

# Peddie

SPRING 2024

CHRONICLE

**RICH D'ANDREA '01  
IS CHARTING A  
WINNING COURSE  
FOR PEDDIE  
ATHLETICS**



IN THIS ISSUE

# Features



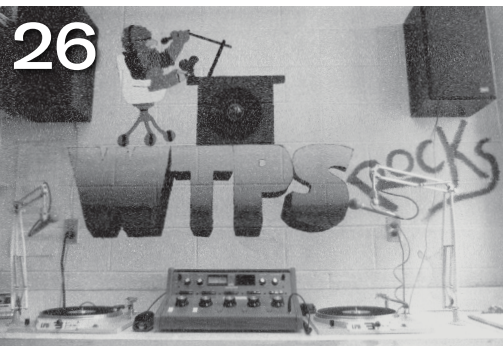
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## The future of Peddie Athletics

New Athletic Director Rich D'Andrea '01 is on a mission to strengthen Peddie's competitive edge.

## The rise and legacy of WTPS

Dive into the untold story of the student visionaries who launched Peddie's boundary-pushing campus radio station in 1985.



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“Tim trusted us and believed in our abilities. It really helped with my self-esteem as I entered a challenging male-dominated field.”

— Sue Groveman '85, clinical dietician and software developer at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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### PEDDIE CHRONICLE

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Braelen Crump '24 dominates at the Peddie School Invitational Tournament in December. The varsity boys basketball team secured their first tournament championship since 2016.

See page 20 for more Peddie Athletics highlights.

Dear Peddie Friends and Family,

I will be retiring from Peddie on June 30, 2025. Respecting the search process timeline, Board Chair Doug Davidson and I agreed that sharing the news now puts the Board of Trustees in a good position for a robust search for Peddie’s next head, whose tenure will begin July 1, 2025.

It will be a good time for the Quinns and for Peddie to make this change. I will leave with profound gratitude that is difficult to express. I have been lucky to enjoy 22 years at this remarkable school, and my wife, Maryanne, has shared that opportunity with me for 20 of those 22 years. I’d like to take on some activities, travel and have lots of time with Maryanne and our children. We plan to move back to Virginia, where we have family.

I have been lucky to hold several different roles at Peddie since first moving into little Longstreet in late August of 1985. In this, my last role, I had phenomenal support from and partnership with three board chairs, which is in and of itself a remarkable testament to the Peddie community. It has been a joy and privilege to work over the years with faculty and staff to continue beginning anew. In addition, having parent and alumni communities as vibrant and committed as we do has been a gift.

Peddie, never short of ideas for its own improvement, has completed several innovative curricular, student life and capital projects since 2013. Some of these found support in the One Peddie campaign, which so many of you supported. Other improvements, physical and programmatic alike, sprang from the minds and gifts of Peddie leaders in their normally extraordinary service to what former Head Roger Swetland called “the Greater Peddie.”

The Board of Trustees and senior leadership have just completed — on the heels of that campaign — an extended and thorough review of our four Strategic Priorities. We have solicited input from faculty and staff and chosen our most important objectives under those priorities for the next several years. The next head of school will have the opportunity to pursue those as they see fit with the support of an extraordinary board, faculty and staff.

In the head of school’s office is a collection of Old Gold and Blue issues from 1903 to 2023, telling the story of Peddie through the decades. While each yearbook marks the themes of that year, and the contributions of the students and adults whose voices reverberate in so many ways here, they also carry the theme of the school’s motto. One year, early in the 20th century, features these thoughts from the editors: “These are only a few items on the program [for the future], but they suffice to show what a future lies before the school. What will our next stride be?” That — that restless, optimistic, youthful spirit — has always been a defining attitude at Peddie.

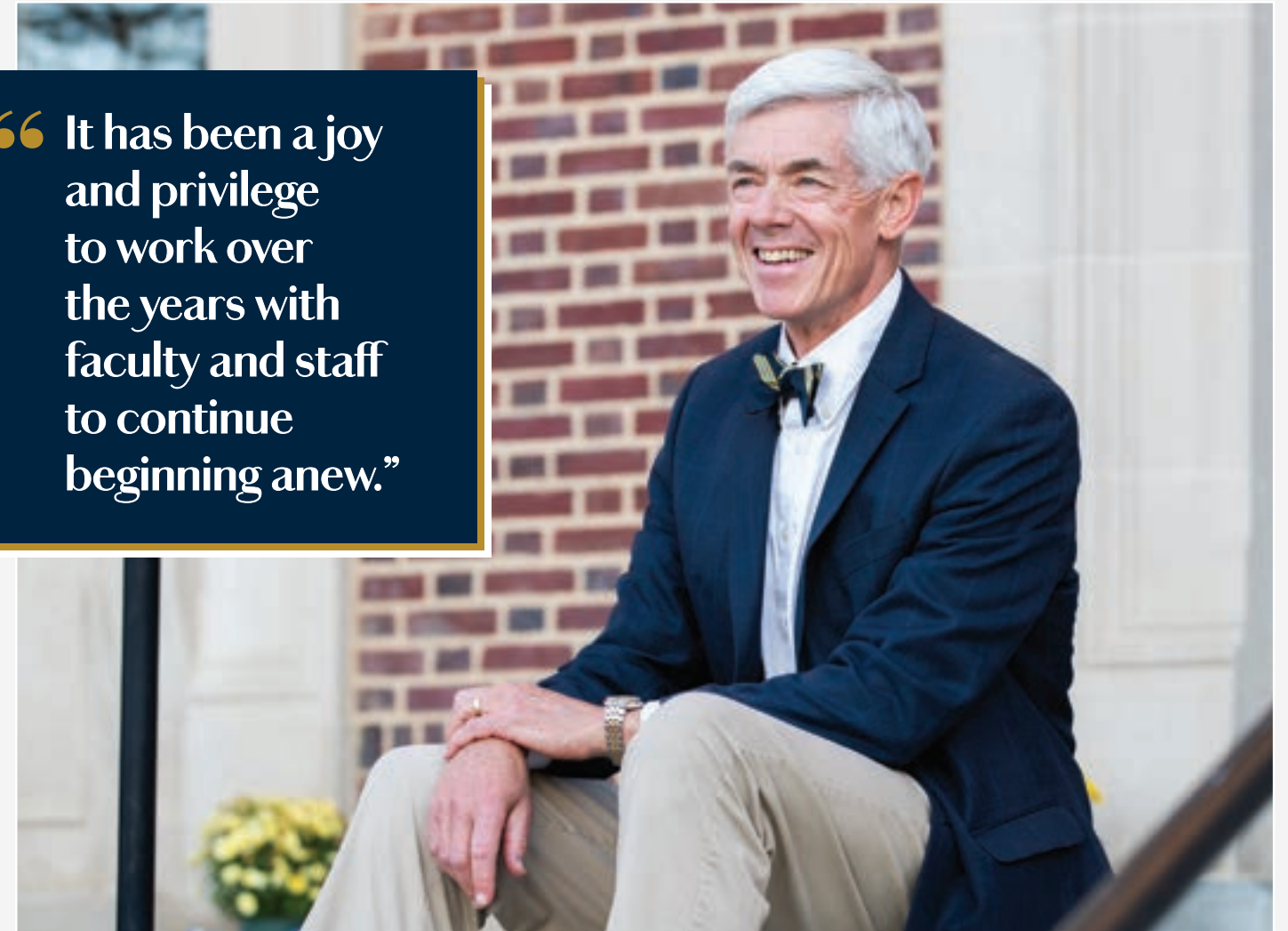
The next 14 months will see that habit continue. Finishing the fitness center renovation and expansion, continuing to develop the structure around our emphasis on citizenship, enrolling the next two incoming classes, and recruiting the most committed faculty and staff — these will be my focus.

Ala Viva!

Gratefully,

Peter A. Quinn P’15 ’18 ’21  
Head of School

“It has been a joy and privilege to work over the years with faculty and staff to continue beginning anew.”



WHAT’S NEXT

Peddie’s Board of Trustees has formed a Head of School Search Committee, comprising nine members, including six trustees and three faculty members. To assist in the nationwide search for potential candidates, the Search Committee has engaged the services of the Isaacson, Miller search firm. The process of identifying and interviewing candidates will unfold over the coming months, with the goal of presenting the next Head of School to the Board of Trustees by the fall.

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Trustees

- Doug Davidson ’64 (Chair)
- Pat Dennis ’98
- Rob Ruberton ’93
- Mike Smith ’79
- Tracey Wetmore ’97
- Sean Woodroffe P’19

Faculty

- Jenate Brown (11th Grade Dean, English teacher)
- Marc Onion (Chaplain, English teacher)
- Catherine Rodrigue (Associate Head of School)

# THE PROM

\*\*\* WINTER MUSICAL \*\*\*

After extensive preparations by the student cast and crew, Peddie's winter musical, "The Prom," graced the stage of William Mount-Burke '54 Theatre from February 15-17.

The musical delves into the story of an Indiana high school student facing discrimination for wanting to bring her girlfriend to the prom. Enter a group of vibrant Broadway personalities who converge on the conservative town of Edgewater,

Indiana, determined to challenge this injustice (and repair their own reputations). As they navigate their past glories, these actors are united in their mission to support the student's plea for inclusivity at her high school event.

Reflecting on the production, Assistant Director Imogen Dale '24 remarked, "Existing in an identity labeled as 'other' is challenging, but the show pushes that joy can always be found."



“Existing in an identity labeled as ‘other’ is challenging, but the show pushes that joy can always be found.”



## TECH TRAILBLAZER TIM CORICA P'03 '08 SET TO RETIRE

CORICA HAS A DISTINGUISHED 45-YEAR PEDDIE CAREER

### Head of School Ed Potter made a pivotal decision in 1982 that forever altered Tim Corica's career.

Despite Corica's relatively brief tenure at the school, Potter approved a sabbatical for him to pursue computer science studies. The decision proved to be a game-changer.

The ripple effects of Corica's sabbatical were profound. They paved the way for groundbreaking initiatives at Peddie, notably the launch of the school's first AP Computer Science class in 1983. Additionally, they positioned Peddie as a leader in technology integration in education during the early 1990s. Corica spearheaded initiatives like establishing a campus-wide network and introducing email, setting Peddie apart from many other high schools at the time.

Corica's early influence extended beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his authorship of programming textbooks and newsletters tailored for high school computer science teachers, alongside his service on the AP Computer Science test committee.

Reflecting on those formative years, he reminisced, "We were making noise for a while."

In 1994, Corica became director of academic computing. He oversaw the distribution of laptops to select students and faculty as part of the school's innovative Principio Project, which paved the way for the broader implementation of laptops in the community.

The Peddie Laptop Plan in 1998, in which Peddie issued a laptop to every student, showcased Corica's visionary leadership. Recalling the momentous occasion, he marveled, "I held in my hand a purchase order for a million dollars ... Unbelievable!"

The initiative garnered national attention, solidifying Peddie's reputation as a trailblazer in technology-driven education. "Most schools were like, 'You have to buy a laptop, here's one of the models you can buy.' And we were like, 'No, we are giving you a laptop as part of your tuition.' That was an amazing thing. Those were exciting, heady times," Corica said.

Amidst rapid technological advancements, Corica still emphasizes preserving human exchange in the

classroom, especially as tools like AI gain prominence. "Interaction is at the heart of the educational experience," he said. "It's the small exclamations, the shifting of students in chairs, the shared emotion when something interesting or surprising comes up. For the foreseeable future, that's an experience that a machine-based tool can't hope to provide."

### A FOUR-DECADE JOURNEY BEGINS

Corica's journey at Peddie dates back to 1979 after he graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry. His initial exposure to Peddie during a summer teaching stint in 1978 sparked his interest in the school's inclusive environment.

Corica remembered, "One of the attractive qualities of Peddie was the comfort I felt as a public school graduate who knew little about independent schools. It didn't feel stuffy or highfalutin. I could walk into the cafeteria and feel welcome at any table."

Peddie continued to play a significant role in Corica's life. His two sons are alumni, and in 1981, he married his wife, Maryanne



Above: Tim and Maryanne's wedding in Ayer Memorial Chapel in 1981.

Opposite: Corica taught Peddie's first AP Computer Science class in the early 1990s.

Ruggiero, in Ayer Memorial Chapel, with students and employees as guests and a cake reception in the dining hall.

Over the years, Corica's impact on Peddie has been profound. He served in various roles, including math department chair for a combined 20-plus years, a nine-year tenure as the director of technology, four years as dean of faculty, and, most recently, chair of the STM (Science, Technology and Mathematics) Research and Development Group.

The year 2001 stands out in Corica's memory, as it marked his appointment as dean of faculty alongside the arrival of Head of School John Green and Associate Head of School Catherine Rodrigue, coinciding with the tragic events of September 11th. "Our first week of school was 9/11," he recalled. "It was John and Catherine's first week here and my first week as dean of faculty."

Reflecting on her collaboration with Corica, Rodrigue said, "I loved collaborating with Tim and always sought his advice, and still do." She added, "Early on, Tim and I worked with data and surveys, and Tim provided me with a statistician's caution. To this day, I don't completely trust my first impressions of data, or people."

Corica's dedication to fostering curiosity among his students has remained steadfast throughout his four-decade tenure. "I'm always curious about the world, and I share that with my students," he said. "I want students to be so excited about what they've experienced in class that they bring it up

that evening at the family dinner table. I want them to have that same curiosity about the world that I do. And math is a way of understanding the world."

Rodrigue praised Corica's commitment to innovation in the classroom. "Tim is brilliant, but he's also humble, and that humility makes him infinitely creative in how he manages his classroom, how he works with students and how he connects with students," Rodrigue said. "Tim makes everyone around him better thinkers and better people."

His impact is evident in the profound effect on students like Beth Strum '94, now the director of business development at Compass, Inc., who recalled Corica's influence as her computer science teacher. Strum said Corica instilled in her a distinctive analytical approach that continues to influence her three decades later. "Through science, you learn problem-solving skills, and getting unexpected results is considered a learning opportunity," she said. "Computer science is like that, only sometimes a lot faster. But then it's also a puzzle you have to solve. Where did you code it wrong? How do you fix it? Mr. Corica made learning to code fun."

Despite the passage of time and life's demands, Strum noted that she and Corica maintain contact. She said, "Lives get busy, but I will never forget my awesome comp sci teacher, Mr. Corica!"

*"Interaction is at the heart of the educational experience," said Corica.*



Former Peddie Trustee George Chen '84 attests to Corica's influence, which propelled him toward engineering and computer science degrees at Brown University. Recalling their time together in Corica's inaugural AP Computer Science class, Chen reminisced about the early morning sessions in the computer lab. He shared, "Tim had an extremely busy year, but I could sense he enjoyed learning and seeing us learn. I have followed this life lesson ever since — to do what you love, and no matter how hard, there will be joy."

Brendan Houle '02, now a software engineer at ESPN, echoed these sentiments. "Tim fostered our curiosity and encouraged us to explore our ideas further, and in so doing, he imbued us with the joy of discovery," he said.

### LEGACY

As Corica bids farewell to Peddie, he leaves a legacy of curiosity, passion and dedication. His retirement marks not an end but a new beginning — an opportunity for exploration, learning and creativity.

"I feel like I'm 22 and just graduating college," Corica mused. "Suddenly, there is an opportunity to do the writing projects I haven't been able to get done, to take classes at Princeton, and go to those lectures at Princeton that I see but can't attend because I have school the next day."

# Mathematical marvel

## JERRY LIU '26 ACHIEVES PERFECT SCORE IN PRESTIGIOUS MATH COMPETITION



Sophomore Jerry Liu '26 scored a flawless 150 in the esteemed 2023 American Mathematics Competition (AMC), sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America.

Liu's perfect performance marks an unprecedented achievement for a Peddie student; historically, only a handful of students worldwide achieve a perfect score each year.

The world-renowned AMC program provides a stage for students to showcase their mathematical prowess. It opens doors to exclusive opportunities, including the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME), the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), and ultimately, the International Mathematical Olympiad.

Along with Liu, Albert Yang '26, Nancy Xue '25 and Karen Yao '24's outstanding AMC scores earned them eligibility for the AIME. Liu and Xue's performances propelled them into the prestigious USAMO.



At Peddie Summer Academy, students in grades 6-8 spend two weeks living on our beautiful campus, attending classes led by Peddie faculty and creating memories with new friends from around the world!

APPLY AT [PEDDIE.ORG/PSA](https://peddie.org/psa)



# Former Head of School John Green addresses Peddie community on Founders Day

Former Head of School John Green delivered a heartfelt reflection on legacy during the 129th Founders Day at Ayer Memorial Chapel on February 12.

Founders Day, initiated in 1895 to commemorate Thomas B. Peddie's pivotal intervention that saved the school from bankruptcy two decades earlier, is a tribute to the exceptional leaders who have guided Peddie with loyalty, integrity and vision. Held annually in February to coincide with Peddie's birthday, the event serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring values upheld by the school's past leaders.

As the 15th Head of School, Green influenced Peddie profoundly. His retirement in 2013 marked the culmination of 12 years of devoted service, during which his leadership propelled the school forward in myriad ways.

During the ceremony, math teacher Tim Corica, who worked closely with Green as the dean of faculty in 2001, praised his "selfless caretaking of students, faculty and the institution of Peddie." Corica recounted Green's remarkable leadership during the tumultuous aftermath of 9/11, which he described as "the most unsettling and terrifying moment in the history of the school." He characterized Green's management style as a "masterclass in running a school."



Green stressed the significance of recognizing the unsung heroes whose contributions have shaped the school's legacy.

"Walk this campus, and you will see their names and expressions of their love, too, on plaques adjacent to trees, for example, on the benches on which you sit, on brick steps that connect the upper to lower campus, and even on a baseball dugout. There are countless other physical manifestations of love and legacy all across campus, inside and outside. Slow down. Take note."

As Green concluded his remarks, he inspired a deep appreciation for Peddie's rich history and a collective commitment to its enduring values.

"What I hope for all of you is that one day you will come to love our school as much as I do," he said.

During his tenure as head of school, Green crafted a five-year plan for Peddie, directing substantial investments into essential facilities projects such as The Walter and Leonore Annenberg Science Center, the Caspersen History House, the Ian H. Graham '50 Athletic Center and the Aquatic Center. Additionally, he prioritized faculty recruitment and professional development to enhance diversity and expertise.

**“What I hope for all of you is that one day you will come to love our school as much as I do.”**

Watch John Green's Founders Day speech at [peddie.org/foundersday24](https://peddie.org/foundersday24).





Sophie Wang '27 prepares to perform on Peddie's new Steinway concert grand piano in Ding Music Hall during a winter recital.

## A MELODIC COUP

*Inside Peddie's acquisition of a Steinway concert grand*



An undeniable grandeur now echoes in the chambers of Ding Music Hall, courtesy of the school's recent acquisition — a retired Steinway concert grand piano, hailed in the music scene as one of the most coveted treasures in the region.

This majestic instrument, previously housed at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, has been graced by the nimble fingers of virtuosos such as Emanuel Ax, Yuja Wang, Lang Lang, Daniil Trifonov and Jonathan Biss.

Chair of the Arts Department Alan Michaels was the architect behind this melodic coup.

"Our previous concert piano, also a Steinway, was over 100 years old. It still serves us well, but it no longer produces the tone quality to match the acoustics of Ding Music Hall," he explained.

To validate the excellence of this newfound treasure, Michaels sought the expertise of a trusted piano connoisseur. "The expert confirmed with me that the piano was a great instrument, perhaps as good, if not better, than any in the northeast region," Michaels shared.

Recognizing the significance of the Steinway's arrival, regional piano retailer and broker for the deal Jacobs Music sponsored artist Delvan Lin to perform at a special piano recital. "His performance brought the music hall into a state of sonic synchronicity," said Michaels. Prior to his performance, Peddie student pianists performed their own pieces on the instrument.

"Playing on the new piano is an extraordinary experience," said Kyle Song '24. "During my performance of Chopin's 'Ballade No. 1 in G Minor,' I felt a profound connection to the instrument, allowing me to express each distinct emotion of the piece to the audience."

Jacobs Music also arranged a private tour for students at the Steinway & Sons factory in Queens, N.Y. Reflecting on the experience, Michaels said, "We gained an appreciation for the care that goes into manufacturing the 12,000 parts in a Steinway piano and the precision required to combine all of those parts."

Jacobs believes no piano has left a more indelible mark on the music community over the past decade, making this acquisition a once-in-a-lifetime musical triumph for Peddie.



# Roommates bound for West Point and Naval Academy

**Sophia Gimino '24 and Rosie Carmichael '24 share a connection reminiscent of a lifelong friendship, although they've only known each other since the start of the school year.**

Becoming roommates at Peddie last August, the duo, born two days apart, embarked on a postgraduate year before pursuing distinct paths. A postgraduate year serves as an additional year beyond high school graduation, allowing students to enhance their academic and personal growth, better positioning themselves for success in college. Gimino heads to the United States Military Academy at West Point this fall, while Carmichael will join the United States Naval Academy.

Gimino encountered obstacles during her West Point recruitment, as she was set to participate in javelin for track and field but had to contend with a knee injury. While researching schools to meet the academy's requirement for a postgraduate year, she discovered Peddie, attracted by its vibrant track program. A swift response from Head Coach Tim Brennan solidified her decision. "Coach Brennan reached out to me almost immediately, which convinced me I should choose Peddie," Gimino recalled.

Meanwhile, Carmichael navigated the intricacies of securing a nomination for the Naval Academy. Sponsored by the USNA Foundation for a postgraduate year, she chose Peddie for its standout swim program. "I feel like Peddie's swim program is similar to college training. I won't be swimming at Navy, so I wanted to take this opportunity to swim at a college level," she explained.

As roommates, they've cultivated seamless harmony, with their shared commitment to service academies forming the bedrock of their friendship. "The fact that we are both going to a service academy has really helped," said Carmichael.

Both have taken on mentorship roles, adopting freshmen into their circles. Carmichael chuckled as she shared, "We'll come back to our dorm, and people will ask, 'How are your kids today?'"

They also connect over being out-of-state students, with Gimino hailing from Wichita, Kansas, and Carmichael from St. Augustine, Florida. "It's nice to have somebody who gets that," said Carmichael.

Immersed in the quintessence of New Jersey life, their conversations are sprinkled with lighthearted moments, like lively debates about bagels and pizza. "Everyone is crazy about the bagels here," said Gimino. "People teased me because, before coming here, the only bagel I'd ever had was a Panera bagel. Everyone was like, 'You're missing out, man!'"

As their Peddie chapter concludes, Gimino and

Carmichael's friendship is poised to endure. From attending the Army-Navy game in Boston last December to proudly adorning their dorm room door with flags representing their respective academies, Gimino and Carmichael's bond is a celebration of camaraderie, laughter and the pursuit of dreams.



*From left: Rosie Carmichael '24 and Sophia Gimino '24 attend the Army-Navy Game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, last December, where Army beat Navy 17-11.*

# Ace Analysts advance

**Peddie team secures top 10 spot in Wharton Global High School Investment Competition**

Team Ace Analysts advanced to the finals of the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition, an experiential investment challenge for high school students.

Out of the more than 4,000 teams initially enrolled globally, 1,500 progressed to the next stage, and 50 made the semifinals. On March 20, team Ace Analysts learned they were among 10 teams to advance to the finals.

**"This is a huge deal."**

— YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS CLUB ADVISOR IMAD LABBAN

"In the three years that Peddie has been participating in this competition through the Young Entrepreneurs Club, this is the first group to make it this far," said Club Advisor Imad Labban. "This is a huge deal."

Teams are graded on portfolio performance, client interaction and strategy formulation. The Ace Analysts, consisting of Andy Wang '25, Ethan Yang '25, Ethan Jin '25, Lue Fang '25, Jiabao Hu '25, Yang Han '25 and Eric Huang '25, impressed the judges with their innovative approach named "Bump, Set, Spike," aligning the client's investment goals with their shared passion for volleyball, a detail derived from the client case study.

To advance beyond the semifinal round, the team completed a detailed questionnaire and prepared a video, which was judged by three respected financial industry specialists.

Reflecting on the journey that led them to the finals, team member Andy Wang recounted the moment he received the email confirming their semifinalist status. "When I saw the email, and it said 'Congrats!' — that's when it hit me, 'Oh my gosh, we made it to the semifinals,'" Wang recalled.

Now, they eagerly anticipate the next stage of the competition, the Global Finale on April 20 at Wharton's Philadelphia campus, where the grand prize winner will be revealed.

"It would be incredible if we win," said Wang.



*Team Ace Analysts celebrate their advancement to the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition finals. Pictured in the top row (left to right) is Eric Huang '25 and Jiabao Hu '25; middle row (left to right): Lue Fang '25 and Ethan Jin '25; bottom row (left to right): Yang Han '25, Andy Wang '25 and Ethan Yang '25.*



*In this March 5 photo, Priyanka Seth '24 races through the treetops on a zip line ride in Costa Rica. Seth was among a group of Peddie students who traveled to Costa Rica during spring break.*

**“I never leave home without my notebook! I use it to write down any thoughts that I have, beautiful things I see around me, or anything that inspires me.”**

Claire Chen '24

**“A poster with my picture on it that my family signed, wishing me good luck at boarding school. I brought the poster to campus with me to remind me that I make my family proud every day.”**

Tamia Stafford '25

# BAGGAGE & BEYOND

From cherished mementos to practical tools, we were curious about what Peddie students consider their campus must-haves.



**“A bottle of Vintage lemon-lime seltzer because I like seltze.”**  
Austin Hayden '25



**“My phone because it allows me to call my parents and siblings. It also lets me see any important emails and have entertainment.”**

Ardanley Then '27



**“Tide To Go travel stick.”**  
Sarah Drake '25

**“My stuffed animal, Cowie.”**  
Freja Jensen '27



**“My personality.”**  
Preeya Govil '24



**“A fan.”**  
Sree Lakkamraju '25



**“LED lights and posters. This will be your home for a year; bring something that makes your room feel comfortable and reminds you of home so you are not homesick.”**

Jonathan Lerner-Nunez '26



## 5 QUESTIONS WITH OBERLIN SWIM CAPTAIN AUDREY WEBER '20



Weber is finishing her final year at Oberlin, where she is pursuing majors in anthropology, Hispanic studies and Latin American studies. Recognized with the Katherine H. Nicholson Award at Peddie for her embodiment of compassion, encouragement and a nurturing spirit, Weber reflects on her leadership journey and future aspirations.

1

*Can you share the journey that led to you becoming a co-captain for the Oberlin swim team?*

My journey began at Peddie, where I was elected captain. It was a transformative experience that reassured me of my ability to positively impact a team. At Oberlin, my conscientious work ethic and commitment paved the way for me to be named a captain.

2

*How do you approach this responsibility, and what advice would you give aspiring leaders?*

I lead by example, setting the tone for productive practices and supporting my team. I have made it a point to swim in the middle lane and be one of, if not the first, people in the water every day to set the mood for a productive practice. My advice for aspiring leaders is to embrace your unique style and consistently make decisions for the betterment of your team.



3

*Reflecting on your time at Peddie, how has that experience contributed to your leadership role at Oberlin?*

Peddie's unique captain selection process, where the team elected leaders, influenced me to act as a leader long before receiving the title. I have never been the fastest on any team I have swum with, nor the loudest in the room. Being a role model is about understanding your position and influence and using that to guide the success of every team member.

4

*You're also part of OSteel, Oberlin's steel pan ensemble. Can you share how you became involved in OSteel?*

Growing up in the Cayman Islands, I was part of a middle school steel pan band. At Oberlin, I joined OSteel after taking a course on the instrument's history and culture. Joining OSteel challenged me to improve my musical skills and has provided a fulfilling and quirky addition to my Oberlin experience.

5

*Looking ahead, what are your plans for the future?*

I plan to pursue a fellowship in Latin America before studying human rights or immigration law. I have applied for numerous opportunities to live abroad and am a semi-finalist to receive a Fulbright research grant in Peru. The tight-knit and supportive community environment at Peddie influenced my decision to attend Oberlin and gave me the confidence to take on challenges head-on.

# Celebrating Kate Guittari '22, Morehead-Cain Scholar

In the serenity of her University of North Carolina dorm, a moment of destiny unfolded for Kate Guittari '22 last fall.

It was then that Guittari, currently pursuing a neuroscience major on the pre-med track, received the news that she had been selected as one of the inaugural recipients of the Morehead-Cain Scholarship's Sophomore Intake Initiative.

Guittari vividly recalled the instant the email arrived. "I was sitting in the lobby of my dorm, obsessively checking my inbox. When I finally received the notification and read, 'Congratulations,' I leaped out of my seat, ran out the front door without any direction in mind, and called my mom and others who have always supported me."

Traditionally reserved for incoming students, the Morehead-Cain Foundation extended the prestigious merit-based scholarship to UNC sophomores this year. Guittari stands among an elite group of 15 scholars selected from a competitive pool of 4,000 applicants, following in the footsteps of former Morehead-Cain Scholars from Peddie, Tom Golden '07 and JR Rodrigo '11.

Peddie's Head of School Peter Quinn shared his excitement, stating, "I am thrilled for Kate. She was an exceptional student at Peddie, and more importantly, she made a substantial contribution to every undertaking, every team and every group of which she was a member. Her achievement as a Morehead-Cain Scholar is a testament to her attitude and approach and how earnestly she seeks the 'highest quality of citizenship.'"

Guittari plans to pursue a self-designed project next year. With aspirations of becoming a pediatrician, she looks forward to leveraging the wisdom of Morehead-Cain advisors and UNC Hospital pediatricians throughout her journey.

Guittari recognized the transformative impact of her Peddie experience, stating, "At Peddie, I realized that I was more inquisitive, resilient and capable than I had believed myself to be. I learned that curiosity is invaluable, as it can lead you on paths that challenge your perception of the world."

She added, "Just as I did at Peddie, I will continue to learn by seeking out meaningful experiences and relationships."



Photo by Ira Wilder

“At Peddie, I realized that I was more inquisitive, resilient and capable than I had believed myself to be.”

## Vampire Weekend returns with long-awaited album



Chris Tomson '02 and his indie rock band Vampire Weekend released a new album, "Only God Was Above Us," on April 5 via Columbia Records. Following the chart-topping success of 2019's "Father of the Bride," which clinched the Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album, this fifth studio album promises a nostalgic ode to 20th-century New York City.

Tomson, the band's acclaimed drummer, once contributed to the Peddie orchestra with his trombone and electric bass talents.

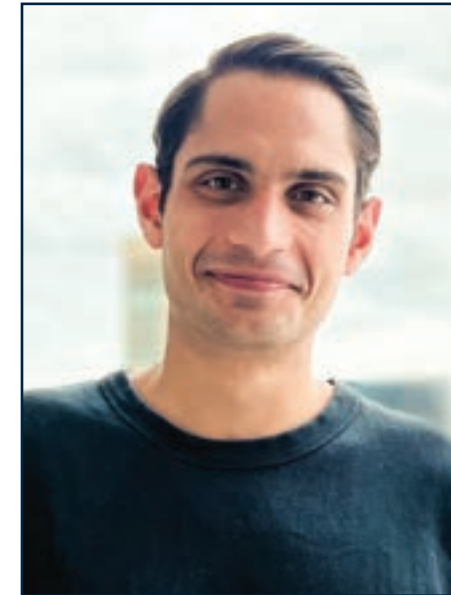
The band performed in Austin, Texas, on April 8, coinciding with the total eclipse, to kick off their 35-city North American tour.

# Brandon Kumar '12 graces Forbes 30 Under 30

In the ever-evolving digital innovation landscape, Brandon Kumar '12 has emerged as a trailblazer, earning a coveted spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for 2024. Forbes recognized Kumar, leading the way at Layer3, for his groundbreaking contributions to the crypto world.

Founded by Kumar and his partner Dariya Khojasteh, Layer3 is an interactive platform tailored for individuals keen on navigating the intricacies of blockchain technology. Offering bite-size lessons or "quests," users can dive into the world of blockchain, exploring topics from non-fungible tokens to the nuances of writing smart contracts. With a thriving community of 250,000 monthly active questers, Layer3 has gained recognition from industry giants like Coinbase and Uniswap, who have contributed to the platform's impressive \$6.5 million seed funding.

The acknowledgment on Forbes 30 Under 30 highlights Kumar's expertise and underscores the rising significance of digital assets and blockchain technology in shaping modern financial services. Kumar



said he envisions a transformative shift towards user-owned software, with digital ownership (crypto) as a foundational element enabling novel user experiences. "Layer3's mission is to be the gateway to the ownership economy," he explained.

Kumar emphasized the critical role of independent thinking in innovation — a trait he said Peddie excelled in fostering. "At Layer3, we've made several decisions that went against consensus or advisor guidance. But they were clear to us and have contributed to our success," he said.

Additionally, Kumar acknowledged the distinguished Peddie alumni who have graced the Forbes 30 Under 30 list over the years, some of whom he knows personally. "Being recognized alongside some of them is an honor," he said.

## Erik Hanson '83 inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame



From left: Erik Hanson '83 reunited with his former coaches, Lew Watts and Al Lozier.

Peddie Sports Hall of Famer Erik Hanson '83, celebrated for his stellar baseball career, was recently inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame.

Hanson's athletic greatness began on the Peddie courts, under the mentorship of Al Lozier, a Wake Forest alumnus. Initially focused on basketball, Hanson's trajectory shifted when Lozier persuaded him to try baseball, leading to an impressive high school career marked

by a state championship and captivating performances that drew the attention of numerous MLB scouts.

Hanson's All-American achievements at Wake Forest paved the way for an illustrious 11-year tenure in the MLB with the Seattle Mariners, Cincinnati Reds, Boston Red Sox and Toronto Blue Jays.



# Lab Partners

Kevin Weiner '00 mentors Peddie students in UC Berkeley Cognitive Neuroanatomy Lab

**Peddie takes pride in its students supporting fellow students — all parties working together to achieve a goal. It's a manifestation of our mission to strive for the highest quality of citizenship.**

When that mutual support extends beyond campus, that's cause for even more pride.

Driven by profound personal experience, Kevin Weiner, Ph.D. '00, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of California, Berkeley, has mentored several young Peddie alumni and current students at his UC Berkeley Cognitive Neuroanatomy Lab.



*A snapshot of Weiner delivering his chapel talk in March 2019.*

It all began in 2019 when Weiner returned to Peddie for a chapel talk. His brother, Matt '98, had died of an undiagnosed heart condition in 1999 while a freshman at Princeton University. During those 20 years, Weiner had become frustrated with the U.S. healthcare system while battling his own series of health conditions. He spent his first year at UC Berkeley building the infrastructure for his lab while seeing doctor after doctor before being diagnosed with May-Thurner syndrome.

"My own medical saga was unrelated to how Matt died but triggered memories of a prior chapel talk I gave after his death," he said. "I planned to come back home anyway to visit my parents and Tina (Weiner's sister, also Class of '98) for the 20th anniversary of Matt's death, and thought, 'Why don't I give a chapel talk in honor of the anniversary?'"

Science teacher Shani Peretz, Ph.D., contacted Weiner, inviting him to meet with Summer Signature Experience (EXP) students during his visit. Peddie's EXP program empowers students to design summer internships, enabling them to

explore subjects that deeply interest them, gain practical experience and connect with field experts. Weiner graciously accepted the invitation, and Peretz informed him that Chahat Mittal '20 would be his host for the day.

"Chahat asked me more specifics about what was going on in my lab," Weiner said. "She was very interested and asked if I would be willing to host her for the summer." Now at NYU, Mittal joined Weiner at his lab in the summer of 2019, studying "Evolution, Development, and Behavioral Relevance of Sulci in Lateral Prefrontal Cortex."

Subsequently, Priyanka Nanayakkara '22, Szeshuen "Cecilia" Chen '23, and Yixuan "Kyle" Jia '24 continued the trend of Peddie students conducting research in Weiner's lab.

Reyansh Sathishkumar '21, currently an undergraduate at Berkeley, includes Weiner among their mentors and has collaborated on a published paper with him and Mittal, which Weiner speculates could be the first peer-reviewed neuroscience paper to have three Peddie alumni as co-authors.

Weiner humorously described himself



*Opposite: Weiner answers questions from EXP students after his chapel talk. Above: Chahat Mittal '20 answers questions from peers at UC Berkeley.*

as "competitively uncompetitive" and motivates students by setting and celebrating milestones.

Highlighting the labor-intensive nature of their work, he said, "Our work requires hundreds and thousands of manual, painstaking tracing of indentations in the cerebral cortex known as sulci. Chahat has the record for being the youngest person to define the most sulci in the lab. She identified 863 sulci in six weeks."

While working alongside Peddie alumni and students, Weiner observed the same solid work ethic and hunger for knowledge that he remembers from his own Peddie experience.

"Peddie was probably the hardest time for me in my academic and athletic career," he said. "You want to succeed, you want to get into college, you're motivated, all of the students at Peddie are brilliant — it's really good training. I think it's funny and somewhat fortuitous that I spent so many hours staring at the line on the bottom of the pool, and now I spend countless hours staring at lines and patterns on the brain.

"The EXP students are very, very motivated to learn as quickly as possible so they can see the end product," he continued. "If they have no coding experience, they're not afraid to be exposed to a Jupyter notebook and have the graduate students go through it with them. The common theme is their motivation, their ability to manage their time really well, and be involved on

**“All of the students at Peddie are brilliant — it's really good training.”**

multiple projects.”

That drive was evident during a lab meeting when Mittal presented her research to peers at UC Berkeley. Weiner offers EXP students the opportunity to practice presenting their findings, preparing them for the presentations they'll deliver once back at Peddie. Before he finished introducing Mittal at her meeting, the undaunted teenager went straight to

the front of the room, then confidently presented and adeptly fielded questions from faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and undergrads.

"Everyone clapped, 'That was great,' and I'm like, 'Slow down!'" laughed Weiner. "You have to acknowledge that no one filtered their questions here, and Chahat is in high school, held her own, wanted to get started as quickly as possible, and gave a kickass presentation. It was very impressive."

Weiner writes college recommendation letters for all students he's hosted, boosted with quotes from the grad students who worked directly with them.

"The grad students are shocked that the EXP students are as advanced as they are for high school students," he said. "And then, because we've had such success, when I say we're going to get another Peddie EXP student, all the grad students are like (raises hand), 'I'll mentor them!'"



# RICH D'ANDREA '01 IS CHARTING A WINNING COURSE FOR PEDDIE ATHLETICS

*“Peddie unearthed the best parts of me and taught me things about myself that I had no idea existed.”*

**Rich D'Andrea '01 knows a thing or two about perseverance.**

The former Peddie lacrosse captain led the 2001 team to an undefeated season and top 15 national ranking. Yet, amidst their on-field victories, the team grappled with significant challenges.

“We had teammates that struggled through the losses of family members,” recalled D'Andrea. “And while it was nearly impossible to find words to meet the situation, the brotherhood formed through that team experience had a healing quality of its own.”

In the face of adversity, D'Andrea gleaned invaluable lessons.

For him and his team, success transcended mere victories; it centered on wholehearted commitment, selflessness and solidarity. “I'm grateful for that experience because it taught me the value of relationships, how to be a leader, knowing when to speak up and when to listen,” he said.

These fundamental principles, instilled during his time at Peddie, continue to guide D'Andrea's leadership approach today.

Since assuming the role of Peddie's athletic director last summer, D'Andrea has been on a mission to stabilize the school's athletic programs and strengthen its competitive edge. His appointment marks a pivotal moment for Peddie Athletics, which has faced leadership turnover and recruitment hurdles in some sports in recent years.

D'Andrea's achievements extend beyond the lacrosse field. Following a stint in commercial real estate, he transitioned to Princeton Day School, where he served as an English teacher, lacrosse coach and admissions officer. He returned to Peddie in 2021 to serve as an admission officer and coach boys lacrosse. He continues to coach lacrosse and teaches English, a role he finds personally enriching.

Throughout his professional journey, Peddie has remained a constant source of inspiration for D'Andrea — where he discovered his strengths and fostered enduring relationships.

“I've always felt a sense of indebtedness to Peddie,” he said. “It's where I cut my teeth and learned the importance of hard work and the value of good relationships. Peddie unearthed the best parts of me and taught me things about myself that I had no idea existed.”

## EDUCATION THROUGH ATHLETICS

Central to D'Andrea's vision for Peddie Athletics is the principle of “Education through Athletics.” Drawing inspiration from his mentor, the late Peddie lacrosse coach Dietrich von Schwerdtner, affectionately known as “Von,” D'Andrea recounted a formative experience as a freshman in the late 1990s. D'Andrea and



*Above: Rich D'Andrea '01 stands by the lacrosse captain boards in the Peddie athletic center, where his leadership as team captain in 2000 and 2001 is commemorated.*

*Left: Rich D'Andrea '01 is Peddie's new director of athletics.*



*“‘Education through Athletics’ may speak to the valuable lessons learned through competition, lessons we carry with us throughout life.”*

several students helped Von intertwine excerpts from speeches by Abraham Lincoln during a chapel presentation, weaving them into a metaphorical rope of resilience and bravery.

D’Andrea said, “Looking back, it’s clear to me that Von had been teaching the entire community — me among them — about the importance of perseverance and courage.”

While “Education through Athletics” might translate into honing individual skills or grasping tactical nuances, its essence also embodies a comprehensive approach to personal development and community engagement.

D’Andrea elaborated, “Education through Athletics’ may speak to the valuable

lessons learned through competition, lessons we carry with us throughout life. Hard work, accountability, resiliency, time management, understanding how to contribute to a cause greater than ourselves, elevating those around us, and so on.”

Moreover, he said, it extends to navigating through profound challenges. “Sitting in sadness with a teammate that’s lost a family member, helping others or being helped by others going through depression, showing up and navigating through the darkness — together. These are the moments when I’m grateful to know there’s a rope to grab onto.”

The “Education through Athletics” philosophy serves as a unifying force for the athletics program. D’Andrea emphasized,

“Having a clear and focused message to rally around creates unity within our community and it very much aligns us with the school’s core values.”

### PRIMED FOR A RESURGENCE

D’Andrea is optimistic about the future of Peddie Athletics, seeing it as primed for a resurgence. He recognized past challenges, and acknowledged, “We’ve had some turnover in coaching positions and with athletic directors. Consistency across a lot of our programs has been lacking.”

In response, D’Andrea and his team have initiated strategic measures to inject new vitality into the program. Leveraging

partnerships with admissions and alumni networks, they are intensifying student and coaching recruitment efforts while enhancing visibility. “We’re raising our flag a little higher,” D’Andrea noted.

Embracing a balanced approach, the department nurtures individual athlete interests while encouraging students to explore new avenues. D’Andrea emphasized their philosophy: “We meet each student-athlete where they are, then gently push them beyond their comfort zones in a manner that empowers them for the future.”

Recent innovations include tailored off-season workouts for specific teams, catering to aspiring college athletes — a move that has garnered enthusiastic support from coaches

and students alike. Furthermore, Peddie is investing over \$7 million in upgrading its athletic facilities, which are slated for completion this fall. These enhancements include a varsity weight room, a community weight room, erging rooms for the rowing program, and a golf simulator room complemented by a nearby putting green.

A particularly gratifying aspect for D’Andrea has been the return of alumni as coaching staff, including Bridgette McKnight ’10 (basketball), Julie Sheldon ’05 (field hockey), Shannon Madden ’13 (softball) and Ethan Kibrick ’11 (lacrosse). Their presence, he said, underscores the alumni community’s deep connection and enduring commitment to Peddie Athletics.



### TESSA HUGHES ’26 ON RECORD-BREAKING SPREE

Tessa Hughes ’26 shattered four school records during a stellar indoor track and field season.

The first feat came in December when Hughes conquered the Peddie 45-meter hurdles at 7.18, breaking the previous record set by Melanie Nicholas ’04 in 2004 at 7.44.

Next, at the Bishop Loughlin Games in Staten Island, Hughes broke the 55-meter hurdle school record with a time of 8.53, surpassing the previous record set by Gabby Moise ’10.

Hughes extended her streak of record-breaking performances, achieving a time of 42.77 in the 300-meter run and surpassing the previous Peddie record set by Ruby Avila ’17. Additionally, in February, Hughes set a new record in the girls’ 400-meter run at the MAPL Indoor Track & Field Championships, clocking in at 59.15 and surpassing the previous record set by Veronica McRipley ’00 in 2000.

Reflecting on breaking four school records in a single season, Hughes said, “I’ve grown a lot in general, getting stronger and having a stronger mindset of what I want to do with running and everything in general.”

Head Coach Tim Brennan, impressed by Hughes’ ability to perform consistently well under pressure, remarked, “It is rare that such talent prevails at a young age.”



### BOYS BASKETBALL ARE PSIT CHAMPS

In the 50th year of the Peddie School Invitational Tournament (PSIT), the varsity boys basketball team won its first championship since 2016. Team Captain Noah Payne ’24, who surpassed 2,000 career points this season, was named PSIT Most Valuable Player (photo at right). The eight-team tournament hosted by Peddie showcases top independent school basketball talent in the Mid-Atlantic region.



*“We meet each student-athlete where they are, then gently push them beyond their comfort zones in a manner that empowers them for the future.”*

“There must have been around 400-500 people watching the game. People were going nuts.”



### CURRENT GROWTH AND SUCCESSES

D’Andrea highlighted recent accomplishments, including standout individual performances and team triumphs. “This year, we’ve witnessed exceptional feats,” he said, citing Tessa Hughes ’26’s record-breaking achievements in indoor track, Noah Payne ’24’s 2,000th career point and the boys basketball team’s victory at the PSIT. Notably, the girls tennis and boys indoor track teams secured wins in the MAPL Championships this year.

Illustrating growth areas, D’Andrea pointed to the transformation of the field hockey program under Julie Sheldon’s guidance, evolving from a modest record to noteworthy accomplishments. “If you go and watch the games, you’ll see they have a really great foundation, and you can see that growth happening in real-time,” he said. Additionally, he highlighted the boys lacrosse team’s progress, attributing it to robust underclassmen recruitment efforts.

D’Andrea reminisced about the exhilarating ambiance at the Blair Day boys JV soccer match last autumn. “There must have been around 400-500 people watching

the game. People were going nuts,” he said. D’Andrea feels that such vibrant enthusiasm within Peddie’s sports community serves as a catalyst for momentum. “As success builds, we start to attract a diverse array of student-athletes to the school,” he said.

### THE ROAD AHEAD

In the delicate balance between professional demands and personal fulfillment, D’Andrea finds solace and joy in family moments. Married to fellow alumna Erika Kapp ’98, with three lively boys ages 11, 9 and 6, he cherishes the joys of parenthood. “My wife is approaching sainthood for dealing with all four boys in the house,” he quipped.



“I do this because I love it. I do this because of you.”

– Dietrich von Schwerdtner

D’Andrea often thinks about his close friend and mentor, Dietrich von Schwerdtner, whose wisdom influences his leadership approach. Recalling their last conversation on a bench outside the Athletic Center, D’Andrea was struck by Von’s candid response when asked about his dedication to coaching and teaching. “He responded immediately, ‘I do this because I love it. I do this because of you.’”

In this spirit, inspired by Von’s legacy, D’Andrea leads Peddie Athletics into an exciting and transformative new era, determined to make a lasting impact on the institution that has molded him into the leader he is today.



### KASEME LECKIE '24 SOARS

Kaseme Leckie ’24 is a two-time champion in the Mercer County Tournament Association indoor track boys high jump (in 2023 and 2024). Leckie recorded a 6-02 jump during the January event. Furthermore, Leckie won three events at the February NJISAA Prep A Indoor Track Championships, securing first place in the 55-meter and 200-meter dash and winning for the second consecutive year in the high jump.



### GIRLS SWIMMING DOMINATES HOME TURF

The Peddie varsity girls swimming team clinched victory at the MAPL Swimming Championships in February, surpassing six other teams in eight individual and relay events at their home venue.



### VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS SECURES MAIDEN MAPL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Peddie varsity girls tennis team made history on October 28, clinching their first-ever MAPL Championship following fiercely contested matches held at Blair Academy.

Karen Yao ’24 and Saanvi Gudapati ’26 secured second place in second and fourth singles, respectively, after battling fiercely against Lawrenceville. Ely Ting ’26 and Ivy Zhao ’25 clinched the MAPL doubles title with a victory over Pennington.

Lakhi Raju ’24, who had previously clinched the Mercer County title at third singles, added another feather to her cap by winning the MAPL title after defeating Lawrenceville.

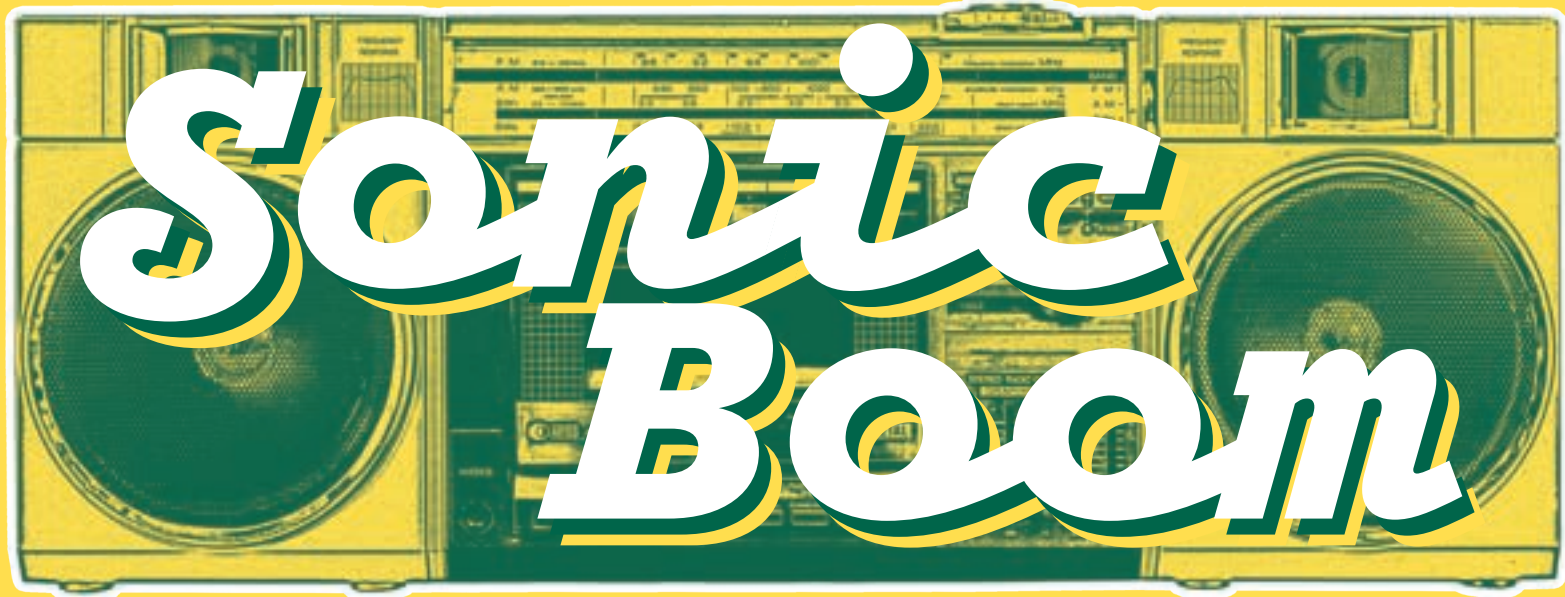
The championship’s pinnacle moment came from Brielle Quaye ’26, seeded second, who faced off against the number one seed from Pennington. Despite losing to her opponent twice earlier



in the season, Quaye emerged victorious in the final tiebreaker.

Quaye shared her excitement, saying, “It was really special because my dad was there, so it was a special moment for me.”

Coach Dubrulle added, “The girls were very excited. We came close to a county title this year and MAPL title last year. For these girls to get a title is pretty nice for them.”



**Peddie is fertile ground for all kinds of sounds – laughing, cheering, lively discussions.**

But on Monday, November 4, 1985, the school was host to an entirely new sound: music transmitted via radio station WTPS (“The Peddie School”) all across campus.

Station founder and acting manager Brian Ades ’86 remembers the exhilaration of “the first broadcast and feeling the electricity of the signal going through the dorms.”

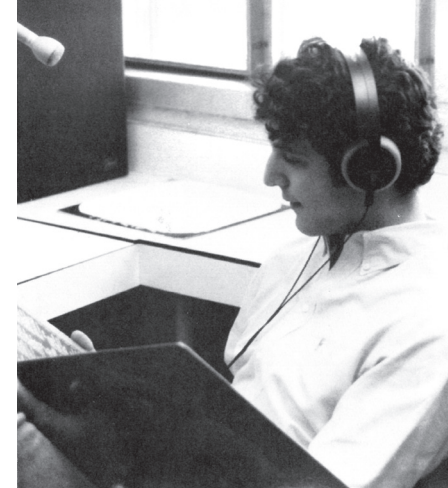
Beginning in the early ’70s and continuing in earnest in 1981, the U.S. government deregulated FCC laws governing media, making low-power FM licenses more accessible for schools to obtain. Ades arrived at Peddie in the fall of 1984 as a new junior, keen to ride the wave.

“My interest in radio and music was directly tied to growing up in the Washington, D.C. area, listening to Howard Stern on DC101 and following the punk scene in Georgetown,” said Ades. “The ’80s was a unique moment in music. There was so much going on, and it was exciting. I remember a lot of people walking around with a Walkman. And the mid-’80s was that moment when music really took a step forward.”

But the process of launching the high school radio station was a lot of one step forward, several steps back.

“There was a template for how to run a radio station. But there’s not really an existing template to start one,” explained Ades. “So you’re working in the dark.”

Ades was attempting this pre-internet, as a teenage boarding student. For advice on how to tackle the project, he relied on “old-school letter writing. I would go to class and then come back and write letters and letters” – or he’d visit those in the know.



*Station founder Brian Ades ’86 on the air at WTPS in 1986.*



*The original WTPS logo, drawn by J. Samuel.*

“Wednesdays and Saturdays were half-days of classes at Peddie, so I would go and try to talk to someone at WPRB at Princeton University,” he said. “WMMR out of Philly was really helpful. And in Washington, D.C., someone at DC101 would give me five minutes and say, ‘do this’ or ‘try this.’”

By the spring of ’85, Ades had amassed enough information as well as several partners on the project, including Michael Levine ’86 and Dominick Cerisano ’86, to gain a foothold. He began meeting regularly with the head of school to discuss their progress.

“Mr. Potter was with me from day one and was my mentor, guard rail and critic,” said Ades. “He put me to task.”

That summer, more key pieces fell into place. Levine interned with WPLJ in New York City, and Cerisano worked to raise capital.

Ades conducted extensive research with the FCC and selected a closed circuit system – a radio with a small broadcasting range – for the station. “It looped some form of transmitters in the different dorms. So we did an installation on campus, and from there, we were able to create a signal,” he said.

In September 1985, The Peddie News announced the station’s imminent launch, and WTPS went live in early November. Six

**“The mid-’80s was that moment when music really took a step forward.”**

days a week, student disc jockeys climbed the stairs to the studio on the third floor of Caspersen Science Building (now Caspersen History House), filling shifts on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to midnight and on Saturdays from 6:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

At Kerr Dormitory, which had been situated at the north end of campus, students tuned in to 640 AM. Avery and Trask Dormitories and Austen-Colgate Hall and Masters House set their dials to 530 AM. In the student center, the station broadcasted over the P.A. system.

### BEHIND THE BOARD

“Peddie’s pretty diverse, between the jocks and the rockers and the artists, and the station evolved organically,” said Ades. “Day students were picking up on the New Jersey vibe, which was beach-oriented, a lot of Springsteen. And you had the boarders. They played Grateful Dead. The punk scene at that time was pretty vibrant, and you had

### THE SHIFT I REMEMBER

**Brian Ades ’86**

Ades and friends reenacted a popular Miller Lite TV commercial from the ’80s, provoking (possibly) the only hand-slapping the station received.

“When we first went on air, I had everyone on one side of campus open their windows and scream out, ‘Tastes great!’ and the other half on the other side scream, ‘Less filling!’ Then I got a knock on the door and was told, ‘Don’t do that.’”



**“We were doing something a little bit different than other high school kids; we were sitting in a radio station playing subversive music.”**



DJ Mark Cox '86 takes the mic during a WTPS broadcast in 1986.

European music, which wasn't necessarily the Stones. Each group brought its own flavor to the shows and introduced it to people."

Ades credits Cerisano for helping to create a genre balance in playlists and Levine for inspiring DJs "to tell a story with their shows."

"We were Peddie English students," said Ades. "There was a push not just to get into music, but also the lyrics and telling a story. Everyone's looking for an identity at that age. We were all exploring our own ways."

That spirit of exploration, encouraged by the station leaders, led to WTPS being a laboratory for new music. College radio, which was pushing the broadcasting envelope, served as further inspiration.

"My friends and I liked the college stations that were coming out of Princeton and Penn and Temple because they were

pushing the boundaries," said DJ Mark Cox '86. "Early hip-hop, reggae that you wouldn't find anywhere else on the dial. It wasn't necessarily the big rock stations who were playing Led Zeppelin for the five millionth time.

"I vaguely remember that we had some musical concepts, but it might as well have been the didgeridoo — nobody cared," said Cox. "It was, 'That sounds good. Go do that.' Obscure, weird music. That was the stuff I loved and still do. To be able to play that — it was a huge part of why I wanted to be on that station."

Spinning tunes — at the start, the studio housed just two turntables — meant DJs were required to review the station's limited music library before devising their playlists. Soon after launching the station, The Peddie News requested more LP donations to add

### THE SONG I REMEMBER

Michael Barless '87

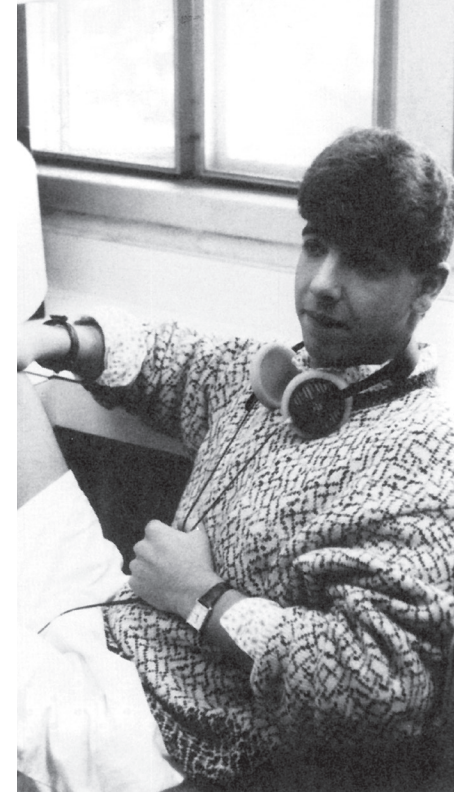
"Me and my friend Anthony Ciaravalo '88 co-hosted two Saturday morning radio shows. We once opened a show with 'Fire on High' by ELO and decided to play it backward to hear what they were saying: 'The music is reversible, but time is not. Turn back, turn back, turn back.'"

to the library. But many DJs simply toted their own music collections back and forth across campus, at all hours.

"I had a stack of records like a foot high, and I'd carry them over to the radio station every week," said Stephanie (Smith) Harris '87, who hosted a show with Carin Beyer '87 during her senior year from 10 p.m. until midnight.

"One time, we played a song and didn't like it, so we just took it off in the middle. And the next day, (social sciences teacher) Mr. Murphy said, 'Hey, I really liked that song. Next time, let it play!' and I was like, 'Wow, an actual adult is listening?'" Harris laughed.

Musical experimentation paired with a fair amount of carte blanche from Peddie's administrators was a heady combination — one WTPS students deeply valued.



Far left: DJ Ed Nader '86  
Left: WTPS DJs gather for a yearbook photo in 1993. From left (back): James Carlisi '93, Justin Connell '93 and Michael Zulla '93. From left (front): Craig White '96, Amy Calhoun '94, Dawn Sittinger '94 and Michael Pratico '95.

### THE SCAM I REMEMBER

Jeff Schneider '88

"In the years before cell phones, we had a unique way of taking requests at the station. People would use the pay phone in the student center to make collect calls from the bands they wanted to hear. For example, 'Collect call from INXS. Do you accept the charges?' No, but we knew which record to play next."

"We had the trust of the school to be outside of the dormitory after hours," said Cox, who also had a 10 p.m. shift. "We were doing something a little bit different than other high school kids; we were sitting in a radio station playing subversive music.

"It was like, 'Wow, you're going to let two 15-year-olds broadcast to the entire school?' That was a cool feeling. It was a very progressive thing for Peddie to do. And we got a lot of nice feedback."

Harris had a similar experience. "There was never a time when anybody said, 'You

can't say that, you can't do that, you can't play that,'" she said. Plus, "I was a boarder and wasn't one to sneak out. But I felt like we were doing something crazy coming back across campus at midnight. That felt like freedom for sure."

### MOVIN' OUT, MOVIN' IN

In the early '90s, WTPS packed up the turntables, newly acquired cassette deck and CD player, crates of records and other equipment from the third floor of Caspersen and relocated to the first floor of the former

student center. The late mathematics teacher and dean Samuel "Sandy" Tattersall spearheaded the move to offer the station greater accessibility and space.

Dawn Sittinger '94 and Amy (Calhoun) Robb '94 teamed up at WTPS during their freshman year, often bringing their own mix tapes and CDs to their shift and indulging in the excitement their predecessors had enjoyed.

"Wait, we have an hour slot to play whatever we want?" said Robb of the opportunity to host their own show. "We did our own thing, playing music that we liked, that we thought was fun. It was a time of discovery of music for us."

"This was before the genre of yacht rock existed, but we were pioneers of yacht rock!" said Sittinger. "I remember laughing a lot — sitting up there laughing at what we could play next that would get people to react in a positive way. Our intention was always to make people laugh and smile."

"It was a great moment in time," Robb said. "To come across all these new bands and new genres — that was the thing to do. That was our way of being able to share music with folks around us."

But by the early '90s, when the women had their show, student involvement had waned — from about 50 members in its 1986 heyday to just a handful.

### THE SONG I REMEMBER

Mark Cox '86

"It was a time of apartheid, and we were really negative about the regime in South Africa. We played 'Sun City' (Artists United Against Apartheid) all the time, and we felt really strongly and passionately about it. We thought we were furthering the cause, and maybe we were in some small way.

"But we also liked to play stuff that we knew our teachers probably weren't so happy about — some songs with drug references, maybe some bad words in there. We never got in any trouble, so either they weren't listening (or Mr. Potter wasn't listening)."

WTPS "was a little bit of a launching pad for me." (Cox still does radio. Stream his show at [freirad.at](http://freirad.at) "The Endless Summer").



WTPS DJs in 1988

## “‘What were you guys doing?’ And we were like, ‘Playing the music, man!’”

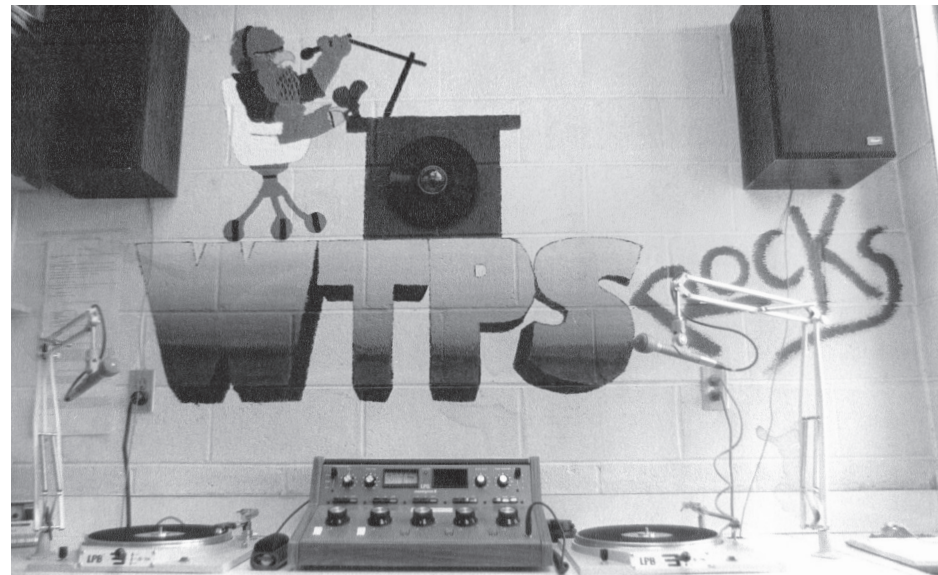
“I don’t think people realized we were in there,” said Sittinger. “And they’d see us walking out of the room and be like, ‘What were you guys doing?’ And we were like, ‘Playing the music, man!’”

### A NEW CHAPTER?

Between 1995 and 1996, the old student center was demolished and a new one was

built. The last few disc jockeys graduated. There’s likely a correlation between these events and the station folding in the same timespan.

Will Peddie radio reemerge? No one can say. But the school is, as ever, home to healthy boundary-pushing and exhilarating discovery. The WTPS Falcon can always rise from the ashes.



### THE SONG I REMEMBER

Dawn Sittinger '94 and Amy (Calhoun) Robb '94  
 “‘Sunglasses at Night’ by Corey Hart was our signature song. That’s what we signed off with. I remember someone calling us from the pay phone out in the hall and saying, ‘Stop playing ‘Sunglasses at Night!’”



### MUSIC OF AN ERA (MID-'80S TO MID-'90S)

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# Class Notes



◀ Alumni come together to share experiences and celebrate Peddie during the Peddie World Tour. In January, the tour made a stop at Still Austin Whiskey Co. in Austin, Texas, generously supported by brothers Ashim and Akhil Midha. Pictured from left: Nick Buroojy '07, Bria Buroojy '07, Megan Chase, Monty Fortenbaugh '15, Max Wilde '12, Cara Kirshon, JB Bryan '12, Akhil Midha '12, Ashim Midha '09, Matt Lennon '09 and Amy Mauser '84.

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To submit news or if you are interested in serving as class secretary, email editor@peddie.org.

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**James Klauck**  
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Well, I am back in the saddle again. Apologize for the absence, but I have health conditions, and none of you contacted me with news to pass on. So now that I have regained my health to act as your correspondent again, I got a list from the Alumni & Development Office of our 20 living classmates and attempted to reach all 20. The results were sad, as I could only find four (including myself) still alive. The other 15 were confirmed deceased or at least no longer had a working phone number. I also spoke with Harriet, the widow of **Jim Vose**, and learned he had passed several years ago. She told me that Jim went to Middlebury College from Peddie, but with a growing passion for flying, he transferred to the University of Florida and graduated with a degree in aeronautics and a pilot's license. As his family grew with two boys, he shifted into computer science and spent 38 years with Phonenix Mutual in that field. In addition to his family, Jim enjoyed flying and serious bicycle riding. Spoke with **Don Edwards**, who, with his wife, Tanya, still enjoys sailing and the good life. Not sure how long they have been married, but she was always his date at the Peddie dances.

I reached **George Pratchett** in Denver, where he and Mary, his wife of 57 years, now reside in assisted living. After leaving Peddie, George took his gorgeous golf swing to the University of Pennsylvania, where he played varsity while earning his degree.

George, who is absolutely fluent in Spanish, worked throughout Central and South America for over 50 years in a number of fascinating jobs.

I found **Peter Possen** still living in Rochester with his wife, Nancy. He still drives and goes to exercise class several times a week. After graduating from Colgate, he joined Chase Bank and retired in 1990 as a vice president. For those who know the game of golf, he achieved a goal few do; at age 76, he shot his age. Nice going, Pete! He was very helpful to me in my effort to contact classmates as he kept a record in his yearbook of those living and deceased, which has allowed the Alumni & Development Office and me to be more current.

Be the good Lord willing, I may have more information in the next issue of the Chronicle.

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From left: Jim Klauck, Clovis Heimsath and Chuck Major attend the Class of 1948 50th Reunion in 1998.

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**Robert E. Werner**  
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Greetings! Welcome, 2024! Another great year ahead for us. I'll start with some positive information from the athletic department. The girls tennis team had an outstanding record of 11-1, winning the MAPL Championship. Last year, their record was 14-0. Also, Peddie is adding a state-of-the-art second floor to the fitness center building. It truly is an amazing facility.

Our football team had a tough season, with a 2-6 record. The "big three," Lawrenceville, Blair and the Hill School, resulted in scores of 12-35, 0-14 and 33-34, respectively. There is always next year!

As I write this column, our boys' basketball team is 7-2. They play 30 games a season. The team is off to a great start.

I received a call from **George Deemys** in December. It was

great hearing from him. The last time I saw George was at our 65th reunion. He advised that he was experiencing shortness of breath, which led to two stents placed in his heart. He said his problem is what is known as "the widomaker." He had the procedure done at Mass General. He has fully recovered. George has three daughters, Alexandra, Christa and Joanne, and four grandchildren. He lives in Arlington, Mass. George earned three degrees from Tufts University: BA, DMD and MS.

There was a Peddie gathering in Nantucket, Mass., which was hosted by **Bob Kaye '54**. Peddie's Assistant Head for Development Karyn Vella was also in attendance. Great time had by all!

Lastly, it would be very welcomed if some classmates would send photos of themselves to post in the Chronicle. Please give me a call, and I'll give you the heads-up and get it done. Until next time, be in touch and be well.

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**Jay Greenblatt**  
NEW  
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As your new acting class secretary, I contacted what I believe to be all remaining members of our class, but if you did not hear personally from me, please contact me and provide me with your contact information. We all want to see as many of our classmates as possible return to Peddie for our 70th



George Deemys '53 at this summer's Nantucket gathering with host Bob Kaye '54

Reunion on May 31-June 1, 2024.

Sadly, **Pete Xiques** passed away in late April 2023. I received a lovely note from his wife, Linda. He had met her in Stuttgart, Germany, where he served in an Army Intelligence Unit. Linda was working as a government file clerk in the same building. He had joined the Army for the language school, hoping to learn French or Italian. In true military fashion, he learned Bulgarian. Peter was a professional architectural model builder and photographer, having taught at community college and UC Davis. He excelled in many things, including oil painting and poetry. We all have good memories of Pete.

**Bob Kaye** brought us up to date. He has obviously led a varied and exciting life. After graduating from the University of Connecticut in 1958, he began his career as a single-family home builder and gradually grew his company into one of the most diversified real estate entities in the tristate area. He is a licensed real estate broker and a certified property manager. Bob sits as a trustee on several boards, including for the Cleveland Museum of Art and The College of New Jersey, and is an emeritus trustee at The Peddie School. For a number of years, he was chairman of the board of the Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company. He loves to travel and has visited more than 100 countries. He thoroughly enjoys spending time with his five grandchildren.

**Larry Hampton** is living in Portugal, traveling extensively and

writing articles about his travels for the local English language paper. He recently spent time in Martha's Vineyard, Mass., with his United States family. As we all should be doing, he is staying active, exercising at the local gym. One of his daughters is a pediatric nurse practitioner in Boston, and his other daughter is dean of the Brown Medical School in Providence, R.I., and a nationally recognized uro-gynecological surgeon. With three granddaughters to his name, Larry feels very lucky and thankful to be living a good life.

**Linc Wadsworth** wrote to say he would not be able to attend reunion, as he has lost his sight and moved to assisted living, but wishes all a great 2024.

**Bob Jaffe** and his wife, Deb, are in their home in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., where, in addition to enjoying the natural beauty of the Adirondack region, they actively participate as board members of the hospital, museum and performing arts center. Bob continues to stay busy as a financial manager for his clients across the country and is looking forward to doing some traveling this coming summer.

I was very pleasantly surprised to hear from **Yusuf Javeri**, now living in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. He begins his letter to me complaining that his doctor of 40 years retired, and it is hard to find a new one to keep his "motor purring." We have that in common. After 50 years, my doctor recently retired. When you



Bob Jaffe '54 celebrates his 87th birthday.

are trying to maintain an old car in good working order, you don't want to lose that knowledgeable mechanic. Five years ago, Yusuf decided to learn Spanish, and as an assignment, he had to write stories in English and then translate them. That turned into a published book titled "Yusuf's Fables," a copy of which he sent me, and which I intend to enjoy reading.

After graduating from Stanford, Yusuf embarked on a career of prospecting for various minerals, served as a coal mine manager and then established a water well drilling business. Following that, he founded four different computer companies that solved problems for the oil and gas industry, sold them, became a qualified stockbroker and used his talent to increase his retirement investments. As an aside, he also published a book called "Better Blackjack: For Business and Pleasure," which can be found on the internet if any of you are so inclined, despite your fading short-term memory. Yusuf looks forward to attending the 70th reunion next summer, health permitting. He has very fond memories of Peddie, some of the best ones in his life.

I have stayed current with **Joe Young** and **Gene Sarafin** as Facebook friends, absorbing their words of wisdom. Gene suggests that we all connect through Facebook. They are both staying active and seem to be enjoying life.

As for me, I am practicing law, though a fraction of what I did 10 years ago. Some of the parts have needed replacing, but I still stay active. I have a place in Florida that I visit to frustrate myself on the golf courses. Although I was an avid skier in the Rockies and the Alps, I have been reduced to but one or two days in the spring on Mt. Tremblant with my daughter, who lives in Quebec. I have rediscovered archery, a sport that I loved in my youth, and visit the range quite often.

With sincere thanks on behalf of all of us to **Palmer McGrew** for his years as our dedicated class secretary, I wish you all well and look forward to seeing you at reunion next summer.

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**Martin Tweedale**  
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The always active **Donald "Charlie" Weinberg** and his wife, Nancy, report having spent time with cousins in Paris last fall, where they took in performances of "Turandot" and "The Tales of Hoffman" at the Opera Bastille. They plan to return to Europe this spring with a trip to Berlin to see the antiquities at the Pergamon Museum. Visiting Germany poses difficulties for Donald, as many relatives of his perished in the Holocaust, but he says "it is time." Donald is still teaching karate and has written an instruction book for it. He will go to the International Masters Clinic in March and is the oldest master still teaching. Well done, Donald!

**George Morris** assured us that he and his wife, Carol, remain in good health. They made trips to Maine in June and October, where they visited Carol's brother. On the way, they stopped in Newtown, Conn., to see George's brother Paul. In the summer, they spent a week in the Adirondacks, where they have some ancient cars, including a Ford Model A, that they enjoy taking for a spin. He and Carol spent the holidays at home, enjoying the company of family and Friends.

Yours truly, **Martin Tweedale**, is surviving a deep freeze here in Edmonton, Alberta, by staying inside, reading and watching interesting interviews on the internet about the environmental crisis. His book that came out in April received one short review, but not a particularly insightful one. Oh well.

I hope to hear from more classmates next time. It's always good to know who among us is still kicking.

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**Hervey Juris**  
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How many of us at 85 are still active in high-level athletic pursuits? Certainly not me: The days of 10- and 12-mile hikes on mountain

## CLASS NOTES

paths are now 3- and 3.5-mile hikes on gentle hills.

However, **David Puchkoff** recently came from New York to compete in the high-level Santa Fe Kiva Classic squash tournament. We had an opportunity to catch up over coffee, and I was able to watch him and his partner in the 75- and 80-year-old doubles competition. And all this while going from sea level to 7,400 feet!

At the other end of the spectrum, we have never, as a class, been able to acknowledge the totality of our classmates who have passed away. Some of us are aware of our close friends with whom we kept contact, but it is a good time as we approach our 70th reunion to list their names as provided by the alumni and development department. If you would like to recall some stories about your particular friends, they would be welcome.

Stephen C. Arthur/William C. Aucott/James E. Aycock/Norwood E. Band/George Bendere/Roger K. Bentley/Harvey N. Braun/Pierre J. Brosseau/Richard D. Brown/Carlos Bullos/Victor R. Burke/Michael A. Butterworth/Alva B. Caple/Adrian S. Chrust/Anthony E. DeJohn/Umberto J. Fontana/Frederick S. Fox/William P. Freeman/Murray A. Goodwin/William B. Gube/Robert C. Hesse/Lynn F. Hunt/Charles P. Irwin/Wilson H. Kimnach/Gregory S. Kramedas/Allan J. Lenzner/William P. Londeree/George T. Lord/Terence D. Mc Kay/Lowell W. McCoy/Bruce K. Miller/Garrett Miller/Lee M. Miller/Robert J. Moore/John W. Mount/Bob B. Nagler/Harold M. Parent/David C. Pelton/John Phillips/Jay Pidto/Robert E. Planten/Albert B. Randall/Richard Richter/Joseph M. Rodriguez/Richard H. Sarafin/Paul J. Schneider/William B. Slocum/David L. Tschorn/Laurence D. Weber/G. Robert Wileman

### 57

**Walter Lotte**  
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I'VE BEEN HACKED!

Well, **Ron Page**, you got my attention with that. And it was true. I looked a bit farther down my list of emails, and there was

another from “Ron” innocently asking me, “Have you ever bought anything from Amazon?” Well, let’s see, I think I may have once or twice. Why not ask me if my feet touch the ground when I walk?

Therefore, this “Ron” is not a genuine, timeworn Peddie ’57 grad. And we don’t accept knockoffs for our Peddie ’57 Notes. For the real thing, read on ...

**Guy Butterworth** gives us some context and shows that we octogenarians are, probably like many current Peddie students, trying to make sense of a senseless world. “On January 1, as I was preparing to send a few New Year’s emails to acquaintances in Japan, the news appeared of a rather large earthquake in the Noto Peninsula. I have old friends living in Kanazawa, so I started to become concerned. Eventually, I heard from them that they were all fine.

“But over the next few days, as I watched the news from Ukraine, Gaza and Japan, I was struck by the similarity in the devastation caused by rockets, bombing and natural forces. I felt it wasn’t always easy to distinguish the locations, even though I was certainly rather familiar with the buildings of Japan. And I found that both puzzling and instructive. To the people directly affected, of course, it mattered not at all that some other place, for some unrelated reason, was being destroyed and lives were being lost. Their friends’ or families’ lives were being tragically altered.

“The worst I was facing at Exit 8 of the New Jersey Turnpike was excessive rain, maybe wind damage, and some inconvenience. In those other three places, ‘dire’ hardly seems a sufficient description no matter what the explanation.

“I can’t blame nature. I do believe that Ukraine should not have been attacked. I realize that Gaza involves a vicious provocation as well as a difficult history. I have been affected (afflicted?) by the similarities amidst all the differences, though certainly two of the events are subject to human intervention of some sort.”

**Frank Bonello:** “I am still working part time in Long Branch, N.J., and enjoy most of what I do. I have a younger brother with whom

I share office space. He is an active litigator, and I do non-litigation work. I plan to move to Florida at the end of this year and have started to work on the transition. Closing a law practice can be very challenging. I have a great co-op in Boynton Beach that has direct ocean views, and may give it a try as a start. Ultimately, I think that I might buy into an independent/assisted-care facility in Florida. I feel very fortunate to have been able to stay busy doing what I was trained for.”

Thank you, Frank — it was good to hear from you. Hopefully, you’ll be able to meet up with others of our class who’ve relocated to Florida.

From **Charlie Ballance:** “Soon after receiving your email mentioning **Bill Tribaldos**, I dashed off a text message to him. Within minutes, he called. We spent a full 15 minutes reminiscing about Peddie days of yore. In particular, both of us recalled graduation ’57 and a concurrent trip nightclubbing in New York City. We had driven up in a car Bill had stashed somewhere off campus. I had invited an N.C. beauty who came up with my parents. She had stolen my heart years before. Bill had invited a local girl. It was an occasion that both of us fondly recalled.”

I seem to remember **Jim Dottling** telling me about a car he had stashed in, of all places, the Hightstown Fire Department firehouse, I believe he said. He and his roommate, **Dick Vandergaag**, used it to travel hither and yon on weekends. Hearing these stories makes me think my Peddie experience, which I definitely appreciated at the time and still do, was quite ho-hum compared to that of many of my classmates. And the more power to you, lads! The more power to you!

As many of you know, **Jim Miller** passed away while in Italy in November last year, and many in the ’57 Class remember him.

Again, **Charlie Ballance:** “Reflections come through the brain fog of being 85. Jim was living in Avery our senior year, where **Bruce Heller** and I were monitors. I remember him as being a rather jovial chap. That’s pretty much all I can offer. Maybe **Peter Fitch** can

add some tidbits.”

**Howard Kramer:** “Thank you for sharing the sad news of good friend Jim Miller’s passing. Admittedly, the news of friends was far preferable when we were younger — getting married, having children, getting new jobs or new degrees.

“Outside of the pain of sad news, we (Howie and his wife, Julie) are doing well, though limited by some of aging’s impacts.”

**Lou Wallis:** “Here is what Jim wrote in my yearbook: ‘Good luck Lou Babe; see you in years to come I hope. Remember Dagga’s class?’

“I looked through the yearbook and did not see any professor named Dagga. I am guessing it was a nickname we had for someone.” (No one so far has been able to help Lou.)

**Chuck Morgan:** “Really sorry to hear about the news and Jim, I lost contact with him over the last many years. Certainly, our business circles never came together. I have many fond memories of him as a member of the ‘Coleman elite.’ His room was on the first floor, right opposite Mr. Mick’s apartment. Jim was a wonderful orator.”

**Joe Hayden:** “I was a ‘summer and senior’ student at Peddie and lived on the second floor of Coleman, rooming with Frank Bonello. Jim had a large single at the bottom of the stairs, next to the front door, and (thus?) we rarely saw him. I’m not even sure he ate with us. He was an imposingly tall guy with a large head of hair. In a group photo, you can’t miss Jim. That he became a successful lawyer speaks to his studiousness. That he was elected bar president by his peers tells me we barely knew him. Our loss.”

I very much agree with Lou about it being our loss. Let’s let Jim give us a hint of what we missed back then. Like many of us geezers, he was aware that death was relatively close. In his case, he mused occasionally (in his Facebook blog) on the life he’d led and how it had happened the way it had:

“A few days ago, a regular (blog) reader asked me how old I was and asked how I have managed to live such a glorious life. She surmised that I created a dream and that luck had very little to do with it.

“I do not normally think about this kind of thing, but here goes. My close friends and family are fully familiar with what I will write here. I am not sure anyone cares, but I have nothing else of particular importance to write about.

“By the way, I am 84, and I think being lucky has had a lot to do with how my life has turned out. Short and sweet, two people are primarily responsible for what I am — my mother and my wife, Barbara.

“I was the oldest child. My mother had much more energy and willingness to teach me. She was a most remarkable woman — not highly educated in a formal way, yet she was very smart and was a beautiful human being. She taught me right from wrong, how to be married, about music and that there was only one human race. She treated everyone with great respect.

“Then, at age 18, I met Barbara, who was 17. We have known each other since 1958 and been married since 1961. We built our life together starting with nothing but dreams of a happy life. She

supported me 110% in my law practice and to ultimately become president of the Florida Bar.

“My best friend in college suddenly dropped dead at age 33. From that day on, I told Barbara we will live our lives as we agreed, faithful to each other and acting honestly and ethically, but that life was not a dress rehearsal, and we would do as many things as we could living each day as if it were our last.

“Often people say to me, ‘You are living my dreams.’ Here’s the thing. People who worked hard and were successful can live the way we live. It is just a matter of priorities. I always wanted a home in another country. We decided on Florence, Italy. We spend several months a year there, but worked just like we were in Florida. If we waited to go to Italy until we had nothing else to do, we would never get to go. So we carved out the time we would leave and went.

“We were fortunate to have had a good marriage. Without that, nothing else works, no matter how

much money you have. We were no less happy when I earned \$440 a month than when I earned much more.

“Did we make mistakes? Hell, yes, but we did the best we could at the time. Monday morning quarterbacks never lost a game. What happened, happened, and there is nothing anyone can do to change it. I move considerably slower, but as long as I can go, I will. Everything works so long as I have my wife, and nothing will work if I do not.”

In another post, Jim described what his law career meant to him.

“My essence as a human being, that would easily fit on my tombstone with room to spare could, and, perhaps, should be ‘Loving and Faithful Husband, loving Father, Grandfather, Friend and Lawyer.’ This (blog) post addresses only ‘Lawyer.’

“I have always loved being a lawyer. I went to one of the finest prep schools in the country, and my undergraduate education was first-rate by any standards. I was already

married in 1962 when I started law school. I recall coming home after the first week of law school and telling Barbara, ‘I learned more this past week than I had learned, cumulatively, my entire life.’

“Maybe five years ago, I was seriously ill. It took one of the most gifted surgeons in the world to diagnose my problem and then successfully fix it. I was in intensive care for over two weeks. Barbara stayed in a chair next to my bed the whole time and only left my side to change clothes or buy me popsicles. She, literally, willed me to live, and without her, I would have simply cashed in my chips.

“There is nothing like lying there, not knowing if one’s life was over, to make one reflective. I rarely think about things of this nature, but at one point, Barbara asked, ‘If you make it, will you retire?’ I promptly answered, ‘No, I never want to say I used to be a lawyer; I always want to be one.’

“I would rather talk to lawyers, debate with lawyers, go to bar meetings and try to solve problems

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## CLASS NOTES

that affect millions of people every day. I always loved it when I knew I made a positive difference in the life of a client or the lives of an entire family.

"I have represented some of the smartest, richest people in the world, and also many without any money, whom I represented for free. I never took a shortcut or tried harder for a client who paid a lot. I won more than I lost, got many more good results than bad, but I lost some and got unsatisfactory results from time to time, but not for lack of doing the best I could.

"Becoming president of the Florida Bar, a Jewish lawyer from a boutique firm who never went to a Florida school, was the non-practicing highlight of my professional career. I am told I made a real difference, and I am proud of that."

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### 59

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The past year saw our Class reach an unwanted milestone — the loss of over 50% of our Classmates — with the passing of **Lloyd Reynolds** and **Bruce Brenner**.

Lloyd died on August 1 at his home in OceanView of Falmouth, Maine, and was honored on August 19 with a beautiful service at the Episcopal Church of St. Mary in Falmouth, which



Lloyd Reynolds '59

I attended by Zoom and which can be viewed at [youtube.com/watch?v=1y45tN7boGo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1y45tN7boGo). He is survived by his wife, Lee, sons, Lloyd (Kip) and Nicholas (Nick), daughter, Kyla, and five grandchildren. The service and a phone conversation with Nick shed a bright light on the wonderful life Lloyd had led. Commander Reynolds spent 21 years in the Navy, 10 on active duty in the perilous job of deep diver tasked with recovering the bodies of fallen airmen, and 11 in the Reserves. After his active duty, Lloyd established his own insurance, benefits and financial retirement planning firm (Reynolds Financial Services Company), which he enjoyed leading for almost 30 years. Long a devotee of American history, Lloyd resumed his education in 1996 and, in 2000, obtained a master's degree in maritime history from the University of Delaware. Also, Lloyd, Lee and Kip purchased the South Portland-based South Port Marina, which they transformed into one of the finest marina/boatyards on Casco Bay. Lloyd's funeral was marked by a stream of warm and loving descriptors: "Lover of people, boats and country," "always found the best in someone," "gratitude for his life," "always made you feel welcome," "eclectic," "dedicated to his kids" and "a lover of parties and cocktails." Perhaps most telling was a comment by his daughter, Kip: "Rest in peace, Dad, you did a great job."



Bruce Brenner '59

Love for Lloyd was also echoed by his classmates: **Gabe Galindo** said, "Lloyd certainly is an immovable part of my memory." **Skip Goldfein** wrote: "Lloyd was always present when our Class came to campus to mark a milestone reunion, and his smile often lit up the room. His service to the nation and loyalty to Peddie deserve our gratitude and his family our condolences." To **Stan Solomon**, "Lloyd was so much more than a friend. He was a brother one could talk with about anything. He was a listener, not a talker. When he spoke, one could trust his response. And over the past 60-plus years we did talk and share celebratory and some not-so-festive times! But he could make the worse times better. He loved life to the fullest. The operative word is 'love.' Love was his driving force. It was infused in anything and everything he did. With Lloyd's passing, a bright star in my heavens has gone dark."

**Bruce Brenner** died of pancreatic cancer on October 18, but not until he had managed to celebrate one more birthday of Felicia, his beloved wife of 50 years. He is survived by Felicia, two daughters, Michelle and Reagan, two step-sons, David and Joe, with whom he was very close, and five grandchildren. Bruce had a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Clark University and spent almost his entire career at Penn Engineering and Manufacturing Corporation (PEM), which makes high-level, specialized fasteners for NASA and hundreds of technology-based enterprises. He and Felicia were avid travelers, journeying to all seven continents, with Alaska being Bruce's favorite destination. Bruce was an avid fly fisherman, pickleball player and sailor and found solace and joy in the serene beauty of the oceans and great outdoors. He crafted intricate toy planes and boats, as well as custom fly-fishing lures, hobbies that utilized both his patience and precision. Felicia described Bruce as a "kind, generous, quiet man," "wonderful husband," "interested in other people," "high-respected by his peers and co-workers" — "a beautiful soul."

Two years ago, **Stan Solomon** renewed his acquaintance with

Bruce and said they talked about Peddie, the Class and then on to "more worldly and philosophical topics, where Bruce's scope and knowledge about everything was amazing. I will miss my friend, classmate, his knowledge, and great sense of humor." **Skip Goldfein** said: "Sad to learn of Bruce's passing. He was a gentleman and a credit to our school."

Stan Solomon, himself, suffered a great loss with the passing, but one week ago, of Sandy, his companion for over 23 years. But Stan continues to amaze me with his strength, courage, compassion and wisdom. Indeed, despite his recent loss of Sandy and two classmates with whom he was close, Stan is filled with compassion, gratitude and optimism. A short time ago, he wrote:

*Life is a continuous learning experience. From the first breath, our minds and bodies are awakened to new and exciting sensations.*

*Parents, religious leaders, and schools give us the basics needed to progress through our social, business and family lives. How we chose to utilize, perhaps enhance, these teachings will determine our well-being for the rest of our lives.*

*Regretfully, there is no preparatory course for "Grief." Without warning, it is upon us. Grief, not only for the loss of a loved one, but also for the void we feel within ourselves.*

*I would liken grief to a drought; rest assured, it will give up its hold on the earth. The rains will come, the grass will grow, and life will go on.*

*Amen.*

It is no wonder that **Clem Kost** told me that "Stan had a great effect on me and helped me bring my feelings to the surface."

It is always with trepidation that I call **Art Siccardi** in view of the serious cancer he developed a few years ago, but he is still cancer-free and enjoying golf, despite being slowed a bit by swollen knees. Sadly, however, both his daughter-in-law and step-daughter are having their own battles with myeloma and bile duct cancer, respectively. We hope they will have therapeutic success like that of Art. After twenty-four years of managing the finances for his HOA, Art is passing the baton to a

neighbor but continues with the considerable responsibility of the guardianship for his sister. Art's wife, Pam, had a torn Achilles and now is dealing with non-diabetic neuropathy of her feet, but both she and Art, while slowing down, are enjoying the closeness of their family, although now the kids visit them rather than vice versa. Art is blessed with a deep spirituality that continues to give him strength and comfort.

As with Art, I worried about calling **Dick Heuser** because of his diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease two years ago. Due in large part to his own excellence as a patient (gym daily and PT twice weekly), Dick is doing very well. At the time of his diagnosis, Dick's weight had fallen to 124 pounds but is now stable at about 150 pounds. He still works with his son several days per week on surveying jobs, and, while not the previous 60+ mile bike rides, he still does 21-mile rides weekly.

There is no better way to transition to joyous, non-medical news than to write on my conversation with **Dean Edell**. Dean is our Class's champion Lover, Breeder, Worker and Liver. **Lover:** Five wives (first two named Judy), with all of whom he has a good current relationship, despite some acrimony at parting. He has been married to his current wife, Sharon, for 33 years so, while a slow learner, he does get it — eventually. Sharon had been a geography professor at Univ. California Berkeley. **Breeder:** He produced five sons, one each with the first three wives and two with #4 and nine grandkids. First son is a video game artist who has three children, twin girls, who are sophomores at University of California, Berkeley and California Polytechnic State University, respectively, and, like their grandfather, interested in the biological sciences, and a son who is a high school junior. All three, plus a fourth grandson, did a polar plunge near Dean's home on January 1 this year. **Second son**, while in Israel, produced two daughters and a son, each now in their twenties, a nurse, a computer scientist/gamelan enthusiast (gamelan is the traditional ensemble music of the Javanese, Sundanese, and

Balinese peoples of Indonesia) and an artist/musician/yoga instructor. Third son is 51 years old, manages a digital marketing team at Charles Schwab & Co. and has a son who is a college freshman. Fourth son, 40 years old, is a technology executive and taekwon do instructor, married to an ophthalmologist, who has done pro bono surgery in Africa. They have a 9-year-old son/soccer star and 7-year-old "debutant." Dean's youngest son has a psychology degree from University of California, Berkeley. He and his live-in girlfriend work for a company that provides online psychotherapy/life coaching. Dean also has three step-children from Sharon; the eldest is a TV anchor on ABC's "Good Morning America" and "World News Tonight"; the others are twins, one a fourth-grade teacher/volleyball coach, the other a special education teacher/mental health counselor. **Worker:** Dean really wanted to be an artist or architect but wound up going to medical school and then completing an ophthalmology residency at the University of California San Diego. Six months into practice, however, his wanderlust took hold, and he quit the practice of medicine for what he thought would be a brief respite but which became several years of various jobs and travel, with his family, in an old Greyhound bus. This lasted until the late 1970s, when he opened a small art gallery in Sacramento. In 1978, serendipity got Dean a job as a talk show host on a local country music station. This led to Dean's getting a job at a San Francisco radio station and the launch of his career as a radio medical commentator/question answerer. Dean told me that, during one of his first shows, a nurse called in and tried to embarrass him with some abstruse medical questions. This prompted Dean to become a voracious reader of medical journals and texts, so that he would never be embarrassed on the air. The "Dr. Dean Edell" radio program became highly successful and, for most of the 1990s, was the second-most listened-to radio program in America. The show was later syndicated to over 200 markets. Dean also had several analogous TV successes. He retired from

broadcasting in 2010. **Liver:** In 1990, Dean and Sharon moved to a large plot of land near Branscomb, Calif., 9 miles from the ocean, 4 hours from San Francisco and one of those preciously-rare places in the continental U.S. where one needs a satellite phone to call long-distance. Their property is adjacent to a University of California forest preserve, where non-native Douglas Firs and Tan Oaks are removed to make room for the Redwoods. During most of Dean's radio career, his work consisted of going into San Francisco for one day per month to tape 20 Dr. Dean Edell programs. Otherwise, he spent most of his time reading, working on their property and traveling. He also became an avid collector of Chinese art and anatomy-based rare books and art. Twice per year, all the family gathers at Dean and Sharon's home for a raucous reunion, after which recovery is the predominant activity.

It was exciting to catch up with **Kraemer Luks**, who, of course, is leading an enriched, challenging and interesting life. His wife, Christi, is a Full Professor of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla. The school has a student body comprising 90% of future engineers and is a very forward-looking effort of Missouri to address the state's (and the nation's) critical need for high-tech workers. Kraemer is proud of Christi's high level of academic leadership and thinks that she may be called upon to lead the American Society of Engineering Education. He, of course, was himself an accomplished scholar. He began his career as a professor in the engineering program at the University of Notre Dame. In 1979, because of his prominence in the area of petroleum engineering, he was recruited to Tulsa, Okla., both as a professor at the University of Tulsa and as a consultant to Amoco and several other of the major oil companies. In 2009, he left the university but continued as an independent consultant until retiring in 2020. As we would expect, however, for Kraemer, retirement has not meant intellectual inactivity, and he has

immersed himself in a scholarly attack on equity investing, his latest focus being the area of quantum computing.

Kraemer has had two previous marriages, each to highly educated, accomplished women. With his first wife, he had a daughter, now 53, who works for Meta Platforms in San Francisco. Kraemer's second wife died suddenly at age 37 of a brain/heart embolic attack. Kraemer spoke very warmly of her, her brilliance, her magnetic personality and her love and knowledge of football. He married Christi in 1994. She had two children, and she and Kraemer added a third, a girl born in 1995, who has an M.S. in psychology and lives in New York. Kraemer is encouraging her to pursue a Ph.D. Kraemer and Christi spend most weekdays apart, she at the university in Rolla, Mo., and he at their large home in Tulsa, Okla. They alternate making the 300-mile drive each weekend. I encouraged him to buy a Tesla to make the trek easier and safer, but such a purchase might be blasphemous to a petroleum guru!

**Deckle McLean** and his wife, Pamela, have avoided any of the serious ailments that have run rampant in our Class, although Deckle said he runs a little bit slower in the few 10Ks he tackles each year. (Of course, I wonder if any others of us can use the word "run" to describe any of our exercise efforts!) Their eldest son is the CTO/COO of a Boston-based solar power company. Their second son is an orthopedic surgeon in Philadelphia, and their daughter is a lawyer for the Veterans Administration in Kansas City. Their eldest grandchild, a woman aged 21, is currently in rural Ghana on a Department of Agriculture program to study the attitudes and practices of local farmers. Ultimately, she will return to graduate school in agricultural economics.

**John Waterman** seems to be doing everything right. His chosen profession, data processing, was just named the Number One best career choice. Indeed, he spent 31 years doing and leading data processing efforts at Allstate until retiring in 1998. He also clearly knew how to juice up the family

gene pool by marrying Betsy, who was graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Duke. He and Betsy produced two very accomplished sons. The elder, Scot, aged 57, was graduated from the University of Illinois, both undergraduate and veterinary school (a top-three vet school and harder to get into than most medical schools). It is with Scot that John, since his retirement from Allstate, has bred and raised thoroughbred horses, an activity that Scot continues while John has been slowly diminishing his role over the past decade. John and Betsy's younger son, Brad, is 54 and lives with his wife, Lisa, and their two daughters in Louisville, where Brad is an executive for Transamerica Financial Advisors. Indeed, it is to be close to them that John and Betsy moved into the Masonic Home of Louisville, a not-for-profit facility that provides an extensive continuum of care from independent living to full nursing care. John has kept his body in shape with consistent exercise and a wise diet, his finances sound by conservative investing in stocks and his spirits high by cheering for Duke basketball.

**Bob Perrin** called me to discuss a wonderful idea he is trying to develop: the creation at Peddie of a concept/program to augment the sense of patriotism within the student body. We batted around some ideas and agreed to continue the discussions. Despite his avowed plan to live to 105, Bob spent four days in the hospital with pneumonia that hung with him for over three weeks. He has been divorced since 2000, has dated very actively but is discouraged by the avarice and attitudes of the women he has encountered. I suggested he try a locale other than Southern California, but he is happy being close to his son and granddaughter and thus unwilling to move. Despite the lull in his dating, Bob keeps quite busy watching sports, cooking, investing and tooling around in his 19-year-old Lexus hybrid.

It is always special to me to hear from **Gabe Galindo**: "I am currently in Istanbul, making my way back home after a trip to the Emirates to see how the other half lives. I'm most definitely planning

to attend the reunion, and hoping my two sons, also alumni, will accompany me, so I certainly hope to see you there." Yes, I will be there and very much look forward to meeting your sons.

**Barry Radick** and his wife, Sloane Elman, have had more than their share of home disruptions: Last year, they had to move out of their Manhattan condo for nine months during extensive roof repairs (they live on the top floor of the building), while, this year, other repairs forced them to live three months in the Phillips Club (one of the few facilities that would allow them to bring their dog). Otherwise, they and their family are thriving. Their elder daughter, Julia, is in her second year of training to become a physical therapist, while their younger daughter, Olivia, has become a certified Pilates instructor. (Alas, I suspect we all could use help from both kids!) Barry and Sloane's two sons, Neil and Rob, are practicing attorneys. Sloane still works as the Deputy General Counsel for the Hospital for Special Surgery in NYC, which, by the way, has the number-one-ranked orthopedic program in the U.S. Barry is largely retired but still does some consulting for his old law firm, Alvarez & Marshall.

**Bob Berman** married the love of his life, Phyllis Davidovitz, on August 17, 1969, and they are still happily married with two daughters and six grandchildren, aged 14 to 27. Upon getting married, Bob took a job with Aetna as a life and health insurance agent. His excellence was soon recognized by his regional director, who groomed Bob as a retirement specialist. In 1973, he was transferred from Ohio to the home office in Hartford to establish and run a corporate retirement division. Later that year, he left to join Travelers Insurance Company but departed after three months when he refused to approve incomplete documents. He then went to a local agency, where he built a successful retirement division but left in 1987 after a disagreement with the agency's owner. He was promptly hired by another local agency, where he again built a successful operation and retired

in 2004. Since Bob's retirement, he and Phyllis have traveled a lot, several times to Israel, where they both have family, and throughout Europe. They have done many Caribbean and Mediterranean cruises and particularly enjoyed their three river cruises. Bob may be our Class's most "loyal" alumnus, having been to every five-year reunion since 1974 and working hard to communicate with his classmates. He cherishes many memories of Peddie and that it drove us to learn much about ourselves, each other, and what, as educated men, was expected of us. He is grateful that Peddie taught him, and teaches students today, that we have an obligation to leave the world a better place for our having lived.

**Clem Kost** sent me a wonderful piece that I have shortened and with which I close:

*We have lived through nine decades in two centuries and two millennia;*

*We could be called "Exennials", people with an analog childhood and digital adulthood;*

*But Time does not stop, and*

*We are no longer at an age to postpone anything.*

## 60

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We invited classmates to complain, to let us know what bugs and bothers them most in their lives. As you'd expect with a bunch of guys now in their 80s, health complaints were most frequently mentioned.

Several of us, including **Dick Joslin** and **Dick Harrison**, have digestion problems, combining severe heartburn with difficulty swallowing.

**Sam Havens** is "still doing relatively well with Parkinson's. No trembling, just using a walker and cane for fear of falling, taking the typical meds and working out with my wife of almost 59 years, Marsha."

**Steve Lawlor** wrote: "I had a hernia fixed. The operation was



From left: Stan Solomon '59 and Clem Kost '59

a total failure. It did absolutely nothing to improve my golf swing."

**Roger Golden** reported: "Recently, Joanie and I got together for dinner with Irene and **Don Gavin**. Don and I met as Peddie freshmen in the fall of 1956 — in Latin I class, as I recall, but my recollection isn't what it used to be!

"Joanie and I will spend two months (mid-January to mid-March 2024) in Naples, Fla., where we have rented an apartment. We plan to play golf regularly, but not beyond our frustration levels. We canceled a similar trip in 2023 because Joanie needed surgery to repair a pinched nerve in her neck. "In October 2023, we visited our oldest daughter, who lives in Whitefish Bay, Milwaukee, Wis., and later that month, we visited our middle daughter, who lives in Atlanta. Our youngest lives in Arlington, Va., across the Potomac River from our home in Bethesda, Md.

"On December 23, 2023, Joanie and I celebrated our 58th anniversary.

"I continue to swim with a masters group, but most likely will give up competition. I try to play golf. I've been studying Spanish and Modern Hebrew for many years."

Sadly, we have another obituary to share:

**Peter Durang Blanchard**, a lifelong New Jersey resident, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, due to complications related to Parkinson's disease. Peter fought valiantly for 15 years. He was 81 years old.

Peter was born to Frederick and Charlotte Blanchard on December 6, 1941, in Newark. He was raised in Convent Station with his three siblings: brothers David and Rick and sister Nina. He attended The Peddie School and later went on to the University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1963. After attending college, Peter began his lifelong and distinguished career in commercial real estate. Peter was well respected and deeply devoted to his work.

He played an important role as partner at The Garibaldi Group, where he contributed significantly to the growth and prosperity of the firm. He earned the utmost respect from his colleagues in the industry and is credited with many of New Jersey's most significant real estate transactions. He deservedly earned a reputation of excellence and leaves behind an impressive legacy that will not be soon forgotten by the friends and colleagues with whom he worked. Peter was married to his beloved wife, Carol, whom he met at the University of Pittsburgh, for 59 years."

**Bill Cass** wrote: "It has been a quiet year so far here at Cassmont. In June, my wife, Sarah, and I attended an alumni event in New Mexico and drove back to Denver International Airport via county roads in central Colorado instead of heading north on I-25. Enjoyed seeing the many alpine flowers among the sprawling snow drifts. Instead of a Cape May, N.J., interlude with kids/grandkids, we

went to Rehoboth Beach, Del., this year. That is a bit closer to home here in West Chester and much less crowded. Our mid-September mini-vacation on Martha's Vineyard, Mass., coincided with the arrival of Tropical Storm Ophelia, which made for a rather unique experience: surf fishing when the rain was arriving sideways. The striped bass and blues must have lit out for elsewhere since my surf fishing was an abject failure. We really have very little to complain about, although not having the stamina I had five years ago is disappointing. On the other hand, we are both firmly on the right side of the grass which is certainly something for which to be thankful."

Co-class secretary **Gene Scanlan** and his wife, Joanne, have sold their Canadian home and moved full-time to their home in Arizona in early October. The Scanlans wrote: "We spent a lot of time on our last drive north from Tucson, Ariz., asking ourselves if we should simplify, downsize and accept that age and health were going to catch up with us sooner rather than later. Then it became a question of 'where': Beautiful British Columbia or sunny Tucson? Ultimately, we decided to give up on our dream of Canada and go back to the known craziness of America. It was a choice between town and country, dependable health costs versus availability of healthcare, and ultimately, the United States policy of chasing Americans all over the world with tax forms! Sechelt, B.C., has gotten



Paul Albert '60 spent Christmas at his son's ranch, where he had the opportunity to interact with some friendly cattle.

to be too small and yet too large. As more people have found our bit of paradise, infrastructure, from roads to healthcare, simply hasn't kept up. And the ferries have become onerous for everyone, with fewer sailings and frequent cancellations. Tucson has excellent infrastructure and as a regional health center, has specialists and facilities all less than 30 minutes from our home there. Our home in Sechelt sold the first day to the first person who saw it — cash and above the asking price. Fortunately, he gave us until the end of September to close. Since our Tucson home was already furnished and equipped, we donated, sold or gave to friends about 85% of everything. The 74 boxes that got moved to Tucson meant we were not as successful in downsizing as we thought!

From **Sam Havens '61**: "Our son Scott is the medical director at the Betty Ford Center in Rancho Mirage, Calif., as well as the locations in Los Angeles and San Diego, and his kids are attending University of Colorado in Boulder. Our daughter Cindy is still a high school teacher in Yuma, Ariz., and her husband, Marcos, is an agronomist managing crops in that area. Their kids are finishing Grade 11 and Grade 7 in the local schools. We still live in Scottsdale, Ariz. I'm semi-retired as a realtor for 51 years and Marsha is also semi-retired as a freelance editor. We read and do jigsaw puzzles, crossword puzzles, Jumble and exercise — these hopefully will keep us away from dementia and



Head of School Peter Quinn and Paul Albert '60 catch up during the Peddie World Tour in Houston in January.

Alzheimer's. We still have our cottage in Ontario, Canada, and will be enjoying our 44th summer there (couldn't go there in 2020 due to COVID).

"I miss my best Peddie friend, **Bob Torres**, who was like a brother to me. Classmates are welcome to visit us in the winter in Scottsdale or in the summer at our place in Ontario, Canada."

**Paul Albert** shared that he and Irma continue to be busy. They spent Christmas at their son Alex's ranch and shared a photo "with one of the many friendly cattle whom I almost got to feed directly out of my hand." He also caught up with Head of School Peter Quinn on the Houston leg of the Peddie World Tour. "The gathering was small but very well done, and I was the only alumnus from the 20th century. In addition to Peter's report, I gave a brief talk on what the school was like in our time." Paul also shared that he will "stop at Peddie briefly while I am at my 60th Princeton Reunion at the end of May."

**Jim Russo** has "finally retired from my orthopedic medical/legal practice. I sensed that there might be a diminishing demand for a drooling octogenarian in the witness chair!

"Still making the loop from Seattle, Wash., to Chicago, New Jersey and the Florida Keys to see our five kids and 10 grands. Have a place in Barnegat Light, N.J. We still spend all of July 'down the shore.' Also have a cabin on Hood Canal in Washington, with a shop that keeps me busy furniture-making. If anyone visits the Pacific NW, you are invited to check us out! Dungeness crab, anyone?"

"Healthwise, medically just some hypertension, but surgically I am an orthopedist's retirement plan: two total knees, two total shoulders, two neck fusions and a lumbar laminectomy. Still cutting/chopping wood at my cabin though. Definitely getting more tiring, but as the Miami police guy said in 'Scarface': 'Every day above ground is a good day.'"

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As we are all entering our ninth decade (sobering, isn't it?), we remember those who have passed on. Most recently, **Bernie Capaldi** and **Dick Fraser**. More than 25% of those who graduated with us are gone (echoed by Scott Smith below).

Not to be maudlin about the state of life for us, but tomorrow is promised to no one. *Carpe diem* (with apologies to Robin Williams, RIP)!

On a brighter note, **Peter Locke** had a nice visitor for his 80th birthday celebration – **Bob Hodge**, his Peddie roommate. They both look great.

From **Scott Smith**: “I live in Florida, Sarasota, to be exact. Lost my wife six months ago, and now getting used to living by myself. Am playing golf twice a week, on a couple of committees, and close to my granddaughter and family. I have been lucky that my health has stayed good, and I am as mobile as I am. Peddie has always been a big part of my life, and I am thankful that my parents saw enough in me to send me there. The old saying ‘you can’t make old friends’ is true. We are getting to the age where we are losing more friends than we are making. Let’s all try and stay around a little longer.”

From **Roger Hansen**: “I am sort of retired in Florida and enjoying a life of golf, fishing, hunting and motorcycling. I have had a few conversations with Scott Smith. We

hope to get together for golf this winter. As we all know, we lost my best friend and roommate, Bernie Capaldi. I miss him. We had a lot of great times on the golf course.”

From **Sam Havens**: “In my 81st year, I am surviving with Parkinson’s – no tremors, just balance. I have NO complaints – just glad to be above ground. I am always saddened to hear of classmates passing, especially my best friend for life, **Bob Torres**. I’m still working as a realtor. 52 years now, but on a limited basis. My wife, Marsha, for 59 years takes good care of me, as do our two grown children and four grandchildren. We visit regularly with them, as our daughter and family live in Yuma, Ariz. Our son is here, with his kids attending University of Colorado, Boulder. We have lots of friends and neighbors here and at our cottage to get together with on a regular basis. This allows us to live a longer, fuller and healthier life. Hobbies include reading and doing jigsaws, which can be seen on my Facebook page under Sam Havens. We still spend summers at our cottage at Lake of Bays in Ontario, Canada, 150 miles north of Toronto. We drive 2,400 miles there in early June and return in early October. ’61 classmates are invited there and here at our winter home in Scottsdale.”

From **Tony Parsons**: “The Denver, N.C., Parsonses are still kicking and in about the same shape as last reported. Holiday family plans executed without significant incidents, and sights set on a better 2024. Mobilities

are still our biggest challenge, but starting to take some limited trips and hoping to keep expanding that activity into the new year.”

From **Michael Gilbert**: “I am managing well; however, an orthopedist I know suggested the reason we (older folks) have so many joint problems is that we have outlived our skeletons (scary thought!).

“Like Scott, I am staying active on the golf course, serving on committees and trying to relaunch a professional publication, ‘Listening in Education and Training.’

“Hoping to make it to Hightstown for Reunion Weekend, May 31-June 1. Will you let me know if you are planning to come? Perhaps, we can have a special get-together.”

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The mailbag is bursting at the seams. We have two career summaries – and we invite more of you to share with us how you got from Peddie to where you are now. One of those reports is being provided separately and exclusively by direct email due to its length. The other report is from **Merlin Renne**, whom we believe to be the only judge from our class. Merl filed this report: “I entered Brown in September 1962, along with **Bill Kontes** and 650 other men and women, about a third of

whom were from New Jersey. I was there on a Navy ROTC scholarship, which paid about 75% of my expenses. I could not have entered Brown without that financial support. I enjoyed my time at Brown, but I was admittedly not a solid student. I had a lot of fun but did not reacquire serious study habits until my latter two years there. I was commissioned an ensign upon graduation and ordered to a destroyer in the Philippines once I completed additional training.

“In late October 1966, I joined the ship at our then-Navy Base in Subic Bay on the island of Luzon. The ship had spent nearly six months along the coast of South Vietnam, providing naval gunfire support to forces ashore prior to my arrival, and was expecting to be rotated back home to Norfolk, Va., before the end of 1966. It was ordered to make a port visit to a city in Taiwan first, but we were blown back by a powerful typhoon in the strait above Luzon. We were ordered to make a second attempt to visit the same city, and we again were met with another powerful typhoon on the same strait and with the same result. In mid-November, we headed south and west through the straits of Malacca, past Singapore, and on to India for refueling. We arrived at the Aden to await other destroyers to join us for the transit up the Red Sea and through the Suez Canal. We made a weekend port call at Athens and then on to Malaga, Spain, before transiting the Atlantic to Norfolk. We arrived on December 17 to a joyful reception from the families of the crew. This cruise was quite an eye-opening experience for me. I’d be happy to share more of my sailor tales at another time, but that’s enough for now.

“After I left active duty in 1969, I eventually ended up teaching German at a high school in Virginia Beach and was later admitted to law school at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. Thereafter, I passed the bar examination and was admitted to practice in June 1975. I was hired as the first and only assistant commonwealth’s attorney for the County of York, Va., and commenced prosecuting juvenile delinquents and domestic violence

cases for the next few years. My boss decided not to run for a third term, so I ran for his job and was elected without opposition three times! In 1990, the Virginia General Assembly added a new judgeship to our district and elected me to fill it. It re-elected me twice more, and I retired in July 2007. Our chief justice approved me to serve as recall judge, and I have continued serving as a substitute for judges who are on leave or ill ever since then. I have set myself a goal to finish out this year in that role and then determine if it isn’t indeed time to hang up the robe.”

**Merl Renne** turned 79 in early January of this year, and your Secretary reached that plateau one week later. Are we the only non-octogenarians left in our class? Let us know here at ’62 HQ if there are any other youngsters still in their late seventies.

**Harry Shucker** reported in as follows: “My latest adventure is fracturing my shoulder and completely tearing my rotator cuff due to a fall in Beaufort, S.C. My wife is from South Carolina, while I am from Pennsylvania. Her family had a number of homes in this area during the Civil War. Of course, they lost most of their property at the end of the war. I suspect I was tripped by a Confederate soldier who is still fighting for the Lost Cause and is angry about the outcome at Gettysburg.

“While I have been fortunate to have the shoulder and the rotator cuff working properly after surgery and rehab, our children decided that Pam and I needed to move to a CCRC [Continuing Care

Retirement Community]. We did so a bit earlier than planned, but it has been a good transition. The stereotype is that ‘old’ people live here, and we certainly qualify – I own stock in a company that makes hearing aid batteries – I am always amazed at the backgrounds of my neighbors. Highly successful and talented people.

“One of the keys for my Peddie classmates is that our CCRC is 10 minutes from the back gates of Furman University, where I worked for 40 years. Many of the residents from near and far chose this place because of the opportunities for lifelong learning. Probably 80% are enrolled in classes, and my wife teaches a class on hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Best wishes to all in 2024.”

We also heard from **Pete Terry**, who wrote: “Can you say octogenarian? Hard to believe many of us will turn 80 in 2024, an age I never thought would come after all the crazy youthful episodes. Will any other classmates be at the Peddie World Tour in Jupiter, Fla., on February 25? It would be great to have a mini-reunion.”

Given the delay in publication of these Notes, the Jupiter gathering has already occurred by Chronicle time. Your Secretary attended that event two years ago at the beautiful Jupiter Island home of Peddie Trustee Emeritus Robert Kaye ’54. This year, we are planning on visiting with the Peddie snowbirds at the Miami Beach winter gathering and will miss Pete in Jupiter. But we are always open to mini-reunion suggestions for the growing numbers of Peddie alumni who have wisely migrated to Florida’s Snow-Free East Coast.

Speaking of reunions, we had this excellent news from **Bud Thorne**: “I am definitely planning on attending the reunion May 31-June 1. The fundraising golf outing that has always been played on the first Friday of June has been moved, so my wife, Tris Anne, and I will be there. I’m really looking forward to seeing everyone. I just hope they use name tags. My recall abilities sometimes leave much to be desired. Best, Bud.” For many years, Bud has been instrumental in presenting his main charity golf event for the Watson Institute

in Sewickley, Pa. Until this year, that event has always coincided with the scheduling of Peddie’s reunions. While this year is not a “major” reunion for our class and may draw a smaller crowd, we almost always muster a few stalwarts to wave the flag for ’62, even in “off” years. Bud is among the first to commit to being there for the ‘First Ever and Never to Happen Again’ (“FENHA”) 62nd Reunion of the Class of ’62 this May. While the new year is still young, it’s never too early to plan for a trip to the best Hightstown any of us has ever visited.

Also checking in was **George Hawes**, responding to our request for reportage on favorite 2023 Christmas gifts: “John, thanks for your diligence as class secretary. Glad to hear you are feeling better. My favorite Christmas gift was 12 healthy grandchildren.” That has to be a prize winner in the competition for best Christmas gifts of any year.

**Bill Kontes** reported in with the following: “As always, thank you for your efforts. I hope you and Rosa are doing well. I have many thoughts and comments about the erosion of society, but I know they will not be printed. Suffice it to say that those with a Peddie education from the 1960s have the intellectual tools and the wisdom required to see the hypocrisy and the destructive forces in the political and educational arenas of today. It is unfortunate that ‘progress’ and intellectual lethargy have allowed critical thinking to be bludgeoned by critical theory.” Bill closed with seasons greetings to all.

And we heard from two more Floridians. Wrote **George Barber**: “We are doing well. Sally and I just visited our daughter and friends in Orlando, Fla., and we play bridge and golf. What else do retirees do?” George closed with best holiday wishes to all. And from **Ron Hernquist**: “Still listing and selling homes with RE/MAX Central Realty in Lake Mary, Fla. We have two other offices, Winter Park and Orlando. Been with RE/MAX for 30 years now, and have been up in the RE/MAX hot air balloon a few times. Five kids and six grandchildren, and I still have all my hair – white, of course. On Facebook.com/ron.hernquist.

Connected with several 1962 classmates ... would like to hear from others. Thanks.”

At midnight on New Year’s Eve, your Secretary’s wife, Rosie, always follows her grandmother’s tradition of tossing a pan full of water out the front door to symbolize getting rid of the old year. Rosie is Cuban-born but raised in Puerto Rico. When we related news of that tradition to **Gordy n/k/a “Gringo” Martin**, he replied: “The only New Year’s ritual I engaged in in Puerto Rico was the procedure of jumping backward into the surf o/a midnight, but then PR’s Ron del Barrilito helps in that regard. 3 Stars is excellent, and when I visit the island, I try to pick up a couple of bottles. Let me know if I should get a bottle for you next time I go. I made some really good friends in the PR National Guard when I was an advisor to the Infantry Brigade there. I’d been taking Spanish at the University of the Virgin Islands, and my first time in Campamento Santiago, I had walked up in uniform, wearing my jaunty green beret, to the HQ building, where several senior sergeants were hanging out at the front door waiting for time. I said, ‘Buenos dias, caballeros,’ and instantly made a bunch of friends. I had a lot of fun with those guys, and several remain friends to this day.” Gringo lives in Goose Creek, S.C., a Charleston suburb. Recent news about terrible flooding in Charleston prompted our inquiry into his welfare. He replied, “When I searched for this property, I was utilizing Federal Flood Zone Mapping and an altimeter. I’m literally on the high ground, and the short answer is I am high and dry. Also have unfilled sandbags, a shovel and a large backyard. Was on St. Croix, USVI, during Hurricane Hugo, so am belt and suspenders when it comes to that.” Gringo and his wife, Nancy, spent the holidays with family and grandkids in Nancy’s native Lima, Peru, where they are house hunting for (what we hope is) their second home. We visited Gringo and Nancy in 2022, on our way to Asheville, N.C. Our visits will be less frequent if the Martins leave the continent.

How many of us can or will follow **Bud Thorne**’s lead and commit this early to coming back



Bob Hodge ’61 visited his former Peddie roommate, Peter Locke ’61, to celebrate Peter’s 80th birthday.



Class Secretary Michael Gilbert ’61



Pete Terry ’62 provides a self-portrait, raising a glass with the greeting: “Cheers, Pete.”

## CLASS NOTES

to H'town for the FENHA 62nd Reunion of the Class of '62? At our age, we know that time speeds up and that May will be here in a twinkling. Let us hear from you.

Wear your mask in crowded places, go low sodium and write your Secretary.

### 63

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Yep, I'm bopping around the family room again. Shaking my geezer tailfeather, getting fired up with a little crazy old dude disco dancing. Just my twisted mister way of sliding into the Chronicle Class Notes groove.

So thanks a bunch to the supercool "Barbie" soundtrack album! Creaky hips don't lie when you're jamming to Dua Lipa's "Dance the Night" during the day.

Most of all, thank you, Class of '63. You rock! Let's roll.



Diane and David Mitchell '63 enjoy a trip to St. Lucia.

What's up, **Sharon Evans**? Just enjoying life in Glen Allen, Va., including frequent contact with Peddie.

"I had breakfast with (Director of Development) Amy Cabot at Boychik's Deli," wrote Sharon of their Virginia get-together late last year. "It was a great meeting, and we talked for almost two hours as we sipped coffee and ate our eggs. A wide range of topics, but mostly focused on Peddie, our Class, the current state of affairs at school and other related matters, including teachers."

Earlier, Sharon had also connected with Anne DeMesa, Peddie's former director of gift planning, who had recently taken a similar position with the University of Pennsylvania. They enjoyed dinner along with Anne's family at a Filipino bistro in Edison, N.J.

Very cool, Sharon. You win the friendly outreach-to-alumni-office-administrators gold star.

Next up in the classmate parade? The two **Bobs – Baldanza and Ackerman** – down in Florida. Bob Baldanza and his wife, Sharon, "spent the weekend with the Ackerman clan in Boynton Beach," wrote Bob B. "Must say they are a



Rusty Dersch '63 shares the view looking west from his Colorado home toward the Continental Divide.

family dedicated to each other. Bob looks great and has a great support system with family and friends. We had dinner with 13 of the clan, and Bob is a happy camper." That genial December gathering included a superfine snapshot of the two Bobs. Ala Viva!

Back up the eastern seaboard in Maryland, we say hello again to **David Mitchell**. "An important part of my active judicial tenure in Baltimore was service as the administrative judge for the Division of Juvenile Causes," wrote David. Which is why former Judge Mitchell was so happy when – after many years – the Maryland state judiciary finally dedicated a sparkling new Juvenile Justice Center "to the children and families of the community." And David was invited last fall to give the keynote address at the dedication ceremony.

"It was a rewarding experience to listen to a gentleman (now a Baltimore police officer and former teacher in Maryland) remark that he entered the juvenile justice system as an abused child of two years old in the former dark, dispiriting courthouse and found hope in his future as a young man in the bright, open, airy space of



Sharon Evans '63 spends time with Director of Development Amy Cabot at Boychik's Deli in Glen Allen, Va.

the new facility. It was a wonderful day!"

Sounds wonderful and inspirational as well, David.

"On a lighter side, Diane and I planned a trip to celebrate life. We went to St. Lucia in the southeast Caribbean for a week. Warm seas and great hospitality by gracious people in the country rejuvenated us." For happy proof of the rejuvenation, check out that sublime photo of David and Diane in St. Lucia.

And, yes, we now come to a more somber moment. We've lost two more classmates. Rest in peace, **Peter (Chris) Gent** and **Richard Fatigati**.

Chris, 78, a Powhatan, Va., physician who passed away last October after a brief illness, spent only one year with us at Peddie after graduating from high school. But he is fondly remembered by his former Peddie News editor, **Andy Harris**.

"He was our cartoonist and wrote and drew unique creations for The Peddie News," recalled



Mike Duffy toasts the Class of '63 with a martini at a favorite Grosse Pointe, Mich., bistro.

Andy. "The one I remember off the top was a bird with one wing pegged to the ground. The bird was flying hopelessly in circles. Chris' caption was political. You need both wings to fly. I haven't looked at that cartoon in over 60 years, but that is what I remember. He was a fun person to be around. Very likable and good-humored." Thanks so much, Andy, for your warmly specific memory of Chris.

Early last fall, I received the sad, bittersweet news about Richard Fatigati in an email from his wife, Jane, in Boca Raton, Fla.

"We met decades ago at the Kuglers' residence (in Deerfield Beach, Fla.). I recently read your '63 class notes in the Peddie publication – with amusement – and thought you should know that Richard passed away this past April. April Fools' Day, to be exact. He loved Peddie and his classmates. Keep rocking! Jane Fatigati."

Richard, a clothes horse who was a devoted patron of the upscale Langrock's men' shop in Princeton, spent five years at Peddie. And he is remembered indelibly by **Arthur Brown**, who roomed with him in eighth and ninth grades in the late 1950s and 1960.

"He was a colorful guy – and he earned the nickname 'Greenagati' due to the olive hue of his skin," said Arthur. "The only person in our Class who was more eccentric than Richard was **Bruce Hedeman**. But in terms of eccentricities, Richard was very close behind Bruce."

Anything else, Arthur?

"One of the most amazing things he acquired was an IBM electric typewriter. It was HUGE and so heavy that it required its

own stand. We referred to it as an 'atomic typewriter' and convinced classmates that one could talk to it, and it would type out whatever you said.

Lastly, and perhaps most important, Richard was very generous to me and many others."

It's those Old Gold and Blue memories, so vivid still over the many decades, that continue to connect us all. To me, that's a blessing.

Speaking of staying connected, let's check in with **Roger Burns** in Chapel Hill, N.C., where **Tim Hurson** and wife, Franca, paid a visit to Roger and Joanne on the road-tripping path from their home in Toronto to their place in Fort Myers, Fla., for the winter. "We had a great time," noted Roger. "They are both healthy and happy. Only good news."

Roger also stays in contact with his old roommate **Bill Matlack**, as well as Arthur Brown, **Nils Pearson**, Bob Baldanza and **Cal Calligaro**, among others. Rave on, Roger.

Time for a friendly, lame joke. Hip, hip, hooray, Cal Calligaro! You see, after he revved his friendly social animal engines at our 60th reunion last year, Cal returned home to Naples, Fla., and was soon met with the unpleasant prospect of double hip replacement surgery over the following months. But the Class of '63 came along to cheer up Cal during his surgical ordeal.

"I've heard from lots of classmates, both via email and phone," said Cal. "Tim, Sharon, Kugs, Roger, Arthur, Andy, **Bruce Turiansky** and **Ralph Vargas** have been the most ardent cheerleaders, which helped keep my head out of



Peter (Chris) Gent '63



Richard Fatigati '63

dark spaces."

Those Old Gold and Blue '63 connections also rang emotional chimes for Andy Harris in McKinney, Texas, as he recovered from a gastrointestinal infection and ensuing surgery that prevented him from joining us at our 60th reunion last year.

"Not a day passed when I was hospitalized that I didn't hear from a classmate," said Andy. "Some sent me puzzles, others cartoons, and still others current updates from the news. Folks I haven't spoken to in 60 years called and talked to me as if we had just seen each other yesterday. It was heartwarming. I was relieved to know that my body was just like everyone else's – vulnerable to age.

Odd comfort. But in retrospect, essential. I came away from this experience with renewed interest in my Peddie years. And it is quite possible that my next literary project will embrace the years with my classmates, sequestered but evidently not alone."

Now *that's* a book, play or story I'd love to read, Andy. Write on, Emeritus Professor Harris!

Back on the Peddie pogo stick of hippity-hop '63 classmate connection, let's bounce out west to Colorado. Hello, **Rusty Dersch**! "My wife, Judy, and I have been here in Poncha Springs for two years. Very happy that we moved out of the Denver area." One of the great geographical perks of living in central Colorado? "Great scenery," said Rusty. Including knockout beautiful sunsets looking west from Chez Dersch toward the Continental Divide. Sounds divine, Rusty.

Meanwhile, up in Idaho, **Pete Minard** enjoyed a Salmon River rafting odyssey with his grandsons Caleb, Jake and Keaton.

"Much less work on my part," noted Grandad Pete, "as they've learned to row the rafts, negotiate the rapids and make camp. Passing along the knowledge and skill that we've learned to the youngsters as they grow into adulthood is certainly rewarding."

Also rewarding? Pete's volunteer efforts with the Big Hearts Under the Big Sky Program last fall "to accompany three veteran and First Responder families on wilderness pack trips and elk hunts. I feel

truly blessed to be able to use my outdoor abilities to help those families cope with the problems they face from their service to their countries and their communities."

Thanks so much for all you do, Pete.

In other grandfather news, Ralph Vargas checks in from his home in the Dominican Republic and offers up a very cool snapshot with his four granddaughters Andrea, Marisa, Carla Lucia and Ana Maria. Like many of us edging toward the Planet Octogenarian, Ralph's had some aches and pains. "I am feeling well, except my knees bother me going upstairs. Trying to avoid surgery."

Arthritic fingers crossed for you, Ralph. Fore! **Joe Latchum** knows the golf score. He captured the senior division club championship at his Kingsmill Men's Golf Association links in Williamsburg, Va., last fall. He also teamed up with Charlotte McGinnis for the club's Couples Championship. Woo-hoo!

"Otherwise," said Joe, "just enjoying some travel and time with my boys and granddaughter ... Stay vertical."

Doing my best, Joe. Finally, yes, we have arrived at Kugler's Korner.

South Floridian **Clarence Kugler** and wife, Ali, are celebrating the early January birth of their first grandchild, Quinn Cherie Kugler, the daughter of the Kuglers' son Kyle and his wife Maria, of Greenville, S.C.

"Quinn is a keeper. We will get to swaddle her in Peddie T-shirt and cuddles," said overjoyed new Grandad Clarence.

Other Kugler family news? Younger son Colin, who lives and works Down Under, helped lead his flag football team to the Australian national championship. And then he was selected to the Aussie national team, which traveled to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia for the Asia/Oceania Flag Football Championship last, finishing a respectable fourth. Plus, Colin also won medals while competing in the World Pickleball Championship in beautiful Bali. Chip off the old block? Oh, yeah.

In addition to a relaxing Caribbean cruise to end 2023, frequent travelers Clarence and Ali earlier bopped across the Atlantic



From left: Bob Ackerman '63 and Bob Baldanza '63 visit in Boynton Beach, Fla.



Joe Latchum '63 (second from left) wins the senior division at his club championship.



Ali and Clarence Kugler '63 travel in Salzburg, Austria.



Ralph Vargas '63 and his four granddaughters (left to right) Andrea, Marisa, Carla Lucia and Ana Maria

## CLASS NOTES

for “a chilly winter river cruise on the Danube, starting in the Czech Republic and passing through Germany, Austria and Slovakia before ending in Budapest, Hungary.”

Cheers to the globetrotting grandparents. Wow. The itinerary alone wears me out.

And cheers to the Class of '63. Martini Mike salutes you as I prepare to dance on outta here till next time. Kick it, Dua Lipa!

### 64

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**Geoff Gordon**, director of special projects at Passaic County Community College, received the President's Citation for “Outstanding Contributions to Passaic County Community College.” In 2021, Geoff was named to oversee the construction, planning and implementation of a \$25 million grant to build the largest and most comprehensive biotech innovation center in the United States and the first in New Jersey. The Biotech Innovation Center places students, many from economically challenged backgrounds, into a special facility and program, which awards up to 800 students both a simultaneous NJDOE high school diploma and PCCC associate's degree in science for biotechnology. More than 50% of the students who apply and are selected are in the federal free and reduced lunch program. Geoff serves as a



Geoff Gordon '64 (right) receives a President's Citation at Passaic County Community College.

higher-ed representative to the New Jersey Association of School Administrators.

### 65

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### 69

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It is with profound sadness that I let everyone in the Peddie community know that on November 14, 2023, **Brian McConnell** passed away at his home in California. Brian was bigger than life at Peddie. Those who knew him remember his kindness and quiet leadership. At Peddie, he was marked by outstanding achievements in both football and track, foreshadowing the exceptional athletic career that lay ahead. For those who did not know Brian, this passion for sports led him to Michigan State University, where he not only earned a football scholarship, but also became a distinguished three-year letterman and received the coveted All-Big Ten Award in 1972. Brian's dedication and skill on the field caught the attention of the Buffalo Bills, Miami Dolphins and Houston Oilers, and he went on to play seven memorable years in the NFL after graduating in

1973. Beyond the football field, Brian proudly served in the Marine Corps, then carved out a successful career as a global businessman, traversing the world on international ventures. (These notes were pulled in kind from his obituary). Fifty-five years ago, we graduated from The Peddie School. On May 31-June 1 of this year, Peddie will have Reunion Weekend. I hope everyone will try their best to attend. **Bob Olkowitz** and **Gene Siracusa** have reached out and have stated they will be attending. Several others have asked, “Who's coming?” Bob has reached out to **Jim Hubenthal**, **John Carpenter**, **Tim Breen** and **Alan Crater**. I would certainly like to see everyone.

### 70

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**John Roberts** and his partner, Carol, took a six-week trip to New Zealand in March 2023, which included lots of outdoor adventures. In July, he did another canoe trip out of Whitehorse, Yukon, 200 miles on the Wind River in northern Yukon. John and Mary traveled to Atlantic Canada for two weeks last October and are planning a Berlin-to-Vienna trip as I write this in January. John's back to playing piano, mostly '70s pop tunes and Bach.

I enjoyed a bicycle adventure trip in Croatia last September and October. The small group of



Members of the Class of 1973 join former faculty member Roby McClellan for a mini 50th reunion at the Phillies game last September. From left: Keith Halton, Marc Herold, Rex Capro, Roby, Karl Kling, Mike Feeny, Tom Betz and Dave Bair.

athletic overachievers I rode with kept me hustling to keep up. Still, I managed to enjoy several beautiful castle hill towns on the Istrian peninsula, as well as miles of olive orchards and vineyards on several islands of the Dalmatian Coast, where my partner, Jennifer, joined us. We finished in Dubrovnik, where some of “Game of Thrones” was filmed. I saw no dragons.

If you write an end-of-year holiday letter, please email or postal mail me a copy so I can share your news with our classmates.

### 71

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### 74

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We have been working hard to get everyone back for our 50th, but if you haven't heard from a classmate and you're reading this, come to reunion and complain to me personally.

After seeing how many folks returned from '71-'73 for their reunions, I'm hoping we have an equally impressive turnout. It will be well worth your effort. We already have a strong core of nearly 20 classmates who have committed, and that will surely grow over the next four-and-a-half months (as I pen this in mid-January).

I am hoping that we get to see folks from the years around us, too! So, anyone from '71-'78 is welcome to contact me, and I'll loop you into our “events,” which are still in the planning stage. In addition to all the Peddie-sponsored events, **Jeff Mohr** will be bringing a

caravan of the finest cuisine for our palates (or at least bacon-and-egg sandwiches); **Steve Roleri** will return with his “cigar and whiskey by the lake” offering (kinda like 1974); **Joanne Coates** will offer another book signing (no pressure); **Bill Welychko** and his parrot will be reenacting “Pirates of the Caribbean” (Arrrrgh); and I will be handing out “get-out-of-jail-free” cards to everyone in attendance. Disclaimer: The cards are only good in Cumberland County, Pa. – not transferable to any other jurisdiction.

That's the carrot – here's the stick: we've lost about 10 classmates over the past 50 years and stand to lose an equal number over the next 10 years. Please do not wait for the next reunion. Indeed, come early on Friday and golf with **Art Ammermuller**, **Steve Cohn**, **Mike McCrabb** and me. And, if you can't attend, at least send me a note so we know how you are doing.

### 75

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By comparison, those within the five-mile radius from Peddie campus were absolutely spoiled this past summer when it came to weather. Even the Canadian wildfire downwind smoke was pretty much confined to a one- or two-day event, which I just called “interesting.” Annoying, but interesting. I had concerns about our current Arizona classmates in record-breaking heat, such as **Frank Buntschuh**, **Scott Baxter** and **Jim Anderson**. The latter I hoped was getting relief in Maui, Hawaii, during the period, monitoring the restaurants he owns there. One late evening on the internet, I come across **Mary Stella** posting that Lahaina, Maui, is on fire. Frank and Mary have been repeat visitors of the area, reminding me of 2005, when I

discovered perfection of a few sections of Biloxi, Miss., for return visit United States getaways, only for Hurricane Katrina to flatten two out of three favorite newly-found haunts there a few months later, including a beachfront hotel. Meanwhile, I being ignorant of what is exactly where in the northwestern section of Maui, I immediately get emotional (not like me) on the state of Jim Anderson. I ask myself, is he there and in the epicenter?

I have been affected, more than I make reference to, by rather recent losses among our class members, like **Jack Fararo**, **Tom LePrevost** and **Steve Ullestad**. And I've been in regular contact with Jim the last dozen years. I'm initially afraid to contact Jim directly, as if he himself is OK, he is most likely busily involved one way or another in the devastation, so I pump Mary for info, and she mentions she contacted Jim and his businesses and Maui home are remote from the fires and fine. I further educate myself on maps and am now an “expert”



## UPCOMING REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Jun 9: Bedford, N.Y. • Jul 20: Long Beach Island, N.J.

Aug 3: Nantucket • Aug 11: Martha's Vineyard

*More regional gatherings coming this fall!*

## Summer Baseball Series

Jun 19: Yankees vs. Orioles, Yankee Stadium

Jun 24: Red Sox vs. Blue Jays, Fenway Park

Jun 27: Phillies vs. Marlins, Citizens Bank Park

REGISTER AND CHECK BACK OFTEN FOR MORE DATES IN YOUR AREA!



[PEDDIE.ORG/WORLDTOUR](https://peddie.org/worldtour)



## CLASS NOTES

on northwest Maui! I finally do contact Jim by text, and he replies with reinforcement of safety, going on to say with the power loss, his employees and neighbors were fed food from the restaurants' coolers, and he intended to return to Maui after things have settled down to pick up the pieces and ensure the businesses are up and running. They are quite successful, and I was charmed by Jim's statement that his venues are needed for Maui to survive. (One can see on the internet that his places pop up quite prominently in the area among the local fare.) Following up early this year, Jim informed me that not only are his businesses surviving the post-fire era, but as they are of a few remaining in the area and popular venues to begin with, he had a recordbreaking, booming year in '23, carrying over the same successful figures into 2024. Not full consolation for the friends and acquaintances lost to moves or death in Maui, and the emotional sight of destruction of a beloved area, but Jim's obviously feeling lucky regardless.

The last third of my life in 2023 was totally wrapped up in an automotive project, carrying into 2024, only to result in me getting sick for once upon completing the task. As I lost months, this version of Class Notes equally lost volume! I'm afraid I have nothing to report other than the fact my tortoises are OK.

## 76

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The company you keep! **J.J. Clark**, who is a very accomplished golfer and took up the game at the early age of 12, got his first hole-in-one on July 14, 2023. J.J.'s "ace" was on the third hole (140 yard par 3) at his home course (Greenbriar Oceanaire Community & Golf Course) in Waretown, N.J. What made his feat even sweeter was that it was witnessed by three other Peddie graduates (**Benn Doyle '76**,

**John Delaney '78** and **Rick Gavenda '78**). Furthermore, the foursome consisted of four Peddie varsity swimmers, who were all teammates for the '75-'76 season, and in certain events even swam the same stroke (the breast stroke).

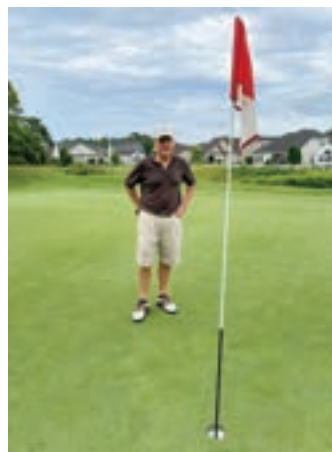
## 77

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Happy New Year, Class of '77. A belated Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah for those who celebrate and a happy holiday season. I hope that your 2024 is off to a great start. I have some very sad news about two of our classmates, **Dave Stoneback** and **Mitch Block**.

Director of Alumni Relations Brian Davidson shared that David Stoneback passed away this past October. Dave is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Betsy Black Stoneback; sons Brian and Kirk Stoneback; grandson Xadier Stoneback; and father, Dr. Alan Stoneback, and is predeceased by his mother, Marion, in November 2021; sister, Amy (Ed); and brother, Richard.

Dave was a graduate of The Peddie School and Brown University, and received his master's degree from Daniels College of Business at the University of Denver. He was a member and Past Master (1989)



J.J. Clark '76 got his first hole-in-one last July at his home course in Waretown, N.J.

at Medford Lodge #178, F&AM, Medford, N.J. He was a co-owner and co-founder of Resort Technology Partners in Vail, Colo. His hobbies were brewing beer and building guitars.

I will remember Dave from summers on Long Beach Island. His parents' house was at the opposite end of 17th Street in Surf City from my parents' house. Let's keep Dave's family in our thoughts and prayers.

Also, **Fred Bull** shared with me that our wonderful friend and classmate Mitch Block passed away in November. I will always remember Mitch on the lacrosse field, having stopped a goal with the ball wedged firmly in his face guard. I am happy that Mitch and Tracy came back to campus a year and a half ago to visit and catch up with our class. This was the first time Mitch had been back since he graduated. Please keep our Peddie family, Tracy, close to your hearts as we move through 2024.

I am recovering from back surgery that I had on December 22. I am trying to be patient and follow the doctor's orders. Patience may be a virtue; however, I have a long way to go to obtain it. Getting old means longer recoveries, and I am not a good patient. I can say, though, causing the wear and tear on the body was way more fun than what it takes to fix it.

I haven't received the latest Fred Bull holiday update of his annual adventures, but I will say I look forward to it every year. I am sure that he and Tammy are enjoying his grandchild and visiting as often as they can.

Take care, everyone, and drop me a note so we can share each other's news. Cheers!



From left: Former Peddie varsity swimmers Rick Gavenda '78, Benn Doyle '76, John Delaney '78 and J.J. Clark '76 witnessed JJ's hole in one last July.

## 78

**Tracy Wellington**  
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Kathy and I recently went to see the movie "The Boys in the Boat" about the 1936 University of Washington men's crew team and their unlikely ascent to the Olympic games. As we were leaving the theater, we ran into **Stuart Kerr '73** and his wife and daughter. Stuart is still rowing and is also coaching a women's crew team at a local high school.

I was grateful to hear from so many classmates for this edition of the Chronicle. We have notes from some of our regular contributors as well as news from a few we haven't heard from in a while. Thank you all for your effort to stay connected.

**Larry Blomberg**: "We bought a house after renting in Georgia for 13 years! Our son made his verbal commitment to play baseball for Augusta University, and our daughter will finish her junior year of college studying at Chukyo University in Japan."

**Jane Kozinski Herndon**: "I moved and changed jobs. I am the executive director of the South Alabama Land Trust, a small land conservation nonprofit in beautiful Fairhope, Ala. I am hoping to keep this booming region from heading in the direction of overdevelopment and lack of open space. This job kind of rounds out my career in the environmental field, which has covered science, law, government administration and policy. I'm living on the Gulf Coast, which is heavenly, except for the two months this past summer when it was wretchedly hot. The people are terrific, the seafood is fabulous, the water is clean and the air is crystal clear. And I made it through Hurricane Season 2023 without incident! **Margaret Selecky Worsdale** and her husband will be visiting soon, and I expect that **Cindy Parr Pirozzi** will stop by at some point since her brother has a condo here on the beach. Life is good!"

**Joe Maressa**: "Had a nice Christmas with the family. Happy to have my son home from college as he decompresses and gets ready for his final semester. He interned at TD Bank last summer and they

made him a nice offer to start after graduation. My daughter spent Christmas with her fiancé's family in Utah, so that wasn't great for us! My wife and I are starting to travel a bit, so looking forward to the future. Other than that, work is going well. This January will be the start of my 41st year in the title insurance business. Still practicing a little law and doing some real estate deals as well. Full speed ahead! Regards to all the '78ers and friends from other years. Wishing everyone the best of health and happiness in the new year. I hope we all keep the promise we made to each other at our 45th reunion to stay connected! Maybe we will arrange a Peddie Cruise. Ala Viva!"

**Rita Fornino Jenkins**: "2023 marked my younger daughter, Colette, graduating from Northeastern and moving to Chicago, where she is working at Northwestern Medical Center in the locked psychiatric unit. My older daughter, Brontë, who is in her second year of medical school, spent last summer doing research at Children's Wisconsin. As for Creighton and me, we celebrated our 28th year of marriage last September."

**Eric Bilhuber**: "My daughters Jessi and Jenni, who were both at



From Left: Meg McFarland Symington '78, Jessica Huff '78 and Marie Ghitman '78 spend a weekend in NYC in November.



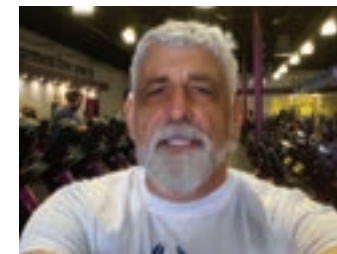
Monica Walter '78

our 45th, are having banner school years. My younger, Jenni, is a senior at High Point University in N.C. and just made the dean's list! She will graduate this April with a degree in fashion merchandising. She will then head to Osaka, Japan for 'Maymester' with her school group and going back for her fifth year next fall for her master's degree at HPU! Go Panthers! Jessi, 26, returned to UConn as a junior last fall, and is likewise *crushing it* with straight A's in her psychology studies! Go Huskies! I couldn't be prouder. My business has never been better and I am also managing to enjoy some down time. Been staying connected with some other '78'rs on Instagram also (@ehb123654) for fun and travel stuff. Best to all in '24!"

**Rick Gerweck**: "I have been busy through the recent Christmas holidays at work and celebration was kept down to a bare minimum. (Some of us can't be trusted around egg nog.) New Year's is off and running; another good year to work out at my favorite gym when I'm 64. I try to do as many humanitarian acts as I can do and help out when people are experiencing homelessness, since I still remember what it was like to need food and shelter. I can't deny



From left: Joe Buda '78 and his wife with Kurt and Lynn Callahan Bilderback '79 in Key West, Fla.



Rick Gerweck '78 regularly works out at his favorite gym.

my abnormalities in church, where social justice levels the playing field with words of wisdom on the holy soul reconstruction site. Tourette's wasn't a viable defense strategy. Ala Viva."

**Kurt Bilderback**: "Happy New Year, Class of 1978! After 42.8 years at IBM, I retired on July 31, 2023, and I am loving it! Lynn and I sold our home of 23 years in Kennesaw, Ga., and moved to Rosemary Beach, Fla., to start our retirement in earnest. Our son Max got engaged this year, and he and Dana will be wed in September 2024. While he is a practicing dentist in the Atlanta area, luckily, our daughter Maddie is close by to us here, working as an interior designer. If you're ever visiting the area, we would love to hear from any and all of you! Kurt Bilderback, 82 Medley St., Inlet Beach, FL 32461 404-219-6652."

**Nina Hovnanian**: "Living in Armenia, still doing the Nation Building 101 Plan, kids are studying in N.J., killing it at Princeton and Rutgers. All good. I never plan on retiring. Cheers to a happy, healthy and PEACEFUL 2024."

**Fred Schmitt**: "One of these years, I'm going to make reunion. I couldn't swing last year, unfortunately. We are working a fair amount in New England and I was in Osterville, Mass."

**Monica Walter**: "Have enjoyed continuing to build my own consulting company, Family Enterprise Bridges, LLC; participate in industry (family office) conferences, networks and meetings, as well as traveling



Eric Bilhuber '78 with his daughters, Jessi and Jenni

(professionally and personally) in 2023. Still living and based in Atlanta."

**Meg McFarland Symington**: "**Jessica Huff, Marie Ghitman** and I spent a wonderful weekend in New York in November. We hung at Jessica's lovely apartment at the northern tip of Manhattan near Fort Tryon Park, enjoying walks in the park, dinner out on Saturday and brunch on Sunday. It was the first time the three of us had been together in probably 20 years, and it was a blast. We laughed (and even cried) over our memories of our time together at Peddie."

**Maggie Selecky Worsdale**: "Moved to Solebury Mountain in Pennsylvania. Shangri-la! Her grandbabies continue to grow, and she and husband, Rick, are thrilled. **Cindy Pirozzi** welcomed a new grandbaby, who was born in the Netherlands. She wants to be called to babysit, but no can do. Today, I'm headed down to Orange Beach, Ala., to spend a few days with **Jane (Kozinski) Herndon**. She has a list of sights to see. Will be good just to hang out on her gorgeous patio. Hope to see **Fred Bull '77** in March when Tom and I head up to N.J. I'll probably see Susan Jakober, Cindy Pirozzi and **Donna DeFerro Ridgeway** also - she is welcoming grandbaby #1, a little girl, in March."

**Jose Santacana**: "I just dropped off my son Sam and his girlfriend at Reagan National for their flight back to California. Yesterday, it was my cousins who were returning to Barcelona, Spain, after a two-week



Eric Bilhuber '78 and Bill Tracy '77 meet up at the Peddie Golf Club last August.

stay in the United States. I spent a week with them in New York City, hitting the holiday sites, and then a week here in Washington, D.C. I previously saw my cousins in July when my wife and I spent three weeks driving around Spain. Barcelona was great, but the highlight was Pamplona, where we joined a million, mostly inebriated people for the Festival of San Fermin, or better known as ‘the Running of the Bulls.’ Talk about a crazy time – it’s a week of nonstop music, food and partying, all centered around a half-dozen bulls and thousands of people running through the streets each morning at 8 a.m. (Really, what could go wrong?) Hemingway made the festival famous in his book, ‘The Sun Also Rises,’ and I had been itching to give it a go for a long time. After checking out the bull run the first two days, I got up the courage to run and made it to the finish in the Plaza de Toros (bull ring) without getting gored. Everyone wears white pants and white shirts, with a red sash for a belt and a red bandana around their neck. Some of the crazier runners try to touch a bull’s head or grab its tail as the herd goes dashing by. I also saw my first – and last! – bullfight in Pamplona. Really, the bull has no chance of surviving and faces a slow, bloody end. It’s hard to watch. Fortunately, bullfighting’s popularity is waning, even in Spain, and will probably come to an end soon.

“I have been retired for three years and so far, so good. I picked up the guitar and bought a small camper to travel to as many national parks as I can get to. Having lived overseas quite a bit, I really enjoy visiting the amazing places and meeting the interesting people we have right here. Also have been running again, albeit much more slowly, and recently finished the Washington Marine Corps Marathon in record time; I was about the last person to cross the finish line. Ouch! But now I am inspired to run the New York City Marathon (bucket list) this November, so if there are any Peddie runners who will be in NYC, give a holler. Ala Viva!”

Please keep your notes and pictures coming! Ala Viva!

## 79

To submit news or if you are interested in serving as class secretary, email editor@peddie.org.

## 80

Michelle B. Bodin-Hettinger (774) 535-1450 blam2@comcast.net

Happy 2024! Here’s hoping you are all healthy, happy and that it is a prosperous new year! In an effort to hear from more class members, I have reached out to a few that we have not heard from in a while.

From **Karen Jubanyik**: “I love being an emergency medicine physician and faculty at Yale School of Medicine. I came to the New Haven area for medical school and have never left. The practice of emergency medicine is enormously humbling and keeps me grounded with a sense of perspective about what is important. And working with medical students and residents keeps me on my toes!

“My four children range from ages 27-37 – Samantha, Jessica, Douglas and Andrew; they all live within an hour’s drive, so I get to see them often. Two of my children followed me into the medical field – one is in school to be a pediatric mental health nurse practitioner, and the other is in an emergency medicine residency at Yale. I live close to the water (Long Island Sound) and still enjoy swimming, kayaking and saltwater fishing. Happy to chat with any students who are interested in careers in medicine! I went through a non-traditional path (did a post-baccalaureate program at UPenn a few years after college), so I am especially happy to connect with career-changing alumni as well.”

From **Jeff Barth**: “Greetings and Happy New Year, fellow Falcons. I haven’t been great about sending updates, so here goes one: All’s well here. I retired in 2022 and am still adjusting to retiree life and empty nest-dom, both at the same time. My wife, Jackie, and I live in central Jersey, just north of Princeton. Our two kids are in college – UMass Amherst and Manhattan College. Since retirement, I’m filling my time

with some independent consulting work (corporate communications) and by throwing myself into photography – a latent passion (JeffBarthPhotos.com). Jackie and I also travel quite a bit, to southern California in December for a family wedding and then a two-week vacation in Thailand with our kids. They’re 19 and 21, so Jackie and I need to sweeten the vacations to get the kids to keep coming. It was a great experience, spending our time in four cities throughout the country. Lots of internal domestic flights. Last month, I ran into Doug Mariboe at a Princeton basketball game, and we sat and talked for a good while. It was great catching up with him and chatting about times at Peddie some 40+ years ago. Good guy, Doug. ‘Mr. Peddie.’ I stay in touch with a couple of classmates, **David Shea** and **John Zbehlik**, and others through Facebook. I’d love to connect with more of you, so look me up on FB or Instagram. Be well, everyone, and hopefully, we’ll catch up at a reunion soon.”

From **Steve Rohlfing**: “My wife, Renée, and I are doing well. Still in Malibu, Calif. Our health has been tested since we last spoke. Both of us have had our hips replaced and have recovered well. I am semi-retired as of October. My company closed, unfortunately. I am trying to get used to not working, and it is hard. On a lighter note, we are headed to the Bahamas tomorrow for some fun. Finally, we have a new pup, Cheyenne. She is beautiful. Hope all is well with you and your family. Thanks for reaching out.”

“I had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania this summer and had an amazing time! How about you? Any travel tales to tell, job or retirement stories? Family to brag about to us? I would love to hear from you!”

“I had the opportunity to travel to Tanzania this summer and had an amazing time! How about you? Any travel tales to tell, job or retirement stories? Family to brag about to us? I would love to hear from you!”

## 81

Lesley Ranft lannranft@outlook.com

John Thalheimer jhthalheimer@icloud.com

**NEW** Dave Corson davidc@cer-mag.com

**Charlie Burton**: “Let everyone know I’m living large and loving life and hope they are doing the same!! LOL, thanks.”

**Frank DiMondi**: “All is good in Delaware. It’s hard to believe my beautiful daughter Bella will be 16 years old in a few months. I am still in the commercial and residential land development business in Delaware. Wishing for lower interest rates in 2024 and beyond. Hope the Class of ’81 has a great start to the New Year. Hoping to see some classmates in the Miami area this winter.”

**Andrew Schneeloch**: “All good here. Was great seeing my Delaware brothers on our trip north. Last son is now a junior in college. Where did that time go? Anyway, Lynda and I are in the early stages of planning retirement. We bought a place in Naples, Fla. See **Brad Poorman ’79** down there on occasion. Had dinner with Moira and her husband a few months back. Anyway, can’t wait for the next reunion!”

**Gary Trachtman**: Gary recently purchased a second home in Absecon, N.J., where he resides with his lovely significant other and family. He put in a beautiful garden before winter. Truth be told, now he is selling his Florida home. Gary is quite the charmer. Always has a great story to tell! A laugh to share. Or a heartwarming tale.

**John Proctor**: “We’ve had great fun with the girls and guys who have taken part in our Webexes. Treasure those times! We’ve got to do one that **Ian Elmslie** can participate in. Coming soon, I hope! Be on the lookout!”

**Lesley Ranft**: “In August, moved to Oceanside, Calif., and am getting ready for a birthday reunion celebration with Peddie up in Santa Barbara, Calif., mid-February. Love my place! Ocean air in my big window. Working out every day. Jacuzzi a few days a week. Love most of my time with Lindsay, my daughter, Justin, my son-in-law and grand girls Ava and Sophia. So looking forward to the next reunion. I’d be remiss if I forget to mention my time with **Gary Trachtman**. He is my dearest friend, and I am so grateful for our laughter and fun times on the phone weekly. We definitely keep each other entertained. Ever so grateful.”

**Lisa Chirichillo**: “Happy New Year! Hope all is well for you and yours? Thank you for reaching out. I have been in my financial and insurance business for 37 years now, going into my 38th. I love what I do, especially helping people achieve their financial independence, goals and dreams. My practice has grown to a successful business over the years. My office employs approximately 10 people. Have three children, a set of 16-year-old boy twins, Santino and Giancarlo, and a 23-year-old young gentleman, Donnie. Unfortunately, my husband passed away four years ago due to cancer. I am dating a UPS systems engineer, Brian. I communicate regularly with **Tom (Tommy) Carini** from Peddie and try to go to our five-year anniversary reunions at school.”

**Dave Samuelson**: “Life is good and busy. Our daughter finished college and never came back to New Jersey. She’s doing great. Our son is in an audio engineering program in high school. Get this – he will graduate college before high school with an associate’s degree in 2025. Anyone with connections in that field, please reach out. Work life has been insane. We just bought a new plane. Insane how much time that takes. Took delivery in mid-December after spending months on the project. Now the boss has a new toy, and we’ve been flying nonstop. That’s my life in a nutshell. Hope all is well with you, and have a great 2024.”

**Dale Lowenstein**: “I am off most social media, but I do remember seeing some of your posts. I am living in Buckhead, Ga., after raising the family in Roswell. Anyway, all is good. My three kids are all out on their own and doing well. Biggest news



Frank Dimondi, Drew Schneeloch and Charlie Burton of the Class of 81, reunite last summer.

from me is the birth of my first grandchild, Henry, who was born a year ago in December. I am still in the beverage alcohol business and work as the general manager for a general wholesale company in Atlanta. Hope you and the family are well, and Happy New Year!”

**Gerard Fritz**: “I am still practicing pediatrics full-time and hope to slow down to part-time status in the next two to three years and then start my second act (some fishing, golf, philanthropy). I told Ed to let me know if a school physician spot opens up. Maybe St. Thomas? New Year’s resolution is to drop some weight and get back into playing shape, although I need a new knee, which may happen in 2024. Kids are out of the house and off the payroll! It’s like I got a raise. Hope all is well. Ala Viva!”

**Kerim Basakinci**: “Nice to hear from you. We live between California (Los Angeles/San Francisco) and Istanbul, Turkey, still happily married after 35 years. COVID slowed down work and travel for a while. I was involved with the family business, selling and building power plants, wind farms, marinas and construction equipment. Still keeping busy with the same when in Istanbul. I hope all is well with you.”

**Scott Miller**: “Hope you are doing well. Been many years. Up in Snowmass, Colo., with my wife, and heading back to Miami mid-week where we live full-time.”

**David Barash**: “Happy New Year, David! Not much to report on my end. Just checking in.”

**Jay Pila**: “Hey, Dave. Great to hear from you. Happy and healthy to you and yours! Life takes its twists and turns. Being 60, I’m sure we all share in life’s experiences of ups and downs. Since October 7, I’ve been a bit more on the downs



David Stamberg ’81 and Gerard Fritz ’81

than ups. We have a daughter serving in the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and in harm’s way in Israel. I have a client and friend here in New York, Ronen Neutra, whose son, Omer Neutra, is a hostage. I’ve just returned from a trip to Israel to spend a few days with my daughter, Jamie, and helping a kibbutz that is currently hosting 250 refugees who had to flee their homes. 50 are children, and some have lost their parents. I am reminded of one day, I believe in our junior year, where we experienced a burning cross in front of Rivenberg dorm. As with most antisemitism in this country, we swept it under the rug because we knew there was an active and decent size chapter of the KKK thriving in Hightstown, N.J. I never felt threatened being Jewish before, and my dad is a Holocaust survivor as well (he was a hidden child). Who would have thought that in my lifetime, I would feel unsafe walking the streets of N.Y.C. I could go on and on about all of this, but I’ll leave it at that. On a lighter note, I’m looking forward to seeing **Tom Daly** next week at our annual Sales Xceleration conference in Atlanta. He and I are both doing the same thing – sales management consulting. Wishing you all the best and Ala Viva forever.”

**Maria Crilley Jernigan**: “John and I, in our empty-nest status, currently reside in Dublin, Ohio, and like to travel when we can. Last year, we took a Panama Canal cruise and then were lucky enough to have the whole family join us for an Alaska cruise in June. I work at the Columbus Zoo, so if any of you ever find yourself there, let me know!”

**John H. Thalheimer**: “Life is wonderful. By the time this is published, Marla and I will



From left: Jim Scarpone ’81, Rob Sargenti ’83 and David Corson ’81 meet up at a construction conference last November in Scottsdale, Ariz.

be in the process of moving to Charlottesville, Va., so if anyone has connections in Virginia who need help in leadership training or coaching, let me know. We are looking forward to being back on the East Coast and closer to Peddie. Also, I have diversified my business and am now the CEO partner at The Team at HR Stories, where we help businesses Get HR Right through training, coaching and consulting. Our podcast is the 11th-best HR podcast in the nation. Hope life is good!”

**Jim Turp**: “Always good to hear from you! Update: Still living in the greater Peddie metropolitan area, a PM/Owners rep for a mid-level industrial developer doing sports facilities, warehousing, multi-family. Exciting stuff is coaching soccer with inner-city kids in Trenton, N.J. – won the league title this year! Also still playing on occasion, with a several-day recovery period after! My youngest daughter is an 11-year-old beauty who is also a beast on the soccer field. We range from Virginia to New Jersey for her team, so our vacations are usually based around her schedule, but wouldn’t want it any other way. Lucky to still be local enough to make an appearance at reunion every year. Proud to be an ’81. Cheers!”

**Nancy (Landau) Gillon**: “Hi Dave, Happy New Year to you too. I hope you and the people you love are all well. It’s been a long time since I have been in touch with anyone from Peddie, so here’s a quick snapshot. I had the good luck to literally bump into **Heidi Miller** in the airport, and it stirred up a lot of memories of my Peddie days. I am living in New Jersey and have been married to my husband, Josh for almost 35 years. I am working as a social worker, and Josh has an internet marketing company. We love traveling, doing yoga, hiking, boating and going to the beach. My two amazing daughters are engaged to be married, so we have a lot of wonderful celebrations coming up. My daughter Danielle is a cyber security consultant and is getting married to a great guy in May 2024 in New York City, where they live. Leah will get married, also to a great guy whom we love, in May 2025, after she graduates from podiatry school. Life is very

## CLASS NOTES

active and full, and we are looking forward to a lot of happy occasions this year and next and in the future. Be well!”

### Andrea Tara Pennock:

“Greetings from Pensacola, Fla.! Going down memory lane, I can’t help but mention that my years at Peddie were lined in solid gold. I could not have asked for a better platform of friends and mentors. They are memories and life lessons that I cherish to this day. 2024 has already been such a gift. Both my daughters, their husbands and our newest addition, Fallon Grace, live close to our family home. My husband Rodney and I love spending time with all of them, going on family trips and spending weekends together doing nothing. They are all my pride and joy. My husband falls on making a golfer out of Fallon. We continue to grow our flooring and specialty bathroom business each year, making our showroom and services a unique experience. So glad we got to catch up. Let’s keep it going. Hoping this New Year finds everyone well and in good spirits! Ala Viva forever!”

**Curtis Catlin:** “Dear friends of the Class of 1981, the second trimester of my junior year at Peddie would be my last. 45 years of perseverance and an unwavering respect for all as guiding principles have delivered me very far from that time, when we were so privileged to meet at prep school. For many years a seasoned financial services professional and a leader, Sheila and I now live in Florida, where I run a financial practice and enjoy tennis and playing music. Though my time with our class at Peddie was brief, the impact lasted a lifetime. I wish you all the best of health and good luck in your endeavors.”

**David Corson:** “Am still in the ATL since 1992. Just was approved for the construction loan to build our empty-nester house on Lake Lanier, Ga., that my wife, Kristen, and I will act as the GC. Our son Brody works for Boeing in Charleston, S.C., as a flight line specialist. He just passed his pilot’s license solo and now is going after his commercial pilot’s license. Still dabble on the lacrosse green and hockey pond and getting ready to get back on the mat to go for

my second-degree black belt in Taekwondo. Cheers and Ala Viva to all the 1981ers.”

## 82

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**Angie Richards Fergusson** sent in a quick note: “I am now a grandmother of the first girl in a generation! Lily Fergusson, my granddaughter from my eldest son. They are living with us in our house in Winter Garden, Fla., until their new home is built. Loving every minute of being a grandmother, as I get to see her daily, and will cry when they move out. My youngest son is now engaged and will be going to Denver for his wedding in April. Yes, a very quick engagement, but that’s what they want – small wedding, etc. Good for them. I am celebrating my 34th wedding anniversary in September. WOW! I’m still in Florida, now for almost 34 years, and I can’t imagine ever going back to the cold full time. Both my husband and I still work, but maybe he can look into retirement in the next five to 10 years from Disney after 33 years. I am LOVING working from home as project manager at Morgan & Morgan.”

And here is a fascinating story from **Bill Bunting:** “Last summer, while I was browsing a booth at the farmer’s market in Stowe, Vt., the artisan and I struck up a conversation that went something like this:

She: ‘Where are you from?’  
I: ‘New Jersey.’  
She: ‘I went to high school in South Jersey.’  
I: ‘Where?’  
She: ‘Hightstown.’  
I: ‘Which school?’  
She: ‘Peddie.’  
I: ‘No way! What year were you?’  
She: ‘1982.’  
I: ‘We know each other! What’s your name?’  
She: ‘Bridget.’  
I: ‘Oh, my gosh! **Bridget LaMell!**’

That was the start of a long catch-up conversation covering the 40-plus years since we last saw each other at Peddie. So much

fun! Bridget makes beautiful artsy clothing and accessories for beautiful people and sells them at markets around Vermont and at reignvermont.com.”

## 83

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## 84

**Mark G. Gartner**  
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I hope you’ll be able to make it to reunion in June for our 40th reunion. At that time, a member of the Class of ’84, **P.J. Horgan**, will be inducted into the Peddie Sports Hall of Fame! It will be great to see everyone who can make it for reunion and the induction ceremony.

**Felix Benetiz** retired from the Orlando Fire Department after a stellar 27.5-year career. After spending a year as a retiree, he decided it wasn’t for him, so he joined the private sector as health and safety manager for a company called Solotech. I think the Solotech employees can rest easily knowing Felix is on the job.

**Sasha (Mitchell) Soheili** sends her best from San Francisco,



**Rob Jones '83 and Nick Cuiliano '78 share a serendipitous encounter in Colorado Springs at last fall's annual meeting of the Public Investors Advocate Bar Association.**

where she has lived for more than half of her life. One son recently graduated college, while the other still has a couple more years to go. Sasha works in the fields of bioinformatics, genomics and population genetics. While I don’t understand any of those words, Sasha says she gets to work in developing treatments for cancer and rare diseases. Much like Felix, I’m glad that Sasha is on the job!

**Jeff Szur** recently shared some pretty exciting news. Jeff’s company, Altitude Water, unveiled its first disaster relief trailer in Maui after Thanksgiving. In short, the company makes clean drinking water from air, and their trailers are completely sustainable and off-grid. The company just broke ground on a system in Maka, Cameroon, and is providing thousands of gallons of water to the community. Very, very cool stuff!

By the time you read this, Ann and I will be grandparents. Halley and Julia are/were due on January 31. They say that becoming a grandparent is a game-changer. I’ll let you know when I see you in June!

## 85

**Laura Martinelli**  
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Greetings! As always, you can find us on the FB at Peddie Class of ’85. Or please email/PM me whenever! I love hearing from you.

I am enjoying my Art Director/Graphic Design position, and we just changed our name to Endeavor Health, so I’m in the middle of a behemoth brand change and it’s keeping me busy. I’m still teaching Pilates once in a while, and since



**Jeff Szur '84 debuts his company's disaster relief trailer in Cameroon.**

the gym is part of the hospital where I work, one of my favorite things is being able to pop over there to teach or workout. I’m also playing pickleball, which I love. I discovered over the past years that I don’t enjoy working from home, although it’s an option for me if I need it. I don’t know how people do it every day, though! I need to be around people.

**Harold Tonkin** wrote to say, “Wow. So much has happened this year. I moved from Chicagoland to Grand Rapids to the middle of nowhere Kentucky. My town, Fredonia, has a population of 375 people, and I am 376. We have a log cabin on 4 acres with an orchard of fruit-bearing trees. It is so remote that Google Maps can’t find my house. My daughter got married, and they moved in with me (378) because my daughter had my first grandchild named Elliot (379). He turns 1 in February. And yes, I got him a Mets onesie. My son decided to join the Navy and is currently in Boot Camp at Naval Station Great Lakes. After Boot Camp, he goes to San Antonio to do the Master at Arms program. That is the Navy version of an MP.”

**Keith Kaplan** told me he is still working as head of development for Howard Hughes Corporation in Summerlin, Las Vegas, and shuttling back to Los Angeles most weekends. He said, “My Howard Hughes team has been busy, recently opening up a new 294-unit apartment building and breaking ground on an adjacent shopping center that will feature a new Whole Foods Market. A new office complex is under construction as we are planning an exciting



**Harold Tonkin '85 with his grandson, Elliot.**

new motion pictures studios development, the first in the Las Vegas market. Sadly, my sister **Meredith Kaplan Offenberg '91** and I lost our dad in October 2023. He battled Parkinson’s for several years. He was a proud Peddie parent. During our time as Falcons, he was on campus often to cheer us on in the swimming pool or at the lake at crew competitions.”

Miles East’s (**Jonathan Ellinhaus**) second record “Between Lightning and Thunder” will be released on June 7. The first single, “Better Than Here,” dropped on October 17, and has received rave reviews and over 100,000 streams to date. The next single from the record, “Lucky To Be Here Tonight,” will drop on January 30, with a video to follow in mid-February. You can listen to “Better Than Here” on your streaming service of choice or check out his website at mileseast.com! “I’ve also been busy with plenty of drumming work,” he told me. “My daughter, Lily, who attends SUNY Purchase, has formally applied for their Music Conservatory. We’ll find out if she’s accepted soon, so fingers crossed.”

## 86

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From **Kelley Johnson '87:** “To those who knew my sweet sister, **Kim Johnson**, it is with great



**Miles East's (Jonathan Ellinghaus '85) single, "Lucky to be Here Tonight," from his album, "Between Lightning and Thunder," dropped in January.**

sadness to let you know she passed after a brief illness. Kim was a vivacious and kind person who never lost her strength, courage or tenderness as she struggled since her mid-20s with schizophrenia. Prior to the onset of her illness, Kim excelled in sports and school, including college and getting her master’s degree. She was also a valued professional, working for the federal government, and later at an environmental services company. Since getting sick, she lived with our mom and me. She battled her illness with grace and fortitude. In the past several years, she found meaning in her narrow life by taking care of our mom and me during various illnesses and just life. Everyone who met her saw what a special soul she was. She never let her demons take away her gentleness and soft smile and caring for others. She is greatly missed but at peace now. If you have a memory of Kim, we’d love to hear about it. If you want to honor her, please be kind to those suffering from mental illness. I can be reached at kelleyj633@comcast.net. We hope all of you and your families are well.”

## 87

**Karen E. Newman**  
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**Neil Schamban** wrote: “I’m in Alabama, Huntsville, mainly, although Steph and I also have a place in Nashville where we spend a good amount of time. We’ve lived in the South for the past 16 years. I went to medical school after Peddie and practiced emergency medicine for about 25 years. Now, I’m essentially retired. I do some consulting work and board work for healthcare startups. I have a particular interest in opioid addiction and treatment. Married once (still married!), five kids. Oldest two are at Auburn University. Three kids are still in high school. The highlight of my week is playing with my band, ‘Dr. Whiskey,’ at a local dive bar in Huntsville (you can read between the lines as to how we got that name). The band is great, despite me. But I’ve given it a name, and

I do have better organizational skills than the rest to make up for lack of musical talent! I’m an avid wake surfer, which is a sport you can do at least eight months a year in North Alabama if you are a little intrepid and don’t mind a wetsuit in the colder months.” He is interested in getting a band of classmates together for our 40th reunion in 2027!

**Mark Matheson** wrote: “All is well on my end. My wife, Julie, and I are living in Monument, Colo., and are enjoying empty-nest life (we have three boys, all in their twenties).” He is looking into the dates for the cruise to see if he can join us.

**Mary Becker** wrote: “My news is go on the cruise! It will be fun to catch up for old times’ sake! I really hope more classmates will join. I’m doing it, and I want to see friends. Thank you for the hard work of those who made it happen, too – I’m grateful.”

**Amy Hollander** wrote: “I was hired by the National Canal Museum to write and coordinate the production of a graphic novel on the life of Black Canal Boat Captain Jimmy Brown. Fascinating project.”

**John Coiro** wrote: “In June, after 32 years, I stepped down as CEO for Allentown, LLC. I am now CEO Emeritus, sit on the board and have M&A responsibilities. In July, I co-founded a new private equity firm called Enceladus Partners. We focus on family-owned, privately held mid-market companies. I am moving to Boca Raton and will share time between Florida, Bermuda and the Jersey Shore.”

**Karen** wrote: “I am doing well, still loving living in Fort Myers, Fla. I regularly drive past the new surgery center that **Fletcher Reynolds '86** built, although I haven’t run into him yet. I’m hoping **Pete Wanat** will make it down for spring training this year so we can go to a Red Sox game together. I heard that **Risa Sackman** and **Diana Hepp** have booked a cabin on the cruise, and I’m not sure if **Florence Adrian** is joining them or not. I’ve been having fun catching up with classmates and look forward to catching up with more Peddie alumni during ‘season’ in Southwest Florida.”

88

**Catherine Holmes**  
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Happy 2024! I hope everyone had a great start to the new year. Exciting news from **Tiff Zachos**: She got married! Tiffy married Eric George on November 18, 2023, in Holmdel, N.J., at Kimisis Tis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church. They are now living in Cherry Hill, N.J. We wish them a lifetime of happiness. Please share your news with our class and fellow alumni. Take care and be kind.

89

**Amy Margolis**  
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I am so happy to see our Class Notes growing and hearing from so many people after all these years. I am currently residing in Sisters, Ore., and am thoroughly enjoying all that Central Oregon has to offer. I am spending quality time with my family and dog, running/hiking/spending time outdoors as much as possible, teaching a group fitness class at the local Parks and Recreation Department, having a blast working at the local Lululemon (I love this company), volunteering as the vice chair for the Sisters Trail Alliance and continuing to build an amazing community through the local running club my husband and I started about two years ago. We continue to travel but much more part-time these days. We love having visitors (and have plenty of room) so if you are ever in Central Oregon, look us up.



Tiffany Zachos '88 and her new husband, Eric George, visit Peddie.

From **Pia Clemente**: "Hello, classmates! I'm hoping we can all meet up this summer at the 35th reunion. We're long overdue. After 20-plus years in California, my family and I moved to Atlanta, Ga., in 2022, mainly to be closer to family and for a change of pace. It's been an adjustment from the West Coast beaches to the southern suburbs, but we're finding our groove. I still work in the entertainment industry producing content and am married to a film editor. We have two super active boys (12 and 14), and most of our weekends are spent at baseball or basketball games and tennis tournaments. I still love to play tennis - anyone up for a Peddie reunion round robin? If anyone makes their way to Atlanta, please look me up! I'm still in touch with **Bonnie Rothman** and **Edson McClellan**, who keep me updated on the Peddie happenings! See you all at reunion! How do we make this happen?"

From **Amanda (Coppola) Proscia**: "I published my first book recently - it's a business book about public relations called 'PR Confidential: Unlocking the Secrets to Creating a Powerful Public Image.'" Find it on Amazon!

From **Beth Flowers**: "Hello! And Happy New Year! I don't think I have EVER sent an update, despite loving reading the Chronicle to see what everyone else is up to, so ... after my first 15 years teaching in three day schools in Virginia and Charlotte, I spent 15 years at a very traditional boarding school in Maryland. I



From left: McHala (Williams) Brophy '88, Tricia Robles '89 and Tappen (Potter) Noble '89 meet up for a long weekend in Kennebunk, Maine, last summer.

was a French teacher, dorm head, advisor, mentor, coach ... just some of the many hats that are required when living with your students. I loved my time at Saint James, living in the dorm, being in a really close community. But I wanted to be closer to family, so in August, I moved to Concord, N.C., just outside of Charlotte, to teach at another day school. Six of my seven siblings, my mom and all 12 niblings (nieces and nephews) live in/around Charlotte, so I have already been able to enjoy weekly soccer games, school Christmas programs and babysitting/sleepovers, all of which is so much fun as an aunt. After 15 years of living/breathing boarding school life, I'm trying to figure out what to do with time to pursue my own interests, which is exciting and challenging. I know there are a number of Peddie alumni in the Charlotte area, and would love it if there was an organized gathering so we could see each other!"

From **Tricia Robles**: "**Tappen (Potter) Noble, McHala (Williams) Brophy '88** and I meet for a long weekend in Kennebunk, Maine, each summer. These days are truly a blessing. So wonderful to catch up, relax and sit in the sun. Tappen and McHala live in the Boston area; I fly in from Dallas. The icing on the cake is we get to see Hillary Potter and soak in all her wisdom and love."

From **Lynn Kamen**: "I am now on my third career path. After college graduation with a bachelor's in education, I decided to embark on a career in the travel industry as an agent and as an office supervisor. After 9/11 and the changes in the industry, I decided to use my college degree and went



From left: Greg Dalin '89, Jason Van Brunt '89 and Carl Risoldi '89 meet up for lunch in Hightstown.

to teach in the public school system in Paterson, N.J. Being a teacher in a city like Paterson is not easy, and I left the educational system after teaching for 13 years. In 2018, I enrolled in an accelerated education course at Rutgers School of Alcohol Studies to train to be an alcohol and drug counselor. I have been working as an alcohol and drug counselor contracted by the state of New Jersey and the Department of Children & Families. So, 35 years since leaving Peddie for the bigger world, I am fully satisfied with where life has led me. I am working in a career I love, I have gained and maintained some great friendships that keep me laughing and engaged, I am a mom to a Papillon dog-child and I excel at being crazy Aunt Lynn to my sister's (**Wendy Kamen-Reilly '92**) three boys. I am looking forward to reconnecting with my classmates at our 35th reunion."

From **Carl Risoldi**: "**Jason Van Brunt, Greg Dalin** and I got together for lunch in Hightstown to reminisce about the old Peddie days. I've kept in close contact with Jason since graduation and am fortunate enough to see him fairly often, but recently reconnected with Greg over the past couple months. It's been great connecting with him; he is a great guy! As for me, I have two daughters in college, my eldest who attends Villanova University - my alma mater - and my youngest, who



Amy Margolis '89 and her husband, David Wilson, celebrate their seventh wedding anniversary atop Mt. Whitney, Calif., last September.

just started Point Park University in Pittsburgh. Ava, who attends Villanova, will be graduating next year and plans on continuing to law school. Mia, who is at Point Park, is pursuing her dream to be a professional dancer and is a part of their conservatory ballet program. My wife, Sheila, and I could not be prouder of both of them; they are fantastic children. I still reside in Bucks County, Pa., but also have a place in Miami we frequent often. I'm semi-retired, so I am fortunate enough to get down there about once a month. I love the Miami vibe and enjoy spending time there."

From **Alex Golden**: "I'm doing fine - live on the Upper West Side of New York City at a Central Park address with a wife, 11-year-old daughter starting middle school, a dog and a mortgage. And I'm fairly high up the food chain on the technology side at NBC News, so nothing to complain about."

90

**To submit news or if you are interested in serving as class secretary, email editor@peddie.org.**

91

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**Erin Croddick Avery** reported that "John F. Croddick (my dad)

passed away peacefully on June 5, 2023, at home on the Hanaway Farm."

**Jeff Larsen** is living in Delray, Fla., with his children, Parker Robert, born October 6, 2021, and Riley Jane, born July 4, 2023.

**Anne Brightman Myers'** children Sarah (10) and Kevin (8) keep her very busy. Sarah is in fifth grade and plays field hockey, basketball and lacrosse. Kevin is in third grade and plays soccer, basketball and baseball. Anne is very busy as Sarah's Girl Scout leader and Cookie Mom and as a member of the PTO boards in both of her children's schools. Anne, her husband, Steve, and the kids spent the summer traveling to Boston, Maine, Washington D.C. and Avalon, N.J. They are very much looking forward to traveling to Switzerland this summer!

94

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95

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From left: Brian DiFeo '96, Napper Tandy '95 and Geoff Neumann '95 take a break from skiing in Jackson Hole, Wyo., earlier this year.

96

**Kris A. Frazier**  
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**Tammy Pai** reported that she is living in Okinawa, Japan, and is working at the military base there. She is hoping to get back to Korea soon!

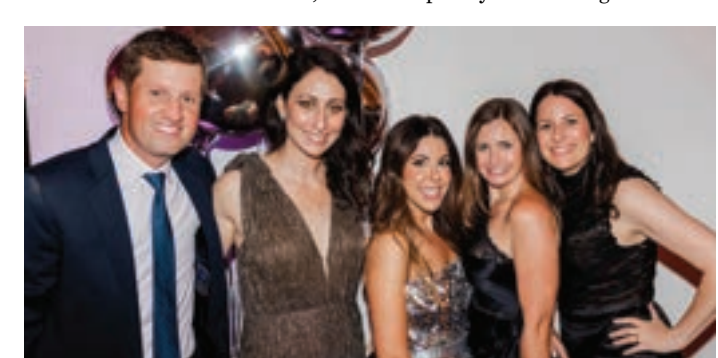
**Brian DiFeo** shared that he, **Napper Tandy '95** and **Geoff Neumann '95** went skiing in Jackson Hole, Wyo., this winter. "33 years of friendship that all started at Peddie."

97

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**Sereh Selman**: "Tim and I just celebrated our 23rd wedding anniversary in December. We have three daughters, Parker and Taylor (twins, age 15) and Hayden (age 7). We live in Mansfield, Mass., where Tim is the athletic director for Mansfield Schools, and I am the VP of program development for Old Colony YMCA (celebrating 15 years in March!). It's wonderful to see so many fellow Peddie alumni doing so well through Facebook, etc. Hope to FINALLY make it to a reunion one of these days!"

**Graham Strub**: "After finishing a M.D./Ph.D. program in Richmond, Va., residency in otolaryngology in Seattle, Wash., and a fellowship in pediatric head and neck surgery at Harvard/Boston Children's Hospital, my wife and I moved to Little Rock, Ark., where I am now on faculty at Arkansas Children's Hospital. My clinical practice focuses on cochlear implantation in deaf children, and my research laboratory is dedicated to developing genetic treatments for children with vascular anomalies. I recently received a ROI grant from the NIH to develop RNA-based treatments for children with lymphatic malformations. We love living in Arkansas; the weather is beautiful, the people are kind and there is plenty of natural space to explore. We hike, golf, camp and recently fly (I got my private pilot certificate a few months ago) all over the state. We also welcomed our first child, Theodore Graham Strub, in December of 2022."



From left: Jon Wheaton '95, Lauren (Schnipper) Rausch '97, Lauren (Bloom) Salvado '97, Janine (Lumio) Wheaton '97 and Sara (Chancellor) Case '97 in Nashville last September to celebrate the bat mitzvah of Salvado's daughter.

## CLASS NOTES

Hatzalah's services are available to all people regardless of race, religion or national origin. It was a magical night and incredibly heartening to see so many people come out to support a fantastic organization. I encourage everyone to check them out at israelrescue.org. In February, I will complete a five-month executive leadership course at UCLA, and the next day, on February 13, I will be hosting the Peddie World Tour in L.A. event at my home! Let's go, 2024!"

### 98

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Pat Dennis '98, Jon Maslow '96, Dave Thompson '96 and their families meet up in Jackson Hole, Wyo.

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Zara Stasi '08 recently painted a 5,000 square foot mural commissioned by the NYC Department of Transportation.

### 08

**Zara Stasi**  
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**Zara Fina Stasi** is living in Brooklyn, N.Y., with her husband Andy, son Theo (2.5) and new daughter Lila, born in September 2023. She is happy to be the new secretary for the Class of 2008, volunteering for the post before realizing what free time looks like with two kids. She is an artist and painted her largest piece yet in 2023 – a 5,000-square-foot mural commissioned by the NYC Department of Transportation – while seven months pregnant. She's excited to treat this section like a really large group text for the Class of 2008, so send your next update to her.

**Frank Cimato** welcomed little Saylor Cimato into the world in June 2022.

**Chloe Nagraj** is happily living in Charlottesville, Va., and welcomed baby Lenora (Leni) in 2022. Since getting her graduate degree in landscape architecture, she has been practicing at Nelson Byrd Woltz. She is working on exciting public park projects, including one in Knoxville, Tenn., and one in St. Louis, Mo. On a recent family trip to Copenhagen, Denmark, Leni loved the museums and the adults loved the architecture.

**Mark Stauning** has moved to Seattle with his partner, Cindy, and their two cats, Toad and Rogi. After over nine years in New York City, he is enjoying the new pace, access to nature and (still) running into Peddie friends at meet-up events (**Devon and Dylan Cardoza!**). He is an architect at Gensler and is working on projects such as the

Saint John's Terminal, Google's offices in NYC and the University of Washington's basketball practice facility.

**Mark Stanton** enjoyed connecting with **Dylan Isenberg, Max Bichsel, Tim O'Reilly**, Brian Reilly '09 and Tino Kardassis '10 in NYC.

**C.J. Schlager** is having an awesome year with his family. They moved into their first house in Linwood, N.J., are raising one daughter and expecting their second daughter in May 2024. He was promoted to lead engineer at DCO Energy.

**Brooke Maria Eriksen** has been living in Norway since January 2017 with her husband, Rasmus. She welcomed their first child in March 2022, a girl named Synnøve, and is expecting twins, a girl and boy, due January 2024. She is still an avid horse lover and an occasional triathlete (completing her first Ironman in 2019). In 2021, she completed her MFA at the Trondheim Academy of Fine Art, and in 2022, she finished her Norwegian teaching credential. Since living in Europe, she has met lots of interesting people, taken part in many exciting trips and sporty adventures and enjoys a different pace of life.

**Triston Francis** has been living in Singapore for the past four years, doing tech and consulting work and enjoying the opportunities



Frank Cimato '08 and his daughter Saylor



Mark Stauning '08 and his partner, Cindy, live in Seattle.

and perspectives of living overseas. After resigning from his company in 2023, he is focusing on travel, health (losing 45 lbs. and being in the best shape since Peddie days) and finding his next opportunity in the talent/human capital realm. If you find yourself in Singapore or Asia, reach out!

**William Clark** is in his fourth year of teaching middle school English at Headwaters School in Austin, Texas. Working in a classroom keeps him constantly reflecting on his time at Peddie!

**John Tate** married Mikala Stublely on December 9, 2023, in Philadelphia. The happy couple resides in Chicago.

**Tayarisha Poe** had a baby she named Zuri Zev Perilstein-Poe, made her second movie ("The Young Wife," which will be out in 2024), and is still planning to one day live out her hip boarding school teacher dreams.

**Alex Mannherz** had an exciting 2023! He and Anna Ulliman got engaged. They are happily living in New York City and looking forward to getting married in Colorado in the summer of 2024.

**Tiff Preston-Thomas** earned her bachelor's in English, master's in psychology and is currently



From left: Dylan Isenberg '08, Max Bichsel '08, Tim O'Reilly '08, Brian Reilly '09 and Tino Kardassis '10 in NYC.



C.J. Schlager '08 and his family live in Linwood, N.J.

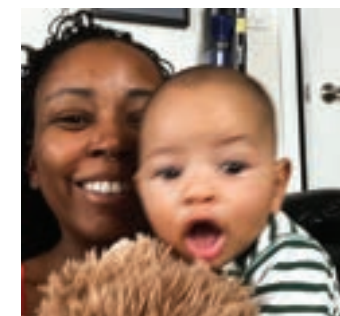
vetting Ph.D. programs. She wrote, illustrated and self-published a children's book about neurodivergence, and is working on three other literary works. In 2023, she paused her career as a virtual mental health professional and divorce/co-parenting coach to start a HVAC business with her husband. Together, they are celebrating one successful year in business! They are a blended family with four children: Emma (13), Liam (11), Grey (9) and Finley (6) and three dogs (Pepper, Jane and Liz). They purchased a 1935 property in Burlington, N.J., and spend their "free time" revitalizing it in a labor of love.

**Nate Gartner** is in his eighth year of teaching in boarding schools and in his second year at Lawrence Academy in Groton, Mass. He teaches math and inspires the youth as the head track coach (you are surprised, he knows). He is excited to spoil his new niece or nephew this winter in his new role as uncle.

**Tess Rex**, husband Kevin, and daughter, Ruby (2.5), are growing their family with a baby boy, due in April 2024. They live in Oceanport, N.J., with their dogs, Bizzy and Bowie. They traveled all over in



Triston Francis '08 represents Peddie at the Asia-American Boarding School Fair in Singapore in November.



Tayarisha Poe '08 and Zuri Zev Perilstein-Poe

2023, from Portugal to Peru (hiking Machu Picchu – a magical place!). She has stayed close with **Heather Moore** (now Heather Schino), who is living in Bordentown, N.J., with her husband, Vince, and dog, Tucker.

**Courtney Csik** moved to Northern Virginia in 2020 with husband, Jack, and daughters Emilia (3) and Gwen (2). She loves catching up with **Brianna Sandiford** and **Katie Winfree** (and their babies) in New York City.

**Brianna Sandiford** is living in Hudson County, N.J., with her husband and daughter, Elianna (1). They joined Katie Winfree and Emily Hyncik on campus for their 15-year reunion in June. She is lucky enough to see Katie nearly



Morgan Fagioli '09 hosted a Happy Hour gathering for Peddie alumni in the Washington, D.C. area in January.



Tiff Preston-Thomas '08 recently started a HVAC business with her husband.



Tess Rex '08 with her daughter, Ruby, and Heather Moore '08

every day (and when she's extra lucky, she gets to see Courtney Csik). The meetups look a little different now with kiddos involved, but they're still just as fun.

**Mike Nyman** completed the New York City Marathon in 2023 and is looking forward to entering his triathlete era. He and wife, Steph, have three boys – big brother Benny and twins Luke and Tate.

### 09

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Tess Rex '08 and her husband, Kevin, in Peru last year



From left: Katie Winfree '08, Courtney Csik '08 and Brianna Sandiford '08

# Megan Zuckerman '12 honored for volunteer work



As a member of the New York Junior League, Zuckerman served as co-chair of the organization's 120th Anniversary Cookbook Task Force.

Megan Zuckerman '12 has been honored by the New York Junior League (NYJL) as one of the Outstanding Volunteers for 2024, in recognition of her decade-long commitment to the NYJL.

The Outstanding Volunteer award is the organization's highest honor and recognizes five women out of 2,400-plus volunteers who exemplify a superior standard of excellence in volunteerism.

Over the years, Zuckerman has dedicated herself to various roles within the organization, including serving as the co-chair of the 120th Anniversary Cookbook Task Force.

Currently, Zuckerman is the public relations and events manager at IvyWise, an educational consultancy, where she manages media relations and coordinates various events.

Zuckerman credits her experience at The Peddie School for igniting her passion for volunteering. "My experience at Peddie heightened my interest in volunteering, and I would love to encourage other students and alumni to explore volunteer opportunities post-graduation as well."

## 10

To submit news or if you are interested in serving as class secretary, email [editor@peddie.org](mailto:editor@peddie.org).

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The Class of 2012 has welcomed two new Falcons into the world. **Emily Dallas '12** and her husband, Jeff, welcomed their son, Charles "Arlo" Dallas Strunk, in February 2023. The family recently took Arlo to his first trip to the Jersey Shore. **Kerrie (Kortmann) McClure '12** and Ryan McClure gave birth to their first child, Brody McClure on December 4, 2023.

**Megan McGurik '12** is happy to announce she got engaged to Omar Khartabi on December 31, 2023.

**Taylor (Pennell) Noonan '12** married Charles Noonan on July 7, 2023, in Philadelphia. Charlie and Taylor attended Rutgers University as student-athletes: Taylor, lacrosse; and Charlie, football. Although their paths didn't cross at RU, fast forward a few years and they collided in the hallways of the athletic center at The College of Holy Cross as collegiate coaches. The couple had a wonderful wedding weekend and are grateful to be surrounded by the love of their friends and family. Shoutout to the Peddie Falcons in attendance: **Alli and Erik Treese '91**, **Jenna Petrucelli '10**, **Kerrie McClure '12**, **Alyce Nazario '12** and **Kelly Bailey '12**.



Taylor Noonan '12 reconnects with former classmates at her July 2023 wedding in Philadelphia.

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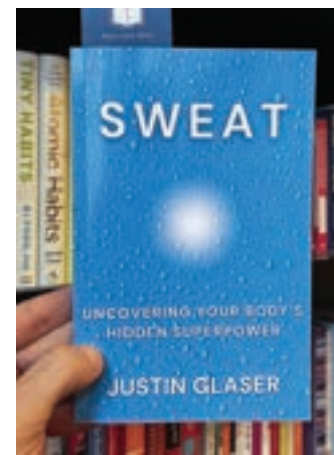
2023 was a busy year for your class secretaries: **Emily Herman** graduated with an MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business and moved to Fort Collins, Colo., while **Alex Kennelley** got a new job in New York and (believe it or not) got engaged!

Over burgers and Guinnesses at Corner Bistro, Alex learned that **Jackson Patterson** and **Ben Pagan** were also simultaneously planning their engagements. We can confirm they went 3 for 3.

In other wedding news, **Jeevna**



From left: 2013 classmates Emily Herman, Jackie McGrath and Brynne Follman at the wedding of Jeevna Sheth in Northern Virginia last October.



Justin Glaser '13 published an Amazon bestseller last November.

**Sheth** married her husband, Ben Alkon, in two stunning ceremonies (one Sikh, one Jewish) this October in Northern Virginia. Fellow 2013ers **Samantha Blake**, **Emily Aledort** and **Eleonore Baughan** served as bridesmaids, while **Jackie McGrath**, **Brynne Follman** and Emily Herman also showed up to the party.

We also have a published author in our midst, the great **Justin Glaser!** Justin released his book, "Sweat: Uncovering Your Body's Hidden Superpower," and quickly reached Amazon's bestseller list.

Last, but certainly not least, **Max Greyserman** achieved his lifelong goal of earning his PGA Tour card. Catch him teeing it up with Tiger, Rory and the rest of the pros this upcoming year.

To all those who would like to share any fun life updates with the broader Peddie community, or if you have the urge to connect with Emily or me, please don't hesitate to reach out.

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**Christine Wnek** is living in Dallas. In July, she finished her two-year rotation program at CitiBank and was promoted. She is enjoying the warmer weather with her Pomeranian named Zoe!

## 18

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**Laura Dang** shared: "I recently became the President of my sorority! I also just got two more wisdom teeth yanked out, with only the least problematic one remaining."

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Christine Wnek '17 poses with her Pomeranian named Zoe.

23

**NEW** Mike Yan  
mikeyan0926@gmail.com

From **Mike Yan**: Leaving Peddie was a significant transition for all of us. Spending four years with these people, 24/7, truly helped me build profound, lifelong relationships that I intend to maintain. My growth as a person is a testament to my gratitude to all the people and mentors I met at Peddie. I'm confident to say that my four years at Peddie was the best time of my life. After graduation, my life was still centered around my Peddie friends. In the summer, I went on a mini Asia trip. I traveled to Vietnam, Thailand and Korea, all for the first time. There, I visited my Peddie friends. It was a special experience to see them somewhere other than Peddie and still feel the same bond and energy as if high school had never ended.

College has been fun and a lot of exploration. No more Saturday classes was definitely a blessing. The academics are also more manageable than at Peddie. Extracurricularly, I'm involved in the JFK Forum at the Harvard Kennedy School, US-China Relations Association, Model UN and Club Lax. But, there's also considerable social pressure, and juggling both school and social life has been a challenge. I'm also navigating what I want to major in and what I want to do after college.

A number of my Peddie friends visited me in Cambridge, Mass., throughout the semester and in Shanghai, China, this winter break. In November, I went to Peddie-Blair Day at Blair with some of them. It was great to see so many wonderful, familiar faces on the fields and the sidelines. Two weeks later, we had a nice Friendsgiving and Kaye Dorm reunion. So, like I said, it feels as though Peddie had never ended.

Enough about me; let's hear from you guys.

During **Bao To's** first semester at Columbia, he took on a position as a computer science and math tutor at the School of General Studies. He is also mentoring the FRC robotics team at Columbia Secondary School. Besides that, he helped found a fraternity chapter

at Columbia and has been going through this start-up-like process for a while now.

In the summer, **Brian Hoang** went through the Plebe Summer at the Naval Academy. He has gotten used to the physical and mental challenges at the Navy and just finished his first plebe semester.

**Shruthika Padhy** took a gap year and is currently traveling the world. She will attend Brown afterward.

From **Matthew Yang**: "I've been able to fit right into the CMU community. I've found my niche of people, and I've been able to make new friends everywhere. I've also stayed connected to my Peddie friends as well, seeing them on break sometimes. Life has been quite good to me."

From **Lisa Kogawa**: "College life has been really nice so far. I found my group of people, and I'm learning a lot, both academically and from the people around me. I've been enjoying the small liberal arts college vibe and the nature. Miss my Peddie friends very much, but have been able to see them a couple times after we graduated. It doesn't mean I don't miss hanging out with them on campus, especially senior spring, though."

From **Anton Charatkulangkun**: "Life after Peddie has been interesting. On one side, I like not having to wake up at 7 a.m. every day, and after four years of having Saturday classes, each weekend feels like a holiday. However, I'm sure, like many other alumni feel, I deeply miss my Peddie social life. As a relatively small high school, the community felt much more intertwined than college."

From **Donavan Jeng**: "Since May 28, 2023, the date of my high school graduation, I've taken it upon myself to accomplish a few of the following going forward: swim fast in college, treat myself more kindly and accomplish more outside of the pool. Unfortunately, I've gotten deathly sick twice since coming to Brown, I've been stressed and tired every day, and I just received the lowest grade I've ever seen on my academic transcript in my life. But, at least I'm still swimming pretty fast, right? With two of the three of my goals immediately being hindered, it almost feels like life after Peddie

seems overwhelmingly colorless; suddenly stripped away from the comforts of Saturday night dorm food, only to be thrust in front of the full magnitude of a college workload – among other responsibilities. On top of that, don't even get me started on the struggle to find people to replace my high school friends. Because frankly, nobody quite does it like they do. Time after time, I catch myself reminiscing about the easier days, where our schedule was made for us, days where a small campus made it a walk in the park to get to classes, days where our teachers actually knew our names and days where I wasn't spending 98% of the time outside the classroom at the athletics facility. But despite my complaining, I've taken the chance to look for diamonds where most would see dirt. For starters, while I may have received the lowest course grade ever in my life, I now have a clearer idea of what I want to pursue, that being a concentration in biology along with being on the pre-med track. I essentially took advantage of Brown's open curriculum to figure out what I didn't like for sure. Additionally, while I lament at the idea of leaving my friends at Peddie, I've actually found a saving solace here; a solace that would be my family of Brown Men's Swimming and Diving. Through this family, I've met some of the most hardworking, intelligent and driven people in my life. And through spending so much time with this family, their drive and motivation ultimately rubbed off on me. Since the start of the NCAA Swimming season, we've been grinding, swimming 20-hour training weeks, beating respectable teams of the likes of Yale, Columbia and Dartmouth, and will soon be entering a championship season starting February, where we'll be competing at the Ivy League Championships. On top of that, outside of the pool, I've made so many mistakes. Mistakes in the classroom, my everyday life, or perhaps even relationships. But I've learned so much from these mistakes that going forward, I'll be able to follow a path even clearer than before. In sum, life after Peddie is extremely challenging. No longer do you have teachers that will know you by name. No

longer will you recognize almost every face you walk by on campus and no longer will anything be done for you. But life after Peddie is an opportunity to grow, because now you're going to have a new level of freedom that you've never had before. And while it may seem great at first, one will quickly come to realize that it's a curse just as much as it is a blessing. But in the end, it's going to be an adventure. It's going to be hectic. And it's most definitely going to be uncertain. But that's not necessarily a bad thing. Because what's the joy in life without uncertainty?"

From **Sammi Gao**: "I've been having a lot of fun at college. Fall semester passed by so fast, and I got to learn lots of new things and meet new people. The School of Music has been a great experience so far. I love my studio, and this term, I played one of my favorite pieces in orchestra. I also had the opportunity to meet so many fun new people since my university has such a large community. I love seeing my Peddie friends during break, and I miss spending so much time with them on campus! Hope everyone is doing well at their new schools!"

From **Mark Vongkitbuncha**: "I went back to Thailand and reconnected with Thai culture by becoming a monk before my freshman year. I studied very hard at JHU, and it was nice to see my Peddie friends at Thanksgiving."

From **Shawn Kathuria**: "Southern California is treating me well. Something about sunshine and palm trees makes physics and calculus just a bit more palatable. I'm trying every new thing I can, and although I miss Peddie very much, I look forward to what the future has in store."

From **Michael Li**: "Every time I reconnect with my friends back at Peddie, I'm struck by how much we've all changed in just the short few months after graduation. We've pursued different majors, hung out with new friends and stumbled upon odd encounters at various corners of the world. Personally, I joined the Men's Ultimate team at Berkeley, marking a fresh beginning after not being able to play competitive frisbee at Peddie. I also transitioned from high school robotics to building EV batteries, another step

closer to the frontier of technology. The drier land of California proved to be a challenge for someone who enjoys the humid East Coast, but the abundance of milk tea did offer some solace. Overall, the process of moving on turned out to be more natural than we anticipated at graduation. Each of us found a unique way to start our labors anew. However, amidst our diverse paths, there is one thing that we still share, one thing that binds us together – the smile we all have when we reminisce on the precious moments we shared back in that little town in the middle of New Jersey."

From **Catherine Zhang**: "This fall, I started my first year at the University of Rochester, majoring in neuroscience. Other than my classes, I'm the captain of the club tennis team, and I'm in the pre-health society."

From **Daniyal Maitekov**: "I'm enjoying Tufts a lot because of the people there and my rowing team. This year, we managed to get first at Head of Charles. My favorite thing about college life is that you have more freedom in every way possible. I miss Peddie a lot and I hope the new seniors will enjoy their year as much as my Class of '23!"

From **Taishi Zoshima**: "I spent the summer working as a research assistant in a laboratory at Tsinghua University. I was working on a project that developed wearable technology for the elderly. That was a great experience for me as it was my introduction to the field of research, and because it allowed me to return to my homeland for the first time in a decade. Since the summer, I've settled in well here at the University of Toronto. I'm still

getting used to the bone-chilling temperatures, but other than that, everything is great. Despite it being only a short time since school has let out, I have missed Peddie's community and the people."

Finally, from **Brandon Knox**: "After the cap toss of high school graduation, I plunged into the vibrant world of engineering at Princeton University. My primary lane is electrical and computer engineering, with a side journey into possible minors encompassing machine learning, statistics, finance and computer science – because why not explore the whole landscape? Beyond the academic hustle, I've embraced the dual life of equations and excitement, splitting my time between the lacrosse field and the engineering challenges of the PRE club, where we're crafting an electric F1 beast

for thrilling races." Now, navigating the twists of higher education, I can't help but appreciate the groundwork laid at Peddie. Those multivariable calculus classes weren't just numbers on a board; they became my go-to toolkit for navigating complex problems. Linear algebra? Well, let's just say it's like my superhero sidekick in this academic adventure. Stats? That's my undercover agent for deciphering data puzzles. So, to anyone eyeing the engineering road, remember this: the journey might throw you some curveballs, but the lessons from Peddie are like the cool sidekick that keeps you on track. Here's to the adventure ahead, fueled by passion, curiosity and a rock-solid foundation – Ala Viva!"

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NEW ADDITIONS



**Emerson "Emmy" Marie**

**Tommy Hallowell '11**  
October 13, 2023



**Charles "Arlo"**

**Emily Dallas '12**  
February 2023



**Brody**

**Kerrie (Kortmann) McClure '12**  
December 4, 2023



**Callan Joseph**

**Shannon (Kortmann) Madden '13**  
January 12, 2024



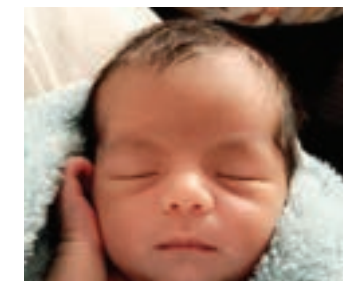
**Lila**

**Zara Fina Stasi '08**  
September 2023



**Quinn**

**Bryn Bennett '09 and Kurt Bennett**  
September 14, 2023



**Jax Leon**

**Kayla Roca '14**  
January 24, 2024

# MARRIAGES



**Tiff Zachos '88**  
to Eric George  
November 18, 2023



**Jeevna Sheth '13**  
to Ben Alkon  
October 2023

From left: Classmates Samantha Blake, Eleonore Baughan and Emily Aledort served as bridesmaids at Jeevna Sheth's October wedding in Northern Virginia.



**Taylor Pennell '12**  
to Charles Noonan  
July 7, 2023



**Conor Kortmann '09**  
to Summer Washburn  
December 28, 2023

From left: Former faculty member Megan Washburn, Fallon (Kortmann) Szczur, Kerrie (Kortmann) McClure '12, Summer Washburn, Conor Kortmann '09, Shannon (Kortmann) Madden '13 and Nikhil Lakhanpal '09



**Allie Rich (Rossos) '06**  
to Michael Rich  
November 2023

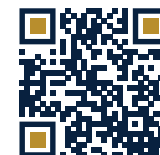
From left: Gabi Nerl (Poretta) '06, Mary Schulke (Kiernan) '06, Nicholas Rossos '65, Michael Rich, Mark Nemiroff '66, Allie Rich (Rossos) '06, Paul Rossos '72, Rachel Rossos Callant '01, Katie Rossos '05 and Michael Rossos '03

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— Riyah '24

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## In Memoriam

Peter Xiques '54  
James Miller '57  
Albert Rhodes '57  
Carlos E. Bullos '56  
Charles W. Cohan '58  
Bruce A. Brenner '59  
Alan J. Feldman '59  
Lloyd L. Reynolds '59  
Peter D. Blanchard '60  
Robert E. Falb '60  
Bernard Capaldi '61  
Richard S. Fraser '61  
Stanley R. Friedman '61 P'87 '90  
Richard F. Fatigati '63  
Peter C. Gent '63  
John K. Lloyd '64 P'16  
John Abeel '67  
Brian T. McConnell '69  
Alexander F. Anthony '70  
Eugene W. Gaffken '70  
James A. Niederberger '70  
David T. Rives '71  
Craig H. Avedesian '74  
Jack Fararo '75  
Thomas LePrevost '75  
Steven Ullestad '75  
David B. Stoneback '77  
Mitchell Block '77  
Brian Dahl '78  
Kevin R. Regan '83  
Joseph J. Rosta '92  
Michael C. Sarbu '94  
Madison L. Gerhard '18



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