

G S B



COVID-19
LOCKDOWN

WASH HANDS

GLOBAL
PANDEMIC

2.22M+

flattening
the curve



mandatory

quarantine

stay-at-home order

6 foot distance

ANXIETY ON THE RISE

DISTANCING





MISSION STATEMENT

Gill St. Bernard's School provides a balanced, diverse and secure community that prepares students academically, socially, and ethically for college and a meaningful life.



CORE VALUES

Courage • Integrity • Respect
Compassion • Excellence



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Many photos on the following pages were taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.

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FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Friends,

These are historic times, indeed. However, while the COVID-19 pandemic has required many sacrifices and changes to our daily life, Gill St. Bernard's continues to thrive. This fall, I have been amazed at the resiliency of our faculty, students and their families. I am heartened that we are back in this place that has been so special for more than a hundred years. Although our school was forced to pivot to remote learning in late March, today students are here and in person. It is wonderful to hear their voices on campus. Granted, we now wear masks and stay six feet apart, but we are **here**. Life goes on in Gladstone.

As we welcome the New Year, we take this opportunity to reflect on the past academic year. We celebrate the times we were together as well as mark the moment when world events forced us to drastically pivot to virtual learning and remote living. Above all, the various articles also demonstrate how we remained connected during such challenging times. Some highlight many in person events including Homecoming and the tremendous production of Pippin. In the latter, we honor Venus Nedd, a devoted Gill parent who has freely given of her time to the GSB Players for two decades. Long after her daughters graduated, she shared her talents as a hair and makeup artist helping our actors to shine on stage. We commend our boys' soccer team for capturing "Five Titles" last year, and honor Coach Bednarsky for being named Coach of the Year. We mourn the passing of Junie Hockenbury, a steadfast and beloved campus presence for 75 years, who meticulously mowed our fields, cared for our horses, and was as timeless as the land.

I hope you enjoy the magazine – its pages document this momentous and turbulent year-- reminding us that together, we will survive and even thrive. It is, in fact, the members of the GSB Class of 2020 who, having missed many of the rites of passage, demonstrated the best example of how to adapt to adversity with strength, resilience, and kindness.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S.A. Rowell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

S.A. Rowell
Head of School





Congratulations





Class of 2020



Class of 2020 Commencement



For the first time in the school's history, a GSB alumna received the prestigious Chair of Excellence in Teaching Award. Noreen Syed '10, former STREAMS director and beloved science teacher, was honored as an outstanding instructor.

At the 2019 Convocation, members of the Class of 2020 contemplated how they could contribute to the life of our school. Adrian Massuet '20 read the inspiring children's book, *Say Something*, and Head of School Sid Rowell noted, "What does it mean 'to find your voice, your very own voice?' It takes courage for sure, to speak up when others are silent. Speaking up also reflects your gifts; the many talents you possess, some of which you may not yet have discovered." Each student signed the Senior Registry, vowing to "Work at all times for the good of the school, and strive to exemplify the characteristics of faith, honor, and consideration in keeping with our school's worthy traditions."

Little did our seniors know that following their pledge, GSB would face the most challenging event in our school's 120-year history. As spring break arrived, so did a global pandemic, closing the campus, moving instruction to distance learning, and leaving rites of passage and signature milestones in abeyance. The Class of 2020 voiced its strong desire to hold an in-person commencement when conditions allowed. The long-awaited socially distant outdoor gathering took place on August 2, 2020. Our graduates lived up to their collective commitment by facing a year of unforeseen disruptions with resiliency. They showed us what it means to come together as a community to honor an important milestone.



Teresa Zimmer received the Elizabeth Gill Award.



Adrian Massuet and Allison Zhao received the Jean Loizeaux Award.



Zach Martini received the Harold D. Nicholls Memorial Award



2020 National Merit Scholarship

Upper School Director Dr. Joel Coleman is proud to announce that seven members of the Class of 2020 were named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC), which conducts the program, was presented by Dr. Coleman to these scholastically talented seniors: Robert W. Brandl, Kerry P. Colford, Luke A. Mariak, Adrian Massuet, Karoline C. Nerone, Evan R. Portnoi, and Allison L. Zhao.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation were recognized for their exceptional academic promise, and were placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.5 million students who entered the 2020 competition by taking the 2018 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“Those named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success,” commented a spokesperson for NMSC. “These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation. We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success.”



Robert W. Brandl



Kerry P. Colford



Luke A. Mariak



Adrian Massuet



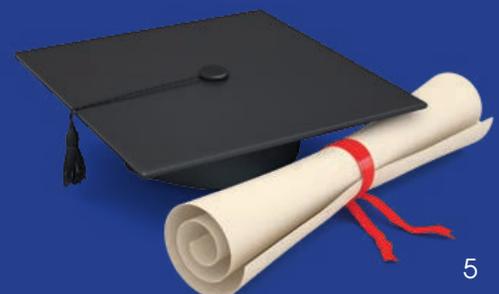
Karoline C. Nerone



Evan R. Portnoi



Allison L. Zhao



UNPRECEDENTED

GSB CAPTURE

The boys' soccer team put together one of the greatest seasons in New Jersey high school soccer history the fall of 2019, winning an unprecedented five titles and setting a standard of excellence that interscholastic athletics may never see again.

"In my 30-plus years here at Gill, there has never been a more gratifying season," said Head Coach Tony Bednarsky. "What these boys did is a story for the ages. I am not sure if anyone truly understands the incredible significance behind winning five titles in a single year."

According to the veteran coach, he had a feeling that this season had the potential to be a special one before the boys even had their first official match of the year. During the preseason, the program traveled to Portugal for its first-ever international trip. While in Europe, Bednarsky predicted that his team would go .500 or less in mixed-squad games. The Knights blew away his expectations, going 9-2-1 against elite competition. The trip also highlighted what would be one of the team's biggest strengths throughout the year: camaraderie.

"Our team chemistry this year was already excellent since most of us had played together last year, so when this season started, we kept building off of it," said Adam Berrocal '21. "We are all friends off the field, so that correlates well on the pitch because we're able to play for one another."

However, neither the coaches nor the players could have predicted the season they were about to have, especially considering their first game of the fall. After a great training trip, GSB began the regular season 0-1, dropping their opening game against Skyland Conference foe North Hunterdon.

"I really think you learn a lot from every loss, so even though it was gut-wrenching to lose the first game, we made a pact as a team that we would never be shutout again, and worked every day to make sure of it," said Bednarsky.



CAMARADERIE

ES FIVE TITLES

The Knights kept that promise and continued to play hard throughout the initial weeks of the season. After suffering another tough loss to Hunterdon Central on October 3, Gill went on a remarkable tear and never lost another game for the rest of the season.

The Knights got the ball rolling with a monumental win over local rival Pingry. It was the first time in program history that the Knights defeated Pingry, and it helped them secure their first title of the year: the Skyland Conference Raritan Division title.

More importantly than that, the long-awaited victory helped the Knights genuinely realize that they were a phenomenal unit and that this could be the start of a special run. They carried that momentum throughout the Somerset County Tournament and ultimately defeated

Pingry, yet again, to claim the program's first-ever county championship.

"It meant a lot to be part of the first team to win a county title," said Jordan Canica '21, who had a goal and an assist in the win. "The atmosphere was excellent with so many friends, family, and students from school going out of their way to come and see the game and support us as we made history not just for ourselves, but the entire program."

Only four days later, the Knights were right back in a high-pressure situation, taking on Montclair Kimberley Academy for the Prep B Championship. The combination of timely scoring and shutdown defense was too much for the Cougars, and the Knights walked away with their first Prep title since 2015.

With three championships under its belt, it would have been difficult to find a hotter team in the state than Gill as the Knights entered the Non-Public B State tournament. However, that did not mean things were going to come easy for this battle-tested group.

In the North Jersey, Non-Public B Semifinals, the Knights were shocked to find themselves down 2-0 to Morristown-Beard early into

COACH OF THE YEAR



TONY BEDNARSKY

Veteran boys' soccer head coach Tony Bednarsky was named the 2019 Boys' Fall East Region Private/Parochial Coach of the Year and the New Jersey Coach of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches Committee in the fall.

Bednarsky was presented with this award at the annual High School Coaches Breakfast during the 73rd United Soccer Coaches Convention in Baltimore in January. Bednarsky was recognized with the three other award-winning regional coaches (North, South, and West).

Gill's longtime coach earned this award after a historic 2019 season, in which the Knights went 20-3 and won an astounding five championships:

-  Skyland Conference Raritan Division Title
-  Somerset County Championship
-  Prep B Championship
-  North Jersey Non-Public B Sectional Title
-  Non-Public B State Title

Congratulations, Coach Bednarsky, for being named the 2020 Coach of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches for private parochial schools in the East Region! See our next magazine for the full story!



- 

1 Knights officially clinch Raritan Division title on **October 17** (final game of regular season)
- 

2 Knights play the Somerset County Tournament and defeat Pingry to claim the first-ever county championship. - **County Championship, October 26**

the contest. With the entire season on the line, GSB roared back to score three unanswered goals and escape with a 3-2 victory. Following this close call, GSB once again had to take on MKA in a repeat of the Prep Finals and last year's sectional finals as well. In another nail-biter, Gill emerged with a 1-0 victory to claim the sectional championship and earned a shot at winning back-to-back state championships.

"We had a lot of tough games on the journey to the State Championship match," said Bednarsky. "When we got to the state finals, we felt relaxed because we had been so tested, and we knew we were not going to be denied. Any team in the state could have played us that night, and we still would have come out victorious."

The Knights did precisely that, overwhelming Moorestown Friends en route to a 3-0 victory for the program's fifth-ever state championship and their fifth title of the historic season.

"What I will take away from being one of the only teams to win five trophies throughout a season was the sense of brotherhood the team developed over the season," said Jacob Siegel '20. "Obviously, it will be the trophies that'll be immortalized in school history but, for me, the hours we spent training, the rowdy bus rides to and from games, and the crowds we ran into celebrating a win will be the moments I will look back on and smile."

Stay tuned for our spring magazine and highlights of our Knights' undefeated 2020 season! Ranked #1 in NJ and fourth in the nation! Congrats to all!



3



Knights play Montclair Kimberley Academy and win Prep B Championship. - Prep Championship, October 30

4



The Knights earn victory over Montclair Kimberley Academy again to win the Non-Public B Sectional Championship and advance to the State Finals for the second-straight year. - Sectional Championship, November 7

5



Knights earn fifth-ever state championship and their fifth overall title during historic season. - State Championship, November 10

MICAAH GARNETTE '21 SKYLAND CONFERENCE PLAYER OF 2019

Standout junior soccer player Micaah Garnette '21 put an exclamation point on his breakout season by being named the Skyland Conference Player of the Year.

Garnette was a lethal offensive threat for the Knights. He scored in every single game except Gill's season opener and connected on two goals in the Non-Public B state championship game to help lead GSB to its fifth state title in program history.

His 30 goals ranked 13th-most in New Jersey, and he is the first Knight ever to reach 30 goals in a season. He was also a First-Team All-State selection and a SCANJ Regional All-American.

"The statistical season speaks for itself, and he deserved every accolade he received," said boys' soccer Head Coach Tony Bednarsky. "If you watch him play, however, he goes far beyond that. There is a lot of depth and character in his game, and he is a team-oriented player. He plays good defense, makes his teammates better, and is humble to a fault."

Congrats to Micaah for being named to the 2020 High School Boys All-American Team! Look for highlights in our next magazine!



DOC COYLE '98

By Alice Roche Cody

Doc Coyle '98 remembers the exact moment, at age 13, when his world changed forever. He was hanging out with two friends from his New Brunswick neighborhood, and they showed him MTV for the first time. That led him to discover heavy metal, and he couldn't get enough of groups like Boyz II Men, Megadeth, Metallica.

"I didn't realize music could be so cool," said Doc, an LA-based professional guitarist. "I remember watching *Wayne's World* and hearing *Bohemian Rhapsody*. A light bulb went off.

In the guitar solo in Guns N' Roses' *November Rain*, the music spoke to me."

About this time, he started strumming a beat-up old guitar he stumbled upon and soon graduated to an Ibanez Les Paul loaner. "Once I got that, it was game-over," he said.

But really, his game had just begun. It marked the start of a long and tumultuous path to become a guitarist for Bad Wolves, a heavy metal band about to release its third album. In 2018, the group blew up the charts with its cover of the Cranberries' song, *Zombies*. Tragedy surrounded the endeavor. Bad Wolves dedicated its music video to the Cranberries' singer, Dolores O'Riordan, who died the night before she was to record vocals with Bad Wolves. The cover topped *Billboard's* Mainstream Rock Charts, was nominated for *iHeartRadio's* Rock Song of the Year and logged more than 355 million hits, and counting, on *YouTube*.

If someone had told teenaged Doc that he'd find musical fame not once, but twice, he wouldn't have believed it: "I never had the goal: *I'm going to be a rock star*. My ambition, my imagination was not that big."

Growing up, music hummed throughout Doc's homelife, from Jazz Radio spots featuring Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Duke Ellington, to bands like Pearl Jam, the Beatles, the Police. His dad, an Irish-Catholic-Polish piano teacher, played in a band with Doc's mom, an African American jazz singer and DJ. The household harmony gave way to discord; his parents split up when Doc was 10. And outside, dissonance rang out as well as poverty and crime plagued his inner-city surroundings. He stayed out of trouble by keeping to himself, listening to heavy metal, and drawing comics.

Doc attended public high school for a year, but didn't fit in. His grandfather, the first black real estate agent in Middlesex County, smoothed the way for Doc and his brother, Dallas Coyle '97, to attend Gill St. Bernard's, where his granddad reffed basketball games. Gill awarded the boys a partial scholarship, and their grandparents, Piscataway residents, paid the remaining tuition.

"Growing up in a lower class in black and brown environment and then going to visit your grandparents in suburbs, it's another world," he said. GSB, with its idyllic rural setting, proved a step beyond.

"Gill was a golden opportunity," he said. "It was my way out of my urban environment. Being able to go to school and not worry about anyone messing with me was a relief. At New Brunswick High School, I was an outcast.



I thought: *Maybe if I go to this school, I'll find people who like me, and I won't be a misfit.*"

Yet adjusting to Gill took time. "It was a culture shock, but not in a stereo-typical way," he said. "People have an idea of a prep school being haughty-taught, but it wasn't. No one was mean to me. People, for the most part, were nice, but there's a shorthand developed among certain groups. They're used to their culture, and you're behind the ball on the subtleties. The privileges. You turn a certain age; you get a car. It's not like they were bad people or spoiled, it's just normal for that element. I was dealing with my own discomfort."

Both Doc and Dallas played basketball, and the required uniform on game days highlighted their disparity. "We were supposed to wear khakis and a collared shirt," he said. "We didn't have that stuff and scrambled to get it. We were at a disadvantage but not disadvantaged."

Academically, too, it took Doc time to acclimate. He remembers his English teacher, Mrs. Ripton taking an interest in him and pushing him to be a better student. "Mrs. Ripton had me write these opinion pieces, and how I write now is based on what she taught me," he said. His current writing credits include numerous songs and content for *VH1* and *CreativeLive.com*.

Overall, GSB served as a positive place, and taught Doc how to navigate different spaces he'd find during his music career. "I felt special and lucky," he said. "It was a picturesque environment, one that most kids will never experience. Smaller class sizes with engaged, thoughtful teachers who had personal relationships with me. I knew I was someplace special."

Before graduating, he started a heavy metal band called God Forbid with Dallas. Next, Doc attended William Patterson, but didn't find his classes as engaging as those at Gill. "All I could think about was music and band, so I dropped out," he said.

He shuffled through some minimum wage temp jobs and summers spent landscaping. Not a fan. "I thought, *This is what adults do every day, all day, forever? It sounds terrible.*"

Meanwhile, the hours of practice he put into his band paid off. Within a year, God Forbid landed a record deal and by the next year, they hit the road.

"Slowly but surely, we tapped into something special," he said. "I put all this time in, but never thought about where I'd be five years from now. I had small goals, like make a demo, play out of state, record a full-length album. It was like a dog using its sense of smell leading through the forest. Instinctual."

Next came 10 years touring with God Forbid. Playing in front of huge audiences definitely had its allure, but success had its sacrifices. "Our band became popular, we got really good, but people I knew from high school were pursuing real careers and living an adult existence," he said. "I had this outcast existence. I was 25 years old, touring the

world, and not making any money. I'm not buying house, not married, no degree, and no back up plan. I didn't fit into what I was being prepared for at school. It was a tradeoff."

A year after recording God Forbid's sixth album, Doc spiraled into an identity crisis and quit the band. By now, he also tended bar and lived with his grandmother. When she passed away, he had nowhere to go. "I was homeless, out on my own for the first time at age 32, what most people do at 22," he said. "I had no money and needed to figure out what to do with my life. It was the first time without a band. I never had a great sense of self-worth; the adulation was external. I had to become a more complete human being and build myself from the ground-up."

His solution? Packing up, moving across country, renting a room, and writing for *VH1*. Eventually, he joined Bad Wolves. "The rest is history," he said. "I got the chance at a second career. I moved to LA thinking I was old news. At 34, it felt like music was a young man's game."

He also journeyed inward, embracing mindfulness practices. After years of toiling so hard, he slowly let go and practiced acceptance. "I started to believe in myself and freed myself of the expectations of having a house and kids," he said. "A lot of people think they have to struggle and push through. I started going with the current more and not pushing so much. Now I have a *yes* mentality. *Just do it.*"

Things started to click, and he branched out even further. First came an indie film, *The Retaliators*, his SAG card, and the launch of his *Ex-Man* podcast. Even as he continues to reinvent himself, he hones his musical craft. Two weeks before the pandemic shut-down, he played alongside two Metallica

musicians, Kirk Hammett and Rob Trujillo, in The Wedding Band. Now Doc's grounded in California with his girlfriend, unable to play live venues and yearning for his return to the road.

"The boredom and monotony of not leaving the house and not being able to socialize much is taking its toll on me mentally," he said. "I love traveling. It's cool to randomly be in Prague, Finland or Australia. Bad Wolves gets to tour with big bands like Nickelback, Megadeth, Papa Roach. I still get a kick out of watching and learning from all of these great artists. I dearly miss going to shows, period." Festival dates with one of his favorites, Metallica, got cancelled.

But Doc remains grateful. He knows that second acts aren't a given. "I had it and lost it and got it back," he said. "It's rare to have a second career. If this band doesn't last, I'll try again. There's no retirement plan for bands. If we break up, I'll have to figure it out. You can't count on anything in this industry."

The echo of his words can be felt in the lyrics of the newly released Bad Wolves' song: "They told me don't look down/Don't be the victim/Don't you run away/I had to fall to learn to walk again."

No matter what comes next, surely, he'll prevail. Based on his track record, the odds are in his favor.



Lifers 2020

Our Lifers attended Gill St. Bernard's since kindergarten or preschool.



Morgan Champey



Pierson Chan



Kerry Colford



Erin Devine



Julia Gateman



James Hersh



Julia Hersh



Zachary Layden



Andrew Lutz



Skylar Macak



Andrew Margolis



Edward McCarthy



Rebecca Michaels



Emily Raia



V. Matthew Steinbaum



Teresa Zimmer

LIFER SPOTLIGHT

TERESA ZIMMER '20

Engaging



I have always been fascinated by science, and I can attribute that love to my teachers at Gill. My sixth-grade science teacher, Ms. Cosentino, chose me to assist her on creating “casts” for the newly hatched quail chicks. I was honored to help with this hands-on learning experience.

My hope for my fellow peers is that we will be able to spend our first semester on our college campuses.



HOMECOMING/FAMILY DAY 2019 ENJOYED BY ALL

Saturday, September 21, 2019, was a beautiful day on the GSB campus, as the Gill community celebrated its annual Homecoming/Family Day. This celebration marked the culmination of three days of activities, starting with the Athletic Booster Club’s third Home Winds Walk on Thursday, and Spirit Day and the Pep Rally on Friday.

Co-Chairs Jen Meenan, P ’24, ’27, and Megan Migliaccio, P ’20, ’24, along with an enthusiastic group of parent volunteers and the operations crew, arrived bright and early to set up for the day’s activities. The grassy area



behind the Field House became the center of the action, as a bounce house, obstacle course, pumpkin patch, and a petting zoo were masterfully assembled. Booths were also placed throughout the field, the Booster Club had a full line of GSB clothing for purchase, and Home Winds offered fresh produce, honey, and flowers from the nearby farmland.

Each Upper School class hosted fundraising tables for school activities and the senior class had a special guest volunteer to serve in their dunk tank this year: Upper School Director Dr. Joel Coleman in a full tuxedo!



Turkey Day 2019 Breaks School Record!

What started as a last-minute collection of frozen turkeys in 2003 to help the Community FoodBank of New Jersey, turned into an annual GSB event. Last year, 783 turkeys were collected, shattering the school’s record of 618. The Gateman family gave a boost to Gill’s efforts by donating 100 turkeys. At an Upper School assembly, Mrs. Jill Gateman, P ’17, ’20, told students that more than 900,000 state residents rely on the Community FoodBank of New Jersey for their meals, and 35 percent of them are children. “My last ask is that you please, just be grateful,” she said. “Most of us have so much.”



The Nutcracker

GSB’s kindergarten class has performed its version of Tchaikovsky’s *The Nutcracker* each December for more than two decades. Once again, this beloved Lower School tradition enchanted the audience and capped off a season of beautiful winter concerts!

Oh, What a BINGO NIGHT

Thanks to our GSB Parents' Association, Founders Hall was filled with students, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff, and friends for the First Annual Family Bingo Night on February 1, 2020. Disco lights and confetti enveloped the room as participants enjoyed the spirited music, the challenge of friendly competition, and the thrill of winning fabulous prizes – all while feasting on pizza, salad, and “bingo-iced” cupcakes. The evening was MCed by “Mr. Bingo” himself, Tony DeVergillo, with special game callers including members of the boys' swim, basketball, and soccer teams, as well as players of the girls' varsity soccer team, who enthusiastically stepped up to the microphone to call a game and rally the crowd.

“We thought this would be an exciting and fun way to bring everyone together,” noted Past PA President Monica Micera, P '22. “Our goal was simple: community building.” And, according to the Bingo Committee Co-Chairs, Caroline Campion, P '22, and Emily Maillet, P '29, a fun time was, indeed, had by all!



Middle School Students and Parents Connect in the Pop Up Teaching Kitchen

Middle School students and their parents connected in the kitchen with FLIK Food Services, GSB's former food service provider. Hosting a special teaching-kitchen experience in the SBS Pavilion, “short bursts of learning” included knife safety, the nutritional benefits of super foods, and making connections between Home Winds Farm and the food we eat. Middle School science teacher Dr. Montana Vasquez-Grinnell talked about the ingredients noting, “Did you know GSB grows sorghum?” Then, putting on their aprons, rolling up their sleeves, and creating dishes from scratch, students received distinctive learning opportunities to developed knowledge, skills, and values from a direct experience outside the traditional setting. Division Director Kyle Armstrong proclaimed, “We are excited to help the students make this real-world connection between farm and fork.”

Fall Play – *Charley's Aunt*



In November, the GSB Players staged three outstanding performances of *Charley's Aunt* to captivated audiences. Directed and designed by GSB Performing Arts Chair Paul H. Canada and produced by Todd Ross '94, this hilarious, critically acclaimed comedy took place in 19th Century Victorian England and America, during Oxford Commemoration Week of 1892.

First performed at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds in February 1892, then opened in Royalty Theatre in London on December 21, 1892, the production quickly transferred to the famous Globe Theatre on January 30, 1893. *Charley's Aunt* broke the record for longest-running play worldwide, with 1,466 performances.

GSB Produces *Finding Nemo KIDS*



Under the direction of GSB Middle School music teacher Amy Southerland, with music production by Upper School music teacher David Southerland, GSB was proud to produce the grades one through six pilot of *Finding Nemo KIDS* in November. The one-night performance on November 25, 2019, featured 41 students. GSB's performance of *Finding Nemo KIDS* was an exciting pilot program produced in direct cooperation with Disney Theatrical Productions.



Spring Musical – *PIPPIN*

In March, the GSB Players staged *Pippin*. Heir to the Frankish throne, young prince Pippin searches for the secret to true happiness and fulfillment in the glories of the battlefield, the temptations of the flesh, and the intrigues of political power. In the end, he finds that happiness lies not in extraordinary endeavors, but in the unextraordinary everyday moments. The captivating production was designed and directed by Performing Arts Chair Paul Canada, produced by Todd Ross '94, and choreographed by Margery Schiesswohl, with music direction by Joe DeVico.



Venus Nedd

Award-Winning Theatre Volunteer for 20 Years

By Alice Roche Cody

In her two decades as a volunteer for the GSB Players, Venus Nedd has done it all, from selling tickets and concessions to sewing costumes and dyeing shoes. But the former ballet dancer left her real mark as a hair and makeup artist who transformed Gill thespians by braiding tresses, teasing wigs, and shading eye shadow for 40 shows, long after her daughters graduated.

The final curtain call of *Pippin* marked Nedd's last production, and Paul Canada, Chair of the Performing Arts Department, thanked her for generously giving her time and talent. (See below)

Nedd's first foray into hair and makeup started with *Once on This Island* in 2003, when her daughters Ashley '06 and Alexis '09 played the older and younger versions of the Ti Moune character. A graduate of the High School of Performing Arts in New York City, Nedd welcomed the chance to stay connected to the arts. She juggled her career – first as a Montessori teacher and then her

job at Hunterdon Medical Center – around afterschool rehearsals that ran late into the night. Her artistry earned numerous Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Award nominations, and for the 2014 production of *Godspell*, she and current GSB Trustee Lee Amoroso, P'11, '13, '19, won for outstanding hair and makeup.

"The theatre gave me a great group of friends," Nedd said of the theatre faculty and other parent volunteers. "We became a tight family. It felt like home." While she'll miss the camaraderie and the students, she's excited to travel with her husband, Kevin, a former GSB Trustee, this fall to visit friends in Aruba – a trip they postponed numerous times because it coincided with Tech Week. "Twenty years is a nice way to close it out," she said. "I feel like I left my mark."

Dear Venus,

I was looking at the cast photos in the hallway of the PACC and realized that it was *Once on This Island* in 2003, when you first became involved with the GSB Players. Both Ashley and Alexis were in the show and, while I was on sabbatical, you, no doubt, offered to help in any way you could. I got to know you in 2005, during our first *Drood*, and since then you have been a constant in the life of the theatre program at GSB. Through more than two dozen shows you have demonstrated an immense generosity of time and talent. All the students, since 2003, who have stepped on to the Mortimer Stage, and now the PACC, have been so very fortunate to have worked with you. Over the years, you created beautiful fantasy and period hairstyles that were always the perfect complement to the costumes and settings, and you helped each actor transform into his or her character. I'm especially enamored of what you created for *Pippin* this year.

I certainly understand why you feel it is time to move on; however, it does not mean we won't miss you! Your spirit, your style, your laugh, and your talent will not easily be forgotten. I'm not quite sure what we will do without you, but we wish you all the best as you pursue other interests with your friends and family. Always remember, you will forever be a part of the GSB Players.

With much love and appreciation,

Paul, the Cast, Crew, and Artistic Staff of *Pippin*





SPEAKERS ON CAM



BEN HARDESTY Singer-Songwriter

Making a surprise visit to GSB last fall, Ben Hardesty, lead singer and songwriter from The Last Bison, met with choir students in the chapel. According to Music Director David Southerland, "Over the past few years, our choir performed a couple of songs by the band, including 'Cypress Queen' and 'Autumn Snow.' While contacting Ben about a possible Spring Unit event, he said

he was currently in Far Hills visiting his father-in-law, and then he offered to come to school! This was a tremendous opportunity for our students to hear a recording artist talk about life as a musician – and then to hear him sing!"

CYPRESS QUEEN

By Ben Hardesty

On and over the northwest river
We go trusting in the Cypress Queen
She'll keep us afloat
We retreat into our fortress gold
To a sanctuary in the trees
That I call home
Trees that I call

Day arise in solitude I will strain to find
The root from the vine that saved my life
And beam from the light that gave me sight
A glimpse of what I call home

Stay the course
And through the brushwood break
Brier and thorns that don't
A trail we make
To climb the storms or brooded crowns with haste
And plunge into the tannic acid stains
Plunge into the

Day arise in solitude I will strain to find
The root from the vine that saved my life
And beam from the light that gave me sight
A glimpse of what I call home



NIC STONE New York Times Best-Selling Author Inspires GSB Students

Sharing her stories, inspiration, and passion for reading and writing, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Dear Martin*, Nic Stone, spent a morning at GSB. She told Upper School students that as a child she never saw herself reflected positively in book characters and "hated to read." Then, discovering as a writer she could create the books about the people she does want to imitate, her life changed. She encouraged the captivated audience to use their voices, speak their truth, and continue pursuing their dreams.



PUS



STEVEN SAVAGE

GSB Welcomes *New York Times* Best-Selling Picture Book Illustrator

Stephen Savage, illustrator of the *New York Times* best-selling picture book *Polar Bear Night*, itself also named a *New York Times* best illustrated children's book, spent Friday, October

4, 2019, at GSB. Coordinated by Lower and Middle School Librarian Lia Carruthers, Mr. Savage presented an exciting Lower School assembly and then later in the morning, he met with students in Sarah Isusi's Upper School Portfolio. He taught them about analyzing the message of graphics through understanding color, composition, light, and shade. According to Mrs. Isusi, "Students were in awe of his talent and his willingness to share his 'artistic secrets' with them." Stephen Savage is also the recipient of three starred reviews for his creation of *Where's Walrus?* He lives in Brooklyn with his wife and daughter.



TODD KOWALSKI '94

GSB Alumnus Encourages Students to "Dream Big"

GSB Alumnus Todd Kowalski '94, a Special Agent for the Violent Gang Task Force for the state of New York, is responsible for supervising a team of 20 Homeland Security investigators, NYPD, and other local state agencies. Returning to GSB,

he told students that much of his success he attributes to his parents and the education he received at Gill. Having been diagnosed with severe dyslexia, he was enrolled at GSB in ninth grade by his parents. Looking back, he reflects, "As a young child, I was told I was not smart enough – not good enough until I came to GSB. When I came to Gill, I was surrounded by teachers who would not let me fail; they taught me to think outside of the box." It is that out-of-the-box thinking which continues to serve him well today. Agent Kowalski encouraged students to "dream big," to know "you can do anything you want," and to "not be afraid of failure." Sharing a favorite Michael Jordan quote, he said: "I've failed over and over and over again, and that's why I succeed." Attesting to his success, in 2019 Agent Kowalski was the recipient of the United States Attorney General – Distinguished Service Award, the highest award bestowed upon a federal law enforcement officer.

"WHEN I CAME TO GILL, I WAS SURROUNDED BY TEACHERS WHO WOULD NOT LET ME FAIL; THEY TAUGHT ME TO THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX."

— TODD KOWALSKI





WES SHERMAN EXHIBIT

GSB Fine Arts Department Hosts Featured Artist

On Sunday, December 8, last winter, the F.M. Kirby Hall & Gallery was “home” to paintings of featured local artist Wes Sherman. Hosted by the GSB Fine Arts Department, the exhibition and reception welcomed participants ranging from students to senior citizens,

from colleagues, followers, and other artists, to his representative, John Cacciola of J. Cacciola Gallery, Bernardsville.

“We are honored to welcome Wes and his works to our campus,” remarked Sarah Isusi, Fine Arts Department chair. “The pieces in this exhibit focus on his relationship with nature as he contemplates our simultaneous desire to protect and control it, to rush from and then retreat to it. This emanates in his paintings that are, indeed, transcendental.”

Sherman has been professionally painting since 1992, and he has exhibited in over 30 solo shows. Receiving his MFA in 2003 from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, he is the chair of Exhibitions at The Center for Contemporary Art in Bedminster. He has been a visiting artist at many universities, including Temple, Rutgers, and Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. In 2001, Mr. Sherman received a painting fellowship from the New Jersey Council of the Arts.

Highlighting the afternoon was Sherman personally donating one of his paintings, *Bird Sanctuary Tourne Park No. 4 Oil on Canvas*, to Gill as the first in its F.M. Kirby Hall & Gallery Permanent Collection. “We couldn’t be more excited or grateful for Wes’ generosity and for the opportunity to have one of his paintings permanently on our campus,” remarked Isusi.

Along with the exhibition, which remained on site through the end of January 2020, Sherman returned the following week to meet with GSB Upper School art students. He encouraged those who have the passion to continue pursuing their art saying, “You can make a living as an artist.”



JESSICA WANG – HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE

GSB Parent Helps Commemorate Holocaust Remembrance Day

Jessica Wang, P ’22, ’24, is co-founder of 3GNJ, an educational organization established by the grandchildren of survivors

to preserve the legacies and lessons of the Holocaust. Through a 3GNY initiative, WEDU “We Educate,” Jessica learned to tell the story of her grandfather, Abraham Appelbaum, sharing his compelling history with Upper School students on Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In her first slide, she showed a picture of Grandpa Abe, a strong, tall, silver-haired, proud grandparent holding Jessica as a young child. She proceeded to describe his work on construction projects, such as developing Coney Island, noting that was his life here in the United States, but that it was very different from his Jewish roots in rural Moczulki, Poland.

Even before World War II began, anti-Semitism reigned, with Jewish families the frequent victims of pogroms. She explained, “No matter what the problem was in a community, the Jews were blamed.” It became the practice of Einsatzgruppen, with deployment groups entering communities and rounding up Jewish residents for the purpose of extermination.

Abe lost his parents, his brother and sister-in-law, and their two children. Another brother, Joseph, was killed by his neighbors who collaborated with the Nazis when they invaded his region. Abe took his two younger sisters, then 9 and 12, to a farmer’s house where the farmer and his wife, who were not Jewish, let them hide in their dark, cramped potato cellar. It wasn’t long before the farmer learned, “If you are hiding a Jew, you will be killed.” The farmer’s wife, putting together some bread and scraps, told Abe they had to leave. They left on foot, and all the while Abe knew the Nazis were chasing them. He tried to carry

LIFER SPOTLIGHT

ANDREW LUTZ ’20

Wholesome

1. My favorite memory at Gill would probably be opening night of the musical during my freshman year. We did *Cinderella* that year, and I was lucky enough to be playing the prince. I just remember the buzz in the air right before we took the stage. Seeing all my friends’ faces in the audience was such a supportive experience. I was really in my element, and I was enjoying the time with my friends who were not only on stage, but my friends who were in the audience with me.

2. When we transitioned to distance learning, Gill changed for me because it has been my second home for 14 years. It was kind of a shock to not be able to finish out the year at the place which I hold so near and dear to my heart, especially because this was my senior year. I’ve been getting up and taking the same route to school for 14 years, and it was very challenging for me to have to say goodbye earlier than I thought I’d have to.



3. My hope for my fellow Class of 2020 graduates is that we will not let this year define us as a group. The year 2020 has been extremely challenging in many different ways. My hope is that we overcome these challenges and thrive because of them, that we don’t let them overcome us.

Someone who I believe I need to give lots of credit to is, in fact, my father. He has been a teacher here at Gill for 17 years, and every single day I get to see him in the halls and grab a hug when I’m having a rough day. I am so grateful that I got to have this when most kids don’t really get to experience what it’s like. A lot of kids always asked me, “Aren’t you embarrassed to have your dad at your high school?” And to them, my answer is always, “No, in fact, it’s the best thing that ever happened to me.” Dr. Lutz (Dad), thank you for everything. I’ll miss you while I’m at AU.

the girls and pull them along the way. He became weary and hid them in a sewage ditch. He no sooner left them when he heard two shots.

Abe headed north to Belarus, in hopes of joining the Partisans, a group who was helping the Russians fight the Nazis. He became a member of the Russian Army and, because he could speak Yiddish, a Germanic-based language, he was assigned to interrogate Nazi soldiers. While Abe earned all the medals, citations, and honors of a first-ranking officer, because he was Jewish, he could only receive a second ranking. And, in a twist of fate, four years after the war ended, he discovered his brother Roman, who he thought had not made it through the war, was alive and living nearby.

In surviving the Holocaust, Abe ultimately made it to the United States, married, and raised a beautiful family. In a testament to her Holocaust-surviving Grandpa Abe, Jessica closed the presentation with the hopes that we understand, "There are neighbors who harm people, and there are neighbors who help people."



YALE WHIFFENPOOFS

Yale Whiffenpoofs Entertain Gill Students

Dashingly dressed in tuxedos, bow ties, and white gloves, Yale's Whiffenpoofs, the world's oldest and best-known collegiate a cappella group, entertained Upper School students on December 12, in the Matthews Theater. Performing a mixture of songs, including: "Operator," "Rainbow Connection," "Midnight Train to Georgia," and Michael Buble's popular, "I Just Haven't Met You Yet," they spiritedly conducted a spelling bee, and concluded the show with "The Whiffenpoof Song," ceremoniously sung at the end of every performance since the group's founding in 1909.



JUDGE WRIGHT

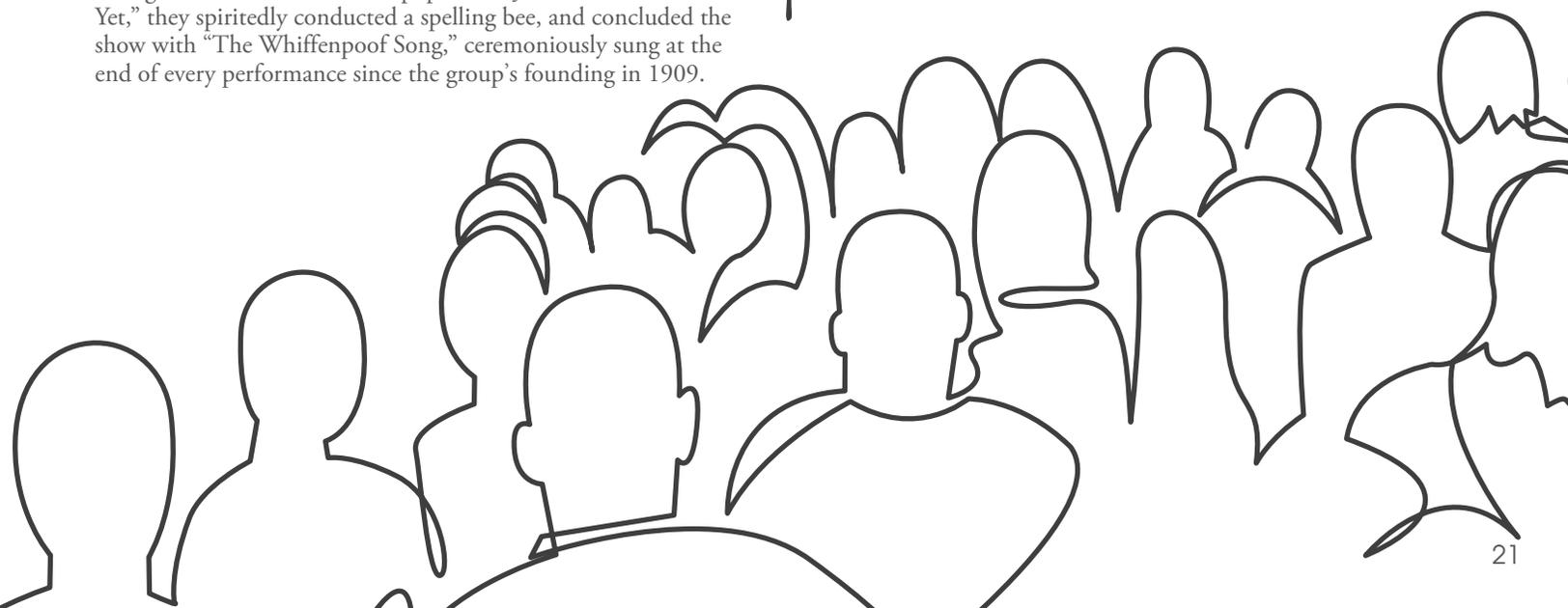
"Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"

-Robert Browning

A school counselor once told him that his aspirations were too high, but for Michael Paul Wright, that did not dissuade him from reaching for his dreams. Inspired by his hardworking parents of humble beginnings, he became a successful attorney and was named the first African American Assistant Prosecutor in Morris County.

Invited by his former Mendham High School teacher Fred Corona, Judge Wright inspired GSB Upper School students to, "Believe in yourself. You have to believe in yourself." With his family as a constant source of strength and models of perseverance, he attended law school, became a clerk, had a successful 11-year solo criminal defense practice, earned three municipal appointments, became a public defender, and Chief Assistant Prosecutor. Judge Wright also served as the first African American appointed to the Morris/Sussex Superior Court Bench, presiding over Juvenile & Children Court dockets, the Criminal Drug Court Program, and then as Presiding Judge of the Family Division.

His secret to success? "It is to work harder and work longer than anyone else – and always aim high," he said. Quoting the immortal words of Robert Browning, he shared, "Ah, but a man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's a heaven for?"





Gill St. Bernard's School

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community (DEIC) Action Plan

In response to the continuing racial heartache that is befalling our nation, Gill St. Bernard's School openly embraces and accepts its responsibility for resetting curriculum, programs, policies, and practices as the basis for long-term, comprehensive, and sustainable change. In collaboration with the broader GSB community, including students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, senior administration, and the board of trustees, we are intentionally listening to and learning from all voices, including those who have been marginalized and often unheard. Aligned with the school's *2019-2024 Strategic Plan*, we created the following **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community (DEIC) Action Plan** to serve as a guiding framework for improving and enhancing the racial, ethnic, and multicultural climate in our school and in creating an authentically inclusive anti-racist community.

Goal: To reinforce GSB's commitment to community, diversity, equity and inclusion.

Phase I: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Immediate Action - To be completed by September 2020

GOAL: Community Building through connecting and engaging with others through dialogue on exploring issues of race, bias, and privilege.

- **Faculty/Staff Diversity Dialogues**
 - Two sessions for faculty and staff – June 2 and June 5.
 - Create an affinity group for Faculty/Staff of Color.
- **Student Conversations** – Facilitated by Emily Haberman, Upper School Counselor
 - Session I: open to all Upper School students – June 4.
 - Session II: affinity space for students who identify as Black/African American and Latinx. Guest counselor: Tanisha Christie - June 10.
- **Parent Conversations**
 - **Community Through Conversation** – June 10
 - Host two sessions: LS/MS and US.
 - **Black/African American and Latinx Family Conversation** – June 9
 - Establish affinity group for parents who identify as Black/African American and Latinx.
 - Establish affinity group for students across divisions.
- **Alumni Conversations**
 - **Conversation with Alumni of Color** – June 11
 - Establish Alumni of Color network/support.
 - **Alumni Dialogue**
 - Host two sessions: June 15 and 16.
 - **Cross-community Conversations**
 - Host series of forums to engage in dialogue across constituencies (Quarterly 2020).
 - **DEI Community Standard**
 - Adopt DEI community standards that articulate GSB's commitment to continuously build an inclusive community open to a multitude of perspectives (Summer 2020).
 - Revise the Senior Pledge to incorporate elements of the community standards.
 - Develop a pledge for all GSB students.

GOAL: Professional development for senior administration, faculty, and staff to improve and enhance the racial, ethnic, and multicultural climate in our school.

- Provide professional development primer for all three divisions focused on race and cultural identity for personal and professional growth. (June 2020)

- Examine current curriculum in all three divisions and develop a plan to integrate more Black/African American and Latinx books, texts, experiences, and history.
- Require DEI-focused professional development for all Lower and Middle School faculty. (July 2020)
- Provide all-school professional development workshop focused on cultural identity, bias, and privilege. Guest speaker: Elizabeth Williams Riley, American Conference on Diversity (August 2020)
- Map out multidimensional, sustained professional learning experiences for teachers, counselors, staff members, and administrators. (September 2020)
- Community read and discussion: "Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do," by Jennifer L. Eberhardt. (Summer 2020)
- Senior Administrator summer read and discussion: "Transforming the Elite: Black Students and the Desegregation of Private Schools," by Michelle Purdy, followed by a Q&A with the author. (August 2020)

GOAL: Utilize Home Winds Farm campus for academic and service programs that bring diverse and inclusive experiences to GSB and the surrounding community.

- GSB /Home Winds Campus Land Acknowledgement
 - With a 208-acre campus that includes an educational farm, we will research and develop a statement acknowledging the traditional Indigenous inhabitants, the Leni Lenape, of the land where the GSB campus is located. This research will be integrated in the curriculum. (Summer 2020)
 - Lynn Prosen is leading the research for this initiative.

GOAL: Expand access to GSB with the goal of achieving the broadest possible diversity.

- Create a cross-divisional network for current and incoming students and families who are African American/Black and Latinx.
- Expand Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
 - Fund three Equity & Inclusion Liaisons to provide academic and social support to students and families in the Middle and Lower School divisions.
 - Hire Assistant Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to support the school's DEIC efforts, including participating in student life, student recruitment and retention, and curriculum. The Assistant Director will also teach two classes in the Upper School.

"This moment in history is a call to action, a call to demonstrate our respect for diversity and inclusion in the GSB community. In this way, we may better recognize root causes of inequity and support those experiencing it."

-Sid Rowell (Head of School)



GOAL: Communicate DEI Action Plan to the broader GSB community. (Summer 2020)

- On GSB’s website, create a visible and accessible location for all DEIC work highlighting the DEI Action Plan and progress made with each goal.
- Provide monthly e-blast to parents, students, faculty/staff, and alumni with updates on goals met.

Phase II: CURRICULUM AND PHILOSOPHY Completed by June 2021

GOAL: Expand the curriculum with a global and multicultural focus within and across divisions.

- Augment and expand courses, programs, and activities that support Black/African American and Latinx students academically, socially, and emotionally.
- By division, expand cultural recognitions that align with national heritage months.
- Create a budget to annually fund participation of representative faculty and staff members in the NAIS People of Color Conference.

GOAL: Provide resources to ensure all GSB students and families can fully participate in the life of the school.

- Establish a network for Black/African American/Latinx alumni to connect, share resources, and provide support to each other and current students and families.
- Establish affinity group for parents of color and parents of students of color.
- Establish affinity group for students of color that will connect students across all three divisions.
- Establish parent diversity committee within the Parents’ Association.

GOAL: Ensure that all GSB students have an equitable opportunity to thrive both academically and socially.

- Reinforce support within US and MS for NJ SEEDS students as they enter GSB.
- Retain a LCSW counselor who is a person of color to support students in the Middle and Upper School.
- For Middle and Upper School divisions, support student dialogues across experiences and perspectives through student forums, town halls, and advisory.
- Support student attendance at the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC,) as well as student diversity conferences that are held locally and regionally.
- Establish and communicate a clear system for reporting and investigating incidents of bias, discrimination, or racism.
- Reevaluate the disciplinary process for incidents of bias, discrimination, or racism and communicate disciplinary actions that include restorative resolutions, suspension, or dismissal from school.

GOAL: GSB to host a Middle School Diversity, Equity and Inclusion conference for area Middle School students in grades 7-8.

GOAL: Articulate and communicate our curriculum and philosophy in this area to the broader community.

- Task the Equity & Inclusion Committee to administer a school-wide climate survey. The results will help to establish future benchmark goals for diversity, equity, and inclusion. (September 2020)

GOAL: Engage Board of Trustees in DEIC development and accountability

- Attract more trustees who represent a broad diversity of perspectives, experiences, and cultural identities.
- Establish Board committee focused on DEIC to oversee and ensure accountability of the integration of the action plan in our community.
- Provide DEIC professional development to all members of the board, including workshops, presentations, and book discussions.

Phase III: PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY Completed by June 2022

GOAL: Attract, develop, and retain dynamic and high-performing faculty and staff who embrace GSB’s mission and core values and who bring diverse and inclusive experiences, perspectives, and insights to their roles.

- Hire faculty and staff of color as a priority. Specifically, increase the representation of faculty of color in all three divisions.

GOAL: Expand and strengthen GSB’s commitment to Global and Experiential Education so that its academic programs cultivate the skills, attitudes, and knowledge necessary for students to be engaged and culturally aware.

- Expand graduation requirements to include one semester course credit focused on racial identity, culturally diverse perspectives, and/or social justice.
- Expand opportunities for students to immerse themselves in cultures and experiences that inform and enhance their academic studies.
- Support the development of course offerings that connect to cross-cultural perspectives, innovative pedagogy, and research.

GOAL: Across divisions and departments, align professional expectations for anti-bias professional development to annual performance evaluations.

GOAL: Expand partnerships with community organizations to include ongoing, sustainable educational programs and connections.

GOAL: Conduct a climate survey to provide qualitative data to use as a measurement of progress and as a guide to identify next steps and goals.

For more information, contact Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Tracey Goodson Barrett at diversity@gbschool.org.



ALUMNI PROFILE

Ashley Baer '02



How to **Pivot** During a Pandemic

By Alice Roche Cody

When Ashley Baer '02 talks about her career projection, the famous quote from Louis Pasteur resonates: *Fortune favors the prepared mind*. For every professional advancement, Ashley found herself in exactly the right place to propel forward and she had the relevant training behind her. Starting in high school as a dance studio receptionist, her trajectory progressed to become company manager for one of the leading classical ballet companies in the world.

Ashley always had a passion for dance. At age 3, she began lessons at the Dorothy Del Guercio School of Dance in Chester. As a preschooler at Gill St. Bernard's, she started seamlessly blending her hobby with her schooling. By sophomore year, she balanced her homework with her parttime studio job, and her senior year, she taught dance classes.

"Gill helped me develop my own passions and enabled me to engage with my passion for dance," said Ashley. "At school, I developed other parts of myself. I learned how to be a leader and how to be organized. I didn't know what I wanted to do. Gill gave me the opportunity to figure out what I'm good at."

As a senior, she and her friends created their own unit that focused on television production. The group visited three popular daytime talk shows in New York City. This marked an *Abh-Ha* moment – when Ashley discovered she's a backstage person.

"It was my first experience with how entertainment comes to be and seeing how people make that happen," she said. "Watching the camera operators and all the people behind-the-scenes doing work to make a live production happen. Walking backstage and seeing it all come together, it's what I do now."

Gill also gave her the nudge she needed to take center stage as senior class president. "I was a really shy kid, but because the Gill community is so loving, I felt driven to have a leadership position," she said. "I'm glad I had a push." For this role, she led assemblies and gathered the courage to give a graduation speech.

At Bucknell, Ashley majored in business management and anthropology, with a dance minor. Even though she spent many hours dancing in the studio, she knew she didn't want to perform professionally.

"My college friends were getting internships and jobs with consulting agencies, finance companies, and think tanks, and even though that's where my major was pushing me, it wasn't the direction I wanted to go," she said. "Graduation was approaching, and I didn't know what I wanted."

Then Ashley heard that the Bucknell Dance Company scheduled its first international performance in China that August. She had to go: "I love to travel, I'm graduating, why shouldn't I travel to China?" Already a dance department TA, she was the only graduating senior interested. *Why not?* She volunteered to organize trip logistics, including student visas, contracts, hotel bookings, and travel arrangements. "I had a blast," she said. "I was actually taking my first steps to become a company manager."

Meanwhile, at rehearsals that summer, a friend mentioned an internship at The John F.

Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. “A light bulb went off,” she said. “I could work with a theater that presents dance, and it could be my job. I was so excited!” By September, she moved to DC and her four-month stint in the dance department turned into a permanent position dealing with the top ballet and modern dance companies in the world.

“I was meeting all the players in the dance community, doing logistics, such as securing visas, hotels, and tickets,” she said. Then the executive director at Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater invited her to breakfast. The meal turned into a job interview, and she moved to New York City to become the woman’s executive assistant.

“It was a dream come true,” she said. “It allowed me to be at center of a dance company and see how it worked. I got to see how all the pieces of the dance company fit together: the board, the educational programs, development and marketing.”

Next came American Ballet Theatre. “Everything fell into place, I didn’t even apply,” she said. “An associate position opened, and they said, ‘Are you interested?’ I said, ‘No, I have a job.’ But this was my dream job.”

Ashley felt comfortable moving back to the company side, thanks to her time at the Kennedy Center. “I get to travel and see great dancers grow and develop,” she said. “Dancers who were apprentices when they started are now soloists. I feel like I have 90 talented and amazing children. It puts me closest to the stage without having to perform.”

For eight years, Ashley toured the world with the ballet company, visiting theaters in Japan, Abu Dhabi, Australia, Europe, Singapore and Hong Kong. “I help our dancers get from point A to point B as easily as possible,” she said. “All logistics so they don’t have to think about it.”

Then on March 13, everything stopped. Domestic and international tours were cancelled due to the pandemic, and Ashley started working from home. “If our dancers can’t perform or travel, I can’t do my job,” she said. “I had self-identification issues. I didn’t know my place in company and how I fit in anymore. I had to pivot.”

American Ballet Theatre (ABT) had to pivot as well. “The performing arts world has been devastated by the pandemic,” said Ashley. “With theaters shut down, the main revenue source for performing companies, ticket sales, has been eliminated.” Most, including ABT, were forced to move digitally. For one such project, Ashley connected with Mount Sinai Kravis Children’s Hospital to coordinate digital orchestra performances broadcast on the hospital’s inhouse TV. The shows provide comfort to patients, parents and healthcare workers.

With a recent promotion to company manager, Ashley traveled to Lake George with a group of dancers who isolated together so they can dance without masks. The filmed performances will be featured at the fall online gala.

“I’m thrilled to get back on the road to do my job,” said Ashley. “We’re getting creative finding ways to bring art to people in unique ways. We’re a national ballet company, and our mission is to bring ballet to the country and the world, even within the pandemic restrictions.”

For now, 2021 plans can’t be pinned down. “We’re hoping to move forward with Plan A for our domestic tour starting in April, but we also have a plan B, C, D and E as backups,” she said.

When the world opens up again, Ashley is poised to move forward.



ATHLETICS

2019 FALL SPORTS

GIRLS' TENNIS

It was another championship-caliber season for the girls' tennis team, as the Knights claimed back-to-back Prep B Championships for the first time since 2009-2010. Leading the way for the Knights was Mayjah Jean-Pierre '21, claiming the title in first singles, while Ella Baker '21 (second singles), Michaela Kroon '22 (third singles), and the doubles team of Caitlyn Matthews '20 and Sophie Nourbakhsh '21, all advanced to the championship final in their respective matches. Gill also had an incredible showing at the Somerset County Championships, finishing second overall, while claiming titles in first singles (Jean-Pierre) and second singles (Baker). The Knights finished with a 14-4 record, including a perfect 8-0 divisional record, to claim the Skyland Conference Raritan Division title, finishing as the 14th-ranked program in New Jersey.

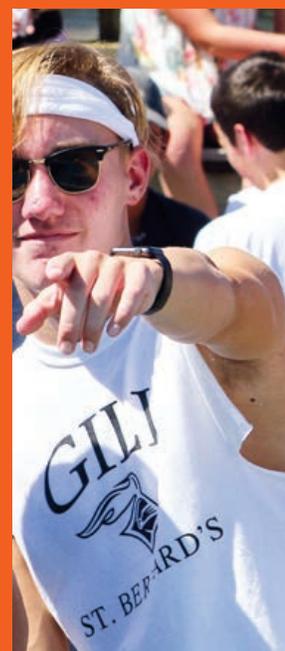
GIRLS' SOCCER

The girls' soccer program maintained its tradition of being one of the stronger teams in the area, finishing with a 13-9 record, including an impressive 11-4 record within the Skyland Conference's Mountain Division, while also advancing in all their

tournaments. The game of the year came in the first round of the NJSIAA North Jersey, Non-Public B sectional tournament against Villa Walsh. The Knights came away with a thrilling, 1-0, double-overtime victory thanks to a Caroline Solondz '21 goal, which was assisted by Sam Lowe '20, to reach the Sectional Semifinals. Numerous Knights received postseason accolades as well, including Lowe (Third-Team All-Non-Public, First-Team All-Mountain Division), Emily Raia '20 (First-Team All-Mountain Division), and Teresa Zimmer '20 (First-Team All-Mountain Division).

GIRLS' JV VOLLEYBALL

Head Coach Mark Signorelli had a handful of returning players from the 2018 team first-ever GSB volleyball season, including Emily Smith '20, Madison Frantz Pendell '22, Jessica Jose-Navarrete '22, Anya Solanki '22, and Paige Wortman '22. The team also welcomed the addition of several new players, some of whom are coming with experience from other programs and clubs. This great mix of returning and new players led to the young program's first-ever victory by defeating Immaculate Conception High School (Montclair) 2-0 on September 25. "This win was the culmination of all the



hard work they have put in all season,” said Signorelli. “The girls were thrilled to get the victory, and they are now playing with renewed confidence and energy.” The Knights also competed in the West Orange JV Tournament later in the season.

CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country team stayed busy all season long, competing in multiple invitationals and championships throughout the fall. The Knights saved their best performances for last, having exceptional showings at both the Preps and Non-Public B championships. At Preps, the Knights finished third out of nine schools, and just missed out on a second-place finish by four points. The Knights were led by William Strong '22, as he recorded a top-10 finish by taking ninth place. Rounding out Gill's top-20 performances were Niels Rongen '20 (13th), and Teddy Lazar '20 (18th). Gill followed this up with another incredible showing, placing third again out of 16 schools at the Non-Public B Group Championships. Rongen led GSB with an impressive 15th-place finish. Following Rongen were Strong (22nd), Teddy Lazar '20 (28th), James Koether '21 (35th), Lachlan Wood '22 (37th), and Andrew Young '21 (40th).



Michaels '20, Earns End-of-Season Honor

It was a memorable end to the girls' swim team's first season in the Skyland Conference, as senior Becca Michaels was named the Skyland Conference Valley Division Swimmer.

Michaels made school history this winter, becoming the first GSB swimmer to ever claim a title at the Somerset County Championships – taking gold in the 50 freestyle in a time of 24.85 seconds. The two-time captain's season came to an end at the prestigious NJSIAA Meet of Champions, where she placed 41st in New Jersey in the 50 freestyle. Michaels leaves GSB with every single school record and four-straight all-conference first-team selections.



2020 WINTER SPORTS

GIRLS' SWIMMING

It was a historic winter for the girls' swim team, going 6-1 in its inaugural season in the Skyland Conference's Valley Division while earning its highest finishes ever at the Somerset County and Prep Championships. At those county championships, the girls' 200 freestyle relay of Rebecca Michaels '20, Laura Howard '21, and Maddie and Olivia Soutanian '22 had a remarkable showing, shattering the school record while also recording Gill's first-ever top-six finish in a relay event. At the extremely competitive Prep Championships, Michaels claimed third place in the 100 backstroke, the highest finish ever by a Gill girl swimmer, while Maddie Soutanian also had a remarkable swim, finishing sixth in the 50 freestyle. The Knights ended their season on its highest note, upsetting Moorestown Friends in the NJSIAA state tournament to advance to their first-ever Non-Public B State Semifinals.

BOYS' SWIMMING

The boys' swim team showed incredible resilience during its first season in the Skyland Conference's Valley Division. After losing its first five meets of the year, the Knights rebounded by earning wins over Warren Hills and Belvidere to finish with a regular-season record of 2-5. The squad of eight swimmers continued to defy the odds by qualifying for the Non-Public B State Tournament for the second-straight season. The boys also displayed some of the fastest swimming in school history, with the 200-medley relay team of Jonathan Osma '20, Adrian Massuet '20, Robert Brandl '20, and Jake Baber '21 breaking the school record at the Somerset County Championships. Individually, Osma re-broke his school records in the 200 individual medley and the 100 backstroke, while Brandl set the school record in the 50 freestyle.

FENCING

It was another strong year for the fencing programs, as both the boys' and girls' squads continued to show improvement and dedication throughout the season. The first major competition of the season took place at Regionals in late January. The boys' fencing team placed tenth in épée, ninth in foil, and ninth in sabre. Caroline Solondz '21 earned a third-place finish in district individuals, and that qualified her for the state individual tournament. Zoe O'Connor '21 also qualified for the district individual tournament in women's épée. The program's best showing of the season came at the Prep Championships. The girls' team placed second overall in the "B" Division, and the women's sabre squad earned gold in their event, with all three of the fencers, Maggie Kistner '20, Caroline Solondz '21, and Grace Crimi '23, qualifying for the individual round. Kistner went on to win the consolation final, finishing third overall. Solondz pulled off a thrilling victory to earn the individual sabre title. The women's épée squad also had a terrific showing, placing second overall. Zoe O'Connor '21 and Sophia Mariano '23 both qualified for the individual round, with O'Connor being crowned the individual épée champion after winning a tough bout.

LIFER SPOTLIGHT



EMILY RAI A '20

Joyful

I always looked forward to being able to walk on campus and be with friends.

My most memorable moment was in my junior year soccer season, specifically the Rutgers game. The game was home with the crowd all wearing pink for cancer awareness. With the victory at the end and everyone cheering, it made it one of my fondest memories.

ICE HOCKEY

It was another breakout season for ice hockey, as the Knights team continued to establish itself as one of the top growing programs in the state. Gill went 13-6-3 overall with an impressive 10-3-3 record in MCSSIHL divisional play. GSB's most exciting stretch of the season came during the HAAS Cup Tournament, in which the Knights defeated West Morris, 4-1, and then Whippany Park, 4-2, to advance to its first-ever HAAS Cup Final. Even though the Knights eventually fell to Mountain Lake in this title game, their incredible run inspired the entire community. Individually, Brenan Lavoie '21 ranked among the top goal scorers in the state and was named the MCSSIHL Player of the Week in late January. Lavoie earned first-team all-division honors, while Eddie McCarthy '20 earned second-team honors, Christian Mote '22 and Liam Jones '21 earned third-team recognitions, and Logan Mote '22 received an Honorable Mention.

INDOOR TRACK

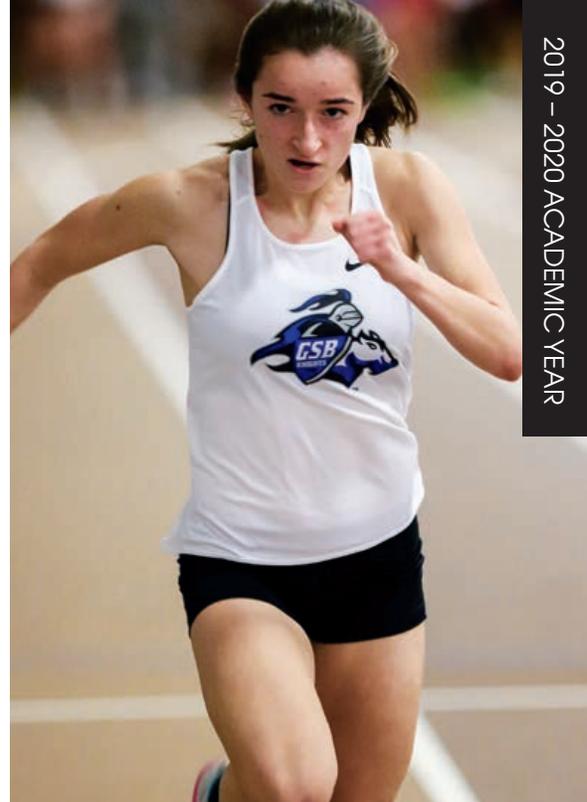
It was an exciting and rewarding winter for the indoor track and field teams, as GSB remained busy all season by competing in numerous championships, with many Knights experiencing individual success and setting personal records. The teams saved their best performances for last, as they had great showings at both the Prep and Group Championships. At the Prep, the boys' squad took second place overall in the "B" Division, thanks to two exceptional performances. Joe Licata '22 claimed gold in the shot put, and Will Strong '22 was crowned champion in the 1600 meters. Niels Rongen '20 also had a strong showing for Gill, placing second in the 3200 meters and third in the 1600 meters, as did Alex Tulenko '22, taking second in the high jump, and third in the 55 meters hurdles. GSB also boasted two champions at the highly competitive Non-Public B Group Championships. Licata once again emerged victorious in the shot put, and Emily Raia '20 claimed gold in the 55-meters, setting a school-record time. With their individual titles, Licata and Raia advanced to represent Gill at the NJSIAA Meet of Champions.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

The Knights re-established themselves as an elite New Jersey basketball program this past winter, consistently ranking in the top-20 in the state while taking on an extremely challenging schedule. Gill went 15-11 overall, with a 9-5 record in Skyland Conference divisional play. The Knights' biggest win during the regular season came in early January when they toppled the eighth-ranked team in the state, Franklin, 60-53. GSB went on to catch fire during the South Jersey, Non-Public B Sectional tournament, earning upset wins over Trinity Hall and 16th-ranked Wildwood Catholic before falling to state power Rutgers Prep in the semifinals. It was an especially memorable year for Caileigh Walsh '21, as she was named Skyland Conference Player of the Week in January, scored her 1,000th career point, and finished with the second-most blocks in the entire state.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

The boys' basketball team maintained its proud tradition of being one of the best programs in all of New Jersey by regularly being ranked within the top-10 teams in the state while taking on nationally ranked and recognized programs throughout the winter. The Knights earned a final record of 20-8, including a perfect 10-0 mark during divisional play to capture an unprecedented 10th-straight Skyland Conference division title. GSB also had another strong run in the NJSIAA North Jersey, Non-Public B Sectional Tournament, earning wins over DePaul and Hudson Catholic. Will Soucie '20 scored his 1,000th career point against Hudson Catholic, and that victory sent the Knights to their second-straight Sectional Finals. Even though Gill put up an incredible fight, GSB barely fell to rival Roselle Catholic, the third-ranked program in New Jersey, 59-58, to close out their season.



PATRONS



WHY I GIVE

On behalf of the **GSB Fund**, Ray Conger '03 recently reached out to his fellow alums to seek much-needed support during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund enables our school to provide the full GSB experience to students, while also supporting its faculty and staff. Without the community's generous support, Gill cannot live up to the high standards that students, parents, and alumni expect. This fall, GSB invested heavily in reopening its campus and keeping students and faculty safe during the pandemic. In addition, Gill is striving to update its technology and improve its ability to award scholarships and financial aid. It is also focused on becoming a more diverse and inclusive environment. The GSB Fund supports all these efforts and more.

Here's why Ray gives: "The reason I donate to GSB is because of how the school shaped me as a person and what it will do for current and future students. GSB is always aspiring to further strengthen its academics and culture, and your donation allows our school to continue evolving and growing."

Please consider a donation to the GSB Fund. Your gift will make a difference for all students and faculty. Visit: www.gbschool.org/give. Thank you!

RICHARD AND SUSAN MARKHAM HONORED

At the annual Trustee and Former Trustee Dinner in September 2019, Richard Markham, former trustee, and his wife, Susan Markham, past Parents' Association President, were honored with the **2019 Lindabury Thomas Award**. The award, the highest the school confers on a past trustee, was given in a unique setting – on stage of the newly-opened Performing Arts & Community Center. Dick served on



the Board of Trustees from 2005-2011, and he sat on the Finance Committee for his entire tenure. Susan served as President of the Parents' Association from 2003-2005, was the parent representative to the board, and she chaired the auction dinner dance.

Head of School Sid Rowell noted, "While Dick and Susan staunchly gave of their time and talents when their sons Alex '11 and Jack '12, both student athletes, were at GSB, they continue to generously support the school by annually hosting a yearly reception in their Naples, Florida, home."



All DAY Every DAY GSB FUND 2020-2021

Now, more than ever, the GSB Fund is the school's greatest philanthropic priority. Its success is vital to all that we do, and our community's support is essential.

Please consider making a gift today by visiting: www.gbschool.org/give, through Venmo at GSB-School, or by mailing your gift to:

Office of Advancement
Gill St. Bernard's School
P.O. Box 604
Gladstone, NJ 07934

Thank you for your generous support!



FIRST-TIME EVER COMEDY NIGHT A HUGE SUCCESS

For the first time ever, Gill St. Bernard's hosted a Comedy Night Fundraiser and live auction on Saturday, October 26, 2019. With over 400 guests attending, the Performing Arts and Community Center was alive and vibrant with people eagerly awaiting the performance from nationally known comedian and current GSB parent Jim Breuer, P '17, '20, '23.

The pre-show cocktail party, sponsored by Michelle and Mark Mazzatta, P '21 and '23, in the F.M. Kirby Hall and Gallery, offered delicious stationing and passed hors d'oeuvres before the doors opened into Matthews Theater for the show. With a full house, Glenn Lawse, P '32, got the program underway by serving as a first-time auctioneer. He did a phenomenal job of getting the crowd into the spirit of the fundraiser with a host of impressive items available on which to bid, including a week-long stay at a Long Beach Island beach house, Yankees suite tickets, tickets to see Cher's final concert in New York City, and a unique New York City experience at The Plaza Hotel. All of these were made available thanks to our generous donors.

Finally, it was time for the main event, as Jim Breuer took the stage. The longtime comedian kept the crowd laughing all night long with his energetic reenactments and impersonations, and hitting on topics such as parenting, family life, his upbringing on Long Island, a Billy Joel concert gone wrong and, of course, playful jokes with the audience.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the event and helped to make the fundraiser a success. A special thank you to Jackie and Stephen Gattoni, P '21, '23, for sponsoring the auction paddles and to Kelly and Michael Pages, P '30, '33, for sponsoring the program booklet. And, of course, the night was not possible without Jim Breuer. Thank you, Jim, for making the evening so memorable for everyone in the audience who literally left the event laughing out loud.



voyages of *imagination*

By Peter Schmidt

ADVENTURES AWAIT
A GRANDFATHER
WHO IS HELPING TO
CARE FOR HIS 2-YEAR-
OLD GRANDSON

REPRINT FROM NOV. 22, 2019
THE BOSTON GLOBE

I wake up to snow falling early in the morning a full week before Thanksgiving, and I know I'm not in Puerto Rico, where my wife and I had planned to be at this very time. Instead, we've lived the past two months in Springfield with our 2-year-old grandson, Francis, as his father, our son, recovers from a lengthy illness.

Since retiring from our working lives as teachers a few years ago, my wife and I have spent much of our time traveling around the United States and Europe, enjoying the freedom we had so anticipated as a central feature of our retirement. Just a few months ago, a dear friend had returned to Puerto Rico, and invited us to visit her in her village outside of Rincon. Our November calendar had been wide open but a phone call from our son's wife in late September forced postponement of those plans. We would go to Springfield to help take care of our grandson.

Here, most weekdays begin with a trip to Francis' day-care center, but due to the snow on this Friday morning, the center is closed. Francis greets me before daybreak while everyone else still sleeps — "It's snowing, Poppop!" — and soon we're stepping outside into the season's first snow. A muffled hush awaits when we open the back door, just as the first hints of daylight penetrate the dense columns of flakes falling upon us. The night before, we had watched *Frozen* together, and in Francis' mind, he is about to create his own version of Olaf, the film's inanimate snowman who magically comes to life to assist Anna in her search for her estranged sister, Elsa.

The falling snow is heavy and wet, and the trees overhead, still holding the last of their autumn leaves, look more ominous than the snow on the ground. Undeterred by any of this, Francis could have easily been marching with Olaf through the barren landscape of that fictional land of *Frozen*. While I can see lights flickering on in the warm rooms of nearby houses, including in our own kitchen, he is imagining himself in the company of the snowman taking shape in front of our very eyes. I send Francis in search of some sticks for

Olaf's arms and motion to my wife, now watching from the kitchen window, to secure a carrot from the refrigerator. Soon Olaf's nose is in place, and Francis and I stand admiring our new friend.

Olaf personifies the voyages of imagination we have enjoyed with Francis these past few months. Living with a 2-year-old, you soon grow accustomed to reality being suspended, sometimes for hours at a time. We revel in the fact that our grandson loves books and have spent our evenings in Springfield roaming together through his favorites. You begin to get a feel for how his little brain is intrigued by animals who talk, trees that move through a landscape as effortlessly as small animals, and children, just a bit older than he is, who navigate uncharted dimensions both ominous and inviting.

My wife and I may not be in Puerto Rico, and plans for a spring trip to the Grand Canyon have also been temporarily shelved. For now, there's no place we'd rather be than Springfield, where we've had the good fortune to travel to destinations that can't be found on any map. A winter day can seem nearly infinite when you're outdoors as dawn is breaking, touring the landscape of the backyard with a child before returning indoors to open books and join the company of llamas, red crocodiles, and little blue trucks. For the moment, I'd rather be nowhere else.

Peter Schmidt served as a teacher and administrator at Gill St. Bernard's School from 1976 to 2015, when he and his wife Randi retired.



BECOME PART OF THE ALUMNI WALKWAY



As a member of the Gill St. Bernard's School community, you have the opportunity to help preserve our past and secure our future. During GSB's centennial year, the alumni walkway was established to honor members of the school community. The walkway approaches the Chapel, at the center of the GSB campus, and is used by every member of our community day after day. Reserve your place in GSB history by personalizing a piece of this walkway. Bricks may be purchased by or for alumni, students, faculty or friends of the school for \$125 each (4" x 8") and include up to 12 characters/spaces per line. You can order online or contact the Development Office for more information.

The GSB Parents' Association
invites you to join us for a fashion event

GILL
ST. BERNARD'S
Parents' Association

Life is Beautiful

LA VIE EST BELLE

APRIL 20TH

Hosted at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
with fashions provided by Windswept Boutique

Visit gsbschool.org/parents

Please check for updates



Nancy Fry, assistant to Head of School Sid Rowell, retired after 10 years of service to Gill St. Bernard's School. Wishing her many years of happiness and new adventures, Nancy was sent off with a proclamation.

Whereas, when Nancy Fry first expressed an interest in working at Gill St. Bernard's School in January of 2010, starting out in the Development Office, and

Whereas, she quickly demonstrated her strong Midwestern sensitivities, skills, talents, and lack of interest in office gossip to her supervisor, Jim Diverio; he was so impressed that when the need for a new Assistant to the Head of School arose a few months later, he recommended Nancy for the position (the best hiring decision he ever took credit for), and

Whereas, in the subsequent years at GSB, her strong background, academic qualifications (which include an M.B.A.), and work ethic proved that she was more than up to the challenges presented by the most demanding position (and person) in the school, and

Whereas, her ability to focus, flexibility, and organizational aptitude served to keep things at Gill St. Bernard's (especially the Head) functioning on a very high level, and

Whereas, she managed the school calendar; deftly handled difficult individuals, planned countless special events, breakfasts, lunches, and dinners; ensuring that all attendees were well fed, entertained, and above all, **cared for**, and

Whereas, during these years, she served the Board of Trustees, scheduling meetings (including the Zoom kind), fielding questions, properly recording many resolutions, and "taking the minutes," while giving **myriad** minutes herself, and

Whereas, her tireless devotion to the school and support for both trustees, as well as the Head, was regularly on display in the various gifts she wrapped over the years, yet the greatest gift she ever gave was that of **herself** to the community, and

Whereas, the time has now arrived (though delayed by Covid-19) for her to step away from her duties, travel (even live for a while in places like Ireland), visit with her children, extended family and friends (whenever the restrictions are lifted), golf, and do all the many things she has always wanted to do,

Therefore, let it be resolved on this 31st day of August 2020, that the Head of School and Board of Trustees expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to **Nancy Fry** for her dedication to the school and her countless contributions to our lives.

- S.A. Rowell and Douglas L. Matthews

ALUMNI PROFILE

Katy Galli '11



"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious ... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."

-Walt Disney

By Alice Roche Cody

At her graduation from Oglethorpe University, Katy Galli '11 posted her mantra, *Keep Moving Forward*, on her mortarboard. In the months that followed, she clung to her rally cry while she mourned the end of her Division III athletic career as a track and field standout. After years of training and competing in sprints, jumps, and hurdles – breaking both high school and college records – she feared her best days were behind her.

"After I earned my degree, I struggled facing my life without athletics," Katy said. "I felt worthless. Was the best I have to offer left in the 400-meter oval? At the time I was 22 years old – is that all I can do? I had to figure out: Who am I after my sport is over? How do I navigate the next period of my life?"

Katy soon learned that she wasn't alone, many former athletes fear they'd already peaked. To seek solace, she immersed herself in their online blogs. But instead of hopeful guidance, she found sad stories of ex-competitors lamenting the end of their sports careers. Frustrated, she decided to change the discourse.

"I get that you're sad your career is over, but don't sit in it," she said. "I wanted to change the narrative from no longer being an athlete, to what's next. To learn how to succeed in the real world. Life doesn't end when your sport ends. You're more than just an athlete."

As a conversation starter, Katy founded the branded KMF (short for *Keep Moving Forward*) Collective, an online multimedia platform that features a *YouTube* channel and a weekly podcast, *Keep Moving Forward*, which presents interviews with former professional and collegiate athletes about their transition from jock to average joe. It's a heady lineup, with guests ranging from DeeDee Trotter, the USA track and field Olympic Gold Medalist, to Evander Holyfield, four-time boxing heavyweight world champ, to racecar maverick Mario Andretti. With her cheery voice, Katy connects easily with her guests, raising the dialogue to higher levels by asking about joy, loss, goal setting, and even, when she senses an opening, God. Sometimes, she includes her dog, Sully, in her convos. While Katy remains hesitant to pick a favorite track, she relished chatting with her childhood idol, Rudy Ruettiger, whose life story became the inspiration for the movie *Rudy*.

With its four-year run, *Keep Moving Forward* has logged more than 200 shows (239 at press time), with her 100th episode reserved for Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. She's still hoping he takes up her open invite to join her on-air. "I've done different ploys to grab his attention, even launching a separate podcast called the *Athletes of the Titan Games*, where I interviewed contestants on his TV show," she said. "I believe it will happen!"

Katy juggles producing her podcast with her fulltime job and a coaching gig at CrossFit. The spots don't feel like work. "*Keep Moving Forward* is a calling placed on my life," she said. "Having a mission makes it easier."

As well as a role model. Her dad, Lou Galli, is also a former athlete and an entrepreneur. After graduating from Georgia Tech, he played ball in the minors. When he and his wife, Sandra, decided to start a family, he became a police officer and soon started a slew of side hustles. When his son, Nick's, ice hockey league fell prey to infighting, Mr. Galli started his own, the NJ Freeze, that's still going strong. There was a stint selling coffee with Katy's mom, before her father launched Seahawk Interactive, a successful software company. In fact, it was her dad who suggested Katy focus solely on track in high school so she could pursue her dream of competing in college. It worked.

Katy's senior year at Gill culminated with being named the Non-Public B state champ in the triple jump and 4x100 relay. She still holds individual school records in the triple jump and 100-meter hurdles and a shared record in the 4x400. In college, both her junior and senior years, she qualified for the NCAA Division III Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the triple jump and became the first Oglethorpe women's track and field contender to compete at the Division III national meet. In 2014, she also won an SAA championship in the 100-meter hurdles.

“I hope I can leave them feeling happier than when they walked in.”

With all this success behind her after college, as Katy searched for her path, she discovered CrossFit. “It was lights out,” she said. Today she coaches at One Fellowship Fitness in Roswell, GA, where she strives to make a positive impact just as her Gill coaches, including Mike Chimes and Shelly LaBarre, made on her.

“When someone walks into CrossFit, I want it to be the best hour of their day,” she said. “People are choosing to get up early or stay out late and spend time in the gym. As a coach, it's up to me to grant them their best hour. I hope I can leave them feeling happier than when they walked in.”

Until the pandemic, Katy worked fulltime at a different gym, but it took a financial hit as COVID-19 spread. Forced to make a quick transition, she landed a job posted on *LinkedIn* with Symphony Technology Solutions, a small tech company Marietta, GA. As the marketing and media manager, she oversees growing the company's brand and enhancing its awareness, which includes, of course, launching new podcasts. Now working remotely from her Atlanta home, she has more free time to devote to her own podcast and focus on its growth. Katy's also receptive to new opportunities, such as zooming into Ms. LaBarre's open gym class to give the young students a pep talk. “I shared my Gill experience, then had the kids stand up and run in place and pretend to jump hurdles,” she said. “It was a time to let go and be silly.”

No matter Katy's audience, she hopes to always leave listeners smiling. At the end of every podcast, she asks her subjects, *What do you want to be remembered for?*

Katy's answer is simple: “I want to be remembered for filling the world with sunshine.”



ALUMNI NEWS

GSB Alumni Panel Inspires Seniors

“To know the road ahead, ask those coming back.” Chinese Proverb

The Class of 2020 experienced the wisdom of this guiding proverb when four distinguished alumni returned last week to share their perspectives on life after graduation and offer valuable insights on “the road ahead.”

Sonia Kumar '10 - Sonia attended the University of Southern California, earning a Bachelor of Science in business administration with a minor in engineering. She participated in University Student Government and served as the VP of Operations for the Southern California Indo-American Club. Currently, Sonia is a Business Operations Manager for MightyHive, an advertising technology company, where she works on strategic business development projects. Prior to that, Sonia was a risk consultant at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Outside of work, she is on the USC NYC Alumni Board and loves to travel, having visited eight countries in 2019. Currently, Sonia lives in New York City with fellow GSB alumna Megan Plevy '10.

“You will have a lot of experiences, and whether they are positive or negative, you always learn from them. Your network is really, really valuable. You should definitely use it. Everyone is looking to help others. Trust the process. Work hard.”

Alexis Nedd '09 - Alexis studied anthropology and psychology at Columbia University, with additional courses at University College London. While in college she contributed to the *Inside New York* series of city guidebooks, interned for Martha Stewart, and led cultural walking tours around the East and West Village for free food. After enrolling and quickly dropping out of Columbia Journalism

School, Alexis worked for *BuzzFeed* as an editorial fellow, then a staff writer, and later as the site’s quiz editor. She worked for Hearst Digital Media as the senior interactive editor for *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire*, and *Good Housekeeping* magazines. Today, Alexis works for Mashable writing about TV, movies, and video games. Last year she signed a book deal for her debut novel, the first of a two-book young adult romance series about e-sports players who should not kiss – but do. The book, *Player vs. Player*, will be published by Bloomsbury Children’s in late 2020, with a film adaptation planned by Assemble Media. She is represented by Steven Salpeter at Curtis Brown Ltd. and lives in Brooklyn.

“It really is WHO you know, so be nice. You don’t know what you’re good at until you try it; so, try it. Life comes at you fast, especially in media. Writing is fundamentally about helping people know they are not alone, and you never know who you are going to reach. Everything matters; everything that happens to you becomes a part of your story. What comes next might surprise you.”

Sean Ages '05 - Sean attended Northwestern University, majoring in economics and international studies, and spending a portion of his junior year abroad in Beijing. Following graduation, he taught English in Hong Kong for a year before enrolling at the Hopkins-Nanjing Center in Nanjing, China, where he received a Master of Arts in international studies. Subsequently, he spent time working in both the private and public sectors in Washington, DC. Sean worked on U.S.-China relations at both the Treasury Department and the White House’s Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. He is currently in the second year of his MBA program at NYU’s Stern



School of Business. Upon graduation this year, Sean is joining Google’s Finance Operations Team in California.

“Self-reflection and reinvention are invaluable. Ask yourself, ‘What do I want in a job?’ You will learn from every experience, even if it was not what you expected. Sometimes you will need to pivot – change direction. Do not be afraid to explore. Know yourself. It’s okay not to know exactly what you want – just keep exploring. You will find it.”

Jay T. Jenkins ’75 - A trained musician in piano, trumpet, and voice, Jay T. is a dancer who created a choreographic movement style called "Jazz Funk," which combines classical and stylized jazz, modern, tap, and funk/hip hop. His choreography catalog includes feature films, industrials, music videos, and recording artists’ concert tours. Jay T.’s career led him to choreograph concert pieces for Ohio State University, Princeton University, Montclair State University, DeSales University, Bolles Dance Theater (Florida), and many others. He toured with world-renowned recording artists including Prince, D’Angelo, Jennifer Lopez, Will Smith, and Mick Jagger. Jay T.’s signature style has taken him around the world to teach in Egypt, Malaysia, Moscow, Cyprus, Paris, Italy, Zurich, Osaka, and Tokyo. His in-depth knowledge of classic jazz, hip hop, and musical theater paved the way for a wide-ranging career that has taken him from the classroom to the concert stage, and from the studio to the soundstage.

“I am the embodiment of ‘The World is Our Classroom.’ As a jock and a nerd, I played sports and loved theater and music. I left here not sure what I wanted to do. I learned it’s okay to make mistakes; it is okay to fail. You’re going to fall. That’s okay. You get up. No one was ever successful who didn’t take a chance. I worked with some of the most talented performers and learned that it is not about being famous – their commitment to the craft is what makes them who they are. It is not about the final result, the magic that happens is behind the scenes. You will travel many roads. Find your passion and go for it full throttle.”



Board Inducts Trustees: Andrea Freeman ’95 and Ray Conger ’03

Dr. Andrea Freeman ’95 and Ray Conger ’03 were officially welcomed as school leadership by GSB Board of Trustees Chair Doug Matthews at the 2019 Convocation.



Join us for the Alumni Weekend 2020-2021 Virtual Experience! Save the Date April 23-24, 2021

All Alumni are encouraged to participate.

Join GSB Alumni Connect today to engage with GSB, your peers, and support fellow alumni. The platform is available at alumnigsb.com or your app store.

Benefits of the alumni platform:

- Search the alumni directory
- Volunteer as a mentor or mentee
- Expand your network
- Promote your business or your services
- Stay updated on alumni news and community events

ALUMNI NEWS

Lee Kasman '76 Alumni Soccer Game
Friday, November 29, 2019



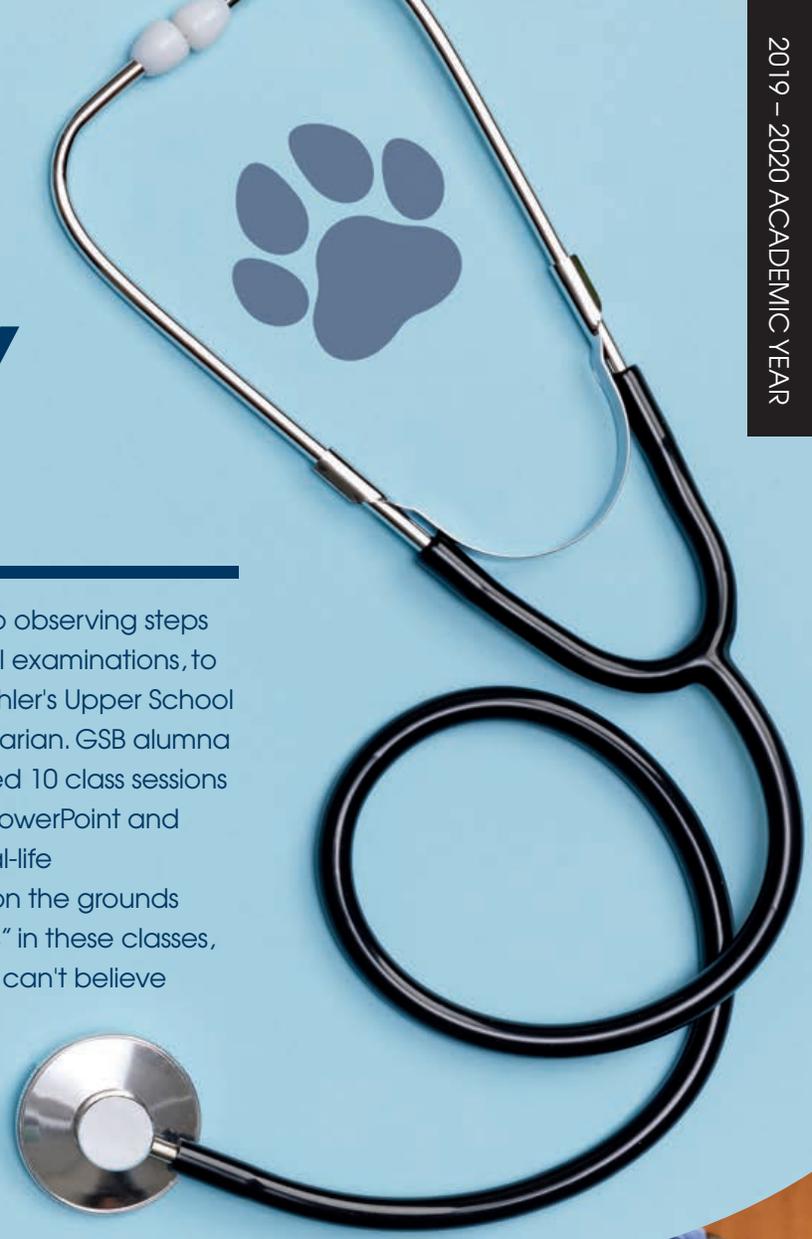
New York Event
Wednesday, October 16, 2019
Versa Rooftop Bar and Restaurant



Young Alumni Night
Friday, December 20, 2019



FREEMAN '95 TEACHES SERIES ABOUT VETERINARY MEDICINE



From witnessing an ultrasound on an expecting goat, to observing steps for delivery of a lamb, from conducting equine physical examinations, to leg bandaging of large animals, students in John Taeschler's Upper School science class experienced what it is like to be a veterinarian. GSB alumna Dr. Andrea Freeman '95 was on campus and conducted 10 class sessions from January through April, using informative lectures, PowerPoint and video presentations and, to the rapt attention of all, real-life demonstrations on animals in both the classroom and on the grounds of Home Winds Farm. Dr. Freeman received "high marks" in these classes, as students could be heard saying, "This is awesome," "I can't believe I am seeing this," and "Wow! Who knew this could be so cool?" It is no wonder the students enjoyed her presentations; Dr. Freeman's passion for animals and science is contagious.

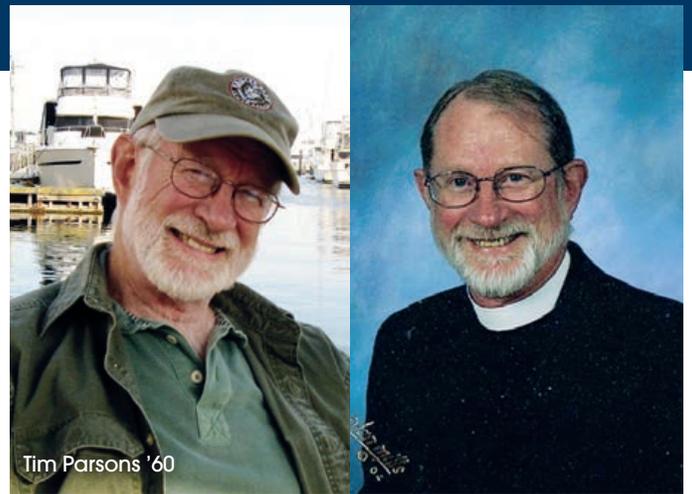


ALUMNI NOTES

the SIXTIES

CLASS OF 1960

Tim Parsons '60: "I spent my freshman and sophomore years of high school at St. Bernard's School. I transferred to Hoosac School in Hoosick, NY, and from there attended Gettysburg College, Virginia Theological Seminary, and Drew University. I completed 38 years in the full-time parish ministry of the Episcopal Church and seven years parttime in retirement. For a very long time I had no thoughts of St. Bernard's School, and then in recent years memories began to emerge, and I realized how much I have come to appreciate all these experiences."

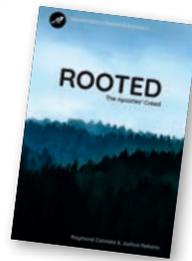


Tim Parsons '60

the EIGHTIES & NINETIES

CLASS OF 1986

A revised, second edition of *Rooted: The Apostles' Creed*, by **Dr. Raymond Cannata '86**, was published. The book guides readers through a comprehensive look at the principles contained in the beloved Apostles' Creed.



CLASS OF 1989 and 1990

Bob Ort '89 offered evening adult woodworking classes on-campus last year. The class quickly filled to accommodate 12 students, including friends and fellow alumni **Tim Erday '90** and **Roger Harkavy '89**.



Bob Ort '89, Tim Erday '90, and Roger Harkavy '89

CLASS OF 1995

Eben Gordon '95 returned to campus to attend the spring production of *Pippin* in the Performing Arts Center. Eben, who portrayed Pippin in 1992, congratulated **Hark Chahda '20** for his portrayal of Pippin in this year's production.



Eben Gordon '95 congratulates Hark Chahda '20

Court Clayton '95 and Louisa East welcomed their daughter Elizabeth (Libby) Courtney Clayton into the world on August 3, 2019. Libby was born in Falmouth, MA, weighing 7 lbs. 5 oz.

Matt Lowe '95 checked in from Ontario, Canada: "Most of my life these days belongs to my two young and very active boys, whom my wife Karen and I adopted in 2016. I taught part-time for several years at a university in Toronto and hope to return to more writing and teaching when the boys settle down a little more! You can glimpse a bit of the boys' and my shared interests on Instagram: @toolproof."

the 21ST CENTURY

CLASS OF 2000

Lauren Calone McCallum '00 and Christopher McCallum welcomed their son Owen Gordon McCallum into the world on July 18, 2019, 7 lbs. 2 oz. at Mt. Sinai West in New York City.

CLASS OF 2001

Naomi Ages '01 relocated to Norway in the fall. While she continues to volunteer with democracy and immigration rights issues, she is adjusting



Court Clayton '95 and partner welcome daughter Courtney Clayton

Matt Lowe '95, with former faculty members Sue Rankin, Peggy Lowe, Betsy (Fithian) Stoddard, and Nina Williams, at Chandra Lowe's celebration of life in South Portland, Maine

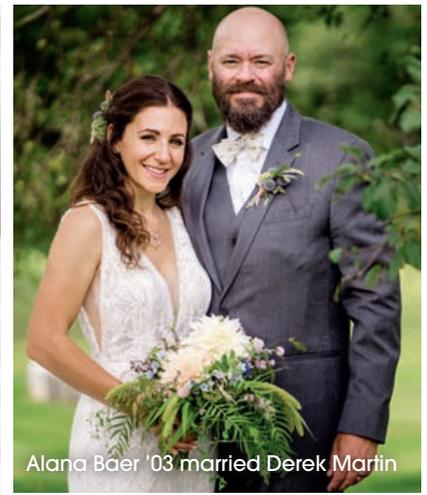
to the changes brought on by the pandemic. She explained her concern for her family in the US. Naomi shared, "While Norway started a gradual reopening the last week of April. Preschools and kindergartens were reopened the first week. There have been far fewer deaths in Norway in comparison to other European countries. Outdoor living plays a huge role in Norwegian culture. Due to a very low mortality rate, parks and outdoor public spaces have remained open.

CLASS OF 2003

Alana Baer '03 married Derek Martin on August 17, 2019, in Pittsfield, VT, at Riverside Farm.



Lauren Cajone McCallum '00 and husband, welcomed son Owen Gordon McCallum



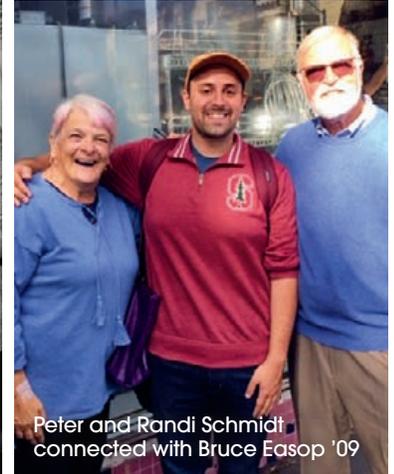
Alana Baer '03 married Derek Martin

CLASS OF 2006

Lauren and **Jamie Palatini '06** were married at the Graceland Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas on October 25, 2019. They celebrated their union with a party hosted at his parents' home in Plainfield. Lauren is a hairstylist in New York, and the couple recently purchased their first home in Beacon, NY. Jamie continues to work in the communications department for *NBC Sports*, while pursuing an MBA online at Quinnipiac University.



Jamie Palatini '06 married wife Lauren Palatini



Peter and Randi Schmidt connected with Bruce Easop '09

CLASS OF 2009

Peter and Randi Schmidt connected with **Bruce Easop '09** during a visit to California last fall. Bruce relocated to California to attend Stanford Law, where he also reconnected with fellow GSB alumna **Kat Giordano '09**. They met as GSB alumni who attended Princeton and five years later they both attend Stanford law.

CLASS OF 2010

Members of the Class of 2010 connected over their 11th annual holiday dinner.

Some of the ladies also connected via Zoom to commemorate the 10-year anniversary of their graduation reunion in the fall with other members of the class of 2010.



(Left to right) Lauren Mathews, Megan Plevy, Bianca Noll, Kristen banks, Sonia Kumar, Daina Raiiffe

Class of 2011

Stephanie Amoroso '11 shared a video introducing her song of encouragement, *Movin' On*, a tribute to the class of 2020. Listen online at gsbschool.org/alumni.

Class of 2013

Jana Bernard '13 made her Netflix debut acting in the film *The Half of It*.

Caragh Corcoran '13 shared how she continued her passion for service into her profession as Program and Events Manager for GENYouth. In her role she is focused on donations to support the Emergency School Nutrition Fund, which assists school feeding sites to ensure that students who rely on school meals for their daily nutrition still have access to meals while school buildings are closed. Learn more about Caragh's journey at gsbschool.org/alumni.



(Left to right) Lauren Rosenblatt Mathews, Sonia Kumar, Bianca Noll, Daina Raiiffe, Sabrina Morton, and Kaitlin Filley

CLASS OF 2015

Jack Lowe '15 spent the fall of 2019 as a Fulbright Scholar in Sweden. One of the highlights of his experience included attending the Nobel Prize Ceremony on December 12, 2019, in Stockholm. Jack shared, "Every year the Swedish Fulbright Commission gets

tickets from the US Embassy so that all the Fulbright Scholars in Sweden can attend the ceremony. The entire ceremony was dripping with beauty and the importance of the groundbreaking accomplishments of these men and women. Everything about the ceremony was absolutely breathtaking, and it was an honor to be a part of it.”

CLASS OF 2016

Alumni families **Andrew '16**, **Frank**, and **Tina Noll** reconnected with **Gia**, **Lucy '16**, and **Matthew Dunn** at a Syracuse University basketball game. Congratulations to Andrew and Lucy as members of the Syracuse University Class of 2020.

CLASS OF 2017

Stevo Bednarksy '17 was a virtual guest for the sixth-grade health and PE class. He shared the importance of food, nutrition, and time management as a student athlete at Lehigh. As a GSB Lifer, Stevo expressed his appreciation for how GSB prepared him for the independence and responsibility that comes as a college student. While he manages distance learning from home, he reminded students, “Be encouraged, because we are all in this together.”

Erica Phiansenthon '17 studied abroad during the fall 2019 semester at Trinity College's Rome Campus. She was able to take classes and learn more about the city of Rome, the people, and its architectural history. During her travels across Europe, she was able to connect with six other GSB alumni studying abroad. Read more about her experiences online at gsbschool.org/alumni.

CLASS OF 2018

Full-time college student **Jack Herrlin '18** is an EMT serving on the front lines transporting COVID-19 patients. Last year he was recognized by the Mendham Borough First Aid Squad for responding to over 175 calls. You can find out more about Jack's experience as an EMT at gsbschool.org/alumni.

CLASS OF 2019

Paul Mulcahy '19 had an outstanding first year playing for the Rutgers men's basketball team. He played in all 31 games off the bench, averaging 3.7 points and 2.5 rebounds on 54.0 percent shooting from the field. The team finished fifth in the Big Ten Conference and ranked in the top 25 for the first time in 41 years. Paul returned to GSB as a virtual guest in the eighth-grade health and PE class.



Caragh Corcoran '12



Jack Lowe '15



Jack Lowe '15 attended the Nobel Prize Ceremony in December in Stockholm



Erica Phiansenthon '17 and Emma Cullen '17



Lucy Dunn '16 and Andrew Noll '16

The GSB Community would like to hear from you. Visit gsbschool.org/alumni/class-notes.
GSB Alumni Office (908)234-1611, ext. 292 or cwalker@gsbschool.org.

OBITUARIES

Carole Brown

Carole Brown of North Pomfret, VT, passed away on December 2, 2019. Carole's love for children led her to the teaching profession through the Upper Valley Teacher Institute. She was a second-grade teacher at the Windsor State Street School for 20 years. She is survived by her husband, Steve; daughter, Marcy (Jim) Potter, and their children, Zachary and Patrick; son Jeremiah (Jessica) Brown, and their children, Noah, Ava, and Ezra.

Dr. Robert Cole

Robert Reed Cole passed away on Sept. 18, 2019, at New York Presbyterian Cornell-Weill Hospital. Robert was a college professor, author, and rare book collector. Loved ones consider his major accomplishment to be his work with inner-city youth at Monroe College in the Bronx, N.Y., where he taught English for more than 20 years.

Joseph Burns

Joseph Peter Burns, 67, of Dubuque, IA, passed away on Tuesday, August 27, 2019. He is survived by his wife, Maria; their daughter, Fiona Burns; his siblings, Timothy (Diane) Burns, Susan (Todd) Craig, and Brigid (Ron) Rizzo.

Chandra Lowe

Chandra Lowe '02, sister of Matt Lowe '95, and daughter of former faculty member Peggy Lowe, passed away on October 16, 2019, four tenacious years after her brain tumor diagnosis. Following her years at GSB, Chandra graduated from Catawba College in 2006, then moved to Maine, where she became the conference organizer and author liaison for Stenhouse Publishers. Chandra's quick and clever wit, her way with words, and her deeply faithful sense of hospitality are well-remembered by all who knew her.



John "Jack" Evans

John "Jack" Evans, a long-time friend and supporter of GSB, passed away at his Vero Beach, FL, home on November 11, 2020, six days after his 93rd birthday. A Korean War veteran, Jack served with the U.S. Army 695th Armored Field Artillery Battalion and received the Bronze Star for meritorious service in combat. His unit insignia motto, À OUTRANCE, means "to the utmost," which characterized Jack's service and his outlook on life. The owner of Evans Realty Company in Madison, Jack enjoyed golf, music, and the Jersey shore. His late wife, Barbara Willits Evans, was a GSB trustee, and his daughter, Caroline Evans Jones '78, recently joined Gill's board. Jack is survived by his children, Jeffrey Harris Evans, Laura Willits Evans '75, and Caroline, as well as his grandchildren, Christopher, Megan, Michael, and Diana, his great-granddaughter Ellie, and his companion, Manette "Molly" Goodman.



Mimi Washington

GSB arts benefactor, Mimi Washington Starrett GS '48, passed away peacefully on August 9, 2020. Even though she and her husband, Clifford Wadsworth Starrett, enjoyed traveling the country and the world, GSB always stayed close to her heart. In 2018, Mimi established a need-based annual scholarship for an Upper School student committed to the arts, whether through academic pursuits or extracurricular activities. A painter and stained-glass artist herself, Mimi believed that art should be accessible to everyone: "Talent is not limited to those who can afford an experience like Gill. I have loved the arts and have been involved in various ways throughout my life. There is value in making it part of your life, and we should encourage it early."

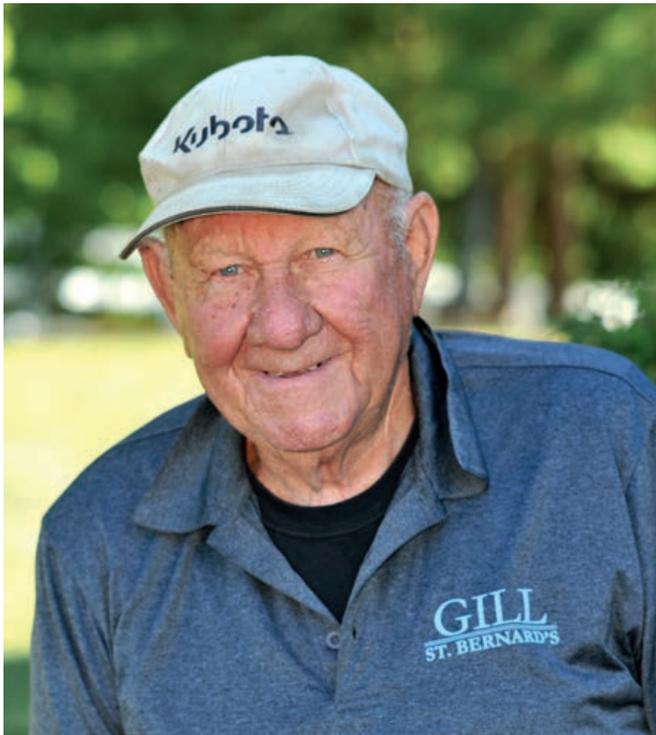
A graduate of Miss Gill's School, Mimi majored in art at Finch College. Her stained-glass works grace St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Morristown, where her memorial service was held on September 26. Mimi's memory will live on through her art as well as the students whose lives she made richer through her generosity.

“ I HAVE LOVED THE ARTS AND HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN VARIOUS WAYS THROUGHOUT MY LIFE. THERE IS VALUE IN MAKING IT PART OF YOUR LIFE, AND WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE IT EARLY. ”

- MIMI WASHINGTON

Remembering... Junie

By Jim Diverio



The Hockenbury name is almost as much a part of GSB as “Conover” or “Gill.” Before St. Bernard’s was St. Bernard’s, a Mr. Hockenbury was overseer on what is now the Home Winds property (then known as the Dellicker Farm), which eventually became part of the school. His son, Russell Hockenbury Sr., was a member of the first class at SBS, and his grandson, Russell Hockenbury Jr., “Junie,” who was born in the Hoye House on St. Bernard’s Road, took his first job out of high school in 1945 at SBS and never left.

“This is a beautiful place that just keeps getting better all the time,” is how Junie summed up 90 years spent in the beautiful Somerset Hills of New Jersey, over 70 of them in service to Gill St. Bernard’s. He even lived on campus with his wife, Lois, for many years and continued through 2020 to board his Haflinger ponies in the red barn.

During the past several decades, Junie kept the school campus looking picture-perfect, mowing the grass in summer and plowing the walkways in winter. Over the years, he oversaw herds of dairy cattle, vegetable gardens, chicken coops, and corn fields. Along the way, he taught timid boys to ride and confident boys the mysteries of running a tractor. And all this time he watched the school go from a small farm-school to a leading college preparatory institution.

Junie was the repository of a good bit of the memory of St. Bernard’s and Gill St. Bernard’s schools. He remembered when Founders Hall was a dormitory and study hall, as well as a dining room, when Conover was only a dormitory, and when the Cox Building site was the vegetable garden. He knew the route of the Rock-a-Bye Railroad through campus (*right along the ridge*) and where every limestone deposit is located. He could reminisce about the hippie days of the sixties and seventies, the horse shows when Jackie Onassis would ride in the GSB ring with Caroline Kennedy, and the challenges faced by the school in the eighties and nineties.

Junie hadn’t spent his whole life just keeping GSB beautiful. He was also a well-known figure in the Somerset Hills. He hunted with the Essex Hunt Club for 30 years, he was an outrider at the Far Hills Steeplechase races, and his jaunty figure in its red jacket was a fixture at Hunt Club events. Along the way he got to meet some famous people. Junie was frequently invited to Malcolm Forbes’ parties, and he used to help Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis find the quickest way to her horse trailer after the hunt.

As his 80th birthday approached, Junie and Lois reflected on the wonderful, happy life GSB had provided for them and wanted to give something back to the school. Junie watched daily as construction on the Upper School academic building progressed, and together they decided to make a considerable financial gift towards its completion. Partially for this reason, but mainly because of the long family association with the school, the new building was named the Hockenbury Academic Center.

Did his new status as school benefactor affect Junie in any way? Not at all. The day after announcing the gift, Junie was back on his tractor keeping the campus looking beautiful. When asked why he stayed at Gill all these years, Junie smiled and said, “I started here when I was 17 years old, and I liked it. I liked the boys. I liked the farming. Some people might say I got into a rut. But, I enjoyed working with the people here, and I still do. And I like the kids—they’re good kids.”

Russell "Junie" Hockenbury 1928 -2020

Brook Donaldson It doesn't seem possible to have lost such an icon. His service will always be remembered ❤️

Steven L. Susman More than any single person, he was synonymous with GSB. 😭

Leland Stanford He was a true gentleman and part of the fabric which made GSB. I got to know him very well from 1976 to 1980 and several times that I have been back. Godspeed, June.

Ron DeChirico Junie was a co-worker, role model, and more importantly a friend. Junie, Lois and Junie's father will forever be entrenched in GSB history. His legacy lives on in so many ways. I feel honored to have known such a humble man like Junie!

Jennifer Gamper Meenan What a huge loss to our GSB community. Prayers for his family.

Elizabeth G Nametz What a great man! He lived for Gill and his horses. His mark is everywhere on campus. RIP with love from so many people.

Mike Harwell What an unbelievable inspiration! RIP, Junie.

Daniel Flynn He made Gill St. Bernards great. What a good man he was 🙏❤️ thoughts and prayers for Lois.

Shaina Marie A huge void will be left in the GSB family. My thoughts and prayers go out to all. 😭

Jill Ort He was a legend and always a gentleman. He was a wonderful part of what made GSB an amazing experience.

John Nodine My family knew him when my brother went to SBS from 69 to 72. I loved this man. 🙏😭😭

“THIS IS A DAY THAT MANY OF US THOUGHT WOULD NEVER COME; JUNIE, BEING OF THE LAND, SEEMED JUST AS TIMELESS.”

- SID ROWELL

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