

Oak Leaves

Winter 2019-2020

NEWSLETTER FROM OAKWOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL • CELEBRATING OVER 220 YEARS OF FRIENDS EDUCATION IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

Michael J. Steinberg to Present: Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice



Former Oakwood history teacher and coach, Michael J. Steinberg, will open Alumni Weekend 2020 on Friday afternoon, May 15th, with the presentation of the [Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter Lecture on Social Justice](#). Now in its 16th year, this lecture series was established by classmates in memory of Dash Davis Gleiter '51 in recognition of her work in civil rights and her lifetime of volunteer activities to promote social justice.

After 22 years as the legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan, Michael has joined the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School as the Director of the Civil Rights Litigation Initiative where he will teach civil rights litigation and mentor the next generation of public interest lawyers. At the ACLU, Michael litigated dozens of high-impact, high-profile cases on a wide range of civil rights issues including: racial justice, LGBT rights, police misconduct, freedom of speech and expression, immigrant rights, voting rights, women's rights, post 9/11 issues, reproductive freedom, criminal justice reform, religious freedom, right to counsel, environmental justice, prisoner rights, economic justice, and disability rights. Six cases on which he worked have reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

Michael earned his B.A. with honors from Wesleyan University in 1983 and graduated cum laude from Wayne State Law School in 1989.

Michael's first job after college was at Oakwood where his father, Fred Steinberg, was also on the faculty. In addition to teaching history and coaching, Mike was active in student activities and served as advisor to Oakwood's "Disarmament Committee." He recalls that after much

education and debate at the school and in the community, Oakwood became the first high school in the country to declare itself a "nuclear free zone." He also remembers driving vans of students to Washington D.C. for demonstrations and leading a student trip to the Soviet Union. Upon accepting his current job at Michigan Law, Mike told us: "I loved teaching at Oakwood in the 80s so much that I've decided to return to my teaching roots. I will join the faculty at Michigan Law where I will teach a civil rights litigation course and start a civil rights clinic."

Oakwood is honored to welcome Michael Steinberg back to campus to present "Working for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties in 2020." All are welcome. 📍

Lighting the Way Matching Gift Opportunity

[Lighting the Way](#), Oakwood's comprehensive fundraising campaign, has been securing financial support for our historic campus's long-term revitalization. Now in 2020, our 100th anniversary year in Poughkeepsie, we're on our way to completing the campaign's capstone project, the renovation of Lane Auditorium. We are deeply grateful to a select group of lead donors who have made this work possible through their vision and generous philanthropy.

We have completed several important projects impacting academics, athletics and residential life. We have transformed the student living spaces with new bathrooms, kitchens, common spaces and patios. The Main Building renovation projects upgraded electrical and HVAC and provided spacious and well-lit arts, media, ceramics, studio, and classroom spaces. Renovations to Lane Auditorium's three-story west entrance have transformed storage spaces into a modern music classroom, a practice space and a gracious theater lobby entrance. Even the gym and locker rooms received much needed upgrades to lighting, plumbing and layout.

Now we are turning our attention to the interior performance space of Lane Theater. Housed within the very first building constructed for Oakwood's campus in 1921, this space has hosted countless student plays and presentations, and appearances by Pete Seeger, Eleanor Roosevelt, Poet Laureate Mark Strand '52, Bonnie Raitt '67, and Juan Williams '72. Work is underway to transform this important space into a modern, energy-efficient theater, useable year-round. Upgrades will include new seating, enhancements to the lighting and sound systems and booths, a new scene shop and set-design workspace, new heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems to overlap with our green campus initiative.

We are excited to announce an opportunity to broaden participation in [Lighting the Way](#). Rob Blackman '61 has joined with board president Don Spencer to create a matching gift fund up to a total of \$100,000. This means gifts and pledges made to [Lighting the Way](#) by June 30, 2020 will be matched 2 to 1! We invite all members of the Oakwood family to help advance our School's mission with a gift at any level. We're on our way! With your generous contribution, we'll make it over the finish line! Thank you. 📍



Seniors Willow Bennison and Malcolm Condon in "These Shining Lives"

Connections

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



Several years ago, a science historian, James Burke, wrote a series of pieces on connections. Seemingly disparate thoughts, inventions, and ideas build upon each other, connecting across time and experience. Within our Oakwood

community, I see these connections inform and strengthen our program from the arrival of the newest 6th graders through graduation and the decades beyond.

During a recent phone conversation with an alumnus from the early 1960s, I was struck by a lasting connection he made between his brief experiences on the Oakwood stage and a career spanning over five decades in medicine. Shy by nature and adverse to public speaking, he pointed to the support and encouragement he received at Oakwood to reach beyond his comfort zone. Skills gained memorizing lines and performing before his peers helped build confidence and hone his focus. He fondly looks back on these experiences as ones that helped prepare him navigate medical school, ultimately trading theater scripts for those more medical in nature.

Another unlikely connection involves the reflective silence of Quaker Meeting and social engagement of roller skating. Over the decades Lane Auditorium has served as home to both. The first building constructed on site when we moved to our Poughkeepsie



Roller skating in Lane in the 40s



Meeting for Worship in Lane

home in 1920, Lane embodies the mission of Oakwood, supporting the spirit, the scholar, the artist, and the athlete. Under the trussed beams and slate roof of Lane, students who drew spiritual connections through worship on Sunday mornings also gained social connection while on skates Friday nights.

This September we will celebrate Oakwood's 100th year on the Poughkeepsie campus, and our 224th year of Friends Education. Over the decades there have been several visible and impactful transformations made to the physical space: new dorms, new buildings, technology, solar energy. At the core of our community, mission remains constant. Whether students are roller skating in Lane in the 1940s or performing on stage under LED lights in 2020, they are challenged to think critically, reflect with purpose, and act decisively. I look forward to beginning our next century in the Hudson Valley and the connections just over the horizon. See you on campus this September for our centennial celebration! 🍁



"I was fortunate enough to attend Oakwood in the 60's and I look back fondly on those experiences. I was very happy to read about the restoration and upgrades being made to the Lane building as well as the solar array recently installed. Oakwood has always invested in its students. I hope that my small gift to the "Lighting the Way" campaign will help the Lane building and Oakwood go for another 100 years."

– Peter Clarke '63

Powell Fund Lights up the Courts

The Powell Endowment Fund, established with an inspirational gift from Richard M. Powell '68 in 2010, continues to positively impact the daily experience of both students and faculty. The Fund at a current value of over \$700,000 strengthens Oakwood's finances for the future while it provides annual income for special projects.

This winter, the first thing you might notice walking into Connor Gymnasium during an afternoon basketball game (besides the exciting play) is sunshine! Funded by an annual release of the Powell Fund, Connor Gymnasium received a beautiful upgrade in the form of new paint, a new scoreboard, and energy-efficient glass windows. While providing a beautiful view of the sky and sun, the windows also increase heat-retention and provide utility cost savings; a win-win both on and off the court. Thank you, Dick, and Go Lions! 🍁





Oakwood Honors Bill and Nancy Doolittle

The Oakwood community honored long-time faculty members Bill and Nancy Doolittle at this year's Annual Wine Dinner & Auction. Surrounded by members of their family, including their newest grandchild Hannah, Bill and Nancy received a standing ovation from the crowd for their 36 years of devoted service to Oakwood. They will be retiring in June and moving to Maine but will always be important members of the Oakwood family. Head of School Chad Cianfrani spoke about their work, and colleagues Simon Culley and Susan Masciale-Lynch spoke about their many years of working together, relying on one another, and friendship. Bill and Nancy were presented with a photo album of their Oakwood years, prepared by **Matthew Voorhees '17**.



The Doolittle Family at the Parent Dinner & Auction

Now in its 15th year, the wine dinner was initiated by Tim and Laurel Sweeney, parents of Sean '09, and owners of Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits. With 25 years in business, they continue to share their wonderful wines and extensive knowledge with our attendees. The event was held on January 25th at Locust Grove, catered by

Cosimo's. Amy Solis, parent of Siena '24, served as clerk for the event and joined with Franco Giangrasso as auctioneers. Student musicians started the festivities with their performances: **Stefanie Quintanilla '20**, **Alex Turk '21** and **Luisa Capetillo '22**. Thank you to our four generous sponsors: Berg-Moss Architects (Chris and Erin Berg, parents of Milla '23), Bottini Fuel, Cleveland Plumbing and Heating, and Rondack Construction.

Alysa Wishingrad, Malcolm Condon '20, De's Jewelers, Hudson Valley Renegades, Richard and Susanrachel Condon '80, Buffalo Wild Wings, Michael & Sarah Daubman, Hudson Beach Glass, County Players, Antonellas Restaurants, Laurie & Dave Craft, Heidi Kronenberg, Orpheum Theater, Num Pang Kitchen, Peter & Debbie Guy-Christiansen, Matthew Voorhees '17, Crew Restaurant, Linda Doherty, Elizabeth Meyer, Patience Killen '67, Mohonk Mountain House, Omega Institute, Atlantic Theater Company, Maged Nesheiwat Conference Center, Chad and Sue Cianfrani, Mary Redmond, Amy Solis, Brandi Ascione, Ann-Marie Uebbing, Emmy Gay, Michelle Alumkai, Amy Cook, Eve Gendron, Danah Chaifetz, Yvette Brockington, Maria Otte and Patricia Stewart. 📧

Quakerism Workshop for Parents

Drew Smith, Executive Director of Friends Council on Education, came to campus in October to lead a "Quakerism 101" workshop for parents during our annual Parents Weekend. Parents enjoyed this engaging, hands-on workshop which addressed Quaker history, Quakerism, and allowed for meaningful conversations about the values within Quaker education that connects our children and families. Through small group work and full group discussions, parents learned and shared about the Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality and stewardship. Both new and returning parents had the opportunity to delve deeper into the philosophy behind the education their children experience each day in what we hope is the first of several workshops to come. 📧



Drew Smith, Executive Director of Friends Council on Education

Through the generosity of all our auction item donors and dinner attendees, we raised over \$16,000 for the Annual Fund. Thank you: Go A2B Transportation, Camp Cody, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Bonnie Raitt '67, Boscobel, The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, Bread Alone Bakery,

Christmas Break with Shao (Patrick) Deng '12

By: Debbie Wilsey, School Nurse

As a freshman at Oakwood, Shao Deng '12, known as Maverick, had his Christmas break plans fall through. I offered to take him to my house for break which meant he would spend his first American Christmas with me! My family welcomed him with open arms. He was included in all the family events which included a family football game, meeting all my nieces and nephews (13 in total!), seeing Santa Claus, playing his violin for us and ringing in the New Year! We all had a truly wonderful time!

During the summer of 2012 I had the unique opportunity to travel to China, in particular Hangzhou, Shao's hometown. I had the chance to see a tea plantation and a monastery where Shao accompanied me on tours. I even got to meet his parents and have a home cooked meal!

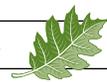
Fast forward 10 years to December 2019 and Shao reached out to me asking if he could come up to visit. I invited him up during Christmas break and my family picked up right where we left off 10 years before. Shao was again included in all the family traditions.

It was wonderful to come full circle with him and see how far he has come. He is now pursuing his Juris Doctorate degree at Wake Forest University where he is in his first year of law school. He has also applied to become a US citizen and has taken the name Patrick.

We look forward to seeing what the next 10 years hold for him! 📧



Debbie Wilsey and Shao Deng



“To my good friend Charlie and our many years as fellow athletic directors. I shall miss you my friend.”

Rick McWilliams – Millbrook School

“Charlie, you made me who I am today. You will always be a part of my heart and your legacy will be carried on by those of us impacted with your wisdom and humility.”

Annette (Ruswick) Engler '87

“Thank you for the warmth of your silence. Thank you for being a resting place and allowing me to just be.”

Kachina Akua Randall '97



Oakwood Mourns the Loss of Charlie Butts: Teacher, Coach, Mentor and Friend

Charlie Butts passed away unexpectedly on August 10, 2019, in Danbury, CT, while recuperating from surgery. A lifelong Poughkeepsie resident, he attended Poughkeepsie High School and Blair Academy, then Colgate University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1976 and M.A. in teaching in 1982.

Following graduation, Charlie started teaching at Oakwood, where he stayed for nearly four decades, teaching anthropology, world history, English and many other subjects. He served as Athletic Director and coached the women's softball and basketball teams through much of his tenure, leading his softball team to a championship last spring. He is recognized in the Oakwood community as a mentor, a teacher not only of subjects but also of values of kindness, patience, sportsmanship and resilience, and a friend who could always be relied on to brighten one's day with warmth, humor, and a good Jimmy Buffett song.

Charlie spent his summers and time away from Oakwood at Candlewood Lake Club in New Milford, Connecticut. His parents had a summer cottage there and introduced him to golf at an early age. Charlie won his first golf tournament there, a two-hole junior event, at age 5. He was a perennial golf enthusiast at Candlewood, winning the club championship 18 times. He was also twice club champion at Dutchess Golf Club in Poughkeepsie, and returned to Colgate each year for its alumni golf tourney. He will be dearly missed by his many friends - in the Oakwood community, at Candlewood, at Colgate, in the regional athletic community, by his dart league buddies, and of course, his family.

Oakwood held a memorial service for Charlie on September 28, 2019. Surrounded by his family, college roommates, former and present students and colleagues and friends, we celebrated the life of our wonderful mentor, coach, teacher and friend. Heartfelt words and funny stories were shared and the softball field where Charlie spent so much of his time was dedicated in his honor.

“We are immensely grateful for the time we were given with Charlie and for all he gave to Oakwood. We are also immensely saddened by his passing. It is impossible to quantify the impact Charlie Butts had on our community; as he was our teacher, our dorm parent, our coach, our mentor and our friend. Over the last four decades Charlie called Oakwood home. He shared his warmth, his intelligence, his humor, and his calm demeanor with hundreds and hundreds of students and faculty. Whether it was by delving into the glyph of the Mayans as a senior, arguing the Hammurabi Law code in front of a panel of peers as a freshman, learning the true meaning of teamwork in basketball and softball, or perhaps (faculty) throwing the occasional after-work dart or two with him down the road; the entire Oakwood community was elevated by Charlie's light.



We will miss you Charlie. We thank you for what you have given us, and we look forward to carrying on your work. We are holding you, your family, your friends, and the entire Oakwood community in the Light. Thank you, Coach. Thank you for everything.”

Chad Cianfrani
Head of School

“Working with Charlie meant learning what it means to be unflappable, kind, and dedicated. He helped me as a young teacher understand that things that felt like big deals often didn't have to be. He also was the only person I know who made being called “coach” feel like an act of love. I struggle imagining an Oakwood without him. Here's to you, Charlie.”
Nora Landon – former Oakwood faculty

“Dear Charlie, It was great to see you last year. I am happy I got to tell you what a great influence you were to me. You were a mentor, a support and more than a coach. Thank you for being a father figure. You will be in my heart forever.”
Romy Bustamante '91



“Charlie, I can’t thank you enough for getting me involved in athletics at Oakwood. Whether I’m in the gym or the softball field, I think of you. Peace be with you. My brother. My friend.”

Chris Galschjodt
- Coach and Facilities Team

“Grateful to have had Charlie as a colleague and for his wonderful and unending support for my Varsity Parks team. I was nervous about my first-ever coaching experience, but he was there every step of the way. He represented the best of Oakwood Friends School.”
Michael Sklaroff – former Oakwood faculty

“You were the best supervisor I ever had.”
Deb Wood – former Oakwood faculty



“Both my girls had Charlie for history and as a sports coach. His gentle spirit will be sorely missed at Oakwood.”
Natalie Wilkinson – Parent '11 and '15

“Where do I start? Charlie and I met as junior golfers at Dutchess G & CC when I was 12 and played in my first away tournament. Charlie went to Colgate University before me and played on the golf team with many of my fellow teammates. Charlie came back to Colgate when I was there to get his master's degree. When he came back to Poughkeepsie to teach he asked my Mom if there were any openings at Oakwood. My Mom was retiring that year, and she recommended Charlie to Oakwood. I played countless rounds of golf with Charlie at Dutchess where he was the club champion twice and played with my Dad in the Anderson Memorial. We played in the Colgate Alumni golf tournament every summer for years, and Charlie still went back long after we stopped. I also had the joy of having Charlie teach our children at Oakwood. He was one of the best athletes you ever saw, from golf to squash to darts. He was a competitor, but a gracious fellow competitor. This is going to leave a hole in so many ways.”

Bill Bogle Jr. '76
- former Board President and Parent '07 and '11

“I think my favorite memory of Charlie is from a visit perhaps 10 or 15 years after graduation. We sat and chatted and Charlie was just himself: Authentic, thoughtful, stable, compassionate... all the things that you need when you're a kid, but may not have the language to ask for yet. I realized then how effective he had been at mentoring me during my time at Oakwood without my even realizing it was happening, just by being an example of the kind of man I aspire to be: A rock that everyone else can count on. Thanks for that Charlie. It's a great gift and many of us will pay it forward on your behalf.”

Pete Ward '93

“Charlie, thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will always remember you. Rest in peace...”
Chi Hoon Shin '05



Coaches Charlie Butts and Chris Galschjodt with 2019 Softball Champions

“Thank you Charlie for all the lessons, memories, stress and pizza. We didn't have the best team, but girls varsity was one of the best learning experiences of my life. Thank you for everything.” – Nai'lah Taariq '17



Sports Center

By Simon Culley, Interim Athletic Director

As Charlie's assistant for the last three years, I never thought I would be writing a piece this soon or without his presence in some form or another for Oak Leaves. It is also particularly challenging as we spent a lot of our free time together since I was hired in 2005, whether it be the thousands of times we played together in the Poughkeepsie dart league, talking sports, playing golf, or any number of other things. The words I have clung to these past few months have simply been, "What would Charlie do?"

The boys' Cross Country team came together quickly this season despite having to replace the 1st, 3rd, and 5th scorers from last year. Returnees **Aidan Cook** and **Brandon Christiansen** stepped up, and newcomers **Max Hopkins** and **Jimmy Lin** joined the team. **Elias Fredericks** and **Jayden Brockington** provided leadership as captains and contributed to the scoring. The boys' team moved into 2nd place and held that position for more than half the season. Though the team was at less than full strength for the League Championship, **Max Hopkins** ran a masterful race to climb to 4th place in the league individual standings; this was our first top 5 finish in several years. **Adele Fredericks** also medaled in the girls' race while finishing 7th. **Elias Fredericks** earned the Coaches' Award for rallying the team and leading by example. The Most Improved Runner went to **Jayden Brockington** as he medaled in half of the invitational meets. Most Valuable Runner awards went to **Adele Fredericks** and **Max Hopkins** as they medaled in each of the invitational meets through the season. They also earned HVAL All-Star status. More and more teams say the Oakwood meets are their favorite of the season. With the helping hands, support, and cheering from the Sustainable Gardening team, former XC coaches, many individual spectators, Nancy D., and the Athletic Office provide, Oakwood has the loudest and most encouraging spectators. In the last meet of the season versus South Kent School, long time friend and rival coach, Steve Klots, honored our very own Bill Doolittle at the end of the race for his dedicated service of 36 years, spanning four decades to the league, colleagues, and hundreds of athletes he has coached.

The Thirds soccer team was back out on the field this fall, consisting of a mix of Middle and Upper School players. The coed team was a diverse group of students. Although our team was not victorious this season, we learned to work together and gain the necessary skills to play soccer. Having students with many years of experience, as well as students that have never played, the difference in skill ability was a continuous challenge that we faced throughout the season. At the end of the season, one player, **Daniel**



Brandon Christiansen '21



Adele Fredericks '21

Cullen, stuck out as our MVP. He was able to hold down our defensive line and he was always there when we needed him. He had the self-discipline to man mark any player that he was assigned and functioned as a key player on the team. In addition, two students received Coach's Awards for their dedication to the team. The first student to be awarded a Coach's Award was **Liam Olivieri**. Liam was the only goalie that the team had and was therefore an extremely valuable player. He always showed up to practice with a positive attitude and always put all of his efforts into training for his position. Our second Coach's Award went to **Xilin "Joe" Cao**. Joe did not miss a single practice all season, which showed his dedication to the sport and his team. Joe was an extremely solid defensive player and made large strides throughout the season.

The Girls Varsity Soccer team had a fun and successful 2019 season. While the win-loss percentages do not reflect typical markers of success, small improvements made by many players across the season are evidence to the growth and development displayed by the

collective team. Numerically, our record was 1-12-1 and our HVAL league record was 0-9-1. Newcomers **Ila Kumar**, **Lila Ressler**, **Beatrice Corio**, and **Magdalena Teisler**, and returning player **Ruby Schloss**, all scored their first Varsity Goals. Sports Awards recipients were seniors and co-captains **Stefanie Quintanilla** and **Willow Bennison** (Coach's Awards) and sophomore **Sadia Rashid** (MVP).

The Boys Varsity soccer season was challenging. It began with rather lopsided results with us conceding double figures in a few matches and failing to score in the first seven games. In the eighth game, however, we exploded with seven goals and were victorious for the first and only time. The team clung together and there was never a feeling of capitulation. Our skills, understanding of strategy, and fitness gradually improved and allowed us to be more competitive for the better part of each game than we had earlier in the season. The team managed this in front of a backdrop of impeccable sportsmanship, receiving no yellow or red cards in the fifteen games played. **Huicheng Huang** finished the season as top scorer with 9 goals and was inducted into the Western New England Preparatory School Soccer Association Select Team of 2019. Despite the low win percentage, the team really impressed me with their poise, team spirit, and energy. Team Captain and defensive stalwart, **Matt Stewart** won the MVP sports award. Newcomer **Alper Sayin** picked up a Coach's Award for his uncompromising and energetic play in the middle of the park. Embattled and ever positive freshman goalkeeper **Arjun Yang** collected the final Coaches' Award for his numerous heroic efforts between the sticks.

In summary, the season went as smoothly as possible without Charlie's guidance and mentorship. He will be forever missed and we were lucky to have had such a skilled, professional, and knowledgeable teacher, mentor, coach, and friend for such a sustained and enduring period of time. Rest in peace, Charlie Butts, 1954-2019. 🍂



Sadia Rashid '22



Musical Notes

The past few months have been a busy and exciting time in the music department. In November, violinist **Elias Fredericks '20** and violist **Stefanie Quintanilla '20** performed with the best student musicians in the region at the NYSSMA Zone 10 Area All-State Music Festival in Hudson, NY. The following month in Rochester, NY, Elias was selected as concertmaster (first chair violin) of the NYSSMA Conference All-State String Orchestra, which included the best music students from both public and private schools in the entire state. Also in December, Elias, Stefanie, and **Luisa Capetillo '22** gave performances with Stringendo, a prestigious local orchestra program, and **Magdalena Teisler '21** performed at the Winter Song Fest at Bard College. Students capped off the busy holiday season with two performances before the break. The first was a performance at the Cardinal Hayes School for Special Children led by students in Oakwood's Community Service through the Arts class, and the second was the annual Winter Festival Concert, which included performances by the Oakwood Orchestra, several soloists (**Elias Fredericks '20**; **Magdalena Teisler '21**; and **Alex Turk**

'21) and the singer-songwriter duo of **Willow Bennison '20** and **Stefanie Quintanilla '20**. The concert concluded with the annual holiday sing-along led by Music Director Ted Messerschmidt and the Oakwood Singers.

In January, several students performed at the Oakwood Wine Dinner. **Alex Turk '21** performed a song by the Indie group The National, while **Stefanie Quintanilla '20** and **Luisa Capetillo '22** performed an arrangement of Albinoni's Adagio in G

Minor. **Willow Bennison '20** was unable to attend, because she was in Muscle Shoals, Alabama standing in for Big Mama Thornton, who was posthumously inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

In February, students will enjoy the opportunity to perform at an open mic night, and members of the Community Service through the Arts class will be performing at a local retirement home. 📸



Seniors **Elias Fredericks**, **Willow Bennison** and **Stefanie Quintanilla** at Cardinal Hayes School for Special Children



Stefanie Quintanilla '20, **Luisa Capetillo '22** and **Alex Turk '21** perform at the Parent Dinner.

Visual Arts – Visiting MASS MoCA

On November 7, art students in Portfolio Preparation and Color class visited MASS MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) in North Adams, MA. Students experienced the immersive color and light installations of Quaker-raised artist James Turrell, as well as other current exhibitions. 📸



(l-r) **Malcolm Condon '20**, **Valentina Hernandez '21**, **Thistle Prendergast '22**, **Anisa Gilmour '20**, **Aurora Stokum '22** and **Alex Turk '21**



Congratulations to Music Director Ted Messerschmidt who was selected last year as a semi-finalist in the 2018-2019 American Prize Conducting Competition (College/University Orchestra Division) for a performance he gave with the Marist College Orchestra!

Supporting Oakwood's Performing Arts

Alysa Sullivan (parent **Owen '17** and **Oona '21**) initiated a fundraising project to support performing arts at Oakwood. Many thanks to **Alysa**, **Mary Redmond** and **Eli Schloss** (**Lulu '24** and **Ruby '21**) and **Susan Rachel Condon '80** (**Malcolm '20** and **Hannah '11**) for their efforts which made a significant impact to the theatre program! Donations from **Herzog's Home** and **Paint Center of Poughkeepsie**, **Williams Lumber** and **Home Centers**, **Majestic's Hardware** in **Gardiner** and **True Value of New Paltz** were much appreciated!

If you'd like to help support these efforts, please reach out to **Alysa Sullivan** at Alysa@saws.com. 📸



Model UN Montreal

In November Oakwood participated in the Secondary Schools' United Nations Symposium (SSUNS) in Montreal. SSUNS attracts over 1,300 secondary school student delegates from across the globe. Directed and organized by The International Relations Students' Association of McGill University, the conference aims to not only educate delegates on the dynamics of international relations, but also engage students in debate and discussion over the most pressing current events facing the contemporary world as well as exploring many historical events. Senior Quynh Nguyen and sophomore Aidan Cook shared their reflections on the trip.

"When I first heard that Oakwood has Model UN, I was excited but worried. Excited because I finally got to actually go to the conference; worried because I was too shy to present myself in front of many people. However, I no longer felt panic since I was overwhelmed by the encouragement from my teacher, Stephen Miller and friends; overwhelmed by the knowledge and experience of every candidate there; and overwhelmed by the challenge that I had for myself. The conference happened to go very smoothly



Quynh Nguyen '20 with classmate Ruby Schloss '21; Aidan Cook (left) at Model UN conference

and I feel that I achieved another accomplishment. What I value the most is the experience that I had. I learned with passion and happiness. It was a crucial milestone that helps me grow up. Many thanks to Oakwood for giving me this opportunity!"
Quynh Nguyen '20

In mid-November, I went on the Model United Nations trip with some fellow students to Montreal, Canada. This was my first Model UN experience, and it was both a fun and educational trip. I was on the Committee On the Peaceful Uses Of Outer Space (COPUS). We discussed climate change and space debris issues and possible solutions to them. My assigned country was Saudi Arabia, and



although many of us did not agree personally with how our countries felt, we still spoke from our countries' point of view. It was interesting to get to learn about the policies of other countries and how they felt, as well as how the delegates solve problems in the real United Nations. Not only did we learn more about how the UN works but we got to have a feel of it as delegates. Also, the city of Montreal was beautiful! I look forward to the opportunity to participate again in the future.
Aidan Cook '22

Thank you to Joel Erlitz '68 and Perri Erlitz '05 for their ongoing generous support of the Model UN program. 📷

Greening Oakwood

By Susanrachel Condon '80 (parent '20)



John Scardina and Susanrachel Condon '80

For the last four years, my son Malcolm Condon '20 has been working to raise awareness about the environmental impact of plastic waste. He helped Ulster County pass its polystyrene ban and went door to door to local restaurants providing information about corn-based "plastic" packaging and straws. Malcolm's goal at Oakwood is to reduce and eventually eliminate single use plastic consumption as part of an overall greening of the Oakwood campus.

This spring will mark my 40th reunion and we will also celebrate Malcolm's graduation. In partnership with Chuck Wilde, the Food Service Director, we aspire to raise enough money to buy sustainable materials for large campus events. Chuck reports the school spends \$2000-2500 annually on disposable supplies for open houses, alumni weekends, and graduations. He estimates that enabling Oakwood to purchase reusable wine glasses, water goblets, china, silverware, and cream/sugar sets for 160 people will dem-

onstrate a return on the investment in approximately 7 years. Our goal is for the class of 1980 and our friends, alumni, and current Oakwood families to make this possible.

Why is this so important? In 2016, world plastics production totaled around 335 million metric tons, roughly half of which is destined for a single-use product. A full 32% of the 78 million tons of plastic packaging produced annually is left to flow into our oceans; the equivalent of pouring one garbage truck of plastic into the ocean every minute. By 2050, there could be more plastic than fish in the world's oceans. Humans buy about 1,000,000 plastic bottles per minute in total, with Americans purchasing about 50 billion per year, averaging about 13 bottles per month for every person in the U.S.! By using a reusable water bottle, you could save an average of 156 plastic bottles annually.

What can you do? The best way to curb single-use plastic pollution is to reduce your personal plastic consumption! Choosing to buy products with less packaging or no packaging altogether makes a big difference. Many innovative companies are producing and selling these products today and they are easy to find online. These products include shampoo bars, seaweed laundry detergent pods, and toothpaste in glass jars. Companies who make and sell these products ship without plastic packaging. You can also bring your own containers to stores that sell food in bulk.

To address the plastic consumption issue, Oakwood has installed water bottle refilling stations in the dorms and main building and will continue to pursue other green-

ing initiatives on campus, such as purchasing reusable supplies for the dining hall. You can help this effort, by visiting my Go Fund Me site at: [gofundme.com/vxmzxc](https://www.gofundme.com/vxmzxc) 📷

Climate Strike Action!

In keeping with our community's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability, students organized activities for the world wide climate strike held on September 20th. Our community walked out of classes at 10AM and met in the Meeting Room for student readings on the importance of fighting climate change. Following the readings we gathered at our Solar Array for 10 minutes of silent contemplation. We then created messages for action with chalk on the driveway and celebrated the power of the wind by flying kites in our fields. Throughout the rest of the day drop-in activities were held on campus including writing letters to elected officials, researching EPA rollbacks, learning about Ecobricks, a sustainable building product made of plastic bottles, and making posters, followed by a screening of An Inconvenient Truth. 📷



Senior Anh Ho who helped to organize the day



Support
Oakwood's Annual Fund
www.oakwoodfriends.org/donate/ways-to-donate/

Winter Reunion Alumni Career Panel

This year's Winter Reunion began with an engaging panel discussion with four area alumni working in a diverse array of fields. Sakima McClinton '93 shared about her work with migrant farmworkers with Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc., as well as her service in elected office. Caroline Brevetti '07 described her recent transition from working as a paralegal in NYC to opening her own ethical and sustainable marketplace for men, women and children, Conscious Co. Boutique. Adam Benziger, also from the class of 2007 explained his journey opening Laughing Gut Kombucha, a local business with a retail store and tasting room coming soon to Poughkeepsie's Main Street. Former student clerk from the class of 2011, Zach Missen-Jones spoke of his work as an educator with Wild Earth, a Hudson Valley nonprofit that leads transformative experiences in nature for all ages. He also shared the work of Keep It Moving, a non-profit founded by his family in memory of his cousin Zane Mandel-Michalak '13.



(l-r) Sakima McClinton '93, Caroline Brevetti '07, Chad Cianfrani, Adam Benziger '07 and Zach Missen-Jones '11.

Celebrating Lunar New Year – the Year of the Rat

With international boarding students from around the world, celebrating festivals and holidays is an important part of life at Oakwood. This year we were fortunate to have a special, multi-day celebration for the Lunar New Year – the Year of the Rat. To kick off the festivities, alumnus John Fargis '84 and his wife Vida and daughter Siena '22 hosted a group of students for a dumpling making party at their home. Students from China taught their classmates from Afghanistan and Turkey how to make dumplings and enjoyed spending time off campus celebrating the New Year. Festivities continued on campus the next day with another round of dumpling making for the whole community in the dining hall, including decorations and live streaming festivities from abroad, followed by some fun games in the gym. Sharing one another's cultures, food and celebrations provides Oakwood students with a unique and important lens into other worlds. ☑



John Fargis with students at his home.



Though the panelists work in very different work environments, they each spoke of the foundation Oakwood gave them to explore their passions and pursue their dreams in sometimes non-traditional paths.

Following the panel was our Annual Student-Alumni basketball game, dinner and the winter play "These Shining Lives" by Melanie Marnich. ☑

Supporting Australian Wildlife – A Middle School Project

In the wake of the devastating wildfires in Australia, the Middle School science class has joined volunteers around the world in making Joey Pouches to aid the animals that were displaced or injured by fire. The students collected towels, sheets, blankets and first aid materials, held bake sales to raise money and sewed Joey Pouches to be donated. This unique, hands on project gave students the opportunity to learn more about climate change while doing something tangible to aid animals in need. ☑



Ryann Williams-Pregnon '25 with the classroom guinea pig trying out a Joey Pouch

Chapters of Oakwood's History

By: Matthew Voorhees '17, School Archivist



As we celebrate Oakwood's 100th anniversary in Poughkeepsie, we're also looking back to Oakwood's origins in 1796. Below, Matthew Voorhees '17, school archivist, talks about Oakwood's history in 3 chapters: Nine Partners Boarding School, 1796-1858; Oakwood Seminary, 1858-1920, and Oakwood (Friends) School, 1920-Going Strong.

There are three distinctive chapters of Oakwood's history. The first chapter begins in 1796 when the Nine Partners Boarding School was opened. The institution in Mechanic, New York, 15 miles from Poughkeepsie, was originally founded to educate the children of local Quaker families. While for its first chapter, most of the children educated at Nine Partners

were from Quaker families, there were also children from different backgrounds. As early as the 1830's and 1840's there were students traveling as far away as Canada and the Sandwich Islands (modern day Hawaii).

Due to shifts in population and a desire to locate the school nearer to congregations belonging to New York Yearly Meeting, the Nine Partners Boarding School was closed in 1858 after sixty-two years of operations. Moving us into the second chapter, that same year the school was moved to Union Springs located on Cayuga Lake and in 1860 was incorporated under the name of "Friends Academy at Union Springs." It was not until 1876 when the trustees of the school changed the name to "The Oakwood Seminary." Long believed to have been named Oakwood in 1876 because of the Oak trees used to supply the lumber used for renovations to its main building, evidence suggests that the name "Oakwood" was used as early as 1861. The school became an integral part of the local area and it is estimated to have educated over 3,500 students during its time in Union Springs. On January 2, 1917 a fire occurred in the upper two floors of the main building. The fire is believed to have begun on the third floor when a flat iron was left unattended by a student. The first two floors where most of the classrooms were located, were damaged by water used to extinguish the blaze. With a day

before boarding students were scheduled to return to school, William Reagan (who was just a few months into his tenure as principal), was able to find accommodations for students and arranged for locations where classes could be taught until repairs could be made on the first two floors.

This brings us to the next chapter of Oakwood's history. As early as July of that year fundraising began to move the school to Poughkeepsie. After two years of fundraising the school reached its goal of \$25,000 and purchased the Coleman farm. The school opened on September 28, 1920, nearly a century ago. Since then, over 6,000 students have been educated at Oakwood, providing another school for local students and opening its doors to students from across the country and around the world. One of the graduates of the class of 1921 was a native of Jamaica, then called the British West Indies. By 1940 there had been students from Cuba, Chile, Peru, Honduras, Panama, India, China, and Japan. Few other institutions in the area could boast such a diverse student population. Over the subsequent decades Oakwood saw great change, it saw good times and it saw difficult times. Oakwood Friends School has outlasted its predecessor schools by nearly four decades.

Please join us on Saturday, September 26, 2020, to celebrate Oakwood's centennial anniversary in Poughkeepsie! 📍

Lessons from Oakwood

By: Bianca Luna-Lupercio '17

I recently interned at Cedars-Sinai Hospital at their Research Center for Health Equity while studying at the University of Southern California. The center aims to meet the needs of underserved populations (Latino, Black, LGBTQIA+, and Asian) on both a community and state-wide level based on research, service and policy.

It's hard to imagine who I'd be if I didn't attend Oakwood. Perhaps I'd be obsessed with finding the materialistic value in everything I encountered, instead of appreciating its spiritual essence. Or, I wouldn't be civically engaged, and accept being unaware of the dynamic world I live in. Through the course of my three years at Oakwood, I was welcomed by a family of diverse individuals - people from Ghana, Vietnam, Rwanda, China, Afghanistan, Japan - that shattered my previous ignorance. Being exposed to these different cultures contributed to my passion in clubs such as Model United Nations, Ethics Bowl, Academic World Quest, and Diversity Committee.

Including these unique characteristics about Oakwood, one thing I appreciated most

was the tolerance of failure. Being human means making mistakes, and especially as a teenager trying to understand who I was, I made plenty. My most vulnerable times led to my greatest progression, and

being at a place like Oakwood supported that growth. I cannot recall an experience that has benefited me greater than attending Oakwood Friends School. 📍



Bianca (pictured center) at an HPV awareness event in East LA



Remembering Gloria Garlick Bogle '43



Gloria and Bill Bogle, Sr. at Gloria's retirement party in 1982.

Oakwood Friends School mourns the loss of an important member of our school family, Gloria Garlick Bogle, who passed away on December 30, 2019. Oakwood alumna, parent, grandparent, and faculty member for 16 years, Gloria knew the school from every angle and retained a deep affection for her alma mater throughout her life.

Gloria was born in Wappingers Falls in 1926 and attended Oakwood as a day student, graduating in 1943. She went on to earn her B.A. in Mathematics from Wellesley in 1947, then married her childhood friend, William

F. Bogle, Sr. in 1949. They built their home in Poughkeepsie in 1952 and raised three children who also attended Oakwood: Barbara, class of 1970, Julie, class of 1973, and Bill, class of 1976. After several jobs in the community, Gloria returned to Oakwood as a member of the faculty in 1966. At Gloria's retirement dinner at Vassar Alumnae House in 1982, it was noted that Gloria's presence had been felt throughout the school during her tenure. She did everything! At various times, she was Alumni Coordinator, Admissions Director, Director of Studies, Public Relations Director, College Counselor, teacher, and head of the Mathematics Department. For her next adventure, she joined her husband Bill as co-Executive Director of the Westchester Golf Association – a true passion for them both. Later, Gloria took great pleasure in seeing her grandchildren, Emily '07 and Justin '11 follow in her footsteps as Oakwood alums. She remained a lively presence on the Oakwood campus, attending special presentations, alumni weekend, Ten Year Honor Roll luncheons, and our annual wine dinner and auction at Locust Grove. She continued to stay in touch even after her move to Savannah, GA, in 2017.

We are grateful to Gloria for all she did for Oakwood and for her warm friendship. She will be missed.



Gloria Bogle and family in 2007.



Gloria at Emily's wedding in 2017.

To honor their mother, the Bogle family is establishing the Gloria G. Bogle Scholarship Fund for day students.



Graduating seniors who have been at Oakwood since Middle School (l-r): Diamond Tulloch, Elias Fredericks, Cyril Uebbing and Zac Craft.

"When I first started at Oakwood in 6th grade I was a little seedling. As the years went by I was transformed into a big oak tree. My time spent at Oakwood was very enlightening because Oakwood provided me with leadership opportunities and

a great education. I am thankful for the wonderful teachers and memories over my seven years here. I feel ready to continue my Quaker studies at Guilford College and to tackle the challenges that lie ahead."
 – Cyril Uebbing '20

Ukrainian Exchange Continues

Building on the relationship started last spring with Alekom-Tour: Education Can Be Fun, we welcomed another group of wonderful students from Ukraine who spent two weeks in October with our community engaging in classes, experiencing the season of fall in New York State, sharing stories, culture, laughs, and even some trick or treating! Programs like this prove to be a valuable and unique learning experience for both Oakwood students and our visiting friends and help to make the world a smaller and warmer place.



Ukrainian students at Oakwood.

Class Notes



1943

Marjorie Wilder Ross - The wonderful picture of the class of 1922 made me very happy. The person shown on the lower right front is my mother Ernestine Young. Also in Oakwood – Bud Young (cousin) in my class, Benjamin Ross who became my husband, my sister Phyllis and brother Alan Wilder. Cousins from Union Springs also attended.



1945

Susan Davis Doderer - Still hanging in there!

1946

Betty Nunn Kramer and her daughter attended a photography exhibit in Connecticut by Oakwood alumna **Katie Settler '84**.



Katie Settler '84 and Betty Kramer

1947

Barbara Tresler Zarchen - Am well at 90, still grateful for Oakwood experience.

1953

Taffy Thunick Hoffman - I'm staying in reasonably good health. Able to go on three Road Scholar trips. Eight beautiful grandchildren. Have not got any "greats" yet.

1954

Lee Munroe - Recently added grandson – now 3 grandchildren. Into 8th year of stroke, but still above ground!

Linda Gita Rahl Nadas - Somehow I have gotten to 82 years old. Besides being unsteady on my feet I seem to be okay. I have been winning some awards for my sculpture and I am still making all kinds of stone ware. My daughter's son Jakob and I are both adjusting to life without Ruth Gita. We enjoy her

wonderful paintings. I consider myself lucky to have spent 5 years at Oakwood.



Suzanne Litner and Deb Wood '56 met head of school Chad Cianfrani for lunch at Kendal-on-Hudson

1955

My dad, **Richard K. Wood**, passed on November 1, 2019 at his home in Gettysburg surrounded by his family. Dad spent his junior and senior years at Oakwood, graduating in 1955. He spoke often of how the mentoring he received from Oakwood faculty and the friendships of Oakwood students strengthened his Quaker upbringing. We laughed at some of the tales of his days at Oakwood such as when they returned on a cold night after winning the county soccer championship to a dinner of mashed potatoes and prune whip. We also came to admire as deeply as my father, the humanity and dignity of his faculty mentor, Yoshiro Sanbonmatsu, a Japanese American who had been interned during World War II, and was one of his English teachers. Yosh's dignity, despite the mistreatment of Japanese American citizens, taught him that offering compassion and respect to an oppressor was one of the most powerful ways to be a testament to social justice. His appreciation and love of music deepened with the visits of Pete Seeger for drop-in playing sessions, and Pete's music was a common soundtrack on long car trips and in the house. Dad was humble and so it was decades later my sisters and I learned he was senior class president! Dad remained active in education, Quaker, and social justice circles throughout his life. He served as school board president for over a decade, helped found the Gettysburg Friends Meeting, and the Interfaith Center for Peace and Justice.

Deborah Wood, former faculty

1956

Molly Lynn Watt - Slowing down as the planet spins out of control. Co-taught with my husband Dan Lynn Watt a course – Which Side Are You On, Protest Songs of the Past 100 years in American Social Movements at Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. Still camping at Nickerson for 2 weeks every August. Still co-leading a ukulele band with Dan and struggling to get a poetry manuscript

shaped and ready! *Congratulations to Dan and Molly on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary!*

Martha Ullman West - Still working, still traveling, still here. I hope all Oakwood alumni will exercise their right to vote in 2020 and work to save the planet before it's too late.

1957

Josef John Burton - I have retired after 47 years from the practice of pediatric medicine. During this time I have taken care of some children of Oakwood graduates. I live in Portland, Oregon and my 2 children and 2 grandchildren also live here. After 79 years of life and 4 college degrees I still remember with fondness my 2 years at Oakwood. If anyone knows where Jean Fagans Richardson is please let me know at 203-417-2426.

1958

Michael Bradbury - Having just passed my 80th birthday I am still wondering where the past 61 years have gone since graduation from Oakwood. As I am finally "growing up" I have come to realize that Oakwood meant more to me than I realized at the time. I have enjoyed a very satisfactory life with success that is not measured in wealth or notoriety but in the fact that I married a woman that I am still in love with, that we raised a son who has given us two wonderful grandchildren. I had a career that provided me with the opportunity to work and help others without the need for a return accommodation. Without realizing it at the time, much of what I have done has been a result of Quaker influence. I feel fortunate that I have been able to volunteer in order to enrich the lives of others without the need for reward other than the thought that I have been able to give something of myself. It pleases me that over the decades Oakwood has continued to exist and produce graduates who are making their own way in this world as chaotic as it seems to be at times. Thank you, Oakwood!

1959

Susan Stein Stephens - Missed you all at reunion. You missed a chance to meet my lovely roommate David Nicholson. Your loss! Miss you all of course.

1961

Classmates **David Thompson** and **Leslie English** on a visit to campus earlier this year.





1962

Peter Longini - Working half-time for a PR agency in San Jose ghostwriting for Silicon Valley execs. Still based in the Pittsburgh area.

1963

Linda Connor - This is my 50th year of teaching photography at the San Francisco Art Institute.

Judith Chapman Purvis - Happily (re)married and living in Greensboro, NC. I've newly taken up the hammered dulcimer!

Martha Richdale - I'm wishing you all a healthy and happy 2020. Let's all get out there and spread peace and joy. Let's turn the negative into positive here and around the world and throughout the universe. Perhaps, most importantly, let's all vote!!!

1967

Carl Tannenbaum - Second try at retirement seems to be working.

Barbara Bohm-Becker - Still the oldest bike mechanic in Central Oregon. Enjoying the grandkids and looking toward our country's next election with hope.

Don Badgley - I am still working full-time by choice. Wife Tracy continues as a partner in a large CPA firm. My daughters Marissa and Alanna are thriving and successful! Blessings abound!

1970

Helen Claxton - I'm looking forward to my 50th. Daily think of my time at Oakwood. Delightfully pleasant recollections. Thank you Oakwood. Thank you class of '70.

1972

Happy 35th anniversary to Laura and **Jody Mindell!**



1973

Mary Lowery Rose - 2019 had its "ups" and "downs". One big "down" was when my husband David broke his leg in Northern Ireland. The good news is that after months of rehab and recuperation, he is getting about independently. We are ending the year on an "up" - our 5th grandchild (3rd grandson) is due April 2020! If you find yourself in Connecticut, come and visit!

Julie Bogle Kratchman - My sister, **Barbara Bogle Feingold '70**, her husband Richard, my husband Bob and I traveled together this past fall to Ecuador. We visited Quito right after the riots took place regarding fuel costs. We experienced the Amazon and its amazing wildlife and flora. After that we flew to the Galapagos where we visited many islands on a small ship. The sea lions, iguana, flamingos and other birds were incredible. Great trip and time spent together!



Barbara and I making a traditional drink in the home of a family in the Amazon.

1975



Randy Detwiler on a visit to campus in October.

1982

Levan Johnson and **Eva (Buckner) Valentine '86** stopped by Levan's old Newlin dorm room on a recent visit to campus.



Shown here with **Chris Galschjodt**

1987



(l-r) **Steve Brentari**, Nancy Doolittle, **Annette Ruswick Engler**, **Laura Fast Smith** and Bill Doolittle at Oakwood's 15th Annual Wine Dinner and Auction honoring the Doolittles.

1988

Jennifer Elizabeth Brunton - I'm still blogging at Full Spectrum Mama, but the bulk of my effort now goes into writing for Forbes freelance editing and editing the Americans of Conscience Action Checklist. I see Lucas Thorpe almost every summer!

1992

Dorothy Glusker is now a literary coach in the San Bruno, CA school district where she is helping teachers to implement a program that more effectively teaches children whose first language is not English how to read.

Kelly Gonzalez - I am an attorney and the deputy director at the Center for Community Alternatives, a nonprofit with a mission to promote reintegrative justice and a reduced reliance on incarceration through advocacy, services and public policy development in pursuit of civil and human rights. I owe my career path directly to the influence of the wonderful community at Oakwood.

1993

Sarah Braun Hamilton - I am grateful to Oakwood for helping me learn how to be part of a community and listen deeply.

1998

Mike Peters visited campus and caught up with Bill Doolittle while in NY to run the NYC marathon. Mike still holds the cross country course record at Oakwood. He graduated from Brandeis, where he also ran cross country, and is teaching English at the University of Shizuoka in Shizuoka, Japan. Mike is in a PhD program at the University of Amsterdam. His dissertation is about Kenyan distance runners based in Japan and focuses on the meaning of friendship, respect, and success in their culture.



2004

Bela Baez - When the Oakwood Bubble expands!! In November I attended a training for City Employees. I often take these professional development courses and today was focused on Collaborative Negotiations. What better way to learn how to negotiate collaboratively then with a fellow Oakwood Alum! :) Here's me and **Zachary Metz '89** living our best professional lives! Zach was an exceptional trainer who shared such valuable information/tools for the best ways to negotiate; specifically in spaces where we think there's no room for negotiation. Thank you for that!



Bella Baez with Zach Metz '89

2006

Congratulations to Oakwood English teacher **Jesse Doherty-Vinacor '06** and his wife Andrea Onstot on the birth of their baby girl Esther Lena Onstot, born on December 29, 2019.



2009

Mariah Lewis Purcell - This past fall I accepted a position teaching 8th grade English at Corvallis Middle School here in Montana's Bitterroot Valley. I have 135 students and am absolutely loving it! I've also had the opportunity to begin an Outdoors Club after school program and we head off on our first snowshoeing trip of the season next week. I can't wait!



Congratulations to **Curtis Roberson** on his graduation from the Great Lakes Naval Boot Camp! Go Curtis!



(l-r) Tim Walther, Curtis, Raphael Nash Thompson and Kimberly Roberson '10.

2010

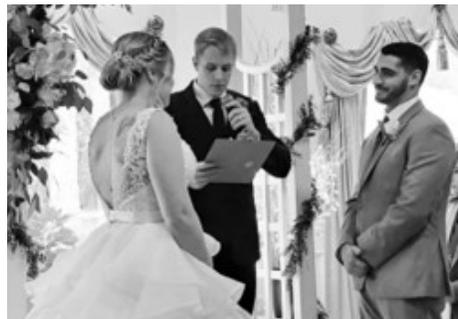
Congratulations to **Caroline Pitner** on her marriage to William Ziomek at Stable Gate Farm and Winery in Castleton-on-Hudson on January 19, 2020. Oakwood alumni in attendance included her siblings **Christine Pitner Surette '07**, **Greg Pitner '08** and **Lindsey Havranek '10**.



Kudos to **Najah Muhammad** on her role as Mama in The Heights Players' production of *A Raisin in the Sun* in Brooklyn, NY, in November. Najah received her B.A. in Theater Education and Acting from Emerson College in Boston, MA. Najah says in all of her varied projects on and off the stage, her goal is to use the arts as a communicative tool to bring people together, and start a conversation. Najah is president of Oakwood Friends School's Alumni Association and serves as an ex-officio member of the board of managers.



Sarah Powers celebrated her marriage to Kevin Sullivan on October 20, 2019 with family and fellow Oakwood alumnae. Congratulations!



Sarah with her brother Jonathan (JP) Powers '09 and Kevin.



(l-r) Bridget McCabe '12, Sarah, Jennifer Kennett Powers '08 and Katherine Nemlich '10.

2015

Jinran Chloe Liu of Changchun, China, graduated from the University of Iowa in December, earning a BA in Economics.

2016

Beau Duval, University of Vermont Class of 2020, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2019 semester. Beau is a Data Science major in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

2017

Owen Sullivan spent his summer working as a producing intern for the Williamstown Theater Festival in Massachusetts. This year he was brought on as a Company Manager for the Purchase College Performing Arts Center.

Faculty & Friends

Oakwood's Humanities Chair **Stephen Miller** and Professor Wendy Turgeon, PhD, from St. Joseph's College received a grant of \$4,500 from the American Philosophical Association to serve as project coordinators for the American Society of Philosophy Teachers Summer Seminar on Teaching and Learning Philosophy.

Congratulations to former board member **Joseph Gosler** who completed his memoir: "Searching for Home: The Impact of WW11 on a Hidden Child." The book will be published this spring by Amsterdam Publishers in the Netherlands in soft-cover and ebook form.

Congratulations to **Anne-Marie Uebbing** (parent Cyril '20 and Jane '22), a nursing professor at Mount Saint Mary College, who was named a fellow of the New York Academy of Medicine on November 7th. The Academy addresses the health challenges facing the world's urban populations through interdisciplinary approaches to policy leadership, innovative research, evaluation, education, and community engagement.

Congratulations to former faculty **Art and Parker Washburn** who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family last summer.



Photo with their 2 daughters and their families: Clay and Sarah Washburn Davies with their son Logan, 15; Parker, holding Irie Bocchino, 6, and Art; Phoebe, holding Thais Bocchino, 6 months, and A.J. Bocchino, holding Mika, 4. 📷



Send us your class notes & photos
development@oakwoodfriends.org



My Brother – Timothy A. Wohlforth Class of 1951

By Eric Wohlforth '50



Eric shared this message at his brother's funeral at South Mountain Friends Meeting in Ashland, Oregon. Tim passed away on August 23, 2019.

It is hard to believe that Tim and I knew each other as brothers for all of 83 years. Ages 3 to 17 were the most intense part of that brotherly relationship. We lived with our writer parents in a 200-year-old house in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Until we went to Oakwood School, a Friends Boarding School when I was 14, and Tim was 13, we shared a bedroom and talked long into the night.

Tim's independent political proclivities emerged when he was 15 in 1948 at Oakwood. That was the presidential election year when Henry Wallace was a strong, left-wing candidate with Dewey and President Truman on the ballot.

Tim at Oakwood that election year of 1948 was an outspoken leader of the pro-Henry Wallace camp, beginning then a lifetime of political activism. This political activism was not discouraged at the school, now called Oakwood Friends School, located in Poughkeepsie, New York.

It continued at Oberlin where he went to college and during his New York City years. By "outspoken leader", I mean that Tim never left you in doubt what his views were. They included an outsized regard for fellow citizens struggling in poverty or denied a proper place at the table of our capitalist society. His life was congruent with the view of the Society of Friends that the unpopularity of a cause was no reason not to embrace it. I remember Oakwood being the very first to admit African American students. I remember the Oakwood teachers who had been conscientious objectors during the just over World War II. I also remember when Bayard Rustin addressed us in 1948 embracing the cause of the displaced Palestinians just after the creation of the Jewish State.

Tim's years of retirement as a writer in this intellectual hotbed of Ashland were happy ones, especially after meeting up with the wonderful Patricia. She showed an extremely loving regard and care for Tim as he struggled with his very difficult final illness. I will be everlastingly grateful to her and Tim's caregivers for their steadfast loving care for brother Tim in his last days. 📷

Deionte Davis 5/18/96 – 10/27/19

Oakwood mourns the loss of our young alumnus Deionte Davis, class of 2015, who died suddenly on October 27, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia. We are holding his family in the Light. He will be sorely missed.



Come Back to Campus!

Alumni Weekend 2020

May 15-17

**Weekend begins Friday with Dash
Davis Gleiter Social Justice Lecture
presented by Michael J. Steinberg**

**Help us create a video by
adding your testimonial about
your Oakwood experience!**

All welcome!

IN MEMORY

Gloria Garlick Bogle '43
December 30, 2019

Jane K. Ecker '46
April 2019

Margaret "Peggy" Mertz '49
September 13, 2019

Herbert Day '50
March 22, 2019

Lew Resseguie '50
June 30, 2019

Mary Berry Bowron '51
September 17, 2017

Tim Wohlforth '51
August 23, 2019

David Harkness '55
October 2, 2019

John Ross '55
January 18, 2011

Richard K. Wood '55
November 1, 2019

Bain Davis '58
November 24, 2019

Barbara Hannum Herrmann '58
May 27, 2015

David Thomson '58
September 13, 2019

Edward Brown Reid '61
October 5, 2019

Jeanne Overman Trankle '64
January 7, 2020

Karen Rosenthal Akin '87
October 9, 2019

Deionte Davis '15
October 27, 2019

Jack Hunter
December 8, 2019
Former Faculty

Subhash Jhanji
October 4, 2019
Former Faculty

Richard Hathaway
January 29, 2020
Former Board Member

Oak Leaves Winter 2019-20



ELAINE MILES
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI
Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO
Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

Address Service Requested

2020 Spring School Calendar

April 21	Breakfast with the Head Earthshare Day
May 15	Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture Michael Steinberg
May 15-17	Alumni Weekend
May 16	Spring Production
May 20	Spring Concert
June 10	Middle School Moving Up
June 11	Senior Dinner
June 12	Commencement

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Sledding



Oakwood campus circa 1965