The Lexington School
Pinpoints



After School Masters of the Fine Arts

It starts young at The Lexington School.

First grader Tori Tovar can hardly contain herself when asked about the Fine Arts After-School Program, fairly squealing, "I love it so much I want to do it a thousand times." Teago, her twin brother, is as exuberant in describing the Lexington Children's Theater production both he and she helped produce and stage in the TLS theater, echoing, "It was so good, I burst into joy." Harrison, their Montessori 2 brother, wiggles with excitement about his Creative Body Movement class, illustrating, "My most favorite part was the froggy jump, when I hopped on one foot all the way around, two times." Izzy, Montessori I and not quite four years old, thus not yet eligible for the After-School Program, doesn't let that stop her. She and several friends – the Ukuladies – enjoy lunchtime UkulAcorns lessons with Mr. Ukulele, AKA Mick Jeffries, after-school teacher to lower and middle school students (and, with full disclosure, *Pinpoints* graphic designer). Dr. Elizabeth Tovar, speaking also for husband, Dr. Victor Tovar, endorses their children's contagious enthusiasm with intense conviction of her own, declaring, "The Fine Arts After-School Program is an outstanding addition to The Lexington School's strong academics."

Sarah Heller, Fine Arts After-School Program director and third-through-fifth grade art teacher, strongly credits the Simpson Fine Arts Fund, created in memory of William J. Simpson, father of **Alex Simpson '14**. Generously and with tremendous vision, the Simpson Fund widens artistic horizons for Lexington School students of all ages. Following the Board of Trustees' 2012

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A Newsletter for Families, Alumni, & Friends of The Lexington School • Spring 2016

Strategic Plan delineating arts program enhancement goals, the Fine Arts Task Force was formed to balance arts with athletics by offering after-school arts options. The September-through-May schedule of nine varied arts opportunities for 130 students is a life-enhancing gift from the Simpson Fine Arts Fund; there is no charge to any student, although participants in the Press Pass Photography Club and UkulAcorns bring their own cameras and ukuleles. Not surprisingly, classes fill overnight. And overnight, Lexington School lives are immeasurably enriched because of the Simpson Family's generosity.

Between practices for SCAPA's production of *Spamalot,* Alex creates some quiet time to reflect on her love of the arts and her alma mater, confirming, "Art can be an escape and a blessing. Whether I'm on stage or seated in front of a canvas with a paintbrush, I'm at peace, and it's pure happiness. This is why we are excited TLS students get to share in a world that brings me so much joy. The Simpson Fine Arts Fund's After-School program exposes children to culture and to the reality that you can establish a career in the arts and have a life filled with color and creativity. My favorite quote sums it all up: 'The Earth without Art is just Eh.'"

Remembering the TLS motto, "We Teach Courage," Melanie Glasscock Simpson, Alex's mother, shares a new twist. Ms. Simpson expounds, "Matisse said, 'Creativity Takes Courage.' Alex and I are thrilled TLS has the courage to elevate the arts and recognize its importance in molding the minds of young people. We are glad the Simpson Fine Arts Fund is being used as a vehicle to deliver opportunities in the arts and that our teachers, parents, and students are embracing the After-School program. Ms. Heller's leadership and vision is coloring their world a bit brighter. Who knows, the next Picasso, Baryshnikov, or Kristin Chenoweth just might be a TLS graduate."

Charged with growing Task Force recommendations into fruition for four-year-olds through eighth graders,







"We want to expose students to all aspects of the arts, to identify and help them hone skills they don't know they have."

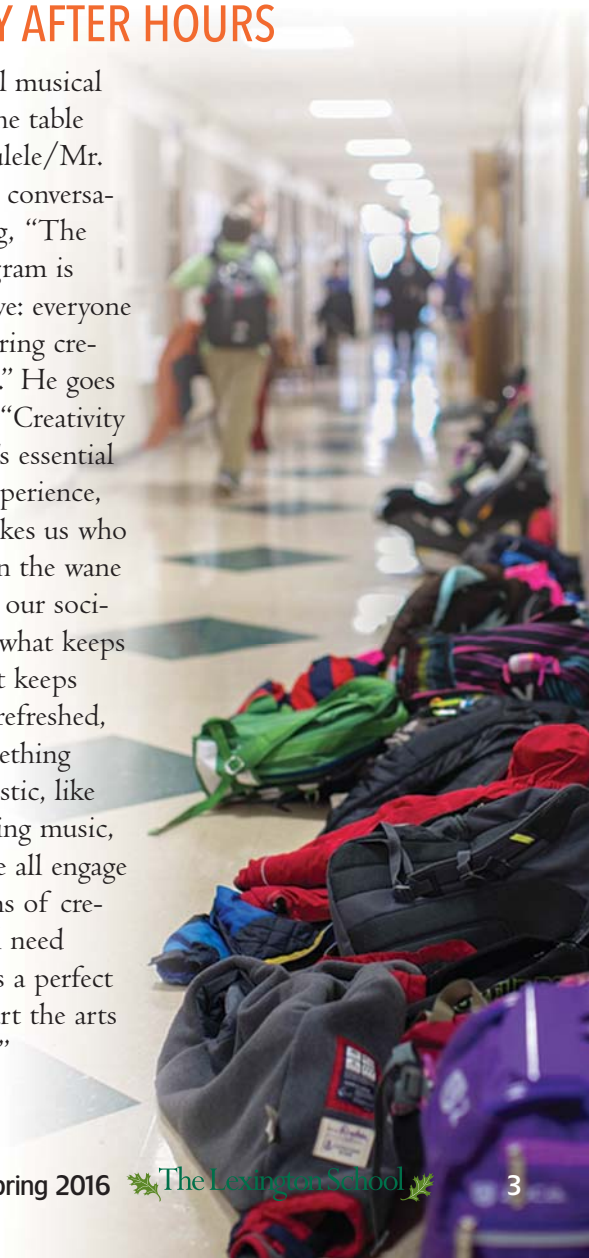
Sarah Heller

Ms. Heller used her many and strong connections as a Lexington Art League board member to reach into the greater Bluegrass and Kentucky artistic community. Interviewing an extensive range of artists, Ms. Heller held true to the Task Force's two objectives, fostering creativity among TLS children and exposing students to the wide range of artistic opportunities available in the Lexington area. As Ms. Heller explains, by incorporating dance, drama, visual arts, music, design, photography, and creative writing, the Fine Arts After-School Program offers a more than robust assortment of the arts. She points out, "We want to identify those students who show talent and interest in the fine arts. We want to recognize those traits and nurture them. We want to expose students to all aspects of the arts, to identify and help them hone skills they don't know they have."

Speaking to the second mission of the Task Force, Ms. Heller continues, "We want to link our students with artists in the community so our children can see professionals at work and be inspired and understand that creative jobs *do* exist." The Fine Arts After-School Program does just that; it forms connections between TLS and Lexington's artistic community. Ms. Heller smiles as she notes, "It nurtures creative moments between student and artist." Reaching into her own school years, she confesses, "I didn't know it was possible to make a living in the art world. I didn't know it was an option as a future. In fact, there are *lots of ways* to support yourself as an artist, and I want our children to know that. It happens in all realms – dance, song, writing, art, design. We want to set our students up for creative success in whatever professions they choose. They'll feel more prepared and have a stronger, deeper background when presented with something new. This program is all about reaching children at a very young age, identifying natural interests and inclinations, and encouraging and tapping those interests as early as possible."

CREATIVITY AFTER HOURS

With his small musical instrument on the table nearby, Mr. Ukulele/Mr. Jeffries joins the conversation, expounding, "The core of the program is simple, yet elusive: everyone is creative. Fostering creativity is the key." He goes on to maintain, "Creativity isn't optional. It's essential to the human experience, and it's what makes us who we are. Yet it's on the wane in many ways in our society. Frankly, it's what keeps us sane. It's what keeps us engaged and refreshed, whether it's something traditionally artistic, like painting or playing music, or gardening. We all engage in our own forms of creative acts. We all need beauty. School is a perfect place to kick-start the arts for our children."



Thanks to Melanie Mauer Photography for cover story photos





As one who knows firsthand, seventh grader Easton Morton, dedicated participant in both the Photo Club and UkulAcorns, offers an enthusiastic perspective, "I hope to see the Fine Arts After-School Program continue. It is just one more thing I love about this school, and that makes me say, 'Hey, Thank You, TLS! You rock for giving us a chance to create!'"

During the planning phase for the fall, winter, and spring terms, it was especially important to Ms. Heller that classes offer as wide a range of arts experiences as possible and touch the greatest number of students. Artists wrote their own proposals, offering visual, musical, and theatrical opportunities. Like the classes themselves, the proposals had many more applicants than Ms. Heller could accommodate. Again and again, Ms. Heller was drawn to the idea of employing artists to teach their trade and of nurturing those "creative moments between student and artist."

Ms. Heller, an artist herself and one who loves the Fine Arts After-School Program every bit as much as any of her students, is as exuberant as the entire Tovar Family, and laughs out loud as she says, "This is like dabbling your toes in the water of creativity with highly creative minds. We're pointing these kids in as many directions as possible and seeing what sticks."

At peak time in the middle of the busiest hustle and bustle of the Fine Arts After-School Program – students going this way and that, somebody's forgotten her ukulele, another person can't find the right picture frame, hot pink paint has just spilled all over the floor – Sarah Heller, undeniably in her element, raises her arms to the sky, smiles the biggest smile possible, and shouts, **"Living my dream!"**



A Different Kind of Eames Chair







The Eames Lounge Chair sold for the first time in 1956 and was popular with inaugural Lexington School families.

Blake Snyder Eames '86 and her After-School Program students have fashioned a *new* Eames chair. This version will sell for the first time in 2016 and will be equally popular with *current* Lexington School families.

The new Eames chair dates back to the time of the original Eames chair and the founding of TLS in 1959. Marijo Foster had the wisdom to save 12 sturdy, wooden, but no longer needed, lower school chairs that furnished TLS's earliest classrooms. Having been rescued from the TLS dumpster, they were housed safely for years in the attic of Mrs. Foster's garage, awaiting the day they were no longer "outdated." The chairs are now being enthusiastically and lovingly restored. With repurposing as their goal, students are designing, sanding, painting, and giving new life to old. The dozen refurbished and refreshed archival chairs will be a silent auction item at Celebration '16. As the chairs will be displayed the week preceding Celebration '16 on May 13, the Friday the 13th auction will bring only good luck for TLS's newest rendition of Eames Chairs.



Mrs. Eames, totally at home midst swirls, dazzles, and painted paisleys covering chair legs, seats, and backs, says, "Marijo had amazing forethought to save as many chairs as she did. The fact that we happen to have just enough for the class was kismet! And the fact I wanted to teach a class on functional art with a found-object slant was too perfect!" Mrs. Eames continues, "My goal to teach these students the difference between painted furniture and turning a discarded object into usable/sellable art clicked the first day with them. The designs they came up with are spectacular. I am incredibly impressed with their overall artistic and design sensibility as a group. The fact that Marijo Foster is now my student is icing on the cake."



Mrs. Eames goes on to speak of another unforgettable, superlative teacher: "I loved my art teachers when I was at TLS. After seeing Sarah Heller in action though, I find myself wishing I had had *her* as my teacher, too, all those years ago. The art work coming out of her classroom is undeniably fantastic. Each project I see impresses me more than the last."

Pull up a chair and think about it.



Theatre





Exploring and Explaining the Story

As six- and seven-year-olds explore the popular tale *Edwina, The Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct,* one thing is clear: The Lexington School's Fine Arts After-School Program is robust, alive, and well – a millennium away from extinction.

Lexington Children's Theater has provided popular dramatic inspiration for TLS families since 1959. The 2015-2016 school year illustrates TLS and LCT are in continuous, closer-than-ever coordination. Create-a-Play was one of the first two Fine Arts After-School offerings. Opening to a full house, the specially-crafted Lexington Children's Theater/TLS program ran for six weeks in September and October. For each session, 22 first and second graders clamored into the theater and onto the stage to learn more about Edwina. They explored and explained her story, as they made her friends, Spud and T. A., along with Edwina, their own friends. Teaching artists Meredyth Pederson, Children's Theater Associate Education Director, and Olivia Fiore, education intern, led warm-up activities for the group and read *Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct* out loud. Ms. Pederson explained, "The children magically became characters by telling the story themselves. Each meeting emphasized a different part of the book." Without even knowing it, students learned firsthand about actors' tools, using body, voice, and ample imagination to make Edwina come alive, even though she was extinct.

Enthusiastic acting enjoys enthusiastic audience members, and Create-a-Play boasted an overflow crowd. Sharing the story with parents, siblings, and grandparents, Edwina's young actor friends carefully designed and created elaborate dinosaur masks they presented to family members. To the barely contained delight of everyone in the theater, with roles reversed and getting all generations in on the act, parents were invited to act as Edwina the Dinosaur while the young people on stage broke the news to her that she was extinct. Student actors then indicated that Edwina understands, smiles, and doesn't care.

After the curtain closed on Create-a-Play's first original production, the high-spirited applause conveyed that TLS Lower Schoolers understand, smile, and *do care greatly* that the Fine Arts After-School Program includes the opportunity for hands-on, on-stage fun.





Photography



Press Pass Photography Club

Holding her red Nikon camera in her right hand, with camera strap loosely around her neck, sixth grader Hadley Applegate could be speaking for the entire Fine Arts After-School Program as she declares, "When I pick up this camera, I see the world in a completely different way."

Photography instructor Jo-Ellen Fischbach, though describing the popular Press Pass Photo Club, could also be speaking for both class and program when she comments, "I thoroughly enjoy it; the time goes by way too fast."

Photography Club was one of two initial, water-testing after-school art offerings, and now, with UkulAcorns, they are the only two after-school classes extending throughout the school year. With 14 fourth-through-eighth graders each term, a fortunate by-product of a class full of shutterbugs is an overflowing collection of TLS pictures throughout fall, winter, and spring terms. It's no stretch to envision Press Pass Club members capturing TLS summertime activities as well.

An experienced photography teacher, Ms. Fischbach has attained her goal of creating a space where TLS students can be "in the present" as they learn how to be artists, using the medium of photography. She explains, "We have only two rules: we must be safe and we must be kind." Clear boundaries make everyone feel comfortable, at ease, and a respected part of the group. The budding artists offer well-thought-out encouragement and advice to each other, as she emphasizes, "TLS students know how to behave." She observes, "They already have an incredible art vocabulary and a strong depth of artistic knowledge."

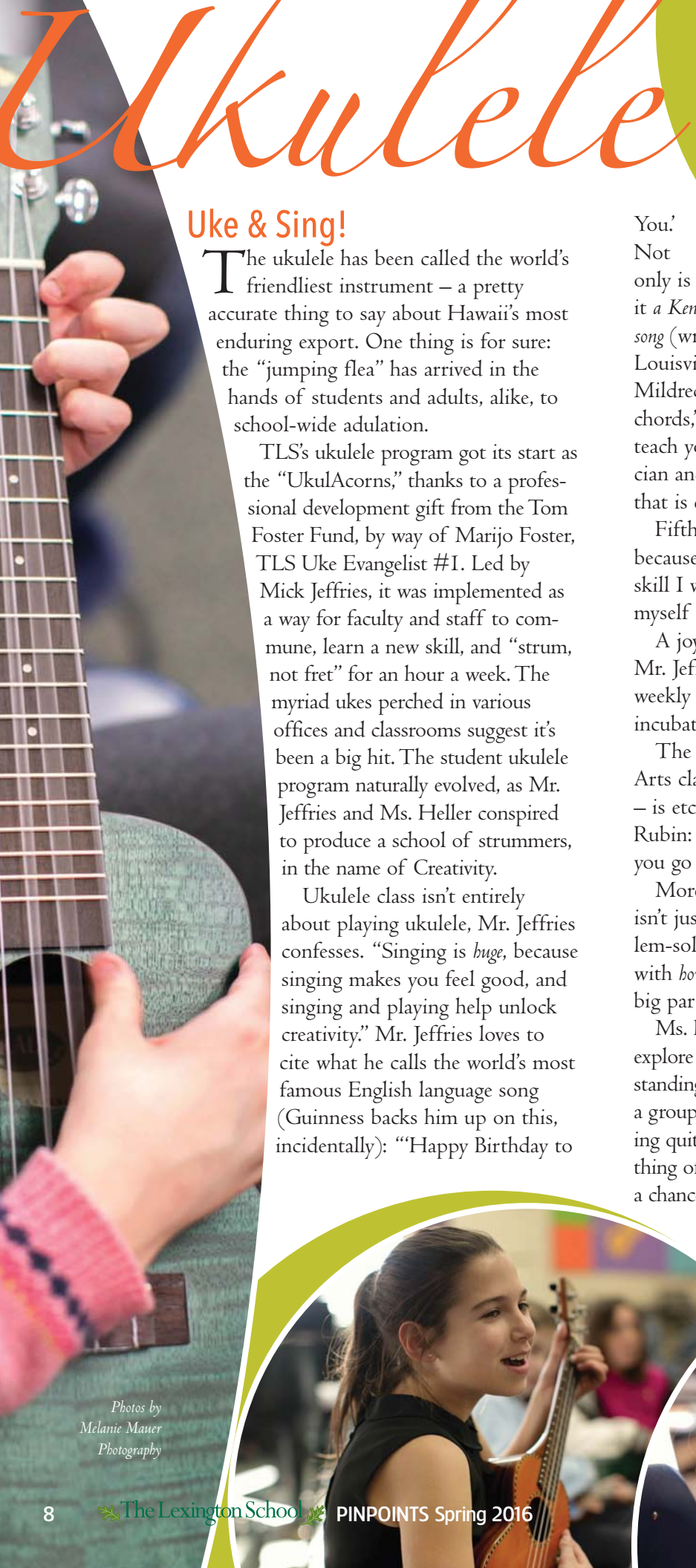
Though her background is in art, Ms. Fischbach says she came to it through the back door. As a child, she was told she was *not* an artist. For a while then, she concentrated on other things, but nothing else really clicked. She was drawn to art. Since she grew up in Chicago, she "went to the [Chicago] Art Institute all the time. I was a regular there." Fortunately, her alma mater, Asbury College, has a strong media department, where she was the newspaper editor, having worked in design, layout, and, of course, photography. She took art history classes also, and, delightedly if not belatedly, discovered what she had known the whole time: *She is, indeed, an artist*. With that affirmation, she has made it her heartfelt mission to encourage artistic interests in her students, empowering them on their life's journey.







Ukulele





Uke & Sing!

The ukulele has been called the world's friendliest instrument – a pretty accurate thing to say about Hawaii's most enduring export. One thing is for sure: the "jumping flea" has arrived in the hands of students and adults, alike, to school-wide adulation.

TLS's ukulele program got its start as the "UkulAcorns," thanks to a professional development gift from the Tom Foster Fund, by way of Marijo Foster, TLS Uke Evangelist #1. Led by Mick Jeffries, it was implemented as a way for faculty and staff to commune, learn a new skill, and "strum, not fret" for an hour a week. The myriad ukes perched in various offices and classrooms suggest it's been a big hit. The student ukulele program naturally evolved, as Mr. Jeffries and Ms. Heller conspired to produce a school of strummers, in the name of Creativity.

Ukulele class isn't entirely about playing ukulele, Mr. Jeffries confesses. "Singing is *huge*, because singing makes you feel good, and singing and playing help unlock creativity." Mr. Jeffries loves to cite what he calls the world's most famous English language song (Guinness backs him up on this, incidentally): "'Happy Birthday to You.' Not only is it *a Kentucky song* (written by Louisville sisters Patty and Mildred Hill), but it's also pretty easy to play – only three chords," he notes. "We've all sung it, of course, but if I teach you to *play it?* It changes you. You become a musician and you didn't even know you could do that. And that is cool beyond words."

Fifth grader George Freeman agrees: "I like the ukulele because it's an interesting and unique talent to have. It is a skill I will be able to use later in life for entertainment for myself or other people."

A joyful arrangement of singing, laughing, and playing, Mr. Jeffries takes lower school and middle school kids for weekly strum-alongs, teaching songs and technique, and incubating that little musician in each of us.

The success of the program – the only After-School Arts class to be offered as separate MS and LS groups – is etched on the faces of kids like fourth grader Abby Rubin: "I really like playing the uke because every time, you go to a happy place. The notes are so beautiful."

More than "beautiful," Mr. Jeffries thinks: "Creativity isn't just about art and pretty things. It's the core of problem-solving, too. When I teach songs, students grapple with *how songs work.* And understanding *how things work* is a big part of education, overall."

Ms. Heller concurs: "It's a place where students can explore music and instruments while at the same time understanding the glory of being involved in making a song with a group." Mr. Jeffries continues the thought: "There's nothing quite like the ukulele. Playing it gives each person something of their own, something intangible; it gives everybody a chance to have music in their lives. What a win-win."



Photos by Melanie Mauer Photography





The Life of the Painting

Through the Fine Arts After-School Program, eight adventurous middle school students brought 19th century France into 21st century TLS. To begin, they and their families learned a new term,

Tableau vivant – "living painting" in English – was the popular 1800s French parlor game where participants "performed" a famous painting or statue with elaborate staging and costuming. Literary readings and music enhanced the interpretation. From private Parisian parlors, *tableau vivant* made its way into European museums, as art enthusiasts across the continent performed beside paintings and sculptures while having their pictures made. It was the rage.

Jeorg Ellen Sauer, Senior Lecturer of French and Francophone Studies at the University of Kentucky's Department of Modern and Classical Languages, brought her ample *tableau vivant* research into the "parlor" of Sallye Staley, middle school art teacher. Not surprisingly, Ms. Sauer admits, "On my many trips to Paris with students, I have encouraged and orchestrated this behavior. It allows a new appropriation of the art, a new understanding, a new appreciation."

Mrs. Staley, now fluent in *tableau vivant*, brought her *bon vivant* enthusiasm to the table, too, confirming, "I thoroughly enjoyed working with Jeorg. She introduced the *tableaux* activity to our students, and they quickly chose a French master's painting to interpret. This activity was an excellent way to showcase collaboration between TLS and the Lexington artistic community, and it highlighted our students' creativity in an entirely new way."

Ms. Sauer, who teaches a variety of courses focused on visual cultures, says her primary interests and scholarly research lie within visual cultures. She explains she is captivated by "how cultures express themselves, their identities, their beliefs, and their values through visual forms, such as art, film, television, and comics." She continues, "With that, comes the study of not only how these works are conceptualized and produced, but how they are received and appreciated by their own cultures."

As she prepared to teach French in Performance to UK upper-level undergraduates, Ms. Sauer met with Sarah Heller to ask if her UK students could introduce *tableau vivant* to TLS. Ms. Sauer remarked that within the six-week course the children's interpretations of someone else's art were "sophisticated and, quite frankly, it was breathtaking." She gives specific detail: "They framed their analysis, their own viewpoint, their own experiences in five-minute performances. I will say it is impossible to think of these works of art now without seeing them anew, from their eyes, from their performances. Students at The Lexington School gave my students and me that opportunity."

Ms. Sauer and *her* students gave TLS students an unforgettable opportunity as well. *Tableaux Vivants* bring paintings alive and bring arts alive.

Tableaux Vivants





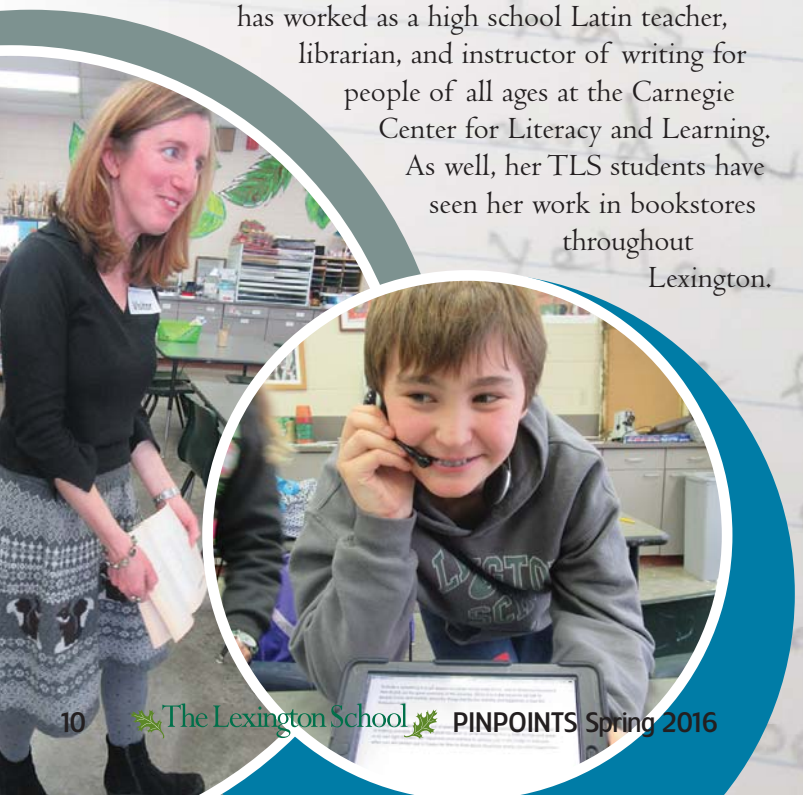


Creative Writing

Write Here, Write Now

Grandmothers often serve as inspiration along each stage in life. Sarah Combs, after-school creative writing teacher of Middle Schoolers, writes every day at a table that belonged to her paternal grandmother. This is where memories come to the surface and stories come into focus. Her writing "nook," as she calls it, is a peaceful spot beside the window overlooking her front porch, where a family of robins nesting outside once made it *inside*, into her writings. Her three dogs are an important part of her writing life, as are her husband and two young sons.

Mrs. Combs comes to TLS with an impressive literary background. She graduated from the University of Kentucky with degrees in English and Classics, and has worked as a high school Latin teacher, librarian, and instructor of writing for people of all ages at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning. As well, her TLS students have seen her work in bookstores throughout Lexington.



She is the author of the 2014 young adult novel *Breakfast Served Anytime*, which draws on her own experiences at the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts and the Kentucky Governor's Scholars Program. Mrs. Combs looks forward to seeing her second book, *The Light Fantastic*, roll off the press this summer.

From her quiet nook with one of her hound dogs underfoot, she says her class offers the "good chance to get away from the rigors of academic writing, to shift gears into all kinds of imaginative writing. While we explore fiction, memoir, and poetry, most importantly, the class is about the way imaginative writers greet the world." In Mrs. Combs's classroom, there are no rules for *how* to be imaginative. She explains, "I encourage students to open their ears and eyes in ways that might lead them toward creative expression. It's about paying attention to the world on a deeper level." She guides her young writers to find their unique voices and to trust them.

Just as Mrs. Combs's nook is a writing retreat of comfort, her TLS classroom is also a "safe place," she explains. "It's a place where trust is key. At this middle school age, respecting each other, especially when trying something new, is really important. I've heard writing described as 'an extended exercise in empathy.' I encourage empathy as the students hear each other's work and share their own." She also shares her lifelong and voracious love of reading with them, letting them in on a discovery: "I finally figured out that writing is about 90% reading."

The Fine Arts After-School Program gives Mrs. Combs and her late grandmother an opportunity to inspire another generation of creative writers.

Creative Movement



Moving Through the Moment

Soothing, quiet, classical music, almost a tender lullaby, enwraps everyone. Voices are in whispers, when there *are* voices. The aura is of a kind and gentle place, transforming the Little Gym into a peaceful, contemplative space … even with eight four- and five-year-olds.

Rafaela Risco, mother of **Mia '22**, is the creator of this warm and soothing after-school atmosphere, a welcomed respite from the necessary busyness of the regular school day. With the natural erectness and elegant comportment of a lifelong ballet dancer, Mrs. Risco, founder of the Kentucky Ballet Theater 18 years ago and still supple and lithe as the children in front of her, sits comfortably on the floor with her Preschoolers, stretching limbs, touching toes, bending head to knees.

Don't let that youthful vision mislead; Mrs. Risco has wisdom of the ages. Growing up in Cuba, she was part of a family who put great emphasis on the arts. She knows firsthand the value of exposing children to the fine arts; to Creative Body Movement, precursor of ballet; to new languages; to classical music, at a very early age. To her young and attentive students, she explains, "how to 'count in music,' how to feel things through music, how music changes our moods." No, this isn't a music class, but music is integral to it.

The soft classical music plays as Mrs. Risco elicits smiles and giggles from her group when she says, "We're going to make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches." Eight pairs of legs and eight pairs of arms all point and flex, point and flex as "peanut butter" is spread over "pieces of bread" and then "jelly" is added. Mrs. Risco instructs how to lean and bend and tiptoe with the music, all the while knowing it strengthens bodies and improves balance and posture. She emphasizes, "Creative Movement is most important for these kids with developing body and brain connection. The young brain needs to be in tune with the body because it's in deep concentration. When students improve their concentration in ballet, it improves their concentration in the classroom; they have longer attention spans."



Mrs. Risco sees her students gain confidence as their bodies grow stronger. She knows, too, that Creative Body Movement "teaches children resilience, not to give up. The refined movements need practice over and over and over again. Once children learn ballet, they love it. The artistic part of their brain flourishes, and that makes them free, in a way. They have another form of expression."

Mrs. Risco is deeply appreciative of the Fine Arts After-School Program, acknowledging, "This puts The Lexington School far above any other school. We were already above other schools, but this is even better now, with the TLS education being so well rounded with the arts."

Design



Learning to See the *After* in the *Before*

By design, Sarah Heller knows to continue a good thing by having **Blake Snyder Eames '86** return to her alma mater to teach Design Class as part of the Fine Arts After-School Program. Mrs. Eames explains, "Our Design Class finds the art in discarded furniture, and there is real art to that. We've nicknamed it 'Trash-to-Treasure Workshop,' as we explore how to repurpose items in Grandmother's attic." *(Grandmother's attic in general, Marijo Foster's garage attic in particular.)* With frugal wisdom, Mrs. Foster saved 12 TLS chairs from yesteryear. Mrs. Eames, already with imaginative ideas swirling inside her head, goes on to say, "Our Middle Schoolers roll up their sleeves and get dirty; they learn to prep and prime those chairs." It's hard and physical work, but there's satisfaction at day's end. Mrs. Eames elaborates, "They learn to look at a piece and see if it's *worth* putting love and energy into it. They learn about décor, what patterning and design works best on three-dimensional objects." With deep conviction, she advises, "This class is about celebrating the important skill of good, basic design, learning to make responsible purchases, and keeping away from excess." Ms. Heller nods in agreement, "This is a woman who makes repurposing discarded objects part of her business in extremely creative ways."

Blake Eames is the daughter-in-law of *another* Mrs. Eames, Ann Eames, longtime English teacher, whom TLSers hold in warm regard. Blake Eames has kept in close contact with TLS over the years. Though current students are mostly unaware, they are influenced daily by Mrs. Eames, who, in 1998, painted the quotation encircling the top of their library walls. The walls of the lower school library also reflect her talent, as she painted favorite literary characters that accompany readers enjoying a good tale in the story pit.

Across the hall from the library, in David Cooper's music room, larger-than-life, bold and bright graphics enliven *his* walls, while oversized treble and clef notes dangle from the ceiling, each from the capable hand of Mrs. Eames. Entering Dr. Cooper's room during a lovely and lively after-school ukulele practice, Mrs. Eames and Ms. Heller both accentuate the significance of students' exposure to active, contributing community artists who make their living in the arts world. Ms. Heller adds, "Through the generosity of the Simpson Fine Arts Fund, every afternoon our students, from littlest to oldest, see adults choosing the arts for a viable profession. These enriching experiences give them the knowledge and the freedom and the courage, early on, to explore artistic endeavors of their own for a living."

Focusing on Mrs. Eames's Design Class, Ms. Heller notes, "Design happens at any level, at all scales – this mural, that chair, my house, the skyscraper in New York City." She knows the value of strong design with her University of Kentucky Master in Architecture degree, having taught architecture at UK before practicing architecture for a decade in Berlin and Los Angeles. She knows, too, the relevance in today's world of Mrs. Eames's Design Class.







Fascinating Fascinators

It's only natural that **Fielden Willmott '00** grew up loving the Little Kentucky Derby.

As a TLS "lifer," Pre-K through ninth grade, and current English teacher, Ms. Willmott has more Little Kentucky Derbies under her hat than most. Perhaps it was early TLS inspiration that paved the way for her becoming one of the most sought-after Kentucky Derby hat designers, with an exclusive selection of custom pieces at Churchill Downs on the first Saturday in May since 2010.

Switching hats, she puts aside writing seventh grade report cards for a moment to share details of her class, "Fielden Willmott LKD Fascinators/Hats," in the Fine Arts After-School Program. As one might expect, students will make a variety of styles of fascinators, smaller-than-usual pieces that sit atop the head. The nature of the fascinator allows abundant creativity using feathers, flowers, beads, and veiling. Students will have Styrofoam head forms where they can pin materials to mock up their pieces. Curling irons will be de rigueur for swirling and shaping appurtenances. Future milliners will learn the art of fashioning fabric and feather flowers, then stitch it all together in plenty of time for Little Kentucky Derby.

Recounting the beginnings of Fielden Willmott Millinery, the eponymous company she founded six years ago, Ms. Willmott says her love of creating hats came from building furniture – tables, cabinets, shelves, a humidor – with her dad. She notes, "I grew up in Dad's workshop and have always had an inquisitive mind when it comes to the construction of things." She also mentions a talent little known in the TLS hallways, one that would impress Rosie the Riveter: "I helped Dad rivet the wings when he made his airplane."

Ms. Willmott learned to sew in college, but the subsequent journey to millinery came about somewhat more comically: "I became interested in making hats after a really terrible hair day," she confesses, with a grin, remembering, "I'll never forget that first chapeau. I stayed up an entire night, taking it apart, examining the inner structure, pondering the design, experimenting with the pliable material, determining how I could improve it. Around 6:00 A.M., I decided it was time to put it all back together again. From then on, I made prototype after prototype. I was hooked."

She knew she wanted to study millinery and threw her hat into the ring. Months of meticulous research led her to understand there were methods she couldn't teach herself from books. She sought professional instruction, confessing, "I sent emails to people I probably had no business contacting, but I wanted to learn from the best." She trained with Anya Caliendo, New York City-based, world renowned couture milliner.

She admits that, before hats, her main fascination as a student was Laura Bonzo's English class, though Dr. Seuss's *The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins* was not required reading. Ms. Willmott confides, "Back then I had no idea I would ever like art." It is her special hope to ignite the artistic fire in her After-School Program students. Creating an invaluable hat trick for her class, Ms. Willmott guarantees first-rate lessons in fashion design, immeasurable inspiration, and exquisite fascinators for Little Kentucky Derby. *Hats off to Ms. Willmott.*



Millinery

Head *Lines*

NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

On your mark, get set, CREATE!

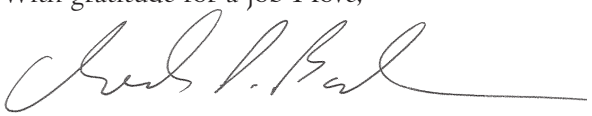
This fall marked an exciting change at TLS. The school instituted a comprehensive plan to offer artistic opportunities after school for students, much like it does for sports. For generations, TLS has provided opportunities for students to play their sport of choice – football, soccer, basketball, lacrosse, cheering, and cross country, to name a few. A coach was provided by the school, and students could be asked to provide their own equipment, such as a lacrosse stick, but the afternoon program was covered through tuition and donations.

This fall, for the first time, in addition to the regular sports offerings, students were invited to sign up for fine arts classes, including Ukulele, Children's Theater, Photo Club, or Tableaux Vivants. Again, students were asked to supply their own equipment such as a ukulele or a camera, but the afternoon program was covered through tuition and donations. In fact, funding was provided through the generous proceeds from the Simpson Fine Arts Fund.

How did this wonderful idea come to fruition? In this issue of *Pinpoints* you will learn how, under the guidance of Sarah Heller, TLS's Fine Arts After-School Program director, the school put out a call for proposals to central Kentucky artists, and you will see the wonderful ideas and relationships generated from that request. It is exciting to realize how ideas and goals verbalized and documented in the school's 2012 Strategic Plan have come to fruition. It is exciting to understand how the recommendations made by TLS's Fine Arts Task Force have become real performances.

It is so difficult to capture in words and pictures all that is happening "within these halls of learning," but we certainly try to give you a glimpse inside these pages of *Pinpoints*. Enjoy reading not only about our Fine Arts After-School Program but also about the exciting networking events TLS's Alumni Council has hosted both in Lexington and New York City. In addition, we remember Jack Brost, who shepherded numerous TLS graduates through their boarding school application maze. As young admission officers at The Asheville School, my wife Erin and I were first introduced to The Lexington School by Mr. Brost. Always the gentleman and advocate for TLS, Jack's first impression clearly made a lasting impression on the Baldecchis! Thank you, Jack Brost.

With gratitude for a job I love,



Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School



TLS Network Connects!

The end told the beginning at the Young Alumni Networking Event on January 7, 2016. As the last of the standing-room-only crowd departed Saul Good restaurant, three Alumni Council Presidents – one current, two former – were all smiles. **Kav Milward '95**, **Jeff Truitt '85**, and **Jeff Jefferson '85** agreed the evening was an overwhelming success. Head of School Chuck Baldecchi and TLS board member Rob Perez, owner of Saul Good, concurred that the large dining room was barely large enough, even cleared of most furniture, for the group of over 80 TLSers. The event was planned and organized by Kav, Jeff Truitt and **Will Milward '99**, who each gave credit, too, to **Griffin Miller '07**, teaching intern, for helping generate enthusiasm for the wildly popular event. Modestly, Griffin insisted, "It is of vital importance to recognize the success of this event was truly a collaborative effort."



As part of the TLS panel of experts, **Dr. Tommy Slabaugh '89** gives young alumni background on his choice of medicine and information on the current medical field. Tom Kessinger, Dr. Laura Bonzo-Sims, and **Bret Jones '96** await their turns to speak.

Hosted by the Alumni Council, the evening featured a TLS panel of experts representing a wide range of interests and industries in Central Kentucky: **Shannon Bishop Arvin '90**, equine law; **Peter Barr '96**, real estate; Dr. Laura Bonzo, education; **Lincoln Brown '95**, entrepreneurship; **Dr. Luke Fallon '85**, veterinary medicine; **Bret Jones '96**, equine industry; Tom Kessinger, wealth management; and **Dr. Tommy Slabaugh '89**, medicine.

Kav spoke for the entire Alumni Council as he said, "A special thanks goes to the alumni industry representatives, who took time from their busy schedules to interact with all of the younger TLS alumni. We want to thank the young alumni, too, who attended the event. We hope it provided them the opportunity to learn more about different potential career paths and to connect with older, well-established alumni, who are willing to help them."

With the end pointing toward another beginning, Kav announced, "The Alumni Council is excited to plan the next Young Alumni Networking Event."



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT **Will Webb '11**, **Clark Dupree '11**, **Alex Webb '11**, **McMillan Fister '14**, **Griffin Miller '07**; **Bret Jones '96**, **Will Milward '99**, Tom Kessinger; **Julia Harris '13**, Donna Hutton, **Sydney Young '13**, **Lauren White '13**; David Thomas, **Luke Thomas '15**; Megan Pelton, **Bobby Kessinger '11**, **Kayela Caton '11**; **Jonathan George '09**, Chuck Baldecchi, **Tommy Slabaugh '89**.

Pin Prints



Lila Boden, Julia Puckett, Kennedy Harris, Willow Carr, and Miranda Bradner-Young celebrate friendship while heading back to Mrs. Deller's second grade classroom. (Melanie Mauer Photography)



Younis Sfar consults the six-chapter book of music notes he has written as he composes music on the Montessori bells.



Learning Center first grader Carson Grote explains to Mrs. Troiani how to configure his candy house roof.



Daphne Nicol and Ethan Greer explore the digestive system by making illustrated aprons in Ms. Lounsbury's anatomy class.



Waving the Red, White, and Blue for Veterans Day are first graders Paul Coppedge and Gage Pennington.



In the eighth grade game against Fox Creek Christian, Matthew Russo takes the court in stride with Jake Neuzel.



Congratulations to Isabel Brunker (8), Corinne Brunker (6), Cate Cunningham (8), Nasim Mohammadzadeh (8), and Stephen Ewing (7) for their strong performances at the Harrison County Speech Tournament.



The square knot, the two half-hitches, and the taut-line hitch: Jon Willcutt (8), Griffin Sims (6), Owen Garcia (8), Colin Woodrum (7), and Grace Lyman (8) master knot tying, along with wilderness survival skills, from Señor Conley Senior, taking over Spanish and Wilderness Class from Señor Conley Junior, while the younger earns Outdoor Wilderness First Aid accreditation for TLS's Outdoor Club.



Fourth grader Chas Boden takes careful aim.



The guy in the white is right again! Spirit Week's White-Out Day lasts well into the evening, as Logan Absher goes in hard for the basket in the eighth grade game against Sayre.



Fourth graders celebrate Kentucky Heritage Day in the gym with folk dancing.



Ushering in the Year of Peace.

Pin Prints



For their Middle School Advanced Drama production, an original adaptation of **Over the Garden Wall** by eighth grader Fletcher Griffith, sixth graders Anna Kate Miedler and Irene Kazee portray talking trees of the magical forest.



At the Geography Bee table with Mrs. Merideth at the podium are, from left: Buntaro Yoshida (5), Mary Esther Thomas (5), John Sader (6), Carmen Applegate (6), Michael Madden (7), Ford Webb (7), Paul Kamer (8; winner), and Isabel Brunker (8). Not pictured, far left, Will Taylor (4) and Isaac Ammerman (4; runner-up). *(Melanie Mauer Photography)*



A hair-raising moment comes for seventh grader Ariyana Rhodes, who leads the varsity against the Glendover League team on January 15.



In KinderKlasse, Thomas Poppe and Caroline Shattuck sort objects into "yes" or "no" tubs after deciding whether they stick to the magnet or not.



Mrs. Metze's Kindergarten class shows teamwork, time management, and lots more. Front left: Sam Jones, Scarlet Ochs, Alex Chalothorn (partially hidden), Wells Moore, Eleanor Clay, Wyatt Sullivan, Tate Ashmun (partly hidden), and Jordan Backers.



Acorns Noah Fister and Blake Bowling are absorbed by the sensation of shaving cream on their hands and on the table.



Against East Jessamine, seventh grader Tanner Given moves ahead through four defenders, who collapse in his wake.



Keeping it in the TLS family at Keeneland's October meet, **Josephine Abercrombie (H'00)** presents the Pin Oak Valley View trophy to the Shivelys, whose Dixiana Farms' homebred, Tiger Ride, won by a length. With Ms. A in the Winners' Circle are trainer Graham Motion, jockey Edgar Prado, and the Shivelys: Brielle (Pre-K), Mr. and Mrs. Shively and Caden (Kindergarten).



Friendship and collaboration begin early as Cooper Macaulay, George De Beer, Jackson Veljkovic, and Ethan Campbell ice and decorate their giant candy house in Prekindergarten.



Celebrating her 90th birthday, Ms. A smiles with ***Walker Montgomery '13*** and Mr. B.



Walker sings "Life's a Dance," the hit by his dad, John Michael Montgomery. Michael Dawahare accompanies.



Ms. A enjoys birthday hugs.

NYC TLS REUNION

Word spread quickly throughout the Big Apple that Alexandra and **Philip Howard '63** planned a Lexington School Reunion, and, with typical TLS enthusiasm, 40 alumni and staff showed up on their doorstep. With Southern hospitality in Manhattan, the Howards and Chuck Baldecchi welcomed the crowd, representing a 43-year class range. Former head-masters and wives **David** and **Aril Lowry (H'00)** and John and Liza Fixx caught up with adult students they last saw as grade schoolers. Many warmly recalled the previous TLS NYC gathering, in 2008, hosted at home by Mr. B's parents, Diane and Guido Baldecchi, also in attendance for this celebration.

On both occasions, unsurprisingly, The Lexington School proved the great connector, the important touchstone. Complete strangers one moment, old friends the next instant, folks of each generation were linked by years at their alma mater. Intermingled within discussions of Broadway plays and Brooklyn neighborhoods, Miss Cowling's note-taking tutelage was a hot topic, as was Mrs. Apple's art room, the Noderers' music productions, Mrs. Owen's PE classes, Paddington Bear's lunch menu, and Madame Charron's puppet shows. One alumnus disclosed that the history lesson of Samuel Pepys's Diary proved the beginning, several years ago, of conversation that then led to engagement and the altar, illustrating TLS education knows no bounds and can lead anywhere.

Remembering a long-ago Friday morning assembly under Mr. Pritchett's watchful eye and rejoicing in the NYC reconnection, several alumni tapped a collective toe to "East Side, West Side, all around the town." Warmest thank yous to the Howards for illustrating that TLS friendships go from Lane Allen Road to "the sidewalks of New York."











FROM TOP **Philip Howard '63**, Chuck Baldecchi, Alexandra Howard; Beth Pride, Liza and John Fixx; Alexandra Howard, Diane and Guido Baldecchi; **Quin Bell '95**, **Martha Kenton '92**, **Jimmy Booth '93**; Beth Pride, **David Lowry (H'00)**, **Laura Ruth Marks '87**; Beth Bell, Samantha Bell, Alexandra Howard; Chris Tierney, **Margaret LaMonica Tierney '83**, **Margaret Blaydes Vitrano '84**, Michelle and **David Ravvin '98**, Philip Howard; **Will Kenton '86**, Martha Kenton, John Fixx, David Lowry.











FROM TOP **Keturah Gray '94**, Gareth and **Rodes Fisher Cleland '99**; David Lowry, Chuck Baldecchi; Margaret Blaydes Vitrano, Jimmy Booth, Daphne and **John Bronson '66**; Martha Kenton; Martha Kenton, Will Kenton, Philip Howard; **Anne Kenan '88**, Will Kenton; **Maggie MacNeil '06**, **Beckett Fogg '03**, **Anne MacNeil '06**, **Kate MacNeil '04**, **Web Barr '00**.







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dinner by apiary: 6:30
live auction: 7:45

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Pin *Notes*



Standing beside the fireplace at home during the January New York City Reunion that **Philip Howard '63** and his wife Alexandra hosted, Philip read a hand-delivered letter from Hillyer Rudisill III, former Lexington School English, history, and Latin teacher. Unable to make the trip to New York from South Carolina, Mr. Rudisill reminisced, "One of the adventures you, and possibly others there, had was riding in one of my old Packards to various places to help me work on pipe organs. I think one of these was in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lexington and another was in the church of which your father was pastor." Mr. Rudisill's remembrances continued, "Philip, I certainly admire you for the counter-establishment career you carved out and the books you have written to cause people to THINK. *Prosit*, Hillyer R."

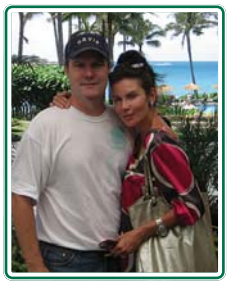
Among the books to which Mr. Rudisill refers are, *The Death of Common Sense*, *The Collapse of the Common Good*, *The Lost Art of Drawing the Line*, and *The Rule of Nobody*. An attorney and internationally known leader of government and legal reform in America, Philip is founder of Common Good, a nonpartisan national coalition dedicated to restoring common sense to America.

For his part, Philip, too, has written recollections of his teacher. In *The Collapse of the Common Good*, he says, "Good teachers all seem to project their own personalities into the classroom. My ninth-grade Latin teacher in Lexington, Kentucky, Hillyer Rudisill, thin as a pencil but heavy with the affectations of a Charlestonian, had a special technique for keeping adolescents attentive to ablative absolute: He threw erasers at anyone he caught daydreaming. At least two or three of us would get bopped every class. He'd probably be sued today, but we loved it."

In the family photo at top are Alexander Howard, Olivia Sabine with her children Charlotte and Wyatt, Alexandra and Philip Howard, Lily and Conrad Scott, Charlotte Howard, Freddie Osnoss, held by Dan Osnoss.



Leaning against Alexandra and Philip Howard's piano and looking out onto the gathered crowd, **Gerard Lynn '83** smiled and declared, "I have really enjoyed explaining to my New York friends that I was going to a local alumni event for my Kentucky grade-through-junior-high school. I have known individual TLSers living in New York, but it really is something to see *an entire roomful of the TLS NYC contingent*. It's impressive." As he says, "It's always nice to get to talk about Barbara Bale and Margaret Cowling with other fans. It was interesting, too, talking to Chuck Baldecchi. I particularly enjoyed his appreciation of Mr. Pritchett's accomplishment in creating such strong traditions almost from scratch in such a short period of time. I can't wait to see the positive changes in the school." Gerard still lives in the City and works with Penguin Random House's web group.



At the TLS NYC Reunion, Chris and **Margaret (Maggie) LaMonica Tierney '83** enjoyed seeing **Margaret Blaydes Vitrano '84** again, as "her sister [**Katherine Blaydes Mittelbusher '83**] was my bestie and we know lots of the same people." Maggie and **Gerard Lynn '83** represented their class well. Thinking of other TLS NYC folk, Maggie recalled, "Holly [**Holly Parrish Brown '82**] was one of my best friends and David [**David Kotchen '83**] lives a block away from me. Laura [**Laura Ruth Marks '87**] and I are both in the acting business."

The week before the Reunion, as New York prepared for Winter Storm Jonas, Maggie relayed, "So tonight, my brother [**Jamie LaMonica '86**, father of **Grady '23**] and I were chatting about the impending snow, and laughing. As children, we sat by the radio and waited for the cancellations. The list was very long and at the end, and it would say, 'The Lexington School will be running on time' or at the very best, a one-hour delay. Everyone else was so excited, but I remember wanting to go to school! Couldn't wait to get to TLS … now I cherish a Snow Day!"

NYC



In 1991, **Phillip Gall '84** came to NYC to attend NYU School of Law, and never left. He is a tax lawyer and lives on the Upper West Side with his wife, Allison; daughter, Jamie, who just turned 13; and ten-year-old son, Adam. "I am still in contact with a number of my classmates, and it's good to know there is a TLS network here in NYC," Phillip relates. "I still remember some of my lines from our French puppet show, *Sleeping Beauty*!" In speaking of Madame Charron, he echos what many alumni say, "She really was a terrific teacher." He learned from her both in class and out, noting, "I was lucky enough to go on a trip to France with Mesdames Charron and Mills and Mrs. Apple after seventh grade that was really great."



For the TLS NYC Reunion, **Margaret Blaydes Vitrano '84** trained in from Bronxville, where she and husband Andrew, and their two sons, eight-year-old Emery and Knox, six, live. Catching up with **Margaret LaMonica Tierney '83**, meeting her husband Chris, and learning "all the marvelous changes at TLS" were high points of the evening for Margaret, as was meeting host **Philip Howard '63**. In the small world category, Margaret and Philip have offices an elevator ride from each other, both in the *New York Times* building. Currently Managing Director and Portfolio Manager at ClearBridge Investments, LLC, she has 19 years' experience in the investment world, having previously been Senior Research Analyst for information technology and communications.

Margaret points out her boys' Bluegrass heritage runs strong, as Emery and Knox thoroughly enjoyed a recent family horseback riding adventure. Margaret notes, "They proved they *do* have Kentucky blood running through their veins!"



The brother-sister team of **Will Kenton '86** and **Martha Kenton '92** has a TLS NYC Reunion perfect attendance record. They found it hard to believe it had been eight years since TLS's green-and-white banner flew in Manhattan. For this Reunion, Martha came straight from art class, even bringing her latest masterpiece, with thoughts of hours spent in Mrs. Apple's art room.

Will notes that 2016 marks his twentieth anniversary in New York City. He earned his MA in English from NYU in 1998 and in 2005 added his PhD. Rather than leave the City for the "cloistered life in the Academy," he says, he enrolled at The New School to get an MA in economics. Soon after, he worked a string of editorial jobs in finance and economics, culminating in his current position as Senior Editor at Investopedia.com. In 2009, he and Robin Lester were married, and they have two sons, Simon, 3 ½, and Teddy, 1 ½. Their old Brooklyn townhouse has been reinvigorated by new energy.

Thinking warmly of his TLS days, Will says, "Because my boys will soon be old enough to start Kindergarten, I have been touring schools in our neighborhood. Recently, while looking at a school library, I remembered the old TLS library that was at the end of the long hall that ran from the front doors of the building. It was at the top of the T, where the Middle School and the Upper School intersected. I vividly recalled the wooden chairs and low tables, the bookshelves, the area where we sat for story time, and the semi-circular desk of Mrs. Ireland, who helped us navigate the Dewy Decimal System. I imagine we didn't have free library time until we were in Middle School, but I remember picking books off the shelf for no other reason than I liked the spine, and trying to dig through Malory's *Le Morte d'Arthur* in what must have been Middle English. To this day, libraries are my favorite place to be."

Will reflected further, "Those idle hours outside of class are what I remember most. My next uppermost memory of TLS is making paper airplanes in the gym/cafeteria with **Tim West '87** and the other kids whose working parents didn't pick them up immediately after school. Once, Tim landed a plane upside down on a wire high up by the ceiling. This was probably fifth or sixth grade. Every now and then for the next three years, I would look up to see if it was still there. As far as I know, it still is."

At the TLS NYC Reunion, theater artist **Laura Ruth Marks '87**, a professional playwright and actor whom *The New Yorker* called "a real talent to watch," was more interested in hearing current updates of her alma mater than sharing her many successes in the NYC acting and playwright world. She remembers TLS warmly:



It's the fall of 1984. A hellishly awkward seventh grader arrives at The Lexington School. I know you're thinking, "All seventh graders are awkward," but trust me: I was off the charts. Furthermore, I was transferring from an elementary school where we sat cross-legged on the floor and sang "Feelin' Groovy." I had never had a dress code, or received a letter grade for anything, or played any kind of organized sport unless you count kickball. I also lacked a crucial piece of knowledge: I didn't fully understand I was going to grow up someday. All I could see in front of me was the baffling present moment.

The teachers at TLS welcomed me with a kindness I can't begin to describe. Nor can I describe the impact of someone like Ann Eames, encouraging me as a writer, or Betty Cox, consoling me for my crummy grades in algebra, promising that "mathematical maturity" would arrive in its own time (she was right, and I think of her often as I tutor my own seventh-grade daughter). And in speech class – a class I never would have taken in a million years if I hadn't been required to do so – something happened that ended up changing the course of my life.

We all had to get up, blushing and sweating, and practice public speaking in front of our peers. I would have sooner volunteered for The Hunger Games. *But we all persevered, because we had no choice. And one day our teacher, Mr. Noderer, gave us an assignment that was a little more creative, a little more interpretive. And that was… still terrifying, but also oddly satisfying. Maybe even fun.*

Mr. Noderer suggested I join the Speech Team. I was still every bit as awkward, but now I had people who believed I could fake my way into self-assurance. Miss Cowling generously gave her time after school to coach me, one-on-one.

Ten years later, I was working as a professional actor, getting my Equity card at Steppenwolf Theatre. In a rehearsal room I met the wonderful actor who is now my husband and co-pilot in the adventure of parenting two girls. In another rehearsal I met the director who encouraged me to try writing a play – which led directly to the career I have now, as a playwright and screenwriter.

My twelve-year-old self wanted to be a writer more than anything. She would have been surprised to learn how often "public speaking" is part of the job description! I'm thankful now for all of those blushing, sweating, torturous moments, when I didn't even see the web of safety that surrounded me.



Immediately before the NYC TLS Reunion, **Anne Kenan '88** had given her entire weekend to Assistant Directing a training program at the Shambhala Meditation Center of New York, where she and her husband, David Perrin, have been members for many years. Not wanting to miss the opportunity to enjoy her second TLS NYC Reunion, she came directly to the Howards' from the Meditation Center.

Anne and David live in the City with their three children, Rhese, Bodin, and June. To keep the important balance of quiet and peace midst harried city life and within their active household, Anne's longtime interest in meditation and Buddhism is of great importance.

She recently saw the newest Broadway sensation *Hamilton* (yes, she says, it is worth all the hype) and immediately thought of Miss Cowling. "If anyone could make history come alive, in all its blood and glory, it was Miss Cowling." Anne makes it back to Lexington regularly, but it is never long enough. She looks forward to visiting TLS next time she is home and sharing with her own children "these halls of learning," where she spent so many of her formative years.





During the TLS NYC Reunion, **Bill Santen '91** was on the sixth floor of MOMA the entire time, unpacking artwork for the upcoming Marcel Broodthaers show. He even has this photo to prove it. Bill was especially disappointed he couldn't bolt from MOMA for a moment; he hadn't reconnected with TLS in 20+ years. He is an artist, filmmaker, and musician, and in Fall 2015, his solo exhibition, *Rocko Ramdin, Mr. Whales,* was presented at Chelsea's Sgorbati Projects Gallery. Bill received his MFA in visual art from Columbia University School of the Arts, and his BA from the University of Kentucky as a Gaines Fellow. He continues to write and perform music as singer-songwriter Birddog. Also, Bill is currently preparing for a group art exhibition at The Alamo Colleges in San Antonio, TX, and is working on a new film about wasps in the Bronx.

At TLS, it's no surprise that Bill "enjoyed the Annual Arts Festival and watching The Edge play rock songs." The Noderers and their annual productions stand large in his recollections, as does the seventh grade Battle of the Bands, organized by Mrs. Monson. Building a playhouse-sized Millennium Falcon from *Star Wars* (or was it an X-Wing Fighter?) in Mrs. Marcum's classroom was a highlight. Though traumatic at the time, Bill says, "I'll never forget Dr. Fox's ninth grade history class, where I had to write a thesis! It seemed brutal then, but really helped prepare me for college and especially UK's Gaines Program." He also tells, "a strange, exciting memory: WVLK's Captain Tag landed his helicopter on the soccer field, because of rough weather I think … there's a picture in the 1981yearbook."

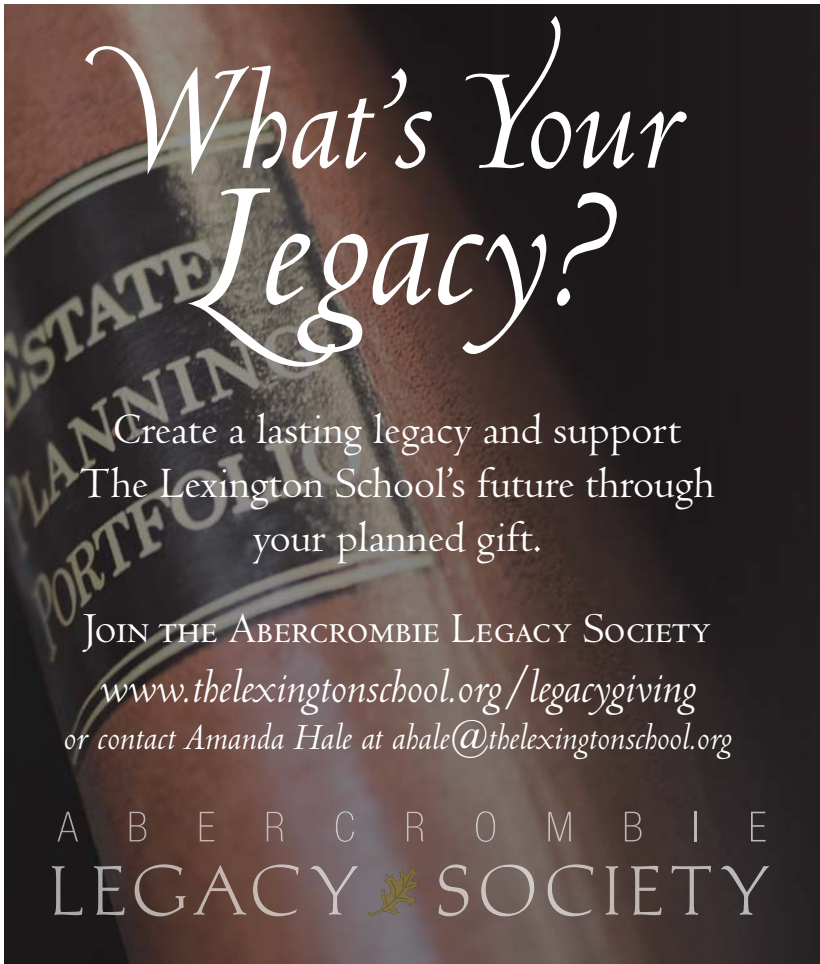
The NYC TLS Reunion was like being a kid in the candy store for **Jimmy Booth '93.** The Booths *(pictured in the Adirondacks)* live in Manhattan's Morningside Heights with their dog, Tessa, who delights in having two parks within three blocks. Anders has a strong Norwegian name and appropriate Scandinavian looks and logic skills to support it, though he spends most of his time jumping and singing. Sarah is a bank examiner, where she applies her robust math and finance skills. Jimmy is a professor at City College of New York, teaching weather and climate courses.

Jimmy treasures countless recollections, including "learning geometry by using soap bubbles in Mr. Lightell's class, writing long-winded fiction for Mrs. Geddes, the Orrery in Mr. Scarr's room, the smell of decaying leaves from Mrs. Ford's lab, meter-stick hockey in Mr. Brown's lab before class, and applied physics in the hallway with Mr. Hardesty."

Barely stopped for a breath, Jimmy continues with his impressive TLS memory: "playing trombone for Mr. Noderer; singing lessons with Mrs. Noderer and Mrs. Anderson, *'one black beetle bled only black blood, the other black beetle bled blue-oo-oo;'* learning *izquierda* and *derecho* with Señor Fox; and getting sent to Mrs. Nichols's office for something or other and instead having a nice conversation with her about life." Jimmy goes on to describe, "the two-handed chest pass I learned from Mrs. Owen and Mr. Parlanti; the perfect Lexington history scavenger hunt created by Miss Cowling; the fabulous art project with Mrs. Kasperbauer that took inspiration from *The Far Side* cartoons; learning to draw faces with proper proportions from Mrs. Apple; and the drama class production of *The Shadow,* led by Mrs. Young."



He emphasizes, "There are definitely other great stories and teachers who should be mentioned, but the TLS memory that is most appropriate for where I am now is of the library; Mrs. Ireland tracked down a book for me about a boy growing up in New York City."





On August 22, 2015, **Kitty Clay '93** and Michael Taylor were married in Paris, KY, with their reception at Runnymede Farm, the Clay family homeplace. Shown are the bride and groom with their nieces and nephews, children of **Mary Biz Clay Blee '80**, **Joseph Clay '80, Camden Clay '82**, and **Brutus Clay '85**. Left to right: Natasha Taylor (Michael's Niece), **Catesby Clay '18**, Bizzy Blee, Augie Blee, **Camille Clay (M)**, **Cassius Clay '18**, Michael Taylor (groom) and Kitty Clay (bride), Cooper Blee (top), **John Camden Clay (M), Quin Clay '16**, Eliza Clay, and **Caroline Anne Clay '20**.

Traveling back from Miami on the Reunion evening, Kitty was disappointed her plane landed too late for her to join the TLS crowd. Since opening in 2013, her eponymous boutique, Kitty Clay, in Southampton, NY, has become known for offering an elegant and fun mix of artist-made furniture, art, and objets d'art, along with antiques and jewelry.

Living in Greenwich, CT, Parker and **Hillary Lavely Corbin '95** celebrated their tenth wedding anniversary in July 2015. Parker was promoted to executive director at Morgan Stanley, and Hillary is now vice-president of The Field Club of Greenwich. Outside of motherhood and her volunteer roles, renovations still keep Hillary busy as she has taken on private clients to help shepherd them through their own construction projects. In June, Parker took six-year-old Lavely, and Campbell, four, on their first overnight trip trout fishing in the Catskills. Both Lavely (Kindergarten) and Campbell (Pre-K) attend Greenwich Country Day School. Holloway, two, now has the run of their house and is chatting up a storm.

In 2015, **Vanessa Lavely '97** completed her sixth year as a litigation associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP in NYC. Vanessa also traveled to Stanford, Georgetown, and Harvard, recruiting the next generation of Cravath associates. In April, she had a memorable reunion in Cambridge with fellow alumnae of Harvard Women's Lacrosse. They honored their legendary coach, Carole Kleinfelder, by endowing the head coach position – the first at Harvard funded entirely by women. She continued her good work on the Junior Advisory Board of *Her Justice*, an organization that provides free legal services for low-income women and children. Vanessa was once again a leading fundraiser in their annual skyscraper stair climb.



The 2015 Lavely family travel mileage award goes to **Benjamin Lavely '99**. In addition to adventure trips to Wyoming and the Grand Canyon, he traveled to Japan, Scotland, Patagonia, Portugal, and Brazil. His company, Best Made – where "Camp is Home" – moved its offices from Manhattan to Brooklyn, so he can walk to work and save his mileage for adventures. Benjamin also attended weddings of three close friends, and even officiated at one of them.



At the Howards' TLS NYC Reunion, Michelle and **David Ravvin '98** made their way through the living room to say hello to **Quin Bell '95**, his wife Beth, and their two-year-old Samantha, youngest of the Reunion group. David says of Quin's brother, "I remember in Miss Bale's first grade class when **Rhodes Bell '98** bumped and knocked over Paddington's house by accident. We were all frightened and Rhodes was devastated, but Miss Bale assured us things would be all right. Sure enough, after recess, Paddington had his house in order and was going about his business in yet another room. Magic!"



Still smiling about the NYC TLS Reunion at the Guido Baldecchis' eight years ago, **Rodes Fisher Cleland '99** spoke of how much it meant that evening to reconnect with Ms. MacCarthy, Mrs. Eames, and Miss Cowling. They had brought stories, old and new, to New York then, and had made home feel closer for Rodes and others. Now Rodes enjoyed introducing her husband Gareth, who grew up in Johannesburg, South Africa, to more TLS tales and traditions. In November, they celebrated their second wedding anniversary by visiting Gareth's family and home country, traveling from the Greater Kruger Park, through the Garden Route on the south coast, to the Franschhoek winelands, and ending in Cape Town.

Although Rodes's 9-to-5 is as an account supervisor with a Big Apple pharmaceutical advertising agency, it's *after work* that often brings TLS years to mind. She explains, "I hope every TLS Colt is taking speech team. I started taking improv classes in New York. It's three hours a week of pure fun, games, and laughter, which reminds me of speech team with Mrs. Young. I started with Level 0; yes, there is a Level 0 class called 'The Joy of Improv.' I graduated from Level 0, and just completed Level 1, which required performing in front of a live audience; the house was full. I'm now looking forward to Level 2. The teacher said I'm a natural. It must be all that coaching from Mrs. Young."



Relocating cross-country from Palo Alto where he worked for a startup, **Web Barr '00** moved to NYC just in time for the Reunion and enjoyed the "Welcome Party" at Gramercy Park. He'd previously lived in San Francisco and in Washington, DC, working with National Geographic. As part of Nat Geo's small team experimenting with and developing new ways to tell stories online, Web was a digital storyteller and user experience designer. He tells vibrant stories, too, of his history lessons learned in Margaret Cowling's classroom, and says he couldn't design a better experience than his ninth grade Southwest trip, which he wishes he could do all over again. Keeping up with his Sewanee connections as well as TLS friends in the Big Apple, Web lives with three pals from college.

Kristen Everman '01 celebrates her 12th anniversary in New York this fall. After earning a double major in creative writing and journalism from Fordham University in 2008, she began her career as a production assistant on Lee Daniel's Oscar-winning film, *Precious*. She then worked six years at *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, where she continued to develop her career in writing and producing television. In 2014, Kristen produced new shows for Hulu and Bravo with Jax Media and wrote for *Come Here & Say That*, Fusion's late-night show. She is currently a producer on TBS's *Full Frontal with Samantha Bee*. Kristen lives in Brooklyn with Jonathan Correira, her partner of eight years. Their photo was taken outside Hammondsport, NY, in the Finger Lakes Region.



Though "completely buried" with *Samantha Bee's* premiere episode, which aired the week after TLS NYC, Kristen confesses, "Nothing makes me prouder than digging out old map quizzes from Miss Cowling's sixth grade World History class and realizing that at some point I could name all the bodies of water in the Fertile Crescent." She also emphasizes, "It's safe to say I'm thankful every day that TLS was a part of my life."



Mia Moross '02 moved to Manhattan in 2013 to obtain her MSW from NYU's Silver School of Social Work. During graduate school, she opened her business, The One I Love NYC, an antique and modern e-commerce jewelry store. She admits, "I really enjoy geeking out on the history of Georgian and Victorian era fine jewelry (thanks to my history teachers at TLS), particularly how every piece is drenched in sentimental value and symbolism. I built my company based on the concept that jewelry memorializes those we love, as it has for centuries, and that's what has always driven my passion for adornment."

By the time Mia received her LMSW , her jewelry company had taken off, and she decided to pursue it full time. As she explains, "Now, I am branding myself as an expert in Georgian Era Jewelry and symbolism."



Lucy Owen '03 received her bachelor's degree from Davidson College in 2010, majoring in studio art, minoring in chemistry. After college, she moved to NYC, initially for art, working for both an art news website, Artcaste, and a PBS TV series, *ART21*. To help finance her NYC lifestyle, though, she also tutored math and science.

While teaching, she became interested in what happens in the brain during learning. Specifically, she wanted to know how children learn and remember at the neural level, and how this knowledge could be distilled and translated into teaching. Driven by those interests, she received her master's in neuroscience and education from Columbia University's Teachers College in 2014.

Currently, she is a lab manager and researcher at Columbia University's Learning Lab, working for cognitive neuroscientist Dr. Daphna Shohamy. Lucy is applying for PhD programs in cognitive neuroscience, and will soon know where she will spend her next five years. She still balances life with both art and science and continues to paint, with artwork displayed at the Chamblin Jones art gallery in Lexington.

Thinking of her TLS years, Lucy says, "As a student and researcher in the field of educational neuroscience, I realize how crucial education is for development, which is why I am so grateful for my experiences at TLS. I had amazing teachers, who were simultaneously challenging, nurturing, and engaging. They taught me more than just their respective subjects: they taught me how to teach and to love learning."



The three **MacNeil** sisters, **Kate '04**, **Anne '06**, and **Maggie '06**, took the TLS NYC prize for most family members in attendance. Mr. and Mrs. Fixx were especially glad to catch up with them, as **Nat Fixx '06** was a classmate and pal. Anne and Maggie live together in Chelsea, and Anne works at Wheels Up, a private aviation company. "One of my favorite memories," Anne says "was being in Mr. Platt's advisor group, where there was never a dull moment with **Kamron Cox '06** and **Austin Akers '06** in the same room. I loved playing basketball and soccer with **Chanel Minnifield '06** and running around Fall Festival with her, singing karaoke. I also remember Bonzo's terribly hard classes, and over the course of a year and onto helping with college applications, she became a friend and someone I look up to."

Maggie is an account coordinator for the PR company, Rubenstein Associates, and her team works with a wide range of clients – Rockefeller Center (the Christmas Tree lighting and Top of the Rock), the Tribeca Film Festival, BMW , and the Intrepid Fallen Heroes Fund. Thinking back to her TLS days, she said with great enthusiasm, "I loved it when Mrs. Metze was hired as the first TLS KinderKlasse teacher because she used to babysit my sisters and me. I couldn't wait for all those cute three-year-olds to get to know her and make memories with her like we had."

Remembering, too, when Anne and she were Headmasters for the Day, Maggie says playing *Dance Dance Revolution* with Mr. Baldecchi was a kick. She emphasizes, "All my TLS memories are positive and I would love to go back to that time in my life and get to know the new teachers who are so fortunate to work at such an amazing place as well as see everyone's familiar faces back in the hallway!"

TLS Friendships Continue despite Geography and Time



Since the retirement of Margaret Barker, kindergarten teacher from 1986 – 2006, the Lexington School family has had an enthusiastic presence on the San Juan Islands archipelago off Washington State. Before Margaret and her husband, Rich, moved from the Bluegrass, TLS friends remember the Barkers' building their house in Friday Harbor, WA, on San Juan Island.

As she says, "We love our lifestyle and where we live, and we would also love visitors. Come see orca whales, eagles, and tons of wildlife. The weather is fabulous and our long, glorious days are especially beautiful. We enjoy fresh salmon, crab, mussels and clams, and our Farmer's Market is filled with wonderful organic produce."

Continuing her devotion to the classroom and seeing a need in her then-new home state, Margaret founded Saint David's Day School, located at Saint David's Episcopal Church. In January 2010, because Washington offered no afternoon Kindergarten, she began an afternoon kindergarten enrichment class with five students.



Kris Neese, Montessori teacher, visits her former colleague for a first-hand introduction to the Barkers' back yard.

The next year saw 16 morning students and 12 afternoon children ... and a waiting list. With her summer camp for three- to five-year-olds filling in three days, her program is clearly going strong. Margaret incorporates many of the cornerstones her two decades of TLS classes were known for – nurturing the love of learning through individualized instruction within a small class size. Her classes continue to be filled with fun and laughter, yoga, music, Spanish, and cooking.

In addition to her more-than-full-time job at school, she is also choir director at Saint David's and sings in two other ensembles, the San Juan Singers, and Sound Vibrations, a women's a cappella group.



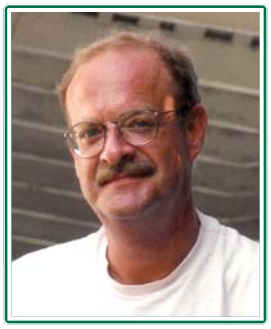


ABOVE Margaret and Zena Musgrave in 2000 with the Class of 2008.

RIGHT Preschool colleagues step into the 2001 school year: Mary Beers, Karen Kirby Thomas, Emily Baxter (now Stout), Kelly Mitchell, Margaret Barker, Kathy the Substitute, Shelly Rogers, Jackie Hawkins, and Sherry Cline.

In addition, after logging countless volunteer hours at the library, she is the current president of the Friends of the Library. Rich has also embraced the San Juan music scene as member of a jazz quintet that plays regularly there on the island.

During their active, full, and happy lives in Washington, Margaret and Rich think often of their Lexington School family. Margaret admits, "When I see the graduating classes and alumni pages, I am amazed how time has flown. I am so thankful for all the experiences, professional development opportunities, cutting edge ideas, and support I received while I taught at TLS. When I share with educators the things we did or what TLS is doing now, they all say, "'What a great school!'"



The Lexington School community offers deep sympathy to the family of **Chip Pritchett '69**, who died November 16, 2015, after a long battle with a host of health issues. Chip is survived by his son, Nash Pritchett, his parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Norton G. Pritchett Jr. (H'81)**, and siblings **Larry Pritchett '72** and **Jenny Pritchett '74**.

Sandy Macfarlane '69 gives tribute to his longtime friend: "Chip and I were classmates at The Lexington School. He came to first grade at TLS when his father, Bud Pritchett, joined the faculty. We had a lot of fun together. He lived near me and we would ride our bikes back and forth to each other's houses to shoot baskets or just hang around together. Chip and his family were always very welcoming. We also were in Boy Scouts together and enjoyed camping and other chances to get outdoors. I particularly remember junior high. Chip got his growth spurt early and his height was a real asset to our school basketball team. It was also an asset at school dances, because, unlike some of us, he wasn't shorter than all the girls. Chip was a good friend and he will be missed."



The many, many friends of **Maggie Cassidy '87** grieve over her death on February 18, 2016, decades too soon. Her parents, Martha and Pete Cassidy, and siblings, **Katie '86**, **Peter '89** and his wife **Laurel '88**, and **Anne '97**, are held lovingly in Lexington School hearts.

Taylor Davenport '87 remembers a dear friend who was always interesting to talk to and whom he'd seen in Austin, TX, and NYC: "Maggie is Maggie. Conversations were picked up seamlessly as we updated each other on events and happenings. We talked of Anne's being in NYC and caught up on Katie's and Peter's families, as well as various work concerns. Mom, who has been involved in the Kentucky court system, was very curious about alternative sentencing programs and teased out random tidbits of that side of Maggie's job."

Recalling the biology classroom, Jawanna Ford Herd says, "Maggie was a wonderful observer and a good listener. Her flower drawings and diagrams, some of which I still have, were beautifully done, with fine attention to detail. When she spoke, she was very insightful, always listening, always thinking, and always with something to contribute."

A May, 2015, graduate, with Distinction, from the UK College of Medicine, Maggie was completing her residency in Internal Medicine at the LSU Health Science Center in Shreveport, LA. During her years in New York City, Maggie worked at The Floating Hospital and for the Center for Court Innovation.

In Summer 2015 *Pinpoints*, Maggie and Peter were highlighted as part of the 11 sets of siblings of the **Classes of 1987** and **1989**.

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In Memoriam

FRIENDS OF JACK BROST, who died November 4, 2015, remember him warmly and with a smile. He touched countless lives at The Lexington School, serving from 1976 until 2006. History teacher, Chairman of the History Department, Director of Secondary School Placement, Curriculum Coordinator, and ever the gentleman, he was adored by generations. Chuck Baldecchi says with respect, "He was legendary among boarding school admission folks. He was the wonderful face of TLS before I came to Lexington."

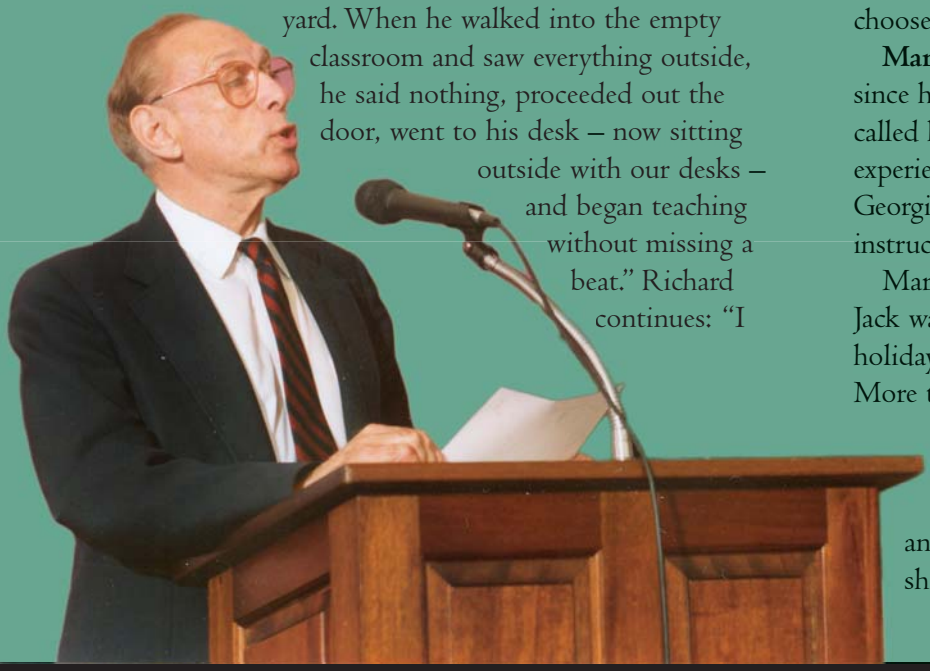
At the New York City Reunion, former Headmasters **David Lowry (H'00)** and John Fixx both give accolades to Mr. Brost. Dr. Lowry reflects, "Jack Brost was a smart, kind gentleman with a keen sense of humor. He noticed everything that went on around him, although you might think otherwise. He took teaching seriously and worked hard to match students contemplating boarding school to just the right place. Jack had a broad-minded view of people and society. He was kind and forgiving, even when students played the occasional trick on him."





ABOVE: With Ann Eames in 1993. *LEFT* Mr. Brost holds the Jack A. Brost Boarding School Symposium plaque with **Matthew Hartley '95** and **Liz Martin '94**.

"The occasional trick" brings a smile to **Richard Bondurant '82**, who says, "I have many stories of things we did to tease Mr. Brost, but he was a great sport about everything. One nice spring day, we moved *his entire classroom* – his desk and all – into the courtyard. When he walked into the empty classroom and saw everything outside, he said nothing, proceeded out the door, went to his desk – now sitting outside with our desks – and began teaching without missing a beat." Richard continues: "I also remember surprising him with a beach party instead of having class on a cold winter day about 1981. We'd planned it for weeks. We stacked the chairs and desks in a corner and had food, leis, punch, beach music, and created a wall of surf/waves and fake palm trees all around the room. We made him wear a Hawaiian shirt over his shirt and tie. We even had seashells scattered about, and had a limbo contest."



In the fall of 1998, Mr. Fixx spearheaded TLS's Annual Boarding School Symposium name change to the Jack A. Brost Boarding School Symposium. **Liz Martin '94**, now Liz Chipley, speaks to Mr. Brost's well known yet endearing trait of forgetfulness: "He was one of my favorite teachers. He often called me by my sister's name, Whitney, even though he confused Whitney all the time with Heather Clay when she had him. He was truly the absent-minded professor. His soft-spoken way and kind heart made it easy to joke with him, but he was a gift to The Lexington School. He was a wonderful guide to boarding schools; his insight and mentoring helped me choose Garrison Forest School in Maryland."

Margaret Cowling '64, dear friend of Jack's, explains since he began at TLS in 1976, "The faculty affectionately called him our 'Bicentennial Baby,' though he was a highly experienced teacher, having taught in his native Savannah, Georgia, as well as spending more than a decade as an instructor at the Elizabeth Morrow School in New Jersey."

Martha Anderson, also close to Jack, says, "Simply, Jack was a beloved Anderson family member who shared holidays, birthdays, music, good food, and prayer with us. More times than not, we reflected on our former students and special TLS teaching moments. Jack was a gentle, kind, sophisticated man, who had a wonderfully positive impact on hundreds of students and friends. We are eternally grateful for our time shared with Jack."

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From *The Archives*



Since 1959, The Lexington School has staged impressive performances. In the fall of 2011, members of the **Class of 2014** appear in *Much Ado About Nothing*, their sixth grade play for Dr. Bowling's class. From left to right, Caroline Keating plays the role of Ursula; Eliza Platt is Margaret; Alex Simpson, Beatrice; Ellie Webb, Hero; and Nicholas Calhoun, the priest. Performance is at the heart of the sixth grade drama curriculum, as each sixth grader performs annually in a fall play and is part of the springtime Storytelling Festival. Because the Class of 2014 boasts the most victorious Speech Team in the last decade, their play performances and storytelling pieces shone with talent.