

The Academy at Charlemont: Find your voice. Speak your *mind*.

Vox

A newspaper for the community
of The Academy at Charlemont

AUTUMN 2022



40 YEARS AT THE ACADEMY
**Reflecting on yesterday,
today, and tomorrow**

**Our 40th Anniversary
Celebration**

pages 2

**Academy
Nature**

page 4

**The
Alibis**

page 9

**Class notes
from alumni**

page 15

The Academy Celebrates 40 Years

Vivat Academia

KATHERINE ANDERSON '16

On the afternoon of September 18th, 2021—a warm late-summer day—campus was staged for celebration. In the days leading up, two tents appeared on Grinnell Field, and in the morning and early afternoon hours, teams of Academy parent volunteers rallied to arrange tables and chairs, display donated auction items, and adorn surfaces with linens and fresh flowers. In the prior days, former and beloved Academy chef Stan Langston—also supported by volunteer crews—prepared the evening’s feast, with smells of garlic, onion, and fresh herbs wafting through the Lower Hall, Library, and Common Room from the Honey Bear Hut. As speakers and guests remarked later that evening, the founding of our school and community itself—all that happened in those very early days 40 years ago and much that’s happened since—was an all-hands-on-deck, many-hands-make-light-work affair; it’s only fitting that our celebration of The Academy’s 40th Anniversary was just the same.

In the early evening, alumni, former parents and staff, current community members, and friends of the school from all four decades past, traveled from near and far and dressed in festive attire, arrived in a steady stream. A check-in table greeted guests, complete with logistical procedures—vaccination checks, auction software/app information, and name tagging—as well as displays of photos and memorabilia from Academy years past, some from the school’s archives, and others provided by one guest of honor, former math and science faculty member Stephen Morganelli, who traveled from Florida to attend. “Looking through all the photos he brought to share revived so many memories,” remarked

Jayne Dane, a former Academy music teacher and director also in attendance.

In the first hour of the celebration, guests mingled under a smaller tent—closer to Grinnell Hall—taking in a consolidated iteration of our annual Cornucopia Auction, bidding on silent auction items, enjoying festive beverages and appetizers, and rejoicing in each other’s company. Academy parents graciously served as bartenders and supported guests in navigating our newly-introduced auction software, Auctria. In these early minutes of the evening, past classmates, longtime colleagues, teachers and former students reconnected—some for the first time in years, or decades—recounting memories of their Academy days. Among our most honored attendees were founders Diane Grinnell and Lucille Joy, and guests beamed as they saw which Aardvark celebrities had surfaced for the celebration. No doubt, many experienced the same nostalgia that evening that Morganelli shared: “Driving up the Mohawk Trail towards The Academy for the 40th Reunion

stirred up in me a great deal of emotions and very pleasant memories. I was greeted by my former student Nora Bates Zale, and I felt so much at home.”

Bates Zale 00 herself, now The Academy’s Co-Head of School for Community, ushered guests into the larger tent—now ablaze with twinkle lights—as the silent auction concluded. Paul Jahnige P23 swiftly took the mic, auctioneering the crowd through a brief but fruitful live auction, boasting items up for bid such as weekend getaways, luxury dining experiences, and higher-ticket local goods. Between live auction items, then-Chair of the Board of Trustees Bill Corwin P19, 22 joined Jahnige on stage, leading a round of bid-style fundraising, requesting live “bids” for donations to The Academy. The crowd received these requests—now familiar from past Cornucopia Auctions—with great enthusiasm and generosity.

Dinner was served much in the style of first-day-of-school donut distribution—by seniority in years of connection to The Academy—with those earliest members of our community helping

themselves first to steaming trays of chicken and pork, pasta, glazed vegetables, and Stan Langston’s renowned focaccia bread. As we served and feasted, Nora Bates Zale returned to the podium once more, offering a formal welcome to the evening’s festivities, and—for many—a heartfelt welcome back to campus. Interweaving mentions of the preparations for this very celebration, the pioneering work of our founders, and the 500 plus adolescents who have called The Academy home, Nora Bates Zale harped on threads of gratitude, tradition, and collective effort that form the fabric of our community. In particular, she reflected on food and drink as a marker of our community’s generosity and our unique traditions, from the earliest days of the school to this very evening: “Thank you,” she offered, “to all who have served or do so currently as the stewards to this beloved institution, and to all who have supported the production of food and drink in every traditional event throughout its years. No first day or Mountain Day would have been the same without the donuts, no Halloween without the roasted pumpkin seeds or Polyglot without the turkey dinner—students and staff from any era of Academy life would agree on this.”

Bates Zale imbued her closing sentences with a gratitude many Academy community members know and feel, but to which perhaps far fewer can put words. Noting the values of ethical character, social justice, and sustainability that—in conjunction with our standards of academic, athletic, and artistic excellence—guide the unique and complex mission of our community, she reflected: “How lucky are we all to do such work on this idyllic riverside campus, flanked by those waters we get to splash and paddle in, those hills we get to climb up or fly down?”



Alums reminisce over old editions of The Grove, our yerabook

To be together each day on land that once held space for travelers on the Underground Railroad, the homeland of the Nipmuc, Wabanaki and Pocumtuc peoples. How lucky are we?"

How lucky we are, indeed. The evening's next speaker, Co-Head of School for Operations John Schatz, offered more to be grateful for: a shifting, and increasingly optimistic picture of The Academy's bolstering enrollment and financial health over the last half decade. Schatz spoke that night ahead of yet another year of growth in these realms, headlined by a Fifth Decade Fund that raised over \$1 million in Annual Fund and endowment-seeding dollars, and a sharp rise in enrollment to 100 students at the start of the following school year. Twelve months later, today, Schatz's words and optimism

ring truer than ever. He cited March of 2020--the start of the pandemic, when The Academy opened its remote classroom doors to other students in our surrounding towns--as a testament to our community's generosity, and a critical turning point for the school. Since then, he shared, as word has spread about our reinstated 6th grade, and we've connected broadly with more families both in our neighboring towns as far south as the Pioneer Valley and north as Southern Vermont, our student body has grown steadily, paralleled by consistent fundraising success. Upon sharing these insights, and in conclusion, John offered a call to action: "As you spend time here tonight and you share about this school with your friends and family outside of this event, help us retell this narrative--that we're growing in numbers, in programming, in generosity, and have an incredible spirit that grounds the school in the same way the founders opened its doors 40 years ago."

The rest of the evening's program, graciously and charismatically led by beloved former Academy Headmaster Todd Sumner, celebrated this very spirit, from its earliest light four decades ago, and the many ways in which it has grounded--and lifted--us ever since. As guests laid down their forks and knives, Sumner took the podium, offering a forum for formal remembrance, first reading answers guests had written to questions on cards scattered across the table requesting favorite Academy memories and moments, followed by an open call for story sharing. In this final hour of festivity, our earliest community members--founders, first teachers, earliest alumni--shared tales of those opening days: "the incidental, fleeting moments (often humorous) that have persisted in memory", in Sumner's own



Alums catching up

words. A favorite of the evening included Morganelli's recollection of his and Sumner's "S & M Maintenance" shirts for when the two of them--in an ever-Academy vein--rallied to help keep the facilities in shape amidst slim funding. "No other school," Morganelli noted, "started their furnace with a pencil, or experienced exploding urinals, which would flood the basement bio lab from above."

Emily Todd '83, too, remembered the scrappiness of those early days: "If we were going to have a track team," she recalled, "pretty much the whole school had to participate! If we wanted a yearbook, we had to step up and be the yearbook staff." In reflecting on the celebration as a whole, she mused, "It was so lovely to see faculty and students who had been there at the beginning and to tell stories about that first day, when the school started with 24 students, and how involved we all needed to be to get things off the ground." Many hands--48, in this case--worked together to help build our school.

Another popular, though more somber, remembrance was founding Head of School Eric Grinnell's gracious, thoughtful, and authentic handling of September 11th as school that day progressed: he was "masterful at keeping panic at bay", Ellen Zale--French Teacher and Librarian at the time--recalled.

As many remember, Eric forbade television at school that day, insisting that a continuation of learning was the response to our world's injustices--a powerful message, and no doubt a reflection and manifestation of The Academy's enduring mission.

The joy and the magnanimity of our 40th Anniversary Celebration, and our 40th year from start to end, took many forms large and small, from those moments of recollection and reconnection that evening, to the optimistic future view these last several months have brought, and the security and prosperity on our horizon. Perhaps the particularly powerful nature of that evening, however, was the intermixing of Academy decades, through which generations of our community came together. As founders, early faculty, and first students offered these stories and reflections, equal numbers of new community members--parents of current students, and new faculty members--listened and learned. These tellings of tales instill an understanding of that Academy spark, and the generosity and efforts involved in keeping it alive, in our newest community members--a passing on of institutional knowledge and institutional love, no doubt, paired with inherent institutional responsibility.

At the conclusion of her remarks early that evening, BZ offered a final wish for attendees: "I hope you enjoy yourself and leave tonight reminded of the reason you chose to be together with The Academy, whenever and for however long." So, in reading these words and those to come, whether you graduated this past spring or haven't thought of your Academy days for some time, we hope that you, too, remember your reasons for choosing to be together with The Academy--whenever and for however long, we are grateful for your part in this school and hope you will continue to find togetherness with our community, whatever that may look like for you. Cheers, all, to 40 years and many more to come!



Vox

*Published annually by
The Academy at Charlemont*

1359 Route 2
Charlemont, MA 01339
(413) 339-4912
fax (413) 339-4324
academy@charlemont.org

Contributing Writers

Katherine Anderson '16
Rhannon Campbell '23
Adella Catanzaro '23
Jayne Dane,
Lachlan DeAtley '24
Coco Gamsey-Boudier '27
Reid McVey '24
Jonah Pollock '25
Lucas Tikkala-Cutler '27

Contributing Photographers

Adella Catanzaro '23,
Doug Mason P27
Academy Staff

Editor

Hannah Smith '06

Production

Mike Grinley P23

*The Academy at Charlemont
does not discriminate on the basis of race,
color, creed, handicap, national origin,
sex, gender identity or sexual orientation
in its education, admissions, and financial
aid policies, or in any other programs and
policies administered by The Academy.*

Academy Nature

BY COCO GAMSEY-BOUDIER '27

The Academy at Charlemont resides on a beautiful piece of land. Green fields, where students play soccer and ultimate frisbee, are lined by a forest on one side. In front of the school, the courtyard has picnic tables to sit at for lunch, a berm, and some pretty trees that are stunning in full bloom. Thyme adds a nice aroma as it covers the ground of the courtyard. Along the edges of the school a lovely garden filled with poppies, rose bushes, bleeding hearts, and irises dusted in morning dew will greet you in the spring. These gardens, as well as the rest of the grounds, are maintained by parent volunteers.

Just across the road is the Deerfield River, a gorgeous body of water that flows into the Con-

necticut River. It's not uncommon for people at The Academy to see a majestic bald eagle soaring over it. Science classes will take advantage of the close



proximity to learn about the river and the creatures living in and around it. Yet, another way The Academy utilizes the Deerfield River is through its kayaking program, a fall and spring sport, with Zoar Outdoor.

A hidden gem on campus is the upper fields. Property that The Academy shares ownership with the Franklin Land Trust. Some classes will take walks up the small hill and tiny creek to find a graceful field that is filled with wispy grass and home to a bounty of critters. Speaking of critters, from the common cute chipmunk to

the rarer bobcat sighting, The Academy gets visits from many kinds of animals. When it's the right season, members of the Academy community will see

and hear bluebirds, warblers, Baltimore orioles, and many more types of brightly feathered birds. Rabbits will be spotted hopping about chewing clover. Deer and fawns will wander onto the freshly mowed grass, or leave hoofed tracks in the snow

during winter. Squirrels chase each other up trees, and worms wiggle out of the ground on rainy days hoping not to get spotted by a hungry robin.

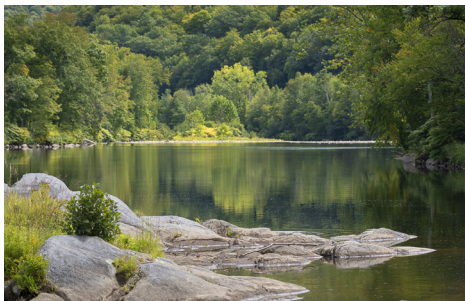
This year a new friend appeared on the AAC's grounds. A cat, who was quickly dubbed Purrington. Purrington was collarless, so a trap was set to

catch the cat and take it to a shelter. The trap caught a skunk and an opossum. But still no Purrington. Students were told not to scare the cat, because if



Purrington bit a human it would have to be euthanized. The trapping mission stopped due to the fact Purrington did not act aggressively and looked healthy. It was assumed that the cat had an owner and home somewhere nearby. Purrington even made an appearance at graduation being its usual adorable, and beloved by all, self.

The nature at The Academy has proved its beauty time and time again. If you ask any student about a nature experience at the school, rest assured that they will almost always have a cool creature sighting and a story at the ready.



Profiles of New(ish) Faculty Members

BY LACHLAN DEATLEY '24

Lauren Schmidt currently teaches seventh, ninth, eleventh, and twelfth grade English at The Academy at Charlemont. She's been teaching for nineteen years. In the past, she has largely taught in underserved districts teaching literacy and fundamentals. She taught in Springfield before joining the faculty of The Academy in 2020. Teaching at The Academy opened up an opportunity to teach middle school and dedicate more time to her



passion, writing. Currently, she has published four books and is working on a fifth. Lauren has enjoyed the freedom that The Academy has offered to share her hobby of creative writing with her students. She has one pet, a dog named Fenrir.

Rafael Kelman teaches art to seventh grade through ninth grade as well as an art studio block available to all grades. He has been teaching for around eight years. Before joining The

Academy he worked at a boarding school in eastern Massachusetts for five years, and before that at various workshops and afterschool programs. In August 2021 he moved to Western Mass, seeking a more rural and queer-positive community. He joined The Academy faculty and is enjoying the community of the school and the opportunity it grants for all students to try art. He enjoys being the sole art teacher. This allows him to consider the art curriculum as a whole and the



connection between middle and high school art, and foster a greater joy for art in the students. In his studio block, centered around sculptures, the class attempted to transform the stumps in front of the school into twin statues of aardvarks as well as explore mold making and plaster casting. Outside of teaching, he has a child, a partner, and a dog. He is interested in the applications of herbs and foods as medicine, as well as politics, and calling into radio talk shows across the political spectrum.

Tetris to Trivia:

A Profile on Academy Clubs

BY REID McVEY '24

From Tetris to short stories, The Academy's hallways are buzzing with new clubs. Students meet in the sacred lunch period between C and D blocks to enjoy lunch with friends and engage in a club that interests them. Some of these new clubs were started by faculty, but the majority were created by the students. I interviewed Jasper '24 and Leo '24, two students very involved with the Academy club experience and asked them how they thought it affected their year.

Jasper and I sat down in the recording studio to talk about the clubs he has started and partakes in. He is a part of As Schools Match Wits (ASMW), Chess Team, Model United Nations, and the Investment Club. Jasper also leads information sessions on current events frequently at lunch.

The Investment Club was the first club Jasper started. He sought to make people aware of the accessibility of investment for young people. Although it didn't last as long, Jasper continued to join groups like ASMW and Chess Club with great success. Jasper told me that when the opportunity of a chess league opened, he organized a team to compete. He described the chess team as very informal. The chess players meet outside of school to play at matches. Currently, the chess team is very proudly undefeated.

After talking to Jasper for a while, I asked him, "Why do you like starting clubs? Is it because it

brings you joy? Or is it because you want a more diverse offering of clubs?" He responded, "I just want these clubs to exist. I want to be in these clubs, and since no one else will do it, I do it." I think that is the perfect answer and a big reason why so many people have started new clubs: because you can. And to Jasper, that is a very special part of the Academy experience.

The next person I interviewed was Leo. They belong to two clubs, the Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) and the Short Stories club. Leo told me about some short stories they read in the club. They referred to them as very fancy and said they sometimes didn't make sense, but they also said how much they enjoyed the club.

Leo was also a part of the GSA

this year. They told me about the initiative to bring more art into the school from more diverse artists. Leo said that as the year went on, the GSA became more of a place to talk about queer stuff in general—TV shows, books, movies, etc. They said that one time they even looked at Florida Man articles. I asked Leo how being in the GSA and Short Stories club changed their

year, and they said it was great to be in a group and just talk about issues or topics relating to the people in the group. Or just simply to share experiences and advice on anything. They also said they got many great book suggestions, so shout out to the Short Stories club!

Leo talked a lot about the easy accessibility of joining a club. You simply hear an announcement at morning meeting and join the club at lunch. Leo said clubs are a great place to find a community of people to talk with.

From clubs about absurd short stories to more serious meetings about the world's current events, The Academy has developed a rich offering of student-led clubs, which have affected so many Academy students this year, and hopefully will in the future. I did ask my interviewees one more question before I concluded our chats, "what club do you want to see next year?" Jasper's response was a "combat robotics club." So, buckle up for next year. Hopefully we will see just as many creative clubs as we did this year.

Neale Gay's Book Club



Chess Club

The Alibis: Academy thespians present the evidence

BY JONAH POLLOCK '25

The Academy at Charlemont Drama Club presented "The Alibis," by Nick Musgrave over the first two weekends of March 2022. The central question of the play: Who murdered eccentric billionaire J. Leslie Arlington? Why are the seven possible suspects oddly reluctant to admit their alibis? Because they were

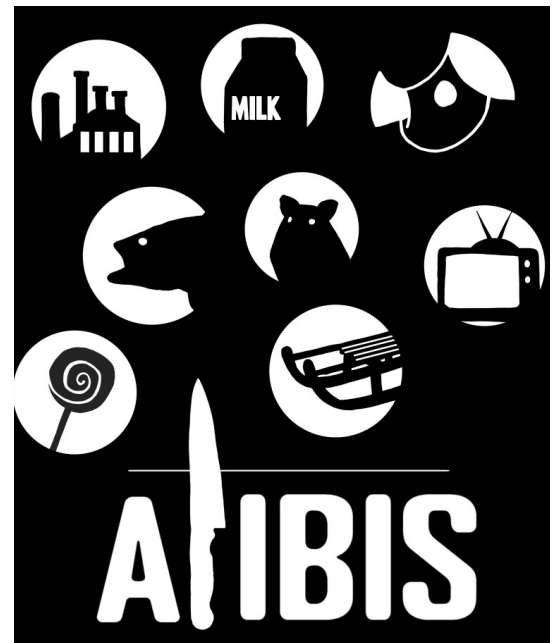
all committing other ridiculous crimes at the time.

"The Alibis" was a very unique production because it was seven mini-plays all within one large play. It allowed many people to get lead roles and share the spotlight. There were seven "suspects" in the play, of which I was one. I played Quinn, a worried father stressed over his daughter's birthday party. His

alibi was that he couldn't have committed the murder because his daughter's birthday party was ruined by a decapitated hamster.

Since the play was a complication of mini-plays, it gave everyone acting in the different vignettes a pretty unique experience despite all being in the same play. The people in one mini-play would be an entirely

different group of actors from another section of the play. In general, the play was a really smooth and fun thing to do. It was a comedy with characters who had lines that really did not exceed 10 or so pages in total. Another part of the play I really enjoyed was getting to meet other students who weren't in my grade. "The Alibis" performance occurred during my first year



at The Academy and it helped me become friends with a bunch of people who weren't in my grade. Also, I guess just by nature of the Drama Club all the participants in "The Alibis" were really into theater, folks were quiet, and polite and no one was rude. I'm excited about another theater production later this year because I will get to meet new students at The Academy, making my experience of passing new faces in the hall less awkward.

Mrs. OK, the director of our

theater program, was a really interesting teacher to work with. It surprised me how innovative she was. Before "The Alibis" I imagined this field of work to be pretty rinse-and-repeat. However, not with Mrs. OK. In "The Alibis" Mrs. OK made us these paper cut-outs. We put the cut-outs on a light projector to create a shadowed image behind us, which would be switched out throughout the play to match the story. Mrs. OK cut them all out by

hand with a scalpel! There had to be at least twenty to thirty unique cut-outs for the play. I think Mrs. OK really showed us how much more a class can do when you have someone truly passionate about the product directing it. Mrs. OK motivated us without being rough on us. She always framed her teaching in a way that motivated you to do better. One thing she always said is that she would not let you embarrass yourself on stage, so to do that, you have to memorize

your lines, your stage direction, etc. I think a part that was most memorable for everyone was after the play we had a banquet where we appreciated the work put into the play along with the people we worked with. It's sort of funny how when working on the play you have a lot of anxiety and stress over whether or not things will work out, but by the end of it, all you want to do is keep performing. I think that's a relatable feeling to a lot of my peers.



Chess:

The Academy's Newest Sport?

By LUCAS TIKKALA-CUTLER '26

Michael Campbell P23, a retired chess master, has taught chess as an elective at The Academy at Charlemont for the past five years. Michael tried to start a competitive chess team in previous years. He said, "I suggested starting a team to the committed chess players for a couple of years. And nobody seemed particularly interested. So, I just dropped it." But, this year, instead of Michael suggesting a team, the student interest came to him.

Chess is now a very prominent game in Academy culture. From chess boards sprawled across tables in the library to heated speed chess games to even non-competitive students playing a chill game of chess during a free block. Chess is everywhere.

With substantial interest and chess club participation, Michael contacted his childhood chess-playing friend, Micah Winston, to organize a chess league called the Western Massachusetts Scholastic Chess League. The Academy, along with three other schools, Minnechaug, Springfield Renaissance, and Wilbraham & Monson Academy, competed in this tournament. All of these schools were significantly larger than The Academy, ranging in size from 400 to over 1,000 students.



Students gather with chess boards around library tables

Competitive team chess works very simply. Each team ranks its players according to skill level. The top-ranked players on each team play each other; then the second-ranked players play each other, and so forth. A normal chess team consists of five players. However, The Academy was only able to field three students, due to our small size. This team was entirely extracurricular, and despite its competitive nature, playing on the chess team did not replace the sport requirement.

The three students who decided to play on the team were Jasper Butler-Kuthur '24, who played on board three. Lucas Tikkala-Cutler '26, who played on board two, and Ivan Harder '26, who received the honor of playing on board one.

The team's first match was played against Minnechaug, a public school of 1,200 students in Wilbraham, Massachusetts. The Academy and Minnechaug tied with 1.5 points each. Jasper annihilated his opponent with a queen's gambit accepted position where he steadily grew his advantage against his opponent and didn't let go. Lucas pulled ahead early with a Caro-Kann Defense: Campomanes Attack position but lost his advantage in the endgame, where he was forced into a drawn position. Ivan played a Scandinavian Defense: Mieses-Kotrč, Gubinsky-Melts Defense game in which he had a weak start due to two unfortunate errors and was unable to turn his position around. The team was proud of their draw but wished they could have done better. Jasper said, "I won my game. So, I was generally positive. Even though no one else won."

The team then played Wilbraham & Monson Academy. A relatively small private school of 400 students in Wilbraham,



Ivan Harder '26 and Jasper Butler-Kurth '24, two of the Chess Team's top competitors

Massachusetts. Charlemont defeated Wilbraham & Monson two to one. Jasper repeated history with an even more impressive win over his opponent with another queen's gambit position. Lucas played an East Indian game that he stumbled a bit with at the start. But with some tricky play, he got ahead a pawn in the endgame and pulled out a rook king checkmate. Ivan had a steady start with a Two Knights Caro-Kann position, but his opponent was able to trap his bishop, which inevitably led to his demise. The team was very proud of their first victory in a competitive chess league. Ivan said, "It felt great seeing the team come together to win against a much larger school."

The team's third and final match was played against Springfield Renaissance, a public school with nearly 650 students. This match still has not been finished and was adjourned to be played later. However, coach Micheal Campbell expects the

opposition to resign. This match had one big issue: Springfield Renaissance does not have chess.com or lichess.org on their computers. So, the team played by text. Whenever a player would move, they would say the move in notation and send it to the opposition. Since this game was played over text, the game's notations took over three months. Some of the information may not be as polished as in previous games. Jasper, on board three, got into a very advantageous position that he could have won without much difficulty if he had the time. In Ivan's game, he got a slight lead over his opponent that he could convert to a win with more time. Only Lucas was able to finish his game. Lucas slowly increased his position's strength until he could take his opponent's queen. After that, he easily checkmated his opponent. Overall, the team had a very successful inaugural season that may lead to a very successful chess program at The Academy.

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Campbell P23 tragically passed away on October 26, 2022, long after this article was authored. We are so grateful for his many years of chess mentorship, feel his loss deeply, and extend our ongoing condolences and love to his family.

Mentorship at The Academy:

Positive benefits and heightened opportunities

BY ADELLA CATANZARO '23

Typically in high schools around the United States, friendships tend to be isolated to grade levels and sometimes even include a hazing of younger students. This culture can lead to limited opportunities for students to learn from one another. A unique characteristic of The Academy is the cultivation of cross-grade friendships, partly due to the small size of the student body. When I first entered The Academy in 8th grade, I quickly bonded with a junior. This student played a large role in my absorption into the community. He introduced me to people and showed me around. Later, he became a close

friend who provided kind advice and a warm hug when I needed it. This friendship has outlasted his time at The Academy and is one I hope to carry with me for many years to come. Cross-grade mentorship is a common experience at The Academy, "When I was in 7th grade, a few of the seniors helped to make sure that I was comfortable at The Academy, and they sort of initiated and demonstrated how to communicate with other grades. They also showed me how to build relationships with teachers," says Rhiannon Campbell, '23. People often identify with their graduation year, but at The Academy, the graduation year is more of a timestamp than a group and friendship divider.

When the idea struck for me to write this article, I sent a survey to Academy students and a few alumni. I received feedback that an overwhelming majority, more than 93% of survey respondents, described having friends in other grades. There were a number of other trends that I noticed in the information that I gathered. The most frequent comment that I heard was that students were inspired by one another. This was the case both for older students being inspired by younger students and vice versa. Paloma Hsiao-Shelton, '24, says, "I like talking to the younger kids, it's refreshing, they're so silly." This past year, as a junior, I played the role of mentor. For the younger students I mentored, I helped

them get involved in school activities and provided advice, support, and a hug whenever necessary. I learned just as much from this side of things as I did from my mentor when I was a middle schooler. This was often a huge source of motivation for me to push myself and be the best version of myself I could be. Along with positive benefits in the school environment and culture, cross-grade mentorship is extremely formative for students outside of school too. It teaches students to interact with people at other stages of their lives and to learn from them. As a student in the class of '25 puts it, "[Cross-grade mentorships] has helped me become the person I am today."



Academy traditions like Polyglot...



...Senior-led teams and...



...Mountain Day help to create bonding opportunities across the grade levels

Class of 2022



Ruby Chase counts the music program among her top Academy highlights, noting that “It’s good that it is flexible and casual in some ways, and it is such a great way to express yourself.” She also mentioned her time with the basketball team and Coach BZ, and the “freedom to just go outside.” Additionally, the Academy community benefited heavily from Ru-

by’s social justice advocacy. Ruby’s senior project was an almost full-length documentary about the queer majority roller skating group called Community in Bowls (CIB). Ruby plans to head to Bard College in the fall of 2023, after spending a gap year working, traveling, and community-organizing.

Juliet Corwin remembers the reading she gave for her senior project (writing a chapbook of poetry exploring the intersection between deafness, disability, and the physical body in her personal experience, as well as leading a studio block discussing vulnerability and openness with younger students), participating in the annual drama production, and precious Art class-

es with Andrae Green as her most treasured Academy memories. The school community remains grateful for her dedication to various initiatives within the council program and leading an afterschool Fitness activity for many seasons. Juliet has now matriculated to Macalester College.



Ander Crespo’s fondest Academy memories over his two years with us include the 2022 Spring Concert “when we played ‘Party in the USA’ and everyone came next to the stage to dance, and also cooking tacos on Martha’s Vineyard with BZ and Katherine.” Ander made a big splash in his short time with us (an apt metaphor considering his love of surfing), displaying invaluable leadership in the athletics and music program,

and starting what has now become a tradition of “Muscle Shirt Mondays.” Ander’s senior project, “Building an 8” Reflector Telescope” entailed constructing a telescope and its mirror, and sharing various astronomical happenings with the Academy community throughout the year. He is now studying at a university in Spain, on track for a biomedical engineering degree, and trying to stay active in playing guitar.

Emma Dornburgh notes getting to know her class better throughout her three years at The Academy, particularly during the Martha’s Vineyard senior trip, as well as Grinnell Sessions offered during the 2020 winter time as particular highlights of her time at the school. She also notes the value of learning self-ad-

vocacy at the school. Emma brought a great number of community members together in order to accomplish her senior project: “an unedited version of part of a movie that I wrote this year with the intentions of breaking away from typical horror tropes.” Emma has taken her skills and humor to Castleton University.



Class of 2022



Zoe Paul recalls the freedom to walk around from building to building, and appreciating that “the older I got, the more freedom I had,” as some highlights of her Academy time, as well as how close she grew with all of her teachers here. Doing tech for Drama, while stressful, was also a fun aspect of her Academy career, and learning about Classics/Greek mythology

with Neale Gay was another treasured memory. Zoe’s senior project was called “Ariadne: A Comedy,” and described as a (hopefully) comedic take [in the form of a screenplay] on an ancient myth. Zoe is taking a gap year as she determines her next steps beyond her time as an Academy student.

Seamus Turner-Glennon counts the drama, music, and English programs as some of his favorite experiences at The Academy, with his Philosophical Viewpoints class during senior year as a particular highlight. Seamus was frequently appreciated for his

comedic leadership of occasional Friday Morning Meetings. Seamus’s senior project was a collection of ten essays on film centering around themes of decadence and excess. Seamus has now matriculated to Sarah Lawrence College.



Leo Wurgaft remembers the Academy faculty, and the culture that allows for so much conversation between students and faculty as major highlights, noting that the fact that he felt “as free as I do to say everything I am saying right now is a real privilege and it is such an important thing. To be able to have good, productive conversations with authority figures or with people much younger than myself is a great skill to learn.” Leo also noted the value of being able to sit

and play the piano for two hours at certain points, and the beauty of the school’s natural setting and how this allowed for built-in stress relief. Leo was an important leader of the Academy Arts Council, and a notable participant in the annual drama productions. Leo’s senior project was creating “This Time Around”: An EP/short album of original songs. He has taken his skills and musical explorations to Oberlin College.

*Cheers to
the Class of 2022*



The Academy's 40th Commencement:

From admiration to the zombie apocalypse, naturally

BY RHIANNON CAMPBELL '23

On Sunday, June 11th, the entire Academy community and over three hundred friends and family members gathered once again under the great white graduation tent. For the first time in three years, every student, teacher, parent, and friend was able to celebrate the ending of yet another year as one.

The afternoon began with Caden Adair '23, the newly elected Student Representative to the Board, welcoming students and guests alike. As Caden exited the stage, heads turned to the back of the tent, where a procession of graduates and staff was entering. Once everybody had taken a seat and the adoring applause had quieted, Co-Head of School Neale Gay took to the stage to congratulate every student on their successful completion of yet another academic year, and to begin conferring the annual academic awards.

After the awards ceremony, which saw Co-Head of School John Schatz hand out Athletic Awards and Co-Head of School Nora Bates Zale distribute Community Awards, teacher Liz Falco stepped up to congratulate the class of 2026 on their graduation from Middle School. Ms. Falco shared what she learned from the graduating eighth graders and reminded them just how special the past two years had been. She said, "it's a privilege to watch other people grow up beside you."

After Ms. Falco finished congratulating the rising freshmen, the Chair of the Board Bill Corwin P19, '23, stepped up to address the graduating senior class and welcome them to the stage to provide a brief musical interlude. With Ander and Leo on guitar, Juliet, Ruby, and Zoe behind the mic, the audience watched with smiles on their faces as the class

of 2022 performed Jack Johnson's "Upside Down."

As the final chords were strummed and the final notes were lifted by the wind, the graduates took a seat once more as Nora Bates Zale (BZ) began to speak about the time that she

Mrs. BZ and Neale Gay awarded the students their diplomas and took a seat for the traditional valedictory speeches.

Ruby Chase was first to take to the podium to discuss all the "lasts" that she had begun to experience in her final weeks at The

past six years, sharing heartfelt appreciation for her teachers, mentors, and family. As her speech came to an end, Ruby's eyes twinkled with laughter as she turned her attention to her classmates, for whom she expressed her admiration and, naturally, her hypotheses as to how they would navigate a zombie apocalypse. Before returning to her seat beside Juliet, Ruby once again took on a serious tone to reiterate her excitement for all that was to come, saying, "I'm beyond excited to see us all explore the world."

Juliet Corwin then approached the podium and shared the image of "graduation Juliet," that she had once created and eventually achieved: "Confident, happy, and ready to take on the world." Juliet then gave individual appreciation to her family and thanked her teachers, supporters, classmates, and the students who had participated in her Fitness and Studio Block classes. After sharing her appreciation, Juliet addressed her classmates, and gifted them each a small token and an accompanying piece of "mom advice."

Ander Crespo was next to speak, and he related each year of high school to his musical taste at the time. While he described some years as uncertain or underdeveloped, he eventually came to the conclusion that his senior year, and current self, were defined by variety and diversity of thought. Ander then thanked his family, The Academy teachers and staff, and his many host families and friends.

Emma Dornburgh then took to the stage to speak about how the class of 2022 had become a type of family. She shared the qualities of her friends and classmates that she would miss the most. Emma then discussed the type of senior that she had once hoped to be and how she



Congratulations to the Class of 2022

had spent with the class and the unique elements of talent, humor, and love that each person had brought to the school. Finally, BZ reflected on the class as a whole, the wide variety of experiences that they had faced during their time at The Academy, and the ways that they excel at "pulling together beautifully in moments of great adversity." After reminding the newly graduated seniors to "remember what you found in one another, and in this place, and stay in touch,"

Academy. Rather than mourn the passage of time, Ruby shared her excitement at the knowledge that her world is beginning to broaden. Remembering her seventh grade Academy Registration, Ruby summed up her appreciation, excitement, and readiness for change by saying, "the people here are the reason the lasts become bearable because they excite me for the endless amount of firsts coming my way." She then began to thank the people who had supported her over the

believed her newly graduated self was far happier than the person she had once expected to become. She ended her speech by reminding the rising freshmen that “who you are now, walking into high school, is not who you’ll be when you are standing here in four years” and advising them “go where life takes you.”

After Emma’s uplifting and introspective speech, Zoe Paul stepped up to deliver a handful of equally heartwarming appreciations as well as some much-needed comedic relief. Zoe began by thanking her grandparents for all the support that they provided her during her time at The Academy. She then took a moment to acknowledge the difficulty of completing her senior year while simultaneously staying at home and recovering from illness. Zoe thanked all The Academy teachers and staff who supported her both during her time away and when she returned to school in May. She continued to give individual and heartfelt thanks to her friends, family, and parents. After emphasizing just how much she appreciated her parents and all that they had done for her and The Academy itself, Zoe stepped back from the podium and Seamus Turner-Glennon took her place.

Seamus began his speech by reading Phillip Larkin’s poem “High Windows.” He then continued to paraphrase Marcel Proust in order to illustrate the shifts in his relationship with The Academy. Seamus discussed how, over time, his infatuation and love for The Academy had been replaced with a love for his future college and life. “Cycles are a natural part of life,” Seamus continued as he described how, despite his readiness to move on from The Academy to “greener pastures,” he will continue to “look back on the love I had for these ones.” As his speech came to a close, Seamus pondered on how, just as he moves on from it, The Academy will move on from him, leaving him to “turn [his] thoughts” to Phillip Larkin’s “High Windows” and “look my own cosmic insignificance in the

eye and come to realize that fundamentally it’s a beautiful thing”

As Seamus thanked the audience, Leo Wurgaft stood up to deliver the final speech of the afternoon. He began by discuss-

hardship through rest, communication, and self-love. Leo then thanked his class, which he too claimed had grown to resemble a family, and he shared appreciation for all of the teachers, facul-



The Class of 2022 make their final procession as students from Grinnell Hall to the Graduation tent; Faculty and staff process into the ceremony; Leo Wurgaft '22 being presented with the Kerlin Conyngham Fine Arts Award for Work in Performance

ing how he had transferred to The Academy as a shy 8th grader who spent the majority of his time alone, save for the company of a piano. Leo then shared how he felt self-conscious as he grew up, and how he focussed all of his “anger and loneliness” on planking. While he acknowledged that his motivations were far from healthy, Leo credits planking for a lesson in endurance. He learned over the course of his high school career to face new “challenges second by second until the end.” Leo drew his speech to a close by claiming that he no longer needs planks in the way that he once did. He’s learned to deal with pain and

ty, and staff that had contributed to his time and growth at The Academy.

After a rousing round of applause and a cheerful, although perhaps off-key, rendition of the school song “Vivat Academia,” friends, families, and students gathered in the courtyard for the traditional commencement potluck reception. Chatter floated about the lawn as the extended Academy community gathered once more, greeting each other warmly after time spent apart, bidding farewell to friends departing for the summer, and, perhaps most importantly, congratulating the newly graduated class of 2022.

Commencement address from Nora Bates Zale

Hello again, everyone. I want to begin by thanking our very-soon-to-be-graduates for that beautiful musical offering. As has become your hallmark, you certainly kept me on my toes in deciding what song you would perform this afternoon... and just as much in the character of your group, you have delivered impeccably, despite my white-knuckled anxious hand-wringing that you might not pull it off. Like many groups of seniors before you, you have given me many occasions to wonder if we have supported you enough, or too much—it’s an elusive fine line, the middle ground between those two extremes, when working with adolescents. Perhaps that is especially true at our school, or maybe we just feel the reckoning with it in a way that is more acute, we the adults attempting to steer the ship conveying you all with great care and attention in the murky, choppy waters between childhood and adulthood.

You seniors, you class of 2022, you Aardvarks on the precipice of alumni-hood: there is much to thank you for and ways to laude you as an entity, and I will do so. But I would like to first recognize your individual contributions.

Ander, the newest member of this group. You have brought us indefatigable energy, buoyed by an unabashed pursuit of passions and ideas. And you shared with us your belief in determining one’s own current amidst the flow of life. We are all the better for the offerings—be they great spirit, or a revamped telescope, or endless guitar licks—you have bestowed upon us in these two short and wild years.

Emma, you too have made a big impact in a short amount of time in this cohort and in our community. Your humor, sometimes upfront and biting, sometimes subtle, has been a frequent reprieve for us all. You have brought guidance and camaraderie back to our GSA after that space had grown quiet

for too long, and managed to bring together and engage more community members in your senior project than anyone I can remember. And you reminded us the importance of not just getting over it when life rips our hearts apart, to make space for grief. Thank you for all you have given to all of us.

Juliet, I'm not quite sure how this place will carry on without your persistent nurturing, older sibling-like efforts. You have brought us leadership in so many endeavors, not just in the obvious, everyday ways of bringing your team together, or leading Fitness year after year, or becoming a study buddy to a 7th grader, but by giving us lessons in humanity, as you shared your belief in honoring and speaking aloud our innermost emotional experiences. We will miss you fiercely.

Leo, yes, we must thank you yet again for all you have done to treat our ears to musical glory throughout your half-decade with us. But just as importantly, just as soothing to our souls, is the wisdom you have found occasion to offer, and a mature willingness to receive feedback that belies your youth. Finally, who can forget how beautifully you articulated your belief in the power of stories to connect us with a life worth living. Thank you for making all of us a part of yours.

Ruby, I already miss your ineffable energy, your tireless advocacy, your ability to tenderly see and draw out the best in people. Anyone who has taken the time to hear your voice during your time at The Academy—whether singing on stage, calling out to your teammates on the basketball court, or standing up to speak out about the many issues of social inequity or climate justice you have brought to our attention—would appreciate all of that and more. May we all carry with us always the memory of you sharing, with your clarion call, the belief in the power of talking about and talking through discomfort.

Seamus, there was not a single Morning Meeting led by you that wasn't made the better by your spontaneous humor, finding



***Congratulation to Rhiannon Campbell '22
for winning the Academic Award;
Celebrating middle school graduation for the Class of 2027***

ways to imbue even the most mundane of announcements with some play on words or side commentary such that we would hang on your every word. For someone who identifies so heavily as an outlier, and worries so deeply about connecting with others, you sure know how to keep an audience fully engaged. Thank you for reminding us of the importance of hearing the voices of those on the fringes, of finding ways to relate to one another through sharing our impressions of the art that is all around us.

Zoe, any one here who has been at a drama performance for your first many years with us has been treated to your theater tech brilliance, whether or not we immediately noticed it. This sort of quiet resplendence is not unlike the almost inaudible yet unquestionable zingers you have become known for. Your humble,

deeply caring spirit has provided solace to many a friend throughout your time at The Academy. We are grateful for all of these contributions.

Now, back to speaking to the group of you. I'd like to begin this last chapter of my words to you by reminding you of the Great Taco Adventure upon which you embarked not even 1 week ago. It all began in the deceptively small, maze-like innards of the Edgartown Stop & Shop on Martha's Vineyard. Well, actually, it began with following the advice of your beloved Ms. OK, which is always a very wise place to start. Anyway, from scratching your heads time and again over your shopping carts about the right blend of ingredients to the slow parade of components as each dish came together from the kitchens of your suites to the dining room of ours, your chap-

erones, to the eventual "mmm"s of delight as we all discovered that, in fact, the meal co-created was nothing short of entirely sumptuous... you noted that this was indeed your final challenge as a group, and just as warmed tortilla met perfectly seasoned meat met miraculously well-prepared microwave rice, expertly grated cheddar and fancy dollops of Mexican street corn, salsa and guac, you brought it all together in sweet harmony. Not unlike what you did with this song, in no more than one van singalong and one official rehearsal. Who's to say what's impossible and can't be found?

I think you excel at this—pulling together beautifully in moments of great adversity—because of all you have been through with one another. Through countless individual and group instances of trial, trauma and triumph, you have pressed on, holding one another up in the face of fear or devastation or rage or apathy. Each one of you has taken the helm when the time called for it, because your level of care for one another has always surpassed any concern of how you might be misperceived. I recently saw a quote, from author Ann Voskamp, that made me think of all of you and each of you at once: "Shame dies when stories are told in safe places." I believe that you all have done, and done well, the remarkable work of making safe spaces here so that each of you can share the story you needed to share in the time that you needed it to be heard, and to create that opportunity for your fellow students. I hope that's true, and I hope you've felt that.

Well, now, off you go, to find and make the spaces you'll need in the world beyond those you held here. I know you are all more than ready to do just that. And, if you ever lose your way... ask Ruby to double check all the pockets in her new bag, it's probably just hiding in there somewhere. Just kidding. If you ever lose your way, remember what you found in one another, and in this place, and stay in touch. Thank you.

ALUM NOTES

1990

Kipp Sutton

writes: "We just finished up our 4-year posting to Barbados, covering 11 countries in the Eastern Caribbean region, where I focused on reducing youth involvement in crime due to some of the highest homicide rates in the world and building the capacity of the small island states to cope with natural disasters, including climate change. Although COVID restrictions limited our ability to fully explore the island for a couple of years, we admit it was still a pretty great place to be "stuck". We were also graced with a visit from Abe Loomis ('91) and his wife among others. Now we are excited to be off to Mexico City, where I will continue to focus on climate issues while also working on improving small-holder agriculture. I plan to add as much Chilango slang to my Spanish as possible and we hope the girls, now 10 and 12, will be able to improve their fluency. If you find yourself in CDMX, please reach out for advice on the best street taco stands or anything else. The food there is supposed to be amazing and I expect it will be like the continuation of a delicious spiral that started in Sra. Grant's Spanish Lunches way back when..."

1998

*Marjorie and family***Marjorie Winfrey**

continues to work on an impact fund, happily raising two kiddos (Louis, 8, and Miles 4), now exploring life in San Francisco.

2000

Nora Bates Zale

shared this image of her and classmates Aethena Enzer-Mahler and Tobey Ward from a New Year's Eve gathering with their children Asher, Wayland and Enzo, writing "We three do our best to stay in good touch, and are doing what we can to

encourage our offspring to carry on the friendship we all have treasured for decades!

*Aethena, Tobey, Nora & sons*

2001

Jenn Wood

writes: "I feel like the past couple of years I've been up to the same old stuff. This year I worked as a 1-on-1 with a 3-year-old in a public school - that was interesting. Really really made me appreciate how much freedom The Academy gives students - not that I didn't appreciate it before. I didn't get much work done on my renovation project in North Adams over the winter, but now that summer vacation is here I plan on being over there every day. Finding a flexible job while I work on this project means that I'm back guiding at Zoar a bit this summer. I'll be up on the Dryway enjoying the sunshine, cool water, and fun teamwork. This will be the 17th season I've been on the water I believe. Have a lovely year, tell your friends you love them, and keep making the world a better place!"

2004

Zoë Plakias

writes: "I have taken a new job in the Department of Economics at Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA (where I got my undergraduate degree) and start in two months! So it's big transition time here as we move from Ohio to Washington and I make my first job change post PhD. I'm happy to continue to support The Academy. The more I observe and learn about students' experiences in middle and high school as a college professor, the more I realize how unique and special The Academy truly is!"

2005

Carly Carey

writes: "After 11 years of teaching and coaching I made the switch to the trades! I am currently a third-year plumbing apprentice in Minneapolis,

MN. In addition, my partner and I will welcome a baby into the world in February of 2023."

2006

Katharine Overgaard

writes: "I'm still hard at work in the fine art area: this marks my twelfth year as Director of the gallery by which I was hired fresh out of undergrad; in addition to that role, I'm thrilled to announce that I am opening a new gallery, Analog Diary, in Beacon, NY, in partnership with my current employer. I can't wait to

*Katharine's gallery, Analogue*

introduce experimental, compelling, contemporary arts programming to the Hudson Valley via this space. I'd be delighted to see familiar faces there!" Katharine's gallery Analogue Diary (www.analogdiary.art) is now open, with scenes from the first show, *What a Long Strange Trip*, below.

Hannah Smith

writes: "After 7 wonderful years in Colorado, my husband, my cat, and I moved to idyllic Shelburne Falls, MA to be closer to our families. Through the transition, I continued to run generative writing groups for women, nonbinary and trans writers called Write Freely Listen Deeply (www.writefreelylistendeeply.com). After the move, I started working at The Academy as a Creative Writing studio block teacher. Now, along with facilitating creative writing groups, I am the Development Assistant at the AaC! It's been so much fun to be part of this community again. Don't be surprised if you see my name pop into your inbox this fall! I am excited to connect with all Academy alumni!"

Nick Van De Kamp

writes: "I am photographing and racing mountain bikes in the ESC

*Nick on the trail*

Enduro and Downhill mountain bike race circuit. I also work for Outer Limits Cycles & Ski based in Greenfield, MA."

2007

Julian Post

writes: "After 5 years running a hop farm in northern Vermont, and 15 years living in the Burlington area, I fulfilled a lifelong dream and moved to New York City. So far, it's lovely!"

*Julian Post... at work? At play?*

2011

Mackenzie Brown

writes: "Hey aardvarks! My husband Wes and I bought a house in Tacoma, Washington this past May! We are looking forward to more hiking, exploring the PNW, and spending time in our new home! I'm going on my 7th year of teaching special education and my husband just transitioned out of teaching special education to be a Solar Designer for solar panels on residential houses. We are loving living out here with our 2 cats Oatmeal and Marlo! Recently we just had a 2-year wedding anniversary party (because of COVID) up in Heath this August. Grace Hall ('12) may have made an appearance!!!"

2013

Isabelle Allen

writes: "I'm still in OKC, I may be here for the last two years of my Air Force contract. I'm slowly starting the process of preparing for grad school, I'm looking for sociology doctoral programs, mostly around the Northeast so I can be close to home again for a bit. Russ ('15) is

ALUM NOTES

doing great, he's currently in Great Barrington working for the Railroad Street Youth Project."



Russell '15 and Isabelle Allen '13

Zoe Neeley

writes: "Hello all! 2022 marked my second year teaching elementary school science in the Gill Montague school district. One of my favorite moments of the school year was when one of my third-grade classes convinced me to play "Never Gonna Give You Up" (or as they called it "RickRoll") for our movement break and we all sang along. My favorite academic moment was making 3D landform maps with my second graders."

2016

Emma Loubsky-Loneragan

writes: "Since graduating from The Academy, I have obtained a B.S. in

geosciences with a focus in hydrogeology and a B.A. in environmental studies with a focus in sustainable community development. I now work full-time for an environmental engineering firm as a geologist while simultaneously obtaining my master's in hydrology and water security. My job has exposed me to a variety of amazing opportunities. I have helped design groundwater and soil remediation systems, completed geotechnical investigations for solar and wind projects, and monitored Brownfield and Superfund sites. I am currently aboard an off-shore barge conducting bedrock analyses for the communications sector. As my career progresses, I aim to focus more on water resource



Emma out in the field

management and bio-remediation strategies. I am thankful that The Academy encouraged my love for the outdoors and taught me to be fearlessly inquisitive."

A NOTE FROM ZITIAN SUN

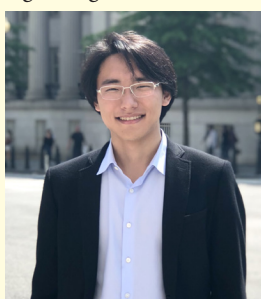
It is my great pleasure to "return" to The Academy, literally, eight years after my graduation in 2014. When I first landed at Springfield airport on August 25, 2012, I would not have imagined that I could develop such an enduring connection to this community as a wondering teenager of seventeen. I am extraordinarily grateful for the education, the experiences, and the welcoming environment the school graciously offered.

Ten years is seemingly a long period, but when they come to my experiences at The Academy, they were as vivid as when I presented my senior project in the Spring of 2014. If I were to point out a moment when I decided to be an academic, The Academy would be the irrefutable beginning.

Yet, anyone who has gone to The Academy's library and found my project, *To the Brighter Tomorrow: Past, Present, and Future of North Korea*, would realize that the paper is nothing close to serious research. Instead, it is an aggregate of historical facts poorly cited, with only a general inquiry into the history of North Korea concerning its current government's interests in nuclear weapons. However, a different way to read this project, as I did when preparing for this update, is to read it as a diary, a quest of intellectual interests that echoes The Academy's motto: find your voice and speak your mind.

How did I find those voices,

and where were they located first? From today's point of view, my Ph.D. career at McGill University has nothing to do with my senior project. I am studying revolutions, social movements, and state violence. I have presented my work on the 1989 Tiananmen Student Move-



ments and the 2019 Hong Kong Protests at academic conferences and looking forward to publications. The Academy did not teach me those things. I remember that I was fascinated by gender debates in my senior year. I also remember

the laughable moment I fell out of the chair in the calculus class with Ms. Purington (Dr. Purington now, yes, I saw the Facebook post). How can I say The Academy was the beginning, but my professional career has detoured my education at The Academy in such a dramatic fashion?

The answer is community.

In The Academy, the most valuable experience was about how to navigate within a community. I felt like an outsider when I first arrived. Languages, schooling, and collaboration among students and faculties are obstacles because I come from a different background. Yet The Academy was able to form an environment, or to be more direct, a willingness to meet someone as troubled as me halfway. I remember I did poorly during the first quarter of 2012. But the community was there and tried to pick me up. My

host families were also there to help. This helped me realize that alienations are horrible and terrifying, but it is only one step away from mutual understanding. I remembered the analogy from Mr. Merrill: "it's like learning how to ride a bike; you can learn it eventually without training wheels, but you will fall and hurt yourself. But the wheels are there."

After that, I took an active part in The Academy, such as baking cookies and volunteering for the soccer team. Although I had my suits on all the time, trying to be different, I started understanding my relationship with the community. I bring my knowledge and expertise to the community after a translation, a translation beyond linguistic symbolism. I can deliver experiences, feelings, modes of thinking, and love to the community of openness.

With that enlightenment in mind, I went to American University in Washington, D.C., to complete my undergraduate degrees. I worked hard to actualize what I have learned in The Academy: encountering, alienating, and reconciling. I was lucky that some professors endorsed my view and were willing to help me, as The Academy and my host families had done for me. In my junior year, I went to study abroad at Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, because one of my best friends in college came from that university. The experiences expanded my intellectual thinking, and I decided to take my research subject of historical political changes further.

In return, I did my M.A. program in the same school immediately after graduation in 2018 and graduated in the Fall of 2019. Although the pandemic was disruptive in all possible ways, I was determined to find an academic community where I could engage in an in-depth conversation about why ordinary people decided to take risks with protests and how they became successful. I decided to continue my research at New York University and apply for a Ph.D. program. Ironically, I actively presented my research via workshops and conferences when the pandemic blocked daily interactions. Eventually, the Department of Sociology at McGill University extended its warm welcome in February 2022, and I hope it is better to be warm enough.

I want to thank Vox for providing this opportunity to express my long, over-due gratitude to The Academy, my host families, and all community members. Condensing experiences of ten years are difficult, and I wish I could have a more straightforward way of presenting instead of this poetic or convoluted logic. But I hope my experience may resonate with the community, and I am the only one among the many distinguished alums.

I look forward to visiting The Academy soon, and please do not hesitate to contact me if anyone is interested in my works, experiences, or simply chatting. I wish you all the best.

Sincerely,
Zitian (Regan) Sun, Class of 2014

2022 GIVING

WHY WE SUPPORT THE ACADEMY

BY JAYNE DANE

My, and my husband Bob's relationship with The Academy spans 40 years.

I'd like to share some of our personal stories with you.

I'm a classically trained musician, a graduate of Hartt Conservatory of Music. I always knew that I wanted to work with teenagers and my goal was to teach high school music. After college I spent one year teaching in a public junior high school. I had such a challenging experience and was so discouraged that I questioned whether I wanted to look for another position. A year after this, in 1982, at the end of the first year of The Academy's founding, I was introduced to Eric Grinnell by Phyllis Kirkpatrick, mother of founding student Wes Rosner. Eric invited me to become part of the team to help shape and grow this small school, and what a ride it was! Not only did I join the faculty that fall but Bob and I also purchased an old house in Heath not far from the Grinnells.

Eric's leadership and vision worked to bring out the best in

everyone, faculty and students alike, thus I became a student of his as well. He believed in the importance of the arts and supported and challenged me not only in the building of the music department but in my personal pursuit of professional development as an educator and a performing musician.

In 1994 our nephew Justin, not being challenged in school in northern VT, came to live with us to attend the 8th grade. He had a great experience: played sports, performed in Jazz Band, made friends and ended up with the highest GPA in his class. He is a talented writer and went on to become a professional videographer, photographer, and film maker. After his first piece was published in Snowboard Magazine he told us that he attributes his passion for, and writing skills to his 8th grade English class at The Academy. He still keeps in touch with friends he made while here. I'd like to add that during this time Nora Bates Zale was a performing member of my stellar junior acapella chorus. She has a beautiful voice!



Bob and Jayne Dane

In 1996 – 2016 Bob, a glass artist, and I owned an art glass gallery on Nantucket, where we began spending summers. Although no longer on the faculty, I remained involved with the school. I was so pleased when former student Abe Loomis joined the faculty and became the music director. I served on the board for several years. I continued to promote and encourage our friends with children to consider The Academy. Many did. Friends Nancy and Andy Smith sent their daughter, Hannah Smith, to The Academy in the early 2000s. She's

recently joined the faculty to teach creative writing and the staff as the Development Assistant.

13 years ago twins, Joseph and Sofia Mason, also from Heath, entered our lives. We held them in the hospital after they were born. As soon as they learned what a school was I would say to them "You're going to go to The Academy at Charlemont!" Eric expressed this to them as well. They had a fantastic 7th grade year and are now in 8th. To be a part of helping them to thrive in their academics, music, arts, sports, social and community development means so much to us.

They are finding their voices and learning to speak their minds. Our relationship with The Academy has come full circle.

The Academy is an incredible school and community, a small school with a large reach. All of what I've shared with you, and SO much more, is why Bob and I have been strong supporters of The Academy and why we have chosen to be Legacy Donors. Thank you for helping to support our school and long live The Academy!

GIVING TO THE ACADEMY

TYPES OF GIVING

ANNUAL GIVING • The Academy relies on the generous, annual support of our community of alumni/ae, parents, families and friends to sustain our programs. Annual Giving supports all of The Academy's programs, including financial aid.

LEGACY GIVING • An investment in The Academy at Charlemont through a bequest provision or any other planned gift vehicle is a meaningful contribution that demonstrates a strong vote of confidence in the mission and value of an Academy education. Common forms of legacy giving include:

- A bequest of cash, stock, personal or real property via a will, or beneficiary giving via a trust, retirement plan, or life insurance
- Life income plans such as a Charitable Gift Annuity
- Charitable Remainder Trust

Donors are encouraged to discuss their charitable giving plans and needs with their own financial and legal advisors. Our Development Office welcomes inquiries and notification of intent in matters of legacy giving.

RESTRICTED GIFTS • Restricted gifts are those that are designated for specific capital projects or programs. Please contact our Development Office for more information.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS • Endowment gifts are permanently restricted to support The Academy's programs, including but not limited to financial aid, and help sustain The Academy over the long term. Most recently, family and friends established the Eleanor (Ellie) Lazarus Memorial Fund for the Arts to support The Academy's Studio Block program.

WAYS TO GIVE

The Academy accepts gifts by check, money order, or credit card and gifts of appreciated securities.

ONLINE GIFTS • Please visit www.charlemont.org/give to make a secure online gift with a credit card. Online gift processing is available for one-time or recurring gifts.

RECURRING GIFTS • The Academy can process a recurring monthly gift with credit card information from the donor, either online as above or manually with the donor's signature on file. Donors may indicate the beginning and end date of the pledge.

MATCHING GIFTS • Many companies match or multiply charitable contributions made by their employees. Be sure to check with your personnel office about your company's matching gift policy,

and please provide our Development Office with necessary forms in order to maximize your support for The Academy.

PLEDGES • Donors may make pledges to the Annual Fund. Pledges must be paid by June 30th, the end of the fiscal year.

GIFTS OF APPRECIATED SECURITIES • To make a gift of stock to The Academy, please have your broker contact The Academy's Business Office for instructions about transferring the shares directly to our brokerage account. Stock gifts to The Academy are tax deductible.

GIFTS BY MAIL • You may mail your gift to us at:
The Academy at Charlemont
Development Office,
The Mohawk Trail, 1359 Route 2,
Charlemont, MA 01339

For more information about giving to The Academy at Charlemont, please contact the Development Office at the address above.

You may reach us by phone at 413-339-4912 or by email at developmentoffice@charlemont.org

2020 – 2021 GIVING

The Academy at Charlemont gratefully acknowledges the following donors for their voluntary contributions to our Annual Fund during the 2021-2022 fiscal year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). Donors are listed in the following categories: Headmaster's Circle (\$5,000 and above), Founder's Society (\$2,500 - \$4,999), Charlemont Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499), Patrons (\$500- \$999), Scholars (\$100 - \$499) and Friends (up to \$99).

Heads' Circle (\$5,000 and above)

Anonymous (3)
Judy Grunberg* GP20, 27
Jennifer and Brian Hoffman P27
Marc Fromm and
Beth Sperry P11, 14, 19
David and Jodi Howe P21
Bruce Lessels and Karen Blom P14
Nancy Malina
Cornelia and Wallis Reid P01
Jennifer Rosner and
Bill Corwin P19, 22
Mr. Jim Schaefer
Deborah Shriver P03
John P. Shriver '03
Susan and
Michael Slowinski P98, 00, 01
Sara Wein and Neal Anderson P16

Founder's Society (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Sarah and Mark McKusick P07, 10
Jaka '90 and Gadi Saarony
Oliver '88 and Toni Stebich
Sawyer Thompson '12
Charlotte Meryman and
Benjamin Thompson P09, 12

Charlemont Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Johanna Bates and Colin Mitchell P25
David Epstein
Noah Grunberg and
Janet Mullen P20, 27
Judy Haupt P97
Dr. & Mrs. Paul Hoffman GP27
Jennifer James and
Doug Hinckley P26
Zachary Kolodin '03 and Hilary Doe
Theresa Ruggiero P19
Peter Stevens and Linn Bower
Jennifer Washburn Tilley '87
Mo Turner and Sean Glennon P22
Sandra Warren
Missy and David Wick P12

Patrons (\$500- \$999)

Anonymous (1)
Joan and Edgardo Bianchi P09

Dr. Brian D. Bloomfield
Meg and Keith Clark P21
Nathaniel Cohen and
Jody DeMatteo P13
Kerlin Conyngham
Alice Cutler GP26
Jody Cutler & Liisa Tikkala P26
Drs. Sean '88 and Jessica Dacus
Bartlett M. Doty '00
Peter Engelman and
Kendall Clark P13, 15
John Harder GP26
Tupshin Harper '90
Petra Jaros '04 and Anna Leue '02
Erica Liebermann and
Robin Bestler P27
Christine Lioce P15
Tara Mason and
Edward Whitaker P25
Sabine and Michael Mauri P21
Abel McDonnell '03
Keith Meister
Craig Miller P13
Cassie Nylen Gray '93
Edith and Ed Overtree
Karen Parmett '86
Zoe Plakias '04
Stephanie and
David Purington P11, 14
Robert Rottenberg P93, 11
Mary Anne Schiff GP23
Phoebe Shaw and David Chase P20, 22
John Thayer and Natalie Rioux P17
Martha and Ted Tirk P07
Elinor Todd '93 and Michael Beach

Scholars (\$100 - \$499)

Anonymous (2)
David Adie P08, 12
Kathleen Alford '07
Cynthia and Shawn Allen P13
Katherine Anderson '16
Glenn and Heidi Arnold P13
John Baldwin
Robert Balkind
Mr. Alfred Barkan GP13
Nora '00 and Synphany Bates Zale
Diane and Ken Bigelow P14, 16, 21
M. Jennifer Bloxam P10
Nicholas Boillot and
Jennifer Cody P24
Mr. Paul Breault
Shane Brenizer and Cynthia

McLaughlin P17, 19
Tracie and Koren Butler-Kurth P24
Jill and Robert Cahn GP24
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Caldwell III
GP13, 15
Paul and Amy Catanzaro P21
William Chester GP07, 10
Nicholas Clark '21
Jesse Cohen '13
Audrey Collins-Watson '93
Rebecca Cooper '08
Duke Corliss P19
Sheila and Scott Crofts P24
Jayne and Robert Dane
Leanne and Ed Dowd P13
Linda Driscoll and
Nelson Shifflett P88
Aethena Enzer-Mahler '00
Michael and Joanna Evans
Leslie Ferrin P12
Martha MacLeish Fuller and
Herbert H. Fuller
Virginia Gabert '84
Cris Gibb GP21, 23, 27
Elaina Gibb-Buursma '21
Jessica and
Adam Gibb-Buursma P21, 23, 27
Jane and Stephen Grant P92, 94, 96
Mike Grinley and Dana Stieppock P23
Thomas L Hale and
Jennifer KLP Hale P05
Ellen Harder GP26
Jane Hovde
Gwendolyn Howe '21
Margaret and Ching-fen Hsiao GP24
Rachael Ingraham '03
Mary Irwin and Jack Harrison P11
Shelley Borrer Jackson
David Jacobs
David Jaros '90
Jenny Jaros Friedl '88 and
Lawrence Friedl
Barbara Kosovske GP23
Kimberly Karlin
Duncan and Meg Laird P20
Zevulon Lane '20
Brendan Levine '01
Julie Lineberger and
Joseph Cincotta P04, 08
Michael Lioce Jr. GP15
Sally Loomis and Paul Jahnige P16, 24
Simon MacLean '92 and
Jessica Striebel MacLean
John and Pauline MacLean P89, 92
Nathan Marcy '98 and Lara Drizd

Douglas Mason and
Nina Marshall P27
Mac McCoy and Polly Byers P15
Jessamy McKay Ackerman '89
Jacqueline McLaughlin and
John Bride GP17, 19
William Melnick '10
Penny and David Michalak P17
Stuart Miehler P13, 15
William and Madeline Miller
Frederick Moss
Amy and Ben Murray P26
Zoe A. Neeley '13
James and
Charlene Neeley P13, 15, 19
Jeff Novick
Jeffrey L. O'Brien
Connor O'Brien '17
Maureen E. Oakes '98
Ethan Olmstead '98
Alice Parker
Emma Picardi '13
Jane and Michael Plager P16
Nick Plakias and Leslie Tayler P04
Thomas Por GP23, 25
Elizabeth Purington '14
David Raker and Lisa Ballesteros P25
Charlotte Rea and Robert Fricker
Simon Reid '01
Ronnie Rom and Donald Frank P13
Constance Rubinstein GP25
Brooke S. Savage '02
Charles Savage
John and Angela Schatz '01
Mary and Joe Schatz
Ryan Schiff and
Rebecca Houlihan P23
Lauren Schmidt
Jennifer Schott P25, 28
Margaret Seiler and
Leonard Melnick P10
Ingrid Shockey P11, 14
Elizabeth Slowinski '98
Bob and Virginia Stieppock GP23
Jennifer Storey and
Howard Wein P27
Hunter P. Styles '04
Todd Sumner and
Mark Melchior P04
Vicki Sutton P90
Kipp '90 and Esterlina Sutton
Nicholas Taupier '05
Susan Todd P85, 89, 93
Yangchen Tsemto Sithir '02
Phoebe Walker and Dennis West P17

2020 – 2021 GIVING

Amy H. Waterman Mason '98 and
Josh Mason
Clare and Richard Watkin P27, 25
Nina and Moishe Wurgaft P22
Masako Yanagita
Ellen M. Zale P00, 06
Peter and Melanie Zschau P98

Friends (up to \$99)

Isabelle Allen '13
Emily Alling P26
Carolyn Asbury and
Peter Ranney P06
Shelley Barnett '90
Jeannie Bartlett '10
Ms. Kathryn Berrien '86
Mrs. George Bluh
Johnstone Campbell GP23
Carly L. Carey '05
Michael Catanzaro Sr. GP21
Eli Catanzaro '21
Ruby Chase '22
Karen Chase Graubard GP 20, 22
Peter and Suzanne Chornyak P01, 03
Peter Conover '88
Sophia Corwin '19
Juliet Corwin '22
Ander Crespo Bereciartua '22
Ella Deters '18
Emma Dornburgh '22
Waverley Engelman '13
Karina Feitner '14
Jeremy Finer '93
Larry and Susan Flaccus
Herbert and Christine Forgey P01
Astranada Gamsey and
Bertrand Boudier P27
Carlos Gomes
Rebecca González-Kreisberg '08

Peter Gowdy '85
Eva Gray '16
Elizabeth Grybko P03, P06
Grace Hall '12
Carly Hall '15
Jason Healy '96
Jonathan and Elizabeth Healy
Tamra and William Hersh P15
Bi-sek Hsiao and Donald Shelton P23
Andrea and John Keins P15, 21
Ken Kipen
Rabbi Raquel Kosovske and
Rabbi David Seidenberg P23
Anna Krutsky '88 and Eric Blaisdell
Carla LaGrassa
Hannah Lessels '14
Jerry Levine and Julie McCarthy P01
Robert Mahler and Lisa Enzer P00
Sylvie Mauri '21
Stephanie Moss and Thomas Sands
Sarah Noble-Dziura '10
Joanne O'Connell GP23, 25
Katharine Overgaard '06
Patricia Parker and
William Comeaux P18
Zoe Paul '22
Matthew Plager '16
Gloria Jean Purinton
Ilene and Terry Rosenfeld GP20
Joshua Shurtleff '93 and
Jennifer McLemore
Hannah Smith '06
Kathleen Strachota '20
Ellen Doris and Bob Strachota P20
Eric and Mary Sumner
Rick Taupier and
Beth Haggerty P03, 05
Jamison Taupier '03
Douglas Telling
Madeline Thompson '09
Susan and Charles Titus

Emily Todd '85 and Liam Harte
Ana Toth and Dave Cahn P24, 27
Seamus Turner-Glennon
Aysha Peltz and Todd Wahlstrom P24
Henry Walker-West '17
Tobey Ward '00
Jennifer Wood '09
Leo Wurgaft '22
Christopher Yoon '08
Donald Young
William B. Zale '06
Jean Zimmer P21

Matching Gifts, Foundations, and Grants

Berkshire Taconic Community
Foundation
Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, Inc.
Google, Inc.
Johnson Scholarship Foundation
LEGO Community Fund US
Network For Good

Tribute and Memorial Gifts

Gifts in Honor:

Ole Brenizer '25
Jacquelyn McLaughlin and John Bride

Corwin Family

Balkind Family

Sophia & Juliet Corwin

Keith Meister

Eric and Dianne Grinnell

Charles Savage

Neale Gay
David Jacobs

Neale Gay
The Sands & Moss Family

Elissa Anne Henderson
Jim Schaefer

Sarah Peck Morrison '03
Elizabeth Grybko

Cornelia Reid
Charlotte Rea & Robert Fricker

**Nora, Synphany, and
Enzo Bates Zale**
Martha & Herbert Fuller

Gifts in Memory:

Elaine Gay
Frederick Moss

Liz Hobbs
Laurence & Susan Flaccus

Zephyr Rapinchuk '10
Margaret Seiler and
Leonard Melnick '10

Gifts In Kind

Synphany Bates Zale
Michael Grinley P23
Lieutenant Colonel Jeremy Hough
Richard Watkin P25, 27
Howard Wein P27
Brian Hoffman P27
Jenn Hoffman P27

These listings are based on gifts recorded as of June 30, 2022. We regret any errors or omissions and welcome notification thereof.

The Charlemont Legacy Society

*As of June 30, 2022 the following donors have made their legacy giving intentions known to The Academy.
We are grateful for their forward-thinking commitment to our mission.*

Anonymous (3)
J. Mary Bloxam
Loren Cole and Jason Cooper P08
Carlotta Crissey Chandler
Jayne and Robert Dane
Don and Margaret Freeman

Eric* and Dianne Grinnell
Ernest Hofer*
Mr. William Hoth*
John Brace Latham*
Elisabeth Leete*
Bruce Lessels and Karen Bloom P14

Mrs. Rolf Merton*
Cornelia and Wallis Reid P01
Jennifer Rosner and
Bill Corwin P19, 22
Todd Sumner P04

**deceased*



THE ACADEMY AT CHARLEMONT
1359 Route 2 • Charlemont, MA 01339

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 301
GREENFIELD, MA 01301



Adella Catanzaro '23



Daniel Tetreault '23



Gus Grinley '23

THROUGH THE VIEWFINDER



Adella Catanzaro '23



Paige Lane '23