



THE RIDGE

FALL 2016



HEADMASTER TRIP DARRIN GREETINGS FROM ST. GEORGE

We're off and running here at BRS in the early stages of an exciting new school year.

I am pleased to report that we opened with 182 boys on campus – eight more than our goal of 174. While enrollment success is always a welcomed achievement, in this case it is particularly exciting as we reached the 2020 enrollment target a few years early. We believe that the School's optimal size is 180-185 students, and we now have an opportunity to study and confirm this plan. It's every Headmaster's ultimate goal to achieve sustainable full enrollment. Recent admissions successes reaffirm the strength of our mission and the strength of the whole School community!

You've likely heard me say it before or read it in a prior *Ridge* letter, but Blue Ridge faculty members have made great strides in recent years to hone a curriculum that is tailored to how boys learn. Boys are tactile learners – they like to use their hands and experience what is being taught in class. And boys, especially Blue Ridge boys, are creative and imaginative. Their ability to innovate sometimes blows me away.

These are reasons why this year we're taking a big step forward with the integration of technology into the BRS Learning Model. Again, I've been impressed with how our teachers have approached this initiative. At Blue Ridge, we're not trying to hustle just to be the first to use a new toy or use technology only for PR purposes. Instead, we simply want to continue to improve the education we offer our boys.

Given the students' ingenuity and proclivity for hands-on learning, our first move was to put together a technology laboratory in the MakerSpace model. Our newly-opened lab is a place where boys may make use of technology – high-tech and low-tech, from 3-D printers to hand drills – to be creative. Only one month into the new year, I've been amazed at what the boys are making. You'll read more about this in the articles on pages three and five.

This edition of *The Ridge* also features a tribute to Faculty Emeritus Carl Frye on page nine. I'm excited that Phase Two of the Baron Athletic Complex is underway. One of the key components of this Phase is the baseball diamond, which, after significant renovations are completed this fall, will be named in Carl Frye's honor. The construction crew noted that there were far fewer rocks on that field than they anticipated, just one more reason we're grateful to Coach Frye!

I hope you'll have the chance to come see the campus soon. It's an exciting time for Blue Ridge School.

Go Barons!

Trip

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THE BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL MISSION:

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.

*On the cover are Technology Coordinator
Mr. Mike Burris and Juan Mareco '18.*



TECHNOLOGY CENTER / MAKER SPACE

ENHANCING LEARNING AND TEACHING

Blue Ridge's new Technology Center/ Maker Space is hard to miss. That's on purpose. One of the goals of this multi-use facility is to be easily accessible by faculty, staff and students as well as quite visible to visitors. This is just one more innovative step as the School continues to make advancements in technology.

Director of Technology Wayne Peterson, in his second year at Blue Ridge after having been in a similar position at a school in Yaounde, Cameroon, explains that moving much of what is in the computer labs "in the dungeon" to an area that would receive more traffic has been in the works for several years. Combining items such as a laser cutter, a 3D printer, computers with 3D design software as well as other digital tools with actual hand tools such as hammers and screwdrivers is a technology development that is particularly suited to young men.

This past summer, our maintenance staff as well as construction workers created this one large space from two classrooms. The space is at the top of the steps just outside the dining hall. In addition to tearing down the wall between those two classrooms, the construction crew has put in large windows along the hallway side of the space. Yes, Blue Ridge wants everyone at the School as well as the rest of the world to see what is happening as adults and teenagers make full use of the center.

Newly-hired Technology Coordinator Michael Burris is advising faculty, staff and students in how to make the most of the various tools in the space. He's available for training and assisting faculty in their own classrooms as well. Michael is currently teaching three technology-related classes while Wayne continues to teach two such classes in the labs below the dining hall. Art teacher David Welty also continues to maintain his digital art lab in that same area.

The current curriculum model allows the department to offer five courses as electives over three trimesters. These courses are adapted to the scheduling needs of the core academic courses. Working within these constraints, the technology department offers the following courses.

ROBOTICS (year-long course) – prepares students to build and program robots using Lego and Tetrix components and RobotC programming environment.

INTRODUCTION TO BUILDING DIGITAL HARDWARE, PROGRAMMING AND CODING (one section each trimester) – project-based class which introduces students to coding and web design using HTML, CSS and JavaScript during the first trimester and computer hardware so that students may build their own computers during the second trimester.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS AND DESIGN (one section each trimester) – students identify communication needs within the community and create an appropriate technology solution to meet those needs ranging from pamphlets to podcasts.

DESIGN THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING WITH TECHNOLOGY (one section each trimester) – hands-on course during which students identify problems and resolve them by using digital and traditional tools.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP (one section each trimester) – overview of digital privacy, appropriate use of digital resources, and the use of technology as tools for learning.

ROBOTICS (afternoon sport during winter trimester) – students participate in an FTC or similar robotics competition.

The future is nothing but bright as the scope and sequence of the technology curriculum will continue to be tweaked in coordination with the Associate Headmaster of Academics. One part of the plan, for example, is to transition the Digital Citizenship class from the technology classroom to integrated units within certain academic courses.

Wayne is quick to point out, "None of these changes are just for the sake of changes. Technology needs to enhance a teacher's ability to instruct and a student's interest in learning. That is Blue Ridge School's constant focus when creating these new opportunities."

Pictured left, Connor Modd '18 and Franck Germain '18 are working on the soundtrack for a School video to promote the Annual Fund. They're using audio software and hardware installed this summer in the new Technology Lab.



IN THE BOYS' HANDS

Mike Burris isn't interested in any sort of teaching that doesn't put the challenge of learning new skills directly in the hands of the students. Literally. In their hands. A year ago as he explored the idea of re-entering the world of education after a brief hiatus, he came upon Blue Ridge's job description for Technology Coordinator. As he skimmed the skill sets and expectations for the position, he realized he wasn't going to find a better fit. Thus, Mike now finds himself teaching three technology courses and helping faculty members integrate technology into their classrooms.

As is the case in every academic department at Blue Ridge, Mike will be given a fair amount of autonomy. One of his areas of expertise is audio-video production. Therefore, he plans to make audio and video editing a focal point in each class he teaches. One class will offer introductory activities as he uses the Adobe Creative Suite to help students explore project-driven assignments. "I'll give five or six options, then assist the class members in completing the projects they choose. The work will be completely hands-on." This one-trimester introductory course of which he hopes to teach two sections will include 3-D modeling options as students create videos.

The second year-long course is a full-blown digital media class. Students learn all aspects of movie production: pre-production, creating props, developing commentary, creating special effects, editing and final production. The Technology Lab will be put to full use in this course as will Adobe Premiere Pro. Mike plans to enter student-made movies in the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Film Festival that will take place in Richmond in April 2017. "I enjoy movie production myself so it will be fun to watch the boys explore the latest technology as they express themselves through multi-media."

In addition to teaching these courses, Mike also helps oversee the live streaming of BRS athletic events throughout the year. Again, the camera will be in the hands of students. He and Wayne Peterson will tag team to coach the Robotics team as well. Another of Mike's goals is to help faculty members integrate technology into their curriculum as a way to enhance their instruction. "I want to help teachers and students be aware of the technology that is available to them. I then want to put that technology in the hands of the students in reasonable and appropriate ways so that they may develop new skills that they'll use for years to come."

Left, Alex Dillard '19 has mastered the School's drone . He filmed last spring's graduates jumping into the lake following the Commencement Ceremony. For the video, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZttisJ2PCWI>

GROUP COLLABORATION CENTER

The Hatcher C. Williams Library will provide the location for another change that reflects developments in technology — the new Group Collaboration Center. Paper versions of reference materials are now antiquated. The days of leafing through a certain volume of an encyclopedia are long gone. Therefore, the former reference book space located in the back of the library was chosen for this latest technology advancement. Several more computers will be added to the few that were already there, and the space will soon be even more conducive to collaborative research efforts among the students.

Our library is the hub of academic life at Blue Ridge School. It already provides resources that enrich classroom teaching and the boys' academic and recreational use of information. With additional technological strides, the library will provide the following: access to digital information in formats similar to those students will use in college; a common space for teachers and classes to conduct research, work collaboratively and use technology to augment classroom instruction and enhance student/class projects; guidance in accessing and evaluating the quality of digital information (i.e. information literacy); and research techniques for both print and digital information.

The current database used in our library is SirsiDynix. This database will be evaluated during the 2016-2017 school year to determine if it is the most appropriate, cost effective and robust software system to support our community's research and reading needs. Another goal for this school year is to identify the most effective computer and software configuration for student and faculty access to shared media and resources.

Below: Elias Weldegeorgis '18 films using the lab's new digital video camera while Kris Deane '19, Dennis Dai '18, Hughes Prillaman '18 (in the back) and Jahlil Pur-year '17, Mr. Mike Burris, Tariq Gough '17 and Owen Mutiganda '17 pull the two pieces of what will soon be a small skateboard ramp together. The boys are learning how to use not only high tech tools but hand tools as well as project design and construction in this trimester-long Technology class.



TECHNOLOGY AT BRS SINCE 1994

When a Blue Ridge student in 1997 would need to communicate with the outside world, he would rush up the hall from his dorm room in hopes of grabbing an early spot in the line waiting for a pay phone. There were no phone connections in the rooms, and cell phones as well as the Internet had not quite yet found their way to the campus.

Oh how the world has changed. Over the past twenty years, Blue Ridge leadership has had the forward vision to provide students and faculty the infrastructure and hardware for the latest technological advances while not falling prey to the numerous fads that have come and gone during that same time period. In short, the School has been frugal and wise with every

technological advance it has made.

Current science department head Mr. Jamie Bourland arrived at Blue Ridge School in 1994 to teach computer science after having served as a part-time tutor of Blue Ridge students the year before. He had previously taught computer programming at Christchurch. He recalls having ten IBM 486's, each having two megabytes of RAM, at his disposal in 1994. Two megabytes of RAM. Two. Not gigabytes. Megabytes. But Jamie and his students didn't really know what they were missing at that point. His courses were, in part, about understanding the inner workings of computers so his students built at least two computers every year in the mid 90's.

Jamie also became the computer expert for other faculty and staff members.

Wired networking among offices was definitely a trend. He maintained a mini mainframe in the business office that used 8" by 8" floppy disks. Each of these floppy disks held seventy-two kilobytes of data. Compare that to the typical CD today, which holds 10,000 times that much data. Jamie also introduced Novell NetWare (a token ring LAN) to the Advancement Office in the mid 90's. Head of School Dr. Ed McFarlane wanted the other administration offices networked as well.

Jamie crawled above the ceiling tiles to install wiring as well as network

cards in each of the computers below. The Internet had still not yet come to the Blue Ridge campus.

In the dorms, it was becoming increasingly apparent that the pay phones at the end of the hallways would need to be replaced with landlines in the dorm rooms. The School may thank Dr. Ed McFarlane for this initiative. The Charlottesville company Advanced Network Systems was employed to install not only phone jacks but also computer and coaxial TV jacks. Jamie states, "Since I've been at Blue Ridge, I have always been impressed with the administration's forward thinking. Working within a limited budget, the powers that be have made sure that any work done would allow for future technological development. To include wiring for computers and televisions in the dorm rooms when only phone lines were needed at the moment is a great example of this."

Jamie also credits Advanced Network Systems for giving sage advice about what the School would need down the road. In fact, when the company installed fiber optic lines in the late 90's, the underground piping was large enough in diameter to take on much more wiring in the future as technological needs arose. "We've made smart, money-saving decisions at every stage of providing infrastructure. While we may not always have been cutting edge, we've avoided costly missteps for sure."

Once the pay phones were gone and students were enjoying individual phone service in their dorm rooms, that activity needed to be monitored. Current Director of Human Resources Michele Flint was one of those people who did so. It was sometimes a headache as one might imagine, but an office-type switchboard allowed a responsible adult to see what numbers were being called and received, etc.

And then the Internet arrived at Blue Ridge. Immediately, bandwidth became an issue. Honestly, it's still an issue. It will likely always be an issue at an all-boys boarding school even when bandwidth becomes known as something



else. It fell upon Jamie to monitor the students' use of the Internet. The system was constantly coming to a screeching halt as one student or multiple students found ways to suck up bandwidth or interfere with routers.

As a boarding school, Blue Ridge needed to have some control over Internet access, both content and timing. Back in the day, there were few programs or devices meant to limit Internet use. Again, one may only imagine the headaches that ensued as Jamie listened to the students' ongoing begging for more bandwidth and dealt with their misuse of the Internet.

Security was then, has been and will always be another challenge. Teachers were on a separate VLAN in their classrooms. The Business Office, for obvious reasons, was the last to connect with the School's network. Jamie was a one-man operation in the late 90's as he taught computer classes, addressed students' concerns and did his best to maintain necessary security within the system.

In 2000, then Headmaster Dr. Dave Bouton hired a second person to assist Jamie. Ed Woodson would teach the computer courses, and Jamie would troubleshoot. They would flip flop those roles every two years. This marked a significant turning point in the School's commitment to computer and Internet developments. Google was just starting to emerge as a force to be reckoned with. The need for more bandwidth was increasing daily. The need for security was becoming increasingly significant. Our teachers needed to know how to use this ever-expanding technology in their classrooms. Most importantly, though, Blue Ridge students needed to be aware of how to use the Internet wisely and appropriately. The School now had two people responsible for all of this instead of just one.

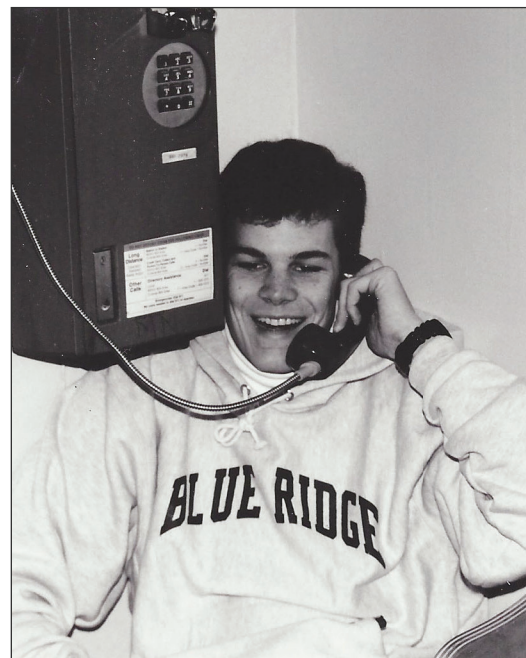
Jamie has fond memories of teaching the computer courses. He used a program called Corel Photo-paint to help students create computer-generated art. He employed Adobe Premiere and Final Cut Pro so that students could direct and edit videos. New generations of these programs are still around. Current

art teacher Dave Welty now uses them with his students, and newly-hired Technology Coordinator Michael Burris plans to bring back video production.

John Salidis would arrive in 2003 to replace Ed Woodson. John was named Network Administrator, which freed Jamie to teach computer classes without having to worry about trouble-shooting quite so much. John came from a commercial background and had experience in how to handle larger networks. Though Jamie and Ed had been backing up data in the various offices on campus already, John took that necessity to an all-new level. He instituted daily back-ups. He instituted servers to back up other servers. Because of advancements in security and because of John's expertise, he was eventually able to put students and faculty back on the same network. Jamie was gradually able to shift his attentions full time to the science department even though he is still called upon from time to time to answer a technology-related question.

As for telephoning, the campus has come quite a distance in just twenty years from pay phones at the end of hallways to individual phone jacks in the dorm rooms to no need at all for a landline connection. In fact, those phone jacks which were so important just a few years ago have now been removed as smart phones have taken over the world. They pose challenges of their own as many teachers wonder why these hand-held computers that are wirelessly connected to the Internet are called phones at all. We are already showing our students how to use these devices in ways that enhance their education rather than distract from it.

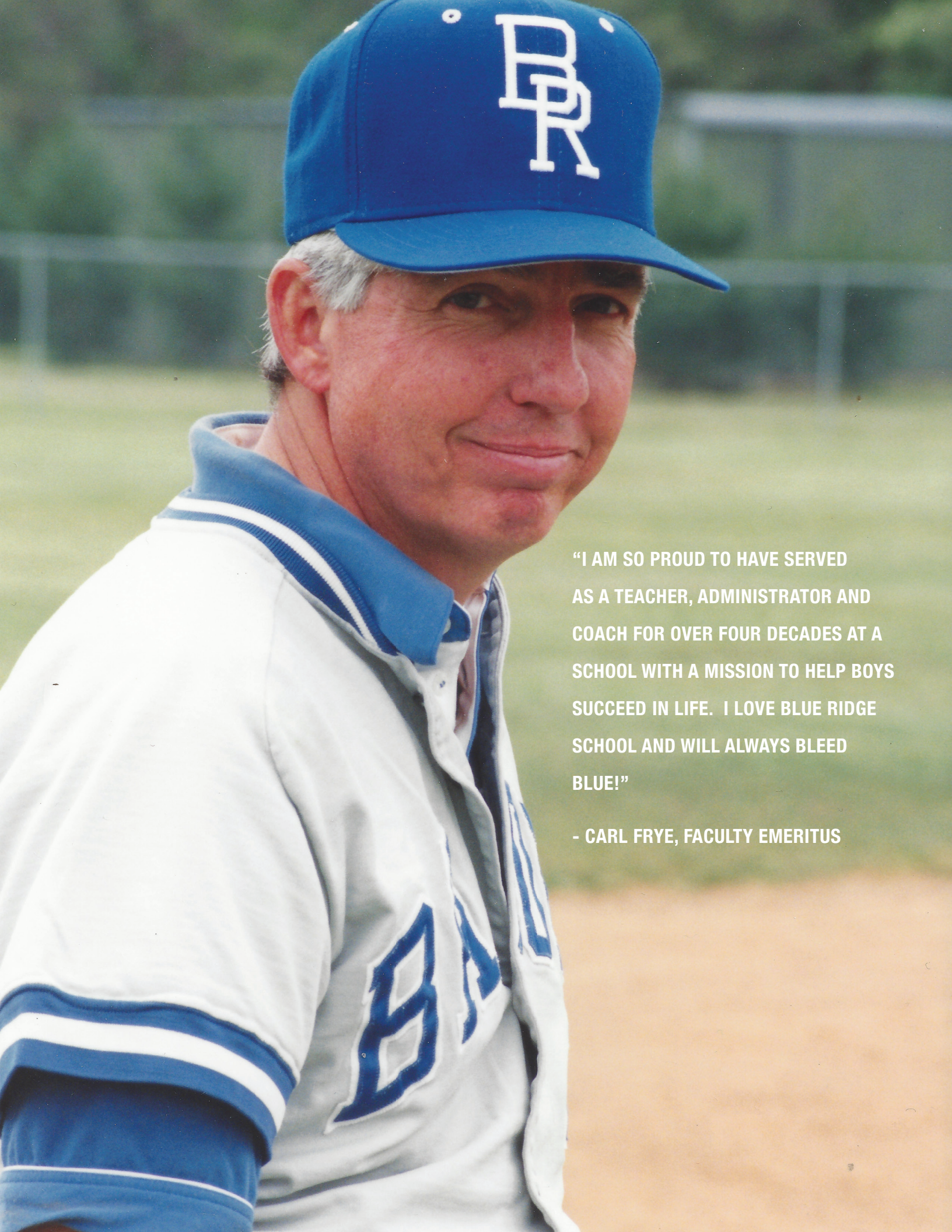
We are now entering a new phase of technological growth at Blue Ridge. As everything (not just the phones) goes wireless, the pendulum



is once again swinging back to separation of networks. With Network Administrator Wayne Peterson and Michael now at the helm, the School continues to be forward thinking and fiscally responsible. Charlottesville's Advanced Network Systems has once more become an important resource partially because of the wireless movement and also because out-sourcing will free up Wayne and Michael to wear a few additional hats on campus.

The Maker Space just outside the dining hall and the Group Collaboration Center in the library will showcase new technological gadgetry. We're prepared to explore these most recent advancements in technology along with our students. Jamie offers this observation. "The School's focus has always been to help young men be versatile and adaptable in an ever-increasingly technological world. Our latest additions show that BRS remains committed to that ideal."





“I AM SO PROUD TO HAVE SERVED AS A TEACHER, ADMINISTRATOR AND COACH FOR OVER FOUR DECADES AT A SCHOOL WITH A MISSION TO HELP BOYS SUCCEED IN LIFE. I LOVE BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL AND WILL ALWAYS BLEED BLUE!”

- CARL FRYE, FACULTY EMERITUS

CARL FRYE

FACULTY EMERITUS

On November 17, 2014, Head of School Trip Darrin announced at morning assembly that the Board of Trustees had unanimously granted Carl Frye the status of Faculty Emeritus. Mr. Darrin spoke of Carl's dedication over forty-three years to Blue Ridge. Later this fall, significant improvements will be completed on the baseball diamond as part of the second phase of the BAC project after which Carl will once again be honored during a special ceremony. At that time, the revamped baseball facility will be named Frye Field.

In the 107-year history of Blue Ridge, one will find very few educators who have had a greater impact on the School than Carl. When he was hired in 1969 to teach biology and drivers ed as well as coach a few sports, his wife Nancy was by his side. They had just returned from a three-week honeymoon in the Northeast and Canada. They moved into the Upper West floor of Walsh. One might think the honeymoon would have ended right then and there, but those who know Carl and Nancy will tell you they are still on their honeymoon forty-seven years later. They immediately made Blue Ridge their family. Not too long after arriving, Carl and Nancy began their own family. They would eventually raise four children – three sons and one daughter – on the campus. Two of their sons would graduate from Blue Ridge.

Even though Carl retired from Blue Ridge in 2012, he also never misses an opportunity to let members of his School family know how proud he is of them. He and Nancy still frequently attend Blue Ridge events on and off campus. Most recently, he has also been spied in a striped outfit officiating squire basketball games.

It was John Young who may be credited for introducing Carl to Blue Ridge School. He and Carl were teaching at A. G. Richardson in Culpeper, Virginia, in 1968. John and Carl would soon room together, and then Carl accompanied John on one of his visits to the Blue Ridge campus as John visited his brother Palmer. Carl immediately fell in love with the School. The newlywed couple's arrival on campus in

1969 roughly coincides with the opening of the new field house. Carl put together Blue Ridge's first wrestling team, and the School hosted its first wrestling tournament in that new facility in February 1970. Carl would hand wrestling to another coach that same year so that he could give his full attention to the development of another new athletic program – baseball. Baseball was then and still is today one of Carl's greatest pleasures. A devoted Red Sox fan, he also attends many of the UVA home baseball games as well as Blue Ridge home games.

The best location on campus in 1970 for a baseball field (because it was large and level) was a rocky spot. As had happened with the old football field not far away, Carl and students spent many hours removing rocks from the field. By 1971, thanks to Carl, Blue Ridge had a baseball team. Two alumni from the 70's who are particularly appreciative of Carl's efforts in those early days of the baseball program are Franklin McLeod '73 and Tim Bennett '76. Franklin is the owner of McLeod Storage, Inc. with seven self-storage facilities in central and eastern North Carolina. Tim is co-owner of WaPer, Inc. in West Columbia, South Carolina. Carl was one of their most important role models during their high school days for what it takes to be successful.

Franklin writes, "Carl Frye is one of a handful of people who truly dedicated their lives to BRS. It became apparent to me pretty fast that Carl and Nancy loved the School. I remember Carl as a very good biology teacher, but his real love was sports — particularly baseball. Carl started the baseball program on a very limited budget. If he had one dollar for every rock he picked up from that first baseball field, I'm sure he would be a millionaire today. I feel that I am a better person today because of Carl. He truly is just a genuine person. He always put BRS and the students ahead of himself, and there are not many people who gave back to the School as he did."

Tim adds, "I came to Blue Ridge after experiencing my best summer of baseball in North Carolina as I had made it to the Western State finals in pony league. I was hoping I could continue that success at Blue Ridge. When I

first arrived on campus as a freshman, Coach Bill Davis asked me to pull a prank on Coach Frye. I told Carl I was going to run track instead of play baseball. I remember he just laughed because he knew better. I played baseball all four years with Coach Frye as my coach, and there was never any question about his commitment to improving the facilities or how we were dressed and equipped. In my freshman year, I remember walking through the outfield with the others who were trying out and picking up rocks to throw them over the outfield fence. Coach Frye built the baseball program at Blue Ridge School literally from the rocky ground up. He gave 100% to the program and growing the game."

During the 70's and 80's, Carl and Nancy both took on additional responsibilities for the School. Bryan Wood '86, who is vice president of sales for Independent Funeral Planning, Inc., with offices throughout the Mid-Atlantic States, entered Blue Ridge as a junior. He viewed Carl as a very dedicated and welcoming faculty member. When baseball season rolled around that spring, Bryan could see that Carl made sure that each player had an equal opportunity to succeed. That summer between his junior and senior year, Carl and Nancy invited Bryan to live in their home along with their four children while he participated in a University of Virginia baseball camp. That next spring, Carl took the team to Florida for their own version of spring training. Bryan remembers, "We competed against some very talented teams, and we managed to hold our own! I remember Coach Frye being very proud of us."

In 1990, Carl was named Athletic Director. He wasn't willing, though, to give up being head coach of his beloved baseball program. After all, he had just been named the Virginia Prep League Coach of the Year in 1989.

Carl faced rapidly aging athletic facilities in the 90's. Not only did he maintain those facilities but he also sought to improve them when funding allowed. He first turned his attention to the track. He extended the life of that oval by topping it with a composition material. The field house flooring, an old green roll-out material,



From left, Carl Frye, Donnie Woodward and Jim Wright - 1998 Varsity Baseball Coaching staff at Blue Ridge School.

was also in need of replacement. Carl chose the more substantial gray flooring that is still in the field house today. Carl would eventually also bring volleyball and indoor soccer to the School. All along, he continued to care for the other facilities, including the football field, the main gym and the baseball diamond. Even after decades of student-assisted rock removal, one could find Carl on any given afternoon gathering pebbles from the infield.

During his twenty-two years as the School's athletic director, BRS won three Old Dominion Championships, three VIC Championships, six Prep League Championships, eleven Cavalier Conference Championships and four State Titles. He and Nancy enjoyed watching their children grow and move on during this same time frame. In the early 2000's, another significant improvement came to the baseball field under Carl's watch. The makeshift dugouts that had been there since the 70's were replaced with sturdier concrete structures that still exist today.

Carl's love for Blue Ridge and baseball never diminished even as grandchildren started to come along. From the testimonies of Angel Ramirez '04 and Chad Byers '08, one might think that Carl had begun his coaching career much more recently. During his forty-three years on

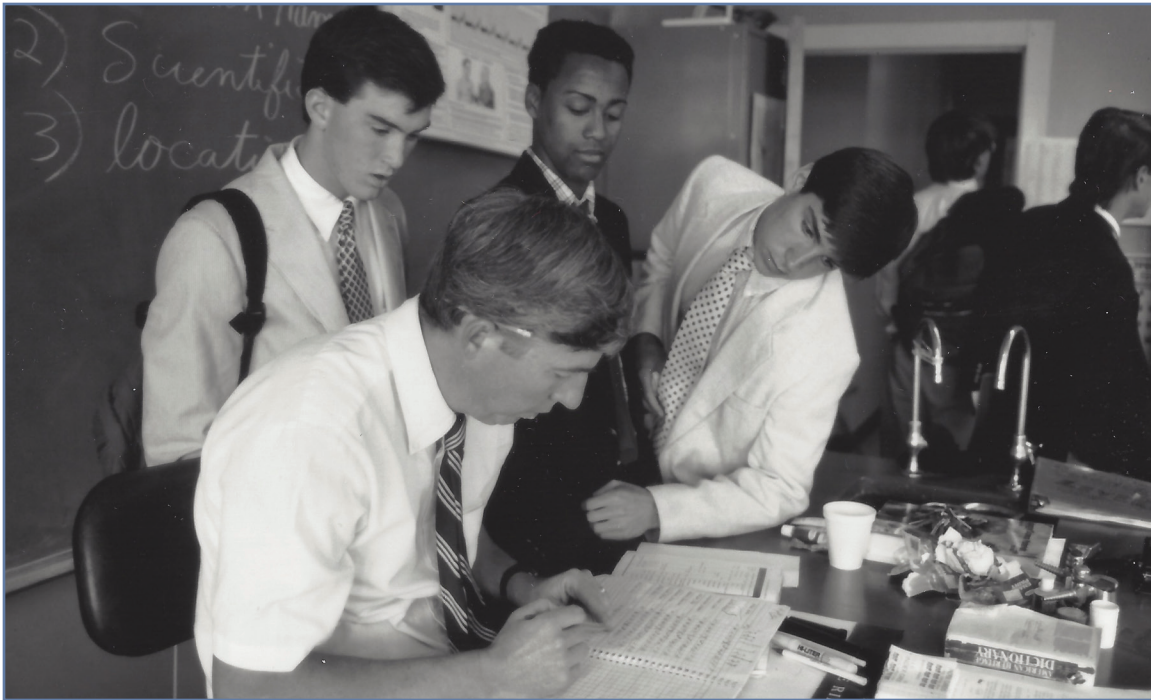
campus, his energy never diminished, and his love for his players never faltered. Angel went on to play baseball for four years at Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York. These days, you'll find him selling real estate for The Griffith-Scholz Team in New York, New York. Chad is currently an assistant football coach working with the inside linebackers at Shepherd University in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Angel remembers, "I always admired how caring Coach Frye was toward every player and his passion for helping student athletes excel. One of my fondest moments was when he approached me one afternoon after baseball practice and whispered, 'Great practice today, but, if you want to play in college, it's what you do after practice that will matter.' That has resonated with me until this day. I found myself trying to work harder than the next guy while playing baseball at Manhattanville and have even carried it to my current real estate work in New York City. I clearly remember the long hours Coach Frye spent on that field and in his office. He has taught me that talent is nothing without hard work. I always knew how to play, but he taught me how to be a winner."

Chad adds, "Coach Frye was a great coach and athletic director who cared about the process for all the student athletes at Blue Ridge, on

and off the field. His passion really inspired me at a young age to get into coaching so that hopefully I could make a positive impact on as many kids as he has in his tenure at Blue Ridge. He had a knack for always saying the perfect thing for a given situation whether it was on the walk to class or right before walking to the plate with the bases loaded and two outs. This is an undervalued quality in life and sports but is essential in keeping people focused on the task and process or even relaxing them in a stressful situation so they may perform to the best of their abilities. He was an early mentor for me in what it takes to be successful as a coach and in life."

Any story about Carl could include fond remembrances from literally hundreds of alumni. Two others merit mentioning here as they have returned to Blue Ridge as staff members. Current Senior Director of Admissions Jamie Miller '94 was a two-year baseball player. Current Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Relations Sam Fosdick '05 was a lacrosse player and winner of the Billy Pace Award, given to the senior who has exhibited the most enthusiasm for his sport. Carl comments, "That these two former BRS student athletes are giving back to their alma mater as staff members means a great deal to me."



Carl Frye teaching Biology in 1988.

Sam, of course, is an example of a young man who didn't even play baseball at Blue Ridge but was still greatly influenced by Carl. Another example is Lewis Heaster '92. Lewis, who is president of Lewis Heaster Properties, a real estate agency in Ormond Beach, Florida, credits Carl for turning him on to football, a sport he'd never played prior to his four years at BRS. Carl also allowed Lewis to help him with the basketball team during the winter months to keep Lewis busy.

"Even now, I can't bring myself to call him anything but Coach Frye. One of my best memories is a teaching lesson from him in his Sports Medicine class. He emphasized the importance of RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation). I've always used that abbreviation for treating my own children and, now that I'm in my forties, myself! When my family heard that the baseball field would be named in Coach Frye's honor, we jumped at the chance to be a part of the renovations and the chance to name the field for one of my greatest mentors."

Two of Carl's dearest Blue Ridge family members are Jim Niederberger and John Young. As with all dear friends, they must include some good-natured kidding at Carl's expense. In fact, both share a couple of examples of what they call *Carlisms*. When Carl and Nancy still lived on

campus, Carl would express how well he knew someone by commenting, "I know him like I know the back of a book." When he wanted someone to remind him about an important matter, he would recommend, "Make a mental note of that and put it in my mailbox." Carl is the Yogi Berra of Blue Ridge School though he'd never claim an association with a New York Yankee.

Of course, both Jim and John think the world of Carl. Jim puts it succinctly. "Carl is respected as a Blue Ridge faculty member for being thorough, conscientious and hardworking. He is admired even more for being a devoted husband and a loving father and grandfather." John adds, "Carl was always willing to put the students' interests first. This meant he would enthusiastically develop sports opportunities for our boys that were not considered in the core. Our outdoor program is just one example."

As to their friendship of forty-eight years, John, known at the School as quite the wordsmith, at first grows quiet and maybe even a little misty-eyed before he begins to express how deeply important Carl has been to him. "He's loyal. I think that captures his personality in one word. He would stand up for me, for all of his friends, in public even if he might disagree in private. I've always been able to count on him to be there for

**"HE HAS TAUGHT ME THAT
TALENT IS NOTHING WITHOUT
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HOW TO PLAY, BUT HE TAUGHT
ME HOW TO BE A WINNER."**

- ANGEL RAMIREZ '04

me. He and Nancy are perfectly suited for one another. They raised a beautiful family on this campus even as Blue Ridge became their family."

It was certainly fitting in 2014 that Carl be named Faculty Emeritus. It is now equally fitting that the renovated baseball field be given his name. One of the qualities that makes Carl so very special to the Blue Ridge family is that he has always felt honored to be a member of the community, and it shows even in his retirement with everything he does. Carl reminds us all, "I am so proud to have served as a teacher, administrator and coach for over four decades at a school with a mission to help boys succeed in life. I love Blue Ridge School and will always bleed blue!"

FOND MEMORIES OF STIMP HAWKINS

SEPTEMBER 25, 1933 – JUNE 16, 2016



The Reverend J. Stimson (Stimp) Hawkins, who served Blue Ridge from 1962-1968 as a science teacher, athletic director and head football coach, was far more than just a teacher and coach to the young men he influenced just as the School was reinventing itself as an all-boys boarding school. Stimp passed away on Thursday, June 16, 2016, just a few days after suffering a major stroke. He is survived by his wife Martha Loeb Taylor, five children (Karen Marsh, Rick Hawkins, Patty Dutcher, Leigh Hawkins and stepdaughter Gisele Wells) and twelve grandchildren.

Stimp had surely heard of Blue Ridge School while growing up in Charlottesville in the late forties and early fifties, and a connection to Hatcher Williams would eventually bring him to the campus. Stimp was a recent graduate of the University of Virginia and living in Winchester, Virginia, with his first wife Fran and three young children when a Reverend John Jordan recommended he contact his friend Hatcher in the spring of 1962. Stimp was selling pharmaceutical products at the time. A position at an all-boys boarding school closer

to Charlottesville would be a welcomed change. Hatcher referred Stimp to Headmaster Robert Alan Wilson. The interview went very well. Late that summer, Stimp, his wife and their three children moved into the first floor of the DAR building. His starting salary was \$5,500.

Stimp at times wondered what he'd gotten himself into as he took a cut in pay to move his wife and children into housing beneath thirty rambunctious students. Constant plumbing and occasional heating problems throughout that first year added to his family's headaches. Since Stimp and his wife did all of the athletic laundry in their home, the plumbing issues were particularly troubling. "How the School survived in those early years is a miracle," related Stimp during an interview in 2015. "I give a great deal of credit to the chaplain Courtney Carpenter and to Hatcher Williams."

Because the area allotted for the football field across the road from the main campus was more of a gravel garden than anything else in the early 60's, Stimp held his practices on the field directly behind DAR instead. He made his players run their wind sprints up and down a bank that was at the edge of the field. This is why many of his players to this day still call Stimp "Windsprint." His teams were well disciplined, and their skill sets improved dramatically over the next six years. Coach Hawkins managed this success with small, cramped athletic facilities and poor field conditions. All along, he gained the admiration of each of his students and athletes.

Coach Hawkins would eventually become Reverend Hawkins. It began in June of 1966. Buz Booker '67 and Vinton Lee '67 asked him if he would take them to a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Conference. During the conference, Stimp's eyes were opened to many new ideas. Upon returning to BRS, he was a changed man. He knew he wanted to become a minister. Two years later he enrolled in the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond.

A senior athletic recognition was established years ago in Stimp's honor. The Stimp Hawkins

Award is given during the commencement ceremony to a senior who the varsity coaches have determined has contributed the most to the athletic program that year. Stimp was once again honored in January of 2011 at the New York Auxiliary Ball for the part he played in establishing the new school. He and his wife Martha had visited with many of his former students and athletes during Blue Ridge's Homecoming weekends in the fall of 2014 and 2015.

What follows is only a sampling of the outpouring of remembrances from the once-young men who were lucky to be influenced by Stimp.

BILL SCHNAUFFER '65

I first met Mr. Hawkins in August of 1962 on the steps of DAR Dormitory. He and his family lived on the main floor of the building while I lived on the second floor with about thirty-five boys. Mr. Hawkins was our first athletic director. He hired the staff to coach our football teams, soccer teams, basketball teams, track and tennis teams. His approach as head coach was that we, the players, had to put out 110%, 100% of the time. His nick name was Windsprint Hawkins. He was VERY insistent on perfection. However, we were a new school and a new team. Many of us had never played sports prior to coming to Blue Ridge, and I am sure we frustrated our coach 115%!

Mr. Hawkins worked with Mr. Hatcher Williams to develop the School's academic curriculum starting in 1962. He also taught general science and first aid. He taught boys how to swim, and some became lifeguards. Mr. Hawkins took us to the University of Virginia in Charlottesville to Scott Stadium to attend football games. He showed us the Serpentine Wall at UVA and took us to Monticello. In those early days when Blue Ridge School was going through the transition to an all-boys college preparatory school, Mr. Stimp Hawkins and Mr. Hatcher Williams worked together, and their combined efforts are seen by the success of our school today.

“EVERYONE LOVED HIS GENTLE, FRIENDLY, VIVACIOUS AND CARING MANNER.” - PETER HOLLAND '66

PETER HOLLAND '66

Although Stimp Hawkins was a teacher and coach during my two years at Blue Ridge, what I admire most about him is something I learned only a few years ago. I learned about his path into the ministry, which began while attending a gathering of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes while still at Blue Ridge. Something that he heard and felt during that conference changed his life. Two years later, he began to study at the Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond. After serving as parish minister for almost twenty years, he devoted the rest of his life to hospice and palliative ministry to hundreds of people and families. Everyone loved his gentle, friendly, vivacious and caring manner.

GORDON FINNEY '67

Coach Hawkins was the best motivator I have ever known. During the first years of Blue Ridge sports, the early to mid-60's, we were seriously outmanned by just about every opponent. After a Coach Hawkins pre-game pep talk, however, we were convinced we could do anything and almost always exceeded expectations. I carried his motivational techniques with me through my entire working career. Coach Hawkins was proud of Blue Ridge School, which he often called “Ole BRIS,” and he made us equally proud. A compliment from Coach Hawkins was hard to come by, but, when he did compliment you, it was never forgotten. I remember that Coach Hawkins paid as much attention to non-athletes as to star players...and those students held him in the same high regard as his athletes. He was amazingly well-connected. I remember having Bullet Bill Dudley, Sonny Randle, Don Shinnick of the Baltimore Colts, Paul Anderson, the strongest man in the world, Bill Curry and many more national names show up at Blue Ridge and speak to us, all because they were friends of Stimp Hawkins. Many of us reconnected with him as adults, and I'm glad we had a chance to tell him of his impact on our lives.

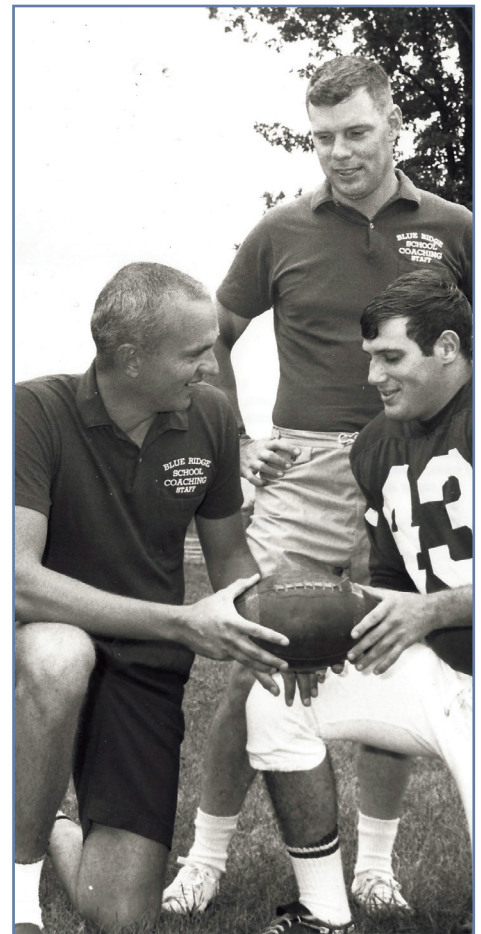
ALLEN FOARD '69

I have many memories of Coach Hawkins – but my respect and “fear” most stand out. Don't misunderstand. By fear, I am referring to my respect

for him on the football field. He cast a long shadow, and I knew he was a man who would not tolerate much foolishness. As a 5'8” 160-pound hot-headed football player, I often let my emotions get the better of me. In my junior year, I was removed from a game by the refs for fighting. Coach Hawkins had reached his limit when on the next play I jumped up from the bench and kicked the sideline marker to the center of the field. I'll never forget the look he gave me and his very fast walk down the sideline toward me. He then grabbed me by the shoulder pads and lifted me up so we were eye ball to eye ball. He then told me if I ever got in another fight I would never play at BRS again. I knew he meant every word, and I completely understood! After the game, he again spoke to me and explained the importance of self-discipline and control in sports...and life... and how good team members always put their team first. I was never in another altercation in any sport while at BRS or in college. It was a life lesson I will never forget.

JOHN JOSEPH '70

Mr. Hawkins and his family attended Christ Episcopal Church in Charlottesville as did my family. As we all know, he never met a stranger. I remember one Sunday when he talked to me about coming to Blue Ridge. That's how I first learned about the School. He said he thought it would be a good fit so I soon visited. I remember that, before any athletic event he coached, we always knelt on one knee in the locker room and said The Lord's Prayer. In fact, he started a chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at BRS. We would meet before breakfast, and Mr. Hawkins would bring in a box of donuts for those who attended. Many times I would babysit for the Hawkins. I recently asked Stimp's oldest daughter Karen if she remembered that, and surprisingly she did! Mr. Hawkins married Susan and me on June 15, 1974. It isn't lost on me that he passed away exactly forty-two years and one day later. When my mother was nearing the end of her life, he called her several times. I never knew what they discussed, but I know she was very thankful and always enjoyed seeing and talking to him. He was a friend of the family even before my days at BRS.



Left: AD Stimp Hawkins, Assistant Coach Bill Lowry, and team captain Ed Brownfield '66

In recent years, Stimp had been employed by Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Even after retiring as a minister, Stimp continued to serve the community of Greensboro, North Carolina, as a hospice chaplain. At the age of 82, he was featured in a Greensboro publication as the leader of a local Death Café, a chapter of a world-wide organization that provides advice and support for those who want to be better prepared for their passing.

Stimp was given medication only for pain in his final hours per his wishes. He didn't want IVs, feeding tubes or beeping machines. He passed at home surrounded by those he loved. On Saturday, July 16, family members and friends of Stimp held a Celebration of Life memorial service in Greensboro. Bill Schnauffer '65 was one of the speakers. His heartfelt remembrance accompanies this story. Other Blue Ridge graduates in attendance included G. G. Craddock '66, Peter Holland '66 and John Joseph '70. Headmaster Trip Darrin, Associate Headmaster Franklin Daniels and Senior Director of Development JC Ignaszewski also attended.



A FITTING MEMORIAL TO TREY HIGGINS '86

The entire Blue Ridge family was saddened on June 30, 2015, upon hearing of the passing of Trey Higgins '86 in a tragic hang-gliding accident. By all accounts,

Trey possessed an adventurous spirit while on campus and after graduating. He loved Blue Ridge for allowing that adventurous spirit to soar. His family has always considered the School as the major turning point in Trey's life. Trey's father Turley, in particular, has supported the Barons over the years in many ways, most notably by serving on the Board. When Trey passed at the young age of 48, Turley grieved mightily as did the Blue Ridge community. During this past year, Trey's proud father has pondered how best to establish a lasting tribute to his son while also expressing the family's deep appreciation for the School's support of a young man who since the age of two wanted to be a fighter pilot.

Though Turley would never brag about it, he happens to be an accomplished organist. While his son Trey was a student at Blue Ridge in the 80's, Turley came to know the Gibson Memorial Chapel organ as one that was played beautifully by Mr. Jim Niederberger but that was not particularly suited for its location to the left of the chancel. Specifically, its booming sound would roll across that chancel more than it would fill the nave. In determining his plan for a gift to the School in memory of Trey, Turley remembered the age of that organ and its unfortunate positioning in the Chapel.

Turley also recalls his son Trey in his pre-school years. "I was the organist and director of a forty-voice choir. I think often of Trey sitting next to me on the organ bench. It's a memory I have always cherished. He certainly wasn't the best

behaved child outside of a church, but he would behave on that organ bench. He seemed to have a sense, even at that early age, that the sound of a pipe organ was something to be respected. He went on to develop an interest in music and was known for his guitar playing at Blue Ridge."

Turley mentions the age of the Gibson Chapel organ. No one honestly seems to know for sure just how old it is. According to the National Register of Historic Places registration form signed on March 12, 1993, the chapel was completed on the Blue Ridge campus in 1932 with "uncut and uncoursed native fieldstone" and "executed in the English Gothic Revival style." This document mentions the chapel organ as being "of uncertain date." The Organ Historical Society database website includes a beautiful photograph of the organ pipes and keyboard, but it also admits not knowing a date of installation.

Even Jim Niederberger, who has been tickling the ivories of this instrument since 1970, admits that some of what he knows about the organ's origin and history is not documented. An interesting organ tuner by the name of Cleveland Fisher, who lived in Manassas, Virginia, in the sixties and seventies, told Jim the following. The organ was built in 1906 by Henry Pilcher's Sons in Louisville, Kentucky. There is, in fact, a plate on the organ that identifies its maker but not its date of creation. It was apparently in a church in Charlottesville, Virginia, until it came to be in the Blue Ridge Industrial School Chapel in the late 1930's. By the time the School opened its doors as all-boys and all-boarding in 1962, the organ was in desperate need of attention.

The Reverend Dudley Boogher, chair of the Board at the time as well as rector of St. Paul's

Episcopal Church in Ivy, Virginia, found that turning point in the School's history as an excellent moment to breathe new life into the organ. The Board hired Mr. Fisher to "tonally revise and recondition" the instrument and even allowed him to live in Battle House during the several months it took him to do so. The Reverend Boogher donated a Hammond B-3 from St. Paul's to be used during the old organ's restoration.

None of this really verifies for sure the age of the organ. But Jim Niederberger knew it was old in the 70's, and Turley Higgins knew it was even older in the 80's. That it still produced such a remarkable sound is perhaps a testimony to Mr. Fisher's tuning talents as well as to Jim's keyboard skills. Since the 90's, Mr. Xavier Wilhelmy, a Pipe Organ Builder with *Geshenke aus Glas* (means Gift of Glass) in Staunton, Virginia, has been the curator of the historic instrument. He has visited twice a year to clean the pipes and make other adjustments. Though Jim has certainly made that organ hum during chapel services, no one living today really knows the inner workings of this particular organ better than does Mr. Wilhelmy.

To fully appreciate the full beauty of what is about to transpire at Blue Ridge, one must be made aware of a relationship that has developed in recent years between members of the Blue Ridge community and Buck Mountain Episcopal Church in Earlysville, Virginia. It begins with Buck Mountain's Reverend Connie Clark and Deacon Anne Scupholme. They were the clerical team who provided services in the Gibson Chapel during the 2014-2015 School year. Both Connie and Anne loved the sound of the organ as Jim coaxed remarkable melodies from it during each service. They imagined how such an

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Trey Higgins '86 in 1991

organ would sound within the walls of their own church.

During this time, Assistant Headmaster for Co-Curricular Programs Vinton Bruton organized a Buck Mountain Food Pantry satellite location in the back of the Gibson Chapel as part of the agreement the School had made with the clerical team. Anne stepped right in to coordinate. Dean of Students and Director of the Outdoor Program Tony Brown soon took the reins from Vinton, and Anne has been helping Tony run the pantry ever since.

The relationship between Blue Ridge School and Buck Mountain Episcopal Church has become a strong and important one for both communities. Associate Headmaster for Advancement and Admissions Franklin Daniels and his wife Kate regularly attend services at Buck Mountain.

This past July as Tony and Anne were once again working together in the pantry, Tony casually mentioned to Anne that a new organ would soon replace the old one in the Gibson Chapel. Anne, ever quick on her feet, asked what would become of the old organ. As far as Tony knew, it would simply be discarded.

The wheels in Anne’s head were spinning faster than the wheels of her car as she drove home that afternoon. The next morning, she immediately whispered to Connie, “By the way, did you know that Blue Ridge is removing its old pipe organ to make way for a new one?” Anne knew exactly what she was doing. She knew Connie loved music and particularly thought highly of that organ.

Connie nearly fell out of her pew as Anne asked permission to pursue securing the Henry Pilcher’s Sons organ for Buck Mountain. The

answer was, of course, a resounding yes, which is why Anne literally barreled into Franklin after the service to ask, first, if the rumors were true, then to ask if Buck Mountain could have it. Franklin, also a deal maker, looked Anne square in the eyes and said, “Yes, but you need to move quickly.”

No problem for Anne. Two days later, she had taken measurements and photographs and had put a committee together to include Buck Mountain’s Senior Warden Art Symmes, Junior Warden Cliff Smith, organist Andy Shelden, parish intern Will Dickinson, Connie and Franklin. This ad hoc committee discussed such crucial issues as a feasibility study, technical matters and where the organ would be placed before voting to proceed with involving Mr. Wilhelmy as a consultant.

As Blue Ridge School said good-bye to its organ of undetermined age, it’s heartening to know it’s not being retired. Rather, its deep bass sounds and high-pitched tones will continue to delight parishioners at Buck Mountain as Blue Ridge will gift the musical artifact to our new friends. In turn, Turley will donate a new state-of-the-art digital organ to the School in loving memory of Trey. Truly, it just doesn’t get any better than this in the world of meaningful gifts borne from relationships that matter.

Anne calls it stewardship. That’s quite an appropriate term for what has happened before and what is about to happen. Blue Ridge has cared for the old organ for at least seventy-seven years. And now Buck Mountain will become stewards of it. Trey was entrusted to the care of Blue Ridge in the 80’s, and the School served him well. His father Turley has been one of the important stewards for the School ever since.

His gift of a new organ is just the latest example of that stewardship. So, yes, stewardship works as a way to name this transaction at every level.

The Reverend Connie Clark in a recent bulletin to Buck Mountain parishioners, used the headline “The Holy Spirit Blows a Pipe Organ Our Way” to express her gratitude for the opportunity that Buck Mountain now has to be the steward of such a wondrous instrument. In her message, she confesses that as a church music aficionado she has missed the “majesty and thrilling inspiration of a pipe organ’s sound.” She closes her letter by stating, “The Holy Spirit is surely the mover in this remarkable development.” Connie would be the first to agree that a young man’s soaring spirit for adventure, the love that the Higgins family has for Blue Ridge School and the partnership that is being nurtured between Blue Ridge School and Buck Mountain have roles in this, too.

Another relationship of note that plays a part in this transition of organs is the one between Turley and a Mr. Robert Walker of Pennsylvania. Turley and his family were living in New Jersey in the late 60’s, and Turley was working for the Rodgers Organ Company as a sales rep. Mr. Walker was working just across the river in Pennsylvania as a pipe organ specialist. Turley and Bob immediately took a liking to one another because, as Bob explains, “He was such a warm and honest person, very pleasant to be around, a man of exceptional character.”

Turley disappeared from Bob’s radar for a few years only to reappear as an employee of the Yamaha Corporation. Turley offers, “Yes, I loved being a church organist and choir director and working for the Rodgers Organ Company, but a growing family required me to find a position



As Blue Ridge School said good-bye to its organ ... it's heartening to know it's not being retired. It will continue to delight parishioners at Buck Mountain.

The Walker Technical Company, Inc., in Zionsville, Pennsylvania, is renowned for producing organs that will work in spaces that are limited. This describes the situation in the Gibson Memorial Chapel perfectly! "It has been fairly common," founder Bob Walker explains, "for churches to knock down walls or build additions to make room for more pipes when they wanted to improve the sounds of their organs. My company provides a digital replication of those sounds that we make sure will fit in the existing space." The new organ will include voices, which would normally involve ranks or rows of pipes, that our chapel has never heard before.

Even more impressively, Walker organs produce a quality of sound that is unparalleled in the world. At the risk of becoming too technical with the terminology, one should know that a CD recording, for example, deliberately cuts off the high inaudible frequencies. In fact, the music one hears on a CD contains one fourth of the frequencies that our new chapel organ will include. Why would inaudible frequencies matter? Bob explains they are crucial to a more relaxed sound to the ear when combined with audible frequencies. Thus, he makes sure that those inaudible high frequencies as well as really low frequencies are present in Walker organs to create remarkably soothing resultant tones.

with a higher salary. I worked for Yamaha for thirty years and became their director of marketing before I retired."

The friendship between Turley and Bob soon grew beyond the workplace. It turns out they share an off-the-wall sense of humor in addition to their strong interests in the sounds that a pipe organ can produce. Bob describes his good friend this way. "Yes, he has a Steven Wright delivery with his humor, and he also has a comprehensive knowledge of how a pipe organ works. It was many years after we'd met before I knew Turley could also play an organ so well. Humility is also one of his endearing qualities."

Turley has had it in the back of his mind since Trey was a student at Blue Ridge that he'd want to bring a new organ to the School someday. He and Jim Niederberger became close friends during Trey's high school days. Jim happened to be the one who interviewed Trey the first time he visited the School and was instrumental in his being accepted. In the process, Turley and Jim learned they, too, had a mutual interest in pipe organs and choirs. Turley and Jim would routinely swap stories, perhaps tall tales, about their experiences in the music world.

Turley, of course, knew just who to contact about producing an organ that would match up perfectly with the Gibson Chapel. He called his friend Bob. After Turley shared some specifics and some friendly discussions occurred, an agreement was made. Thus, the Blue Ridge

School Chapel will soon house a new, cutting-edge Walker Technical Company digital organ that will have the capability to fill not only the chancel but also the nave and likely the parking lot outside with sounds not previously enjoyed on campus. Turley explains, "This organ will be the best of its type in the country. The sounds it will produce will make people in the nave feel as if they are sitting in St. Paul's Cathedral. Organists from everywhere will want to play this instrument."

Mr. Wilhelmy has already carefully dismantled and removed the old organ from the chapel. He will soon deliver and reconstruct it at Buck Mountain Church.

For his part, Turley could not be prouder of what is about to happen. "I'm pleased that Buck Mountain Church wants the old organ, and I'm thrilled to be donating the new organ to the School. When Trey was struggling at his previous school, an educational consultant told me that Blue Ridge takes young men who have potential and helps them realize that potential. I knew in those days when Trey would sit beside me on the choir bench that he could focus when his heart was into something. When he announced at Blue Ridge that he wanted to fly jets for the US Navy, teachers such as Brandon Deane didn't bat an eye. Instead, they helped him realize his dream. I hope the old organ continues to serve the members of Buck Mountain well, and I hope the new organ in the Gibson Chapel will serve as a lasting memorial of Trey."

BOYS AS GLOBAL CITIZENS

FOLLOW UP TO LESSONS FROM CAPE TOWN



In July of 2015, Blue Ridge School science teacher Mr. Paul Fehlner and his wife Gail traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to attend the 22nd Annual International Boys' School Coalition Conference. Part of Paul's purpose in being there was to develop a project pertaining to the theme of Boys as Global Citizens. He then facilitated this project on the Blue Ridge campus throughout last year.

The project that Paul chose involved creating greater interaction between our boys and many of the recipients of our various community service initiatives. His belief was (and still is) that increased face-to-face meetings with those in need would also increase the students' compassionate empathy, which means they would be compelled to help others without being required to do so. Students in his Environmental Science class did, in fact, shift in their attitudes from simply going through the motions of community service to feelings of deeper empathy for those they were helping.

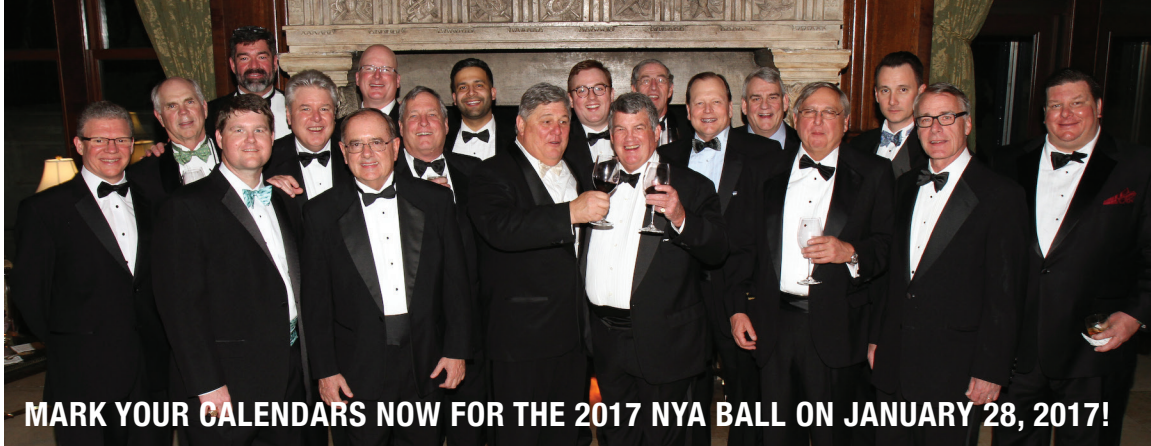
This past June, Paul and Gail traveled to St. George's School in Vancouver, BC, Canada, so that Paul could report his findings during the 23rd Annual IBSC Conference. He met with a group of other educators with whom he had worked in 2015 so that they could share their various projects. He then presented his project to a second group who were attending an IBSC conference for the first time and who were particularly interested in empathy. Finally, he presented his findings to any conference participants who desired to know more.

Paul was also asked to write a report that includes the particulars of his project so that it could be published on the IBSC website. His report and the others that are tied to the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that the United Nations had previously established are now a resource for IBSC members who wish to coordinate humanitarian efforts in their home schools.

Paul and Gail agree that both summer trips were worth it. The group members with whom Paul worked during both conferences have bonded in their mutual concerns for all people on the planet. In addition, Paul and Gail experienced two beautiful regions of the world, and Paul heard outstanding speakers on such varied topics as "Building Global Citizens in a Boarding Community," "Empathy, Literature, and the Making of Real Men Who Act Against Violence" and "Honey Bees in Your Class: Experiential Learning for Environmental Understanding."

Paul adds this to the significance of the conferences. "It's important that we at Blue Ridge are exposed to other successful boys schools throughout the world. Not only does it remind us that our current efforts on behalf of young men are on target but it also allows us to learn about other effective programs we might incorporate into our curriculum." Here's a link to Paul's report: <http://www.blueridgeschool.com/programs/developing-empathy-in-high-school-boys>

NEW YORK AUXILIARY BALL



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE 2017 NYA BALL ON JANUARY 28, 2017!

From L-R, front row: Mitch Rue '81, Porter Brawley '00, John Joseph '70, Richard Hickey '75, Dickie Brawley '68, Henry Freeman '68, Allen Bush '69 and Rob Vinson '87. Back row: Julian Van Winkle '69, Morton Boyd '86, Jimmy Crocker '72, Lee Shore '90, William Buckland '70, Angel Ramirez '05, Sam Fosdick '05, John Wellford '69, Dr. Bill Carver '75, Ben Hiatt '71 and Mark Dreux '94

For the 108th consecutive year, the New York Auxiliary will hold a fund-raising event in New York City to benefit Blue Ridge School. For the 93rd consecutive year, the event will be a charity ball, and this year's gala will be held on Saturday, January 28, 2017.

The origins of the Auxiliary are truly unique, and its history is a proud one. In the early 20th century, there were many southerners in New York City who had made their mark in industry and professions after the conclusion of the Civil War — the Battles of Battle House among them. Education in the South (as represented by BRS) was a very important philanthropic focus for many of them, and the New York Auxiliary of Blue Ridge School began in a New York drawing room when friends were invited to meet Mrs. Mayo and learn of her husband's mission project in central Virginia.

The group's fund-raising activities prior to 1924 were in the form of Silver Teas, which were the fashionable way for ladies to raise money in that more refined era when women's activities outside of the home were more limited than in the 1920's. It was not until after WWI that charity balls became popular in New York City.

At the 107th New York Auxiliary's Blue and White Ball held this past January, attendees enjoyed an evening of southern charm led by

an auction of fine whiskeys from alumnus and James Beard Winner Julian P. Van Winkle '69. His whiskeys are the highest-rated available and nearly impossible to purchase. At the ball Julian received the School's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

The second big award was dedicated to Silver Tea recipients Mr. and Mrs. George Selden of New York for their dedicated support to the New York Auxiliary for thirty-six years. George is a WWII veteran, Harvard MBA and textile businessman. Ann is a California native, UC Berkeley grad and former UN staffer who has lived in the city for over sixty years and has chaired the ball three times.

The black-tie gala, held at a private club in Manhattan, included a silent auction of fine jewels, wines and memorabilia, commencing with cocktail hour, followed by a four-course meal and ballroom dancing with music by the Jerry Kravat Orchestra. Surrounded by blue and white hydrangea, guests sipped on old fashioned's as they browsed the numerous silent-auction items and enjoyed dinner at the southern-inspired gala, but it was the live auction of Old Rip Van Winkle bourbons that kicked the party into high gear. Mr. Van Winkle, who has won many accolades for his aged whiskeys, acted as auctioneer. At one point, the bidding was so fierce that he threw in a second bottle of the twenty-year reserve to double the

amount raised and allow both bidders to leave happy.

Over 200 New Yorkers and Blue Ridge alumni were in attendance, including Allen Bush '69. For fifteen years, Mr. Bush operated Holbrook Farm and Nursery in Fletcher, North Carolina. He is also the former director of North American operations for Jelitto, a giant in the perennial seed market. Allen and Julian enjoyed recalling their days as classmates at Blue Ridge and expressed their appreciation to Auxiliary members for their support of the School over the years. Net proceeds from the 2016 event totaled more than \$50,000 which qualifies for an important matching program in support of Phase Two of the Baron Athletic Complex.

The Auxiliary has contributed to several significant capital building projects in its history to include the New York Auxiliary Student Center and the BRS Track and Field Center. The Auxiliary has also made it possible for many worthy young men from the New York City community to attend Blue Ridge. It is a point of pride for both BRS and the Auxiliary that many of these past scholarship recipients have achieved leadership positions within the School, including several class presidents.

SUPPORT BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

The fall semester is in full swing, and there is a wonderful spirit in the air. It's magnificent to see Blue Ridge School boys, both international and domestic, come together and bond as Baron Brothers. Thanks to the great faculty, staff and coaches on campus who are helping boys flourish in the classroom and on the fields. This will certainly shape up to be a great year!

Our boys see their time at Blue Ridge as a unique opportunity to explore new interests and embrace the unfamiliar—to cultivate creativity, versatility and the values that will shape their lives. Through your donations to the School's

Annual Fund, the opportunities for our boys are endless.

How you choose to give to Blue Ridge School is a personal choice, and the School's development team is here to help you find the best method for you and your family. Gifts to the Annual Fund allow you to provide resources to those areas with the greatest need.

This year, the goal for the Annual Fund is \$725,000. We won't accomplish our goal without support from alumni, alumni parents, current parents and friends.

Our success is made possible by the generous annual contributions of more than 1,000 alumni, parents and friends. This broad base of support includes gifts at all levels that together have a tremendous impact on Blue Ridge School.

As you consider your direction and level of support, we invite you to review the list of programs listed at www.blueridgeschool.com/annual-fund. For more information regarding the Blue Ridge School Annual Fund, please contact Sam Fosdick '05, Director of Annual Giving and Alumni Programs, at 434-992-0581 or sfosdick@blueridgeschool.com.

THANKS TO OUR GOLF CLASSIC SPONSORS

The 26th Annual Golf and Football Weekend welcomed members of the classes of '66, '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, and '11 who celebrated reunion years this year on October 7 and 8.

The weekend included an Alumni Council Meeting, Homecoming Varsity Football game versus Nansemond Suffolk Academy and an alumni reception in Battle House.



We proudly support
Blue Ridge School's
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Golf Classic

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A TRIBUTE TO A LIFETIME FRIEND AND CLASSMATE



by Nick Carter '72

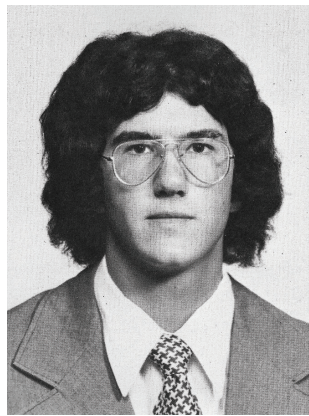
(Senior Class President of 1972, who had a friendship with Carden McGehee spanning 58 years.)

The Blue Ridge School family lost a dear alumnus, friend and past board member when Carden McGehee, Class of 1972, lost his brief and valiant battle with leukemia on September 1, 2016, exactly four months before his 64th birthday.

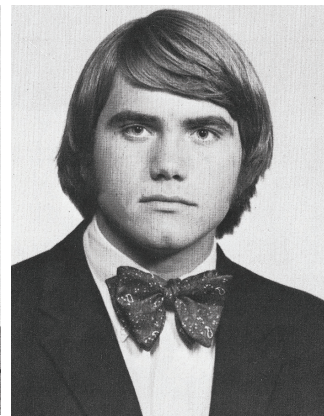
Carden was diagnosed in late April, and succumbed just eighteen weeks later, startling and stunning those around him at the velocity and voraciousness of the disease. I can assure you his attitude for fighting this affliction was strong willed, unfettered, and approached with a touch of McGehee-inflicted humor at times, understandably as a deflection of what possibly loomed. Only “McGoo” using his creative wit in a time of despair to find a seam of optimism.

If you were to have a snapshot of Carden’s persona, think of the character Michael Gold in the 1993 American comedy drama *The Big Chill*, played by actor Jeff Goldblum...tall and lean, with a thick head of black hair, clear plastic frame designer glasses, unable to jumpstart his day without three large mugs of “morning joe.”

He was curious, organized, inquisitive, gullible, funny and whimsical – a great photographer that



Carden McGehee, Jr. in 1972



Nick Carter in 1972

possessed a dry sense of wit among his closest friends. He was a true clothes horse who could blend in with almost anyone with his firm handshake and well-mannered approach – whether it be the convenience store clerk, the college professor, or the guy talking music – especially music.

Carden loved the music of the ‘60’s and ‘70’s much appreciated, gathered, and nurtured right there on the dormitory hallways at the School. Students were from all over the country, bringing in their musical favorites. Music was everywhere..... it was a special time, and Carden, like all of us, loved it! He was Dylan, Traffic, Leo Kottke with the Pat Metheny group and Miles Davis thrown in there too.

Carden was able to employ his Blue Ridge years as a bridge to Skidmore College and then onto the University of Virginia where he received a Master’s in Architectural History. He grew to love Jeffersonian architecture.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge that the Reverend John Kettlewell, the School’s long time chaplain and ethics teacher, was a strong influence on Carden’s academic pursuits and spiritual base. Their families remained close friends decades after graduation.

Carden exemplified “The Blue Ridge Experience” and, like many in reflection, appreciated the School even more as an alumnus. He became a strong ambassador and supporter of the School in his adult years.

We will all miss his snickering laugh, his harmless pranks, and his animated and descriptive storytelling of events or circumstances – he was hilarious in that element. I can see him now, belting out a great laugh as he smacks his thigh with glee over a great punch line. “Oh, come on? Are you kidding me?... No way!”

MaGoo, you will be sorely missed by me and all of your fellow classmates.

Carden is survived by his mother Caroline Yarnall Brandt, his daughters Laura Chase (Adrien de Formigny) and Elizabeth, their mother Kristine Miller McGehee, Carden’s partner Leslie Ferst, as well as his brother and sister, Stephen (Ruth) and Margaret McGehee (Anne Owens).

A memorial service was held at St. Columba’s Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C., on Friday, Sept. 9, 2016.

“Carden is a celebrated alumnus, and the collective BRS family extends our love and support to the McGehee family,” says Headmaster Trip Darrin. He adds that “Carden showed his deep loyalty and gratitude to the School through significant service at an important time in BRS history. He was a model of good Trusteeship.”

A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST

THE DAR DORM

Drive onto the Blue Ridge School and you'll see the focal point of the campus since 1962 — the Blue Ridge Lake. To the left just beyond the pine trees is one of the oldest structures to be found on the campus — the DAR house.

Constructed in 1952 with funding from the Daughters of the American Revolution, this building would serve as a dormitory for boys at a school that was still coed at the time. When the School reorganized as an all-boys boarding school in 1962, DAR became the residence for many of the sixty-six young men who graced our campus that year. William (Bill) Schnauffer '65 was one of those young men who lived on the second floor of DAR in 1962. He has fond memories of the experience though at the time it wasn't always pleasant.

Bill was fifteen when he traveled from Frederick, Maryland, to the campus in the fall of 1962. He found the setting to be quite rustic, certainly different from his Maryland surrounds, and he loved the difference. The lake had just been filled by way of a man-made dam, but that street was not yet paved. Instead, it was a dusty or muddy (depending on the weather) road. Bill slept on the bottom bunk of an army surplus bed. He kept his personal belongings in a steel cabinet as did the other young men.

The building was short on heat and hot water. Bill recalls, "When the temperatures began to turn colder late that first fall, I slept with my socks on and went to bed wearing heavy corduroy pants. Brrr!" The situation became so intolerable that the students were excused earlier than originally scheduled for Christmas vacation in 1962 so that a new furnace and more water heaters could be installed.

When the students returned in January of 1963, DAR was toasty warm and had plenty of hot water! Gone were the mornings of waking earlier than the others in hopes of not starting the day with a cold shower.

On one particularly cold morning in the dead of winter 1963, Bill recalls waking up to a large fiery glow reflecting into the dorm windows.

The students rushed to the windows even as they were wiping the sleep from their eyes. They were astonished to see the School infirmary, which at that time was located near the front of the campus, completely engulfed in flames. Mr. Hatcher Williams, Coach Stimp Hawkins as well as many of the students, including Bill, quickly realized that the structure was too far gone to do anything about it. They had no choice but to stand by and watch the building burn. A new infirmary would eventually be established next to the Walsh Dormitory that was under construction at the time.

Bill describes the walk from DAR to chapel or class or the dining hall as "often interesting." The terrain was rough — a dust bowl when it was dry and a series of uneven mud puddles after it had rained or, at best, loose stones. The journey became particularly challenging after snowfall or during icy conditions. Many students purchased heavy boots to accommodate their paths to other parts of the campus. Bill recalls that his boots included the first pair of leather shoe laces he'd ever owned. As they watched the construction of the Walsh dorms, they could see that sidewalks were being included. Each and every student commented on how different and unadventurous a walk would be once those were constructed.

Bill remembers Mayo Hall as "that very old, large building in the center of our campus." It was the nerve center of the School as the students spent a great deal of time there. It included a huge recreational hall where the students played ping pong and watched television. The Tuck Shop was there, too, as well as a movie theater, barber shop and student mail boxes.

The manual telephone switchboard for the School was also housed in Mayo Hall in the mid 60's. Responsible students were asked from time to time to man that switchboard. Bill was one of



The opening ceremony at the DAR building in 1952.

those responsible guys. Though the area code has changed over the years, it is impressive that the main number for Blue Ridge School has been 985-2811 since then.

Campus life for Bill was fascinating. He remembers riding horses with Mr. Fred Morris throughout the campus. When it was cold enough in the winter, students would ice skate on both the lake and lower pond. Oh how times have changed as this would be strictly forbidden today — no matter how frozen the water appears. Students also enjoyed a mid-winter dance held each year in the gym. Bill recalls several adults who had a major impact on his life in those early days of the School. "Mr. Hatcher Williams was my first English teacher, Mr. Norman Kelsi got my reading skills up to speed, Mr. Sam Huffman prepared me for college math, and Mr. Stimp Hawkins made me competitive."

By the time the Class of 1965 graduated, the campus was experiencing significant upgrades. More sidewalks and paved roads were added, for example. Students had a true sense that they had been in on the start of a School that would make a difference in young men's lives for generations to come. Alumni such as Bill Schnauffer cherish both what was and what is about Blue Ridge.

**BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL
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The Baron Backers give everyone the chance to have an impact on the daily lives of our students. Proceeds from Baron Backers help fund extras for our boys all year from exam snacks to birthday treats. The BRS Parent Council established Baron Backers as a new giving club designed to promote the School community.

JOIN US!

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Drone photo taken by Alex Dillard '19.

A large, stylized blue logo consisting of two interlocking 'B's. Below the logo, the words "BARON BACKERS" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

BARON BACKERS