# The Lawrentian Fall 2024

# UPSTREAM RISING

**Zack Hoisington '07 connects** urban communities with the water that runs







Stephen S. Murray H'54 '55 '63 '65 '16 P'16 '21 The Shelby Cullom Davis '26 Head of School

#### **On Sabbatical**

ack in May, I shared with our campus community that I would be taking a bit of a pause this fall.
As I approach my tenth year as head of school, I have been granted a sabbatical by the Board of Trustees for the months of August through December 2024, and Sarah and I are deeply grateful.

My plan for the early fall months is to spend as much time fishing, reading, and gardening as I can at our home in Rhode Island, and for the first time in several decades, maybe even harvest my tomatoes as they turn red toward the end of summer. Over the years, I've left a vast quantity of green tomatoes on the vine as I turn my full attention to the start of a new school year in early August. Later in the fall, we will do some traveling, and we are looking into an opportunity to do some exploring along the western coast of Turkey.

During my short absence, the School will be in excellent hands. Emilie Kosoff H'88'94'96 '00 '18 '20 P'19, assistant head of school and dean of faculty, and Marquis Scott, assistant head of school for strategic initiatives, will lead Lawrenceville during this time, with the full support of my senior leadership team, faculty, and staff. Emilie and Marquis will work in a shared leadership mode to oversee key areas such as school finance with the support of Ben Hammond P'23'25, chief financial and administrative officer; human resources, with director Kristen Oberlin; and risk management with general counsel Marcia Isaacson, but I have also designated areas of primary oversight for each to ensure clarity and decision-making efficiency.

With this in mind, Emilie will be responsible for all elements of faculty life, including hiring, professional development, retention, and performance evaluation. She will also oversee, in partnership with **Bernadette Teeley P'24**,

dean of academics, and **Tripp Welborne H'58 P'21'24**, dean of athletics and co-curricular education, all academic, curricular, and co-curricular elements of our program. Finally, in close collaboration with **Blake Eldridge '96 H'78'12 P'25**, assistant head of school for school life, Emilie will be responsible for all aspects of student wellbeing.

Marquis will continue to manage the implementation of our current strategic plan, "House, Harkness, Heart," along with related community wellbeing initiatives, including our ongoing study of student housing on campus, expanding the Big Red Farm, and repurposing elements of the Bunn Library to enhance community support and wellness. He will also oversee both Admission and Alumni & Development, setting Dana Brown, interim dean of enrollment management, and Greta Morgan, our new chief advancement officer, up for success. And finally, in partnership with Jessica Welsh, director of communications and external relations, and Cameron Brickhouse, dean of diversity, inclusion, and community engagement, Marquis will be responsible for the ongoing success of those areas.

The 2023-24 school year ended on a series of high notes, with the celebratory dedications of Tsai Field House and Battle-Fitzgerald Atrium, our annual Pinning Ceremony, and a particularly upbeat graduation weekend. High community morale remained palpable during final faculty meetings and our June staff picnic, and this all adds positive momentum for the kickoff of a new year. With such a capable team in place, I have absolute confidence that Lawrenceville will continue to thrive while I take a pause to rest, reflect, and recharge!

Sincerely,

Stepl S. Munay



А ВАТТІЕ ТО REMEMBER H. Lyals Battle '67 explains the contents of a showcase featuring artifacts from his Lawrenceville experience to students. Battle and Darrell Fitzgerald '68 were honored in May with the dedication of the Battle-Fitzgerald Atrium inside the historic, renovated section of Tsai Field House, Learn more on page 16.

#### PARTY LIKE IT'S 1989 >

Back on campus for Alumni Reunion Weekend in June, John Atherton '89 proves that his Big Red hockey sweater held up much better than Milli Vanilli and other artifacts of the time.

#### THE LINEUP

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#### **COVER STORY**

#### **Upstream Rising**

Zack Hoisington '07 is reconnecting urban communities with the water that runs through them.

#### **FEATURES**

#### 'Inextricably Linked to Lawrenceville'

Once a scholarship student, the 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, Paul Fitzgerald '67 P'03, works hard paying it forward to today's students.

#### Fun in the Sun

More than a thousand Lawrentians from the past three quarters of a century and their guests and families returned to campus for a sun-splashed Alumni Reunion Weekend in early June.

#### QUOTED

**66** These doors that open into the atrium of this handsome structure ... represent the courage of Lyals and Darrell at a very different time in the School's history."

Joe Tsai '82 at the May I6 dedication of the H. Lyals Battle '67 and Darrell A. Fitzgerald '68 Atrium. (See page 16)



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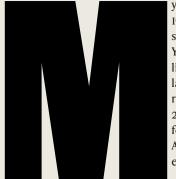
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y grandfather came into this world in I903 amid an unusually cool New York summer, the same one that gave us Yankees icon Lou Gehrig. Bill Ramsden lived a life long enough to have overlapped that of current Pittsburgh Pirates' rookie sensation Paul Skenes, the 22-year-old who was the starting pitcher for the National League in *this* summer's All-Star Game. They shared this earth for exactly three months.

As you might imagine, Bill witnessed

extraordinary change in his lifetime, and he enjoyed talking about it. I never considered him particularly progressive, but I understand now that his longevity granted him the perspective to see innovation and social breakthroughs through the lens of time, and he almost always embraced change. Bill's mind was never governed by the tyranny of tradition. Sure, he could wax nostalgic about his youth – he was always a good-time guy – but as the stories wound down, he would sometimes become pensive for a moment before rejoining the present: "They call them the good old days … well, they can have 'em!" he'd declare. "*These* are the good old days." The

way Bill saw it, time and a general bent toward progress had conspired to

correct a great many errors over his long lifetime.

I'm quite sure, then, that he would've enjoyed a seat at the ceremony in May when Lawrenceville dedicated the Battle-Fitzgerald Atrium, named for Lawrenceville's first two Black students — **Lyals Battle '67** and **Darrell Fitzgerald '68** — inside the new Tsai Field House. I had previously considered what these two men faced as young teenagers in the fall of 1964 as they navigated their uncertain futures, but I'm not sure I fully appreciated the weight of the past that each brought to the Circle. "From my perspective, failure to graduate would've not only let down my parents, who were so proud to see me come here," Lyals gravely recalled, "but also my ancestors, including the slaves who had toiled long and hard in the cotton and rice fields of America under the cruelest form of slavery known to man. I was determined not let any of them down."

I will *never* forget those words. The crushing weight of that responsibility, carried on the shoulders of a child, is beyond my imagination. But here he was, along with the one Lawrentian who could truly relate, sixty years later, surrounded by cherished classmates from those days, to receive an acknowledgment of their bravery and perseverance. Lyals and Darrell survived and thrived. "Lawrenceville changed my life forever," Darrell explained, "and we in turn changed Lawrenceville forever."

All the best,

Sean Ramsden Editor

sramsden@lawrenceville.org

# Inside the Gates



questions for Na'imah
Ford '25, LIO News anchor,
who explains why being on
either side of the camera is
an act of creative expression.
And ... action!

**5Q4** 

#### What's been your favorite role on *L10*?

Stepping into director of production. I have been so excited to oversee and help other filmmakers with a passion for the cinematic arts put together engaging segments.

#### What class have you enjoyed the most at Lawrenceville?

Explorations in Film. From playing with lighting and sound to creating short horror movies, I've explored every creative crevice in my mind and have translated what seemed like colorful, jumbled ideas and thoughts into an actual film

#### What is your favorite movie?

Mahogany is a classic film that I go back to often. It isn't just Diana Ross' breathtaking performance, flawless 'fro, and riveting vocals on the soundtrack, but it's the film's magical way of telling so many stories at once.

#### How does Harkness benefit your learning experience?

It's made me value the fact that it's OK to disagree, and it's also OK to have your mind changed.

#### **Advice for incoming Lawrentians?**

To "do" Lawrenceville well. Involve yourself in the community, try new things, talk to different people, and further your passions by staying active in clubs. And don't sweat the small stuff.

**House Call** 

What is your favorite spot on campus? Why?



My favorite spot on campus is the boathouse or the Carter porch because both places are very peaceful and nice spaces to pass time with friends

Ciela Goldman '26

The front lawn in front of Kennedy because I still remember the time I sat with my prefects during sophomore year and talked about life.

Nathan Hu '25 KENNEDY HOUSE



#### Lawrenceville 101

#### Case Studies in International Policy and Strategy

#### IN506/507

"Case Studies in International Policy and Strategy" explores the causes, effects, and potential solutions to issues rooted in history, economics, and political power. This year, the two-section interdisciplinary course focused on regional conflict in one unit, with in-depth studies of migration in Africa and sea trade in Southeast Asia, and "Space Command" and "Future of the Fleet" in the other, exploring the global balance of power through control of the cosmos and the seas.

Each section has a sponsor affiliated with the U.S. Navy – the U.S. Africa Command and the Center for Naval Analyses – and one from the National Security Policy Center at the University of Virginia. With English teacher **Ash Shah '93** as their guide, students present their findings and recommendations to their sponsors, with a chance to influence U.S. policy.

Sponsors "recognize that the future of what they do relies on having an informed population," Shah explains. "They see a program like this as an investment."

#### **They Said It**

66 Humans are meant to reflect, not solely for a class or any other specific purpose, but to be alone with our thoughts. In these moments of quiet reflection, we truly connect with ourselves and our thoughts, feelings, and experiences. When we pause to make sense of the world around us, we process our experiences, both positive and negative, and learn from them. 'Doing nothing' helps us gain perspective on our

From "Il Dolce Far Niente: No, Your Happiness is not 'Wasted Time," which appeared in the April 5, 2024, issue of The Lawrence.

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lives, goals, and values. 99

#### **Old School**

#### Change

"It is not news to anyone that you can't fool young people with fancy language. Nor is it a sudden discovery that the growing potential of a young person is infinite in possibilities. What is different today is that the world itself has shifted in the tensions it creates for young people. As one of my colleagues remarked not very long ago, "Nothing is more frightening than to rocket from side to side in a value vacuum."

From Head Master Bruce McClellan's Alumni Day remarks as recounted in the July 1974 Lawrentian.

The Bath House. I associate it with so many good memories. Additionally, Deb [Miliaresis H'22 P'27] has always been a "school mom" to me. She is always so supportive and caring.

Sonia Singhal '24

REYNOLDS HOUSE

The Turf Field for soccer.

Marco Pellegrini '26
WOODHULL HOUSE

The island, connected by a small red bridge. It is generally a quiet space where I can either practice clarinet or study. It helps me get outdoors while still being productive with my time.

Marcus Tsai '27
DAVIDSON HOUSE

Not my favorite spot, but an underappreciated spot is the Tsai Mezzanine. It has a cozy feel, and allows freshman to skip long lunch lines five days a week.

Melina Kyriakopoulos '27 CROMWELL HOUSE Edith Memorial Chapel. Not only is the stained glass beautiful, but the environment of the Chapel is so peaceful, serene, and reflective.

Liza Strong '24
MCPHERSON HOUSE

#### One 2 Watch

# Predicting Success: Taksh Gupta '25

Taksh was the lead author on a scientific research paper published in the peer-reviewed journal *BioMedInformatics* in November 2023. The paper, "Predictions of Programmed Cell Death Ligand I Blockade Therapy Success in Patients with Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer," revolves around using machine learning – artificial intelligence (AI) and computer science using data and algorithms to imitate the way that humans learn – to predict the success of a lung cancer treatment on patients before it is administered.

"Right now, there is a promising lung cancer treatment available, but it is only successful in 20-40 percent of patients," Taksh explains. "We created a model to predict which patients the treatment will be successful for, reducing costs and mitigating potential side effects of the treatment for patients for whom it is ineffective."

The model Taksh and his two co-authors created achieved an average success rate of 70 percent. "This means that we can predict whether this treatment will be successful for a patient before administering it at a rate much higher than chance,' he says. "This could allow doctors to prescribe this treatment to patients who are more likely to benefit from it, increasing the treatment's cost-effectiveness."

#### FAST FACT ▶

Also a key member of the cross-country and track teams, Taksh began his research through the iResearch Institute summer research program after his Second Form year.



#### **House Call** continued

I love GCAD because it's usually quiet, but there are still people here doing work. I also like all the natural light I get from the huge windows.

Luka Vecchione '25 HAMILL HOUSE I like the pond bench because it's so serene and scenic.

Abigail D'Souza '24 MCPHERSON HOUSE My room, because that's where my roommate lives and we have truly made it our home away from home. There's nowhere on campus I'd rather be.

Sophie Bilanin '26 CARTER HOUSE The hammock in front of Stephens House is the best place to take a nap!

Arisa Okamura '25 STEPHENS HOUSE The catwalks above the KAC. There are signatures and graffiti dating back as early as 1964. It's inspiring to see the generations of Lawrentians who have participated in Periwig before me.

Anika Ponnambalam '25 STEPHENS HOUSE

### things we learned producing this issue of *The Lawrentian*:

Lawrenceville's first astronomy class in 1934 made use of a Ramsden telescope created by Jesse Ramsden (1735-1800), to whom the editor of this magazine has long sought to establish a familial connection.

The photograph on page 23 of Bernadette Teeley P'24, who earned All-America rowing honors at the universities of Dayton and Michigan, and Vivian Teeley '24, who will row this year at Duke, was taken by onetime collegiate rower Danielle Rappaport, who is now the head graphic designer in Lawrenceville's Communications Office.

Photographer Colin Lenton, who shot this issue's cover story, once photographed the feature's author, Jen A. Miller, for a 2016 profile in her alumni magazine.

#### **Club Hopping**

#### Ring Out Loud, Lawrenceville!

founded 2022

Schedules students and faculty to ring the chapel bells after classes and on important school occasions.

Late in the afternoon, as your stomach reminds you that dinner beckons, you can hear the distinctive tubular bells pealing from the steeple of Edith Memorial Chapel. And when you do, please note it is the work of Ring Out Loud, Lawrenceville - or ROLL, for short - striking just the right notes. President **Jenny Zhao '25** and her ROLL-players use a 1930s motorized console with 15 white and 10 black keys, which send electric signals up into the belfry to chime the corresponding bells. The timeless "Triumphant Lawrence" is a favorite, but by no means the complete repertoire for the club, which was inspired by the playing of former chaplain, the Rev. Sue Anne Steffey Morrow H'12.

From an LIO report by Augusta Sagebien '24, Clementine Sutter '25, and Marco Pellgrini'26



#### What's Cookin'?

Salsa Dancing "With the abundance of tomatoes coming into season at the Big Red Farm, I have been making fresh tomato salsa," says Gary Giberson H'II '18 P'10, the founder and president of Sustainable Fare, which makes sure Lawrenceville students get three square meals a day. "It's great to have on hand for a quick snack with chips - and perhaps a margarita - or as a condiment with grilled chicken, fish, or with eggs at breakfast."

#### **Big Red Farm Salsa** Yields about 2 cups

12 ounces or 2 large ripe tomatoes, cored and diced

2 serrano chili peppers, minced, with stem and seeds removed

1 large garlic clove, minced

1 small white onion, diced

1/4 cup cilantro, chopped

1½ teaspoons fresh lime juice

34 teaspoon kosher salt

In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients and mix well. Let salsa stand a few minutes for the flavors to meld. Taste for seasoning; adjust if needed and then serve.

The island in the middle of the pond is an amazing spot to be when the sun is shining. It is not uncommon to see turtles, birds, and interesting animals surrounding the water.

Matt Zerm '26

KENNEDY HOUSE

KAC has nice vibes, pretty decorations in the theme of whatever show is being put on, a distinct smell that reminds me of the hours spent in rehearsals there, and a cool black box. It's always fun to watch performances and hear major announcements there.

Sonia Shum '27 **CROMWELL HOUSE** 

I love GCAD. Both the **Hutchins Galleries** and the first floor of GCAD are often very peaceful, quiet spaces that allow for a great work environment. Also, the classrooms are great spaces to talk with friends and work on any art piece!

Katie Axelsen 124 **CARTER HOUSE** 

Though it's across the street, TJ's is very much still a part of school culture. I love going there with my friends before check-in and buying a pizza and eating it all as a friend group. The workers at TJ's are also very nice and welcoming.

Rania Yakuhu '27 **DAWES HOUSE** 

The Bath House patio.

Akhila Mantri '25 STEPHENS HOUSE





# Noteworthy

# A Hub of Campus Life

Lawrenceville celebrated the long-awaited completion of Tsai Field House, its united dining and athletics facility, with its chief benefactors, Joe Tsai '82 and Clara Wu Tsai. TSAI FIELD HOUSE, the culmination of a multiyear endeavor to fortify the heart and soul of the Lawrenceville community through a unified dining and athletic facility, was celebrated and dedicated on May 17 in a ceremony set in its distinctive Harkness courtyard. The new hub for campus life, Tsai Field House creates opportunities for various aspects of wellness and extends the School's commitment to environmental sustainability with LEED Silver certification by the U.S. Green Building Council.

Expressing gratitude to **Joe Tsai '82** and **Clara Wu Tsai**, the principal supporters of the project, Head of School **Stephen** 





**S. Murray H'54'55'63'65'16 P'16'21** said they were in total alignment with the needs of the School from the start.

"Joe understood from the outset what we were trying to accomplish by combining dining, athletics, health and wellbeing, and community recreation," Murray said. "Celebrating and reinforcing community with a key priority of the Emerge Transformed campaign, and he was on board from the beginning."

**Jonathan G. Weiss** '75, chair of the Board of Trustees, said the Tsais and others who joined them in making significant gifts to the project have "created a field house and dining complex that I'm confident creates a new playing field among independent schools."

The purpose in creating an athletics and wellness facility and dining hall to become a hub of campus life was very much drawn from Tsai's experience in coming to Lawrenceville from Taiwan in 1977 at just 13 years old. He poignantly noted that some of the most transformative moments of his experience occurred on the sports fields and in the dining hall.

"As a First Former who came from a very different culture and spoke very little English, I didn't want to stand out, so my desire was to assimilate to the school life and into the community," he recalled, adding that he viewed sports as his entrée into the community, a way to make friends and earn the respect of his peers.

"My favorite part of the day at Lawrenceville was during dinner time," he said. "When you play sports and when you have meals together, (these) are the things I remember about life at Lawrenceville."

The first phase of the Tsai Field House project was completed in 2022, providing students with a new pool, ice rink, and light-filled dining room with its signature curvilinear roof.

The second phase ties the complex together with a new entrance to a spacious lobby facing the historic heart of campus. The lobby arcs around a curving courtyard, its form inspired by the oval-shaped Harkness tables used in classrooms, suggesting a spirit of inclusion. A wooden canopy ringing the courtyard draws students into two ends of the lobby from the residential and academic sides of campus.

Phase II includes renovated squash courts, a basketball court, a wrestling room, a community fitness center, locker rooms, athletic training facilities, two new multipurpose spaces, and a snack area. The bridge from the new construction opens onto a mezzanine with a sweeping view of the historic vaulted field house, with an all-new indoor track and multipurpose athletics arena below.



#### 5.6.24

Lawrenceville's Holocaust Torah was rededicated in a ceremony in Bunn Library. The family of **Jesse Hertzberg**'90 gifted the School community in 1991 with the Torah scroll, which had recently been rescued from Czestochowa, Poland, where it was among 31 scrolls discovered in a basement.

#### 4.26.24

Advanced dance students took a master class on campus with Fernanda Oliveira, a member of the Philadelphia Ballet's Corps de Ballet.

#### 4.17.24

**Remko Wang Kuijs '24** had his paper, "New Netherland," published in the spring 2024 issue of *The Concord Review*, a quarterly journal for academic papers of secondary students.

#### 1.28.24

**Abhinav Sukla '27** won the Grand Prix prize in the Music-Fest International Rising Talents Piano Competition and was invited to play at Carnegie Hall on March 9 – his fourth performance at the renowned yenue.

Read the latest news stories at: lawrenceville.org/life-at-lawrenceville/news-events

#### Lacey's Drive to **Make Change**

**ELI LACEY '25** was elected student body president for the 2024-25 academic year in March, succeeding Bryce Langdon'24 and looking to drive change.

"I want changes that are easy to implement but would still have a big impact on the School," said Lacey, a member of Periwig who also wrestles and plays football.

Among the initiatives Lacey will prioritize is improving lines of broad communication to students, looking to meet them where they are. This includes the use of the Reach app's community chat function, "so that everyone will be in the loop for the events to come next year," Lacey said. He noted that students primarily receive information from the School through House Letter emails and School Meeting announcements, leaving major events often unnoticed by students who rarely checked email. Lacey also seeks to implement a driver education program at the beginning of the fall term.

"I've never learned how to drive, and I know a lot of people on campus that don't know how to [either]," said Lacey, a boarding student.

"Lawrenceville is an extremely rigorous school," he said, "but we can't forget to keep building up and supporting the people around us."

– Sienna Soemitro '26/The Lawrence





### When Will I See You Again?

IN A MATTER of days - hours, really - after the last final exam is taken, Lawrenceville students clear out of the campus and head to points all over the world for the summer. With them, they take memories of the completed year that may last a lifetime.

What they don't take with them are the possessions they managed to misplace over the preceding months, and when that happens, those sundry items find their way to the lost and found in the rotunda of the Fathers Building. At any point, there is a consistent collection of AirPods, eyeglasses, watches and other personal effects, and they were still there in mid-June, when just three lonely items of clothing remained: a slim navy blazer whose most distinctive identifier was a Kennedy House pin; a girls' kelly-green and light-blue North Face quarter-zip pullover fleece; and a matte black Giro skater's helmet. The shell bears a round orange sticker proclaiming "Proud Sibling," presumably of an Oregon State University student. As you can see, the helmet was in good, dependable hands for the summer.

### **Gratitude and Trust**

The Class of 2024 put their faith in their school, and both sides were richly rewarded.

> IF THE CLASS of 2024 entered Lawrenceville with trepidation, it could be understood. A group of young learners collected from around the world gathered in the fall of 2020 as the entire student body was returning to campus after a pandemic exile, unsure just what to expect. But that year's youngest class would be undaunted.

> "You placed your trust in us and in return blossomed before our eyes. Placing your trust in others is indeed a leap of faith, and it is a gift as well for my faculty, colleagues, and I," said Head of School Stephen S. Murray H'54 '55 '63 '65 '16 P'16'21. "That leap of faith, that trust you've placed in us, has meant the world to us. A recompense has been watching all that you have done in your time here, all that you have accomplished, sometimes in rather public ways with well-deserved praise and honors, and just as often in your quiet, thoughtful efforts to do the right thing - to act with kindness and humility, to follow your hearts and seeing what I see in all of you."

> Murray presented the Edward Sutliff Brainard Prize, given annually by the faculty to the Fifth Form student whom it holds in the highest esteem, to Claire Jiang '24. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Murray also presented the Trustees' Cup, recognizing that student who has most influenced the School for good, to Charles Vachris'24. He also recognized the members of the class who will attend service academies in the fall: Jimmy Dean Manley IV'24 has been appointed to the U.S, Military Academy in West Point, New York; Amelie Deng'24 and Megan Kumar'24 both earned ROTC





Scholarships; Ace Lumpris '24 will attend the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School this fall; and Troy Negus '24 was selected for the West Point Preparatory Scholarship program for the fall of 2025.

In her valedictory address, Emily Pan'24 (pictured above) ruminated on a motto she had adopted late in her Fifth Form year as a guide to invest herself in the right things.

"When I began to use the phrase, 'It's not that serious,' it wasn't that I stopped taking everything seriously. I just began to choose what to take seriously and what not to," Pan explained. "I still put effort into my schoolwork, not because I wanted that grade, but because I felt I owed it to myself to learn and do better. I still showed up for friends and cheered for them; if anything, I cheered louder, because I cared more about supporting them than about being judged by others. I chose what mattered to me."

See a complete list of Fifth Form prizes and Underform prizes at https://www.lawrenceville.org/life-at-lawrenceville/news-events For more photos from Commencement 2024, visit Lawrenceville's Flickr page.



### **Having Community** Conversations

Lawrenceville's special speaker series is designed to help students understand the context and complexities of the Middle East conflict.

THE ACADEMIC YEAR had scarcely begun in October when the rupture of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict tore across the globe. In order to help students makes sense of the horrific events, Lawrenceville presented a series of "Community Conversations," welcoming leading experts to present context and credible expert information. The goal is to help create a campus environment of compassion, understanding, and informed discussion, as well as a sense of social responsibility in Lawrentians.

Award-winning journalists Jane Ferguson '04 and David Ottaway '57 P'86 '91 GP'24 headlined an all-School meeting in January to discuss the complexities of the ongoing war in Gaza. The two veteran Middle East correspondents provided students with a shared set of details about the region and history of the conflict, sharing their unique experiences and informed perspectives.

Twice a Pulitzer Prize finalist, Ottaway is a Middle East Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center who worked 35 years for The Washington Post as a foreign correspondent in the Middle East, Africa, and Southern Europe and later as a national security and investigative reporter in Washington before retiring in 2006. Ferguson is an award-winning foreign correspondent for PBS NewsHour, contributor to The New Yorker, and McGraw Professor of Journalism at Princeton University. She has over a decade of experience

living and reporting in the Middle East and reporting from the Arab world, Africa, and South Asia.

By way of introduction, Ottaway gave a careful outline of the last century of the region's history. Beginning with the 1917 Balfour Declaration, he cataloged both breakthroughs and disappointments in attempts to achieve long-lasting peace. Ferguson spoke about her experiences as a journalist living in and covering the region for nearly two decades, and about our common humanity.

The pair also responded to student questions, urging Lawrentians to become informed global citizens by researching the news from a variety of resources, including exploring outlets from around the world that present different perspectives. Long-form journalism, rather than the more easily accessible 20-second video, they urged, remains relevant and important in order to understand the complexity and nuance of the situation in the region.

In April, the School welcomed international affairs practitioner and scholar Hugh Dugan P'20'21 to campus. In 2019, Dugan served as Acting Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, which involved lines of effort for recovery from the Middle East. A U.S. delegate and senior advisor to the United Nations from 1989-2015 and member of the National Security Council, Dugan spoke to Lawrentians about hostage-taking as what he called "an act of war," both in the Middle East and in other regions of the world.

There is no "cookie-cutter approach" to resolution of any hostage situation, according to Dugan. Terrorist organizations like Hamas, he said, are not bound by the "customs, protocols, conventions, or arrangements" that are generally agreed upon between nation-states.

"We can punish states through accountability measures, but how does one deal with a terrorist organization?" he said. "They are outside of the law. We are dealing with outlaws."

#### Our Newest Fan: Larrie the Bulldog!

beautiful, historic campus, the gleaming new field house, and a sense of academic rigor to rival anyone. But one thing has been missing – a mascot.

Not anymore. Lawrentians met their school's new biggest fan, Larrie the bulldog, in April.

"Lawrenceville's philosophy of dependability and perseverance manifests itself in Larrie," said **Tripp Welborne H'58 P'21'24**, dean of athletics and co-curricular education. "Like a dog going after a bone, you can count on Lawrentians to never give up!"

Larrie's official design was based on a range of student art concepts and a survey of students and faculty led to a vote on the name of the dog.

The feisty-but-friendly bulldog does not replace Big Red as the name of Lawrenceville's athletic teams. Rather, Larrie is like "Rameses," the ram that cheers on the North Carolina Tar Heels, or "Big Al," the elephant that represents the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide. Lawrenceville has long used a bulldog as an informal athletic symbol.

The name "Larrie" isn't unfamiliar to the School. The first reference to Lawrenceville student-athletes as "Larries" goes back to a 1948 mention in the now-defunct *Newark News* and, by 1955, *The Lawrence* was regularly referring to teams by this moniker. The name pays homage to Lawrenceville's past while reflecting the characteristics of today's community.





# Paging Through New Works from Lawrentians

Literary Lawrenceville alumni have been working feverishly at their keyboards to present new books exploring implicit bias and racism, the chance meetings of people and pets, and ways to ease the grind of cooking.



#### Jon A. Krosnick '76

The Cambridge Handbook of Implicit Bias and Racism (Edited by Krosnick, Tobias H. Stark, and Amanda L. Scott)

The concept of implicit bias is a hot topic in the social and

behavioral sciences. Bringing together a diverse range of scholars to represent a broad spectrum of views, this handbook documents the current scholarship and proposes directions for future research in the field of implicit bias measurement.



#### Stacey Patton '96

Not My Cat

An award-winning journalist, child advocate, and professor at Howard University,

Patton takes a turn as a children's author, documenting her own experience in a charming and hilarious picture book about a solitary homeowner who insists she's much too busy to adopt a stray cat ... until the cat adopts her. Illustrated by Acamy Schleikorn.



#### Caroline Chambers '07

What to Cook When You Don't Feel Like Cooking

Spurred by the success of her No. 1-ranked food Substack newsletter of the same name.

What to Cook is a cookbook that's more of a playbook for busy people responsible for putting complete meals on tables, with hacks and other shortcuts that take the grind out of cooking. Read more about it on Page 18.

# Art **Imitating**

By Lisa M. Gillard H'17

Shortly before the dedication of the Battle-Fitzgerald Atrium on May 16. Artist-in-Residence Stuart Robertson 'II H'18 and several students discussed the overhead mural on which they collaborated over the course of the year.

ven during his student years, Stuart Robertson'II H'18 viewed the Lawrenceville campus as a canvas. From building façades to lengthy corridors, every empty expanse seemed ideal for a mural reminiscent of the vibrant artwork of his native Jamaica. Those murals, noted the School's first artist-in-residence, reflect the country's resourceful, expressive, and colorful culture, and often pay tribute to revered community figures.

So, it felt serendipitous when Head of School **Steve Murray** H'54'55'63'65'16 P'16'21 engaged Robertson about revitalizing the entrance to the original portion of what is now Tsai Field House. The H. Lyals Battle '67 and Darrell A. Fitzgerald '68 Atrium honoring the School's first two Black students was dedicated on May I6, but months before the stirring ceremony, Robertson understood that his commission to create a vibrant mixed-media installation to ring the walls of the atrium would be an extraordinary learning opportunity for his students.

"It would not be the ethos of the project or the institution," he said, to create the installation without an experiential education component.

Students applied to work on the installation and were chosen by Robertson. Over the fall and winter terms, sixteen Lawrentians - including one documentary photographer and one videographer - assisted in creating an installation for the Battle-Fitzgerald Atrium.

"There are things that I could not have put into a lesson plan that I've taught them while working on this project," Robertson said.

Robertson's use of mixed media was "something I've never been exposed to before, so it has really forced me to get out of my comfort zone," student artist **Sofia Keith '25** explained. "It's something that I now use in my own personal work and that I really value learning from him."

The artists collaborated closely with Robertson from conceptualization to realization to complete a work that replaces the original, circa-1950 black-and-white images of Lawrenceville athletes in action. The exclusive depiction of white male students reflected the era's student body, but that composition was neither recognizable nor relatable to students in 2024.

Creating a project that represents today's Lawrenceville for future Lawrentians comes with "a lot of responsibility," Keith noted.

"Whenever we got together to brainstorm, Mr. Robertson really emphasized that the installation was so much more than the visuals and the aesthetics," she said.

The atrium is also anchored by two display cases of archival material featuring photographs, letters, and personal memorabilia representing the triumphs and struggles of Battle and Fitzgerald during their time at Lawrenceville.

"These doors that open into the atrium of this handsome structure ... represent the courage of Lyals and Darrell at a very different time in the School's history," said Joe Tsai '82, whose vision inspired the atrium tribute and whose generosity enabled it, at the dedication in May. "Now the door to Lawrenceville is wide open to give the opportunity to students of all ethnicities, and our School is better for it. This Battle-Fitzgerald Atrium is a symbol of our progress, and we've come a long way." •



**Q&A** 

with Artist-in **Residence Stewy** Robertson 'II H'18

#### Why did you elect to portray Lawrentians not just as athletes, but also in some of the many identities they have at school?

I think the beauty of Lawrenceville is that athletes are also scholars, writers, performers, technicians, and engineers. I don't know many people who get to be just one thing here. I think it is really important for students to keep in mind that there are multiple parts of you. Students should be able to live through all the versions of themselves.

#### In what ways did the space, dedicated to the courage of Lyals and Darrell, influence your process?

I'm thinking of them in both Lawrenceville and Civil Rights contexts, trying to imagine what this all means for someone who doesn't look like me. I'm trying to imagine all the different ways that people are interacting with their story, and then using it as guides for the choices [I made]. Their legacy is what we're interacting with now - and someday someone is going to interact with our legacy.

#### Why did you want to involve students in this process?

As an artist-in-residence, I'm exposing them to experiences and information and ideas and lenses. Here, I can show them this is what it's really like to be an artist; this is what it takes to execute a major creative vision. And all of the risk is mine – it's up to me to make sure this installation is completed. It's also a chance for them to be cemented into Lawrenceville history.

#### What do you want people to feel, think, or experience when they see the installation?

People will be moving through the Atrium, so the goal is to grab your attention and hold it for five or six, maybe 12 seconds. And maybe you'll start thinking and come back for another minute. Then maybe there's a day where you come and spend 30 minutes with it because you just need to figure out what it means and what it means to you.





As a recipe developer, cookbook author, and the creator of the popular Substack newsletter *What to Cook When You Don't Feel Like Cooking*, **Caroline Chambers '07** has written hundreds if not thousands of recipes, drawn from a seemingly endless reserve of notes, observations, and memories of meals.

Food is never far from her mind. During lunch, her thoughts sometimes drift toward ideas for dinner. She inhales cookbooks and routinely probes restaurant menus. When dining out, she's not above grilling servers about the dishes on offer, down to the final pinch of salt.

All of this information makes its way into an elaborate ongoing document of ideas, notes, and photos of food that contain the kernels of potential recipes. Sometimes years pass before Chambers dusts off treasures from her cache of research.

"Recently I found notes from a trip we took to Israel five years ago," says Chambers, a wife and mother of three young boys. "I found this hummus-shakshuka mashup thing we ate there. I made it and am working on it for the newsletter."

Building on the success of her weekly newsletter, which has more than 190,000 subscribers, Chambers released her second cookbook, *What to Cook When You Don't Feel Like Cooking*, on August 13, accompanied by a multi-city book tour. Like the newsletter, the book promises its readers complete, delicious meals that can be prepared in less than an hour. Recipes mostly require twelve ingredients or fewer, with the use of pots and pans kept to a minimum. Chambers also provides an array of possible ingredient swaps and other tips to assist anyone who wants, or needs, to improvise.

Caroline Chambers '07's Substack newsletter *What To Cook When You Don't Feel Like Cooking* is the No. I food and drink newsletter and the first Substack to get a cookbook deal. The book debuted at No. 2 on *The New York Times* Best Sellers List for Advice, How-To, and Miscellaneous on August 25.

"I do a lot of little hacky things that make life easier and cleanup simpler, and people have come to trust me for it," she says.

A self-taught cook who has run her own catering company and styled food for *The New York Times*, Chambers can't quite specify where her ability to conceptualize new dishes comes from. "It's like being a writer or an artist," she says. "I would never know what to do with a blank canvas, but I can look at food and know what could go with what. It speaks to me."

Part of that ability comes from a lifetime of making food for, and with, the people she loves. Her mother was an adventurous cook who placed a high value on eating meals together as a family. Helping her put dinner on the table was always a task Chambers embraced, and she learned from a young age the satisfaction of feeding people and watching them take pleasure in her creations – something that continues to motivate her.

"We live in a small home in California, but we have friends over all the time, because I still get such a thrill from feeding people," she says.

Chambers' ability to connect with people through food ballooned through the popularity of the recipes she shares online. She might have never started posting recipes if not for changes in the business of book publishing. Despite the success of her first cookbook, *Just Married: A Cookbook for Newlyweds*, which was published in 2018, Chambers' next pitch was met with skepticism.

"Publishers wanted me to already have a following because they didn't want to do any of the marketing themselves," she says. "They wanted to be able to presell 20,000 books without lifting a finger."

At first, Chambers bristled, but then the COVID-19 pandemic struck, and the budgets for her steady recipe development jobs for magazines and brands evaporated overnight. "I started posting tons on social media and growing my own audience, and I grew a nice, loyal following," she says.

She soon launched her newsletter, and within a couple of years, despite the number of influential chefs and food journalists on the platform, *What to Cook* climbed all the way to the top to become Substack's No. I food and drink newsletter.

By this time, publishers were contacting her, eager to offer her a book contract. Chambers didn't even have to write a proposal for her new cookbook. "The publisher told me my Substack was the proposal," she says.

Writing a cookbook presents a much bigger challenge than creating one recipe per week, Chambers says. "It's super-consuming, but I genuinely love my job so much. I love good food. I love talking about it and what goes into it. I think about food all of the time."

Adam Grybowski is a freelance writer based in Lawrence Township.

Photography by Breana Janay Photography thelawrentian.lawrenceville.org | 19

# Go Big Red



# **Back-to-Back National Champs**

Boys' lacrosse captured its second consecutive title.

LAST SPRING, LAWRENCEVILLE'S boys' lacrosse team won its first national championship under head coach **Jon Posner** in a nail-biter, scoring in the second overtime to edge Brunswick School, 14-13.

This May, Big Red left nothing to chance, racing out to a huge advantage against Brunswick in the season's final game and cruising to a 14-5 win to end its season at No. I in the Q-Collar Inside Lacrosse National High School Power Rankings and the USA Lacrosse Magazine Top 25 for the second straight year, trading spots with Brunswick in both polls. Only a 13-12 overtime loss to Brunswick in early April kept Lawrenceville from an unblemished 20-0 season. Big Red also became the first team in the history of the Inside

▲ Only a one-point, double-overtime loss in April kept boys' lacrosse from a perfect season. Big Red claimed its second consecutive national championship, finishing No. I in two national top-25 polls.

Lacrosse rankings to finish back-to-back seasons at No. I.

"It means everything. It's an incredible feeling. It's an incredible accomplishment. Our kids really believed in themselves from day one. They set out when we started the season that they were going to repeat as national champions," Posner told Inside Lacrosse's Matt Kinnear. "They put the work in, and they believed that they could do it. The talk to start the season was that 2023 is over, that's in the past. Our legacy is going to be the first-ever back-to-back national champions. And they did it."

Attack Connor Gately '24 scored the first three goals of the game, followed by one each from Mikey Rooney'24 and Sawyer English '25, while goalie Timmy Piacentini '24 and the Big Red defense stubbornly refused Brunswick any chance of closing the growing gap. Gately and Piacentini, who were selected to play in the Corrigan Sports All-America Game in July, will compete as rivals next when Gately attends Yale and Piacentini suits up for Cornell. Rooney is off to Boston University.

#### Big Red Roundup

Girls' outdoor track & field won the N.J.I.S.A.A. Prep A, Mercer County, and Mid-Atlantic Prep League championships in May. Jess Bentum '25 set a personal best of 102 feet in the discus to win the event, and Blair Bartlett'27 took top honors in the 1600m and 3200m.



Girls' golf took home the N.J.I.S.A.A. Prep A championship in May, a week after claiming the Mid-Atlantic Prep League title. Isabella Wang'26 shot a 75, good for tops in the M.A.P.L.



# In the Swing of Things

Growing up on Lawrenceville's golf course helped Adrian Jordan '24 conquer the competition.

By Alexander Donne '26

WHEN LAWRENCEVILLE'S BOYS' golf won its first six matches this spring, co-captain Adrian Jordan '24 was integral to that hot start. And when the team captured the Mercer County Tournament at Mercer Oaks, Jordan was atop the leaderboard, carding a 72 to finish first overall. He followed that with a 71 to claim the N.J.I.S.A.A. Prep A title, as well.

Although the team no longer competes on the School's campus course, Jordan honed his craft on the venerable old track, introduced to the game at the age of 8 by his father, **Phil Jordan '85 P'24**, chair of the Religion and Philosophy Department.

"My dad would take me out here on the golf course," the younger Jordan recalls, "and I was pretty good, so I just kept on going."

Now, ten years later, Jordan played this spring as the team's No. I seed and ranked fifth in New Jersey in his age group, the latest laurels he's earned over a consistently successful four years playing for Big Red. Last summer, Jordan finished in the top 10 in the New Jersey Amateur Championships. He's also had a huge impact on his team, helping swing Lawrenceville to the Mid-Atlantic Prep League championship in 2023. As a Second Former, Jordan won the individual state championship while Big Red earned the team title.

Jordan's next stop will be Kenyon College, where he will play golf beginning next year. If he seems to be a

Boys' golf won the Mercer County Tournament and the N.J.I.S.A.A. Prep A championships, with Adrian Jordan '24 winning individual titles in both events. The Crooked Stick also remains in Lawrenceville's possession after a 198-206 win over Hill.

Girls' lacrosse claimed the Mid-Atlantic Prep League and Mercer County **Tournament Association** championships this spring and were also the Wooden Stick champs.

In addition to their national championship repeat, boys' lacrosse also downed Hill on May 11 to claim another Mid-Atlantic Prep League title.

Girls' and boys' crew both captured the Brown Cup this spring, with the boys adding the Mid-Atlantic Prep League title, as well.



familiar figure at the Gambier, Ohio, campus, perhaps it will be because he reminds someone of his grandfather, former Lawrenceville Head Master Philip H. Jordan Jr. '50 H'61 '96 P'85'90 GP'24, who was president of the college from 1974-95.

Golf is largely an individual sport, but Jordan emphasized

that this year's golf team "really closely bonded" and had a great team dynamic. He embraced his role as co-captain, explaining that he liked "to give some of the other guys some advice on their swings or short game" and enjoyed the "aspect of leadership" that being a captain offers. One of his first tasks this past season was to help plan the team's spring break trip to Arizona, where they strengthened both their games and their bonds as teammates. He was proud of the team's depth of talent, too.

"I [didn't] have to be at my best for the team to win," he explained.

Throughout the construction of Tsai Field House, the golf team has practiced at the nearby Mountain View Golf Course. If the weather turns bad, the team heads to the basement of the F.M. Kirby Math and Science Center, where a golf simulator was installed - an amenity that helped determine which players qualified for the varsity team based on its realistic simulation.

"It gives feedback on what your swing looks like," Jordan explained, "and where the ball would have gone if it was a real course."

Still, being on an actual course in the thick of a competitive match is part of the challenge that makes golf so difficult. Although Jordan believes the physical aspect of golf is complicated, "the mental aspect is more prevalent than in other sports," he says, adding that even in the middle of a tough day, it's vital to "maintain a stable and healthy mental attitude, not let that get into your head, and just play with what you have."

In Jordan's case, his bag is full.

# Crossing the Finish Line

The Dishner Track and Field

Complex was formally dedicated on May 11. Situated across the Lewisville Road service entrance from Woods Field, the Dishner Track and Field Complex provides a beautiful new space devoted to the sport's competitors. From left are Tripp Welborne H'58 P'21 24, dean of athletics and co-curricular education; Head of School Steve Murray H'54 '55 '63 '65 '16 P'16'21, Katharine Dishner '15: J. G. Dishner P'83 GP'15; Cathy Dishner P'15; Jacqueline Dishner; and Jeffrey Dishner '83 P'15.



### **What a Crew!**

As she prepares to row at Duke, Vivian Teeley '24 leans on the example of her mother and former coach, Bernadette Teeley, who just happens to be a world champion.

AFTER ENROLLING AT the University of Dayton in the late 1990s, Bernadette Teeley P'24 quickly became a vital cog in a nascent crew program, establishing herself as an elite collegiate rower. "Her success put women's rowing on the map for Dayton," her cousin, Jim Marten, told University of Dayton Magazine. After earning individual All-America honors at UD and as a graduate student at the University of Michigan, Teeley and her U.S. Women's eightoared boat earned the gold at the 2002 FISA World Championships in Spain.

Winning on the world stage "was really exciting because [it] was a watershed moment in women's sports," Teeley said of her boat becoming the first from the United States to win gold at that level in over two decades.

Rowing remains a significant part of life for Teeley, Lawrenceville's dean of academics, who has coached girls' varsity rowing since arriving at the School in 2012. That team's co-captains this past spring were **Natalie Moore '24** and Teeley's daughter, **Vivian Teeley '24**, daughter's, as well. Reflecting on her mother's coaching style, Vivian feels that she "knows when to fire people up and when to settle them down" – something Vivian worked to achieve as captain, though in her own way.

Bernadette emphasizes the "difficulties" and nuances of coaching one's own daughter, as well as those of being coached by a parent.

"I give all faculty children a lot of credit. To perform for [one's] parents, there's a personal read on everything said," she explains, adding that from a daughter's standpoint, "criticism can land a bit more sharply, and praise can be doubted."

This feedback sparks motivation to "come every day and give your best," an attribute of any great rower, she says.

What makes for a model rower? To the coach, it's driven by showing up every day and being willing to *be* coached. In a sport as grueling as crew, Bernadette says the ability to "apply feedback or criticism for the good of the boat" and the capacity to "master your own mental space when the little voice is telling you to stop" are crucial to the overall success of a rower and the team.

For her part, Vivian echoes her mother's motto to explain how the seeds of success grow: "It's not the work you *want* to do that makes you better."

- Celestine Sutter '27/The Lawrence



# Encore



### ChiModu'84: Boldness

Hutchins Galleries presents photography that set the visual template for hip-hop

YEARS BEFORE HE died in 2021, Chi Modu '84 helped shape the visual identity of rap and hip-hop music with his photographs of the genre's 1990s icons. Modu's images were showcased in "Chi Modu: Fortune Favors the Bold" in Lawrenceville's Hutchins Galleries during May and June.

Working as a photographer and director of photography for *The Source*, which *The New York Times* called "the definitive digest of hiphop's commercial and creative ascendance," Modu captured what are considered the quintessential images of artists such as Tupac Shakur, Dr. Dre, Easy-E, Wu Tang Clan, and the Notorious B.I.G. Later in his career, Modu chronicled school children in Nigeria, as well as life in Yemen, Morocco, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, and elsewhere.

At Lawrenceville's Community Day on May 8, Getty Images staff entertainment photographer Arturo Holmes told students that Modu's photography was "all about storytelling."

No matter what or who was in front of Modu's lens, the honesty of his images reveals the relationship between the photographer and his subject. Modu was described by a fellow Lawrentian from the Class of 1984 as "a beloved classmate with a huge smile and kind heart." The exhibit celebrated the artistry and life of an amazing documentarian and creator.

Hutchins Galleries also presented "Views of Florence," an exhibit of paintings from the collection of **Philip Ellis Foster '56** this spring.

#### **One Fine K**

Are you a K-pop fan? Well, if not, then who in the United States generated 9.2 billion streams in 2023? It would be easy to say K-pop – or Korean popular music – peaked here in 2020 when K-pop sensation BTS was named *Time* magazine's Entertainer of the Year, but its popularity hasn't waned.

So, when **Isaac Moon '26** arrived at Lawrenceville last fall and learned about the School's dance programs, he knew his next move. "That's what pushed me to create the K-Dance Crew," said Moon, who has more than five years of experience as a dancer. **Derrick Wilder H'78**, director of dance, appointed Moon captain, and the troupe was off and dancing.

A mix of Afro, hip-hop, and R&B music, the style acts as a bridge for cultural exchange and unity, so the K-Dance Crew grants Lawrentians the opportunity to experience a range of cultural dances and backgrounds.

"The K-Dance Crew is more than just K-pop," Wilder explained. "It's another way for this community to come together and inspire other people and groups to represent their culture here on campus."

K-Dance made its debut in last November's Fall Dance Series. "Everyone was nervous, but we performed well to my standards," Moon said. "It was really [my] core memory of everything that happened on campus."

- Kaci Treasure

▼ Isaac Moon '27 (left) founded the K-Dance Crew.





## 'Puffs' **Parodies Potter**

**GIVEN THE ENDURING** popularity of the Harry Potter franchise, a sendup was inevitable, and the Periwig Club was there to make it happen. Puffs, or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic hit the stage of the Kirby Arts Center's Black Box theater in May. The play satirizes J. K. Rowling's iconic Hogwarts School series, but from the perspective of the "Puffs," who were inspired by Hogwarts' Hufflepuff house.

Directed by English teaching fellow Gabrielle Lescadre, the production followed the story of three young wizards trying to make it through their time at a magical school. Periwig veteran Sofia Carlisi '24, who played the bubbly and energetic Leanne, said that "even if you don't know everything about Harry Potter, you can still enjoy the show." To Carlisi, Puffs is about the underdogs of a story, and how the non-heroes can be even more interesting than the main characters. That's important, she said, because "often we want to be the main characters of our own stories, but the rest of us are just ... here. And that's something that can be kind of scary."

▲ Puffs, which lampoons the wildly popular Harry Potter books and films, cast a spell on the KAC Black Box theatre stage in May

Carlisi's first experience in performing arts at Lawrenceville was playing Puck in Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream in 2021, staged outside in the Bowl due to COVID-19 restrictions. Since then, she has been a part of every show, whether she was acting or stage managing. In Puffs, Carlisi's Leanne performs a monologue she says was particularly resonant to her, when the Puffs must decide whether they are willing to fight for an important cause.

"It's awesome because [...] I convince everyone to stay and do what's right," she explains. "It's one of those moments that you really wouldn't expect from my character."

As she prepared to graduate from Lawrenceville, Carlisi said she hopes all students would consider trying their hands at theatre.

"I've had such an amazing experience with this show and theatre here in general," she said. "Even if you don't consider yourself a theatre person, it's a bonding experience and a moment to break out of your shell and try something you've never done before."

- Story Taylor'27

ALUMNI WEEKEND 2024

s Paul Fitzgerald '67 P'03 describes it, his life has been inextricably linked to Lawrenceville, first as one-half of the Fitzgerald twins and later as parent of Kelly Fitzgerald Lorenzo'03, whose wedding in Edith Memorial Chapel to Timon Lorenzo '03 was officiated by the Rev. Will Wauters '67 H'03 P'01, a classmate and the former School chaplain. Paul's twin, Joe Fitzgerald '67 P'99'03, was his co-class agent until Joe's passing in 2019. But for Fitzgerald, the link to Lawrenceville goes beyond his family. A class

agent since 1994 who has served as member of his 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, and 55th Reunion Committees, as well as on the Alumni Association Executive Council

since 2021, he has made "giving back" to Lawrenceville a priority and favorite pastime.

Fitzgerald shared his recollections at Alumni Reunion Weekend 2024 when he was honored with the School's Distinguished Alumnus Award at a ceremony inside the Kirby Arts Center. The prestigious accolade is conferred annually by the Lawrenceville School Alumni Association to a Lawrentian in recognition of exceptional efforts to promote the best interests of the School.

"As class agent, I am so lucky to be in the Class of '67," Fitzgerald says, noting the relationships among classmates and their ties to the School. "We've had two trustees, an Aldo Leopold Award winner, a Harkness Award winner, a School chaplain, the head of Buildings & Grounds, a writer-in-residence, and multiple [alumni trustee] electors." His class does remain tight-knit, and

# Once a scholarship student, Paul Fitzgerald '67 P'03 works hard paying it forward to today's students.

**BY Barbara Horn** 

Fitzgerald cites frequent mini-reunions, including an annual gathering at the Jersey shore, and a recent trip to see "The Heart of Rock and Roll" on Broadway with classmate Hugh Cregg'67, featuring Hugh's music as lead singer for Huey Lewis and the News. This enduring bond is what Fitzgerald means when he mentions his good fortune to be associated with such a strong class.

"Just calling someone every five years to ask for money isn't going to be successful," he says. "Events that bring the class together when you don't have to ask for a check make it easier when you do need to ask.

"Having been a scholarship student myself, I like to make sure our class does its part for The Lawrenceville Fund," Fitzgerald adds. "Helping students have the chance to come to Lawrenceville is the most important part of my role."

A resident of central New Jersey, Fitzgerald is a frequent presence at alumni and School events, cheering on the sports teams and serving on the AAEC Nominating Committee, among his other volunteer roles.

Both Paul and Joe Fitzgerald were dedicated Big Red athletes, playing football, basketball, and baseball, with Paul captaining the football team. As a twin, he likes to tell a story about the time basketball coach Ed Megna H'50'85 P'64'67'70'76 cautioned him for receiving four fouls before halftime. Following Paul's correction, Megna had to get the count revised to reflect two fouls for each brother, who were nearly identical in appearance.

After leaving Lawrenceville, Fitzgerald earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton and an M.B.A. from Rutgers before a successful career in banking. Now mostly retired, he enjoys golfing and spending time and with his grandchildren. •





ore than a thousand Lawrentians from the past three quarters of a century and their guests and families returned to campus for a sun-splashed Alumni Reunion Weekend in early June. The Big Red Food Truck Picnic and Festival made the Circle the place to be on Saturday afternoon on a weekend that was also highlighted by dinners for the classes of the 4s and 9s, the Grand March, the Alumni Awards presentation, a Big Red Farm tour, and the opportunity for alums to revisit their old Houses.

The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th reunion, while ten new honorary class memberships were conferred and the Alumni Association bestowed its prestigious Distinguished Alumnus Award upon Paul Fitzgerald '67 P'03 for his longtime commitment and service to the School. The robust program also saw Harkness Awards presented to a pair of cherished former teachers, Kathy T. Krebs P'90 '94 and Champ Atlee '62 H'74 '75 '79 '80 '83 '84 '87 '89 '06 P'92, and the Art Hailand Admirable Achievement Award bestowed upon Mary Kate Barnes H'59'77 P'II'13'19, the recently retired assistant head of school and director of advancement who led the record-breaking Emerge Transformed capital campaign that raised an astonishing \$475.7 million for the School, and the Big Red Award given to Jane Lynch Crain'99 and PJ Jayachandran P'24.

Make plans to join us for Alumni Reunion Weekend 2025 on May 30 to June 1. For more information visit: www.lawrenceville.org/alumni/reunion. See many more photographs from this year's event at Lawrenceville's alumni Flickr account.

#### New **Honorary** Class **Members**

#### The Class of 1979

John "Marty" Doggett H'76 '82 '86 '87 '88 '92 '98 P'00

#### The Class of 1994

Josiah Bunting III H'37 '59 '88 '91 '93 '95 P'88 '97

Michael Goldenberg H'96'97 P'05'10 Emilie D. Kosoff H'88 '96 '00

'18 '20 P'19

Michel Rosseau P'05 Caroline Shaw P'10 '14 '16

#### The Class of 1999

Bernard "Bernie" Loux H'71 '87 Nancy Thomas H'01 P'04 '07 Gail Thompson P'99

#### The Class of 2004

Mary B. Calvert P'04 '05 '06

#### **Harkness Awards**

#### Kathy T. Krebs P'90 '94

Mathematics Teacher Posthumously

- Arrived at Lawrenceville in 1988, served as director of computer systems, was head of Dawes House, and taught
- Advised the Lawrenceville Business Leaders Club, sponsored Corby Managers, coached softball, was day student advisor for Perry Ross, and was involved with college counseling.
- Earned her associate degree from Keystone Junior College, her bachelor's degree from Syracuse University, and her master's from Wesleyan University.
- Retired to Wallenpaupack Lake Estate in 2009 and was an active member of Women's Club, served as a trustee for the Community Library of Lake and Salem Townships, and chaired the 150th anniversary celebration of Keystone College.
- Mother of Michael Krebs '90 and Matthew Krebs '94.





▲ Champ Atlee '62 H'74 '75 '79 '80 '83 '84 '87 '89 '06 P'92, who received the Harkness Award, with daughter Olivia Atlee and wife Annette Atlee.

# **Champ Atlee '62 H'74 '75 '79 '80 '83 '84 '87 '89 '06 P'92** English Teacher Baseball Coach

- Returned to Lawrenceville in 1969 as the youngest teacher ever hired at the time.
- English teacher, head of Woodhull House from 1969-78, day advisor to Upper House and Law Club, director of Merrill Seminar, soccer coach, chair of Discipline Committee, and head baseball coach for more than 40 years.
- Created and led signature English electives including "West of Everything" and "The Law as Literature."
- Led baseball to 521 wins, 18 New Jersey independent school championships, and three Mid-Atlantic
  Prep League titles, and twice won the Mercer County
  Tournament.
- Earned bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall College before a stint in the Minnesota Twins organization.
- Published a collection of poetry and was twice nominated for the prestigious Pushcart Prize.
- ◀ Michael Krebs '90, who accepted the Harkness Award for his mother, the late Kathy T. Krebs P'90 '94, with Richard Krebs P'90 '94 and Matthew Krebs '94.

#### **New Alumni Trustee** Neil Mehta '02

#### New Alumni Trustee Selectors

Jane Lynch Crain '99 Burk C. Murchison '67 P'94

#### **Big Red Awards**

Jane Lynch Crain '99 PJ Jayachandran P'24

#### Art Hailand Admirable Achievement Award

Mary Kate Barnes H'59 '77 P'11 '13 '19

► Jane Lynch Crain '99 and PJ Jayachandran P'24 received the Big Red Award.











# t's tough to track down **Zack Hoisington '07.** It's not like you can catch him in his office, because his office is often outside and sometimes not even on dry land.

Hoisington is the director of advancement and experiential education at the Upstream Alliance, a nonprofit working to improve coastal resiliency, clean water, and public access to water. Based in Annapolis, Maryland, the organization focuses on watersheds around the mid-Atlantic from Flushing Bay in New York to the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, including the Brandywine and Delaware rivers.

"Environmental stewardship is rooted in the experiences that we have," Hoisington says. "What Upstream Alliance is doing is providing experiences to people so that they can learn to love the resources and have a greater impact in the wider community."

Working in and conserving the outdoors was a passion Hoisington realized when studying biology at Colorado College. But the seed of environmentalism was planted at Lawrenceville when he took a course in nature writing, which included a canoe trip in the Pine Barrens in southern New Jersey. Now, with Upstream Alliance, he is part of an organization that works to help waterways, particularly urban waterways that were once heavily polluted, by bringing people to the water to see the opportunities there and what those waters are really like today.

"Changing the cultural norms is a big step towards improving the river," Hoisington says. "Getting more people onto the water is one of the ways we do that."

Hoisington, who grew up in Northern Virginia, came to Lawrenceville as his father, Jeff Hoisington '77 P'07, uncles Rich Hoisington '74 and Tim Hoisington '81, and grandfather Richard Hoisington'47 P'74 '77 '81 GP'07, had before him. He played football and lacrosse and participated in Periwig before heading to the foothills of the Rockies to study biology and play lacrosse. He began working in outdoor recreation, including leading camping trips for kids in Hawaii, and then working as a fly-fishing guide in Aspen.

"I didn't know how much money I was going to make living out of a tent," he says, "until I got my feet under me and started getting pretty good."

In 2013, Hoisington moved back east and started getting involved in conservation, beginning with the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies, where he worked as a faculty research assistant on large-scale oyster restoration. Oysters are being used to clean up the Chesapeake Bay, as they filter algae, sediments and other pollutants, helping create a habitat for fish, crabs, and other bay life.

"That got me reconnected with the bay and to pursue this lifelong interest in these waterways we have in the mid-Atlantic," he says.



That led him to teaching science at The Gunston School, which is also located on the Chesapeake Bay. Hoisington led bay studies programs and eventually became co-director of the Chesapeake Watershed Semester, a 15-week program in which day school students help solve some of the world's most complex environmental problems.

In 2022, Hoisington joined Upstream Alliance, where his work has focused on the Delaware Watershed and reconnecting urban communities, including Camden, New Jersey, and nearby Philadelphia, to their water.

"Those cities are there because of the river, and in the last century there's been this disconnect due to pollution," Hoisington explains. People there grew up being told: Don't go near the water.

It's not surprising given how dirty these rivers once were, including Cooper River in Camden, a 16-mile tributary of the Delaware River in Southern New Jersey. Before the passage of the Clean Water Act in 1972, about 40 percent of the river was raw sewage. But aggressive action taken to clean up the river by the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority improved water quality by 90 percent, according to a Camden County official. It's now the home of the Camden County Boathouse and a yacht club, and it hosts the Dad Vail Regatta, a national collegiate rowing competition that for years held residence on Philadelphia's Schuylkill River. Its surrounding parks and trails are packed with walkers, runners, cyclists, and picnickers, or anyone looking simply to enjoy nature.

"It's not at the point where we want it, but it's way better than it was, and it's only going to keep getting better once we get more people on the water," Hoisington says of the Cooper River. "You're going to see this inflection point where the river starts exponentially getting better."

As part of that work, they are bringing groups of people out onto the water. They include politicians and others who can influence water policy, such as U.S. Rep. Donald Norcross and Philadelphia mayor Cherelle Parker.

"The first thing I remember her saying was 'I really want to learn how to fish,'" Hoisington says of Parker, a Philadelphia native whose term began this year. "We want people of influence to have a positive experience on the water, where they see the value in usable waterways."

Perhaps more important, Upstream Alliance is bringing groups of school children, including those from the



Changing the cultural norms is a big step towards improving the river. Getting more people onto the water is one of the ways we do that."



surrounding urban school districts, onto the river to help overcome stereotypes and possible fears of the river being a dirty and dangerous place.

"As growing environmental leaders, it's important to learn about the issues that our resources face," Hoisington says, "but also learn to love the resources themselves."

In 2022, Upstream Alliance took a group of Camden teenagers, along with a photographer from National Geographic, on a six-day exploratory trip to find the source of the Cooper River, kayaking during the day, and paddling back to a base camp in Camden at night. More recently, Hoisington hosted Lawrenceville students on a paddling trip.

"Some of them had never been kayaking," said **Stephen Laubach H'03 P'23 P'27**, Lawrenceville's Aldo Leopold
Distinguished Teaching Chair and director of sustainability.
This past spring, eleven students paddled on the Cooper
River for two hours, along with Hoisington and Margarita
Olivencia, Upstream Alliance's director of Camden
Education. They saw green space, ospreys, turtles, and
herons, but they also learned about the history of the river
by paddling to a floating lighthouse that now hosts an
osprey nest atop of one of its masts. Laubach says the young
Lawrentians were stirred by the experience.

"It was inspiring to our students to see these people looking at a spot that was a little forlorn and hearing these two people sell a vision for what this place could be, and take back this waterway that had been taken over by industry and abandoned," he says.

Hoisington says Upstream Alliance hopes to bring 2,500 students a year onto the river.

"Eventually our goal is that every student in the Camden public school system gets at least one experience on the water," he explains. Upstream Alliance currently charters boat trips for about 200 students, so to reach its 2,500-student goal, the organization is building its own 49-foot, solar-powered craft, Firefly, which Hoisington said will be ready for student trips in spring 2025. The American Water Charitable Foundation donated \$250,000 to the cause last year.

Laubach says Hoisington's work is inspirational, not just to the communities in which he works, but to Lawrenceville students too.

"It's a message to our students that there are other pathways besides the more traditional ones that our students might end up pursuing," he says.

Hoisington said this work has also changed his view of the world and nature and what and where nature can be.

"I grew up in an urban area and was lucky enough to be able to leave the city and seek out these pristine places that were as untouched as possible," he says. "Since I started with Upstream Alliance, I've really changed my perspective on what it means to have nature in your life, and where you can find it."

Based in Audubon, New Jersey, Jen A. Miller is the author of Running: A Love Story.



## Meet Bob

Art has played a leading role in the life of **Bob Lettieri '56 P'8I**, who served on the executive committee of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, chaired Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania, and was a board member of the Everhart Museum in his hometown of Scranton. As a teen, Bob aspired to a career as a painter, and rediscovering a portrait he made as a student of Head Master Allan V. Heely in 1955 got him thinking. "I came across the painting and I was kind of pleased with myself," says Bob, who lives in his childhood home - the place where he stashed the Heely portrait nearly 70 years ago. "The more I looked at it, I was going to start up again." Bob chose the gentlemanly Heely as a subject because of his admiration for the head. "He was an elegant guy, and he used to wear beautiful tweed coats, and he inspired me, sartorially," he says, chuckling. So, what did Heely think of Bob's work? "I don't know if he actually ever saw it," he admits. "Maybe I was a little sheepish about showing it to him."

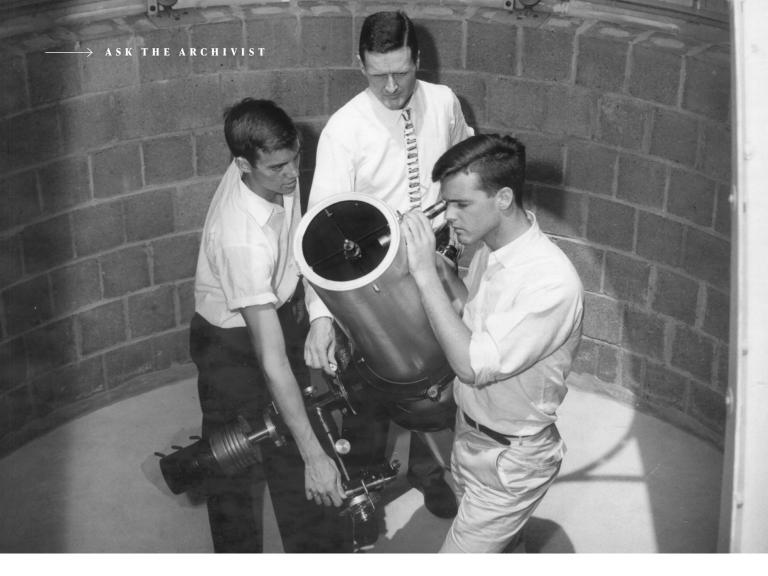
# Leave a Lawrenceville Legacy



Kevin Huang '05 was ecstatic when he was accepted to Lawrenceville in the spring of 2000. Then the tech bubble burst, and he wasn't sure he'd be able to attend. When Lawrenceville provided the scholarship aid he needed, he was grateful for the support of generous donors. Kevin had "an incredible experience" as a day student, moving on to Princeton and a career in finance.

He knew of the John Cleve Green Society through his work as a class agent and reunion volunteer, and he knew planned giving offered the opportunity to make the same kind of difference for others. Kevin says it was a "no-brainer" to take out a life insurance policy with Lawrenceville as the beneficiary, thereby establishing the Kevin H. Huang '05 Scholarship and leaving his own Lawrenceville legacy.





# **Under the Stars**

After years of obscurity, Lawrenceville's astronomical observatory is being rediscovered by drivers arriving on campus through the new Gaw Entrance.

**BY Jacqueline Haun** 

▲ By late 1961, science master Gifford Havens H'46 '58 and his students were using the observatory they built. hat is that peculiar building?
With people now entering campus from Route 206 via the new Gaw
Entrance, the white domed structure they pass on the winding access road is sparking a new level of curiosity now that it is again noticeable to an audience beyond golfers – or stargazers. Situated just north of the roadway, not far from the historic Old Brick faculty house, sits the School's largely dormant astronomical observatory, once the place to look toward the heavens.

Though astronomy has been part of Lawrenceville's science curriculum periodically since at least the 1830s, the study of the stars and planets has waxed and waned over the decades, depending on student interest and faculty expertise. The roots of the observatory, completed in 1961, might rest in the 1934 decision of science master **Otto Rosner** to introduce a new, weekly astronomy class. Using a 2½-inch aperture Ramsden telescope with a magnification of 75x, the class initially met on the lawn behind the brand-new Raymond House, but by spring 1935, their viewing location had moved to the golf course to take advantage of the dark skies unmarred by campus lights. By the following year, students were encouraged to look through the telescope before and after the regular Saturday night movie showings

on campus to learn to track the movement of planetary bodies by comparing the before and after positions.

One of the students inspired by Rosner's class was Frederick Lum Ferris Jr. '37 P'64 '65, whose interest in astronomy had been spawned by the solar eclipse of 1932. By the time he began his Fifth Form year, Ferris had designed and built a homemade telescope in his family's backyard in nearby Pennington. Having personally ground and polished the telescope's reflective mirror, a critical part of the apparatus, Ferris reputedly used concrete and car parts to fashion a stable base for the device.

With an 8-inch mirror that brought the view of objects 400x closer, Ferris's personal telescope was at the time the third-largest telescope in New Jersey, rivaling even those at local universities. After graduating from Lawrenceville, Ferris studied science at Princeton and Harvard before returning to teach science - including astronomy - at both Lawrenceville and Princeton from 1945-53. After joining Educational Testing Service in Princeton, Ferris would go

on to develop science curriculums and testing for secondary education, and he even served on a panel of five scientists in the early 1960s that established the scientific qualifications for NASA astronauts to be considered "scientist-astronauts" in the Apollo missions.

When Ferris left Lawrenceville in 1953, he donated his large personal telescope to the School, but its size and the challenge of mounting and dismounting it made it impractical. In 1955, with the parabolic mirror for the Ferris telescope in hand, a newly formed Astronomy Club, under the guidance of science master Gifford Havens H'46'58, began planning for a redesigned telescope mounting and ways to make the device more usable.

One suggestion was to build an observatory at the viewing location on the golf course. By 1957-58, the Astronomy Club had built a mounting for the telescopic mirror, and in 1959, buoyed by a gift of \$200 from the Fathers Association, Havens designed the observatory, using cinder blocks for the circular base and a steel grain silo dome for the roof. A 3-foot-6-inch viewing aperture that could be opened and closed was cut into the dome, while the entire roof could be rotated manually - using "student power" - on a metal track with eight wheels placed atop the cinder block wall. The ability to rotate the viewing aperture enabled stargazers to take in different areas of the sky while still being protected from the elements.

Students began working with Havens to build the



▲ This circa 1961 image shows science master Gifford Havens H'46 '58 and his students accessing their new observatory. Later, a door was added at ground level.

 Students and science master Otto Rosner used a Ramsden telescope to see the stars from the Bowl in the 1930s.

▼ When Frederick Lum Ferris Jr. '37 P'64 '65 left his teaching position at Lawrenceville in 1953, he donated his large personal telescope, which would become the scientific cornerstone of the observatory.

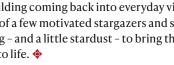
observatory, and with help from members of the Astronomy Club and astronomy classes, it was completed in May 1961.

Over time, the use of the observatory became sporadic. While it has largely

retained its original appearance, the environment around the structure had changed significantly. The intervening sixty-plus years have brought a lush grove of trees just north of the structure, completely impeding the view of the night sky in that direction. Common astronomical practice dictates that a telescope must be oriented first to the North Star to follow the maps of the skies, but the obscured view now renders the observatory unusable for its original purpose. The ever-increasing issue of light pollution also hinders astronomical viewing from campus in general.

But with the building coming back into everyday view, it may be a matter of a few motivated stargazers and some simple landscaping - and a little stardust - to bring the observatory back to life. •

Jacqueline Haun is the senior archives librarian of the Stephan Archives in Bunn Library.



# Q: As society evolves, reflecting on our past is more crucial than ever. What is one lesson you learned during your time at Lawrenceville that you believe is essential for future generations to carry forward, and why?

When sitting around the Harkness tables, we would discuss issues where I often held a preconceived notion and of course, thought I knew the "correct" answer. I was always amazed to learn that there were other reasonable opinions from others around the table, and that my answer was not always well developed.

Active listening has helped me avoid a lot of unnecessary backtracking on those decisions and discontent among those I led. I believe that a lot of public discord in the U.S. and around the world could be decreased if others had learned a similar lesson during their upbringing and education.

Mark G. Kortepeter '79 P'11

Money doesn't equal happiness. I was extremely fortunate to receive a full-ride scholarship to Lawrenceville. But when I arrived on campus, it didn't take me long to realize that many of my peers from very wealthy families weren't very happy at all.

I'm sure there were a lot of reasons for their distress. And my sense is that society these days continues to emphasize money and gain over happiness and connection.

This isn't a new lesson. Chief Seattle famously warned us that, "Only when the last tree has died and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught will we realize that we cannot eat money."

I applaud Lawrenceville for listening to students in crafting its new Vision Statement for "House, Harkness, Heart." I hope it helps prioritize love and support over the pursuit of wealth."

Jon Krieg '81

Try everything at least once. I studied German (because Dutch wasn't offered) and ended up as an exchange student in Bavaria. I was enlisted (on one day's notice) as a fill-in actor for the Lower School plays, and that launched decades of great joy in the theater.

By contrast, I tried out as a lacrosse goalie once, and it was the longest, most horrific two hours of my young life.

But you've gotta try.

Rob Reinalda '76

The lesson of perseverance – sticking with the plan and not folding. Lawrenceville visibly honors its 25-year-plus teachers, all of whom set a lifelong example of respect for their students by staying at the School to provide generational continuity. You can make a real difference over time by becoming exceptional at your job and carrying on the commitments and traditions that serve your community.

Ross M. Burkhardt '58

Tell us your answer to "The Big **Ouestion**"

In every issue of The Lawrentian, we'll pose a question to you, and then run selected responses in the next issue. So, put on your Harkness hats and let us know:

"What is the most consequential speech delivered in American history?"

Please send your answers to Sean Ramsden, editor of The Lawrentian, at sramsden@lawrenceville.org.





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#### Parents of alumni:

If this magazine is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please email us at contactupdates@lawrenceville.org with their new address. Thank you!

