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*Updates and News from Your Walker’s Classmates and Friends*

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*Updates and News from Your Walker’s Classmates and Friends*

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*From the Parents Association President*
Dear Ethel Walker,

All of us at Walker’s, former heads of school, faculty, staff, and students, are privileged to walk in your shoes.

I want you to know how much I love your School. I want to thank you for your tenacity and the determination it took to build this School. I want you to know how proud I am of our students, the way they are confident and kind, courageous and creative, funny and fabulous, and wise and silly, all at once. I want you to know that what you started is now flourishing and our students are leading the way—they are willing to grow, try new things, and believe in themselves. And our teachers—I wish you could know them as I do. They are the caretakers of your School’s culture. They are warm, real, and smart. I admire them and have loved knowing them and working with them for the last eight years. That is the best part of being Head here. I know you remember that, too.

I also imagine you remember the challenges that come with being a head. I have read your letters from the archives—some expressing disappointment in students for this or that, some grappling with particular challenges that gave you headaches. You created something out of nothing: that is much harder than anything we have been challenged with. We all have had the privilege of working with something you dreamed of and built.

But 103 years later, as a School, we have different needs now than we once did. We have a squash team and a swim team. No, our swimmers do not swim in the pond by the barn where you used to skate and canoe with the girls. And our gym—you might not believe it, but in today’s world, it’s old now, and small. And yet we want to ensure that your legacy remains strong and vibrant forever.

Over the last few years, we’ve built new state-of-the-art turf fields, an athletic pavilion, expanded and renovated the barn, and built a new dorm that opened last fall. But most exciting of all, we recently broke ground on a magnificent building-to-be, the Centennial Center.

When I became Head of your School eight years ago, I fell in love with the campus, and never imagined I would care about brick-and-mortar projects. It’s the human side of Walker’s that I love the most. I have always been proud to be Head of your School, where teachers and students and learning trump buildings and flashy facilities. However, it became clear that, in order to safeguard the next 100 years of your School, we needed to ensure that the smartest and most talented girls continue to come to Walker’s.

Five years ago, we began envisioning a space where girls could be fully themselves: strong scholars, artists, friends, athletes, leaders, creators, and more. We envisioned a space where girls could gather, talk, work, sit quietly, dance, swim, compete, be healthy, and learn to engage with the world. We envisioned light and air, gardens, and vistas of the outdoors. We envisioned a building that nestled into Beaver Brook in a way that did not detract from the heartbeat and pulse of the campus, which is Beaver Brook. We envisioned a functional space that stood humbly yet proudly, where the space itself believed in girls and enabled them to be the main event. With the help of architect Michael Rosenfeld and his team, the Centennial Center was born. We fell in love with his pictures and drawings, and then ... the pictures seemed to remain on the table for what felt to me like a long, long time! I took pictures on the road, I dreamed of these pictures, I mailed these pictures to everyone I thought should care as much as I did.

From where you are perched on the wall above my desk, I know you heard my many phone calls to Trustees, alumnae, parents, and friends discussing so many aspects of how to get to this day. I know you knew when I was tired and laid my head on the desk, wondering whether it was possible. I wanted so much to ask you how to do it—because I know you remember feeling as if it wasn’t possible, but you needed to stand tall and believe for everyone else. And I know you probably laid awake at night or woke up early in the morning wrestling the naysayers in your mind. Leadership is often lonely, but I have been lucky, as you have been right alongside me. There are many others who have been alongside me, including our students, who always believed it was possible.
Students are wonderful this way. You remember, I’m sure. They give us hope and when we see them stretching, we know we have to stretch for them. It’s our students who inspire us.

So, Miss Walker, I want you to know that the Centennial Center will become a reality, and it’s a manifestation of your legacy. It will be a beacon for all that girls can achieve and all that your dream continues to inspire.

Together, we have helped to create spaces where young women will become confident and courageous, and they lead with integrity and conviction. They will transform the world.

I feel honored to have led this amazing and warm community for the last eight years. I will miss it dearly but know it will always hold a special place in my heart. I hope you are proud of what we have accomplished, and while I will be watching from afar, I will be watching as your School continues its forward momentum into the future.

I leave your School in the capable hands of Stephen Dunn, who will be our Interim Head over the next year. He, too, loves your School and will provide great leadership and care in my stead.

Miss Walker, your Suns and Dials flags are waving proudly. Your Ethel Walker School is once again standing tall!

With great admiration and yours truly,

Bessie Speers

“I hope you are proud of what we have accomplished, and while I will be watching from afar, I will be watching as your School continues its forward momentum into the future.”
A Message from the Board Chair

When Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 arrived in 2007, she ushered in an exciting era of transformation that is ongoing today.

Bessie’s bold vision and tireless advocacy for the School has endeared her to alumnae, parents, faculty, students, and Trustees. The steady hum of progress has infused the campus with new energy, beginning with the construction of Debby’s House (the Head’s House) in 2008, and including the new athletic fields and pavilion, the refurbished barn, renovated library, new dorm and, of course, the Centennial Center, which is currently under construction.

We have also progressed financially, with the implementation of a 10-year financial plan and a return to profitability. As of this writing, admissions applications are up over last year, and the School’s first successful capital campaign is nearing completion. We have met our Fund for Walker’s annual giving goal of $1.7 million, which includes the stellar achievement of 100 percent parent giving in December. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this year’s success.

It has been a great privilege to work with Bessie. She has challenged all of us to dream big and think boldly on behalf of our students and the future. She has shown us what is possible when we unite around a common vision with courage, confidence, and conviction. She has laid a strong foundation that positions the School well for continued success, and I thank her for her extraordinary service. I am also pleased that for the next year, Assistant Head Stephen Dunn will be at the helm as Interim Head, leading us through a time of transition with his deep knowledge and love of the School.

As you read through this issue, I hope you will feel the same sense of pride about the School that I do. Thank you for your continued support of The Ethel Walker School.

Sincerely,

Stuart M. Bell
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“We have... progressed financially, with the implementation of a 10-year financial plan and a return to profitability. Applications are up over last year, and the School’s first successful capital campaign is nearing completion.”
New Trustee Cecily Chilton Matthai ’77

Cecily graduated from Walker’s in 1977 and then received her B.A. in English from Middlebury College. Because of her Walker’s experience, Cecily knew she wanted to work in independent schools. She has been a Director of Development, a Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, and an Assistant Dean of Students. Cecily served on the Bryn Mawr School Board of Trustees, where her daughters attended, and the Irvine Natural Science Center, both in Baltimore. She was also a dorm parent and coach. She taught a Middle School media literacy course for several years and continues to be interested in the treatment of women and body image by the media. She is a lifelong supporter of women’s education.

Another passion of Cecily’s is helping people move, downsize, and organize. She takes particular interest in repurposing and recycling and helping people make difficult decisions about restructuring their lives. She became interested in this work after helping her mother and other friends and family through challenging transitional times.

Cecily’s mother, Maude Urmston Chilton, and sister Eve Chilton Martirano attended Walker’s, ’53 and ’79 respectively. Cecily is a Sun. She was a member of the Sundial Centennial Committee and was formerly a member of the Alumnae Board, serving as Vice President from 1990 to 1991. She is a previous recipient of The Vander Poel Bowl Award for distinguished leadership in the Fund for Walker’s and also received Walker’s Helen Blair Memorial Prize for rare qualities of character and spirit.

Cecily resides in Baltimore, MD with her husband Bruce Matthai. They have three children: a daughter, Theo, who is at Johns Hopkins Nursing School; a son Jake, a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill; and a daughter Susannah, who is a junior at Trinity College. Cecily loves following the UNC lacrosse team and the Trinity volleyball team. She continues to play competitive tennis, is still summering on Martha’s Vineyard, and is writing a children’s book about kindness.

The Walker’s community extends heartfelt thanks to Lynn Allegaert ’64, Ann F. Barry P’14, Stephen Becker, Ph.D. P’15, and Spencer Lampert P’14, who completed their service on the Board of Trustees.
A MESSAGE FROM

Sarah Gates Colley ’75
TRUSTEE AND CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

Dear Alumnae, Parents, and Friends,

What an incredible year this has been! I was on campus several times this spring, including for the groundbreaking of the Centennial Center. As an alumna, Trustee, and Campaign Chair, it is difficult to describe the sense of pride I felt as I looked out over the site of the new building.

All the years of planning, refining, and promoting the vision seemed to converge and culminate in those moments of the groundbreaking ceremony. The entire day was suffused with high spirits and rightly so, for together, we have accomplished something extraordinary.

This day of celebration would not have been possible without the exceptional efforts of Head of School Bessie Speers ’16. From the outset, Bessie’s passion for girls’ education has combined with her vision and considerable powers of persuasion to make this moment in Walker’s history virtually inevitable. Leading by example, she has put the future of the School and our students at the center of all her efforts. Spurred by conviction and undeterred by obstacles real or perceived, she has galvanized our entire community around the vision, and the necessity, for the Centennial Center. We are grateful for her leadership and unflagging commitment to ensuring that Walker’s assumes its rightful place as a beacon of 21st century learning for young women. We will miss her dearly.

As I reflect on this momentous year, I also, once again, extend my heartfelt thanks to our current parents, whose successful completion of 100 percent participation in the Fund for Walker’s in the fall secured a $5 million gift. We wouldn’t be where we are today without their effort and generosity.

In April, the Ethel Walker Parents Association, under the leadership of President Amy Paul P’16, ’18, hosted a wonderful Garden Oasis Auction and Gala to support the Centennial Center, which raised nearly $68,000. We extend our sincere thanks to the EWSPA for its spirited efforts and dedication to Walker’s.

Presently, we have raised more than $46 million* toward our $50 million Campaign goal. We are grateful to everyone who has contributed toward our progress to date, including those who have chosen to honor the School’s ongoing transformation with a gift in honor of the Speers Years.

In the following pages, please enjoy photos from both the EWSPA’s Garden Oasis Auction and Gala, and the Centennial Center groundbreaking celebration.

We get closer each day to successfully closing the Campaign. Please join us in becoming a part of this moment in Walker’s history. To learn about giving opportunities, contact Director of Development Marion Paterson P’17, ’19 at 860.408.4257 or go to www.ethelwalker.org/campaign.

Thank you for all the ways in which you continue to support the School.

Sincerely,

Sarah Gates Colley ’75
TRUSTEE AND CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE

Sarah Gates Colley ’75
COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR OF TRUSTEES AND ALUMNAE

Katharine O’Brien Rohn ’83
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

Aileen Turnbull Geddes ’56
CHAIR OF FORMER TRUSTEES

Letitia McClure Potter ’55, P’85
CHAIR OF ALUMNAE PRE-1980

Alexandra Badger Airth ’83
CHAIR OF ALUMNAE POST-1980

Christine Chessen P’17
CO-CHAIR OF PARENTS

Anna Namnoum P’19
CHAIR OF DAY PARENTS

Mary Barbour P’17
CHAIR OF BOARDING PARENTS

Deborah Bell Spoehel ’75, P’14
CHAIR OF PAST PARENTS

“As I reflect on this momentous year, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our current parents, whose successful completion of 100 percent participation in the Fund for Walker’s in the fall secured a $5 million gift.”

*As of June 30, 2015
The Ethel Walker School Parents Association (EWSPA) President Amy Paul P’16, ’18 and Vice President Lori-Jean Foster P’17 jointly conceived of the idea to host an auction and gala as a fundraiser to benefit the Centennial Center’s student gathering space, called the Garden Oasis.

“We wanted to give all parents the opportunity to contribute to this amazing building, as well as have a fun night out,” said Paul. “The event was a great team effort. So many people helped tremendously, including Lori-Jean Foster P’17, Nancy Queirolo P’18, Lois Brighenti P’15, Tracey Backman P’16, ’18, and Leslie Silverman P’15. These and numerous other dedicated volunteers contributed many hours to the success of this EWSPA event.”

Guests enjoyed a delicious dinner, then raised their paddles to bid on a wide array of incredible items that ranged from concert tickets and use of vacation homes to a hand-wrought canoe made by Walker’s students. Former Board Chair Hugh Hildesley P’85 served as auctioneer, and toasted the success of the Speers Years. The event raised nearly $68,000, exceeding expectations and surpassing the EWSPA’s goal of $50,000.

“My favorite part of the event was working with so many wonderful parents, as well as seeing the amazing transformation that Lois Brighenti P’15 and our Decoration Committee pulled off in Abrà’s. They did a fabulous job. It was so fun to see all the details we had talked about for months—the lights, the flowers, even the signature drink—become a reality. Everyone seemed to truly enjoy the evening.”

“It was amazing to see so many parents pull together to create such a fantastic evening, and their efforts truly paid off when they exceeded their goals. Under the leadership of Amy and Lori-Jean, the Committee worked tirelessly, and many parents from near and far donated and gathered items. Thank you to the entire EWSPA and to all who attended and contributed to the event.”

— Marion Paterson P’17, ’19, Director of Development
Despite unseasonably cold temperatures and strong winds, students, faculty, staff, Trustees, parents, and invited guests gathered on April 24 to celebrate the much-anticipated groundbreaking of the Centennial Center. The state-of-the-art facility will house contemporary athletics, arts, wellness and community gathering spaces, and is scheduled to open in the fall of 2016.

Spirits were high during a special Chapel that kicked off the ceremonies with remarks from speakers including Head of School Bessie Speers P'16. Ground was broken behind Beaver Brook against the backdrop of the construction site, after which the community dined on a specially-prepared lunch to wrap up the celebratory occasion.
Speakers at Chapel, the groundbreaking itself, and lunch all remarked on this transformational time in the School's history, what the facility means for the Walker's community, and how the leadership and vision of Head of School Bessie Speers ’16 has made the dream of the Centennial Center a reality.

Speakers included:
- Head of School Bessie Speers ’16
- Town of Simsbury First Selectman Lisa Heavner
- Co-Chairs of the Centennial Center Task Force, Trustee Emerita Sue Cesare and former Trustee Lynn Sheppard Manger ’59
- Current Student Body President Ella Ross ’15
- Incoming Student Body President Lian Nicholson ’16
- Athletic Director John Monagan
- Varsity Squash Team Captain Sally Yao ’15
- Varsity Swim Team Captain Lila Reynolds ’15
- Vice President of the Student Body Jianna Footman ’15
- Assistant Head of School Stephen Dunn
- Board Chair Stuart Bell

“Our team has done amazing things even with the barriers posed by driving to and from practice each day and never having home meets. We’ve gotten top-placing medals, won countless meets, and placed sixth at this year’s New Englands. If we can do all of this even without a pool, just think of our team once we have one. I can’t wait to come back and cheer on my team someday, and maybe even swim in the pool!”

~ Lila Reynolds ’15, Varsity Swim Team Captain
For eight years, Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 has focused on transforming The Ethel Walker School. Her determination and unwavering belief in Walker’s, and its alumnae, have paid off.

She has raised the mindset and perception of the School to a new level of excellence among its constituents, among professional educators, among townspeople, and among the nonprofit organizations on whose boards she has served.

She has changed the face of Walker’s through her unprecedented fundraising capabilities. She has strengthened the Alumnae Association through myriad personal visits, and by keeping in touch via voice and mail about remarkable aspects of its alma mater.

As the first occupants of Debby’s House (the Head’s House), Bessie and her family have opened their doors on so many occasions to everyone, significantly increasing the dimension of collegiality, hospitality, and warmth on the campus. The community is stronger than ever as a result.

In this day and age, the demands of a head require frequent travel, especially when rebuilding networks with alumnae, and fundraising for a capital campaign are part of your vision, as they were for Bessie and Walker’s. And yet she has been ever mindful of the heart and soul of the School through her varied presence at campus activities and her genuine availability, in spite of her extensive travels.

There is no better legacy all of us can acquire from Bessie than the spirit and model for leaving this place better than we found it.

“There is no better legacy all of us can acquire from Bessie than the spirit and model for leaving this place better than we found it.”

— Elizabeth “Sue” Rockwell Cesare
The Ethel Walker School owes Bessie an enormous debt of gratitude because, with a huge amount of help from her many ardent fans, she literally breathed new life into this great institution.

As a leader of the community that is Walker’s, she honored its best traditions, dared to make appropriate changes, and offered the School a broad and exciting vision for its future.

Bessie has restored existing structures, brought the athletic and other facilities up to date, built a new dormitory, and just recently broke ground on the wonderful new Centennial Center, leading enrollment to dramatic new levels.

All this building talk might suggest that Bessie is a “brick-and-mortar” proponent, but she only builds to provide the community with spaces in which students, faculty, and staff can thrive. Bessie and Tom are quintessentially “people persons” and this will be their lasting contribution to The Ethel Walker School. The School mission speaks of the three “Cs”—Confidence, Courage, and Conviction—a splendid summation of Bessie’s innate qualities. I might add Caring, Competence, and Commitment. Simply stated: Bessie is the best!
100th Commencement, L-R: Trustee and Campaign Chair Sarah Gates Colley ’75, former Trustee Constance Lavino Bell ’48, P’72, ’75, GP’12, ’14, Head of School Bessie Speers P’16, First Lady of Connecticut Cathy Malloy, former Board Chair Donya Nagib Soriano ’90, and Trustee Emerita Letitia McClure Potter ’55, P’85

Purple truck at the Centennial Celebration

Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 with a student, 2007

Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 with former Governor Jodi Rell

Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 and students with Governor of Connecticut Dannel Malloy
“We are eternally glad that Bessie came among us; we are naturally and admittedly selfishly sorry to see her go; but we wish her great success in her new endeavor. We will never forget her or her extraordinary service to our beloved School.”

— Hugh Hildesley P’85
Head of School Bessie Speers P'16 and former Trustee Constance Lavino Bell '48, P'72, '75, GP'12, '14 during a Reunion Weekend

L-R: Margot Treman Rose '80, Head of School Bessie Speers P'16, and former Trustee Deborah Williams MacKenzie '55 during Centennial Weekend

Head of School Bessie Speers P'16 and her well-loved assistant Maureen Fiedler P'95, '98

Laney Battiston '12 and her date with Tom Speers P'16 and Head of School Bessie Speers P'16 at the 2012 prom

“It’s been a true privilege to have joined Walker’s while Bessie Speers was the Head of School. She is the perfect role model and best represents everything a parent could want in an all-girls prep school. I have learned so much from Bessie and treasure our relationship.”

— Jen Bucari P’20
A little more than eight years ago, I walked into Beaver Brook and met Bessie Speers for the first time. She was in her first few months as the Head of School, and as I sat and listened to her talk about Walker’s, it was obvious that she had fallen in love with the history, the faculty, and the students. By the end of my day on campus, I knew Walker’s was a remarkable place, and I wanted to be part of it.

Since joining the School, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Bessie during exciting times and some difficult times. From her, I have learned an incredible amount about what it takes to lead a school. She has challenged me to be a better leader, a better educator, and to understand the value of a mentor. I have come to deeply admire her drive, her vision, her passion, and her tireless work on behalf of The Ethel Walker School.

There have been several occasions this spring when School visitors commented on the remarkable transformation of campus. Much of the credit for that transformation is because of the leadership of Bessie. Her commitment to Walker’s has been extraordinary.
The School is also incredibly fortunate to have her husband, Tom Speers, alongside her. Tom has been called many things over the years, including, “the secret weapon.” Together, they are the dynamic duo. Tom has a remarkable ability to connect with people, and I think he’s related to nearly everyone. If he is not directly related to them, then his father or grandfather has christened, baptized, or married someone in their family. I have seen him make these connections in less than 30 seconds. It is a sight to behold.

The accomplishments achieved for the School during the Speers Years embody Confidence, Courage, and Conviction. While those “C’s” are essential to our School, our mission, and our future, what I will remember most about the Speers Years are the “B’s”:

*B is for Bessie … who told us to Believe and to find Balance

*B is for Bold Leadership and Brave Actions

*B is for Balanced Budgets and BBB Bond Ratings

*B is for Bicycles with Baskets INSIDE Buildings

*B is for Books full of stories and poems

*B is for Big Dreams that bring Backhoes, Bulldozers, Buildings, and Ball Fields

*B is for the Beauty she sees in Buds, Blooms, Birds, and Honey Bees

And finally, *B is for Bittersweet.

We will miss the Speers as they move on to the next adventure. On a personal level, I will miss my friends.
Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 congratulates Marisa Greshin ’12 on her induction into The Caroline Walker Society.

Sunrise hike through Walker’s Woods with members of the Class of 2015 before they graduate.

The Speers family, 2012

Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 with former Trustee Ann Watson Bresnahan ’69

Missy Turnbull Geddes ’56 and Head of School Bessie Speers P’16

Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 with faculty children, 2013
“The first time I visited Walker’s, Mrs. Speers rode out of Morning Meeting on a bike. That is when I decided to come here.”

— Juliana Patelli ’16

The Speers Family Lobby

In recognition of Bessie’s numerous contributions to the school community, the community at large, and the future of Walker’s, the Board of Trustees, as a farewell gift, ensured that her legacy will be remembered in perpetuity. The lobby of the Centennial Center, a place of welcome, will be named for the Speers family, for whom making all feel welcome was a hallmark of their tenure.
The Speers Years

2 Community outreach programs founded

3,428 people entertained

6 Chinese New Year celebrations

1 apiary built

426 senior speeches

32 Board of Trustees meetings

672 Bike rides around campus

40 Head’s Council meetings

8 Boards on which Bessie has served

288 Monday Musings sent to faculty & staff AND Chambers gatherings for faculty & staff

96 references to lilac bushes

3 events with Archbishop Desmond Tutu

2 Community Farm of Simsbury

HORIZONS

The United World School

In Debby’s House

17 chickens raised on campus

1 horseback ride with Administrative Council
by the Numbers

- **8** proms attended
- **42** poetry readings
- **72005** miles traveled to visit alumnae
- **114** gallons of ice cream for Senior Sundaes
- **240** pizzas served at Head’s Council
- **48** faculty dinners hosted at Debby’s House
- **8** holiday rides with Bessie and Tom on horseback

**Nearly $50,000,000 raised!**
A Personal Touch for Each Graduating Class

Each year at graduation, Bessie promises to send the seniors something personalized representing their class, which arrives during their freshman fall in college.

2008 — a Walker’s leaf to represent the woods and this class’ part in the land preservation milestone
2009 — a Walker’s rainbow over Beaver Brook to represent this class’ amazing diversity
2010 — a Wally the Wildcat paw print to represent this class’ spirit
2011 — a “100” representing this Centennial class
2012 — bubbles representing the “Walker’s bubble” and all the ways this class contributed to its world off-campus
2013 — a dynamite stamp to represent the song “Dynamite” by Taio Cruz
2014 — a honey stick to represent Walker’s bees and the buzz of this class

As Bessie concludes her tenure at Walker’s, the Class of 2015 will be the final recipients of her personal touch for the newest alumnae. In honor of this class’ “Figure It Out” abilities, which Bessie praised during her Commencement Charge to the Class, she will send a Walker’s puzzle to each of them.
During the Prize Night ceremony, Trustee Harriet Blees Dewey ’60 presented Tom Speers P’16 with an honor on behalf of the Class of 1960.

“It is customary for academic institutions to name a chair after a beloved teacher or person who has given extraordinary service to the life and future of the institution.

In this case, today, the Class of 1960 would like to honor an individual who has given countless hours of thoughtful encouragement to all who have been fortunate to be in his presence, always made to feel most welcome, and to be listened to as though you were the most important person he could imagine being with.

With humor and grace, he has enriched us all as he has nurtured the spiritual life in us and around us at The Ethel Walker School. And so, today, we do not name a chair, we name a pew in honor of Thomas G. Speers, III. A plaque will be placed on the first pew on the right side of the chapel (the groom’s side).”
Sports Mirror Life

“I love coaching,” says Mimi Duran P’16, Assistant Athletic Director and Head Varsity Field Hockey Coach. “Sports mirror life and teach valuable lessons. You have highs and lows in life. In sports, it’s a roller coaster ride of highs and lows jammed into a season.”

Duran came to Walker’s eight years ago after being recruited by the School. In that time, she has supported the athletics program through her collaboration with Athletic Director John Monagan. She has put her personal stamp on the Varsity Field Hockey team; her team follows wherever she leads. Duran also coaches Middle School basketball and lacrosse.

But she doesn’t stop there. Since 1990 Duran has coached Futures, which is a USA Field Hockey Olympic Development program. Three years ago, she founded Play for the Cure Play Day, inviting surrounding schools—public and private—to raise money for cancer research. “This is a cause close to my heart. It has become a day that field hockey brings a community together to give back, to share our hopes, and to honor those we lost. The Play Day is a spirited event where teams compete for fun. More than 12 teams participated last year.”

While Duran influences myriad aspects of Walker’s athletics, she is best known for her work with the Field Hockey team. “Field Hockey has always been a safe place for me. I love working with teenagers. They keep me youthful.” Duran explains that when she started coaching, it was more about the wins. “Today,” she says, “it’s about the journey to reach success. I’m softer now. We win as a team, we lose as a team. Our journey as a team is what makes the experience intense. If we lose, and the team gave its all, if everything was left on the field, then the heartbreak is okay. It’s okay to be upset. You learn to cope with the lows; that’s critical, and that transfers to life. But if we lose, and they didn’t give it their all, then I have nothing for them. I don’t want to see crying. That loss is on them. And that’s also like life.” She smiles, “I am softer, but I’m still tough.”

“Mimi Duran is an integral part of The Ethel Walker School Athletics program. While she is a competitive coach, she also has become an important part of her players’ lives. They respect and trust her, and for these reasons, love to play for her. There is a lengthy list of former players who love to come back and see her. On a national level, she has earned respect from the Field Hockey community. She is a role model to younger coaches, and it is evident in the way they approach her. Mimi loves coaching, and she does it for the right reasons—to better the girls she works with.”

— Athletic Director John Monagan
Riding Highlights

Equestrian Team Finishes Strong in Saugerties Horse Show

Walker’s equestrian team traveled to Saugerties, NY on May 20-24 to compete in the HITS Saugerties Series, and rode home with many successful finishes.

Antonia Becker ’15 finished 1st, 2nd, and 4th over fences in the Novice Equitation, as well as 1st on the flat, making her Champion. She was also 3rd and 6th in the Children’s Hunters over fences. Grace Amerling ’15 finished 2nd, 3rd, and 5th in the Children’s Jumper Division. Samantha Rice ’18 finished 1st, 4th and 5th in the Mini Medal, Mini Maclay, and Mini HITS Divisions. Libby Mewbourne ’18 finished 6th and 8th in the Children’s Hunters Division. Chappie Wick ’15 finished 6th, 7th and 8th in the Adult Equitation and Hunters Divisions, and Julia Luciani ’20 finished 5th and 7th in the Novice Equitation as well as 2nd and 7th in the Children’s Hunters Division.

New Role for Head Trainer

In March, Hillary Rheinheimer was named Director of Walker’s riding program, in addition to her role as Head Trainer, which she has held since 2010.

A third-generation horsewoman, Hillary is an accomplished rider in hunter, jumper, and hunter seat equitation, and has extensive showing and training experience. In 2000, Hillary earned a degree in sociology from Hollins University, where she competed in IHSA in the Open Division, was Cacchione rider all four years, and was Reserve Champion in the Cacchione Cup. In 2011, she was inducted into Hollins University’s Athletic Hall of Fame. She has owned and operated Foggy Meadow Farm, an all-inclusive training and showing facility.

Hillary’s experience as a horsewoman, combined with her proven leadership and management skills, and deep knowledge of Walker’s riding program, make her ideally qualified to lead the continued growth and success of the School’s nationally recognized program for student equestrians.

“I am looking forward to the start of the 2015–16 school year, and continuing the Walker’s tradition of creating well-rounded, competitive riders. We have a strong team returning, and I am very excited about the new students who will join us in September.”

— HILLARY RHEINHEIMER
Retiring Faculty, Lasting Legacies

With a combined 100+ years of service to Walker’s, our hearts are full of respect and appreciation as we bid farewell to the following retiring faculty:

Mr. John Groff (31 years)
Mr. Rich Prager P’04, ‘07 (31 years)
Ms. Sue Perillo (27 years)
Mr. Ken Poppe (11 years)
Ms. Mary Hendrickson (3 years)

May they experience “none but golden hours”!
Rich Prager
P’04, ’07
BY JOHN GROFF

“As Rich retires, the School will lose one of the most talented, dedicated, resourceful teachers I have known.”

“To Serve Them All My Days”

Rich Prager has been at Walker’s for 31 years, but he has surely done more like 45 or 50 years’ worth of work in that time. In the first year Rich and I were here, as the demands of boarding school life began to heat up, I mentioned to Bev Prager that I was feeling crazy with too many things to do at once. Bev said, “It’s just the opposite with Rich: he gets anxious when there aren’t a lot of things to do at once.” And that is the Rich I’ve known these three decades—someone who could make me believe multitasking works. In my first days at Walker’s, a veteran teacher here told me that Rich’s predecessor in the Language Department had been chewed up by all the prep involved in teaching all the Latin courses in the School, and he pretty much expected Rich was destined for the same fate. But, having met with Rich a couple times to plan the Outdoor Adventure (OA) course, I replied, “Not likely: this guy’s organized.” So organized that I left most of the day-by-day planning of OA to Rich and just oversaw the rock climbing part of it myself, and in that way, we’ve been a great team for many years. Of course, merely mapping out a schedule wasn’t enough; within a few years, Rich wrote a grant proposal to have a low and high ropes course built in the woods that used to stand between Smith and Cluett, and that course was a main feature of our OA program for 10 years.

And, of course, just teaching Latin wasn’t enough either. Rich has also taught Spanish and French here, and for one year, Italian. He and a colleague established and co-taught the first Ethics course at Walker’s, as well as a leadership program, and he revitalized the Junior/Senior Project program. He has been a class advisor many times over and also advised the Asian Club. For several years, he took Korean lessons with a couple of our Korean students, and then went to Seoul in the summer to study the language intensively. More recently, he found time to

“Together with Head of School, alumnae, and student for ribbon cutting of Centennial Trail during Centennial Weekend, 2011

The Prager family was an integral part of our Walker’s experience during our most formative years—for that, we will always be thankful!!

AN HUYNH SIOCO ’92 AND TOAN HUYNH SCHORR ’93

L-R: Richard Prager P’04, ’07, Alexandra Prager ’07, Sarah Prager ’04, and Beverly Prager P’04, ’07
learn a little Chinese, not to mention dabbling in the languages of other countries he’s visited on summer trips—Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, and Iceland come to mind. In 1997, Head of School Margaret Bonz tapped Rich to be Dean of Faculty (to which was later added the position of Dean of Studies); delighted with her choice, Margaret told me she had always considered Rich her “utility infielder.” He has also coached softball and basketball, lived in two dorms, headed two NEASC evaluations of the School, published a few articles in education magazines, attended a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar on women’s literature, served for five years as president of the board of the Simsbury Land Trust, has been a Big Brother to a young boy in Simsbury, and made a cottage business out of grading SAT essays online and evaluating AP Latin curricula for the College Board. And at the same time, he has read more books than, I think, anyone else at Walker’s, while also somehow managing to stay on top of the college and pro sports scores. Oh, and while doing all that, he and Bev also brought up two wonderful daughters!

More than these stats, though, I value 31 years of memories. Like the time we dropped off the OA group along the Farmington River for some canoeing and then drove two cars downstream to drop one of them off for our ride back, Rich in front with an extra canoe on top—except that neither he nor I had remembered to tie it down. Rich is not a slow driver, and when the canoe lifted off his van as lightly and cleanly as if it were made of paper, I was glad to be well behind.

The canoe landed by the side of the road and I raced ahead like a traffic cop to pull Rich over, oblivious of the fact that the canoe was no longer with him. Or, in our first year of OA, the time we took the group rock climbing and gave the keys of the School’s station wagon to two girls who needed a rest—and 15 minutes later, from the top of the cliff, we watched the car pull away with one of the girls in the driver’s seat. She only took it around a bend and came back, so we laughed it off—though I’m not sure we would now, in our older, stodgier years. Or the night before EWS first entered a solar car in the Tour del Sol, in 1992, when physics teacher Lee Zalinger made a mistake that drained all the car’s batteries, and Rich saved the whole program by going to Sears and putting 11 batteries on his credit card. I could keep going, but there isn’t space enough!

But all of this still does not convey the essence of Rich’s commitment to students. In the early ’80s, Masterpiece Theatre aired a mini-series called “To Serve Them All My Days,” about a teacher in a British boarding school. I don’t remember much about the show, but its title comes to mind when I think of Rich. Who else would choose to move back into the dorms for several years at the end of his career just because he values working with students in that way, too? As Rich retires, the School will lose one of the most talented, dedicated, resourceful teachers I have known. I find it hard to imagine him leaving the field of education—I’m going to guess he won’t leave it for long—but I’m very glad to continue to count him and his family among my close friends.
John Groff

BY RICH PRAGER P’04, ’07

“Walker’s has been fortunate to have a man of such talent and character for so many years, and will surely miss him.”

Under the Groff Exterior Lies a Heart of Gold

I have always respected John. He is a professional, dedicated to his students. Many hundreds have become astute readers and effective writers under his tutelage. John has introduced a generation to Ophelia, Holden, Elizabeth, Gatsby, and Sula. He challenges every girl to eliminate comma splices, to think analytically, to support her ideas with evidence from the text. He almost always has a stack of papers to grade, which he reads during free blocks, on weekends, and during vacations. He uses his summers to read new books and reread old ones that he plans to teach again. For him, teaching is more a calling than a job. He has cared and contributed.

John takes joy in hearing from and about his former students, many of whom stay in touch from all over the world, even decades after graduating. He takes pride in hearing of their successes. I have heard many Walker’s alumnae say that Mr. Groff is the person who taught them to write well. Due to John’s rigorous training and excellent instruction, they regularly find themselves among the best writers in their college courses.

When we joined the Walker’s faculty, our responsibilities included establishing the Outdoor Adventure program. We worked together on the program for many years, and were fortunate to have Lee Zalinger lead the program, as well. We enjoyed taking students to rock climb at several locations, including in the Shawangunk Mountains in New York. On one trip, our party climbed with the first American woman to summit Mount Everest. John was the anchor of our team, the

Mr. Groff showed me that a book was so much more than a story written in chronological order. I wish him the best, and am saddened that others will not get the benefit of learning from him and getting to know him.

CONNIE MORALES, ESQ. ’92

Performing during a Walker’s Coffee House, 2013

Hiking in the White Mountains
one with the expertise needed to take students climbing safely, the one who knew the ropes.

We also went on innumerable hikes with students, camped out, cooked out, gave forest tours, and built and marked trails in Walker’s Woods. We went boating every fall on the Farmington River, descended into a cave in western Connecticut, and spent many days team building on the Walker’s ropes course. We felt fortunate to do something we loved, and happy that it mattered in students’ lives. A few students pursued careers in outdoor education, and that was especially rewarding to see. Both at work and as friends, we developed the ability to work together seamlessly.

John has lived in the dorms, edited publications for the School, chaired the English Department for years, taught hundreds of English classes, mentored colleagues, and has been a steady presence for his students and advisees. He served as the Galbraith Chair for the Humanities for three years, helped create the School’s Shakespeare Festival, and presided over many all-School poetry readings in the Chapel. He also shared his considerable musical talents with us, and students cheered their appreciation wildly when they saw another side of their beloved teacher.

Over the years, John (or “Groffie,” an endearment students sometimes use) has traveled all over the country to grade AP English exams for the College Board, and has climbed mountains in several countries. He went to London several years ago to further his knowledge of British literature, or perhaps it was to locate the pub whence Chaucer’s pilgrims set out to Canterbury. How convenient that he was also able to add to his wide knowledge of the British Isles ales in the course of his research!

When I met John, he was not yet a father, and he is now a grandfather. He is solid as the mountains he climbs, depended upon by students, friends, colleagues, and family. Walker’s has been fortunate to have a man of such talent and character for so many years, and will surely miss him.

We can be grateful for all that John has accomplished. The Bard wrote in Coriolanus (Act V, Scene 4) these words for a Roman messenger, words consistent with our thoughts as John retires:

Sir, we have all
Great cause to give great thanks.
Mary Hendrickson
BY RICH PRAGER P’04, ’07

“Going beyond the classroom is one of the important ways in which Mary contributed to her students, who are better for it.”

Impactful Contributions in a Short Time

Mary is a gem. Walker’s has been very fortunate to have her as part of the Walker’s community for the past three years. She is a true “people person,” and has touched many of us in her unique way. Unfailingly polite and cheerful, Mary listens carefully to what we say. She and her husband, Ken Poppe, also a Walker’s teacher (and also retiring this year), have been like second parents to their advisees, who come from all over the world. They have an affinity for Asia, since their son, David, has lived and worked in Thailand for several years, and that connection helped to make Mary and Ken more effective advisors.

Mary brought a wealth of experience to Walker’s, including years in business and in the public schools. She taught history at Staples High School in Westport, where she met Ken, and later specialized in reading and language arts. She is an expert at helping students to become better readers, writers, and thinkers.

Some of my advisees have had Mary as a teacher, and her dedication to their progress has been outstanding. She checked in regularly with me to ensure that these girls were thriving, both academically and emotionally. Mary deeply respects the courage of her students, who travel far from home and take on the challenge of learning a new language and a new culture. She does whatever it takes to help them improve their English and acclimate to their surroundings.

Mary is committed not only to students’ academic development but also to their becoming responsible citizens of the world. She was instrumental in bringing the Model United Nations program to Walker’s, and the School has had a chapter for two years. Students attended Model UN proceedings in Connecticut and went to New York to meet with UN ambassadors from countries they had been studying. Real-world learning is powerful, and the experience of seeing policies implemented inspired some girls to become more active in and aware of current affairs. Going beyond the classroom is one of the important ways in which Mary contributed to her students, who are better for it.

Mary is looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, and having some time to relax. But she will surely miss Walker’s, especially her time with her students. Congratulations on your retirement, Mary, and thank you for all you have done to make our world a better place!
Ken Poppe
BY JOHN MONAGAN, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

“Ken made it his mission to always help others learn more and grow into better people, no matter who or how old they are.”

“Ooo, Baby!” A True Educator

The best teachers are faced with a common misconception—that the educator-learner relationship has to also be an adult-child relationship. Teachers are thought of as being the adults in the front of the classroom waving a piece of chalk or straightening a laminated sheet of notes for an overhead projector. Students are the ones diligently taking notes while sitting in rows in a classroom. The best students pass the teachers an apple at the beginning of class; the worst ones pass notes while the teacher writes on the board. But this teacher-student relationship is inherently false for educators who are truly great. And Ken Poppe is a great one.

Ken has taught his fair share of students over his life, and impacted each in amazing ways. Whether at public school in his LBW (life before Walker’s), or in his cozy corner classroom in BB01, his walls have been covered with images of the topics he brings to life for his students: photos from his trip to China, political cartoons from World War II, maps of the USSR. It is not only Ken’s knowledge, but his passion for history, that inspired so many of his students to pursue history after high school. Who else would emphasize the Russian Revolution or the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria with an “Ooo, Baby!”

But Ken is more than somebody who just knew and taught history to students. I know this, because he taught me about teaching. From my first day at Walker’s, as a 21-year-old teaching sixth grade, Ken took an interest in my success. Whether slipping me newspaper articles about basketball coaches, or talking to me about the methods I used in my classroom, Ken always listened intently, and provided great advice about how to proceed. He was a mentor; he helped me become the person I am today.

A true educator tries to better everyone who surrounds him/her. A true educator understands that learning never stops, even after school. Ken made it his mission to always help others learn more and grow into better people, no matter who or how old they are. Next year, I’ll miss Ken’s calming presence while keeping the shot clock at my team’s basketball games. I’ll miss sharing a classroom with him. I’ll miss the weekly newspaper articles from him appearing in my mailbox. Most of all, I’ll miss talking to him every day at school, bouncing ideas off him, and his steady mentorship of me. I will always be his grateful student.

“I loved how excited Mr. Poppe would always get for class; his energy was contagious and always made me want to try my best. His passion is what influenced me to continue studying history, and for that, I am forever grateful.”

MADELINE NILAND ’15
Here’s to the School we love so well.
Here’s to our comrade Sue.

Some of my colleagues have been lucky enough to work with Sue for 27 years. I feel like my own 17 years have barely scratched the surface of her influence on Walker’s, and I know that we all count Sue as a loyal partner who has dedicated herself tirelessly to the School we love so well.

A couple of weeks ago, I met with one of Sue’s advisees who is considering joining my group now that her beloved advisor is leaving. This student was extremely sad to be losing Sue, whom she has only known for one year. Already, she realizes that Sue is “the best, most caring advisor ever.” I immediately empathized with this student, and shared with her that I could relate—as Sue has also been my own personal “best, most caring advisor ever” for the past 17 years. Sue and I figured out early on in my tenure that we share an unshakable commitment to academic excellence and integrity, and I can always count on her for words of wisdom when I need them most. I think a lot of us at Walker’s feel this way about Sue—that we have been able to count on her fellowship through thick and thin through the years.

Here’s to the spirit of fellowship that guides us in all we do.

Sue has been a true leader at Walker’s. She ably served as the Math Department chair for many years, and she was the first math teacher to be honored as the Rooke Chair. She has been a mentor to new faculty and a champion of professional development and evaluation, due to her unwavering commitment to helping others hone their teaching crafts.

To borrow her own words: Sue’s establishment and leadership of the Academic Review Board serves as the pinnacle of her 27-year career, as it represents the bedrock of our mission and academic integrity at its highest. It has been an honor and a highlight of my own career to serve on this committee with some of Walker’s giants—I must give a shout-out to Meg Mahoney, John Groff, and Rich Prager, too—thank you.

On a more personal note, I must thank Sue for her inquiries about my own daughters—especially in regard to their math education. She encouraged me to teach Riley the game of cribbage at a very young age (and now that kid beats the pants off of me), and she brainstormed ways to keep my girls engaged with math during some years when their classroom experiences fell flat. I can’t tell you how sad I am that she won’t be teaching my girls.

Here’s to our colors glorious
United for a while
Here’s to the many more happy hours
Here’s to our dear sundial

Ms. Perillo taught me that you don’t get extra credit for doing what you’re supposed to do. I can’t count the number of times that I’ve passed this on over the years. Hooray Sunray! Ms. Perillo, here’s to you! Thank you for challenging and believing in me. I consider you a blessing and wish you none but golden hours. Thank you.

NEVON MUHAMMAD ’97
As you know, Sue is a loyal Dial, and I’m pretty sure she bleeds purple, blue, and pink—but I love her anyway (Go Suns!). Sue’s able leadership of the Dials for several years led to a true, and quite remarkable, culture shift at our School—as she puts it, we transitioned from a culture of initiation to one of induction. Kindness, fairness, and justice are at the heart of everything she does.

In days to come, we’ll scatter far
But let us ne’er forget
A welcome here and friendly cheer
Are waiting for us yet

Sue’s students—past and present—are always at the forefront of her mind. Last week, I was in her room as she was in the midst of packing, and she only had out several dozen of what I think are hundreds of photos of Walker’s students that have shone along her shelves through the years. She loves our girls, and I know of no one else who keeps in such close contact with so many of our graduates.

Sue also adorned her classroom with festive decorations for each season, inspirational messages to motivate her students, and my favorite—a super nerdy math clock that makes you think a bit as you figure out the time. Her winter games of “holiday hoopla” demonstrated both her love for the Lady Huskies and her creative way of getting students involved in her “mathematical playground.”

She provided all sorts of puzzles to both intrigue the math-phobic and challenge even the strongest of our math students. Her J-term class this year, Elementary, My Dear Watson, was a huge hit that allowed girls to really stretch their minds.

You may not know that Sue refused to come to work on Saturdays when we had class, and cleverly managed to avoid this by mathematically claiming these days to actually be “Friday squared.”

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“If you have listened to senior speeches and goodbyes over the past weeks and months, you will know that there is no word that strikes more fear in the hearts of Walker’s students than: Precalculus.

You might picture this class as a dark cloud bending over these students. But you would be wrong.

There have been no classes more demanding at Walker’s than Sue’s Precalculus courses. Surviving precalc is the pinnacle of success at Walker’s—the standards are high, and students know it, and they rise to the challenge as they strive to follow her model of “More Thought, Less Work.” I would like to read a student quote to show you what I mean:

“Ms. Perillo is an amazing teacher. Seriously, I have never liked math until this year. She is a tough grader, but she explains things so well, and I actually enjoy taking tests because math has become fun (even if I don’t get everything correct). She is a talented teacher and I appreciate how well her class is organized. I have a feeling I will be very prepared for college.”

Sue, I hope you reach your goal of being able to “retire before you expire”—but not before your new school gets to experience the treat of having you as a true comrade. We hope you are able to mark many golden hours in your next adventures.

“I’m so thankful for the way Ms. Perillo spread joy through every day and every class. She has a great smile and personality, and a special way of challenging students with a kind yet firm approach. I just remember her contagious joy and smile. So thankful for the positive influence she was in my life during my years at EWS. I know she will be missed, but I do wish her all the best going to her new adventure.”

DORÉ ELIZABETH ATWILL KESTERSON ’91

Though clouds may sometimes darkly bend
We’ll strive with all our powers
Dear dial like thee, in memory,
to mark but golden hours

1987, Sue Perillo’s first year at Walker’s
ALUMNA PROFILE

Virginia Jones Bush ’60

Stronger Than Ever

Head of School Bessie Speers ’16 has connected with myriad alumnae over the last eight years, re-engaging them with Walker’s and igniting a groundswell of support for the School.

But few see Bessie as one alumna does. Virginia Jones Bush ’60, a successful educational consultant, understands firsthand the deep and lasting impact of Bessie’s leadership through the eyes of prospective families before they even get to the Walker’s Admissions Office.

Says Bush, “Bessie has strengthened the School in reputation, new relevant programs, and reaffirmed the importance of women’s education and women’s importance in the world.”

Bush says this with the utmost confidence, based on three decades spent in the field of education. After 11 years at the American Field Service, an international scholarship program, placing foreign students from 65 countries into American boarding schools and then becoming head of admissions in a New York City private day school, Bush, with a passion for education, and a mind of her own, recognized a growing need for educational consultants to help families find the right school for their daughters and sons. As a Walker’s graduate, she experienced the benefits of an independent school first-hand. In 1978, she founded Virginia J. Bush & Associates, a firm that provides educational consulting services to families across the globe who want their children to attend school in the United States. In 2007, she opened an office in Singapore to deal with the demand coming from the Asia-Pacific area of the world.

Over the years, Virginia J. Bush & Associates has placed thousands of students into private New York City day schools, pre-prep schools, boarding schools, and colleges and universities across the United States. “Every child is unique,” explains Bush. “We’ve been successful because we are dedicated to finding the most appropriate school for the individual needs and interests of the student. There are thousands of schools from which to choose. It can overwhelm families, so that’s where we help.”

With a working knowledge of, and strong relationships with, so many schools, Bush is keenly aware of each institution’s personality and strengths. “Walker’s is in the best place it has been in so many, many years and it is because of Bessie, Tom, and the team she has built there that has made this possible. She has brought a warmth and care for young women to Walker’s which surpasses all her peers in education today,” she said. “The students I have had there in the past five years love the experiences they have had, and have grown enormously from them. The School was the ‘right fit’, which always brings success and happiness.”

“Bessie has been such an inspiration for the School and been everything the School could ever have wished for to bring it back into the limelight,” comments Bush. “I shall miss her at Walker’s, but wish the Speers the very best going forward, knowing they leave a very large footprint behind.”

“Bessie has strengthened the School in reputation, new relevant programs, and reaffirmed the importance of women’s education and women’s importance in the world.”
Sixth Annual Grandparents Day
Another Huge Success!

Students Earn Top Scores on National Latin Exam

Eight Walker’s students received high marks during this year’s National Latin Exam, a 40-question exam given to Latin students at multiple levels.

On the Latin III exam, Lindsey Riggles ’18 earned a gold medal and a *summa cum laude* certificate, Idabelle Paterson ’17 earned a silver medal and a *maxima cum laude* certificate, and Alice Li ’15 earned a *cum laude* certificate. For Latin II, Theresa Jo ’18 earned a silver medal and a *maxima cum laude* certificate, and Claudia Ru ’16 earned a *cum laude* certificate. On the Latin I exam, Stephanie Makowski ’19 earned a gold medal and a *summa cum laude* certificate, and Kaelen Furey ’17 earned a silver medal and a *maxima cum laude* certificate. Finally, seventh grader Riley Sheldon earned a Certificate of Achievement on the Introduction to Latin Exam.
Dogswood Day

Suns Win for Third Year in a Row!
Prom 2015
Upper School Spring Musical
Middle School Night of Excellence
On Monday, April 27, 2015, 10 students were inducted into The Ethel Walker School chapter of the Cum Laude Society, an organization that recognizes academic achievement in secondary schools for the purpose of promoting excellence, justice, and honor.

Senior inductees this year include Jianna Footman ’15, Claire Graham ’15, Margaret Hegwood ’15, Alice Li ’15, Lila Reynolds ’15, Ella Ross ’15, Becky Xu ’15, and Sally Yao ’15. Juniors Emily Peairs ’16 and Isabel Huang ’16 were also inducted for academic work so extraordinary as to merit early induction into this society.

The Cum Laude Society has grown to include 382 chapters throughout the world and inducts around 4,000 new members each year. The Ethel Walker School is in its 62nd year as a member school. The Society was founded in 1906 by Dr. Abram W. Harris and is modeled on Phi Beta Kappa, intended to encourage and recognize true scholarship among secondary school students. During the society’s existence, there has been no deviation from this original objective.
Each spring, new student members in our chapter of the society are given the following charge: “The distinguished record you have made at The Ethel Walker School has won for you membership in the Cum Laude Society. This society is a fellowship of scholars whose purpose is to recognize excellence in academic work. As you pursue your education, it is our hope that you will accept the honor of membership in this society as a responsibility to make a contribution to man and woman’s ongoing search for greater understanding of self and society.”

As President of our Cum Laude Society, it is the last sentence of the charge that sums up my thoughts about what this group means to me. During my recent work with the National Geographic Society, I had the honor of meeting CT Ticknor, a naturalist and photographer. Ms. Ticknor makes her home in Hawaii, and she introduced me to the Hawaiian concept of “kuleana.” To her, kuleana means the interdependent relationship between honor, privilege, and responsibility. Those of us who have the honor and privilege to learn together at Walker’s have the responsibility to use our knowledge and skills for the greater good.

The balance between providing a solid foundation for each student to stand on, while also creating a space for her to explore on her own, is what we consider to be academic rigor. Author Barbara Blackburn in her book Rigor is Not a Four-Letter Word:

“I still believe that the most powerful change in the life of a student occurs when an individual teacher has high expectations of that student, and then acts on those expectations in ways that help the student be successful. <Teachers> making the choice to help their students be more than who they are today: that is rigor.”

At Walker’s, we define rigor as exploring the best ways to appropriately challenge each of our students. We are proud to recognize students who have met and risen above this challenge by inducting them into our Cum Laude Society each year.
Middle School Promotion Ceremony

This year marks the 25th Middle School Promotion Ceremony. Eighth graders processed into the Chapel to receive their promotion certificates in front of proud parents, faculty, and Upper School students. Advisors delivered remarks about each girl before awarding each her promotion certificate, signifying graduation from the Middle School and entrance into the Upper School.

GWEN COUCH AWARD
Head of Middle and Upper School Brock Dunn P’18, ’20 with recipient Elisabeth Helmin ’19

HIGHEST ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT
Head of Middle and Upper School Brock Dunn P’18, ’20 with recipients Riley Sheldon ’20 (above) and Stephanie Makowski ’19 (right)

CITIZENSHIP AWARD
Head of Middle and Upper School Brock Dunn P’18, ’20 with recipient Stephanie Makowski ’19
ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLASS HARD AT WORK IN BELL LIBRARY

WALKER’S ROBOTICS TEAM, THE WIRECATS, PRESENTS TO THE COBB SCHOOL, MONTESSORI ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

6th Grade Ecology Class Visits Simsbury Elementary School to Talk to 2nd Graders about Honey Bees and the Apiary

FORENSICS CLASS SOLVING MYSTERIES
New Hires

LAUREN RAIA
Dean of Students
Lauren received her B.A. in literature from the State University of New York at Purchase College, where she was a member of the championship-winning swim team and the captain of the women’s volleyball team. Additionally, she was the Skyline Conference President and the college’s nominee for NCAA Woman of the Year. After graduating from SUNY Purchase, she obtained her M.F.A. in creative writing and literature from Stony Brook University, where she taught Creative Writing. For the past four years, she has been an English teacher and the Director of Student Life at EF Academy in Thornwood, NY. She’ll live on campus with her partner, Calvin; their cat Waffles; and dog Cash.

MARISA JOHNSON
Spanish Teacher
Marisa graduated summa cum laude from the University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in Spanish and English. After graduation, she returned to Connecticut to pursue a career in education. She taught Spanish and led various student groups at Suffield High School for five years. Marisa earned her Master of Public Administration from the University of Connecticut in 2014. While in the M.P.A. program, she began working with the Hartford Youth Scholars Foundation. She has worked at HYSF as the Development and Communications Manager for the past two years while also teaching Spanish at The Steppingstone Academy Hartford. She will be a dorm parent in Smith Dorm.

JUSTIN EICHENLAUB
English Teacher
Justin has taught English literature and composition and environmental studies at Camp Notre Dame in Erie, PA, the University of Pittsburgh, Stanford University, the Education Program for Gifted Youth at Stanford, UC Berkeley, and Trinity College. For the past two years, he has been the Assistant Director of the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities at Yale. Since moving to Connecticut in 2013, he has worked as an advocate for better public transportation, as well as walking and bicycling infrastructure in the city of Hartford. He co-founded the group Transport Hartford to advocate for improved mobility from a social and environmental justice perspective.

Justin earned a B.A. and a B.S. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2005, and PhD in English in 2012 from Stanford. His dissertation was on the literary origins of suburban thinking and living in 19th-century Britain. Justin lives in Hartford with his wife, Kate Bergren, a professor at Trinity College, and their two cats, Ruth and Darla.

MARK FULLER
Director of Technology
Mark attended the University of Rhode Island, followed by Richmond College in London. Before Walker’s, Mark worked at The Emery/Weiner School, first as a teacher, then as a Network Administrator, and finally as Director of Technology. He has worked with special-needs elementary school students, taught Digital Literacy to middle school students, and Video Editing to high school students. Mark is an educator at heart, a people person by nature, and a technology professional by training. He looks forward to joining the Walker’s community!

BRENDAN O’DwyER
History Teacher
Brendan received his M.A.L.S. degree from Wesleyan College, where his focus was on English, history, philosophy, and religion. Brendon owns a custom carpentry business, where he creates amazing works of art for clients. Last year, Brendon filled in for us by teaching two classes in the History Department. He looks forward to joining the Walker’s community full time.
EMILY COFFIN
Math Teacher
Emily is a 2015 graduate of Connecticut College in New London, CT where she received her B.A. and State of Connecticut Secondary Teacher Certification in math and social studies. Emily received Dean’s High Honors, served as a residential advisor, and as a member of the Education Department’s Student Advisory Board. Last year, Emily was a teaching assistant in the summer session at Philips Academy Andover and participated in Andover’s Elwin Sykes Teaching Assistant Seminar. Additionally, Emily has worked in several Connecticut schools, most recently student teaching full time at the Clark Lane Middle School in Waterford. She is looking forward to living on campus and becoming a part of the Walker’s community.

MICHIELLE HELMIN P’19
Director, Fund for Walker’s
Michelle holds an M.B.A. from the University of Hartford and certificates in public and nonprofit management and marketing intelligence from the University of Connecticut. Most recently, she was a consultant for Hartford Public Library; prior to that, she worked for 13 years at UConn, focused on institutional advancement. While there, Michelle served as director of communications and marketing; she worked closely with the directors of external affairs and development on alumni engagement, donor acquisition and retention, and stewardship. For several years, she managed the Law School’s annual fund. Michelle and her husband, Dave, reside in Manchester, CT with their children, Andrew and Liz. Liz is a rising freshman, having just completed eighth grade at Walker’s.

Faculty and Staff Service Awards

30 YEARS
Willis March

25 YEARS
Maureen Fiedler P’95, ’98
Carol Clark-Flanagan P’93, ’97

10 YEARS
Sarah Casis
Grace Epstein
Michael Galvin
Julie Greshin P’13
Greg Jandreau
Kim Overtree
Ken Poppe
Viviene Walker

5 YEARS
Tim Cuzzzone
Ludie Dixon
Pat Gorecki
Heidi McCann
Genie Lomba P’13, ’16, ’18
Hillary Rheinheimer
Tom Speers P’16

Maureen Fiedler P’95, ’98, Willis March, and Carol Clark-Flanagan P’93, ’97

Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 and Board Chair Stuart Bell present service award certificates.
THE CAROLINE WALKER HONOR SOCIETY
MARGARET LEAH HEGWOOD,
SOORER HUSSEIN BULHAN,
ECE BIDAV

THE AMY C. REHFUSS AWARD
SOORER HUSSEIN BULHAN

THE BRANDEIS BOOK AWARD
LIAN NICHOLSON

THE BROWN BOOK AWARD
NELLA SHEA

THE DARTMOUTH BOOK AWARD
IDABELLE PATERSO

THE HARVARD BOOK AWARD
ISABEL HUANG

THE MOUNT HOLYOKE BOOK AWARD
CLAUDIA RU

THE ST. LAWRENCE BOOK AWARD
KENDALL EDWARDS

THE SMITH BOOK AWARD
NELLA SHEA

THE TRINITY BOOK AWARD
SHERIDEN BEARD

THE WELLESLEY BOOK AWARD
EMILY PEARS

THE YALE BOOK AWARD
ISABEL BEEMAN

THE MARY SCOLLER NELSON ENGLISH PRIZE
LILLIAN WINSLOW REYNOLDS

THE CHINESE PRIZE
NELLA SPEERS

THE LATEIN PRIZE
ECE BIDAV

THE SPANISH PRIZE
MARIA JULIA CUISSART DE GRELLE

THE HISTORY PRIZE
ZHJING LI

THE SCIENCE PRIZE
CHUN LI

THE RPI CERTIFICATE
ISABEL HUANG

THE MATHEMATICS PRIZE
ISABEL HUANG

THE MUSIC PRIZE
ZIYU CHE
LILLIAN WINSLOW REYNOLDS

THE MADELEINE SALA CHOIR GIRL
MARGARET LEAH HEGWOOD

THE VIRGINIA CHILDS RAMSEY HINMAN PRIZE
NELLA SPEERS

THE PERFORMING ARTS PRIZE
MARJORIE ANNE RICHARDSON

THE VISUAL ARTS PRIZE
ZIYING XU

THE DOROTHY SILVERHERZ DANCE PRIZE
CHUN LI

THE ELIZABETH OLSON MARSHALL DANCE PRIZE
CHUN LI

THE THEATRE PRIZE
TALIA ANN BASCH

THE TECHNICAL THEATRE PRIZE
CAROLINE EMILY OLESH

THE VOORHEES CUP
ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS

THE MERITORIOUS EFFORT CUP
ALEXANDRA HELENE BORREIL

THE WILLIAM C. LICKLE ATHLETIC CUP
SAGE KATHERINE TOURIGNY

THE VARSITY CLUB
ALEXANDRA HELENE BORREIL
MARIA JULIA CUISSART DE GRELLE

THE WILLIAM C. LICKLE CUP TO HONOR FRANK O.H. WILLIAMS
ANGELA MARIE PEAVY
SHERIDEN BEARD

THE HEAD’S SERVICE AWARD
BREA AUSTIN, KENDALL EDWARDS,
LEOPOLDINE BERENGÈRE GALOPIN,
ENAJITE IGHO, MARY KELLEY,
CLAUDIA RU, KAYLA SCINTO,
SARA SCINTO

THE CICERONE SOCIETY PRIZE
MADELINE NICOLE NILAND
ALENA ZAFONT

THE MARGARET MALLORY CUP
MARY MCMANL

THE BRUNHILDE GRASSI CUP
LAUREL GADDIS

THE CLARISSA GREEN CUP
KALLIE LASPESA

THE HELEN BLAIR MEMORIAL PRIZE
ZIYING XU

THE BARBARA AND ELIZABETH BYRNES MEMORIAL PRIZE
PARI PALMER

THE EMILY CLUETT PRIZE
ALEXANDRA HELENE BORREIL

THE CUMMINGS PRIZE
ELEANOR LOUISE ROSS

THE ISABEL JACKSON MEMORIAL PRIZE
LILLIAN WINSLOW REYNOLDS

THE CATHERINE HENDERSON MURTAUGH PRIZE
MARISSA SIMMONS PITTER

THE CARY PAGE MEMORIAL PRIZE
MARJORIE ANNE RICHARDSON

THE HENRY B. SARGENT MEMORIAL PRIZE
TALIA ANN BASCH

THE ALISON STONE MEMORIAL PRIZE
MARGARET LEAH HEGWOOD

THE TRUSTEES’ PRIZE
JANNA K. FOOTMAN

THE FACULTY PRIZE
JACQUELINE ELIZABETH FLYNN
Baccalaureate, June 6, 2015

Baccalaureate is a celebratory Chapel marking the end of the year. Seniors handpick their Baccalaureate speaker from the faculty who sends them off with words of wisdom. Two of the School’s highest student awards are given at the ceremony.

Below, students respond to Rich Prager P’04, ’07.

Speaker Rich Prager P’04, ’07 engages the School community during his remarks.

Soorer Hussein Bulhan ’15

Margaret Hegwood ’15

Baccalaureate is a celebratory Chapel marking the end of the year. Seniors handpick their Baccalaureate speaker from the faculty who sends them off with words of wisdom. Two of the School’s highest student awards are given at the ceremony.

THE AMY C. REHFUSS AWARD
Soorer Hussein Bulhan receives The Amy C. Rehfuss Award for her versatility, sensitivity, grace, and gentle manner from Head of School Bessie Speers P’16.

THE CAROLINE WALKER HONOR SOCIETY
Awarded to students who display humility, loyalty, courage, and kindliness. Head of Upper and Middle School Brock Dunn P’18, ’20 congratulates seniors on their induction.

Ece Bidav ’15

Margaret Hegwood ’15

Soorer Hussein Bulhan ’15
“While you have learned much this year about yourselves, you have also led in the transformation of your School.”

— Head of School Bessie Speers P’16
On Sunday, June 7th, under bright blue skies, 63 members of the Class of 2015 received their diplomas before families and friends, students, faculty, alumnae, and Trustees during the School’s 103rd Commencement ceremony.
Teresa C. Younger, CEO and President of the Ms. Foundation for Women, delivered the Commencement Address. Younger advised graduates to push themselves higher, to exemplify the Walker’s atmosphere of support and sisterhood throughout their lives, and to realize the importance of trusting oneself and one’s abilities: “It matters not that you are just in the room, or that you have a seat at the table, but position yourself to be part of the conversation. Don’t let artificial barriers limit your influence, like what other people might think when you speak up. Value what you bring to the table, and it will be valued. Be aware of the importance of the impact that you make.”

In her charge to the Class of 2015, outgoing Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 acknowledged the seniors’ sense of unity, selflessness, and ability to ‘figure it out’ and lead: “You are a class that will both enjoy the world and improve the world; yours is a class with exceptional leadership abilities. While you have learned much this year about yourselves, you have also led in the transformation of your School.”

Congratulations to the Class of 2015!
The Class of 2015

Grace Angelica Amerling
Talia Ann Basch
Antonia Elizabeth Becker
Ece Bidav
Alexandra Helene Borreil
Jessica Stacy Brighenti
Soorer Hussein Bulhan
Amber Lenore Carter
Ziyu Che
Qianni Chen
Taylar Clark
Alexandria Jane Connor
Maria Julia Cuissart de Grelle
Jacqueline Elizabeth Flynn
Jaanna K. Footman
Léopoldine Bérengère Galopin
Victoria Elizabeth Gawlik
Marisa Lynne George
Claire Elizabeth Graham
Margaret Leah Hegwood
Han Gyul Hwang
Sajia Ibrahim
Enajite Igho
Katelyn Jo
Jessica Paige Kantor
Meher Khan
Chun Li
Zhijing Liao
Alexa Ekaterina Lochner
Nikaya Renee Manley
Ana Rosalia Martin
Salem Eowyn Matzinger
Emily Amanda Mauldin
Amina Niass
Madeleine Nicole Niland
Caroline Emily Olesh
Paris Palmer
Eleana Paravantsos
Angela Marie Peavy
Marissa Simmone Pitter
Maumita Rahman
Lauren B. Rauh
Lillian Winslow Reynolds
Marjorie Anne Richardson
Kennedi Rookwood
Eleanor Louise Ross
Nicole Elizabeth Rusch
Laura Allison Schear
Constance Schulp
Lauren Michelle Schwarz
Kayla Ines Scinto
Nida Naseem Shaikh
Danielle Marie Shubat
Chloe Sarah Silverman
Chelsea Janei Strong
Kestrel Thorne-Kaunelis
Sage Katherine Tourigny
Qiong Wang
Sumner Chapman Wick
Ziqing Xu
Luotong Yao
Alena Zafonte
Jinghan Zhang
The Ethel Walker Medal —
A New Award Given to Trustee Emerita Elizabeth “Sue” Cesare

The Ethel Walker Medal is awarded to an adult member of The Ethel Walker School community (a Trustee, alumna, faculty or staff member, or friend of the School) whose service and dedication has been of the highest caliber and represents the vision, tenacity, and commitment of the founder of The Ethel Walker School, Ethel Walker herself. This award will be presented at graduation and is decided upon by the Board of Trustees.

“The first recipient of The Ethel Walker Medal is petite but mighty. She is humble and dedicated. She is a tennis player, a sailor, and a teacher. The recipient is an educator through and through, and simply put, she loves schools. She is a former school head, with a tenure in the multiple decades, of the now King School in Connecticut. She is a champion of teachers and students and she understands the true essence of Walker’s.

She has chaired myriad committees at Walker’s and elsewhere. In addition to serving as co-chair of our Centennial Center Task Force, she is a guru of accreditation and supports the CAIS in various consulting roles. She has served on The Ethel Walker School Board of Trustees for 26 years! She is a grandmother, mother, athlete, pragmatist, wise counselor, mentor, and friend. She chaired the Search Committee for Walker’s nine years ago, when I was selected to be Head of Walker’s. So, it is very special to be able to award Sue Cesare the first Ethel Walker Medal in honor of her amazing service to this wonderful School!”

— Head of School Bessie Spears P’16
This year's acceptances include Bates College, Boston College, Connecticut College, Cornell University, New York University, Northwestern University, Skidmore College, Trinity College, UNC-Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, Washington University in St. Louis, and Wesleyan University.
NYC, Former Trustees Event, May 6, 2015

L-R: Sisters and former Trustees Gail Sheppard Moloney ’56 and Lynn Sheppard Manger ’59 visit with current Trustee Katharine O’Brien Rohn ’82.

L-R: Former Trustee and former President of the EWSPA Gail Shelton P’12, Trustee Emerita Letitia McClure Potter ’55, P’85, former Board Chair and Trustee Emerita Sue Cesare, and former Board Chair Donya Nagib Soriano ’90

L-R: Former Board Chair Elizabeth Rauch Rainoff ’53 and former Trustee Lorinda Payson de Roulet ’47, P’70 visit with Head of School Bessie Speers P’16.

L-R: Former Trustee Leslie Hailand Newman ’66, former Board Chair Claudia Ramsland Burch ’68, and former Board Chair and Trustee Emerita Sue Cesare

Stay connected with classmates by downloading our free Walker’s app. Gain instant access to our alumnae directory!
Boston, Harvard Club, May 19, 2015

L-R: Maureen Berescik P’98, Tom Speers P’16, Shonelle McKenzie ’09, and Head of School Bessie Speers P’16

Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 and Brooke Gaffney Redmond ’90

L-R: Vivki Veh ’76, Meredith Dreman ’07, Whitney Hayden ’05, and Amey Amory DeFriez ’45

Helen Potter Wagner ’75 and Wendy Hodgkins DeLorey ’83

L-R: Jennifer Sieber ’09, Head of School Bessie Speers P’16, Valerie Jarvis ’09

L-R: Barbara Bidwell Manuel ’56, Mary Brown Jackson ’59, Maureen Berescik P’98, and Tom Speers P’16
NYC, Sotheby’s, May 3, 2015

L-R: Cerra Cardwell ’02, Brooke Berescik-Johns ’98, and Holly Jackson ’02

Harriet Blees Dewey ’60 and Kenny King Howe ’57

Virginia Pitman P’90 and Alumnae Board President Amanda Pitman ’90

L-R: Arielle Haller-Silverstone ’08, Assistant Head of School Stephen Dunn, Sammy Mayer ’08, and Head of School Bessie Speers P’16

L-R: Kit O’Brien Rohn ’82, Head of School Bessie Speers P’16, Hillary Walker Hotchkiss ’75, and Winchester Hotchkiss

San Francisco, CA, April 16, 2015

L-R: Christine Chessen P’17, Kathryn Spector Lasater ’87, Tahra Makinson Sanders ’86, and Shelley Marks ’81
This has been one of the most exciting years in Walker’s history. The energy on campus is palpable, the accomplishments continue to accumulate, and our Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 is leaving our alma mater in a position of strength. While we will miss her terribly, Stephen Dunn will be an excellent Interim Head and will provide us with a seamless transition while we continue the search for our new Head of School.

In May, I celebrated my 25th Reunion with fellow classmates who were delighted by the changes on campus. We had a blast, picking up right where we left off when we were students. Sitting in Chapel together, singing the School song seemed incredibly familiar, yet we were singing alongside the newest member of our ranks, the Class of 2015. Walker’s truly is a school for the future that remains steadfastly rooted in cherished traditions that link us all together, no matter when we graduated.

Welcome to our newest alumnae members, the Class of 2015! Ella Ross ’15, the Student Body President, delivered poignant words that urged her classmates to live up to our legacy. I have no doubt this class will do just that. They are an impressive group of young women.

We extend our thanks to Elizabeth Borland Blodgett ’91, Mary Lotuff Feeny ’83, and Carter Margison ’07, as they depart the Alumnae Board. Welcome to Courtney Hornberger ’01 and Philipa Eschauzier Earl ’94, our newest Board members.

In the year ahead, the Alumnae Board hopes to coordinate more regional events and restructure our leadership. As always, I welcome your thoughts, suggestions, and ideas.

Here’s to another great year for our beloved School!

Amanda Pitman ’90
PRESIDENT, ALUMNAE BOARD
Reunion
2015
Classes ending in 0 and 5 returned to campus on May 15 and 16 to celebrate their Reunion year.

A cocktail party with faculty kicked off the weekend on Friday evening, followed by a variety of lively events, including class dinners, the annual Alumnae Association meeting, a Reunion Chapel inducting the Class of 2015 into the Alumnae Association, a delicious lunch in Abrá’s, an alumnae groundbreaking event for the Centennial Center, and the main event—Saturday evening cocktails and the Reunion banquet, followed by the infamous Ba-Na-Na.
“You’re looking at me today for hope, to reassure you that we Walker’s girls are made of the same grit that you’re made of; that we still stand up for the same community, values, and principles that you’re back here today to honor. It is true. We’re all about the courage, confidence, conviction, and much more. Like you, we’re learning to be leaders, doers, thinkers, women of confidence and competence. Just as you look to us seniors today for hope, even more do we look at you—to see our future selves, and to know that our friendships and bonds are safe, that miles apart can’t change years together. Reunion Weekend means so much more to me this year than it ever has before. I see us. And I couldn’t be happier.”

— Excerpt from remarks by Ella Ross ’15
“Follow your passions, but develop your narrative along the way by understanding what inner light motivates you toward the issues and interests in your life. Own your narrative so that you know it inside and out and can understand the intentionality of your decisions.”

— Excerpt from remarks by Tracy Himmel Isham ’85
SATURDAY EVENING COCKTAIL PARTY HONORING RETIRING FACULTY AND THE SPEERS
Reunion Banquet
Ba-Na-Na!

Back row: Lucia Bryant Blanchard (at far left), Anita Pagliaro, Posie Sides Cowan, and Linda Vander Poel Duryea. Front row: Louise Knapp Page, Nancy Brookfield Burke, Sarah Elting Doering, Helen Frederick, and Carolyn Foley (at far right)

Back row, L-R: Deborah Bell Spoehel, Jeanette Poillon, Sally Royce Stevenson. Middle row, L-R: Sarah Gates Colley, Deborah Mercer Ribas. Front row, L-R: Helen Potter Wagner, Catherine Munson Rogerson


L-R: Whitney de Roulet Bullock, Cynthia Clasgens, Cynthia Emerson Keefer

L-R: Clara Potter, Esther Pryor and Tracy Himmel Isham


Class of 2005—Back row, L-R: Charlotte Weidlein, Lindsey Flynn, Emma Bedford-Jack, Melissa Timbers, Ting Chu-Richardson, Elizabeth Harris, and Leah Farrell. Middle Row, L-R: Nicole Rouget Partyka, Clive Tucceri, Amy Wesoly, and Jeannette DeFrino. Front row, L-R: Kate Seif, Marianna Rossel Weiss, Meredythe Goethe, and Leola Foreman Grant

Also, class advisor Roger Cantello P’14 and teacher John Woodruff.
Sarah Gates Colley ’75
Receives the Margot Rose ’80 Distinguished Alumnae Award

“Celebrating the ways that being in her vicinity freshens us into smiles, I am delighted to award the Margot Rose ’80 Distinguished Alumnae Award to Sarah Gates Colley,” announced Head of School Bessie Speers P’16 during Reunion Weekend Chapel, flanked by Margot’s mother, Terese Treman Williams ’55, in honor of Margot.

Sarah Gates Colley ’75 has worked tirelessly on behalf of The Ethel Walker School. She has been generous with both her time and her treasure, committed to helping ensure Walker’s place in the future of education. She is a Dial and has served Walker’s in myriad capacities: the Centennial Center Task Force, Marketing Task Force, Campaign Steering Committee, Auction Committee, Advancement Committee, National Campaign Council, Alumnae Board, Reunion Gift Chair, Land Use Task Force, Finance Committee, EWS Foundation Board, Ethel Walker School Trustee, and currently, she chairs our Centennial Campaign. Her yearbook page quoted Washington Irving—“A kind heart is a fountain of gladness, making everything in its vicinity freshen into smiles”—and provided inspiring words with which it was announced that she is this year’s recipient of the School’s most distinguished alumnae award.

The Margot Rose ’80 Distinguished Alumnae Award is The Ethel Walker School’s highest honor. It is presented to graduates of the School who best exemplify Margot Rose’s attributes, ensuring that her work, dedication, and influence will be remembered now and always. When awarded, it will honor alumnae who, by their devotion and talent, elevate the work of their profession, who influence their community, or who give extraordinary service to their School. The award has been endowed in Margot’s honor by her mother, Terese Treman Williams ’55, and her stepfather, Joseph Williams.
LONG DISTANCE AWARD
Sara Berg ’95 won the Long Distance Award, given by the School to the alumna who travels the farthest distance to attend Reunion. She came from Bromma, Sweden.

MARGOT ROSE ’80 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNAE AWARD
Sarah Gates Colley ’75 receiving the award from Terese Treman Williams ’55, P’80, mother of Margot Rose ’80

The Class of ’95 won THE SUN DIAL BOWL for the largest percentage of its class to attend Reunion Weekend.
We remember Meredith Pettit Barrueto, who passed away in May, 2013. She was predeceased by her husband, Richard Barrueto (originally of Guatemala City), in 2010. They shared a great love of and interest in music. She is survived by three children Karen, David and Kristin as well as three grandchildren. At Walker’s, Meredith, a Sun, was on the First Sun Basketball Team. She was also a member of the English Club and of the Sun Rays Board for three years. Later, she graduated from the Newton-Wellesley School of Nursing.

We also remember Jane Bamford Taylor, who lost her battle against Parkinson’s in 2007. After Walker’s, she graduated from the Columbia Presbyterian School of Nursing and then served with the Army Nurses in Korea. She is survived by three children and three grandchildren. At Walker’s, Jane was on the Dial and Junior Varsity Hockey teams and won the Cup for Improvement in Hockey in 1945.

Hope Noll Peek passed away in February. She had been a librarian in London and had moved to Naples, FL 13 years ago. If my memory serves me, her mother used to bring our class wonderful cakes from David Day Deans in New York.

Heloise Bacon Power writes: “Plus ce change, Plus c’est le meme chose.”

Payne Payson Middleton is still teaching English to non-English speaking women, most of whom are Asian and took English in school, so they read and write, but speaking is tougher. Payne’s grandson, Luce, age 4, is totally bilingual. He will ask a question in Italian and answer in English.

Grace McGraw Parr had to miss Reunion and says traveling is reserved for exotic places and doing pastels for fun. She recently had dinner with Sally Whiteley in Taos and says she is ok also.

A note from Bea Weeks Bast expresses her thanks and appreciation for her eye clinic in Philadelphia for treatment of her macular degeneration. So much has been learned in the last ten years. Without this progress, we would be blind.

Jane Cole Graves, as mentioned, is now in Palo Alto, CA. Her daughter’s husband holds a chair at Stanford, and two of their daughters attend the University.

Loise Baldwin Chapin has sold her home in California and is living full time on Nantucket.

Dottie Hirsh Loebi is planning a trip to Copenhagen to visit family and friends. She visits Hannah Griffith Bradley frequently, who she says is the best sport in spite of frequent health problems. She is in touch with Janice Tompkins Spurr and Amey Amory DeFriez, both of whom plan summers in Maine.

Reunion was good fun. Although no one else showed up from 1945, there were people from other classes whom I met and knew. The newest dorm is great, and a far cry from the suites at Beaver Brook that we remember, and the plumbing is much improved. The planned building is fantastic. It will house a pool, dance facilities and double gymnasium. The athletic fields are a vast improvement over our hockey field.

1946 REUNION

Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org
1947
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1948
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1949
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1950
Michelle Myers Florence
6 Hunter Lane
Rye, NY 10580
914-967-3610
miniminflo@gmail.com

1951
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1952
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1953
Susan “Susie” Kleinhans Gilbertson
18 Buttonwood Road
Rumson, NJ 07760
732-842-2057
svwg@comcast.net

Our class sends deepest sympathy to Connie Purcell on the passing of Connie’s husband, “Skip.”

1954
Betty Richards Tripp
18 School Street
Stonington, CT 06378
860-535-0432
betrtyrichards36@gmail.com

Patsy Kelly McCormack writes, “For the first time in years, my family will visit me only for two weeks on Martha’s Vineyard this summer! I am so used to, and thrilled with, their full-time summer residency that the lack thereof is going to be very quiet and sad. Nancy’s kids have driven the revolution: Sam has graduated long ago was that?!!) His kids were 12 and 10. Now graduating and a sophomore in college.”

Is it because it takes longer to do everything that reuniting with classmates becomes a long-range plan? One finally jelled in the fall with Bobbie Gerstell Bennett and Molly Goodyear Gurney. We had a warm and lively lunch together.

Mary Schwerin Ritter is celebrating her birthday in style. She hosted a beautiful dinner party and also honored her daughter, Maria, who was visiting.

One long-range plan that bombed was our visit with Trish Sudler Stimpson and Annie Sherer Paddock, although Trish and I did run into each other just before she went north. Next year for sure!

Joan Grafmueller Grier’s husband, Bill, has been making the rounds of several hospitals but is ready to come home. Friend of many classmates, Eddie Connors was seen at a family birthday party in Denver and universal opinion is still: fabulous guy.

Helen Frost Hale writes, “It is just a year ago that Bill died after a short illness. I, too, was dating him during my years at Walker’s. We’d been married nearly 59 years. I’m doing pretty well and hope to go back to our house on MacMahan Island in Maine, where we’ve gone every year for 55 years. We now rent it in July, and our website is vacationhomrentals.com/63788. Love to you all.”

Quarrier “Q” Bloch Cook writes, “I am in Paris celebrating the big 80! Great fun and have had a lot of fun going down memory lane with Suzy Patterson. She was my freshman roommate in 1949—good heavens, a long time ago but then again everything is, right? Suzy looked great and upbeat! I am so blessed with a very caring family and a spectacular husband of 24 years. Paris is aglow—the new LV museum is just fabulous, the renovated Picasso the same, and we have been to concerts all over, with the trip being capped off at the Philharmonic tomorrow evening. Hope all is well with you and the other classmates in the PB area.”

Susie Kleinhans Gilbertson writes, “What was I saying about things taking forever to come about! I have been nagging my youngest son, Peter, who spends 90 percent of his time in the air to please bring some business my way and break it up with a nice visit and a swim, etc. Finally, it’s happening (only took six years!). He’ll be in town for a few days and I’m so glad I decided to stay another week, or I would have missed him. He’s the one who escorted me to our 50th (how
from college and is working full
time in the real world; Matt
(sophomore in college) has an
internship with John Hancock;
and Annie wants to spend her
senior year summer at home with
her pals and continue her job
with Vineyard Vines. She will be
off to the Business School at
Syracuse in the fall. Life will be
more normal for Nancy and Dan;
Nancy is looking forward to ‘the
empty nest’ and traveling with
Dan. Those who can get time off
will be here in July when Stuart
and his wife, Kym, and McCune
and Sydney arrive from Portland,
OR.

“... This has been a year of major
surgery for me, recovery, and great
travel plans for the first time in a
while. I have had a week at a
fabulous home (Casa Carole if
you wish to rent it—it is on
VRBO) in San Miguel, Mexico,
with two sisters and their
husbands and my brother and his
wife. What a treat! I have plans
for a trip to Greece with Vineyard
pals in June and a National
Geographic trip to Provence in
the fall. I am now healthy and
busy as ever. Life is good!”

Ursula Bitter Ulmer says her
major news is that “the Watch
Hill, RI house is no longer in our
family; it remains a major relief in
spite of the painful loss. As a
result, I have the freedom to see
family members that I haven’t
seen for years and I’m planning a
’sister’ tour this summer. Due to
my mother’s four marriages, I
have five half-sisters and five
step-sisters sprinkled throughout
the US. Zurich remains my
home, but I visit Cape Town once
a year and will be teaching there
next February. I remain
immensely grateful for my life
and health and send warm
greetings to all.”

Betsey Barrett Phillips writes,
“Chuck and I have put our house
on the market and are downsizing.
We’ve lived here for 25 years and
love the house, but like many
others our age, we’re trying to
simplify. We’ll most likely buy a
townhouse in the next town,
Bethlehem, NH, and spend more
time in our RV. Our daughter,
Callie, is moving to Montana
with her family, which includes
our grandchildren. Daughter
Susannah is already in Idaho, so
we’ll be part-time westerners, for
sure.” Betsey and Chuck continue
their work with an orphanage in
Tanzania and will be going there
for a month in October. Betsey
says that it’s very rewarding work.

Glenn Shannon Whipple
comments that her life is busier
than ever. She sings in two choirs,
leads a weekly community Bible
study, and attends one led by her
pastor. With her usual schedule of
“body maintenance,” such as
working with a personal trainer
three days a week and having a
weekly massage, etc., her days are
pretty full!

Anita Larsen Sullivan finds it
difficult adjusting to being a
widow. She rented a little condo
in Venice, FL for February and
March, playing lots of golf at The
Plantation. Now she is looking
forward to the golf season on her
home course in New Haven.
(Note: I have viewed on the walls
of Anita’s Club the many placards
with Anita’s name, representing
her frequent tournament
winnings over the years). Her
oldest granddaughter is being
married this September in
Bristol, RI, the first of her 11
grandchildren to say, “I do.” As
Anita writes, “Life goes on!”

Karen Bissgard Alexander,
recently widowed, reports that she
has been “traveling, which seems
to be my defense mechanism. I’ve
been visiting children and
relatives furiously, but now that
spring is here, I’ll dig up my
garden instead.” Karen continues,
“I have determined never to
spend another winter being
buffeted by the glacial gales from
the Great Plains. There is nothing
to break the howling winds
between the Rockies and me, so I
am moving out of the way next
February. If California has any
water left, I’ll go out there to
huddle near our California
daughter. Our two offspring in
Vermont offer nothing in the way
of respite from winter, heaven
knows.”

Elodie Huntley Tilney’s
husband Bud had successful
cardiac surgery in May. They are
thankful for the arrival in Vero
Beach of cardiac staff from Duke,
enabled Bud to have his surgery
performed locally. Over the
Christmas holidays, Elodie and
Bud enjoyed a 10-day cruise on
their favorite small 400-passenger
ship to the Mayan ruins. Much to
the whole family’s delight, Elodie’s
youngest grandson (age 24) was
married in Colorado on April 1.
The newlyweds are about to
embark on their careers in
missionary work in South
America, and later in the Far East.
Elodie’s Vero Beach family moved
to North Central Florida about
six months ago, a five-hour drive
from Vero. She misses them, but
recognizes that this was a good
plan for them.

Mary Stein Dominick-Coomer
writes that she was about to leave
for Italy with her son,
Christopher. Joining them in
Florence will be Christopher’s
son, and Mary’s grandson, Josh,
who has been in Florence for his
junior year from CU-Boulder.
Together they will visit Florence,
Tuscan, and Rome, all too
briefly, but still very exciting for
Mary to share the trip with the
boys. Mary will then join her
husband, Sven, in Venice. He has
been hard at work recently at the
factory where they make ZipFits
(see website, www.zipfit.com)
filling orders for ski boot
liners/foot beds for next ski
season. They return home at the
end of May, hoping for a lovely
summer in Aspen.

Mary and Sven were married
January 10, 2015 at home with
all five siblings present, as well as
one grandson, her two sisters,
Carolyn ‘57 and Pat, and 20
close friends. Christopher (Buck)
married them in front of their
fireplace, followed by Prosecco
flowing and a festive dinner. To
everyone’s initial surprise,
fireworks began at 9 p.m. over
Aspen Mountain, then the guests
remembered that it was
Wintersklo weekend.

Katie Auchincloss Porter
writes, “Like everyone else, winter
was harsh, but we survived it well.
My husband, Jim, turns 80 in
May, so we are taking all 12 of us
to Ireland for a week in late June
to celebrate! It will also be our
55th wedding anniversary. Jim
and I are fortunate to have good
health and each other! Hmm,
seems as though many of us will
have a big birthday next year!

At the end of 2016, Jim and I will
be moving to Ocean View in
Falmouth, ME. It was a difficult
decision, but one we knew we
had to make. We didn’t find any
place we liked as well as Ocean
View here in our part of New
Jersey. For all of these years, we
have been commuting to see our
daughter, Clara, and her family.
Now our daughter, Elie, who lives
here in New Jersey with her
family, will commute to see us.
Our son, James, and grandson live in New York State, and so he, too, will be coming to Maine to see us.

I am still on the boards of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the National Recreation Foundation. I am an Eucharistic minister at our church, and active in our garden club, which is about friendships and digging in the soil! So, life is full and happy.”

Katie adds that she hopes we can make a plan to see some of our class in Maine for a few days in September. More information will be forthcoming.

Annie Higbie Eckrich reports that her oldest grandson recently graduated from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University, and has been accepted for its graduate program, an honor she takes no credit for!! Next, granddaughter, Allie, will graduate from Indiana State University in Evansville, IN next year. The other three are in Bozeman, MT. Two are skiers, one a hockey player who hopes to go to Yale. Granddaughter wants Harvard, and Hans is not sure yet. “Since I am in my 80th year, I am thinking of retiring from real estate, but more business keeps coming my way. Am trying to play golf once again. Name of the game: keep busy, stay young. Best to all, stay healthy!!”

Prior to leaving for a month on her Scottish island, Oronsay, Frannie Haffner Colburn shared with me a pre-publication copy of the book about her late husband, Ike I.W. Colburn, Emotion in Modern Architecture by Jay Pridmore, and published by Lake Forest College Press. It will be available in September. It is a beautifully documented book, emphasizing the creative ways Ike used symmetry and elegant simplicity. Frannie is photographed and quoted throughout, making it even more of a reason for you to buy a copy.

Here’s the latest news from Helen Harvey Mills: “I am now doing treadmill-type machines and actually liking it—fantasies of Wonder Woman; this is one of the good things that came as a result of valve repair.

At our age I’m told we are supposed to read Trollope; haven’t started that yet and am wondering now at age 79 when wisdom comes.”

I see a lot of Mary Jo Laflin Field ’56 when she is not in Mexico, where Joan Feick ’44 hangs out, as well as others from our EWS era, and where I might hang out briefly when winter comes.

My grandson Lucian is at U of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, where we went for his concert—Elgar Enigma Variations and Mozart. In the photo, his cello is visible, along with Eliot, Lucian, me and my daughter Natalie.”

Not long ago, I spoke with Maria Mayorga Moore, who lives outside Gstaad, Switzerland, sometimes spending the winter months in Culebra, PR with Alicia, one of her daughters. Also, Barbara Mayer Marks and her husband, Fillmore, call from time to time, so I know that they had a very relaxed time on their annual visit to Hawaii in February.

As for me, I was fortunate to miss much of the difficult New England winter, since I managed to escape to Hawaii (first time visitor), St. Barth and Florida. Spring will find me in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Cambridge, after which I shall remain in Stonington for the summer, with the exception of attending a wedding in Boulder, CO over July 4th. Ursula Ulmer will be visiting me at the end of her “sister” trip across the U.S. in July. Maybe others of you will be driving along I-95 at the CT/RI border and stop off to see me.

1955

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Hello, dear classmates, Again, my notes contain both sad and happy news. I am grateful to those who have contacted me, but I also would like to hear from those who have been silent. Please keep in touch. A mystery: my last year’s notes for 2014, except for Glenna’s, disappeared and did not appear in The Sundial—Spring 2015, so this is an amalgamation of 2014 as well as 2015 news.

It is with a most heavy heart that I report the passing of our dear classmate Elise Rosenberry Donohue on May 21, 2015 after a short illness. I learned she spent some time this winter in Arizona and enjoyed a trip to the Caribbean. Indeed, she lived life to the fullest, as shown by the following excerpt from her obituary: “All fondly remember a woman whose life was characterized both by the breadth but also the depth of her relationships from the Clyde Park Cow Belles to the Vassar Club of New York City. Present in all things were both her love of the land rooted in over 40 years of cattle ranching in Montana, and her deep appreciation for ideas, the arts, and the life of the mind—recognized in her being awarded an honorary doctorate from Montana State University and service on the board of Minnesota Public Radio. All who met Elise sensed a soul as deep and rich as the soil of her native Minnesota, and a spirit as vast as the big sky of her adopted Montana.” (Star Tribune) We shall miss her greatly and extend our love and sympathy to her family and to her sister Lucy Rosenberry Jones ’59, P’80, former Trustee.

Also, it has been a difficult time for Barbara “Bab-o” Babb Read and her family. Scott, her middle son, died in a one-car accident on October 13, 2013. He was 48 years old. She writes, “I am finally getting a bit back on track.” Dear Bab-o, our hearts go out to you, for you have suffered a great loss, and we all send you our sympathy with love.
After pulling up stakes and moving to a retirement community—Peconic Landing in Greenport, NY—living is now easier and more pleasing for Marty Heck Ulman and her husband. Nestled between a golf course and a winery, the waterfront campus sounds like the answer to a life with no landscape maintenance, snow shoveling, or roof repairing. Although the North Fork of Long Island feels rural, it has easy access to New York City and New England, and the town of Greenport is a vibrant community founded in 1848. Marty enjoys it all.

In the summer of 2014, two classmates vacationed in Michigan and the Great Lakes. Jenny Stewart Chandler spent a week of bliss at the Huron Mountain Club in Big Bay, MI, with children and grandchildren. Never having been to the Upper Peninsula, Bruce suggested a visit there, only to find thousands of tourists with the same idea. They fled to Houghton, MI, the home of the Michigan Technological University (mining and engineering). After a fine dinner and a restful night’s sleep, they took a tour of an abandoned copper mine and processing plant. It was 40 degrees underground, damp and claustrophobic, leading them to be grateful for not having to make a living underground. October found them in Bray’s Island, then off to Vero Beach, FL for Thanksgiving with her sister Frances Stewart Ingraham ’58, and back north to Lake Forest for Christmas. During Reunion, Jenny mentioned how fortunate she is to have wonderful stepchildren, whom she acquired as teenagers when she married Bruce. She gave all credit to the children, but I applaud her for a splendid job at being an enlightened stepmother.

“Life is good in the Lyons house,” according to “Tina” O’Neil Lyons. She is amazed that it was our 60th Reunion. They still love to travel, now closer to home. In 2014, it was a trip on the Great Lakes. However, in 2015, they are taking the grand-teenagers on a Rhine River trip. Tina enjoys golf, reading, and writing, as ever. Of their five grandchildren, two are at the University of Arizona, two are in high school, and her only granddaughter, Lauren Lyons, plans a career in theater. She is a freshman at Orange County School for the Arts, and in November 2014 played Jenny Lind in the musical “Barnum.” Of course, Tina was there to cheer her on.

I received a long email from “Liz” Nash Muench, who spent a quiet summer of 2014 in North Hero, NY, an island in Lake Champlain, close to the Canadian border. Husband Tom, the woodsman, is a wizard with a chainsaw, keeping nature from running amok, and Liz has a gift for gardening. Their vegetable garden kept them well supplied, for the critters, deer, and voles did not dine that summer. May they be feasting elsewhere as well in 2015. With 100 crowns of asparagus, June was asparagus month. When I spoke with Liz, she was staying with Chas’ teenage children in Maine, while her son and daughter-in-law were at a conference. Young grandson Charlie worked at a Nike store in Freeport, ME, and received high recommendations from his managers that summer. His sister is a serious ballet dancer, having spent the summer in Portland, OR at the Portland Ballet. On her trip north last year, Liz stopped at the Leonard J. Buck Garden in Far Hills, NJ. Leonard J. Buck was our “Meg” Doubleday Buck’s father-in-law, who developed the 33-acre rock garden, which is considered one of the premier rock gardens in the United States. It is particularly splendid in the spring. Plan a visit, as it is easy to get to—just off Interstate 287. All that was in 2014, and now we are up to May 2015, where Liz is on the road going from South Carolina to northern Vermont. FYI, the 2014-2015 Student Body President, Ella Ross ’15, happens to be Liz’s step granddaughter. Ella is amazing in her speaking ability, leadership, and determination. Using those talents, she helped the current parents reach 100% participation in the Fund for Walker’s in less than three months. She is featured on the cover of The Sundial, Spring 2015.

Meanwhile, autumn 2014 weddings happened in the families of two of our classmates. Jennifer, Terry Treman Williams’ daughter was married September 13 to Isadoro “Izzy” Debellis, whom she has known for many years. Terry’s large extended family from across the country gathered to celebrate this wonderful occasion. Congratulations. And now in 2015, Terry’s daughter, Margot Rose ’80, will be mother of the bride in Napa Valley around June 1 for Sarah. Yet another wonderful family affair.

And I am delighted to report that our daughter, Clarissa “Lissa” Potter ’85, was married on October 11, 2014 to Ken Schwartz in Quechee, VT. As the service began, out came the sun, creating a colorful reflection of fall foliage on the lake. Then, an unscripted surprise occurred—three hot air balloons arose in full view over the mountains in the
middle of the service. **Kathleen Brigham Uberuaga ’85** was matron of honor. It was special to have **Tania Goss Evans** and Tom with us, as well as **Emiliana Vegas ’85**. Lissa and Ken live in Washington, DC with Ethan, their four-year-old son, and a recent canine addition, Knight, a black Belgian Groenendael, a.k.a. Belgian Shepherd. Lissa and Ken met on a Putney Student trip in France 30 years ago. Both lived independent lives over those intervening years, attending different universities, living in different cities, and establishing careers, but they managed to keep in touch just a little bit. A cocktail date in December 2009 changed those independent lives.

And speaking of **Tania Goss Evans**, she looks very smart and is very energetic. She continues to ride in the summer and enjoys her skiing in the Wyoming winters. However, this year it was mighty cold. So, here’s to you. I believe her grandson is a top-of-the heap junior skier in this country. We may be reading about his exploits. Husband Tom is being inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame in the fall of 2015. He will be in the company of Ernest Hemingway and Ted Williams. Tania’s grandchildren have had a stellar ski season. Chauncey is number one.

It’s a busy life for **Sally Mason Ellison**. She confesses, “Retirement is great, but I do wonder when I had time to work,” as keeping up with five children and 17 grandchildren is a full time job. In 2014, there were three high school graduations, including a piano concerto performed by one of the graduates with the San Fernando Valley Orchestra. Those events kept them on the go. First, they drove from their home in Northern California to Southern California, flew from LAX to Boston, and returned a week later to LAX, driving home the same day. Second, they went to Carmel. The third took them back to Southern California. At the end of June 2014, Sally and Dave celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary at a family camp for a week with all the gang. Not all excursions are family ones, for in March 2014 they went to Mexico with their golf friends. Sally enjoys golf, adding that “both scores and age [are] going up.” In addition, she keeps busy with volunteer duties at their church and “manages to croak a few notes” singing in the choir. Best of all, she feels blessed to have good health—a gift. Sally was looking forward to our Reunion and had planned to come, but a granddaughter received her assignment to serve her mission for their church, and the special ceremony in Carmel, CA, honoring that commitment occurred on May 17, same weekend as our Reunion. Needless to say, Sally had to change her Walker’s plans. Sally extolled, “Exciting changes happening at EWS,” which she had wanted to experience in person. In the last Sunday I hope you saw the photos of her five children and 15 of the 17 “grands” at their wedding anniversary.

I was delighted to get a call from **Glenna Holleran Ottley** with much news for 2015. She sounds in great spirits. Heidi, her daughter, was married in April to Edward Sinnott in Hobe Sound. Heidi and Edward have known one another for many years, so Glenna is thrilled. Next come two graduations in the Northeast. Her grandson, Max Kenyon, graduates from Darien High School in Connecticut and will go to NYU in the fall. Granddaughter Ellery Kenyon graduates from Greenwich Country Day School’s ninth grade and will move on to Lawrenceville. Their third project is to drive west to Sun Valley in their motor home with their Labrador. After having made this trip many times before, they have chosen many different routes, hitting most of the states between the East and the West and those along the Pacific coast. Glenna explained that because of the storm danger in coastal Florida, their new house was built on 50 concrete pylons 17 feet above ground…amazing. However, she said it is like living in a tree house, for the vegetation has grown up around the house so that looking out the window, you see the ocean over the greenery.

Because of her granddaughter’s graduation from Trinity College, **Valerie Stoddard Loring** could not join us at Walker’s for Reunion. Congratulations and we missed you.

**Natalie Fesenmyer Emery ’55** and her children

**Natalie Fesenmyer Emery** sent a welcome note from Virginia, and a photo of herself and her children. She was sad to miss our Reunion, as a family annual board meeting and reunion was on the same weekend. She is doing weight training and ballet in her quest to stay healthy and have a good night’s sleep. Daughter Heather now has 17 horses (mainly boarders) in her care.

I spoke with **Tanis Higgins Erdmann** who is still active with the At Home organization, making it possible for seniors to stay in their own homes. Her daughter-in-law, Barbara Erdmann, began taking photographs on a whim and has turned into a serious, talented photographer. Her photographs of Africa and the recent seascapes are appealing. Take a peek at barbaraedmannphotography.com to see much of her work—a “fun” hobby became a thriving business.

**Carol Large Calhoun** has been an American contact and host mother for an Afghan student who has been studying at and graduating from Middlebury College this spring. She has enjoyed watching this bright young woman thrive and triumph, and Carol has thoroughly enjoyed their relationship. Over our Reunion weekend, she hosted the girl’s family for the graduation festivities. We applaud you, Carol.

Now onto Reunion Weekend. **Jenny Chandler, Tania Evans, Liz Muench, Terry Williams, and I were the five fifty-fivers at our 60th Reunion this year. We enjoyed one another, reminiscing and learning about Walker’s today. We missed so many of you, and wished you could have been with us. We have lost many special classmates, so getting together seemed important. On Friday, a member of the Class 1945 (70th Reunion) **Molly Darling Bell**, the Classes of 1955, 1960, and
Take Note

1965, all had dinner at Debby's House, the Head's house named for our Debby Williams MacKenzie. On Saturday, we learned about Walker's from the eyes of the student leaders—the Big Seven—and heard beautiful music and inspiring speeches at Alumnae Chapel. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Centennial Center proved it is on its way to being a reality. The five of us went to Westminster to see a show of Liz's late son Bryan Gill's art work. It was very special and poignant to again see his imagination and skill at work. He used a wide variety of materials from copper, wood, and deerskin to name a few, as well as paint and ink, in such creative ways. It was the most memorable moment of the weekend to enjoy his work with Liz.

In closing I wish you all well, and may the next years bring many blessings.

1956 REUNION

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Thanks to many of you for taking the time to send your news and to add recommendations to our book list! No better reference than that of a friend. Included in this set of notes are some of those which were omitted in error in the Spring 2015 Sundial issue.

From Sheridan, WY, Linen Miller Greenough wrote on their Christmas card that all is well with her and her family. Linen's great-granddaughter lives on the ranch and "will have a little brother in March! What a joy and blessing!"

Barbara Richards Pitney sent a very thoughtful note from Bernardsville, NJ where she lives with her husband, Philip. They enjoy family gatherings and trips together when they can. After Thanksgiving, at the Diamond Mills Hotel near Hudson, NY, they went to Lisbon for New Year's, and then to Madison, CT, for Easter. Barbara has two daughters with four children who live nearby, and all are most supportive of her; her husband is suffering from dementia, which centers her life around his care and clear moments. Barbara owns a travel agency in Basking Ridge, and is working full time. As always, she keeps in touch with Lorna Sargeant Pfaelzer.

Mary Jo Laflin Field wrote a very interesting note about the life that she and her companion, John Simonds, have arranged for themselves. Mary Jo writes: "It is great to hear such successful retirement home stories from you and Carol Stanwood. As an alternative, John and I have just joined Lincoln Park Village, Chicago, a leader in the nationwide village movement. It is a senior citizen support system which offers a variety of benefits, both social and actual, like volunteer drivers who will drive older members to their doctors' appointments. The idea is to make it possible to stay in your own home while enjoying much of what you would get in a retirement community. We love the cultural life of Chicago and still go to San Miguel for the winter months." I was unaware of the village movement and was interested in reading about it on the Internet.

From New York, Serena Stewart wrote that last October, she and three friends, all of whom work at Hope Lodge, where Serena volunteers, traveled to the Puglia and Basilicata region of Italy after a spring cruise to Holland and Belgium. "It's the heel of the country, not the toe, and I was astounded by the sights we saw and the almost total lack of tourists. If you're unfamiliar with the American Cancer Society Hope Lodge NYC, please Google it." Serena is a dedicated volunteer there as she has been for many years, and she is enthusiastic about our 60th Reunion next year. Serena and I continue to keep in touch, not just with Scrabble. Yes, she is still definitely in first place!

Carol Stanwood wrote from Boulder, CO, where she lives. "I continue to sing and do some part-time psychotherapy. This past year a pianist and I performed "Berlin and More" at local facilities for seniors, and I've worked as a contract therapist for a local agency. Both bring me satisfaction." (Those of us who met in New York for a mini reunion a few years ago will recall Carol's lovely voice when we collaborated at Serena's apartment.) She continues: "I am happy that I made the decision to move into senior housing. I have some close friends here, and there is always someone to chat with when I want to leave my apartment for company. I think it gets harder for singles at our age to make plans to get out to socialize, and I heartily recommend this solution to others. I am also lucky that the Boulder community is rich with cultural and intellectual events; I finished a very extended 76th birthday month in March, with my sister and brother-in-law attending an unusual and blissful concert by one of Boulder's best choral groups in the remodeled CU-Boulder Planetarium." Your observations, Carol, are right on point.

After the summer of 2014, which Gigi Pearson Smithers described as the "best I can ever remember in any locale," Gigi had successful knee replacement surgery in February of this year, as upbeat as one could imagine. She and her husband, Kip, divide their time between Vero Beach. Gigi also emailed me a darling picture of her heroic dog, Henry, who is setting records as a 17-year-old terrier. Their oldest grandson is in Nashville in
The Class of 1956 recommends the books that they enjoyed reading:

**Missy Turnbull Geddes:** *A Place of Greater Safety* by Hilary Mantel; *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah; *I Am a Pilgrim* by Terry Hayes; *Orphan Train* by Christina Baker Kline; *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan

**Barbara Bidwell Manuel:** *Killing Jesus* by Bill O'Reilly; *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova; *The Third Target* by Joel Rosenberg; *Innocence* by Dean Koontz; *Things That Matter* by Charles Krauthammer

**Phoebe Haffner Andrew:** *Delicious* by Ruth Riechl

**Serena Stewart:** *Stoner* by John Williams; *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel Brown

**Peg Peck Blosser:** *Upstairs at the White House* by J. B. West; *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan; *End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe; *The Painted Girls* by Cathy Marie Buchanan; *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simson

**A. Massie Hill:** *Duty* by Robert M. Gates; *The Publisher* by Carl Brinkley; *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

the music business, while his brother is finishing college in Connecticut. Gigi’s daughter, Sabrina Smithers DiMiceli ’81, has three sons who juggle some Advanced-Placement schoolwork with a rigorous schedule of travel teams.

One day last fall, Gail Sheppard Moloney and I were on the phone for nearly an hour! Gail made only three trips to Shanghai while her daughter, Courtney, was teaching there. She traveled last summer with her daughter, Hillary, and her English family, and in November, celebrated her daughter, Kim’s, birthday in the southwest. She and Gigi Pearson Smithers had lunch together right before Gigi’s surgery, and Gail was looking forward to the arrival of her good friend, Karen Peterson Earle ’57, and Karen’s husband, who are staying near Gail for six weeks. Gail said that the month of March is March Madness when all kinds of activities and festivities seem to happen at once. Gail spent the Christmas holidays in England with her daughter, Hillary, and her family, and when not traveling, divides her time between Vero Beach and Greenwich.

After enjoying an interesting cruise to Florence, Sienna, and Sicily last year, Missy Turnbull Geddes and her husband, Max, spread their wings this past winter. Missy writes: “We had an amazing winter! We went on a trip (or should I say adventure) to Antarctica with friends on a Geo Expedition-sponsored boat. 68 people in total with wonderful staff, all fully educated about the wildlife and geology of the area. We got off in Zoodias every day to either look at the wildlife (whales, seals, and penguins, lots of them) or cruise around the icebergs and glaciers. The scale of the icebergs was mind-bending, some 4,000 feet high and 12 miles long. And only 10 percent above the water line! It was truly breathtaking.” Missy said that it was colder “by a lot” on Long Island when they returned home than in Antarctica.

Clarina Schwarzenbach Firmenich and I had emailed back and forth around Christmas time. She and her companion, Dusan Sidjanski, spent more time in Verbier in the Swiss Alps than they have previously in the wintertime. I was inspired as Clarina said that although she no longer skis, she does love to walk, and walk she did. Her sons and their children joined them during various school holidays; her son, Antoine, and his family remain in Singapore, but visit Geneva several times a year, while her other son, Patrick, and his family are living near Clarina. I don’t know if I wrote before, but Clarina takes stunning photographs of all kinds, particularly of her garden in summer and winter.

Peg Peck Blosser and her husband, Denver, continue their travel odyssey. Peg suggests that “On the Road Again” should be their theme song, as they are away a lot: “Our poor dog isn’t sure if the boarding kennel is her real home or not!” Peg and Denver have a large blended family and seem to manage to see everyone in the course of a year. Golf keeps them happily on the courses they visit, and a cruise from Berlin to Prague is planned for late summer.

Nancy Lanphier Chapin told me that her sister and brother-in-law moved several months ago to Santa Fe and are aficionados of Dorothy Doubleday Massey’s bookstore, The Collected Works Bookstore and Coffeehouse. Dorothy and her daughter, Mary, own the shop together, and we compared notes about “retirement” living, so to speak. Dorothy has her own house right down the drive from her daughter and her family, and remains completely involved in the store. It has an excellent website and broadcast email service.

Last fall, Sara Cavanagh Schwartz wrote a most interesting email about her activities, part of which I quote: “Sandy and I are still publishing *The Horse of Delaware Valley*. It keeps me in touch with the horse world I love and friends in it. My homebred, Avilord, won two races in a row last summer, the second being an allowance race at Penn National, and then he ran a very good third in a $50,000 Starter’s Handicap at Presque Isle Downs at 2¼ miles ... Avilord (stable name Punch) seems to be improving with age! My homebred filly, Dancing Together, has just run three times, finishing third, her best effort to date, but she looks as though she should improve. I plan to breed her dam this spring. My garden was still beautiful last fall, with lots of dinner-plate dahlias in full bloom.” Sara and her husband live in West Chester, PA.

Mariene Marx Twaddell, who lives in Providence, RI, wrote that she enjoys her book group of five women very much. When she wrote to recommend *No Great
Mischief for our book list, a book about Nova Scotia and the maritime provinces, she mentioned that she and her husband, Jim, have greatly enjoyed traveling in the French part of Canada.

Each time I write the notes for our class, I find myself smiling, but this time, not so. Some of you know that in January, Phoebe Haffner Andrew lost her husband, Lucius. L.A., as he was known, was one of our favorite personal friends. We met him first in New York shortly after he and Phoebe were married in 1974, and to everyone’s delight, the Andrews settled in Seattle. We enjoyed many happy holidays, parties, and events with the Andrews; both L.A. and Phoebe are much loved by the community there, surrounded by their six children. For me, it was a great treat that Phoebe and I both ended up living in Seattle for many years. L.A. was the person who always made one feel welcome and appreciated. He had a great sense of fun and good humor, but was also one of the most responsible and reliable friends we have known. He will be greatly missed by many.

Nancy Lanphier Chapin sent an email to say that her husband, Charles Armstrong Chapin, known as Chick, suffered a stroke near the end of May and died at home on May 31, 2015. The Chapins have been ensconced on their farm, Windridge, in Chatham, IL, outside of Springfield for many years. Chick was an active citizen of the Springfield community all of his life, practiced law for many years, and enjoyed being an enthusiastic and accomplished horseman. He also created charming Christmas cards over the years which we have enjoyed, featuring some of the beloved animals whom he tended with Nancy. I speak for all of us, Nancy, in sending our condolences to you and your family.

Mal and I have just marked our first year here at Lenbrook, an attractive retirement community right in town, near our son, Mal, and his family, and feel very glad that we made this move. Although the reason for our coming last year was dictated by some health matters of Mal’s, our son, Mal, included in his promotion of the idea of our moving an easier life for me! He was not wrong! I confess that it’s wonderful to have everything done for us: light breakfast each morning in our apartment, delicious food for every other meal, friendly and attentive staff, and very nice residents who live here, as well.

Carol Stanwood accurately remarked about the importance of sociability, particularly for those who are alone, and Lenbrook makes an enormous effort by providing interesting activities of all kinds, nothing mandatory, of course, but the kindness of the staff in their offerings really helps us to feel at home. We continue to sing every week, rehearse one night, and sing two services every Sunday at the Cathedral of St. Philip, play a bit of bridge and duplicate, but have lots of time to read, knit, and work on needlepoint. The two pianos continue to go! My piano partner, Linda Bath, comes weekly, and we enjoy working on pieces and just playing together. There is a beautiful indoor pool where I can be found almost daily, not in a class, but just peacefully swimming laps. It’s heavenly. Our younger son, Gordon, is in the law business in Denver; we cherish the times that we have with our three very young grandchildren, 7, 4, and 2, and plan to go to Seattle for three weeks in July, followed by a family gathering in Wrightsville Beach, NC, with all the Hills.

1957

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Joanie Garver Anderson and I just had our annual birthday conversation. She is still living in New York and enjoys staying in touch with Marnie Gaynor McLaughlin and Pat Day Storm.

Lisa Dobbin Sherwood called recently to say that she was coming to sing in Chestertown. Unfortunately, she hasn’t been in town on my last two visits, but we did manage to have a good catch-up on the phone. She spent most of the winter in Nantucket. She has written a musical satire about Genghis Khan. It was inspired by a trip she took to Mongolia. She wrote the book and lyrics, and her cousin wrote the music. It will be produced in Boston next spring. Maybe it would provide a perfect excuse for our next class gathering!
This winter, I drove to Charleston, Florida, and Asheville (almost 3,000 miles). When I was in Hobe Sound, I had a lovely dinner with Mary Fentress Grumhaus and her husband David. The next day, we visited with Mary’s brother, Calvin, who many of us remember from his days at Deerfield, and her sister Audrey Fentress Gorter ’50. I also attended a rehearsal of Guys and Dolls and ran into Glenna Holleran Ottley ’55 and her husband, Phil, who were both in the show.

Mimi Gibbs Piper and her husband, Jimmy, spent February and part of March on Long Boat Key. I spent a very enjoyable night with them.

Randy Furlong Street continues her exotic travels. She returned to the Antarctic in January on a small expedition ship. She says that she especially enjoys the pristine nature and nice people in that part of the world. They saw lots of whales and penguins. Randy is planning a trip in September from Alberta, Canada to Greenland, seeing the wildlife of the Northwest Passage and learning about its history.

In March, I visited one of my girls at her house in Ojai, CA. It’s a beautiful and peaceful area. We then went on a tour of Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, AR. I highly recommend it. The museum was built by Alice Walton. The collection was assembled with the advice of American art expert John Wilmerding, brother of Lila Wilmerding Kirkland ’58.

My husband died of congestive heart failure in November. Mimi and Jimmy Piper, Lisa and John Sherwood, and Tory Kitchell were all here for his funeral. I’m staying busy with our children and grandchildren. I have lots of good excuses to travel, and Chestertown is a wonderful supportive community.

The big news for EWS is that my “niece”—Julia Cuissart de Grelle (daughter of one of my many cousins…this one from the Belgian side) whom I suggested for Walker’s when they moved from Key Biscayne to NYC—is graduating (from EWS) and I am going up to graduation! I have two grads at UVA, finishing first and third years and doing me proud. I am still hunting as often as possible during the season. The weather was bad in February and we missed almost five weeks of hunting. I still made it out 47 times. I have acquired a paint mare this fall. If she wasn’t such a good hunter, I would trade her in. It is almost impossible to keep her white. She turns pink in this red clay country. Still teaching, although I am taking off the summer session and hope to go visit Carroll Davis Manol up at Lake Muskoka. Hope all is well with you.

From Mimi Gibbs Piper: Jimmy and I were fortunate to have escaped the horribly cold and snowy winter in Baltimore, as we enjoyed the warmth of the Florida sun in Long Boat Key. We had a nice visit from Sandy on her southern journey.

Finally, spring arrived and has been an exceptionally beautiful one, with all the flowering trees in pinks and whites. However, April also brought us sadness, with the riotous reaction to the death of Freddie Gray while in custody of the police. We are lucky in Baltimore to have so many non-profits and foundations working to improve the lives of our low-income families, but without work training and decent wages in job opportunities, the poverty in many neighborhoods continues and contributes to the sense of hopelessness and anger on the part of young people. I trust there will be a renewed effort to focus on recreation and summer jobs for the youth. Baltimore is not alone in these problems and maybe we can show some leadership in long-term solutions.

While sitting in the Toronto airport, Laurie Mack McBride wrote: “We came here to hear our youngest son Peter McBride give a National Geographic talk on water, and show two of his films. Very exciting. We are all fine. We send eight students to Africa every summer for three weeks to Lewa Downs in Kenya (no cell phones) to learn about wildlife and conservation. Life on the ranch is great—still have Sunday suppers. All five grandkids live on our ranch.”

A note from Jinny Tilt Sammis: “Just finished singing wonderful sacred choral music for this past month at our church, St. Barnabas in Greenwich, ending with a superb Bach choral concert accompanied by The Sebastians Baroque Orchestra. Yes, I am still singing. Love it.

Wonderful skiing this past March with husband, Sam, and family at the Yellowstone Club in Montana. Looking forward to spending most of the summer at our Green Mountain Stock Farm in Randolph, VT—good walks, golf, and music.”

1958

Barbara “Barbie” Welles Bartlett 4853 Congress Street Fairfield, CT 06824 203-259-2346 barbiebartlett@aol.com

“How to sandwhich three years into one paragraph?” writes Wendy Miller Steavenson.

“New hip (the other one before the end of this year, for sure). Daughter’s move from Egypt to Jerusalem (almost a biblical two or three years) to a Nieman Fellowship at Harvard, move again to finish her third book. Lily Finola, now three, joined Henry, now nine, and Orla, now six, for son Michael and Joanne. Indonesian-based startup biomass business for son Alexander. Family outings to Val d’Orcia in superlative villa. Chef Alessandro became such a friend he is coming to London to help us party for David’s 80th birthday. This year, we are off to Cornwall, en masse, to do what the British call a ‘bucket and spade holiday.’ But there’s sailing...
and surfing (water heart-stoppingly cold), bikes, and Rick Stein’s three-star fish place to satisfy this culinary tribe.”

**Frances Stewart Ingraham**
came to London twice, such fun, on her way to European holidays. See **Marty McLanahan Bloch** in the summer (not a wrinkle to be seen!), **Alice Albright Arlen** when she’s not out west (brain sparkling)—she gave me Elena Ferrante to read and it got me through the month of David’s open-heart surgery. When the surgeon broke off his detailed account of his great dissection, and said it had all gone routinely, he said, “As a matter of fact, I almost got bored.” “Bored”—my favorite word of the year.

**Susan Scott Rowland** has moved to Washington, D.C., by her son, Christo, so he can be within easy reach. Her dementia leaves me in tears, all that artistic talent and what a friend she has been all through the decades. Sainted **Barbara Sudler Maltby** has been to see her, and told me that Susan recognized her and that they had had a warm and happy visit.

**Lila Wilmerding Kirkland** is selling up Maine and has bought again on Long Island. Full circle accomplished! Mummy was right, old age is not for sissies! But at least the gains seem to equal the losses. And I try and keep the gains to the forebrain, or what’s left of it. And a huge hug to all.

I doubt that anyone in our class can top this letter from **Wendy Miller Steavenson**. Thank you so much, Wendy! All I can add on my own is that my husband also had the open-heart surgery nightmare and is just fine. For his 80th birthday (and he hates birthdays) he had to share with his son who turned 40, his wife who turned 75, and his sister-in-law who turned 85! We rented a cottage on Cape Cod and we all ate lots of lobster and swam in the surf for two weeks. Not so old, after all. On Sunday, Paul and I went into New York for the reception to honor Bessie Speers, which was held at Sotheby’s. I hoped to see some familiar faces, but they were either much younger or much older. Bessie has done a wonderful job for Walker’s and is moving on to Tower Hill in Wilmington, DE. The wonder is that that is where my son teaches; he was one of the faculty who interviewed her for the job! Small world department, and now she is his boss.

### 1959

Although **Lynn Sheppard Manger** is no longer the class secretary, she was kind to submit the following notes:

From warm Miami, FL, **Esperanza Pichy Alfaro** writes: “I am doing fine and still living in Miami ... I believe this is the place I have lived the longest in my life. My life is very simple, but I am very content. My daughter lives with me and my son is about 10 blocks away. For the past five years, my youngest sister (only the two of us left) has been living in my same building with her husband, who is in treatment for Hodgkin’s disease here. So, I do not have much to go back to in the Dominican Republic nowadays ... not that I miss it, either. Rest of my family and friends travel to Miami often enough, so I stay put. I attached a recent photo of me and my kids (last Thanksgiving). I also attached a photo of the new love of my life: He is 19 months old and my cousin’s youngest grandson, but she lives in the DR. His mom is a single mom and lives about 15 minutes away from me. I am the Miami grandma and he has brought a great deal of joy to my life. My best and warmest regards to you and the rest of the class of ’59.”

Also, from sunny Florida, **Wendy Willard** informs me she has been on Marco Island, FL, since December 30th, and she has yet to see a snowflake or feel ice underfoot. She is heading back to North Truro, MA on April 1st, where she is hoping spring will be underway. Wendy’s grandson turned 21 years old when she was writing the card to me. Wendy also mentioned that she had heard from **Mary “Corky” Stout Lawrence** within the last year.

**Lynn Sheppard Manger** writes “I have emphasized warm and sunny Florida, as this was certainly the winter to be south. Although spring has technically come to the Northeast, it is still cold and damp. However, I was very excited to attend the EWS groundbreaking for the Centennial Center on April 24th. With strategic plans, curriculum for the 21st century, and now this fabulous new building, The Ethel Walker School will be in the forefront in women's education.

### 1960

**Phyllis Richard Fritts**
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**Carroll Townsend Tickner**
missed Reunion as her son, Jared Miller, was visiting from Peru.

From South Carolina, **Margot Campbell Bogert** writes of a great winter at Palmetto Bluff. She would love to see anyone in the Charleston/Savannah area. She is sorry to have missed Reunion but had to be on the West Coast. She loved seeing **Gen Miller Elkus** at a St. Paul’s dinner in NYC.

In Austin, TX, **Ellen Corroon Peterson** is on the advisory council of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center ... a great organization and she loves being in Texas. She couldn’t attend Reunion because she was
attending the annual Garden Club of America meeting. That commitment ends July 1st, so she plans to come to our 60th! Her son Max, his wife Radhika, and their 9-month-old baby were at Jazz Fest in New Orleans in April. They go every year and met there about 15 years ago. It took a long time to have that baby! He is a great joy to all.

Susan Shierling Riegel Harding can’t be sure if she wrote in last year as she had lymphoma. She is in remission and expects to stay that way for many years. Only one more year of infusions every other month, but no side effects. She feels great and very blessed. Lots of traveling—San Francisco, L.A., and Virginia, where her 105-year-old ex-mother-in-law is thriving and still playing bridge. Her daughter, Tariana S. Riegel, (look her up on IMDB), is happy, healthy, successful, and married to her wife, Veronique. Life is good.

Abra Prentice Wilkin always has news. “As you know, Marcha Metzger Grant died a year ago of leukemia and I miss her so. Her daughter, my goddaughter, Jennifer Grant, and I talked on Marcha’s birthday and she posted an extraordinary photo of our classmate in her modeling ‘hay’ days. Alita Weaver Reed has had some health issues, with a broken pelvis keeping her close to home. But her spirits are positive and I saw her a bit in Hobe Sound. Merry “Nipper” Bragonier Bouscaren has pretty much retired from real estate in New Canaan, and divides her time between France and Nantucket, while loving being a grandmother. Jim and I continue to spend time between Florida, Chicago and Lake Geneva, WI, with a few side trips to interesting places where our hobbies take us. Went to New Orleans in October for a Majolica convention. I collect this Victorian pottery. Jim enjoys antique boat shows and together we keep in touch with 10 grandchildren who are conveniently scattered in lovely places to visit—San Francisco, LA, Colorado Springs, Truckee, CA, and NYC. We are finally off to Alaska, followed by a train ride through the Canadian Rockies. See America first and last! I retired from my second stint on the EWS Board, but loved working with classmates Margot Bogert and Harriet Blees Dewey, as well as Bessie and Tom Speers.”

Caryl Van Ranst Dearing wrote: “I am back from Reunion and I am sure those of us who celebrated our 55th had a wonderful time. I can also tell you we are a great-looking group of women who are in good shape along with our minds! The campus is impressive and the Centennial Center is a great addition for our young women who are attending or will be attending. With 21st Century Walker’s educational changes (for the better), I would like to go back to school … go back to class without tests and homework, just learning! When I think of our class and its members, it humbles me to realize the contributions we have made to Walker’s. You should be proud! I am hoping to see more of you at our 60th! I hope if and when you are in the Simsbury area, you will stop by Walker’s and see what is going on.

It will surprise and excite you. These are my thoughts after Reunion. It was wonderful to see Gen, Bea, Dinny, Harriett, Abra, and Cynthia. To all of you Happy 73! And a glorious and joyous summer along with good health…”

Marcha Metzger Grant ‘60

1961 REUNION

Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1962

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1963

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1964

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1965

Sarah Elting Doering
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1966 REUNION

Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1965 classmates breaking ground, L-R: Sarah Elting Doering, Helen Frederick and Louise Knapp Page.
1967
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1968
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1969
Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org

1970
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Talbot “Tally” Smith Briggs was out of town for a family event over Reunion. Tally and Peter just had their first grandson and, “like everyone, find their family transformed. At the end of the academic year, I will also cut back on work hours at Renbrook School to enter a new chapter of life—which I embrace!”

Kathy McCombe writes that while she had a previous commitment during this Reunion Weekend, she is looking forward to our 50th. “I’m enjoying retired life immensely with its opportunities to enjoy travel, a new instrument—the harp, and of course, the piano! I had the pleasure of officiating at my son’s wedding in October on South Beach in Staten Island. Cheers to all.”

Whitney de Roulet Bullock and her family have been traveling to New Zealand and Mallorca, and are planning a trip to the Adriatic in September. Daughter Alex spent two months biking across country this spring. Whitney enjoyed seeing the EWS group in Palm Beach.

Mary Morehouse Ethington and husband Steve have been spending time in Colorado, as her son and daughter-in-law in Denver recently had their second child. That and business obligations precluded her from coming to Reunion.

Bethy Kiendl de Haes is placing their home in Winchester, England, on the market this May and is looking for another house in the city center. She is hoping to come to our 50th. “I shall be thinking of you that weekend and raising a glass to the class of ’70—have a wonderful time!”

Gail Chandler Gaston is also putting a house on the market, commuting to Chicago to sift through 60 years of “stuff”! Son Jamey is in commercial real estate in Brooklyn, living there, too. Daughter Frances is a property manager in NYC.

1971
REUNION
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1972
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Cynthia Anderson Barker writes: “I am still practicing civil rights law in Los Angeles, CA, but trying to do less, as my husband retired from his law practice last year. I am running free legal clinics staffed by volunteer lawyers and law students, helping street vendors, the poorest and most vulnerable members of our community, as they try to eek out a living on Los Angeles streets. Our son is off to college in the fall and we are looking forward to this new chapter in our lives. Had a wonderful reunion at Pawleys Island, SC, with our classmates and hope more join us in years to come.”
come. We learned so much from each other—all turning 60 at about the same time!”

**1973**

*Your class needs a Correspondent! Contact alumnae@ethelwalker.org*

**1974**

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**1975**

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**1976**

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Margaret “Douglas” Wise Hytla wrote from Keeneland before heading to Florida for the Eclipse Awards, “Kids are great. My eldest, Medora, works for Twitter in NYC. John, now 25, just got off a 51’ swan, sailing around the world for two years. The youngest, Hattye, is a senior and waiting to hear from colleges. Remember those days? UK has said yes, the rest come in after 2/1. For me, new hubby of three years. Lots of travels around the world following race horses. Florida in winter. Maine in summer. Virginia and Kentucky the rest of the time.”

I had a chance to spend some time with **Wendy Chamberlain Navarro** last summer when she came to visit her family here in Atlanta. She looks as beautiful as ever! Life in Mexico is wonderful and adventurous. Wendy and her husband, Mario, live right in Mexico City in a beautiful home they restored. Ever the entrepreneur, Wendy has a great business renting her home out for productions such as film and commercials. When not at home, she and her husband love traveling to different parts of Mexico and the world. I even had a chance to meet her adorable son, Sean. We had a great time catching up and laughing about old times.

Shelley Cole writes that she and her partner of 27 years were married in January. That was followed by a trip to Santa Fe, where both spent much time enjoying the art—especially taking time to explore all things Georgia O’Keeffe. At this time, Shelley and Deb are awaiting the arrival of their new puppy, a Cardigan Welsh Corgi. They expect to have the puppy home by the first week of June.

Lisa Weber Greenberg sent a family photo from a recent ski trip to Colorado with two of her three kids. “Family trips where all five of us are available are increasingly rare. My son Zach is working at McKinsey in New York, Laura is almost done with her freshman year at Scripps College, and Alison, not pictured, is finishing her first year at Wharton Business School. I am working as a fine arts appraiser these days and loving the flexibility and challenges that come with the job. Jeff is still working hard in radiology, but we do have a nice trip planned to Greece and Turkey this coming September. Let’s hope Greece stays in the Euro zone for a few more months. I have plans to see Ligia in D.C. in May and am hoping to give Monica and Julia a call, as well.”

**Wendy Chamberlain Navarro** writes: “We just got home from a delightfully relaxing week on St. Martin and Anguilla … so relaxing in fact, it’s a miracle I can motivate to get back to my emails!

This past year has been a great one! We’ve managed to get to Austin quite a few times to see our son, Sean, who is living there … and, of course, there’s nothing
we love more than time with him. At this point, the only difficult thing about living in Mexico is the distance from family. Other than that ... it's all good.

We had a wonderful trip to the Croatian coast—Split, Hvar, Korcula, and Dubrovnik—what a gorgeous part of the world! We’re headed to Santorini and Athens in a few weeks and then to Paris and Switzerland. But we’ll be home all summer if anyone is coming this way and would like to visit!

Being two-city-dwelling, frustrated gardeners, we have just ‘adopted’ a section of our median. We are working with the Director of Parks and Green Spaces on the design right now. Mario and I will be responsible for the care and maintenance of our little plot, but once the neighbors see how beautiful it can be, I’m sure they’ll join in and eventually we’ll have the entire block landscaped. I can’t wait to get my hands in the dirt!”

Nancy Smith Klos wrote: “I am showing works from my series I call “East Meets West”—paintings in ink and oil. Sumi-E brush techniques are used in my oil paintings of botanical images such as lavender, orchids, lilies, and a copper vase of peonies. At the Agora Gallery … six of my paintings are included in this International Group Show entitled, “Contemporary Perspectives” which runs from May 19th-June 9th, 2015. Opening night was Thursday, May 21st.”

1978

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KSwibold@aol.com

Katharine Swibold writes: “I love following many of you on Facebook. I hope you will send me your stories, so I can share them with our classmates. I was so saddened to learn of Wendy West Brenninmekiej 77’s death this past week (I am writing this on May 5). Life is short and fragile, and we all share a bond from our years at Walker’s. Please let us know what you are up to—your successes and struggles, your joy and sorrow, your family and work news, and your extracurricular activities. Feel free to email me anytime at kswibold@aol.com. (Yeah, I know it is pretty lame that I still have an AOL email address, but I don’t feel like changing it!)

My daughter, Hannah, graduates from Smith College May 17. We are so lucky to be sharing the festivities with all four grandparents, our son Adam, and his wonderful girlfriend (who are living and working in Nashville, TN for the moment), and Hannah’s boyfriend is coming from Barcelona to attend! I have worked at Barnard College’s development office for the last six years, but the volunteer work I do for Smith, Walker’s, and as a member of the Board of Education in Tarrytown is what I really love to do and gives me the most satisfaction in life. We won’t be doing any major traveling this year. However, we are attending the wedding of a Smith classmate’s daughter in New Orleans and are looking forward to spending some time in a city we’ve never been to, and having a Smith class of ’82 mini reunion. I can’t wait to start gardening after this long cold winter and I plan to put together a collection of my photos for a show in Tarrytown to see if anyone comes and if they like them! I am looking forward to nurturing my creative side this year. I’d also love to find an outlet for my love of singing. All things considered, life is pretty good.”

Deborah Ellwood writes: “I have been living in the hospital, I have enjoyed pursuing my art. My son, Arthur, is doing very well. His fiancée, Paula, has a lovely 9-year-old daughter, Julia, whom Arthur loves helping raise. He has turned his life around and I am very proud of him. I cannot believe he will be 24 in June. I am so happy to hear from everyone through Facebook. I send you all Peace, Love, and Laughter.”

Lili Hoodes Bender reports that, “I am still living in Newport Beach, CA, with my husband, after I graduated from UCLA. I am very proud to report that my children both graduated from college and are pursuing their different interests. Tori is 26 and works for Chobani in NYC, and my son, Andy, 25, and is pursuing his music career with his band, Gantez. They just finished their second album and it’s up on iTunes. I have always worked in the internet security industry and have been with Trend Micro for over 14 years. We try to spend as much time as possible in Maui at our new place; it’s our favorite spot to hike, snorkel, explore, etc. It has been so fun to reconnect with all of the EWS gals. We have had so much fun at our Reunion and different get-togethers over the past three years. Looking forward to seeing everyone soon!”

1977

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A Class of 1978 mini reunion. L-R: Lily Hoodes Bender, Dolly Hall, Annabelle Reid, Alissa Miller and Ana Cutillias Walker
Heather Baker wrote: "Arabella Wattles Teal came to visit in September. Fabulous time! If you are going to be in Freeport, ME, or need to get away, let me know!"

Wendy Buck Brown writes: "I have been very involved in the nonprofit sector in Charlottesville, VA, where my husband, Jack, our two children and I have lived for 29 years! During that time I have started two local nonprofits and loved working on these, and am equally glad to have turned them over to professional staff. I am now busy on a couple of boards and loving the downtime! We are recent empty nesters, as Nina has moved to San Francisco for work and Nicholas is in his second year at Seattle University. I hope that we will be able to visit them both on the West Coast when Jack retires in May after 26 years of teaching at UVA. We are looking forward to spending time in Maine this summer (where I usually get to have lunch with Margot Ross Rose ’80 and Cynthia Reid Klein). If anyone is ever on their way to Charlottesville, give me a call!"

Heard from Kathy Ponvert Judge: "I have been living in Charlottesville, VA, for the last 20-odd years and until recently, working in the reference department at the local public library. I have a 16-year-old son, a 17-hand horse, and an eight-pound dog. I moved here to get away from the endless New York winters and, for the most part, that has worked quite well.

I recently found out that Dianne Meenan died several years ago of cancer—I had not been in touch with her for many years. I know Wendy Buck Brown lives here but we haven’t run into one another. Last year I had a fabulous adventure in Istanbul and I’m so glad I went because quite obviously I would not go this year.”

From Karen Baldwin Zimmerman: "Walker’s made a lasting impression on us all. Big or small, it made an impact for sure!

I currently live in Chelsea in Manhattan. I started a business with a friend, Jill Fairchild, three years ago called Fairchild—Baldwin. We sell handbags and necklaces, all handmade in Italy. We won an award in December for being the emerging number one accessory designer of the year! (I will give 20 percent off to any Walker’s girls!) My daughter, Olivia, is 21 and works full-time for a production company, while taking classes at The New School at night. My son, Zachary, is 24, and works for an interior design firm in Sag Harbor, NY, called Jen George. He runs their architectural department and is project manager as well! I am single, a workaholic, and missing having a life outside of work! Hoping this next year will bring more playtime in my life!"

And a quick update from yours truly, Karen Polcer Bdera: I spent an amazing long weekend at the home of Heather Baker, along with Kathy Wallace Wee and Nancy Mack Von Euler, in February (the snow was truly amazing to see). I was always surprised at how quickly the days of Walker’s so easily came back when in a room replete with Walker’s women (and two amazing dogs—Daisy and Patsy). It had been nearly 36 years since we had all been together in one place, but the conversations that went into the wee hours of the morning were amazing. Events happen to people, but the core of friendship and memories quickly bring back such positive feelings. I strongly urge all of my fellow
classmates to try and reconnect—it is good for the heart and soul! I have traveled to New Orleans and Aruba since that visit, have done a bit of race walking (two half marathons so far), I continue to volunteer at God’s Love We Deliver (where I used to work), and the Avon 39 Walk for Breast Cancer will be here (my 17th walk) before you know it. Nick and I are enjoying retirement.

Note on Dianne Meenan:
Dianne Meenan, 46, Lyndhurst, NJ, formerly of Sarasota, died June 18, 2008. Survivors include sons Ryan, Quinn, and Dylan and daughter Kyle, all of Lyndhurst; her mother, Jean of Sarasota; an aunt, Anne Wadhams of Fresno, CA; and uncles Tom and Chip Schaaff, both of Sarasota. Memorial donations may be made to Hackensack University Hospice, 30 Prospect St., Hackensack, NJ 07601; or to St. Boniface Church, 5615 Midnight Pass Road, Sarasota, FL 34242.

1980
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There seemed to be a lot of mini reunions across the country for the Class of ’81. Always good to see, and even more fun when I’m included. In the summer of 2014, Meg Filoon’s sons were in a lacrosse tournament in Vail, CO. Robin Lorton Danell drove over from Aspen and they met up with Liza Paschal Alrick, who lives in Vail. They spent the afternoon together after lacrosse and caught up. Meg said it was great seeing both of them!

In early November, Yolanda Eleta de Varela was visiting her daughter at BC and attracted a Walker’s crowd. Sue Kostick flew up from Florida, Alison Bruce Creighton-Stuart flew up from NYC, Pam Safford drove from Deerfield, MA, and Mary Beth Rettger and I met at Gizella Anne Callender Crawford’s house in Milton for dinner, dessert, and a lot of laughs.

In December, I was in New Canaan, CT, to celebrate Christmas with my sister, Marion Leger Murphy ’80, and her family, and we had a mini reunion with Laura Whiteman and Ann Marenakos. I can’t believe that we didn’t get a picture! I did get to catch up more with Ann on what she is up to. She had been in the gallery business forever in Stonington, Greenwich, and New Canaan. She went back to school at RISD in their fine art appraisal program. Now she does appraisal services for insurance, estate, collection planning, and division of property purposes in CT, NY, NJ, and RI. How cool is that? Anyone need anything appraised in their art collection?

Mary Bebel Schinke hosted a mini get-together at her house in CT in late February 2015 with Lisa Levis von Braun, Ann Marenakos, and Cynthia Dennard. Cynthia is living in Fort Greene, Brooklyn, and has had her own interior design studio, C/D Design Studio LLC, for the past 11 years.

Elizabeth England and Marian Bradley-Kohr snapped a selfie on the go in the West Village! Marian was visiting her old stomping ground from Berkeley, CA, where she now lives and looked up Elizabeth.


1981 classmates: Gizella Anne Callender Crawford, Alison Bruce Creighton-Stuart, Veronica Leger, Pam Safford, Sue Kostick, Mary Beth Rettger, and Yolanda Eleta de Varela


And the good news is that I can see multiple mini reunions coming up soon: Yolanda Eleta de Varela is coming in late May to her daughter’s graduation and Shelley Marks is coming in June to her house in Gloucester. I’ll get more pictures, I promise!

1982

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Tricia Tourville Dave writes: “Life is passing very quickly. As my two girls mature, I’m finding more time to discover things about myself again. It’s hard to let them go, but at the same time, it is liberating to think about what I want to do in the next chapter of my life. I recently accepted a job working in the Connecticut Insurance Department. The opportunity presented itself and I decided I should at least give it a try. Karen Simmons Rose and I recently got together in NYC. We try and make time for a visit every year, regardless of how busy our schedules are. It’s always great to see her and catch up on our lives since our last visit. Karen adds, “I still run a law firm that represents children and my own baby is looking at colleges.”

Emily Eckelberry Johnson sent in a few great photos. One is of Susie Jensen Rawles, Lee Gowen Marine and herself. They had a chance to grab lunch on January 23rd on the 7th floor of Bergdorf’s. The second is a mini reunion lunch at 60th and Madison when Cynthia Vega was in NYC.

Cynthia Vega writes: “Emily Eckelberry Johnson, Leila Howland Wetmore, and Tracey Reifler visited me in the Dominican Republic last March. We all went up to Samana—a province on the north coast of the island—and stayed for a few days at my dad’s house in Punta Bonita and then at my sisters’ Monica ‘83 and Paula ‘89 house in Portillo—both houses are beachfront! It was so much fun—beautiful weather, great food, and cocktails—accompanied by tons of laughter! Tracey is now addicted to Dominican coffee and Presidente beer! We named the trip, “Have another sip!” I would love to host this get-together every year and have more EWS friends come down! Maybe next year this trip can be a class trip! It was so much fun! Very low key and relaxed!”

Eve Agush Costarelli had a great reunion with Mary Stewart Gibbs in April. “It’s been over 33 years since we’ve seen each other, but it felt just like yesterday. It was so beautiful to reconnect and the corresponding Facebook post...”
had good friends Claudia Ingham, Sue Czepiel, Sarah Davies Tilt, Anne Dawson Brown, and Bettina Cherry Honeycutt ’83 all sharing in the great adventure and making plans for some of us to meet up again this summer in Rhode Island. I have recently been able to reconnect myself to the horse world! I have joined with BINA Farms to create an Equi-Yoga program! Getting a chance to get back in the saddle has been a dream of mine since high school, as riding was originally one of the reasons I chose to come to Walker’s.”

Karen Simmons Rose, executive director of the Children’s Law Center (CLCNY) in Brooklyn and an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School, is the 2015 recipient of the Kay Crawford Murray Award presented by the Committee on Women in the Law of the New York State Bar Association. The award, which Karen received on May 5 during the Association’s eleventh annual Edith I. Spivack Symposium in New York City, recognizes an attorney who enhances diversity in the profession and advances the professional development of women attorneys.

Loel Benisch Romeo ‘82 with her husband Rick, and 3 children — Stephen, Lindsey, and John in Riviera Maya, Mexico, Spring 2015

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Fernanda Gilligan Jess writes: “I still work as an art advisor with my own company, ArtSet International, and I got married in October 2014 to my wonderful husband, Adrian Jess.”

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**2017**

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**2020**

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**2021**

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**2022**

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Fernanda Gilligan Jess writes: “I still work as an art advisor with my own company, ArtSet International, and I got married in October 2014 to my wonderful husband, Adrian Jess.”
From Erin Shupenis Ellis: “I was fortunate enough to marry Jason Ellis on June 22, 2014, at Ocean Edge Resort in Brewster, MA, where Meredith Davison was my maid of honor. We had a wonderful weekend celebrating and being surrounded by friends and family. Jason and I live on Cape Cod year round, and hope that we run into other EWS alumnae this summer enjoying all the area has to offer.”

Erin Shupenis Ellis ’98, with her wedding party in Brewster, MA
Kate Seif is a Program and Policy Analyst on Veteran Homelessness with the National Alliance to End Homelessness and will be attending Carnegie Mellon University’s Heinz School of Public Policy in the fall to pursue her Master of Science in Public Policy and Management. During the second year of the program, she plans to return to life in Washington, D.C., to continue her work on federal policy.

Jessica Cirillo is now a Licensed Massage Therapist living and working in Sarasota, FL.

Charlotte Weidlein has spent the past five years in New York working for Sotheby’s and is currently managing large collections from private clients and estates through the auction process. She graduated from Bates College with a B.A. in Art History, and states that her current position “has been a wonderful opportunity to see, interact, and work with incredible works of art.” Last year, she had the exciting opportunity to work on the Bunny Mellon Estate. She spent several weeks in Virginia working with a large team of experts for the sales which were held in November 2014.

Emma Bedford-Jack is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work at the Silberman School at Hunter College. She has lived in New York City since graduation from Smith College in 2009.

From Meredythe Goethe: “DIALS! and Suns—after directing a nonprofit in Southeast Asia, I moved to New York to get my M.F.A. and lived with Emma Bedford-Jack when she met her lovely wife, Angie. I discovered cooking and worked with the Thomas Keller Restaurant Group as a sous chef before transitioning into management for VIP guest relations. I now work for Chef Daniel Boulud and manage the New York restaurants, the international gifting program, and actually use my art degrees to design our websites and produce freelance designs for our wine and beverage program @thesaltypiece.

2006 REUNION

Alle Shane 101 S. Eola Drive Unit #1204 Orlando, FL 32801 561-309-6883 alleshane@yahoo.com Marielle Vigneau-Britt 1865 North Fuller Avenue #314 Los Angeles, CA 90046 800-559-0466 mariellevigneaubritt@gmail.com

EWS 2006 is off to an extraordinary start for 2015! Emily Sappington is living in Seattle designing Windows 10.

Diane LaPosta worked on a Malcolm X documentary that’s showing at the National Civil Rights Museum.

Marilla Pender-Cudlip says, “Hi, everyone!” and shares, “I’ve had a pretty busy year so far. I’ll be graduating pharmacy school this May 2015, and plan to take my boards and get licensed in the summer. I hope to work in long-term care pharmacy, ideally in the Boston area. My other big news is that I got married in December! We had a small ceremony with a few family members, and hope to have a bigger ceremony and reception with more family and friends in a few years. Looking forward to our 10-year Reunion next year!”

Reema Dedania is elated to say, “After spending the last four years roaming both the library and the hospital, I am excited and proud to announce that I will be graduating from medical school this May. It was a whirlwind of a journey, to say the least, but I feel so fortunate to be continuing my training next year as a resident physician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville. I will be completing a four-year residency in psychiatry there with the hope to continue my research in global health, specifically global mental health, working with displaced refugee populations after trauma. I am also very much looking forward to a post-graduation trip to Greece with some very special Walker’s ladies: Emily Sappington, Andrea Coggins Toivakka, and Diane LaPosta! If anyone is interested in visiting Nashville, will be in the area, or if there are any Walker’s girls out there interested in medicine, feel free to reach out to me!”

Andrea Coggins Toivakka is excited to report, “I am currently living in Chevy Chase, MD, with my husband, Petri, getting ready to celebrate my first year since my last chemo treatment and so far my health has been great! Recently, I started a new position as an Advancement Specialist at Holton-Arms School in Bethesda, MD. The position combines marketing and communications with development and philanthropy to support and raise funds for the school. It is great to be in an all-girls environment again and it makes me nostalgic about my days at Walker’s. Looking forward to seeing everyone for our upcoming 10th Reunion!”

Marley Stone sends greetings to all and writes, “Tim and I bought a beautiful farm in Berryville, VA (about an hour outside of D.C.) over the winter and are very excited to be running Bourke Eventing out of our farm and would love to have visitors!”

Equestrians, check out their Facebook page at Bourke Eventing!
CLASSES ENDING IN 1 AND 6

Reunion Weekend!

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