

THE SUN DIAL

Summer 2018

The Magazine of The Ethel Walker School

New Opportunities for Girls,
by Design



THE SUNDIAL

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Students in Dance Workshop perform during Walker's annual Dance Concert in February 2018.



In This Issue

- 2 Message from the Head of School
- 4 Note from the Board Chair
- 5 Designing Environments for Growth
- 8 New Opportunities for Girls, by Design
- 14 Walker's Receives a Grant from Steelcase Education
- 16 Community Partnerships
- 20 Faculty and Staff News and Appointments
- 22 Visiting Writer Seminar: Anne Fadiman
- 24 On Campus & Beyond
- 29 Traditions
- 30 The Arts at Walker's
- 31 On the Stage
- 32 Alumnae on Campus & Beyond
- 34 Equestrian
- 38 Athletics
- 44 *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School*
- 46 Recognizing Our Supporters
- 48 Leaving a Legacy
- 50 Alumna Profile: Morgan Locandro '16
- 52 Alumna Profile: Margaret Holley '62
- 54 Alumna Profile: Monica Vega '83
- 55 Message from Alumnae Board Co-Chairs
- 56 Creative Ways to Give
- 57 Walker's Out and About
- 60 Walker's Women in the World: Panama 2018
- 62 Take Note
 - Updates and News from Your Walker's Classmates and Friends
- 85 Births & Adoptions
Marriages & Unions
In Memoriam & In Sympathy
- 86 In Memoriam:
Amey Amory DeFriez '45
- Inside Back Cover:
EWSPA News

ON THE COVER:

Sophia Botero '21 works with Computer Science Faculty Member Leslie Goff during Walker's Engineering class.



Dear Walker's Community,

Greetings from the dog-days of high summer in Simsbury! Here is the second installment of our *Sundial* magazine given over to Design and Engineering, celebrating our inaugural course in engineering and other ways in which the concept of design has infused our curriculum with both heart and imagination. May we always be 'designing women'!

Since Commencement for Walker's alums is the first step toward our destiny, I thought I would share my Charge to the Class of 2018 with you even as we look forward to the start of the new academic year in a few weeks, itself a continual re-design.

It is customary at graduation to utter the Latin phrase, *Ave atque vale*, "Hail and farewell." These words were originally penned by the poet Catullus in mourning his brother's death. But while Commencement Day is certainly bittersweet with both leave-takings and memories of golden hours, we are far from mourning.

In India, one never says upon leaving home, "I'm going" because it implies that there may not be a return. Instead from my childhood when I left, my mother would say "poi to va" — please go and come and I would reply "poi to varain" — I will go and come. When I started studying Japanese, I was delighted to discover the identical pattern. When one leaves the house, one says "Itte mairimasu" — I'm going and returning, with people remaining behind saying, "Itte irashai" — please go and return.

In Simsbury too, we have a tradition. Mr. Widmer or as he is better known to Walker's students, Mr. Vis, likes to sing out tenderly to me as I leave, "Vaya con dios" — Please go with God. My somewhat more clipped response drawn from Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Terminator II* movie, is "Hasta la vista, Baby!"

Graduation is a bidding of farewell to students as they go out into the world. There are two things additionally I would like our graduates to take with them as they pack up their belongings: heart and imagination.

It was the Romantic poet John Keats, who bracketed these, remarking,

"I am certain of nothing but the holiness of the Heart's affections and the truth of the Imagination."

And in our own time, the popular writer JK Rowling of Harry Potter fame has noted,

"Imagination is not only the uniquely human capacity to envision that which is not, and, therefore, the foundation of all invention and innovation. In its arguably most transformative and revelatory capacity, it is the power that enables us to empathize with humans whose experiences we have never shared."

What happens when heart and imagination intertwine is poetry itself as the poet Mary Oliver observes.

Wild Geese

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your knees
for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,
the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,
the world offers itself to your imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —
over and over announcing your place
in the family of things.

-Mary Oliver

Ethel Walker graduates of the Class of 2018, we charge you to go out boldly in the world with heart and imagination remembering the words of our school meditation, “for in love lies the key to life.”

Remember students that your bond to this School can never be severed, you will always be ours, we will always be yours. Though you will undoubtedly face many obstacles, manifest resilience, even in difficult times. Know that in the words from Virgil’s *Aeneid*,

“Forsan et haec olim meminisse juvabit.”

‘Even at this too will you one day look back and smile.’

So no ave atque vale, you graduates of 2018, just ‘Hasta la vista, baby!’

We had as our brilliant Commencement speaker the celebrated author, coach and women’s activist Tiffany Dufu who spoke movingly about the need for every woman to have a crew, “whatever you call the collection of people in your life that hold you accountable and lift you up, we all need them. I call mine my village.” Here’s to our village, our crew, our Suns and our Dials!

Coming and going yours,



Dr. Meera Viswanathan (aka Ms. Vis)
HEAD OF SCHOOL



A NOTE FROM

Kit O'Brien Rohn '82

CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In keeping with the theme of design thinking at Walker's, I am reminded of two teachers in particular who forever changed the way I learn and see the world. As a young student, traditional approaches to reading and writing were challenging for me. But with the guidance of Ms. Nancy Henderson and Mrs. Joanne Evarts, I embraced my own non-linear path toward academic success by using approaches they helped me unlock from within myself.

Ms. Henderson, a gifted reading instructor, was truly the first teacher who understood the visual capacity of how my brain worked. She knew that my path to greater understanding happened when patterns and designs were incorporated into my studying. Think lots of spider diagrams, colored pencils, underlining and notebooks with doodles. For me, the act of thinking and doing by drawing makes sense. By creating my own designs, I see and connect relationships, patterns and ideas.

During my senior year at Walker's, I took an Art History class with Mrs. Evarts. Through the examination of paintings, I learned about history, religion, science, and the everyday life of people from different cultures. In the design of each painting, we found answers to questions the artist wanted to ask — when, where, why, how and what. We studied complex designs and unveiled stories about war, politics, family, nature, religion, places, life and death.

It was in that Art History course where suddenly everything I learned before made sense. Prior, individual subjects were on linear tracks, rarely crossing over. Using my new-found skills of visualization, kinetic learning and the integration of disciplines, I designed my own path to success. It was then that I could truly organize my thinking and learn. These two teachers impacted my life in foundational and profound ways.

Today, I see the girls at Walker's forging their own paths to learning as they explore new ideas in our classrooms, in the community and across the globe. They routinely use skills acquired in one discipline to advance another. This spring, one of our Small World Initiative honors biochemistry students earned an honorable mention in a national contest to raise awareness about antibiotic resistant bacteria by using her musical talents to write and perform a song about bacteria.

Contemporary history students work in community partnerships with low income families finding empathy and compassion while acquiring a greater understanding of the economic and policy issues they analyze in class.

Alumnae often talk about the strength of their writing skills acquired under the tutelage of Walker's English faculty. Today, writing and new skills, such as coding, are at the core of how our girls explore their passions and express their observations of the world. One only need to look at the newest issue of Walker's literary magazine, *Daemon*, for evidence of the quality of our students' writing in their poetry, short stories and plays on topics across the spectrum. Every day, our girls use an arsenal of skills to tease out nuances in complex problems and integrate the experience of their own success (and failure) into solutions they design.

Many of us often marvel at how technologically complex today's world is and how effortlessly our younger sisters navigate it. New technology emerges just as we are mastering the last new thing. Being nimble and integrating new and time-tested skills into our daily lives is the way of the world in 2018. Using the tools we acquired at Walker's — no matter the year — of imagination, thinking and curiosity will continue to serve all of us well.

Come back and be inspired by our exceptional faculty and joyful learners.



Every day, our girls use an arsenal of skills to tease out nuances in complex problems and integrate the experience of their own success (and failure) into solutions they design.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kit Rohn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Kit" and "Rohn" being capitalized and prominent.

Kit O'Brien Rohn '82
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Designing Environments *for Growth*

BY DR. MEERA VISWANATHAN
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Long ago, when I read Henry David Thoreau's *Walden* for the first time in high school, I found it dishearteningly tedious, especially the interminable chapter on 'Beans' when he goes into excruciating detail about the cost of the seeds, how deeply to dig the furrows, and how widely to space the rows. I wanted inspiration and profundity, instead I got dirt-farming. It was only in college on a re-reading that I discovered that it was his version of a Transcendentalist shaggy dog joke pivoting on the punch line, "he doesn't know beans."

A decade or so after this epiphany and now determined myself 'to know beans,' I wrote an essay about the relationship between teaching and dirt-farming, presaging my future twin life passions. It was not enough, I argued, to focus on the desired outcomes of educated graduates, beautiful blooms and a bountiful harvest; instead, I spoke of reveling in the process of nurturing things to grow and develop, of enjoying the sensation of getting my hands into the loamy muck.

But it is one thing to grow a single plant successfully or inspire one student in a class, and quite another to create a full-fledged garden or thriving educational institution. The former focuses on individual growing things, which while

usually intentional, may be fortuitous — a self-sown seed may find a beneficent spot, plant itself and come up virtually of its own accord, surprising us with our seeming virtuosity. Almost unbeknownst to us, it flourishes in the existing environment.

The latter, gardens and schools, can only happen by design.

What does it mean to design something? Design — the selection and arrangement of elements into meaningful patterns — can function in a variety of ways, aesthetically, constructively, heuristically. That is to say, design can be beautiful and emotively satisfying, it can create desired outcomes, and it can function to teach us deeper truths in various ways.

In the last fifteen years of my life, I have been blessed with opportunities to help design and create both gardens and schools. In so doing, I realize looking back that understanding four

fundamental stages/aspects of design more explicitly would have helped me greatly in both realms of endeavor. These are 1) Definition and orientation, 2) Relationship between the parts and the whole, 3) The joy of serendipity, and 4) The iterative mode — realizing that becoming, not being, is the goal.

Beginnings — Orienting Boundaries

What independent boarding/day schools and gardens have in common is beds that need filling, daily nurturing and care, and the promise of blossoming and fruition. But as I learned as a neophyte gardener, one cannot easily cultivate a lush English herbaceous garden in the desert, nor in parts of Rhode Island, or easily transplant a fragrant Moorish garden resplendent with citrus, jasmine and fig to Siberia nor again in parts of Rhode Island.

Place matters.

In founding a school in Jordan, my husband Eric and I learned the hard way that many of our foundational beliefs were assumptions that did not necessarily translate to the place and culture we were in. Students from disadvantaged regions in our first summer enrichment program

What independent
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gardens have in common
is beds that need filling,
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care, and the promise of
blossoming and fruition.



Our naturalistic moss garden in Rhode Island



Meera in her garden in Matunuck, Rhode Island

assured us they could swim and then, as if to prove it, suddenly jumped into the new school pool fully clothed and shod. The result might have been mass drowning had not every stunned teacher and administrator leapt into the pool to fish them out, dazed but whole. It was only afterwards that they explained that the only place they ever had to swim was the Dead Sea where the water is so saline saturated that everyone buoyantly floats like a cork.

We need orientation, in other words, directionality. In building a Japanese tea garden in coastal Rhode Island, we learned from our irreplaceable and brilliant landscape designer Mr. Kim that the entrance to a tea garden should always face east or southeast in order to welcome the morning light. It needed to be oriented in an auspicious direction. Similarly, every school needs to be oriented in the proper direction — not every kind of school flourishes in every geo-political venue, clime or culture. There needs to be some deeper awareness of environmental constraints and boons and their relation to the endeavor at hand. We will never forget the first time Mr. Kim set foot on our old farmstead. As he emerged from the car, rather than coming to greet us for the first time, he scanned the property and ran to our pasture where a very large boulder protruded, a relic from the ice age moraine. After circling it several times excitedly, he ran up to us and declared, ‘everything must be placed according to that rock — it has the power.’

One distinctive concept in Japanese garden design is the notion of *shakkei* (借景) or ‘borrowed scenery.’ Utilizing this idea, the garden is situated so that we can borrow and frame elements existing outside the garden, e.g. distant mountains, the sound of water running, a beautiful shade tree nearby,

to enhance our own design. Analogously, schools can avail themselves of ‘*shakkei*’ by utilizing nearby resources, natural or urban, to enhance the teaching and learning, whether these be outside classrooms in the woods or at tidepools, historic ruins or museums and galleries. No thriving garden, no flourishing school can or should be hermetically sealed, Eden notwithstanding.

Relating the Whole with its Parts

Another shared aspect between the designing of gardens and schools is the underscoring of the architectonic aspect: how the parts reflect and contribute to the whole and how the whole reflects the constituent parts, imbuing them with greater significance.

It is tempting to take an enumerative approach to gardens and education in which more seems better — more plants, more kinds of plants, more garden features on the one hand and more classes, more buildings, more teachers on the other. I recall wanting every kind of clematis, every kind of iris, every kind of rose. Or yearning for phalanxes of phlox. Yet as I’ve learned sadly, the results of this additive approach rarely achieve the desired effect, often seeming more taxonomic or monodic than harmonic. One of the most stunning gardens in Japan surrounds the Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto — it is not only visually pleasing, but almost viscerally gratifying like consuming a perfectly constructed multi-course meal. Few know that in fact its construction also secretly recapitulates the landscapes that emerge through the course of the eleventh century *The Tale of Genji*, the greatest work of Japanese literature. Is it this that provides the underlying unity and complexity of a masterpiece?

Similarly, with education, the whole is much more than the sum of its parts — it entails the dynamic relation between the parts as well, which impacts the whole. Instead of catalogs and lists, we yearn for movement, for narrative, for discovery, for development. For the kinaesthetic or experiential mode rather than the cumulative and accretive. As a teacher and administrator, I relish that instant when students experience that “Aha” moment as the same ideas, themes, techniques surface in different classes from various vantage points. At Walker’s, our girls learn about a concept such as ‘confirmation bias’ in psychology and in social inequalities; they learn about the discovery of infinity and zero as they study ancient Indian society and in their math classes; they learn about different bird calls in biology and in music the impact of bird song on the composer Paganini — in both cases by going outside to listen and to record; they discover the parallels between the modernism movement in French art and in nineteenth century Russian literature. As educators, we want to insure those moments of convergence that help us develop new ways of comprehending the world around us.

Serendipity and Relaxing Control

As the Japanese tea garden was well on its way, I found myself fretting about another place on our property — a place where a mill pond stream meandered through the boundary of our

land creating a beautiful vernal pool surrounded by verdant moss. A vernal pool true to its name that became a muddy morass in summer and fall. How, I wondered, could it become year-round?

Enter in happenstance fashion, our friend Bob, an ingenious master fisherman who specialized in supplying shellfish to the best eateries on the shore. In winter as waters froze and tourists dwindled, he naturally had a good deal of free time and took it upon himself to study the land. Now there was a man who knew beans. Bob could fix anything and make anything. He cleverly through the placement of boulders diverted a small portion of the stream so that it created a U-shaped pool with a small peninsula in the middle made up of the dredged mud. The U-bend led the diverted streamlet directly back into the seaward flow, increasing the amount of wetland to the great satisfaction of not only his human clients but his avian, amphibian and mammalian ones as well. Deer, rabbits, bobcats, beaver and even an otter along with frogs, turtles, turkeys, wrens, herons, ducks and egrets frequented the moss garden daily.

From there he roamed the woods becoming expert on the kinds of native mosses and their growth patterns. We learned about the dry sun-loving mosses as well as the velvet pillow ones, the princess pine moss and club mosses. Initially we took it upon ourselves following guidebooks to pulverize moss with buttermilk, spread it on a surface, affix netting on top and rail at the birds and creatures who insisted on tearing up the carpet we had laid. Only after a year or two did we realize all our fussing was unnecessary. All we needed to do was keep the area free from leaf debris and the moss would take hold in our New England acidic environment. Birds and beasts just helped spread the moss through their periodic uprooting of it. As Bob said, sounding like a modern-day Basho or Rikyu, if you want to understand moss, you have to go to the moss, if you want to understand the flow of water, you need to go to the flow. We lost Bob last year, but somehow I feel sure of his continued presence reminding us to clear the moss and ensuring the flow. Finding Bob and letting go of the moss-growing guidebooks, our natural moss garden emerged, bearing testimony to a person who embodied serendipity of the highest order.

Serendipity is evident everywhere at Walker's as well. Take, for example, our apiary. I am hard-pressed to think of even one other school to have one and to produce its own honey from their hives. Ours began some six or seven years ago when three students in an Advanced Biology course were studying the problem of hive collapse around the world and the prospect of a world without a sufficient number of pollinators. Being enterprising Walker's students, they boldly set out to build some beehives at the school to see what they could learn. Fortuitously, the president of the Connecticut Beekeepers' Association happened to live nearby and

We try to plan each aspect of design, but sometimes design is fortuitous—there is a magical coming together of people, skills and interests and the result is piquant, exuberant and improbably wonderful.

was interested in sending his daughter to Walker's for her schooling. Presto, we now have hives! Now every student in Biology gets outfitted in a beekeeper's suit once a year at least and spends an afternoon of experiential learning, examining at close quarters hives, bee culture and the manufacturing of honey. As a sidelight, they also learn about close-knit societies in which community well-being is paramount and in which everyone has a critical role.

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The Iterative Mode — The Becoming is Forever

The best gardens and schools are those where the experience of change and growth emerges out of a design that then generates new patterns, which have the potential of redesigning the original. Once a school or garden is launched, it must function successfully amid daily incremental and occasional not so incremental changes that subtly alter the whole even while allowing the daily business to continue. Just as knowledge is always provisional, so too the designing of education and gardens is always premised on the provisional, that is to say, this is what we know at this time but we may know more tomorrow. Both are always in states of dynamic equilibrium, sensitive to pressures, constraints, and impulses internal and external. The great early nineteenth century Gallician poet, Maria Rosalia Rita de Castro noted "I see my path, but I don't know where it leads. Not knowing where I'm going is what inspires me to travel it." ■



Entry to the Zen tea garden

New Opportunities for Girls, by Design

BY JANET DAVENPORT





Walker's robotics team, the Wirecats, competes internationally in FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC), which gives our girls an international stage for exhibiting their skill in engineering. Walker's is among only a handful of all-girls robotics teams in the world.

It is said that every generation is called to respond to its times. But Head of School Dr. Meera Viswanathan has other ideas for the scholars at Walker's. "We're equipping students to not just respond to the times, but ultimately possess the skills and tools they will need to design their futures," Viswanathan said.

Toward that end, the School has embarked on an accelerated path of change in its approach to learning while staying faithful to its strong foundation of academic and intellectual rigor.

What is the Shift and What is Driving It?

Everybody — from economists and scientists to futurists, people who systematically explore predictions about the future based on current trends, especially in technology — is talking about the tsunami of change underway. Fueled by globalization and technology, change is occurring at an unprecedented pace in human history. Some experts predict that the way people work in the next 20 years will change as much as it has in the last 200 years.

Labor forecasts further indicate that today's middle and high school students will enter jobs yet to be created. Future jobs will belong to individuals who can "think and do." For employers, this means hiring employees who can apply and integrate knowledge beyond a narrowly defined field. "As a practitioner, I am living and breathing this," said Toan Huynh '93, a founder of Cloud Sherpas, a global boutique cloud firm with 1,300 employees worldwide. "Employers like Google and Apple, for example, look for people who can think outside of the box. Employees will need to have open mindsets outside of their discipline and be able to apply their knowledge across multiple disciplines."

"We're equipping our girls with the tools to flourish as joyful thinkers, hands-on doers and lifelong learners so that they can become designers of their own paths and lives."

-DR. MEERA VISWANATHAN
HEAD OF SCHOOL

Robin Huzinger Smith '73, associate director of applications at Boston University, heartily agrees. "Design and coding skills are essential in today's academic environment in this era of 'big data.' These skills will help students manage the incredible amount of information and opportunity available to them."

Smith, who considers herself "lucky" to have been introduced to computer programming as early as 1971-1972 while a student at Walker's, said she has witnessed and experienced many changes over the span of her career, including in computer technology.

"When I wanted to make a career change, my Walker's experience gave me the confidence to enter the computer field. I enrolled in a six-month programming course to expand my skills and get hands-on experience in five programming languages, systems analysis and design," she said. "Thirty-five years later, I can look back over a successful, challenging and enjoyable career."



Robin Huzinger Smith '73

Coding, Design, Collaboration and Competency

Chief among the changes is a new requirement that all students, regardless of their college interests, take coding. Coding has emerged from the shadows of the narrow purview of computer science to become as fundamental as reading, according to many experts. Moreover, coding requires a designer approach to thinking that Walker's is adopting and integrating across its educational foundation. Walker's is also broadening opportunities for students to gain hands-on, practical learning experiences that enhance the classroom instruction they receive in core subjects such as math, science and literature.

When Viswanathan, affectionately known as "Ms. Vis" to students, talks about this and other changes to ensure the next generation of students are ready, she speaks with a passion and sense of urgency that are almost palpable. She, and Walker's Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler, are ready to preempt



KC O'Connor '19 in a junior Biology class.

any stereotypical notions or limiting associations one might make about women as designers. Design at Walker's only rarely is limited to fashion, runways or accessories.

"Design is a critical and analytical way of thinking," Viswanathan. "As this skill increasingly becomes a prerequisite across fields in the world of work, it is no less than an imperative in the education process," she said. Toward that end, the School is intentionally taking steps to weave a design approach to learning throughout its classrooms and culture. Teachers and students are being encouraged to work collaboratively on teams, and to find novel approaches to solve problems and create new ideas.

Wheeler adds, "In many ways, we're simply taking what girls are good at — relationships, intellect, curiosity and humanity —and escalating the development of these skills in an educational context."

A great example of the creative learning environment the School fosters is the way science is taught at Walker's. A former Ph.D. student who held a fellowship funded by NASA now teaching at Walker's is exploring complex physics concepts with students by having them work on a project that involves studying skateboards and flight. "We're equipping our girls with the tools to flourish as joyful thinkers, hands-on doers and lifelong learners so that they can become designers of their own paths and lives," Viswanathan said.

It is worth noting here that in many ways Viswanathan and Wheeler model the co-creative and collaborative leadership style that experts say is paving the way for what has been coined "the future of work." Wheeler adds "Diversity, including of thought and ideas, is a cornerstone of innovation and creativity."

Viswanathan agrees. "Learning is an iterative process that ultimately involves empowering students with the capacity and the confidence to dream, create and achieve. Whether it is math and science or reading, swimming, or international experience, all of these are pathways to opportunities for multiple skill development," she says.

An example of the "competency-based" or the expanding "roll-up your sleeves" opportunities is a partnership the School formed last year with the Village for Families and Children and the United Way of Central and Northeastern



Toan Huynh '93

Connecticut to enable students to increase their financial literacy. Once again, this spring, juniors and seniors, along with adult volunteers, trained with the IRS and prepared taxes for individuals and families earning less than \$54,000 a year. Through the experience the students gained a fuller understanding of the U.S. tax system as well as a sense of accomplishment and confidence as they partnered with the larger community.

Building on Walker's Foundation

Wheeler said, "Our move to design and a capabilities approach to learning does not preclude our strong foundation of intellectual and academic rigor in the least." She continues, "To the contrary. It builds on the legacy, mission and pioneering vision of Ethel Walker herself.

Miss Walker founded a school for girls in 1911 during an era marked by great uncertainty for women, and limited educational, and other, opportunities for girls."

Walker, a tenacious champion of women's rights and a trailblazer, wanted to not only make sure girls were prepared to take on the intellectual rigor of top-tier colleges, but also to equip them as leaders to make a difference in the world.

Like the School's visionary leadership of today, Miss Walker recognized the iterative, or generational, nature of education and institutions. She wrote, "A school, like an individual, has its periods of childhood, youth and maturity, but fortunately, unlike an individual, increasing years do not necessarily mean extinction." Walker said, "As an institution it ages and develops but because of the continuous influx of new generations, 'its youth is renewed like the eagles.'"

...human skills regarded as feminine, such as intuition, empathy and creativity, have traditionally been used to marginalize girls. Now, these skills, combined with curiosity, design thinking, and intellect, have become essential to succeed in college and beyond.

Its mission — and seemingly endless supply of "the subtle thing" founder Ethel Walker referred to as the School's spirit — have allowed the School to keep pace with social shifts and adapt. But as students everywhere are being called upon to learn design and adaptive, or so-called "soft skills," in ways no previous generation ever before them has had to — the irony has not been lost on Walker's leadership. Similar to the "design" concept when it came to girls, human skills regarded as feminine, such as intuition, empathy and creativity, have traditionally been used to marginalize girls. Now, these

“More and more, companies of the future will be looking for young people who can come and create a groundswell of creativity with the skills to bring others along. Learning can be fun.”

TOAN HUYNH '93

skills, combined with curiosity, design thinking, and intellect, have become essential to succeed in college and beyond. In fact, the presence of women in the collective work of teams is proven to produce positive outcomes in a team's overall performance.

In their 2014 article “Great Teams Need Social Intelligence, Equal Participation and More Women” published in the *Harvard Business Review*, authors Cass R. Sunstein and Reid Hastie explore the research on teams and conclude that the presence of women in group settings raises the overall outcome of a group's performance. Sunstein and Hastie write “But one factor might be even more important than IQ and it has been identified in studies from a group at the Center for Collective Intelligence at MIT.” The findings identify three individual measures that,



Kitty Huang '19 in Engineering class

when combined in a “Collective IQ” (or Factor C), can be used to predict the performance of a team. The three factors that most influence team performance include the negative effect of one or more members who dominate the work of the team, and the positives that result from the average of members' scores on



Alexia Grech '23 and Darby Sheldon '23 work with a Dash robot during Leslie Goff's seventh grade Coding class.



Madison Parham Murray '19 is featured through the camera lens during a Lacuna class on film production.

a test of social perception and the presence of women on the team. Said in a different way, “the more women, the better the performance.”

Girls Will Rule by Design

Huynh, who has advised Fortune 1000 firms seeking to transform their business, culture, and process, says it is about the “hard” and “soft” skills. “Over the last decade, it has been all about designing around the needs of humans at companies such as Apple.” She said, “Companies are looking for creative solutions that can fix problems either through a gadget, a service or a system. More and more, companies of the future will be looking for young people who can come and create a groundswell of creativity with the skills to bring others along. Learning can be fun.” She continues, “My advice to students would be to hone their technical skills and look at what they’re passionate about — what brings them joy. If you’re good at something, you will make money and you will succeed.”

Echoing Huynh’s sentiments, Smith emphasizes the importance of curiosity, which was encouraged at Walker’s when she was a student and continues today. “As you choose classes and begin to focus on a major field of study, it is important

to explore new topics and ideas.” Both alumnae said while pursuing their academic interests, the clubs, community service and conversations with faculty and students all enhanced and enriched their educational experience.

They said the environment at Walker’s constantly and consistently provided opportunities for them to develop leadership skills and find their voices. Looking back and looking ahead, Huynh, who is now a mother, says, “This is a great time to be a woman. Our mothers, and the generations before, did the hard work. We are reaping the benefits. We need to capitalize on it, and we need to pave new ways for the next generation.”

Like other alumnae navigating, leading and reinventing themselves in the new whirlwind of school and work, Huynh said Walker’s instilled a belief in her that has given her the confidence to experiment and take risks. “I learned to believe I could succeed in a world that was not typically for women.”

Viswanathan adds, “Now is the time for girls to respond to our era and move the dream forward. Here at Walker’s, we will accomplish this by continuing to cultivate joyful and lifelong, adaptive learners who can not only ride the wave of change but also design their destinies.” ■

Walker's Receives a Grant from Steelcase Education to Furnish New Engineering Space

Walker's is partnering with Steelcase Education to implement personalized learning strategies through Steelcase's Active Learning Center Grant program. Through this grant, Walker's will create a classroom environment for its new engineering curriculum that encourages engagement, collaboration and creativity using Steelcase furniture. The grant, written under the guidance of Walker's Grants and Foundation Officer Kim Pereira with faculty members Emma Mitchell and Leslie Goff and valued at \$67,000, covers the furniture, design, installation and on-site training needed to effectively use the new space. Along with Walker's, 15 other educational institutions from across the nation, including traditional four-year colleges and universities, a technical and community college, middle and high schools were chosen from among more than 1,000 applicants to receive a 2018 Steelcase Active Learning Center Grant.

"Outfitting our classroom with Steelcase furniture that is custom-selected to our students' specific needs in engineering will

enable them to truly dive into the process of hands-on problem-solving and collaboration," says Dr. Emma Mitchell, co-teacher in Walker's engineering course and a physics faculty member.

"The flexibility this new furniture offers will allow us to quickly adapt our classroom layout to facilitate students' brainstorming sessions with their teams and allow their prototype designs to come to life."

Walker's will receive the Steelcase Active Learning Center that is designed to create a makerspace that encourages exploration and problem solving. This new classroom design has clear zones to support different activities that may happen concurrently, from collaboration, to independent reading, to more formal instructor lectures. The versatile space engages students where they are — not where traditional classroom structures force them to be.

"The furniture is different from anything else on our campus," adds Leslie Goff, co-teacher in the engineering course and a computer science faculty member. "With our ability to



Caroline Smith '19 and Teresa Jo '18 practice building trusses.



Kitty Huang '20 and Samantha Logan '18 work on creating a circuit.

Liz Helmin '19 and Trisha Saint Fort '19 share some of their programming skills with Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler.



change the setup of our classroom, the learning path is not forced into what can be done in a fixed learning space but rather the furniture will support a path we want to take. It will be empowering for our girls to change their space to meet their learning styles.”

With research pointing to the benefits of active learning pedagogies, Walker’s is poised to improve measurable outcomes for its students, including levels of attention and engagement and potentially even test scores. As part of this partnership with Steelcase Education, Walker’s will conduct research on engaged learning experiences by studying how the new furniture will impact student engagement

“
Outfitting our classroom with Steelcase furniture that is custom-selected to our students’ specific needs in engineering will enable them to truly dive into the process of hands-on problem-solving and collaboration.
”

versus a traditional classroom environment.

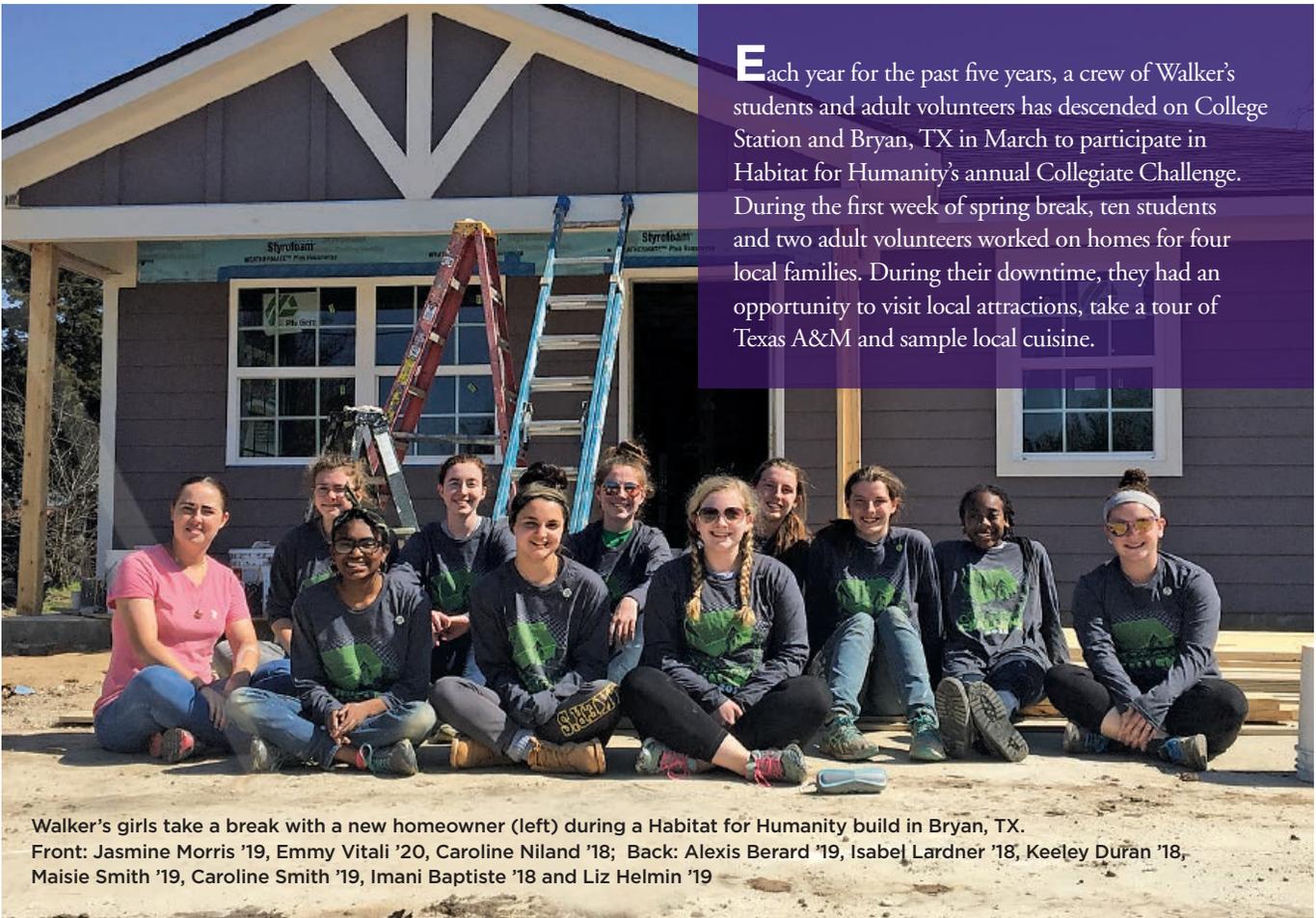
Grant recipients will have the opportunity to participate in an annual symposium with all awarded schools to share insights and best practices. Over the two-year program, Steelcase Education and the schools will partner together to conduct assessments and research on the impact of the newly designed space. The Steelcase Active Learning

Center will be installed at Walker’s in the lower level of Galbraith in summer 2018 by Red Thread, a local Steelcase dealer, and will be utilized by other disciplines which will also participate in the research. ■

Community Partnerships — Making a real difference in our world.

Community service allows our students to understand the critical role that service organizations play in making a positive impact on our community — and ourselves. Walker's girls partner with local, national and international nonprofits on special projects that allow our students to provide service to the community while also gaining valuable skills.

This spring, two groups of students participated in community partnership programs — one in College Station/Bryan, TX and the other in the Dominican Republic. We asked some of the girls to tell us more about the organizations they served, the people they met and the skills they acquired during their service experience.



Each year for the past five years, a crew of Walker's students and adult volunteers has descended on College Station and Bryan, TX in March to participate in Habitat for Humanity's annual Collegiate Challenge. During the first week of spring break, ten students and two adult volunteers worked on homes for four local families. During their downtime, they had an opportunity to visit local attractions, take a tour of Texas A&M and sample local cuisine.

Walker's girls take a break with a new homeowner (left) during a Habitat for Humanity build in Bryan, TX.
Front: Jasmine Morris '19, Emmy Vitali '20, Caroline Niland '18; Back: Alexis Berard '19, Isabel Lardner '18, Keeley Duran '18, Maisie Smith '19, Caroline Smith '19, Imani Baptiste '18 and Liz Helmin '19

KEELEY DURAN '18

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATION
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY,
COLLEGE STATION/BRYAN, TX

“I’ve been going to Texas for the annual Habitat trip since I was a sophomore and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I’ve had here at Walker’s. The School’s relationship with the Habitat branch in College Station/ Bryan, Texas has allowed us to have very personalized and comprehensive trips. Because the volunteers build Habitat communities instead of single homes, each year we’re able to meet multiple future and current homeowners. It is amazing to go there year after year and drive through neighborhoods and past houses that our girls have helped to create.”

ELISABETH “LIZ” HELMIN '19

THE PEOPLE WE MET

“Our goal for the week in Bryan, TX was a lot more than painting walls and scraping floors. It was about changing the lives of people who are not as fortunate as we are. When speaking to one of the homeowners, she told me that she was living in a trailer with her four children. The ability to be so vulnerable in telling a stranger her story was something so powerful it’s hard to describe. ‘At the end of the day,’ she said, ‘I just remember to be humble, patient and thankful.’ For me, at the end of the day it’s no longer a service trip or a typical spring break trip. It’s a time to be reminded that small acts, when done with others, not only make change in the life of one person, but may one day, change the world.”

ALEXIS BERARD '19

WHAT I LEARNED

“There were countless lessons about life and relationships we learned in Texas. One was dependability. In Byan, Habitat for Humanity receives few donations. With heavy reliance on the community around them for donations and support, we learned that it is a co-dependent community fueled by a desire to help those in need. Coming back from this trip, I now realize the deep, true need for donations of time and heart. We also learned many hands-on-skills, like how to seal windows with caulk and cut edges when painting. With our new knowledge of construction skills, and a deeper appreciation and desire to serve, we all left with our hearts filled.”



Keeley Duran '18 painting trim on a Habitat for Humanity home in Bryan, TX.



Liz Helmin '19 caulking windows during the 2018 Habitat for Humanity Collegiate Challenge in Bryan, TX.



Alexis Berard '19, Liz Helmin '19 and Isabel Lardner '18 laying sod at a Habitat for Humanity house in Bryan, TX.



Bre Bogle '18 (black t-shirt) dances with Walker's faculty and students — plus lots of new friends.

This year, 10 girls and four Walker's chaperones visited the Mariposa Center for Girls in Cabarete, Dominican Republic for a culture and service trip. This is the fourth year that a Walker's group has visited the Mariposa Center for the opportunity to become immersed in the local culture and also to provide service to the organization. While on the trip, our girls spent time in the classroom with students at the Center and they also helped with other projects including building chicken coops and upgrading facilities. When not working or mentoring, our girls took in the local beaches, visited a cacao farm and shared meals with local families.

BRE BOGLE '18

OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATION

“The Mariposa Foundation is a supplemental education program for Dominican and Haitian girls living in Cabarete, Dominican Republic. Much like our own school, the program offers a holistic approach to learning that both empowers and prepares young women for higher education and the workplace. Along with academic classes, the students participate in watersports, swimming, music and art.

Mariposa was founded by a group of dedicated volunteers and continues to thrive based on a commitment from the community and volunteers from around the world. Mariposa continues to build a rich and lasting legacy in Cabarete. It is impossible to leave the Center without experiencing the love that surrounds Mariposa and be inspired by the amazing work being done there.”

English faculty member Lindsay Hodgman and Bre Bogle '18 work together on a project at the Mariposa Foundation.



MARIELA D'ALESSANDRO '19

WHAT I LEARNED

“During this experience, I had the chance to help others around me by using my ability to speak Spanish fluently. At times, I had to use other words to describe something if I didn't actually know the word but it worked out fine and I was able to work cooperatively with so many people.

I also was able to fully immerse myself in the Dominican culture and I found a whole new level of appreciation for it, as it is so different from my own. We went to a colorful parade where there were costumes that were very different from my culture. There were some that were mocking of other cultures but I soon realized that this was part of the Dominican culture and that we had to respect their beliefs and values (instead of trying to look at it through the eyes of an ‘American Social Justice Warrior’!).

I noticed when working with the young girls that they tended to cling to the lighter skinned people because of their perspective of beauty. We worked with the program staff to teach these young girls

Mariela D'Alessandro '19 (front row, right), Walker's faculty and students take in a beautiful Dominican Republic sunset during their time visiting the Mariposa Foundation.



Mariela D'Alessandro '19 and a new friend from the Mariposa Foundation work on a problem together during some classroom time.

Sara Fallon '19 and Esi Obeng '18 enjoy a meal of local favorites.



Sara Fallon '19 and the Walker's group tour the neighborhood with a local guide.

to love themselves and to know that they — as well as us — are beautiful in every single way. Working with the girls also taught me to be more patient. It can be hard to keep your cool when someone is not understanding something you are trying to teach. Working with the girls who were struggling to understand the concepts taught me to be patient.

I also learned to enjoy my surroundings and to not take them for granted. We stayed in such a nice place, and the landscape and weather were absolutely beautiful. I took every chance I could to take pictures or to wake up early to watch the sunrise and take in the view.”

SARA FALLON '19
THE PEOPLE WE MET

“On the first day of our trip, we got a small taste of the community while driving on narrow roads with racing motorcycles carrying three or four people and everyone staring

at our large red tourist van. Our second day was when we dove into learning about the community. The Mariposa Foundation gives working groups a walking tour so volunteers can see how the families live in the community. They all had small houses lined up in a row on the street. One house was no more than two inches away from the next. Every door on the street was wide open and most people were sitting outside watching us. It was a small barrio and every neighbor knew each other and at first we felt like outsiders. When I peered into their homes, I noticed here wasn't much furniture and there weren't many rooms in these houses. In fact, our tour guide, Louisa, said most girls only had a mattress and the pink Mariposa shirt that they are given when they start with the foundation. But this lack of possessions and small houses does not stop any of the people in this community. Everywhere we went, people stopped, smiled, waved and even blew us a kiss or two. Like Walker's, everyone we met was so welcoming, kind and cheerful. After a few days in the community, I truly felt like I was home.” ■

Faculty and Staff News and Appointments

Director of Social Justice and Inclusion **Elisa Cardona** joined the board of The Discovery Center in Hartford. She recently presented at the UConn Dental School on “The Difference Between Sex and Gender” and she has conducted several workshops on cultural competency for teachers and administrators of middle schools in West Hartford. She also conducted a nationwide webinar for Horizons on “Culturally Responsive Teaching.”

Spanish Faculty Member and executive director of *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* **Isabel Ceballos** was a presenter for “Hartford Educates” at the Leadership Greater Hartford’s Quest Program graduation event in the fall. Later last fall, she was a facilitator for the Latinx Affinity Group at the National Association of Independent School’s “People of Color Conference.” In March, Isabel was a panelist at the Horizons National New Executive Director Onboarding Institute and in April she was a guest speaker at the Connecticut District Court’s Biennial Multi-Cultural Day Celebration.

Spanish Faculty Member **Todd D’Alessandro P’19** graduated with honors this spring from The Mount Holyoke College with a Master of Arts in Teaching Leadership.

Michelle Helmin P’19, director of external affairs, presented on Walker’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance community partnership program at the National Coalition of Girls’ School (NCGS) annual meeting in Washington, DC in June. Dean of Academic Technology and Innovation **Sarah Edson** is a member of the NCGS board of trustees.

Princess Hyatt, a gift processor in our Advancement Department, was awarded a scholarship from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) to attend the 2018 Case District I Conference in Boston where she attended workshops and networked with professionals in the Advancement field from throughout New England area and Canada — including an EWS parent! Princess writes, “I enjoyed learning about fostering diversity and inclusion practices into the organization and hope to build and implement strategies around engaging underrepresented populations in our alumnae base, parents, student body and prospective/current staff and faculty at Walker’s.”

Jenny Reynolds P’13, ’15, director of admission, and **Tyler Varsell**, web presence manager, attended the spring Connecticut Association of Independent School admissions and marketing conference which focused on current trends in admissions and marketing approaches for independent schools.

Director of Enrollment Management **Aline Rossiter** attended the Small Boarding School Association’s annual meeting where she presented on demographic and psychographic research conducted by Walker’s in the fall which will inform a recruitment marketing strategy. In the early spring, she presented on “The Art and Necessity of Designing an Integrated Recruitment Marketing Plan” at the Brand Together Conference in Providence, RI. For the past five years, she has been a faculty member and cohort leader at the Summer Institute of the Association of Independent School Admissions Professionals.

It is with great pleasure that we announce that **Kathleen McNary Pillsbury** joined Walker’s as our School’s new dean of students and director of residential life, effective July 1, 2018.

Kathleen is a career educator who comes to Walker’s from the Hotchkiss School where she served as director of student activities, human development instructor, dorm head and as a member of the school’s senior leadership team. Prior to this, Kathleen was at the Dalton School where she was the assistant high school director for student activities,



Kathleen McNary Pillsbury

serving as dean of students, senior class academic dean and classroom teacher. Kathleen holds a Master’s in Education in School Leadership with a concentration in Independent School Administration from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor’s in Biological Sciences from the University of Connecticut.

Throughout her career, Kathleen has organized and supervised co-curricular activities, overseen orientation, coordinated student diversity conferences, and managed day-to-day student life. In addition to her administrative and classroom duties, Kathleen has been a softball and lacrosse coach.

FACULTY AND STAFF SERVICE AWARDS:

In spring 2018, the following faculty and staff marked milestone anniversaries as members of the Walker’s Community:

35 years

Bryan Rathbun P’23

20 years

Tom Deeds
Jill Harrington
Laurie MacAlpine P’08
Julia Sheldon P’20, ’23

15 years

LeeAnn Harris P’13

10 years

Laurie Hine P’16
Helen Malave
Qi Yang

5 years

Je Banach
Isabel Ceballos
Shauna Corley
Todd D’Alessandro P’19
Julie Infurna P’16
Sophia Martin

New Faculty and Staff

Kathy Bacon RECEPTIONIST



Kathy joined Walker's in October 2017 after retiring from the University of Connecticut Medical and Dental School in Farmington where she worked as an executive legal assistant for 25 years in the chancellor's office and the office of the attorney general. Throughout her career at UConn, Kathy participated in many facets of healthcare law from joint ventures to cases heard before the CT Supreme Court. She was a cuddler in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at UConn, a member of the Art Committee and an avid follower of UConn women's basketball.

In her spare time, Kathy enjoys cooking, hiking, reading and is an avid knitter. She absolutely loves working at Walker's and has found the students, faculty and staff very warm and welcoming.

Jane Berling ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATE



Jane holds a B.S. in Computer Science from Southern Connecticut State University. She worked for the IBM Corporation for five years where she was an IT specialist, and then a project manager in the internal financial systems division, developing software for both mainframe and personal computers.

After the birth of her first child in 2005, Jane decided to step away from the workforce to be a full-time parent. During that time, she created a small business out of her hobby of making hot glass jewelry. That experience led to the creation of a second small business in graphic design, where Jane provided design services to other solo entrepreneurs.

Jane is an active volunteer and has held various positions, including secretary of the Parent Teacher Organization, fifth grade committee chair, and many years of room parenting at Tootin' Hills Elementary School in Simsbury. She is also treasurer of her oldest daughter's soccer team through the Simsbury Soccer Club. Jane joined The Ethel Walker School in February 2018.



Bryan Rathbun P'23 accepts his 35 year service award from Associate Head of School Amy Wheeler.

Linda Langmeier DIRECTOR OF RIDING/ HEAD TRAINER



Linda Langmeier is an accomplished horsewoman who has been riding since she was five years old. As a Junior rider, she won the ASPCA Maclay Equitation Finals in 1983 and was the winner of the 1988 Sugarbush Grand Prix and the 2013 Fidelity Grand Prix. She has earned numerous championships in the Hunter and Jumper divisions at such shows as the Winter Equestrian Festival, Devon, Lake Placid, Vermont Summer Festival, The American Gold Cup, PA National Horse Show, Washington International Horse Show and The National Horse Show. Linda is a member of the New England Equitation Committee and the Hampton Classic Advisory Committee.

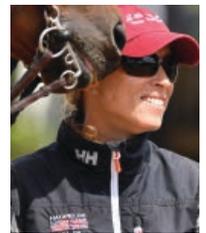
At Kelianda Farm, she has assisted with coaching students through to the national level, including the ASPCA Maclay Finals, Dover Saddlery/USEF Medal Finals, WIHS Equitation Finals and the USET Talent Search Finals, where many placed with division ribbons. Linda began working at Walker's on April 1.

Judy O'Brien-Jones ASSISTANT TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF HORIZONS AT THE ETHEL WALKER SCHOOL



Judy joined Walker's in February 2018. Prior to Walker's, Judy worked at Avon Old Farms School as the executive assistant to the associate headmaster for nine years. Born and raised in Hartford, Judy is extremely excited to be a part of the Horizons family.

Joanna "Jo" Seaver '99 SENIOR TRAINER



Jo is a 1999 graduate of Walker's. She worked for several years at Kelianda Farm for Linda and Kenny Langmeier as an assistant trainer. In this role, she assisted with coaching students including McKayla Langmeier and Jordyn Rose Freedman through to the national level including the ASPCA Maclay Finals, Dover Saddlery/USEF Medal Finals, WIHS Equitation Finals and the USET Talent Search Finals. Jo began working at Walker's on April 1.



Visiting Writer SEMINAR



In the fall, Walker's kicked off its new Visiting Writer Seminar, a semester-long course in which students have the rare and special opportunity to immerse themselves in a study of one writer's works. Throughout the semester, students read a critical mass of texts by that writer before the course culminates with a visit by that person to the school. During this visit, the writer teaches master classes, conducts writing workshops, and participates in class discussion. The writer also delivers a school-wide assembly and a public reading to the community.

In mid December, the Visiting Writer Seminar welcomed acclaimed essayist, memoirist, non-fiction writer and Francis Writer in Residence at Yale University, Anne Fadiman. Fadiman visited campus as the inaugural author of The Ethel Walker School Visiting Writer Seminar, a unique course that focuses on living writers who are making an impact on the world with their words.

Fadiman conducted writing workshops, participated in class discussions, and inspired the community with a presentation and book talk. During a school-wide assembly, Fadiman shared moving stories of two women who greatly impacted her life, both of whom she lost in 2012:



Bri Goolsby '18, a student in The Visiting Writer Seminar, listens as Anne Fadiman responds to questions that Bri asked during a Q&A session after the reading.

Lia Lee, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy who was the inspiration behind Fadiman's 1997 book, *The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down*, and Marina Keegan, a fiery, outspoken, "literary decathlete" who was Fadiman's creative writing student at Yale University and whose posthumous collection of stories and essays quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller.

Fadiman shared the lessons she learned from both women, telling students, "Do not confine yourself to the fair weather races in your life, the easy races, the races you know you can win... the most magnificent triumphs are the hardest ones, the ones that include failure, the ones you get through not because you are smart or because you are skilled, but because you didn't give up."

Walker's and local community members enjoyed a reception, dinner and book talk with Fadiman, who shared passages from *The Spirit Catches You And You Fall Down* as well as her latest memoir, *The Wine Lover's Daughter*. She also answered questions, which were moderated by Visiting Writer Seminar students. ■

Spring 2018

Aimee Nezhukumatathil, acclaimed poetry editor of *Orion* magazine and Professor of English at the University of Mississippi, was the Spring 2018 Visiting Writer.



Leslie Morales '18, a student in the Visiting Writer Seminar, shares comments with Anne Fadiman about how Anne's book, *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*, was inspiration for Leslie's original work of art.



Students in the first Visiting Writer Seminar are joined by Anne Fadiman at a book reading for Walker's inaugural event. Front row: Katharine Tian '18, Holly Paul '18, Tina Chatman '18, Indie Riggles '18 and Maggie Ashley '18. Second row: Hope Cushman '18, English faculty member Lindsay Hodgman, Author Anne Fadiman, Zakiya Evans '18, Leslie Morales '18, Bri Goolsby '18 and Laurel Gaddis '18



Walker's Students Take a Seat at the Table

Students met up with Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin and Adrienne W. Cochrane, CEO of the Hartford YWCA and former president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Hartford, at the state capitol during the Aurora Foundation's Women's Leadership Forum: Taking a Seat at the Table.

Above: Walker's seniors with Adrienne W. Cochrane, CEO of the Hartford YWCA

At left: Front, Caroline Strapp '18 and Leslie Morales '18; Back, Garett Wierdsma '18, Esi Obeng '18, Marie Ettien '18, Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin, Eliza Wetmore '18 and Bre Bogle '18



Walker's Celebrates "Unlikelies Challenge" Winners

Esi Obeng '18 and Lillian Gruber '19 were recognized as winners in the Unlikelies Challenge, a nationwide contest organized by author Carrie Firestone, author of *The Unlikelies*, where she challenged young adults to "make a mark on the world." Entrants were asked to write about doing something noble to solve a problem, help the environment, advocate for social justice or on other topics that inspire a person to action. Esi wrote on "Educating Young Women in Ghana" and Lillian on "Incubators for Infants in Nepal." Each of the girls was awarded \$1,000. Hooray Sunray!



Esi Obeng '18



Lillian Gruber '19

Flutist Receives Award in Young Musicians Contest

Walker's flutist **Hazel Wang '19** received an honorable mention in her age category at the 2018 Young Musicians Contest held by the New York Flute Club. Hazel performed *Fantaisie* by French composer Phillippe Gaubert. She competed among other talented young flutists in the United States, including pre-college students from Juilliard School of Music and Manhattan School of Music. In her native China, she won the CCTV National Talent Competition twice, second prize in the China Flute Association Competitions twice, and first prize in the International Orchestra Competition in Singapore. She also participated in master classes with the principal flutists of the Singapore Symphony, as well as the China National Symphony. In Connecticut, Hazel has been accepted by audition into the Northern Region Orchestra for the past three years, as well as being principal flute in the CT All State Band last year. In 2017, she was the first prize winner in the Musical Club of Hartford High School Winds Competition.



Hazel Wang '19

Junior Selected to Attend Competitive Young Writers' Conference

Walker's junior **Ruoyi Jin '19** attended the elite New England Young Writers' Conference (NEYWC) at Middlebury College's Bread Loaf campus held in May 2018. A talented creative writer, Ruoyi had the opportunity to write and share her work, learn to edit and revise and be coached by professional writers. The NEYWC at Bread Loaf is a four-day, writing-focused workshop for high school students in New England and from around the country. The long weekend is packed with writing seminars, workshops, readings, and opportunities to meet fellow young writers (sites.middlebury.edu/neywc).



Ruoyi Jin '19

Walker's is First American School Invited for Harvard-Run Global Writing Contest

Walker's juniors and seniors joined participants from Turkey, Pakistan and Germany in the Harvard Alumni Association's GlobalWE annual essay writing contest. The contest's mission is to empower women and girls through education, dialogue and connection. Members of the junior and senior classes wrote 500-750 word essays responding to the question: "What is the biggest challenge facing women and girls in your country today?"

Catherine Reed, Chair of Walker's English Department, is excited about the contest and emphasizes the importance of Walker's girls finding platforms to articulate their ideas and have those ideas listened to. "Here at Walker's, we are committed to helping students to develop their own voices — and to be able to use them powerfully," says Reed. "Having something to say is one thing; actually saying it to the world is something else entirely. Each of our writers surely has her own, vital response. All of the English teachers hoped that participating in this contest would encourage our girls to continue to seek to be heard well beyond our own community."

Four seniors were honored in May including winners **Isabel Lardner '18** and **Marion Carr '18**, with **Teresa Jo '18** and **Kate Zhang '18** earning honorable mentions. Students were awarded the Harvard GlobalWE Book Award and their works become part of an international network of award recipients.



Kate Zhang '18, Teresa Jo '18, English faculty member Scott Frey, English faculty member Lindsay Hodgman, English Department Chair Catherine Reed, Isabel Lardner '18 and Marion Carr '18

Students Awarded First Place in STEAM Competition

Middle School students **Chloe Fares '24**, **Lilia Gooch '24**, and **Grace Sappington '24** earned First Prize for their project, “Coral Reef Then and Now,” in the Group Category for the i2i: STE(A)M Challenge, a project of the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA) in collaboration with the Talcott Mountain Science Center and Academy. The challenge was developed to give students the opportunity to further their understanding of how STEM subjects and art relate and the importance of symbiosis.

The girls’ project is the result of a joint collaboration between Walker’s Art and Science Departments under the guidance of visual arts faculty member Corina Alvarezdelugo and science faculty member Julie Greshin. All of our sixth grade students’ work for this challenge was displayed in the NBMAA at their student art show, i2i: “Under the Sea.”



Lilia Gooch '24, Chloe Fares '24 and Grace Sappington '24

Senior Named 2018 Redden Award Recipient by the Yale Club

Keeley Duran '18 received The Redden Award for 2018 from the Yale Club which honors the most outstanding senior girl in the combined fields of scholarship, athletics, and leadership. Keeley was selected from among nominees throughout the Hartford and Eastern Connecticut region. The Yale Club established this award to memorialize Thomas “Tuck” Redden as an inspiration to young men and women and it has presented the Thomas Redden Award annually since 1968. Mr. Redden was a star athlete and scholar from Kingswood-Oxford School who attended Yale, where he played basketball and baseball on championship teams and captained both. His distinguished career carried on after college, when he was an active and valued member of his church and the Hartford community until his untimely death in 1967.



Keeley Duran '18

Honors Biochemistry Students Recognized in Small World Initiative Contest

Late last fall, students in Walker’s Honors Biochemistry class participated in a challenge from the Small World Initiative in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Students were asked to “Do Something” to raise awareness about antibiotic usage and the worldwide antibiotic resistance crisis. Two of the entries from Walker’s really stood out to the judges and they received honorable mentions from The Small World Initiative.

Hannah Schweitzer '19 received an honorable mention for “Best Original Song” for her piece, “Antibiotic Resistance Song.” She also was a close contender for the NIH Award. The judges were impressed by her original music and lyrics and the fact that she both performed the song in front of her peers and posted it on YouTube for the world to see.

The team, comprised of **Calista Duggan '18**, **Laurel Gaddis '18**, and **Eliza Wetmore '18**, received an honorable mention for “Most Interactive Presentation” for their work teaching our Middle School students about antibiotic usage and resistance.

To view the girls’ entries, please visit <http://www.smallworldinitiative.org/do-something-challenge/>.

Middle School Debate Team Excels in State Tournament

Walker's Middle School Debate Team once again went undefeated earlier this school year in a highly competitive Connecticut Middle School Debate League (CMSDL) tournament at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. This is the second time the team has emerged undefeated from a tournament. **Mae Johnson '22**, **Bejay Mugo '22** and **Hailey Suller '22** have become a force on the debate scene, placing 9th out of nearly 60 teams. Bejay placed 10th of 177 competitors in Speaker Points. Mae placed 15th out of a field of 245 speakers.

This spring, Bejay Mugo and Mae Johnson again went undefeated in the

first three rounds of the latest CMSDL meet at the Eastern Middle School in Greenwich and they earned enough points to compete in the final round. They spoke on "This House believes that artificial intelligence will do more harm than good." The team earned the second place spot and Bejay came in first in speaker points. This being the final tournament of the season, the debating torch was passed to **Kayce Campurciani '24** and **Lexi Donshik '24** who competed in their first debate tournament. The Middle School Debate Team began in 2014.



Bejay Mugo '22 and Mae Johnson '22



Nya Hudson '24 and Grace Sappington '24 work with Liz Helmin '19 during one of her "My Words, My Choice" activities.

Junior Earns Girl Scout Gold Award

Elisabeth "Liz" Helmin '19 worked with our sixth grade students for nine weeks in Liz's "My Words, My Choice" program to earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. Liz, who has been a Scout since she was five years old, developed her curriculum with the support of several Walker's faculty members. The curriculum includes activities on choosing your words carefully, how your words impact others and accepting differences. The Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting and only 3% of Girl Scouts achieve the distinction. She received the award in June 2018.

The Wirecats, Walker's robotics team, won the Team Spirit Award for extraordinary enthusiasm and spirit through exceptional partnerships and teamwork at the New England FIRST Robotics Hartford District event in April. Special thanks to our mentors!

Walker's 2018 Robotics Team with robotics coach, Akash Rastogi (left), and adult mentors



Walker's Hosts Basketball Tournament Fundraiser for Art From the Heart

In mid December, Walker's hosted its second annual holiday basketball tournament that served as a fundraising opportunity to support Art From the Heart, a community service project let by Dr. Suzanne Piela, a member of Walker's science faculty. In the Art From the Heart program, students are introduced to a young girl from the Hartford area who is battling cancer. Our students collaborate with the young girl to renovate her bedroom so it becomes a comfortable oasis during her time in treatment and recovery. Funds are used to buy paint and supplies as well as decorations, bedding and, at times, furniture. The varsity basketball team competed with several other teams from around New England including Kimball Union, Hotchkiss, Canterbury, Cheshire Academy, St. Luke's, Westminster and Hamden Hall. Juniors and seniors from Walker's also sold concessions to raise money for this year's makeover project.



Valentina Pirro '18 works with faculty organizer Dr. Suzanne Piela during an Art From the Heart project.



Grapes Student Directors Keeley Duran '18, Sofia Lomba '18 and Adela Yan '18

Students Named Best Directors in Regional a Cappella Festival

Walker's a cappella group, the Grapes, participated in the largest scholastic a cappella competition in New England, the 10th Annual Wyvery Invitational a Cappella Festival, at Kingswood Oxford School in January. Hooray Sunray to **Keeley Duran '18**, **Sofia Lomba '18** and **Adela Yan '18** who were named Best Student Directors!

Freshwoman Stuns at State Poetry Competition

Kristen St. Louis '21 gave a stunning performance of three poems at the Connecticut State Competition for Poetry Out Loud in March. She was the only ninth grade student to make the finals, and she received many accolades from the judges and audience members alike. Lindsay Hodgman, Kristen's English teacher, says, "Kristen brought the house down with 'Bleeding Heart' by Carmen Giménez Smith." Her recitation of the same poem earned her the top prize here at Walker's where one student from each of the Upper School classes recited a poem during morning meeting.

Kristen says, "Overall, [it was] such a surreal experience." One of the judges shook her hand and told her he was a "fan." Kristen received several prizes for her fine performance, including a collection of poetry and two tickets to the Hill-Stead Museum's 2018 Sunken Garden Poetry Festival. Bravo to Kristen for representing Walker's so well!



Kristen St. Louis '21

2018 New Girl Show

Who can forget the New Girl Show — a Walker's tradition! Enjoy some scenes from this year's new girls!

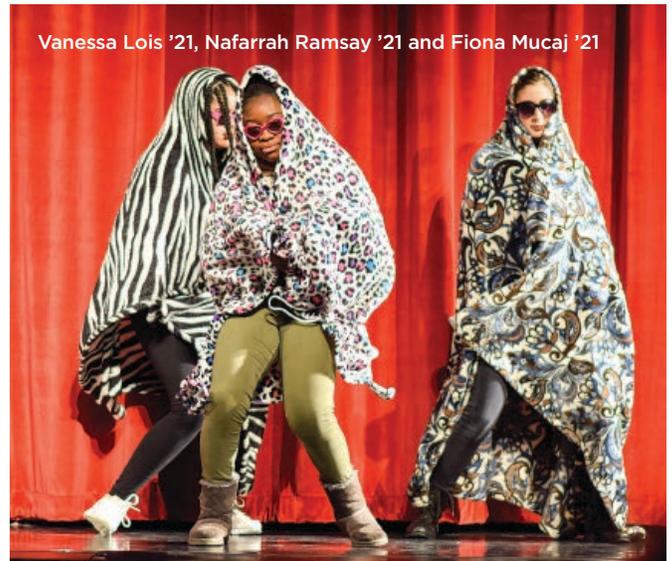
Kate Weiss '21, Ally Nastri '21, Margaret Szczygiel '21, Grace Mugo '21, Nora Griffiths '21, Niya Grizzle '21, Amelia Holl '21 and Anastasia Reid '21



Sophia Botero '21



Erin Corbett '21, Lizzie Strapp '21 and Ally Nastri '21



Vanessa Lois '21, Nafarrah Ramsay '21 and Fiona Mucaj '21



Kate Weiss '21



Nafarrah Ramsay '21 and Sophia Zarmsky '19



Cara Cui '21



Teresa Jo '18 works on a portrait in Walker's art studio.

Students Participate in Memory Project for Children from Afghanistan

Under the leadership of Walker's head of community service **Garet Wierdsma '18**, 12 Walker's students have volunteered to draw portraits for children from Afghanistan through a partnership with the Memory Project, a nonprofit organization that invites art teachers and their students to create and donate portraits to youth around the world who have faced substantial challenges. (memoryproject.org) Students have been visiting the art room during their free blocks to work on the 12 portraits under the guidance of visual arts faculty member **Corina Alvarezdelugo**.

Artwork by **Samantha Logan '18**, **Jasmine Morris '19** and **Lucy Yang '18** was featured during a special show for emerging talent at the Farmington Valley Arts Center's Drezner Gallery.



VANS

Under the guidance of visual arts faculty member **Corina Alvarezdelugo**, a group of talented students put their creative energy together to come up with two designs under the theme of "Local Flavor and Off the Wall" as part of a nationwide contest by VANS shoes. Walker's was selected from 500 schools to take part in the challenge. While Walker's team didn't advance to the second round of the competition, the work of lead painter **Emily Ross '19**, along with the support of many other students who contributed to the design process, put forth two designs that were creative, inspirational and evocative.



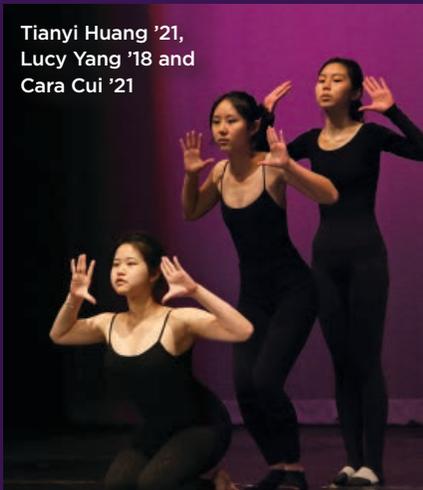
Emily Ross '19



Dance Assembly 2018

In early May, the Walker's community gathered in Ferguson Theater for the annual spring dance assembly and were treated to a number of performances by Dance Workshop (varsity) and Dance Ensemble (intermediate level) along with special performances by middle school students, seniors and faculty. Several of the dances were choreographed entirely by students, including a memorable tribute to Parkland School shooting victim Jaime Guttenberg.

Tianyi Huang '21,
Lucy Yang '18 and
Cara Cui '21



Emily Franzi '23, Etta Rathbun '23, Eleanor Lardner '23,
Lilia Gooch '24 and Quinn Van Cara '23

Faculty members Carol Clark-Flanagan P'93, '97,
Laurie MacAlpine P'08, and Shannen Hofheimer perform
an interpretive number during dance assembly.



Students perform a tribute to Jaime Guttenberg, a victim in
the Parkland School (Florida) shooting. Clockwise from top:
Caroline Strapp '18, Leslie Morales '18, Garet Wierdsma '18,
Ellie Alfeld '18 and Bri Goolsby '18



Seniors Ellery Finn, Leslie Morales, Esi Obeng, Zakiya Evans,
Garet Wierdsma, Caroline Strapp and Veronica Garcia



YWCA 23rd Annual In the Company of Women Lunch

A group of students, staff and alumnae shared an inspirational afternoon in the company of Gloria Steinem at the YWCA Hartford Region 23rd Annual In the Company of Women Lunch. Steinem reminded those assembled, “There is no such thing as masculine and feminine. There is human.”



Quinn Magnus '20, Walker's Director of Social Justice and Inclusion, Elisa Cardona and *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* Board Chair Amy Paul P'16, '18



Beth Safford '81, Nicole Hart Dunn '96 and Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P'17, '19



Nichole Dunn Hart '96, *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* Executive Director Isabel Ceballos, Ella Samson '20 and Aurora Women and Girls Foundation Board Chair Karen Jarmoc



Esther Pryor '85 and Susie Jensen Rawles '82

Alumnae Deliver Sweet Treats During Midterms

Alumnae Board Co-Chair Susie Jensen Rawles '82 and Esther Pryor '85 delivered delicious Suns and Dials inspired fruit smoothies to students during midterms at the Wave Cafe coffee bar in the Constance Lavino Bell Library.

Walker's Students Support Thirst Project

Walker's alumna **Eliza David Massaro '92**, a volunteer with the Thirst Project (www.thirstproject.org), was on campus in May to share the work that this organization does to bring clean drinking water to impoverished communities throughout the world. The Thirst Project's mission is to “build a socially-conscious generation of young people who END the global water crisis... by educating students about it and activating them to rock the clean water cause and build real water projects all over the world.” Environmental Club heads, **Lilah Kelly '18**, **Jacqueline Zhao '18** and **Lucy Yang '18**, announced at an all-school assembly that the club plans to work toward raising \$12,000 to support a new well in response to learning about the global water crisis.





Alumna and Walker's Trustee Meet Up at Harvard University

Walker's Trustee and Ms. Foundation for Women CEO and President Teresa Younger presented at the 30th Annual Harvard-Radcliffe Women's Leadership Conference earlier this month, organized by Walker's alumna and Harvard University student Nell Shea '16.

Above, attendees at the Women's Leadership Conference. At right, Walker's Trustee Teresa Younger, president and CEO of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and Nell Shea '16



Jamiah Tappin '00

Alumna Delivers Keynote on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Jamiah Tappin '00 was the keynote speaker at Walker's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration. The community came together to learn about and explore the importance of social justice through student-led workshops and presentations.

30th Annual Gloria Awards

Thanks to the generosity of Walker's Trustee Teresa Younger, president and CEO of Ms. Foundation for Women, a group of Walker's students, faculty and alumnae attended the 30th Annual Gloria Awards in New York City.



Bre Bogle '18 with Tarana Burke, founder of the Me Too movement



Math faculty member Jennifer Wall, Mimi Morrison Harrison '93, Bre Bogle '18, Madeleine Pelletier '20, Jane Li '20, Aiko Ishikawa '97, Walker's Trustee Teresa Younger, Caroline Calandro '14, Jasmin Marquez Whitehead '93, and English faculty member Scott Frey

Walker's Welcomes New Equestrian Program Director and Senior Trainer

RENOWNED TRAINERS LINDA LANGMEIER AND JO SEAVER '99 RETURN TO WALKER'S TO LEAD THE EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM

Linda Langmeier

DIRECTOR OF WALKER'S EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM
HEAD TRAINER



Linda Langmeier

Linda is an accomplished horsewoman who has been riding since she was five years old. As a Junior rider she won the ASPCA Maclay Equitation Finals in 1983. She also was the winner of the 1988 Sugarbush Grand Prix and the 2013 Fidelity Grand Prix.

Linda has earned numerous championships in the Hunter and Jumper divisions at such shows as The Winter Equestrian Festival, Devon, Lake Placid, Vermont Summer Festival, The American Gold Cup, PA National Horse Show, Washington International Horse Show and The National Horse Show.

After turning professional in 1989, Linda trained many students who have earned regional and national titles: Danielle Kossick, 1988 Junior Medal Finals Champion Connecticut Hunter Jumper Association; Jennifer Walters, 2007 New England Equitation Junior Finals Champion; Ellie Knight, 2014 New England Equitation Adult Medal Finals Champion; Jordyn Rose Freedman, 2017 ASPCA Maclay Reserve Champion and Winner 2016 Bright Side Farm Equitation Challenge at Hampton Classic; and McKayla Langmeier, 2015 ASPCA Maclay Champion and 2017 USEF Talent Search East Champion. Linda previously was head trainer at The Ethel Walker School from 2001 – 2010.

Linda currently is a Member of the New England Equitation Committee and the Hampton Classic Advisory Committee.

Linda is married to Kenny Langmeier. Since 1993 they have run Kelianda Farm, a hunter/jumper and training facility which specializes in personalized care of both horses and riders in East Granby, CT. They have three children, Tyler (22), Nathan (18) and McKayla (17).

Joanna "Jo" Seaver '99

SENIOR TRAINER



Joanna "Jo" Seaver '99

Joanna "Jo" Seaver is a 1999 graduate of Walker's. For the past seven years, she has worked at Kelianda Farm for Linda and Kenny Langmeier as an assistant trainer. In this role, she assisted with coaching students, including McKayla Langmeier and Jordyn Rose Freedman, through to the national level including the ASPCA Maclay Finals, Dover Saddlery/USEF Medal Finals, WIHS Equitation Finals and the USET Talent Search Finals.

Prior to her time at Kelianda Farm, Jo held a similar role at Walker's where, in addition to teaching and riding, she assisted in running the local USEF show, the IEA show, and Walker's Summer Riding Experience program.

During her time in both of these positions, Jo trained hunters that have won ribbons at all major national competitions. She has qualified and competed herself in several top hunter prixes and derbies. This past year, she was second at the New England Hunter Jumper Association Hunter Derby Finals and had wins at Old Salem Farm, Vermont Summer Festival, Fairfield County Hunt Club and HITS Saugerties.



Walker's Riding Team Earns Top Award in IEA Zone 1 Region 8 Semi Finals

Walker's riding team earned the top points for a high school team becoming the regional champions for the IEA Zone 1 Region 8 Semi Finals. Top point earners for the day included **Laurel Gaddis '18**, **Isabel Lardner '18**, **Hannah Theriault '20**, **Alexis Berard '19** and **Amy Xia '20**. Each scored seven points for the team with their wins in the varsity open and intermediate classes. Our Middle School team finished third against some tough competition with strong performances by **Kaila James '24** and **Bejay Mugo '21**. One of our School horses, Kroon, was awarded "Horse of the Region" by popular vote of all the coaches for the second year in a row.

Hope Cushman '18 and **Becky Morris '19** are recipients of a 2017 United States Hunter Jumper Association (USHJA) Horse of the Year Award. Becky was awarded first place and Hope was awarded fifth place for Zone 1 (New England) in the hunter equitation category for ages 15-17.



Hope Cushman '18



Becky Morris '19



Gigi Moynihan '21



Libby Mewbourne '18

Walker's Riders Finish Strong

Walker's riders have a long tradition of ribboning at competitive events including Wellington (WEF), Ocala, Medal and Maclay Finals, USEF Finals, CHJA Finals, NEEC Finals, Vermont, Saugerties, and Saratoga. Earlier this year, our students competed in Florida, earned some impressive results and shared some photos with us of their time at these world-renowned competitions.

Above, left to right:

Gigi Moynihan '21 competing in the 3'3" Junior Hunters with J'Adore.

Libby Mewbourne '18 competing in the Junior Hunters with Eastwood.

Gigi Moynihan '21 riding Cerina 4 in the 1.30m at LGCT Miami.

Teddi Pritzker '21 competing in the 3'3" Junior Hunters with Willow CBF.

Below, left to right:

Hope Cushman '18 showing in the USHJA National Derby with her horse, VIP Monarch.

Becky Morris '19 riding in the USEF Talent Search (Ocala, FL) on Qikar.

Olivia Markwood '20 competing with her horse, Idalgo, in the ASPCA Maclay.

Ava Strohmeyer '21 riding Cartoon in the 12-14 Equitation at WEF.



Hope Cushman '18



Becky Morris '19

Gigi Moynihan '21



Teddi Pritzker '21



Wellington, Florida

Olivia Markwood '20 competed with her horse, Idalgo, in the Dover Saddlery USEF Medal, NHS ASPCA Maclay, the 15-17 Equitation and the Low Children's Jumpers. She ribboned in each of these classes during her stay in Wellington.

Lydia Rifkind '19 placed in the NHS 3'3" Medal, the 15-17 Equitation, and the Children's Hunters with MTM Magnum. She also competed in the Dover Saddlery USEF Medal and NHS ASPCA Maclay.

Ava Strohmeier '21 showed EWS' Cartoon to placings in the Children's Hunter 14 & Under as well as the 12-14 Equitation. She also competed in the NHS 3'3" Medal.

Teddi Pritzker '21 showed her horses, Hello Handsome and Willow CBF, in the 3'3" Junior Hunters and had many top finishes, including a championship on each horse.

Gigi Moynihan '21 placed in the Medal/Maclay with Calaramis Z. She placed in the Low Junior Jumpers with Golden Dream at both WEF and the Palm Beach Masters. She showed her horse, Corrico, to

multiple wins in the 3'3" Junior Hunters and a reserve championship with J'Adore. She also showed her jumper, Cerina 4, at the Longines Global Champions Tour in Miami.

Libby Mewbourne '18 had multiple placings aboard her horse, Eastwood.

Ocala, Florida

Becky Morris '19 competed at HITS Ocala and came home with an impressive list of results including multiple top equitation finishes in the ASPCA Maclay, USEF Medal, and WIHS

Olivia Markwood '20



Ava Strohmeier '21





The 2017 soccer team and Coach Todd D'Alessandro P'19 with goalie with Reagan Kerecz '20

Soccer

Walker's varsity soccer program continued its resurgence, ending the 2017 campaign at 9-6-6. The team qualified for the New England Preparatory School Council (NEPSAC) Class C tournament as the #5 seed — a huge accomplishment. It was the program's first trip to the postseason in 10 years! The final Women's Western New England Prep School Soccer Association (WWNEPPSA) season rankings placed Walker's #4 of 14 Class C teams, and #16 of 47 WWNEPPSA teams. Post season awards went to **Veronica Garcia '18** (CGSCA All State Team & Senior Bowl), **Reagan Kerecz '20** (All Founders League Team), **Maisie Smith '19** (All WWNEPPSA Team), and **Caroline Smith '19** (NEPSWSA Junior All Star Team).



Veronica Garcia '18



Maisie Smith '19



Caroline Smith '19

Cross Country

Walker's 2017 cross country season was an exciting time of growth. The team was larger than the previous three years, with first-time runners joining a crew of returning athletes. Many of the girls achieved personal bests by the end of the season through the hard work they put into their training and racing. **Mariela D'Alessandro '19**, co-captain, excelled in her fourth year on the team, with multiple first-place finishes at meets and an impressive third-place finish out of 108 runners in the Girls' D2 wave at the Canterbury Invitational.



Co-captains Emmy Vitali '20 and Mariela D'Alessandro '19 lead their team in a fun run during the Fall 2018 cross country season.

The team spirit remained strong throughout the season. Co-captain **Emmy Vitali '20** led with dedication and resilience. Additionally, several seniors joined cross country for

their first time at Walker's, bringing enthusiasm and support and demonstrating that it's never too late to try something new.

Coaches Sarah Edson and Chris Semk are excited for the fall of 2018 and plan to build off of the great momentum the team has created.



Coach Jill Harrington and the varsity volleyball team huddle before beginning play in a game against Pomfret Academy.

Volleyball

Walker's varsity volleyball team came into the 2017 season after the departure of several seniors last fall. The team worked hard to build around a solid returning core who were short on playing time but they had been learning the game for years as part of Walker's program. Highlighted by the play of **Imani Baptiste '18**, **India Awe '18**, **Theresa Jo '18** and **Kaitlyn Thoma '18**, the volleyball team grew in many ways as the season progressed. They took the usual bumps along the way, learning much about their abilities, honing their talent and teamwork while working together toward success.



2017 Varsity Volleyball Team



Co-captain Keeley Duran '18 leads her teammates in a strong offense during the finals of the NEPSAC Class C finals, the first time Walker's team competed in the final game of the tournament on its home field.



Co-captain Mia Farnella '18 celebrates a goal with her teammates during the NEPSAC Class C Quarterfinals at Walker's.

Field Hockey

What an amazing season for Walker's 2017 field hockey team. The season began with a climb to the summit of Mt. Katahdin, NH where old girls and new had a chance to get to know one another and where they also made a vow to win the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) title. Walker's finished the season with a 16-5-1 record and recorded some huge wins against Loomis, Berkshire, and Choate and a tie against perennial powerhouse Hotchkiss. For the second year in a row, Walker's was named The Western New England Prep School Field Hockey Class C Champions and were seeded #1 in the New England Tournament. For the first time in School history, the team competed

for the NEPSAC title on our home field. It was a very special opportunity to play the final game in front of Walker's fans at home! The team endured a heartbreaking loss to Holderness with a final score of 1-2.

Walker's Head Coach Mimi Duran P'18 commented, "At the conclusion of our season the girls and I received this email:

"While I am sorry for your loss this weekend in the finals of the NEPSAC Field Hockey Tournament, I wish to congratulate you and the Ethel Walker Field Hockey Team on a very fine season. I introduce myself as a Trustee Emeritus of Hebron Academy.

In August, I was on the summit of Mount Katahdin, minding my own business and eating a submarine sandwich, when a swarm of Ethel Walker purple assembled around the sign for a team picture. The shutter snapped and then a cheer was given for this year's season and another New England championship. I couldn't think of a better way to start a season and I have followed your team's progress now from beginning to end.

I wish your players and fellow coaching staff the best in all their future endeavors.

*My regards to you all from one mile high,
Harvey Lipman
Hebron Academy '71"*

"I am so proud of this team and how they conducted and represented themselves both on and off the field and even a Mile High," said Duran. "It was a journey filled with all the little things that make us uniquely Walker's."

Our graduates are now playing and will be playing in college including at Trinity, Brown, Roanoke, Nichols, Swarthmore and Hamilton.

2017 POST SEASON FIELD HOCKEY HONORS

National Field Hockey Coaches Association National Academic Squad

- Marion Carr '18
- Brianna Duba '19
- Keeley Duran '18
- Mia Farnella '18
- Amanda Joseph '18
- Esi Obeng '18

WNEPSFHA All-Star Team

- Lara Schwörer '20
- Keeley Duran '18

NEPSAC - Tournament Team Selections

- Keeley Duran '18
- Ava Rivera '20
- Lara Schwörer '20
- Marion Carr '18 (honorable mention)

Founders League All-Stars

- Marion Carr '18
- Keeley Duran '18
- Lara Schwörer '20
- KC O'Connor '19 (honorable mention)

All-Northeast Region Second Team

- Keeley Duran '18

PLAYING TO CURE CANCER

In the fall, the Walker's field hockey teams hosted the 7th Annual Play4theCure where \$7,700 was raised for cancer research. Fourteen teams from central Connecticut descended onto Walker's campus for a day filled with games and other fun activities designed to raise funds for the cause.

2017 Junior Varsity Field Hockey Team





The 2017-2018 Championship Ski Team with Coach Gretchen Sonju P'21

Skiing

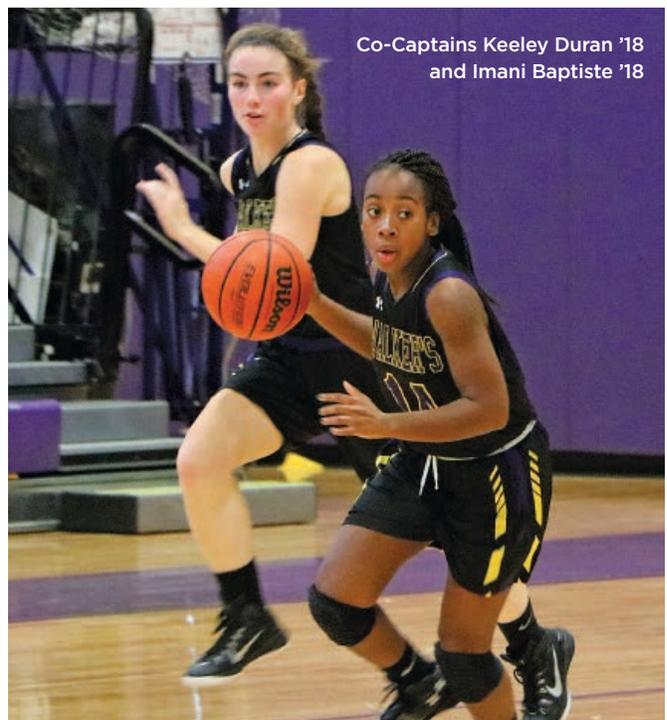
For the second year in a row, Walker's varsity ski team took home the first place trophy in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Council (NEPSAC) Class C Championship race held in February at Wachusett Mountain in Massachusetts. Each skier contributed to the team's win including standout performances by

Anneliese Sonju '21 who placed 3rd in giant slalom; **Kathryn Phair '18** who placed 5th in giant slalom; and **Elise Namnoum '19** who placed 8th in giant slalom. In slalom, Anneliese placed 1st, Elise placed 4th, Kathryn placed 7th and **Sarah Dale '22** placed 9th. Hooray Sunray!

Basketball

The varsity basketball team finished off a great season with a 12-9 record. The team played a challenging schedule and had good Founders League victories over Kingswood Oxford, Kent, Westminster and Hotchkiss. With only two seniors on the roster, the team grew as a group throughout the season and built tremendous confidence and team cohesion when looking ahead to next season.

Keeley Duran '18 and **Imani Baptiste '18** were instrumental in the success of the team. Their leadership was tremendous as they incorporated younger players into team activities and welcomed all their teammates with open arms. With the return of **Mariah Dunn '19** next season, who missed this year with a torn ACL, and the return of so many players from this year, the team is very excited for the '18-'19 season.



Co-Captains Keeley Duran '18 and Imani Baptiste '18

Squash

The Varsity squash team finished with an impressive 8-6 record while competing against some of the strongest programs in New England. They also fared well in the New England B tournament with some impressive play from all of the girls. Most notably, **Jocelyn Feliciano '19** was 4-1 in the tournament at the #1 slot, which placed her fifth out of sixteen players in her flight.



Jocelyn Feliciano '19

Swimming

Walker's swim team was 30 strong this year with abilities ranging from new competitive swimmers to School record holders. The season ended 6-7 with a standout performance by **Karra Hayes '22** who broke six individual school records, some multiple times. At the New England Championships, Karrah earned a bronze in the 100 breast and a silver in the 200 IM, beating School records! **Erin Shanly '19**, **Sofia Lomba '18**, **Mariela D'Alessandro '19**, and **Karra Hayes '22** shattered Walker's 400 freestyle relay record by four seconds at New England Championships.

As an exciting finish to the season, Walker's hosted The New England Prep School Swim Championship meet for Division III at Cornerstone Aquatic Club in West Hartford, CT. Close to 400 swimmers were in attendance which made up 14 girls teams and 9 boys teams from all over New England. The meet was the largest and fastest in the history of the Division III meet. Walker's team placed 7th with close to 100% personal bests and a record number of girls qualifying to swim finals in the evening.

Overall, Walker's "Wildcatfish" grew as a team and had some great swims this season under the guidance of Coach Sarah Bednar.



Karra Hayes '22

Stephanie Pirro '20 competes in Walker's new pool in the Centennial Center.



Horizons at The Ethel Walker School

Each day during the six-week summer Horizons program, Hartford elementary school students travel by bus from Hartford to Simsbury to engage in programming developed to reduce and prevent summer learning loss, improve school-year attendance, and develop social and interpersonal skills.

Horizons at The Ethel Walker School will serve 85 girls in grades pre-kindergarten through fourth in the summer of 2018, and will continue to grow each year to a total of 143 Hartford girls in grades pre-kindergarten through eight. *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* is the first all-girls Horizons program in the country and the first Horizons program in the Greater Hartford area.



HORIZONS Comedy Night

APRIL 10, 2018

This year, *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* hosted its 3rd Annual Night of Comedy and Community in downtown Hartford. Infinity Music Hall was filled with great energy, laughs and an inspiring sense of community rallying around girls education. With over 250 guests, including Walker's Trustees and double last year's attendees, more than \$40,000 was raised in support of Horizons' summer programming.

"We are truly grateful to be part of such a supportive community. Horizons allows us to take the Walker's mission beyond our campus, and into the Hartford community. It's amazing to see how together we can empower girls everywhere," said Isabel Ceballos, executive director of Walker's Horizons program, the first all-girls Horizons program in the country.



Jackie and Vince Blea, Horizons Board Co-Chair Amy Paul P'16, '18 and Georgia Paul '18



Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin with *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* Executive Director Isabel Ceballos



Horizons Board Member Sandra Marin Lautier '07 (right) talks with Walker's Trustee Sue Cesare



Walker's Dean of Digital and Library Services/ Assistant Dean and Horizons Classroom Teacher Nishette Isaacs and Assistant Classroom Teacher Maddie Ross '18



Walker's Trustee Tom Regan P'13, Associate Head of School and Horizons Board Member Amy Wheeler, Walker's Trustee Laura Mountcastle '74 and Walker's Trustee and Horizons Board Member Chris Brigham



Horizons at The Ethel Walker School Receives Gift to Fund Literacy Program

The *Horizons at The Ethel Walker School* program has received a gift of \$10,000 from The Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, Inc. to support its Literacy Leaders program. Literacy Leaders, which began in June 2018, provides enrichment, and family and student engagement activities for 85 girls in pre-kindergarten through fourth grade enrolled in the six-week summer enrichment program. The program's focus is cultural enrichment and building self-esteem while developing the girls' literacy skills, the center of all Horizons program activities.

"Our Horizons program inspires a love of learning through a hands-on approach that engages students in academics, computer literacy, cultural enrichment, and aquatics," says Isabel Ceballos, executive director of Walker's Horizons program. "Students conduct online research, connect with peers, and experience learning language, math, and science in fun and innovative ways. Incorporating technology in our classrooms at an early age allows our teachers the opportunity to teach safe and effective uses while also allowing technology to amplify our students' skills."

The Literacy Leaders program uses a team approach for delivery that includes classroom teachers, reading specialists, a STEM/STEAM specialist, swim instructors, peer mentors, and volunteers. This program includes professional development opportunities for lead and assistant classroom teachers and others engaged in program delivery to ensure that targets are met, and to assist in meeting individual student's needs if additional supports are necessary. "The program is full day and includes artistic and cultural activities throughout the day, as well as literacy skill building and classroom learning experiences," continues Ceballos. "We are grateful to The Maximilian E. and Marion O. Hoffman Foundation for partnering with us on this ongoing innovative program." ■



READING SUCCESS IN SUMMER 2017 HORIZONS AT THE ETHEL WALKER SCHOOL

Kindergarten: on average, gained **95** Scaled Score points in reading

First Grade Class: on average, gained **63** Scaled Score points in reading

Second Grade Class: on average, gained **20** Scaled Score points in reading

Third Grade Class: on average, gained **35** Scaled Score points in reading



Recognizing Our Supporters

As we continue to honor, memorialize and thank the EWS community-at-large over time, campus plaques may be relocated or added. The following plaques and signage are new or have recently moved:



The Sarah Kellogg Goodrich Fitness Center has been moved from the space in Galbraith to the new fitness center in the Centennial Center.



Emilee O'Brien '13 and Former Trustee Renee Alexander P'13 have made a gift of a 1923 Baldwin Baby Grand piano in memory of Helen Alexander, Renee's mother and Emilee's grandmother. The piano is now in the lobby of the New Dorm for all to enjoy.



A Japanese Maple has been planted in the courtyard of the Middle School to replace a tree that was destroyed by weather. It was planted "In loving memory of our classmates by the 50th Reunion Committee of the Class of 1952."



Two Eastern Redbud trees were planted in front of Ferguson Theater to replace memorial trees that were destroyed by weather. The trees were planted on the occasion of the 40th reunion of the Class of 1959 and the 50th reunion of the Class of 1959.



Annual Fund
for Walker's

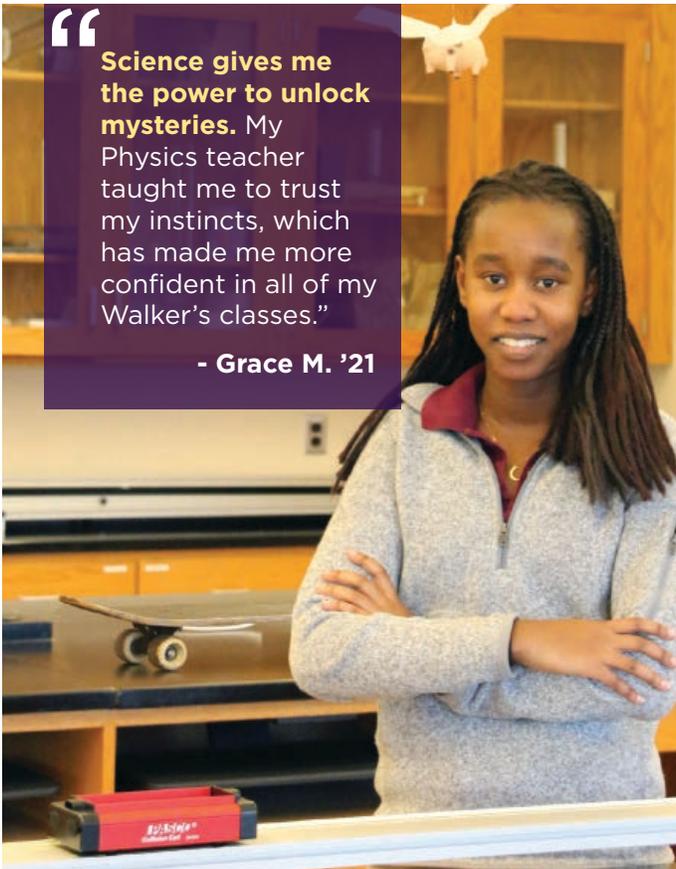
Walker's Women in Science



“

Science gives me the power to unlock mysteries. My Physics teacher taught me to trust my instincts, which has made me more confident in all of my Walker's classes.”

- Grace M. '21



Walker's girls gain confidence

and learn the value of
an all-girls education
through science.

YOUR gift to the Annual Fund for Walker's

supports exceptional science
teachers and learning experiences
for our students.

YOUR next generation of
scientists needs **YOU**.

Make **YOUR** annual gift today.
THANK YOU.



Make your gift for the
2018-2019 school year:

www.ethelwalker.org/onlinegiving

Build our fiscal year 2019
annual fund today.

Seeing the wonders of the world through different lenses

Betsy van Gemenen's gifts to support the observatory and photography courses match students' passions with her own

Casey Brottman '12 enjoys looking at the stars at the Niels and Willem van Gemenen Observatory.



Betsy van Gemenen's passion for photography began at Walker's in a small basement lab when she was a student in the 1970s. Fast forward to the early 2000s when she and her family had a serendipitous experience which would ignite a new passion for her and her family — astronomy. Today, van Gemenen continues to fuel these passions by teaching photography to sixth graders at the Cobb School Montessori, and she recently met up with a current junior at Walker's, Maisie Smith, who shares her passion for gazing at the stars. The intersection of two of the things that fuel her spirit bring van Gemenen back to Walker's. Her commitment to all-girls education becomes evident in the ways in which she and her family continue to support the School and the programs which have brought her life joy.

An Unexpected Auction Win

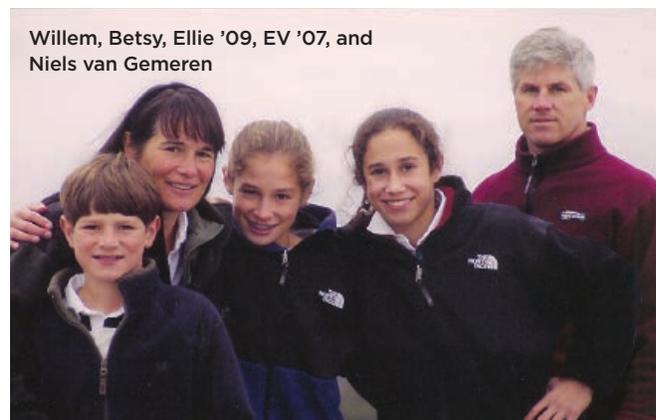
In 2004, at a parent auction at Walker's, Betsy van Gemenen and her husband, Niels, won a bid that would connect them to the stars — not in Hollywood, but the real-life twinkles in the sky. The couple won an opportunity to accompany Lee Zalinger, then an eighth-grade science teacher, and his telescope to gaze at the galaxies — a memorable bonding experience for the family, and one that would later connect them to Walker's students.

Weeks later, in the wee hours of the morning, the entire van Gemenen family — Betsy and Niels and their three children, Willem, Emily '07 and Ellie '09 — rolled out of bed before 4:00 a.m. to hike up the hill on the west side of Walker's campus. There, in the pitch black of night, each took turns peering through the teacher's telescope to get up close with the world beyond. The adventure inspired Niels to go home and purchase his own state-of-the-art telescope for the family's hilltop residence.

The van Gemenens spent many special hours together huddled around that high-powered lens.

A few years later, when Niels and Willem would tragically die in a small-plane crash, an anonymous donor stepped forward to honor the family's love for astronomy. In 2006, the Niels and Willem van Gemenen Observatory was inaugurated on the top of that same hill on Walker's campus — and Lee Zalinger, along with art teacher Michael Coster, led the design of the special site. For many years, observatory trips were part of Walker's traditions — faculty, students, and even members of the public would venture together. Betsy regularly joined in, too.

"I have great memories of trips up to the hill, everyone bundled up in warm clothes with sleeping bags," recalls Betsy van Gemenen of the early-morning treks members of the Walker's community would make for a night of stargazing. "Afterwards," she says, "everyone would gather at the head's house for pancakes to exchange stories of the trek."



Willem, Betsy, Ellie '09, EV '07, and Niels van Gemenen



Betsy van Gemen and Maisie Smith '19

Seeing the World in Another Way: Through Photographs

Another passion project for van Gemen is photography. She says using her camera helps her to look more closely and thoughtfully at the world buzzing by. “For me, photography is my eyes. I see things in photos, especially when taking pictures of children,” she says. Recently, van Gemen made a gift to the photography program at Walker’s in hopes that honing this skill will “enrich their lives as students.”

“I hope that by participating in a photography class, the students have an opportunity to see things in new ways,” she says.

Photography courses at Walker’s are different than during van Gemen’s days as a student. She recalls spending hours in the darkroom developing 35-millimeter film. Today, students use digital cameras and work on editing them at the computer.

“They really think about the technical part,” says van Gemen, “It’s different from how I work, but I like this.”

Getting the Observatory Back Online

In the last few years, the observatory’s use waned — until Maisie Smith ’19 set her sights on it. Last summer, for her junior project, Smith learned the A-Z’s of the observatory and documented how it works from top to bottom. She developed a new user manual with the support of Dr. Emma Mitchell, a science teacher who teaches a class in astronomy. Mitchell, who joined Walker’s all-female science staff in the fall of 2017, was awarded fellowships as a graduate student by both the NASA Earth and Space Science Program and the NASA Virginia Space Grant Consortium. Mitchell’s arrival and news of Maisie’s project prompted van Gemen to support getting the observatory up and running again.

“I follow their energy,” says van Gemen of feeling the need to support a student’s passion project. “It just feels right.”

Today, Walker’s has one of the only functioning observatories at a school in central Connecticut. The 16-inch Meade telescope, which boasts a professional-grade optical system and a wireless link that allows for remote operation, runs on solar power. Although it is connected to classroom computers for astronomy courses, science faculty members plan to renew regular hilltop viewings for members of both the Walker’s and local communities.

Maisie’s determination, focus and excitement were inspiring to van Gemen who believes that exposure to new experiences, such as in the observatory, can help build connections. “The more that the girls are in touch with the earth or life, the more connected they are going to be to themselves,” says van Gemen. “That confidence to be themselves and follow their passion is so important in such a fast-paced world.”



“The more that the girls are in touch with the earth or life, the more connected they are going to be to themselves.”

Supporting the Next Generation

Although van Gemen’s children have long since graduated from Walker’s, she still finds herself on campus regularly. She says Walker’s grounded her during her own teenage years, and she watched as her own daughters developed a sense of self-assurance and place in the world as they climbed each grade at Walker’s. That’s why she has supported the School in myriad ways, including having served on the Parents Association, on committees that support our equestrian program and the School’s strategic planning committee. From 2008-2009, van Gemen served as a trustee of the School.

“It’s a piece of me and a part of my family,” she says. “It’s a special place.” ■



EV '07, Betsy and Ellie '09 van Gemen



Up, up
and away...

Walker's Graduate Starts Internship with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory

Morgan Locandro '16 moved to California in January to begin her year-round internship at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA where she works on engineering projects including designing different mechanisms for space missions. A self-declared "nerd" and a sophomore at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Locandro says her love for mechanical engineering began in her junior year at Walker's during one of Walker's Lacuna Programs where students are encouraged to take classes outside of their typical studies.

Knowing that her love of all things mechanical was increasing, her friends from the skiing and field hockey teams encouraged her to check out Walker's robotics club. Locandro jokingly says, "They enticed me with food to get me to attend the first meeting!" After that first meeting, Locandro says she fell in love with robotics. Although there were no spaces left in the club, the faculty coaches made an exception. "I was really excited about

joining the team," Locandro said. "And all of my teachers and friends matched my excitement."

Locandro shares that joining Walker's robotics program was one of the things that most influenced her academically. "After starting robotics, I enrolled in computer science, advanced calculus and physics classes. These classes really solidified my interest in mechanical engineering and also in coding," says Locandro. "I think the opportunity to take these types of classes while in high school was super helpful in guiding me toward becoming an engineer."

She compares the "power" of building robots to that of Batman. While the superhero had no special powers — he could neither fly nor shoot laser beams from his eyes — he did have a knack for building gadgets. "It was Batman who made me realize you don't need superpowers to change the world," Locandro said. "Robotics gave me my bat code."

“When I was in high school, I think I learned mostly mechanical things, but I have since tried to broaden my work to learn more about electronics, coding and controls,” she said. “To me it’s always just been about playing around and making things because they are cool or funny.”

Locandro says that her time at Walker’s instilled in her a love for robotics and engineering and that the instructors at the School understand why the girls are so passionate about the robotics team. “Everyone saw the value in what we were doing the same way we did,” she said. “All the excitement helped me explode and go for it.”

There was one teacher in particular that drove Locandro’s love of robotics. “He was very excited and passionate about the program and specifically about giving high school girls the chance to get involved and excited,” says Locandro. “I think his passion and excitement for robotics were really infectious and I definitely caught the bug.” She adds, “Through him especially, I saw the importance of sharing my passion with others and how doing so could have such an impact on their lives.”

Locandro said that Walker’s helped her prepare for college by allowing her to study what she loves. “At Walker’s, I always had the chance to do what I loved and I think that being passionate has allowed me to do really well in college because I learn and study for the pure enjoyment of the subjects, not because anyone is making me do it,” she said. “A lot of the learning at Walker’s follows a similar path — you get the chance to focus on what you love.”

Robotics is a place where Locandro said she feels she can be herself. “Robotics is the place where it is 110% OK to be a massive nerd,” Locandro said. “Being that nerdy kid who wants to spend her Super Bowl Sunday wiring a robot in the basement instead of tailgating with friends is encouraged.” All those nights in the basement really paid off.

At RPI, one of her friends suggested attending an information session about JPL and although she had not planned on participating in an internship, she was very interested after her friend explained a little

more about the company. “When I heard about everything they do, I got really excited and decided to go for it,” she said. She said it was her ability to design and use design software packages that got her foot in the door.

As for working in a STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) field, Locandro says she is drawn to things that appear challenging. “I love doing things that I would have looked at five years ago and thought it was impossible,” she said.

Five years from now, Locandro said she hopes to be working at a place like NASA or somewhere that explores outer space. As an engineer, she says that working on projects at a company like this makes her feel like she’s a part of something bigger than herself.

“I love seeing how engineering can make an impact on the world and I want to be a part of that,” she said.

Locandro’s message to girls and young women looking to get involved in a STEM discipline is to not get discouraged by the stereotypes out there: “You just have to ignore the image and the stereotype.” She says that STEM studies are not all that intimidating and she wishes people were not intimidated by them. “It’s not how much you know or how smart you are, it’s about being passionate about something you love.” ■

“
At Walker’s, I always had the chance to do what I loved and I think that being passionate has allowed me to do really well in college because I learn and study for the pure enjoyment of the subjects, not because anyone is making me do it.”
”



Morgan Locandro '16 (right) with Wirecats teammates, Lyrica Yanaway '16, Marion Carr '18, and Trisha Smith '16

Life as a Poet

Walker's English Department Chair Catherine Reed recently interviewed alumna Margaret "Margie" Holley '62 and shares these thoughts: "I interviewed the marvelous Margaret Holley to learn about why and how she became a poet. Needless to say, my favorite poem is 'Thank You, Edmund Waller,' (see facing page) because of its subject matter, but all of them are beautiful and moving. Margaret reminds us to read, too — and we will certainly take her advice."



When did you know you were a poet?

As a child and teenager I never thought of myself as "a poet." I just wrote poems for the pleasure of it. I wrote poetry because I loved to read it and to memorize and "recite" it, mostly silently. Sometime in my 30s, when I began to submit poems to journals and started to be published, I thought of myself as a poet as opposed to as a painter or musician. Since I was a teacher at the time and because I loved teaching, being a poet was always the second of my priorities. Now that I'm 73 and retired, I can see that writing poetry both preceded and long outlasted the career by which I made my living.

Why poetry? Have you written prose that you like as much?

I have written plenty of prose — a decade worth of college president's speeches, a scholarly book (*The Poetry of Marianne Moore*), and a small variety of essays ("Driving to Brandenburg" about commuting with the Brandenburg Concertos, "Annie Oakley and the Mystery of Skill," etc.) — but I'm far more attached to my poems and their perpetual challenges.

Were you a writer when you were at Walker's? Did you write poems then?

I was not. I wrote very little poetry at

Walker's. I learned quite a lot about the history and mechanics of poetry in my English classes at Walker's, but I didn't know any other students who wrote poetry or fiction, and I was much more preoccupied with learning to write better critical essays. Creative writing was not "a thing" in 1958-62. I picked up writing poetry again as soon as I went to college.

Did you read anything in high school that made you interested in writing in general — or writing poetry in particular?

Yes, I had a sophomore English teacher named Judith Phelps who taught us Renaissance and Metaphysical poets with unforgettable verve. I fell in love with Edmund Waller's poem "Go, Lovely Rose" and with the poetry and "voice" of Conrad Aiken. I wrote about Miss Phelps in my poem "Thank You, Edmund Waller." We memorized and recited poetry for class, and I ended up reciting Aiken's "The Cloister" in front of the whole school with my heart thumping and knees quivering — a frightful experience, but I loved the poem. I hated performing but loved private memorization.

Who are the poets you admire now? Why those?

As an adult I learned to write poems on a whole new level by slavishly emulating the wonderful poems of Richard Wilbur, my

longtime hero. I have been furtively and massively influenced by Elizabeth Bishop's poems. Early on I loved the music of T.S. Eliot, but I'm afraid he left me too much latitude for mystification. W.S. Merwin's mid-career free verse, all of Seamus Heaney, plus Mark Doty's "Atlantis." There are so many treasures...!

How does what you read influence your work?

In every possible way! Sounds and music, subject matter, each poet's ambition and reach, the inspiration and sheer miracle of making a beautiful and meaningful poem.

What do you remember most from your time at Walker's?

My amazing classmates — it was like having 45 sisters! Walking up and down the hill each day to the old Cluett. Recovering from German measles in the infirmary and there watching the sunrise one morning over Avon Mountain. Miss Sala conducting the choir and glee club and playing us a recording of Joan Sutherland singing bel canto opera. All the teachers were so patient and so determined to teach us well, to haul us through the difficult stuff — English grammar and punctuation, the novels of Thomas Hardy, the structure of the sonnet, algebra and geometry, French verb forms. I've been grateful ever since.

Also, at Walker's I began a lifelong friendship with Travilla Deming, who

was our “speech” teacher and drama coach. She was a practicing playwright, a wonderful role model, and a surrogate mother who welcomed me to her dinner table with husband and two children on several weekends each year. She was a tireless defender of “creativity” and encouraged me and all of us never to give up. She completed her book of essays “Darling This...Darling That” on the eve of her 100th birthday, and her daughter Alison Hawthorne Deming’s poetry collection “Stairway to Heaven” is breathtaking. They were my creative family.

What advice, if any, do you have for aspiring writers?

Read, read, read! As Kim Addonizio says: “Let me put this as delicately as I can: If you don’t read, your writing is going to suck.” Then as you write, I have two pieces of contradictory advice. One from Ernest Hemingway, who said that what one needs to be a good writer is “a built-in shock-proof crap detector.” And one from me: don’t let your inner critic spoil the party. Remember that you have to write a lot of mediocre and failing poems destined for the dustbin in order to produce one marvel. But it’s well worth it! Lots of sketches and studies are all part of the road to better and better work. The poem is a garden that you have to weed and nourish in order to let the blooms come forth.

Do you recommend a life in the arts?

I recommend a life enriched by any form of creativity — poetry, painting, sculpture, music, drama, crafts of all kind, inventions. There are a million ways to explore and express our shared human experience.

Which poem or poems do you think everyone should read?

Just read lots and lots of poems from all centuries and styles, and return to the ones you love. ■

Thank You Edmund Waller

By Margaret Holley

for appearing on an early page of *English Literature*,
your *Go, Lovely Rose*, expounded by Miss Judith Phelps

in such a way that my thirteen-year-old mind
fell in love with contrasting rhymes

and syncopated three-, four-, two-, four- and four-beat lines.
Tell her that wastes her time and me

That now she knows... Miss Phelps was definitely cool,
for a girls’ school, having once been spied

exiting the campus on a Friday afternoon
in a convertible, top down, driven by an actual man.

Thank you, Mr. Waller, for splicing poetry into that
fleeting scene of Judy (we called her Judy behind her back)

being sped out of the parking lot in full view.
Do I remember a scarf in the breeze? A cigarette?

(She smoked in the faculty lounge between classes.)
When I resemble her to thee/How sweet and fair

she seems to be. She loved to make us laugh,
for instance by imitating the women in the poem

“wasting” away in “virtue,” which I equated
with our chaperones, Miss Hunt and Miss Frazier,

wanting to “see daylight” between dance partners.
Miss Phelps did not return the next fall,

but your poem has returned for over forty years
(some of them seeming to lack daylight of any kind)

to go on teaching me how that heavy book can be
as light in my mind as a single page.

*The poem that Walker’s alumna, Margaret Holley,
is referring to is Edmund Waller’s “Go Lovely Rose,”
published in 1645.*

Diving in... to Gourmet Cuisine

When **Monica Vega '83** graduated from Brown University, she stood at a crossroads: continue with her interest in marine biology or pursue her long-standing curiosity for cooking. She had cultivated both passions at Walker's, where she founded and was president of the Chinese Gourmet Club while also engaging in the life sciences. For a poetry project in Dr. Gary Fountain's English class, she chose "the sea," and still has that treasured portfolio of selected poetry. What Vega would come to realize is that life is not a choose-one-path-or-the-other decision. Her two thriving careers — one in marine biology and, later, one running a catering business — are living proof.

After Brown, she entered a master's program in tropical marine biology at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences and before she graduated, she was offered a job in her home country of the Dominican Republic at the new National Aquarium, which they were just opening at the time. "I've always had a love and respect for the sea and its inhabitants," she says, having even started scuba diving at age 11. "The new position was a dream come true."

Vega began working at the National Aquarium during summer vacations while she finished her master's degree. She planned various exhibits for visitors and developed educational materials to accompany each one. "At the beginning, the best part of my job was collecting the animals and learning about the quarantine procedures, their dietary needs and how to diagnosis and treat their diseases," she recalls. "It was all very new to me and very exciting."

She later took on the job full time and became curator of the Dominican Republic's National Aquarium for many years. In that position, she was in charge



Monica Vega '83

of the maintenance of the exhibits and the creatures that lived in them. As the aquarium grew, she was promoted to sub-director, where she was more involved with education and conservation projects and aspects of the country's marine and coastal resources.

But when Vega had children and didn't have as much time for her work at the aquarium, she was presented with a new path — or, more accurately, returning to an old road not taken: her passion for cooking. "Ever since I could remember, I have been embraced and captivated by the smells and magic of the kitchen," she says. "And not just cookies, mind you."

This was her opportunity. Her younger sister, **Paula Vega '89**, had become a chef and had recently launched a catering business. "The timing," says the older Vega, "was impeccable. Just when I was needing to spend more time at home." She says that it was sad to leave her position at the National Aquarium, but she was also grateful for the opportunity to be closer to her children and to take care of their needs.

So the Vega sisters began catering at all levels — from large 200-plus wedding parties to smaller dinners, birthdays and other celebrations. Their specialty in world foods became a hit, especially Asian-inspired dishes — a cuisine Vega clearly had a soft spot for even during her days as head of Walker's Chinese Gourmet Club.

Their popularity began to soar, and soon the sisters, along with their cousin, took on the next challenge: to launch and run the country's first gastronomical magazine, called *Gastroteca*. "It was so much fun, planning out the contents of each issue, and then seeing it come alive in our kitchens, in the photoshoots and finally in the printed pages of our magazine," says Vega. "It was very successful for a couple of years, but sadly took too much time and we had to let it go. People still ask us if we are going to rekindle the project."

Today, Vega says she's busy balancing her "mom responsibilities" with running the catering business. She's grateful that the catering kitchen is in her sister's apartment, which is just below hers. The convenience, she says, helps her keep up with it all, switching from cooking to "bathing and changing clothes all the time."

These wide-ranging experiences and diverse paths were likely not on Vega's mind when her parents broke the news to her that she'd be leaving the Dominican Republic for a small, all-girls school in the United States. News, she says, she wasn't thrilled about at the time but is grateful for today. "Walker's not only prepared me for my future studies and career, it was the greatest learning experience of my life in terms of maturing and learning to deal with the real world out there." And, she adds, "I had the time of my life!" ■

A MESSAGE FROM

Katherine Hypolite '04 and Susan Jensen Rawles '82

ALUMNAE BOARD CO-CHAIRS

Dear Friends,

This year brings an end to our service as co-chairs of the Alumnae Board. With you by our sides, we have enjoyed a tremendous journey full of reflection, learning, and engagement. We have been so fortunate not only in the support we have received from the staff, the board of trustees, and fellow alumnae, but in the timing of our chairmanship. We cannot imagine two years of greater excitement and optimism, of more challenging goals or more inspiring vision than these last two have been. During them, the dreams of Walker's were undoubtedly revitalized in the infectious passion and rare wisdom of Dr. Meera Viswanathan, whose service as the head of our School has likewise arrived at the two-year mark.

As we pass the reins of the Alumnae Board to the next co-chairs, Jamiah Tappin '00 and Charlotte Weidlein '05, we consider what is on the horizon for Walker's and what helpful guidance we can offer. What we see is a School poised on the threshold of possibility just shy of its potential. Its goals are lofty, but they are worthy of the climb, and we are privileged as alumnae to undertake the journey. Ultimately, we are the lucky ones; the world is crowded with girls who would benefit from the Walker's experience.

To those alumnae who returned for Reunion Weekend we say: thanks, and we hope you had a ball! And while you were at it, we hope you had a look around. The new dormitory, the Centennial Center, the refurbished riding facilities — these are just the physical manifestation of a revival that is touching every aspect of Walker's life, from its grounds to its classrooms to its people. Lend your voice to the conversation and volunteer if you can — everyone is welcome and wanted.

Thanks for the experience.
Hooray Sunray!

Katherine Hypolite '04
CO-CHAIR, ALUMNAE BOARD

Susan Jensen Rawles '82
CO-CHAIR, ALUMNAE BOARD



Susie Jensen Rawles '82 and Katherine Hypolite '04 during Reunion Weekend

HOORAY SUNRAY!

To Katherine Hypolite '04 for three terms (nine years) of service on the Alumnae Board. Thank you for your leadership and devotion to your alma mater!

2017-2018 ALUMNAE BOARD

Katherine Hypolite '04
CO-CHAIR
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Susan "Susie" Jensen Rawles '82
CO-CHAIR
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CONNECTICUT

Caryl Van Ranst Dearing '60
MASSACHUSETTS

Wendy Hodgkins DeLorey '83, P'20
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NEW JERSEY



STAY IN TOUCH!
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Alumnae, parents of students and graduates, grandparents and friends of Walker’s help our School in myriad ways. Your interest and care for Walker’s — for the experiences of our students and faculty — is truly appreciated, and we welcome your partnership.

Personal Referrals

An important way to support Walker’s is your personal referral of families to consider Walker’s. Our Middle School, Upper School and summer camps are all places where your referrals grow our network! Visit the admission pages on our website to see where Walker’s will be traveling so that contacts might be made off campus. Are you willing to host a Walker’s gathering in your community for prospective and current families, and alumnae? Let us know. As we build out our regional programs, we would love to reconnect with alumnae and the families of our graduates in your community.

Volunteer as a Class Correspondent or Agent

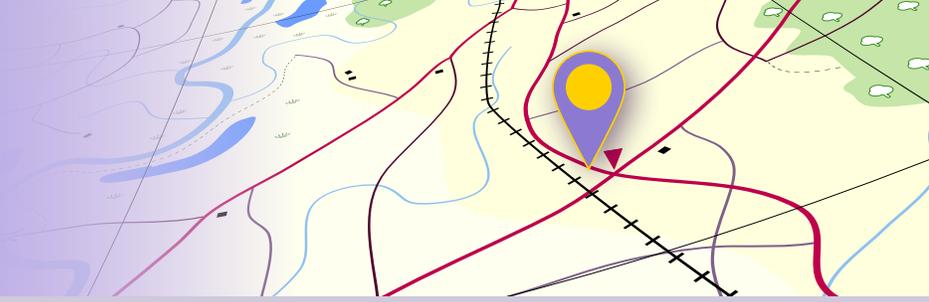
Please join us as we grow our network of alumnae class volunteers. Class volunteers assist with event planning in their region, help to plan their Walker’s class reunions, and assist us in keeping in touch with alumnae year-round. Class correspondents are sought to help produce class notes, and class agents partner with our staff and the Advancement Committee of the Board to foster giving among our graduates. Working together in a variety of ways, Walker’s volunteers are moving the School forward and are an element in our future successes. We can’t do it without you! P.S. Please also be sure to keep us up-to-date on your education and career, and encourage your Walker’s friends to do the same — we are connecting our students with graduates and this

Make a Gift!

Gift support makes a difference for the School community. Listed below are examples of ways in which donor support could impact Walker’s community.

- Provide an academic department with professional development funds \$2,000
- Support a culture of reading with new books for the Constance Lavino Bell Library \$10-\$100,000
- Great writers + great minds =
Walker’s Visiting Writer Seminar (per semester) \$10,000
- Open doors to world travel and sponsor a student on her first trip abroad \$2,000
- Redecorate the Admission Office\$35,000
- Update Living Room furniture\$50,000
- Publish *Daemon*, our School’s literary publication..... \$1,500
- Underwrite an art exhibit opening \$250
- Become an off-stage legend and install air conditioning in Ferg\$250,000
- Purchase costumes for the Theater Program \$5,000
- Renovate Cluett Garden\$3,000
- Two ball machines for the tennis team \$1,700
- Sponsor a Naturalization Ceremony at Walker’s \$4,000
- Install a flashing light school zone system \$90,000
- Keep active learning cool with air conditioning in the engineering classroom and a library classroom..... \$10,000
- Warm-up or travel jackets for athletics teams \$2,275-\$4,375
- Sponsor Vespers Banquet \$5,000
- Sponsor fun! Underwrite a weekend activity \$250-\$500
- Paint the interior of a faculty home \$2,500
- Renovate the Cluett kitchen \$3,000
- Sponsor a Middle School field trip \$1,000
- Fund the van that takes our VITA student tax preparers to Hartford \$750
- Send a faculty leader on a spring break service trip \$1,000
- Renovate Walker’s show ring with new footing and drainage\$225,000

Walker's Out and About



There are many ways for alumnae to get together and reconnect with each other including:

REGIONAL CLUB EVENTS are gatherings organized by alumnae and are a great opportunity to socialize with fellow Walker's women. If you live within a 50 mile radius of New York City, San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, Washington, DC or within Connecticut and we have your current email address, you will receive updates and reminders via email.

HEAD'S RECEPTIONS are held in various cities throughout the world and provide an opportunity to meet our Head of School Meera Viswanathan. Alumnae, parents, grandparents, friends and prospective parents are typically invited to participate. Watch your email and home mailboxes for invitations to these events.

If you would like to add or update your email to our list for either of these types of events, or if you are interested in hosting an event in your city, please contact Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P'17, '19 at mpaterson@ethelwalker.org or +1 (860) 408-4257.

Visit www.ethelwalker.org/alumnae/regional-clubs for more information.

REGIONAL CLUB EVENT

January 17 — Hartford, CT Alumnae Evening at Hartford Stage

A group of faculty and alumnae attended a performance of "Feeding The Dragon" at Hartford Stage on January 17. They enjoyed a remarkable one-woman autobiographical performance written and acted by Sharon Washington who told the story of growing up in a New York City public library.



Faculty members Emma Mitchell, Lindsay Hodgman and Nishette Isaac, Cornelia Guest '70, Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P'17, '19 and Idabelle Paterson '17

REGIONAL CLUB EVENT

January 20 — New York City Winter Antiques Show

Susie Jensen

Rawles '82,

associate curator of painting and decorative art at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, delivered a

lecture on "Citizen Philanthropists: Celebrating a Century of Patronage at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, 1919-2018." Susie, who joined the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in 1995, received a Ph.D. in American Studies from the College of William and Mary, a Master's of Art in the History of Art from Rice University, and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Government from Smith College.



REGIONAL CLUB EVENT

March 4 — Washington, DC

“Fierce Women” Tour at the National Museum of Women in the Arts



Lilia KIELTYKA P'10, Alicia Little Hodge '01, Ashley Coster Harrison '01 and Caroline KIELTYKA '10

REGIONAL CLUB EVENT

March 8 — Boston, Massachusetts
Cocktails and Conversation at the Carrie Nation Restaurant and Cocktail Club

A small but dedicated group of Boston area alumnae gathered at Carrie Nation restaurant for drinks, discussion and brainstorming of ideas for future meeting opportunities. Some of the ideas included cookouts, museum visits, Shakespeare in the Park, BSO on the Esplanade, volunteering, walks and brunch. Please be sure to reach out to your Boston area regional club representative, **Jamiah Tappin '00**, with your ideas or for information on how to become involved. For more information on regional clubs, please visit www.ethelwalker.org/alumnae/regional-clubs.



Crystal Ward '02, Rachael Rosselli '98, Jamiah Tappin '00, and Marisabel Portillo Rendon-Lazarakis '99

REGIONAL CLUB EVENT

April 14 — New York City
“Nasty Women” Tour at the Metropolitan Museum of Art

On this fun and informative two-hour tour, we met women who shattered the glass ceilings of their day — as artists who broke with convention, scientists who toppled stereotypes, and political figures who poisoned and protested their way to power. The tour spanned more than 3,000 years, from ancient Egypt to modern America. Our fabulous tour guide was the brother of Walker's alumna Eve Agush Costarelli '82!



HEAD'S RECEPTION

March 14 — Jupiter Island, Florida

Cocktails and conversation were on the agenda during a gathering in Jupiter Island with Kit O'Brien Rohn '82, chair of Walker's board of trustees, at the home of Kathy McCarthy Parsons '75 and Ged Parsons. Hostesses for the evening included Ruth Cummings Mead '47, Alita Weaver Reed '60, Abra Prentice Wilkin '60, Sarah Gates Colley '75 and Kathy McCarthy Parsons '75. Guests also had a chance to meet Walker's new head of riding, Linda Langmeier and Linda Strohmeier P'21.

— SAVE THE DATE —
HEAD'S RECEPTION
December 7, 2018 — Miami, FL
Walker's at Art Basel
Reception
Hosted by Myrtia Moore '79
and Steven Manolis



Ruth Cummings Mead '47 and Debbie Bell Spoehel '75



Board Chair Kit O'Brien Rohn '82 talks with Alita Weaver Reed '60



Director of Advancement Gretchen Orschiedt talks with Trustee Sarah Gates Colley '75, Carolyn Bell and Trustee Stuart Bell



Abra Prentice Wilkin '60, Jim Wilkin and Audrey Fentress Gorter '50, P'77



Kathy McCarthy Parsons '75 and Sarah Gates Colley '75



Clark Bullock and Whitney de Roulet Bullock '70



Linda Strohmeier P'21 and Board Chair Kit O'Brien Rohn '82

From March 8-12, a group of Walker's alumnae were treated to incredible hospitality from our alumnae and parents in Panama for our first Walker's Women in the World event.



Walker's has enjoyed a strong tradition of students attending from Latin and Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean. Connecting with over 200 alumnae and parents from this region, we gathered a group in Panama for a reunion weekend providing opportunity for both formal and informal conversations with our head of school and four trustees.

We shared reflections and learned about Meera's vision for programmatic and academic developments. Our alumnae from all over the world are not only part of our institutional history, but are a vital part of the School's future.



An evening reception in the city provided introductions, re-connections and a welcome to Panama City.



A luncheon launched a weekend-long dialogue of sharing who we were, who we are, and where we are going, as individuals and as a school.



Our head of school and trustees were involved in all conversations and activities throughout the weekend.



Our final event gathered Panamanian educators and potential students in conversation with alumnae and Walker's leadership.



The Henriquez family and Aidalis Porras '92 hosting a dinner.



Maribel Heilbron P'03 and her daughter Daniela Diaz '03 hosting our welcome reception.



Panamanian hosts Ximena Eleta de Sierra '83 and Yolanda Eleta de Sierra '81 with their mother, Graciela Quelquejeu de Chapman.

Following a welcome reception hosted by Maribel Heilbron P'03, mother of Daniela Diaz de Moses '03, we journeyed to the mountain resort of El Valle where Yolanda Eleta de Varela '81, Ximena Eleta de Sierra '83 and their mother, Graciela Quelquejeu de Chapman P'80, '81, '83, hosted an array of activities. A sunset bike ride, an ornithologist-led hike, and coffee and rum tastings were interspersed between fantastic meals and dynamic conversations.

Back in Panama City, Graciela also led a private tour of the Museum of Contemporary Art, and the Henriquez sisters (Caterina '91, Gioconda '92, Alexandra '97 and Carolina '03) along with their mother Kathy Henriquez and Aidalis Porras '92 hosted a delightful dinner, with Caterina '91 also organizing our first Walker's admissions reception there in years.

TO VIEW ADDITIONAL PHOTOS FROM PANAMA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.ETHELWALKER.ORG/PANAMA



MOUNTAIN RESORT



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL



TROPICAL WEATHER



BIRD WATCHING



SLOTH SIGHTINGS



COFFEE & RUM TASTINGS



LOCAL CRAFT MARKETS

15 suns and 15 dials, 1 head of school and 4 trustees traveled 2,310 miles

for a remarkable Walker's reunion



1 museum



1 beautiful city & 1 mountain resort

2 markets



2 sloths sighted on a morning bird walk

16 bicycles



All adds up to countless hours of fun, memories made and shared



Participants (not all pictured here): Trustee Cecily Chilton Matthai '77, Marisia Jimenez '79, Gizella "Anne" Callender Crawford '81, Yolanda Eleta de Varela '81, Veronica "Roni" Leger '81, Trustee Shelley Marks '81, Motria Procyk '81, Pam Safford '81, Mary Bebel Schinke '81, Amy Storrow '81, Emily Eckelberry Johnson '82, Rocio Pellerano '82, Tracey Reifler '82, Trustee Kit O'Brien Rohn '82, Cynthia Vega '82, Ximena Eleta de Sierra '83, Ana Duran '83, Carrie O'Brien Thomas '84, Mari Aixala '85, Caterina Henriquez de Bern '91, Gioconda Henriquez de Cardoze '92, Aidalis Porras '92, Alexandra Henriquez de Salceda '97, Daniela Heilbron de Moses '03, Carolina Henriquez '03, Analisa Sosa-Henriquez '05, Trustee Teresa Younger, Maribel Heilbron P'03, Graciela Quelquejeu de Chapman P'80, '81, '83, Head of School Meera Viswanathan, Director of Advancement Gretchen Orschiedt, and Director of Alumnae Relations Marion Paterson P'17, '19

Walker's won a Circle of Excellence Silver Award from the international professional association CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) for our Walker's Women in the World event in Panama, as an outstanding example of alumnae programs for special constituencies. Watch for more Walker's Women in the World events in the future!



HOORAY SUNRAY!



BIKE RIDE



BEAUTIFUL CITY



Take Note

We're excited to have a number of new volunteers as class correspondents. New correspondents are noted with a Sundial icon ☞ near their names. Please be sure to keep in touch with them to share your news.

There are still classes needing correspondents.

Please call Director of Alumnae Relations, Marion Paterson P'17, '19 at +1 (860) 408-4257 if you are interested. A big THANK YOU! to all class correspondents, continuing and new. Your work is invaluable in keeping our whole community connected!

1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946

REUNION

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

1947

Joan Ferguson Ellis

The contact information for our class correspondents has been removed to protect their privacy but we want to hear from you! Please send your news to alumnae@ethelwalker.org.

Ruth Cummings Mead ☞

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Ruth Cummings Mead writes, "Continuing connections with EWS: How I loved our 70th!! Reunion at School last spring with Joan "Fergie" Ferguson Ellis, Peg Plunkett Lord, and Shirley McKeever Tanner. We were so impressed with the students, teachers, staff and superb head of school, Meera. The buildings and grounds are kept in top condition, and in spite of the countless changes since our graduation, one can find recognizable landmarks that trigger so many memories. Walker's alumnae and friends gathered on Jupiter Island March

14th for a reception with alumnae and past and current parents — a treat for us all. Family News: Four happily married children: two boys, two girls, all living in New England, all easily accessible to my summer home in Dedham, MA. Eight grandchildren (two in each family); seven girls and one boy. College graduates working in Boston, Washington, DC and Denver. One graduate this June from college, one graduate from secondary school, one in college as a nursing major and ROTC, and one going off to college. The oldest, Katherine Barker, will be living in Portland, ME after her wedding this September; she is the first to get married. Travel: Wonderful trip planned for June/July: ten days in Hampshire, England with very dear English friends with whom I visit every other year. Then, on to London where I meet my son, Dexter, and his family for a couple of days before we all go to Amsterdam and board an AMA river boat cruise for nine days. Florida: I have been going to Jupiter ever since I was five. My husband and I bought a home there in 1973, which we used for short vacations until he retired in 1989. After his death in 1991, I started with six months straight living there. (My legal residence since 1988.) It is a busy, stimulating life with special involvement in a GCA Garden Club, our chapel, old and new friends galore, still playing tennis and golf, going to "lifelong learning" lectures, etc. Advice to our young alumnae: Be thankful. Be kind. Keep learning, reading, and moving (walk every day.) Cherish your family and friends."

Joan Ferguson Ellis writes, "I'm writing movie reviews for newspapers in NJ and VT, working now and then for two film festivals, and writing a memoir for my family that my daughter has agreed to continue in the hope it might become a family tradition. I love life without duty and with much pleasure."

1948
1949
1950
1951
1952

REUNION

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

1953

REUNION

Susan "Susie" Kleinhans Gilbertson
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Betty Flanders Foster writes, "I was at EWS to give a talk and slide show — "Finding One's Voice Through Art." That gave me a chance to see our school in action — I must say, I was very impressed. Yes, 50 years is a long time ago, but there was such a relaxed mood as well as enthusiastic involvement. The School is led with warmth and heart, both by the head, Meera Viswanathan, and associate head,

Amy Wheeler, who by the way, is the daughter of my oldest and very dear friend. Her mother has died, but she would be so proud.

Betsy Rauch Rainoff sends this: "News of sorts, all good! I'm fortunate to be in great health and good spirits, which enables me to ride my horse, play a lot of tennis, travel like crazy, try out duplicate bridge, volunteer a lot and enjoy my family and friends. Had a most interesting trip to Sicily and Rome last April, and last August spent almost two weeks at Waterton Park and Glacier National Park. The views and hiking were amazing and fortunately I didn't get eaten by a bear although there were plenty around. I was elected president of my Wellesley class in June for a term ending in 2022! Sounds a bit optimistic."

Susie Kleinhans Gilbertson writes, "I had a memorable trip to Alaska with my daughter and son-in-law in September. Their industry in every facet of their lives is amazing. Every school in the country should be required to send a class to AK to witness their hard work and survival skills beginning at a very young age. My last football playing grandson's team lost in their high school semi-final playoff followed by some emotional fallout. A great quote emerged from it: 'Success is never final. Failure is never fatal. It's the courage that counts.' —John Wooden.

Suzu Patterson is commuting between Paris and Dayton and hopes

to make Reunion if she's not stuck in Paris. That is a busy time of year for her; we'll cross our fingers."

Rusty Hodgman Huff is content at Trillium Woods, a senior community, and is busy with many activities. She has two new knees and hopes to come in May.

Jeannie Ballentine Riegel has a new addition to her beautiful family, Landon Riegel Smith, her second great-grandson.

Trish Sudler Stimpson and I have been trying to get together. At this rate it might happen at Reunion. How can we be so busy at this age? I'm not complaining!

Bobbie Gerstell Bennett is as busy as ever and especially with Reunion. She did have a short golf get away with her daughter Laura.

Missy Kitchell Lickle is surrounded by family and busy with all her endeavors. She enjoyed meeting Meera and wants to come to Reunion. I enjoyed taking a water aerobics class with her sister and niece Ashley who is also a Walker's girl.

1954

Betty Richards Tripp

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Beginning with a bit of nostalgia, **Helen Harvey Mills** sent a photo of an autographed tile given to her by Colleen Moore, a family friend, while we were EWS students. After Helen corralled all or most of us into autographing the tile, it was baked in a kiln and returned to Helen. More than 60 years later, I find it bittersweet to see our names, including those of our departed classmates. Helen writes of a Harvey Reunion which "spanned more age than I could track" and was held at glorious La Posada in Winslow, AZ. This was followed by another Harvey gathering inspired by Stephen Fried's book, *Appetite for America*, about Fred Harvey's desire to "civilize the west" with Harvey girls and good food — the myth researched by the author. As mentioned by both Helen and **Glenn Shannon Whipple**, during Helen's trip to the southwest, Glenn and Oggie drove to Santa

Fe to meet Helen for both dinner and breakfast the following day. They had a wonderful time catching up on all the news.

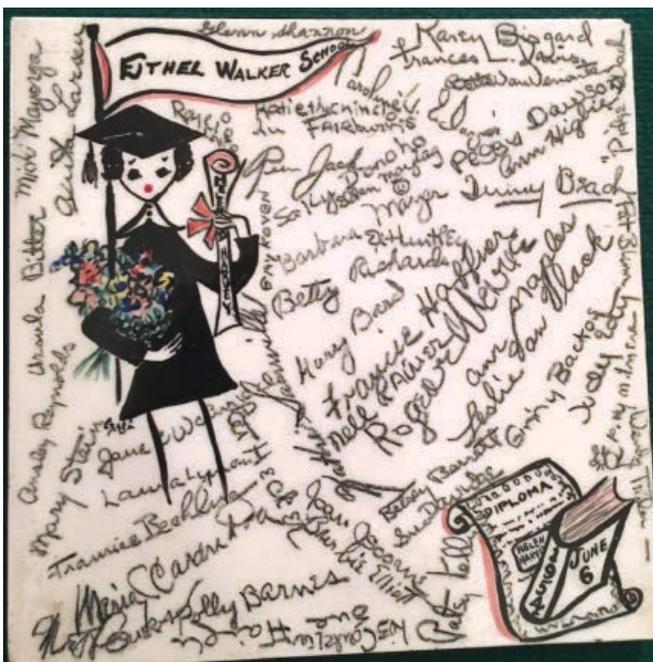
Glenn Shannon Whipple reports that she and her daughter made their 11th mother/daughter trip (they started when they turned 40/70), this time to Nova Scotia. The travel part was difficult, but once there, they had a wonderful time "exploring the island from the tip of Cape Breton down to Lunenburg south of Halifax. Beautiful weather and great seafood! Lobster every day ... and sometimes twice a day!" When home, Glenn says, "I do love to sing and Bible study, and working out three days a week. Life is good and we are very grateful that we live in such a healthy and cool climate!"

As of this writing, **Karen Bisgard Alexander** and family members are in Cuba. Karen writes, "I look at the trip as a replay of history — Castro took over on the weekend we got married. The children see it as a flawed experiment. Otherwise I am trying to keep up with all the changes, upgrades, improvements in my technological devices and I am losing."

Betsey Barrett Phillipps gets the travel prize, noting trips completed during the fall of 2017 and plans through summer 2018. In September, Betsey and her husband made their first trip to Juneau, AK to visit their younger daughter who had moved there in April. Arriving initially in Seattle, WA they went to Bellingham where they began a three-day boat trip northward along the Inland Passage with views of wildlife, whales, countless eagles and dolphins together with spectacular Alaskan scenery. Soon afterwards, they spent three weeks in Tanzania working at The Precious Project, a children's home and elementary school which is their favorite charity.

Betsey continued, "Right before Thanksgiving we drove our RV to Savannah so that in March, when we've had enough of the New Hampshire winter, we can head south for some warmth and we won't have to dig the RV out of a snow bank. We have plans to spend some time in Florida and at one of our favorite birding spots in Alabama. Before going to Florida in February, we're headed to Costa Rica for some birding. This had been on my bucket list for a long time. We'll spend next summer in Big Sky, MT with our older daughter and her family. Our grandsons aged 9 and 11 still think we're fun to hang out with so we're taking full advantage of that."

From Zurich, Switzerland, **Ursula Bitter Ulmer** writes that she spent a demanding five weeks in Cape Town, South Africa in July and August. "First because I ferried my dearest friend there to radiation and chemo treatment daily. It was hard to watch the horrible effects of the chemo and her valiant struggle to cope. Now it's behind her and she is recovering well. Then it was winter there, and although outdoors was chilly and good for hiking, indoors was unpleasantly cold. They have the habit (stoicism?) of keeping windows open even while the electric heater is on and a fire in the hearth. So the after-dinner chat time was eliminated, and I leapt into bed with my dear hot water bottle as soon as possible. I gave a long weekend course at the Jungian Training Institute that went well. That was also a modest success, in spite of being somewhat hijacked by one questioner who wouldn't stop talking and whom I was almost unable to bring to a diplomatic conclusion. Otherwise it was, as usual, a big boon for me to be there that long. I love the incredibly dynamic theater, especially dance and the musicals (see *King Kong*). The landscape touches my soul. I had two



Class of 1954's autographed tile

Take Note

days in a national park where the carpet of spring flowers was spectacular. Politically the turmoil is heartbreaking and frightening and now competes (a dubious ability) with disastrous news from the U.S. They may however be a step ahead of us now that a more reasonable Ramaphosa has been elected head of the ANC and so will likely be president in 2019. Still, I always have this feeling of being at home there.” Ursula concludes with an open invitation to contact her if you are planning a trip to Switzerland. EWS has her contact information.

Patsy Kelly (P.K.) McCornack has made two major decisions to simplify her life. She is thrilled with both of them. First of all, in the fall of 2018 when the new building under construction has been completed, she will move to River Mead in Peterborough, NH. According to P.K., “Not only is River Mead attractive and offers just about everything anyone could possibly want, the town of Peterborough is funky and fun and sort of artsy so it’s right up my alley and it is only about 45 minutes away from Dan and Nancy and the grandkids when they are around. I will keep my house on the island for at least a year to see how that works. Not quite ready to give up my summers on the Vineyard. The second decision is that I have resigned from the board of Featherstone Center for the Arts. It took a lot of soul-searching to do that. I will continue to support Featherstone, take classes, and help in any way I can but will no longer have the onus of being responsible for its future. It kept me awake at night so I’m happy to cut back. This was a particularly great summer on the island. It’s probably the last time I’ll have a grandchild living with me. Sam and Matt are both ensconced in jobs that they love and Annie is hoping to have a merchandising internship next summer. Anybody have any leads

for her in that regard? We had a wonderful family reunion on the island celebrating two birthdays: my brother’s 70th and my 80th. With one exception, all my siblings and their spouses were here as were my children and their children. We had perfect weather and a wonderful, wonderful time! Hopefully it will happen again sometime. I am hoping to do a little traveling this year including spending New Year’s with Stuart and his family in Oregon. I’m still involved in The Dukes County Health Council and will be a volunteer driver for non-driving seniors to get them to their appointments, shopping, etc. I am still playing a lot of bridge and Mahjong; I keep a very busy social schedule and just enjoy life, and fortunately, good health.”

Katie Auchincloss Porter and her husband, Jim, moved to Ocean View at Falmouth, ME over a year ago after a lifetime of being New Jersey residents. Katie writes, “We are very happy and so glad we made the move. We have a cottage at Ocean View, our neighbors are all very nice, the exercise programs are excellent, and we love being 10 minutes from Portland with its excellent symphony, theater and wonderful restaurants. Best of all we have our daughter, Clara, and her family in Portland. Everywhere we drive we have views of the water! Downsizing and selling the farm was not fun, but that is all behind us and we are enjoying an active life! My sister, **Sara Jane “SJ” Gordon ’50**, died in December. I spent most of November back in NJ with her and then at her burial service. She was not well and definitely not a happy camper so it is a relief for her and comforting to know that she is at peace. Jim and I are in good health, mentally and physically, and we are among the fortunate to still be together. Visitors are welcome, maybe not in the winter but any other time.” Call Ocean View and they will contact Katie. Meanwhile, she

would love to meet any classmates in the Boston area for lunch or a weekend, since she is only two hours away. Perhaps in the spring?

Jane McCurrach Talcott reports that she and Hooker, age 85, “are happy to be in the easeful living of their retirement village, Fox Hill in Westwood, MA.” Their seven grandsons and one granddaughter have had interesting years. “Sam graduated with an M.A.T. specializing in reaching inner-city kids and is working hard and finding it very rewarding. Ramsey graduated with a double M.A. in the environment and business and is working in Agra business investments. Ben is finding good work with his B.S. in computer science. Stod with his B.A. in biology is working for Startup America. His twin, Isabel, is just back from a year in the Ukraine on a Fulbright. William is a sophomore at Queen’s University, Ontario and Miles is in his second year at the Chicago College for Performing Arts. We were all together for Christmas at a daughter’s nearby. Proud and happy!”

Ann Higbie Eckrich was in Indianapolis over the Christmas holidays visiting her daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren. One of Ann’s grandsons, living in Chicago and working for Crowe Horwath, will be married in October; his sister is living and working in Dallas. Ann’s Montana grandson, Hans, and his younger sister, Annalise, are both cross-country skiers as is their father. Hans will be attending Middlebury College as did his father. As of the end of the year, Ann retired as a real estate broker after 30 years in the business. While she has enjoyed the work, Ann says she does not leap up and down stairs with the same ease these days. She plans to continue the genealogy work for her children that her family started a few years back as well as supporting the president.

Fran Beekley Ames emailed that she and her husband did a good bit of travel this year in their new camper van, visiting national parks, monuments and reserves, as well as lots of family and friends — great fun. Fran sends good wishes for a healthy, happy year! As she put so aptly, “healthy is probably the key word — we DO move more slowly!”

Mary Stein Dominick-Coomer writes: “A sparse winter for snow in our central Rocky Mountains. If one had to miss a ski season, this was the one to miss. I had a minimum of downhill days, not due to my health, but Sven’s. He had a total knee replacement at the end of October which, unrelated, brought on a heart attack. Two stents were put in and fortunately I am not a widow after three years of marriage! Sven is gaining back strength and muscle tone with a lot of hard work in physical therapy and cardiac rehab so all is good. I became the sole chauffeur, chef, chief bottle washer and nurse. At the insistence of the docs, nurses and Sven, I drove to Denver as previously planned and spent Thanksgiving with our whole family at my oldest son and wife’s home. Great weather, fun activities and food! Greeted the New Year helping Sven prepare for his interview and exam to become an American citizen after 52 years



Mary Stein Dominick-Coomer '54 with her husband, Sven, at his naturalization ceremony

as a resident. Sven was sworn in on March 16, 2018 in Denver with 47 others representing 23 different countries. An impressive and meaningful event. Still involved with Wilderness Workshop and Artists in Wilderness, regularly at the gym and Pilates. Very, very fortunate and have two grandsons living in the Valley who are more than helpful when needed.”

“As for me, **Betty Richards Tripp**, I am still in the same house in the same town with few changes in my life over the past year. Two college-aged grandsons, one a sophomore and one a freshman who live close enough to visit me on college vacations while a third is still in middle school nearby. Family matters have kept me closer to home recently, but I still get to Boston, New York and other familiar places with regularity. I spent an interesting 24 hours with **Frannie Haffner Colburn** in Boston last month visiting special exhibits at the Museum of Fine Arts and the Isabel Stuart Gardiner Museum as well as attending a Gospel choral concert. **Frances Davis Johnstone** is now in an assisted-living community not too far away so I have seen her twice in recent months. More often, I see three of her children, who live locally, relying on one of her sons as my lawyer. A Wellesley College friend and I rented a house on St. Simons Island, GA for the month of March. Since **Kathie Somerville Steele** is now living on St. Simons Island and has just completed building a house next door to one of her daughters, I hope we shall see each other often.”

1955

Letitia McClure Potter
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1956

Adrienne “A” Massie Hill
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Our notes in this issue include the years 2016 and 2017 in summary:

Missy Turnbull Geddes wrote about a special family reunion: “We had a wonderful family reunion at our daughter Lydia’s second wedding in Wisconsin on October 12, 2016. All 19 strong in a beautiful setting, overlooking Lake Michigan. She was walked down the aisle, which was under an arbor, by her father and her 15-year-old son. Her 15-year-old daughter (they are twins) was her maid of honor. It was a very happy time for us all!”

Marlene Marx Twaddell sent a thoughtful note with comments about two of the books that she has enjoyed. “I am recommending the book *Louisa Adams* by Louisa Thomas. It fascinates me, and I am not that interested in American history. Chatter from Boston hints this story will be turned into a musical... the feminine counterpart to *Hamilton*. Also, *The Civil Wars of Julia Ward Howe: A Biography* by Elaine Showalter is excellent in its analysis of a marriage as well as a fresh look at 19th century America.” Marlene and many of our class appreciate the fact that we attended an all-girls’ school during our teenage years, and are grateful that EWS, as a single-sex school, is continuing to be on a strong footing.

Peg Peck Blosser and her husband, Denver, continue their odyssey on and offshore, still enjoying their games of golf at attractive resorts known to us, seeing friends in different places, and faithfully keeping in touch with their large blended families.

If we thought that Peg was organized at school, the Blossers’ itineraries certainly speak to that!

Nancy Lanphier Chapin writes “I can only say that in the last two years, I continued the downsizing at home, along with several trips that have taken me all over the country visiting family! What wonderfully interesting places to which my (extended) family have taken wings: from NY to CA; NM to PA; and MI to WV — and a few places in between. Wow! Meanwhile, I am sitting here at the computer, NOT doing what I’m supposed to be doing, which is to lay out a trip along the Eighth Circuit that Lincoln traversed for almost 20 years, for a bus trip I put together for the spring of 2017...”

As previously written, Nancy remains involved with many of the aspects of Abraham Lincoln’s life and career, and is responsible for organizing events to mark his importance in Springfield, IL, Nancy’s home. Nancy keeps in touch with **Lee Mallowney Story** in San Diego and reports that Lee is well.

Barbara Bidwell Manuel wrote about her work for the Community of Jesus in preparation for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation last year which opened on May 10, 2017. “A concert, symposium and art exhibit were presented in Paris, Strasbourg and Florence in May 2017 and again in New Haven, CT and Orleans, MA in October. The concert in Paris was in Saint-Sulpice which is more than a dream come true for me.” I just looked at the link and would love to have been along with Barbara as we both enjoyed living in Paris while studying abroad back in our college days. She lives in a vibrant community in Orleans, MA. On the website I found the following description: “The symposium shared Catholic and Protestant approaches to

art through the lenses of history, theology, liturgical contexts, and post-Vatican II developments, with specific references to areas of exchange between American and European viewpoints.” Interesting, Barbara, and a lot of work for you!

Last month **Serena Stewart** wrote: “Crazy time here. I have just put my apartment on the market and, when it sells, I will buy a new one that is much smaller.” Those of us who gathered at Serena’s a few years ago know how stunning it is. Downsizing! “Even though I am not a clutterer, there is so much to do during these next few months. One thing is that my books are going to the Ketchum Sun Valley Community Library — 4,000 of them! Need I say more?” Thanks, Serena, for taking the time to write.

In the same vein **Phoebe Haffner Andrew** wrote that she moved into her new house in Seattle and loves it. She went to Malta in October with her sister, **Frannie Haffner Colburn ’54**. “Fascinating as there are so many layers of history.”

I’ve been in touch with **Gail Sheppard Moloney** who divides her time between Greenwich and Vero Beach, but most of all, makes visits with her three daughters, who are scattered, at the top of her list. “I went to England at the end of June to celebrate my granddaughter Victoria’s graduation from Cambridge University and a few days later her 21st birthday with a marvelous dinner dance. Later in July, I traveled with my friend and college roommate, Mary Ann (Bickford) Casey, first to Budapest and then down (or up?) the Danube on a lovely riverboat. In October I went on a safari in Tanzania with my daughter, Hillary, ending with a few days in Zanzibar on the beach. Now I am hoping to spend a restful winter

Take Note

in Vero Beach with a few trips planned to see my daughters and their families.” Wonderful year, Gail.

Gigi Pearson Smithers sent a note recently that she and her husband, Kip, have recently moved into a new community in Vero Beach, where they have lived for many years. “This time of year is already crazy but this year especially, having moved into a new, gated community I find that I am spending too much time trying to assist the new president of our board with the difficult process of finding a new landscape team to take care of the common areas of our community. Now I can see why no one wants to volunteer for any HOA committee!” Gigi has five grandsons who are scattered. “Our oldest is 28 and recently married a darling girl this past fall in Hilton Head. He is a professional musician and doing well in Nashville, TN. The second oldest has a daughter who is six and was a flower girl in the wedding. My daughter’s boys are 19, at Hobart College; 17, just accepted to Elon University; and her youngest, Aidan, is still at home.” Gigi’s grandsons are all fine athletes. Gigi writes, “We are both now retired from the antiques business, which is no loss since they have fallen out of favor, though we still love them.” The shop had a great name, I thought, Escutcheon. “Aside from a multitude of joint problems, my husband and I have so far been blessed with good health so we are grateful for each day.” Thanks, Gigi.

Earlier in 2017 I had a long email from **Clarina Schwarzenbach Firmenich** written from Verbier in the Swiss Alps where she and her companion, Dusan Sidjanski, spend time in both summer and winter. Although she has forgone skiing, Clarina writes about her love of walking, and I can’t think of prettier country than where she is. We are hoping that she and

Dusan may make a trip to the U.S. sometime this year. She sent an email with darling pictures of her newest treasure with four feet!

Dorothy Doubleday Massey wrote: “My first trip out of New Mexico in five years took me and my wonderful son, Paul, for ten amazing days and nights to Cuba, where we joined eight others on a Food First sponsored Cuban-run tour of Cuban farms. Food sovereignty is a major concern in Cuba, where ration cards are still in effect and food availability is scarce. This does not prevent the Cuban people from welcoming representatives of the country with open arms and enthusiastic smiles, and dear to my heart, books and reading are a favorite Cuban activity. My son is a farmer on Kauai, which is on the same latitude as much of the Cuban interior, so he contributed much to the adventure and bonded readily with the farmers. The famous American cars are immaculate and numerous, and then twenty minutes outside of Havana, it’s strictly horse and buggy. Like the Grand Canyon, this is a country which needs to be seen to be believed, and the trip was a fulfillment of a decades-long desire. Then, to cap it off, my dear niece, **Wendy Buck Brown ’79**, and her family came in from Charlottesville, Seattle and San Francisco to join us for a packed Thanksgiving weekend. I am very lucky. As to books, among many others, *Collected Works (CW)*, Dorothy’s book shop in Santa Fe, recently presented Santa Fean Caroline Fraser in the local launch of *Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder*, a fascinating account of her life and the lives of early farmers/settlers in the midwest. “In February 2018, we are joining bookstores across the country to celebrate the life of the great Uruguayan author, Eduardo Galeano, with readings in two languages. His posthumously published book, *Hunter of Stories*, is already

moving smartly off our shelves. CW covers or presents about five events a week, so life is busy and we are planning great events for the store’s 40th anniversary next year. I am in the store most days and would love to welcome my EWS sisters of any graduating year to the store and to Santa Fe!” I greatly enjoy the broadcast emails that come from the Shop. Thank you, Dorothy, for your very interesting observations about Cuba.

Mary Jo Laflin Field sent a sweet picture of Carlotta, a 7-month-old Havanese whom they acquired after losing Bianca, their beloved mini Eskie this summer. Mary Jo and her companion, John Simonds, live in Chicago and spend their winter months in San Miguel. “Santa really came this year because both my children and four grandchildren all came to Chicago for the first time in years. What bliss! EWS is developing a presence in Chicago. We went to a lovely party given by **Abra Prentice Wilkin ’60** and her husband, Jim.”

Late in 2016 I received a long email from **Linen Miller Greenough** who lives in Sheridan, WY. She writes, “We just had our third great grandbaby and are so fortunate to have them living on the ranch. They keep us very busy and delighted always. After a bad horse wreck and a couple of surgeries, I am ‘back in the saddle again.’ Amazing how good orthopedic surgeons can patch us together these days.” She adds that this week she, too, is getting a new puppy — a Red Heeler. “She’ll either add 10 years to or subtract 10 years from my life. We shall see.” Linen’s husband, Doug, is still working hard. “We are gradually running fewer cattle and our grandson is running more so that we can lease the ranch to him in a couple of years. We will continue with our hay operation as long as we can. We are very blessed to have our

grandkids and their kids living on the ranch.” To celebrate her 80th birthday, Linen and Doug are floating down the Mississippi! Smooth sailing, Linen. Last June, Linen went to a ukulele camp in Michigan “...and had a blast! Fun bunch of people and the best instructors. I tried to get a club going here but no luck yet. This is mandolin/guitar country and ukes aren’t taken very seriously. It’s been fun for someone who’s never been proficient in playing a musical instrument. It’s never too late.” Agree! “The whole family is all doing well and most are close by. The grandkids are in various colleges or graduated and life goes on with interesting twists and turns. Our eldest son is 58 which is hard to believe.” Linen’s note was too tempting, and so we had a long telephone conversation about many mutual interests and observations. Linen sounds exactly as I remembered; we hadn’t spoken for several years, but it was as if no time had passed.

Mal and I had a lovely evening in Seattle during the summer of 2016, and I just had a great visit with **Phoebe Haffner Andrew ’56** who looks simply splendid. We had planned to return to Seattle this past summer for another month, but some medical “issues” suffered by my husband prevented our trip. When we were in Seattle, we could not have had a better time seeing our friends and enjoying the beauty of the city, the surrounding bodies of water and the snow-covered mountains. It is high on our list of the most beautiful cities in our country. We certainly hope that we will be able to make the trip next summer. We spent a full year singing at the Cathedral of St. Philip, and I know that I have raved about it before; I will only say that Miss Sala has to be smiling! Mal, when he can, and I sing one of the morning services every Sunday, and then I return to sing in the Evensong Choir (Schola) at 4:00 p.m., a smaller group singing the

service of Evensong, a gem, really, of the Episcopal church's musical offerings. My two-piano partner and I continue to meet weekly as much as we can; knitting, needlepoint, bridge and reading continue to be great pleasures for me. Last winter I attended a history course sponsored by the Sweet Briar Alumnae Club of Atlanta. The subject was "Marching through 20th Century History: the Post-World War: 1945 – 1950." Many of my history and political science courses seemed to end at 1945 so I was eager to fill in some blanks.

Mimi Gibbs Piper '57 and her husband, Jim, were in Atlanta in the fall of 2016 for a family wedding. We met for brunch and could not have had a better visit. Once again, it was that easy feeling of picking up just where we left off. **Serena Stewart** keeps me on my toes as our Scrabble game (Words with Friends) continues. The "stats" are the same: she is miles ahead! Earlier in 2017 Serena traveled to northern England visiting friends, and on return, had a nice evening with **Pat Love Anderson** and her husband, Derek.

Barbara Richards Pitney and I have been in touch recently. Her latest email says: "Am enjoying my grandchildren: three handsome boys and one gorgeous girl, all between ages 12 and 17. I am able to take an occasional weekend away, most recently enjoying the Delamar in Greenwich. Barbara's husband, Philip, has chronic Lyme disease that caused a thyroid problem and a fantastic Lyme specialist doctor discovered this. She is also a vitamin doctor and now he has improved so much. "I am working on a 'Live Locally, Buy Locally' program to help save Main Street. Do your part, please."

Once a year we remember our classmates who have died: **Constance "Connie" Irwin**

Bray, Caroline "Cookie" Schutt Brown, Patricia "Pat" Pfaff Gosnet, Emily "Bonnie" King Harrison, Elaine Humphreys Hewitt, Evlyn "Evie" Bardeen Leach, Nancy Sherwood O'Hearn, Betsy McNally Ravenel, Anne Machold Rooks, Jean Fonda Shank, Mary Laird Silvia, Caroline "Carol" Stanwood, and Lynn Fentress Underhill.

1957

Virginia "Ginny" Lambrecht
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Lucy Annibali Gardner lives in Quechee, VT and has a son living near Tampa, FL, where he is an airline pilot. She also has a daughter in California and a brother in Jupiter, FL. Unfortunately, she lost her dear husband in June after a long illness.

Susan Getz is living in Napa Valley and was divorced in '75. She recently had to evacuate her home for ten days due to the devastating fires. She has two daughters, two sons and two grandchildren, ages eight and ten years old. Susan is a volunteer for Guide Dogs for the Blind, a veterinary recovery room nurse, an antiques dealer, and she makes necklaces with purchases from antique shops. Hiking is a favorite pastime, and she especially enjoys visiting Umbria, Tuscany, the Amalfi Coast and Provence.

Carolyn Stein Shohet lives in Massachusetts and says, "We continue to enjoy our small farm where we raise a few beef cattle and an occasional sheep or two. During the winter months, the

animals feed on hay that my husband grows and cuts from other parts of town. Our children and grandchildren are grown — we miss having babies around! Our eldest granddaughter will be wed on Memorial Day, so maybe she'll help us out in that department."

Jinny Tilt Sammis wrote to say that "Our biggest news is that this past fall we sold our lovely Three Stallion Inn in Randolph, VT to the Brunswick School in Greenwich so they could create a northern New England campus. This will be, for now, for sophomores to receive an alternative education, introducing them to rewarding businesses in goat farming, cheese making, dairy farming, forestry, and organic vegetable farming. 12-14 kids will probably spend about two weeks at a time at the Inn campus, and they will be leaving most of the tech toys behind, except for their laptops which will be needed for schoolwork. They will also be cleaning and cooking for themselves!!! I believe that there will be two Masters and their families living there as well, and their kids will go to the public school. Brunswick also bought 600 of the 1,300 acre Green Mountain Stock Farm, so they are part of our whole

association. We look forward to seeing this new development grow and benefit Randolph, as well as boys at the school. We continue to spend time at our lovely home in Randolph with family and friends and getting out to visit our son and his family in Sun Valley. We are fortunate to have our daughter's family here in Greenwich, so we get to help out quite a bit, which we love to do. Sam is still working hard in the real estate business. I am still singing with our church and concert choirs here in Greenwich — great fun. We both spend time trying to keep our joints working, whether fake or real."

Angie Pell wrote to say that she visited Walker's three years ago when a great-niece graduated. Last year was not a happy one for her, as she lost her love in May and misses him dreadfully. She writes that she is still riding and fox hunting three days a week during the season and takes care of three horses at her place and three others which are farmed out. She is still teaching History at Reynolds Community College on days she doesn't foxhunt. This keeps her very busy, and she is also singing in choir every Sunday. She ended by saying "Would you believe I have a six-year old nephew?" She and **Betsy Rauch**



Angie Pell '57 and Betsy Rauch Ferris Rainoff '53 at Deep Run Hunt in the fall.

Take Note



Angie Pell '57 with her sisters: Tria Dove, Macy Hill, Billie Hill and Angie

Ferris Rainoff celebrated joining the Fox Hunting Centennial Club by fox hunting on horses whose age and theirs equals 100. Both Betsy and Angie have joined the Centennial Club riding on Elliott. "We are both still foxhunting as much as possible, often two or three times a week. Very lucky."

Randy Furlong Street wrote to say how sorry she was that I was the only one to attend our 60th Reunion. She said, and I quote, "I had been several times to Walker's and felt quite sorry that I had no children to pull me into today's cultural setting, but am quite happy they are still going strong and reaching a new generation of young women. My 80th birthday is coming this summer and I'm thankful to be plugging along. Still playing golf when weather permits and doing much international travel. Of course, the body doesn't always let me do what I think I should be doing, but hopefully, I am wise enough to recognize my limitations."

Sandy Lipson Ryon would like to hear from anybody with book suggestions please.

Kenny King Howe is visiting in Boca Grande right now, and I just had a chance to catch up with her and her husband, Nat. She looks great and hasn't changed a bit. They have a place in Jupiter, FL

and also spend summers at Fishers Island. She relayed that **Dedo du Pont Kidd** had surgery a while ago and is doing well. Dedo and Barron live at Fishers Island three months of the year and the rest of the time in Dallas. She has four children and 10 grands. Kenny said that 2018 has been terrific for seeing EWS friends. She had lunch with **Pat Day Storm** who came east for her 79th birthday and also lunch with **Joanie Garver Anderson** in NYC. She also caught up with **Tory Kitchell**, whose granddaughter works for Morgan Stanley.



Dedo (du Pont) '57 and Barron Kidd

Trudy Beebe Miller writes, "In 2015, after 24 years in rural Harford County, MD where David helped found and run the Harford Land Trust and I worked in advising and counseling at Harford Community College, we both retired and moved back to Baltimore. Prior to our move to the country in 1989, we had lived in the city where we raised our three daughters and where they all attended the Baltimore City public schools. All three were in college or out when we moved to the country. So in spring 2015, we moved into a condominium just north of the Johns Hopkins campus and within easy distance to the many cultural attractions in Baltimore. We enjoy everything about this easy, pleasant lifestyle. Two weeks ago, we packed our bags and left for a two-week visit to Arizona where we lived many decades ago. It was a great trip with warm, sunny days, visits with old friends and trips to several of the fine museums in Phoenix. We returned home March 2 just after that ferocious nor'easter had struck the east coast. We are looking forward to spring which is usually lovely in Maryland and particularly in this neighborhood where we live."

1958 REUNION

Barbara Welles Bartlett

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Elisabeth Bartlett Sturges

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1959

Elena Miller Shoch

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1960

Phyllis Richard Fritts

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Christy Hoffman Brown emails, "I'm taking two Maltese pet therapy doggies on patient visits three days a week at Memorial Sloan Kettering plus auditing a course each semester at Baruch College. This and lots of overseas travel keeps me busy and in tiptop shape. Owning two racehorses adds to the excitement for me and my son."

Harriet Blees Dewey was just at EWS and was lucky enough to see some of the students. "I always marvel at their poise and thoughtful replies to questions. I urge all who are able to visit campus to go. I promise you will be proud of the present Walker's; it will lift your hearts knowing that these girls are part of the future of our world. As for my family, this past summer we had all 15 grandchildren on Martha's Vineyard to celebrate Bob's 86th and my 75th. Yikes! Be well Class of '60. Our 60th is just around the corner."

Mimi Moore Rosenwald "has no interesting news to share just same old, same old. Grandchildren are a great source of joy. My body is creaky but keeps on moving. Can't wait to hear what others are up to."

Susan Shierling Riegel Harding writes, "2017 was a good year for family and health-wise, not so good for the tenor of the country. My daughter Tatiana edited the movie *I, Tonya* and was nominated Best Editor Independent Spirit Awards in NYC. I traveled from San Diego to visit her for 10 days. She feted me with three Broadway plays: *Hamilton*, *Hello Dolly* and *Oslo*. We took the train up to visit my sister, **Jane Shierling**

Walsh '61 for Mother's Day. I also spent two days with **Patty Kelsey Schultz** in NYC where we visited a couple of museums, had a lovely tea in Greenwich Village and walked the High Line working on solving the world's problems, without success. Aside from general aches, the hardest decision at this age seems to be the best way to downsize. I'm actually in a good place — my house is one story, three blocks from the bus stop and within the village, there are many nice places to eat, a funky movie theatre, two wine bars, a library and a mini organic grocery store. It's all flat and a great neighborhood to walk my dog...life is good."

From **Caryl Van Ranst Dearing**, "In November I was back at EWS for an Alumnae Board meeting. The school is looking fabulous with new paddocks. All you riders need to see what is going on with the riding program. I attended classes which made me want to go back to school. Meera is very special and has done wonders for the school... My life on the Vineyard is busy playing mahjong, serving on the Featherstone Center for the Arts Board, knitting, exercising to keep the body in shape, traveling and spending time with the kids and grandchildren. Our son Alex, a substance abuse physician and professor at BU School of Medicine and BMC, his wife, Erin, and two teenage sons live in Needham, MA. One daughter, Melissa, who is a massage therapist and her husband, Ean, who is in construction, live on the Vineyard with their two mastiffs. Our other daughter, Juliet, lives and works in Monterey, CA. Just a thought for the Class of '60 — our 60th comes up in two years. Unique opportunity for a special time for a special class. Put it on your calendars!"

Margie Field emails, "Will be 76 next week which horrifies me, but everything still works and am

creaky only in the morning. The news around here is about the farm which continues to provide food for lots of people. With the cold weather on the horizon, we are going to New Zealand where it will be warm right after Christmas. Everyone in the family is working hard at their various schools. David's granddaughter is a freshman at EWS this fall, on the soccer team, and is being challenged by the terrific teachers."

1961

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

1962

Sage Dunlap Chase
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1963 REUNION

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

1964

Cindy Higgins Roby 
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Tina Gardner Locke says: "Just a little news from me: My youngest daughter was married in July and lives 10 minutes from me (yay!), and my oldest delivered a bouncing baby boy named Charlie in January who joins his 3-1/2 year old sister, Ellie. My younger daughter, Christie, was married last July and is expecting her first



Tina Locke '64 with her new grandson, Charlie

baby this coming July! So many blessings. I am golfing, gardening, painting botanicals and taking care of everyone and loving it all."

Carla Meyer writes, "For some insane reason, I decided to forgo my not-very-successful run at semi-retirement and have gone back to work on the AVATAR sequels. We're shooting four of them over the next eight (OMG!) years. Luckily, the experience is not without its 'HOORAY SUNRAY' because **Sigourney Weaver '67** is also working on it. I appreciate getting called out on my various purple t-shirts for looking very 'Dial.' **Lisa Palmer** was in CA for a visit during rehearsal — a mini-reuniting. Facebook has been such a fun resource for catching up with my 'friends.' Chuck and I are incredibly grateful that both our home and our animals were spared the California fires of 2017. They were all around us, but not so close that we had to evacuate. And a huge thank you to the amazing **Cindy Higgins Roby** for stepping up as our class correspondent again."

Celeste Royall Niarchos reports, "I am enjoying retirement, my two grandchildren, golf and organizing all the volunteer activities in my Florida golf community."

Cindy Higgins Roby says, "I am grandmother of four. Thoughtlessly their father, son Jay, and his family live in Atlanta so I can't hover as obnoxiously as I'd like to! I am busy in the community, involved with various nonprofits and work in the Sausalito Visitor Center weekly. I had a long phone catch-up in December with **Wendy Frey Textor**. Her daughter, Katie, who lives in NYC with her family, was battling cancer at the time. If she has inherited Wendy's positive energy, the disease will have met a fearsome opponent!"

Helen Dickerson reports: "I am happily married to Bruce Hiscock, author and illustrator of children's books. We live just outside Saratoga Springs, NY on the edge of the Adirondack Park in our house that Bruce built by hand. We have daily visits from deer, squirrels, and lots of birds at the feeder. We always hope not to see the bear and we bring the feeders in at night. We're skiers, so we long for the cold winter with lots of snow. I discovered my artistic passion some years ago and delight in sketching and painting in watercolor. After so many years working and living by someone else's schedule, it is an absolute delight not to set an alarm — except for the early morning flight to a western ski resort. The Walker's publications reveal that it is a completely different school today from what it was in the early '60s — vibrant and current — preparing young women for leadership in a greatly changed world. Helps me feel hopeful."

Alice Simkins says, "I enjoy living in San Antonio and am still devoted to museum work here and in Houston, and enjoy summers in Santa Fe."

Patsy Ladd Carega writes, "I don't have a lot to report. Passed 25-year anniversary in the gallery business — 15 of them in Sandwich. I have never lived that

Take Note

long in one place in my entire life. I'm playing tennis, skiing, hiking, paddling and doing all those things that life in the lakes and mountains offers us. I hope to ski with my kids in Italy in March and take some time in the sun somewhere too. Hope everyone in the Class of '64 is well."

1965

Sarah Elting Doering

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Janet "J.J." Taylor Lisle writes, "My novel, *Quicksand Pond* (ages 11 and up), came out in May through Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Received a starred review in Booklist ('striking, enigmatic and haunting') and also made Kirkus Reviews' Best Books of the Year. I love this novel and think it's among the very best in my long — almost 30 years now — career in children's fiction." www.JanetTaylorLisle.com

Helen Frederick says, "I spent part of the summer in Alaska and experienced sublime weather. I got to fly to the base camp in Denali, fly to a bear refuge in Lake Clark Wilderness, and take a catamaran around Prince William Sound. Then I boarded a small ship and spent two glorious weeks, slowly meandering up and down the coast, eventually ending up in Vancouver. I'm now headed off to Chile, Patagonia, Antarctica, South Georgia Island, Uruguay, and Argentina for a month of horseback riding, hiking, and kayaking!!!!"

Nancy Brookfield Burke sent this: "There's no real news...except Duncan and I were re-elected to town government in Greenwich this fall...and took up paddle boarding this summer — trying to stay young and fit. We traveled with my daughter in England,

Scotland, and France and continue to keep busy with our combined five children and five grandchildren. This winter I'll be assisting again with the Telluride Adaptive Ski Program."

Sarah Elting Doering writes, "Fred and I have been enjoying retirement and have taken some adventurous trips. We went to Argentina and Chile with **Sarah Wood Blumenstein** last winter and Bali for a week in the spring. We are following **Helen Frederick** to Antarctica in January — the very same boat. As she disembarks we get on! Maybe she will leave a note. At home we keep busy volunteering on nonprofit boards, and are having a great time with our three children and two granddaughters who all live in southern California. I have been really enjoying my new role on the EWS Alumnae Board. It is amazing to see how the School has changed under Meera's inspired leadership."

1966

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1967

Dianne "Dia" Wasley Chigas

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Acton Barnwell Beard writes, "I've been married 47 years to Jim Beard and have two truly stellar kids/people who are married to equally fine people with three children each, currently 9-17 years old. Each is very unique in gifts and personality and the absolute joy of our dotage! Over the past 25 years, we've been blessed to live here, in Pawleys Island, SC on the coast, on a big sailing catamaran in the Bahamas for two years,

where we ran a retreat 'business' for couples needing intensive marriage counseling, and in Bluffton, SC outside Hilton Head as marriage and family therapists. Though we love sharing gifts of hospitality and wining and dining our family and friends, we are very devout Christians (as are our family) and involved in leadership in our church. Jim is highly gifted with technical stuff; he builds and manages computer and other such systems (I am clueless even to spell it out!) both in church and in general. I lead a community-wide ministry to women of all ages, my 'heart' focus being 20-40 year olds, and I'm currently mentoring about 25 of them outside the regular larger group meetings. We are also both writing books which has been a great mental exercise for us; we'll hopefully find the self-discipline and make the time to complete them in the next several months. Jim's book is entitled, *The Husband's Handbook*, mine is on Healing Prayer — what it is and why we need it. Also know I'm to write one on women's relationships, as we are a mess. Life is full on and we know we are exceedingly blessed. As for deep thoughts, what comes to me to say is that at our age and stage of life, we have the privilege and opportunity to make a contribution to society as never before by passing on to our children, and in particular to

our grandchildren, perspectives and values that can be life transformational to them. If we don't know who we are, what we believe/stand for, what we would take a bullet for, and what our purpose is on this planet, then it could be very difficult to help them navigate the waters before them. Needless to say, it's a crazy world they are hatching out into and they didn't cause or ask for any of it. We have the responsibility (in my humble opinion — as my family tease me) NOT to provide them with 'material stuff', which only enhances their already cultural sense of entitlement/lack of appreciation or even awareness of the value of delayed gratification as a worthwhile concept, but instead, to foster within them a sense of inner strength/



Kate Crichton Gubelmann '67's grandchildren Lilly (age 9) and Stokes (age 8) Bostwick



Summer Still #3 by Kate Crichton Gubelmann '67

resourcefulness and competency that will support them no matter the global nightmares to come. If you don't know who you are (and Whose you are) or what you believe in enough to die for or fight for, then you are in trouble. If the 9/11 of all time were to take out EVERYTHING one holds dear and defining, who and where would you be? Think about it. Answer truthfully, and if it needs work, address it before you minister truth to your babies. They deserve THE BEST we can give them of thought, mind and spirit. The rest is superfluous. And yes, we voted for Trump and are proud of it. May 2018 be blessed in ALL your lives."

Kate Crichton Gubelmann sends this: "Fifty years is a lot to think about! Who knew it would all go so quickly? Here are just a few things that come to mind...."

What I had at Walker's, and still do:

- Incredible friends
- Lots of laughs
- Love of reading
- I can write, thank you Miss Ash
- Inspired by art, thank you Miss B
- Transported by music, thank you Miss Rosie
- A curious mind

What I no longer have:

- Standardized testing
- Ice cream twice a week
- Sturdy Browns
- Room inspection
- Fermented apple cider
- Anything on a Ritz cracker
- Study Hall

What I am now:

- Wife, Mother, Grandmother
- Traveller
- Painter/photographer
- Writer
- Board member
- Bridge and tennis player"

1968 REUNION 1969

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1970

Gail Chandler Gaston

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Whitney de Roulet Bullock '70 (seated), her husband, Clark, and Gail Chandler Gaston '70

1971

Cynthia Smith Evanisko

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Martha "Marty" Hedgpeth wrote in her Christmas news that she is still at Christ Church in Charlotte and will have been there 21 years as of the end of February 2018. For her sabbatical, she went to Scotland and England, as well as other places closer to home (Chicago, Boston, and time with family.) Her current companion is a four-year-old Golden Retriever, Ghillie. Over the years Marty

has sent wonderful photos of her four-footed friends, and Ghillie is the latest in a long line of handsome dogs. She also says she just received her Medicare card in the mail.

Betsy Ballenger writes: "I guess most of us will hit 65 this year. Since my health insurance went from \$620 to \$1,890 per month, I have to say I'm glad I've reached this exalted age so I can benefit from the reduced rates. All is well here in Charlottesville, except for the "unpleasantness" last summer. If only everyone had just stayed home, most especially the unwanted visitors from out of town. My real estate career is picking up, I've stopped working part time for the retired professor, and I continue to trap/transport as many feral and homeless cats as I can. Chris continues to pour wine at Grace Estate Winery just west of town."

I emailed **Heidi Hall Jones** early last year. She is living in Jacksonville and has a shop, Punch Jones, in St. Augustine, billed as "vintage and antique lighting, furniture, and accessories, custom upholstery, design services, and art consultancy." The photos on Facebook are awesome. Heidi says she sometimes comes up my way for antiquing, so I hope we can get together.

Last September **Liza Felder** came for her annual week at my family house in Southold, Long Island. She still lives in Dallas with her four-footed friend, Pellinore, the Wheaten Terrier. She spends a lot of time at the local dog park with her friends, both human and canine, and keeps her mind sharp by playing a lot of bridge and doing jigsaw puzzles.

Cynthia Elyse Leonard (aka Muffin) emailed me that she moved back east from Denver in 1983 and has been living in Marion, MA most of the time since '93. About two years ago,

she bought a Hanoverian colt and a home in Texas, so she spends a lot of time there. Her house in Marion had a fairly major flood last year while Muffin was at her sister's in California recuperating from her second spinal surgery. Then burglars vandalized her Texas home, so first she will finish refurbishing the flooded house, then head to Texas to deal with insurance claims. Plus, she's gotten word that wild pigs have been tearing up her gardens, lawns, orchard and fields. Son Rémy is in Illinois at boarding school.

Debbie Seaman reports that she and **Charlotte Smart Rogan** got together for coffee in Westport, CT to discuss fictional writing. While Debbie was excited to have just finished her first novel, Charlotte was working on her third. Furthermore, *The Lifeboat*, Charlotte's best-selling first novel, has been optioned for film by Focus Features and Working Title with Anne Hathaway attached as actress and producer. "These things can take years, so stay tuned" Charlotte said. While catching up on their lives, they also shared their disgust at the current administration and the continued funneling of wealth from poor to rich. Debbie also got together with **Jane Orndahl** and **Libby Grant** for one of their periodic "girls' dinners" in New Canaan right before the New Year. Libby is still working as a trusts and estates attorney at her own firm, Smith & Grant LLP, in Greenwich, CT. Her husband, Mark Pruner, works with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services in Greenwich. Libby's mother, **Swan McLean Grant '39**, is still going strong and turned 96 last January. Jane is still at JPMorgan in Manhattan and enjoys spending her free time with her daughters. Alexa is a junior at James Madison majoring in graphic design, and Niki is a senior at New Canaan High School and looking for colleges with TV and film production

Take Note

majors. Debbie herself, aside from working on her book, has been working as a substitute French teacher as often as she can in school districts near New Canaan. She and her therapist husband, Warren Lancaster, are empty nesters but glad to have their fraternal twin boys fairly close by. Their son, Cameron, is a photo editor at The Foundry, a Time Inc. custom-publishing company in Brooklyn; Lachlan is at Princeton working on a Ph.D. in astrophysics.

1972

Joanna Betts Virkler

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From **Joanna Betts Virkler**:

“This coming October, our class is going to get together for the fourth time — the third time on Pawleys Island, SC — for our every-other-year, four-night reunion. We are anticipating a group of about 16 or 17 — and have room for more! If you want to get a good idea about how incredibly special this time is with former classmates, just read on...”

From **Karen Brooks**: “I am hoping some other folks will consider joining us this time. I was so reluctant at first to come to Martha’s Vineyard, thinking it was just another school reunion option, maybe just for a certain group of friends, and an expensive one at that. I worried I would feel like I didn’t belong because so much time had gone by, that my life wasn’t on a par with others, that it would be awkward. Luckily, I knew I had at least one old friend going so I took a chance. What ended up happening is that, instead, it allowed us to create a new experience, a unique bond that has brought our teenage experience into the present. It has allowed us to put some of

what happened back in the ’70s into perspective, and we have all been able to laugh and cry and understand a little better in a way that would not be possible at a one-meal or one-day event at the school. The place itself, Pelican Inn on Pawleys Island, is old and funky but beautiful, and there are basically no rules, no expectations other than simply being. Something about cooking together, kayaking and biking together, swimming and walking on the beach together, and just sitting and talking, has allowed this immense feeling of safety and peace. One of the best things that has come from this is that while most of us may have issues in our lives that seem daunting at times, we now have this ever-expanding group of classmates, some of whom we never connected with back in school, who are there for us. So, I hope you will consider taking that possibly huge leap and join us at Pawleys Island. All the best from your troublesome classmate. P.S. I’m now singing in a trio called the Trouble Sisters!”

Jane Hadden Geisse adds:

“Thanks for expressing that so well, Karen. It’s absolutely true and amazing. We are so lucky to have each other.”

And **Deidra Roach-Quarles**:

“Echoing thanks, Karen. Your words are heartwarming and the gospel truth. I only wish everyone could feel such safety and peace... always.”

From **Cynthia Anderson Barker**:

“There is something about the space that has been created at Pawleys Island that allows us to simply ‘be.’ No expectations, no pretense, just sharing who we are as women with each other.”

And **Aimee Gilleaudeau**

Lundy: “Thank you, Karen, for summarizing so beautifully! Absolutely! These times together are all the best of high school with none of the heartbreak or

angst. I cannot emphasize how much these weeks mean to me. I only wish we could do this more often!”

From **Babbie “Babs” Epple**

Melka: “Thank you, Karen, for also expressing so eloquently my fears and concerns about my first trip to Pawleys Island. I attended the last gathering and was welcomed with open arms from all. The slate had been washed clean of all the stupid things I had done, and everyone was excited to hear my life journeys, good and not so good. The support and excitement from all was such a blessing.

From **Cathy Miller Patel**:

“Karen, you expressed the feelings and trepidations perfectly, as I myself felt them when I signed on for my first Pawleys Island gathering. I had not been back on campus... ever(!) since graduation...and connecting and reconnecting with such a warm, open-hearted group of women from our class at EWS was quite a momentous and strengthening experience. I also hope that others who are out there considering participating will join us as well. That world we shared together back in high school is truly a life-long bond unto itself. Who else would understand language like Sturdy Browns and pink slips (of which I had a gazillion...?) It struck me how people are willing to share their vulnerabilities. It’s easy to celebrate successes and happy news. I believe it’s the struggles that take the most courage, though certainly successes people achieve in life are often the result of fortitude and determination. Many of us have faced some real challenges along the way, which is understandable given the number of decades we’ve been on this earth! And it’s this sharing of the gratitudes, as well as the heartaches in a non-judgmental and genuinely caring and supportive environment, that made the weekend so special for many of us. (I attended four years

ago...and have signed on again for this year!) It’s a very special group of women, and a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, and to have fun!! I particularly loved the beach walks/talks, swimming, singing with our wonderful guitar players, Karen and Jane, and taking a convoluted bike ride whereby I misdirected everyone, though they were up for the adventure, and thankfully... very forgiving!”

And from **Mimi Mead-Hagen**:

“It’s great to have a band of sisters and to reinforce these relationships, particularly these days. Best to all and look forward to our next gathering.”

From **Candace “Candy” Bell**

Moser: “I have enjoyed reading the posts about the wonderful times on Pawleys Island. I agree it’s a great place. I will be in Arizona that weekend attending a class. I hope you have wonderful weather and another great gathering. An EWS memory: Whenever I use cardamom in a recipe, I am reminded of the wonderful cardamom bread Jill used to make.”

Susie Churchill Bowman adds:

“I still occasionally make Jill’s cardamom bread, and Jill treats us to loaves of it at Pawleys...hot out of the oven with lots of butter — YUM!”

And finally, from **Deedy Henning**

Clark: “Hello all! What wonderful emails! I came for the first time at our last gathering at Pawleys! It was such a terrific time to reconnect and catch up with everyone. I look forward to seeing everyone who can make it in October! The minute you walk in the door there is such a welcome connection with everyone and genuine interest in what is going on in our lives now! Can’t wait to hear all the updates later this year!”

And this sad news from Patricia

Proctor, sister of **Elizabeth Proctor** of Los Angeles: Elizabeth

passed away February 24, 2018 at her home after a courageous battle with cancer. She is survived by her daughter, Bethany, also of Los Angeles as well as her mother, Helen Proctor, of Southport, CT, three siblings as well as six nephews and a niece.

1973 REUNION

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

1974

Vanessa Guerrini-Maraldi Wilcox
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1975

Doris "Veda" Pendleton
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Nyoka Brown Woods welcomed a new granddaughter, Isabella, in November 2017. Isabella is Nyoka's fifth grandchild (third granddaughter) and is the daughter of her son Ian and his wife who reside in Maryland.

Leslie Reskin Neilan just completed the filming of her first feature film, *The Book of Leah*. Leslie wrote, "We wrapped filming yesterday!! Our lead, Armand Assante, is one of the most powerful actors I've ever seen. The film crew are all saying that his performance as Adam, the Holocaust survivor/psychiatrist who uses karate to fight his past, are Oscar-worthy performances. My daughter, Melanie Neilan, played Assante's daughter in the film. Many of the scenes were shot in a boarding school setting.

I won't give away the plot, but I'm sure our EWS friends will enjoy looking back to the era when we were all students. Here's a major shout-out to our very own **Cyndi Donn Tessler** — during the 11th hour before filming, our then leading man, Eric Roberts, had a major schedule change and we had to replace him literally two days before we started filming. Cyndi, who knows the film biz, came to my rescue and tried to help us find a replacement! Although the actors that Cyndi suggested were not available, I will never forget how she made phone calls to an agent in LA for me!!! I love Cyndi!!! Isn't it amazing how after all of the years, two EWS alums come together to help get my film made?"

Debbie Bell Spoehel added, "We are officially residents of Florida, living just a few miles away from my mother, **Connie Lavino Bell '48**, and on the same street as one of my brothers, Stuart Bell, former chair of Walker's Board of Trustees. It's always a treat to see so many Walker's girls in the area. From our class, I get to see **Kathy McCarthy Parsons** and **Sarah Gates Colley**, but there are others from other classes as well, too numerous to list. Come see us! My daughter, **Elizabeth Spoehel '14**, is in her second year at The Citadel in Charleston, SC, and interned this past summer in the DC area for General Dynamics IT. Her brother, Jay, graduated from Berkshire last May and joined his sister at The Citadel this year. When I'm not visiting Charleston, I am involved with Valentus, a healthy beverage company. If you're looking for products to help you manage your weight or help you feel better, make sure to contact me. My email is still dews75@mac.com!

As for me, **Veda Pendleton**, my older son was elected to the City Council in Jonesboro, AR, last year. He beat an incumbent by 11%. Last summer, I hosted

Cousins Camp again at my home with my seven grandchildren. We visited a candy factory, played board games and competed in kickball. What fun times! By the way, I returned to my birth name of Pendleton.

1976

Larke Wheeler
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1977

Juliet "Julie" Ward Flood
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From **Deborah Rush**: "Daughter Isabel is a junior at Walker's and is enjoying it. I am still breeding racehorses, but yet to win the Kentucky Derby. I continue to rescue animals (dogs, cats, horses and goats) and work with numerous rescue groups. I see **Lisa Bourget Frisbie** and her husband, Andrew, whenever I come up for Isabel, which has been fun. Loved seeing everyone for our reunion last year!

Katie Clark writes, "Sharing a photo of all my kids at

Christmas. Back row from left to right: Sophie Grace (graduated from LSU with a degree in psychology and is a case manager at Saint Thomas Clinic here in New Orleans) holding her dog Beauregard, Brooks' wife, Marieke, Brooks, me, my son, Joey, 23, who just moved back from California, my son, Clark, and his wife, Heidi. And in front: Brooks' chocolate lab Ruby and my two fosters, Baby Roux and Teddy Bear! Clark and Heidi are expecting their first baby — my first grandchild — in September! I happily "retired" from 35 years as a litigation paralegal and am now a nanny to fabulous five-year-old twin girls. I am super happy to have all of my children and daughters-in-law close by.

Nancy Smith Klos is a professional artist, living in Portland, OR, where she founded Klos Studios in 1990. Over the years, Nancy has lived in many parts of the country, but she now considers the Northwest her real home. In her studio, Atelier NAN, she creates drawings, paintings, mixed media and commissions, and offers workshops too. If anyone is headed for Portland this spring, be sure to stop in to see Nancy's upcoming group show *Impressionism* at Trinity Cathedral, May 12 through July 1, 2018. You can also see her work on her studio website: www.ateliernangallery.com.



Katie Clark '77 and family

Take Note



Nancy Smith Klos '77 and her artwork

Julie Ward Flood says, “We moved to Wilmette, IL on Chicago’s North Shore a little over 16 years ago — we have a great life here but I miss the East Coast! My daughter, Catherine, is a high school sophomore whose primary passion is sports — she currently plays soccer and volleyball, both school and club, so most of our weekends are spent on bleachers these days! My husband, Brian, is a captain at American Airlines, and I run a nonprofit that promotes volunteerism and provides training programs and consulting to small nonprofits. Would love to catch up with anyone who gets to Chicago; it was great to see so many classmates at our Reunion last May.”

Our class had a great weekend celebrating our 40th Reunion last May. It was wonderful to have many of us together: **Julie Ward Flood, Casey Berardi, Cynthia Niel O’Dell, Lisa Bourget Frisbie, Bobbi Adams, Cecily Chilton Matthai, Trish O’Reilly, Lillian Irani Mueller, Deborah Rush, Betsy Smith van Gemeren, Catherine Cecil Taylor.** Hope to see more of us at our 45th!

1978 REUNION

Katharine Swibold

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Jennifer Hermann shared thoughts on her trip of a lifetime: “I was in Antarctica in November for two weeks. I traveled there with a group called Polar Expeditions — a bucket-list trip for me! We left from Ushuaia, Argentina, and spent two days crossing the Drake Passage. Even for an experienced sailor like me, it was the challenging part of the trip — very rough seas. The ship was beautiful and my fellow travelers were an eclectic group. In Antarctica, I saw lots of wildlife — penguins, orca whales, birds and lots and lots of snow, water and ice.”

Victoria Falk Michaelis reports: “I’m still living in Bedford, NY but contemplating joining Helen



Brian, Catherine and Julie Ward Flood '77



Julie Ward Flood, Casey Berardi, Cecil Ward Catherine Taylor, Cynthia Niel O’Dell, Trish O’Reilly, Cecily Chilton Matthai, Deborah Rush and Bobbi Adams celebrating their 40th reunion



Cynthia Niel O’Dell, Casey Berardi, Julie Flood, Cecily Chilton Matthai, Cecil Catherine Taylor, Lillian Irani Mueller and Betsy Smith van Gemeren of the Class of 1977



Jennifer Hermann '78 in Antarctica

Ashley Lickle O'Neil reports: "WHAT A REUNION!! Another great time together Class of '78! A million thanks to **Vaughn Hatch, Katharine Swibold, Linda Abizaid, Helen Hummer, Ellen Fauver, Maria Hampton, Heather King, Caty Whiting, and Libby Swarengen** for making the effort to come to Simsbury for a GREAT time together! From dinner together on Friday night at the old Chart House going through our senior yearbook to watching The Royal Wedding to celebrating it in style wearing our royal hats at the Ba-na-na (thanks Heather!) we LOVED being together! All

our childhood misperceptions and unvalidated differences were a distant memory and we loved sharing our life stories and sticking together! I'm giving all of you fair warning ... MAY 2028 is a MUST! It will be our 50th and you will regret not being there. Let's win the highest attendance award again, please!

PS – We're talking about sponsoring a new reunion weekend award for the "Best Reunion Ba-na-na Dancing" ... we would have won it!"

Katharine Swibold writes, "I am still enjoying my job at Barnard where I am working with my third VP. I began serving on the executive committee of the Friends of the Libraries at Smith, so I get back to campus twice a year for meetings. I joined the Color Camera Club of Westchester and enjoy the creative outlet of photography. Son, Adam, started a new job at Hodinkee, a web site for watch aficionados, working in the newly expanded online shop. He also regularly serves as a wrist model, sporting the vintage and new timepieces for the site. He and his fiancé are happily planning their June 9 wedding at the Pond House in West Hartford. Daughter, Hannah, still loves



Victoria Falk Michaelis '78 and beau



Victoria Falk Michaelis '78 and sons

Hummer Feid in the city and going back to work. My son, Peter, is working for Morgan Stanley in NYC and his brother, Drew, just started a job at EF Student Travel in Boston and is loving it. I sadly don't get to travel with them as much as I used to, given work and girlfriends. Peter and I had planned a ski trip in December, but due to lack of snow out west, we headed to Paris and had a great four days together. I'm dating a wonderful guy I've known for 35 years...

Karen Baldwin Zimmerman '79 worked for him her first years out of college. I'm in and out of the city right now... Would love to see any and all!"



Class of 1978 at their 35th Reunion in 2013

Take Note

living in Barcelona. In addition to her job as a hotel receptionist, she recently began working part time doing translation for a tech company, Beabloo. Stand-up comedy takes up much of her spare time, but she plans to travel more with her husband when time allows. We look forward to seeing them when they are here for Adam's wedding."

1979

Karen Polcer Bdera

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Cynthia Reed Klein writes, "We are now truly empty nesters. Our youngest graduated from Colby College this past May and is working for a startup, Catalant, in Boston. This ended our many years of following our girls around the soccer and lacrosse fields as both played in college. Our eldest is working for a custom clothing line in NYC called Charlotte Brody. As for myself, I am working for a woman who is a manufacturer's representative for six commercial furniture companies. We work with architects, interior designers and furniture dealers. It doesn't sound exciting, but it is actually interesting and a lot of fun. I am looking forward to our 40th Reunion and hope that our class has a great turnout!"

As **Dana Carter Lange** maintains a daily blog (and boy, are the topics varied and fascinating), here is a link to it. It speaks for itself! <https://lessdana.com/>

Arabella Wattles Teal says, "My news is that I was re-appointed to a six-year term as an administrative law judge in November. Hard to believe I've been an administrative law judge for 12 years!"

Nancy Mack von Euler

writes, "After nine years with Fairfield County's Community Foundation, I left the Foundation to take on the position as executive director of Horizons at New Canaan Country School. I'm excited to have the opportunity to work in a program that is having a tremendous impact for under-resourced children and families and excited to partner with the Horizons affiliate at EWS! This spring my daughter, Sarah, will be graduating from college, which seems impossible. We are very proud of what she has done so far and can't wait to see what the next chapter brings. I was so pleased and grateful to be joined at the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention's Out of the Darkness Walk this past October by EWS friends, **Ann Marenakos '81** and **Yve Larrieu '80**. I'm grateful to the many other EWS friends who have supported the fundraising efforts of Team Emma for many years. Your support means so much to our family!"

"And a quick update from yours truly, **Karen Polcer Bdera**: I have spent some quality time with EWS graduates by participating in the EWS New York Regional Club, both at a coffee hour, and at an evening cocktail hour, with graduates from our area talking about the School and current



Karen Polcer Bdera '79 and husband Nick

news. We had women of all ages — class members from the 1950s through to class members from the 2010s. If you haven't looked at the EWS site, you should; there might be a Regional Club in your area. I highly recommend it! I am still retired and loving it! I have several volunteer projects going on: I have just ended my fundraising for the Avon 39 Walk to End Breast Cancer (The walks have come to an end; will have to find another place needing to raise funds.) I continue to crochet scarves and lap robes for several charities, and I help out where I used to work (God's Love We Deliver) in their finance department during

donation crunch time. My husband, Nick, and I still enjoy being in one another's company, and we continue to race walk through many weekend races. We both enjoy our two annual trips to Aruba."

1980

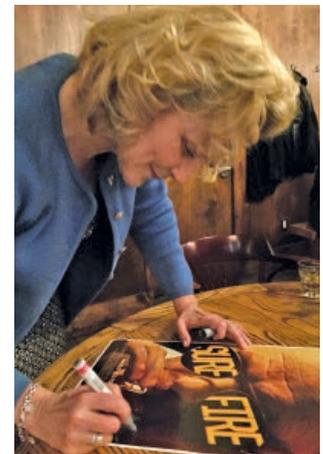
Ann O'Reilly

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Lué McWilliams writes: "Movies in festivals, movies on Netflix, Hulu, Amazon Prime, and I still



Ann Marenakos '81, Nancy Mack von Euler '79, and Yve Larrieu '80



Lué McWilliams '80 at a screening of one of her recent films, the fast-paced crime comedy, Sure-Fire



Lexi Murphy, daughter of Marion Leger Murphy '80, showing in Kentucky in the Low AOs. Everest is an 18.2 Belgian WB, age 8 — aka “my baby”!

need a survivor job! Oh well! You can follow me on Twitter, Instagram, FB, email me, look me up on Actors Access — you get why it's called 'Show Bizness'... crazy! I am also writing — short stories, pilots, poems — and working on balancing seeing my friends in between it all. Balancing it all — right?! I don't think I'm alone in that statement. Here's to a healthy, happy year to you all!”

Marion Leger Murphy writes: “We have been living in New Canaan, CT, for 20 years. My twins are both juniors in college. Alexandra is an economics major

at Southern Methodist University. She is on the equestrian team and was rider of the month in September. Connor is at Marist College and is a computer science major. We are getting used to our empty nest.”

Stephanie Smith Breed says: “My daughters are in college, and both are looking at graduate schools. I'll be working until I'm 80.” She recalls getting locked out of her dorm sophomore year when she and **Robin Flynn Wagner '79** stayed out smoking past 10 p.m. She credits Mike, the guard, with their rescue.



Shannon Young Ray '80 and her family celebrate the first birthday of grandson Breck III

Susan Knapp Thomas splits her time between Connecticut and Florida. She writes: “As some of you know, EWS houses the harp camp I founded, Connecticut Valley Harp Intensive (CVHI), each summer. This year we are proud to celebrate our 10th anniversary and are planning works commissioned especially for CVHI by harpist and composer Molly O’Roark, in addition to special guest artists and events. CVHI provides high-quality solo and ensemble instruction to harpists of all levels between the ages of 12 and 20 for nine days in

the library at EWS. Our students have come from ten U.S. states and one European country. In other news, I am in my third year as instructor of harp at the Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford, and have had a busy year playing with the Hartford and Waterbury symphonies in Connecticut, Brevard Symphony (Melbourne, FL), Florida Grand Opera (Miami, FL), and Atlantic Classical Orchestra (Stuart, FL).”

Jennifer Hetzler writes: “There is a lot going on this year in central Ohio. The equestrian community keeps growing and growing with the development of two significant show venues. With that, Equus Now! increased our mobile unit travels, which has taken me to some great new shows! We are also in the midst of building a second store near Cincinnati, due to open mid-spring 2018. Stay tuned for more! I also enjoyed taking my wonderful dog, Gracie, to Ohio State University during exam time as a stress reliever for the students — a job that is perfect for her! She will be getting certified as a therapy dog this year, which will allow us to help even more people. I love keeping in touch with everyone on FB and Instagram! If anyone is ever near Columbus, let me know!”



Susan Knapp Thomas '80 (far right) with her Connecticut Valley Harp Intensive Concert Group at EWS

Take Note

Shannon Young Ray writes: “Our triplets each graduated from their colleges on time, with jobs, last May! Somehow we managed to get to Texas Christian University, Wake Forest, and then back to UT Austin within seven days. Everyone is settled in their work in Dallas (Taylor), Austin (Carson), and Fort Worth (Megan). One will be applying to physician assistant schools this spring, so we will see where she lands for the next two to three years. Our middle son, Peter, is working up the ladder at Goosehead Insurance in Dallas and has a steady girlfriend. Our oldest, Breck, Jr., and his wife, Meredith, are expecting our second grand in late March — a girl to be named Madison Ann! Her big brother, Breck III, is our pride and joy! My husband, Breck (aka Pops), retired this fall and is recovering from shoulder surgery. So the fun has not quite begun yet, but we are looking forward to some travel and new adventures, if we don’t kill each other first!”

Ann O’Reilly says, “As for me, I am experiencing my first year as an empty nester, with Katie having graduated from EWS last spring (she’s pursuing the 4+1 MSW program at Simmons) and Jake in his final year at UConn. Jake has just finished applying to Ph.D. math programs. Fingers crossed (except when I need them to count!) It’s been fun keeping up with the adventures of EWS classmates on Facebook. In the last couple of months, I have seen **Hope Thurston Carter’s** photography continue to take the world by storm, featured on the cover of *Lenswork* and in an article in *My Modern Met*. (<https://mymodernmet.com/frozen-bubble-ice-crystals-hope-carter/>)

Cecilia Clarke, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Community Foundation, was celebrated in an article in *The Bridge*. Our classmates continue to inspire! We would love to have the whole class



Roni Leger ’81, Shelley Marks ’81, and Amy Storrow ’81 at Wingersheek Beach at Shell’s house in October 2017. Shelley was here from San Francisco and Amy came up from DC. Great to have a mini reunion!

together on our “secret” Facebook page. I think only around 15 people are missing. If you are one of them, please send me a note, and I will send you an invitation!”

1981

Veronica “Roni” Leger
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1982

Cynthia T. Vega
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Greetings from the Caribbean! I want to thank all of you who so were so kind to send a note after the very tumultuous 2017 hurricane season. The Dominican Republic faired better than many others but it was still tough!

Claudia Ingham writes that **Sue Czepiel** and she met in Kalispell, MT in July where they hiked at Glacier National Park, enjoyed a boat excursion and dancing by the Blackfeet at St. Mary. They continued east into the grasslands



Emily Eckelberry Johnson ’82 and **Heather Sweeny ’82** enjoy a holiday outing

apart! **Hoey Stewart Wilks, Kit O’Brien Rohn, Leila Howland Wetmore, Tracey Reifler, Lee Gowen Marine, and Emily Eckelberry Johnson** gathered for some holiday cheer at Leila’s home in Darien. I have not gotten all the details, but the picture tells that it was a very fun time!

Emily Eckelberry Johnson and **Heather Sweeny** went out for a Christmas lunch and boutique shopping complete with reindeer antlers! Also a fun time.

I, **Cynthia Vega**, hope to see **Whitney Williams Jones** in early spring as she travels with her daughter and friends to Punta Cana! That is all until next time!!

and experienced the 12:30 a.m. magnitude 5.8 earthquake on July 6 while in Choteau. They ended the excursion with great food and the historic beauty of Helena.

Clarissa Alcock Bronfman invited the NYC area alumnae to her trunk show in December. There were gorgeous jewelry pieces! Part of the proceeds were donated to EWS!

Sahba Sadegh-Vaziri met up with **Atoosa Pezeshgpour Mamdani ’78** and had a great time — Sahba is headed to Costa Rica for the holidays!

It takes more than a hectic holiday season and a snowstorm to keep us



Class of 1982: Hoey Stewart Wilks, Kit O’Brien Rohn, Leila Howland Wetmore, Tracey Reifler, Lee Gowen Marine and Emily Eckelberry Johnson

1983 REUNION

Anna Perkins de Cordova

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1984

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1985

Elizabeth Potter Giddings

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Esther Pryor

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1986

Tahra Makinson-Sanders

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1987

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

1988 REUNION

Carolyn "Carrie" Pouch

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1989

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

1990

Amanda Pitman

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1991

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

Dore Atwill Kesterson writes, "After a two-year adventure in the great state of Texas, we're back in Sweet Home Alabama. My husband helped build a steel mill in Oklahoma. Amazing to see a green field transformed into an incredible facility! It was a hard two years, but we all learned a lot! We're enjoying many community activities as we continue the adventure of homeschooling our two girls; Madeline is 14 and a 9th grader and Hannah is 11, a 5th grader. Thankful to be in touch with so many friends on FB. Missed two reunions because we moved to AL in 2010 and to TX in 2016. Hoping to make it to campus soon."

1992

Whitley Ram Schoeny

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1993 REUNION

Augusta Morrison Harrison

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1994

Philippa Eschauzier Earl

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1995

Nicole Lewenson Shargel

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1996

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1997

Alicia Benedetto

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Karen Crowe 220

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Our apologies! A portion of the following class notes was inadvertently covered over by a photo in the last issue of the Sundial. They are published here in their entirety.

Libby Clark Fuller writes, "Sadie Elizabeth Fuller is now a big

sister!! I had a baby boy born 7-17-17! His name is Aaron John Fuller! 7lbs, 12oz and 20 inches long."

Karina Morales moved to Houston, TX after many years on the East Coast.

Melissa Bryant had a second daughter on October 28, 2016 named Lily Marion. She joined her older sister, Emma Rose. Melissa also recently changed careers and started teaching high school biology after 10 years in biomedical research.

1998 REUNION

Brooke Berescik-Johns

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Natalie Foreman-Wynn, student body president of 1998 is married to Milton Wynn with son, Julian Wynn. "I am currently a professor at Lone Star College in Texas and finishing my doctorate (last two classes) at Texas Southern University. I'm still living in Kingwood, TX and am in the process of rebuilding our home that we lost during the Hurricane Harvey flood. No worries, we were and are more fortunate than many. #Houstonstrong #Kingwoodstrong Also, the whole fam will be attending our 20 year Reunion."

Erin Shupenis Ellis writes, "My wonderful husband has spent most of the last two years building our new house for our family here on Cape Cod. I am looking forward to catching up with everyone during Reunion, and hope to see many of my fellow classmates."

Brooke Berescik-Johns says, "I kicked off the New Year by starting at National Dance Institute (NDI) in New York

Take Note

City, where I am running the major gifts program and helping bring joyful and rigorous dance classes to public school children. Amazingly, the very first letter of support to come across my desk happened to be from Mrs. Dorothy Silverherz Rosenberg, prompting us to reconnect, and inspiring me with memories of Dance Workshop and EWS. I am very much looking forward to reuniting with more of the Walker's family this spring."

Blair Sperry married Paul Farrow on February 18, 2018. Fellow classmate **Natalie Foreman-Wynn** attended the ceremony in Scottsdale, AZ, where Blair had lived for 14 years before she and Paul met. Paul Farrow is Australian, and the newlyweds now live in Melbourne, Australia.



Blair Sperry '98 and husband Paul Farrow on their wedding day

1999

Vivienne Felix

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Vivienne Felix writes, "I love keeping in touch and hearing how life is treating you. I'm still in New York City and work for NYU in the Office of Global Affairs within the school of education. My work is focused on internship planning, short-term study abroad, and academic compliance, and I love it. Recently, I connected with **Meaghan Mclean Boisfeuillet**, who sends positive vibes to everyone. I hope to hear from all of you soon as well, so please do keep in touch!"

Elizabeth Heurtematte says, "I'm a partner in a law firm I co-founded in Panamá. I have two girls, aged eight and seven. I travel lots for work and pleasure. Occasionally, I meet up with **Lolita Platt-Higgins**. I want to go back to EWS sometime in the future. Kisses!!"

Marisabel Portillo Rendon-Lazarakis writes, "I recently got married to my beautiful wife, Zoi Lazarakis, in November. We married in Stowe, VT. **Allison Quigley '00** and the Costers were able to attend. Also, I work as a behavior analyst in Waltham Public Schools in Massachusetts."



Marisabel Portillo '99 wed Zoi Lazarakis on November 11, 2017

Rebecca Sherlock-Shangraw says, "I'm an interim dean of students at BU this year. I'm looking forward to resuming my teaching duties next year. Hope all is well!"

Nicole Kuhnke sent this: "Hi All! Lots of exciting things happening. I recently purchased a home in Tampa, FL so I am staying busy decorating and with projects around the house. Unfortunately, I don't have as much time for that fun stuff as I would like as I am working full time for Siemens as a client services manager and raising two beautiful and smart little ones, Wright, three and Harper, two. I'd love to hear from anyone who is traveling to Tampa and reconnect."

2000

Allison Quigley

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2001

Alicia Little Hodge

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2002

Holly Jackson

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Cerra Cardwell is still living and managing to pay rent in NYC. She is currently writing on a TV show in development and performing whenever possible. She has a day job in finance because this is real life. She loves

you all very much and is always down for a pizza party, so come visit. Go Dials!

Sofia Arias Francey DiGregorio writes, "I moved to California about three years ago, have recently celebrated my first anniversary with my husband Dan, and welcomed our first son, Lucas, in early January. This is by far my biggest accomplishment, and we live a very happy, quiet life in our home in Thousand Oaks, CA with our two pups, Aki and Fox. I spent the last years teaching yoga and offering life coaching in Panama before moving here. In recent years, I have been offering international life coaching and different kinds of lifestyle coaching, including the work I do with essential oils. I am hoping to get back to work soon, bringing all I love to do and more to it (life coaching and lifestyle assessment which includes areas of motherhood now that I've had this amazing experience, as well as a natural home birth.) I've also been working with healing practices and offerings of Ayurveda, alongside yoga and meditation. I don't quite know what the future brings, but I am sure it will be exciting! I would love to go to the next Reunion! Sending lots of love and light."



Lucas, son of Sophia Arias Francey DiGregorio '02



Sophia Arias Francey DiGregorio '02 with husband, Dan, and pups, Aki and Fox



Stephanie Zimmering Schiff '02, her new son, Elijah, and husband, Steven

Stephanie Zimmering Schiff says, "My husband Steve and I welcomed our son, Elijah Sidney Schiff, on January 30, 2018. We are enjoying spending time as a threesome at our home in Jersey City before I head back to work in April and continue my job as a teacher of the deaf in the Bronx. We are looking forward to an eventful year creating memories with our little boy and embarking on finishing yet another New York City Marathon, number three for me and seven for my husband."

2003 REUNION

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2004

Averill Wyman-Blackburn
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2005

Emma Bedford-Jack

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2006

Ebony Moses

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Alle Shane

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Hooray Sunray! Diane LaPosta received an Emmy nomination for "Outstanding Live Interview," produced with AC360.

2007

Emily Casey

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Posey Daves writes, "Hello! I am a certified yoga teacher, soon to be a registered 200 hour yoga teacher. Also, at the end of January I moved to Annapolis, MD. I will be teaching yoga there. I am also planning on hosting yoga workshops in south Florida when I visit home. Since I left my job at Gast Construction Group in December, I have been helping my friend start a yoga studio that is attached to his CrossFit gym in North Palm Beach."

Jeanette Pelizzon says, "I currently live out of a suitcase in the best way possible. I am working for a company called Remote Year and am currently

hopping around South America. By the time this is published, who knows where I will be?!"

Sarah Diedrick sends this: "I'm teaching yoga full time and working on a book in Burlington, VT. I co-lead teacher trainings, teach workshops and group classes at a non-profit studio here in VT. I also travel a bunch for continuing education in the yoga world (and to assist my teacher, Amy Ippoliti!) I hope to finish my first book by the end of the year. I'm freezing my buns off in Vermont but enjoying the winter with lots of cross-country skiing. So nice to hear from you all!"

2008 REUNION

Kathleen Kirby

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Arielle Haller-Silverstone writes, "Hey, everyone! I recently completed my first short film, *Sac de Merde*, which is nominated for six awards at the Nova Festival in April! I'm writing you from Manchester, England, as we had our world premiere at the Manchester International Film Festival on March 2, and won the "Staff Pick" Award! This is the start of our festival circuit, and I'm so excited. I would love for any and all to come see the film; my website has a list of upcoming dates: www.sacdemerde.com. Please reach out and let me know if you'd like tickets, and I'll be sure to reserve them for you. Can't wait for Reunion!"

2009

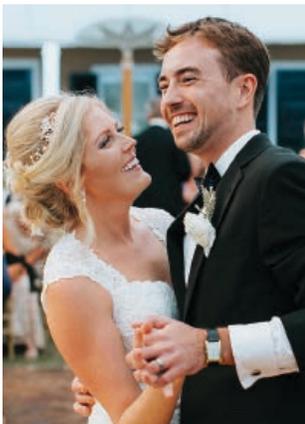
Caitlin Moss

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Take Note



Katie Reid's '09 wedding guests including: Lisa Howard-Sorrell '09, Rebecca Castellani '09, Katie Reid Thompson '09, EV van Gemeren '07, Brennan Maine '09 and Ellie van Gemeren '09



Katherine "Katie" Reid '09 on her wedding day November 3, 2017 with husband, Brad Thompson

2010

Marianne Pettit

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Marianne Pettit sent this class news: "Hello fellow alums! Time is flying since we left Walker's. **Caroline KIELTYKA** moved in with me and my fiancé in August. I am getting married in the Chapel in fall 2018! I'll be finished with my graduate degree in July 2018. Caroline is working

in Washington, DC now and loving city life. We recently met up with **Jennifer Menendez** for a Zumba class at the Kennedy Center! **Katia Charov** is making her way through graduate school at University of California, San Diego, and defended her master's in chemistry in February 2017. She hopes to graduate with her Ph.D. in 2020! **Shanell Percy** is living in Boston, MA while pursuing her M.A. in Mental Health Counseling with a specialization in Music Therapy. **Margarita Alvarez Tejada** moved this winter to Everett, WA with



Kristen Hardy Grimes '10, her husband, Phillip, and daughter, Olivia

her husband, Harold, and her adorable daughter, Luna! **Emily Hamilton** graduated in 2017 from The Evergreen State College with a degree in Russian History. **Tori Smith** will be getting married in September 2018, and **Ella Smith** got engaged in January! **Kristen Hardy Grimes** and her husband, Philip, welcomed daughter, Olivia, in July 2017 while stationed in El Paso, TX for her husband's service in the Army. They've now relocated to Richmond, VA and bought a house! **Bableen Bajwa** is studying to be a nurse practitioner at the University of Miami, while **Jasmine Bajwa** will be finishing medical school in Maine in July 2019. **Sol Ah Hwang** graduated from Emory University with degrees in economics and art history. After spending some time back in Korea, she studied at Sotheby's Institute of Arts for her master's degree in Art Business and is now interning at Artnet in NYC. **Brittany Dingler** will finish school at Drexel in December 2019 to become a physician's assistant. **Abby Endler** just started a new job as an associate publicist at Alfred A. Knopf, an imprint of Penguin Random House, while she also runs her majorly successful blog, "Crime by the Book."

2011

Kelsey Ballard

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Kayla August Schindler-Marren writes, "Since July, a lot has happened for me and my family! My son, Grant, was born, and I competed at the retired racehorse makeover where my horse and I finished 32nd out of 100 horses! (I would like to add that it was the first weekend in October so I had only been back riding for a month after my son was born.)"



Kayla August Schindler-Marren's '11 son, Grant



Kayla August Schindler-Marren '11 on her horse Sacred Ground

Kelsey Ballard sends this: “Hope all is well! I completed my Master of Science in Healthcare Administration last May and continue to work at the University of New Haven in the office of residential life. In November, I became engaged to my boyfriend of six years, David Rogers. We live together in West Haven, CT and are looking forward to a 2019 wedding!”

2012

Jordana Clarke

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2013 REUNION

Ameena Makhdoomi

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Paige Williams-Rivera

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Tori Petrilli is going to Goodwin College for a one-year History certificate program.

Madison Morsch is living in Charlotte, NC and working as an accountant for Enterprise Holdings, LLC.

Paige Williams-Rivera is halfway through her Master’s in the Organizational Psychology program and working for United Technologies and the University of Hartford.

Jill O’Brien is living and working in Washington, DC for the Alliance for Health Policy.

Nicole Gregory is completing her Masters in English at Boston University.

Chelsea Regan is living and working in New York City for CBS.

Emilee O’Brien is working for Furman University as a two-year fellow for social justice and community engaged learning. She is responsible for building curriculum, internal programs, and external partnerships.

Ameena Makhdoomi is working for Cognac One, a wine importer and distributor, and Sensu Music in New York City. Her grandfather, Pitagora Antonio Rosario, passed on February 16, 2018.

Davis Townsley is an events manager at The Glenn Rock Group where she runs various events for nonprofits, corporations and private clients. Most recently, she ran an event for the launch of the book, *The Crown*, written by one of the historians who works on the Netflix original show, *The Crown*.



Davis Townsley '13 and friend Bennett Beutel

Jacinta Lomba '13, a 2017 honors graduate of Brown University, has been awarded a Fulbright student scholarship. The Fulbright Program, an international exchange initiative sponsored by the U.S. government, is designed to build relationships between American scholars and the international community in more than 140 countries to collectively address global challenges and work toward world peace. Jacinta, who studied Africana Studies and Health and Human Biology at Brown, will conduct her research project, entitled “Interpersonal and Institutional Frameworks for Understanding the Zika Epidemic,” at the Instituto de Saúde. Her research will employ interdisciplinary frameworks that consider race, class, and gender to gain insight into the experience of Brazilian families affected by the Zika epidemic. In addition to a scholarly manuscript, her research will culminate in an hour-long podcast episode to document personal narratives of informal caregiving and institutional barriers to care as it relates to Zika in Salvador. After returning from the Fulbright, Jacinta plans to begin medical school and pursue a career that addresses inequalities in health and medicine both in the U.S. and globally.



Emilee O’Brien sent this: “I am writing to tell you about a great Walker’s connection that was made in Greenville, SC. After reading the graduation updates from the Class of 2013 in the recent Sundial, **Kathleen McCombe '70** reached out to me. My graduation announcement stated that I graduated from Furman and I am working there as a Fellow for Social Justice and Community Engagement. Kathleen recently retired and moved to Greenville, SC. She is taking classes on the Furman University campus as a member of OLLI, The Osher Life-Long Learning Institute. She sent me an email to say a warm Walker’s hello and to ask if we could connect. We had a wonderful conversation over coffee this morning. It was wonderful to catch up on Walker’s memories and how we both found our voices and calling for social justice at Ethel Walker.

When I return for Reunion in May, I’d love to see if we can find more alum in the greater Greenville area — this radius could include both Asheville and

Charlotte, North Carolina. I know that **Emily Kirby '17** is here in Greenville with me and **Madison Morsch '17** is in Charlotte. There must be more of us! I think it would be possible to form another regional club considering how many transplants there are in this area of the country.



Kathleen McCombe '70 and Emilee O'Brien '13 share Walker’s memories in Greenville, SC

Take Note

2014

Olivia Aker

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Taryn Anderson

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Brittany Camacho

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Artemis Talvat

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Lisa Volg

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2015

Emily Mauldin

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2015 classmates Jackie Flynn and Lila Reynolds met up in South Africa where they are both working in journalism!

Talia Basch 

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2016

Georgia Paul

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Morgan Locandro writes, “During the upcoming semester, I will be working in the mechatronics group at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, CA. JPL is responsible for many robotic space missions including rovers and landers on Mars, the Voyager program, as well as countless other missions both in our solar system and aimed for deep space. I am very excited about the opportunity to get more involved in robotics since finding my passion for it during my time at EWS. I will be able to give a better update on the specifics of what I will be working on in the next class notes. I especially want to thank my EWS family for encouraging me to be myself and helping me to become the woman I am today.”

The following appeared in the April 5 online edition of *The Patch* and entitled, *Campus Notes — Simsbury College Students: Notable accomplishments by college students who reside in Simsbury: Talia Basch*, of Simsbury, is working as a student ambassador this year at Susquehanna University. To become an ambassador and guide tours, students must complete a written application and personal interview with the admission staff. Once selected, students complete an intensive training program, followed by additional training sessions throughout their time on the job. Training includes shadowing veteran tour guides, becoming familiar with the

admission process and frequently asked questions, learning to present important information during the tour, and preparing to deal with challenging situations that may arise while giving a tour. Basch is a communications major in the Class of 2020.

2017

Idabelle Paterson

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Brea Austin wrote, “As I’m about to complete my freshman year at Howard University and being a part of the School of Business Executive Leadership Honors Program, I have so much to be thankful for. Not only do I expect to finish as one of the top freshmen in the program, I have also managed to secure an internship with Pratt & Whitney. The best is yet to come.” #goalsmet

Becky Erosa transferred from Delaware State University to New York Institute of Technology, and is playing on the women’s basketball team.

Alora Foster and fellow Ithaca College music performance majors collaborated to form Intellego, a string quartet which performed “Escapade for String Quartet” at the Ithaca College Student Composition Concert in April.

Imogen Macleod is singing with the National Youth Choir of Scotland this year, and they are going on tour to New York in October. The choir will be singing *Léilo* by Berlioz in Carnegie Hall on October 15. Imogen is also touring with the University of Glasgow’s Chapel Choir to China in September.

Eshita Rahman completed a semester-long internship at the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, DC this fall. She rallied, marched, held phone banks, and did political campaign work for the Danica Roem campaign. She also traveled to Alabama and worked on the Doug Jones campaign.



Alora Foster '17, left, with Ithaca College School of Music Intellego string quartet colleagues

Births & Adoptions

- 2002 **Sofia Arias Francey DiGregorio**
Lucas Donato DiGregorio
January 25, 2018
- 2002 **Stephanie Zimmering Schiff**
Elijah Sidney Schiff
January 30, 2018
- 2010 **Kristen Hardy Grimes**
Olivia Leigh Grimes
July 21, 2017
- 2011 **Kayla August Schindler-Marren**
Grant Huxley Schindler-Marren
July 21, 2017

Marriages & Unions

- 1988 **Blair Sperry**
To Paul Farrow
February 18, 2018
- 1999 **Marisabel Portillo**
To Zoi Lazarakis
November 11, 2017
- 2009 **Katherine Reid**
To Brad Thompson
November 3, 2017

In Memoriam

Alumnae of The Ethel Walker School

- 1941 **Margaret Nichols Allport**
Sister: Christine Nichols Tredway '46
- 1944 **Joan Meeske Feick**
- 1944 **Margaret Whipple Wright**
Sister-in-law: Eleanor Wright Warner '40*
Niece: Marjorie Warner Off '66
- 1945 **Amey Amory Defriez**
Daughter: Pauline DeFriez '67
Daughter: Elizabeth DeFriez Gibson '69
Cousin: Elise Jack Garvin '54
- 1945 **Hope Griggs Turner**
- 1947 **Mary Hunter Logan**
- 1948 **Caryl Tompkins Gove**
- 1948 **Katharine Hull**
- 1950 **Cicely Lyman Dulgeroff**
Sister: Laura Lyman O'Neill '54*
- 1957 **Carlotta Marshall**
- 1958 **Pamela Sims Diaz de Leon**

- 1959 **Lynn Drury Womsley**
- 1967 **Nancy Stuart Betts**
- 1968 **Susan Haas Orthwein**
Aunt: Nancy Haas Melville '31*
Sister: Judith Haas Eshelman '69
- 1972 **Elizabeth Proctor**
Aunt: Barbara Proctor Richardson '37*
- 1974 **Virginia L. Addington**
Half-sister: Dr. Anne H. Addington '55*
Niece: Elinor Addington Jannotta '87
Niece: Wendy Hodgkins DeLorey '83
Great-aunt: Brooke DeLorey '20
- 1974 **Lois Johnson Hughes**
- 1978 **Deborah Ellwood**
- 1981 **Elisabeth Keating**
- 1987 **Hilary E. Clark**

In Sympathy

Members of the wider Walker's community

- William S. Beinecke**, Father of Frances
Beinecke Elston '67
- William Stuart Fulton Bloch**, Brother of
Martha Bloch McLanahan '58 and
Quarrier Bloch Cook '53* and Cousin
of Dorothy Loebel '45
- Suzanne L. Cattaneo**, Cousin of Shay Ventresca '19
- Ann Cervone**, Grandmother of Elizabeth
Acorn '04
- Minnie Chatfield**, Great-grandmother of
Grace Romanik '18
- Harry G. Curry**, Former EWS Staff
- Leon A. Dargis**, Grandfather of Olivia Dargis '22
- Ralph E. Deeds, Jr.**, Brother of Thomas Deeds,
EWS Faculty
- Mary Patricia Byrne Djiounas**, Grandmother
of Lauren Pancavage '20 and Alexis
Pancavage '24
- Linda G. Fay**, Mother of Heather Fay Dawson '90
and Mother-in-law of Rob Dawson,
EWS Staff
- James G. Fiedler**, Husband of Maureen Fiedler,
EWS Staff; Stepfather of Michelle
Soderburg '95 and Jennifer Soderburg '98
- Jane Burr Dailey Frost**, Mother of Robin Frost
Bessin '63
- Barbara McAndrew Hanson**, Grandmother of
Sophie Greggains '21

- Herbert S. Hoffman**, Father of Barbara
Hoffman Siegenfeld '76 and Carol
Hoffman Jason '75; Uncle of Alyssa
Levy '63 and Mary Levy Dickson '68
- Egline M. Hollfelder**, Mother of Nila
Hollfelder Gray '79
- Cuong Huynh**, Father of Elizabeth Huynh '91,
Ann Huynh '92 and Toan Huynh '93
- Harold Sherwood Jensen**, Father of Susie
Jensen Rawles '82
- James Renwick Kerr III**, Brother of Alice Kerr
Moorhead '61
- Chester Kordana**, Grandfather of Mallory
Pasquariello, EWS Staff
- Nancy Levine Kostick**, Mother of Susan
Kostick '81
- Anne Louise Krueger**, Former EWS Staff
- Janice Melcher Lewis**, Mother of Susan Lewis
Mather '84 and Cynthia Lewis '85
- Barbara Roberts Moore**, Great-grandmother of
Shay Ventresca '19
- Nancy Smedley Morrell**, Grandmother of
Annabelle Hicks '10; Mother of Laura
Hicks P'10, Former EWS Faculty
- Robert Arthur Morris**, Grandfather of
Becky Morris '19
- Gerald Ambrose O'Reilly**, Husband of
Maureen Buckley O'Reilly '50*; Father
of Patricia O'Reilly '77 and Ann
O'Reilly '80; Grandfather of Katherine
Murphy '17
- David Neil Paul**, Grandfather of Georgia
Paul '16 and Holly Paul '18
- Lucien Guy Reny**, Father of Tim Reny, Partner of
Amy Wheeler, Associate Head of School
- John Christopher Romeo**, Son of Loel Benisch
Romeo '82
- Pitagora Antonio Rosario**, Grandfather of
Ameena Makhdoomi '13
- Jonathan J. Stent**, Uncle of Caroline Stent '19
- C.R. Venketraman**, Uncle of Meera
Viswanathan, Head of School
- Dr. Chand Ram Viswanathan**, Father of
Meera Viswanathan, Head of School

**Deceased*

*Names reflect those received through
June 25, 2018.*

Amey DeFriez

1927-2018

EWS TRUSTEE 1967-1975

Amey Amory DeFriez '45 was raised in Dover, MA, one of five children and the only daughter. After two years at The Ethel Walker School, she went on to graduate cum laude from Radcliffe College, later chairing the boards of both institutions. Her own educational foundation inspired a lifelong passion for, and support of, education — women's education in particular. "I have been fascinated by the way groups work and how they can accomplish more than the individual," she told the Harvard Crimson in 1997. Amey's life and her work are testament to this principle as she drew people together, inspiring and challenging them to work harder both individually and collectively.

Amey married Dr. Albert Ivins "Ivy" Croll DeFriez in 1948, graduated from Radcliffe in 1949 and subsequently moved to New York City, where Ivy was finishing his residency. They later moved to the Boston area and raised a son and two daughters, both of whom attended Walker's: Pauline DeFriez '67 and Elizabeth DeFriez Gibson '69. According to Amey's Nicholas, "Her first passion after we grew up was education. Some people get on boards for the name recognition. She actually made everybody work."

Amey's record of dedication and volunteer service to Walker's is a memorable one that spans more than thirty years and includes work as class secretary and president of the Alumnae Board as well as leadership roles during two major campaigns. She was a trustee from 1967-75 and president of the board of trustees from 1972-75, the first alumna and first woman to lead the School's board. She subsequently chaired Radcliffe's board for ten years leading up to its merger with Harvard, was a charter member of the National Association of Independent Schools, and an incorporator of SPHERE, a consortium of independent schools in the greater Hartford area.

In 1994, Amey delivered the Baccalaureate address at Walker's with her characteristic combination of humor and sound advice. "If I could leave you with three points to remember, at least one of them might stick and then we would all be ahead of where we were before" She told the girls "Don't be afraid to fail, don't rush



too much to get on with your education, and learn how to cut corners." Thinking that the parents and faculty might take issue with this last point, she went on to clarify: "...after you hit the larger world, you're going to have to learn how to cut corners. There's just too much to do. So learn first what are the truly important matters, then what the deadlines are, and what are the things you don't want to bother with....Don't forget social service. My own volunteerism opened for me the door to a substantially salaried and most interesting occupation, as well as providing deep satisfaction in itself." Amey concluded by saying, "...keep in touch with your EWS friends — they will turn out to be some of the best you'll ever have. And I'll include in that alumnae and future graduates as well. You are part of a distinguished and supportive continuum."

Amey was a consistent annual donor to Walker's throughout her life, and also remembered the School in her will. In honor of her 50th Reunion, Amey made a leadership gift that was announced with these words: "Amey wanted to reaffirm and celebrate one of the primary missions of

The Ethel Walker School — to develop leadership in its young women... To look at the life of Amey Amory DeFriez is to view the case statement for the value of the Ethel Walker experience. It is here that young women learn the value and joy inherent in stepping forward to make a positive difference in the world in which they live."

*To read the complete obituary for Amey, please visit:
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=amey-amory-defriez&pid=187813103>*

**See Amey's 1994 Baccalaureate address at
<https://www.ethelwalker.org/defriezspeech>**

Greetings from The Ethel Walker School Parents Association!

The Ethel Walker School Parents Association (EWSPA) had an exciting, fun-filled second half of the school year. We hosted a surprise dance party for the girls, provided sweet treats for Valentine's Day, hosted two book club gatherings, a Staff Appreciation Luncheon and Dogswoods Day, end of year class parties, final exams snacks and more.

Many hours go into planning fun and memorable events for our girls but the joy and excitement that we see them have is always so rewarding to witness. One such event was when Upper School Committee Chair Grace Petrarca P'19 and I dressed as our daughters and performed the last skit in the New Girl Show to announce the surprise dance party. I don't think I will ever forget the students' excitement about the news!

Another has to be an EWSPA favorite, the annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon. It's our way of saying thank you to all of the adults in Walker's community. This year's theme was Super Heroes, which I feel couldn't be more fitting. There's Marvel Heroes, and then there are Walker's Heroes. I have to say — I would welcome a Walker's Hero any day. Their commitment to our girls, the School, and the community is a superpower even the best in Hollywood could only dream of creating.

One moment that brought much excitement was when special guest Notorious Rapper MV (aka Ms. Vis) announced a time-honored Walker's tradition, Dogswoods Day, via a rap song and video with a cameo appearance by Dr. Widmer (aka Mr. Vis). While it had a limited run on YouTube, it was such fun for the girls to receive word about this treasured event in such a creative way.

It has been an incredible year. The Ethel Walker School Parents Association looks forward to continuing our work as we plan for next year's events and activities. Thank you to the many volunteers who give so willingly to Walker's on behalf of all of our girls. We are very fortunate to have such a generous and committed community.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful summer!

Warm Regards,



Julie A. Berard P'19
PRESIDENT, EWSPA 2017-2018



Ethel Walker School
EWSPA
Parents Association
2017-2018 BOARD

Julie Berard P'19
PRESIDENT

Shayna Luciani P'20, '21
VICE PRESIDENT

Tracey Goolsby P'18
SECRETARY

Grace Niland P'15, '18
TREASURER

Lourdes Dale P'22, '23
MIDDLE SCHOOL CHAIR AND LIAISON

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CHAIR, UPPER SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Kim Foster P'18
Carol Ross P'18
Gretchen Wierdsma P'18
CO-CHAIRS, ALL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Shari Nastri P'21
UPPER SCHOOL DAY PARENT LIAISON

Hazel Mugo P'21, '22
UPPER SCHOOL BOARDING PARENT LIAISON

Peter Mugo P'21, '22
INTERNATIONAL PARENT LIAISON

Veena Raghuvir P'22
MIDDLE SCHOOL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Grace Petrarca P'19
UPPER SCHOOL VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

2018 Tracey Goolsby P'18,
Tyyne Kelly P'18 and
Renata Ranaldi P'18, '20

2019 Mary Duba P'19 and
Kelly Majka P'19

2020 Meg Castineiras P'20 and
Debbie Savino P'20

2021 Natalie Corbett P'21 and
Beth Strapp P'18, '21



Grace Petrarca P'19 and Julie Berard P'19 at the New Girl Show



'Super Heros' Staff Appreciation Luncheon



Final Exam Break



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The Ethel Walker School

230 Bushy Hill Road • Simsbury, CT 06070

Save these dates for upcoming events
across the country and around the globe.

September 13, 2018

ADMISSIONS ON THE ROAD
Whitby School and
Greenwich Catholic School Fair
Greenwich, CT

September 19-20, 2018

ADMISSIONS ON THE ROAD
International School Fair
Hamilton Princess
Bermuda

September 20, 2018

ADMISSIONS ON THE ROAD
Far Hills Secondary School Fair
Far Hills, New Jersey

September 25, 2018

ADMISSIONS ON THE ROAD
North Shore Secondary Fair
Beverly, Massachusetts

September 29, 2018

ADMISSIONS ON THE ROAD
Inspiring Young Minds
New York, New York

October 8, 2018 (morning)

OPEN HOUSE
Grades 6-12, plus postgraduate
Simsbury, Connecticut

November 2-4, 2018

ADMISSIONS ON THE ROAD
Saudi Aramco Expatriate Schools
Boarding School Fair
Saudi Arabia

November 8, 2018 (evening)

OPEN HOUSE
Grades 6-12, plus postgraduate
Simsbury, Connecticut

December 3, 2018 (morning)

OPEN HOUSE
Grades 6-12, plus postgraduate
Simsbury, Connecticut

December 7, 2018

HEAD'S RECEPTION
WALKER'S AT ART BASEL
Miami, Florida
Hosted by Myrthia Moore '79 and
Steven Manolis

May 2019

OPEN HOUSE
Grades 6-12, plus postgraduate
Simsbury, Connecticut

May 17-19, 2019

REUNION
Classes Ending in 4 and 9
Simsbury, Connecticut

