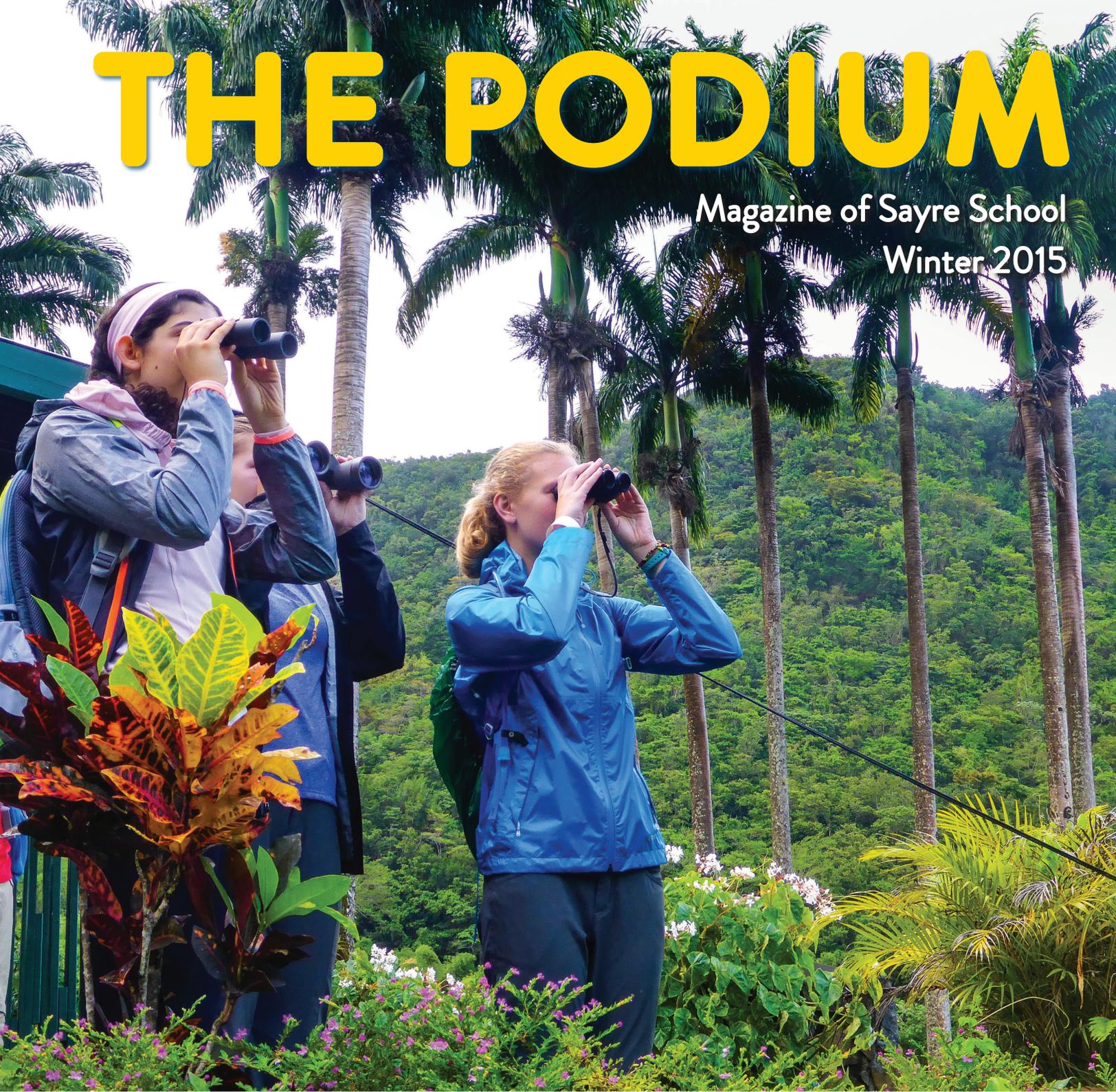


THE PODIUM

Magazine of Sayre School
Winter 2015



SAYRE
SCHOOL

1854 • 2014

160

Celebrating Excellence

**BUILDING EXCELLENCE
SHAPING GENERATIONS**

David A. Sayre's Legacy

Greetings from Old Sayre!



Photo courtesy of Lexington Family Magazine

“An education of the widest range and highest order” is a steadfast commitment to excellence through which generations of students have been shaped for the better.

To fully appreciate the significance of our 160th anniversary, we must contemplate the legacy of David Sayre and his visionary brilliance. What began in 1854 through his conviction and generosity thrives today in the same neighborhood that we still call home. While Sayre has evolved over time from a college for women to a preschool through grade 12 independent school, we have never wavered from our founding principle to provide “an education of the widest range and highest order.”

The five feature articles of this edition of *The Podium* showcase our founding principle in action.

You will discover...

- The practice of environmental sustainability touching all ages (pages 14-15)
- Our alumni collaborating on an independent film project (pages 18-19)
- The enhanced focus on global studies in our curriculum (pages 20-21)
- The F. Kevin Simon History Symposium and its 30-year commitment to professional development (page 22)
- Our athletic program that is building on a rich tradition of success (page 23)

What exactly is “an education of the widest range and highest order”? It is a steadfast commitment to excellence through which generations of students have been shaped for the better. In the competitive marketplace of today, we are often asked to assess the outcomes or value of an endeavor to justify its expense. The value of Sayre is in our founding principle, and it is priceless.

But, don’t take my word for it. Visit our alumni page on Facebook and read the stories of where a Sayre education has taken our students. Lexington may have been the “Athens of the West,” but a Sayre education is a “Passport to the World.”

Go Spartans!

Stephen Manella
Head of School

Board Welcomes New Members

We are pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Trustees—**John Backer '83, Jacquelin Whitaker Murphy '88, Betty Simms Receski, and Rodney Shockley.**

John Backer, an alumnus of Sayre from the Class of 1983 and a lifer, is the CFO for Pin Oak Stud and JA. He and his wife, Ashley, have three children—Ann Frances '14 attends Belmont University, and Katherine and Jack are enrolled in our 10th and 3rd grades respectively. John is a member of our Finance Committee.

Jacquelin Murphy is also a graduate of Sayre, Class of 1988, along with her husband **Joe**, Class of 1987. Jacquelin and Joe have three children at Sayre—**Joseph** in 11th grade and Jack and Mary Grace in 5th grade. Jacquelin serves on our Governance/Trusteeship Committee and is also the Board liaison to our Alumni Association. Jacquelin brings with her a tremendous legacy of Board leadership—her grandfather, father and husband have all been members of our Board.

Betty Simms Receski is a parent of two Sayre graduates: Hunter graduated in 2003 and Whitney graduated in 2005. Betty's connection to Sayre, however, extends to our years as a woman's college. Her great aunt was a boarding student at Sayre College who went on to become the first female graduate of UK College of Law. She then returned to Sayre to teach in the college. Betty is presently an Oncology Dietician for Baptist Health Lexington and also works for the Baptist Health Foundation of Lexington. She serves on our Enrollment and Marketing Committee.

Rodney Shockley is the Executive Vice-President and General Counsel for the Forcht Group of Kentucky and serves on our Finance Committee. He and his wife Laurie have three sons who have all attended Sayre. Craig is a member of the Class of 2016. Their two oldest sons, **John '12** and **Eric '14**, are both enrolled at Texas Christian University. Go Horned Frogs!

These four Board members have 11 children who are attending or have graduated from Sayre.

Board Awards

Each year the Board of Trustees honors four individuals for their distinguished service to Sayre.

The **Miles Service Award** is named in honor of Dorothy Moomaw Miles, Headmistress of Sayre from 1952-1961. Awards are given to both a current parent and a patron (traditionally a past parent) who have been actively involved in the daily life of the school. This year's recipients are **Lauren Van Balen** and **Becky Brady**. Lauren and her husband Craig have been members of our community since 1999 when they enrolled their son, John, in PK3. John will be graduating this year, and his brother Sam is a sophomore. Lauren was the chair of the Spectacular in 2007 and 2008 and co-chair (with Becky) in 2014 and 2015. Becky and her husband Bob have had a child at Sayre for twenty-five continuous years. That alone deserves an award! Lindsay '03, Meghan '06, and Ryan '09 have all graduated from Sayre. Hannah, a junior, will culminate the Brady run in 2016. Becky has worn countless volunteer hats at Sayre. In addition to



her recent work with the Spectacular, she and Lauren have taken the lead in developing a welcoming committee to embrace our new families.

The **McClellan Award** is named in honor of Major Henry Brainerd McClellan, Sayre's most distinguished and longest tenured Headmaster, who served Sayre from 1870-1904. The recipient of this award is a friend or organization of the school

that has made significant contributions in the form of service to the student body. This year's recipient is **Michelle Goodman**. If you own a piece of Spartan wear, you're the beneficiary of Michelle's good work as Chair of the Spartan Shop for the last two years. In addition to numerous volunteer hours on behalf of alumni and athletic events and the Spectacular, Michelle has co-led our Girls on the Run program, helping to develop future Spartan runners. Michelle and her husband Rob are both alumni: Michelle, Class of 1991, and Rob, Class of 1989. Their children are following in their footsteps at Sayre—Robby is in tenth grade and Cate and Emme are in sixth.



The **Trustee Award** is given to a current or past Trustee of the school who has been singled out by his fellow trustees as a leader in providing guidance and direction to the school through his or her efforts. This year's designee, **Connie Brotherton**, has been a leading voice on our Board for the past eight years. Beginning in 2006, she served two terms, working on both the Finance and Personnel committees. She chaired the Finance committee in 2009 and 2010. In recent years she shepherded that committee through the development of our investment guidelines for the endowment. Connie also assumed key roles on our Executive Committee, serving as Secretary in 2007 and 2008 and Treasurer in 2009, 2010 and 2013. She and her husband Rod are the parents of two Sayre "lifers": Jennings, Class of 2011, and Madison, Class of 2012.

A Conversation with Dr. Annie Papero, Head of Lower School

In July, Dr. Annie Papero joined the Sayre community as our Head of Lower School. She brings significant experience training teachers and coaching elementary educators in best practices in the classroom, as well as expertise in curriculum development. Prior to her arrival at Sayre, Dr. Papero was an Assistant Professor in Early Childhood Education at Shippensburg University, co-chairing the PreK-4 program while teaching a range of courses in child development, early literacy, and curriculum.

A member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, Annie earned her B.A. in Biology with Elementary Education Certification, K-6, from Grinnell College. In 2004, she earned her Ph.D. in Child Development from Virginia Tech.



Through your work at the university level, you have been immersed in best practices in child development. What are the hallmarks of a dynamic lower school experience?

There are many different ways to deliver strong programming for young children. All of them, however, share certain characteristics. Exceptional lower schools recognize the individuality of every child, foster strong relationships between children and adults, offer many opportunities to engage in authentic, hands-on experiences, and cultivate children’s abilities to think critically and make strong decisions. Life in a lower school should be full of opportunities to try something new, to take a risk without fear of failure, to build new friendships and to gain a solid foundation in the academic skills that are the building blocks for success in middle school and beyond to our global world.

How do you create those opportunities for our students?

We do this by being “intentional” in all that we do. It is our job to ensure that our students enter middle school with robust academic skills. We want them to be the very best readers, writers, mathematicians and thinkers that they can be. Children need to be engaged in meaningful, active learning that helps them build their skills while also helping them understand the big picture. We know how to do this well in the Lower School and do it purposefully every day throughout all of our age groups. We challenge our students to build strong conceptual understandings, we offer opportunities to explore the arts and to express their ideas through movement, music, visual arts and drama, and we ensure that they have physical opportunities to test their limits and build their confidence. We also cultivate their growing interpersonal skills by creating an environment that values relationships and gives them many opportunities to learn from their social successes and mistakes.

And the above takes place by understanding the needs of our students?

Absolutely! All good teaching is predicated on knowing your learners. We strive to understand each child as an individual and to deliver instruction that takes their level of skill, interests and learning styles to heart. We are also guided by our understanding of child development and what research suggests is developmentally appropriate

for each child at every stage of development. Our three-year-olds learn differently from our third graders, and our curriculum reflects those developmental differences. Delivering appropriate instruction at each stage of development is one of the most important gifts we educators can give to our students.

What is your impression of the Sayre community and how do you see it impacting our students?

The warmth of the Sayre community immediately impressed me. My children and I have been welcomed heartily and we are so pleased to be part of a community that values each family and their contribution to our community. While it sounds simplistic, I think that it is important that we share our collective joy, that we get to know each other well, and that we set a common goal to surround our children with the most respectful, caring, dynamic community we can. As Head of Lower School, I see it as part of my job to continue to cultivate an environment that allows families and children to build lifelong connections and friendships.

You are also a member of our community as a parent. How is your family making the adjustment to Sayre and Lexington?

My children and I have been excited to explore Lexington and the surrounding area. We have learned more about horses in the past few months than we have known in our entire lives, and we are carefully and meticulously checking out all bakeries and ice cream stores in the area. We take the challenge to find the best tasty treats very seriously. We also enjoyed attending our first UK football game and learned a little bit about the serious sport of tailgating in Kentucky. We enjoy the out-of-doors greatly and are actively accepting suggestions of family friendly hikes and outings.

My children appreciate all that Sayre has to offer: Sam is enjoying ninth grade and has been running cross country and participating on the Academic Team, while Madeleine is immersed in second grade life and participates in Chorus and Yoga after school.

What's on your Kentucky bucket list?

I love the out-of-doors and am eager to visit some of the beautiful destinations that Kentucky has to offer. I have also figured out that there are some people in Lexington who really know how to “cook,” and I look forward to experiencing more of the culinary delights available in the Lexington area. I am hopeful that I will find some interesting places to visit that can satisfy the interests of both a seven-year-old and a fifteen-year-old. As any parent knows, these will no doubt, by default, become our new favorite places. Despite having moved several times during my adult life and enjoying the excitement of exploration, I really am a person who enjoys a sense of being at “home.” I think the most important thing on my bucket list is to find the places that feel “just right” to us and that allow us to begin to define Kentucky as our new home. I am excited about the search and am grateful that my family and I have landed in such a great place.



2014-2015 Sayre Facts

Students and Faculty

- 535** Students preschool through 12th grade
- 15** Average class size
- 7:1** Student-to-teacher ratio
- 71%** Faculty holding advanced degrees
- 22%** Students from diverse racial backgrounds
- 15** Central Kentucky counties represented
- 25%** Students receiving financial assistance totaling over \$1.2 million



*Class of 2015 National Merit® Semifinalists
Will Edwards, Nausher Hussain, Alek Zieba,
Alice Edwards, Chauncey Hill*

2014 AP Result Highlights

- 91%** of seniors who took an AP class earned a score of 3 or higher
- 75%** of seniors who took AP classes were designated as AP Scholars
- 100%** of students taking AP Spanish and AP French exams earned scores of a 3 or higher
- 94%** of students taking AP English Literature earned scores of 3 or higher
- 89%** of students taking AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, and AP Physics exams earned scores of 3 or higher

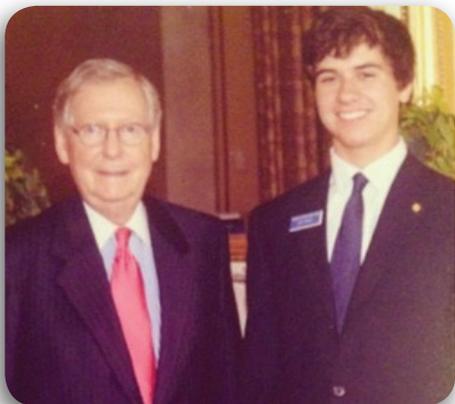


Class of 2014 Results

- Members of the Class of 2014 were admitted to 80 different colleges in 25 states
- 100% college placement
- 100% college bound
- 84% of the senior class completed one or more AP examinations
- 80% of students received merit scholarships totaling over \$4.5 million
- \$104,000 average scholarship per student
- 43% of seniors scored 28 or above on the ACT
- 45% of seniors attended Sayre since Lower School

Members of the Class of 2014 enrolled in 30 different colleges in 15 different states, and the District of Columbia.

Sayre Senior Experiences the United States Senate First Hand



Jon Pezzi '15 spent the month of June in Washington participating in the prestigious US Senate Page Program. Although a political animal and in “high cotton” as a result of his opportunity, Jon is quick to say that other than the surroundings, the experience wasn’t glamorous. Assigned to a dorm with others on Capitol Hill, his days began at 6:30 a.m. when he and the members of his team were tasked with setting up the Senate chamber for the day’s work ahead. Water duly laid out for the Senate officers and each Senator’s desk prepped with a copy of the daily schedule, the Congressional Record and the executive calendar, Jon and his team then worked on behalf of what has been called “the most exclusive club on earth.”

The fifty Pages, thirty of whom resided in dorms and twenty of whom commuted, were divided into two teams and served in hourly rotations (one on, one off). When “on duty” they sat on the Senate floor next to the presiding officers’ desk and served at the beck and call of the Senators, as directed by the Senate clerks.

Reflecting on an experience which he thoroughly enjoyed and took to like a duck to water, Jon said that among the biggest highlights were the “Roll Call” votes. The chamber was full to the brim and “you could see them all in action at the same time...the give and take and the politics of it all.” On a practical level, Jon said: “The critical lesson I learned from the experience is connection, maintaining ties, initiating new ties, jumping into the fray with hand extended and connecting with those who are placed in front of us. In short, seize the opportunities given and engage wholeheartedly in them.”

Seniors Discuss Civic Responsibility with Governor Steve Beshear

As part of the Don Jacobs Seminar, Sayre seniors met with the Governor at the capitol in Frankfort last spring to discuss civic responsibility. The Don Jacobs Personal Financial, Legal, and Civic Seminar series is required for seniors. It presents a curriculum that addresses personal finance and legal and civic responsibilities. Organized around the principles of Earning, Owning, Spending, Investing, Saving, and Giving, the seminars are enhanced by guest speakers from various professions. Mentors, selected from within the Sayre community, work with small groups of students throughout the year and are an integral part of the program.



2013-2014 National Honor Society Inductions

In November 2013, 26 new inductees joined 24 current members of Sayre’s National Honor Society, representing approximately 50% of the Upper School junior and senior classes. The selection committee evaluates candidates in four areas: scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Students Learn How Community Matters

MS Room 302 is outfitted for fun. You have your rubber chicken, Frankie the Singing Fish, squishy, springy lounge chairs, shaky-twisty puzzles, and swimming pool noodles of many colors stuffed in a basket that resemble super-sized fast food fries. There are lots of rubber balls and Spartan sports stuff on the wall. The curator of this room and its contents is none other than **Jason Nahra**, Class of 1996, beloved teacher and coach at Sayre.

For six years, Mr. Nahra has used his Lower School Community Matters sessions to show students how much they can accomplish when they think together. His lesson plan is to set the stage for an experience that will help students develop personal confidence and group solidarity.

Mr. Nahra's weekly meetings with Lower School students are just one component of Sayre's Community Matters curriculum. Developed and expanded to deepen students' understanding of themselves and their roles as members of a larger community, this programming has grown to include regular sessions with Middle School students as well, where teachers and Upper School student leaders conduct workshop-style classes covering topics from organization and time management to social skills, bullying, body image and gender in media.

As a building is only as strong as its foundation, the Community Matters curriculum begins with the youngest students, many of whom will remain at Sayre until they leave for college. The Responsive Classroom approach, which Sayre adopted in 2010, is a building block for the curriculum.



“Community Matters not only names the curriculum, it is also the message: to us, community does matter.”

Curriculum coordinators agree that the scheduled Community Matters sessions – at all levels – are most effective when students are working together, ideally out of their seats, to make decisions and accomplish meaningful goals. Upper School student leaders in our Kids-to-Kids program role play with sixth graders to convey how gossip can damage relationships; a seventh grade session might have students venturing into downtown Lexington to photograph media images which reinforce gender stereotypes; in Mr. Nahra's classes, the format will most likely be a game.

“The way you play a game is the way you live a life,” says Mr. Nahra. Rubber chicken in hand, he leads me through the rules of Ripple Effect. In this game, two lines face each other. All eyes are closed, talking is not allowed, and the challenge is to be the team that picks up the rubber chicken on a table at the end of the line.

“All it takes to score a point in Ripple Effect is the squeeze of the hand. It leads to conversation about what we convey with even small actions, and how once something is said or written, it's tough to take it back. I ask the kids, for example, to compare a hand squeeze to a text message.”

Upper School students routinely stop by Mr. Nahra's room – some come to talk, and others just to hang out in what they consider a campus “sweet spot.” They remember the games they played in this room and out in Sayre's Front Circle, talking about what makes a good friend, how hard it is when parents divorce or when you strike out in the last inning of a game, how it feels when a classmate moves away, or a family pet dies.

When Juniors and Seniors have the opportunity to lead Community Matters sessions of their own, they remember how they looked up to the students and teachers who supported them during their childhood when they had so many questions, when they were figuring out what community meant.

“Schools are often measured by the excellence of their academic program, and by that measure we have tremendous success,” says Kristin Seymour, Head of Sayre's Middle School. “The Community Matters curriculum shows kids that developing character is as important as developing the mind. In a visible way, this program expands the scope of what we mean by excellence.”

The True Meaning of Giving

During 2013-2014, Sayre provided a wide range of practical and creative service opportunities to help students understand the importance of giving in their community.

Service has always been integral in the Lower School. From UNICEF collection performed by trick-or-treaters at Halloween, to participation in Habitat For Humanity's Nickels for Nails fund drive, serving hard-working families and their housing needs, and donations of food and clothing for the Catholic Action Center, Lower School students learn that giving is more than a holiday routine.



Over the past year, Middle School students and faculty provided assistance to a variety of organizations whose mission is to feed the hungry. In a cooking elective, students prepared a variety of delicious foods – from corn bread and chili to soup and lasagna – which they then delivered to the Hope Center and other downtown food pantries. The Student Council orchestrated a variety of service projects. Bake sales in the Middle Mart raised money for both the Red Cross and American Heart Association. In an annual event called the Humane Society Extravaganza (HSE), Student Council members staged an hour-long fair of games and activities in the gym – each with a small ticket price - with all proceeds being donated to an organization that serves animals. This past year, the HSE raised more than \$1,500.

Last year, Upper School students documented more than 5,800 hours of community service. Through its 3-on-3 basketball tournament, the Class of 2014 raised more than \$2,500 to support Baby Health, an agency that provides free medical care for children aged 0-18, and Habitat for Humanity (employer of Sayre graduate **Rob Turner '98**). Through an ongoing partnership with Kentucky Refugee Ministries (employer of **Lydia Curtz '06** and **Adrienne O'Rourke '06**), refugee families benefit annually from service projects led by Upper School students. Students have been integral to the planning of their annual fund-raising auction and social event; during the holidays, students bring in gifts for the children, and the French National Honor Society hosts a Christmas party for refugee families to introduce them to American holiday traditions.

As part of the Upper School curriculum, the Service to Society elective class worked with The Nest to plan their spring 2014 fundraiser. The event was held at Keeneland and featured the theme "Pony Up for the Nest." In addition to creating the theme, the students helped with the invitations, decorations, prizes, and also provided a gift for each of the sixty guests in attendance. Through their fundraising efforts, they donated \$500 to The Nest.



Poet Encourages Self-Reflection

Bianca Spriggs, a local artist, performer, and writer, spoke to the Upper School on Wednesday, April 9th. Ms. Spriggs read poems on topics ranging from mermaids to stardust, all of them asking us, in various ways, to consider how we view and treat those around us. The program was sponsored by the Justice League, a group of Upper School students working to strengthen the school's inclusive atmosphere and to bring attention to issues of bullying and harassment.



Acknowledging Stand for Change Day, the Justice League facilitated a campus response to bullying and harassment, asking all students and faculty to stand in silence for one minute to convey school-wide solidarity to stand up against bullying.

Preparing for 1-to-1 iPad Launch

Enhanced opportunity for collaboration is one of many pedagogical benefits of a 1-to-1 device deployment. The May before the 2013-14 iPad launch, Sayre's Middle School faculty spent a day training with Mr. Sam Gliksman, celebrated iPad guru and author of *iPads in Education for Dummies*. Mr. Gliksman underscored the importance of being connected not only with the internet but also with each other. "With built-in interfaces for connectivity, mobile devices such as iPads offer a wide variety of alternatives for people wanting to connect and work together," he said.



After looking at cloud sharing tools such as Dropbox and Google apps, Mr. Gliksman also treated teachers to quick overviews of educational apps, such as *Animate It*, which allow users to create short time-lapse and stop-motion films. He also demonstrated *Explain Everything*, the award winning screen-casting app teachers can use for Flipped Classroom videos and students can use as a unique way to create and publish how-to lessons or share something they have learned in a class.

"Mr. Gliksman worked with us to devise sessions which really addressed our curricular goals," said Brad Becker, Middle School Technology Coordinator. "We laughed when he referred to a reviewer who mistakenly referenced his book as iPads for 'Dummies in Education.' Many teachers are digital immigrants and will never feel as 'smart' with new technologies as the digital natives they teach. We will do well to continue seeking out any and all professional development opportunities which keep us in step with our students. It teaches us to leverage new technologies that enhance the educational experience we provide for a wide range of learners."

WSMS Podcast

WSMS, The Sayre Middle School Podcast, now in its second season, airs every couple of weeks and provides Middle School students the opportunity to create, record, edit, and produce their own segments on topics of both personal and community interest.



Recent stories include:

- Filipino priest Father Noel F. Zamora, during the 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan which devastated parts of the Philippines, spoke with podcast reporters about the history of storms in his country
- In a segment called "Who Are You?" students introduced new Sayre faculty and staff
- Sayre students who were adopted told their stories and debunked myths about the adoption process
- For the Halloween episode, WSMS reporters interviewed Miss Patti Starr, nationally recognized paranormal investigator

The Middle School Podcast is just one of several student-driven media making projects on campus. Past and present members of the WSMS podcast team are also producing live streaming video events, which will include boys and girls varsity basketball games played at home during the 2014-15 season. Last year, for the first time ever, WSMS live streamed Sayre's graduation ceremony.

1-to-1 iPads in the Middle School “Take Off”

Sayre Middle School has enjoyed the benefits of its decision to adopt a 1-to-1 iPad program in 2013-14. Many features of this device, from its size and durability to its long battery life, make it a reliable and useful tool for Middle School students. The iPad has introduced new ways for teachers to address personal learning preferences, and student-teacher collaboration and exchange has been enhanced by cloud-based workflows, from Google Apps to DropBox. With daily access, students used the unique features of iPads creatively: science students analyzed video footage of data collection to improve their experimental accuracy; world language students recorded themselves speaking, and listened to each other and to news broadcasts in the target language to improve their oral skills in French or Spanish; students shared their knowledge with each other in instructional videos they made themselves. It was a year of change and innovation as the Middle School community explored meaningful ways to enrich the classroom experience through this exciting and new integration of technology.

Technology use in support of learning is omnipresent throughout Sayre’s curriculum.



Conferences “Exploding with Energy”

What do the acronyms “SDLC” and “PoCC” mean to Sayre’s community? The Student Diversity Leadership Conference and the People of Color Conference are annual events sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools. Sayre has sent students and adults to these conferences since 1999. The three-day simultaneous event, which last year took place in National Harbor, Maryland, are “the flagship of NAIS’s commitment to equity and justice in teaching and learning.” Each year, the two conferences feature some of the nation’s most prominent speakers on diversity issues, including big-name stars like Sydney Poitier and Michael Eric Dyson or nationally renowned scholars and educators.

Upper School students attend SDLC and interact with over 1,400 other independent school students from across the nation. They bring back to Lexington and the Sayre community a renewed commitment to ensuring that our school “provides an innovative and inclusive learning environment” and have often used what they learn to initiate new programming on campus. In 2013-2014, student attendees **Sana Aslam ’16**, **David Dabney ’15**, **Hina Iqbal ’15**, and **Agustin Zambrano ’14** were accompanied by faculty chaperones **Jennifer Hurst**, **Bo List**, and **Charles Thomas**. Sana described the experience as transformational: “SDLC was constantly exploding with energy, passion, and drive – the drive of inspiring students from all over the country. It was without a doubt one of the best experiences a high schooler could ever ask for. We were able to realize that diversity comes in so many different forms and that every individual struggles with the labels others throw on them. More importantly, we were able to do so in a space we created for ourselves – a space where we refused to identify others, and we stepped back to let others identify themselves.”



Visual Arts in Action

Building upon Sayre's ongoing commitment to promoting a lifelong relationship with the arts, the Fine Arts program at Sayre School allows students to explore the visual arts, music and drama. In visual arts classes in preschool through grade twelve, students develop their personal aesthetic through a range of opportunities. Students are empowered to develop technical and conceptual skills for critical thinking, risk taking and decision-making. The process-based curriculum cultivates fearlessness and encourages students to take full ownership of their creations.



Sayre's art instructors are actively engaged in contemporary art practices and lead by example. In November 2013, the school joined the

LexArts Gallery Hop to showcase the works of five Sayre visual arts faculty: painters **Anne Allen**, **Bill Berryman**, and **Georgia Henkel**, along with printmaker **Elizabeth Foley** and photographer **Blythe Jamieson**.

Alongside Sayre faculty artists partnering with other artists in the school's urban location, students become engaged members of the community through art. In the past year, students created beaded strands to illuminate our neighborhood for the public art installation led by Kurt Gohde and Kremena Tordova's "Community Engagement Through the Arts" class at Transylvania University. With artist Pat Gerhardt, they painted flags to celebrate the life of Isaac Murphy in an installation piece for the Isaac Murphy Community Garden. Middle School students folded origami hearts for a banner to raise Healthy Heart awareness and created centerpieces for the Go Red luncheon sponsored by the Heart Association.

In the fall, all Lower School students became immersed in the works of many well-known painters, sculptors, illustrators, and cartoonists in a week-long unit of study. Water lilies, that enigmatic smile, a very hungry caterpillar, installations using light and space, painting with



scissors and more were represented. Teacher experts on artists ranging from old masters such as Leonardo Da Vinci to children's book illustrators like Eric Carle helped the students explore the artists' work through hands-on activities. In the culminating event, students shared their knowledge with each other and their parents.

Local sculptor LaVon Williams spent a week at Sayre in January 2014 through the Visiting Voices program, sponsored by Sayre's Diversity and Multiculturalism Team. Williams chiseled and sanded a large block of wood, soliciting the active participation of students. Over time, the image of African American jockey Isaac Murphy, a Lexington native, emerged. Through stories and hands-on instruction, Williams shared both his artistic skills and his commitment to bringing Lexington's African American history to light. The sculpture, "Finish Line," is now on display in the Edward F. Simms Library, site of its creation.



As spring began, Middle and Upper School student artists experienced HOT art – an aluminum pour at 1200 degrees fahrenheit! University of Kentucky Professor Garry Bibbs and his students set up a temporary aluminum foundry outside of the Upper School. After the Sayre students carved designs into scratch boards, they watched as Bibbs and his students prepared, poured, and polished each student's metalwork creation.



The saying goes, "Art imitates life," but sometimes art students imitate art instructors! With help from the City Gallery curator, upper level art students displayed their best works in 2D and 3D art at the Honors Art Show. Throughout the year the students created a body of work to present at the end of the year show. The art ranged from paintings

to ceramics to jewelry and large scale sculptures. The opening reception for family and friends was a big success. Participating artists were: **Judy Brumley '14**, **Alexine Carr '15**, **Amelia Lundy '15**, **Maria Owen '15**, **Will Pagan '14**, **Grace Rahman '14**, **Madalyne Rice '16**, **Soraya Sartipi '14**, **Parker Stayton '14**, **Hailey Trawick '14**, and **Henry Wolf '14**.

Bringing the year to a close, **Henry Wolf '14** created an original metal sculpture (pictured on the back cover) for the school in memory of Junior **Jalen Byrd '15**. Created as part of a year-long independent study at

Paul's Foreign Auto, Henry applied his newly-acquired skills in soldering and spot welding to manipulate some 42 feet of steel tubing into a sculpture that could stand on its own. For an outdoor piece this large, the elements played their own role in the process. Henry had to contend with working throughout the snowy winter and rainy spring, finally giving the sculpture a durable covering of paint to protect it for many seasons to come. The sculpture now sits in its permanent home in the Upper School courtyard.

Passion for the Theatre

Sayre's drama teacher, **Bo List**, has been busy in and out of school. While juggling Upper and Middle School classloads, he has stayed active in his theatre profession in the region and beyond.

This last summer, Sayre sent Bo back to school. Comedy school, that is, at Chicago's legendary Second City comedy academy, where he studied improvisation and sketch comedy writing. "What a treat!" Bo said. "I teach this all the time in class, and it was an amazing opportunity to get a fresh start and learn from the real pros."

Later in the summer, Bo taught and directed at Stagedoor Manor, a performing arts camp in New York and the alma mater of many Hollywood and Broadway actors, including Robert Downey, Jr., Natalie Portman, and Jon Cryer. This fall, his adaptation of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* played at The Woodford Theatre with Sayre's 8th and 10th graders in the audience.



"I'm so lucky. My teaching and artistic careers blend beautifully, and one enriches the other."

Finding Her Voice



An "arts-meets-activism initiative," The Girl Project, a non-profit founded in Lexington, has completed its second year. **Madison Plucknett '15** participated in 2014, along with 18 other high school girls from central Kentucky. Over a nine-month period, the young women worked with renowned guest artists to explore the concepts of feminism and self-esteem through writing, movement, performance and dance.

According to Madison, the experience was transformative. "The Girl Project is a safe space to voice your opinions and tell your stories. It made me look at people as people. That is to say, I now realize that everybody has a story. The amount of make-up a girl's wearing or how someone walks no longer has any bearing on how I feel about him/her as a person. Sometimes, people's stories are a lot more deep and interesting than the surface can communicate."

Sayre counselor **Blythe Jamieson** and Lower School art teacher **Georgia Henkel** serve on the Volunteer Board for The Girl Project and participate in the process. Georgia values the project from several vantage points: "As a mother of four daughters, I understand how necessary it is to encourage girls to develop intrinsic confidence while navigating the world of media stereotypes."

The Girl Project aligns with Sayre School's emphasis on the development of life skills and the integration of academic disciplines with the arts. Through personal expression and reflection, writing and re-writing, collaborative creation and intensive rehearsal, the 2014 project, performed in August, represented the girls' individual voices and collective sisterhood.

Cultivating the Future

Practicing Environmental Sustainability

For nearly a decade, Sayre School's Green Council, founded by environmental science teacher **Debbie Wheeler**, has promoted sustainable practices across campus. Contributing to our understanding of environmental principles are some of the most visually appealing places on campus that delight the eye, and sometimes the taste buds, in our various gardens.

The first named garden on campus, Vi's Garden, predates any formal green initiative at Sayre. Named in memory of **Vi Combs '70**, Vi's Garden was established in the space between the Library and Old Sayre. Site of the Head of School Tea, the Graduation Reception, and Fall Festival bake sales, Vi's Garden has welcomed many guests over the years. Meticulously tended by **Luanne Elswick** of the Buildings and Grounds team, the garden features bright colors and hues of green that greet visitors in almost every season; even winter snow adds an artful touch. Limestone benches, made of the original steps from the North Wing of Old Sayre, invite community members to sit for contemplation or conversation.



More recent additions to the Sayre landscape are the Lower School garden, bordering Pleasant Stone Street, and two rain gardens. Proceeds from the school's annual Recycle Bowl, grants funded to the Green Council, and generous donations have provided the seed money (pun intended!) to establish these green "islands" in our urban landscape. They provide opportunities for scientific exploration, produce vegetables and herbs to supplement other locally-sourced food used by **Bill Barnes** in the Buttery, and control rain run-off. The Lower School garden often sparkles with the chatter of children digging in the dirt or marveling at the miracle of growth. In this living laboratory, the Middle School Green Team has partnered with students from Sayre's Montessori class and fifth grade to learn what types of food can be composted to recycle as a natural nutrient source for the garden. Students and faculty in every division compost their food waste to contribute to the endeavor.



Between the Lower School and the Little Red Schoolhouse, the rain garden features student-decorated rain barrels that illustrate the importance of conserving and recycling water. Rachel's Garden, near the Upper School, was named in honor of biology teacher **Rachel Holsinger**. In that garden, native plants control run-off and overlay an old cistern behind the Parker House. Cisterns historically captured rainwater for recycling, so water conservation and management have been occurring at this location for well over a century. Like their neighbor by the Library, the garden's wooden deck and bench invite visitors to enjoy a quiet moment.



The school's investment in sustainability and the landscape extends far into the future. The artist's rendering for the future Lower School features a roof garden, bringing new purpose in an outdoor classroom situated to absorb rainwater and insulate the building. At the Sayre Athletic Complex (SAC), acreage unsuitable for playing fields may provide Sayre's next ground for cultivation. In a few years, imagine enjoying the Fall Festival at the SAC, before the backdrop of an apple orchard and a field of pumpkins!



From preschool through graduation, Sayre students and community members care for and tend our place in the world. As long as preschool students plant seeds in the garden and rake leaves in the Front Circle and Upper School environmental science students make their annual trek to study ecosystems at Tremont, sustainable practices will remain essential to the fabric of life at Sayre, strong enough to help the school thrive in its urban location for another 160 years.

Upper School Science Students Join University Research Teams

Some Sayre Upper School students have taken their learning to the next level with firsthand experience in science and medical research labs. In the past year, several of our budding Upper School scientists were invited to work with research teams in University of Kentucky labs. **Elizabeth Schwarcz '15** studied the SmnE33 genetic mutation that causes spinal muscular atrophy in fruit flies, *Drosophila melanogaster*. **Clara deCastro '16** investigated synaptic transmission in fruit fly larvae. Elizabeth and Clara both worked with Dr. Robin Cooper, a recipient of the prestigious Kentucky Academy of Science Award and recognized for his dedication to outreach efforts in K-12 schools.



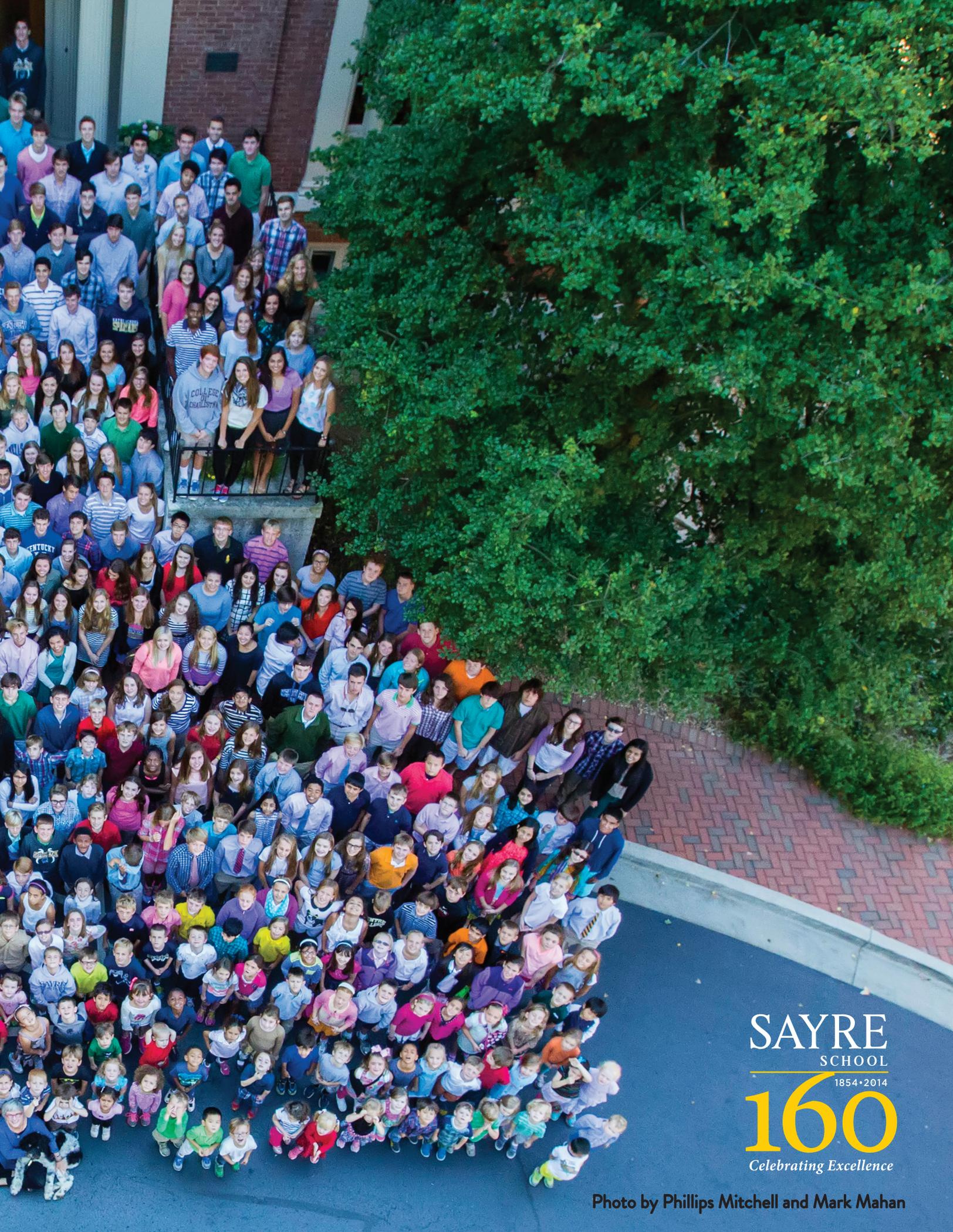
Sana Aslam '16 worked with Dr. Ann Morris on research funded by the National Institutes of Health. "Everyone in my lab has been impressed with Sana's enthusiasm, focus, and her grasp of the scientific principles underlying our research," said Dr. Morris. "Sana is making great progress on her project which I believe has the potential to contribute important new data for our field. I look forward to continuing our work with her, and I think we should all be very proud of her accomplishments." In addition, **Forrest Courtney '15**, **Rollie Mills '16**, and **Will Kimmerer '16** also pursued research projects in university labs.

In association with physicians at the University of Kentucky Markey Cancer Center, **Anjali Shankar '17** conducted a research study about eosinophilic esophagitis in rural southern Kentucky. For her work she was honored with an American Gastroenterology Association Eli & Edythe Broad Student Research Fellowship, accompanied by a grant of \$2,500.



*Building Excellence
Shaping Generations*





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Celebrating Excellence

Photo by Phillips Mitchell and Mark Mahan

Sayre Alumni Take to Independent Filmmaking



Car Dogs with Adam Collis '86, Josh Hopkins '89 and James Miller '85

Although *Car Dogs* was filmed in Arizona, many of its roots are in Kentucky. Producer-Director Adam Collis grew up in Lexington. He attended The Lexington School for his elementary education and then went to Sayre School where he met *Car Dogs* Executive Producers Josh Hopkins, who also stars in the film, and James Miller. Much of the support for *Car Dogs* rests in the Bluegrass state - so much so that Wildcat legend Rex Chapman came to visit the set in Arizona! Make sure to look out for the scene where Rex gets a shout out from George Lopez. On October 16, Collis and Miller co-hosted a preview party for the film at the Kentucky Theater and lingered after the screening for a question and answer session related to the making of the movie, which features - in addition to Josh Hopkins - George Lopez, Octavia Spencer, Nia Vardalos and Patrick J. Adams. The story highlights the relationship between a callous yet savvy car dealership owner and his son. At the film's heart lies the question: does one do whatever it takes to get what one wants? A conversation with Adam Collis follows...

Why this movie? How did this project come together? What compelled you to want to be a part of it?

The *Car Dogs* journey began in 2005 when I taught the first film class of my teaching career in Los Angeles. It was there that I met the writer Mark King. Mark grew up on a car dealership in Arizona and had written a short film about his life on a car dealership.



Adam Collis '86, George Lopez

I encouraged Mark to expand it into a feature-length script, introducing him to producers around town and also to a great young actor named Josh Hopkins. Josh recognized the great writing and quickly became a *Car Dogs* advocate.

The script was well received and passed around Hollywood with well-known actors and directors attached to it. As is often the case in Hollywood, those opportunities never ended up materializing.

Eight years later, I was creating a program at Arizona State University to give my students a chance to learn filmmaking by working side by side with exceptional Hollywood professionals - a rare and important opportunity for film students. I remembered Mark's script with its compelling father-son drama and its fun look behind the curtain into the backrooms of the car dealership world. Furthermore, with its single location and single day time-frame, *Car Dogs* was a script that would be perfect for a low budget film production.

Interestingly, you are the product of an independent school education and you have been compelled to be a part of independent filmmaking. What does the layman/novice need to know about the importance of independent filmmaking in America, or for that matter the world, today?

The choice to think independently is something that feels instinctual to me. I'm sure that instinct was cultivated in the independent schools I went to like Sayre. We were taught to "think for ourselves." Thinking "outside the box" was a norm. It is this type of approach that leads to innovation, new business models and better value delivery across industry and culture.

Unique, original films that are culturally impactful are in real threat of dying off unless independent filmmakers can find new business models that will support and sustain the creation of such films.

The vast majority of films the studios are making are sequels or they are based on “pre-branded” content. More often than not, these films are made for teen audiences. And there is not a single thing wrong with this; it is an understandable business strategy. I like the *Batman* films as much as any teenager out there.

What this means for lovers of great cinema, though, is that the pipeline that carries the movies from Hollywood to your local Lexington theater are filled with a very narrow type of movie - ones certainly not designed to be sophisticated or for a discerning audience.

At the heart of the film lies the moral question: “Does one do whatever it takes to get what one wants?” Where do you stand on the question?

This is something I feel very strongly about. One of the great principles I was taught by Sayre was this idea of independent thinking. Another was the idea that freedom requires responsibility. As the holder of an MBA, I am a devout fan of free markets and fair competition. But when the pursuit of profits drives us to the point of giving up what is most important in life – the sanctity of our families, the preciousness of our friendships – then something has gone awry. Yet, I can testify from personal experience that this is a very difficult balance to hold. The pressures are intense to make a living, even more intense to thrive in abundance. *Car Dogs* examines those challenges, and I hope people will relate to those themes.



Josh Hopkins '89, Rex Chapman,
James Miller '85

What was the first car you bought and how much did you buy it for?

I bought my first car just after graduating from film school at the University of Southern California. I had just been hired to direct my first feature film for 20th Century Fox. Thankfully, I had a dear and knowledgeable friend with me, Scott Derrickson (who is about to direct *Dr. Strange* for Marvel and Disney). Scott grew up on a car lot, so he made sure I understood all the tricks and ploys. I got a blue Subaru Outback for an excellent price!

What does your Sayre experience mean to you?

I have very fond memories of my Sayre experience. I had gone to boarding school for my first two years of high school, which was challenging and a bit frightening. Sayre felt challenging but welcoming. I was comfortable enough to start coming out of my skin. I remember giving goofy theatrical announcements at the Buttery during lunch and doing the announcing for Varsity basketball games. Though many don't believe it, my campaign for senior class president was, in fact, a performance art piece. (I lost to a better man in Sam Kincaid.) In fact, my first theatrical experience was performing the *Chapel of Love* with David Kotchen. Sayre was very meaningful to me in this way. Without that balance of comfort and challenge, as well as the support and freedom to pursue these sorts of things, I doubt I would be a filmmaker today.

Your journey has taken you far from Central Kentucky. What vestiges of it remain in the person you are today?

It's hard to describe what it means to me to be from the Bluegrass – it means SO MUCH to me. This is particularly true given that I now live in Los Angeles. A couple of years ago, I went to a UCLA basketball game. I thought to myself, “These people have no idea.”

But it's not just how they relate to basketball. It's about the larger sense of community which is so strong in Lexington. That sense of welcome I felt at Sayre permeates the Bluegrass.

I grew up next to Henry Clay's home. That was like living in a fairy tale but one that had the home spun nature of a Mark Twain novel. It feels like, on a certain level, everyone in Lexington appreciates this magical but completely real quality that the Bluegrass has, even if it's a subtle and, perhaps, a barely conscious appreciation. I think it's why everyone is so nice in Lexington.

Global Learning at Sayre

Inspiring Students to be Globally Connected

Last year, Sayre's Upper School introduced a Global Studies Initiative to encourage students to pursue their interest in world cultures by offering multiple opportunities to engage themselves academically, socially and culturally. This program extends the curricular experiences already taking place in our Lower and Middle Schools. Our Global Studies mission is to challenge students to engage in a multi-cultural perspective, while developing their intellectual curiosity and critical thinking skills, their proficiency in world languages, and their ability to grapple with cultural, historical, political and ecological global issues. Ultimately, we want to inspire students to be globally responsive to the challenges and pleasures of living in an interconnected world, starting in our Lower School and proceeding continuously throughout the divisions.

In the **LOWER SCHOOL**, the fourth grade class recently explored Greek culture and myths without leaving their classroom. After researching the endless number of myths, students presented a dramatic re-creation of gods and goddesses and reading an and art at a Lower School program.

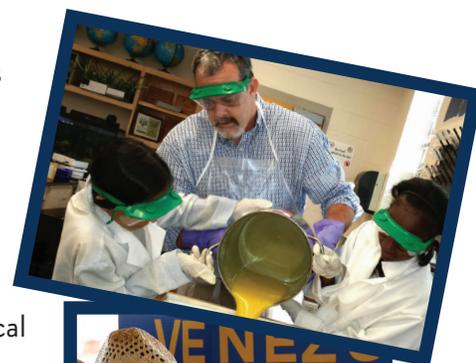


of Greek mythology, fourth graders *Odyssey*, discussing themes of hope, defining the qualities of a hero. After and personal, that extended Odysseus'

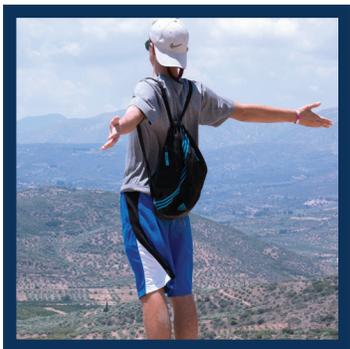
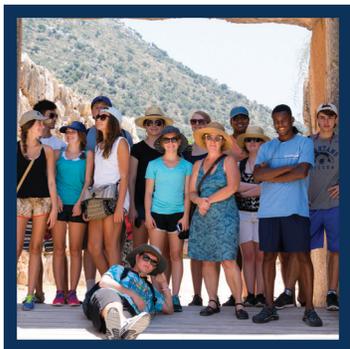
physically recreated his ten-year odyssey on an eight-foot board composed of salt clay. In pairs, students created each obstacle out of found objects, clay, felt and other materials, and then, using string, mapped his journey home. Additionally, students designed a flip chart of written pieces, documenting each station and detailing Odysseus' hardships. Through this hands-on, project based unit, students were able to explore the ancient world of Greece and Troy, and revel in a hero's adventure home.

grade class recently explored Greek their classroom. After researching the endless number of myths, students **Mount Olympus** through poetry, music, Not wanting to leave the magical world read Mary Pope Osborne's *Tales of the* perseverance and courage, while also recounting the obstacles, both physical journey home from Troy, students

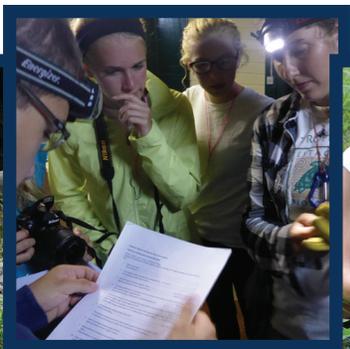
In the **MIDDLE SCHOOL**, students experience Global Studies through multiple perspectives. In sixth grade, the integrated English and social studies curriculum has the theme of **"World Cultures and Geography."** This class examines regions of the world through a geographer's lens while also including a literary element. Students read Michael Morpurgo's novel *Kensuke's Kingdom* about a young boy, Michael, whose family launches a trip around the world and is then lost at sea. He washes up on an island with a Japanese man who has lived through the devastation of World War II. By following Michael's personal journey, sixth graders learn the physical geography of Europe, Africa, and Asia. They also gain a multicultural perspective of World War II, as they read about the different ways in which the characters interpret those historical events. Throughout their reading, students are plotting points on a large-scale map of the world that they draw themselves. Their finished products are truly works of art. Middle School is also the time when students, having taken World Languages beginning in preschool, begin their dedicated study of one language. With French or Spanish as a full element of the curriculum beginning in sixth grade, Sayre students experience the importance of a global perspective through language.



In the **UPPER SCHOOL**, students have opportunities to augment their curricular studies with travel abroad. Just this past summer, twenty-three Sayre students and four Upper School teachers spent part of their summer immersed in different cultures in two dramatically different locales. **Bettina Morrish** and **George Bebensee** took thirteen students to **Greece** as a culminating activity related to their one semester Global Studies elective entitled “In Focus: It’s All Greek to Me.” The two-week trip included visits to some of the most important locations in Greek history and literature including Athens, Mycenae, Corinth, Mt. Parnassus, Olympia, Delphi, and Thermopylae, as well as the islands of Mykonos and Delos. Along with visiting Agamemnon’s home, the Temple of Apollo, the site of the original Olympic Games, the Oracle of Apollo, the Temple of Zeus and many other historical wonders, students were also able to swim in the Aegean, dine in *tavernas* and explore some of the unique villages and towns of Greece. As they traveled, students drew on the literature and history of Ancient Greece they had studied in ninth grade and in their elective class, bringing history to life on location.



Across the globe, science teachers **Debbie Wheeler** and **Rachel Holsinger** traveled with ten students to the Caribbean island of **Dominica** to participate in a hands-on, active research program through Operation Wallacea, an organization that runs a series of biological and conservation management research programs in remote locations across the world. Their mission is to identify areas needing protection, and then design conservation management programs specifically for that locale. The scientists involved live on site and invite students to participate in their research. As part of the Dominica research project, our students participated in a wide range of activities from capturing lizards as part of a longitudinal study to see if a native species can coexist with an invasive one, to working with a scientist cataloging different species of spiders on the island, to birding, snorkeling and stream ecology. Evening lectures by different scientists led to hands-on experiences the next day, whether it was in the swamp, a mangrove forest, or out on the beaches or coral reefs. These Sayre science students learned what field research was all about, while experiencing island living and Caribbean culture.



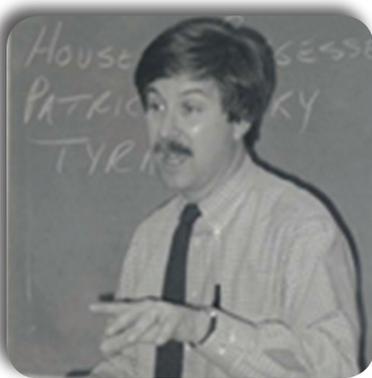
Global Studies is one of many strands that runs through the diverse curriculum in our preschool through grade twelve program of studies where students experience first hand the content and concepts learned in the classroom.

Cover photo: Students observing flight paths of birds to determine the different species on the island of Dominica through Operation Wallacea.

F. Kevin Simon History Symposium

Celebrating Thirty Years

The Legacy of a Much Beloved Teacher



F. Kevin Simon, Captain Freddie or F. Kev to his students, was a gifted history scholar, master teacher, and dedicated professional. From 1984 until his untimely death in 2002 – with a brief break during which he served as Director of Educational Programs for the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, New York – Kevin Simon taught United States History in what was called the “Temple of History” (a.k.a. his Upper School classroom). Possessed of a brilliant intellect, clever wit, and passionate enthusiasm for his subject, Kevin Simon inspired a generation of Sayre students. A story shared by his wife Kathy confirmed what everyone had long suspected about Kevin’s immersion in history: he had been known to don a tri-corner hat and dance around the house with their young

daughter **Claire ’11** (currently in her senior year at Harvard), singing songs featuring the presidents and even the United States Constitution. As devoted as he was to the teaching of history and to the art of bringing it alive for his students, his devotion to the subject extended well beyond the classroom. He participated in, directed, and created numerous professional programs for his fellow teachers of history. Chief among them is the annual symposium which he created thirty years ago and that now bears his name.

In 1985, inspired by the distinguished historian C. Vann Woodward, who described the summoning of the past into the present as the challenge of history, Kevin Simon created the David A. Sayre History Symposium. Over the course of the past thirty years the symposium has offered secondary school history teachers the rare opportunity to meet with nationally acclaimed historians. Each year Kevin gathered fifty or so high school teachers on campus to hear four nationally renowned scholars speak on a selected topic, and more importantly to interact with each other on a personal level. Since its beginning, the program has received national attention and has been recognized by the United States Department of Education as a model for collaborative projects. More than 150 scholars and experts in their field and over 1,500 teachers from all over Kentucky, seven other states, and even Canada, have engaged in discourse on a wide range of subjects from “High Court Kentuckians: the United States Supreme Court and the Bluegrass State” to “Reel History: Film and the Past.”

On the occasion of the symposium’s tenth anniversary, Kevin was asked to write about its meaning. He wrote of its importance to those who attended; it was one small way in which Sayre could contribute to impacting education in Kentucky by exposing teachers to ongoing learning opportunities. But in the words that follow he found the touchstone: “The lasting beneficiaries are the thousands of students in Kentucky and beyond whose understanding of American history has been enlarged through teacher participation in the symposium.”

In recognition of the significance of its founder, Sayre School renamed the History Symposium in honor of F. Kevin Simon. Kevin is still touching the lives of students through the good work of the Symposium Committee, which includes his wife Kathy and Sayre History Department Chair **Bettina Morrish**. The Committee is pleased to announce the 2015 topic, “The Big 80’s: American Political and Popular Culture in the Age of Reagan.”





Athletics has always been an important part of the student experience at Sayre, and recent years are no exception. In the last five years, the school has produced three state champions in Track and three in Cross Country. In girls Tennis, **Madeline Rolph '14** won the individual state title in 2013 and the girls team advanced to the state semifinals in 2014. Since 2011, 18 student athletes have gone on to play at the collegiate level, seven in NCAA Division I schools. We recently added a volleyball program for girls in the Upper School and have extended our reach into the Lower School with various programs to capture interest and develop skills from a young age. Last year, over 70% of Upper School students played at least one sport. Anyone who walks into the gym can see evidence of our rich athletic history, including eight All-Americans. The banners that line the gym walls, trophies in the case and pictures along the hallways remind us of those who came before and shaped the school's athletic tradition.

To all of you who have helped to build our rich athletic foundation, thank you! Many supporters continue to contribute either as fans or in even more tangible ways through generous contributions that have helped propel Sayre athletics forward. Two recent projects include a major renovation to the C.V. Whitney Gymnasium and the development of our 60 acre state-of-the-art Sayre Athletic Complex (SAC) which is quickly maturing into one of the best facilities in the Bluegrass. Those projects are but two of the many examples of support that our treasured alumni have helped make possible. We are constantly looking for ways to enhance our programs and facilities and hope to add a much needed second gym on campus as part of the recently unveiled Campus Master Plan.

While all the growth and enhancements are critical to our future, it is our mission and core values that guide us and will always set us apart. We remain mindful that developing sportsmanship, character and strong values is at the heart of the Sayre Spartan experience and defines what we do here every day. We will continue to uphold our traditions, stay true to our goals, and remain forever Spartans.

Spartans Advance to the All-A State Tournament

Led by **Gabby Bowie's '15** triple double (14 points, 11 rebounds and 15 blocked shots), Sayre School captured its first girls' All-A Regional Championship, defeating Frankfort 40-36. The Lady Spartans advanced to the All A State Tournament in Frankfort, where they met 14th Region Champion Leslie County in a first-round match on January 29, 2014 in Frankfort's Convention Center. The team fought valiantly but fell short 46-48 finishing the season with a final record of 18 and 7.



Coach Sutton Retires as Sayre Baseball Coach



After 16 years and nearly 250 victories, **Coach Scott Sutton** has retired from coaching Sayre baseball. Coach Sutton made the decision to retire so he could watch his son Sam play high school baseball in Scott County. "I still have the fire to coach baseball, and I'll miss it greatly, but as Sam's dad, I only have one chance to experience his high school baseball career," said Coach Sutton.

"His love and passion for coaching has driven young athletes to compete at a high level and play a sport they love with respect and dignity," says Athletic Director Erik Johnson. Coach Sutton currently teaches Lower and Middle School physical education classes and is the head coach for the Varsity Girls Basketball.

The Sayre Annual Fund

The 2014-2015 school year marks the 160th anniversary of the founding of Sayre School. To celebrate the occasion, David A. Sayre returned to solicit for contributions to the Sayre Annual Fund – the most important fundraising effort of the year. The funds raised are used to cover the gap between the actual cost of tuition and educating a student. It enables Sayre to make strategic purchases that benefit the school as a whole, provide professional development opportunities for the faculty and staff, and furnish financial assistance to families for their student's education.

The response to this year's campaign has been so successful that 82% of Sayre parents have participated thus far. Thanks to Mr. Sayre's letters and emails, along with generous challenge matches from anonymous donors, the school has raised \$223,000 so far toward our goal of \$365,000. We anticipate achieving our ultimate goal by the close of the fiscal year at the end of June 2015.

Supporting Sayre School with annual contributions dates back to the 1800s when the school was known as the Sayre Female Institute. Even then the school's trustees struggled to keep tuition and boarding costs low while providing scholarships and an impressive array of classes. Parents, businessmen, and civic leaders were often solicited for support. In 1907, the Chairman of Sayre's Board of Trustees, W. J. Loughbridge, wrote the following solicitation to well-known philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie:

“(Sayre Female Institute) has done splendid work during its half-century of existence for the higher education of women in this section and for many women from other parts of the South. And if adequately assisted in its present need, there is no reason why this work shall not go on. Sayre Institute was one of the earliest institutions for the higher education of women ever established in the South, and it is known and honored throughout Kentucky and the South for thoroughness, excellence and high character of its training. Its prestige is unsurpassed by that of any girls' school of equal grade in this part of the country and we make this claim, not in any spirit of idle boasting, but in justice to the institution and as a simple matter of fact.”

Mr. Carnegie agreed to support Sayre Female Institute but only if his gift was matched by donations from the Board of Trustees, parents and other Lexingtonians. Like recent annual fund challenges, his gift was successfully matched, providing much-needed support that helped the school achieve the success it enjoys today.



Bequest Merits A Special Thank You

Although **Margaret Fogg Stadelman** attended Sayre School for only a few years in the 1930s, her generosity will live on here. A native Lexingtonian, and a bit of a rebel, Mrs. Stadelman discovered an outlet for her soul in music at Sayre. She passed her creativity and love of music to her children, **Gail**, who attended Sayre for several years and **Bob**, Class of 1973. Mrs. Stadelman's bequest will be used to purchase percussion instruments for the Lower School, portable sound systems for performances in the Middle and Upper Schools, and a digital drum and electric bass with accompanying amps and cases.

Since Sayre's founding, music has always been an integral part of the curriculum at Sayre School. Margaret Stadelman's bequest will continue that tradition by providing opportunities for students of all ages to explore their love of music. Through rhythm and sound, her gift will allow students to express themselves with freedom and exuberance.



Sayre Summer Sabbatical

Thanks to the Summer Sabbatical Endowment Fund, two faculty members immersed themselves in enriching experiences.

Nance Everts, Upper School Spanish teacher, participated in an Earthwatch Institute in Costa Rica. Her experience combined immersion in the Spanish-speaking culture of Costa Rica with in-depth scientific field studies. Nance communicated the following: “Thanks again for supporting me on this summer sabbatical. It exceeded my expectations for professional development. I enjoyed once-in-a-lifetime experiences, including lunch in the rainforest watching howler monkeys leap from tree to tree in the distance. I also learned more about conservation, field research, history and geography, as well as the particulars of Costa Rican Spanish, and will be able to use these experiences in the classroom. It was a physically demanding trip, but professionally invaluable, and I greatly appreciate your support. Pura vida (just great!)!”



Photo by Steve Gorman



Anne Allen, fifth grade and Middle School Visual Arts teacher, successfully completed “Connecting Collections: Integrating Modern and Contemporary Art into the Classroom,” presented by The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. The theme, “Investigating Art through Guided and Open-Ended Questions,” was explored in over 30 instructional hours, as art teachers participated in a dynamic learning experience in a different museum each day of the week. Of great practical benefit was a keynote address by author Laurel Schmidt, educator, writer, lecturer, and author of *Classroom Confidential: 12 Secrets of Great Teachers*. Finally, each participating educator presented a lesson plan at the “Share Fair” which celebrated the results of this unique opportunity. After the beginning of the school year, Anne reported: “I’m applying new strategies, implementing a curriculum that includes modern and contemporary art, and exploring the online resources provided by the museums in the Connecting Collections program. This program of studies is the best professional development I’ve ever experienced!”

The Podium is a magazine published by Sayre School. Contributors include: Linda Barnes ('75), George Bebenese, Brad Becker, Rachel Holsinger, Leslie Isaacs ('69), Dawn Jenkins Klus, Stephen Manella, Barb Milosch, Phillips Mitchell, Timothy O'Rourke, Rudy Schmidt, Kristin Seymour, Woody Snowden, and Shannon Stollings.

Sayre Alumni Events

Golf Scramble 2014

Twenty-five teams participated in the Thomas A. Grunwald Golf Scramble hosted on Monday, October 13, at Spring Valley Country Club. The annual event provided alumni, current parents and friends with the chance to enjoy a great day of golf while raising funds to benefit Sayre School. A big thank you to **Rob Goodman '89**, the committee members, and sponsors!



Rob Goodman '89, Evan Seagraves, Jerry Coy, Rus Whalen



Chris LeMaster '00



Emily England, Jennifer Palumbo, Stacy Robertson, Kit Rutherford

Alumni Events Hosted on the Road

Alumni events in Louisville and Los Angeles were held this fall. **Sally Wiley McConnell '75** hosted a get-together in Louisville where several graduates attended, including our oldest alumna, **Loretta Gilliam Clark '35**.



Kathy Ross Arterberry '75, Linda Talbott Barnes '75, Sally Wiley McConnell '75, Stephen Manella



Loretta Gilliam Clark '35, Ellie Blackey Davis '00, Beth Blackey '05

Can you find David A. Sayre?

An event in Los Angeles, hosted by **Josh Hopkins '89**, was equally well attended. While in Los Angeles, Head of School **Stephen Manella** and Director of Development **Linda Talbott Barnes '75** met with several graduates, most of whom work in the entertainment industry.



Stephen Manella, Michael Zaracostas '87, Adam Collis '86, Linda Barnes '75, Cynthia Loy Darst '75, Josh Hopkins '89, Travis Jones '98, Bill Meadows '87, Rob Goodman '89, Brentley Jones '95, Aaron Lee '88, Lauren Albert '09

Alumni Reunion 2014

On October 17, Sayre celebrated its Alumni with special recognition of the following classes: 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2009. For those of you who were unable to come, please know that you were missed.



Jay Atkins '89, Traci Atkins, Rob Goodman '89



Woody Snowden, Langdon Shoop '93,
President of the Alumni Association



Larmon Cowles '99, Brandon Faulkner,
Kelli Haydon Faulkner '99, Kiersten Rial Hartlage '99,
Matthew Hartlage



Taylor Ward '81, Whitney Neuman Ward,
Adam Collis '86



Tom Stephens '94, Chris Darmand '94



Helen Zaracostas Wong '82, Jennifer Stephenson McLamb '82,
Becky Ballard DiLoreto '77



Leslie Parrish Isaacs '69,
Janet Ross Ockers '70, Coos Ockers



Mary Otis, Jonathan Otis '82



Jenny Barton Lusby '84, Karen Crawford '84,
Amy Gamble Schwab '84



Evan Jones, Molly Haggerty Jones '94



Adam Collis '86, Richard Conrad '89,
Peyton Tierney '89, Rob Goodman '89



Tom Stephens '94, John Ghoelian,
Jane Lyle Hord Ghoelian '04

Sayre Alumni Class Notes

Class of 1935

Mrs. Loretta Gilliam Clark '35 was in attendance at the Louisville alumni event held at Sally Wiley McConnell's '75 home in late September. She had delightful stories to tell about Sayre. One fond memory was of sitting on the balcony of the dormitory watching the Maypole dances in the Front Circle. Mrs. Clark is the youngest person ever to graduate from Sayre, achieving that goal at the age of 15.



Class of 1967

John Tipton '67 writes, "I am living in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India and in Delhi and am a designer for furniture and decorative accessories. I have been lucky enough to have lived all over the world, always involved in the arts and design, be it with Tiffany and Co. in New York City, or my own businesses. I have three sons and one grandson. My oldest, John, is an eight time Emmy Award winning photographer; Beau, my middle son, is a screenplay writer and editor; my youngest son is 12 and my grandson is 11. If anyone is coming to India, please know you have a standing invite for dinner with my wife, Seema, and me. I owe Sayre more than words can express. Donn Hollingsworth was a wonderful mentor as were Tom Grunwald and Amos Lawrence. I have many, many fond memories and many of the friends I made have stayed close for over 50 years. Best regards to all my old classmates. Always forever somewhere your friend, John"

Class of 1970

Lillian Webb Parr '70 writes, "All is well in South Carolina. Our son graduated from High Point University in business last spring and our daughter is a junior at Brown concentrating in East Asian studies. We just returned from China and Japan and would have enjoyed her language skills in some of the smaller villages! My best to everyone at Sayre."

Class of 1973

Keith Knapp '73 writes, "I was recently elected Chair of the National Association of Long Term Care Administrator Boards for 2014-16."

Mary Midkiff '73 writes, "I received a Thoroughbred race trainer's license this past summer. Currently, I am training from High Point Training Center and Paramont Farms in Prospect, Kentucky."



Sarah Hackett Norkus '73 writes, "I am enjoying a career as a published author. My teachers at Sayre enjoyed the stories I wrote for class projects, but writing as a career never crossed my mind in my younger years. I didn't start writing until I was forty-eight. God bless editors. Mrs. Hopkins would shake her head in despair over my grammar. I couldn't tell the difference between an adverb and an adjective. The titles of my books are: *The Secret Diary of Sarah Chamberlain*, *The Eleventh Summer*, and *Until the Wind Changes*. *The Treasure of the Battersea Bluffs* will be out in December 2014."

Class of 1975

Linda Talbot Barnes '75 was hired on May 19, 2014 as Sayre's new Director of Development. Most recently, Linda served as the Director of Advancement for the Christian Appalachian Project. Her past roles have included Director of Philanthropy for the Kentucky Blood Center, Director of Development of the University of Kentucky College of Law, and Director of Development and Alumni Affairs for the University of Kentucky College of Design.

Sally Wiley McConnell '75 hosted a Sayre alumni cocktail party at her beautiful home in Louisville on September 25th. Those in attendance were: Kathy Ross Arterberry '75, Linda Talbott Barnes '75, Mrs. Loretta Brock Clark '35, Beth Blackey '05, Ellie Blackey Davis '00, Leslie Parrish Isaacs '69, Katherine Johnson '85, Head of School Stephen Manella, and Mrs. Emily Williams '43. Thank you, Sally!

Class of 1977

Becky Ballard DiLoreto '77 writes, " I am the mother of three and am currently the Policy Director for Children's Law Center in Lexington."

Cary Tsamas '77 writes, "After coaching at Sayre for eleven years and Berea College for nine, I have started a soccer school this past summer - www.theartofsoccer.org! The purpose of the school is to not only develop technically sound players - something sorely lacking across all levels (youth, high school, college) but also life skills, such as building confidence through hard work, setting goals, overcoming obstacles and working as part of team."



Class of 1979

Ms. Molly Davis '79 was appointed Director of the Arboretum, the Kentucky State Botanical Garden, on January 1, 2014. A Lexington native, Molly earned a degree in Landscape Architecture from UK in 1987. She served as both a research assistant and adjunct faculty in Landscape Architecture at UK. Molly is the third director in the arboretum's 23-year history.

Melanie Traynor '79 writes that she is enjoying being divorced and traveling.

Class of 1981

John Lackey '81 writes, "Please take a moment to check out my new movie and the Indiegogo campaign to turn it into a full-length narrative film. Please share this and check out the great and unique perks you receive for helping."

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/he-great-miss-fortune-a-film-by-john-lackey/x/8668402>



Class of 1985

Will Arvin '85 and his business partner, Wes Murry, recently bought the Old Taylor Distillery in Woodford County. Will and Wes formed a company called Peristyle and plan to invest \$6.2 million to restore the 83-acre property. The complex of warehouses and other buildings has been abandoned since 1972 when a drop in demand for bourbon led to the closing of the distillery. They bought the property and plan to restore it in phases. Plans are in the works to open it to the public in some fashion by next summer.

Class of 1991

Cole Arimes '91 and his wife, Susan Offutt Arimes '95 are the proud parents of a baby girl, Caroline Hurst Arimes, born on January 9, 2014. Caroline weighed 6 lbs. 14 oz. and was 20 inches long. The family resides in Lexington.

Adam White '91 is the new Program Manager for Manufacturing and Science Technology at Genzyme. Genzyme is a biotechnology company located in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Class of 1993

Ms. Heron Hollingsworth '93 and Mr. Matthew Presson were married on January 11, 2014 at the Bell House in Lexington, Kentucky. Serving as the Maid of Honor was her sister, Taylor Hollingsworth '98. Heron's cousin, Rachel Hollingsworth '08, sang at the wedding. Both of Heron's parents, Ms. Anne Wheeler Hollingsworth '68 and Mr. Bryan Hollingsworth '70, are Sayre alumni. The couple resides in Lexington.

Class of 1994

Taite Bergin Pauley '94 writes, "My husband, Jonathon, and I celebrated the birth of our son, Thomas Emerson, in October, 2013."

Class of 1999

Larmon Cowles '99 writes, "My wife Cristina Ventura and I were married December 10, 2012. On February 16, 2014, we celebrated the birth of our son, Levy Ventura Cowles."

Class of 2000

David Frommer '00 writes, "Carla and I just celebrated our son Aaron's first birthday on October 24. Aaron is looking forward to carrying on his father's tradition of attending Sayre from out-of-state when he turns fifteen. In other news, I was excited to recently spend time with Harding Dowell '01 and Ben Bodell '01 in Sonoma. If any other Sayre alums are in the Bay Area, feel free to get in touch!"

Katie McKemie Lillethun '00 and husband Nate are the proud parents of a baby boy, Jude William, born on August 21, 2014. Jude weighed 6 lbs. 7 oz. and was 19 ¾ inches long. Jude is the couple's first child. Katie and Nate reside in Asheville, North Carolina.

Class of 2005

Ms. Margaret Standish Barr '05 and Mr. William Bush Gess IV, '07 were married on March 22, 2014 at Christ by the Sea United Methodist Church in Vero Beach, Florida. Margaret's sister, Ms. Martha VanDeren Barr '12 served as her maid of honor and Mr. Benjamin Alexander Gess '05 served as his brother's best man. Ms. Anne Lawrence Gess Smith '03, sister of the groom, read scripture during the service.

Class of 2007

Caroline Dowell '07 writes, "I am marrying Michael P. Thompson Jr. of Charleston, West Virginia on December 20, 2014 in Lexington. We will reside in Atlanta, Georgia."

Class of 2009

Stanley Sievers '09 writes, "I toured in a band called Dead Icons full time for four years and we put out a record on an Indie label. After that I got into video/film production. I interned with Bullhorn Creative in Lexington while writing and directing short films of my own. My last short film was an official selection of Louisville's International Festival of Film and won an Award of Merit at Indiefest. I now live in Chicago and am taking classes at Second City where people like Tina Fey, Stephen Colbert, Steve Carrel, Chris Farley, Amy Poehler, and many, many others got their start."

Class of 2010

Field Broadbent '10 writes, "I graduated from Centre College last May and was accepted in the Teach for America program. Currently, I teach History and Government at Indianapolis Metropolitan High School in Indianapolis, Indiana."

Class of 2011

Delaney Gibbs '11 writes, "I am living in Cape Cod where I am doing research on beaver dams at the Marine Biological Laboratory."

Thank you to all our alumni who have submitted notes for this magazine. Please continue to submit your news and photos to Leslie Isaacs and Woody Snowden at alumni@sayreschool.org or mail them to the Office of Alumni Affairs, Sayre School, 194 North Limestone Street, Lexington, Kentucky, 40507.

Legacies

Over the past 160 years, students have followed in their parents' footsteps by attending Sayre. Among those in the Class of 2014 were **Ann Frances Backer** and **Harrison Dunn**. Pictured to the right: Harrison Dunn with his father, Michael T. Dunn '87, and Ann Frances Backer with her father, John W. Backer Jr. '83. Ann Frances, a talented vocalist, received the Lexington Singers Award, and Harrison Dunn, following his father and Uncle Patrick's '85 lead, received the C.V. Whitney Cup.



In Memoriam

Jalen "J" Byrd, a junior at Sayre, died tragically on January 19, 2014 in an automobile accident. Jalen was a member of the First Baptist Church Bracktown and played on the Sayre varsity basketball and lacrosse teams. He was a kind person, a talented artist, a good teammate, and a spiritual young man. We will always remember his infectious smile and warm heart. He is survived by his parents, Mr. Leroy Byrd III and Mrs. Wanda Byrd, two brothers, Jeremy and Jarvis Byrd, and his grandparents.

Paul E. Miller died on June 27, 2014. Mr. Miller was a member of the Trustees' Advisory Council for Sayre and was awarded the Sayre Medallion in 1997. He is survived by his wife Judith Keller Sebastian Miller, his daughter Beverly Miller Stuck, his son John Paul Miller Sr., his stepson Wilson Sebastian III, his stepdaughter Emory Keller Sebastian, his brother Dr. John Miller, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

William R. Patterson III died on September 29, 2014. Mr. Patterson attended Sayre and was a member of the class of 1986. As a self-employed photographer, he often gave his time and talent to record Sayre athletic events through his photography. He was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia Paul VanMeter Patterson. He is survived by his father William R. Patterson Jr. of Louisville, his brother Christian VanMeter Patterson, and his sister Lee Patterson Maguire.

Mrs. Margaret Fogg Stadelman, class of 1945, died on June 13, 2014. Mrs. Stadelman's generosity and love of music lives on at Sayre through her bequest. She is survived by her son and daughter, Mr. Robert Stadelman '73 and Ms. Gail Stadelman '75.

Mr. Barney Alden Tucker died November 22, 2013 at the Richland Health Center in Nashville, Tennessee. Mr. Tucker served for many years on the Sayre Board of Trustees and was awarded the Sayre Medallion in 1982. Through Mr. Tucker's vision and generosity, he established one of the early Sayre endowment funds. The Shirley Keplar/Barney Tucker English Award is presented each year to Upper School students. Mr. Tucker was predeceased by his wife Shirley Keplar Tucker, and his younger daughter Alden Tucker Nieboer '80. He is survived by his elder daughter Alice-Anne Tucker Birch of Bethesda, Maryland.

Mr. Elmer Whitaker, former Sayre Board of Trustees member and recipient of the Sayre Medallion in 1988, died on June 8, 2014. Mr. Whitaker is survived by his wife Beverly, son The Reverend Jack Whitaker, daughter Mrs. Tammy Whitaker Adams, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Martha Wilkinson, Trustee Emerita and former First Lady of the Commonwealth, died peacefully on May 7, 2014 with her sons, Wallace Glenn Wilkinson '88 and Andrew Stafford Wilkinson '90 by her side. Mrs. Wilkinson served Sayre with distinction as the first female Board Chair. She received the Sayre Medallion in 1986.

Mr. Wallace Glenn Wilkinson '88 died suddenly on November 20, 2014. Mr. Wilkinson is survived by his brother Andrew Stafford Wilkinson '90.

Mr. William Trent Williams died June 24, 2014. Mr. Williams served as the first Head of the Upper School from 1963-1968 and returned to serve as Headmaster from 1976-1990. During his tenure as Headmaster, Advanced Placement classes were added to the curriculum. He oversaw the construction of the Johnson-McCoy Building and created the Alumni Association. His proudest achievement was the institution of the Upper School Honor System.

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(859) 254-1361
www.sayreschool.org

In Memory of Jalen Byrd '15

Our friend, our teammate and
our classmate.



Jalen's classmates painted "Byrd" houses to hang in the Upper School courtyard.



Henry Wolf '14 created an original metal sculpture for the school in memory of Jalen.