. Collier continues, "When we left for distant shores, Jilly came too and lived with us on Long Island." Mr. Collier went to the Estate and the Castle often, to visit Lord Porchester, the 7th Earl of Carnarvon, racing manager for Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. At that time, Highclere's main stallion was Queen's Hussar, sire of Brigadier Gerard. Mrs. Collier remembers going to the Highclere Estate market garden, which was open to the public, saying, too, that Highclere is known for having some of the best pheasant shoots in the world.



As he visited Highclere Castle with Harry Herbert in the late 1980s, Charlie Boden, father of **Chas '20** and **Lila '22**, speaks of the breathtaking views of "Capability" Brown's gently rolling parkland and the nobility of the centuries-old, expansive cedar trees. Extensive gardens, each with its own personality and color palette, add to the enchantment. Mr. Boden recalls rooms filled with exquisite pieces of furniture. Especially noteworthy was the dark green leather-topped 1795 writing table which had belonged to Napoleon and had perhaps come from the Palace of Fontainebleau. Of particular interest, as well, was the Highclere wine cellar, which included champagne older than the United States. Mr. Boden, fascinated by secret passageways from one room to another throughout various parts of the house, says it was a "wide-eyed experience, my first look at a castle from the inside."

Blythe and Robert Clay, parents of **Heather '86** and **Case '89**, enjoyed an overnight visit at Milford Lake House, charming cottage on the Highclere grounds of the Dowager Countess, 7th Countess of Carnarvon. The Clays felt strongly the sense of living history as cabinet doors within the castle were opened to reveal treasures from thousands of years ago. Mrs. Clay especially enjoyed the natural beauty of the magnificent grounds surrounding Highclere.

In connecting multiple dots between The Lexington School and the Carnarvons of Highclere, one is reminded of the popular 1927 song, "I've Danced with a Man, who's Danced with a Girl, who's Danced with the Prince of Wales."

A Visit from Highclere

On a warm, sunshine-filled September afternoon in 2001, still precious in Miss Cowling's memory, Harry Herbert, a great-grandson of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, graciously visited her classes. She recounts, "As word rippled through Middle School that we would have such a distinguished guest, more and more students wanted to hear him. We quickly decided my classroom would be overflowing, so we moved into the theater to include all of our sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth graders." Miss Cowling was struck with how beautifully chosen Mr. Herbert's words were, saying, "He spoke with specificity of his great-grandfather's discovery and the students were spellbound. You could have heard a pin drop. It was a day I will never forget. It was an honor to have him at The Lexington School."

In Fall 2001 *Pinpoints*, **Whitney Martin '88** writes, "He began his presentation by describing his great-grandfather, who was considered an 'Indiana Jones' of his time. The adventurous Earl owned one of the first automobiles ever invented. After a car accident – in which the Earl was traveling at only two or three miles an hour – he was sent to recover in Egypt's dry heat."

Celebrating the story and achievements of Lord Carnarvon, Mr. Herbert brought the magic and mystery of Egypt to TLS; he gave detailed descriptions of the discovery and the curse. Afterward, students were eager to ask questions about the life and the death of the 5th Earl.

Miss Cowling stresses that the Carnarvon family, through the generations, respect and protect their heritage, saying, "They don't just treasure it in a hands-off way, but treasure it as a thriving and most important part of their lives. If you are intrigued by history, you want to learn from it. We, as Kentuckians, take pride in our history as well. We treasure what we have and protect it for the future. It is not a passive wish."

Through The Lexington School's outstanding history department and through her most engaging personality, Miss Cowling has given the gift of enjoyment of history to thousands of students. She has brought "wonderful things" to each of her classes.

Editor's Note: Pinpoints *warmly thanks Lord and Lady Carnarvon (the 8th Earl and Countess of Carnarvon) and Mr. Harry Herbert, brother of the Earl, for their invaluable help with this article.*

The Lexington School salutes the Carnarvons and the Herberts for their diligence and their graciousness, through the generations, in preserving and sharing their familial history.




Tales of a Tomb

Head *Lines*

NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

STORIES of gore and war. Stories of deceit and treachery. Stories of the underdog. Stories about love. Stories of inspiration.

Bringing history to life for countless students is what Margaret Cowling has been doing at The Lexington School for almost four decades. In this issue of *Pinpoints*, we acknowledge the impact Miss Cowling has had on generations of TLS students by telling *her* story of telling stories. Often when I meet alumni, they share stories of their time at TLS – the sports teams they played on, the day they met their best and lifetime friends on the playground, and of course they tell stories about teachers who changed their lives.

For a school with a short history, The Lexington School has had its share of legendary teachers who have given their careers to educating young children. Some of those faculty members bring history to life, make science a verb, give voice to a young singer, offer understanding to numbers, or help organize words and sentences into compelling essays. There is something quite remarkable about the craft of teaching. More importantly, though, those students follow up their descriptions of "legendary" teachers with stories of life lessons learned. In Miss Cowling's case, I often hear, "She taught me more than a love of history; she taught me how to study and take notes. It's a life skill that created a way of life that allowed me to succeed in school and accomplish what I have today."

That is the essence of a TLS education. Our teachers build the foundations to a lifelong love of learning. Too often, elementary school gets brushed aside as play in comparison to secondary school or college or graduate school, when in reality a strong foundation is what makes everything else possible. These early years are the **most** important, not the **least**. Ms. Abercrombie knew this when she founded The Lexington School and created a school to celebrate those years. Aren't we all fortunate to have The Lexington School?

Here's to teaching history, making history, and living history.

With gratitude for a job I love,

Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School











Melanie Mauer Photography

outside the lines

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COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2010

Ben Alexander ..... Bluegrass Community and Technical College
William Beck ..... University of Virginia
Simon Boes ..... Sewanee: The University of the South
Carter Brewer ..... Wake Forest University
Rachel Buley ..... Fashion Institute of Technology, New York
Brett Butzer ..... Centre College
Patterson Callahan ..... University of Kentucky
Amelia Collins ..... Sarah Lawrence College
Gates Corman ..... University of Kentucky
Leo de Castro ..... Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Robert Dence ..... Transylvania University
Ryan Draper ..... University of Pennsylvania
Ben Evers ..... Vanderbilt University
Lulu Farish ..... University of Virginia
Dylan Farrell ..... Georgetown University
Emma Ferrier ..... Birmingham-Southern College
Will Freeman ..... University of Virginia
Austin Gardner ..... Colgate University
Mary Austin Hacker ..... University of Georgia
Michael Kamer ..... University of Virginia
Tricia Kepf ..... Northern Kentucky University
Kevin Klein ..... Bellarmine University
Steven Klein ..... University of Kentucky
Emma Lillelund ..... Gap Year; Copenhagen Business School
Bridgette Mangold ..... Bellarmine University
Morgan Markowitz ..... Sullivan University
Griffin Mason ..... Centre College
Falon McGinty ..... Centre College
Chris Merchak ..... University of Cincinnati
Noah Mitchell ..... Furman University
Anthony Molyviatis-deKwiatkowski ..... Gap Year
Will Pagan ..... Cornell University
Emory Parsons ..... Southern Methodist University
Leah Pederson ..... Georgetown College
Bo Phillips ..... Vanderbilt University
Andrew Polites ..... Tulane University
Harris Qazi ..... Emory University
Ellen Ray ..... Centre College
Sophia Rodriguez ..... Denison University
Adil Siddiqi ..... Centre College
Luke Stidham ..... University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Lauren Stigers ..... Pepperdine University
Chloe Talbott ..... University of Kentucky
Tyler Terrill ..... University of South Carolina
Hailey Trawick ..... University of San Diego
William Vennes ..... Eckerd College
Laine Wald ..... Western Kentucky University
Haydn White ..... Boston College

Pin Prints



Fifth grader Donald Buckley watches in amusement as his horrified partner, McGuire Neuman, discovers just how disastrous chemical change can be.



Eighth graders Luke de Castro and Michael Duzyk lead the school-wide Founder's Day celebration.



The Moore sisters – Wells, Pre-K, and Carys, Acorns – delight in their balloon animals at Fall Festival. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



Alongside fifth grade Learning Center buddy Dant Bowling, proud first grader Kristian Middleton displays his leaf animal.



Seventh and eighth graders celebrate Spirit Wear Day. Front Row: Lewis Pride, Molly McLay, Caroline Hager, Tori McLaughlin, Sarah Belin, Michael Duzyk, and Hiba Malik. Back Row: Connor Perry, Audra Ferrier, Sean Givens, Reace Marshall, Alex Rudder, Maha Iqbal, and Ariyana Rhodes.



In a varsity home game against Beaumont, eighth grader Louie Kessinger moves the football down the field for the Colts.



Oceanside learning suits seventh graders on Barrier Island, outside Charleston, SC.



Learning Center fourth-grader Evie Campbell carefully constructs her outdoor creation, inspired by British artist Andy Goldsworthy.



At Green River Preserve, outside Hendersonville, NC, sixth grader, Grace Umansky, concentrates on whittling, part of the honored Cherokee tradition.



During the Honor Code Assembly, sixth grader Caitlin Hinds signs the honor pledge, while classmates Mathilde Longbottom, Tia Jackson, Morgen Rader, and Ashley McLaughlin await their turns.



TLS Cats fans of all ages gather at the fourth annual Tailgate: Jagger Morita, KinderKlasse; Bridger Sullivan, Acorns; and Jake Morita, Pre-K.



Science and discovery occur every day on the playground for Prekindergartner entomologist Scarlett Ochs.

Pin Prints



Fourth graders learning the history of Fort Boonesborough include Wills Milward, Ben Pund, Jay Fowler, Charlie Jefferson, and Clay Monohan.



Learning takes place around the Montessori table, as Mrs. Neese observes Tori and Teago Tovar, Hamza Iqbal, and Poppy Karthikeyan. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



Librarian Laurie Nawor brings story time alive for first graders Colin Nuzzo, Austin Boneta, and Ellie Hiler. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



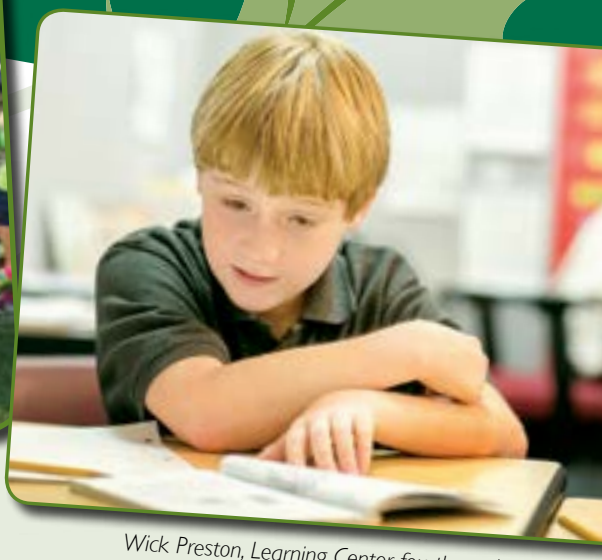
"Open the door, let the audience in; We're gonna put on a show." Under the direction of Dr. Cooper and Mrs. Merritt, fifth graders enthusiastically welcome the ISACS Visiting Team.



Sharing a happy moment between classes are sixth graders Tia Jackson and McCall Rader. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



In a home cross country meet, from left, fourth grader Gigi Cornett; fifth grader Eva Duignan; Caitlin Hinds, and Mathilde Longbottom, both sixth grade, begin with power and determination.



Wick Preston, Learning Center fourth grader, is absorbed in reading and responding to his book. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



In Mr. Johnson's science classroom, seventh graders Isabel Brunker and Molly McLay measure precisely the amount of fluid in the container.



TLS Soccer *Front Row* Aidan Smith, Griffin Sims, Harrison Ward, John Sader, and Jhai Wright. *Middle Row* Dant Bowling, Everest Afshari, Parker Nurick, Ryan Absher, Woods Freeman, and Ryne Williams. *Back Row* Assistant coach Brad Doliner, Jackson Cornett, Davis Truitt, Paul Kamer, Hampton Jefferson, Tanner Given, Jack Lofwall, Max Barnett, Robert Farish, and head coach Josh Owens.



On the playground, second graders Andrew Campbell, Will Sajadi, and Max Hickman enjoy the sunshine at the beginning of the school year.



It's a thumbs-up at sixth grade lunch for Corey Givens, Jackson Cornett, Jhai Wright, and Harrison Ward. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



It takes teamwork in Kindergarten class, with Jade Baugh, Thomas Routt, and Ava Fallon collaborating with Mrs. Sloan. (Melanie Mauer Photography)

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Crystal Allen



In the dining hall, Crystal Allen, kitchen staff, ensures Montessori students have everything they need at lunchtime. These three- , four- , and five-year-olds are younger than those who once sat at her table while she earned her Sullivan University Associates of Science in Culinary Arts degree. Her Governor's Mansion externship as prep chef was especially exciting during Derby season.

Her now-sated youngsters departed, Crystal takes a moment to relate, "These children are really special and I learn something from them every day. Each of them is unique. They are very polite; they raise their hands when they have a question, and they know how to stay in their seats throughout lunch. They have good appetites, too."

Crystal is in her element in a busy kitchen and a bustling dining room.

Virginia Daugherty

Virginia Daugherty was a firmly entrenched TLS family member before she began as the Admission Office's administrative assistant.



Working two years with Preschoolers through fifth graders in Extended Day with Tomi Lounsbury gave her an in-depth opportunity to know the students well. Holding down the fort at the front desk also taught Virginia the school's rhythm and pace. A full-time UK student all the while, she has her degree in Integrated Strategic Communications with an emphasis on public relations.

With her strong TLS background, Virginia sits confidently at her Admission Office desk, knowing she can handle whatever comes across it. Relishing the center of activity, but savoring nature's peacefulness, too, Virginia particularly enjoyed accompanying the sixth graders to Green River.

Admission Office visitors appreciate Virginia's enthusiastic welcome.

Sarah Heller

Architect and artist, right-brain, creative thinker, Sarah Heller, lower school art teacher, brings a world of experience to the TLS art table. After practicing architecture in Berlin and Los Angeles for ten years, she returned home to teach architecture at UK, where she "came alive to teaching." As she says, "It feeds my own creativity and work."

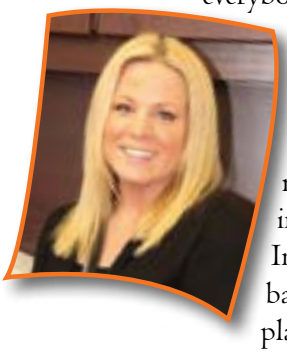


With both a bachelor's and a master's degree in architecture from UK, Sarah created a West Sixth Brewery mural and opened her painting studio at The Bread Box. Achieving her dream of pursuing visual art full time, Sarah gave children's private lessons and volunteered teaching art at The Nest Center for Women, Children, and Families. Last spring, she was TLS's Artist in Residence for Kindergarten.

Sarah is dyslexic and feels particular closeness to her Learning Center students: "Children's creativity and spirit are unmatched to most adults."

Sara Myatt

Sara Myatt, Development Office administrative assistant, who works closely with Amanda Hale and Mandy Helton, became enchanted with TLS when she was a preschool substitute teacher. "I loved walking down the halls and seeing people smile. I've never worked any place where everybody is so happy."



Sara's strengths of being well organized and detail oriented dovetail with the Development Office needs of strict precision in data base management. She has her master's in marketing and management from Indiana University and extensive background in fundraising and event planning (expertise crucial for smooth CELEBRATION planning). With wide-ranging experience in advertising and graphic design, Sara has worked in Lexington, Cincinnati, and San Francisco as office "traffic manager," the one who "puts it all together … on time and under budget."

Sara and husband Andy are proud parents of prekindergarten daughter **Harper Ward '24**.

Andrew Schwartz '00



It wasn't his plan. It never occurred to him when he was in TLS math class years ago, but his path has led back home. **Andrew Schwartz '00**, middle school math teacher, uncle of **Lucy Woodworth '19** and **William Woodworth '22**, admits, "Math has always come easily to me. It's clean and precise; I like that. The answers are black or white." He emphasizes, "The educational foundation I received here put me miles ahead in high school. My TLS background made me want to learn more and more."

Andrew earned his math-based economics degree from Wake Forest and did econ PhD work at Clemson. With his MBA from UK, where he did PhD marketing work, he taught two classes on the subject. Andrew delights in teaching, as he enjoys "watching people have those *ah ha* moments, watching them understand something they didn't understand before." Of his vivid memories of math baseball for Lanna Bell's test reviews, Andrew relates, "I'm a competitive person and we had two teams. Mrs. Bell wrote problems on the blackboard, and each team had a pitcher and a batter. The first person who answered was either on base or out." The answers are black or white.

Whitney Neuman Ward '91



As Learning Center Instructional Specialist for second, third, and fourth graders, **Whitney Neuman Ward '91**, sister of **Alex Neuman '86** and **Clay Neuman '89**, insists, "There is so much to love about teaching here. This is teacher heaven." She speaks with authority; last year she was a school-wide substitute teacher and taught part time for TLC. "I love the small groups and the strong relationships you build with students and faculty." Within those small groups, focused intently on each child's growth, Whitney teaches math, reading comprehension, social studies, writing, and grammar. She values having "the support from everybody – other teachers, administrators, parents, and students themselves."

A former child nutritionist with her UK master's in nutrition, Whitney earned her second master's, this one in education, from the University of the Cumberlands. She and husband Taylor agree an additional perk is that she comes to school every day with their children, **Harrison Ward '17**, **Miles Buchart '20**, and **Clay Buchart '22**.

Fielden Willmott '00



"I've already spent half my life here at TLS; I know all the nooks and crannies, and I have strong connections with our families." **Fielden Willmott '00**, daughter of **Beth Robinson Willmott '74** and sister of **Emily Willmott '04**, has come home, and she loves every minute of it, noting, "I'm teaching in my old sixth grade classroom. There's one of my literature books with my name in it on the shelf." From Camp Curiosity, Pre-K through ninth grade, her college internship with Laura Bonzo, her master's degree practicum again with Dr. Bonzo, substitute teaching throughout the school, and the long-term replacement for Mrs. Hogate's maternity leave, Fielden is proud to be a "TLS lifer."

Fielden wears multiple hats for her alma mater. As seventh grade English teacher and College Planning Services associate planner, she is also a celebrated milliner, enjoying national celebrity for her signature hat designs. Graduating from Chatham Hall and Centre College, she earned her Master of Arts in Teaching at Morehead State University. Emphasizing again the continuum of her TLS devotion, she notes that she taught as a regular substitute when most of her current students were fourth graders, "I'm part of the fabric of TLS. It's nice to come back to work in a place where I'm already loved."

Pin *Notes*

NINTH GRADE CLASS OF 2004



From Atlanta, **Tyler Adkins '04** writes that he graduated from Auburn University with a degree in wireless engineering and a minor in business. Using that degree, he works today as a wireless engineer for Connectivity Wireless, designing and installing large-scale cellular networks in arenas, stadiums, hospitals, NASCAR tracks, and equine tracks, among others.

While Tyler is an avid golfer and enjoys experiencing all that Atlanta has to offer, he is also regional marketing manager for Southern Tide, classic clothing company. He makes time to return to Auburn for football games and to reconnect with college friends.

Alvin Lin '04, **JP Stilz '04**, and Tyler still remain close friends and catch up whenever he comes back to town. Tyler says Mrs. Lounsbury's science class was his favorite, as he specifically points out "the engaging learning centers and all the hard work that went into them." Too, he remembers "the ever envious Bonzo English class. I think all of us were rattled every day in that class, but looking back, it was a great foundation to build on for later English classes." Academics aside, Fall Festival, haunted houses in the little gym, Little Kentucky Derby, and PE class were highlights of the day for Tyler.



Katherine Bandoroff '04 lives in Cincinnati and works as a cardiac ICU nurse in the 598-bed Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She reminisces, "Although I graduated ten years ago, I feel like I really never left TLS. Between working Camp Curiosity, shuttling younger siblings, helping as a teacher's aid, and coaching soccer, I have stayed closely connected to the halls of TLS. I am most grateful for the lifelong friendships and solid foundation TLS has provided me."



After **Elizabeth Bell '04** graduated from Vanderbilt University with majors in studio art and art history, she received her master's in contemporary art from Sotheby's Institute of Art in New York. She now lives in Dallas and works for Heritage Auctions' fine art department.

"The Bell family is doing wonderfully, all of us scattered, living in different places," she says. "**Thomas '98** is in Uganda; **Juliana '01** in Atlanta with her new husband; and **Jacqueline '07** in Boulder, CO, graduating from college in May.

"I feel so blessed and lucky to have gone to TLS and I have many, many great memories. It was the teachers who made my childhood and pre-teen years at TLS so special. Even the little life lessons they taught have stuck with me through the years. Just yesterday, I got my hair cut and remembered what Mr. Hardesty would say: 'I didn't just get *a* hair cut, I got *all* of my hairs cut.' It's the little things. Happy ten years, Class of 2004!"



As a new member of the TLS Alumni Council, **Ann Cowden '04** looks forward to reconnecting with the TLS universe over the coming year. The every-other-month luncheon meetings give her an opportunity to feel part of the current TLS, as AC members enjoy Chef Ryan's healthful and delicious dining hall selections.

Now in her final year of UK Pharmacy School, Ann hopes to remain near Lexington for her residency, helping her stay in close contact with **Katherine Bandoroff '04** in Cincinnati.

Ann remembers TLS Holiday Concerts with particular fondness: "I loved dressing up and singing in front of all our parents and teachers, with the excitement and anticipation of a holiday right around the corner. There was no better feeling, and no sweeter memory."



Marie-Claire Day '04 received her UK psychology degree in 2011, completed her UK master's in counseling psychology in 2013, and finished a specialist degree in counseling psychology this past May. She lives in Lexington, is a licensed professional clinical counselor associate, and works as a therapist at a Madison County non-profit community mental health center.

Marie-Claire attended TLS from first through third grades and her fondest memory is of "Miss Bale with Paddington's house. He would 'move' around while we were out of the room."

Katharine Freeman '04 has begun UK medical school, as shown in the photo at right from her White Coat Ceremony. She spent six months after high school volunteering in an Honduran orphanage, then graduated with an anthropology degree from Sewanee. She completed a one-year research fellowship for the Yale Child Study Center and Sewanee. She lives now with her sister, Hart, a nurse, and they recently have added Odessa, a puppy, to the mix.



Katharine remembers best when her class painted their lounge, saying, "In fact, I recently found the jeans I wore that got a huge swatch of yellow paint on them from playing around that day. It was my first opportunity to get to know the whole class, and they made me feel so welcome. I spent a large amount of time in that lounge, and find I miss it! It would be great for studying during medical school!"



Caroline Boone Graham '04 graduated from Louisiana State University, has married Michael Graham, Louisiana native, and they live in Uptown New Orleans. She works for Bellwether Technology, a local IT firm, as their executive assistant and office manager, while studying to become a real estate agent. Caroline speaks warmly of the strong bond of TLS students: "It's hard to find anywhere else. Even if we haven't seen or spoken to each other on a regular basis, we all know we can call someone up, and we'll pick up right where we left off. That means a lot."



Colleen Gross '04 lives in Los Angeles where she frequently catches up with **Julie Burchett '04** and **Chris Floyd '04**, shown in photo at right with **Chase Minnifield '04**. Colleen works in the music industry, primarily in production and merchandise. This summer, she began touring across the US and Canada with the band *Heart*. Colleen reflects fondly on the Southwest trip, saying, "It really brought our grade together and I have wanted to visit Zion again ever since."



Alvin Lin '04 took great inspiration from Miss Cowling, saying some of his favorite memories are of her "awesome history classes." Pointing out he has his UK degree in history and political science, Alvin emphasizes, "She is the one who inspired me to pursue history in-depth." He is owner of The Joy Luck, a popular Louisville restaurant and bar, where he takes a moment also to salute Mr. Gunn. "He was amazing. His sense of humor made the entire class laugh, and I looked forward to his classes when I was his student. It also helped that I played on the chess team with him!"



In Indianapolis, **Kelsey Miller '04** is an elementary school speech-language pathologist, educating high-poverty students in the Wayne Township area. Each week she assists approximately 70 children – in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language, nonetheless!

In 2011, Kelsey graduated summa cum laude from UK with a B.A. in Communication Sciences and Disorders. At Indiana University in 2013, she earned her M.A. with honors in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Disorders. She has received her Certificate of Clinical Competence (or "Cs" as speech-language pathologists call it) from the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, making her officially Kelsey Miller, M.A., CCC-SLP. Plans are afoot for her to begin her own company to deliver speech-language therapy services.

Kelsey (pictured with her dog, Layla, who is a therapy dog in training) also hasn't forgotten the "Binaca Mint Spray War" she had with classmate **Evan Lounsbury '04** on the bus to Green River. "Evan and I were in the range of 70-some sprays each, both laughing as tears flowed from our eyes because our mouths felt like they were on fire," as Kelsey remembers, "Despite our peers cheering us on, Evan reached his Binaca limit and I claimed victory at around 130 sprays."



From Orcas Island in Washington State's San Juan Island chain, **Betsy Wilson '04** (pictured with sister **Maggie '06**) reports she has been offered a job at the Orcas Island Food Co-Op. She hopes to continue her love for sustainable agriculture and food on the island known as the gem of the San Juans. For Spring 2013 *Pinpoints*, Betsy described her employment opportunities in Ireland through the WWOOF Program, World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms. Betsy welcomes TLSers to Orcas Island and looks forward to an alumni gathering there any time.



The Lexington School family mourns the death of **Bill Patterson '81** on September 29. Brother of **Lee Patterson Maguire '83** and **Christian Patterson '85**, Bill was a gifted photographer, capturing 15 years of TLS activity. His exceptional pictures, particularly his shots of athletic competition, added tremendously to *Pinpoints*.

Bill worked closely with David Coyle *(who captured Bill in his element, above, shooting UK football in 2003)*, TLS graduation photographer since 1985, who says, "Bill was a great champion for the school; he seemed to know almost every family and faculty member, and sang their praises to any audience that would listen. He was one of the kindest and most decent men I have known."

Bill's Artist's Statement for a 2001 exhibition included the following:

I took up photography in 1994 to help pass time after being critically injured in a bicycle accident.

While recovering, I found myself looking at life from an entirely new perspective. I began to notice, and more importantly appreciate, the wonder and beauty that surrounds us every day. I began to notice many things that would remain hidden and go unrecognized if one didn't take time to look at them. I have found that everything, from people and animals to insects and flowers, has its own unique personality and beauty.



The Lexington School extends deepest sympathy to the family of **Matt Waldman '01**, who died on September 6. Matt is survived by his mother, Kathy, active TLS volunteer; his father Ric, former board of trustees member; and siblings **Caleigh '03** and **Daniel '05**. Matt was completing his EMT certification, with plans to continue as a psychiatric nurse, having worked at Eastern State Hospital.

Greg Ladd '01, Matt's close friend since they were in Kelly Eichhorn's second grade together, reflects, "Matt was a great friend, a gifted hockey and lacrosse player, and was exceptionally bright. He had a boisterous and infectious laugh that his classmates and I, and certainly his teachers, will always remember."

Ms. Eichhorn, too, recalls, "Matt was a beautiful little boy, who came into my classroom with great curiosity and his own agenda. He was bright, determined, and knew if you were genuine or not. Matt was one of those unforgettable, precious ones who have my heart."

Grandparents Day 2014!

It was another wonderful year for one of TLS's most beloved events, Grandparents Day. Grandparents and special friends filled the gym for a standing-room-only Boo Sing, one of the highlights of Preschool through third grade. In addition, fourth graders gave a rousing preview of their Kentucky Heritage Day selections with favorite songs, and proud fifth graders brought many in the audience to tears with their grand Salute to the Armed Forces. Also wildly popular was the debut of a photo-booth, a scene of much laughter. Here are some moments from the hallways and classrooms of school on the big day:



TOP Ms. Willmott, the mermaid, churns up a sea of improvised vocabulary skits for all ages in seventh grade English class.

SPIRALING FROM TOP LEFT Third graders Jack Pund, Isabel Police, Freddie Duignan, Greer Webb, and Abby Rubin take center stage at Boo Sing; Britt Banks and her grandmother, Mrs. Batterton, salute Halloween day fun at TLS; Scooby-Doo and Gee have always had a close bond. Trey Watts and his grandmother, Mrs. Houchin, attend sixth grade science class together; Learning Center sixth grader Colby Taylor plays pentominoes with family friend Mrs. de Castro; Grace Umansky and her grandfather, Mr. Umansky, take their turn in the spotlight in Mrs. Johnson's sixth grade classroom; Never ever to be outdone around Halloween, Mr. Griggs presents his Batman universe advisor group: Will Medley (The Penguin), Hart Hallos (Robin), Conner Schell (Commissioner Gordon), Matthew Bernard (Alfred), Nate Steiner (Two-Face), Matt Halpin (The Riddler), Mr. Griggs (Mr. Freeze), Alex Totty (Bane), and Conor Harrison (Batman); Jordan Backers shares a hug with his grandmother, Mrs. Burnside, in Kindergarten; Seventh grader Skye Park and her grandmother, Mrs. Sung, do a skit together; and Kindergartner Emma Miller is the friendliest shark her grandfather, Mr. Eubank, has ever seen.



Each New Year inspires us to look to the future.

As we celebrate the close of a wonderful 2014
and look ahead to the new year, we thank all members of
the Abercrombie Legacy Society who have included
The Lexington School in their estate plans.

If your New Year's resolution involves future planning,
Please contact Amanda Hale at ahale@thelexingtonschool.org

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Learn how you can join the Abercrombie Legacy Society in 2015
www.thelexingtonschool.org/legacygiving

College Planning Services: Every Step of the Way

IT'S FOUR STEPS from The Lexington School's double front door to the College Planning Services office. Four steps that lead to a whole new world – a world of continued growth and a world of endless opportunity. It's not easy beginning a journey toward another world, but it's that first step – or those first four steps – that is crucial. Those first four steps of the pathway to college have proven invaluable for over 200 students since Laura Bonzo reached out her hand to help her first students find their way a decade ago.



Fielden Willmott, Laura Bonzo and Linn Jefferson work together and separately to help students for the college of their dreams. *Below* Heidi Royse gives essential support to College Placement Services.

The college application process is fraught with emotion for student and parent alike, both generations striving mightily for success, both generations looking toward the future, understandably, through different lenses. With 74 clients this year, Laura Bonzo, Linn Jefferson, and **Fielden Willmott '00** help narrow the focus and give solid assistance every step of the way. Between eighth grade English class and her first CPS client meeting of the afternoon, during this busiest time of the year, from the beginning of school through November, Dr. Bonzo emphasizes, "The most important thing we do is help the student find the college that is *the best fit*. That is our success – helping our clients find *the best fit*. It is wonderful when they begin with us during the freshman year. We can see their strengths and challenges then, and can help guide their interests, help them manage the college application creep [increasing admission pressure, earlier and earlier in high school]. We help navigate those moments and those decisions that might keep a door open for what they want to choose as their next step after the senior year." She pauses before adding, "This process is an education for the entire family, parents included. We often hear from parents that working with us keeps the parent/child relationship from becoming all about getting into college. We help manage the family-wide anxiety that can come with the college process."

Under Dr. Bonzo's close supervision, associate planners Mrs. Jefferson, fifth grade math teacher, and Ms. Willmott, seventh grade English teacher, assist in setting goals for students. They assist the young adults in handling the transition into high school by identifying strategies to help them with success both in the classroom and in the community, and they stress the importance of making good choices, academically and socially. Dr. Bonzo meets with Mrs. Jefferson and Ms. Willmott weekly, discussing details of upcoming appointments and assessing specific client needs.

With trademark enthusiasm, Dr. Bonzo practically cheers, "It is a dynamic relationship with all three of us working together to provide the best opportunities for the students." She stresses Ms. Willmott's inspiring creativity, her natural inclination toward the arts, and emphasizes that she "identifies and fosters service opportunities students haven't considered. She helps them steer their way through the beginnings of high school." Ms. Willmott accentuates that their office is college *planning*, rather than college *placement*. Echoing Dr. Bonzo's words, she says, "We strive to find the right fit; that is our goal. We are also focused on the high school experience, helping them develop their interests, encouraging them to become involved in their communities."

Highlighting Mrs. Jefferson's math-science and liberal arts expertise, Dr. Bonzo asserts, "Linn is unstoppable. She is a problem-solver. She is resourceful. She establishes solid and lasting relationships and is comforting to students." Mrs. Jefferson notes that she had many CPS

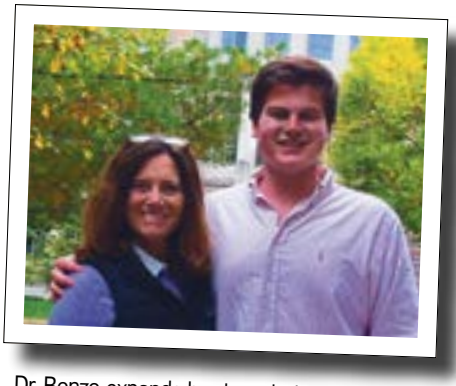




Dr. Bonzo and **Grace Wald '11** share a light moment during college research.

> "The most important thing we do is help the student find the college that is *the best fit*. That is our success: helping our clients find *the best fit*."
>
> *Dr. Laura Bonzo*

clients as fifth grade math students and, "It is a real pleasure to get to know them again as young adults; they've grown and matured. We talk about building résumés and the importance of time management. I am an advocate for them, and I teach them to advocate for themselves."



Dr. Bonzo expands her knowledge of current campus life during a visit with **Russie Hunter '09** at Butler University.

Right Ms. Willmott and Mrs. Jefferson work through options with Sara Khandani, a student in the Dunbar MSTC program.

Assisting all three women is the well organized Heidi Royse, the behind-the-scenes woman, who, according to Dr. Bonzo, "makes it all happen, seamlessly, efficiently, and most pleasantly. Without her, CPS would not be as strong and well-grounded a program as it is." In her seventh year of support for the program, Mrs. Royse researches college requirements for applications, tracks data, sends appointment reminders, and ensures that all communication between parents, students, and planners is reliable and consistent.

"We aren't looking to grow as big as we can get," explains Dr. Bonzo. "We want to maintain the personal connection. We want to continue to know our students personally and well. We value our wide-ranging discussions with each student, creating strong relationships with them, and, of great importance, listening to them."

Dr. Bonzo points out, too, that CPS is not just for Lexington School students; 13% of total CPS clients throughout the past ten years are non-TLSers, with 16% of today's clients coming from schools other than TLS. In fact, Darrin Banks, father of **Sam '15** and **Britt '24** and new TLS parent from Eastern Kentucky, has lots to say on this subject. Sam and Britt's older sister, Berry, is a client of CPS. As Mr. Banks explains, "We came from a very different environment, a rural area with fewer resources, with academic counseling budget shortfalls in our school system. The schools can't provide the attention each student requires or deserves. Without some guidance, these kids are at a severe competitive disadvantage. TLS's College Planning Services is exactly the type of program to help our kids compete on a level playing ground." From the TLS perspective, Mr. Banks underscores the compelling importance of CPS in introducing his family to The Lexington School. "After our first appointment with Dr. Bonzo – we were still in the parking lot – I turned to [my wife] Leigh and said, 'I wish we could find a way to get Sam and Britt into The Lexington School.' I am not much on hyperbole, but there is no doubt this school is exactly what our children need – strong academics, small classes. We deeply appreciate TLS." He sums it up by proclaiming, "There is no better ambassador than Dr. Bonzo to convey what TLS represents."

It's just four steps from The Lexington School's double front door to the College Planning Services office. Those four steps can make a world of difference.



Thoughts on the Importance of Independent Education

by Jay Philpott '93



***Jay Philpott '93**, Director of Advancement at St. George's Independent School (PK-12) in Memphis, TN, leads a team specializing in four unique areas – alumni, development, admission, and communication – each advancing the school forward. Jay takes time from office spreadsheets and operating budgets to reflect on the lifelong importance of The Lexington School education that he and his siblings, **Cameron Philpott Chason '88** and **John Philpott '88**, hold dear.*

Worth The Investment

Independent education is definitely worth the investment. I like to say that providing the best possible education to a child is one of the only things you can invest in that doesn't go out of style. Research from the Urban Child Institute shows the tremendous impact of making this investment as early, and for as long, as possible in terms of long-term language, vocabulary, and brain development. I sometimes hear families say they'll start an independent education closer to high school; unfortunately, the research shows a quality early childhood and elementary education is crucial. Yes, it is a significant expense, and the returns are sometimes not apparent quarterly. I call them "tuition dividends." I try to tell my own parents how thankful I am for all the sacrifices they made to provide this education I received. In the daily grind, TLS may have families wondering if the investment is worth it. Stay the course, I say. In fact, double down.

Love Learning

It is important for elementary schools to inspire a love of learning and a sense of creativity and wonder. Whether it was tramping about the property studying plants or going to McConnell Springs to see the impact garbage was having on the natural habitat, I got hands-on experience that left me with a passion for learning. Elementary and early childhood teachers at TLS help create confident young people who believe they can become who they want to be.

FAIL

Tuition does position young people to receive the best education possible, but it shouldn't protect children from experiencing failure. TLS teaches young people to be resilient and to expect and overcome failure. School wasn't easy for me, and I am thankful TLS didn't try to make it so. I experienced failure – plenty of it. Fortunately, through great parenting, teaching, prayer, and the acquisition of some of Kentucky's good horseracing spirit, failures became not dead ends, but part of the way forward. Independent schools often have the time, resources, and shared values that make it possible to ask a teacher, administrator, minister, or other leader for input, guidance, and direction.

Flap Your Wings

The Lexington School helped me feel confident in flapping my own wings and charting my own course. Independence can be a tough skill for a young person to acquire these days. I remember several times when I made decisions that reflected less my own values and more a desire to comply with my adolescent peer group. Every time, a teacher challenged me, asked me to stay after class, or sat with me at lunch and asked me why I wasn't thinking for myself. I learned a lot from those experiences, and they helped me become more confident in making choices for myself as I grew up.

Schools Make Difficult Decisions Too

I am thankful I attended a school that was willing to make difficult decisions. While I probably wasn't aware of it as a student, as a school administrator today, I can look back and realize TLS made brave choices on a routine basis. I know they defended new teachers who had a passion for teaching but may have occasionally made mistakes. I know the school wasn't afraid to make bold curriculum, funding, and administrative decisions in order to remain innovative, creative, and strong. By modeling that behavior – taking calculated risks, apologizing for stumbles, and growing from mistakes – TLS teaches its students how to do the same.

Giving Matters

TLS reinforced the generosity my parents also taught by example. I learned at a young age how volunteering makes schools run smoothly. I learned that all parents have an obligation to participate in their child's parent conferences, classroom snacks, and even in more formal committees and service if possible. While I attend-

ed TLS, the school undertook a large capital expansion. I saw firsthand how parents and families helped build a school's future through making their own gifts to sustain and provide for it.

Upgrade

Working in Advancement on a daily basis, I sometimes hear how hard it is for alumni to return to their schools and see changes that were made in their absence. *Where's my old classroom? Where's my favorite teacher?* I get it – I do. Alumni, parents of graduates, and others may cherish what was ... but we also must respect and demand that TLS remains innovative, nimble, and able not just to keep up with but to help shape the future. A school's job is to continue to provide the best education to current and future students, not to exist as a museum to students of the past. So, please – go ahead and change out the carpet. Undertake big renovations. Plan for new facilities.

Pay Attention

I am not sure whether I learned this more at school or at home, but I know I left TLS with an understanding that paying attention paid off. Whether it was learning how to take notes on note cards, actively listening when someone was talking, or asking questions along the way, I picked up a lot of attention skills that serve me well today.

Carpool

Whatever happened to carpooling? I recall carpool far more fondly today than I regarded it as a child. I actually learned a lot from being one of the kids piled in together in the "way back" on the way to school. Yes, we must share. No, we are not all alike. Yes, sometimes the ride will be uncomfortable and bumpy. No, the driver cannot reach back and referee whatever squabble breaks out among passengers, so we'd better learn to handle it ourselves. Sometimes today, I think we as parents rush in too quickly to make things easy and convenient for our kids.

Think About The Future

Endowments matter. I know TLS has remained creative, innovative, viable, and unique because TLS families have always cared about the school's future. Being exceptional, as I believe TLS is, doesn't happen overnight, nor is it something that can last forever without continual participation and generosity. Today's students and parents inherited a gem: a time-tested school culture, buildings they didn't build and discounted tuition made possible by investments they didn't make. Every family has a responsibility to help make sure TLS is built to last. Giving to the Annual Fund and long-term capital campaigns is how today's families provide for the future that the TLS families of the past provided for us.

THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL is a caring and nurturing environment where students can learn, take risks, and grow through classes and activities that inspire confidence, compassion, and courage. Our students leave The Lexington School comfortable in the world and ready for any challenge. Is it any wonder our students *Totally Love School?* Please consider giving because you Totally Love *this* School.

THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL ANNUAL FUND

TLS

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this



New Trustees



Pem Madden Ausbrook '80

Pem Madden Ausbrook '80 has loved The Lexington School since she was three years old, in Montessori class. A TLS "lifer," who graduated from ninth grade, Pem doesn't remember when she *didn't* love it. She and husband Oz have ensured their son Aden's early memories will be of TLS as well. Now in The Learning Center's fifth grade, **Aden '18** began first grade the first year TLC opened.

Pem brings her strong voice to represent The Learning Center on the board, saying, "Jane [Childers] has excellent teachers who find the students' strength and work toward it. I especially like how they focus on art and music. Science is a huge part of their curriculum too; they build robots and rockets, do dissections, and the Talent Workshop is extremely impressive."

As assistant chair of Library Services, Pem is an enthusiastic supporter of the Listening Library, helping the collection grow from 20 books on tape to over 100. Pem points out, "The 52 kids in The Learning Center have resources to read with their ears. They enjoy coming to the library; it's an open, fun, and welcoming place." Noting that one in five students has dyslexia, Pem stresses the critical need that The Learning Center fills throughout central Kentucky.

Exemplifying the TLS Philosophy Statement, Aden Ausbrook follows in his mom's TLS footsteps, learning in a nurturing environment where children feel confident.

Amy Duzyk

"Make yourself necessary. Make yourself matter. We're here for a reason."

Amy Duzyk and husband Darren stress those wise words to **Connor '14** and **Cooper '18**. Co-chair with Darren of CELEBRATION 2012, former room rep, driving force behind last Spring's rejuvenation of the Teachers Lounge, Amy Duzyk is here to help The Lexington School any way she can. A former event planner by trade, she says she is, "used to action rather than talking," but feels it a deep honor to be part of board discussions now, realizing, "there are huge shoes to fill; there is a huge footprint to follow."



Amy continues to be impressed with how well the faculty and administration know each student, noting that neither son has ever had the same teacher. Her presence on the school life committee is strengthened by her knowledge of what has worked well in years past, with a sharp eye and specific ideas of enhancements that can be made. She enjoys serving on the development committee as well, recalling that CELEBRATION 2012 was the first Celebration held at Scarlet Gate. "We were very particular about how we used that beautiful school property. We were setting a precedent." With a lifetime background, too, in the construction business, Amy is a natural on the building and grounds committee.

Amy Duzyk follows her own advice.



Kristi Runyon Middleton

Throughout the Bluegrass region, **Kristi Runyon Middleton** is well known for her 15-year, Emmy-Award-winning television and radio news career as anchor and reporter. She brings impressive skills to the board, as the self-proclaimed "recovering journalist" now taps into her insight of how journalists think and work to assist organizations in preparing media responses and public relations campaigns. A Western Kentucky University summa cum laude graduate with a degree in broadcasting and minor in Spanish, she is currently the PR manager for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS). An active member of the TLS board's marketing department, Kristi is a polished public speaker with longtime experience in video production. She is a seasoned crisis communicator, comfortable at working with academic and civic leadership, managing a wide-ranging variety of issues that can cause a level of concern.

With strong emphasis on education throughout her life, Kristi and husband Jervis value education at all levels. She notes their fraternal twin first grade sons, **Jordan '22** and **Kristian '22**, "began in Montessori I and TLS has been their only formal education. Our whole family loves The Lexington School and I am proud to serve on the board of trustees."

In Memoriam

IT IS WITH DEEP RESPECT AND WARM DEVOTION that The Lexington School pays tribute to the life of **Robert M. Brewer (H'72)**, who died September 15, 2014. Husband of Kathy Alexander Brewer, father of **Jeannie '77**, **Juliet '79**, and **Rob '85**, and grandfather of **Carter '10**, **Clay '12**, and **Smith '17**, Mr. Brewer, life trustee, was the longest serving president of the Board of Trustees, from 1971 until 1980.

As Chuck Baldecchi said to Mr. Brewer in a 2009 interview for the 50th Anniversary *Pinpoints*, "I consider myself a student of schools, and when I look back at The Lexington School's success, I see your and Mr. Pritchett's tenure and leadership as defining moments in the school's history. It needed stability, and you and Bud provided the school with leadership and constancy. For that, I want to say thank you."

In May, 2014, at Scarlet Gate, The Lexington School honored Mr. Brewer for his longstanding dedication and service, bestowing upon him The Lexington School Lifetime Service Award. Celebrating that occasion from North Carolina, **Norton G. Pritchett (H'81)** reflected, "It is my great pleasure to think back over the years – more than a decade, it was, from the late 1960s and throughout all of the 1970s – that Bob and I worked closely together there at The Lexington School."



Kelly Brewer, wife of **Rob '85** and mother of **Carter '10**, **Clay '12**, and **Smith '17**, painted this portrait in 2014, using the photograph from the 50th Anniversary *Pinpoints*, 2009.

On that springtime evening with the group gathered in the Scarlet Gate garden, surrounded by family and friends, current and former trustees, Mr. and Mrs. Brewer sat together as they listened to Chuck Baldecchi's words, "We learned from you how to take care of this school and for that, Sir, we say thank you from the bottom of our hearts!"

As well, **William T. Young Jr. '63**, stated, "I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the rest of my family for your vision, dedication, and leadership which helped move The Lexington School forward from a small day school founded in 1959 by Josephine Abercrombie and her family to the pre-eminent school that it is today, one of the best quality pre-kindergarten through eighth grade schools in the nation."

Pinpoints is a newsletter published by The Lexington School. Administrative Team: Charles Baldecchi, Jane Childers, Marijo Foster, Amanda Hale, Donna Hutton, Una MacCarthy, Beth Pride, Bob Thompson. Writer/Editor: Lucy J. McKinstry '66. Copy Editor: Ann Eames. Photography: Caitlin Hall, Sarah Heller, Mick Jeffries, Melanie Mauer, Tom Novitsky, school files. Graphic Design: *www.mickjeffries.com*. Please address comments to lmckinstry@thelexingtonschool.org.

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From *The Archives*



In celebration of his class's 40th Reunion, **Lockhart Simpson '74** (there he is in the back right corner) shares their kindergarten photo, taken in the Spring of 1965.

1st Row Alexandra Bennett, Greg Doyle, David Marshall
2nd Row Darcy Leiterman, Matt Hisle, Victor English
3rd Row Mrs. Torkelson, Chris Kitze, Dale McCain, Lee Ann Schulte, Elizabeth Martin
4th Row Kathy, Lillian Fallon, Christina Hoke, Bruce Barnes
5th Row Pace Cooke, Gregory Pettit, Jenny Pritchett, Lockhart Simpson