

# CANTERBURY TALES

FALL 2015



Canterbury  
SCHOOL





# Canterbury SCHOOL

Canterbury Tales  
Fall 2015

Interim Head of School: Kendell S. Berry

Editor: Harriette Knox

Photographer: Wendy Riley

Canterbury Tales is published  
biannually by Canterbury School  
5400 Old Lake Jeanette Road  
Greensboro, NC 27455  
Phone: (336) 288-2007

All editorial correspondence  
should be directed to:  
Canterbury School  
5400 Old Lake Jeanette Road  
Greensboro, NC 27455  
Phone: (336) 288-2007

Postage Paid at Greensboro, NC  
POSTMASTER, send address changes to:  
Canterbury School,  
5400 Old Lake Jeanette Road  
Greensboro, NC 27455

Canterbury kicked off its 23rd school year with a traditional opening day chapel service. Every new member of the Canterbury community – students, faculty and staff – is called by name and presented a school T-shirt. On the cover, kindergarten students Davis Troncale, left, and Anna Craven right, receive their shirts. Above, 3rd graders Thomas Shaw, Treya McClain, Andrew Vanore, Jack Higgins, and Hayden McCormick enter the chapel for the morning service.



PAGE 4

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view – until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."

— Atticus Finch, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.

- 2) Canterbury Hires New Head Of School
- 3) Canterbury's Library Has More Than Meets The Eye
- 4) In My Neighbors' Shoes
- 8) Drama (The Good Kind)
- 10) Faculty And Staff News
- 12) Graduation 2015
- 14) Q&A With Mark Niegelsky
- 15) Canterbury Alumni Are Amazing

## Canterbury Hires New Head Of School

**PHILIP E. SPEARS** will begin work as Canterbury's next Head of School on July 1, 2016.

Phil has been a middle school administrator at St. Christopher's School, a PreK-12 boys school in Richmond, VA, since 2000. He was dean of students 2000-2009 and head of middle school 2009-present.

From 2001-2003 Phil and his wife, Lauren, also lived on campus at St Catherine's School, a girls' boarding school in Richmond, VA, and served as boarding program faculty

members, participating in all facets of the boarding program, including meals, chapel, advisory, hall supervision, and weekend activities.

"I love working in terrific independent schools, places where students know they will be challenged to think and work hard in a community where they are known and cared for by devoted teachers," Spears said. "Canterbury is clearly this kind of school."

A native of Wake Forest, NC, Phil graduated cum laude from Washington and Lee University with a bachelor's degree in English, and Johns Hopkins University with a master of liberal arts degree. He has worked as an admissions counselor for Washington and Lee; dean of students and residence life at the Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth summer programs; and teacher at St. Ignatius-Loyola Academy and at Gilman School, all in Baltimore, MD. He has taught English, Spanish, health, and religion; coached upper and middle school sports; and chaperoned exchange and travel groups overseas.

Canterbury will also welcome Phil and Lauren's sons, Nolan, who will be in 5th grade, and Derek, who will be in 2nd grade.

*The Spears family*



### THE TOP 10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PHIL SPEARS

*His education, experience, and personality all made Phil Spears a good fit for Canterbury. He graciously agreed to share more about himself in this top 10 list. Phil:*

**1) WAS NAMED FOR HIS MOTHER'S COUNTRY.** Phil's mother, Rebecca, is a native of the island of Samar in the Philippines, and his father, Jerry, is a Texas-born minister. They met in Virginia when Rebecca worked in a nursing exchange program and attended the church where Jerry was a member of the clergy. They named their first child "Philip" after Rebecca's homeland. "I was blessed with wonderful parents and raised in a home filled with love," Phil said. "Through their devotion and modeling, my folks embodied a genuine commitment to their faith and church, to each other, and to my sister, Heather, and me."

**2) CLAIMS NORTH CAROLINA AS HIS HOME.** Phil's parents have lived in Wake Forest, NC, for more than 30 years. He graduated from the local high school as a Wake Forest Cougar, but his favorite college athletic team is the Virginia Cavaliers. "When we moved to the Triangle, I was already a UVA fan because I was born in Charlottesville and my beloved uncle was a professor there for 40 years. My Blue Devil, Tar Heel, and Wolfpack-loving buddies gave me lots of friendly ribbing for rooting for the wrong school – and still do," he said.

**3) WAS BORN TO TEACH AND COACH.** "I enjoyed terrific relationships with my teachers and coaches in Wake Forest," Phil said. "They were dedicated educators who took an interest in their students and made a positive, enduring difference in the lives of young people. I was sure as a teen that I wanted to do the same with my life's work."

**4) LOVED ENGLISH IN SCHOOL.** "My dad loved books, and filled our house with them," Phil said. "My uncle at UVA was a professor of literature, so I naturally gravitated to the subject." At Washington and Lee University, Phil

*Continued, page 2*



10 Things about Phil Spears, continued

majored in English, focusing on early British literature. He particularly enjoyed the romantic poets, Shakespeare, and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*.

**5) BELIEVES MUSIC IS ESSENTIAL.**

"I love music of all types — classical (Mozart), jazz (Ella), rock (Beatles), pop (Sara Bareilles), old-school country (Johnny Cash), and classic hip hop (Run-D.M.C.), and I like to have music playing wherever I am," Phil said. Both of his parents are musical, and Phil met his wife in their college choir. Now, they sing together in their church choir and in an a cappella group. They enjoy sharing music with their sons. "I firmly believe what Hans Christian Anderson articulated perfectly, 'Where words fail, music speaks,'" Phil said.

**6) IS PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORTS.**

A three-sport high school letterman in football, basketball, and baseball, Phil went on to captain his W&L football team as a defensive end. Phil said he learned teamwork, self-discipline, resilience, and leadership, and made

lasting friendships through athletics. "I see the athletic arena as an extension of the classroom, and the opportunity to be involved with kids there was one of the many reasons I wanted to be a teacher," he said. Phil has coached upper school baseball, basketball, football, and soccer teams, and has been the head coach of a high school football team.

**7) IS INSPIRED BY TRAVEL.**

His favorite spots include the Grand Canyon, the Maine coast, Quebec, Rome, and India. "It's so enriching to get to see the world's natural beauty," Phil said. "Learning about and meeting people from other cultures are key components to a full education and lifelong learning."

**8) HAS MADE GOLF A HOBBY.**

"For years, one of my best friends tried to get me to play golf with him, and I always passed," Phil said. "Then my sons grew interested in the game, and a little over a year ago we started playing together. Now I'm hooked." While he finds golf challenging and frustrating, Phil says being outside with his boys and

striving for consistency makes the game fun. He added, "I hope there's a place in Greensboro that sells inexpensive, used golf balls, though; I've lost over 300 in the past 18 months!"

**9) IS KNOWN FOR CORNY JOKES.**

Phil greets students at carpool with the "bad joke of the day," uses them during announcements, and even emails them to students. "I enjoy connecting with kids for just a moment with a cheesy one-liner," he said. "I should apologize to the Canterbury community in advance, because you're going to hear gems like this: What do you call a fake tortellini? An impasta!"

**10) IS THRILLED TO BE COMING TO CANTERBURY SCHOOL!**

"It is my greatest professional honor to be chosen to lead Canterbury. I believe the school's mission, values, and community are my ideal fit," he said. "My family and I are eager to get to Greensboro and to meet and get to know the students, faculty, parents, alumni, and friends of the school."



**EVERY 8th GRADE CLASS** takes a three-day trip to Wilderness Adventure, an outdoor camp in Virginia. The students hike, mountain bike, ride the zip line, take nature walks, canoe, and build a raft. They also participate in leadership discussions culminating in the decision about their class banner theme. The trip serves to bind them as a class and build solidarity for the challenges of their last year at Canterbury. Interim Head of School Kendell S. Berry, center, joined the students for part of their trip, even braving the famously high and fast zip line down the mountain. Kendell's 16 years of experience in interim and permanent headships will make a smooth leadership transition to incoming Head of School Phil Spears.

**CANTERBURY'S LIBRARY HAS MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE**

**KARI BAUMANN**, Canterbury's new librarian, was a little surprised when she saw the Canterbury library.

"There are a lot of books for a school this size," she said.

Canterbury has about 18,300 different items in the library — mostly books, with some videos and audio books. With 380 students, that makes the ratio of books to students an impressive 48:1.

"The guideline for North Carolina schools is a minimum of 15 books per student for middle schools," Kari said. "Canterbury has almost five times that. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's top grade for a school library — Outstanding — requires 20 books per student."

And Canterbury's books aren't just any books.

"The books are carefully chosen by someone with a master's degree in library science," Kari said. "We take classes in children's literature. Andee Morford, the librarian before me did. I did. All librarians do."

Kari said she chooses books for a school library that students will enjoy and that support the curriculum. As a starting point, she looks at winners of the American Library Association awards, the "School Library Journal," and "Booklist," which she describes as "the bible put out by the American Library Association in Chicago."

Those sources carefully review books before recommending them. Kari also reads book reviews in library journals with an eye to what's popular and for continuing books in a series.

There are highly recommended books that don't make the cut for Canterbury's library. "We don't have some of the young adult books that are recommended because they're more for high school students," Kari said. "The young adult range is 12 to 18 years old. That's a large range. While a review might say for age 12 and up, I will read the book, and we don't buy it if it's not a good fit for our age students."

A 1994 *Canterbury Tales* notes that Canterbury began its second school year with about 600 library books housed in a room with work and reading tables. The collection has grown over the years through gifts, purchases from book fair proceeds, and the birthday book program, where parents, relatives, or friends buy a book to honor a child on his or her birthday every year. The students choose a book that's meaningful to them from a preselected list.

Canterbury's library grows by a few hundred new books a year, and takes 20-40 out of circulation, usually because the content is outdated or from normal wear.

"We check the age of nonfiction books because things change. Some countries are no longer countries. Pluto's not a planet any more," Kari said. "We do that to keep the library current. We constantly weed out and purchase for the collection."

Students in K-8th grades visit the library regularly. Kari reads to younger students and helps them select books. Older students learn about internet safety, plagiarism, and online research.

Kari also takes the library to the students. She's in each division at least once a week with a cart filled with books and to help teachers with technology needs.

"I want the students to see me all over the school, as a leader at the school, and not just the lady who reads them books," she said.

Kari visits the PreK classes to read to them and talk about how books make them feel. Later in the year, these youngest students will visit the library to learn their way around.

Last year, Canterbury students checked out 9,500 books, the majority of them fiction. The second most checked-out category is nonfiction science, including books about animals, space, rocks, and science.

"Since I started this year, some people have asked me if I was disappointed that Canterbury's library is in one of the 'Canterbury Cottages' and not a grand building," Kari said. "I don't really see that. What I see is the care with which these books were chosen and arranged. It's my field, so I appreciate the work that went into this collection. It's a library to be proud of."

Students don't have to go to the library for books; sometimes books come to them. Librarian Kari Baumann makes regular visits to the lower and middle schools to offer interesting books to students and to help teachers with technology questions. Here, 2nd grade student Jack Craven chooses new books to read.





Canterbury sixth grade students Jynae Gilyard, Anna Cotrone, and Addie Coughlin hold the Torah, as Canterbury teacher Nadav Avital, a member of Beth David Synagogue, chants in Hebrew. Rabbi Eliezer Havivi, far right, talked with the students about the Jewish faith during a visit to the synagogue on March 5.

# IN MY NEIGHBORS' SHOES



"YOU NEVER REALLY UNDERSTAND A PERSON UNTIL YOU CONSIDER THINGS FROM HIS POINT OF VIEW – UNTIL YOU CLIMB INTO HIS SKIN AND WALK AROUND IN IT."

Atticus Finch, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee.

**THE GOAL OF CANTERBURY'S SERVANT LEADERSHIP CLASSES** is for students to form relationships with people who are different from them and to understand the other person's challenges while using their gifts to make a difference.

Last year, two speakers, funded by the Canterbury Fund for Christian Ethical Living, visited Canterbury to help students embrace that kind of empathy. And for the second year, middle school students participated in a three-day project called "In My Neighbors' Shoes," which was designed to build understanding and empathy.

In My Neighbors' Shoes kicked off on Wednesday, March 5, when Melvin Bray, a national speaker and educator on community building, faith, and leadership, spoke to students about the difference between charity and solidarity. Charity, Bray explained, can be about giving because it makes you feel good, but it can make the other person just a project. He encouraged the students to build relationships with the people they would meet as part of the project.

The next day, students went out into the community.

Fifth graders went to Lifespan Creative Campus in Greensboro and Lifespan Circle School in Burlington, where they attended classes and talked with developmentally disabled adults and children.

The 6th grade visited the Islamic Center of Greensboro and Beth David Synagogue where they met with faith leaders. They also talked with students at B'nai Shalom Day School and discussed their differences and similarities.

Seventh graders went to the Newcomers School to learn from students who have immigrated to the United States.

Eighth grade students were divided into groups of four, paired with an adult, and given bus passes and \$25. Each group had an assignment such as: pretend you are a single woman who just moved to Greensboro and you need to go to a job fair at the coliseum, talk to a counselor at the Women's Resource Center, and buy groceries for the week with \$25. The goal was for the students to understand the challenges of the working poor. Groceries were later donated to Urban Ministry.

On Friday, March 6, all middle school students met with Melvin Bray and discussed their assumptions about people and whether those assumptions matched the real stories of the people they met. He left them with the thought that we need to create better stories because better stories create a better world.

On May 20-21, author Sarah Theborge spent two days at Canterbury. Servant Leadership teacher Anne Barton Carter had heard Sarah speak at a conference.

"I found Sarah to be articulate, expressive, and very approachable. I thought she would relate well to young people and seemed to have much in common with our students," Anne Barton said. "Hers is a tale about paying attention to the world around you and identifying the need you encounter on your own daily journey. It's a tale about doing what you can with what you have where you are – very much the message we try to send in Servant Leadership."

Sarah visited classes and worked with students May 20 and 21. She spoke to students and parents after the spring Community Dinner on May 21.

She explained that she grew up in a fundamental Christian household. She dreamed of going to college – a first for a woman in her family. At 27, she was living her dream: she had a graduate degree from Yale University and was working on another degree in journalism at Columbia University.

Then she was diagnosed breast cancer. After a mastectomy, she was assured that the cancer would never come back, but a year later, during reconstructive surgery, the doctors found more cancer.

Because of the chemotherapy, Sarah had to drop out of journalism school. Her boyfriend broke up with her in the parking lot of a Starbucks. A close friend died. Her car was hit by a truck.

"My whole life was falling apart," she said. "The only thing I had to look forward to was finishing my treatments."

On March 4, Canterbury 8th graders, from bottom, Michelle Buccini, Stephanie Jones, Claire Bennett, Hallie Smith, Emily Richardson, and Claire Carmody talk with visiting speaker Melvin Bray as they prepare for a day of community outreach.





She went in for the last round of chemo, and two days later ended up in the emergency room with a massive lung infection, then was admitted to ICU with sepsis.

"I had my laptop and free wifi, so I researched my diagnosis. I saw that it had a 50 percent survival rate so I called my parents and told them they'd better come," Sarah said.

She was in the hospital for a month. "There was nothing to do but wonder where God was. He fell completely and totally silent," she said. "I just wanted to run away, and Portland, Ore., was as far as I could get. I got to Portland and I was a bald, scared, bruised, broken girl."

In Portland, she went to church every Sunday thinking that was where God would find her. "I went to communion every week for six months just begging God to come find me," she said.

One Sunday, the praise band played her favorite hymn and she had an epiphany. "I had been begging God to come find me, but God's love was higher and deeper," Sarah said. "Never for a single second had I ever been lost."

It was shortly afterward that Sarah saw an African woman get on a train with two small girls. One was falling asleep on her feet.

"I thought, 'Somebody should pick her up and hold her,'" Sarah remembered. She caught the child's eye and when she held out her arms, the child came to her. She began talking to the mother, who had moved from Somalia with five little girls under the age of 9 and was separated from an abusive husband.

"I recognized the look in this woman's eyes because that was the look in my eyes when I landed in Portland with a suitcase and a broken heart," Sarah said. "I thought, 'I am a follower of Jesus and the least I can do is let this woman know she is loved.'"

Sarah got the woman's address and visited. The mother and girls were eating food out of dumpsters; had no furniture, plates, or clothes; and were all sleeping on two mattresses and sharing one blanket.

Sarah determined to do what she could. Her church got involved and helped furnish the apartment.

"I kept going back and back and back because I fell in love with this family," Sarah said. "I was trying to help save their lives. They were saving my life. They'd gone through so much but were so resilient. I thought surely there's hope for me."

She started blogging about the experience and called the blog "The Invisible Girls" because it seemed that no one noticed them. She ultimately wrote a book about the experience to help finance the girls' educations. "What do you get a girl who has absolutely nothing? You get her an education," Sarah noted.



*Left to right, Kendle Schooler, Jack Safrit, and Josh Keys, fifth graders at Canterbury School, admire artwork at LifeSpan Creative Campus in Greensboro. The students spent the morning on March 5 going to art, cooking, horticulture, current events, and exercise classes with clients at the center. LifeSpan provides education, employment, and enrichment activities for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.*

Sarah said hers is a story of redemption and that you can find family in the most unusual places.

"I had a friend ask me: 'Why? Why take care of this family? Why give them your book money?' My answer was, 'because that's what God did for me. God chased me across the country. God let me know I was not invisible; that I was loved; that I was seen.'"

Anne Barton added, "When Sarah speaks and writes, her emphasis is not on what she's done for others or how others have benefited from her largess. She is quick to emphasize all that she has learned and gained from giving. How she is healthier, happier, more 'whole' because she took the risk to reach out to others in need."

In My Neighbors' Shoes is designed to help students learn empathy and understand needs in the larger community. "The middle school and lower school worked all year on the In My Neighbors' Shoes project," said Chaplain Nathan Finnin. "They talked about what a neighbor is, and discovered that you don't have to leave Greensboro to find mission work."

"Sarah saw a need and matched that need with her own gifts to create a way of addressing the need," Anne Barton said. "She wasn't a 'professional' Christian, in fact at the time she wasn't feeling all that great about her faith. She simply responded according to the golden rule. Hers is a story that beautifully illustrates meeting a neighbor, exercising empathy, and responding with mercy not judgment. I want our students to have real examples — not just hero versions — of people who do just that in their daily lives."



### SPORTS TEAMS LEARN ON AND OFF THE FIELD

**PLAYING A SPORT** has physical benefits as well as academic benefits. Children learn how to deal with failure and success, work with others as a team, set goals, and be more independent. At Canterbury, any middle school student who wants to play a sport will get a spot on a team that's best suited to the student's ability. Close to 90 percent of Canterbury 6th-8th grade students play a sport over the course of a school year.

Last spring, Canterbury fielded teams in Girls Soccer, Boys' Lacrosse, Boys' Tennis, and Co-Ed Golf.

The Girls' Soccer team, above, coached by parents Andy Lee and Thea Fitzgerald, finished with a 15-1 overall record and a 10-0 TMAC conference record. During the regular season, the girls scored 70 goals and only allowed

six. They had 12 shutouts, and won the conference tournament.

The Boys' Lacrosse Team, coached by Middle School Director Dave Skeen, went 4-6-1 in the regular season and made it to the conference championship for the third year in row.

Boys' Tennis, coached by Kim Kleimeier, fielded a young team — with only two 8th graders — and finished the year with a 1-5 record.

The Golf team was undefeated in conference play and won the TMAC championship for the second year. Third-year head coach Ted Bonham, assisted by past parent Charles Lucas and parent David Buchanan, coached the team. With a roster full of returning golfers, the Cougar Golf team looks forward to vying for a three-peat in spring 2016.



### THE FIRST CANTERBURY SUMMER SCIENCE ACADEMY, held last July, was a success.

A group of rising Guilford County Schools 9th graders participated in the week-long camp, spending the mornings at Canterbury learning scientific principles and the afternoons at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering working with graduate students on research projects. The camp, which was funded by a Canterbury supporter, was free. Applications for next summer's camp will be available in the spring. Pictured here are, Signe Enholm, left, now a freshman at Northwest Guilford High School, and Caroline Brittain, middle, now a freshman at Northern Guilford High School, and Canterbury middle school science teacher Nicole Schutt, who taught the morning classes. "It was so rewarding watching 14 year olds participating in real scientific research at the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering," Nicole said. "The feedback from parents and students on how much they appreciated this opportunity was wonderful."

# DRAMA (THE GOOD KIND)

**SMALL CLASS SIZES**, whole child education, feeling known and loved – those are all part of the Canterbury experience. But what does that really mean? How does that play out in the life of a child?

This is a tale of what happens when a student feels safe to try something new.

Ethan McKinney, who graduated last year with the class of 2015, came to Canterbury in the 6th grade.

"I was at General Greene and it ended after 5th grade, so I came to Canterbury to visit," he said. "Everyone was so open and willing to connect. I went home and told my mom, 'they're just like me.'"

Admittedly shy, Ethan said he started his new school as a 6th grader who pretty much kept to himself and tried to blend in. Middle School Director Dave Skeen encouraged him

Ethan's mother, Cindy McKinney, admits that's true. "Ethan wasn't a very outgoing kid, so imagine my surprise when he came home one day in 6th grade and announced he wanted to try out for a musical in 7th grade! We'd never really heard him sing!"

Ethan signed up for the 7th grade drama elective. Middle School literature teacher Tony Carrick teaches the class, which presents two one-act shows. Ethan auditioned over the summer, and though he didn't get a main role, he got an interesting role. It was a freeing experience.

"That's the year I became my own person," Ethan said. "I tried other things and did different things to decide if it was something I loved. I didn't just do things to fit in. That's the thing I love about Canterbury. It's very easy to be your own person. You're pushed to do things that are

different and that are out there."

That year, as he promised, Ethan auditioned for the large spring drama production, "Oklahoma!"

"I never sang in front of anyone and that was first," he said. "I went to Mrs. Wing (Canterbury's chorus teacher) and asked what she

thought I should do for the audition. She recommended 'You've Got a Friend in Me' from 'Toy Story,'" Ethan said. "My dad was more nervous than I was. Every night he'd pull up the song on the karaoke machine and I'd do it. I only wanted to sing in front of my dad. I was nervous about singing in front of my mom and my sister."

Ethan said he stayed up all night after the auditions waiting to see if he

got a part. When the email arrived, he raced to his parents' room to tell them. "I watched the movie and it hit me that I'm really going to do this," he said.

Ethan was hooked. He signed up for the drama elective his 8th grade year also, but had to drop it when he got a part in a professional production of "Member of the Wedding" at Triad Stage in downtown Greensboro. It was a requirement of the professional company that he not be in any other plays during the run of the performance – including the one-act plays that were part of the drama elective.

Getting a part in a Triad Stage play topped anything he'd ever done.

"Just being able to be around a professional show was amazing. All the people at Triad Stage were so nice," Ethan said.

"I learned at Triad Stage that you really have to make a character your own," he said. "And I learned that even in an audition, you have to go all out."

Ethan was more than ready for Canterbury's auditions last spring for "Grease." He worked with a voice teacher, rehearsed endlessly, and landed the lead male role of Danny Zuko.

Ethan has performed with Centerstage, the Community Theatre of Greensboro's troupe of young people who compete in the Junior Theatre Festival in Atlanta. The young actors get training in acting, dancing and singing to prepare a 15-minute version of a musical. CTG's group won Best Overall Theatrical Production last year. More than 100 groups from around the country perform at the festival. Ethan will participate again in 2016, and perform for an audience of 4,000 people.

Now in 9th grade, Ethan is a first-year student at Weaver Academy, an arts magnet program in the Guilford

County public schools.

"Jeremy and I credit Canterbury for Ethan finding his passion," says Cindy McKinney. "The school has created an environment where kids are comfortable (and encouraged) to try new things. I don't think Ethan would ever have auditioned for a play at a larger school. First of all, he may not have been exposed to theater at another school. Secondly, he had wonderful teachers – namely Tony Carrick and Mary Wing – that he felt comfortable asking for advice and that were willing to meet after school to help him. That is something you don't find at every school."

So, what will Ethan say in his first big acceptance speech about his start in drama? He said, "At Canterbury, you have a personal connection with every person on campus, and everyone is so supportive of you."

## JACK LAFAVE WINS DRAMA AWARD



Jack LaFave, center, performs in the Canterbury Players spring 2015 production of "Grease" with left, Ben Lee, and right, Tommy Dator.

**TONY CARRICK**, middle school literature and drama teacher, presented the Marianne G. Bennett Drama Award to Jack LaFave at the 2015 graduation service. The award honors Marianne's love for and dedication to the performing arts by recognizing the graduating 8th grader who best demonstrates the same enthusiasm.

Tony began the presentation by saluting the entire 8th grade, saying, "In the six years I've been directing shows I have not had a class with more talent

and passion for performing... You guys took shows I never dreamed we could pull off here – 'Oklahoma!', 'Grease' – and killed it, and made me look pretty good in the process. The way you all bonded during each show, the way you supported each other – guys and girls – was pretty special to be a part of, and that culminated this year with 'Grease,' which featured far more 8th graders than we've ever had in a show. To me, you will always be my drama class."

Tony went on to introduce Jack, saying, "This year's award recipient almost passed on drama, missing the first day of auditions for 'Seussical' as a 5th grader because of nerves. But he came the second day and ended up flourishing in the toughest role we've ever given to a 5th grader. Since then, he has been a leader in each show while playing a variety of roles – an ugly duck, a nerd, a rancher, and a greaser. Anyone who has been to one of our shows has seen what he has done on stage, but what he does backstage and during rehearsals is equally as impressive, whether it's setting the tone for his fellow cast mates, or leading the younger members of the production. Had you passed by Berry Hall one afternoon last March you might have seen him leading a group of 5th, 7th, and 8th grade boys through our rendition of 'Greased Lightning' in the courtyard, running the song over and over and over again until he was satisfied it was right. This kind of leadership and enthusiasm has undoubtedly inspired many other boys to put aside their fears about being on stage and give drama a try."

Ethan McKinney '15 and Meg Bennett '15 played the major roles of Danny and Sandy in the 2015 spring drama production of "Grease."



The cast of "Grease," the spring 2015 drama production.

to try lacrosse, which he liked. He also decided to work as a stagehand for the spring drama production, "Honk."

"I loved it," Ethan said. "Even though I was a stagehand, I knew all the songs and sang them in the car after practice. On the way home from the last show, I told my mom I was going to audition for the play the next year. She, you know, brushed it off a little bit."



## KELLY RUSSELL WINS TEACHING AWARD

**THIRTEEN YEARS AGO**, the late Rosalyn Orr (mother of Fraser, '11, and Spencer, '14) created the Endowment of Excellence in Education to promote and celebrate excellence in teaching. The Excellence in Education Award specifically recognizes a teacher who does an outstanding job of making a rigorous curriculum accessible to all learners, including those who have learning differences and those who are academically advanced, and who facilitates success through challenge, support, and protection of a student's self esteem.

Every spring, parents, teachers, and staff are invited to submit nominations for the award, which is presented at graduation. A committee with representatives of the Orr family and Canterbury select the recipient, who receives a monetary stipend.

Penny Summers, 2014 recipient, began her introduction of the 2015 winner, **Kelly Russell**, by saying, "This year's recipient always teaches with the best interest of students in mind. This teacher works hard to create a safe, supportive environment where students are actively involved in their own skill development. Always going the extra mile to ensure a student's success, he or she sets up a classroom where students can try and try again until they have mastered a skill. This teacher is warm, enthusiastic, and accessible and more than willing to give students the attention they need."

Penny noted that Kelly, who teaches physical education and health to both lower and middle school students, "pushes those around her to master their trade. She is always prepared. She never takes a short cut. She enthusiastically collaborates with colleagues. She genuinely loves what she does and appreciates Canterbury every day. She delivers perfectly leveled lessons to kindergartners but can also deliver the highest level lessons to 8th graders...She is truly expert in both divisions. She encourages students to try various modes of exploration and various materials, and often challenges students to make the right choices for themselves."

Previous winners are **Tracy McIlwain** (2001), **Laurie Highman** (2005), **Sandy Parker** (2009), **Mary Ann Sacco** (2010), **Elaine Hoover** (2011), **Karan Moore** (2012), **Kim Markham** (2013), and **Penny Summers** (2014).

## Faculty Updates

**Karen Niegelsky** attended the Global Education Leaders Program in Chapel Hill in June. Every year, educational leaders from across the state gather at UNC Chapel Hill for an intensive week-long study of global issues that impact students and communities. The objective is to help educators in leadership positions to plan and implement programs that will increase global understanding by faculty and students.

**Allan Chandler**, who teaches middle school math, drove through 16 states and two countries on a 4,000-mile road trip with his family. Allan and his son Henry visited the Richard Petty Museum in Level Cross, where Henry created art that was signed by the King himself. "I also took a continuing education course on classroom management, and learned

new philosophies that are succeeding in the U.K.," Allan said. "Plus, I learned how to Stand Up Paddle, and SUPed in three different states."

Kindergarten teacher **Hilary Clancy** and her husband, Ryan, welcomed their first child, Brennan Alexander Clancy, on Aug. 4, 2015. He weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and was 22 inches long.



**Justin Stagner**, a new 4th grade teacher, said, "We created a human! His name is Henry." Henry helped set up Justin's classroom this summer.

**Molly Stouten** worked on a printmaking project at the Piedmont Print Co-Op, a new collaborative printmaking space in the Center for Visual Arts in downtown Greensboro. She said it was the first time in 10 years she was able to work on a copper plate and a printing press, and is proud of the prints she was able to make.

In July, **Laura Rehman** attended the "Disruptive Innovation" Workshop in Logan, Utah. She was invited to participate through the University of Utah and Strata, an organization that focuses on research and analysis on public policy issues involving the principles of liberty and free markets. Laura was the only elementary school teacher among AP high school teachers, college professors, researchers, and authors. "We were asked to provide

input and ideas for teaching and learning business from a broader perspective of an entrepreneurial mindset as well as come up with more effective ways to engage learners in a discovery of the practical dimensions of ethics and entrepreneurship that might result in a freer and more prosperous society," Laura said.

**Kathy Durham** attended an Everyday Math conference in Chicago. She said it was inspiring and exciting to reconnect with colleagues and enhance her teaching skills, including incorporating Haiku and iPads into the students' learning experience.

With funding through a grant from Canterbury's Fund for Christian Ethical Living, **Justin McCollum** attended Conspire 2015, a three-day conference at the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, NM, which was founded in 1986 by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan monk. The conference featured speakers Simone Campbell, Chis and Phileena Heuertz, Richard Rohr, Timothy Shriver, and Mirabai Starr. "Richard Rohr sends daily meditation emails, which have been fascinating and transformational for me," Justin said. "So I was interested in seeing him live. This experience was a part of my faith and spiritual journey as I work to be a more loving, compassionate, and grounded person. And that can only be good for my students."

**Kelly Russell** is participating in the Teacher-to-Teacher Program through North Carolina Association of Independent Schools, which pairs teachers in the same field but different schools. Kelly is paired with Physical Education teacher Dave Myer from Ravenscroft School in Raleigh, who has shadowed Kelly at Canterbury. Kelly will visit Ravenscroft later this year. The program gives teachers an opportunity to connect with a colleague and share best practices in their subject area.

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



**Kari Baumann** is the librarian/media specialist. She has a bachelor's degree in marketing and economics and a master's degree in library

and information studies, both from UNC Greensboro. She has 12 years of librarian experience and helped deploy the tablet learning program in her last middle school.



**Kendell Berry** is the Interim Head of School. He has a master's degree from the University of Virginia and a bachelor's degree from

Lynchburg College. He has worked in every facet of independent schools from teaching and coaching to the business office to 16 years as head and interim head of school.

**Charley Bryant** is the new Band Director. He has a bachelor of music education degree from UNCG and 14 years experience in middle school band instruction both in public and private school settings.



**Lacy Castellano** is a lead PreK teacher. She comes to Canterbury from the Early Childhood Center and has a bachelor's and master's degree in education and development from UNCG.

**Mary Dator**, mother of Tommy '15 and Maggie '19, is the Annual Fund and Alumni Relations Coordinator. She has a bachelor's degree from UNC Chapel Hill. In addition to working at Canterbury and Greensboro Day School, Mary has served on the GDS Alumni Board, as well as the Canterbury Annual Fund committee.



**Kaitlin Finnin** teaches 1st grade. She has a bachelor's degree in English from East Carolina University and a master's degree in elementary education from UNC Greensboro. She has taught both kindergarten (most recently at Jefferson Elementary in Greensboro) and first grade, and is married to Canterbury Chaplain Nathan Finnin.



**Michael Hawkins** joined the maintenance team as maintenance assistant. He is a graduate of NC A&T State University and a United States

Navy veteran. He brings many years experience in maintenance services and supervision.



**Ashleah Lester** is a PreK assistant. She's a Canterbury parent and most recently taught at Holy Trinity Day School. She has a bachelor's degree from UNCG.



**Ashley Meyer**, who has taught at Greensboro Academy and Greensboro Day School, has a bachelor's degree from University of

Mary Washington, and joins Canterbury as the lower school science teacher.



**Emily Moss** has returned to Canterbury as the Lower School Learning Specialist. She worked at Canterbury in that capacity for five years

before leaving to start her own business in learning support services. She has a bachelor of arts degree in special education from Greensboro College.



**Justin Stagner**, who comes to Canterbury from Oak Ridge Elementary, is a new 4th grade teacher. He has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Appalachian State University and earned his board certification in 2014.

**Aaron Shows**, Canterbury's organist, has a degree in church music from Shenandoah University Conservatory and a master's of fine arts degree in film music composition from UNC School of the Arts.



# 2015 GRADUATION



Canterbury's class of 2015 graduated on Friday, June 5, 2015, in the school's 20th graduation ceremony. They chose outgoing Head of School Burns Jones as their speaker. Graduating classes traditionally give a gift to the school, and the class of 2015 raised money through coffee, wreath, and notecard sales. At the service, they presented a digital video resource project, which included a go-pro, green screen with lighting, microphones, and video cameras. In presenting the gift, class president Sophie Maginnes noted that it would give students the opportunity to "collaborate on creative and interactive projects which will take them from the ropes course to the classroom and beyond. The possibilities are endless. In this way, the class of 2015 thanks Canterbury for all it has done for us throughout the years."



## DELALI SOM-PIMPONG WINS STERLING P. MILLER AWARD

The Sterling P. Miller Award was created in the 1999-2000 school year to honor Canterbury's founding head of school. Voted on by the faculty, the award is given every year to the graduating student who "best exemplifies the exuberance, joy and love for Canterbury School that was so evident in Mr. Miller."

Middle School Director Dave Skeen presented the award at the 2015 graduation service by saying that the word 'exuberance' perfectly described the recipient. "This student is always smiling. I can think of no better evidence of exuberance than a smile. But not just any smile. Hers is a smile almost always followed by a bellowing laughter. As Mr. Miller infused the school with a spirit of joy, so too does this student for every person she comes into contact with," Dave said.

"This student has been a part of almost every aspect of Canterbury School you can think of, developing and deepening relationships with everybody here today. She can be funny and playful with her middle school teachers, tender and nurturing for the PreK students she helps after school, sharp and witty with her teammates on the basketball court or soccer pitch, and sensitive and thoughtful with her classmates. Through it all she is smiling, and loving those around her – building them up through the sheer force of joy that bubbles over when you see her.

"Personally, she has touched my life with her unwavering sunshine each morning as she enters Armfield Hall. She waves to me each time I enter one of her classes, offers up her dance moves without prompting, and high fives without regard to space, time, or proximity of other students around her.

"I used to think, 'This is the type of happiness that if we could bottle up and sell, we'd be billionaires.' But, knowing her has been by far a richer experience. And that – that is what Mr. Miller worked so hard to build when he helped to start the school. I can think of no more deserving student for the Sterling P. Miller Award than Delali Som-Pimpong."

## AVA DODGE WINS CANTERBURY SERVICE LEARNING AWARD

Since its founding, Canterbury has recognized that service to others plays a central role in developing the whole child. The Canterbury Service Learning Award was established in 2004 by the faculty and staff and is given only when a graduate's service to others has been truly outstanding.

At the 2015 graduation service, Carin Ortiz, Assistant Business Manager, presented the award. She began by noting that the recipient had done great things through Canterbury's service learning program, but what set the student apart was her involvement in fundraising for a national charity.

"This student's work is not for personal recognition, but for what that work will do to help others," Carin said. "As the description of this award says, the recipient truly believes in treating others

as you would like to be treated. The faculty and staff could not think of a student who exemplifies this more. In fact, this student was the unanimous selection for this award."

Carin said that over the last eight summers, the recipient raised almost \$46,000 for the American Cancer Society through its Swim for Cancer fundraiser. "She does this in memory of her father, who passed away three years ago, and in honor of others close to her heart who are fighting this terrible disease," she added.

"On her Swim for Cancer fundraising webpage, she says, 'My dad's wish is that we continue to find a cure so that no one will ever have to endure cancer. I want to continue the fight against cancer. It is my family's dream to find a cure.'

"In her 8th grade sermon, she posed the question, 'What do you do when life gets hard? My answer to that is, you raise almost \$50,000 to find a cure for cancer!'

"I am honored to present The Canterbury Service Learning Award to Ava Dodge," Carin concluded.



### CLASS OF 2015 ATTENDING 15 DIFFERENT HIGH SCHOOLS

**Chatham Hall**  
Claire Carmody

**Christ School**  
Weller Kreimer  
Kobi Selby

**Dublin School**  
Clare Bristol

**Greensboro Day School**  
Meg Bennett  
Khuzi Gausi  
Jillian Harrison  
Will Hayes  
Drew Palmer  
Hallie Smith  
Burke Sullivan

**Grimsley High School**  
Grace Barnhill  
Michelle Buccini  
Tommy Dator

**Northern High School**  
Michaela Tisdale

**Page High School**  
Sarah Burton  
Ava Dodge  
Lily Helms  
Alexa Huntley  
Luke Joseph  
Jack LaFave  
Sophie Maginnes  
Katharine Michel

Banks Peete  
Mason Powell  
Emily Richardson  
Caitlin Riley  
Cameron Ringer  
Sam Simpson  
Lou Wright  
Kate Yarbrough

**Piedmont Classical High School**  
Austin Patterson

**Saint Mary's School**  
Stephanie Jones

**Southeast Guilford High School**  
Delali Som-Pimpong

**STEM Early College, NC A&T**  
Cydney Graham

**Virginia Episcopal School**  
Ariel Mial

**Weaver Academy**  
Ethan McKinney  
Spencer Underwood

**Wesleyan Christian Academy**  
Taewon Jung

**Western Reserve Academy**  
Laina Wilson





# Q&A

## With Canterbury Alumnus Mark Niegelsky



Mark Niegelsky talks with students at the 2015 graduation. Mark, a 2004 Canterbury graduate, came back to Canterbury for a year to teach composition to 7th and 8th grade students.

Mark Niegelsky graduated from Canterbury with the Class of 2004 and was back on campus for the 2014-15 school year to teach 7th and 8th grade composition. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in global/international studies, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and wrote for the school newspaper The Daily Tar Heel. After graduation he was a graduate assistant in research at the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs before attending The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University to earn a master's degree in international affairs.

incredibly impressive and, at the time, new Armfield Hall for middle school. It was a symbol of how much the school had grown and also very exciting to have such a great new facility.

### Q: What Canterbury tradition do you love the most?

A: Coming back to Canterbury, I was very happy to see that my favorite tradition of the 8th grade sermons still exists. I've always thought that it's a great chance to meaningfully address your fellow students as you all head off to the new challenges of high school. It has also been a showcase for some truly surprising and powerful messages from students over the years, and I'm glad that outlet exists.

### Q: What did you learn/take from Canterbury that helped prepare you for high school and beyond?

A: The academic instruction and intellectual rigor of Canterbury left me ready to hit the ground running in high school, making me much more prepared and confident for the challenges it held. I had some phenomenal teachers at Canterbury who helped me get ready for the future.

### Q: What was it like to come back to Canterbury as a teacher?

A: Having never taught before, it was initially daunting to be entering the classroom. Thankfully, Canterbury is an extremely welcoming place, and the same warmth that I remember as a student was very much present as a teacher. I was privileged to work with the many excellent teachers and staff I remember from my time as a student and to get to know those I didn't.

### Q: What is your fondest memory of Canterbury as a student?

A: My fondest memory of Canterbury was probably moving from the old modular classrooms to the

### Q: What had changed the most about Canterbury?

A: The biggest change I've seen at Canterbury since I left is no doubt the size of the place. I still remember the school being small enough to hold chapel services in the old library trailer, so seeing amazing new facilities like Stafford and Haley is just a tremendous change. Even as it has grown, I'm glad to see that Canterbury has still held on to the things that have always made it such a fine school.

### Q: What surprised you most about teaching middle school?

A: Teaching middle school, I was pleasantly surprised by the incredible variety of my students' interests, and I tried to do my best to encourage all of them in writing and research assignments. I had students who were burgeoning political commentators, ace cryptographers, and talented movie critics. I think it says a lot about the educational environment of Canterbury that students are able to develop such a wide range of interests.

### Q: What did you like best about teaching?

A: My absolute favorite part of teaching was interacting with my students. They were incredibly welcoming to me, and I couldn't have asked for a friendlier bunch. I got to know many of them well, and they all live up to Canterbury's high standards of scholarship and character.

### Q: What's next for you?

A: Job and location-wise, I'm pursuing work in the arena of national security and diplomacy, which was the focus of my graduate education. Hopefully, that leads me to work in an international environment or major city.

### Q: If someone asked why he/she should send a child to Canterbury, what would you say?

A: I would encourage anyone to send children to Canterbury. The school has grown so much since I've been there, but it still has the same close community feel I remember so well. The school has always had amazing teachers and I am privileged to have been on both ends of the classroom.

## OUR ALUMNI ARE AWESOME!

### 2001

**Natalie Fisher** married Matt Tribett last spring in Rocky Point, NC, near Wilmington. Natalie offers professional instruction and training in dressage for both horse and rider through Laughing Dog Farm, Rocky Point.

### 2005

**Phoebe Roer** started a new job at The Futures Company in Chapel Hill.

### 2006

**Liddy Roer** is a second year 7th grade social studies teacher at McDougle Middle School in Chapel Hill.

### 2008

**Keir Durham** is a senior at NC A&T State University and received her first full-time employment offer as a software developer with State Farm in Dallas, TX. She was inducted into the Upsilon Pi Epsilon Honor Society for Computer Scientists.

**Carson DuBose** is finishing her senior year at UNCW with plans for a career in corporate event planning.

### 2010

**Maddy Lee** is studying abroad through the University of Madrid Science Program with 60 other students from around the world, many of whom are students at Boston University, where Maddy is a sophomore. The students live with host families, take a full load of coursework, and are expected to engage in the culture. In January, Maddy will travel to Honduras as part of the Global Water Brigade to work for a week digging water lines in remote villages. Maddy was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, plays for the Boston College womens' club soccer team, and volunteers at Boston Medical Center.

**Katherine Maultsby** has joined Connor House, a social and service organization at Davidson College, and has decided to major in psychology.

**Lauren Smir** is currently a sophomore at the University of Georgia and a member of the Delta Delta Delta sorority. She is majoring in nutrition sciences and plans to attend physician assistant school. She will study abroad in Corona, Italy, this summer.

**Ansley Sackett** represented the Clemson University National Scholars Program at the Undergraduate Scholars Program Administrators Association (USPAA) Scholar Summit in Tulsa, OK.

**Blaine DuBose** is a freshman at Appalachian State University and enjoys living in the mountains of Boone NC.



In the last 11 years, 16 Canterbury graduates have finished at the top of their high school class. That list includes three graduates of Canterbury's class of 2011. Liza Brown, left, and Janie Pearce, right, were co-salutatorians, and Miller Townes, center, was valedictorian of the Page High School Class of 2015.

## CLASS OF 2011 GOES TO COLLEGE

Canterbury's 2011 graduates are off to college and other adventures this year. Congratulations to them!

Matthew Betts	Louisburg College
Liza Brown	UNC Chapel Hill
Maya Daniel	UNC Charlotte
Connor Dean	Duke University
Stephanie Edwards	Appalachian State University
Mary Scott Faircloth	Wake Forest University
Alex Fenger	University of Rochester
Frances Ganem	UNC Chapel Hill
Cameron Hendrickson	University of South Carolina
Christian Hicks	UNC Chapel Hill
Hutton Johnston	UNC Chapel Hill
Haley Jones	UNC Chapel Hill
Dietrich Klug	gap year then Sewanee
Christopher Lindsey	Mount St. Mary's
Sarah McGee	NC State
Douglas Mills	Hampden-Sydney College
Hastings Moffitt	UNC Chapel Hill
Mary Layton Moffitt	Wake Forest University
Louise Mohorn	Wake Technical Community College
Fraser Orr	UNC Wilmington
Ben Pearce	UNC Chapel Hill
Janie Pearce	UNC Chapel Hill
Caroline Rapp	NC State
Julia Solomon	University of Georgia
Ben Stevens	UNC Wilmington
Katie Thomas	UNC Chapel Hill
Austin Thompson	Estrella Mountain Community College
Allie Tice	NC State
Miller Townes	Washington and Lee University
Mariah Warren	Connecticut College
Caroline Yarbrough	Davidson University



# Canterbury Celebrates 23rd FOUNDERS' DAY

## 2011

**Caroline Yarbrough** is having a successful year as a freshman on the cross country team at Davidson College. She has won accolades including conference athlete of the week.

## 2012

**Noelle Cornelius** was inducted into the Weaver Academy chapter of National Honor Society. She also won the best actress award from the drama department in 2015.

**Kathleen Rightsell** and **Walton Chamblee** are serving as Youth Elders for First Presbyterian Church for 2015-16.

**Ben Palmer** and **David Hewitt** received the Patrick B. Palmer Award at the GUSA High School Soccer Showcase. The award, named in honor of Ben's father, goes to a player from each participating team who demonstrates scholarship, service, and leadership on and off the field. The recipients are chosen by the coaches and the awards are presented at the Showcase.

**Susannah Townes** is a Page High School Morehead-Cain Scholarship nominee.

**Walton Chamblee** is a recipient of a Neese's scholarship that was awarded to a student-athlete at Page High School.

**Mollie Winstead** was inducted into the National Honor Society at Grimsley, elected homecoming queen, and received the Spirit of the Guild award from the Junior Guild of Family Service of the Piedmont.

Recently highlighted in *Irving Park Magazine*, **Mary Grace Beard** is currently co-president of the Junior Guild of Family Services of the Piedmont. Through her leadership and focus on increasing membership through social media resources, membership has grown to more than 100 members.

**Duncan Jones** is a senior at Christ School. He is playing – and enjoying – football for the first time ever.

**Molly Sackett** was selected to be assistant director in Page High School's 2015 winter play, "The Stuck Pot."

## 2013

**Molly McGill Carter** was chosen to participate in 2015 Sewanee Young Writers Conference for Creative Non-fiction. She also won a merit scholarship to attend New Garden Friends School for her junior and senior years in high school, allowing her to dual enroll at Guilford College.

**Alec Smir**, right, is a junior at Greensboro Day School. He is the starting goalkeeper for the U18 Fusion Academy soccer team, and has been invited twice to train with the US National Men's U16 and U17 teams. He recently committed to play soccer at UNC Chapel Hill in 2017.

**Emily Dean, Allie DuBose, Collier Echols, Christopher Fenger, Madeline Jones, Caroline Moore,** and **Alec Smir** were all inducted into the Greensboro Day School chapter of the National Honor Society.

A member of the Page High School tennis team, **Henry Enochs** made the all-conference and the all-state tennis team. The team, which made it to the finals of the state championship, also includes **Nick Granowsky '13** and **Lawton Gresham '14**.

## 2014

**Claire Audilet** is a sophomore at Page High School. Last year, she was inducted into the International Thespian Society and the National Art Honor Society and was recognized for outstanding achievement in visual art.

## 2015

**Tommy Dator** made the JV soccer team at Grimsley High School.

**Sam Simpson** was elected president of the freshman class at Page High School.

**Lou Wright, Sam Simpson, Sarah Burton,** and **Sophie Maginnes** serve on the Principal's Council at Page High School.

**Lou Wright** and **Emily Richardson** made the Page varsity tennis team.

**Stephanie Jones** is a freshman at St. Mary's School and enjoying everything about it.

**Kobi Selby** and **Weller Kreimer**, both freshmen at Christ School, are members of the varsity soccer team joining **John Beard**, '13.

**Meg Bennett, Emily Dean,** and **Caroline Moore** starred in Greensboro Day School's production of "Into the Woods."



Alec Smir



Once a Cougar, always a Cougar. Canterbury alumni from the class of 2012 attended the Greensboro Day School prom together. Left to right, Noelle Cornelius, Grayson Clark, James Bennett, Patrick Sullivan, and Jessica Thomas.



Six boys from the Canterbury class of 2013 played lacrosse at Page High School. They are, left to right, Mac Maultsby, Edward Helms, John Ortiz, Tate Coley, Christian Schaede, Carter Mann.



A group of Canterbury graduates went on a First Presbyterian Church mission trip to the Dominican Republic this summer. Back row, left to right, Mary Grace Beard, Isabella Lauver, Lizabeth Schaede, Emma Winstead, Sydney Mayes, Mary Scott Faircloth, Allison Tice, Haley Jones, Madeline Jones, Mollie Winstead, Kathleen Rightsell. Front row, left to right, Lawton Gresham, John Beard, Thomas Mayes, Christian Schaede, and Davis Jones.

## TWENTY-THREE YEARS AGO,

Canterbury welcomed 87 students to a school housed in a handful of temporary cottages. A group of parents and community members had worked for years to make that opening day possible. Every year Canterbury honors those founders and others who give of their time and talents to make Canterbury successful.

The 2015 Founders' Day service was held on Oct. 14, and featured speaker Billy Fitzgerald, the grandfather of Caroline Fitzgerald '14 and William '16. Billy is a legendary athlete and coach in New Orleans, where he played basketball and baseball at Jesuit High School and at Tulane University. He was a member of the Oakland A's organization for several years before beginning his coaching and teaching career at Isidore Newman School in New Orleans in 1973. While there, he coached basketball for 28 years, winning five state championships, and coached baseball for 35 years, winning two state championships. He also served as athletic director. Fitzgerald is a member of the Tulane Athletic Hall of Fame (inducted in 1994) and the Greater New Orleans Sports Hall of Fame (inducted in 2007). In 2014, he retired to move to Greensboro to be closer to family.

Fitzgerald was the subject of the book, "Coach: Lessons on the Game of Life," by Michael Lewis, author of "Moneyball," "The Blind Side," and "Liar's Poker."

William introduced his grandfather, saying, "I am honored today to introduce my grandfather, Billy Fitzgerald. Some know him as Billy, some know him as Coach, or Fitz, but I know him as Pops.

"In Michael Lewis' book, 'Coach,' the author, also a former player, talks about how Pops coached and taught with passion and intensity. Lewis says, 'There are teachers with a rare ability to enter a child's mind; it's as if their ability to get



Alan Irvin, long-time Canterbury School parent and volunteer, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. He was recognized with an award plaque and, following Canterbury tradition, a "medal" created and presented by a 1st grade student. This year's artist was Claire Deskevich, left.

there at all gives them the right to stay forever. I once had such a teacher. His name was Billy Fitzgerald, but everybody just called him Coach Fitz.' We at Canterbury school are so fortunate to have teachers and coaches who deeply care about us and that is what Founders' Day is all about."

Billy talked about living a purposeful life by making a list of what really matters. Based on lessons he learned from life experience, he proposed four things that could be on that list.

First on the list was to be the best you can be, which requires living by a list of principles. Billy recommended the principles of honesty, responsibility, independence, kindness, and objectivity, "which means facing reality as it is, not as you want it to be," he said.

Being a dreamer was second on the list. "If you don't dream, you'll never get started on your way," he said.

"Keep asking what's important now. That will help you act on your dreams. Failure is not fatal. It's a part of all important progress."

Third on the list was to be of service. Billy noted that studies show that service to others has a positive affect on grades and education. "A service mentality helps the best operate," he said.

Finally, "Grateful people take better care of themselves, are better friends, have better problem solving skills, and can put failure into perspective," he said, adding, "Counting your blessings is a good start in improving your attitude of gratitude."

He concluded by quoting Friedrich Nietzsche, who wrote, "Man's task is simple. He should cease letting his existence be a thoughtless accident."

"Everyday, say, 'Today I'm going to try to be the person I want to be,'" Billy advised.

After the keynote speech, the school recognized several people.

Alan Irvin received the Distinguished Service Award. Alan, a local orthodontist, has given tirelessly of his time and talents since Canterbury's founding, including several terms on the board of trustees. He and his wife, Laura, are the parents of Christopher, '01, and Allyson '10.

Immediate past trustees Jim Brady, the Rev. Russ Ingersoll, Morgan Love, the Rev. Trawin Malone, Tommy Mayes, and Hector McEachern were thanked for their service on the board.

Will DuBose, Charles Lucas, Knox Barker and David Brown were recognized for their leadership of the *Focus Forward* capital campaign, which raised more than \$9 million for the school. Matt and Rhonda Wakefield were recognized as 2014-2015 chairs of the Annual Fund.



# Canterbury SCHOOL

5400 Old Lake Jeanette Road  
Greensboro, NC 27455

**Return Service Requested**

Non-Profit Org.

US Postage

**PAID**

Greensboro, NC

Permit No. 73



[www.canterburygso.org](http://www.canterburygso.org)

With the entire school community gathered for opening day in Phillips Chapel, Canterbury Chaplain Nathan Finnin, center, surprised everyone and called for a “selfie” that captured students, faculty, staff, and parents beginning the school year on Aug. 25.

