

Athletics
Fall 2014
on the
Ridge

BLUE RIDGE SCHOOL

Greetings from St. George!



Headmaster William A. "Trip" Darrin III

John Chubb, President of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), recently wrote about NAIS' 20-year plan for better schools. Referencing, like many school leaders, that the industry of education is one of the last major segments of our economy yet to be transformed by technology, John predicts significant change as "schools embrace technology in more disruptive ways."

Yet, even with the outlook for change, Chubb holds firm that "there is nothing more important to the success of a school than the quality of its teachers." He points to studies showing that students gain an average of 50 national percentiles when taught 3 years in a row by highly effective teachers.

This bodes exceedingly well for Blue Ridge School!

BRS teachers are experts in boys' education, their proficiency founded on close-knit connections with students. Boys are relational learners, say researchers at the International Boys School Coalition, and their ability to succeed in class has more to do with the boy's relationship with a teacher than any other factor.

The same is true for coaches. The BRS Learning Model relies on educators who work with students inside and outside the classroom. BRS teachers serve also as advisors, dorm parents, and coaches; their relationship with students deepens through

this array of roles. If anything, the connection between student and teacher – young man and mentoring educator – is the secret ingredient to what makes the Blue Ridge education transformative.

This year, as we revise our long range plan, Blue Ridge educators are evaluating present facilities and programs and identifying future needs. Preparations are underway to begin construction on the first phase of the Baron Athletic Complex (BAC) in early 2015 – a project that will significantly improve the campus, adding a new track, artificial turf field, renovated grass fields, and golf training facility. I believe it's the right next step as we strengthen areas of the School that offer high impact opportunities for our educators to connect with our boys. Fundraising for the BAC continues to be successful and, as we near the finish line, I encourage your involvement.

Inside this edition of *The Ridge*, in Dan Dunsmore's excellent article, "From a Rocky Start to a Strong Second Half," you'll read more about the mentoring teachers and coaches who themselves are the hallmark of the Blue Ridge education. The Baron Athletic Complex will bring a polish to the School's athletic facilities, while helping to insure the connection between students and faculty remains strong. I hope you'll help us launch BRS to its strong second half.

Go Barons!

Trip

Contents

From a Rocky Start to a Strong Second Half	3
Baron Athletic Complex	11
He Lit Up Our World: Frank DeAngelis	13
I Haven't Heard You Sing Yet: Dolores DeAngelis	17
Alumni Reunion and Golf Weekend	19
School News	21
William Basil "Bill" Shea Obituary	23

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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.

from a Rocky Start...

by Dan Dunsmore

As Blue Ridge School embarks on significant renovations of its lower athletic fields as well as improvements to its football field, it's important to look back to the earliest days of BRS athletics. Knowing the "before" will help us all appreciate even more the "after."

This history begins in 1962 when Blue Ridge reopened its doors as an all-boys boarding school.

It was by anyone's measure a rocky start. Seriously. Rocky.

Mr. Robert Alan Wilson was Headmaster of the School from 1961-1963. Among other interests, he had a love for horseback riding so he poured a great deal of energy into that pastime for himself and the students. Horseback riding continued to be offered to the students as an activity until at least the late 70's. Mr. Wilson and the Board knew that far more than horseback riding needed to be offered to young men in the afternoons. Enter Stimp Hawkins. Stimp proved to be just the man for the job, but those first few years presented him with less than ideal conditions. By the time Stimp left Blue Ridge in 1968, he had developed each of the sports teams into very respectable programs. In addition to his leadership in athletics, Stimp taught science and history at various times.

Stimp had left a successful pharmaceutical sales position to help Blue Ridge start its athletic programs. The area allotted for the football field across the road from the main campus was more of a gravel garden in the



Far left: Stimp Hawkins and Coach John Parrott

...to a Strong Second Half

early 60's. During that first football season, it really was unsuitable for games or even practices. 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. Many of his players to this day still call Stimp "Windsprint."

The track that surrounded that rocky place was asphalt until the mid-60's. At that time, the father of one of the runners financed the topping of the track with a composition rubber/asphalt material. As one might imagine, many of the school track records were broken shortly thereafter.

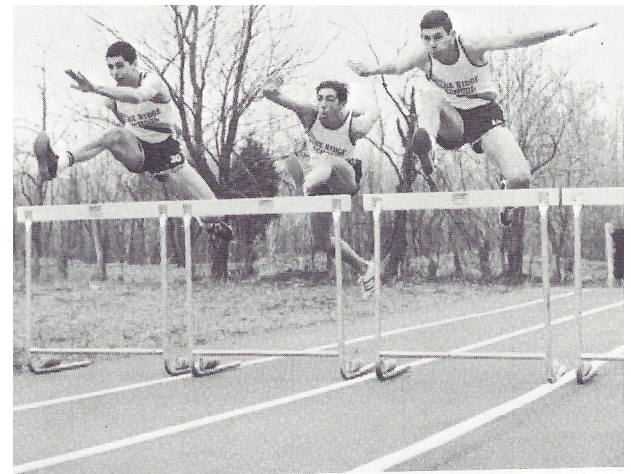
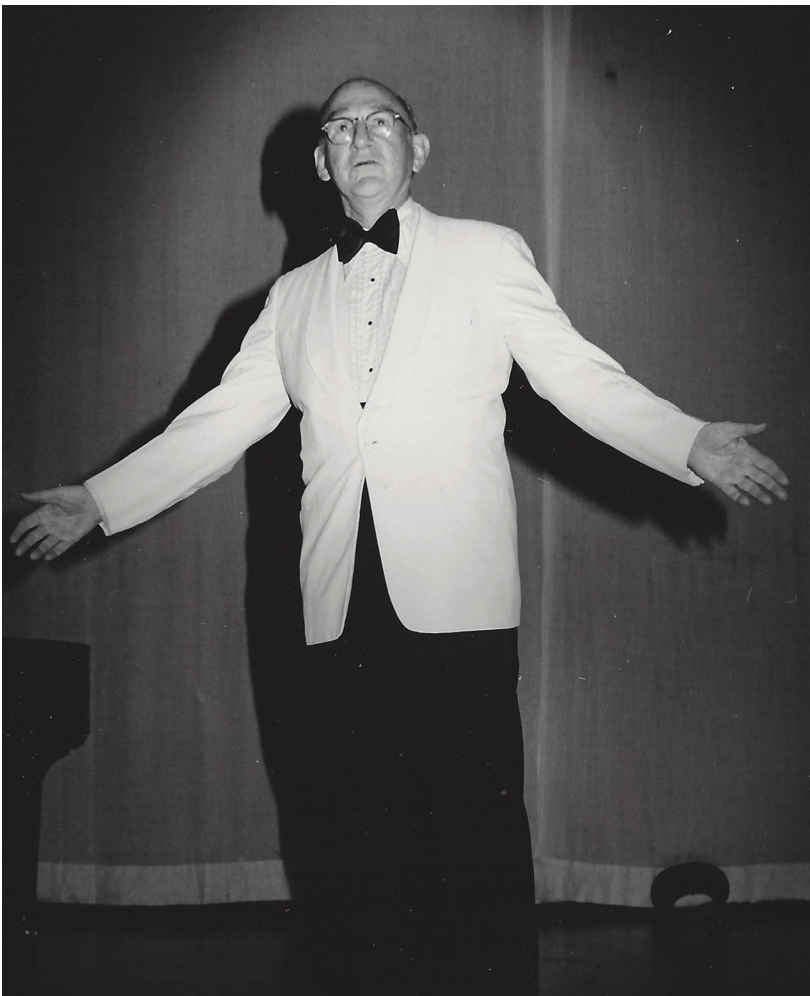
The rocky lower field did eventually improve over time thanks, in part, to Blue Ridge's demerit system. On top of receiving demerits, students would also pick up rocks on that field to prepare it for games. This program lasted for several years, but in 1962 every one of BRS's football games was played away. The Barons' first game that year was at Rock Hill Academy. Yes, Rock Hill.

Stimp's 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. The dressing rooms for the athletes were either in the basement of DAR or in the dorms near the cramped quarters of what was called The Gym at that time. The building, which had been built in 1956, is now the multi-use New York Auxiliary Student Center.

"How the School survived in those early

Football Coach Carl Frye and Rick France in 1970 talking to the JV football team.





years is a miracle,” relates Stimp. “I give a great deal of credit to the chaplain Courtney Carpenter and to Hatcher Williams.” Hatcher would be named Headmaster in early 1963. His remarkable impact on Blue Ridge is rightfully documented throughout the School’s history, and his efforts to improve the athletic facilities will eventually pay remarkable dividends.

Mr. Jim Muscaro served Blue Ridge in several capacities, including teaching Algebra I and Health, from 1967-1972 and directly followed Stimp as Athletic Director from 1968-1972. He was head basketball coach during his entire tenure at BRS (which would eventually include the first few years in a new facility that would be a game changer for the School), and he was an assistant football coach for Stimp in his first year.

Jim was head football coach in 1969 when

5

William Monroe (the high school in nearby

Stanardsville) played their first football game ever. William Monroe’s football field wasn’t quite ready so the team played Blue Ridge at Blue Ridge. Everyone in Greene County came out to root for William Monroe. It was the largest crowd BRS had ever seen. William Monroe’s jerseys were home-made – white with the numbers drawn on the front and back.

Blue Ridge won that game 7-6 due, in part, to a head’s-up observation by assistant coach Frank DeAngelis. Frank pointed out to the referees that one of William Monroe’s players wasn’t wearing a mouthpiece. The ensuing penalty came at a crucial moment in the game. Jim remembers, “William Monroe’s coach was not happy. I lobbied to give Frank a raise after that game.”

Jim also recalls a particularly eye-opening track meet at Blue Ridge in those early days. Kent Merritt, who had been a great athlete

at Lane High School in Charlottesville and eventually at UVA, came to Dyke one afternoon to run against the Barons. Everyone snickered when he came off the bus wearing black high-topped tennis shoes. Laughs turned to silent looks of awe as young Kent smoked the field by at least ten yards in all of the dashes.

Jim looks back on his time with his colleagues with much fondness. He recalls several trips to Charles Town, West Virginia, to watch the horse races with a new young coach on the scene named Carl Frye as well as John Parrott and Frank DeAngelis. Jim also remembers that John, Frank and he enjoyed regular poker nights with several Bacon Hollow residents, who would offer them interesting beverages during their card playing.

One sport was missing from Blue Ridge School’s arsenal as late as 1967 – lacrosse. That would change a year later. Thanks in



Far left: Headmaster Hatcher Williams

Above stands Coach Frank DeAngelis with his team in 1967.

Above left: John Parrott in 1967

Below left: Bob Fallis, Henry Freeman '68 and Norman Hamilton '66 competing in a home track meet in 1966.

big part to the father of Charlie Edmunds '68, BRS fielded its first lacrosse team in 1968. The team went undefeated that first year under the expert coaching of Emory E. Jones. Lacrosse would play its first full varsity schedule in 1969.

John Parrott had arrived at BRS in 1964. His impact on athletic programs was impressive. In addition to being an English teacher, guidance counselor, head of counseling and even Director of Admissions for several years, John served as an assistant football coach during each of his thirteen years at the School. He was also at various times the JV and varsity basketball coach as well as the head track coach during his last ten years at BRS. John took it upon himself to study with the athletic trainer at UVA, too. When he became Nationally Certified, he established the first training room at BRS. He even served as Athletic Director from 1972-1974.

It was while John Parrott was at Blue Ridge and while Jim Muscaro was still Athletic Director that the football field was moved from its previous rocky location to its current spot. It was certainly a good move to make as the upper field provided a much better grassy area for both football and lacrosse. That improvement, important as it was, paled in comparison to the building of the new field house. In 1968, the School was still trying to shoehorn three teams' practices and games into its gym. Dressing rooms and the training room were still in the dorm basement. All of that would change by 1970.

Among Hatcher Williams' many interests was tennis. In fact, he loved the game. A field house would solve a host of problems with the athletic program, and no one would argue that it was Hatcher's goal to move Blue Ridge forward in any way possible. But it made for good laughs among the faculty that the field

house would provide space for indoor tennis courts.

Late in 1969 and early in 1970, various athletic teams began practicing in the new field house, but the first official competitive event to be held in the new facility was a wrestling tournament in February, 1970. Carl Frye had arrived on the scene in 1969 to teach biology and drivers ed as well as coach a few seasons. It was during his first and second years that he put together Blue Ridge School's first wrestling team. His 1969 team, comprised of only thirteen wrestlers, actually enjoyed a winning season

Carl is proud to have christened the new facility. He states, "The new wrestling team first practiced in what was attic space in 1969 and is now third-floor classrooms in the



On the left is Head Lacrosse Coach Bob Knauff and his Assistant Coach John Young in 1979

academic building. The mats wouldn't even fit in that space. Then we were able to share practice time with other teams in the cramped quarters of the old gym in what is now the Student Center. The importance of that field house to the athletic program cannot be overstated."

More development was soon to follow. Later in 1970, the wrestling room as it exists today was added to the field house just in time for new wrestling coach Dick Glover's arrival. Coach Glover's team would rise to prominence only five years later by going 13-0-1 and finishing first in the National Prep Tournament.

John Parrott also speaks of the importance of the field house. "The commitment to first-rate accommodations resonated with the students, and everyone could sense the pride that went with having a top-notch facility rather than barely adequate ones. The other coaches and I can take only a little credit for its construction in that we complained rather frequently about the current conditions until the Administration was able to raise the necessary funds. Hatcher Williams, a GIANT of a person and leader, found a way to make the field house happen."

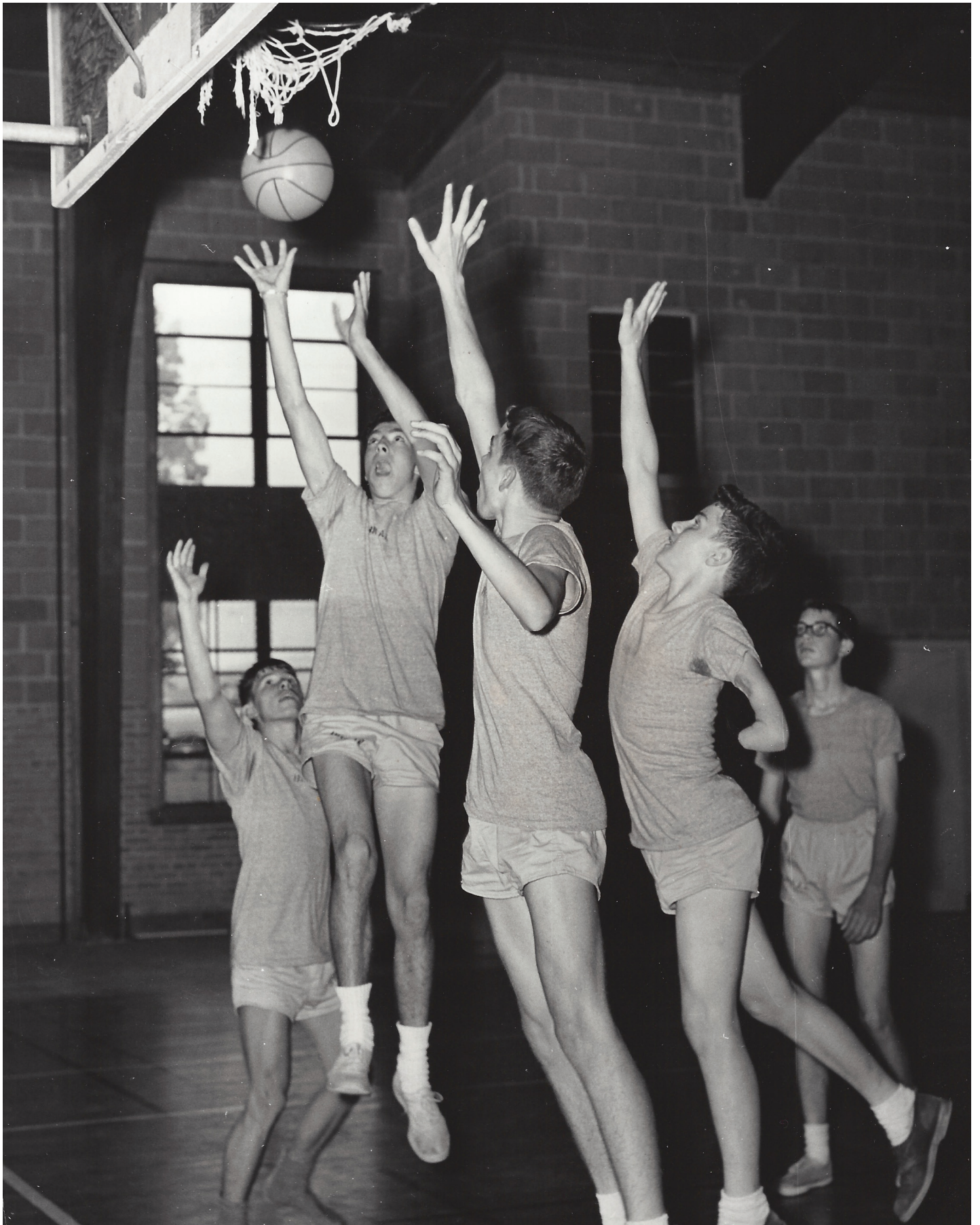
recently reopened Blue Ridge School had endured through the tenuous startup years. Membership in the Prep League soon followed, and BRS was recognized as a peer of such great schools as Woodberry Forest, St. Christopher's, Collegiate and Virginia Episcopal School. John adds, "I remember that my colleagues and I drove the construction and floor crews crazy with our daily visits and pestering. We were desperate. Yes, we joked that Hatcher had found a way to have his indoor tennis courts, but the field house really marked a critical point in the growth of the School."

Now that Carl Frye had established a wrestling program and the School had hired Dick Glover to coach the team, Carl turned his attention to baseball. He and Business Manager John Trimmer scouted out the best location for a suitable field. The largest and most level spot was unfortunately that same rocky area not too far from where the football field had been. It was the best location for several reasons, but the picking up of rocks once again began in earnest. By 1971 thanks to Carl, Blue Ridge had a baseball team. When Bill Davis arrived in 1972 (instead of accepting a position with the Pittsburgh Steelers), Stimp Hawkins, Jim Muscaro and John Parrott had left the facilities in much

improved shape. Coaches such as Carl Frye were changing lives through athletics. The offerings by that point were football, soccer, cross country, basketball, wrestling, winter soccer, track, golf, tennis, baseball and lacrosse.

Bill was immediately impressed with the field house. Having just played four years of football at UVA, he wasn't sure what to expect from a small, independent, all-boys school. Bill served many roles during his seventeen years at BRS - health teacher (first five years), head varsity football coach (thirteen years), head varsity basketball coach (ten years), head varsity golf coach (five years), head varsity tennis coach (two years), assistant track coach (nine years) and Athletic Director (last fifteen years).

Bill's first season as head coach of the football team was Blue Ridge's first year in the Prep League. His team lost to St. Christopher's 56-0, Collegiate 38-6 and Norfolk Academy 45-6 that year. In just three years under Bill's strong leadership, Blue Ridge would beat each of those teams. And Bill wasn't just doing the coaching. He recalls, "Early in my football coaching career, I cut the football field with the school tractor, constantly moved the antiquated sprinkler system,



painted benches, repaired stands, and believe it or not, chased pigs off the field!”

Every Athletic Director cringes when it comes to the possibility of bad weather. The Blizzard of 1978 would prove to be particularly troubling to Bill and winter soccer. From January 10th to the end of March, snow covered the field that would be used to play soccer games. Blue Ridge School’s soccer season had to be canceled. Shortly thereafter, the Prep League made soccer a fall sport.

While the field house was an excellent all-purpose building, Bill realized fairly quickly that it was not a great facility for basketball. Also, lack of hot water in the showers was an ongoing problem. Hatcher was continuing to do all he could to keep Blue Ridge financially solvent, and additional significant upgrades to the athletic facility would have to wait until the mid-80’s.

Bill admits he didn’t know a great deal about basketball when he began coaching that sport at BRS. After all, he had been a four-year footballer at UVA. On one of his teams early on, he coached a 15-year-old standout who also had the first name of Bill – and the last name of Ramsey. Young Bill ’83 taught his coach a very simple but quite effective man-to-man offense that Dean Smith used at UNC. It became the offense that Coach Davis used throughout the rest of his basketball coaching career. In fact, during his last two years of coaching jv basketball at Woodberry, Coach Davis’s teams went 36-1 with the Dean Smith offense that Bill Ramsey had taught him.

The Massey Gym opened in 1984. It was another turning point for the School – at least for the basketball program. Bill wanted to be the first to shoot a bucket on one of the baskets in the new gym. After three or four shots, the ball finally went through the hoop. Players and coaches were very excited about the new gym. Bill remembers, “Having twelve players in a building all to myself without countless distractions made a huge difference in practices and eventually in games.”

Bill pays tribute to Stimp Hawkins, Jim Muscaro and John Parrott. “The conditions in which they developed the athletic program at BRS were far more challenging than what I faced. The School owes them a lot.”

He remembers Hatcher Williams, too. “He was perfect for the job at the time. He pinched pennies because he had to, and he didn’t pay you much because he couldn’t. He performed a financial magic act at Blue Ridge. He did what he had to make the School succeed. He was a great man and the cornerstone of this learning community.” Hatcher retired from Blue Ridge in 1984. The Headmasters who would follow him would do their best to carry on his legacy by realizing that athletics played just as important a role in a young man’s growth as did spirituality and book learning.

When Bill left Blue Ridge in 1989, Mike Carswell served as Athletic Director for one year before Carl Frye took the helm. Carl had already made significant improvements to athletics at BRS by beginning the wrestling and baseball programs in the early 70’s. He would serve as Athletic Director from 1990 to 2012.

What Carl faced in the 90’s was a track that had suffered for years from poor drainage on those lower fields, a now aging field house and a football field, including its surrounding area, that needed updating. The baseball field, even after decades of student-assisted rock removal, still required Carl’s constant care. By anyone’s measure, Blue Ridge athletics had taken giant leaps since the early 60’s. Carl was thankful for the Headmasters, Athletic Directors and coaches who had fought to bring the athletic facilities to its current point. His challenge was to maintain the fields and facilities as best he could while also making improvements when possible.

Carl and Business Manager Kendall Berry ’72 assessed the beat-up track in the early 90’s and determined that topping the track with a composition material as had been done in the mid-60’s would give it a few more years



Young Bill Ramsey ’83 taught his coach a very simple but quite effective man-to-man offense that Dean Smith used at UNC. It became the offense that Coach Davis used throughout the rest of his basketball coaching career.



The 2001 Blue Ridge School Baseball Team

of life. It did, but by the mid-90's additional flooding of that area forced Carl to deem the track a lost cause for meets. From that point forward, the track teams would use the track for practices only.

Carl could see that the floor in the field house would need replacing soon. That floor had served many athletes in several sports well, and it was well worn. Headmaster Ed McFarlane and Carl spent quite some time in the mid-90's shopping around for a surface that would be best to replace the old green roll-out material that had been glued atop a cement base. They eventually settled on the more substantial gray flooring that is still in the field house.

In the early 2000's, Carl was able to see another significant improvement happen, this time to the baseball facility. At that time, the makeshift dugouts that had been there since the 70's were replaced with sturdier concrete structures that still exist today.

Bill Ramsey '83, that scrappy basketball player who had taught Bill Davis a man-to-man offense back in the 80's, became Athletic Director in the fall of 2012. Bill set a basketball scoring record for Coach Davis, then attended Maryville College before returning to his alma mater in 1990 to teach

history and coach several sports. He has been the head basketball coach since 1996.

Today, 52 years later, Blue Ridge School is in the middle of a strong second half. An outdoor program to rival all others is now strongly in place. Mountain biking is now offered as a competitive sport. The 3.1-mile cross country course was recently redirected and improved to take advantage of new mountain biking trails that have been cut on the mountain. The Parent Association has recently improved the look and quality of our outdoor swimming pool.

The tennis courts have been resurfaced thanks to a generous family - Hatcher would be pleased!

Yet, the School needs to continue to improve its facilities. We owe that to the dedicated headmasters, athletic directors and coaches who persevered in those early years. Enhancements to the lower fields, an artificial turf football-lacrosse-soccer field and a state-of-the-art track will ensure that BRS athletes have what they deserve as well as show gratitude to those who dedicated themselves in the years before to the betterment of young men.

It's time to cross the finish line.

This particular celebration of sports at Blue Ridge will focus on only a few of the remarkable Headmasters, Athletic Directors and coaches who were willing to knock down or jump countless hurdles to put the new School on the map athletically. I thank Stimp Hawkins (1962-1968), John Parrott (1964-1977), Jim Muscaro (1967-1972), Bill Davis (1972-1989) and Carl Frye (1969-2012), Bill Ramsey '83 for taking the time to answer questions and recall anecdotes. Each man interviewed was grateful to his predecessors and proud to have been a part of Blue Ridge's athletic history.

Final Preparations for Phase One Groundbreaking Underway



“INVESTING IN THE CAMPUS IS A STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL HEALTH AND HAVING THIS PROJECT UNDERWAY WILL HELP THE SCHOOL IN MANY WAYS,” SAYS HEADMASTER TRIP DARRIN.

Headmaster Trip Darrin and the Board of Trustees are working closely together to complete pre-construction details in support of the Baron Athletic Complex (BAC).

As of this writing, it is hoped that Phase One construction will begin in early 2015.

Phase One will include the Track and Field Center, the Terrace, significant infrastructure improvements around and beneath those elements, and a paved 75 vehicle parking and drop-off area for teams and spectators.

Phase Two is then expected to follow in the Winter and Spring of 2015-2016.

This will include the important work along Bacon Hollow Road featuring new varsity grass fields, improvements to baseball and multi-sport areas, a new golf practice facility, a new outer entrance and the infrastructure needed for all of these elements.

Total cash and pledges raised in support of the BAC now totals nearly \$1.7 million, with more than \$1 million already received in cash. Alumni, parents and friends alike continue to offer strong support, as a sign of their confidence in Blue Ridge and in the positive impact this Complex will have on all aspects of campus life.

This phased approach to construction will allow the School to begin building sooner than originally planned. The team will build as gifts allow, making sure the fundraising process continues to fuel these new investments in a smart sequence.

Total capital cost of the BAC is expected to be at or slightly below \$2.5 million, inclusive of all the elements planned here.

“Investing in the campus is a statement of organizational health and having this project underway will help the School in many ways,” says Headmaster Trip Darrin who adds: “Few things spur school pride and spirit like new construction. I’m excited that prospective families considering Blue Ridge will see this new facility as it emerges. Student retention, admissions, academic and athletic programming, community relations – this Complex will be a boost to them all.”

Additional commitments have already been received for a new maintenance endowment that will exclusively support the Complex, making sure it remains in top form long after construction is completed.

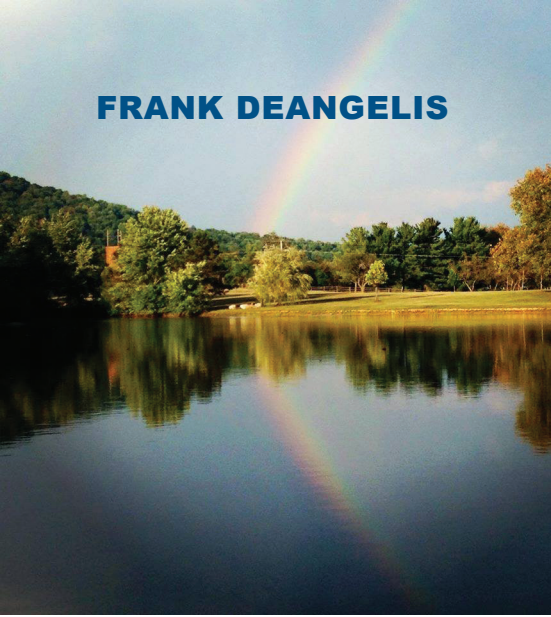
“At Blue Ridge, we don’t build any new facilities without also securing new endowment dollars to ensure their long-term quality,” says Associate Headmaster for Advancement and Admissions Franklin Daniels. “The BAC will be the first construction of this scale on cam-

pus in nearly 20 years, and our team is taking extra care to be sure it’s done well. It takes a little longer this way, but we believe it will be built to last,” adds Franklin.

Franklin and Director of Leadership Giving JC Ignaszewski continue to coordinate giving in support of the BAC. They welcome inquiries of any kind, and look forward to sharing more details in January about groundbreaking events, along with profiles of some of the generous people who are making this project possible.

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He Lit Up Our World

This photo was taken by Megan Murphy following Frank DeAngelis' memorial service on September 7, 2014.

by Dan Dunsmore

You must understand, please, that I was special to Frank DeAngelis. I meant a great deal to him. I know this because he made me feel that way every time I was around him. I am thrilled to tell the world that I knew him, and I bet you feel the same way. That was the gift that Frank gave all of us. We made a difference in his life. And, oh my goodness, did he ever make a difference in ours.

The Frank I knew interviewed me to teach at Blue Ridge School in 1998. He saw something in me I didn't see in myself at the time. Sound familiar? The Frank I knew used to look at the lack of color on my plate during BRS lunches and remark, "You eat ugly." I was lucky to have traveled with him one time to Atlanta and Chattanooga – just the two of us. I had a sense that it was rare to have alone time with this man. He was quieter than you might imagine, more introspective. He liked to talk about family -- his family, my family, the Blue Ridge family.

My daughter was fortunate to have been in *Grease* under his direction. My son was fortunate to have been on the receiving end of his hugs. When I first began talking about my reconnection with my future wife, he was the first to tell me that there was something

different in my voice when I spoke of her. No one was happier for me than he was when she agreed to marry me. It didn't take her long, of course, to fall in love with Frank, a fact of which he would remind me every chance he got. So did I matter to him? You better believe it. And I bet you feel the same way.

As I've read and listened to all that has been written and said about Frank over the past few weeks, I'd like to share some information about him that might not have leaped out at you. Did you know he was once a gymnast and even a boxer? Catch me some time, and I'll attempt to tell the story of his boxing days (make that one day) in the same way he told it to me.

Did you know he met Dolores at the University of Corpus Christi, that he was quite full of himself and very handsome even back then? They first met in the Student Center. You probably won't be surprised to learn that he flirted unabashedly with Dolores. She was – and still is – adorable, and he was Frank. It was during rehearsals for *The Crucible* at UCC, though, that they really came to know one another. Love was in the air even with that serious drama as the backdrop.

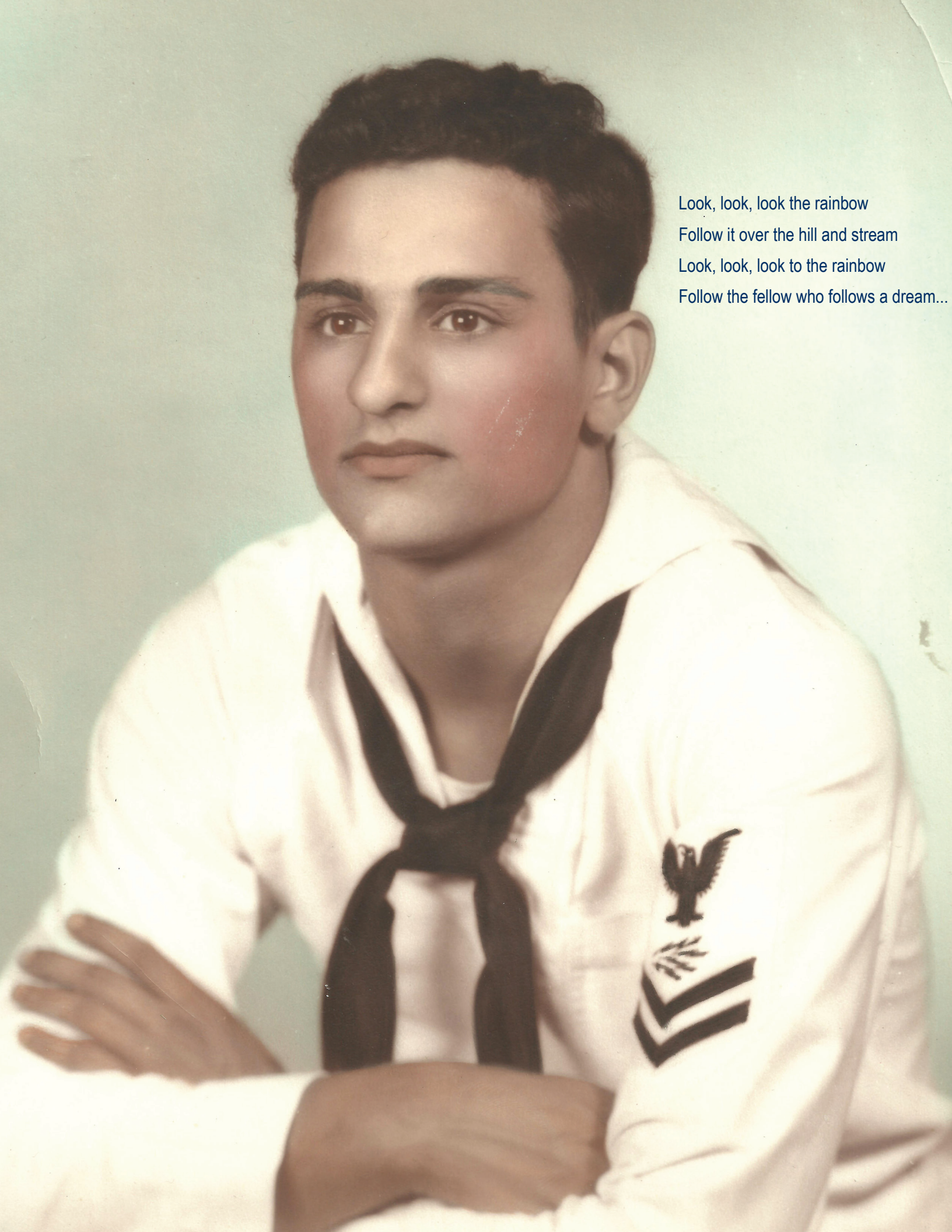
The show that sealed the deal, though, was *Finian's Rainbow*. Frank played Finian, and Dolores played his daughter Sharon. Dolores sang "Look To The Rainbow" in that show. Not too long after that, Frank and Dolores married on August 18, 1962. Did you know

they renewed their vows twice after that – once on July 25, 1987, and again just this past summer on August 18? Crazy? You betcha. Crazy love. Dolores sang "Look to the Rainbow" many times after 1962, most recently at Frank's request in the weeks before his passing. A rainbow appeared above the lake at Blue Ridge on the afternoon of Frank's memorial service.

Did you know that one of his other early dramatic roles was as Toby the Mute in *The Medium*? How did Frank pull off a role in which he could not speak? He went on to perform in many off-Broadway shows and did summer stock theatre in Roanoke, Virginia.

He was also very successful in the publishing business during the twenty-one years between his Blue Ridge stints. Among other recognitions, he received the prestigious National Librarian's Award for excellence in educational publishing. He edited, abridged and adapted a great deal of educational material under various pseudonyms, many of them female names. His children Glo, Fil and Sarah would get the biggest kick out of the names he created.

Yet those weren't his happiest days professionally. Something about Blue Ridge kept calling him back. After travelling from California to Virginia in 1991 for a Blue Ridge reunion, he remarked to Ed McFarlane that he might be interested in returning full-time in the future. Ed listened. Credit him and others



Look, look, look the rainbow
Follow it over the hill and stream
Look, look, look to the rainbow
Follow the fellow who follows a dream...

"He was honest; he was insightful and wise, and his opinions made a difference." - Dickie Brawley '68

"I adored him for his wisdom, kind heart and warm smile." - Chris Norton '10

"Frank DeAngelis was one of the most important men in the history and life of The Blue Ridge School."
- Tom Engle

"He loved his Blue Ridge boys with all of his heart (and at sporting events, all of his lungs) and they loved him back." - Associate Headmaster Kevin Miller

"To a great man with so much wisdom that could always put a smile on your face....Thank you for being a great role model for me and all my Blue Ridge brothers."
- Ryan Smith '09

"You took me in with open arms, occasional cuss words, and love." - Chris Pagan '07

Every class with this special individual was filled with intrigued brothers who had great admiration for his teachings and his incredible stories. Frank's students were always brimming over with the imagination that he'd helped us to discover within ourselves.
- Chris Norton '07

"Frank DeAngelis had a presence that was instantly engaging and never forgotten. He knew how to teach you a lesson with just a look and how to comfort you with but a few words." - Skylor Benjamin Morton '07

for bringing Frank back the very next year. Did Dolores think it was a little nuts? Yes. She had her own good gig going on in California after all. How many of us would leap at the chance to begin again at the age of fifty-five? But that was Frank. His daughter Glo told me one evening that Blue Ridge saved her dad's life. Blue Ridge rejuvenated him. We thank Dolores for "following the fellow who followed his dream," and we thank our lucky stars that they both came back.

After Frank retired from Blue Ridge in 2006, he had certainly earned the right to slow down a bit. But that wasn't Frank. He continued to direct the winter musicals at Blue Ridge until 2011 in addition to working with the Four County Players in nearby Barboursville. He also became involved in a local Charlottesville organization called Empowering Families. Once again, he was making a difference in the lives of young people in the context of their family needs. In more recent years, he served on the Board of the Charlottesville FACE (Functional Approach to Character Education) Project. The Project's mission is to promote positive social and character development, increase socially responsible positive behaviors and reduce antisocial behaviors among school children. Frank was all over that.

It's challenging to write about Frank without going off on tangents because where do you start and stop? There's really no end to Frank. You've heard him speak that beautiful Italian. You've heard him growl and laugh and push you during every second of any conversation with him to be real. Just be real. After you've been around him long enough and as you hear and read all of the anecdotes, you realize you're enjoying the story of a Blue Ridge boy. That's how I'll remember him.

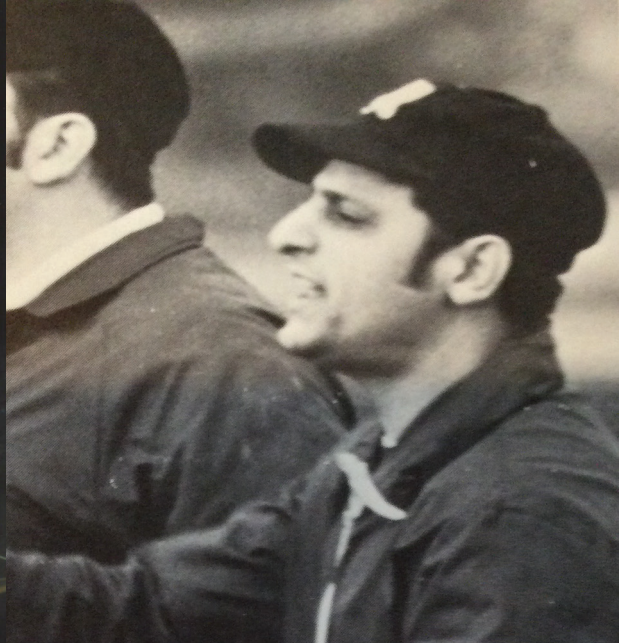
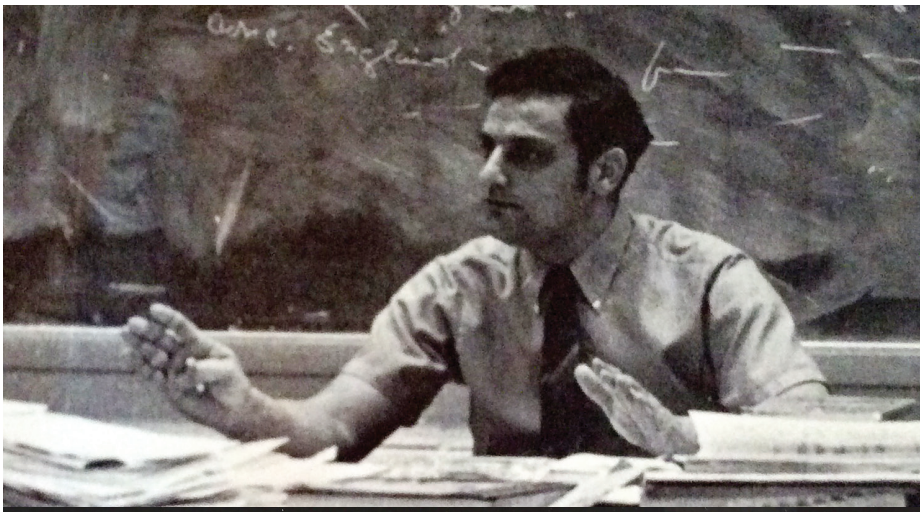
It would be impossible to write an article that could possibly include all that Frank DeAngelis accomplished and everything he meant to those whom he touched. Even before his



passing, the recognitions and accolades were all around him – rightfully so. They are sure-fire evidence that he was so much more than an English teacher, a director, an administrator and a fund-raiser. That he earned the status of Faculty Emeritus is a well-deserved honor and is one of which he was quite proud, but it still does not quite capture the impact he had on our lives.

Since his passing, I have read a well-crafted announcement and a beautiful obituary. I've heard two remarkable eulogies, and I've read two heart-felt poems from his colleagues. Remembrances and honors from Blue Ridge alumni and faculty, family and friends continue to pour in.

One more memory. I would often sit beside him during faculty meetings as he grumbled under his breath, "We've all got things to do. Wrap it up." Okay, Frank. Here's my close. You would probably say we don't owe you anything. "Keep the dollar!" But I think we do. We need to tell hilarious stories, hit the line hard, try to catch every pass, dance and sing as if we were on stage, and love deeply. You put the light on us. We owe it to you to give the performance of a lifetime.



Top left: Frank in his classroom in the '60s. Top right: Frank and Dolores at the dedication of the stage in honor of their years of service. Middle left: Frank directing Stalag 17 in 1998. Middle right: Frank coaching football. Lower left: Frank surrounded by his children - Fil, Glo and Sarah. Lower right: Dolores and Frank were married on August 18, 1962 and renewed their vows twice after that – once on July 25, 1987, and again just this past summer on August 18.



by Dan Dunsmore

Picture a three-year-old girl singing “God Bless America” over the radio waves from her Fort Worth, Texas, church. Her name was Dolores Mingus. This was the impressive beginning to an even more remarkable singing and choral directing career that would eventually bring Dolores to St. George, Virginia, from 1967-1971 and again from 1992-2012. Because of her unwavering dedication to the students of Blue Ridge School as well as to the entire community for a combined total of twenty-four years, Dolores DeAngelis was named Faculty Emerita on September 5, 2014. It is fitting that she is Blue Ridge’s first female faculty emerita.

After that very public start, Dolores continued to sing during high school and in her church until she earned a vocal music scholarship to attend the University of Corpus Christi. Dolores sang as a member of the UCC Concert Choir and the Choraliers even while preparing for her senior recital that was both challenging and entertaining. That same year she was a semi-finalist in the San Antonio Southwest Regional auditions for the Metropolitan Opera. During the summer of 1961 just after graduating from UCC, she was chosen to tour Asia with Project Understanding, which included a performance with the King of Thailand.

That fall, she taught in Portland, Texas,

“I haven’t heard you

just outside Corpus Christi to be near a handsome young man named Frank DeAngelis, whom she had dated while at UCC. The following year they were married and decided to carry their adventure a little further north to Rockport, Texas, where Dolores accomplished a feat that she would repeat many times during her educational career. She started a choral program. Dolores was an accomplished singer, which helped her develop a style of directing she describes as singing through her choirs.

Dolores continued to work as a substitute teacher, direct a church choir and perform as a soloist when she and Frank moved to New York City in the mid-60’s. Frank became an off-Broadway actor, and Dolores was honing her skills as a choral director. Then summer stock theatre brought them to Roanoke, Virginia. It seems an all-boys boarding school had just opened its doors not too far from Roanoke. In the fall of 1967, Dolores and Frank came to Blue Ridge School for the first time. Dolores would once again start a choral program, but this time it was with only male voices.

Dolores’ choir held rehearsals in the late 60’s in the old Tuck Shop located where the students take their laundry now. That was also the old smoking room. She had to shoo the smokers out and raise the windows (even in the winter) before the choir could rehearse. The old upright piano’s tuning was questionable at best, but she made the best of that situation. The ensemble would rehearse at her house in the evenings. It would take time, but the choir eventually began rehearsing in the auditorium, and choral risers were purchased for concerts.

Having heard the doubters say a woman could not successfully direct an all-male choir, she set out to prove them wrong. Dolores enjoyed taking the choir on the road to area

churches and other schools. She had that much confidence in their voices. She even took the choir all the way to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, in 1971 to represent Blue Ridge. One of the highlights of those early years was when the BRS choir performed at a folk mass attended by Lady Bird Johnson.

Another highlight for Dolores during her first stint in the early 70’s was working with the choral directors of Woodberry Forest and Fork Union to establish the very first VAIS choral festival. BRS participated in those festivals with both the full choir and the ensemble. It was in the early 70’s that a certain Jim Niederberger, then a second-year student at UVA, auditioned to play the organ during Blue Ridge church services and accompany the Glee Club. Dolores and the Reverend John Kettlewell interviewed him and of course were very impressed. She considers the hiring of Jim as one of her greatest contributions to the School.

After Dolores and Frank left Blue Ridge at the end of the 1970-1971 school year and moved to Warrenton, Virginia, Dolores once again began a music/choral program at the Highlands School. During the twenty-one years that they were away from Blue Ridge, Dolores would also begin a choral program at Milpitas Christian School in San Jose, California. Starting choral programs was absolutely Dolores’ calling card. She enjoyed it and was good at it. In fact, when she and Frank returned to BRS in 1992, she once again found herself in a position to restart a choral program that had fallen by the wayside during her absence.

Her accomplishments over the next twenty years with all-male choirs were due in large part to her tenacious recruiting skills. Dolores was known for recruiting non-singing athletes to be in her choirs as well as those already musically inclined. She felt she could teach

sing, yet.”

anyone to sing. When a student would say, “No, I can’t sing,” she would respond with, “You can sing Happy Birthday, can’t you?” Many faculty members over the years will attest to her walking up to one student after another saying, “I haven’t heard you sing, yet.” She would not be denied.

Dolores explains, “Athletes know the importance of teamwork, of functioning as one, so I really wanted them in my choirs. I also welcomed international students who were still learning the English language because I knew singing the words would help. My choirs also included northerners, southerners, easterners, westerners, the wealthy and the not-so-wealthy. I told them to work for synergy – and they did. I told them to inspire the audience, entertain them, make them happy to be listening – and they did. In the process, they learned that people from all walks of life can have one voice.”

It does not do Dolores justice to describe her as only a choir director. She is responsible for the purchase (through the generous gifts from two families) of the sound systems that currently exist in the auditorium and chapel as well as the installation of the current sound booth at the top of the auditorium. She spent many hours training the sound crews and furnishing sound around the campus with a portable system. She also served as her husband’s wardrobe and props mistress as he directed numerous plays throughout his career at Blue Ridge. Often, the young men performing in Frank’s musicals were singing for the first time ever on stage. Dolores and Jim worked together to train these young voices and give them the confidence they needed to perform.

Her efforts didn’t stop there, though. She also coordinated private instrument lessons both on and off campus. Dolores also taught music appreciation with an emphasis on



how to listen with perception. The history of jazz was one of her favorites. She even held senior study groups in her home on the nights before big tests so that choir members and non-choir members would be successful in their other classes. It also was not unusual at all to hear her cheering on the sidelines during athletic events. Dolores was all in.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Dolores continued to develop and grow the music program at Blue Ridge. She organized and directed a Children’s Choir made up of faculty children and friends. Their annual performance during the Christmastime Candle Light Service was always a hit. One of her proudest accomplishments was convincing the composer Roger Emerson to write a male choral arrangement of “Prayer of a Thousandfold” that the BRS choir would perform as part of the School’s 100th birthday celebration in 2009. Mr. Emerson was a well known, very busy choral composer who did very few commissions. Dolores recalls, “I will never forget calling Jim from the music conference to tell him my plan to sit next to Mr. Emerson so I could convince him to compose the piece had worked like a charm.”

Charm doesn’t precisely describe Dolores’s tactics though she is quite charming. Dolores

proved during her fifty plus years in education that helping students find success took more than charm. It took spunk, fire, love, sweat and tears. Her music students appreciated it even as their confidence grew. William Scipio ’02 writes, “I remember when I first arrived in her choir class. We were warming up, and Mrs. D was nervous because I couldn’t hit a single note. But she wouldn’t let me give up. During my first year, the choir was going to the VAIS Choral Festival. I wasn’t on the list to attend. I pleaded with Mrs. D, and she finally approved. During that weekend, she and I worked together tirelessly, and she inspired me to work on my voice alone. My voice changed that weekend. I started hitting notes. I remember running to Mrs. D shouting that I could sing!”

Was Dolores successful in directing all-male choirs? That word does not quite capture the magic that she worked time and time again with the young men at Blue Ridge. How remarkable is it that she and Frank are the first married couple to achieve Faculty Emeritus status at the School. I venture to guess that it’s very rare anywhere in the country. Even as she retired, she fulfilled one more important role. She hired the current music director Jerry King. In his capable hands, the music program continues to thrive, 18 and Dolores could not be more pleased with her successor.

Upcoming Events

Food Pantry at Gibson Chapel (10AM - 11AM):

- Each Saturday in December
- First Saturday of every subsequent month

December 14, 2014: Candlelight Service 5:00 p.m.

January 10: Stop Hunger Now Packing Meals

February 13 and 14: Winter Musical "Pippin" 7:00 p.m.

Saturday February 7: Alumni Basketball game and Reception prior to the home Varsity Miller Basketball game

March 28: Ride the Ridge mountain bike race, 10:00 a.m.

April 16- 19: Class Trips

- Freshmen Wilderness Trip
- Sophomore Service Trip to Washington, D.C.
- Junior Rafting/Service Trip to West Virginia
- Senior Character-Building Trip

April 24-26: Spring Parent Weekend

April 24: Spring Concert

May 17: Honors Service

May 23: Commencement

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Alumni Golf and Reunion Weekend



Above left are (from left) Mason Schmidt '13, Rory Bosek '04, Josh Poythress '04, Morgan McNeil '87, Matt Harris '04 and Blake Souder '04. Above right are (from left) John Matheson '69, Bob Watt '70, William Elliott '71 and Bryant Durham '72.



ALUMNI AWARDS:

The 2014 Golf Classic and Alumni Reunion had a great turnout over the October 17 and 18 weekend. The Golf Classic had 14 teams playing the Stoney Creek Course at Wintergreen Resort. They also had a full van of ladies for a Virginia Wine Tour. The auction boasted many great items, several of which were themed around our many alum. The auction raised just shy of \$9,000. The tournament in total brought in a more than \$40,000 and netted roughly \$20,000 for the Alumni Council. Currently the Council is applying the money raised to fulfill its pledge to the Capital Project of building the Alumni House, a recently constructed new faculty residence.dd

The Council had its semi-annual meeting on Saturday during which there was much discussion as the Council continues to grow in its involvement with the School. If you are interested in giving your time and resources in joining the Alumni Council please contact Alumni Director Rory Bosek '04 at rbosek@blueridgeschool.com to learn about the nominating process.

GOLF MATCH RESULTS:

Longest Drive - Morgan McNeil '87
Closest to the Pin - Ben Hiatt '71
Putting Competition - Will Winslow

1st Place

John Maclin '69
Jason Duncan
Will Winslow

2nd Place

Bret Heyer (Team Colonial Webb)
Adam Webb
Bob Cote
Mike Trauscht

3rd Place

Morgan McNeil '87
Mason Schmidt '12
Rory Bosek '04
Josh Poythress '04

Team who had the most fun and the winners of the tennis balls!

Brooks Minford '09
Carter Hollis '09
Gabe Rhea '10

The 2014 recipient of the Anthony T. Noel '78 Alumnus of the Year award is Morgan McNeil '87 pictured with his wife Peggy. This award is given each year to the alumnus who has demonstrated his devotion to Blue Ridge School by volunteering his time, energy and support to Blue Ridge School.



Blue Ridge was proud to present Brooks Minford '09 with the Young Alumnus of the Year award. This award is given each year to an alumnus of 15 years or less who has achieved success in his educational endeavors, career and personal life. Brooks has also stayed involved with Blue Ridge since he graduated by joining the Alumni Council, speaking to parents during graduation weekend and participating in the Alumni Golf tournament.



Palmer Hicks Earns Eagle Scout Rank

Parent Weekend

Carol Hess, President of the Parent Association



sourced the materials and supervised the execution of the project. Palmer led more than 15 boy scouts and adults from the community for two and a half days of construction work.

The existing playground and courtyard had a circular cement pad in the center that was unfinished due to budgetary limitations. The trellis Palmer designed is constructed of sixteen wooden pillars around the circular concrete foundation. Between the pillars is lattice work of wire mesh on which plants will grow.

As the weather cools in Houston, low-maintenance and environmentally friendly flowers and vines will be planted and four benches will be added to give the teachers and counselors a shady place to sit while watching the children.

The project beautifies the piece of property and jointly benefits both organizations.

The Rise School of Houston opened its doors fifteen years ago to provide early education options for children with Down syndrome in Texas. "Palmer wanted to dedicate this project, which was a bit more work than a typical Eagle Scout project, to his grandfather, Howard Horne, Sr., who was best friends with the school's founder," says Randall Hicks.

The neighboring YMCA includes a licensed childcare center with full-time services for children ages six weeks to pre-kindergarten.

Blue Ridge School senior Palmer Hicks earned the rank of Eagle Scout this summer. Palmer's Eagle Scout project was completed in his hometown of Houston, Texas, in July and August of 2014. Palmer is the third generation in his family to obtain this rank - his grandfather Howard W. Horne Sr. earned Eagle Scout award in 1941 in Houston and his father, Dean Randall Hicks, earned the rank in 1977 in Atlanta.

Palmer's project was the design and construction of a garden trellis and pavilion on a piece of land shared between The Rise School and the YMCA Day Care near the Houston

Another great Fall Parent Weekend took place on October 7-10. It was a drizzly couple of days but that did not take away from the weekend as parents accompanied their sons to classes, enjoyed a musical preview of the winter performance, caught up with faculty and friends along with meeting new ones at the Parents' Social Hour, and finally, feasted on delicious Oktoberfest fare at Friday night's dinner and auction!

The weekend's fund-raising efforts were successful. While numbers and costs for the weekend are still coming in, it looks like we are off to a great start! Auction items brought in about \$15,000 and we raised another \$2,000 between the iPad Mini raffle, merchandise and Tuition Raffle tickets. We also raised the \$2,000 needed to purchase equipment for live web streaming of games and performances! Thank you, thank you to all!

Merchandise sold at the Weekend and Tuition Raffle tickets are still available. The Tuition Raffle is a 50/50 cash raffle. The winner will receive half of the cash collected towards their next year Blue Ridge tuition or, for seniors, towards the tuition of the college they will be attending in the fall. Tickets are \$100 each. We will not sell more than 249 tickets, so the odds are pretty good! Contact Sareena Ryan at sryan@blueridgeschool.com for tickets. The drawing will be held at Spring Parent Weekend April 24-26.

In Memoriam

WILLIAM BASIL “BILL” SHEA

William Basil “Bill” Shea, 90, of Charlottesville, Virginia, passed away peacefully on Friday, August 29, 2014, at his residence. Born in Jordan Valley, Oregon on March 22, 1924, he was the son of the late William John Shea and Cynthia Deary Shea. Also predeceasing him are his beloved first wife, Yvonne Dempsey Shea; their son, Bill Shea; his brother, Thomas Patrick “Pat” Shea; and his sister, Patricia Christine “Chris” Shea. After his wife’s untimely death from Rheumatic Heart Disease, Bill later married Mary Turmes, who also predeceases him. Shortly after graduation from Jordan Valley High School in 1942, Bill enlisted in the United States Air Force to serve his country during World War II. He earned the rank of Staff Sergeant and was a member of the 775th squadron of the 463rd bombardier group of the 15th Air Force. Bill served as a ball turret gunner on the B-17 Flying Fortress in the European Theater from 1943 until near the war’s end in 1945, where he would give the enemy “the full nine yards” meaning a full belt of 50 caliber machine gun bullets. Following the war, he graduated from Armstrong College in Berkeley, California in 1949. He married his wife, Yvonne Dempsey in 1956; they were blessed with two children, Cynthia Christine Shea and William John Shea II. He enjoyed a very successful professional career as a sales executive and through the course of his career, Bill worked for many notable international corporations, including Acme Visible Records and Russ Bassett. Bill had a kindhearted, generous and optimistic spirit and never knew a stranger. He touched the hearts and lives of all who knew him, and though he lived a rich and full life, he will be dearly missed. Survivors include his daughter Cynthia Shea, of Spring Creek, Nevada; two grandsons, Patrick Shea, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and Nicholas Shea, of Portland, Oregon; his sister, Theresa Paoletti, of Pleasant Valley, Nevada. Bill also leaves behind a number of nieces, nephews, cousins and dear friends. A Funeral Mass was held on Friday, September 5, 2014, at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, with Father Stephen Alcott officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to the William John Shea II Memorial Scholarship, which Bill set up for students in need: Blue Ridge School, 273 Mayo Drive, St. George, VA 22935.





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2014-2015 Annual Fund

The 2014-2015 Annual Fund campaign is now underway. Our theme this year is a universal one that is always appropriate - thank you. Every gift at every level makes a difference - every year. All of us on campus are grateful for your continuing investment in Blue Ridge. In turn, we hope you will take this opportunity to show Blue Ridge how you appreciate the difference that being a part of this great place made in your life and family.

Visit our website at www.blueridgeschool.com/annualfund and see testimonials from a wide range of Blue Ridge people who are saying thank you.

Thanks for helping ensure that all boys, all boarding, all college bound remains alive and well in St. George!