

Oak Leaves

NEWSLETTER FROM OAKWOOD FRIENDS SCHOOL • CELEBRATING OVER 200 YEARS OF FRIENDS EDUCATION IN THE HUDSON VALLEY

Address Service Requested

2017 Spring School Calendar

April 5	Breakfast with the Head
April 25	Earthshare Day & Arts presentation
April 28	Herzog Lecture
May 2	Dash Davis Gleiter Lecture
May 11-13	Spring Production, <i>Stockholm Syndrome</i>
May 12	Celebration of Solar Project
May 12-14	Alumni Weekend
May 23	Spring Concert
June 7	Middle School Moving Up
June 8	Senior Dinner
June 9	Commencement

Visit us at www.oakwoodfriends.org

Winter Reunion Alumni-Student Basketball Game



Alumni Association President, Najab Mubammad '10, with basketball players on January 6, 2017.

Solar Array Celebration Opens Alumni Weekend 2017

The Oakwood Friends School community will open Alumni Weekend 2017 with the official launch of our solar array project on Friday, May 12th at 2:30 pm. Board members, students, faculty, alumni, parents and guests from the larger community will gather to celebrate this landmark event in the greening of Oakwood's campus.

Fred Doneit, board member and former clerk of the Property Committee, spoke about the significance of this occasion: "This project emerged from visionary thinking among our senior administrators and members of the board's Property Committee – thinking fostered by shared values of energy efficiency and sustainability, and a readiness to think decades past the school's near-term needs. We felt the urgency to seize current opportunities offered by state incentives, and a power-purchase financing method that involved no capital outlay by the school, or significant impact on our facilities maintenance staff. As a school community, we can be proud of our leadership role in reducing our carbon footprint on the environment. We are hopeful that the facility will be a resource and inspiration to our current and prospective students, to alumni donors, and to the Hudson Valley community at large."

The board's Solar Sub-Committee worked diligently to bring us to this exciting day. Working with consultant Ron Kamen of Earthkind Energy, the committee met frequently between April and November 2014 before recommending a proposal for the full board's approval. Through a combination of strategic partnerships and New York State's forward-thinking solar energy incentives, Oakwood secured the two-acre array project with zero outlay of dollar resources. In a time of uncertainty over the rate of rising electrical costs, Oakwood will benefit greatly from a partnership that includes a well-defined and guaranteed cost per kilowatt over the next two decades.

The system, online for six months now, has already generated close to 400,000 kWh of electricity. Sized to offset 100% of Oakwood's annual electrical consumption the array will continuously, cleanly and sustainably produce enough energy to support our campus' 22 buildings and a community of over 200 faculty and students who call Oakwood home day and night.

Head of School, Chad Cianfrani, spoke about the benefits of the project: "As part of a multi-year focus on sustainability and stewardship in action, this project does more than provide

clean, renewable energy. The Oakwood array provides a focal point for countless educational opportunities within our Middle School, Upper School and local community. The array serves as a backdrop for outdoor classroom space and neighborhood outreach programs. This array is also a wonderful example of sustainable energy production which is both economically beneficial and environmentally responsible." ☑



Chad Cianfrani and Fred Doneit at solar array

Journalist Juan Williams '72 Returns to Oakwood



phy in 1976. He began his career in journalism as an intern and general assignment reporter for The Washington Post, becoming a national correspondent covering political and social issues during his 23 years at the paper. During this time, he won numerous awards, including an Emmy for TV documentary writing. Juan joined National Public Radio where he hosted "Talk of the Nation" and covered major stories on politics and race as a senior correspondent and political analyst for ten years. He was also a contributor to Fox News Channel since 1997 and is currently a co-host of FNC's "The Five" and a regular panelist on "Fox News Sunday" and "Special Report with Bret Baier."

Nationally known journalist, author, political analyst and regular panelist on the Fox News Channel, alumnus Juan Williams will return to Oakwood Friends School to present the Caroline "Dash" Davis Gleiter '51 Lecture on Social Justice on Tuesday, May 2nd, at 2:30 pm. Now in its 13th year, this lecture series was established by classmates in memory of Dash Davis Gleiter in recognition of her work in civil rights and her lifetime of volunteer activities to promote social justice. On another visit to Oakwood in 2006, Juan Williams told the students: "Oakwood is where I got a sense of life's potential and where I learned the Quaker spirit of caring." Even our youngest students were riveted as Juan described the changing landscape of civil rights issues through the decades.

Juan Williams was born in Colon, Panama, and attended public schools in Brooklyn, New York, before coming to Oakwood. After graduation in 1972, he attended Haverford College where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philoso-

The author of six books including the best seller, "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years, 1954-1965" and the critically acclaimed biography "Thurgood Marshall: American Revolutionary," Juan Williams has received many awards for his writing and investigative journalism. He has interviewed numerous influential people including five presidents: Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and Barack Obama. Many colleges and universities have recognized his work by awarding him Honorary Doctorates.

We are honored and delighted to welcome our own "Distinguished Alumnus" Juan Williams back to campus on May 2nd. All are welcome. ☑



Support the 2017 Annual Fund
www.oakwoodfriends.org

Snow Day

By: Chad Cianfrani, Head of School



Good winter snowstorms have transformative effects on the Oakwood campus. A heavy blanket softens our surroundings, making the world a little bit quieter and the reflecting sun makes it a little bit brighter. If well-timed and of sufficient depth, these storms will occasionally yield that elusive winter gift, a snow day. With local school buses parked and roads slick, our day students (half the population) stays home. Those of us who live on campus are charged with multiple important tasks ranging from sledding in front of the barn or Kingwood to shoveling walkways to catching up on work to sleeping late.

It was on one such snow day last month that I had the opportunity to spend time with a few students. Close to a foot of snow fell overnight, sealing our fate. Those of us on campus gathered in the Meeting Room as a community just before lunch. After announcements and a rundown of the day's events, we concluded the meeting with some silent worship. It was at this point that

the sun emerged and with it an opportunity. The facilities staff, who had been plowing since 4:00 AM, had cleared the main driveway and warm midday temperatures had cleared the roads. Talking with one of the students exiting the Meeting Room, we joked about lunch off campus. This conversation quickly (and invariably when it comes to food) drew in other students. A combination of hunger and student excitement led us off campus for a local restaurant favorite, sushi.

I did not awake that morning expecting to sit with five students over lunch off campus. But here we were, afforded a time to sit, engage and talk with one another. In that moment, over a first round of miso soup, I was struck by how much I can learn from the diversity of student experience within our community.

Over the next 60 minutes, consuming food at a voracious rate, the five students, all seniors, discussed their time at Oakwood, what they enjoyed and what they will carry with them. I was struck by the breadth of interests and depth of passion for their work. All currently weighing college choices, their focus ranged from pre-med to engineering to social justice to economics to 'I have no idea yet'. Although they gravitate towards different disciplines, they speak with a common voice.

"My community has challenged me, pushed me, and accepted me."

"Students are encouraged to 'fail out load' and take risks in their classes, in athletics and on the stage. It is through this experimentation that an artist realizes a joy of mathematics and a basketball player discovers ceramics."

"Oakwood has given me opportunities to discover and foster passions with depth."

"I have been welcomed by friends I now call family, from around the US, from Ghana, Vietnam, Rwanda, China, Afghanistan, Japan."

"I have found friends among my teachers and scholars among my peers."

I left that afternoon with a renewed energy and deep appreciation for our students and our school mission. Not only had these students gained a strong foundation in math, science, history and language, they had gained a genuine desire to challenge themselves and to learn. Our faculty work tirelessly to engage, inspire and create a rich curriculum. When I listen to our students' powerful expression of how they consume this curriculum and integrate it into their lives, I am confident we are fulfilling our mission. ☑



Sue, Henry and Andy Cianfrani

Parent Dinner Supports 2017 Annual Fund



Tim and Sean Sweeney '09 at dinner

Thank you to Tim and Laurel Sweeney, parents of Sean '09, and owners of Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, for sponsoring our 12th annual wine dinner & auction to support the Annual Fund. The event was held on January 28th at Locust Grove - Samuel Morse Historic Site, catered by Cosimo's. It was a festive evening shared by parents, faculty, board members and guests. Thank you to faculty member Michael Sklaroff who stepped up to serve as auctioneer, and best wishes to our wonderful long-time auctioneers Carol and **Bill Bogle '76** who recently

moved to Ridgeland, SC. We missed you! Student artwork was on display along with a presentation of historic Oakwood photos selected by **Matthew Voorhees '17**, student archivist. The evening opened with musical performances by **Willow Bennison** and **Elias Fredericks**, class of 2020. Willow sang and played guitar, presenting her own composition, "I'll Try." Elias played "Scherzo" by van Goens on cello. Thank you all!

We are especially grateful to three local businesses who sponsored the dinner this year: Cleveland Plumbing & Heating, Earthkind Energy and Rondack Construction. Through the generosity of all our auction item donors, we raised \$12,000 for the Annual Fund. Thank you: Adam's Fairacre Farms, Atlantic Theater Company, Babbett's Kitchen, Balance Roling & Massage Studio, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, Barnes & Noble, Boscobel Restoration, Bottini Fuel, Camp Cody, Camp Wazyatah, Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, Cosimo's, Martina Deignan, William Deluca, John & Meghan Duval,

Zachary Federbush '08, Armelle Gloaguen, Hudson Beach Glass, Hudson Valley Renegades, Hudson Valley Skin Care, Italian Center, J. E. Heaton Jewelers, Timothy Judge, Laura E. Kellar, Sean Lynch, Marion Salon Spa, McCann-Caven Golf Course, McGillicuddy's, Middle School Parents, Mohonk Mountain House, Saul Moroff, Omega Institute, Santa Fe Grill, Lou Simons '56, Stone Ridge Wine & Spirits, Miriam Straus, Village Tea Room, Women's Work, Jeffrey Yang, and Matthew & Maggie Garrido-Yarnis. ☑



Alysa Sullivan, Laurie Craft, Lauren Voorhees, Martina Deignan and Anne-Marie Uebbing at dinner

Remembering Beth Hollenbeck '67

By: Nancy Leopitzi Wawrla '67



Sunday afternoon, I flew into Orlando, Florida, en route to my Stepmom for Thanksgiving. I called Beth Hollenbeck to tell her I would stop by, but was not specific, so as to surprise her. Last year, and on several attempts to see her, she told me it wasn't a good time, so this time, I was not going to be diverted. We spoke on the phone several times a year. Well, the surprise was on me. She had been taken to the hospital the night before and died hours later. I never got to see her. A note you will all appreciate is that her next door neighbor, with whom she would walk and talk, told me that Beth referred to herself as Quaker. Yeah, a lot of us do. I do. She did. She and I often spoke of the familial connection, through our lives, at Oakwood. Her death is nothing less than a death in my family. Peace to you all. Rest in Peace, Beth.

Beth Darcy Hollenbeck, an environmental crusader, eco-friendly products promoter, daughter, sister, F/friend, passed away

into the night on November 20, 2016. She was predeceased by her sister Helen and parents. She is survived by her sister Lynn Hollenbeck Suter, class of 1971, and her life-partner Greg. She was born in Poughkeepsie in 1950, attended Oakwood Friends School and graduated in 1967. There, Beth learned the significance of diversity, social justice and social activism, in the Quaker spirit of non-violence and conscientious objection. In the early 1970s, soon after studying at Bard College, Beth married and became a Corporate Banking Executive in California. But her outrage at how people manipulated "big business" changed her focus to what really mattered...our environment. Our Earth. In 1982, Beth left corporate America and moved to Central Florida to become more active in protecting the environment. Beth founded ECO-Action, as Executive Director in 1993, and opened and operated the Eco-Store, an eco-friendly products shop located in College Park, FL. Her efforts to clean up Central Florida's waterways included over 600 Sundays, over 12 years, of coordinating volunteers to clean up after human's careless litter of solid waste, hazardous waste and treacherous debris along the shorelines with the goal of protecting wildlife. Beth lectured students on the environment, presented at numerous international symposiums on the state of the environment and global warming; organized major Earth Day events; and Canoe Clean-ups. Beth is what selfless activism looks like. Orlando, Florida, is tons better for it.

"There are times when we have actually encountered an animal in distress and been able to have them fly away or swim away. All the volunteers are weeping and bugging. It's a wonderful feeling."

- Beth Hollenbeck

Quote published in Orlando Magazine 2009 ☑



IN MEMORY

Florence Louise Cochrane Rome '35
May 4, 2016

Ruth VanWyck Floyd '37
December 29, 2015

Richard K. Hoffman '44
March 8, 2016

Bill Synder '61
August 15, 2016

Charles M. Thompson '65
June 2, 2016

Beth Hollenbeck '67
November 20, 2016

"The Oakwood Index" - June 1917

"Fellow Classmates! We meet tonight for the last time as the Senior class of our Alma Mater. Tomorrow we go forth graduates of the Oakwood Seminary. When we return, we return alumni. This for us is a memorable occasion. We have arrived at the culmination of four of the happiest and most important years of our lives. There is a deep feeling of regret at the parting. We are leaving behind the associates which have been so dear, and, as we separate, our journeys lead us in different directions. We, the class of 1917, have

journeyed through the life of the school and are entering the school of life. We have derived many benefits from our course, the greatest of which is not the knowledge we have gained but the inspiration it has given us. Has our school life prepared us for life's school? Eagerly we go forth to meet it. To the school officers and to our teachers we return our sincere thanks for earnest and continued interest in our welfare. In leaving, we wish for the greater Oakwood the best success. To you the president of the class of 1918, we give

these fasces: Symbols of power, which have been handed down from one graduating class to another. Let me remove these ribbons, the red and white, and place here in their stead our class colors, the green and gold. May these relics serve as an inspiration to help you onward in your course. The future holds many opportunities for you, and we sincerely hope that you may profit by them; remember as the work is, so the reward shall be; also Oakwood's motto, "Palma non sine pulvere" - No reward without effort. ☑



All School Photo 1916-1917

Oak Leaves

Winter 2016-17



ELAINE MILES
Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

JULIE OKONIEWSKI
Associate Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

WENDY GIANGRASSO
Assistant Director of Development & Alumni Affairs

2011

Clara Wilkinson is completing her first year in the Peace Corps in Zambia working on sustainable agriculture issues.



2012

Jessica Mitchell is living in Iowa working at Scattergood Friends School.

2014

Hang Liu is studying auto design at Coventry University in the UK.



Friends & Faculty News

Congratulations to **Jeremy Atkins** and his new bride Candace on their marriage on October 14.

Chad Cianfrani, Anna Bertucci and **Phong Nguyen '17** participated in Subzero Heros, an annual fundraiser for the Hudson Valley Chapter of the Alzheimers Association. They joined other community volunteers who took the plunge on February 18.



Former French teacher, **Katie Rose Hillegaas**, and her husband, Jay, welcomed their second daughter, Iris St. Vincent Erickson, on Tuesday, September 27, 2016.



Arthur Jarvis – faculty 1961-1965 - Mary and I do not travel long distance any more, but Oakwood is always in our thoughts.

One Hundred Years: A History of the Class of 1917

By: *Matthew A. Voorbees '17*



With graduation approaching, I can't help but reflect on my last seven years at Oakwood. As many of you know, I have served as the student archivist and have brought to light many of Oakwood's treasured photographs and memorabilia of years gone by. One of my latest projects was to research the students who graduated 100 years before me. Here is a collection of biographies for each of the individuals who graduated in 1917.

James Russell Hallock was born on August 10, 1898 in Marlborough, New York. He served as a pilot during World War I. He married Mildred Leob in 1925. He attended Cornell University for two years, graduating in 1922 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He worked as an engineer in the Rural Service Department for Central Hudson Gas & Electric. He was a member of the Friends Meeting House in Milton. He died on August 14, 1953 in Poughkeepsie, New York.

Irene Muriel Hatch was born on February 4, 1896 in Ontario, Canada. Following her graduation she worked as an inspector at a silver plating factory in Oneida County, New York. She married Samuel Kroneck and had two children. She died on September 12, 1983 in Canastota, New York.

Mabel Beatrice Hill was born on October 20, 1896 in Cayuga County, New York. She

Joyce Carter-Krawczyk (parent of John '02)- At Oakwood, my son acquired knowledge, developed skills and found the community to guide him in becoming a good citizen. He left Oakwood with a strong sense of social understanding, respect for others and a healthy sense of self-worth and continued his journey for service learning, a priority at Swarthmore College. After Swarthmore, he worked as a paralegal, graduated from Temple Law School and is currently an attorney in Philadelphia

Elizabeth Meyer – art teacher, was one of seven artists screening films at the Rubin Museum of Art's two-day festival in November. Force of Stillness: Film and Performance Inspired by Buddhism, curated by Amber Bemak. Lizzie's piece is entitled "Colornests (excerpt): Blue/Violet" and is 7 minutes long.

Stephen Miller – philosophy teacher, spoke at the annual conference of the Philosophy of Education Society on the topic of Knowledge Ecologies. The conference took place in the Republic of Fiji.

married twice, first to Frederick Dildine and later to Harry Gay. She had one daughter. She died in 1972 in Tioga County, New York.

William Manfred Mersereau was born on December 24, 1897 in Union Springs, New York. He served in the navy during World War I and later became a salesman. He married Mary Stone in 1927. He died on July 27, 1952 in Buffalo, New York.

Alice Minard was born on February 21, 1899 in Ellsworth, New York. After graduation, she attended the Cortland Normal School and New York University where she earned a degree in education. She was a school teacher at Yonkers High School in Westchester County, New York. She married J. Augustus Hartwig on August 17, 1943 in Poplar Ridge, New York. She died on March 22, 1973 in Auburn, New York.

Ruth Alice Neville was born on May 14, 1898 in Scipio, New York. She married Eugene Sullivan on June 4, 1919 in Auburn, New York and had five children. The family moved to Walden, New York. In her later years she served as an election inspector for the town of Scipio. She died on April 3, 1976 in Auburn, New York.

Adrian Lamoreaux Spencer was born on August 23, 1899 in Union Springs, New York. After graduation, he served in the navy during World War I. Following the war, he pursued a degree in law and graduated from Cornell University. He and a fellow attorney began the practice of Stewart & Spencer. He married Marion Jones in 1930 and had a daughter. Starting in 1935 he began working as a counselor for the Monroe Savings Bank and for the next thirty years he climbed the ranks, eventually becoming president. He died on March 21, 1972 in Pittsford, New York. ☑

Congratulations to history teacher **Jon Pesner '07** and Desiree Conway on the birth of their son David Robert Pesner on January 21, 2017.



Sheila Wolper, wife of former board member Joe Gosler, presented her work at the Ceres Gallery in New York City in December. ☑



New Faces on Campus

Jodi Allen – School Counselor

Jodi received her B.S. in Psychology from St. John Fisher College and her M. A. in Mental Health Counseling at Marist College with a focus on child and adolescent psychology. Jodi works with our boarding and day students and their families, providing support and organizing outreach programs and services.



*Kate Saumure-Jones, Zoya Diaz '10,
Jon Pesner '07*

Mark Blackman – Director of Admissions

Mark has served in a variety of roles at several Quaker schools including Germantown Friends School, George School, and Moses Brown School. A native of Cleveland, OH, Mark is a graduate of Oberlin College and attended graduate school at Columbia University and the University of Pennsylvania. Mark was attracted to Oakwood Friends because of its wonderful community and beautiful campus. He is excited about sharing the school's unique history and making it a household name worldwide. Mark resides on campus with his wife, Tammy, and daughter, Isabella.

AnnMarie Callan – Middle School Coordinator

AnnMarie is a graduate of Hunter College and has earned credits toward her Master's degree from Columbia University and SUNY New Paltz. She has 27 years of experience coordinating integrated curriculum with a focus on developing a 'place of belonging' for faculty and students alike. AnnMarie is passionately committed to empowering students through reflection and local service.

Zoya Diaz '10 – Executive Assistant to the Head of School and Admissions

Zoya attended Oakwood Friends School from middle school through graduation in 2010. She then went on to study Biology and Gender and Sexuality at SUNY Pur-

chase College. During and after her schooling, Zoya lived and worked in Spain first as a student, and then as an ESL teacher in a local mosque and community center. She has also worked as a scientist in Costa Rica, contributing research to a long-standing ecological study. Zoya has a fervent devotion to community outreach and service, volunteering and donating to local causes whenever possible. She is happy to be working in admissions at Oakwood, contributing to maintaining the principles of Quaker education.

Jinni Durham – Upper School English

Jinni received her B.A. in English/Philosophy at the University of New Mexico and her M.A. in English at the Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College. Jinni attended the Klingenstein Summer Institute at Columbia University's Teacher's College and Bard College's Institute for Writing and Thinking. She also recently participated in "Harkness Training" at the Phillips Exeter Humanities Institute. Prior to joining Oakwood Friends, she taught at the Bosque School in Albuquerque, NM, for 18 years and brings a depth of knowledge and passion for her subject.

Samantha Lowe '05 – Middle School Math

Samantha is an Oakwood alumna who received her B.A. in Mathematics from



*Mark Blackman, Jodi Allen, Jinni Durham,
AnnMarie Callan, Samantha Lowe '05*

Wellesley College and M.S. in Mathematics from The University of Connecticut. She lives on campus and enjoys running, programming and singing.

Jon Pesner '07 – Upper School History and Academic Support Center

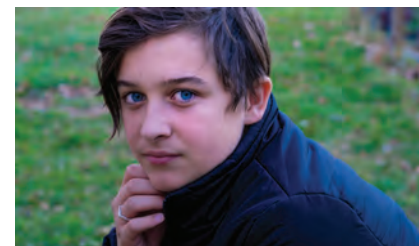
After graduating from Oakwood Friends School in 2007 Jon studied art history, archaeology, and medieval studies at both SUNY Albany and Fordham University. He received his M.A. in Education from Bard College in 2015 and then worked in the Kingston City school district as a student teacher in both the middle and high school. Jon also worked with at risk youth at the Children's Home of Kingston. He is also a skilled martial artist and shares his talent with Oakwood students through an after school life sport.

Kate Saumure-Jones – Upper School French

Kate is a Northern California native who relocated to Poughkeepsie with her husband about four years ago. She has spent several years teaching secondary school in the areas of French, Theater, and English. She studied French and Theater Arts at California State University, Chico, and completed her teacher training at California State University, Sacramento. She also did graduate work in theater arts at the University of Houston. ☑

Thinking About Hosting An International Student?

By: *Susanrachel Condon '80, parent of Malcolm '20*



Malcolm Condon '20

When I attended my first OPA meeting, I learned that one way to contribute to the school community is to invite an international student or 7-day boarder home for a holiday.

When I mentioned this possibility to Malcolm, he jumped at the chance, immediately asking if his friend Max could spend Thanksgiving with us. The Condon family was thrilled to welcome 9th grader Maxwell Rwamunigi of Johannesburg to our home during the Thanksgiving break.

The first thing the boys did together was to attend a youth environmentalist summit with the editor of Dirt Magazine. The kids ate chili and cornbread around a campfire as the sun went down and discussed their shared passion for environmental projects. Max was able to shed some light on differences between awareness of environmental issues here and at home. Malcolm talked about his mission to decrease consumption of single use plastics.

Later in the week, there was a long, snowy hike to the Mohonk Mountain House in the Shawangunk Mountains, several trips to the movies, a private metal working class. Junior, Ana Alexander joined Malcolm, Max and me at the Rhinebeck Performing Arts Center's presentation of Inherit the Wind. Little did we know the boys would be reading it in class the week after break! We had an enlightening discussion about ideas on evolutionary theory and whether or not it is at odds with faith.



Maxwell Rwamunigi '20

Finally, of course, we hosted Max's first Thanksgiving! Plenty of multigenerational family engaged in good conversations and an amazing meal - which we all had a hand in - were the highlights of the day. The break culminated in Malcolm's exhibiting and selling his ceramics and blown glass at the Unison Arts Annual Craft Fair at SUNY New Paltz.

We totally recommend hosting a boarder and would gladly do it again! ☑

Oakwood Friends Girls' Cross Country 2016

By: Charlie Butts, Athletic Director

Ten girls made this the largest Oakwood girls' cross country squad (perhaps) ever. Although the team lost a number of runners from the previous season, a talented and determined group of newcomers added strength and provided great depth. The returning nucleus of experienced runners, **Alexandria Weinraub '17**, **Lily Schaeufele '18**, and **Nafisa Rashid '19**, led the team by example in workouts and races. Newcomers ranged from seniors to 7th grade: **Basira Daqiq '17**, **Connie Huang '17**, **Jia Xu '17**, **Komi Tong '17**, **Echo Xu '18**, **Adele Fredericks '21**, and **Bailey Allen '22**. Team captains Lily and Alex provided the motivation and leadership that propelled the team through a series of successful races and everyone always stepped up when needed. This teamwork culminated in a victory at the Hudson Valley Athletic League (HVAL) Championship, our first since 2002.

Cross country scoring is based on finish place. Place equals team points, and the top five runners' points are added for the team score with the low score winning. Sixth and seventh runners can "displace" scorers from another team by pushing their finish places back and increasing the other team's points. Therefore, as impressive as an individual first-place finish might appear, the sum totality of five scorers and sometimes the sixth and seventh displacers have more influence on team score and place. Every runner and every finish position are equally important to the outcome.

OFS started team competition with a second place finish among six schools at the 16th Annual Oakwood Invitational. In our league, invitational meets, with all or most league schools attending, have replaced the dual meets of past years. For each invitational race, there's a large field and the competition is much tougher than at a dual meet. This competition did not deter Alex as she was the individual winner in 21:52, setting a new course record for Oakwood women.



Coaches Bill Doolittle and Sean Thompson with co-captains Alex Weinraub '17 and Lily Schaeufele '18

The team ran to a 2-point victory at the Storm King Invitational. At the Darrow Invitational, they finished third and Alex even beat most of the boys as the boys and girls ran at the same time. The team then took another 2-point victory at the New York Military Academy Invitational. At the Poughkeepsie Day School Invitational, Oakwood earned another third-place finish. These invitationals were all prep races for the big one, the HVAL Championship.

At less than full strength with two runners down at the HVAL Championship at Storm King, the girls used a strategy of "catch every runner you can." Trailing at the beginning of the race, Alex powered to a first place victory by over a minute to become Oakwood's first individual league champion in 19 years. Though ranked about 7th in the league, Basira ran her best race of the season to capture 4th place. Echo and Lily pulled each other to 10th and 11th place finishes respectively. Jia stepped up and ran her best race of the season to finish 14th and close out the scoring. Each place and the associated points were crucial in adding up to a 1point victory over Darrow School and giving us the cham-

pionship. If just one Darrow runner had switched places with an Oakwood runner, they would have won, so it was a team victory in every sense of the word. The race for the top team was so close, that there was a distinct possibility of a tie. If that had happened, the tie gets broken by the best 6th place finisher between the two teams and that was Bailey for Oakwood.

Alex then traveled to the Hyde School in Maine to race in the New England small independent schools championship against 158 runners from 7 states. She ran a smart, strong, and masterful race to finish 8th and earn New England All-Star status. We believe this was the first time any member of the girls' team earned this honor.

That finish qualified Alex for the All-New England championship at St. Mark's School in Massachusetts. The 20 all-stars from each of the 4 divisions of small, medium, large, and extra-large independent schools of New England were invited to run in the Race of Champions. She ran another strong race to finish 26th, defeating some runners who had finished ahead of her in the previous race, plus a number of girls from the larger schools.

Overall, it was a very successful season filled with many examples of teamwork and camaraderie. The girls' willingness to work at each practice towards later season goals, and support each other made it something of a magical season. Everyone contributed and everyone scored in at least one meet. The team also benefitted from the expertise of head coaches Bill Doolittle and Sean Thompson. Together, they have 55 years of experience in coaching cross country and their knowledge was put to good use by this talented group of runners. ☑



1967

Bonnie Raitt participated in the Freedom Concert hosted by Alec Baldwin on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2017.

1969

Jim and **Bill Howe** visited campus with their brother Reid who lives in Kingwood Park.



Chuck Schwartz – Some of the religious philosophy that I learned at Oakwood back in the sixties is still relevant to me today.

1970

Helen Claxton – Retired in January. What a delight! Still in Charlotte. Best regards to all. Peace and love.

Richard and **Barbara Feingold** traveled to Iceland and Ireland where Barbara visited with **Adelia Greer '69** at her home in Finnvara, 45 minutes southwest of Galway. Adelia has lived in Ireland for over 30 years and occasionally returns to the states to visit relatives. Barbara says: "It was wonderful to get caught up after 46 years! We were class mates for two years and even went to Woodstock together!"



Adelia Greer '69 & Barbara Bogle Feingold in Finnvara.

Daniel Herzog – Since being given not so favorable medical news, I have been auctioning off my postcard stock at a local club and selling cards through an employee at shows.

Gary Slutzky – As I get older, I realize that I have come to appreciate what I learned about life, and doing some good in my world, in my two years at Oakwood. I talk occasionally with Jim Raker '70, and Nancy Leopitzi Warwla '67 and I am glad we have reconnected.

1984

Augusta Wilson – Keep up the good work Oakwood!

1986

Fred Jenkins III – partner in business of Wilcox-Slidders Industrial Supply in Fairfield, NJ. Ceramicist, voiceover talent and runner.

Abigail Golden-Vazquez – It was an honor to come back to Oakwood for my 25th reunion and have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of my esteemed classmate Jesse Washington, in addressing the students on social justice. It was made extra special by the attendance of my husband and son, as well as '57 Oakwood grad, my Dad.

1988

Jennifer Elizabeth Brunton – I'm still blogging at fullspectrummama.blogspot.com, but my big news is I published an e-book, and print: *Everything I Understand* (by Lux Cunningham, my pen name). It's a literary mystery set in New York City in the late '90s.

1992

Dorothy Glusker and husband, Phil, live with their two daughters, Julie & Talia, in San Carlos, CA. Dorothy continues to be a reading specialist in East Palo Alto.

1995

Forrest Rohde – I have a lot of news. I was married on Oct 22 to my lovely wife, Meghan. I have moved back to Prescott, AZ to be close to my three children, Eli, Olivia and Colin. I passed my real estate brokers certification test, now licensed at My Home Group and I am trainer at Core Cross Fit. Look me up when on Facebook! I am posting fresh videos about life in Prescott every few days and would love to hear from old friends!

1998

Tamio Ishizaka Bando visited campus with a business colleague in October. He develops residential condos in Tokyo. Shown here with **Eisei Maeyama '17**.



2001

Congratulations to **Allison Loggins-Hull** on her new project, "Diametrically Composed," a performance piece featuring newly commissioned works for flute, voice and piano exploring the duality of being a mother and an artist.



2002

Congratulations to **John Krawczyk** on his marriage to Ashley Gilpin of Texas on September 24, 2016. John earned his B.A. from Swarthmore

College and his J.D. from Temple University. He is an attorney with Goldberg, Miller and Rubin in Philadelphia. Ashley received her BA and her MBA from Texas A & M. She works for Lockheed Martin in New Jersey. John and Ashley honeymooned in Nairobi, Kenya and Zanzibar, Tanzania. Oakwood friends at the wedding: Vash Arthur '01, Asher Dupuy-Spencer '01, Bruce Ramsay '01, Alex Deffaa '04 and Jane Calhelha Starr '02.



2007

Nick Currie visiting with Julie Okoniewski and Anna Bertucci



Congratulations to **Sarah Robbins** on her engagement to Jason Weers!

2008

Zack Federbush is a student at the Savannah School of Art. Thank you, Zack, for your contribution of a painting to our auction to support the Annual Fund.



2009

Sean Sweeney joined his parents and fellow alumni at Oakwood's Wine Dinner & Auction in January. Sean is working in real estate.

2010

Jamie Lee – graduated from the School of the Art Institute in Chicago, Illinois in 2015. Jamie is living and working in Chicago and is a virtual sales associate for the Howard Brown Medical Clinic. Jamie is in several drawing groups.

Najah Muhammad has started a job as a full time drama/theatre teacher at Achievement First Endeavor Elementary school in Brooklyn, NY working with students in kindergarten to 4th grade.

Class Notes

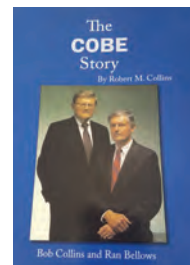


1943
Gloria Garlick Bogle and **Joyce Benson Caswell** with Headmaster William Reagan at graduation.



1946
Betty Nunn Kramer – Still active at 88, almost 89. Living at a CCRC at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

1948
Robert Collins – I self-published *The Cobe Story* about the company I cofounded. If anyone would like a copy please let me know: Robertm765@msn.com



Bob Collins & Ran Bellows: Co-founders of Cobe Laboratories, Inc.

Lt. Col. Ray Frasier – A healthy new year to the class of '48 and a special blessing to all those alumni who served in the protection of our nation.

1950
Eric E. Wohlforth – I am working only a little, active in civic and university activities. Very glad Pat Crowley is a member of the Board. I spend several winter months in Tucson.

Patrick Crowley – self-published *Fragments – So Many Choices, So Little Time*. Pat leads a seminar entitled Writing Personal History for the Renaissance Society at California State University, Sacramento.



1953
Taffy Thunick Hoffman – I am happy, busy and contented in an active senior living facility.

Alma Stokey Morrison – My husband and I built a new house this year - on one floor. We love it and hope to stay a long time. We belong to the local Unitarian Universalist Church where

we find people with the same values that were so important at Oakwood. We are fortunate to be able to stay active in the community. Robine Andrau '55 lives in the same town, Scituate, MA.

1954
Linda Rahl Nadas – I guess there is way too much to say. I still do my art work in all three areas- sculpture, pottery and water colors. This last summer we fired two gas kilns. Up until two years ago I could still do it myself. No more! I am fortunate to be still doing this creative work. My daughter, Ruth Gita, is battling cancer. It is a huge challenge. How strong we all have to be.

Khosrow Nasr – I am now retired. Live with my wife Shiva in Sacramento area. My younger daughter Nava is an internist, works as a hospitalist near us. My older daughter, Rasa, is married and is caregiver for her family which includes two sons. Both daughters and family live within 3-5 miles from us.

1955
A memorial service will be held to celebrate the life of **Sam Ho** in Vancouver at the Kerrisdale Community Centre on the afternoon of July 15th. Oakwood friends are most welcome. Please contact Sam's daughter Samantha Kriegel at samhokriegel@gmail.com for further details.

1956
Molly Lynn Watt - These sixty years later, I continue to use the values I found at Oakwood to guide my life choices every day. I am delighted to see these same values at Oakwood today - appreciating diversity, working for human rights, simplicity, engagement, participating in the adventure of learning and hard intellectual and physical work, seeing self as part of the whole human tribe, celebrating and enjoying life in a centered way that radiates good will.

1957
Peter Lane – I think Alice Flanagan's grandmother (Molly Lynn Watt '56) and I were 'an item' in the year 1954-55 - how about that? A lovely girl and fun to learn that her granddaughter has found OFS to be good. Not surprised!

1958
Susan Hennessey – Moved back to my house about 50 minutes south of San Francisco after 8 year marriage. Sponsoring a number of kids. Now to repair house, etc. Miss all the Oakwood friends & teachers.

1959
Susannah (Sukey) Stone Eldridge – My sister, Debbie Stone, and I had the great pleasure of a visit with Reg and Tinker Hannaford this summer at their home in Brunswick, ME. I will never for-

get the looks of amazed delight on our parents' faces when they saw the reading list Reg had prepared for our English class! Wonderful days!

1961
Bob Blackman – Retired after 40 years of primary internal medicine practice. Now teaching at Keck USC Medical School. Trying to impart attitude as well as clinical facts to the students. No hand held devices allowed - just person to person communication between doctor and patient. Many of my 'old school' ways were shaped at Oakwood and not a day goes by that I don't give thanks.

1963
Barbara Richmond Mates – My son, **Ethan Mates '95**, has a new son, Myles, born July 6, 2015. Ethan lives in Los Angeles.

Linda Kenney Miller – My book "Beacon on the Hill" is being optioned for a television series or a big screen feature. The book continues to sell well and inspire many. Stay tuned....

Martha Richdale – I am happy to announce that my fiancé Bill Gough and I married in the backyard of our Florida home on April 3rd. Some of you know that Bill has terminal lung cancer and in a clinical trial at the Moffitt Cancer Research Center in Tampa. Although not a cure, it has given us more time as newlyweds and we are grateful for every single day. We want to wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

Lewis Shepard – Ellen and I still divide our time between Boston and Wellfleet. Sam and Kate were married in 2015. Dan and Heather were married in March 2016. I grand-dog, 2 grand-cats. I made a modest increase to my ACLU membership.

1964
Chris Galligan – We moved to a retirement community called Noble Horizons in Salisbury, CT. I'm still working and climbing trees.

1965
John Blackman – Retiring July 1, 2017

Larry Weiss – After graduating from Oakwood, I went to Queens College and then Brooklyn Law School. I am now in my 42nd year in law practice and looking forward to slowing down in the next few years. I hope to pick up where I left off sculpting at Oakwood and try oil painting. I don't have any talent but I promised each of my sons an ugly painting that they would only have to put on the wall (behind a door) when I came to visit. Hoping to also find more time to travel and visit old friends. Best wishes to the class of 2016 and to old friends from the class of 1965.

Photography Curriculum at Oakwood

By Michael Gallo Farrell, Art Department Chair



Students at work in the darkroom

The Photography curriculum at Oakwood Friends School is an award-winning program. Students have regularly participated in high school photography contests and have won top prizes on numerous occasions. This is directly related to the professional environment in which students work. Oakwood has a complete professional photography studio, including a dedicated darkroom with 10 enlargers capable of making prints 16" x 20" and larger. Students learn the fundamentals of photography and the creative expression of this medium by using 35mm manual cameras and by hand-making photographic prints. This exposes students to the artistic critical thinking and problem solving necessary in order to excel as a photographer and a visual artist.

Students in the photography studio work with photographic flood and strobe lighting in a working portrait studio. The entire curriculum is hands-on and authentic. They learn lighting techniques and digital and analog metering for accurate exposure controls. The direct hands-on involvement

at the manual and traditional methods of black-and-white film photography will make everyone a better digital photographer.

Digital photography is very much in practice at Oakwood Friends School. The yearbook is a 100% digital production. Student photographers use Photoshop and state of the art digital layout and design all built on the Yearbook Company's on line production system. This is a total professional production introducing students to all of the most up-to-date methods of digital photography and digital graphic design and production.

Students work on term projects directly related to each individual's level. Students can take photography class as many times as their schedules allow. As students advance, the term projects challenge them in both creative and technical directions. Many advanced students do Independent Studies. Oakwood photography students have gone on to major in photography at the college level and at some of America's top art schools. ☑

Film Screened at Oakwood: "The Fits," by Anna Farrell Holmer '03



Anna Holmer '03 with Frank McGinnis '04 and Anna Bertucci

Alumna Anna Rose Holmer, class of 2003, held a screening of her film, "The Fits," for the Oakwood Friends School community in October. The film is a psychological portrait of 11 year old Toni – a tomboy assimilating into a tight-knit dance team in Cincinnati's West End. Enamored by the power and confidence of this strong community of girls, Toni eagerly absorbs routines, masters drills, and even pierces her own ears to fit in. When a mysterious outbreak of fainting spells plagues the team, Toni's desire for acceptance is twisted.

The film was written, produced and directed by Anna Holmer through the 2014-15 Edition

Theater at Oakwood

The fall production featured *Dracula* by Steven Dietz. This adaptation restores the suspense and seduction of Bram Stoker's classic novel to the stage. As Count Dracula begins to exert his will upon the residents of London, they try to piece together the clues of his appearances – in a valiant attempt to save themselves from a hideous fate. Rich with both humor and horror, this play paints a wickedly theatrical picture of Stoker's famous vampire.



Joseph Spence '19 and Gabriel Mat '18

The winter play featured *Ladies' Day* by Aristophanes with a new adaptation by Ryan Biracree. In this version, the playwright Euripides has discovered a plot. The women of Greece are fed up with his representation of their gender and are meeting to assess his guilt and punishment. Fearing for his life, Euripides sends his father-in-law Mnesilochus, dressed as a woman, to infiltrate their ranks and speak on his behalf. ☑



Moss Sherman '17, Melina Sefuku '17, Joseph Spence '19, Alex Weinraub '17 and Enid Swatson '17

of the Venice Biennale Cinema College program, a micro-budget and micro-timeline initiative for first and second time directors from around the world. The film premiered at the 72nd Venice International Film Festival as part of the Venice Biennale Cinema College showcase. "The Fits" also participated in the inaugural Sundance Institute Feature Film Program Editing Intensive and received additional support from the Sundance Institute, Cinereach and Rooftop Films. ☑

Joe Jankovsky to present Herzog Lecture on Innovation

Now in its 18th year, the Herzog Lecture was established by Daniel Herzog '70 in memory of his father, Dr. Hershel Herzog, a distinguished chemist and pharmaceutical executive who was instrumental in developing several popular antibiotic and anti-inflammatory drugs. In keeping with a science and technology theme, the series has brought speakers from many fields to speak to our school community, bringing science inquiry to life and encouraging our students to consider career paths in science.

This year, we are delighted to welcome Joseph Jankovsky, Ph.D. to present the Herzog Lecture on Friday, April 28th, at 10:30 am, in the Meeting Room. Joe's topic is Calculating Innovation: Math, Multipliers and the Long Creative Road to Innovation. Joe explains: "Over the past decade there have been numerous books and talks discussing the rise (or death) of the creative class, or how the modern education system kills (or enables) creativity and innovation. What truly counts when trying to bring an innovative concept to reality? Is there an equation that best

captures the components needed to deliver on a creative idea? Using a sample of n=1 (me), we will explore how to harness creativity and education to execute innovation."

After completing degrees in Music and Engineering at Swarthmore College in 1993, Joe Jankovsky completed his Masters and PhD at Yale University in 2000. His thesis, which studied the dynamics of surfactant-coated liquid drops in microgravity, was flown aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia in 1995. He was an Office of Naval Research post-doctoral fellow, studying the acoustics of bubble clouds at Boston University. Joe is currently a Senior Research Engineer at Bose Corporation in Framingham, MA. Since joining the company in 2001, Joe's contributions have primarily been in the area of physical acoustics where he holds several patents. His current interest is in the area of autonomous vehicles. In the future, when there are no drivers, what will people do? More specifically, can we control body motion in a way that makes people comfortable, not car sick, and enhances productivity?



Joe and his wife Inge and their two children live in Holliston, MA, where they enjoy beekeeping, tending to their chickens and raising organic vegetables. 📷

Middle School Visit to Innisfree Garden



Oakwood's Middle School had the wonderful opportunity to tour Innisfree Garden in Millbrook in October with friends of the school, Marilyn Katz and George Petty, a naturalist who leads monthly wildflower walks at Innisfree and who created a seasonal wildflower catalog for the garden. In an effort to reflect on their day at the garden, Thomas Perkins, Middle School History teacher took a number of photos and then had the 7th and 8th Graders write poetry inspired by the images and their immersion in nature.

The Trees

By Arianna Badia, 7th grade

Orange, brown, and green leaves

Falling down on the

Grass growing fast,

Grass growing high,

Leaves are falling off

Thank nature for such beautiful trees,

Trees... 📷

OPA

By: Alysa Sullivan, co-clerk, parent '17

Dear Fellow Oakwood Parents,

I am so pleased to be able to introduce our new co-clerks, Laurie Craft, parent of Zachary Craft '20, and Martina Deignan, parent of Xiao Kirchner '19.

Laurie has been an integral part of the Oakwood Parent Association since the beginning. As a then middle school parent, Laurie worked tirelessly to help form this organization and encourage parents to get involved. I am so pleased she has agreed to take on Clerk responsibilities, her love for the school and her enthusiasm for parent participation is unwavering.

This might be Martina's family's first year at Oakwood, yet she has been so wonderfully willing to get involved from the get go. She worked closely with Wendy Giangraso securing items for the Parent Dinner & Auction and joined the Steering Committee with great enthusiasm and energy.

I look forward to working with Laurie and Martina, and watching as this organization continues to grow so that we may better serve the school community. 📷

"At Oakwood, I feel important and loved for the person I am. I feel like I matter, like I can make a difference in my community and in the world."

- Alice Flanagan '17

Life After Oakwood

By Barry Smith '67

I arrived at Oakwood to begin my junior year, having escaped Deerfield Academy and their particular form of "interesting times" (Think: *Tom Brown's School Days*).

When asked about Oakwood, I always felt that Deerfield tried to teach me what to think, while Oakwood taught me *how* to think, and question, and challenge.

Through my encounters with Quaker Meeting, I learned to tolerate the stillness of an hour's time, then to accept it as a valid quest, and then I learned that I had come to hunger for the meditative peace that lies within, and that an hour's silence carries a reward that can get you through a lot. Those gifts were huge then, and are still.



Barry Smith in Mendocino, CA.

After Oakwood, it was off to Oberlin, which was a terrific experience. From there, I worked at the Saint Louis Urban League for a year before heading off to graduate school at Syracuse (radio/television). I went from grad school to New York City, where I eventually found work in Production for NBC's Radio Network News Division for over a decade. Following that, I worked in various forms of media, in wildly different jobs, all of them interesting in one way or another.

During my time in New York, I bought and restored a house in Harlem, where I enjoyed life with my partner Jay, (later my spouse), for over twenty seven years. Following his death in 2010, I returned home to Saint Louis, to look after my charming mother who is facing Alzheimer's with wit, optimism and humor. Her disease is a bizarre journey for us both, yet her grace inspires me.

When I returned home, mom wanted very much to join another church, rather than return to the Episcopal congregation in which I was raised. So, she joined a Congregational church, but I demurred. When the pastor asked why, (after a year or so), I still didn't want to formalize my attendance and join, I told him gently that I had more of me invested in Quakerism than anything else, and it would take me as long as it would take. He smiled knowingly and said: "Ah,



Barry with his mom, Sugar

the Quaker Peace. I won't press you, but the door is open whenever you wish to join us." This has been, and continues to be a rich life.

I wish all my classmates Love, Peace, and Good health! 📷

Alumni Gatherings: Washington D.C. & Brooklyn, NY.



Shown here: Board member Jessica Kimelman '93, Willow Bennison '20, Clara Baez '03, Amanda Millington '09, Lucia O'Barr '11, Bela Baez '04, Clarissa Baez '07, Hadi Daqiq '19. Seated: Russ Ryan '53 and Alan Jalon '72.



Diane Moroff welcomed Oakwood alumni to her home in Brooklyn on February 26. Shown here with Saul Moroff, Hadi Daqiq '19 and Willow Bennison '20. Willow, an accomplished musician, performed her own composition for the group.



Lydia Micheaux Marshall '67 welcomed alumni to her home in Washington D.C. in November. Shown here with head of school, Chad Cianfrani.

Emily Atkin '07 Speaks at Winter Reunion

The Oakwood community welcomed back our recent graduates from the classes 2012 to 2016 for winter reunion on January 6th. Emily Atkin, class of 2007, joined us as guest speaker. Emily graduated from SUNY New Paltz with a degree in journalism and political science and currently works at The New Republic in Washington, DC. as a science and environmental politics reporter. She worked previously as a national political reporter at Circa and the Sinclair Broadcast Group as well as Think-Progress, a newsroom of reporters and editors covering the intersections between politics, policy, culture, and social justice.

Emily spoke about her experiences as a reporter, especially during the presidential campaign. Traveling across the country, she gained a new perspective on the diverse life experiences and points of view in different locations. She urged students to become discerning consumers of media and to access information from multiple sources. ☑



Clerk Mimi Taariq '17 with Emily Atkin '07



Standing- Jon Pesner '07, Zachary Diaz '07, Zoya Diaz '10, Frank McGinnis '04, Nora Sackett '16, Kate Wilkinson '15; Seated - Jacob Leach '11, Alyssa Spencer '13, Emily Atkin '07, Norther Keaveney '14, Sarah Little '15, Laurie Aronson '15, Alexandra Stephens '15; in front - Najab Mubammad '10

From Middle School to Graduation



Matthew Voorbees with classmates who started together in 6th grade: Hunter Ortteger, Nai'lab & Mimi Taariq



Summer Youth Advocacy Program Receives Mayoral Proclamation



Oakwood's Summer Youth Advocacy Program (SYAP) was honored by City of Poughkeepsie Mayor Rob Rolison and Council Member Ann Perry at the Common Council meeting held at City Hall on September 19, 2016. The group received the Queen City Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Community Service. Mayor Rolison thanked the students for their contributions to beautifying College Hill Park with two hand-made, mural top picnic tables. The school was also acknowledged for their work elsewhere in the city with their brightly colored planter benches in pop-up parks on Main Street and John M. Flowers Circle.

Founded by Julie Okoniewski, former Capitol Hill staffer and current Associate Director

of Development at Oakwood, the program is now in its 14th year and provides a free summer program for low-income, minority youth between the ages of 13 and 18 from the Hudson Valley and New York City. The program increases understanding of civic engagement, teaches the tools of advocacy through the arts, and fosters an interest in civic engagement. SYAP alumni now lead the program including mock legislative procedures, visits to the offices of elected officials, and the use of theater, art and music as tools for social change. The program is funded by grants from The Dyson Foundation, M & T Bank, the Rotary E-Club of District 7210, Somos la Llave del Futuro and contributions from local businesses and individuals ☑

Photographer John Willis Presents 4th Annual Art Lecture

Oakwood Friends School will welcome Professor John Willis of Marlboro College on Tuesday, April 25th to present the 4th art lecture in our annual series. In keeping with Professor Willis' advocacy for service learning, the event will once again be part of our spring Earthshare Day. Professor Willis earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Evergreen State College and his MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. While doing documentary photography in nursing homes as a graduate student, he began teaching photography where he was photographing and volunteering. That experience was the beginning of a long on-going process of teaching and doing collaborative service in community based situations. He became a full-time professor at Marlboro in 1997. He has taught at a large variety of schools including Harvard, Princeton, R.I.S.D., The School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, and more, as well as non-traditional settings, such as community based programs, nursing homes, and orphanages in Cambodia.

He is the recipient of numerous awards and grants and his work is included in permanent museum collections across the country.

In 1992, Professor Willis co-founded The In-Sight Photography Project, a non-profit program offering free photography courses to area residents, ages eleven to eighteen, regardless of ability to pay. He is still the Executive Director of the program which operates year-round. The courses are taught by local photographers and advanced students who in turn learn about their own abilities while instructing younger students. The program collaborates with community organizations including a psychiatric facility, a homeless shelter, a women's crisis center and many after school programs.

John Willis also co-founded The Exposures Cross Cultural Youth Creative Arts Exchange seven years ago. In the first year he brought together several of his advanced college students with youth from the South Bronx

in New York City, Vermont, and the Navajo Nation to share photography and life stories with youth from the Oglala Lakota Tribe. Each year, the program brings volunteer staff to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota where they collaborate with a number of schools and community organizations on the reservation. He is currently working on a pilot program to create an on-going exchange. This fall, he and several Marlboro students joined the water protectors at Standing Rock in North Dakota to organize and deliver donations of supplies.

We are honored to bring John Willis to our campus and grateful to **Jonathan Flaccus '58** for introducing John to Oakwood Friends School. This event is the 4th Annual Arts Presentation launched by **Jonathan Talbot '57** who presented "Collage: Medium & Metaphor." The following year, **Molly Lynn Watt '56** presented "On the Wings of Song - a Journey into the Civil Rights Era." Last year, Lakota performer, storyteller and activist Tiokasin Ghosthorse visited campus for a 3 day celebration of Lakota Culture. Special thanks to Marsha and Jonathan Talbot for their ongoing support of this lecture series. ☑

Shai BlackBird '18 Speaks on Panel At Ramapo College of New Jersey

Oakwood junior Shai BlackBird spoke on a panel at Ramapo College in New Jersey about the water protectors at Standing Rock on November 30, 2016. Shai is a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe of the Sicangu, Lakota people.

The Center for Sustainability Studies at Ramapo College, together with Food and Water Watch, hosted the program entitled "Water is Life! From Standing Rock to Ramapough." The panel also included: Wenonah Hauter,

the Executive Director of Food and Water Watch; Betty Lyons of the Onondaga Nation and President and Executive Director of the American Indian Law Alliance; and Ramapough-Lenape Chief Dwaine Perry. Shai and the other panelists discussed the issues faced by the Standing Rock Sioux in their confrontation over the Dakota Access Pipeline and parallel issues in the Ramapo Mountains of concern to the Ramapough-Lenape people.



Shai specifically spoke about the actions she has been taking in the Oakwood community to raise awareness about the Dakota Access Pipeline. To date she has led a school wide assembly about the pipeline and shared short video clips; organized a social media campaign for the water protectors' Day of Solidarity; written a letter to President Obama on behalf of the school community urging a halt to the construction of the pipeline; and initiated a fundraising drive for supplies for the camps at Standing Rock. The panel discussion was attended by over 200 students, area residents and members of the Ramapough-Lenape Nation. ☑

The Libby Moroff Leadership Program

Initiated by a generous grant from the Phyllis and Howard Schwartz Philanthropic Fund and gifts from family and friends, The Libby Moroff Leadership Program will create a permanent tribute to the life and work of Oakwood's dedicated former Board President and alumna from the class of 1954. Libby was an exemplar of good leadership in her volunteer work at Oakwood and dedicated her adult life to furthering the principles of social justice and equality for all. Using Quaker values as a guide, the program will help our students develop their own leadership skills and give back to their communities through meaningful service.

The program, which will serve approximately 10 students annually, will specifically focus on empowering students through hands on exploration of issues related to leadership, social justice, civic engagement and service learning. In the classroom, all 10th graders at Oakwood will participate in a semester long Leadership & Social Justice course designed to increase their understanding of their own leadership style and potential in relation to a myriad of social justice issues. After completing the course, students will be able to request to be a part of the Libby Moroff Leadership Program. Once selected, they will have an opportunity to learn about these issues both in and outside of the classroom environment. The group will meet regularly outside of class hours like many of our student led organizations. Group meetings will include guest speakers and discussions as well as time for social justice project development. Program participants will also be encouraged to advocate for issues important to them through correspondence and meetings with elected officials, as well as visits to Albany and/or Washington, DC.

Finally, students in the Libby Moroff Leadership Program will be required to give back to their community by sharing their work at Oakwood's weekly Community Meetings attended by the entire school community, as well as through weekend and summer service learning projects they design and implement. These service learning projects will address the social justice issue of their choice and can be completed individually or in small groups. Projects will be shared at the end of the school year at Community Meeting. Having completed their time in the program, students will come away with a greater understanding of what leadership means, the role they play in effecting positive change in their communities and the tools necessary to turn their ideas into action. ☑

Support Oakwood Students
www.oakwoodfriends.org

Students in Action

By Julie Okoniewski, Associate Director of Development

As the coordinator of the Libby Moroff Leadership Program, I am honored to carry on her legacy of social justice and civic engagement by empowering students at her alma mater to find their voices and advocate for the causes about which they are passionate. Since the program's inception we have had many opportunities to engage students in a wide range of activities and events aimed at broadening their horizons regarding advocacy. Given the unique circumstances of the presidential election, students were fortunate enough to take part in a bi-partisan Rock the Vote panel discussion, attend a Congressional rally, view the presidential debates and election results in their dorm with fellow students and faculty members, and discuss the impact of the election from an international perspective with their peers from around the world.

Individual students have also been empowered to pursue issues they are concerned about through letter writing campaigns to elected officials and writing op-eds to our local newspaper, The Poughkeepsie Journal. One such example is Lakota student, Shai BlackBird, and her advocacy work regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock. Shai, who is a member of the Rosebud Sioux tribe in South Dakota: presented to the school during a fall Community Meeting to raise awareness about the pipeline; led interested students and faculty in a social media campaign to express solidarity with the water protectors; spoke on a panel at Ramapo College with Ramapough-Lenape Chief Dwaine Perry, an environmental lawyer and other activists; and wrote to President Obama and The Army Corps of Engineers regarding her concerns about the potential hazardous impacts of the pipeline.

In her letter she stated,

"The Dakota Access Pipeline would be a huge blow to our fight against climate change. Reports indicate that burning the oil transported through the pipeline would produce carbon emissions equivalent to 21 million cars or 30

coal plants. Rather than building new oil pipelines that will increase global warming we should be building clean energy infrastructure and pursuing renewable sources of energy."

Another student, Mahdia (Hadi) Daqiq, a sophomore from Afghanistan, decided to share her thoughts about the proposed refugee resettlement center in the City of Poughkeepsie. Through both a letter to the County Executive and an op-ed in the Poughkeepsie Journal, Hadi shared these powerful and insightful words.

"Very few people probably know what living under the shadow of war is like. What it is like to be forced to leave your country. A country that you are born in even if it is the worst country in world. For you it has been a home somewhere that you can call mine. Something that is yours, and one day you have to leave it because you are scared of your life and you have to trust the strangers far beyond the seas to welcome and help you as their own and as a human."

Finally, Oakwood's student clerk, Aminah (Mimi) Taariq, who is a founding member of Wappingers Climate Action, had this to say about her group in her letter to the Poughkeepsie Journal.

"The fight against climate change has made me hopeful, frustrated, and motivated all in one. I am writing this letter to provide inspiration to the people in this community to do something about an issue they are passionate about. It might end up bringing people together in a time when we desperately need unity. I'm not only in this because I want to get involved; I am in this because I need to get involved. Our future depends on it."

Working with these passionate students is more than inspiring – it gives me hope for the future. I look forward to working more closely with these and other students in the months ahead, seeing what issues they choose to explore, and celebrating the impact I'm sure they will have on the communities around them. ☑



Watching the debate in Reagan Dorm in September

Human Rights Day Celebration At FDR Presidential Library



In celebration of International Human Rights Day at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Presidential Library in Hyde Park, Oakwood students led fellow community members in drafting recommended action items for human rights on December 8, 2016. The event was hosted by the FDR Library, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, the Human Rights Commission of Dutchess County, and the United Nations Association of the Mid-Hudson Valley.

As interns for the UNA – Mid-Hudson Valley, several Oakwood students were selected to moderate group discussions about immigrants and refugees, police and com-

munity relations, educational justice and parity, and jobs and the economy. Interns are selected by the UNA board of directors through a yearly application process which aims to involve youth locally in discussions of international politics and affairs.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes the rights held by all humans and provides a benchmark for the defense of human dignity and freedom by member states of the United Nations. Human Rights Day, December 10th, commemorates the day when the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Declaration in 1948. ☑



Bianca Luna-Lupercio '17



Sophie Poux '17 at podium



On Joining Oakwood

By Jinni Durham, English Teacher

Five minutes into my initial phone interview with Anna Bertucci, I knew that I wanted to teach at Oakwood Friends School. I couldn't quite put my finger on it, but something about our conversation assured me that Oakwood is a place that walks its talk. Turns out, I have wonderful instincts. To find Oakwood, a school that authentically lives its values, instead of just talking about them, still strikes me as an unrealistic dream world that I'm somehow magically able to inhabit.

As a member of both the Student and Faculty Committee to Support Diversity and the Faculty Committee to Support Diversity, I witness an institution that is willing to ask itself the hard questions about systemic oppression and engage in the hard conversations about what true equity in education means. I have witnessed an institution that saw the majority of its students and faculty suffering through the toxic environment spawned by the 2016 election and respond with an extended Meeting for Worship where we came together to voice our fears and affirm our love for one another. I have seen an institution constantly affirm its values of human rights and dignity for every group and individual, all while empowering the students.

To give you an idea of some of my experiences so far, as I go to and from my apartment every day, I walk by a call center on campus for students to make their thoughts known to politicians and political organizations, regardless of their personal political beliefs. When students again expressed their anxiety over the socio-political conflicts in our society, the faculty and administration came together to plan "A Day of Affirmation of Quaker Values in Honor of the Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr." After the Day of Affirmation, Kate Saumure-Jones, another new faculty member, and I took a group of students to the New York City Women's March, with the blessing of our administration. The whole trip, Kate and I marveled at the fact that a school would support students and faculty in expressing themselves in this way. Just this past week, I took students to "Junior Youth: Creating a Vision for a Better World," a conversation about race and stereotypes hosted by the Race Unity Circle and the Black and Latino Young Professionals group. I watched four 9th grade students have a powerful and honest discussion about race in a room filled with adults. Every day, I see students who have powerful voices and who are heard by the adults around them. I live in a space where young people are taught to question the world around them. I live in an ideal space.

To give you another example, last weekend I attended the Quaker Youth Leadership Conference in New York City with four students. The conference was a place for students to connect with youth from other Quaker schools and reflect spiritually and emotionally within themselves. On the train ride to QYLC, the students composed a song about why they love Oakwood as a way of introducing themselves to the other Quaker schools. As they were writing it, revising it (four times), and performing it, I realized that they were perfectly articulating my feelings. During the conference, one of my AP English students spontaneously offered a workshop called, "Understanding the Creation Drive (Eros) and the Destruction Drive (Thanatos) in Correspondence to the Creative Spirit Beyond Intellect." As I watched at least 25 students eagerly head for her workshop, I knew exactly how they felt. Every day as I go to class, I know my mind and spirit will be strengthened by discussions with the Oakwood student body. As I watched the students at the conference growing in themselves and their understanding of the world around them, I could feel myself growing in unison. At the end of the weekend, exhausted from "sleeping" on a gym floor with a hundred strangers, I knew, yet again, that I am living and working in my ideal place. ☑