

# MICDS

THE MAGAZINE

VOLUME 36 NO. 1 | WINTER 2026



## Vibrant Spirit and a Milestone Homecoming Game

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# MICDS

MARY INSTITUTE AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

## OUR MISSION

**More than ever, our nation needs responsible men and women who can meet the challenges of this world with confidence and embrace all its people with compassion. The next generation must include those who think critically and resolve to stand for what is good and right.**

**Our School cherishes academic rigor, encourages and praises meaningful individual achievement, and fosters virtue. Our independent education prepares young people for higher learning and for lives of purpose and service.**

## ABOUT MICDS MAGAZINE

*MICDS Magazine* has been in print since 1993. It is published two times per year. Unless otherwise noted, articles may be reprinted with credit to MICDS.

### HEAD OF SCHOOL

Jay Rainey

### EDITOR / DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Amy M. Zlatic

### DESIGN

Grzinadesign

### ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

Allison Light

### MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Crystal D'Angelo

### MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST

Paul Colletti

### CLASS NOTES COPY EDITORS

Phoebe Scott Burke '69

Anne Stupp McAlpin '64

Libby Hall McDonnell '58

Peggy Dubinsky Price '65

Cliff Saxton '64

### ADDRESS CHANGE

Office of Alumni and Development

MICDS, 101 N. Warson Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63124

Visit the alumni portal at [micds.org](http://micds.org).

### CORRESPONDENCE

Office of Communications

MICDS, 101 N. Warson Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63124

[communications@micds.org](mailto:communications@micds.org)

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MICDSSTL



## Dear MICDS Family,

From the tiny town of Jonesville, Virginia, nestled in the western toe of my native state, the capital cities of Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia are all closer than Richmond. Though municipally Virginian, Jonesville could hardly be more different demographically, economically, and culturally than, say, the dense D.C. suburbs of Fairfax County in whose commonwealth it coexists, or the waterbound Hampton Roads region of Ruth's and my childhood. Jonesville identifies more authentically with the liminal geography of the Cumberland Mountains and Plateau, and it resembles Richmond only about as faintly as the hardscrabble southeastern corner of Kentucky nearby resembles Frankfort in the Bluegrass, or neighboring Northeast Tennessee resembles Nashville. While it would not be accurate to describe the communities of Cumberland as stateless, neither would it be entirely inaccurate.

In conferring the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature on Polish author Olga Tokarczuk, the Swedish Academy lauded her "narrative imagination that represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life." One vignette in *House of Day*, *House of Night*, Tokarczuk's 1998 novel that I had the joy of reading last year, chronicles the return of an elderly man to the Silesian border town of his childhood from which his family and other Germans had been expelled with prejudice after World War II. (Two Nazi concentration camps, Grafenort and Mittelsteine, had been sited close by.) Nostalgia inspires the man to hike to a local peak, where, exhausted from the climb, he dies with one foot in Czechoslovakia and the other in

Poland. Two Czech border guards discover him and, eager to avoid the red tape of reporting his death, nudge his body entirely into Poland. A half hour later, two like-minded Polish border guards nudge him back into Czechoslovakia. How many times poor old Peter Dieter, whose worried wife awaits him at the trailhead, must suffer these liminal indignities Tokarczuk does not say.

The State Department career of **Jim Schumaker '65**, profiled in these pages, has taken him to several such liminal geographies—the crossroads nation of Afghanistan, the literally Balkanized countries of the former Yugoslavia, and the post-Soviet republics of Belarus and Ukraine. His life's work is a reminder of how very many parts of our world embody transitional or contested geographies. Missouri itself, which, along with Tennessee, leads our own nation in shared borders, feels like one kind of place along the Mississippi Alluvial Plain of the Bootheel, another across the Salem Plateau of the Ozarks, another in the Osage Plains stretching southwest and west into Oklahoma and Kansas, and still another in the glacial till plains and remnant prairies of its western, northern, and eastern reaches. Having largely grown up here, Mr. Schumaker comes by his life's work honestly.

Beyond *House of Day*, *House of Night*, several other books that I enjoyed last year engage with liminal geographies. A key subplot in Haruki Murakami's *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* involves the Nomonhan Incident of 1939 during the Soviet-Japanese conflict at the border of Outer Mongolia and Manchukuo in

Northeast China. In *Ataturk: The Rebirth of a Nation* by Patrick Kinross, one discovers the revolutionary establishment of modern-day Turkey at the intersection of the European Bosphorus and Asia's Anatolian peninsula. As for *Demon Copperhead*, Barbara Kingsolver's 2022 retelling of *David Copperfield*, to explain the essential role of liminality here would only be to repeat myself. The novel is set primarily in and around Jonesville, Virginia.

The advantages of reading are, among countless others, the advantages of traveling—and what tireless travelers we are committed to equipping at MICDS. In these pages you will find our students participating in "Book Talk Magic," learning from visiting authors, reaping the benefits of their teachers' investments in the science of reading and writing, and even sculpting poetry into visual art. Much more awaits you here besides: reports from milestone occasions like May Day, Commencement, the Senior Pond Toss, Senior Boat Races, and Homecoming 2025 (including our centennial football game against Burroughs); profiles of athletics program leaders and achievements; and accounts of all manner of other excellent work taking place across campus to enhance student learning and growth. What are childhood and adolescence, after all, than liminal spaces ripe for definition and understanding? We are dedicated to accepting and embracing the liminality of youth—and preparing our students for the liminal future that awaits them—in our work at MICDS today.

Happy new year, and happy reading!

**Jay Rainey**  
Head of School

# Parent Ambassadors Showcase MICDS

When prospective students and families arrive at MICDS, they bring questions, concerns, and a sincere interest in whether this school is the right fit. While our Admissions staff is knowledgeable and passionate about MICDS, prospective families find the most value in tours led by current MICDS parents who can share their favorite aspects of our community and talk earnestly about their own MICDS experiences.

Parent Ambassadors lead over 500 tours throughout the school year across all three divisions. The busiest season for tours is from

late September to late January, with Parent Ambassadors also volunteering as greeters and event support at weekend and evening events throughout the year. Simply put, Admissions could not do its job without its extraordinary Parent Ambassadors.

From wanting to get involved and showcase the MICDS community to meeting other parents and teachers and answering prospective parents' questions, the reasons parents volunteer for the Ambassador role are varied. Still, each brings a warmth and brightness that personify the welcoming spirit of the MICDS community.



Jason Bell, Bhavana Choudhary, and Christina Coverdell

**Scan the QR code to read the individual reflections of just a handful of our parent ambassadors.**



Juli Willeman, left, and Sarah Plaskett



# Twenty Years of Seniors Setting Sail

## Annual Boat Race Demonstrates Camaraderie

On a warm September day, our seniors raced across Polk Pond in the traditional boat race, marking the 20th year of heated competition in the campus waters.

For weeks, the Class of 2026 student advisories thoughtfully constructed ships out of cardboard, plastic, and duct tape, working diligently to create the perfect vessels for the occasion. On race day, after bouts of furious rowing, playful splashing, and unplanned capsizing in front of cheering spectators, the winning advisory from each of the four heats competed in the fifth and final heat.

Congratulations to **Upper School English Teacher Courtney Check's** advisory for paddling their way to victory!

To conclude the festivities, STUCO President **Riley Crawford '26** announced, "Seniors, walk the plank!" Without wasting a drop of energy, the seniors splashed into the pond as a final celebration. Way to race, seniors!



The Check Advisory won the 2025 Boat Race.





# Eshan Majeed '26 Takes a Dip to Celebrate College Acceptance

The Pond Toss tradition continues at MICDS! This year's splash came courtesy of **Eshan Majeed '26**, who was accepted into Missouri S&T University. Majeed was ceremoniously tossed into Polk Pond by a handful of friends, one of whom was fully committed to the process and went in with him. "Even though I was grossed out at first, I knew that it would be a good time," said Majeed. "It brought me closer to my friends and gave me a memory that will last a lifetime."

The pond toss is a storied tradition originating in our Country Day School years and celebrates the collective achievements of the senior class. It's an exciting punctuation mark reminding the Class of 2026 of the bright future that awaits.

*Congratulations to Eshan!*



# Well done, Class of 2025!





## Commencement

The Class of 2025, their teachers, their family, and their friends gathered in the McDonnell Athletic Center (MAC) on Sunday, May 18, to celebrate their commencement. The MAC was popping with energy as the soon-to-be graduates milled around, snapping selfies and saying goodbye one last time to their teachers. It was clear that while they were eager to graduate, they were also sad to be leaving MICDS.

**Head of School Jay Rainey** welcomed everyone and noted that the community had been thinking about those affected by the severe storms on the Friday before. Those storms had caused the cancelation of Senior Night, making this day even more special. He then presented six awards to faculty, one in each division: The Dorothy Wray Roberts Class of 1917 Faculty Merit Award was presented to **Lower School Teacher Bridget Wallace**, **Middle School Teacher Bernard Berry**, and **Upper School Teacher Jenn Sellenriek**. The Mary Institute Class of 1940 Distinguished Faculty Award was given to **Lower School Teacher Nicole Skaggs**, **Middle School Teacher Cameron Youngman**, and **Upper School Teacher Rachel Tourais**. Later in the program, he honored **Upper School Teacher Al Begrowicz** with the Rivinus Award.

Mr. Rainey also took a few moments to bestow awards that were meant to be given at Senior Night:

- Morse Family 12th Grade Award: **Grant LaMartina '25**
- Aurelian Prize: **Reagan Hamilton '25**
- Wood Humanitarian Award: **Diya Makkapati '25**
- Faculty Prize: **Ace Derdeyn '25**
- James Andrew Benecke Award: **Lilly Loeb '25**
- Mary Eddy Klein '38 Spirit of Learning Award: **MacKenzie Froedge '25**

**MICDS Chair of the Board of Trustees Jason Brauer '94** took the podium and offered his thoughts to the Class of 2025. **Arjun Puri '25**, Valedictorian for his class, took the podium and addressed both his classmates and the audience. **Mac Froedge '25**, Salutatorian, was scheduled to deliver her remarks at Senior Night. She instead spoke at Commencement.

Each year, the graduating class votes to select a faculty member to give an address at Commencement. The Class of 2025 chose **Tex Tourais, Upper School English Teacher**, to speak. Tourais' dry wit and literary references kept the audience in stitches, while he delivered a poignant message to the graduates: stay curious.

Finally, it was time to present the graduating class. **Chris Ludbrook, Dean of the Class of 2025**, read each graduate's name, along with noting any awards they were to receive on Senior Night. Mr. Rainey and Mr. Brauer presented the diplomas.

After receiving their diplomas, **Raj Tailor '92, President of the MICDS Alumni Association**, took to the stage to welcome the association's newest members.

Mr. Rainey concluded the festivities by addressing the class one last time. He counseled these talented young adults to not wait for the world to change, but instead, to go out and make it better themselves.

**>> continued on page 8**



# *Congratulations to the Class of 2025!*

We are so proud of you, and we are excited to watch you continue to grow, succeed, and lead lives of purpose and service.



## Matriculation

Auburn University  
Bates College  
Boston College  
Boston University  
Brown University  
Bryn Mawr College  
Cal Polytechnic State University  
Case Western Reserve University  
Chapman University  
Colorado State University  
Cornell University  
Creighton University  
Dartmouth College  
Davidson College  
DePaul University  
Elon University  
George Washington University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Illinois Wesleyan University  
Indiana University-Bloomington  
Johns Hopkins University

Kenyon College  
Lafayette College  
Lake Forest College  
Long Island University-Post  
Loyola University Chicago  
LUISS University (Rome)  
Marquette University  
Miami University  
Michigan State University  
Missouri University of Science and Technology  
New York University  
Northeastern University  
Northern Illinois University  
Northwestern University  
Oakwood University  
The Ohio State University  
Pennsylvania State University  
Purdue University  
Rhodes College  
Rockhurst University  
Sacred Heart University  
Saint Louis University  
Santa Clara University  
Scripps College  
Seton Hall University  
Southeast Missouri State University



St. Lawrence University  
Stanford University  
Stevenson University  
Syracuse University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Tech University  
Truman State University  
Tulane University  
United States Air Force Academy  
United States Military Academy  
University of Alabama  
University of Arizona  
University of Arkansas  
University of California-Berkeley  
University of California-Davis  
University of Colorado  
University of Florida  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
University of Iowa  
University of Kansas  
University of Maryland  
University of Miami  
University of Michigan  
University of Minnesota

University of Mississippi  
University of Missouri-Columbia  
University of Missouri-Kansas City BA/MD Program  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of Pennsylvania  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester  
University of San Diego  
University of South Florida  
University of Southern California  
University of Tampa  
University of Texas at Austin  
Wake Forest University  
Washington University in St. Louis



**Three members of the Class of 2025 are pursuing alternative paths:**

- Enlisting in the United States Army
- Playing junior-level professional hockey
- Exploring a chiropractic career in sports medicine

# Prize Day Recognizes Ninth-11th Grades

Ninth, 10th, and 11th-grade students gathered in Brauer Auditorium in May for Prize Day, the annual Upper School assembly that recognizes students. The assembly is a celebration of academic growth and leadership, not only for the honorees but also for the hard work and determination shown by all MICDS students.



## CLASS AWARDS

R.S. Beasley Eleventh Grade Award: **Cade Miller '26**

J.E. Beasley Tenth Grade Award: **Kaan Caliskan '27**

Wilma Jean Messing Ninth Grade Award: **Kevon Phillips '28**

## LIVING THE MISSION AWARDS

Leadership: **Riley Crawford '26, Max Padratzik '27, and Tripp Scanlon '28**

Respect: **Georgia Lochhead '26, Lucas Cheng '27, and Eva Crissman '28**

Perseverance: **Avery Henriksen '26, Shrey Radhakrishnan '27, and Kennedy Newman '28**

Service: **Layla Gilbert '26, Lola Compton '27, and Max Jacoby '28**



*Congratulations to all our 2025 Prize Day recipients!*



#### DEPARTMENT GRADE-LEVEL ACADEMIC AWARDS

World Languages: **Olivia Hill '26, Elena Garcia '27, and Bella Froedge '28**

English: **Gabriel Weaver '26, Grace Griffin '27, and Nandini Warrier '28**

Nash Poetry Award: **Isabelle Cox-Garleanu '26**

Fine & Performing Arts: **Gigi Koster '26, Avery Brooks '27, and Michelle Chao '28**

History & Social Sciences: **Amelia Mackin '26, Daniel Haas '27, and Lucy McKean '28**

Science: **Harper Carnahan '26, Myra Arain '27, and Ryan Moore '28**

Mathematics & Computer Science: **Ian Zar '26, Forest Gong '27, and Andrew Li '28**

The Ryan D. Seed '95 Leadership Award was presented by **Chris Bade '95 to Yosiyah Griffin '28**.

**Jay Rainey, Head of School**, presented the John E. Mackey Leadership Award to **Sean Hogan '26**.

**Marshall Newman, Assistant Director of Athletics**, presented the McKelvey Award for leadership in athletics to **Gabriel Weaver '26 and Amelia Mackin '26**.

#### COLLEGE BOOK AWARDS

Bowdoin College Book Award: **Charlie Mills '26**

Brandeis Book Award: **Rose Sabalvaro '26**

Brown University Book Award: **Shil Penilla '26**

Dartmouth Book Award: **Morgan Macam '26**

Harvard Book Award: **Bella Anadkat '26**

Princeton University Book Award: **Siboney Oviedo-Gray '26**

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal: **Nihaal Satwani '26**

Smith College Book Award: **Akira Washington '26**

St. Lawrence College Book Award: **Dalton Costick '26**

Tulane Book Award: **Cade Miller '26**

University of Pennsylvania Book Award: **Nolan James '26**

University of Virginia Jefferson Book Award: **Harrison Foster '26**

Yale University Book Award: **Dunnen McGaughey '26**

The University of Rochester recognizes four students: one with an award in social sciences and the humanities, one in science, one in Innovation and Information Technology, and one in leadership and academics.

- Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award in Humanities and Social Sciences: **Evita Okohson-Reb '26**
- The Bausch & Lomb Honorary Science Award: **Andy Zheng '26**
- The Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology: **Celia Swiston '26**
- The George Eastman Young Leaders Award: **Carrie Clennan '26**

#### DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR AWARD

**Clyde Sliw '26**

**Navya Reddy '27**

**Sanjay Malhotra '28**

# The Science of Reading and Writing Literacy in the Lower School



MICDS is happy to report that students are thriving with the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) curriculum, now in its second year at the School. CKLA is a comprehensive English Language Arts program that emphasizes the science of reading and writing. **Liz Crowder, Lower School Literacy Coordinator**, explains, "It is an integrated approach that focuses on building strong skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening by combining foundational skills with a content-rich literacy experience."

The CKLA curriculum is built on two main components that work together to develop students' literacy:

- **Knowledge Component:** This part of the curriculum builds students' background

knowledge and vocabulary through content-focused units, interactive read-alouds, and decodable readers. Exposing students to complex texts across subjects such as history, science, literature, and the arts helps them make connections across disciplines, which is crucial for reading comprehension.

- **Skills Component:** This component provides systematic and explicit instruction in foundational skills. It focuses on essential skills such as phonemic awareness, phonics, decoding, encoding, and grammar. This structured approach helps students develop automaticity and fluency in reading, which are necessary for becoming proficient readers.



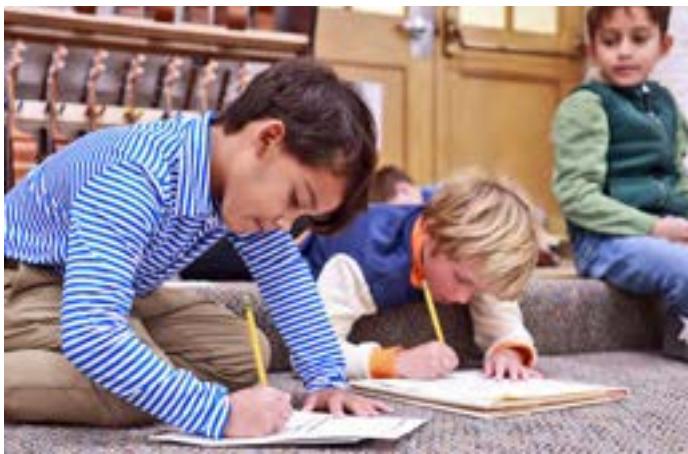
**“Reading development is the foundation of every child’s future success in school. We are fortunate to have a high-quality, research-based curriculum and so many dedicated adults intentionally fostering a love of reading and building strong literacy skills that will support students in every subject, at every stage of their learning.”**

**AMY SCHEER, HEAD OF LOWER SCHOOL**

“CKLA’s integrated approach links reading and writing through daily instruction,” said Crowder. “Writing activities, including prewriting, sentence-level combining, and expanding, are directly connected to the texts and topics students are exploring. This integration strengthens students’ ability to not only understand what they read but also to effectively communicate their own ideas, leading to overall improved comprehension and communication skills.”

Crowder, along with support from our homeroom teachers, teaching assistants, and librarians, is committed to supporting each child through their literacy journey.

“Reading development is the foundation of every child’s future success in school,” says **Amy Scheer, Head of Lower School.** “We are fortunate to have a high-quality, research-based curriculum and so many dedicated adults intentionally fostering a love of reading and building strong literacy skills that will support students in every subject, at every stage of their learning.”





# Sculpting Poems

## Students Craft 3D Art to Represent Themes

As 10th-grade students entered the classroom of **Upper School English Teacher Jennifer Sellenriek**, they were greeted with a provocation that would lead to a poetry-inspired 3D sculpture.

"The provocation is an invitation for students to engage and delight in our poetry unit—to be curious and to take risks while examining the work of poets who have made intentional 'moves' like line breaks, rhyming, and figurative language, to bring story and emotion to life," said Sellenriek.

Students paired up at tables with craft supplies splayed out, along with a copy of one of four name-themed poems: *On Listening to Your Teacher Take Attendance* by Aimee Nezhukumatathil, *Her Name Was Name* by Matt Hart, *Choi Jeong Min* by Franny Choi, and *Names* by Teresa Mei Chuc.

At their tables, students first read and discussed their chosen poem, noting the parts that stood out and made them pause. Then they answered two questions: How can you use the craft materials to build a

representation of the poem? How will your sculpture represent both the meaning and the writing moves of the poet?

Students worked to build their responses out of paper, wire, pipe cleaners, bubble wrap, paper bags, and aluminum foil. Once finished, the students embarked on a small gallery walk to share their sculptures and learn from others, pointing out the "moves" they made to create meaning.

"Over the course of the unit, we'll read and analyze lots of poems, and we will move from sculpting our response to a poem to writing a response," said Sellenriek. "One of the responses students will write is called an 'After Poem.' They'll carefully study a poem of their choice in order to write a poem in tribute to that original. This takes a careful study to, perhaps, imitate the style or answer the big question the poem asks. The final assessment for the unit will be an explication of a poem—a formal writing piece where the author carefully takes apart and puts back together a poem to examine how the poetry made meaning out of a few poetic lines."

**Sean Michael Farrington '28** said, "The author of the poem *Choi Jeong Min*, Franny Choi, expressed in her writing how in her past she experienced immense displeasure with her name, wanting to be named 'Frances' to assimilate into American culture instead of her given name.

"My sculpture represented the two sides of the author's identity. One side represented Frances, being free and vibrant, while the other side represented the author's original name, holding the author back and a constant thorn in their side."

**Tess Thompson '28** appreciated the challenge to approach poetry in a new way. "We read the poem *Her Name Was Name* by Matt Hart. We sculpted a person with a paper bag that said 'Girl' to represent how the girl was unnamed. It was pretty challenging to come up with an idea and how it connects to the poem. I really enjoyed the creativity we got to use in class; it felt like creative writing but more like an art class."

"The poem I read was *Choi Jeong Min* by Franny Choi," said **Mason Chambers '28**. "Our sculpture represented the struggles of dealing with duality. The most challenging part was probably starting the sculpture off. I liked being able to analyze a poem or a piece of writing without needing to write an essay."

**Rilyn Williams '28** said, "I read *Her Name Was Name* by Matt Hart. Our sculpture was based on the idea that the desire to own can destroy a person. My favorite part of this project was building the sculpture and seeing the poem's ideas come to life. One thing that was challenging for my group was trying to figure out the best way to represent the poem. There were many different approaches to take, and we wanted to choose the one that represented the poem the best."

Sellenriek added, "The provocation that begins the unit asks students to embrace ambiguity, to be vulnerable, to trust the process, and to approach a task with curiosity. These stances support the critical thinking necessary to study poetry. My hope is that they will take on the final assessment of the unit in much the same way they built a sculpture at the start of the unit."



# A Rockin' Fifth Grade Microscopy Lesson

Fifth-grade students at MICDS study rocks and minerals in a way that truly rocks through their work with microscopes.

**JK-12 Science Department Chair Paul Zahller** brainstormed this new microscopy lesson and worked with **Middle School Science Teacher Leslie Smart** to bring it into focus. "Until now, my fifth graders hadn't had the chance to use microscopes in class—something they likely didn't expect while studying geology, the science of Earth's materials and processes," explains Smart. "Thanks to educators like Paul Zahller, who knew where and how to procure slides of rock samples as thin as an eyelash, MICDS fifth-grade students can explore the crystalline structures within rocks up close."

To kick off the microscopy lesson, students first learned the names and functions of each part of the microscope (e.g., eyepiece, objective lens, stage clip, fine adjustment knob, base, etc.), as well as how to handle and use the equipment safely. They also explored a variety of prepared slides from sunflower petals to onion slices, observing specimens up close and sketching what they saw.

Then, the moment they had been waiting for: examining a special collection of rock and mineral slides, handcrafted in Mongolia! Students explored the crystalline structures of rocks and

minerals using the thin-section slides and compound microscopes to see how internal composition shapes the properties we observe on the surface. "This experience, newly added to the curriculum, builds on the Rocks and Minerals unit; it extends learning beyond color, hardness, and luster to the microscopic patterns that reveal how each mineral formed," says Zahller. "As students learn to focus and adjust the microscope, they compare textures and grain structures; they discover how variations in mineral composition lead to differences in strength, density, and real-world uses such as construction materials and electronics."





**“What surprised me the most was how interesting a little piece of rock looked under the microscope and how it had a ton of tiny details. It was also interesting to learn how a microscope works and how it can magnify the small details of a rock.”**

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EDIE SPITZFADEN '33

Smart adds, “Minerals are classified by their crystal structures, but the concept—and even the vocabulary—can feel abstract to fifth graders. When students have the opportunity to see these structures through a microscope, the idea of ‘crystalline’ becomes concrete. What was once just a challenging word transforms into a meaningful concept that they can visualize and connect to their learning. Experiences like this bring Earth science to life and deepen our students’ understanding of our planet’s materials.”

Students found that this lesson solidified their understanding of rocks and minerals, taking it to a new level. “What surprised me the most was how interesting a little piece of rock looked under the microscope and how it had a ton of tiny details,” said **Edie Spitzfaden '33**. “It was also interesting to learn how a microscope works and how it can magnify the small details of a rock.”

“I am particularly passionate about using this lesson to spark curiosity about how humans depend on Earth’s natural resources,” said Zahller. “Minerals are not just scientific specimens; they are the foundation of nearly every product, building, and technology we use. Helping students see that connection is critical to developing a



generation of informed, responsible leaders in sustainable development. My hope is that fifth graders will understand where materials come from, how they are transformed for human use, and why stewardship of these finite resources matters.” What a clever way to slice through the layers of this topic!



# Friendship Around the World

## Spanish 450 Students Study Relationships

What ingredients make a friendship? Some might say that trust, mutual respect, kindness, and empathy are essential for a connection to stick. Others add that honesty, vulnerability, loyalty, shared interests, and effective communication are equally important. All of these qualities foster a foundation where friends feel safe, understood, and valued, creating deep, lasting bonds. And, how do our views of friendship in the United States differ from those in other countries?

Students in Robin Begley's Upper School Spanish 450 class got to work answering that and an essential question in the unit: "¿Cómo nos influyen las personas de nuestro alrededor?" [How do the people around us

influence us?], which leads to the concepts of "la amistad" [friendship], what makes a good friend, and how people support one another.

In small groups, they brainstormed the key elements of healthy and happy friendships by exploring their own values and cultural norms. Armed with the MICDS Mission Statement, students then formed their own

personal mission statements about what friendship means to them.

Branching out beyond their personal and small-group "familias," they then chose a Spanish-speaking country to research and understand that country's culture and customs related to friendships and community. Some cultures have separate social circles for different age groups or

activities, and others maintain closer familial bonds or express physical affection in various ways.

This research culminated in small-group presentations under the title "Un día de la Amistad" [A Day of Friendship], where students shared their opinions and research on friendships and community. At the end of each presentation, the





presenters conducted an activity for the whole class, whether it was writing friendly notes of encouragement to someone else in the class or making friendship bracelets. One group brought in dulce de leche cake to model how connections in other countries are cultivated around food and shared meals with friends and family.

**Justin Karam '27** enjoyed the thoughtfully crafted and thought-provoking topic. "Personally, this whole unit was quite different from anything I've ever really done in Spanish class at MICDS. Instead of the usual format, where we learn Spanish, we instead learned in Spanish. Finding one thing that I really enjoyed is a bit difficult, but the friendship presentation was probably the most interesting, specifically the activity at the end. After we finished presenting, we were tasked to give the class an activity to participate in that related to friendship. My group chose a puzzle where each person would draw

on their own piece, and we would all build it together, encouraging friendship. However, the restrictions on this activity were pretty minimal, so you could get creative! It was a joy to participate in."

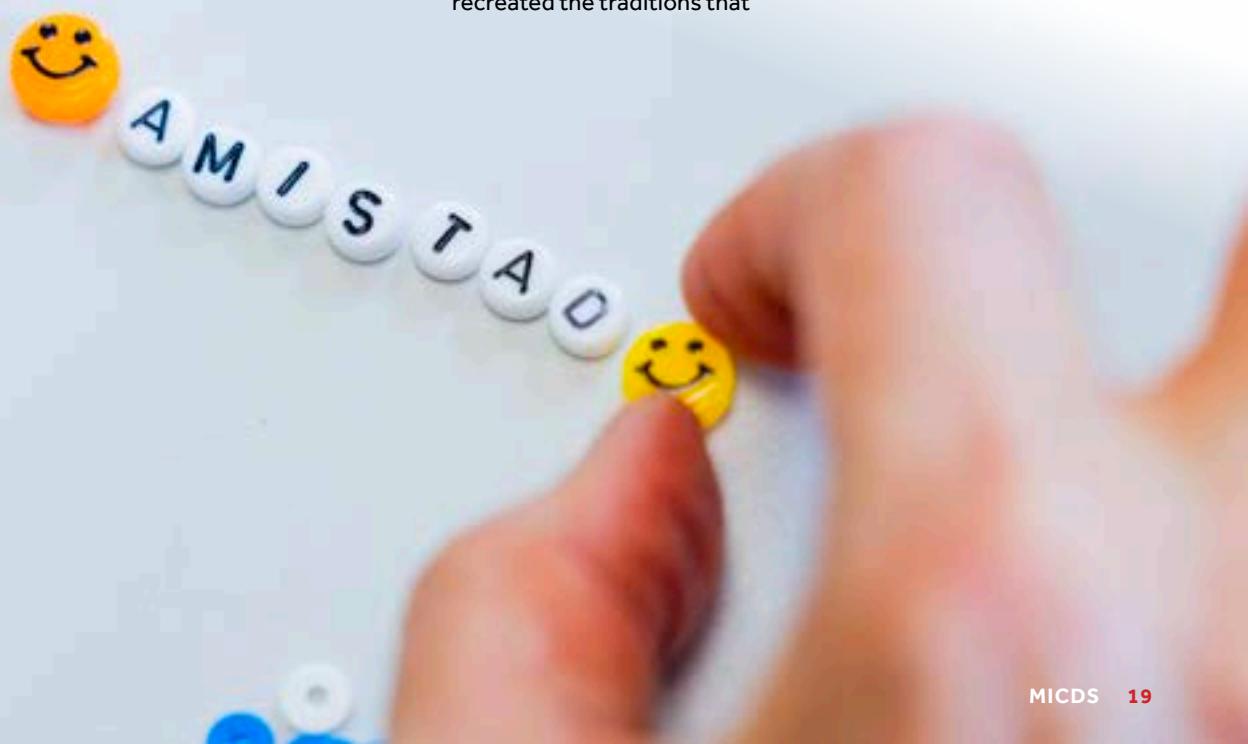
"My group's friendship activity was sharing a cake," said **Amey Parwal '27**. "In Cuba, it is a tradition to share cake with those close to you, and doing so is a symbol of community. We decided that it would be a unique and enjoyable experience for the class, adding a fun twist to the presentation.

"I enjoyed sharing ideas the most because we were invited to think about ideas that would seem rather irregular for a presentation. We were constantly thinking about our presentation, and it was a really great way to connect with my peers as well."

**Isadora Yokoo '28** said, "My group and I researched Colombia, as eight out of every ten people celebrate Un dia de la Amistad there. Our group friendship activity for the class was an exchange of letters and friendship bracelets. We also prepared little bags of candy to give away to our classmates. We recreated the traditions that

occur in Colombia, where friends exchange letters and friendship bracelets, as well as 'La Endulzada,' [The Sweetened], in which friends prepare and give candy to each other."

To continue building community within the class in the long term, Begley plans to rearrange the students into new small groups for their next unit on communication, which will enhance friendships, community, and interconnectedness.



# Small Steps, Big Impact

## Lower School Blooms with Sustainability

Last spring, a Lower School cross-curricular sustainability theme week bloomed, expanding our youngest learners' worldview. They took a deep dive into our home planet and what we, as humans, can do to keep Earth and its animal, plant, and human inhabitants healthy and thriving.

The week kicked off at a Beasley assembly, where **Lower School Science Teacher Laura Pupillo** introduced the theme and the many ways students would engage with sustainability activities, including participating in a "compost lunch."



### LITERACY & HOMEROOM ACTIVITIES

**Lower School Literacy Coordinator Liz Crowder** shared *The Earth Book* by Todd Parr in homeroom classrooms. The book uses a whimsical and heartfelt approach to explore environmental protection and conservation, teaching children simple, actionable ways to care for the planet. From planting trees and using both sides of paper to saving energy and reusing materials, it offers tips on how kids can "go green" every day.

In conjunction with the read-alouds, Junior Kindergarten students decorated reusable canvas totes to be used as grocery bags, Senior Kindergarten students enjoyed bird watching and picking up trash on campus, first graders focused on reusing paper in their classrooms, second grade learned about Earth's water cycle and created bracelets representing the water cycle, third grade dove into a renewable energy lesson where they documented, categorized, and discussed energy usage for 24 hours and how they can conserve energy, and fourth graders launched a sustainability scavenger hunt solving math riddles to learn about the decomposition rates of everyday items. Did you know that fishing line and plastic water bottles take nearly 600 years to decompose, banana peels take 3-4 weeks, and fallen leaves take a year? Spoiler alert: electronic waste like laptops and tablets never decomposes.



# “Anything that helps us celebrate and understand our Earth is one step closer to learning how to protect it through sustainability efforts!”

LOWER SCHOOL FIRST GRADE TEACHER JENN GILLIS

## SCIENCE

In science, all Lower School students participated in projects that linked pollinators and food. JK, SK, and first- and fourth-grade students grew greens and radishes in the science courtyard garden beds and on an indoor grow tower for the Lower School dining hall salad bar. JK and SK students also learned about recycling and trash, and SK students used Ozobots to sort items into different waste groups.

What better way to kick off Sustainability Week than with a trip to the St. Louis Science Center? First graders jumped in with a visit to the Planetarium and watched the movie *The Little Star That Could*, a story of the sun and solar system, which ties into their unit on the history of Earth. The students also explored exhibits ranging from chickens, compost, and tractors to dinosaurs and fossils. **Lower School First Grade Teacher Jenn Gillis** said, “Anything that helps us celebrate and understand our Earth is one step closer to learning how to protect it through sustainability efforts!”

Second graders collected native seeds from our campus gardens to share with our school community, encouraging recipients to plant in outdoor spaces near their homes to improve pollinator habitats. Third graders focused on water quality, measuring our campus creek’s health, removing trash, and clearing the way for native plant restoration through a honeysuckle abatement project.

Fourth graders piloted a compost program in Lower School. They researched composting, created a job calendar, and managed the compost collection, partnering with grounds staff to maintain a healthy balance of browns and greens. After a successful trial period with the third and fourth-grade lunch shift, students created an educational video and hosted a compost-themed lunch for the other shifts.

Pupillo said, “These experiences fostered a tangible understanding of environmental interconnectedness and the cyclical nature of ecosystems. It is clear from conversations with students and in the work they have created that they now know what sustainability means and are already practicing actionable steps to protect the Earth.”

## SPANISH

In Spanish class, **Lower School Spanish Teacher Soledad Villagomez** led students through vocabulary lessons about weather, daytime/nighttime, farms, insects, oceans, rivers, recycling, energy, the sun, and more. They also discussed the similarities and differences among animals and the habitats unique to South America, including llamas, guanacos, alpacas, and vicuñas. Students joyfully learned and sang *The Earth and Its Resources* on the Rockalingua platform to develop both listening and writing skills in Spanish.



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## ART

Earlier in the year, during Winter Term, Lower Schoolers collaborated with Artists First, where artists and students painted canvases together. Throughout the day, creators used paper to lift excess paint from the canvas, leaving a lot of scrap paper filled with paint residue.

**Lower School Art Teacher Sarah Garner** shared, "Instead of throwing all that paper away, we decided to reuse and repurpose the paper during Sustainability Week. It was a creative challenge to find imaginative ways to transform them into new artworks, breathing new life into the paper through artistic expression. We not only reduced waste but also gave a deeper meaning to the materials we used. The project underscored the importance of seeing potential in discarded materials and the power of art to transform even the most humble objects into something new and beautiful."



**Thank you, Lower School teachers, for planning a thoughtful sustainability-themed week, empowering student leadership, and fostering global citizenship!**



## LIBRARY

Sustainability Week in the Lower School Library was a fun place to be! There were different activities for older and younger students, but all centered around the same read-aloud book: *Small Steps, Big Change* by Annemarie Cool.

The picture book inspires children to take small, everyday actions to create positive change in the world, drawing on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. **Lower School Librarian Thomas Buffington** said, "We liked this book because it offers concise 'kid-powered' tips to make a sustainable impact in our communities. These small steps also spawned some great discussions about how to reuse everyday objects, such as grocery bags, and what we can recycle daily at school. We also discussed the importance of conserving energy and water at home and in the classroom."

Buffington continued, "The biggest hit was a VR experience through Google Arts and Culture—'Rewild the World'—designed to educate players about the challenges endangered animals face with diminishing environments. Students used their own movements to act like sea turtles cleaning up the ocean and engaging in other fun activities."



## Artist Paul Schmidt Brings Paintings & Wisdom Lower School Students Learn to Make Masterpieces

After jumping out of airplanes as an Army Ranger, serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, and becoming a father of two sons, Paul Schmidt admits to being more afraid to put his art out into the world than he was to face any of life's other challenges. At the invitation of **Sarah Garner, Lower School Art Teacher**, Schmidt spoke with the Lower School about his approach to art, his creative start as a young artist, and how to overcome the fear of others judging his artwork. He also worked with fourth-grade students on pieces inspired by his work. Schmidt's artistic style and thoughtful approach to creating his pieces made him a great artist to visit our Beasley students. To help students better apply that message, Schmidt shared his five rules for making a masterpiece: make at least one thing better every day, make people feel important, effort creates opportunity, learn from mistakes, and it takes a team.

# Middle School Celebrates Student Success

## Recognition Day Honors Extraordinary Work and Commitment

Students in fifth through eighth grades gathered in Mary Eliot Chapel for our annual Middle School Recognition Day in May, an opportunity for students to be honored for their extraordinary work and commitment during the 2024-2025 school year.

In her remarks, **Head of Middle School Jen Schuckman** said, "Each year this assembly offers us the chance to gather one last time as a full community. Every middle school student should take this moment to celebrate their greatest accomplishments, to acknowledge the challenges they have overcome, and to feel a deep sense of pride as they head into the final days of the year. Today, we get to celebrate several middle school students who have fully embraced the charge of our mission with thoughtful engagement and kind hearts."

Congratulations to all honorees for their hard work and commitment, and to every Middle School student for contributing their best selves to our community in thoughtful and meaningful ways.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients and every Middle School student for their hard work and help in making our MICDS community the best it can be. As Schuckman reminded the audience, "If you think back to August and then consider where you are today, I hope you can identify a multitude of successes and moments of growth of which you can be very proud."

*Congratulations to all honorees!*

### Department Awards

English: **Ruby Morris '29, Piper Davis '29, Mila Gomez '29, Zion Perry '29**

History: **Mila Gomez '29, Zion Perry '29, Ashini Craig '29, Mia Matisziw '29**

Math: **Timo Finnegan '29, Evan Gao '29, Inaya Majeed '29, Mila Gomez '29**

Science: **Susannah Klimek '29, Stella Scanlon '29, Leela Anadkat '29, Ava Sock '29**

### World Languages Awards

French: **Harry Lang '29 and Isabelle George '29**

Mandarin: **Ayaan Khan '29 and Crystal Su '29**

Latin: **Sloane Schwendinger '29 and Inaya Majeed '29**

Spanish: **Nika Landrum '29 and Zara Mahmud '29**



### Arts Awards

Choir: **Emma Oesch '29 and Soham Gadi '29**

Band: **Alp Bozkurt '29 and Parker Cabbabe '29**

Drama: **Alexa Sikorski '29 and Maddie Morris '29**

Studio Art: **David Mba '29 and Crystal Su '29**

Orchestra: **McCormack Amini '29 and Tarik Yagci '29**



## Donald Alfred Oonk Award

Football: **Jeremiah Phillips '29**  
Soccer: **Sawyer Mandell '29**  
Cross Country: **Reid Haffenreffer '29**  
Swimming: **Jason Gilbert '29**  
Basketball: **Rylan Gardner '29**  
Wrestling: **Ashton Constantine '29**  
Squash: **Hayden Dembiec '29**  
Tennis: **Jason Gilbert '29**  
Baseball: **Trey Wyckoff '29**  
Track & Field: **Shep Bryan '29**  
Water Polo: **Alp Bozkurt '29**  
Lacrosse: **Peter Tschudy '29**  
Hockey: **Wilson Froehlich '29**



## Enid Oonk Altvater Award

Field Hockey: **Avery Johnson '29**  
Volleyball: **Natasha Schultz '29**  
Cross Country: **Caroline Westre '29**  
Tennis: **Emma Oesch '29**  
Basketball: **Katherine Speckhals '29**  
Swimming: **Alexa Sikorski '29**  
Squash: **Annie Amos '29**  
Soccer: **Anna Lottes '29**  
Track & Field: **Journey Crossland '29**  
Lacrosse: **Skyler Dastgah-Bradford '29**  
Cheer: **Marjesta Ford '29**



## Other Awards & Recognition

Community Service Award:  
**Caroline Hentschell '29**  
National Geographic Society  
Geography Bee: **Spencer Kriegel '30**  
MICDS Spelling Bee: **Brenda Huang '32**  
Stanford Award: **Heidi Haberstroh '29**  
Amherst Award: **Amari Roberts '30**  
Jan deGreef Jacobi Award:  
**Emma Fouke '30 and Lincoln Branca '30**  
James Schenler Wood Award:  
**Katherine Speckhals '29 and Nico Cox-Garleanu '29**

## Yale Book Award

Grade 5: **Adiya Zei '32 and Braxton Lurk '32**  
Grade 6: **Addie Rowland '31 and Bajro Cirkic '31**  
Grade 7: **Johanna Sanchez '30 and Jules Xavier-Poucel '30**



## The Eliot Award

Grade 5: **Evelyn Schwarzen '32 and Kai Dastgah-Bradford '32**  
Grade 6: **Elle Gast '31 and Caleb Meyers '31**  
Grade 7: **Harper Naughton '30 and Bruce Clennan '30**  
Grade 8: **Cecilia Mileusnic '29 and Tarik Yagci '29**

## Rutledge Award

Grade 5: **Allie Masiel '32 and Sam McGinness '32**  
Grade 6: **Jasmine Bell '31 and Noah Bennett '31**  
Grade 7: **Clara Beal '30 and Abigail Bierman '30**  
Grade 8: **Nika Landrum '29 and David Mba '29**

Special recognition, too, goes to the recipients of the President's Volunteer Service Award.

- **Max Fehniger '29**, Gold
- **Caroline Hentschell '29**, Gold
- **Meadow Hill '29**, Gold
- **William Kreikemeier '29**, Gold
- **Abby Masiel '29**, Silver
- **Skyler Dastgah-Bradford '29**, Bronze
- **Cate Wagner '29**, Bronze
- **Caroline Westre '29**, Bronze
- **Audri Willeman '29**, Bronze
- **Wyatt Eggers '30**, Gold

# Student Botanists Dive Into Detail

## Using Art to Appreciate the Living World

Upper School students in **Science Teacher Laura Bradford's** Exploratory Botany class broadened their appreciation of plants with the first in a series of fun art projects. Bradford is constantly looking for creative ways to help her students overcome "plant blindness," or plant awareness disparity, which is a tendency to overlook plants in our environment and undervalue their importance to ecosystems. "This project challenges students to become plant advocates through art," says Bradford.

Bradford had the idea to showcase the intersection of creativity and environmental awareness last spring,

and knew she needed help. "I'm a scientist, not an artist," she laughed. She reached out to colleague **Brooke Williams, Upper School Art Teacher**. Williams was quick to offer support and provided supplies for Bradford to learn about and create botanical gelli prints over the summer.

Bradford grew to love making botanical prints and introduced the project to her students early this semester, explaining the goals:

- Increase plant awareness: combat plant blindness by truly seeing and appreciating the botanical world around us.
- Artistic expression: develop technical skills in gelli plate printing while exploring the natural beauty of plant structures.
- Community impact: inspire the MICDS community to notice, value, and protect the plants that surround us daily.
- Reflective learning: connect artistic creation with deeper understanding of our relationship with the natural world.



"All of the pieces were created using leaves from our campus," Bradford explains. She hung the works of art in the STEM hallway, outside a classroom, along with student reflections from the project.

**Becca Frazier '26** wrote, "One of my favorite plants was the lily pad that I used for the final shadow. I appreciate plants more after this by seeing each small vein on each plant, really seeing the life of the plants. I noticed plants in my day-to-day life before this project, but now, after doing the project, I started to look more at the unique shapes and sizes of each leaf or stalk."



**Diya Patel '27** wrote, "While creating this gelli print, I changed the way I see and appreciate plants in the sense that there are so many different types of plants and why they are all special in their own way. Before this project, I only noticed the larger plants, such as trees, grass, and flowers, because those are what my eyes were attracted to. I did not realize the smaller plants within, such as the leaves on trees or flowers. I also had not noticed tinier plants and leaves that would grow elsewhere."

"For my print, I used small leaves that were on yellow flowering plants because they were detailed, fern-like, and more delicate," wrote **Emerson Pook '26**. "I intended to highlight the balance between the delicate, smaller things and the larger, broader ones in this piece. The process and



nature of gel printing itself highlights how, despite the differences, each plant still plays an irreplaceable part in a system, just as each layer does."

**Amalie Bryan '26** wrote, "This project made me appreciate the little details in plants because the print allowed me to see every small detail. Now, when I walk past plants, I will wonder what they would look like if I printed them like I did in this project. Students and teachers should stop to appreciate the plants not just on campus but all around them daily to realize just how beautiful they are and everything they do for us."

"These pieces highlight the true details of plants in the form of artwork, which allows the community to see plants in a different way that they might not have understood before," said **Jack Tipton '26**.





01. Schumaker with CDS World Languages Teacher Nadia Danett in 2008.

02. Charles Newblock "Blockie" McAlpin '65 visits with Schumaker in Belgrade in 1975.

03. The senior portrait of Jim Schumaker '65.

# Keep Forever *Khranit Vechno*

## Jim Schumaker '65's Lifetime of Memories from the Foreign Service

**Jim Schumaker '65** is a fine example of what he calls "the random walk through life." A career diplomat, Schumaker has served his country both right here at home and around the world, often risking his life. It has been a thrilling ride for the Country Day student who took Nadia Danett's Russian language and culture class simply to avoid calculus. That decision set the trajectory for a rich and satisfying life.

Schumaker moved to St. Louis with his parents when he was in the third grade. Two years later, his mother, on the advice of new local friends, set up an interview with then Country Day School Headmaster Ashby T. Harper. "My mother was very concerned about my education and did everything in her power to ensure that I went to the best school in the St. Louis area," Schumaker said. "I was only nine years old at the time, but I found that I had absolutely no trouble talking with Mr. Harper. He seemed like such a nice person, and we got on quite well together. The upshot was that I was enrolled in Country Day the following fall."

He and his classmates began their Country Day time at the "old school" campus in northwest St. Louis County. They were the last class to start on Brown Road. The campus was near the burgeoning Lambert Field, and Schumaker recalls the afterburners on McDonnell Voodoo jets drowning out his math teacher. After winter break that year, CDS moved to Ladue, next to a girls' school named Mary Institute.

The new student settled in quickly, and thanks to a mother-driven carpool, he befriended another only child, **Charles Newblock "Blockie" McAlpin '65**, whom he claims as his "oldest and best friend." Both cerebral and, as Schumaker describes, "a bit spoiled and sheltered," the pair created lasting memories and remained connected throughout most of their lives. Schumaker and his wife, Tanya, enjoy spending time with Blockie and his wife, **Anne Stupp McAlpin '64**, whenever they visit St. Louis.

Although Schumaker admits feeling tested by his English teachers throughout his time at CDS, he thoroughly enjoyed his history and language classes. "I had such a wonderful time there," he said, "It's hard for me to look back with anything more than pleasant nostalgia." Perhaps his fondest memories are of those carpools with Blockie, which he describes as "a laugh riot." He also recalls playing a game called Diplomacy with history teacher Mr. Robert Ashby, an admirer of monarchy who loved talking about kings and queens while "wearing outfits that made him look like Sherlock Holmes, with a pipe, foraging cap, and tweeds." In perhaps a bit of foreshadowing, Schumaker took to the game of Diplomacy with vigor. "In that first game, I was not playing one of the countries, but I took Mr. Ashby's side and helped him with his negotiations with other players." He recalls one week when the negotiations became so intense that he focused solely on the game. "It was almost the only thing I did during a couple of school days." He can still remember the preferred countries of his classmates, and notes that he liked to take Turkey, as it had the most defensible position.

He speaks with affection and reverence for Mrs. Nadia Danett, his Russian language teacher. "She really got me started with the Russian language," he said. "She did me a great service by introducing me to it. I loved it then and still do to this day." He learned Russian in Danett's classroom for his junior and senior years, and while it was hard, Danett made it interesting. "She made language come alive. She taught us folk songs and songs from the recent past, like *Katyusha* and *Moscow Nights*." In his small class, Schumaker and his six or seven classmates enjoyed learning to sing in Russian. "She was by far my favorite teacher, and I think a lot of people who took her courses would agree. She was just the best, so dear and sweet. Even when we were cutting up in class, she had a way of managing us. She would never reproach us, but we'd feel bad if we hadn't been behaving in class. She did it somehow, and order was restored."



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The Russian language student had always been interested in history and international politics, and Schumaker participated in debates on Vietnam and in the Model UN. He speculates he may have first heard about the Foreign Service—the professional diplomatic corps responsible for implementing American foreign policy worldwide—in his junior year, and thought he might be interested. He knew it was a long shot; the Foreign Service takes only two to three percent of applicants, but he was confident he would enjoy the work. He matriculated at Trinity College, choosing the school for its excellent history program.

After earning his undergraduate degree, Schumaker headed for graduate school. He had been accepted to the Columbia School of International Affairs. The U.S. government had other plans, though, and two days before he was to register for classes, he was drafted into the Army. Given his particular skill set and thanks to help from an uncle who was an Air Force officer, Schumaker signed up for the Army Security Agency, where he had the opportunity to compete for language training. The commitment came with an aptitude test and a mandatory four years instead of two. "It's clear that my uncle Shirley Dean did me a tremendous favor by putting me on the right path," said Schumaker. He did well on the aptitude test, completed basic



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training, and "settled into a relatively blissful academic life at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey," where he completed the 47-week course with distinction. Three more months of studies in advanced individual instruction ate up the time he needed to gain clearance for assignment at the White House Communications Agency, which came after a grueling interview and a lie detector test.

Transferring to the White House in 1971, Schumaker was assigned to the White House Communications Center, located in the basement of the East Wing. He operated the backup hotline to Moscow and participated in both the 1972 visit of President Nixon to the USSR and the 1973 Brezhnev visit to Washington, D.C., and San Clemente, California. He also set up advance communications bases around the U.S. and in the USSR for presidential travel.

Knowing that he had over two years left in his enlistment and that it often takes years to get into the Foreign Service, Schumaker wasted no time in preparing. He signed up for the Foreign Service written exam, as well as the Civil Service



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04. Jim Schumaker takes the Foreign Service Oath in November 1973.

05. Embassy Moscow Ambassador's Aide Schumaker visits Dushanbe, 1978.

06. A gathering for National Day at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., in 1982.

07. Schumaker at the Triumphal Arch on Palace Square in Leningrad, 1972.

08. Schumaker meets with the President in the Oval Office in 1983.

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01. Chargé d'Affairs Jon Glassman and Schumaker during the Kabul evacuation in 1989.

02. Consul General Schumaker confers with Vladivostok police during demonstration in front of Federal Security Service (FSB) building.

03. Consul General Schumaker celebrates Christmas services at St. Nicholas Sobor, the seat of the Orthodox Church in Primorye, with orthodox priests, Governor Sergey Darkin, and others.

04. Consul General Schumaker speaks at July 4 ceremony aboard Aegis Cruiser USS Chancellorsville during port call in Vladivostok.



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and CIA exams, to have additional options. He did well on all three and anxiously waited for the Foreign Service oral exam, which took place in February 1972. Once again, he did well, and he was placed on the register. "It might take a while, but my name would eventually rise to the top of the list, and I would be called up for a Junior Officer class." He was elated. The timing worked out such that he mustered out of the Army and, less than a month later, was called to the 110th Junior Officer class in the Foreign Service. His new life had started.

Schumaker's tours in the Foreign Service read like the index for an atlas: Washington, D.C., Belgrade, Moscow, Leningrad, Kabul, and Kiev. In his first overseas tour in Belgrade, he worked as a staff aide to Ambassador Malcolm Toon and his successor, Laurence Silberman, conducting political reporting on events in Montenegro and Kosovo. The following years brought increasing responsibilities in a variety of locations. In Moscow, he served as political officer, then moved to Leningrad as Deputy Principal Officer. Kabul, Afghanistan, brought the title of Deputy Chief of Mission, and then he was back to Moscow as Deputy Political Counselor. He was then once again Deputy Chief of Mission in Kiev.

Returning to the United States, Schumaker had a short stint at the National War College, and eventually became the Deputy Director of the second largest office in the State Department with primary responsibility for conducting the U.S. government's day-to-day relations with Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan.

During his tour, he negotiated the U.S.-Soviet statement leading to the handover of the voice and data tapes retrieved from the crash of KAL flight 007, headed the task force that

planned the evacuation of the U.S. embassy in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, during a civil war, and formed the task force to monitor the October 1993 coup against Russian President Yeltsin. He participated in a groundbreaking trade mission to Russia in 1994, officially opening a new Consulate General in Yekaterinburg. He also escorted FBI Director Louis Freeh on his first visit to Ukraine and Russia in 1994, to establish law-enforcement liaison with local authorities to fight Russian organized crime.

He has a distinguished resume for someone who claims he was a lazy student. "You had to take math at CDS, but if you were going to take another difficult course, like Russian, you could do away with the math requirement. I was lazy. I'm pretty good with languages—I did well in Latin and French—so I thought I'd take Russian so I don't have to learn calculus." Once he was in Danett's classroom, though, he was hooked. "Everyone expected me to go to engineering school because my dad was a math genius. I inherited none of that. If I had ever gone into engineering or the hard sciences, I don't think I would have done very well, but languages and foreign affairs...that was my interest."

Despite his natural inclinations, landing him a role in which he never felt like he was working, Schumaker frequently found himself in difficult situations. His most challenging post was Kabul in 1988, as the Soviet army was beginning its slow withdrawal from the country. "There were only 10 of us at the embassy at that point, and that was counting our Marine guards. We were down to the bare minimum." With so few staff, he wore many hats and handled tasks associated with a military attaché, including verifying that the Soviets were withdrawing from Afghanistan as they had agreed to. He was working around the clock, chasing rumors, talking to people, and observing airport operations. "I was going out around the ring road to observe the Soviets as they were

preparing to deploy their forces," he shared. "I got caught in a lot of places I shouldn't have been. One day, the Mujahideen were attacking the airport with mortars, and they wiped out the northern half of the airport. I had just left, with five minutes to spare." Schumaker has many stories like this and admits that Kabul was his most stressful and dangerous tour of duty.

He looks back on his multiple tours in the Soviet Union and Russia with the most nostalgia. His work was always interesting. From his first tour in Moscow as an aide to the ambassador, which he describes as a formative experience, to time in Leningrad, Vladivostok, and Yekaterinburg, he remained curious. "The depths you can go to try to get to the truth of what's going on in that country; you'll never touch bottom." He paused. "You're always treading water or swimming."

He also found his final tour of duty, as OSCE's Ambassador in Kyiv from 2005 until 2008, to be quite fulfilling, coming as it did on the heels of the Orange Revolution. "That was a very heady time," he noted. "Ukraine's leadership and people were attempting to transform their country into one that was free and democratic, and OSCE (The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) was spending millions of dollars to dismantle Cold War weapons, set up democratic institutions, and encourage the fight against corruption. I was in charge of that effort."

For MICDS students interested in diplomatic service or international careers, Schumaker recommends taking history and world language courses, of course, but stresses that one must have a fundamental interest in international affairs to succeed. "For a lot of people, I think international business might be a very good option because there are so few jobs in the profession of diplomacy," he cautioned. "There are only a few thousand foreign service officers, but there are tens or hundreds of thousands of people traveling internationally and doing the work of business people, which is extremely interesting. You just have to follow your interests. If you really like what you're doing, it's not work. You've got to go where your talents lead you, and where your likes and dislikes lead you, too."

This is not to say his life has been without regrets. "I'm very happy with the way things have worked out in my life," he said. "Of course, everybody makes mistakes and has missed opportunities; I'm no exception to that rule. But it's necessary for people to realize that you're not going to have a perfect life, but you can have a pretty darn good life if you have an

honest reflection on what your true goals and objectives are." To that end, Schumaker has spent several years thoughtfully reflecting on his life, documenting his experiences in a blog titled *Khranit Vechno*, which means "keep forever."

"That's what the KGB used to put on the files of dissidents, because they were going to keep those files forever," he explained. "The idea is that there are other things you should keep forever, too, like the memories of your life." He began doing unclassified reporting during his tour in Vladivostok, sharing his views on the social, political, and economic life he witnessed that no one outside Russia knew about. He credits a good staff, mostly Russians, with supporting his efforts to begin writing seriously. "While I was busy doing that, I realized I'm writing about the lives of all of these people, and I don't really know that much about my own life." He began exploring his family's genealogy, and when the memories began to bubble up, he wrote them down. "Once I retired, I had all this stuff lying around." He began organizing everything, and it's become a hobby for the past five years, offering him a chance to both reflect on his lived experiences and reconnect with old friends and acquaintances. "It's a great way to think about your life," he said. "You figure out where you went right and where you went wrong, and maybe it has a lesson for other people."

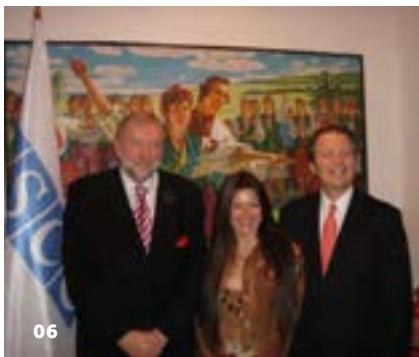
The biggest lesson he hopes to impart? "It's better to talk with people than to shoot at them." Despite intense KGB surveillance, health issues from time in Moscow, and dangerous work in war zones and newly independent nations, Schumaker remains optimistic about diplomacy and international relations. "No matter how badly you may think of other people or other countries, if you can approach a problem in a way to understand their thought processes and why they're doing what they're doing, you can avert a lot of unnecessary conflict." He points to the fact that although he grew up very conservative and as an arch anti-communist, he has many Russian and Ukrainian friends, as well as friends from the Soviet era, when they were considered adversaries of the United States. "It's very helpful not to demonize people and to accept them on their own terms; it's amazing the progress you can make when you do that."

"Everybody has a reason for thinking the way they do; you just have to find that reason, and you can find common ground. That's my belief."

Forty years of successful public service is evidence that Jim Schumaker has stayed true to his word, bringing people together and making the world a better place for it.



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05. Consul General Schumaker visits Omsk in Siberia, Russia.

06. Ambassador Schumaker with the OSCE Chairman in Office Rupel and the Eurovision Winner Ruslana.

07. In 2008, Ambassador Schumaker Meets Ukraine President Yushchenko.

08. Jim and Tanya Schumaker in retirement, San Clemente, CA, 2013.



## A Celebration of Employee Milestones

Each spring at an All-School Assembly, MICDS recognizes those teachers and staff who have reached milestone years of service, beginning with 10 years. We choose to celebrate them with the full JK-12 community, so their students and peers can bear witness to the dedication of these amazing contributors to our MICDS family.

Congratulations to everyone who celebrated a milestone anniversary in 2025!



**Tim Storey, Middle School Arts Teacher**



**Gregory Greenwell, Campus Store Manager**



**Patrick Huber, Upper School Arts Teacher**



**Linda Ganss, Lower School Administrative Assistant**

**Jim Lohr, Lower School Physical Education Teacher**

**Kelly Long, Middle School Science Teacher and Registrar**

**Stacey Morgan, Upper School Science Teacher and Athletics Trainer**

**Natalie Griffin, Middle School World Languages Teacher**

**Elizabeth Helfant, Dean of Curriculum and Instruction**

**Patrick Huewe, Upper School World Languages Teacher**

**Eric Lay, JK-8 Physical Education Department Chair/Director of Fitness & Athletic Development**

**Catherine Leitch, Upper School History Teacher**

**Jody Marberry, Middle School Math Teacher**

**Lynn Mittler, JK-12 English and Language Arts Department Chair**

**Ines Shultz, Middle School World Languages Teacher**

**Soledad Villagomez, Lower School World Languages Teacher**

**Michelle Webster, Middle School Administrative Assistant**



**Donna Waters, Fourth Grade Homeroom Teacher**



**Eric Brunt, Director of Enrollment Management**

**Changa Bey, Upper School History Teacher**

**Andy Cox, Upper School History Teacher**

**Jason Roberts, Middle School Arts Teacher**

**Joanne Vogel, Middle School Arts Teacher**



**Robin Campbell, First Grade Homeroom Teacher**

**Elizabeth Coulter, Director of Development**

**Daniel Crockett Jr., Housekeeping**

**Sarah Garner, Lower School Arts Teacher**

**Diane Gioia, Upper School History Teacher**

**Ben Krueger, Upper School Science Teacher and Athletics Trainer**

**Marshall Newman, Assistant Athletics Director**

**Sylvester Shields, Housekeeping**

**Kelly Walsh, Middle School English Teacher**



## **Lower School Teacher Allison Antolik Shares “Book Talk Magic”**

After attending the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) conference over the summer, **Fourth Grade Homeroom Teacher Allison Antolik** was asked to write an article for the NCTE magazine *Classroom Corridors*. Her piece, *Book Talk Magic: Creating a Community of Readers and Writers*, was published last fall. The article highlights her intentional work in cultivating her fourth-grade class's community through "Book Talks." Antolik said, "Book Talks start as a way to build connection, but they end up building confident, thoughtful readers and writers."

**Thank you for your ongoing  
commitment to MICDS!**

# Faculty Embark on Summertime Professional Development Adventures

The tables turn every summer as our teachers become students, embracing a variety of unique professional development opportunities. From dancing in Slovakia and deeply reading *A Tale of Two Cities* to making music in Colorado and studying Spanish and tennis in Spain, our teachers learned much to bring back to their classrooms.

## Courtney Check, Upper School English Teacher, Enjoys Summer Classics Course in New Mexico

**Upper School English Teacher Courtney Check** participated in a sabbatical funded by the Thomas Family Fellowship. She took a Summer Classics discussion course with St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico.



## Three Attend International Society for Technology in Education Conference in Texas

**Berta Simic and Blake Whitney, Middle School History Teachers**, attended ISTE Live 25, a national conference that brings educators together to explore innovative ed-tech teaching and learning practices.

**Middle School Math Teacher Kristina Jones** served as an ambassador for the math program Struggly at the ISTE Live conference.



## Lower School Librarian Participates in American Library Association's Annual Conference

**Lower School Librarian Thomas Buffington** attended the American Library Association (ALA) Annual Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He heard from authors, explored new books and resources, and gave a presentation on MICDS students' work in the Lower School Library.

## Lower School Teaching Associate Receives Responsive Classroom Training

**Lower School Teaching Associate Kelly Licon** attended a three-day Responsive Classroom training series, where she learned how to foster a positive classroom community, use practices to minimize disruptions, and apply effective classroom management strategies to engage students in meaningful academic learning.



## Two Attend Elementary Mathematics and Literacy Conference

**Allison Antolik, Fourth Grade Homeroom Teacher, and Liz Crowder, Lower School Literacy Coordinator**, attended the joint National Council of Teachers of English and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTE/NCTM) Conference in Chicago, Illinois. The conference is for elementary mathematics and literacy focused on sharing ways to integrate math and literacy.



## Math & Computer Science Department Chair Leads Workshops Across Missouri

Our JK-12 Math & Computer Science Department Chair, **Diane Broberg**, led professional development experiences for teachers across Missouri in the 9-12 strand for the Missouri Council of Teachers of Mathematics (MCTM) Summer Series.



## Upper School Science Teacher Ventures to ChemEd 2025 in Colorado

**Dr. Megumi Yoshioka-Tarver, Upper School Science Teacher**, attended ChemEd 2025 in Golden, Colorado, a chemistry educator conference for learning and exchanging teaching ideas.

## Summer Beasley Dances in Slovakia

Thanks to the Edward M. Rivinus Memorial Summer Sabbatical, this summer, **Lower and Middle School PE Teacher Summer Beasley** traveled to Slovakia with Karlovsky & Company Dance to dance with the company Divadlo Štúdio Tanca that visited MICDS last March.



## Lower School Teacher Attends Science is Cool Unconference

**Lower School Science Teacher Laura Pupillo** attended the virtual Science is Cool Unconference sponsored by PocketLabs, where she connected with inspiring teachers, discovered tools for students to collect and analyze their own data, and picked up hands-on experiment ideas from STEM educator Steve Spangler.

## Dr. Nichols Makes Music at Modern Band Summit

Thanks to the Wilma and Roswell Messing Jr. '34 Summer Sabbatical Award, **Lower School Music Teacher Katy Nichols** attended the Modern Band Summit at Colorado State University. She continued her training in modern band pedagogy, focusing on practical solutions for the classroom.



## Patrick Huewe's Summer of Language, Culture, and Tennis in Spain

**Patrick Huewe, JK-12 World Languages Department Chair & Upper School Spanish Teacher**, traveled to Spain thanks to the generosity of the MI Class of 1957 and the School's summer sabbatical program for faculty continuing education. He reunited with families and friends from the 2017 exchange program with Colegio Balder in Las Rozas and reconnected with Spain's rich traditions, especially its languages and sports, bringing fresh inspiration to the MICDS classrooms and tennis courts.

# The Dean, The Coach, and The Classroom Revolution

## How One Teacher Learned to Love the Bumps in the Road



"The flipped classroom almost was the end of me," admits **Chris Ludbrook, Upper School Dean, Pre-Calculus teacher, and Cycling Coach.** In a flipped classroom, students watch video lectures as homework, freeing up class time for questions and hands-on problem-solving. When Ludbrook introduced the innovative "Flipped Classroom" teaching model at MICDS, the transition was not without friction. For many parents, the shift away from traditional lectures and paper homework raised immediate, valid questions about the value of their investment. Ludbrook's reply that the video was the new

homework and that the 30 extra minutes of class time were for one-on-one teaching eventually quelled their hesitation. It also began a 15-year journey that redefined his role, transformed how math is taught, and taught him that sometimes the best path forward is the one that forces everyone, including him, to take risks and course-correct along the way.

### The Unexpected Path to Pre-Calc

Ludbrook's journey into teaching began as a self-described comedy of errors. Despite failing his first chemistry test, he managed to pass the class, and his love for science persisted. In the final stages of completing a biology degree at WashU, he was taking courses such as vertebrate physiology, microbiology, and the biology of fungi. He loved it, so he kept rolling without knowing where it would take him. Shortly after, he headed west to Mizzou for a semester to study Fisheries and Wildlife Management, and thought, "I found my calling."

His advisor wisely asked what he planned to do with the degree. Ludbrook shared, "He said, 'You're a little older than the rest of these kids here,' because I had done a couple of years of manual labor in between. I told him my story and that I wanted to be a fisheries and wildlife agent." The advisor pointed out that Ludbrook had a pretty serious girlfriend in St. Louis and that, with the wildlife program, it would be at least 15 years before he could move back. Ludbrook realized this plan wouldn't work out because his girlfriend already had a job. "So we got married, and it was a worthwhile choice," he said.

"When I returned to St. Louis, my friend and WashU college roommate—**Josh Smith, Director of Athletics**—was teaching math at MICDS, and had hopes of me joining him there someday. I had another year and a half to get my teaching certification. I did my student teaching, and then I got my first teaching job in the Jennings school district."

The experience of working at Jennings was "absolutely phenomenal. We did everything together. We had basketball leagues in the morning, worked on reopening the swimming pool, brought the union back to the school district, went on vacation together, and went to each other's weddings. It was so much fun, and the kids there are so awesome," he said.

"The number of relationships I formed at Jennings is incredible. I still see some of the students, my bonus kids went there, and I was just texting someone I coached in track back in the day," Ludbrook continued. But when he and his wife, Wendy, started having their own kids, he had to reevaluate how he was spending his time. He was coaching and teaching long hours. "I was a science teacher, a cross-country and track coach, and a part-time triathlete. I'd leave home at 5 a.m. and get home at 10 p.m. The schedule and the drive became overwhelming over time. My godfather had a Marine buddy who once said, 'It was a million-dollar experience, but I wouldn't pay ten cents to do it again.'" It was time for a change, so he reached out to his old friend, Josh Smith.

**>> continued on page 38**



**Ludbrook's 1989 Kirkwood High School ID—  
"I keep it posted in my office because it's a  
reminder of what kids are like in high school.  
I was there at one point."**

## Quick Lap

### What's your favorite season of the school year?

Coming back in the fall is my favorite by far. The campus isn't meant to be empty in the summer; adults aren't what fills this place up. I love the first day when all the kids are excited, and you can feel the energy.

**What's your favorite time of the school day?** The morning. I like getting here early, seeing who's hanging out in Hearth, chatting the kids up, and messing with them a little bit.

**What's your favorite lunch in the dining hall?** It used to be meatloaf, but they don't make it anymore. So, I'm still gonna stick with meatloaf and hope it comes back.

**What's your worst cycling accident?** I was near the airport on the north side by the train tracks. I was going about 25 mph, it was wet, and my front wheel got stuck between the asphalt and the track. The next thing I remember was trying to get up off the ground. The next day, I was with Josh doing a simple math problem on the board. I did it three times and got three different answers. I said, 'Josh, what is wrong?' and he said, 'I think you have a concussion,' and sent me home.

### Do you have a favorite hype song?

Anything by the Beastie Boys, but right now it would be *A Little Respect* by Erasure. When I see **Bonnie Carpenter (JK-12 Arts Department Chair)**, I start singing it really quietly because it gets lodged in her head.

**Do the students have a nickname for you?** My wife and I now have a 14-month-old granddaughter, so the students and the Cyclocross team love calling me Gramps.



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When Ludbrook made the switch to MICDS, he also had to change subject matter. "There were no science openings at the time, but there was a math one. The challenge was that I was not teaching math. In science, there is a lot of experiential work I could guide. And math, at that time, was more like, 'I'm going to try to tell you some math stuff, and you're going to try to learn it.' I had a problem getting a consistent message from class to class, getting used to different kids, and getting used to different schools and systems."

## The Classroom Revolution

Unexpected help arrived when Ludbrook was running errands. "I was walking around Target, and I ran into a guy I used to work with. He asked if I'd heard of the flipped classroom. I came back to school and asked Kyle Webb, a former teacher who was a student teacher here at the time. He said, 'Oh, I think I've heard of that. Let's try it.' We went down to the basement of Mathews, put up four whiteboards, and filled them with information to make our first flipped lesson. It took us two hours to make a five-minute video. It's a lot easier now that I've done it for 13 of my 15 years," he laughed. Webb, an educational consultant, has since written a book about it with Peter Liljedahl, called *Mathematics Tasks for the*



*Thinking Classroom*, which many MICDS math teachers have on hand.

The flipped classroom approach is a good way to achieve a thinking classroom because it frees up classroom time for deeper cognitive engagement, although it can give students the impression they've already learned all there is to know. "Some students will watch a video on how to do something, and then you ask them to come struggle with a problem. They'll say, 'I watched a video. I know what to do.' To me, making them actually think and engage their brains is more valuable than watching a video and answering a few questions. This reflects how we continue to grow and learn about learning," said Ludbrook.

He added that although the flipped classroom was quite

popular when first developed, many MICDS faculty now use the videos strategically. "We share videos on our Canvas page during AP testing time, holidays, or during state sports meets, when we know kids are out frequently," he said. "It's like off-season work. If you missed something or didn't understand it, here's another way to look at it."

Ludbrook appreciates the flexibility of this approach. "It's nuanced, coming in handy at specific times of the year or in specific scenarios. Obviously, during COVID, it was helpful to be able to send out videos. In that environment, some kids were sick, some didn't have a good daytime internet connection, or some were taking care of a sibling. Those videos were always waiting for them in

**"It's tough to do math for a full 90-minute period while sitting there. Standing obviously encourages more blood flow, and if you can put together these small things—like standing—that seem to move the needle just a little bit, you'll find you're actually moving the needle significantly."**

# The Thinking Classroom Benefits

**Peer Instruction & Confidence:** It's huge that different kids are successful in different areas. Having someone else every once in a while say, 'Wow, this is my strong suit, let me explain it,' is incredible.

**Communication Skills:** Being forced to explain something to someone else in written form is key to almost every job. If you can break down a concept with different words so others can understand it, what else can a boss ask for?

**Active Note-Taking:** I always hated 'pencil-whipping' notes. You're scrambling to keep up, not paying attention or thinking. Then you don't go back to your notes, so it's a waste of time. If we can have a conversation first, I'll stop talking for 10 minutes so they can write down everything they need.

**Collaboration:** The ability for students to talk with each other and work through problems is important. Discussing, debating, and arguing about the math is incredibly effective. It breaks down the barrier between peers, because someone who helps one week might need help with a different concept a month later.

Canvas, ready to be watched at a time that worked for them."

He's a deep believer in the tactile action of doing math. "There is evidence, and Peter Liljedahl is a proponent of it, that standing and writing on a non-permanent surface is critical to kids taking chances and taking risks and trying," he explained. "It's tough to do math for a full 90-minute period while sitting there. Standing obviously encourages more blood flow, and if you can put together these small things—like standing—that seem to move the needle just a little bit, you'll find you're actually moving the needle significantly. Look at the workplace: being able to work with folks, have conversations, and take feedback and criticism is huge. It pays off down the road and makes the conversation less threatening, conditioning them for hard conversations later on."

Ludbrook thrives in the thinking classroom model. "I teach two sections of pre-calc. I like to think we have fun. Once the concepts start clicking, they realize, 'I don't know why this felt hard.' We get students up on the vertical whiteboards to wrestle with problems. If they're truly thinking and wrestling with the material, they can teach themselves a lesson without even realizing it. We come back together and say, 'Didn't we just figure that out?' Exactly. So now you know how to do it."

## The Anti-Administrator

At Jennings, Ludbrook wanted to stay as far away from administration as possible. "I had a Master's in educational technology at a time when we were using HTML to build

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webpages," he said. "I saw what the administrators dealt with, and they weren't in the classroom anymore. I thought there's no way I want to be locked in an office all day, churning through discipline and things like that."

Though he had no sights on becoming a dean when he first landed at MICDS, the lure of continuing to teach is what sealed the deal. "I was ready for something a little bit different and looking for the next challenge. It's really cool to be able to still be in the classroom, working face-to-face with the kids, and shaping the direction of the class and the School alongside the other deans and **Head of Upper School Scott Small.**"

At MICDS, each class has one dean who stays with them over the four-year Upper School journey. When Ludbrook was named dean in 2015, he took over a class in its junior year. "That was tough, starting mid-track," he said. "They were shaped under someone else during those formative years, so we all had to figure out how to work together to keep that car going down the road."

The role of the high school dean in TV and movies is often either lauded or feared. Ludbrook falls in the lauded camp, though his own children feel otherwise. "I have five kids—two are grown bonus

kids in their 40s," he said. His younger three children followed in their dad's footsteps to Kirkwood High School. Their involvement with local sports has overlapped with MICDS athletes, so they've heard stories about Ludbrook over the years. "My kids always say, 'I don't understand why those kids go hang out in their dean's office. Why would they want to do that?' Being an administrator with a smaller student body is one of the real perks of my job. Sometimes ninth-grade students start by coming to my office because they need help, or something's wrong, whether it's learning something new, family issues, or frustration with a friend," he said.

The school community at MICDS is anchored in striving towards helping students feel seen and known, and Ludbrook's office is evidence of that. "After a while, they come in more regularly. By the time they're sophomores and juniors, there's usually a handful hanging out in here doing work, because it's a comfortable, quiet space. That part is nice," Ludbrook said.

## The Four-Year Trajectory from Chaos to College Readiness

Each of the four Upper School years comes with predictable developmental phases that all deans have mastered.

**"I tell parents that the value-add here is that these young kids learn over four years how to be young adults: how to advocate for themselves, manage their time, and take care of themselves and others."**



"Freshman year is tough, and it mimics your own kids' growth," Ludbrook said. "We are dealing with typical immature 14-year-old behaviors, trying to shape that and reminding them of the basic responsibilities, like being on time. Deans and teachers also don't know the students well enough yet, so we can't easily lean on the relationship to course-correct. Usually, the girls have it figured out by the time they wade through freshman year. The vast majority of boys have it figured out by the start of junior year."

As students grow, their problems decrease in quantity but can increase in severity. "There is a point at which some of these problems affect their trajectory. I'm not saying they will be less successful. A situation can change a trajectory, and you can still be perfectly successful, happy, and have a wonderful life."

By the time they're seniors, Ludbrook relishes the relationships they've built. "I can pull someone aside and say, 'C'mon, why would you do that? That's not the person I know in you.' Often, that redirects behaviors and challenges, and it takes care of itself," he said.

When graduation arrives, he feels a sense of great pride. "They know what to do with the next step. I tell parents that the value-add here is that these young kids learn over four years how to be young adults: how to advocate for themselves, manage their time, and take care of themselves and others."

Ludbrook notes that they teach all students a few basic tenets: Where to go for help and how to ask for help from a teacher or advisor. These tools prove vital when new MICDS graduates

head to college, and the familiar supports disappear. Ludbrook shared, "Our students come back and say, 'I didn't believe it, but college is so easy for me, compared to the people around me.' That's the hallmark of success coming out."

## Loving the Bumps in the Road

If teaching and serving as dean were considered sports, adding coaching makes Ludbrook the quintessential triathlete in an educational system. Whether on a cyclocross course navigating creek beds, road cycling with a dozen students who need to come back in one piece, standing at a whiteboard debating pre-calc, or navigating an issue, the process is the same: taking risks, welcoming feedback, and learning to course-correct. While the dean's role—in which he sometimes sees students at their worst—is far more challenging, the ultimate goal is identical to the lessons learned on the bike: to guide the student from one point to the next, whole and successful. As Ludbrook is quoted in the 2014 MICDS yearbook, summing up his overall philosophy: "Everything you study is the same thing you learned earlier in life, but more complicated."



## Board of Visitors Contemplates Student Life

The 2025 MICDS Board of Visitors examined the subject of student life. The Board, chaired by **Jamie Corley '05** and **James Emanuel '04**, looked at the topic both at MICDS and in a national context. Here was their charge:

*Our students have more choices than ever during their MICDS careers. What are the challenges faced by students in finding a balance with all the opportunities present, and how can the School best support its students and their parents/families? In addition, how can MICDS create more opportunities to engage alumni with students and bring student stories into our alumni engagement, while protecting students and their own balance?*

While on campus, the group heard from a variety of stakeholders. **Head of School Jay Rainey** provided a state of the School, especially in comparison to peer schools from the Board members' own communities. **Dr. Sally Maxwell, Assistant Head of School for Teaching and Learning**, shared what student life looks like today as compared to when they were students, which then led to a question-and-answer session with our three division heads, **Athletics Director Josh Smith**, **Student Support Director Dr. Sheila Powell-Walker**, and **Director of Student Activities Nicole Trueman-Shaw**. The panel answered questions about academics, athletics, extracurriculars, and student support.

### 2025 Board of Visitors Roster

**Jamie Corley '05** – In-Town Co-Chair, St. Louis, MO  
**James Emanuel '04** – In-Town Co-Chair, St. Louis, MO  
**Jon M. Austin '77**, Minneapolis, MN  
**Katherine (Katie) Watt Banahan '02**, Austin, TX  
**Vivek Biswas '11**, Chicago, IL  
**Courtney Blankenship '89**, Petersburg, IL  
**Wendy Brafman '87**, Alexandria, VA  
**Blake Briscoe '11**, New York, NY  
**Caroline Noel Cooper '92**, Chevy Chase, MD  
**Emily Fuleihan Covington '01**, Great Falls, VA  
**Noah E. Croom '83**, Minneapolis, MN  
**Andrew (Drew) A. Flanigan '03**, Dallas, TX  
**Keith Gordon '91**, New Rochelle, NY  
**Bill Guerri '74**, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
**David Jones '15**, Chicago, IL  
**Arun Kurichety '97**, Laguna Beach, CA  
**Lauren Cohen Levy '01**, Bay Area, CA  
**Jennifer Lortz '89**, Smyrna, GA  
**Sangita Patel Macklin '85**, London, UK  
**Tess Mandoli '15**, Dallas, TX  
**Betsy Goodman McPherson '92**, Denver, CO  
**Caroline Militello '14**, New York, NY  
**Kate Rouse '10**, New York, NY  
**Peter (Bo) B. Rutledge '88**, Athens, GA  
**Michael Sarver '00**, Darien, CT  
**Julia Nouss TenHoeve '05**, Houston, TX  
**Billy Weitzer '71**, New York, NY



**Dean of Digital Learning Tex Tourais** spoke on "AI in (and out) of the classroom," providing an overview of MICDS' approach to AI through the use of FLINT, which is the School-approved artificial intelligence tool used by our teachers and students.

**Erin Hamill, Director of Global Learning and Upper School Community Service**, presented on experiential learning, including Winter Term, global programming, and community service. The Board also enjoyed lunch and a panel discussion with eighth-12th-grade students.

After their various learning sessions and discussions, the Board of Visitors shared their reflections with Mr. Rainey and members of the Senior Leadership Team before departing.

Many thanks to our entire Board of Visitors for their dedication to MICDS. We appreciate your time, insight, and enthusiasm!





# Homecoming 2025

## Vibrant Spirit & Milestone Events

It's a bonanza of school spirit. Cheers of "Let's go Rams!" echo across 100 acres of campus. Hearts are beating vigorously during excitingly close athletic contests. Laughter ricochets through bounce houses. A steady "thump, thump, thump" can be heard and felt, racing along from our rival school to MICDS. A group of bagpipes sounds in the night. What could all of this mean? It's Homecoming!

The highly anticipated 2025 Homecoming festivities did not disappoint. Under sunny skies and red, green, and white face paint, we were proud to bring the whole community together for a vibrant spirit week culminating with the marathon of MICDS Homecoming events.

### Spirit Week

Each day during Homecoming week, students could wear themed spirit wear.

- Monday – Pajama Day
- Tuesday – Country Western Day
- Wednesday – Homecoming T-Shirt Day
- Thursday – Represent Your Favorite City (Lower & Middle School) and Throwback Thursday Day (Upper School)
- Friday – MICDS Spirit Day

### All-School Pep Rally

On Friday afternoon, the entire student body, faculty, and staff gathered at Ron Holtman Stadium and on O'Hara Field for the all-school pep rally. The whole school got pumped up for the weekend by our Middle and Upper School Bands, enjoyed energetic cheerleader performances, rooted for our fall athletic teams, and cheered one another on during cross-divisional competitions. Athletic Council co-heads



This year's Homecoming t-shirt was designed by **Lucy Black '28**, pictured in the center below. "I created the design as part of my Digital Design class," shared Black. "It was an amazing experience to see the whole school community wearing something I designed and spent a lot of time working on. There were a lot of other really good designs, so I was very honored to have my design chosen. I was so glad I got to contribute my design to our Homecoming spirit week!"





**Morgan Macam '26 and Cooper Myers '26** announced the varsity captains of each fall sports team. The captains then introduced the rest of their teams. Following, team leapfrog and pizza box keepaway contests were held with small groups of students and faculty competing. As students were dismissed from the pep rally, Upper Schoolers formed a gauntlet for Lower Schoolers to walk through on their way to enjoy Homecoming Weekend.

## Food Truck Friday

The first full-community event of the weekend was Food Truck Friday. Families enjoyed food, drinks, and desserts from a variety of food trucks outside the McDonnell Athletic Center (MAC). They dined on the campus lawns as excitement for the weekend grew. Our Parents Association Arts Boosters provided glow sticks, noisemakers, and other swag to help kick off the evening.

## Parade and Bonfire

Just after sunset, the sound of bagpipes could be heard while the bagpipers, including several alumni, led the procession of cheerleaders and football players to the bonfire field. The bonfire was topped with a wooden blue-and-yellow football jersey that read "JBS 100," created by our Upper School Athletics Committee Representatives in the makerspace. Soon, the bonfire grew, and in the golden heat, the football players and cheerleaders sang the CODASCO *Fight Song*. The Rams were officially warmed up for the following day's many Homecoming athletic contests and activities.

## Fun Run

Bright and early, Ram and Bomber families alike gathered for the annual 2.5-mile run/walk Fun Run. After collecting swag from the MICDS Alumni & Development table, a whistle sounded, and families ran, walked, scootered, and biked their way to MICDS.

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## Carnival and Barbecue

The MICDS Homecoming Carnival transformed the MAC into an epic play space, complete with iconic bounce houses, obstacle courses, popcorn stations, balloon artists, carnival games, face painting, and more. Outside the MAC, all were invited to join a complimentary BBQ lunch on the north patio. From the patio, attendees could even witness the MICDS Rams defeating Burroughs on the field hockey pitch in an incredible matchup.

## Athletic Contests

Throughout the weekend, our Rams competed against the Bombers in many athletic contests. Our Sports Boosters offered swag to help Ram fans cheer on our student athletes throughout the day. Events included Boys Swimming and Diving at Orthwein Pool, Girls Tennis at the new Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney Family Tennis Center, Boys Soccer on O'Hara Field, Girls Volleyball in the McDonnell Gymnasium, and Field Hockey on Thomas Field. The grand finale was the 100th-anniversary matchup between the MICDS and JBS Varsity Football teams at Ron Holtman Stadium on O'Hara Field. Congratulations to Boys Swimming and Diving, Field Hockey, and Football on their exciting victories over JBS! Way to go, Rams!





## Ram Run & 100th MICDS vs. JBS Football Game

Preceding the traditional football game against JBS, MICDS Upper Schoolers in the Rams Army spirit club raced down to Ron Holtman Stadium in themed white-out wear, paint, and baby powder, for the traditional Ram Run.

The cheerleaders were in full-spirit mode, helping with the breakaway banner the football players ran through, cheering on the sidelines, doing push-ups when points were scored, and performing a special routine during halftime.

Congratulations to all who helped make Homecoming a weekend to remember. Go Rams!

This year's historic Varsity Football game marked the 100th year of the rivalry contest between CODASCO/ MICDS and John Burroughs football. Such a milestone game included many thoughtful details, including a joint commemorative MICDS vs. JBS 100th Football Game Program, to honor the two schools and their football programs, teams, coaches, and histories. Read more about this momentous occasion on page 68!



# May Day 2025

## A Beautiful Tradition

The young women of the Class of 2025 and their families gathered at Lilly's Field for this time-honored and beloved tradition that began in 1912. In 2000, the children and grandchildren of alumna **Lilly Busch Hermann '41** arranged for the renovation of the May Field on the MICDS campus, and it was named "Lilly's Field" in her memory. Since then, senior girls—joined by fourth, eighth, and 11th-grade girls—have celebrated spring in a beautiful location. Younger sisters of seniors serve as Ribbon Presenters.

The senior participants crowned **Reagan Hamilton '25** as their May Queen, surrounding her with love and laughter at the conclusion. **Carrie Clennon '26** and **Laurion Nicholson '26** served as the coronation pages. Student Council Co-Head **Lilly Loeb '25** crowned Hamilton.



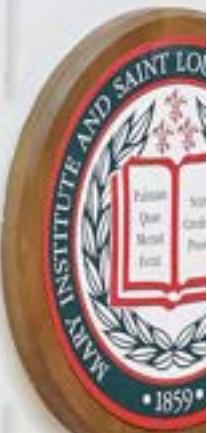


## Michelle Li Talks Passion & Purpose

Michelle Li is an award-winning journalist and passionate advocate whose work has made a profound impact both in the newsroom and in the community. As a respected reporter for KSDK, Li has distinguished herself through her exceptional storytelling, earning multiple prestigious Peabody and Edward R. Murrow awards for her impactful journalism. Beyond her acclaimed reporting career, Li is the co-founder of the Very Asian Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and uplifting the Asian American community. What began as a response to adversity sparked a global movement of solidarity and support, exemplifying Li's ability to transform challenges into opportunities for positive change. She's also a parent at MICDS.

"All of our stories matter," Li said. "It's better to prepare strong children than to repair broken men." She continued, "So what is your 'very?' What are you very proud of? How can your passion fuel your purpose? Be nimble. I love storytelling, finding the truth, and connecting people. Create change with your own unique experiences and figure out how to effect change in your community."

She challenged students to meet a moment every day, and ask others, "What am I missing? Can you teach me something?" She said, "Small things in your life can really change the trajectory for a long time. Something you do today can make an impact in 10 years. Learn how you can harness your passions for purpose. What can you do today?"



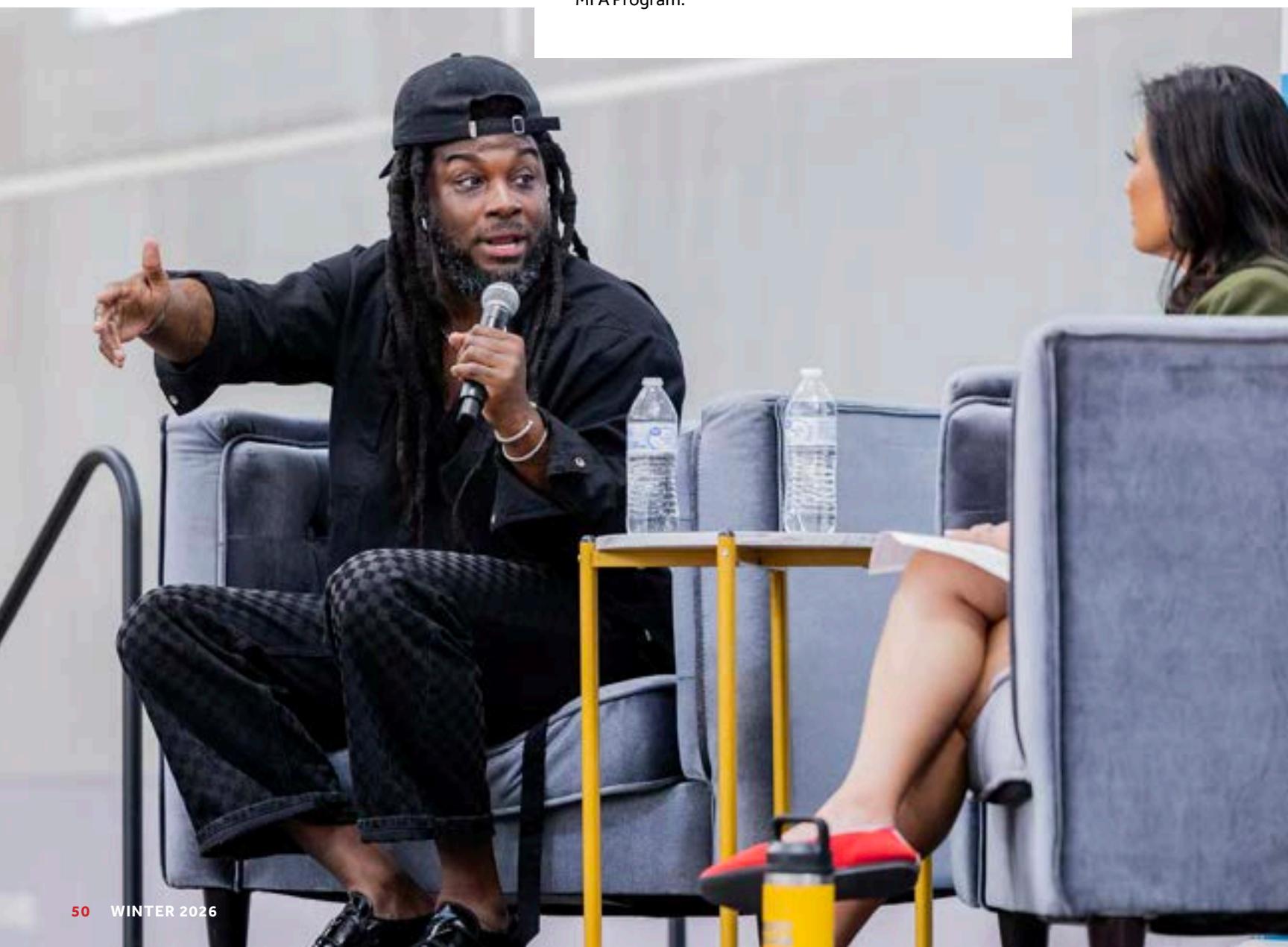
**“Every so often, you come across a writer who truly gets it. Jason’s ability to connect with kids is remarkable—he spoke to them with such genuine warmth and authenticity that you could feel the energy in the room.”**

MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARIAN BETHANY KAVANAUGH

## Author Jason Reynolds Inspires Young Writers

MICDS, in partnership with the Noble Neighbor, hosted renowned author Jason Reynolds on October 17, 2025. Due to Reynolds’ popularity, a dozen schools across the area were invited to participate, and the McDonnell Athletic Center quickly filled with students eager to hear from this dynamic writer.

Jason Reynolds is a #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of many award-winning books. The recipient of a Newbery Honor, a Printz Honor, an NAACP Image Award, and multiple Coretta Scott King honors, Reynolds was also the 2020–2022 National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. He is on faculty at Lesley University for the Writing for Young People MFA Program.



Reynolds shared that his goal isn't to teach something when he writes for children. "You have parents and teachers and coaches whose job it is to teach you. My job is to let you know that somebody out here knows you're alive. I know you. You're ok, and I love you."

"Nobody is going to be able to tell your story if you really want your story to be told, so write it. If you feel like your version of life hasn't been represented by anyone else, you write it. You have the obligation and ability to do it. Tell your story. Sing it if that's your thing. Draw pictures if that's your thing. It all counts. Put your story out into the world."

Reynolds encouraged students to work through the difficult moments. "We go through things. It's a moment, and then we move on. Figure out how to move through it, carry it with us, find the joke, find the light. I find where my friends are, and we figure it out. That's what I try to honor."

"Everyone has their issues, but everybody also has a teacher they know. The teachers who you know? They got you. The coaches, parents, the people you trust and believe in, and your friends. You should see yourself as a valuable thing. Take it from me, I love you. I believe you're the most intelligent generation to ever live. I'm just waiting for you to realize that."

Reynolds stressed that it's important to recognize that hard times and difficult moments are actually essential to a well-lived life. "We don't want to live in a world without uncomfortable stuff," he said. "All of you have a story to tell, and I can't wait to catch up with you in 30 or 40 years."

**Middle School Librarian Bethany Kavanaugh** was thrilled to welcome one of her favorite authors to campus. "Every so often, you come across a writer who truly gets it," she said. "Jason's ability to connect with kids is remarkable—he spoke to them with such genuine warmth and authenticity that you could feel the energy in the room. He didn't just talk at students; he talked *with* them, meeting them exactly where they are. It's clear how much he cares about his readers, and his goal of reminding them how important and seen they are was apparent with every word out of his mouth. Our students, and all of those from visiting schools, were captivated and hopefully inspired to get out there and tell their own story however they choose!"



**"We go through things. It's a moment, and then we move on. Figure out how to move through it, carry it with us, find the joke, find the light. I find where my friends are, and we figure it out. That's what I try to honor."**

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**JASON REYNOLDS**

# From Bananas to Birds

## Eighth-Grade Art Installation

### Takes Flight

**It all started with a banana taped to a wall.**



In Middle School Art Teacher Jayme Zimmer's eighth-grade art classroom, she and the students discussed the infamous work *Comedian* as art and the artist's intent behind it.

*Comedian* is a conceptual artwork by Italian artist Maurizio Cattelan, first exhibited at Art Basel Miami Beach in December 2019. It consists of a single, ripe banana affixed to a wall with a single piece of duct tape. The artwork garnered international attention and controversy due to its simplistic nature and exorbitant price tag. The piece challenges conventional notions of what constitutes art, prompting viewers to consider the role of context, intention, and the art market in determining value.

Zimmer said, "We talked about 'humor' in art and decided to create giant chicken sculptures as our subject matter. We also conducted research on the global symbolism of the 'chicken,' looking for cultural connections. We found that many cultures worldwide use the chicken as a symbol for concepts like motherhood, fidelity, good fortune, magical powers, and prosperity. We looked at other artists who use chickens as subject



matter and found the Oaxacan wood carvings especially beautiful."

To begin, and with fun in mind, students started the chicken-making process with a large beach ball that would serve as the body. Each student learned about building a form with a variety of materials and finishing the form with papier-mâché and plaster strips.

Students also used AI tools to visualize their ideas. Zimmer said, "In the past, Google images only gave us existing images. Now with AI, you can generate very nuanced ideas. The creativity really flowed by taking those AI images and applying them to a sculpture the student-artist created. The students had to figure out what would work for the medium and create it using their own innovations."

Students learned how to distribute weight in their pieces so the chickens would remain upright, whether perched or fully standing. They foraged for rocks to work as weights inside the body and on the feet. Through trial and error, they figured out what works best for creating strong joints and connections that will allow the chickens to stand solidly.

"Between the stamina it took to add all the building layers and then finally getting to the surface, where we got to create the actual character design, students connected to their birds in a way where artists feel fulfilled when finishing a piece that they worked so long and hard on," said Zimmer. "When looking at the final results, you can see that some students chose to work with a process, while others chose to express an idea. While many students used humor as their expression, you can see from the photos that others focused on beauty and affinity for tangible things, activities, and places they cherish."

As our eighth graders departed Danforth Hall for the last time, their chickens flew the Freeman Arts Center coop and enjoyed an installation art "flocking" exhibit in the Black and White Hallway. These feathered friends became a testament to the students' creativity, humor, and newfound understanding of what art can truly be.



# Arts Fest 2025

## A Community of Creativity

The MAC, the South Gym, and the Beasley cafeteria (and all parts in between) were bursting with creativity and talent at the third annual MICDS Arts Fest.

Perennial favorite activities returned, such as the Mad Splatter, The Art of Improvisation, Wheel Throwing, and the Instrument Test Drive. Our supremely creative arts faculty and staff also presented a variety of new options, including a Camera Obscura, Medieval Illuminated Letters, and Color Space Virtual Reality. MICDS families enjoyed creating a giant, collaborative work of art with butcher paper and sidewalk chalk, finding beautiful works of art at the Art Rescue, visiting with Charger the Ram, and viewing the work of our youngest students in a temporary Beasley Gallery Walk staged in the Lower School cafeteria.





In between trying out all the experiential art, visitors enjoyed performances that included scenes from the Middle School production of *Frozen Jr.* and the Upper School musical *Hadestown: Teen Edition*. Our talented student musicians of all ages also offered concerts for orchestra, band, and choir.

Arts Boosters volunteers staffed a popular booth, distributing cotton candy, helping guests make their own custom buttons, and encouraging temporary face art with glittery stickers. Our food service partner, FLIK, offered brownies, cookies, and popcorn.

The planning committee moved Arts Fest indoors this year due to the forecast of inclement weather, and the wind and rain outside did not dampen spirits inside. The mood was festive and appreciative of all forms of art and the talented students, faculty, and staff who make it.



# Bright and Beautiful Spring Pops Wows Audiences



The MICDS Upper School Choirs presented two performances of their annual Spring Pops Concert in Orthwein Theatre. The beloved event is a student-driven choral production with original choreography created by the talented singers themselves. This high-energy concert is accompanied by a live stage band, and the show always incorporates a few surprises throughout the evening. Nearly 20 different songs were performed by the Tenor-Bass Choir, the Treble Choir, the Chamber Choir, and the featured soloists.

Songs featured on the 2025 concert included *Footloose* (Kenny Loggins), *Beat It* (Michael Jackson), *Never Gonna Give You Up* (Rick Astley), *The Lazy Song* (Bruno Mars), *High Hopes* (Panic! At the Disco), *True Colors* (Cyndi Lauper), *Holding Out For A Hero* (Bonnie Tyler), *Pompeii* (Bastille), *Shut Up and Dance* (Walk the Moon), *Big Yellow Taxi* (Joni Mitchell), *Got My Mind Set On You* (George Harrison), and more!

Four featured soloists and duets performed at both evening concerts. To take the stage as a soloist or duet performer, students auditioned in front of a panel of their peers who evaluated each audition and selected the four that best fit into the concert this year. Featured soloists for 2025 included **Bella Froedge '28** and **Priyasha Munshi '28** (*Ain't No Mountain High Enough*), **Reina Banerjee '27** and **Ezra Ewald '27** (*Remember*), **Ryan Jan '25** and **Grant LaMartina '25** (*Found Tonight*), and **Joe Walsh '25** (*All of Me*).

At the conclusion of the concerts on both nights, **Upper School Performing Arts Teacher Dana Self** acknowledged the performers and the choreographers. Additionally, after the final show on Friday, he honored the seniors.

Thank you to all who joined in on this POPular and fun community favorite.

*Bravo, singers and choreographers!*



# ENOUGH: Plays to End Gun Violence One Acts Speak to Victims' Stories



**“In producing this show, our goal was to authentically tell the stories of victims of gun violence, including those who are killed or injured, those who are left behind, and those who work to help them. We’re calling our production of these scripts *Trigger Warning*, both because the mechanism that precipitates gun violence is the trigger, and because the audience must be aware that we confront the consequences of gun violence, and those consequences are not easy, even in the form presented here.”**

UPPER SCHOOL FINE & PERFORMING ARTS TEACHER PATRICK HUBER

The MICDS Upper School theater program presented a groundbreaking production in the Vincent Price Theatre of *Enough: Plays to End Gun Violence—Trigger Warning*, a series of six one-act plays that speak to the stories of victims of gun violence.

#### Upper School Fine & Performing Arts

**Teacher Patrick Huber** said, “Last year, I was introduced to a project called *Enough: Plays to End Gun Violence*. High school students from across the country write and submit one-act plays. The prompt includes this challenge: What if...you wrote a play about gun violence without showing a gun and without showing any violence? What kind of play would YOU write?”

Seven of the submitted plays were selected for a staged reading in cities across the US by a panel of industry-leading playwrights, dramaturgs, directors, and producers. The selected plays are then published by Playscripts, Inc. and offered for production. In summer 2024, Playscripts began licensing all three annual editions of the *Enough* plays. This gave the MICDS Theater Department 21 plays to choose from, and with the leadership of our Thespian Society members as directors, the students and faculty put together a powerful show from these scripts.

“The MICDS Mission states, *More than ever, our nation needs responsible men and women who can... embrace all [the world’s] people with compassion*. None of our students know what it was like to hear about the Columbine shooting in 1999,” said Huber. “It seemed unthinkable at the time. Since then, it has been normalized, and the stories we are confronted with of victims of gun violence have multiplied and overwhelmed us. Active shooter drills are now part of every student’s life.



"More than ever, we can't look away as the victims of gun violence accumulate. We can change the world, but empathy for those among us who are suffering is an important condition of that agency. Theater, especially in the form of the voices of young writers, directors, and actors, has always been one of the most effective therapies for developing empathy.

"In producing this show, our goal was to authentically tell the stories of victims of gun violence, including those who are killed or injured, those who are left behind, and those who work to help them. We're calling our production of these scripts *Trigger Warning*, both because the mechanism that precipitates gun violence is the trigger, and because the audience must be aware that we confront the consequences of gun violence, and those consequences are not easy, even in the form presented here."

Due to the strong language and references to violence, trauma, and self-harm, the actors and production members held a talkback after each performance to integrate the thoughts, insights, and impact of the show.

**Taylor Nuzum '26** said, "I knew that I wanted to direct after participating in *The Good Doctor* one-acts last year. I was immediately drawn to my scene with Carrie, *Lightning Strike*, because the protagonist had the same name as my sister, Hallie, and I found the writing to be very inspirational and emotional. Some challenges we encountered came during casting, as Carrie and I had trouble deciding whether we wanted to cast four different people or a single actress for the role, but we ultimately decided to only cast **Narya [Phatak '26]** based on her powerful performance. I'm most proud of how Narya, Carrie, and I worked together to make the piece feel so natural, considering this was the first time it was ever staged. In my opinion, the most important takeaway from the production was learning the importance of working together as a cast to support each other, because acting as a traumatized character can be very damaging."

**Cam Cozad '27** directed *It's Okay* and said, "I felt like it was an important show and I needed to be a part of it." What he didn't expect was having to step in for one of his actors at the Saturday night performance. "Mr. Huber came

**>> continued on page 60**

## The production included the following plays:

- *Undo, Redo* by Cameron Thiesing, directed by **Lilia Oulamine '26**
- *It's Okay* by Anya Jiménez, directed by **Cam Cozad '27**
- *A Call for Help* by Pepper Fox, directed by **Katherine Rose Ellenhorn '26**
- *Lightning Strike* by Amanda Fagan, directed by **Carrie Clennan '26** and **Taylor Nuzum '26**
- *Guns in Dragonland* by Eilisinn Gracen, directed by **Grace Powell '26**
- *Write Their Wrongs* by Wyn Alyse Thomas, directed by **Lainie Zimmer '26**

Scenic, sound, lighting, and costume design added to the potency of the production:

- Scenic Design by **Lola Compton '27** and **Catherine Dawson '26**
- Lighting Design by **Max Charnond '25**
- Sound Design by **Meredith Mack '26**
- Costume Design by **Ava Casillas '26**, **Natalie Benoit '25**, and **Samantha Sullivan '25**



>> continued from page 59

up to me maybe two minutes before the show started and told me my actor was sick and had to leave. I had to play a character for the first time on stage. It was scary, but I appreciated being more involved than just directing," he said.

"I was inspired to direct the plays because for a lot of my life I have been on stage," said Carrie Clennan '26. "Whether it is acting in class with Ms. Hood, receiving direction in Price or Orthwein, or singing at Blue Whale, I have always loved to perform and share my passion for art with others. However, I realized that I had never known what it was like to be on the other side, creating art as a director instead of the vessel in which the art was produced. I thought it would be a really cool experience to direct a play to see what it's like from the other perspective."

"One of the challenges that I was a little concerned about initially was that our actress, Narya, had never been on stage before. However, we were able to completely work through it because she has so much perseverance and is a quick learner. Taylor and I were able to give her notes and instructions that she almost immediately implemented, and by using good communication and honesty, I think we were able to pull off a really great actor-director relationship. Additionally, being a first-time director and only being 17, it was challenging at times to gain the complete attention of the room and quiet down the cast, but I figured out that treating them respectfully while also being clear about my expectations was the key to success."

"I think an important takeaway from the production is that trauma can affect any and all people, and it is important to recognize that issues that have happened in the past are still prevalent



**"I think an important takeaway from the production is that trauma can affect any and all people, and it is important to recognize that issues that have happened in the past are still prevalent in the present. As a director, I realized that it is important to lead with a balance of empathy and bluntness, of kindness and also firmness. I am most proud of how smoothly everything went and how well the cast and crew all got along."**

CARRIE CLENNAN '26

in the present. As a director, I realized that it is important to lead with a balance of empathy and bluntness, of kindness and also firmness. I am most proud of how smoothly everything went and how well the cast and crew all got along," she added.

Huber said, "We had large and attentive audiences for all of the performances, which makes me proud of the MICDS community for considering this difficult but important subject. I am humbled by the courage of the student artists who created this production, and by their trust in me by investing themselves so thoroughly."





# Art History in Chicago

## A City to Inspire New Perspectives

On a long weekend in April, students in AP® Art History rose before dawn to board a flight with their chaperones, **Upper School Arts Teachers Patrick Huber and Denise Douglas**, and visit the vibrant city of Chicago and its artistic treasures.

After a fortifying and welcome post-flight breakfast in the Loop, students took a walking tour of Chicago's architecture and public sculpture, marveling at skyscrapers and public sculptures. They explored the hallowed halls of the Art Institute of Chicago, where masterpieces were viewed and discussed, including works listed in the AP Art History "250" list, the specific 250 required works of art and architecture that students must study as part of the curriculum and final AP exam. Students also visited the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures at the University of Chicago, the Robie House, a Prairie-style gem crafted by the visionary Frank Lloyd Wright in 1909, and the Museum of Contemporary Art. The trip wrapped up with a visit to the Field Museum, and a stroll through the iconic Millennium Park to study "The Bean" and Frank Gehry's Pritzker Pavilion.

No visit to Chicago is complete without meals at Portillo's and Giordano's, and a special surprise included catching a production of *Moulin Rouge* at the Cadillac Palace Theatre.





## Lower School Goes “Up and Away”

### Author Jason Henry Talks Writing and Publishing

Visiting author Jason Henry came by Beasley to read his book, *Up and Away*, and talk about the process of writing and publishing a book. Henry traveled to MICDS from his home state of New Jersey to visit his family, including his nephews, **Lincoln '36** and **Ryder B. '33**. He began by explaining that he is an author and an illustrator, and then talked about inventors. “It all starts with an idea, a thought in your head.” *Up and Away* is the true story of Joseph Montgolfier, who, with his brother, built the first flying machine in 1783: a hot air balloon. “It came from an idea,” he said. After the initial idea, an inventor builds and tests, and often that first design doesn’t work. So they build and test again. “Everything around us became possible from ideas.” He donned a wig and a coat to transport the children to 1700s France.

The Montgolfier brothers tried many different designs, testing each one and then making changes to the next iteration. “That’s what we should do when we face obstacles,” he told the students. “We build and build and build.” The brothers demonstrated their invention for the king in Versailles, with three animals serving as the first passengers. “News of this successful demonstration quickly spread, and the entire world soon became dreamers, too,” said Henry. After this exhilarating story, Henry shared how he made the book. “I encourage you to come up with an idea, think about it, learn as much as you can, experiment, draw, build, and work with others. You can create anything. You can dream big and build anything.”



## Author & Illustrator Jerry Craft Visits MICDS

### Inspiration for aspiring writers and artists

Award-winning author, illustrator, and nice guy (according to his slide deck), Jerry Craft visited MICDS in the spring, meeting with fourth-grade and Middle School students at one assembly before heading to Brauer Auditorium to present at an Upper School assembly. Later, he spent time with Middle School students in a writing workshop. Craft is best known for his graphic novels *New Kid*, *Class Act*, and *School Trip*. "We have two ears, two eyes, and one mouth. We should listen and see twice as much as we talk," he advised students. "Look and listen. I'm always looking and listening."

# #RamNationNEWS

## Justyce Sanders '27 200m State Champion

**01.** At the Girls Track & Field MSHSAA State Championship, **Justyce Sanders '27** was the State Champion in the 200m with a school record time of 23.82. Sanders was State runner-up in the 400m, also setting a school record of 54.00.

## Henry Rohan '26 State Champion in 100m

**02.** At the Boys Track & Field MSHSAA State Championship, **Henry Rohan '26**, who has been a State 100m qualifier each

year, became the State Champion at 100m. Rohan ran 10.93 into a -2.0 wind for the win, and broke the school record earlier this season at 10.47, which was held by a previous two-time State Champion at that distance, **Josh Sutton '19**.

## Girls 4x400 Relay Team State Champs

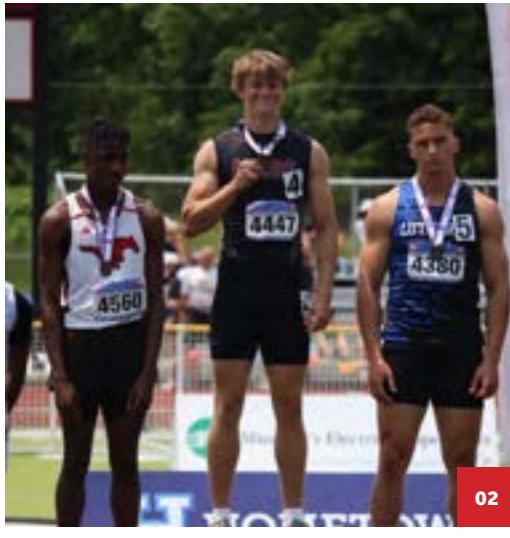
**03.** At the Girls Track & Field MSHSAA State Championship, the MICDS 4x400m relay team of **Justyce Sanders '27, Blaize Borders '28, Morgan Macam '26, and Grace Coppel '25** took home the State title.

## Boys Tennis Ears Rare Triple Crown at State

**04.** This year's MICDS Boys Tennis team accomplished something truly special: an undefeated season capped by the Class 2 State Championship (the second straight) and the State Singles and Doubles titles, a rare and remarkable "triple crown" for the program.



01



02



03



04

## Boys Lacrosse Dominates to Win State Championship

**05.** The MICDS Boys Lacrosse team continued its tradition of excellence in 2025, finishing the season with a dominant 17-5 win over CBC to secure its 10th state championship in the last 11 years.



05



06



07

## Andy Kay Notches 250th Win

### 06. Boys Varsity Lacrosse Head Coach

**Andy Kay** garnered his 250th win on April 21, 2025! The Rams defeated DeSmet on the road, 16-5.

## Coach Mittler's Historic 400th Field Hockey Career Win

### 07. MICDS Head Field Hockey

**Coach Lynn Mittler** reached a historic milestone in the Fall 2025 season, recording the 400th win of her coaching career on Wednesday, September 3! The achievement marks another chapter in a career defined by excellence, leadership, and dedication to her players both on and off the field.



# Rams Rewind

SPRING AND FALL 2025  
SPORTS SEASON RECAPS

Want to catch up on the latest sports recaps? Check out what our coaches had to say about the Spring and Fall 2025 seasons, and read about our incredible student-athletes.

*Go, Rams!*



Spring 2025



Fall 2025

## MICDS Athletics Website Launches

The new MICDS Athletics website has officially launched! Easily find comprehensive details on Upper School athletic events, team schedules, rosters, game results, and more. Go Rams!



# Fuel for Rams: A New Athletic Resource

The Upper School weight room has an important new resource for student athletes: the Refueling Station. "Research shows that protein following a workout is beneficial," said **Josh Smith, Director of Athletics**. "We're glad we can support student wellness in yet another way."

The station consists of a refrigerator provided by our dedicated Parents Association Sports Boosters, filled with protein-rich options thanks to the generosity of Todd and Sara Weaver P'23, '26, '27. "These supportive parents helped provide the inventory we need to get us through the year," Smith reported. "We're still trying to determine how much is needed for an academic year, but we're pleased that student-athletes are already taking advantage of this opportunity after they complete a workout in our weight room with our strength and conditioning coaches."

**Everett Goldberg, Teacher and Strength & Conditioning Coach**, is thrilled about the station. "Many times our students are training during the school day, and this refueling station allows them to get a small burst of calories and energy so that they are not dragging when going back to the classroom," he said.

**Eric Lay, Director of Fitness and Athletic Development**, said, "An observation I've made throughout my career is that



most student-athletes don't eat enough. Sports dietitians often emphasize that many athletes fail to consume the calories needed to perform at their best. This issue is so common that it has its own name: Relative Energy Deficiency in Sports, or RED-S."

"It is clear that when students get appropriate amounts of sleep and understand how to effectively fuel their bodies, they can become the best versions of themselves in the classroom and on the field," said **Andy Kay, Head Boys Varsity Lacrosse Coach and Teacher**. "While we cannot extend the long arm of our programs into the sleeping patterns of our students, we can certainly find ways to make sure that they have the essential nutrients pre- and post-workout to recover quickly to optimize their performance across all facets of school. What we know is that to fire on all cylinders, we have to put high-octane fuel in our bodies. The Refueling Station helps us do that."



Gibson Walker '30, who plays football, basketball, and lacrosse, and Penn Galt '30, who plays football and soccer, take advantage of the healthy Middle School salad bar.

In addition to the Refueling Station, Goldberg notes that nutritional lunch options are available to all students each day, organized by **Jane Radinskaya, Associate Director of Dining Services and Dietitian**. Radinskaya said, "I'm always open to any question related to nutrition, food chemistry, food allergies, weight and health management, and sports nutrition."

As nutritious and delicious as the lunches Radinskaya plans may be, the timing may not be convenient after a workout. "Providing a substantial snack after a workout helps replace the energy students just used," said Lay. "To fully benefit from resistance training, athletes should eat soon after finishing. These post-workout snacks make sure our student-athletes get the energy and nutrients they need at the right time."

MICDS offers two full-time certified athletic trainers, **Stacey Morgan** and **Ben Krueger**, and four full-time certified strength and conditioning coaches: Lay, Goldberg, **Rachael Maurer**, and **Tanner Amell**. Students have access to all of them during their free periods and after school throughout the academic year, and even during summer workout programs.



The Girls Volleyball team enjoys the Refueling Station after a workout.

"One of the key things I've learned from Coach Goldberg, Coach Lay, and Coach Maurer is the importance of refueling and rebuilding your muscles after physical exercise," said **Olivia Hill '26**, who plays volleyball and soccer. "The refueling station down in the weight room is the perfect opportunity to do so! It is super convenient and accessible, allowing athletes like me to use it immediately after a workout. I am extremely grateful to have this available at school!"

**Steele Crissman '26** plays lacrosse. "The refueling station has been pretty impactful," he reported. "Lately, I have had to add weight for my upcoming

college lacrosse season as well as become more explosive. In doing this, I have set up a workout routine with Coach Goldberg, which requires some pretty exhausting workouts. Immediately after the workouts, I am able to get a protein shake and a protein bar. The refueling station effectively helps me get a source of energy for the rest of my school day while giving me more than enough protein to help my body recover."

Many thanks to the Sports Boosters and the Weaver family, who have generously stocked the Station with supplies!

**"It is clear that when students get appropriate amounts of sleep and understand how to effectively fuel their bodies, they can become the best versions of themselves in the classroom and on the field."**

**ANDY KAY, HEAD BOYS VARSITY LACROSSE COACH AND TEACHER**



# A Century in the Making

## 100 years of CODASCO/MICDS vs. JBS football



This year's historic Varsity Football game on Homecoming weekend marked the 100th year of the rivalry contest between CODASCO/MICDS and John Burroughs football. This milestone game featured many thoughtful details, including a joint commemorative MICDS vs. JBS 100th Football Game Program, to honor both schools and their football programs, teams, coaches, and histories.

**Assistant Football Coach and Middle School Math Teacher Cameron Youngman** helped gather some archival information before the big game. "I dove into the Country Day Football history book to research past games,"

Youngman said. "From the very first win, to the famous 'bat play,' to the consistent success the CODASCO/MICDS Rams have enjoyed, it became clear that we are all carrying on a remarkable tradition—one built on the shoulders of giants like Coach Pop Hughes and Coach Ron Holtman."

During warm-up, both teams wore special jerseys that paid tribute to those worn during the first games, which began in 1926. The CODASCO throwback jerseys were graciously donated to the team by the Weaver family. After warming up, the teams changed back to their regular uniforms to play the game.



Next, Maggie Holtman, wife of legendary Country Day and MICDS football coach Ron Holtman, and Burroughs football coach Jim Lemen represented the schools during the 100th-year coin toss. "Jim and Maggie are carrying on a long tradition of sportsmanship and mutual respect, symbolized by the two coaches shaking hands after each of the 35 games they faced against each other," shared the announcer, Mike Ritter. He added, "Ron Holtman spent 39 years on the MICDS sideline from 1966 to 2005 with a record of 382-101-8, and 7 state football titles."



Much to the delight of Ram and Bomber fans, the game got underway with the MICDS team guided by **Varsity Football Head Coach Matt Irvin**. During halftime, Mary Institute and MICDS cheerleading alumnae were invited to the field to join our current cheerleaders in leading the *Fight Song*.

The 100th-year game concluded with a victory for the Rams, 38-8, notching the rivalry record at 67-30-3. "The game had all the elements of the past—the bonfire, exciting athletic events leading up to the football game, and a huge crowd to cheer the team on to victory," said Irvin. "Our seniors finished 4-0 against JBS!"

"It is amazing to think that the CODASCO-MICDS/JBS football game has been played for 100 years, starting in 1926," said **Josh Smith**,

**Director of Athletics.** "I found the event of the game humbling. With Maggie Holtman and the [Pop] Hughes family on location, we had history sitting in the stadium. Our staff and team took great pride in playing that game on our campus with shoutouts to the former teams and coaches. It was still a football game between two conference rivals, but it had a special feel as we connected it to the past."

Youngman added, "The Homecoming game is the grand finale of this community-building week. As a coach, I especially enjoy arriving early to catch the soccer team in action, hearing the roar of the field hockey crowd while our football team warms up, and then watching students charge down from McCreery Field to help kick off

the game. Earning the 67th win in this historic series was rewarding—but what makes Homecoming unforgettable is the sense of community and shared tradition that it creates. There's truly nothing else like it."

Congratulations to all who were part of the big game and than you to all who contributed to each prior practice, game, and cheer of support that led to this climactic event. Go Rams!



## GRAB YOUR COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM

If you would like to receive a copy of the 100th Commemorative Program, please call 314-995-7380 or email Louise Jones, Director of Alumni Relations, at [ljones@micds.org](mailto:ljones@micds.org), and we will be happy to arrange for a pick-up or a mailing.



# New Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney Family Tennis Center Opens



Game, set, match! This past summer, after a little over a year from the initial groundbreaking ceremony, the Michael W. and Quirsis V. Riney Family Tennis Center officially opened on the MICDS campus! As avid tennis players and enthusiasts of the sport, the Rineys were active and instrumental in the development of the tennis facility from initial conceptualization and design through contracting, construction, and commissioning.

The new tennis center features 12 paved courts, ample spectator viewing, and a team meeting area. Many thanks to the Michael and Quirsis Riney family, Centerbrook Architects & Planners, and BSI Constructors for this amazing new athletic facility!





## Sibling Authors Share Stories

Middle School readers gathered in Mary Eliot Chapel to hear from the Riew siblings, Brad and Julia, about writing, editing, collaboration, and the book they co-authored. *The Last Tiger* is a historical fiction fantasy with Korean folklore and a dash of romance.

The duo learned true stories about their grandparents' lives in Japanese-occupied Korea in the 1940s, which included a forbidden love affair and a fight for freedom. "Even when things tried to tear them apart, they managed to stick together," Julia said. Brad shared information about the colonial rule of the Japanese over the Korean people, which was ruthless and devastating. "No matter how difficult things got or how bleak it seemed, the Korean people never gave up, never gave in, even when the Japanese were trying to drive their culture out of existence," they said. "Whenever anyone tries to crush the human spirit, the spirit fights back."

"*The Last Tiger* is a fantasy reimagining of this period, and what our grandparents went through," they said. "In the book, tigers are magical spirits and feel emotions and hold memories. They're fighting oppression."

The pair had good advice for these young readers: "Ask your parents, grandparents, relatives, and the older people you know, what their stories are, what they have experienced. We all came from somewhere. All our ancestors have faced challenges and world-shaking events, and they came through them. In the case of our grandparents, love got them through. Love can carry us through."

WEDNESDAY 3/4/26

# ONE DAY —for— MICDS

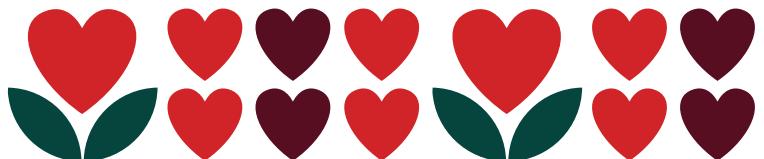
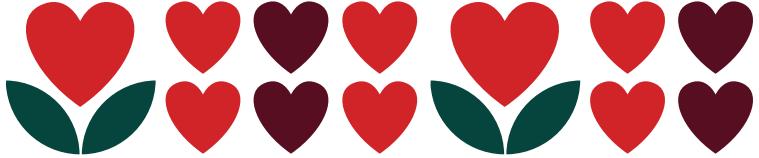


## From the Heart, For the School

Show your love for our Rams by joining us for our annual giving challenge, uniting the entire MICDS community in support of the School we're all connected to!

**ONE DAY for MICDS** celebrates what makes our community extraordinary—our love for the School, our deep connections, and the bonds that unite us across generations.

On Wednesday, March 4, 2026 let's come together to show our love and support for MICDS!



# Deep Roots and Generosity Help our Littlest Learners

The MICDS skyline has been changing steadily, starting last summer and continuing through this fall and winter, as the new Ronald S. Beasley Lower School begins to take shape, keeping much of the previous Beasley footprint while accommodating enhanced facilities which are expected to become available for school use by the start of the 2026-2027 academic year. The "Beasley and Beyond" project, while reflecting and embracing contemporary educational approaches and standards, also salutes the traditions and vision long associated with Ronald S. Beasley, who served as head of Mary Institute from 1949 until 1969. Mr. Beasley's tenure is widely regarded as having had a tremendous impact on his students, and his influence is felt more than 50 years later by appreciative alumnae.

Through the decades, as Mary Institute and Country Day grew separately and then merged, certain family names and philanthropic entities have assumed a leadership role in support of exciting new structures and innovative educational programs. Among these leaders, the Rand and Orthwein families and the William R.

Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation have made their mark in many quiet but substantive ways.

The Foundation's most recent contribution funds the **Nettie Lumpkin Hale Rand 1901** Early Childhood Center addition for the Junior Kindergarten, which will provide classroom space and direct access to the playground. In particular, the Early Childhood space will support the academic and social-emotional needs of our youngest students, while emphasizing creativity, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills in an expanded setting. Large windows and skylights will admit natural light, creating brighter and more inviting learning spaces. A "sensory wall" installation outside the Junior Kindergarten area, honoring the memory of **Laura Hale Rand Orthwein '37**, will feature interactive elements designed to engage the senses, promote development, and provide a calming environment, particularly important to students. The plan also provides the potential protection of a storm shelter, which will feature its own independent infrastructure support systems and



Nettie Lumpkin Hale Rand 1901



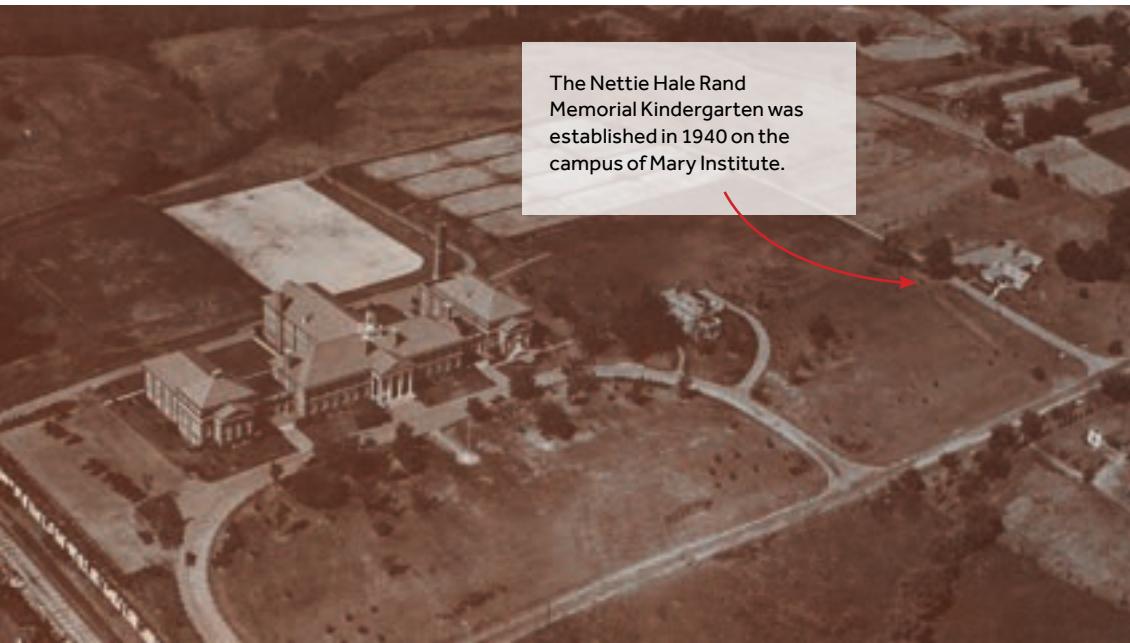
Laura Hale Rand Orthwein 1937

be capable of accommodating the entire Lower School in the event of an emergency.

The Rand and Orthwein families have deep roots in our school's history. They played a central fundraising role in the key decision to separate Mary Institute from Washington University in the late 1940s, and a gift presented in 1949 in memory of Mrs. Frank C. Rand (Nettie Hale '01) was used to create the four-room Nettie Hale Rand Memorial Kindergarten building north of the Beasley residence. Later, William and Laura Orthwein were involved in Country Day's relocation from northwest St. Louis County to Ladue in 1958.

The generosity has continued through the years. From endowed faculty professional development funds to the renovation of Orthwein Theatre and participation in the construction of our Aquatic Center, the Orthwein Family and, subsequently, the Orthwein Foundation have helped keep our school at the forefront of contemporary secondary education. Today, the Orthwein Foundation is once again involved as MICDS takes its next significant step, this time providing a transformative lead donor gift to support the Beasley project through the addition of the Early Childhood space.

We remain deeply grateful to the Orthwein descendants and The William R. Orthwein, Jr. and Laura Rand Orthwein Foundation for their roles in taking MICDS to the next level of educational excellence by nurturing the intellectual curiosity of our youngest students.



# Class Notes

NEWS FOR MARY INSTITUTE  
AND SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY  
SCHOOL ALUMNAE AND ALUMNI

The following pages reflect  
notes submitted through

**October 31, 2025**

Submit your news for the next issue to:  
[classnotes@micds.org](mailto:classnotes@micds.org)

# Births and Adoptions

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN TO OUR MICDS FAMILY.

**01.** **Molly Finn '08 and Louis Weber, Sophie May Adrienne Weber, May 24, 2025**



# Weddings

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING ALUMNI ON THEIR RECENT NUPTIALS.

**02. Wendy Price '99 and John Patinella, August 13, 2025.**  
**03. Morgan Burke '07 and Rebecca Esrock, October 4, 2025**



## GETTING MARRIED? EXPECTING?



We'd like to help you celebrate, but we can't print news about future weddings or babies. When your plans become reality, please let the Alumni Office know and we'll gladly print your news after the fact, and all share in the excitement!

# Alumni/ae Deaths

THROUGH OCTOBER 31, 2025

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO THE  
FAMILIES OF ALUMNI/AE WE HAVE LOST.

**Stuart Symington Jr.**'42, July 16, 2025  
**Patricia Becker Hemmer**'44, January 8, 2021  
**Joyce McRoberts East**'44, August 17, 2025  
**Mary Gamble Booth**'46, February 16, 2022  
**William Carson**'46, October 10, 2021  
**Edward Gushée**'46, March 18, 2021  
**Edward Hanpeter**'48, July 25, 2025  
**Diane Raith Garesché**'49, September 27, 2025  
**Joyce Lewis Turner**'50, November 18, 2023  
**Carolyn Crego Brown**'50, Unknown  
**John Bartley**'51, February 1, 2009  
**Richard Burgheim**'51, June 1, 2025  
**Harry Estill**'51, May 18, 2025  
**Anne Bates Pearson**'52, October 16, 2025  
**Carol Friedman Dardick**'53, April 24, 2025  
**Margaret Cowdry Haun**'53, October 16, 2025  
**Mary Harms Weir**'54, July 23, 2025  
**Charles Schweighauser**'54, July 14, 2025  
**Penny Worth Kodner**'55, October 16, 2025  
**Charles Richard Horwitz**'56, June 8, 2025  
**Terry Bettendorf**'56, July 26, 2022  
**Thomas Walther**'56, Unknown  
**Gail Gardner Ruvalcaba**'58, October 3, 2025  
**Molly Macon McHenry**'59, June 27, 2025

**Lawrence Mendonsa**'60, January 6, 2001  
**Daniel Miller**'60, September 24, 2020  
**Susan Feiner Leibert**'60, July 16, 2025  
**Mary Ann Shoenberg Margaretten**'60, November 30, 2025  
**Daniel Carey**'61, July 27, 2025  
**Douglas Widell**'64, July 11, 2025  
**Barbara Winkelmeyer Ballard**'66, January 1, 2024  
**Lee Ewing**'69, July 12, 2025  
**Lee Schaefer Nagle**'69, Unknown  
**Elizabeth Peters Schiff**'71, August 12, 2025  
**Louis Werner**'72, May 28, 2025  
**Victoria Deason Southard**'72, August 4, 2025  
**Robert Paul Compton**'73, June 30, 2025  
**Thomas Lange**'76, Unknown  
**Jeffrey Huber**'80, October 8, 2025  
**Brittany Fields**'87, June 29, 2025

## Faculty Deaths

**Berkeley Gunther**, former MI  
 English Teacher and Administrator, *September 8, 2025*  
**Whitney Lloyd**, former  
 CDS History Teacher, *October 17, 2025*  
**Charles Schweighauser**'54, former  
 CDS English and Science Teacher, *July 14, 2025*



## 1954 MI

### SUSAN SPOEHRER ELLIOTT

[sselliott@sseinc.com](mailto:sselliott@sseinc.com)

**Jeannie D'Oench Field:** Happy to say that all is well here. **01** Some of the highlights of the year include a trip to Chicago in June to see my granddaughter, Wynne Holsteen (15), perform in *Sleeping Beauty*. **02** In July, I went to see my sister, **Gloria D'Oench James '49**, in Steamboat Springs. Though it is hard to keep up with her, I enjoyed our hikes and the beautiful, fresh mountain air. **03** In August, I went to Baltimore to see my grandson, August "Augie" D'Oench Field, receive his MBA from Loyola Maryland.

## 1957 MI

### MARGOT MARITZ MARTIN

[margomm@swbell.net](mailto:margomm@swbell.net)

In August 2024, **Bonnie Barton Summers Wolfarth** took five granddaughters on a Mediterranean cruise from Barcelona to Rome. "I felt like I was traveling with 'movie stars' because, as the youngest people on the cruise, the girls were noticed by everyone. Several people wished they were my grandchildren!"

## 1958 MI

### MARY KOENIGSBERG LANG

[mopa7@comcast.net](mailto:mopa7@comcast.net)

### LIBBY HALL MCDONNELL

[elizabeth@mcdstl.com](mailto:elizabeth@mcdstl.com)

Dear 1958ers,

Well, this is the year we are all turning or have turned 85! Yes, it is really true, hard to believe, but glad to be here and celebrate our many years together. Please let us know any news you may have or any thoughts or musings. We want to catch up with everyone, so please let us know what you are up to. We want to report on as many of us as we can.

We do have sad news on the October 3, 2025 death of our classmate **Gail Gardner Ruvalcaba**. Gail lived in California and had COPD for some time. She had a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren who lived near her. We send our condolences to her family.

**Linda Skinner Thies** spent the summer in Colorado with her children, Kirsten and Charlie, who live there. She will go to Boca Grande, Florida, for the winter. Linda still has a great sense of humor.

**Val Pantaleoni Terry** generously continues to volunteer at the County Animal Shelter (formerly the APA).

**Muffy Hensley McPheeters** still mows her front yard, does a lot of knitting and reading, and goes to her great nephews' athletic games as often as she can. Muf came in first in our age group in the 2024 Turkey Trot, a walk-run held Thanksgiving morning in Kirkwood.

**Nancy Agress Brodsky** lives in Lexington, Massachusetts, in Brookhaven, a retirement community. For several years, she has been president of the residents' association there.

**Connie Darmstatter Counts** reports her dear husband of 60 years passed away five years ago. "I moved to Brookhaven in Lexington, Massachusetts, a very interesting senior living community, where Nancy Brodsky lives. I have a daughter and family nearby in Lexington and a daughter and family in California. I have four bi-coastal grandchildren. I am a professor emerita at Lesley University, where I retired after 20 years of teaching, and I continue to serve on several non-profit boards whose missions are to support the healthy development of children and families."

**Lil Brokaw Metcalfe** spends as much time as she can visiting her son, **Kenny '91**, her daughter, **Betsy '94**, and her five grandchildren, who all live in Denver.

**Alice Blanke Boeschenstein** spends time each summer in Michigan and visits her granddaughter, who attends St. Andrews University in St. Andrews, Scotland.

**Mary Koenigsberg Lang**'s granddaughter teaches school in Seoul, South Korea. The students call her "Teacher Emily." One of Mary's grandsons is a pilot for Frontier Airlines.

**Carol Kent Diggs** and **Walter '54** have left their abode in Florida and are now here in good old St. Louis.

**Sally Spoehrer Lemkemeier** divides her time between St. Louis and Florida in the winter. She lives in a retirement community, the Gatesworth, in St. Louis, where her sister, **Susan Spoehrer Elliott '54**, and cousin, **Janey Spoehrer Tschudy '56**, live. **Helen Campbell Weise** and **Lee Stephens Wightman** are also there! **Lana Mueller Jordan** continues to enjoy her place in the mountains of North Carolina.

**Laura X** reports: I saw **Carol Kent Diggs** at the Desloge Outpatient Center at St. Luke's Hospital, named in honor of the family of **Linda Osterkamp Desloge**. She looked so healthy and glamorous, perfectly coiffed, which reminded me how much I miss all of you and want you to visit me at Pilgrim Church with my archives! Pilgrim Church was integrated before Rosa Parks as part of a deliberately integrated neighborhood off Union, just north of Delmar. Please email me at [laurax@4lx.org](mailto:laurax@4lx.org).

**Kay Wilson Post** is still holding down the fort in New York City, but keeps in touch with all the news, mostly by email and phone.

**Libby Hall McDonnell** has a new great-grandson named James. She also has a seventh-grade grandson at MICDS, **Jimmy Pipoli** '31. He will graduate exactly 100 years after Libby's mother, Katherine James Hall, graduated from Mary Institute in 1931.

We will end with a poem from Lil:

*It's great to be alive  
As we turn eighty-five  
We are so grateful to survive  
But we miss our classmates dear  
Who are no longer here*

## 1958 CDS

### DANIEL FEINBERG

dbfeinberg@sbcglobal.net

**Hugh Bartlett** and Jane are continuing to enjoy road trips with their Airstream trailer. They will be in South Padre Island, Texas, this winter, catching redfish. Hugh says, "Greetings to all."

**David Hanks** has embarked on a catalogue raisonné of the work of the American tapestry artist Helena Hernmarck. He is collaborating with a team of textile curators. Hernmarck immigrated from Sweden to Montreal in the 1960s before moving to the United States. Her monumental tapestries are in the lobbies of many corporate and museum spaces throughout the United States. David is now in Montreal.

**Bud Hirsch** continues to have his photographic images invited to juried exhibitions, including Art Saint Louis, St. Louis Camera Club, Webster Arts, and Photo Art Pavilion. Recent invited works include images from Chesterfield, Morocco, Italy, and France. He continues to go on photography trips, this year to Scotland. Bud and his wife, Marian, celebrated their 64th anniversary in August.

**J. Ben Miller** writes, "At this point, children and grandchildren dominate my activities and preoccupy my mind, for which I am enormously grateful. Without being self-indulgent, they all seem to excel, thanks to Sherry, who provided the deep end of the Miller gene pool. An added bonus now is Carter's children and grandchildren. Best to all and thanks to Dan for keeping us in touch."

**Rich Nelson** said he has no news to report and "Hello to all."

**David Scharff** reports he finally made good use of Skinny Meyers' and Moose Joline's English classes by writing a play for Washington, DC's Cosmos Club. *Polonius: Behind the Arras* is a "spoofified" rewrite of the "real fictional record" of the goings on at Elsinore in Hamlet's 14th century, rendered in iambic pentameter with the help of ChatGPT. No one knows that Polonius had a wife, even if they did know Hamlet was a crazy adolescent who knew everything and how to fix the world, just as we did 65 years ago.

**Charlie Valier** reports he has two granddaughters at MICDS: **Susie Valier Schwendinger** '35 and **Sloane Valier Schwendinger** '29. Sloane won the Latin Award last spring and made the varsity tennis team as a freshman this fall. Charlie says he had a foot operation in June 2025, and he was (incarcerated) in the hospital for nine weeks. While locked up for recovery at the Gatesworth, he completed a 12,500-word, 115-footnote paper on his experience as police commissioner in St. Louis. The Missouri Historical Review has accepted it for future publication.

## 1959 CDS

### ARTHUR LUEKING

arthurll@msn.com

**Butch Welsch** held his Welsch Heating and Cooling Company's 130th Anniversary Celebration. Attendees included Butch's

Classmates **Fred Hanser** and **Norman James**, as well as **Robby McGehee** '91. Guests enjoyed a tour of the company's operations and a buffet lunch with appropriate entertainment by a barbershop quartet. Butch's company is the oldest HVAC company in the St. Louis area. St. Louis County Chief Executive Sam Page awarded the company a proclamation declaring September 18, 2025, as Welsch Heating and Cooling Day in St. Louis. Very cool. Congratulations, Butch.

**Carl Rohne** had a rough summer beginning with spinal surgery, which, while successful, led to an infection that required extensive treatment in a rehab hospital. As bad luck would have it, he fell and broke his shoulder the day after returning home, so he went back to the hospital. I'm happy to report that he is finally back home and looks and sounds great.

**Kent Faerber** reports that construction has finally begun on the \$46M renovation and expansion of the crown jewel of Amherst's infrastructure—the town library—on which he has been working for the past 10 years. One of the first of its kind in 1926 to be "much more than a place to borrow books," it will, when completed, be able to accommodate the several hundred thousand patrons who visit for programs for all ages.

One of the missions I have been on for some time is finding our "lost" classmates, and having exhausted internet resources, I'm turning to you. Do any of you know the whereabouts of the following: **Harry Cash** (Class 6 and 5), **Jim Cavanaugh** (Classes 4 and 3), **Dave Eynon** (Class 6 through 2), **Art Stuart** (Class 3 through 1), and **Dick Sugg** (Class 7 and 6)? If you know anything about these men, please let me know.

And finally, the St. Louis contingent continues to meet for lunch every Monday at Lester's Restaurant at 11:30. All are welcome.



Classmates from 1961, Pam Mesker White, Charlotte Mastin Ellis, Leigh Friedman Pratter, and Ellen Schmitz Livingston, in front of one of Pam's photographs.

## 1961 MI

### CHARLOTTE MASTIN ELLIS

cellis57us@yahoo.com

In July, **Pam Mesker White** visited St. Louis, because several of her photographs were in an exhibit at the Atrium Gallery. **Leigh Friedman Pratter**, **Ellen Schmitz Livingston**, and I attended the opening night reception.

**Diane Diederich Metz** reports: "I don't travel anymore, so I am unable to attend the reunion, but I am with you in spirit for sure! Old age is not for sissies. I am very glad to be living in a CCRC where I will be taken care of for the rest of my life. I am always on a walker, and sometimes I use my scooter. I play bridge whenever possible, do crossword puzzles to stir the little gray cells, and try to generate laughter whenever possible."

## 1963 MI

### NETTIE ORTHWEIN DODGE

tdodge@tdnod.net

### ANN KEELER POUCHER

ann@poucher.net

Hello 1963!

We have a little news from our classmates. **Becky Atwood Patton** sent an email in the spring to which many of us responded. She

asked us to chime in and tell each other how we plan to celebrate (most of) our 80th birthdays. Many of you replied with fun plans for family gatherings and trips. I still have all those emails, but they are too long to put in this column. If anyone missed them and wants to read them, email me and I will send them along: ann@poucher.net

**Jane Lewin Steinger** has endured a year of good news/bad news. Her long-time partner, Bob, passed away in October 2024. Jane says, "He was a true Renaissance man, both left- and right-brained, and endured my neuroses with grace and kindness." She dealt with a bout of sciatica last spring with the help of **Edie Levy Brown**, who came to Detroit the next day and was "the best caregiver ever!" Janie is using a brace and is bemoaning the loss of her "cute ballet shoes." But she has done some renovations on her house and plans to travel.

**Nancy Shoenberg Sanders** reports that she and Barry now have eight grandchildren, thanks to the birth of a new granddaughter in July.

Also immersed in "grands" is **Hila Hampton Green**, who spent part of the summer on a cruise with her "two now single sons, five grandchildren, one fiancée, and two bonus grandchildren. It was the highlight of our summer and the most fun. On the other hand, I stared down the big 8-0 in January and am not happy about it."

**Diane Haneklau Kuzma** married Dan in May 2025, on the 30th anniversary of their first date. This fall, they cruised Turkey, Greece, the former Yugoslavia, and northern Italy. They are also planning to tour the UK in the spring of 2026 to take advantage of British Airways' inauguration of a direct flight from St. Louis to Heathrow.

I, **Ann Keeler Poucher**, spent the summer on what my family called "The 80th Birthday Victory Tour." June was a walking trip to Sardinia and Corsica. July was a trip to Alaska with Ralph to see brown bears snatching salmon from the top of Brooks Falls in the Katmai National Forest. August featured a trip to NYC with **Claire Keeler Beck '66** and some time spent at the US Open, on Broadway, and shopping and eating. It was truly a great summer!

Talking about travel, **Roxie Pool** enjoyed trips to South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Zambia. Then she went to Madagascar, Slovenia, and Croatia to cruise and explore the islands off the coast by bike. She emailed her news from the boat at the end of October and had already been to Laos, Thailand, Baja, and Breckenridge.

**Barbara Martin Smith** reports that she spent Christmas 2024 in St. Augustine, Florida, with her family, followed by a gathering in St. Louis to celebrate her 80th birthday. Then the clan spent time last summer at their place in the Adirondacks. Barbara has moved to Aberdeen Heights in Kirkwood and continues to be involved in activities at the St. Louis Art Museum.

**Nettie Orthwein Dodge** made a mini-move down the street in Colorado, then took a trip to St. Louis in September. She joined up with **Sally Neuwochner Anderson** and Ken, **Dudley Roulhac Grove** and Jim, **Marjorie Johnson**, and **Barbara Martin Smith** for a great, fun dinner.

That's it from Nettie and me—keep in touch regarding a possible reunion in Santa Fe in June 2026.

1963 *CDS***JAY HENSLEY**

jayh1945@gmail.com

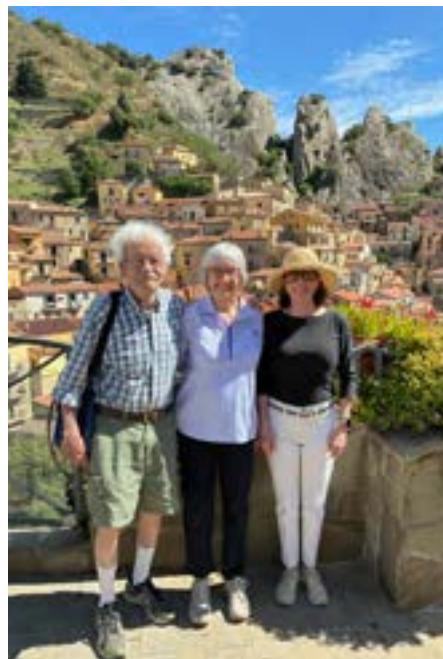
While these notes are designed to be a compilation of what our class, after 62 years away from the school, has been about, Joe Campagna and I, along with the class, can't help but recognize the milestone of our alma mater acquiring a new leader. So we want to begin by welcoming J. Michelle Wabrek to the MICDS community as the latest in a long line of "Head of School."

**Joe Campagna** recalls that a few months after our 60th Reunion in 2023, the idea of doing Zoom calls got some attention and interest, mostly due to COVID. Fast forward to today, where he and 10 others were on the 16th call led by the fearless **Neil Senturia**. The invitation goes out to everyone we know (about 40 men), and around a dozen "jump aboard" every six weeks or so. Those on the call recently included: **Chuck Houghton, Mark Webber, Louis Loeb, Harry Quigley, Jamie Spencer, Ollie Hickel, John Allman, George Diehr, Rick Meyer, Joe Campagna, and John Kittner**.

**Joe Campagna** also shared: "Our family had discussed and planned a trip for years to return to the family roots in Ireland and Italy. My son, Joe, helped plan a trip to Castelmezzano, Italy, the birthplace of my paternal grandfather, Anthony Campagna, in 1884." On the trip with them was Joe's wife, Caroline, and **Marie Campagna Brauer '64**. The return trip for Joe and Caroline was through Clara, County Offaly, Ireland, to meet second cousins Annie, Paddy, and Jerry. >

We all remember **Rush Shapleigh** returning to school after his summers in Misham Point, Massachusetts, with amazing stories about sailing. Several of us even had the opportunity to visit him there. This past summer, Rush's daughter, Kelly, was able to rent the original cottage that belonged to Rush's grandfather. The family gathered to relive Rush's childhood at Misham. Rush shares that nothing has changed from the original cottage to alter the charm from the 50s and 60s.

That's about all we have for now, except for this observation: The fact that our Zoom calls keep going (actually growing) with energy and interest is a testament to our friendship over all these years. Neil, we can't thank you enough for "championing" this project.



Joe Campagna '63, Caroline Campagna, and Marie Campagna Brauer '64.

1964 *MI***JANE COX**

jdotcox@sbcglobal.net

**ANNE STUPP MCALPIN**

annemcalpin@aol.com

Ladies,

The first response to our plea for class news came from **Barbie Macdonald Stamper**. She headed to South Africa in October with Shellie Baur, who is the sister-in-law of our own **Barbara Baur Dunlap**. Barbie also spent some of December on the Danube with her four children and their families, touring the Christmas markets from Prague to Budapest, and then headed to Austria to celebrate Christmas.

We have news from **Barbara Baur Dunlap**, our esteemed Class President, who emailed that she and Charlie got to go to Argentina this summer on a trip organized by their youngest daughter, Molly. Barb keeps in close contact with **Josie Pettus Wiseman**, who visits Arizona each spring. Barbara is looking forward to Thanksgiving in Darien, Connecticut, with her family of 26. Who said Baur hoedowns were a thing of the past?!

Speaking of Josie, she received our request for class notes while in Paris. She was able to be in St. Louis last spring for a family meeting and brought her daughter, Porter. They had fun seeing the Arch and the Botanical Gardens, and they had lunch and caught up with Anne. Porter took lots of pictures of a former family property on Mason Road. Josie ended her email by stating that Ellen Day Hoff had recently become a grandparent of a baby boy named Jesse.

**Ginny Alfring Kalbach** said she enjoyed our class news in the summer magazine and states that she and Joe moved into Shenandoah Valley Westminster Canterbury Community. **Amy Upthegrove Wheeler '59** lives about a mile or two from their home.

Speaking of Amy, a call to **Linn Upthegrove Wells** elicited the news that she and Davey have just returned from an Alaskan cruise that ended

in Japan. She also enjoyed several visits to their place in Michigan over the summer.

Another early responder was **Mary Vogt Myers**, who reported that her husband, Leslie, is just wrapping up another beekeeping season. Ladue honey is the best!

Also living in the St. Louis area is **Patty Duke Dear**, from whom we've heard nothing for several years. A recent phone call found that she and Dick are well, and she is proud of her daughter Edie's two children. One is a high school senior, and the other will graduate next year.

**Anne Greve Sadler**'s house in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, consists of three women: Annie, a grown daughter, and Ivana, a 12-year-old granddaughter Annie is raising. Annie's sister Kitty recently died in Boston. **Sister Mary Greve St. Clayre**'61 came from England to be with Kitty and then to help Annie with her sister's things. While in Boston, they were visited by **Susie Primm Thel**, who lives nearby, and they shared cookies, ideas, and memories. Lastly, Annie's son, Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, is running for a seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives.

**Susan Kahn Bromberg** lives in Clayton and overlooks Shaw Park, where she tries to walk each morning while dodging construction on Brentwood. She is still involved in the Osher Lifelong Learning program at Washington University and plans to facilitate an eight-week course starting in January on the Art of the Harlem Renaissance based on an exhibit she saw several years ago at The Metropolitan Museum.

Jane reports that **Cherie Hagnauer Pautler** is still happily living in Denver and enjoying the park across the street. She is grateful her sons have stayed in the area. Jane also keeps up with **Patsy Clark Ball** and her husband, **Eldon**'64. They split their time between St. Louis and their country property and also travel to see their children in California and on the East Coast. They recently had an interesting trip on backroads between Kansas City and home.

**Punkin Hirsch Millman** (aka **Carolyn Michel**) is still grieving for her husband, Howard, but continues her acting career. She will be performing in a production of *The Tale*

*of the Allergist's Wife*. "I started out playing men and old ladies in Mary Institute drama classes and clubs until the production of *The Diary of Anne Frank* catapulted me to playing Anne, someone my age and gender." Punkin spends much time on acting and associated activities. Howard is being honored by the Sarasota Jewish Theatre.

**Kitty Shelton Bollinger** enjoyed six weeks in Charlevoix, Michigan, where she has spent every summer of her life. According to her daughter, **McKay Baur Mills**'92, Kitty is happily settled in her apartment at The Gatesworth and enjoys spending time here with grandchildren and loved having some of them with her in Michigan.

**Marie Campagna Brauer** took a three-generational girls' trip, gorilla trekking in

Rwanda with her daughter, **Ashley Brauer Foote**'92, and Ashley's youngest, Emily Sorio, who just graduated from high school in New York. Marie also traveled to Italy and returned in time to host a meeting of the Net Profit Syndicate, an investment group founded by several classmates and about 20 others more than 50 years ago.

**Betsy Payne Biggs**, who migrates from Michigan to Florida and back each year, was in town for the meeting.

Jane and I thank all of you who have responded. We hope we have given you a sampling of a lively class of mature individuals—most heading to a significant birthday within the next 12 months and all held together by memories of our years at Mary Institute. As **Kimmy Thompson Brauer**, the spirit behind our 60th Reunion, always says, "1964 is the very best!"



01. Members of a three-generational trip to Rwanda: Emily Sorio, Ashley Brauer Foote '92, Marie Campagna Brauer '64, and their guides.



02. Class of 1964 members of a 50+ year old investment club (l-r): Barbie Macdonald Stamper, Becky Jones Fouke, Penny Williams George, Kimmy Thompson Brauer, Marianne Schultz Galt, Carter Simpson Miller, Betsy Payne Biggs, and Marie Campagna Brauer. The ninth member, Anne Stupp McAlpin, was MIA as Chip McAlpin '01 was in town.

## 1964 CDS

## JAY MARSHALL

cvcattle@icloud.com



Class of '64 classmates Ned Scharff, John Friedman, and Frank Wolff got together earlier this year to share stories and visit the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York.

## 1965 MI

## CONSTANCE BASCOM MCPHEETERS

constancemcpheeters@gmail.com

With the reunion in the rearview mirror, we heard from **Kate Meyer Getzendanner '65** that she was unable to attend the fun because of being a wonderful grandmother of 15! Kate wrote: "I was instead in Boise, Idaho, babysitting three of my 15 grandchildren while their parents worked. I did a quick turnaround to Santa Barbara to take one grandson to visit his four cousins. In August, all but two eldest grandchildren gathered in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, for our annual summer romp."

This summer, my daughter, **Katherine McPheeeters '99**, and I took the ferry from Hyannis to Nantucket to meet up with **Jan Shapleigh Mackey '65**, who took the ferry from New Bedford. We toured the wonderful homes and gardens of Siasconset on the south shore of Nantucket, high up on the cliffs that are slowly eroding away. We had a great time being entertained by our hostess, Suzy Grote (Burroughs!), and the Nantucket Garden Club.

**Peggy Dubinsky Price '65** told me how excited she and Dick are, as their daughter, **Wendy Price '99**, Wendy's husband, John Patinella, and their son, Jack (4), have returned to St. Louis from California. Peggy and Dick have been busy helping them get settled in their new home in Chesterfield. Wendy and John were



01: The cover of a new book by Elizabeth Kendall '65.

02: Irene Leland '65 and her sister, Talbot Leland MacCarthy '54.

03: Peggy Dubinsky Price '65 and her husband, Dick, in Alaska, September 2025

04: (l-r) Katherine McPheeeters '99, Connie Bascom McPheeeters '65, and Jan Shapleigh Mackey '65 at a Nantucket house and garden tour in the summer of 2025.

married on August 13, 2025. And for even more fun, Peggy writes that she and Dick took a dream vacation to Seattle, Alaska, and Portland!

**Elizabeth Kendall '65**'s latest book, *Balanchine Finds His America: A Tale of Love Lost and Ballet Reborn*, was published by Oxford Press in October! I guess this should be our Book Club book for the year. I know there was a lot of hard research put into this book, and it once again speaks to the strong dance program Mary I had in the 60s, which I am always touting.

Stay in touch!

## 1967 CDS

### JAMES MORGAN

jim@morganconstructionco.com

**Bob Ellis** visited MICDS for Homecoming and to see the new plaque in Ron Holtman Stadium that honors his father, **Grant R. Ellis**, for whom Ellis Field is named. Grant Ellis was a CDS faculty member and football coach who, as a U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant, was killed in action in the Korean War. Ellis Field supports football and soccer practices, football games, and track infield activities. **Robert "Pop" Hughes**, the legendary Country Day football coach, is Bob's grandfather. ▶

## 1969 MI

### JILL GOESSLING DOWD

jilldowd36@gmail.com

**Susie Belz Wiegand** reports: Great news is the arrival of Henry in May, joining older sister Wren. So much fun and blessed they live so close. On the flip side, most of the family gathered in Maine to spread the ashes of **Pippy Belz Thornhill '73**. A trip filled with lots of highs and lows. Hoping everyone is well.

**Christy Trauernicht** reports: **Laurie Garesché Haffenreffer '72** organized a memorial service at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, May 3, 2025, to honor MI graduates lost during the last decade. The selected hymns and prayers harkened back to our days in chapel at MI, and the reflections offered by **Muffy Peters Brennan '96** gave rich historical context. From the Class of 1969, **Beth Green Kling, Phoebe Scott Burke, Alice Beckers Muckerman, Mirka Macheck Fetté, Cathy Harrison Gidcomb**, and I attended. Don and I traveled to Iceland in August. In September, we returned to Massachusetts to visit friends and family. After all the activity, I have now been diagnosed with arthritis in my right hip.



Got my first cortisone shot and started PT.  
Hoping to delay a hip replacement for a while.  
The joy of aging!

**Cathy Harrison Gidcumb** reports: Jim and I continue to divide our time between St. Louis and Kiawah Island, South Carolina. We are looking forward to a Rhine River Cruise next spring. **Kathy Goltra Wood** has signed up for the same cruise, so we can continue our year 75 celebration!

Lastly, **Marki Cady** passed on the sad news that **Lee Schaefer** passed away in late August. Marki heard from her ex-husband. Lee had been in hospice for quite a while, suffering from Huntington's Chorea. Both of Lee's sisters died of the same disease a few years ago.



01. Alice Beckers Muckerman '69 shared this wonderful picture from a little reunion in Tucson, where Joan Harting Barham '69 lives. (l-r) Phoebe Scott Burke, Joan Harting Barham, Alice Beckers Muckerman, and Jennifer Limberg Royal.

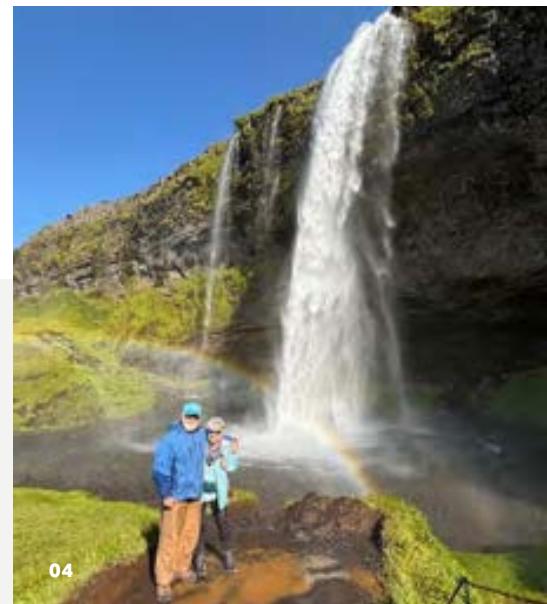
02. Stephanie Spatz Chilcott '69 reports that everything is going well in southern California.



03. Alumnae from the Class of 1969 gathered at the memorial service at St. Peter's Church on Saturday, May 3, 2025, that Laurie Garesché Haffenreffer '72 organized to honor MI graduates lost during the last decade.

04. Christy Trauernicht '69 and her husband, Don, traveled to Iceland in August.

05. Jill Goessling Dowd '69 shared this photo with her husband and their seven grandchildren, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.





The CDS Class of 1969 celebrated the first day of fall 2025 with old friends at the Shack before the snowbirds head south. Coats and ties were waived! From left to right: Peter Deibel, Dick Lammert, Mark Throdahl, Martin Bry, Steve Turner, Harold Hall, Joe Rechter, Andy Glaser, Rick Weitzer, Bob Lesser, Mike O'Guin, and Peter Griffin.

## 1969 CDS

### ED HALL

hedhall30@gmail.com

Our 55th reunion in May was lightly attended, but **John Chappell** and **Rich Reichle** made guest appearances. Great to catch up with those guys!

## 1970 CDS

### PAUL C. ANAGNOSTOPOULOS

paul@windfall-software.com

Cheers to all the classmates, family, and friends reading this installment of the CDS '70 *Class Notes*. I hope you and yours enjoyed the fall and winter seasons.

This is just a quick note to let you know that we continued our tradition of fall mini-reunions, as conceived and initiated by **Charlie Schott**. The following classmates gathered at the Racquet Club of St. Louis on October 2: **Ben Brink**, **Mike Burns**, **Cap Grossman**, **Ed Potter**, **Charlie Schott**, **Bill Sprich**, **Dan Stephens**, **Jack Thomas**, and **Bob Wells**. The shindig was hosted by **Bob Hermann**; thank you, Bob! Unfortunately, at the last minute, Bob could not attend. Cap took over the duties of herding and collecting money from the gang. We also missed

**Jeff Miller**, who also could not attend at the last minute. Bob Wells reports that everyone had a most excellent time.

**Harold Bible** and Marla celebrated their first anniversary in May 2025. Then, in mid-September, they traveled to Italy for their honeymoon. "We thoroughly enjoyed 12 days in Rome, Cinque Terre, Florence, and Venice. Now we're back to regular life, getting ready for another Minnesota winter." May you celebrate many more anniversaries, kids!

I heard from **Henry Bangert**: "Joan and I moved into a new home in Maryland, liked it, so we did it again, coming back here. Cottleville Trails has green space, lakes, biking trails, etc. The old town has been fixed up nicely, with some bars, music, restaurants, shops, etc. We're eight minutes from wife Joan's brother, Dan Lovelace, who was a wrestling coach at MICDS some years ago. My brother, **Hyatt '73**, is 20 minutes away. Being closer to an aging family turned out to be more important than we realized."

I'm told that **Jack Thomas** and other classmates attended the 100th anniversary MICDS-Burroughs football game. I was sorry to miss the reunion, but spine surgery in September kept me from travelling. I look forward to seeing my classmates in 2026. Thanks to everyone who wished me a speedy recovery. And special thanks to **Bill Sprich** for his second opinions on the surgery and subsequent recovery. All is well here in Carlisle.

## 1971 MI REUNION

### LAURIE JACOBSON PROVOST

laurie.jakewithme@juno.com

A cold wind blew through our summer days with the sad news of the passing of our classmate **Lisa Peters Schiff** from cancer on August 12. She and her husband, Peter, married 49 years ago, and over the decades they raised three children and welcomed 11 grandchildren. Remembered for her great athleticism, her artistic abilities, and her strong friendships, Lisa was a standout in every room she entered. She lived her life to the fullest, and she will be missed.

**Dana McBride** and **Joan Barnes Pool** attended services for Lisa on Long Island. Dana writes: "The service was held in a beautiful chapel filled with at least 300 people. Her eldest son and daughter spoke with heart-warming remembrances; another son and her eldest granddaughter gave readings. The priest gave a wonderful homily describing her vivacious personality, her creativity, and her love for her family. I spoke to Peter and to Lisa's brother, **Sandy Peters '67**. I'm very glad I was there to honor Lisa and represent our class."

In August, **Dru Webster Patterson** lost her father. William Webster was 101. I adored Judge Webster—I always call him that, though he went on to much greater glory than a federal judge as the only person to head both the FBI and the

CIA. "Many thanks to everyone who reached out at this time," Dru writes. "A few years ago, I found the speech that he gave at our graduation. I think it's still in Washington. It was insightful and extremely encouraging and motivating for our younger selves!"

**Diane Garesché Reed** lost her mother, **Diane Raith Garesché '49**, in September. Our deepest condolences to all.

**Cristie Tober Krauss:** "This summer was very special. Son Zack was married to Jess in a beautiful vineyard outside of Barcelona. Son Benji played music at Lincoln Center and the NY Ballet Theater. One month later, son Davey and Jessie (and 1 1/2-year-old Asa) welcomed Adeline Lily. Our cup runneth over. We are so grateful. Sending love and peace to all!"

**Gloria Niedringhaus Jarvis** and **Jay '71** explored the Four Corners area of Colorado.

**Dana McBride's** newest grand, Lacey, was baptized in Nashville in August.

**Jean Roy:** "My life is calmly unremarkable. My son is on a ship off the coast of Venezuela in charge of air traffic controllers. Deployments are always hard for the families. I ask only for good thoughts and prayers."

**Peggy Gross Crawford** and **Michael '70** enjoyed a month in Michigan over the summer. They visited Bob and **Arden Biggs Schlüter** and spent time with daughter Lacy and her husband, Max Pescovitz, and their seven-month-old daughter, Lily; and with daughter **Alison Crawford Feid '04**, her husband, Jesse, and their sons, Parker and Alden.

**Kathy Fordyce-Peake** joined **Molly Coe Niven** on a canoe trip through the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River in Montana. "We spent two nights at the same sites where Lewis and Clark stayed. It hasn't changed much since they were there."

Don't ask **Beth Trueblood** what she thinks of insurance companies: "We have spent the summer recovering from the May 16 tornado. We lost five large trees, had some broken windows, and roof damage—we were very lucky! After a major battle over replacing



01. Cammi Mock '71 with grouse in Canada.

02. Cristie Krauss '71 with granddaughter Adeline Lily.

03. Remembering Lisa Schiff '71.

04. Kathy Fordyce-Peake '71 and Molly Coe Niven '71, conquering Montana.

05. Sue Wienstroer '71 and her daughter, Emily.

06. Dru Webster Patterson '71 with her father, William Webster, and her children.

07. Debbie Smith Fitzgerald '71 and Art with family in Dallas.

08. Susan Cabral '71 in hot water at her family reunion.

09. Lucy Ferriss '71 with Hakeema, "the one student we were able to bring to the U.S. before the door slammed shut on Afghan women."

10. The Schnucks at their movie premiere with Holly Hermann Gulick '74 and the Fitzgeralds.

11. Sally Braxton Schnuck '71 and Terry with daughter Hadley '01, son Ted, and his wife, Jessie, at the premiere of Terry's film, *Soul on Fire*.



our clay tile roof, we finally have a reasonable settlement and hope to have a new roof by December."

**Ann Hardy Aschauer:** "Life continues to be fun and fulfilling. Marty and I love retirement. We spend roughly half the year in Michigan hiking, biking, and kayaking, and half in Kentucky. I had two firsts this year. In late May, on my annual "sisterly adventure" with **Susie Hardy '68**, we met some Native American musicians in New Mexico and had a jam session around the fire. (I still play guitar.) The second was my first October swim in Lake Michigan! (Needless to say, it was brief.) My next book, *Satan's Worst Nightmare*, will be out late summer."

**Robin Brunner Moores** sent a quick update from New Hampshire: "Built a rough-hewn hickory carport, and doing lots of rehab on my log cabin—staining, gutters, well pump, fixing a basement library, you name it. Beautiful place here up on a high hill. I just recalled when we had roast beef and yellow rolls on Thursdays, and **Cyndi Trauernicht** and I went back for seconds and called the asparagus 'as-per-grass' just to see the looks on the cooks' faces! Good days!"

**Sue Thomasson Wienstroer:** "2025 has been a busy year for travel. In May, I took a memorable mother-daughter river cruise with Emily to France, Germany, and Switzerland. In August, my boyfriend, Bert, and I focused on France. The many years of French at Mary I (plus a little help from Duolingo) paid off!"

**Biz Ellison Marks:** "I'm still in remission and doing well. In July, I went on my first cruise to Alaska with my sister, **Barb Ellison Stalker '73**. In August, grandson Jerry and great-grandson Atticus spent a week with Chris and me at South Padre Island. Chris and I drove up to North Texas in September to celebrate Atti's sixth birthday, visit family and friends, and attend a wedding reception for my former boss's son. I danced with all those twenty and thirty-year-olds! I still ride my bike in the park every day."

**Lucy Ferriss:** "Another summer in the beautiful Berkshires, where all are welcome to visit. This winter I'm headed to Cape Town to sing South African music before swinging up to Berlin to see if Germany can be more welcoming to our amazing students at [www.AFSOUSA.org](http://www.AFSOUSA.org)."

**Wendy Richards Echols:** "I still work with Coldwell Banker Premier Properties. I spend long weekends in West Palm Beach on husband Gene's barge, which is moored in Lake Worth Lagoon—just us and our two sweet pups, Louie and Lola. Enjoying everything."

**Cammi Fetté Mock:** "We are leading a good life. My children are doing well. Logan and I are healthy and traveling with our dog. Last month, I was with my husband as he elk-hunted with a bow in Wyoming. We are returning from walleye-fishing and grouse-hunting in Canada."

**Judy Griesedieck:** "Mike and I had a five-day horseback trip in the wilderness of British Columbia, camping, hiking, and riding six hours a day. Other than being sore, it was awesome to be in a place so tranquil and beautiful. We went to Scotland in September—a totally different experience—but full of adventure. We're building a smaller house and plan to downsize next summer. I'm fine physically right now, but it's never a bad idea to think about the future."

**Susan Krone Cabral:** "I took a mini break for a small family reunion with cousins **Rick Ewing '68**, **Mary Ewing '74**, and **Katherine Ewing '75** at Mary's lovely home in Colorado to celebrate birthdays and memorials for family members **George Ewing '66** and **Lee Ewing '69**."

**Sally Braxton Schnuck:** "Terry and I had a wonderful trip to Switzerland and Northern Italy in September. Upon our return, we hit the ground running with the world premiere of *Soul on Fire* in St. Louis at Powell Symphony Hall. Terry was an executive producer, and we were both on set almost every day. There is a cameo appearance by the two of us; don't blink or you'll miss us! It opened in 1,200 theaters across the U.S. on October 10."

**Laurie Wolff Miller** spent her summer playing a lot of golf—Beaver Creek, Colorado, Big Cedar—all over. She has also devoted

herself to teaching mah jongg to **Sally Braxton Schnuck**, **Babs Claggett Wagner**, **Debbie Smith Fitzgerald**, and **Lissy Hawes Pollnow**. **Beth Trueblood** wants in. Laurie wants to call the group 'MI Mahj Mavens.' If there's a T-shirt, I want one.

**Debbie Smith Fitzgerald:** "Art and I had a relatively quiet summer grand-parenting and repairing or replacing various things on our 40-year-old house. We visited my niece and her family in Dallas and returned via Hot Springs, Arkansas."

As for me, **Laurie Jacobson Provost**, I also had a low-key summer while Jon recovered from rotator cuff surgery. Otherwise healthy and happy. Our three grands keep us hopping. Laurie Wolff Miller and I are planning our 55th for early May. Looking forward to celebrating with you all. Till then, peace and love.

## 1972 CDS

### STEVE HUNDLEY

stevehundleyo8@yahoo.com

**Mike Fleetwood** and his wife, Debby, are living in rural southeast Missouri near Doniphan. They have been married for 48 years with four children and 10 grandchildren. Mike has served with Campus Crusade for Christ in a mentoring and coaching role for partner development for 42 years, and is the chairman of the Ripley County Productive Living Board, providing services for intellectually and developmentally disabled folks. He collects baseball stadiums—seeing a regular season MLB game—and "hit" his 58th stadium!

**Randy Sinnott** has an interest in magic that began nearly 60 years ago in the CDS library when he read a biography of Harry Houdini. This led to a lifelong passion for the art of magic. Randy is a magician member and the past-president of the world-famous Magic Castle in Hollywood, California, and the owner and proprietor of Illusion Magic Lounge in Santa Monica, California. MICDS alumni and students are invited to come for an evening of magic.



The Class of 1972 during Reunion Weekend, back row (l-r): Bill Hemenway, Craig Stone, Lynn Urban, Rand Sommer, Rick Gray, Dave Clark, Clyde Pilkington, Rick Hermann, and Jim Oetting. Front row (l-r): John Mozley, Rick Bender, Jeff McKinney, Mark Sedgwick, and Bob Glik.

**Peter Smith** and his wife, Nancy, have seven grandchildren (ages three to seven) with whom they spend as much time as possible. Two are in St. Louis, and they travel to Chicago and Dallas to see the others. After decades of running, Peter had knee surgery last spring and is still rehabbing. His goal is to return to running around the perimeter of Forest Park soon. Nancy and Peter are well-traveled and have been to some wonderful places. Peter highly recommends Japan!

**Tom Yemm** has been a New Yorker since college. For the last decade, he has lived in Stratford, Connecticut. Tom has taught sociology in a program at NYU since 1985, and he enjoys every class meeting. His son, Morgan (10), thinks Tom is a nerd because he still reads. How soon he forgets that Tom taught him to read ages ago, not to mention the soccer at which he excels. Tom and his wife, Wendy, celebrated their 30th anniversary last year.

**Ken Cohen** reports that thanks to Spanish classes at CDS, he and his wife were able to successfully navigate a trip to South America

last February. They visited Patagonia and ended up in some remote spots where there was not much English spoken.

**Bert Barry** reports that he and **Rick Hermann** enjoyed lunch with one another on July 1. Bert states that “as all who know Rick can attest, he is unfailingly generous. He gave me outstanding advice to support my storytelling, following it up with multiple links to various resources, including several AI sites. He is both extremely knowledgeable and ever gracious.”

**Lynn Urban** and his wife, Annette, celebrated 25 years of marriage this past summer. They have two sons, Seth (32) and Luke (24), both of whom graduated from pilot school and are gainfully employed, working to get the required hours to fly for American Airlines. They also have a daughter, Isabel (20), who is a junior at TCU in Nursing School and is loving it. **David Gulick** and wife **Holly Hermann Gulick** '74 had lunch with Lynn in September as they were in Dallas babysitting grandkids.

**Steve Hundley** and his wife, Sharon, moved back to St. Louis in the fall of 2023 to be closer

to their older son, Matt, daughter-in-law, and grandchildren. Steve reports that it has been rewarding to reconnect with classmates. Steve and Sharon see **Rand Sommer** and his wife, Deb, regularly at Central Presbyterian Church and socially. Steve and Sharon spend three months of each year on the South Coast of England, where their younger son, Brian, lives and works.

Both **Dave Clark** and **David Gulick** reported that in May, the CDS Class of 1972 had a reunion celebrating the 53rd anniversary of our graduation—a very impressive turnout with 18 classmates attending the weekend dinners. **Roger Ball**, **Bert Barry**, **Rick Bender**, **Dave Clark**, **Ken Cohen**, **Bob Glik**, **Rick Gray**, **Dave Gulick**, **Bill Hemenway**, **Rick Hermann**, **Jeff McKinney**, **John Mozley**, **Jim Oetting**, **Clyde Pilkington**, **Mark Sedgwick**, **Rand Sommer**, **Craig Stone**, and **Lynn Urban** all helped make it an amazing weekend.

Due to popular demand, the CDS Class of 1972 hopes to have a reunion every year. Classmates hope to see everyone back again, along with others who couldn't be there.

## 1974 MI

## CASEY MALLINCKRODT

cmallinckrodt@mac.com



Women of the Class of 1974 gather for a mini reunion: (l-r) Holly Hermann Gulick, Robin Wurdack Lynch, Cathy Mellow Goltermann, Debby Loitman Sanchez, Gayle Bodine Garrett, Alice Wuertenbaecher Sedgwick, and Lyn McCandless Hopkins.



## 1975 MI

## LISA DENNIG COULTER

lcoulter2244@gmail.com

## KATHERINE SCHNEIDER-CLARK

katc@swbell.net

Thank you to the great Class of '75 for a fabulous 50th reunion weekend! We had so many wonderful events: the beautiful Thursday luncheon hosted by the School, the elegant "girls night" at **Celeste Dubuque Sprung's** home (delightful setting, delicious food, and so much fun catching up with everyone!), the stunning tour and luncheon at **MJ Greco King's** incredible horse "farm" (really gorgeous complex!), and Friday night's moving memorial to our departed classmates followed by the reunion party at MICDS. We were also treated to a walk down memory lane—Lessons and Carols at St. Peter's Church—and finished the

reunion weekend with a really fun party at the Racquet Club Ladue with CDS Class of '75! Thank you so much to our reunion committee for all their planning and hard work to make the weekend so special!

**Celeste Dubuque Sprung** shared that she "had a great time at our 50th Reunion catching up with everyone." Her life has changed since her husband, Ed, retired last March, and they are having fun with the freedom that this life transition allows. She continues to be busy playing tennis, biking, and walking their English Setter, Betsy. She enjoys various gardening

01: Kathleen Brackeen-Putnam '75 shared that she and her husband, Perry, and their blue Weimaraners enjoyed the opening weekend for pheasant season in South Dakota.

02: Girls Night Out at the home of Celeste Dubuque Sprung '75.

03: MI '75 50th reunion event at the farm of MJ King '85.

1981 MI 

activities with the St. Louis Herb Society and the Ladue Garden Club. She is also a member of the Rowena Clarke Garden Club with fellow classmate **Frances Burkham**. **Gay Goessling** recently gave her wonderful program to the club on *The Sacred Geometry of Flowers*.

**Gay Goessling** shared, "My book, *Song of the Flower*, was published and debuted at the Shaw Nature Reserve Art Fair, where I was selected to sell my artwork. My artwork is featured permanently at the new SLU Hospital on Grand if people want to see it."

**Frances Van Dyke Burkham** said she "had a fun time at the reunion, catching up with everyone there. We are a special group and should get together more often!"

**Karen Sedgwick Kane** shared, "Cindy Gillentine and I are so happy to announce that we share a beautiful grandson, Tyler Hayes Gillentine, who was born to Maggie and Trevor on May 16! Little did we realize when we became dear friends at Rossman School in 1964 that our kids would someday marry and start a family of their own."

**Anne Brown Bowen** shared, "I retired in 2025 from the U.S. Department of State, and in August, my husband and I moved to bucolic Leesburg, Virginia. After years of being overseas, we are now happily in close proximity to two of our children and our grandchildren. I wish I had been able to attend the 50th reunion!"

**Grace Collins** shared, "Perhaps it is right in front of us, the automatic blessings we have growing up in a city with the first word 'Saint.' All different kinds of people and a wide range of schools, and I am fortunate to have had a journey through five St. Louis schools prior to college. The most recent was my 50th high school reunion at Villa. Last summer, I attended Clayton High School's 50th. In May, MICDS had an amazing reunion. St. Louis is filled with old friendships."

**Kim Lilly Wyllie** shared that she "just retired from a 45-year career in pediatric nursing! So excited to spend more time with my 12 grandkids and to be free to pick up and go when fun events come up!"

**Lisa Dennig Coulter** had a big summer. "In July, my son, **John '13**, married a wonderful girl, Elaine. They met in college, and we are all so excited to officially welcome her to the family! Also in July, my daughter, **Caroline Coulter DeCola '08**, and her husband, **Blake '05**, welcomed their second child (my fourth grandchild), Cecelia Dennig DeCola. She's adorable! I'm so grateful for all my beautiful grandkids—they are such blessings!"

**Cathy Tucker Dawson** shared that she was so excited to come to the reunion, especially since her mom, Jinny (prom chaperone extraordinaire, 86 and counting), lives in St. Louis. "Bill and I still live in Charlotte, North Carolina. I had hoped to go west during retirement, but three out of our four grandchildren live here, and Gigi (me) chooses babies over location. I've discovered that learning is my jam: yoga teacher training, cello lessons (epic fail), Master Gardener certification, and photography classes."

Ending on a sad note, we send our sympathy to **Beth East Skalla**, who lost her mother, **Joyce McRoberts East '44** (at almost 100 years old!), this year. Beth and her family had a lovely service to honor her, and it was wonderful to see so many classmates there to remember Mrs. East.

We are so lucky to have so many rich memories together from the last 50 years, and we are looking forward to making more!

**JEANNIE HUBERT**  
jeannie@huberts.us

We look forward to getting together the first weekend in May 2026 for our 45th Class reunion. (How can it be 45 years?) Be on the lookout for emails on our reunion activities.

From **Linda Tschudy Werner**: We are so excited to report that our son, **Kevin '12**, and his wife, Lindsay, welcomed Samuel Wylie Werner into the world in August. It's wonderful to see them taking on parenthood, and we are thrilled to be grandparents for the first time!

From **Carla Merollis-Newton**: This has been an exciting year for the Newton family. On July 17, I welcomed my grandson, Gordon Michael Hughes, into this world, and he stole my heart! My youngest daughter, Camden, got engaged, and we will be celebrating her and her fiancé, Kevin, in Boston and Vero Beach, Florida, in the upcoming months. Life is good, I am enjoying living in Vero Beach and traveling to Boston whenever I can to see Gordy and my girls.

1982 *CDS*

Eugene Harris hosted the first annual CDS 1982 golf outing at Westwood Country Club on Friday, October 3. His classmates had a blast. Players representing the class were: **Eugene Harris, Doug Schukar, Drake Powers, Hans Mugler, Paul Burkemper, Chris Militello, John Sippel, and Jim Mauzé.** Percy Tucker made a surprise appearance for drinks afterwards. >

1987 *CDS***BOB KARN**

bobkarn@gmail.com

With our 40th reunion approaching, the wheels are already turning. Perhaps we can invite legendary assembly speakers bounty hunter/soldier of fortune Joe Adams and former East St. Louis Mayor Carl Officer to pontificate on the hallowed Orthwein Theater stage. This could include a Messing Gallery cocktail hour beforehand, featuring former assembly performers Oswald Moses and his Concarribia steel drum band. So many possibilities.

Another option for the agenda is a reunion concert of the former house band of the Mary I. Dance Studio mixer concert series, Exodus, featuring our own **Craig Otten**, as well as **Preston Clarke and Ethan Shepley '86**. Sounds like Craig is up for it! He writes: "Please make note we are changing our name to EXÖDUS...with the umlaut! Our concert t-shirts will be way cool and go on sale soon, so don't miss out! Put out an APB for Clarke and Shepley and bring this band home! In the interim, I'm starting up my own Aussie band, ÖTTEN. My daughter loves the guitar, so I've been teaching her what I know."

Continuing the daughter theme, **Steve Banks'** daughter, Hannah, was recently elected homecoming queen at the University of Missouri.

**Joe Dischneider** reports he is "still shoveling water and slinging fly tackle in Ennis, Montana. Both daughters are at UVA in Charlottesville."



More daughter info continues with **Dr. Edmund Cheung**, who is "going on 29 years at Kaiser Permanente in Los Angeles as a Hospitalist and Medical Director over Utilization. Older daughter, Emma (26), graduated from USC and works in Denver as a computer engineer. Younger daughter, Abby (18), is attending UC Santa Barbara this year. Still enjoy photography, art, and travel."

**Brian Roche** has a daughter who is currently working in Austria. "Hope to visit and return to the memorable 1984 German trip site, Kitzbühel. Perhaps I will hike up the mountain where a bunch of local teens hurled expletives at us as we meekly walked by. Once out of earshot, the esteemed trip leader, Doc Kalmar, pulled us aside and yelled, 'Are you all just going to take that?!" A plan was quickly hatched. An advance party lured the Teutonic troublemakers away from their camp, at which point the rest of us completely trashed it."

**John Gregory** is "still teaching English in Asheville and starting to get more serious about my own creative writing. Still can't believe we are old enough to be grandparents—but enjoying our second grandchild and finding grandparenting a lot easier than parenting."

Despite writing what the late, great Brian Taylor called one of the best haikus he had ever read, **Gordy Scherck** has not followed Gregory's path and gotten serious about creative writing. His haiku talent continues to always bubble just beneath the surface, however, and he has decided to release a new haiku for the enjoyment of the MICDS community.

*Country Day pencils*

*Country Day plastic book bags*

*Cigs in gym stairwell*

**Todd Stainbrook** wrote: "Sold my company to private equity. Bought a bigger boat and have been enjoying it in the Bahamas and the Florida Keys. After giving up kitesurfing, I have mastered my eFoil. Learning to be a better saltwater fisherman and to fly fish when we are in Park City. Son is currently a paid researcher for FSU, working to solve water quality before he heads off to start medical school in the fall, so my wife and I are very proud of him."

**Boyd Hoffmann** notes he is "living in St Louis, spending my free time biking or weekends at the Lake. Winter offers a few ski trips if anyone is interested. Daughter got engaged and moved back to St. Louis, and is currently in the Washington University MBA program."

**Bob Karn** just celebrated his nine-year anniversary with his wife, Kate, and they enjoy annual trips to Saugatuck, Michigan, with Kate's mom, and Bonita Springs, Florida, to visit Bob's parents. Bob is still CFO of Allegro Living, where he has been for almost 20 years."

**Bill Shepherd** continues "living and working in Palm Beach County, Florida. Caroline was just appointed to the Court of Appeals. My oldest son is moving to NYC after graduation from college, and my younger son is in high school. I finished my government service as Florida's statewide prosecutor, and now I run the local office of a big law firm. Occasionally fish with Dilschneider's outfit, play golf sporadically, and am ever optimistic in Jupiter each Spring Training."



Martin Brodsky '05, author.



Foster Thompson '15 and his wife, Dr. Samantha Shears.

## 1996 MICDS

**CAROLINE SPRINGER**  
cspringoo@gmail.com

**KATE SPENCER PITMAN**  
pez624@hotmail.com

The MICDS Class of 1996 was well-represented at Stanford University's 2025 Reunion Homecoming! Pictured (l-r): **Shanney Yu Zhang '96, Sarah Thompson '96, Ashley Rich Rodwick '96, and Nelson Roos '96**. Lindsey Dunagan Fisher '96 was in attendance but not pictured here. ▶

## 2005 MICDS

**Martin Brodsky** published a book of essays, *Allow Me To Waste Your Time*, about living unconventionally, slowing down, and finding your people, all skills he honed during his 14 years at MICDS.

## 2008 MICDS

**Molly Finn** married Louis Weber on October 6, 2023, in Rome, Italy, where they resided. Bridesmaids included **Stephanie Cousins** and **Dena Rothstein**, and the maid of honor was her sister, **Lucy Finn '11**. Other 2008 classmates were in attendance, including **Emily Malugen, Liz Malugen, Surin Lee, Elizabeth Davidson, Julia Qiu, and Chris Poldoian**. Molly and Louis welcomed their daughter, Sophie May Adrienne Weber, on May 24, 2025, in Paris. Sophie's grandparents are Pepe and **Terry Finn '75**. ▶

## 2015 MICDS

**Foster Thompson** received his Ph.D. in physics (a theorist specializing in nonequilibrium quantum field theory and many-body open quantum systems) from the University of Minnesota on July 8, 2025. In September 2025, he and his wife, Dr. Samantha Shears, moved to Germany, where Dr. Thompson is a scientific member at the Institute for Theoretical Physics at the University of Cologne.



# Wendy Brafman '87 Speaks of Diplomacy

"My core job is to execute foreign policy...I learn continuously and always challenge myself."

We were honored to welcome back alumna **Wendy Brafman '87**, a Foreign Service Officer in the Bureau of Counterterrorism, who shared her incredible journey with our Upper School students!

Her interest in diplomacy was sparked by the 1979 Iran hostage crisis, and was nurtured by her love for languages and history at Mary I. Becoming a diplomat included law school and Congressional work before her global career took off. She worked on Security Council issues in Congo, where she gained immense responsibility early on, confronting policy on Ugandan adoptions and working to expose and reduce fraud, ultimately leading to policy changes at the State Department.

Thank you, Ms. Brafman, for an educational and inspiring visit!



# Holiday Marketplace Fosters Connection

Many thanks to our vendors, community members, and friends who made the MICDS Alumni Board's second annual Holiday Marketplace a success! It was a wonderful evening filled with connection, shopping, and supporting local alumni-owned businesses. Thank you for joining us!

## Thank you to our vendors:

12 Days of Christmas Props	MG Designs
J. McLaughlin	Planthaven Farms
Sasha Nicholas	Trio Bags
Tru Candle Studio	Vivienne Salad Dressing
Steele Caramels	K Hall Studio
Amazing Grace Honey	Lollaway
Arina's Studio	The Doctor's Pepper Jelly
Fresh and Faux Flowers	Robin's NEST
Drybar St. Louis	Truffles & The Butchery Market
Refined Surroundings	Two Rivers Stone Boutique LLC
MarElyse MediSpa	



# Reunion Weekend

May 1 – May 3, 2025



# Reunion Weekend

May 1 – May 3, 2025





1990  
35th  
REUNION



1995  
30th  
REUNION



2000  
25th  
REUNION



2005  
20th  
REUNION



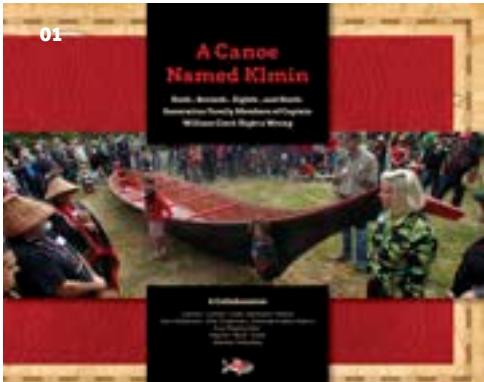
2010  
15th  
REUNION



2015  
10th  
REUNION



2020  
5th  
REUNION



**01.** Lotsie Holton '67 published a book titled *A Canoe Named Klmin: Sixth-, Seventh-, Eighth- and Ninth-Generation Family Members of Captain William Clark Right a Wrong*. Proceeds from the book go to the Lewis & Clark Museum in St. Charles and to the Chinook Tribe. The book is available on Amazon and at the Missouri Historical Society.

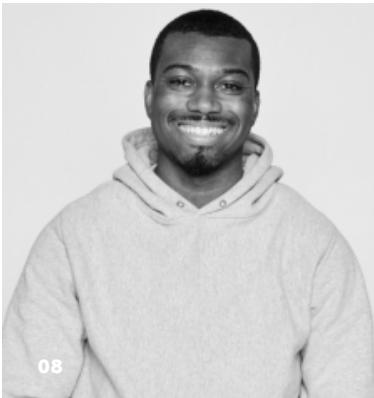
**02.** Joe Buck '87, the play-by-play broadcaster for Monday Night Football, and caller of more World Series and All-Star Games on network television than any play-by-play announcer in history, was selected as the 2026 recipient of the Ford C. Frick Award, presented annually for excellence in broadcasting by the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Buck is also set to guest-host ABC's *Good Morning America* from July 23 through July 25, 2026.

Congrats to **Elizabeth Latz Zucker '93 (03.)** and **Cabanne Schlaefly Howard '97 (04.)** on being named to the *St. Louis Business Journal's* 2025 list of the St. Louis Region's Most Influential Business Women. Zucker is the President of Clayco and Lamar Johnson Collaborative, and Howard is CEO of Kaleidoscope Management Group.

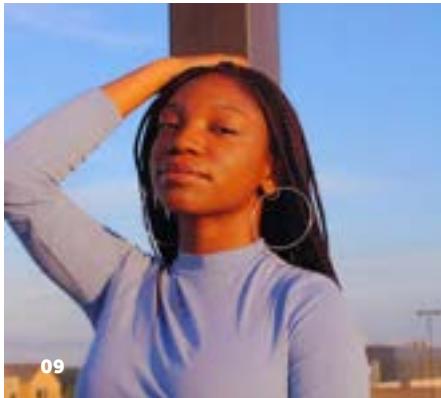
**05.** Kristin Garrett Keller '02 was the recipient of the *St. Louis Magazine* Nursing Excellence Award in the Oncology Nurse category, which honors local nurses who have made outstanding contributions in the field of oncology nursing. Dr. Keller is in her fourth year as a tenure-track professor at the Saint Louis University Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing. She teaches Anatomy & Physiology and Nursing Research, and is building a research program on nursing care and treatment planning for people with head and neck cancer.

**06.** Hattie Smith '11, actor, writer, and producer, was featured in *VoyageLA*. She recently launched a production company, Chattie Productions, and has written and produced three short films in the past two years. She also owns an event coordination business.

**07.** Filmmaker **Josalynn Smith '12** was featured in *St. Louis American* in July 2025 after her first feature film, *Ride or Die*, played at the famed Tribeca Film Festival. The film, a thriller based around a road trip, was shot in St. Louis.



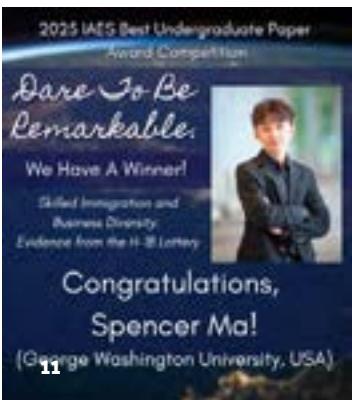
08



09



10



11



12

**08.** Vanderbilt Business School profiled **Alim Muhammad '14** in an article titled *NCAA to Adidas: How Master of Marketing Alum Alim Muhammad Used Creativity and Culture to Break Into Product Management*. As a product manager at Adidas, Muhammad works on one of the brand's highest-profile collaborations—designing footwear and apparel alongside Pharrell Williams' team.

**09.** **Raevyn Ferguson '19** stars in a short film named *24/7*, which is airing on YouTube. Ferguson plays a former high school basketball star who is adjusting to college while also trying to recover from a serious knee injury.

**10.** **Lucas McCarty '21** and his Georgia Tech robotics team classmates competed at the National Havoc Robot League World Championship. Their robot, Anxietii, a 30-lb undercutter with an asymmetrical bar-type weapon blade, made it out of the qualifying rounds into single elimination and even defeated the #1-ranked robot in the world, Ares from MIT.

**11.** **Spencer Ma '22** was awarded the winner for the International Atlantic Economic Society's 2025 Best Undergraduate Paper Award Competition. It is a competition to recognize and reward outstanding research conducted by undergraduate students worldwide. Ma's topic was *Skilled Immigration and Business Diversity: Evidence from the H-1B Lottery*.

**Frank Ragone '22** interned with a professor last summer and co-authored an article accepted and published by the *Journal of Risk and Financial Management*. The paper is titled *Falling Short in the Digital Age: Evaluating the Performance of Data Center EFTs*.

**12.** On December 6, 2025, **Julia Ray '23** won the St. Jude Memphis Marathon. It was her first race at the marathon distance. Ray was in second for most of the race but took the lead at mile 17 and went on to win in 2:51.12 as the first female finisher.

THEN  
— & —  
NOW



**Art class has always been an integral part of education at Mary Institute (shown in this 1800s photo, left) and at St. Louis Country Day School, and today's teachers find creative ways to integrate it throughout the curriculum. Upper School Science Teacher Laura Bradford broadened her botany students' appreciation of plants by teaching them how to make botanical prints, with the help of Upper School Art Teacher Brooke Williams. All of the art pieces were created using leaves from the MICDS campus and increased plant awareness for both the students in the class and for the rest of Upper School once the finished pieces were displayed in the STEM building.**