The original St. Louis Country Day School campus on Brown Road first offered basketball in 1919-1920. The game was played outdoors on a dirt tennis court, weather permitting, and otherwise moved inside an old carriage house, where the low ceiling prevented traditional baskets and games involved knocking over suitcases standing on end. One hundred years later, physical education at MICDS also required a creative outdoor implementation due to a pandemic. Lower School PE teachers Jim Lohr and Sue Orlando created a variety of outdoor exercise programs involving hand-made hoops to keep students socially distanced, a sound system, and a lot of fun.
New MI Seal Graces Danforth Hall Entrance

"If you step on the School Seal, do you really have to bend down and kiss it?"

That was one of several questions Beasley 2nd graders sent to the Mary Institute archivists as part of a class research project about the School and its community in the fall of 2019.

Over the past several years, more and more MICDS students from all divisions have been exploring the School’s history for various humanities classes and research projects. Even Beasley students expressed curiosity about School traditions, such as not stepping on the School seal, during their MICDS community learning unit. Before the pandemic, our volunteer Mary Institute archivist, Anna Stupp McAlpin ’64, hosted students on tours of the Mary Institute archives and showed them important icons from the School’s history, including the historic MI seal at the entrance to the School’s Danforth Hall, the original Mary Institute building on this campus.

The Class of 1959 presented the seal to the School as its graduation present. One member of the class was Quinta Dunn Scott ’59. Her father, the prominent architect Frederick W. Dunn, agreed to design the seal. As 1959 marked the School’s 100th anniversary, this was a very special gift. Fast forward to 1984, when the Class of 1934 (noted for being Betty Grable’s class) celebrated its 50th Reunion and gifted the School with a restoration of the seal. In the early 2000’s the School paid for another redo.

By 2019, however, help was needed! Too much harsh climate and too many feet—large and small—had taken their toll. McAlpin and her archive volunteers knew something had to be done. Funding was obtained from the Stupp Brothers Bridge & Iron Co. Foundation. The archivists consulted with Tom Moore of Mackey Mitchell Architects and Don Musick and Glen O’Harver of Musick Construction Company, in addition to MICDS employees Amy Dove, Director of Development; Louise Jones, Director of Alumni Relations; and Bob Jett, Director of Operations. The collaboration led to a total remake of the seal with only one real change: the addition of one additional color of terrazzo.

Current students should have something to admire and be proud of as they study the School’s vibrant history. Now the seal is fresh, bright, and clean. It looks almost kissable—but we are not sure we recommend it.

Next time you are on campus, take a stroll to the Middle School campus, walk up the central stairs to the main entrance of Danforth Hall, and look down. Be careful not to step on the seal; it’s a School tradition!
OUR MISSION
More than ever, our nation needs responsible men and women who can meet the challenges of this world with confidence and embrace all its people with compassion. The next generation must include those who think critically and resolve to stand for what is good and right.

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

OUR STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES

- TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE
- GREAT TEACHING AND LEARNING 2.0
- ENSURING A VIBRANT SCHOOL FUTURE

ABOUT MICDS MAGAZINE
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MARY INSTITUTE & SAINT LOUIS COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL ALUMNI
Dear MICDS Family,

When I was in college, Jimi Hendrix’s album *Axis: Bold as Love* was on heavy rotation in my CD player. The song *Little Wing* especially captivated me—the artful progression from minor to major chords that evoked Johann Pachelbel’s *Canon in D* in inverse, with lyrics that conjured a dreamy ingenue in nature: “She’s walking through the clouds / With a circus mind that’s running wild. / Butterflies and zebras, and moonbeams and fairy tales / That’s all she ever thinks about, riding with the wind.”

In my final summer before graduation, in the Hampton Roads region of Virginia where I had grown up, I started a little business providing tutoring and test preparation services for high school students. It was my first serious foray into the work of education. A novice desktop publisher (does anyone remember Aldus PageMaker?), I got a little carried away on the cover page of my course materials. “Little Wing Press,” announced the footer. “Copyright 1992.” I suppose I was implying a connection between Hendrix’s lyrics and the limitless possibilities I imagined for my students. A close friend who saw it at the time—he is now the head of a school on the East Coast—has never let me live it down.

What did Jimi Hendrix mean, I wonder, by “a circus mind that’s running wild”? I still like to think it has something to do with limitless possibilities, elevating above our everyday grooves in pursuit of adventure and discovery. The experience of learning can be this way, and we are committed to making it ever the more so—to taking flight at every opportunity—as we continue to expand and enhance our work with children and young people at MICDS.

I wish you wings in your own life, too. Happy reading!

Jay Rainey
Head of School
We are pleased to report that 11 talented MICDS seniors were named National Merit Semifinalists. Approximately 16,000 Semifinalists were recognized from an applicant pool of over 1.5 million students in about 21,000 high schools who took the PSAT in October 2019. National Merit Semifinalists represent less than one percent of all high school seniors.

Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

"Congratulations to these young scholars, whose accomplishment is a testament to the rigorous education offered at MICDS. They certainly have a bright future."

MATT ESSMAN, DIRECTOR OF COLLEGE COUNSELING

Prithvi Dhanabal '21
Eric Ji '21
Ally Kalishman '21
Madigan Kinsey '21
Amy Li '21
Hasseeb Malik '21
Christopher Morey '21
Jack Morris '21
Sebastian Neumann '21
Nicholas Scheele '21
Hasani Spann '21
Celebrating the Return to Campus

All Middle School students—new and returning—were welcomed at a festive “Meet MS at the MAC” drive-through car parade the day before the first day of school. Students were able to see their teachers in person before teachers became mainly visible via a Zoom screen, which is how the academic year began in the pandemic. Teachers held posters introducing themselves, wore spirit wear, and waved happily at the students. Students’ cars were decorated with red and green galore and signs that shared their names and introductory information.

FOR MORE PHOTOS >>
magazine.micds.org
Upper Schoolers Start Website to Help Facilitate Absentee Voting

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Missouri state legislature expanded absentee voting. In most cases, a notary is still required, and one can be difficult to find in Missouri. Enter MICDS Upper School students Lucas McCarty ’21, Jack Morris ’21, Sydney Pollock ’21, and Jonah Zacks ’21, who created a website to connect voters and notaries. “People fill out a form on our website, motaryconnections.org, and we use their zip code to pair them with a nearby notary,” said Zacks. “Then, we start an email thread between the voter and the notary so they can set up a time and place to get the ballot notarized.” To set up the technology for the website, McCarty spent hours between classes and after school on Zoom with MICDS teachers to learn how the systems work and how to use them for this specific project. “We use a system combining multiple APIs and a network of databases and forms,” Lucas explained. “Additionally, I built a small server that houses the backend portion of our system.”
Quiet, calm, turning a page: when we imagine what engagement and community look like, these are likely not the first images that come to mind. Yet this year, our 7th grade and 10th grade students, along with our 7th grade and 10th grade English teachers and librarians, are re-experiencing, witnessing, and sharing together the pleasure and power of independent reading.

Independent reading is an instructional practice that provides “time for students to read, access to books that represent a wide range of characters and experiences, and support within a reading community that includes teachers and students” (NCTE). This year, the MICDS English Department launched a cross-divisional Independent Reading Program. In 10th grade, every student spends 20 minutes of every long period reading.

“If you look around the room—or across the gallery view in Zoom—as students read, you will see not only 17 different students but also 17 different books. Each student is reading a book of their choice,” Julia Hansen ’01, Upper School English Teacher, explains. “Some are reading physical books they found at home; others are reading physical books they borrowed from a library or ordered from a local bookstore; still others are reading ebooks through SORA (an online platform) on their computers or on Kindles. It shows our commitment to protecting time for students to read not for a grade but for themselves and in the company of other readers.”

The program complements the department’s existing strengths with whole-class texts by providing students with the opportunity to choose their own books. Where whole-class texts allow students to experience a shared text together, independent reading allows students to read books of their own choosing while still sharing reading time and recommendations with each other. Olivia Halverson, Middle School English Teacher, appreciates this combination: “Independent reading is an introspective activity, while also being an activity that is most successful when shared with others.” Rooted in research as well as love of reading, a community effort that in turn nurtures our community, the program aims to help students recognize themselves as readers, describe their reading identities, and reflect on and direct their lifelong reading journeys.

These aims are both new and not new. The English Department has long been committed to helping students cultivate a lifelong love of reading. Hansen remembers this from her time as an MICDS
student, and seeing the School’s campus-wide signs identifying what staff and faculty are reading made her eager to return as a member of the faculty. What is new about the independent reading program is the intentional effort to dedicate class time to assessment-free reading and to mentor students in reflecting on their reading lives. These changes are the result of a workshop that Hansen attended in Chicago. Led by Pernille Ripp, *Passionate Readers: The Art of Reaching and Engaging Every Child* focused on “reading identity,” on helping students understand themselves as readers. “The workshop gave me access to current research and best practices, for which I am grateful,” Hansen said. “What made it invaluable, though, was the way it sparked a significant change in my thinking.

Acknowledging the many curricular obligations that teachers must meet, and the many curricular and extracurricular obligations that stand between students and their reading, Ripp addressed the issue of time: ‘If we take the time, we’ll have the time,’ she said. I learned here that while we cannot create more time for students to read, we can make choices about how to use our time together so that students know that their reading lives matter. I saw that one of the best choices I could make for my students was to protect that time so that they could read.” Upon returning from the workshop, Hansen collaborated with Katie Voss, Upper School Librarian, and Lynn Mittler, JK-12 English and Language Arts Department Chair, to develop and test out an early version of the program with her juniors. Based on the work of Ripp, Nancie Atwell, Penny Kittle, Donalyn Miller, and other experts, the program has now been expanded to include all 7th and 10th grade English classes.

To prepare, teachers and librarians began over the summer by reflecting on their own reading identities. This involved writing about their formative reading experiences, current reading habits, how they talk about what they are reading with their students, and their goals for themselves as readers and reading teachers. Voss and alumna Mary Moore ’18 created recommended reading lists of Young Adult (YA) novels so that teachers could expand their familiarity with authors, titles, and genres that students might already be reading or might find engaging.

When classes began in August, teachers invited students into an intentionally scaffolded approach. Students completed a survey about their reading identities. After reflecting individually, students reflected collectively, sharing their observations about what makes reading joyful and what makes reading awful (an exercise adapted from Ripp). Students also learned about their “Reader’s Rights” (originally created by Daniel Pennac), the freedoms available to them and protected within independent reading time (such as “The right to abandon a book” or “The right to reread”). While there are times in English class where all students need to read the next chapter of *Pride and Prejudice*, independent reading time allows students a chance to choose what they read, to read at their own pace, to read in (mostly) their own ways, and to read for their own reasons.

To discover their reasons for reading, students explored and set reading goals. Teachers led discussions about how lifelong readers read for different reasons at different times, and how reading goals can change when readers change books, or simply when readers change themselves. Students were now ready to turn their attention to finding books! Annie Tsai Gomez, Middle School Librarian, and Voss visited classes and taught students how to navigate SORA. Conducting class visits over Zoom, Voss introduced students to different genres, and she “book talked” specific authors and titles within each genre. Students were encouraged to leave the virtual library with a list of books they might want to read and with at least one book selected that they would start reading in their next class.

Teachers typically dedicate the first 20 minutes of class to independent reading. Students close continued on page 8 >>
any tabs other than SORA, a dictionary, and their reading goal. They build their awareness of themselves as readers by, paradoxically, disappearing into their books. This also invites building shared class rituals. Hansen frequently says to her students, “I hope you feel seen in the way you want to be seen, challenged in the way you are ready to be challenged, and nourished in the way you most need to be nourished today.” Then she strikes a set of chimes and, if the class is meeting in person, total silence begins. If the class is meeting over Zoom, students read in individual breakout rooms and Hansen drops in on students to confer with them about their reading.

MICDS English teachers and librarians committed to this program for two striking reasons: integrity and joy. Supporting students in developing their reading lives apart from reading assessments appeals to David Terrell, Upper School English Teacher. “For high school students, assignments are largely a ‘do this or else’ proposition, but [independent reading] doesn’t acknowledge that paradigm, which elevates our students’ intellectual integrity,” Terrell said. For Heidi Lim, Upper School English Teacher, the program is also a chance to increase alignment between her beliefs and her actions. “I wanted to live what I preach—walk the walk—put my [valuable class time] where my mouth is,” Lim writes. “If [reading] is so important, why not allocate class time to it?” And along with this sense of increased integrity comes joy—the joy Celeste Prince, Upper School English Teacher, finds in “giving kids the time to read and flow into class without any interruptions,” and the joy that Voss believes is at the heart of the program. “I see [independent reading] as a way to re-introduce the pure joy of reading back into our students’ lives,” she explains. “I often tell students that this experience is a gift from their teachers. It’s the gift of time and space, without any strings attached, to choose a book to read, and then just...read. There are lots of studies that tell us all of the ways that reading (and reading fiction in particular) benefits us. Reading fiction lowers stress, improves life satisfaction, and helps to develop empathy for others. I want our students to reap those benefits, especially now when life seems especially overwhelming, and [independent reading] gives them that opportunity.”

Student response has been overwhelmingly positive. In the words of Ranav Nandhi ’26, “I think it is very fun. I love it.” Nicole Dai ’23 reflected on how independent reading at school both gave her time to read and encouraged her to keep reading outside of school. “Usually during the school year, I don’t spend a lot of time reading because I’m so caught up in doing my actual homework,” Dai remarked. “Recently, I’ve noticed myself spending any extra time I have over the weekend reading my independent reading book.” Students also appreciated the ways in which the practice provided what Hannah Morey ’23 called a peaceful moment.
She said, “Independent reading gives me time to take a deep breath before continuing on with my day and this time has also helped me grow to be a better reader. Personally, I found myself wanting to read more often after getting a taste of my book during class. So far, I am already on my third book since the start of the school year and have enjoyed every minute of it.” Ishaan Handa ‘23 confirms that independent reading “feels like a break” in the midst of the school day. “Even though I have been doing school remotely,” Handa remarked, ‘it helps me ‘disconnect’ for a while and just enjoy a story of my choice and not worry about grades or assignments.”

As intended, the sustained practice has helped students not only read more books more frequently but also to become aware of their own reading identities and preferences. For Layla Gilbert ‘26, this involves noticing patterns about her preferred book length as well as genre. “I like reading books that are less than 400 pages but if it’s good enough, I’ll read it if it’s over 400,” Gilbert discovered. She also set (and met!) a reading goal to read one nonfiction book and one mystery book. “This was an important goal,” Gilbert says, “because I was limiting myself to just reading fantasy and realistic fiction.” Aiyla Ahmad ‘26 has set a similar goal for herself and is intentionally “trying to read books from many different genres because it really helps you to see the perspectives of other people and broaden your perspective and your knowledge about the world.”

Where some students focus on expanding what they are reading, other students experiment with how they are reading. Penny Chen ‘23 uses independent reading time “to slow down and absorb the writing more.” Chen, a quick reader, set this goal for herself: “I think it helps me realize the small details and helps me focus on what’s in front of me instead of the big picture all the time. It teaches me to be in the moment/present.” Here, a reading skill that Penny and her peers will learn through other parts of the English curriculum also contributes to the peace and mindfulness that Morey and Handa described.

For a program whose name highlights “independence,” the program has already fostered new forms of collaboration and interdependence between teachers and librarians, and between teachers and students. Tsai Gomez celebrates that students regularly email her with titles to add to the library’s collection; Maggie Dunson ’09, Middle School English Teacher, has started receiving recommendations from students for new books and genres that she has not read before. “Many of my students love manga,” writes Dunson, “and I have never really been exposed to that world. They recommended I start with My Hero Academia so guess what I just checked out from the library? Excited to read my first manga!” Halverson’s students make recommendations to each other in person and on a running Google Doc; in the words of Ahmad, “I believe that there is a book out there for everyone.”

Students’ engagement with books of choice has also encouraged faculty to reflect on their practices in general. “When I hear my students talk about the ways they relate to what they’re reading,” says Steven Collier, Upper School English Teacher, “I know that they’re benefiting not just as a reader but also in terms of their social and emotional learning.” This has reinforced for Collier the importance of making individual connections to the texts one reads. It has also inspired Lim to explore modeling more of her own reading practices for students, sharing out about the book she is currently reading and reflecting on her own reading journey. And Voss and Hansen both appreciate the way that collaborating with colleagues has become, in Voss’s words, “immensely personal” as the team has learned more about each other’s reading lives and reading journeys through the process of preparing to nurture students’ relationships with books.

All of this speaks to Mittler’s hope for the program: “I love the idea that we are (hopefully) cultivating a community of readers. With as busy as the students and adults are, there seems something so healthy about stopping for 20 minutes and reading. If we can turn students back onto reading and help them discover their own reading selves now, and in the future, I think we would serve them as well as when we help them become strong writers.” A gift of time to read on one’s own with others, our new program aspires to keep strengthening our independent readers and, in the process, our connections to each other.
Going to the Dogs... and Loving It

How MICDS Prepared an Alumna For Success in the Snow

By Suzy Snowden Brauer ’95

“Well, it’s definitely not what I pictured I would be doing when I was at MICDS or even in college. But I love it and wouldn’t trade it for anything!” Those are the words of Sara Ross Hoffman ’95 describing the dogsledding business that she and her husband, Kris, run in Steamboat, Colorado.

The Hoffmans own Grizzle-T Dog & Sled Works, a dogsledding tour business started by Kris before he met Sara. “I like to say I got suckered in because who’s going to say no to playing with dogs every day,” she laughed. The business is centered around teaching guests how to drive a dogsled, or how to “do the mushing yourself.”

A typical morning for Hoffman begins with the hum of Kris’ snowcat grooming the trail as the sun crests over the hill behind the kennel. With the sunrise, the dogs begin to wake and introduce their first morning song. “One dog starts howling and then they all join in and you have an amazing harmony of dogs singing together and howling all with their noses up in the air,” Hoffman said. The guides show up as the dogs howl their chorus.

Then the guests begin to arrive between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m., bundled up with excitement and expectation. Kris opens the experience with a 10- or 15-minute instructional speech teaching the guests how to drive the dogsled, including how to lean, how to control their speed, and how to space. Guests mush in pairs, where one acts as the driver and the other, the passenger. Drivers must weigh at least 80 pounds so they are capable of stopping the sled. Hoffman has had drivers from age eight to 80-plus. The passenger bundles up inside the sled and the driver or “musher” (also bundled warmly) stands on the runners on the back of the sled and holds onto a wooden handle on top.

Hoffman takes great care to make sure all the guests have the proper winter gear and are ready to be warm and comfortable on the tour. She says it is always surprising how many people show up in tennis shoes or high wedge boots that are not warm. She and Kris...
keep an arsenal of boots in various sizes and lots of extra gear and clothing for the guests to borrow to ensure that guests have a pleasant experience. “You have a lot more fun when you’re warm and happy,” she said.

All guests drive on a private, 12.5-mile trail just outside of Steamboat. Halfway around the trail, the driver and passenger stop and switch positions, provided the passenger weighs at least 80 pounds. Children under 80 pounds can stand on the back and help an adult mush the sled; they just don’t weigh enough to drive and stop it by themselves. There are six to eight dogs per team, depending on the weight in the sled, which also determines which dogs are used. Guests usually break into two groups of four sleds. One guide rides in front on a snowmobile and another guide rides behind on a snowmobile, “but we try to stay pretty hands-off because it’s a quiet, peaceful experience and we want people to enjoy that,” Hoffman explained.

After the tour, everyone returns to the kennel and enjoys hot cocoa, homemade cookies and brownies, and, for the adults, hot toddies as a special dessert. The Hoffmans tell guests to plan half a day for the whole adventure—including plenty of snuggle time with the dogs at the end. Hoffman describes the mountains as magical and says there’s something about their valley that draws people in and makes everyone want to come back. One legend claims that the Ute Indians put a spell on the valley that entices people to return.

The Hoffmans own 107 Alaskan Huskies, and, not surprisingly, the dogs are really the heart and soul of the operation. Everyone in the family knows each dog’s name, and the Hoffmans’ daughter Hadley, 6, and son Hunter, 4, helped select the perfect names for many of them. The family has a fun tradition of using themes to name the dogs.

continued on page 12 >>
so they can remember who is related. Each litter has its own theme, such as Star Wars, The Flintstones, and Harry Potter.

Hadley has wanted to help in the kennel and clean up after the dogs since she was 18 months old. She was a December baby, so Hoffman would bundle her up and tuck her into a baby carrier while taking care of the dogs. Hadley developed a wonderful and deep love for the dogs nearly from birth. Hunter is just as involved as his sister. The kids come out with their parents in the mornings to help them with chores such as feeding, brushing, and cleaning up. Hoffman thinks Hadley has a little more passion for the dogs, while Hunter prefers to go fast on the snowmobiles. The two children share a fun, mini dogsled that is pulled by two dogs.

Hoffman appreciates getting “unconditional love from 107 dogs every day.” She also enjoys watching her children explore and do things she never imagined doing when she was a child. For example, her children have been riding snowmobiles on their own since they were three.

Guests are often surprised to learn how much the dogs love what they’re doing. Alaskan Huskies have a passion and vigor for what they do that makes them want to run and run every day without ever taking a break. “The best way to explain it,” said Hoffman, “is kind of like a Lab’s obsession with fetch. The minute these dogs see their harnesses, all they want to do is run.” Visitors are also surprised by how loving the dogs are. Each dog has its own personality and most love to sit in people’s laps and lick their faces.

Their bonds are so tight with the Hoffmans that the children are able to hold a puppy just hours after it is born without the mother getting upset.

Hoffman reminisced about a special dog they had named Hattie. In 2011, Hattie was one of Kris’ lead dogs in the Iditarod, which is approximately 1,100 miles and is described as the last great race across the Alaskan tundra. Three separate litters of Hattie’s offspring were on the team as well. Hattie was a wonderful leader, and she trained so many of their other dogs. Shortly after the Iditarod, they discovered that Hattie had cancer on her chest. She ended up taking a season off and became their house dog. Hattie had such amazing drive and spirit that she wouldn’t let anything bring her down. One morning, instead of running from the house to her kennel like usual, she
ran straight to where they hook up the dogs and just sat there, waiting to get harnessed. Hattie was letting them know she was ready to run again. She enjoyed another four great seasons as a sled dog before she officially retired.

In her spare time, Hoffman loves doing things outdoors, such as taking the kids down to the river and fishing, hiking, or bike riding. She would love to have the opportunity to camp more, but it is challenging to find someone to watch the dogs. When they go on vacation, they go to the beach because they “need a break from the snow.”

Hoffman has the happiest memories of her time at MICDS. She loves the School and said, “I think it always just felt like a family to me.” She is fascinated by the history of our School and how many families attended and still go back. Hoffman loved the diversity of classes and particularly enjoyed neurophysiology, anatomy, and physiology. She also appreciated the many art classes she was able to take and has an especially fond memory of her French teacher, Madame Kathy Standley. When Hoffman was in fourth grade, her father was transferred to Brussels and the whole family moved there for two years. She attended the International School of Brussels, where French was taught differently than in the United States. When she returned to MICDS, she knew how to have a conversation in French but not necessarily how to write it all down. Madame Standley was kind and understanding, allowing Hoffman to take her tests orally into a tape recorder in addition to writing the answers down. Her teacher then compared the two while grading.

At MICDS, Hoffman learned a lot that she still uses to this day, but time management is perhaps the most important. Because the School allows students to manage their own schedules, she developed the ability to multitask and prioritize. The ability to juggle multiple things at the same time, such as schoolwork and extracurricular activities, “prepared me for having three jobs, plus two kids, while dealing with a pandemic,” she said. In addition to managing a business with 107 dogs, Hoffman also sells real estate and runs her own virtual skincare line.

Her biggest challenge is managing day-to-day changes because of the variables from guest personalities to how the dogs are doing. In the face of many changes and surprises, Hoffman said, “you’ve got to be ready to pivot.” The challenges are easily balanced by the reward of seeing the smiles on her guests’ faces when they’re out on the dogsleds experiencing this forgotten way of life. There is something about the pure joy that the dogs exude that is contagious to anyone observing. Hoffman describes the peace and serenity of a dogsled ride as a place where the only thing heard is the dogs’ paws in the snow. This experience allows people to take a break from their phones and computers and reunite with nature.

Hoffman was planning to come to our 25th reunion last spring that was unfortunately canceled due to the pandemic, and she tries to make it back to St. Louis at least every summer to visit her family and see friends. She is grateful for social media, which allows her to follow friends and family and stay in touch. She does occasionally see Helen Chamness Bruellman ’95, who lives in the area. Hoffman said, “I miss St. Louis at times, but I wouldn’t trade it for what I get to do every day and where I get to be in the mountains. I just can’t imagine living in a city again.” It sounds like Hoffman’s heart belongs right where she is: in the mountains with her family and her dogs.
Time flies when you’re having fun learning in senior kindergarten and 1st grade! Lower School art and science collaborated recently on a socially distanced lesson that transformed Senior Kindergarten and 1st grade students into beautiful birds, much to their delight.

Students were participating in a Journey North Citizen Science experience in which they tried to attract robins. “Robins are a unique bird species in that many migrate south, but some also stay local if the conditions are favorable,” said Lower School Science Teacher Laura Pupillo. “We set out a robin feeding station and got into the bird-watching mode by being birds ourselves in our newly-designed wings.” After creating their own bird wings out of foam-core board in Visual Arts Teacher Sarah Garner’s art class, students flocked to the garden area by Beasley to search for their fellow feathered friends.

Wearing the wings helped them stay socially distant which is important in this time of the coronavirus pandemic. “The lesson also taught them about symmetry in art and helped them recognize how our differences make us special,” says Garner. Each student used acrylic paint to decorate their wings in their own unique way. They incorporated sequins, feathers, and colorful foam shapes in this fun activity.
Allen Vogt ’32 and Maya Shripka ’32 create beautiful wings.

Jonathan Qu ’32 explores campus as a bird.

Amina Hayes ’32 decorates her wings in the art studio.

“The lesson also taught them about symmetry in art and helped them recognize how our differences make us special.”

VISUAL ARTS TEACHER SARAH GARNER
Gamification
Sparks Learning and Friendly Competition

Middle and Upper School social studies students are “making history” in online, game-like learning activities.

Fifth graders engaged in the Indus River Valley challenge, a virtual exercise that Middle School History Teacher Robyn Williams created based on the game of Clue. Students selected their teams and worked to complete five puzzles in a race to learn more about the Indus River Valley. The winning team from each section is prominently featured on the Virtual Wall of Fame, a great honor if you are a 5th grade historian.

Williams said, “I wanted to start the year with a gamified lesson for several reasons, but mainly because it’s a fun and engaging way to get students to learn about ancient history. This year, it was particularly important to start with the Indus River Valley Clue game because I wanted students to enjoy working together with their teammates in Zoom breakout rooms to solve the different tasks in the game. I enjoyed being able to provide the opportunity for students to work together in a fun and competitive way while still learning about an ancient civilization.”

“We got to race the other teams...we were learning, but you barely noticed. It was great for teamwork, and it was a great way to learn about the Indus River Valley.”

ABBY WALSH ’28

Screencaps from the history classes of Middle School Teacher Robyn Williams and Upper School Teacher Dr. Tanya Roth, showing how students used online games to learn about the Indus River Valley and the American Revolution, respectively.
Students enjoyed the healthy competition and teamwork, too. “The game was so fun. We all got to do something, and all the rooms (puzzles) made sure one person wasn’t doing all of the work. We got to race the other teams...we were learning, but you barely noticed,” Abby Walsh ‘28 said. “It was great for teamwork, and it was a great way to learn about the Indus River Valley.”

JP Senneff ‘28 also enjoyed the activity. “I loved playing the Indus River Valley clue game with my friends,” he said. “It helped me learn how ahead of their time the Indus civilization was.”

Upper School History Teacher Tanya Roth has been employing similar game elements in her classes. She said, “I’ve been experimenting with gamification or game elements in my classes for about two years now. For me, it’s more about using game elements—cool design, a bit of competition, etc.—to help get students excited about doing what we’re doing. In some ways, it’s like using technology in the classroom. Gamification is all about having fun, sure, but it’s also about making sure that you’re using a game structure in order to engage students in specific content. I always start with my class goals and build from there.”

Ninth graders learned about World War I propaganda techniques, technology advancements, trench warfare strategies, and more in an online “choose your own adventure” team activity. Students collaborated virtually to engage in a variety of learning activities and then reflected on their learning in paragraph form, all in a shared set of Google Slides.

Tenth graders explored a website activity created by Roth to learn about the American Revolution. They clicked on various images to find activities centered on a particular theme. From there, students read passages and watched videos. Then, they completed a task to demonstrate their learning, such as using a form to sort data about the signers of the Declaration of Independence, creating a Flipgrid video production, or enjoying an in-person conversation with their teacher.

Noah Macam ‘23 said “The activity was really engaging, super informative, and allowed students to connect with the material in unique ways. I learned more about the different social groups that the American Revolution fostered. I also learned about the specific battles (when, where, and why) that took place during the Revolution. My favorite part was going between activities quickly and efficiently, almost like you were on a virtual scavenger hunt, but at the same time, learning important historical knowledge.”

Noah Macam ‘23
knowledge. The activity brought different points of view into the material we’re learning. It allowed us to get closer with the material and explore, relating a lot of topics to the revolution, independence, and the overall development of the American society.”

Macam’s classmate Varsha Devisetty ’23 agreed. She said, “I thought it was a great way to connect with our peers while still learning new information that followed the trajectory of our class. I like how there were a variety of activities like watching videos, answering questions, having discussions, going to interactive websites, and reading articles. I also liked how it was with our peers and not necessarily by ourselves or with the teacher because it allowed for a more relaxed environment. During the activity, I learned about the different perspectives of different people during the American Revolution. This included women, enslaved people, soldiers, loyalists, and politicians. My favorite part of the activity was all of the sub-activities that we did. It was nice to not spend too much time on every activity; it allowed us to progress further and encouraged us to keep working since the activities weren’t dragging on forever. It was a great way to gain a greater understanding of different perspectives during the American Revolution while also having a lot of fun with activity.”

Aanya Tiwari ’23 shared her thoughts, too. She said, “I found the activity highly beneficial as it explained the different foundational elements of the American Revolution in a clear and concise manner. Our class worked through the activity in small group collaborations, keeping an ongoing discourse on the topic, which gave me perspective while making learning more interesting in the process. “I particularly found the role of women to be of profound importance and prominence in the revolution. The boycott of key British goods and active participation in protests and in taking over households served as a much needed, strong resistance towards Great Britain. Women tended to crops and controlled farms in the prominent absence of male presence at homes. Fundraising, burning of British crops, and even taking the front line positions in wars were some of the primary ways they contributed. The sheer significance of their multifaceted roles in the revolution is noteworthy, given the open inferiority and suppression that women faced at the time. Learning about this felt so inspiring and empowering, considering their hard work and determination amidst the numerous obstacles and an unstable environment.”

“My favorite part of the activity was all of the sub-activities that we did. It was a great way to gain a greater understanding of different perspectives during the American Revolution while also having a lot of fun with activity.”

VARSHA DEVISETTY ’23
This fall, 2nd graders took to the fresh air on the front lawn in front of Danforth Hall to practice their interview skills and get to know a friend at the same time. Since Lower School cohorts were kept small and separate, students hadn’t had the chance to get to know students in other cohorts on campus. Second Grade Homeroom Teachers Kristen Witzman and Maggie Kraushaar saw an opportunity to enable interaction between the cohorts in a safe, socially-distant way as part of their project-based learning social studies curriculum.

Students, masked and at a safe social distance, interviewed friends from the other cohort. They asked each other questions such as, “What holidays do you celebrate?” They took notes during the interview and then drafted a paragraph summarizing what they learned about their friend. Students in the distance learning program also participated virtually. They provided written answers to an interview questionnaire, and a fellow virtual student read through their answers and wrote a paragraph about them.

Project-based learning is an important theme throughout 2nd grade and throughout the Lower School. Witzman said, “Interview skills are a foundational part of the project-based learning curriculum, so we thought this activity would be a great, safe way for students to practice those skills and also get to know a friend at the same time!” This was the first interaction between the two 2nd grade cohorts, and for some students, this may have been their first time meeting a new friend.
History of St. Louis Class Hosts Panel Discussions

Eleventh Graders Hear A Variety of Views

This year, the 11th grade students in their required History of St. Louis Class have enjoyed a variety of virtual panel discussions with local experts. Scott Small, Head of Upper School, introduced the program to students. “How can you recognize and weigh the ethical consequences of your decisions and actions, not just for yourself, but for those around you? We know how inextricably connected we are, how valuable we are to one another, and that begins and ends with your commitment to each other. What better way to start that promise to each other, but to understand the place where we live—our community.”

Humans of St. Louis

The class’s first speakers were Lindy Drew, co-founder and lead storyteller of Humans of St. Louis (HOSTL); Chloe Owens, storyteller at HOSTL; and Ava Mandoli ’21, intern at HOSTL and current MICDS senior. HOSTL is a nonprofit organization that shares first-person stories and photographic portraits of people and places all across St. Louis. The project started as a creative outlet and grew organically, building a large following on social media second only to the Humans of New York page.

HOSTL focuses on storytelling to connect people with multiple perspectives across St. Louis, stressing the importance of understanding all of St. Louis, including people who are from different areas and who live different lives.

Xavier Asher ’22 said, “When I think of St. Louis, I have the same thoughts that I think most people who aren’t from here think; that it’s a dangerous place. This presentation changed my perception of the city to a more positive one. It made me realize that there are still plenty of people in these communities who are trying to inflict positive change. St. Louis is a place with plenty of good people, but that doesn’t seem to make headlines.”
Healthcare

Necole Cheung, Executive Director of the Christian Hospital Foundation; Dr. Naveen Krishna, a doctor and COVID-19 specialist (and current parent); and Amadou Yattassaye, President of Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield in Missouri (and current parent and trustee) offered a vibrant discussion about healthcare in St. Louis.

Dr. Krishna spoke about how St. Louis is blessed with two large universities and multiple community hospitals, but segregation between St. Louis City, St. Louis County, and St. Charles County and a rise in mental health issues due to isolation can present challenges.

Cheung said social determinants can cause communities to be unhealthy. “In North County, there are a lot of food deserts,” she said, in addition to a lack of access to care.

Yattassaye said the digital environment has allowed many to continue working, learning, and maintaining connections. “We need technology infrastructure to be robust and available to everyone,” he said. “Digital [technology] will create more access,” he said. “The pandemic has paved the way for telemedicine,” agreed Dr. Krishna.

“Look around you and leverage that to create significant opportunities. If you have an innovating mindset and you go away to college, don’t be afraid to come back here and leverage that,” Yattassaye said. “The future is in your hands, and we have confidence you can deliver. Be bold.”

Krishna said, “No matter what field you get into—medicine, business administration, economics—you can affect healthcare. Try to adopt being a global citizen.” Cheung encouraged students to explore local organizations. “There are all kinds of volunteer opportunities and tours. Volunteer, pick up the phone, shadow; there are great ways to learn what’s new.”

Social and Cultural Issues

We welcomed Cami Thomas ’11, a documentary filmmaker; Dr. Art McCoy, the Superintendent of Jennings School District; and Dr. Tim Huffman, Associate Professor at St. Louis University to discuss social and cultural issues in our community.

Thomas expressed her love for St. Louis and admitted that there are issues. “Going to school in one part of the city, living in another part, and seeing still other parts through volunteer work with my family, there are stark differences,” she said. McCoy spoke about the importance of reflection. “The most important social and cultural issue right now is knowing who we are, knowing our role in where we are and where we’re going, and knowing what basic rights and privileges everyone should have.”

Dr. Huffman talked about how restrictive and racist housing laws in St. Louis created ongoing issues with intergenerational wealth, and how inequity in policing and economic development impact housing. “Homeownership has a profound effect across generations,” he said.

McCoy said it’s important for students to know who they are in this moment, and where they are going, so they can help be a part of where they are going. “We are not just being, we are becoming,” he said. “As we do more, we become more. It’s important to have resources because a dream without resources is just a hallucination.” Huffman advised, “As a young person, you can align yourself with communities and be a contributor all over the world. Don’t just volunteer. Volunteer in the way that develops you and calls on your greatest skills.”

Thomas spoke about Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, saying, “When basic needs are taken care of, people have freedom to imagine and create and think about what they want to do. That’s when you get a vibrant city. That’s the version of St. Louis I want to see.”

“The speakers shared a unique perspective of their own experience and the experience of others which definitely shaped how I think about St. Louis. We all have different interests and talents, so there are many unique and creative ways to help others and improve a situation,” said Cate Cody ’22.
Politics

Two different political panels offered students perspectives on politics at the local and state levels. The State Representatives Panel included members of the Missouri House of Representatives: Representative Phil Christofanelli (Republican, District 105), Representative Shamed Dogan ’96 (Republican, District 98), Representative Ian Mackey (Democrat, District 87), and Representative Tracy McCreery (Democrat, District 88).

Representatives Dogan and Mackey said that changes start at the individual level with embracing diversity (of race, religion, creed, sexual orientation, thoughts), being more forward-thinking, welcoming the technology and energy industries, and making changes as individuals. “We need to create a culture that is welcoming and a place where people want to be,” said Representative Mackey. “More than policies is how we talk to and treat each other.”

Each speaker shared specific examples about reaching across the aisle to work with the other party to pass a bill or accomplish a goal. The representatives gave examples of improving disciplinary practices in schools, banning the practice of shackling incarcerated women who are pregnant, correcting outdated and discriminatory HIV statutes, and criminal justice and police reform. “This is the best job I’ve had,” expressed Representative Dogan. “People do this to serve their communities. We work across the aisle every time.”

Representative McCreery shared, “Realize you don’t have to run for office to make a difference in the world. There are many ways you can help. Do some self-reflection, figure out what you care about.” “Government is run by the people who show up and it’s never too early to show up,” stated Representative Christofanelli.

The second panel of executive and legal experts included Tony Messenger, a national columnist with the St. Louis Post-Dispatch; Emanuel Powell, a staff attorney with Arch City Defenders; Willie Epps Jr. ’88, a United States Magistrate Judge on the 8th Circuit; and Ella Jones, Mayor of Ferguson, Missouri.

The panelists encouraged students to vote and participate in the census since elected officials impact so many of the issues in our country and the census helps determine how resources are allocated. Several of the panelists also mentioned racial inequality as an issue.

Powell spoke about how, as a civil rights attorney, he’s very much aware of the political pressures inherent in creating and enforcing laws, and how laws passed in the 1800s continue to impact the work he does today. Epps told the students, “You’re about to see how politics impact my world,” in regard to the then-upcoming confirmation hearings for a new Supreme Court justice. He spoke about how humbling it is to be a judge, and how beyond the confirmation process, in the real work of the courts, judges follow the law based on precedent, not on individual opinions. “I assure you that every single day there are hundreds of men and women like me who try to follow the law by precedent, not based on what we think. Our system of law is built on precedent established over decades.”

Messenger also talked about how journalists typically do not participate in partisan politics and said that he writes about both the Democratic party and the Republican party. “Politics is what ultimately creates public policy, determines on a federal level who ends up on the Supreme Court and who is appointed to circuit courts, and impacts cases making their way through the court system,” he said.

Jones said that recovering from the coronavirus pandemic and keeping people safe and healthy is the most important thing for St. Louis City and County to focus on, which will lead to economic recovery. All the panelists agreed that while our region struggles with a variety of issues, there are very good people collaborating and working hard to make our community better for everyone. They are optimistic about the future of St. Louis and its citizens.
“The speakers reminded me of all the cool opportunities in St. Louis. I already knew that St. Louis was great for entrepreneurs, but it was nice actually getting to hear business from their perspectives. With hard work and dedication, any idea can blossom into an amazing idea.”

JAKENZIE BROWN ’22

Economics

Jorge Riopedre, Executive Director of Delmar DeviNe (and parent of alumni); Amy Shaw, President & CEO of Nine Network (and spouse of faculty); Torbjorn Sjogren, Vice President of International Government and Defense for Boeing (and current parent and parent of alumni); and David Steward II ’95, CEO of Polarity Ltd. and founder of Lion Forge Labs (and current parent) discussed economics in St. Louis.

Both Steward and Sjogren shared how attracting talent can be a challenge. Sjogren said, “Getting the right talent has been a challenge and, frankly, getting diverse talent has been a challenge.”

Riopedre reflected on how business opportunities in St. Louis are enormous and if the issue of systemic racism could be solved, “people would be beating down our door.” The social and economic impact that systemic racism has played is something that the organizations of all four panelists are addressing in some way.

A challenge that Shaw noted was about our own perception of St. Louis. “I think that St. Louis thinks of itself as a 'less than' kind of place. We have an ingrained narrative that we’re ‘not quite as good as.’” This impression needs to be shifted and there is a lot of intentional work in progress to bring about this change.

Steward echoed this sentiment. “When we built our company, it was all about [asking] how can we produce content that is inclusive and representative of everybody?” His company showcases many of the marginalized voices in the community. He also said that we need to define our city ourselves.

“We need to expand the definition of what creating value is,” Riopedre added. “It has to be about investment in the community.”

“I would say that you’re needed,” said Shaw, directly addressing students. “I also think there’s something to be said about being a bigger fish in a smaller pond; you can accomplish a lot.”

Riopedre talked about the importance of using an MICDS education to make society better. “Whatever you do... take the education that MICDS is affording you and use it to better the society in which you live,” he said.

JaKenzie Brown ’22 said, “The speakers reminded me of all the cool opportunities in St. Louis. I already knew that St. Louis was great for entrepreneurs, but it was nice actually getting to hear business from their perspectives. With hard work and dedication, any idea can blossom into an amazing idea.”
While every class needed to be reinvented this year, physical education perhaps took some of the most creativity to redesign. How do you inspire students to be fit and active while social distancing? What happens when the gym has been repurposed to house cohorts? Our physical education teams in the Lower and Middle Schools were up to the challenge.

**LOWER SCHOOLERS WORK IT OUT...OUTSIDE**

This fall, Beasley Lower School students thoroughly enjoyed their physical education activities outside on the MICDS athletic fields or from their homes. P.E. may have looked different than usual, but students were still actively engaged in strength-based and flexibility exercises and games.

Lower School P.E. Teachers Sue Orlando and Jim Lohr have continued to adapt and innovate their program this year. For in-person learners, they taught an entire Lower School grade level at one time, separated into four stations by cohort outside on the MICDS athletic fields. Each cohort station was then further divided with a hula hoop space marker for each student. Students worked through exercise circuits in their hoop, such as lunges, side jumps over an obstacle, jumping jacks, and more, and each student also took a turn running around the entire setup. Students rotated from station to station as they used their muscles in different ways for a great all-around workout.

*For More Photos >>*
magazine.micds.org
For distance learners, Orlando and Lohr stressed, “Remember the magic number for exercise each day is at least 60 minutes.” They regularly sent home P.E. activities via the SeeSaw learning platform, including videos of on-campus students demonstrating exercise circuits. Students reported back with photos, videos, and notes on their physical activity.

**MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ON THE MOVE**

Middle School students returned this fall to a unique physical education curriculum in both online and in-person formats, thoughtfully developed by **JK-12 Physical Education Department Chair Eric Lay** and the talented educators in the department.

Lay shared some insight into the program: “It’s important to understand how students are assessed in P.E. class. All students have access to their assessment spreadsheet, and faculty and students work collaboratively to assess movement skills and competencies and cognitive skill development as the semester progresses. Grades are standard-based, and all students start with a score of “1” at the start of the semester since they haven’t proven their learning yet. As students improve their skills and progress their learning, the scores change accordingly. Students assess their own comfort and competence in performing various physical activities, and their teachers weigh in with their assessment, too. It's a collaborative process which gives students a sense of agency and personal responsibility for their own physical education development.”

The movement assessments focus on how well students can perform movement exercises, such as squats and planks, with proper technique and form. Students learning from home watched a video demonstration of the exercise and then practiced the movement until they felt they were doing it properly and with the repetition required. Then, they submitted a video of themselves doing each exercise for their teacher’s review. The teachers took environmental factors into consideration, and distance learners and teachers collaborated to make adjustments and individualized movement skill assessments as needed. On-campus learners received in-person instruction on movement skills and feedback on their progress. All students learned the same skills concurrently, just in different environments.
Professional Development in a Pandemic

Students aren’t the only ones learning online

MICDS faculty members turn to professional development pursuits during the summer months, and this summer, those pursuits were especially important and unique. Although there are no conferences or sabbatical trips due to COVID-19, faculty members engaged in bettering themselves as educators in the virtual environment. The experience of being a virtual student in a webinar or online session was valuable in terms of building empathy for their students.

Middle School Language Arts Teacher Kathleen Armstrong attended Teaching Literacy in Times of Change and Uncertainty, a small conference produced by the Public Education and Business Coalition. Two sessions, in particular, stood out to her, especially within the context of distance teaching. Armstrong shared, “All children need to be heard, and they need to see themselves in stories; they need to see others in stories that give them a window into how others live, and they need to be able to walk in another’s shoes so they can understand others who are not quite like themselves, here and around the globe. The metaphor that we need mirrors, windows, and doors in the books we choose is used to tap into our common bonds as humans and to develop a shared emotional response from the reading.” The presenter for the second session was Cuban-American author Antonio Sacre who wrote stories for his own children after realizing there were no stories that told his story. His picture book stories are fun and engaging while serving as a window into another culture for some children and a mirror for those who share similar culture and traditions.

Middle School English Teacher Olivia Halverson participated in Distance Learning up Close: Teaching for Engagement and Impact in any Setting presented by Douglas Fisher, Nancy Frey, and John Hattie. The webinar spoke to many aspects of distance learning including addressing students’ social/emotional needs, focusing on the learning process, cultivating student-teacher relationships virtually, employing technological platforms in the classroom, and assessing students at a distance. Halverson said, “I am confident my strategies will provide students with a richer, more well-rounded distance learning experience. By reaching students’ needs emotionally, socially, cognitively, and academically through regular interactions with them and my willingness to pivot when a new approach is necessary, students receive quality educational instruction.”

Classroom Supervisor and Substitute Teacher David Kates completed the nine-day Climate Reality Leadership Corps Global Training led by Former Vice President Al Gore. The virtual training featured about 10,000 participants from dozens of countries. Gore delivered his two-hour An Inconvenient Truth speech, along with a Reality in 10 (minutes) speech, and he interviewed climate experts. Kates shared, “The goals of the training were to prepare leaders to deliver speeches in many different venues, integrate climate change into curricula, mentor youth activists, and participate in lobbying government and businesses to be more climate-friendly in their policies.”

“At MICDS, I hope to deliver short and longer climate speeches to students in each grade and mentor the environmental or campus greening clubs.”

CLASSROOM SUPERVISOR AND SUBSTITUTE TEACHER DAVID KATES
Middle School Drama Teacher and 7th Grade Dean Charlotte Dougherty, Middle and Lower School Drama Teacher Missy Heinemann, and Upper School Performing Arts Teacher Carolyn Hood attended a week-long professional development experience, Broadway Teacher’s Workshop 2020 Online Conference. The diverse curriculum included classes on design, teaching, producing, and directing theater in the online environment. Each evening closed with a fireside chat from a Broadway legend: Steven Schwartz, Patti LuPone, Billy Porter, and Chita Rivera.

“I learned not only some tips for teaching online but also how it feels to be a student online all day. I think that was the biggest eye-opener.”

MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA TEACHER AND 7TH GRADE DEAN CHARLOTTE DOUGHERTY

Upper School History Teachers Dr. Tanya Roth and Kristin Roberts engaged in an online course called What Makes a Winning Presidential Campaign? hosted through a partnership between the Presidential Primary Sources Project, the National Archives, and Presidential Libraries. The sessions included presentations from staff at five presidential libraries (Herbert Hoover, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Ronald Reagan, and Bill Clinton libraries). “We learned about how each of these presidents ran their political campaigns, focusing on five factors that determine if a presidential campaign is successful: strategy, technology, personality, state of the Union, financial support, and voter turnout.” Roberts applied much of what she learned to her Presidential Politics class, a course that focuses on the history of the presidency, particularly in terms of campaign strategies and changes over time. Roth teaches Accelerated U.S. History, and she also plans to incorporate resources from the program later in the school year.

Middle School Science Teacher/Maker and Robotics Coordinator Branson Lawrence took a course called Andragogy and Distance Learning through Lindenwood University as part of their Master’s in Educational Technology program. The course provided a foundation in major theories of adult learning (andragogy), digital etiquette, responsible social interaction, and online education. The course project was to design and develop an online course for adult learners. Williams created a self-paced, self-directed Schoology course for MICDS teachers. She said, “While the course was geared towards adult learners, I found the major project helpful in designing and thinking about how to organize information on a learning management system for younger students engaged in distance learning.” Lawrence created a Schoology course on instructional videos for tools and equipment in the maker space. The course aimed to enable a teacher to integrate more maker projects into their curriculum.

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Upper School Dean and English Teacher Nicole Trueman-Shaw participated in Rick Wormeli’s webinar Accurate/Ethical Grading hosted by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). She shared, “We focused on best practices for grading the acquisition and application of skills during the coronavirus pandemic. We need to be intentional about showing grace and compassion before accountability when it comes to supporting our newest Upper School friends. While we need to ultimately hold them accountable for their work and learning, we first need to make sure we are being appropriately compassionate about their learning challenges in this new virtual learning environment.” She also participated in Working for Justice, Equity, and Civic Agency in Our Schools: A Conversation with Clint Smith hosted by Facing History and Ourselves.

Middle School Learning Specialist Susan Taylor-Alonso participated in a summer graduate course through her Multicultural Education doctoral program at Johns Hopkins University. The course focused on identifying strategies and interventions for facilitating transformative multicultural approaches to education. Taylor-Alonso said, “Using Pedersen’s tripartite model of multiculturalism, we addressed the requisite awareness, knowledge, and skills for enhancing our multicultural competencies. We created a conceptual framework to organize research approaches related to this model, and we engaged in deep reflection about critical pedagogy, intersectionality, and fostering identity safe spaces.”

Middle School History Teacher Robyn Williams and Middle School Learning Specialist Susan Taylor-Alonso

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“Art teaches people how to communicate, how to talk, how to be themselves...there are so many things,” said Sarah Garner, Lower School Visual Arts Teacher. “It’s almost infinite. Who we are, how to see the world around us, empathy, and compassion. Art teaches you to look deeper, beyond what you first see. It teaches you to find a way to express yourself.”

Garner’s enthusiasm for art started when she was a child and has only grown. She now shares that enthusiasm with all of our Beasley students. Her goals for the Lower School art program are two-fold: curricular and developing a love of the arts.

The curriculum covers the Eight Studio Habits of Mind (see sidebar). What young students learn through their work in the art studio transfers to many parts of their lives. For example, they’re building fine motor skills and learning how to manipulate tools to convey a message. These habits develop important life skills, too, such as learning to clean up after yourself. Students make connections in the studio with their other subjects in school and even in their lives at home and in their communities.

Beyond the curriculum, though, Garner strives to ensure her students learn that they are artists and to develop a lifelong love of the arts. “Whether it’s visual, performing, vocal, instrumental, I just want them to find a way to express themselves and be true to themselves,” she said.

Each year, Beasley artists embark on new adventures. While the concepts they explore are consistent—such as studying color or line, understanding community, learning to express or envision—they’re exposed to new and different projects. “I try not to do the same project from year to year,” said Garner. This keeps her students engaged and motivates her creativity and learning as well. She notes that students say working with clay is their favorite and so they regularly explore self-expression through ceramics. Self-portraits are always popular. Garner tries to have her students create them through all their different developmental stages, then have the children look back to see their own growth both as artists and as people. How students explore their own personalities and expressions changes with each project.

Garner is also always looking for new artists to introduce to her students, and new events in the art world of St. Louis. She reads a variety of art magazines, attends art fairs, tracks art education on social media, and follows artists.
One recent example of a project she was excited to share with her students is the 42 Doors of Hope project through the American Cancer Society. The Society partnered with local artists to create 42 doorways, symbolizing the 42 guest suites available at the new American Cancer Society Hope Lodge St. Louis. The doors represent each patient’s unique journey to wellness while being part of a collection—a community.

“If I didn’t search for new things, if I got comfortable, our classes would be stagnant,” she said. “I want art to be relevant to their lives today, to help them connect to their community, and to promote student engagement.” While exploring the work of old masters is always interesting, Garner loves helping connect her students with today’s artists who live and create right here in their community. Two popular artists are Cbabi Bayoc and Mark Borella, also known as the Seeds of Happiness Guy. Both are heavily invested in improving our community and are beloved by our students. Garner tries to introduce one new guest artist each year. This year, with the pandemic limiting options for our usual in-person visits, she partnered with Borella to create a live virtual visit from Borella’s studio.

Garner is grateful for the support MICDS receives from alumni and parents that allows her students to meet real, working artists. “This community keeps that going,” she said.

She’s also keenly aware of the opportunities MICDS offers to every Lower School art student. “The resources we have available are amazing,” she said. “We have a kiln and a beautiful studio with access to a garden.” She carefully stewards her budget to ensure that her students have access to continued on page 30

Eight Studio Habits of Mind

By Jillian Hogan, Lois Hetland, Diane B. Jaquith, and Ellen Winner

1. Develop Craft: Learning to use and take care of tools, materials, art, space, and artistic conventions
2. Engage & Persist: Finding personally meaningful projects and sticking to them
3. Envision: Imagining new artworks and steps to bring them to life
4. Express: Making works that convey personal meaning and interpreting meaning in the works of others
5. Observe: Looking closely and noticing what you may not have observed before
6. Reflect: Talking about one’s own art and process
7. Stretch & Explore: Playing, trying new things, making mistakes, and learning from them
8. Understanding Community: Learning about what artists make, learning to collaborate, and understanding that artists often work in groups

These habits are cyclical and can happen throughout the year.
the tools and supplies for anything they want to create. “We have the resources to explore and express ourselves with so many different media, which we are lucky to have,” she said.

Access to materials is instrumental in fostering a love of art. Garner credits her parents with always having art supplies out and accessible. “I knew very young that I loved art,” she said. She remembers all of her art teachers from elementary through high school, and it was a high school ceramics teacher who inspired her to become an educator. Her teacher had created a safe place for all students to gather and create. “It was a place you could be yourself, where it was safe to be who you were,” Garner shared.

“You knew you always had a friend there, no matter how different they are, because you all love art and have that same connection.” That teacher made her realize that she could combine her love of art with her enjoyment of working with children, which she experienced through summer jobs throughout high school and college. She majored in the Visual Art Education program at the University of Kansas through its five-year program, one of the few of its kind at the time, and she earned a Master’s degree from Webster University as a reading specialist.

Garner evokes the spirit of her high school ceramics teacher today for her students, and they inspire her, too. “I feel love and joy when they come in,” she said. Under her guidance, the Beasley art studio is a place that combines passion for art with the ability for students to find their voices and their stories. In the six years she has taught at MICDS, hundreds of students have discovered their ability to express themselves. Though she once thought she’d teach high school students, Garner has learned that she finds meaning and connection with younger students. “They’re so excited about everything,” she explained. “There’s no filter, which is good because it comes out visually on paper and it’s really beautiful. They have no inhibitions, and no one has told them that what they’re doing is right or wrong. They’re excited to make marks and be themselves; they’re free and expressing themselves.”

Her own children are experiencing art much the same way. Claire, in 4th grade, and Catherine, in 1st grade, enjoy access to a variety of art materials. Even her husband, Patrick, a mechanical engineer, enjoys photography. Garner and her children made some fun videos during the pandemic, to share their how-to expertise with others who are looking for new things to try at home. “They are intended to spark joy and creativity and provide ways for families to have fun together,” said Garner. “They’re great for artists of all ages from younger students just learning to manipulate art tools to the advanced artists who are looking for something fun to do.” The videos differ from experiences in

“I want art to be relevant to their lives today, to help them connect to their community, and to promote student engagement.”

SARAH GARNER, LOWER SCHOOL VISUAL ARTS TEACHER
the Beasley studio where students are challenged with new concepts, self-expression, and sharing their visual stories.

Want to encourage an artistic mindset with the children in your life? Garner says to create a space with a variety of art materials always at the ready. Let kids be the leader in their artmaking—or any type of making; don’t guide them. Have conversations about their art, and let them lead the discussion. Encourage activities like visiting museums and talking about art. Garner also stresses that children should be exposed to all types of art, not just visual. Going to the symphony is a great way to share music. Go through their school art portfolios at home, and together, choose one piece they feel proud of to display for everyone to enjoy.

“Let them make a mess,” Garner said, and then hesitated before admitting, “It’s hard even for me.” She knows that in the art studio at Beasley, students understand they are a part of an art community that is responsible for taking care of the space and one another so everyone is able to create, as part of the Eight Studio Habits of Mind. She loves that even the littlest learners take pride in caring for each other and the art studio. At home, it can be a little harder for Mom to resist asking, “How long are we going to keep that cardboard contraption?”

Garner said these are great tips for adults, too. As you remind the children in your life that they’re artists and will always be artists, remember that goes for you, too. Art, like much of life, is learning that it’s okay to do something you didn’t originally plan, and then problem-solving ways to do it differently or a way you like it better. Picasso said, “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once he grows up.” George Bernard Shaw suggested, “We don’t stop playing because we grow old...we grow old because we stop playing.” Garner posits that these makers remind us that as we grow older, we often replace our internal desire to create with our adult responsibilities.

“Artists are always looking for ways to connect with people visually,” Garner said. “Artists are always people who are growing.”
American Heart Association Recognizes MICDS

For over 30 years, MICDS has hosted the Kids Heart Challenge and has supported the American Heart Association in their fight against heart disease and stroke and helping families and communities thrive. In each of these years, students and families brought in donations and contributed to community service efforts to help the cause.

The Kids Heart Challenge involves 85,000 students in 555 schools and has raised more than $1.4 million in donations in Missouri. This year, the Heart Association recognized the top schools and volunteers for their effort in making the Kids Heart Challenge a special event at their school.

These awards celebrate the time, passion, energy, and commitment to inspiring others. Lower School Physical Education Teachers Susan Orlando and Jim Lohr were nominated for “Volunteers of the Year” and MICDS was nominated for “School of the Year.” The nominees have outstanding passion for their school’s event by incorporating faculty, community, classroom challenges, and some very creative incentives—all while growing participation and engagement.

“We were very flattered by the nomination for Volunteers of the Year,” said Orlando. “Both Mr. Lohr and I would like to give a sincere thanks to the dozens of MICDS families who have supported the Jump Rope for Heart and now the Kids Heart Challenge over the years. We would not be able to do any of this without such a wonderful community.”

The American Heart Association awarded 4th place to MICDS in the School of the Year category.

“Both Mr. Lohr and I would like to give a sincere thanks to the dozens of MICDS families who have supported the Jump Rope for Heart and now the Kids Heart Challenge over the years. We would not be able to do any of this without such a wonderful community.”

LOWER SCHOOL PE TEACHER
SUSAN ORLANDO
Rams Rally for Kevin Collier’s 50 Miles

Our very own Kevin Collier, MICDS Technology Support Specialist and Assistant Football and Track & Field Coach, had a goal to run and walk 50 miles on his 50th birthday. Originally planned to be a tour of St. Louis landmarks important to Collier, the trip instead took place on our Weiss Track. He could not find a route that avoided highways, so he chose the MICDS campus which resulted in all kinds of Rams turning out to walk, run, and cheer him on from dawn to dusk. Check out the MICDS Magazine website for a video recap of Collier’s epic, 200-lap journey.

01. Kevin Collier perseveres through 200 laps on the Weiss Track.
02. Colleagues and students joined Collier throughout the day to offer encouragement and support.
03. Collier celebrates 50 miles at the end of his grueling, yet rewarding, journey.
Run, Rams, Run!
The Homecoming Fun Run Goes Virtual

About 50 Rams, Ram family members, and several dogs participated in the annual MICDS Homecoming Fun Run—this time conducted in a virtual format. Community members were challenged to trek 2.5 miles however they pleased. They could walk, run, push a stroller, ride a bike, or take the dog on a walk. As long as they moved in a forward direction, the distance counted.

Typically, the Fun Run occurs on the Saturday morning of Homecoming week before many of the varsity Homecoming matches and the Homecoming Carnival. The route is the 2.5 miles between MICDS and John Burroughs School with the direction alternating each year.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic limited much of what could be done during Homecoming this year, it didn’t stop the Fun Run from adapting. This year’s virtual format offered a dedicated registration website where runners printed their own bib numbers and recorded their results after the race.

Great job, Rams runners!

Fun Run By The Numbers:

- **FASTEST PACE**: 6:52/mile, Frances Applegate ’27
- **FURTHEST DISTANCE**: 18 miles
- **LONGEST TIME**: 12 hours

- **ELDEST PARTICIPANT**: 76 years old
- **YOUNGEST PARTICIPANT**: 5 years old

01.-02. Bowen Zhao ’25 participated in the Fun Run with his family.
03. Eilemiek Ferguson ’27 and her dogs, Liefje and Rosy, enjoyed the virtual Fun Run.
04. Barrett ’33 and Wyatt Eggers ’30 show off their MICDS pride before completing their run.
05. Reagan Saur ’29 and her mom Kimberly, our Lower School Associate Director of Admission, take a break during their run.
Pivot. That’s the word of the day. Actually, pivot is the word of the last year since the COVID-19 pandemic hit our world, making us rethink almost everything that we do. MICDS’ National Board of Visitors’ yearly meeting pivoted from an in-person event to completely virtual. The Board of Visitors, or BOV, is a group of out-of-town alumni that provides the School with a second set of eyes and hearts, examining a question that the School provides for them. After BOV members study, discuss, and debate the topic at hand, they provide the School a set of recommendations.

This year’s question comes from Head of School Jay Rainey’s desire for MICDS to be the “Happiest School in Saint Louis.”

With a variety of source material provided in advance, the BOV dove into the topic and provided the School with insights and recommendations on how to become a “happier” School based on four pillars: Social, Community and Belonging, Resilience, and Health/Wellbeing.

Rainey and the rest of the administrative team are looking for ways over the remainder of the year to think through how we might implement the Board of Visitors’ great thinking. The School will also report back to the BOV and the rest of the community on our progress over the next year.
Trick-or-Treat: MICDS Celebrates a Clever Halloween

Halloween in our MICDS community was celebrated in a number of heart-stopping and jack-o-lantern-grinning ways this year! From carving pumpkins and dressing up to acting out Halloween scenes and parading around in costumes, leave it to our Rams to figure out creative ways to celebrate the special occasion in this unique year!

01. Dressing up in Middle School and 5th/6th Grade Trunk-or-Treat
Middle Schoolers donned creative costumes from bats, cows, and Winnie the Pooh characters to M&Ms, Starbucks baristas, and gumball machines! On Halloween Day, 5th and 6th grade students participated in an outdoor, socially distanced Trunk-or-Treat on campus.

02. Spooky Halloween Drive-Through
For the first time ever, Upper School drama students worked hard to create a spooky Halloween drive-through. They transformed Carpe Diem Drive into a series of scary scenes. Ram families drove by witnessing zombies and witches, mad scientists, and corpses. Attendees also received popcorn and glow sticks as they drove along.

03. Lower School Halloween Parade
Junior kindergarteners through 4th graders donned their costumes and paraded around the outside of Olson Hall to the tune of such holiday favorites as Thriller by Michael Jackson, Monster Mash by Bobby Pickett, and Ghostbusters by Ray Parker Jr. Check out our video on the Magazine’s website.

04. Spooktacular Circuit Building Experience
Fourth graders in Lower School Science Teacher Laura Pupillo’s class learned about electricity. Pupillo partnered with the Upper School to set up a Halloween-themed circuit building experience. Students created light-up Halloween circuit cards that taught the science of using a circuit push switch.

Grant Purdy ’21, MICDS Senior and
Football Team Captain, collaborated virtually with 4th grade students to help them create their festive circuits.

05. Even the teachers showed Halloween spirit by dressing up.

06. Upper School Halloween Parade
Following Upper School tradition, only seniors get to dress up in their costumes for Halloween. They paraded through the Upper School as lobsters, secret service agents, bananas, and the characters from Scooby-Doo, to name just a few!

Zombie Make-Up Tutorial
To prepare for the drive-through, Upper School Performing Arts Teacher Carolyn Hood’s drama students had fun with a zombie make-up tutorial.

Pumpkin Bowling in the Upper School
You’ve heard of bowling, but have you ever heard of pumpkin bowling? Upper School students took to the MICDS fields to bowl with pumpkins on hills across campus.

Pumpkin Carving and Contest
Our Parents Association delivered Pumpkin Decorating Kits to all of our Lower School families early in October, and Upper School Student Council oversaw a schoolwide pumpkin carving contest for all Rams.
Despite Changes, the Turkey Train Rolls On

Many MICDS traditions needed to be sidelined or rethought this year, and the 2020 Turkey Train was no exception. However, that didn’t stop the MICDS community from coming up with a solution that tapped into the spirit of giving to provide Thanksgiving meals to needy families in the St. Louis region. And Rams showed TONS of spirit this year!
This year, MICDS Ram families donated:

- **9** totes of turkeys for a total weight of **4,860 lbs.**
- **31** barrels of non-perishable items for a total weight of **3,382 lbs.**
- **$5,664.85** in monetary donations

Between the food and the monetary donations, our community provided 29,387 meals for local families.

Students donated food items throughout the week, and the Turkey Train became a drive-through event during the morning hours. This year, donating a turkey was a choice open to students from all divisions. Families also made monetary donations to support the work of the St. Louis Area Foodbank.

“We were concerned that donations would be low with three grade levels learning from home and not being able to do the traditional Turkey Train with the passing of turkeys,” said Erin Hamill, Director of Upper School Community Service. “But the entire community really pulled together and the support this year was tremendous. We are extremely fortunate to have such generous families at MICDS and are so thankful for their support of this annual tradition.”

Way to go, Rams!
Getting The Band Back Together

Reinventing The Ensemble Experience

Upper/Middle School Band Director Becky Long and MS/US Instrumental Music Instructor Josh Baumgartner were excited to welcome band students back to campus. The only problem was: how would they gather band students so that they could play together safely? In addition to beautiful music, instruments tend to expel, well, particles. And how does a brass or woodwind musician play in a mask? Band class isn’t exactly the easiest thing to pull off in a pandemic.

Long and Baumgartner got to work, and their results are nothing short of amazing. Our Middle and Upper School band students returned to the classroom ready to learn but with new logistics and procedures in place to keep everyone safe.

The music teachers used data from an NFHS-sponsored study on aerosols, the Return to Campus Guidelines from the Peabody Conservatory at Johns Hopkins University, the advice of School Nurses Stephanie Presson and Michelle Fox, and input from the Director of Student Support Services Vicki Thurman to develop our MICDS Band Reopening Protocols.

Here are a few of the details:

**Masks**

All students and instruments are masked and covered at all times in Band, with the exception of flutes/flute players. Instrumentalists wear either a disposable mask with a precut slit in the middle of the pleats, or a reusable fabric mask with overlapping panels that allow access to the instrument while playing and cover the mouth when not. Percussion musicians wear their regular, daily masks, and flute players wear their masks when not playing. Flute players cannot wear masks while they play, so the teachers created flute pods that keep each student separate. A flute pod minimizes the spread of the student’s aerosol particles and the air ionization and filtration system works to capture the particles.

**Instrument Bags & Bell Covers**

Clarinet, bass clarinet, alto sax, tenor sax, and bari sax students are given clear plastic bags to cover their instruments while they are being played. These bags have a drawstring that is tied around the neck area of the instrument and small holes cut in the sides for the student’s hands. The bags keep potential aerosols contained to the bag and the air ionization and filtration system takes care of any particles that may escape. Brass instruments have a plastic bag over their bells and over their water keys. Students empty their water keys into the bags and dispose of them at the end of class. As soon as they were made, washable fabric covers replaced all disposable options.
PERCUSSION

Percussion students have been given their own sets of sticks and/or mallets to use. Sticks and mallets are kept in a plastic bag in an assigned spot with the other students’ instruments and do not need to go back and forth from home to school. Percussion instruments are cleaned between each use.

INSTRUMENT STORAGE

Upper School students have access to lockers for instrument storage only. Locker assignments and the locker area are carefully managed to ensure adherence to social distancing requirements.

MUSIC

All music/written materials are left at school during the week, stored next to the student’s instrument. At the end of each week, Long and Baumgartner collect the music and place it in a crate so nothing is lost over the weekend. If desired, students take a second copy of their music home to practice, and all of the music, including music from the method books, is accessible from home via SmartMusic.

CLASS SPACES AND SIZE

The Upper School Band uses the band room and Orthwein Theatre for classes, ensuring there are never more than 14 students in one space at one time. Baumgartner and Long each teach a group in their own space.

Middle School band students gather in Eliot Chapel, which means their music is consistently drifting through Danforth Hall, a welcome addition to the school day.

We are grateful for the creative solutions made possible by Long and Baumgartner that allow our band students to play on.

03. Bell covers keep particles from escaping brass instruments. Students began the year with disposable covers, but a team of volunteers sewed washable, reusable cloth covers.

04. Percussionists have their own sets of sticks and/or mallets.

05. Becky Long designed “flute pods” from PVC pipe and plastic sheeting to ensure students could comfortably and effectively practice playing their instruments.
Middle School Artists Learn Modes of Expression

Middle School Visual Arts Teacher Jayme Zimmer’s 5th grade art class was brimming with excitement about the start of Middle School art, which kicked off with art supply packs containing all of the needed supplies for their first drawing unit of the school year.

Zimmer said, “The students learned about the artistic ‘modes of expression’—realistic, expressive (or expressionistic) and abstract. This lesson helps students categorize the artwork they see—whether it is their own masterpiece or someone else’s—into the various modes. Understanding the modes also allows them to make conscious choices as they create their own visual expressions.”

During the drawing unit, the 5th graders spent most of their time in the “realistic” mode, practicing how to break down an image into simple shapes and using the relationships and proportions of the simple shapes to build the drawing with a three-layered approach. Layer one includes simple shapes, layer two includes detailed contours, and layer three is the surface detail.

R.J. Palacio wrote in the picture book *We’re All Wonders*, “Billions of people. People of all different colors. People who walk and talk differently. The Earth is big enough for all kinds of people.” Third grade artists took this message to heart and illustrated what makes them a wonder by drawing a self-portrait. Each artist learned how to blend two neighboring colors on the color wheel using watercolor markers and thought of all the things that make them a wonder or that make them special. They illustrated the words in the background around the portrait.

Lower School Visual Arts Teacher Sarah Garner said, “The Beasley artists shared themselves in unique and special ways and realized that all of our differences make us wonderful. By recognizing, acknowledging, and respecting those differences that also connect us, we are reminded that by always showing kindness, we can see that everyone is a wonder.”

Ahmed ‘30 reflected, “The reason why everyone should see that we’re all wonders is because that is what makes us, us.” Max ’30 shared, “I made this wonder portrait because I am unique. Even though I am sometimes like other people, I am not always.”
Choir Presents Coronavirus-Inspired Parody of *For the Longest Time*

Dana Self’s Upper School Chamber Choir Class came together virtually to sing of the woes of living during this pandemic. The song is set to Billy Joel’s *For the Longest Time*. Here’s a sample of the lyrics:

I have been at home in quarantine
Stopping spread of COVID-19
What else would I do?
Don’t want this virus from you
I haven’t left here for the longest time
The relatively new strings program at MICDS is booming (in the rhetorical sense, not in the auditory sense). This year, strings classes were offered as part of the Middle School performing arts curriculum and the response has been enthusiastic. The strings program is robust and diverse, with 44 students in 7th-12th grade, including students of every skill level playing violin, viola, cello, and double bass. The strings program launched in the 2018-2019 school year with the Upper School strings courses offered as part of the curriculum and the Middle and Lower School ensembles meeting after school. This is the first year strings classes have been offered during the school day for 7th and 8th graders.

Strings Instructors David Doherty and Erin Hamill have not only created the Middle School curriculum and welcomed new students, but they also adapted the program overall to the virtual and hybrid learning environments. Students have shown great flexibility in their learning environments. Doherty said, “In an ensemble environment, instructors typically select music with easy parts and more difficult parts, and then assign the parts to different students according to their skill level. That works well, but in some cases, we tend to work towards the middle of the students’ abilities and tweak from there. The online format has enabled us to differentiate more significantly. We can individualize assignments and development goals. Of course, ensemble playing and performances took a back seat during distance learning, but the students continued to improve their skills nonetheless.
It has been incredible to see and hear students playing musical works that are very specific to their skill level."

Hamill agreed, “The online environment allows us to spend time with students in individual Zoom breakout rooms during class and focus on their development. I have enjoyed the opportunity to spend more one-on-one time with students in the virtual environment.”

With these silver linings, Doherty and Hamill have certainly overcome their fair share of challenges. In the virtual environment, they aren’t able to provide hands-on help with the instruments themselves to troubleshoot any technical issues or to assist with tuning, which is always a challenge for beginning strings players. Also, in strings class during normal times, two students would share a music stand, side-by-side, and they would hear each other’s music closely which might give them more confidence when playing their parts. Now, with social distancing, students are adjusting and re-learning how to play together while separated by six feet. Social distancing also precludes some typical instructional techniques, such as touching the musician’s shoulder to adjust their violin playing form. Doherty said, “Occasionally, we will reach with our bow to accomplish a similar gesture. We are adapting and finding workarounds as best we can.”

“I have enjoyed the opportunity to spend more one-on-one time with students in the virtual environment.”

ERIN HAMILL, STRINGS INSTRUCTOR

FOR MORE PHOTOS >>
magazine.micds.org

02. Strings Instructor David Doherty and Nigina Aripova ’22 practice together.

03. Amelia Markwell ’22 works on her piece.

04. Jason Klutho ’23 focuses on his sheet music as he plays.

05. Ric Jain ’25 takes a brief break as Pei-Pei Huang ’25 plays.
Why I Give

The Importance of Philanthropy in Challenging Times

When Rachel Presti and Jeremy Williams first met at Washington University as MD/Ph.D. Immunology and Molecular Biophysics students they did not foresee, as Seattle and New York transplants, that they would still be in St. Louis 26 years later. But the Gateway City is where they pursued their passion to apply science to important challenges. Presti is an Associate Professor of Infectious Disease/Internal Medicine at Washington University and Williams is Head of Plant Biotechnology at Bayer. St. Louis is also home to their two children—Deryck (DJ) ’23, a 10th grader at MICDS, and Isabelle (Izzy), a 7th grader at the St. Michael School of Clayton. This is their second year at MICDS and in the spring when COVID-19 hit, they enthusiastically and quickly stepped forward to support the MICDS Ram Relief Fund.

WHY IS PHILANTHROPY IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Williams: As I was growing up in Guyana in the 70s and 80s, the country went through an economic experience not unlike that of Venezuela today. Many years later, I remember clearly the help we received from friends and relatives that made a significant difference to our family during those difficult years. My undergraduate education at Swarthmore College was only possible because of the philanthropy of others which enabled a need-blind admissions process.

Presti: I also benefited from scholarship funding at Scripps College. The generosity of others allowed us both to pursue our scientific and medical passions with less regard for the need to pay back student loans.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE MICDS?

Williams: We were attracted to MICDS because of the rigorous education that challenges students and prepares them to excel at college and beyond. But it was always clear to us that this choice really should be DJ’s. He selected MICDS, despite it being a much larger school and separating from childhood friends, because he felt he would benefit from the tremendous resources for a quality education and an experience that would drive personal growth.

Presti: It is really the combination of the commitment to an inclusive environment, the strong emphasis on character and community, rigorous academics, and the recognition that sports and physical activity are indispensable to mental and physical health.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO GIVE AND WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE RAM RELIEF FUND?

Williams: We always intended to support the School as we recognize it is expensive to provide a high-quality and diverse educational experience. And we are committed to making this caliber of education accessible to more families. I have been able to work from home and spend more time with the kids, while Rachel has been working at Washington University on clinical research on COVID-19. We were fortunate to be able to continue to work in these difficult times and wanted to give back.

Presti: We hope our giving will help ensure that no one will be forced to forgo an education at MICDS due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are so many people in difficult situations that could not have
been planned for. We know that this stress is not just financial, so we hope that relieving some of that burden will help students at MICDS.

**WHAT IMPACT DO YOU HOPE YOUR GIFT WILL ACHIEVE FOR MICDS?**

*Williams:* To allow the School to continue to provide for a diverse student body, an enriching educational environment that challenges, shapes, and prepares them to become leaders for the world that is ahead of us.

**WHAT WOULD YOU SHARE WITH OTHERS ABOUT MAKING A GIFT TO MICDS?**

*Presti:* Your giving is an investment in our future as a country and as a broader global community.

*Williams:* By giving back, you ensure the creation of a deep bench of future leaders able to successfully tackle the complexities of the 21st century. This is the legacy you are creating.

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**The Power of Community**

Many thanks to our MICDS families who answered the call to support the MICDS Fund during our annual Parent Pledge Week where parent participation reached 52%. BIG congratulations to the classes of 2029 (4th grade) and 2031 (2nd grade) for achieving 100%!

It was a week filled with wonderful connections between parents, students, and friends who gave voice to why they love MICDS and why they choose to support the School. It was further RAMplified by our annual Turkey Train at which our families so generously donated food bank items to serve our local community.

We are humbled by your spirit of giving and your heartfelt support of our teachers and programs. Your gifts to MICDS impact every child, every day at our School and will continue to do so.

“**The dedication of the teachers and the community of MICDS during this time is incredible.**

*Jenny Charles ’94*  
*Parent*
Soccer
Head Coach: Jack Fischer
State Champions For the First Time!

Boys Varsity Soccer completed an extraordinary season by capturing the first State Championship in school history. The Rams defeated Orchard Farm 1-0 in Springfield to complete their historic run, finishing with a final record of 13-3. Along the way, they also captured their first district championship in MICDS history by defeating Westminster 2-1 in a double overtime thriller. A shortened regular season included standout victories over traditional powers SLUH and Priory. The team was led by senior captains Hayden Fischer ’21 and Joe Nicpon ’21, who earned Class 2 All-State Player of the Year and Defensive Players of the Year honors, respectively. Fischer, along with senior forwards Alexander Birkel ’21 and Walter Ralph ’21, paced a balanced attack for the Rams. Nicpon led the defense with help from fellow seniors William Pioszay ’21, Nick Scheele ’21, and goalkeeper James Hammersmith ’21. In total, eight players earned postseason recognition.

Football
Head Coach: Dr. Fred Bouchard
#1 District Seed and Second at State

The 2020 MICDS Football program completed the truncated season and 102nd year of football with a record of 7-1 and finished as the #2 ranked team and the State Runner-up in Missouri’s Class 4 Division. Regular season performance earned the Rams the #1 district seed in the MSHSAA playoffs. The Rams averaged over 44 points per game and the following Rams were selected All-Conference and/or All-District First Team for the season: Crawford Bundy ’21 Returner/Athlete; Will Kacmarek ’21 DL; Jalen Pace ’21 OL; Grant Purdy ’21 LB; Will Schaumburg ’21 OL; Raphy Soway ’21 LB; Reagan Andrew ’22 QB, PJ Behan ’22 WR; Landon Gelven ’22 K; Bjorn Sjorgren ’22 DB and Steve Hall ’23 RB.

Boys Swimming & Diving
Head Coach: Chris McCrary
Second at State and a Record-Setting Season

The Rams Swimming and Diving team placed second at State Championships. The season was capped by a series of record-setting performances. The Rams 200 Medley Relay broke a team record set in 1992, and the 400 Free Relay team broke another that stood since the ‘80s. Lee Naber ’22 broke the 100 Backstroke record three times during the season. He went on to break the 200 Free record, winning the event at State. Along with Naber, Greg Dreisewerd ’21, Ryan Mauney ’22, and captains Jackson Fox ’21 and Eric Ji ’21 were part of the record-setting relays. Ji went on to take 2nd at State in both the 200 IM and 100 Breast. Dreisewerd took 3rd in the 100 Fly and 500 Free.
Boys Soccer brought home the first State Championship in School history! Congratulations on a successful season!

Wayne Webster ’23 plows through the water.

Will Kacmarek ’21 charges down the field. Rams Football were runners-up at State. Congratulations on a season well played!
Girls Tennis
Head Coach: Patrick Huewe

Wins in Districts and Sectionals
Lead to Run for State

The team was led this year by captain Ashley Kane ’21, assisted by Kashish Motwani ’23 and Stella Kreisel ’23. After two milestone wins over regular season opponents Lafayette and Ladue, the team headed into the Team Districts round seeded #2 where they upset #1 seed Parkway Central 5-2 to earn a spot in Sectionals for the first time since 2017. In the Sectional match the girls dispatched Liberty 5-0 to punch their ticket to the Final Four Championship round. The semifinal round brought an end to the run, however, in the 3rd Place match the Rams rebounded to defeat Republic 5-0 and complete an incredible season. Returning junior Journee White ’22 put on an amazing performance by winning the individual Districts singles title and qualifying for the State Championships. White reached the semi-finals where she lost to the eventual champion, but bounced back to take 3rd place. This was White's third consecutive year to medal at State.

Mikaela Mikulec ’24 and Rachel Li ’24 qualified for the State Championships in doubles and made an incredible run all the way to the state finals before succumbing. Their 2nd place finish was the best doubles result for two freshmen in the history of girls tennis at MICDS and the first appearance in the State finals for a girls doubles team since 2000.

Girls Cross Country
Head Coach: Jim Lohr

All-Conference Honors and Strong Finish at State

The MICDS Girls Cross Country team had a very successful season. Julia Ray ’23 finished 4th at State and earned Metro League Champion and District Champion, along with earning All-State and All-Conference honors. Captain Simrin Phatak ’21 earned All-District honors for the fourth time, and All-Conference honors. Riley Noonan ’22 earned All-Conference honors. Due to their success last year, the team moved to Class 5 for competition and held its own in this new, larger class, finishing third in the District Championship and showing constant improvement. The team had excellent leadership from captains Phatak, Helen Love ’21, Gretel Wurdak ’21, and Esteban Estrada ’21. Phatak won the Harriet Green Award for the most dedicated and inspirational member of the team.
Boys Cross Country  
Head Coach: Chris Rappleye
Second Place Finish at Hancock Invitational, Appearance at State

Team highlights included a 2nd place team finish in their division at the Hancock Invitational. Will Falk ’21 earned All-Metro League honors in the Metro League Meet with a 4th place finish, and went on to medal at District the following week, placing 5th to earn a spot on the starting line at State. Co-captain Jackson Strelo ’22 stepped up at District as well, medaling in 10th place overall, and he accompanied Falk on the trip to compete at State. Strelo finished under 18 minutes on his first trip to State. Falk completed his high school career with style, earning All-State honors. Falk climbed seven places in the final kilometer and showed a determined kick in the final 200 meters to secure his spot and represent MICDS on the awards stand.

Girls Golf  
Head Coach: Steve Johnston
Mikulec Medals Eight Times, Earning All-Metro League First Team

Girls Golf luckily completed our Varsity and JV Covid season. As all athletes dealt with the restrictions due to the pandemic, the shortened season ended with a 1-5-1 Varsity record and a 1-1 JV record. Well-deserved All-Metro League First team accolades went to Captain Katharine Mikulec ’22 who medaled eight times, including at the Angel Classic, Districts and State! Angela Shiang ’21 earned a Varsity spot on the team after three years improving on JV and helped mentor younger players throughout the season. Shiang’s positive attitude and infectious smile will be missed.

Field Hockey  
Head Coach: Lynn Mittler
Seven Players Named to All-Metro League First Team

Finishing their season with a 6-3 record, the Rams made it to the semifinals of the Midwest Field Hockey Tournament for the 18th time in the past 20 years. All three losses came at the hands of the 1st and 2nd seed in the tournament. Seven players were named to the All-Metro League first team: Lily Baker ’21, Jenna Bernstein ’21, Ella Durrill ’21, Brecken Calcari ’22, Anna Lochhead ’22, Kate Oliver ’22, and Greta Wolfsberger ’22; and three made the second team: Ananya Radhakrishnan ’21, Livie Warren ’21, and Caroline Cooper ’22. The Rams will say goodbye to eight wonderful seniors, three of whom will continue their careers in college. Team 100 was truly about community and supported each other through challenging times making memories that will never be forgotten.
The varsity team experienced growing pains but exemplified the true meaning of representing a varsity team with their willingness to mentor the other teams. Their unwavering efforts to get better by playing “one more point” in practice proved to be pivotal in their win against Villa Duchesne. Captains Cece Nourie ‘21 and Courtney Shands ‘21 earned First Team All-District honors, were nominated to the AVCA All-Region team, and were selected to First Team All-Metro League. Hannah Forsberg ‘23 was selected to Second Team All-Metro League and Maya Anderson ‘23 also received post-season honors being selected to the Second Team All-District and Honorable Mention for the All-Metro League.

Under the leadership of Lucas McCarty ‘21, the team made the best of the pandemic and constructed a cyclocross course on campus to sharpen old skills and develop new ones. Each week of the season featured a different course in a different St. Louis County park. Courses this year were characterized by either technical challenges or endurance challenges offering no easy weeks, but the team made notable improvements over the season. Joey Roth ‘21 and Patrick O’Brien ‘21 led the way on the course as they made the move from the Junior to the Adult division. Next year will see a team lead by Ash Aranha ‘22 as they look to rebuild after two big graduating classes.

The Rams Cheerleaders started their season with high hopes of getting to cheer on the football team. About halfway through the season, they got to showcase their hard work and support the football team through the regular and playoff season. They showed their school spirit and led the crowd in cheers, chants, and halftime performances. Captains Mimi Brown ‘21, Lily Dooley ‘21, and Rowan Taylor ‘21, along with Ilana Meissner ‘21 and Kendall Rozen ‘21, provided leadership for the underclassmen throughout the entire season. They are excited to continue to build their strong team bonds as they move into the winter season.
Seven-year-old Michael Kraatz was busy constructing a paper airplane fleet at his grandparents’ house when he looked up to see gray-uniformed baseball players on the television. He watched the game and then watched another game the next day. The men in gray were the Atlanta Braves and they were vying for a World Series trophy. Kraatz was hooked. He’s the rare St. Louisan, born and raised, who cheers for a team outside Cardinal Nation. He rattled off the names of various Atlanta managers and coaches, saying, “It’s all about the people, not where they are. If they moved to Anchorage, I’d root for the Anchorage Braves.”

“It’s all about the people” is a common refrain from Kraatz, MICDS’ new varsity baseball coach, and it underpins how he lives his life and how he leads his teams. For instance, he sees himself as woven into the fabric of MICDS baseball, becoming a part of its rich history but not dominating it. “I want the alumni to feel welcome to come back. It’s their field, not mine,” he said. “I just keep it right now. Current players realize they are part of a hundred-year-old family, and the players that come after them will grow the family. We’re about honoring our players first, not just the ones we have, but the ones we had and the ones we will have.”

Creating that team starts with acknowledging the game as it was designed. “We talk about how it’s played before addressing the individual strengths and weaknesses of our players,” he said. “It’s important, too, from a psychological standpoint.” He acknowledges the pressure today’s athletes feel to measure up based on certain criteria, and says that baseball was designed to allow players to thrive despite perhaps not hitting those specific goals. “The best coaches can manage that attitude and promote the purest version of the game to athletes and their families.” He strives to create a team platform that encourages anyone to join and be successful at various levels. “Skills are important so naturally we’ll develop that,” he said, “but we’ll also develop ballplayers that understand and respect baseball. It’s a game and a lifestyle all in one.”

That lifestyle spills into all aspects of a player’s world. Kraatz is a firm believer that a good balance between academics and athletics results in the best outcome for students. He says that education takes priority over athletics, but that sports are a great platform for learning regardless of player talent. “There’s a reason we call athletics ‘co-curricular,’ since learning takes place after the last bell and when the whistle is blown.” It’s all about finding a balance that means success in the classroom mirrors success on the field or the court. “We become consistent in our approach to everything, trying to do our best whether it’s taking a test, playing a game, reading a book, paying attention to a movie; in everything we do,” he said. “I’m trying to live that way myself.”

He models this balance by going to school himself, and is “one dissertation away from an educational doctorate.” He’s juggling teaching and coaching with studies and a family. He and his wife, Liz, are raising four children and have a fifth on the way, and he shares his love of baseball with them whenever possible. He tells young players, “Have fun, swing hard, run fast. That’s it. When you stop having fun, you’re doing something wrong, or the people around you are doing something wrong.”

He’s ready to work hard and have fun this spring out on the diamond at MICDS. “Our mission is that by the time our athletes leave our campus, they feel accomplished in the classroom and on the field and have zero regrets about the efforts they put into everything as a Ram.” He’s eager to partner with team parents, too. “Parents love their kids and want them to do well. What they’ll learn is that I love their kids, too, because they’re my kids now as well.”

It’s all about the people and the purity of the game. Play ball!
Varsity Football Player Innovates for Safety

Grant Purdy ’21 Develops Shatterproof Helmet Shield

“I wanted to get back to playing football as soon as possible.”

It was his passion and love for the sport that drove Grant Purdy ’21 to start brainstorming ways to get back on the field to compete. Student athletes had already been wearing masks during practice, but he wanted to find a splash shield that would fit on the players’ helmets.

“There were some companies making these products, but we weren’t confident they would fit our helmets and if they would be durable,” said Purdy.

So, he got to work. He first approached Director of Athletics Josh Smith and asked if there was an interest in designing and producing the football helmet splash shield.

“He was obviously serious,” said Smith, “and in our conversation, I told him if he could make something usable, we would definitely look to equip the football program with it.”

With the go-ahead from Smith, Purdy got in touch with Mr. Brian Purlee, Maker and Robotics Coordinator for the Upper School Science department. He asked Purlee to use the laser cutter to cut some type of flexible plastic, and after a bit of research, the two landed on a shatterproof polycarbonate.
Purdy created a design to fit the football helmets in Adobe Illustrator, used the laser cutter to produce the shield, and came up with two prototypes that he thought would work. They put the concept through a testing round to ensure it wouldn’t shatter or crack.

After standing up to the hammer, Purdy attached the splash shield to his helmet using two-sided Velcro and brought it to practice to show the coaches. Smith was blown away. “We are talking about creating a new product from scratch,” said Smith. “In a week, Grant had produced a product that eclipsed anything that I have seen currently on the market.”

With Smith’s endorsement, Purdy and Purlee ordered enough material and straps to fit all of the players’ helmets. “I was able to cut the shields, prepare the materials, and cut all the Velcro to the sizes we needed in one afternoon,” said Purdy.

Equipped with shatterproof polycarbonate splash shields, the football team competed safely this year—and coaches and players felt more confident that the precautions they took ensured a successful season that led all the way to a run for the State championship!

“**We are talking about creating a new product from scratch. In a week, Grant had produced a product that eclipsed anything that I have seen currently on the market.**”

**DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS JOSH SMITH**
The following pages reflect notes submitted through October 11, 2020.

Submit your news for the next issue to: classnotes@micds.org
Births and Adoptions

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING CHILDREN TO OUR MICDS FAMILY.

Alex Schaefer Levis ’08 and Matt Levis ’05,
Theodore “Theo” Walcott Levis, August 27, 2020

FOR THE RECORD

GETTING MARRIED? EXPECTING?

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

Alumni/ae Deaths

THROUGH DECEMBER 18, 2020

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

Edwin Meissner, Jr. ’36, October 17, 2020
Louise French Blodget ’37, March 31, 2020
Patsy Raymond Taylor ’40, June 14, 2020
Inez Schluter Brock ’40, September 26, 2020
Spencer Wolling ’41, November 1, 2020
Elizabeth Jolley Cave ’42, September 22, 2020
Marie Dennig Gildehaus ’42, November 20, 2020
Harris Frank ’43, October 19, 2020
William Danforth ’44, September 16, 2020
Marie Williams von Gontard ’45, August 19, 2020
Evelyn Niedringshaus Williams ’45, October 25, 2020
Hayward Gatch Jr. ’46, September 30, 2020
Joseph Losos ’48, October 11, 2020
Frances Johnston Jones ’48, November 3, 2020
Robert Avis ’49, July 6, 2020
J. Thomas Hurley ’49, August 12, 2020
Michael McCabe ’50, June 24, 2020
C. Terrence Maguire ’50, September 6, 2020
Gary Fields ’52, October 18, 2020
Mary Jones Halbert ’57, July 24, 2020
James Clarkson ’58, July 15, 2020
Virginia Haigler ’59, November 7, 2020
Nina Orthwein Durham ’61, July 22, 2020
Mary Dunford Reid ’63, September 19, 2020
William Werremeyer ’65, September 12, 2020
Rebecca Nickel Tyler ’65, October 3, 2020
Susan Schaefer ’66, August 28, 2020
Thomas Seeger ’67, July 21, 2020
Lyle Gulley Jr. ’68, November 6, 2020
Stuart Sproull ’72, June 20, 2020
Michele Ely McGaffic ’73, July 4, 2020
Holly Storts Morrisey ’82, July 12, 2020
Christine Stark Kern ’92, November 26, 2020
Paul Deatherage ’01, August 1, 2020
Sydney Saunders ’13, December 4, 2020
William R. “Bill” Werremeyer ’65, St. Louis Country Day School alumnus and longtime Country Day and MICDS faculty member and coach, passed away on September 12, 2020, following a long illness. He was 73. Bill is survived by his wife and two daughters.

The Werremeyer name, of course, is familiar to generations of our School’s graduates and is woven throughout much of its history—for 81 years, in fact, beginning in 1930 when Bill’s father, Frederic N. Werremeyer, joined the faculty of a very young Country Day. Until his retirement in 1971, Fred Werremeyer played a pivotal role in the growth of the School, serving as chairman of the mathematics department as well as Head of the Upper School.

Bill Werremeyer was a member of the CDS Class of 1965. During his eight years as a student, he distinguished himself both academically and on the athletic field. He graduated cum laude and was recognized in a written recommendation by his college advisor for his demonstrated aptitude in the field of mathematics. A three-sport letterman, Bill excelled in football, soccer, and baseball. He was a member of the All-ABC League baseball team for two years and was varsity baseball captain his senior year. Among the other honors Bill received were Country Day’s Princeton Award and the Headmaster’s Cup.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in mathematics at Hanover College, Bill joined the Country Day faculty for the 1970-71 school year, overlapping the final terms of his father’s 41-year tenure. Bill literally followed in his father’s footsteps, assuming the chairmanship of the mathematics department in 1976 while continuing to teach the difficult subjects of calculus and pre-calculus. Returning to Country Day as a faculty member, Bill met a lovely woman working for the Head of the Upper School. Bill and Marcia were married soon thereafter.

As a teacher, Bill is remembered as having a blunt and enthusiastic style. He was a friendly, witty, and caring instructor who took great pride in our School and its students. While insisting on discipline, he was also always willing and eager to take extra time with a student needing help.

Outside the classroom, Bill drew upon his impressive athletic abilities and knowledge to serve, for three decades, as defensive assistant to legendary football coach Ron Holtman. During those years, Rams football teams brought home six Missouri State championships. Bill’s colorful attire and infectious on-stage enthusiasm enlivened many “Red and White Day” pep rallies in Danforth Chapel immediately before the annual Country Day-John Burroughs football showdown. Bill served as the School’s varsity baseball coach for a number of years and also coached soccer.

After retiring from full-time teaching, Bill continued to serve as a substitute math teacher at MICDS while devoting more time to his extracurricular passion of playing golf, a pastime he pursued until shortly before his death.

Eric Brunt ’02, our Director of Enrollment Management, offered remarks upon Bill’s retirement in 2011. “Tough as nails, and willing to outwork anyone,” Brunt said. “Bill lived this as a student at Country Day School, and left this as a legacy on young men for decades coming up through the Country Day and MICDS football tradition.”

May we all continue to fulfill Bill’s good and enduring legacy.
Faculty Deaths
Karen Barnes

“Karen was a wonderful teacher, colleague, and friend; a mentor to many and a beloved teacher to hundreds of children.”

JUDY NORD, KAREN’S DEAR FRIEND

Karen Barnes, our former 3rd and 4th grade Beasley teacher, passed away on September 19, 2020, at the age of 80. Karen made a positive impact on the lives of her students and colleagues at Beasley from 1981 to 2004. Karen is survived by her three children, her sister, and her seven grandchildren. Karen will be missed by her former students and the many people she touched with her wit, wisdom, and infectious smile.

Karen grew up on the near north side of Chicago and excelled in academics from early childhood, graduating from high school at age 16. After high school, she went on to attend DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where she was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and graduated with a degree in education. At DePauw, she also met her future husband, Robert C. Barnes. They were married on June 16, 1962, and were later divorced. Robert passed away on April 26, 2019.

Upon graduation from DePauw, Karen moved to Chicago where she began her teaching career. She eventually moved to St. Louis, continuing her chosen profession and lifelong passion at MICDS, where she worked for 23 years teaching in the Ronald S. Beasley Lower School. She truly had a thirst for learning; she was an avid reader and an educated historian.

Karen’s dear friend Judy Nord said, “Karen was such a highly respected teacher that parents clamored to have their children in her class. The children were guaranteed to learn and have a productive year. Karen had super high expectations, she was firm and strong in her approach. Everyone in her room knew that learning was important and real, not just a series of must-do tasks to finish. The energy and purpose she brought to School was engaging and she was a valuable and effective teammate who planned with great attention to detail. I learned a lot from working with Karen.”

It is always hard to lose a beloved member of our community, and we honor her memory by continuing today the good work she generously shared with us for so many years.
1949 MI

Gloria D’Oench James: I am well and trying to stay safe in this pandemic, but I have sad news. My daughter, Christy, who has had several illnesses, passed away in her sleep this past June. She was in and out of the hospital 12 times between December and June, and amazingly never got COVID-19, but finally succumbed to pneumonia and COPD. More recently, when I was delivering dinner to a friend, a young moose appeared from around the house and was only about 10 feet away. Fortunately, she was docile!

1954 MI

SUSAN SPOEHRER ELLIOTT
sselliott@sseinc.com

Jeanne D’Oench Field: In June, we received sad news that our niece, Christy James Bisbee of Tampa, died of pneumonia. Christy was the daughter of my sister, Gloria D’Oench James ’49. Otherwise, we are doing well, though lamenting missing our grandson’s high school graduation, family gatherings, and travel. We have a nice place to be “stuck” and benefit by being outside yearlong. I do yard work, planting for birds and butterflies, and cheering the return of hummingbirds. I enrolled in Tropical Audubon’s Ambassador Program and advocate for creatures whose habitats are threatened.

Sarah Lund Donnenm: I had to miss my daughter Liz’s wedding as I could not travel to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, from Charleston, South Carolina, my home! However, my other daughter got a lifesize cutout of me sent. I was in the wedding pictures and attended by FaceTime. I even made a toast. I was told that many people danced with me! Only the immediate family was there at their separate tables. It was outside under a tent. All was safe!

1955 MI

Julia Hurd Taylor: During the time since our last MICDS Magazine, the world has turned upside down. This has caused me to wonder even more intensely how all of you are getting along, so I am sending my hopes and prayers for good news. Please write if you get a moment. These are times to keep in touch.

Marian Shipley Hill reports she is enjoying her new home in Reno, Nevada, and is doing 150% in the rest of her life! She is thrilled with her new digs and was so happy to connect with Caryl Green Simon recently!

1956 MI

ANN LUEDINGHAUS CASE
anncase7@att.net

The class sends their deepest sympathy to Susie Butler Wonham on the loss of her husband and to Carol Culver Bitting on the loss of her sister, Jane Culver Rouse ’68.

Page Sharp Jackson started having Zoom gatherings with many of us on a weekly basis. The following classmates participated: Nancy Buford Ream, Blanche Myer, Priscilla Hocker Claman, Mary Morey Bradley, Susie Fischer Yoder, Judy Gissler Adair, Nancy Green Maune, Ellen Armstrong Wallace, Jody Noel Dietz, Carol Culver Bitting, Nancy Noland Kurten, Judy Trimble Lane and myself.

Carolyn Frank Henges spent most of the summer in Idaho.

Jody and Adie Dietz ’52 visited Page and Barry Jackson ’51 at their timeshare in North Carolina and then went to Michigan.

Carol Culver Bitting spent July in Michigan, with her children visiting her.

Priscilla Hocker Claman spent some time at Cape Cod.

1956 CDS

TOBY JAMES
ptjames@swbell.net

Terry Bettendorf: Happily living in Stuart, Florida, for late fall, winter, and early spring and from late spring until late fall in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Our three daughters are healthy and happy.

Dave Martin: Lots to be glad about and very few complaints. We haven’t been on an airplane for nine months; this’ll be the first year in the last 50 that we haven’t spent time in Europe. Ellen is working half days at Sewickley Academy. I completed what will surely be my last bank merger late last year. I do a little consulting with the American Association of Bank Directors. I am playing more golf and getting worse at it. I have no more doctor visits than the rest of you.

Joe Sparks: My wife Petra and I celebrated, on September 7, 2020, our 20th year in Naples, Florida. We enjoy staying close to home now after our two-month trip last year to Europe to see dear friends and family. Tell your friends you care for them. Tell those loved ones you love them. To our many close friends from the class of 1956 and the classes above it and below it, St. Louis Country Day School is the best. It has been a great life and still more to come.

John Caulk offered up the following: Sweetie and I have a bouvier who likes to impersonate a snowplow. We’re living in a home for old people in Philadelphia. Son Nat is 10 minutes away; his wife and daughters are here and grandson David also moved nearby with his wife and two boys. Granddaughter Lauren comes regularly from Brooklyn. Son John lives in Berlin; fun to visit. The other inmates here can be rather fun,
too. I amaze kids nowadays by telling them I was shooting songbirds off the high branches even before cellphones.

**Tom Latta:** I’m hobbling on one knee and considering surgery. The heightened focus on cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfection has been great for business. Fogmaster Corporation manufactures atomization equipment (in the USA!). I’m working part time, largely from home. I lost my wife Carla (57 years of marriage) in early March. Son Bruce moved to Lubbock, Texas, two years ago as head of a private pre-K-12 school. Younger son Brian is a developer, specializing in reclaiming compromised sites to create big-box warehouse/distribution buildings.

**Chris Layton** is still in Calistoga, California, and dodged two of the big fires out there. He is still a working architect and his wife, Adele, is writing mysteries.

Yours truly lost his third wife a year and a half ago. I am still working as a tax accountant and thoroughly enjoying it although I did cut my work schedule back to four days a week with the seven person firm I work for. I have also been involved in a big way in parades in St. Louis. Two that happen each year plus running the Cardinal’s World Series Parade in 2011 and part of the Blues parade following their Stanley Cup Victory in 2019.

1957

**MARGOT MARITZ MARTIN**
margomm@swbell.net

The past six months have challenged us to adjust to a new way of living coupled with uncertainty regarding the future. I trust that we are handling it with wisdom, grace and optimism. That certainly appears to be the case with those who have responded to my request for news.

In July, we received the sad news of the death of Mary “Stevie” Stephens Jones. You can read her obituary in the August 15, 2020, edition of her local newspaper at www.magicvalley.com. It is a lovely article highlighting the variety of organizations in which she was involved and honors she received.

**Barbara Kaufman Wood,** not surprisingly, has been “cooking up a storm! Making lots of good stuff.” Barbara and her husband have been working on puzzles to help pass the time as well as taking daily walks. I wish she lived nearby; I could use some of her “good stuff.”

**Cynthia Hungerford Gibbons** reports “life has been dull here in the Hudson Valley...but important to dig deep and find productive things to do.” She reports she is saddened by the daily news reports about “so many people out of work and suffering.” Cynthia ends with a note of optimism: “This will end in a few months.” She and Mike are looking forward to returning to Palm Beach soon.

**Suzi Chapman Stolar** and Henry “are grateful that we and our family are well. The last time we packed suitcases, at the end of January, we went to Palm Beach to see Mike and Cynthia Hungerford Gibbons—dinners, museums, wandering the lovely streets. Like everyone else, we’ve learned new technologies and enjoy virtual gatherings, Zoom, book clubs and conversations with family and far-flung friends. May all stay safe and well.”

**DeDe DeWitt Lambert** writes “the only good news about COVID-19 is that Peter and Middy ‘88 were both working virtually so they spent the summer in Michigan with me.” Her granddaughter Campbell, 16, had a camp there at the house to help make money for a car and will be attending MICDS this year. Lambert taught sailing in Michigan and will be attending Washington University this year. “Summer has been the best it could be with COVID-19.”

**Marge Drum Bergfeld** continues her work in landscaping “although a bit slower than I was.” She is grateful that her husband, Bill, is “surviving quite well, considering that four years ago he was told he had cancer and wasn’t expected to live very long.” Their three daughters are living in the St. Louis area. Their oldest daughter and her husband live at the family farm in Warrenton, Missouri, “with a passel of animals.”

**Bonnie Barton Wolfarth** is happy to report that her daughter, Beth Summers Aladham ‘82, has moved back to St. Louis with her two college student daughters. “The bad news is that all four of our college student grandchildren are at home and online.” Beth’s daughter, Catlin, is at the University of California, Berkeley, and Alexandra is at Emory University. “What a disappointing college experience due to the coronavirus!”

**Joyce Kohn Pass** and Tony have been in relative lockdown since March. “The powers that be in our community have never taken away golf, so I am able to get out three or four times a week. Fitness classes have been cancelled. The top of my ‘thankful for’ column is my Tony and his companionship and humor. Let’s hope that by publication we are living an old normal rather the new normal.”

**Joyce Priest Breed** and Jules are both busy. Joyce continues to sell real estate, and Jules can be found at his beautiful antiques store in Ladue. “No traveling.” Joyce sends wishes for “everyone to stay well.”

**Pat Doughton Anderson** and Jim moved into a retirement community in early April. All the amenities were closed, so they were unable to meet the other residents, although they have been able to meet a few of their neighbors during outside cocktail hour gatherings before dinner. Meals are sent to their room. Pat stays active playing golf and tennis and regularly plays bridge virtually.

**Sarah Priest Breed** reports, “Staying safe at the Village at Duxbury, independent living.” She is grateful for the lovely view. Sarah has made some very nice friends, “is missing Charlie, who was here with me only six months, so my seven-year-old Scottish Terrier, Mac, and I are ‘hanging in,’ in spite of growing quarantine fatigue.” While sorting through her picture albums, she came across a photo taken at Barbara Blake Putnam’s house on the occasion of Barbara’s mother’s 90th birthday celebration.
Judy Scullin Tilson and Hugh ’57 moved to a retirement community in Chapel Hill eight years ago. “We are both involved in the community for nine months of the year, and then we head to Maine for the summer months. We are both well, as are our four kids and their spouses and our 11 grandchildren.” She and Hugh may make the trip back to St. Louis sometime in the future. Judy hopes all is well with the Class of ’57.

I am well and managing okay. I had a virus in August, tested negative for COVID-19 but was in quarantine for two weeks. I read, walk daily, keep up with the news and have enjoyed a number of informational and educational options on the internet. Walking provides an opportunity to socialize with other walkers along with getting exercise. Like Sarah, I have a dog who is great company. One of my favorite quotes is from an author who reminds us that life is uncertain and unpredictable and encourages us to “be secure enough to be insecure.”

Five of us got together in September and had a great time. We were able to get outside (I doubt that will happen in winter).

The class sends its deepest condolences to Connee Darmstatter Counts on the death of her husband, Lewis Counts, in September. We all fondly remember Lew when he accompanied Connee at several of our MI Reunions.

By the time you read this, all but a few of us will have turned 80! It is really hard to roll that off the tongue. Not only are we becoming octogenarians, but we are dealing with the pandemic as best we can! May we congratulate each other on having made it thus far. We are ready to celebrate this milestone!

We now have a poem and motto: “We’re doing Well, We’re feeling Great—We’re the Class of Fifty-Eight!” Do stay in touch with us, too!

Frank Elliott has this to say: “This year has been a whole different ball game. Everyone has fought off COVID-19 as best we could, primarily by staying at home for months at a time. When we were finally allowed to move around town here in Washington, it didn’t take too long before the smoke drove us inside because of the West Coast fires followed recently by lots of rain. Wearing a mask has become second nature. I take our temperatures constantly to prove that we are healthy.”

Maurice (Bud) Hirsch continues to have his photography represented in juried gallery shows. He and his family went to the Outer Banks of North Carolina to celebrate his 80th birthday. His granddaughter, Anna Speller ’20, is a first-year student at SEMO and on their gymnastics team. His grandson, Jake Speller ’17, is a senior at University of Dayton. Bud and his wife, Marian, live in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Charlie Valier reports: Once the pandemic forced me into isolation, I sought refuge in Charlevoix with my wife, Patsy, and our golden, Tigger. I turned 80, an event common to my class with the exception of Goldring and Clarkson (God rest his soul), who have to wait until next year. I turned in a manuscript that I hope will be published shortly in the Missouri Historical Review. I resumed my walks in the country with Tigger. While Boeschenstein goads me that the hills I traverse are “mere contours of the land,” those walks have turned me into a naturalist and are a daily challenge.
Lisa Strelinger Beckers: “It’s been a sad and difficult time. My sister and brother have terminal cancer; my sister is in hospice in Boston. My brother in St. Louis is doing well and we’re thankful for this pain-free respite. My youngest son, here in Cleveland, has been in and out of the hospital, but is going back to work. The most difficult thing has been not traveling or going into a hospital to visit. I talk to Stella Saxton Guy at least every other week, and her physical health is good.”

From Anne Scherck Morrison: Fifteen members of our class held a catch-up via Zoom last July. The idea came from my brother, Terry Scherck ’62. His classmates meet every month or so. We covered many subjects, including personal updates, what our children, grandchildren and significant others are up to, and how we are coping during the pandemic. It was wonderful to see as well as hear from each other. Everyone said they enjoyed our first Zoom get-together and plan to have another one soon, hopefully with more classmates next time.

At the end of October, I joined a small Zoom birthday call for Anne with Amy Upthegrove Wheeler, who is fine. Amy and Anne each drove 1.5 hours to meet at a midpoint between their homes for lunch. Mike ’56 and I were able to spend almost seven weeks at our place in mid-coast Maine this summer with kayaking for me. I often see two friends from MI ’57: Judy Scullin Tilson and Kitty Norcross Wheeler, who live nearby. My main occupation has been co-chairing a history project to compile a chronicle of women at UC Berkeley. The final product will be a digital archive of materials: 15ow.berkeley.edu

1959 CDS

ARTHUR LUEKING
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The Monday lunch group resumed meeting following several weeks of coronavirus shut-down. It continues to be an enjoyable get-together for St. Louis-based alumni and an occasional transient passing through or visiting family. All members of the Class of ’59 are welcome to come to Lester’s on Clayton Road every Monday at 11:30. The regulars (Matthews, Lucking, Schneithorst and Welsch) were recently joined by Nat Griffin, who was spending a few weeks in the city between Michigan and his Texas ranch.

We were also surprised when Norman (Pitcairn) James showed up completely unexpectedly. After 50+ years in the Boston area, he and his lovely wife, Leslie Gardner James ’61, closed their travel business (before the pandemic) and moved back to St. Louis—actually Chesterfield—where they have a condo in The Willows. You may recall that when we were in school Norman lived just west of Mason Road off Highway 40 and it was considered the end of the earth. How times have changed!

If I remember correctly (and that is by no means a certainty), I wrote of a Zoom meeting for out-of-town classmates. Well, we are indeed holding one on the first Friday of every month at noon Central Time. In addition to the irregular Lester’s diners Fouke, Frager, and Hanser, the virtual meeting has attracted Bill Tucker from the Hamptons, Kent Faerber from Amherst, Sonny Harrison from Maryland, George Bormstein from Michigan, Mike Latta from Clayton or Park City, Chris Peper from St. Louis and R. K. Barton from far northern Michigan. The meetings are generously hosted on Butch Welsch’s Zoom account. If you would like to be included, just email Butch at bwelsch@welsch-heatcool.com and he will send you an invitation and a reminder. We look forward to including all of our classmates. If any of you have contact with Class of ’59 alumni not listed, please encourage them to join these meetings.

And speaking of Butch, he and his son Bryan managed to attend the 2020 Indianapolis 500. This was Butch’s 73rd in a row and Bryan’s 39th. They somehow worked out being among the 300 “Special Guests” who watched from the Pagoda. This was no small feat. Congratulations, Butch.

I was purging files from my laptop computer and ran across the internet address for “codasco59.blogspot.com” which I started to host pictures of our 50th reunion. I
subsequently added some photos of our 55th but then forgot about it. Anyone can access it, and the images are great. If I can remember how, I will post pictures of our 60th.

1960

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I was in Belize with my baby monkeys when this pandemic began and was forced to return to the U.S., isolated in my home, unable to continue volunteering at the California Academy of Sciences, barred from my water fitness classes, and separated from friends and family. I watched and smelled much of California burning. And yet...here we are, hoping to find some small pleasure in reading the accomplishments of our classmates. Whoever sticks around for that journey deserves some play here in this column.

Roberta Bartlett Logan experienced firsthand the unpleasant confluence of health problems and fire danger as she was forced out of her home while the fires crept closer. For a while, she was in the hospital in San Francisco, so I could bring her books and puzzles. Home and safe now and in reasonably good health, we look forward to lunching together when things relax. Our Roberta maintains a certain classy demeanor whether stuck in a hospital bed or in a motel room waiting to hear if she had a house left!

Carol Thomas Ruikka, our erstwhile real estate maven, regrets retiring, as the housing market has gone crazy in the Phoenix area. I’m sure, missing her. Like many of us, Sarah’s contact with her family members is somewhat restricted as families are struggling with the time constraints of home Zoom schooling.

The dictators, and Madame de Staël, the woman of letters. Considering that those two were both charismatic and often at odds, it could be a fascinating little jaunt through Parisian history. Since her husband, Boyd, is an excellent cook, I can see why she is eating.

Carol Willis Clifton writes that she and hubby Albert took a road trip from Florida up through North Carolina and Virginia to visit family and I’m guessing it wasn’t on Albert’s motorcycle although she says he does ride a lot. Carol has a personal trainer to keep her in that enviable shape we all remember and mitigate the fallout from previous cancer bouts. Reportedly all is well in their household.

Liz Curtis Allen has been working feverishly to keep Lake Michigan away from the door of their summer house, scene of countless Curtis family get-togethers. Let’s hope a sea wall or two will help keep Mother Nature at bay. At home, Liz continues playing tennis and pickleball (my new favorite game) and re-reading old Nancy Drew books for fun. She points out that we were all weaned on wildly politically incorrect writing. Good thing we have moved past that, right?

Sarah McDowell, our most musical classmate, has had to suspend her musical gigs at local retirement homes due to the pandemic. She loved playing the piano for residents, who were cheered by the contact, but now she’s working on a way to Zoom to her audiences who are, I’m sure, missing her. Like many of us, Sarah’s contact with her family members is somewhat restricted as families are struggling with the time constraints of home Zoom schooling.

Leanne Abramson Schneider and her Harvey have taken Zoom to new heights: Zoom birthdays, book clubs, seders and fundraising galas. I’m assuming that one wears something more elegant than sweat pants for the galas! She and Harvey are exploring local parks and doing yoga to keep healthy and active.

Carole Laube Paquin remains optimistic and hopeful despite desperate times. Carole lost a good friend to COVID-19 in March; her husband, Lee, passed away in April; her pond dried up; and all the artisan shows she frequented were cancelled. As fires continue to threaten communities and smoke pollutes the skies, Carole remains on alert, ready to evacuate at a moment’s notice. This is emotionally exhausting but she is grateful for supportive neighbors, Zoom meetings, gardening and continuing the creative endeavors that sustain her.

Two major projects are threatening Patsy Kline Hall’s sanity: roof, gutter, and leak repair which, considering the amounts of rain Florida has experienced lately, is not a little thing; and a new puppy, Dexter, and his contingent training issues. Puppy potty training not withstanding, she and Dick persevere. Patsy continues to be a wildlife photographer sans equal, and those of us who are her friends on Facebook can see her lovely photographs daily.

To allay some of the pandemic blues, Deedee Kessler Ostfeld has chosen a rescue pup, a two-year-old German Shepherd who is putting our girl through her training paces as it’s been 12 years since the last time she had to deal with a strong-willed dog. Meanwhile, she dreams of global travels, nail biting adventures, and dancing and drinking the night away once again while Zooming in and out of lectures and programs dressed, as many of us are, in the pandemic outfit du jour: t-shirt and sweatspants!

Jan Schonwald Greenberg has been quarantining in various locales and, like many of us, spending time with family. Being in St. Louis was wearing thin as might be expected, so they headed off to Aspen for a few months and hosted their whole family there for Thanksgiving. Jan’s new book, World of Glass: The Art of Dale Chihuly, features many photographs of his amazing glass sculptures.

1960

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Dixie Deibel, Sandy Galt, Harry Weber, and I (Bob Karn) played in the 2020 Holtman Golf event, and being by far the oldest group, we did not win. We have won a couple times in past
years. We had a great time representing our great class.

Bob Karn reports: “I got me through the pandemic, I wrote my autobiography, It is all about the good, bad, and ugly to give my family something to ponder. All my bad deeds at CDS, the Codasco Ram which turned out to be an ewe, the famous snow woman on campus (lost senior lounge privileges), and backfriring my 1928 Model A through MI (lost my driving privileges) are covered and pictured. In addition, I feature the varsity basketball trip to Pembroke and the party. Dixie will remember us sitting with Dean Webb trying to explain that night.”

Larry Knight reports that his grandson, Spencer, who has been the starting hockey goalie for Boston College and is on the roster for the U.S.A. Hockey Team, was selected by the Florida Panthers 13th overall in the 2019 NHL draft. Google Spencer Knight to view him in action.

Sandy Galt and her husband, Marianne ’64, report their daughter, Farrell Crowley ’93, and her husband, John, moved to St. Louis where John works for Wells Fargo Advisors. Their son, Scott ’90, is a partner with Armstrong Teasdale. Scott and his wife, Stacy, are remodeling their home on Fordyce Lane previously owned by CDS alum Sandy Peters ’67. Sandy continues to shoot his age at golf, and Marianne is still busy in residential real estate.

Harry Weber continues as our class over-achiever as he was recently inducted into the St. Louis Sports Hall of Fame and named the National Sports Artist of the Year by the U.S. Sports Academy. Google Harry to see his many famous sculptures.

Russ Messing: “We survived the Walbridge fire here in northern California. We lost one small building, and many of our olive trees were badly singed. Thank goodness for our insurance! Added to all this, before the fires Arlene fell and fractured two vertebrae in her neck, was in a brace for over a month, which didn’t do what it was supposed to do, and required surgery. We have been staying in Healdsburg. We are in good spirits and know how damn lucky we were.”

Denny Wedencmeyer: “Following my graduation from Princeton, I taught history at a small school in northern Vermont. Then on to law school at Washington University. Susan and I were married in 1969. I worked as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in St. Louis for 40 years and am now retired. Susan and I have three children—daughters Ann and Claire ’94, a son Theo ’94—and four grandchildren. I do a lot of reading and go to adult ed classes at Washington University, where I often see Ken Langsdorf. Also email frequently with Tom Singer, Russ Messing, Dick Amberg, and Larry Mendonsa.”

1961 MI

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I’m sorry to report the passing of Nina Orthwein Durham recently. Our condolences to her family and friends.

Condolescence also to Susan Lewis Vatterott and Claudia Geyer Thompson, who both lost their husbands recently, and to Susan Rouse Hall, who lost her son, David Humphrey ’94.

Nancy Smith Johnson says hello from Texas. She misses seeing her friends and is doing lots of reading.

Donetca Hannegan McMillan is hunkered down like most of us and doing lots of reading, watching TV, playing on the computer, and keeping up with her children by phone.

Ginny Russell Rowe is missing her California family. She hasn’t seen them since last Thanksgiving, and her grandson has turned 13 and has grown four inches since she saw him. She is so proud of her daughter, Nancy Curby ’84, who is working at Feeding America as senior VP. Ginny said that she and Leigh Friedman Pratter were able to spend a lot of time with Nina during her illness.

Diane Desloge Clarke says hello to everyone. Her grandchildren are now in middle school, a senior in high school, and playing hockey at Boston College and headed for professional hockey with the Panthers in Florida.

Pam Mesker White: Paula and I, in response to COVID, have changed our working habits considerably! Paula has taught all over the country and given seminars internationally—all from home. My writing and painting have stayed at home, and my shows and clients are virtual. We have been in person with Izarra, our Mustang mare. CT Public TV came in person to film Paula for a segment about artists and what they are doing. We miss our children and grandchildren, but we are all safe. My son, Ben, and his family in Turkey have had no problem getting tested.

I, Charlotte Mastin Ellis, drove to Utah in August with my dog and spent six weeks with my daughter and her husband. I’m happy that they will soon be moving to Madison, Wisconsin, so will be much closer.

Remember—this spring will be our 60th reunion, I hope we will be able to have some kind of celebration and might see some of you from out of town.

1963 MI

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We are all sorry to hear of the passing of our classmate Mary Dunford Reid. Fond memories were shared amongst us.

Our request for news brought responses.

Margaret Blanke Henderson is enjoying living in Colorado, hiking, singing in choir, and participating in local politics.

Lynn Frazier Gas is still enjoying gardening.

Barbara Martin Smith traveled to the Adirondacks for a summer with family and is
still painting scenes she loves. Barbara was able to touch base with Suzanne Williams La Prade Haaland.

Roxie Pool is still as active as ever doing the things she loves in Colorado. Roxie was able to have a great trip to the Middle East in January and February before all of this started. She visited Israel, Jordan, UAE, Oman, and Saudi Arabia.

Nancy Rogers McGrath is enjoying volunteer work via Zoom, being with her family, cooking, and adjusting to life as we know it.

Dudley Roulhac Grove says she and Jim are doing well, staying put in St. Louis and enjoying their garden and activities they can participate in.

Nancy Shoenberg Sanders wrote that they are staying in California and remaining healthy.

It appears that we are all learning to adapt with this challenge to our families, our work, and our friends. Everyone is looking forward to when the world opens and we can have a super “blow-out” reunion. So sorry we were unable to enjoy Lexington, Virginia, with Becky Atwood Patton. Maybe next year.

1963 CDS

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Let’s start off with John Allman: “I spent my career writing and making television programs—mostly for public television. During COVID-19, I’ve been staying home poring over stories of my life. Luckily, I’m stuck at home with a wonderful wife, Jamey Cohen, whose work as an entertainment attorney has remained grueling.” Son Liam is involved in focus groups within the video gaming industry, and Gavin is working towards a master’s degree at Duke’s Sanford School of Public Policy. John also offered, “I am healthy and completely out of shape.”

Mark Webber: “Janet and I celebrated our 50th in northern Ontario. I produced two books of my photographs and texts. Algonquin Park: Eine sehr persönliche (Ein-)fahrt, builds on a half-century of paddling and hiking in Algonquin Provincial Park. Time Exposures: A Photographic Essay, is a riff on physics, a subject I studiously avoided at CDS. The Algonquin book is available at store.algonquinpark.on.ca. Time Exposures will be available in hard copy from me at cost, or as a free pdf link.”

Early in 2020, I, Jay, attended a reception in Naples, Florida, for the new Head of School, the other Jay—Jay Rainey. The event was hosted by Tee Baur ’64 and his wife, Shellie. Someone tapped me on the shoulder and I turned to find David Elliot, the ambassador for the Class of 1963. David and his wife, Susan, had just purchased a condo in Naples. It has been great reminiscing with David and I look forward to all the free golf lessons I’m going to extract next season. David is truly the class PR arm, claiming, with substantial proof, that the Class of ’63 has been the premier class to graduate from the school since it all started.

We heard from John Kittner who, it seems, still has not gotten his fill of coaching youth soccer, as he is currently coaching a granddaughter’s team. John began coaching his son’s youth team and continued through both daughters’ teams, including a young lady who went on to play for the U.S.A. Olympic team and who attributes a great deal of her success to playing under John’s tutelage. Speaking of making a difference in a kid’s life. Wow!

The class of ’63 has benefitted so many times through the years from the myriad of pictures offered by Don Smiegiel. It’s hard to believe that his filing system could possibly be that organized. Well, this time Don has jumped through the years and offers a YouTube video that chronicles our generation’s coming of age (perhaps loss of innocence is more appropriate) in the song American Pie written and sung by Don McLean.

We heard from William Love out in Sheridan, Wyoming. The Compass Center for Families, which is the umbrella organization for CASA, the Court Appointed Special Advocates program, has designated Bill and Mary Kay as their 2020 Champions for Children. Certainly something of which to be very proud. Bill says it is quite easy to social distance in his community because there just aren’t all that many people to stay away from. Sounds like there’s a cowboy song in there somewhere.

Paul Hales writes from St. Louis that he has shunned retirement so far. “I’ve developed software and tools for an entirely new way of delivering legal services. All we need is a laptop and secure Internet connection. Our flagship product is called The HIPAA E-Tool.” Paul recently sold the building housing his law practice and has moved into the offices of Ted Bakewell ’64 in Clayton.

It seems we can always get a contribution from our West Coast link, Neil Senturia. Neil, who has always had a tortured relationship with upper case letters, writes “I have frequently reflected on the phrase ‘there but for the grace of god, go I’—and so in the few years remaining I have dug in deep on prison recidivism, building a mobile app and teaching in the slammer. and then in order to quench my privileged guilt, I am now the CFO of a hot new tequila company. Drink up.” Dick Grote tells us Neil’s wife is currently running for Mayor of San Diego and adds, “If Neil keeps his mouth shut, she just might win.”

I had a request from Louise Jones for a celebration of music during the pandemic. I offered to give virtual banjo lessons; it is a generally accepted fact that the banjo is the most effective social distancing tool on the planet. I had no takers but it was fun creating the video. No, I did not quit my day job, thank you very much. I spend winters in Naples, Florida, and volunteer as a docent and boat pilot on the Gordon River for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

Joe Campagna gets to end this version. “I’m glad to report that the Campagna family is well—in different versions of hunkered down, but safe.” His son, Joe, is a district judge in King County, Washington. Joe and Caroline are giving serious thought to popping down to
Florida for a week or two over the winter, Joe quoted the great (although scatterbrained) Yogi Berra: “When you get to a fork in the road, you really need to take it.”

That’s pretty much all the news that’s fit to print and may be even some that isn’t. If you want to see your name in lights in future editions of the “News,” you have to send us something. We’re not allowed to make stuff up. Joe and Jay encourage everyone to stay safe and stay healthy.

1964 MI

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We want to thank all of you who responded to our plea for Class Notes information. Here is what we have gleaned:

From the East Coast of Florida, Noel Volkman Cooke sent: “James and I are happily still ensconced in Johns Island, Vero Beach. James’ health has been a concern but we are happily living our retirement from London and loving the sea, beach, golf, friends...all good in this time of virus and uncertainty.”

Cindy MacDonald Gamblin submitted: “Just when everything here in the Tampa Bay area was calm, cool, and collected, the place erupted in boat parades and excitement. The Tampa Bay Lightning brought the Stanley Cup back to town after a long absence. Unfortunately, we still have two months left of hurricane season. We keep our fingers crossed that we will not have any hit our shores. With this pandemic, I have not ventured out of the house any more than absolutely necessary—grocery store and errands.”

Punkin Hirsch (aka Carolyn Michel) sent her news: “Being in my house with my fabulous husband has been joyful. I walk four miles every day. We have caught up on terrific Netflix and Hulu series and documentaries. Zoom calls with relatives and friends and colleagues across the country have brought us all closer together. And since there is no live theatre, I have been performing live in a suffragist project on Zoom, produced by Florida Studio Theatre.”

Our final bit of Florida information is from Carter Simpson Noel Miller. She is off to Florida soon, but her decorating business will bring her back and forth to St. Louis this winter. Her Teddy and his wife, Lauren Carroll Noel ‘99, recently added Master Edwin Charles (Chase) to their family. Maggie seems very pleased to have a baby brother.

Heading north from Florida takes us to Winchester, Virginia, where Ginny Alfring Kalbach lives. She apologized for her lack of exciting news but stated on September 18 that her family was “fine” and urged us all to “stay safe.”

Further north, in Camden, New Jersey, Ann Greve Sadler, now recovered from COVID-19, wrote: “I am feeling much better...fully recovered. Schools in New Jersey are still closed and so my Ivana, who is in second grade, is remote learning on a Chromebook. Still haven’t sold my house, still clearing it out, still missing my guys, so am very much hoping that everyone else is staying safe and well. Feeling positive and not succumbing to any old-age (mature?) issues. Am looking forward to 2021.”

From Massachusetts: Susie Primm Thel sent a positive message: “Last fall I began a certificate program at the Rhode Island School of Design in Painting Studies. My secret reason for wanting to go to college at Brown was so I could walk over to RISD and take classes there, too, as I have wanted to learn to paint since childhood. At 73, I began this dream! I am swimming daily with a mask on (breast stroke!) and walking with friends six feet apart. Politically active too.”

From Peck Valley, Kentucky, Josie Pettus Wiseman wrote: “The best news I can offer is Fleur, an apricot Standard Poodle. Fleur is in addition to, not instead of, my older poodle Truffle. After my trip to Phoenix to volunteer at the Heard Museum Indian Market and see Charlie and Barbara Baur Dunlap in early March, I got home just in time before things really shut down. We are all fine so far, and I am hoping that you all and all of MI ’64 are, too.”

Meanwhile, in St. Louis, Ann Kroeger wrote, “I am happy to have remained healthy and busy even if busy is different from pre-virus days. I’ve been reading, working on genealogy and knitting projects, doing jigsaw puzzles, and cleaning closets and drawers...in other words, I putter around. Being in a building full of people, although all of us are masked and distancing, reduces the feeling of isolation so many people are experiencing, but it will be a relief to go back to a less limited lifestyle.”

Mary Vogt Myers said that her COVID-19 victim offspring, Merit, who lives in New York City, is recovered and she wishes all of us her very best.

In Hot Springs, Arkansas, Jacky Israel Blakeslee sent: “Our big news is our oldest grandson, Luke Kinder, was married to Christina Lyken, in a beautiful wedding in Fredericksburg, Texas, in early January. They now reside in Houston. Pete and I have been laying low except for a trip to Big Cedar in June with some of the kids and out to Colorado in August with Kathy. Lots of hiking and good weather.”

Debby Roulhac Poitevent wrote: “A little news from New Orleans. As we say down here, ‘every day is Tuesday’ slogging through the monotony of COVID-19. We’ve learned to make our own fun with ‘driveway drinks,’ sitting in our driveways and talking across the street! Loving life as grandmother of Amelia, Lane Sanders (parents are daughter Evie and her husband, Lem). Have survived several hurricanes and are still standing! Take care.”

Lastly, Barbara Baur Dunlap sent: “Summer in Arizona was a big surprise for all those who are usually in cooler climates to avoid four months of heat. In typical American fashion, we just soldiered on, explaining joyfully over every 78- or 82-degree temp at 6 a.m.! We’d never seen more dogs or people on bikes out on trails. ‘Business’ sure came to a standstill and family time grew exponentially. Iee’s daughter Hadley Baur Laughlin ’92 braved the heat to bring her four kids out to see us in July! I did
talk to Lucy Upson, whose life wasn’t changed greatly by the quarantine which she is faithfully following."

We are doing our best to stay safe and wish you all our very best!

1964 CDS

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On April 26, a CDS Class of ’64 Zoom meeting arranged by Frank Wolff and Cliff Saxton was attended by 17 class members. Following is information gathered about our classmates from that get-together.

Tim Lucas had a long career in accounting, with the last 17 years spent as a self-employed expert witness for lawyers. He has been retired for two years.

Win Reed is still active in real estate. His three children are doing well with their six offspring, two of whom are MICDS graduates currently attending Fordham and Boston University. Win reports he is walked daily by his dog, Katy, and that he shoots skeet and takes to the water via sail and motor whenever possible.

Bill Hassebrock reports he is aggressively avoiding retirement. He lives mostly in San Francisco, where he continues to advise Silicon Valley startups, but he also gets to spend four to six months a year in Italy where he has a vacation real estate venture. When relaxing in his Italian home, his close neighbor is none other than Jim Crawford.

Jim Crawford still owns a converted monastery/home in Italy but may sell it. He retired from his private equity partnership in 2006, created TRIAD Capital Management, and currently invests in companies serving the federal government. Jim and Alicia ’67, his wife of 50 years, live in Lake Forest, Illinois. Jim stays active in his church choir and on the golf course, and he recently visited with one of our English teachers, Alan Howard, who lives on a farm in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Ken Strassner has been retired for 11 years from Kimberly Clark where he practiced environmental law. Ken currently splits his time between homes in Atlanta, Georgia, and Naples, Florida.

Cliff Saxton continues to write “for fun” in retirement. With Peter Griffin ’69, he manages the Country Day archives. Cliff and Gail, married 51 years, also oversee an historic hotel’s archives in Pennsylvania. He remains in contact with two of our English teachers, Bob Philips and Tom Freeman, both in their 90s.

Howard Robinson has lived since 1979 in South Florida where he practiced plastic surgery until 2015. He runs a conservative blog and, as a heavy metal fanatic, another blog on rock concerts. An avid concert-goer, he also enjoys spending time with five grandchildren.

Phil Freedman moved to Vail, Colorado, after finishing his family practice residency and practiced for 20 years before working full-time in the local ER. Phil worked as a cruise ship physician in summers, primarily for National Geographic, and he retired from the ER three years ago, although he still performs occasional Expedition Medicine.

Bob Albrecht has lived in Sedona, Arizona, with his wife, Shirley, for 20 years, working as a digital artist for nine years. He has been in professional photography for 50 years and is currently helping support the Sedona Humane Society through his work, some of which you can see at truewestimages.com.

John Friedman has lived in Philadelphia for 44 years and has been retired from Germantown Friends School for 13 years. He and his wife, Carolyn, enjoy their two grandchildren. John’s many community activities include Green Tree Health Care Foundation, Awbury Arboretum, and the Crefeld School board.

Mark Mittleman continues to practice law in St. Louis and lives in Webster Groves. He enjoys classical music, serving on the St. Louis Symphony Volunteer Association and as a board member of the Chamber Music Society of St. Louis. Mark is a dedicated birdwatcher and has traveled widely in his winged pursuit, most recently in the Santa Marta Mountains of Colombia and the Austrian Alps.

Harry Agress has been retired from radiology for five years. He has spent his entire 36-year career in New York City, specializing in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine. Harry has continued teaching radiology, in addition to golfing and pursuing his lifelong love of photography. He has presented his photos in multiple shows, including one at MICDS, and he is currently donating some of his images to health care facilities.

Ned Scharff pursued a career in journalism and public communications in NYC before moving to his beloved Philadelphia, where he did consulting work. Retired for five years, he is busier than ever, tutoring at a local elementary school and serving as board chairman of a local historic library.

Frank Wolff still works in law, specializing in representing non-profit organizations including the Missouri Historical Society, Missouri Botanical Garden, and St. Louis Science Center. Frank enjoys Clayton condo life and is an enthusiastic walker.

George Morgan has homes in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Jupiter, Florida, continuing to pursue his 40-year career in commercial real estate development. He and wife, Jorg, are golfers and active grandparents. Jorg has written several cookbooks.

And as for your Class Agent: I spend most of my time at our farm in Grubville, Missouri. Wife Sue and I are both retired from medical careers. I continue to hunt and fish, while Sue is an enthusiastic equestrienne. Our three daughters and six grandchildren are a constant pleasure. Sue and I recently celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary by making our first tandem skydives.
01. Jan Shapleigh Mackey ’65 and Connie Shapleigh Martin ’65 at their old family summer home in Mishaum Point, Massachusetts.


03. Price Family FaceTime: Jeff, Wendy ’99 and Katie Price Testo ’03 with Siena.

04. Louisa Legg Deland ’65 with new grandson Frank, named after his grandfather.

05. Irene Leland ’65 giving her video acceptance speech for the Artist Vision Award.

06. Remembering Becky Nickel Tyler ’65 at our 45th reunion, May 2010.

07. Louisa Legg Deland ’65 and family gathered in Biddeford Pool, Maine.
1965 MI

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Our class has lost one of our own. Becky Nickel Tyler passed away in October. She is survived by her daughter, Jeannette Tyler Bowers, and grandchildren Jacob and Chloe Bowers, along with her sisters, Anne Nickel Curtin ’67 and Jenny Nickel Martin ’78, and their families. We will always remember Becky for her warmth and good humor and will miss her. Our thoughts are also with Annie Dunford Heist and family on the loss of her sister, Mary Dunford Reid ’63.

The Class of ’65 has met virtually for three book club meetings since the 55th reunion that never happened. We have read Exit West, The Dutch House and Purple Hibiscus. Thanks to Elizabeth Kendall, Alice Langenberg Abrams, and Linda Glick for serving as discussion leaders. Please join us for the next one. We have enjoyed seeing each other and hearing what we’ve been doing. Reading the book is not a requirement. Let me know if you have a book recommendation for our discussions and want to join.

Here’s the news:

Susan Caspari Carnwath has been buying books, cleaning house, gardening, walking, and cycling. She is in touch with Ginny Drosten in Germany and enjoys catching up with her by phone.

Nancy Burkham Williams missed our July book club but wrote that reading The Dutch House was like wrapping up in a big fuzzy blanket! Nancy couldn’t help remembering wandering through her grandparents’ huge house at a Westmoreland Place on the corner of Kingshighway. After it was torn down, Nancy would drive by and stare at the place where it had been and remember.

Wendy DuBois Brockman didn’t join our book club but recommended some books: the new Blake Gopnik bio on Andy Warhol and Elena Ferrante’s latest.

Anne Kennard has been knitting. She has made baby sweaters, hats, mittens, teddy bears, and scrunchies! Every year Anne runs a 12-and-under novice tennis tournament at the yacht club. This year, out of 50 participants, it was fun to have three of Diana Davis Madsen’s grandchildren playing! Anne has also been the Bingo Lady for the kids for the past 20 summers. It was challenging this year as everyone played outside.

Jane Atwood Whitehead has been living the life in her bubble in Bonita Springs, Florida. She sees Nancy Burkham Williams, Mary Morey Bradley ’56 and Page Sharp Jackson ’56.

Becky Woolsey Ester and Gary moved into a two-bedroom apartment in a retirement community in Dallas 14 months ago. She started losing her hearing shortly after moving. Carrying on a phone conversation is hard because her hearing fluctuates. They have a wonderful woodwork shop—the main reason Gary agreed to move.

Connie Shapleigh Martin is happy to report that “life is good!” The virus did not keep Connie from spending two wonderful weeks with family and friends at their beloved Mishaum Point in July, as all other travel adventures are postponed until next year. Cousin Jan Shapleigh Mackey was also there with her children and grandsons enjoying picture perfect weather.

Irene Leland recorded her new song, Wishing Well, at Sony Studio in Nashville. It is available on retail digital sites and will be distributed to radio stations worldwide. Irene’s song, For All You Are, was selected to be part of the Music with A Conscience series on the Women of Substance Podcast. The song is about overcoming mental illness and preventing suicide. Irene’s infomercial for Omega XL has been very successful.

Connie Bascom McPheeters reports a sudden sighting of Irene Leland pop up on an Omega XL ad on TV!

Linda Glick would love to say that since COVID-19, she speaks two new languages and finished the great American novel but instead decided she doesn’t like housework, meal planning, or Instacart! She did become an “alchemist,” making her kitchen shine; baking pizza and pastries. She cancelled trips, mastered workouts via Zoom, hiked and worked on the design for a virtual charity. San Francisco is slowly re-opening, but residents are saddened for their neighbors who have lost so much in the wildfires.

Louisa Legg Deland spent a wonderful summer in Biddeford Pool with family. All three children and their families visited. They only had one day alone. On August 16, they added little Frank, named for his grandfather, to their gang of grandkids now totaling six with the oldest being seven. With the arrival of fall, they are returning to a more cautious approach. In most respects, she feels 2020 has been a terrifying year.

Thank you to everyone who wrote such kind notes after I shared my breast cancer diagnosis. I was touched to hear from so many of you, especially those who wrote of their own successful battles. I’m happy to say my cancer was caught early at my annual mammogram and after radiation, I’ll be fine. Thanks to Bobbi Bueh who reassured me and recommended a wonderful surgeon, along with Carol Bodenheimer Lock ’59 who seconded the choice. I’m grateful for my family, phone, email, and texting friends (Donna Schultz Heidbreder, I mean you!) who save my sanity daily.

We may be separated from family and friends, but every day brings us closer to when we can be together again. Our next deadline is February 1, 2021.

1968 MI

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Hello, 1968 Classmates!
Four more months of sheltering at home has brought a small amount of news. Here are the updates:

Nancy Fisse Davis is still gardening (medicinal herbs and edibles), hiking in the second growth forest near her house, and hanging out with her horses at a nearby ranch. “Recently I’ve been making medicinal herbal tinctures. Last week, my daughter, Carol, moved in with her dog and cat so things are really humming around here!”

Helen French Graves reports that she has been “dog sitting” Guiding Eyes for the Blind puppies when their raisers are on vacation. “I get to take the pups to stores, outdoor restaurants, the beach, to Boston, my harbor town—anywhere where they can practice their skills. Keeps me busy and I’m having fun.”

Betsy Trent Heberling’s big news is the birth of her first grandchild, a girl! Sutton Ashley Heberling was born on August 7, 2020, to Monica King and Andrew Heberling. She was born only five months after the first grandchild of Betsy’s brother, John Trent, CDS ’71, also a girl, Peyton Laurel Schaus. The cousins are in constant FaceTime contact from Phoenix and Los Angeles.

Carol Ferring Shepley is delighted to announce that her daughter, Callie Starbuck ’96, got married to Hank Blom in October. Callie’s daughter and son, Addie and Jack, walked her down the aisle. This joyous occasion was the first time she and Jake saw all three daughters since January 2020. The Shepleys have another addition to their family, T. Rex, a Yorkie/Maltese mix. Carol introduced Betsy Fordyce, who spoke about her great-great-grandmother, great-grandmother, and grandmother who all fought for women’s suffrage. You can see them on the Bellefontaine Cemetery and the Missouri History Museum Facebook pages.

Becky Wells Mattison, as always, entertains us with her wonderful sense of humor! “I’m acting like a pioneer woman: foraging the garden and woods for edibles I can store for the never-ending winter about to start! No wonder those poor souls died so young! I’m almost begging for a visit from the grim reaper myself. Here’s hoping by spring something ‘exciting’ will happen. I’ll drink to that. After all, that poor, trapped wine needs to be released from that cruel bottle.”

Take care of yourselves and we will be back next spring!

1968 CDS

George L Curran III ’68 reports he retired in October, 2019.

1969 MI

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Dear fellow classmates: What a year we are having! Based on most of the reports I have received, we 69ers are surviving the pandemic relatively well and in decent spirits. Maybe this ripe old age gives us a more positive perspective on trying times! Here’s what our classmates had to say:

Marki Cady was wintering in the Cayman Islands when COVID-19 hit the scene. She and Joe headed back to Pennsylvania just before the government closed the Cayman airport. She is missing her island home but did manage to spend three weeks on Damariscotta Lake in Maine this summer.

Nan Holmes reports that COVID-19 has been quite a catalyst for her. Her son and family moved from Kentucky to Nan’s home in Seattle so that Nan could assist with the Zoom schooling of her second grade grandson. Since her grandson’s school is on Eastern Standard Time, Zooming from the west coast means starting the day at 6 a.m. Nan is an early riser so she takes the first shift. She said her new life is chaotic but very happy.

Anne MacDonald Wilson reports (with a wink) that she and her husband, Mark, are still speaking to each other despite being laid off from work and spending a lot of time together.
at home in Albuquerque! They are bonding with their golden retriever siblings, Bonnie and Clyde, as well as birdwatching and binge-watching TV.

Cynthia Plumb Hubbard experienced firsthand the success the country of New Zealand has had dealing with COVID-19. She and her husband were there visiting their daughter and family this spring during the lockdown. She was extremely impressed with the New Zealand prime minister, who was able to effectively control the spread of the virus and limit the number of cases. Cynthia is back in the U.S. now, riding out the pandemic in Martha’s Vineyard.

Tandy Thompson is her usual chipper self. While she misses traveling, she was away so much in 2019 that she is actually glad to be in St. Louis. Tandy continues to be involved with the care and restoration of four historic buildings dating back to French Colonial times in St. Genevieve, Missouri. She has immersed herself in historical documents which have provided a framework for much of the restoration of the buildings and gardens. Tandy has also discovered a new game, Petanque.

Christy Traunricht is “making the most of the sequestered lifestyle” trying new recipes, canning jams and pickles, gardening, playing the piano, and seeing friends from a distance. She is also letting her hair go gray. She sent a photo and of course she looks great—as young as ever! She and Don spent the winter at their new home in Sebastian, Florida, where they hosted Bill and Beth Green Kling.

Nancy Macdonald Hinkson writes: Our daughter, Laura, son-in-law, and our two grandchildren could not return for their summer visit from New Delhi where they live and work. Daughter Allison and her husband live and work in Denver. Meanwhile, back in St. Louis, I found that eating ice cream and watching Netflix was the only way to get through the pandemic. David had open heart surgery on May 26 and is better than ever. All in all, we have settled into the new normal.

Finally, I, Phoebe Scott Burke, am parked in my usual spot on Hanley Road. I have been supervising my youngest grandchildren two mornings per week at what we call “Peeps (my grandmother name) Academy.” My original objective was to make life a bit easier for my daughter and daughter-in-law while they oversee their older children in online school, but the result has been an opportunity to develop a much better connection to these two little ones.

1969 CDS

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Ed Hall: Our class remains hunkered down for the most part due to COVID-19, but a few guys did check in with updates:

John Chappell: “I’m still alive in Lawrence, Kansas, where you’ll also find John Broholm with whom I’m long overdue for a beer. Haven’t been able to visit grandkids in California. My wife and I are making like hermits since we’re, well, you know, past a certain age. But I’m still working, a little. A legal career based on oil leases isn’t exactly hopping like the good old days. Probably a good time to retire, if I could remember where I put all that money I surely must’ve saved up.”

Joe Rechter: “Had my second grandchild on July 21, 2020: Clementine Elisabeth Takacs. Her parents are Rob Takacs and Louisa Rechter ’05. Clementine’s parents temporarily moved from New York City to St. Louis during the pandemic in March while Louisa was pregnant; fully expecting to be back in New York in time for the delivery. Fortunately for us, she delivered in St. Louis at Missouri Baptist—she’s now a Cardinals fan forever!”

Rick Weitzer: “I am close to retirement as I transition to teaching (part-time) at Webster University in St. Louis and Chengdu, China, now (exclusively) via Zoom. Other than that, Susie and I are enjoying our two grandsons, ages three and six, and I have been playing a lot of golf with Joe Rechter.”

1970 MI

Mary (Mooie) Holmes Carpenter: 2020 started with such anticipation for our big 50th reunion. This, along with so many things large and small, had to be postponed until 2021. The dates are May 6–9, 2021. We hope you will be able to join us!

1970 CDS

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Greetings to all classmates, family, and friends reading this latest installment of the CDS ’70 Class Notes. I hope you are staying healthy and sane in these trying times.

As reported earlier, our gala 50th reunion was canceled due to the coronavirus epidemic. Our plan now is to join the class of 1971 for a delayed reunion in May 2021. Here’s hoping that we will be able to have an in-person reunion by then.

In place of our traditional fall mini-reunion, we had a Zoom virtual reunion in early October. The reunion was attended by Henry Bangert, Harold Bible, Bob Cohen, Phil Estep, Cap Grossman, Jon Heitner, Larry McDaniel, Ernie Planck, and yours truly. We had a great time catching up on news and lamenting our fate. Unable to join us but sending their best were Tim Barksdale, Tom Barad, Mark Johnson, Bill McMillan, and Tim Wagner.
Otherwise, there is not much to report. We are keeping relatively sane here in Carlisle and looking forward to seeing friends when we can. I hope that you all make it through this adventure with minimal damage.

1971 MI

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2020—a year that will live in infamy. My classmates create a vivid portrait of it in their own words:

Judy Griesedieck: “I went from the safety of my home to fighting tear gas and rubber bullets while covering peaceful protests by day and the burning and looting of dozens of businesses by night after the death of George Floyd here in Minneapolis—the toughest assignment I’ve ever had. Daughter Taylor returned from Brooklyn for five months; such a silver lining. I also started my own apiary of honeybees, a calming and joyful distraction.”

Debbie Smith Fitzgerald: “In COVID-19 St. Louis, we cleaned out cabinets, received and passed on some hysterical videos, watched every conceivable movie and learned to Zoom weekly with relatives we previously saw once a year. We do our own grocery shopping and visit with family and friends in small, socially distanced groups. And we have very clean cabinets.” Saving the best for last, Debbie and Art became grandparents to Casey Elizabeth Fitzgerald.

Victoria “Tori” King: “Hindsight is 2020. That’s something we say frequently in medicine. Years from now we will look back at this year and understand why the SARS Covid virus was so difficult to contain. I am the public health department medical officer in my area and have lots of thoughts on this virus. I don’t believe I have ever seen a medical problem become so politicized. The blame game has not enhanced taking care of the problem.”

Susan Krone Cabral: “We spent the summer self-isolating in preparation for a visit to Florida to see our daughters, Sarah and Erin, and their families: Peyton and Teegan Scott, and Erin and Robert’s firstborn, Ezra Kai Lizardi.”

Victoria “Tori” King: “This photo sums up my entire year,” she said.

Sallie Estep Bhuller: “We are all well. Everyone here getting on with life and work as best we can. New York is a bit of a ghost town but functioning.”

Molly Coe Niven: “David and I have been quarantining in the Montana outback wilderness on rivers and bikes—not much phone service in these parts.”

Biz Ellison Marks: “Overall, I feel great. I’m so grateful the chemo I received combined with a blood stem cell transplant was successful. I sold the house we built in Matagorda, Texas, and am now a resident of the Rio Grande Valley. Chris and Chad live just down the street. Erica is still in Matagorda. My great grandson, Atticus, turned one in September. We watched the festivities on Face Time—modern technology is wonderful. I hope to join everyone for our 50th.”

Mary Dubuque Desloge: “Life is good. My three sons are happily married; and I have five grandchildren—so far!”

Wendy Richards Echols: “Still working at Coldwell Banker Premier Properties in St. Augustine Beach and spending time with my husband on our barge/2nd home in West Palm Beach.”
**Class Notes**

**Marika Csapo Sweet:** “In 2019, the film I co-produced, Made in Auschwitz: the Untold Story of Block, 10, premiered on Israeli TV and elsewhere in the European Union. It was screened at the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, the St. Louis International Film Festival, and other festivals around the world. And then came February, 2020. Now all festivals are virtual and life, as we used to know it, is over. Can’t wait to see everyone at our 50th! Hugs (virtual for now) until then.”

**Laurie Wolff Miller:** “Not much to report during these days. Life slowed down, so it seemed like a good idea to proceed with an RT knee replacement. What was I thinking?! Margot ’06 came home to be my caretaker and has a future in it if anyone’s looking. Hoping to prepare for a rescheduled bike trip to Portugal next fall. As for our 50th next May, here’s hoping the stars align and plans will be uninterrupted!”

**Gloria Niedringhaus Jarvis:** “Nothing new from us. Book club has grown by two. Laurie Miller, Susan Cabral, Babs Cagayate Wagner, Cristie Tober Krauss, Annie Gardner Imbs, Abbie Carlin, and now Lynn Reed Neill. Jay and I have been swamped with business, so I have failed to live up to my reading assignments. I just check in to Zoom on Monday nights to socialize. We would love to have other classmates join us. Everyone is having fun.”

**Jeanie Roy:** “I went to my son David’s winging ceremony. He was chosen to fly the Osprey, a Marine workhorse similar to WWII’s B-17.” To stay in shape, Jeanie spends a good deal of time hiking with another Marine mother and their border collies. In October, David received a promotion. Congratulations, Captain Roy!

**Cammi Fetté Mock:** “Love living out in the country. My daughter had a hip replacement as well as COVID-19 with fairly minor symptoms. I am blessed to say my family is now healthy. Though we cancelled a couple vacations, we enjoyed Florida in February and fished Minnesota and Wyoming in July. We just came back from New Mexico where we added a young English Setter, Grace, to our family.”

**Robin Brunner Moores:** “Still camping a bit (hiking has been on hold after foot surgery). But up in the White Mountains, New Hampshire, I forgot the wide tree straps for my hammock. I’d brought along some extra thin rope which I tried to rig up, but it gradually fell down the tree about an inch every half hour till my derriere hit the ground. It was 32 degrees out – kinda nippy. I made a checklist for next time. Hope I remember to check it!”

**Beth Trueblood:** “My final project, the new SSM Saint Louis University Hospital, opened its doors on September 1, 2020, giving me the ability to retire after 45 years of designing medical and corporate interiors! We’re planning to move back into the city to be near Forest Park and all the St. Louis cultural institutions we love. We look forward to traveling when the world opens up again.”

**Alexandra “Alex” Kingzett:** “After 44 years on the West Coast, Jim and I are packing it up and taking the show back to St. Petersburg. A lifetime of memories to be cherished for sure, but we are looking forward to the next chapter. Stay tuned.”

**Laurie Jacobson Provost:** “Depending on how you look at it, 2020 was lucky for me. I got COVID-19 but recovered 100%. Yet another NorCal wildfire descended upon our door, this time coming within 200 yards of my door, but brave and wonderful firefighters saved my neighborhood. And my latest book, TV Dinners, is still managing to sell despite the closure of every bookstore in North America. After all that, a friend suggested I buy a lottery ticket.”

No question, we’re all looking forward to 2021. And Laurie M. and I are preparing a big celebration for our very special reunion slated for May 6-8. Imagine, 50 years and still we share our stories and care about what happens “at Mary and on through the years.” What a gift that is. If you’re only going to attend one reunion, this is the one! There won’t be another like it. Stay safe and see you there!!

**1972 CDS**

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Spoke to classmate Rob Meissner who is moving with his new love to Boulder, Colorado. He is happily settled into retirement and looks forward to an eventual move to Taos, New Mexico.

Sympathies to classmate John Mozley, who lost his father, and to the family of classmate Stu Sproull, who passed away last year.

**Peter Smith:** My wife Nancy continues her work as a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Orthopedic Surgery at Washington University School of Medicine. I have enjoyed the past four years at leisure. I do a little consulting and a fair amount of volunteering. Nancy and I welcomed our third, fourth, and fifth grandchildren during 2020. Three bright spots in a challenging year. Not all our grands live in St. Louis but two are here and we see the others as often as we can. I hope everyone in the Class of ‘72 is safe, happy and healthy.”
1973 CDS

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Mark Moore reports that he is in partial retirement after 30+ years of being a Radiologist. One daughter is in second-year Neurology Residency at Ohio State, another at Cornell Vet School, and his son is completing an MBA program in California. Mark and his wife return to St. Louis periodically and stay at the family farmhouse (scene of the sophomore class party); they have started a vineyard called 300 Norton Vines!

Charlie Allen retired from Bunge in 2018. He is currently completing a Russian-into-English translation of a memoir by a writer he knew in Paris in the 1980s. Charlie will be teaching 20th century Russian literature next semester as an adjunct professor at the UMSL honors college. He and his wife, Lisa, have a combined total of six children and three grandchildren in Missouri, Oregon, and Minnesota.

1974 MI

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Editor’s Note: We inadvertently omitted the notes for the MI Class of 1974 in the last issue of MICDS Magazine. We are including them here, along with the notes for this issue below. We apologize for the error.

Fall 2020 MI ’74 Notes:

Holly Hermann Gulick: Our 45th reunion this past May was a blast! A hearty thanks to Peggy for chairing it. Hostesses Becky and Cindy opened their homes for our gatherings (complete with yellow rolls, shepherd’s pie and green/gold desserts). Cindy supplied us once again with her wine. Jennifer designed the save-the-date cards/invitations and organized a power walk. Muffy held a lunch

for us on the terrace at dear old MI. The weather cooperated, too! Kudos also go to Peggy and Alice and Joan for the unenviable job of collecting funds. Many thanks to all who came in from out of town: Lynn McCandless Hopkins, Peggy Daniel Dechan, Mary Ewing, Muffy Roulhac Sewall, Jane Spivy Kecough, Harriet Travilla Reynolds—and to all who helped organize and/or hosted: Becky Howe Hailand, Cindy Kohlbry, Joan Hagedorn Ball, Jennifer Hayes Best, Cyndy Knapp Keesee, Muffy Roulhac Sewall—to name a few. See you the first weekend in May 2024!

Margot Lyman Sprague: Christopher and I have been leaning into a little expansion of our house in Dublin, New Hampshire, with plans to call it our full-time spot in a year. I hope the extra space will help woo our kids back for more frequent and comfortable visits from Washington, D.C., and Brooklyn. Nima and I are thrilled that Casey will be moving closer by (Hartford) and visiting her house in Maine more frequently. Happy visits more easily orchestrated!

Nina Primm McIntyre has saddled up again with a full time job in Boston (at www.etq.com—quality management software for any manufacturers out there? Robin?). She and her husband, Archie, and her two daughters, Ellie (with husband Ben) and Georgia (with boyfriend Ben), had a fun trip to Fes, Morocco, in April.

Jennifer Hayes Best: The 45th reunion—we have a great class with lots of energetic short, tall, small, and big people and families doing things in town, like teaching, and singing and growing wine and owning Airbnbs and VRBOs. Travels around the world, gains and losses in life and still able to recall memorable past events! The school’s campus is incredibly nostalgic, yet new. The pool and Upper School in particular, as well as the archives.

Laura Brooks Meyer continues as principal at Meyer & Meyer in Boston and writes: “Both my daughter, Diana, and her husband and my son, John, and his wife are expecting in the fall. John starts his Fellowship at BI hospital this summer and has moved back to Boston from NY.

Peggy Daniel Dechan: My son, Ian, is a third-year internal medicine resident at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. He is engaged to a pediatric resident and lives in the Central West End. He has explored the St. Louis area and enjoys it all from craft breweries to the Blues! My other son lives in LA as a hopeful actor, currently working in hospitality. My husband retired a few years ago; I still work part-time at Bank of America in NJ doing business development.

Anne Niedringhaus Seeger: I retired May 2018 after 26 years at ExxonMobil and got engaged in January this year. I am sorry to have missed the reunion but we were in the midst of moving to Sarasota! My son, Michael, is now living and working in Denver and loves it. Hope everyone is doing well. Miss y’all!

Viki Saigh Valli: My husband and I are living in Chesterfield with four dogs and two cats. My daughter, Emily, and her dog, Odie, live in California and she is in her fourth year of vet school. I see Sue McKinney Maune and Christy Stephens Salmon, and keep in touch with Lisa Dozier Stewart and Mimi Johnston Vangel.

Muffy Roulhac Sewall: I am largely retired but continue to consult part time as an executive in residence for the University of Minnesota’s office of technology commercialization. I work with a team to advise aspiring entrepreneurs who want to take their innovations to start new companies! We continue to run a small event space funding a 501c3 in memory of our son, Sam, and fund STEM programs and pediatric oncology programs.

Susan Tober Goldenberg: Barry and I have been married 38 years, going strong and both fully engaged in our lives and careers. I am still working with Linda Loch Bearman, and we are celebrating our 18th year in business together.

My daughter, Katie, and her husband, Jeff, live in St. Louis with our two grandparents Charlie, 4, and Will, 2. Our son, Michael, is married as of June 29 and will reside in New York City with his beautiful wife who is in the fashion business. I see Becky Howe Hailand on a regular basis and we have now prepared for this next chapter by learning and playing mahjong!
Cathy Mellow Goltermann is teaching special needs children at Steger 6th Grade Center in Webster Groves and loves it! Christen ’09 and Peter Grote ’08 celebrated their first anniversary and are busy with their first home and enjoying traveling! Woody ’11 finished his second year at WMU Cooley Law School and is traveling to Canada, Paris, and London this summer. “I am still enjoying teaching ‘nuggets’ at St. Peter’s Playgroup, and babysitting and dog sitting on weekends. I will be at Burr-Oak Camp in the summer with Catherine and have Wisconsin to look forward to.”

Cyndy Knapp Keesee and her sister, Steffie Knapp Littlefield ’72, are keeping busy at the farm. Spring found Cyndy sprucing up and planting in the gardens as well as bottling early releases of 2018 Edg-Clif Wines. Every weekend finds her with visitors in the tasting pavilion or serving up wines and Edg-Clif Brews at St. Louis-area events. She and her husband, Girard, enjoy their cellar time, making the wines. Cyndy spends the quieter moments knitting for her three grandkids and two grand nieces. Their four kids are spread out between Colorado, St. Louis, and Europe, with both of their girls living in St. Louis.

Robin Wurdack Lynch: Son Colin has just completed the first year in a scientific glass-blowing program and launched a jewelry line with customers around the U.S. as well as in Japan. Son George continues to serve up Moroccan food in the East Village while he moves toward graduate school. Michael is enjoying retirement and is busy trying to keep up with the grass and watching the river. I am still making paint and importing pretty things from Italy.

Hello were sent from Alice Wuertenbaecher Sedgwick, Reggie Spring Townsend now living in Denver, and Christy Stephens Salmon with a photo taken at her son’s wedding.

Casey Mallinckrodt: After three great years at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts I’m moving to Hartford, Connecticut, to the Wadsworth Atheneum. I’ll miss seeing Harriet Travilla Reynolds in Virginia but will see more of Nina Primm McIntyre and Margot Lyman Sprague and will be able to catch up with other megalopolis alums. My daughter, Leeds, is taking full advantage of life in Denver, but it is still too far away from me. MH’74, keep me posted, and see you at the 50th!
Winter 2021 MI ’74 Notes:

Lyn McCandless Hopkins: My life continues as a yoga instructor, yet teaching remotely has proven a tad challenging. Home base is still Longmeadow, Massachusetts, Jeff and I celebrated our 40-year anniversary in June, and we have been spending many weeks at the family home in New London, New Hampshire. We have two Labrador retrievers who also love to swim the lakes and dash about with us. Son Charlie and Jen live in Vermont, Chase and daughter Annie are in Pittsburgh, and Sam is in Boston.

Trudi Glick Carey: Presently working on a new modern house for myself all on one level. My youngest, Sam, is engaged but had to put the wedding off until next year due to COVID-19. My oldest, Nathan, works with me at the Carey Group, so I have both of them in town, which is pure fun. Between electric bikes, surfing, polo, tennis, and hiking, we are all entertained. All of my siblings and everyone’s children have chartered a yacht to do the Caribbean islands in 2021.

Peggy Daniel Deehan: All is well from New Jersey, where we are currently hunkering down. We bought a condo in Jupiter, Florida, and were there January-May, which was fortuitous for walking during the pandemic. Lyn and Holly were our first visitors. I retired in April from Bank of America and haven’t missed working this time! My son, Ian, finished his residency at Barnes Hospital and is now a hospitalist there, applying for a fellowship next year in conjunction with his wife, Lexi, who is finishing her residency at Children’s and is also applying for a fellowship.

Holly Hermann Gulick: David ’72 and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary in 2020. We have owned our property for 27 years now. Drew ’02, his wife Aliax, and their two girls live in town. Son Clint his wife, Maddie, and their wonderful lab, Piper, live in Dallas. We had a grand time last summer when they came up to southern Missouri for our annual Hermann Family reunion. My daily exercise consists of swimming laps and power walking. I also volunteer for a national organization, ITN Gateway, giving rides to seniors and adults with visual impairments.

Melissa Lord Jorgensen: My son, Tyler Shepard ’05, is now managing the United Van Lines division in Colorado Springs. Courtney Shepard ’01 and her husband, Devin, live in Ann Arbor with the love of my life, Josiah, my 18-month-old grandson. I do manage a trip up to Ann Arbor about every six weeks where I get to spoil my little man! Still working part-time (physical therapy), but retirement is in a little over a year! Monitoring my mother a bit who now is in assisted living but doing very well.

Gail Bodine Garrett: Our son and his wife, Carolyn ’06, have twins, Henry and Louisa, in June. I moved in with them and helped with their four-year-old son, who was not entirely happy with his change in status. Our daughter finished her Ph.D. in nursing from Saint Louis University around the same time while she had three kids at home distance learning. I didn’t help her very much because she wanted us to quarantine—or maybe she was just fine without us. I have six grandchildren and really enjoy watching them grow up and helping when I can.

Cathy Mellow Goltermann: After COVID-19 hit, my nursery school did not return, so I am now nannying full-time and it is so joyful. Catherine is teaching at Hixson Special School District in Webster, and Christen ’09 and Peter Grote ’98 celebrated their second wedding anniversary. Woody graduated from Western Michigan Law School and moved to the Big Apple.

Becky Howe Hailand: The Hailand family has had a busy 2020. We had two COVID-19 weddings and all the changes that go with them. Our oldest son got married in July and our daughter in November. I get to see Susan Tober Goldenberg all the time as we play mahjong together. She manages to take all my money. I hope everyone in the class is doing well, and I look forward to the next reunion.

Nancy Peck Hawkins: After surviving breast cancer, I moved to Sun City in Georgetown, Texas, with my husband. We just love it, even if not much is open. We stay busy keeping in touch and visiting our six grandchildren. Life is good!

Robin Wurdack Lynch: We started off 2020 rather normally with visits to market in both Atlanta and New York for the side business. Son George moved back home while he works out next steps as he was applying to grad school when the world fell apart. I have been going to work although for a while we rotated working in the office and at home. My older son, Colin, delivered an order of his glass jewelry to MoMA in February. He came home for our birthday/anniversary.

Nina Primm McIntyre: A “couple weeks quarantine” escape from NYC for our daughter, Georgia, and her boyfriend ended up being a seven-month stay. Then her sister, Ellie, and her husband arrived, and it became a regular cooking fest and work-week Zoom study hall for all of us. Ellie and Ben are expecting their first child! Everyone has moved into new apartments (Brooklyn and Harrison, New York), while Archie and I remain here in Dublin, New Hampshire.

Laura Brooks Meyer: Meyer & Meyer still going strong, but I am taking time to watch my grandson, John Meyer IV, as my son, John, and his wife live in Boston. My daughter, Diana, had a baby girl a month after John IV was born, but sadly they live in Florida. Lots of fun to have one of each! Hope all our classmates and their families have been able to safely cope through this pandemic!

Anne Niedringshaus Beckman: It’s been an amazing year with two weddings. I married Chris Beckman last spring, and we split our time between Minnesota and Sarasota. My son, Michael, lives in Denver. We had a mini-family reunion at my wedding in February. My brother, Denny ’62, and sisters, Ginger Niedringshaus Trueblood ’66 and Lisa Niedringshaus ’71, came and helped us celebrate. Thankfully all pre-COVID-19.

Muffy Roulac Sewall: I have been able to catch up in person with Holly G., Alice S. (in Florida), Jane K., and Peggy D. in the Northeast this past summer. I also have my first granddaughter and have been spending considerable time in the New York area visiting, helping out and generally enjoying the “grand” experience. Still advising medical device startup organizations and working part-time at the University of Minnesota as an executive.
in residence advising their startup teams and teaching a course in “lean startup.”

**Margot Lyman Sprague:** Christopher and I have moved full time to Dublin, New Hampshire, where we are undergoing an expansion project to be retirement-ready! It has been a heavenly spot to ride out the pandemic storm. Our children are now each within easy reach—Emmy on the North Shore of Boston, and Jay and fiancé, Vanessa, on a farm in nearby Jaffrey. I am surprisingly active with our little GCA club, primarily because of the wonderful camaraderie it offers and the generous good it does locally.

**Casey Mallinckrodt:** I’m the objects conservator at the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum in Hartford, Connecticut, happily working on materials from ancient glass to recent plastics, and I am a trustee of College of the Atlantic. Before COVID-19, I was able to see more of Nina and Margot in New Hampshire, and Lyn, who is just up the road, and I was fortunate to spend much of the four-month COVID-19 closure of the museum in Northeast Harbor, Maine. I’m too far from my wonderful daughter, Leeds, in Denver but have a new appreciation for Face Time and Zoom.

**Connie Lane:** Connie’s mother, Janet, passed away in October. We all send our love to you Connie! In July 2019, Connie was honored to travel to Cooperstown, New York, to support a new production of her revised script, *The Night They Lit Up Wrigley*, a story based on the life of Rita Meyer Moellering, who was a member of the Peoria Redwings (1946-1949) in the All-American Girls Baseball League. Congratulations, Connie!

**Georgia Remington Martin:** I came out of retirement to return to Ladue Chapel Nursery School as a teacher. This is my 20th year as a preschool teacher and I am loving it. Daughter **Katherine Martin Bitting ’06** and her husband, Jamie, have two children, Georgia, 4, and James, 1, with whom we are blessed to spend a lot of time. Son **Charlie Martin ’08** was married in June and we absolutely love his bride, Marta. They live in Clayton, so we get to see them a lot, too. Daughter **Maggie Martin ’14** has been in Atlanta since graduating from college, and we are so lucky to be able to visit her often. Paul continues to work at Bank of America Private Bank (currently from a makeshift office in one of our bedrooms). I hope everybody is riding out the pandemic in health.

**Renée Reisel Bennet** writes: We were fortunate to visit our daughter, **Lara Bennett Hacala ’04**, and Ryan and their two children, Zachary, 3, and Zoe, 1, in August for a week. That was the highlight of our summer. Otherwise working in the garden a lot, reading, and needlepointing. I hope conditions improve and we can be back to normal.

**Melinda Levitt:** I have spent the COVID-19 period working from home here in DC. While my brother and I have been fine, my two bassets have gone through health scares: Honoria, 13.5, had a cancerous lump removed from her shoulder and five treatments of chemo; Winchester, 11, had a stroke but has recovered completely. No travel but walks through the neighborhood, gardening, and very small groups over for BBQ on the patio. I use Zoom to have virtual friends’ gatherings, and I stay in touch with **Ellen Bates Scott** and **Betsy Knowles**.

**Ellen Bates Scott:** Still working as a psychologist in private practice, but forced to pivot to teletherapy last March with the pandemic. Son **Sam ’07** was married in September 2018 and is a staff attorney for Bronx Legal Services. Daughter Liza graduated from Washington University Law School, clerked for a judge on the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, and is an associate at Jenner & Block in Chicago. Daughter Maddie lives in New York City where she is a development assistant at Columbia University and is working toward a Master’s degree in Nonprofit Management. Mac continues to work as a realtor for Janet McAfee.

**Peggy Cornwell:** I’m back in St. Louis full-time now, enjoying a different kind of life including a new garden project and a very sweet lab puppy. Both have been great ways to escape the current craziness!

**Linda Wunderlich Dybus:** Steve and I escaped to the Cayman Islands in February. I continue to work as a nurse for SLUCare Otolaryngology. Steve is busy running Wunderlich Fibre Box. Daughter Alanna is
in the Washington, D.C., area; Adrienne is in Omaha, Nebraska, with Philip, 9, Regina, 7, and Louis, 5. Erin is in Seattle, Washington, with Jackson, 11/2 and Steven is in Denver, Colorado. Fortunately, everyone made it home for a visit over the summer.

Caryl Potocnjak Childers: Our daughter, Morgan, graduated from UMSL this year after a successful student athlete career. She and her volleyball teammates made it to NCAA Div II regional competition in her senior season. It was an exciting accomplishment after playing for so many years in elementary school, high school, and club. She is working in supply chain management and lives nearby. I’m working at Wells Fargo providing communications to clients.

Pamela Edwards Bunn: I’m thankful to live in south Florida where we’ve been able to enjoy being outside and active. I joined my old Raleigh book club via computer, watched our daughter’s master’s graduation from UPenn on screen, taught Texas grandchild manners over Zoom, and we relandscaped and had the house painted. Lee and I celebrated our 40th anniversary and had the whole family here. Lee and I hiked five National Parks in Utah.

Melanie Ellis Streed: Although there is turmoil, upheaval and change in the world, my husband and I are both still teaching Latin. At least we can count on the declensions and conjugations to stay the same! We feel lucky to have jobs and students who keep us laughing. Our kids and grandkids all live in the Boston/New Hampshire area and are doing well. Our middle son is an illustrator, so if you know a child, check out Alfred’s Book of Monsters by Sam Streed.

Nancy Croak McKown: I am considered a necessary worker, so I’ve been actually going into the office every day. People expect their bankers to be there! My hands are about to crack off from all the washing! My kids are doing great. Claire ’05 is in New York living the dream. JL ‘07 moved back from South Korea after four years. He started grad school for photography at SCAD. Libby ’13 is finishing up her last year at SLU law school.

Jaclyn Wiseman: I’m living in Santa Monica Canyon (Los Angeles) near the beach and spending time painting in my home art studio, hiking, and on Zoom.

Didi McKee Noelker: I continue to teach science at Villa Duchesne. We have been back at school (actually in the building) since August. Husband Tim works in Washington, D.C., as general counsel for the Peace Corps. Son Joe and two grandchildren (Naina, 4, and Sahil, 1) reside in Tulsa. Our daughter, Joan, son-in-law, Phil, and baby, Sullivan, live in St. Louis. Joan and Phil are working on the front line as emergency medicine physicians.

Ted Greenberg: Still here in St. Louis. I have been married for over 37 years to my wife, Laura; we live in Chesterfield. I still am selling investment real estate and playing tennis, when I am healthy, with Paul Goldberg. I also speak with Arthur Fishel, Rob Epstein, Rob Roberts, and some others more sporadically. Both of my kids live in the Denver area; one works in digital technology and one is focused on algorithmic trading.

Bill White: Lisa ’78 and I have been married 37 years, have three grown children, two grands and a few canine friends. Lisa owns and runs a family business with our son, Billy, and nephew, Jim Schaperkotter ’08. I continue to work in the banking and investment business. All is well during this interesting year.

Ted Greenberg: I am considered a necessary worker, so I’ve been actually going into the office every day. People expect their bankers to be there! My hands are about to crack off from all the washing! My kids are doing great. Claire ’05 is in New York living the dream. JL ’07 moved back from South Korea after four years. He started grad school for photography at SCAD. Libby ’13 is finishing up her last year at SLU law school.

Kent Rapp: All is well for me as a managing director at Grant Cooper, a retained executive search firm, where I have been for the past 20 years. Jenny is doing great with her interior design business, JCR Design Group. Our two boys, Alex ’05 and Andrew ’08, are happily married with kids of their own. Jenny and I are wrapped up in being grandparents and loving every minute. The MICDS Board of Trustees continues to keep me very busy in my “spare” time, and I love being involved with such great people who are doing such good and important work!

Neal Davis has worked as a staff attorney with the Air Line Pilots’ Association for the past 24 years. Before that he worked at the union-side labor and employment law firm Schuchat, Cook and Werner. Prior to that he was a high school English teacher in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He has four children, all in their 20s. He enjoys cooking, birding, and playing tennis with classmates Waite Stuhl and Ned Golferman.

Jim Spencer: After college at Pinzer I went to graduate school at Stanford in molecular biology, then medical school at Columbia University in New York with a residency in dermatology, followed by a fellowship in Mohs Surgery for skin cancer. I spent my career in academics at University of Miami then at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York. I opened a private practice dedicated to Mohs Surgery in St. Petersburg, Florida. I am happily married with one son.
1978 MI

BARBARA BISHOP
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Ann Ballard: Completed docent training at Los Angeles Zoo and botanical garden, turned 60, continue to take art classes at Pierce College through Zoom. I have done countless home improvement projects and cleaned out every drawer during the COVID-19 quarantine. Hoping that my classmates stay in good health!

Memoria Lewis: Just over a year with Morison KSi as CEO. It is an association of professional services firms. Flo is in Melbourne, one of the few places on the planet which has taken this virus seriously, and Lily, who graduated in June, is still in Montreal. Both have “portfolio” careers at the moment, which isn’t what they had planned—but of course they are having to adapt like the rest of us! Trevor is trying new recipes out on me a few nights a week.

Caroline Campbell McCarthy: Last year I began a handcrafted custom RV build-out of a high roof Sprinter van. It was a challenging and satisfying project. We have several cross-country trips planned in the near future. This year we have been on several camping trips in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

Lucy Lionberger Rise: For a good bit of last spring, we had all our “kids” at home. Now they are all back to their respective lives: Elise and Walker in NYC in new apartments and Elise with a new job; Carter Jr. in D.C. recently engaged to his fiancée, Christina; and Christopher is back at SMU doing the 1/2 and 1/2 class schedule. Carter’s business is doing well, and I am training as usual, this time for an attempt on Denali in Alaska.

Susan Shepherd Ittner: My only news is that I retired in early February of 2020. Otherwise, I escaped to my home in Michigan for three months this summer and had family enjoy some downtime and refuge there as well. Life at this slower pace is wonderful and sorely needed.

1981 CDS

DAVID S. WEISS
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Donny Rosenfeld spent July and August in St. Louis in lockdown with his parents and eight-year-old son, Sebastian. These past months have been incredibly challenging for all worldwide, but family and dear friends have kept our spirits up, and shown us what truly counts in this life.

1982 MI

Kay Berra Houghtaling: Creig and I have been staying well and successfully avoiding COVID-19 during this crazy year. Being retired now, we like to take lots of walks around our neighborhood and in local parks with our dog, Barney, plus there is always a project or two to work on. We are in better shape, having lost a few pounds each from all the exercise! Both daughters, Jessica ’09 and Kaytlin ’13, and their significant others have been able to work from home and are also doing well.

1985 MI

AMY MCFARLAND DOVE
adove@micds.org

The Class of 1985 sends its deepest sympathies to Susan Zimmerman Jenkins on the loss of her father, Stuart Zimmerman, Katie Ford Jay on the loss of her mother, Kathy Ford, and Amy McFarland Dove on the loss of her mother, Karen McFarland.

1990 MI

KITTY MCDONNELL PIPOLI
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Not surprisingly, we don't have much news to report. COVID-19 has changed the landscape and it’s been a tough year for everyone on so many different levels. Hoping you and yours are safe and healthy, and we're looking forward to the day we can see each other in person again!

One bit of positive news we are thrilled to share is that in January 2020, Maryanne Vacho Angliongto became the associate dean of math, physics, and technology at Jefferson College in Hillsboro, Missouri. She had been teaching physics and astronomy there for 12 years and was offered the position just in time to learn the ropes of her new administration role...in a pandemic. ‘Trial by fire! Congrats, Maryanne!’

Sarah Johnson Rye is living with her husband, Dave, and kids, Hunter and Hadley, in Menlo Park, California. She and her family enjoyed a few weeks in Idaho over the summer. Just when they returned to navigate online school in the fall, the air quality in the Bay Area was significantly impacted by the smoke from wildfires. Thankfully, things have improved and they’re doing well.

Kitty McDonnell Pipoli is enjoying being back in St. Louis and re-exploring with husband, Antonio, and son, Jimmy ’31. Jimmy is in 2nd grade at MICDS, and loves having Sue Orlando as one of his PE teachers!

2010 MICDS

Helen Zell: My news is a little unconventional, but this September, my friend and I completed hiking all of the Colorado 14ers (14,000 ft mountains). There are 58 mountains total and we were able to complete these in 3.5 years. It takes some people 15+ years to achieve this.
2012 MICDS

Alec Gualdoni was recently promoted to the rank of Captain in the United States Army. Alec graduated from Drexel University in Philadelphia in 2016 and received his commission in June of that year in the branch of Military Intelligence. He was stationed for three years at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, and has deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. In November he reported to new duties at Fort Carson, Colorado.

2016 MICDS

Lily Xu graduated from Washington University and started an online tutoring company, Learning Lodge.

2018 MICDS

Campbell Schafer: My friends and I started an online tutoring site called Learn it Together, an academic and wellness support program for middle and high school students learning remotely, especially those from low-income households, children of essential workers, and those who face barriers engaging fully in school. We offer tutoring in English, math, science, and history, as well as weekly programs like book clubs, creative writing hours, yoga/meditation hours, college prep, etc.


02. (l-r) Susan Sprung Birtch ’78, Laura Cook Boldt ’78, and Barbara Merollis Bishop ’78 on Vero Beach before COVID-19.


04. Helen Zell ’10 completed hiking all of the Colorado 14ers. Here she is with friends on the top of Pyramid Peak.

05. Ann Ballard ’78 celebrates a birthday.
The True Story of Nadia Danett

Nadia Danett students take note! After many decades of promising to write her life story, Mrs. Danett’s memoir, *Then God Said Count to Ten—A True Story* is now published. Michael Shepley ’67 has worked with Nadia for the past four-and-a-half years to get the full story on paper. For more information about the book and how to order, visit www.nadiadanett.com.

Beginning in 1960, Nadia was the first full-time female teacher at Country Day since the 1918-19 school year. For 39 years, she taught Russian (as well as other languages) and Area Studies, was a student and college adviser, produced annual Russian Evenings and dinners, organized the cheerleaders, and was a good luck charm to the football and basketball teams. She calls these years with MICDS the happiest years of her life. She will be 97 years old in March and still lives in her home in Des Peres. The website invites alumni to leave reminiscences or messages for Nadia.
The Legacy Goes On

At MICDS, we are proud that our community has a strong tradition of family ties, where multiple generations within the same family have graduated from Mary Institute, Saint Louis Country Day School, and MICDS. We celebrate these important connections and legacies with our graduating seniors in the fall of each year. The 16th annual Legacy Dinner was not able to take place in November due to the pandemic, but we were able to honor all legacy families with a special booklet showcasing their family trees. The MICDS Class of 2021 has 32 members who are legacies: 18 girls and 14 boys. Several seniors are able to trace their families’ connections to the School back to the 1800s!

Virtual Trivia Nights Gather Alumni

There’s no question our first and second virtual trivia nights were a success! Between the two events, over 150 alumni gathered virtually, representing the classes of 1981 through 2016 Zooming in from San Francisco, California, to Somerville, Massachusetts, and everywhere in between. Alumni were able to sit in the comfort of their own home while Mark Arminio from Questionable Pursuits, a St. Louis-based company, live-hosted trivia via Zoom.

MICDS’ virtual trivia nights were so much fun that we look forward to hosting more in 2021! Be prepared to gather your smartest friends, create a team, and show off your trivia knowledge in this friendly competition!
01. Susan Dubinsky Terris ’55 published a new book of poetry called *Dream Fragments*. She is the author of seven books of poetry, 16 chapter books, three artist’s books, and one play. *Dream Fragments* won the 2019 Swan Scythe Chapbook Award and is available for purchase at www.spdbooks.org.

Ram Nation is giving a round of applause to Joe Buck ’87 for being elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame as winner of the 2020 Pete Rozelle Award! Congratulations, Joe!

02. Tom Ackerman ’93 was interviewed on the podcast OT with Oliver. Ackerman shares his feelings about Country Day. Watch Tom answer seven questions about St. Louis at https://rb.gy/hsd9df.

03. David Steward II ’95 and 04. Elizabeth Schlesinger ’01 were named to the St. Louis Business Journal’s Diverse Leaders of 2020 list. The *Journal* reported, “Steward founded Lion Forge, a comic book publisher that emphasizes diverse stories told by diverse creators, in 2011. His media business expanded in 2018 with the creation of holding company Polarity Ltd., and again last year with Lion Forge Animation, a St. Louis-based animation studio that carries the comics brand’s focus on diversity to a larger medium. In its first year, Lion Forge Animation co-produced *Hair Love*, a story of a Black man doing his daughter’s hair for the first time, which took home the Academy Award for Best Animated Short.

Schlesinger advocated throughout her career for LGBTQ rights. As counsel at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, she has been a key contributor to the firm’s pro bono representation of the Family Equality Council, a group that represents LGBTQ parents and their children. Schlesinger also is a founding member of the LGBTQ Lawyers Affinity Group and involved in firm diversity initiatives. She has worked to support and expand Bryan Cave’s commitment in this area and has been a driving force in its strategy and direction.

05. Sterling K. Brown ’94 was cast to take on the part of “Leo” on a special live HBO Max production of *The West Wing*. Brown took on the role played by John Spencer in the NBC series. Spencer died in 2005. Brown joined many of the regular cast members, show creator Aaron Sorkin, and director Thomas Schlamme for the stage performance of the Season 3 episode *Hartsfield’s Landing* in mid-October.
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If you step on the School Seal, do you really have to bend down and kiss it?*

That was one of several questions Beasley 2nd graders sent to the Mary Institute archivists as part of a class research project about the School and its community in the fall of 2019.

Over the past several years, more and more MICDS students from all divisions have been exploring the School’s history for various humanities classes and research projects. Even Beasley students expressed curiosity about School traditions, such as not stepping on the School seal, during their MICDS community learning unit. Before the pandemic, our volunteer Mary Institute archivist, Anna Stupp McAlpin ’64, hosted students on tours of the Mary Institute archives and showed them important icons from the School’s history, including the historic MI seal at the entrance to the School’s Danforth Hall, the original Mary Institute building on this campus.

The Class of 1959 presented the seal to the School as its graduation present. One member of the class was Quinta Dunn Scott ’59. Her father, the prominent architect Frederick W. Dunn, agreed to design the seal. As 1959 marked the School’s 100th anniversary, this was a very special gift. Fast forward to 1984, when the Class of 1934— noting for being Betty Grable’s class —celebrated its 50th Reunion and gifted the School with a restoration of the seal. In the early 2000s the School paid for another redo.

By 2019, however, help was needed! Too much harsh climate and too many feet—large and small—had taken their toll. McAlpin and her archive volunteers knew something had to be done. Funding was obtained from the Stupp Brothers Bridge & Iron Co. Foundation. The archivists consulted with Tom Moore of Mackey Mitchell Architects and Don Musick and Glen O’Harver of Musick Construction Company, in addition to MICDS employees Amy Dove, Director of Development; Louise Jones, Director of Alumni Relations; and Bob Jett, Director of Operations. The collaboration led to a total remake of the seal with only one real change: the addition of one additional color of terrazzo.

Current students should have something to admire and be proud of as they study the School’s vibrant history. Now the seal is fresh, bright, and clean. It looks almost kissable—but we are not sure we recommend it.

Next time you are on campus, take a stroll to the Middle School campus, walk up the central stairs to the main entrance of Danforth Hall, and look down. Be careful not to step on the seal; it’s a School tradition!
The original St. Louis Country Day School campus on Brown Road first offered basketball in 1919-1920. The game was played outdoors on a dirt tennis court, weather permitting, and otherwise moved inside an old carriage house, where the low ceiling prevented traditional baskets and games involved knocking over suitcases standing on end. One hundred years later, physical education at MICDS also required a creative outdoor implementation due to a pandemic. Lower School PE teachers Jim Lohr and Sue Orlando created a variety of outdoor exercise programs involving hand-made hoops to keep students socially distanced, a sound system, and a lot of fun.