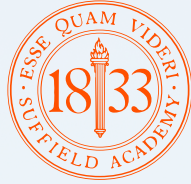


SUFFIELD

2018 ISSUE 2





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SUFFIELD ACADEMY

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This year's opening of the Memorial Building Academic Center marked the completion of Suffield's 2011 campus master plan. We have invested \$80 million in our plant and programs over the past decade, all funded through gifts from alumni, parents, and friends. From this position of strength in the competitive independent school landscape, Suffield has a unique opportunity to reaffirm our values and traditions and help ensure they are carried on for future generations of students. In other words, with our house in good order we can now focus on building our resource base and continuing to partner with families attracted to Suffield's compelling value proposition. Like the school, my work as headmaster is evolving—from leading a dozen major building projects to strengthening Suffield's essence. As this unfolds I have been reflecting on two people who helped me clarify priorities we emphasize here.



“

As we proceed, we will strive to make our priorities more permanent—most especially focusing on meeting each student where they are and genuinely helping them grow as scholars and people.

”

Reddy Finney was a legendary headmaster at Baltimore's Gilman School (my alma mater) from 1968 to 1992. Mr. Finney inspired me during the complicated adolescent years—our area of focus at Suffield. My classmates and I desperately sought Mr. Finney's respect and admiration. He was a great leader with the courage of his convictions. Nothing symbolized this more than steps he took to culturally diversify Gilman during a challenging era in the late 1960s. It was also always clear to us that Mr. Finney believed each student had real talents, but some needed more encouragement and nurturing to bring these to the surface. Mr. Finney often told a story he wanted us to appreciate both literally and metaphorically. It stuck with me. He'd say there are three types of people: the kind that litter, the kind that don't litter but walk right by the garbage, and the kind that don't litter and always pick up trash when they see it. Suffield is intentionally filled with the third kind, people who genuinely care about being positive community members.

George Samenuk P'09,'18 recently passed away, but his zest for life and family and ebullient spirit will forever remain lodged in the Suffield ethos. One of the most generous people I ever met, George would just exclaim “Done” whenever I asked for help with something for Suffield, usually even before I finished asking. I can't recall being with anyone who found such pleasure in supporting others. George kept notes in his phone about everyone he met—names of their children, their favorite sports teams, or whatever he needed to quickly reclaim a personal connection when he next saw them. For me, George reinforced a notion we hope Suffield's philosophy always reflects—that three things in life which really matter are to belong, to be valued, and to be loved.

It is hard to understand the impact of folks like Reddy Finney or George Samenuk without some distance. These types of people help shape values that enhance our world. Now, as we proceed, we will strive to make our priorities more permanent—most especially focusing on meeting each student where they are and genuinely helping them grow as scholars and people. We can do this by continuing to build our endowment, fiercely maintaining valuable traditions that have stood the test of time, and never forgetting the way we treat others is the greatest reflection of who we are. ∞

JACKSON ROBINSON '60 TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Suffield celebrated Jack Robinson's historic service to Suffield at the spring 2018 Board of Trustees meeting. Jack joins Dan Tisch '69, P'02 and John Tremaine '66, P'03 as Emeritus Trustees. Jack has been on Suffield's Board since 1983 and served as Chair of the Investment Committee.

Headmaster Charlie Cahn and fellow trustee George Daniels '71 shared words at a dinner event honoring Jack. George gave an overview of how significantly Suffield has grown and evolved during their time on the Board and how Jack's wisdom and unwavering support have been vitally important in this progress. Charlie Cahn noted, "Jack and Sarah genuinely love Suffield, and Jack's leadership has played an important role in our success. We are so fortunate he will remain closely involved with our school."

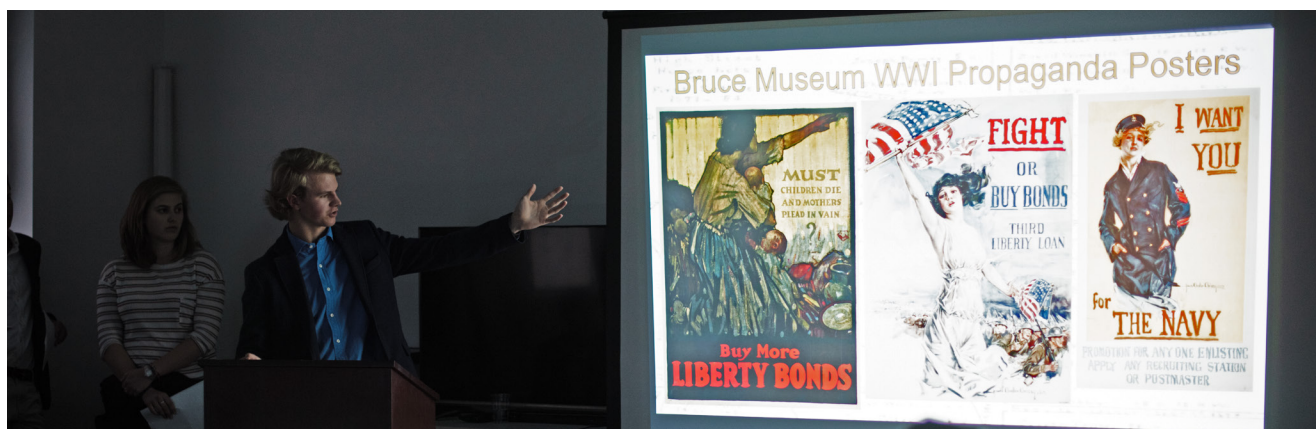
As vice chair and portfolio manager for Trillium Asset Management, Jack has focused exclusively on "green" investing since 1991. Prior to Trillium he served as president and chief investment officer of Winslow Management Company—Winslow is a money management company that combines financial and environmental analysis to select its portfolio investments. In addition, Winslow publishes the *Winslow Environmental News*, a quarterly newsletter focusing on environmentally responsible investing. Prior to founding Winslow, Jack was an officer and director of Garden Way, Inc. and president of the National Gardening Association, both socially responsible companies. Jack is on the advisory board of the American Council on Renewable Energy and is a member of the boards of Jupiter International Green Investment Trust, the Jupiter European Opportunities Trust, and chair of the Board of Spartech, a plastics company listed on the NYSE. Jack played football and participated in the outdoor program at Suffield and graduated from Brown University. Jack and Sarah live in Boston.



Sarah and Jack Robinson '60

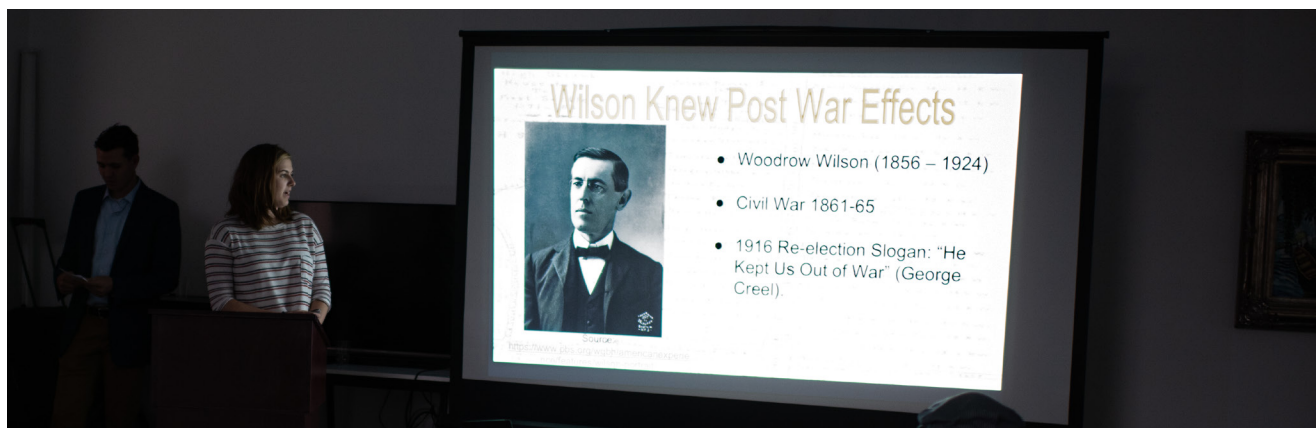


[Left to Right] Headmaster Charlie Cahn, Jeffrey White '65, Andy Chase, Matthew Fine '95, Fred Powers '83, P'14, Christopher Jensen P'07, '09, '11, Jack Robinson '60, Suzy Vogler P'11, Drew Gamere '93, Ali Salehi P'12, Walt Harrison, Kathy Hoffman P'13, James Michel P'12, '17 and Tracy Orr O'Keefe '85



AMERICAN STUDIES

SUFFIELD ACADEMY STUDENTS PRESENT TO THE TOWN OF SUFFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Suffield Academy's American Studies class presented highlights from their 15-week investigation about the history of Suffield's homefront during WWI at the April meeting of the Town of Suffield Historical Society.

The community program was also open to the public, and attendees entered the room hearing popular songs of the era including the 1915 hit "I Didn't Raise My Boy to be a Soldier," and the iconic rally cry "Over There," written by George M. Cohan in 1917 just after our entry into the war.

The class presented over 130 informational slides, many of which were archival materials from Suffield Academy and the Suffield Historical Society. While many in the audience knew a good deal about the evening's topic, several of the seniors wrote in their reflective writing assignments that they "enjoyed presenting to the Historical Society because this was a topic that they were interested in and they were able to learn new things from us." Working together as teammates in a project-based learning environment, the students engaged well with the community audience and most appreciated the question and answer period and further discussions over refreshments.

"I really enjoyed the presentation and getting the chance to be a part of a class that worked so well collectively.

Everything came together, and I can speak for everyone when I say I'm proud of our work." [Dylan Chase '19]



RALPH PARKER

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
SPEAKS TO SUFFIELD

As part of their ongoing study of the Holocaust, students enrolled in European Studies heard from a camp survivor in April.

Born in Berlin in 1920, Ralph Parker is now 98 years old. He experienced the horrors of Hitler's escalating anti-Semitism in Germany throughout the 1930s. He worked as a mechanic and was sent to Auschwitz in 1942. He was then sent to Bua—the same satellite camp which held the famed Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel. Then he was one of many forced into a two-month long death march west through Hungary, Austria, and Czechoslovakia towards Sachsenhausen concentration camp. Upon arrival, the camp was full so they continued their march towards the Baltic Sea with the intent of being put on a boat that would be sent out to sea and sunk. Fortunately, just days before the end of the war he was liberated by the Russians in Schwerin, Germany.

“Ralph was recommended by the Holocaust Education Resource and Outreach Center (HERO), a joint initiative between Voices of Hope and the Maurice Greenberg Center at the University of Hartford. Connecticut Voices of Hope aims to foster a culture of courage and social action against hate, bigotry, intolerance, and indifference. Ralph's talk was amazing, and the students were very taken by it. While we have visited the exhibit 'Hartford Remembers the Holocaust,' it is very meaningful for our students to hear the stories of a survivor.”

[Beth Krasemann, European Studies teacher]

WORLD SQUASH AMBASSADOR

JONATHAN WALKER '19

The Panamerican Federation of Squash nominated Suffield Academy student Jonathan Walker as one of the 12 (six boys and six girls) World Squash Ambassadors for the “showcase” sport of squash at the Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires, Argentina that was held in October 2018.

From Kingston, Jamaica, Walker is a three-year member of Suffield’s varsity squash team and has played on both the junior and senior Jamaican national teams. Walker competed at the Panamerican Games in 2017 and has consistently remained among the top three squash players throughout the Caribbean.



“Every country in the Caribbean nominated one person, but the Olympic association only chose one boy and one girl from the entire group. I was honored to be that one boy to attend the games.”



US OLYMPIAN GRACE LUCZAK

LIVING A BALANCED LIFE

US Olympian Grace Luczak spoke with the Suffield crew team about her journey from high school rower in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to Junior World Champion, NCAA Champion, and World Champion.

Ms. Luczak shared her experiences and thoughts on topics such as competition at the highest levels, commitment to excellence, and time management as a necessity for balance in academic, athletic, and social life in high school, college, and afterwards.



“It was really helpful to hear her talk about a healthy balance between athletics and academics and a social life. She is an extremely impressive athlete, intelligent, and a very nice person.” [Norm Cotteleer '18]



THE SUCCESS OF THE 2017-2018 CHARITY PARENT PROJECT MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY (PPMD)

Suffield raised more than \$43,000 for PPMD through a series of events including a color run, telethon, food sales at sporting events, and charity week. The total funds raised supported intravenous injections of micro dystrophin delivered to the skeletal and cardiac muscles that aim to stop muscular degeneration.

Students and faculty continued a decade-long tradition of supporting nonprofit organizations in 2018 by helping PPMD. Students vote on several options presented by their peers. Past recipient organizations have included Circle of Care, Spouts of Water, Jambo Tanzania in Ghana, Autism Speaks, HARC, Camp Sunshine, Interval House, Jimmy Fund, Charity Water, and Akshaya Patra in India.

ABOUT PPMD Duchenne muscular dystrophy affects one in every 3,500 males. PPMD is the largest nonprofit organization in the nation solely dedicated to research, therapies, and raising voices to help end Duchenne.

2018 WALKS ESSAY FINALISTS MOLLY MCGRATH '19 & JACKSON PENTZ '19

Molly McGrath and Jackson Pentz were chosen as the two finalists among Suffield's students in AP United States History. They joined finalists from the four other WALKS Schools (Westminster, Avon Old Farms, Loomis Chaffee, and Kingswood Oxford) to recognize their achievements. In addition, Molly was the first runner-up in this year's contest. They were joined at the event by History Department Chair Bryan Brissette and Headmaster Charlie Cahn.

Hosted at Loomis, the students, heads of schools, and history department leaders heard comments from the contest judge, Judge Alfred Covello. Judge Covello practiced at several firms and was appointed to the bench in 1974. He joined the Supreme Court of the State of Connecticut in 1987. He is a graduate of Harvard University and University of Connecticut Law School. This year's topic focused on how the Bill of Rights was designed to protect citizens and states from a tyrannical national government.

Essayists were asked to reflect upon the role that the Bill of Rights and other amendments securing individual rights have played in the lives of Connecticut citizens, and the evolution of the relationship between citizens, the state government, and the national government.



AUCTION

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



THANK
YOU

TO THE MANY PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND THE AUCTION CHAIRS, MARY BONAVITA P'18 AND MAUREEN MORYTO P'16, '18, FOR THEIR EFFORT AND SUPPORT. THE EVENT SERVED AS YET ANOTHER REMINDER THAT OUR WORK AT SUFFIELD IS VERY IMPORTANT AND DEEPLY VALUED BY PARENTS.

Over 265 parents, faculty, and trustees attended the 19th Annual Parents' Association Auction. Headmaster Charlie Cahn shared auctioneer duties with voice actor Colter Rule P'19 and "Headmaster for the Day" Max Wiener '18. Proceeds from the auction helped support the installation of synthetic turf and lights on Holmes Field. Featured auction items included a three-night stay in Berlin, tickets to a Saturday Night Live dress rehearsal, a Caribbean cruise, a week in Bangkok, tickets to a Jennifer Lopez show in Las Vegas with a meet and greet, a 1941 replica of a Columbia Special Streamline girls' model FIOT bicycle, a bottle of 1997 Chateau Lafite-Rothschild Red Bordeaux, and tickets to *Hamilton* on Broadway. The winner of the 2018 Audi Q3 SUV raffle was Rick Kannenberg P'21 from Suffield.

spring

PARENTS' WEEKEND



Parents and families of Suffield students were welcomed to campus to enjoy the fresh start of a new season and many fun events. The schedule included college counseling and advisor meetings, classroom visits, a discussion with guests about adolescent psychology, athletic contests, and the 19th Annual Parents' Association Auction.

SILENCE VIOLENCE IN SCHOOLS WALK OUT



A community walk-out was also held on top of Bell Hill in support of silencing violence in schools. Student body president Michael Robidoux '18 began the ceremony that honored the 13 victims killed by the Columbine shooting in 1999. "We are here today not only to honor all those victims but to demand that more be done in this nation to protect our schools and deter future gun violence," he said. "Bringing light to this problem is one of the many steps necessary to making schools in America a safer place to live, learn, and grow." Becca Bauer '19 closed the ceremony and concluded, "Today we are accepting responsibility for kindness and for action. We must remember the value of kindness even in the face of aggression. There is great power in kindness."



GREATHORSE
HAMPDEN, MASSACHUSETTS



chill on the hill

Suffield held its annual Chill on the Hill behind Tisch Field House on a beautiful and sunny spring afternoon. Activities included a zipline, 35-foot slide, rock wall, inflatables, and a giant trampoline, followed by a cook out. Various foods and drinks were served including soft pretzels, nachos, popcorn, hamburgers, hot dogs, tacos, and chicken waffles. Chill on the Hill is a fun, relaxing tradition for the entire community to enjoy the final weeks of spring before the academic year comes to a close.



Celebrating Suffield

PARENT & ALUMNI GATHERINGS

BOSTON



WASHINGTON D.C.



BOSTON [left to right]

1. Bob Hildreth '75, P'12, '17, Bobby Lally '04
2. Tom Blakeley '07, Kaela Keyes '08, Andy Lowe P'11, '13, '15, Rosemary Chandler '09, Matt Jones '07
3. Jack Robinson '60 *Trustee* and Sarah Robinson
4. Ted Meeks, Matt Jones '07, Barbara Kaplan '08, Tom Blakeley '07, Sarah Thomsen Meeks '07
5. Nancy Brooks '87 *Trustee*, Kathy Giles Jones '87, Kate Cleary '88 *Trustee*, Chris Cuddy '87

WASHINGTON D.C. [left to right]

Adam Pistel '08, Juan Arreaza '06, Nick McConnell '64, John Dinin '66, Bruce Cohen '69, Kathryn Dinin, Delaney McGowan '10, Bruce Reynolds '66, Carolyn Rosca Johnson '05, Betty Prouty, Khaya Leary '07, Beth Bailey P'12, '16, Chris Leavy '10, Maggie Buchanan '09, Calvin Blackburn '09, Jim Hochschwender '66, Paul Wessells '64, Ximena Hochschwender, Fred Zeytoonjian '82, Robert Dahms '83, Robert Goode '82, Gavin Clough '98, Jennifer Jarrett, Marc Bertinelli '97



COUNCIL OF ADVISORS *with the* CLASS OF 2019

Twenty-eight members of the Alumni Council of Advisors visited Suffield to participate in a career mentoring session with the Class of 2019. An initiative of the college counseling program, students and alumni were divided into small groups to discuss how a college or major can influence a professional career. As a result of these discussions, Suffield's rising seniors learned that their chosen path of study may not always determine where they end up professionally.

Representing the entrepreneur and business owner group were alums Matt Shifrin '05 and Francisco Pujals '10. "Experience is paramount," Shifrin told the junior attendees. "Internships are a great way to gain practical knowledge. It is much easier to learn what you don't like than it is to already know what you do like. To be an entrepreneur you must not be shy about interacting and connecting with people." Pujals added, "Don't be afraid to fail fast. Be comfortable knowing it will happen, but that it will not prevent you from moving forward. It will only help you gain the knowledge you need to achieve your goals."

Representing the sales group were Matt Jones '07, Sam Boyd '06, and David Appleby '05. "Most of us didn't have a clue what we wanted to do when we were your age," said Jones. "The best advice I ever got was to enjoy the journey. College is freedom. Take advantage of the opportunity to grow and discover who you are. You will learn a lot by being social. It is my network of friends and colleagues that I appreciate the most about sales."

Mike Achatz '19 attended the session centered on law led by alum Mike DiPietro '07. "He understood high school students very well," commented Achatz. "He talked about things we could relate to, and I found that interesting. He captured our attention and connected with us. I thought these meetings were very helpful and informative."

As rising seniors prepare for the college application process, they are heavily supported by their college counselors and alumni mentors. While it is an extremely important decision in their adolescent lives, the mentoring sessions provided insight into many unanswered questions. It was made very clear that communication is a key to success and that there is more than one way to accomplish a rewarding future.

Don't be afraid to fail fast... it will not prevent you from moving forward. It will only help you gain the knowledge needed to achieve your goals.



“
EDUCATION TO ME HAS
ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT LIFE, LIFE
IN THE BROADEST SENSE, LIFE
EXPERIENCED WELL AND WITH
ENTHUSIASM... MY CHALLENGE
TO YOU IS TO GET INVOLVED
WITH THE FIGHT FOR FAIRNESS
AND SANITY.
”

ALUMNI LEADERSHIP AWARD

DAVID J. ROCKWELL '58, P'79, '82, '86, '88; GP'18

The Suffield Academy Alumni Association created the Alumni Leadership Awards program to honor Suffield graduates who have displayed notable leadership in their professional career or a humanitarian endeavor. The 2018 award was presented to David Rockwell.

David “Rocky” Rockwell retired in June after 54 years on the Suffield Academy faculty. He taught nearly 20 different courses, including sociology, archaeology, anthropology, and philosophy. He chaired the history department for 25 years and was Director of the Leadership Program since 2005. Rocky earned many honors for his inspirational impact, including Suffield’s Richter Award for excellence in teaching in 2002, the Elijah B. Andrews Award for service to Suffield in 1994, and the WALKS Foundation Swan Award in 2007. Rocky started Suffield’s Alpine Ski Team in 1967 and was head coach until 1996. He later established Suffield’s SOLO program (Suffield Outdoor Leadership Organization) in the early 1990s. He influenced hundreds of Suffield students through outdoor experiential learning on campus and on trips to places such as the coast of Maine and Zuni, New Mexico.

Rocky was honored and gave a talk in the Second Baptist Church. Nicholas Vardakas '18 offered an introduction and Dominic Fiallo '12 and Academic Dean Sara Yeagar provided words about Rocky’s legendary career. A staunch advocate of lifelong learning, Rocky shared a remarkable perspective on his years spent as an educator. “Education to me has always been about life, life in the broadest sense, life experienced well and with enthusiasm,” he noted. “In order to do that, you have to be involved. We require more than ever an active, informed younger generation. The divisive climate in which we presently wallow begs all of us to reach across the divide, learn as much as we can, and have genuine conversation with each other. My challenge to you is to get involved with the fight for fairness and sanity. If I have provided any kind of leadership over the years, I hope it’s been in the realm of helping students gain a sense of self, encouraging them to seek truth no matter how painful, and to realize that they and only they can do great things if they put their mind to it.” ∞

The Alumni Leadership Award Selection Committee is comprised of alumni, students, and members of the faculty. The 2018 committee members were Ed Kaplan '77, P'08, '12, '17, Phil Riegel '87, P'20 and seven members of the senior class: James Kagan, Mariia Kalacheva, Spencer Macchia, RJ Mhoon, Alexandra Mnich, Benjamin Sylvester, and Nicholas Vardakas.

Kate Braden Mounkhall '04

Growing up in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, Kate Braden Mounkhall knew little about private school education. She went to Longmeadow's public schools, and her assumptions about independent schools reflected some negative stereotypes. This impression changed immediately, however, when Kate stepped onto Suffield Academy's campus for the first time in the spring of 2000.

"On my first visit to Suffield, I felt a true sense of community. I was welcomed with open arms, and there was just a warmth surrounding everyone I met. I knew I had found a truly special place and that Suffield was where I wanted to be."

Kate embraced all Suffield has to offer. She has fond memories of the sports teams she played on, being a Teaching Assistant in the Leadership Program, getting extra help in the dorms when her teachers were on duty, and spending most of her time on campus with friends, even though she was a day student. There was also the homemade banana bread that would be waiting for her in the dining hall each afternoon, made specifically for Kate and her friends by the kitchen staff.

"You just don't get this type of camaraderie anywhere else. Everyone is committed to the success of the school and students. From the maintenance crew to those who work in the kitchen and all the faculty and staff, they love what they do and for whom they do it. Suffield is truly like a family committed to raising their kids."

Kate's athletic passion was field hockey. She worked hard and tirelessly at the sport and was in position to play Division I athletics in college. Kate enrolled at Fairfield University, where she had a successful year but did not feel the school was a great fit. As a result, she transferred to Bentley University and played Division II field hockey for her last two and a half years of college. Kate also credits her time at Suffield for helping her as a buyer for T.J. Maxx in New York City. "My work ethic was formed at Suffield Academy. I learned how to be successful by working hard. It has stayed with me all of these years." Kate loves her job. As a buyer for the Canadian market, she enjoys travelling and the European influence that comes from retail work in Canada, yet the job is not always glamorous. "The travel can get daunting when you have to leave your baby daughter at home. I am so lucky to have a husband that is hands on and fills the void when I am gone. Quinn is the perfect baby—she is always happy and never cries unless there is a reason." Kate is excited for Quinn to run the fields of Suffield someday, but must first wait for her to walk.

Kate looks at her role as Class Agent as a way of staying connected to the school that she is so passionate about. "I would love to be at Suffield more, but my home is in New Jersey. Suffield truly changed my life in so many ways, and it only feels right to be able to give back to the school that gave so much to me. It's also wonderful to stay in touch with the classmates all over the world who I don't get to see or talk to routinely. Despite all the growth and changes, it still feels like the same school as it was when I was there."

When asked what she would most like to share with current Suffield students, Kate expressed no hesitation: "Do not take your time at Suffield for granted. You are in a special place and are so lucky to be there. Get involved with everything you can; the breadth of classes and activities available at Suffield is really unique. You are there with people from all over the world, so learn from them and develop friendships. Believe it or not, you are developing lifelong bonds at Suffield right now." ∞



"Suffield really set me up to succeed in college. The time management skills we learned proved to be invaluable later in life. I was used to juggling sports and a heavy workload so it was second nature to me when I went to college, making it feel like a breeze."

"We all have taken great journeys



50th night



"Let's be grateful for our time here and appreciate those around us." – Sasha Derby '18



here at Suffield. I encourage you to continue yours without limitations.” – Kim Wiggin P’06



The 50th Night banquet and dinner is one of Suffield’s great traditions, as seniors and faculty spend time together reflecting on the road traveled together and planning for the final weeks leading to the school’s 185th Commencement.

Headmaster Cahn welcomed the graduating seniors and noted, “Tonight is meant for us to stop and reflect and to enjoy each other’s company as we head into the final six weeks of the academic year.” He spoke about Suffield’s strategic goals and guiding philosophy. “You all are part of a major success story,” he said, before reminding seniors and faculty that “We share values at Suffield not just about learning but also about community—about kindness, respect, and being people of principle and character. We think these attributes make the world better.”

Following the meal, senior class vice-president Sasha Derby shared words with his peers and noted, “Whether you attended Suffield for one year or all four years, this is a huge milestone for us. Let’s be grateful for our time here and appreciate those around us. Let’s be sure to look back with pride and no regrets, ending on a positive note and cherishing these finals days.”

Last to speak, retiring faculty member Kim Wiggin P’06 recognized her own final 50 days shared with students and colleagues. After singing a portion of the song “Everything” by Barbra Streisand, she spoke about great experiences and distance traveled. “We all have taken great journeys here at Suffield,” she said. “I encourage you to continue yours without limitations.” ∞

COLLEGE



CLASS OF 2018 MATRICULATION

BOUND



SUFFIELDACADEMY.ORG/COLLEGECOUNSELING





THE 122 GRADUATING SENIORS MATRICULATED TO 82 DIFFERENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THIS FALL. MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2018 SUBMITTED NEARLY 1000 APPLICATIONS TO OVER 280 SCHOOLS. THEIR COLLEGE CHOICES REFLECT THE DISTINCT TALENTS, INTERESTS, AND AMBITIONS FOUND IN THIS GRADUATING CLASS. BELOW ARE SOME COLLEGES THEY ARE ATTENDING.

Babson College
 Boston College
 Boston University
 University of California, Santa Barbara
 Chapman University
 Claremont McKenna College
 Colgate University
 University of Colorado at Boulder
 Connecticut College
 University of Connecticut
 Elon University
 Emerson College
 Emory University
 Fordham University
 Georgetown University
 Kenyon College
 Loyola Marymount University
 Marist College
 University of Maryland, College Park
 University of Miami

University of Michigan
 New York University
 Northeastern University
 University of Notre Dame
 Oberlin College
 Providence College
 University of Richmond
 Rochester Institute of Technology
 Savannah College of Art and Design
 Stanford University
 St. Lawrence University
 Syracuse University
 The George Washington University
 Trinity College
 Tufts University
 University of Vermont
 University of Virginia
 Washington University in St. Louis
 Wesleyan University
 Williams College



2018 KENT-DAVIS

A GREAT SUFFIELD TRADITION CONTINUED WITH THE ANNUAL KENT-DAVIS SPEAKING COMPETITION. THE INTENTION OF THE COMPETITION IS TO SHOWCASE EXCELLENT ORATORY SKILLS. KENT PARTICIPANTS— TORI TRYON, CALEIGH HERRIGAN, DEVINA BHALLA, JUHI RAYONIA, SARAH SWANSON, AND MAX WIENER. DAVIS PARTICIPANTS— DANA MILLS, MICHAEL ROBIDOUX, AUBREY SANFORD, MEG DURHAGER, MAC KEATING, AND MIA WHITE.

EMMETT KENT PRIZE

Awarded to a student who presents an original speech in three minutes or less.

Co-Winners Max Wiener “Sam: My Hero” and Devina Bhalla “Defining and Defying Our Dominant Culture”

CHARLES G. DAVIS PRIZE

Awarded to a student who presents an adaptation of an original piece of writing, authored by someone other than the writer.

Winner Dana Mills “Would I Die for my Students?” [Rebecca Field’s Open Letter]

Honorable Mention Aubrey Sanford “How to Succeed in Heartbreak” [Victoria Morgan]



EXCERPTS FROM SPEECHES

MAX WIENER [KENT] When you think everything is going your way, you fail to be aware of the people that are most important to you. I have two brothers. Two handsome, beautiful brothers...Sam’s door was always locked. His screaming and door slams echoed throughout my house and rang through the ears of my parents for hours and hours, driving them to tears...My parents sat me down and explained how Sam was struggling and that he needed help. After explaining his situation to me, they then told me their next plan—Sam was going to a wilderness therapy program the next day.

DEVINA BHALLA [KENT] Why do we play sports?... As a future college athlete, I demand change. Female athletes around the world should not have to fight the same discrimination, hurt, and frustration. In order to change the larger world culture, we must first start within our own smaller community. So, what can we do? Well, popular Nigerian author Adichi wisely utilizes her anger to create change, declaring; (quote) “Gender as it functions today is a grave injustice. I am angry. We should all be angry. Anger has a long history of bringing about positive change. In addition to anger,” Adichi states, “I am also hopeful, because I believe deeply in the ability of human beings to remake themselves for the better.” (end quote). Thus, I stand here, angry but optimistic.

DANA MILLS [DAVIS] Dear Every Elected Official, Nowhere in my contract does it state that if the need arises, I have to shield students from gunfire with my own body. If it did, I wouldn’t have signed it. I love my job. I love my students. I am also a mother with two amazing daughters. I am a wife of a wonderful man. I have a dog that I adore. I don’t want to die defending other people’s children; I want to teach kindness and responsibility...and Art History. That’s what I am supposed to do each day. Blocking bullets?

CUM LAUDE & TORCH SOCIETY INDUCTIONS

Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society honors scholastic achievement and leadership. Selections are made by Suffield's Academic Committee and only the students ranked in the top 10% of the class are eligible. The Torch Society dates back to 1928 and honors students whose service and spirit make a profound difference to the school. Inductees are selected by current members and voting must be unanimous. Below are the 2018 inductees.



CUM LAUDE

Hattie Bauchiero
Devina Bhalla
Bridget Carey
Caroline Gingold
Zach Kidd
Devon Loftus
Kate Rookey
Max Shlafstein
Sarah Swanson
Matt Titterton
Zoey Zheng



TORCH SOCIETY INDUCTEES

SENIORS Isabella Attianese, Tim Bell, Sedley Benitz, Isabella Boonstra, Norm Cotteleer, Margaret Durhager, Bailey Hyland, Mac Keating, Zach Kidd, Milo Marcus, Carlin Molander, Carlos Salguero, Max Wiener

JUNIORS Audrey Arthur, Becca Bauer, Kate Killam, Blaire McGavin, Cam Purdy, Charlie Tilney-Volk, Tayla Ziadie

Baccalaureate



CHARLES CAHN III HEADMASTER

This group has shown great pride in our school and genuine appreciation for the experiences they have had at Suffield. They also know that parents, grandparents, and others here tonight have traveled this road with them—providing patience, advice, and support in many ways to help make this happen. On behalf of everyone here I extend thanks. Thank you for caring about Suffield and being great partners on this journey.

This is always an interesting, complicated moment for our faculty. These people are the heart of Suffield Academy, carrying forth the values and history of our school—from 1833 to today. We embrace an emphasis on the distance traveled by each student during their years at Suffield, and tonight we watch you enviously, as we think of roads you have traveled but also all that lies ahead for you. You have fascinating journeys in front of you. We do too, but ours will be here and will be different. We will keep up this important work of encouraging and inspiring talented young people like you.

As you head out to seek the opportunities and challenges ahead, I again ask that you thank those who made this experience at Suffield possible for you—your parents, your families, and your teachers. Always err on the side of thanking them too frequently. You will start to see things differently now, as Suffield's structure is removed and you head to the next part of your lives. You will have a different perspective.

How will it be different? First, as you get older you will have more doubts. You will understand how complicated it is to make decisions as quickly as you will need to make them. You will be trying to figure it all out...and then, before you know it, other people will be asking YOU for advice. You will be responsible for others and realize you actually know very little. But if you have good instincts and rely on the strong foundation you have built, most of your decisions will prove to be right.

Please remember it is hard to learn by talking, and the smartest people realize they don't know all that much. And also remember this—for better or worse, as you leave Suffield, you will never again be in an environment where so many people want to help you and care about how you are doing. This is very unusual in our world. I understand you are eager for this next step and to get more room, particularly from adults, but I hope you will take this culture of caring—of investing deeply in others and genuinely helping people prosper—into the communities you are part of in the years ahead. This will likely be Suffield's greatest legacy in your lives. ∞



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BARRY CLEARY P'02, '05

It is an honor and privilege for me to deliver my first Suffield Baccalaureate Address this evening. Your class will always be special to me, as my wife, Laurie, and I leave Suffield with you. As I begin, I would like to ask the graduates to stand and recognize the support, care, love, and sacrifice of the parents, families, friends, and faculty who have made this day possible. Seniors, please give them a wave and a hearty round of applause. Before I start, I'd like to say thank you—first of all to my family, especially my wife Laurie, who has been my partner in this fabulous journey of 40 years. And my boys Tim '02 and Ryan '05 and their families. And to the people who have written such wonderful articles in *The Bell* and SUFFIELD magazine, retelling “my” story, which I am sure many people are sick of hearing. In the words of the Suffield Academy legend Dennis Kinne, “If my folks were alive, my dad would have been very proud of me, and my mom would have believed everything that was said.”

When faced with giving a speech of this magnitude, it is a challenge to figure out just what the message should be and how much information needs to be shared. I am reminded of the story of Widow Jones, who upon the passing of her husband, Farmer Jones, brought a five-page obituary to the local newspaper editor for publication in the next day's paper. “That's fine, Widow,” said the editor, “but it will cost you well over \$100 to run it so you may want to shorten things a bit.” She returned a short while later with “Farmer Jones died.” “Well, that is certainly more to the point,” replied the editor, “but you need to have at least 10 words and perhaps more critical information.” She returned “Farmer Jones died, red pick-up truck for sale, call 867-5309.” Like the widow, searching for just the right words is a challenge, but hopefully this address will have some takeaways for you.

My family is one of immigrants. All four of my grandparents came to America, three from Ireland and one from Italy, and settled into farming in Agawam, Massachusetts. Their families were large, no one attended college and they all worked on the farm or as tradesmen. One of my earliest recollections of life on the farm was when one of my uncles asked what I wanted to do

when I grew up. I said I wanted to be a coach and a gym teacher. His response was a classic, “Those who can't do...teach...those who can't teach...teach gym.” My career path was set!

Fast forward to my 11th grade. My high achieving older brother attending Dartmouth remarked that given my study habits I was sure to fail in college, and the only ones who knew how to play the game came from boarding schools. So, I looked at some schools and—giving up the class presidency and two sport captaincies to repeat my junior year—I immediately fell in love with the people and the tradition of Deerfield Academy. Ironically, the man who interviewed me there in 1969 would be my first boss at Suffield, Don Mackey.

My journey to Suffield began when I was a student at Deerfield Academy and realized what a special lifestyle the faculty had there—with summers off, teaching a subject that they loved, free room and board, three meals a day, and playing and coaching a variety of sports. What job could be better? What I realized when I came to Suffield—as I have said from time to time—it is not a job, but rather a calling. Life at a boarding school is unique with 24 hours of responsibility and challenge.

In the words of Jan Ophus in her review of John McPhee's book *The Headmaster* written about Dr. Boyden, "It is a passionate commitment to the well-being of young people; a capacity for stressful work and incredibly long hours, notwithstanding the consistent prospect of inconspicuous returns; humble but unflinching resolve in the face of sometimes ruthless public scrutiny; a willingness to assume levels of responsibility from which most sensible folk shrink; and the stubborn belief that one is, at the end of the day, making a real contribution to the public good."

I was fortunate to attend two schools steeped in tradition, led by two amazing educators: Dr. Frank Boyden, headmaster at Deerfield, and Father Theodore Hesburgh, the president of the University Notre Dame. Father Ted was a legend in education and in the Civil Rights movement, and his style was unique among college presidents. Late at night, you would find him in his office after picking up a couple of chocolate milk shakes from The Huddle, a snack shop on campus. You could sit and talk with the great man, like you would sit and talk with your grandfather at Sunday dinner. Father Hesburgh often talked about finding a balance in our life, the wonderful opportunities that our parents had given us, and how we should never lose sight of the fact that while it might be difficult, we should always do the right thing. His mantra: "You don't make decisions because they are easy; you don't make them because they are cheap; you don't make them because they're popular; you make them because they're right."

At both Deerfield and Notre Dame the message was clear: For of those to whom much is given, much is expected, and

high achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectations. I am proud to say that my past 40 years have been spent at a place that believes in that same creed. If we at Suffield have done our job well, you have outgrown us, and it is time to go, time to move on to new challenges. You will take a piece of Suffield with you on your journey and that will help prepare you for that next step, which I am sure you are anxious to begin. While you take a part of Suffield with you, you have left behind some of yourself, like so many before you, your legacy and that of those who came before you are what makes Suffield a special place. Hopefully, that will bring you back to campus to visit and renew those relationships. For everyone in this room, the relationships that were formed with faculty, students, and staff here at Suffield will never be forgotten, and you need to understand the realization that life is all about relationships.

In closing, some random thoughts. Be nice to your parents. Follow the three Rs: Respect for self, respect for others, responsibility for all your actions. Don't let a little dispute injure a great relationship. When you realize that you have made a mistake, take steps to correct it. Don't equate money with success. There are many successful moneymakers who are miserable failures as human beings.

Be humble. Be flexible. Don't take yourself too seriously. Take time to say a word of thanks to those who made a difference for you. It has been a great ride at Suffield and an emotional last few days, but in the words of the well-known philosopher Dr. Seuss, "Don't be sad because it's over, smile because it happened." ∞

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”

Dr. Suess



MICHAEL ROBIDOUX SENIOR SPEAKER



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I thank you all from the
bottom of my *heart* for
being such an important
part of my story.
I love you *all*.

”

All of us in this graduating class come from different backgrounds and have different stories. However, one thing we all have in common is the importance of Suffield in our lives. Tomorrow, our chapter here ends but a new one begins—I will not lie; it’s a pretty intimidating reality. We have all grown so used to calling Suffield our second home, but we are now moving on and starting another adventure. Although it is scary, we are ready. Suffield has prepared us all so well. I can say with confidence that there is nothing we cannot handle. We have all learned valuable life lessons during our time at Suffield, and tonight I would like to share with you some of the most important lessons I learned.

First, I learned immediately the importance of failure. For this I would like to thank Mr. Warren. I showed up at preseason soccer as a nervous freshman who had never before really been challenged. On the third morning of practice we were given a running test. We had to run back and forth across the soccer field while being timed, and if we were not fast enough we failed. And I failed. I was too mentally weak to handle the task ahead, and so I failed. But this failure gave birth to something great. I was determined to never again fail due to mental weakness. Going into the future, remember that sometimes the most valuable lessons you will learn will come from failure. My friends, go and be prepared to fail at times. You will learn and grow from it.

The second lesson I learned is that sometimes you just need to trust everything will work out the way it is meant to be. Class elections were at the beginning of sophomore year. I was debating whether or not to run but was not keen on the idea either. So after winning class president both sophomore and junior year, I ultimately ended up as the school president this past year. The point is that the world is a big place with many different paths to travel and it is easy to become overwhelmed. As we all part our separate ways tomorrow, have faith that you will end up where you are meant to be and that things will happen just the way they are supposed to.

The third and final life lesson comes from my experience as a wrestler. Wrestling is a sport notorious for how difficult and challenging it is, both mentally and physically. It is by no means an easy task. I started wrestling my freshman year

and was quickly introduced to what it meant to get your butt kicked. I was the smallest and least experienced on the team and by no means a wrestling prodigy. Practice was rough every day. But as we suffered each day we got better and better as a team. Over the years the hard work we put in was rewarded by a very successful season, and I fulfilled my four-year goal of competing in the national tournament at Lehigh. Hard work pays off—I have experienced that in the wrestling room, in school, and in life. Never doubt the power and importance of hard work and always remember your efforts will be rewarded.

Every one of you here has learned important life lessons at Suffield. As you are faced with the big and exciting future, remember these lessons and know you are ready. Suffield taught us all so much, and we are prepared for everything coming our way. Although tomorrow our chapter here will end, it will forever be an important part of the adventure and book that is the story of our lives. I thank you, Suffield, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for being such an important part of *my* story. I love you all. ∞

AMY SAMENUK '09 CLASS OF 2018 CO-ADVISOR

At Suffield, our calendars are filled with commitments and obligations. We are lucky to be so busy. It means we are ambitious, motivated, engaged, and social. In addition to becoming multi-taskers and handling a robust daily schedule with ease, you've mustered the courage to proficiently write your thoughts, beliefs, and opinions in a paper and you've felt confident enough to speak up in the classroom.

You've intermingled pressing priorities like finalizing senior course schedules, deciding on holiday dinner attire, completing on-time college applications to the nod of your counselors, mastering the fine craft of tying a tie, maintaining stellar academics, contemplating your paths for next year, and ultimately deciding on a corsage and boutonniere for prom. However, although these tasks may seem trivial, you're far from superficial people. You are sophisticated young adults, and you have proven by your actions that you are adding real value to the world around us, outside of Suffield Academy.

We have all, or will be, confronted with real challenge—the kind that “without notice” or “opportunity for which to prepare” interrupt our otherwise organized lives. When you've had a real challenge here at Suffield I hope you realize that you've been supported, nurtured, encouraged, and inspired by faculty who are amazing educators, and more importantly, very special people. You've been surrounded by adults and peers who see the best in you, admire you, and are proud of you. You have figured it all out—these pieces to the puzzle.

Up high, through these beautiful blue skies, from a soaring bird's-eye view, Suffield Academy is a puzzle. Sure, it has curb appeal, but when you zoom in further, it becomes evident that it is not a one-dimensional puzzle. Rather, it's a living, breathing, multi-layered masterpiece. Now, if we zoom in further, the rest of the puzzle pieces are all of you. You represent many states, countries, backgrounds, beliefs, personalities, and varied talents. All of you are indispensable to Suffield Academy's puzzle. Once you found your path and maneuvered this landscape, your “fit” here simply became natural.

As an admissions officer, I have some perspective on how the incoming freshman class is formed and what particular attributes are sought when filling 10th, 11th, and postgraduate openings. Within our office, we deliberate and debate. We speak about potential. We mindfully selected each and every one of you—pieces of the 2018 puzzle. As your class advisor, I appreciate the added value you weaved into Suffield's culture and the way you led as seniors this year with your efforts, talents, courage, convictions, humor, fashion, and friendships. You have earned the affirmation that comes with completing a challenge. Be very proud of yourselves. Bask in it. Enjoy it. ∞



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185th Commencement





Suffield's 185th Commencement took place atop Bell Hill on May 26. Headmaster Charles Cahn III led activities and David J. Rockwell '58, P'79, '82, '86, '88, GP'18 was the featured speaker. Rocky retired in June after 54 years on the Suffield Academy faculty. Elias Smith '18 was selected by his peers and offered remarks to his graduating classmates. Following the ceremony, individual members of the Class of 2018 rang the Bell one last time honoring each year they attended Suffield Academy.

When Charlie asked me if I would like to give this year's commencement address, a wave of emotion swept over me. I said to myself that if this talk would be my parting shot, or legacy, that it had better be good, but I will let all of you be the judge. Mixed in with all of this is realization that my time at Suffield was nearing an end. That was November 17. Here we are on May 25 and it is not going to be any easier.

You will have to excuse me if I find this difficult. Difficult, yes, but also a tremendous honor. Actually, before Charlie asked if I would be willing to give today's address, he asked my granddaughter Peyton if it would be OK. Her response was "That would be good because it will be short, that's what Rocky is like on the phone." With that in mind, I will try to stay

with one of my themes for today, balance. I'll bet that when and if you thought about who might be your Commencement speaker, your ideas ran the gamut from TV stars, to NFL coaches, or successful people from the business world. So, what did you get? You got an old teacher. I do, however, have an advantage over all the other possibly, more glamorous options. I have been with all of you on your Suffield journey, every step of the way.

To you, the Class of 2018, I offer you a bit of nostalgia, a bit of advice, a bit of humor, and a bit of hope. Over the course of the year, I have listened to a wide range of wonderful senior chapel talks. I must say I enjoyed all of them. So, what you will get from me, in a sense, is my senior talk. We often talk of life



paths and how we envision them being straight lines to some ideal place, but in reality they are most often irregular, more like my favorite dog Benner looking for food. Don't limit your thinking to a straight, narrow path, because it will probably disappoint you. In fact, if the path before you is clear, you are probably on someone else's path. It is said that Albert Einstein remarked, "Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere. Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions." I can look back on my journey and see many twists and turns starting off in one direction and veering off in another. Graduating from Suffield in 1958 and full of myself, I had no clue where I was headed, except to UNC Chapel Hill.

I bumped around for a few years, got married at 21, dropped out of college for two years, started a family, finished undergraduate and graduate school with a new sense of purpose and returned to the place where we now sit.

That was 54 years ago. I had no idea then that I would stay so many years. I must admit that there were times when I thought about trying something else. Students often ask me "how could you stay here so long?" when they cannot wait to get out and get on with their lives. I fully understand that. My usual answer to why I've stayed here so long is that "you have to be somewhere and hopefully it's somewhere you like." I realized that despite occasional thoughts of being elsewhere, really liked it here. I often mention to students that as you get on with your lives, remember the best thing that can happen is to do what you like and get paid for it. The liking part comes from believing that you can and do have a positive impact on the world in which you live. The key, I feel, is that no matter how

educated, talented, rich or cool you believe you are, how you treat people ultimately says everything about you. As a group, and as individuals, you have tremendous, untapped energy. All one has to do is look back to Saturday, March 24 and the "March For Our Lives" to see the tremendous potential for positive change that you possess. Put that energy to good use. As seniors, you are ready to move on. You have, in many ways, outgrown Suffield. You outgrow, but you don't forget. Einstein, again, remarked, "Life is like riding a bicycle, in order to keep your balance you have to keep moving."

To use the bicycle analogy: remember your first attempt at riding without training wheels and how you wobbled around, hoping you wouldn't run into the bushes, or a trash can, waiting for an adult to steady you. Over the past few years, Suffield has been your training wheels; soon you will be on your own. There is no straight path from where you sit now to where you are going. Don't ever try to draw that line because you'll get it all wrong. Hindsight is always 20-20. I went to college planning to major in psychology and later switched to history. If I had to do it all over again, I would have majored in archaeology. If I had done that, my career at Suffield would have never happened. Also, I would have dedicated more of my life to advancing the rights of this country's native peoples. So, remember, your interests and passions will change. Wherever your path takes you, follow it with passion. Second guessing myself now doesn't make much sense. I do think that what I have done, I did with conviction and passion.

Ellen De Generes offered a bit a sage advice when she said, "Follow your passion and stay true to yourself. Never follow anyone else's path, unless you're in the woods and you're lost

and you see a path. Then by all means follow that path.” I certainly hope you never get lost, but having spent time in the woods with some of you on SOLO hikes, I worry a little bit. You’re going to be doing things that are scary, that is perfectly normal. Going off to college in the fall will be both exhilarating and scary. Applying for your first real job, realizing that you are an adult and all the responsibility that comes with it can be overwhelming and scary. Everyone is scared at one point or another. When that happens, do yourself a favor, go back to your childhood days and think about your favorite place. Take a deep breath and tell yourself, “I am stronger than I seem, I am braver than I believe, and smarter than I think. Then, forge ahead. Be bold, be courageous, and do your best. And remember, when you really pay attention to the world around you, everything is your teacher.

The energy and hope that you bring to your journey is one of the wonderful things that has sustained me all these many years. The idea that you can make a difference may sound like a cliché, and maybe in some ways it is, but it is also the truth. The degree to which you impact your world is up to you. NC State basketball coach Jim Valvano offered this bit of advice: “There are 86,400 seconds in a day. It’s up to you to decide what to do with them.”

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. I can think of so many students over the years who tried our patience and challenged us at every turn, who went on to be very successful doctors, authors, architects, artists, good parents, and just good people. I often receive letters or emails from students I had 20, 30, 40 or 50 years ago just wanting to reconnect and let me know what they’ve done with their lives. I heard, not too long ago, from a student who was expelled from school in 1979. He had skied for me and wanted to thank me for supporting him almost 40 years ago. More than that, he wanted to let me know what he had done with his life. He is a lawyer in Denver, Colorado, specializing in environmental law, a subject dear to my heart.

More recently an old student, who just graduated college, wrote to thank me for helping to establish the direction of

her course of study, all stemming from philosophy courses we shared here at Suffield. That is really important to me and reinforces the things I feel very strongly about. I believe in your growth as decent, thinking human beings, and that is why I teach. Another important quality is patience. When I mentioned to Mrs. Rockwell that patience would be one of my



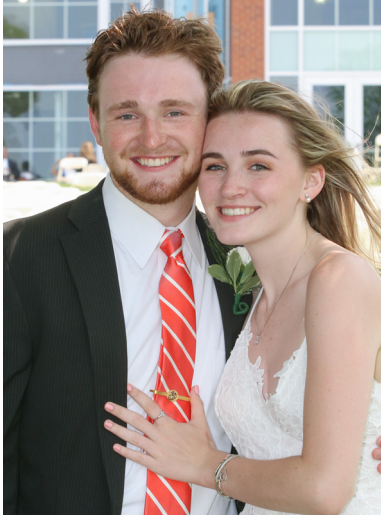
“The idea that you can make a difference may sound like a cliché, and maybe in some ways it is, but it is also the truth. The degree to which you impact your world is up to you.”

themes, her response was, “You’re not patient.” Sure, I can get irritated and antsy about certain things, driving to Maine on Interstate 495 tests my patience, but that’s not what I want to get at. Being patient with all of you as you’ve worked through the challenges of an increasingly complex and challenging world has been extremely important to me. I am sure that my colleagues occasionally question my allegiance to students first. But isn’t that the reason why we teach in the first place, to help shape the next generation in the most positive ways? If it isn’t, it should be. Growing up is not easy. I know that »



185TH COMMENCEMENT





CLASS of 2018





“Be bold, be courageous
and do your best...
Remember, when you
really pay attention to
the world around you,
everything is your teacher.”

for many parents it is all too easy to lose patience with your children, but don't. Give them time to grow and get their feet on the ground. Never forget that you were a teenager once. I certainly did stupid things and was more than occasionally irresponsible, I also learned harsh but valuable lessons. I know I probably drove my parents nuts, at times. I remember my father telling me when I was 28 years old, having taught for three years, with a young family that he was pleased, and probably relieved, that I had finally turned out okay.

Again a nod to Einstein who said, “Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.” When I look back on my time at Suffield, or as a college student, what do I really remember? I remember experiences,

experiences that form the foundation of my knowledge. That is what you will take away from Suffield as you move along your path. The challenges of AP U.S. History, AP Calculus, English—and the dreaded five paragraph essay—will slip away into the fog of distant memory. What you will remember is your roommate, athletic wins and losses, prom dates, Tiger Games, best friends, maybe a few teachers, and food in the dining hall.

You might also remember things you shouldn't have done and were maybe lucky to escape Discipline Committee. All those things at Suffield that may have helped make you who you are, will soon be wrapped in a black and orange box titled “My Experiences.” You will draw from your box of experiences, however seemingly insignificant at the time, for the rest of your life.

What do I remember from my days as a student at Suffield? I remember: three formal sit-down meals a day, breakfast, lunch and dinner, required church on Sunday, dances at various girls' schools where you were matched up with a “date.” I remember having a touchdown called back because I was downfield on a pass play. I remember my classmates. I don't remember much about the content of classes, but I do remember who my teachers were. Next fall is my 60th reunion. I'll come back to see old friends, hopefully get a tour through the new building behind you, make sure the SOLO barn is in good shape and catch a few games.

Today, this is the most beautiful place on Earth. There are many such places. Every man, every woman carries in heart and mind the image of the ideal place, the right place, the one true home, known or unknown, actual or visionary. From your memory box, let that be Bell Hill, in Suffield, Connecticut, May 25, 2018.

The Dalai Lama urges all of us to follow the three R's: not reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic but respect for self (be kind to yourself), respect for others (learn to listen, which means learn to value friendship, patience, fairness and moral courage), and responsibility for all our actions (do only those things that do no harm). Period. I would encourage you to:

- Spend time alone every day (while the idea of solitude may be painful when you are young, I can tell you, it is a delight when you are older)
- Be gentle on the Earth, take care of it. It's the only home we have.
- Have real conversations, give your iPhone a timeout.
- Do something cultural: read, write, paint, throw clay, sing, go to an art museum.
- And spend more time on experience and less on stuff, for the only true source of knowledge is experience. Drive across the country and get off the Interstate.

When I look back over my journey as a teacher, my hope is that I have been kind to my students, compassionate, empathetic, positive, a builder, looking to make things better, and maybe

an inspiration. As I look ahead, there are several things I am interested in pursuing, and if I do, it will be with enthusiasm:

- I am exploring the possibility of teaching a few classes to inmates in the Maine State Prison.
- Recently I donated my extensive library of Native American writings to the Zuni Pueblo Reservation High School in New Mexico.
- Most likely I will continue giving talks for the Farnsworth Art Museum in Rockland, Maine.
- I want to develop a friendship with a crow. As odd as that may seem, it will reinforce my belief in the connectedness of all things. We can learn a great deal from our feathered and four-legged friends.
- And finally, beyond enjoying life on the coast of Maine, hopefully catch a striped bass and watch the bald eagles soar over the spruce trees.

Last fall at Convocation, I read a favorite quote of mine from author, rabble rouser and radical transcendentalist Edward Abbey, and let me leave you with a wish from Cactus Ed: "May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds."

And finally, a word of advice from one of America's great writers, Maya Angelou: "Life's a bitch. You've got to go out and kick ass." Thank you and congratulations to the Class of 2018. Have a glorious journey and stay in touch. ∞





ELIAS SMITH '18 SENIOR SPEAKER

I came to Suffield as scrap metal, not easily bent. I had some sharp edges, and a lot of dull ones. There was potential, but it was misshapen, dusty, discolored, and undiscovered. As this day drew nearer, I took time to reach my mind back to see the awkward scraps we all arrived as and feel my way back to where we stand today as graduates.

This place can really swing a hammer. My first months on campus, I spent most of my days being consistently reminded of this fact. At 15 years old, I was enthralled to leave home and explore the freedoms the world had to offer my eager heart. These freedoms I soon learned did not include exploring new lands like Lewis and Clark, nor did they include Phineas' fabled carnival from *A Separate Peace* as I had fantasized. Although, they did include the opportunity to have my phone taken during study hall whilst being denied use of the lavatory from eight to ten, six nights a week.

I rebelled heavily and was soon introduced to Saturday detention, a lovely event, where again one's phone is handed in, wifi is turned off, bathroom use has a thin quota, and water is scarce.

Thus, I decided to explore my freedom's elsewhere and skip detention one evening. Promptly, I was confronted by the proverbial hammer, and introduced to restriction. My weeks now consisted of the aforementioned nightly study halls and Saturday detention, coupled with an invitation to clean the union at 9 am on Sunday morning, our one day to sleep in. Additionally, I was advised to check in with the person on duty in the union every 30 minutes for the rest of the day until study hall. Alas, I had quickly acquainted myself with the forging hammer of the Academy.

Of course, not all of our graduating class today subjected themselves to the formal mallets of detention and restriction. Luckily for the well-being of the school, many graduating today wisely took the path without hammers, or at least lesser ones, and enjoyed the smooth guiding pressure of a sculptor's hand.

Suffield Academy is full of warmth, permeating everything. It manifests itself in reassuring smiles and encouragement to explore new ideas. It lingers with the completion of our countless daily accomplishments. I think that every one of us graduating today has felt that warmth flood through their body, setting fire to our nerves and filling us with life. Those feelings melt down the person you thought you were and settle into defining the person you want to be.

We have been warmed by its people and its rewards, and we have been struck at times by its challenges and relentlessness. We have been bent, flattened, carved and molded into something steady, something stable, something smart, and something special. Through the structure and artistry of Suffield Academy we have uncovered our innate sense of who we are as individuals, capable of all freedoms. Today is a day to reflect on this process and embrace the commencement of our lives as adaptable, thoughtful, and capable members of society. ∞

“Regardless of what is
to come and what new
shapes we may take,
I know that these people
here today at Suffield
Academy will always
understand us, no matter
where we find ourselves
in the future.”

SENIOR SPEAKER SERIES

IN THEIR VOICE

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Over the course of the academic year each member of the Class of 2018 presented to the community at chapel. Headmaster Charlie Cahn noted that this initiative aimed to create another capstone experience in the Leadership Program and further enhance Suffield's strong sense of community by learning more about each senior. It was evident throughout the year—as each senior headed to the podium—that the speaker series is now a valuable school tradition. From talks about how they ended up at Suffield and how their experiences here unfolded, to goals for the future and lessons they have learned, the Class of 2018 clearly embraced this opportunity.



... Milo Marcus ...

The education of an open mind: growing up both African American & Jewish



... Chase Moran ...

Living Up to a Name: I am the Fourth Charles



... Alina Ryan ...

The Apprehension of Reality: Making Responsible Decisions



... Sam Cuda ...

Video: Surf's Up, Cape Cod



... Meg Durhager ...

Suffield: Kind, Welcoming, and Friendly



... Rishi Patel ...

How not to drive: key factors that lead to poor driving



... Michael Burch ...

Someone Who Loves You



... Tim Casey ...

Doing for others instead of yourself



... Petch Arpornpattanaong ...

Finding Balance in Everyday Life



... Mia White ...

Making Positive Impacts



... Jake Selbst ...

The Pterosaur vs. Darwin's Theory of Evolution



... Zoey Zheng ...

Embrace the things you cannot control



... Ala Ietta ...

Eternal Happiness is
Pleasing the Inner Self



... Braden Kane ...

Photography: never too
late to try something new



... Nick Vardakas ...

The Importance of
Maximum Effort



... Myles Freeman ...

Slideshow: A Passion
for Woodworking



... Caleigh Horrigan ...

I Live by Being Fearless



... Junyang Chen ...

Why I love ceramics and
working with my hands



... Sarah Swanson ...

The Soil of the Farm is
our Common Ground



... Norm Cotteleer ...

Find what drives
you and use it



... RJ Mhoon ...

Influence & Responsibility: The Impact We Have on Others



... Rob Levine ...

Home is Where Your Heart is. Music is my Home:
A Presentation of a Song I Composed



... Isabella Boonstra ...

Seven Memories of
Freshman Physical Science



... Andrew Daly ...

Identity & Pride:
A Feeling of Belonging



... Henry Zurkow ...

My trip to Spain:
appreciating being in the
moment & simple pleasures



... Matt McCoy ...

Benchwarmers:
Teamwork & Support



... Justin Levsky ...

Photos of School Trip:
Croatia & Italy



... India Shay ...

Leaving Suffield
with No Regrets



... George Fomin ...

Health is the Real Wealth



... Peyton Cahn ...

Change is a Part of Life



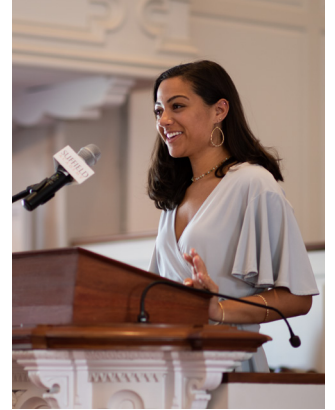
... Isabella Attianese ...
Never take anyone
for granted



... Connor Ahrens ...
Totally Ready for College:
Thank you, Suffield



... Anton Davydenko ...
The 2013 Ukrainian
Revolution: Every Action
has Consequences



... Aubrey Sanford ...
A Happy Heart is
a Heart that Sings



... Omar Hashw ...
The lessons of education
and football: never lose
sight of your goals



... Peter Thrall ...
My Life on the Farm



... Taro Makihara ...
Discovering Identity
in a Life of Travel



... Owen Kinne ...
Staying calm won't make
matters worse—reflections
on my car accident



... Susannah Johnson ...
Assertive, Relentless,
Adventurous:
The WE of ME



... Julien George ...
Video: A Day in the
Life of Julien George



... Sasha Derby ...
Independence & Identity



... Michelle Kim ...
The impact of art on life:
follow your heart and
raise your voice



... Patrick Harding ...
Suffield Academy is a
uniquely positive experience



... Juhi Rayonia ...
Challenge yourself beyond
your comfort zone



... Matt Moryto ...
The Obstacles that Change
You must Become You



... Jacob Marin-Thomson ...
Life is about appreciating
gestures: thank you, Suffield



... Milan Ghosh ...
Not every mistake is
the biggest mistake of
your life



... Max Miranda ...
Lifeguard: every long
journey begins with a
single inch



... Jaden Robinson ...
The Importance
of Perspective



... Arianna Saxton ...
Growth, friendship,
support, and having a
shoulder to lean on



... Bryan McLennan ...
Transition & Adapt:
My Life as a Snow Bird



... Kao Kitichotkul ...
A King's Scholar:
How I Arrived at Suffield



... Ramona Fontaine ...
Recovery, family,
and the value of life:
reflection on my mother



FOLLOW SUFFIELD ACADEMY



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women in math and science

Suffield's Women in Math and Science lecture series welcomed Dr. Laurel Rachmeler in May. Dr. Rachmeler is a solar physicist and "rocket scientist" at NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, who studies the atmosphere of the Sun by developing experimental telescopes launched on short-flight sounding rockets.



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In her talk titled “Our Dynamic Sun” she discussed the environment of this atmosphere and how it changes on long and short timescales, from the 11-year solar activity cycle to the instantaneous release of tremendous amounts of energy in the form of solar flares and coronal mass ejections. Dr. Rachmeller ended her talk with a discussion of solar measurement techniques and the types of sounding rockets she helps develop. Responding to her role as a female working at NASA she commented, “While I love what I do, it is very important to know my job is not who I am. Our sun is what gives us life, and that’s what makes it so fun and exciting.”

Dr. Rachmeller has been at NASA for two years, and before that she worked in Belgium, Scotland, and Colorado. She earned her bachelor’s degree from Bryn Mawr College in physics and her masters and PhD from the University of Colorado in Boulder. Last summer, physics teacher and long-time friend Rebecca Pouy joined Laurel at the US Army’s White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to witness a rocket launch. Becka introduced the lecture series in 2017, and her trip was funded by Suffield’s professional development budget as a follow-up to Laurel’s visit.

For the most part, Becka’s afternoon on base is classified. She could not bring her cell phone or operate a camera. Although the rocket itself was only in flight for about 10 minutes, Becka arrived three hours early while access roads were still operational. There she sat for hours alongside NASA engineers viewing prelaunch tests on monitors before eventually making it outside to view liftoff. “We were allowed close enough to see the launch but kept far enough away where the sound could not injure our ears,” she recalled. “We could initially see the first stage of the rocket disperse and fall to the ground, and then we saw the second stage engines fire. When we could no longer see the rocket, we all gathered again inside to view a large monitor connected to a satellite dish. What we witnessed was amazing. The rocket was taking photos of the sun’s corona with the highest resolution in existence. It actually captured the beginning, middle, and end of a solar flare. Unfortunately for this article, none of these images will be declassified until all the data is thoroughly reviewed and investigated. But trust me—it was very, very cool.”

“It was an honor being invited to the base by Laurel’s group leader,” concluded Becka. “I’ve only ever worked in academia so this was a great opportunity to experience other applications of math and science. I obviously knew Laurel worked for NASA but never before fully understood what she did there. This is exactly why I wanted to help initiate this series for our students. These guest speakers are a wonderful way of inspiring female participation in upper level sciences. I am certainly looking forward to the lecture series continuing in the years ahead.” ∞





Internal structure:

inner core (15 million K)

radiative zone

convection zone

Subsurf

Corona
(several million K)

"When we could no longer see the rocket we all gathered again inside to view a large monitor connected to a satellite dish. What we witnessed was amazing."

SCIENCE SPECIAL

Suffield Academy offered an advanced afternoon science program for the first time in 2018. Eight students used this as an opportunity to further explore their passion for science: Kao Kitichotkul '18, Shane Donahue '19, Jess Fedor '19, Dylan Litt '19, Sarah Longhi '19, Tharis Sosothikul '19, Maddie Wolfe '19, and Tiffany Zhang '19. Faculty member Leslie Reed led the initiative. "We started the program because more and more students were asking to do projects outside of class and in addition to our curricular offerings," she commented. "Labs and free periods do not provide as much time as these talented students wanted to explore their scientific endeavors. One of the reasons I love teaching here is because Suffield fully supports the academic interests of our students." The afternoon science program, affectionately called "Varsity Science" by the group of eight, met daily and inspired several fascinating projects, including the development of an all-natural, bacteria-killing deodorant, investigation of artificial intelligence and construction of a robot, allergenic testing on protein found in shrimp, examination of color as processed by the human retina, and explorations relating to biotechnology.

Jess Fedor '19 experimented with a Lego Mindstorms EV3 robot she started working with in Intro to Computer Science. She constructed the robot with motors, tires, and sensors, and coded a program in Java to make it move forward and turn around at the push of a button. In group projects, she worked with Maddie Wolfe '19 and Sarah Longhi '19 to test blood types, extracting samples of their own DNA to form comparisons in similarity using the process of gel electrophoresis. She noted, "I chose to pursue this afternoon option because science has always been my passion, and I loved the idea of entering an environment dedicated to the collaboration with my peers on projects of both personal interest and scientific merit."

Tharis Sosothikul '19 used CRISPR technology to modify genes and program bioluminescence in fruit flies—the same genetic phenomenon as found in jellyfish. In another project, Tharis attempted to invent a food container capable of identifying when the contents inside had gone bad. The experiment centered on color-changing bacteria such as *Serratia marcescens* and *Rhodospirillum rubrum* and eventually led him to an internship with the National Science and Technology Development Agency in Thailand over spring break. "I pursued the science special because it offered me an opportunity to experiment and discover new things," he said. "It also encouraged me to identify a passion for biotechnology."

As it develops, Leslie Reed would love to see this offering combined with afternoon programs currently offered in the arts. "Both science and art uncover beautiful forms of creativity and celebrate the incredible wonders transcribed by the natural world," she says. "It is remarkable and rewarding to see these students so excited and engaged in their work."

Because of rising interest in educational experiences outside the traditional classroom, Leslie was asked to give a talk on the topic of Advanced Science and Research at the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS) 5th Annual "The Future of Learning is Now!" professional development conference in August 2018. Hosted by Notre Dame High School in West Haven, Connecticut, the conference centered on trends in instructional innovation. A total of 120 teachers from 25 Connecticut independent schools attended the event, including Suffield's own Bill Sullivan who recommended Leslie as a presenter.

Throughout the last 10 years, Bill has been involved with several CAIS groups regarding professional development, serving at times as vice chair and chair. Headmaster Charlie Cahn has served two terms as a CAIS Board member. CAIS schools aim to help students develop personally and intellectually. The Commission of Professional Development provides opportunities for educators to keep pace with ever-broadening educational demands. Bill commented, "I originally recommended Leslie when the group was brainstorming what we call 'Day Hikes' that are already happening at CAIS schools. The term is used by the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) to describe initial excursions outside the setting of a traditional >>



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 ONE OF THE
 REASONS I LOVE
 TEACHING HERE
 IS BECAUSE AS A
 SCHOOL, SUFFIELD
 FULLY SUPPORTS
 THE ACADEMIC
 INTERESTS OF
 OUR STUDENTS.



classroom environment. Leslie's interesting offering fit well with two other science teachers who are finding ways of having students learn science beyond the normal confines of the academic day. Their teaching philosophies center on what NAIS calls "The Magnetic Mountain."

II
THE SCIENCE SPECIAL
OFFERED ME AN
OPPORTUNITY TO
EXPERIMENT & DISCOVER
NEW THINGS... IT ALSO
ENCOURAGED ME TO
IDENTIFY A PASSION
FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY.

The Innovative Kitchen is a division of NAIS responsible for developing the strategies that make up The Magnetic Mountain. According to them, the mountain is made up of six benchmarks: history, imperative, the ascent, the summit, the descent, and the second summit. These six benchmarks represent steps toward improvement and innovation as if hiking up a hill. Each step is a new point of evaluation. The concept is originally based on the principle that every school has a rich history that shapes its unique identity. NAIS notes, "By looking into the past, schools can reflect on the values that underpin their mission and purpose, allowing them to evolve and continuously meet the needs of current and future students and families." Day Hikes are about making progress as exploratory innovations at the school. They help guide evolution in teaching and learning. Using a mountain as their example, NAIS suggests schools can continually challenge their identity in order to reach the "summit" of change. The goal is to push beyond what educators already know in order to discover a new way of learning. Evolution outside the classroom begins with an initial first step they call Day Hikes.

"I was honored to present my strategies at the conference," commented Leslie. "It is great to be at a point in my career where my experience is a useful tool for the professional development of other teachers. It is an exciting time for delivering science education in nontraditional ways. This is the way education should be." ∞



COMMUNITY SERVICE



The Leadership Program at Suffield provides a vehicle for Suffield students to broaden their impact beyond the walls of classrooms and in the greater community. It is centered on helping students develop the skills, traits, and habits they need to have a positive impact on others.

SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

COMMUNITY SERVICE

SOPHOMORE LEADERSHIP PROJECTS

As an important element of Suffield Academy's Leadership Program, all students in the sophomore class plan and execute service leadership projects each spring. Activities in 2018 included a restoration of the school's frisbee golf course, initiatives to help resolve hunger, creation of a new campus hiking trail, volunteer work on local farms and historic sites, a bottle and can redemption program, service at a retirement community, and teaching leadership skills at the town's intermediate school. All of these projects focused around the central theme of leadership. Students worked together to accomplish collective goals and help people beyond the Suffield Academy community.

Tommaso Calderan's class project worked in conjunction with an extensive effort to create a teaching space for Hilltop Farm's (Suffield, Connecticut) educational programming. "The part I liked most about volunteering at Hilltop was knowing we were helping a good cause," he said. "Service projects at Suffield Academy are important because they teach self-discipline and the value of hard work. A leader is thankful for what they have and does not take anything for granted."

HILLTOP FARM

Tim Cordes' class project centered on hunger. Students prepared and distributed meals at a local food bank and soup kitchen and initiated a bottle and can drive with the proceeds supporting that cause. "We are fortunate to have a surplus of food and should always remember those who do not have this advantage," he commented. "I enjoyed the benevolent philosophy of Enfield Loaves & Fishes and our work simply felt like the right thing to do."

LOAVES & FISHES

Lexi Robert's class blazed a new hiking trail for the Suffield community. "We marked a new route, cleared brush, removed downed trees, and raked out a path," she commented. "The trail winds through a variety of terrain and forest cover. It is a nice addition to the existing campus trails. We chose to name it Rocky's Road."

ROCKY'S ROAD

Alana Colaccino's leadership class recognized the school's frisbee golf course had been underutilized and chose to restore it to its original condition. "Students had not been using the course so it became overgrown," she explained. "We saw an opportunity to improve the school and took initiative, and I think this represents leadership."

RESTORATION

Nicole St. Jacques' class spent time at McAlister Intermediate School, where they focused on environmental stewardship, the importance of physical and mental health, time management, caring about classmates, and working together to build a positive community. "It is important to make an impact on other people's lives," she concluded. "Children are easily impressionable, and whether we realize it or not, what we do around them matters. I enjoyed making a positive impact in their lives."

MENTORING YOUNGER STUDENTS



SERVICE PROJECTS AT SUFFIELD ACADEMY ARE IMPORTANT BECAUSE THEY TEACH SELF-DISCIPLINE AND THE VALUE OF HARD WORK. A LEADER IS THANKFUL FOR WHAT THEY HAVE AND DOES NOT TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED. [TOMMASO CALDERAN '20]





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LEERS

BOYS' LACROSSE

With notable victories over Williston, Pomfret, Millbrook, and Gunnery, the Tigers finished the season with a record 12-1 (9-0 in league play). Led by senior captains Kevin Kuzmeski, Jake Selbst, and Michael Stern, Suffield earned their first league championship since 2002. Attackman George Raymond '19 notched 33 goals with 21 assists while goalie Cam Purdy '19 stocked a 63% save average, allowing only 4.96 goals per game. Raymond earned the William LaBelle Award as League Player of the Year. Thomas Foote received the Mike Fuller Award as League Head Coach of the Year. Kuzmeski, Purdy, Raymond, Brock Zenker '18, and Jack Cobb '20 were named First Team All-League. Selbst, Stern, and Ethan Dallas '19 were named Honorable Mention All-League, and Mac Keating won the Charles Cahn III Most Improved Award.

Photos – [left] Kevin Kuzmeski '18, Ethan Dallas '19, Cam Purdy '19 [top] George Raymond '19



GIRLS' WATER POLO

After graduating five seniors from last season's New England final four team, the Tigers made great strides and saw significant improvement from many players as they gained more game exposure. Maya Grant '18 and Renee Sanders '21 took on goaltending duties for the first time and improved greatly, and Devina Bhalla '18 and Jenna Polidoro '18 led an otherwise inexperienced team with patience and encouragement, helping the younger players to become confident starters. Although wins were hard to come by for the Tigers, the knowledge gained will be key in the future as this year's lone junior, Sarah Longhi '19, and a strong sophomore class (Samantha Hagberg '20, Caitlin Lally '20, Amanda Kikonyogo '20, and Abby Fort '20) look to lead the team this spring. With 56 goals on the season, Jenna Polidoro capped her career with a total of 100 and was named to Second Team All-New England. **Photo – Devina Bhalla '18**



GOLF

The golf team had a very successful season, even after the graduation of four seniors in 2017. The team came together as a close-knit group of young men who played their best golf at the end of the season. The Tigers were 8-9-1 and had a 3rd-place finish in the Suffield Invitational. Leading the group was senior Bryan McLennan who held a season stroke average of 38.78. He was medalist in the Suffield Invitational while shooting a 75 in 40 degree temperatures. He tied for 11th place in the WNEPGI at Bulls Bridge. The team also received considerable contributions from seniors Sasha Derby and Patrick Harding who helped the Tigers to great wins over Wilbraham, Choate, and Kingswood-Oxford in the Coppola Cup. **Photo – Bryan McLennan '18**



TENNIS

Girls' The girls' varsity tennis team finished with a 3-5 record. Led by seniors Kate Rookey, Jovana Kovac and Hattie Bauchiero, the team started the season with wins over Westover and Miss Halls. The highlight of the season was a 6-1 win over Wilbraham in the Tigers' final match of the season. The Joyce Wilson Award was given to Mia D'Angelo '19 and the Coaches Award was given to Kate Rookey. The young players gained valuable experience this season, and the future for the girls' tennis team looks strong as 10 of the 13 team members will return to compete next season.

Photo – Kate Rookey '18

Boys' Captains Leonard Hoermann '18 and Ben Bonavire '19 led the Tigers through a solid season following the departure of the #1 and #2 singles players from 2017. Season highlights included defeating Berkshire for the first time in eight years and two nail-biting 4-3 wins against Salisbury and Pomfret. The award for commitment and excellence went to a deserving Leo Hoermann. Leo transformed himself from the #4 singles in 2017 to a strong #1 player and defeated some of New England's finest players. Seniors Max Shlafstein and Milan Ghosh were both awarded the Coaches Award for their steadfast dedication and leadership to the team. Juniors Andrew Zielinski, Colter Rule, Alejandro Mozos Prieto, and Charlie Tilney-Volk all made significant contributions in singles and doubles and will return with Ben Bonavire for the 2019 season.

Photo – Andrew Zielinski '19

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Girls' lacrosse finished the season with a winning record of 8-5 and a trip to the Class B Invitational Tournament. The Tigers were led by a strong senior class including Bridget Carey, Alina Ryan, and Jenn Ungerleider in the midfield and Bella Boonstra on attack. The girls played with their hearts and made a positive impact on the history of the program.

Photo – Jenn Ungerleider '18





CREW

The crew program had a successful spring season. They joined the competitive New England Interscholastic Rowing Association (NEIRA) and grew in size, competitiveness, and experience. The Tigers boated both varsity boys' and girls' boats (fours and eights), as well as novice crews, and competed against a number of schools including Nobles, Berkshire, Greenwich Academy, Marianapolis, Eagle Hill, Bancroft, Dexter-Southfield, Vermont Academy, and Worcester Academy.

Photos from left to right – [top] Cécile Meier-Scherling '18, Sarah Kurbanov '21, Eva Hafner '18, Lexi Roberts '20, Tommaso Calderan '20
[bottom] Shane Donahue '19, Jason Choi, '19, William Hunnewell '19, Maxwell Miranda '18]





BASEBALL

The baseball team qualified for the playoffs for the 10th time in the past 12 years by earning the #2 seed in the Cleary Division. The Tigers were led by seniors Ben Bonavita, Connor Ahrens, and Devon Loftus who all contributed to the team both offensively and defensively throughout the regular season. In the WNEPBL semifinals, Suffield traveled to Young Division #1 Seed Salisbury and lost a heartbreaker in the bottom of the 7th inning, 5-4. The future looks bright for the Tigers as they return talented underclassmen Dylan Chase '19, Carter Cousins '19, Jackson Pentz '19, and Tyler Van Dyke '20 and welcome several newcomers who have the potential to make an immediate impact.

Photo – Carter Cousins '19

SOFTBALL

The girls swung their way to a 7-4 record and qualified for postseason play as the #4 seed. A highlight of the season was an exciting 7-6 comeback victory over Westminster with winning runs knocked in by Eugenie Davis '21 with two outs in the bottom half of the last inning. On the mound, Alannah Browne '19 averaged well over 10 strikeouts per game. Senior sluggers Carlin Molander and Susannah Johnson led the Tigers as captains with fellow classmate Ramona Fontaine providing additional power at the plate. Browne and Molander were awarded All-League and returning players and seniors next season include Aaliyah Lopez, Laura Pires, Elaine Wang, and Kate Killam. The Tigers fought and came from behind to defeat Kingswood-Oxford in dramatic fashion to win their last game of the year only to have the playoffs washed away by rain.

Photo – Alannah Browne '19



TRACK & FIELD

The track and field team had a strong season that culminated with an outstanding performance at the New England Championships as 17 athletes earned All-New England honors. Many of these athletes were recognized for their efforts at the Spring Awards night. Rob Levine '18, Izzy Dutranoit '19, Tyler Perriera '19, Jaden Dottin '20, and Tim Bell '20 earned the Outstanding Achievement Award for breaking school records in the girls' 3,000 meter and the boys' 4 x 100 relay. Jonathan Walker '19, Kechaun Bennett '21, and Rose Caso '21 earned the Gordan G. Glover and David J. Rockwell MVP award. Seniors Tori Tryon, Bailey Hyland, and Leon Schmid earned the Thomas B. Schultz Award for love and dedication to track and field. Nick Briones '20 and India Shay '18 earned the Coaches Award. Other athletes recognized with All-New England honors were Lily Caso '19, Angelo Santiago '20, Leo Edo '20, and William Schmitz '21. The team lost some terrific seniors but will have a number of their top athletes returning next season.

Photos – [top] Jaden Dottin '20 [bottom] Shay Fuente '21 & Rose Caso '21





EXPERIENCE
LIVE
TIGERS

[SUFFIELDACADEMY.ORG/LIVESTREAM](https://suffieldacademy.org/livestream)

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT
OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME





Suffield Academy Performing Arts presented *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* in the Jeanice Seaverns Performing Arts Center. A cast and crew of 21 students worked diligently to bring a highly technical and intensive production to the stage. It is a remarkable story that brought the audience into a different world. Christopher has an extraordinary brain: He is exceptional at mathematics but ill-equipped to interpret everyday life. He has never ventured alone beyond the end of his road, he detests being touched, and he distrusts strangers. Now it is seven minutes after midnight, and Christopher stands beside his neighbor's dead dog, Wellington, who has been speared with a garden fork. Finding himself under suspicion, Christopher is determined to solve the mystery of who murdered Wellington, and he carefully records each fact of the crime. But his detective work, forbidden by his father, takes him on a thrilling journey that upturns his world.



SPRING SHOW TIME IN THE PAC



PERFORMING SHOWCASE

Orchestra Megan Alberding '19, Regine DeCossard '21, Sarah Park '20, Abby James '19, Peter Kim '18
Vocal Ensembles Carlos Salguero '18, Arianna Saxton '18 [Middle] Eugenie Davis '21, Leticia Sadilina '18, Julia Cotteleer '21, Max Santopietro '21, Eli Li '21, [Right] Caitlin Lally '20, Drea Breck '18, Allie Mohn '20, Ala Ietta '18, Aubrey Sanford '18, Dana Mills '18, Bailey Hyland '18



GUITAR SHOW

Seniors Matt Moryto, Carlos Salguero, Mac Keating, Max Wiener, Arianna Saxton, Caleigh Horrigan, Isabella Attianese **Juniors** Sarah Longhi **Sophomores** Michaela Domino, Justin Hern, Sam Manning, Allie Mohn **Freshmen** Silas Casertano, Naila Gomez, Elm Piyasombatkul, Max Santopietro



PERFORMING ARTS AWARDS

STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BROADWAY METHOD ACADEMY, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SHUBERT THEATRE OF NEW HAVEN AND WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE, ANNOUNCED THE NOMINEES AND WINNERS FOR THE STEPHEN SONDHEIM AWARDS IN MAY. THE BLACK-TIE GALA TOOK PLACE AT THE SHUBERT THEATRE AND RECOGNIZED EXCELLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOL MUSICALS. AFTER RECEIVING SIX NOMINATIONS, SUFFIELD ACADEMY WON TWO AWARDS FOR ITS PRODUCTION OF *HAIRSPRAY*. OAK CHAISATHAPORN '19 WAS AWARDED BEST LIGHTING DESIGN AND MIA WHITE '18 EARNED A SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT IN THEATRE AWARD FOR HER WORK AS CHOREOGRAPHER AND A LEAD ACTRESS.

HALO

SEVEN ANGELS THEATRE, GREATER WATERBURY'S ONLY EQUITY PROFESSIONAL THEATRE, HOSTED THE 15th ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL HALO AWARDS IN MAY TO HONOR STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN ALL AREAS OF HIGH SCHOOL THEATRE THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE AWARDS ARE A GALA, RED CARPET EVENT FOR THE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. SUFFIELD ACADEMY RECEIVED 12 NOMINATIONS AND WON TWO AWARDS FOR ITS PRODUCTION OF *THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME*, INCLUDING BEST CONTEMPORARY PLAY. THE AWARD FOR BEST MALE STANDOUT PERFORMANCE IN AN ENSEMBLE PLAY WAS WON BY DOMINIC COLANGELO '19 FOR HIS PERFORMANCE AS CHRISTOPHER BOONE.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NOMINEES & WINNERS

VIEW NOMINATIONS ONLINE AT SUFFIELDACADEMY.ORG/PERFORMINGARTS



DAN MATCHETT '08

BY PHIL RIEGEL '87, P'20

It is difficult to find clear statistics on how many people who aspire to become fighter pilots actually achieve their goal. The numbers, by any measure, are staggeringly low—perhaps even as low as three or four out of every thousand. Considering the potential lethality of the F-15 Eagle and the estimated cost of around \$35 million per plane, it is clear why only the best of the best will do.



When my interview ended with Dan Matchett, I was thinking three things: the military has too many acronyms, when you look up grit in the dictionary there should be a picture of Dan, and finally how grateful I am for Dan's service and sacrifice.

Dan was born and raised in Suffield, Connecticut, and admittedly followed his sister Kristin '04 to the Academy. Kristin was eager for a new adventure and wanted to challenge herself. Her positive experience cemented Dan's joining the Suffield community, too. He knew Suffield was a great school and was attracted to the athletic culture, even though it meant he had to give up his beloved ice hockey. Dan recalls, "It was an easy transition for me because of Kristin's time on campus and several local friends attending from the town. What I never could have imagined is that most of my closest, lifelong friends were made at Suffield Academy. It was exciting to be around people I aspired to be like, people I wanted to be with."

Dan excelled at Suffield and made close relationships not only with fellow students but with faculty as well. He recalls, "I had amazing teachers and coaches. I particularly remember my two lacrosse coaches: Chad Wabrek and Jonathan Edwards. When it came time to choose a college my English teacher, David Stillman, asked a simple question: 'Which school will stretch you and make you the most uncomfortable?' That is how I ended up in Boston." Dan enrolled at Boston College as an economics major and still very focused on lacrosse.

✂ R.O.T.C. RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

As early as his sophomore year at Suffield, Dan knew he wanted to go into the service and credits his Leadership class as playing a major role in this decision. As a sophomore at BC, Dan signed up for ROTC and began the long journey in becoming a fighter pilot. Dan recounts, "The first year of ROTC training is learning military discipline, bearing, history, and how the military works. It was about 15-20 hours a week of work, and as cadets we were basically in charge of our own training. I was fortunate to get a scholarship. It wasn't a full ride, but it certainly helped with my education. I'm still paying off those loans!"

reasoning, personality, spatial relations, cardiac health, hearing, seeing, and sensory to name a few—any one of which could knock him out of the running for pilot training, not to mention the higher bar of fighter pilot training. At the beginning of his senior year, Dan received some very good news. He was to take the next step in his journey. He not only received a pilot slot (as the military needs many more pilots than those in fighter jets), but also a fighter pilot berth at the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training program working and training alongside pilots from the NATO alliance. Only five percent of the hopeful students are awarded this honor. With his background security clearance complete, Dan had three weeks off after graduation before he was to report to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas, as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Little did he know he would be spending the next five years there from May 2012 until August 2017.

⚙ E.A. ENROLLMENT ALLOCATION

Dan proved himself enough to make it to the next level. He was given an EA to enter summer boot camp for five weeks in Alabama during the months between his sophomore and junior years of college. Obtaining an EA and completing the training earned him consideration for flight training once he was established in his junior year. Upon receiving the proper recommendation from his commander and completing a lengthy application process, Dan got the good news that he was a candidate. However, it also meant that he was subjected to physical testing beyond my imagination. During his junior year at BC, Dan underwent evaluations that included hand-eye coordination, logic and

△ I.F.S. INITIAL FLIGHT SCREENING

The first phase of fighter pilot training is seeing if you can actually fly. After overcoming all the hurdles to get this far many candidates are not allowed to continue training if they are unable to successfully fly a Diamond DA-20 two-seat light aircraft. Once again Dan met the challenge and moved on to the next level.



A multimission avionics system sets the F-15 apart from other fighter aircraft. It includes a heads-up display, advanced radar, inertial navigation system, flight instruments, ultrahigh frequency communications, tactical navigation system, and instrument landing system. It also has an internally mounted, tactical electronic-warfare system, “identification friend or foe” system, electronic countermeasures set, and a central digital computer.

PRIMARY FUNCTION Tactical fighter	LENGTH 63.8 feet [919.44 meters]	PAYLOAD Depends on mission	INITIAL OPERATING CAPABILITY September 1975
CONTRACTOR McDonnell Douglas Corp.	HEIGHT 18.5 feet [5.6 meters]	SPEED 1,875 mph [Mach 2 class]	INVENTORY Total force – 249
POWER PLANT Two Pratt & Whitney F100-PW-100, 220 or 229 turbofan engines with afterburners	WEIGHT 31,700 lbs.	CEILING 65,000 feet [19,812 meters]	ARMAMENT One internally mounted M-61A1 20 mm, six-barrel cannon with 940 rounds of ammunition; four AIM-9 Sidewinder & four AIM-120 AMRAAMs or eight AIM-120 AMRAAMs, carried externally
THRUST [C/D MODELS] 23,450 pounds per each engine	MAXIMUM TAKEOFF WEIGHT [C/D MODEL] 68,000 pounds 30,844 kilograms	RANGE 3,450 miles [3,000 nautical miles] ferry range with conformal fuel tanks & three external fuel tanks	
WINGSPAN 42.8 feet [13 meters]	FUEL CAPACITY 36,200 pounds three external plus conformal fuel tanks	CREW F-15A/C – one F-15B/D/E – two	



✈ ENJJPT EURO-NATO JOINT JET PILOT TRAINING PROGRAM

Now the actual flight training began. After three months of classroom instruction, countless simulator missions—and a year flying both the slower, more fundamental building T-6 Texan II aircraft and the supersonic T-38C Talon aircraft while learning instrument flying, formation flying, tactical formation flying, low-level flying and four-ship flying—Dan finally earned his wings in 2013. Dan remembers, “This was a very proud moment for me and the culmination of a tremendous amount of dedication and work. It is at this point, based on your performance, when you find out what you will be flying. The Air Force asked me to remain at Sheppard Air Force Base and instruct students on the T-38C Talon. It was not what I was expecting but it was a great honor. I accepted and stayed until 2017.”

● P.I.T PILOT INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

To become an instructor, Dan would have to endure another acronym and a five-month course required to begin his three-year stint on the 90th Flying Training Squadron for the T-38. F.A.I.P. (First Assignment Instructor Pilot) – All the time Dan spent instructing others to be fighter pilots was still a type of audition for him as well. “It’s a really complicated selection process,” Dan admits. But when his time in Wichita Falls was over, he was assigned to his top choice of the F-15E Strike Eagle. This meant even more training and Dan was sent to Squadron Officer School in Alabama. Upon completion, he was headed to his most physically demanding challenge yet.

△ S.E.R.E. SURVIVAL, EVASION, RESISTANCE, ESCAPE

Some of the most difficult and valuable training according to Dan comes only after you have been given your operational assignment, and (shockingly) failure to complete this training would mean the end to his dream. S.E.R.E. was held in the northern reaches of Washington state in the Pacific Northwest. It is a five-week, mostly outdoor program that began for Dan (bad luck) in January and teaches prospective fighter pilots how to escape capture and resist torture. As the F-15E pilots are tip-of-the-spear fighters, this is designed solely for them and others who may be put in harm’s way. Very few people will ever go through this training.

◎ I.F.F. INTRODUCTION TO FIGHTER FUNDAMENTALS

Dan returned from S.E.R.E. back to Sheppard Air Force Base for over two months and then started yet another course. IFF is a three-month training program designed to teach fundamental skills of being a fighter pilot. These skills include aerial combat, air to ground attack, and close air support. Once complete, Dan was cleared to move away from Texas and start his new career as an F-15E pilot.



⚙ F-15E F.T.U. FORMAL TRAINING UNIT

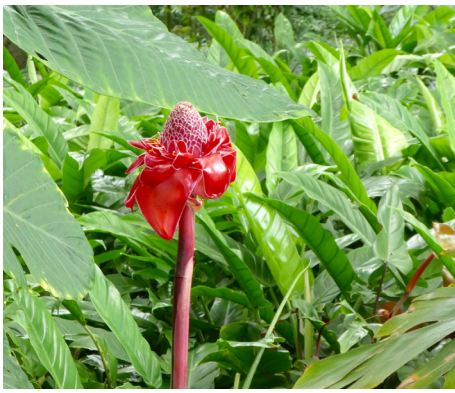
Dan packed up his bags and moved to Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, North Carolina, to become a student once again. Dan recalls, “My time at Seymour Johnson was the most exciting and the most challenging. Even at this point in the process, the washout rate is significant because we are taught how to employ the F-15E as a national defense asset.” With successful completion of this final training, Dan became a combat qualified F-15E pilot. He has been assigned to the Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, England, for the next three years where he and his wife (Keegan), who is an active duty Air Force Nurse, will live together for the first time in their young marriage. Dan told me, “This never would have happened without the love and support of Keegan, my parents, and close friends. At least for me, this whole process was too intense to go through alone. I thank each of them for helping me reach my dream.” ∞



THE WICK in the CANDLE of LEARNING

THE OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY DEFINES CURIOSITY AS A STRONG DESIRE TO KNOW OR LEARN SOMETHING. IT HAS BEEN REFERRED TO AS “THE WICK IN THE CANDLE OF LEARNING” (WILLIAM ARTHUR WARD) AND “LUST OF THE MIND” (THOMAS HOBBES). EDMUND BURKE STATED, “THE FIRST AND SIMPLEST EMOTION WHICH WE DISCOVER IN THE HUMAN MIND IS CURIOSITY,” AND ARNOLD EDINBOROUGH SAID, “CURIOSITY IS THE VERY BASIS OF EDUCATION AND IF YOU TELL ME THAT CURIOSITY KILLED THE CAT, I SAY THE CAT DIED NOBLY.” WHAT IS IT ABOUT HUMAN NATURE THAT MAKES US SO CURIOUS, AND WHY IS THIS CURIOSITY SO INTEGRAL TO A LIFETIME OF LEARNING? SUFFIELD’S SUMMER SABBATICALS SUPPORT ACTIVE CURIOSITY AS A MEANS OF PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

STEVE GOODWIN P’01, ’03 AND BRETT VIANNEY ’70, P’12, ’14 WERE THE MOST RECENT MEMBERS OF THE SUFFIELD FACULTY TO LET CURIOSITY BE THEIR GUIDE.



STEVE GOODWIN P'01, '03

THE HAWAIIAN WORD FOR CURIOUS IS *NIELE* (PRONOUNCED: KNEE-EH-LAY). APPOINTED IN 1992 AS A MEMBER OF THE SCIENCE DEPARTMENT, STEVE GOODWIN WAS *NIELE* ABOUT SPENDING HIS SUMMER SABBATICAL IN HAWAII.

On a 10-day trip spanning the islands, Steve and his wife Kim traversed the evolutionary laboratory of Hawaii in search of its endemic inhabitants. Native to a restricted or isolated habitat, Hawaii's endemic species are unique to the islands. Steve explained, "Hawaii is very interesting because it is one of the most isolated land masses in the world and has a greater genetic diversity than even the Galápagos Islands. It sits right in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, and since it is so remote there are a lot of endemic species found only there and nowhere else. Natural selection, therefore, has a pure genomic effect. Reproductive isolation means there are no other common forms overwhelming the gene pools in that location, and ancestor species are extremely limited."

Flying from Hartford to Los Angeles and then to Honolulu, the first thing they did upon arrival was have dinner with Kim's cousin (and their host), Jay Shaffer. Jay is now a radiology manager at Shriners and has been living in Honolulu for the last 15 years. Jay's two sons attend Punahou School in Honolulu, an independent school that emphasizes sustainability programs and encourages children to embrace curiosity as a powerful incentive for learning. "Visiting Punahou School was an interest of mine because it covers 76 acres at the edge of Mānoa Valley and incorporates outdoor sustainable education into its curriculum," said Steve. "Hawaii maintains a strong dedication to off-the-grid, zero energy buildings. It was very informative to see how they deal with the architecture of schools in a hot climate. The form follows its function in terms of natural light and shadow." But as interesting as it was to compare Punahou to Suffield, Steve was primarily there to find endemic species unique to Hawaii.

Steve was disappointed to discover most of Hawaii's endemic species are endangered or threatened by habitat reduction. "I have only one photo of a mongoose. They are one of the most detested of all the invaders in Hawaii besides the feral pig (wild boar)," he commented. "They were introduced by farmers in 1883 to alleviate a rat overpopulation, but the intention was massively misinformed. Rats are nocturnal and mongoose are diurnal. So, the exotic predators never came into contact with their rodent prey, and the bird population began crashing instead. Today those critters keep gobbling their way through native nestlings and turtle eggs. Prior to these ground predators being introduced to the islands, birds had no reason to make their nests up high. Man's introduction of these invasive species altered the local, natural habitat."



"VISITING PUNAHOU SCHOOL WAS AN INTEREST OF MINE BECAUSE IT COVERS 76 ACRES AT THE EDGE OF MANOA VALLEY AND INCORPORATES OUTDOOR SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION INTO ITS CURRICULUM. "



While they were hoping to encounter a variety of endemic species during his sabbatical celebrating science, Steve and Kim learned they are, in fact, very rare. “The epic topography of Hawaii invites a lot of variation in animal life, but most of the creatures existing today arrived unnaturally,” he explained. “If you are hoping to see the official state bird, the nene, you are not going to find it. We therefore investigated other things like geology and history. We visited Volcanoes National Park on Hawaii Island (Big Island) and viewed the active lava dome at Kīlauea crater, hiked up Diamond Head, trekked through a rain forest, and even got a chance to visit Pearl Harbor.” Steve

concluded, “The personal aspect of the trip ended up being the most fun and rewarding. It was great connecting with family we don’t get a chance to see often. We did some zip-lining and enjoyed the spectacular views of the islands, too. While we did not necessarily accomplish what we set out to achieve scientifically, we did have a wonderfully successful time.” From Diamond Head, to Pearl Harbor, to the endangered nene, the effects of an invasive species are obvious in Hawaii’s past and present but hopefully not its future. The Hawaiian word for family is *ohana* (pronounced: oh-hah-nah), and that certainly is worth sustaining.

BRETT VIANNEY '70, P'12, '14

THE CURIOUS MIND OF RUDYARD KIPLING CREATED THE STORY OF A MONGOOSE NAMED RIKKI-TIKKI-TAVI. IN HIS STORY, THE VALIANT MONGOOSE EMERGES TRIUMPHANTLY OVER THE INVASIVE COBRAS NAG AND NAGAINA. WHILE STEVE MAY NOT BE A HUGE FAN OF ANY STORY FEATURING A MONGOOSE, BRETT VIANNEY IS VERY CURIOUS ABOUT STORIES IN GENERAL, SPECIFICALLY THOSE WRITTEN BY KENNETH ROBERTS.

Appointed in 1980 as a member of the English department, Brett said his summer sabbatical actually began on February 4, 1967, when he was just 15 years old. His parents had given him a copy of Kenneth Roberts’ novel *Rabble in Arms* with the following words written inside the book jacket: “So you might travel from Quebec to Lake Champlain with the Benedict Arnold unknown to most Americans.” Thus, began his love of the books written by Kenneth Roberts: *Rabble in Arms*, *Boon Island*, *Arundel*, *Captain Caution*, *The Lively Lady*, *Oliver Wiswell*, and *Northwest Passage*. “I read and reread all of them, especially *Arundel* and *Rabble in Arms*,” he noted. “And as my parents predicted, I gained an appreciation of Benedict Arnold that went well beyond the stereotypical view of him as simply an American traitor. So, for my sabbatical I wanted to see the actual places mentioned in Roberts’ works with my wife Molly.”

His sabbatical began in the summer of 2017 with a short trip to Norwich, Connecticut, the birthplace and home of Benedict Arnold. From there Brett and Molly visited Fort Griswold in



New London. Brett commented, “As a traitor and now British general, Arnold attacked and burned New London and defeated a garrison of American troops who were defending

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Fort Griswold. Molly and I climbed to the top of the 135-foot-tall monument for a spectacular view of New London and the Thames River.”

The next chapter of the sabbatical took them to Maine. The famous Nubble Lighthouse is in York Beach, Maine, and six miles out to sea from it one can look at the Boon Island Light. Brett noted, “This 137-foot-high lighthouse is the tallest in Maine, and Roberts wrote his novel *Boon Island* about a ship that founders on this 300-foot by 700-foot rocky island standing only 12 feet above the water. The novel is based on a British merchant ship, the Nottingham Galley, that crashed on the island on December 11, 1710, and what happened to the 14 survivors as they dealt with the cold and starvation.” While in southern Maine they also visited Arundel, the opening setting to Roberts’ novel by that name. “Roberts, in this novel, chronicles how Benedict Arnold marched American forces the length of Maine and into Canada for a daring attack against British held Quebec on December 31, 1775,” said Brett. “The American forces had to retreat, and Arnold was wounded in the leg but escaped with most of his men.”

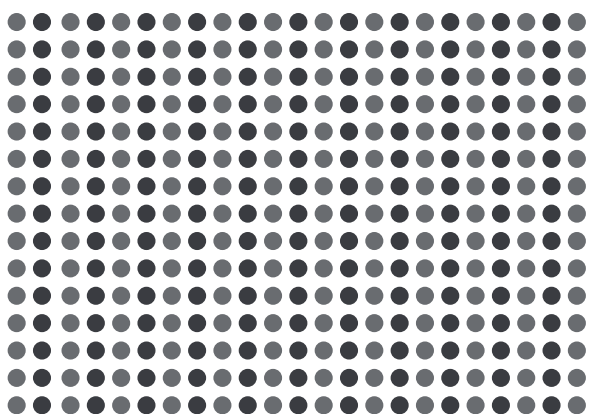
Rabble In Arms provided the settings for the next part of the sabbatical. Brett commented, “The British under General Burgoyne planned to sail a fleet of warships from St. Johns, Canada, down Lake Champlain, capture all the lake’s American forts, continue down the Hudson River taking its forts, and then join up with British General Howe who had recently captured New York City. Arnold, knowing this, created an American fleet of ships and attacked the British Navy at Valcour Island in October 1776. The out-gunned American fleet was defeated, but Arnold and his remaining ships and

army slipped away at night and retreated to Fort Crown Point, then to Fort Ticonderoga, and eventually to Saratoga.” On the sabbatical, Brett and Molly visited the sites in reverse order, beginning with Saratoga, where Benedict Arnold rallied his American forces and defeated General Burgoyne’s troops. “It is at Saratoga that I found the only monument to Benedict Arnold,” said Brett. “It is a granite stone with a boot on it reflecting the two leg wounds Arnold received in Quebec and Saratoga. An inscription describes his gallant actions in battle but does not name him.” The two then visited Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Defiance, Fort Crown Point, and Valcour Island. “On a side note,” Brett interjected, “we discovered a Star Trek Museum in the city of Ticonderoga, New York, that has the exact set of the USS Enterprise NCC-1701.” They also traveled to Vergennes, Vermont, to visit the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum. There they saw a replica of Arnold’s flagship, *The Philadelphia*, as well as some of the bateau used in the Lake Champlain battle. After a ferry boat trip across Champlain, they followed Route 302 into New Hampshire for a stay at the Mount Washington Omni and a trip up the Cog Railway to the top of Mount Washington to end their journey.

“I am so thankful for Suffield’s Summer Sabbatical Program,” concluded Brett. “Molly and I had a truly wonderful experience as we shared first hand in the settings of Roberts’ novels.”

As William Arthur Ward said, “Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning.” Suffield’s summer sabbaticals reward curiosity for professional growth because an inspired teacher is also a lifelong learner. Curiosity is, after all, the very basis of education, and if you say that curiosity killed the mongoose, Hawaiians might just say *ma halo* (thank you). ∞

SPOTLIGHT ON
LEGACIES
SUFFIELD FAMILIES



VARDAKAS

LEE '82 | NICK '18 | LAUREL '20

KINNE

KEVIN '84 | OWEN '18

KILLAM

TUCKER '80 | JOHN '18 | KATE '19 | TOM '19

The Post-It Note was first introduced by 3M to the commercial marketplace in 1980, the same year Tucker Killam graduated from Suffield Academy. It was a remarkable invention with several applications but used most commonly for reminders. Today these sticky squares serve as bookmarks and even art installations, and are recognized world-wide as computer screen accessories. They help us find pages more easily and remember ideas we must not soon forget. Now fashioned in a variety of colors and sizes, the Post-It Note remains mostly unchanged. Suffield Academy has also undergone an evolution in appearance since 1980 but its purpose remains specifically as intended. There are perhaps no better symbols of this than the experiences of legacy families. Like sticky notes, legacies serve as reminders of special experiences not soon forgotten. This is the story of three legacy families.

LEE '82, NICK '18 & LAUREL '20

Lee Vardakas grew up in Westfield, Massachusetts and later studied economics at University of Rochester. Now living in Longmeadow, he is a business owner in the energy sector. His daughter Laurel is a junior at Suffield and his son Nick graduated last May as a member of the Class of 2018. "I am thrilled I was able to afford my children the same influential high school experience I had," he says. "It also gives my wife Nicole an opportunity to experience Suffield through us and as a parent. It is the family culture of Suffield and the teachers and friends that I miss the most. I've maintained a lot of those friendships, and my positive experience is largely what encouraged me to send both my children to Suffield."

With her older brother Nick already attending Suffield, Laurel was interested in having the same great experiences and lasting friendships about which he and her dad were always talking. Although she was encouraged by her parents to visit other schools, she already knew Suffield was the right place for her. Laurel received the freshman mathematics award and is an honor roll student. Her favorite subject is chemistry and she is on the school's dance team. "I love performing in dance shows and school musicals," she says. "Participating in the performing arts allowed me to form bonds with people across all grade levels. Suffield provided me the opportunity to meet so many great people who are a lot like me. I feel very fortunate to be attending such a beautiful school. Everyone here really cares about us."

Nick did visit a few other schools but never applied anywhere else besides Suffield Academy. He made honor roll every semester, was named Athlete of the Week in 2018, was a Leadership Program teaching assistant, and captained both the junior varsity soccer and Tiger B basketball teams. "The most memorable part of Suffield for me is all the moments I shared with Mr. Cleary on the basketball court," says Nick. "I started my freshman year as a benchwarmer, eventually made my way up to being a starter, and then I earned a co-captainship as a senior. From scoring 16 points to help defeat a team we had not beaten in years to having a terribly broken jump



I LOVE PERFORMING IN DANCE SHOWS AND SCHOOL MUSICALS... SUFFIELD PROVIDED ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SO MANY GREAT PEOPLE WHO ARE A LOT LIKE ME. I FEEL VERY FORTUNATE TO BE ATTENDING SUCH A BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL.



THE PEOPLE AT SUFFIELD MAKE THE SCHOOL A VERY SPECIAL PLACE. THE FACULTY ARE MORE THAN TEACHERS OR COACHES OR DORM PARENTS; THEY ARE MENTORS.



shot—these are all still very fond memories I have from the court. I was never very good, but I gave it my best effort every time. I chose Suffield because it offered a new environment to grow. Of course, the fact that both my dad and aunt Kim (Class of 1979) attended the Academy helped make that decision a lot easier.”

Nick is now pursuing engineering at Northeastern University. “I miss the community at Suffield,” he says. “The people at Suffield make the school a very special place. The faculty are more than teachers or coaches or dorm parents; they are mentors. I learned a lot of life skills and leadership abilities from being around them, and these things have been helpful to my life and confidence.”

KEVIN '84 & OWEN '18



If you have attended Suffield Academy, chances are you have heard the last name Kinne. Dennis Kinne served as Suffield’s Director of Athletics for 41 years and to honor his contributions to the school, the basketball court in Perry Gymnasium is named after him. Born and bred at 217 Stiles Lane, all four of Dennis’ children grew up roaring for the Tigers: Kelly ’82, Kevin ’84, Barbara ’86, and Denny ’89. Kelly lives on campus with her husband (Wayne Patterson) and is the assistant coach for girls’ varsity soccer and director of Suffield’s Child Care Center. You will often still see Dennis rooting for Suffield teams, and Kevin on the fields as a referee for girls’ field hockey and lacrosse. Kevin’s son, Owen, graduated last May with the Class of 2018 and now studies mechanical engineering at Fairfield University. The Kinnes have given a lot of themselves to the school but also feel very proud and fortunate for what Suffield has given to them.

**(AT SUFFIELD) YOU
BELONG TO A COMMUNITY
THAT ENCOURAGES AND
NURTURES YOU TO BE THE
VERY BEST OF YOURSELF.**



“We are very blessed to have Suffield in our lives,” says Kevin. “The school polished and prepared us for success and refined us as individuals. It provides a platform to mature at an age that can be very challenging to navigate. You belong to a community that encourages and nurtures you to be the very best of yourself. I especially loved being in Rocky’s classes. He had a way of engaging our attention and pushing us to think outside the box. The faculty really care about each student as individual athletes and scholars. It is a warm, family atmosphere that you don’t see anywhere else.”

After college, at age 23, Kevin returned to Suffield as assistant coach of the varsity boys’ soccer and girls’ softball teams. He worked alongside coach Andy Lowe (soccer) and his sister Kelly (softball) for several years while also accepting a job with the United States Post Office, which he has held for 30 years. “It has been a wonderful career, and



I am very thankful for how well the job has treated me,” says Kevin. “Because we start so early I have always had time in the afternoons to coach, referee, or play golf.”

IT WAS VERY EASY TO ASSIMILATE TO SUFFIELD AS A FRESHMAN, NOT BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY’S HISTORY BUT BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY IS SO OPEN AND WELCOMING.

Kevin and his wife Tracy are coming up on their 24th wedding anniversary and have been living in Somers, Connecticut, for the last 12 years. Owen attended The Grammar School in Somers before spending 7th and 8th grade at St. Bernard Catholic School in Enfield. Owen says, “It was very easy to assimilate to Suffield as a freshman, not because of my family’s history but because the community is so open and welcoming. The rigorous schedule is a bit intimidating at first, but it teaches a valuable lesson in time management which I carried into college.”

“The individualized attention we received in the classroom was what I liked most about Suffield,” concludes Owen. Kevin adds, “I cherish the fact that Owen was taught by some of the same faculty I enjoyed as a student. Brett Vianney, Dave Godin, Andy Lowe, Rocky, and Barry Cleary—this core group of gentlemen were extremely instrumental in my Suffield experience. It means so much to me that Owen and I share this bond. It makes me feel very proud as an alum, a legacy, and a father. It is truly a remarkable place.”

TUCKER '80, JOHN '18, KATE '19 & TOM '19



Thomas “Tucker” Killam grew up in Wallingford, Connecticut. Having an uncle who attended Choate, Tucker’s parents encouraged their children to attend an independent high school. Tucker and his brother Jim ’78, however, had their eyes set on a smaller, more intimate, academic setting. Suffield Academy was the first school they visited, and the last one as well. Tucker arrived as a freshman and Jim as a junior. The family quickly fell in love with the school and surrounding town. In 1979 Tucker’s parents built a house on land purchased from Meade Alcorn, a member of Suffield’s Board of Trustees. After spending three years as a boarder, Tucker began his senior year commuting as a day student, happy to call Suffield his home.



Upon graduating from Rollins College (Florida) Tucker returned to Suffield and began working for his father’s company, Killam Truck Mart, which he had relocated from Wallingford to East Windsor. Tucker and his wife Michelle have three children: John who graduated last May in the Class of 2018, and twins Kate and Tom who will graduate this year in the Class of 2019. Michelle says, “It has been an honor seeing our children pass through Suffield and we are so thankful for all the support and guidance they’ve received. It is just such an awesome place.” Tucker adds, “Suffield has always had a clear direction of purpose which we still see today as parents.”

**SUFFIELD HAS ALWAYS HAD A CLEAR
DIRECTION OF PURPOSE WHICH WE
STILL SEE TODAY AS PARENTS.**



Independence, leadership, and a strong work ethic are among the core values of a Suffield Academy education. The school engenders among its students a sense of responsibility and pride. “Don Mackey, Abe Samii, and Barry Cleary were hard-nosed guys who provided me with the guidance a young person needs,” says Tucker. “Mr. Mackey was the assistant to the headmaster and my business role model because of his involvement in school activities. I was on Mr. Cleary’s first varsity baseball team as a junior and enjoyed having him as my advisor. Playing sports was probably the most memorable part of my Suffield experience. I played soccer in the fall and managed basketball for Dennis Kinne in the winter. I captained the baseball team my senior year and was a solid honor roll student. In fact, I received the H. Meade Alcorn Jr. award for academics and athletics.”

John entered Suffield Academy as a freshman in 2014. On December 4, 2017, he gave a talk about Asperger syndrome as part of the senior speaker series. Diagnosed at just five years old, John explained how he manages the developmental disorder characterized by significant difficulties in social interaction. “Converting my thoughts and ideas into words is a challenge,” he said. “Most of the time I have only a vague idea of what I want to say inside my head and it is difficult for me to put it into the right words. I try to figure out methods to improve my poor speaking skills. I try to overcome my social awkwardness and interact with people more. But no matter what I do or how much I try it is impossible to change who I am. The best I can do is adapt and more importantly help others to understand me.”

John was a four-year cross-country runner and captained the team his senior year. During the winter term, he could be found in the Jeanice Sevearns Performing Arts Center as a member of the stage crew, helping to build sets for the theater. He was also a four-year member of the school’s jazz band. Throughout his time at Suffield, John valued the support he received from Mrs. Adlesberger and Mr. Strong and his advisors Mr. Gotwals and Mr. Caginalp. Now as a freshman in college he appreciates the education received and relationships formed at Suffield more than ever.

A member of the Torch Society, Kate was also the day student representative her sophomore year, the student council vice president her junior year and will leave Suffield as vice president to the Class of 2019, captain of varsity field hockey her senior year and member of the softball team, an honor roll student, and a reliable tour guide. Her favorite place on campus is the library, where she likes to study at night and where her mom works part-time during the week. “Suffield has

impacted my life positively in so many ways,” says Kate. “Between the bonds made on sports teams, relationships with faculty and staff, lifelong friends I’ve made, and all the opportunities I’ve been given, Suffield changed my life for the better. I cannot stress enough it is the people at Suffield who make it such a special place. I would never have met some of the most important people in my life had I not attended Suffield Academy.”

Tom especially likes playing sports and being on a team, and he has been on many. In his freshman year, he played 4ths soccer, 3rds squash, and junior varsity baseball. During his sophomore year, he played junior varsity water polo, junior varsity squash, and junior varsity baseball. As a junior, he moved up to 3rds soccer and was captain of the junior varsity squash and baseball teams. By his senior year, Tom captained the junior varsity soccer team, played 3rds basketball, and was again captain of the baseball team. He notes, “I like competing, even if not at the varsity level. I’ve always enjoyed practicing and trying to get better to win games. Now as a senior and captain, I feel a responsibility to lead as a role model and mentor. The bonds formed on a team are very important to me.”

Tom admits he was not the most centered student when he arrived as a freshman and credits the faculty for helping him develop into a more successful scholar. “I really enjoy the small classroom settings,” he says. “This school is filled with uniquely diverse people from all around the world. This makes for great classroom discussions, and I feel like I learned a lot more sometimes from our conversations than I did from our books. The teachers here really care about helping us succeed. They dedicate a lot of their personal time to ensuring we receive an excellent education.”

John, Kate, and Tom witnessed significant changes to the Suffield Academy campus during their time as students. In fact, over the past decade, new facilities have been constructed for academics, athletics, the arts, college counseling, residential life, yoga and mindfulness, dining, and student life. The heart and soul of the school, however, remains the same. “When you walk around campus now it certainly does look a lot different than it did even just four or five years ago, and that is a really good thing,” says Tucker. “The school is constantly evolving to provide innovative, positive opportunities for improvement. Michelle and I have really enjoyed seeing our children develop here. It will always feel like home to us. Suffield Academy changed our lives.” ∞



BETWEEN THE BONDS MADE ON SPORTS TEAMS, RELATIONSHIPS WITH FACULTY AND STAFF, LIFELONG FRIENDS I’VE MADE, AND ALL THE OPPORTUNITIES I’VE BEEN GIVEN, SUFFIELD CHANGED MY LIFE FOR THE BETTER.



ALUMS IN THE NEWS

JACK PATTERSON '13 TIGER TURNED CUB

After being drafted in the 32nd round of the 2018 MLB draft, Jack Patterson made an immediate impact in his first few months in the Chicago Cubs organization. After making 10 appearances in the Arizona Rookie League, Patterson was called up to Eugene and helped lead the Emeralds to a Northwest League title. Patterson struck out six over five innings in his first start with Eugene and then tossed four shutout innings in game two of the championship series. On the year, Patterson went 2-1 with a 2.83 ERA in 11 appearances, six starts. He struck out 33 and walked just 10 in 35 innings.



RAYLAND BAXTER '02 WIDE AWAKE

Nashville singer-songwriter Rayland Baxter released his third LP and new album *Wide Awake* in 2018. Released in July on ATO Records, it is said to be Baxter's sharpest batch of social commentary, a 10-song rumination on the state of the country, or as he puts it on the opening track, life in this "Strange American Dream." Deftly produced by Butch Walker, the record infuses Baxter's easygoing, soulful sound with British Invasion melodies and rock and roll swagger, marrying lean, muscular songwriting with adventurous, inventive arrangements. It is a cutting, insightful collection, one that takes a sardonic view on the violence, greed, and division that seem to define the modern American landscape. Rather than point a finger, the music holds up a mirror, offering a sober reflection of the times thoughtfully bundled in bright, infectious hooks.

JUMP SOSOTHIKUL '08 THAI NAVY HERO

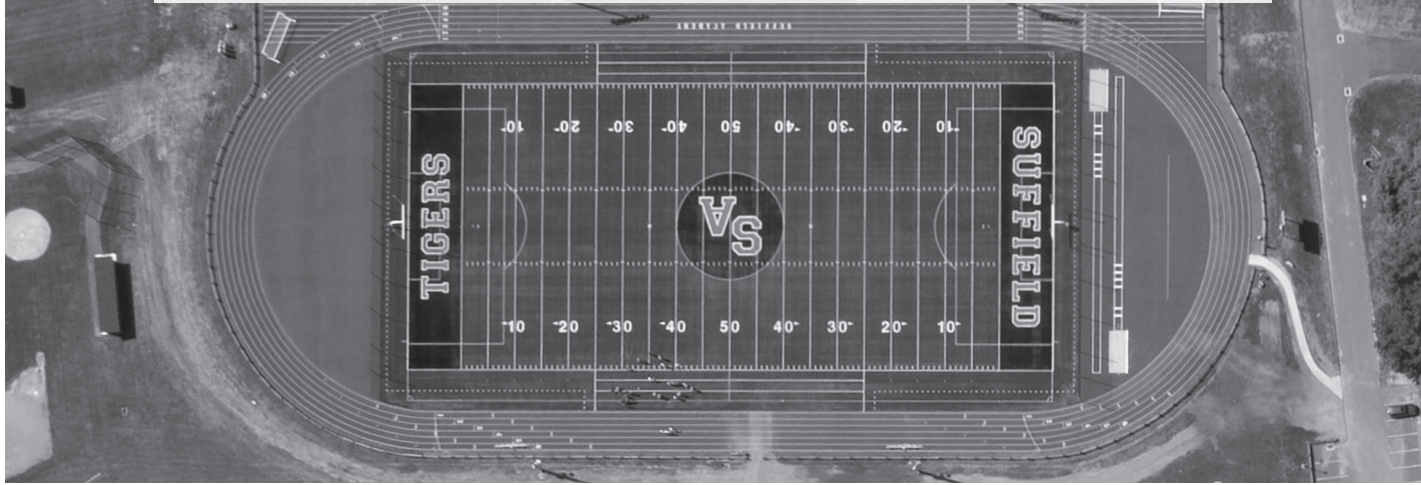
A member of the Thai Navy, Jump Sosothikul was among those who helped save all 13 members of the Wild Boars soccer team trapped in the flooded Tham Luang caves in Thailand, bringing an end to a near three-week ordeal that prompted an international rescue effort and captivated audiences around the world. Racing against water and time, the first four boys were extracted the evening of July 8 while all remaining boys and their coach were freed by July 10. After receiving a master's degree in physics from North Carolina University, Jump joined the Thai Navy in May 2017 and is currently working in the science department.



YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES ALL WE DO HERE POSSIBLE

THANK YOU

TO THOSE WHO SUPPORTED OUR COMMUNITY IN THE 2018 FISCAL YEAR



UPCOMING 2019 EVENTS

suffieldacademy.org/alumnievents

January 10– West Hartford, Connecticut Reception at Barcelona [7–9 pm]

971 Farmington Avenue West Hartford, Connecticut

January 16– New York City Reception at The Harmonie Club [6–8 pm]

4 East 60th Street New York, New York

January 19– Winter Alumni Sports Day

February 7– West Palm Beach, Florida Reception at Grato [7–9 pm]

1901 South Dixie Highway West Palm Beach, Florida

March 28– Denver, Colorado Reception at El Five [7–9 pm]

2930 Umatilla Fifth Floor Denver, Colorado

April 10– Boston, Massachusetts Reception at Bostonia Public House [7–9 pm]

131 State Street Boston, Massachusetts

April 26– 2019 Parents' Association Auction at Suffield Academy [6 pm]

May 9– Washington, D.C. Reception at Teddy and the Bully Bar [7–9 pm]

1200 19th Street NW Washington, DC

For more information please contact:

Beth Bailey P'12, '16, Associate Director of Development bbailey@suffieldacademy.org or 860-386-4471

Mission Suffield Academy is a coeducational, independent secondary school serving a diverse community of boarding and day students. Our school has a tradition of academic excellence combined with a strong work ethic. A commitment to scholarship and a respect for individual differences guide our teaching and curriculum. We engender among our students a sense of responsibility, and they are challenged to grow in a structured and nurturing environment. The entire academic, athletic, and extracurricular experience prepares our students for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and active citizenship.

Non-discrimination Suffield Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, creed, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, physical attributes, disability, age, or sexual orientation. We administer our admissions, financial aid, educational, athletic, extracurricular, and other policies so that each student is equally accorded all the rights, privileges, programs, and facilities made available by the school.

Anna Borisovna McCarthy

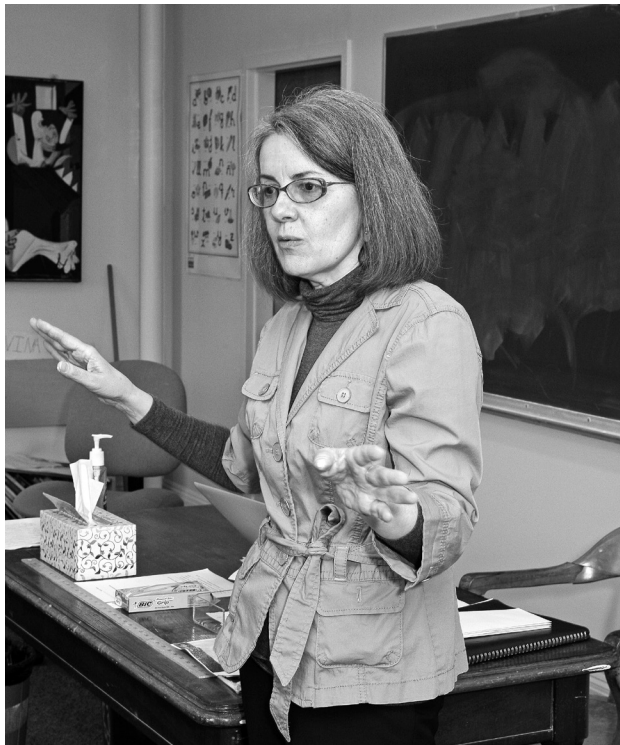
November 23, 1956 – July 6, 2018

Faculty, students, family, and friends gathered to celebrate the life of Anna B. McCarthy on September 29. From 1990 to 2018 Anna was a gifted and dedicated teacher, coach, and mentor in the Suffield Academy community. She was a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend. To recognize Anna's contributions to Suffield, the faculty center on the third floor of Memorial will be named in her honor. Below is the story of her remarkable life with excerpts from the memorial service.

Please visit suffieldacademy.org/annamccarthy to view the service and read additional comments.

Before coming to Suffield, Anna studied and worked in Leningrad, Russia, and La Isla de Pinos, Cuba. Anna received her bachelor's and master's degrees in English and American Literature from Leningrad State University. In Cuba, Anna earned a certificate in Spanish language and literature from the Institute of Advanced Pedagogical Studies, taught 9th and 10th-grade English in a local boarding school, and oversaw a postgraduate program for high school teachers of Russian. After returning to Russia, Anna completed postgraduate studies in tourism and interpreting, taught K-12 English, worked as an interpreter and translator for various tourist companies, and gave English and Spanish classes to adults working in the field of international business and to prospective emigrants.

Anna came to the US in 1989, and the following year began her 28-year teaching and coaching career at Suffield Academy. Over her nearly three decades at the school, Anna taught multiple levels of Spanish and English as a Second Language, coached the riflery team to an exceptional winning record, and



served in various administrative roles, including chair of the languages department and international student coordinator.

Anna was an exceptionally dedicated teacher, coach, and mentor to young people of diverse backgrounds, interests, and abilities. As a teacher, she worked tirelessly to instill in her students a mastery of Spanish and English, and to inspire a love of language learning itself. As a coach, she consistently transformed first-time shooters into high-performing athletes. And as a member of the Suffield Academy community, she mentored new and veteran colleagues and participated fully in the life of the school.

Beyond Suffield, Anna was fiercely committed to her family and friends. She maintained decades-long friendships that spanned the globe, was the sole caretaker for her father until his passing, and adored her visits with her young grandson, of whom she was immensely proud. Anna will be dearly missed by all who knew her.



Anna's family would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the surgeons and other care providers at Hartford Hospital for their untiring efforts on her behalf, and to the staff of The Suffield House for their compassionate and dedicated care. Anna's family kindly asks that any memorial contributions be made either to Suffield Academy or to Hartford Hospital.

In Anna we also find blended the endearing qualities of humility, honesty, and genuineness at a remarkable level. She could be brutally honest in her opinions and judgments—and sometimes even a bit caustic in a very Russian kind of way—but these takes on life seemed to always hit the mark. Her humility was seen in her always taking an intense interest in the person or people with whom she was engaged, while rarely communicating anything about her own interests, pursuits, expertise, or achievements. I first met Anna in Leningrad, in the Soviet Union—I think in 1986—on one of Suffield's joint Academy and Loomis Chaffee student trips. A close friend of mine who was the main leader of the trip took me to her apartment one evening, a non-descript high rise on the outskirts of the city. He prefaced the visit by telling me that this person I was meeting (Anna) was brilliant, and often in the company of equally bright and interesting people, some of them dissidents. And he told me that I would meet her daughter, Sasha, and possibly Anna's father, a well-known scientist...there were others there in her small apartment, intriguing figures surrounding her, but Anna really made the biggest impression on me that evening. At that time, I could not have possibly guessed she would end up leaving the Soviet Union for the United States, not least for a teaching job at Suffield Academy, but miracles happen.

Andy Lowe P'11, '13, '15 [History Department]



Anna was indeed my most cherished mentor and an extraordinary friend. She encouraged me to love the messiness of working with adolescents and to respect the unpredictability in learning. She showed me that teaching is an optimistic act and a powerful vehicle for being countercultural, for it allows you to help children find their power and voices when society might devalue them. And finally, she inspired in me a deep gratitude to this community for being home to such a uniquely gifted, remarkably gentle, incredibly loving woman. What immediately struck me about Anna was her worldliness. She was a Russian through and through, who loved her Cuba Libres and Celia Cruz, and cherished American individualism. She was a remarkable figure in the lives of so many international students at Suffield, precisely because she could navigate cultural distinctions effortlessly. She had a profound appreciation for the many gifts Suffield's international students brought to campus and masterfully helped them cultivate a blended identity instead of an assimilated one. She believed that the diversity which stems from vibrant communities within vibrant communities both nourishes and strengthens its members.

Elise Adib-Samii Riegel '87, P'20 [Former Academic Dean]



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