March 8–24  
Spring Break

April 3 and 7  
Revisit Days for Prospective Upper School Families

April 4  
Revisit Day for Prospective Middle School Families

April 24–26  
Upper School Spring Play

April 27  
Spring Concert

May 2  
Grandparents Day

May 8–10  
Middle School Spring Play

May 16–17  
Alumni Weekend  
Groundbreaking Ceremony for Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building

June 6  
Baccalaureate  
Senior/Parent Dinner

June 7  
Upper School Commencement

June 12  
Middle School Graduation

June 16  
19th Annual Golf Classic at The Bedens Brook Club

September 6  
Convocation  
Dr. Hawkey’s Installation

October 11  
Homecoming Day

Please make sure you save the date for our upcoming New York City Alumni Reception to be held on April 10 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Location and further details will be forthcoming soon!

Pennington students find a way to enjoy the chilly winter temperatures this season as they skate on Lowellden Pond.
FEATURES

11 Foundation for the Future Dr. William S. Hawkey will succeed Penny Townsend as head of school and build on Pennington’s strong strategic plan as the physical transformation of the campus begins.

24 Building Bridges Emily Paragamian ’12 journeys to Jordan and discovers the path to a new vocation.

27 Getting Creative on the iPad Technology even finds its way into classrooms where computers have never gone before.

30 Faculty Spotlight Learn more about institutional technology at Pennington, about our new Forum assemblies, what an AP U.S. History teacher likes to do in his spare time, and how much a Stanton grant adds to the academic experience at The Pennington School.

33 Alumni Spotlight News about Bob Beckett ’52, GP ’14, who received an honorary degree from Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

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Cover photograph by Tim Scott/Spencer Studios, West Chester, PA
Pennington Welcomes Six New Members to the BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John Biddiscombe ’63 is the former director of athletics and chair of the Physical Education Department at Wesleyan University. An active member in NCAA governance, Mr. Biddiscombe served as chair of the Division III Management Council and was a member of the NCAA Executive Committee from 2000 to 2002. The Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) presented him its James Lynah Award for Distinguished Achievement in 2013. He served as Pennington’s athletic director, head football coach, and wrestling coach for three years, 1968 to 1971. He is a 1967 graduate of Springfield College, where he lettered in football, and received his M.S. degree from Slippery Rock State College. A loyal and engaged Pennington alumnus, he was awarded the Order of the Tower, the School’s highest honor, in May 2013. He is president of the Alumni Association Board. He and his wife, Gail, live in Durham, CT.

John Celentano is senior advisor to Ernst & Young’s global life sciences practice and strategic advisor to YourEncore, Inc. Mr. Celentano has held leadership positions in the life sciences industry for over thirty years. He served as president of the Bristol-Myers Squibb Healthcare Group and has led international pharmaceutical businesses in BRIC/Asia Pacific, Latin America/Canada, and the UK/Northern Europe. He led Bristol-Myers Squibb’s productivity transformation, the divestitures of the Mead Johnson Nutrition, ConvaTec and Medical Imaging divisions; and the post-acquisition integration of Amylin Pharmaceuticals. He also served as senior vice president of human resources, public affairs, and philanthropy. Mr. Celentano earned his bachelor’s degree from the University of Delaware and an M.B.A. degree from Drexel University. He and his wife, Jane, live in Newtown, PA, and have three children: one Pennington graduate and two current students at the School.

David Long ’86, along with other members of the Long family, owns and operates the Long Motor Company, a multi-franchised automobile dealership throughout New Jersey. He has worked in this family business for more than twenty-five years, supervising day-to-day operations, marketing, and product and business development, as well as all financial responsibilities. Mr. Long has been selected for many advisory boards and committees in the automotive field and is currently serving his second term as an active member of the New Jersey Coalition of Automotive Retailers. He is also a member of Volvo Cars of North America’s product development committee and serves as a state representative on the Volvo Cars Retailer Operating Team. He is a graduate of Regis University. Mr. Long and his wife, Jane, live in Skillman, NJ, with their four children, three of whom are current Pennington students.

Gregory Matthews has had a thirty-year career in finance. He is currently managing director, head of fixed income, at Starr Insurance Holdings, Inc., where he manages the combined $2.9 billion fixed-income portfolios of its insurance subsidiaries. He also serves as a member of Starr Companies commercial real estate team. Before joining Starr, Mr. Matthews spent fourteen years at AIG Investments, where he held posts as a managing director, head of commercial real estate capital markets, and a securitized products portfolio manager. He also served as a member of AIG Global Real Estate’s investment committee for more than ten years. Earlier in his career he was a portfolio analyst with Hyperion Capital Management and held positions with the Center Companies, Prudential Realty Group, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette; and Chase Manhattan Bank. He is a CFA charterholder and a member of the CFA Institute and the New York Society of Security Analysts. He is a graduate of Middlebury College and Columbia Business School. He and his wife, Anne Elise, live in Princeton with their three children, one of whom is a freshman at Pennington.

William Oldsey has spent his entire professional career in the educational publishing arena, both in the United States and internationally. He is a leading strategic advisor to various companies and institutions in the areas of educational technology, media, and digital learning. He is the former executive vice president of McGraw-Hill Education, where he had management responsibility for the entire global education enterprise. Previous to McGraw-Hill, Mr. Oldsey was group president for Pearson Education International, managing all publishing operations outside the United States. Throughout his career, he has also served in a number of governance and industry association roles. Mr. Oldsey was graduated from Penn State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English, and in 2009 the university honored him with its prestigious Alumni Fellow Award, recognizing extraordinary professional achievement and exceptional service to Penn State. In 2013 he was elected to the board of trustees at Penn State. He and his wife, Julie, are residents of Basking Ridge, NJ; their son is a Pennington junior.

Lori Plimpton is a self-employed academic consultant who works with students and their families on academic plans and skills. Her focus is on learning differences, organizational and executive functioning skills, writing, and various subject areas. Ms. Plimpton also works with medical professionals and school districts in developing and implementing an academic plan for students. Earlier in her career, Ms. Plimpton worked at Princeton Academy of the Sacred Heart and The Cambridge School. She holds a bachelor’s degree with a double major in marketing and management from Kutztown University and recently completed her master’s degree in English with a specialty in teaching writing at West Chester University. Co-president of The Pennington School Parents Association, Ms. Plimpton lives in Pennington with her three children, two of whom are current Pennington students.
This is the time of the school year when our seniors start checking off boxes on a long and unusually nostalgic list of “lasts”: last set of final examinations, last winter athletic competition, last Winter Musical, last January Cotillion, last Spring Break service or language study abroad trip, last notification from college, last Tuesday Chapel, last beloved pizza and pasta meal in the dining hall: a steady march through the rituals and traditions that have marked their experience at Pennington, ending at Commencement.

When they cross the stage in June, our seniors will be proud of their achievements, confident in their abilities, and prepared for the challenges that await them in the future. And they will leave knowing that they are part of Pennington’s history.

I, too, am moving steadily through a succession of “lasts,” this last letter for the Pennington magazine being one of them. When I leave Pennington a few weeks after the seniors depart, I will leave confident in the future—Pennington’s future—and proud of the accomplishments of the past eight years.

The pace of change in the world since 2006 has been relentless; Pennington’s evolution during those years has been no less dramatic. In 2006, few, if any of us, had WiFi in our homes. Neither did Pennington. No Kindles or e-readers; no Netflix or Hulu to keep the boarders entertained in their rooms after study hours. No smartphones or iPads; now everyone at Pennington has at least one device, if not both. The language department did not have a digital language laboratory. Schoology, our course management system, didn’t exist, we did not offer virtual interviews for our international admission candidates. In addition to the advances in technology that have altered how we educate and mentor our students, merging the side-by-side engagement and collaboration between students and teachers with the digital world, Pennington’s physical plant has been enhanced. State-of-the-art science laboratories have been the catalyst for rigorous scientific investigation and exploration, the Liwosz artificial turf field has provided enormous flexibility to the athletic program, and extensive renovations to Old Main dormitories and a first-floor lounge in Buck Hall have fostered residential spirit. Landscaping has beautified our campus. Pride in our physical surroundings has bolstered the academic and extracurricular life of the School by creating a sense of momentum and confidence. Through the lens of the achievements of our students both in and out of the classroom, most particularly of our seniors as they prepare to leave us, the progress of the School comes sharply into focus.

Eight years ago Board Chair John McGuire encouraged me to “think big” about Pennington. Those two words, beautifully instructive in their simplicity, have guided me. What has happened at Pennington, however, is in no way the result of one person’s thinking big. A visionary and generous board of trustees now led by Pennington graduate Peter Tucci ’79, an outstanding administrative team that has enthusiastically and steadfastly tended to all the needs of the School, an esteemed faculty that has evaluated how we deliver instruction and laid the groundwork for a 21st-century curriculum that will be second to none, and a cadre of loyal supporters whom I wish I could thank individually for their gifts to Pennington have brought the School to where it is today. When you read in the magazine about the truly remarkable plans for the future—the Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building, the Wesley Alumni House, the STEM center in Stainton Hall, and grand Old Main being restored to stately perfection, allow yourself to imagine for a few moments how those spaces will inform the value-laden education that Pennington delivers to its students and how they will deepen the ties to the community that are so necessary for Pennington’s enduring legacy.

It is with deep gratitude that I bring this last letter to a close. I am grateful for the constant support of so, so many; grateful for alumnus Kenneth Yen, Pennington grandparents Joseph and Marion Wesley, and former parents Charles and Kathy Previti, who have jump-started the most ambitious capital campaign in Pennington’s history; and grateful for a dedicated faculty that has improved student achievement in demonstrable ways. I am especially grateful for the students, who have inspired me with their determination and resilience, astonished me with their unselfish acts of kindness and empathy for others less fortunate, and reminded me each day of why I became a teacher in the first place. Most of all, I will be forever grateful that these wonderful kids, shaped by their time at Pennington, will go on to tell the Pennington story through their actions and deeds, taking their place among all those who love and believe in the School and who are committed to its future.

Penny Townsend

Stephanie G. Townsend
Head of School
SPECIAL Events

1 Convocation procession led by bagpiper Doug Conners
2 Class of 2015 gathers on the field before the ceremony.
3 Lauren Brown ’15 carries the class flag.
4 Clare Long ’16 and Morgan Pinado ’16 lead the Class of 2016.
5 Head of School Penny Townsend
6 Class of 2014
7 Erin O’Connell’s English II Honors class trip to see The Glass Menagerie in NYC  
8 Vivek Rajan ’16 stops to read the 911 memorial panel on the campus lawn.  
9 Stu Patterson ’93 and Bill Hawkey at the Spring Lake reception  
10 Varsity vs. Alumni Hockey game over Thanksgiving weekend  
11 Penny Townsend, Bill Hawkey, and Joanna Storrar meet with Pennington parents in Asia.  
12 The January 25 Cotillion was a smashing success.
1 Bridget Carmichael ‘17 dances with a young guest at the HomeFront holiday party. 2 Peer Leaders Paul McWhirter ’14, Anne Horsley ’14, Abigail Pitarresi ’14, and Benjamin Kramer ’14 enjoy the Homefront holiday party. 3 Director of Admission Steve Milich addresses visitors to Open House. 4 Open House outdoor welcome table 5 Armani Mendez ’15, with guest lecturer Michael Weber 6 Laura Alaez ’19, Ana Li Sharer ’19, Christopher Long ‘20, Casey Ort ‘19, Leah Johnson ‘19, Emma Van Cleef ‘19, Natalia Gutierrez ‘19, Megan Eckerson ‘19, and Charles Wilson ‘19 at the Middle School Retreat.
HOMECOMING 2013

1 David Kim ’78 and Head of School Penny Townsend at Homecoming 2 James E. Cunningham ’51 with trustee Bob Beckett ’52 GP ’14
3 Erica Isaacson Howard-Potter ’93 with her family enjoying Homecoming 4 Jane Celentano P’12 ’16 ’17 with Board Chair Peter Tucci ’79 P’16 ’16 and Jerry Mavellia P’15 ’20 5 The Old Guard gathers with Penny Townsend on the field. 6 Collette King ’13 and Hope MacKenzie ’13 7 Bill Morris ’76
New FACULTY
This year, fourteen new faculty members joined The Pennington School.

Emily L. Acken (Science) completed her Master of Arts in Education degree in curriculum and instruction (science education) at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University last year after completing her bachelor’s degree in physics, with a minor in mathematics, in 2012. In addition to student teaching at Blacksburg (VA) High School, she was a graduate teaching assistant in Virginia Tech’s Physics Department.

John R. Anderson III (Foreign Language) is teaching Chinese. Mr. Anderson is a graduate of Georgetown University’s Edmund J. Walsh School of Foreign Service, having earned a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree, focusing on regional and comparative studies of Asia and Russia/Eastern Europe.

Karen Balerna (Center for Learning) joins the Pennington faculty after having been a learning disability teacher consultant in the West Windsor/Plainsboro School District and a language arts teacher at the Bridge Academy in Lawrenceville and the Newgrange School in Trenton. She holds a bachelor’s degree in public health from Stockton State College and a master’s degree in special education from The College of New Jersey, where she also earned certification as a learning disabilities teacher consultant.

Amelia E. Becker (Religion) was a member of the religion and history departments at Mercersburg (PA) Academy, where she was also the school minister. Earlier teaching posts include Salt Lake Community College, the Global College program of Long Island University, and Arizona State University. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, she earned her Master of Theological Studies degree from Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, TN.

Sarah B. Crofts (Middle School Science) holds a bachelor’s degree in biology from Haverford College and a master’s degree in education from Antioch University in Seattle, WA. She has taught in the public schools of Seattle and of Brookline, MA, as well as at Dedham (MA) Country Day School, and most recently worked in institutional advancement at The Pingry School (Martinsville, NJ).

Matthew Curry ’97 (Director of Alumni Affairs) returns to Pennington after working in campus recruiting for Booz & Company. Earlier he was assistant director of admissions for Columbia University’s Graduate School of Business and enrollment management recruiter for the Pennsylvania State University at Abington. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in sport and entertainment management from the University of South Carolina and Temple University, respectively.

Jeffrey E. Eckerson (History) comes to the School from Fredericksburg (VA) Academy, where he taught history and directed summer programs. He began his tenure there as director of admission and financial aid, a position he had previously held at the Tatnall School (Wilmington, DE). He holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Ursinus College.

Eduardo Fernández Galán (Foreign Language) has taught Spanish at the high school and college levels, including posts at Montgomery (NJ) High School, the Lawrenceville School, The College of New Jersey, and Rutgers.
the State University of New Jersey. He was educated in Madrid, earning the Licenciado en Filología Hispanica (Linguistica) and a Certificate in Pedagogic Aptitude, both from the Universidad Complutense.

**Stephanie Dumas Heyeck** (Center for Learning) has a background in science research and teaching, having been a research scientist at Harvard and Princeton as well as developing science lessons for young children. She has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of California, Santa Cruz, and a doctorate in immunology from Harvard University.

**Sarah Mertz** (Director of Leadership Giving) has devoted her career to nonprofit organizations and spent over twenty years in executive positions with the American Red Cross in New Jersey at both the local and regional levels. Ms. Mertz earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from the College of Wooster in Ohio.

**Alyssia M. Reddy** (History) earned her bachelor's degree with a double major in history and American studies at Towson University in Maryland. She taught at Gilman School in Baltimore last year.

**Jessie Shaffer** (Middle School) has taught previously in the Neshaminy (PA) School District. She earned her bachelor's degree in literature from American University in Washington, DC, and a master of education degree from Holy Family University in Philadelphia. She was a long-term substitute at Pennington last year.

**Jennifer Beams Sheppard** (Associate Director of Admission) has spent much of her career at Stevenson School in Pebble Beach, CA, as director of financial aid and associate director of admission and, more recently, as director of admission. She earlier held a similar position with The Urban School in San Francisco. She holds a bachelor's degree in English from Dartmouth College.

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**EXTRUDING SOON: The Pennington School Computer Club**

The Pennington Computer Club was started in 2013 by a group of student computer enthusiasts. The group’s first project was to scavenge some old computers and salvage hardware parts from them. Using those and other acquired components, the students built a powerful desktop computer from scratch. For the 2013–14 school year, club president Matt Celentano ’16 proposed that the group attempt to build a 3D printer. 3D printing is a technique that allows for the creation of three-dimensional solid objects by employing a carefully calibrated machine that adds successive layers of material. The 3D printer will integrate with the computer that was made last year to provide a digital plan for the object being printed and guide its operations. The machine extrudes a material that hardens immediately to create the desired object.

After securing a dedicated workspace on the third floor of Old Main, the club purchased a 3D printing kit and has been steadily pouring in hours during its weekly after-school meeting. The printer is currently about halfway to completion. The art and drama departments have shown interest in using the device once it is completed, while some of the advisory groups of the club members are considering employing one of the printer’s more exotic applications as a cookie/ cupcake mass-decorator.

The computer club meets Wednesday after school and draws from a membership of more than ten students. The flexible nature of scheduling how they work allows for students to attend all or just a few sessions per month. While other projects are being considered for the future, the focus is on completing and deploying the 3D printer before the end of the year. The club hopes that the machine will soon be extruding viscous plastic or tasty icing for the benefit of the Pennington community.
Eleven seniors inducted into CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

Eleven Pennington School seniors were inducted on January 15 as the first student members of the School’s chapter of the Cum Laude Society. Cum Laude District II Regent Elizabeth Duffy, head master of The Lawrenceville School, formally installed the Pennington School chapter at the ceremony prior to the induction of the students. The Cum Laude Society is an international organization recognizing “academic achievement in secondary schools for the purpose of promoting excellence, justice, and honor.” There are only approximately 380 institutions in the Society; most are independent schools. The students honored in January are the top 10 percent of the senior class, as determined by grade point average.

Pennington School Chapter President Lisa Houston inducted the students, who were introduced by the chapter secretary, Dean of Academic Affairs Scott Peeler. The other charter faculty members of the Pennington School chapter are Donald Dolan, David Hauser, Melanie Litzinger, and Elizabeth Yarnall. The faculty members of the Cum Laude Society seek to recognize those students who achieve at the highest levels.

The Cum Laude Society inductees for the 2013-14 year, (front row, left to right) Julia Weeder, Francesco Bertolini, Tess McGuinness, Yun Zou, Le Yuan; (back row, left to right) David Goldstein, Harneel Riar, Nicholas Palombi, Weijia Tang, Sicheng Zhu, Jiaqi Huang

Fourteen inducted into NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The Pennington School inducted 14 seniors into its Tri-Steps Chapter of the National Honor Society in a ceremony held November 20, 2013, in the Stainton Hall Lecture Center. The students were selected on the criteria of scholarship, service, character and leadership. Those qualities were the subjects of brief presentations by current seniors and NHS members Tess McGuinness, Logan Campbell, Rachel Shavel, and Harneel Riar.

The NHS inductees for the 2013-14 year, (front row, left to right) Yun Zou, Min Ju Song, Devon Zimmer, Francesca DeSapio, Lauren Klei, Jessica Bush, Bianca Drucker; (back row, left to right) David Goldstein, Patrick Nelson, Gregory Gravalis, Anthony Hannani, Weijia Tang. Not pictured: Nicholas Palombi
Any recent visitor to Pennington’s campus knows that there is a lot of building going on. Despite all of the cold and snowy weather we’ve experienced this winter, construction of the School’s new master plan is well under way. At the end of last summer, the busy Admission office moved to a temporary location behind the Campus Center, and the offices of Alumni and Development moved into an adjacent space of their own. Ground was cleared for the site of the spacious, new Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building, with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled to take place on May 17 during Alumni Weekend.

The building itself will be ready to welcome students in the fall of 2015. A foundation has been laid for the new setting of the historic Lowelliden building, to be completely refurbished and to reopen later this year as the new Wesley Alumni House (see page 13). A new road is being built behind Stainton Hall; starting in the fall of 2015, vehicle access to The Pennington School will be restricted. After the morning drop-off, cars will be directed to the new roadway, creating an all-pedestrian campus that will enable students to move between classes in a traffic-free environment. New parking spaces, new offices to be built in Old Main, new classrooms for the Middle School, new mathematics classrooms in Stainton Hall, and all of the gorgeous, light-filled classrooms in the new building will dramatically change the way students learn and teachers teach at Pennington. What won’t change? Pennington’s unwavering focus on individual excellence, built upon the close relationships between teachers and students.

A New Leader for PENNINGTON

At the end of August, Peter J. Tucci ’79, chair of the School’s board of trustees, announced that William S. Hawkey, Ph.D., had been unanimously elected by the Board to succeed Penny Townsend as head of school, following her resignation from that position at the end of this school year.

Dr. Hawkey is currently associate head of school and dean of faculty. He first joined the School’s faculty in 1982 and has held many different positions with increasing levels of responsibility during his thirty-one-year tenure. He has taught classes including psychology, math, and public speaking while also undertaking such responsibilities as those of director of school counseling, special assistant to the headmaster, head of Upper School, and assistant head of school. In 1983, he brought the Peer Leadership program to Pennington and supervised it for twelve years before handing its management over to Erin O’Connell, the current director of the program. In his current position he handles all personnel matters involving the faculty, including recruiting, hiring, and retention; he also serves as the School’s chief administrator during the head of school’s absence. Dr. Hawkey is well-known to all current students, thousands of alumni, and all of the faculty. In October, Dr. Hawkey spent time traveling with Mrs. Townsend to meet alumni and parents in Asia, with stops in Seoul, Shanghai, Taipei, and Hong Kong.

Planning for the 2014–15 school year and beyond is well under way, and the faculty

“In all my years at Pennington, I believe we are now in the best shape possible to deliver the quality programs that families have come to expect and that their children deserve. I am especially proud of the faculty that we have in place and the academic leadership that is ready to lead this great institution through these exciting times.”

—Bill Hawkey
is currently in the midst of an important self-study for accreditation by the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools. Dr. Hawkey is leading both of these endeavors. Relative to areas of growth in the School, he stated, “We have been engaged in a thoughtful and critical analysis of our 6–12 curriculum, and with the addition of the Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building and a refurbished Stainton Hall to house our STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) center, we will be well-prepared to provide students with increased opportunities for interdisciplinary study and to explore academic areas of interest in more depth.”

In addition to STEM planning for the 2015–16 school year, Dr. Hawkey stressed the importance of comprehensive planning that will have an impact on other areas of school life, “We will be looking to greatly expand our summer program offerings over the next several years with an eye towards attracting those that are ‘mission-specific’ to Pennington.” Examples include the English Immersion Experience at Pennington, academic classes for enrichment, global studies and leadership programs, STEM-specific programs, athletic camps, and more.

Peter Tucci ’79 said, “Dr. Hawkey has been a key member of the Strategic Planning committee for several years and has worked assiduously with the board and other members of the committee to develop the current School vision and plan for the future. We expect Bill to build on the solid foundation that already exists at Pennington and to add his personal touch to the excellent academic programs, superb faculty and staff, and many other significant strengths of the School. We look forward to Bill’s strong leadership to continue the momentum being generated by the current capital campaign for The Pennington School.”

Dr. Hawkey’s involvement in School life goes far beyond academics and administration. He has been coach of the School’s nationally ranked girls’ soccer team for twenty-eight years. In addition, he is a Pennington parent. Dr. Hawkey, a Pennington native, and his wife, Karen, have two sons, both Pennington graduates now in college, and a daughter, who is in sixth grade at Pennington.

Penny Townsend added, “Bill and I have worked closely for eight years, and his institutional knowledge and experience have been invaluable. Bill has dedicated his career to Pennington. The School is his home, and there is no one better suited to lead Pennington at this time in its history.”

Dr. William S. Hawkey is a graduate of the University of Vermont, with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood and human development. He went on to study at Temple University, earning master’s degrees in both counseling psychology and school psychology before completing his doctoral degree in school psychology there.

Dr. Hawkey will continue to work with Mrs. Townsend through the end of this year and will assume more of the responsibilities of head of school. His formal installation as headmaster will take place on September 6, 2014, as part of the Convocation program for the 2014–15 school year. Dr. Hawkey said, “Penny has been a great mentor, colleague, supporter, and friend to me over the past eight years. Her relentless attention to detail in pursuit of excellence is her calling card, and Pennington has benefited from her outstanding leadership.”

Mrs. Townsend has been named head of the Ransom Everglades School, a college preparatory school located near Miami, Florida, beginning on July 1, 2014. Peter Tucci ’79 said of Penny, “She has a bold vision and a passion for education, and her commitment to excellence at all levels has greatly benefited The Pennington School.”

During her tenure at Pennington, which began in 2006, Mrs. Townsend has spearheaded innovations to both curriculum and infrastructure of the School. She has led the charge to integrate technology into the classroom, increased opportunities for independent study, upgraded athletic and boarding facilities, renovated science laboratories, and developed a new global studies program. She introduced an honor code for students, created several new administrative positions, and thoroughly enriched the Pennington experience for both day and boarding students.

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Wesley Alumni House: A historic building repurposed

The Wesley Alumni House will be devoted to the Office of Alumni and Development. Formerly known as Lowelllden, this historic building will move in March from its current location to a place of prominence in front of the veterans memorial. To be renovated inside and out, Wesley Alumni House will be a center of alumni activities during homecoming and alumni weekends in the fall and in the spring.

This project is being funded through an extraordinary gift of $2 million to The Pennington School from the grandparents of ten Pennington alumni. With this donation, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph L. Wesley, Sr., of Newtown, PA, through the Joseph and Marion Wesley Family Foundation, have bestowed the second-largest gift ever given to the School by one family, and the largest gift ever given by grandparents. All ten of the Wesleys’ grandchildren have attended The Pennington School. The restoration and reconstruction of this building, once the home of past headmaster Francis Harvey Green, will preserve the historic integrity of the School’s campus and the larger Pennington community.

The second project underwritten by this gift is the stunning central gathering space to be found within the new Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building. The Forum will be a unique, multistory space flooded with sunlight, specifically designed for cross-disciplinary collaboration within the field of humanities and offering an impressive gathering space for large assemblies, meetings, and special presentations. It will be named the Joseph L. and Marion M. Wesley Forum. Head of School Penny Townsend said, “We are enormously grateful to Joseph and Marion Wesley for their unwavering commitment to The Pennington School. This exceptional gift will have a transformative effect on the entire Pennington community.”

Joseph L. Wesley, Sr., is the visionary founder of the AmQuip Corporation, “The Crane People,” now known as AmQuip Crane Rental LLC, a leading provider of crane rental equipment and related services in the United States, where Mr. Wesley continues to remain active as a member of its Board of Managers.
Pennington Middle Schoolers achieve honors in academic competitions

Pennington Middle School students recently displayed their mettle by devoting extra time to developing their academic and creative skills, gaining some national recognition in the process. Ten eighth-graders spent most of their free moments practicing complex mathematics problems in preparation for the challenging American Mathematics Competition 8 (AMC8). In addition, as part of the eighth-grade English poetry curriculum, each student wrote an original poem for submission to Creative Communications’ Poetic Power poetry contest; some seventh-graders did so, as well.

Although the competition results were gratifying—two eighth-graders scored in the top five percent nationally in the AMC8, and nineteen eighth-graders and one seventh-grader had their poems chosen for publication in a forthcoming anthology—Head of Middle School Todd Paige reports that teachers are most pleased with these students’ willingness to put extra time and effort toward achieving excellence.

Pennington’s top scorers in the AMC were Jingyuan Lu, Shi Liang, Kaela Colyar, and Nicholas Micheletti. Li and Liang achieved honor roll distinction for scoring in the top five percent nationwide.

The students whose poems were chosen for publication in the Creative Communications anthology, A Celebration of Poets, are Callie Bouton, Zeynep Cavusglu, Grace Colalillo, Sara Essig, Sydney Faber, Noah Frank, Kathleen Horsley, Xinyi Li, Jiaying Liu, Jingyuan Lu, Max Marsala-Williams, Alyssa McDougall, Kayla McInerney, Zoe Michaelson, Nick Micheletti, Caitlin Nally, Kate Reim, Carly Rice, Naomi Strauss, and Delano Whitfield. These students’ poems are now among those that will be evaluated by current authors, journalists, college professors, and other educators to determine the top ten poems.

Creative Communications praised the School and our students: “The fact that you have numerous students accepted makes a strong statement about your school,” adding that Pennington will be recognized in the anthology as receiving a Poetic Achievement Award, given to the top ten percent of schools entering the contest.

Seventh-graders defend Constitution Challenge title: Five years ago, then Middle School social studies teacher Chad Bridges and Upper School history teacher Jason Harding brought their classes together for a friendly competition. Both teachers studied elements of the United States Constitution with their classes, so they wanted to see whose students knew more. The result was the Constitution Challenge, a game show based on knowledge of the Constitution. Every year the classes compete for bragging rights and pride.

Teacher Jameson Moore’s unit titled “Articles of Confederation and the Constitution” meets curricular objectives and also provides students with a strong foundation for the competition. This unit is unlike any other during the year. Memorizing all of the articles, terminology, and definitions requires grit, determination, and daily attention. Preparing for a game show with a large group can be fun—everyone is in it together—but can also be stressful. The end result is rewarding, win or lose, and it is incredible how much the students know when it’s over. Planning ahead and daily review is key to being prepared. This year’s results? The seventh-graders won again, in a very close match on November 22.

Odyssey of the Mind team wins state competition and competes for world title: The Pennington School’s Odyssey of the Mind team won the New Jersey state tournament last spring and went on to compete in the world finals in Ann Arbor, MI, in May. Odyssey of the Mind is an international creative problem-solving competition.

The team members, then seventh-graders, were Benjamin Dorph, Jacob Essig, Sara Essig, Ayanna Johnson, Nicholas Micheletti, Jake Papa, and Mitchell Walker. The team’s coaches were Middle School mathematics teacher Susan Wirsig, and students Cole Felsher and Finn McConaughy.
Students in the tournament must demonstrate both long-term and spontaneous problem-solving skills. For the long-term portion of the competition, the students are given a problem ahead of time that they work together to solve over several months, then present their solution at the event. The spontaneous competition requires the students to collaborate in solving a problem they have never seen before, often having to build or create something on the spot. The scoring especially values creative thinking.

“I believe Odyssey of the Mind is one of the best experiences to develop 21st-century skills,” Ms. Wirsig says. “Working collaboratively to create, build, and perform under constraints is at the heart of the program.” She adds that because the team works on the problem for four or five months, there is time to test multiple ideas. “Through this iterative process, students come to value creativity and see how it is a powerful tool for solving problems.” Head of Middle School Todd Paige believes that Odyssey of the Mind helps students “think critically, learn experientially, and confront setbacks—all goals we have as part of their education at Pennington.”

The team, which had worked since November 2012 in an elective class devoted to the project, comprised Rex Berger, Max Drucker, Noah Frank, James Hofer, Brycen Martz, Scott Meggitt, and Barrett Wong. The National SeaPerch Challenge is sponsored by the United States Office of Naval Research. Entrants are sent a kit of tools and materials and a construction manual that aids them in building a standard ROV. Once the “stock” vehicle has been completed, the team can test it and make modifications they believe will make the vessel faster and more maneuverable—but there are limitations. They cannot spend more than twenty dollars on additional materials, and they cannot add more engine power to propel the vehicle; the provided motors are the only ones to be used.

Building involved cutting and fitting PVC piping, drilling drain holes, soldering components to a circuit board, waterproofing three DC motors, and installing the shafts and propellers, explains teacher Andrew Lloyd. Keeping the motors watertight and free of corrosion was one of the more difficult tasks. Pennington’s team built two vessels, dubbed Old Reliable and The Stingray. They used the School pool to practice driving the ROVs through underwater hoops in preparation for the obstable course and picking up rings for the deepwater transfer. The students made adjustments for buoyancy by strategic placement of foam pieces, having to consider carrying rings at different water depths and being able dive and surface equally well while maintaining overall motion forward or backward.

Jamie Hofer, whom Mr. Lloyd calls the “lead engineer” on the project, suggested installing cross-beams on the top of the standard vessel to stabilize it and reducing its size to make it more maneuverable. These modifications to Old Reliable made it the vehicle that the team decided to take to New York. Of the nineteen middle and high schools that entered there, Pennington was the only one that had made these modifications, and it is a point of pride that Pennington’s vehicle finished the obstacle course only four seconds behind the winner among the high school competitors.

Team members Rex Berger and Max Drucker represented the Pennington group in New York and operated the vehicle there. They also had to present a poster and defend the design of the vehicle to a panel of judges. Although only those two students were able to go to the regional competition because of its falling during Spring Break, all seven went with Mr. Lloyd to the national contest in Indianapolis, where they came in seventh.

Physical Life Skills—new this year! Part of the Middle School health and wellness program, a new course called Physical Life Skills teaches students important skills that will serve them well throughout their lives. Half of the course takes place in our beautiful indoor aquatic center, where students work to improve their swimming ability and become increasingly comfortable and confident in and around the water. The other half of the course takes place with trainers from the Source Institute for Human Performance here on campus. Through fitness, students learn how to become more accepting and understanding of their physical selves while also learning how best to take care of their bodies. These classes are targeted specifically for this age group and take place once a week during the school day as a supplement to the health and wellness programs.
BOYS’ SOCCER

The Varsity Boys’ Soccer team ended with an 11–5–1 record. Led by senior tri-captains Austin Summers, Paul McWhirter, and Charlie Paige, the team finished with a winning record while having one of the most challenging schedules in the state. Highlights from the season included two thrilling overtime victories against Prep A rivals Lawrenceville and Blair. Other victories included wins over PDS, Hun, George, and a memorable Homecoming win against Holy Ghost Prep. The program thanks the eleven senior members of the team. This group of seniors helped to continue the outstanding tradition that the boys’ program has maintained for so long.

GIRLS’ SOCCER

During preseason in August, Girls’ Soccer coaches Hawkey and Murphy were asked about the prospects for this year’s squad. Both coaches considered the seven starters who had graduated from last year’s 16–2–1 team and looked out onto a field of 18 players and gave a realistic (at the time) prediction of the season ahead: “We’ll take our lumps this year, but with improvement each week and a core of solid returning players, we hope to be competing for another state championship in November.” Well, the lumps really never factored into this year’s soccer season. An 18–2 record, with their eleventh consecutive State Prep Championship, was the end result for a soccer season that exceeded expectations.

FIELD HOCKEY

The 2013 Field Hockey team exceeded all expectations, winning a School-record eleven games. The team hosted a Prep B state tournament game and made it all the way to the Mercer County Tournament semifinal, another first in the program’s history. The team fought valiantly and provided a significant challenge to the
eventual champion, Lawrenceville. Maddie Gordon ’14 was named by the *Trentonian* as Defensive Player of the Year, and she and Annie Horsley ’14 were selected for First Team All-Prep.

**CROSS COUNTRY**

Pennington’s boys’ and girls’ Cross Country teams were as strong as any of the program’s previous best teams. Continuing their traditional competitions including the on-campus Homecoming meet, the Shore Coaches Invitational Meet at Holmdel Park, the Gill Cross Country Invitational, States, and the Mercer County Tournament, the teams challenged themselves to the max while running many personal best times. A highlight of the post-season was the selection of Emily King ’16 to the *Star-Ledger*’s First Team All-Prep; Kerry Runkle ’16 was selected for the Second Team, and Elizabeth Koloski ’15 and Sophia Mavellia ’15 made the Third Team.

**GIRLS’ TENNIS**

The tryout competition was very stiff this year, with four seniors and three juniors winning spots on the Varsity Girls’ Tennis team. Nina Brander ’14, Francesca DeSapio ’14, and Sara Clark ’15 competed in the #1, #2, and #3 singles spots, respectively, while Nora Murray ’15 and Kristyn Green ’15, Sophie Smolen ’14 and Missy Paragamian ’14 rounded out #1 and #2 doubles teams, respectively. Even though the record (3–8) didn’t indicate the hard work and determination the girls showed throughout the season, there were a few close matches coming down to tie-breakers against Stuart, Nottingham, and Lawrence High School that would have given us a few more wins. Also, #3 singles and #1 doubles made it to the finals and semifinals, respectively, in the Mercer County Tournament’s consolation tournament. Next season looks bright with the three returning varsity players and three JV freshmen.
WATER POLO

It was an intense and successful 2013 campaign for Pennington Varsity Water Polo. Committing to add more competition to our schedule in order to keep strengthening our program, we battled to an overall 17–10 record, earning the most wins in our history. In early September we entered the Battle of Ft. Washington Tournament for the first time and went 3–0. In mid-September we achieved our goal of qualifying to a higher flight at the Beast of the East Tournament, earning a 3–2 record in Flight II; we concluded our season with great matches against Lawrenceville at the Garden State Championship and Hill at the Easterns Championship. Our overall success is a testament to the hard work and dedicated team effort of our players. Thank you to our captains Logan Campbell ’14 and Matt Simkus ’14, for their leadership, as well as our four other recently anointed PWP Nation alumni: manager extraordinaire McKenna Campbell ’14 and players David Goldstein ’14, Kevin Yoon ’14, and Laura Baulch ’15. These six should take pride in the fact that they leave the PWP Nation stronger than it has ever been, both in and out of the pool.

FOOTBALL

The 2013 Varsity Football Team was one of the most improved in many years. This team made tremendous progress while playing a challenging schedule. They say that character is brought out in trying times, and our team’s character could best be defined by the heart and determination our players displayed in every game. Success isn’t always measured by wins and losses, but by how much you grow and improve as a team. Even though we didn’t win many games this season, these players should be extremely proud of the improvement they made. They had confidence and respect for one another, and more important, there was team bonding throughout the season and especially during that emotional final game of the season, when we lost a thriller against Riverdale Country Day School, 34 to 32, in the last minutes of the game.
CHEERLEADING

It’s game time! These were welcome words for this year’s squad of fifteen very enthusiastic cheerleaders. The 2013 cheerleading team was composed of some very steady and experienced four-year veterans, as well as some exciting new talent. The girls worked very well together. They became a cohesive unit as they worked hard during every practice, prepared for and hosted the pep rally, and participated in each exciting new athletic contest. Trust, creativity, strength, and coordination all steadily improved as the girls pushed the limits to create new and more challenging stunts and cheers. We especially enjoyed promoting Pennington School spirit, encouraging the players, interacting with the fans, and pumping up the crowd to get R-O-W-D-Y during the games. Go Pennington!

INTRODUCING CLUB SPORTS

Club sports provide an opportunity for students to experience the benefits of team sports, such as working together toward a common goal, in a less competitive environment. Our new program of club sports meets after school on Monday through Thursday from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

Like team sports, club sports provide a boost of energy and creativity that extends through the early evening hours that are devoted to homework. In addition, club sports give students another way to have fun with friends in a noncompetitive, inclusive atmosphere while helping to form healthy exercise habits that can last a lifetime.

Each season will feature a different recreational sport, which may include ultimate Frisbee, Wiffle ball, capture the flag, bowling, club soccer, club basketball, badminton, obstacle course challenges, and an all-sports club.

Jack Anderson, the School’s teacher of Chinese, is the enthusiastic coach of this new sports program at Pennington.
ANNUAL COMMUNITY DAY
Members of the Class of 2013 spent a day of service last spring on Pelican Island at the New Jersey shore, helping clean up debris in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. Younger classes spent Community Day assisting at locations including the Philabundance food pantry, Habitat for Humanity, the Mercer Street Friends Food Bank, Mill Hill Child Development Center, the Howell Living History farm, and other organizations or individuals who could use helping hands.

RUN FOR THE CURE
On Sunday, October 20, The Pennington School held its fifth annual Run for the Cure race to benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure®. A record number of more than 300 students, faculty, parents, and friends of The Pennington School turned out to run or walk and raise money for the foundation devoted to seeking a cure for breast cancer. The event, organized by the senior peer leaders, raised close to $8,000 for the foundation.

Peer leaders, a select group of Pennington seniors, serve as mentors to groups of freshmen; they also organize several significant community service events each year. Peer leaders Rachel Shavel and Charles Paige spearheaded organization of this year’s run. Abbey Pitarresi of Princeton, also a peer leader, designed the logo for the 2013 event: a sneaker tread highlighting the slogan, “Tread Pink.”

Sophomores Christian Tringali and Emily King were the male and female first-place winners, respectively. The “Pink Cup” award, given to the team that expresses...
the most “pink spirit,” went to the School’s drama team. Deep in rehearsal for the fall play, they wore T-shirts with a Hamlet parody: “To run or not to run, that is the question.” “On the day of the race, with over 300 people in attendance, kids were sporting team shirts and, yes, even team wings,” says Erin O’Connell, faculty advisor to the Peer Leaders. “It felt like a party.” Pennington resident Cindy Ricker, local Komen for the Cure representative, spoke before the race, reminding participants why they were there, hoping for a day when a Run for the Cure is not needed. “But until that day,” says Ms. O’Connell, “The Pennington School will run for the cure. With the support that was seen on Sunday, it is clear that this run is a Pennington tradition.”

HAITI

The Pennington School’s commitment to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake continues, through solemn observance of the anniversary as well as practical preparation for the upcoming service trip there in March. Participants in previous service trips attended and took part in a service of commemoration on Sunday, January 12, at the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, held in conjunction with Shiloh Baptist Church of Trenton. Two days before, the School held a Friday night “Dodgeball for Haiti” fundraising event, which raised $1,000. In addition, members of the School community were asked to donate personal hygiene items such as toothbrushes and toothpaste during the month of January.

The School has joined with the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville on service trips to Haiti since 2012. The proceeds of the dodgeball event will go to purchase medical supplies, beans and rice, and other items needed by the Haitian people, all of which will be taken to Haiti by the Pennington group during Spring Break, according to Director of Global Studies Laura Desai. Austin Summers ’14 took the lead for the event, organizing the 184 participants into teams.

The annual holiday poinsettia sale by the French Club has raised money for Haiti for the last five years. Each year the club has donated $500 for supplies taken to Haiti by the service trips.

PLAY FOR THE CURE

The Middle School Field Hockey team celebrated a 3–0 win over Stuart Country Day School on Tuesday, October 8, in their first annual Play 4 the Cure game. The students sold baked goods and hosted a longest-drive competition at halftime. These events, along with generous contributions from spectators, allowed the girls to raise just over $200 for the National Foundation for Cancer Research.

Mr. Lloyd’s eighth-grade advisory group harvested eggplant, tomatoes, purple beans, thyme, basil, mint, and nasturtium flowers, and prepared them for delivery. These budding farmers, pictured, are: (clockwise from bottom left) Naomi Strauss, Sara Essig, Jamie Hofer, Jack Lu, Max Marsala-Williams, Delano Whitfield, Cole Felscher, Carly Rice and Kayla McInerney (not pictured, Zeynep Cavusoglu). After school, Annabel Li and Jessie Liu went with Mr. Lloyd to deliver the fresh food and learn about the Crisis Ministry’s mission and operation.

Later in the fall, Annabel Li and Jessie Liu worked with teachers Andrew Lloyd and Melissa DeFelice to build cold frames, which allowed the garden to weather the cold and allow two more harvests to the Crisis Ministry in November and December. These cold frames also allow the team to plant earlier in the spring, contributing to a longer growing season and thus more produce for the Crisis Ministry.
Mounting one of the world’s most famous plays, written by one of the greatest writers of all time, is not an easy prospect for any high school. A good thing that Pennington is not any high school! Our production of Hamlet was guided by a collaborative vision and was focused in a Denmark inspired by “punk couture,” where the themes of loyalty, family, honor, and duty were able to balance, blur, decay, and yet remain clear to all who were able to work on or see the production.

“The stage is a magic circle where only the most real things happen, a neutral territory outside the jurisdiction of fate where stars may be crossed with impunity. A truer and more real place does not exist in all the universe.”

—P.S. Baber

Henry Sheeran ’14 as Hamlet

Chadd Gray ’14 as Player King; Lukas DiGiacomo ’15 as the Poisoner

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Shakespeare was very aware of the audience when he wrote. Even Hamlet acknowledges it in his final speech. Pennington Drama would like to thank the community for its overwhelming response to this show. There is no theatre without someone to watch it and bear witness to what the actors and crew have striven to create onstage for so many months. Shakespeare knew it, and we know it. Our duty to your honor!

The journey to Elsinore was an epic one. Guided by the poetry of Richard Brautigan, with an image of Hamlet in a black leather jacket on a motorcycle, we started off. We dissected soliloquies, staged pantomimes and scenes, learned how to sword-fight, played guitar, hung and focused lights, painted, pinned, and sewed. We had the most hilarious and most sorrowful times; as King Claudius would say, “in equal scale, weighing delight and dole.”

This fall, the “Blackbox,” the cast/crew, and the challenge of bringing the text off the page sustained us. It gave us something to focus on, work towards, and a place to feel safe and supported. So, we worked. We worked so hard—harder than we have ever worked on anything before. I kept telling the students, “We are the lucky ones, because we have this and we have each other.”

It is my belief that Art heals hearts better than anything else. Art intensifies human emotion, but it also transcends the daily woes of being human. It raises us up. The cast and crew of Hamlet: these are the angels of Pennington. They lift me up, they lift up each other, and they lift up our School every day. They make us laugh; they make us think, feel, and love in ways we never thought possible. They have made their mark through Shakespeare’s language, the world we created together, and the work they have done and will continue to do in the Arts.

Bravo!

by Lisa Houston
“This summer, I saw a way of life fundamentally different from the world I’d grown up in.”
Building Bridges
by Emily Paragamian ’12

“For four years, I sat under 50 flags in the Dining Hall, a constant reminder of Pennington’s commitment to diversity and international awareness. This inspired me to strike out on my own journey.”

“Ahlen wa sahlen ila ilUrduun!” my Arabic professor called out in welcome as the ten of us stepped across the security threshold in the airport of Amman, Jordan. We were all first-year Arabic students at Connecticut College, who had survived learning a new alphabet, written countless essays, and endured a handful of all-nighters during the past year in our rewarding struggle to learn one of the world’s most difficult languages. We were now embarking on a six-week intensive summer Arabic-language program at a university in Irbid, Jordan. As I stepped off the plane and into this new country, I became a minority for the first time in my life. A mass of unfamiliar faces stared, pointed, and even laughed at the ten kids uncomfortably shuffling through the streets of northern Jordan, trying to avoid the eyes of the gawking young men, the “shehab.” Those first few days, I had no idea what was going to happen, but I hoped it would change me somehow. I had no idea just how much.

This summer, I saw a way of life fundamentally different from the world I’d grown up in. I sat cross-legged on the floor of a tent and shared a meal with a Bedouin tribe, haggled over coffee and spices at the local souk, and was almost kidnapped by a cab driver. I stood on the roof of my apartment and looked northward at the Syrian border, which was alive with smoke and explosions at night. I was sung to sleep by the call to prayer, foreign and eerie at first, then melodic and comforting. I ate goat. (Yes, I’m a vegetarian.) I struck up conversations with shopkeepers, waiters, professors, police officers, students, and beggars. I got swept up in a riot in the streets after Jordan won a football match, the beat of the debka pounding in my chest, the roar of fans around me, and the sight of a homemade flamethrower illuminating the night sky. (No, I’m not kidding.) And through all of these experiences, I encountered a different culture, yes, but not different people. Once these locals saw the ten of us trying to speak their language, they softened, stopped laughing at us, and spoke freely. They were curious why we would choose to leave America to come study their culture, but mostly, they were thankful that we were different. We could physically see these people’s perceptions changing as they talked with us and learned that we shared common interests in literature, sports, music, even politics.

Towards the end of our trip, we took a mini-vacation away from our schoolwork to do some sightseeing. We visited Petra, one of the Seven Wonders of the World (pictured at left), floated in the Dead Sea, explored the ruins of the cities of Ajlun and Jerash, relaxed in the resort town of Aqaba, and hiked through sand dunes in the Wadi Rum desert.

One evening in Wadi Rum, as dusk turned into night, I turned my face to the sky to witness the most spectacular display of stars I had ever seen. There were millions of them stretching as far as the eye could see, all the way out into this purple haze in the distance, the Milky Way. I promise you, nothing makes you feel smaller than seeing the ends of your own galaxy. And yet, in that humbling moment, I realized that though I was just one small person, I wanted to make an impact on the world that was bigger than myself. After all I’d seen—the damaged relationship between East and West, the locals’ response of incredulity and thankfulness at our pursuit of Arabic—I knew I had to come back. I had to do whatever I could to make a difference here, to build a bridge between this world and my own. In order to do this, though, I knew I had to make a difficult change. Under the diamond-studded desert sky, I made the decision to transfer to the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, where I would be able to pursue these goals more actively.

My story isn’t over yet. From my first world history class at Pennington to my current courses on the Hilltop, I’ve met several amazing people who share these sentiments about the Middle East, and I believe that together we are the next generation of leaders who can help restore our relationship with that region. In fact, the boy who sits behind me in my Middle East History class is named Hussein bin Abdullah, the crown prince of Jordan. I know I’ll go back, and I hope to make a difference, in my own small way. And I have a feeling that my adventure is just beginning.

Global Studies, which formally began at The Pennington School three years ago and has focused on international travel and exchanges with “sister” schools abroad, will be expanding its scope to include more curriculum integration, service and language immersion trips abroad, as well as other areas to connect students to a more in-depth and comprehensive understanding of our global society. Bill Hawkey, incoming headmaster, says, “As a school with a longstanding commitment to educating international students, it is imperative that Pennington students develop a sense of responsibility and commitment to the world community.”

During the March 2014 spring break, travel opportunities offered included visits to Spain, Austria, and Haiti for international service learning. Seniors have the option to travel during their Horizon internship experience in May, and their choices include Colombia for Spanish language and culture immersion, and the Island School in Eleuthera, Bahamas, to study marine biology, science, and environmental education.
Pennington students study beyond the CLASSROOM

Sara Sachs ’14 spent time last summer studying global entrepreneurship: “This past July, I spent four unforgettable weeks at the Pennsylvania School for Global Entrepreneurship at Lehigh University. I was exposed to international business strategies and was chosen to intern with a local candy company, Just Born (Mike and Ike/Peeps/Peanut Chews). I was surrounded by seventy dynamic and engaging students from countries all over the world. As I got to know them, I realized that what we all had in common was that we each possessed our own passion that fed our confidence and excitement for life. I also learned that a global diversity experience doesn’t have to happen ‘an ocean away’!”

Josh Hauser ’15 and Anthony Hannani ’14 participated this summer in the Waksman Student Scholars program at Rutgers University. For three weeks in July, Josh and Anthony underwent training in the theory and lab techniques of molecular cloning. The program, sponsored by the National Science Foundation and GE Healthcare, teaches students science by having them perform authentic scientific research. Over the three weeks, Josh and Anthony, together with students from over twenty-five other schools, worked to isolate DNA clones from members of the genus Wolffia (duckweed), a common aquatic plant found throughout the Northeast. Their efforts paid off—both students isolated and analyzed novel DNA clones and their work is being submitted for publication to GenBank, an international database housed at the National Institutes of Health.

This past fall, ten Pennington students, as part of the Advanced Research in Molecular Biology course, participated in the same program. Their work will contribute to an ongoing research effort by a research team at Rutgers to sequence the entire genome of the duckweed plant. In June of 2014, the students will be presenting their work at a symposium sponsored by GE Healthcare.

Henry Sheeran ’14 earned a full merit scholarship for an intensive, three-week program to study German language and culture after scoring in the ninetieth percentile on a national exam. The summer homestay and study trip to Germany was sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of German (AATG). Henry was selected as a national winner after scoring in the top ten percent on the Level III 2013 National German Exam for High School Students sponsored by the AATG. Nearly 23,000 students participated in the program. Henry was one of only forty-four outstanding German students selected from across the United States to receive the award. The scholarship included class experiences in a German school, excursions to places of cultural and historical significance, a home stay with a host family, and all transportation costs. This award was made possible through a grant from the Federal Republic of Germany. Henry said, “The fantastic experience that I had during this trip was very much due to my interactions with the faculty there, and I think this was unique to me. The way that classes and extracurricular activities work at Pennington prepared me well to foster meaningful and educational relationships with teachers and professors in every situation, whether that means visiting a college ten miles away or a country 3,000 miles away.”
Getting CREATIVE on the iPad

In virtually every academic class, students are engaged with material both in the classroom and online, with new resources available to them every day. Here is a glimpse into how our courses in the arts are using their iPads in unique, highly inventive, and artistic ways.

VISUAL ARTS

Just a few years ago, most people couldn’t imagine using computers in the art room. But new technology allows students to revisit the playful nature of elementary school art, and iPads help them see art-making differently. Students and teachers are finding that incorporating technology into the room where charcoal, graphite, and paint are a focus is an interesting adventure, using a program called Bamboo Paper as their iPad sketchbook.

The iPad is a terrific tool for helping classes observe. After setting up a still life, the students can walk around the set-up and photograph it with their iPads, upload these photographs into their iPad sketchbooks, and draw on top of their photographs, making a line drawing that shows the contours and basic layout of their compositions. They then delete the photograph and have a contour-line drawing from which to work when starting their actual drawings on paper. The iPad adds to the art-making experience by enabling the students to see what their drawings should look like before they actually begin. The intimidation of making that first mark on a blank sheet of paper is less intense because they already know what the outcome will be.

The iPad has also changed the way classes critique artwork and do research. They can easily share notes and plans with each other and with teachers. They always have an encyclopedia of art at their fingertips. Researching contemporary artists not yet found in books is easier with the iPads and spurs meaningful discussions.

PERFORMING ARTS

In the McLarty “Blackbox” Theater, students accomplish much more group work using the iPad. They can watch performances and critique them. Collaborative scriptwriting has become incredibly easy, and editing is a breeze. Some classes, such as Drama I: Shakespeare, are using the iPad to make a biographical video about Shakespeare. The Art-O-Rama 8 class uses the iPads to accomplish many tasks for their Art Alive project, an assignment that entails bringing a famous work of art alive onstage in a theatrical production. From scriptwriting to a lighting grid magic sheet, to using Photoshop for their playbook, and iMovie, the eighth-graders input all their information for their production folder onto the iPad. Students get instant feedback by email about their performances. In some ways, the theatre world is a bit slower to incorporate technology than other fields, but at Pennington, we are forging ahead and do all we can to use this valuable resource, and it adds a great deal to our theatrical process.

MUSIC

Middle School students use iPad apps for their journals, to demonstrate the proper maintenance of their instruments, and to video their progress in learning to play. In the GarageBand elective, students use that app to create and share original music. They also record live performances in practice rooms to share with the whole class. With Airplay they can share their performances quickly and wirelessly with the class.

In Upper School, students record sounds around campus and mix them into a piece of “Musique Concrète” via the GarageBand app. Music composed on the GarageBand app can then be uploaded to GarageBand on the iMacs in the music theory classroom and further edited. This same music can then be exported into Pro Tools in the recording studio. Also, peer comments on students’ compositions are shared via Schoology, enabling multiple sections of the same class to collaborate on and interact with the same projects. Students also can record musical performances using the RecordingLite app.

In the Advanced Placement Music Theory course, students use an online textbook on the Kno app. Students in ensembles scan music they need to practice via Scanner Pro. They can read it on the iPad and mark it up using Notability. Sectionals and chamber groups submit assignments on Schoology by videotaping their performances on the iPad. Resources such as fingering apps and music theory tutorials are also shared. In pit band, students use a shared document in Google Docs to track cuts in musical numbers and notes for rehearsals.
States of Mind

The Silva Gallery of Art opened the 2013–14 school year with a quietly beautiful and technically superb photography show by one of our own alumnae. States of Mind took us on a photographic and personal journey from Pennsylvania to California and back again through the lens of Adriana De Cervantes ’09. This exhibition marked two round-trip journeys for De Cervantes, who was graduated from The Pennington School just four years ago and welcomed back to campus as a working artist.

Hosting a full day of gallery talks, De Cervantes spoke with five classes of photography students as well as the advanced art and AP Studio Art students. She shared stories of her travels cross-country and of her studies at Pratt Institute, where she graduated with honors as a photography major and art history minor. She went into detail about her process of shooting and her meticulous standard for printing. She also shared with the students her insider view of what it takes to navigate the world of an emerging artist-photographer.

“States of Mind is my first body of work since completing school, and it accurately reflects my various mindsets throughout those 9,468 miles. I made my way across the United States as a careful observer, and although I know each road has been driven by countless other explorers, tourists, vacationers, and voyagers, my experience was unique, and these photographs will remain my memoirs. I made memories with friends as well as strangers, and I made photographs from the heart about these incredibly special moments.”

—Adriana De Cervantes ’09

Arte de mi Corazón

After a fabulous closing reception for States of Mind on Homecoming Day, the Gallery shifted focus with the bold, colorful paintings by Mexican-born artist Guadalupe Reyes in an exhibition entitled Arte de mi Corazón (Art of My Heart). Recently honored at the Mexican Music Awards as their 2013 Visual Artist of the Year, Reyes shows her work across the country and internationally. Infused with her culture, Reyes’s paintings reference the uniquely Mexican Dia de los Muertos holiday. Dia de los Muertos is a
time to remember and celebrate the people in our lives who have died. It is a celebration where life and art truly are one. In an effort to bring this life and art intersection to the entire Pennington School community, all were invited to participate in our annual art project. The Spanish teachers, under the direction of Foreign Language Department Chair Lida Castro and art teacher Dolores Eaton, collaborated across their curricula to enable students of Spanish to immerse themselves in their study of this cultural practice by creating original artwork. All the pieces created by students and teachers were then incorporated into a larger memorial art project. The final result was stunning, to say the least, and was well received at the reception.

One highlight of this acclaimed artist's visit came when she hosted a series of Spanish-language gallery talks for our students studying Spanish. This was a real-world experience that happened right on campus; students enthusiastically spoke with Reyes in Spanish. They asked questions about her imagery and her technique, and about her experiences of being a child in Mexico and then emigrating to the United States.

**Home**

The Silva Gallery closed out 2013 and rang in 2014 with a moving and provocative event through the group exhibition **Home**. **Home** was an educational art exhibit that explored public perceptions of poverty and of poor and homeless people by the ArtSpace artists of HomeFront. ArtSpace is a therapeutic program that helps build self-esteem and seeks to improve and enhance the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of participants.

The Pennington School has a longstanding relationship with HomeFront, and we felt it was important to host an art exhibit on behalf of HomeFront’s ArtSpace that visually expresses what it means to be poor or homeless, to challenge the viewer's perception of what “home” means, and to do so in a way that inspires much contemplation and thought. We, too, feel privileged to be able, in the words of ArtSpace Director Ruthann Taylor, "to give colorful expression on canvas to a voice that is often silenced."

**Recently in the Silva Gallery of Art:**

**In Contrast**

This exhibition brings together the work of two very different New Jersey potters: Waltraud Bolan of Bridgewater and Katherine Hackl of Lambertville. In the work of Waltraud Bolan one sees a connection to the raw material, as her forms are organic and fired in ways that result in deep earth tones. In the work of Katherine Hackl one sees the human desire to control the clay, impose imagery, and tell a story. The artists presented gallery talks for students and others, and Ms. Hackl conducted a workshop with students of ceramics on the technique of **sgraffito**, a carving process that creates high contrast designs on the surface of the clay.

The School’s thriving ceramics program teaches students the craft of ceramics as an important part of human culture—from exploring how to merge form and function in objects used in our daily lives to understanding how ceramic is used in the thermal protection systems on rocket ships.
Mark DiGiacomo
An Upper School AP U.S. History teacher, Mark DiGiacomo is also a professional development consultant for the College Board, which owns and oversees the Advanced Placement program. When he began working for Educational Testing Services (ETS) as an AP exam reader, approximately sixty percent of Pennington students taking that test earned a “proficient” score. Today, that number is over ninety percent. Mr. DiGiacomo believes that reading so many essays a year (over 1,200!) makes him a better teacher: he learns how students write and how Pennington students compare nationally. In addition to attending the national AP Reading in Kentucky, where 1,200 teachers grade about 1.5 million essays in just seven days, Mr. DiGiacomo also teaches College Board Workshops in AP U.S. History during the year as part of his professional development.

Next year, the exam will have a new design that will prompt schools to implement curriculum changes: “There will be more emphasis on historical thinking skills, rather than rote memorization of facts and content,” says Mr. DiGiacomo. “Pennington has always emphasized these skills, so it won’t be much of a change for us. I expect our students to perform well on the new exam.”

Tom Horsley
At the end of the last academic year, former Science Department Chair Tom Horsley assumed a new position as director of academic technology. Earlier during this first year of full implementation of the one-to-one iPad program, Mr. Horsley cheerfully assisted the technology staff with training for students and faculty, but he grows even more enthusiastic as he looks to the future. “I want to help teachers learn how this technology can change the ways they are teaching, to learn new methodologies. It will not be just the same kind of teaching with different equipment.” Now that teachers and students have become more comfortable with the iPad, he is eager to explore “creative uses that enable students to learn and demonstrate knowledge in different ways.”

Mr. Horsley outlines a revolution in teaching and learning. Rather than focusing on providing information and subject content, much of which is now available at students’ fingertips, teachers can help students learn how to use that information most effectively. Instead of assessing students’ ability to recall specific information, they can evaluate students’ ability to marshal and interpret that content. In addition, academic technology is making communication and daily interaction with and among students a given. “Technology is empowering the students,” he says. With teacher-provided notes or outlines on the iPad, students can better focus on the class presentation, adding to the notes any details they find helpful. Electronic submission of homework aids prompt and targeted feedback from teachers and enables teachers to identify areas of student confusion. In addition, students’ increased ability to share projects and collaborate as teams will change education, Mr. Horsley believes. Still teaching science courses and coaching varsity golf, Mr. Horsley is a busy man, but he sums up his new role simply: “It’s exciting!”

Amelia Becker, teacher of religious studies, is also the new program coordinator for a weekly assembly this year called Forum. Working with Dean of Students Chad Bridges, Ms. Becker is responsible for inviting guest speakers from both inside and outside our community, organizing special activity-based events, and arranging other presentations for our Upper School students, provoking a great deal of discussion and food for thought. Speakers this year so far have included Clare Long ’16, who spoke about her work with the Wounded Warrior Project; Sara Sachs ’14, who presented her work on global entrepreneurship this past summer; and Michael Weber, who led a discussion about leadership. Upcoming Forums will feature students talking about their service work in Haiti that will take place over Spring Break; theater/film actress Allison Daugherty; Dr. James Toole, a pioneer in the fields of peer-helping, service-learning, and youth social entrepreneurship; and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and educator Philip Schultz. This is an exciting and dynamic new program that continues to evolve. Stay tuned!
Marc Epstein
In the spring of 2012, history teacher Marc Epstein received an Innovations in Civics Education grant from the Stanton Foundation. The foundation is named after former CBS president Frank Stanton, and the grants were made available to about twenty New Jersey teachers. The grant money came with no restrictions, other than to promote a deeper understanding of our government and political system.

Thinking about what would benefit students in his classes, Mr. Epstein decided to use part of the grant to bring interesting speakers to campus, to collaborate with the Religion Department for a two-day trip to Washington, DC, and to initiate a number of other collaborative projects with teachers in various departments here at Pennington.

The first guest speaker was Dr. Stanley Renshon, a politics professor at the City College of New York who is also a practicing psychologist and an alumnus of Pennington, Class of 1961. He spoke a few weeks before the 2012 election and gave the audience good insight into the psychology and political campaigns of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney. This year, the fall speaker was Marisa Porges, a counter-terrorism expert at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Her area of expertise is programs aimed at de-radicalizing members of terrorist organizations like the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

Two trips to Washington, DC, were planned in conjunction with School Chaplain Aaron Twitchell and his Religion and Politics classes. Participating students were fortunate to hear both times from justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Samuel Alito spoke last year, and this year the group met with Antonin Scalia. These special meetings were a treat for the teachers and students. Other parts of the trip have included a session with Chaplain Patrick Conroy of the House of Representatives and sessions on the theme for the trip, which was “church and state.”

Mr. Epstein has collaborated with several other Pennington teachers through the grant. Several of Mark Ross’s Photography I students took photos during the 2012 election, and Andrew Lloyd and Mr. Epstein collaborated on a new unit Mr. Lloyd developed for middle schoolers on “green citizenship.” This year Mr. Epstein is working with Mark Reilly to record original plays that relate to legal themes.

Finally, the Stanton grant funded interesting summer workshops for faculty professional development, one on the federal courts and the most recent one on Congress. Receiving the Stanton grant has been an exciting process that includes occasional dinners attended by other teachers who have received Stanton grants, staff members from the foundation and the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools.

Scott Peeler
World History Instructor
Dean of Academic Affairs
The PENNINGTON FUND

The Pennington Fund provides direct budgetary support that touches every element of the Pennington School experience and every member of the community. Every day, every student, every team, every teacher, every actor, everyone and everything at Pennington benefits from your support of the Pennington Fund.

Pictured at left: Parent volunteers gathered in the Development Office this fall to reach out and encourage support for this year’s Pennington Fund: Peg Van Sciver P’12 ’14, Dee MacKenzie P’13, Kay Weeder P’14, and Jeannie Colalillo P’06 ’11 ’18 ’20.

News from the PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Pennington School Parents Association has always been actively involved in life at Pennington, and this past semester was no exception. Their work always begins in the summer months, preparing for the opening of school and TPSPA fall events. This year the hardworking group sponsored Back-to-School Night dinners, collaborated with the senior class to design Homecoming shirts, participated in Homecoming, and proudly represented the parent community at Pennington’s Admission Open House in October.

The Oktoberfest parent social provided an evening of fun for parents and faculty alike. In December, members decorated the campus for Christmas and the holidays and provided some funding to defray the cost of the faculty party. For students, they sponsored the perennial favorite, Bingo Night, provided sweet treats after each day of exams to ease the stress of midterms, and supported Cotillion with a generous donation.

The Pennington School Parents Association is a dynamic and energetic group, always open to new ideas to promote school spirit and communication and dedicated to raising funds to support the School. They invite all parents to join them at any time during the year.
Robert Beckett, Sr., ’52 GP ’14 is the embodiment of all the values that The Pennington School aims to instill in its students. Resourceful, determined, creative, and generous, Mr. Beckett has made an enormous impact on the School where he spent just one postgraduate year in 1952.

From a family of modest means in Trenton, Mr. Beckett was recruited to Pennington by teacher and football coach Art Rogers ’36. Mr. Rogers recognized that the grit and tenacity Beckett demonstrated on the field, as well as in his math and physics classes in high school, would bring something special to Pennington.

That one postgraduate year had a significant impact on Mr. Beckett: he says, “It got me on the right page academically.” He was accepted to several colleges and universities, but was not offered enough scholarship money at any of them to realize his dream. Instead, he went to work, holding down two jobs in order to save as much money as he could so that he would one day be able to go back to school. What is most important to Mr. Beckett about this time is that he married his longtime sweetheart, Pat, whom he met in eighth grade. They have been happily married for 60 years.

He also met another person who was to change his life: Charles McNulty, who was then the football coach for Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Coach McNulty convinced Mr. Beckett to visit WPI, a school he had not considered originally. Mr. Beckett loved what he found there, and this school was able to grant him the scholarship funds necessary for him to be able to attend. He has never forgotten the opportunities that opened up for him because of that scholarship, and that became a powerful motivation for his philanthropy later on. He established scholarship funds at both Pennington and WPI, this endowed fund, established in 1997, honors the man who first introduced him to Pennington: Art Rogers.

In 2002, Mr. Beckett was invited to join Pennington’s Board of Trustees, where he has been an active and hardworking member for the past twelve years. In 2003, the School awarded him the Order of the Tower, the highest honor it can confer upon a graduate.

Following his graduation from WPI, Mr. Beckett began a long career in mechanical engineering that started at Leeds & Northrup and led to the 1978 startup of his own company, Robec, Inc. Robec, a combination of his first and last names, provided marketing, technical support, and services in the sale and use of microprocessors. A visionary who understood the potential of microprocessors, Mr. Beckett opened his company with only two employees; four years later, sales were at nearly $4 million and the number of employees had jumped to 20. By just its sixteenth year in business, sales had skyrocketed to $200 million with 400 employees. Robec was recognized by Inc. magazine as one of the fastest-growing companies in the United States for four straight years. In 1994, Robec merged into AmeriQuest Technologies Inc. with Mr. Beckett appointed as AmeriQuest’s senior vice president until his retirement in 1996.

Today, Mr. Beckett works as an independent management consulting professional, entrepreneur and investor. He has provided investment capital and management assistance to a number of start-up companies, and is currently the president and CEO of Tribo Surface Engineering, which has evolved into Surface Engineering Technologies, LLC. In addition to his longstanding service to Pennington, Mr. Beckett has been a member of the WPI Board of Trustees since 1985 and was awarded in 1987 the Robert H. Goddard Alumni Award for Professional Achievement and the Herbert F. Taylor Alumni Award for Distinguished Service to WPI. At the WPI Commencement last spring, Bob Beckett was awarded an honorary degree: “For his entrepreneurial vision and courageous spirit, for the unyielding determination he has demonstrated in his career and life, and for his generous gifts of time and resources to his alma mater, WPI is honored to confer upon Robert Beckett the degree of Doctor of Engineering, Honoris Causa.”

Penny Townsend says, “Bob is an incredibly successful graduate who has thoughtful and compelling ideas about education—which he has shared with me over the past eight years. He has been a very loyal supporter of the School—and he was only here for a PG year. We are immensely grateful for his generous contributions to two capital campaigns and his continual support of the Pennington Fund.”

Continuously involved with Pennington since 1952, Mr. Beckett has served as class agent and was chairman of his 50th reunion. Following in the footsteps of his mentor Art Rogers, he even recruits for Pennington—his granddaughter, Elizabeth Childers, is a proud member of the Class of 2014, which graduates in June. Mr. Beckett and his wife, Pat, live in Blue Bell, PA, and Kiawah Island, SC. An enthusiastic pilot, he devotes his spare time to his hobby of building planes and describes himself as “an octogenarian who flies a Piper Arrow.” The Pennington School is privileged to have had a role in launching the trajectory of this imaginative and generous entrepreneur, and to recognize Bob Beckett as one of its most distinguished alumni.
“I am honored to have been asked to become the president of The Pennington School Alumni Association. I am excited to work with the alumni office in engaging alumni with the School. Matt Curry ’97 and I are planning more alumni outreach, and we want to hear from you as well.”

—John Biddiscombe ’63

1944 60th Reunion

Colonel Tom deShazo recalls finishing what he thought was his junior year at Pennington on D-Day (June 6, 1944) but was handed a diploma a month later—“so my ’44 classmates don’t remember me as a classmate.” An “Army brat” himself, he worked for a year with German POWs at Fort Sill, OK, and went on to earn a B.A. degree in psychology at Duke in 1949. He was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1950 and served in the military until his retirement in 1982, serving in Korea, Germany, and Vietnam, among other posts that include the U.S. Naval War College, the Pentagon, and the U.S. Army War College. He earned an M.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Arizona in 1962. He retired from the USAF SAC headquarters after directing preparation of the National Strategic Target List for three years.

Tom remains active in retirement, tutoring, writing letters to the editor, serving as Mensa Scholarship chair, working with the National Ski Patrol. He describes himself as a “lifelong political independent, but extremely gratified today not to be a conservative. Living in this deep red state is often lonely.” He was divorced in 1965 and thereafter reared three daughters as a single parent; he now has “six perfect thriving grandchildren” who “make every hardship I ever endured well worth it.”

Robert “Bob” DeBardelaben is “very sorry to learn that Penny Townsend is leaving for a new opportunity. She brought style and class to the position of Head of School. She will be greatly missed by many, including me. I wish good luck to Penny and husband Mike.” He adds a thought on the passing of classmate Jack Gulick: “He was a good friend, a great guy to be around, and, most of all, he loved The Pennington School. RIP Jack.”

1952

Norman Litowitz, M.D., is very proud of his wife, Bonnie, recently the first woman ever to be named editor of the Journal of the American Psychoanalytic Association.

1958

Craig Jurgensen, M.D., who retired from a forty-year career as neurologist in 2007, has published his third book, Rounds with Jim (West Bow Press). Modeled after Tuesdays with Morrie, the book describes Craig’s professional and personal support to a friend afflicted with Parkinson’s Disease. Rounds with Jim “describes the ideal doctor/patient relationship, in which the physician renders continuous support, advocacy, and compassion to his patient through the long course of his/her illness.”

Craig previously wrote Tempo di Marcia in 2010, documenting the history of the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet School in Carlisle, PA. In 2012 he published 20/20: The Neurology of Blindness, a book describing the anatomy and physiology of vision within the central nervous system. The book is designed to educate vision professionals in their approach to patients suffering with complex visual problems. These books may be viewed on the websites craigjurgensen.com and roundswithjim.com.

1962

John G. Capers III was recently elected president of the Golf Collectors Society, a national association of over 1,000 members “dedicated to preserving the treasures and traditions of the game of golf.”

1967

Stan Bush (Beshunsky) spent thirty years as an attorney with a large international law firm headquartered in Toronto, Canada. Now “fully retired and golfing year-round,” Stan spends half the year in Canada near Creemore, Ontario (about two hours northwest of Toronto in the Georgian Bay area), and the other half in Coronado, CA (across the bay from downtown San Diego). He would enjoy hearing from any Pennington classmates living in or visiting either the Toronto or San Diego areas. His email address is: sbbush2047@gmail.com.

1968

Jeffrey Wright is back living in Pennsylvania with his wife, Leslie, and two adopted daughters, Molly (19) and Anna (17). His thirty-four-year career with GM included time in Bowling Green, KY (“Home of the Corvette—The Only Sports Car That Matters”), and Kansas City, where he was quality superintendent for an assembly plant making the Chevrolet Malibu. After retiring from GM in 2007, he worked with special-needs children for three years before starting his second career in 2010 as...
a quality engineer with Herley Industries in Lancaster, PA. He spends his free time either with his family or on the beach, surfcasting. He would welcome the opportunity to reconnect with classmates.

**Cell:** 913-207-7754.

**Robert Ripp** is still working in media production: digital film, video, audio, and print. He reports that 2014 is shaping up to be a travel year of documentaries and webisodes, with some live small-venue concerts in the mix. His eldest son is also in the business and has covered the Vans Triple Crown of Surfing multiple times and the technically acclaimed Volcom Fiji Pro 2013. Robert’s eldest daughter is artistic director with Legends Waikiki in Honolulu. His next son is in a business entrepreneur program and a pre-med major at the University of Hawaii, and his next daughter hopes to go to Emerson next year. “You can see why I am still working and loving life,” he says. His photo, taken northwest of Benson, AZ, is entitled “Today’s Office, Yesterday’s Transportation.”

**1973**

**Kim McDonald,** happily married to Ann Marie McDonald, is retired and living in the Poconos.

**1976**

**Susan Clark** stopped by at Homecoming this year and mentioned how good it was to be back on campus seeing classmates and fellow Penningtonians.

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**John Brooks** has many great memories of his time swimming at Pennington and the friendships made then. “Swimming at Pennington led me to the Ocean City Beach Patrol (OCBP) as a summer job and on to swimming at James Madison University.” In the summer he is an active member of the OCBP, and he is president of the OCBP Alumni Association. He still swims at the US Swimming masters level and competes in regional and national United States Lifeguard Association tournaments for his age group. “Like much of a student’s time at Pennington, participation can take you in a new direction for a lifetime, and leave a lifetime of wonderful experiences in your wake.”

**1978**

**Christos Parnos** and his family are well and still living in Greece. “Our son, Dimitri, is in ninth grade and doing well. Gelika is fine, and without her our house would not be a home. My parents, George and Hareese Parnos, are doing fine. My father, 85, tutors my son in math and physics, which is always needed. Artemis Paschalides ’77 came to visit from Venezuela while we were at Tsagarada on Mount Pillion this summer. She stayed for three hours and then went on to Thessalonica. It was a good day, reminiscing about Pennington together.” The photo is of Christos and Artemis, with the Aegean Sea in the background.

**1979 35th Reunion**

**Andrew Marton** is now 100-percent retired after a number of back surgeries, including a three-level lumbar spinal fusion last fall. His back problems date back to an injury in 2000; the moral, he says, is “never try to lift up a paddleboat with water in it.” He has two homes, spending six months in Delray Beach, FL, in the cold weather and six months in Reston, VA, in the warm weather. He welcomes classmates’ looking him up in either location.

**1979**

**Christos Parnos ’78 and Artemis Paschalides ’77**

**1980**

After many years **Lisa Austin Brouse** recently had lunch with Denise McGee Buchanan, “and it was if we picked up right where we left off.” (Denise calls Lisa “one of my three lifelong BFFs.”) Lisa also attended Homecoming this past October and saw many familiar faces and classmates. Her son, Justin, is a Dean’s List student at Penn State Abington and also the president of LARES, a club in charge of all campus entertainment. Lisa changed professions this year and is now a home health care provider. Her clients are 92 and 94 years old, making the job both physically and mentally grueling, “but they keep me on my toes.”

Lisa also reports that **Bob DeVries** is engaged. She also notes the death of Florence Barrett, mother of Thomas ’79 and Fred Barrett ’77. “Flo worked at Pennington for
years and was a staple on campus. She was a fantastic lady and a second mom to many of us. Her beautiful eyes and bright smile will long be remembered!

Denise McGee Buchanan is married to Buck Buchanan, a chef who owns a handmade ice cream shop called Lumpy’s in Wake Forest, NC. “Last year during football season, Buck was featured in a national advertising campaign by the Hartford Insurance Co. If you want to see it, check out the commercial: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9mesSwWXHM.” Denise is still in the investment industry, working for the last ten years at CAPTRUST Financial Advisors in Raleigh, NC, as a chief compliance officer (“so, no, I never did get my own game show”). Their daughter, Colleen (17), is now a senior at Raleigh High Charter School. She speaks French and German, and is planning on going to Paris for her graduation present on a trip chaperoned by Kathleen Capriotti (“my former hall parent”). Their son, Mac (14), is a self-proclaimed computer nerd who claims that he can beat anyone on any PS3 video game.

Anthony DeLia is a major in the U.S. Army and is married to a great and supportive wife, Brenda. He earned a master’s degree in constitutional law and leadership and recently transitioned from the elite Army Airborne Rangers to his current assignment at Army Central Command, Southwest Asia. Having served two tours of combat duty in Iraq, Anthony recently returned from successful missions in Kazakhstan, as well as Lebanon, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan.

After Pennington, Scott Cousins bounced around for a while playing in bands (“Jim Hughes and Rupert Heinel were in my first band while we were all at Pennington”) before completing college and going to law school. He remarried on November 11, 2011, and he and his wife, Candace, together have seven children and stepchildren: five boys and two girls ranging in age from 21 to 7. From 2005 to 2009 Scott was general counsel for NextEra Energy in Juno Beach, FL, the world’s largest renewable energy company. In January 2012, with five friends, he established his own commercial bankruptcy, business restructuring, and corporate litigation firm in Wilmington, DE. Scott built the law firm’s website; one of his hobbies is website design.

Chris Lupariello has been practicing dentistry for twenty-three years in a large dental group (www.timberlanedental.com) in northern Vermont. He has been married for over twenty years and has two daughters, ages 15 and 12. Chris is an avid cyclist/golfer and loves life in Vermont.

Mark Sadighpoor has been married to his wife, Annette, for about twenty-four years; they have a daughter, Chantal (9). They reside in Great Neck, NY (about 30 minutes from Manhattan). Mark is with First Quality Consumer Products as a director of sales and marketing for North America. He may be found at www.firstquality.com.

Lori Hedberg Falk is married with three children. She is working and putting an addition on her house.

Laura Wigod was expecting to become a grandmother for the first time last year.

Brian Bastecki practiced dentistry for seventeen years but now is the director of dental for Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield New Jersey. He has been married for twenty-four years to his beautiful bride, Ericka. They have two daughters: Savannah (21), a senior at High Point University, and Avalon (18), a senior at Pennington. Brian enjoys golfing and salt-water fishing and hopes to do much more of both now that his “soccer dad” days are over.

1981

Thomas D. Chiodi, Gerard Lieggi and his wife, Debra; Ron Rick and his wife, Kathy, all got together for a nice weekend at the Jersey Shore. Tom adds that he and Ron “got together in South Beach in November and took naps, read books, and turned in early each night because we are getting old.” They were joined by Ron Rick III ’08 and Alex Helms ’08.

Ed Gomez has moved to Belmont, MA, where he lives with his wife, Amy; son, Miles; and daughter, Paige. Tom reports that Ed “said all is well, and he’s sorry he missed people at Homecoming.”

Mike Ehnot was very busy this summer, watching his three children sail competitively around the state and elsewhere. Ski season came next!

1982

In July Andrea Colender Kawecki and her husband, Matt, had a great time boating and having dinner in Annapolis, MD.

1983

Satoru Suzuki came back to campus for Homecoming all the way from Tokyo, Japan. He had been unable to attend his Thirtieth Reunion at Alumni Weekend, but he and his wife had a great time with classmates during the Homecoming celebration. He is pictured with Lynn Drury Morano P’11 ’14 ’17 and Don Kim. Don came up from Boca Raton, FL. Lynn has two children at Pennington: senior Caroline and freshman John; her daughter, Allison graduated from Pennington in 2011. Satoru and his wife won a giveaway of School tote bag, blanket, and hat. He was thrilled and wore the hat all night long, including at post-School activities at Wildflowers!
1984 30th Reunion

Bill Thompson is “living the dream in Newton, MA.” He has taken advantage of a new opportunity, working for John Hancock’s Retirement Plan Services as a divisional sales director in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. He and his wife, Kim Budd, celebrated their eighteenth wedding anniversary in February 2014. They have two sons, Evan (11) and Will (14), and Bill enjoys coaching the boys in football and basketball.

1987

Jill Wheeler Scott is working as a literacy coach at an elementary school in Bloomington, IN. In addition, she teaches a reading course at Indiana University’s School of Education. Married, with two daughters ages 10 and 8, she is looking forward to returning for Alumni Weekend because her niece is attending The Pennington School.

1988

Matt Colender says, “What a long, strange trip it’s been.” He provides a photo of the “varsity members of the 1987–88 party team at the Interlocken Music Festival in Arrington, VA, lounging at the campsite. The group would like to thank Pennington for the framework to discover the true joy of lifelong friendships.”

1989 25th Reunion

Jeff Rothstein and his family are living in Atlanta. Jeff works at Cliff Valley School, where he has been the head of middle school and director of athletics. His wife, Rachel, is a chef and caterer, and their children—Ryder (5) and Juliette (4)—“are having a great time in school and at home on the Rothstein ‘Farm’ with our eight gardens and small flock of chickens.”

1990

Sandy Durst has started his own law firm focused on family law, the Durst Firm, in Princeton, NJ.

1995

In October 2013 Michelle Boudreau and her husband bought their first house in Jackson, NJ, and Michelle gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Gabriella Irene Ortiz. “She’s been keeping us on our toes since the day she was born!”

Lindsey Devins Kline was married on March 21, 2010, and gave birth to a baby girl, Mia, on July 22, 2011. Lindsey is living in Coral Springs, FL, and is currently a stay-at-home mother. She was expecting a baby boy in February 2014.

1996

Georgia Marcantonis has started an online bakery specializing in desserts that are dairy-free, egg-free, nut-free, and the like. www.thecupcakemarket.com
Sue Bose Stempek moved from metropolitan Atlanta to metropolitan Boston in 2012 to be closer to family. She and her husband are enjoying their jobs as physician assistants, Sue in critical care and her husband in orthopedics, “with a better work/life balance than we had previously. Our daughter, Catherine, turned 3 at the end of December, and we have a second baby, a boy, due in early April. I got to see Molly Fitzgibbon and Michelle Naffziger-Hirsch when I was in Chicago for a conference at the end of October.”

Alica Kizeková finished her Ph.D. this year and moved to Europe from Australia. As of February 1, she was assuming a position as assistant professor at the Metropolitan University, Prague. She will continue to hold her honorary fellowship at the Faculty of Society & Design, Bond University, Gold Coast, Australia. http://apps.bond.edu.au/staff/profile.asp?s_id=274

1997
Patty Boger McCallum currently lives in West Chester, PA, with her husband, Todd, and their five-year-old daughter, Peyton, and two-year-old son, Ryan. She works as a Sales Executive for Cisco Capital.

Kyle Culver graduated with her doctorate in clinical psychology in May. She is currently living in Salt Lake City, UT, working as a post-doc fellow in pediatric psychology at Primary Children’s Hospital. She hopes to return back east after her fellowship is over.

In September while in town for a wedding, Rob Bateman and his brother Scott ‘99 stopped by the Pennington pool to say hello to Coach George Ward ‘88. Rob swam at Lafayette College and was captain of their swim team; Scott swam at the University of Michigan. Both were very impressed with all the changes on campus. George notes that the Bateman brothers “helped put the Pennington swim program on the map by contributing to the boys’ first-ever State Championship in 1996.”

1999 15th Reunion
See the Class of 1997 note for news and a photo of Scott Bateman.

Elizabeth Clement Gould and her husband, Lee, have two children: Bryer (4) and Edie (1) and are living in Philadelphia. Elizabeth teaches Pre-K in the city, and Lee teaches science in Phoenixville.

2000
Shane Ennis was recently selected by Philadelphia Magazine as a 2013 Five Star Professional Wealth Manager. Five Star Professional recognizes top wealth managers in the Philadelphia area who rated highest in quality service and overall client satisfaction. Shane is a financial consultant with Janney Montgomery Scott.

2002
Blair-Ashley Kline Grillo and Andrew Grillo were married on September 21, 2013, at the Camden Yacht Club in Maine. They are living in West Chester, PA, where they recently purchased a home.

Doug Whittlesey now lives in Lebanon, NH, where he works for the Children’s Hospital at Dartmouth as an associate practice manager. He and his wife, Lauren, welcomed their first child, Talia Kayte Whittlesey, on May 30. In addition, Doug is pursuing his M.B.A. through UNC’s Kenan-Flagler School of Business and playing hockey in the local adult league.

2003
Timothy Johnson III was a groomsman in the wedding of Robert Wong and Celina Cheng in July 2013.

2005
Julia Bruskin writes that “2013 was a busy but amazing year! I’m currently living and working abroad in London with my fiancé. We love traveling around Europe when we’re not working, and we have begun planning our wedding. Hopefully, we’ll be back next spring for my ten-year reunion (I can’t believe it’s gone that fast!).”

2007
Buddy Gardineer is currently a second-year graduate student in mechanical engineering at Stanford and loving it. In September he founded a company with his roommates called Running Farm Labs, which makes innovative desktop speakers crafted from hardwood and stainless steel. Lisa Houston would be happy to know that he’s also dabbling in acting while out at Stanford, his most recent role being Gideon Gray in the new web series Higher Education. You can check it out at www.HigherEducationSeries.com!

Gulsun “Gu” Cavusoglu recently finished her two service years with City Year Greater Philadelphia and has moved to Pittsburgh to go to graduate school at the University of Pittsburgh. She will be pursuing her Master of Social Work degree, concentrating in community organizing and social administration.

2008
Ned Luke works as a partnership coordinator for the New Jersey Devils ice hockey team.

Gabriella Jackson is a Registered Nurse at the University of Maryland Medical Center.
Meghan Kyle is in a graduate doctoral program at Argosy University, in Washington, DC. She is working toward a doctorate in clinical psychology and then plans to continue training to become a neuropsychologist.

2009 5th Reunion

Jacob Levy was graduated from Syracuse with a degree in entrepreneurship and marketing. Before leaving Syracuse he helped start an Eye-to-Eye chapter, just as he did at Pennington. He took a six-month internship with the owners of two Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory franchises and has been working as their management assistant. “This opportunity has given me invaluable experience in everything it takes to run a small business, as well as a franchise. During my internship we acquired another location, as well as moved one of our current locations, so I was able to learn an immense amount about business and actually put my degree to work.”

Alex Schwartz was graduated from the University of Miami in December with a double major in broadcast journalism and sport administration. He has recently accepted a position within the broadcasting department of the Miami Marlins.

2010

In January Dontae Johnson became the School’s first-ever member to play in the Senior Bowl, the college football all-star game which showcases the best NFL Draft prospects among those collegiate players who have completed their college eligibility. A senior at North Carolina State (the Wolfpack), he led the Pack with three interceptions this past season, and was second on the team with a career-best 82 tackles. He started the first five games at cornerback, but due to Pack injuries, he started the last seven games at safety. Over his last two seasons, Dontae started all 25 games in the Pack’s secondary. The 2014 Senior Bowl was held Jan. 25 in Mobile, AL, and was televised on the NFL Network.

Alexandra “Ali” Crivelli spent her summer interning at the Museum of Chinese in America in New York City. She worked in the development and curatorial departments, researching Chinatown’s history and current Asian-American artists, and updating the museum’s fundraising database.

Billy Hawkey was named to the 2013 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/Continental Tire All-America Team. Billy, who was honored as the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) Player of the Year recently, earned third team accolades for the Camels. He has been named to the NSCAA All-Region team in each of the past two seasons for the College. A Dean’s List student majoring in psychology, he has been honored for his excellence in the classroom on the NESCAC All-Academic Team.

Harold Spears, a junior tight end for the University of New Hampshire, has been recognized as a “key player for the Wildcats.”

2011

Alexandra Hiple is majoring in English and environmental studies at St. Lawrence University and just completed a study abroad program in the fall.

Alix Samuel is studying abroad in Dublin this semester with Stephanie Moses. “We met and became instant lifelong best friends on the first day of freshman year at Pennington. She attends Boston University, and I attend the University of Michigan, and we are exuberant that we will be spending the semester together in Dublin!”

2012

Morgan Huth stopped by campus during Homecoming. She is a zoology major at North Carolina State University.

2013

English teacher Bill Hutnik reports that he and Jesse Van Marter (his former advisee, water polo player, and English I student) met in New York City on a recent Friday night. The plan: dinner at Virgil’s Barbecue, and Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night on Broadway. They are pictured at the show, and Mr. Hutnik reports that Jesse is “doing fabulously at Columbia.”

Chris Pibl, Connor Donovan, Michael Keating, Jay Boozan and Pat Nelson ’14 are pictured celebrating one of the great college rivalries: Lehigh vs. Lafayette.
In Memoriam

With sadness we remember the following members of the Pennington community who died since publication of our previous magazine:

- Daniel F. Maloney ’39
- J. Bruce Dunlop ’49
- Norman A. Martin ’48
- John F. Stalb, Jr. ’50
- Glenn A. Pike ’63
- Barbara Casper P’64
- Gordon L. Youngs P’64
- Florence Barrett Maunula P’68 ’77 ’79 *
- Anna Maria McGann S’42 P’70 GP’03 ’05 ’13
- Abraham Young P’70 ’72 GP’87 ’89
- Bruce J. Moore ’73
- P. R. Gale P’79
- William R. Booz, Jr. ’77
- Mary Lou Shaffer Potts GP’81 ’83
- Lillian T. Birk GP’91
- Richard Mylowe P’96
- Julie M. Erdie GP’99
- Anthony L. Frazier ’00
- Jeffrey Kornblau P’02
- Iris Immordino GP’03
- Kenneth Kenning GP’06 ’16
- Harry King GP’06 ’11 ’18 ’20
- James Suyo P’08
- Mary Van Marter GP’13
- Susan DeChirico GP’11 ’14
- Joan Pitarresi GP’14
- W. Alexander Thomas ’15
- Priscilla Haddock GP’16 ’18
- Thomas Kugelman GP’18
- Laura Stauffer *
- Olive B. Van Dyke *

(P-Parent; GP-Grandparent; S-Spouse; * Former Faculty/Staff
(list as of February 12, 2014)

CLASS Notes

Patrik Devlin is a freshman soccer player at Connecticut College and was one of two freshmen chosen for First Team All-NESCAC.

BucksLocalNews.com reports that Bucknell first-year goalkeeper Jessica Ratner earned her first career solo shutout and her first two collegiate wins this season and was rewarded with Brine Patriot League Rookie of the Week honors.

Hannah Sherman has received the Learning Ally National Achievement Special Honors Award. She is one of several students from across the United States who will receive cash awards of $2,000 in recognition of their academic excellence, leadership, and service to others. While at Pennington, Hannah mentored middle school students with learning disabilities through Project Eye to Eye. She is a freshman at American University in Washington, DC, and plans a career in law and justice.

Faculty

Pictured with their spouses in October 2013 at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, are former faculty members Dee Spera and Carol Bentley. Dee and Carol were faculty members at Pennington for over twenty years, and the Bentleys and Speras are also parents of Pennington graduates. Since retiring, the families reunite at Disney World several times a year.

(Left to right) Art and Carol Bentley P’91, Dee and Frank Spera P’89
When were you last on campus? Has it been 5, 10, 25, or even 50 years? However long it may have been, now is the time to start thinking about your return to Pennington for a weekend with fellow alumni, current students, and favorite faculty!

A special ceremony to break ground on the new Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building is planned, in addition to many other fun activities and events for the whole family.

This will be an Alumni Weekend like no other. Come home, find your friends, and celebrate with us!

FRIDAY, MAY 16
6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Old Guard Celebration
Alumni who graduated forty years ago or more are invited to the celebration. Corson House

8:00 p.m.
Informal Gathering for Alumni
Location to be determined

SATURDAY, MAY 17
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Registration
Alumni Weekend Headquarters on O’Hanlon Green

10:00 to 11:00 a.m
Alumni Memorial Service
An interfaith service will commemorate the lives of members of the School community who died during the past year. Pennington United Methodist Church 60 South Main Street

11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Groundbreaking Ceremony for Kenneth Kai Tai Yen Humanities Building
Construction site adjacent to O’Hanlon Green

12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
Red Raider All-Alumni Luncheon/State of the School Address and Order of the Tower Presentation
Reminisce about your time at Pennington over lunch; special recognition for alumni celebrating milestone reunion years ending in 4 and 9. Dining Hall

1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
Networking Event
Mingle, pass business cards, and connect with alumni from across industries. Campus Center

2:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Athletic Hall of Fame Presentation
Sparks Memorial Gymnasium lobby

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.
Alumni/Varsity Sporting Events and Competitions
Alumni will have the opportunity to play with some of our varsity teams in friendly, casual games. Various locations

Upper School Art Exhibition
See the work of some of our very creative students. Silva Gallery of Art

Drama Department Event
Enjoy a dramatic performance by our talented students. Diane T. McLarty “Blackbox” Theater

Faculty/Alumni Forums
Engage with faculty to learn what interesting topics are being discussed in the classroom; hear from alumni in various fields as they share their professional and personal experiences after Pennington. Various locations

4:30 to 7:00 p.m.
All-Alumni Barbecue Celebration
All returning alumni are invited to join Head of School Penny Townsend and her husband, Mike Townsend, at their home for a barbecue immediately following the alumni athletic contests.

BRING THE FAMILY!
Children’s events and activities throughout the day.

For an up-to-date schedule of events, information about accommodations, and to register online, please visit www.pennington.org/alumni

Any questions? Contact Director of Alumni Affairs Matt Curry ’97 by email at mcurry@pennington.org or by calling 609-737-6144.

Adults $20
Young Alumni $10 (Classes of 1999 and later)
Students/Children No charge

Cost includes all the weekend events.
Join us for a fabulous day of golf on this excellent course. All proceeds from the Classic support scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to attend The Pennington School.

For more information, please contact Rob McClellan at rmcclellan@pennington.org or by phone at 609–737-6126.

Thank you to our GOLD Sponsors!

SCHOLARSHIP GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY JUNE 16, 2014
The Bedens Brook Club
Skillman, NJ