

The Magazine of Cary Academy

WINTER 2018

Lions
dance
onto the
CA stage
page 4

Changing
the way
we learn
science
page 10

Don't judge
these books
by their titles
page 24

GO ON
TOUR WITH
CARRIE
HARTSFIELD '12

**CHARGER
TREKS
THROUGH
MOUNTAINS
LESS TRAVELED**
page 16

Our school is as healthy as a horse (a Charger, to be exact).

Each winter, I get to report on the “State of the School” at the annual PTAA meeting. While we take time to reflect on the highlights – like athletics’ three state championship wins, our girls’ sports program earning the Prestige Cup (ranking it the best in the Triangle Conference), the debate team’s sixth place finish at an international tournament, the PTAA’s new family service days, and more – what we really focus on is measuring the health of Cary Academy across a few very important areas:

Interest in what we offer

We continue to attract a remarkable pool of applicants, with waiting lists across all grade levels. Once a student joins CA, they tend to stay; our attrition rate last year was two percent, the best among our North Carolina peer independent schools.

The inclusivity of our community

Students of color comprise 39% of our enrollment, tops in our NC peer market. This year, we opened our successful SEED program (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) to other schools that routinely seek out our advice on how to create welcoming and inclusive environments.

The value for a tuition dollar

Cary Academy is debt free, and a generous endowment supports 80% of our financial aid budget. That, combined with strong annual fundraising, allows us to keep our tuition below peers’ and allocate more of those dollars to support top-rate faculty and innovative programs.

Excellent performance indicators

This past year, 30% of the Class of 2017 was recognized by the National Merit Corporation. And even while our faculty create innovative, challenging, “not standardized” curricula, 70% of our students who chose to take Advanced Placement tests earned a four or five (on a five-point scale) on their exams.

We’re particularly proud that our seniors were admitted to 137 different schools around the world. On top of that, about 10% committed to playing collegiate athletics. One graduate was named a Park Scholar at NC State and another a Robertson Scholar at Duke. And two earned appointments to the U.S. Air Force Academy and U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

In summary, the “State of the School” is healthy. As we move purposefully into our first-ever Campaign for Cary Academy, we are buoyed by a strong track record of success and driven by a desire to provide the best possible opportunities for current and future generations of students.

Mike Ehrhardt, Head of School



The Magazine of Cary Academy

WINTER 2018

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Michael Ehrhardt
Kathleen Mason
Dean Sauls

COMMUNICATIONS INTERNS

Kennedy Byrd '18
Lily Lee '18
Maya Agnihotri '19
Alex Bandong '19

DEVELOPED AND DESIGNED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MINDPOWER INC.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Chris Martin
Steve Muir
The CA community

Cover photo courtesy
of Carrie Hartsfield '12

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Michael Ehrhardt

UPPER SCHOOL HEAD

Heather Clarkson

DIRECTOR OF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Jason Franklin

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES

Jess Garcia

DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

Denise Goodman

DEAN OF FACULTY

Martina Greene

MIDDLE SCHOOL HEAD

Marti Jenkins

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Karen McKenzie

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Deborah Reichel



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CARY ACADEMY

1500 N. Harrison Avenue
Cary, North Carolina 27513
(919) 677-3873

www.caryacademy.org

FPO

In this issue



4 From class to ensemble to pride.

Lions and warthogs and meerkats, oh my! 85 students transformed the CA stage into the Serengeti for a production of *The Lion King Jr.*

10 A new formula for science learning.

We’re rethinking one-size-fits-all science education and building an innovative curriculum – and a brand-new STEM space to go with it.

16 Alumni spotlight: Carrie Hartsfield '12 Off the beaten path.

Carrie never thought she’d be running her own company in Puerto Natales, Chile. Now she’s leading CA students and faculty on a tour through Patagonia.

Campus
News
2

Snap-
shots
8

Alumni
News
22

The Big
Question
24



Our new Center for Math and Science has helped us reimagine the ways our students explore science – and the ways our faculty collaborate with each other. **pg. 14**

Science and engineering teams shine in state and national competitions

For the first time in CA history, **both JV robotics teams advanced to the state tournament.** They also won the Connect Award for community outreach and the Control Award for programming excellence. **CA's physics team took third place** in the United States Invitational Young Physicists Tournament (USIYPT). After a year of

researching complex problems like “Electromagnetically Coupled Mechanical Oscillators,” the students battled it out in “physics fights” against teams from around the world. **And the Varsity Science Olympiad team placed fifth** in the regional competition, medaling in 12 events, while the JV team medaled in eight.



Left: The physics team presenting at USIYPT. Center: The JV robotics teams' trophies. Right: The Science Olympiad teams show off their medals.



ATHLETES WIND DOWN THE WINTER SEASON This winter, a record number of CA swimmers qualified for the state championship meet. The wrestling team, with a heavy contingent of upperclassmen, finished its season strong. Both the boys' and girls' basketball teams won key games this year, exciting fans with their fast-paced plays and crisp passing. Our cheerleading and dance squads also showcased their athleticism while pumping up crowds during games. See the final winter sport tallies at wp.me/p5S2zV-bGp.

PITCH PERFECT Nate Alexander '20 won the \$1,000 grand prize to take his Bubbyl medical phone case to the next level at the NextGen Pitch Competition on October 24, 2017. Hosted by Hyperspace Ventures (co-founded by Taylor Meyer '08), the contest featured 11 Upper School teams pitching their ideas to a panel of local entrepreneurs. Second place went to Niki Vilas Boas '20 and Becca Segal '20 for their Wotter swimwear line. Mila Patel '21 took third for her pre-imaging microchip idea.

RAISING A GLASS TO CA In late January, the PTAA hosted its first “Taste of and Toast to Cary Academy” event, which replaced its long-held Auction and Gala. Instead of raising money, CA parents and employees enjoyed a spread of international dishes while celebrating our community. The evening was just one of the year's several new PTAA initiatives meant to build spirit and strengthen community.

DRACULA THRILLS ON STAGE Upper School theater students put on a Halloween-worthy performance of Bram Stoker's *Dracula* in CA's Black Box Theater from October 26-28, 2017. The cast and crew of 10th through 12th grade students gave audiences a fright with their unique take on the classic tale.



CA STUDENTS SHOWCASED THEIR TALENTS during the winter concert season. Dancers performed Indian Bangra. MS and US chorus ensembles mirrored one another, singing the same songs in reverse order, featuring different composers. Orchestra showcased group and solo performances, and the bands played holiday favorites with guest appearances from alumni and the head of school on percussion.





FROM CLASS TO ENSEMBLE TO PRIDE.

BRINGING STUDENTS
TOGETHER FOR THE MAKING OF

The Lion King Jr.

Across 12,000 square miles in East Africa, elephants are lumbering, warthogs trotting, giraffes strutting, and zebras galloping and whooping and barking. (Yes, barking.) This is the Serengeti.

It's one place. With hundreds of species. And millions of animals. And it's one of the few spots in the world you could find this particular hodgepodge of critters and creatures coexisting. Another? *The Lion King Jr.*

On the Cary Academy stage, that is.

That's where 85 sixth through ninth graders – sporting Africa-inspired masks and intricate, earth-colored costumes – performed a 60-minute, one-act version of the Disney Broadway musical. As lions and meerkats and wildebeests and more, they came together, turning the stage into their own Serengeti.

It's that kind of synergy that theater teacher and *The Lion King Jr.* director Glen Matthews pushed his students to embrace and engage with to make this production come alive.

"I wanted them to understand the beauty of the ensemble, which we define as a diverse group of people working together toward a common goal," Mr. Matthews says. "It's not just about what each of us brings to the table; we have to find comfort in being vulnerable and

opening up to those around us, which immediately makes us stronger."

Finding strength in collaboration was essential for the cast and crew to develop the musical, especially because such an elaborate production presents obstacles. Students had to stretch their minds. Shift their perspectives. And not be afraid to explore new roles and try new things – like letting loose to embody the free forms of African dances. Or integrating African languages in song and dialogue in a way that felt and sounded authentic.

As Mr. Matthews puts it, because students (and audiences) have practically grown up with such an iconic piece, they had to find ways to make it their own.

They had to rethink and reimagine and redefine.

Like the student whose ideas of what Simba looked like were challenged when he was creating the character's mask. Or the one who had to breathe life into her role as Zazu – not as the typical puppet, but as a mask propped up on a scepter. A few tries later, she found her groove.

Solving and overcoming those obstacles is what made the students'



"...WE HAVE TO FIND COMFORT IN BEING VULNERABLE AND OPENING UP TO THOSE AROUND US, WHICH IMMEDIATELY MAKES US STRONGER."

- Glen Matthews



version of *The Lion King Jr.* unique. Which is what Director of Fine & Performing Arts Michael Hayes wanted audiences to see.

"We didn't want to copy the movie or play. We put our own spin on it. We hope people came in expecting one thing and left going, 'That was different,'" Mr. Hayes expresses. "It'd be easy to do what others have done. But we tried to find what made sense for our kids in this space at this time."

Getting to that point – debuting a distinct performance that would leave audiences oohing and ahing – is a journey, Mr. Hayes notes. It started with a *The Lion King Jr.* curriculum that brought all of the seventh and eighth grade art classes together during the first trimester, exploring rhythm on djembes (traditional African drums) and diving into what it means to direct, design, manage, and choreograph a show. And the journey ended with a final bow.

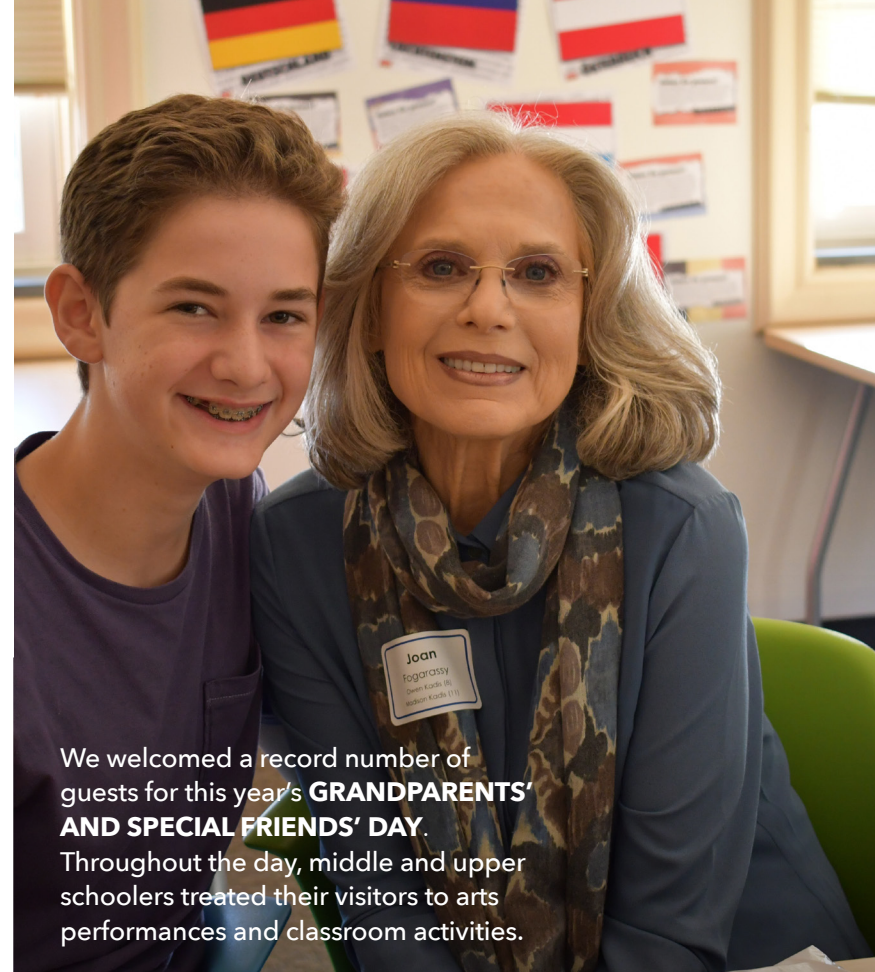


And in between, it took a whole pride of people – from Middle School and Upper School students and teachers to guest scenic designer Miyuki Su and former parent and costumer Jae Brainard to art teacher Margo Smith – and their commitment, enthusiasm, and downright hard work to make *The Lion King Jr.* roar to life.

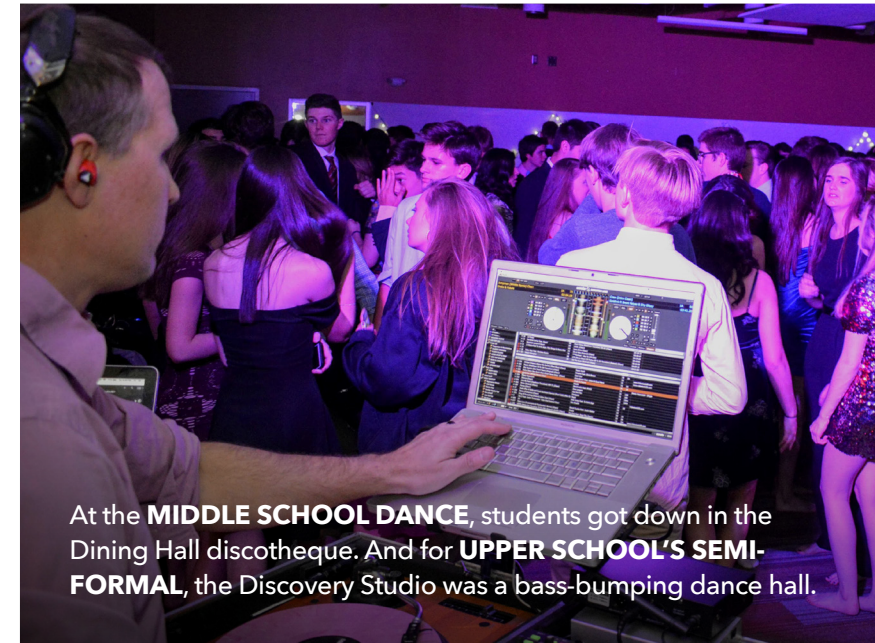
In one place. On one stage. Together. Just like the Serengeti.



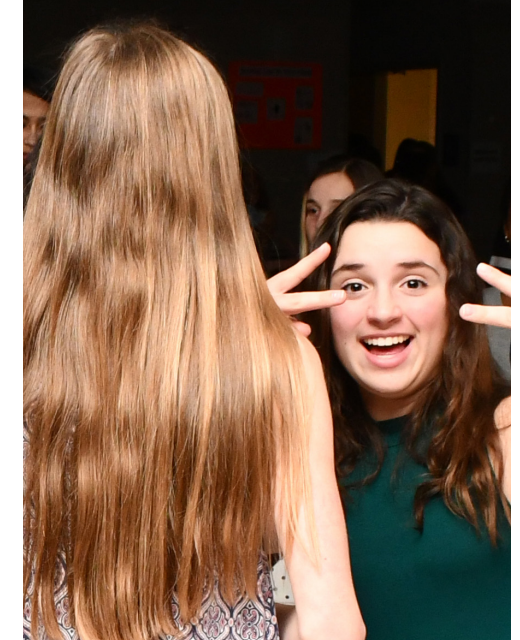
CA students were totally immersed in tech during **COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK**. They dove into the digital realm by experiencing virtual reality, creating VR drawings, and playing computational thinking games.



We welcomed a record number of guests for this year's **GRANDPARENTS' AND SPECIAL FRIENDS' DAY**. Throughout the day, middle and upper schoolers treated their visitors to arts performances and classroom activities.



At the **MIDDLE SCHOOL DANCE**, students got down in the Dining Hall discotheque. And for **UPPER SCHOOL'S SEMI-FORMAL**, the Discovery Studio was a bass-bumping dance hall.



Snapshots

Key Club held its annual **SNOWFLAKE BALL** in the CA dining hall, inviting teens and adults with disabilities to dance the night away. Every year, Club members decorate the space to give their guests an unforgettable evening.



This year's **HOMECOMING AND SPIRIT WEEK** saw a new twist on a favorite tradition: The PTAA set up a giant tent with snacks and music to boost the post-basketball festivities. High schoolers and alumni celebrated late into the night.





A NEW FORMULA FOR SCIENCE LEARNING

As with any innovation, it started with a question – or rather, a bunch of questions: *How can we realize the strategic plan’s vision of creating learning opportunities that are personalized, flexible, and relevant? What would it look like if students could take courses that suit their interests in the order that they choose? What can the science team learn from the history department’s thematic approach to courses?*

“The ‘march through science’ – taking biology, then chemistry, then physics – is an antiquated notion. Because, here’s the thing, you don’t need to take biology to understand chemistry,” says Upper School Head Heather Clarkson.

So what would happen if we freed students from an outdated model and instead introduced them to a new way of exploring science?

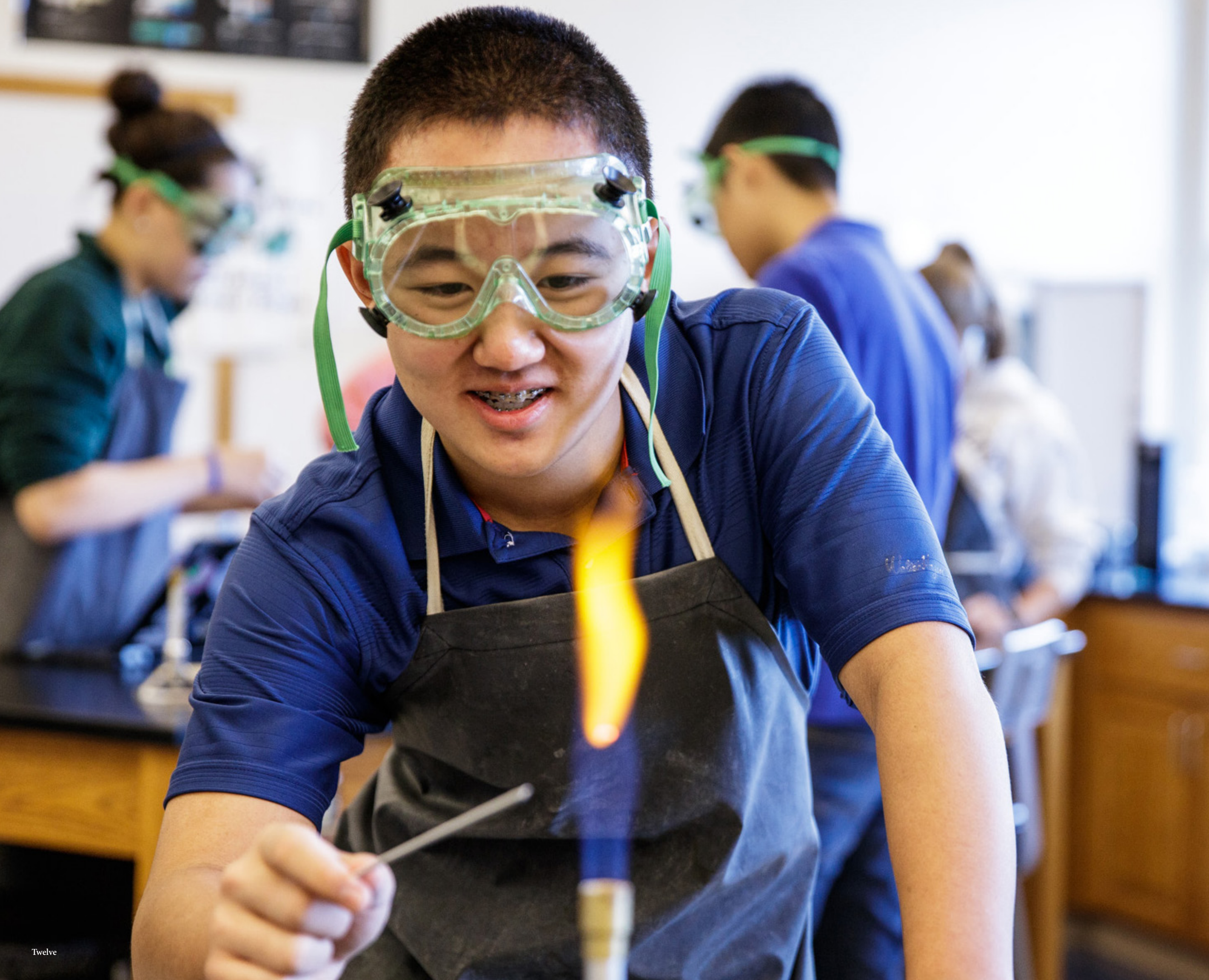
First, a little insight from Heidi Maloy, CA’s Upper School science department chair. “We see greater student engagement and willingness to express grit and resolve in their learning in advanced classes when students can choose their courses.”

“For our introductory courses, we’ve had a fairly lock-step program tied to grade level. That one-size-fits-all approach didn’t leave much latitude for differences in thinking styles, math readiness, or interests. We needed to make a big change,” says Dean of Faculty Martina Greene.

And we did. The unfolding science course development was “a collaborative response from the Upper School and the curriculum review process to the strategic plan,” explains Clarkson. “How do we create personalized, flexible learning opportunities? We know that kids learn by applying previous learning and building their understanding.”

The department’s beta?

“The ‘march through science’ – taking biology, then chemistry, then physics – is an antiquated notion.”



Chemistry. Course options rolled out this fall; biology and physics will follow. Greene adds, “Instead of three courses, students will have six to choose from, which could be taken in any order. And the course options provide opportunities for faculty to more deeply teach their passions.”

The options within each subject get students to the same destination – readiness for advanced sciences and college courses – via different routes, mentions Maloy. For example, Chemistry: Particle Exploration of Matter (“Chem P”) starts with the big picture of discovery and how physical properties of matter lead to chemical

**“CARY ACADEMY
WILL CREATE LEARNING
OPPORTUNITIES
THAT ARE FLEXIBLE,
PERSONALIZED,
AND RELEVANT.”**

– Strategic Plan 2020

interactions. Chemistry: Interactive Framework of Matter (“Chem I”) begins with the small details – e.g., atoms – and builds up to the big picture. Students in both courses focus on essential concepts and develop a true understanding of reaction chemistry.

“Each course will yield some differences in perspectives that hopefully lead to deep and interesting conversations at the advanced level,” says Maloy.

But this has been about more than rethinking the science curriculum. It’s a chance to rethink Cary Academy’s entire science journey. And that means seizing the opportunity to reimagine not just how science learning happens, but where it takes place.

Groundbreaking learning requires a campus not afraid to break new ground.

“We needed a building that could respond to our pedagogical and curricular needs,” explains Clarkson. “When we audited our lab space, we realized that a full third of our current set-ups are allotted to teachers for preparation and presentation. We’re shifting that, breaking down those kinds of barriers, and giving space back to the students.”

The new facility will not only offer updated, flexible lab and learning spaces for students – it will also bring the Upper School science faculty together with shared office and collaborative spaces. It physically links science, math, and a new makerspace. And it supports independent research projects.

Another benefit? Bringing math and science together in the new building

creates an opportunity for the humanities subjects to come together as well – world languages will move to the Upper School building, fostering even deeper interdisciplinary collaborations among history, literature, and languages.

“It’s a smarter use of resources that provides the versatility that we need. And having the whole department together opens up possibilities for collaboration and independent work that haven’t existed before,” says Greene.

22,000 FT²
OF NUMBER-CRUNCHING, ROBOT-BUILDING, FORMULA-FIGURING, SOLUTION-MIXING SPACE.



WITH OUR NEW CENTER FOR MATH AND SCIENCE, CA is helping shape the kind of diverse, interdisciplinary thinkers needed to fuel the age of innovation, according to Phil DeSimone '07 (left). That's what he, co-founder of Silicon Valley startup Carbon3D, imparted to the CA community on November 27, 2017, as it kicked off the public phase of The Campaign for Cary Academy - the School's first capital campaign - and celebrated the start of construction on the upcoming Center with a schoolwide launch party. Cary Academy co-founder Dr. Jim Goodnight also addressed the community, speaking about the Campaign and the Center, which are just a couple of ways we're #SuperChargingNextGenInnovators.

Learn about the Campaign: blogs.caryacademy.org/ca2020



“HAVING THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT TOGETHER OPENS UP POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLABORATION AND INDEPENDENT WORK THAT HAVEN'T EXISTED BEFORE.”

– MARTINA GREENE



Alumni Spotlight

Off

the Beaten Path

Carrie Hartsfield's journey to starting her own Patagonian tour company - and the invite for CA families to join her adventure.

This isn't where Carrie Hartsfield '12 expected to be: perched at the very tip of South America and the Andes Mountains – on the edge of Chile and Argentina.

Yet here she was, running her business, Venture Patagonia, leading 26 Cary Academy students, faculty, alumni, the head of school, and their families through Torres del Paine National Park.



Venture Patagonia takes people on intrepid excursions across Chile and Argentina’s southern region – through mountains, forests, grasslands, and more. It’s Carrie’s passion. But it wasn’t always her dream. As she puts it, winding up here was simply a case of “everything falling into place.”

“I wanted to be an event planner. But while I was majoring in Sport and Event Management at Elon University, I studied abroad in Peru for a month – and that changed everything.”

Less than a year after graduating, she found her way back to South America. This

time, she was in Puerto Natales, Chile, helping run a tour outfit. When her six-month stay was up, Carrie wondered about her next steps.

“That’s when a friend said to me, ‘Carrie, why don’t you just start your own company?’”

Cue the light bulb.

After months of planning and marketing and booking reservations, Venture Patagonia led its first trip in October 2017. And

some of her first customers? The Chargers who flew out to Chile that December.

Five days. Fifty-three miles. Thirty-plus pounds of gear per person. And that’s just the W Trek, a.k.a. Torres del Paine’s most popular – and shortest – circuit. Everyone in the Cary Academy group tackled this trail, winding through beech tree forests, across fields of daisies and vivid violet lupines, and among moraines (boulders deposited by glaciers). They camped in *refugios*, making friends from around the world: Germany, Israel, the U.K., and Finland. They stopped to take

in natural granite peaks, like the Towers and the Horns, and radiant turquoise lakes – filled by glacier meltwater – so bright blue they’re nearly neon.

A small chunk of the Chargers went on to do the O Trek – an additional four days and a total of 87 miles looping around the entire National Park. Their adventure included navigating the Paine Massif’s hills, camping beside an iceberg-filled lagoon, and trudging through mud to reach one of the trail’s highest points at 3,937 feet.

For Carrie, however routine it was to make a trip she’d made before, it was different from the others. This time, everything came full circle. After all, one of the CA explorers was the same person who’d introduced her to backpacking in the first place – Gray Rushin, chemistry teacher and Outdoors Club leader. When first starting Venture Patagonia, Carrie pitched the idea of guiding a trip for Cary Academy families to him.

“I was stoked for the opportunity,” Rushin remembers. “I love sharing my passion for the outdoors because the changes I see in the students when we’re hiking or camping are so profound.”

Rushin was itching for the challenge and experience of backpacking outside of the U.S. and was impressed to see his students taking on the exact same challenges. Like ice trekking across glaciers. Climbing one of Torres del Paine’s most legendary and difficult routes, John Gardner Pass. And braving fierce winds, snow fields, and weather changing from sunny to rainy to snowy in the blink of an eye. (Patagonia’s known for its erratic, “four seasons in a day” weather patterns.)

“Our students are tough,” Rushin asserts.

That sense of accomplishment wasn’t lost on the students. Reaching camp and pulling off her hiking boots at the end of every

“I WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW THEY CAN CREATE THEIR OWN PATHS. THAT’S DEFINITELY SOMETHING I GOT OUT OF CARY ACADEMY...”

– CARRIE HARTSFIELD



VENTURE PATAGONIA DONATES \$10 PER GUEST TO THE TORRES DEL PAINE LEGACY FUND, WHICH AIMS TO ENSURE THE PRESERVATION OF THE NATIONAL PARK VIA VARIOUS INITIATIVES. LEARN MORE AT SUPPORTTDP.ORG.

Photos provided by Carrie Hartsfield, Hannes Becker, Mike Ehrhardt, and Gray Rushin.



“Living in one place can narrow your view of the world, but a place like Patagonia can refresh you and remind you that there are many corners of the Earth that are all very different.”

– Tommy Frank, freshman

15-mile day was rewarding for MaryGrace Stephenson '18. And so was stopping to acknowledge where she was and what she was doing.

“On other hikes, I'd focus on getting to the destination as fast as possible,” MaryGrace recalls. “Going to Patagonia opened up my world. I'm more aware of what's around me, and it's made me realize: If I can do this, I can do anything.”

For Dorrit Eisenbeis '20, this bucket-list expedition will serve as a reminder of her grit when times get tough.

“I can just think back to how I pushed through and finished the 87 miles. This trip showed me how dedicated I am. There were times I wanted to give up, but I kept going,” she says.

The hikers' endurance was tested in other ways, too. One: Having to disconnect from their devices and connect with the surroundings and each other. Ten minutes into the trip, cell phone service vanishes, according to Carrie. People get really nervous, but after day three, they start to embrace it and become present in their journeys.

“I discovered how important it is to unplug, to keep your mind right in front of you, and worry about putting one foot in front of the other,” says Will Taber '18. “Patagonia made me appreciate the world around us.”

Carrie enjoys seeing that kind of reflection in people after their tours. Even in some of her younger travelers, like freshman Tommy Frank.

“Living in one place can narrow your view of the world, but a place like Patagonia can refresh you and remind you that there are many corners of the Earth that are all very different,” he muses.

When it comes to Carrie, this trip helped her reflect, as well, on how far she'd come from Cary Academy and the twists and turns it took to get here. Since the gears

for Venture Patagonia began clicking a little over a year ago, Carrie's built it into a 13-employee business that places a huge premium on customization and hospitality.

“What sets us apart is that we really work with guests to create the experiences they want. They tell me, ‘You made our trip so easy.’ I love that.”

Every day, she continues to think of and strive for ways to make Venture Patagonia better. She's been adding activities like kayaking, fly fishing, and mountain biking to her roster of services. And she wants to expand even further while continuing to provide high-quality, breathtaking, comfort-zone-pushing experiences.

As she says, Cary Academy helped lay the foundation for her ambition. Her years at CA showed Carrie she could succeed in anything she wanted to pursue. And the people here pushed her to push herself past

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OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS, EMAIL hello@venturepatagonia.com



the norm and past what's expected.

“I want people to know they can create their own paths. That's definitely something I got out of Cary Academy, and it inspired me to create Venture Patagonia. Go against the grain and do what makes you happy, even if it's not what everyone else is doing.”

Sure, this isn't where Carrie Hartsfield thought she would be. But she knows it's exactly where she should be.

READ ABOUT OTHER CA FAMILY TRIPS AT wp.me/p5S2zV-bHa

2012 GRADUATES CELEBRATE THEIR FIVE-YEAR REUNION

Half a decade after graduating from Cary Academy, nearly 30 Chargers from the Class of 2012 reunited at Raleigh Brewing Company to catch up, reminisce, laugh, and play some pub games this past December (2017).



THE CLASS OF 2007: REUNITED 10 YEARS LATER

Back in August 2017, a few '07 alums got together at Raleigh's Carolina Ale House to celebrate the 10 years it's been since walking across the CA graduation stage.

2003

Jeremy Allen '03 and Kat Gosney '05 welcomed their second daughter, Lilah, over the summer. She was eight pounds, eight ounces at birth and loves her big sister, Emerson.

2007

Mandy (Stein) Blackett married Dr. William Blackett in New York on September 9, 2017. Fellow CA alum and dear friend Michelle (LeFort) Powers '07 attended the wedding. Mandy and Will live in New York City where Mandy is an attorney in the Corporate department at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz and Will is completing his residency in internal medicine at Columbia.

Tenny (Crawford) Kilmore has been selling multi-million dollar homes to her celebrity clientele in the Los Angeles area and is one of the youngest luxury estates directors at Hilton & Hyland. She was recently nominated as a "Dynamic Woman of LA" by *Angeleno* magazine. In the wake of the hurricane disasters, Tenny and a team of Malibu veterinarians launched a disaster-relief charity to help disaster-stricken area dogs and cats survive their tragic situations. **1**

Tom Marty proposed to his girlfriend of two years, Megumi, in September. Tom and Megumi plan to be married in spring 2019, with the ceremony taking place in Tokyo, Japan.

2008

Elizabeth Grace Atkins and Felipe Barros Lima are engaged! They both work at law firms in New York City and live in Brooklyn. Elizabeth and Felipe look forward to celebrating their wedding with family and friends next year in Durham. **2**

Melissa (Hillman) Johnson got married in June 2017. Her maid of honor was Marina Lee, whom she met on her first day at Cary Academy in 2005.

Michelle Luo and Atanas Petkov were married October 7, 2017, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Several fellow Cary Academy 2008 alumni were in attendance, including Rachel (Park) Radnitzer, Diana Woodall, and Anna Morris. After their honeymoon in Mexico, Michelle and Atanas returned to South Florida, where Michelle works as a biotech scientist and Atanas works as a quantitative analyst for a hedge fund. **3**

David Thorstad is spending the 2017-2018 academic year visiting the philosophy departments at the London School of Economics and the Australian National University, funded by a Frank Knox Memorial Fellowship from Harvard.

2009

Jonathan Jakubowski graduated from the UNC School of Law in May 2017 and passed the North Carolina Bar Exam in August. He is employed as an assistant district attorney in Judicial District 3A, which encompasses all of Pitt County, North Carolina. He resides in Greenville.

2010

Alex Hammer completed her Teach for America commitment in St. Louis and moved to San Antonio, Texas, where she works for IDEA Public Schools. She is the manager of the Healthy Kids Here program for the South Texas-based charter school network and works to increase students' access to nutritious meals, physical activity, and health and wellness education. Alex also got engaged in March 2017. She and her fiancée will have their ceremony and reception in Raleigh in June 2018. **4**

2012

Quinn Jenkins lives in Atlanta, Georgia, where she is a 2L at Emory Law School and a member of the Emory Law Journal. Last summer, she worked in the Legal Department of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta. She is currently interning in the Legal Department of the American Cancer Society. She has accepted a job for next summer in Charlotte, North Carolina, at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP doing corporate/financial law.

Jessica Rowsey was officially sworn in November 2017 as a Durham Police Officer. The picture shows her being pinned by Police Chief C.J. Davis. **5**

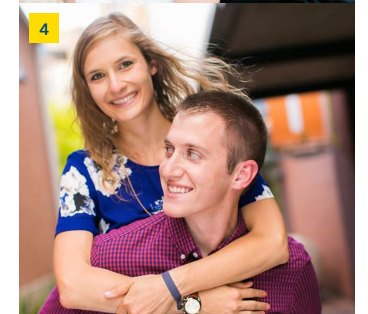
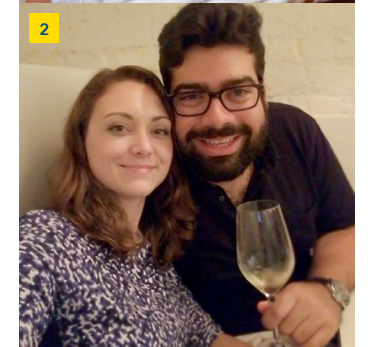
2013

Alex Velto has been nominated by Northeastern University for the Mitchell Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded based on academic excellence, consequential research, dedicated service to others, and an aspiration to apply one's prodigious talents and skills to improving our world.

2014

Elizabeth Hunt recently published her seventh book, which is her second picture book. Find out more about all of her books on her Amazon author page: amzn.to/2EKnxz5. Elizabeth has one semester left before graduating from UNC-Asheville with a degree in Biology and Greek and a minor in Creative Writing.

Michael Miller was accepted to NOAA Holling's Class of 2016 for chemical research. The Award has included a scholarship for his final two years at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and an internship at the Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle, Washington.



The Big Question



If your life were a book,
**WHAT WOULD
 THE TITLE BE
 AND WHY?**



MEIRAV SOLOMON
 Grade 9

My book would be called *Upstanders* because I always aspire to use my voice as my best weapon against injustice, bigotry, and hatred.

MADDY WALKER
 Grade 10

My book title would be *Self-proclaimed* because I believe that you shouldn't live your life to impress others, you should impress yourself. Whoever I become, it will be someone I want to be and someone I have aspired to be.



MIKAYLA LEWIS
 Grade 7

I would call my book *The Struggles of Living in a Tragicomedy*. Sometimes life is sad, disappointing – a tragedy – but other times life can be exciting and happy and comedic. We never really know when life can be happy or sad. It's all a complete gamble (that's the struggle). My answer could've been more positive, but, in reality, life isn't always happy; there will always be ups and downs.

EVAN EHRHARDT
 Grade 12

My book would be called *1001 Ways to Embarrass Yourself in Public: One Boy's Journey from Little Fool to Bigger Fool**. I think if you know me, you'll know why.



SHELTON SHEPHERD
 Upper School Teacher

If I had a book, my title would be *From Coonsboro and Beyond: A Small Town Black Child's Journey to Adulthood*. Because this encompasses my childhood and the many things I have overcome.

ROBIN FOLLET
 Upper School Administration

A Cartoonist's Guide to the Teaching Life. I love cartooning, and I love teaching. Cartooning gives me a chance to experiment with the interplay between goofy images and fun language. Teaching – well, that simply offers me the chance to share, hear, and discuss interesting stories with fascinating people.



DANI BANDONG
 Grade 7

I would call my book *Secondly... (I'm Number 2)*. Whether it's me being second in line at school because of my last name or being the second child in my family, I'm usually always #2. It's hard coming in second sometimes – like when it comes to meeting expectations – but that definitely doesn't mean I'll be second for my entire life.



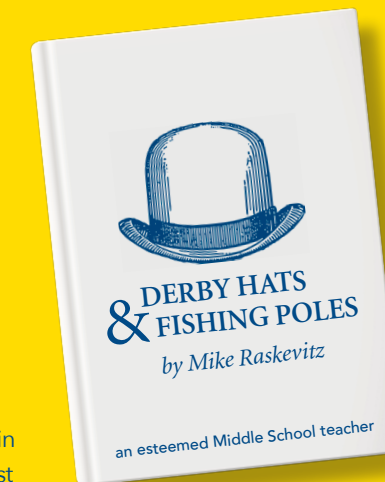
TRIN MARTZ
 Grade 7

I would call my book *The Adventures of the Theatre Nerd*. I really love theatre – I feel like I'm a partial expert in the subject. I live and breathe theatre, and I really enjoy acting.



ADRIENNE SHEITMAN
 Grade 12

My life as a book would be called *Doing Nothing is Fun*. I love doing nothing and feel that it is really underappreciated.



BRIAN MATHIS
 Parent and Middle School Girls Basketball Coach

Smiling Every Day: Making the Choice to be Happy. My life hasn't gone in a straight line. At each crossroad, I have been forced to make a choice. Each decision is about gaining something but also giving something up. When I look at the best choices I've made, the common theme is, "What will make me happy?" When I have been courageous enough to be honest with myself, I have made good choices. Being true to yourself is the best guide through the labyrinth of life.



CHAILYN WASHINGTON-THOMPSON
 Grade 8

The title of my book would be *The Lit Life of Chai* because my life thus far has been exciting. I have been handed great opportunities to grow as a person.

DORRYS MCARDLE
 Advancement

The title of my book would be *Focus on Solutions, Not Problems* because your mindset and the way you approach something is everything.

Read more:
bit.ly/ca-the-big-question

* His father agrees but loves him anyway.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

MS/US Orchestra Concert	April 3
MS/US Dance Concert	April 12
MS/US Chorus Concert	April 19
CA101	April 28

MAY

MS/US Band Concert	May 2
CA Charger Derby 5K	May 5
Scholars' Golf Classic	May 14
Baccalaureate	May 23
Commencement	May 25

JUNE

8th Grade Celebration	June 8
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