WINTER 2024-25

CONNECTIONS



CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

KNOWN. NURTURED. INSPIRED.



THE COUNTRY DAY COMMUNITY GOES WILD FOR GAMES, FOOD, AND FUN DURING FALLFEST

The Parents' Association hosted another successful FallFest to kick off Homecoming and Alumni Reunion Weekend. Students, families, and alumni went wild as they explored the Country Day campus where they came across games, obstacle courses, sporting activities and competitions, face painting, a petting zoo, and plenty of food. Even a few teachers got pied in the face! What more could you ask for?! This amazing event would not have been possible without the hard work of Johanna Brun, president of the Parents' Association, Kristyn Buck, Sasha Cantrell, and the rest of the volunteers from the Parents' Association.



MATCH DAY 2024

GOING FOR THE GOLD

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GO FOR THE GOLD!

On Match Day, the Country Day community came together to raise over $410,000! Every single gift made a difference, and the overwhelming show of support demonstrated that we are – as always – stronger together. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, THANK YOU for your commitment to Country Day. Your belief in our mission and support for our students and teachers makes all the difference as we continue to go for gold this school year and beyond!



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CINCINNATI COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

ON THE COVER: *Homecoming at Country Day is a celebration like no other! Each year, our 60-acre campus comes alive as students, teachers, families, and alumni come together to enjoy a week packed with spirited events. From the excitement of Spirit Week and the festivities of FallFest to the joy of class reunions, there's something for everyone. One highlight of the week? Our Homecoming football game, where the Nighthawks claimed an impressive 55-27 victory this year! Featured on the cover, a group of Upper School students proudly pose after clinching a win during one of the thrilling competitions at the all-school pep rally on Friday to kick off the weekend.*

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.

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SOUND BITES



"You're damn lucky to be there."

– Advice from **Ted Jones '53** to current Country Day students (read more on pg. 46)

"I THOUGHT THE TOURNAMENT WAS A GREAT CHANCE TO MEET AND PLAY AGAINST OTHERS ACROSS SCHOOL DIVISIONS WHO LOVE CHESS, JUST LIKE I DO. I ALSO LOVED SEEING HOW MANY KIDS AT COUNTRY DAY WANT TO PLAY CHESS, WHICH IS WHY IT WAS SO COOL THAT THE SCHOOL WAS ABLE TO HOST IT. IT WAS A PLEASANT SURPRISE TO SEE HOW MANY PEOPLE AT THIS SCHOOL ARE INTO CHESS."

– **Nikhil Shah '25**, the CCDS Chess Tournament champion (read more on pg. 28)

"While I was writing my junior research paper, Mr. Pattison taught me the importance of researching the topics and the subjects you are writing about. I learned how important it was to get first-person interviews and how impactful that type of insight can be for a story. Sometimes you have to really look deep into a subject before you get to the interview or start writing the story. That experience is something that I have definitely carried with me into my professional career."

– **Angelique (Seremetis) Chengelis '82**, reflecting on how her experience as a Country Day student impacted her career as sportswriter (read more on pg. 22)



"From being a leader in Black Cultural Workshop to being a peer mentor and leading a class of freshmen in health class, there were always leadership opportunities available to me and that has played a big role in what I do today."



– **René Peters '09** credits his time at Country Day as heavily impacting his future in many ways (read more on pg. 36)

"RYAN [COYLE] HAS BEEN A FOUR-YEAR STARTER AND RECEIVING THE MVC DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR IS A GREAT HONOR FOR HIM. HE WILL END HIS CAREER AS THE LEADING TACKLER IN SCHOOL HISTORY. I AM PROUD OF HIM NOT ONLY AS HIS COACH BUT AS HIS FATHER. I WILL MISS COACHING HIM NEXT YEAR."

– **Dennis Coyle**, athletic director and head football coach (read more on pg. 30)



"It's about making it an experiential and real-world experience for kids as young as fifth grade, so they recognize how their small actions can make a big difference."

– **Rick Schoeny**, Middle School teacher, on why getting students involved in environment stewardship is critical (read more on pg. 8)

"Angela's deep understanding of the emotional and psychological needs of students, especially young girls, has been instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of the ROX program at our school. She approaches each interaction with empathy, insight, and a genuine desire to empower the girls to overcome the challenges they face. Her dedication to fostering a sense of belonging and resilience for all our students is inspiring to witness."



– **Alexis Nordrum**, Middle School psychologist, on Angela Barber-Joiner's contributions to ROX specifically and the Country Day community in general (read more on pg. 10)

"Impacting young women for 35 years is my greatest accomplishment at Country Day…. It's incredibly humbling to know that people trust and believe in you enough to nominate you. Having other coaches and competitors recognize and honor you in this way is truly a great honor."

– **Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer**, head of the middle school and coach, reflecting on her nomination into the OSSCA Hall of Fame (read more on pg. 31)



"She brings the same grounded, practical approach from her experience in the field into the classroom…. And although she's a masterful educator, you will never see her taking credit for her successes – even though she deserves every bit of it. Instead, Jamie is the one celebrating her students' breakthroughs, her colleagues' achievements, and the progress of everyone around her. Jamie doesn't just inspire her students; she inspires everyone fortunate enough to work alongside her."

– **Angela Barber-Joiner**, director of belonging & wellbeing, talking about why Jamie Back, director of makerspace and innovative design, was the perfect recipient of the Outstanding STEM Educator Career Achievement Award (read more on pg. 13)

"If asked what constitutes the enduring identity of Country Day over the years, one could hardly do better than to point to the remarkable example of our three honorees today. Though their graduating classes span nearly 40 years, our honorees' stories constitute important contributions to the ineffable yet indelible culture of Country Day."

– **Rob Zimmerman '98**, head of school, talking about the Virtue in Action Award and Distinguished Alumni Award recipients during the alumni breakfast (read more on pg. 50)

Dear Members of the Country Day Community,

In this holiday season full of customs and celebration, *Connections* celebrates Country Day traditions new and old.

First and foremost, this issue celebrates our tradition of outstanding educators – always the hallmark of a Country Day experience. Read on to learn more about:

- Jamie Back, director of makerspace and innovation design, who was honored with the Outstanding STEM Educator Career Achievement Award – validating our belief that CCDS has one of the finest STEM educators in the country;
- Angela Barber-Joiner, who was one of ten educators nationally to earn the ROX Dr. Patty Diversity Fellowship to help equip middle school girls with the knowledge and confidence to succeed in relationships, academics, and life; and
- Ann Wimmer and Malena Castro, our winners of the Pattison Award for teaching, whose different paths in education converged at Country Day, where they have changed countless lives from Lower School all the way through Upper School.

Of course, another tradition at CCDS is student leaders who discover their own abilities and achieve incredible success. Students like:

- Our CCDS InvenTeam, which won the coveted Golden Beaver Award at MIT this summer – one of the most prestigious national achievements in the field of engineering in education;
- Ethan Argus ’25, who broke a 50-year-old school record in golf this fall on his way to a district title; and
- Our senior football players, who set a school record for most wins (40!) in a high school career.

And our students don’t stop changing the world once they graduate. In this edition you’ll find updates on some of our amazing alumni:

- Distinguished Alumni Award recipients Scott Kafker ’77 and Maya Amoils ’08;
- Virtue in Action Award recipient Bill Hopple ’71; and
- Alumni making a difference in industries from medicine to media, technology to counterterrorism, like Ted Jones ’53, Angelique (Seremetis) Changelis ’82, Kate (Cordes) Byrne ’02, Zak Butler ’05, and Rene Peters ’09.

At Country Day, our people have always been the biggest reason for our tradition of excellence. But as you’ll see inside this magazine, we also celebrate new investments in our places and programs. Although a major building project will be forthcoming for our centennial in 2026, in the meantime we continue to improve our campus with a new pre-Kindergarten playground, enhanced walking trails, and even a new pottery wheel.

When it comes to programs, this fall we have celebrated traditions old (like a cross-divisional chess tournament and a sterling theatrical production of Shakespeare) and new (like earning the highest Advanced Placement awards and leading the conversation on smartphones and childhood independence).

Wherever this magazine finds you this holiday season, we hope you enjoy celebrating our tradition of leadership in education. Best wishes from all your friends at Country Day.

Sincerely,



Rob Zimmerman ’98
Head of School



THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION HOSTED **"HOLD THE PHONE: A PARENT DISCUSSION"**





More than 100 Country Day parents participated in a discussion led by Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98 that explored one of the most significant parenting decisions of our generation: the smartphone. Discussion circled around questions like "What does the research say about the link between smartphones and youth mental health?" and "What are the risks and costs of smartphone use?" and "What can we do about it?".

SAVE THE DATE

Hold the Phone, Part II

February 20, 2025

More information, including a link to RSVP, will be in the Nighthawk News in early 2025!

COURTYARD PLAYGROUND GETS PLAYFUL RENOVATION

Thanks to the generosity of a special donor, the Courtyard Playground was demolished and completely reinvented for our Lower School students. The old playground had outdated equipment, poor shading to shield students from the sun, and poor drainage, which would cause the playground to turn into a muddy pond every time it rained. Over the summer, new concrete paths were poured, proper drainage was implemented, and all new playground equipment was installed. Among the top features of the new and improved playground, students now have access to a climbing structure with a slide attached, a playhouse, outdoor classroom tables, a truck pit sandbox, an obstacle course, and plenty of shade. "We are so thankful to the donor for their generous gift to make this new playground come to life for our pre-primary and kindergarten students," says Mark Morawski, head of Lower School.



Homecoming

WEEKEND 2024 RECAP

Homecoming Weekend 2024 – Friday and Saturday, September 20-21 – was a smashing success and will be fondly remembered!

The weekend kicked off Friday afternoon with the Black Alumni Network Gathering at Broadwell House. Alumni spanning five decades of Country Day life and their guests gathered with current and former faculty and staff to reconnect and reminisce over hors d'oeuvres on the lawn.

From Broadwell House, the festivities moved to the Gordon R. Wright Family Tennis Complex for an evening reception. Alumni from the Class of '59 through the Class of '24 and their guests enjoyed an Octoberfest-inspired buffet, perused old yearbooks, swapped Country Day stories from across the years, and visited with faculty.

A decisive CCDS victory in the Homecoming football game capped off Friday night. The Brian J. Bortz Family Stadium was rocking with enthusiastic students, alumni, and friends of Country Day as the Nighthawk gridiron squad defeated the Clermont Northeastern Rockets 55-27.

On the Saturday morning of Homecoming Weekend, a record-breaking crowd gathered for the annual alumni breakfast in the school's dining terrace to welcome the Class of 1974 into the Virtue in Action Society (alumni who graduated 50 or more years ago) and to celebrate the 2024 recipients of the school's major alumni awards. William H. Hopple III '71 received the Virtue in Action Award for his commitment to service, and the Honorable Scott L. Kafker '77 and Maya Amoils '08 (posthumously) received the Distinguished Alumni Award for their outstanding achievements. The celebration highlighted the exceptional educational experience provided by Country Day and the extraordinary accomplishments of the school's alumni.

In addition to these Homecoming events for alumni of all years, class-specific reunions were held by many classes celebrating milestone graduation anniversaries. Throughout the weekend and across the city, alumni who'd travelled in from all parts of the compass reconnected with classmates and commemorated these exciting milestones.

Homecoming Weekend 2024 was full of fun – and Homecoming Weekend 2025 promises to be just as enjoyable. Mark your calendars now and join us for Homecoming Weekend 2025! Classes that graduated in years ending in **5** and **0** will celebrate milestone anniversaries in 2025. **It's never too early to start planning reunions to mark those milestones!** Contact Peter Fossett '80, associate director of alumni and legacy giving, at fossettp@countryday.net or 513-979-0283 for more information.



HOMECOMING & REUNION WEEKEND 2025

Friday, September 26 and Saturday, September 27



MIDDLE SCHOOLERS EMBRACE POSITIVITY THROUGH GRATITUDE JOURNALING

By: Evie Kranias '25

While the middle school years can be full of change and new stressors, this year CCDS students in grades 5-8, are learning valuable skills to better handle these challenges. Every day during morning announcements, Middle School students journal for two minutes. Prompts are provided by Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, head of Middle School, with different themes for each day of the week, including reflections of songs, lists of gratitude, as well as breathing exercises.

Charlotte, a fifth grader, says journaling helps her stay organized and get her thoughts out. While Ronan, an eighth grader, shares that it's nice to have time in the morning to reflect, which is not something students typically have time to do. Both Charlotte and Ronan expressed how journaling helps them set goals and focus on the best ways to meet those goals.

"Practicing gratitude regularly helps students establish healthy habits of reflection and positivity that can benefit them throughout their lives," says Angela Barber-Joiner, director of belonging and wellbeing. "Journaling helps students become more aware of their emotions, values, and experiences. Also, gratitude practices are linked to reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression along with giving them a safe space to express feelings."

The gratitude journaling aligns with the Middle School's theme this year of "habits and routines." Hirsch explains that moments of mindfulness are important because "life is so fast, and everything is so busy. It's important to start the day with a deep breath before you get pulled into rushing around." Even teachers are taking the practice of mindfulness to heart and joining the students in journaling each day.

The practice of mindfulness is hopefully a tool that these middle school students will carry with them throughout their academic years and beyond.

WANT TO TRY JOURNALING?
Here are some guidelines to help you get started:

- Use a journal, notebook, or your phone.
- Each day, reflect on something you are grateful for in your life.
- Structure your journal in a way that best fits you: bulleted list, long form paragraph, etc.
- Write at the same time each day to help develop the habit of journaling.
- Revisit previous entries in your journal.



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

MISSION in Action

CULTIVATING SUSTAINABILITY

Student-led Recycling and Community Partnerships Help Further Our Mission by Bettering the World Around Us

By: Chelsey Combs, college intern

Environmental stewardship has long been a priority at Cincinnati Country Day School, a commitment that continues to thrive through significant strides in sustainability, leadership initiatives, and partnerships with organizations like the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub, New Life Furniture Bank, Last Mile Food Rescue, and Green Tree Plastics.



A dedicated custodian of this commitment is Rick Schoeny, a long-time faculty member who has an extensive background in environmental volunteer work. Rick has made impressive contributions in his two and a half decades at Country Day in roles such as Lower School teacher, Middle School teacher, coach, club advisor, and parent. His passion for the environment and his persistent efforts to educate others on making a positive impact on the world around them have been consistent throughout his tenure.

For over 25 years, Country Day has been committed to curbside recycling. In the fall of 2019, the school expanded this initiative to further its dedication to environmental sustainability by partnering with Green Tree Plastics, a company in Evansville, Indiana that creates new products out of 100% recycled plastic caps. Rick (aka "Recycling Rick" or "Captain Trashy") initially brought the partnership possibility to Country Day and has since led efforts for the community to collect bottle caps and other plastic lids, which are recycled directly to Green Tree Plastics in a closed-loop recycling process.



It took just over a year to collect enough plastic lids to create two eight-foot benches and in December 2020, Country Day placed its first order. These benches were the first of five that are now placed around the campus for students, families, and visitors to enjoy. The bottle caps are collected through dedicated recycling efforts led by our Middle School. "We have now collected and processed over a thousand pounds of plastic caps that otherwise would have been thrown in the garbage but now have been turned into beautiful benches," says Rick. Additionally, last year's fifth graders collaborated with Toyota's North American plant center in Hebron, Kentucky, which now has two additional benches on-site that were made through this initiative.

From environmental clubs to individual student volunteers, the students are involved from beginning to end: collecting, cleaning, and sorting the caps so they can be sent to Green Tree Plastics where they are then shredded, melted, and poured into a mold.

"For me, it's about making it an experiential and real-world experience for kids as young as fifth grade, so they recognize how their small actions can make a big difference," says Rick, when asked about the importance of learning about recycling at an early age. "By physically being involved in the process instead of just talking about it, the students develop a better understanding of how they impact the planet and then can see the results of that impact when the benches arrive on campus."

Rick's expansion of Country Day's recycling program did not stop with collecting plastic bottle caps. During the 2021-22 school year, Country Day began informally collecting recyclables for the Cincinnati Recycling and Reuse Hub and by Fall 2022, the school had solidified a relationship with the Hub and began collecting even more items that cannot be recycled traditionally. Next to the Middle School pad, there are several large rolling containers for collecting bottle caps, chip and snack bags, styrofoam, corrugated cardboard, and polyethylene terephthalate (a material used for a lot of non-curbside recyclable plastics like strawberry containers). Rick refers to this arrangement as "beyond the curb" recycling, enabling students, faculty, staff, and the community to recycle items that cannot be recycled otherwise. In addition, there are traditional recycling bins and battery-collection containers placed throughout campus.



When asked what success would look like from his perspective, Rick stated that he would like to see even more student involvement in this important work. "Let's get them outside as much as possible, enjoying and maintaining not only this beautiful campus but also the world beyond it," he says. "By fostering a positive connection with the outdoors early in life, the students will establish a solid foundation for making environmental sustainability second nature."

CCDS SETS THE STANDARD FOR SPORTSMANSHIP

For the second consecutive year, Cincinnati Country Day School has been recognized by the Midwest Soccer Officials Association (MWSOA) for creating a positive and welcoming environment for soccer officials.

The Code of Ethics for coaches in the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Soccer Rulebook emphasizes the importance of respecting and supporting contest officials. This directive extends beyond coaches to the entire institution. Unfortunately, in recent years, negative behavior from coaches and fans has contributed to a shortage of officials, particularly among younger referees. However, Cincinnati Country Day School stands out as a beacon of positive behavior.

"At their best, high school sports promote the values of sportsmanship and fair play while teaching lifelong lessons to our student-athletes and building community among our families and alumni," says Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school. "This recognition confirms that we are living up to these important values – that we are putting our virtue into action. Just as important, this award sets a standard for us to meet every year."

Through this recognition, Country Day is acknowledged for the supportive and respectful environment fostered by our coaches, athletic staff, and fans. According to the MWSOA, this positive atmosphere not only boosts referee morale but also enhances the overall quality and safety of the matches. By partnering with officials, the school helps create a better experience for everyone involved in the game.

"I am immensely proud of our coaches, players, and fans, who work together to create an atmosphere that officials respect and enjoy being part of," says Dennis Coyle, athletics director. "At Country Day, we hold sportsmanship in the highest regard, and this recognition reinforces our commitment to fostering respect and integrity both on and off the field."

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

MISSION *in Action*



EMPOWERED WOMEN EMPOWER WOMEN

Director of Belonging & Wellbeing Angela Barber-Joiner Named to a Selective Cohort of Women Aimed at Helping Girls Rule Their Own Experiences

Uniquely positioned to further the mission of both Cincinnati Country Day School and Ruling Our eXperiences (ROX), Angela Barber-Joiner, the school's director of belonging & wellbeing, was one of ten women of color across the country selected for the 2024 ROX Dr. Patty Diversity Fellowship.

According to the ROX website, the Dr. Patty Diversity Fellowship was established to amplify the vision and legacy of Dr. Patricia Cunningham, who was a trailblazing advocate for social change, representation, and equity. In championing her legacy, this prestigious fellowship increases access to ROX's robust, evidence-based Program for Girls and provides leadership opportunities for diverse female educators and school mental health professionals.

"As a Black woman, Angela brings an essential perspective to our school's leadership team, providing representation for students who might not otherwise see themselves reflected in positions of authority," says Alexis Nordrum, Middle School psychologist. "Her commitment to diversity and inclusion is evident in all aspects of her work. Angela has been a tireless advocate for expanding opportunities for our students to engage with diverse perspectives and experiences. She is passionate about ensuring that every student feels seen, valued, and supported, which is why I am confident she will use the Dr. Patty Diversity Fellowship to further enrich our school community and empower the next generation of girls."



Country Day has implemented the ROX program each year since 2019 thanks to Alexis Nordrum, who introduced the program to the school. During the 20-week evidence-based program, seventh-grade girls participate in activities and conversations with the goal of equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to succeed in relationships, academics, and life.

"Angela's deep understanding of the emotional and psychological needs of students, especially young girls, has been instrumental in enhancing the effectiveness of the ROX program at our school," says Alexis. "She approaches each interaction with empathy, insight, and a genuine desire to empower the girls to overcome the challenges they face. Her dedication to fostering

a sense of belonging and resilience for all our students is inspiring to witness."

Founded in 2011, with a steadfast mission of creating generations of confident girls who are in control of their own relationships, experiences, decisions, and futures, ROX is now implemented in nearly 40 states with more than 7,500 girls participating annually.

"At ROX we use data to inform our programming, our decisions, and our investments," says Dr. Lisa Hinkelman, founder and CEO of ROX. "Data shows that diverse women are underrecognized in educational leadership and that girls want and need advocates, role models, and mentors who look like them. The Dr. Patty Diversity Fellowship program is working to address the disparities and increase the opportunities."

As a member of the 2024 fellowship cohort, Angela attended training in Columbus to become a ROX facilitator and engages in monthly meetings that provide professional development and leadership.

"It was really powerful to do this training with nine other women of color," says Angela. "We shared our stories, opened up about our experiences, and reflected on the challenges we faced as young girls. Those conversations fuel my passion – thinking about what we needed back then and realizing how we now have the power to create that impact for the girls in our schools today. I feel a responsibility to fight for every woman because I truly believe that empowered women empower women. I want to see and embrace their strengths, to know how powerful and capable they are, now and always."

The fellows will now deliver the school-based ROX Program for Girls at their schools while continuing their fellowship experience through 2026. "When girls in ROX have a Dr. Patty Fellow as their facilitator, they experience the impact of a 'real life' role model who looks like them – one who continually shows up for them, believes in them, and invests in them," says Leah Borden, senior advisor to the Dr. Patty Diversity Fellowship. "This profoundly increases their connection to school and their sense of belonging in their educational environment."

And Angela truly does feel inspired, connected, and ready.

"I think ROX aligns directly with our mission of creating leaders," says Angela. "Many times, a girl is viewed as being bossy when she speaks up; but no, she's just being a leader, and we all lead differently. When I think about my role, I think about how a program like ROX allows me to learn more about how to help girls become leaders and what they need to be equipped with to lead. We need to be intentional about empowering girls to be leaders, and not only face but also conquer a world that has not been built for them."

Scan here for more information about the Dr. Patty Diversity Fellowship and ROX

GROWING TOGETHER:

The Class of 2037 Marks the Beginning of Its Journey Together with the Lifer Tree Ceremony

In October, our kindergarteners participated in one of our favorite traditions: planting their class tree! After hearing some hilarious tree-related (dad) jokes from Head of School Rob Zimmerman '98, the Class of 2037 took turns shoveling dirt around their newly planted tree, an American Yellowwood. Now, these young students can grow on our campus along with their lifer tree as they continue their journey through Country Day.

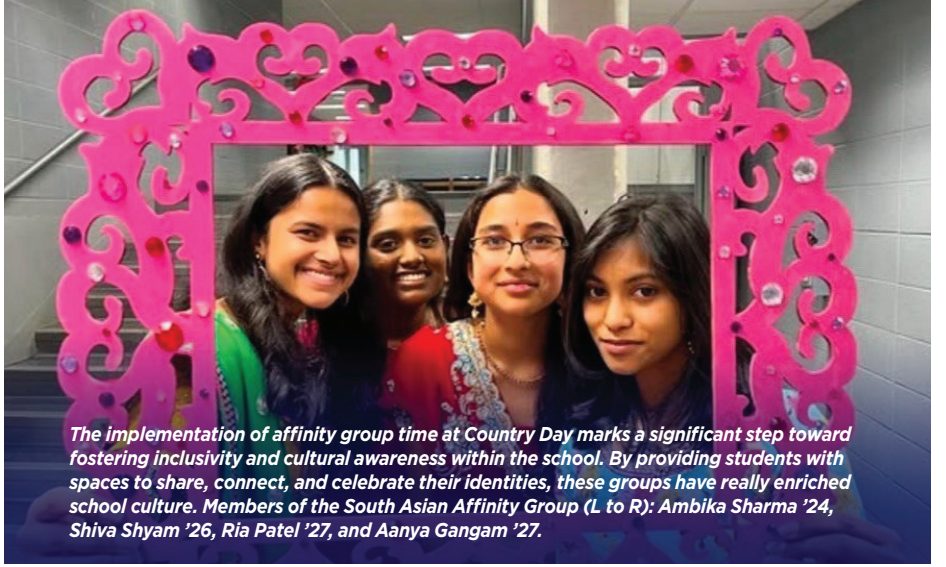


Creating Connection:

AFFINITY GROUPS HELP SHAPE CCDS CULTURE

The Upper School Adds Dedicated Time for Affinity Groups to Meet within the New Schedule

By: Shiva Shyam '26



The implementation of affinity group time at Country Day marks a significant step toward fostering inclusivity and cultural awareness within the school. By providing students with spaces to share, connect, and celebrate their identities, these groups have really enriched school culture. Members of the South Asian Affinity Group (L to R): Ambika Sharma '24, Shiva Shyam '26, Ria Patel '27, and Aanya Gangam '27.

This past year, CCDS saw some major changes in its daily schedule.

Rather than the six-day rotation schedule, this school year each week follows the same schedule. Furthermore, the Upper School has seen some big changes with its implementation of office hours. Designed to emulate a college campus, office hours allow students to meet with teachers during designated times throughout the week. But perhaps the most impactful addition is the allocated affinity group time during Thursday afternoons.

Affinity groups offer safe spaces to students where they can connect over shared interests or experiences. They are most often racially or ethnically based, and, this past year, the number of affinity groups has almost doubled.

"Over the past three years, we have had a number of student leaders attend the Student Diversity Leadership Conference, where they were able to experience being in an affinity group," says Angela Barber-Joiner, director of belonging and wellbeing. "Once they returned, they communicated to the faculty how meaningful it was to share their experiences with a large group of students that aligns with their identity. The student voice is what showed us how important it is to set aside that time for them."

Moreover, the implementation of affinity group time strongly aligns with the school's EDI statement, which emphasizes the belief that a diverse community is among our institution's greatest strengths. "By having the space to share pieces of our cultural identity, affinity groups enhance the cultural awareness in our community," says Ms. Barber-Joiner.

Affinity groups have brought a lot to the CCDS community over the past few years – from South Asian wedding attire fashion shows to Latin dance classes to bake sales offering students the chance to sample foods from different cultures, many of these affinity groups aim to make cultural learning fun through immersion. "We are always trying to organize activities to educate and involve others," says Vic Quintero '25, leader of LAHSO (Latin and Hispanic Student Organization). "During one affinity group time earlier this year, I brought in the ingredients to make brigadeiros, which are Brazilian chocolates, so we could make them together. So, it's a lot of experiential learning as well as a way for us to bond as a club."

Vic highlighted her experiences at the Student Diversity Leadership Conference (SDLC), which she has attended twice. "My experience at SDLC really sparked the conversation about affinity groups, pushing me to promote practices of inclusion at Country Day," says Vic. "The affinity group time gives me space to be proud of my culture, to explore it, and to share it with others."

While this implementation has myriad benefits for the community, the question remains: How can this time best serve students who don't fit into an existing affinity group?

"While there are conversations about forming allyship groups and inviting students to attend different affinity group meetings to experience different cultures, it's equally important to reflect on the school's broader cultural dynamics," says Ms. Barber-Joiner. "We need to ensure that all students feel welcome and empowered to share their experiences and perspectives."

COUNTRY DAY TEACHER RECEIVES STEM EDUCATOR AWARD

Jamie Back, director of makerspace and innovation design, was selected to receive the Outstanding STEM Educator Career Achievement Award for 20-29 years of service at the Tri-State STEM+ Conference in October 2024.

Jamie has taught computer science and engineering at Country Day for 11 years, encouraging students to explore their creativity through hands-on learning. She was recently co-educator on the school's award-winning Lemelson-MIT InvenTeam, one of only eight teams nationwide to receive the prestigious grant to solve a community problem. Under Jamie's guidance – alongside co-educator Angela Barber-Joiner – the CCDS InvenTeam created a patent-pending road bicycle safety invention, showcasing their innovation and practical application of STEM knowledge, and won the coveted Golden Beaver Award for excellence in technical achievement.

"Jamie Back is quite simply one of the best teachers in America," says Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school. "Mixing equal parts joy and rigor, Jamie's STEM classes have changed the lives of countless Country Day students. Best of all, Jamie instills a sense of intellectual curiosity and intrinsic motivation in her students. No one ever leaves her class asking, 'Why did we have to do that?'; instead, they leave asking, 'Why did we have to stop doing that?'. This honor is richly deserved, and we are proud to call Jamie a Nighthawk."



Her pioneering teaching approach has also been recognized through her participation in the Science Friday Educator Collaborative and the Research Experience for Teachers (RET) Program at the University of Cincinnati.

"There are so many wonderful STEM educators out there, and I'm honored to be one of them," says Jamie. "Being at Country Day has changed my life, changed my career, and changed my children's lives. And I'm better because of it, because of all the talented people I've had the opportunity to work with."

A lifelong learner, Jamie holds a bachelor's degree in materials engineering from the University of Cincinnati and a master's degree from Xavier University. Her career began in IT at Procter & Gamble, before she transitioned to education. Before Country Day, Jamie taught at Covington Latin School, where she was a math teacher, math department chair, and technology coordinator.



"She brings the same grounded, practical approach from her experience in the field into the classroom," says Angela Barber-Joiner, director of belonging and wellbeing. "She doesn't make STEM feel intimidating. And although she's a masterful educator, you will never see her taking credit for her successes – even though she deserves every bit of it. Instead, Jamie is the one celebrating her students' breakthroughs, her colleagues' achievements, and the progress of everyone around her. Jamie doesn't just inspire her students; she inspires everyone fortunate enough to work alongside her."

Jamie's dedication to fostering a collaborative and creative learning environment earned her the school's Lee S. Pattison Distinguished Teacher Award in 2018, and she continues to inspire her students by learning alongside them.

"In high school, I was that kid who raised her hand and asked, 'Where would we use this?'," says Jamie. "I enjoy creating projects that bridge multiple disciplines and enable students to find answers to that question, even if those projects are outside my comfort zone. I hope students leave my class being curious about the world around them and confident in their ability to find ways to solve challenging problems."

The Tri-State STEM Leadership Award Committee evaluated all nominees based on their training and preparation, implementation of STEM initiatives, outreach, mentoring, and collaboration with other educators.

THE PATTERSON-STRAUSS TRAVEL GRANT: FUNDING BUCKET LIST ADVENTURES & MEMORIES TO LAST A LIFETIME

Terri Sears Explored Sicily, Italy, While Ann Gardner Enjoyed a Danube River Cruise This Past Summer, Both Returning with Captivating Stories and a Refreshed Perspective

By: Chelsey Combs, college intern

The Patterson-Strauss Travel Grant was created to fund enriching and rejuvinating travel experiences for our veteran faculty. To date, 37 Country Day faculty have been awarded this grant. With a combined service of 57 years, third-grade teachers Terri Sears and Ann Gardner have each dedicated nearly three decades to enriching our school community through their generous and inspiring teaching. This year, they were honored as the 2024 recipients of the prestigious Patterson-Strauss Travel Grant, which celebrates the legacy of long-time CCDS faculty members Bob Patterson and Tony Strauss ’57.

Mount Etna, a stratovolcano on the east coast of Sicily, Italy.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT?

Terri Sears: My dad – he is 87 years old, and going to Sicily, Italy was a bucket list adventure I felt I could check off for and with him. Until the early 1900s, my family resided in a small fishing village on the island, called Termini Imerese, and I had always hoped to visit. My dad has been to Sicily before but didn't get to truly experience the island, and because of this grant we could experience it together.

Ann Gardner: I have traveled with my mom every summer, and I saw this as a great way to continue that tradition. We – myself, my mom, my cousin, and my aunt – always wanted to travel together to a place where none of us had been. I thought of doing a Danube River cruise because my mom had never been on a river cruise and had never been to many of the places we would see along the way.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU MOST ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE?

TS: The history! Sicily is one of those places that has been fought over so much and has had so many different ruling governments. For example, the cathedral in Palermo is a visual example of the island's diverse history. It was built using five kinds of architecture because of how long it took to build and the different ruling parties that "owned" the island throughout the cathedral's construction.

AG: When you go somewhere new and see new things, you look at your own life differently. You realize how big the world is. You realize that there are so many nice people out there in the world. You meet people and find things in common with them that you wouldn't expect.



Ann and her mother in Old Town - Bratislava, Slovakia.

WHAT WERE YOU ABLE TO BRING BACK AND INCORPORATE INTO YOUR CLASSROOM?

TS: I've shared a lot of my travel stories with my students and have incorporated a lot into the classroom already. Like when we were covering the book *I Survived the Eruption of Mount St. Helens*, I was able to draw on the correlation between Mt. Etna and Mt. Saint Helens. I told them about how, when I visited Mt. Etna, it was rumbling and smoking, and then it erupted four days later. And then we have a field trip to Fort Ancient, which recently became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. One of the temples we visited in the Valley of the Temples in Sicily was the basis for the UNESCO World Heritage Site emblem. Bringing in these different connections for students helps foster a deeper understanding of and engagement with the material, as well as a curiosity about the world around them.

AG: The trip was like hitting a refresh button. I am always sharing stories from my travels with my students and really try to use that new perspective to help enrich their learning experience.

CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT A MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCE YOU HAD DURING THE TRIP?

TS: My dad wanted to go to a specific winery, and I was able to make that happen. He also wanted to experience olive oil production, so we took a tour of the olive groves and got to go to the owner's grandparents' house, where they had tanks of olive oil and invited us to sample some of their personal reserves. The most meaningful part of the whole day for me, though, was when my dad told me that the experiences of the day brought him back to when he was a young kid with his grandparents.

AG: I enjoyed the scenery and symphony experience very much, but something else I found stuck with me was an interaction with a gentleman at JFK [John F. Kennedy International Airport]. He worked in airport transportation; it was his day off so he wasn't supposed to be there, but he stepped in to help and was more than happy to do so. He was just the friendliest guy, talking to everyone that crossed his path as if they were old friends. He made what could have been a negative experience one of my most memorable of the entire trip.

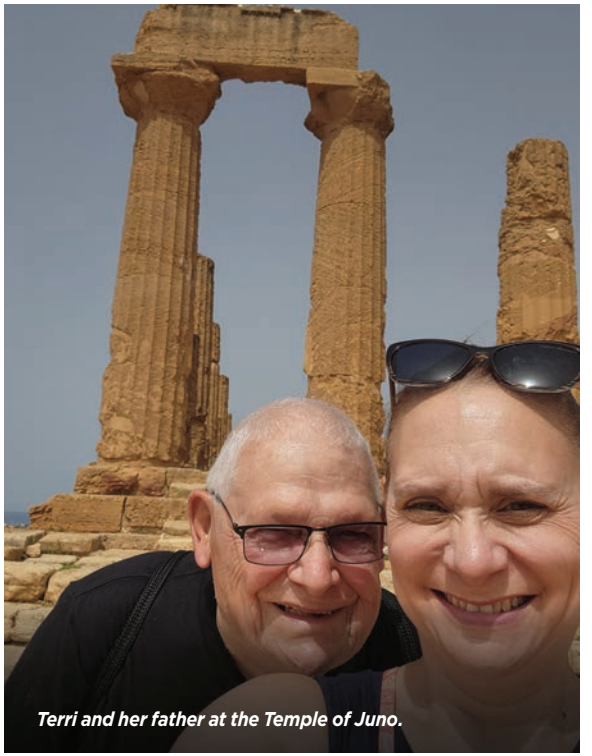

Terri and her father in Balestrate, a village located in Western Sicily.

WHAT WAS ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES FROM YOUR TRIP?

TS: It is so hard to choose just one because we were there for 11 days! One memory that stands out to me would be when a stranger went above and beyond in the most unexpected way. My dad has health conditions that prevent him from being as mobile as he would like to be. The second night of the trip, he was tired from all the walking and traveling we had done. Our B&B was on the third floor and by the time we got up there, he had decided he would rather stay in for dinner. I found this small place nearby and asked if they could do takeaway and they initially said no, but then I explained the situation about my dad, so they agreed. When I went to pick up the food, the owner was the sweetest man, who



Ann and her family visiting Göttweig Abbey Monastery in Austria.



Terri and her father at the Temple of Juno.

told me all about what he had made and how he had thrown in extra stuff for free. When I got back to our B&B, I looked up the restaurant and learned they had only been open two months, they don't do takeaway, and that the chef was a contestant on MasterChef Italy!

AG: All of them! There are so many memories to choose from and they are all so different. One thing I really liked was how neat and tidy the little towns were. The visuals were another favorite of mine – the architecture, the store fronts, the huge cathedrals, the big buildings, the cobblestone walks; it was all so beautiful and full of history.

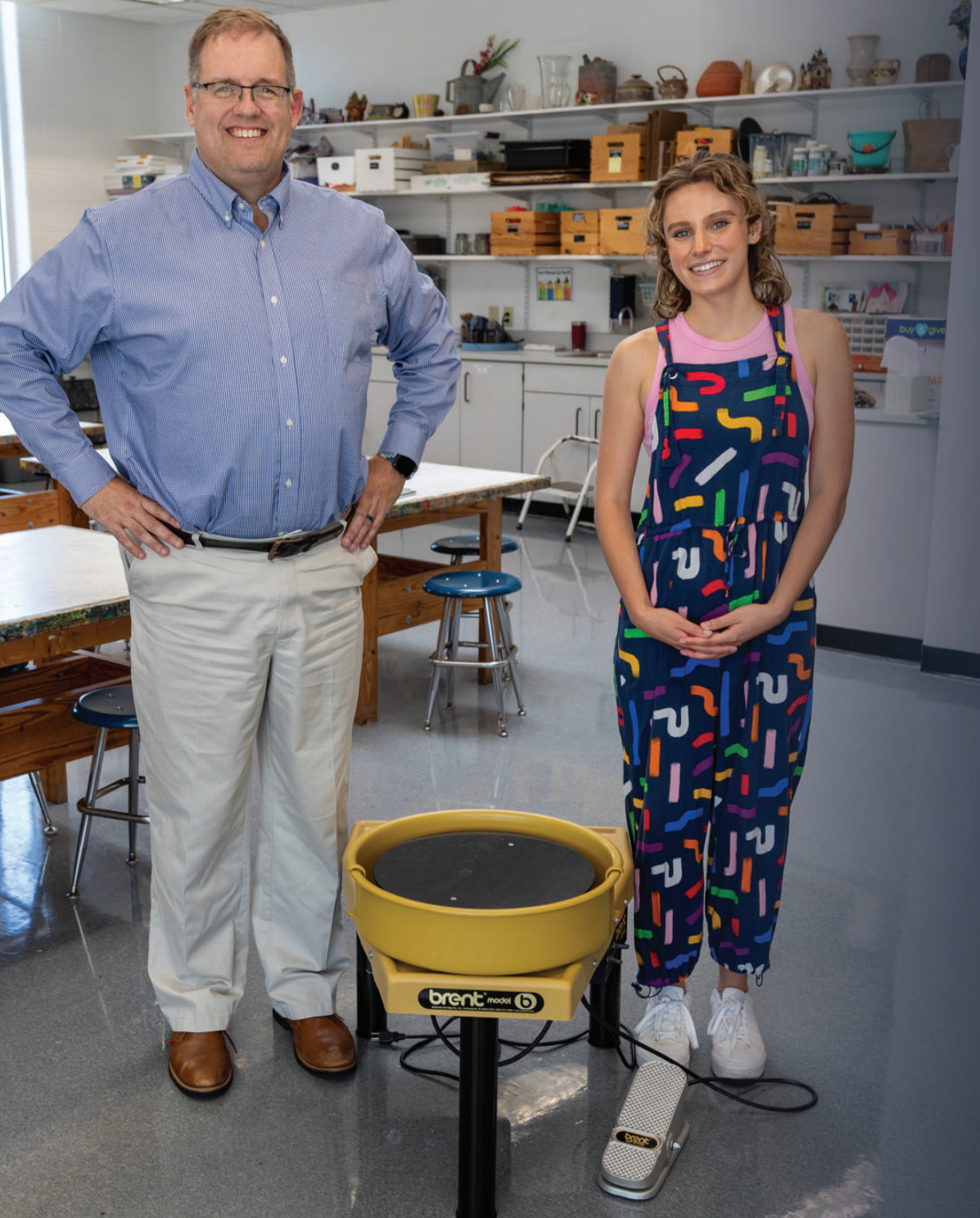
WHY DO YOU FEEL IT'S IMPORTANT FOR TEACHERS TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY?

TS: I would never have spent the money on myself for a trip like this. The grant was the motivation I needed to make it happen. I am grateful the school gave me the chance to have an experience that I wouldn't have been able to have otherwise.

AG: A trip like this can be such a positive experience that becomes a part of who you are. You get a new perspective on life and how you view it. And then you get to come back to the classroom recharged and eager to share your experiences with the students.



Termini Imerese, the village where Terri's ancestors lived.



LOWER SCHOOL EXPANDS CREATIVE EXPRESSION WITH NEW POTTERY WHEEL

By: Evie Kranias '25

Lower School students have another outlet for creative expression! Tess Young, Lower School art instructor, now has two clay wheels to use with students to create ceramics and pottery. A grant from the Arts Alliance made the purchase of the second wheel possible. With the additional wheel, Ms. Young and a student can sit side-by-side and work through the pottery-making steps together.

Carlton Monroe, president of the Arts Alliance, looks forward to "continuing to support Country Day music, theater, and visual arts" as they did with the new pottery wheel and the recent addition of new professional lights for Keeler Theater.

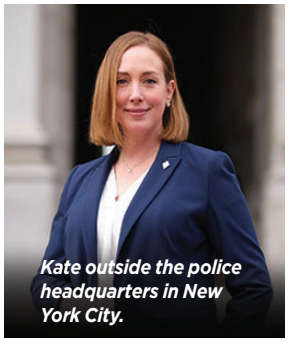
Ms. Young believes creating with the clay wheels will teach patience and the importance of slowing down to think through each step in a process. "Since we've done a lot of hand-building, such as pinch pots, pottery is a nice challenge and something they must think through differently than anything they've tried before."

A FRONT ROW SEAT TO THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

Kate Byrne '02 Reflects on How Falling in Love with NYC as a Teacher Brought Her to a Life of Adventure in the NYPD



Family time at the Mets game with James, Quincy, and Tucker



Kate outside the police headquarters in New York City.

Back when she was in high school, Kate (Cordes) Byrne '02 never would have imagined herself as the chief of staff for the deputy commissioner of the New York Police Department (NYPD) Intelligence & Counterterrorism Bureau.

"My high school self was a feisty little activist and the idea that I ended up working for The Man would have horrified her," says Kate. "But if I had a heart-to-heart with her, I think she would understand that the government needs people who think outside the box, and needs women in the room to help chart the course."

Kate majored in math at Goucher College and also studied economics and international studies because she was always interested in looking at things more broadly. After college, she went to New York City (NYC) to take a high school teaching job at a boarding school just outside of the city, where she taught math as well as the history and geography of New York in a cross-disciplinary format.

"Teaching about the city made me fall in love with New York, so on a whim I took the test to become a police officer because I thought it would be a fun story to tell at a cocktail party – that I went to the NYPD police academy and learned to shoot a gun and drive a police car," says Kate. "I had planned to go to law school, but then the NYPD felt like home. Entering the police academy was the best decision I've ever made."

She has now been serving in the Intelligence & Counterterrorism Bureau for nine years and the NYPD for 16. She has worked in a range of positions – from patrol officer (everyone in the NYPD is required to start as a patrol officer, responding to 911 calls) to supervisor on terrorism investigations.

"Within the NYPD there is a lot of opportunity for specialization because we're so large – there are 55,000 employees and 35,000 sworn members. Every day is a surprise, every day is different, and every day I get a front row seat to the greatest show on Earth. I get to see history happening."

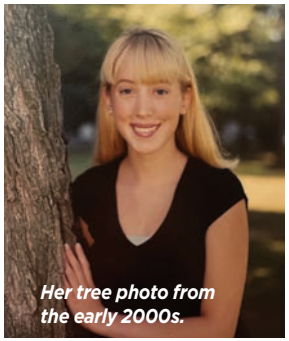
As chief of staff for Deputy Commissioner Rebecca Weiner, Kate helps her oversee a massive operation of over 1,650 people in a bureau that is focused on such tasks as counterterrorism investigations, dignitary protection, deployments of special weapons teams at major events in NYC, and oversight of the NYPD personnel assigned to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force.

"We have one of the largest counterterrorism efforts in the world. The challenges we are confronting span borders, so we're frequently involved in investigations in other parts of the country and the world. The thing that is so unique in the global security world right now is that it really is an

'everything, everywhere, all at once' kind of threat. I think back to after 9/11 when we were worried about Al Qaeda, but today we have security threats emanating from across a broad spectrum of extremist ideologies."

Living through 9/11 certainly had an impact on Kate, who remembers being in Peter Fossett's history class when she learned the second plane hit the World Trade Center.

"There isn't a universe in which I come to New York City and become a cop without that experience," says Kate. "It was an intense and emotional moment in history to live through as a 17-year-old. Now for me to be here [in NYC] and know the men and women who responded to the [Twin] Towers that day…it's powerful and it makes this work feel important even 23 years later. This year on 9/11, I attended the memorial ceremony at Ground Zero and then I went to a Country Day alumni reception. When I walked in, the first face I saw was Mr. Fossett's. So, 9/11 and Country Day are still very intertwined in my story."



Her tree photo from the early 2000s.

Other experiences from Country Day continue to impact her life and her work.

"Pat Dunn was one of the best teachers I ever had in my life; I learned more from her than any college professor or anyone since," says Kate. "I could have written a mediocre paper easily, but she always pushed us and held us to a higher standard of critical thinking. I use those skills – of challenging assumptions, assessing sources, and striving to communicate clearing – to this day."

Kate also says she loved Country Day because it was small and there was so much room to pursue intellectual curiosity. It's something she encourages current students to lean in to.

"In high school, you don't have to decide yet what the path of your life is going to be. I wouldn't have had the career I've had if I decided at 18 what my plan was. It's been a meandering journey for me, but I wouldn't change a thing. I work long days, but I wouldn't give so much of my life to my career if I didn't feel like I was making a difference. The best adventures are not necessarily the ones you plan on."

ZAK BUTLER '05 CONNECTS WITH Future Innovators

Zak Butler '05, who works in the cybersecurity field, spent time with students in a computer science class to talk about cybersecurity, reverse engineering, and how to identify and test malicious data. Zak – who majored in economics – explained to the students how his understanding of economics and technology plays a vital role in his position at Google with the Threat Analysis Group.

Zak shared that his interest in computer science was sparked in high school. By combining his passion for video games with his knowledge of computers, he was able to challenge himself and eventually build on his skill set. He encouraged students to learn more about their devices and how they work and provided resources to anyone looking to expand their knowledge of computers.

We are thankful for our alumni and the continuous support they provide!



THREE COUNTRY DAY STUDENTS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS, SIX HONORED AS COMMENDED STUDENTS, AND TEN RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION

The National Merit Scholarship Program has named three Cincinnati Country Day School students as National Merit Semifinalists. Congratulations to Ayaan Arif ’25, Louisa Joy ’25, and Nikhil Shah ’25. Congratulations are also in order for Sarah Fu ’25, Trevor Gregorsok ’25, Jordan Lowe ’25, Jack Monroe ’25, Ashley Odom ’25, and Zac Vaughan ’25, who were named National Merit Commended Students.

“These are wonderful students, whose energy, curiosity, and talent represent all that Country Day seeks to instill in our students,” says Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities. “We know they will go on to do great things in college.”

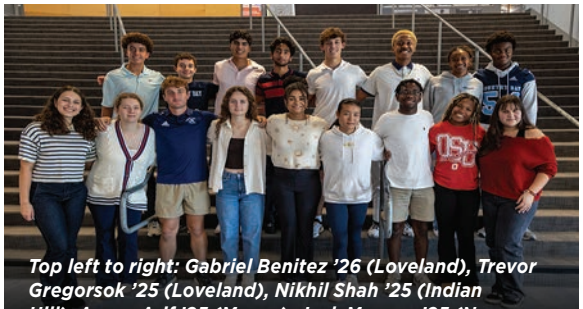
To become a finalist, the semifinalist must submit a detailed scholarship application, possess an outstanding academic record throughout high school, and be recommended by a high school official. Over 1.3 million juniors in approximately 21,000 high schools entered the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

While the six Commended Students will not be moving forward in the 2025 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, they achieved impressive recognition by placing among the top 34,000 high school students in the country.

Additionally, six Country Day students have been honored in the National African American Recognition Program: Donovan Gray ’25, Ashley Odom ’25, Kevin Pearson ’25, Myles Shaw ’26, Rokhaya Thomas ’25, Imri Young ’25; and four students were honored in the National Hispanic Recognition Program: Gabriel Benitez ’26, Yvannia Buten ’26, Vic Quintero ’25, and Lucia Murdoch ’25.

Gray, Odom, and Young were also honored last year as part of the National African American Recognition Program, and Murdoch and Quintero were also honored last year as part of the National Hispanic Recognition Program. According to the College Board website, the National Recognition Programs bestow academic honors to underrepresented students. While this is not a scholarship program, recipients are strong academic performers, and many colleges intentionally recruit awardees.

“Country Day is fortunate to have so many hard-working and accomplished students,” says Jenn Weinheimer, head of Upper School. “This national recognition is well deserved for performance on a test that so many students find so daunting. While standardized tests are only one measure of accomplishment, many of these students have also impressed us with their contributions in the classroom, in the community, and on the athletic fields and courts. We are always excited to celebrate our students and congratulate these students on this impressive achievement.”



Top left to right: Gabriel Benitez ’26 (Loveland), Trevor Gregorsok ’25 (Loveland), Nikhil Shah ’25 (Indian Hill), Aayan Arif ’25 (Mason), Jack Monroe ’25 (New Richmond), Kevin Pearson ’25 (Forest Park), Rokhaya Thomas ’25 (Maineville), Myles Shaw ’26 (West Chester); bottom row left to right: Yvannia Buten ’26 (Mount Lookout), Louisa Joy ’25 (Walnut Hills), Zac Vaughan ’25 (Indian Hill), Jordan Lowe ’25 (Montgomery), Ashley Odom ’25 (Liberty Township), Sarah Fu ’25 (Mason), Donovan Gray ’25 (Liberty Township), Imri Young ’25 (Loveland), Vic Quintero ’25 (Kenwood); not pictured: Lucia Murdoch ’25 (Hyde Park)

Angelique (Seremetis) Chengelis ’82 has been writing about the University of Michigan football team for over 30 years as a beat writer for *The Detroit News*. She has not only covered the biggest sporting events in Michigan, including two University of Michigan football national championships but also covered events like the Indianapolis 500, Super Bowl, Stanley Cup Finals, NBA Finals, and most major PGA golf events.

While working at her first newspaper job after graduating from the University of Cincinnati, *The Knoxville Journal*, she also covered the legendary women’s basketball coach Pat Summit, who Angelique says was the toughest coach she has ever been around.

Angelique was kind enough to take some time from hitting her story deadlines to talk about her experiences working as a sportswriter and how education at Country Day impacted her life.



FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE SIDELINES:

AUTHOR AND HALL OF FAMER ANGELIQUE CHENGELIS '82 REFLECTS ON 30 YEARS OF SPORTS WRITING

How A Seventh-Grade Teacher Sparked a Lifelong Passion



A Classic 1980s Basketball Rivalry Piqued Her Interest in Sports Writing.

"I think I always wanted to be a sportswriter. In Upper School, I played four years of volleyball and softball, and two years of track and basketball. I remember in seventh grade – my first year at Country Day – writing a story about a Lakers versus Celtics playoff matchup in Mr. [Robert] Voorhees's English class. He handed me back the paper and told me I wasn't very good at writing. I took it as a challenge to improve my writing because I really liked writing about sports. And by the time I graduated, Mr. Voorhees, who was a massive sports fan, told me, 'Now you can write.' It was such a great affirmation."

The 1997 University of Michigan National Championship Team Set the Standard for all Future Teams.

"I have been fortunate to cover two national championship teams at the University of Michigan. 1997 was a very special year because I got to cover Charles Woodson [cornerback from 1995-1997] and see a real team win the national championship, which you don't get to see all the time. That team was filled with really top-notch guys and coaches and has become the baseline when I compare teams. The 2023 championship team comes very close. With the roller coaster of events and challenges that the team had to go through, they never flinched. They were just a bunch of really nice guys."

It's Not as Glamorous a Job as You Might Think.

"Being a beat writer is more than just getting to go to games. It is an extremely demanding job. You have to really love deadlines because it's quite a challenge to write a good story while trying to hit that deadline, all while sitting in a freezing cold car. And now, with social media, we are feeding a 24/7 news cycle, so I must have my phone and laptop with me all the time. It is truly a grind."



She Does it for the Love of Storytelling.

"There are so many great things that I love about this job. I love watching the games and the competition. I love seeing people at the top of their game. I love interacting with athletes. And I have been doing it for so long now, I'm even covering their sons! But they never make me feel out of place. I am just really interested in meeting unique people and telling their stories."

If You Want to Become a Beat Writer, Starting Small is Okay.

"I learned so much from my experience at the *Knoxville Journal*. It's where I learned the fundamentals of the newspaper business. It's where I learned how to develop sources and cultivate real relationships with people so that I am not always calling them when I need something. Work at your college newspapers and radio and television stations. It will help you learn those essential fundamentals."

Angelique Learned Many Lessons by Writing for a History Class Project.

"While I was writing my junior research paper, Mr. [Lee] Pattison [retired history teacher] taught me the importance of researching the topics and the subjects you are writing about. I learned how important it was to get first-person interviews and how impactful that type of insight can be for a story. Sometimes you have to really look deep into a subject before you get to the interview or start writing the story. That experience is something that I have definitely carried with me into my professional career."

Country Day Supported Her During Tough Times.

"I had some family issues going on during my junior year that were making it hard for me to focus on my schoolwork.

I remember Mrs. [Harriet] Hokanson [retired French teacher] stopping me in the hallway after noticing that my grades had been slipping and asking me what was going on. Once I told her, she helped me get the support I needed to get myself back together. It was my first experience where someone paid that much attention to me and noticed that something wasn't right. And I think that's part of being at a small, intimate school. I always felt like I was cared for and that people wanted to know if I was doing okay. You don't get lost at Country Day."

She Will Always Be Grateful for Her Country Day Experience.

"I tell this to people all the time: I think that the time in your life when you are in middle school and high school is so important in shaping who you are going to be. I can't tell you how appreciative I am that my mom pushed for me to attend Country Day. I am very, very grateful for that experience."



SEVEN COUNTRY DAY SENIORS NAMED TO CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

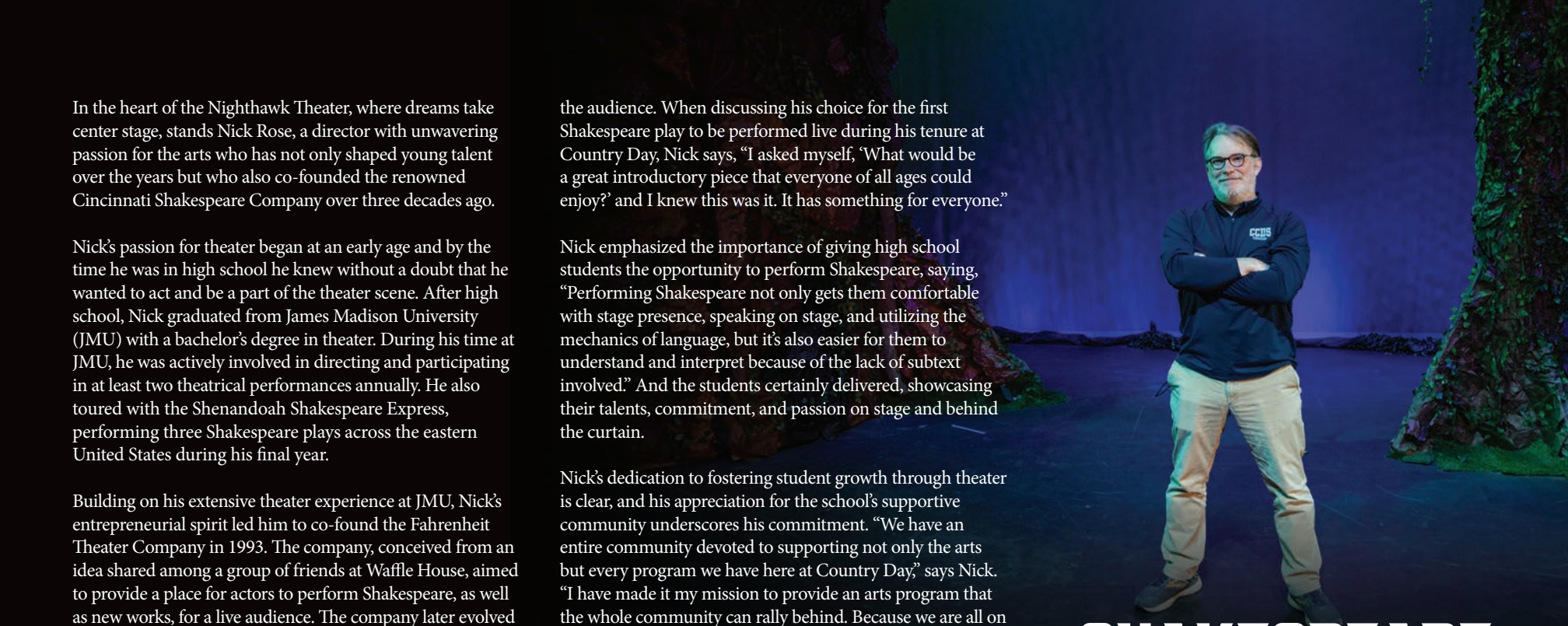
We are proud to announce our first cohort of Cum Laude Society honorees for the Class of 2025. Congratulations to seniors Aayan Arif (Mason), Donovan Gray (Liberty Township), Louisa Joy (East Walnut Hills), Jordan Lowe (Montgomery), Vic Quintero (Blue Ash), Nik Shah (Indian Hill), and Addie Sweeney (Milford). These students were selected at the beginning of this school year as the top 10% of the Class of 2025 after junior year.

To qualify, students must be in the top 20 percent of their class, based on their GPAs from their sophomore year, junior year, and, for the cohort announced in January 2025, the first semester of senior year.

"This year's first Cum Laude cohort represents an astounding and diverse cross-section of the Class of 2025," says Nat Tracey-Miller, Upper School dean of students, librarian, and Cum Laude Society chapter advisor. "Their elite academic performance places them with 70 years of inductees into the school's chapter. I'm excited to welcome our second group in January and celebrate the entire group at our annual banquet in the spring."

The Cum Laude Society is dedicated to honoring scholastic achievement in secondary schools. Country Day is one of the few schools in Cincinnati to host an independent chapter.





SHAKESPEARE AND BEYOND: NICK ROSE'S DUAL LEGACY IN THEATER

How a Co-Founder of the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company is Inspiring Today's Generation of Actors

By: Chelsey Combs, college intern

In the heart of the Nighthawk Theater, where dreams take center stage, stands Nick Rose, a director with unwavering passion for the arts who has not only shaped young talent over the years but who also co-founded the renowned Cincinnati Shakespeare Company over three decades ago.

Nick's passion for theater began at an early age and by the time he was in high school he knew without a doubt that he wanted to act and be a part of the theater scene. After high school, Nick graduated from James Madison University (JMU) with a bachelor's degree in theater. During his time at JMU, he was actively involved in directing and participating in at least two theatrical performances annually. He also toured with the Shenandoah Shakespeare Express, performing three Shakespeare plays across the eastern United States during his final year.

Building on his extensive theater experience at JMU, Nick's entrepreneurial spirit led him to co-found the Fahrenheit Theater Company in 1993. The company, conceived from an idea shared among a group of friends at Waffle House, aimed to provide a place for actors to perform Shakespeare, as well as new works, for a live audience. The company later evolved into the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company, where Nick played a pivotal role until 2017. "I wasn't making an impact the way I wanted to anymore; I had performed theater for 25 years at that point and thought it was time to pass the torch to the next person," says Nick.

Never one to sit still for too long, he decided later that year to pursue a master's degree in education with a focus on secondary education at Xavier University. After a professor at Xavier recommended him for a job opening, he applied to Cincinnati Country Day School and in August 2020 Nick joined the school as the voice and speaking teacher and head of theater. During the 2023-24 school year, Nick also added "head of the arts department" to his list of titles.

His dedication to education and the arts was clearly evident in his new role. This year's fall production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – a whimsical Shakespearean comedy about love, magic, and mischief in an enchanted forest – captivated the audience. When discussing his choice for the first Shakespeare play to be performed live during his tenure at Country Day, Nick says, "I asked myself, 'What would be a great introductory piece that everyone of all ages could enjoy?' and I knew this was it. It has something for everyone."

Nick emphasized the importance of giving high school students the opportunity to perform Shakespeare, saying, "Performing Shakespeare not only gets them comfortable with stage presence, speaking on stage, and utilizing the mechanics of language, but it's also easier for them to understand and interpret because of the lack of subtext involved." And the students certainly delivered, showcasing their talents, commitment, and passion on stage and behind the curtain.

Nick's dedication to fostering student growth through theater is clear, and his appreciation for the school's supportive community underscores his commitment. "We have an entire community devoted to supporting not only the arts but every program we have here at Country Day," says Nick. "I have made it my mission to provide an arts program that the whole community can rally behind. Because we are all on one campus and have such a tight-knit community, we can engage all students, from grade K through12, and that is such a unique gift."

Nick's passion for theater is matched by his practical advice for those aspiring to follow in his footsteps. "My advice to students wanting to pursue theater in high school is to show up and be ready to have fun but to also understand that there is work involved, like memorizing lines and being able to tap back into when you were a kid and have that carefree approach."

From an enthusiastic high school student to a revered theater director and educator, Nick's journey is a testament to the transformative power of the arts. As he continues to inspire today's generation of actors at Country Day, his legacy of creativity, passion, and community support shines brightly, ensuring that the magic of theater at Country Day will thrive for years to come.

CCDS RECEIVES TOP AP AWARD SECOND YEAR IN A ROW

For the second consecutive year, Cincinnati Country Day School was awarded a "Platinum" ranking in the 2024 AP School Honor Roll, the highest ranking among the four levels of distinction. **This recognition reflects the school's dedication to ensuring students have equitable access to AP courses and that they receive the continuous support needed on their path to college success.**

"I am always pleased to see Country Day recognized for what we do best – encouraging all our students to take on challenges and supporting them as they do it," says Sarah Beyreis, director of college counseling and external opportunities. "It's what I have always loved about working here."

Along with this accomplishment, CCDS is further being awarded the AP Access Award, which honors schools that encourage more low-income and underrepresented minority students to take AP courses. Specifically, this award requires that the percentage of underrepresented or low-income families accessing the school's AP program is the same as or greater than the percentage of such students in the school's graduating class.

"Country Day prides itself on creating a rigorous learning environment for all and appreciates this recognition from the College Board," says Al Beauchamp, director of academic affairs. "We are excited to recognize the value of our diverse community of learners and their academic accomplishments."

According to the College Board, research shows students who take AP courses and exams are more likely to attend college and graduate on time. Advanced coursework provides early exposure to college-level work and contributes to a college-going school culture, even for those who don't earn college credit. CCDS acknowledges this statistic and is committed to providing access to advanced coursework.

"The award captures the essence of who we are as a school and as a community," says Jenn Weinheimer, head of Upper School. "Our school's diversity is an asset to us in many ways, and this award acknowledges that. The strength of our teachers is showcased in this award as much as the accomplishments of our students. Country Day students from all backgrounds and from 70 zip codes are able to achieve at the highest levels because of the quality of the instruction and the authenticity of the support theyreceive. This award isn't a new one for Country Day, but we're proud that others see all that Country Day has to offer."

Fearless Inside

By encouraging students to address the fears that prevent them from being their best, international speaker and author Darryl Bellamy, Jr. shed light on how students can lead and live up to their potential by creating fearless moments in their lives. Through a ceremonious presentation, he collected their fears and helped everyone realize that we're all fearless inside.



Road Bike Safety Revolution:

CCDS STUDENTS TAKE THEIR INVENTION TO THE NATIONAL STAGE

Students Reflect on Teamwork, Growth, and Unforgettable Memories

Last year, Cincinnati Country Day School was one of only eight schools nationwide to be selected by Lemelson-MIT to have an InvenTeam for the 2023-24 school year. Comprised of Upper School students, the CCDS InvenTeam received a grant to research, design, and construct a working prototype of a technological invention. This past June, the team presented their **patent-pending road bike safety invention – the IllumiLane** – at EurekaFest, which was hosted on the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) campus.

After unveiling the invention to a packed audience and displaying it at the showcase, **the team was presented with two of the three major awards: the "Excellence in Communications Award" for their well-written monthly blogs, community and media outreach, and consistent social media presence, and the coveted "Golden Beaver Award." The Golden Beaver Award, the top award at EurekaFest, is given to one team for excellence in technical achievement.**

But the team didn't stop there. This past October, the CCDS InvenTeam presented its work, methodologies, and experiences to educators at the Tri-State STEM+ Conference at the University of Cincinnati. Now, the team members are working together on a plan to push their patent-pending invention across the finish line. Hopefully, sometime soon we will see the IllumiLane stocked on the shelves in stores across the country!



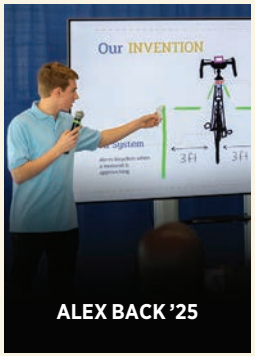
HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THE CCDS INVENTEAM MEMBERS ABOUT THEIR LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE:

"I learned the importance of diversity in a team. It taught me about the entire process of inventing a new idea, and also that creating an invention is actually attainable."



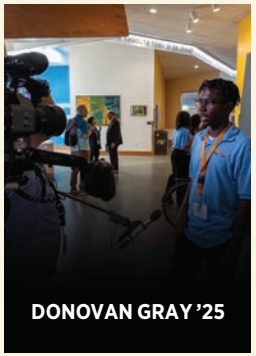
AYAAN ARIF '25

"I enjoyed the teamwork aspect of the project. It helped me to talk through the issues with other team members, especially when I couldn't figure things out on my own."



ALEX BACK '25

"Being involved in the InvenTeam was absolutely worth the over 350 hours we put into the project, and I am definitely interested in doing more of this kind of work in the future as I head into college and beyond."



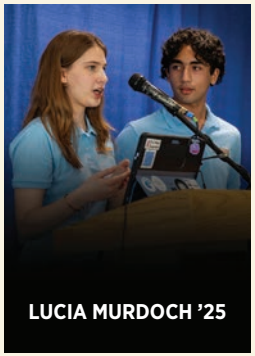
DONOVAN GRAY '25

"My favorite moment was returning to the dorms with the team after winning the Golden Beaver Award. While the moment our name was called was beyond exciting, celebrating in our small group is my favorite memory with the team. As the adrenaline wore off, it was incredible to look around at the group I had bonded, grown, and succeeded with."



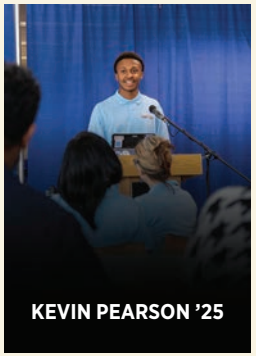
KATE KRANIAS '26

"Being a part of the CCDS InvenTeam demonstrated to me the value of self-driven learning and pursuing something you are passionate about. The skills I gained in public speaking will also help me in my path toward a law career."



LUCIA MURDOCH '25

"I learned to approach challenges with an open mind and learned to persevere. My time on the InvenTeam has shown me that I can be confident in my abilities to speak publicly and approach hardships with resilience."



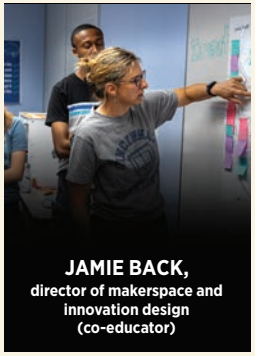
KEVIN PEARSON '25

"My favorite moment had to be when we unexpectedly won the Golden Beaver Award at EurekaFest. It was the ultimate payoff for all the long hours and hard work that we had spent the entire last year putting in."



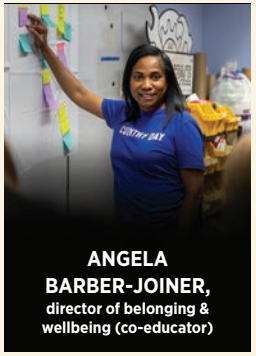
JASON STARODUB '26

"It was an incredible opportunity to get to know a group of students and watch them grow individually and as a team. We had our ups and downs, but the reality is that these kids showed up and did the work they needed to do."



JAMIE BACK,
director of makerspace and innovation design (co-educator)

"I've been an educator for over 20 years, yet this experience has deepened my confidence and amplified my impact in ways I never anticipated. I'm truly grateful for the growth and inspiration it has sparked within me."



ANGELA BARBER-JOINER,
director of belonging & wellbeing (co-educator)



CHECKMATE!

A WEEKEND OF COMMUNITY AND COMPETITION AT THE 2024 CCDS CHESS TOURNAMENT

More Than 40 CCDS Students Across all Divisions Participated, Showcasing Their Skill, Strategy, and Sportsmanship

Our students had incredible fun at the 2024 CCDS Chess Tournament in November. The weekend kicked off with a "simul" during which 40 Country Day students simultaneously played chess master and multi-time Cincinnati City Chess Champion Russ Wilson '75 (congratulations to Luca DiSanto '30 as the only chess player who beat the master!) or Country Day parent and assistant to the deputy tournament director Jez Vaughan.

"I was a good player in high school but later became a much better player, and at different times in my life, chess has been different things for me," says Russ. "If I never played chess here at Country Day I never would have bothered to get to where I did, so I will do anything I can to help promote chess – it's made such an impact in my life, and I want to pay that forward."

Saturday's tournament included 42 Country Day students from grades 1-12. All participants were guaranteed to play five competitive games.

"For the kids to have actually played face-to-face with a master and then take part in the physical aspects of an in-person tournament, I think the weekend was a huge experience for them," says Nico Rumboll, deputy tournament director and Middle School chess club advisor as well as Country Day teacher, parent, and coach. "The social-emotional skills of acknowledging an opponent face to face and experiencing the situation of people watching your game in person are much more effective at building certain leadership skills than you can get from playing an online chess game. Add to that the benefits of exchanging experiences across divisions and grades, and I have no doubt this experience has really strengthened both the kids' skills as well as their sense of belonging at the school."

All experience levels were welcome to partake in the weekend's activities, but the participants were required to be familiar with the rules of chess and to complete a game without assistance.

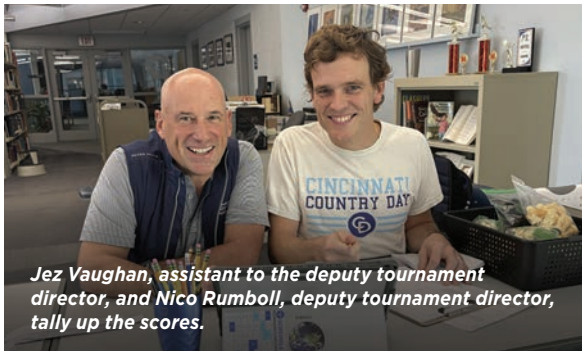


"I thought the tournament was a great chance to meet and play against others across school divisions who love chess, just like I do," says Nikhil Shah '25, tournament champion. "I also loved seeing how many kids at Country Day want to play chess, which is why it was so cool that the school was able to host it. It was a pleasant surprise to see how many people at this school are into chess."



In addition to Nikhil Shah '25 earning the title of tournament champion, others who ranked at the top were:

- Max Sun '27: 1st place in the Upper School
- Zac Vaughan '25: 2nd place in the Upper School
- Neel Patel '30: 1st place in the Middle School
- Kairon Coleman '29: 2nd place in the Middle School (and the last chess player standing against Russ Wilson in the simul)
- Ryan Liu '35: 1st place in the Lower School
- Orion Rinaldi '35: 2nd place in the Lower School



Jez Vaughan, assistant to the deputy tournament director, and Nico Rumboll, deputy tournament director, tally up the scores.

"It's great to see the chess program at Country Day thriving across all grades," says Alan Falkingham, who is a Country Day parent and was the tournament director in absentia due to a family emergency. "I strongly believe chess is a game that helps kids succeed academically and builds life skills: critical thinking, detailed calculation, planning ahead, the ability to think clearly under time pressure, sportsmanship, and resiliency. It is also one of the few games where a second grader can successfully take on a high school senior – something that we saw in our tournament."

The event was made possible by a gift from Jack Connelly '21. Many thanks to everyone who made the weekend such a success.



"We were thrilled to celebrate our thriving chess community with this fun and exciting tournament," says Rob Zimmerman '98, head of school. "Research shows that chess can help improve academic and cognitive performance in areas such as analytical thinking, pattern recognition, and working memory. These skills are already an important part of a CCDS experience, so our chess program builds on our existing strengths. More importantly, though, we have a great number of chess lovers – students and adults alike – who play chess for the pure love of the game. From the interest demonstrated during the tournament, it's clear we will have more chess in our future at Country Day."

Scan here for more photos from the chess tournament



COYLE '25 AND GUTTMAN '25 EARN CONFERENCE PLAYER OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Hard Work and Dedication Pay Off for Country Day Football Stars

The Country Day Nighthawk football team had another stellar year. The team ended the season with an 11-2 record (including the postseason), which resulted in the team winning a fourth straight Miami Valley Conference (MVC) title! The team then made another solid postseason run by winning two playoff games before coming up short against Anna High School in the Regional Semifinals. And with that much team success, individual awards were sure to follow.

Quarterback Elijah Guttman '25 was named MVC Offensive Player of the Year, and linebacker Ryan Coyle '25 was named MVC Defensive Player of the Year. Both players had unbelievable seasons while leading the team on and off the field. Their hard work and dedication to themselves – and their team – paid off.

"For me, winning this award was a weight off my shoulders in terms of fulfilling a legacy," says Elijah. "My dad graduated from Country Day and left a pretty significant mark on the program. Before this year, I wasn't satisfied with my own legacy, and winning MVC Offensive Player of the Year eased the pressure I've felt."

Elijah threw for over 2,500 yards and had 31 passing touchdowns this season, leading the conference in both categories.

"I am proud of Elijah and his development as a quarterback," says Dennis Coyle, athletic director and head football coach. "He earned the Offensive Player of the Year as a result of his outstanding performance on and off the field." Ryan, who was also named the Co-Defensive Player of the Year for the Southwest District for Division 6, felt very honored to finally have his hard work and effort recognized this season.

"It really means a lot to me because winning the award was a goal I set for myself when I entered the program as a freshman," says Ryan. "I feel like no one in the league can say they have put in more time and effort than I have over the past four years."

No one in the conference came close to Ryan's league-leading 160 tackles. The nearest person finished the season with 23 fewer tackles.

"Ryan has been a four-year starter and receiving the MVC Defensive Player of the Year is a great honor for him," says Dennis. "He will end his [CCDS] career as the leading tackler in school history. I am proud of him not only as his coach but as his father. I will miss coaching him next year."

Elijah and Ryan, along with their classmates, ended their Nighthawk football careers as part of the winningest senior class in program history, with 40 wins! Both Elijah and Ryan are looking forward to playing football at the next level but have yet to make a final decision on their futures.





CELEBRATING A COACHING ICON: THERESA HIRSCHAUER'S JOURNEY TO THE HALL OF FAME



Cincinnati Country Day School is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievements of Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, head of the middle school and a coach at Country Day. With an impressive 35-year coaching career, Hirsch has not only shaped the athletic prowess of countless students but also their personal growth and development.

After graduating from Brown University, Hirsch joined Country Day as a math teacher and quickly became a cornerstone of the school's athletic department. Over the years, she has worn many hats, including serving as athletic director for 20 years and leading the Middle School for the past 12 years. Her coaching repertoire spans girls soccer, softball, and basketball, showcasing her versatility and commitment to student-athletes.

This year, Hirsch's dedication and impact have been recognized by her peers, as she was nominated and selected by colleagues in the Southwest Ohio Coaches Association for induction into the Ohio Scholastic Soccer Coaches Association (OSSCA) Hall of Fame. She is only the second female to be inducted into the OSSCA Hall of Fame.

"Impacting young women for 35 years is my greatest accomplishment at Country Day....It's incredibly humbling to know that people trust and believe in you enough to nominate you," says Hirsch. "Having other coaches and competitors recognize and honor you in this way is truly a great honor."

Throughout her career, Hirsch has cherished the opportunity to be part of her players' journeys, watching them achieve their goals and grow both on and off the field. "There is nothing more rewarding than seeing them achieve their goals and take pride in their accomplishments, while also witnessing their growth and development."

For Hirsch, coaching is more than just a profession; it's a calling. She believes that "coaching is teaching and teaching is coaching," a philosophy that has guided her through decades of inspiring young athletes.



Hirsch (second from the right) and her assistant coaches (from left to right) Brittany Woods, Olivia Robinson, and Brady Brandt holding the 2023 Girls Soccer State Championship trophy.



PUSHING EACH OTHER TO NEW HEIGHTS:
CCDS BOYS GOLF TEAM CELEBRATES LANDMARK SEASON

From Winning the Talawanda Invitational to Setting a New Team Score Record, CCDS Golfers Leave Their Mark

It was a special year for the boys golf team. They started the season off strong by winning the first tournament of the year, the Talawanda Invitational. Then, in a match versus Elder High School, the team set a new school record for the lowest team score in a nine-hole match! Together, Ethan Argus '25 (who shot 34), Marc Hayden Mann '25 (38), Jacob Faulhaber '25 (38), Evan Ross '26 (39), and non-scoring players Simon Smyth '25 and Ray Chen '28, scored 149, beating the previous low score of 151, which was set when the 1977 CCDS boys golf team played against Walnut Hills. To round out the season, the team came in second place during the Miami Valley Conference tournament, its highest finish over the last few years.

While the team had a great season, so did a few of the individual golfers. Jacob Faulhaber '25 made second team for the Miami Valley Conference. But it was Ethan Argus '25 who really came out on top as the district champion (with a score of 68), was named Golfer of the Year in the Miami Valley Conference, and finished in sixth place at the state tournament, which was the highest individual finish for a Country Day golfer since 1974.

"I'm impressed with the way our golfers fed off each other in matches, both supporting and competing against each other," says Greg Faulhaber, head golf coach. "They always wanted to know how everyone else was playing. And when they found out one of their teammates was playing well, they upped their own game while also cheering him on. They pushed each other to get better. I'm proud of what they were able to accomplish this year."



2024 FALL SPORTS WRAP-UP

CROSS COUNTRY

Miami Valley Conference Awards

First Team:
Vanca Pandey '26
Second Team:
Max Sun`27
Regional Qualifiers:
Trevor Gregorsok '25, Vanca Pandey '26, Max Sun '27, Trevor Gregorsok '25

FOOTBALL

Miami Valley Conference Champions, 11-2, Regional Semifinalist

Miami Valley Conference Awards

- Elijah Guttman '25 – Offensive Player of the Year
- Ryan Coyle '25 - Defensive Player of the Year
- Dennis Coyle – Co-Coach of the Year

First Team:
Ryan Coyle '25, Elijah Guttman '25, Patrick Ramage '25, Byce Snell '25, Lucas Donahue '26, Brandon Proffitt '26, Will Robinson '26, Myles Shaw '26, Leon Hall '27, Thomas Huckleby '28
Second Team:
Jack Monroe '25, Lee Thomas '25
Honorable Mention:
Teagen Davis '25, Jude Raterman '25

Southwest District Awards

Ryan Coyle '25 – Co-Defensive Player of the Year
First Team:
Ryan Coyle '25, Elijah Guttman '25, Lee Thomas '25, Lucas Donahue '26, Leon Hall '27, Thomas Huckleby '28
Second Team:
Bryce Snell '25, Patrick Ramage '25

Ryan Coyle '25 was named First Team All-State; Lucas Donahue '26, Lee Thomas '25, Thomas Huckleby '28 were named Second Team All-State; Elijah Guttman '25 was named Third Team All-State; and Leon Hall '27 was named Honorable Mention All-State.

BOYS GOLF

2nd in the Miami Valley Conference

Miami Valley Conference Awards

Ethan Argus '25 – Player of the Year
First Team:
Ethan Argus '25
Second Team:
Jacob Faulhaber '25
Boys Golf All Southwest District

Ethan Argus '25

Ethan Argus '25 was District Champion and earned 6th place at the OHSAA State Tournament.

BOYS SOCCER

Miami Valley Conference Awards

First Team:
Donovan Gray ’25, Gabe Benitez ’26

Second Team:
Ben Graff ’25, Nicholas Vredeveld ’25, Trey Blum ’26

Honorable Mention:
Nate Paumier ’25, Andrew McGivern ’27

Boys Soccer All Southwest District
Donovan Gray ’25, Gabe Benitez ’26

Donovan Gray ’25 was named All Ohio.

GIRLS SOCCER

Miami Valley Conference Awards

First Team:
Molly Klekamp ’25, Kenzie Zimmers ’25

Second Team:
Abby Falkingham ’25, Audrey de Alarcon ’27, Josie Hyden ’27

Honorable Mention:
Alessandra Garcia-Altuve ’25, Addie Sweeney ’25

Girls Soccer All Southwest District
Alyssa Easter ’26, Molly Klekamp ’25, Kenzie Zimmers ’25

Alyssa Easter ’26 was named All Ohio.

TENNIS

Miami Valley Conference Awards

Second Team:
Sarah Fu ’25, Caroline Connelly ’26, Katherine Connelly ’26, Reema Arebi ’27

Honorable Mention:
Ellie Texter ’26, Gertrude Lazarus ’27, Andrea Sgro Plaut ’27

Greater Cincinnati Tennis Coaches Association

Second Team:
Caroline Connelly ’26, Katherine Connelly ’26

Honorable Mention:
Reema Arebi ’27, Getrude Lazarus ’27, Andrea Sgro Plaut ’27

Caroline Connelly ’26 & Katherine Connelly ’26 received the GCTCA Sportsmanship Award.

VOLLEYBALL

Miami Valley Conference Awards

Second Team:
Ellie Albers ’27, Jordyn Brown ’28

Honorable Mention:
Jordan Lowe ’25, Kiera Yackey ’25

Catherine Monroe ’25 received the Dick Snyder Sportsmanship Award.

COACH OF THE YEAR: DENNIS COYLE’S WINNING FORMULA POWERS THE NIGHTHAWKS

Under the leadership of Dennis Coyle, who spends countless hours watching film, game planning, and preparing his team on a weekly basis, the Nighthawk football team won its fourth straight Miami Valley Conference (MVC) title this past season. Along with winning the conference title, Coach Coyle was named MVC Co-Coach of the Year, which makes this the fourth year in a row that he has won the award.

“Coach Coyle has done an incredible job rebuilding the football program,” says Greg Ross, associate athletic director for Upper School. “Working with him daily, I get to see firsthand what a wonderful family man he is and how much he cares about the wellbeing of all the kids on this campus. I am grateful for his leadership, and, more importantly, his friendship.”




COUNTRY DAY
CCDS
adidas
Titleist





Innovator and Leader:

AN ALUM'S PATH TO SUCCESS

René Peters '09 is Revolutionizing the Tech World with his Work in Virtual and Augmented Reality

By: Chelsey Combs, college intern

From the classrooms of Cincinnati Country Day School to the cutting-edge labs of NVIDIA, René Peters '09 is transforming the way we interact with technology. René came to Country Day in first grade after his mother, Tresonne Peters, became a teacher in the Lower School. Early on he knew that he had a passion for science, and it didn't take long for him to realize that engineering and chemistry were areas of study he wanted to learn more about. Then, as an Upper School student, he began pursuing classes that were aligned with his interests.

"The thought of creating and producing tangible items was always attractive to me," says René. "But through classes I took and summer programs I participated in, I came to understand that as far as scientific concepts, chemistry held some of my favorite knowledge."

At Country Day, René excelled not only in academics but also as a key player on the soccer team. One of René's fondest memories at Country Day is scoring the winning goal – the only goal – against Seven Hills his freshman year in the Miami Valley Conference championship match. "It was such an intense game and then when I scored that goal everyone in the stands cheered with hope that it had secured the win. And it did! It's a memory I will never forget."

In addition to his soccer success, René was a state-qualifying long jumper and sprinter on the track team, where he had many great times with Coach Howard Brownstein, Coach Merle Black, and Coach Steve Connor.

His dedication and talent in track led him to run at MIT, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. He then attended Northwestern University, earning a master's degree in business administration and a master's degree in design innovation.

René now works as a product manager for NVIDIA, a world leader in artificial intelligence computing. There



is no such thing as a "typical" day, but his day often involves meetings with stakeholders to discuss technology, product testing in the lab, and hosting clients, such as those from Hyundai or Kia, for immersive automotive virtual reality (VR) or augmented reality (AR) experiences at NVIDIA's headquarters.

René's dedication and leadership continue to shine brightly, inspiring others and making a lasting impact. In February 2024, the Puget Sound Business Journal honored him with the 40 Under 40 Award for his deep community ties and exceptional professional accomplishments. René has significantly advanced the use of technology by Seattle community organizations to support underserved communities. He has served on Seattle's Surveillance Advisory Working Group, the Community Technology Advisory Board, and the review board of the city's Technology Matching Fund.

"Being a recipient of this award is affirmation of the work I have been doing and how I use my knowledge, experience, and privileges to give back to people who may not know about technology or may not have access to it," says René. "I take the 40 Under 40 Award as a nod to keep going, to not let off the gas, and to continue to develop and be creative in how I seek opportunities to learn."

René credits his time at Country Day as heavily impacting his future in many ways, through the school's progressive laptop program, the inclusive community, and the ample leadership opportunities he was provided.

"From being a leader in Black Cultural Workshop to being a peer mentor and leading a class of freshmen in health class, there were always leadership opportunities available to me and that has played a big role in what I do today," says René. "AP Chemistry with Ms. [Paula] Butler was huge for me; I really enjoyed the labs and knowledge that I gained in that class. I think having the ability to not just study concepts but to be hands on makes all the difference. And Ms. Butler is the person who encouraged me to do one of the summer programs that ultimately changed my entire trajectory at MIT."

René exemplifies the spirit of innovation and leadership fostered at Cincinnati Country Day School. His journey from a curious student to a leading product manager at NVIDIA shows the power of passion, education, and perseverance. As René continues to push the boundaries of virtual, augmented, and extended reality, he remains a testament to the impact of a strong educational foundation and the endless possibilities that come with dedication and hard work.



René with his parents, René Peters Sr. and Tresonne Peters, at Seattle's 40 under 40 recognition ceremony.

"If students are interested in this world I live in – this world of technology – I encourage them not to get stuck on what technology looks like today because in the next 10 to 20 years things are going to shift, and breakthroughs are going to happen. Country Day has so many resources and I encourage the students to lean into those resources – whether they are teachers who could change the trajectory of your life or a class that sparks your curiosity and creativity."



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

Sitting Down with Malena Castro and Ann Wimmer to Talk About First Impressions, Dream Jobs, and What it Means to be a Pattison Award Recipient

First granted in 1989, the Lee S. Pattison Distinguished Teacher Award seeks to celebrate teachers who best embody all that Lee Pattison gave to the Country Day community. The award recipients are announced at the final faculty/staff meeting of the year and receive a $10,000 stipend over three years, and an additional $1,000 to spend on something that benefits the school.

The 2024 recipients of this award are Malena Castro and Ann Wimmer. Malena is in her 17th year of teaching Spanish at Country Day, while Ann is in her 18th year of teaching in the Lower School. Both women have been fierce advocates of knowing, nurturing, and inspiring the students that pass through their classrooms.

"As strong of an academic school as Country Day is and is expected to be, I think it's special here because the very first focus is on who each individual child is and how we can build upon their strengths by showcasing them in unique ways. We determine what challenges a student and build that up so it doesn't feel as challenging for them. We find ways for students to work together – even if that isn't easy for some children – by building it into everyday learning because it's more important to be a great human than a great mathematician. Those skills will come. And somehow at Country Day, it all comes together at a younger age than you would ever imagine. It's something I haven't seen anywhere else." – Ann Wimmer



What was your impression of Country Day when you arrived?

Ann Wimmer: I fell in love immediately. It felt like a family from Day 1. Even though teaching was new to me because I was a student teacher and I didn't know anything, everyone was so eager to help take me from where I was to where I needed to be. It's something we do with our students but also with our teachers: guide them to be the best version of themselves.

Malena Castro: I was very impressed with the whole environment. The teachers seemed professional, and the students were well-mannered and driven.

What is your impression of Country Day now?

AW: I feel lucky to have found this place and blessed to have my children here. I'm thankful for that every day: to work at a place I love where I learn something new every day and where my kids [Lucas '32, Landon '34, Addison '37] get to be a part of this incredible learning experience and community. There are so many kids who don't want to leave here at the end of the day – including my own – and that speaks volumes about the kind of place this is.

MC: I feel the same as I did when I first came here. The dress code was very strict when I came here and students couldn't leave their backpacks in the commons, so it's a bit more of a relaxed environment but there is still a very good relationship between the students and the teachers that is based on trust. And the parents here recognize the value of a second language and are really interested in their kids having that advantage. There is something you perceive from the moment you come to Country Day: The people who work here are recognized as people who have strong values with a big commitment to teaching and creating good citizens who are good leaders for the future. And after 16 years, it's an honor to be identified as part of a community like this.

If you could have any other job in the world, what would it be?

AW: I would still be teaching. Sometimes I think full-time mom would have been a good job for me but then I think, no, I need to be out of the house. I really can't imagine doing anything else other than teaching. Those are my two all-time favorite roles of my life: being a mom and being a teacher. And the fact that I get to do both in one setting is really phenomenal.

MC: Teaching already is a second career for me. My first was in clinical psychology. But I moved around a lot because of my ex-husband's career with P&G, so I put my career on hold. When I lived in Mexico, I went to a private school and took English, but it wasn't until 1990, when I married and moved to Cincinnati the first time, that I learned I didn't really know English. We moved around from there and I was amazed at how quickly my little boys went from speaking only Spanish to speaking Spanish, English, and French. In 2001, we moved back to Cincinnati permanently, and friends started asking me if I could help their kids with Spanish. After my divorce in 2008, I asked myself, 'What is my mission? Where is my place?' and that is when my second chapter started. Country Day is the place where, for the last 16 years, my second chapter has been written.

What did you want to be when you grew up?

AW: When I was young, I wanted to be a teacher, but by the time I was in high school I wanted to be a psychologist. Really anything EXCEPT a teacher; I had too many family members who were teachers. But then I did a practicum in a school setting, and I thought 'Maybe I am supposed to be a teacher' because I loved the classroom setting more than I loved anything else. So, I finished my degree and went right back to school to become a teacher.

MC: Two things were in my mind when I was little: I always knew I wanted to work with and have an impact on people, and that's probably why I chose a career in psychology. But, at the same time, education and schools were always in my life. My grandpa was the head of one of the most prestigious schools in our town [Merida, Yucatan], my father was a doctor but was also the head of the medical school at the University of Yucatan, my sister was an assistant upper school principal in Mexico and then became a school counselor when she moved to California, and my grandma and all her sisters were elementary school teachers. I was surrounded by academia my whole life. The idea of teaching was not foreign to me, it is almost like a family business.

This award seeks to celebrate teachers who best embody all that Lee Pattison gave, day in and day out: loyalty, creativity, humor, flexibility, and integrity. Which of these do you think best aligns with you and why?

AW: Loyalty. I'm learning how to balance work and home a little better, but I feel that I give more to our school than anything else in my life. It's because I'm grateful to be part of Country Day. It is a place that makes me WANT to be loyal. I am glad to give my time and my talents because I know they are appreciated and valued. Country Day provides me opportunities to grow as an educator, parent, and person, and I am happy to use what I have to offer to help build up our Country Day community in return. As I try to remind my students and my own children, we often feel the best when we help others, and I often feel the best when I am building up this community through teaching, building relationships, and sharing the good news about this amazing school.



"The world is getting smaller and there is an incredible value to knowing another language to make connections and collaborate with people from all over the world. And there is another value and it's one I see here at Country Day instilled in our students: a very strong appreciation of diversity. We are a community, and we want to be a community of diverse cultures and inclusion. You cannot pursue that goal from the perspective of only one language. 'Let's accept diversity but only in one language…let's talk about diversity but only in my language.' Even those students for whom learning a language is challenging will be aware that there are other perspectives, other ways to say things, and other traditions and family dynamics. Learning another language involves not only learning different words but learning another way to think about the world around them." – Malena Castro



MC: I would say humor and flexibility. Both are big parts of my character. My colleagues always joke, 'Here comes Malena with her Mexican humor!' I can laugh at everything by beginning to laugh at myself first. As for flexibility, that is part of my formation and my culture. When you grow up in a third-world country, things don't always work as expected, so you have to find your way around, learn to be creative, and go with the flow.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:

SARAH FU QUICKFIRES 10 QUESTIONS

1. **How long have you been a Country Day student?**
   I have been here for four years; I transferred here in ninth grade from Mason City Schools.

2. **What clubs or activities are you involved in?**
   I am a member of the Model UN Club and Art Club at the Upper School. I play tennis both for Country Day and outside of school.

3. **What is your favorite class this year?**
   I like all my classes, but if I had to choose one, it would be my comparative politics class with Mr. Scott. I enjoy analyzing different countries' governments and learning about their backgrounds.

4. **Has anything surprised you about your senior year?**
   It has been mostly what I expected, but with more challenging classes. One thing that did surprise me was how long the tennis matches were this year; they seemed much longer than in previous years.

5. **Are you in any leadership roles this year?**
   I am a co-captain for the tennis team, and I am also a co-leader in both Model UN and Art Club. There are many leadership opportunities for students because of the numerous clubs and the ease of starting new ones. There are plenty of activities to choose from during and outside the school year.

6. **Do you have a favorite spot on campus where you like to hang out?**
   I really like the library and the art room; I spend a lot of time in both places. I also hang out in the senior pit, mainly because it has the best snacks.

7. **Tell me about an accomplishment you have had at CCDS.**
   I have learned more about myself in the four years I've been here and what interests me the most. My biggest accomplishment is learning how to find a balance between work and life, something I wasn't always great at.

8. **What is a hobby you enjoy outside of school?**
   I enjoy reading and writing in my free time. I don't write for any specific purpose, mostly just for myself. When it comes to books, I will read just about anything, but I prefer high fantasy books such as *The Lord of the Rings* or any book written by J.R.R. Tolkien.

9. **Graduation is around the corner. What are your plans?**
   I want to go into business and then, beyond that, I would like my role to be practical and something I enjoy doing. I've applied to several colleges and have a favorite in mind, but I'd rather not share which one until I start hearing back from them. I don't want to jinx it!

10. **Do you have any advice for younger Country Day students?**
    There are so many opportunities to try new things at Country Day, and the school really makes it easily accessible to try new things. I would tell them to try as many clubs, sports, and activities as they can because it may spark interests they didn't know they had. Even if they learn that they don't like something, I think that's just as important as learning what you do like.

VIRTUE *in Action*

At Country Day, we believe it is important to develop leaders who act in service to others. This past summer and semester, we saw this every day throughout our community and on our campus, in both big and small ways.



Students volunteered for over 1,400 hours at Stepping Stones, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping people with disabilities find pathways to independence, with Shayon Choudhury '25 volunteering more than any other student with 140 hours this summer!



The sixth-grade class raised $8,340 by participating in the Breakthrough T1D Walk to help find a cure for type one diabetes.

During CCDSummer camps, our boys basketball team volunteered as camp counselors for youth basketball.





During the annual All-School Food Gathering and Turkey Train, Upper School students donated 2,571 cans of food, Middle School students donated 107 turkeys, and our Lower School students decorated and filled snack bags for children staying at Ronald McDonald House and under the care of doctors at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. They collected over 700 snack items to fill those bags!



On Make A Difference Day and Community Service Day, our Middle School and Upper School students led by example by spending time bettering the world around them and contributing to the missions of 18 organizations across the city and on our campus.

These are just some of the recent highlights of the extensive service performed by CCDS students. Way to make a difference, Nighthawks. The spirit of virtue in action has never been stronger!



Mariah Shaw '30 doing coloring activities with elementary students at Oyler School as part of the Middle School's Make A Difference Day.



Throughout the school year, Upper School students arrive to campus early to make sandwiches for Our Daily Bread Ministries.



Upper School students helped clean up and beautify Eden Park.



Fifth graders made blankets for the Cincinnati homeless community. They were then dropped off at Saint Francis Seraph Soup Kitchen in OTR.

To brighten the day of the long-term residents at the Marjorie P. Lee Nursing Home, fifth grade students made placemats.





Jeanette Hecker's advisory, also known as Hecker's Heroes, spent time at New Life Furniture Bank organizing donations and moving furniture.



Upper School students packed meals for the Lesotho Nutrition Initiative, a nonprofit organization that helps combat childhood malnutrition in Lesotho, Africa.



Middle School students paused to show off one of the many turkeys that the donated during this year's Turkey Train.

During the 20th anniversary of the Wrap-In at Country Day, a record-breaking 1,133 gifts were wrapped by our students. Gifts were donated to ProKids and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati.





Olivia Ims '28, Rokhaya Thomas '25, and Donovan Gray '25 spent part of their summer volunteering at Stepping Stones.

Lower School students worked together to carry the many boxes of donated food that was collected during the All-School Food Gathering.





Lower School students display their snack bag designs for the kids at the Ronald McDonald House.

Two Country Day Grads Make the 2025 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 List



Michael Barton '13 and Alexandra Pohl '19 (known professionally as "Xandra") have both been named to the 2025 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list. This prestigious list showcases and celebrates the achievements of talented industry leaders under the age of 30.

Michael, who is listed in the finance category, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and is currently a sector head at Coatue Management in New York City.

"How exciting for Michael to make this list; it's a huge accomplishment," says Dr. Jeanette Hecker, world languages teacher. "He was always an enthusiastic student with a lot of personality. He was engaged in the classroom and was a good student across the board. From an early age he was interested in leadership roles, which was reflected in his service as student body president his senior year. He was always driven to succeed."

Faculty member Greg Faulhaber shares that sentiment.

"If he knew what he wanted, he went after it. If he had an idea, he ran with it. He was not afraid to take risks," says Faulhaber, who also coached Michael in golf his senior year. "He was a strong player and was on a golf team that qualified for the state tournament. He was always OK stepping outside of his comfort zone for the sake of growth. Knowing Michael's drive, I'm not surprised he's on this list."

Xandra , a "self-taught house DJ" who made her Lollapalooza debut this past August, is listed in the music category. According to *Forbes*, she has sold out nightclubs across the country and "has been seen jogging wheels on the DJ controller at the F1 Miami Grand Prix, the 2023 Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Runway Show at Miami Swim Week (where she also walked the runway), and Spotify's Women in Music Event during Miami Music Week. She's shared stages with the likes of The Chainsmokers, Calvis Harris and Kygo."

"As one of nine seniors on the school's first-ever female state championship soccer team in 2018, she was a leader in her own right," says Theresa "Hirsch" Hirschauer, head of Middle School and girls head soccer coach. "She brought a lot of spirit to the team. She was not only a tenacious defender but also a dedicated teammate."

According to *Forbes*, to source candidates for the list the *Forbes* writers and editors comb through thousands of online submissions, as well as tap industry sources and list alumni for recommendations. Candidates are evaluated by *Forbes* staff and a panel of independent, expert judges on a variety of factors, including (but not limited to) funding, revenue, social impact, scale, inventiveness and potential.

Other categories include AI, education, media, Hollywood & entertainment, marketing & advertising, healthcare, games, arts & style, retail & commerce, venture capital, science, social impact, energy & green tech, transportation & mobility, food & drink, and manufacturing & industry.

Scan here to read the article about Xandra from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*

Scan here to read the article about Michael from the *Cincinnati Enquirer*



100 CENTENNIAL SPOTLIGHT

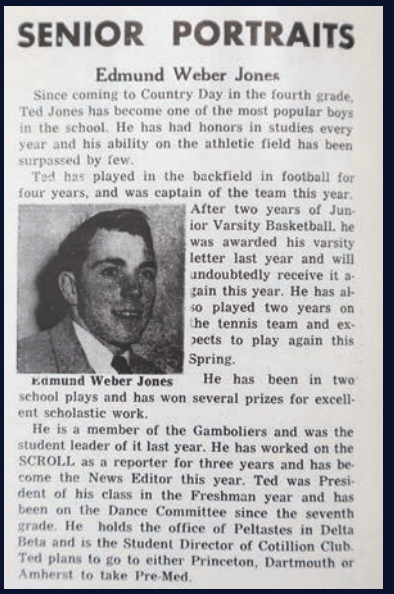
TED JONES '53

In the summer of 1944, Dr. Edmund W. "Ted" Jones '53 came home from summer camp to a new house in a new city – Cincinnati, where his father had founded a company and to which his father had previously been commuting from Dayton, Ohio. Ted initially attended Terrace Park Elementary, as it was the closest school to his family's home on Drury Farm Lane. "I was in heaven to come home from camp and have a swimming pool…. But I came home from school every night and I wasn't happy – I didn't like school, and my friends were back in Oakwood [Dayton]." But luck was on Ted's side. "Two weeks after starting school, there was a knock on the front door, and I didn't know who this person was. And he said, 'My name is Ronald Dixon and I'm the new headmaster at Cincinnati Country Day School and I understand you have a son.' I was behind a curtain saying, 'Yes! Here's my chance!' My parents said they would discuss it, but they didn't have to think about it too long. School was starting; it opened up and who should I meet but all my best friends, well, my soon-to-be best friends."

Upon graduating from Country Day, Ted Jones '53 attended Princeton University on the recommendation of his older sister, who attended Smith College. "I never went there to look at [Princeton] ahead of time, but four of us from the Class of 1953 attended together, became roommates, and joined the eating club because fraternities were outlawed at Princeton in 1912."

Ted's piece of advice to current Country Day students? "You're damn lucky to be there."

Ted Jones' senior portrait from the February 2, 1953, edition of *The Scroll*, which also included columns about:



SENIOR PORTRAITS

Edmund Weber Jones

Since coming to Country Day in the fourth grade, Ted Jones has become one of the most popular boys in the school. He has had honors in studies every year and his ability on the athletic field has been surpassed by few.

Ted has played in the backfield in football for four years, and was captain of the team this year. After two years of Junior Varsity Basketball, he was awarded his varsity letter last year and will undoubtedly receive it again this year. He has also played two years on the tennis team and expects to play again this Spring.

Edmund Weber Jones

He has been in two school plays and has won several prizes for excellent scholastic work.

He is a member of the Gamboliers and was the student leader of it last year. He has worked on the SCROLL as a reporter for three years and has become the News Editor this year. Ted was President of his class in the Freshman year and has been on the Dance Committee since the seventh grade. He holds the office of Peltastes in Delta Beta and is the Student Director of Cotillion Club. Ted plans to go to either Princeton, Dartmouth or Amherst to take Pre-Med.

- The development of *The Scroll* throughout its 23-year history (fun fact: it was first called *The Sixth Form Journal* and was mimeographed on typewriter-sized paper and issued once a week).
- The upcoming Basketball Carnival and raffle, which would include a feature game matching varsity and alumni squads against each other, with proceeds benefitting the athletic fund.
- College approaching, including some "questions asked on personal rating blanks of candidates for entrance to college" such as "Is he careless or slovenly about his appearance?" and "Is he the kind of person you yourself would welcome as a classmate?" and "How does he rate in regard to punctuality? Reliability? Sincerity? Neatness? Use of English?"
- High school drivers becoming "one of the biggest problems facing us today. Teenagers have caused more accidents than any other group of drivers."
- Faculty plans to enlarge and reshuffle the curriculum, with proposals to move first-year French from tenth to ninth grade, offer a general science course at the ninth-grade level instead of the eighth, and start Latin in seventh grade which would allow the student to complete second-year Latin by the end of freshman year.



Ted was cast as Lachlen McLaughlin in the school's 1953 production of *The Hasty Heart*.

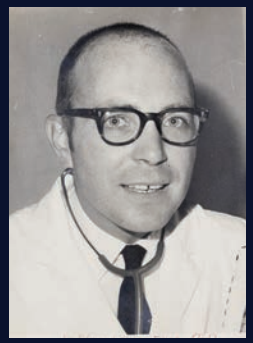




With 15 graduating members, the Class of 1953 was the largest in the school's history at the time. In 2023, the class gathered in Broadwell House to celebrate its 70th reunion during Homecoming Weekend.



The football team finished 5-2 in the 1951-52 school year.



In November 1971, Dr. Ted Jones was the youngest member of the attending staff at Christ Hospital. He was also the first person to perform surgery at Bethesda North Hospital after it opened its doors in Montgomery in 1970. "I always wanted to be a surgeon. Back in the 40s and 50s, you had these stubs for your gasoline and Jimmy Miller lived in Glendale so he stayed the night sometimes on the weekends…. one weekend my mom said we were having chicken so she asked me to go outside and get a chicken. I went out and chopped the head off the chicken and it's flapping its wings without a head and there's blood everywhere and Jimmy said, 'You know, you should be a surgeon!' and that was it. I was 13."



"I started the Gamboliers with Dick Arms [assistant headmaster and English teacher], who went to Amherst and knew all the Ivy League songs." In September 1952, the school's glee club started its third year with 34 singers. During its first year of existence, the club consisted of 14 boys. The club sang at events such as the Football Banquet, the Mothers' Luncheon, and the Fathers' and Son's Day Dinner.



Ted said that he helped recruit Country Day's first squad of cheerleaders for the fall of 1952… a task he said he was well positioned to take on because he was friends with most of them.



THE NIGHTHAWK CHOIR PERFORMS AT CCM'S FEAST OF CAROLS

The Upper School Nighthawk Choir was one of three area high school choirs invited to participate in the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music's Feast of Carols. Led by the unparalleled Greg Miller, director of choirs and conductor, the choir delivered a beautifully joyful performance. This year, 120 students in grades 5-12 are participating in Country Day's choir program.

THE CLASS OF 2029 VISITS D.C.

The 8th grade class experienced their textbooks coming to life by exploring iconic monuments and diving into the rich history in museums throughout Washington, D.C., a life-changing trip and tradition here at Country Day.





Celebrating Excellence:

NANCY BERGSTEN WINS 2024 STAFF RECOGNITION AWARD

How Nancy Makes a Lasting Impact at Country Day Every Day

Nancy Bergsten, admission coordinator and administrative assistant, was the recipient of the 2024 Staff Recognition Award for her distinguished service to the school community.

"Nancy is the consummate professional," says Aaron Kellenberger, director of enrollment management. "Not only is she dedicated to her enrollment duties within the Admission Office, but she is dedicated to the greater good of Country Day through her outreach among and across our various offices, departments, and the entire institution."

The Staff Recognition Award honors full- or part-time staff members for outstanding workplace achievements that contribute to the school's excellence. The head of school and the cabinet team review submissions to select one award recipient each year. An individual may win the award only once during his or her CCDS tenure.



The 2024-25 school year marks Nancy's eighth year at Country Day, where she has worked with the Admission Office since the beginning. Nancy has a lot of responsibilities – she reviews new student applications and communicates with those families by providing them informational packets about Country Day, sends out contracts for new and re-enrolling students, and keeps the applicant database updated and organized. That last responsibility is no easy task, especially with the recent transition to Veracross, the school's new data management platform.

"I find my job very challenging, in a good way," says Nancy. "As we have moved our data over to Veracross, I have had to learn how the system works and share that information with our team. And with my background in information technology, I have enjoyed the challenge of overhauling and learning a new system. I am never bored."

Aaron knows how valuable Nancy's previous experience has been to the Admission Office and Country Day.

"Nancy has modernized our admission process with her technology background and is an even greater asset to the larger community," says Aaron. "She has been the point person for everything Veracross at Country Day and has either assisted in developing or has fully developed processes, procedures, and best practices for admission, re-enrollment/financial aid, summer programs, student accounts, portals, calendars, and general database operations."

And while Nancy never feels bored with the challenges she gets to tackle in her role, she also enjoys working with in the Admission Office each day.

"We very much are all part of the same team," says Nancy. "Everybody has autonomy to get their job done, but it still feels very collaborative – we are very flexible and supportive of one another when it comes to working together and helping each other out."

Nancy continues, "I am working with people who know and understand the school because many of them have been here for many years and either are or have been parents or teachers at Country Day. Everyone is very invested in the success of the school."

Her team members share the same enthusiasm for working with her as she has for working with them.

"Nancy epitomizes the qualities of a natural leader and a dedicated team player," says Alyssa Witte, all-school receptionist and administrative assistant. "Each day, she empowers those around her, encouraging us to learn and grow in our respective roles. I have personally benefited from her guidance, and I know that many others have experienced the same. She personifies CCDS character virtues."

When Nancy first found out she won the Staff Recognition Award, she was a little shy about it because she is "not someone who looks for attention." But after soaking in the news, she was proud to receive the award.

"I like to help people understand things, so I feel this award is a reflection of me being able to accomplish that," says Nancy. "It is nice to know that the people I work with feel that I contribute so much to the overall good of the school. This job has been very enjoyable. When I look back on my career, I have no doubt that working at Country Day will go down as my favorite place to have worked."



RECOGNIZING THREE REMARKABLE COUNTRY DAY ALUMNI

William H. Hopple III ’71 Received the Virtue in Action Award, and Maya Amoils ’08 and Scott L. Kafker ’77 Received the Distinguished Alumni Award



Pictured (from left to right): William H. Hopple III ’71, Scott L. Kafker ’77, Dr. Sandra Amoils, Dr. Steve Amoils, Head of School Rob Zimmerman ’98

On the Saturday morning of Homecoming Weekend, a record-breaking crowd gathered for the annual alumni breakfast in the school’s Dining Terrace to welcome the Class of 1974 into the Virtue in Action Society and to celebrate the 2024 recipients of the school’s major alumni awards.

William H. Hopple III ’71 received the Virtue in Action Award for his commitment to service, and Maya Amoils ’08 (posthumously) and the Honorable Scott L. Kafker ’77 received the Distinguished Alumni Award for their outstanding achievements.

“If asked what constitutes the enduring identity of Country Day over the years, one could hardly do better than to point to the remarkable example of our three honorees today,” said Rob Zimmerman ’98, head of school, during the alumni breakfast. “Though their graduating classes span nearly 40 years, our honorees’ stories constitute important contributions to the ineffable yet indelible culture of Country Day.”

The celebration highlighted the extraordinary nature of Cincinnati Country Day School and its alumni community.

“Country Day is still Country Day because of the shared stories and memories that bind us together, strong in our devotion to our shared alma mater,” continued Rob. “While the people, programs, and places of Country Day will continue to change in the years to come, the culture and tradition of excellence will endure thanks to our shared stewardship.”

EXEMPLIFYING VIRTUE IN ACTION

The Virtue in Action Award recognizes a member of the Virtue in Action Society – those alumni who are celebrating their fiftieth reunion year or more – for their dedication, attitude, and motivation expressed through volunteer service to the community. Recipients of this award demonstrate the school's motto "Virtue in Action."

William "Bill" H. Hopple III '71 has devoted most of his life to service, leading many organizations in Cincinnati and beyond. He has been an integral part of the Country Day community for over 65 years. From his first day as a student in the nursery program in 1957, Bill has worn many Country Day hats: student, alumnus, teacher, coach, staff member, parent, and volunteer.

"Bill has devoted his entire life to improving the world by leading wherever he stands," said Rob. "He is a sterling exemplar of our motto, and we hope his, 'Virtue in Action.'"

A graduate of Cornell University with a master's degree in biology from the University of Cincinnati, Bill returned to Country Day as a science teacher in 1981. Bill soon added coaching to his responsibilities, becoming head coach of the school's new rowing team in 1982. In 1987, Bill joined the school's development office; in 1988, he became the school's director of development and for the next eight years led Country Day's fundraising and alumni engagement efforts.
In 1996, Bill returned to his science roots and devoted the rest of his career to his love of the natural world at the Cincinnati Nature Center, serving as the executive director for 23 years. Since retiring in 2019, Bill has continued to share his leadership and passions with the community and currently serves as board president of the Cardinal Land Conservancy in southwestern Ohio and as development and communications chair on the board of the Roger Tory Institute in New York.

"I cannot thank or applaud the school enough for understanding the importance of connecting us to the natural world," said Bill, after referencing the school's long-time commitment to outdoor education. "It's so important for children to have frequent experiences in the natural world and Country Day made that happen for me, as it does for so many others to this day. Country Day played a critical role in my life and that continues today."

HONORING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Distinguished Alumni are honored in recognition of their contributions to the school, their contributions to the community, or their professional achievement.

The Honorable Scott L. Kafker '77 has been an associate justice on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court since 2017. Before his appointment to the state's highest court, Scott served for 15 years on the Massachusetts Appeals Court, holding the important role of chief justice during his last two years.
"Justice Kafker has achieved nearly everything possible in his field," said Rob. "And in many respects, this was a mere extension of his outstanding Country Day career.... We congratulate Scott on his outstanding achievements in life and law, and we are grateful to be able to tell his story in service of our enduring legacy of excellence."

Scott graduated from Amherst College in 1981 and from the University of Chicago Law School in 1985, where he was on the Law Review. After law school, he served as a law clerk to Justice Charles L. Levin of the Michigan Supreme Court, then as a law clerk to Judge Mark L. Wolf of the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. In 1987, he joined the Boston law firm of Foley, Hoag & Eliot. From 1991 to 1993, Scott was deputy chief legal counsel to Massachusetts Governor William F. Weld. In 1993, he was named chief legal counsel for the Massachusetts Port Authority.

In 2001, Scott ascended to the bench with his appointment to the Massachusetts Appeals Court. Scott taught state constitutional law at Boston College Law School from 2009 to 2015. He has also served on the Visiting Committee of the University of Chicago Law School. He is the author of book reviews, comments, and articles appearing in many law reviews and journals. He is the president and dean of the Flaschner Judicial Institute, which seeks to advance the administration of justice in Massachusetts by promoting the highest possible standards of judicial professionalism. He is also a member of the American Law Institute, a group devoted to producing scholarly works clarifying and modernizing the law.
"Country Day is a place that really shaped us – me and my brother Roger – tremendously," said Scott. "We carry Country Day values with us to this day. It's hard to find anything like Country Day out there; you can't help but appreciate how special this place is."

Maya Amoils '08 lived her life to the fullest, with grace and poise, until she succumbed to ovarian cancer in 2022 at the age of 32. Maya's award was given posthumously and accepted by her parents, Drs. Sandra and Steve Amoils.

"We are enormously gratefully to have had Maya in our world, to say nothing of the Country Day community that could scarcely contain her," said Rob. "So it is with profound gratitude, and certainly some sadness for the early passing of such a dynamic force, that we name Maya Amoils a Distinguished Alumna for 2024."

With the help of several friends, Maya founded an organization in 7th grade called H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Endure) to help impoverished orphaned children in a remote, rural area in South Africa, where she had witnessed the poverty firsthand.

"She dreamed she could change the world, and she made us believe that we could do," said Ellyn Guttman '08, one of three close friends who honored Maya at the alumni breakfast. "H.O.P.E. was just the beginning of a life dedicated to service and leadership.... Maya truly exemplified Country Day's core values and made impactful change."



Over their high school years and beyond, Maya and her friends raised over $3 million through H.O.P.E. and repeatedly traveled to South Africa, where they helped transform the lives of the people in the village of Langkloof. These funds helped to bring water and electricity and ablution facilities, build a preschool and community center, a kitchen and dining hall, a playground, and vegetable tunnels with an irrigation system, add computers and a library to the high school, and make other improvements that gave the community the tools and knowledge to be self-sustaining, including the ability to feed up to 200 children twice daily for over 20 years and counting. President Bill Clinton was so impressed by the work of Maya and her friends that he highlighted H.O.P.E. in his 2007 book on philanthropy, *Giving*, as "a model for young people in every community who are interested in helping others around the world."

Maya earned her bachelor's degree in science, technology, and society from Stanford University in 2012 and began her professional life at Google Philanthropy, where she worked to inspire girls and young women to embrace computer programming. From Google, Maya moved to YouTube, where she created productions with David Blaine, Will Smith, Madonna, and Elton John (to name just a few!). During the Covid pandemic and while on chemotherapy, Maya was instrumental in creating the health partnerships team at YouTube. During her career, Maya was known as an inspirational powerhouse, always goading her colleagues to greater heights.

"Maya had such clarity in her purpose," said Amanda Cohen Zessin '08. "No matter her role, she led humbly with grace and vision, constantly inspiring those around her."

Maya's commitment to helping others defined her short life and continues today in Maya's Way, an organization formed at Maya's request by her family to help young people struggling with cancer.

"Maya's impact on us all is immeasurable," said Jordan Baird '08. "While we miss her dearly, we take comfort in knowing that her spirit lives on in every act of kindness, every moment of joy, and every life she touched."



CLASS NOTES

1969

Dan Hoffheimer ’69
Dan Hoffheimer has been appointed to the board of trustees of ClassAct Harvard-Radcliffe1973, an independent charitable organization established by his college class. To date, ClassAct73 has launched numerous initiatives in the areas of justice and civic engagement, environment and climate change, healthcare, and education, harnessing the intellectual resources and passions of his college class and other Harvard alumni. Participants have included classmates E.J. Dionne, Bill Kristol, Al Franken, and Danielle Allen, among many others. Prominent among ClassAct73’s accomplishments is the creation of the Benazir Bhutto Leadership Program, named for the classmate who was the first woman prime minister of a Muslim country (Pakistan). This program sponsors students primarily from Muslim countries to study as Fellows at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. Graduate Fellows are encouraged to use their learning to improve their own countries as did Prime Minister Bhutto. Onward, Dan!

1981



Carole Crawford ’81
Carole, who is the global board chair of 100 Women in Finance, founder of fincap360, and a past managing director for the Chartered Financial Analyst Institute, has been named by Forbes magazine to its “50 over 50 (Investment)” list for 2024. Congratulations, Carole – this is quite an accomplishment!

1982



Angelique Seremetis Chengelis ’82
Angelique has been receiving a lot of attention recently for her work as a sportswriter. Angelique, who began her career with the *Knoxville Journal* in 1987, has been with the *Detroit News* since 1990 and has primarily covered University of Michigan football since 1992. In 2022, Angelique was inducted into the University of Cincinnati Journalism Hall of Fame and became the first female reporter inducted into the Michigan Stadium Media Hall of Fame. In 2023, Angelique was named co-winner of the Beat Writer of the Year Award given by the Football Writers Association of America. This fall, Angelique published her third book on the University of Michigan’s football program, *Michigan vs. Everybody* (the story of Michigan’s 2023 national championship season). To read more about Angelique, check out the story on page 21 . Congratulations, Angelique!

1983

Stephen Fogelson ’83
Stephen was installed as Worshipful Master of his Masonic Lodge (Harmony Lodge No. 38 F&AM) in Hillsboro, New Hampshire, last spring. As master of the lodge, Stephen is responsible for overseeing the full range of lodge activities – “from running the business meetings to deciding where the pool table should be placed,” as Stephen puts it. Stephen would love to hear from other alumni who are Masons.



1998

J.R. Foster ’98 & David Hornberger ’98
J.R. and David are in the news! The company they founded and run, the Robert Louis Group, has been named the 2024 winner of the Pacesetter Award by the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber’s Minority Business Accelerator. Foster and Hornberger started RLG in the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis and have grown it into a full-service corporate real-estate brokerage, financing, and property management firm based in Cincinnati but with operations nationwide. RLG was given the Pacesetter Award for its outstanding year-over-year revenue growth and its promising forecast for revenue growth in the year ahead. Congratulations, J.R. and David!



2000

Elizabeth Tuke Dake ’00
Elizabeth and her husband Bobby Dake of West Palm Beach, Florida, welcomed daughter Cornelia Hatfield Dake on May 28. Older siblings Mac and Clementine love their new baby sister “Coco”! Congratulations to Elizabeth and her family.

2001

Wes '01 and Erin Hamilton welcomed baby girl Eleanor in August. We hope all are sleeping well!

2005



Sally (Dwyer) Hernandez '05
Sally and her husband Javier welcomed their fourth child, Rosie Marie Hernandez, on October 8. Gracie, Abbi, and Ollie are all delighted with the new addition to the family!

2006

Robert Shively '06
Rob and Michelle Shively welcomed Robert M. Shively Jr. to their family on October 17. Penelope Shively '41 is already planning all sorts of adventures for her baby brother! Best wishes and all happiness to Rob and Michelle and their family.



2008

Louis Moore '08
Louis, who earned his PhD in clinical psychology at Bowling Green State University, is practicing in Portland, Oregon. Louis's practice focuses on treating anxiety and OCD disorders. Louis, who was recently engaged to Stephanie Pershing, maintains close contact with Daniel Allen '08, David Pierce '08, and Brad Buechner '08.



2009

The Class of 2009 15-Year Reunion
The Class of 2009 held its 15th reunion at Placebo in Cincinnati's Madisonville neighborhood on Friday, November 29. Many stories were retold and memories recounted, many life updates were shared, and a good time was had by all! Many thanks to Carly Knue and Molly McCartney for organizing the reunion!

2010

Tonya Grieb '10



Tonya wed Kyle Mecca on August 11 in Springboro, Ohio. CCDS alums attending included Sally D. Hernandez '05 (sister), Alex Lento '10, Alyssa Magarian '10, Charlie Schreiber '10, and Liza Cohen '10. Also attending was Courtney Michalek, a member of the Class of 2010 who left Country Day after freshman year. Tonya is a psychologist and Kyle is an engineer in the solar industry. The couple live in Arvada, Colorado, outside of Denver. All happiness to Tonya and Kyle!



2007

Scott Shad '07
Scott married Alix Benear in Oklahoma City in September 2023. The couple live in Denver, Colorado, and recently welcomed their son, Henry James Shad, who was born on August 13. Scott is an associate director at S&P Global where he serves as a credit analyst covering the states, transportation, and local governments sectors for municipal debt issuers. Alix is a senior director of sales at Kate Farms, a plant-based medical formula company. She manages a sales team covering the western U.S. Outside of work, Scott and Alix enjoy cooking, skiing, hiking, and traveling – and now, parenting! Congratulations!



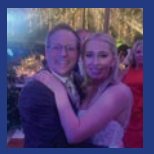
2011

The Class of 2011 Mini Reunion at Bengals-Chargers Game
A solid contingent from the Class of 2011 celebrated their friendships and enjoyed a reunion in Los Angelas in mid-November. Smiles and laughter predominated, despite the Bengals' disappointing 34-27 loss to the Chargers after wasting a 21-point second-half rally to tie the game.





Jamie Huelskamp '11
Jamie and her husband, Chad Wood, who married in May 2023, just moved into a new house in Wilmington, Delaware. Jamie and Chad are both lawyers – they met on their first day of law school at George Washington in Washington, D.C.! Jamie is an associate counsel for WSFS Bank, and she describes her work as a mix of lawyerly and operational tasks. Chad is a corporate litigation associate at Potter Anderson & Corroon. Jamie says they are both enjoying their work, though it keeps them busy!



Cody Pomeranz '11
Cody married Tori Kutzner on September 28 at Stonegate Farm, the Pomeranz family's horse farm outside of Lexington, Kentucky. Hurricane Helene brought rain to the weekend's events but could not dampen the weekend's spirits! Friends and family, including many Country Day alumni and parents, gathered from across the country to celebrate Cody and Tori's wedding. The Country Day contingent included Ari Knue Hanson '12, Mike Hanson '12, Carly Knue '09, Zach Knue '07, Mark and Ellen Knue (parents of Zach, Carly, and Ari), Rob Pierce '11, Baldur Tangvald '11, Jamie Huelskamp '11, Alexis Victor '11, Peter '80 and Brynn Fossett, and Rodney '71 and Vallie Geier. Cody and Tori live in Los Angeles with their dog Burrow, where Cody pursues his not-unrelated passions of speech writing and stand-up comedy and where Tori practices law.

Baldur Tangvald '11
Baldur and his wife Colleen welcomed daughter Freya Morrigan Tangvald on March 8. The Tangvalds live in Bothell, Washington, where both Baldur and Colleen develop video games. Congratulations!



Left to right: Peter Fossett '80, Rob Pierce '11, Baldur Tangvald '11, Cody Pomeranz '11, Tori Kutzner Pomeranz, Jamie Huelskamp '11, Alexis Victor '11

2012



Reeve Hoover ’12 and Ricci (Snell) Hoover ’12
Reeve and Ricci welcomed their second child, Charlotte, in early August. Evelyn ’40 is delighted to have a little sister! Congratulations, Reeve and Ricci!



Katie (Leonard) Slovacek ’12
Katie and her husband Steven welcomed their third child, Henry Adam Slovacek, on September 15. Sister Hailey ’32 and brother Max ’41 are delighted with the new addition. All happiness to the Slovacek family!

Anisa Tatini ’12
Anisa, who graduated from medical school in 2018 and focused her post-graduate training on pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation – a specialty designed to care for children with childhood-onset disability and to optimize function throughout life – has recently joined the faculty at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital, begun her attending job where she is concentrating on early diagnosis of cerebral palsy and comprehensive cerebral palsy care, and become a board-certified pediatric physiatrist. Anisa and her husband, Allen Liew – a medical school classmate and a primary care physician in Cincinnati – live less than 10 minutes from CCDS!

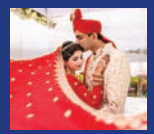
2013

Sam Hall ’13
Sam married Morgan Brewton-Johnson on October 11 in Boston. The couple will reside in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Sam is in his second year of business school at MIT where he and some classmates have started GrowthFactor, an AI engine that helps business owners find the optimal location for their business. Morgan, who earned her MBA from Harvard in 2023, works for Bain Capital. Sam and Morgan met while undergraduates at Princeton. CCDS 2013 classmates helping Sam and Morgan celebrate their big day included Jack Willingham, Luke Hall, and Cassidy (Sachs) Masters.



Shashank Jejurikar ’13
Shashank married Alyssa Marino in two ceremonies in May and June of 2024: a Catholic ceremony May 4 at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City and an Indian ceremony June 1 at Dana Point, California. The couple will reside in Washington, D.C., where Shashank is a fellow for The Cohen Group, advising multinational clients in global business development, market entry, and regulatory affairs. Alyssa is finishing her graduate work in speech therapy at Lehman College in New York City and will commute between D.C. and NYC as she wraps up her program. All happiness to Shashank and Alyssa!





2014

The Class of 2014 10-year Reunion
The Class of 2014 gathered at Somerset Bar in Cincinnati’s Over the Rhine neighborhood on Friday, November 29 to celebrate its 10th year reunion. Many stories were retold and memories recounted, many life updates were shared – and one baby was introduced! A good time was had by all. Many thanks to Hannah Gottschalk, Austin Harden, and Anand Mehta for organizing the get together!



Front row (L to R): Victoria Paff, Annie Mullee, Matt Valido, Austin Harden, Jessica Harden (Hall), Jason Cox; back row (L to R): Blake Thomas, Brian McSwiggin, Anand Mehta, Kit Thomas, Lucas Mairal-Cruz , (you), Hanna Gottschalk, Brooks Warner, Emma Honeymeyer; not pictured: Lauren (Wiley) Seymour, Annalise (Tereck) Webb, Sonia Bhati



Jessica (Hall) Harden ’14 and Austin Harden ’14
Jess and Austin welcomed their first child, daughter Blake, on September 10. Jess, Austen, and Blake, who currently make their home in Charlotte, North Carolina, will soon be moving with Blake back to Cincinnati. We hope you are all getting some sleep!

Omar Mustafa ’14
Omar married Sally Esam in May 2023. They live in the Orlando, Florida area, where Omar is a lead data analyst.2017. The happy couple will reside in Boston, Massachusetts.

Cassidy Sachs ’13
Cassidy married Alex Masters in the story-book setting of Fotheringhay, England, on June 22. Many CCDS alums helped Cassidy and Alex celebrate: Sam Hall, Luke Hall, Jack Willingham, Michael Barton, Sally Portman, Julia Murphy, Sarah Mae Selnick, Olivia June, Isabelle McAlevey, and Sam Fossett – all the Class of 2013; Isabelle Hannan Hudson 2015; and Charlie Sachs 2017. The happy couple will reside in Boston, Massachusetts.



Front row, L to R: Michael Barton ’13, Sarah Mae Selnick ’13, Isabelle McAlevey ’13, Cassidy Sachs Masters ’13, Sally Portman ’13, Charlie Sachs ’17, Isabelle Hannan Hudson ’15. Back row, L to R: Julia Murphy ’13, Olivia June ’13, Luke Hall ’13, Sam Fossett ’13, Jack Willingham ’13, Sam Hall ’13.

Lucy Patterson ’14
After teaching English in Germany for several years, Lucy returned to the U.S. and earned her master’s degree in comparative and international education from Columbia University’s Teachers College in May 2023. She is currently with the Education Department of the Goethe-Institut in New York, where she supports German language teachers and students in the mid-Atlantic region of the United States. Among her accomplishments to date is designing and managing a professional development series for teachers aimed at fostering civic engagement of students through the teaching of the German language. Keep up the good work, Lucy!

Casey Pfister ’14
Casey married Dalys Binder on October 19. The couple met at Trinity University in 2017. Sterling Snell ’19 officiated, and Morgan (Pfister) Snell ’19 was the matron of honor. Other CCDS alums helping Casey and Dalys celebrate their big day included Emma Hoenemeyer ’14, Annalise (Tereck) Webb ’14, Lauren (Wiley) Seymour ’14, and Sofia DiFrancesco ’14. Casey and Dalys live in Tucson, Arizona





2014



Luke Stacy ’14
Luke and his wife Kayla welcomed baby Bowman (“Bo”) William Stacy on August 30. Luke and Kayla live near Nashville, Tennessee. Luke is the executive director of TeleConnected Medicine. All happiness to the family!



Lauren Wiley ’14
Lauren married Justin Seymour on September 28 in LaPorte, Indiana. Several friends of Lauren’s from the Class of 2014 were on hand to help celebrate: Casey (Pfister) Binder, Annalise (Tereck) Webb, and Emma Hoenemeyer. Lauren and Justin met when they were teachers at Frankfort High School in Frankfort, Indiana (Lauren taught math, and Justin taught social studies). The couple currently live in Lafayette, Indiana, where Lauren develops curriculum for first-year engineering courses at Purdue University and Justin is a stand-up comedian.



For the **Bhatis**, medical school is a family affair. **Sonia Bhati ’14** graduated from the University of Kentucky’s College of Medicine in 2023 and is in her second year of her neurology residency at the University of Cincinnati. **Sachi Bhati ’18** is in her third year at the University of Toledo’s College of Medicine and Life Sciences. **Jay Bhati ’20** is in his first year at the Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine at the University of Pikeville. Well done!

2015

Jennifer Gonzales ’15
Jennifer Gonzales, who graduated from Northeastern University’s School of Law in May 2024, is pursuing her interests in the intersections of immigration law and family law as an immigration attorney at the Children’s Law Center of Massachusetts in Lynn, just outside of Boston. Jennifer is enjoying her work and excited about her future. Congratulations, Jennifer!

Allie Wooden ’15
Allie, who works as a senior IT project manager for HCA, married Colin Kreditor in Dana Point, California, on June 15. Allie and Colin live in Nashville. Congratulations and best wishes!



2017

Xingang “Bill” He ’17
Bill is pursuing a master’s degree in biopharmaceutical process engineering at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and applying to medical school programs in Italy. After graduating from Country Day, Bill earned a bachelor’s degree in religion from Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and worked in management consulting in Hong Kong for two years before beginning his graduate schoolwork. Congratulations and good luck, Bill!

Kaylin Hoffman ’17
Kaylin married Ben McKnight on May 25. They were surrounded by friends and family at their ceremony and celebration that took place at the Nathaniel Greene Lodge in Cincinnati. Kaylin recently graduated with a French degree from the College of Wooster and she and Ben reside in Northern Kentucky.





2018

The Class of 2018 Mini Reunion in NYC
The Class of 2018 held a mini reunion in New York City! Jack Gardner, Bryant Aquino, John Joy, Connor Pohl, Priya Chopra, and John Pettengill gathered at Phebe’s to support the Bengals.

Samuel Schwartz ’18
Sam, who earned his undergraduate degree in molecular biology and statistics from Wake Forest in 2022, is in his third year of a doctoral program in systems, synthetic, and physical biology at Rice University. Sam is currently working on his candidacy exam that will permit him to move into the dissertation phase of his program. Sam’s research focuses on microbiome engineering and synthetic biological memory. In the spring of 2024, as Sam was finishing his second year in his program, he was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to support his work. Sam’s goal is to complete his PhD in the next 2-3 years. Congratulations and best wishes, Sam!



2019

The Class of 2019 5-Year Reunion
Many members of the Class of 2019 gathered at Hi-Wire Brewing in the new Factory 52 entertainment complex in Norwood to celebrate their five-year reunion on Friday, November 29. Class members shared memories, life updates, and laughs well into the night. Many thanks to Maggie Wright, Nevie Smith, and Chloe Webb for pulling the reunion together!



Left to right, back row: Aadhya Ramineni, Sean Stewart, Stephen Fatuzzo, Miller Lyle, Andy Osborn, Sterling Snell, Jacob Renner, Herschel Albert; left to right, middle row: Grace Straley, Manav Midha, Emily Ram, Alec Hamall, Kylan Young, Max Folan; left to right, front row: Jane Reiring, Nevie Smith, Morgan (Pfister) Snell, Frank Weston

Patrick Magarian ’18 and Jack Gardner ’18
Patrick Magarian has taken a new job with Merrill Lynch in Cincinnati as a wealth management client associate. Patrick is eager to earn his certified financial planner designation and launch his career as a fully-fledged financial advisor. Patrick is living with CCDS classmate Jack Gardner. Jack is buying and renovating real estate in Cincinnati, and he and Patrick are living in one of his properties. All our best to both Patrick and Jack!

Manav Midha '19



Manav went on education leave from McKinsey & Company in July to begin medical school at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Since his graduation from Case Western Reserve University in 2022, Manav had been a management consultant with McKinsey focusing on the operation of health care systems. Manav describes his medical studies and his future goals this way: "I'm mostly trying to learn as much as I can about the human body and the art of caring for patients. I'm also researching optimal treatment modalities for a type of benign brain tumor (acoustic neuroma) with the Department of Neurosurgery and writing about public-private partnership models for health care delivery in collaboration with the University of Southern California's Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics. My professional goals – as of now – are to lead an academic medical center and hopefully, one day serve in the federal government."

Renee Twyford '20

Renee is getting her hands dirty as a biology student at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada. Her experiential field classes and some work on a goat farm were just the start. Over this past summer, Renee really dug in as a full-time intern for Nature at McMaster, an organization charged with managing the natural areas on the campus of McMaster University and dedicated to environmental education and stewardship. The internship gave Renee the perfect opportunity to apply and expand upon her classroom learning. During her internship, Renee conducted snake surveys in McMaster's forest preserve, dug out invasive species such as buckthorn and garlic mustard to restore a greenspace on the edge of campus, and maintained the campus's forest trails and vernal ponds. But it was helping to bring the university's new greenhouse to life – pitching in to deliver 135,000 pounds (!) of compost and lovingly tending to the trees and plants transferred from the old, obsolete greenhouse to the new showcase facility – that had the most impact on Renee. After her internship ended, Renee continued on at the greenhouse: she is pursuing her final year thesis project in one of the greenhouse's labs studying how plants respond to disease. Renee's experiences as a biology student at McMaster have helped her refine her life's goals. When she arrived at McMaster after graduating from Country Day, Renee dreamed of owning a sustainable, self-sufficient farm. Now, she wants to be what she calls a "rural Batman – plant scientist and researcher by day, farmer by night." Renee won't be wearing a cape or a mask, just pursuing two passions.



2020

Matt Adkins '20

Matt graduated from the University of Dayton and has joined Worldpay as a risk analyst. Matt is based in Cincinnati. Congratulations, Matt!

Joshua Nixon '20

Josh graduated from William and Mary with a bachelor's in finance and international relations in May 2024 and is currently an international trade analyst with the International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. In his position, Joshua investigates companies accused of illegally dumping products in the U.S. (undercutting fair market prices) or illegally end-running American tariffs by receiving subsidies from foreign governments. Those investigations can lead to official action against foreign companies in the interest of ensuring fair trade.

Alexandra Vredeveld '20

Alex earned her bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance (Magna Cum Laude) from the Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business and has joined the Finance Leadership Development Program at the Eaton Corporation. Alex is based in Wisconsin. Well done, Alex!





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2021

Rishi Gabbita ’21
Rishi is doing big things at the University of Cincinnati. A pre-med student in UC’s BS/MD dual admission program, Rishi is making his mark as a leader in various campus organizations, including the Interfraternity Council, the Student Alumni Council, and UC’s chapter of Remote Area Medical (RAM) – a program addressing healthcare disparities by providing free, mobile medical, dental, and vision care to folks without reliable access to healthcare. As sponsorship chair for RAM at UC, Rishi played a key role in organizing RAM’s first Cincinnati-area pop-up clinic this past July and led the charge to raise the money needed to fund that clinic. The clinic had quite an impact: one weekend in July, Rishi and his fellow UC volunteers worked with the RAM medical staff to provide more than $150,000 worth of care to 253 patients. Well done, Rishi!

Wynton Jackson ’21
Wynton is a senior at Hampton University, majoring in journalism and minoring in leadership studies. He spent the summer of 2024 working for the Sentinel Journal in Milwaukee, where his work focused on sports. One of the articles Wynton wrote about NFL players who wear locs went viral and accumulated more than 43,000 views! (His bosses were telling Wynton to let them know when any of his articles hit 7,000 views, as that was considered great!) It is no surprise to us that Wynton is writing passionately and well!





2022

Isabella Timmerding ’22
Bella has had some very interesting adventures recently. As part of a Washington and Lee University study abroad program last spring, Bella spent close to a month backpacking through Portugal and Spain, completing the 166-mile-long central route of the Camino de Santiago. Bella found the journey personally rewarding as well as beautiful. Bella, who is a politics and journalism double major at W&L, spent the summer weaving those two interests together as an intern in the news department of a Washington, D.C. television station. During her internship, Bella got a good look at how the news is produced: from joining in morning meetings where reporters pitch stories to producers; through hitting the pavement with reporters to conduct interviews, gathering facts, and taping live-from-the-scene reports; writing stories and helping producers put the final product together. Whether she was reporting on the U.S. Men’s National Soccer Team, conducting restaurant reviews, covering the NATO Summit, or going inside the U.S. Supreme Court to report on oral arguments and opinions delivered from the bench, Bella enjoyed the heck out of her summer experience. Keep us posted about your future adventures, Bella!





L to R: Manav Midha ’19, Will Duncan ’11, Julia Murphy ’13, Sarah Mae Selnick ’13, Grant Hesser ’11, Louis Bonini ’94, Peter Fossett ’80 (associate director of alumni), Mantero Moreno-Cheek ’15, Anahita Moussavian ’00, Eugene Anderson ’92, Evelyn Owhor ’03, Annie Barrett ’03, Richard Thayer ’03, Kate (Cordes) Byrne ’02 (not pictured but also attending were Nick Senter ’97 and Christy Pomeranz ’00)



Country Day on the Road:
REGIONAL ALUMNI GATHERINGS

In September and October, the CCDS alumni office hit the road, travelling to New York City and Washington, D.C. to gather with graduates living in the two cities. At both events, alumni from many years reconnected and reminisced, sharing good stories and hearty laughter, while learning about developments at the school. The alumni office will continue its travels around the country, sharing news of the exciting plans for the coming centennial celebrations in 2026. Stay alert: the alumni office may be coming to a city near you!



L to R: Elena Pierce (wife of Rob Pierce ’11), Jamie Back (director of CCDS’s makerspace and innovation design), Precious Smith ’87, Rob Zimmerman ’98 (head of school), Bill Pugh ’78, Charlie Schrieber ’10, Elizabeth “Marv” Oblinger ’06, Rob Pierce ’11, David Pierce ’08, David’s fiancée Molly , Ben Paff ’16, Peter Fossett ’80 (associate director of alumni), Shashank Jejurikar ’13, Josh Nixon ’20

Homecoming Weekend Class Reunions

Class of 1959's 65th Reunion

On September 21, a handful of members of the Class of 1959 gathered at the National Exemplar in Mariemont to celebrate their 65th reunion. In attendance were Jay Mickam, George Euskirchen, Jerry Levin, and EB Lunken. Good times were had, and good memories recalled. Many thanks to Jay Mickam for organizing the dinner.

Class of 1974's 50th Reunion

The Class of 1974 gathered at the Camargo Club on the evening of September 21 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their graduation from Country Day. Many thanks to Kevin Ward, Morley Thompson, Rob Portman, and Joe Hagin for hosting the event. Many classmates attended and reconnected. Rumor has it that the group recorded a new audio track for the "Sights and Sounds of '74" – the double album originally released with the 1974 Archive – and will debut the track at its 55th reunion in 2029. You don't want to miss that!



Front row, L to R: Dan Rattner, Keith Giles, Jim Magrish, Steve Upson, Berry Kaplan, Ben Signer, Rob Zimmerman '98 (head of school); back row, L to R: Morley Thompson, Rob Portman, Wayne Washington, Tony Patterson, John Stillpass, Ted Gardner, Kevin Ward

Class of 1979's 45th Reunion

Members of the Class of 1979 gathered to celebrate the 45th anniversary of their graduation twice over Homecoming Weekend: once during Friday's alumni reception on campus, and then again over dinner at Seasons 52 on Saturday evening. Reconnecting with classmates at one or both of the events were Sharon (Dizenhuz) Seltzer, Randall Fairbanks, Allen Feibelman, Whit Gardner, Rachel (Greengus) Shultz, Celeste (Hatfield) Warrington, Rob Hummel, Holly (Jurgensen) Fay, and Amy Noffsinger. Many thanks to Celeste (Hatfield) Warrington for organizing the gatherings. Onward toward the 50th!

Class of 1989's 35th Reunion

Members of the Class of 1989 celebrated their 35th reunion at Hoppin' Vines on September 20. The evening was filled with stories, rekindled memories, and laughter. 1989 is already looking forward to their 40th reunion!



Left to right: Tiffany Diers Martinez, Diana Easley, Katherine Ebacher, Jamal Daoud, Melissa Pearce, Rozy Park

Class of 1994's 30th Reunion

Members of the Class of 1994 met on September 21 at MadTree Brewing in Oakley to celebrate the 30th anniversary of their graduation from CCDS. Local alums Molly (McPhie) Broad, Jennifer Young, Susan (Lippert) Foad, and Marty Cheng were joined by Lisa Elam who came in from Michigan and Ben Monnie who travelled from New York City. The group enjoyed catching up on each other's adventures. Marty is the owner/manager of Go Bananas comedy club in Montgomery; he and his wife recently welcomed their second child. Ben has a new job at CNN. Lisa was a teacher and now works for a publishing company; she has two girls. Molly has a daughter and works in marketing. Jennifer has two boys and works in design with her husband who remodels homes. Susan is a nurse practitioner, has five children, and has been married to Mohab for 25 years. Mohab is a hand surgeon.



Back row, L to R: Lisa Elam, Molly (McPhie) Broad, Ben Monnie, Jennifer Young, Marty Cheng; front row, Mohab Foad `91, Susan (Lippert) Foad

Class of 1999's 25th Reunion

The Class of 1999 held two gatherings to celebrate its 25th reunion, both in the Factory 52 complex at the old United States Playing Card factory in Norwood: the first on Saturday, September 21 and the second on Saturday, November 30. Classmates flew in from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Georgia, Minnesota, and California to join the celebrations. Members of the class enjoyed recalling memories and catching up with each other's adventures!

Many thanks to Courtney Walton, Amber (Stewart) Brown, Jamin Johnson, and Vallie (Brant) Freeman for arranging the events!



Back row (left to right): Tricia (Smith) Powers, Julia (Rogers) Joyce, Jamin Johnson, Drew Baker; front row (left to right): Vallie (Brant) Freeman, Courtney Walton



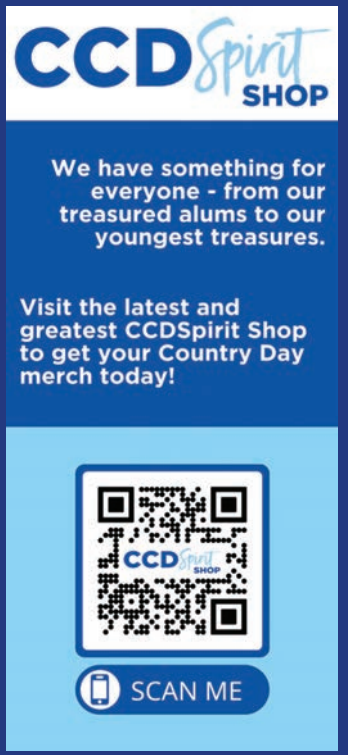
Left to right, Jamin Johnson, Johann Hindert, Neci Gandy, Amber (Stewart) Brown, Julia (Rogers) Joyce, Vallie (Brant) Freeman, Ben Schneider, Courtney Walton, Drew Baker, Bobak Razavi (not pictured but attending, Imi Davis)

Class of 2004's 20th Reunion

Many members of the Class of 2004 met at Pearl's Bar in Columbia Tusculum on September 21 to celebrate the 20th anniversary of their graduation from CCDS. With a magnificent spread of food from Mazunte, there was much happy reconnection and lots of laughter as old times were relived, and life updates were provided. The gathering was so much fun that the group continued the night (well into the night!) at Tostado's Grill two doors down. Many thanks to Anne (Oblinger) Pohlman for organizing the event, and many thanks to the class for making a gift to the school in honor of their reunion!



Front row (L to R): Gary Moffat, Danier Rose, Rachel Felous, Brittany Woods, Pranjal (Hegde) Henning, Danielle (Schneider) Senzer; middle row (L to R): Andrew Brendamour, Ali Bernstein, Becca Birckhead, Keiana Mitchell, Heather DeYoung, Jennifer (Shad) Lutz, Cara (Grealis) Patterson, Taylor Pomeranz, Julie Guttman; back row (L to R): Chase Shiels, Alex Baer, Brian Costello, Will Lucas, Ashley (Durand) Tople, Phil Levinson, James Flexter, Amanda Tholke, Caroline (DeHaan) Kotlove, Kyle Hynden, Billy Bernstein, Paige Erkins







COMMUNITY WALKING TRAIL OPENS ON CAMPUS

The Natural Trail is an Excellent Way to Connect with Nature and Each Other

This fall we officially opened a new community walking trail on our campus. Located in our south fields, the trail is available any time for our community members to enjoy at their leisure. The trail opens to the Thayer Arboretum, a beautiful grove of trees donated to the school by Abbot ’71 and Josie Thayer in memory of their son, Will ’05.

“We know the value of the natural world to the growth and development of students and the mental health of all community members,” says Rob Zimmerman ’98, head of school. “We also know the unique asset we have with our beautiful 60-acre campus. Promoting the use of our campus will benefit all of us, and this does so without impacting the natural environment in a negative manner.”

The total length of the trail is 1.2 miles and there are two routes: the blue route and the white route. There are benches to sit on and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature along the way. There is also a map at the trailhead to guide explorers as well as educational signage along the way, which our students have already started using to learn more about the natural world around us. We are grateful for our Parents’ Association, Environmental Council, and Native Roots, all of whom have made the trail possible.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Charlton "Buzz" H. Chatfield '65

Buzz Chatfield, a longtime managing director and global head of the conflicts office at J.P. Morgan, died September 16, 2024. Mr. Chatfield was a sixth-generation resident of Cincinnati in his earlier years and most recently a prominent resident of Greenwich, Connecticut. He was the eldest son of the late Henry H. Chatfield and Margaret Anna Rowe, brother to Helen and George. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio on August 9, 1947.

He attended Cincinnati Country Day School, The Hill School, and the University of Denver, where he earned a B.A. and a M.A. from their Daniels College of Business.

Mr. Chatfield was a lifetime member of the Devon Yacht Club and spent many summers in Amagansett, NY. He was a respected member of the Round Hill Club and the Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Connecticut. He was also a member of the Camargo Club in Cincinnati, Mashomack Preserve Club, New York, and the Windsor Club in Florida.

He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed the field work and camaraderie of his dogs which included, over the years, English springer spaniels, English pointers, English setters, and his beloved labrador retrievers. He oversaw the preservation of the family's farm in Alabama and continued the tradition of conservation and forestry management techniques applied to the property over a number of years. The State of Alabama designated the family property as one of its Treasure Forests in 1985.

Buzz is survived by his loving family, Nicola Mary Grover, Christina (John) and their sons, Declan and Shephard, Senter (Michelle), and their children, Grady and June. All of whom he was enormously proud of and who will miss him very much.

William S. Culp '65

William Stilwell Culp was born at Fort Monroe, Virginia, on December 4, 1947, and died in Cincinnati, Ohio, on September 6, 2024. Bill is survived by his wife of 43 years Patricia (Polly); his son William S. Culp, Jr. '00, and daughter-in-law Amelia (Simpson Culp); his son Charles A. Culp '02 and daughter-in-law Dr. Danielle (Cameron Culp); grandchildren Adair, Shep, and Reece; and his brother Edmund H. Culp. He was preceded in death by his parents Col. William W. Culp and Winifred S. Culp, and his sister Mildred L. Culp. Bill graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School in 1965. He attended Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois, and graduated from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, in 1969. He served briefly in the Marine Corps as a naval aviator. A career of over 45 years in commercial insurance brought Bill many cherished associations and much satisfaction. He worked at Schiff, Kreidler-Shell through its 2012 sale to Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. and retired from that firm in 2018. He was honored to serve on the boards of Cincinnati Country Day School, Twin Towers & Twin Lakes, and Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health. He especially enjoyed serving as a Lay Reader at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Hyde Park. Following his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, Bill had more than a year to enjoy family, friends, and his favorite place in Pointe au Baril, Ontario, Canada.

James Stephen "Steve" Deupree '65

James Stephen Deupree (Steve) passed away peacefully on February 17, 2024, surrounded by his immediate family.

Steve, born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio, lived a life full of adventure and an unlimited sense of possibilities. The world was his realm of exploration.

After graduating from Cincinnati Country Day School, he attended and graduated from Princeton University. There he earned a BA in architecture. He rowed for Princeton and was captain of the rowing team. Steve was competitive, striving to win at any game or sport he ever played.

As a senior in college, he traveled by himself around the world, crossing through the Soviet Union on the Trans-Siberian Railroad. That trip instilled in him a love of other cultures, people, and places. Throughout his life, his travels took him on many adventures: from accidentally meeting and being blessed by the Pope at the Vatican, to narrowly escaping war in Nigeria by getting the last seat on the last flight out of the country. Steve always loved a good trip, especially when it could be recounted into good stories. After college, he lived in New York City. He worked in a variety of professions: architecture, advertising, modeling, and even as an actor in TV ads. He was on the Jeopardy show, where he won an encyclopedia. He truly took advantage of everything the city had to offer and these years gave him much fodder for many wonderful stories.

The pivotal point in Steve's life, while in his early thirties, was the moment he was healed of a life-threatening physical condition. Because of this experience, his faith was profoundly grounded. He found Christian Science, which helped to explain to him how his complete healing could be possible. Christian Science also provided him with a church home, where he could explore and express his love for God, the Christ, and mankind. Most importantly, it was on the steps of the Christian Science church in Charlottesville, Virginia where he met Cynthia, his wife of 38 years.

In 1988 Steve found his calling as a teacher and taught eighth grade ancient history at St. Anne's-Belfield School in Charlottesville. He delighted in the curiosity and silliness of these young teens. In fact, after years of hearing middle school jokes at faculty parties, Cynthia would often

speculate that Steve loved teaching eighth graders because he was still a kid at heart. His love of travel and experiential learning impelled him to take his students to Russia, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. Watching students gain an expanded sense of the world never ceased to delight him. After 24 years, he retired as a beloved master teacher.

After retiring, Steve volunteered for Discovery Bound National Leadership Council (DBNLC), a Christian Science program designed to foster spiritual growth and develop servant leadership skills for teens. He loved to share his passion for faith and adventure with his team of high schoolers. Only teenagers could get Steve to go mountain biking in the Rockies, crewing on the USS Brig Niagara – a tall square rigged sailing ship on Lake Erie, or even camping. When it came to mentoring and faith, Steve was all in. The relationships he fostered in DBNLC were some of his most cherished.

Family summers were spent every year of his life (except for one!) in Sylvan Beach on Lake Michigan. Sylvan Beach embodied home for Steve. He loved Sylvan and always looked forward to his time there, eager to add more happy family memories and to tell the same wonderful stories over and over and over again. Sylvan was his place of healing, connection, and inspiration. It was his most cherished place in the entire world.

Steve was a talented artist his whole life, but in recent years he became a very prolific painter. His colorful paintings were inspired by the fields, lakes, mountains, and skies of Virginia, Michigan, and the Pacific Northwest. His work hangs on many walls, bringing joy and delight to all who view them.

Steve was a pillar of stability and love for both his immediate and extended families. He was a devoted husband to Cynthia. He was an exceptional father to Jamie and Maddie and would do anything to foster their sturdy growth. He encouraged their pursuit of possibilities without limitation and was present. He adored his four grandchildren, his siblings, his nieces and nephews, and his children-in-laws. He loved his entire family.

His fatherly love and unlimited support extended even beyond his immediate family. Steve's idea of family grew to include many, many friends. He connected to his friend family by Love and shared adventures. He constantly planned gatherings and reunions. He especially loved large Mediterranean family-style dinners. These "Tuscan" dinners, often held under the Harvest moon, became a beloved tradition. His warm smile and ready laughter welcomed everyone with joy.

Steve expressed joy, kindness, compassion, and unbounded creative energy. He loved generously and unconditionally. His uplifting sense of Love touched many lives.

Steve is loved, and we are grateful to have been an intimate part of his life. A small, private celebration of Life will be planned for a later date.

Steve was preceded into eternal Life by his mother Mary (Polly) Harwood Deupree, his father James Young Deupree, his eldest sister Janet (Pepper) Deupree Miller, and his younger brother Charles (Charlie) Redwood Deupree. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia Fitz-Gerald Deupree; his children: James Savery Deupree (Stephanie) and Madeleine Deupree Banta (Lee); his grandchildren: Penelope, Logan, Henry, and Red; his sister Margot Deupree Taylor; his step-brother David Whittaker (Julie), his stepsister Sally Whittaker; sixteen nieces and nephews; many grand nieces and nephews; and his beloved dogs Gracie and Thatcher. He is now reunited in Heaven with his favorite dog, Otis.

Charles Feuss '73

Charles Edward Feuss, known to all as Charlie, peacefully passed away at the age of 69 on November 1, 2024, in his home on St. Simons Island, Georgia.

He was born on September 10, 1955, in Lexington, Kentucky, to Dr. Charles David Feuss Jr. and Dorothy Gilmore Feuss. He was raised in Cincinnati, where he attended Cincinnati Country Day School (Class of 1973).

He went on to attend Emory University, where he earned his undergraduate degree in 1976 before completing his law degree at Emory University School of Law in 1980. It was during this time at Emory Law that Charlie met his future wife, Linda, with whom he would share a beautiful life.

Charlie and Linda raised their two children, Charles "Chas" Herbert Feuss and Anne Hart Feuss, in Atlanta, Minneapolis and Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Charlie was a renowned labor and employment lawyer, holding partnerships with some of the country's most prominent law firms. After Linda's retirement, the couple moved to St. Simons Island, where Charlie transitioned into a new role as a labor relations specialist at Koch Industries, concluding a distinguished 44-year career.

Throughout his career, Charlie earned a reputation for his intellect, insight and commitment to his work. But it was in his personal life where Charlie truly shone. Described by those who knew him best as a "Renaissance man," Charlie was an engaging and curious soul. His creativity and passions ranged from the culinary arts to painting and crafts, and he brought joy and laughter to all those around him. His quick wit, sense of humor and loyalty made him a true friend and a delightful companion. Charlie was an incredible father and husband, and he cherished his family above all else.

Charlie was preceded in death by his two sisters, Amelia Margaret Feuss and Susan Lee Feuss, both of whom held a special place in his heart. He is survived by his beloved family; his wife, Linda Upsall Feuss; and their children, Chas and Anne.

Charlie's legacy will live on through their love and the memories of a life well-lived, filled with laughter, kindness and a deep appreciation for the world around him.

As he would have wanted, we remember Charlie with joy, warmth and a smile on our faces, just as he left us every day of his life.

Joseph Kinney '75

Joseph Kinney passed away on November 10, 2024. Joseph was born on December 13, 1956, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was the fifth of eight children born to Sherman Kinney Jr. and Mattie Bell (Thomas) Kinney. Joseph peacefully departed this life on Sunday, November 11, 2024, at the age of 67 years.

As a child, faith in God was a central part of Joseph's upbringing. His family were longtime members of St. Mark Catholic Church in the Evanston community, and they continued their membership even after moving to the North Avondale neighborhood.

Joe attended North Avondale School, Our Mother of Sorrow, and Cincinnati Country Day School and began playing sports at an early age. He played tailback for the KDI Tomahawks Youth Athletic program of Cincinnati under Coach Dick Seitz. His team traveled throughout the United States, competing in several championship games with the Pop Warner Youth Football League, where they were known for dominating their opponents. They traveled to places such as Hawaii, California, Houston, Tennessee, and New Orleans, winning every tournament they entered.

During his middle school years at Cincinnati Country Day School, Joe became a member of the student council, showcasing his leadership and commitment to school activities. Later, in high school, he joined the International Relations Club, reflecting his growing interest in global affairs. Alongside his mother, Joe volunteered as a phone services representative for the American Cancer Society and worked for his father's business, SK Janitorial Service.

Joe worked hard in high school and showcased his versatility as an athlete, excelling in football, basketball, wrestling, baseball, and track. He played halfback and defensive safety for Country Day under Coach Dudley Hoffman and earned numerous accolades, including the prestigious McDaniel Award for top male athlete at Cincinnati Country Day School. Joe ranked among Cincinnati's top five high school football players in rushing and scoring categories, receiving All-City Honors. In track, he qualified for the state competition. Joe's athletic achievements were highlighted weekly in the Cincinnati Enquirer multiple times, including being named Kahn's High School Player of the Week in 1973 and Buddy LaRosa's Athlete of the Week in 1974. In 2018, Joe was inducted into Country Day's Athletic Hall of Fame.

After graduating from Country Day, Joe attended the University of Virginia, where he majored in dentistry and played football for the Virginia Cavaliers. He later transferred to the University of Cincinnati, continuing to shine on the football field. Following his studies, Joe enlisted in the National Guard as an infantry soldier.

Joe's engineering coursework at the University of Cincinnati led to a job at the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company as a lab technician testing voltage and meter-reading equipment. He later worked for the Osterwisch Company as an electrician, served as a maintenance supervisor at the Villages of Roll Hill, and became a 24-hour on-call service technician for various facilities. These experiences turned into a lifelong career as an independent electrician and general maintenance contractor. Joe was always willing to lend a helping hand, using his skills to assist friends and family with plumbing and electrical home maintenance projects.

In September 1990, Joe married Vivian Williamson. Though they later divorced, they remained good friends throughout the years. Joe was a devoted family man who cherished his loved ones deeply.

Joseph is preceded in death by his father, Sherman Kinney Jr.; his mother, Mattie Bell (Thomas) Kinney; and three siblings, Robert "Bobby" Cornel Kinney, Sharman Maria Kinney, and Aaron Kinney.

He leaves to cherish his memory his brothers, Richard Michael Kinney and John Francis Kinney (Pamela); his sister, Teresa Ann Kinney; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends.

Stuart Thomas McLean

Stuart Thomas McLean died August 15 at home surrounded by his loving family. The son of a Scottish immigrant, he was born in 1947 in Brooklyn, raised in Pound Ridge, NY, and ultimately resided in Southwest Ohio. Stalwart and stoic, he persevered through four cancer diagnoses.

A 1965 graduate of Phillips Academy (Andover), he made lifelong friends there with whom he remained close throughout life. He subsequently attained a degree in International Studies (1969) from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. There he met his wife, Lindsay. At Chapel Hill he was a proud member of St. Anthony Hall and shared the bonds of brotherhood with those men over many decades. He later earned a master's degree from the University of Maine.

Over the years Stuart pursued several professional endeavors with diligence and dedication, with stints in carpentry, commercial banking, health insurance, and entrepreneurship. He was a connector with people, and treated everyone he met, in business and life, with dignity and respect.

Stu had a blissfully happy 54-year marriage with Lindsay, and they were graced with three sons: Lachlan`96, Will `00, and Ian `03. He infused his parenting with learning, whimsy, and fun. When there were chores to be done, complaints, excuses, and laziness were not acceptable. He was a do-it-yourself person and had fixer-up skills. He utilized extension ladders, chain saws, rototillers and an extensive workbench of tools regularly throughout his life. Among many shared sports experiences, Stu coached his boys' teams in lacrosse and manned the chain gang at their numerous football games. He enjoyed many hundreds of rounds of golf, walking, with family and friends, while offering many solicited and unsolicited swing tips.

Stu led a life of joyful learning and thinking. He shared his opinions irrespective of your interest in hearing them. He was a lifelong devotee of *The New York Times* with his morning coffee. As a traditionalist, he only used a charcoal

grill, and he cut, split, and stacked his own firewood. He wrote a never-published mystery novel centered on golf in Scotland, and built a homemade 16' boat, *Ripple*, one of many watercrafts he owned. He loved boating and fishing and had his finest day of angling in 2023 with his sons in the waters off Fishers Island, NY, catching dozens of trophy striped bass. Live music was one of his passions, and he had an ear and eye for bands who could get the dance floor grooving. He attended hundreds of concerts with his wife, sons, and friends. Stu listened to his favorite bands as he did chores, often singing choruses aloud. Tending to his land and gardens were also favorite activities.

An adventurer and traveler, he loved exploring bohemian destinations with authentic local flavor. He revered the "auld country" and visited Scotland on numerous occasions to share its culture with his family. Perhaps the place he loved most was Penobscot, Maine, where the abundance of nature's glories and the changing tides of Northern Bay of the Bagaduce gave him great pleasure for over 50 years.

Stuart loved to make people laugh with his dry wit, booming voice, and quick and authentic sense of humor. Stu shared his big heart with many. He will be remembered for these qualities and his intelligence, kindness, integrity, and stamina.

Above all, Stuart loved his family, to whom he was fiercely loyal. He will be profoundly missed by them: his wife, Lindsay (nee Boswell); his sons and daughters-in-law, Duncan Lachlan '96 (Cassie), William Boswell '00, Ian Barton '03 (Meggie); his grandchildren, Joan, Rose '34, Claire '38, Pippa, James, and Stuart McLean; as well as his siblings Madeline (Donald) Lehman, Peter and Ian McLean and many in-laws, nieces, and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents, Duncan and Louise McLean.

The family extends its gratitude to Dr. Manish Bhandari, Stu's oncologist, whose treatments gained him years of life, and whose house calls and sympathetic personal phone calls were remarkable in this era.

Dr. Richard G. Valido

Richard (Rick) Valido, M.D., FACOG, passed away peacefully at home after a courageous battle with cancer. Rick was the dearly treasured oldest son of Dr. and Mrs. Constantino Valido. After being born in Baltimore, Maryland, he had an adventurous childhood, including spending his early years living in the Philippines. Rick became bi-lingual at an early age and translated Tagalog to English for his American-born mother. Rick was quickly followed by his siblings – who he adored – Suzanne, Debbie, and Paul. After the Philippines, Rick's family moved to Dayton, Ohio where he spent most of his childhood (even after leaving Dayton for college, Rick still went back regularly to his barber for over 30 years). He had a wonderful high-school experience at Archbishop Carroll – where he proudly played soccer, a passion he carried throughout his life, ultimately leading him to become a die-hard FC Cincinnati Fan. After high-school, Rick attended the University of Cincinnati and became an avid Bearcat for the rest of his life.

After college, Rick followed in the footsteps of his father to become a physician and attended Wright State University School of Medicine, where he graduated as a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. While in medical school, he made two very important discoveries: first, his passion for obstetrics and gynecology; second, and most important, his beloved wife, Kellie. They settled in Cincinnati, his wife's hometown where he began his admired medical career, caring for thousands of patients across Cincinnati and delivering thousands of healthy babies. The outpouring of letters he received from his patients when they found out he was ill warmed his heart to no end. He always made his patients feel seen and cared for.

Rick's true joy in life was being a father to his sons, Ben '12 and Matt '14. He delighted in spending time with them and watching them grow up. He loved watching them participate in sports and found a way to be part of the CCDS football chain gang to get the best view of the football field. He could not have been prouder of them, and he was blessed to see them both graduate from college, launch careers and to welcome Ben's amazing wife Lily into the family. He also loved being an uncle to 9 amazing nieces and nephews. By living in Cincinnati, close to siblings, parents and in-laws the Valido family remained a loving, close knit family.

If you knew Rick, you knew he was a true renaissance man. He had a brilliant, curious mind and always wanted to learn more about how things worked. Over the years, he always had new and evolving hobbies – from photography, fountain pens, and vintage watches to even becoming a fitness fanatic (he was a hardcore Peloton user, keeping up an active 151-week workout streak; even when he got sick, he kept his streak going with meditations). Despite these varied interests, a common theme throughout his hobbies was forming new relationships and building upon friendships, whether that meant online, at his pen shows, or in the park on his long runs. Rick did nothing halfway – whatever his latest passion was in life, he went all in. Above all, this included cooking, not only his hobby, but a central way to how he expressed his love for his family. Some of his family's favorite memories include his cooking, especially over Thanksgiving and when he made Filippino food.

Rick approached his illness with strength and fortitude, on his worst days the most he would ever say is he "felt a little tired." He was grateful for the medical care he received, and he always made every effort to get to know his caregivers and find commonality with them.

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