

MISS HALL'S SCHOOL

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PAINTING BY
Gary Grosenbeck

**“WE’RE ALL HERE
TOGETHER RIGHT NOW,
AND THERE WAS A TIME
WHEN NOBODY KNEW
IF THAT COULD EVER
HAPPEN AGAIN. WE’RE
HERE TO MAKE THIS THE
BEST YEAR POSSIBLE,
TO LIVE TOGETHER,
WORK TOGETHER, MAKE
MEMORIES, AND GROW
TOGETHER.”**

—School President Cailyn Tetteh '21



ON THE COVER



COVER ART Detail of a painting by Ceramics Teacher Gary Grosenbeck from a series of experimental works on canvas layered in bedsheets, created during the pandemic. At the opening of the school year, a selection of Gary's new paintings were on view alongside some of his three-dimensional masterworks in the gallery of the Elizabeth Gatchell Klein Arts Center, together with other inspiring work by Expressive Arts Faculty.

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

COLLECTIVE EFFERVESCENCE

THERE IS NOTHING LIKE BEING TOGETHER in community.

From the moment we reconvened in August, this year has felt special. I mentioned to students during our Opening Assembly that there is a sociological term for this — collective effervescence — or, as author Adam Grant writes, “the sense of energy and harmony people feel when they come together in a group around a shared purpose.” In many ways, not the least of which was limiting how we could gather, COVID has challenged our ability to enjoy this sense of togetherness.

Given the experiences of the past twenty-one months, bringing everyone back to campus and making the full MHS experience available to all have been our top priorities. We are paying close attention to student and adult health and wellness, physical and mental, as well as to the simple comforts and camaraderie that come with living and learning in community, such as enjoying a meal together.

We are focused, too, on making academic supports equally accessible to every student as we transition back to “regular” school from the hybrid experience of 2020-21. And, as school



is still taking place during a pandemic, we remain committed to doing all of this as safely as possible.

Every new school year brings change and opportunity. Having proven to ourselves last year that we could radically rethink how we use time, today's academic schedule builds on this success, incorporating "What I Need" time into every day. It's up to students how they use their "WIN" time: practicing an instrument, meeting with a teacher, or unwinding by hanging out with friends. Change has also meant saying goodbye to adults who have left Miss Hall's and to two longtime faculty members who passed away, and it includes welcoming new administrators and faculty who are already contributing to the "Miss Hall's Magic" in their own unique ways.

We are cherishing togetherness and are making plans for Come One, Come All Reunion, a chance for friends from all classes to reunite on Holmes Road after so long apart. Unable to wait, members of the Class of 2020 have been stopping by to stamp the Book of the School, a year-end tradition they missed out on because of the pandemic. (By

the way, if *you* have not stamped the Book, join us May 13 to 15, when it will be available for all alums to leave their mark!)

Reflecting on our progress so far and selecting the quote on the cover of this magazine, it strikes me that Cailyn '22 is absolutely right. There *was* a time when we did not know if or when we would feel community again, and that makes being together all the more extraordinary.

Thank you for all you are doing to support Miss Hall's, to stay connected with one another, and to remain true in trying times. We can't wait to experience collective effervescence when we are all back together in May. •

Julia Heaton

RETURNING TO CAMPUS

After a year of hybrid and online learning, we were more than ready to welcome everyone back to campus — even if it meant continuing some pandemic-related safeguards. We opened the year with 176 students, from 15 states and 23 countries, and a 93 percent retention rate that speaks to the strength of the MHS community, “no matter how far distant we may be.” Everyone — students and adults alike — is grateful to be together again on Holmes Road.





CARING FOR THE WHOLE STUDENT

HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTER COMES TO LIFE

BRINGING EVERY STUDENT BACK TO CAMPUS AFTER A

year of hybrid and online learning, while still in the midst of a global pandemic, is no small task.

Throw in taking care of the everyday wellness of nearly 300 students and adults, and that task becomes one tall order. But — we are doing it! On the front lines of the effort is the new Health and Wellness Center, a doubling-down on student wellness.

Bringing direction to this focus is Kristen Milano, who joined the School this summer in the newly created role of Director of Health and Wellness. Ms. Milano is chief advocate for making sure students have the support needed to be successful.

“More and more, we are seeing the move to an integrated health model,” says Ms. Milano. “It’s not just physical health, but also mental health and social-emotional health, especially for teens and the crucial time of development they are in. If a student is struggling with academics, that is not happening in isolation. Let’s look at *all* of what is going on, so that we can support a student to be their best self.”

The Health and Wellness Center’s to-do list is multifaceted. A top priority has been a solid plan for COVID safety and, as always, community health. Fortunately, there was a framework in place that helped MHS navigate the 2020-21 school year during the height of the pandemic (see “How We Did It” on page 7).

The MHS Common Good Guidelines — shared behaviors adopted for 2020-21 — are still in place. “They are the bedrock of health and safety in our community,” Ms. Milano explains. “We are constantly referring to them, and taking on that shared community responsibility is something that’s so vital to keeping our community safe.”

Some guidelines have been loosened this year. There are no more one-way hallways, for example, but core elements of



SHE'S GOT GAME

the guidelines remain. Masks are worn indoors and in shared spaces. Community members monitor for and report potential COVID symptoms. Frequent hand-washing is urged, and sharing of personal items discouraged. Everyone is expected to follow the guidelines, even when off campus. And, community members gently remind others if the guidelines are not being followed.

"Our first priority is to keep the community safe," Ms. Milano adds. "While doing that, we also want to make sure we don't lose the aspects of our community that make it special." Her to-do list includes a health and wellness survey to learn more about student needs — what's going great and what they are struggling with. That data will then inform schoolwide initiatives.

"One of our goals is raising awareness and engaging with students about what mental health means and what supports they need to be successful," Ms. Milano says. In October, the Student Council and the Health and Wellness Team hosted mental health workshops to help students understand concerns such as anxiety and depression, learn about coping and self-care strategies, and know how and when to get help. A Mental Health Summit and awareness campaigns are in the works, and the Health and Wellness Center's Horizons interns will help with that programming.

That partnership with students has been especially rewarding, Ms. Milano notes. "I am excited that students want to talk about these issues, because that peer-to-peer conversation is so formative," she says.

While COVID safety and mental wellness are addressed, the School also continues building its health curriculum, especially for 9th- and 10th-graders, partnering with Horizons in that work. Ms. Milano is also planning opportunities for juniors and seniors to engage with experts.

AFTER A YEAR OF PANDEMIC-INDUCED

restrictions on competition, MHS athletes were eager this year to get back into the game. New Director of Athletics and Auxiliary Programming Telia Marks-McCall — seen above with Athletic Association co-Heads Bethania Robertson '23 and Jenelee Saldaña '23 — is just the person to take them there.

"I know the role athletics can play in girls' lives," says Telia, who was a standout basketball and volleyball player in high school in Georgia, before playing for the University of Virginia's women's basketball team for four years. After college, she played professional basketball in Luxembourg and Finland.

"Sports teach life lessons — how to work together, communicate effectively, be a good teammate," says Telia, who holds an M.Ed. in Organizational Leadership from Quinnipiac University and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Virginia. "You learn leadership skills, and I want student-athletes to leave Miss Hall's knowing how to lead, communicate effectively, and work in groups."

Telia came to MHS from Miss Porter's School, where she served as the Assistant Athletic Director and Head Basketball Coach for two years. Before that, she was Director of Basketball Operations for Quinnipiac's women's basketball team.

In addition to leading the Athletics Department, Telia is designing and coordinating auxiliary programming, including summer programs such as athletic camps, on the MHS campus. She is also a Resident. She and her husband, Brett Marks (who is the JV Soccer Coach and Assistant Basketball Coach at MHS) have three children, Sam, Xavier, and Aaliyah.

Welcome to MHS, Telia! •



Above, Director of Health and Wellness Kristen Milano brings direction to our whole-student approach to wellness.

Other crucial partners are the Student Life team — headed by Dean of Student Life Cherèva McClellan and Director of Residential Life Christie Higuera (see page 9 for more about Cherèva and about Christie's new role) — and each student's Personal Team — trusted adults and fellow students they can turn to for advice and support.

Those connections are vital to student success, Ms. McClellan notes. "How we help students experience the 'Miss Hall's Magic' begins with connection," she explains. "We want students to feel connected to each other and to adults, and it's a team approach."

"We have systems in place to support a student when they are facing a challenge, whether academic, social, or physical," she adds. "Being a small community, where everyone knows each other, we can do that in a really deliberate and holistic way."

At the forefront of all of this is the Health and Wellness Center team, which includes nurses Lisa Loehr, Alison Phair, and Pam Gauthier (see page 24 for more on Nurse Pam!) — all seasoned practitioners. The Health and Wellness Center has regular hours, and a nurse is on call during non-scheduled hours. "They are not just there to help with injuries or sickness, but they are also well versed in conversations with young adults about things like diet, sleeping, and healthy habits," Ms. Milano adds.

School Counselor Abigail Ruble '92 will soon join their ranks, succeeding Teresa Gentile (see page 9). Counselors, including Ms. Milano, are available to students on a regular basis or for one-time meetings. When Ms. Ruble comes on board, group sessions will be added for students who might be grappling with similar issues — grieving, divorce, and school stress.

"I want students to think of the Center as a point of connection, with counselors and nurses who are easily available and approachable, not only if they are not feeling well, but even if they are just having a bad day or they are homesick," Ms. Milano adds. "We want to help the students build their network of support around them."

Ms. Milano herself brings roots in school counseling to her role. A certified school counselor, she came to MHS after eight years at a public school near Boston.

How did we do it?

THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR WAS A CHALLENGE BY ANY STANDARD. SO HOW DID WE MANAGE AN INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT YEAR?

It began with a commitment to our Common Good Guidelines, community protocols that spell out shared behaviors every MHS student and adult is expected to follow, on campus and off. We masked. We washed hands with abandon. We kept an eye on symptoms – and each other. We learned and worked from home. We socially distanced.

Our Health Services Team kept up with health guidelines and made sure we followed them – nevermind attending to testing and vaccinating and staying on top of the health and wellness of every community member.

Our Housekeeping Team doubled down on sanitizing everything – doorknobs, light switches, railings, and tables. Shared spaces got extra attention.

Our amazing Campus Services Team reconfigured our entire campus, making sure desks and chairs were six feet apart, installing Plexiglass in shared spaces, shaping new traffic patterns throughout campus, and making sure everything was where it needed to be for us to be successful.

Our Culinary Services Team showed why they're the best in the biz. They served in the Dining Room and Centennial Hall. During quarantines, they prepared individual room-service meals, right down to making sure the student who wanted extra French fries got them.

Our alumnae and friends dug deep, so students had technology they needed to learn and funds to get home. They gave – then gave more – so we could teach and care for students across continents and in socially distanced classrooms.

Residents did heavy-lifting as ever-present adults, making sure students had what they needed, followed the Common Good Guidelines, and were supported around the clock.

Our faculty showed max dedication, redesigning classes for students who were learning in-person and/or on Zoom, no matter how distant they were from Holmes Road.

MHS students and adults followed the Common Good Guidelines and demonstrated incredible flexibility and patience while arms were poked and noses prodded, with ever-present masks and almost never-present hugs.

So how did we do it?

Together.



"I love working with teens and working with teen girls is a dream come true," she says. "I loved being in a supportive role in my previous position, and I saw this role at MHS as helping teens look at life holistically and helping them to make decisions as they grow."

Originally from Pittsfield, and a graduate of nearby Williams College, Ms. Milano was drawn back to the Berkshires in part for the opportunity at MHS, but also because she loves the area. "I thought it would be a great place to raise my child," she says. Ms. Milano and her husband, Ken (who coaches the cross-country team), are the parents of a two-year-old daughter.

"What I love about Miss Hall's is that the School pairs its actions with its philosophies," she says. "It's not only that we say we believe in these things, but also that actions back up those philosophies, whether Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion or health and wellness, and those are philosophies that match what I love about education." •

Above, Nurse Lisa Loehr meeting with a student in the Health and Wellness Center.



THANK YOU, NURSE PUZ & MS. GENTILE!

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES CHRISTIE PUZ

and School Counselor Teresa Gentile put student health and wellness at the center of their days (and days off) for a combined 45 years.

That's a lot of colds, coughs, cramps, and counseling sessions — not to mention Community and Morning Meeting “Happy Birthday” renditions Nurse Puz offered on proper hand-washing technique.

Among their Miss Hall's duties, Nurse Puz (22 years at MHS) and Teresa (23 years) were on the front lines of our COVID-19 response, and we couldn't have done it without them.

Thank you, Teresa, for your gentle, and warm approach, and for always having just the right words — for students and adults.

Thank you, Nurse Puz, for your collegiality, good humor, and sage advice on all matters health and wellness — and Pittsburgh Steelers.

Best of success to you both in your next roles. You are already missed! •



WELCOME, CHERÈVA!

JOIN US IN WELCOMING CHERÈVA MCCLELLAN AS

the new MHS Dean of Students, succeeding Christie Higuera, who moves into a new role as Director of Residential Life & Student Leadership Coordinator.

Cherèva came to MHS from the College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, where she was Director of Student Life and Coordinator of Family Relations since 2016. At MHS, she oversees all aspects of the Student Life Program, including leadership development, residential life, advising and advocacy, and the advancement of the Student Life Curriculum. She also serves as a campus Resident and as a member of the School's Leadership Team.

Cherèva holds an M.A. in Forensic Psychology, a B.S. in Legal Studies, and a B.S. in Psychology from Roger Williams University. Welcome, Cherèva!

IN HER NEW ROLE, CHRISTIE HIGUERA IS THE POINT

person for all things Residential Life and student travel. She is also the advisor to the Bigs and Proctors and collaborates closely with the Class Coordinators and student leaders.

Since 2002, Christie has held several roles, including Dean of Students, Assistant Dean of Students, Dean of Student Programs, Assistant to the Academic Program, and coach. She is our everything! •

IT'S NOT A CAFETERIA, IT'S A HOME

Locally sourced, globally prepared meals, “with a food truck feel”

IN AN ONGOING QUEST FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND wellness, MHS Executive Chef Russ Sawicki and the Culinary Services Team reinvented the Dining Room experience at MHS, building off lessons learned during the 2020-21 school year.

“The pandemic was definitely different, but it gave us an opportunity to see what the community wanted for food and from their culinary team,” says Chef Russ, who joined MHS in March of 2021.

He and his team worked through the summer, planning, experimenting, and preparing for a return to in-person learning (and eating). Their farm-to-kitchen-to-community approach includes a global foods station, an expanded salad bar, and scrumptious “foods from the hearth.”

“My philosophy is that everything should be welcoming,” Chef Russ explains. “This is not a school cafeteria. This is a kitchen. This is a home, and it should feel like home.”

Chef Russ’ arrival came after MHS brought its food services in-house in 2020. The new Culinary Services Team now handles all food services, special events, and catering on campus.

“Transitioning to in-house culinary provided greater opportunities for us to offer locally sourced and global menu options and to integrate more input from students, faculty, and staff into the dining program,” says Director of Finance & Operations Helen Telfer P’21, whose team headed the move. With that, the School set a goal of locally sourcing 50 percent of the food served on campus.

Chef Russ notes that as much food as possible comes from nearby farms, bakers, and other providers. They include Baldor Foods, which sources from the Hudson Valley, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, and Marty’s Local, which is based in South Deerfield and sources throughout western Massachusetts — including the Berkshires!



There are items from Formisano Bakery in nearby New York and yogurt from Saratoga Springs. The hot beverage station features teas from Harney & Sons in Millerton, N.Y., and coffee from Six Depot Roastery in West Stockbridge.

At the heart of the Dining Room, the traditional “hot line” highlights what Chef Russ calls a “food truck feel,” with fancy tacos, grilled cheeses, mac and cheese, and other creations that have been a hit with students and adults. The menu also features daily vegetarian, gluten-free, and vegan options, typically twists on the day’s main dish, and there are plenty of traditional favorites, like pasta and burgers.

A new global foods station allows diners to build their own bowls with pasta or rice and a fixing’s bar stocked with proteins, veggies, broths, and sauces. The quick-serve “Food from the Hearth” action station features quick foods — such as breakfast sandwiches in the morning or Cubano sandwiches at lunch — to grab and enjoy.

“We’ve made a ton of changes, and we’ll make more,” says Chef Russ, who comes from a family of eleven kids and has cooked all his life. Most recently he was Executive Chef and Director of Dining Services at the Forman School, in Litchfield, Connecticut. He previously owned a popular restaurant for seventeen years in West Cornwall, Connecticut. He is a firm believer in the power of food to create community.

“We’ve invested in things to bring people together — a smoker, a grill, a huge paella pan,” he says. “We want to bring the community together around food and different cultures, and barbecue, grilling, paella, risottos — all of those bring people together.” •

RECHARGING THROUGH ART- MAKING

New Elizabeth Gatchell Klein Expressive Arts Chair Ellie Kreischer awarded residency at Red Lion Inn

ONE MIGHT THINK THAT AFTER 18 MONTHS OF

reimagining classes and schedules while adjusting to a global pandemic, Ellie Kreischer might “take the summer off.”

That’s not her style.

“I try to make art a little bit every day during the school year, so the summer is all about working for longer periods of time, digging deeper, and developing new ideas,” says Ellie, who was one of two artists selected by IS183 Art School for the Berkshire Artist Residency 2021.

Ellie’s residency was hosted at the iconic Red Lion Inn in Stockbridge, where she had a studio space and access to the inn’s archives. As part of the residency, which ran through October 11, she delivered an artist talk, and the inn hosted an October reception and exhibition of her work.

Among her projects during the residency, Ellie created three series, working off the motifs, shapes, and colors found throughout the inn.

For a Teapot Series, she repurposed old teapots into 3-D surfaces for painting and featuring her abstract designs, drawing inspiration from the Inn’s own collection of ceramic teapots, which are featured throughout its dining spaces and hallways.

A Lasercut Series used the MHS laser-cutter to create wooden pieces based on shapes and colors found throughout the inn. The pieces were then painted and applied to wooden relief panels. A Book Cover series used old book covers as surfaces for abstract paintings, which were then framed.

The residency, Ellie noted, provided an opportunity for art-making that fit her schedule and allowed her to pursue avenues of creativity. “I loved having the new sources of inspiration, and I found the Red Lion Inn’s environment was very energizing for my work,” she says.

Busy summers are nothing new for Ellie.

In 2016, as the recipient of the inaugural Paternotte Family



Faculty Travel and Study Endowment Fund grant at MHS, she traveled to Sweden to deepen her study of Hilma af Klint, one of her favorite artists and who is now recognized as the first abstract artist.

It was a trip that continues to inform Ellie’s own work as an artist and Studio Art Teacher, a role that now includes serving as the Elizabeth Gatchell Klein Expressive Arts Department Chair. Ellie, who joined MHS in 2010, succeeds inaugural Klein Arts Chair and longtime Photography Teacher Sophie Lane ’96, who moved on from Miss Hall’s this summer after 18 years at the School (see page 23).

In her added new role, Ellie is guiding the department as the School emerges from a year of hybrid learning and moves forward post-pandemic.

“We’re looking forward to having Expressive Arts events play a part in bringing the community back together and celebrating student voices,” says Ellie. “I’m excited to be back in the spaces together with students and to feel the energy that comes from a group of people working together toward shared creative goals.” •

“HOW DO WE KNOW THAT?”



New History Department
Chair Michael Alexander
Questions Accepted Truths

MICHAEL ALEXANDER WANTED TO BE A HISTORY

Teacher since high school.

"I had Mr. Forbes for A.P. U.S. History and European History, and his classroom was like a museum and super engaging, not just cinder block walls," recalls Dr. A., as he is known to students and colleagues. "He was also a very good storyteller, and you could tell he loved his job."

Fast-forward thirty years and Dr. A's classroom on the second floor of the Thompson Humanities Wing resembles something of a museum. Students settling in for World History class file past a Darth Vader helmet, walls adorned with maps and posters, and shelves holding a collection of "antiquities" — a rotary phone, Blackberry, VCR tape, and an 8mm video camera.

"I try to create something visually appealing and engaging for the students," explains Dr. A., who was named this summer as the new Chair of the History Department, succeeding Matthew Rutledge, who held the post for almost twenty years. You can also tell that Dr. A. loves his job.

* * *

"Take out your notes and we'll do a check-in," he tells the students, who were asked to read two sections of Yuval Noah Harari's *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*. The class is grappling with Harari's notion of "Cognitive Revolution" and the evolution of modern humans.

"Get with your teammates and find one or two or three quotes from those pages that you think are particularly important or problematic," Dr. A. continues. "At 11:10, we'll come back together and try to make sense of this."

* * *

As an undergraduate at Vanderbilt University, Dr. A. majored in European History. He earned an M.A. in Late Medieval Italian History from the University of Virginia, where he also earned his Ph.D. in Medieval & Early Modern European History.

"I like the extent to which history can be debated and is contested and is not fixed," he says. "Everything is interpretation, and we have a very imperfect record of the past. The general thinking on subject X in 1960 is very different from the general thinking on subject X in 1980 or 2000. The field evolves."

Dr. A. finds that lack of fixity — and the idea that there are not answers, but possibilities — intellectually engaging.

"One of the points I try to get across to students is that a textbook is just one point of view, and forty years from now, that point of view may be very different," says Dr. A., who wants his students to question accepted truths. "I want them to ask, 'How do we know that? Why is that the story we tell?'"

It was teaching at the college level for seven years that ultimately steered Dr. A. toward MHS. Disillusioned with the priority placed on presenting at conferences and publishing — rather than teaching and learning — he began considering alternatives.

Now in his ninth year at MHS, Dr. A. has taught thirteen different courses, including World History, eight electives, three Hallmark classes, and one Advanced Placement class.

In his new role, he sees further opportunities to tie skills development to the School's Core Competencies and open pathways for students to deepen their sense of who they are as learners. There is also room for strengthening interdisciplinary ties. Dr. A. and English Teacher Rebecca Cook-Dubin have co-taught Hallmark Humanities for three years, and he and English Teacher Richard Scullin plan to tie English and World History together more closely in the spring semester. Additionally, the department also continues offering courses that appeal to a broad range of students.

"I am proud of our diverse offerings and that we are not just teaching big surveys," he adds. "It does give the students a sense of what it's like at a liberal arts college."

* * *

This morning's ninth-graders have filled white boards with notes and quotes using multi-color markers to highlight their points before reconvening for discussion. It is quite a contrast from a 150-person lecture hall.

"Let's talk about what Harari's point is in this chapter," Dr. A. begins, and the students are off and running, their discussion covering human development, the construction of societal systems, and how those contributed to the ascension of modern humans as a dominant species.

"Ultimately Harari's whole thing is, 'How did we get here?'" Dr. A. notes. "No other animal has changed its rank on the food chain so quickly. This cognitive revolution, I believe it happened. The thing that gets me is how, and why, and can we prove it?"

But, it's almost lunchtime, so that's a topic for another day. •



"Wildflower" – Emily Lombardi '22



"ye" – Cici Chen '23

WEDNESDAYS ARE THE NEW THURSDAYS



THE RETURN TO OFF-CAMPUS, IN-PERSON

experiences isn't the only change this year for Horizons; the School's experiential, service-learning, and professional internship program. Now in its 27th year, Horizons also welcomes a new leader and moves to a new day of the week: Wednesday.

Erica Washburn succeeds Alison Basdekis, who stepped down in June after a decade leading the iconic program. Erica comes to Miss Hall's from the Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawaii, where one of her roles was Coordinator of the school's Explorations program, which offers students opportunities to explore topics beyond the academic program and in a non-traditional format. In that position, she saw the value of experiential education and learning in action.

"I was intrigued and excited about the Horizons opportunity because of how many different elements there are in the program to prepare young women to be empowered leaders," says Erica, who was also a DEI Working Group member and Social Studies Teacher at Punahou. "I also like that Horizons has a long track record and is embedded into the fabric of the School. It isn't a one-off experience, but is four years of really intentional programming."

That programming this fall saw some adjustments, the biggest of which was a move to Wednesdays. The switch resulted from a re-working of the MHS academic schedule for a return to in-person learning.

"When we had the opportunity to re-envision how we used time for the 2021-22 school year, we took many of the parts of the 2020-21 schedule that worked well and incorporated them into the new schedule," explains Director of Academic Counseling Sarah Virden.

"Moving Horizons to Wednesday was one of those concepts that worked really well. It is the singular thing that a student is focusing on that morning, and it also allows the other four class days to run with the same timing each day, which was something we also adapted from the 2020-21 schedule."

The move makes Wednesdays, with athletics in the afternoon, a true break from the academic week, without reducing teaching time. It also eliminates a late-afternoon "re-starting" of the class day, a changeover that was less than ideal.

Other than the program taking place on a different day, the move is not much of an adjustment, Erica notes, and most Horizons site partners were unconcerned with the change. Sites that are open to

students — some still limit outside contact because of the pandemic — were simply glad to see them return.

“They missed having Miss Hall’s students in their organizations,” Erica adds. “Many of them rely on the students’ contributions, and Horizons is an important part of their week, so they were eager to have the students back in their spaces. The students were also eager to get off campus and get back to making a difference in the community, which is something they really love to do.” •



THANK YOU, ALISON!

Alison Basdekis joined Miss Hall’s in 2009 as a Horizons Advisor and Athletics Coach. She was named Director of Horizons in 2011.

During her tenure, Alison and her team evolved the program’s grade-level curriculum, introducing new elements and experiences and increasing the number of participating sites, volunteer hours, and geographic range of Horizons partnerships. The program added on-campus projects — MAPS (Mira’s Alliance for Philanthropic Sustainability), Girls Right the World, and others — with off-campus impacts, and added new grade-level components, such as diversity, equity, and inclusion education for ninth-graders, and place-based, social justice projects for sophomores.

Alison’s tenure also saw the addition of remote internships beyond the Berkshires, and independent projects that allow students to take deep dives into an interest while mentored by MHS adults and professionals in those fields. And, of course, the Horizons team reconfigured the program for the pandemic-altered 2020-21 school year.

Best wishes, Alison! Now on the cusp of its fourth decade, the program is stronger than ever, thanks in no small part to your contributions. •

ALL-ACCESS ASC



LEONHARDT ACADEMIC SKILLS CENTER NOW FEE-FREE

FOR CHRIS OUELLETTE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE

Leonhardt Academic Skills Center, it's all about inclusivity.

Mr. Ouellette believes all students can benefit from services the ASC provides, so he also believes those services should be available to all students, regardless of the ability to pay for them.

Now they are. Beginning this year, and thanks to Melissa Leonhardt '76, the ASC is fee-free!

"This is something I have wanted to do since I got here," says Mr. Ouellette, who joined the School in 2018. "Miss Hall's is deeply committed to building a diverse, equity-minded, and inclusive learning environment, and we feel strongly that an inclusive learning environment includes supporting learners of all abilities, so let's open the ASC to all students, and take the fees out of the equation."

One of the School's signature programs, the ASC provides academic and related support to students while promoting lifelong learning. That support includes one-on-one, group, and grade-level work on everything from executive function skills to subject-specific course work, and study skills. The ASC also supports classroom teachers in their work with students.

Until this year, for anything beyond occasional drop-in help, families paid for the service, based upon the needs of the student.

"The majority of boarding schools have a goal of inclusivity, but they also have academic support programs that are almost always an extra cost — as much as \$12,000, plus costs for evaluations," Mr. Ouellette points out. "Our program was not exorbitant, but it was still an extra cost a family might not be able to afford. So, the question became, how do we support students who might not have access to evaluations or academic support?"

The answer was a fee-free model.

WHAT THE ASC OFFERS STUDENTS

- » 1-1: Students can set up one-on-one, 30- to 60-minute sessions with a Learning Specialist.
- » Small Group: Multiple students can schedule time to work together. They can also sign up for a "study group" seminar for a specific task or skill set.
- » Study Hall: Wendy Forgie and Mr. Ouellette provide "in-the-moment" support during Study Hall on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights.
- » Grade Level: The ASC supports grade-level connections through Horizons and beyond, working with students in an entire grade.
- » Study Rooms Available: Two study rooms are available for students during the day, if they cannot find a quiet space to work in.
- » WIN Block Open Hours: Wendy Forgie and Mr. Ouellette host open-hour drop-ins Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Support ranges from how to plan a homework schedule to help in a particular subject

MEET WENDY FORGIE



WENDY IS THE ASC'S NEW LEARNING

Specialist and brings extensive experience in providing learning support to high school and college students. They joined MHS from Mansfield Hall, in Burlington, Vermont, where they served as Academic Director since 2017, overseeing a comprehensive program of academic skill development, guidance, support, and advocacy for students.

They also have experience as a special education teacher, learning specialist, adjunct professor, classroom teacher, and guidance counselor at public and independent schools and the college level.

Wendy holds an M.Ed. in Psychiatric Services/ Special Education from the University of Pennsylvania, and a B.A. in Eastern European Area Studies from Tufts University. Welcome Wendy!

The shift began to form last spring, after conversations with Allison Isbell, who ran the academic support program at LREI — The Little Red School House & Elisabeth Irwin High School — and is now the high school's co-Principal. The thinking was the LREI model could be used as a reference for MHS.

With the shift, comes dispelling the notion that the ASC is only for struggling students or those with learning differences, such as dyslexia.

"This is a program that can benefit everybody, because everybody can benefit from thinking about who they are as learners, how they learn, and what works for them," Mr. Ouellette notes. "Let's embrace the mindset of, 'Great learners seek outside assistance; great learners ask questions, and, ultimately, great learners come to the ASC.'"

It is still early in the year, but so far, the approach has worked, and the new model has been well received.

Because the majority of the ASC work is no longer with students who have paid for weekly sessions, Mr. Ouellette and Learning Specialist Wendy Forgie (left) have more freedom in how they work with students. A student may only need a fifteen-minute check-in, rather than a 45-minute, weekly session.

"There will always be students who benefit from continuous, one-on-one support, and there are students who benefit from less frequent check-ins," Mr. Ouellette says. "This model allows us to support learners individually, which is important when MHS offers students a personalized education."

Ultimately, the ASC's mission is about providing students with the skills to be successful no matter the setting.

"I want students to walk away from their experience here knowing themselves as learners, knowing what works well for them and what tends to be a speed bump to their success, and knowing how to access support that can lead to success in a non-Miss Hall's environment," Mr. Ouellette adds, "whether that is college or employment." •



ALUMNAE HONORED WITH AWARDS

The Distinguished Alumna Award is presented to the alumna who upholds the ideals that Miss Hall's School represents, and who has exhibited outstanding achievement, contributing to her community and to her field.

This year, during Reunion 2021, we were thrilled to honor two alumnae with this award:

DOREEN BOATSWAIN '75, WHO — AS DIRECTOR OF

Environmental Protection and Industrial Hygiene for the Metropolitan Transit Authority — oversees efforts to keep passengers, employees, and the general public safe, an especially tricky task since the pandemic began.

No surprise that Doreen is in the thick of it, however: Leadership has always seemed to come naturally to her, even back in her days at Miss Hall's. "She has consistently been recognized by her fellows as a leader," Headmaster Donald T. Oakes wrote in his college recommendation. "I have been amazed at the frequency with which she is sought out for advice and guidance. And, as she is respected by her peers, so also is she held in highest regard by the adult members of our community." Further, despite the rigors of a demanding career, Doreen supported the School through two decades on the Alumnae Council, including a term as President, and two terms on the Board of Trustees.

MELISSA LEONHARDT '76, WHO RECENTLY RETIRED

after a successful career as a doctor of veterinary medicine, always went above and beyond in supporting the academic life and diverse paths of decades of Miss Hall's students. While serving as a Trustee, she endowed the Leonhardt Family Teaching Chair, recognizing teaching excellence at MHS. Appreciating the varied learning needs of students, Melissa underwrote the Academic Skills Center. More recently, she was a founding contributor to the School's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Endowment, leading the way to a long-term investment in inclusion at Miss Hall's. As Trustee Susan O'Day '77 said, Melissa more than earned this award "for demonstrating gumption and persistence while negotiating the twists and turns of an authentic career path; for serving as a positive role model for young women who feel the pressure for perfection and while figuring it out; and for an ongoing commitment to supporting the experiences of all MHS students."

NEW (AND RETURNING) TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees welcomes one new and one returning member to its ranks, which now total thirty members.



Angela W. Fowler '73, of New York, New York, rejoins the Board, and Sarah Richardson Straley '71, of Tampa, Florida, begins her first term.

Angela, a retired registered landscape architect, previously served on the Board from 2008 to 2015, and her father, Harry W. Fowler, was a Trustee from 1971 to 1978. Angela's MHS service has also included serving as a Reunion Chair and on the Board of Visitors, Alumnae Council, and Arts Advisory Board. She is a graduate of Franklin College Switzerland (now Franklin University Switzerland) and Boston University, and earned a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Virginia. Angela previously served as Vice Chair of the Franklin College Switzerland Board of Trustees and was a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Swiss American Council for Women, and the Association of governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Her great-aunt, Edith Wilmerding Montgomery '24, and grandmother, Ruth Wilmerding Wood '27, preceded her at MHS.



Sally is an attorney in private practice with the firm of Straley Robin Vericker, in Tampa, Florida. Prior to joining the firm, she practiced law from 1989 to 2013 with the Pinellas County Attorney's Office, retiring as Managing Assistant County Attorney. Her tenure with Pinellas County included representing the county in procurement, land use, construction, taxation, contracts, and other legal matters. Sally has been practicing law since 1981, earning her J.D. in 1980 from Stetson University College of Law and a B.A. in American Civilization from Williams College. She and her husband, Mark Straley, are the parents of two grown daughters. Sally's mother, Rebecca Scull Richardson '51, aunt, Mimi Scull Osborne '48, and cousins, Priscilla Richardson Smith '51 and Dottie Richardson Baldwin '53, all attended Miss Hall's, and cousin Lisa Furey Spadaccini '71 was a classmate.

THANK YOU!

Best wishes to longtime MHS faculty and staff members who retired or left the School at the end of the 2020–21 academic year.

Director of Operations **ROBERT ALDRICH** joined MHS in 2011 as Director of Campus Safety. He was named Director of Campus Services in 2013 and became Director of Operations in July 2020. In addition to overseeing all areas of campus operations, effective use of campus spaces and resources, and campus preservation and sustainability, Bobby played an integral role in the construction management of Linn Hall and the new Residence Hall, both completed in 2016.

Director of Library Services **VICKY BIANCOLO P'16, '20** joined the School in 2006 and wore many hats, including Advisor to the 11th Grade and the ReAD Club, Resident, and member of the Student Life Team. Active in library leadership statewide, Vicky also serves on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners.

KIM KINNE P'18 held many roles since joining the Advancement Office in 2007 as Database Manager. She subsequently added the responsibilities of Website Coordinator and became Digital Communications Manager in 2014. Since July 2018, Kim had been Admissions & Communications Coordinator.

MONICA KIRSCHMANN taught English at MHS since 2014, coached varsity lacrosse and soccer, was active in the School's Writing Center, and was a Resident and member of the Student Life Team. Monica also delivered the inaugural faculty address during the School's 2019 Convocation.

SOPHIE LANE '96 joined the faculty in 2003, teaching Studio Art and Photography, including traditional and digital photography, drawing, and painting. In 2013, she was named the Expressive Arts Department Chair, which was endowed in 2015 in honor of longtime Art Teacher Elizabeth Gatchell Klein. A practicing artist and a freelance, fine art, and commercial photographer and designer, Sophie also took photographs for the School's website, publications,

and archives, was Resident and member of the Student Life Team, and served as Advisor to the 10th Grade and several student clubs.

ROB SANZONE P'24 served as the School's Instrumental Music Instructor since 2013, teaching individual and group lessons and advising the MHS Jazz Ensemble and Ukulele Band. Rob also served as Audio Visual Coordinator and was a STEAM Teacher in the Department of Engineering and Technology Innovation.

Thank you to former Director of Residential Life **MARY BAZANCHUK** for 10 amazing years of adventures at MHS. Mary joined Miss Hall's in 2011 as Senior Assistant Director of Admissions and was named Assistant Dean of Students in 2013. As Director of Residential Life since 2016, she oversaw the home-away-from home needs of 130 to 150 boarding students each year.

Best wishes to **BETH O'CONNOR**, who left her position as Administrative Assistant to the Deans in November. Since joining the School in 2014, Beth has been the go-to contact person for students, parents, and MHS adults and a steady presence in the Front Hall. Her eye for detail and unflappable demeanor will be missed!

Math Teacher **DAWN WHALLEY** retired after 11 years at MHS. Dawn is not only an outstanding instructor, but also possesses a mindfulness and positive energy that make her an amazing role model for MHS students and adults.

Director of Alumnae and Family Engagement **NATALIE MATUS P'05** retired in June after four years on the Advancement Team. We miss her phone calls with alums and parents and her service on our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Steering Committee!

WELCOME, NEW FACULTY & STAFF!

The return to in-person learning for everyone brings several new faculty and staff members to the MHS community. These new faces bring a wealth of experiences and talents with them, and they are already adding to the Miss Hall's magic. Welcome aboard!



PAULA MCBRIDE BUERGER is our new Librarian, bringing eighteen years of experience as an independent school librarian. Paula holds a J.D. from York University's Osgoode Hal Law School, and a Master of Library and Information Studies from Dalhousie University. She is the daughter-in-law of former MHS Latin Teacher, Registrar, College Counselor, and Assistant Headmaster Joe Buerger, and former Athletic Director, Coach, Archivist, and Alumna Association Executive Secretary Madge Buerger!



PAMELA GAUTHIER joined MHS as a School Nurse. Pam is a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with experience in pediatric practice, hospital/emergency care, geriatric care, and COVID vaccination, coming to the School from Macony Pediatrics, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. She is a graduate of the Certified Nurse Assistant program at Berkshire Community College and earned her L.P.N. certification in 2018, also from Berkshire Community College.



The Expressive Arts Department welcomed **JEFFREY HOWARD** as Instrumental Music Teacher. Jeffrey is a professional musician and music educator who most recently taught online and in-person lessons to students of all ages at the School of Rock in West Hartford, Connecticut. He holds an M.S. in Human Development and Education from the University of Rochester's Warner School of Education and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Rochester.



ALISON QUIÑONES JOHNSON '03 has returned to her alma mater as a Math Teacher. Most recently, Alison was an independently contracted online Science Teacher with the Virtual High School Collaborative, and she taught at MHS in the Spring of 2020 as a parental leave replacement. Alison holds an M.Ed. in Secondary Education: Biology from the Boston College Lynch School of Education and a B.S. in Biology from Emmanuel College.



PHIL KNOLL P'20 teaches Studio Art. Phil, who also teaches at Berkshire Country Day School in Stockbridge, is an artist who has shown his work extensively in solo and group exhibitions, and his drawings are in collections nationwide, including at the Museum of Modern Art. Phil received his undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and an M.F.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University. He is the father of Lanna '20.



SARAH ANDERSON LOCK teaches Hallmark Art History and is actively engaged in the visual art world as an artist, arts professional, and teacher. She previously served as Arts Administrator at the Hotchkiss School, in Lakeville, Connecticut. Sarah holds an M.F.A. in Painting from Parsons School of Design and a B.A. in Studio Art from Mount Holyoke College. She is pursuing an M.A. in Art History at S.U.N.Y. Purchase.



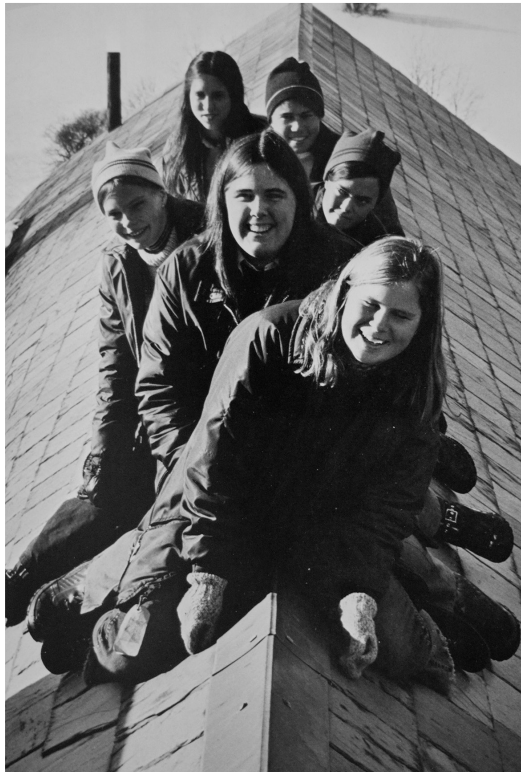
CHRISTINA MILLS P'24 is our Admissions Office Manager, responsible for coordinating all admissions functions, including database management and reporting. For nine years, Christina has worked as the Studio Manager for Tricia McCormack Photography and Berkshire Photo Booth, both in nearby Lenox. She holds a B.A. in Russian from the University of Rochester. Her daughter, Juliana, is a member of the MHS Class of 2024.



NOLAN OXLEY is an Associate Director of Admissions, responsible for all aspects of student recruitment, including travel, events, and being a contact for prospective students and families. Most recently, Nolan served as Associate Director of Admissions & Pre-Health Recruitment at Elmira College, in Elmira, N.Y. He earned an M.S. in Corporate and Community Education, a B.S. in Speech and Hearing Science, and a minor in Theatre, all from Elmira College.



LYNN ZUCKERMAN '88 returns to Miss Hall's in the Advancement Office as Director of Leadership Giving. She will also be responsible for working with select reunion classes and managing the Heritage Society, which is the School's planned giving program. Lynn comes to us from Washington, D.C., where she was an admissions consultant since 2008. The sister of Stuart Zuckerman '84, Lynn is also the mother of Eden '24.



“PERKINS POND” NAMED

IN RECOGNITION OF HER STEWARDSHIP OF THE MISS

Hall's campus, her bold leadership, and for shaping the present and future of our school, the Board of Trustees this fall named the pond around which life revolves at MHS “Perkins Pond,” honoring Jennifer Perkins Speers '71, a devoted conservation philanthropist who cares deeply about our special campus.

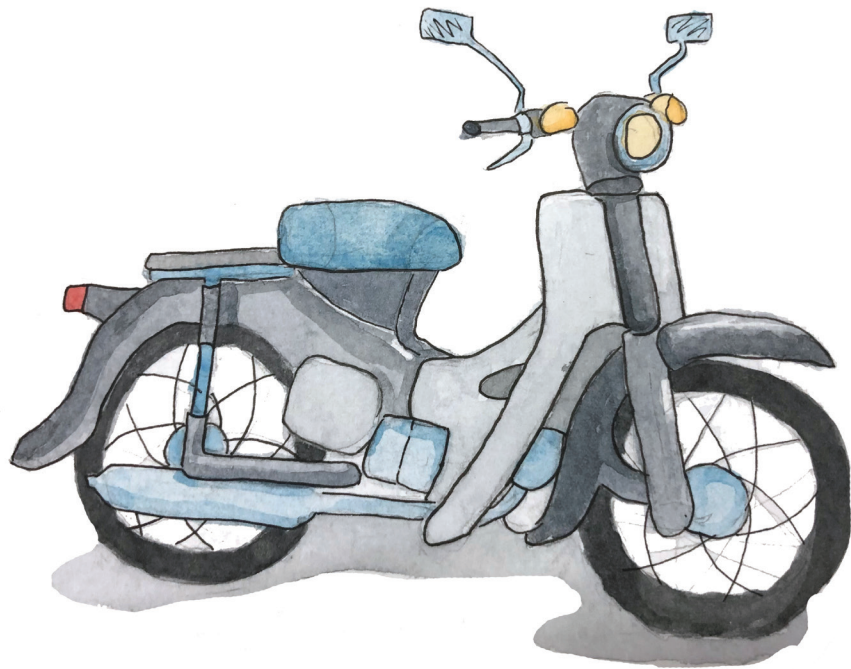
At Reunion 2021 in May, Jennifer was recognized with the Barbara Humes Euston '29 Distinguished Service Award. This honor is presented to an alumna who has consistently provided exemplary service to the School, and in so doing, has enhanced the success and well-being of the institution.

In addition to her work on behalf of Miss Hall's, Jennifer is President of the Palladium Foundation, which purchases conservation land in Utah, has been a member of The Nature Conservancy since 1979, and serves on the board of The Nature Conservancy of Utah. She also serves on the boards of the Grand Canyon Trust, Artspace, Wave Hill, Glynwood Center, Dutchess Day School, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and the Wilderness Society and Conservation Lands Foundation.

But it is here, at Miss Hall's, where we most keenly feel — and deeply appreciate — Jennifer's influence. The Perkins family's generational history of caring for important properties nationwide extends to MHS, and their partnership in preserving and improving our historic campus has significantly shaped the student experience.

The Linn Merck Perkins '14 Land and Facility Endowment Fund underwrites upkeep of our 90-acres and 200,000 square feet of space. And, Jennifer herself was the lead donor in fundraising for Linn Hall, a game-changer in science, technology, math, and Horizons education at MHS.

Thank you, Jennifer, for embracing preservation while also moving the School forward; for modeling a purposeful life based on honor, respect, growth, and personal authenticity; and for always doing so with bright enthusiasm and the quick wit that continue to endear you to us. •



"My father's old Honda Cup" – Alice Ho '23

COMMENCEMENT



FIFTY-SIX BOLD AND CREATIVE

contributors to the common good graduated on Sunday, May 30, during our 123rd Commencement. The hybrid ceremony was held on campus and shared worldwide via Zoom and Facebook Live. Sunny Hostin, an attorney, multi-platform journalist, and three-time Emmy Award-winning co-host of ABC's *The View*, delivered this year's Commencement Address. Hosted by Head of School Julia Heaton, the ceremony also included remarks from Class President Nya Mielke '21, School President Hannah Holt '21, and Board of Trustees President Nancy Gustafson Ault '73.

CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE LIST

The Class of 2021 received acceptances from a wide range of colleges and universities. We congratulate them on all of their acceptances to the following fine institutions (* indicates matriculating student):

American University
Amherst College
Bard College
Boston Architectural College*
Boston College
Boston University*
Brandeis University
Brown University*
Carnegie Mellon University*
Clark University
Clarkson University*
Clemson University

Cornell University
Culinary Institute of America*
Dickinson College*
Drexel University
Duke University*
Duquesne University
Emerson College*
Emory University*
Fordham University
George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Gettysburg College*
Hampshire College*
Hofstra University
Howard University
Kenyon College
Lehigh University
Marist College
Mount Holyoke College*

Muhlenberg College*
New York University
North Carolina State University
Northeastern University*
Northwestern University
Parsons School of Design-The New School*
Pennsylvania State University
Providence College*
Quinnipiac University*
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rider University*
Rochester Institute of Technology*
Rutgers University
Sarah Lawrence College
Seton Hall University
Siena College*



Simmons University
 Smith College
 Suffolk University
 SUNY at Albany
 SUNY at Binghamton*
 Swarthmore College*
 Temple University
 The University of Tampa*
 The University of Texas
 at Austin
 Trinity College*
 Tufts University
 Tulane University
 University of California
 (Berkeley)*
 University of California
 (Davis)
 University of California
 (Irvine)*
 University of California
 (Los Angeles)*

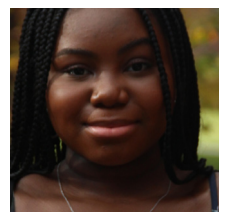
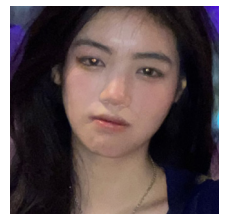
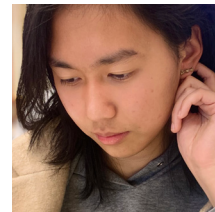
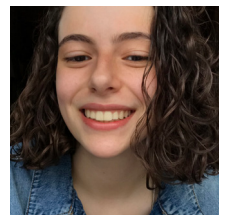
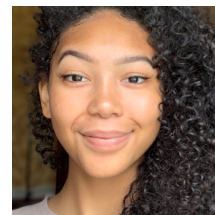
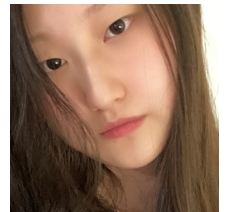
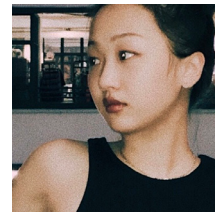
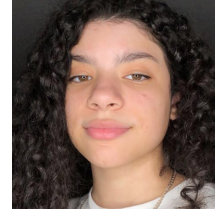
University of California
 (San Diego)
 University of California
 (Santa Cruz)
 University of
 Connecticut*
 University of Hawaii at
 Manoa
 University of Illinois at
 Urbana-Champaign
 University of Maine
 University of
 Massachusetts
 (Amherst)*
 University of
 Massachusetts (Boston)*
 University of
 Massachusetts (Lowell)
 University of Miami
 University of Redlands
 University of Rochester

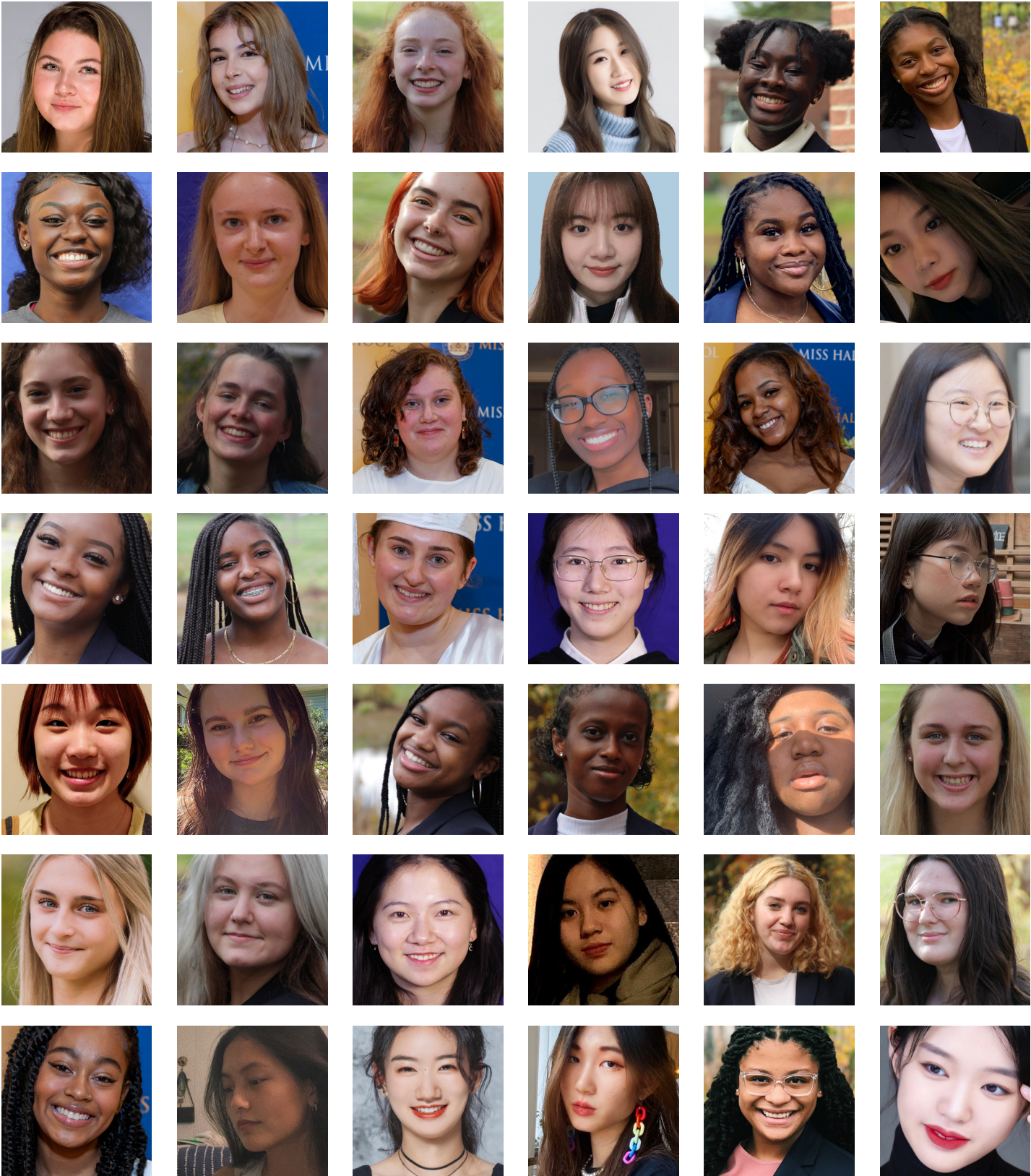
University of South
 Carolina*
 University of Sydney*
 University of Washington
 University of Wisconsin*
 Vassar College
 Villanova University*
 Wentworth Institute of
 Technology
 Wesleyan University
 Wheaton College
 Williams College*
 Worcester Polytechnic
 Institute

CLASS OF 2021

Muhiim Ali Jakuly
 Alessandra Alicea
 Morgan Ann Biscette
 Sarah Margaret Briggs
 Chelsea Lauren Canal
 Yifei (Jaq) Cheng
 Hadley DeVarennnes
 Antonia Nikol Djuric
 Olivia Marie Doerr
 Hongni (Elena) Du
 Nicole Forman
 Shannon Brianna Foster
 Yiwei (Calla) Gong
 Yunqing (Megan) Gong
 Hazel Grallert
 Mary Natasha Akua Hagan
 Hannah Carol Holt
 Imani Alike Johnson
 Katherine Elizabeth Kerwood
 Meredith Grace Kestyn
 Anna Claire
 Poutasse Korenman
 Le To Linh
 Shawo Lhabdon
 Chuanqi (Chelsie) Li
 Siqian Li
 Jiajie Lyu
 Ebony Simone Marshall
 Paige Mickle

Nya Lynnea Mielke
 Gabriela Emilia Nicholson
 Adelis Ingrid Ortiz Liriano
 Yuxuan Pan
 Juju Qiu
 Shanyse-Yasmine
 Gabriella Reed
 Shairai Aryel Richards
 Dillon Rodgers
 Sammy Rusk
 Shin Jiho
 Kennedy Hannah Simeon
 Keren Patricia Skeete
 Diana Sobolieva
 Kylie Lynn Soper
 Brooke Chamberlain Telfer
 Celcie Tetteh
 Tran Khanh Linh
 Jada Love Vanderhorst
 Eliana Talia Villareal
 Phuong Vo
 Hanyue Wang
 Haoye (Yoyo) Wang
 Xinlu (Dorit) Wang
 Wendy Dayanna Weeks
 Olivia Elizabeth Witter-O'Neill
 Davida Lovely Wright
 Paige Lydia Echo Wright
 Xinyi Yin





INVESTING IN OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

We award more than \$6 million annually to students who have excellent academic credentials, excel in school life, and show great promise. Congratulations to this year's recipients!



CLASS OF 1940 SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2010, the Class of 1940 Scholarship Fund supports a student who has demonstrated a sincere interest in community service. This scholarship has been awarded to Truc Hoang '22, of Hanoi, Vietnam.

BUTLER FAMILY ART SCHOLARSHIP

This partial scholarship, awarded to a student who has demonstrated an interest in and a commitment to the arts, was established in 2004 through the George M. and Pamela S. Humphrey Fund. Trustee Alice Butler Burnham '65 was instrumental in bringing the Humphrey Fund gift to Miss Hall's School. This scholarship is held by Honey Fields '24, of New Marlborough, Massachusetts.

PAMELA HUMPHREY FIRMAN '31 SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1991 by Cynthia Firman Webster '63, Royal Firman, and the Firman Fund, the Firman Scholarship is awarded to a student of outstanding personal and academic promise. This scholarship has been awarded to Randi McGeary '22, of Brooklyn, New York.

MARY FORTMILLER CORNWELL '56 BOOK SCHOLARSHIP

Seeded in 2016 and formally established in honor of their 65th reunion in 2021, members of the Class of 1956, led by Sandra Roe Smith and Mary's family, created this book scholarship in

memory of dear friend and classmate Mary Fortmiller Cornwell to honor a student with outstanding personal and academic promise. Throughout her lifetime, Mary Fortmiller Cornwell was an avid reader. Her choice of purse or travel tote would often be based solely on its ability to fit whatever book she was reading at the time. The inaugural recipient of this scholarship is Nathania Williams-Jack '24, of Brooklyn, New York.

THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1966 by Suzan Brand Gibson '52, The Hope Scholarship is named after Hope Walsh, the daughter of classmate Louie Safe Mauran Groton '52. The fund was further supported by gifts in Suzan's memory from her widower, Jim Gibson, and from Mrs. Groton. This partial scholarship recognizes promising students who are related to an MHS alumna. Scholarships have been awarded this year to Kathryn Barrett '22, of Sandisfield, Massachusetts; Maggie Bullock '22, of North Bennington, Vermont; Hannah (Grey) Carmel '23, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts; Kidist Mekonen Fesseha '22, of Ethiopia; Ruby Hauck '24 of South Lee, Massachusetts; Hava Methe '22, of Lee, Massachusetts; Solitaire Niles '23, of Shaftsbury, Vermont; Tyler Norman '25, of Bronx, New York; Abigail Putnam '22, of East Otis, Massachusetts; and Hilary (Ollie) Walter '23, of Cheshire, Massachusetts. Kathryn is the daughter of Hannah Van Sickle '92, niece of Amy Van Sickle Ober '89,



and granddaughter of former Math Teacher Paul Van Sickel. Maggie is the sister of Emma Bullock '15. Grey is the daughter of Rebecca Carmel '92 and sister of Emily Carmel '20. Kidist is the cousin of Tsega Meshesha '09. Ruby is the sister of Emme Hauck '17. Hava is the niece of Alexa Green '09. Solitaire is the sister of Cedar Niles Manganiello '07. Tyler is the daughter of Quanishia Mosely '00. Abby is the daughter of Robin Peterson '89. Ollie is the sister-in-law of Yvette Losaw '98.

LEE AUCHINCLOSS LINK '61 SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2004 by a gift from Lee Auchincloss Link '61, this partial scholarship is awarded to a student who has demonstrated an interest in and a commitment to the arts. This scholarship has been awarded to Viola Quiles '23, of Dalton, Massachusetts.

ELIZABETH PERKINS MILLER '31 SCHOLARSHIP

The Miller Scholarship supports one girl in each of the four grades throughout her tenure at MHS. The fund was established by members of Mrs. Miller's family, led by her daughter, the late Pamela Miller '56, and was first awarded in 1990. Miller Scholars are chosen on the basis of strong academic backgrounds and the promise to succeed as scholars and as school leaders at MHS. The Miller Scholarship has been awarded this year to Genevieve

Buker '25, of Lee, Massachusetts; Naomi Hopkins '24, of Chicopee, Massachusetts; Fernanda Morais Laroca '23, of Paraná, Brazil; and Tuong (Kathleen) Nguyen '22, of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

DALE SPERRY MUDGE '67 ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

Established by her family and classmates in 2008 in memory of Dale Sperry Mudge '67, this partial scholarship helps fund tuition for a promising student who shares Dale's social skills, native curiosity, academic tenacity, enthusiasm for life, and interest in the arts. This scholarship has been awarded to Hadear Rizq '22, of Boston, Massachusetts.

NPS AUTHENTICITY SCHOLARSHIP

The NPS Authenticity Scholarship, established in 2015, is awarded annually to a domestic student who demonstrates a commitment to authentic engagement with others, a love of the arts, and untapped leadership potential. This scholarship is held by Cherish Buxton '23, of Jersey City, New Jersey.

DEBRA COHEN DE ROTHSCHILD '77 SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 2003 by Robert de Rothschild in memory of Debra Cohen de Rothschild '77, this scholarship is awarded to a junior or senior day student who distinguishes herself through academic achievement, leadership among her peers, and service to the community. The scholarship recognizes the qualities Debra embodied: intellect, clarity of thought, loyalty, trustworthiness, ebullience, and consideration of the needs of others. This scholarship has been awarded to Keely O'Gorman '22 of Lee, Massachusetts.

SOSNOFF SCHOLARSHIP

Established in 1984 by Toni and Martin Sosnoff, in honor of their daughter Mindy Wiener '84, this scholarship is awarded to a student who distinguishes herself in her academic and athletic endeavors. This scholarship has been awarded to Sienna Trask '22, of West Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR 2021-22

Mansfield E. Pickett Scholarships, awarded by the Lenox School Alumni Association —Muhiim Ali '21, of Burco, Somaliland, and now attending Brown University; and Shannon Foster '21, of Valley Stream, New York, and now attending Dickinson College.

Keely O'Gorman '22, of Lee, Massachusetts received the Berkshire Music School's inaugural Tracy R. Wilson Scholarship, named in honor of the Pittsfield-based music school's longtime executive director. •

THE WORLD — BY CHRISTINA ZHENG '22

"What is the world? "

My sister asked me this question one day while we were playing lego. She looked so serious, that I thought she was actually joking.

I replied without thinking: "It's a round, giant, spinning ball."

"If it's not round, is it still a world?"

"No. The world is round like a ball. It is what it is. "

"If it's not giant, is it still a world?"

"No. The world is giant, so we can all live on it. It is what it is."

"If it doesn't spin anymore, is it still a world?"

"No. The world spins so the sun rises and falls. It is what it is."

My sister seemed distracted and confused.

Her eyes on her lego "steamboat" which she called the "Trinidad".

She never follows the instructions.

"You are lying." She said, "You are lying."

I turned around. My eyes met with hers, which were shining like the north star.

I knew she was right.

So I replied, "Yes."



Photo by Natalie Matus P'05



OLD PHOTOS RESURFACE

LOUISE BROWN, OF SALISBURY,

Connecticut, recently sent the School a photo album kept by Martha Birnie Farmer, Class of 1911!

The album includes photos from the 1909-10 and 1910-11 school years, the School's earliest years on Holmes Road. There are fascinating photos of school life, sports, and the campus, along with plenty of candid!

After Miss Hall's, Martha Birnie earned a B.A. in 1915 and an M.A. in 1916 from George Washington University. She married James W. Farmer in 1923 and died in 1972.





Ulysse Buhler, who taught piano at MHS for more than 40 years, joining the School in 1902. Born in Chile, educated in Switzerland, France, and Germany, Mr. Buhler came to the U.S. in 1883. A noted music instructor, he was also a pioneer in Berkshire chamber music concerts. Remarked Head of School Margaret Hall in 1948, "Mr. Buhler will always stand out for us because of the great warmth and charm of his personality and his gift of friendship."



Ella Hurtt, Mira Hall's "right-hand woman" and the first teacher she hired. Miss Hurtt taught Mathematics and German and was Assistant Headmistress. She married William R. Barnes (Barnes & Noble) at the "Old School" in 1912 and left Miss Hall's after her marriage, but continued her connection with the School in many ways. She accompanied Mira Hall on her last motor trip to Maine, where Miss Hall died in 1937

The "old" school, which burned in 1923.



REMEMBERING ANGELA KALISCHER

PRIME CREATOR OF WHAT WE NOW CALL

"The Miss Hall's Magic," Dance and Drama Teacher Angela Kalischer influenced the lives of hundreds of MHS students during her 37 years at the School — making a deep impact that, for many, lasts to this day. Angela, the mother of Director of Weekend Activities, Chinese Language and Culture Teacher, and International Student Advisor Tanya Kalischer, passed away peacefully on June 21 at age 85 at her home in Lenox.

Joining Miss Hall's in 1969, Angela taught creative dance, choreography, and theater until her retirement in 2006, producing countless dramatic and musical productions, always done with color, verve, and spirit.

In a 2016 conversation with former Director of Development and Alumnae Relations Diane Wortis, Angela recounted her start at MHS, explaining that she walked into the School one day and asked Headmaster Donald Oakes if there was a need for a dance instructor." Mr. Oakes thought about it for a moment and replied, "Well, yes. We do." Angela did everything as a one-person department, working seven days a week designing and building sets, creating choreography, doing make-up, making costumes and unique ensemble t-shirts, and designing and printing the programs. She also taught boys to dance during the years they attended the School — then known as The Hall School — from 1976 to 1984.

After her retirement, Angela was a regular presence at reunion and campus events and a frequent guest of class dinners hosted by former students. During Alumnae Weekend 2018, and in celebration of Angela's 80th birthday, her former students submitted memories and tributes that were compiled into a book.

The Angela Kalischer Theater Prize is named in Angela's honor and recognizes graduates who have made outstanding contributions to theater productions while at the School. The most recent recipient is last year's School President Hannah Holt '21. In addition to her daughter Tanya, Angela



is survived by her daughter Cornelia, two grandsons, Aaron and Noah, and son-in-law Christopher Coggins. She was predeceased in 2018 by her husband, noted photographer Clemens Kalischer, who captured student photos and images of Miss Hall's campus life from 1958 until the mid 1970s.

Since word of Angela's passing has spread through the MHS community, memories and tributes have poured in via social media. We are sharing some of them here. Read more at misshalls.org •

Photo by Clemens Kalischer





Many of Angela's former students and colleagues shared their reflections.

STACEY SOTIRHOS '89, TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Mrs. Kalischer was a remarkable teacher and member of the MHS community. It was such a pleasure seeing and continuing to connect with her all these years during our board work. It is quite noteworthy that the family legacy continues through Tanya's work and connection to the School. Mrs. Kalischer is Miss Hall's family and will be deeply missed.

NANCY GUSTAFSON AULT '73, BOARD PRESIDENT

Angela has been a Miss Hall's "fixture" for so long. A wonderful, dedicated, woman, she was held in such high esteem by so many.

CHRISTIE HIGUERA, DIRECTOR OF RESIDENTIAL LIFE & STUDENT LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR

Angela and I taught fitness together. We had so many laughs along the way. I will always remember Angela's great sense of humor and laugh. She also pushed me to take on a part in one of the plays. She made me feel confident! That's how she made everyone who worked with her feel.

ALISON QUIÑONES JOHNSON '03

What a force Angela always was. When I transferred to MHS I found my home through drama and music, and as my director, choreography teacher, and advisor, Angela completely shaped my time there.

ALISON COWIE '00

Since leaving MHS, I have almost never felt the kind of freedom she fostered in her classes. I don't think like everyone else and man, did she let me fly! And she was smiling, laughing, and clapping the whole time!

MARISA FERGUSON '93

What a full life! Such a peaceful soul with a feisty drive. Angela, thank you for the encouragement.

MASHA JONES SLAVIN '07

Even for those of us who weren't involved in theater performances or dance, Angela's presence was felt throughout the School by all – her spirit, her energy, her passion for her work, and her love for the students. She gives us all so much to aspire to.

LYNN ZUCKERMAN '88

She was such an incredible resource for us. Always there. Always warm. She was honest and tender with her wisdom. She never left my heart.

EMMA MEKINDA '92

I loved acting in her productions! I loved the gender fluidity in her productions! She was passionate about her craft, thoughtful, and made of iron! It was the perfect combination to bring the BEST out of her students and actors!

REMEMBERING PAUL VAN SICKLE



OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO THE FAMILY

of former Math Teacher Paul Van Sickle P'89, '92, who died Monday, October 25.

Paul retired from Miss Hall's in 2010, after thirty-two years at the School and forty-four years as a teacher.

During his tenure at MHS, Paul served a number of years as Director of Educational Technology, helping to usher the School into the computer age. In addition to teaching and advising, Paul also coached JV softball for fourteen years, coached cross-country skiing, was junior class advisor, and served on the School's Technology and Long-Range Planning committees.

"The Van Sickle family has a deep and proud connection to Miss Hall's, and we are grateful to count three generations as a part of the MHS family," said Head of School Julia Heaton. Paul and his wife, Susan, are the parents of Amy Van Sickle Ober '89, Hannah Van Sickle '92, and Andrew Garret Van Sickle; and they have four grandchildren.

PRVS will be missed by so many in our community. •

REMEMBERING JEAN ERDMAN '34

JEAN ERDMAN CAMPBELL '34, A GROUND-breaker and innovator in dance, choreography, and theater, passed away May 4, 2020, in Hawaii. She was 104 years old.

Ms. Erdman had a long and storied career, performing with the Martha Graham Dance Company from 1938 to 1943, organizing the Jean Erdman Dance Group in 1954, and directing the Theater of the Open Eye, which she founded in 1972 with her husband, the noted author and lecturer Joseph Campbell.

According to her obituary in *The New York Times*, "Ms. Erdman was among the first choreographers to exploit the inherent theatricality of dance, melding it with drama, poetry, music and visual art to form a seamless whole, or 'total theater,' as it was known then. Today it might be described as performance art."

Ms. Erdman also choreographed several Broadway productions, including a 1971 rock adaptation of "Two Gentlemen of Verona," for which she received a Drama Desk Award and was nominated for a Tony, *The Times* noted.

Born and raised in Hawaii, Ms. Erdman came to Miss Hall's as a junior in 1932 and later recalled how she was disciplined for teaching her classmates the hula. The discipline, though memorable, apparently did little to diminish Ms. Erdman's feelings toward the School. She visited Mira Hall in the years after she graduated, and Miss Hall, in a telegram to Ms. Erdman's parents following graduation, noted that the School would "greatly miss Jean, who has been an exceptionally delightful member of the family."

Ms. Erdman, along with Pittsfield philanthropist and industrialist Stanley P. Benton, was a major contributor to the renovation of the School's Benton-Erdman Arts Barn, dedicated in 1979. The building was home to the MHS drama, dance, and ceramics programs from 1979 until the opening of the Elizabeth Gatchell Klein Arts Center in 2001.

In May 1994, on the occasion of her 60th Miss Hall's reunion, Ms. Erdman was presented with the School's highest expression of its esteem, the Distinguished Alumna Award. •



REMEMBERING ESSIE HARRIS WADE '68



ESSIE HARRIS WADE '68 PASSED AWAY ON MARCH 14, 2020, in Jacksonville, Florida.

Coming to Miss Hall's as a sophomore for the 1965-66 school year, Essie, along with Janyce Jones '68, was one of the first two Black students to attend the School. Essie, Janyce, Arlien Acevedo '67, and Gloria Ortiz '68 all came to Miss Hall's that year through the School's partnership with A Better Chance (ABC), a nonprofit organization that assists young people of color with access to educational opportunities. The organization was founded in 1963, and Miss Hall's began participating in 1965.

At Miss Hall's, Essie was active in the Glee Club and Spanish Club, was a representative to Student Council during her sophomore and junior years, and was Student Council President as a senior.

Recalls classmate Clara Read, "As many of you will remember, Essie was elected President of our Class (1968) our Senior Year and guided us through a most tumultuous year at Miss Hall's. Essie was a friend to everyone and always greeted you with a smile. She had a way of bringing our class together at a time when we were experiencing some sharp divisions and conflicts. She was so smart and graced us with a wonderful sense of humor. I learned about kindness and tolerance from Essie for she was a very nonjudgmental person. I am truly sorry she could not come to our 50th reunion in 2018."

"Essie was an excellent student and a kind soul!" adds classmate Patricia Peters.

In 2019, Essie was noted in Heather Eyong '19's research project, "Black Excellence at MHS, which explored the history of Black students at Miss Hall's. Heather's presentation also featured Janyce, as well as Byron Walker '76, who attended MHS when it was co-ed and known as The Hall School. Additionally, the report included background on the landmark 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education ruling and on ABC.

After Miss Hall's, Essie went on to Lake Forest College and Texas A&M University, then worked in telecommunications for most of her professional career, as noted by her obituary in the *Salisbury Post* newspaper. She was employed by Southern Bell in Salisbury, North Carolina, and then AT&T in Charlotte, North Carolina. She moved to Jacksonville in 1991, and continued to work for AT&T until she retired. •

REMEMBERING JUDY HILL KITTREDGE '49



JUDY HILL KITTREDGE '49, AN EVER-PRESENT FRIEND

and supporter of Miss Hall's School for more than 70 years, passed away August 10, at age 89, following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

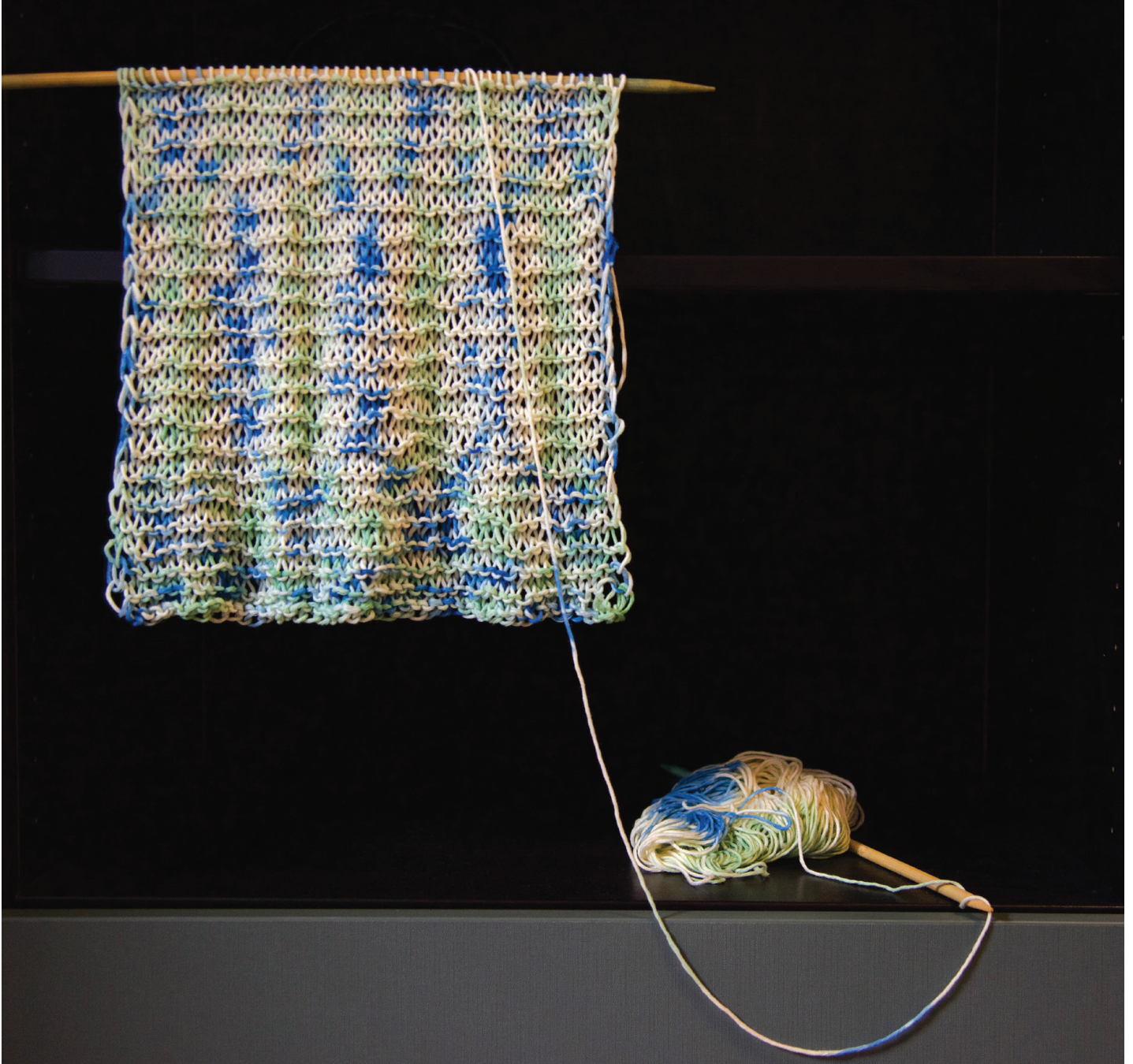
A familiar presence during Alumnae Weekend and other school events, Judy volunteered in many capacities for Miss Hall's through the years. She served on the Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1991, was a Class Representative, and was a member of the Alumnae Council and Heritage Society. She knew every Miss Hall's Head of School personally, except Mira herself.

During Alumnae Weekend 2019, Judy and three of her classmates celebrated their 70th reunion, with Judy leading the Snake Dance through the Main Building.

Judy graduated from Smith College in 1953, and served as a personnel manager at Harvard University from 1953 to 1969. She married John Kittredge that year, and they raised three children: Caroline Furey Kittredge '77, Christopher John Kittredge, and Judy Kittredge Anderson '88. In addition to Caroline, John, and Judy, she is survived by four granddaughters.

In addition to her support of Miss Hall's, Judy was active in many Berkshire organizations, including the Zenas Crane Scholarship Fund and the Berkshire Garden Club. She also volunteered in various roles at Smith College.

Those who knew Judy will remember her warmth, humor, and deep ties to the Berkshires and MHS. We send condolences to the entire Kittredge family. •



"Echo" – Ivy Zhou '22



"emotion" – Elin Chen '22

MILESTONES

Deaths

Jean Erdman Campbell '34
 Molly Keith Hill '48
 Judith Hill Kittredge '49
 Kathleen Ladd Ward '50
 Sally Hyde Powel '52
 Martha Beck Von Peccoz '53
 Essie Harris Wade '68
 Dianna Dennis '72
 Mary Paull "MP" Hubbard Taylor '72
 Carrie (MacKimm) Ward-Willis '83
 Niecy Heath Childs '89
 Former MHS Faculty Angela Kalischer
 Former MHS Faculty Paul Van Sickle
 Former MHS Trustee Richard Sitzer
 Former MHS Faculty Molly Stevenson
 Jonathan Levine, Publisher of the *Pittsfield Gazette*, and friend of Miss Hall's School

In Sympathy

Keyburn Hollister '56 on the death of her brother Joseph "Barry" Hollister
 Susie Howard Canada '68 on the death of her mother Janet Howard
 Sally Richardson Straley '71 on the death of her father Alden Bradford Richardson III
 Cindy Sitzer Packard '76 on the death of her father Richard Sitzer
 Peter Stizer '77 on the death of his father Richard Sitzer
 Rebecca Kline '84 on the death of her aunt Dianna Dennis '72
 Judy Kittredge Anderson '88 on the death of her mother Judith Hill Kittredge '49
 Amy Van Sickle Ober '89 on the death of her father Paul Van Sickle
 Salome Edgeworth '90 on the death of her father Anthony Downes Edgeworth
 Kellie King '90 on the death of her sister Jesse Chamberlin
 Hannah Van Sickle '92 on the death of her father Paul Van Sickle
 Victoria (Tori) Larson '10 on the death of her grandmother Patricia Michaud
 Hallie Novak '15 on the death of her grandmother Margaret Barbour
 Jayme McGuigan '18 on the death of her grandfather Frank Halik

In memory of Mary Paull "MP" Hubbard Taylor '72, sister of Nancy Hubbard '65 and Cynthia Hubbard '67, and cousin of Josie Sentner '62, Trustee Nan Brewster Paternotte '65, Peggy Peterson Anderson '67, and Trustee Anne Peterson Conolly '70.

In memory of William Maloney, son of Ellen Holmes Maloney '57, brother of Missy Wilkins '81, nephew of Meg Holmes Robbins '59, and uncle of Caitlin Wilkins '07.

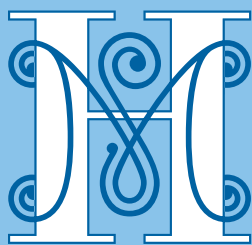
In memory of Hal Wilkins, husband of Missy Wilkins '81, father of Caitlin Wilkins '07, son-in-law of Ellen Holmes Maloney '57.

In memory of Paul Fusini, brother of Suzanne Fusini-Collins '75, Dennis Fusini '79, and Anthony Fusini '79, and uncle of Laura Fusini '07, Sarah Fusini '07, Ariel Fusini '09, Bethany Fusini '11, and Danielle Fusini '17.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CONNECT WITH YOUR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE(S), OR WANT TO SEND US YOUR CLASS NOTES FOR A FUTURE MAGAZINE, PLEASE EMAIL US AT ALUMNAE@MISSHALLS.ORG.

The Advancement Office at Miss Hall's School retains the right to edit content included in Class Notes. When you submit news, please be aware that information may have to be edited in order to follow format and fit space requirements. **Thank you.**





MISS HALL'S SCHOOL

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Miss Hall's School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origins, sexual orientation, or religion in its policies and programs of admission, financial aid, instruction, athletics, or other campus-administered activities.

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HERITAGE SOCIETY

In the fall of 1995, Miss Hall's School announced the establishment of the Heritage Society to honor alumnae and friends who have remembered the School by bequest in their estate plans, or who have made life income gifts.

New members added between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 listed in italics.

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 Alden M. Whittaker '87
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 Virginia Breene Wickwire '67
 Mary E. Wilcox '70
 Virginia Maloney Wilkins '81
Sarah Whiting Wilson '01
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 Mary "Mimi" Brooks Woodbridge '56
 Dorothy MacColl Woodcock '60
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MARIEL BEASLEY '02

LEADING DUKE UNIVERSITY'S COMMON CENTS LAB, which develops ways to help families improve their financial wellbeing, Mariel Beasley knows that small changes can result in big benefits.

She also knows that big changes — like leaving your Idaho hometown for an all-girls independent school in New England — can dramatically change a trajectory. “What I received from Miss Hall’s — both in terms of a meaningful experience and that I was able to go there because of a generous financial aid package — was invaluable,” says Mariel, who has sought ways to give back to the School.

A member of the Miss Hall’s Every Year Club, she has contributed to the Annual Fund for MHS since graduating from MHS, but she wanted her giving to have an even bigger impact. So, she joined the Heritage Society, naming the School as a beneficiary of her retirement plan.

“Joining the Heritage Society allows you to be generous and increase your giving, without impacting your day-to-day finances, and I didn’t have to compromise the other financial goals I have for me and my family,” she adds. “Miss Hall’s invested in me and my long-term future, and this allows me to support the School in a meaningful way.”

Now, it all adds up.

For information about the Heritage Society, please contact Director of Advancement Merritt Colaizzi, at 413-395-7065.



COME ONE, COME ALL

MISS HALL'S REUNION FOR ALL CLASSES

For the first time in 124 years, alums from
all classes will meet on Holmes Road for the
biggest-ever gathering of Miss Hall's alumnae.

MAY 13–15, 2022

MISSHALLS.ORG/REUNION

FIRST-EVER \$5 MILLION CHALLENGE!

A proud Miss Hall's alumna has stepped forward to throw down the mac mamma of challenges: If our community — all alumnae, families, and friends — contributes \$2.5 million before our Come One, Come All Reunion in May 2022, she will match every dollar! Our success will have a \$5 million impact on empowering girls.

We can do this. We are Miss Hall's — *all* of us.

**WE LIFT
EACH OTHER UP**



AT MISS HALL'S, WE CELEBRATE THE EVERYDAY MAGIC THAT CREATES LIFELONG BONDS.

The connections between students and faculty, families and alumnae. The ways we show up for each other, in moments both small and profound.

As we bring everyone back together on campus after so long apart, we are focused on making a difference in each other's lives. Your contributions lift us up.

Make your gift now at
misshalls.org/giving

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