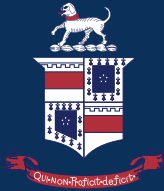


RAREBITS

RUMSEY HALL SCHOOL | 2023





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ON THE COVER:
Members of the Class of 2023
(Aniyah Thomas, Sofia De Simone,
Katherine Cashel, Charles Linz,
Tomas Manzano Mariscal, Erin Kim,
Abigail Butler) celebrate a school
spirit day last Spring.

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RAREBITS

Rumsey Hall School

2023

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From the Head of School



Dear Rumsey Community,

It is with real excitement that we present the latest edition of *Rarebits*, a testament to the vibrant spirit and remarkable achievements of our students, faculty, and alumni. We hope that we have captured but just a few of the memorable moments, extraordinary stories, and voices that make up what was an incredibly successful year here on Romford Road.

We hope you will find an engaging set of narratives that captures the essence of the Rumsey community. From the eager faces of our youngest (now pre-kindergarten!) students just beginning their educational journey as Blue Dogs to our accomplished alumni from far and wide, each story tells a story of success, resilience, and the lifelong learning about which Rumsey is most proud.

This is a testament to our students' endeavors and spirit. They have tackled challenges, including a global pandemic, head-on, delved into their academics, and emerged much stronger for the effort. Our most recent alums' success in the high school process (see page 33) confirms their hard work and dedication, and we look forward to chronicling their adventures for years to come.

It is also an invitation to our alums to reconnect with the memories and experiences that shaped their journey. Their continued connection to Rumsey is evidence of the lasting bonds that were formed at Rumsey. We have

enjoyed celebrating your accomplishments and we hope you will find pride in the legacy you have left behind, and the inspiration that you have left for the generations that follow.

On behalf of the entire Rumsey community, we express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you for being an integral part of the journey. It is through your collective support and unwavering belief in the power of a Rumsey education that we continue to thrive and evolve.

You will also see in these pages that we are not standing still but have ambitious goals and plans to even further enhance the campus and better support the dedicated faculty and thoughtful students who make it so special.

But no periodical can take the place of experiencing the campus firsthand. If you have not been back on campus in a while, please know that we hope you will make the trip for a special event, or even just for a visit that suits your schedule. We look forward to welcoming you back!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ian Craig'.

Ian Craig
Head of School P'33

Around Campus



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1. Banners are held high at the Blue Dog Parade. 2. Upper School students Shawn Clarke '23, Giselle 'Gigi' Bazos '23, Elena Cosgriff '23, and Natalie Crain '24 sport their Reds and Blues at School Spirit Day. 3. The Lower School checkers tournament excited many for several weeks. 4. Members of The Aussie (Phoebe Kinsella '23, Maddie Barto '23, Leah Rydingsword '23,

Yumeng 'Ally' Deng '23, and Erin Kim '23) display their medals for second place at the Founder's Day Regatta, fourth boat division. 5. Mr. Dyball P'27, '28, '32 and students participate in the Walk a Mile awareness event. 6. Mrs. Giese P'23, '27 and Mrs. Casco-LaPlaca P'25, '28 bestow honors to Wonseok 'Ben' Lee '24 and Mingyu Lee '24 at the Upper School Academic Awards. 7. Relay



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races at Carnival. **8.** Gugulethu Ndlovu '26 competes at Track and Field Day. **9.** Captains of the Varsity Baseball team Ellis O'Dwyer '23 and Michael Dell'Aera '23 speak at the Sports Awards. **10.** Fun and games at Carnival. **11.** Mr. Craig P'33 reads to Lower School students at Holiday Hot Cocoa and Story Time. **12.** Lower School students participate in an action-packed leadership

session. **13.** Blue Dog comes to the office! **14.** Students salute Mrs. O'Donnell on her last day at Rumsey after 24 years of dedicated service. **15.** Lower School students had a morning on the ropes at Camp Awosting in Morris.

Around Campus



1. Mr. Brenner P'14, '17, '19, Ms. Quinones, and some Lower School students show off their Reds and Blues at School Spirit day. 2. Mr. Budd and his class with their Book Fest selections. 3. Ms. DeGrazia '09 and Mr. Kinsella P'23, '26 with Melanie Rundall '02 at Lufkin Rink. 4. Seniors enjoy a campfire on their Senior Trip in the Berkshires. 5. We were thrilled to welcome so many visitors to campus for Grandfriends Day. We

look forward to welcoming more grandfriends on May 8, 2024! 6. Students loaded up a bus full of food and provisions (and some turkeys!) as a Thanksgiving donation to the Warren-Washington Food Bank. 7. Alicia Komaritskaya '26, Charlotte Green '26, and Valentina Bendek '26 sign each other's yearbooks at Commencement. 8. Maia Craig '33, Selah Schmidt '33, and Joyce Sun '33 show their Valentine's Day art.



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9. Mr. Giese P'23, '27, Mr. Pastor P'27, '29, and Upper School students help out during Upper School Spring Parents' Day. 10. The inaugural Rumsey Hall Chess Tournament, organized by the Senior Committee and Form Representatives, brought out the crowds. 11. Tomás Manzano Mariscal '23 and Valentina Gimenez-Valdes Rochin '23 Paint the Rock red during their Senior BBQ. 12. The campus community shows off its festive

side at the Halloween Parade. 13. Mr. Craig P'33 speaks at Upper School Spring Parents' Day. 14. Lower School students plant a flower bed on Earth Day. 15. Yiyu 'Yolanda' Chen '23 and Wonseok 'Ben' Lee '24 prepare dumplings as part of Lunar New Year celebrations.



Christian Anderson volunteers at Washington Fire Department.

Community Commitment

Rumsey teachers making a difference



At Rumsey, the spirit of community runs deep—on and beyond our campus. In this feature, we take a look at four Rumsey faculty members who go beyond their roles as educators to make an impact in their local communities, and we learn what drives them to volunteer, the importance of their commitment, and the advice they have for those eager to get involved.

These faculty members, just like all our dedicated parent volunteers and engaged alumni, model the importance of giving back to the community, and our students learn from this example.

Christian Anderson, a Rumsey teacher who has started a new role as Associate Director of Advancement, joined the ranks of the Washington Fire Department—established in 1926 and staffed wholly by volunteers—after completing the challenging firefighter certification program in 2020. He was inspired to get involved after assisting an elderly neighbor left stranded in the aftermath of a bad storm, and was spurred on by encouragement from his father.

Since certification, he participates in the Fire Department's ongoing schedule of drills and responds to all manner of active calls on a regular basis. "The pager goes off, summoning you to the Fire Department. You go put your gear on and get on the truck and head to the scene," he said.

In addition to his work with the Fire Department, Christian also gives time to the local Swanson Family Foundation, which offers financial support to students pursuing trade school education; and serves on the Board of the Washington Scholarship Fund, which awards tuition funding to Washington residents.

At Rumsey, he plays an integral role in Fire Prevention Week, organized by teacher Chrissy Dyball P'27, '28, '32, helping to educate students about fire safety—and assuring younger students especially that the firefighters behind the big masks are there to help, not to frighten. "It's proven that when there are fires, a kid's first thought is not to get out of the building but to hide in their safe space. So in training we're taught that the first place you're checking for a missing child is in their bedroom and in their closet and under their bed. So just showing the kids that... I'm your teacher, you know me, I see you every single day, I'm the person that's behind the mask, the other firemen are very similar to me so if you see us, don't be scared."

Christian is encouraging towards those who are looking to get involved in Washington. "There are many different ways in town for people to help. Emergency services is just one of them," he said. "It depends what type of commitment you have. The Washington town website has a lot of great resources."



Every third Saturday for the past five or so years, Rumsey Kindergarten teacher **Kristin Eaton** has been volunteering at St. Michael's Food Pantry in Litchfield, where she lives. She is part of 'Pop the Trunk,' a community-driven initiative at the church that provides pantry staples and fresh produce to those in need. The initiative is entirely donation-based, with either the food, or the funds to buy the food, gifted to the food pantry.

Speaking about the significance of the program, Kristin explained, "Food insecurity is often something that is more hidden. We noticed during the pandemic that we would have people who you wouldn't necessarily know by looking at them were food insecure."

Kristin says that in addition to feeling good about making a positive contribution through her volunteer work, she's also happy to meet people in the community where she lives.

Her advice for volunteering is simple: "Choose something that is interesting to you and ask around. I happen to know about this program through my church. Other churches run volunteer programs or Give Local days. Pay attention to who's fundraising. If it sounds interesting, contact them. Everybody needs help."

"There are so many different pieces of my life where it just makes sense for me to do this," said **Stacie DeGrazia '09** of her volunteering commitment to Washington Ambulance Association.

For Stacie, a Math teacher, dorm head, and coach of multiple sports teams, the inspiration to volunteer in emergency services came at several important points: during early childhood caring for her grandmother; while in college caring for adults with traumatic brain injury; and perhaps most profoundly, at age fifteen when she found herself as a passenger in the back of an ambulance, witnessing the work of dedicated EMTs during her mother's critical transfer between hospitals in a life-threatening situation. Their display of professionalism and care left an indelible mark. "Watching these people who didn't know my mom but their kindness to her... they took such good care of her. I will forever be grateful," she said.



Kristin Eaton volunteers at the St. Michael's Food Pantry.

Flash-forward to a few years ago: she learned that the volunteer-run Washington Ambulance Association was looking for additional assistance, and she decided to sign up. She completed her Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training in 2021 and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training a year later. She now participates in any manner of ambulance calls, from helping elderly residents to their feet after a fall to working alongside Washington Fire Department to deliver emergency care on the scene of a car accident.

In all scenarios, Stacie prides herself on staying calm and focused, especially during high-intensity moments; and she's grateful for the opportunity to serve the local community and make new friends and connections while doing so. She is keen to build a legacy at Rumsey, and believes that further down the road, emergency services work could play a bigger part in her life and career.

For those interested in volunteering for emergency services, Stacie suggests seeking out information on the Washington Ambulance Association page on the Town of Washington website.

A proponent of leading a green lifestyle, Director of Lower School **Rob Brenner P'14, '17, '19** has proudly dedicated over fifteen years of service to Pratt Nature Center in nearby New Milford. As a



Stacie DeGrazia '09 volunteers at Washington Ambulance Association.

board member, he collaborates with fellow board members to guide and oversee the center's diverse and immersive nature programs. The Center holds a special place in Rob's heart. "I went there as a child," he shared, "and cherished my time outdoors playing with fellow campers. Today, Pratt is so much more than a camp; it's an integral part of our community."

Additionally, this year Rob returned to the Washington Environmental Council Board, where he served from 2008-2016. The Council promotes eco-friendly practices in the local area, fosters connections with neighboring towns for environmental initiatives, and offers scholarships to local students heading to college or camps for outdoor experiences.

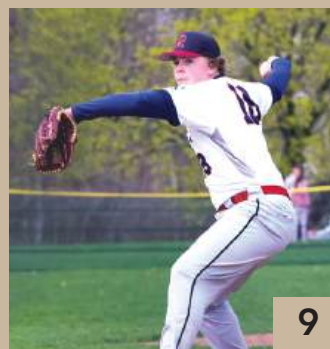
Rob views his contributions as a way to give back to the community while supporting causes that positively affect children and the environment. "We

live in an amazing area, and it's rewarding to support causes that benefit our children," he said.

He cites the Town of Washington website and community Instagram pages as an excellent resource for discovering various avenues for community involvement.

This year our students have an opportunity to participate in community service every weekend. Thanks to the example set by our teachers, parents, and alumni, Rumsey students learn how good it feels to give back.

Athletics





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1. Girls Varsity Ice Hockey (Varsity A: 11-8; Varsity B: 0-2). Pictured: The presentation of the newly-named Przygocki Cup to the Girls Varsity Ice Hockey team after they win 1st Place Rumsey Hall School Invitational Tournament. Phoebe Kinsella '23, Mr. Przygocki, Mr. Craig P'33, Abigail Butler '23.
2. Boys Varsity Lacrosse (Varsity A: 9-1-1; Varsity B: 6-3-1).
3. Aaden Walters '24 (pictured with Coach Dodge) sets a new Rumsey record scoring 43 points in a single game of Varsity Basketball.
4. Girls Varsity Soccer (12-2-1). Pictured: Erin Kim '23.
5. Varsity Tennis (Varsity A: 12-1; Varsity B: 5-4). Pictured: Mingyu Lee '24, Liliana LaPlaca '25.
6. Crew (3-1). Pictured: 1st Place Lower Boat Regatta win.
7. Girls Varsity Lacrosse (Varsity A: 8-3, 2nd Place Annual Rumsey Hall School Lacrosse Invitational; Varsity B: 5-3). Pictured: Mana Shida '22.
8. Boys Varsity Soccer (Varsity A: 10-1-2, 5th Place Eaglebrook Tournament; Varsity B: 3-9, 3rd Place Dutchess Day Tournament). Pictured: Jeronimo del Castillo Vega '23.
9. Boys Varsity Baseball (Varsity A: 7-5; Varsity B: 3-3-1). Pictured: Cooper Bunce '25.
10. Varsity Blue Dog Bikes (2nd Place Housatonic Mountain Biking League).
11. Boys Varsity Basketball (Varsity A: 14-0; Varsity B: 8-8). Pictured: Jaiden Allen '23
12. Girls Varsity Volleyball (Varsity A: 8-7, 2nd Place Rick Spooner Classic; Varsity B: 8-4).
13. Boys Varsity Football (5-2). The Peter Carriuolo '74 Memorial Football Award: Jaiden Allen '23; Offensive Lineman of the Year: Jose Porras-Aguirre '23; Defensive Lineman of the Year: Xavier Sanchez '23.
14. Girls Varsity Softball (7-2).
15. Cross-Country (4-3). Pictured: Davis Moore '23.
16. Boys Varsity Ice Hockey (Varsity A: 19-7, 1st Place Upland Country Day Tournament, 3rd Place Pavek Cup; Varsity B: 9-0). Pictured: Upland Country Day Tournament win.
17. Girls Varsity Basketball (Varsity A: 10-3; Varsity B: 0-8). Pictured: Isabella Demiraj '24, Ariel Battey '23.
18. Girls Varsity Field Hockey (Varsity A: 10-1-1; Varsity B 0-6-2).
19. Varsity Ski Team (1-7).



Building a Bright Future for Rumsey

Head of School Ian Craig P'33 outlines the plan for campus revitalization



Conceptual design for a new dormitory by Tecton Architects.

We are embarking on a thrilling campaign to transform our campus and take our facilities to the next level. In the 123 years that Rumsey Hall School has been serving students, we have moved campuses, utilized off-campus residential opportunities, and have grown both our program and student enrollment. Now, with your support, we will take the next step to build a bright future for Rumsey.

With our residential program an integral aspect of who we are as an institution—one that allows for interactions with students from all over the world—the time has

come to make much-needed physical improvements and additions to our residential and academic facilities.

A dedicated task force, formed as a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees to identify the most pressing physical needs of the school, has called for the development of plans for a brand-new Upper School dormitory and academic building.

A Home Away from Home

Currently, the campus has a number of wonderful dormitories, but some that house three students to a room when our preference would be to house two students together. We also have several dormitories with only one faculty residence attached. Moving forward, we have prioritized two, if not three, residences, which

will provide much-needed housing for faculty while also facilitating their dorm duty responsibilities. Additionally, the number of rooms in each dormitory currently precludes our adding students where needed in some cases, and where we might have demand from some wonderful families who we are unable to accommodate.

Consequently, we are excited to be engaged in the planning and fundraising for a new, 14-room student dormitory to be completed for Fall 2025 occupancy.

The location of the dormitory will be on the hill between Farmen Hall and Romford Road, and will include two single-story apartments as well as a family residence. There will be bright and open common rooms on each floor, fostering a sense of camaraderie and collaboration among our students.

The addition of the dormitory will allow for the attachment of three dorm parents, limit the number of triples on campus, and give us greater flexibility regarding student enrollment. We look forward to opening our doors wider than ever.

Embracing Innovation

While the upper math and science classroom buildings are bright, modern, and flexible, the classrooms for humanities and foreign language teaching have not kept pace. Consequently, in addition to the new dormitory, we plan to erect a new classroom building on the same spot where Fitch Dormitory currently stands. On the top floor we will create two faculty apartments, nurturing a vibrant and engaged residential community. The first floor will have four state-of-the-art classrooms, designed to inspire and ignite creativity. Lest we forget about our talented female athletes, we will have a locker room for girls athletics on the basement level with a convenient walk-out to the playing fields and public restrooms.

With so many Upper School teachers sharing classrooms and teaching out of sub-par facilities, the new space will provide greater continuity for teachers and students alike, while also alleviating some of the classroom crunch. The locker rooms will allow our female athletes to better prepare for practice closer to their fields and the apartments will enable us to increase faculty residential opportunities on campus.

The addition of both facilities will create best-in-class residential and learning spaces to support our faculty and students, and further leverage our ability to attract and retain stand-out educators and children.

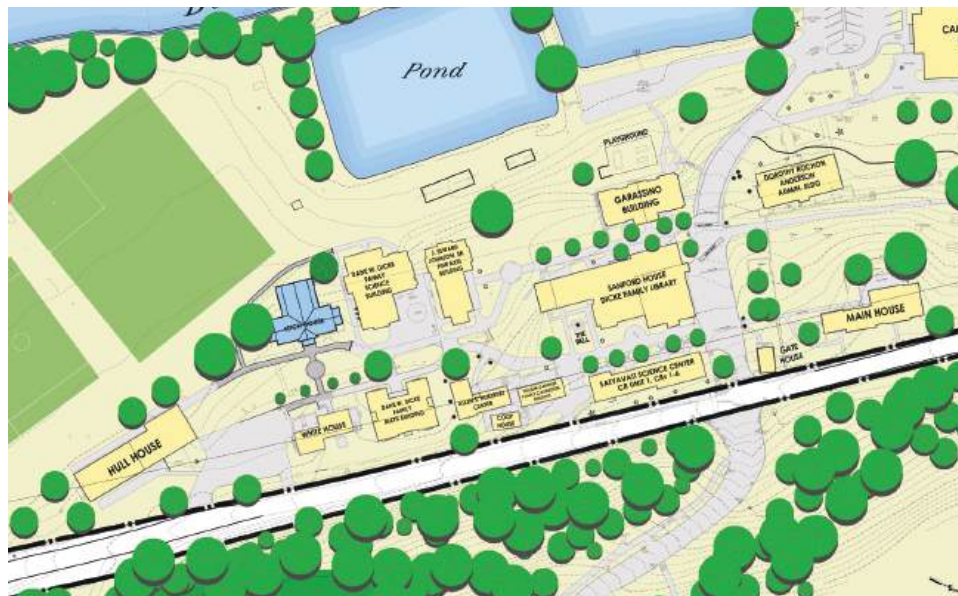


Ensuring the Future of the School

We are bringing our dreams to life, but we won't be able to do it alone. From a financial perspective, the dormitory will be a $\pm 6\text{mm}$ project and the academic/residential space will be a $\pm 3\text{mm}$ project. We have been engaged in fundraising efforts accordingly and we know that it will take a team effort by the Rumsey community to bring these goals to fruition. We look forward to sharing more details at the appropriate time. In the meantime, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at icraig@rumseyhall.org.

Rumsey's standout faculty and students deserve nothing less than the best. This is our chance to make an indelible mark, propelling our school into a thrilling future. Qui non proferit deficit!





Left: Conceptual plans for the new dormitory building. (Tecton Architects).

The Arts



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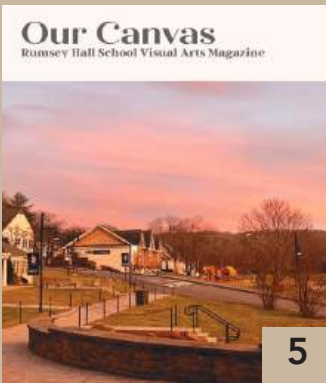
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The Arts are thriving at Rumsey Hall

1. Oliver Antov '26 (pictured), Irene Chang '24 and Zoey Lee '24 had artwork selected for display in the 'Young at Art' exhibition at Washington Art Association & Gallery.
2. IInd and IIIrd Form students perform in the Spring musical, *A Year with Frog and Toad Kids*.
3. The Dissipated Eight a cappella group from Middlebury College, featuring Benjamin Weiss '18, performed a set for a packed-out MAX. Earlier in the day, they worked with Rumsey's own Blue Dog Voices a cappella group.
4. Students perform in the Fall drama production of *The Taming of LaRue*.
5. The first issue of *Our Canvas*, the new visual arts magazine, launched in Spring Term 2023, was created by Sophie Park '24. You can view the magazine on our Issuu channel: issuu.com/rumseyhallschool
6. Collage artwork by Walker Young '26.
7. Festive holiday songs and cheer at the Lower School Winter Celebration of Song and Art.
8. Blue Dog Voices, directed by Ms. Alecia Evans P'18, performed at Upper School Parents' Day in May.
9. Print artwork by Miles Wolff '25.
10. The winning image from the Upper School Photography Contest, by Justin Barfield '23.
11. Minji Kim '26 as Annie and Jeffrey Wan '26 as her faithful companion Sandy in the IV-VII Form winter musical, *Annie Jr.*
12. Detail from a sketch by Leah Rydingsword '23.
13. Lower School students (and some faculty and staff!) performed in the grand finale of Air Band.



Lower School teachers and students plant daffodils in the campus woods.

Spotlight on the Lower School

New Programming and Initiatives

With so much on offer—and so much development over the years—we thought it was time for a Lower School refresher. We spoke with Rob Brenner P’14, ’17, ’19, Rumsey faculty for 23 years and Director of Lower School for the past 16 years, to get the scoop on some new initiatives.

Honoring Childhood, Embracing Flexibility

At the heart of the Lower School’s success is the belief in honoring childhood and providing an environment that caters to individual developmental needs. This philosophy grants teachers the autonomy to discern when to challenge their students and when to provide support, ensuring a learning environment that is conducive to growth and well-being. This flexibility in curricular design and planning allows for timely adaptations that cater to the evolving needs of the students and changes in the world around them.

Blue Dog Character Words

Central to all of Rumsey is the culture of citizenship and community as communicated through the Blue Dog theme, which focuses on fostering positive character traits in students through the reinforcement of key words and concepts. In the Lower School, there are Blue Dog character words: honesty, kindness, respect, empathy, integrity, open-mindedness, perseverance, responsibility, resilience, and self-reflection. Emphasizing these qualities in morning meetings and in the classroom, the Lower School ensures that students develop strong ethical values and grow into compassionate and thoughtful individuals. Rob emphasized its importance: “It’s part of all our discussions. We do a focus on each word, and all throughout the year all are used.”

The Three As of the Afternoon Enrichment Program (AEP)

To ensure that students have diverse opportunities to explore their interests and talents, Rumsey offers a wide range of activities under the banner of the Three As: academics, athletics, and arts. In Pre-K and Kindergarten, there is an assigned activity for all. From Pre-Primes (First



Top and above: Classroom learning inspires collaboration and creativity.

Grade), students are offered a large set of options. From chess club and drawing sessions to soccer practice and musical instrument lessons, students can explore and experiment with various activities that align with their passions and aspirations. Each term students will select different activities for each day of the week, Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, students have supervised play during Neighborhood Time. “We found that kids lead very structured lives outside of school a lot of the

time where they're going from one activity to another, and they don't live in neighborhoods anymore, so we decided to have a solid one-and-a-half-hour time where we supervise and they play. There's a neighborhood kind of feel to it," Rob explained.

Student Council

Empowering students to take on leadership roles, the Student Council program in the Lower School plays a pivotal role in shaping character and sense of community. Open to Ist-IIIrd Formers, this platform engages young minds in various initiatives, from planning and organizing fundraisers to coordinating community initiatives. In addition, Student Council members have assumed an active role in the development of their own campus playground area, and have worked with the Head of School, Chief Financial Officer, and the Maintenance team to identify and spearhead new projects. This year, new monkey bars will be installed—and there are plans afoot for new slides too.

These experiences foster crucial skills like teamwork, collaboration, and decision-making, nurturing future leaders who understand the importance of community and service. "The idea is for kids to learn how to lead,

how to collaborate, be part of a team, and then be able to make a wonderful community even better," Rob said.

A Student-Led Buddy Program to Foster Unity

Building strong connections among students of different grades is an essential component of the Lower School experience. Rumsey's innovative buddy program pairs older students with their younger counterparts, creating a nurturing environment where they interact and collaborate regularly. For the older students, it's an opportunity to assume an amount of leadership and practice social skills; for the younger students, it's a chance to form bonds in the broader school community from an early age. For all, it's an opportunity to make friends across grades.

Welcoming the New Pre-K Class with Open Arms

The introduction of Pre-Kindergarten to Rumsey last year brought a new dynamic to the Lower School. Pre-K students are paired with IIIrd Form buddies in the



aforementioned buddy program, and enjoy a nurturing environment where mentorship and camaraderie thrive. Of Pre-K, Rob said, “It’s a magical time to bring children into the community. We’ve worked at weaving Pre-K into the fabric of who we are.” Weekly interactions and shared dining experiences help the younger students feel at ease, laying a foundation for a seamless transition into the wider school environment.

Embracing STEM for a Future-Ready Generation

As Rumsey keeps pace with a world moving into an era dominated by technology and innovation, the Lower School has proactively embraced STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education. To elevate this facet of learning and enhance the STEM curriculum, a dedicated Lower School STEM teacher, Gregory Dunbar, joined the faculty this September. His work will elevate the school’s STEM offerings, encouraging students to engage with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics in creative and practical ways.

IIIrd Form Leadership Cohort

As the leaders of the Lower School, IIIrd Formers are called upon to be role models for younger students. Last year, Rumsey piloted a year-long leadership development program aligned with school traditions, offering students opportunities to collaborate, enhance their skills, and embrace leadership roles. The program was deemed a success and is undergoing further development this year. Kicking off in September, Character and Community Living Department Chair Craig Ough P’23 led IIIrd Formers through a two-hour leadership orientation.

On the Horizon

Exciting initiatives are always on the horizon. At present, there is exploration into potential new math programs, as well as developing further opportunities for Ist–IIIrd Formers to shine in the performing arts in the Afternoon Enrichment Program.

Opportunities abound for Lower School students to learn, grow, and thrive—in the Lower School environment, within themselves, and throughout their Rumsey Hall experience. Rob summed it up: “The community and character that we have here is hugely important because it’s a big part of who we are. Our job is to raise good humans, not just good students.”



Left: Kindergarten students gather round for storytime.

Top: STEM teacher Greg Dunbar leads his class through an imaginative experiment.

Above: Director of Lower School Rob Brenner P’14, ’17, ’19 celebrates with Lower School students at Commencement.



Board of Trustees

From the Board Chair

As we embark on another exciting year at Rumsey Hall, I want to pause to celebrate some of the great accomplishments of our community this past year.

First, Rumsey welcomed the Class of 2033 to our first ever Pre-K program on campus. The class was well subscribed, and we are grateful to have these delightful new families in our community. Rumsey Pre-K has now become an option of choice in our area.

Next, I was pleased to see the impressive list of secondary schools to which our graduating students gained admission and are attending this Fall. Having developed an exceptional academic foundation and singular work ethic, Rumsey students leave well prepared to thrive at some of the very best independent schools nationwide.

I would also like to celebrate the incredible generosity of our parents, alumni, grandparents, and so many other friends of the School that contributed to Rumsey this year. Very simply, your contributions are a key factor that allows our School to maintain the resources that we have inside and outside of our classrooms, athletic facilities, stage, and art rooms. With 99% participation from our Lower School families, and 75% across the School as a whole, we are grateful for your continued commitment to Rumsey.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for your enduring support of Rumsey Hall, and thank you in advance for your ongoing dedication to our School. Rumsey continues to flourish because of you.

Go Blue Dogs!

Gratefully,
Greg Loss P'18, '19, '22
Chairman, Board of Trustees

2023-2024 Board of Trustees

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Abraham Joseph '29, '30

Nicholas Logothetis '03

Adrienne Lufkin P'20, '24

Gregory Matthews P'18

Anne Murdica P'24, '26

Alex Murphy '00

Catherine O'Dwyer P'23, '25, '27

Keefe Rafferty '07

Elizabeth Schereschewsky '56 Stout



Thank you for your service

We are grateful for all the many ways Amie Kreisberg P'18 and Thomas Sheehy III P'00 have served Rumsey Hall School as part of our Board of Trustees. We honor the time, energy, and wisdom they have given to ensure a bright and strong future for our School.

Amie Kreisberg P'18

Years of Service: 2018-2023

Amie served as Trustees Committee Chair and Co-Chair of the Head of School Search Committee. We thank Amie for her commitment to our institution, her tireless dedication, and her invaluable contributions to our community's growth and success.

Thomas Sheehy III P'00

Years of Service: 2010-2023

Tom served as Chair of the School Life Committee and as a member of the Head of School Search Committee. We are especially grateful to Tom for his exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment during his 13 years of service on the Board of Trustees.

Welcome to the Board

We are excited to welcome Thomas Allen P'23, Andrew Bazos P'23, Abraham Joseph P'29, '30, Catherine O'Dwyer P'23, '25, '27, and Keefe W. Rafferty '07 to our Board of Trustees. We look forward to the positivity and expertise they will bring to our leadership team.

Thomas Allen P'23

Thomas is the Dean of Community, Justice and Belonging at The Taft School. Prior to joining Taft in 2022, he was a school social worker in the Watertown public school system and had previously held positions in school guidance counseling and social work in Hartford, Waterbury, and Philadelphia. Thomas received his Master of Counseling from Rosemont College and his Master of Social Work from Springfield College.

Thomas has been coaching football for 14 years at high school level, and is currently a football coach at Taft. He is also a certified personal trainer and the co-founder of Triple Threat Sports Performance in Waterbury.

Thomas and his wife Kimberly live in Watertown, Connecticut and have three children, one of whom was a 2023 Rumsey graduate.

Andrew Bazos P'23

Andy is a founding partner of SEP Orthopedics and previously founded Sports & Entertainment Physicians, PC, which has since become CrowdRx. He has an extensive career as an author and speaker on, and consultant and provider of, event medical services, and has worked with many notable institutions including Yankee Stadium,

Madison Square Garden, the US Open Tennis Championships, Radio City Music Hall, the Beacon Theater, the Big East Basketball Championship and the Burning Man festival.

Andy is a graduate of Harvard University and Yale University School of Medicine. He is certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, and since 1993 has served as an Associate Clinical Professor of Orthopedic Surgery in the Sports Medicine Department at NYU Hospital for Joint Diseases in New York City.

Andy and his wife Ann live in Bridgewater, Connecticut and have three daughters, one of whom was a 2023 Rumsey graduate. He has given a great deal of time to treat Rumsey students with orthopedic injuries.

Abraham Joseph P'29,'30

Abe is a Co-Founder and Portfolio Manager at Arosa Capital Management, which focuses on traditional and alternative energy and related sectors to invest in private and public companies as well as in credit and commodities.

Prior to his work with Arosa, Abe held a number of leadership positions in finance, including: Portfolio Manager/Director covering the energy sector for the O'Connor Fundamental Long/Short Market Neutral Fund at UBS O'Connor; Analyst/Vice President at Delaware Street Capital; and Analyst in the Investment Banking Group at Merrill Lynch Co. He holds a B.A. in Economics from the University of Chicago.

Abe is married to AnaCristina, who is an officer of the Rumsey Circle Parents Association, a Class Parent for the Primes Class, and Co-Chair of the Rumsey Hall Auction Committee. They have two children in the Lower School.

Catherine O'Dwyer P'23, '25, '27

Cate is a member of the English faculty and serves as Dean of Faculty at Kent School in Kent, Connecticut. Cate received her B.A. from Colby College and her M.F.A. from Warren Wilson College.

Cate and her husband Brendan, a member of the History faculty at The Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, Connecticut, live in Litchfield, Connecticut with their three children, two who are current Rumsey students and one who is a 2023 Rumsey graduate.

Keefe Rafferty '07

Keefe is an active-duty service member in the Navy, currently serving as a Lieutenant Commander in the Information Warfare Community. In his eight years of active service, he has served as Staff Oceanographer/Joint Operations Center Deputy for Special Operations Command Pacific in Aiea, Hawaii, Naval Hydrographer/Department Head for Fleet Survey Team in Stennis Space Center, Mississippi, and Surface Warfare Officer/Division Officer on USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) in San Diego, California. Keefe is an alum from Rumsey Hall Class of 2007, and a graduate of Taft School and Kent School. At Kent, he was a PG through the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation program. Keefe received a B.S. in Oceanography from the United States Naval Academy in 2015 and a M.S. in Hydrographic Science from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2019. Subsequently, he earned a Graduate Certificate in Space Systems Operations from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2021.

Keefe and his wife Sara live with their daughter in Greater Boston until Fall 2025 when Keefe will move to his next Navy station assignment.

New Acquisitions

We are grateful for these new gifts of art on campus.



left:

Sharon Bender

February, 1990

Bronze with elements in colored patina,
granite.

Generously donated by: Sharon and
Lewis Korman, Friends of Rumsey Hall.

right:

Im Jong Yeop

Between Breath and Breath, 2017

Gesso on canvas.

Generously donated by: Dr. Jun Ho Lee
P'25, Dr. Hanna Kwon P'25, and the
Ongroo Gallery, Seoul, Korea.



Paul Chaleff

Cog, 1998. Ceramic.

Auger, 1998. Ceramic.

Generously donated by:
Sharon and Lewis Korman,
Friends of Rumsey Hall.



Paul Chaleff

Table, 1998. Ceramic, blue stone and steel.

Generously donated by:
Sharon and Lewis Korman,
Friends of Rumsey Hall.



Liz Butler P'20, '23

Liz is the Upper School Science Department Chair, Assistant Athletic Director, Biology teacher, Honors Biology teacher, Varsity Girls Soccer Coach, Rowing Coach—and has worn even more hats during her 25 years at Rumsey. She is married to Rick Butler, Director of Residential Life. They have two daughters, both Rumsey alums: Erin '20 and Abby '23.

What are some of the joys and challenges you face each day working with students?

I love teaching. Igniting a spark and watching a student think “That’s really cool, I never thought of that before.” I enjoy making science fun and interactive. I hope science becomes something that students are excited to explore further. The challenge is keeping up with new things. What’s the next thing to make learning interesting? How do we incorporate AI into our lives as educators or use it as a tool to support and deepen our learning and teaching for our students?

As for coaching, I’ve coached many sports here at Rumsey. But I truly enjoy introducing rowing to our athletes and watching them be brave enough to try something completely new. It’s a special opportunity to teach rowing at the middle school level since many have never tried it before. Witnessing their exponential growth in grit and skill throughout the season is truly inspiring.

What is on the horizon for science in education?

There are countless areas for science to investigate through space telescopes, ocean exploration, climate change, human social dynamics, medicine, and more. We as science educators need to not only teach skills, but also encourage our students to consider their fellow human beings and the care of our planet.

Can you reflect on a favorite Rumsey memory?

There are so many memories after living at Rumsey for 25 years. Some of my fondest memories are as a parent of two Rumsey alums, Erin '20 and Abby '23. This past June, Abby shared her Declamation, “The Hill We Climb” by Amanda Gorman, at graduation. The Declamation tradition happens each spring with every student. Our youngest students learn a piece as a class and share it with special guests and grandparents. As the students grow older, they memorize pieces of their choice. Each year the students gain confidence in their ability to learn and deliver a speech. This is

one of my favorite Rumsey traditions. It was an honor to see Abby on stage for her graduation ceremony delivering such a powerful message and dedicating it to her grandfather who had passed away a few weeks before.

Another favorite memory as a Coach was bringing home the Lower Boat Regatta Trophy Oar for the past two spring seasons. Both of these teams were special, full of dedicated and enthusiastic athletes. Though we compete against high schools, our crews—The Aussie, Waramaug, Bolt, and Rehnberg—dominated all competitors. These were spectacular days of racing.

What are you looking forward to this year at Rumsey?

A new year is full of excitement and energy. Each year you discover something new about a class and I'm excited to get to know each of my students in the classroom, on the field, on the water, and around campus.

What keeps you busy outside of Rumsey?

We stay busy watching our girls compete in games at The Taft School. We also enjoy spending time with family and friends and our dog Logan.

What is something the Rumsey community might not know about you?

I love competitive card games and magic tricks. I was the lead trumpet player in the state band in high school and spent part of my junior year in college studying abroad in New Zealand.

Liz and her daughter Erin '20 traveled to Rwanda this summer to participate in a two-week volunteer teaching program at the School of Leadership Afghanistan (SOLA).

The school, which was founded in 2016 by Shabana Basij-Rasikh in Afghanistan and relocated to Rwanda in 2021 following the Taliban's resurgence, offers a unique haven for Afghan girls seeking education and empowerment.

The school's name, "SOLA," derived from the Pashto word for "peace," encapsulates its enduring goal of contributing to a peaceful Afghanistan through its commitment to Afghan girls worldwide.

Liz and Erin joined a diverse group of educators from schools across the US that sought to engage the students in an array of subjects including robotics, engineering, math, and writing. For their part, Liz taught anatomy while Erin taught swimming—the latter an athletic outlet that instilled in the students both a sense of confidence and play.

Liz was the recipient of a Rumsey Summer Grant, which is given, through the generosity of donors, to promote the skills and enhance the content knowledge of faculty or staff members in direct relationship to their work at school, and to recognize excellence in one's professional performance.

For Liz, the experience at SOLA was profound. "As a community, we have to share our skills and our strengths with people in need. We need to remember that we have the ability to help other people, even if it's just something small," she said. "These girls represent many thousands of women who need help, and who want the opportunity to grow and thrive and be educated and follow their dreams. If there are ways to help people, we need to do it."

Congratulations to the Class of 2023







The Class of 2023

Camryn Hope Abel
 Jaideen Gray Allen
 Sameera Azam Nooristani
 Madeline Claire Barto
 Ariel Battey
 Sasha Batzofin
 Giselle Ann Bazos
 Carson Burton Bennett
 Raegan LaBrecque Bertuglia
 Katharine E. Blaicher
 Matthew F. Blaicher
 David Ames Block
 Abigail Wilson Butler
 Charles Hamlin Carruth
 Katherine Lund Cashel
 Yiyu (Yolanda) Chen
 Ludmila-Margarita
 Panchenkova-Chigirinskaya
 Shawn Elizabeth Stone Clarke
 Paulina Correa
 Gonzalez-Ortega
 Pablo Cortina Ricci
 Elena Grace Cosgriff
 Blake Thomas Davis
 Annabel Matson deForest Keys
 Jeronimo del Castillo Vega
 Michael Dell'Aera
 Jackson Alexander Delmore

Yumeng (Ally) Deng
 Sofia De Simone
 Vivian Hurley Eannacony
 Alexander Gersten
 Gary Carter Giese, Jr.
 Valentina Gimenez Valdes
 Rochin
 Emma Golden
 Nicolas Gomez del Campo
 Castillo
 XuanCheng "Jerry" Guo
 Dashiell Quinn Hessler
 Seoyoung Im
 Victoria Chloe Jazrawi
 Tahira Kharoti
 Erin Summer Kim
 Phoebe Shane Kinsella
 Natalie Elizabeth Klemm
 Lucas Alexander Kocienda
 Elias Kurek
 Joon Seok Lee
 Charles Andrew Linz
 Hope Alessia Macaione
 Tomas Manzano Mariscal
 George Harris McGrady II
 Abigail Tamzin McGuire
 Davis Carmichael Moore
 Lucy Hemingway Ober

Paul Ellis O'Dwyer
 Jeremy Ryan Ouellette
 Gunnar Elton Ough
 Sol Park
 Jose Ma. Porraz Aguirre
 Ava Pilar Reel
 Garrett John Angelo Rossini
 Leah A. Rydingsword
 Xavier Sanchez Pimentel
 Madeline L'Heureux Scheidt
 Graham Gibson Smith
 Sung Won Son
 Migyong Song
 Aniyah Farah Thomas
 Siyong Wang
 Xiaoyan Wang
 Owen Whitcombe
 Samuel Hinman Wilhelm
 Maximilian Robert Wolff
 Oliver Young

Commencement Class Speaker:
Gary Carter Giese, Jr.

Permanent 2023 Class
 Presidents: **Phoebe Shane
 Kinsella and Gary Carter
 Giese, Jr.**



Blue Dogs go on to excellent secondary schools.

Where the Class of 2023 Enrolled:

Avon Old Farms, CT
 Berkshire School, MA
 Blair Academy, NJ
 Brewster Academy, NH
 Canterbury School, CT
 Choate Rosemary Hall, CT
 Ethel Walker School, CT
 Forman School, CT
 Frederick Gunn School, CT
 Hotchkiss School, CT
 Immaculate High School, CT
 Kent School, CT
 Linden Hall School, PA
 Middlesex School, MA
 Miss Porter's School, CT
 Northfield Mt. Hermon School, MA
 Pomfret School, CT
 Portsmouth Abbey School, RI
 Salisbury School, CT
 St. Andrew's School, DE
 St. Andrew's School, FL
 St. George's School, RI
 Suffield Academy, CT
 The Taft School, CT
 Trinity-Pawling School, NY
 Vermont Academy, VT
 Wayland Academy, WI
 Westminster School, CT
 Westover School, CT
 Westtown School, PA



Pictured overleaf: The Class of 2023 Commencement procession.

Pictured top to bottom: Hope Macaione '23,
 Annabel deForest Keys '23, and Charles Linz '23;
 Students listen to speeches and presentations at the
 Commencement ceremony; Abigail Butler '23 recites
 her declamation "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda
 Gorman; The Kim Family with Brea '25 and Erin '23.

Commencement Awards

The Edward B. Whitney
Prize for Excellence in
Declamation:
Abigail Wilson Butler '23

The Annual Dining Hall
Prefect Award: **Aniyah Farah
Thomas '23**

The Prize for the Greatest
Improvement in Scholarship:
Victoria Chloe Jazrawi '23

The Richard M. Wachcic
Junior Athletic Award: **Sonya
Mae Kinsella '26 and Ripley
Ivan Giles '26**

The Charlotte Underwood
Library Award: **Sophie Park
'24**

The Prizes for the Best All-
Around Male and Female
Athletes: **Elena Grace
Cosgriff '23 and Oliver
Young '23**

The Prize for the Boarding
Scholar Having the Best
Conduct Record: **Sofia De
Simone '23**

The Prizes for the Greatest
Improvement in Athletics:
**Tahira Kharoti '23 and Paul
Ellis O'Dwyer '23**

The Cody Montana '08
Memorial Paddle Out Award:
Katherine Lund Cashel '23

The Prize for Outstanding
Scholar-Athlete: **Erin
Summer Kim '23 and Jaiden
Gray Allen '23**

The David Loyd Memorial
Prize: **Natalie Elizabeth
Klemm '23**

The Marjorie Hull Barr Prize:
**Sadie Jenna Malia Borken
'27**

The Lawrence Larkin '16
STEAM Award: **Joon Seok
(Sean) Lee '23**

The J. Mitchell Magnoli '77
Memorial Award: **Wonseok
(Ben) Lee '24**

The Scott Evans Seibert '92
Memorial Award: **Glenn
Junior Gustave '24**

The John Craft Faculty Cup:
Leah A. Rydingsword '23

The Memorial Award: **Garrett
John Angelo Rossini '23**

The Duff Community Service
Cup: **Yiyu (Yolanda) Chen
'23**

The Alfred L. Hart II '65 Fine
Arts Prize: **Katharine E.
Blaicher '23**

The Ryan J. Whelan '89
Memorial Award: **Liam
Patrick Walsh '24**

The Award for Excellence:
Gary Carter Giese, Jr. '23

The John F. Schereschewsky,
Jr.'47 Memorial Award:
Caroline Elisabeth Stern '24

The Gabriella Bass '94 Arts
Award: **Yumeng (Ally) Deng
'23**

The Rose Algrant Memorial
Award: **Levi Harper
Cherosnick '24**

The Henry B. Van Sinderen
Memorial Award: **Tyler
Roderick '24**

Prize for Perseverance and
Worthy Endeavor: **Sameera
Azam Nooristani '23**

Award for Leadership: **Tomas
Manzano Mariscal '23**

Award for Merit: **Sol Park '23**

Head of School's Cup:
Michael Dell'Aera '23



There was joy, pride, and bittersweet farewells as the graduating class received their awards and diplomas at Rumsey Hall's 123rd Commencement on Saturday, June 3, 2023.

Bagpipers led the procession of students and faculty into the big tent on P. Lincoln Cornell Field. The ceremony featured an inspiring address by Class Speaker Carter Giese '23, a musical performance by Blue Dog Voices, and moving Declamations by Giselle Bazos '23 Michael Dell'Aera '23, and Abigail Butler '23. Awards and diplomas were bestowed on Seniors by members of the Board of Trustees and all were encouraged to sing the school song, "Dear Old Rumsey."

Head of School Ian Craig P'33 addressed the graduating class, encouraging them to continue into high school as 'doers,' and not just 'deciders,' and hoped they would hold dear Rumsey's 'counter-cultural' ethos. He remarked: "In an era when winning at all costs is exhibited daily in college recruiting violations and star athletes being given great latitude despite criminal actions, we have a culture with a focus on sportsmanship and participation. Where society is rationalizing dishonesty, whether in skewed advertising or the myriad of corporate scandals, we have an expectation for honesty in our students' academic work and actions. Where society seems to hold up the individual with star worship, we place great focus on creating community. Where vulgarity in the media, and so many other areas has reached an all-time high we have a school culture that works diligently on teaching civility and setting standards."



Chandler Coe '19

Pitching Prowess

Chandler Coe '19 joined Rumsey in Vth Form and from the start he displayed a passion for sports, excelling in multiple disciplines, but it was baseball that ultimately captured his heart. Inspired by his older brother's dedication to the sport, Chandler's baseball journey would eventually lead him to the illustrious baseball program at Texas Tech, where he started this fall.

Chandler's athletic prowess shone brightly during his time at Rumsey, where he became a pivotal member of the baseball, football, and basketball teams—captaining all three in his ninth grade year. He enjoyed the camaraderie and competition that permeated Rumsey's sports programs. "It was always a blast playing baseball at Rumsey. I was always so excited to go out and practice."

Chandler continued to hone his athletic skills at Loomis Chaffee, still playing baseball, football, and basketball, and ultimately deciding to focus on baseball. He showed agility playing across several infield positions, however it was primarily his

pitching that caught the eye of college scouts. With a blazing fastball approaching 100mph and a few potent off-speed pitches to boot, Chandler's power and versatility a pitcher was clear to see.

Chandler said his aim is to turn his love for baseball into a potential career. "I've always really loved to play and watch baseball, and I knew I could play baseball every single day and never get tired of it," he said.

And while he has appreciated the copious support and guidance from his coaches, both at Rumsey and Loomis, he cited his brother Garrett, also a baseball player and a pitcher on the roster at UConn, as his chief inspiration and source of encouragement. "I've looked up to him since I was a little kid and he pushes me to be better all the time. We always compete in the friendly brotherly love kind of way."

With undeniable talent and an unwavering love for the game, Chandler's future in baseball is undoubtedly bright.



Carter Eve Grickis '04

Creative Spirit

Carter Eve Grickis '04 has carved a unique path since her days at Rumsey. From her early love of art and music to her mastery in jewelry design, Carter's passion for creativity has been the driving force behind her success as an artist, creative director, entrepreneur, and business owner.

Carter earned a B.F.A. in Jewelry + Objects from Savannah College of Art and Design, and received a Tiffany Scholarship from Rhode Island School of Design, where she also taught Introduction to Jewelry to first-year students. After college, she worked as a creative director for several jewelry companies, however her heart was set on having her own business. In 2020, she embraced entrepreneurship wholeheartedly with the launch of Carter Eve Jewelry.

"Many of my pieces are delicate and can be stacked and layered to create a story. So you have different jewelry pieces from different moments, whether to commemorate a special occasion or a gift, and then together they tell the story of your life," she said. "And something I really love to do is transform family heirlooms into something that feels more modern and wearable so that pieces can still keep that sentimental quality."



Carter remembers moving to the beat of her own drum while at Rumsey, and credits the School for providing the guidance that helped her to develop a strong work ethic. "Rumsey gave me the structure in my life that I think I was craving, and it really provided a regimen that I think a lot of children need to feel safe and secure in their worlds."

She treasures the connections she made at Rumsey, citing the tight-knit community that still holds a special place in her heart. "It's the best. I'm still super tight with all of my friends from that time, and every time I go home to visit my family, I run into Rumsey people. It was so many years ago that I went there and it's still a big part of my life."

Currently, Carter's jewelry can be found in multiple outposts of health and wellness venue The Well (notably in New York City and at Washington, CT's Mayflower Inn), at ShopSCAD in Savannah, GA, at various pop-ups and in her online store.

Her goal is to open her own retail location, perhaps in Santa Monica, complete with an atelier for consultations and custom design. "There have been many times where this felt impossible, but it's perseverance. Believe in your dreams and don't give up."

Chandler Houldin '13

Paddling Out

Chandler Houldin '13 has a special place in his heart for Rumsey, where he spent six transformative years. With family connections to the School, Chandler followed in many footsteps, but he created his own cherished memories that have shaped his personal and professional paths.

He joined Rumsey in IIInd Form and remained until VIIth. Along the way, he engaged in various activities including cross-country, yearbook and even the unique 'varsity scoreboard' activity during the winter season, in which he controlled official time-keeping for athletics events. He recalls Commencement and the symbolic walk across the bridge as particular points of excitement and school spirit close to his heart. "I loved Commencement and would get goosebumps walking down the hill," he shared.

After Rumsey, Chandler went to The Taft School, and from there to Bucknell University where becoming first-year Class President sparked an interest in student affairs. Fueled by encouragement from mentors, Chandler pursued a Master's Degree in Higher Education at Harvard's Graduate School of Education, and he is currently Senior Assistant Director of Admissions at Yale University, where he

is responsible for admitted students programming and campus hospitality efforts. "I've just started my third cycle and I'm loving it," he said.

Looking ahead, Chandler envisions a future for himself that blends admissions and student affairs, where he can continue to make a difference in students' lives.

Chandler's connection to Rumsey remains strong through a myriad of fond memories and from the impact the School had on shaping his values. He believes the emphasis on honesty, kindness, respect, and effort at Rumsey formed a solid foundation. "Just thinking about the fact that effort was so important at Rumsey, I knew that it would count elsewhere as well," Chandler said. "At Taft and even into college and grad school, and now in a professional role, I make sure that I'm putting effort into everything that I do."

Chandler also cites "Paddle Out," the theme during his first year at Rumsey, as an enduring source of motivation. He said, "It has been very influential in my life. Sometimes when I'm intimidated by something or unsure of something, I remind myself to paddle out."



Charlie Symonds '19

Fueled by Football

Charlie Symonds '19 developed his love of playing football at Rumsey. His path took him to The Taft School, where he further honed his skills, and this fall he started at Stanford University on a football scholarship. Throughout his journey, Charlie's dedication to the sport was matched by the unwavering support of coaches, mentors, and the supportive community he found as a student at Rumsey during Vth, VIth, and VIIth Forms.

Football wasn't initially a part of Charlie's life during his early years in New York City. As a basketball player, the gridiron seemed distant until his days at Rumsey. The turning point came in his senior year when he decided to pursue football more deeply, driven by his Rumsey coaches who made him love the game. He credited Coach Scheidt in particular: "He showed the importance of being a lineman and that really helped me learn to love the position."

Looking back at his time at Rumsey, Charlie cherishes not only the specific memories but also the connections he made within School circles. He found the transition to boarding challenging initially, but the encouragement of his dorm parents, coaches, teachers, and newfound friends and teammates



Photo: Stanford Athletics

soon made Rumsey home. "The community and the people around me that supported me throughout my whole time at Rumsey made it really special," he said.

The college recruitment process brought him offers from numerous prestigious programs, but Stanford stood out as a dream come true—and a place where he could combine academic excellence with high-level football. "It's amazing to see how my hard work is paying off," he said.

When asked about his inspirations, Charlie spoke of teammates and those who came before him, guiding and inspiring him. Moving on to Stanford, he acknowledged the challenges of balancing academics with the demands of being a student athlete, and looked forward to embracing the opportunity to join a team of like-minded individuals, all striving for excellence on and off the field.

"It's a full-time job basically," he said. "It's what all the student athletes are committing to and that's what makes it so awesome because I'll be surrounded by teammates who will all want the same thing and are motivated by the same things. I think that will push me even harder."

Rumsey on the Road

As much as we enjoy hosting campus events, we also love meeting up with our Rumsey community in the outside world. It's always heartwarming to see the strong bonds that have been forged through shared time and experience at Rumsey. Thanks to all who have come out to see us—and to those who have hosted us!

Pictured, from top to bottom:

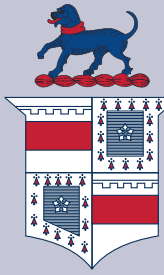
Head of School Ian Craig P'33 and Director of Advancement Ben Pastor P'27, '29 visited families of Rumsey students from Korea.

A festive Alumni gathering at the Grey Lady on Delancey Street in New York City, featuring the Advancement team and Rumsey faculty members.

The Korean Parents Association hosted a reception in Seoul that brought current and prospective families together, featuring Associate Director of Enrollment Management & Director of Financial Aid Aline Rossiter P'18.

Special evenings of Rumsey connection and camaraderie in Mexico: In Mexico City, hosted by the Manzano family; and in Monterrey, hosted by the Garcia family. Both events featured Head of School Ian Craig P'33, Director of Advancement Ben Pastor '27, '29 and Director of Enrollment Management Jennifer Kolpak P'13, '15, '17.





Class Notes

Class of 1955

Ginna Boynton Fishburne writes: "Enjoying being free to visit friends and family! We are doing well here in South Carolina and keeping busy with activities in our community and church."

Alex Gundry writes: "In January 2023, Ann and I will celebrate our 50th anniversary together. So far, we have 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. I am still active as a volunteer at our fire department in Starr, South Carolina."

Class of 1956

Henri David writes: "I had a nice visit from **Jim Appleyard '55** this summer. Still very busy with classic cars and various shows. Rather impressed with the latest *Rarebits* mag. Happy to see that **Elizabeth Schereschewsky '56 Stout** is still involved at the Trustee level. Lisa Sherry was, and is, a special friend."

So many wonderful memories of my time, 1954-1956, and the stories, experiences, and bonds that are never to be replaced... So glad to read that the school is healthy and growing. Wonderful legacies there to be maintained.

Hard to believe it was 66 years ago but values don't change. At 82 years old, I am flat out with projects and a blessed life.

My best wishes to all my classmates and Rumsey friends."

Class of 1970

Ted Sarant writes to say he's "still in good health [with] no plans to retire. [He] still bike[s], walk[s], and hike[s]."

Class of 1972



Athletic Director Jay Przygocki met up with **John Kay, Skip Gardella, and Harry Keeshan**.

Class of 1981

Correction: In the 2021/22 issue of Rarebits, we listed Clark Weber as a member of the Class of 1973 in error. Clark is a member of the Class of 1981.

Clark Weber is singing his second season with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus as one of the few straight men in the choir. He performs as a baritone and has a solo in the song "Christmas Bells" as the Squeegie Man from the hit musical *RENT*. Currently, Clark is working on a novel titled *Found Purpose* that

CLASS NOTES

documents his work as a role-play actor and international advocate for individuals living with mental illness.

Class of 1985

Harvey Havel recently self-published a book entitled *The Queen of Intelligence: A 9/11 Conspiracy Novel*.

Class of 1986

Mark Lokey reports that he and Kathy Hill (mother to **Kelly Hill '17** and **Samantha Hill '19**) are still with American Airlines. Mark is a Captain with the airline while Kathy is a First Officer. They have even flown together a few times on the Boeing 737.

Class of 1997



Pictured are **John Eren '97** and his daughters **Avery '28** and **Alexandra '31** and **Ryan Conroy '98** with his son **Quinn '33**. A testimony to the life long friendships built at Rumsey, John's family company Classic Turf donated and built the new Eren Family Tennis Center where John is the Vice President and Ryan is the Director of Sales.

Class of 2003

Breezy Grenier has been selected as a semi-finalist in Ms. Veteran America 2023. The competition was in Orlando, Florida on June

10th, with finals on October 8th of this year. Breezy writes, "If I win, I will not only be the first Coast Guard Veteran, but [also] the first Connecticut resident as well. Competing in Ms. Veteran America [provides] much-needed seed funding I can use towards rebooting and launching my businesses." The sole beneficiary of Ms. Veteran America is First Salute Inc., which provides homeless women veterans with safe and suitable housing, financial grants to ease hardships, and provides free of charge professional services for women in transition to the workforce.

Class of 2006



Since graduating from Rumsey, **Mara Mellstrom** has worked in politics for a decade. She's worked on Presidential, Gubernatorial, Senate, and House races, and she also led a state-wide ballot initiative to victory in Arizona. Most recently, she served as Chief of Staff to Congresswoman Nancy Mace after managing her successful win in South Carolina's First Congressional District. Mara is now consulting on political campaigns and with elected officials. She lives in Manhattan with her beloved four-year-old schnauzer mix rescue named Gunner.

Class of 2007



Ashley Hill shared: "I got married on September 24, 2022, to my husband Thomas Albanese at the Heritage Hotel in Southbury CT surrounded by 200 of our closest friends and families!" On September 13, 2023 Ashley and Thomas welcomed a baby girl, Stella Elisabeth Albanese.

Class of 2009



Kwanghyun "Keith" Lee and his wife visited Rumsey's campus and had the chance to reunite and reminisce with Director of Technology Steve Dodge P'29, '33.

Class of 2011



Jamie Hwang shares: "After graduating from Northwestern Pritzker School of Law last summer, I took the bar exam in New York and got married a week later in the city! I was so happy to see several Rumsey friends at the wedding. Now you can find me working at a big law firm in the city."



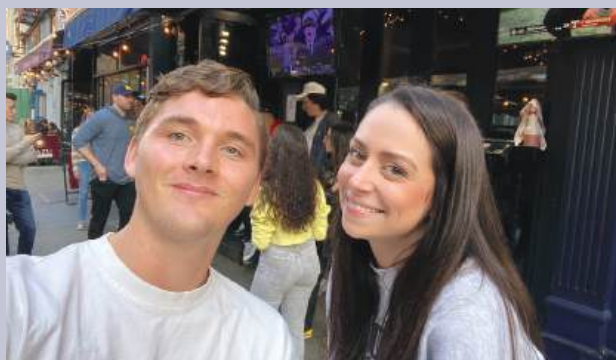
Director of Technology Steve Dodge P'29, '33, daughter Kaycee '29, and son Griffin '33 caught up with **So Young Park** in Niantic, CT.

Class of 2012



Continuing his career in commercial aviation, **Max Enis** joined United Airlines as a First Officer on the wide-body Boeing-777 aircraft flying long-haul international routes. Max spent three years flying the Airbus 321 for Frontier Airlines based in Philadelphia where he was Airline Pilots Assoc, In'l (ALPA) Union base representative. Max graduated from RHS in 2012 and is a 2019 graduate of Purdue University.

Class of 2014



Toby Ketchum and **Sabina Stancs '08** bumped into each other at a restaurant in New York City.

Class of 2017

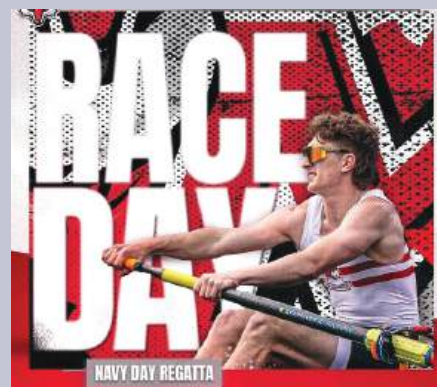


Robert and Kim Mandl P'07, '11, '15 had lunch in Boston with **Yuchen Cheng**, **Haruka Masamura '18**, and **Yuka Masamura**.



Ellie Ketchum and former faculty member Sara Taylor in Scotland. Sara owns a bed-and-breakfast called Osag na Mara in Ord on the Isle of Skye.

Class of 2018



John-Christopher Salvatore '86 writes on behalf of his son: "**Alexander John Salvatore '18** is at Marist College and is studying

Finance and Accounting. He has made the varsity rowing team and is on the 1st boat. They just raced UCONN and Fairfield in CT and won the race. He remembers the beginning with Liz Butler, Fran Ryan, and Jay Przygocki inspiring him. He was in Mexico City last summer hanging out with **Gustavo Gonzalez '18** and other Rumsey alumni. Hello to all of his friends. He hopes they are all doing well."

Class of 2019



Melody Howe visited campus in June and met up with Mr. Kinsella, Mr. Buono, and Mr. and Mrs. Mandl, for whom she was Table Prefect. Melody had her picture taken here with Mrs. Hogan, Ms. Silvernail, and Mrs. Fredlund.

Class of 2020



Kim and Robert Mandl P'07, '11, '15 bumped into **Nene Uchiumi** while walking down the street in New York City in November 2022.

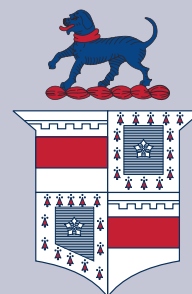
Class of 2021



Chris Clancy and **Noah Young '22** reunited on the lacrosse field as they each represented their respective secondary schools in a varsity game. Chris played for New Hampton School, while Noah played for Proctor Academy.

**We'd love to
hear from you!**

Visit rumseyhall.org/classnotes
to send us your class notes.



In Memoriam



John Craft P'26, long-time Upper School Music and Performing Arts Teacher, was diagnosed last year with an aggressive form of brain cancer. He battled his illness with fortitude and resolve.

John served the Rumsey community faithfully for twenty-six years not only as a music and drama teacher, but as an ambassador, a coach, a friend, and a tremendously positive colleague. He always had a ready smile and warm welcoming manner for all who he came in contact with.

John had a deep love of music, and earned his B.F.A. Degree in Music Performance from the University of Connecticut. He was a cantor and sang for many years at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Waterbury, and he cantored at St. Mary's Church of the Visitation in Clinton for the last 15 years. He was a lead tenor performer with Simsbury Light Opera Company and The Connecticut Gilbert & Sullivan Society for many years.

In honor of John's long career at Rumsey and our affection for him, we have renamed the Faculty Cup in his honor. The John Craft Faculty Cup is awarded to that scholar in the Senior Class recognized by the Faculty for his or her consistent high academic achievement, loyal commitment to the Rumsey Hall community, and service in support of others.



Rumsey Hall luminary and faithful friend **Lynette Cornell P '72, '74, '84, '86 GP '06, '08, '11, '17** was a Rumsey fixture for decades and a venerated member of the Board of Trustees from 1986-1992.

She and her husband, Linc, established and maintained strong ties to the School through their immediate and extended family: she was parent to Paul Linc Cornell '72, Steven Cornell '74, Michael Cornell '84, and Melinda Cornell '86 Moran; grandmother of Christina Cornell '06 Ruel, Nicholas Cornell '08, Alexander Cornell '11, and Colby Moran '17; and great-aunt of Sarah Maxwell

'07 Pollack, Margaux Maxwell '09, Anna Maxwell '15, John Maxwell '17.

An active and vivacious member of the Rumsey Circle Parents Association, Lynette donated considerable time and talent to many School initiatives over the years. Notably, she brought resourcefulness and enthusiasm to her role as Auction Co-Chair in 1985 and 1986 and Honorary Co-Chair in 1999, each time alongside esteemed Former Trustee Judith Auchincloss P '87.

In addition to her active involvement at Rumsey Hall, Lynette was happily engaged in her local community of Washington, CT. She served on boards for New Milford Hospital and The Frederick Gunn School, and supported numerous organizations including the Washington Club, the Institute of American Indian Studies and New Milford Animal Shelter.

Lynette is remembered warmly on Campus as a kind soul who gave her time generously and with good spirit to champion Rumsey Hall and its growing community. In 2000, in honor of the School's Centennial and with an eye towards preserving and empowering its future, the Cornell family gifted 14 acres of land, which would later become the site of Foothills and Spooner House Dormitories and Lufkin Rink.



Paul Lincoln "Linc" Cornell Jr. P'72, '74, '84, '86 GP '06, '08, '11, '17 was one of the great patriarchs of the Rumsey family, with multiple generations of his own family coming through the School. The love of his life,

Lynette Maxwell Cornell, who predeceased him, was a long-time Trustee of the School. As a family, their love and support for Rumsey was incredible, always with an eye toward preserving and empowering its future. In 2000, in honor of Rumsey's Centennial, the Cornell family gifted fourteen acres of land, which would later become the site of Foothills and Spooner House Dormitories, as well as Lufkin Rink.

Linc was also a great supporter of the town of Washington where he practiced law for many years and took great pride serving as the Director of the

Washington Scholarship Fund. Education was a lifelong priority for Linc and he demonstrated this in his support for Rumsey, Eaglebrook, Yale, and UConn Law.



Esteemed former Trustee **Gretchen Farmer P'99, '02** was an integral part of and loyal friend to the Rumsey Hall community for many years. As a Rumsey Parent, of Austin '99 and Mallory '02,

she championed the School and volunteered in service of numerous Rumsey events and initiatives. During her longstanding tenure on the Board of Trustees (1999-2004, 2005-2018, 2018-2019), she brought detailed insight, dedicated acumen and tireless reserves of energy to a number of roles across select groups, including the Capital Campaign, Audit, Investment, Long Range Planning, and Development Committees. She was deeply interested in sustainability matters, and advocated for their consideration within campus development planning. Her love of tennis inspired a generous donation to the construction and revitalization of the outdoor tennis courts, and in 2002 The Farmer Family Outdoor Tennis Courts on the Rumsey campus were dedicated.

In addition to her valuable contributions to Rumsey Hall, Gretchen was also extremely active in her local community of Washington, CT. She was a member of the Board of Trustees at The Frederick Gunn School, treasurer of the Washington Garden Club, and a member of the Washington Club Board of Governors.

"For over twenty years, Gretchen was a devoted Rumsey parent and Trustee, committed to serving in support of the best interests of the School," said Brooke Giese P '23, '27, Associate Head of School. "Gretchen generously shared her time, talent, and thoughtfulness with the school as the campus was transformed into a place for 21st century learning. During the campus master planning process, Gretchen kept environmental sustainability in center focus, supporting the thoughtful use of green technology wherever possible. Gretchen cared deeply

for the long-term health and well-being of both the Rumsey Hall family and the global community. Gretchen's legacy lives on through the harmonious accord between Campus facilities and the natural beauty of the Shepaug Valley."

Gretchen is survived by her husband Phil, children Austin and Mallory, and granddaughter Lillian Mali Farmer.

Former Trustee Thomas O'Toole P'85

Tom served on Rumsey's Board of Trustees from 1984-1991. He was a member of the Finance Committee and served as Committee Chair from 1988-1991. He lived in Dallas, Texas with his wife Jane Taylor. Their son Michael was a graduate of Rumsey Hall, Class of 1985.

Patricio "Pato" Alvarez Morphy '18

Pato was at Rumsey for two years. He was a Varsity Football player, a Dining Hall Prefect, and was also on the Varsity A Ski Team.

Leo DeNiro-Rodriguez '18

Leo was at Rumsey for three years. He enjoyed life as a boarder and was loved by all. He had a way of lighting up a room. He won "Most likely to be a movie star," which he fulfilled before passing. Leo was part of the cast in two theater productions while at Rumsey.

Jason Titunik '19

Jason was at Rumsey for his Senior year. He ran Varsity B Cross Country, and played Varsity B Basketball and Varsity B Baseball. He was a student who was loved by all and was known for his sense of humor.

Mason Wickline '13

Mason was at Rumsey for nine years. He was thankful for his time at Rumsey and enjoyed his BioFarm class. He was a Dining Hall Prefect and received the Coaches' Award for his contributions to the Varsity Football team.

Robin Young '18

Robin was at Rumsey for four years. He enjoyed his Senior year where he made a lot of friends, including his classmate Leo. He played on Mr. Anderson's Varsity B Soccer team, and was named Assistant Captain in his Senior year.



Founder's Weekend

Auction & Celebration

Spirits were high at the Rumsey Hall Auction and Celebration, held Friday, October 13, 2023 as part of Founder's Weekend. It was a special occasion on which alums, community members, current and past parents, grandparents, faculty, and staff could connect, learn, and have fun together—all while supporting a great cause.

Farmen Hall was transformed into a celebratory space with a large selection of Silent Auction items on display and abundant opportunities to mingle and toast to our Rumsey community.

The evening included a champagne reception; cocktails, small bites, and hors d'oeuvres; dancing to two great live bands; the Raffle, Silent Auction, a Paddle Raise in support of the Blue Dog Fund, and the Live Auction led by auctioneer Clayton Ketchum P'14, '17 (Director of Secondary School Counseling) and Ben Pastor P'27, '29 (Director of Advancement).

The Rumsey Hall Auction has been a community tradition since 1985 when it was started by former Trustees Judith Auchincloss P'87 and Lynette Cornell P'72, '74, '84, '86 GP'06, '08, '11, '17. After a brief three-year hiatus, the event made its return.

We were delighted that so many in our community came out to enjoy the festivities in person—and joined us online in the bidding too!

Our heartfelt thanks go to our sponsors and donors, and to all who donated time and resources. The success of the event is a tribute to the tireless work and creativity of volunteers from the Rumsey Circle Parents Association, faculty, and staff. The Auction Committee was co-chaired by Michele Shapiro Deshpande P'33 and AnaCristina Joseph P'29, '31 and ably assisted by Committee Members Alexa Devino P'33, Kate Eren P'28, '31, Christina Klemm P'23, '25, '28, Ledlie Mosch Pastor '92 P'27, '29, and Danielle Young P'22, '23, '26 working alongside the dedicated Rumsey Hall Advancement Team of Ben Pastor P'27, '29 (Director of Advancement), Christian Anderson (Associate Director of Advancement), and Stephanie Proteau '15 (Advancement Associate).

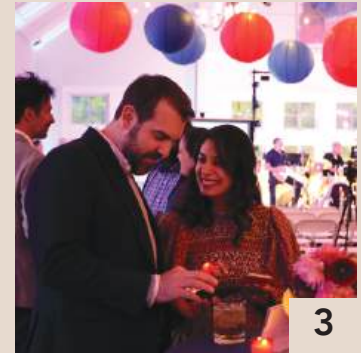
It was a hugely enjoyable evening in celebration and support of our Rumsey community.



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Left: Farnen Hall, decked out in Rumsey red and blue, was the site of the night's auction and celebration.

Above: 1. Live Auction bidding in full swing. 2. Auction Committee Co-Chairs Michele Shapiro Deshpande P'33 and AnaCristina Joseph P'29, '31 with Director of Advancement Ben Pastor P'27, '29. 3. Online bidding for the Silent Auction opened a few days before the event and continued throughout the evening. 4. Director of Secondary School Counseling Clayton Ketchum P'14, '17 acted as auctioneer. 5. Clayton Ketchum and Ben Pastor engage the auction crowd. 6. Some of the

Silent Auction items were available to view during the evening. 7. Head of School Ian Craig P'33 and Holly Craig P'33 (left) with Board of Trustee member Adrienne Lufkin P'20, '24 join in the festivities. 8. A full spread of canapés and treats (including traditional Rumsey cookies!) was available to all. 9. Two live bands performed later in the evening as the chairs were moved away to make space for the dance floor. 10. Clayton Ketchum auctioning off one of the big lots of Live Auction, a VIP Yankees experience.

Founder's Weekend

Alumni Day & Parents Day

We were delighted to host Alumni Day and Upper School Parents' Day on Saturday, October 14 as part of Founder's Weekend. Thank you to all who came to Campus to spend the day with us!



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1. Heartfelt reunions as alums came back to Campus on Alumni Day. 2. Varsity Football won a hard-fought game against Avon Old Farms 28-14. 3. Victoria Chapula Salgado '24, Krissy Zhu '24, and Patrick Lufkin '24 participate with other Upper School students in a panel discussion. 4. Head of School Ian Craig P'33 congratulates Student of the Month winners (pictured: Elizabeth Ensign '24) 5. Alums and faculty reunited

(L-R): Jamel Smith '16, Miles Wotorson '16, Kim Mandl P'07, '11, '15, Bryan Ellis '15, Robert Mandl P'07, '11, '15, Ahmad Galimore '15, Terrell Jarvis '17, Idriss Traore '15. 6. A buffet lunch in Farnen Hall draws both alums and parents. 7. Alecia Evans P'18 directs Blue Dog Voices in song at the School Assembly. 8. Rumsey families tour the Campus (pictured: Kevin Kim and Carol Cho with their daughters, Gabby '27 and Glenda '31).

Ring the Bell for Rumsey

Every gift to Rumsey's Annual Fund gives our students and faculty access to the best teaching and learning resources! These opportunities, and countless others across our campus, are made possible through the generosity of Rumsey Parents and Alumni. Please consider "Ring the Bell" for Rumsey and supporting our 2023-2024 Annual Fund.

For more information, please contact Christian Anderson, Associate Director of Advancement, at (860) 868-0535 or by making a gift online at rumseyhall.org/makeagift.



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Thank you!