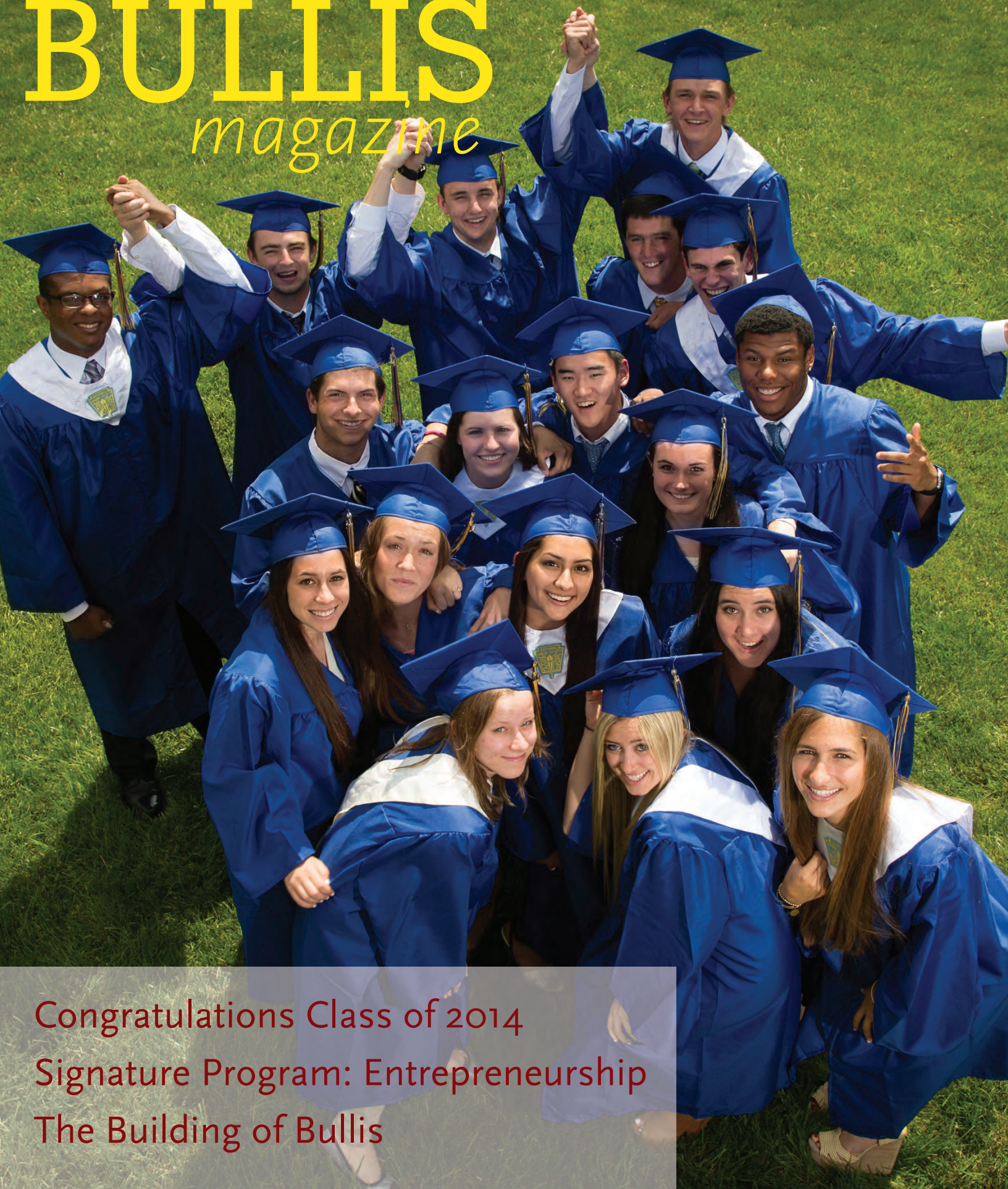


spring-summer 2014  
**BULLIS**  
*magazine*



Congratulations Class of 2014  
Signature Program: Entrepreneurship  
The Building of Bullis





# spring-summer 2014

# BULLIS

## magazine

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On cover, 2014 Lifers: Back row, from left, Ian Giles, Brandon Kay, Robert Trone and Daniel Ayre; fourth row, Owen Caulfield and Adam Cohen; third row, Paul Mavrikes, Brigid McCaffery, Joseph Stucky, Melissa Palmer and Rashaad Wise; second row, Melanie Friedlander, Caitlin McMahon, Sandrita Borckardt and Alessandra Mejia; front row, Anya Fasolyak, Amanda Greenberg and Chelsea Widerlite. Graduation highlights begin on page 2.

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Principal

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Susan King, Communications Coordinator

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Located in Potomac, Maryland, Bullis School is a private,  
coeducational, nondenominational college preparatory day  
school for grades 2–12. Bullis admits students of any race,  
color, religion, and national and ethnic origin to all the rights,  
privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made  
available to students at the school. It does not discriminate  
on the basis of race, color, religion or national and ethnic  
origin in administration of its educational policies, admission  
policies, financial aid programs and athletic and other school-  
administered programs. Visit our website at [www.bullis.org](http://www.bullis.org)

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David Trone, P'12, '14  
Cyndi Bullis Vasco '83  
Dell Warren, P'10, '13  
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Kerry Wisnosky, P'17, '21

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# head's perspective

## Looking Back and Looking Forward

This issue features articles both about our history and our future. As we approach our 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year, it's enjoyable to look back on the School's journey. Our new history showcase tells the story of Bullis from 1930 to today, and displays wonderful photos, artifacts and trophies. Please stop by the lower level of Founders Hall and take a look, or view it on our website (look under "About Bullis" and click "History").

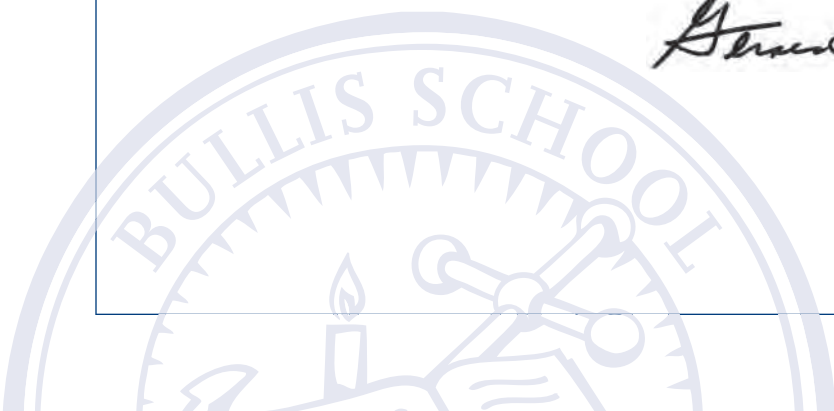
While our rich history has informed the quality of a Bullis education, our expanding curriculum reflects our changing world. Signature programs in STEM (featured in the Fall/Winter '14 issue) and Entrepreneurship (page 18 here) provide students with opportunities to follow their interests and apply their education to real-world projects that resemble today's business challenges. This fall we add new programs in Humanities and Global Studies and Visual and Performing Arts, further expanding offerings for students to combine traditional courses with those that foster their talents and preferences to help students discover new pathways for the future.

The tremendous success and interest in STEM and Entrepreneurship this year makes me hopeful and excited about our new programs. This is only part of what makes education such a fascinating and enjoyable field—deploying opportunities and methods of teaching that speak to today's students and tomorrow's world.

This year we celebrated a new milestone in Bullis history: the graduation of our largest class and the relocation of Commencement from The Blair Family Center for the Arts to the Music Center at Strathmore in Rockville. The size of the class—119 students, along with families and guests—necessitated the move, and we could not be more pleased with the new venue. Strathmore beautifully hosts this annual celebration as you can see in the photographs in this magazine. I am sure future classes will look forward eagerly to their special day at Strathmore.

With a nod to our glorious past and enthusiasm for our future, thank you for taking this journey with me.

*Gerald L. Boorman*







Class  
of  
20

Abdulrahman Marzouq  
AlBader  
Darcy Sara Argain  
Ogulcan Atakoglu  
Steven Kwabena Attah  
Christopher Pinyo Aust  
Cristina Avila  
Daniel Edward Bush Ayre  
Eleni Maria Baker  
James Evan Barlia  
Brett Mar Barrera  
Carolyn Blinn Bass  
Jane Harmon Beightol  
Lyneé Tiara Belton  
Alec Jones Bertero  
Scott Henry Bettigole  
Sandra Borckardt  
Cody Solomon Branchaw

Aaron Rashaad Briggs  
Austin Anderson Brown  
Laura Rebekah Brundred  
Kendall I. Buck  
Taylor Yvonne Michelle Burris  
Brittani-Ann Ashley Campbell  
Benjamin Lewis Catt  
Owen Patrick Caulfield  
John Hayes Chellman  
Chukwujindu Chijioke Chiazor  
Dayna Alexis Clayton  
Adam Isaac Cohen  
Amanda Blair Cohen  
Leah Anne Cohn  
Clayton Monroe Cosimano  
Kasey Jerome Countee  
Olivia Lee Cusick  
Ashley Bella DeLeonibus

Yining Dong  
Haley Alexine Economakis  
Kaliroi Juliet Engel  
Jeremy Arthur Epstein  
Anna Dmitrievna Fasolyak  
Alec Steven Fink  
Morgan Luka Foery  
George Anderson Folsom II  
Isaac Paul Fried  
Melanie Erin Friedlander  
Ian Scott-Ivie Giles  
Simone Tene'e Glenn  
Emma Adel Goldberg  
Simone Gabriella Goldstone  
Amanda Chelsea Greenberg  
Jamaal Malik Greenwood  
Zhongtian Guan  
Matthew David Hansan

Colton Charles Harrington  
Darian Hashemzadeh  
Kendall Elliott Hay  
Justin Thomas Herron  
Kevin A. Heymann  
Justin Alexander Hoch  
Gerald Arthur Horn  
Jessica Nichole Howard





14

Rui Huang  
Tyamonee Adrian Johnson  
Kyven Devin Jones  
Brandon Jonathan Kay  
Brian Robert Kelley  
Jonathan M. Laetsch  
Carl Jordan Leacock  
Allison Maddock Leasure

Qiaomei Li  
Rujun Li  
Junlin Liu  
Xing Ming Yue Liu  
Gregory Daniel Lovegrove  
Eliana Alissa Maia-Goldstein  
Dana Malone Martin  
Nicholas R. Matzelevich  
Oriana Irene Maurach-Theo  
Paul George Mavrikes  
Rebecca Pearl Mazer  
Brigid Graham McCaffery  
Gaebrielle Jade McIntosh  
Caitlin Carlyle McMahon  
Alessandra Mejia  
Gabriel L. Melrod  
Jon Brink Metrey  
Andrew Christopher Micholas

Brian Alexander Mitchell  
Andrew David Oglander  
Melissa Gladys Palmer  
Matthew David Peel  
Kirby Paige Porter  
Blake Logan Priddy  
Moriah Grace Krieger Ratner  
Alexander Taylor Robinson  
Paulina Michelle Rubin  
Yasmin Paige Rucker  
Nebeyu Samuel  
Russell Stewart Francis  
Sangster  
Ryan William Siegel  
Andrew Wilson Smith  
Jamie B. Spiers  
Noah Niair Spriggs  
Carly Malka Steren

Joseph Edward Wallace Seibert  
Stucky  
Nicholas Kamm Sussman  
Gabrielle Renée Tielman-  
Fenelus  
Robert J. Trone  
Rayna Iman Tyson  
Andre Dupree Walker  
Yinghan Wang  
Yuxiao Wang  
Rachel Gayle Weinberger  
Chelsea Cara Widerlite  
Rashaad QuRahn Wise  
Zhengxuan Wu  
Zichao Yang  
Haram Yoon  
Yixuan Zhu



# Commencement Message of Welcome

Jindu Chiazor '14, Class Representative



As evenings bring about goodbyes and mornings a new beginning for us,  
The new generation born of the rebellious fun-craving teenagers  
that you once were.

Each of us with a different path  
Each of us with a new beginning

But here tonight we all have the same goodbye.  
Goodbye to our teachers we hate on test days but love on free dress days.  
Goodbye to our school lunch where I swear we have pasta every day.  
Still it being a blessing that we have lunch at all.

Goodbye to the people we're used to seeing every day and now may  
never see again.  
Goodbye to a school  
Goodbye to a community  
Goodbye to our family.  
All of us are willing wishing to get a step ahead of our future.

But we first must let go of our past.  
They say "You can only judge the future from what we have suffered  
in the past"

Momentum of school shifts eagerly through the years  
as graduation gets near.  
And now that it's here  
Most of us are eager with fear.

Eager with joy  
Eager with life  
Eager just to be eager.

Eager for a challenge we'll only experience once.  
Freedom...  
Independence  
Self-governed  
Self-ruling

Self-determining  
Determination  
You determine your future...  
Who will you be?  
What will you do?  
How will you be remembered?  
Are you worth remembering?  
Questions that stimulate our brain which can only be answered  
through experience.  
Embrace the journey you are about to embark.  
A nostalgic mindset can only take you so far.

You see people who obsess over their place in history instead of forging it

The world is your playground, literally.  
Picture this:  
A cigarette.  
You put the thing that does the killing right between your teeth.  
But you never give it the power to kill you.

A metaphor.  
Wordplay  
You determine your future.

Jermaine Cole once said "Life is like a movie. Pick your own role.  
You climb your own ladder or you dig your own hole."

You are not here just to fill space or be a background character  
in someone else's movie.  
Consider this,  
Nothing would be the same if you did not exist.

If you're not going to speak up how is the world supposed to know your story.  
Voice a public thought in a private place.  
You determine your future.  
High school is finite but what you take from it is for life.  
We learned to excel and fail.  
Try again, fail again, fail better.  
Because if you're not learning from your mistakes the person below you is.

And I'd rather chase my dreams than work for someone else's.  
Alfred Russel Wallace created the theory of evolution years before  
Charles Darwin did but it's called Charles Darwin's theory of evolution.  
Nikola Tesla invented alternating current but all the power companies  
are named after Thomas Edison.  
So why are Darwin and Edison famous and Tesla and Wallace footnotes?  
Because history is written by the winners.  
You determine your future.  
Goodbyes and Cries  
Smiles and Frowns.  
Our ups and our downs.  
We've finished this chapter.  
A new beginning awaits.  
So as nostalgia seems to creep and deem the sensitivity in thee.  
Remember this.  
We are the future.



# Awards for Members of the Class of 2014

Award:	Recipient:
The Founders' Award.....	Brian Mitchell
The William H. Price, Jr. Citizenship Award.....	Taylor Burris
The Manuel Jose Baca, Jr. Joy of Living Award.....	Chukwujindu Chiazor
The Michael Ivey Achievement Award.....	Steven Attah
The Community Service Award.....	Allison Leasure
The Alumni Award for Outstanding Achievement in Athletics.....	Caitlin McMahon Alexander Robinson
The David T. Hellekjaer Award.....	Justin Herron Chelsea Widerlite
The Douglas London Award for Excellence in English.....	Brigid McCaffery
The Barbara Marks Award for Excellence in Foreign Language.....	Jonathan Laetsch
The John H. Dillon Memorial Award for Excellence in Science.....	Daniel Ayre
The John W. Spencer Award for Excellence in Mathematics.....	Carl Leacock
The Irene Ford Smith Memorial Award for Excellence in Social Studies.....	Amanda Cohen
The Award for Excellence in STEM.....	Adam Cohen
The Award for Excellence in Entrepreneurship.....	Alec Fink
The Award for Excellence in Technology and Engineering.....	Rui Huang
The Award for Excellence in Music.....	Ian Giles Andrew Oglander
The Award for Excellence in Theatre.....	Oriana Maurach-Theo
The Award for Excellence in Art.....	Darcy Argain
The Award for Excellence in Dance.....	John Chellman
The Outstanding Scholar Award.....	Brian Mitchell

\*For a description of the awards, visit [www.bullis.org/graduation2014](http://www.bullis.org/graduation2014)



Above, Outstanding Scholar Brian Mitchell delivers remarks during Commencement. Below, Darcy Argain was recognized for excellence in the visual arts.



Graduates honored for excellence while at Bullis include Caitlin McMahon (in orange) for athletics, celebrating with, from left, Girls Athletic Director Kathleen Lloyd, grandmother Jo Anne McMahon and her mother, Cathy McMahon. Above right, Upper School Principal Andrew Delinsky congratulates Carl Leacock for his mathematics award, along with mom Erica Wigley.



# Bullis Memories

## Reflections from Three Lifers

### Melanie Friedlander



**Bullis pride:** Being a Lifer is incredible and I'm so grateful to have attended Bullis since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. This community is like family and the campus is my second home. I love seeing the wonderful changes that have taken place over the past 10 years, particularly the innovative opportunities and technology students have access to. This is a magnificent school where I always felt safe, nurtured, motivated, loved and challenged.

**Favorite teachers:** Mrs. Hosmer encouraged me to face my challenges and believe that I could be a capable writer, which enabled me to excel. Mrs. Darling has an incredible teaching style and because of her, I began to love math and plan to pursue a career that incorporates mathematics. Ms. Roshan is also phenomenal. She thinks

outside the box and teaches students to understand complicated math concepts within a flipped classroom.

**Future plans:** I am excited to attend Penn State University this fall. Due to a newfound love for economics, I hope to pursue that as my major.

**Advice for future seniors:** Time flies quickly! Don't get so caught up in applications and colleges that you lose sight of the days left with classmates and teachers.

**Favorite lunch:** Little round pizzas



### Ian Giles



**Bullis pride:** I am very proud to have been part of a community as outstanding as Bullis for so long. In my 10 years, I have had many great experiences overseas, in sports, in the classroom and with my music that have rounded me out and improved my social and intellectual development.

**Favorite teachers:** Ms. Terwilliger has been my music teacher since 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and has always guided me well. She is extremely energetic and enthusiastic and constantly tries to push us outside our comfort zones to help improve our playing skills. Mr. Green is an intellectually engaging teacher who makes every Latin class stimulating and enjoyable. He is also incredibly smart and likes to make his students think for themselves—he would rather guide students to a certain mindset so that they can begin to



think critically about the answer, rather than give the answer when students seem lost.

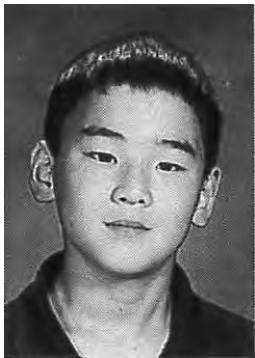
**Future plans:** I am attending Northeastern University this fall and plan to study mechanical engineering and music.

**Advice for future seniors:** Stay on top of your work, but don't forget to enjoy yourself. Appreciate your friends, classmates and teachers!

**Favorite lunch:** Little round pizzas



## Joseph Stucky



**Bullis pride:** I'm proud to see how much Bullis has evolved, specifically in academics, athletics and the arts in the 10 years since I first started. Additionally, I am proud of how open the Bullis community is—everyone is welcoming and treats others equally. I will really miss my friends, teachers and other members of the community. It will be strange not seeing them every day.

**Favorite teachers:** Mr. Chellman's 9th grade history class was one of my most memorable, and his theory of "learning the work" instead of just "doing the work" has carried me throughout high school. Mr. Hunter was also a great teacher. Even as a Middle School student, I felt that he was preparing me

for high school with regard to the content of his history class and the style of notes he taught me to take.

**Future plans:** I am attending Boston University where I plan to study either medicine or sports management.

**Advice for future seniors:** Enjoy your last year home with your family, friends, teachers and coaches. Soak it all in, enjoy every moment, make memories and have fun.

**Favorite lunch:** Pizza sticks





# Class of 2014 Geared Up to Graduation

## Countdown to Graduation Day

In early spring, the Alumni Office fêted the seniors with cupcakes and coffee to celebrate their “Countdown to Graduation.” “I love this event!” says Assistant Director of Alumni and Bullis alumna Jennifer (Hayman) Okun '99. “It’s a great way for me to informally meet with the seniors and look ahead to graduation and their future as Bullis alumni.”



*At top, from left, Caitlin McMahon and Chelsea Widerlite are excited about taking the cupcakes treat! Bottom, Jennifer (Hayman) Okun '99 chats with seniors about life after Bullis. From left, Jack Chellman, Anya Fasolyak, Oriana Maurach-Theo, Daniel Ayre, Drew Micholas and Anderson Folsom.*

## Senior Lunch

On April 17, seniors gathered together for the annual Senior Lunch. The afternoon featured Bullis trivia, prizes and alumnus and Boys Athletic Director Andres Parra '99 encouraging students to think about the role Bullis has played in their lives and how important it is to stay connected as alumni. We look forward to having the class of 2014 join the Alumni Association.



*Above, Bullis alumnus and Boys Athletic Director Andres Parra '99 addresses the seniors. At right, Lynee Belton (left) and Leah Cohn smile for the camera during lunch.*



# Class of 2014

## College

## Matriculations

Albright College  
 American University  
 Babson College  
 Bard College  
 Belmont University  
 Berklee College of Music  
 Boston University (3)  
 Brandeis University  
 Chapman University  
 College of Charleston (2)  
 College of William and Mary  
 Dean College  
 Dickinson College  
 Duke University  
 East Carolina University  
 Elon University  
 Fordham University  
 George Washington University  
 Georgetown University (3)  
 Gettysburg College  
 Harvard College  
 Haverford College  
 Hofstra University  
 Howard University  
 Ithaca College  
 Jacksonville University  
 Jacobs University  
 Le Moyne College  
 Loyola University, New Orleans  
 Lynn University  
 Maryland Institute College of Arts  
 Miami University  
 Middlebury College  
 Muhlenberg College  
 Naval Academy Preparatory School  
 New York University (4)  
 Northeastern University (2)  
 Northwestern University  
 Ohio University

Ohio Wesleyan University (2)  
 Pennsylvania State University (4)  
 San Diego State University  
 School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
 Siena College  
 Smith College  
 Snow College  
 Southern Methodist University  
 Spelman College  
 Syracuse University (3)  
 Temple University  
 The College of Saint Rose  
 Towson University  
 Trinity College  
 Tufts University  
 Tulane University (3)  
 University of Alabama (4)  
 University of Arizona  
 University of Florida  
 University of Mary Washington  
 University of Maryland (8)  
 University of Miami (5)  
 University of Michigan (2)  
 University of New Hampshire  
 University of Pennsylvania  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of South Carolina  
 University of Southern California (2)  
 University of Tennessee  
 University of Vermont (3)  
 University of Virginia (2)  
 University of Wisconsin (2)  
 Utah State University  
 Virginia Polytechnic Institute  
 Wagner College  
 Wake Forest University (2)  
 Wesleyan University (2)  
 West Virginia Wesleyan University  
 Widener University



Graduate Rujun "James" Li celebrates with family, from left, Liping Gao (mom), Vicky Paton (host mom), Jai '13 and Hari '10 Paton (host brothers) and Xu Li (dad).

# Graduation Moments



*Kira Orr '93, right, welcomes Jonathan Laetsch to the Alumni Association, with the pinning of his alumni pin.*



*Excitement builds prior to Commencement for, from left, Oriana Maurach-Theo, Darcy Argain and Jack Chellman.*



*The Class of 2014, the largest in Bullis School's history with 119 students, necessitated the move of Commencement from the Bullis campus to the beautiful Music Center at Strathmore Hall in Rockville. Keynote speaker Terry Bradshaw—Hall of Fame Quarterback, football analyst, author, actor and singer—brought down the house with his entertaining talk. Valedictorian Brian Mitchell and outgoing Upper School Principal Andrew Delinsky both delivered remarks rich with special insights into their experiences at Bullis. To read the speeches, view a video recap and see photos of the event, visit [www.bullis.org/graduation2014](http://www.bullis.org/graduation2014)*





*Reveling in their moment are, from left, Kasey Countee, Matt Peel, Anderson Folsom and Darian Hashemzadeh.*



*Abdulrahman AlBader accepts congratulations from his mom Hanan AlThuwanini (left), sister Maryam, brother Abdullah '21 and sister Aisha.*



*Justin Herron celebrates with family, from left, Brigitte Johnson, Olivia Herron '21 and Reggie Herron.*



*Speaker Terry Bradshaw delivers a lively address.*



*Hailey Yoon, Nancy Dong and Shirley Wang pose while a friend snaps a quick pre-ceremony photo.*



# Generation to Generation

## Legacy Family Portraits

*Each graduation we capture photos of families with multiple graduate connections, including siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins and, for the first time this year, grandparents who had previously graduated from Bullis.*



*Nicole '11, Chris '14 and Alex '09 Aust*



*Carly '14 and Jeff '12 Bass*



*Mom Danielle Ayre with Daniel '14 and Taylor '11 Ayre*



*Jane '14 and Tomi '10 Beightol*





*Scott '14 and Jeff '08 Bettigole*



*Antonio '13 and Sandrita '14 Borckardt*



*Maia (Matthews) '01, Ben '01, Laura '14 and John '12 Brundred*



*Kendall '14 and Cameron '12 Buck*



*Barry '61, Michelle (Konigsberg) '87, Adam '14 and David '87 Cohen*



*Anthony '12 and Clay '14 Cosimano*





*Alec '14 and Greg '10 Fink*



*Keith '80 and Morgan '14 Foery*



*Isaac Fried '14 and Corbin Blumberg '13*



*Gary '79, Melanie '14 and Debbie Friedlander*



*Brandon '14 and Lexi '12 Kay*



*Patrick '17 and Allison '14 Leasure; Marisa (Marr) Leasure '84*





*Ted '84 and Allison Leasure '14 with John Leasure '83 (uncle)*



*Cousins Jason Bannister '98 and Paul Mavrikes '14*



*Matthew '10 and Rebecca '14 Mazer*



*Brigid '14 and Cate '11 McCaffery*



*Gaebrielle McIntosh '14 with Nicole (Bernard) Chaffin '83 (aunt)*



*Chris '06 and Alessandra '14 Mejia*

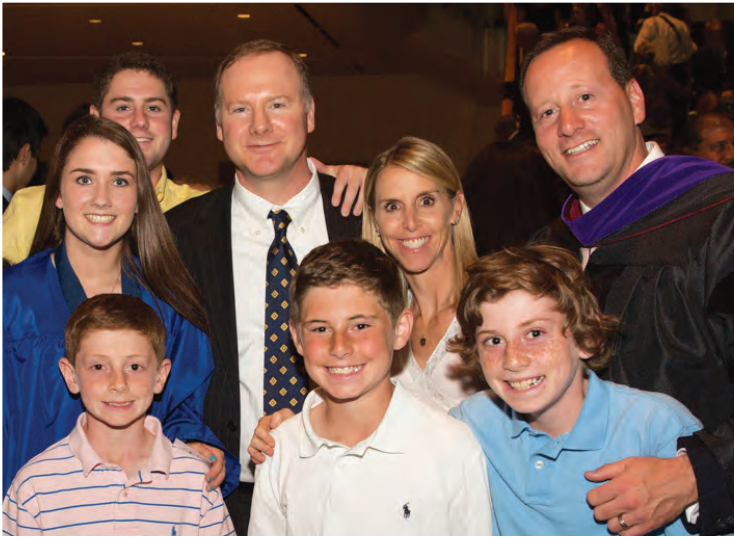




*Arin '09 and Brian '14 Mitchell*



*Scott '11 and Matthew '14 Peel*



*Carly Steren '14 with her brother Alex, dad John, aunt Stephanie and uncle Marc '89 Steren and cousins, Logan '23, Jack '20 and Ian '20*



*Mary-Clare '11 and Joe '14 Stucky*



*Rob '14 and Natalie '12 Trone*



*Chelsea '14 and Elise '11 Widerlite*



*CeMaia '13 and Rashaad '14 Wise*



# academics

## Success Leads to College Opportunities

The Class of 2014 received more than \$3.4 million in scholarships from colleges and universities, including an unprecedented number of students receiving full academic scholarships and invited to play varsity athletics in college. Congratulations to them!

To read the complete stories, visit [www.bullis.org/scholarships](http://www.bullis.org/scholarships)



Full academic/leadership scholarships were awarded to, from left, Jack Chellman (University of Virginia), Sandrita Borckardt (University of Maryland), Ian Giles (Northeastern University), Brian Mitchell (University of Virginia) and Gabrielle Tielman-Fenelus (University of Wisconsin).



Athletes playing varsity sports, front row, from left, Justin Herron (Wake Forest, football), Lynee Belton (Duke, basketball), Kasey Countee (East Carolina, tennis), Darian Hashemzadeh (George Washington, tennis), Kirby Porter (Harvard, basketball), Ashley DeLeonibus (William & Mary, basketball); second row, Andre Walker (Hofstra, basketball), Kyven Jones (Albright, football), Jindu Chiazor (Towson State, football (walk-on)), Tyamonee Johnson (Wagner, football); third row, Noah Spriggs (Wesleyan, football), Russell Sangster (LeMoyne, basketball) and Nick Matzelevich (Siena, lacrosse).

### Not pictured:

Aaron Briggs, basketball, U.S. Naval Academy Preparatory School  
Austin Brown, basketball, West Virginia Wesleyan  
Jeremy Epstein, football, Wesleyan  
Simone Glenn, track and field, San Diego State  
Jamaal Greenwood, basketball, College of Saint Rose  
Brian Kelley, basketball, Babson  
Caitlin McMahon, lacrosse, Jacksonville  
Alex Robinson, lacrosse, Georgetown  
Joe Stucky, lacrosse, Boston University  
Rashaad Wise, lacrosse, Lynn



*Jindu Chiazor, Ogulcan Atakoglu, Emma Goldberg, James Barlia and Cristina Avila celebrate a Shark Tank win for their Pearl Toothpaste tablet.*

# Creating Young Entrepreneurs

## Bullis Stands at the Forefront



# "Seventy-five percent of all of you might fail."

How's that to start a new class?

Marc Steren '89 began his Entrepreneurship Capstone class last fall with just that dose of reality. As the first class in Bullis' new Entrepreneurship Signature Program, his students learned early that research shows a 75% failure rate among business start-ups. Undaunted, these seniors dove eagerly into the class to learn about entrepreneurship and attempt to start their own.

Equipped with some seed money and the hope of a \$10,000 prize through a Shark Tank-like competition (modeled after the popular TV show) in April, the students got started. By the end of the school year, they agreed this was one of the hardest, most inspiring, fun and relevant classes they had ever taken. And despite the

odds, many are even more interested in pursuing their business dreams. "It's given me a passion that I can build on," says Cody Branchaw, "and the confidence and tools to make it happen."

## AT THE BEGINNING

Mr. Steren began by focusing on business methods and concepts, utilizing the Lean Start-Up methodology that, as Steve Blank explains in the *Harvard Business Review*, "favors experimentation over elaborate planning, customer feedback over intuition, and iterative design over traditional 'big design up front' development."

Using the Business Model Canvas, a strategic management visual template, Mr. Steren explained crucial and complex concepts such as value proposition,

finances and channels. "The methodology and language are different than anything else we've ever studied," recalls James Barlia. "But it provided a critical base throughout the year."

Additionally, an Entrepreneur Speaker Series brought students together with successful business people who discussed their own experiences, challenges and lessons learned. Eleven professionals visited throughout the school year to talk with students around a roundtable, including alumni Jon Isaacson '89, Ryan Hayden '96 and Brice Leconte '97, along with Bullis parents Julia Beck P '14, '21 and Regina Kunkle P '12. The speakers offered fascinating insights from a wide array of industries and real-world applications of the concepts studied in class.



Helping Hands teammates, from left, Nick Matzelevich, Rob Trone, Rebecca Mazer and Kirby Porter present their product to the Sharks.

"It was truly satisfying to cap off my Lifer experience at Bullis by using what I've learned in a real-world application."  
—Rob Trone '14



*Marc Steren '89 works with students on the PicShare team as they develop their product. From left, Mika Liu, Anderson Folsom, Brandon Kay and Alec Fink.*

“Their work ethic, attitude and collaboration exuded a genuine entrepreneurial spirit. This program will truly create entrepreneurs and instill valuable lessons along the way.”

—Belinda Coleman, P'15, '18  
Mentor

#### MEETING THE MENTORS

In November, students were split into six teams and paired with professional mentors, including alumni Richard Hayman '63, Jon Isaacson '89, Brice LeConte '97, Samier Mansur '93, and Jason Shrensky '91, and Bullis parents Belinda Coleman P '15, '18, Louis Hutchinson P '17 and Gary Ratner P'14, '16. With Alyssa Lovegrove from The Great Little Trading Company, the mentors represented expertise in a wide range of industries. They began regular communication with their teams via meetings, emails and calls to shepherd them along.

“They were amazing,” says Steren, and the students agree. “Whenever we talked with Mr. Shrensky,” James says, “it was always the most productive time we had.” Alec Bertero adds, “Mr. Hayman motivated, pushed and challenged us to be creative and press on. Without him, we would never have made the progress we did.”

Of her team’s mentor, Rebecca Mazer says, “Ms. Coleman was dedicated to

our company and donated time and many resources. She really wanted us to succeed.” Coleman returns the praise: “Their work ethic, attitude and collaboration exuded a genuine entrepreneurial spirit. This program will truly create entrepreneurs and instill valuable lessons along the way.”

Mr. Hayman '63 looks forward to returning next year to mentor. “I was impressed with how seriously the students took the course and their projects, and how smart, dedicated and capable Bullis students are.”

#### FROM CONCEPTS TO REALITY

As the second trimester started, Mr. Steren guided the students through a series of innovation and design exercises to help them generate and assess ideas. Then they tested hypotheses through customer interviews with goals to ensure that they gathered enough feedback. “Ultimately, my opinion doesn’t matter,” Steren explains. “The customers are the ultimate judge of any business idea’s success or failure.”



Following Lean Start-Up methodology, teams built low-cost prototypes of their ideas to zero in on potential features and concepts. They examined every factor, engaging in more rounds of customer testing. “Most of the work is outside the classroom,” explains Steren, while adding that Monday’s classes were dedicated to teams sharing discoveries, gathering strategies and advice and learning from each other.

During the challenging experience of interviewing, the students gained confidence. “At first going up to strangers on the street is really intimidating,” recalls Nick Matzelevich, “but you get more comfortable until you can sell your product at the drop of a hat.” Alec adds, “These interviews played a critical role in the development of our product.”

## PIVOT AND CONTINUE

By mid-November, each team was developing a product. By January, after more customer interviews and research, most had either pivoted from their initial

concept or switched completely. “The pivoter iteration provides the path for changing a hypothesis to hone in on the best idea and sharpen your message,” explains Steren.

The CheckItOut team refined their product and target audience to a niche of supermarket shoppers (mostly male, they discovered) who wanted step-by-step directions to find the items on their list. Other teams scrapped original internet-based application ideas to focus on products, like Kanga Trash & Energy System’s underseat trash bag for stadiums and theaters, and Pearl Toothpaste’s toothpaste tablet.

“We learned that no idea is a bad one, that the help of classmates and firing ideas off one another is really productive and to not be afraid to change an idea or pivot to end up in the right place,” says James. Rayna Tyson ’14 agrees: “We quickly learned to accept setbacks and switched our product once we saw that there was no need for the first idea.”

“They learned the importance of getting the word out everywhere. You never know who might be interested or who might have a good contact.”  
—Marc Steren ’89

Through the winter teams held monthly board meetings, rotating chairmen so each student learned about leading and teamwork. Product ideas evolved, cases were strengthened and teams found early adopters and advocates. With each passing week ideas moved further from concept toward reality. “It’s mind-blowing to go from an idea on paper to making it really happen,” says Cody.

## PREPARING FOR SHARKS

At the start of the spring trimester, the Shark Tank event was just weeks away. Students juggled ongoing product development work with presentation preparation. Mr. Steren arranged for public speaking lessons and mock judges so the teams could practice. They wrote executive summaries and gathered statistics to back up claims and conclusions, attended networking events and held more meetings with potential customers and

## Practicing Entrepreneurship Early

Along with the Upper School curriculum, the Entrepreneurship Signature Program extends into the Middle and Lower School divisions, too. This year, Middle School hosted “JA for a Day,” when 18 parents taught financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship through the Junior Achievement program.

Lower Schoolers learn about business start-ups through activities like the Entrepreneurship Fair, which this year included a shark tank review to help students prepare and think more broadly about their ideas. The success of one student’s venture—duct tape pens and accessories—led the 5th grade girls to work with Mr. Steren to develop “Peace, Love, Duct Tape,” a business that sold kits and created an instructional video for DIYers to make their own items.

supporters. “They learned the importance of getting the word out everywhere,” says Steren. “You never know who might be interested or who might have a good contact.”

The April Shark Tank event attracted local media, parents and students who turned out to witness the culmination of the signature program’s pioneering year. Three judges—Jerry Feigen, founding director of the University of Maryland’s Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship; Dave Bernad ’99, president of film and television at Rip Cord Productions in California; and Tara de Nicholas, principal at Georgetown Consulting Group and director of PR and partnerships for Startupland—heard the 15-minute presentations and questioned each team. The Pearl Toothpaste team won the coveted \$10,000 to support continued

development of their product, though de Nicholas says all of the products came close. “I was honestly blown away. I think each has a plan for success.”

## ONWARD

Three teams plan to keep working after graduation. Kanga signed their first deal with a minor league baseball stadium and Pearl found a manufacturer for their tablet. Helping Hands—a mobile checklist to help learning specialists and their students track schoolwork and class participation—is in talks for acquisition by a team of Georgetown University business students who would continue the work.

“All the teams learned to work together, research and sell as a team,” Steren says. “I was amazed by the commercial viability of each product.” The students agree that they built invaluable skills, confidence and

character during the class. “I experienced for the first time an entrepreneurial group dynamic—everyone with different ideas, beliefs, and viewpoints, but all with the same goal. Navigating through compromise was challenging, but we realized how important it is,” says Rob Trone. “It was truly satisfying to cap off my Lifer experience at Bullis by using what I’ve learned in a real-world application.”

Daniel Ayre “learned there’s no better time than now to get things done and no task is unachievable as long as you work hard and stay dedicated.” Future business major Alec says the class “will put me miles ahead of my classmates in college,” and Blake Priddy agrees: “Now I have a head start on next year and am really excited for the future.”

Whether or not the students pursue business in college, each appreciates what they have gained. Rebecca recognizes “the value of responsibility, team work, dedication and creativity.” Andrew Oglander “learned to lead through positive example by always doing more than you think you should.” Leadership and collaboration resonated with Matt Peel as well, in learning “to put words into actions.”

Perhaps James sums it up for all: “This course was rigorous but truly one of the most enjoyable courses I’ve ever taken.” Next year the enrollment in Entrepreneurship will double as another group of seniors begins working on their own businesses. Methods like those Mr. Steren teaches may be “igniting a new entrepreneurial economy,” as Blank states in *Harvard Business Review*—and Bullis is proud to be at the forefront.



The Kanga Team presents their stadium trash system: from left, Brian Kelley, Matt Peel, Rayna Tyson, Daniel Ayre and Cody Branchaw.



# THE BUILDING OF BULLIS

*As Bullis approaches the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding, we look back at the growth of the School*

Integral to its history, Bullis School's campuses and buildings have grown and changed with the School. When Captain William Bullis, a 1924 Naval Academy graduate, and his bride Lois Hoover Bullis founded the post-graduate Naval preparatory school in 1930, Washington, D.C. was the perfect location. Despite the reeling economy of the Depression, the newlyweds rented 1303 New Hampshire Avenue, the former Bolivian embassy, opening their school in September 1931. The elegantly designed whitewashed brick mansion, built in 1889, was transformed when the Bullises applied paint and elbow grease to its aging interior, doing much of the work themselves to create classrooms and dorm space. Today, the historic Dupont Circle mansion houses the Egyptian Cultural & Education Bureau.

Word of mouth spread, and the School, soon bursting at the seams, rented additional space nearby. But the city was growing too, and Bullis' trustees deemed its noisy streetcars, autos and construction "offensive." A search began for a country property that would allow growth—a major step in the School's evolution.

Still rural at that time, Silver Spring proved an ideal location. Captain Bullis purchased 4.5 wooded acres at Cedar and Houston



*Bullis School's first home, the former Bolivian embassy.*

Streets (now Bullis Park), the site of a former sanitarium for Navy veterans, and architect Leon Chatelaine renovated the building for classroom and dormitory space. When World War II sent young men to war, many were keen to enter military academies, prompting a growth spurt for the School. Now a Commander, Bullis personally financed the construction of Clark Hall, named for his son William Clark Bullis, in 1946. Students called it

"The Alamo"—a massive whitewashed block, its pragmatic design would suit for decades. With ample room, Bullis expanded to 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, and the Silver Spring campus flourished through the fifties and sixties.

Growth meant more students, a broader curriculum and slight tuition hikes. The bargain-savvy Bullises picked up surplus furniture and sports gear—and found



*Students study in their Silver Spring campus dormitory room.*

additional faculty in retired military officers, men of integrity and expertise with good pensions who could accept modest wages. But within 20 years, Bullis School outgrew its campus.

Discovering a perfect setting in the Potomac countryside, the Commander and trustees purchased 80 farmland acres at Democracy and Falls Road, complete with farmhouse. The School moved in slow stages, busing some students to Potomac while upper grades and post-grads studied at Silver Spring, where hot lunches were prepared and shuttled to Potomac. The new campus took shape, and by 1964, South Hall's completion added eight classrooms, an office and a dining hall/auditorium. For years, the School maintained two campuses.

North Hall, built in 1969, provided classrooms for Upper School students, including post-graduates, while 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grades (the "Lower School") occupied South Hall. All classes were taught at Potomac—the migration from

Silver Spring was nearly complete but for dormitory and kitchen needs.

Next the Potomac campus gained a gym, a track and a small stadium, and the transportation of the Silver Spring goalposts in 1971 marked a final step. A few boarding students remained in Silver

Spring, but the transformation of a small D.C. boarding school to the country day school envisioned by the Bullises had become a reality.

The school tested its seams again with the addition of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades by 1972, and South and North Halls squeezed in a library, art classes by 1977 and soon drama and music as well. After the Commander's retirement and the death of Al Grossman, vice principal since 1948, new Headmaster Larry Bullis '54 led the initiative for more campus improvements.

In place of the old farmhouse, Founders' Hall, designed by Williston Dye '71, was completed in 1982, the year that girls were first admitted to Bullis. In 1983, the Commander passed away, leaving a legacy of educational excellence and a growing School.

Under headmaster Dick Jung in the 1990s, a new development office raised funds for The Athletic Center, a dedicated



*Entrance to Bullis' countryside setting from the Democracy Road Gate.*



home for Bullis athletics; in 1998, The Marriott Library provided a handsome space for books, computers and classes. An enrollment of over 600 students determined the need for more space—and generous donations led to The Blair Family Center for the Arts in spring 2002, adding classrooms, an event lobby and Howard Auditorium. Tom Farquhar, installed as head of school in 2002, oversaw the renovation of Kline Alumni Stadium, further boosting Bullis athletics and campus growth.

Dr. Gerald Boarman initiated campus-wide improvements in 2010, including terraced areas and renovations in classrooms, offices and The Senior Commons in North Hall. The acquisition of adjacent property grew the campus footprint to 102 acres featuring 10 buildings.

Looking ahead, plans are in place for a new turf field and the Discovery Center—a flagship building to house the STEM and entrepreneurship programs and provide exceptional classroom, laboratory and gathering spaces.

As Bullis progresses with the times, the commitment of its founders—exemplary education in an outstanding environment—remains the cornerstone of the School's physical growth on a campus that is the largest among independent schools in metropolitan Washington.



*A new home for Bullis athletics opened in the 1990s.*



*The Blair Family Center for the Arts, the last building completed on campus in 2002.*

## Gala 2014 Success: Disco Fever

On Friday, March 14, the Disco Fever Gala raised \$333,000 in support of financial aid and professional development programs, including \$114,000 from Raise the Paddle to fund a new outdoor amphitheater. The new amphitheater will be built in front of The Blair Family Center for the Arts and provide a wonderful venue for clubs, classes and smaller performances or rehearsals.

Attendees got into the spirit of the theme with an eye-popping array of era-specific clothing, from bell bottom pants to platform shoes, brightly colored suits and sequins galore. After dinner, parents and staff danced the night away to tunes from the disco era and today in Bullis' version of Studio 54 inside the beautifully transformed gym.

With great appreciation, we thank Gala Co-chairs and Disco Divas Krysti Hinton P'11, '12, '16 and Lis Petkevich P'15, P'16 for their enthusiastic and dedicated leadership; Total Wine & More and David and June Trone, P'12, '14 for their generous sponsorships; and the many parent volunteers who donated countless hours to the Gala. Their efforts, combined with the energetic participation and generous bidding of the Gala's attendees, produced a great event that displayed the positive impact and generous contributions of our community.



*Gala Co-chairs Krysti Hinton, P'11, '12, '16 and Lis Petkevich, P'15, P'16 pause between bids at the silent auction. Below, festive Gala guests dance beneath the glitter and lights.*





# Bullis GSA Takes Lead in Metro D.C.

For the second year, the Bullis Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) hosted the Metro GSA Summit, bringing 120 GSA leaders from 14 area independent schools together to discuss mutual challenges for these organizations.

Bullis GSA members worked with a steering committee of representatives from other schools to facilitate workshops throughout the day in conjunction with SMYAL, an organization that helps empower LGBTQ youth. Students tackled such topics as “Fighting the Gender Binary” and “How to Have a Kick Ass GSA,” and shared their own stories. Summit Coordinator Rayna Tyson '14 said, “I loved being able to create better connections with the other students.” Simone Goldstone '14 agreed: “It was intimate but comfortable, and gave me much more respect for what some kids have to go through.”

Keynote Speaker iO Tillett Wright, a self-proclaimed “photographer-artist-writer-social scientist,” kicked off the morning with a captivating and thought-provoking presentation. For her “Self Evident Truths” project, Wright is photographing people who identify as other than 100% straight to “show the humanity in all of us” and to “challenge others to look into these faces and say they should be denied their equal rights.” Designing the project to show “what gay looks like” in America today, Wright’s goal is 10,000 portraits, which she hopes to install on the National Mall in D.C. “It will be the AIDS quilt of my generation,” she explained.



*Speaker iO Tillett Wright, second from left, poses with Bullis GSA Summit leadership, from left, Technical Resources Specialist Sam Davis, Rayna Tyson '14 and Dr. Sara Romeyn.*

The adult members and advisors to the GSA—Bullis staff and teachers from the Staff Diversity & Equity Committee—shared the enthusiasm for the event. “It is amazing to see people break out of their comfort zones and have meaningful conversations,” said Sam Davis, Bullis technical resources specialist. “The students were filled with joy from being surrounded by like minds. Schools are working hard to overcome the adversities and challenges they face with their own GSAs.”

Bullis Counselor Lisa Gray explained: “This day meets a unique need in the area. Students who attend are looking for support for their own sexual orientation, for their work as straight allies or for celebration of their LGBTQ family members. It is, without a doubt, a highlight of my school year!”

The Bullis GSA works year-round to raise awareness and increase tolerance among the student body through regular meetings and events like the National Day of Silence. Member Jess Mays '15 says, “It’s getting better here at Bullis,” acknowledging that one of the goals of the GSA is to create an atmosphere that never accepts discrimination or poor language choices, even in kidding. “We must work together to create social change through word of mouth and continue to have tough conversations.”

“There is still much to be done, but there’s great support and acceptance here from the administration for LGBTQ staff and students,” says Davis. “This is a huge difference from when I was in school,” she wryly continues. “Being in the theater department was our GSA.”

## Photography: Taking a Classic Approach

Most of us snap picture-worthy moments with cell phones—but inside the Blair Center's photography lab, Upper School students in Eloisa Guanlao's photography classes captured artistic, thoughtful moments on film using classic methods. From concept and camera-click through film developing and printing, Bullis students learn complex processes to render black and white photographs of sometimes startling beauty. "Before this class, I never thought about how photos were produced," said Megan Wetzel '15, "and it's cool to learn the process and how the images can change depending on it."

Ms. Guanlao, a long-term substitute for Louisa Morris this year, assigned a visual concept—one final assignment was to find shape and pattern in the subject—and students ventured out using manual 35mm cameras, including Canons, Nikons and Konicas donated to the program. Later, in the photography lab under Guanlao's guidance, students relied on chemistry and math skills to mix chemical solutions and develop, stop wash, fix and final wash 35mm film strips prior to the print process. "This helps me see what I can do with photos in the future," said Caden Ulanet '15.

A revolving blackout compartment leads to the darkroom, where tables hold trays and a faint chemical smell permeates the air. As students develop filmstrips, images bloom on photographic paper soaking in the trays, revealing striking shapes and patterns in bridges, gates, brick walls and more.

"Students work with light physics in this class," Ms. Guanlao explained, "understanding how light travels through the camera and is inverted, just as in the eye." A prerequisite to Advanced Photography, this year 20 students enrolled in the class, ten of



*Caden Ulanet '15*



*Laura Brundred '14*



them graduating seniors. In addition to photography, students studied the work of photographers like Alfred Stieglitz and Ansel Adams and also tried various techniques. Moriah Ratner '14, for example, explored ambrotype, an early glass-plate method.

"We learn to control photos with settings and apertures, and we learn to pay close attention to all the elements of a picture," says Thomas Opsahl '15. "We have freedom here at Bullis to express ourselves and try new things. It's very cool."



*Thomas Opsahl '15*



*Mike Kronmiller '16*



*Nicole Kittay '16*

## Track and Field Makes History Joe Lee Voted All-Met Girls Track Coach

“The winning team isn’t the biggest team, but the team with the biggest heart.”

Those words from Coach Joe Lee inspired the Girls Track & Field Team to defy the odds and beat much larger teams at the ISL Championship Meet this spring.

Taking the title resulted in the first ISL banner in school history, while the girls also set eight new school records and three ISL championship records. “It was great to see all of our hard work pay off!” says Julia Cogdell ’15. Kyla Lewis ’15 appreciates that “it was even more special because our team’s small size meant that we all contributed to the win.”

Seeing that heart in the students when he started at Bullis two years ago, Coach Lee notes that they were “talented students with strong character, who simply hadn’t been exposed to high level training and needed a program to help them compete.” Lee established a structured environment to maximize their talent, including competing against some of the best school programs in the area and up and down the east coast.

At the prestigious Penn Relays, the team won the bronze in the 4 x 400 relay small schools division. Their anchor, Simone Glenn, will compete next year in track and field at San Diego State University. Simone

received All-Met recognition by *The Washington Post* and Coach Lee was voted Girls’ Coach of the Year.

Coach Lee credits the great coaching support staff for the team’s success, and freshman Lindsay Lewis, who set a school record in the high jump, agrees. “This year there were more coaches to help with the many aspects of track and field.” She hopes to break her record next year and invites more students to come out for the team, which will host meets on a newly resurfaced track at Kline Stadium.

This year’s team included basketball Division I recruits Ashley DeLeonibus ’14 and Kirby Porter ’14, who “made

important contributions to our success,” says Lee. Track provides athletes from other sports a chance to stay in shape while enjoying reaching for new goals. Lee will continue to recruit athletes in other sports who can add to team camaraderie and provide leadership for developing athletes.

Kyla, Julia and Lindsay are already looking ahead to strengthening their team, and, as Kyla says, “starting to build a legacy that will be remembered.”

For complete results from the ISL Championship and updated Athletics News, visit [www.bullis.org/athletics](http://www.bullis.org/athletics)



Earning recognition in *The Washington Post*’s All-Met listings for Spring 2014 are the girls 4x100 relay team members, from left, Kyla Lewis ’15, Gabrielle Tielman-Fenelus ’14, Alexis Postell ’17 and Simone Glenn ’14.



# Bruce Kelley Chosen as All-Met Basketball Coach

Before he arrived at Bullis, Bruce Kelley knew the School only from his perspective as a rival coach. Now, immersed in the Bullis culture and community since fall 2004, Bruce Kelley not only knows Bullis—he embodies its spirit.

“I like to whistle while I work,” he says, as he focuses on 7<sup>th</sup> grade pre-algebra in the classroom and basketball on the court. Head basketball coach for the boys varsity and Middle School teams, he has guided the Bulldogs to three consecutive IAC conference titles.

In April, he was honored as *The Washington Post* 2014 Boys Basketball Coach of the Year for his outstanding efforts. “The best part of that award,” he says, “was the chance to talk about the great season we’ve had.”

Perhaps more important than being a teacher and coach, Kelley is a Bullis parent as well. He and his wife, Louise, saw their son, Brian Kelley '14, graduate this year. “I genuinely believe in Bullis, and I can never truly repay what this school has given my family,” Coach Kelley says.

Currently, he looks forward to the planned Discovery Center and is keenly interested in ways that he and other Middle School teachers can prepare students for the exciting challenges of the

Entrepreneurship and STEM programs in the Upper School. “I’m planning to borrow STEM concepts for my math classes,” he says. In sports, he is proud of his teams’ accomplishments, including this year’s IAC win and six Class of 2014 players heading off to play college basketball. “It’s been a wonderful year—the sort of year I wish every coach could experience.”

Every year, he relishes the opportunity to work with new players at their ability levels and enthusiastically watches how they develop. “Each year is its own journey,” he says. “There are no carbon copies.” Those who know him would agree that Coach Kelley is exceptional too.



At top, Coach Kelley coaches from the sidelines. Above, the coach relaxes off the court with his son, Brian '14, who will be playing basketball at Babson College in the fall.

## 5K Raises \$47,000 for Children's Charities

More than 800 runners and walkers took to the Bullis cross country course for the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Bullis Gives Back 5k on a beautiful May morning. Participants chose the 5k or 2.5k course, and in the process raised more than \$45,000 for three local organizations: K.E.E.N. of Greater DC, The Treatment & Learning Center's Katherine Thomas School, The Diener School and Habitat for Humanity. Bullis' own S.A.F.E. fund, which covers student activity fees and textbooks for Bullis students in need, also benefited from the proceeds.

Before the races started, the second annual Buddy Run took place, including 85

visiting buddies from KEEN, TLC and The Diener School, who ran, walked or rode a wheelchair around the Bullis track with their Bullis buddies. More than 150 Bullis students served as buddies, encouraging their new friends of all abilities and celebrating as they crossed the finish line. "It was delightful to watch how attentive and caring the buddies were," reported KEEN Greater DC Executive Director Beata Okulski. "It was an unforgettable event that brought lots of smiles and joy to all participants." One KEEN parent's blind son "was treated like a little brother by the Bullis students who helped him through the course, making sure he really enjoyed himself."

"This day exemplifies what is so profound about the Bullis community," explained 5k co-chair Barbara Guterman P'18. "Seeing the joy among all the students—buddies and visitors—made clear why we were all there: to show up when it matters and simply do good!"

The event was managed by the Bullis Parents Association under the leadership of Guterman and co-chair Michelle Benaim P'19. They recruited 100 Bullis parent volunteers and 100 student volunteers to work the event, from covering the race course to face painting and managing other events in the children's fair that complement the race.



*Above, 5K co-chairs Barbara Guterman, P'18 (left), and Michelle Benaim, P'19, flank Kenna Zier '20, after she received her trophy for placing first among Bullis girls.*

*At right, Abdullah AlBader '21 (left) and Dana Martin '14 encourage their Diener School buddy around the track.*



*Photos courtesy of Moriah Ratner '14*



# Building Support for Bullis

## One **BRICK** at a Time

### Engraved bricks are once again available!

Purchase a personalized brick in honor or memory of a student, team, teacher, individual or family.

Proceeds from brick purchases help to support the Annual Fund at Bullis.  
Thank you for supporting Bullis and showing your school spirit!

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**Limit:** 15 letters per line – 3 lines maximum per brick.


One letter or character per block  
Please use a separate form for each brick ordered.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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Preferred location: Front of The Marriott Family Library \_\_\_\_\_ or Kline Alumni Stadium \_\_\_\_\_

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All contributions are tax deductible to a 501(c)(3) organization in accordance with IRS regulations.



# advancement perspectives

“I have never seen an institution so willing to grow and embrace change as Bullis”

Having worked in independent schools for over 30 years, I can say that I have never seen an institution so willing to grow and embrace change as Bullis. Change requires vision, deep commitment and extensive resources—and this is where the Bullis community shines. Committed to our diverse student body, we designate funds for financial aid to give deserving students access to a Bullis education. We ask our families to support unique programs like STEM and Entrepreneurship through participation in the Annual Fund. Rallying behind campus improvements, you provide amazing support through the Gala’s Raise the Paddle, which this year will soon result in a beautiful new amphitheater beside The Blair Family Center for the Arts.

The culture of philanthropy at Bullis grows and changes too. This year, for the first time, we saw 100% participation in the Annual Fund among School staff, an outstanding milestone. Even more inspiring, they stepped up yet again to raise more than \$180,000 for the capital campaign! The campaign is another fine example of the Bullis commitment to growth and change. The planned Discovery Center will be a hub for new exploration in education, a space for ground-breaking curriculum and state-of-the-art facilities for teaching and learning.

To those who have supported the Annual Fund, Gala, capital campaign and other initiatives, we thank you for your philanthropic leadership. To the entire community, we hope (we know!) that we can count on your future support—because generosity and caring truly is “The Bullis Way.”

I’d like to personally thank the many volunteers who make great things happen at Bullis, and thanks also to the staff who work and support this School in so many ways. We are grateful for your time and talents, and for your constant willingness to help this wonderful School grow and prosper.

Sincerely,

Joanne Szadkowski

Director of Institutional Advancement and Alumni



## Jerry May Alumni Golf Tournament

The Bullis Alumni Association hosted over 60 golfers—alumni, parents, Bullis staff and friends—at the annual Jerry May Alumni Golf Tournament in May. It was a wonderful day of reconnecting with friends, former teachers and members of the Bullis community. Special thanks go to co-chairs George Mavrikes P '14, '17, Eddie Bullis '86, and to our donors, sponsors and the Alumni Board. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Above, from left, First Low Gross winners Matt Bart, Mike Micholas P '14, '16, Terry Burke and Brian Simpson. At left, Bridgit Fried P '13, '14 (left) receives her prize for the longest drive from Joanne Szadkowski, director of institutional advancement.



Above, back row, Eddie Bullis '86, Richard Armstrong '70, David Posnick '08, Hunter Gosnell '06, Grant Hollingsworth '04, Josh Ein '06, Brandon Chasen '04 and Keith Cohen '06; third row, Justin Nemeroff '09, Neil King '07, Woody King '09, Nick Markoff '60, Zack Harwood '06, Paul Davis '04, Svetlin Tintchev '06, Brian Will '08, Josh Posnick '03 and Greg Stuart '03; second row, Drew Prescott '00, Tom Cowles '00 and Ross Koenig '02; and front row, Josh Basile '03.

# alumni profile



## Nicole Cutts '88

### Inspiring people to live balanced and successful lifestyles

When Nicole Cutts was a little girl, she told people that she wanted to be a doctor, an artist and a professional tennis player when she grew up. This was quite an ambitious dream, but with persistence and passion, Nicole achieved two of these three goals—as well as a few more. Today, Nicole works as a doctor, an artist, an entrepreneur, a teacher, an author and a coach, and while this might seem like a tall order for anyone, Nicole insists that “you can be productive while finding joy in your work”—exactly what she has done.

Nicole is a licensed clinical psychologist, success coach and organizational consultant who promotes and teaches individuals to live a balanced life, both personally and professionally. One of her businesses, Cutts Consulting, LLC “works with employees and organizations to create training and development programs that strengthen organizational culture and produce measurable results.” Through her second business, Vision Quest Retreats, she plans and executes empowering

retreats and other events specifically for women, to help them “live their visions of success.” Nicole believes that everyone should connect their passions with their jobs in life when possible, so people “bring their whole selves to work and are, therefore, happy and productive.”

The four years Nicole spent at Bullis were instrumental in helping her discover two of her passions—art and psychology. Nicole fell in love with painting under the tutelage of Ms. Susan Spingler, who Nicole credits with stoking her artistic passion and encouraging her to participate in several art competitions. In conjunction with discovering her artistic side, Nicole recalls that one of her first experiences counseling and mentoring others was as a Peer Leader (now known as Peer Mentors). Mr. Scott Votey established the Peer Leadership program in 1986, Nicole’s junior year, and Peer Mentors continues today as a successful program that many students aspire to join. “I always liked working with people

and being a leader in some capacity,” says Nicole. I was excited to channel this passion and my Bullis experience when I got to college, where I started taking psychology courses.”

Never one to hew to routine, Nicole has always had an entrepreneurial and independent spirit, and she appreciates the flexibility now to juggle a variety of clients and determine her own schedule. As Nicole advocates, “Your job is an extension of yourself, so it is imperative to seek joy in what you do.” And so, in 2002, after several years of working in clinical psychology, Nicole knew it was time for a change. Unsure of her next move, but knowing she wanted to apply her counseling background, Nicole looked within herself at what brought her joy, and says that her visions took her back to her art. “I didn’t think I wanted to be an artist full time, but it was a vital path that I followed for a while, and certainly one that helped me reach the next level.” Nicole sold paintings and exhibited her





From far left, Nicole Cutts' 1988 yearbook photo; Nicole today; one of Nicole's paintings, *G\*ddess of Fire, Night and Magic*; the artist relaxing; appearance on "Let's Talk Live" News Channel 8 in Washington, D.C., in January 2011, discussing tips to help viewers achieve their New Year's Resolutions and other goals.

art and ultimately getting back to her 'roots' resulted in the clarity she needed to venture out and start Cutts Consulting.

Her company offers trainings, workshops, lectures, coaching and retreats on a myriad of topics including leadership, team building, diversity and employee wellness. Clients include the Department of Labor, Black Entertainment Television and British Broadcasting Corporation. Nicole says that among the best parts of her job are "getting to learn what different organizations and people do, so I can help enliven their spirits and help create their visions of success."

After nearly eight years focusing primarily on organizations, Nicole knew her personal journey in life was not yet complete. "On one level I was living my vision through my organizational development work, but on another I realized that my ultimate mission and vision was helping others discover and live their visions of success." In 2010, she started Vision Quest Retreats in

addition to Cutts Consulting, "as a vehicle to carry out my life's work." Once again, Nicole's passion for art helped guide her decision—a series of paintings she completed called *Reclaiming the G\*ddess*, reflecting female representations of the divine, helped in her decision to start a therapy and success coaching business focused on women.

Of her entrepreneurial and determined spirit, which she recognizes is not innate for everyone, she says "the needle [of this spirit], can be moved for everybody—there are techniques you can learn to be a better leader or manager or to find passion in your work," and Nicole aims to help you discover them.

Nicole's advice to today's Bullis students and alumni is to "pay attention and live each moment mindfully so you make choices that are good for you. Think about what excites you and what you're passionate about and follow that. You can't go wrong when you live from the inside out."

"Among the best parts of my job are getting to learn what different organizations and people do, so I can help enliven their spirits and help create their visions of success."

—Nicole Cutts

# alumni class notes



*Nick Markoff '60 proudly wears his Bullis shirt as he and granddaughter Isabel lay out the corner of a soccer field in Oroquieta, Costa Rica; Bode Fox Schugar, the third son of Jordan Schugar '94 and his wife Heather, is already showing Bullis pride; Grayson Eberstein, son of Nikki (Herson) Eberstein '97 and her husband Jason; Hunter Merritt Beynon, son of Hilary (Koenig) Beynon '98 is all smiles for the camera.*

## 1958

**Thomas Lofton** is enjoying his retirement in Mississippi and says he saw many of his Bullis classmates at the United States Naval Academy reunion last year, including **William Stubbs '58**, **Fred Corbalis '58**, **Richard Tash '58**, **Robert Morrell '58** and **Michael Miga '58**.

## 1960

**Nick Markoff** has been working with his son Alex and their family on a project to build soccer fields at a local school in the Oroquieta Valley in Costa Rica.

## 1969

**Peter Baldwin** graduated from the Air War College and returned to the National Counterproliferation Center.

## 1994

**Jordan Schugar** and his wife Heather are proud to announce the arrival of their third son, Bode Fox Schugar, who was born in December and is the younger brother of Owen, 5, and Milo, 3. Jordan and Heather are professors at West Chester University in West Chester, Pennsylvania.

## 1997

**Molly (Dworken) Herman** and her

husband Robert Herman were married on March 25, 2013 at The Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C., and their first child, son Edison Maccabi Herman, was born on March 8, 2014. The Hermans are all doing really well and enjoying life as a family of three.

In 2011, **Matt Tredwell** joined the Washington, D.C. based band, La Unica ([www.launicamusic.com](http://www.launicamusic.com)), where he plays drums and percussion. La Unica's self-titled debut album was nominated for the Washington Area Music Association's 2013 World Music Record of the Year and is available on Pandora.

**Nikki (Herson) Eberstein** had her third child, son Grayson Eberstein, on January 27. Grayson joins big brother Jackson, 5, and big sister Jamison, 3. Nikki says that everyone loves the new addition.

**Melissa (Sherman) Hausfeld** and her husband Joshua are thrilled to announce the birth of their third child, daughter Jacqueline Zara, on February 27. Jacqueline joins her big sisters Julia, 5, and Gabrielle, 3. The Hausfelds reside in Potomac.

## 1998

**Hilary (Koenig) Beynon** and her husband Chad welcomed their son, Hunter Merritt Beynon, on January 22. They are currently living in Manhattan.

## 2000

**Tanner Cerand** recently started working at Vista Equity Partners, a software private equity firm headquartered in Austin, Texas. If anyone is ever in Austin, Tanner says don't hesitate to contact him—he's always happy to connect with old friends and alumni.

Best wishes to **Tom Cowles** and his wife Lauren on the arrival of their daughter, Hattie Elaine, who was born on May 13. Tom and Lauren are thrilled to welcome a new addition to their family! After nine years at KPMG, Tom joined Fannie Mae in their Risk Management Office in October 2013.

**Laura (Marlin) Kayton** and her husband Andrew are thrilled to announce the birth of their twins, Ella Olivia Kayton and Brody Nesson Kayton, on April 8. Laura is a stay-at-home mom and she and her family recently moved to Clarksburg, Maryland.





*From left, sisters Julia, Gabrielle and Jacqueline, daughters of Melissa (Sherman) Hausfeld '97; from left, Drew Prescott '00, Tom Cowles '00, David Slavitt '00, David Ochsmann '01 and Adam Janowitz '00 at a baby shower for Tom's wife Lauren in April.*

## 2002

**Courtney Abrams** is excited to announce her new position as a realtor at TTR Sotheby's International Realty in the Logan Circle office in Washington, D.C. Courtney is a licensed realtor in D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

## 2003

**Geoff Bender** recently received a permanent change of station from Guam for the Air Force. He is currently working on his master's in procurement and acquisitions management through Webster University and is a contract specialist for the Air Force. Geoff and his wife Alyce were married last October. Alyce was formerly in the Air Force and is now working on her BS in airfield management and safety.

**Josh Basile** was a featured speaker at the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner in April for work with his foundation, Determined2Heal ([www.determined2heal.org](http://www.determined2heal.org)), which aims to ease the difficult transition experienced by families of newly injured spinal cord patients; it also supports and provides funding for spinal cord related research

Share Your News

Newly married? Relocating? Expanding your family?  
Celebrating a career transition?  
Exotic travel in the works?

Please send in your Class Notes for the next *Bullis Magazine* to keep your classmates and other Bullis friends up to date. High-resolution photos (JPEG format) are always welcome.

Be sure to "like" us on Facebook—search Bullis School Alumni Association—and follow us on Twitter: @BullisAlumni and Instagram: @BullisSchoolAlumni.

Email your updates to Jennifer Hayman Okun '99, assistant director of alumni and events, at [jennifer\\_okun@bullis.org](mailto:jennifer_okun@bullis.org).

and rehabilitative organizations and projects. The ARM dinner brings together leaders within the regenerative medicine field to collaborate and unite under the common goal of coming up with breakthroughs and cures to help those affected by health conditions, diseases and injuries.

## 2004

**Craig Aronoff** returned to Bullis this spring for his third year as an assistant coach

to the boys varsity lacrosse team, where he worked with the team's face-off men and ran the substitution box. He enjoys working with the team because he wants to give back to his alma mater and to the lacrosse program that taught him so much and allowed him the opportunity to play lacrosse in college. He loves working with the players and helping them prepare for life and lacrosse at the next level. Craig currently works as a project manager at HSU Builders where he manages both

# alumni class notes



*From left, Geoff Bender '03 and his wife Alyce at their wedding in October 2013; Josh Basile '03 gets a hug from his niece Brianna (daughter of Katherine Basile '02) at the Alliance for Regenerative Medicine's 5th Annual Dinner in April; Paul Davis '04 and his wife Whitney embrace their new daughter, Molly Frances Davis.*

government and commercial construction projects for clients such as Department of Defense, Environmental Protection Agency and Ronald Reagan National Airport.

Congratulations to **Paul Davis** and his wife Whitney on the arrival of their first child, daughter Molly Frances Davis, who was born on January 25. Paul says he and Whitney are having a blast with Molly.

**Paul Davis** and **Brandon Chasen** are the co-owners of four CrossFit gyms in the greater Baltimore area and their Harbor East location was recently ranked as a top 15 CrossFit box in the nation. Brandon and his wife Catherine are the proud parents of son Brandon, Jr., who is one.

## 2006

Congratulations to **Samantha Havas** who became engaged to Mike Smeltz of Columbia, Maryland, in January. Samantha and Mike were joined for an engagement celebration by many Bullis alumnae including **Celia (Gendler) Lupton '06**, **Claire Olszewski '06**, **Kelly Anderson '06**, **Elyssa Emsellem '06**, **Mandy Tehaan '06**, **Lauren "Ellie" Prince '06** and **Alexandra Lavalleye '06**. Samantha and Mike live in New York City and are planning a summer 2015 wedding.

**Christopher Mejia** has been working as a consultant at Ernst & Young since graduating from Middlebury College in 2010, and stays connected to Bullis by playing lacrosse with other alumni during the summer. Chris is the proud brother of recent graduate and Bullis Lifer **Alessandra Mejia '14**.

**Fletcher Schoen** and **Jeff Rubin '06** were groomsmen at the wedding of **Mark O'Halloran '06** and Amanda Jean on May 10.

## 2007

This spring, **Shaun Crow** returned to Bullis for his second year as an assistant coach to the boys varsity lacrosse team where he worked with the offensive unit.

## 2010

**Blake Richman** is quite busy working with a wealth management team at Morgan Stanley in Bethesda (alongside fellow Bullis alumnus **Adam Janowitz '00**). Additionally, Blake is a full-time student at University of Maryland where he studies economics, participates in the Finance Banking and Investment Society and UMD's Entrepreneurship Connector program, and plays for the university's Rugby team.

**Caroline Queen** returned to campus in April to speak to Middle School students as part of Community Day about her time at Bullis, pursuing her dream and her road to the London Olympics. Caroline says she was excited and honored to return to her alma mater and share her experiences with students, since she always felt supported by the Bullis staff and community as a student and since her graduation. In May, Caroline graduated from Davidson College, where she majored in psychology and minored in communication studies.

## 2012

**Lucy Traver** just completed her sophomore year at Virginia Tech University where she is studying visual communication design (graphic design) and hopes to get into either packaging, magazine layout or web design. Lucy is minoring in art history and psychology and is also part of a psychology club with teachers and students who meet monthly to discuss current trends in psychology and hear guest speakers. Lucy was selected to be recruitment chair next year for her sorority, Delta Delta Delta.





*Celia (Gendler) Lupton '06, Kelly Anderson '06, Samantha Havas '06 and Ellie Prince '06 gather together in New York City to celebrate Samantha's engagement to Mike Smeltz; from left, groomsmen Fletcher Schoen '06 and Jeff Rubin '06 at the wedding of Mark O'Halloran '06; Caroline Queen '10 addresses Middle School students during Community Day.*

## 2013

**Tobi Adewole** just completed his freshman year at George Washington University and was named to the Atlantic 10 Men's Soccer All-Rookie Team. Tobi is only the 12<sup>th</sup> Colonial to earn All-Rookie accolades since the Atlantic 10 began honoring freshmen in 2000.

**Brandon Burke** was named Patriot League Rookie of the Year for his performance as goalkeeper for Colgate University's men's lacrosse team.

**Mitch Goldberg** was named Freshman of the Year at the Atlantic Sun Conference for his performance as midfielder for University of Richmond's men's lacrosse team.

**Corbin Blumberg** continues to study equine science and management at the University of Kentucky and is thrilled to be in the "horse capital of the world." Corbin is involved in campus activities such as Phi Delta Theta fraternity and says he has become a huge UK fan—particularly during their unbelievable run in the NCAA's Final Four.

**Amy Rose Oechsler** reports that she had a fantastic freshman year at Virginia Commonwealth School of Arts and loves living in Richmond! She was accepted into the School's top-ranked graphic design program and she is having a great time as part of the Phi Mu sorority. Amy hopes the Bullis community is doing well.

## IN MEMORIAM

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of those in our close Bullis circle who have recently passed away:

**Captain Wilton L. Atkinson '40**  
**CDR C. Stuart Bowcock, Jr. '40**  
**James L. Fitzgerald, Jr. '54**  
**Alex Johnson (faculty 2000-2002)**  
**Peter J. O'Neill '55**

## Coming Events

Plan your schedule to return to campus for these upcoming events:

Homecoming: October 24, 2014

Young Alumni Day: January 8, 2015

Gala: March 13, 2015

Alumni Golf Tournament:  
May 8, 2015

.....  
 Check [www.bullis.org/calendar](http://www.bullis.org/calendar) for upcoming performances, exhibitions and athletic schedules.



# alumni spotlight

## Balancing Success in All Areas



"I realized I wanted to serve those who serve," stated Laura Lu '10. A recent graduate of the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology, Laura is headed to medical school at Stanford University—with a scholarship from the United States Navy Medical Corps—to make that dream a reality.

Laura was first inspired to serve through a volunteer opportunity at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center that she heard about from Bullis friends and alumnae. Starting her sophomore year at Bullis, she began weekly volunteer work tending to wounded soldiers at the Mologne House, Walter Reed's outpatient hotel. Her self-described "pendant for medicine," coupled with the passion and emotion she felt for the soldiers she met through volunteer work, informed Laura's choice of studies at MIT. This discovery meant she could blend her love of medicine and scientific research with her desire to serve in the military.

Laura was able to hit the ground running at MIT in large part due to her tenacious work ethic, but also due to the academic rigor offered through Bullis' curriculum. "Bullis provided me with a truly great educational foundation that readied me for MIT," says Laura. She credits in particular the "phenomenal teaching

techniques" of BC Calculus teacher Matt Zimmer and the advanced content of Emily Bones' AP Chemistry class—one of Laura's favorites—for providing that preparation.

As an undergraduate student, Laura joined the fight against cancer as a researcher at the School's prestigious Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research, studying, among other things, MALAT1, a noncoding RNA that is misregulated in metastatic lung cancer. She also helped launch the MIT chapter of an investment education club, Smart Woman Securities, led as the Commander of the Naval ROTC at MIT, Harvard, and Tufts, played on MIT's lacrosse team, and joined a sorority, all while managing a full course load. During her summers, Laura returned to Walter Reed as a research assistant on various studies at the forefront of medicine and technology, including the use of prosthetics for amputees.

Laura insists that her life is about balance—a skill she developed at Bullis. From 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> grade, Laura had an abbreviated schedule, attending classes from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m., to allow for her competitive gymnastics training. Bullis' support and willing accommodation of Laura's pursuits were not lost on her, and in fact further motivated Laura to excel academically: she was named Outstanding Scholar for her graduating class. "With each stage of my life, I have realized the strong Bullis presence that has pushed me to be

better. I think that the flexibility to cater to students who do unconventional things is a great asset of the Bullis community," admits Laura.

As she conquers the next stage of life, Laura knows she is following her dream. "Once you find something that doesn't feel like work, you know it's right."



*At top, Laura Lu's 2010 yearbook photo. Above right, Lu commissioned as an Ensign (O-1) in the United States Navy's Medical Corps. Bottom, Lu participated in Naval ROTC summer training, during which she flew a plane, dove in a nuclear submarine, and engaged in field training with U.S. Marines.*



# alumni notes

## Alumni Bring Support to IAC Tournament



*Alumni with Head of School Dr. Gerald L. Boarman at IAC Basketball Tournament in February, from left, Dominique Davis '05, Zack Harwood '06, Josh Weiner '06, Kermit Carter '05, Jeremy Myers '06, Paul Davis '04, Dr. Jerry Boarman, Svetlin Tintchev '06, Steven Burke '08, Keith Cohen '06, Josh Ein '06 and Grant Hollingsworth '04.*

## Boys Alumni Return for Basketball Game



*Back row, from left, Jeff Rubin '06, Jon Daley '06, Nigel Pruitt '12, Kevin Henry '07, Sam Sentz '06, Coach Bruce Kelley, Brian Kelley '14, Andrew Dewey '05, Jeremy Myers '06, Warren Flood '09 and Marcus Doresy (friend). Middle row, Shawn Kane '94, Anthony Thompson '13 and Dominique Davis '05. Front row, Coach Marcus Cotton, Brett Stein '08, Aaron Briggs '14, Coach John Cooper, Eric Bernstein '08 and Kermit Carter '05. Not pictured: Kadeem Chung '11, Joe Hazel '12 and Quentin Yeoman '12.*

# alumni notes

## Alumni Boys Lacrosse Game



The May 31 boys alumni lacrosse game drew a large crowd of former Bulldog players. Back row, from left, Chris Mejia '06, Daniel Zolet '12, Nick Fields '13, Kylor Bellistri '12, Brian Will '08, Shaun Crow '07, Ross Koenig '02 and John Kelly '11. Middle row, Joe Stucky '14, Matt Opsahl '12, Craig Aronoff '04, Nick Avedisian '09, Zach Weiner '09, Steven Burke '08, Brandon Burke '13 and Scott Crow '11. Front row, from left, Josh Whichard '94, Kyle Nemeroff '13, Nick Matzelvich '14 and Brooke Slowinski '07.

## Alumni Girls Lacrosse Game



Alumnae enjoyed returning to play with the varsity team on May 3. Back row, from left, Maire O'Neill '05, Katherine Basile '02, Courtney Abrams '02, Meggy Newton '09 and Carley Sturges '12. Front row, Lauren Polun '09, Grace Takesuye '09, Kari Tai '09 and Kara (Takesuye) Carpluk '02.



## Young Alumni Day

In early January, The North Hall Commons was filled with Bullis graduates returning for the annual Young Alumni Day luncheon. Alumni from the classes of 2009-2013 had a wonderful afternoon visiting with former teachers and friends. Brooke Gutschick '13 came to Young Alumni Day to "see all of the changes the School has made since graduation and to reunite with friends and classmates," she says. "Although we have only been gone for about six months, we've all started new adventures in college, so it was really nice to come back to Bullis and spend time together!"



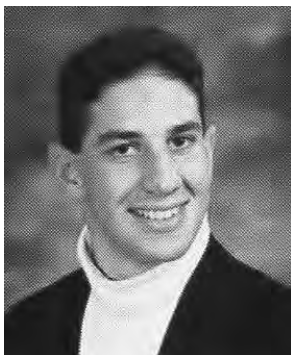
*Alumni returning for the day included, back row, from left, CeMaia Wise '13, Allison Osterman '13, Kendall Mitchell '13, Brooke Gutschick '13, Dana Daniels '13, Ryan Garey '11, George Figueroa '12 and Josh Foreman '13; front row, Amos Green '11, Kamar Saint-Louis '11, Corbin Blumberg '13, Kylor Bellistri '12.*



*Dr. Jerry Boarman embraces Kendall Mitchell '13 (left) and Allison Osterman '13 (right).*

# alumni spotlight

## First Book Celebrates Unsung Military Heroes



Mark Greenblatt '91 never imagined that an annual tradition with his father

would lead

to his becoming an accomplished author, but that's exactly what happened. Mark's book, *Valor: Unsung Heroes from Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Home Front*, released in May, tells true stories of extraordinary heroism by American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and a Navy rescue swimmer in the Atlantic. These stories place the reader in the minds of the individual soldiers, sailors and Marines as they face—and overcome—enormous odds.

For years, Mark and his father attended the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs banquets, which honor war heroes, as Mark's father was active in the organization. Mark listened to tales of bravery, incredible sacrifice and brotherly bonds and wondered why these individuals and their stories were not told to a broader audience. "These heroes were celebrated briefly for a few hours at one ceremony, but I felt that their stories should be documented and shared more broadly for people to learn from."

Although he had no military background and no professional writing experience,

Mark set out to write the book and achieve his dream. Ironically, this same mentality of being a storyteller is partially how he got his start writing—as a student at Bullis. In his sophomore year, Mark joined *The Bulldog* as a sports writer. When Mr. Bill Wieand—the paper's faculty advisor whose unflappable leadership Mark greatly admired—praised his first article about the football team, Mark says, "the seed for writing was planted." Discovering that he enjoyed writing and being a storyteller for Bullis, Mark continued writing for the newspaper and became editor-in-chief his senior year.

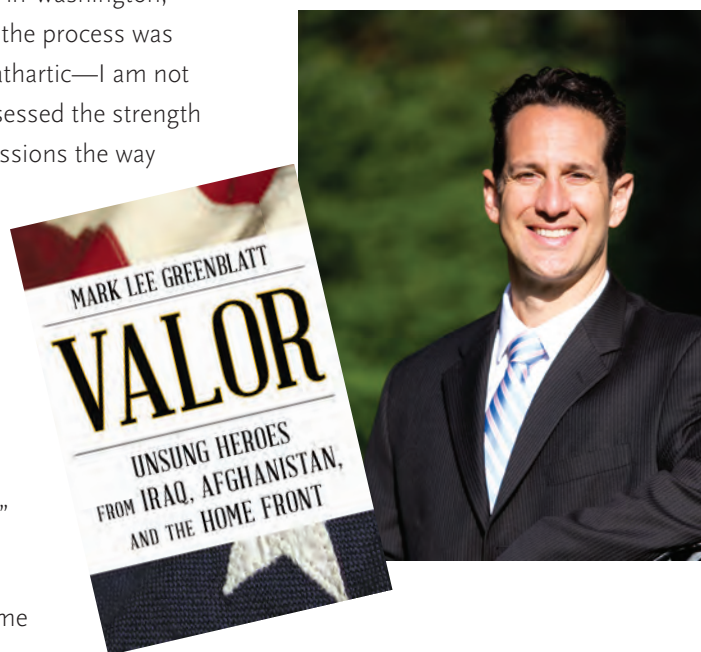
*Valor* was a real labor of love and time for Mark who spent nearly five years conducting research and interviews with his subjects, while balancing his family life and full time job as a criminal and ethics investigations attorney in Washington, D.C. Mark admits that the process was "very emotional and cathartic—I am not sure I would have possessed the strength needed to carry out missions the way these men did. I am just incredibly proud to have published the stories of these nine heroes and hope that I was able to capture their humility, which is both powerful and heartfelt."

Mark recalls that high school was a pivotal time

for him, giving him the confidence to try his hand at various things, whether writing for the newspaper, playing sports or even playing in the School's rock band—and he was not going to miss out on anything.

Reflecting on the present time in his life and how that same ambitious mentality drove him to write his book, he offers the same advice to students today: "Take advantage of everything. Try whatever seems attractive or interesting to you—just do it, because as you go through life, opportunities may dwindle and you don't want to miss out."

For additional information about *Valor*, visit [www.markleegreenblatt.com](http://www.markleegreenblatt.com)



At top, Mark Greenblatt's 1991 senior year portrait. At right, Mark's headshot from his newly released book, *Valor*.



# Mystery Alumni Photos

In honor of the Class of 2014's Commencement, we look back to a few Graduations over the years.



Can you identify the people in one of these photos? Please email your answers to Jennifer (Hayman) Okun '99 at [jennifer\\_okun@bullis.org](mailto:jennifer_okun@bullis.org) by August 1. The first person to answer correctly will win a prize from the Alumni Office!

## Answers to Mystery Photos from Fall/Winter Magazine

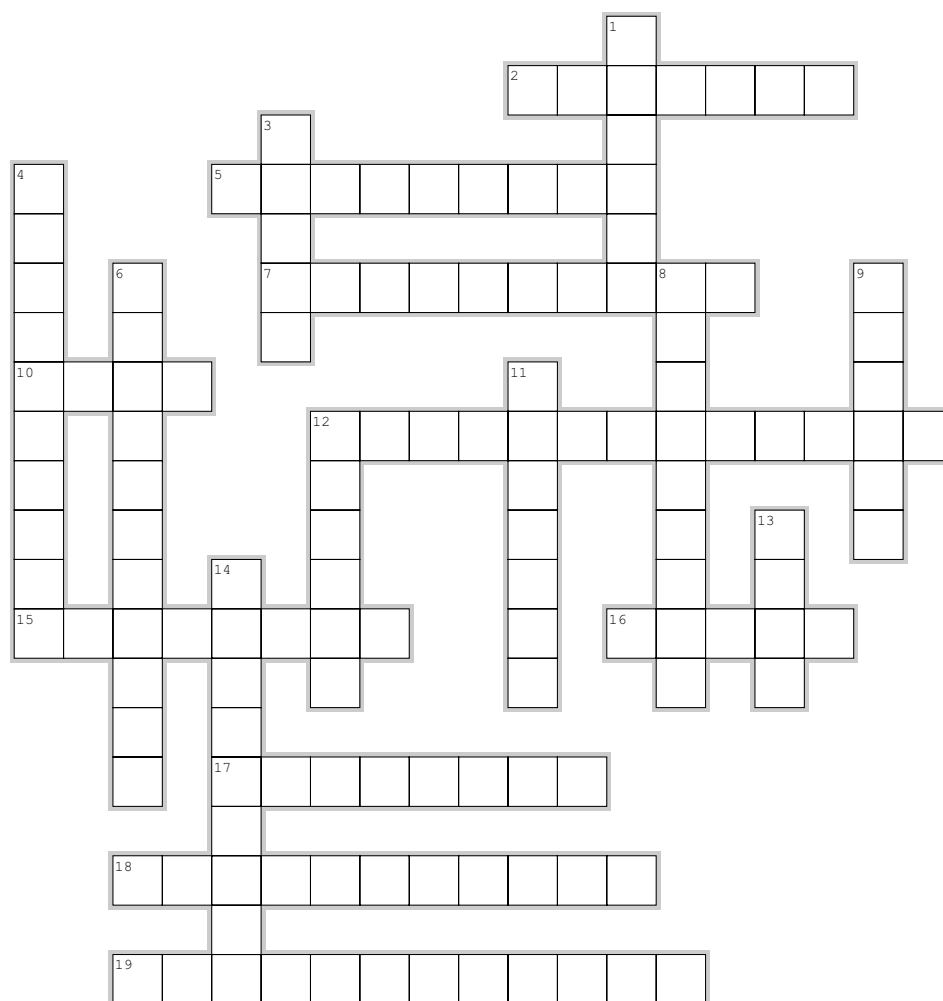
\*Congratulations to Jim Juliana '68—and Bullis teacher and coach from 1976-1977—who correctly identified Jerry Tshontikidis '80 and Louis "Mac" McBride '78. Jim says he coached both men on Bullis' first IAC Championship soccer team in '76-'77 and he sends his best to everyone at Bullis.

\*Congratulations to Julie (Levine) Beiser '86 who correctly identified the photo of Nina (Cochrane) Price '87, Rhonda Chapman '87, Diane (Raimi) Klein '86, Virginia Larranaga '86, Brian Ecker Ades '88, Kenna Takahashi '87 and Carrie Salter '87.



To view all mystery alumni photos, visit [www.bullis.org/alumni](http://www.bullis.org/alumni)

## Bullis Alumni Brain Teaser



### Across

2. English teacher from the 1970s through early 90s, Larry \_\_\_\_\_
5. First building built on the Potomac campus (two words)
7. Achieve \_\_\_\_\_ Through Balance
10. Alumnus from the class of '91 for whom our Parents Association award is named (last name)
12. Comprised of faculty and students, this Board helps students understand the impacts of their decisions and how to make better decisions in the future. (two words)
15. Day of the week that was once reserved for detention hours

16. \_\_\_\_\_ Family Center for the Arts
17. One of Bullis' art teachers for nearly 20 years, Deb \_\_\_\_\_
18. Name of the bleachers cheering section in the gym (two words)
19. This art exhibit is a cross-curricular event with the English Department in connection with the School's celebration of Poetry Month (two words)

### Down

1. Former Assistant Headmaster, math, and science teacher for whom our science award is named (last name)
3. Grades 2-5: \_\_\_\_\_ School
4. Certain "freedoms" seniors enjoy during the third trimester of the year

6. All freshmen participate in this program, designed to help ease the transition to Upper School (two words)
8. The name of the building on the Silver Spring campus that housed classes (two words)
9. Students who have attended Bullis since its earliest grade
11. 8<sup>th</sup> grade arts performance
12. Community service event: \_\_\_\_\_ drive
13. "\_\_\_\_\_ the blue and gold" (Alma Mater lyrics)
14. Day when students do not have to wear their uniforms (two words)

For puzzle solution see [www.bullis.org/alumni/crossword](http://www.bullis.org/alumni/crossword)





***Thanks to the generosity of the entire Bullis community, the Annual Fund has had another successful year!***

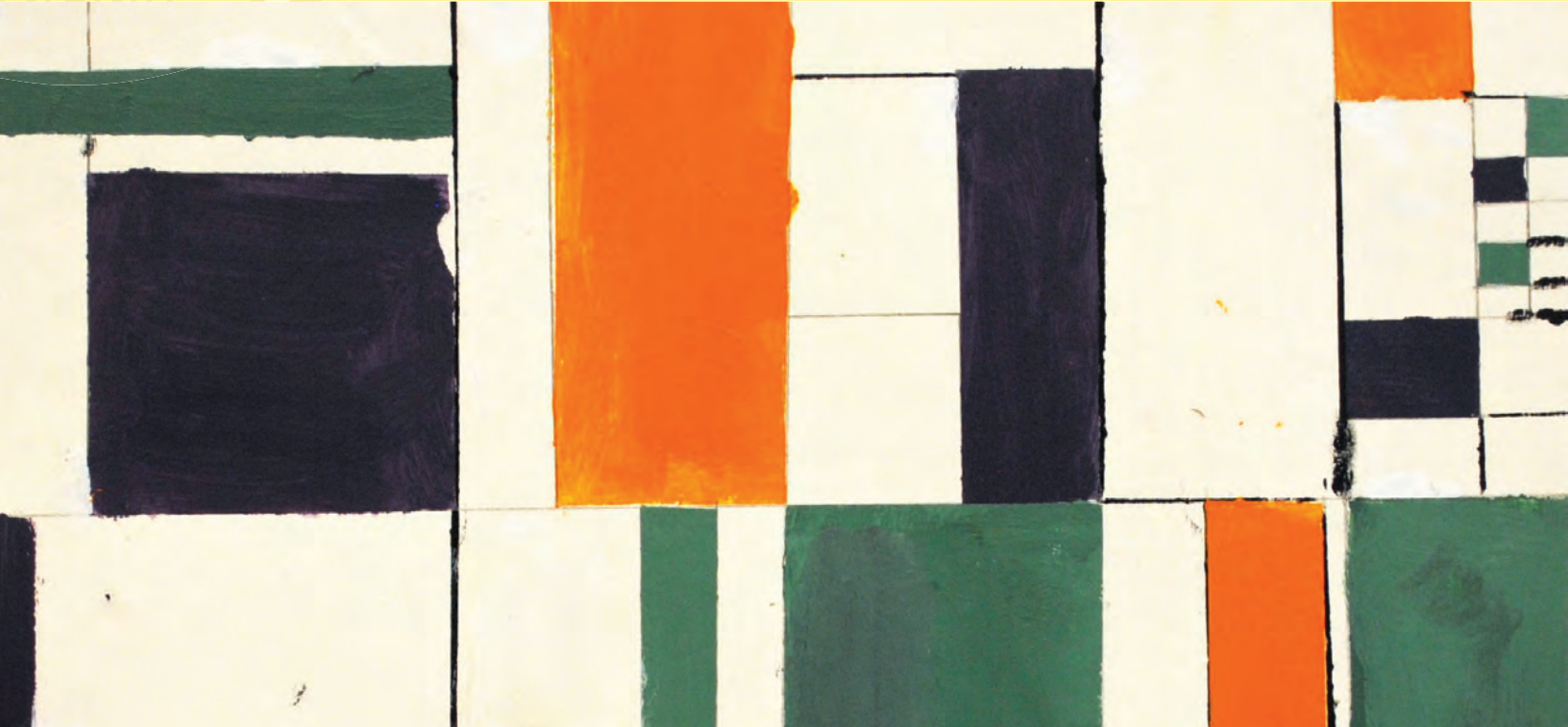
***We're so grateful for your continuing support. You are making a real difference for Bullis!***

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