

Spring/Summer 2018

PENNINGTON

M A G A Z I N E



Oh, the Places They'll Go!

Homecoming 2018

October 19–20



upcoming Events 2018

JUNE

25: Summer Programs begin

AUGUST

2: Alumni/Parent Event in Atlantic City
25: Varsity athletic preseason begins
25–26: Drama preseason

SEPTEMBER

4: Upper School orientation for all Grade 9 and new student families
4–5: Middle School LAUNCH
5: Upper School classes begin
6: Middle School classes begin
7: Convocation at 7:00 p.m.

OCTOBER

19–20: Homecoming and Reunions
21: Admission Open House

NOVEMBER

7–10: Fall Play
12: Fall Concert
19–23: Thanksgiving Break
24: Winter Alumni Games
29: NYC Alumni Holiday Reception

DECEMBER

15: HomeFront Holiday Party
21–Jan. 7: Winter Break

Headmaster

William S. Hawkey, Ph.D.

Editor

Lori G. Lipsky

Director of Communications and Marketing

llipsky@pennington.org

609-737-6156

Communications Team

Lisa O. Aliprando

A. Melissa Kiser

Kimberly Palmucci

Director of Admission and Financial Aid

Sharon Jarboe

Assistant Headmaster for Strategic Initiatives

Charles D. Brown

Contributing Writers

Patrick Alford '11, Margo Andrews, Jane Bott Childrey '89, Dolores Eaton, Caroline Hall, Kathleen Horsley '18, Lisa Houston, Suzanne Houston, Lissa Kiser, Elisabeth Krebs, Lori Lipsky, Jamie Moore '03, Kimmy Palmucci, Jessie Shaffer, Samantha Stern-Leaphart, Blair Thompson, Aaron Twitchell, Robbi Uzupis, Lori Washton P'20

Contributing Photographers

Margo Andrews, Lida Castro, Dolores Eaton, Bill Hawkey, Lisa Houston, Jim Inverso, Lissa Kiser, Keri Marino, Elisabeth Krebs, Lori Lipsky, Rob McClellan, Jamie Moore '03, Todd Paige, Kimmy Palmucci, Laura Pedrick, Tim Scott, Mike Schwartz, Jessie Shaffer, Jeffrey Totaro, Lori Washton P'20, Susan Wirsig

Printing

Prism Color Corporation

The Pennington School

112 West Delaware Avenue

Pennington, NJ 08534

609-737-1838

www.pennington.org

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Cover photograph by Jim Inverso

features

4. Alumni Weekend

Despite rainy weather, it was great to see so many familiar faces back on campus!

12. Community Day

A guest speaker started off a day of reflection and service.

20. Faculty Spotlight

Five faculty members are recognized for special achievements this spring.

21. Maker Faire

Pennington's first annual Maker Faire offered activities and presentations related to science and technology to the larger community.

22. School Year Aboard

Find out how spending a year boarding at Pennington can better prepare you for college and for life.

24. Board of Trustees News

We welcome four new members and thank five for their service.

26. Middle School News

Grades 6–8 celebrate kindness, participate in service projects, win academic and athletic competitions, and more.

33. Hardship and Hope

Ten students travel to Haiti on our annual service trip to bring much-needed medical supplies to rural communities.

50. Parents for Pennington

Our parents association created new opportunities for parents and supported many School initiatives with its successful fundraising.

50. Island Time

On a new trip to the Island School in Eleuthera, students enjoyed hands-on lessons about sustainability, aquaponics, snorkeling, spelunking, and more.

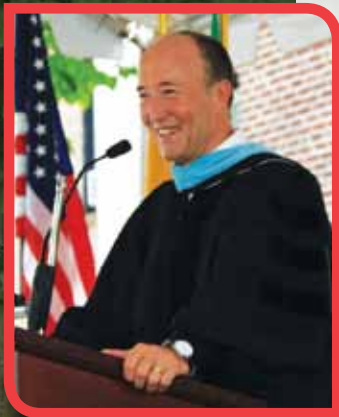


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As I write this letter, I am thinking about the graduation of the Class of 2018 from our Upper School and the Class of 2022 from our Middle School and the close of another school year at Pennington. This is the end of my thirty-sixth year at Pennington and my fourth as headmaster, and I find myself feeling both very proud of where we are as an educational institution and community and excited about what lies ahead for the future at The Pennington School.

Envisioning Pennington's Future: A New Strategic Plan

Our latest strategic plan was designed in 2010, when it was decided that our priority was to build an academic building for the humanities as well as to renovate/update existing classrooms in Stainton Hall and Old Main. We celebrated the success of our most recent comprehensive campaign this past fall, and the last of the physical campus work under that plan will be completed by December. But after stopping to smell the newly planted flowers, we took a quick breath and set our sights on envisioning the future for Pennington.

Now we are in the midst of gathering survey feedback from all of you to help us develop ideas to consider for the future. Ultimately, this strategic planning process will help us decide how to allocate our resources and determine the best path for prioritizing new initiatives. We aim to uncover new ways for our Pennington students to be well served in the ever-changing landscape of higher education. We are studying every area of our operation, including Curriculum, Enrollment, Faculty Excellence, Financial Sustainability, Physical Campus, and the Student Experience. We plan to share the results of the surveys with you in the fall, and by January 2019, we hope to present our recommendations for our 2019 Strategic Plan to the Board of Trustees, and then to all of you.

I can't predict what the outcome of our planning process will be, but I am working with the finest team of colleagues I could hope for, and I can guarantee that we will deliver the best possible experience for Pennington students now—and in the future.

I hope you have a relaxing and rejuvenating summer, and I look forward to seeing all of our new and returning students on campus this fall!

Sincerely,

Dr. William S. Hawkey
Headmaster

Alumni Weekend 2018

May 18–19

1. Dennis Keating '79 surprised us with a visit when his plane to Florida was delayed. **2.** Students worked to serve snacks all day in the Bird Feeder at Pennington Day festivities in town. **3.** Kristen Lubsen '05 loved Nina's Waffles and Ice Cream. **4.** Hunter Archer '19 enjoys the wiffle ball game. **5.** Marcello Tosti '07 and Thomas Horsley '17 compete in the LAX alumni game. **6.** Diana Bonilla '16 warmly greets a friend. **7.** Henry Sheeran '14, Hayden McGovern '14, Charlie Sproul '14, and Bethany Reim '15 enjoying the Alumni Cabaret Show **8.** Suzanne Houston, Steve Trimble, and the faculty band playing at the all-School barbecue **9.** Rain isn't going to stop Hannah Fingerman '17 and Max Lomas '17 from reuniting with friends and faculty. **10.** Sabrina Tucci '16, Sophia Sansone '16, Emma Kramer '16, and Marissa Tucci '16 **11.** Alumni LAX game **12.** Alumni Ultimate Frisbee game **13.** Alumni Soccer match **14.** Fran Iucolino '18, Lewis Hurd '18, and Kaela Colyar '18 enjoying the all-School barbecue **15.** Lisa and Peter Tucci P'16 '16 and Karen and Bill Hawkey P'10 '12 '20 **16.** Indoor Bubble Soccer **17.** Dr. Hawkey gave an impromptu tour of the campus to visiting alumnae.





Pennington Giving Day: *The Power of Pennington Parents*



On April 12, the Pennington community came together in support of our third annual Pennington Giving Day, blowing past our goal of \$150,000 by more than 27 percent to raise \$191,970 from 407 donors.

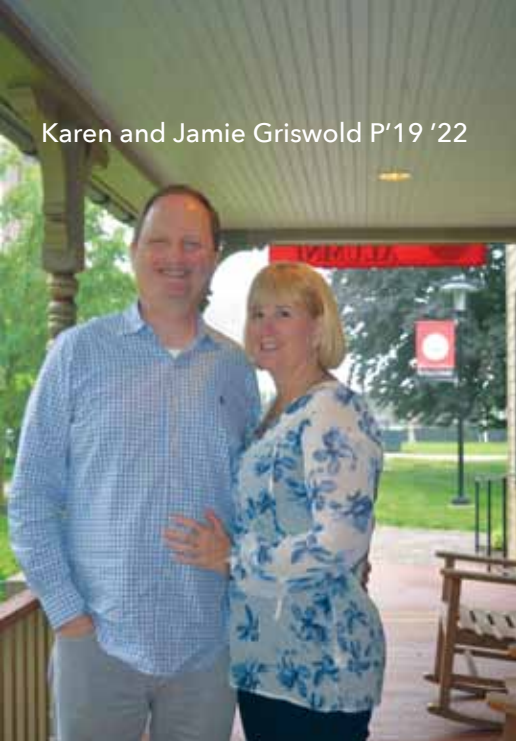
A tremendous surge of support this year came from Pennington parents, who accounted for 63 percent of all gifts made, thanks in large part to Karen and Jamie Griswold P'19'22, who matched every new parent gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$15,000. This challenge alone encouraged 42 new parents to give to Pennington, just over one-third of all new families—a 62 percent increase from last year.

The Griswolds, like so many other Pennington parents, don't have many idle minutes in their day. Two careers, new business ventures, and their philanthropic interests constantly battle for their

attention above and beyond parenting daughters Mary '19 and Kirsten '22. But the Griswolds resolutely set time aside to support and engage with The Pennington School.

Both Mary and Kirsten graduated from Chapin School and went through the rigorous process of researching and applying to high schools. Their parents already knew that there are many highly reputed independent schools within driving distance of their home in Hunterdon County, not to mention a small public high school that was recognized as one of the inaugural Future

Karen and Jamie Griswold P'19 '22



Ready Schools in 2017 by the State of New Jersey for its strong commitment to preparing its students for success in college, career, and citizenship.

But their search was sweetly short. "It just clicked for us here," Karen says of Pennington. "At Chapin we met successful Pennington graduates. We thought they were good role models for our daughters. Pennington felt like home and we felt it immediately." Her husband agrees, adding,

"I felt that Pennington's commitment to honor, virtue, and humility was in line with our own values as a family..."

and with what we experienced at Chapin with its five virtues—respect, responsibility, honesty, kindness, and

perseverance." Karen recites these along with him.

Ultimately, Mary and Kirsten made their own decision about that "perfect match" when it came to high school. Both girls, at their parents' request, had to make a solid presentation as to why The Pennington School was the right fit. Karen admits that Mary was nervous. An accomplished athlete, Mary was told by her parents that the nationally ranked girls' soccer program could not be her top reason for picking Pennington. And Kirsten could not include having her big sister at Pennington as one of her main reasons for wanting to attend. Karen recalls Kirsten's fifteen-point presentation. Top on the list? The sense of community she felt (especially after Revisit Day), the breadth of academic choices available to her, the wide variety of extracurricular activities, and global study opportunities.

The Griswolds are on campus often.

"This is our community," Karen says: "We want to attend all kinds of events, not just athletic games. We have so much fun seeing other parents.

It's such a welcoming community, and you just want to be a part of it."

Last year, current parents accounted for 55 percent of gifts made to the Pennington Fund—more than half a million dollars. Additionally, \$130,000 more was donated by parents of Pennington

alumni. The Griswolds understand the important message these numbers convey and compare it to the 100 percent of Pennington's teaching faculty who also give to the Pennington Fund. As Karen says,

"The commitment level of faculty and staff is enormous here. It tells us they are just as committed to our children as we are."

It was easy for the Griswolds to come forward as challenge donors for new parents on Pennington Giving Day. "We have seen firsthand at other organizations how effective a challenge is," Jamie says. "It inspires others to do the extra good." Jamie also stresses that the amount of the gift is not what matters most. "We understand the desire to want to give—not just in dollars but for participation. The participation indicates the level of commitment to the community itself."

Pennington Giving Day was an all-around success. In addition to the Griswolds, three alumni from the classes of '71, '84, and '86 challenged fellow Pennington alumni to participate by together donating \$25,000. All four of the challenge donors helped Pennington surpass its goals, both in dollars raised and number of donors.

We thank everyone who participated and all who continue to support the School and its students. Pennington is committed to providing individual excellence. We are able to continue doing this because of you.

407 donors

\$191,970.00
DOLLARS
raised



support up
27%
from last
year's goal

Special Events



1. Varsity Girls' Basketball captured the championship at the 14th Annual John Molinelli Holiday Classic on December 28.



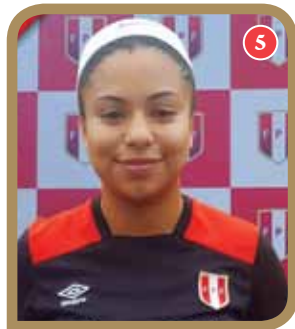
2. Molly Nelson '20, Anna McLaughlin '18, Lexi Lepold '20, and (back row, L to R) Grace Kavulich '18, Olivia Heimann '20, Sophia Amaro '20, and Maddie Fox '21 meet *Once on This Island*'s star, Hailey Kilgore, at the stage door following the performance.



3. Michael Massimino is a former NASA astronaut, an actor on *The Big Bang Theory*, and the host of the TV show *The Planets*. Currently a professor at Columbia University, the very entertaining Massimino spoke at Pennington on April 26 as part of the Applied Science Speaker Program.



4. Seniors presented their elective Civil Rights and Liberties talks in the Wesley Forum during the week of January 9. Topics included religious freedom, Wikileaks, veterans' civil rights, environmental justice, and more.



5. Senior Megan Porras has been named to the Peruvian Women's Under-20 National Soccer Team and will participate in the upcoming 2018 CONMEBOL South American U-20 Women's Championship.



6. The annual Beat Poetry Reading took place in the Wesley Forum on January 10. Thirty seniors performed original work inspired by their senior English elective, *The Beats and Their Influence*.



7. In January, junior elective Middle East History classes presented a two-round panel discussion in the Stainton Hall Lecture Center on how the United States can achieve "success" in Afghanistan. Attendees posed questions to the students, who had researched this topic extensively.



8. Sophomore U.S. History-Honors students portrayed Civil War characters in the Wesley Forum. All were welcome to witness and hear what life was like during and after the Civil War for twenty-eight unique individuals from all walks of life.

Spring 2018

9. Several student artists were featured at the 2018 Phillips' Mill Youth Art Exhibition in New Hope, PA.



10. The Pennington School welcomed John van Stekelenborg P'18 as part of the Applied Science Speaker Program on January 26, in the Wesley Forum.



11. The School's third Global Studies speaker, Rich Brown, delivered a presentation on January 26, about migration in Guatemala and how migrants regularly risk their lives, and sometimes lose them, to reach the U.S. from Central America.

12. Adem Bunkeddeko '05, a candidate in the New York Democratic primary for the ninth congressional district, delivered a Stephen Crane Lecture to members of the Pennington community on January 30.



13. On February 7, The Pennington School honored seniors who had already made athletic commitments to colleges or universities for next year.

14. Donors gathered at the annual Chair of the Board Society reception, which took place on January 26.



15. The Pennington School welcomed Tara Seymour on February 9, as part of the School's Applied Science Speaker Program. Seymour delivered a presentation regarding her Movement and the Molecular course at Wake Forest University.



16. During the first week in February, The Pennington School celebrated the Lunar New Year!



17. Students and faculty from the School's Sustainability Committee attended an all-day conference on February 23, titled "Ripe for the Picking: Repurposing Wasted Resources in the Food Chain, from People to Plate." The conference was hosted by Princeton University.



More Special Events – Spring 2018

18. The Pennington School welcomed Susan Harris P'19 on March 2, as part of the Applied Science Speaker Program. Harris gave a presentation on leading teams to solve problems in a STEM world.

19. On February 27, the School hosted a Girls in STEM dinner for girls in grades eight through twelve. The evening focused on innovation and entrepreneurship and began with a keynote speaker, followed by dinner with an entrepreneur at a round table.

20. The Pennington School welcomed entrepreneur Rebecca Rescate on February 27, as a part of the Applied Science Speaker Program.

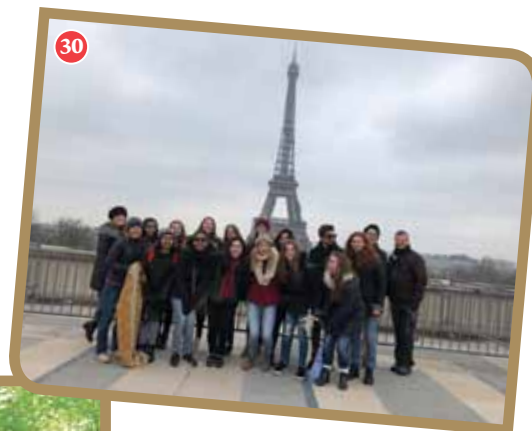
21. World Math Day took place on March 6. World Math Day is a forty-eight-hour period of time when an estimated four million students from around the world compete in one-minute games testing arithmetic and numeracy skills.

22. Students from Pennington's AP U.S. Government classes got a firsthand look at the state legal system when they visited the Supreme Court of New Jersey in Trenton on April 9.

23. English II-Honors students experienced Broadway's *Children of a Lesser God*.

24. College Guidance hosted over 140 college and university reps at the annual College Fair for juniors, this year on April 18 and 19.





25. The Class of '19 sponsored a miniTHON on April 14, which along with the Middle School miniTHON on April 6, raised over \$25,000 for pediatric cancer research.

26. Mind reader Robert Channing dazzled students on April 20.

27. The sophomore class visited the Blairstown Center in April as part of the new sophomore character development and leadership program.

28. Middle and Upper School students kicked off our StreamWatch collaboration with the Watershed Institute this spring by sampling for

benthic macroinvertebrates in Lewis Brook. They looked under rocks and used nets to collect snails, dragonfly nymphs, blood midges, aquatic worms, leeches, and water beetles to determine the stream's water quality.

29. Past parents had a chance to reminisce and reconnect with Dr. Hawkey and each other at Corson House on May 3.

30. Sixteen Pennington students of French went to Paris during Spring Break on a language and cultural excursion for twelve days as part of an exchange program with Lycée Bossuet de Meaux. The second half of the exchange will take place

October 14-27, when a group of French students will come and visit us to attend Pennington classes and tour places of interest.

31. On May 22, Pennington students working in New York City as part of the entrepreneurship group had the opportunity to ring the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange!

32. Prom was held on May 26, at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

Community Day 2018



A School-wide Community Day took place on Friday, April 27

Community Day 2018 focused on working on ourselves and helping others. The day started with a presentation from Alex Scott. Her message focused on the importance of unconditional love for oneself and others in order to build welcoming school communities. After her presentation, students broke into family groups and participated in activities where they were invited to share their stories and get to know one another on a deeper level.

After lunch, students and faculty worked hard performing community service projects on and off campus, including assisting local homeowners with household chores, cleaning up nearby parks, assisting at HomeFront, working in the campus garden, doing trail restoration, building maintenance, urban garden work, and invasive species mitigation. They also established new partnerships with some wonderful organizations, including ISLES of Trenton, Eastern Service Workers Association, Unicorn Therapeutic Riding, and Painted Oak Nursery School. We received reports full of appreciation from residents and organizations, who said our teachers and students worked hard, treated all with respect, and represented the School well.

The entire School community gathered in Sparks Gymnasium for a closing meeting, during which students were welcome to express their thoughts about the day. Many students spoke about their gratitude for this time together and their appreciation for Pennington's loving spirit. Students felt empowered by their peers to keep working on making Pennington an even more accepting community.





Upper School Athletics

WINTER 2017–18

Senior captain Carly Rice became the third female in School history to score 1,000 points this season. Rice helped lead the Red Raiders to the School's first NJISAA Prep A State Championship as well as a spot in the Mercer County Tournament championship final. She also eclipsed Maggie Marquis '03's record of 1,275 career points set in 2003. Rice ends her Pennington career with 1,412 points.

Girls' Basketball

Coaches: Jeff Eckerson and Holly Jones

The Girls' Basketball team had the most successful season in School history. After starting the season at 4–2, the team rode an eighteen-game winning streak all the way to the Mercer County Tournament Championship game. A four-point loss in that game did not hold the girls down for long. They rebounded to earn a 62–49 victory in the Prep A State Championship game. The victory was the team's third straight state championship, with the first two coming in Prep B. The team was led by senior captains Carly Rice and Ayanna Johnson, who helped make Pennington Girls' Basketball one of the strongest programs in Mercer County. Rice leaves as the leading female scorer in the history of the School, with 1,412 career points, and Johnson was one of the most dominant rebounders and shot-blockers in the area. Both Rice and Johnson will be missed by their teammates and coaches, but their

dedication and leadership will be evident as the younger players from the team this year step into larger roles during the 2018–19 season and beyond.



Boys' Basketball

Coaches: Bernie Gurick and Chandler Fraser-Pauls '11

This year's team showed a great deal of improvement as the season progressed. With a difficult schedule to start the year, the players were determined to work diligently to improve their individual skills in order to benefit the team concept. The team showed a great deal of improvement from November to February. At one point during the second half of the season, the team won eight games in a row, including wins over Hamilton High West, Princeton Day School, Germantown Academy, and Montclair Kimberley. The boys eventually made it to the Prep B State Championship game, where they played with heart. Unfortunately, after regulation and three overtime sessions, the team could not pull off the upset to number-one seed Morristown Beard. This team should take a great deal of pride in what it accomplished this winter season.



Winter Track

Coaches: Rick Ritter and Emily Kalkus

It is not unusual for most of the competitions during the indoor season to be composed of larger, invitational meets rather than head-to-head meets against one or two other schools. That was even more the case this season as weather and scheduling conflicts led to cancellations of some of the latter. The trials and experience of those larger competitions paid off in the end, as we finished the season quite well. Individually, many personal records were established, not the least of which were Emily Moini's PRs, which happen to be new Pennington School records as well. Those came in the 1,600 meter, 1 mile, and 3,200 meter runs. On a truly high note, the boys' team won its third State Championship in a row!

Ice Hockey

Coaches: Chris Barless and Tom Horsley

Goalie Coach: Kimberly Palmucci

Pennington Ice Hockey finished the 2018 season with its best overall record in the past several years, 7–8–2. Two victories in the last week of regular season play



bolted the Red Raiders from fifth to third place in the Independent Hockey League and earned them a spot in the league playoffs. Led by seniors Charlie Kovalcik, Sidney Spencer, and Kathleen Horsley, the team skated its way to an exciting semifinal win over Episcopal Academy before falling to Germantown Academy in the finals. In an equally courageous effort, the Pennington Ice Hockey team came from three goals behind to defeat a scrappy Lawrence High team in the first round of the Mercer County Tournament. Although they did not make it past the next round, Pennington players took pride in the fact that they were knocked out of both postseason tournaments by the eventual tournament champions.

The Red Raiders played with a short bench for the entire season, but their high-tempo style of play allowed them to challenge most of their opponents and provide exciting and memorable games for their fans. Juniors Matt Reilly and Logan Harris, as well as freshman Bill Bernal, earned first-team recognition for their play during the regular season. Seniors Kovalcik and Spencer and junior Alex Boczniewicz earned second- team recognition. There is

a great deal of excitement and enthusiasm for next year as the team returns its top two scorers and all-league goaltender.

Swimming

Coaches: George Ward '88 and Scott Doughty; Maria Kane '09 and Marisa Ferrari

Varsity Swimming had its largest team of forty-nine swimmers. The girls' team was led by senior captains Kaela Colyar, Fran Iucolino, and Alyssa McDougall. The girls' team finished with a 6–1–1 dual meet record with an impressive win over Lawrenceville, a rare tie against crosstown rival Hopewell, and a second-place finish at girls' States for the B division, but third overall. The boys' team, led by junior captains Koray Ercan and Martin Lederman, finished 6–2 in dual meets, with a second-place finish at MCTs and a 2018 NJISAA State championship.

Nine new School records were written over all: six at Easterns (see related story) and, in other meets, in the 50 and 200 Free by Alexandra Stevens '19 and the 100 Fly by Jake McBride '19.





A Record-Breaking Season for Swimming!

Twenty-four Red Raiders excel at Easterns

Pennington's swimmers shattered School records and personal best times in what was arguably the greatest overall performance by the largest group the School has ever sent to the Eastern Interscholastic Swimming and Diving meet, at Franklin & Marshall College on February 16 and 17, 2018. Six new School records were set, as well as one new Easterns meet record in the 50 Free.

Pennington sent a record twenty-four swimmers to the prestigious Easterns meet. The finals on both Friday night and Saturday morning proved to be some of the best swims in program history. The girls scored an impressive 165 points and took eleventh overall, while the boys pulled in 216.5 points and an eleventh-place finish.

In addition to freshman David Curtiss's Easterns record swim in the Boys 50 Free, which also set a new School record, five other School records were broken. The new records are in the Boys 100 Free (also Curtiss); the Girls 100 Free (Alex Stevens '19); the Boys 200 Medley Relay (Ben Eckerson '21, Koray Ercan '19, Jake McBride '19, and Curtiss); the Boys 400 Free Relay (McBride, Oliver Gassman '21, Ercan, and Curtiss); and the Boys 100 Backstroke (Eckerson—although Ercan was close behind, also with a record-breaking time).

Ercan, McBride, Mina Shokoufandeh '19, and Grace McBride '18 all racked up personal best times. Season-best results were earned by Jenna Kollevoll '20 (Girls 100 Backstroke); Kollevoll, Shokoufandeh, Francesca Iucolino '18, and Stevens (Girls 200 Medley Relay); and Kollevoll, McBride, Harper Usiskin '20, and Stevens (Girls 400 Free Relay).

The students attending Easterns were seniors Kaela Colyar, Meg Gordon, Francesca Iucolino, Grace McBride, and Alyssa McDougall; juniors Koray Ercan, Sydney Gibbard, Martin Lederman, Jake McBride, Kate McKiernan, Casey Ort, Mina Shokoufandeh, and Alex Stevens; sophomores Jenna Kollevoll, Chris Long, Luke Musto, Ethan Rizzuto, and Harper Usiskin; and freshmen David Curtiss, Ben Eckerson, Oliver Gassmann, Bridget Lawn, Julia McDougall, and Liam Rodgers.

Curtiss makes All-American—a Pennington first

Standout Pennington swimmer David Curtiss '21 has set a National Independent School record for the 50 Meter Freestyle race with his time of 23.10, achieved at the Mercer County Swim Championships on January 27. The National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association (NISCA) announced the news during Pennington's Spring Break.



Upper School Athletic Awards Winter 2017–18

Varsity

Ice Hockey

Red Raider Award—Matthew Reilly '19

Coaches' Award—Sidney Spencer '18

100% Hustle Award—Charlie Kovalcik '18

Girls' Winter Track

Red Raider Award—Emily Moini '19

Stoker Award—Zoe Michaelson '18

Most Improved Award—Mona Eicheler '20

Boys' Winter Track

Coaches' Award—Blake Botelho '18

Stoker Award—Matt Paragamian '18

Most Improved Award—Lewis Hurd '18

Girls' Basketball

Red Raider Award—Ayanna Johnson '18

Red Raider Award—Carly Rice '18

Dean of Defense—Gianna Lucchesi '19

Boys' Basketball

Charles Schmutz Memorial Award—Mitch Phillips '18

100% Hustle Award—David Iorio '18

Coaches' Award—Chauncey Sterling '18

Boys' Swimming

Greatest Contribution Award—Koray Ercan '19

Coaches' Award—Martin Lederman '19

Red Raider Award—Jake McBride '19

Girls' Swimming

Greatest Contribution Award—Alyssa McDougall '18

Greatest Contribution Award—Francesca Iucolino '18

Red Raider Award—Alex Stevens '19

Junior Varsity

Girls' Basketball

Red Raider Award—Qjutian Gao '19

Coaches' Award—Xinyi Li '20

Boys' Basketball I

Red Raider Award—Ye Teng '19

Coaches' Award—John Paul Jeanes '18

Boys' Basketball II

Red Raider Award—Tarun Kumar '21

Red Raider Award—Ameer Hasan '20



Curtiss is the first Pennington swimmer to set a national independent school record, and the freshman finished the season with a time ranked fourth in the nation among all varsity high school swimmers. Curtiss's achievement automatically makes him an All-American—also a first for Pennington Swimming. Curtiss set two records at the NJISAA prep swim championships and one Easterns meet record this year, as well.

After Curtiss set the impressive county swim championship record, it seemed likely that it was also a record for independent schools within the United States. Before certifying the record, an engineering team (required by NISCA) measured the pool at West Windsor Plainsboro North High School, the site of the county swim championships, verifying that it met specifications. NISCA then announced Curtiss's national record among United States independent schools.

Outside of school, with his year-round Tri-Hampton YMCA swim team, Curtiss won the men's 50 Yard Free on April 6 at the 2018 YMCA Short Course National Championships in Greensboro, NC, with a personal best time of 19.75. Among YMCA swimmers, he is now second all-time in the event for fifteen-year-olds.

To see the official NISCA national records for yards and meters, please go to <https://niscaonline.org/Records/Male-Records>. Many of those listed either went to the Olympics or made Olympic trials.

Seussical the Musical



by Suzanne Houston

Seussical has a wonderful message about standing up for what you believe in, and making yourself be heard. That message is important for all of us, but especially for young people. It also reminds us that we are not alone in this world, in this universe of uncertainty and craziness. We have friends and allies, who sometimes feel worlds away on a speck of dust, but they are there. It reminds us that we should love ourselves as we are—even if we have only a one-feather tail.

Dr. Seuss presents us with worlds that seem so different from our own, but they are based in reality. He creates characters who are faced with difficult problems, and fears, and questions—and the outcomes don't always come easily and aren't always explained. And isn't that life? We are constantly faced with problems that seem insurmountable, scary, and unexplainable. Life rarely makes sense. We aren't always heard, or believed, or seen...or it certainly feels that way at times.

This winter, through our process, we didn't find all of the answers. But we were able (through snowstorms, illness, exams, and tragedy) to come together as a group. A family. We looked, we listened, we accepted, we questioned, we supported, and we were there for each other. And in this crazy, wacky world that feels more like a page from Seuss than like reality most days—that's what we can and should do every day.

Our production of *Seussical* featured dozens of spectacular costumes designed and built by our students. Each and every costume was a work of art. The production also featured scenic painting and incredible sets designed by our talented tech crew. The entire stage felt as though you had jumped into a book by Dr. Seuss!



Opposite page: Top—Jordan Matthews '20, as the Cat in the Hat, sings "How Lucky You Are"; Bottom left—The cast, led by Molly Nelson '20 as Jojo and Grace Colalillo '18 as Gertrude. Just think!; Bottom right—Nicco Grillo '18, as Horton, protects the egg.

This page: Upper left—Amira Henry '19 as the Sour Kangaroo; Upper right—Zhehao Tong '18 as General Genghis Khan Schmitz; Middle left—Mariel Abano '19 as Mrs. Mayor of Whoville; Middle right—Anna McLaughlin '20 and Olivia Heimann '20 as Thing 1 and Thing 2; Bottom—Megan Eckerson '19 as Amazing Mayzie



Bill Hutnik

The New Jersey Council of Teachers of English selected Pennington faculty member William Hutnik as its Outstanding English Language Arts Educator for 2018. Hutnik is honored for his creative, innovative, and collaborative work as a teacher. He is well-known to those of us at Pennington for designing collaborative lessons that inspire students to prize authentic self-expression and close reading of literature. The award was conferred at NJCTE's Annual Spring Conference on Saturday, March 24, at Montclair State University. As he accepted his award, Hutnik noted, "To continually be both student and teacher during a career is a gift. Each day there are multiple opportunities to learn from co-workers and students alike. Over the decades, I have learned many things: to listen more than lecture, and to ask more than answer; to value habits over homework, and progress over perfection." The award led to Hutnik's also receiving a NJ Governor's Award in Arts Education, presented on May 22. Hutnik was at the event to accept this honor, despite a grueling five days on the Appalachian Trail with a group of seniors completing their Horizon project immediately preceding the ceremony.

Wendy Morris

Our own beloved Latin teacher, Wendy Morris, has been selected to represent the United States at this year's FIH Masters World Cup on the US O-55 Women's Masters team in field hockey. USA Field Hockey announced the five U.S. Women's Masters Teams at the 2018 FIH Masters World Cup in February 2018. The tournament, held every two years, is taking

place this summer at the Club Egara in Terrassa, Spain, from July 27 to August 5. Over 140 national teams are expected to compete in age categories from over-35 to over-55. Team USA is sending five U.S. Women's Masters National Teams in the O-35, O-40, O-45, O-50, and O-55 age divisions. The O-45 team won the bronze medal at the last competition, so all the teams are aiming high this time around. Selection to these teams is highly competitive, with six trials held on the east and west coasts. We wish Morris the best of luck as she competes in Spain this summer!

Faculty Spotlight

Patrick Murphy '80

Pennington's associate director of Athletics, Patrick Murphy, was inducted into the Mercer County Soccer Hall of Fame on April 7, along with Headmaster Dr. William Hawkey. Both coaches were honored for their dedication to the Pennington Girls' Soccer program, one of the most successful programs in the nation. Murphy, a standout player for Pennington in his high school days, coached the boys' program from 1987 to 1994, winning three Prep State championships in a row. Hawkey began coaching the girls' program in 1984,

winning three state prep championships. Murphy joined Hawkey to coach the girls' team in 1997 and together they have won fifteen Prep State championships, nine Mercer County championships, and numerous Coaches of the Year awards.

Aaron Twitchell

Our Pennington School chaplain, the Rev. Aaron Twitchell, contributed to the recently-published book, *Intersections: Faith, Church, and the Academy*, which is available on amazon.com. The publisher notes, "This book shows the innovation and inspired engagement happening on United Methodist-related colleges and universities. While crafted to serve the needs of church leaders, administrators, and faculty, students are the most important audience for this volume, because they are best positioned to re-shape our world in ways that respond to the increased diversity within our communities." Contributors were asked to write about doing ministry in diverse and pluralistic academic settings. Twitchell's piece is an argument for establishing high standards of care for school chaplaincy, defining some of those standards, and providing some examples of best practices. As part of the promotion for the book, the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) hosted the Intersections Conference in Nashville, TN, March 23–25, 2018. Twitchell served as a panelist at the conference, which featured Eboo Patel, Ph.D., who founded Interfaith Youth Core, as the keynote speaker. Interfaith Youth Core promotes the idea that "religion should be a bridge of cooperation rather than a barrier of division."

First-ever Maker Faire!



The Pennington School hosted the first-ever **Mercer Bucks Mini Maker Faire** on Sunday, April 8.

Maker Faire 2018

Maker Faires are gatherings of fascinating, curious people who enjoy learning and who love sharing what they can do. They offer venues all over the United States and even internationally for these “makers,” from engineers to artists to scientists to crafters, to show inventions, experiments, and projects.

The Mercer Bucks Mini Maker Faire offered an opportunity to see creativity and innovation at its best. Pennington students led hands-on activities at some tables, and twenty juniors and seniors presented six of their own innovation projects at the Faire. There were two TED-style talks at the Maker Faire: Ricky Solorzano, co-founder and CEO at Allevi, explained how tissues are created through bio-printing and also what the future holds for bio-manufacturing, and Rebecca Rescate, founder of Rebecca Rescate Brands, shared her experience pitching two of her inventions on ABC's *Shark Tank*.

Makers who attended the event include Rcade Virtual Reality, Brian Patton's Social Robots, Bucks County Drones, Black Rocket Presents, Craig Trader's Chaos Machine, Advanced Solar Products, and many more. There were also sixteen different hands-on activities for kids and adults, including robot programming, painting, creating with 3D pens, and playing in a virtual world.



School Year **ABOARD!**

This year, The Pennington School is excited to offer our day students a fabulous new opportunity—spending one year on campus as a boarding student! There are a lot of reasons that you should consider taking advantage of this program.





Residential Life at Pennington: More fun. More independence. More preparation. More social opportunities. More adventures.

We believe boarding helps you prepare for college in unique ways. The Pennington School prepares its students well for the rigor of college academics. But boarding at Pennington is an invitation to do more, know more, and discover more about yourself. You'll become much more independent and gain self-confidence, knowing that you are ready for the experience of living away from home, within the warm Pennington community you already know and love.

Pennington students already have a great advantage over students at day schools. Our School offers robust activities every weekend, half of our teachers live on campus and are therefore accessible before and after school as well as on weekends, and our community is engaged on our campus seven days a week. But boarding students do have additional advantages that should not be underestimated: they learn time management skills, gain independence and self-confidence, have more access to campus facilities, form social relationships, gain experience living with a roommate in a dormitory, and learn life skills that will benefit them in college and beyond. Students see improvements in their grades because they have fewer distractions in the dorms than at home (plus evening study halls with teachers on hand!) and are better prepared overall for the emotional demands of college by living away from home.

In fact, in a 2017 TABS (The Association of Boarding Schools) study quoted by Forbes magazine, "78% of boarding school graduates felt well-prepared for the nonacademic aspects of college life, such as independence, social life, and time management, compared to 36% of private day and 23% of public school students." Boarding students are more likely to finish their college degrees, complete them in a shorter period of time, and are better prepared for work or graduate study. They also attend more selective colleges and universities.

Our new School Year Aboard program offers our students a one-year opportunity to gain these important skills, experience personal growth, and have fun with their fellow students in an atmosphere that is empowering, inspiring, and independent.

Find out more by contacting Sharon Jarboe, director of admission and financial aid, at sjarboe@pennington.org.

Advantages of boarding

Build self-reliance and independence

Learn to live with a roommate, control your time, and manage your money

More time with teachers

Live in a culturally diverse environment

Take advantage of evening study halls

Prepare for college life

Enjoy more social opportunities with regular weekend activities



Board of Trustees News

We are delighted to
welcome the four new
Trustees who joined
the Board on July 1.

The Reverend Dr. Virginia Cetuk, called Ginny, is the interim administrative pastor at the Princeton United Methodist Church. An ordained elder and a member of the Greater New Jersey Conference, she is a graduate of Lycoming College, Drew Theological School (M. Div.), and Princeton Theological Seminary (D. Min.). After serving as an associate pastor and then a hospice chaplain, she was appointed to Drew Theological School, where she was the associate dean for formation and vocation and associate professor of Christian ministry for thirty-five years, teaching courses on a variety of topics, including spiritual formation and care of

the dying and bereaved.

She has held a position on the board of directors of the United Methodist Communities (formerly the United Methodist Homes of NJ) for fifteen years: as the chair of the first strategic planning committee, on the executive committee, and as chair of the board for the past six years. She will step down from the board in September 2018 and was recently awarded *emerita* status.

Cetuk is married and has two sons, Russell and Mitchell, with her husband Norman. Her interests outside of ministry include reading, sewing, and gardening.

Jack Green III '71 is an industry trailblazer in both real estate and construction. Since its establishment in 2009, Jack Green Realty has remained in the top 5% of all Monmouth County real estate companies. Green's construction career spans decades, being on the forefront of environmentally sound construction, renewable energy, and historic renovations. He creates beautiful and balanced communities with a focus on innovative solutions and aesthetic value important for living and work. In 2016, Jack Green Construction built the Greater New Jersey United Methodist Conference Center,

located in Neptune, NJ. This building serves as the regional body and central office for professional staff and ministry for more than 550 congregations in New Jersey, as well as parts of New York and Pennsylvania. It is a place to help build communities that work, learn, meet, and pray together.

Green is a recognized leader. He has held many significant positions at the National Task Force to develop the first BOCA Energy Code, National Home Builders Association, Ocean Grove Chamber of Commerce, and the United Methodist Church of New Jersey. He has received the NJAR's Circle of Excellence Award® for Real Estate every year since 2009 for excellence in sales. Green and his wife, Val, reside in Ocean Grove. His two children and their families live in surrounding communities.

Jason Ridings '05 has served as a senior financial advisor and partner of the Scull-Ridings Group at Merrill Lynch Global Wealth Management since 2014. Prior to joining Merrill Lynch, Ridings was an investment banker with Ladenburg Thalmann & Co., Inc., Capital Markets Group in New York, NY. His responsibilities included company-specific analyses, financial and on-site due



diligence, analysis of company projections, and comparable company valuations to determine IPO pricing. During his time at Ladenburg, his team participated in raising more than \$23.9 billion in capital via 172 public transactions. Ridings began his career as an analyst with the Gordian Group, LLC, in New York, NY, a boutique investment banking firm focused on restructuring and mergers and acquisitions, where he prepared company valuations, precedent transactions analyses, debt capacity analysis, and recapitalization scenarios.

Ridings graduated from Roger Williams University and received a degree in criminal justice and business. He currently resides in Skillman, NJ, with his wife, Noelle, and two children, Grace and Charlie.

Erich Stegich P'21 is the founder and president of Signature Design and Construction, one of New York's premier full-service contractors. A dynamic and creative leader, Stegich personifies the entrepreneurial and creative spirit that is the hallmark of Signature Design and Construction. Starting with a friend's renovation fourteen years ago, Signature has evolved into a growing company of more than fifty professionals and

tradesmen. Prior to founding Signature, Stegich worked as corporate counsel for Manchester Technologies, where he directed all aspects of the legal, human resources, and compliance departments.

Stegich is a graduate of Lafayette College and holds a dual degree in art and law and government. He obtained his J.D. degree from St. John's University Law School. He is a member of the United States Green Building Council and the New York Urban Land Institute, and is LEED-accredited and EPA-certified. Stegich is a volunteer and supporter of Habitat for Humanity and a longtime supporter of The Children's Village, a residential treatment facility for at-risk youth in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Most recently, he founded the David Smith Memorial Scholarship at Scarsdale High School. He has won numerous awards for his paintings and metal and stone sculptures, and when he is not working, he can often be found skiing or boating with his family.

**The Pennington School
would like to thank the following
five trustees whose terms
ended on June 30:**

Robert H. Beckett, Ph.D. '52 GP'14
serving since 2002

John Celentano P'12 '16 '17
serving since 2012

The Reverend Frank Davis
serving since 2017

The Honorable John Suydam Kuhlthau
serving since 2003

David Paragamian P'12 '14 '18
serving since 2009

**All our volunteers help
shape the future of the School.
The Pennington community
benefits tremendously from their
commitment, experience, and
leadership.**

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The Reverend Dr. Robert J. Williams P'94 '95

Kenneth R. Zirk P'21





Kindness Week

The Middle School celebrated Kindness Week from February 12 to 16. Students and faculty set their winter doldrums aside and focused on spreading kind words and actions during that week. The hallways were full of kind wishes and suggestions, kind coloring pages, and reminders. An "Appreciation Station" was set up to leave thank-you notes for teachers and students. Veronica Vesnaver's advisory group organized a Valentine's Day Dynamic Duo dress-up day to build community. Advisory groups swapped snacks and notes on Thursday, and the Junior Proctors provided a #flashbackFriday tunnel of encouragement, as they did during LAUNCH in September. We aimed to bring on spring with a renewed attitude toward community-building through kindness.

Letters about Literature

Pennington School students Daisy Hutnik, an eighth-grader, and Lucy Ort, a sixth-grader, placed first and second in their respective levels of the 2017–18 Library of Congress Letters about Literature contest.

According to the Library of Congress website, Letters about Literature is a reading and writing contest for students in grades 4 through 12. Students are asked to read a book, poem, or speech and write to the author (living or dead) about the personal impact the literature had upon the student.

Hutnik's letter to Douglas Adams was judged First Place Winner for Level 2 (grades 7 and 8). Her letter will move on to

Washington D.C. to be judged nationally. Ort's letter to Marcus Zusak was judged Second Place Winner for Level 1 (grades 4 through 6).

Middle School students Mateo Lopez-Castro, Kate Coakley, Nikolas Chase, Lucy Harding, and Miami Celentana won Distinguished Honors in the competition. More than 1,500 entries were sent in from New Jersey for the contest, and the winning letters passed five rounds of judging on both national and state levels. The state-wide celebration of winning letters took place on Tuesday, May 8, at Rutgers University. For more information on the contest, visit www.read.gov/letters.

TASK

Sixth-grade students, in an effort to reach out to the community beyond The Pennington School and show their care and concern, worked with the Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK). Students learned about TASK's mission, completed chores in their own homes and neighborhoods to earn money, and then used those funds to purchase needed supplies for TASK from Pennington Quality Market. Careful to budget and shop wisely, students bought both grocery and hygiene items to help support the biggest needs on TASK's donation wish list. Cooperatively shopping with their classmates, students demonstrated that every little contribution from just one person can indeed add up to make a big impact on a community.



Stream Watch

On Friday, May 25, Middle and Upper School students kicked off our **StreamWatch** collaboration with the Watershed Institute by sampling for benthic macroinvertebrates in Lewis Brook. They looked under rocks and used nets to collect snails, dragonfly nymphs, blood midges, aquatic worms, leeches, and water beetles to determine the stream's water quality. (See opposite page photo.)



Middle School News (continued)

Bag It

During the third quarter, Jameson Moore's eighth-grade Global Perspectives class decided to take action against plastic pollution. After reading primary and secondary sources regarding the topic and having student-centered discussions, they watched the documentary *Bag It!* and analyzed it for the five themes of geography and four goals of modernization (topics they had learned about earlier in the year). The documentary taught the students about the current events surrounding one-time-use plastic bags and how people in other communities are trying to change government policy to reflect a "greener" approach to carrying groceries. After watching the documentary, the students were asked to create a reusable bag out of the 140+ plastic bags they had brought in from their homes. The students went through quite a lot of trial and error but were eventually able to figure out how to weave, braid, and tie the bags together to make one reusable bag. The reusable

bags went through a variety of consumer tests: durability, volume, "walkability," user-friendliness, beauty, and permeability. Lastly, students were asked to collaborate to construct a brochure documenting the process and inspiring others to take action. Ultimately they learned that people can repurpose hundreds of one-time use bags for one reusable bag that could last years.

AMC 8

The Pennington School was recognized on the national Merit Roll for the AMC 8 mathematics competition. The AMC 8 is a multiple-choice examination in middle school mathematics designed to promote the development of problem-solving skills. The AMC 8 provides an opportunity for middle school students to develop positive attitudes toward analytical thinking and mathematics that can assist in future careers. Students apply classroom skills to unique problem-solving challenges. Pennington achieved an overall score of 50 in the contest. The Merit Roll is a designation for schools in which the top

three scores added up to a total between 50 and 64. The Pennington students who participated in this year's contest and were the top four scorers were sixth-graders Polaris Hayes and Praslin Hayes and eighth-graders Ricky Li and Francesca Pendus.

Chinese Learning Stations

During the Humanities unit of study on China, students engaged in a learning station activity inspired by a collection of memories shared with the class by sixth-grader Mei Mei Castranova. With a bag full of postcards, photos, newspapers, and currency, Castranova, teachers Jessie Shaffer and Lisa Houston, and a few classmates designed Chinese learning stations for all of the students to enjoy. Students created television news reports with the newspapers and researched and wrote postcards based on sites in the photos. Houston introduced a theater element by setting up a mask activity linked to Chinese opera, and senior Jingyuan "Jack" Lu shared his calligraphy expertise by teaching the students basic strokes of brush-writing as they learned the character for "forever."

Reflections on Life in South Sudan

Sixth-grade students in Humanities classes have been studying South Sudan in conjunction with reading the book, *A Long Walk to Water*. Students used this true story to reflect on life in South Sudan through the eyes of a boy who traveled thousands of miles as a refugee and a girl who walked all day to provide water for her family. Water issues, health care problems, and tribal, governmental, and religious challenges were all topics of discussion. Pennington parent Bruce Brown P'24 came to speak with the students about his travel and work in South Sudan. While there, he helped the effort to eradicate guinea worms from the water. Brown



educated the students on the issue of water-borne disease and the steps he and his team went through to help the Sudanese people, and he shared with the class photos and items he collected during his travels. This interactive talk deepened student understanding greatly and brought to life an important topic from the book's pages.



Eighth-Grade Interdisciplinary Unit: The Holocaust

Holocaust survivor Maud Dahme spoke to eighth-graders at The Pennington School on Friday, May 11, as part of the Middle School's Grade 8 interdisciplinary unit on the Holocaust. Born in Amersfoort, the Netherlands, Dahme and her younger sister were Dutch Jewish "hidden children" who survived because of being sheltered by Christian families.

In 1942, Dahme's parents, already severely restricted by the occupying German authorities, became uneasy when all Jewish families were ordered to appear at a railroad station with one suitcase. Christian friends associated with the Resistance offered to take Dahme and her sister, then ages six and four, respectively, to stay with a religious couple out in the country at Oldebroek.

The childless Spronks cautioned the girls to say they were their nieces, to use the surname Spronk, and never to reveal that they were Jewish. When German soldiers became suspicious about the farm, Resistance volunteers moved the girls to a fishing village, where they remained until April 1945. They returned to Oldebroek in June 1945 after liberation. Their parents, who had also been hidden by Christian friends, survived and reclaimed the sisters.

In 1950, the family decided to move to the United States. Silent for many years about her experiences, Dahme became a force in education, holding a variety of local and state posts. After someone she

knew personally denied the existence of the Holocaust, she decided to speak out. For more than thirty years she has been a passionate advocate of Holocaust education.

"We survived because people cared," Dahme told the students. Pointing out that genocide is still occurring in various parts of the world, she said, "We are here to care for each other."

Solar Car Jam

On Saturday, May 19, seven Middle School students competed in "Solar Jam," a solar vehicle contest at Princeton High School where students raced self-designed and self-built cars. Two seventh-grade students, Nikolas Chase and Ilias Sohos, placed third and then competed in the TransOptions Regional Race on May 21 at Ridgedale Middle School in Florham Park. Both students were excited to test how their solar car design matched up to other competing vehicles in the state.





Odyssey of the Mind

Both Odyssey of the Mind teams from The Pennington School placed first over the weekend of March 17–18 in their respective categories during New Jersey's Odyssey of the Mind Coastal Plains Regional tournament. The Pennington School took home first place in the Triathlon Travels Division II and Emoji, Speak for Yourself Division II categories. They both went on to win in the State competition in April, which qualified them to compete in the World Finals, held in Iowa May 23–25. At the World competition, one Pennington team placed 35th out of 61, and the second team placed 17th out of 57. Fourteen countries sent teams to the World competition.

Middle School Athletics

Boys' Lacrosse

Coach: Billy Hawkey '10

The boys' Middle School Lacrosse team experienced its best season in recent memory, producing an impressive 6–2 record on the season. Some of the notable wins were against Princeton Day School, Princeton Academy, and Chapin. The team members were a very cohesive bunch, anchored by strong eighth-grade leadership, and the boys consistently brought a high level of work, focus, and energy to the field each day. The cherry on top for this great season was a 9–8 overtime win in the last game of the season vs. our crosstown rivals, Timberlane.

Track and Field

Coach: Todd Paige

This year's Track team had fewer meets and experienced a shorter season than in the past, but it was not without extraordinary accomplishment. In the last meet of the year, the Annual Gill

St. Bernard's Silver Spike, twelve of the fourteen Pennington athletes put down personal bests in each of their events. The boys won the meet, winning first place or medaling in seven of the eleven possible events. Team members never lost their desire to learn and improve upon their performances each week. Many athletes have already set personal goals for next season. Four individuals went on to compete in the NJ Middle School Track and Field Invitational. Not only did these four boys earn third place out of 30-plus teams, but also they left their marks individually and collectively. Drayton Kolaris '23 won the 800 meter and set a record of 2:12.78. Isaiah Muse '22 broke the 200 meter record at 23.15 in addition to the 100 meter hurdles record at 14.36. Myles Plummer '22 won the 1600 meter with a record breaking time of 4:48.56. And Peyton Miller '22 won the high jump for his division, jumping a height of five feet. All four boys competed together in the 4x400 meter race to break yet another meet record of at 3:49.40.



Odyssey of the Mind is an international educational program that provides creative problem-solving opportunities for students from kindergarten through college. Team members work together to solve problems that range from building mechanical devices to presenting their own interpretation of literary classics.

Middle School

ATHLETIC AWARDS Spring '18

Boys' Lacrosse

Red Raider Award–Jabril Belle-Walker '22
Coach's Award–Burke deTuro '22

Track and Field

Red Raider Award–Isaiah Muse '22
Coach's Award–Myles Plummer '22



Peter Pan and Wendy

by Kat Horsley '18

Between the ages of 10 and 18, students face societal struggles, school-related stress, and various commitments and pressures, and from then on, the responsibilities seem to grow exponentially. No matter what age, everyone needs a break from his or her daily routine. As I directed the Middle School play, Doug Rand's adaptaton of *Peter Pan and Wendy*, I strove to cultivate an environment where the Middle Schoolers could escape some of that strife. Each afternoon, I flew via their laughter and passion to Neverland. We abandoned homework, technology, and everything else looming in our daily lives to be present and in the moment.

The children who barreled into the Lecture Center at 3:32 p.m. each day taught me so much, including how to believe. Imagination and make-believe play a significant role in this story. Peter tells Wendy, "You see children know such a lot now; they soon don't believe in fairies." The Middle Schoolers do know such a lot—and through their kindness, creativity, and passion, they are building a better, safer, and more compassionate future. They give me hope.

Grandparents Day **April 19**

Pennington Celebrates our Grandparents

For one day each spring, the population of The Pennington School swells in size. On Thursday, April 19, almost two hundred Middle School and Upper School grandparents traveled to Pennington to celebrate our annual Grandparents Day. Our special guests joined their grandchildren on campus for a typical schoolday experience. The grandparents were welcomed by Headmaster Dr. William Hawkey at a lively and prize-filled luncheon. The goal of this traditional event is to help the generations bond through small group discussions as well as to extend an open invitation to visit the classrooms. Save the date for next year's Grandparents Day on **Thursday, April 18, 2019.**



Hardship and Hope



Community Service in Haiti by Blair Thompson

This year's service trip to Haiti reaffirmed to me why I have stayed involved with it since 2013. As we visited the remote villages of Thoman, Leogane, and LaSalle, we braved blowouts and blown suspensions on the challenging unpaved roads that provided their only access. Despite the privations in this country, we encountered perseverant, hardworking people just trying to make the best of their lives under very difficult conditions. We were able to provide them with only the most basic of medical care, but our efforts were warmly welcomed by villages too remote to have access to medical care of any kind. Our ten students did an outstanding job, working tirelessly through days that began at 6:00 a.m.—serving over 500 people in just a few short hours—before packing up and leaving



to do it all again the next day in another location. This leads me to the other reason I keep going back; I am honored to have the opportunity to work with our students in this challenging, transformative, and rewarding undertaking. The most remarkable thing to me is the way Pennington students approach the Haitian people with the dignity and respect they deserve, not the condescension and pity one could easily slip into given the situation. Indeed, that is probably the biggest takeaway from the trip for our students—learning about how so many people outside of the United States actually live, and that it is very important for us to take responsibility and use our greater resources for the common good. The students who went on the trip learned what it means to truly be a global citizen, and this is an asset they can use to make the world a better place.

“The routine of counting and bagging vitamins, Tums, and Tylenol in the evenings was made glorious as I watched our group of ten bond together as they counted. They woke up in Thoman and within an hour, our students looked as if they had been running a medical clinic and pharmacy all of their lives. In the course of our six days, we tended to the medical needs of approximately 1500 Haitians. The students who boarded the bus in Pennington in the wee hours of the morning were changed forever by what they saw and did. What they previously took for granted has been transformed into a luxury, never to be taken for granted again.”

—Robbi Vexler Uzupis



SPRING Concert

April 22, 2018



The annual Spring Concert, held on April 22, was a festive event featuring the Orchestra, Jazz Band, Pennington Singers, and Upper School Chorus. The audience responded enthusiastically to the performances.

The Orchestra began the evening with Jay Ungar's haunting "Ashokan Farewell," familiar to many for its use in Ken Burns's *Civil War* series. The "Romanza" from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Horn Concerto No. 3 followed, with senior Kristen Weeder as French horn soloist. After the Orchestra played themes from the finale to Johannes Brahms's First Symphony, members of the Jazz Band joined the ensemble on the "Second Waltz" from Jazz Suite No. 2 by Dmitri Shostakovich.

The evening's program had built-in brief intermissions to allow time for a number of multitalented students to move from an instrumental group to a vocal one. The Pennington Singers, the School's select vocal ensemble, presented "Try Everything" (Furber, Hermansen, and Eriksen), "The Blessing" (Brendan Graham), and "Africa" (Paich and

Porcaro). Soloists on "Africa" included seniors Grace Colalillo, Margaret Gordon, and Zhehao Tong.

The Jazz Band picked things up with Van Morrison's "Brown Eyed Girl," Jerome Richardson's "Groove Merchant," and Consuelo Valazquez's "Bésame Mucho." Senior soloists featured were Michael Zachor, alto sax, and Zhehao Tong, piano.

The final set belonged to the Upper School Chorus, which performed "Sisi Ni Moja (We Are One)" by Jacob Narverud; the African American song "There Is More Love Somewhere," arranged by Pennington faculty member William Alford; and "The Rain Is Over and Gone" by Paul Halley. Kristen Weeder was a senior soloist, and alumni instrumentalists Joseph Veltri '08 and Thomas Littwin '12 provided percussion and bass, respectively.





It seemed that the concert was over, but the students had other plans. Knowing that music teacher and vocal music director Alford would be leaving Pennington at the end of the academic year and under the leadership of senior Grace Colalillo, the Chorus had collected comments and video clips from alumni about their memories and appreciation of Alford's influence on them. They showed the resulting video and presented Alford with flowers. Perhaps most appropriately they, and various music alumni who had returned for the occasion, joined in a song they had managed to plan and rehearse without Alford's knowledge. Their selection, "For Good" from the musical *Wicked*, contains these lines:

I've heard it said
That people come into our lives for a reason,
Bringing something we must learn.
And we are led
To those who help us most to grow
If we let them
And we help them in return.



#ENOUGH

School Walkout for Gun Safety

On Wednesday, March 14, hundreds of Pennington School students participated in the national school walkout to honor the seventeen students tragically murdered at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, on February 14.

The walkout was organized by a large group of students who were energized by the need to stand out and support legislative changes that will contribute to school safety. Sophomores Jake Bongiovi and Rickey Eng led the effort to spark change. Bongiovi reached out to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and his wife, Tammy, who sent an enthusiastic video message to the students, supporting their call to make changes. The video was shown to the participating student body, after which Eng introduced several students who spoke in turn about why each has chosen to get involved.

The student speakers were Eng, Bongiovi, juniors Emma Garry and Harry Wasnak, senior Adam Soliman, and eighth-grader Olivia Meyerson. All stressed the fact that the protest is about protecting people, and not about politics. Hundreds of students wore orange T-shirts emblazoned with the slogan, #Enough. School administrators and teachers also took part in the protest.





Upper School **Athletics** SPRING 2018

Baseball

Coaches: Steve Kowalski, Byron Kou, Jeff Sumners, and Chris Wirth-Kenyon

The Pennington School's Varsity Baseball team captured the NJISAA Prep B title on Thursday, May 17, as they defeated Gill St. Bernard's School by a score of 2–1 in eight innings. This is the Pennington team's first state title since 1985. The number-three seeded Red Raiders played their best baseball in the Prep B tournament as they defeated Rutgers Prep (number-six seed), Princeton Day School (number-seven seed), and Gill (number-one seed), each game ending in one-run wins. Senior Nick Psomaras of Ewing pitched seven and one-third innings of the eight-inning championship game. Psomaras's effort will undoubtedly go down in the annals of Pennington baseball history as one of the best pitching efforts to date. Senior Rob Omrod and junior Ryan Harris made

outstanding plays from the outfield, and senior catcher Luke Blair made excellent plays to help guarantee the first Red Raider baseball title in thirty-three seasons.

Tennis

Coach: Ken Palumbo

The 2018 Varsity Tennis team finished the season with an outstanding 8–2 record and had the returning Prep B Singles Champion repeat as champ. Our #1 player, senior Lucas Flotta, finished with a perfect record of 13–0, including a win over Princeton Day School in the Prep B finals. Flotta brought our team to a new level and proved he's one of the best players in the state. Senior Patrick Freeman played #2 singles and was a co-captain. He battled every point and always left everything he had on the court. Their leadership will be missed, but we have





a great group of returning players. Our wonderful team: Lucas Flotta '18, Patrick Freeman '18, Joshua Song '21, Trey Dusek '20, Jacob Washton '20, Timmy Coe '19, Jack Borden '21, and Rafer Friedman '19. I appreciate their hard work and dedication to their teammates, the great School of Pennington, their coach, and to themselves. Thank you for an excellent season.

Track and Field

Coaches: Rick Ritter, Margo Andrews, and Emily Kalkus

This was another strong season for both the Boys' and the Girls' Spring Track and Field teams! Quite simply, consistent hard work paid off for just about everyone, and at the right time of the season. Most coaches want their team to peak at the right time, and we believe we did just that. With many personal records at state and county competitions, we topped off our good season with the boys' team taking second place at the state championship meet and the girls' team earning a fourth-place finish. Our regular season was once again solid, with the boys' team ending the year with five wins—three losses and the girls' team compiling a fine 9–1 record! Along with those personal records we saw



a new School record in the Girls' 400 meter hurdles set by Kelli Collins '20 and another in the Boys' 4x100 meter relay set by Dante Wilson '19, Aidan Israel '20, Lewis Hurd '18, and Mekhi Muse '19.

Softball

Coaches: Laurie Volpe and Karen Balerna

It was an exciting year for the Varsity Softball team, which finished the year with two wins and four losses and so much to celebrate. Led by senior captains Anna Spadaccini and Sam Tola, the players proved the team was a hitting machine, averaging fifteen runs per game throughout the season. Freshman pitchers Emily Moses, Maddie Saltstein, and Holly Kennedy gained experience on the mound and secured the infield with rotations at first base, proving they will be forces to reckon with next season. Freshman Olivia Schroeder-Positano was outstanding in center field, showing great athleticism and quick "spot-on" decision-making. Some of the most heads up and amazing plays of the year were by Ivana Pellerito '19, who proved she can play anywhere on the field, but do not mess with her at shortstop! This team is young and developing and

welcomed the experience and leadership of junior Sandy Zhang and sophomores Sophia Amaro, Lindy Liu, and Anita Yang. The growth, high energy, and commitment from freshmen Caroline Muscara and Tiia McKinney were second to none. This team is ready to compete and is already excited about its potential for spring 2019.





Girls' Lacrosse

Coaches: Wendy Morris, Adam Cooley, and Debbie Fermo

The Girls' Varsity Lacrosse team enjoyed a successful 2018 season. The season began with a fun and productive spring training trip to Clearwater, FL, where both varsity and JV players worked hard in daily practices and successfully scrimmaged in evening games against a number of New England prep schools. We attended a Phillies spring training game and enjoyed time at the beach, ending our trip with an inter-squad 3v3 tournament on the beach, dominated by seniors Maddi Seibel, Kaela Colyar, and Kayla McInerney.

The team finished the season with a 9–7 record, and was the second seed in the Prep B tournament. One of the most exciting wins of the season was our 15–10 victory over Princeton Day School. We honored senior Maddi Seibel's 200th career goal and Amanda Kenrick '19's 200th career save. We said good bye to our seven seniors: Maddie Seibel, Olivia Mahony, Kaela Colyar, Kayla McInerney, Ida Krook, Rosie Sprague, and Megan Long. We wish them the very best next year in college!

Boys' Lacrosse

Coaches: Jason Carter and Jack Payne

The Boys' Lacrosse team started the season with a win and ended with a win. Between those two games there may not have been very many victories, but there was tremendous heart and relentless effort. They challenged North Hunterdon, one of the best teams in the state, and surprised an undefeated Hightstown team by taking an early lead into halftime. Seniors Max Marsala-Williams, Floyd Patterson, Max Pinado, Eric Broadway, and Jakob Lowenthal led the team with determination, despite being slowed by injuries. The junior class was anchored by goalkeeper Matt DiLorio, with Jason Wang, Sam Wasnak, Chris Herbert, Horacio Cruz-Mendoza, and Brian Corcoran all making contributions. Although the ball never really bounced their way this year, the Boys' Lacrosse team played hard throughout every game, fought together through adversity, and developed a resilience that they will carry with them long after the last whistle has blown.



Golf

Coaches: Tom Horsley and Dave Young

The 2018 Varsity Golf team could not have done much better, finishing with a 12–0 record and both the Mercer County and Prep B State Championships! This was the first undefeated season and Mercer County championship for the team and their third state championship in the last four years. The team had great depth with six different Pennington players medaling in dual matches. Junior Captain James Bao led the team, taking first place at both the county and state tournaments. Senior Charlie Kovalcik and junior Augie Beers did their part, taking second places in the county and state tournaments respectively. The team was captained by senior JP Jeanes and junior James Bao and was named the top area team by NJ.com. James Bao was the unanimous choice for the top area golfer. While the team loses two graduating seniors, seven of the nine lowest-scoring players will return next year. Pennington should once again be the team to beat in 2019.





Pennington's Golf team captured the Prep B golf title in May. The Prep B title, combined with the Mercer County Golf Championship title and an undefeated season, wrap up an outstanding season for the Red Raiders!



Red Raiders Varsity Baseball captured the NJISAA Prep B State Championship with a 2-1 win over Gill St. Bernards on May 17, earning their first title in thirty-three years!

Varsity

Tennis

Red Raider Award—Lucas Flotta '18
Coach's Award—Patrick Freeman '18

Baseball

Red Raider Award—Luke Blair '18
Red Raider Award—Nick Psomaras '18
Coaches' Award—David Iorio '18

Golf

Red Raider Award—Augie Beers '19
Most Dedicated Award—James Bao '19
Most Improved Award—Ari Kula '19

Girls' Lacrosse

Red Raider Award—Madelyn Seibel '18
Coaches' Award—Olivia Mahony '18
Team Spirit Award—Kayla McInerney '18

Boys' Lacrosse

Red Raider Award—Max Marsala-Williams '18
Coaches' Award—Grace Colalillo '18
Most Spirited Award—Floyd Patterson '18

Softball

Red Raider Award—Anna Spadaccini '18
Red Raider Award—Samantha Tola '18
Coaches' Award—Sandy Zhang '19

Boys' Track and Field

Red Raider Award—Mekhi Muse '19
Stoker Award—Matt Paragamian '18
Loyalty Award—Blake Botelho '18

Girls' Track and Field

Red Raider Award—Megan Porras '18
Stoker Award—Nadya Ivanova '19
Loyalty Award—Melissa LeDonne '18

Junior Varsity

Tennis

Coach's Award—Carlos Duato '20
Coach's Award—Greg Teng '19

Baseball

Red Raider Award—Will Thompson '21
Coaches' Award—Matt Lepre '21

Girls' Lacrosse

Red Raider Award—Leah Balerna '20
Coaches' Award—Alexa Lepold '20



Horizon

Senior Internship Program

This year, some seniors chose to work together in groups on one of three new collaborative initiatives in the areas of outdoor leadership, theater, and business and entrepreneurship. Highlights of the group projects, as well as some of the many varied individual projects, are below.

1. Hiking the Appalachian Trail

Nine students created a new group project for Horizon this year. After two weeks of training—taking local hikes and working on core strength with IPA—they hiked a 45-mile section of the Appalachian Trail in New Jersey with faculty members Bill Hutnik and two guides from Project U.S.E. The team spent six days on the Appalachian Trail, from the Delaware Water Gap to High Point State Park, camping each night in two tents. They endured temperatures ranging from 50 to 80 degrees, and four days of rain. By Day 4, they had hiked 28 miles with 17 to go. The packs got lighter and everyone dirtier each day!

2. “The Pennington Project”

Nine seniors compiled stories from members of the Pennington community about overcoming challenges they have faced in their lives. They then prepared a documentary theater performance. Stunning dramatic performances of “The Pennington Project” were held on May 29 and 31 in the Wesley Forum.

“Something positive I extracted from this process is the value of our stories. ...It reinforces to me that there is genuine sentiment behind the potency of documentary theater—these stories are sensitive, profound, and at times educational, and it was a privilege to have shared them.

—Ryan Totaro '18

3. Business and Entrepreneurship Group

In collaboration with the Alumni Relations office, nine students spent four days in New York City, meeting with alumni in different areas of the business world to learn more about every aspect of running your own business, bringing products to consumers, and marketing and promotion. The alumni and businesses involved included: Victor Barnett '50; Jacob Levy '09 and Coin Toss; Patrick Janson '02 and ProDeal360; Dana Rae Ashburn '07 and ABLE Cosmetics; Gianna Russo '07 and Bessemer Trust; Craig Schwabe '94 and the NYSE; Priya Pandit '04 and Ripple; and Jesal Trivedi '07 and Aduri.



Companies and organizations that participated in the 2018 Horizon Program



4. Ian Crosland worked in Arusha, Tanzania, teaching children at the Silver School. He was able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of African children who have limited resources for learning. Ian takes pride as a global citizen in empowering communities around the world through education.

5. Matt Paragamian worked at Kids Bridge on projects to promote tolerance and bullying prevention education.

6. Adam Soliman worked for the Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund in Trenton.

7. Michael Cosgrove and Eric Broadway worked at Callaway Henderson/Sotheby's International Realty in Princeton.

8. Sydney Faber worked at Deutsche Bank's Wall Street headquarters, learning about institutional equity sales and derivatives.

9. David Iorio worked with the Philadelphia Phillies (pictured on the field with Rhys Hoskins).

10. Sam Tola worked in the pediatrics department at the University of Pennsylvania Medical Center in Philadelphia.

11. Lilly Mavis was an editor's assistant at NBC Sports in New York City.

12. Melissa LeDonne worked at the Fernbrook Farms Environmental Education Center.

Affetto Recordings, LLC American Eagle Outfitters Bard, Rao + Athanas, Consulting Engineers Beyond Communication, LLC Brian Fitzpatrick for Congress Bright Horizons Family Solutions, LLC Bucks County Division of Emergency Services Callaway Henderson Sotheby's International Realty Cambridge School Canterbury Park CARES Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services Children's Home Society of New Jersey Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Childrey Robinson Associations Council Rock United Soccer Association Crowne Plaza Edison Deitch Family Chiropractic & Wellness Center Delmar Pharmacy Designs by Kelline Deutsche Bank Diamond & Associates, PC Elite Chiropractic of Princeton Eye to Eye Fernbrook Farms Education Center Full Auto Airsoft Gr8 People Inc. Hike the Appalachian Trail ILGM&M InGenius Prep International House Barcelona International Volunteer HQ, Tanzania The Island School, Eleuthera, The Bahamas Ivy Rehab Network JoeMax Telecom, LLC Joseph A. Chmeil Construction Karen's School of Fashion Keith Sison Photography The Kidsbridge Tolerance Center The Kinney Center for Autism Education and Support Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. Merkle Inc. Merrill Lynch Metropolitan Window Fashions NBC Sports NBC Universal Next Level Soccer Academy Painted Dreams Farm The Pennington School Philadelphia Phillies Rightmer Ranches Rowe Carpentry SAVE: A Friend to Homeless Animals Sean Dixon Drums ShopRite of Hunterdon County Stetz, Belgiovine, Manwarren and Wallis, PC SunTrust Robinson Humphrey Tony La Salle, Artist Trenton Circus Squad Trenton Orthopaedic Group at Rothman Institute Trenton Thunder Tri Space Interiors University Orthopaedic Associates, LLC Vineyard 7 & 8 Voith and Mactavish Architects, LLP WPST Xyvid Inc. Young Life

"Dean Brown was able to look beyond my resume and transcripts and recognize some inner qualities that allowed me to excel at Pennington. I admired him immensely, not only as my French teacher but also because of who he was as a person and a leader. I can't think of any other person who had a greater impact during my high school years."

– Eliot Terborgh '61



"I told myself, I can do this! I can give back and thank Pennington for EVERYTHING it did for my kids. It's an easy way to stay a member of the Pennington community."

– Lori Plimpton P'08 '14



"I experienced tremendous support as a Pennington student. Now that our kids go here we see that Pennington's legacy continues...respecting all students for their special qualities and allowing them to be who they really are. Keep that vibe going!"

– Aaron '87 and Donna Usiskin P'20 '21



Paying It Forward

Community is at the core of the Pennington experience and our lasting legacy. This is what inspires Francis Harvey Green Society members—trustees, current and past parents, alumni, faculty, and staff—to include Pennington in their estate plans, ensuring that future generations of Pennington students carry on values of honor, virtue, and humility.



"Two words: Learning Center. A gift for any struggling student with a learning disability. Pennington prepared me for college and life after. The School has done so much for me that it was an easy decision to include Pennington in my will to support future Learning Center students."

– Tom Chiodi '81



"For the first time at Pennington, I learned to think outside the box and obtained a global perspective. Pennington opened my eyes to the world."

– Peter Tucci, Esq. '79 P'16
'16, Chair of the Board



"Before becoming a faculty member at Pennington, I was inspired by Dr. Cervone, who in the 1970s had the passion, the drive, and the will to establish the Center for Learning. The School was behind him. My commitment to Pennington was forged then."

– Jo Prockop, Director of the Edmund V. Cervone Center for Learning

Spring Play



Back in the Box,

written and directed by members of the Senior Seminar in Drama class, highlighted the theme of change. This was conveyed through the set design of moving boxes on stage and within aspects of the plots of the plays. Each play depicted a time of change: *Color Theory* covered social change, *Yours Truly*, *Sophia Williams* dealt with the struggles of teenage grief, and *Hydrangeas From Hell* revealed the funny and scary problems of moving into a new home after marriage. In some ways, the project reflected the students' own feelings during the course of senior year. Over the course of the Senior Seminar class, the directors wanted unity and simplicity in this edition of the Spring Play, thus helping them arrive at the idea for *Back in the Box*. Contrary to last year's *Out of the Box*, which had four plays in four different locations, they decided to, well, get back in the box!

Hydrangeas From Hell

*Yours Truly,
Sophia Williams*

Discovering Gender and Identity *through Modern American History and Art*

Modern American History and Art is a unique interdisciplinary course in which students explore contemporary issues in American history through the lens of art. This class offers students a dynamic interplay of research, writing, visual mapping, and art making. Even students who are not confident making art find they are able to organize and express their ideas visually with the guidance of art teacher Caroline Hall. Two of the projects this year exemplify the success of this approach.

During the first project, history teachers Gretchen Overhiser and Jason Harding presented an account of traditional binary gender norms in the United States, and the lawmaking surrounding gender and sex roles in the early colonies up to the landmark Supreme Court decision in 2015, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, in which same-sex marriage became legal. After focusing on these issues, students posed their own questions and deeply considered the notion of gender fluidity: *How do we define who we are at this moment in our lives?* Two visual answers to this question were created—one of personal identity, and another of gender role identity. Hall introduced students to the work of contemporary artist

Kara Walker, whose cut-paper silhouettes powerfully depict multi-layered stories of racial, economic, and gender injustice, and Grant Wood, the artist famous for the iconic painting *American Gothic*.

First, Hall provided several technique lessons on line drawing, negative and positive space, and the proper use of pencil and ink on paper

to empower all students in class with an understanding of how to use these materials. Students then organized and built their content by creating an identity map of words. Students' silhouettes were cast onto white paper and traced. Finally, employing the powerful simplicity of the silhouette they learned from Walker, students carefully filled in either the figure or the background with words related to their personal identities. And, just as Walker intends in her work, these pieces pull you in to reveal a deeper message.

After taking a good look at themselves, students were then asked to look at the roles of gender. *American Gothic 2.0* is a project reimagining the famous painting *American Gothic* from each student's perception of gender roles in our society. Hall provided lessons on artist Grant Wood, perspective, color theory, and color mixing, before moving on to painting. While some students initially felt intimidated by painting, those same students discovered that with the proper critique, instruction, and guidance, a lot of natural talent surfaced and found its way onto the canvas.

Artwork by Leah Johnson '19





Raku Workshop

In April, advanced-level ceramics students ventured up to Songbird Studios in Lambertville to conduct a Raku firing of their pottery. As students delve deeper in the ceramics program they learn about advanced techniques and have the opportunity to work with different clay bodies to experience a reduction process called Raku.

Our kiln in the clay studio functions with an oxidation process, and allows for consistent, predictable results. The American Raku process (adopted from the Japanese Raku practice) is very volatile and uses a reduction process to allow the metals in the glazes to shine. The clay body used in Raku is formulated to withstand a greater variety of thermal shock. Knowing this, students created work with a specific focus on consistent thicknesses throughout to help withstand the extreme temperatures their pieces would undergo. Under the supervision of instructor Dolores Eaton,

along with potter Alisha Hastings-Kimball and kiln master John Hastings-Kimball, the students lowered their work into the propane-fueled Raku kiln. The kiln is then lidded and set to ramp up to 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. Once the kiln reaches that temperature, the gas is turned off and the kiln is opened. With long tongs the students lift the pieces, now with hot molten glazes, out of the kiln and then lower them into metal containers filled with combustible materials. This process causes a lot of flames and smoke. As the materials catch fire, the oxygen is reduced, hence a reduction process. The containers are then lidded and given some time to cool down enough to be removed and cooled further in a water bath. Carbon is deposited onto unglazed areas and into cracks, giving the wares their signature look of Raku. The glaze results are metallic, glistening surfaces that cannot be attained any other way.



Class of 2018 Senior Prizes



The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Religion
Niccolo Grillo

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Technology
XinYi Zheng

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Journalism **Russell Gorelick, Margaret Gordon, Sydney Faber, and Simran Shah**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Instrumental Performance **Michael Zachor**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Vocal Performance
Niccolo Grillo

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Video Production
Lillian Childrey and Mitchell Walker

The G. Arthur Campbell Award for Distinctive Service in Drama **Ryan Totaro and Kathleen Horsley**

The William Mastrosimone '66 Award for Excellence in Writing and Directing an Original Play **Grace Kavulich and Naomi Strauss**

The Pennington School Award for Continued Excellence in Theatrical Performance **Zhehao Tong**

The Pennington School Award for the Senior Excelling in Technical Theatre
Cole Felsner

The Kersey Award for the Student Showing Most Promise in Visual Art
Jiaying Liu

The Pennington School Award for the Senior Excelling in Photography
Akeya Fortson-Brown

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Sculpture and Ceramics **Logan Force and Daniel Pontoriero**

The Pennington School Award for Peer Leadership **Francesca Iucolino**

The Charles G. Bennett '59 Memorial Award for School Spirit **Kathleen Horsley and Sidney Spencer**

The Headmaster's Award for Scholarship Valedictorian: **Matthew Paragamian**
Salutatorian: **Nicholas Micheletti**

The Headmaster's Award to the Best All-Around Student **Caroline Bouton, Feven Negussie, and Matthew Paragamian**

The William E. Long Award to the Senior Male Making the Greatest Contribution to Pennington School Athletics
Blake Botelho and Ian Crosland

The Brigid Kilfoyle '91 Memorial Award to the Senior Female Making the Greatest Contribution to Pennington School Athletics **Megan Porras**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in English
Caroline Bouton and Ryan Totaro

The Stephen Crane Writing Contest Award for Poetry **Ziqi Lei**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Spanish
Matthew Paragamian

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in French
Graham Davies

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in German **Sydney Faber**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Latin **Ryan Totaro and Caroline Bouton**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Chinese **Jacob Essig**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Mathematics
XinYi Zheng

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in Science **Ruosi Hu**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Excelling in History **XinYi Zheng and Adam Soliman**



Baccalaureate and Senior Dinner



The Pennington School Award for International Citizenship **Zhehao Tong** and **Ziqi Lei**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Outstanding in Volunteer Service **Grace Colalillo**

The Monique Visser '88 Memorial Award to the Female Who Has Most Improved the Quality of Life at Pennington **Lillian Childrey**

The Pennington School Award to the Senior Who Has Shown the Most Noticeable Improvement **Jacob Essig** and **Tara McCracken**

The M. James Coyle Award to the Student who has Fostered Community Understanding of the Strengths Associated with Learning Differences **Grace Kavulich**

The Pennington School Award for Outstanding Citizenship **Ryan Totaro**

The Gateway Prize to the Seniors Who Best Exemplify Pennington's Core Values of Honor, Virtue, and Humility **Ayanna Johnson, Adam Soliman, Nicholas Psomaras, Jingyuan Lu, Olivia Mahony, Kristen Weeder, Graham Davies, and Sydney Faber**

The Headmaster's Prize for Greatest Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion **Caroline Bouton** and **Akeya Fortson-Brown**

The Pennington Ambassador Award **Jared Panson, Marco Di Natale, Olivia Mahony, Lillian Childrey, and Grace Colalillo**

The Headmaster's Prize for Outstanding Athletic Achievement **Carly Rice** and **Ibrahima Diop**

The Headmaster's Prize for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts **Brian Keating**



Cum Laude Society

Fall 2017 Inductees:

Johanna Bradshaw
Sydney Faber
Victoria Gassmann
Ruosi Hu
Francesca Iucolino
Ziqi Lei
Nicholas Micheletti
Matthew Paragamian
Zhehao Tong
Ryan Totaro
Xin Yi Zheng

Spring 2018 Inductees:

Blake Botelho
Lillian Childrey
Kaela Colyar
Graham Davies
Jacob Essig
Feven Negussie
Francesca Pellerito
Madelyn Seibel
Jeong Beom Seo
Adam Soliman
Hongjin Xiang

Global Studies Certificate Program

2018 Graduates:

Blake Botelho
Lillian Childrey
Grace Colalillo
Ian Crosland
Isabel D'Esposito
Logan Force
Margaret Gordon
Russell Gorelick
Kathleen Horsley
Ruosi Hu
Ayanna Johnson
Steven Kopits
Ida Krook
Ziqi Lei
Annabelle Li

Shi Liang
Megan Long
Darius May
Alyssa McDougall
Zoe Michaelson
Julia Miller
Peyton Nortillo
Matthew Paragamian
Max Pinado
Adam Soliman
Yi Sun
Zhehao Tong
Elizabeth Visconti
ShuMing Yang
Michael Zachor

Applied Science Certificate Program

2018 Graduates:

Kimberly Bischoff
Johanna Bradshaw
Michael Cosgrove
Graham Davies
Jacob Essig
Sydney Faber
Louis Fancher
Cole Felsher
Noah Frank
Rocco Giancarli
James Hofer
Kathleen Horsley
Lewis Hurd IV
Brian Keating
Melissa LeDonne

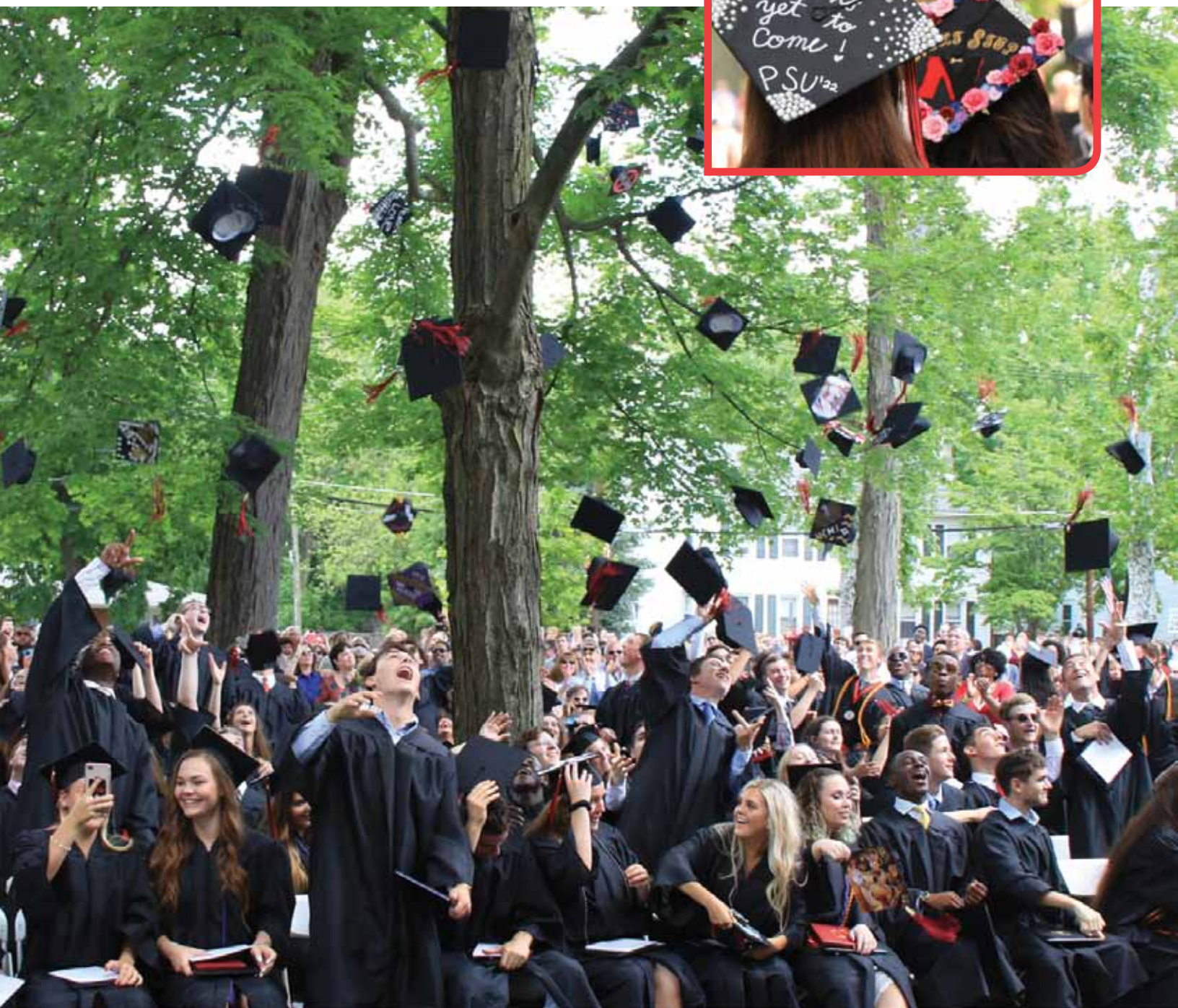
Olivia Mahony
Lilly Mavis
Finn McConaughy
Nicholas Micheletti
Jared Panson
Mitchell Phillips
Madelyn Seibel
Jeong Seo
Simran Shah
Anna Spadaccini
Sidney Spencer
Samantha Tola
Sonia van Stekelenborg
Mitchell Walker
Kristen Weeder
XinYi Zheng



Class of 2018 Commencement

SATURDAY, JUNE 2, 2018





Parents for Pennington NEWS

Parents for Pennington had a great year! We held five coffees for parents, presenting topics for discussion such as transitioning to high school, managing college applications, and addressing teen stress. We started many new clubs, which were very active, including a tennis club, gourmet cooking club, book club, and Chinese, Indian, and Hispanic cultural interest groups. The annual Bash was a great event, grossing almost \$95,000. We dedicated \$20,000 of those proceeds to the Student Assistance Fund. We also gave \$20,000 to the School for student/community activities. Our main goal this year was to offer events that created an even greater sense of community among parents, students, and the School. We look forward to seeing you next year!

2018–19 Parents for Pennington Executive Committee

Co-Presidents

Marlynn Marlow P'20
Lori Washton P'20

Vice President

Michele Cano P'19 '21

Secretary

Lewis Arthur P'24

Financial Liaison

Tina Borden P'21

Communications

Anne DiDomenico P'20 '23

Boarding Representative

Maryann Levinson P'19

Upper School Representative

Karin Eckerson P'19 '21

Middle School Representative

Michelle Meinhardt P'23

PfP 2017–18 Events



Celebrating at the annual
Red & Black Bash, a disco inferno



Students enjoyed
the colorful Indian
festival of Holi
during Spring Fling
in May

Chinese interest group painting party

Parents explored the ancient art of Chinese painting with artist and teacher Yingin Wang, who talked about the history of Chinese brush painting and the symbolism of the flowers often used in Chinese brush artwork. After the introduction, the attendees had the opportunity to create their own piece of artwork by copying a painting of plum blossoms. They learned that the plum blossom symbolizes perseverance, hope, and purity. The budding artists had fun writing their names in Chinese on their



creations. Some lovely Chinese tea and snacks were served at the end of another successful and educational meeting.

Island School

Environmental Education and Adventure

by Margo Andrews, Ph.D.



Fourteen students and four faculty members traveled to the Island School in Eleuthera, Bahamas for one week this June as part of the Cape Eleuthera Institute's educational programming. Students experienced incredibly full and eventful days, starting with morning exercise at 6:30 a.m., which in Eleuthera means snorkeling down a river with barracuda and parrot fish or playing beach volleyball. During the day, activities ranged from acting as research assistants by helping track observed species in Exuma Sound, to harvesting greens for lunch and relocating tilapia in the Island School's aquaponics system. And through experiential learning, students investigated topics such as sustainable fisheries (snorkeling above an aquaculture test site) and plastic marine debris (collecting plastic from a beach and investigating where it may have originated). The days were long and tiring in the hot Bahamian sun, but exhilarating and challenging in all the best ways. Students left realizing they could do things they hadn't thought possible and feeling educated and empowered to effect positive environmental change in the world, starting with themselves.

Class of 2022 Middle School Graduation



Middle School End-of-Year Awards



First in Scholarship

Grade 8: Ariana Colner
Grade 7: Francesca Pendus
Grade 6: Polaris Hayes

Math Award

Grade 8: Ariana Colner
Grade 7: Christopher Lee and Francesca Pendus
Grade 6: Samantha Lambdin and Polaris Hayes

Science Award

Grade 8: Jialun Cui and John Santarsiero
Grade 7: Amelia Stevenson
Grade 6: Praslin Hayes

Humanities Award

Grade 6: Nicolette Kirikian and Lucy Ort

English Award

Grade 8: Lucinda Harding and Ruby Grisin
Grade 7: Zoe Eaton

Social Studies Award

Grade 8: Stephanie Balerna
Grade 7: Julius Fritzsche

Latin Award

Grade 8: Ariana Colner
Grade 7: Christopher Lee
Grade 6: Samantha Lambdin

French Award

Grade 8: Katharine Evans

German Award

Grade 8: Miami Celentana

Spanish Award

Grade 8: Jonathan Eaton
Grade 7: Francesca Pendus
Grade 6: Sanjana Padmanabhan

Artorama Award

Grade 8: Jonathan Eaton
Grade 7: Isabella Fermo
Grade 6: Nicolette Kirikian

Music Award

Grade 8: Jialun Cui
Grade 7: Kate Coakley and Jonah Heimann
Grade 6: Micah Bowser and Makayla Tudor

Citizenship Award

Grade 8: Lucinda Harding
Grade 7: Gracen Ward and Drayton Kolaras
Grade 6: Lucy Ort and Owen Doughty

Most Improved Award

Grade 8: John Santarsiero
Grade 7: Yuda Li
Grade 6: Riya Mehra

Academic Perseverance Award

Grade 8: Katharine Evans
Grade 7: Christopher Lee
Grade 6: Micah Bowser

Middle School Stephen Crane Writing Contest Winners

Essay

First: Daisy Hutnik '22 and Mateo Lopez-Castro '22
Second: Kate Coakley '23

Short Story

First: Lucinda Harding '22
Second: Mei Mei Castranova '24
Honorable Mention: Konstantinos Sohos '22 and Elliot Overhiser '22

Poetry

First: Miama Celentana '22
Second: Emma Donato '23
Third: Nicolette Kirikian '24
Honorable Mention: Zoe Eaton '23, Lucinda Harding '22, and Polaris Hayes '24

Middle School Play Awards

Excellence in the Middle School Play: Nikolas Chase '23

Red Raider: Ruby Grisin '22

Dynamic Duo: Lucinda Harding '22 and Jonathan Eaton '22

Excellence in Middle School Costume Crew: Stephanie Balerna '22

Red Raider in Costume Crew: Mame Baffour-Awuah '22 and Julie Kennedy '22

Excellence in Middle School Tech Crew: Sanjana Padmanabhan '24

Red Raider in Tech Crew: Sean Sprague '23

Odyssey of the Mind Awards

Lucinda Harding '22, Francesca Pendus '23, Nikolas Chase '23, and Kyle Meinhart '23



Tesla String Quartet visits Pennington

The award-winning Tesla String Quartet was the ensemble-in-residence at The Pennington School from May 1 through 4. Formed at The Juilliard School in 2008, the Quartet quickly established itself as one of the promising young ensembles in New York and has gone on to win top prizes at numerous international competitions. The partnership between the School and the Quartet was made possible through the generosity of a Pennington parent and an alumnus.

The ensemble's week at Pennington included performances, master classes, sectionals, rehearsals, and class visits, culminating in a Friday-evening concert in the Yen Humanities building's Wesley Forum. They performed Ludwig van Beethoven's String Quartet in G Major, Bela Bartok's String Quartet No. 3, and Beethoven's String Quartet in E-flat Major ("The Harp"). Violinist Ross Snyder provided explanatory comments between the selections.

In addition to Snyder, the ensemble comprises Michelle Lie, violin; Edwin Kaplan, viola; and Serafim Smigelski, cello. Music for two violins, viola, and cello has been a mainstay for the development of classical music since the time of Mozart and Haydn. The ensemble chose its name, honoring the late inventor Nikola Tesla,



because of Tesla's statement, "Though free to think and act, we are held together, like the stars in the firmament, with ties inseparable. These ties cannot be seen, but we can feel them." The four believe that this statement sums up the bond between musicians in a small chamber ensemble as well as that between people listening to music.

The ensemble's residency inspired the School's own instrumentalists to further develop this bond with each other and with the greater campus community.



In Memoriam

With sadness we remember the following members of the Pennington community who died or of whose death we learned since the publication of our last magazine:

Garth Dietrick '38
Sidney Beshunsky '39 P'67 '73
Arnold M. Gussoff '49
Richard C. Berger '50
Walter F. Bucknum '50
Marcos H. Eddi '50
Leonard A. Freeman '50
Sidney Goldstein '50
Luther M. Hearn, Jr. '50
The Rev. Harold P. Johnson '50
Jack Kahn '50
Vincent P. Lupo '50
Herman Martyn '50
John M. Nycum '50
James D. Rentschler, Sr. '50
Lawrence A. Schell '50
Millard H. Schellinger '50
Lawrence A. Shearer '50
Joseph V. Thomas '50
Barrie B. Ellison '55
Russell D. Smith '57
Joan Jurgensen S'58

Jerry A. Barnett '63
Alan M. Bourne '63
Stanley B. Bush '67
Randall H. Alt '68
John Duff, Jr. P'72
David W. White '75
Doris Groendyke P'79
Virginia Hohmann GP'90
Josephine Wood P'92
Barbara K. Hale GP'98
Michael P. Monaghan S'99
Joseph Harcar GP'02 '06
Larry Rothwell GP'02 '04 '11
Mark P. Coville P'04
Peter Gruen P'04
Angeline Cifelli GP'10
Donna Garcia P'10
Mary E. Feketie GP'13 '16 '16 '18
William P. Freeman GP'13 '16 '16 '18
John V. Gibson GP'13
Lillian K. Alford '15
James B. Coe GP'16 '19
Ervin Egbert GP'16
Raymond Devaney GP'19 '20 '20 '24
Joseph Griswold GP'19
Ralph Wirsig GP'19 '21
Anna Marlow GP'20
Mary Jane Aklonis FFS
John P. Gregg FF
The Rev. George E. Thomas FF

P—Parent

GP—Grandparent

S—Spouse

FF—Former Faculty

FFS—Former Faculty Spouse

Alumni News





Colorado Farm Project

by Patrick Alford '11

In March 2017, as part of the Spring Break trip to Colorado, The Pennington School donated over \$2,000 to the Montezuma School to Farm Project (MSTFP). MSTFP is a program of the Mancos Conservation District in southwestern Colorado. The money was donated to MSTFP to help fund the building of a large production greenhouse at one of their seven school sites, the Cortez Middle School in Cortez, CO. This MSTFP site has been in operation since 2014.

The students who traveled to Colorado held a successful plant sale in advance of their trip to help contribute to the donation. In addition to the monetary gift, students planted an apple orchard and built seed tray tables for the greenhouse while they were on site.

MSTFP manages six school garden sites throughout the county and teaches experiential lessons in the garden on agriculture, nutrition, and resource conservation to elementary and middle school students. During their service trip, Pennington students broke ground at the newest garden site, Manaugh Elementary, by planting an eighteen-tree heritage orchard on school grounds alongside young students from the school. The trees came from the Montezuma Orchard Restoration Project (MORP), an organization that works toward revitalizing the region's rich orchard history by grafting and propagating heritage varieties that were grown locally hundreds of years ago.

The Pennington students also worked with me at the Cortez Middle School (CMS) garden, our largest site, to build tables used for seeding in the garden's high tunnel. The CMS garden has over two acres of row crops and fruit trees. All the produce is used in garden classes and also distributed to cafeterias throughout the Cortez School District. The funds raised by the Pennington students were used specifically to rebuild the endwalls of the 50-foot-high high tunnel at CMS. The high tunnel allows us to grow vegetables year-round and continue to hold class outside, which is crucial because the winter season here takes up a bulk of the school year. Along with new endwall frames and polycarbonate sheets, which replaced the quite ragged plastic that preceded it, automatic thermal-powered vents were installed in the endwalls to regulate temperature within the high tunnel. Horizontal airflow fans were also installed inside the high tunnel, which greatly help to homogenize air temperature throughout the space.

Patrick Alford '11 designed and executed the large production greenhouse project in Colorado.

"I'd like to offer sincere thanks for the students who came here and for the incredible amount of funds that were raised. I went on one of the first TPS service trips to Mississippi right after Katrina. Personally witnessing the service trip come full-circle in such a way was amazing to say the least."

—Patrick Alford '11

The mission of the Montezuma School to Farm Project is to "unite our local agricultural heritage with our growing future by engaging students at the crossroads of sustainable agriculture, resource conservation, health, and economics through educational experiences in outdoor garden classes, on field trips, through youth farmers markets, and in summer farm camp." Pennington School students were honored to be a part of this important and successful project.

ADEM BUNKEDDEKO '05

launched a campaign to run for Congress in October 2017. A candidate in the New York Democratic primary for the ninth congressional district, held in June 2018, he ran a close campaign against incumbent Rep. Yvette Clarke. Through a career in public service, Bunkeddeko has tried to pay forward the sacrifices his family made for him growing up.

Beginning as a grassroots organizer, Bunkeddeko knocked on doors and collected petitions for candidates and causes that made a difference in the lives of working families in Flatbush. As a leadership fellow at the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, he helped create a support network to improve the educational and social outcomes of low-income families in Central Brooklyn. Working at the Empire State Development Corporation, he managed public-private partnerships designed to revitalize underserved communities throughout Brooklyn.

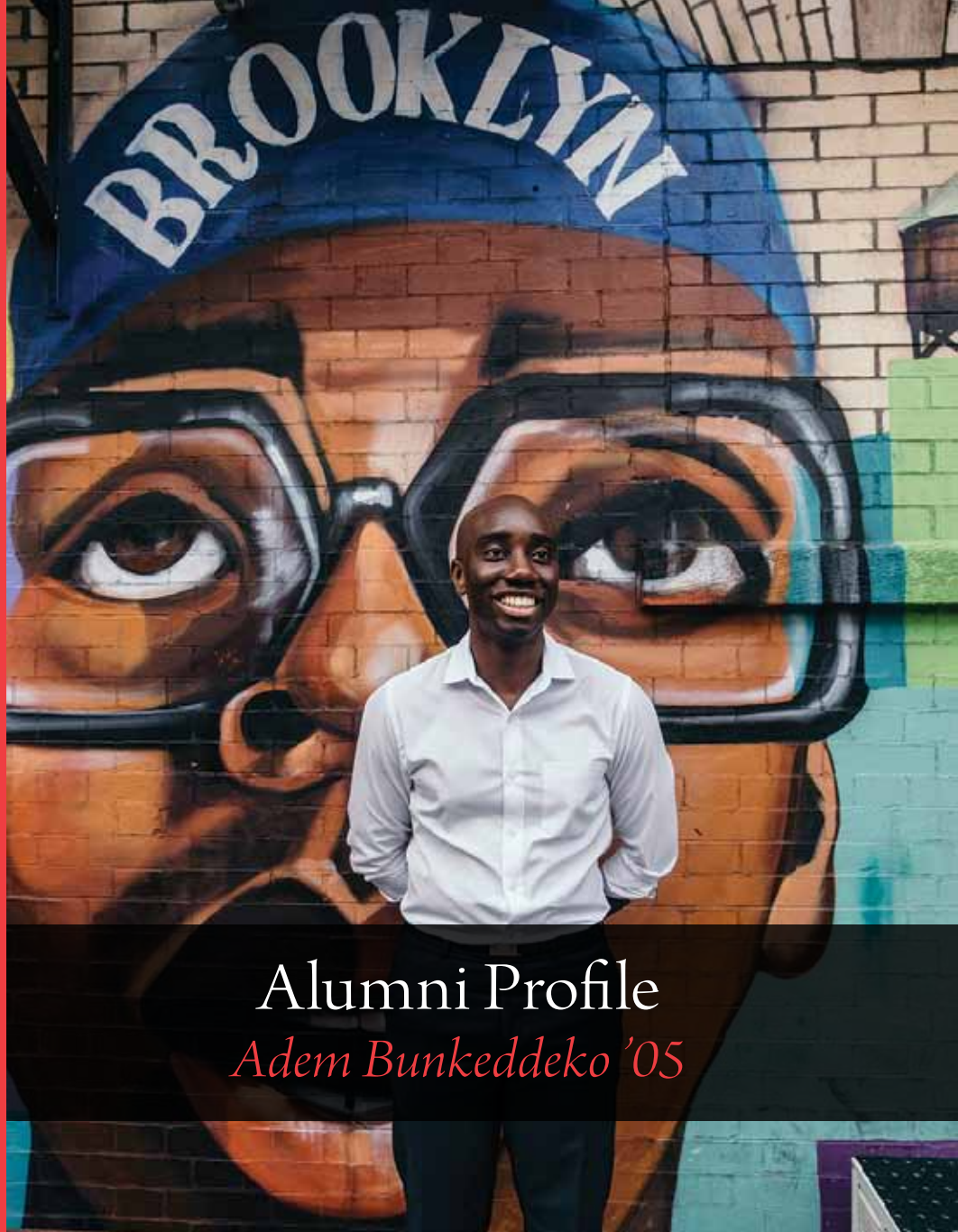
For the last five years, Bunkeddeko has served on Brooklyn Community Board #8 (Prospect Heights, Crown Heights, and Weeksville) and, until recently, was the associate director for business initiatives at Brooklyn Community Services (BCS). At BCS, Bunkeddeko helped create job-training programs that provided Brooklyn residents with the skills to take advantage of meaningful employment opportunities.

Bunkeddeko is a longtime resident of Crown Heights. His parents are war refugees who fled Uganda's

turbulent civil war to seek sanctuary and opportunity in the United States. They settled down and successfully reared their children in a modest one-bedroom apartment. Bunkeddeko's parents turned what had been a nightmare in Uganda into their version of the American Dream.

A product of the New York City public school system, Bunkeddeko was fortunate enough to earn scholarships

to attend both boarding school at Pennington and college. Bunkeddeko is one of the first members of his family to graduate from college and earn a graduate degree. After attending The Pennington School, he received a B.A. degree from Haverford College, where he studied political science and philosophy, and an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School.



Alumni Profile

Adem Bunkeddeko '05



ClassNotes

Reunions for 3s and 8s

1950s

Victor Barnett '50 hosted a group of Pennington seniors in New York City for a traditional English luncheon with his lovely wife, Lainie. He shared his life and business experiences with the students as they kicked off the last week of their month-long senior-year Horizon project exploring business and entrepreneurship.

Dave Brashears '50 is great-grandad to Llewyn Battle Parsons, born on August 21, 2017, looking like a Red Raider donning his red onesie. Proud parents are Dashiell and Reagan Parsons.

Andrew Guthrie '55 writes: "I attended the Kirkin' o' the Tartan afternoon service at Washington National Cathedral on Sunday, April 15. That is where the clergy blesses the various tartans presented by members of U.S. branches of Scottish Clans. I had a chance to meet the Lord Lyon King of Arms and show him my Guthrie tartan kilt. It was a big deal for any first-generation American of Scottish parents. If anyone is curious about the Lord Lyon and his role in all things heraldic in Scotland, they can Google it."

Peter Stoll '58 came to Alumni Weekend and picked up a Pennington onesie for his grandson, Jordan.

1960s

Robert Ripp '68 writes: "Judy and I are about to leave on a trip to Israel, Jordan, Uganda, and somewhere else. Uganda is partially a work trip to 'Otino Waa' near Lira, Uganda. When we get back we will be working with our new Hawai'i-based nonprofit media company to help other nonprofits with media. First projects are a Hawaiian Polynesian ethnobotanical agricultural community and a Hawaiian and Western music series: part documentary; part historical; part travelogue; part performance. We look forward to seeing everyone October 19–20 for our reunion."

Mike Fish '68 was in touch with classmate **Nak Joon Sung '68**, who lives in the Los Angeles area. He reports that Nak is happily retired from the clothing manufacturing business, playing golf, and enjoying prosperous children and grandchildren. Nak regrets that he will not be able to attend the 50th Reunion as he will be visiting Korea.

1970s

Billy Goldfeder '74 and **Steve Pegram '90** met at homecoming in 1989. Both had a passion while at The Pennington School to become firefighters, and both volunteered in Pennington. Steve interned for Billy in 1990 during Pennington's first year of senior internships. This developed a lifelong friendship, and Steve and Billy have worked together for the past twenty-one years. Chief Goldfeder was recognized on April 25, 2018, with the Tom Brennan Lifetime Achievement Award, for his more than forty years of service to the American fire service.

1980s

Tom Vesey '83, executive vice president at Orleans Homebuilders in Charlotte, NC, writes: "I am up in Philadelphia almost once a month on business, and my son is a sophomore at Penn State."

David Huchler '86 retired from the Alexandria, VA, police department earlier this year where he recently served as

(continued on page 60)



Photos: Victor Barnett '50 and the Business Entrepreneur Group; Llewyn, great-grandson of Dave Brashears '50; Peter Stoll '58 holding grandson Jordan; Andy '65 and Bobbi Schwarz; Lunch with Bruce Custis '68, Lily Childrey '18, Caroline Martin '16, Lexi Childrey '21, Jane Bott Childrey '89, and Mona Eichler '20 at the Gryphon Tea Room in Savannah, GA; Robert '68 and Judy Ripp



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interim chief of police. David has taken on a new position as chief of police for the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority.

Aaron Usiskin '87 now has two more Usiskins at Pennington, Class of 2020 and Class of 2021, and writes: "Both are swimming and having the time of their lives."

Stephanie Walker '89 is loving life in Naples, FL and is a partner in a natural foods brokerage firm called Strategic Natural Sales. She stays in touch with **Jane Bott Childrey '89** and would love to hear from **Melissa Carroll '89**.

1990s

Classmates and Peer Leader partners **Celeste Gabai '99** and **Min Soo Kim '99** reconnected in Korea during the Olympics in February.



Ben Gwin '99 published his first novel with Burrow Press on May 29, 2018, entitled, *Clean Time: The True Story of Ronald Reagan Middleton*.

Colleen Newman '99 now resides in Boulder, CO, and is the director of admissions for the University of Colorado Boulder, overseeing more than 34,000 applications each year.

2000s

Patrick Janson '02, president and COO of ProDeal360, spoke with a group of seniors about digital entrepreneurship during their Horizon program in New York City.



Philippe Chantecaille '03 hosted **Marco Di Natale '18** for his senior year Horizon internship at Chantecaille Beauty, where he learned the marketing/film side of its beauty business. Philippe was also able to share his love of art with other Pennington seniors during a dinner in New York held during the month-long business and entrepreneurship Horizon project.

Heather Rosenthal '04 graduated from Syracuse University with a B.F.A. in communications design and went on to

gain a master's degree in short film from the School of Visual Arts in New York City. She is the vice president brand creative at Rebecca Minkoff LLC, overseeing all of the brand's visual communications: digital, print, social, packaging, and store design.

Kristin Lubsen '05 has a passion for people, food, creativity, and collaboration in her community. In 2010, she graduated from Syracuse University; her experiences while traveling abroad sparked the idea to create a business that could positively affect the local community. Kristin opened the original Sip-N-Glo Juicery in Philadelphia in 2013 and a second store in 2015; her third store opened in April 2017. She also got engaged this year!

Dana Rae Ashburn '07 is a makeup artist, entrepreneur, and inventor. She is working on a new product launch for the fall as part of her ABLE Cosmetics company. Dana launched the company in 2015 with the goal of solving beauty application problems through design, high quality formulas, and simple instructions. ABLE has been written about in *W Magazine*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Seventeen*, and *Allure*. Dana received her first patent in 2017 for the design of her product CatEye101, and Sephora has named her as part of "the next generation of beauty

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Photos: Billy Goldfeder '74 (right) and Steve Pegram '90; Randy Biggs '86, Dave Huchler '86, and Medora Morris '86 at Dave's retirement party; Dave Parry '90 and Matt Grow '89 in Florida; Patrick Janson '02; Celeste Gabai '99 and Min Soo Kim '99; Philippe Chantecaille '03 and Marco Di Natale '18

Alumni Profile

Gillian Kemmerer '07

GILLIAN KEMMERER '07 is a foreign correspondent based in Moscow. She is the recipient of the 2018 Alfa Fellowship, which awards up to eighteen young leaders from the United States, United Kingdom, and Germany the opportunity to complete high-level professional development in Russia. She was most recently the anchor and U.S. head of programming for New York-based financial news outlet Asset TV. Kemmerer has reported around the globe on subjects from the World Economic Forum in Davos to the Rio 2016 Olympics, and has co-hosted with CNBC's Larry Kudlow (now White House advisor) and Liz Claman of Fox Business.

After graduating from The Pennington School in 2007, Kemmerer received her B.A. degree in economics with honors from Columbia University, and then earned her master's degree in international management with distinction at the London School of Economics. She began her career in journalism as a hedge fund reporter for *Absolute Return* magazine. Kemmerer was appointed to the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (the Emmys) in 2017 and is a voting member of the New York chapter.



"No matter where I travel, I often find myself thinking back to Mr. Winkler's AP U.S. History class. He always rooted for us and encouraged us to think about world issues for ourselves (as opposed to following blindly what we read), and I am so grateful to Pennington for the opportunity to learn from teachers like him."



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industry leaders to watch.” She enjoyed participating in the Women In Business Panel during Alumni Weekend and hosting a group of Pennington students in New York City for lunch.

Jesal Trivedi '07 just completed his master’s degree in interactive technology at NYU ITP. He is founder and CEO of Aduri, a wellness technology company with a mission to make our world happier, healthier, and more mindful. He brought seniors in the Horizon internship program to the NYU Entrepreneur Institute to discuss their business pitches and demonstrated how he had pivoted from a physical product to a mobile app solution based on customer feedback.

Gianna Russo '07 is working for Bessemer Trust as manager of financial systems and is in the process of earning her master’s degree. She hosted a group of current Pennington students in New York City this past spring as part of the senior year Horizon internship program.

Marly Faherty '08 is currently based in Los Angeles and works for Endeavor, a global leader in sports, entertainment, and fashion. She originally began her career in TV and news production, working for ABC on programs like *Good Morning America*, *Nightline*, and *The View*, before moving to California to work for Kobe Inc., her prior role.

Kathryn Brown '09 writes: “I graduated from Delaware Valley University in 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in equine studies and management, a minor in criminal

justice, and an associate’s degree in equine science. I also graduated with my British Horse Society Stage One and British Horse Society Stage Two. At Del Val I was able to meet many different people, some of whom were military veterans. While getting to know these students and seeing how much they continued to struggle, I realized the direction I was interested in—helping those in service and working in the equine industry. I am currently the equine care coordinator and PATH International Certified Instructor-in-Training at Shamrock Reins. At the end of June I plan on becoming a PATH-Certified Instructor.”

Carson Gentry '09 and Lela Swartz of Montgomery, NJ, were married on October 14, 2017, at Hopewell Presbyterian Church with a reception at the Lambertville Station Inn in New Jersey. The ceremony was performed by former Middle School football coach and School chaplain the Reverend Chuck Coblenz. Among those in attendance were Pennington Class of 2009 alumni **Tyler Mathiasen, Adrienne Ervin, Paige Scharite, Danielle Gabai, Lisa Thompson, Jordan Lieberman, André Jackson, and Tess Kaytmaz**. The couple currently lives in Hoboken, NJ. Carson is a civil engineer, and Lela is a registered dietitian nutritionist.

Brielle Wilson '09 spent four months working in Australia this past year and had the opportunity to hang out with **Erik Payn '09**, who currently lives in Australia.



2010s

Courtney Stewart '10 writes: “I am currently obtaining my M.A. degree in American Studies at Stockton University. This program has kept me on my toes. Last fall I interned at the new Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia and this October I will be traveling to Salamanca, Spain, to present research at an international conference.”

Irina Celentano '12 had a short piece published in the University of Notre Dame’s Institute for Church Life journal on the occasion of Easter. Irina graduated last year from the University of Notre Dame with majors in theology and medieval studies and received the Spirit Award, which honors a graduating senior who has shown “exceptional devotion and

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Photos: Priya Pandit '04 and Horizon group; Gillian Kemmerer '07, Jane Bott Childrey '89, Dana Rae Ashburn '07, and Heather Rosenthal '04 all participated in the Women in Business panel during Alumni Weekend; Gianna Russo '07; Jesal Trivedi '07 (right) and Horizon group; Carson Gentry '09 wedding

Alumni Profile

Ruba Shweihat '05

For those who attended Alumni Weekend in May, Ruba Shweihat '05 is a familiar face. Shweihat graciously served on the Women in Business panel, alongside four other Pennington alumnae, all of whom provided insightful perspective on professional ambitions and served as role models to the students in attendance.

“Pennington was so special and such a big part of me,” Shweihat says. “Coming back to be on the panel exposed me to heartfelt and deeply informed discussions with Pennington students. And it reminded me of my own exploratory journey.”

Shweihat came to The Pennington School from Saudi Arabia. Since graduating in 2005, Shweihat's journey has taken her to Lebanon, to Jordan, back to the United States for graduate school, and now to the United Nations. “The inquisitive streak I developed at Pennington gave me the analytical and critical skills I needed in life,” she says. “Pennington helped form my thinking cap.”

Shweihat earned her undergraduate degree from the American University of Beirut in 2009 and is thankful for the urban and international environment she encountered in Beirut—the perfect “training ground” in Middle Eastern politics, she says.

She has stayed in touch with several memorable Pennington teachers. One faculty member, Ida Malloy '85, helped secure Shweihat's first job with the office of Queen Rania of Jordan. “So many teachers contributed to my positive experience at Pennington,” she says. “Ms. Malloy served as a reference for me and was able to paint a different picture of me from afar—as a student going to school back in New Jersey—it set me apart. It gave me a different narrative.”

Shweihat spent two-and-a-half years preparing to launch the Queen Rania of Jordan Foundation for Education and Development, working very closely with the first CEO of the foundation, and witnessing firsthand the dynamics between global politics and work on the ground—from the aftermath of the great recession of 2008 to the Arab Spring in the early 2010s. “It was completely eye-opening for me,” she remembers.



It was a formative time of Shweihat's life: “I worked alongside ambitious women who had an impactful agenda with a focus on education,” she says. “Growing up, my parents didn't have much, but they valued education and made sure my siblings and I received quality education.”

The Queen Rania of Jordan Foundation for Education and Development launched in 2012. Shweihat then returned to the United States to obtain her Masters of Public Administration at Columbia University, where she spent nine months on a conflict resolution project focused on Peru, working with the United Nations Development Program. She now works within the same global, multilateral system that inspired her throughout her career, with a focus on gender and youth at the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates. “The UN is a very busy place,” she says. “There are 193 countries talking about everything at the same time. But it's a very outward-looking place that drives the global discussion on important issues like climate change and peacebuilding.”

Her work at the United Nations inspires her to further her passion for education access and education reform. She constantly reflects on the education she received at Pennington. “Doors are opened when you are at school,” she says.

“Yes, AP exams are important. Yes, being on a varsity team is important. But finding activities that take you outside campus, like volunteering at after-school programs for elementary students with Reverend Chuck Coblentz—those were the little things that enriched my experience. And the things that expanded my thinking at Pennington.”

Returning to Pennington is a true highlight for Shweihat. She appreciates the evolution of the Global Studies Program and is full of advice for current students. “Take advantage of your profile,” she says. “Of your unique story. Believe in who you are and what you can bring to the table.” And lastly, she advises everyone at Pennington to take advantage of the community: “Pennington is a community of people who come together—from the teachers to the groundskeepers. They all put in everything to make the Pennington experience what we know and expect it to be.”



(continued from page 62)

service to Theology as a field of study.” She is currently a graduate student at Duke University, pursuing her Master of Theological Studies degree.

Tristan Fried ’12 is finishing his third year of medical school at Sidney Kimmel Medical School at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia following his undergraduate studies as a biology major at Drexel University in two and a half years. He has one more year to decide his clinical specialty and will be doing “away rotations” in his fourth year while applying to residency programs. He has been elected president of the medical school’s Orthopedic Society.

Doug McCord ’12 graduated from University of Maryland, Baltimore County in 2016 and is currently taking prerequisite classes at Mercer County Community College to enroll in a doctorate of physical therapy program in the fall of 2019 or spring of 2020.

Hope MacKenzie ’13 and **Anna Gregg ’13** are both in Los Angeles, CA, working on the same 20th Century Fox lot. Hope is on the film side, working as a brand strategy coordinator, and Anna is on the television side, working as an executive assistant to the president of programming strategy and COO. Hope reports that she loves Los Angeles and is working in an amazing department with wonderful mentors.

Madeleine Derveloy ’13 recently graduated from Emerson College in Boston, MA, where she studied

directing theatre and film. She is now involved in the filmmaking industry as a cinematographer, gaffer, and director in Boston and New York City.

Kaison Randolph ’14 plays basketball for the Jefferson Rams and was named to the All-CACC first team. Kaison averaged 17.0 points per game, leading the team in overall scoring and ranked sixth in the conference. The Rams capped their 2017–18 season by winning the CACC Championship, earning a bid to the NCAA Tournament. Kaison also was named MVP of the CACC tournament.

Alana Cook ’15 helped lead Stanford University’s soccer team to its second NCAA Division I Championship in six years, beating UCLA 3–2 in the last minutes of the championship game on December 3 in Orlando, FL. Alana was named to the All-PAC-12 first team and to the United Coaches Academic All-Region second team in 2017.

Lauren Brown ’15 helped the Williams College soccer team win the NCAA Division III National Championship on December 2, defeating University of Chicago 1–0 in Greensboro, NC. Lauren played in all 24 games of the 2017 season.

Andrew Mavis ’16 had a breakout water polo season at George Washington University this year, being named an Honorable Mention All-American by the Association of College Water Polo Coaches and Most Valuable Player of the Mid-Atlantic Water Polo Conference (MAWPC) in November. Andrew scored a team-high 81 goals, leading GW

to its first MAWPC title and NCAA Tournament berth.

Tatiana Fried ’16 is finishing her second year at Drexel University in the Honors College in the Lebow School of Business. She is a finance and accounting double major and has been on the Dean’s List. She was elected to the Dean’s Student Advisory Board and is active with school tours, student panels, and the school’s blog. She is a peer leader, president of student organizations, and handles the Lebow Snapchat account. She just started her first co-op and is working in the highly competitive taxation department in Comcast’s headquarters in Center City and loving every minute of it!

Nick Osagie ’17 is at Dickinson College and sharing an apartment with **Elijah Wright ’15**. Nick plans to study abroad in 2019 at the University of Queensland in Australia.

Emily Xiou ’17 is loving UC Berkeley and met up with **Lily Childrey ’18** and **Jack Lu ’18** in Chengdu, China, this summer. They spent two days exploring the many cultural sites together.

Photos: Drama alumni gathering in Wesley House; Colin Schostak ’17 and Caroline Martin ’16; Jack Lu ’18, Lily Childrey ’18, and Emily Xiou ’17 met up in Chengdu, China.

Send news and notes to
Jane Bott Childrey ’89 at
jane.childrey@pennington.org



The Pennington Class of 2018 will be matriculating at the following colleges and universities:

University of Alabama (2); Albright College; American University; Babson College; Barnard College; Belmont University; Boston College; Boston University (3); Brandeis University; Brown University (2); University of Chicago; Clemson University; The College of New Jersey; University of Colorado at Boulder (2); University of Connecticut; Davidson College; University of Delaware (2); Denison University; Dickinson College (3); Drew University (2); Drexel University (2); Eckerd College; École Hôtelière de Lausanne; Emory University; Fairfield University (2); Franklin & Marshall College (2); Full Sail University; The George Washington University; Gettysburg College (2); Hartwick College; Haverford College; University of Helsinki; Hobart and William Smith Colleges; Indiana University at Bloomington; Lafayette College; Lebanon Valley College; Lehigh University; Loyola University Maryland; Lynn University (2); University of Maryland, College Park; University of Massachusetts, Amherst; University of Miami; University of Michigan; Muhlenberg College (3); New York University (6); New York University, Shanghai; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2); Northeastern University (2); Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University; Pennsylvania State University (2); Pennsylvania State University, Abington (2); University of Pennsylvania; Pratt Institute; Princeton University; Rhodes College; University of Richmond; Rider University; Rowan University; Rutgers University, Camden; Rutgers University, New Brunswick; Saint Joseph's University (4); Sarah Lawrence College; Savannah College of Art and Design (2); St. Lawrence University; Stevens Institute of Technology; Syracuse University (2); Texas A&M University; Tufts University; Villanova University (2); Virginia Tech (2); Wake Forest University (2); Washington University in St. Louis (2); Wayland Baptist University; Wentworth Institute of Technology



THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL

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Scholarship Classic Events

Save the Date for next year: **JUNE 10, 2019**



Scholarship Classics are wonderful opportunities for our Pennington community to come together and raise money for financial aid while enjoying the beautiful Bedens Brook Club. The golf and tennis events raised almost \$45,000 this year!

Sponsors of our annual Scholarship Classic events make it possible for Pennington to offer financial assistance to bright and talented students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend The Pennington School. A Pennington education can change a student's life, encouraging a child to develop not only as a scholar, but also as both a person of character and a global citizen.



PHOTOS—Above left: Alumni who participated in this year's Golf Scholarship Classic event; Left: Participants in this year's Tennis Round Robin Scholarship Classic event held in June; Above: The Golf Scholarship Classic winning foursome was Jason Raguel, Charlie Kovalcik '18, Hank Kovalcik, and JR Kovalcik.