

PROVIDENCE DAY

Magazine

Writing their own stories

PD builds character
education

a look inside

STUDENTS WITH GLOBAL IMPACT 11

HOSTING INTERNATIONAL VISITORS 15

ALUMNI BREWERY BOOM 27



feature

5

page

Faculty Q&A

Jean Little Reflects on 20 years in Lower School



feature

13

page

Be Our Guest

PD families host international visitors



feature

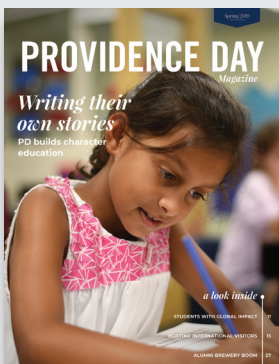
9

page



Beyond the Walls of Providence Day

Lela Aragon-Rico '23 and Shreya Mantha '19 Inspire Others

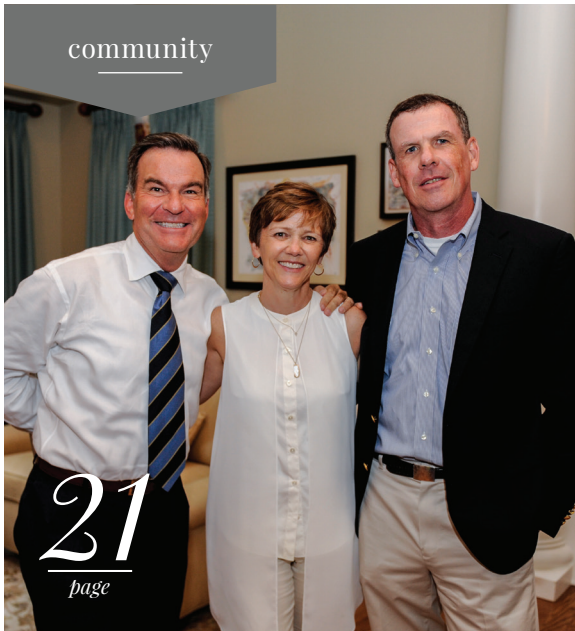


On the Cover

Students learn to document examples of empathy, respect, confidence, courage, and perseverance in lower school "Write Your Own Story" journals.

Read more starting on page 17.

community



21
page

Making History

Nancy and Bruce Downing establish the first-ever Endowed Chair for faculty

alumni



25
page

Brewery Boom

PD alumni and current families have influenced Charlotte's craft brewing scene

More Content

Getting to Know Glyn.....	Page 1
Briefs	Page 3
Alumni Spotlight: Colby Anderson '07	Page 23
Alumni Spotlight: Bimal Desai '91	Page 31
Class Notes	Page 37

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Photo by Mike McCarn

getting to know *Glyn*

French essayist Marcel Proust first popularized a parlor game known as the Proust Questionnaire. He believed that an individual reveals his true nature by answering these questions (and Vanity Fair magazine agreed). So we've asked the questions to our Head of School, Dr. Glyn Cowlshaw, to get to know him a little better. Cheers!

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Time with Darlene.

What is your greatest fear?

Losing my memory.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

Forgetfulness.

What is the trait you most deplore in others?

Tardiness.

Which living person do you most admire?

Bishop Desmond Tutu (South African cleric and apartheid opponent).

What is your greatest extravagance?

A British accent.

What is your current state of mind?

Love.

What do you consider the most overrated virtue?

Temperance.



Bishop Desmond Tutu



Voltaire



Blackadder



Groucho Marx

On what occasion do you lie?

When looking in the mirror.

What do you most dislike about your appearance?

Age.

Which living person do you most despise?

Martin Shkreli (former hedge fund manager and convicted felon).

What is the quality you most like in a man?

Compassion.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?

Compassion.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

"Getting there."

What or who is the greatest love of your life?

Darlene.

When and where were you happiest?

Today, at PD.

Which talent would you most like to have?

Any talent.

If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be?

To be kinder.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

Getting Mrs. Cowlshaw to say 'yes.'

If you were to die and come back as a person or a thing, what would it be?

A person.

Where would you most like to live?

In the present.

What is your most treasured possession?

Dad's miners lamp.

What do you regard as the lowest depth of misery?

Idleness.

What is your favorite occupation?

Teacher.

What is your most marked characteristic?

Energetic.

What do you most value in your friends?

Loyalty.

Who are your favorite writers?

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. Raymond Chandler. Roddy Doyle. Robert Galbraith. Mark Haddon. Naguib Mahfouz. Tony Parsons. Salman Rushdie. Thomas Wolfe. Voltaire.

Who is your hero of fiction?

007.

Which historical figure do you most identify with?

Blackadder. (A fictionalized character played on the BBC by Rowan Atkinson.)

Who are your heroes in real life?

(Northern Irish footballer) George Best. Winston Churchill. Jack Cowlshaw. Nelson Mandela. Groucho Marx. (Cricket player) Gary Sobers. Malala Yousafzai.

What are your favorite names?

First ones.

What is it that you most dislike?

Pessimism - it is a sloth!

What is your greatest regret?

Not learning a language.

How would you like to die?

My preference is to avoid it rather than like it!

What is your motto?

Never have a motto!


What is your favorite spot on the PD campus?

Ferryboat.

What is your favorite memory from your time at PD so far?

Any hug.

Favorite food?

Real Fish and Chips with Mushy Peas! 

farewell to *"the House"*

A piece of history dating to the origins of Providence Day School in 1970 will soon be departing – though it will live on in other forms.

The “original house” in the rear of the current campus, which served as PD’s first building, will be taken down this summer, says Head of School Dr. Glyn Cowlshaw. “Despite its amazing lifetime of service it has given us, the building is sick,” he says. Suffering from a variety of issues ranging from structural to cosmetic, and not in active use for several years, the school’s Board of Trustees and leadership determined it was best to remove it as the school prepares for its next phase of master planning. Nothing is slated to replace it in the immediate future.



Photo courtesy of the Charchives

But the house will live on in the memories of the PD community, with a variety of tributes in the works. Watch for a special “Charchives” display of memorabilia from the school archives to debut this spring, along with other artistic homages. A limited number of bricks from the house will be made available to any alumni or other members of the PD community who would like a memento of an important part of our school’s history. Contact steve.bondurant@providenceday.org to find out more.



Photo courtesy of the Charchives

from the *Charchives*

You never know what you might find when you visit the “Charchives,” the school’s archives overseen by Bobbie Hinson (retired from teaching) and current teacher Neely Porter Gutierrez '92 in a space in the Thompson-Jones Library. Rotating displays are always on view inside the Academic Center, but far more tidbits of the school’s history lurk in their storage. We’ll feature different items here in *Providence Day Magazine* with each issue. This spring’s feature is Providence Day’s first-ever cheerleading uniform, donated by Debbie Craig, class of 1975. Go Chargers!

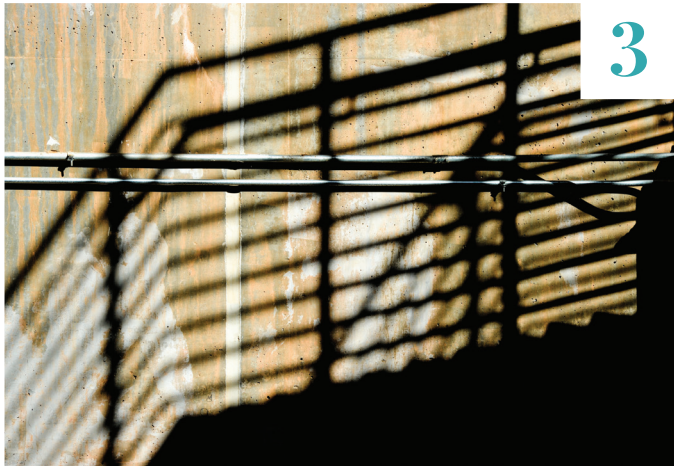


PD Staff Photo

If you have an item to donate to the Charchives, please contact Bobbie.Hinson@providenceday.org or Neely.Gutierrez@providenceday.org. No yearbooks are needed, unless they are from 1977 or earlier.

Guess what?

Whether you're on campus every day or a less-frequent visitor, you may be so wowed by the big changes on campus that you sometimes might miss the smaller details. Photographer Mike McCarn has captured a few of those details here. Can you guess where they're from? Turn the page upside down to see the answers.



1) The Wright Brothers plane hanging in the foyer of the Dickson Hemby Building; 2) The print drying rack in the MS art classroom in McMahon Fine Arts Center; 3) The stairs in the lower level of the parking deck; 4) A wall on the 3rd floor of the Academic Center.

*Get ready
for the 50th!*

Preparations are underway to celebrate Providence Day School's 50th anniversary in September 2020. Focus groups have been held throughout the academic year to refine ideas for events, celebrations, and tributes, involving PD's alumni, board, faculty & staff, current community, Golden Chargers, and more. Watch for a logo and a year-long countdown to begin this fall, as we "honor the past, celebrate the present, and build the future."

We welcome your ideas on how we can celebrate the school's history and traditions. Please share your feedback at PD50th@providenceday.org.

the *PD Bookshelf*

What are you reading these days? You'll find plenty of ideas around campus. If you have a book with a Charger connection to recommend, contact us at pds.communications@providenceday.org.



- 1** *Historical Practices, Skills, and Course Themes*, by Ted Dickson, and *Document-Based Questions Workbook*, by Ted Dickson and Mike Lindquist. These PD history teachers authored these books used by Advanced Placement U.S. History students nationwide.
- 2** *Voice Lessons* and *The Blessing of a B Minus*, by Dr. Wendy Mogel, who visited the PD campus in January to dispense parenting wisdom as part of the Joined in Education partnership.
- 3** *Genesis Begins Again*, by Alicia D. Williams. This 6th grade teacher has been interviewed by NPR and *The New York Times* and received glowing reviews for her debut novel about a girl overcoming a troubled family history.
- 4** *Roller Girl* and *All's Faire in Middle School*, by Victoria Jamieson. This children's author visited Lower School in March to talk about her books.
- 5** *The Nyxia trilogy*, by Scott Reintgen. This author from Cary, N.C. visited Middle School on the publication date of his newest entry, *Nyxia Uprising*, in April.



CHARGING *forward*

THE PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

We did it!

\$27,800,268

The Charging Forward Campaign has exceeded its goal, and it's all thanks to YOU!

We are grateful to everyone in the Charger community who is a part of our success.

"I have always been proud to be a Charger and never more so than with this fantastic Charging Forward campaign. It has been an honor to serve as your National Campaign Chair. We are ONE Charger family that supports each other in every way. Congratulations, and thank you to all."

**—Cathy Bessant, National Chair & Alumni Parent
Meredith Clay '14 and Hayden Clay '18**



Photos by Mike McCarn

Q + A

with Jean Little

Jean Little has taught at Providence Day since 1997. During her 20 years in the Lower School as a second grade teacher, Little's roles have also included former Team Leader, assistant tennis coach, mentor, chaperone, and member of multiple committees. She earned her Global Educator's Certificate at PD, an interest that grew out of her four years as a flight attendant prior to becoming an educator. Little is a parent of three PD graduates: Jenny Little '08, Sydney Little '10, and Wesley Little, class of 2014.



Q. What's been the most rewarding part of leading second-grade classrooms here?

The special relationships I have formed with my students and their families. We have amazing students and they are a joy to teach! I get to know our students for the unique learners that they are and it's a pleasure spending time in the classroom with such creative, motivated, and respectful children.

The parents at PD are warm and caring. They are always willing to be supportive and involved in their child's education. We invite them to our writing celebrations or a special event in the classroom. Sometimes they drop by to celebrate a birthday or meet us in the dining hall for lunch.

Q. Describe your classroom setting.

I want my students to see evidence that the work they do is important when they walk into my room each day. The hallway and bulletin board displays are driven by the student's work and the topics being studied in the classroom. My students' desks are arranged into tables for easy access to collaborate on projects and to have the ability to turn and talk during discussions. Wiggle stools, standing desks, and weighted lap pads are just a few of the special modifications that have been set in place to accommodate the different individual learning needs of my students.

I love to start off our day with morning meetings. The students enter the classroom with happy smiles and buzzing with anticipation. We may do special greetings in different languages, sing songs,

play a fun learning game or ask a question of the day. It's a great way to build a sense of class community and develop morning routines. Our students love coming to sit on the rug, gathering in a circle, and hear what their classmates have to say.

Q. What are some of the ways technology is used in your classroom?

For the past few years, we've had the opportunity to Skype with the scientist Dr. Jean Pennycook in Antarctica. Dr. Pennycook shares with our students about her daily life and work with Adelie penguins. She answers questions from our students. Our students create a PD flag and design postcards that we mail to Dr. Pennycook. It's truly amazing when we see our flag flapping in the freezing winds outside Dr. Pennycook's hut. When the weather is bearable, she ventures outside her hut to chat with us alongside a rookery of penguins at her feet. This is a fabulous highlight for our students every year!

I credit the brand new smart board technology with transforming the classroom. I love my Smartboard and use it every day! It enables me to involve my students in the lessons when I teach. During math, I use the touch screen so that students can work with virtual manipulatives. They are more engaged in the lessons and eager to participate when they can use smart tools and share their thinking with others.

Q. What have you incorporated from traveling in your teaching?

In my former career as a flight attendant, my eyes were opened

when I visited so many interesting places around the world. As a second grade teacher, we guide our students on their own journeys around the world and help them become global citizens. We stamp their passports at the beginning of the school year and will take virtual visits to the seven continents. They spend several weeks learning about geography, famous landmarks, animals, and holidays from each continent.

Q. Can you talk a little bit about your trips to Africa and how they have influenced you?

Through our Global Educator's program I was able to visit Senegal, West Africa, and South Africa. I participated in a study visit in Senegal through UNC World View program along with a group of other professional educators from North Carolina. We spent 15 days learning about the people, culture, and education system of Senegal. We visited schools, museums, universities, and places of worship. We took classes in Wolof, the native language of Senegal, at one of the University language centers. I also loved my trip to South Africa. It is a very beautiful country and there is so much history. My favorite experience was visiting the home of Nelson Mandela in Johannesburg and taking a ferry to Robben Island, where Mandela had been imprisoned for 27 years.

Traveling to different places in the world is a powerful learning opportunity. It exposes you to people in other parts of the world and deepens your understanding of their life and culture. You can discover commonalities, as well as some differences. Global citizens

show a deeper sense of empathy to others facing challenges in our world. When we begin to think globally, we focus on making connections with other people around the world and working together to find solutions to problems. At PD, we encourage our students to have respect for all people and celebrate our diversity.

Q. What do you enjoy doing when you're not in the classroom?

When not working, I can be found on the tennis courts either playing tennis in a USTA league or working as an assistant coach for one of the PD tennis teams. I fell in love with tennis in high school. I love working with players, helping them improve their tennis skills, and watching them compete in their matches.

During the past few summers, I have spent time working for John Hopkins Center for Talented Youth program and Duke TIP Gifted and Talented program. These residential summer programs offer challenging academic courses for young gifted scholars. During the school year, I also spend a few weekends working for Duke's TIP Academic Adventures program at Queens University here in Charlotte.

Q. How has PD impacted you and your family? I had three children who attended Providence Day School and am very grateful for all of the wonderful teachers who taught my children.

My husband Marshall passed away unexpectedly from a sudden heart attack in November 2017. It was devastating and such a difficult time for my family. But the outpouring

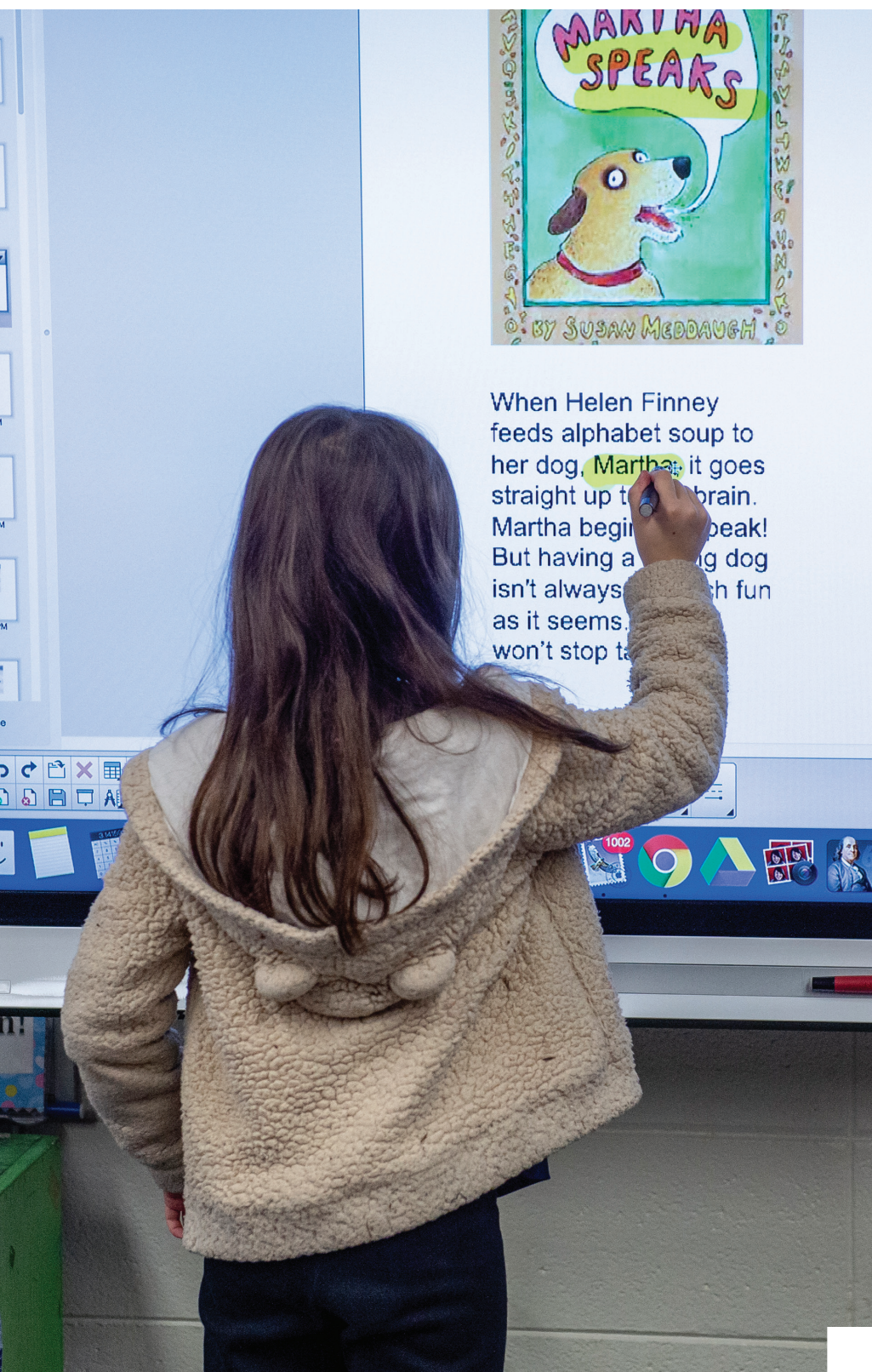


of love and compassion that was shown to us by the PD community was overwhelming. The entire community surrounded me with so much love and support that I didn't have to go through this time alone. When I returned to school after my bereavement leave, the support continued. Every day for almost the entire year, I would walk into the classroom to find a comforting note with words of encouragement, beautiful cards, plant, or gift of kindness sitting on my desk.

My students and even former students would greet me at the door with hugs. I don't think I could have made it through this difficult journey without the love and support from my own family and all the caring angels in my PD family. I experienced firsthand

what a strong and caring community PD truly is and I will be forever grateful for everything. Because of the support that was shown to me, I am now able to reach out to other families who have suffered a loss.

Q. What makes the Lower School a great place to work? I'm very humbled to be a teacher in the Lower School. I know that I am working with some of the most talented and dedicated teachers in the field. Our teachers are true professionals who are passionate about teaching and are committed to helping students be successful inside and outside of the classroom. Erin Harper and Jenny Tucker cultivated a positive and respectful school climate and lead with grace, compassion,



and integrity. Teachers feel their support to help us do our jobs, and we see their dedication with the students and to their families.

I am very grateful to all of our families and contributors who donated to our capital fund campaign. I am looking forward to the new redesign in our lower school classrooms next year. The physical growth of adding new buildings on campus and the innovation of technology in the classroom has been exciting to witness. 

Beyond the W

Pro

PD encourages its students to make an impact both inside and outside the school. These two serve as an inspiration to others — on a global scale.

Lela Aragon-Rico

From Colombia to Charlotte

Lela Aragon-Rico had been living a mostly typical, happy life in Colombia as a 9-year-old when she was devastated by the news that her best friend, Juan Sebastian (JuanSe), had been diagnosed with an often-lethal form of leukemia.

But she was determined to help her friend through his ordeal, and the experience ultimately would lead her to become a global ambassador for a children's foundation.

The journey to that role began when she was unable to visit her friend when he was in isolation during difficult rounds of chemotherapy. So she sent him a box of surprises to cheer him. Eventually she ran out of ideas for gifts to put into the box – until inspiration struck. Why not reach out to dozens of her home country's celebrities – from athletes to musicians to politicians, including the country's president, Juan Manuel Santos – to ask them all to send JuanSe a message of encouragement?

Undaunted by the fact that neither she nor anyone she knew had connections to anyone on her list, she borrowed her mother's phone and contacted everyone she could think of to ask for help. The effort snowballed. Eventually, video messages from each famous person, personalized for JuanSe, rolled in. Lela compiled them and sent them to her friend, who found the strength to complete his treatment.

Then, another ambitious idea sparked. Lela's mother, Carolina (who goes by Nina), is a longtime volunteer for the Prema Foundation, a leading children's charity that builds play centers for ill or impoverished children across Colombia.

So the family hatched a plan to reach out to one of the musicians who sent JuanSe a get-well message, multiple



Photo courtesy of the Prema Foundation

continued on page 11

Halls of Providence Day



Photo courtesy of Nilaya Sabnis for L'Oréal Paris

Shreya Mantha *Woman of Worth*

At age 13, Shreya Mantha became aware of the bubble she had been living in as an eighth grader in south Charlotte. “It’s been a very sheltered and very privileged life,” she says now as a PD senior.

She was encouraged to venture out of that bubble by her parents, who have a lifelong commitment to giving back to their own communities, from their native India to here in Charlotte where they have lived the last 22 years. Shreya and her father Sailesh began visiting a nonprofit that helps trafficking survivors obtain their GEDs, to tutor in math and English for an hour each week. “We didn’t know there were so many people in Charlotte, our own hometown, who needed help,” she recalled.

Shreya soon realized that the survivors needed more than just one hour of help at a time. They had missed out on having a family support system like the one Shreya and her younger sister Sahana ’24 had taken for granted until then. Shreya encouraged two of the program participants, ages 18 and 15, to attend a Providence Day basketball game with her. They blended in seamlessly.

“We couldn’t just see that and go on with our life,” she recalled.

And then around that time, Shreya’s grandmother was diagnosed with cancer. As one of her dying wishes, she encouraged her granddaughter to do more to help vulnerable girls.

Soon after, Shreya formed Foundation for Girls with the help of her family. Their mission is to partner with other area nonprofits to offer a path from dependence to independence. The focus areas include digital literacy,

continued on page 12

Lela Aragon-Rico *cont.*

Latin Grammy-winning artist Fonseca, to ask if he would give a benefit concert for Prema.

The resulting event raised enough money to build two new children's play centers for Prema. It also kicked off Lela's still-growing role as junior ambassador for Prema. (She's also now a singer who has produced her own CD single to benefit Prema). "I realized I could make (JuanSe) happy through music, and then I realized I could do that for many other children," Lela recalled. "And, I stayed (in this role) because I realized that I really enjoy service."

Her Prema work has continued even as the family relocated to Charlotte two years ago and enrolled Lela at Providence Day, where she's now in eighth grade and has younger brothers in 4th grade and TK. They were lured by previous family members who had already moved from Colombia to Charlotte to seek economic opportunity – and by Providence Day's global focus. "We connected to how Providence Day values education," says her father Andres. "For us to be open and see the world is very important."

“Doing service, I feel like you have to do it in silence. I don't feel like it's something I need recognition for.”

Lela travels to Colombia several times each school year and during vacations to perform and give inspirational speeches to conferences, universities, and corporate clients. A second benefit concert in December, with a world-renowned Colombian concert violinist, raised enough funds for another Prema children's play center. And until recently, this side of her life was almost invisible to the PD community. "I don't really talk about it much," she said. "Doing service, I feel like you have to do it in silence. I don't feel like it's something I need recognition for."

"This is literally someone who is making a global impact," says Michael Magno, head of middle school, who encouraged Lela to speak to middle schoolers about her work with Prema during Global Week this April. "She's been doing this since she was 12 years old, which shows there's no boundaries to the impact you can make."

At Providence Day, Lela stands out for her talent in visual art and her warm personality. She's known for her ever-present colorful hair bows and love of tutus. When an



Photo by Mike McCarn

art class assignment asked her to paint a person who has served as one of her biggest inspirations, she created an acrylic painting of her art teacher Andrea Downs, now installed in the ceiling of the dining hall.


"She is very inclusive and accepting of all people," said Downs. "To me, this is what makes her inspiring and this is why people are always surrounding her."

Downs added: "I think that her artwork is her way of making her world beautiful and showing others what beauty can look like. She also has a confidence and courage in using her voice for the good of others that is way beyond her actual age. I'm so proud of the young person she is becoming."

Although Lela laughs at the idea of choosing her career this early in life – "I have no idea what I want to have for lunch!" – she believes she will find a way to continue what she has started. "I want to try something with public speaking. I want to be in the service world, and help a lot of people."

As for JuanSe, he underwent a bone marrow transplant at St. Jude's Children's Hospital in March 2018, and has surpassed his 100th day, a milestone that indicates success. A ninth grader in Colombia, he remains Lela's closest friend and attended her December concert.

Says Lela's mother: "Every time Lela comes out on stage, at a conference or concert, I feel like people leave with something different. And she has such a wonderful light that I think she plants a seed of love in the hearts of every person she can reach."

Her vocal coach Yanetsis Alfonso echoed that sentiment. "Lela's dream that began with a little seed has grown, and now it's transforming lives. With her light, she attracts everyone, so that they can change the world." 

Shreya Mantha *cont.*

financial wellness, leadership, and health and wellbeing. They have now served over 1,800 at-risk girls referred by agencies that serve refugees, the homeless, domestic violence survivors, pregnant teens, and foster children.

The work has struck a chord in Charlotte, which ranked 50th out of 50 cities for economic mobility in a recent study. If a child is born in the bottom quintile of income distribution in Charlotte, the chances of reaching the top quintile are just 4.4 percent.

Shreya's work led her to a major national recognition last fall: She was selected by L'Oreal Paris as one of 10 honorees nationwide to be named "Women of Worth." She was the only honoree still in high school, recognized alongside women with decades of service. The honor came with a \$10,000 grant to the foundation and a trip to New York City for a gala ceremony in December, where she met actresses Eva Longoria and Julianne Moore, among others. In November, the Charlotte Association of Fundraising Professionals named her the city's Outstanding Student Philanthropist.

Shreya's mother Anu, who co-chairs the Annual Fund with her husband, appreciates PD's emphasis on social responsibility among its students. "I'm incredibly grateful to Providence Day and the entire Charlotte community for helping her to grow in so many ways," Anu said.

In helping her daughter with her foundation work, Anu drew from a strong background in nonprofits, including work for the World Health Organization and UNICEF. She emphasized the need for clarity of purpose, discipline, and consistency to make a nonprofit succeed.

Now, Shreya is looking ahead to college at Stanford and hoping to help Foundation for Girls grow beyond Charlotte – perhaps even internationally. The L'Oreal experience has led to contacts with partners in England, Chile, and India. The foundation plans to continue with its team of 45 volunteers and 12 youth ambassadors (many of whom hail from within the PD community).

The foundation operates out of the family's garage and has a part-time paid employee – a graduate of Foundation for Girls who entered as a pregnant teen-ager looking for a better life for her daughter. And Sahana, now in 8th grade, is continuing her family's tradition with her own projects of service to the community, and plans to continue her sister's work. (For an example of Sahana's service, visit www.thekindsquad.team).

“There's a magic in giving. It's really energizing.”

Shreya credits Providence Day for supporting both the foundation and her Women of Worth recognition. "Providence Day has given us an incredible amount of resources," she said. "I don't think I could do this if I was at any other school."

Added Anu: "Instilling in its students that there's a need to give back to the community, that's just so important."


And it comes with a reward, said Shreya. "There's a magic in giving," she said. "It's really energizing." 



Photo courtesy of Nilaya Sabnis for L'Oréal Paris



Photo by Mike McCarn

Be our *Guest*

Providence Day families open their homes to host international students

Some families work and plan for years to be able to travel to Spain, France, England, South Africa, Israel, or the many other countries where Providence Day has developed its global relationships.

But some may forget that there's a much easier way to have this international experience – right here at home.

“People are always traveling overseas, but hosting is like having that travel brought to your house,” says Johanne Hawk, mom to four PD students and frequent host to international students. “I’m amazed more people don’t do it!”

Each year, Providence Day offers its current families opportunities to host visiting international students – an increasing number of them from the international network of about 180 Round Square schools of which PD is a member. Typically the visiting students remain in their hosts’ homes anywhere from two

weeks to two months, attending classes at PD and soaking up American life. And, of course, bringing experiences from their own cultures to families in Charlotte.

Some host families, including the Hawks, plan a full slate of activities for their visitors, from interstate vacations to museum visits to restaurant tours. But Jessica Williams, Director of Global Programs, emphasizes that no elaborate plans are necessary.

"The students are looking for a real American experience," she says. "That might be Friday night pizza and a movie." Some of the visiting students have been impacted most by an outdoor hike, baking cookies, or a trip to Whole Foods – a different shopping experience from what their home country offers. "It's the average experiences that make a difference. It's about welcoming someone into the experience you're already having as a family."

TWIZZLERS AND LUCKY CHARMS

Johanne and Patrick Hawk have opened their home to visiting international students at PD eight times and counting. They are parents of Chelsea '12, Tyler '15, Nathan '20 (who now attends East Mecklenburg High School), and Sophie '25, a current PD sixth grader.

Their most recent visitor was Mariana Felix, a 10th grade student from Le Lycee Notre Dame de la Merci in Montpellier, France, who stayed six weeks from February through mid-March. As it happened, the family had already planned a vacation to visit their son at Tulane University during a week that overlapped with Mardi Gras festivities, providing a glamorous excursion for Mariana. They also

took her to a program about White House chefs at a local museum; a lecture on Charlotte history at the Morrocroft Public Library; to sample Southern barbecue at Mac's Speed Shop; and to a "Courageous Conversations" event on the PD campus.

But what Mariana will remember the most, she said in an interview during her final week at PD, are experiences including her first Twizzler. Her first bowl of Lucky Charms. Peanut butter. The opportunity to compare pancakes to French crepes (pancakes might be better, she said). Her biggest impression from the New Orleans trip? "So many billboards. I love billboards!"

“Here, school is like a city. There is so much you can do!”

And, of course, she'll remember the differences between Providence Day and her home school. She has enjoyed PD assemblies ("we don't have that in France"); the many clubs; attending the musical "Grease"; and basketball games. "We don't have sports in our schools. Here, school is like a city. There is so much you can do!"

She continued: "I miss my family, but I'm really happy to be here."

Johanne chimed in: "It's been fun with Mariana because she will try anything and everything. Not all of (our visitors) will!" she said with a laugh. "The things in our culture that we take for granted....You have a different lens on that."

Williams says the families often develop relationships with their visitors that go on for years after they host. It's not necessary for a family to have a child the exact same age as the visitor, she adds. While that arrangement can work well, sometimes the deepest relationships are with younger siblings, where the visiting student can take on a nurturing role. For Mariana, who has one sister at home, "I learned what life would be like if I had more siblings," she said.

There's another important reason many families volunteer to host, Williams adds. "They want their students to be prepared for working in an international environment.

"They know that what the future holds is that we are all growing more interconnected around the world." PD

Photo courtesy of Johanne Hawk



A Taste of Spain

Providence Day families hosted four eighth-grade students for four weeks in February and March. Here are two experiences:



"Hosting Celia, an eighth grader from Madrid, was a wonderful experience for our family. We were a bit hesitant because our daughters were younger than the exchange student and because the duration of the visit would be one month.

As it happened, the grade differences didn't turn out to be an issue, and the month flew by. The three girls got along well, and we all learned a few new Spanish phrases.

Exposure to people from other parts of the world and different cultures is important to our family. Vacation travel is one way we try to achieve this. However, having an exchange student live with you really provides a deeper level of understanding.

Our kids learned first-hand how much people are alike, no matter where they come from. We look forward to hosting again sometime in the future." —**Susan & Dan Scanga**

"PD's global emphasis is a key part of what drew us to becoming part of this community. Experiencing new cultures and traveling is something that is important to our family and it was a natural extension for us to open our home to an international student.

Both our children (Ayla '23 and Ethan '25) are taking Spanish, and when the opportunity came up to host an 8th grade student from Spain for a month this spring, we were eager to put our hand up.

Hosting was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for our entire family. We were excited to learn about our student's home and share ours. We tried to devote snippets of time to practicing Spanish and certainly spent a lot of time speaking in English (and explaining idioms!).

We realized how much is universal, like music, and how some aspects of our daily lives are very different (such as when we eat dinner). We were reminded about what a great campus, staff, and collaborative learning environment we have at PD.

We learned that the best thing you might have eaten in the United States was macaroni and cheese. We learned that it takes work to be gracious host students and that everyone needs a different amount of space. But more than anything, we learned that our daily lives were made brighter by sharing them."

—**Amy & Marc Andrews**



Photo (Top) courtesy of Susan Scanga
Photo (Bottom) courtesy of Amy Andrews

Interested in hosting? Visit [Charger Commons](#) or email Jessica.Williams@ProvidenceDay.org.



Thank You!

Thank you, PD community, for a successful **Giving Day** on **May 7!** Your gifts make a difference and show your support for those ***Behind Every Charger.***





Building Character

*Lower School students live
PD's character education
concepts in their own words*

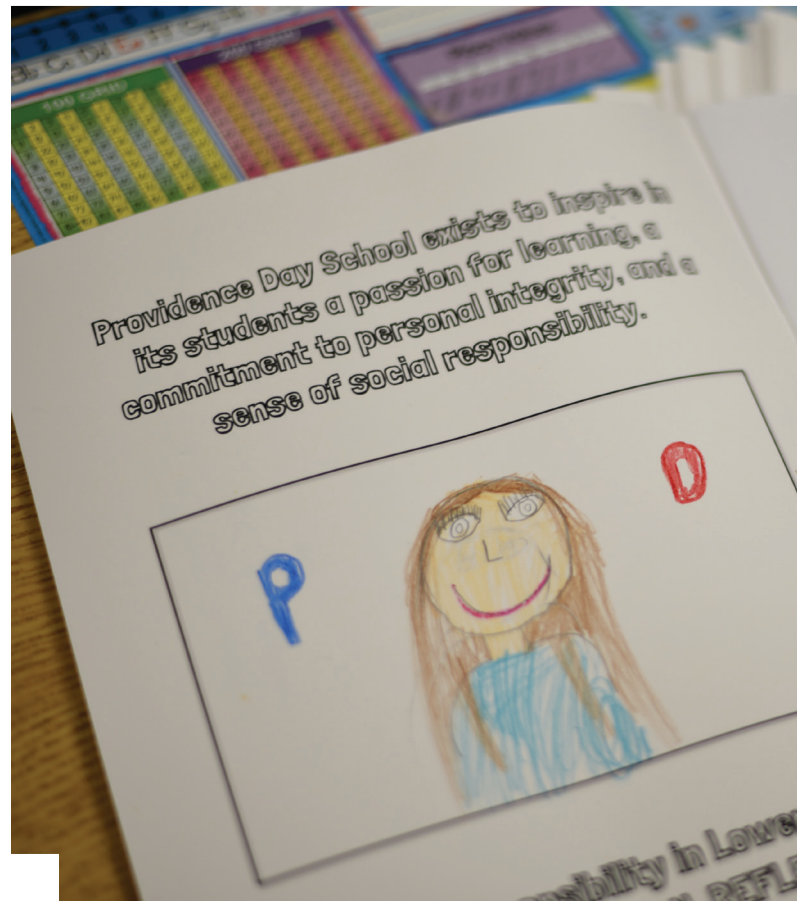
Empathy. Respect. Confidence. Courage.
Perseverance.

The concepts have a life at PD extending far beyond posters on the walls or words on a website. Lower School faculty start teaching them in the earliest days of TK and kindergarten and continue up through fifth-grade graduation. When students progress to middle and upper school, they go on to learn more sophisticated lessons in social responsibility – a major academic focus at Providence Day.

But first, it starts with a journal. Following an activity or discussion – students view a skit, or participate in activities such as making cards for hospitalized kids at Levine Children's hospital, or hear a lesson designed by Jenny Tucker, assistant head of lower school, or Margot Brinley, lower school counselor – it's time to reflect and write or draw something about how the concept applies to their own lives.

"You're demonstrating your growth and your level of engagement and responsibility to others through what you wrote in the journal," says Erica Katz, a second-grade teacher and the Lower School representative on the school-wide Social Responsibility committee. "What they share is just so endearing and thoughtful."

Read on for some of the reflections in this year's "Write Your Own Story" journals.



EMPATHY:

"Empathy means thinking about others feelings. Empathy means caring for people. Empathy is putting yourself in someone else's shoes. We made art with our 4th grade buddies for children in the hospital to make them happy and to bring a smile to their faces." **—C., 1st grade**

"When my grandfather passed away a few years ago I was really sad. It was the saddest thing that ever happened to me. Then when my friend's grandfather passed away I could relate to her and I knew how she felt." **—S., 4th grade**

"I showed empathy when one of my running backs at my tackle football game got hit helmet to helmet and he had to sit out on the bench for the rest of the game...I wasn't in so I sat with him and (talked) with him." **—J., 2nd grade**

"One time everyone in the whole 3rd grade was talking nonstop except me and some other people. I was frustrated. The teacher even had to yell 'BOYS AND GIRLS, BE QUIET!'... Then finally everyone was quiet but I did feel just how I knew my teacher felt, frustrated." **—H., 3rd grade**

COURAGE:

"Jane Goodall used courage when she traveled to Africa. I used courage when I broke my arm by being brave. Amelia Earhart used courage when she drove her plane even though people said she couldn't." **—A., 1st grade**

"There was a very scary waterslide. It took me four days to build up the courage to go on it. After that I loved it. I went on it 11 times." **—L., 2nd grade**

"One time I was too afraid of trying my bike without training wheels but then I said 'Okay, I'll give it a try.' And I did, then my dad let go, I was doing it!" **—H., 3rd grade**

"I had courage when I was six because I use to sleep with a light but now I don't and it took courage to sleep in the dark." **—N., 2nd grade**

"Courage is being an upstander. Courage is standing up for what is right....Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. used courage because he was brave to work peacefully to make the world a better place." **—D., 1st grade**



Lower School character education includes a skit near the beginning of the school year. Student Peter David Smith (PDS for short) learns to follow the Charger way, meeting characters including Confidence Cat, Powerful Perseverance, the Respect Twins, and of course Captain Courage.



PD Staff Photos



CONFIDENCE:

"I used confidence today by standing in front of an audience. I spoke loud and proud and smiled with joy. I knew I had practiced and prepared. We were confident as a team....We used confidence by doing our personal best and supporting each other." –A., 1st grade

PERSEVERANCE:

"One day I was on the monkey bars. I failed and failed and failed again....In my head I started to think 'I can't do this.' But I kept on thinking and I thought 'I can't do this....yet.' So I kept on trying and I finally made it." –R., 3rd grade

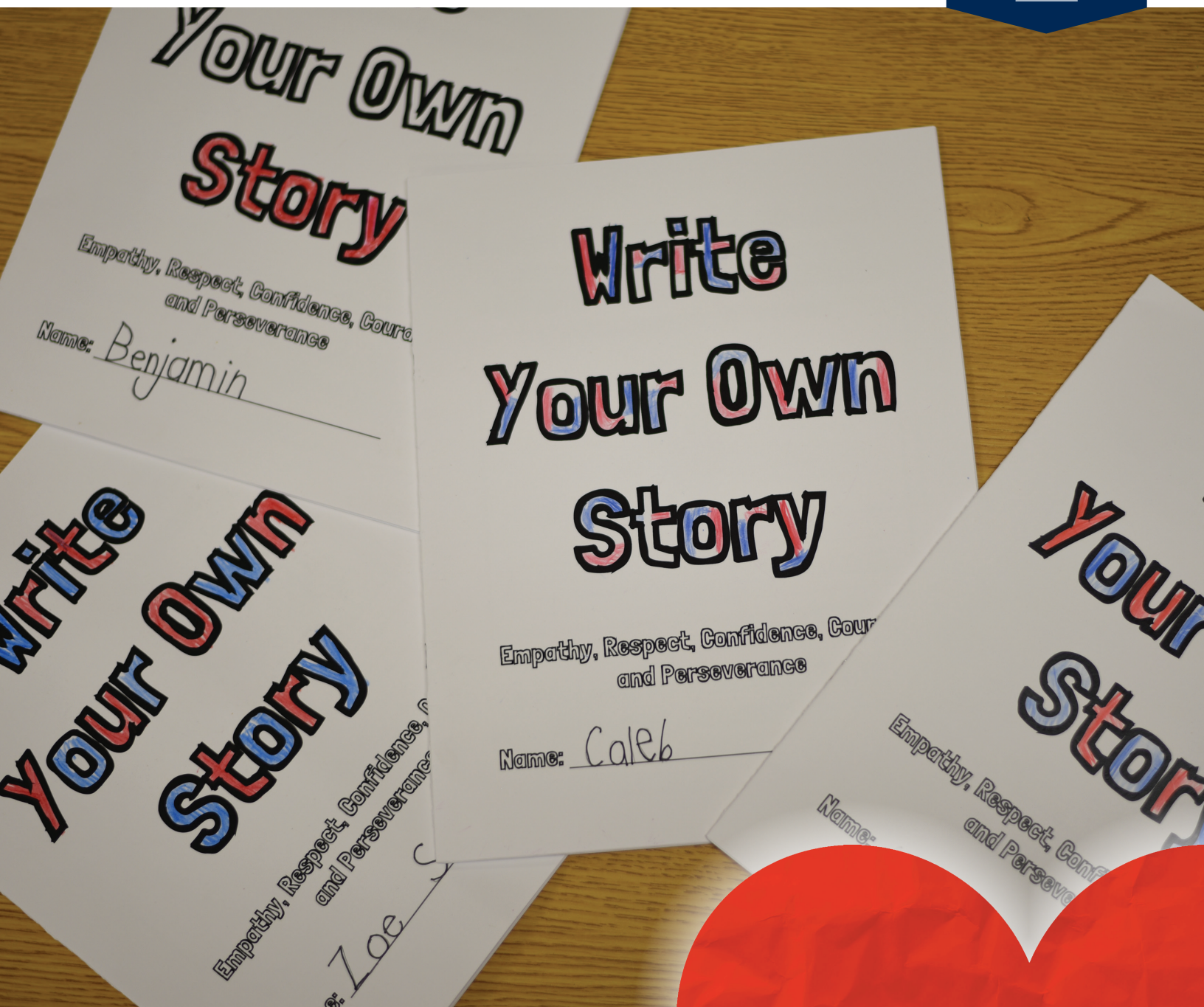
RESPECT:

"My friend showed respect when I was talking and she wanted to say something, but she let me talk." –E., 2nd grade

"I can show respect by being respectful of the classroom and cleaning up after myself so I have a clean classroom." –N., 2nd grade

"One time I was on the playground at Extended Day. I had no one to play with. Then A. came up to me and said 'Do you want to play with me?' I said 'Yes!' Then he asked me 'Do you want to play ninjas?' I said 'Sure!'...And we played and played." –H., 3rd





The Wrinkled Heart

It's a day in the life of a Providence Day student, as demonstrated by a large red heart made of construction paper.

Bad things happen. Students say unkind or disrespectful things. Each time, the heart is folded. By the end of the day's events, the paper heart is crumpled into a big red ball.

But there's a time machine. The student goes back in time and gets to live the day again. People learn empathy and make different choices, pay compliments, and say kind things. The paper is gradually unfolded, one part at a time through the day's events, until it is a heart shape once more.

But the heart is not perfect. The lines where it was folded are still there. Because of its encounters with unkindness, the heart remains wrinkled.

The moral of the story, says Jenny Tucker, assistant head of lower school, who tells this tale during character education lessons: "Before you speak, think and be smart. It's hard to fix a wrinkled heart."



Nancy and Bruce Downing in the Head of School Residence.

Photo by Mike McCann

Making History

*Nancy and Bruce Downing
establish the first-ever endowed
faculty chair at Providence Day*

In the midst of her sixth year on Providence Day School's Board of Trustees, and just a few months from the finish line of the Charging Forward campaign last fall, Nancy Downing was no stranger to the case for giving to support Providence Day's mission – after all, she'd spent years helping to deliver the pitch to others as chair of the Advancement Committee.

But when the time came for Nancy and her husband Bruce to decide how to give, they did something unprecedented: they established the school's first Endowed Chair. The selected faculty member will be named at the end of this academic year, and will hold the Downing/Williams Endowed Chair of Teaching Excellence position for 12 months, earning an honorarium and professional development money provided by the fund. It's named for both sides of the couple's family, to honor a longstanding philanthropic tradition.

"I wanted something that could continue to give back to what I think of as the lifeblood of the school: the faculty," says Nancy. The couple are parents of Yates '12, Charlotte '14, Tommy '17, and Michael '19. That means they're closing in on 20 years of history with Providence Day.

"Twenty years is a long time in the life history of our family, and PD has been such an integral part of our family," she says. "I just benefited so much from these faculty members. Not just by helping (our children) in the classroom, but by shaping them into the people they are now."

The Downings don't want to single out a particularly influential faculty member by name – because every one their children encountered was influential in his

or her own way, she says. "I wanted them to have a special honor and a special recognition."

She's gratified that the couple's gift was part of the successful conclusion of Charging Forward, which exceeded its \$27 million goal. Nancy Downing was there for the entire five-year journey of the campaign. "To see this community come together in this way has been really special," she says. Now, like the rest of the PD community, she loves grabbing coffee on her trips through the Global Café and enjoying the sunshine in the courtyard on nice days – though she admits to some fond memories of the dearly departed West Wing. "It has transformed our campus," she says.


Endowed chair positions tend to be a hallmark of prestigious institutions – and that's the idea the Downings were going for. "I think it will help continue to draw really high quality faculty to the school – and with retention," she says. "It elevates a school, and that's where we need to be, and that's where we deserve to be." 



Photo courtesy of Nancy Downing



You can make a *Difference*

Through their support of the Annual Fund, donors help to provide opportunities which inspire connection, collaboration and joyful learning at Providence Day.

Visit **www.ProvidenceDay.org/MakeAGift** to be part of making moments like these possible at PD.



Providence Day would like to thank

Hendrick Automotive Group

OUR PREMIER PARTNER

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PROVIDENCE DAY
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CHARGER CLUB CLASSIC

October 28 • TPC Piper Glen



alumni *Spotlight*

Colby Anderson '07,
grateful for all he
learned at PD, wraps
up term as Board of
Alumni President

Colby Anderson, a member of the class of 2007, remains in the minds and hearts of many in the Providence Day community who were touched by the story he told at the 2011 Founders' Dinner about the life lessons he learned during his time here. Anderson has served on the Board of Alumni from 2014–19, including the past three years as its president. As he prepares to move into his next phase, we caught up with him for a few quick questions:


Q. Where has your path since Providence Day taken you? I attended The George Washington University for both my undergraduate and graduate degrees. I currently manage digital marketing for Bojangles'.

Q. What do you do for fun? Recently my hobbies have been serving on the Board of Alumni. Joking aside, I enjoy spending time with my friends (two of my best friends are also PD alumni), and my mom and her dogs.

Q. What was it like for you to come back and serve on the Board of Alumni? It was an honor to be able to help, in some small way, the institution that taught me how to lead, think critically, and work hard.

Q. What involvement or initiative do you consider most significant from your Board of Alumni term? It has to be aligning the board of alumni's goals with the head of school's goals. We're incredibly blessed to have the unqualified support of our head of school. Dr. Glyn Cowlshaw is an incredible advocate for alumni engagement, and I'm sure will continue to listen to feedback, exchange ideas, and be a champion of the board's goals.

Q. What advice would you give to future members of the Board of Alumni? We have such an incredibly competent board, and a very talented incoming board president. After setting priorities, I just kept the trains running on time. They've got this down, and do not need my advice!

Q. After this experience, what are your current feelings about where Providence Day is as an institution, and moving forward? What are your hopes for its future? I'm incredibly proud of the progress our school has made, and I'm eager to see it continue to move forward. Some may be anxious when we talk about progress, I understand that, and I also understand how deeply this community, including the administration, holds our core values and mission. So long as we stay true to those, this school and community has an incredibly bright future. 

Excerpt from the 2011 Founders' Dinner Speech:

"Before coming to Providence Day in 9th grade, I had very few positive male role models in my life. Saying that a boy becomes a man in high school sounds a little bit trite, but I think there's some truth to that. And I don't know what kind of man I would have become had it not been for the positive male role models I found at Providence Day....

Mr. Hedinger taught me that the most important thing a man could ever do is be a good father. Mr. Willard taught me that a man should be proud if he fails while trying something new, but ashamed if he fails while trying nothing at all. Coach Finneyrock taught me that a man treats his body with respect.... Mr. Spence taught me, among other things, that you have to laugh at the dark comedy of life's everyday tragedies or else you will break under its pressures.

I don't mean to say that these lessons are somehow owned by my gender, because they are not, but in those formative years I was focused on growing up, and these men taught me how to be a man of character, and I will always be thankful for that."



Brewery BOOM

*Providence Day Community Has
Pioneered the Craft Brewing Scene*

For many, it started as a hobby in basements or garages. “Home brewing” craft beer took off in the 1980s in North Carolina, and “brew pubs” popped up in the 1990s, the predecessors to the craft breweries now proliferating throughout Charlotte and the state.

These days, craft brewing is a huge force for tourism and economic development, transforming once-decrepit warehouses and office buildings into thriving gathering spots. The national Brewers Association says the industry pumps more than \$2 billion per year into the North Carolina economy.

And if you trace both the history and the current state of breweries, you’ll find a surprising number of connections to Providence Day School. At just about every stage of the industry’s development, a Providence Day alum or current family was there.

Perhaps it’s the solid education in the combination of creativity, scientific, and mathematical skills required to develop brews and open a successful business? Something in the water? Roman Davis ’79, one of the co-owners of GoodRoad Ciderworks, and other PD-connected business owners agreed there may be something about Providence Day that explains the brewery boom among its community.

“A high percentage of our families open their own businesses,” says Davis. “I can see how Providence Day encourages an entrepreneurial spirit.”



Photo courtesy of Highland Brewing

ASHEVILLE: WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

In 1985, the owner of the Weeping Radish in Asheville won a change to North Carolina law that first allowed brew pubs to sell beer directly to consumers. That same year, the Wong family moved to Charlotte from New Jersey, where Leah Wong '88 (later Leah Wong Ashburn) enrolled at Providence Day School – and, she recalls, learned to adapt to Southern accents including that of her biology teacher, Bobbie Hinson. Her father Oscar, a successful engineer born in Jamaica in 1940, had traveled all over the country for his career.

By 1994, he retired from engineering, settled in Asheville, and went straight into his next career, opening a beer manufacturing facility in the basement of a downtown Asheville taproom using retrofitted dairy equipment. That grew into Highland Brewing, a statewide pioneer in the industry – now brewing more than 60,000 barrels annually for distribution throughout the Southeast.

“Highland worked because there was opportunity, and because Dad wanted Highland to be a welcome part of the community,” Wong Ashburn said during a recent interview. “He was making a fun product that people could celebrate with, learn about, and feel confident in sharing.”

In 2011, Wong Ashburn took over the company as President & CEO. “Brewing would have landed in Asheville if Highland hadn’t been the first, but it would have been different. Something about the way it unfolded attracted three of the top 25 craft brewers in the country to open locations here,” she said. “We didn’t see that coming! But it’s made beer the No. 5 reason to visit Buncombe County.”

Wong Ashburn isn’t the only member of the PD class of ’88 with a connection to the industry – her classmate Michael Brawley ’88 owns Brawley’s Beverage on Park Road, and is a longtime advocate of craft beer. His taproom serves 22 small-scale craft brews, and his retail shelves hold more. For years, he was the biggest seller of Highland’s offerings outside of Asheville.

It’s ironic considering his inauspicious introduction to Oscar Wong. While still a PD student and not yet of legal drinking age, Brawley joined a gathering at Leah’s house and tried to smuggle in some beer. Oscar caught him, and kicked him out of the house. It’s a story they now tell at industry gatherings for laughs.

“A lot of people call me the godfather of Charlotte beer, but I call Oscar the godfather of North Carolina beer,” says Brawley. “He really did pave the way for a lot of what has happened.”

As Highland thrived, Charlotte entrepreneurs were developing more ideas of their own.



Leah Wong Ashburn '88 and Oscar Wong
Photo courtesy of Highland Brewing



The Marrino family during their 2006 road trip.
Photo courtesy of Dan Marrino



Olde Mecklenburg Brewery

SOUTH CHARLOTTE SCENE GROWS

John Marrino ended the first phase of his career in 2006 when he left a German manufacturing company and took a cross-country road trip with his wife Birgit, who he'd met in Germany, and their daughter Jillian. While on the trip, he read an article in the Wall Street Journal about the rebuilding of a brewing company in New England.

"As I was reading the article I had the proverbial 'lightbulb moment,'" Marrino recalled. "I turned to Birgit and said, 'Hey, I don't think Charlotte has a brewery. That's what I should do when I go back home.'"

Following the road trip, Marrino started home brewing in his garage and got to work. In 2009, Olde Mecklenburg Brewery opened on Southside Drive in what's now LoSo – the shortened name for "Lower South End," home to a thriving brewing hub.

It was Charlotte's first German-style craft brewery, and now it's celebrating its 10th anniversary as one of more than 40 breweries in the region and more than 300 across the state. The Marrinos are parents of Jillian '24 and Erin '26 at PD.

"My favorite German beer style was and is a Duesseldorf-Altbiere. I decided to make that style our flagship beer, and call it 'Copper,'" says Marrino. "Turns out many people Charlotteans also like an Altbiere, since OMB's flagship Copper is the largest selling craft beer by volume in the Charlotte region."

OMB follows the German beer purity law, using only four ingredients: water, malt, hops, and yeast. "We don't do this because we have to, but because we want to. We joke that at OMB we make 'Beer flavored beer.'"

That left room in the market for another style: Belgian. Unconstrained by the German law, Belgian beer makers have historically been known for experimenting with aged hops, spices, fruits, and other quirky ingredients. In 2014, Sugar Creek Brewing opened its doors just across the street from Olde Mecklenburg, bringing Belgian style



Sugar Creek Brewing and the family of Shelley Miracle Wilfong '97.

brews. And it brought another PD connection: its investors include the family of PD alumna Shelley Miracle Wilfong '97, along with her husband Shawn Wilfong and their children Carter, Landen, and Blake.

Miracle Wilfong explored her love of art at PD and has returned with submissions to the annual Alumni & Faculty art shows in McMahon Fine Arts Center. So naturally, she is the creator of the 9-foot-tall logo sculpture in Sugar Creek's taproom.



Roman Davis '79 at GoodRoad Ciderworks.
Photos by Mike McCarn

That entry to the market left room for yet another niche: Cider and mead. Mead, made from fermented honey, is the world's oldest human-developed beverage (beer came next). Cider is made from fermented apples. And both are brewed at GoodRoad Ciderworks, which opened its doors on St. Patrick's Day 2017 just a block down the street from both OMB and Sugar Creek.

Co-owner Roman Davis' idea for the business pre-dates Charlotte's current brewery scene. After graduating PD in the class of '79, he was an avid home brewer in the 1980s, even hatching a plan with some fellow PD alumni to open an early brew pub that didn't quite come together. So he pursued his interest by becoming a National Beer Judge – one of just 20 individuals in the country to attain the highest rank of certification. He traveled the country judging beer festivals, and remained active in the local Carolina Brewmasters as well as PD's Board of Alumni, serving six years.

After his children with wife Kim – Hannah '08, Stephanie '13, and Hayden '15 – graduated from Providence Day, Davis was able once again to pursue his dream. "All my friends that had gone pro had opened breweries around town," he said. "We didn't want to compete with our friends. We really wanted to complement the beer scene."

In just the two years they've been open, he says, Charlotte's appreciation of cider has grown (and it is increasingly sought out by those who are intolerant to gluten). Initially customers showed up unfamiliar with the beverage and tried flights with samples of different varieties. Now, more often, customers show up already knowing which cider they want. "By and large, we have been embraced in Charlotte as much as we would hope."



NEWER FACES IN SOUTH END AND FREEMOREWEST

Around the time GoodRoad was opening, a group of alumni and alumni parents from the class of 2002 were coming together to create what became The Suffolk Punch along Charlotte's light-rail line in South End. Collin Ricks '02 and his wife Debbie Hyde Ricks '02, who met at PD, were familiar with home brewing thanks to Debbie's father Dan. He had been filling his home with wife Marjorie with home brewing equipment for many years. Marjorie Hyde worked for 17 years at Providence Day, in the school store and Extended Day.



PD alumni and families at The Suffolk Punch.
PD Staff Photo

Meanwhile, Ricks co-founded local development company Durban Group and was joined by his PD classmates Seth Stidham '02 as COO and Ryland Pond '02 as General Counsel. As commercial developers, they were well aware of the hot property around them in South End, and soon found an ideal home for what became The Suffolk Punch on Griffith Street.

They aimed for a different niche: A morning-through-night gathering spot that begins with coffee early; welcomes remote office workers throughout midday with Wifi and charging stations; serves both lunch and dinner; and transforms into a lively brew pub and beer garden at night. "We wanted the place to be more inviting. Charlotte has embraced us," says Ricks. "People love the ambience."

Pond shares Davis' theory that Providence Day's preparation may deserve some credit for spawning brewery owners. He recalls that when he joined PD in 9th grade, following a straight-A record in middle school, he was shocked to earn his first-ever "D" on a paper from English teacher Matt Spence. "The Providence Day experience is very challenging," he says. "It has taught me you can't get too comfortable."

Debbie Hyde Ricks, who is now mom to rising TK student Aniston (class of '33), credits another aspect of PD: "For me it was more the sense of community. PD still feels like home. We just wanted to have a place where everybody felt at home."

Just a short drive away in FreeMoreWest is the newest PD-connected addition to the scene: Town Brewing, co-owned by George Sistrunk, father of current students Garrett '22, Luke '24, and Eliza '28.


An attorney by day and home-brew hobbyist, Sistrunk was inspired by his childhood in Asheville and a desire to moonlight with his law partners in a business that explores different skills. Open since September 2018, Sistrunk has followed the lessons of the other breweries in town with Providence Day connections. "It's a very welcoming and sharing community," he says. "And it's a lot of fun."

While the scene is growing ever more crowded, nobody's worried that it is overstuffed yet. Charlotte still has fewer breweries per capita than Asheville or Portland, which boasts over 100.



George Sistrunk

Photo courtesy of Town Brewing Co.

"I believe they are popular because they are a part of the community. They are local gathering places, and beer is a social drink. They've always been the center of the community in Germany, and once upon a time were as well here in the U.S.," says Marrino. "We are just going back to that now. It's a great thing. And it's great for the local economy because it keeps the money in the community." 



alumni *Spotlight*

Bimal Desai '91, a 'math and science nerd' at PD, advances the field of health informatics

As a pediatrician in the early 2000s, Dr. Bimal Desai '91 stumbled across a problem he wanted to solve: the most common cause of medical errors in pediatrics is incorrect medication dosing. A simple error like confusing pounds and kilograms or mistyping a decimal point could lead to a massive dosing error. "The right dose for a 12-year-old could seriously harm an infant," he noted.

In his position at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Desai was working with a team of technologists on the hospital computer system. Simply re-designing and error-proofing the computer screens that doctors were using to enter their prescriptions helped to reduce potential dosage errors, he found. "The project was successful, and convinced me that many of the thorny problems we faced in medicine could be addressed through the thoughtful application of user-centered technology."

That 2004 project led Desai to his specialty in health informatics. "I was always a math and science nerd," says Desai. "But I had no formal computer programming courses in high school or college. I took AP Bio with Bobbie Hinson, (and) AP Calculus with Jeff Lucia, both of whom are amazing teachers and really embody the PD spirit."

Following his PD graduation in 1991, Desai attended Emory University as a Woodruff Scholar before spending a post-baccalaureate year at St. Andrews University in Scotland as a Jones Scholar and then medical school at Washington University in St. Louis. "I then came to Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for my pediatric residency in 2000," says Desai. "I have been here ever since."

The current Assistant Vice President and Chief Health Informatics Officer, Desai's roles at the hospital have changed over the years. "I wanted to learn more about this field representing the intersection of healthcare and technology," says Desai of his interest in informatics. Desai took on the challenge of being a full-time doctor and full-time student, enrolling in a distance master's degree program in Biomedical Informatics at Oregon Health and Sciences University. From there, his interest only grew.

"After a few years as a junior attending and informaticist, I was asked to become the medical director of our electronic health record project. In 2011, I was appointed the first Chief Medical Information Officer for the health system," he said. "In 2014, I participated in the DreamIt Health startup accelerator and co-founded a healthcare data science company called Haystack Informatics." Haystack Informatics uses patients' electronic health records and health care employees' patterns of behavior to protect patient privacy. Earlier this year, Haystack was acquired by Iatric Systems, one of the largest vendors in the healthcare IT space.

Desai has continued his work on integrating technology at the children's hospital. "For me, the appeal of clinical informatics is that it taps into both the creative and the analytical sides of my brain. Every day is like a new puzzle, requiring my team to challenge our assumptions about health care delivery, to analyze and understand complex clinical work, and to envision elegant technical solutions."

With his Informatics team, Desai partnered with infectious disease specialists and data scientists to suggest the most appropriate antibiotics. "We're

currently building web-based tools to help geneticists characterize and diagnose children with suspected inherited disorders,” he said. “We have implemented tools to help identify which children are at highest risk for bacterial sepsis, a rare but potentially fatal infection that’s easy to miss. We have even built tools to monitor the performance of these alerting systems, to make sure they are tuned properly and that we’re not contributing to ‘alert fatigue’ each time a healthcare provider sees an alert in the system.”

“**To me, innovation is about drawing connections between disparate fields. It’s the recognition that a solution in one domain might also work in another, unrelated domain.**


In 2017, Desai was honored at the Philadelphia Alliance for Capital and Technologies annual gala and was given the Healthcare Innovator Award in recognition for Desai’s creation of the Hospital’s new Digital Health Program. This program utilizes technology to enhance medical treatment, which includes enabling clinicians to connect with patients through telemedicine, building smartphone applications to help families navigate the healthcare experience, and connecting physicians to healthcare providers outside of the children’s hospital’s network.

“To me, innovation is about drawing connections between disparate fields,” says Desai. “It’s the recognition that a solution in one domain might also work in another, unrelated domain. The field of informatics has many examples of this style of thinking. We look at complex healthcare tasks from the lenses of human-computer interaction, cognitive science, design thinking, and data science; finding better ways to deliver healthcare as a result...your education cannot stop when you finish school. The best way to understand a new technology or concept

is to try it for yourself. It’s amazing what you can teach yourself with an open mind and an internet connection. So, in summary: be a perpetual student.”

Today, Desai spends 20 percent of his time in clinical practice as a general pediatrician and faculty member in the school of medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and 80 percent as Chief Health Informatics Officer, overseeing the Clinical Informatics and Digital Health programs at the hospital.

He met his wife Naomi Balamuth, a Philadelphia native and pediatric oncologist who specializes in treating children with bone and solid tumors, during their residencies at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The couple’s twins, Sam and Mauli, are now in fourth grade.

When not working or spending time with his family, Desai can be found fulfilling his love for cycling and photography. “I also sing and play drums in a band with a bunch of dads in the neighborhood,” Desai adds. “We can never agree on a name for the band, but my current vote is for ‘Color Me Dadd’. And if you get that reference, you’re probably as old as I am!” 

Follow Dr. Bimal Desai '91 on Twitter at @origamidoc.



PD NetWORK

Established by the Office of Institutional Advancement, PD NetWORK engages various constituencies of the Providence Day community to provide internship and mentorship opportunities in a range of industries for our alumni to develop their professional experience.

Interested in learning more about internship opportunities with PD NetWORK? Please contact Lynette Allison at Lynette.Allison@providenceday.org or 704-887-7056.

Class Notes

Updates on Alumni
Near and Far

1979

40-year class reunion!

Save the date for your 40th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

1984

35-year class reunion!

Save the date for your 35th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

1988



Leigh Dyer has joined the staff of Providence Day School, first as Communications Manager and now as Interim Director of Strategic Marketing & Communications. This follows seven years heading communications at The Mint Museum in Charlotte and editor roles at *The Charlotte Observer* and *SouthPark Magazine*.

1989

30-year class reunion!

Save the date for your 30th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

1994

25-year class reunion!

Save the date for your 25th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

1996

Jon Topham was recently promoted to Regional Manager at bioMerieux, a French microbiology company. Last year Jon was four of sixty sales specialists who made President's Club. Jon enjoys spending his free time running marathons where he has completed a Mount Mitchell Challenge (40 miler), two Black Mountain Marathons, and an Ironman in Couer D'Alene, Idaho. Jon, his wife Missy, and two sons, Sam (9) and Wes (7) live in Fort Mill, SC.

1999

20-year class reunion!

Save the date for your 20th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

2002



Tyler Brandt and wife Alysya welcomed their first child, Camden Meade Brandt, on January 25, 2019. Camden weighed 9 lbs 7 oz and was 22.75 inches long.

2003

Shepard Smith was recently named the Managing Attorney for the Charlotte office of Stewart Law Offices, PLLC. Shepard is responsible for overseeing the daily operations of the Charlotte office and managing a team of attorneys and staff.

2004

15-year class reunion!

Save the date for your 15th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

2005



Anna Beth Woolley married Tyler Lindenmeyer on September 29, 2018 at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. PD alumni in attendance were maid of honor **Sarah Grace Woolley '10**, **Liza Clark Barnett '05**, **Kelli Dyer Nunn '03**, **Kelsey Downen Peyton '03**, and **Brad Peyton '02**.

2007



Chandler Walker earned her MA, MPhil, and PhD in Cellular, Molecular, and Biomedical Studies at Columbia University. She started a new job as Field Application Scientist at Thermo Fisher Scientific.

2008

Michael Theobald recently accepted a position as head physical therapist of the Total Joint Replacement program at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, GA.



Submit a Class Note

Weddings, births, promotions, anniversaries, retirements or awards. Let us know about your major life events. Send them to Steve Bondurant '98 at steve.bondurant@providenceday.org.



Anna Zimmer and Orlando Torres Reyes welcomed their son, Diego Torres-Zimmer, on February 6, 2019 in Winston-Salem, NC.

2009

10-year class reunion! Save the date for your 10th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!



Hillary Jones Ash was recently promoted to Legal Recruiting Specialist at K&L Gates LLP in Charlotte, NC. In this role, she manages all lateral attorney, entry level and summer associate recruiting for the four North and South Carolina offices.



Alexandra Henshaw married **Patrick Bailey '09** on October 27, 2018 at Carmel Country Club in Charlotte, NC. PD alumni in attendance were **Chris Barden '10**, **Cory Slep**, **Breanna (Weil) Fullman '08**, **Marie Scholz**, **Elizabeth Scholz**, **Annie Cleek**, **Caroline Wallace**, and **Clifton Bumgardner**.

Haley Holway and Sean Miller were married on April 14, 2018 at St. Vincent's Church in Charlotte, NC.



Eric Martinez has accepted an offer from Yale University to earn his MBA in the fall 2019. In the time before his classes begin he will be traveling throughout South America broadening his knowledge of the Spanish language and Latin American agricultural enterprises. Eric is stepping down from his position as a Commissioned Bank Examiner with the Farm Credit Administration in Denver, Colorado where he has worked the past 4 years.



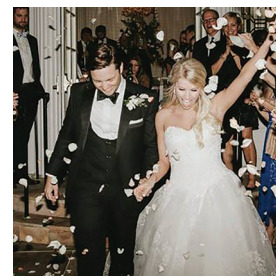
Colby Olliver is a mechanical designer for Cleary Zimmerman Engineers, based in San Antonio, TX. He graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 2015 and worked for the engineering firm of McKnight Smith Ward Griffin in Charlotte, NC before accepting a position with CZE in November 2018. Colby resides in College Station, Texas.



Rose Richardson got engaged to Jason Skibek on January 26, 2018 and are getting married this spring at St. Gabriel's Church in Charlotte, NC.



Dan Smith got engaged to Aspen Kissell on December 15, 2018. Dan also started a new job as senior consultant at APCO Worldwide on their digital team in Washington, DC.



Blair Walker married Tyler Hayes on November 4, 2017 at the Belk Chapel with the reception held at Charlotte Country Club. **Mallory Huffstetler** was alumni in attendance.



Class Notes

Updates on Alumni
Near and Far

2010

After earning her M.S. in communication sciences and disorders, **Kimberly McAllister** completed her clinical fellowship for licensure and her Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in March 2019. She is currently practicing as a speech-language pathologist and certified dementia practitioner at a skilled nursing facility in Charlotte, NC.

Elizabeth Solitario is the project manager at Kamp Grizzly in New York, NY.

Alex Wineteer married Averı Papazian on July 20, 2018 at the Mission Ranch Hotel in Carmel-By-The-Sea, CA.

2011



Katie Dickson got engaged to Ryan Peterson on July 3, 2018 and they plan to get married on July 12, 2019 in Cape Cod, MA. Following the wedding, they will be moving to China to teach at an American school in Beijing.

Christopher Flores is a first year medical student at Boston University School of Medicine.

Karen Johnson is the People Operations Analyst at Pandora Music in Atlanta, GA. In this role, she works with their HR technology systems providing business and operational perspective.



Alex Levy was promoted to Analytics Consultant for Accenture in December 2018. Additionally, his team's project was recognized within the federal government as Innovation of the Year as he helps the Department of Agriculture become a data-driven organization.

Harry Murrell is the content creator at Crumbs Music Media in Charlotte, NC.

Chelsea Balzer Perry and husband Collin are expecting their first baby in September. They live in Hertford, NC where Chelsea is an Art teacher with Creswell County Schools for K-5 grades.

2012

Anna Chapman completed the education, examination and experience required for licensure as a certified public accountant (CPA) and she is currently employed by KPMG.



We traveled over 10,000 miles this past year meeting our alumni all over the country! Thank you for being a part of our roadshows!

Upcoming Fall 2019 Roadshows:

- ✓ Atlanta
- ✓ Chapel Hill
- ✓ Los Angeles
- ✓ San Francisco

More details coming soon!

Want to add your city to the Alumni Roadshow?
Contact Steve Bondurant '98 at 704-887-6039
or steve.bondurant@providenceday.org.



PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ALUMNI ROADSHOWS



Alumni, join **PD Connect** today!

FEATURES INCLUDE:

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Questions? Contact Steve Bondurant '98 at 704-887-6039
or steve.bondurant@ProvidenceDay.org

Class Notes

Updates on Alumni
Near and Far



Mahari Conston married Demetris Freeman on August 11, 2018 at Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte, NC. In her professional career, she received the Southeast Recognition Award at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

Danny Pham is a client service analyst at Barry, Evans, Josephs, and Snipes in Charlotte, NC.

2013

John Carrick was promoted to senior credit analyst and team lead at United Bank in Washington, DC.

Christian Cichan is an FSO business advisor at Ernst & Young in Washington, DC.



Will Conlin recently started as sales engineer at Johnson Controls in Denver, CO. In this role, he sells fire suppression systems specializing in datacenters.

Michael Flores is finishing his Master's in Public Health at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University with a concentration in medical practice and hospital management.

Sara Hader was recently promoted to junior PR account executive at FRAME in New York, NY.

Roxanne Quinn was promoted to assistant entertainment buyer at Logjam Presents in Missoula, MT.

2014

5-year class reunion!

Save the date for your 5th Providence Day School reunion on October 5th, 2019. We hope to see you there!

Marcos Alberto is an associate hospital sales representative at ICU Medical in Cincinnati, OH.

Elana Burack graduated and earned a BA in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania this May.

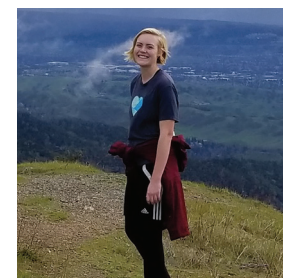
Emily Dickson is the editorial assistant at the Franchise Group at Houghton Mifflin Harcourt in Boston, MA.

Becky Goins received the 2018 Hayden B. Renwick Academic Achievement award at UNC-Chapel Hill. She also graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill in May 2018.



Morgan Mosack is an intern for the Office of Management and Budget at the White House in Washington, DC. She was on the group that delivered the President's recent budget. Morgan wanted to give credit to Mr. Taylor for preparing her to work on the American budget! At the conclusion of her internship, she will be going to Sweden to play professional soccer.

Meghan Nash is a Page in the NBCUniversal Page Program, which is a 12-month media career development experience, in Los Angeles, CA.



Montana Roberts graduated from the Claremont Colleges (Scripps College) with a degree in computer science last May, and is now a software developer at Everlaw in Silicon Valley. The company focuses on data analysis, artificial intelligence and e-discovery for law firms. She is also coaching a Berkeley High School Ultimate Frisbee team and playing on a traveling team herself.

VISIT THE ALUMNI PARENTS' PORTAL AT
www.ProvidenceDay.org/AlumniParent

Update your contact information and connect with other alumni parents using the Alumni Parent Directory, and find information relevant to you as an alumni parent including upcoming events.

If you have not received login information, contact
the Institutional Advancement Office at 704-887-7058.

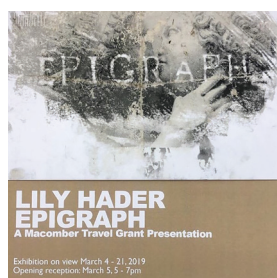


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2015

James Goodwin spent the summer and fall semester of 2018 working in the Congressional office of Rep. Josh Gottheimer, D-NJ.



Lily Hader is a BFA candidate at The University of Southern California and was awarded a Macomber Travel Grant. The grant is awarded to two outstanding 3rd year students in the USC Roski School of Art and Design and it supports projects involving research-based travel, the production of new work, and a public solo exhibition of the new work. Lily's exhibit, entitled *Epigraph*, was displayed March 4-21, 2019.

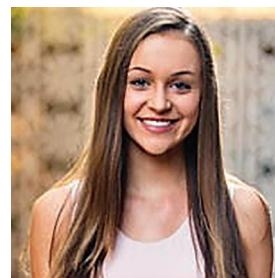
Jack Kaspar will be earning his B.S. in Science-Business from the University of Notre Dame this May. Upon graduation, he will be starting a new position as an Associate Consultant at Putnam Associates in Boston, MA. Putnam is a strategy consulting firm that works primarily with biopharmaceutical, diagnostics, and medical device companies.

Adhish Khanna is an investment banking analyst at SunTrust Robinson Humphrey in Charlotte, NC.

Leigh Premo was a Rehabilitation Intern this past summer at the Carolina Raptor Center. Leigh is a senior at North Carolina State University where she is an Animal Science/Pre-Vet major and a Business minor in the honors program. She is currently working as a Research Assistant at the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine and as a clinician at VIP Petcare.

Brandon Torres was an industrial engineering intern at ACTEGA, a company that develops and produces specialty coatings, inks, adhesives and sealing compounds, this past summer.

2017



Caroline Kurani will be a wealth and investment management intern at Wells Fargo Bank this summer in San Francisco, CA. In this role, she will work on a team of strategic consultants to define priorities and execute projects such as performing quantitative analysis, interviewing stakeholders, and performing consumer or industry research.

Cara Mischinski was a resident advisor and teaching assistant at the University of Washington Math Academy this past summer.

Ashley Panousis was accepted into an internship program at NASA this upcoming summer. She will be working on the launch controls software development team based out of the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, FL.



Manley Roberts is a 2nd year student at Georgia Tech, double majoring in computer science and math. He is in the Glee Club, working as a teaching assistant in the computer science department, and serving as an advisor to the Freshman Activities Board. He will stay in Atlanta this summer where he will be working for NCR Corporation.

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING ALUMNI AND ALUMNI PARENT EVENTS:

Alumni Parent Social • Global Café, Academic Center • June 11, 2019 • 9:30 a.m.

Charlotte Alumni Event • The Suffolk Punch • July 13, 2019 • 6:30 p.m.

More details to follow. Questions? Contact Steve Bondurant '98 at 704-887-6039 or steve.bondurant@providenceday.org.

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

 PROVIDENCE DAY SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

October 4-5, 2019

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4th
Alumni Zone BBQ &
Varsity Football vs. Christ School

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5th
Charger Spirit Run, On-Campus Activities &
Reunions for class years ending in 4's and 9's

More details provided through
#AlwaysACharger e-newsletters,
reunion coordinators, and
PD Connect at alumni.providenceday.org

Questions? Contact Steve Bondurant '98
at steve.bondurant@providenceday.org or
704-887-6039



PROVIDENCE DAY
GOLF ASSOCIATION

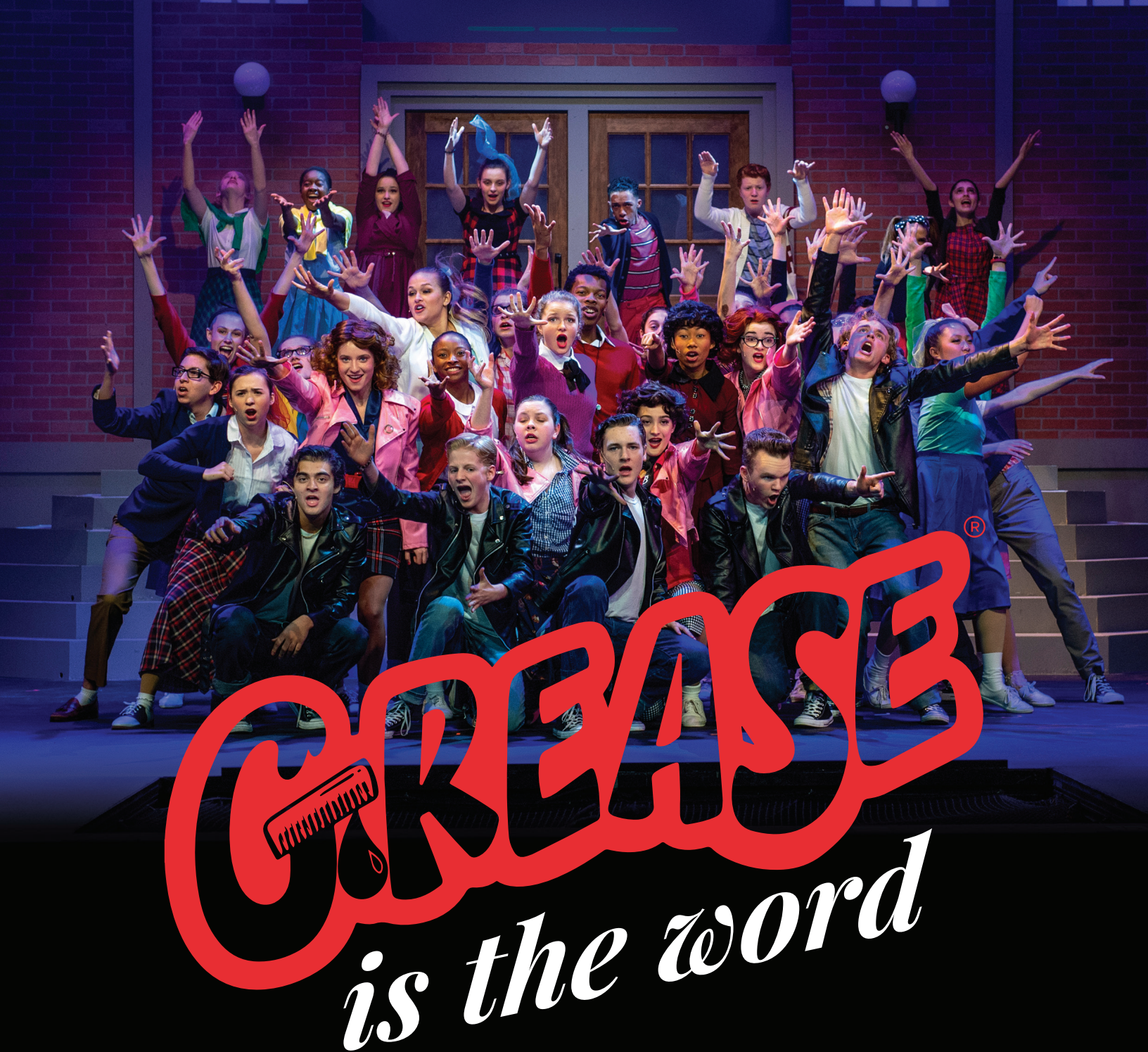
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Thank you to Valvoline and all of our sponsors and participants
of the 22nd Annual PDGA Alumni Spring Classic Golf
Tournament at Cedarwood Country Club on May 6, 2019!

This annual tournament, hosted by the Providence Day Alumni Association,
generates funds that support the Alumni Endowment Fund.

Save the date for the 6th Annual Charger Club Classic on October 28, 2019!



Students performed the Upper School Musical “Grease,”
a timeless story of teen love, friendship, and rebellion,
February 7-9, 2019 in McMahon Fine Arts Center.

For more photos, visit
<https://rebrand.ly/PDSGrease>.

Photo credit: Mike McCarn.



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