SPRING 2024



CONNECTIONS

CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

KNOWN. NURTURED. INSPIRED.



Giving Day

On Giving Day, alumni, families, grandparents, friends, and our faculty and staff came together to raise more than $175,000 – bursting through our goal for the day and securing our annual target of over one million dollars in funds raised for the year. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, THANK YOU! We couldn't be more grateful for the generous show of support from our community.

Alumni ASSOCIATION

HOMECOMING
AND REUNION WEEKEND 2024
SEPTEMBER 20-21

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Black Alumni Network Gathering – 4:30 p.m.
Broadwell House

Alumni Reception – 5:30 p.m.
Gordon R. Wright Tennis Complex

Homecoming Football Game – 7:00 p.m.
Brian J. Bortz Family Stadium

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Alumni Breakfast – 10:30 a.m.
CCDS Dining Terrace

All events are gratis, courtesy of the CCDS Alumni Association.

Classes ending in '4 and '9 will celebrate their reunions this year. Please contact Peter Fossett '80, associate director of alumni and legacy giving, at 513.979.0283 or fossettp@countryday.net with any questions.

Dear Members of the Country Day Community,

It has been a remarkably successful year at Country Day, and we are proud to share some of our highlights with you in this edition of *Connections*.

As we announced in the fall, this year we rolled out our new strategic plan with a focus on three priorities: experiential learning, exceptional teaching, and connected community. And while these strategies are designed to shape our direction well into the future, we've already had a number of examples this year of how powerful these strategies can be:

Experiential Learning

- Our CCDS InvenTeam is one of eight teams nationwide that went to MIT, where it presented its patent-pending bike safety invention at EurekaFest;
- The Upper School Investment Club has successfully managed thousands of dollars in funds for the benefit of the school, and funded a new student-run snack business;
- The seventh-grade class took its annual trip to Cherokee, NC, to hike, raft, and learn about Native American culture as part of the culture studies curriculum;
- The third graders camped out on campus to cap off their study of Western expansion (they also developed independence along the way!); and
- 32 Upper School students founded Country Day Cures, a nonprofit fundraiser that helped raise $104,007 to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and honor Middle School teacher Ully Marin who fought multiple myeloma this year.

Exceptional Teaching

- We celebrated the retirement of two legendary and long-tenured faculty members – Brock Miller and Laura Rue – who have inspired generations of CCDS students with their outstanding teaching in physics and first grade;
- Upper School faculty member Chuck McGivern was given the Most Influential Teacher Award in conjunction with senior Melissa Teke's "Straight A" Scholarship Award for overcoming adversity and actively serving the community while striving for academic excellence;
- Middle School history teacher Allan Pestotnik, who joined our community in 2020, got involved immediately and hasn't stopped since; and
- Tim Dunn, an outstanding teacher and coach for 35 years, was inducted into the CCDS Athletic Hall of Fame, allowing generations of CCDS community members to reflect on his legacy of education in the classroom and on the athletic field.

Connected Community

- For the first time in years, the spring musical included cast and crew from all three divisions; *Seussical* was a smash hit, packing Keeler Theater with more audience members than any production in recent memory;
- The community turned out in huge numbers for CountryDate and demonstrated record participation for Giving Day;
- Year three of Multicultural Night was bigger and better than ever;
- Hundreds of community members gathered on campus to view a once-in-a-lifetime solar eclipse;
- Our community was recognized for its noteworthy integrity on the field and sportsmanship in soccer, earning the first-ever Outstanding Sportsmanship Award; and
- Enrollment continues to surge, with the strongest re-enrollment season in decades and waitlists in many grades.

Finally, one change to campus life this year managed to foster better learning experiences, support our exceptional teachers, and produce a more connected community. In August, we changed our smartphone policy so that students turn in their devices at the beginning of every day. This policy led to a noticeable change in culture, with more focus in the classroom and more connections in the halls. The reduction in screentime even led to so much more "greentime" outside for our students that we had to replace the grass in the amphitheater! Our change garnered significant media coverage, with many more schools now planning to follow suit next year. We are proud to be leading the conversation on this important initiative.

As ever, our work never stops. With our centennial celebration only two years away, we continue to seek new ways to build on our legacy of excellence. Stay tuned for more exciting developments, including major changes to campus in the coming years.

Whatever role you played in making the 2023-24 school year one of our best years ever, you have our deepest appreciation. Have a great summer!



Sincerely,

Rob Zimmerman '98
Head of School

SOUND BITES



"Country Day not only prepared me for college and grad school, but also prepared me to deal with challenges and to be resilient in the face of frustration or uncertainty."

– **Ceridwen Hall '05** talking about how her experience at Country Day helped her get to where she is now (pg. 60)

"I'VE NEVER HAD A TEACHER TELL ME 'NO' WHEN I'VE WANTED TO LEARN MORE OR ASKED THEM TO GO FURTHER INTO A SUBJECT. IT'S JUST HOW WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN TAUGHT AT COUNTRY DAY."

– **Marley Handler '24** (pg. 51)

"We have been blessed to benefit from the rising tide of Ray's leadership here at Country Day."

- Head of School **Rob Zimmerman '98**, about this year's Country Day Award recipient Rachel "Ray" Mitchell '24 (pg. 29)



"Our job is to act as our students' personal college consultants. We believe each family that attends Country Day deserves that level of personalized counseling. We are always learning and staying up to date on the latest issues so we can confidently address any questions or concerns that our families may have."

– **Chuck McGivern**, on the role of the college counseling office (pg 6)

"I think this is the ultimate award because it shows that our programs are trying to follow the best ethics and have character. Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but something you always can control is how you conduct yourselves."

– **Greg Hirschauer**, reflecting on the school being awarded the inaugural Outstanding Sportsmanship Award (pg. 38)

"Football has given me the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself. The game has taught me passion, resiliency, and toughness, all traits I will use later in my life. I will always be grateful for the relationships I've made during my four years of high school football."

- **Parker Corbin '24**, on being nominated for the "That's My Boy" Award (pg 26)

"One of the joys of being a teacher is seeing your students grow and learn, and it makes me sad that I won't be around to see these kids – this year's Rue Crew – graduate…. But I'll come back. Once you're part of this community, you're always part of it."

– **Laura Rue**, talking about the hardest part about retiring (pg 42)



"WE WANTED TO HAVE A DAY THAT REMINDED STUDENTS THAT NOT ONLY IS IT OK TO MAKE SPACE FOR THEIR MENTAL HEALTH, BUT IT IS ALSO ESSENTIAL."

- **Kathy Scheidler**, Upper School psychologist, speaking about the importance of Teen Mental Wellness Day (pg. 57)

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Parker Corbin '24 Named Finalist for the "That's My Boy" Award

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CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

ON THE COVER:
Cincinnati Country Day School was awarded a Lemelson-MIT (LMIT) InvenTeam grant to create an invention. The team selected a solution geared towards improving road bike safety. Country Day, which was ranked the #1 best high school for STEM in the Cincinnati area by niche.com this year, is one of only eight high schools nationwide to be selected to have an InvenTeam for the 2023-24 school year.

Connections is published by Cincinnati Country Day School. Photos are contributed by alumni, students, parents, faculty, and staff. If you have questions or believe any information to be incorrect, please contact Josephine McKenrick at (513) 979-0215 or mckenricj@countryday.net.

Parents of graduates: If you have been receiving CCDS mail for your graduate at your home address and they have a permanent mailing address elsewhere, please let us know how to best reach them. Please send updated information, class notes, or **address changes** to addresschanges@CountryDay.net or complete the form on our website at www.CountryDay.net/alumni/alumni-news.

Cincinnati Country Day School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, age (40 or over), national origin, ancestry, or military service/veteran's status in the administration of its educational programs and policies, admission decisions, tuition aid programs, employment practices and benefits, athletics, or other school-administered programs.

INTRODUCING
OUR NEW TRUSTEES

The school's board of trustees comprises individuals deeply dedicated to fostering the success and enduring sustainability of our institution. Their collective expertise and rich reservoir of experience are invaluable assets, generously shared through their commitment of time and resources. We extend a warm welcome to our esteemed new board members!



Johanna Brun

Johanna Brun is the owner of a successful portrait photography business and the current president of the Parents' Association. She has held leadership roles in the Parents' Association since 2019 serving as grade representative, social chair, and vice president. Over the past five years, Johanna's efforts have been instrumental in fostering strong community bonds and enhancing the educational experience for students, parents, and faculty alike. Johanna began her studies at Northeastern University. She further enriched her academic pursuits through the Semester at Sea Program from the University of Pittsburgh and traveled extensively across 23 countries. Johanna has a B.A. in communications from Xavier University as well as a degree in pastry arts from the Midwest Culinary Institute. Johanna loves to travel and seeks to inspire her children with a global perspective and a love for cultural exploration. She also enjoys skiing and pickleball. Johanna and her husband, Andrew, live in Anderson with their children, Crosley '33 and Milly '35.



Peter Horton

Pete is a principal and co-founder of Terrex Development & Construction, a leading real estate development and construction firm in Cincinnati. He brings over 25 years of experience at all levels of project leadership to help Terrex clients achieve the maximum results for their development or construction project. Since launching Terrex in 2014, Pete and his partners have developed and built over $400 million in projects across the city, including the Digital Futures CID development in Uptown. Terrex is currently renovating the historic Emery Theater in OTR and has constructed new headquarters spaces for The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, Links Unlimited, Prus Construction, Belcan, Luma Financial Technologies, and Core Specialty. Pete is an active member of many professional and community organizations. He serves on the board for The Children's Theatre of Cincinnati, the NAIOP Cincinnati Chapter, and the NAIOP State Board. He is also a graduate of both the C-Change and Leadership Cincinnati programs. Pete and his wife, Mary, reside in Anderson with their youngest son, Reed '25. Their oldest son, Will '20, attended George Washington University and graduated in May 2024.



J. Michael Leonard, Jr.

Mike Leonard '83 is the head swimming coach for the Powel Crosley Jr. YMCA, where he has coached numerous swim teams that have competed at the national level. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati and renowned expert, Mike has also published course work material and a textbook on the principles of competitive swimming and is a sought-after speaker on coaching tactics. He has also received several swimming and coaching awards, including the prestigious Joseph R. Rogers Award, the highest national YMCA honor given for outstanding contributions to YMCA competitive swimming. Outside of work, Mike is active in charitable community activities and is a devout fan of all Cincinnati sports teams. He is proud of his family's long history with Country Day: His father, Mike Leonard, is an alumnus of the Class of 1955, and his daughters Meghan '17 and Katie '12 and stepdaughter Erin Rutherford Hascup '97 attended Country Day. Also, Mike and Susie are grandparents to alumnae Jessica Rutherford '21 and Josephine Rutherford '18 and to current student Hailey Leonard '32. Their grandson Max will join the Early Childhood Center this fall.





Peter Niehoff
Peter Niehoff graduated from Country Day in 2005 and earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Cincinnati (UC) in 2020, where he currently teaches film and television history. He also co-founded the UC Center for Film and Media Studies. From 2013 to 2022 Peter served on Country Day's board of trustees. He sits on the boards of the Cincinnati Art Museum, Springer School and Center, Mercantile Library, Black Art Speaks, UC Health Foundation, Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disabled, Film Cincinnati, as well as several advisory committees. Peter lives in Indian Hill with his wife, Betsy, who is also a 2005 Country Day graduate. Their son, Oliver, is in Montessori Kindergarten at Country Day.

Robert M. Shively
Rob is a Country Day lifer who graduated in 2006. After Country Day, he attended the University of Cincinnati where he studied political science. Since then, he has spent his time forming, co-owning, and managing a family investment fund that invests in public and private businesses. Rob is the owner and managing director of Blue Light Capital, LLC. Beyond his passion for Country Day and investing, he enjoys a wide range of hobbies and traveling with his family. Rob lives in Mariemont with his wife, Michelle, and their daughter, Penelope, who is enrolled in Country Day's Early Childhood Center for this fall.

We are grateful for their service and for the service of those trustees who are stepping off the board this year including Monica Berghausen '77, Jessica Hall, Martin Hettich, Mary Horton, and Dean Johns.



MAGIC IN THE SKY:

Country Day's Eclipse Watch Party Leaves Community Awestruck

One of the most remarkable memories we made this past semester was our eclipse watch party! It brought together students, teachers, and families for an awe-inspiring event. Witnessing this rare celestial occurrence together on our beautiful campus was truly magical. Moments like these highlight just how incredible the Country Day community is. See you all back here in 20 years for the next one!











Empowering Futures:

CHUCK MCGIVERN'S MISSION TO GUIDE STUDENTS TO COLLEGE SUCCESS

Charles "Chuck" McGivern has a lot of passions and interests. He loves to go to the movies, read books (usually three at a time), listen to podcasts as he runs, try new restaurants, and discover hidden music scenes. But his biggest passion is helping Upper School students discover their path once they walk across the commencement stage.

Chuck has been teaching, coaching, and advising at Country Day for the past 19 years. The 2022-23 school year was the first year that he didn't teach an Upper School English class.

"I had been helping out in the college counseling office early on in my Country Day career," says McGivern. "But I decided to give up teaching because I felt like the students needed more of a full-time commitment from me in college counseling."

Chuck, who serves as the associate director of college counseling, now devotes his entire day speaking with Upper School students about one of the most important decisions they will have to make: where to go to college. And the weight of that decision, not only for students, but for their parents, is not lost on him.

"Over the past 16 years, everything has changed," McGivern says about the college application process. "There are so many factors now that are making it much harder to get into college, especially the 'brand name' institutions."

Some of those reasons can be attributed to the rise in international competition, increased awareness of schools through marketing and new technologies, colleges relying more heavily on early decision deadlines, and more kids applying to colleges they normally wouldn't apply to because of the common application or recent policies that eased up on the required test scores needed for admission.

But despite the ever-changing landscape of the college application process, Chuck knows that the college counseling office at Country Day is filled with the right people to help each student find their right path.

"We work as a team because we are stronger in numbers," Chuck says. "Our job is to act as our students' personal college consultants. We believe each family that attends Country Day deserves that level of personalized counseling. We are always learning and staying up to date on the latest issues so we can confidently address any questions or concerns that our families may have."

When it comes to his approach to advising students, he pulls from his own experiences to help guide students forward.

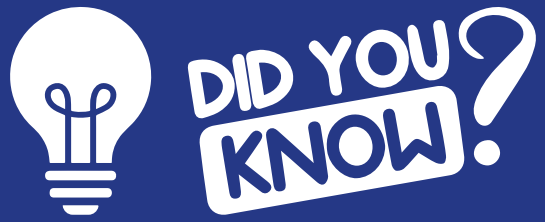
Chuck attended William Penn Charter, a private school in Philadelphia that is similar to Country Day, is a first-generation college graduate, and worked at a few public schools in the Philadelphia area.

"One of the things I learned from my private school education was to listen thoughtfully and that it's okay to not always have the right answers," he says. "So, I believe it is extremely important to give our kids my undivided attention."

Chuck continues, "My experiences at various schools have given me great mentors who were like parental figures to me. I hope to replicate that for my students and families."

With the college counseling office handling all the nitty gritty details, what else should parents know about the college application process?

"Just know that your investment is worth it," McGivern says. "We know our program is worth it because when kids go off to college and come back here to visit, we see that they are not only successful, but they are happy."



The Cincinnati Country Day School College Counseling program provides students with best-in-class college advice, with the goal of helping students attend and thrive at the college that will best suit their lifestyle choices and career aspirations. Check out a few interesting facts about the department:

Did you know that...

- ...on average, students write 6-10 essays when applying to college?
- ...each student receives 40 to 50 hours of college counseling (via individual meetings, college classes, workshops) from freshman year through senior year?
- ...our college counseling office team has visited over 300 college campuses, nationally and internationally?
- ...our college counseling office team collectively has 52 years of college counseling experience?

CELEBRATING THE IMPACT

OF COUNTRY DAY'S RETIRING LEGENDS



Ann Wimmer, Laura Rue, Rob Zimmerman '98, Brock Miller, and Matt Dahl pose for a photo together at the retirement reception in the Carey Family Amphitheater.

Family, co-workers, and former students gathered in the Carey Fame Amphitheater to congratulate iconic Country Day teachers Brock Miller and Laura Rue on their retirements. The impact these long-time educators have had on our community is immeasurable. We asked our community to leave some farewell messages for our retirees.

Anne (Oblinger) Pohlman '04 had this to say about Brock Miller as a teacher, "Thank you for being such a wonderful teacher to me! I've never forgotten your sense of humor and kindness. Science was always such a challenging discipline for me, but you made physics class fun and interesting. You're an institution in the Upper School, and one of the reasons Country Day is a special, unique place. Thank you for your years of dedication to your students; you will be greatly missed!"

One our current parents, Shannon Haury, said, "We've had two children blessed to be a part of the Rue Crew and have truly enjoyed getting to know Laura and her family over the years! Her leadership and presence will be dearly missed at the Lower School. We wish her nothing but the best in her retirement and time close with family!



We'd also like to congratulate Jeff Spain '71 on his retirement and thank him for his years of service as our network administrator. Jeff has been involved in some way or another with Country Day for almost 65 years. When trying to properly describe Spain's impact on Country Day, Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 said it best, "Without Jeff, we simply would not have the school that we have today."

Congratulations to all of our retirees! You will be greatly missed!









Lights, Camera, CountryDate 2024

On March 2, more than 400 members of the Country Day community – including parents, friends, alumni, faculty, and staff – gathered at 20th Century Theater in Oakley for the school's annual gala, CountryDate. Guests were transported to the glamorous world of old Hollywood, with the flash of paparazzi lights on the red carpet, a cameo appearance by Marilyn Monroe, and music from the fabulous Bluewater Kings Band; the allure of a hidden speakeasy and signature crafted cocktails further accentuated the night's theme.

The evening kicked off with a pre-party cocktail hour for the event's generous sponsors. This year, more than 75 families and businesses sponsored the event – a record for CountryDate. The party that followed included live music, dancing, a full-service bar, food by the bite, a caricature artist, multiple games of chance and donation opportunities – including a split-the-pot, CountryDate Bid & Buy Online Auction Classics, a rare bourbon raffle, the Hollywood Walk of Fame Star Challenge, and the much-loved CountryDate favorite: the Bourbon & Bubbles Pull. An atmosphere of community spirit and generous commitment saw the event exceed its fundraising goal, contributing more than $150,000 to the Country Day Fund.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Sally Hernandez '05 and Jenna Milligan, our event co-chairs, whose combined passion, creativity, and commitment to excellence created an atmosphere of joy and palpable community pride. It was a truly magical evening.







BALANCING FAMILY, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND DREAMS OF SOARING HIGH

Giselle "Gigi" Macias-Jaime '24 had a big decision to make.

Not only did she apply to six institutions, but she was awarded The Ohio State University's acclaimed Land Grant Opportunity Scholarship, which is only given to 176 Ohio students, and invited to be a Klimczak Scholar in the highly selective Business Honors Program at Notre Dame.

But for Gigi, family comes first.

"I've worked hard during my three years at Country Day and want to go to a school with the same academic rigor," says Gigi. "But I wanted to wait until I heard from all of the colleges I've applied to so I could review all my options with my family. I knew they would be incredibly supportive of any decision I made but I have these opportunities because of them so their opinions matter. This decision is about my family; it's not just about me."

Gigi admits she was very tactical with her decision about where to apply, and The Ohio State University (OSU) and Notre Dame are among her top choices.



The 2021 MVC Championship Cross Country Meet (from left to right; top row: Coach Nat Tracey-Miller '05, Noah Duplechan '22, Will Donovan '23, Christian Sprinkle '23, Miller Mann '23, Joe Gibson '23, Sam Nitzberg '22; bottom row: Nathan Hetzler '25, Trevor Gregorsok '25, Gigi Macias-Jaime '24, Reagan McMullen '22, Terrelyn Virzi '22, John Ragland '24, Amelia Ochterski '23, Coach Lauren Corrigan)





A group of Upper School students on a service trip to Costa Rica in April 2023, mixing cement, sand, rocks, and water to make concrete for the construction of a driveway. (from left to right: Alexia Lander Vegas '23, Gigi Macias-Jaime '24, Andrew Zimmerman '24).

Notre Dame has a very competitive business program, for which she was offered a scholarship, and the school is also a Catholic institution, another aspect of her life that is very important to her and her family. But she accepted the offer from OSU, where she plans on majoring in aviation and minoring in entrepreneurship and aviation. "My parents have told me it's always good to have a Plan B and both aviation and business are things I'm passionate about and would love to pursue."



Gigi was a teaching fellow for Breakthrough Cincinnati during the summer between her junior and senior year. Shown here with two of her students on a kayaking field trip.

Ultimately, Gigi wants to be a pilot. Although her why is layered. "I love planes; that technology is so fascinating and there are still a lot of advancements to be made, but beyond that there is deep meaning for me. My parents came to America from Mexico by themselves when they were teenagers. I can't even imagine. And we never went on vacation when I was younger – they were always working so hard. Because of their business [her parents are restauranteurs, among other things], we were always restricted to one place and a lot of my identity is rooted in that lifestyle. In the past few years, their business has become more successful so we were able to start traveling more. The joy and awe of travel inspired a passion in me to explore the world. It's beautiful and it's a privilege."

Gigi says she is very aware of and grateful for the sacrifices her parents made. "My parents worked so hard to offer me and my five siblings a better quality of life, and now I have limitless potential through opportunities like attending college."

With Gigi, the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. Her efforts, involvement, and energy seem to know no bounds. Not only is she involved in student council as the head of diversity and inclusion, but she is also a board member of EDI Council, attended the Student Leadership Diversity Conference as a school representative, was inducted into Cum Laude Society, operated as the team manager for lacrosse, played tennis and basketball, and has participated in cross country for all three years – leading as co-captain this year.

If that's not enough, she spends most of her spare time at the restaurants with her family. "I've always helped them because I know how much they work. Also, it's something I'm good at and enjoy; it's taught me a lot about leadership and professionalism. It takes time away from school and my friends but I've gained a lot from it and I'm grateful for it."

Gratitude seems to be a common theme for Gigi right now. Even though she has worked hard to get where she is, she is still incredibly grateful and seems almost surprised when the world swings her way.

"Being offered the OSU scholarship completely caught me by surprise. They offer it to a very select number of students and it's an honor. I've been working so hard to do my best in school and seeing that work come to fruition...seeing the effort of my parents, who worked so hard to send me to an independent school...I was jumping up and down and crying."

For Gigi, the sky's the limit.



Giselle celebrated her Quinceañera, a cultural celebration of her Hispanic heritage and a religious act of thanksgiving, upon turning 15 at St. Boniface Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. Her family is pictured alongside her as she celebrates this special day.



PARTING WORDS

FROM STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT PARKER CORBIN '24

MY FAVORITE COUNTRY DAY MEMORY IS... the fifth grade ski trip. It was super fun. I'm not a skier, which is ironic, but that trip was really fun. Going to [Washington] D.C. in eighth grade was also really fun. We got to go the fall before Covid hit.

FOR COLLEGE I WILL ATTEND... University of Maryland to play baseball. I plan on taking the pre-law route. I would like to stay in baseball, of course; the big goal is to play professionally. But knowing how difficult that is, it's always good to have a Plan B. I've always been fascinated by law and helping people. And I really liked Maryland's campus. The minute I stepped on campus, it felt like home.

I DEFINITELY STRESSED ABOUT... where I wanted to go to college. I was fortunate to have a lot of options academically and athletically, but I stressed about school. Last year I had such a heavy courseload, but with the teachers I had and the way they went about teaching I didn't have to stress. Obviously, everyone goes through stress and what's special about Country Day is the support staff. We have psychologists and access to therapists and our teachers are in their offices to talk with us. You learn to manage your stress and manage your time so efficiently so your stress can be minimal. And the students all understand because we're all going through it together.

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO... creating new friendships, like I've done here [at Country Day] where I have a big group of people I can really trust. I'm outgoing and I'm excited to meet new people from different walks of life and different areas and who are different than me. And I'm looking forward to playing baseball at a school that has been very dominant and in the Big 10. It's going to stink leaving here, so I'm definitely looking forward to being able to stay in touch with everyone. Our grade will have a ton of successful people and I'm excited to see how they do.

BEING AT COUNTRY DAY IS... an amazing experience. I've been privileged to attend such a rigorous and prestigious institution. It's different than most schools because it's not only the academics, it's the community here that sets the school apart. I've been here since second grade and feel fortunate to have been here for that long. Athletically, what is so special is that you have the opportunity play multiple sports, unlike most other schools. The brotherhood and teammates and friends and memories I've made playing sports for four years – I'll remember them forever. If I have kids and am living in Cincinnati when I'm older, I want them to go to Country Day because of how amazing the students, community, teachers are. There is so much support here.

MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT SENIOR YEAR IS... how close our class is and how well we get along with one another. To see 30 seniors sitting and talking at the top of the Upper School Commons is an everyday thing. It's knowing that this is the last time I'll be in this building as a student, so I just get to take it all in and make the most of it. The end is coming sooner and faster than we realize.

COVID IMPACTED MY CLASS... by making us closer. Everyone in my class knows what everyone likes and doesn't like. There is no drama or awkwardness. It's awesome how close we are and how well we all get along. Covid also made us realize how fortunate we are to be in a school like this where we could attend school in person so we could get through it together. It showed us how strong we are as a class and individually. For me, the pandemic was mentally tough, and I think it was the same for a lot of my classmates. But it built character and made us stronger.

MY FAVORITE MEAL IN THE DINING TERRACE IS... I have two. I love the bang bang chicken. It's a very popular one, I know. But I also have to give a shout out Ms. Phyllis and her Caesar salad. I don't add anything to it because I don't want to mess up her recipe. The way she does it is perfectly fine for me.

MY BEST ADVICE FOR NEXT YEAR'S SENIOR CLASS IS... don't let the highs be too high and the lows be too low. You're going to go through moments of stress and despair and tons of joy and happiness. It is your last year of high school so enjoy it to the best of your ability because it really does go by so fast, faster than you think it will. When you feel like you're getting stressed or if something bad happens, take a minute to realize where you are in your life and that these are some of the best times in your life. Live life to the best of your ability because it doesn't get much more enjoyable than this.

IN 25 YEARS, I HOPE TO... be retired from Major League Baseball but still be involved with baseball, maybe coaching at the high school level or coaching my kids. I hope to be working at a good job where I can make an impact on people, whether it's law or something else. I also hope to have a family and live in Cincinnati. I hope to have kids who I can send to Country Day or to a school like this. Knowing the profound effect it has had on me, I want to see that for my kids.

TO ME, LEADERSHIP IS... the most important trait someone can have, especially an athlete. Ever since I was young it has been engraved in me to be a leader. What we make of our world will be determined by the kids and teens of today. I encourage people around me to do the right thing and have integrity, because I believe it's contagious. I encourage everyone to take on leadership roles because I believe the experience can make you a better person, a better version of yourself.

SENIOR YEAR IN THREE WORDS: So much fun.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW ALLAN PESTOTNIK, WHO HAS BEEN TEACHING HISTORY IN OUR MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR THE PAST THREE YEARS? LET'S PUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE TEST!

1. **In what other roles has Allan served at Country Day? (circle all that apply)**
   a. Fourth-grade teacher
   b. Facilitator for Project LEAD, our seventh-grade boys leadership program
   c. Middle School coach
   d. EDI representative for the Middle School
   e. Faculty mentor
   f. All of the above

Answer: All of the above. Allan joined the Country Day community in 2020 and immediately got involved and hasn't stopped since!

2. **Allan and his wife, Kelly, met at Denison University and her job and his pursuit of education (he attended Teachers College at Columbia University) moved them around a bit before they landed in Cincinnati after she accepted a job with P&G. They moved to Cincinnati from:**
   a. Brooklyn, where he taught at Bay Ridge Preparatory School.
   b. Connecticut, where he taught at Greenwich Country Day School.
   c. Cleveland, where he taught at Gilmour Academy.

Answer: A. While he taught at Greenwich Country Day School for nine years and attended Gilmour Academy (and worked in their summer camp program, which he said directed him toward a career in education), Allan and his wife most recently lived in Brooklyn prior to moving to Cincinnati. "Cincinnati is a great place to raise a family…and it was nice to move out of our small Brooklyn apartment." They have three children: Hadley '37, Braden '40, and Weston, who will attend the Early Childhood Center in the fall.

3. **Why does Allan enjoy teaching history? To help students... (circle all that apply)**
   a. become informed and engaged citizens.
   b. realize the foundations of our government.
   c. understand how they can improve their communities.
   d. find connections between history and current events.
   e. have a good enough understanding of history so they can pass tests.

Answer: All but E. "I love the lessons that allow the students to reflect on the real world. I teach history because it's all about trying to find connections between past and current events. Bringing the world into our classroom whenever it's relevant and appropriate is essential. I have a heavily discussion-based class and I love hearing their insights; I'm inspired by their thoughtfulness and points of view. Students are the future, and I talk with them about how they can improve their communities and make changes for the future by applying the lessons they learn. They're capable of so much more than they're given credit for sometimes. My goal is to teach the children how to think, not what to think. I want them to form their own views and be aware of issues that are discussed while considering different viewpoints and knowing their own evidence-based positions."

4. **Which of the 4Cs did Allan say stands out to him the most about Country Day?**
   a. Curriculum
   b. Campus
   c. Community
   d. Character

Answer: Community. "From the moment I arrived, I got a strong sense of community, and I especially feel that in the Middle School. It's a family community where people have each other's backs and want to bring out the best in each other. It's the whole 'known and nurtured' piece, which I see as a parent and the experience my children are having. We have a genuine partnership between parents and teachers here at Country Day. One of the main draws to this school is that we're mission-driven and focus on the whole child. I care deeply about every aspect of our students, and I try to be a good role model who helps them grow into being good people. Being here, I'm motivated to the best teacher I can be."

5. **Which of the following does Allan enjoy outside of work: (circle all that apply)**
   a. Collecting and listening to vinyl records
   b. Playing the guitar
   c. Spending time with his family
   d. Basket weaving
   e. Cheering on his sports teams
   f. Reading
   g. Traveling

Answer: All except D. "I love learning about musicians and their stories….I play some piano and guitar….I love sitting and reading in my living room…I love supporting my Cleveland sports teams and FC Cincinnati….I enjoy traveling; last summer I got to go to the homelands of both sides of my family and had a beautiful time visiting Slovenia and the Czech Republic…My family is a passion of mine as well but I hope that's implied."

6. **What does Allan say is something unique about our Middle School compared to others?**
   a. The table tennis in the Commons
   b. The focus on leadership
   c. The number of extracurricular activities available to the students
   d. The Outdoor Wellness course

Answer: B. I really do feel like our students are curious and intelligent and provided opportunities to explore all aspects of themselves and grow in leadership. The students aren't pigeonholed into being or participating in one thing, and that is huge in Middle School when the students are finding their sense of self. I also think the diversity we have here at Country Day gives our students opportunities to have interesting conversations with those who have different perspectives and experiences, which helps them become even better citizens of the world.



PART 2: BEYOND BORDERS

MY EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE IN THE FRENCH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

By: Shiva Shyam '26



After welcoming 17 French students to the Country Day campus this past fall, the Country Day French exchange students embarked on a journey this spring across the ocean to France, where we spent two amazing weeks immersed in culture and language.

Some Country Day students were incredibly nervous about leaving the country. Many were apprehensive about the homestay, and almost all were worried about the sufficiency of their French. However, what almost overwhelmingly exceeded the trepidation was the excitement; the excitement to be in a new country seeing and trying new things.

Once we had successfully boarded the flight, I began to grow more nervous. Yet the reason for my anxiety was the very thing that excited me; simply put, it was the fear of the unknown. What would being in a foreign country be like?

The participants of the 2024 Cincinnati Country Day School-St. André exchange program

Once we arrived in Paris, we immediately boarded a bus to Colmar, a town in the eastern region of Alsace. It was a long journey, and many of us were tired from the trip. But there was still a sense of wonder; whether it was stopping at gas stations to take quick pictures of French snacks or simply remarking at the architecture all around us.

Soon, we reached Colmar and were able to reunite with our exchange partners. I was very excited to see my partner, Eline Nordez, though it seemed like no time had passed between us. We had been talking online frequently and she was very considerate in making sure my home away from home was as comfortable as possible. Eline tried to ensure a full immersion in French culture. Indeed, her parents were very generous and cooked classic Alsatian meals. French was strictly spoken in the household, yet they were kind when dealing with my many grammar mistakes.



From left to right: Eline Nordez (Shiva's correspondent), Shiva Shyam '26, Ali Zimmerman '26, and Constance and Mylena (Ali's two correspondents) atop Strasbourg Cathedral.

On the first full day with my exchange partner, I was able to visit a true French patisserie, where I could indulge in various French pastries. In France, life seemed much more relaxed; school would sometimes not start until 10 a.m., and after-school time was left for meeting up with friends. Whether it was walking through French grocery stores and remarking at the variety of breads, cheeses, and chocolates, or buying eclairs at the city center during lunch breaks at school, Country Day students were able to get a taste of life as a student in Alsace.

I am most appreciative of this opportunity for the chance it has given me to create friendships across cultures and nations. My favorite part of the exchange was the time I spent with Eline. There is something distinctly different about an exchange program compared to any other service trip or CCDX Week outing: the opportunity to create lifelong bonds.

Sadly, the week had come to an end when it seemed like we had arrived just yesterday. There was something distinctly more forlorn about leaving for Paris than when the students of St. Andre left Cincinnati. I believe it was the finality of the moment; the "exchange" part of this trip had come to an end. There were many tears shed and many assurances made that we would all visit one another soon, and I can't wait to visit the beautiful town of Colmar once again.

We took the TGV, a high-speed train, to Paris on March 11. There, we spent a few days with our tour guide learning all about the rich culture of Paris and making Franco-American connections. Paris was distinctly different from the homestay in that it was much quicker paced. Watching for pickpockets, staying with the group, and metro train troubles were all major concerns (Dr. Hecker, who was always concerned about our safety, would constantly count the number of students at every metro stop). However, Paris is a beautiful city with a variety of landmarks and monuments, and we enjoyed our range of experiences – whether it was learning about the history of the Arc de Triomphe or marveling at the beautiful impressionist art of the Musee d'Orsay. The most magical memory from this trip came on our last day in Paris, when we went up to the third level of the Eiffel Tower (an experience that was almost impossible to book!)



LC Cicchinelli '26 and Alessandra Garcia-Altuve '25 making macarons in Paris.

We knew we had limited time, and, at first, everyone was snapping pictures trying to get the perfect image for their socials or to send back to family and friends. From the top of the Eiffel Tower, you could see all of Paris. We reminisced on the past few days as we pointed at the monuments that we visited and the places we'd seen. As the sun dipped below the horizon, we came to the realization that our French adventures had come to an end. Many were eager to return to a sense of normalcy and home in Cincinnati, but we also felt that the trip ended much more swiftly than anticipated.

I'm immensely grateful for this opportunity, something that I know only a few schools in Cincinnati can provide. Through this program, I became more proficient in French, learning key differences between taught and spoken French. I also developed valuable skills such as independence, adaptability, and communication. Lastly, I would like to thank our amazing faculty chaperones, Dr. Hecker and Ms. Corwin, who made every effort to ensure an enjoyable trip for us all. I can't wait for Country Day students to embark on a journey to Spain next year and continue building bridges across borders.

Annual Student Conference

ENCOURAGES EXPLORATION OF DIVERSE HORIZONS

By: Nat Tracey-Miller '05, Upper School Librarian



Wheelchair basketball, Oscar-winning cinema, cooking demonstrations, and Greek dance are just a few of the eclectic offerings hosted over the last seven years at the Upper School Diversity Conference. This annual event stands as an incredible showcase of our student body's penchant for innovation and advocacy. Each year, I am lucky enough to work in conjunction with Angela Barber-Joiner, director of belonging & well-being, and a group of our amazing students to create a unique program that builds on the stories and topics of previous conferences.

The celebration and recognition of diversity is woven into our curriculum, but this daylong event gives us the opportunity to pause and give the focused attention these topics deserve. The first Diversity Conference was held on January 30, 2018, and was the brainchild of Chantal Thornberry, then an English teacher and our dean of students. From the beginning, the vision was to offer students something more interactive and immersive than 2017's screening of *Hidden Figures*, which was followed by a brief advisory discussion and a noon dismissal. By harnessing the passions and interests of the Upper School community, we could offer something that authentically reflects the diverse makeup of our students and faculty. Upon Thornberry's departure for Minnesota the following year, I was handed the reins, and have used her mission as my guide ever since: provide students and faculty a platform to speak about issues for which they care deeply and increase exposure to the diversity of our community members.

While the format of the conference is flexible, a few elements are perennial features: a keynote presentation, a wide variety of student-led breakout sessions, and a contemporary documentary selected from recent film festival slates. Keynotes have included authors published in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, local faith leaders, disability advocates, and members of the business community. Our film series has boasted such buzzed-about titles as *Summer of Soul* and *Crip Camp* as well as critical arthouse favorites like *Minding the Gap*. This year's showstopping centerpiece was a presentation by Jake Counts from the Cincinnati Dragons, a local wheelchair basketball team, which culminated in 24 students and faculty competing in a game of their own. It was educational and humbling to see some of our strongest athletes try to master the skillset required to maneuver around the court in a wheelchair.

Year in and year out, the conference's greatest strength is the students who guide its tone and topics. Each program bears the fingerprints of that year's student leadership, from art displays and lunch menus right down to the music played while the community gathers in Keeler Theater. Given proper care and attention, no topic is too small, and sessions covering mainstream and traditional culture have always proven particularly popular. One student this year delivered a comprehensive history of Japanese Manga, while another highlighted



the New York rap collective Native Tongues. These breakout sessions offer a perfect chance to put into practice the school's leadership-centered mission.

Many students bring ideas back from the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference, such as last year's panel presentation on the need for dedicated affinity groups. Others have used the conference as a springboard to create greater change within the Country Day community. In 2019, three juniors crafted a breakout session on the school's Indian mascot that was expanded into a keynote presentation the following year. The trio was then invited to reprise their talk later that spring in front of the Board of Trustees, who ultimately moved to change the mascot.

The conference met its biggest challenge in 2021 when, restricted by COVID gathering rules, we were unable to hold the event. Undaunted, our students put together an extensive series of video presentations that were then disseminated and shown in individual advisories. Rather than occupying a single day, the conference stretched out in pieces for weeks, peppering the spring semester with informative video interludes.

Planning for the next conference often begins before the previous one has taken place, and indeed, preparations are already well underway for the 2025 event. Diversity Conference is only one of the many ways that issues of equity and inclusion are centered at CCDS, but it is a unique and homegrown event that shines a spotlight on the very best that our passionate students have to offer, and we are excited to add another chapter to this continuing story.



Joyful Leadership

By: Parker Corbin '24

Cincinnati Country Day School provides a unique opportunity for students to participate in a variety of leadership positions. Whether it's leading a club, being a part of honor council, or running for student government, CCDS creates an environment full of driven and exceptional students – future leaders of our generation.

After I was elected student council president at the end of my junior year, Ms. [Jesse] Kim, our dean of students, approached me with the idea of doing a leadership retreat through a local organization: Camp Joy. I loved the idea and was extremely eager to see how it would impact our dynamic in student council.

As the 2023-24 school year began with a new phone policy, it was our duty to help foster an atmosphere full of social interactions. We are the leaders of our school, and the retreat helped us develop and improve our leadership skills. We learned communication strategies and how to be a part of a team, which, in turn, improved our social dynamic and allowed us to be more effective as a council.



CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

CCDX WEEK HIGHLIGHTS EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT COUNTRY DAY



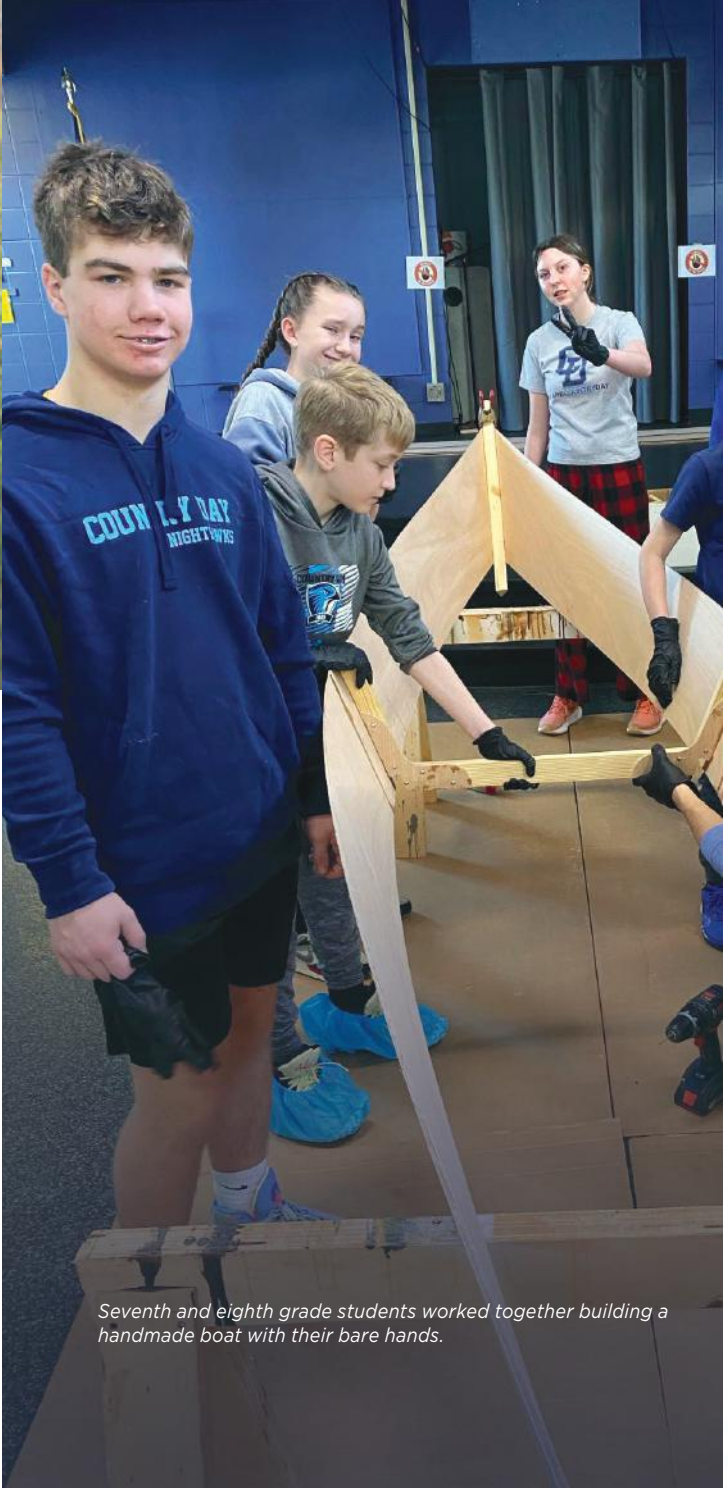
Middle School students spent time in the great outdoors bird watching in Dan Woods' "Winging It" course.



Upper School students designed and built glow-in-the-dark wearable art and giant puppets for the upcoming Blink Parade.

CCDX Week has become a staple over the last five years at Country Day. Every March, we offer developmentally appropriate courses for all students, with the goal of promoting learning through exploration and experiential activities. From learning about cameras and photography, to bird watching, to wrapping ankles for injured athletes, to learning important life skills, students from the Early Childhood Center through Upper School actively participated in courses that explored their interests and challenged them outside the traditional classroom setting.

Fourth graders fostered creativity and appreciation for the artistic process through pottery with an off-campus visit to Queen City Clay. Dan Wood and Kyle Scully led Middle School students into the field to identify birds by sight and sound in their appropriately titled course "Wingin' It." Upper School students gained exposure to budgeting, marketing, business modeling, and personal branding by competing in a "Shark Tank"-style competition to fund their own business at Amend Consulting in downtown Cincinnati. Middle School students learned proper woodworking skills to build a handmade boat. ECC students were introduced to the fascinating world of birds by crafting bird feeders and building bird nests. And a crew of Upper School students even traveled to the Dominican Republic to help install a new aqueduct system for a local community.



Seventh and eighth grade students worked together building a handmade boat with their bare hands.



Fourth graders explored various hand-building techniques and learned how to throw on a pottery wheel during an off campus visit to Queen City Clay.



Students who were interested in baking spent the week working in teams learning how to start and run a bakery business, while also competing in various baking challenges.



One of the many artistic activities that kindergartners participated in was learning about photography.



Middle School students spent their CCDX experience learning skills not typically taught in school, including cooking skills, car and bike maintenance, and fire-building skills.



Upper School students who participated in the "Urban Development Affordable Housing" course spent time at the United Way of Cincinnati by assembling dental care packages for families in need.



At the Lower School's Country Market, students not only sold their creations, but they also operated the checkout booth!

The Lower School's Country Market was all the rage at the end of the week! Students showed off their handcrafted creations to their parents, teachers, and older students and made a few of their artifacts available for purchase. That was only a fraction of the amazing hands-on learning courses our students participated in during CCDX Week. Next time you are talking with a current student, be sure to ask them about their CCDX Week experience!



Our ECC students learned all about birds, including making their own bird nests!



Seventh and eighth graders in "Hidden Gems" made their way to Brazee Studio to design and create glass magnets.



Upper School students traveled to the Dominican Republic to help with an infrastructure project that brought clean water to an entire community.

Creating leaders who, through the discovery of their own abilities, kindle the potential of others and better a dynamic world.

MISSION *in Action*

EMBRACING WELLNESS: A WEEK OF SELF-CARE

By: Marin Lange '25



While sitting in advisory one morning in January, I received a Teams message that said, "Jesse Kim [dean of students] has mentioned you." So, I clicked the notification to see that she had asked me to help run a CCDX Week course with Isabel Ramirez '24 and herself. Intrigued and always open to new experiences, I said yes immediately. Soon, the three of us met to plan the course.

We decided that with all the stress of high school, we were going to create a course that would help students find ways to relieve stress and learn easy and enjoyable ways to keep our bodies – and minds! – healthy.

With little time for planning, we had several lunch meetings to map out the course for the week. We knew we wanted the group to start the morning with yoga, journal daily, make food, and have professionals visit to talk about self-care and mental health. Our goal was to keep the activities interactive and engaging. As the planning process went on and with our goal in mind, we also added a couple surprises for our group: goat yoga at 50 West and a painting class.

By the end of CCDX Week, after making smoothies and trying countless yoga poses (that Mrs. Kim was better at than I was), it sunk in what a successful week we had created. I bonded with people I usually did not get to see throughout my normal school day, and I tried new things I usually would not go out of my way to try. The experience reminded me how easy it can be to take a little time each day to improve my mental health and overall wellbeing through simple tasks like taking a peaceful nature walk or practicing breathing to calm my nerves when I'm stressed.

The week was such a memorable experience for me, both as a course leader and someone who engaged in the activities throughout the week. I am so grateful I had the opportunity to work with Isabel and Mrs. Kim and help teach other students about something we are passionate about.

MILES OF GRATITUDE

MISSION *in Action*

Did you know that 27-53% of food goes to waste in school cafeterias every year? Well, that is not the case for Country Day! This year, SAGE Dining Services, which has provided our incredible daily dining experience since 2005, was recognized by Last Mile Food Rescue for the impressive contributions they have made to help end waste and food insecurity.

"As the chef at CCDS, I see good food left over at the end of the day; it's impossible not to have food waste when the goal is that the last student in the Dining Terrace has the same food choices as the first student," says Casey Wolford, senior food services director. "Donating this food to people who really need it just makes sense. It's a way to make sure nothing goes to waste and to help out in our community. It feels good to know that the meals we make can bring a little comfort to someone else's day."

With this mindset, SAGE has also helped start a movement, with more schools following their example. On average CCDS donates between two to 20 pans of food per week, containing a variety of food. Given SAGE's objective to ensure no shortages, this range of donations is quite reasonable and aligns with CCDS's goal of minimizing waste without compromising quality.





But SAGE's efforts don't stop there. They also provide education and opportunities for our students to make a difference.

For example, in partnership with SAGE and Last Mile Food Rescue, this spring a group of our Upper School students helped pack meals for Impacting Tomorrow, a nonprofit organization that collects, stores, and distributes purchased and donated food to the local community. In total, our students packed 100 full meals, 48 full breakfasts, 30 Cincinnati chili with spaghetti meals, 40 half dozen biscuits and 40 s'mores mix-cups for families and community members in need.

Now that is some remarkable service-leadership in action!

COUNTRY DAY CURES

STUDENTS RALLY COMMUNITY SUPPORT, MAKE HISTORY WITH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

MISSION *in Action*

By: Charlize Rust '24

Team Country Day Cures made history this year during the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Student Visionaries of the Year (SVOY) campaign and kicked off a legacy at Country Day. Gracie Mitchell '24, Alessandra Garcia-Altuve '25, and I had the privilege of leading the first-ever LLS team at Country Day. From the beginning, we were confident this team would be special because of the incredible community we have. Our team of 32 Upper School students came together with the inspiration of our beloved Middle School art teacher, Mr. Ully Marin, who was recently diagnosed with multiple myeloma. We set our team goal at $100,000 and got to work.



At the start of 2024, the team attended weekly lunch meetings, held give-back nights at local restaurants, and pitched sponsorships to possible donors. However, the most significant highlights of the campaign were the events at Country Day. The middle schoolers showed their support by clearing out their pockets at our lunchtime bake sale, barely leaving even a box of cookies for the Upper Schoolers. At the doubleheader for girls and boys basketball versus Summit, even rivals came together. The team had a "Chuck-A-Duck" competition and raffle baskets supported by Knights and Nighthawks alike. And finally, our favorite event: The Nighthawk Walk! This incredible event brought together all divisions including students, faculty, family, and friends. The team pulled off an amazing day with live music (thanks to Ali Zimmerman '26), face painting, bid & buy, a tie-dye station, pizza, and Kona Ice. It exceeded all expectations, raising over $4,000 on just one sunny afternoon. The best part is still seeing tie-dyed Country Day Cures shirts around campus as reminders of the support our team received from our gracious community.

On March 16, Team Country Day Cures was announced as the runner-up of the 19 teams in Cincinnati's regional campaign, raising $104,057. Our team members were recognized with many awards for their hard work. Patrick Ramage '25 and his sister Alison Ramage '24 were named Team Members of the Year, raising over $21,000. We also had nine team members recognized as part of the $5k Club including Andrew, Megan, and Elizabeth Zimmerman '24, Molly and Maggie Klekamp `25, and Catherine and Jack Monroe '25. Team Country Day Cures was one of only two teams to complete the 50 States Challenge as well as one of two teams that surpassed $100,000 in fundraising.

At the grand finale event it was said, "The streets of heaven are too full of blood cancer victims." Through the efforts of this team and the endless support of the community, we displayed the mission that LLS inspires. We could not have done it without the support of Hirsch [Theresa Hirschauer, head of Middle School], Mrs. [Laura] Gunn, and our incredible team. We are infinitely thankful for the virtue of Country Day, which shines through every individual who supported us. And there's more! Alessandra Garcia-Altuve intends to lead Country Day Cures 2.0 next year. We are looking forward to CCDS becoming a force in the fight against blood cancer and creating a legacy for years to come.



PARKER CORBIN ’24 NAMED FINALIST FOR THE “THAT’S MY BOY” AWARD



It’s no surprise that Parker Corbin ’24 was one of 10 finalists for what some consider to be the most prestigious award a high school football player can receive in the Greater Cincinnati area.

“Parker is an amazing young man, as are all the young men selected as finalists for this award,” says Coyle. “But his selfless attitude and his commitment to rebuilding our football program while being a Big Ten baseball recruit has been impressive. Parker is now signed with the University of Maryland for baseball and I am certain he will be a success in life beyond Country Day. I am proud to have coached him for the last four years and I am excited to see the impact he will have on our world as he will be a dynamic leader.”

According to Coach Coyle, Parker has been a leader for the football team – both on and off the field – throughout the last two seasons, which hold a collective record of 22-3. “Our program has come a long way since Parker’s freshman season when we were 0-6 and had to quit our final game at halftime because we did not have enough players to finish. Then in his sophomore season, Parker had a season-ending knee injury that required surgery. Many players would not have returned to football; our program was struggling and Parker already had a scholarship offer to Ohio State University for baseball. But he was determined to help rebuild the program and over the last two years he has been the heart and soul of our team.”

The “That’s My Boy” award recognizes one student-athlete who excels on the field, in the classroom, and in extracurricular activities. To be named a finalist for the award, which is presented by the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the National Football Foundation (GCCNFF), the candidates receive points for reaching certain criteria, such as a successful playing career, strong academic performance, community involvement, and leadership in school.

“My nomination would not have been made possible without the work and dedication from Coach Coyle, my quarterback coach, Ken Minor, and our amazing athletic trainer, John-Michael Leppert,” says Corbin, who is also student council president, avid volunteer, and a 4.0+ student. “These three role models have influenced me in ways I could never have imagined and I credit my success on the football field to them. My nomination would also not be possible without Country Day. The rigorous academics and supportive staff and faculty have propelled me into the student I am today. Going to Country Day has allowed me to grow both academically and athletically. I am extremely grateful to all the faculty and staff who have pushed me to be the student and person I am today.”

All finalists were recognized at the 57th annual scholar-athlete banquet at the Original Montgomery Inn.

“I had such an amazing time at the banquet; I got the chance to meet some of the best football players across the southwestern region of Ohio,” says Corbin.





According to the event program, “Honoring the top scholar-athletes in the Greater Cincinnati area brings recognition to those young men who have excelled on the playing field, in their classrooms and in their communities.” Country Day has had three prior winners: Rodney Vincent ’87 (attended Brown University), Andrew Willis ’01 (attended Colgate University), and Connor Pohl ’18 (attended University of Miami, Florida).

“Football has given me the opportunity to be a part of something bigger than myself,” says Corbin. “The game has taught me passion, resiliency, and toughness, all traits I will use later in my life. I will always be grateful for the relationships I’ve made during my four years of high school football. I’m extremely honored and humbled to have been named a finalist for this prestigious award.”

Scan here to watch Parker’s senior year football highlight video.

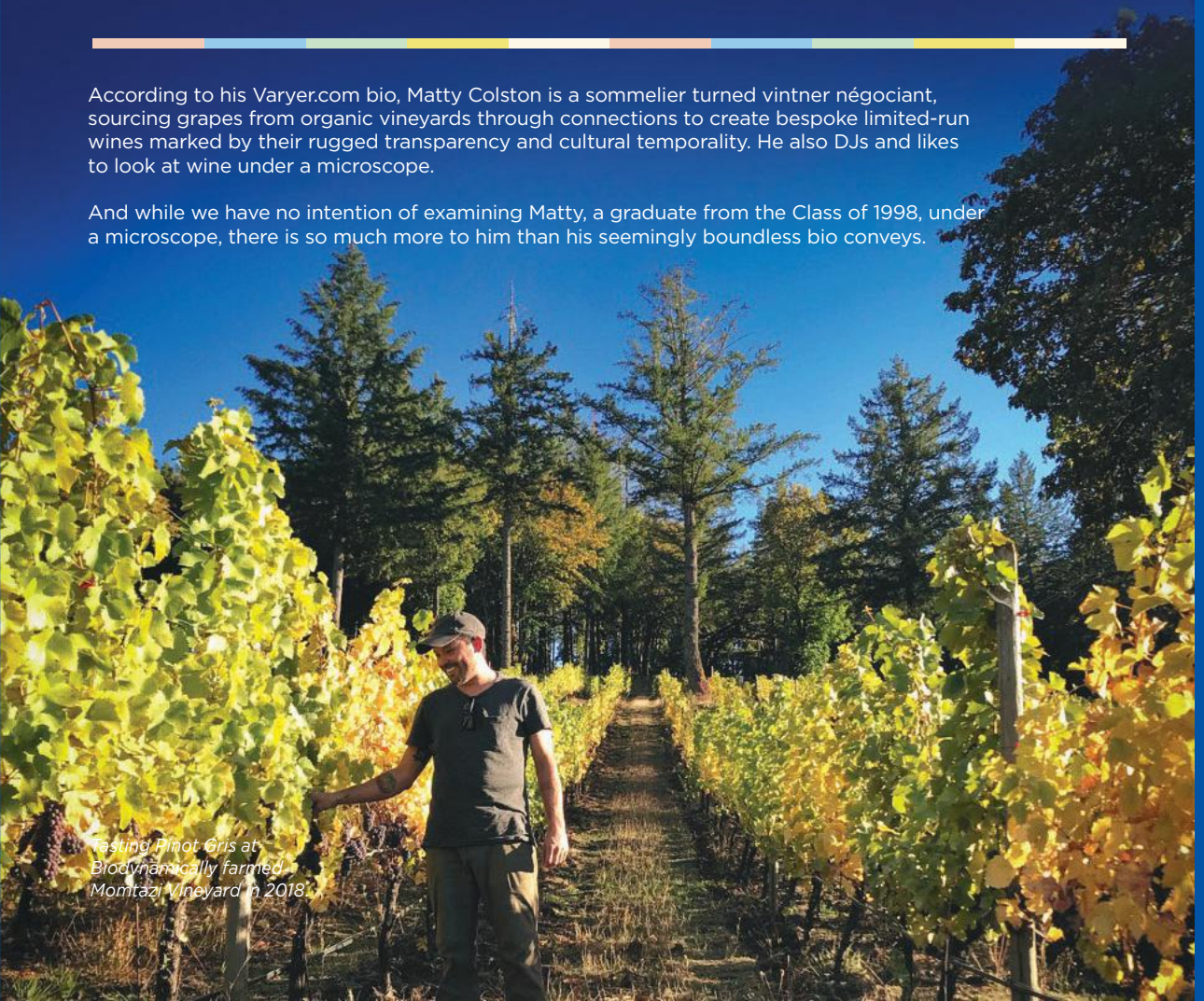
MISSION *in Action*

THE ECLECTIC JOURNEY OF MATTY COLSTON '98

CRAFTING WINES WITH CREATIVE SOUL

According to his Varyer.com bio, Matty Colston is a sommelier turned vintner négociant, sourcing grapes from organic vineyards through connections to create bespoke limited-run wines marked by their rugged transparency and cultural temporality. He also DJs and likes to look at wine under a microscope.

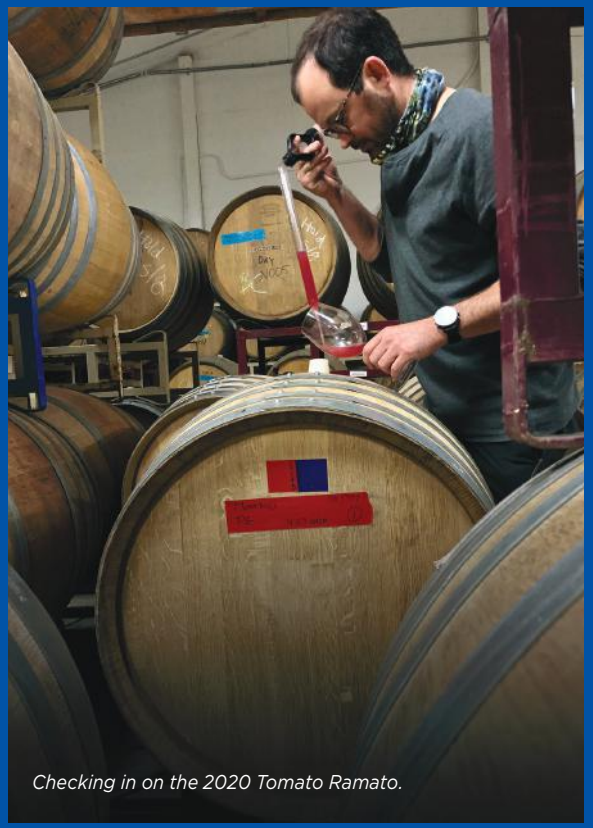
And while we have no intention of examining Matty, a graduate from the Class of 1998, under a microscope, there is so much more to him than his seemingly boundless bio conveys.



Tasting Pinot Gris at Biodynamically farmed Momtazi Vineyard in 2018.

He was nominated for best sommelier in Chicago.
"While attending Denison University, I realized what I really wanted to do was get out into the world. I didn't find my rhythm in college, it felt like an extension of high school, so I moved to Chicago and felt like I was exactly where I was supposed to be at that time. I worked in restaurants, and that suited my personality. I attended Columbia College to study photography and graphic design, which were passions of mine, but I kept getting more serious about wine. I feel like I spent a whole lifetime in hospitality in Chicago; it's in my bones even though it can be quite exhausting. I went up through the ranks of respected restaurants and wine bars and in 2017 was nominated for best sommelier in Chicago while working at the Michelin-starred restaurant Parachute. Being nominated was a pivotal moment for me. To realize that if I could be nominated for doing something that I'm good at, but with waning passion and a desire to be more creative, then what could I accomplish if I put my efforts toward something that allowed for more self-expression? So I left Chicago in 2018 to start my wine label – Colston Biblio – and worked under the tutelage of a friend of mine, Brianne Day. Fast forward six years and now I feel like I've found my niche where I can express myself and collaborate with other creative people. I was always a supporter of Oregon wines and had a lot of connections in the Pacific Northwest, so it seemed like a natural next step."

His dream in high school did not include working in the wine industry.
"My dream in high school was to put music to movies. I became obsessed with film and a wide-ranging spectrum of music. I can't emphasize enough how important of a figure Merle Black [retired history teacher] was to me. He was my homeroom advisor, cross country coach, and movies elective teacher. He was such a formative figure in my life. I like the idea of everyone being treated the same, not putting performance on a pedestal, and paying thoughtful attention to everyone. Mr. Black did all those things and was funny and lighthearted, with his own spark of goofiness. My interest and skills were harnessed by the people – like Mr. Black – who saw me through the things I was good at. At times I wish I was a better student, but it didn't come naturally to me. It was important to me, though, to be good at the things I enjoyed. I don't know if I would have established as much confidence in myself if I had attended a bigger school."



Checking in on the 2020 Tomato Ramato.

He is a DIY person.
"My wine label, Colston Biblio, which is short for 'bibliography,' is an approach where everything I create gets a catalog number and over time it looks like a comprehensive body of work. But Colston Biblio is not just the brand, it's me – constantly evolving with everything I create and with everyone I collaborate with. I'm a very DIY person and enjoy being hands on. I get a lot of satisfaction from the hard, physical labor and how it's tied to something I'm passionate about. Wine allows me to continually be a student, a lifelong learner. You could have a master sommelier certificate and still not know everything there is to know about this 8,000-year-old cultural product. I've doubled production to around 600 cases this year, which is awesome but if I keep growing this business I'm going to need help, which is something I'm working on."

Being a curator is important to him.
"I was a musician for a while, played in a band in college, and also got into DJing. I still play often and have developed a reputation for having an extensive taste in music but, ultimately, I extract the most joy by turning people onto new things and experiences. I've met a lot of people and because I put such an emphasis on collaboration; I find combining all efforts across my connections to be a very soulful thing. I enjoy standing up for other independent artists and musicians, and making connections between people and ideas and industries that might not seem to have a natural link...all part of the magic! I feel like I have a unique ability to see how the pieces come together and then present that in the world of wine. I like when people open a bottle of my wine and can't figure out how to categorize it but still notice a thread of personality throughout all my wines; they are essentially a reflection of who I am."



Sorting the beautiful, regeneratively-farmed Pinot Gris from Zephyr Vineyard in 2022.



Three of the 2022 wines: (L-R) Grenache Rosé, Underwood Mountain Grüner Veltliner, Tomato Ramato Skin-Contact Pinot Gris.

He considers himself to be a global citizen.
"I grew up in Terrace Park, but I have never exactly fit in anywhere nor have I been one to follow trends or clichés. I had a lot of friends in and out of high school but didn't fit into any one group, which I think suited as well as shaped me: it's in my nature to be around different people from different backgrounds. I'm a very curious and open person, and I think that was harnessed during my time at Country Day, with our small class size and the diversity we had in my class and the grades around mine. I look at my Country Day peers nowadays and it's really nice – and sometimes intimidating – to hear how successful some of them are and how they're impacting the world. But when I reflect on my own life, I feel I've become a global citizen and that's important to me. I see others from my class making big noise in the world and that's something I yearn for as well. I don't think I was fully ready to go out into the world when I was 18, but through the choices I've made in my life, I've made an impact on a global culture and I'm really proud of that."



2022 collaboration rosé label by Sheefy McFly with Spot Lite Detroit.

His advice for current students is to remember that...
"It's OK to not be on a path. I've always been a little on the weird side, it's always been in my nature. I had wild-colored hair and was obsessed with sneakers before it was cool to line up for sneaker drops. And people might make fun of you; that's going to happen. But it's good to remember that nobody's normal. I don't love the word 'normal,' it's distracting to me. In high school, sometimes it was hard, isolating even, to know and feel I was different. But life is hard for everybody at one time or another, but that is the magic sauce that builds character. It's important to acknowledge each other. Remember, everyone can feel unseen at times, so do your best to be aware and hold patience to see and notice one another."

His life goals are always changing.
"That target of 'What is my goal in life?' is always moving. I'm an unconventional, out-of-the-box person. It's been hard to come to terms with my wanderlust, which I've had since I was a child. But there is a tempo here in Portland [Oregon] that suits me right now. When I think about my goals, I like the direction I'm going with winemaking, but it isn't always as romantic as it sounds; it's very hard and sometimes even dangerous, gritty work. But I just keep following my heart toward more peace in my surroundings and presence in the moment, using goals that have been achieved as well as those that have fizzled out. I am rarely sure what I ultimately want to achieve in life, which can be difficult and seems wishy-washy, but that is why I revisit my goals every five years or so – to put more emphasis on what I've accomplished (or not) in order to set my sights at the chapters ahead. Many of the goals from five years ago are not relevant anymore but that shows I've evolved. I undoubtedly march to the beat of my own drum and I like the sound of that beat; it's my own music and my own form of art."

Scan here to check out his website to purchase wine directly!

Matty is the author of the column "Stained Glass"

UPPER SCHOOL RECOGNIZES STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

RACHEL "RAY" MITCHELL '24 RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR



Upper School faculty, staff, students, and families celebrated 39 student recognitions during the Upper School award ceremony.

Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 presented the Country Day Award, which is the highest honor the school can bestow upon a student. This award recognizes the student who, in the opinion of the faculty, best represents those qualities for which we want the school to be known. This year, Rachel "Ray" Mitchell received this recognition.

"We have been blessed to benefit from the rising tide of Ray's leadership here at Country Day. On second thought, though, perhaps this metaphor of a rising tide sounds too gradual to truly capture Ray's spirit, too passive to capture her virtue in action. Instead, to sum up, I will defer to another faculty member, who said it best: 'The world should be ready to be taken by storm – she is only 17; imagine what awaits.'"

Ray also received the Thomas D. Gettler '76 Creative Writing Award and the Fine Arts Award in Drama. Ray is also a National African American Merit Scholar.

Scan here for the complete list of award recipients and to read the full story:

CELEBRATING OUR COLLEGE-COMMITTED STUDENT-ATHLETES



From left to right: (front row) Caroline Ramirez, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Piper Farris, Melissa Teke, Parker Corbin; (middle row) Caroline Ramirez, Sydney Hardesty, Megan Zimmerman, Lucas de Alarcon, Annie Gammon; (back row) Andrew Zimmerman, Alex Reaves, Carson Yackey, Shephard Snell, Story Rufner, Andrew Pavlisko

Friends, family, classmates, and even a group of fourth graders, were excited to find out where our final round of senior student-athletes will continue their athletic careers and to celebrate the 17 seniors who have committed to playing a sport at the collegiate level.

Annie Gammon will join the swimming team at Wittenberg University; Alex Reaves will attend the College of Mt. St. Joseph to play lacrosse; Story Rufener has chosen Marietta College to continue his rowing career; Shepard Snell will play football at Indiana Wesleyan University; Carson Yackey committed to Ohio Northern University to play lacrosse; and Andrew Zimmerman selected Centre College to play baseball and basketball.

“Today, your dreams come true,” said Dennis Coyle, athletic director. “You have earned the opportunity to continue to play a sport you love in college. All your hard work, all the traveling, all the sacrifices, all the long hours of practice and training finally pay off.”

Coyle also said, “Remember, you’re not going on this journey by yourself. You have plenty of support here from your Country Day family. We are just a phone call away.”

On her decision to continue swimming at the college level, Annie Gammon said, “After swimming my entire life, it would have been very difficult for me to leave that part of my life behind going into college.”

Gammon continued, “Finding Wittenberg motivated me to push myself this season, so I can’t wait to see what more will come these next four years. I’m so thankful for this opportunity to continue swimming at the next level.”

During the event, six seniors were honored as “12 Season Athletes,” meaning they played a sport each season during their high school career. Piper Farris (New Richmond; front row, third from the left, Charlize Rust (Amelia, not pictured), Carson Yackey (Batavia; back row, third from the left), Andrew Zimmerman (Indian Hill; back row, far left), Elizabeth Zimmerman (Indian Hill; front row, second from the left), and Megan Zimmerman (Indian Hill, middle row, third from the left) all received this distinction.

“It is a huge commitment to be a multi-sport athlete, let alone to play three sports all four years,” said Greg Ross, associate athletic director for Upper School. “We are proud to acknowledge your accomplishments.”

Here is the complete list of the student-athletes who have committed themselves to playing sports in college:

Davis Cambell (Liberty Township): Baseball – University of Evansville
Parker Corbin (Loveland): Baseball – University of Maryland
Lucas de Alarcon (Indian Hill): Soccer – Kenyon College
Piper Farris (New Richmond): Soccer – East Carolina University
Annie Gammon (Mack): Swimming – Wittenburg University
Sydney Hardesty (Loveland): Soccer – University of Toledo
Andrew Pavlisko (Maineville): Soccer – Hanover College
Caroline Ramirez (Indian Hill): Swimming – Denison University
Isabel Ramirez (Indian Hill): Lacrosse – DePauw University
Alex Reaves (Loveland): Lacrosse – College of Mount St. Joseph
Story Rufner (Newtown): Rowing – Marietta College
Shephard Snell (West Chester): Football – Indiana Wesleyan University
Melissa Teke (Batavia): Soccer – Earlham College
Carson Yackey (Batavia): Lacrosse – Ohio Northern University
Andrew Zimmerman (Indian Hill): Baseball & Basketball – Centre College
Elizabeth Zimmerman (Indian Hill): Soccer – Washington and Lee University
Megan Zimmerman (Indian Hill): Soccer – Washington and Lee University



From left to right: Andrew Zimmerman, Carson Yackey, Megan Zimmerman, Charlize Rust, Piper Farris, and Elizabeth Zimmerman are all 12-season athletes.

THE POWER OF THESE PENS

Thirty-two Power of the Pen teams convened on Country Day's campus in early March for the regional Power of the Pen tournament for the second year in a row.

"I think everyone would agree that the absolute best part of the day is the fact that our 176 writers created 528 stories," says Emily DiMatteo, Middle School English teacher and Power of the Pen coach, during the award ceremony. "These stories did not exist until this very moment, until the brilliant and creative minds of the kids in this room created them, gave them a voice and a place in our world."

During the award ceremony, district tournament awards were also presented, including the Best of Round awards, Director's Choice awards, and Platinum Pen awards. Eloise Young '28 received the round 1 Best of Round award for the St. Bernard Elmwood Place District Tournament as well as a Platinum Pen Award for her piece, "I Will Be Your Alibi." As a Platinum Pen Award recipient, Eloise attended the state tournament and her writing composition will be published in this year's edition of the Book of Winners, The Winners of 2024.

The district individual and team awards were then presented, with 24 students individually recognized across seventh grade and eighth grade. Margot Edmondson '28 won 6th place in the eighth-grade individual results. She also received a Platinum Pen Award for her composition "A Little Girl's Favorite Story," which makes her eligible for publication in The Winners of 2024 as well as participation in the state tournament.

"It may seem to you like a writing competition is an old-fashioned thing," said Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, reading words written by Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98. "Isn't writing becoming obsolete in the face of AI? Aren't we living in a post-book world where social media platforms replace bookstores? Well, no. I'm here to tell you that such talk is wrong. Books, writing, and, yes, the power of the pen: they are timeless and essential, and always will be."

The top 20-25% of writers qualify for the state tournament, which took place May 16-17 at Ashland University. In addition to Eloise and Margot, Sophie Corwin '28 also qualified for the state tournament and joined 500 of the state's strongest fiction writers.

"The biggest takeaway I got from Power of the Pen is a newfound appreciation for all authors who have crafted a creative and compelling novel," says Margot. "Through this experience, I can more accurately see all of the work that goes into writing anything."



ARTS WEEK
at Country Day

In early May, we celebrated one of our favorite times of the year: Arts Week! The Middle School and Upper School choirs started the week off by blowing us away with their harmonic voices during their spring performance titled "Our Stories." The next night there was the all-school art show. The Dining Terrace and Messer Gallery were filled with unbelievable drawings, photographs, designs, and many other pieces of art from students in all divisions. And finally, the week was capped off by the Middle School and Upper School Band Concert that filled Keeler Theater with the sound of music. The arts are truly alive and thriving at Country Day!













Be Our Guest

The Class of 2028 performed *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* In her directorial debut, Stephanie Wietmarschen, band director by day, led the eighth graders through the stage adaptation of one of Disney's most beloved animated movies. There is a lot of talent heading to Upper School next year!



CAMPOUT ON CAMPUS

In what could very well become a new Country Day tradition, our third graders enjoyed the adventure of camping out on our campus in May. Students had a pizza dinner, played in the rain, swam in our pool, sang songs at the campfire, and made s'mores. Everyone had an amazing time, and we had a lot of happy – and more independent – kids on Saturday morning! (And the adults survived too!)

SHARK TANK SUCCESS STORY

Henry Pease '12 Inspires Next Generation of Inventors on Campus

We were very excited to have Henry Pease '12, co-founder of the Shark Tank-invested company Rekkie, visit campus multiple times this past semester. His first stop was to visit Lower School students to talk about what it is like being an inventor and an entrepreneur. Pease let our young students know that even if you fail, you should keep on trying and never give up on your dreams! His second visit was to help our Upper School InvenTeam. He helped the tech team iron out some circuitry issues and gave the team more helpful invention tips. Henry even brought his own oscilloscope to assist with troubleshooting! Thanks for inspiring our students, Henry!





BEHIND THE CURTAIN

THE TECHNICAL PROCESS BEHIND *SEUSSICAL*

By: Shiva Shyam '26



Nearly sold out on opening night, the Upper School spring musical production of *Seussical: The Musical* was impactful and energetic, and quite unlike any production ever performed before on the Keeler Theater stage. "For one, we included all divisions, which was great for community and resulted in a huge audience turnout," remarked Ali Zimmerman '26, technical director. "For both acting and tech, Middle School and Lower School students were also heavily involved. A lot of work went into making it the best it could be, and we were all very emotionally invested in the show. Mr. [Evan] DiTullio is also a phenomenal tech leader; he always pushes us to be our best."

To learn a little more about the behind-the-scenes work of Seussical, I sat down with Ali to talk about the technical aspects of the Upper School's productions, and what it takes to put on a hit show. As tech director, Ali oversaw the technical aspects of the production, making sure the tech team was on track to put on a great show. There were many "oohs" and "aahs" as the lights danced across the stage on opening night. "Everyone in tech was in awe of the lighting – it was really hard to do!" says Ali. "Every time we ran through the show, we would find another instance when we moved the light too quickly or the actor wasn't quite in the light. In the first song the actors said 'Seuss' like seven times and every time we changed the lighting. It was insane and a lot of work, but it ended up looking so good, which is rewarding." Also rewarding was producing the pieces for this musical.



Lucas Donahue '26 cutting various wood pieces for set building.

"We had a lot of circular things, such as the round stairs, and there were lots of trees that we needed to make stand upright," says Zimmerman. She remarked that, despite the difficulty, the team had fun building the set, which is something that students at other schools don't typically do. "I have a great friend who is lighting director at another school, and I saw their production of 'Into the Woods,' and it was amazing. One difference I noticed, though, is that they didn't have a student building crew; pieces were bought and assembled, whereas, for our productions, we start with plywood and 2x4 planks and we build and paint it all. I love that experience. It took us three to four months to build the entire Seussical set!"

And everyone on the tech team is encouraged to roll up their sleeves to help with set building.

"You also get a chance to learn a lot of life skills, like using tools. I really liked using the jig saw. I was scared at first, but Mr. DiTullio gave me the confidence to try it out. Working and collaborating with others was also really awesome." Jack Albers '26 and Lucas Donahue '26 were critical to the tech team as building heads, working hard on assembling all set pieces. Emily Connolly '27 served as stage manager, and Will Schiff '24 managed mics and sound as sound director. The production featured many students in all different grade levels, including Sam Parnell-Kerr '28 as assistant lighting director. Country Day's tech program has been successful largely due to the involvement of many talented students, yet the technical process is mostly unknown to the audience because the team works behind the curtains. It was plain to see that the technical team worked hard to produce the show's effects, which highlighted the work of the actors and impressed the audience. Ali walked me through a traditional tech day, and I was impressed by the dedication of the team.


Middle School and Upper School students collaborating on building and painting set pieces.

"Usually, you stay after school until 6 p.m. and you also come in on Saturdays from around 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mr. DiTullio gives you your assigned task for the day, and you just start working. This changes a lot in the two weeks leading to the musical, when we stay at school until 9 p.m. Those two weeks are kind of scary at first, but it's lots of fun. Dinner is provided and it's a great team-bonding experience. I've met some of my best friends through the tech program, and it's really nice to learn new skills together."

Seussical: The Musical was a magical performance, a dazzling show of colors and sound. The sheer dedication of the actors and tech team culminated in an amazing and lively production, and I cannot wait to see what the 2024-25 school year will bring for the theater department. Make sure to come out and support the arts!





SENIORS BOND OVER RAFTING, ZIPLINING, AND CAMPFIRE SONGS

Our seniors had an action-packed class trip at the Ace Adventure Resort in West Virginia. White water rafting, ziplining, aerial-ropes course, and a little bit of hiking kept the Class of 2024 very busy. Students not only got in rounds of cornhole and card games in between activities, but they also enjoyed time stargazing with Brock Miller, Upper School science teacher, and singing around the campfire at night. They certainly made memories they'll be talking about at every class reunion.





2023-2024 WINTER SPORTS RECAP

BOYS BASKETBALL: Record 19-5
Miami Valley Conference Champions

Miami Valley Conference Awards
Coach of the Year: Greg Ross
First Team: Andrew Zimmerman '24 (Player of the Year), Bryce Snell '25
Second Team: Shepard Snell '24, Will Smith '25
Honorable Mention: Elijah Guttman '25, Evan Robinson '26

District 16 Awards
First Team: Andrew Zimmerman '24 (Player of the Year), Bryce Snell '25

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
First Team: Andrew Zimmerman '24, Bryce Snell '25

All State Awards
Honorable Mention: *Andrew Zimmerman '24
*Andrew Zimmerman '24 was selected for the Ohio North South All-Star game.

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Record 21-5
District Champions

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Megan Zimmerman '24, Elizabeth Zimmerman '24
Second Team: Sam Easter '24
Honorable Mention: Piper Farris '24, Charlize Rust '24

District 16 Awards
First Team: Megan Zimmerman '24 (Player of the Year), Elizabeth Zimmerman '24
Honorable Mention: Sam Easter '24

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
Coach of the Year: John Snell
First Team: Megan Zimmerman '24, Elizabeth Zimmerman '24
Honorable Mention: Sam Easter '24

All State Awards
First Team: Megan Zimmerman '24
Second Team: Elizabeth Zimmerman '24

CHEER

Miami Valley Conference Awards
Cheer Award: Nia Irby '26

GYMNASTICS

Miami Valley Conference Awards
Dick Snyder Sportsmanship Award: Ellie Conner ’24

Southwest District Awards
Sportsmanship Award: Ellie Conner ’24

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
Honorable Mention: Hayden Zimmerman ’25

SWIMMING

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Caroline Ramirez ’24, Weichu Wang ’26, Jason Starodub ’26, Alex Back ’25, Alexis Bonniol ’27

Cincinnati Enquirer Awards
First Team: Caroline Ramirez ’24, Weichu Wang ’26, Jason Starodub ’26

State Qualifiers
Caroline Ramirez ’24: 50 Freestyle (9th place), 100 Backstroke (8th place)
Weichu Wang ’26: 100 Breaststroke (state runner-up), 500 (9th place)
Delaney Gorman ’26: 100 Meter Butterfly (12th place)
Jason Starodub ’26: 100 Meter Backstroke (20th place)
Caroline Ramirez ’24, Delaney Gorman ’26, Annie Gammon ’24, Greta Varga ’26: 200 Freestyle Relay (14th place)

School Records Broken:
Jason Starodub ’26: 100 Meter Backstroke (54.17)
Weichu Wang ’26: 100 Meter Breaststroke (57.81)
Delaney Gorman ’26: 100 Meter Butterfly (58.41

INDOOR TRACK

State Meet: *Luke Schnieber ’27 (8th place)
*Luke Schnieber `27 broke the school record in the Pole Vault (14’ 3”).

WRESTLING

Miami Valley Conference Awards
Second Team: Andrew Carper ’26

ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN ’24 HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP ON AND OFF THE FIELD



Elizabeth Zimmerman ’24 was recognized by the Ohio Army National Guard as “an outstanding leader in her community and school.” Coach Theresa “Hirsch” Hirschauer nominated Zimmerman for the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association—Ohio National Guard Leadership Award. Student-athletes are nominated for the award on the basis of the character values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage that they represent and share with fellow teammates.

“Elizabeth is an incredible leader who demonstrates our character virtues both on and off the field,” says Hirschauer. “Her efforts are symbolic of our Class of 2024 soccer leaders, which we were so fortunate to have guiding this team and leading the way – Piper Farris, Sydney Hardesty, Megan Zimmerman, and Elizabeth herself. These women are virtue in action.”

A nominee must also be a current senior, possess a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher, have at least 90% attendance at school, and be a member of the school’s soccer team.

And while Zimmerman was not selected as the state-level winner, Staff Sergeant William Edwards from the local Army National Guard visited campus and presented Zimmerman with a few items to recognize her achievements. “Thank you for always doing the right thing, being a leader, and leading by example,” says Edwards. “You display all the leadership qualities that we value in the Army and we want to recognize you for being amazing.”

Zimmerman was a member of the state-winning girls soccer team this fall and played a critical role in the state championship game, recording an assist for the only goal. She is a three-sport athlete, playing soccer, basketball, and lacrosse during the school year.



1,000 CAREER POINTS!

Megan Zimmerman ’24 reached her 1,000th career point in the varsity basketball game against Mercy McAuley in January. This three-sport athlete, who was also a team captain, scored 21 points during the game.

COUNTRY DAY SOCCER TEAMS RECOGNIZED WITH INAUGURAL OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The Midwest Soccer Officials Association presented the inaugural 2023 Outstanding Sportsmanship Award to Cincinnati Country Day School for "providing the area's best supportive and positive soccer experience." Accepting the award on behalf of Country Day were Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, varsity girls soccer coach, Greg Hirschauer, varsity boys soccer coach, and their team captains Piper Farris '24, Sydney Hardesty '24, Elizabeth Zimmerman '24, Megan Zimmerman '24, and Lucas de Alarcon '24.

"I think this is the ultimate award because it shows that our programs are trying to follow the best ethics and have character," says Greg Hirschauer. "Sometimes you win, sometimes you lose, but something you always can control is how you conduct yourselves."

Team captains were also honored to receive the sportsmanship award.

"Something we practice here at Country Day is good sportsmanship and this award proves that we value that," says Farris. "It's really important that you learn the value of good sportsmanship and that you have it with you your whole life."

Lucas de Alarcon mirrors that sentiment.

"It means a lot [to win this award] because I think all of Country Day's sports programs pride themselves on sportsmanship and not only how we treat each other but how we treat the referees," says de Alarcon.

He believes a big reason why Country Day was selected for this award is because of the example the coaches set for the student-athletes.

"We have a lot of really good coaches at Country Day who pride themselves on [setting a good example]. And it works its way through the program, starting with the seniors who then teach the younger players what the program is all about and how to play with integrity."

With over 50 soccer games canceled last fall due to a shortage of officials, the award was created by the Midwest Soccer Officials Association this year to encourage better sportsmanship throughout the soccer community. The association polled its 100+ officials to name their top four and bottom four school environments to referee. Country Day came out on top.

"We are obviously having issues with some schools, but we want to show them that there is a good way to conduct yourself, which is something Country Day does so well," says Greg Kuehnle, president of the Midwest Soccer Officials Association. "This school does well with their sportsmanship, and they are winning on the field, too. You don't have to yell at the refs to have a good year."

"It doesn't matter if you're on the winning side or the losing side, these refs are out there doing their job and doing it to the best of their abilities," says Theresa Hirschauer. "The fact that we are losing so many officials is only going to end up hurting the up-and-coming players and our students' opportunities to compete in high school athletics. We are really honored to win this award because it doesn't mean you didn't play hard or played to win, but it means you did it the right way."



From left to right: Greg Hirschauer (boys varsity soccer coach), Greg Keuhnel (president of the Midwest Soccer Officials Association), Sydney Hardesty '24 (Loveland), Megan Zimmerman '24 (Indian Hill), Elizabeth Zimmerman '24 (Indian Hill), Piper Farris '24 (New Richmond), Lucas de Alarcon '24 (Indian Hill), Theresa Hirschauer (girls varsity soccer coach), Rick Brizzolara (association trustee)

2023-2024 SPRING SPORTS RECAP

BASEBALL

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Parker Corbin '24, Nate Paumier '25
Second Team: Davis Campbell '24, Andrew Zimmerman '24
Honorable Mention: Elijah Guttman '25, Jackson Freeman '24
State Honors
First Team: Parker Corbin '24
Second Team: Davis Campbell '24

BOYS LACROSSE

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Carson Yackey '24, Simon Smyth '25
Second Team: Robert Kreidler '24, Nathan Hetzler '25, Drew Riggs '27
Honorable Mention: Luke Heekin '24, Briggs Peters '27

GIRLS LACROSSE: 2nd Place in the Miami Valley Conference

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Isabel Ramirez '24, Elizabeth Zimmerman '24, Megan Zimmerman '24
Second Team: Katherine Connelly '26, Roxy Vollmer '27
Honorable Mention: Emma Rainey '24, Marin Lange '25

SOFTBALL: Record 10-4 | 2nd Place in the Miami Valley Conference

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Riley Williams '25, Piper Farris '24, Kylee Hirschauer '25
Second Team: Alessandra Garcia-Altuve '25, Maddie Ebbing '27
Honorable Mention: Addie Sweeney '25, Caroline Ochterski '25

TENNIS

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Nik Shah '25
Second Team: Trevor Gregorsok '25, Adam Arebi '25, Leo Joffe '24
Honorable Mention: Sanjay Cherukuri '26, Daniel Sgro Plaut '24, Shayon Choudhuri '25
OHSAA District Qualifiers
Singles: Nik Shah '25 – Sectional Champ
Doubles: Adam Arebi '25 & Leo Joffe '24, Sanjay Cherukuri '26 & Daniel Sgro Plaut '24

TRACK: 2nd Place in Miami Valley Conference - Girls Team

Miami Valley Conference Awards
First Team: Luke Schnieber '27 (broke the MVC pole vault record 14'6), William Lothmann '26, Donovan Gray '25, Emma Kate Schnieber '24, Sydney Hardesty '24, Gracie Mitchell '24
State Honors
Luke Schnieber '27 finished in 3rd Place in Pole Vault at the OHSAA State Track & Field Meet
OHSAA District Qualifiers
District Champions: Sydney Hardesty '24 (100M hurdles, long jump), Levi Homan '24 (high jump), Luke Schnieber '27 (broke the Division III district pole vault record 14')

Spring athletics all-city, all-district, and all-state elections are not announced until after publication deadline, as is the case with state tournament results. We will share this information with our community in the fall.

THIRTEEN SENIORS INDUCTED INTO CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

By: Nat Tracey-Miller '05, Upper School Librarian

The Cincinnati Country Day School Cum Laude Society held its 41st annual banquet on March 5, honoring 13 inductees in the senior class. Cum Laude is an academic honor limited to the top 20% of a graduating class based on weighted GPA. Following the dinner, Chapter President Nat Tracey-Miller '05 gave a talk about maintaining extracurricular passions in college and beyond, while senior Marley Handler highlighted her experience as a CCDS lifer and the connections she's made with teachers over the years. Retiring physics teacher (and Cum Laude President Emeritus) Brock Miller spoke on the chains of connections that people make across generations, given that he started his career with teachers who started in the 1960s and may be finishing it with colleagues who remain until the 2060s. Finally, Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 spoke on the Cum Laude's charge of excellence, justice, and honor, directing students to go out and live lives that will be remembered for those qualities.



Photo on the right, from left to right: (back row) Kevin Yang, Elizabeth Zimmerman, Samantha Easter, Emma Rainey, Megan Zimmerman; (front row) Rana Arebi, Marley Handler, Giselle Macias-Jaime, Fleur Helmantel, Jordis Martin, Gracie Mitchell; not pictured: Leo Joffe, Alexander Riemann

Congratulations to the 2023-24 inductees:

Rana Arebi
Samantha Easter
Marley Handler
Fleur Helmantel
Leo Joffe
Giselle Macias-Jaime
Jordis Martin
Gracie Mitchell
Emma Rainey
Alexander Riemann
Kevin Yang
Elizabeth Zimmerman
Megan Zimmerman

Cum Laude faculty includes the following faculty members, all of whom were either Cum Laude in high school or Phi Beta Kappa in college:

Sarah Beyreis (College Counseling)

Amy Brand (Art)

Peter Fossett '80 (Advancement)

Brock Miller (Physics)

Nathaniel Tracey-Miller '05, President (Librarian)

Erin Shaull, Secretary (English)

Rob Zimmerman '98
(Head of School, honorary member)

In May, the Cincinnati Country Day School community gathered to celebrate the Class of 2023's induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame.

The Class of 2023 inductees are:
Burke Byer '97, Meredith Hilleary '00, Peter Kistinger '07, and Coach Tim Dunn

"This event is always one of the highlights of the year," said Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school. "The stories of how Country Day changed the lives of our student-athletes never fail to inspire me, and they reaffirm my faith in the power of athletics as an essential element of a well-rounded education. At Country Day, we firmly believe that athletics are not simply an extracurricular activity; they are central to our mission of creating leaders."

The purpose of the Athletic Hall of Fame is to honor former Country Day athletes, coaches, and members of our community who have contributed to the strong tradition of Country Day athletics.



HONORING THE CLASS OF 2023
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Burke Byer '97

According to Tim Dunn, "Winning follows Burke wherever he goes."

Burke was a two-sport captain at Country Day who earned nine varsity letters in football, wrestling, and track. As a senior on the wrestling mat competing in the heavyweight division, Burke compiled a 16-4 record and made it to the state quarterfinals. During the track season he competed in shotput and discus where he qualified for the regionals. Burke went on to throw both the discus and javelin in college. As a two-way football starter, he served as captain. During Burke's football tenure, the team compiled a 35-4 record and was a perennial league champion. He was first-team all-league twice, first team all-city, first team all-Southwest Ohio, and first team all-state his senior year while leading the team in tackles. He went on to start his freshman and sophomore years at Division III powerhouse Washington and Jefferson College. Burke then transferred to Division I University of Dayton, where he started on defense as Dayton won two consecutive league championships.

"Despite all these impressive accomplishments on the field, they pale in comparison to the leadership Burke provided. Burke led by example. Burke lived by the mantra, and I'm sure he still does, 'Don't tell me who you are. Show me who you are.' Burke showed his opponents, his coaches, and most importantly his teammates who he was every time he stepped onto the practice or game field."

– Tim Dunn, retired CCDS coach and teacher

Meredith Hilleary '00

Meredith is a recipient of the Shirley Heinichen Award for Outstanding Female Athlete. She participated in four sports during her time at

Country Day: volleyball, basketball, cheerleading, and softball. Most of Meredith's accolades were from her successes in softball. During her career, she led the city in strikeouts and led the team to a 16-0 record. Notably, from her senior year as a pitcher, she earned the All-Star Award, Most Valuable Player, first team all-state, as well as Player of the Year for the Miami Valley Conference.

"I had the honor of being her coach here at CCDS as well as the pleasure of being her father.…While she was loyal to all four sports for all of her high school years, the reason she is here today is softball. She was a fast pitch softball player. In this sport, pitching and catching is the name of the game. Pitching is something I cannot take any credit for teaching her – she was taught by her older sister, Sarah ['95], who was also an all-state pitcher."

– Jim Hilleary, former CCDS coach

Peter Kistinger '07

In cross country, Peter was first team Miami Valley Conference for four years. He was the MVC Runner of the Year in his junior and senior years. The Cincinnati Enquirer also named Peter the 2007 Runner of the Year. Peter was a two-time state qualifier, team MVP, team captain, and led the cross country team to its first MVC title in more than a decade.

In track, Peter was the first team MVC for three years, Most Valuable Player, team captain, and the Cincinnati Enquirer named him to its first team. He was a state qualifier his junior and senior years and a member of the state 4x800 relay team, which still holds the school record. He was the only freshman to make regionals in the one-mile and two-mile.

"Peter was the best team captain of my 40 years of coaching. He was instrumental in the distance program taking off at Country Day. Peter was popular and cool and so classmates decided sport did not always need a ball, a glove, a helmet, a racket…. It should come as no surprise that Peter was a fierce competitor. The beauty of watching Peter compete was to see that it was not mind versus body; rather, there was an understanding between the two born of thousands of training miles…. As a student-athlete, Peter drew on Country Day's reputation for academic excellence and of inspiring student-athletes to acquire knowledge not simply for its own sake, but to turn knowledge into action."

– Merle Black, retired CCDS teacher and coach

Coach Tim Dunn

Coach Dunn graduated from Williams College in 1977 and later earned a master's degree from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. He arrived at Country Day in 1986 where he taught AP biology and chemistry while coaching baseball and football. He piled up a combined 782 career wins in both sports while earning numerous honors, such as MVC Coach of the Year, the Cincinnati Enquirer Coach of the Year, and Southwestern Ohio Coach of the Year. He was also named Ohio Baseball Coach of the Year and the NFL's High School Coach of the Week. In baseball, Coach Dunn's teams won 563 games, 10 MVC championships, 16 sectional championships, nine district championships, three regional championships, and two state championships (1993 and 2001). In football, with eight undefeated regular seasons, his teams won 219 games, 13 MVC championships, two regional championships, and two state final four appearances. He was previously inducted into the Ohio High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Hamilton County Sports Hall of Fame.

"[Tim] taught generations of student-athletes how to think and act with character. [He] set the standard of excellence in both programs, which is evident today with the success of our current teams…. Tim was not your typical coach – how many football coaches do you know teach AP biology and chemistry? Tim is no doubt one of the smartest people I have ever met…. Tim would break down an opponent's film like he was dissecting a frog. He was a master game planner and offensive play caller."

– Greg Ross

Each year, the induction ceremony brings alumni, family, and friends from across the globe to reconnect with former teachers and coaches and to renew a bond held with Country Day. While the Hall of Fame was the impetus to return to campus, the stories of lifelong friendships, teamwork, and preparation for life were at the heart of the celebration.

"What can this broad array of leaders have in common?," asked Zimmerman to the audience at the Hall of Fame celebration on May 11. "Among other experiences, they have developed their leadership skills and forged their character in the crucible of competition."

Scan below to watch the *Hall of Fame* celebration.

CAPTAIN
OF THE RUE CREW



Laura Rue has been captain of the "Rue Crew" (as she dubs her classroom of students each year) since 1996.

"It's not just that I love teaching, but I also love my students, their families, and my colleagues," says Rue. "I truly love my job. Everyone is positive and caring, and as a teacher here [at Country Day] I have the freedom to explore the interests of my class. The fun part about it is that it changes every year; the children change and there are opportunities for new adventures. I feel like I'm going out with a trifecta: teaching on the best team, with the best Lower School head, and the best head of school."

It's true. By the time this publication goes to print, Laura Rue will be retired after 27 years of teaching at Country Day and 38 years of teaching altogether.

"The hardest part about retiring for me is leaving this community," says Rue. "Ann [Wimmer] and Jessica [Beaudoin] aren't just colleagues, they're like family. One of the joys of being a teacher is seeing your students grow and learn, and it makes me sad that I won't be around to see these kids – this year's Rue Crew – graduate. This year I'm going to be graduating with a bunch of my Rue Crew seniors. But I'll come back. Once you're part of this community, you're always part of it."

Laura and her husband, Kevin, have already built a home in South Carolina to be closer to their grandkids, the newest baby was born this past April, by way of their children, Brian `05 and Allie `09, both of whom live in the Carolinas.

"It was such a blessing to have my children attend CCDS and to watch them be nurtured and supported and grow, not only academically, but also in life skills. In the 98 years of the school, it's just so amazing that there have been so many incredible teachers and it just keeps getting better."

And it keeps getting better because of teachers like Laura. Her secret? Getting involved.

"Country Day is an amazing place where you can really grow as a teacher, but I feel like what set my experience apart was getting involved as much as I did," says Rue. "Like serving on an ISACS steering committee. That helped me actively learn about the school from all different perspectives; it really opened my eyes and made me appreciate the school in a whole new way. I would encourage people to jump in and get involved as much as they can."

And get involved, she has. From fifth-grade ski trip leader to faculty rep for the Athletic Boosters to Middle School sports coach to concession stand volunteer to youth sports coordinator, Laura says she has met so many people through these other roles.

"I started my career here [at Country Day] as the PE coordinator," says Rue. "I was also the first youth sports coordinator, which was a lot of work but completely worth it and it gave me the opportunity to meet people I might not have met otherwise. We wanted to make sure our program incorporated our character virtues and we wanted to give our families the opportunity for Country Day to be their place not only for academics but for sports as well, so I helped build that program. And I loved the opportunity to see the children learn and shine outside of the classroom."

Of course, she also loves seeing the students shine in the classroom as well.

"There is nothing better than watching them grow, especially in first grade – you see that light go, on and off they go," says Rue. "Everyone is here to help each other, teach these students, and help each child reach their potential. But it's not just me teaching students, it's also what this community teaches me. I love the way we celebrate culture and traditions. Our CCDX Week was a great example of that, when our first-grade families came in to share their traditions. It showcases how we're all alike but we're all different, and that is something to be celebrated."

Laura's contributions to Country Day are definitely worth celebrating as well. She will certainly be missed, and that feeling is mutual.

"I hope to volunteer with teachers in some capacity when I retire because I know their workload," says Rue. "I can't imagine not working with children anymore; that's the part that makes me the saddest. But it's time. I'm ready. I am looking forward to traveling whenever I want to, without the boundaries of the school year. I'm also looking forward to spending more time with my family, knowing I will always love and cherish my Country Day family as well. There won't be a Rue Crew at Country Day anymore, but I'll have my own little one in the Carolinas with four grandkids under the age of four."



Former Middle School and Upper School "Rue Crew" students surprised retiring 1st-grade teacher Laura Rue at the Lower School assembly. The impact of one teacher can never be measured, but the smiles say it all.

TWO COUNTRY DAY STUDENTS NAMED SEMIFINALISTS IN NASA CHALLENGE



Neither Robert Kreidler ’24 nor Madden Smith ’24 plan on studying physics or engineering when they head to college in the fall, but both were named semifinalists (two of 15 high school students across the country!) in NASA’s Future Engineers: Power to Explore Challenge.

“The students had to learn about the nuclear batteries that power space exploration and dream up a new space mission to a destination with limited or obstructed access to light,” says Julianna Poole-Sawyer, physics teacher. “The competition made students think about what we don’t know. This was a different way of thinking for many of them; they had to think like scientists! Instead of asking, ‘What do we know, and how do we know it?’ students had to ask, ‘What do we not know, and what tests could we do to find the answer?’”

The student-designed missions had to include the use of radioisotope power systems (RPS); basically, their missions needed to use nuclear power rather than solar power. Thus, Robert sent his mission to Pluto, which is too far away from the sun for solar power to be useful, and Madden sent her mission to Makemake, a dwarf planet even further from the sun than Pluto. “I liked working in reverse, starting with what we don’t know,” says Madden, who plans on majoring in business or communications when she heads to the University of Kentucky in the fall. “I researched dwarf planets outside our solar system and what we don’t know about those planets. For example, NASA doesn’t know if Makemake has a magnetic field, so I looked up how we would go about figuring that out, which brought me to a space probe. Then I had to figure out how to power the probe and what tools would be needed on the probe.”

Robert, who is considering business or sports management for his major at SMU next year, concentrated his mission on Pluto because no one has landed on it yet. “My initial goal was simply to reach the planet, but then I learned that the largest glacier in our solar system is on Pluto, so my mission involved landing on Pluto to determine the composition of that glacier.”

Both enjoyed the creative freedom of the project. “I liked how we could concentrate on the future and what hasn’t yet been done or discovered,” says Robert. “It was cool to learn more about technology that is available now or could be developed in the future and it was cool that we had the opportunity to come up with our own semi-realistic missions, which might even help NASA one day.”

Scan here to learn more about Madden’s mission.

Scan here to learn more about Robert’s mission.





THE CLASS OF 2029 EMBARKS ON IMMERSIVE ADVENTURE, BRIDGING CULTURE AND NATURE

During the annual seventh-grade trip to Cherokee, North Carolina, the curriculum came to life for our students as they interacted with Native Americans through museum visits, cultural performances, and storytelling presentations. They also fostered their connection with nature by hiking through Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and white-water rafting allowed them to build their teamworking skills and resiliency. These seventh graders took experiential learning to new heights!



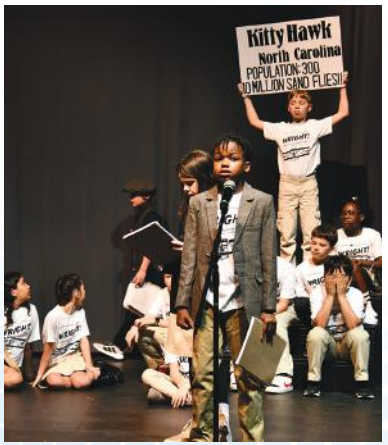






LOWER SCHOOL SPRING PERFORMANCES INSPIRE AND AMAZE

This year's Lower School spring performances are going to be tough to beat! The kindergarteners and first graders sang beautifully during their "Birds"-themed performance. Our second and third graders followed up the next day with their spring performance, "Green!" After taking turns wowing us with their amazing voices, both grades sang "Agents of Change!", letting everyone know that they can, and will, change the world for the better! And we can't forget about the fourth-grade musical, *Wright*, during which the Class of 2032 absolutely wowed the Keeler audience. The play was a celebration of the beginning of flight, and certainly a celebration of respect, responsibility, integrity, courage, and compassion. Way to go, Lower School performers!







ALUMNI COMMUNITY SERVICE



Back row, left to right: Rob Shively '06, Michelle Shively, Peter Fossett '80, Dale Mitchell '97, Anne (Oblinger) Pohlman '04, Darby Pohlman, Holly (Oblinger) Mott '95, Erin Head '93, Rudy Frank '07. Front row, left to right: Jen (Warwick) Mixson '90, Sally (Dwyer) Hernandez '05, Nevie Smith '19, Georgie Mott '35

In January, a group of CCDS alumni and their family members provided and served lunch to residents of Tender Mercies in Over-the-Rhine. The event was sponsored by the Community Service Committee of the Alumni Council and marks the return of pandemic-interrupted community service events organized by the Alumni Council. Close to 50 residents of Tender Mercies – an organization providing supportive living arrangements for people experiencing homelessness – enjoyed the meal, which included chicken pot pie, vegetarian lasagna, rolls, garden salad, macaroni salad, potato salad, and a selection of cookies.

Having engineered the return of alumni community service opportunities, the Community Service Committee is eager to organize more events and generate broad alumni involvement in community service. If you have any suggestions for future events, please share them with Peter Fossett '80, associate director of alumni and legacy giving, at fossettp@countryday.net.

SCHOLASTIC ARTS AND WRITING WINNERS



This past semester, our Middle School and Upper School students submitted their creative writings and visual art projects to the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers, which then presents the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. Special congratulations to Vic Quintero ’25, as she was one of fewer than 10 students in the region, which includes 52 schools, to win Gold Keys in both Visual Art and Writing at the Regional level. Below is a list of our 41 student award winners!

Upper School Scholastic Writing Award Winners

Gold Key Award
Emily Connolly ’27 – Critical Essay
Louisa Joy ’25 – Critical Essay (x2)
Vic Quintero ’25 – Poetry (x2)

Silver Key Winners
Abby Falkingham ’25 – Critical Essay
Donovan Gray ’25 – Critical Essay
Ava Lewis ’26 – Critical Essay
Jordan Lowe ’25 – Critical Essay
Nate Makasiar ’27 – Personal Essay & Memoir
Vic Quintero ’25 – Poetry (x3)

Honorable Mentions
Ayaan Arif ’25 – Critical Essay
Audrey de Alarcon ’27 – Personal Essay & Memoir
Gracie Dickerhoof ’26 – Poetry
Sam Easter ’24 – Critical Essay
Reed Horton ’25 – Critical Essay
Kate Kranias ’26 – Critical Essay
Ava Lewis ’26 – Dramatic Script; Critical Essay
Nate Makasiar ’27 – Critical Essay
Gracie Mitchell `24 – Critical Essay
Vic Quintero ’25 – Poetry
Leah Schwartz ’27 – Personal Essay & Memoir
Shiva Shyam ’26 – Poetry
Jason Starodub ’26 – Critical Essay
Minna Vens ’27 – Personal Essay & Memoir
Sally Zamary ’27 – Short Story
Yihe Zhang ’26 – Critical Essay

Middle School Scholastic Writing Award Winners

Golden Key Award
Margot Edmondson ’28 – Flash Fiction
Eloise Young ’28 – Poetry

Silver Key Winners
Sophie Corwin ’28 – Poetry
Margot Edmondson ’28 – Flash Fiction
Eleni Ni ’28 – Poetry

Honorable Mentions
Sophie Corwin ’28 – Critical Essay
Ved Deshmukh ’28 – Flash Fiction
Zoe Doerger ’28 – Poetry
Stella Duong ’28 – Flash Fiction
Margot Edmondson ’28 – Fiction
Charli Fangman ’28 – Critical Essay & Poetry
Noor Machmouchi ’28 – Poetry
Sashti Subramaniam ’28 – Poetry

Upper School Scholastic Art Award Winners

Gold Key Winners
Jessica Chen ’26 – Drawing & Illustrations
Katherine Connelly ’26 – Mixed Media
Shannon Kinebrew ’24 – Photography
Vic Quintero ’25 – Mixed Media

Silver Key Winners
Ella Blatt ’26 – Drawing & Illustration
Jessica Chen ’26 – Expanded Projects
Addison Heimann ’24 – Painting
Ana Kallmeyer ’24 – Photography
Vic Quintero ’25 – Painting
Alex Riemann ’24 – Film & Animation
Maddy Ross ’24 – Painting

Honorable Mentions
Jessica Chen ’26 – Mixed Media
Shayon Choudhury ’25 – Photography
Sarah Fu ’25 – Drawing & Illustration
Nathan Greenstein ’25 – Photography (x2)
Levi Homan ’24 – Photography (x2)
Shannon Kinebrew ’24 – Painting
Katherine Miner ’27 – Drawing & Illustration
Julia Oole ’24 – Photography
Erica Peterson ’26 – Expanded Projects
Lillian Shafer ’26 – Drawing & Illustration
Maria Steppe ’25 – Expanded Projects
William Zhu ’26 – Drawing & Illustration
Elizabeth Zimmerman ’24 – Photography; Mixed Media

RISING STARS: STUDENTS GEAR UP FOR ELITE SUMMER PROGRAMS

For some, summer is a time to relax. For others, it's a time to disconnect. And then for those like Kevin Pearson '25 and Jason Starodub '26, it's a time to roll up your sleeves and try something new.

Jason Starodub '26 was accepted to the Summer Science Program, a highly competitive 39-day research program for only 36 high school juniors (and a few truly exceptional sophomores, like Jason!) across the country. He will participate in astrophysics research in asteroid orbit determination at New Mexico State University. On the other side of the country, Kevin Pearson '25 will attend MIT's MITES Summer, a highly competitive six-week free residential STEM program on MIT's campus for underrepresented students.

"I applied because I want to prepare for what my college life could look like," says Pearson. "MITES offers all the options in the STEM field, which is what I want to study. I also look forward to leaving Ohio and the surrounding area for one of the first times in my life."

In early 2024, Kevin met with Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities, to talk through his options for STEM-based summer activities, and there were a few that caught his eye. He was also accepted to a summer program at Carnegie Mellon University but ultimately selected the opportunity at MIT because "quite a few people told me the program would open many doors and change my life forever."

Jason is also looking forward to trying something new and life changing.

"I've never been west of San Antonio [Texas] and the program seems like fun," says Starodub. "It will be a new experience that I've never done before. Last year I participated in a program at the University of Michigan and I really liked it but I want to do something that is even more of a challenge this year."

Both will also travel to Cambridge, Massachusetts, this June as members of the CCDS InventTeam. The team will present its invention at EurekaFest. According to the LMIT website, "EurekaFest is an event that empowers student inventors, empowers role models, and encourages creativity and problem-solving." While in the Boston area, the team will also visit area colleges and universities, as well as historic sites.





Investment Club

The Upper School Investment Club started a business on campus: The Birdfeeder! This student-created, student-ran snack shop reached $1,000 in profit in five days and became cash flow positive on Day 3! They even grossed $465 in one day, less than a week after opening this spring.

PORTRAIT OF A COUNTRY DAY GRADUATE

Featuring Fleur Helmantel '24

Senior Fleur Helmantel joined us her sophomore year, when she moved to Cincinnati from the Netherlands (she has also lived in Singapore and Australia!). Before she heads to Elon University to study engineering in the fall, Fleur first dug through her memory box to share some of her treasured Country Day mementos.



BANDANA

Everyone in the "Go Fish, Take a Hike" CCDX course received a bandana when they took their trip to the Smokey Mountains. "It's such a simple thing but it united us while we were hiking." Fleur appreciates the experiences she has had during CCDX Week this year and in years past, when she went to Costa Rica as well as when she participated in a wilderness first aid course. During this year's course, she hiked, fished, camped, set up her own tent, and cooked her own meals over a campfire. "The three days in the mountains brought all of us together. We encouraged each other during a long hike, sat around the campfire at night, and got along so well."

ANCHOR

In her principles of engineering and design class, Fleur had to make a product that would provide a solution to a problem. "Honestly I had no idea what I wanted to do, so instead I selected a shape I liked and then worked that into a solution and the solution I created was a grocery bag holder." She said she learned all about engineering in that class, and the experience inspired her to pursue the area of study further – she plans on majoring in engineering in college. "I love the whole process of taking a real-world problem and finding a solution."

BACKPACK

This backpack is one of the first Nighthawk-branded items Fleur received when she became a Country Day student. "It's very multi-purpose; it goes to all the places I travel to. It means a lot to me because I've personalized it, as we all do." She added tags from the soccer team's state games (she has played on the team since arriving at Country Day her sophomore year), one from CCDX Week in 2023 when she went to Costa Rica, and a shark because that's her favorite animal.

BEADS

Seniors throw beads into the student section during Country Day football games and to Fleur the beads are a festive sign of spirit. "Football games are where you can go and talk to everyone. A game is one of the most inclusive community events we have; people from all different grades hang out and cheer on the team."

ALTO SAXOPHONE

Fleur has played the saxophone since 5th grade and was in honor band and the Nighthawk Band. "The first time I looked at the course offerings, I hoped there was an extracurricular for band and there was! Even better, there was a class for it so I could play all the time during school as well. Our band is small but that makes it better because everyone knows each other so well and we get to choose what we get to play. It's very student driven."

CUM LAUDE PROGRAM

"I considered myself academically strong, but I never thought I was high enough in my class to be in the Cum Laude Society. It's really special." Because she came to Country Day her sophomore year from a school in another country, she selected her classes without really knowing what an AP was. "Once I got here and realized this environment is full of driven students, I realized I could also take harder classes. I could then dig deeper into my interests that relate to the subject. I also like that our school allows us to find a balance between high academic classes and extracurriculars – like sports – especially because so many of us participate in sports."

AN EVENING OF COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

This February, the culmination of Multicultural Week was Multicultural Night, a true celebration of our community. There's nothing quite like coming together to share food, music, and culture. From delicious dishes to heartfelt performances, every moment was a beautiful testament to the richness of our diverse community. With almost 500 people in attendance, everyone enjoyed good company, entertainment provided by our Nighthawk Honor Quartet Band, the Nighthawk Choir, the Singing Nighthawks, and 15 students and faculty members, as well as food prepared by more than 60 families and individuals in our community. Thank you to everyone who participated, attended, volunteered, and made the night unforgettable.





UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS EXCEL IN U.S. NATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD



For receiving top scores in the city in the annual U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad competition, three Upper School students – Trevor Gregorsok '25, Jason Starodub '26, and Yihe Zhang '26 – were honored this spring at a ceremony sponsored by the Cincinnati chapter of the American Chemical Society.

"I'm just so proud of these students for their interest in competing and their willingness to study in their own time," says Paula Butler, chemistry teacher. "It's reflective of the bright future we have here at Country Day, where we allow our students to pursue the passions that they feel motivated to pursue. Chemistry can be a complex subject that appeals to those who like puzzles, patterns, and problem-solving, which absolutely fits the bill for all three of these truly impressive students."

Sophomore Yihe scored in the top 10 out of 93 advanced students from southwestern Ohio in the first round, which included approximately 10,000 students across the country. Trevor and Jason were among the 1,000 students who then qualified for the second round of the competition, during which they took a challenging five-hour test including a lab practical.

"I like that we are able to provide such rigorous opportunities like this for our students," says Butler. "A competition like this allows our students to achieve at an even higher level, test their abilities, and stretch themselves. It's a humbling experience that can open their minds to other possibilities."

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) program is a multi-tiered chemistry competition for high school students. ACS has sponsored the program since 1984.

WELCOMING AMERICA'S NEWEST CITIZENS

On May 2, we hosted a naturalization ceremony on our campus during which 50 people were sworn in as U.S. citizens.

"Congratulations to our guests of honor – we are proud to call you our fellow Americans, and your commitment renews our belief in our American experiment," said Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 during the ceremony.

To contribute to the festive spirit of the day, earlier in the week our Lower School Houses worked together to create items to give to the newest citizens after the ceremony:

- Courage created ribbon flags.
- Responsibility created patriotic frames to display pictures of their special day.
- Respect decorated the welcome bags.
- Integrity made USA keychains.
- Compassion created Pledge of Allegiance writings.

The Carey Family Amphitheater was designated as a United States courthouse for the day as we welcomed America's 50 newest citizens as they took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America.

The Honorable Susan Dlott presided over the ceremony, and addressed the soon-to-be naturalized citizens, saying, "This is a happy time.... You have shown your commitment and eagerness to take on the responsibility of being an American citizen. It's a great gift, which represents the dreams and aspirations of centuries."



Scan this QR code to watch our very own choir director, Greg Miller, sing the National Anthem at the ceremony!







INSPIRATION AND EMPOWERMENT THROUGH STEM

A REFLECTION ON THE INVENTEAM EXPERIENCE

By: Kate Kranias '26



The CCDS InvenTeam is all smiles at the Mid-Grant Technical Review in late February. From left to right: Alex Back '25, Lucia Murdoch '25, Kate Kranias '26, Kevin Pearson '25, Ayaan Arif '25, Jason Starodub '26, Donovan Gray '25

As a sophomore girl with strong interests in STEM fields, I have found InvenTeams incredibly inspiring and empowering. I've learned a lot about teamwork, the invention process, and communication.

We started the process at the beginning of July and have worked about 400 hours since. We began entirely from scratch and spent the first month deciding which problem to tackle. It is a large and rather daunting task for a group of high school students to invent a solution for a problem they can identify within their community. At first, we were all a bit overwhelmed. Though the grant application and invention process must be student-led, our co-educators, Mrs. [Jamie] Back and Mrs. [Angela] Barber-Joiner, helped mitigate our stresses and guide us.

After we settled on a problem statement about road-biking safety, we had to write a grant application to send to LMIT. This was yet another daunting task, but at this point, we felt more confident in our ability to work together to accomplish such milestones. The grant involved pages of research, potential ideas, statements about our passion, and accounts of our meetings. We also included preliminary sketches of our two proposed solutions and team pictures.



The InvenTeam after receiving a proclamation from City Council, sponsored by Councilmember Mark Jeffreys (center), for their work to advance bicycle safety.

The wait between submitting our grant application and hearing back from LMIT felt very long and heavy with anticipation. We finally heard back in October...and we got the grant! Hearing that all our hard work on the grant application paid off was amazing. The entire team had become close by this point, and there was no better group of people to share that excitement with. We knew the following seven months would be difficult, but we were eager to see what our invention statement could turn into.

Until the end of February, we had to focus on our upcoming Mid-Grant Technical Review: a time for us to share what we had been working on with our families, the Country Day community, and our LMIT fellow. The Mid-Grant Technical Review was surreal. It was incredible to not only share something I had developed such passion for, but also watch my teammates showcase their strengths. One of the most meaningful and impactful moments of this journey thus far has been the moment of silence we took at the Mid-Grant Technical Review for Mr. Fred Carey – a member of the Class of 1980 and a long-time and much-beloved English teacher whose untimely death in a road-bike accident in 2014 helped inspire our invention.

Following the Mid-Grant Technical Review, it was one strong stride to the finish line. A highlight of the last few months has been attending a City Council meeting and meeting with the Department of Transportation of the City of Cincinnati. At the City Council meeting, our team was recognized for our efforts to improve bicyclists' safety on the road.

At the time of writing, we are making last minute touches to our prototype and preparing our presentation for EurekaFest. The entire team, including myself, is so excited to travel to Boston to showcase our invention.

Scan here for more information about the CCDS InvenTeam!

IlumiLane

The trademarked name and logo for the invention created by the CCDS InvenTeam.

MARLEY HANDLER '24 NAMED FINALIST FOR PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLAR AWARD



Marley Handler '24 was named a finalist for one of the top academic awards in the country: the 2024 National Merit Scholar award.

Handler qualified for the award by taking the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) her junior year of high school and scoring in the top 15,000 out of 1.3 million students. She was first named a semi-finalist and is now a finalist.

"It's an honor," says Handler about becoming a National Merit Scholar Finalist. "I've always worked very hard in school and tried to get good grades, but I also want to learn and know everything. I think my score and being recognized as a finalist reflects how effective it is to go above and beyond just memorizing facts."

"Marley is a wonderful student, in every way," says Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling. "What's really striking about Marley is that for someone so talented, she has wonderful humility, curiosity, and generosity. Marley never struts her stuff. She's genuinely fascinated by how and why things work."

Beyreis continues, "We have been so lucky to have Marley among us for so many years."

Marley credits her teachers and classes at Country Day for helping her achieve such a high score on a nationally administered test.

"They [teachers] teach us how to problem solve by thinking through a problem as opposed to just memorizing facts and not understanding things," she says. "I've never had a teacher tell me 'no' when I've wanted to learn more or asked them to go further into a subject. It's just how we've always been taught at Country Day."

What's the biggest piece of advice that Handler has for those who have the goal of becoming a National Merit Finalist themselves? Don't overthink it and trust yourself.

"I honestly didn't study too much for it, besides brushing up a bit on geometry since it wasn't my best subject," Handler says. "The curriculum here [at Country Day] really prepares you for the test, especially if you're already taking AP classes."

Handler has decided to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology where she will major in aerospace engineering.








CLASS OF 2032

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world. You have thrived and become stronger by using your character virtues to embrace change so far, and we can't wait to see the impact you continue to have on this world as you venture into the next phase of your lives!"

-Mark Morawski, Head of Lower School




CLASS OF 2028

"We have been through a lot together; therefore, a strong bond has formed between all of us... It has been a privilege to be on this journey with you, and I look forward to the next chapter. The best is yet to come."

-Olivia Ims, Class President








CLASS OF 2024

"Class of 2024, I have no doubt everyone in this class will go on to do worthy things in their future. We will have doctors, lawyers, engineers, entrepreneurs, CEOs, and other notable careers. But as we face our next set of challenges, I urge you to consciously begin to think about who you want to be. In fact, I challenge you to write your own eulogy. How do you want to be remembered?

Perhaps you will want to be remembered as a person who put other's needs first…Maybe you want to be a loyal friend who was always there in a time of urgency or be the quality of person who routinely did the right thing when no one was watching. Many will choose to be virtuous in their actions…Perhaps you simply want to be remembered as being kind and caring.

I believe in the end, no one is going to talk about your grades, trophies, degrees, finances, or impeccable fashion. All that really matters is "who you were as a person" and the impact you had on those around you. So, to my friends, I ask you, 'How do you want to be remembered?'"

-Parker Corbin '24, Student Council President

















Inside The World of Venture Capital

A CONVERSATION WITH ALEXANDRA SUKIN '15

Alexandra Sukin graduated with an interest in venture capital investing. With that in mind, she headed to the east coast where she attended Harvard University and graduated magna cum laude with a concentration in government. Alexandra now works as an investor for Bessemer Venture Partners in the company's New York office. We (virtually) sat down with Alexandra, who was just recently named to Forbes' 30 under 30 list, to find out what it is like to work in the compelling world of venture capital investing.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ROLE AS AN INVESTOR AT BESSEMER VENTURE PARTNERS.

We are a multi-stage venture capital firm, which means we invest in companies as they are beginning to show signs of exciting potential and partner with those companies and their founders on the journey of working towards turning them into very large companies. I work with my team to look for companies that are taking advantage of certain industry or technological trends. Once we identify one of these companies, we learn more about their industry, what their product does, who their target customers are, and so forth. Once we make an investment, we then become serious, meaningful partners with that company.

WHAT IS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF YOUR JOB?

The trajectories of most companies aren't linear. It's easy to get caught up in the week-to-week, or month-to-month basis of what's going on with the companies you've invested in. But I think the best venture capitalists are patient and good observers, and know when the right time is to step in and help make strategic decisions.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF YOUR JOB?

I have a few favorite parts of my job. One is that I think the Bessemer team is truly amazing. In our Monday morning meetings, we get to hear people from all over the world talk about deals they are considering and what excites them. It's an incredible learning event to hear from really smart people about the interesting spaces they are spending time in. It's an amazing aspect of the job.

I think it takes incredible discipline, confidence, talent, and some luck to be a successful entrepreneur. And to be able to help – even if it's in small ways – someone along their journey and achieve their dreams, it's a special and exciting feeling. That's my other favorite part about my job.

IS THERE A MEMORABLE PITCH FROM A COMPANY THAT STANDS OUT IN YOUR MEMORY?

I was involved with a company called Truebill and a key element of their product is that they help people negotiate down or reduce their subscriptions and monthly expenses. I think their pitch, in hindsight, still stands out to me because they operated in a

competitive category – consumer fintech – but they identified this light-bulb moment for their customers by actually helping them save money and I just think that's really powerful.

WERE THERE ANY LESSONS YOU LEARNED AT COUNTRY DAY THAT YOU FEEL HELPED YOU GET TO WHERE YOU ARE NOW?

Country Day taught me one of my guiding principles in my work life: find mentors. All the teachers at Country Day were teachers you could learn from and look up to. I really respected them. In order to succeed in school, at work, or in life in general, it's really helpful to find mentors who will help you cultivate your passions and interests. That was something I really benefited from in the Country Day community.

WAS THERE A TEACHER OR STAFF MEMBER AT COUNTRY DAY THAT ENCOURAGED YOUR ACADEMIC INTERESTS?

There were so many, such as Ms. Deborah Floyd, Mrs. Patricia Dunn, Mr. Merle Black, and Mrs. Sarah Beyreis, who I'm very appreciative of for encouraging me. I also really credit Mrs. Sarah Beyreis for being supportive in the college admissions process.

HOW DID COUNTRY DAY PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR CAREER/POST-HIGH SCHOOL LIFE?

I do a lot of writing in my job, so Country Day's writing-focused curriculum was extremely helpful. I was also appreciative of the education in computers. Technology is such an important part of how we do our jobs and interact with each other. Country Day trained me to be digitally native and computer proficient. It really set me up well to work in a technologically oriented and enabled world.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR ANY CURRENT STUDENT WHO IS THINKING ABOUT PURSUING A CAREER AS AN INVESTOR?

I would say that being entrepreneurial is not just for entrepreneurs. If you're interested in any business-oriented career, I would highly encourage you to think about how you can be entrepreneurial. I think bringing that mindset to how you approach any career, whether it's at the beginning or throughout your career, is incredibly valuable because it's this unique skill set that you can bring that isn't restricted by the amount of experience that you have.



ANTHONY MUÑOZ FOUNDATION HONORS MELISSA TEKE ’24

AMONG ELITE STRAIGHT ‘A’ SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Melissa Teke ’24 was named as one of the recipients of the 2024 Straight ‘A’ Scholarship Award by the Anthony Muñoz Foundation.

The foundation seeks to recognize students who best represent their interpretation of what it means to be considered a Straight ‘A’ Student: high school students who are pursuing academic excellence and athletic achievement, are actively serving in the community while possessing strong ambition, have a winning attitude, and are able to overcome adversity.

Out of 490 nominations from more than 150 local high schools, Melissa was one of 18 students named a Straight ‘A’ recipient – nine female and nine male.

Melissa’s achievements include having an exemplary GPA, playing on the girls soccer, basketball, and lacrosse teams, actively participating in Country Day programs such as Students Helping Students, being a Lower School math helper, coaching an under-9 boys soccer team, all while working at Jersey Mike’s and spending her summers working at a summer camp.

“It means everything,” says Teke about receiving this award. “Getting any amount of money to help pay for college is nice. I was also impressed that you don’t just need to have straight As to receive this award, but you are also recognized for overcoming adversity. I lost my mom when I was younger and that was a struggle for me. Transferring schools helped a lot. People recognizing the challenges I’ve had to overcome to get where I am today has definitely made an impact on my life.”

Chuck McGivern, assistant director of college counseling, was the staff member who nominated Melissa for the award.

“Even though she had to deal with unfortunate circumstances, she is one of the strongest kids I know,” says McGivern. “She essentially had to become an adult overnight.”

As part of her essay for the scholarship, Melissa wrote, “I have accomplished so much; way more than I could ever imagine, and I know she [her mom] is looking down from heaven cheering me on. When I need her, I look up and talk to her, and although she can’t physically respond, I know exactly what she is saying.”

“Melissa exemplifies resilience,” continues McGivern. “She’s such a strong, young, independent woman who is so thoughtful in the way she acts and speaks. I know she’s going to succeed greatly in whatever she does after school.”

In the fall, Melissa will attend Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, where she will major in psychology and play soccer.



Melissa (middle) posing with Anthony Muñoz (left) and Charles McGivern (right), who she named her “most influential teacher” as part of her scholarship award.

Melissa Teke ’24 reading her scholarship essay at the Straight ‘A’ Scholarship Award luncheon.



CELEBRATING WORLD TEEN MENTAL WELLNESS DAY

By: Alexis Nordrum, School Psychologist

March 2 marked a significant day on the calendar for teenagers worldwide: World Teen Mental Wellness Day. Thanks to the collaboration between Bethesda's philanthropic initiative bi3, Interact for Health, and the Joe Burrow Foundation, our school received funding to support our initiatives on this important day. As a result, we were able to organize a series of activities aimed at promoting mental health awareness, reducing stigma, and encouraging self-care practices among our student body. Kathy Scheidler, our Upper School psychologist, said it best: "We wanted to have a day that reminded students that not only is it OK to make space for their mental health, but it is also essential."



In recognition of this global initiative, on February 29, we kicked off the day with a "Hot Chocolate for Healthy Minds" bar, providing students with a warm and comforting start to their school day while emphasizing the importance of mental well-being. The aroma of hot chocolate filled the air as students gathered, fostering a sense of community and support.

Throughout the day, our six-foot coloring page became a centerpiece of creativity and expression. Students eagerly grabbed markers to contribute to the massive masterpiece, finding solace and joy in the simple act of coloring. Due to the coloring page's immense popularity, students asked that it become a more permanent fixture in our school, symbolizing our commitment to ongoing mental health awareness.

We also had informational tables from 1N5 and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, providing vital resources and support for students. From stress balls to bracelets, these tables offered tangible reminders of the support systems available both within our school community and beyond.

Two interactive tables provided students with opportunities to engage further. One table encouraged students to share their own mental wellness practices and discover community resources, fostering a culture of sharing and support. The other table offered mental health stickers, candy, and affirmation cards, providing students with small tokens of encouragement to carry with them throughout the day.



The day's events underscore our dedication to the well-being of our students, faculty, and staff, echoing our firm belief that everyone should have a safe environment to nurture their mental health, discover their strengths, and excel both academically and personally.

In discussing the importance of this day with Angela Barber-Joiner, director of belonging and well-being, she astutely noted that "it is critical that we normalize mental health alongside physical health to promote individual well-being. Talking openly about mental health, sharing our stories, engaging in activities that focus on mental wellness, and creating supportive environments will not only normalize mental health, but will save lives."

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and the enthusiasm of our student body, our World Teen Mental Wellness Day activities were a resounding success. By coming together to promote mental health awareness and support, we have taken an important step toward building an even healthier and more compassionate school community.



100 CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT

TIM DUNN

Tim Dunn graduated from Williams College in 1977 and later earned a master's degree from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. He arrived at Country Day in 1986 from an east coast boarding school. He then went on to teach AP biology and chemistry while coaching baseball and football over the span of his 35-year Country Day career.

This past May, our community gathered to celebrate Coach Tim Dunn's induction into the CCDS Athletic Hall of Fame. He had 782 career wins – 563 in baseball (including two state championships) and 219 in football (including two state final four appearances). Read below for excerpts from an interview with this Country Day legend.

Part of your genius was your ability to connect with and motivate teenage boys from varied backgrounds and with different personalities, strengths and weaknesses. What made it easy for you to connect with students?

What made it easy to connect with all my players is the school's general ethos that they accept a wide range of backgrounds into the school; it's a very diverse community. It doesn't take long for them to become fast friends…it's less cliquey than most schools because of that.

What do you miss the most about working at Country Day since you retired?

Both teaching and coaching together, just watching them grow from freshman year to senior year, both physically and mentally. Probably athletics even more so. These boys change immensely from 13 years old to 18 years old. Just seeing the progress is one of my favorite things.

What was your best advice to a new faculty member?

Get involved with the school beyond your own classroom, in whatever capacity suits your abilities and desires.… You establish an incredible amount of credibility with your students if you are involved in other activities and support the other activities that are going on.

Many would say you motivated them both in the classroom and on the field, what was the secret to your success?

I had a very wise older teacher tell me that you have only one hat: it's your hat.

"An argument could be made that the 1993 Baseball State Championship was the cornerstone of Country Day's subsequent state-level success; the school's first team championship showed a small, 'privileged' institution could compete and win across the state. Coach Dunn was the foundation of that success."

– Brad Johnson '95



In your tenure as an Upper School faculty member and coach, did you ever experience even a slight twinge of remorse for not following the rules and making up your own?

You just have to be a little sneaky about it. It works out OK…. My philosophy was to apologize afterwards.

What is the best team you ever coached?

I will not answer that question. I never had a team I regretted having. I suppose the team my son was on because it was also his buddies who hung around our house.

What was your favorite moment, not including a win or championship, from a coaching perspective and a teaching perspective?

My favorite moment from a coaching perspective was probably watching the winning run cross the plate in a state championship game. It was pretty electric and it's a big crowd there. And from a teaching point of view…there are so many. Having kids coming out of the AP biology exam feeling confident that they were well prepared and that things went well. And then later on hearing students that went on in those fields. I always taught my classroom like everyone in the class was going to go into this field…to prepare them to be scientists. The same thing with coaching. I wanted to prepare them to play at the next level.

How would former students describe you?

They would think I was funny sometimes, corny other times. I never lost my temper. One good piece of advice I got was to act mad before you were actually mad.

How would you best describe your tenure at Country Day as a coach, teacher, and mentor?

Rewarding. I feel like I didn't have a job, it was a life. It never felt like work, it was a life you chose. It didn't seem worthwhile to treat it just as a job.

What makes the Country Day community so special?

So many teachers have their kids here going to school, and there is a lot of value in that, and it's easier to become part of the community when you do that. And because we have students from so many zip codes, it's important that this place becomes a community.… Making this a community involves the teachers, the coaches, the parents, and the students all in it together and having pride in what we produce.

What did you love about coaching?

The weekly challenge. Getting out of the classroom and onto the field. Doing something physical, even though on a Friday night you wouldn't get home until 11 o'clock sometimes. Putting all that time in made it valuable to me. And realizing how important it was for the athletes themselves, how crucial it was to their lives.…. If you want to have fun at something, you have to take that thing seriously. I never thought of sports as being recreational. The disappointment that comes with losing is just as important as the joy that comes with winning.

Scan here to watch the interview in its entirety, during which Tim Dunn talks about the secret to his success as a coach and a teacher, his best advice to new faculty members, what makes Country Day such a special place, and what the best part of retirement is.

CERIDWEN HALL '05 RETURNS TO INSPIRE COUNTRY DAY WITH POETRY AND WISDOM



Ceridwen Hall '05 is an accomplished poet, essayist, writing coach, and adjunct professor teaching freshman composition at the University of Cincinnati. As part of our CCDSpeaks series, Ceridwen recently returned to Country Day's campus and shared readings from her published work with students, faculty, and community members. With Ceridwen back on campus, we thought it was the perfect time to catch up with her to find out more about her life and experiences as a poet.

The following are five fun facts about life as a poet.

1. **Most poets don't rely solely on their poetry to make a living.**
"I knew I wanted to write poetry at the age of 10 or 11, but I didn't decide to become a professional poet until my mid-twenties. That's when I decided to get my master's degree and commit to the work of getting my poems published, while also gaining the skills I needed to be an editor and teacher. Most poets support themselves by doing a lot of different things: teaching, hosting writing workshops, and using their editing skills to help other writers."

2. **Being a published poet involves a lot of spreadsheets.**
"In order to submit your work to journals, you have to stay very organized. I use spreadsheets to track deadlines, submission fees, upcoming contests, and acceptance/rejection letters. It's almost like a cross between applying to colleges and working as a journalist. My teenage self would be so surprised at the number of spreadsheets that I need to continuously keep track of!"

3. **The academic rigor of Country Day helped her get to where she is now.**
"Country Day not only prepared me for college and grad school, but also prepared me to deal with challenges and to be resilient in the face of frustration or uncertainty. Any creative process is fraught with doubts and challenges. And being a writer is a precarious business (especially in our current economic climate). You have to be able to keep working forward even in the absence of easy or instantaneous answers. You have to keep figuring out new ways to learn and to decide what to do next. I'm very thankful to have learned those skills early on."

4. **One of her Country Day classmates illustrated the cover of her most recent book "Acoustic Shadows."**
"It was a wonderful experience getting to work with Virginia Hoffman `05 on the cover for "Acoustic Shadows." I was recently at a National Poetry Month reading with some other authors as part of the press tour for "Acoustic Shadows" and two of the other authors expressed envy that I've been able to have such a close relationship with my cover illustrator. They wished they had an artist in their life who could do covers like her."

5. **Ceridwen's biggest piece of advice for young poets is to read a lot, both for enjoyment and for analytic reasons.**
"Anyone who wants to become a poet should read omnivorously and voraciously. You should then start to ask questions like, 'How is this working? What made this go by so fast? How is this creating an experience for me? What would I do differently?'.

As a writer, I'm choreographing an experience of language and imagery for the reader. I think a lot about how we interact with screen media, and how we tend to scroll through things so fast on our phones. It can be a very enticing experience, but also kind of anxious-making and dissatisfying. I want my writing to be a place where the reader can experience some stillness and have room for contemplation."

Scan here for more information about Ceridwen's writing.

CLASS NOTES

1968

Edson Baker '68 writes that on January 3, 2023, he retired from the federal government as branch chief of the Design and Technical Services Branch of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) after 14 years of service. Before working with NIH, Edson spent 34 years in the private sector as an architect and structural engineer. For most of his time in the private sector, Edson was a forensic architect and engineer specializing in the investigation and repair of buildings suffering from waterproofing, structural, or building-envelope issues. Edson and his wife Barbara, to whom he has been married for 48 years, live in northern Virginia, close to four of their five children. In retirement, Edson and Barbara are looking forward to traveling. All our best in your well-deserved retirement, Edson!

1991

Dr. Elizabeth (Leman) Muennich '91 was inaugurated as president of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) on Saturday, April 6, in Columbus. Liz, a practicing dermatologist and the president and CEO of Dermatology and Skin Care Associates in West Chester, had previously served as the District One Councilor to the OSMA, representing and advocating for physicians in eight southwestern Ohio counties. Guests at the ceremony included friends Susan (Callard) Conner '91, Dr. Anu Mital '01, and Sharon Kennedy – chief justice of Ohio's supreme court. Congratulations, Liz!



2005



Sheela Bhaskar '05 continues to advance her career in the finance and M&A arena and is now working in the business development and strategy department of the Eaton Corporation, a global power management company. Based in Cincinnati, Sheela stays in contact with many CCDS alums. Sheela recently traveled to Spain with Ben Tanzer '05, regularly skis with Suzi Jolly '05 in Colorado, and regularly competes in local trivia contests with Robert Lucas '05. Sheela regularly golfs with Phil Go '00 and Michael Hontanosas '00, classmates of her brother Prithvi Bhaskar `00. Other alums Sheela regularly sees include Allison Hontanosas Wheeler '01, Matthew Honatnosas '04, Abby Lee Katabaro '98, Lisa Lee Lippincott '96, and Dr. Cathy Lee '95.

2006

John Bahl '06 and Kelsey Bahl recently welcomed Jordan William Bahl to their family. Johnny, Margot, and Connor are delighted to have a baby brother. Congratulations and happiness to the Bahl family!

Erin Kapor '06, who is living in Los Angeles, has recently joined the WME agency to run a new department representing creative directors in the music, fashion, and art worlds. Previously a senior VP at Original Creative Agency, Erin brings with her more than a decade of experience in creative representation and strategy and a long client list including creative directors who have worked with such big-name stars and brands as Rhianna, Lady Gaga, Alicia Keys, Beyoncé, Drake, and Louis Vuitton. Erin significantly strengthens WME's presence in this arena. Keep up the good work, Erin!



2006



In late March, **Elizabeth Oblinger '06** arrived in Nepal to pursue her long-held dream of climbing Mt. Everest. From Kathmandu, Elizabeth and her fellow climbers helicoptered to Lukla in northeastern Nepal where they began their trek to their Everest base camp, which they reached on April 10. After some training on Khumbu Glacier, the team worked their way up Lobuche, a nearby peak (elevation 20,000+'), to begin acclimatizing to the thin air of the high Himalayas. Elizabeth and her team reached the top of Lobuche on April 15. After summiting Lobuche, Elizabeth and her team returned to their Everest base camp, from which they began moving up Everest itself. While some high winds and difficult weather delayed their progress up Everest, Elizabeth and her fellow climbers were in position to make their push to the summit on May 12. By the early morning hours of May 13, Elizabeth reached Mt. Everest's Balcony – about 27,500 feet above sea level and within 1,500 feet of Everest's summit – before she was forced to turn back by a dwindling oxygen supply. Undaunted, Elizabeth is already thinking of returning to Everest to complete the job, and on her next effort, she wants to take a CCDS flag with her to plant on the summit! Well done, Elizabeth, and more power to you!

2007

Lauren Dayton '07, has made partner at her law firm, MoloLamken – a firm specializing in complex litigation. Lauren loves the variety of her practice, which focuses on business torts and antitrust cases, commercial disputes, and intellectual property matters. Recently, Lauren filed her first merit brief in a case before the US Supreme Court! Lauren and her husband, Joseph "Joe" Celentino – a bankruptcy litigator for Latham & Watkins – have moved to Chicago after five years in New York City. Lauren, Joe, and their toddler son Dayton love the family focus of Chicago and are delighted to live right across from the Lincoln Park Zoo.



Will Lindner '07 and Lee Strasser Lindner '07 welcomed their daughter Isla to their family on March 4, 2024. Big brother, Arlo, is delighted to have a baby sister! Congratulations and happiness to the Lindners!

Colin McSwiggen '07 is completing a post-doctoral fellowship in applied math at the prestigious Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences at New York University. In September, he will begin a tenure-track faculty appointment in Taipei, at the Institute of Mathematics of Academia Sinica, the national academy of Taiwan. Well done, Colin!

2008

Brigid Dunn Cubeta '08 and her husband, Robert Cubeta, welcomed Sophie Thompson Cubeta to their family on October 26, 2023. Congratulations, Brigid and Robert, and all happiness to you both and to Sophie!

2009



René Peters '09 was recently honored with selection to the Puget Sound Business Journal's 40 Under 40 list for 2024 – an award honoring rising stars in the northwestern Washington state business world who have distinguished themselves in their companies, their communities, and their industries. René, a Seattle-based manager of augmented reality and virtual reality products at artificial intelligence software firm NVIDIA, was selected for his work in private industry as well as his technology policy work with the City of Seattle. René, a prominent voice in technology, its ethics, and its social implications, has served for several years on Seattle's Community Technology Advisory Board and plays an important role in supporting tech-centered community organizations benefiting Seattle's underserved communities. René's selection for this honor from among hundreds of nominees is a testament to his exceptional professional accomplishments and his deep ties to his community.

2010



Xanni Brown '10 earned her Ph. D. in social psychology from Yale in May 2023 and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania's Polarization Research Lab where she is investigating polarization in American politics. Xanni's principal area of interest and research is in the impacts group identities have in shaping political opinions. After completing her postdoctoral fellowship, Xanni would like to teach social and political psychology at the collegiate level.

When not looking for the root causes of polarization in American politics, Xanni crushes trivia contests – whether at local pubs or on the nationally-aired tv program *Jeopardy!*. Xanni first appeared on Jeopardy! in 2022. While she did not win her match – she fell to Chris Panullo, who went on to compile one of the longest winning streaks in *Jeopardy!'s* history – she impressed the show's managers and was invited back in 2023 as one of a small handful of "second chance" contestants competing for four "second chance" spots in a Champions Wildcard round. In three episodes that aired in late December 2023 and early January 2024, Xanni won her "second chance" bracket and secured one of the four "second chance" spots in the Champions Wildcard tournament. In that wildcard tournament, Xanni, the other three "second chance" winners, and contestants who won one to three rounds of regular season *Jeopardy!* competed for a berth in the Tournament of Champions and the chance to fight for the 2024 *Jeopardy!* crown against the best of the best (contestants who won four or more rounds of regular season *Jeopardy!*). Unfortunately, Xanni's quest ended in the first round of the Champions Wildcard tournament (aired January 23): after a strong opening round (14 questions right in a row), Xanni succumbed to tough questions in Double Jeopardy and ended her *Jeopardy!* run.

Nicha Vetvitayavatana '09, an exchange student who joined the Class of 2009 for her sophomore year (2006-07), married Nakarin Tanakitivirul in Bangkok,Thailand, on October 1, 2023. Nicha is an OB/GYN, specializing in maternal/fetal medicine in Bangkok, and Nakarin is a cardiologist in Bangkok. Guests included Marcel Lubjahn, an exchange student who joined the Class of 2009 for part of his junior year and is now an electrical engineer in Munich; the McSwiggen brothers – Colin '07 (a post-doctoral fellow in applied math at NYU), Kevin '11 (a software engineer in the Bay Area), and Brian '14 (a software engineer in New York City); and the McSwiggen brothers' parents, Patrick McSwiggen and Tara Smith. Marcel and Nicha were both hosted by the McSwiggen family while attending CCDS and they have remained close friends with each other and with the McSwiggen family. Congratulations and best wishes to Nicha and Tanakitivirul!



From left to right in the photo: Marcel Lubjahn, Colin McSwiggen, Tara Smith, Nakarin Tanakitivirul, Nicha Vetvitayavatana, Patrick McSwiggen, Brian McSwiggen, Kevin McSwiggen

2010



Kandace Keidel '10 and her husband Dreadless Stubbs recently moved from Washington, D.C., to Brighton, Michigan, where they welcomed their son Jaguar (Jag) Blackmore Stubbs-Keidel on February 17, 2024. Kandace works remotely in the restaurant software industry and Dreadless is a senior organizer for AFSCME (the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees). Congratulations and all happiness to Kandace and her family!

Christine Richart '10 married Jacob Swartz on November 11, 2023, at the Cincinnati Club. They were surrounded by friends and family, including many members of the Country Day community, who came together to celebrate their special day!



Back row from L-R: Taylor Cole '10, Jenny Morgan (parent of alum), Kaitlyn Kimmel (Morgan) '10, Becky Hartle '10, Annie Mullee '14, Lisa Racine '10, Molly Mullee (parent of alum); Front row from L-R: Russell Wilson '75, Sam Wilson '06, Jane Lindahl '06, Dawn Johnsen '10, Christine Richart '10, Micaela Mullee '10, Claire Cook (Willingham) '10

2011



Lilly Fleischmann Ganong '11, Ryan Ganong, and big sister, Blair, welcomed Margaret Louise (Mae) Ganong to their family on May 2, 2024. Congratulations and happiness to them!

2014

Jason Cox '14 has been working in the mental health field since 2019, after earning his master's degree from the University of Cincinnati. Jason supervises the intensive outpatient program at the Children's Home of Northern Kentucky, which serves a wide range of patients with behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse issues. In July, Jason and his fiancée Madison Donald – who will soon start medical school at UC – will marry and make their home in the Queen City. Congratulations and best wishes to Jason and Madison!

2015



Marissa Cornist '15 has big news to report! Marissa and Kamree Maull married in the late summer of 2023 and welcomed their first child, Kobee Victoria Maull, on January 8, 2024. Marissa, who is a nurse in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit at Children's Hospital, will earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree from UC in December. Marissa and Kamree, who is a senior manager of supply chain operations for Nestlé, are enjoying their busy life together!

Mia Fatuzzo '15, who graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's medical school in 2023, has completed her intern year at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia and will soon be starting her anesthesia training at the University of Maryland. In the middle of all of that, Mia married Captain Thomas Galvin, United States Air Force. Captain Galvin will fly out of Andrews Air Force Base while Mia completes her residency. Congratulations, Mia and Thomas!

Nicholas Langenbahn '15, a graduate of The Ohio State University, is enjoying the challenges of his job as a manager in the data management department of Burke, Inc., a Cincinnati-based market research firm. Nicholas gives Country Day credit for his ability to guide his team effectively. Well done, Nicholas!

Jennifer Gonzales '15 graduated from Northeastern University School of Law in May. She is pursuing a career in immigration law and has a special interest in the intersections of immigration, criminal, and family law. Experiences Jennifer had working as a legal advocate for Project Citizenship in Boston after graduating from Boston University (2020, BA English Language and Literature) and at law school in clinical classes and as an intern – including most recently for the Legal Centre Lesvos in Mytilini, Greece, during the fall semester of 2023 – cemented her interest in immigration law. Congratulations, Jennifer!

2016



Soham Basu '16 has joined the State Department as a foreign service officer. After graduating from Dartmouth in 2020, Soham spent two years with a small consulting firm focused on American companies doing business in Asia. In 2022, Soham's interest in languages, US foreign policy, and international relations led him to a career shift: he applied for and received a prestigious Pickering Fellowship from the State Department to prepare for a career as a foreign service officer. As a Pickering Fellow, Soham pursued graduate studies in international affairs and foreign policy at Yale, earning his master's degree in public policy in global affairs in the spring 2024 (master's thesis: the importance of foreign crises and foreign policy to voters and elections). While a student at Yale, Soham also received training from the State Department, including a rotation at the US embassy in Singapore. Upon graduation from Yale, Soham joined the State Department where he is continuing his training to become a fully-fledged diplomat. We wish Soham the best of luck in his new career!

2019

Kylan Young '19 shared news that he has recently graduated from the College of Charleston (SC) with a degree in biology. Kylan is interested in health care science and pediatrics and is eager to pursue a career in clinical research. We wish you great success in your next chapter!

2020

Lawson Renie '20, who earned her bachelor's degree in accounting a year early from the University of Tennessee and has recently earned her master's degree in accounting from the same school, will begin her second master's program – this one in sports management – at Georgetown University in the fall. Lawson, who played soccer all four years she attended the University of Tennessee, has one year of NCAA eligibility left as the result of her Covid-affected freshman year at Tennessee and will continue her collegiate soccer career at Georgetown as part of the highly-ranked Hoya squad. Well played, Lawson!

2021

Caroline Blang '21 has been very busy at the University of Virginia. Majoring in medical anthropology, she also plays on the university's club polo team. This spring, Caroline interned with the United States Polo Association (USPA) where, among other duties, she helped organize the 2024 USPA National Youth Tournament Series and wrote for the USPA's Polo magazine. Her article about youth polo, "Opportunity Knocks," appears in the April 2024 issue of the magazine. Caroline has also been published in *Grounds: The Virginian Journal of Bioethics*. Her article on the ethics of surrogacy in horse breeding appears in the January 2024 issue of that publication. This summer, Caroline will intern with the UVA School of Medicine's Center for Health Humanities & Ethics while also taking care of the university's polo herd, hosting youth polo clinics, and honing her own polo game. That's a busy schedule!

2021

Jack Wright '21 and Celie Hudson '21 traveled halfway around the world to reconnect, spending an afternoon together in New Zealand recently. Jack, who is a student at Dartmouth, was spending his winter quarter at the University of Auckland, and Celie, who is a student at Tufts, was spending her spring semester at the University of Otago in Dunedin, when they met this past March. It looks like they might have played a bit of spikeball!





ATTENTION!

Have great news to share?

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Please help us stay connected by going to www.countryday.net/alumni/alumni-news or scanning the QR code below.

CLAPPING OUT OUR SENIORS

Clapping out our seniors at the end of each academic year is always one of the most emotional traditions at Country Day. On May 22, faculty, staff, and students from every division said good-bye to the Class of 2024 and wished them the best of luck on their next adventure. This class has left quite an impact on the Country Day community. We know this group of kind, smart, and ambitious leaders will continue to achieve great things.

And just before the Clap-Out, student council president Parker Corbin '24 spoke to his classmates in Keeler Theater one last time:

"To my fellow classmates in the Class of 2024, thank you for the best 11 years of my life. We have been through a lot together. Through the highs and the lows, we have always been there for each other – all 58 of us, who have grown closer than any class I have seen go through Country Day. This class is talented in so many ways and I cannot wait to see the successes all of you will achieve. From Lower School field trips to field day in Middle School to the senior class rafting trip, so many memories have been made and will be cherished forever. I truly love each and every single one of you, and I can't wait to see what you accomplish in your years ahead."

Scan here to watch the Class of 2024 Clap-Out

















IN MEMORIAM

Submitted by the loved ones of those we will never forget.

Gary Boseman ’74

Gary Boseman ’74 passed away on January 24, 2022, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Gary was 66 years old.

Marjorie “Margie” J. Cohen ’81

Marjorie “Margie” J. Cohen ’81 died peacefully of ovarian cancer at home in Atlanta on September 4, 2023. The daughter of Lois and Philip S. Cohen, she was born on August 17, 1963. After Country Day, Margie graduated from Tufts University and received her MBA from Northwestern University. Standing 5’2”, Margie was a powerhouse, known for her huge smile, big heart, fierce loyalty to her large tribe of friends, strong athletic skills, expertise in backpacking and global adventure travel, and her love for the outdoors. Most recently, Margie served as Executive Director of Free Bikes 4 Kidz Atlanta, which provides used, lovingly restored bikes to kids in need. Margie was also a successful entrepreneur as the owner of Geared to Go, a company that sold and rented outdoor gear, outfitted and guided trips throughout the Southeast, and provided clinics on outdoor adventure travel. She was incredibly generous with her time and organizational expertise as a board member for many organizations, including Second Helpings Atlanta, Actor’s Express, the Chattahoochee National Park Conservancy, and Appalachian Education and Recreation Services. She was a fervent and dedicated environmentalist who recycled all organic matter, paper, and cans; plastic was forbidden in her home. Margie was a champion tennis player in several leagues, often beating decades-younger opponents. She was an avid and loyal Atlanta Braves fan, ever willing to offer advice to management and players. At one of her last group gatherings, Margie stated, “I could not have lived a better, fuller, or richer life. Some folks live to 100 and never have the incredible life experiences I have had.” Margie was predeceased by her beloved father, Phil Cohen, and is survived by her mother Lois, her sisters Lindy Holt and Julie Shifman (Steve), her brother Philip Cohen ’80 (Sheila), and many nieces and nephews who she loved dearly. Margie was a devoted and dedicated dog owner to Frankie and Stella.

Michael “Mike” M. Cronk

Michael “Mike” M. Cronk, head of the Upper School from 1986 to 1996, passed away on December 7, 2022, after battling Alzheimer’s disease. Before coming to Country Day, Mike had served as head of the Fenster School in Arizona and as a faculty member and coach at the Fountain Valley School in Colorado. After retiring from Country Day, Mike, who had a passion for boats and the open water, moved to Washington where he lived with his wife Patty until his death. Mike was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

Anne Deem

Anne Deem, who taught fourth grade at Country Day in the 1960s, passed away on November 22, 2023, at the age of 92. Anne was a creative, caring, and demanding teacher, who loved to read to her students and to delight them with stories about her two cats, Lance and Casper. After teaching at Country Day, Anne served as a school psychologist in the Cincinnati Public Schools for many years. A long-time resident of Hyde Park, a dedicated swimmer, and an avid artist and traveler, Anne attended Monticello College and Miami University. She was preceded in death by her parents Raymond Marks Deem and Garnet Schiedt Deem and brother Warren Henry Deem. She is survived by her nieces. Anne is fondly remembered by her students, family, and friends.

Richard “Dick” I. Fleischer ’62

Richard “Dick” I. Fleischer ’62 passed away on January 19, 2024. Born to Stanley Paul and Betty Fleischer on February 25, 1944, he was a proud fourth generation Cincinnatian. Dick married his best friend and wife Sue Rae in 1974 in New Orleans, LA. He lived a life devoted to his family and helping others achieve the American Dream. After graduating from Cincinnati Country Day School in 1962, Dick attended the University of Michigan and graduated from the University of Cincinnati. On May 4, 1970, Dick obtained his law degree from the University of Kentucky. He founded the Fleischer Law Firm in 1973 and became one of the nation’s preeminent immigration attorneys. Recognized by his peers as a “Super Lawyer,” Dick served on the Ohio State Bar Association Council of Delegates for over 20 years. He was also the founding member of the Ohio Chapter of the American Immigration Law Association. He represented the best and the brightest athletes, engineers, doctors, and researchers from around the world, along with the most vulnerable who came to America for a better future. Dick served on the Board of Trustees of Cincinnati Country Day School, from which both his sons, Neil ’93 and Drew ’97, graduated, and where his grandson Paxton ’29 attends. From 1979, he was an active member of Cincinnati Rotary Club, where he served as vice president of the chapter. Dick loved playing tennis, baseball, basketball, and running track, where he was nicknamed “Flash.” He loved travel, photography, and his Danzi boat, which he claimed was the fastest on the river. He loved attending Bengals games, going to the Aronoff Theater with his wife, and playing “Jeopardy!” against his family. Dick had perfect attendance at his sons’ and grandson’s games, regattas, and theater performances. Dick is survived by his loving wife, Sue Rae; his two sons, Neil (Liz) and Drew; his grandson, Paxton; and his brother Robert Fleischer. He dared to “dream the impossible dream.”

Joseph C. Hatfield II ’56

Joseph C. Hatfield II ’56 died peacefully, surrounded by his children, on October 24, 2023, in Bennington, Vermont. Joe was born on March 12, 1938, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Raised in Hyde Park, Joe attended the Summit Boys School, and later, Cincinnati Country Day School, where he was a co-captain of the football team. Joe went on to attend the Hun School in Princeton, New Jersey, and then, Hobart College in Geneva, New York. Following college, Joe married Helen Celeste (Ceci) Pogue of Hyde Park, Cincinnati, with whom he had a daughter, Celeste. Joe and Ceci eventually divorced, and Joe moved to New York City, where he began a long and successful career trading municipal bonds for financial institutions, including Chase Bank and Bank of America. At Bank of America, Joe held a vice president role at both their San Francisco and New York City offices. In 1972, Joe married Laura Hoffmann of Little Silver, New Jersey. Joe and Laura lived in New York City, San Francisco (Tiburon), and New Canaan, Connecticut, before moving to Manchester, Vermont, in 1987 with their three children, Clay, Lela, and Anne. In Vermont, Joe and Laura purchased and ran a small drapery and upholstery business, called The Fabric Outlet, which Laura eventually grew into today’s Laura’s Interior Design, one of the longest running interior design studios in the southern Vermont area. Joe and Laura divorced in 1991, and Joe began another successful career in advertising sales, becoming sales director at both the Vermont News Guide and Stratton Magazine. He is

remembered by his colleagues for the twinkle in his eye, his welcoming smile, and the love he had for his children. Joe was forever proud of his Cincinnati roots, visiting often and keeping in close touch with his friends and family here. He never wavered in his devotion to his hometown favorites: the Cincinnati Bengals, Skyline Chili, Aglamesis and Graeter's Ice Cream, and the Camargo Club. Other special places for Joe were Aspen, Colorado; Booth Bay Harbour, Maine; Sun Valley, Idaho; and his beloved London, England, which he visited every March for his birthday in his later years. When he wasn't traveling, Joe particularly enjoyed country drives, church services on Sundays, lunches at Vermont's historic Dorset Field Club, antiquing, horses, family gatherings, and Neil Diamond. Joe is survived by his four children: Celeste Hatfield Warrington (John), Joseph Clayton Hatfield III, Lela Hatfield Hughes (Jed), Anne Bennett Hatfield (Jonny); by his many grandchildren: Isabelle Earls, Lincoln Joseph Hatfield, Lucy Prachyl, Wyatt and Emmett Hughes, and Milly and Ernest Hawton; and by his dear Shewman cousins and the Dye and Gosiger families. He was predeceased by his father, Dr. Ralph E. Hatfield; his mother, Lela S. Shewman; his younger brother, Thomas E. Hatfield '57; and his adored Scottish Terrier, Barley.

John S. Lillard '48

John S. Lillard '48 died peacefully at home in Lake Forest, Illinois, on January 30, 2024. His beloved wife of 70 years, Paula Polk Lillard, was by his side, and he was able to speak to each of his daughters before passing. John was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on May 31, 1930. He was a devoted husband and father, and he was deeply committed to taking care of his family and community. He and Paula believed in supporting each other's dreams, as they raised their family of five daughters. John pursued a successful career in business, while cultivating important philanthropic work, and he encouraged Paula in starting a Montessori school and becoming a published author. John was a loving and steadfast father, supporting his daughters as they developed their own interests and began their own wonderful marriages and families. He was a patient and light-hearted grandfather and great-grandfather, always with a twinkle in his eye and an open lap for a child to crawl into. John was a devout reader, endlessly curious about the world, and he was a careful listener-always learning and always asking relevant questions. He thoughtfully cultivated his wisdom and was able to see clearly through problems and propose solutions, humbly and succinctly. He was a great man. Great may be the only word to adequately capture his character and accomplishments. He took up space, not because of his size or personality, but because of his intellect, his moral compass, and his quiet charisma. He was the person people turned to when they needed counsel or direction. His advice was never heavy-handed or elaborate. It was concise, clear, and true. John lifted up those around him with opportunities, both globally and locally. He treated every human being with dignity, respect, and kindness. He was patient, honest, and generous and inspired loyalty and devotion in the people who surrounded him. John supported access to education and security for everyone he loved, and he contributed meaningfully to countless organizations, all with the intention of leaving the world better than when he found it. John was educated at Cincinnati Country Day School and Phillips Academy (Andover) and graduated from the University of Virginia in 1952 with a BA in English. After 40 months in the U.S. Navy, he received an honorable discharge as a LTJG and moved to Cincinnati with Paula and their growing family. He entered the investment counseling business with Scudder, Stevens, and Clark (SS&C), where he spent 22 years and served as a general partner, president of SS&C of Illinois, and national marketing director. John was president of the Cincinnati Symphony, the May Festival, the Financial Analysts Society, and the Racquet Club; a trustee of the Children's Home, the Boy's Club, Cincinnati Union Bethel, and several other charitable organizations; and a member of the Commonwealth Club and Commercial Club. In 1971, the family moved from Cincinnati to Lake Forest, Illinois. In 1978, John became president of JMB Institutional Realty, a subsidiary of JMB Realty. In 1998, he became chairman of the board of Wintrust Corporation, a position he held for 10 years. He also served as a director of Cintas Corporation and Stryker Corporation and continued extensive charitable work as a trustee of Ravinia, the Children's Home & Aid Society, Lake Forest College, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and as president and life director of Lake Forest Open Lands Association. John's incredible legacy will live on in his friends and peers, his community, in the organizations and people he touched, in his business accomplishments, and in the abiding love and continuing service of his family. John is survived by his wife, Paula; four daughters, Lisa Caldwell (Dave), Lynn Jessen (Ned), Angel Lillard (Bill Detmer), and Paula Preschlack (Jim); nine grandchildren, Cat Myers (George), Claire Foster (Tim), Margaret Kelley (Jonathan), Parlin Jessen, Paula Elliott (Peter), Chaney Detmer-Lillard, Jessica Detmer-Lillard (Jeff Hodgdon), Stanley Preschlack, and Lillard Preschlack; and seven great-grandchildren, Edgar Kelley, Gweneth Kelley, Pauline Kelley, Hazel Foster, Oliver Foster, Grace Myers, and Dani Myers. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Pamela Lillard, in 2021.

Peter H. Lowry '60

Peter H. Lowry '60, retired physician, of Camden, Maine, and formerly of Cincinnati, Ohio, died April 17, 2024, at Magnolia Springs, Loveland, Ohio. He was 81. Peter was born in New York to Barbara Schueler Lowry and Donald Irwin Lowry. As a child he moved frequently, as his father was transferred to various Procter & Gamble offices. During his early years, he lived in Hingham, MA, Chicago, IL, Cincinnati, OH and Cohasset, MA before the family settled permanently in Cincinnati as he started high school. After Country Day, Peter graduated from Harvard College in the Class of 1964. Following college graduation, he spent four years on active duty with the Marine Corps (one year in Vietnam), leaving active service as a captain. In 1972, Peter graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law School and worked as a lawyer in private practice in Washington, D.C. He also served in the federal government and was the general counsel of the White House Council on Wage and Price Stability under both the late Ford and early Carter administrations. Never enamored of legal practice, Peter took the unusual step of entering medical school at the age of 38, and once stated that one of his few major regrets was that he did not take the path to medicine much earlier in life. Following graduation from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1985, he re-entered military service as an Army physician. He trained at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Washington, following which he commanded a clinic in South Korea and then was chief of primary care at the Army hospital at Fort Eustis, Virginia, including during the early months of the first Gulf war. He returned to civilian life and Cincinnati in 1990 and was in practice there until 1993 when he took a position in the Occupational Medicine Department at the Los Alamos National Laboratory (New Mexico), remaining there until 2001. He was recalled to active duty in 1996 for the campaign in Bosnia and served briefly in Europe and then as command surgeon for the field command of the Defense Special Weapons Agency. Following his release from active duty, he moved to the east coast and became an instructor and consultant on various medical aspects of chemical and biological warfare, for several government consulting firms and for the National Center for Biological Research and Training. His final

position was as a staff physician at the US Army hospital at Fort Knox, Kentucky until he retired in 2013. Peter remarried in 2014 and retired to Maine where he spent most of his retirement years working on an old family farmhouse and enjoying his children and grandchildren. Though dementia slowly robbed Peter of his memory over the last several years, his kind, loving personality and humor continued. All who were around until the end have continued to share stories of his wit and positivity which is what we will all miss the most. Peter is survived by his wife Ruth, of Newport News, Virginia, and four children: Katherine Lowry Van Landschoot '95, of Fort Myers, Florida; David Lowry '99, of New York City, New York; Elizabeth Lowry Lewis, of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Liam Caliber, of Cincinnati, Ohio; granddaughters Lillian Van Landschoot, Lucile Lewis and Josephine Lewis; two step children: Mark (Chip) Longenecker III, of Chicago, Illinois and Emily Longenecker Andrews, of Hampton, Virginia; and, a former wife, Tracy McMullen of Estero, Florida. The family takes comfort knowing that Peter is reunited with his granddaughter Emilia Cate Lewis.

Lt. Col. Frederic "Fred" C. Lynch '63

Lt. Col. Frederic "Fred" C. Lynch '63 of Dayton, Ohio, passed away on December 7, 2023. Fred retired from the U.S. Air Force after 26 years of service. He was the emergency management director for the City of Corona California Fire Department and the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator at the University of California, Riverside. He attended Aldersgate United Methodist Church, was a member of Sherman Camp 93, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), serving as camp commander, Ohio department commander, National Council. Fred was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Luetta Lynch. He is survived by his beloved wife, Barbara; brother, Donald T. Lynch of Morrow; sister-in-law, Diane (Rick) Weimer of Lebanon; niece, Lauren (Alex) Sargent; other relatives and friends.

Thomas "Tom" B. Montgomery, Jr. '74

Thomas "Tom" B. Montgomery, Jr. '74 of Frankfort, Illinois, passed away on November 3, 2023. Tom had an insatiable curiosity and determination. Whether it was tinkering with gadgets, hot rods, sports cars, exploring the great outdoors, competing in team sports, or losing himself in a good book or in comic books, Tom approached life with wonder. His passion for learning and occupational success was contagious, and he encouraged family and friends to embrace opportunity and to strive for success. His love of music and especially the Blues was captivating, soothing, and inviting to those new to the genre. Tom had a heart as vast as the ocean. He listened with empathy, offered comfort with recommendations, and stood by the sides of friends and family during life's storms. His empathy knew no bounds, and he taught those around him the true meaning of compassion and love for family and friends. Tom believed that life was meant to be lived fully, and he seized every moment. His adventurous spirit inspired family and friends to take risks and savor life's simple pleasures. Tom's passing leaves a void, but he also leaves important lessons behind: cherish friends and family bonds, embrace curiosity, practice kindness, and seek quantitative purpose in life.

Paul Rogers III

Paul Rogers III, husband of retired, long-time CCDS teacher Andrea Rogers, father of CCDS alumnus Philip L. Rogers '94 and of CCDS alumna and former CCDS teacher Julia R. Joyce '99, and grandfather of current CCDS students Liam L. Joyce '28 and Augustus "Gus" C. Joyce '30, passed away on March 20, 2024. Paul was fun-loving, witty, loyal, non-judgmental, and a ferociously generous and caring spirit. Paul was also a lifelong fan of the Cincinnati Bengals, something he proudly passed down to his children and grandchildren. He loved the Indianapolis 500, going to the movies, attending concerts and plays, and would take any and every opportunity to playfully startle or scare others. He was a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. Paul is survived by his wife, Andrea; his children, Philip (Laura) and Julia Joyce (Brad); his grandchildren, Charlie Rogers, Lincoln Rogers, Wyatt Rogers, Liam Joyce, and Gus Joyce; and his sisters, Pam Johnston (Bill) and Robin Criel (Bruce). Paul was predeceased by his father, Paul Jr., his mother, Jackie, and his stepfather, Robert Browning.

Gary P. Slowik '74

Gary P. Slowik '74 of Loveland, Ohio, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2024, at the age of 68. Gary grew up in Mason, Ohio, earned his bachelor's degree from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and worked for many years in the insurance field. Gary loved cars and music from an early age; friends will remember the wide variety of cars he owned over the years and the merry music he made with his guitar. Gary also loved Lake Cumberland where he and his family spent many summers on their boat. Those who knew Gary share many memories of good times. Gary is survived by his loving wife, Vicki, to whom he was married for 40 years; his children Nic Slowik (Spring) and Emily Slowik Cunningham (Wes); his grandchildren Riggs, Sage, Kipley, Corey, and Eddie; his brother Don '70 (Linda Siefkas); and his brother-in-law Dave Query. Gary is predeceased by his parents Helen and Ed Slowik, his brother Alan, and his grandchild Brody.

James "Jay" H. Stoehr III '76

James "Jay" H. Stoehr III '76, beloved husband of Amy Stoehr for 40 years, died peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on February 24, 2024. He was a devoted husband, father, son, brother, grandfather, friend, and business leader. After Country Day, Jay graduated from Kalamazoo College. He was known as a cheerleader for all, and found success through others' triumphs, always inquisitive and eager to pass on his learned knowledge to them. These traits remained true even through the final stages of his Alzheimer's disease. Jay continued the Stoehr legacy and was devoted to his life's work as the president and CEO of Robbins Sports Surfaces. He prided himself on doing the right thing—a core value ingrained in both his business and personal life. But above all, anyone close to him knows that sailing and his family were his true passions in life. Taking his family and friends under sail was what brought him the most joy, whether it was for an afternoon getaway or a weeklong adventure. He was also an avid skier and loved spending time in the boreal forest of North America. Jay spent many summers in northern Minnesota as a camper, staff member, and board member of Camp Kooch-i-Ching; he was an integral part of founding Camp Ogichi Daa Kwe, the sister camp of Camp Kooch, where he served on the board for both Ogichi and the Camping and Education Foundation. He was an instrumental board member of Lyman Orchards, along with the Maple Flooring Manufacturing Association (MFMA), where he served as president. Jay is survived by his loving wife Amy Waller Stoehr, children James IV '03, Sydney Whedon `05 (Samuel), Madeline Stoehr '09 (Nathan Osborn), and Gretchen Luthy (Cameron), as well as his loving siblings Thomas Stoehr '77 and Katherine Mohrlang '80 (Durrell) and his two grandchildren James Stoehr V and Dorothy Whedon. He was preceded in death by his parents James H. Stoehr, Jr. and Olga Conroy Keumpel.

Congratulations!

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Sydney Hardesty
Luke Heekin
Addison Heimann
Fleur Helmantel
Levi Homan
Leo Joffe
Giuliana Kallmeyer
Shannon Kinebrew
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