

The Magazine of Cary Academy

FALL 2017



Ditch
Your Comfort
Zone 101
page 4

Aces on &
off the court
page 18

So Biggie Smalls &
da Vinci walk into
a room...
page 24

FUN FEST
& FRIDAY
NIGHT LIGHTS
GET SPIRITED

page 11

Q: Guess who inspired the name “?”.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of **?**, *The Magazine of Cary Academy.* We hope to bring you the best of what’s happening on campus, as well as interesting updates on community members and thoughtful stories about our work.

If there is a thread that connects these individual pieces, and the history of Cary Academy, it would be “curiosity.” You can see this visualized with the question mark motif on the cover. And we hope you can see how it pervades the work we do and the stories we tell.

We believe this word accurately captures the wide-eyed enthusiasm of our youngest students, who enter in 6th grade eager to make new friends, get new learning tools like laptops, and explore new ideas with their teachers and classmates. As they progress through the school, their teachers help them learn both subject matter and ways to question assumptions about these new ideas. Students also develop and explore new interests through classes, clubs, activities, and athletics. You can see this in our feature story on the semester-long experiences our students have had in the widest of wildernesses and the biggest of cities.

Of course, as our mission makes clear, we are a “learning community.” This means that our faculty and staff also are curious – about their subject matter and about the best ways to share these passions with their students. This curiosity manifests itself in continual reflection on the work we do and a willingness – perhaps a need – to try new things.

In short, we must model what we want to see in our students. Curiosity is a part of our culture.

Enjoy this issue. We look forward to illustrating more of what makes this school such a special place in future issues.

Mike Ehrhardt, Head of School



A: the late, great Prince (♣). Call this the magazine formerly known as “Discoveries.”



The Magazine of Cary Academy

FALL 2017

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
Michael Ehrhardt
Kathleen Mason
Dean Sauls

COMMUNICATION INTERNS
Kennedy Byrd '18
Lily Lee '18
Maya Agnihotri '19
Alex Bandong '19
Abby Geigerman '19

DEVELOPED AND DESIGNED
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
MINDPOWER INC.

PHOTOGRAPHY
Chris Martin
& courtesy of the CA community

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

DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Deborah Reichel



is published three times a
year by Cary Academy.

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

www.caryacademy.org



In this issue



4 **When the world changes you.**
The Rockies. The Capitol. The German countryside. Semester and gap-year programs are breaking down students’ boundaries in more ways than one.

14 **The PTAA wants Y-O-U.**
The mission: Bring the entire CA community together. PTAA president Trude Bate is more than up for the challenge.

18 **Alumni spotlight: Taylor Meyer '08 Champion Launcher.**
On the tennis court and in the start-up sphere, it's all aces for this alumnus. He's serving up state titles and entrepreneurial know-how at CA.

Campus
News
2

Snap-
shots
11

Alumni
News
22

The Big
Question
24

The PTAA is the brain behind some of Cary Academy’s favorite traditions, from decorating the campus Chargers to the Charger Derby 5k.



CA'S COMMUNITY:

A bright spot during a shady eclipse.

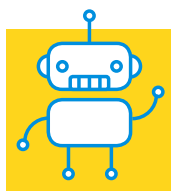
Nearly every Cary Academy student and teacher filed outside, bespectacled in special filtered glasses supplied by the PTAA, and tilted upward to watch the moon pass almost completely over the sun – 93 percent according to NASA. On August 21, 2017, at 2:44 p.m., as the sky darkened, everyone became awestruck by the once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon.

To prep for the eclipse, CA treated Upper School students to a presentation. Middle Schoolers learned about differences between solar and lunar eclipses. And CA's U.S. Association for Young Physicists tournaments club drove to South Carolina to witness totality and measure the sun and its shadows. No matter where you were, the eclipse brought CA together.



GOT A ROBOT TO BUILD? HEAD TO THE DESIGN LAB.

It's one of several brand-new campus spaces launched by the Strategic and Master Facilities Plans. The Lab is a gathering place/art classroom/Middle School makerspace



combo decked out with new design carts and 3-D printers (making it the perfect workshop for the MS Robotics

Team). Another new spot to explore right next door: the Discovery Studio, a flexible 145-person mixed-use area (think classes, dances, and more). On campus? Come take a peek!

30% OF THE CLASS OF 2018 IS NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNIZED. 46% OF SIXTH GRADERS ARE CURRENT CA STUDENT SIBLINGS. 88% OF CARY ACADEMY STUDENTS TRAVELED OUT OF STATE LAST SUMMER. THE CLASS OF 2017'S 109 GRADS ATTEND 56 DIFFERENT COLLEGES. ADMISSIONS COUNSELORS FROM 116 COLLEGES ARE VISITING CA THIS FALL. THE ANNUAL HANDSHAKE CEREMONY SAW 184,241 HANDSHAKES.*

CA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES

Glenn Kleiman, Executive Director of the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation and parent of two CA grads; Kendall Bell '15, Founders' Award recipient and current Duke University Reginaldo Howard Memorial Scholar; and Trude Bate, 2017-2018 PTAA President and 8th grade parent.

CA IN SERVICE

The CA community has been active in a variety of service activities this fall. See what we've been up to at bit.ly/ca-at-your-service.

Athletes make State(ment).

For the first time in recent years, all fall varsity sports teams made State tournaments. At the time of publication, every CA varsity team earned a first or second place finish in the TISAC conference, giving our teams positive momentum headed into post-season competition.

CA teams earning seeds at State tournaments: girls tennis, 2nd seed; volleyball, 3rd seed; field hockey, 5th seed; and boys soccer, 7th seed.

The third-year girls' golf team had their best season yet and earned their highest state seeding. The varsity cross country teams once again had an outstanding regular season and headed into the Conference and State meets as one of the teams to beat.



For more of these stories: bit.ly/athletes-finish-strong

WE GOT SPIRIT! HOW 'BOUT YOU?

The CA community plays a huge part in keeping athletes fired up. From student fans who pack bleachers all across the state to X-Factor (Cary Academy's spirit club) hosting events like Friday Night Lights, Volley-bros, and the annual dodgeball tournament - CA knows how to keep school spirit alive.

* Congrats to 7th grader Michael Singleton for calculating this as part of a MS math challenge.

WHEN THE WORLD CHANGES YOU.

How semester and post-graduate adventures help Cary Academy students discover who they are.



Liz Jones '18 was waist-deep in snow, facing a mountain in the middle of the Colorado Rockies. Well, it was more like a really humongous hill, but with the 60-pound sled of camping supplies strapped to her, it was practically a mountain. There was no going around, only through.

She couldn't do it.

“I turned to our advisor, Jacob, and said, ‘Tell me we’re not going over that.’”

He looked back at her and told her, “You got this, Liz.”

She’d felt weak, like her body was crumbling, but she made it across, pulling a pack half her weight up and over a mountain to set up camp on the other side. **“It was a reminder that I could accomplish anything,”** she says.

That was Liz’s second two-week wilderness expedition with High Mountain Institute, an independent school in Leadville, Colorado. (Her first and third were hiking through canyons in Utah.) Its specialty: semester and summer programs focused on interacting with the environment.

Every year, Cary Academy invites a variety of semester programs to speak to sophomores about the wealth of

“I turned to our advisor, Jacob, and said, ‘Tell me we’re not going over that.’”

He looked back at her and told her,

opportunities beyond the CA campus. That’s how Liz became curious about High Mountain.

“I’ve always loved the outdoors. I have such a strong connection with nature – it’s where I’m most comfortable. So when High Mountain came to campus, I was so excited to apply,” Liz remembers.



Though she was nervous about going for it – she’d never left home for 12 weeks before, and she’d been going to school with the same people for six years – Liz saw High Mountain as just the thing she needed to push herself. In fact, most students who explore these experiences do so for the same reasons: It’s a challenge and a way for them to grow into better people.

Liz is just one of nearly a dozen students over the last nine years who’s picked up her life in North Carolina and dropped it miles and miles away for a whole semester.

KATE SANCHEZ '19 will follow in her footsteps – and make her own way to High Mountain later this year.

SONUM THARWANI '14 is another.

A few years ago, during an Affinity Group discussion, a CA alumna pegged Sonum as a perfect fit for The School for Ethics and Global Leadership (SEGL) in Washington, D.C. A champion of ethics, Sonum jumped at the chance.

For months, Sonum lived and explored and learned to be a vocal activist in the shadow of the U.S. Capitol. She wrote a speech critiqued by Hillary Clinton’s speechwriter. Tackled global issues with classmates from all different kinds of backgrounds. And helped draft a nuclear policy that she presented to real D.C. leaders and lawmakers. As Sonum puts it, from start to finish, SEGL transformed her into an empathetic citizen.

“SEGL challenged me and changed my way of thinking. To write better policies, we have to empathize. **We have to first change ourselves to become the effective leaders we want to be and that the world should have.”**

It also redirected her path. As a high school junior, Sonum had viewed her passion (becoming a doctor) on a micro level – treating patients. But SEGL opened her eyes to a whole world of

macro-level problems that she wants to take on. Now, she's a senior at Emory University, about to embark on a two-year post-grad stint to work in hospitals and focus on global/public health and policy.

It's that kind of self-awareness and self-assuredness that Mairéad O'Grady, Associate Head of School for External Affairs and Sonum's former advisor at SEGL, loves seeing in students.

"Students meet 23 other people who

as Heather Clarkson, Head of Upper School, says, through being slightly uncomfortable at times.

For **RACHEL LEE '17** and **KYLE LERCH '14**, that meant spending a year immersed in German life with the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange (CBYX). After graduating from Cary Academy, each made the trip abroad to dive into a culture they'd always felt drawn to. (Kyle's family is from Germany; Rachel's parents' international work sparked a love for travel.)

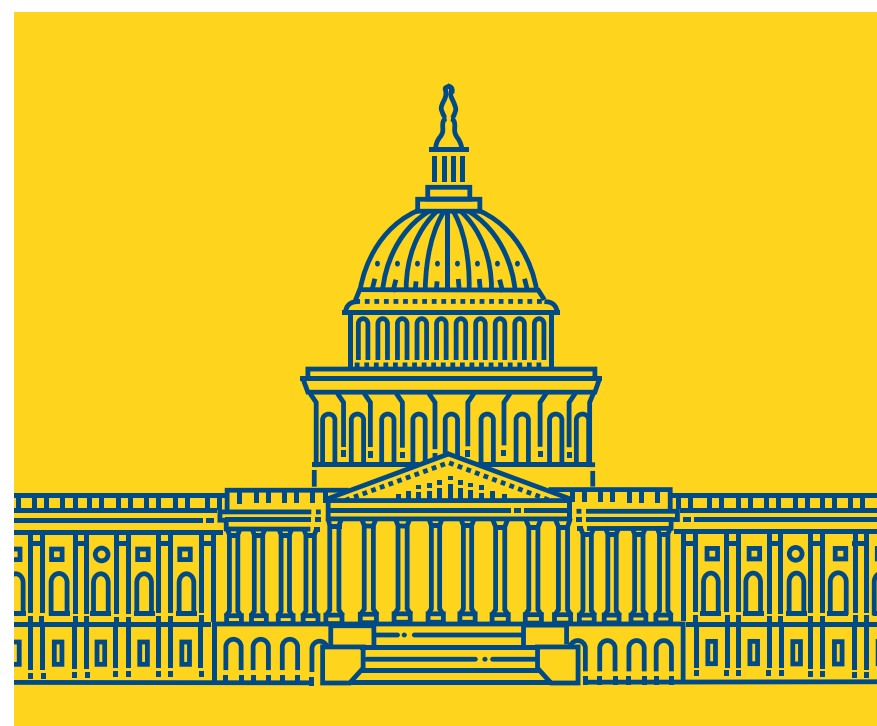
Though Rachel and Kyle lived in different parts of Germany, their experiences gave them insight into the lives of others – the similarities and the disparities.

Kyle, in the rural village of Niese, struck up deep conversations about his host grandfather's childhood in Poland and chuckled at the American country line dancing subculture that other host family members enjoyed. (Think American flags, country music, cowboy boots, and parties in a barn.)

In Sprockhövel, Rachel, who is only a couple of months into her German journey at press time, settled into a life with a host mom who teaches circus and acrobatics classes. During her short time there, Rachel has already stretched her comfort zone by trying new things, from climbing aerial silks to shooting a bow and arrow. And she, too, was surprised by her classmates' take on American culture.

"To them, being an American is the coolest thing. And they're really into the clothing brand Hollister. If you're in head-to-toe Hollister, you're cool."

Despite brushes with "American life" and the similar day-to-day motions of German society, things weren't quite the same as they were back home. For instance, Kyle picked up on nuances of the German "work while you work, play while you play" outlook.



"To write better policies, we have to empathize."

aren't like them – who are on different sides of issues. By living and thriving together, each person learns where they stand. Having that confidence and strength in an ethical framework will push them to make better decisions as leaders," says O'Grady.

That's because, for the bulk of these programs, content and curriculum are only half the lesson. Some of the most memorable learning and experiences happen through interaction, through existing and coexisting, through being an active part of their surroundings. And,

"Having lived in one place all my life, I'd had a narrow sense of what is 'normal.'"

But being in a place where things were slightly different showed me what was par for the course most everywhere and what was specific to where I was from," he muses.

That eye-opener helped Kyle when he enrolled in Harvard after his CBYX trip. Not only did Niese help him appreciate the comfort of home, but it also built up his comfort with being in new

better sense of who they are (or both).

EMILY KEADY '19, who's joining CITYterm in New York City in spring 2018, is also hoping to discover her passion.

How? New experiences and activities like the Brooklyn Bridge Project, in which students do an intense research dive into the Brooklyn Bridge, create an artistic response to it, then showcase it in a gallery with 29 other original pieces.



From making new friends to firing a bow and arrow to getting up close and personal with fluffy cows, Rachel's totally embracing her German adventure.

situations. He was more independent, more flexible, had more agency, and was more in tune with people from an array of backgrounds.

These programs have a way of expanding students' boundaries, exposing them to new people, and revealing their truest selves. Of changing their views, their worlds, and the way they move within them. Because that's what happens when you submerge yourself in an uncharted experience. Liz, Sonum, Kyle, and Rachel all either found their "thing" or uncovered a

Or the Neighborhood Study, when they spend weeks learning about a New York neighborhood however they can, then give walking tours to their teachers and peers.

CITYterm's intentional focus on experiential learning means students spend most of the week exploring New York in person, supplementing what they've learned in a classroom.

"We're all about metacognition here – thinking about thinking," says Cotter Donnell, CITYterm's director. "We're teaching students how learning happens

SNAP SHOTS

September brought back the Upper School X-Factor club's **FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS**, with tailgating, flag football, and wacky games for the whole family.

so they can better understand themselves as learners.

When we empower them with those skills, they come out of CITYterm with a strong sense of how they learn best."

In other words: CITYterm wants students to own their learning. Which, as Heather Clarkson says, is exactly what Cary Academy wants each of its students to do every single day.

That's why CA has been growing its experiential programs – like Work Experience during Discovery Term and offering more experience-based options for required classes in the summer – in addition to continuing mainstays like the sophomore World Language Exchange. And it's why faculty push students to apply

"I WANTED TO TAKE A REALLY BIG RISK. I DIDN'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MYSELF AT THE TIME. I NEEDED HIGH MOUNTAIN TO LEARN ABOUT AND REFLECT ON WHO I AM."

to semester and post-grad programs. It's not just about doing something cool or different or challenging; it's about students exploring interests in ways they can't on campus.

"We know we can't fit everyone's needs here in four years. So there's incredible power in students saying, 'I want to try this,' and in going out on those big adventures. They get to learn about themselves and learn from others," Clarkson says.

To her, that newfound ownership and self-discovery is rewarding for both students and CA. Students who go on these journeys, she notes, "are braver and know how to step outside of themselves and ask questions from multiple viewpoints. When they come back, they have a new ability to see beyond the frame of Cary Academy and to really understand experiences different from their own." And that thinking spreads from student to student to student.

Just ask Liz Jones. After High Mountain, she would encourage her friends to turn off their phones, so they could enjoy living in the moment with one another. For her, the main goal for enrolling in the program had been to challenge herself in a way that she never had before.

"I wanted to take a really big risk. I didn't know much about myself at the time. I needed High Mountain to learn about and reflect on who I am."

All that happened – and then some. And she's sharing her knowledge with others and carrying it with her through the rest of her high school years and beyond. Liz is now more thoughtful about the way she affects the world around her, and she's no longer afraid to be openly curious.

Plus, as she puts it, "I try to think more about things that actually matter, that are truly important. There's no need to turn something really small into something big – chances are there are bigger obstacles to face."

After all, spending six weeks trying to survive the wilderness has a way of giving you some perspective.

Now, it seems, there's no mountain too high for Liz to climb.



FUN FEST

brought out CA families for games and amusements, including a parents-versus-students tug-of-war, Rockin' Roller obstacle course, and KnockerBall Soccer.





▲ Upper School English teachers **KARA CACCUITTO** and **KRISTI MCGAULEY** spent a week studying Shakespeare with other educators at Pembroke College, University of Oxford (and even learned how to fence!). ▶ In the span of just 50 days, Upper School science teacher **GRAY RUSHIN** traversed the famous TransAmerica Bike Trail with only his bike, camping gear, and a spirit of adventure.



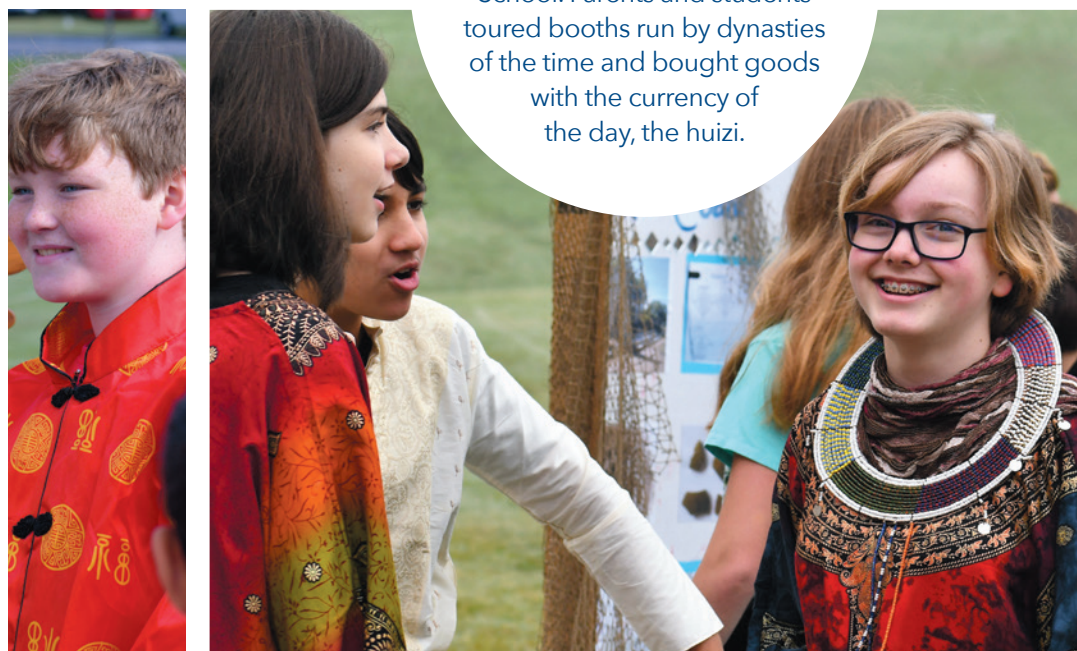
bit.ly/ca-summer-adventures



Y1K

In October, the ancient Y1K marketplace magically reappeared like Brigadoon for its annual visit to the Middle School. Parents and students toured booths run by dynasties of the time and bought goods with the currency of the day, the huizi.

Our **WORLD LANGUAGE TRIPS** took last year's 10th graders all around the world in May and June, with stops in Santiago, Chile; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Zhengzhou, China; Tours, France; and Oberursel, Germany. Students spent several weeks immersed in life and culture in their host countries, living with local families and attending school. CA will welcome students from our exchange schools to our community in the spring.



THE PTAA WANTS YOU



Did you know that every CA parent and employee is a member of the PTAA? Ready to jump in and be more involved? Check out www.caryacademy.org/PTAA.

“Just a couple of weeks into our first year at CA, I was recruited to co-chair the Charger Derby 5k,” Trude Bate remembers with a laugh. To say she ran with it would be an understatement.

“I was blown away by the teamwork I saw in bringing it to life – parents, employees across all departments, students, and alumni. It took all of us to make this phenomenal event happen, and it was awe-inspiring to see it come together.”

Fast-forward a couple of years and Trude is the Parent Teacher Administration Alliance (PTAA) president for the 2017–2018 year.

“Now I have the opportunity to see this same teamwork mentality at Cary Academy on a daily basis. We have an amazing community and getting involved in the PTAA is the best way to get to know other CA parents and employees. When you’re new to any school, it can be difficult to meet people and feel connected. We want to help create an environment where everyone feels welcomed and engaged

and every experience here is a warm and comfortable one.”

In fact, that’s one of the PTAA’s priorities for the year – “to use a personal outreach approach to increase parent awareness and participation at CA events. The PTAA is putting a great deal of energy towards expanding our outreach and occasions for inclusion, growing community spirit, and building on the sense of our collective village.”

In one effort to that end, the PTAA is working with CA’s Service Learning team to organize community outreach events for the whole family once per trimester.

October’s event focused on hurricane relief; the second trimester’s focus has not yet been announced.

The PTAA is also working with School leadership to institute a new, sustainable

“This is an amazing community... I want everyone to feel welcome and engaged.”

fundraising model that shifts the PTAA's focus to community-building first. One example? The upcoming *A Taste of & Toast to Our Community* event; it's not a gala or auction or fundraiser of any kind, but a celebration of the CA community, with low ticket prices that cover costs and make it easier to participate.

Working closely with School leadership on both formal and social media types of communications is another priority for the group. "We want to do a better job communicating the myriad ways the PTAA supports and enhances excellence at Cary Academy. Our community is comprised of dedicated parents with incredible ideas and so much passion. CA is a school that values the contributions of the PTAA."

The PTAA supports school life in countless ways, including support of grade-level and school-wide activities such as Ubuntu, receptions after student performances, parent coffees with guest speakers, cultural art residences, and



Steve and Sebastian Polge at the Derby 5k

employee appreciation events, to name a few. In addition to the enhancement of day-to-day life, PTAA members serve as Parent Ambassadors for prospective families and Welcome Hosts for new families and provide juniors with opportunities to practice for college interviews and hone resumes. The PTAA also provides grant-funded project support.

"We allocate a substantial portion of our budget for grants written by faculty or students who apply for one-time funding to enhance a program or activity or to support an innovative idea," Trude said. "People put so much thought and work into these applications, and we are proud to support their efforts where we can. Each year, the applications we receive differ, so all areas of our community benefit from this wonderful program."

Last year, for example, funded projects ranged from hosting #iCanHelp digital citizenship assemblies for the Middle School; to inspiring the seventh grade with a trip to see the IMAX documentary *Dream Big: Engineering Our World*; to providing start-up funds to help launch a mountain biking club.

"The enthusiasm of this year's PTAA is inspiring and infectious; there's an energy on campus that's palpable. We are working to carry on the legacy of past Boards as well as striving to build upon their work to evolve our Cary Academy community. We hope to leave the CA PTAA in an even better position for future leadership," said Trude.

100+ PROJECTS

AND EVENTS EACH YEAR NEED YOUR TIME AND TALENT, FROM ATTENDING A PARENT COFFEE TO TAKING PHOTOS AT EVENTS TO HELPING JUNIORS AND SENIORS PREP FOR COLLEGE INTERVIEWS TO PARTICIPATING IN FAMILY SERVICE DAYS.

THE PTAA HAS **14** COMMITTEES, INCLUDING CULTURAL ARTS, FUN FEST, AND CHARGER CLUB.

\$13,793.36

IN PTAA GRANTS AWARDED TO 12 PROJECTS INITIATED BY FACULTY AND STUDENTS IN 2016-2017.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

NOVEMBER 30 - DECEMBER 2	Holiday Shoppe
DECEMBER 8	PTAA Diversity Trivia Night
DECEMBER 15	Homecoming
JANUARY 28	A Taste of & Toast to Our Community
JANUARY 31	State of the School Address - PTAA General Meeting
MAY 5	Charger Derby 5k & Expo
MAY 14	Scholars' Golf Classic



CHAMPION LAUNCHER

Taylor Meyer '08

As a student at Cary Academy, Taylor Meyer pretty much lived for tennis – and was part of CA’s first state championship team his senior year.

“That’s one of my biggest memories. And I loved going to CA. People I met as a sixth grader – students and teachers – are still some of my closest friends today,” he said.

When it came time for college, UNC was a magnet for Taylor. “I was going to play tennis, and Chapel Hill’s tennis team was number two in the country. Plus, academics are really strong, and it’s close to home – my family is very important to me, and I wanted to stay close.”

“I’ve always been into math and science. At UNC, I majored in chemistry – I’d gotten pretty far through physics, math, and chemistry, and needed to pick one as a major. My grandfather earned his PhD in chemistry, so that tipped the scale. Junior year, I started getting into technology and software.”





“MY TEAM AND I WANT TO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENTREPRENEURS.”

He was a senior when he and a friend developed UConnection, a dining and nightlife app catering to college students.

“It’s Yelp meets Groupon for college students,” Taylor explained. “It got super-popular at UNC – about half of the undergrad population was using it. Then we went to college towns across North Carolina and grew as we gained traction.”

By the time they sold it to a private equity firm in 2016, UConnection was serving more than 500 colleges in 45 states.

This summer, Taylor and his business partner launched Hyperspace Ventures. Their mission? To provide resources and inspiration for entrepreneurs to make a dent in the universe – through design, development, and venture capital.

“We’re taking what we learned with UConnection to help others. My goal is to build or invest in things that are going to have a big impact on the world. I like creating things that can be revolutionary for a lot of people through technology,” he said.

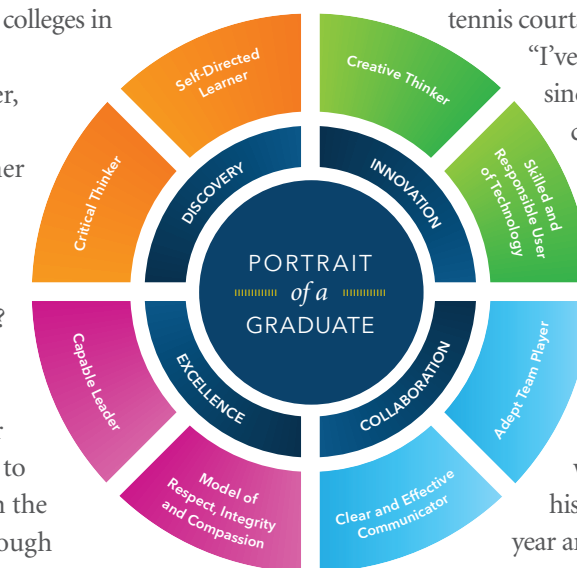
The new firm already has clients in New York City, Silicon Valley, Florida, and the Research Triangle.

Taylor’s adding to his knowledge and skills as well as his client base, earning his MBA at UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School. “Going in, I felt confident in my knowledge of digital marketing and entrepreneurship because of my experience. I’m definitely improving my skills in finance and accounting – that’s the language that investors speak.”

That’s not all that’s keeping Taylor on his game. Come spring, you’ll find him on CA’s tennis courts – as head coach.

“I’ve been playing tennis since I was two. After college, I wanted to stay involved in the game – and connected to Cary Academy. My coach at CA, Andrew Corcoran, was ready to retire and was searching for his replacement. And it worked out great! I was his assistant in a transition year and then took over as head coach. The kids are really fun to be around. I’ve been head coach for four years, and we’ve won three state championships in that time.”

You’ll also find him in start-up mode, hosting a pitch competition for CA students. “We want to encourage and inspire the next generation of entrepreneurs. We’ve recruited an impressive panel of judges who’ll hear students’ best pitch ideas. And we’ll award \$1,000 to help take the winning idea further.”



16TH ANNUAL ALUMNI XC MEET

Thanks to the 19 alumni from seven CA classes who dusted off their running shoes for the 16th Annual CA Alumni Cross Country Meet on August 5th! It was great to see everyone! Thanks to all who came out to catch up and enjoy the event:

Class of 2003

Matt Chandler
Bryan Fisher
Garrett Roach

Class of 2009

David Dement

Class of 2012

Thomas Graham
Connor Riser
Jeremy Kleiman

Class of 2014

Sarah Hamon

Class of 2015

Josh Mitchell

Class of 2016

Emma Ehrhardt

Zoe Sheitman

Daniel Schulz

Jack Pullen

Class of 2017

Davis Braswell

Tommy Bright

Jonathan Kacvinsky

Kiran Winemiller

Esra Balkas

Emily Lane

Scores:

Men: Alumni - 27, Varsity - 28

Women: Alumni - 42, Varsity - 17



2005

Travis Wright Colopy has had a very busy few years. Through his work as executive director of Fit & Able Productions, he has provided thousands of athletes the opportunity to participate in family fitness events and help many area nonprofits prosper. In October, Travis completed Duke University's Executive Certificate program for Nonprofit Leadership. He serves on several area boards of directors, including the Cary Community Foundation, the Cary Family YMCA, Cary Rotary Club, Cary Chamber of Commerce, and Life Experiences. Recently, he was chosen by the Triangle Business Journal to receive the "40 Under 40" Business Leadership Award.

Richard Feindel married Abbey Niezgodna on June 17, 2017, at Martha's Vineyard. Richard is employed by WCVB Channel 5 Boston as its creative services photography editor. On June 24, he won his fifth Emmy Award from the New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

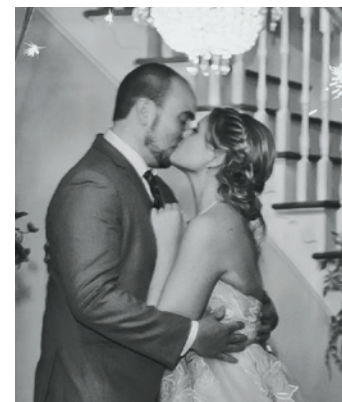
2007

Tom Marty currently resides in Washington, D.C. In May 2016, he accepted a management consulting position with KPMG, where he assists clients in implementing business process automation solutions. Outside of work, Tom regularly attends Georgetown basketball games and classical music performances.

Jake Hartsfield is working as an independent contractor (mixing engineer, tour/production manager). Recently he went on tour with Ben Rector and with Vulfpeck. He is also engineering for PGA Tour Radio. He is focusing on studio mixing projects (pop, country, and Christian artists) in Nashville.

2008

Tiffany Alexy started her own real estate company, Alexy Realty Group. She works with residential buyers and sellers and also offers property management services. Her specialty is in working with real estate investors and landlords. Her next goal is to flip a house with her boyfriend.



2009

Hillary Doelling married Ryan Miller on May 6, 2017 at The Highgrove Estate in Fuquay-Varina.

2010

Kayvan Daragheh recently moved to NYC to work at Genius (formerly Rap Genius) as the Artist Relations Associate. He has been working with hip-hop journalism legend Rob

Markman and has been able to interview people like Charlie Puth, Pete Wentz, Noah Cyrus, Jessie Reyez, Tyga, Dej Loaf, Ski Mask The Slump God, Wifisfuneral, and more. His job at Genius mostly consists of pitching artists for their video series, booking artists, and conducting interviews. He also manages a rapper by the name of Ashoka, who just signed a record deal with Interscope Records.

2011

Alisha Jarwala has started her first year at Harvard Law School, following two years of working as a paralegal at a civil rights law firm.

2012

Brianna Gaddy just returned from teaching English for a year in Murcia, Spain. This fall, she began law school at American University in Washington, D.C.

2013

Rachel Earnhardt was recognized this spring with the Dutcher Prize, which is awarded each year at Wesleyan University for highest excellence in the Department of History.

Meredith Glaubach has accepted a position with the Community Food Bank in Tucson, Arizona. She will be working with donor management.

Nicole Ackman graduated *magna cum laude* from Elon University with a B.A. in strategic communications and history and is pursuing her

master's in culture, policy, and management at City University of London.

2014

Alex East participated in the Mohican 100-mile trail run in Loudonville, Ohio, on June 17, 2017. Alex completed the course in 29 hours and 33 minutes, well within the 32-hour time limit. Alex's pacer for the second half of the run was fellow alum, John Guerra.

2015

Lydia Field was chosen as one of 18 undergraduate students from Duke and UNC to be a Phillips Ambassador for summer and fall 2017 study abroad programs in Asia. She will study through the CET Harbin Intensive Language summer program. She is an Asian studies and global studies double major with a neuroscience minor.

Martin Kendrick was selected from Morehouse College to study Chinese language and culture at Shandong University in Jinan, China, this past summer. Martin has also completed the Defense Critical Language and Culture Project Global Officer Program at the University of Montana.

2016

Sarah Godwin is a member and competitor on the Boston University Intercollegiate Figure Skating Team, which garnered the U.S. Figure Skating Intercollegiate National Championship for the first time since 2010! Since teams

are still managed by U.S. Figure Skating, the national figure skating federation, they are club sports, but now have more than 100 teams nationally. The best three teams from each section - East, Midwest, and West - meet annually to compete for the National Championship. Sarah skated in the Junior Championship Ladies division and earned points for her team at each competition this year. She is a rising sophomore at Boston University.

2017

Kelly Bright is playing softball for Fordham University. When they played at Villanova University, Villanova student **Bamise Ogundipe**, also CA '17, showed up to watch her play!



Julia Gong meets up with CA co-founder John Sall during her summer internship at SAS. This was Julia's second year interning, and you can learn about her first year from her CA TEDx talk: youtube/M084QBc1ww.



Sarah Godwin

The Big Question

IF YOU COULD
ASK A QUESTION
OF A PERSON
WHO'S NO
LONGER LIVING,
WHO & WHAT
WOULD YOU ASK?

CEREN IZ Grade 11

I would ask Leonardo da Vinci this: "You had interests in invention, painting, sculpting, architecture, science, music, mathematics, engineering, literature, anatomy, botany, writing, astronomy, history and more. How did you manage/ balance all of your interests and still have time to complete painting commissions?"

SHARICE CHANDLER Admissions and Class of 2005

I'd ask an activist like Coretta Scott King: "How would you approach race relations today?" I would be curious to hear her thoughts on how we can teach society to accept others' differences. I would also be interested in hearing how she would suggest that people not buy into the incorrect information that is being portrayed in the news and on social media. I chose Mrs. King because, while she was as involved in the Civil Rights Movement as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I don't feel her voice was heard as often as his.



GRACE SEIDEL Grade 11

I would ask Robin Williams why comedy wasn't enough to fulfill his life, because I've always wondered about the difference between people's outward emotional displays and true feelings.

FERNANDO VALERA Housekeeping Staff

I would like to ask my mother: "Are you aware of how much I miss you?" I'd ask this question, because I felt cheated that she left so soon. The most valuable people to me on Earth are mothers. Nothing can fill the gap of my mother being gone, because when she was living, I had no worries. She always had the answers.



MATTHEW RIPLEY-MOFFITT Middle School History

The question I would want to ask any non-living person is, "What is the most important thing you learned in your life, and how might it help me?" Because people have lived in a lot of different times and places and learned a lot of different things, and their wisdom still might be very useful to people living in different circumstances.

TOMMY HUGUS Grade 11

I would ask Louis Vuitton what his inspirations for his fashion were, because his designs are so iconic and fashionable. I'd like to know more about how he created them.



THUY DZU & ALEX MOORE Grade 6

We'd ask Walt Disney, "What was your next great movie idea?" All of the Disney movies have great underlying messages, and we both enjoyed watching them growing up. Disney's creativity brought him lots of success that we'll strive for in our futures.

LIZ JONES Grade 12

I'd ask Billy Mays if he always talked the way he did on TV, or if it was just an act. He was so funny, and I'd like to know if he actually spoke this way.

I WOULD ASK TUPAC: "WHERE ARE YOU?" WE ALL KNOW TUPAC FAKED HIS DEATH AND IS LIVING ON A REMOTE CARIBBEAN ISLAND.

GEORGE ADANUTY Grade 12



ARMAN KASSAM Grade 12

I would ask Biggie Smalls, "Do you feel that the album *Life After Death*, which was posthumously released, did your work justice or could there have been changes?" I would ask this because, although Biggie was rather misogynistic for his era, he was one of the best lyricists ever on Earth. Looking at his work, he was amazing at daisy-chaining his words. I furthered my appreciation for him by looking at a Vox video called "Rapping Deconstructed" that broke down his lyrics by meaning and rhymes.

JEFF WACENSKE Director of Safety and Security

I'd like to ask Lee Harvey Oswald why he assassinated President Kennedy, because I think President Kennedy would've been super good for our country over the long term, and why would you want to assassinate someone who's going to do a lot of good for our country and the world?



CINDY LAUGHLIN Middle School Administration

I would ask both my grandmother, who was very much a people person and gathered people around her, as well as Mother Theresa: "What small act of kindness were you shown that you never forgot?" They are two women that I very much look up to; I try to remember how kind they were and giving to other people, and how just one small thing can really change a person's day. It is all those little changes that make people feel good about themselves.

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



CARY ACADEMY

1500 N. Harrison Ave. | Cary, NC 27513 |
caryacademy.org



MEET THE STUDENTS WHO HELPED MAKE THIS ISSUE:
Maya, Kennedy, Lily, Abby, and Alex

In accordance with our mission and the law, Cary Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, national and ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, or age.