The Lexington School

Pinpoints

Congratulations to The Lexington School Class of 2016!



Row 1 Ella Dickinson, Kali Thomas, Hiba Malik, Ann Kathryn Shashy, Hanae Yoshida, Virginia Peppiatt, August Brooks, Isabel Brunker, Sarah Belin, Kincaid Keating, Molly McLay, Nasim Mohammadzadeh, Ella Harris, Elizabeth Herbert-Jones, Skye Park.
Row 2 Cate Cunningham, MaKayla Brown, Reace Marshall, Bridget Young, Olivia Greer, Ariyana Rhodes, Lucie Lott, Grace Lyman, Allie Holoubek, Elizabeth Nielsen, Monique Bacha, Ashley Westerfield.
Row 3 Davis Truitt, Jake Neuzel, John Paul Thomas, Hampton Jefferson, Ryan Sullivan, Jack Lofwall, Charlie Boone, Mac Jett, Paul Kamer, Bashir Sfar, Walker Owens, Max Steiner, Owen Garcia, Connor McLay, Austin Hagan.
Row 4 Jon Willcutt, Matthew Russo, Fletch Griffith, Hawkins Schnabel, Davant Latham, Trey Fry, Henry Beck, Cole Preston, T Buckley, Kevin Cline, Logan Absher, Graham Wald, Moises Hernandez, Sims Fister, Quin Clay. *Not in photo: Riley Radtke.*

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

Praise the Bridges *that Brought You* Over



THE **CLASS OF 2016** HAS GRADUATED! For The Lexington School, the sun shined bright on its old Kentucky home. On the lawn of Scarlet Gate, it was a glorious morning, filled with joyous celebration and deep emotion.

Commencement was a day resonant with gratitude. The graduates themselves said it; Head of School Chuck Baldecchi said it; Commencement speaker **Tulani Grundy Meadows '92** said it; many in the audience said it. We were fortunate to be there. For some of the 58 eighth graders, the journey toward graduation had been long, begun when they were three years old, in KinderKlasse. Others had joined the procession later in their schooling. The feeling of community, of oneness, of thanksgiving was palpable as the students took their seats on the stage, shaded by the venerable, centuries-old ginkgo tree.

Mr. Baldecchi spoke of the exceptional letters written to him this spring from those now receiving diplomas: "Each student expressed gratitude for not only the time teachers spent with him or her, but also, more importantly, at the *difference* that time spent made as a struggling or excelling student, as an athlete, or as an artist and thespian." On gratitude, he continued, saying, "That gratitude was beautifully articulated while on the Southwest Trip. You articulated it so well that last night in the Grand Canyon. You made point after point to thank your classmates and teachers for their friendship, for their support, for helping you through difficult times. Gratitude is so important. Brené Brown, renowned writer and psychologist, said 'What separates privilege from entitlement is gratitude.' Gratitude keeps us humble; keeps us grounded. To the Class of 2016, the best way to say thank you to your parents – to your school – is to take your leadership, your work ethic, your empathy, your creativity to your next school and make a difference. Show your gratitude by making your next school a better place."

At the podium of her alma mater, Mrs. Grundy Meadows shared with the graduates answers to the question she had pondered: "If you could go back and talk to your younger self, what would you say?"

"The first thing…," she said, "sometimes your mom ***is*** actually right. Dads, too. Listen to them." Taking her own advice, Mrs. Grundy Meadows quoted her mother, Ann Grundy, beaming proudly with Chester Grundy, her husband, on the front row of the audience. Echoing wisdom Mr. Baldecchi had just shared, Mrs. Grundy Meadows charged the students, "Show Gratitude. As my mom puts it, 'Praise the bridges that brought you over.' None of us has gotten here alone. You have been ridiculously fortunate to have attended a school such as TLS. It won't always be this way. Say thank you to the teachers who have poured their passion into you. Say thank you to your parents who have invested in you since day one. You are sitting here because someone has loved you. Someone has sacrificed for you. I urge you to extend that same love and sacrifice to others."



LEFT MaKayla Brown, Chester Grundy, **Tulani Grundy Meadows '92**.



"Show gratitude. None of us has gotten here alone."

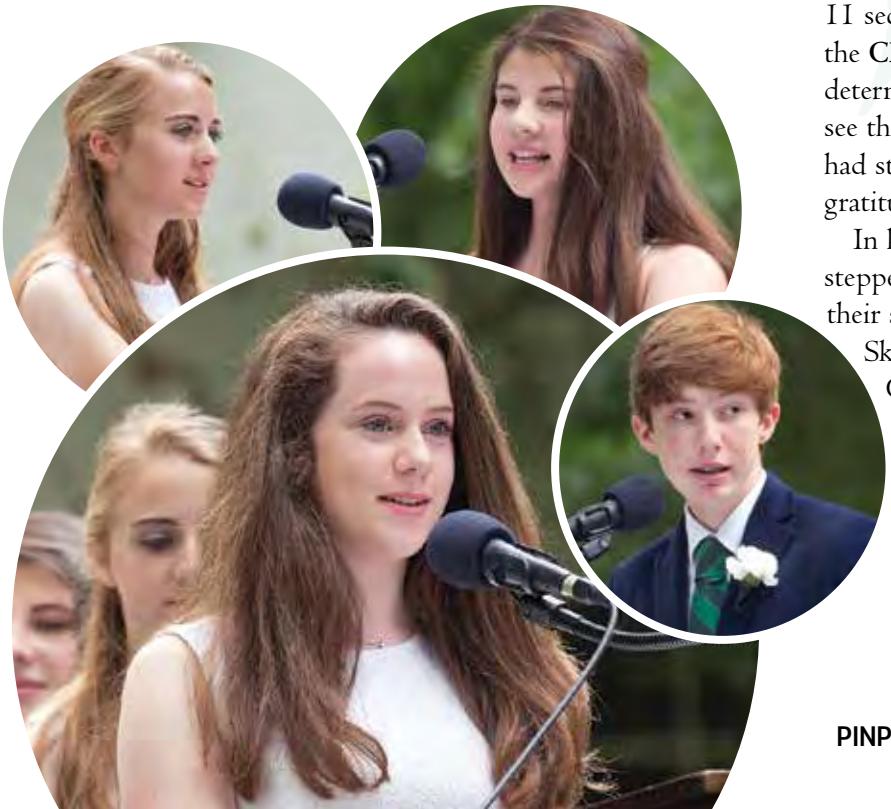
Tulani Grundy Meadows '92



For Mrs. Grundy Meadows, as well as for a number of parents, grandparents, and many current faculty members in the audience, there was a heightened feeling of gratitude and appreciation. Twenty-two former faculty and staff had returned as a collective surprise to honor Marijo Foster upon her retirement after 38 years at The Lexington School. The "Formers," feeling a groundswell of gratitude as well, were honored to join in the morning's graduation procession. As one close observer noted, "Tulani chose her words specifically for the graduates, and it was a day focused on the eighth graders. With the addition of all those former teachers, everybody was grinning and waving and hugging and just plain happy to be there."

Continuing that strong TLS connection, there are 11 second-generation TLSers in this class, tying with the **Class of 2014** for most ever. It was impossible to determine whether alumni parents were more excited to see their former teachers, or vice-versa; both generations had story after story after story to tell. It was a grand and gratitude-filled family reunion, for sure.

In keeping with graduation tradition, class officers stepped to the microphone with confidence to recount their school years. Using The Lexington School's Mission Skills Assessment traits as their theme, Jon Willcutt, Cate Cunningham, Bridget Young, Isabel Brunker, Sarah Belin, and Hanae Yoshida spoke, respectively, on teamwork, curiosity, time management, ethics, creativity, and resilience.



ABOVE Cate Cunningham and Hanae Yoshida address the proud parents, teachers, and fellow students.
LEFT Student speakers Isabel Brunker, Sarah Belin, Jon Willcutt, and Bridget Young.



Mrs. Foster was hired and told she would only be needed for one year. Aren't we blessed that she stayed for 38 years?

Chuck Baldecchi

Mr. Baldecchi thanked and bade farewell to those faculty and staff members leaving the school. Lee Tran has taught middle school math for one year and his students will miss him. Jami Ervin and her family will move to Columbus, Ohio, after two groundbreaking years as Director of Diversity and Assistant Director of Admission. After teaching Mandarin for three years, Yanqing Niu and her son, Orange, return to their native China. Rebecca Hopkins is retiring after 11 accountable years in our business office. Antonia Nevarez has kept the Lower School in tip-top shape for these last 12 years. Ronnie Wiggs leaves after 15 years of dedication, keeping the Middle School clean and ready for the next day. Ronna Love retires after 20 creative years of inspiring our youngest artists. She will be greatly missed as she and her husband, Bob, move to Bowling Green and open a gallery. And Joy Hill retires from the lunch room, having faithfully dished out delicious food and hugs for 27 years.

Mr. Baldecchi then announced, "Finally, The Lexington School has to say goodbye and farewell to Marijo Foster, our beloved Lower School Head. Mrs. Foster was hired and told she would only be needed for one year. Aren't we blessed that she stayed for 38 years? Her steady hand, sage wisdom, curricular knowledge, and excellent parenting advice have helped this Head of School and generations of others at TLS. There is no replacing Mrs. Foster; we will miss her and Josie tremendously."





ABOVE Ariyana Rhodes and her mother, Nedra Rhodes.
RIGHT Charlie Boone, Sims Fister, Hawkins Schnabel, Walker Owens, and Henry Beck.

OPPOSITE PAGE
Left Austin Hagan.
Right Reace Marshall and Hiba Malik.

A poignant moment followed. Mr. B further announced a special presentation for Mrs. Foster, saying, "On behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and TLS community, it is my distinct privilege to make you an Honorary member of the Class of 2016 and a graduate of your beloved TLS. Please come forward so I can give you your hard-earned diploma." On the arm of fourth grade teacher John Platt and to a standing ovation, **Marijo Foster (H'16)** walked to the front, close to her "classmates," to receive what some have called "the highest honor" the school bestows.

Mr. Baldecchi also thanked Dr. Laura Bonzo-Sims, Sherry Cline, and Una MacCarthy for 20 years of invaluable service to TLS.

He then thanked board members whose terms expire this year: Dr. Bruce Belin; Melanie Simpson-Halpin; Tracie Sturgill; Angela Beck, Vice President; and Margaret Graves, President, noting that their leadership and commitment to TLS have made this school exceptionally strong.

The presentation of diplomas to the Class of 2016 made it all official. With tremendous gratitude for the bridges that brought them over, the **Class of 2016** has graduated!





Permanent Headmaster List

Logan Absher
Henry Beck
Sarah Belin
Charlie Boone
August Brooks
Isabel Brunker
Quin Clay
Cate Cunningham
Sims Fister
Fletch Griffith
Elizabeth Herbert-Jones
Moises Hernandez
Hampton Jefferson
Mac Jett
Paul Kamer
Kincaid Keating
Jack Lofwall
Lucie Lott
Hiba Malik
Nasim Mohammadzadeh
Jake Neuzel
Walker Owens
Skye Park
Ann Kathryn Shashy
Max Steiner
Ryan Sullivan
John Paul Thomas
Ashley Westerfield
Jon Willcutt
Hanae Yoshida
Bridget Young

"They're Off to Great Places..."

HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2016

Logan Absher ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Monique Bacha ..... Sayre School
Henry Beck ..... Sayre School
Sarah Belin ..... Academy at Henry Clay High School
Charlie Boone ..... Academy at Henry Clay High School
August Brooks ..... Sayre School
MaKayla Brown ..... SCAPA at Lafayette High School
Isabel Brunker ..... Sayre School
T Buckley ..... Asheville School
Quin Clay ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Kevin Cline ..... Lafayette High School – Locust Trace AgriScience Center
Cate Cunningham ..... MSTC at Dunbar High School
Ella Dickinson ..... Glasgow High School
Sims Fister ..... Sayre School
Trey Fry ..... Sayre School
Owen Garcia ..... Sayre School
Olivia Greer ..... SCAPA at Lafayette High School
Fletch Griffith ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Austin Hagan ..... Lafayette Pre-Engineering
Ella Harris ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Elizabeth Herbert-Jones ..... Sayre School
Moises Hernandez ..... Dunbar High School
Allie Holoubek ..... Henry Clay High School
Hampton Jefferson ..... Academy at Henry Clay High School
Mac Jett ..... Lexington Catholic Math & Science Exemplar Program
Paul Kamer ..... Academy at Henry Clay High School
Kincaid Keating ..... SCAPA and Pre-Engineering at Lafayette High School
Davant Latham ..... Woodberry Forest School
Jack Lofwall ..... Academy at Henry Clay High School
Lucie Lott ..... Landmark School
Grace Lyman ..... Sayre School
Hiba Malik ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Reace Marshall ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Connor McLay ..... Costa Rica International Academy
Molly McLay ..... Costa Rica International Academy
Nasim Mohammadzadeh ..... MSTC at Dunbar High School
Jake Neuzel ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Elizabeth Nielsen ..... Henry Clay High School
Walker Owens ..... Woodberry Forest School
Skye Park ..... Sayre School
Virginia Peppiatt ..... SCAPA at Lafayette High School
Cole Preston ..... Baylor School
Riley Radtke ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Ariyana Rhodes ..... Henry Clay High School
Matthew Russo ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Hawkins Schnabel ..... Woodberry Forest School
Bashir Sfar ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Ann Kathryn Shashy ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Max Steiner ..... Henry Clay High School
Ryan Sullivan ..... Henry Clay High School
John Paul Thomas ..... Sayre School
Kali Thomas ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Davis Truitt ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Graham Wald ..... Henry Clay High School
Ashley Westerfield ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Jon Willcutt ..... Air & Space Program at Lexington Catholic High School
Hanae Yoshida ..... Sayre School
Bridget Young ..... Lexington Catholic High School

Southwest Adventure



Head *Lines*

NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

WITH HER ICONIC RED GLASSES and mighty bullhorn, Lower School Division Head **Marijo Foster (H'16)** called an end to her last lower school carline with a raucous cacophony of bells, whistles, cymbals, and horns. While she always kept order and certainly took advantage of every teachable moment, she also knew how to make learning and life at The Lexington School fun. What a momentous end to the school year!

How do you give a proper goodbye to a legend? Mrs. Foster retired after 38 loyal and dedicated years of service to The Lexington School she loved. Schools like TLS thrive because of master educators who give their professional lives and careers to an institution they love. And give she did. From the mathematics classroom to the division head's office, she changed lives for the better for generations of TLS families and teachers. Mrs. Foster, we will miss your radiant smile, sage wisdom, and perfect parenting advice. Please know you are always welcome back within these halls of learning. Thank you.

We shall miss the **Class of 2016**, as well. Graduation Day could not have been more perfect. Smiling faces of proud parents, siblings, grandparents, and past and present teachers beamed as our amazing graduates stole the show. The class leaders eloquently articulated how the six Mission Skills – Teamwork, Curiosity, Time Management, Ethics, Creativity, and Resilience – shaped their time at TLS. They also left inspired – inspired by the words of **Tulani Grundy Meadows '92**, who added her name to a long list of TLS's proud alumni who have given our young graduates their charge to go out into the world and make a difference.

It is also a time to say thank you in this *Pinpoints*. We thank and recognize the countless volunteers who have given so generously of their time and talent to make The Lexington School function smoothly and successfully, as well as those Parents, Grandparents, Alumni, Trustees, Faculty, and Friends who give so generously of their treasure, thereby allowing The Lexington School to achieve its strategic goals and initiatives. The Lexington School is changing lives every day because of all of those who teach, volunteer, donate, and, most importantly, love this school.

With gratitude for a job I love,



Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School



The Immeasurable Contributions of Marijo Foster

Can you multiply 525,600 minutes times 38?

That might be hard even for super math teacher **Marijo Foster (H'16)**, mother of **Meg Foster Sullivan '87** and **Scott Foster '89**, to decipher.

"How do you measure, measure a year?" Yes, but how do you measure, measure *38 years?*

The story has been told and retold, part of Lexington School legend now: In September 1978, Headmaster **Norton G. Pritchett Jr. (H'81)** hired Mrs. Foster for a year, only a year, with the strict caveat, "I know you're going to love it, but ***don't even think about it.*** It's only going to be one year."

In fact, Marijo and her beloved late husband, Tom Foster, have both become Lexington School legends, with an overwhelming collection of devoted, loyal, and enthusiastic friends and admirers from every quarter of TLS. For many within the school family, Dr. and Mrs. Foster could be called "Dr. and Mrs. TLS." Josie, most popular Border Terrier on campus, is also a famous Foster family member.





Above Taking a break from math class in the late 1990s to enjoy a skit in Dr. Jacobo Aragon's Spanish class.

Right Putting the finishing touches of make-up on Snow White (**Virginia Bibb Golden '92**) in the late 1980s.

Mrs. Foster retired in 2016. We can do that math.

Those days and weeks and months and years and decades in between were filled with "Seasons of Love" from Mrs. Foster to the school and from the school to Mrs. Foster. It has been a two-way street every measured minute of the way.

That first year, appropriate for a math teacher, she couldn't even describe her new job by a whole number. She was dealing in fractions from the get-go. She and Betty Cox *shared* a fulltime position. Mrs. Foster taught eighth grade algebra; Mrs. Cox, ninth grade geometry.

Running the numbers, she taught three math classes in 1979. In 1980, according to parable, not parabola, Mr. Pritchett said, "Your son is now able to come to TLS, so you're coming full time." In 1981, the absolute value of her responsibilities grew exponentially, as she taught two fourth and sixth grade math classes and became Middle School Head. It doesn't take much ciphering to learn she was Chairman of the Math Department. Continuing the formula for success, soon thereafter, she was named Director of



Melanie Mauer Photography



2001 Reunion Time in the Library: Dr. and Mrs. Foster catch up with **Prentiss Douglass '89**, from one of her favorite classes. *She has lots.*



Best dressed supporter of the school store, a late 1980s Mrs. Foster pairs pearls with her TLS baseball cap and apron.

Professional Development, instituted the funding, in-service days, mentoring network, and wrote the professional development model that's still used today. No variables, only constants there.

Counting up all her collective TLS responsibilities would stump even Archimedes. She chaired the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) Accreditation's visit. She ran the school store, tapping into her innate and abundant marketing talents. She chaired the 40th Anniversary festivities, coining the terms, "XL … It's not just our age; it's our mission" and "XL and Still XL-ent." Over the years and in real numbers, she has taught math to fourth through ninth graders, and loved every minute of it.



Debby Coleman says, "Something about her hair made me think of Mrs. Claus even before I knew Marijo actually dressed the part."

Current and recent parents know she's been Lower School Head since 2002, embracing each of her students as she has embraced each of her various roles at school. With her famed "institutional memory" and penchant for numbers, she's hugged three generations of TLS students. It doesn't take an Everyday Math scholar to know she isn't about to stop now.

In 2007, she began writing "Weekly Words" to share parenting pointers and observations with lower school moms and dads. Numbers person that she is, she shouldn't have been surprised that her advice and accessibility made for a sharp uptick in her readership. Grandparents, alumni, colleagues, friends, and neighbors felt a growing bond with her and began to look forward to Wednesdays, eager to learn what topic Mrs. Foster would cover next.

By any equation, she could have counted on it and, when word spread that the author of "Weekly Words" planned to retire, the common denominator was that admirers by the dozens hoped she'd write a book. They figured wrong … but, instead, as is widely known in current TLS legend, she wrote a *bookmark*, "Mark My Words." Naturally, math is integral to it – "38 Thoughts after 38 Years."

By any calculation, it is impossible to measure the gifts Marijo Foster has given The Lexington School. If you ask her, it is impossible, too, to measure the gifts The Lexington School has given Marijo Foster.

How do you *try to measure*, measure 38 years?

"How about love? Measure in love. Seasons of love."



Marijo Memories



Marijo Foster (H'16), chauffeured by Paul Parell '07, rides in style with some favorite "Formers," Ann Eames, Mark Scarr, and Anne and Todd McCormack.

WHEN WORD SPREAD that the **Class of 2016** graduation procession was to be the last that **Marijo Foster (H'16)** would lead, her former colleagues wanted to be there to celebrate and honor her.

They wanted to applaud her and the school they love. They wanted to return to the place where "cherished friendships linger," as Dot Smith's TLS *Alma Mater* proclaims.

The "Formers" came back to school in droves: from Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, the far reaches of Kentucky, all around the Bluegrass. You couldn't keep them away, but *they could keep* a secret. Mrs. Foster didn't know anything about all the plans until, about a half-hour before graduation, folks from her TLS long-ago began to show up, one-by-one, sometimes two-by-two, at the front door and along the middle school hallway. Sort of like a gigantic surprise party and family reunion all mixed together.

A strong and enduring part of the group, in absentia, was **Norton G. Pritchett Jr. (H'81)**. Some might say Mr. Pritchett was the sturdy and steady force behind the boundless positive energy compressed into the pre-graduation collection of Formers, 22 by last count, to honor Mrs. Foster. It was he, in 1978, who had the wisdom and foresight to compute the goodness of a prospective part-time math teacher. It was he, then, who set the ball rolling, those decades ago, for today's grand and gala celebration. Feeling a particular comradeship with Mrs. Foster since he, himself, joined The Lexington School as a math teacher in 1960, he confessed by telephone, "It seemed just like yesterday" when he met Mrs. Marijo Foster in his office that first time. From the comfortable living room of his home in Brevard, North Carolina, now, alongside **Carolyn Pritchett (H'99)**, his beloved wife, Mr. Pritchett, recalled, "Marijo joined our faculty in the Upper School as a math teacher. She was warmly appreciated by the faculty, students, and parents. Her many responsibilities and accomplishments over the years have been a notable contribution to the success of The Lexington School."



In cahoots with **Meg Foster Sullivan '87** and **Scott Foster '89**, Mrs. Foster's children, Todd and Anne Thomas McCormack (he, English and social studies '82 - '84, and she, French, English, and social studies '82 - '84) had secretly slipped into the Bluegrass the evening before commencement. They started the celebratory ball rolling by surprising Marijo for dinner. Anne and Todd, now from Massachusetts, said, "Marijo accompanied and nurtured us both as new teachers to TLS. She modeled how to listen to and engage



students. Her love of children and teaching was infectious. She encouraged us to experiment in the classroom. We owe her so much and are lucky that our first boss has now become such a dear friend."

It was appropriate that **David Lowry (H'00)** led the former faculty procession. He and his wife, **Aril Lowry (H'00)**, had arrived from New Jersey, completely undetected by the usually-not-missing-one-detail eyes of Mrs. Foster. Dr. Lowry remembered, "I worked with Marijo from 1985 to 1995, when I was the Head of TLS and she was the Head of the Middle School. We never had a hierarchical relationship; we were colleagues who worked together, managing the day-to-day life of the School, planning for the year to come, solving problems, and taking care of our students. We knew each other's strengths and limitations, and, luckily, we complemented each other. Marijo always has a sense of calm warmth about her; thoughtful and measured, wise from experience. She could soothe the soul of a riled Middle Schooler with one hand, and set the limits for another youngster with the other hand. To me, she was a joy to work with, and I consider my relationship with her as one of the very best and productive professional relationships I have ever experienced. Thank you, Marijo."



From Portland, Oregon, Ann Eames traveled the farthest to pay tribute to her dear friend and to relish in the continuation of TLS friendships that she and her husband, Bill, both treasure. Marijo and Ann have shared more time together than most, with their collective collection of TLS hats worn throughout the years, as her first year was also 1978. Back home after total TLS immersion, replaying the moments one by one, Ann reflected, "A nester at heart, Marijo was always able to make 'the principal's office' a warm, safe, growing spot where children and adults could meet and exchange confidences. Sometimes the visits were to share joy. Other times they were challenging, involving questionable choices or difficult life decisions. Occasionally, someone just needed reassurance,



and Mrs. Foster and then Josie were there. Over the years, regardless of a person's division loyalties or age, Marijo's TLS nest was a nurturing, shall we say, a 'brooding' spot for many."

Living now on the north side of Lexington, Jenny O'Neill, English and fifth and sixth grade language arts teacher from 1985 - 2001, laughed and said, "Working for the Health Department, I was contracted by TLS to provide sex education to middle and what was then upper school students. After three years of this, Mark Scarr told me about an English position that was opening up. When I interviewed with Marijo, she said, 'We like your teaching style; do you read and write?' How could I not love *that* Division Head?" Then turn the calendar forward a bit, and Jenny continued, "It was two years after I was hired that I walked into the cafeteria and was completely white-faced and shaking. Marijo saw me immediately and said, 'What's wrong?' 'No, no,' I said, 'It's good news.... I just sold my first book!' So I guess I *could* read and write. Marijo was such a smart, supportive boss. I consider myself very lucky to have worked for her."





Melanie Mauer Photography



The celebration couldn't have been complete without Eunice and Don Noderer, virtuoso couple whose students filled TLS with splendid music and impressive performances throughout the '80s. Peripatetic now with their sleek Airstream, when they learned of Mrs. Foster's retirement, they made plans immediately to head out from their Pennsylvania camp spot and navigate to the Blue Grass to add to her surprise. They treasured the laughing, swapping stories, reconnecting with friends from yesterday, loving every minute of it – and got a particular kick out of Marijo's beaming smile while she strummed with other TLS ukulele players at the *Marijo-bilee*.

Job-sharing Betty Cox, laughing about the classes she and her devoted friend taught together, emphasized that *she* had a big part in the Foster Fete: "My claim to fame at TLS was that I was responsible for hiring Marijo Foster; I put Bud Pritchett onto her! Marijo and I were two-for-the-price-of-one. When you job share and you both love the job and your heart is in it, the employer gets two people trying their best instead of just one; that was Marijo and me." Betty also remembered when "Lanna Bell's dog had lab puppies and we brought them into the math 'lab,' and all of us laughed. Marijo, Pam Walker, and I got puppies from that litter. It was lots of fun." With her affection for her math collaborator spilling over and her love of the school practically overflowing as well, Betty generously emphasized, "If you're caught in traffic on Nicholasville Road, remember I'm good for a visit and some iced tea."



Adding an international flavor, in Québec studying French on a grant, and with limited internet life was Jim Jer-Don, TLS Spanish teacher from 1986 - 1989. His Marijo Memories needed no translation. "In 1986, I was new to teaching when I arrived at The Lexington School, and I was full of grand ambitions and big ideas about life, and about teaching in specific. Marijo was my Division Head, and she welcomed me to the school and the profession with her characteristic warmth and generosity of spirit. Notwithstanding my idealism, the reality of classroom teaching quickly humbled me. Not once but TWICE, students in my class accidentally set off the fire alarm my first year – once while cleaning erasers and once with a spiral notebook (I have NO idea) – forcing the evacuation of the whole school and triggering the arrival of the fire trucks.



Melanie Mauer Photography

"In my first faculty meeting, I asked if I was 'really expected to teach with this noose around my neck' (referring to the neckties we were asked to wear then – perhaps still). All of this by way of saying, my first year at TLS was far from pedagogical perfection. Marijo met with me frequently, offered guidance and correction, and, most importantly, helped me laugh at myself, one of the most important ingredients in the recipe for success as a teacher.

"I have worked at quite a few schools since TLS, and fortunately I have mastered my craft as a teacher. I have also had other very good administrators, and I have even respected some of them, but Marijo stands out as THE one I aspire to be like. She possesses a truly rare capacity to be a strong leader and an able administrator, one who fosters a genuine sense of camaraderie while also always seeing, valuing, and celebrating each team member's individuality. So, though on such occasions the word 'inspirational' is habitually used, I use it in its deepest sense – Marijo has inspired me – she continues to do so – because I am not yet for my colleagues and students the person she so readily was for me way back in 1986 when I started my teaching journey under her able leadership."

At the head of the graduation procession with Mr. Baldecchi and **Tulani Grundy Meadows '92** was



Margaret Graves '79, president of the Board of Trustees and mother of **Hart Hallos '15** and **Wick Hallos '15**. Margaret's last year as a TLS student was Mrs. Foster's first year as a TLS teacher. They know each other well, admire each other tremendously. From her heart, Margaret said, "Marijo has been a wonderful teacher and administrator for 38 years. Her gentle wisdom has guided students, teachers, parents, heads of school, and board presidents. We are forever grateful."

Irwin Pickett, who taught art from 1968 - 1970, and father of **Harck Pickett '86** and **Bleik Pickett '88**, took the prize in the procession of former faculty for the teacher with the earliest hire date, illustrating durable and deep-rooted TLS bonds.



Scarlet Gate's sunshine-dappled trees provided shade for the commencement audience, with the Formers in reserved seating, where they could keep a special eye on **Mrs. Foster (H'16)**, now and forever an honorary member of the Class of 2016. It was a particular treat, too, for Formers to see the 11 second-generation graduates: Sarah Belin, August Brooks, T Buckley, Quin Clay, Sims Fister, Allie Holoubek, Hampton Jefferson, Elizabeth Nielsen, Walker Owens, Virginia Peppiatt, and Davis Truitt. It, of course, followed suit that memories of the grads' parents were both clear and "recent" for Mrs. Foster and her bevy of Formers.



The Foster Fete continued post-graduation, moving to the home of Beth, Dan, **Eliza Pride '12**, and **Lew Pride '15**. That location, Darley Jonabell Farm, too, had generational TLS roots, many Formers remembering happy visits when **Jessica Bell Nicholson '64**, **Johnny Bell '66**, **Jimmy Bell '69**, and **Benny Bell Williams '72** grew up there.

At the retirement party, dubbed the ***Marijo-bilee***, Melinda Massie, mother of **Chad Massie '89** and **Ryan Massie '90**, reminisced that the Massies and Fosters carpooled to nursery school together, in the years before they all became TLSers. At home after the Fete, on a quiet afternoon, Melinda wrote her longtime friend this letter. "To Marijo: At TLS, students partner with and are encouraged by their teachers to learn, to embrace challenges, and to find and develop their passions. I've known you longer than your tenure at TLS and have watched as you set an example for students, parents, and teachers as to how, exactly, this is done. You have learned from experience and an eagerness to seek answers to questions and problems, accepted the challenges of new positions, followed passions and explored new ones, and have encouraged others to do the same. Your enthusiasm for learning and teaching has meant that the TLS family not only learned about math, but also about parenting, running a store, needlepointing, cross-stitching, beading, and the joys of playing the ukulele. Most important, though, has been your fundamental belief that all children are good. It is the basis from which your actions evolved and your inspiration flowed and it will be what defines your legacy at TLS."





At the celebration, as well, were Deirdre and Pearse Lyons, parents of **Aoife Lyons '88** and **Mark Lyons '92** and longtime Foster Family friends, who said, "We have many good memories of Marijo and The Lexington School." Deirdre went on to say, "One very happy memory is Marijo working with a fifth grade math team, named Foster's Fabulous Five, when she coached the team for Math Counts."

At the gathering in spirit if not in person was Aoife, second-gen Lyons admirer of Mrs. Foster. From Ireland, Aoife sent a special Marijo Memory: "The thrill of being called a 'Bead Brain!' Only if you are being called a 'Bead Brain' by our one-and-only Mrs. Foster, of course. In fifth grade, Mrs. Foster invited five girls to join the 'Busy Beads Club' as part of math class. We (she) bought beads and then we made and sold bead bracelets and necklaces to our fellow students and teachers. Being a 'Bead Brain' was a term of affection from Mrs. Foster and a source of pride for us girls. Just one example of Mrs. Foster's creativity in teaching math and fostering a lifelong love of learning in her students. Thank you, Mrs. Foster! I'll always remember the fun we had with math!"



Also out of town, standing in the queue to board a plane, **Sybil Dawahare Montero '93** recalled in an instant her favorite "Mrs. Foster Story" … back in sixth grade, clear as a bell. "During second break, several friends – whom I will now kindly leave unnamed – and I were walking jauntily down the hall. We were innocent girls, rule followers of the most reliable kind … but … somebody had passed out several sticks of chewing gum, strictly verboten of course. We knew that, but we were chomping down on our gum pretty happily anyway. Walking directly toward us, of course, was Mrs. Foster, who never missed a detail. She gave us 'that look,' raised one eyebrow, and said, 'In my office now,' where we remained, trembling heartily, the entire rest of the break. Mrs. Foster checked in on us several times, looking through the window, but never actually came in. Our punishment was *thinking we were in trouble*, which was MOST effective. We were scared to death, certain she was going to call our parents. We could see our carefree TLS days crashing down before our eyes. I will always remember her wise and kind graciousness, and I never see anyone chewing gum that I don't think of my favorite Mrs. Foster."

Samantha Kemmish Campbell, former TLS fifth grade, math, science, and skills teacher and assistant Head of Lower School, accentuated the importance of lessons learned from Mrs. Foster. Continuing her closeness with Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Campbell, now Head of School at St. Paul's School, Pre-K through eighth grade, in Clearwater, Florida, has Mrs. Foster's final evaluation letter for her framed and hanging in her office. Every one of Mrs. Campbell's new hires reads it. On a summertime afternoon when she's practically the only one at school, she says, "My favorite part is her advice: *Remain unflappable. Be supportive. Notice everything. Communicate honestly and quickly. Keep track of the big picture. Never hesitate to open dialogue, even if it will be difficult.* I still live by this wisdom."

With her first grade team, on the way to a meeting in Chicago, Carol Bertram thought of Marijo throughout most of the drive time. How is it possible to condense a decade into several sentences, no matter how well-thought-out those phrases are? She wrangled with exactly the right Marijo reflections and words during one of her morning sessions while the keynote speaker was behind the podium. As Carol said, "You know the quote, 'When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot, and hang on'? Well, our speaker was talking about the importance of relationships, and asked the question, 'Who is holding your rope?' I immediately thought of Marijo – how she anchors us, helps us back up when we fall, and is always cheering us on to reach the top. It's been such a great comfort to know she would always be at the end of our ropes, tying knots to keep us hanging on."



For her part, Mrs. Foster claims a deep and special pride when former students enroll their own children or become her faculty colleagues. She confessed, "The day **Andrew Schwartz '00** came to me for advice during his first month of teaching middle school math at TLS just might have brought a tear to my eye. You see, he was one of my bright and shining math students many years ago."

Emphasizing her continued connection with TLSers, former and current, Mrs. Foster said too, "I have been given the perfect opportunity for making a difference in people's lives." Sometimes she was unaware of future outcomes of her actions, recalling, "I was stunned when I learned a matron of honor's wedding toast included a story of how I had helped mend a relationship between the bride and the toast giver. She remembered every detail, and years later the matron's daughter reminded me of that story as I was trying to help mend a rift between her and her friend! The little girl wanted just what her mother had gotten, and she guided the conversation to be sure we included every nuance, including the pinky pledge!"

Thinking back to Mr. Pritchett and that first year, Mrs. Foster smiled and said, "I've always known TLS is a special place, even before I arrived in 1978 for my one-year stint as an upper school math teacher. Mr. Pritchett hired me with the caveat that I shouldn't fall in love with the place, but the truth is, it was pretty much love at first sight. I feel so lucky to have experienced the incredible students, fabulous colleagues, and wonderful parents who make up the TLS community. ***And guess what?*** I felt exactly the same way on my last day. As luck would have it, my one year turned into thirty-eight."



Finally, offering a special canine connection, TLS founder **Josephine Abercrombie (H'00)** brought the conversation full circle: "Stoney and I still remember the nice afternoon when you and Josie came to visit us here at Pin Oak in the Spring of 2012. Despite the fact that Stoney is about five times as big as Josie, they got along so well; you and I thought they'd been friends for ages. Best wishes on a grand retirement for both you and Josie, whom you named after me."

Ms. A could speak for Mrs. Foster's entire TLS family: "Best wishes on a grand retirement."

And, with a nod toward The Lexington School's *Alma Mater*, "Through the years, Marijo Foster will live in our hearts."



THE OREGON TRAIL

Winds Back to Lane Allen Road

"YES, I FEEL LIKE I WAS ON THE WAGON TRAIN," says third grader Lauren Neuman, now an expert, along with her classmates, on details of that historic time and place. In remembering specific class presentations and stories from her teachers, whose feet had trod the very ground the pioneers had covered in another lifetime, Lauren continues, "I like the way [the pioneers] handled all the obstacles thrown their way. They had a strong will to succeed."

Through The Lexington School's commitment to professional development, third grade teachers Mona Azeem, Joni Calkins, and Tracy Young bring firsthand understanding of the Oregon Trail into their classrooms. Last summer's incredible opportunity for "the three Thirds" to experience pioneer life in an abbreviated version of the over 2,000-mile Oregon Trail has completely revitalized the largest TLS lower school unit, taught from December through May. All three agree that they'll never teach the subject the same way again. Comfortably knowledgeable now in hitching their own team of horses, breaking and loading camp, setting up and dismantling their 12-foot-tall by 3-foot-diameter teepee, all three considered the journey *life-changing*.





Though U.S. Westward expansion and TLS expansion of Mission Skills Assessment are separated by 170 years, both groups of pioneers share the timeless skills of Teamwork, Creativity, Ethics, Resilience, Curiosity, and Time Management. Mrs. Calkins emphasizes, "We live MSA traits daily and teach them through example. They came alive for me on the Oregon Trail, as I was constantly reminded of them. The experience has made *a huge difference* in our team and curriculum." Using the same mode of historical transport, our TLS explorers bumped and jostled along in an old, wooden, unforgiving Conestoga wagon with no added comforts. Word has it that Mrs. Azeem's Kentucky heritage sprang forth as she drove the horses within the first hour.



Becoming students themselves, our three teachers learned – and lived – details of the trail, forged in the late 1840s, primarily 1847-51, when thousands of people made their way from Independence, Missouri, to Oregon. Last summer's wagon trail leaders were a wealth of information about the history and geography of Independence Rock, Devil's Gate, and Rocky Ridge. Landmarks along the trail and rocks with carved and dated names of family members, these places, which were only names on paper beforehand, are now forever alive in TLS minds and hearts. In a strong feeling of connectedness between the centuries, the teachers say stories learned from their evenings around the campfire under the stars have become favorite conversation and study topics within the classroom.



Mrs. Young elaborates, "The pioneer spirit – the desire for a new beginning and the hope for a better life – was everywhere on the Oregon Trail. Capturing this spirit and passing it along to our students does more than any textbook ever could."

Mrs. Azeem was profoundly affected, too: "The experience changed my mindset of what life on the trail was about for these families years ago. It wasn't just a six-month journey to move across the country; it's about endurance, work, gain, loss, and hope. With each famous landmark along the trail, I couldn't help but think about those who had stood in the same spot feeling exhausted, hungry, worried, yet persevering toward Oregon. When we share stories of the pioneers, the emphasis is on the teamwork, creativity, and resilience these forerunners possessed. We three teachers ***lived it!***"

A New Kind of DRIVER'S LICENSE

ON YOUR MARK! Dragsters are all the rage in the science class of **Chris Johnson '89**. Seventh graders build their balsa wood cars from the ground up, just like the old days, but now use innovative software to research, design, and redesign their CO_2 cars virtually. TLS auto engineers, who would impress Toyota executives, test multiple variations of their cars before they ever take sandpaper to the first block of wood. Leaving yesterday's dragsters in their rear view, these state-of-the-art creations pull way ahead through students' abilities to refine the design. Each model might have as many as 20 iterations before actual commitment to the final version. Classmates race each other virtually, gain feedback, and make additional tweaks and changes. The door is wide open to endless creative variations by testing and retesting. Each student sees his car generated on the computer monitor, grabs it, rotates it, and adjusts it. High pressure areas are shown in red so students know where to adjust shape to reduce friction. This allows the designer to change the shape of the car, adjust the location of the axles, determine the center of mass, and observe drag, thereby learning the tradeoff between mass and drag. These young auto designers can form the front into a point or make the entire car a little lower or a little lighter. Gaining more friction is not a problem, nor is losing mass.



With design settled, Middle Schoolers are ready to sand and shave their rough wooden blocks into sleek, aerodynamic speedsters. They learn paint and screws add mass; what began as 16 grams now weighs 19 grams. Emmy Sippy explains, "It was really fun when we got to sand and paint our cars. We had a ton of different colors. My favorite part was racing; I helped with the set-up and Robert Farish pressed it down to start." Woods Freeman says, "I enjoyed making cars on the website and competing virtually. It was also neat to sand the cars so we could reduce mass. Spray painting them and racing each class was fun too."

To observe the evolution of today's TLS car design, see the back cover. When Mr. Johnson, who succeeded Frank Hardesty as middle school science teacher, was a seventh grader in Mr. Hardesty's class, red carts, not CO_2 dragsters, were all the rage. With a reverence for tradition, Mr. Johnson keeps a whole fleet of red carts in his room … nine of which are carefully parallel parked on the back wall.

Student drivers at The Lexington School have always charted their own highway to success.



RIGHT Easton Morton
LEFT Emmy Sippy
BELOW Seth Rubin, Mr. Johnson, Robert Farish
BOTTOM Hampton Rouse, Nathalie de Sousa, Bella Baldecchi





Pin *Notes*

CLASS OF 1996



With her UK undergrad and grad degrees, **Diana Mendiondo Bozzuto '96** moved to NC for a short time, to Lexington again, on to Greenville, SC, for five years, then back home to Lexington nearly six years ago. She and husband, Nick, have three-year-old Thomas, and Dixie, their dog, who is definitely a family member.

Diana works at BB&T, managing the commercial credit team in their KY region, which includes the entire state except for Northern KY. Fun fact – keeping the TLS family connected, Nick is a product manager at Bullard (yes, Wells Bullard's Bullard). Diana has taken up running with a determined vengeance, completing one marathon and ten half-marathons over the last 71/2 years. Fellow competitors, watch out, as she looks forward to training for her next set of races. It's no surprise to hear Diana is still close with some of her TLS classmates, and, as a proud Kentuckian, she emphasizes she bleeds UK blue.



Thoroughly enjoying Lexington's downtown life, **Wells Bullard '96** and her husband, Harding Dowell, live a stone's throw from Main Street and are in walking distance of both historic and freshly minted points of interest. Wells is Vice President at Bullard, her family's safety equipment manufacturing company in Cynthiana, and is responsible for marketing and product development. Her Bullard hard hats have been a daily part of TLS life during construction projects through the years. Harding is an Associate at EOP Architects. They love being back home in Lexington and, unsurprisingly, spend much free time with TLS friends. They are frequent travelers to all manner of destinations as well, especially enjoying visits with Wells' brother, **Ward Bullard '93**, his wife, Becky, and their children, Jack, Gracie, and Lorraine, in CA.

After TLS, Wells went to Groton and Stanford. She worked in Atlanta for several years, then graduated from Harvard Business School before returning to Lexington to work for Bullard.

Some things never change. **Laura Bell Bundy '96** is still drawing smiles from her TLS audience, catching friends up on her life: *I am recently engaged to Thom Hinkle, my longtime boyfriend. Thom runs original comedy at TBS, and is hilariously trying to domesticate me. Tragically, it's working. We just bought a home in Pasadena, CA, across from the Rose Bowl, that we can't stop updating, and live there with our canine kids, Polly, an English bulldog, and Norma Jean, a Chihuahua. Besides learning how to use a crock pot and refurbishing mid-century furniture finds, I have been doing a lot more writing and producing these days. I launched a variety-style digital channel called* Skits-O-Frenic *last fall and have a few scripts in development – one that takes place in KY. In June, I shot the movie,* Beauty Mark, *in Louisville. In late 2016/early 2017 I head back to NYC to play Trixie in the upcoming Broadway musical* The Honeymooners, *based on the classic TV show with Jackie Gleason. Obviously, Roheen* **[Raithatha '96]** *and I will hang out and watch the CATS play in NYC. Finally, all my best girlfriends, including Olivia Hurter, had children this year. I am beaming with joy for them and enjoying the wine they haven't been able to drink.*



Laura has vivid memories of her time at TLS, specifically, *Ms. Eichhorn's snake, Spike, climbing through my blouse, and racing Will Chapman around that massive pine tree – whilst he teased me. Dressing up as a gnome and building a gnome home. But, my favorite was our Japanese-themed third grade year that began my obsession with Japanese food and culture. We went to Tachibana and attempted to use chopsticks. Olivia and I thought stabbing our chicken teriyaki was the most efficient approach. We dressed in kimonos. I even wore a black wig in a bun like a real geisha. Pretty sure, I could only get away with that in 1989. I was obsessed with Mrs. Kline.*



Calling Tucson, AZ, home now, **Shea Burns '96** still visits family in Lexington once or twice a year and says there "will always be a piece of me that thinks of that as home too." He works for the University of Arizona on a variety of projects, developing and using modeling tools to investigate the impacts of land cover change on hydrologic response. He also admits, "I still love playing soccer and playing in the outdoors, which makes AZ a great place to live, though I try to have as many out-of-state adventures as possible. Part of what fostered my love of the outdoors, and even my career, was all the fantastic trips we took at TLS, whether it was skiing over winter break in Breckenridge, being outside at Tremont and Bradford Woods, or getting dirty in caves with Mr. Hardesty's ninth grade science class."



Jill Tallal Burt '96 and husband, Michael, live in Minneapolis with their two children, daughter Marley, born in June, 2015, and son, Benny, born on the same day, two years later. Jill's classmate **Kelsey Nicholson '96** also had her two children, **Elliott '18** and **Bennett '20**, on the same day, two years apart.



Alex Clay '96 lives with his wife, Abby, and their 4 1/2-year-old daughter, Ava, in Lexington. He works for his family business, managing their software development team, and still sings in the Christ Church Cathedral choir.

Class Agent **Brooke Folley Counts '96** is married to Chris Counts, her college sweetheart, and their daughter, **Lauren '23**, is a rising TLS second grader, along with **Ann Reid Chapman '23**, the daughter of Brooke's classmate, **Will Chapman '96**.



Brooke attended Centre College before graduating with her JD from the University of Kentucky College of Law. She was in private practice for six years before finding her passion of writing. That passion began in Barbara Groves' second grade class when Brooke wrote a play featuring Inspector Don and the rest of her class, which they later performed.

Brooke published her first book, under the pen name Kathleen Brooks, five years ago. Jenny Davis O'Neill and Ann Eames were some of her first readers. Since then, she has published 21 books and landed on the *New York Times* Bestseller's List 6 times, the *Wall Street Journal* Bestseller's List, and the *USA Today* Bestseller's List 15 times.

Brooke now spends her days thinking of ways to kill people and waiting for the FBI to show up at her door because of her internet research for her books. Chris works with her and runs their publishing company while they are surrounded by their three dogs and cat.



Alex Cutadean '96 and his fiancée, Jen Quintana, look forward to their September 3 wedding. He has worked at UK since 2013, currently operating the Faculty Media Depot, supporting faculty and staff with the creation and utilization of media. Alex has also continued his ties with the thoroughbred industry, producing video and multimedia marketing campaigns.

Pin *Notes*

CLASS OF 1996



Nabbing the award for interesting, off-the-beaten-path jobs is **Eileen Dunnington Dallaire '96**. She and husband, Joe, live in Lexington, and she is the sanctuary manager at the Primate Rescue Center, where she has worked since 2004, upon completion of her internship there. Located outside Nicholasville, the Center provides lifetime care for nearly 50 chimpanzees and monkeys. Looking after the "residents" cements her lifelong interest in working with animals. Eileen graduated magna cum laude from UK with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.



On their recent bike ride to support MS research, **Rebekah Gray Henley '96** logged 50 miles, while her husband, Ben, completed 100. To get a mental boost while pedaling, Rebekah says she could hear Mr. Hardesty saying loudly and clearly, "You can do it, Knucklehead!"



Bret Jones '96 graduated from the University of the South in 2004 and has worked at Airdrie Stud in Midway since 2005. He and wife, **Tyler Bell Jones '98**, were married in 2010 and live in Lexington with their three boys, B, Jack, and Thomas Chandler Jones, who was born June 24, 2016. Bret considers himself extremely fortunate still to call several of his TLS classmates his best friends, and hopes his sons can one day have the same special experience with The Lexington School that he did.



In Berkeley, CA, **Helen Liu '96** and husband, Hillel Adesnik, a UC Berkeley professor, enjoy rearing Philip, their bright and playful one-year-old. After moving to CA to attend Berkeley and having settled in the Bay Area, Helen is now both a Californian and Kentuckian. She practiced law for about five years before "bar hopping" and, in 2013, opened an exercise studio called The Bar Method. Watching clients become ever more dedicated to their physical strength and mental stamina, helping them overcome physical limitations, and creating a strong, supportive community in and out of the studio are the things that bring her the most satisfaction in her professional life. In her personal life – as she says, "What kind of free time can you really have with a baby, anyway?" – Helen cannot get enough of the pleasures of the Bay Area's great weather, hiking, wine country, and amazing food. She extends the invitation to TLS friends to come visit.

While Philip explores his play area, Helen thinks back to the nine years she spent at TLS, saying, "There's such an incredible bond that we all formed, having learned so many things together at such impressionable stages in our lives. I feel as if I could lean on any TLS classmate for support if I ever needed it. Small memories float through my mind from time to time, starting with the thrill of seeing where Paddington Bear would be in Miss Bale's first grade classroom each morning, all the way through the fun times we had creating the ninth grade show. Our teachers helped develop my critical thinking and allowed us creative freedom to explore. Every single classmate helped shape me. I can only look back at my TLS experience with the utmost fondness."



THE CLASS OF 1996 offers sympathy to the family of **Alicia Rose Lom '96**, who died November 25, 2015. Alicia and her husband, Richard, lived in Georgetown, KY. **Brooke Folley Counts '96** says, "I will forever think of Lish and smile as I remember how we passed notes in class, took walks around the school during breaks, and laughed when we both showed up in the same traffic school class many years after TLS graduation and treated it as a happy reunion."

From Cincinnati, **Olivia Hurter Swan '96** remembers, "Alicia was a true friend – genuine, kind, and trustworthy, easygoing and fun. The ski trips we took out West are some of my favorite memories of her. What I remember most is Alicia's fearlessness and determination to ski just about any trail on the mountain, despite being a beginner skier. She wanted to challenge herself and have fun – and that's exactly what we did. I miss her dearly and cherish those memories."



Olivia and Alicia in 1986's Pre-K LKD and on a ski trip in 1997, a tradition they shared through high school. ***TOP:*** *Alicia at her wedding in 2013.*

In Atlanta, **Rachel Ezrine Wasserman '96** recalls, "Alicia was always a kind, happy, generous friend who never had a mean word to say about anyone. She was laid-back, playful, and a true friend to everyone in the class."

After TLS, Alicia went to Henry Clay High School and Transylvania University.

In Fairfax, VA, **Chris Manon '96** is currently an assistant professor of mathematics at George Mason University and the associate director of the Mason Experimental Geometry Lab. Chris is married to Sarah Curry, another Lexington KY native, and they have a daughter, Harper Manon Curry.

Studying to become a licensed massage therapist in Oregon, **Trevor McDonald '96** sends a photo of his son, Abisha McDonald, who just turned nine. As he enjoys riding, Abisha keeps Trevor's Kentucky roots strong.



From Cincinnati, **Heather Ravvin McKee '96** reports that she and Kirt were married in 2008 and have three children: six-year-old Myer; Eve, three; and Abram, one. A neurologist specializing in epilepsy, Heather works in academic medicine as an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Heather was at TLS from her first through fifth grade years and she has fond memories of her classmates and teachers, smiling when she speaks of "Miss Bale with her big hair, eyes, and knowledge. I loved Paddington Bear's house, and I recall learning from the books with the wax colored pencils. It is great to keep in touch with so many wonderful and talented people who attended TLS."



If you're ever in the ER in Portland, OR, it would be your lucky day to have **Maria Ochsner Nelson '96** on call. She says, "I'm an ER doctor in Portland, and I love my job! Crazy schedule, but tons of fun." Her husband, Joe, from Wisconsin, is a high school chemistry teacher, now working half-time to help out with their three children. Adelaide is in second grade in Spanish immersion school. Miles begins Kindergarten in the fall, and Anika is three. Maria continues, "We spend lots of time on music – violin, piano, choir – and we all love skiing and biking, hoping the next few years, as the kids get older, will give us more opportunities to get into the mountains."



Like many of her classmates, as Maria sifts through years of TLS memories, it's hard to choose a favorite. She does share, "I have some pretty funny memories from the lunchroom – more laughter than food. Busy late-night sleepovers with so much to say, and being terrified of horror movies, but watching them anyway. I went to a lot of different schools, but TLS definitely was the most welcoming and comfortable. When I think of TLS, I remember feeling surrounded by friends all the time, challenged, and happy."

Pin *Notes*



Former Alumni Council member **Kelsey Nicholson '96** and her children, **Elliott '18** and **Bennett '20** have moved back to Lexington from Danville, where they had lived for several years.

It's fun for **Holly Brown Powell '96** and her husband, Travis, to look toward the opening day of TLS: Their older daughter, three-year-old Lucy, begins KinderKlass this fall. Lily, born in March 2016, patiently awaits her turn.



Taking a break from her desk in the Lexington office of Frost Brown Todd, where she specializes in corporate law, Holly says, "I never encountered a teacher or professor after TLS who was better or more caring and invested than some of my favorite TLS teachers. Looking back, I have such fond memories of my classmates and teachers who made growing up at TLS so special. I am excited for my girls to attend and to experience the special times again as a parent."

In NYC for nine years now, **Dr. Roheen Raithatha '96** graduated with a Bachelor in Biology Degree from the University of Pennsylvania and received his Doctor of Medicine from Tufts University School of Medicine. He completed a residency in Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the New York Presbyterian Hospital (Columbia & Cornell Campus)/Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center and then went on to complete a Fellowship in Advanced Rhinology and Endoscopic Skull Base Surgery at Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY. He is now in private practice in New York City and is affiliated with Icahn School of Medicine at Mt Sinai. Roheen has great memories of math class with Robin Jones and science with Frank Hardesty.



CLASS OF 1996



A graduate of the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, **Ryan Shirar '96** currently lives in Manhattan. He is a performing musician who works as a pianist, music director, conductor, producer, composer, and arranger all around the world. Primarily, his work is symphonic orchestration. Most recently, Ryan made his Parisian orchestral conducting debut at the Théâtre du Châtelet with a Petula Clark tribute concert. He also frequently performs at the Aspen Music Festival and Carnegie Hall, and occasionally plays as a substitute pianist on Broadway.

In Fall 2015 *Pinpoints*, Ryan gave heartfelt tribute to Martha Anderson, saying, "Mrs. Anderson's class was my first formal training in music." He described in vivid detail the goodness and inspiration of her class, summing up his thoughts by saying, "Thank you, Mrs. Anderson, for changing so many lives and for your continued passion for the arts. It has made, and continues to make, a difference. Salud!"

Last September, **Olivia Hurter Swan '96** and her husband, Tim, moved to Cincinnati after 11 years in Chicago. Tim has a law degree from The University of Chicago Law School and is a member of Frost Brown Todd LLC in Cincinnati, focusing on corporate matters and technology transactions.



As many TLSers already know and enjoy, Olivia owns and operates her business, Olivia's Beer Cheese, in Lexington along with her brother, **Michael Hurter '94**. With an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business, Olivia began her business after realizing she had a winning beer cheese recipe, a healthy dose of marketing and strategy acumen, and, most importantly, a passion for making delicious beer cheese.

Olivia and Tim welcomed their first child, Lily, on January 5, 2016. The Swans love their new city and, most of all, the joys of parenthood.



From Versailles, **Addie Thompson '96** says she has completed a Medical Assisting and Phlebotomy program at Spencerian College. After working as a dental assistant at the Fayette County Health Department for six years, she was ready for a change of pace. Addie and Bryan's daughter, Emma, will be two on September 23.



At the recent TLS graduation of his nephew, **Davis Truitt '16**, **Gentry Truitt '96** shared thoughts from his global travels, specifically life in the USSR. With his UK Bachelor in International Studies Degree, Gentry focused on Russia/Eurasia and international development. Deeply interested in Russia's rich history and culture, he found even the Cyrillic language was no barrier to understanding similarities between the Russian and American people.

Connecting lessons learned at TLS with lessons learned at Moscow State University, Gentry says, "What I did take from my time at TLS was this: If something interests you, don't be afraid to try to learn about it on your own. To learn what you want to learn, you need to get up, get out, and explore things for yourself. The Lexington School provides great tools and mentors for students. TLS taught me how to search for answers."

Я по тебе соскучился. *(Ya po tebya soskoochilsia./I've missed you.)*

Живи своей жизнью! *(zheevee svoyeh zheezin'yu!/Live your life!)*

До свидания. *(Do svedanya./Goodbye.)*

UPDATE US!

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CLASS OF 1996



Anyone who keeps up with the cultural happenings in Lexington, especially the NoLi (North Limestone) neighborhood, knows **Griffin VanMeter '96**. Referred to sometimes as "Mayor of the North Side," Griffin and his creativity and entrepreneurship have far-reaching effects throughout the Bluegrass. Taking the bull by the horn, he and business partners formed Bullhorn Creative and Kentucky for Kentucky, establishing brand identities.

Knowing that charity begins at home, Griffin was TLS's 2014 Commencement speaker, generously sharing his sometimes hard-earned wisdom with his audience at Scarlet Gate. That morning, he emphasized the importance of a sense of place. He, wife Sarah Wylie, and sons Otis and Homer *(check out the shirts Otis designed for his birthday!)* live in a bungalow on Kentucky's Old Frontier Highway, more commonly known as North Limestone. Griffin held the graduates in rapt attention as he proclaimed, "Everything I do is a result of that biographical statement. Being *of a place*, and attaching meaning to *place*, is why I live the life I live." Griffin and his vision, much of which was formed at The Lexington School, make our community a better place. Commitment to place has manifested in his founding of the NoLi CDC, a nonprofit committee development corporation working to improve the North Limestone neighborhood by getting resources to those who need them most.



Rachel Ezrine Wasserman '96 lives in Atlanta, GA, where she is Executive Director of the Jewish Women's Fund of Atlanta, a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding opportunities and promoting social change for women and girls. Her path to social activism can be traced back to sixth grade at TLS, when she and fellow students waged a public campaign against racism and injustice in Lexington. Rachel is married to Danny, a native of New Orleans, and they have four children: eight-year-old Yaakov; Avi, six; and Chana and Asher, four-year-old twins.

Rachel received her B.A. in Psychology and Judaic Studies from Brown University, her M.A. in Jewish Studies from the Jewish Theological Seminary, and her M.S.W. in Advanced Generalist Practice and Programming from the Columbia University School of Social Work.

Pinpoints *thanks* ***Brooke Folley Counts '96,*** *Class Agent Extraordinaire, for her superb help in gathering alumni news. Who could say "No" to Brooke Counts?*









Left to right Galadriel Stamm, Lilly Adams, Aidan Smith, and Tori Trimble.

Telling Stories

Tell me a story.
In this century, and moment, of mania, tell me a story.
Make it a story of great distances, and starlight.
The name of the story will be time,
But you must not pronounce its name.
Tell me a story of deep delight.

—Robert Penn Warren

Robert Penn Warren, Kentucky author, Pulitzer Prize winner, and storyteller extraordinaire, would have loved TLS's Storytelling Festival. He would have especially applauded this tenth annual celebration. Sixth grade raconteurs take to the microphone, spin a yarn, regale their audiences, and fill the room with high energy and deep emotion. Just another day at The Lexington School.

Continuing the long TLS tradition of strong public speaking, Laura Bowling, speech and drama teacher since 2003, reminds us all that humans have been telling stories since we were able to communicate. Storytelling predates the written word. People are preprogrammed to tell stories and to respond to stories being told. TLS's Storytelling Festival grew from the idea of Dr. Bowling and Lori Hancock, TLS librarian since 2004. In October 2005, the women traveled together to Jonesborough, Tennessee, for the National Storytelling Festival, a decades-long, favorite excursion of a number of TLS families. That weekend had a magical, relaxed, charismatic feeling for Dr. Bowling and Mrs. Hancock, and they set about replicating it for their students.

Ben Belin, perhaps drawing inspiration from older sister **Sarah Belin '16**, an officer of the graduating class who spoke at Commencement, gives background: "It wasn't hard for me to write my story because it was about my own life, and it was really fun to add funny details. At first I felt nervous, but as I started telling my story, I really got into it. Dr. Bowling taught me how to use my creativity to inspire others in my community." TLS's Festival has gone through many iterations within the last decade. Stories are now 800 words long, averaging about five minutes. Because storytelling is an oral tradition, academic writing is not the focus during practice time. Instead, it's all about conveying meaning, painting a picture in the mind of the audience.

To that end, Dr. Bowling emphasizes five key points: Making eye contact; speaking clearly; using appropriate movement; using vocal variation; and – Dr. Bowling's favorite – getting animated!

"Storytelling is by far one of the favorite units I teach," Dr. Bowling relates. "Students have ownership of a story they've created and then watch it blossom from an idea into performance. What could be better than that?"

That's Not Okay



Fourth grader Olivia Gaines demonstrates how hammered nails impact a formerly unblemished piece of wood. *Left* Fourth grader Miller Williams sees firsthand with Mrs. Newsome the power of hammering hurtful words.

Grace Newsome, school counselor, facilitates discussion – one-on-one, family-wide, grade-wide, division-wide – on a topic that touches each of us, a topic that evokes strong emotion in every person, no matter the age: **Words can hurt.** Collaborating closely with Jami Ervin, current Director of Multicultural Affairs, and **Andrew Schwartz '00**, future Director of Multicultural Affairs, the three adults help students understand that



while words have tremendous power to help and encourage, they can also hurt deeply, sometimes irrevocably. Mrs. Newsome, Mrs. Ervin, and Mr. Schwartz instruct student audiences not to engage in or to allow hurtful behavior. Through presentations with wood, hammer, nails, and wounding words, these three embolden fourth and fifth graders and Middle Schoolers with positive ways to respond to such acts. They liken the raw and hurtful power of words and acts of unkindness and exclusion to hammering nails into a smooth and pristine, unblemished piece of wood. Each sharp, pointed nail, even after it is removed, leaves a gaping hole. A jagged scar remains; the piece of wood is forever changed. The adults empower students to say forthrightly and with courageous conviction, "That's Not Okay."

Unsurprisingly, much honest and forthright conversation follows. Fourth graders are especially vocal. Ela Congleton is quick to observe, "Even when someone apologizes, there is always a hole left." John Henry Trimble advises, "Don't hold back. Try to do something when someone says something mean." Caroline Anne Clay gives good advice, "Think before you say something. Before you say it, think how you would feel if someone said it to you." Fifth grader Leah Hale speaks in rhyme, "Don't know what to say? Say T-N-O-K!"

Mrs. Newsome emphasizes, "Our hope is to build empathy in our students so they are aware of how their behavior and words affect others. We also want to empower students to have the confidence to stand up for each other and say 'That's Not Okay' when they see injustice. Words have power, and we want to wield that power for good."

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Alpine Studies



TLS students and alumni have represented the school internationally since its founding in 1959. Following suit, **Colton Warner '14** reported his share of travel from Swiss Semester, the high school sophomore program he discovered, researched, and thoroughly enjoyed. From September to December 2015, he was among 50 students from all parts of the United States, forming the largest group since Swiss Semester's inception in 1986. Organizers of the academic travel opportunity announce that Colton, now a rising junior in the Liberal Arts Academy at Henry Clay, was the first-ever Kentuckian to take part.

Colton wholeheartedly endorsed the words of **Tulani Grundy Meadows '92**, who said in her Commencement Address to the **Class of 2016**, "Travel. The world is big. Lexington, Kentucky, is a blip on the radar. Get a passport. Get uncomfortable. True happiness comes from experiences, not things."

With Zermatt his home base, the Matterhorn his backyard, Colton excelled in his challenging English, math, French, geology, art history, and current affairs classes. In a nod to TLS, he felt at home with the low student-teacher ratio, noting he was one of three students in advanced math. Bringing lessons learned from Dr. Bonzo, Mr. Hurst, Mrs. Bjork, and others into the global classroom, he gave as he gained.

Mornings devoted to academics shifted to five-hour afternoons in the classroom of the great outdoors, taking full advantage of location. Daily skiing, climbing, and hiking became *de rigueur*. Geology labs focused on the very glaciers Colton and comrades climbed that day with their teacher. "It was very cool to explore in the afternoon exactly what we'd just learned that morning in class." Colton recalled. "Experiencing it in real life brought it all together for me and made me retain it for always."

Art history classes, too, used geography to advantage: "In Venice, we worked in groups to locate famous works of art in various museums and cathedrals throughout the city." His end-of-semester paper reflected not only art history, but firsthand, unforgettable knowledge of navigating a foreign city, making it his own. His high points could be a Fodor's travel guide: Northern Italy; Annecy, France; Lake Geneva; Interlaken, gateway to the Bernese Oberland region; Mürren, the nearby mountain village; and the Alpine village of Grindelwald, dating back to 1146.

As did Class of 2016 Officers Sarah Belin, Isabel Brunker, Cate Cunningham, Jon Willcutt, Hanae Yoshida, and Bridget Young, Colton emphasized that each day he called upon TLS's Mission Skills: the importance of teamwork, creativity, ethics, resilience, curiosity, and time management. Lexington School students and alumni of all ages take their lessons into the wide world.





There's No Substitute for experience!





Above Mr. Parell helps Faith Lyman. *Left* David, Will, and Paul Parell at home in Versailles KY in 2002.

TLS teaching comes full circle when a former student teaches his own TLS class. It's the continuation of a very good thing. **Paul Parell '07**, brother of **Will '03** and **David '04**, brought back lessons he'd learned here a decade ago.

Mr. Parell served as long-term substitute during Angela Shaver's maternity leave. Relishing the opportunity to lead three sections of pre-algebra, he was at home teaching the eighteen or so sixth graders in each class. He says, "The common thread in this story is Dr. Bonzo." Respecting her as an invaluable mentor, he credits her with much of his own education, in and out of – and back in – the TLS classroom. He maintains she's had the biggest, most lasting impact of *any of his teachers . . . ever*, impressive words from this TLS/Dunbar Math & Science/Yale alumnus. After TLS graduation, he and Laura Bonzo-Sims stayed in good touch, and he sought her advice as Director of College Placement. He explains, "She helped me explore who I was, what was important to me, and helped me find the next step."

Dr. Bonzo-Sims enjoys the tradition of long lunches with her former student, and her son, Griffin Sims, rising seventh grader, sometimes joins those wide-ranging conversations. She describes Paul by saying, "He is thoughtful about life. He never answers a question quickly. He is contemplative and always considers every side. He listens to the kids. Paul is also a whistler; he loves to whistle."

At Yale, Mr. Parell found a home for his diverse interests, using the flexibility of a liberal arts education to explore both STEM fields, including applied math and computer science, and the social sciences, such as psychology and anthropology. It was a mixed and fascinating exposure. The study of economics fit best, providing a satisfying blend of quantitative analysis and prudent social issues. As a research assistant at the Yale Child Study Center, he focused on the behavioral outcomes associated with early childhood technology use. Observing ways iPad use captivates children's attention led to more exposure in tech settings. A Silicon Valley start-up was next after graduating, while his interest in education and education policy beckoned.

Back at TLS, Mr. Parell felt it beneficial to work with Mrs. Shaver for a two-week overlap, absorbing her classroom management style and teaching philosophy, which helped ensure his consistency with her classes. He was more than ready to go it alone on the last unit, confidently structuring the curriculum and planning each lesson. A natural at middle school carline duty and giving homework help and after-school test prep, he reflects, "Coming back to a community of teachers, many of whom helped raise me, was comforting and welcoming." Standing in front of his own TLS class, he strove "not to give prescriptive ways of thinking or teach them *what* to think, but rather to give them strategies to think and problem-solve for themselves."

Smiling, Mr. Parell says, "As a kid, I was excited to come to TLS to school every day. I mean it. As an adult, I'm just as excited to come to work here every day. I feel it's a great honor."

Editor's Note: In August, Mr. Parell began a one-year Urban Education Fellowship with Summit Public Schools, a charter school network based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

By The Book

Seeing the World

Leah Burnett, fourth grader in The Learning Center, said it best: "My book makes me feel unique!" She went on to explain, "I think all my pictures are extraordinary and beautiful. One of the pictures took me 30 minutes to take. I had to make sure I shot the perfect perspective and had the right focus. This book makes me feel very creative and proud of my work."



ABOVE Arrow and Feet by Ricardo Gedaly, Leah Burnett's self portrait, and a geometric abstract study, also by Leah. *TOP* Ulysses Grande's shadow self-portrait. *INSET* Thomas Dimakogiannis' book cover. *RIGHT* Wilkes Offutt's book cover.

This spring's Writers & Illustrators Guild was the continuation – with a twist – of Writers Guild, begun in 1993, a favorite of lower school readers and writers. Wordless books, unheard of, unthought of when Writers Guild began, generated major TLS buzz this year. Thirteen wordless photography books, created by Learning Center fourth and fifth graders, spoke as loudly and distinctly as words ever could. Students told compelling stories through their hardbound, 9x11-inch, 20-page books with 20 full-color pictures.



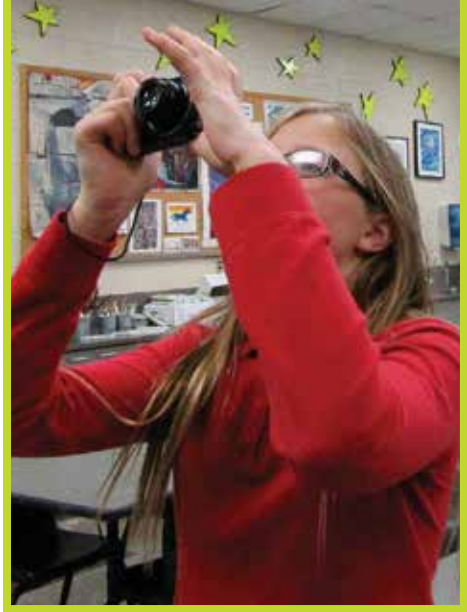
Historically for Writers Guild, proud student authors with their books have gathered in the library, and a celebrated visiting author, eager to meet and discuss writing techniques with budding wordsmiths, added to the day's excitement. Long after graduation, now in different halls – of business, commerce, and higher education – a generation of TLSers still holds dear those books, created with great care and pride, shared with parents, siblings, grandparents, and an occasional canine at the reception, an annual rite of passage.

Illustrating The Lexington School's respect for both grand tradition and innovative creativity, Writers Guild planners expanded the event's name this year and invited Tim Bowers, popular and prolific illustrator of children's books, as honored guest. Jane Childers, Director of The Learning Center, pointed out, "It is important to us to emphasize a variety of ways for students to communicate effectively. The children were fascinated by Mr. Bowers' ability to tell stories through his drawings." For his part, Mr. Bowers, twice on the *New York Times* Bestseller's List, was thoroughly impressed with the students' ability to tell stories of themselves and their place in TLS … without a word.



Jo-Ellen Fischbach, adored photography instructor of the Fine Arts After-School Program, was the natural choice to lead the group. Initiating a wildly successful, similar program on Washington's Whidbey Island, Ms. Fischbach knew the tremendous power of visionary art. She knew the strength of students creating something they could see and hold. She was quick to turn *No, I can't* into *Yes, I can.*

Applauding TLS's creative freedom, she confessed, "It was my deep pleasure to help the kids who couldn't express themselves through words, express themselves through photos. They absolutely shined; every, single one of them." With Ms. Fischbach's kind and encouraging direction, her students used The Lexington School campus as their photographic palette. From December through April – time that zipped by way too quickly, according to her followers – TLS photographers learned about framing the right shot, composition, light, shadows, artistic intent. The 4,800 images they have to show for their efforts reflected their enthusiasm, matched only by Ms. Fischbach's zeal as she said, *"Just look at their books! Aren't you proud of each one of our students?"*

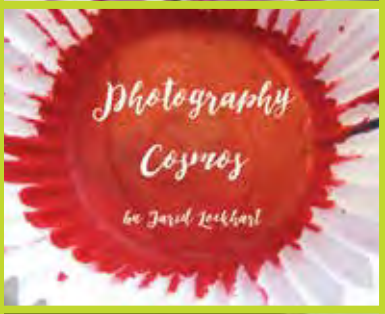


















ABOVE Callie Cullins photographed by Thomas Dimakogiannis, Blake Pennington's book cover, Evie Campbell's book cover.

LEFT Detail studies from around TLS by Wilkes Offutt and Blake Pennington.

BELOW Jared Lockhart's book cover, Evie Campbell photographed by Thomas Dimakogiannis, Will Claggett's book cover, Callie Cullins' book cover.

BOTTOM A geometric playground study by Thomas Dimakogiannis.



For the Love of … Ronna Love



LOVE AND ART have been synonymous at The Lexington School for the last 20 years.

Ronna Love, preschool and lower school art teacher since 1996, leaves behind admirers of all ages within the TLS family. The humble Mrs. Love is the last to admit she has inspired a generation of artists, saying instead, "It takes a village. It takes us all to make them blossom." She has made her part of the village a warm and welcoming space of kindness and encouragement, and artistic creativity has grown naturally. She has shared her solid and stable lessons, learned from her family, growing up in Eastern Kentucky.

From her first class, **Miles Hopgood '03**, now at Princeton, in the middle of summer work on his Doctorate of Theology, stops to say, "My love of art and of painting began, appropriately, with Mrs. Love. She instilled in me the belief that there is a little bit of artist in each of us. After I left TLS, I was encouraged *NOT* to take art because it would lower my GPA. I took it anyway! I'm not the greatest artist, but I love it … and I still paint today."

Sallye Staley, middle school art teacher, calls Ronna "a friend and confidant from day one. She is caring and loyal – reasons the children love her as well. Her students and I made a book for her of their thoughts, and they also drew pictures. They gave the sweetest comments about their favorite projects and fun times in the art centers. The book was filled with kind goodbyes." Mrs. Staley continues, "I can't explain how much I will miss this lady. We've made thousands of memories together. As Winnie the Pooh said, 'How lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard?'"

Martha Anderson, her dear friend and across-the-hall neighbor, reflects on a lot of LOVE, saying, "For twenty years, Ronna has been an artistic gift to our TLS Arts Department. Her knowledge and application of the scope and sequence of an elementary age visual art program is unparalleled. Her students leave her classroom prepared and excited about art. As a colleague, Ronna is one very organized person who comes to my aid providing props and backdrops for Boo Sing, Holiday Concert, and Preschool Spring Sing regardless of the deadlines. No project is too difficult for Ronna, and I have appreciated her creative instincts to master challenges. I must admit, when I first met Ronna, I was puzzled by her accent. Thanks to her, I now understand 'Southern Talk' and always delight in our wonderful conversations about the arts and the philosophy of education and life skills.

"The bags are packed and the move to Bowling Green is on the horizon. Ronna and husband, Bob, are going to take Bowling Green by storm! No doubt, in a year or two, we'll see headlines featuring 'Ronna Love, Bowling Green's New Artist … Genius with the Brush!'"

Mrs. Anderson goes on to say, "Ronna has been a team player, creative colleague and teacher, and a true friend. The entire school will miss her. As cartoonist Scott Adams says, 'Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep.' Ronna knows!

"How special and amazing is the legacy Ronna Love leaves for TLS!"



Top Left At this year's Preschool Spring Sing are Dr. Bowling, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Lancaster, and Mrs. Anderson. *Center* With daunting power stapler in hand, Mrs. Love ensures bulletin board perfection for the poinsettia display. *Right* Mrs. Love leads Kindergartners into a patch of pumpkin orange.

In Memoriam

Members of The Lexington School family mourn the death of Judy Apple, art teacher from 1979 - 2000. Former Fine Arts Department Head, Mrs. Apple continues to maintain a daily presence along the hallway she loved; her signature painting of TLS's campus hangs in the library above the door, entrance to the arts wing. Her Lexington School admirers offer sympathy to her husband, Lindsey, their children, **Lisa '82** and **Paul '83**, and grandchildren.

Josh Hopkins '86 was deeply moved to learn of her death, stating, "I can honestly say she helped shape my life's path." Between boarding flights, he took time to think back to TLS and to the teacher he has adored since he was a boy.



Mrs. Apple encouraged and inspired a generation of TLS students through her easel and through her lessons on the art of life.

Josh continued his reminiscences, saying, "As a teacher, Mrs. Apple was strict but fair, and her love for the arts shined in every class we took. She helped me realize the arts were just as important as math, science, and history, and our talks helped me understand a career in the arts was not only possible, but honorable and important.

"Judy Apple was more than a teacher to me. She was a genuine friend who supported me long after my TLS days. She helped inspire and encourage me to pursue my dream of becoming an actor, and her confidence in me helped me believe I could actually make it my life's profession.



Colleagues Jocelyne Leupold, Judy Apple, and Robin Jones wear their best chapeaux on Little Kentucky Derby Day.

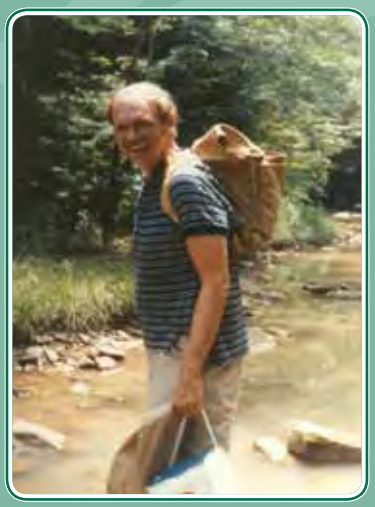
"I think of Mrs. Apple often, and feel such a sense of pride whenever I see artwork from my friend and classmate **Alex Kinkead Mason '86**, because I know we were both influenced so deeply by this great woman, teacher, and friend, Judy Apple."

Tom Brown, middle school science teacher who died April 5, 2016, had a loyal and enthusiastic following among his Lexington School family.

Gene Slusher '91 speaks thoughtfully of Mr. Brown, who taught at TLS from 1973 to 1993: "To a young man in Middle School, Tom Brown was a strange fellow. But I liked him. He taught with gentle supervision and a somewhat hands-off approach, allowing his students to discover science in their own way. Class with Mr. B. was often a jovial affair involving everything from bad smelling frogs to smoking potions, and you learned stuff without even knowing his experiments were teaching you anything. One aspect about Mr. B. I will always respect is how he loved to take his classes outside to learn about things not found in our books. It didn't matter if we were going to study right outside his classroom, or venture all the way up to his self-proclaimed woods, but when the door opened to the outside world, his students were eager to go, and Mr. Brown was eager to take them. For me, someone who has always tried to spend as much time in the outdoors as possible, there was no better way to enjoy and embrace learning. Throughout my education, I was enamored with having class outdoors, and Mr. B.'s similar love of getting outside the classroom and learning from nature made that quirky guy one of my best childhood teachers."



Mr. Brown adds some levity to the science lesson for **Helen Van Clief '93** and **Allie Collier '93**.



Shown hiking the Red River Gorge, Mr. Brown enjoyed sharing his enthusiasm for and knowledge of the outdoors with his students.

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From *The Archives*



When they remember seventh grade physics, many alums think first of their hand-built red carts. TLS auto designers of that era made their own core batteries; put axels, wheels, and motors together; and turned the middle school hallway into a Lane Allen version of the Indy 500. Frank Hardesty's Fall 1989 archival photo shows members of the **Class of 1992** poised and ready at the starting line. *FROM LEFT* Jason Whitlow, Casey Barrett, Land Dale, Jennifer Smith, Bethany Bernard, Nadine Malluche, Dulce Buckman, Catherine Black, and Tulani Grundy.