

the Arts
on
the Ridge

Fall 2013

BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

Greetings from St. George!

In a recent conversation, Residential Life Coordinator and teacher Hans Hermanson '97 told me he senses a renaissance is underway for Blue Ridge School. Hearing this from anyone reinforces my own positive perceptions about recent School developments; that Hans is not only a faculty member but also an alumnus makes the statement hit home all the more.

Last year closed strongly with record high student retention and a graduating class moving onto colleges such as Notre Dame, Hampden-Sydney, Cornell, Auburn and UVA. Our Advancement Team finished strong, too, raising over \$2 million on the fiscal year – funds used for many things including two new faculty homes, renovating the music studio and auditorium, and the purchase of iPads for every teacher as we further integrate technology into the classroom.

Summer was equally successful. We opened the 2013-2014 academic year with 100% retention of staff across all departments. There's chemistry among our strong team of teachers and leaders; together we're committed to further progress:

- The new year opened with 15% growth in enrollment and the highest net tuition revenue total in School history.
- Budget funds provided a 30% increase to student programs and a 16% increase to campus/facilities projects directly impacting students' education.
- Under the leadership of Associate Headmaster Kevin Miller, teachers are using a new 'boy-friendly' lesson plan template to further hone our expertise in boys' education.
- Assistant Headmaster Vinton Bruton, in coordination with the International Boys School Coalition, is conducting a research project on the integration of character education across all areas of School life.
- Collaboration with the Parent Association and Alumni Council is at an all-time high, resulting in new faculty housing, Student Center refurbishing, and Walsh dormitory improvements.
- Focus is now on the Baron Athletic Complex – we're more than halfway to our goal of raising \$2 million to improve facilities for track, football, soccer, lacrosse and golf teams and seek



Headmaster William "Trip" Darrin III

to gain the closing gifts needed to begin construction.

- Visual and Performing Arts are gaining momentum – with a talented student body and faculty, the arts at BRS are celebrated in this edition of *The Ridge*.

Momentum is a tenuous force. At this time of renaissance, we need your support now more than ever. I thank you for investing in Blue Ridge School and urge you to stay closely involved with our ongoing progress – the website, Facebook and Twitter are great ways to receive updates and even more so is a campus visit.

Go Barons!

Trip

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We focus on helping boys reach their potential through personalized, structured, innovative learning practices in a college-preparatory, all-boarding community.

Blue Ridge School admits qualified young men of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. Blue Ridge School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial assistance and loan programs, athletic and other administered programs.



E.J. de la Torre

Tremendous Loyalty & Experience



Marion "Dickie" Brawley III '68

"As the Chairman of the Board, I have the opportunity to work with a very talented and dedicated board. We are off to a very good start for this year, and I expect the positive momentum will continue to build throughout the year. Just like a football team, it helps to have the Big Mo at your back!"

In June 2013, Marion "Dickie" Brawley III became the Chairman of the Blue Ridge School Board of Trustees.

Dickie is a member of the Class of 1968 and is a native of Charlottesville. He has had a distinguished record of service to the School. His work as a Trustee began in 1997. In the years since, he has ably and actively served on the Finance, Advancement, Nominating, and Buildings and Grounds Committees, and most recently on the Executive Committee as Chairman of Buildings and Grounds.

"I have enjoyed my years at Blue Ridge and the friends that I have made. Today they are some of the closest friends I have. I took great pride in being part of the football team that had the best record in school history (until my son Porter came to BRS and his 1998 team went undefeated)," says Dickie. At Blue Ridge he took on leadership roles as a member of the Honor Council and was a Senior Prefect. He was also a member of the football, soccer and lacrosse teams where he says he appreciated the opportunity to work in a team setting.

Dickie attended Hampden Sydney College for a year and then joined the Marine Corps for two years. "After traveling the world and spending a lot of time on ships, I returned to Hampden-Sydney College to earn a B.A. in Political Science," he says and adds that he was fortunate enough to work on Capitol Hill for his last semester during the Watergate Hearings — a very interesting time to be in Washington, he explains.

After backpacking through Europe for two months with former Trustee David Sutton, he went to business school at The American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird), which specialized in M.B.A.s for international business.

He and his wife Joanie moved to Tampa, Florida, where he sold medical supplies to hospitals and doctors for two years. One day he stepped into a Merrill Lynch office to open an account; and he left as a Merrill Lynch employee. He moved his family to Winter Haven, Florida, where Merrill Lynch was opening an office. "I didn't know where that was, but that is where we went and continue to live today," says Dickie.

Two years ago, after 34 years at Merrill Lynch, he and his son Frank moved their team to UBS. His wife Joanie, after raising their children, said she wanted to do something for herself so she went to seminary to become an Episcopal priest. “I think raising three boys and one girl (Frank, Porter, William and Mary) and having to put up with me actually drove her into the ministry,” laughs Dickie.

Dickie has a healthy balance between hard work and his passions. In addition to bird hunting, his second passion is building copies of 17th-18th century furniture. “I am currently working on a Chippendale chair, which is a whole lot harder than I thought it would be. I have made a grandfather clock as a wedding present for Porter and chest of drawers for each of the children when they graduated from college,” explains Dickie.

Working on the Board of Blue Ridge has been extremely rewarding for Dickie. “My son Porter and my nephew John Duncan attended and had very good experiences. Porter went on to VMI and credits Associate Headmaster Kevin Miller with giving him the tools to make it through academically. VMI is not the kind of school where they’ll give you a break because they like you,” says Dickie who added that John thrived at BRS and became an A student. As a result, he was accepted at multiple good schools and ultimately chose Rhodes College. He now works as an investment banker for Raymond James.

“As the Chairman of the Board, I have the opportunity to work with a very talented and dedicated Board. We are off to a very good start for this year, and I expect the positive momentum will continue to build throughout the year. Just like a football team, it helps to have the Big Mo at your back!” says Dickie.

After working on the sidelines as a board member for over 13 years, Dickie says he wanted the opportunity to help shape the Board and the School going forward. “It is my intention to have the Board work in unison and harmony with the administration and to have a waiting list for mission-appropriate young men who are lucky enough to enjoy the Blue Ridge experience,” he adds.

“Blue Ridge is unique, and the opportunities it offers our students are hard to find anywhere else. I am thrilled that our admissions numbers are up substantially,

and the word is spreading about the good job our teachers are doing in preparing our students for the challenges that lie ahead.”

As Chairman, Brawley follows Mrs. Jean H. Hart, who joined the Board of Trustees in 2003/04 and became Chairman in the 2010/11 academic year. Among her many proud and positive legacies for BRS, Mrs. Hart is the grandparent of two Blue Ridge graduates, Jesse ’11 and Asa Thomas ’13.

Vice-Chairman Turley Higgins, father of Lt. Cmdr. Edgar Turley “Trey” Higgins III ’86, notes “Dickie brings tremendous loyalty and real experience to this charge. To have an alumnus, alumni parent, successful business person, and loyal donor all in one is just tremendous. The Trustees are fully committed to All Boys, All Boarding, and All College Bound for Blue Ridge, and we look forward to success with Dickie at the helm.”

Blue Ridge School Board of Trustees

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Aiming for Excellence in the Arts



Clayton Turner '15 and Mr. Jerry King

to be
human
is to be
creative

Mr. Jerry King, Head of the Performing Arts Department, believes that creativity is basic to being human. “This is why I utterly reject the idea that the arts are just for a few special talented people. We all have it going on in varying levels, whether it’s sound (music), movement (acting, dancing), visuals (art, sculpture); we all have what it takes to be creative.”

Beginning this year the School has begun an Arts requirement for graduation. “If we want to send good young men out the door with Blue Ridge diplomas, they should have had some personal experience with the arts – not just as spectators or consumers but as producers at some level,” he says.

Jerry says he really enjoys working with students who think they can’t or don’t know how to sing or act. “They say, ‘Oh, Mr. King, I don’t think I can...,’ and I say, ‘Perfect – let’s get started!’” It may turn out that a boy really doesn’t have the circuitry to hear a pitch and match it with his voice. “Then there are other ways to be creative,” says Jerry. “Lots of other ways!”

The arts have natural connections everywhere, Jerry contends. He likes to dismantle those categorical boundaries that too often confine the arts and keep many young men out. He makes music and theater happen in nontraditional, unexpected places in our schedules and in our spaces so that the boys learn that art is a natural part of life. The dining hall at lunch witnessed a percussion flash mob “spontaneously” erupt last year. The Barontones, our *a capella* group, performed in a number of venues in the community. The boys even did an impromptu performance for a cashier in Walmart. She was so taken by the boys that her son called the School to thank us for having “made my mother’s day!” The Barontones also sang in a Charlottesville McDonald’s one afternoon. The atmosphere of the whole restaurant changed, and they received a standing ovation!

“I don’t buy the idea that art is something I just do for myself. It’s transactional. It’s relational. It matters to speak/sing out in the world. I want the boys to learn that by experiencing it. When we took our singing out into the community, we not only gave a good musical gift to others but we also received satisfaction – joy, even – in return.”

While Jerry espouses an “everybody-in-the-pool” philosophy of the arts, he still firmly believes that we should aim for excellence. “I don’t believe a poor performance deserves unqualified praise. Parents and teachers in boys’ schools in particular can be susceptible to the notion that the boys should be rewarded for any old thing, regardless of its quality. We want to do excellent work that could stand up anywhere.”

A performer or artist knows at some level when his work is inferior. Praising a poor performance not only confuses a student but also makes him cynical and actually lowers his chances of attaining real excellence. That is why it’s important for the boys to perform off campus in front of audiences who will provide authentic – and yes, appreciative – feedback. Jerry also wants to expose the boys to great performances, both on and off campus, so that they may experience excellence.

EXPANDED INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAM

The addition last year of Mr. Mike Vinson as a part-time instrumental instructor has been huge, says Jerry. Mike teaches guitar, mandolin, ukulele and bass, complimenting Jerry’s keyboarding/theory classes. Last spring, Mike offered a co-curricular band option which gave the boys yet another musical outlet.

New this year will be a sampler showcase for the music students at the upcoming Fall Parent Weekend. In December, the student musicians will perform Christmas music on Friday, December 13 as well as in the Candlelight Service on December 15. “Between Friday and Sunday nights, we will cover both the lighter and sacred sides of Christmas.”

CHOIR

Many of last year’s Barontones graduated in May, and Jerry is being creative in finding new ways to rebuild the group with a number of boys new to the choir and the few more experienced singers.

However, this year’s chapel choir is the surprise: a good number of boys are coming to rehearsals in their free time, some with no background whatsoever. They rehearse one time and then sing the song that Sunday evening. “We’re having fun singing a wide variety of music, from Latin rounds to Thomas Tallis tunes, spirituals to contemporary songs.”

Faculty members Mr. Pete Atkinson and Mr. Jerry Jared are also singing in the School’s choirs. “Boys should rub shoulders with singing adults. They learn to sing better, but they also learn that real men can really sing!”

THEATER

For Jerry, theater is telling a worthy story. “Drama is essentially story-telling. I want to find stories that have real value, that raise important issues, that do not perpetuate saccharine lies masquerading as innocent good fun. I would rather do more difficult and darker stuff that the boys and girls need to wrestle with. *Oliver!*, for example, included domestic abuse though it was still a good redemptive story.” Here at Blue Ridge, we



Urinetown, performed last spring

This year, the Fine and Performing Arts Departments are focusing on a sense of place.

solicit donations at performances which are then divided between the BRS theater program and a local charity that correlates to an issue embedded in the play. *Oliver!*'s donations were split between the theater department and a local shelter for abused women and children. Half of *Urinetown*'s donations were given to the Blue Ridge Soil and Water Conservation District. "Even in theater, we want the students to think beyond themselves and realize they can make a difference."

For this year, the Performing Arts Department is focusing on our sense of place right here in Bacon Hollow, Greene County, the Blue Ridge Mountains of central Virginia. Much of the music on which the choir and guitar ensembles are working has roots in the local culture. Both the non-musical drama this fall and the winter musical speak to this sense of place.

The fall play *Middletown* is about small town America - an *Our Town* for the 21st century. The message of both scripts is the same: appreciate your life and the days you have here with these ordinary and magnificent people around you. "But, different from Wilder's *Our Town*, this plays comes from a much more fragmented, disconnected and contemporary slant." The "middle" in *Middletown* refers to all the life that is ours on the arc between birth and death. Performances are slated for Thursday, October 31, and Friday, November 1.

The Burnt Part Boys, the proposed winter musical, deals with the sons of miners who have died a decade earlier and takes up boy-to-man issues, fatherlessness, the responsibility of supporting a family - real adult issues with tough, high-stakes ethical components. The show's music is derived from Appalachian roots (bluegrass, shaped-note hymn harmonies, folk tunes),

not your standard Broadway fare. And the social controversies surrounding mining economies could not be more relevant in this region of Virginia. The proceeds for both February performances will be donated to a Greene County organization that is raising money to create a memorial for local mountain families who lost their land when the Shenandoah National Park was created.

Given Jerry's strong belief in the inter-relatedness of the arts, it's no surprise that the School's instrumental musicians will be involved in both productions. When the boys in Mike Vinson's guitar classes were given a description of the fall play and an invitation to find or compose incidental music, junior Nariman Muldashev went for it. He found an evocative piano composition that will serve as the show's theme and is now hard at work learning to play it live for the performances.

Blue Ridge School is a great place for boys who might never otherwise set foot on a stage to give it a try. Sometimes the results surprise everyone - even the tentative young man. One of last year's seniors decided to try out for the winter musical just to have a couple of funny one-liners under the lights, then get off stage. Instead, he landed a substantial role that called for comedy, yes, but also singing and dancing. He went for it with the same determination and hard work that he brought to his sports. When all was said and done, he said, "The best decision I made in three years at Blue Ridge was to be part of this show."

There is no question that the active arts are on the rise at Blue Ridge. But neither Mr. King nor Mr. Vinson are satisfied. They want to see and hear what will emerge from each and every Blue Ridge boy when he discovers that he really is creative after all!

Pictured right, junior Rylee Marsh





Art is for All

The arts are for everyone. Period. Not just for those students who are planning on art school after Blue Ridge. Art is essential for all professions whether it's business or science. "An art education gives students the ability to think beyond what's already been done. That's at the core of teaching the arts," explains Mr. David Welty, Head of the Fine Arts Department. While it's important to teach the skills that allow you to produce art, it's more important to learn how to think creatively and to ultimately arrive at your own new and unique concepts.

David explains that there's a wide diversity among our students in their skills and previous art education. Some have enormous skills while others have none. "Getting a beginner to the point of understanding that basic skills are important – and can be learned – is a rewarding challenge." David adds that he tailors his teaching style to adapt to each student's background and interests.

“An art education gives students the ability to think beyond what’s already been done. That’s at the core of teaching the arts.”

- Mr. David Welty

Pictured left are, Logan Parish '16, Mr. David Welty and Peng Apipattarakul '16. Pictured right is Sijiao Yin ??



“Some students have never had a chance to pick up a pencil to draw. I enjoy introducing them to something new. It’s exciting to show them that they can do it and that mistakes are okay,” David explains. In the first year of studio art, students learn the foundation that will become important in helping them ultimately express their ideas. “With skill comes confidence,” says David. He often teaches students one-on-one. “I couldn’t do that in a class of 30,” he says.

David looks for different avenues through which a student may explore and find his place within the arts. Last year he had the students explore street art. “Graffiti is an art form that doesn’t have any rules about what fits into ‘the gallery.’ I wanted the students to understand that they can send a message that isn’t hampered by the normal social rules,” he says.

David takes every opportunity to expose his students to art outside the studio. He takes them to a variety of different art venues in Charlottesville, including The McGuffey Art Center, area museums and annual events such as “Let There Be Light” at Piedmont Virginia Community College.

David’s theme this year is inspiring students to become more involved in the beauty of their natural surroundings. He is taking them outside more often to create art. They will also visit guest artist Patrick Dougherty at the University of Virginia later this year. He is known for creating giant outdoor sculptures out of local saplings. In addition, they will study the work of Andy Goldsworthy, who creates beautiful, yet temporary, works of art using all natural materials. Goldsworthy connects art and nature to glorify whatever place in which he finds himself. “He captures a brief moment in time by creating an image from sticks, twigs, leaves and other natural elements, sometimes even placing them in a creek or ocean eddy and watching them float away. It’s a thing of momentary beauty,” says David, who

adds that he wants students to learn that art doesn’t have to be constrained to painting. It may be as simple as a beautiful moment in time.

Last year Ms. Hairuo Yi, who is also an accomplished ceramic artist, joined the faculty. “Hairuo definitely brings a delicate balance to my more harsh and dirty art,” says David. He says that Hairuo’s refined and delicate style is a great compliment to his own. “She is great on the wheel and in getting kids involved,” says David, who adds that he can teach the beginners and Hairuo can teach advanced ceramics. “I can introduce guys to the basic format, and Hairuo can take them to the next level.” David says that it’s nice to be able to offer the boys more choices in electives.

Working with the wheel requires strength as well as a delicate touch and a sense of balance – something many athletes are surprised to learn. The same skills they have developed to excel in their sport may be applied to making an exquisite bowl.

David is also expanding the computer arts courses. “There’s a real ability for computers to facilitate an artist’s creative ideas. Initially, a lot of students assume it will do the work for them. Once they learn that the computer is only a tool used to manipulate the artist’s contribution to it, they really begin to see the power of the technology.”

This year he plans on adding drawing tablets to the lab so students will be able to draw directly onto the monitor. “We’ll be using the Mac Lab to its fullest capabilities,” says David.

Over his eight years here, David has seen the Blue Ridge arts program grow and expand to something that offers a variety of opportunities and provides students with a well-rounded education. “A little bit of everything is the best way for the guys to explore the arts in high school,” says David.



He Made the World a Better Place

Twenty-one-year-old Andrew Driscoll Pochter '10 went to Alexandria, Egypt, during the summer of 2013 to teach English to young Egyptian children and to improve his Arabic. He was looking forward to returning to Kenyon College for his junior year and to spending his spring semester in Jordan. Witnessing violent street protests as a bystander, he was killed by a protester on June 28. He went to Egypt because he cared profoundly about the Middle East, and he planned to live and work there in the pursuit of peace and cross-cultural understanding.

Andrew lived in Chevy Chase, Maryland, the son of Elizabeth and Theodore Pochter.

“Andrew was a wonderful young man looking for new experiences in the world and finding ways to share his talents while he learned. Andrew cared deeply about his family and his friends,” read a statement by his parents.

He is described by all as a kind, sensitive, compassionate and intelligent young man. He had many passions. He appreciated art and music, was involved in theater at an early age, and he loved to travel and learn how people in other cultures lived their daily lives. Andrew was raised as a Christian but embraced his Jewish heritage as well.

One of his many passions was food, and he used it as a tool to learn about other cultures – another passion. In his BRS application as a 9th grader, he wrote, “I love to make stews, like *boeuf bourguignon*, *coq au vin* or just a hearty slow-cooked chicken stew. Cooking has always been a passion of mine.”

Andrew came to Blue Ridge as a sophomore to challenge himself academically and athletically and immediately threw himself into every opportunity the School offered. He played varsity soccer and lacrosse. During his senior year, he was a prefect and the senior class secretary. Andrew was also in the Chapel Choir. He and his best friend Julian Ragland '10 ran the sound booth for chapel and assemblies their senior year. They were the sound team for our musicals and drama productions, as well.

He excelled in both Spanish and French, and at his Commencement he received the Blue Ridge School Foreign Language Award.

Following graduation, he completed a gap year working with the U.S. National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) funded by the Department of State in Morocco where he taught English and took lessons in Arabic. He enjoyed preparing meals with his host family in Morocco. His teacher Hachimi Taoufik wrote: “...he loved to go buy sardine sandwiches in Mellah, ...he loved to come home and cook with my wife and kids, he even liked to go grocery shopping to cook some of the meals he wanted to share with us.”

Following his tragic death, people from around the world posted their condolences on a Facebook page (RIP Andrew Driscoll Pochter). One Egyptian woman wrote to apologize to the family on behalf of her country for his death. She called him a martyr in her own struggle for democracy. Hers was one of many such comments from her countrymen.

More than 700 mourners gathered at the National Cathedral to attend his funeral on July 12. Nearly 50 of them were alumni, trustees, former and current administrators, including Dr. John O'Reilly and Headmaster Trip Darrin, parents and friends of Blue Ridge School. Reverend David McIlhiney, Blue Ridge School Chaplain, gave the homily.

His sister read from a letter Andrew had written days before he was killed, a letter to a young friend he had mentored for years: “I hope you will never stop your curiosity for the beautiful things in life. Go on hikes in forests... canyons and mountains. Surround yourself with good friends who care about your future. Fall in love with someone. Get your heart broken and then move on and fall in love again.”

In his short lifetime, he was a young man who made a difference in the lives of those who knew him.

A memorial service was held on October 6 in the Blue Ridge chapel for family and friends.



Members of the Class of 2010 enjoy Senior Day. From left are Andrew Pochter, KC Camp, Chidera Ezekwesili (above) and Matt Clarke.



Andrew Pochter and Kyle Aichs during Commencement 2010.

To read Reverend David McIlhiney's homily, scan the QR code.





Perfecting the Art of Making Wine



Thomas J. Payette '80

Tom Payette '80 is a premier, hands-on and analytical winemaking consultant who serves clients throughout the Eastern United States and internationally, notably Spain. His extended expertise focuses on winery and vineyard start-ups and expansions, still and sparkling wine production and general winery concerns. Tom has 27 well-rounded years of experience in still and sparkling wine production in Virginia along with seven years of experience in ultra-premium Bordeaux varietal wine production in Napa, California.

Tom studied under famed Bordeaux enologist Jacques Boissenot after receiving his Food Science Degree from Virginia Tech. He was awarded the title of "Winemaker of the Year" in 1999. No other winemaker has received the same prestigious award since.

Tom also received several awards in 2011 for his outstanding achievements and contributions to the wine industry: The Atlantic Seaboard Productivity Trophy and the Virginia Governor's Cup for a 2008 Meritage Red Blend and a 2009 Reserve Chardonnay. The 2011 Virginia Governor's Cup competition, established in 1982, is sponsored annually by the Virginia Wineries Association (VWA) and is open to Virginia appellation wines that use 95% or more fruit grown in Virginia.

Tom's accomplishments do not end there. He is the leading contributor to a book entitled *Winemaking Problems Solved* by London-based Woodhead Publishing.

Tom was named the Blue Ridge School's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in 2011. He is always quick to credit Blue Ridge and all the great teachers at the School for his great start!

Tom resides in Rapidan with his wife Amy and their two children. He and his family enjoy visiting the Blue Ridge campus whenever they can.

Creating Lifelong Relationships

Chris Rogers '03

By Rory Bosek '04

This year Chris joins his 2003 classmates in celebrating their ten-year reunion since their glory days at The Ridge. As they recall those memories when they're gathered around the football tailgate this Alumni Weekend, Chris may not mention it, but he has set the bar high for his fellow classmates in both his professional life and commitment to Blue Ridge.

Chris graduated from Arizona State University with a Business Management degree and wasted little time putting that degree to work. Joining the family business, Chris now holds the title of Vice President and Owner of DL Roger Corp. If you asked him, he would tell you he is in the burger business. A little research would show that owning some 213 Sonic franchises puts DL Roger Corp. as one of the largest Sonic franchisees in the nation.

During a recent Career Day, Chris visited campus to share about his life experiences, business successes and how his time at Blue Ridge played a significant role in all of the above. Chris states that, "Blue Ridge gave me the tools and provided me a setting to practice with those tools, which has led to my success in the real world."

After his presentation on Career Day, Chris joined the Mayo & Williams Society by making a generous gift to the School. The gift was allocated towards the lacrosse program and the Annual Fund. Chris also, in jest, requested that there always be a parking space for him when he visits campus. The School ran with that idea and constructed three Alumni and Visitor parking spaces, courtesy of Chris, in front of Battle House that have served the Advancement and Admissions Offices well.

With his reunion approaching, Chris is looking forward to seeing old faces and being back on campus. "I have many friends from Blue Ridge who have been there for me long after graduation. These are lifelong relationships that I am grateful for." Just don't park in his space.



Career Day 2013 Presenters: (top row from left) Vince Breidis (friend of Rory Bosek '04), Jay Arntzen (father of Jared Arntzen '13), Rory Bosek, Scott Lamar '06, Rob Davis '83, JC Ignazewski. Second row: Madeline Bosek (Rory's wife), David Kalinski (father of Sam Kalinski '13), Chris Rogers '03, Chris Metcalf '98. Front row: Christopher Schmidt (father of Mason '13 and Brannon '12), Andrew Genova '03, Jane Nichols (mother of Ned Nichols '15), and Matt Moses '88.

If you're interested in participating in Career Day 2014, please contact Rory Bosek at 434-992-0581 or email at rbosek@blueridgeschool.com.

Below: Chris Rogers '03 explained franchising to Tyler Pace '13 on Career Day.





A Bold Commitment

by Rory Bosek '04

Seats are filling up on the Alumni Council behind the newly bestowed leadership of President John Maclin '69 and Vice President Mark Dreux '94. The Council, which holds 20 members, currently sits at 17 members spanning five decades and six states. Starting back in February, Council members called a strategic planning session and recalibrated their structure and direction.

Eight months later it is hard to list the amount of work that the Council has completed. Mark sums up his commitment by stating, "Blue Ridge was the springboard to a very positive change in my life. Even as a typical teenager, I knew I needed this environment. Now as an adult with three children of my own, I want to make sure that Blue Ridge is positioned to tackle the next 100 years and provide the same benefits it gave to me." John added, "Without Blue Ridge, I would not have been accepted to college and subsequently earned three degrees. Simply put, as my graduates spouse, 'I owe it all to Blue Ridge.' I want to give back as much as and more than the School gave. Through participation on the Alumni Council, I am able in some small way to ensure that there will always be opportunities for boys like me to have the chance to be successful."

After solidifying the leadership of Maclin and Dreux the Council proceeded to implement a committee format that allowed for accomplishing more and streamlining the research and development process. Huntley Galleher '80, who also serves as the Nominating Committee Co-Chair, has overseen the construction of a new edition of the Council's bylaws. All four committees of the Council have been working on various projects in anticipation of the November 2nd meeting. This will be the first physical meeting of the Council since many of the committees were formed and several new members were tapped.

As if all the work the Council members have undertaken were not enough, they have agreed to extend the Council's current capital housing pledge of five years and \$83,000 to six years and \$108,000. This bold commitment will complete the Alumni House project that the Council helped begin just over a year ago. In the Council's continued efforts to make a lasting and meaningful impact on Blue Ridge School, this commitment is one that will set the tone moving forward. In gratitude for the Council's exceptional example of leadership and commitment to Blue Ridge, the School is naming the new home the Alumni Cottage.

2013-2014
 Blue Ridge School
Alumni Council

Class	Name Year	Office/Committee	Appointed	End of 1st Term	End of 2nd Term
66	Peter Holland	Board/Advancement	9/09	5/14	
69	John Maclin	President/Advancement**	5/13	5/16	
75	Richard Hickey	Nominating**	5/12	5/15	
79	Bruce Lee	Nominating	5/11	5/14	
80	Huntley Galleher	Nominating**	5/11	5/14	
81	Cliff Curlee	Event	5/11	5/14	
84	Page Moon		9/13	9/16	
86	Bryan Wood	Event	8/13	8/16	
87	Morgan McNeel		10/13	10/16	
94	Tim Armstrong		9/13	9/16	
94	Mark Dreux	Vice President/Advancement	5/13	5/16	
99	Jason Smith	Event**	9/09	8/13	8/16
01	Henry Sanders		9/13	9/16	
04	George Parrish	Golf**/Event	5/13	5/16	
07	Skylor Morton	Event	5/13	5/16	
07	Tylor Morton	Event	10/10	10/13	10/16
72	Jimmy Crocker*	Golf	10/92	-	-
71	Ben Hiatt*	Board/Golf	10/92	-	-

* Indicates Emeritus Status

**Indicates Committee Chair or Co-Chair

& ALUMNI & FRIENDS GOLF CLASSIC Alumni Weekend 2013

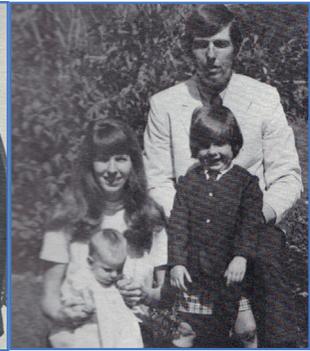
Celebrating Decades of Devoted Teachers and Staff
Celebrating 50 years of All Boys, All Boarding



Mr. Jared, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Young and Mr. DeAngelis



William Davis and Family



Carl Frye and Family

REUNION YEARS

- 1958
- 1963
- 1968
- 1973
- 1978
- 1983
- 1988
- 1993
- 1998
- 2003
- 2008



Friday, November 1:

- Noon 23rd Annual Alumni & Friends Golf Classic, Wintergreen-Stoney Creek Resort Golf Course, Noon Shotgun start
- Noon Winery Lunch, Tour and Tasting (leaving from Wintergreen Resort)
- 5:30pm Reception and Dinner, Awards, and Silent/Live Auction

Saturday, November 2:

- 10:00am Alumni Council Meeting, Battle House
- 11:00am Round Table Discussion with Headmaster Trip Darrin and Associate Headmaster Kevin Miller
- Noon Tailgate and Lunch at the Field
- 2:00pm Football - BRS vs. St. Anne's Belfield
- 4:00pm Reception Heavy Hors d'oeuvres Recognizing Former Faculty & Staff
- 7:00pm Reunion Class Cocktail Receptions



Sunday, November 3:

- 10:30am Chapel Service with former BRS Chaplain Reverend Kettlewell
- 11:30am Coffee and Pastries, Battle House

REGISTER ONLINE AT:
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Celebrating Personal Achievements



MR. MARKLEY ANDERSON completed the grueling Tour Divide race this summer. The 2,745-mile, race stretched from Banff, Alberta, Canada, to Antelope Wells, New Mexico. This is the second time he has completed this fixed-course, off-pave-

ment cycling race. He beat his first finish by nearly a week. Markley finished the race in 18 days, beating his expected goal of 20 days by riding an average of 155 miles per day. He held on to a top ten position for the first several days. "I went through a lot while I was out there. I just rode and rode until I couldn't ride anymore." During the 18-day ride he faced a number of hardships. He was unsupported during the race and did what he could to manage the weather and exhaustion. "I ate everything I could find. I slept in ditches and open fields. It's a commitment to be out there," said Markley. "I got caught in a lightning storm and had to sleep in an outhouse in New Mexico. When you are at six to seven thousand feet of elevation, there is no cover," he added. He stayed in sixth to eighth place most of the race until he pulled his quad. He kept on going and ultimately finished in 9th place.



Austin, Texas, resident **GEORGE KERSEY '14** rode 781 miles on his bike to return to Blue Ridge School in September. He began in Tupelo, Mississippi, and rode 444 miles solo on the Natchez Trace Trail. His grandparents picked him up for a few days of rest and warm food in Nashville before he continued on the Blue Ridge Parkway. It was a tough ride physi-

cally and mentally. College Counselor Mrs. Carrie Woods rode with him part of the way as he neared the School. On his last day, School Counselor Markley Anderson rode with him during the last few miles. His Blue Ridge School supporters were at the gate to cheer his arrival. Charlottesville's Channel 19 interviewed George soon after his arrival.

Scan this code to view the interview.



MS. JO MCKEOWN, Fishburne Learning Center teacher walked 420.98 miles on the Camino de Santiago across northern Spain. She began on May 27 and ended on July 1. She was joined on the first half of her trek by her college roommate. Her journey took her through lovely countryside and quaint villages. She met interesting travelers along the way and enjoyed each area's cuisine. She also kept a journal of her

adventure. At the end she wrote, "Thanks for the virtual welcome all of you gave me on my arrival at the cathedral in Santiago. I heard your cheers and applause all the way across the Atlantic! With the end of the pilgrimage so close, the Camino was abuzz with excitement. Though there were many people walking, I had long stretches of relative solitude. It was a pretty easy walk, and I was glad to have some space to think about these last five weeks and the prospect of no longer having to get up early every morning and put on my backpack. I know all of you at home are watching out for me. I feel it everyday."

To read her journal, scan this QR code.



This July, Chair of the Math Department **MR. JERRY JARED** and Athletic Director **MR. WILLIAM RAMSEY** finished the Rosaryville 50K (31 miles) in upper Marlboro, Maryland. Jerry has run 20 marathons and 28 ultra marathons over his lifetime. Bill has run 15 ultra marathons and two marathons. "According to my count, this is the 13th run Bill and I have done together," says Jerry, who adds that he began running with Bill when he came to Blue Ridge. Bill's first race in 1990 was the Mountain Masochist 50-Miler. He has run two more (a 50 and a 45) since then. In 2002 he began training and running with Jerry, and the men developed a great friendship. "Perhaps my proudest moment was helping Jerry complete a 100-mile race (the Umstead in North Carolina)," says Bill, who explains that the race rules allow for someone to run the last three loops with a contestant. "He has since told me that he did not know if he would have made it without my support. This meant a lot to me because I know that one of his life goals was to finish a 100-mile race."



2013 Lacrosse

by John Hetzel

The 2013 Barons returned several key seniors including 2012 All-VIC selections Tyler Pace, Chase Fraser and Quinton Pavan. The team had aspirations of returning to the VISAA Division One play-off and matching the 2012 Baron's run to the finals. The season started out well for the BRS team as the squad went 2-0 at the Brine King of Spring event in Durham, North Carolina. They held off a talented Charlotte Latin squad 11-10 and overcame a sloppy start to defeat RJ Reynolds 16-7. The team returned from spring break and faced its toughest opponent of the year in the Hill Academy from Ontario, who topped the Barons 16-8. The Barons responded with a 14-8 win over Woodberry Forest in the home opener and a 16-12 win over visiting Collegiate. Blue Ridge then ended North Cross's undefeated streak with a convincing 18-3 win. They then traveled to STAB to face Louisville St. Xavier. In a match that was tied after 3 quarters and played in a driving snow storm, the Barons showed amazing resolve in scoring the last 6 goals of the match to win going away 14-8. Two days later, the team lost to STAB 14-7. Despite the setback, Blue Ridge returned to the win column with a dramatic come-from-behind miracle finish on the road against St. Christopher's. Losing by four goals with under three minutes to play, BRS managed to tie the game with 38 seconds left at

15-15. After the Saints won the ensuing face off and drove to the goal, freshman goalie Sam Ross made a big save and got the ball up field where Tyler Pace found Callum Tanner in front of the net for a buzzer-beating winning goal. Blue Ridge rode the momentum from that dramatic win to victories over Madison HS 13-12, VES 18-9, and Covenant 15-10. The team then lost 12-6 to eventual VISAA champion St. Stephen's St. Agnes. The Barons lost two more road games against Calverton 13-9 and EHS 15-12. The team would rebound against Roanoke Catholic 23-3 and LCA 31-4 before winning the VIC semi-final 15-4 against North Cross. BRS beat Covenant 14-10 to win the VIC title for a fourth consecutive year. Its record stood at 14-5 and the Barons received the #7 seed to the VISAA state championship tournament where they drew the #2-seeded Paul VI Panthers. After trailing 9-0, BRS lost to Paul VI 16-7 to end its season with a 14-6 mark. Junior Tate Coley (midfield) and seniors Chase Fraser (attack), Tyler Pace (attack), and Quinton Pavan (defense/midfield) were all selected to the VIC All-Conference team. Senior Jared Arntzen (defense), EJ de la Torre (defense), and Sam Ross (goalie) made the VIC Second Team All-Conference. Senior captain Tyler Pace was named a US Lacrosse All-American and also was named VIC Player of the Year.

2013 Track

BRS had a successful spring in Track and Field. Despite the lack of team wins, the Barons had many athletes who finished in the top three of their disciplines on a consistent basis all spring. Senior basketball star Filipp Burnashov proved a formidable high jumper by setting a BRS school record at Woodberry Forest with a jump of 6'5". Filipp earned the gold medal at the VIC Championship held at VES with a jump of 6'0" and won bronze at the State Championship with a jump of 6'2".

first place in the VIC Championship in the 100 with a time of 11.11. The Baron relay team also was outstanding with P.J. White, Tae Watts and Zach Bridges running with Darryl Smith. The team won 2nd place at the VIC Championship with a time of 46.6. P.J. usually medaled in the long jump and took home bronze at the VIC Championship with a jump of 20'1.5". Additionally for the Barons, Ryan Etheridge won a silver medal at the VIC Championship with a shot-put throw of 40'7".

Blue Ridge finished 14th in the State Championship Meet.

In Memoriam

A True Southern Gentleman

Blue Ridge School's former Assistant Headmaster Walter Robert (Bob) Eason, 95, passed away on Tuesday, April 29, 2013, after a short illness. He was a teacher and administrator from 1969 to 1983 and is warmly remembered as a gentleman and model of civility in all things. "What a loss. Bob was indeed a legend," says Robert W. Groves III '67.

Mr. Eason's contributions to Blue Ridge School are significant, and he is to be credited for much of the new School's success in its important early years. He was the School's chief administrator during his tenure here, serving as a valued lieutenant to Headmaster Hatcher Williams. His leadership of the college counseling and admissions programs are just two of the many key roles he played for the School during his tenure in St. George.

Mr. Jim Niederberger writes: "For those of us who arrived as young faculty members at Blue Ridge in the early '70's, many of the faculty were unusually impressive in their versatility, professionalism, and prep school experience. Hatcher Williams was able to attract a number of talented and dedicated boarding school veterans from among the finest schools in the east, and this was incredible considering the relative youth of BRS. Young faculty members felt that they had a number of caring and lovable 'aunts and uncles' among these leaders, and at the forefront were Bob and Anna Belle Eason.

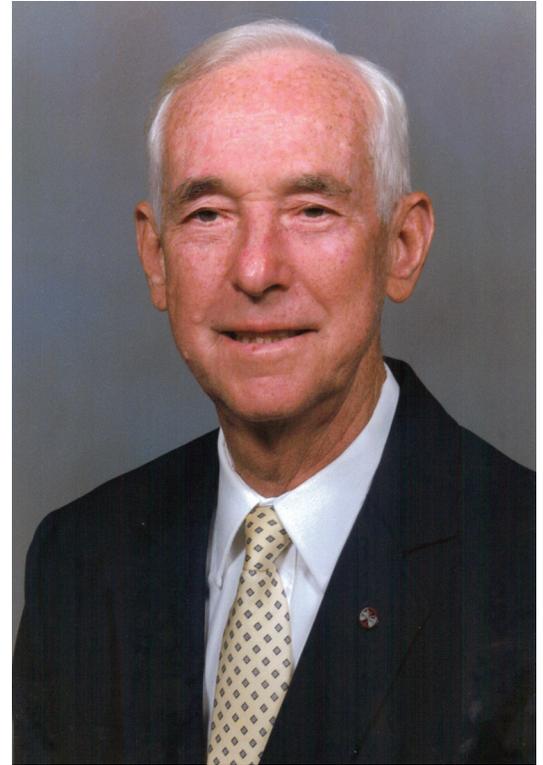
"They certainly set a warm and hospitable tone for the School, always with class and good taste. Bob seemed to embody the old adage that, if you wanted something done, give it to a busy person. The fact that he was simultaneously the associate headmaster, director of school routines, director of admissions, college counselor, chair of the math department, teacher of at least three math classes and golf coach is just incredible. His was a legacy of effective administration, professionalism and caring. Outside of their school roles, Bob and Anna Belle were great models for us and loving family members. Their contributions to the School in its early years are incalculable. They are sorely missed."

Mr. John Young writes: "Bob Eason was the consummate 'school man.' From the classroom to the athletic field, from the administrative offices to duty on the dormitories, he set the example for those of us who were new to our careers as boarding school masters. Leading by example, he set the bar. Carl Frye, Jim Niederberger and I could not have had a better role model.

"During the earliest of Blue Ridge's college preparatory days, it was Bob's steady hand at the helm along with his remarkable organizational skills that established the routines and set the standards by which our school has grown and thrived. As a young member of the faculty, I always knew that when Bob left his office at the end of the day and made the walk across campus toward his home, our community would make it safely through the night and the next day as well.

At the very heart of this good man, there lay a core of integrity, decency and professionalism. He was committed to making Blue Ridge School the best that it could be. It was our great and good fortune to have had Bob Eason as one of our most important and influential administrators during those formative years from 1969 through 1983. With his gentle good humor, calm and steady leadership, and love for the School he was helping to build, W. Robert Eason blessed us with his presence. Blue Ridge School owes him a considerable debt of gratitude."

Mr. Carl Frye writes: "It was an honor to have known Bob. He was my mentor throughout the 14 years we worked together. He was an outstanding math teacher, coach, administrator and friend. Bob always led by example and was truly a southern gentleman. He and I arrived on campus the same year and became good friends. He loved baseball, and we both rooted for the Boston Red Sox. He was an excellent math teacher and a great administrator whom you could trust would get the job done. I will miss him dearly."



Continued on the next page.

In Memoriam

Walter Robert (Bob) Eason, Con't

Eason was born in Suffolk on July 24, 1917, to the late Walter Ray and Lillian Luke Eason. He graduated from Suffolk High School in 1936 and from Hampden-Sydney College in 1940.

While at Hampden-Sydney, Eason enjoyed an outstanding athletic career as a four-letter recipient. He was inducted into the Hampden-Sydney Athletic Hall of Fame in 1996, received the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Medallion in 2003 as well as the Patrick Henry Award in 2004, and was honored with the Annual Alumni Citation in 2009.

Eason completed a Master's in Education from the University of Virginia in 1963 and was inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi Honor Society of Education that same year.

Eason's military career was equally distinguished. He joined the United States Army Air Corps in the fall of 1941 and received his wings and 2nd Lt. Commission in April of 1942. He served as a P-39 and P-40 pilot in Panama and returned to the U.S. to serve as the Operations Officer with the 1st Fighter Squadron, 2nd Air Commando Group. In 1944 he went to Burma as a P-51 pilot and earned many honors including the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the American Defense Medal the American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with the Central Burma Battle Star, the WWII Victory Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Citation.

In the Burma Campaign he was credited with 63 combat missions, 263 combat hours, and 8 Japanese planes destroyed on the ground. Twice his group flew the longest fighter sweep of the war, over eight hours and 1,600 miles, destroying 100 Japanese planes at their base in Bangkok. He won the Silver Star after flying a light L-5 plane 100 miles behind the Japanese lines to pick up his group commander, who had been shot down near Rangoon, Burma.

He remained in the Air Force Reserve until 1972 when he retired with the rank of colonel after 31 years of service. In 1994, he was elected to the Air Commando Hall of Fame.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Anna Belle Brown Eason. He is survived by his children Walter Robert Eason Jr. of Calabash, North Carolina; Susan Eason Anthony of Tazewell; and Sarah Belle Eason Parrott of Roanoke. He is also survived by sons-in-law Larry Anthony and John Parrott; grandchildren Eric Anthony and wife Sheila, Jack Parrott, Sarah Boxley Parrott Beck

and husband Carl; and great-grandsons Kyle Anthony and William Beck. He was predeceased by his sisters Frances Eason Emory and Evelyn Eason Marks.

A memorial service was held at Hampden-Sydney College Church on Saturday, May 4, 2013.

Memorial gifts may be made in honor of Mr. Eason to Blue Ridge School to benefit the Eason Scholarship Fund.

TERRY "TT" BROWNFIELD of Alexandria, Virginia, died on September 7, 2013, after a heroic battle with cancer. She is the sister of former Blue Ridge School Trustee Ed Brownfield, Jr. '66.

Terry was born in Richmond, Virginia, the daughter of Joan Straus and Edward H. Brownfield Sr. and grew up in Charlottesville where she graduated from St. Anne's-Belfield School. She earned her B.A. from Lake Erie College and a Master's in Education from George Mason University.

She is survived by her beloved brother Ed and sister-in-law Roberta Brownfield; nephew Edward "Ted" Brownfield and his wife Jennifer, and their daughter Davis and son Harris.

Terry will be remembered for the love, generosity and devotion she bestowed upon her family and friends. She was known for her love of travel, children, books, food and fun. It is Terry's wish that her friends and family gathered in a Celebration of her Life.

Terry's brother Ed served twice on the Blue Ridge Board of Trustees: 1970-1995 and 2008-2010.

DAVID MOORE FUGMAN '93 of Charlotte, North Carolina, died on May 6th, 2013, of complications of diabetes. He was 38.

"At BRS when he was not running in cross country/track, he could be found playing his bass in the dorm. He was one of the most humble, calm and easy-going souls that you would ever meet," says James M. Shinault III.

He was the son of the late John Kenneth Fugman. He is survived by his mother Dr. Mildred M. Kline and step-father Robert E. Kline of Green Valley, Arizona; brothers Scott Gund of Petersburg, Virginia,

In Memoriam

Christopher Gund (Lisa) of Emporia, Virginia; and John Fugman (Tina) of Ashland, Virginia; step-sister Monica Kline of Chicago, Illinois; and aunt Carol Busch of Ardmore, Pennsylvania.

David attended Ferrum College. He worked in landscaping and as a glazier. David's passion for music filled his life. He was a well-known and respected bassist who played in many bands. He was a life-long Episcopalian and was a Mason.

ANDREW FRANCIS MAKK 43, died peacefully on July 20, 2013, after a prolonged battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his beloved wife Catherine Newstadt Makk and daughter Hannah.

Andrew graduated from Kentucky Country Day School in 1988. He then attended Tulane University where in 1992 he earned a BSM degree in Finance from The A.B. Freeman School of Business. At Tulane, Andrew was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and played on Tulane's polo team. In 2000, Andrew earned his MBA from The Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

Andrew spent his career in the energy industry, first at Enron International where he served as a Vice President. He was then a co-founder and managing director of EOC Holdings. In 2005, he joined Energy Capital Partners (ECP), a private equity firm focused on building and buying energy infrastructure assets throughout North America, where he was a principal at the time of his death.

Andrew also served as a trustee of Graham Windham, a New York City-based child welfare agency. He was an active member of Grace Church of New York City and a member of The Union Club of New York.

Born on December 23, 1969, in Louisville, Kentucky, Andrew is preceded in death by his parents Laszlo Makk MD and Carolyn Cooke Makk.

He is survived by his wife, Catherine Newstadt Makk and daughter Hannah of New York City, brothers Laszlo J.K. Makk, MD, Stephen P. Makk, MD and Christopher L. Makk and several nieces and nephews, all of Louisville, Kentucky.

Catherine Makk is a long-standing friend of Blue Ridge and an officer in the Blue Ridge School New York Auxiliary.



MARGARET HALL HAMILTON attended the Blue Ridge School in the 1930s. There weren't many opportunities for an education in the valley then, especially for young girls. In fact, it was the Episcopalian mission schools of the Appalachia region that gave girls the chance to attend school. Blue Ridge had been established in 1909 as a co-education a Episcopalian school.

Margaret savored her time at Blue Ridge School and often spoke highly of our founder Dr. Mayo. She credited her experience at BRS for igniting her passion for education and subsequently selected a career in teaching. At 19 Margaret received a teaching certificate from Harrisonburg Teacher's College (now James Madison University) and furthered her personal pursuit of education by earning both a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Virginia, an achievement few women experienced in those days.

Forever appreciative of her BRS education, Margaret willingly and whole-heartedly shared her professional experience and passion for education by consulting with the board in the early '60s when the School transitioned into a 9-12th grade all-boys school. She served on the School's Alumni Council for many years and had reached Emeritus status.

Throughout her lifetime, Margaret often visited BRS and supported its educational goals through generous donations. She will remain a member of the St. George Society, in celebration of her bequest upon her passing. (Margaret's obituary was published in the Spring 2013 *Ridge* magazine.)



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