

THE
LAB
SCHOOL

LINK

FALL '24

INSIDE THE ISSUE

Five Years of IAMU

pg. 6

Q&A with Kip Crouch, Lab's
New Athletic Director **pg. 2**

Highlighting Lab's
Internship Program **pg. 10**

Inspiring Authors
Visit Campus **pg. 14**

Experiential Learning
at Lab **pg. 18**

2023-2024
Annual Report **pg. 22**



BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION. Students in the World Cultures Academic Club created a Wohnstallhaus while learning about the German-style homes and their role in shepherding and processing wool.

GRILLING AWAY! The seniors relished their time at the grill during the Spring BBQ.



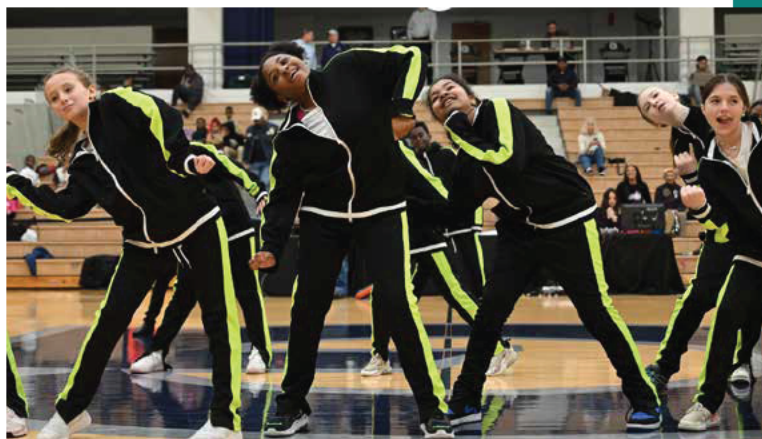
LAB SCHOOL SCENE



A HANDS-ON APPROACH. Lab's studio gives students in both Middle School and Upper School the space to explore the world of ceramics.

CENTER STAGE AT MCDONOUGH GYMNASIUM.

The Middle School Dance Team showed off their skills as the halftime entertainment at the Georgetown Women's Basketball game against Villanova.





FALL 2024

Table of Contents

The Lab School of Washington

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FEATURES

- 2 Q&A with Kip Crouch: Introducing Lab's New Athletic Director
- 6 Finding Purpose Through the Arts
- 10 Unlocking New Skills and Opportunities in the Junior Year Internship Program
- 14 Inspiring Authors Visit Campus
- 18 The Power of Experiential Learning at The Lab School

ON CAMPUS & NEWS

- 22 2023–2024 Annual Report
- 34 The 39th Annual Gala
- 46 Career Day
- 48 Graduation 2024
- 52 Departures
- 54 Shorts
- 56 Alumni News

The Lab School of Washington is an innovative learning community fostering scholarship and creativity in students with language-based learning differences. In an environment of inquiry and hands-on exploration, Lab School students learn to advocate for themselves as they become engaged and compassionate members of a global society.



Q&A with Kip Crouch

Introducing Lab's New Athletic Director

On July 1, 2023, The Lab School was excited to welcome **Kip Crouch** as the new Athletic Director. She brought with her a rich history of athletics leadership experience and two master's degrees in Sports Management and Coaching Education. To get to know her, we spoke with her about her journey to Lab and her vision for the future of Dragon Athletics.



A NEW LAB RECORD. Coach Crouch at the DC Area Championship Track Meet with **Caleb Hamm '25** who finished the season by setting a new school record in Shot Put.

**Welcome to the Lab community!
Tell us a little bit about yourself
and your background.**

I'm originally from Texas, so I think I have a "can-do" attitude. That's what I take from Texas: nothing that can't be done. I've worked in independent schools for 35 years and it's been an awesome journey. I went to college in Pennsylvania where I played field hockey and lacrosse. After briefly working for my dad in business, I went back to school and got my first master's in sports management. Then, I started teaching and coaching and eventually became a dean of students and then an athletic director. I was able to follow my dream: what I always wanted to do was be an athletic director.

**How did you start your coaching
journey and eventually end up at
The Lab School?**

I was first hired to coach at my alma mater, The Hockaday School, in Dallas. It was a cool experience to be there on the other side. They hired me part-time to be the lifeguard for the pool and to help as kind of a sub-

teacher, but I also coached some field hockey, soccer, and softball. Then, I got my first teaching job at a school in Houston where I coached volleyball, soccer, and softball. Eventually the field hockey position came open, so I was able to shift into that and get back to my favorite game. After a few more teaching positions, I was able to live out my dream as an athletic director at a girls school in Ohio and a coed school in Florida. Then my life brought me here-it's been a great journey. I've had a lot of fun and I'm very fortunate because I've been able to do what I wanted to do.

**Can you talk a little bit about the
importance of athletics at a school
like Lab?**

I think in any independent school the athletic program is really important to round out the experience for kids. Parents send their kids to independent schools for a whole host of reasons. They send their kids to Lab for the educational benefit, but it's the athletics and arts experience that complete the experience and can either keep kids here or drive them away. Athletics is

not only important for their personal development and enjoyment, but can offer a compelling reason for them to be at Lab and engage with all the school has to offer.

**Are there any dream sports you'd
like to bring to Lab?**

I would love for us to be able to have a lacrosse program again. My gauge for that is really soccer because the same kind of kids that play soccer also play lacrosse; you develop a field sense and strategies on how to create space which are skills you need in both sports. There is a lot of crossover, so at the point at which we can have a girls' soccer program and a boys' soccer program instead of a co-ed, I think we would have numbers enough to support a girls' lacrosse and a boys' lacrosse and I'd really like to see that happen. There's enough carryover from basketball strategy-wise that I think it would be an almost seamless transition for our kids and we could have a pretty strong program.

Lacrosse is a great team sport because it gets you thinking outside of just 'how can I score?' into, 'how do I help my teammates score?' It's one of those games where you definitely need more than one really good player.



Athletics is not only important for [the students'] personal development and enjoyment, but can offer a compelling reason for them to be at Lab and engage with all the school has to offer.



– KIP CROUCH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



What are your goals and aspirations for Lab’s athletic program as it evolves?

I’d like for us to take the programs that we have and sort of move them to the next level. I want kids to better understand what commitment is and realize that what you put into practice and opportunities with coaches, you get back five-fold when you play in a competition. Take tennis for example: you have to work on ground strokes in order to win points off ground strokes. You have to learn all of the pieces and parts of the game in order to play the game. From there, you can learn to compete.

I think our basketball program is a perfect example. Kids understand the importance of competing, but they don’t necessarily always understand what goes into learning how to compete. I want our students to understand the commitment to sports and then fill in the gaps of what it takes to compete. What is competition

During the school day, the focus can be very individualized as students think about their own schedules. In sports, you have to create something where these individuals are working together.

really like and what’s it all about? What do I as an athlete need to put into it in order to get the gains from it?

What other kinds of benefits do athletics provide for our students at Lab and later in life?

I really think that athletics gives kids an opportunity to sort of lose themselves in a team environment. Even in individual sports, you do things with a team and as a team.

During the school day, the focus can be very individualized as students think about their own schedules. “I need to work on this, I need to work on that” and so on. In sports, you have to create something where these

individuals are working together. Like a group project in class, it’s just an extra challenge and gives them extra strategies to help them cope later in life.

The teamwork, the sticking to something and seeing it through to the end, even if it’s uncomfortable, is key. Figuring out the difference between discomfort and pain is important because it’s during the discomfort that the growth happens. You can go through practice and be uncomfortable at the end of it because you’ve just worked your rear end off, but you’re not in pain, you’re just uncomfortable. So, you’ve got to recognize the discomfort and push through it in order to get the benefits from it.





Finding Purpose Through the Arts



At the beginning of the 2023–24 school year, Head of School **Kim Wargo** asked The Lab School faculty and staff to center themselves for the coming year on the theme of “purpose,” both personally and as an institution. The Lab School is a purpose-driven institution that aims to unlock students’ strengths and help them use those strengths to overcome their challenges, while also guiding our students in finding their own sense of purpose. This was one of the guiding principles for the most recent Identity, Arts, Music, and Unity event, also known by the acronym IAMU.



SONG AND DANCE. The IAMU assembly opens with performances by student groups.

NOW IN ITS FIFTH YEAR, IAMU is a celebration that brings the entire Lab community together from across all divisions to explore their identities and learn about others through a day of art and creativity. At the heart of IAMU are the many unique workshops taught by faculty, staff, and guests based on their own interests. These workshops offer students a range of activities using visual art, music, fashion, cooking, and other mediums to express themselves.

The official tagline of IAMU is “exploring identity through the arts,” but each year a theme helps guide the festivities. For the 5th annual IAMU celebration, the sub-theme was “finding purpose through the arts.” IAMU kicks off each year with an assembly featuring student performances and an address. The 2024 speaker was Lab Teaching Visual Artist **Paula Mans**, whose work uses collage as a tool to process the ways that Black people see and are seen in the world, especially in majority White spaces. She spoke

about her journey as an artist and the discovery of her ultimate purpose: activism through art. “In my work, I fight against a world that marginalizes me because I am a Black woman by placing Black people and Black voices at the very center of my artistic discourse,” she told the assembly. “I seek to create work that serves as a mirror for Black people, reflecting back their infinite complexity, their vulnerability, their rage, and their pain – serving as a visual record of the power that we possess. In this way, my art is fueled by my activism.”

Though outside artists have been brought to speak at IAMU in the past, it made sense to look internally for this event to find someone to speak about purpose. “Once the theme was set, we immediately thought about Paula Mans,” says **Sara Hawkins**, who led the past few years of IAMU alongside **Liora Valero** and Performing Arts Teaching Artist **Jessica Bruce**. “[She] does a lot of personal artwork and artwork with her students that deals



ART FUELED BY ACTIVISM. Lab Teaching Visual Artist Paula Mans was the main speaker at the IAMU event.

with looking at the world and using art to state your ideas, your opinions, and your beliefs on what's happening. We thought it would be really appropriate, and an honor, to have Paula Mans speak on behalf of the theme because she just seamlessly does that in her artwork so well."

Finding purpose and identity through art can manifest in many ways. As Ms. Mans demonstrates, creating art can be used as a form for social activism. Its purpose can also be as simple as finding joy through the act of creation, especially when it is aligned with one's cultural identity. Lower School teacher **Shayna Goldstein** taught a workshop on challah braiding, a practice tied to her

Jewish identity. "Not only is IAMU an amazing opportunity for students to celebrate and discover similarities and differences between varying parts of their identities, but as a staff member, it also feels exciting to bring a part of who I am into a classroom setting," says Ms. Goldstein. With music playing, sprinkles for decoration, and the aroma of a bakery wafting through the air, the happiness radiating out of the challah braiding workshop encapsulates the spirit of IAMU. Some students signed up for the workshop to celebrate their own Jewish identity, while others did so to explore something new. As one student shared at the assembly following the workshops, "I was in Challah bread making and I'm

not Jewish so it was a fun and new experience for me...also because my mom does not let me do messy things in the house."

Meeting across divisions, opening your mind to perspectives and identities other than your own, and learning something new has been the goal of IAMU since it was first dreamed up by the late Lab School Social Worker **Aaron Boose**. Though he was only able to be there for the inaugural event, the now annual IAMU has become intertwined with the memory of Mr. Aaron, as he was affectionately known. "I think that his legacy will live on in the event; in the aura and the feeling and the pulse of the event. This year, there were a lot fewer



IAMU LOGO. Each year, there is a competition for Middle School and Upper School students to design the IAMU logo. For the 5th IAMU, **Theo Clark '30** created the winning design with his combination of letters taken from sources around campus. The many other creative and exciting designs were turned into posters and used as decoration during the IAMU celebration.



“ Not only is IAMU an amazing opportunity for students to celebrate and discover similarities and differences between varying parts of their identities, but as a staff member, it also feels exciting to bring a part of who I am into a classroom setting. ”

– SHAYNA GOLDSTEIN, LOWER SCHOOL TEACHER

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION. Each workshop uses a different medium or art form to explore the many purposes of art.

people, adults and students, who knew Aaron personally, but I think that just continuing the event and it staying true to his original mission statement is what he wanted. That’s what he was aiming for,” says Ms. Hawkins.

How do we guide our students in finding their own sense of purpose? The Lab School of Washington has been a purpose-driven institution since it was founded to help make life better for students with learning differences. Each student at Lab is here because of one part of their identity, but it is not the only aspect that defines them. IAMU is meant to celebrate the multitudes of identities within our Lab community, enabling us to see the world through another lens. Celebrating these differences in identity and creative thinking gives our students the opportunity to explore their place in a bigger world.



Memorial Tree Planting Ceremony

On Tuesday, December 5, a ceremony was held to unveil the tree planted in **Aaron Boose’s** memory. A red maple was chosen for both its color (Mr. Aaron’s favorite) and for the ample shade that it provides. “He provided so much protection to the children here, and we found something that reflects his beautiful presence,” says Ms. Hawkins. The ceremony celebrated his life with reflections, songs, and a chocolate milk toast. His memory also lives on through the **Aaron Boose Memorial Fund**, which provides financial aid for students from underrepresented communities to attend Lab.



Unlocking New Skills and Opportunities in the Junior Year Internship Program

From October through May, the students in Lab's Junior Class explore possible career paths or fields of study while gaining practical work experience.

REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE. Above, **Eliana Boyar '25** takes a photo of her workstation during her internship at Wentworth Studios.

THE MISSION OF THE LAB

School of Washington is to create an environment of inquiry where students learn to advocate for themselves as they discover who they are as learners and as people. Lab's Junior Internship Program seeks to expand this to include knowing who they are as members of the workforce. "My job is to get you to understand what a working environment is like and the difference between a classroom and a job," says Internship Coordinator and Assistant College Advisor **Darrel Parker '99**. "How do you advocate for yourself on a job? What are the consequences when you don't advocate? It's different than school, so if you've never experienced that, I think that one of the goals for every student is to get this working experience and think about what you might want to do."

This long-standing program offers Lab students the opportunity to gain practical work experience and explore potential fields of study or career paths. The time they spend at their internship also allows them to see the ways that academic skills, student skills, and

cultural literacy apply to the workplace. The 2023–2024 class of interns secured positions in a diverse range of fields including education, engineering, animal care, government service, healthcare, and asset management. Starting as Sophomores, career surveys and interviews with the internship coordinator lead to brainstorming and reflections about possible paths that a student would like to pursue the following year.

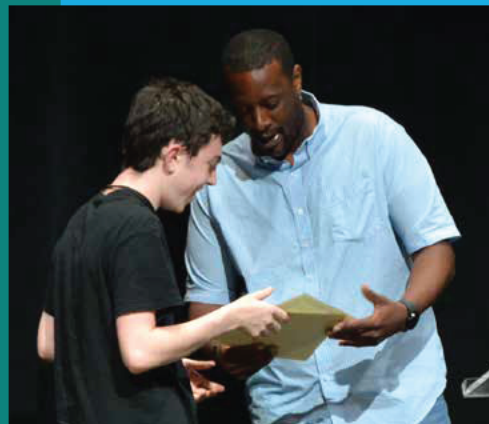
In thinking about potential sites, many students first reflect on their current interests, past volunteer work, academic strengths, and preferred learning styles. Even for those students who have always had their mind set on

a specific job, the internship program is invaluable. "The story I always go to is the student who wants to be a doctor until they see a needle going into somebody's arm," says Mr. Parker. "Maybe you see that and realize that you aren't going to be a doctor. Or maybe the experience confirms that you want to continue that pursuit now that you have a taste for what it's really like."

The Lab internship program has led directly to numerous students finding their career path or passion. During his junior year, Lab alum **Cedric Hermel '14** was interested in programming and secured an internship at financial literacy developer Everfi. In college he continued to occasionally work at the

Intern of the Year

Each year, one student is honored as the Intern of the Year. In June, **Arthur Hurvitz** was selected as the intern of the year for his time working with the Howard Theatre. "Arthur really demonstrated that your experience is what you make it," says Mr. Parker. "He really jumped in. They offered our students to come in on Friday and Saturday nights to work shows, and he would go in because he loves it." At Lab, Arthur can be found in the control booth in the Shaun Miskell Theater during LabDrama productions and brought his passion for the technical side of theater to his internship. "His site supervisor at the job told me that if she could hire him today she would," says Mr. Parker. "He's that good."



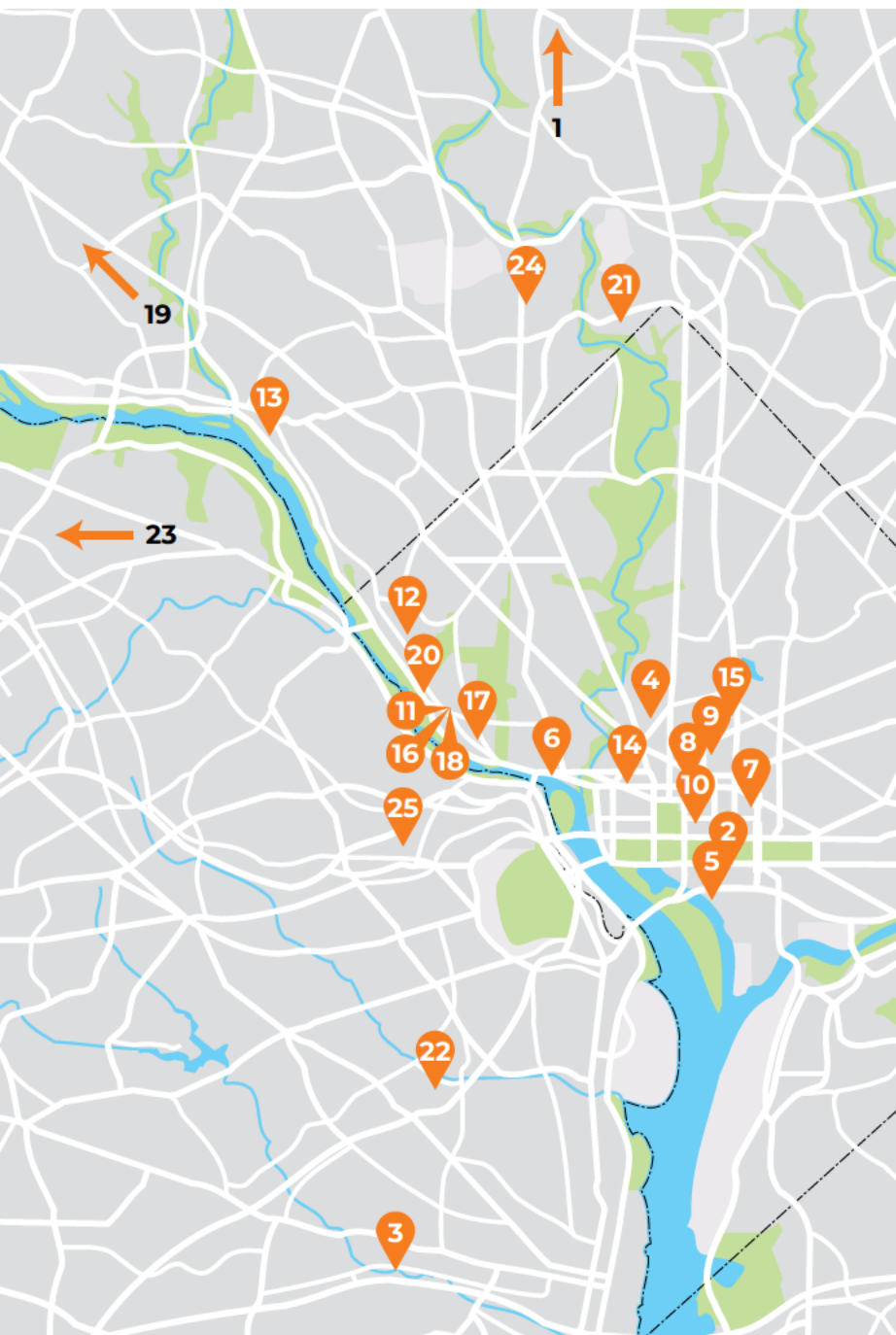
company while studying computer science. A decade later he returned to Lab's Upper School Career Day (*page 46*) to speak about his role as a software engineer at Blackbaud, Everfi's parent company; all thanks to his Junior year internship!

More recently, Lab Alum **Cole Kido '23**, who was Lab's 2022 Intern of the Year, spent his internship with

the DC Government initiative "Age-Friendly DC." As an intern, he used his skills in directing and editing films, gained through Lab's Digital Filmmaking classes, independently, and during summer pre-college courses, to produce a promotional video for a local community organization. Now, he studies film and media production at Loyola Marymount University. "There

are a lot of ways the experience can speak to your future," says Mr. Parker about the internship experience. "Do you want to pursue this path as a career, or maybe it's just something you'd want to do as a summer job? It could also just be something you'd like to do on the side."

The internships themselves take place from October through May,



During the 2023–24 school year, the Junior year interns joined the following companies and organizations:

1. A Mario Loiederman Middle School
2. Air and Space Museum
3. Animal Welfare League of Alexandria
4. Blue Planet Scuba
5. Britches Warthog
6. Capital Asset Management
7. Capital Jewish Museum
8. E-Mile
9. EL Studio
10. Executive Office of the Mayor
11. Eye to Eye – at Lab School, Upper School
12. Found Fit Gym
13. Glen Echo Aquarium
14. GW University Hospital
15. Howard Theatre
16. Lab School, Drama Department
17. Lab School, Lower School
18. Lab School, Middle School
19. Potomac Riverside Stables
20. River School
21. Rock Forest Elementary School
22. Signature Theatre
23. Virginia Therapy & Fitness Center (VTFC)
24. Wentworth Studios
25. YMCA Arlington



My job is to get [the students] to understand what a working environment is like and the difference between a classroom and a job. ”

– DARREL PARKER, INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR



MAKING MODELS. During his internship with EL Studio, **Sam Goldstein '25** learned what day-to-day life as an architect might be like.

typically two afternoons per week. The length of this experience is one of the great strengths of Lab’s internship program. Rather than taking place over a couple weeks or just at the end of the year, Lab students are embedded at their sites for several months. “Over the course of the year, this longer internship period allows students to grow and take on more responsibility,” says Director of Alumni Engagement **Lisa McMahon**, who served as the interim internship coordinator from 2022 to 2023.

The time before their internship begins is also a crucial part of their experience. During the first quarter of Junior year, the students begin with the skills that will prepare them for their time in a real-world working environment, from resume writing to learning how to be prepared for and market themselves during an interview.

“It’s about getting comfortable in uncomfortable scenarios,” says Mr. Parker. “Then when we start to come into the working world and we do interviews with potential employers, we have that all ready to go.”

Taking part in these authentic workplace experiences gives students the opportunity to understand how their strengths and talents can contribute to a workplace environment while also teaching them about etiquette, hierarchy, and how to fill the needs of their employers. “If I send you to a theater, you’re not acting all day,” says Mr. Parker. “If you’re at a hospital, you can’t be in the room when they’re seeing a patient. There is other work that has to be done, and it’s important to adjust to the nuances of the job.” Learning how to fill the role that is needed at the internship site is one of the biggest takeaways from the program

that will serve our students for years to come. “As a first work experience, students learn the transferable skills that they can take into any workplace,” says Mrs. McMahon. “Just as importantly, they will learn how to use strategies and accommodations in an environment where not everyone understands learning differences.” And, as countless employers have shared with us over the years, our students will show the depths of their creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving.



AND, SCENE! Her interest in theater led **Mariah Johns '25** to her internship working with Middle School students in Lab’s Drama Department.

Learning how to fill the role that is needed at the internship site is one of the biggest takeaways from the program that will serve our students for years to come.



Inspiring Authors Visit Campus

The Lab School of Washington uses a structured, sequential, and multi-sensory approach to teach reading. Beyond the technical skills and strategies of the Orton-Gillingham approach, we want to motivate our students to read on their own by finding books they enjoy and see themselves in. During the 2023–24 academic year, The Lab School was visited by authors like **Mat Heagerty**, **Sunmi**, and **Jorge Cham** who each write books that are fun to read, offer diverse perspectives, and help get our students interested in reading.



CREATIVITY ON DISPLAY. At a school assembly, author **Mat Heagerty** shared his journey from struggling student with dyslexia to published author before designing two new characters based on student suggestions.

“OUR DIFFERENCES ARE OUR greatest strengths,” author **Mat Heagerty** told the Middle School students gathered at an assembly in the Shaun Miskell Theater. Like many in the audience, he has dyslexia and struggled with reading through his early years of school. Despite these struggles, he explained how this early difficulty reading built his creativity and resiliency. It was especially the discovery of graphic novels that gave him an entry point to loving books and ultimately led to his career as a published author. His works like *Lumber-Jackula* and *Unplugged and Unpopular* combine text and images to tell stories about embracing all sides of yourself.

Graphic novels and comics are great for getting students engaged with reading and can appeal to learners with dyslexia because text is interspersed with images instead of being composed as longer paragraphs. For students who are putting an inordinate amount of cognitive energy into the process of reading, the balance of visual imagery and written words makes it easier to move towards comprehension. Experts on the National Reading Panel have determined five critical components that are the pillars of reading instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. “These pieces are woven into the work we do every single day in all of our classes at Lab, not just

our reading classes. Our teachers have a vast toolbox of systems and programs aligned with the science of reading,” says Head of Middle School **Melissa Wood**. “We are so fortunate that we have authors now who are really using the science of reading to come up with text that is engaging, visually appealing, and controlled.”

How language appears in a text is one of the attributes that **Stephen Vernon**, Lab’s librarian for the 2023–24 academic year, considered when selecting authors and books for students with language-based learning differences. “What’s the font size? What does the page look like? How many lines are on a page? At the same time, you want to find books

that really suit students' interests, their passions, and a varied reading level," he says. "You also need to keep in mind that you want students to extend themselves when reading for pleasure, so they're going to find books that are going to be much easier for them, or they might try and read a book that's a couple levels above them to push themselves." Beyond how visually appealing or accessible a book is, what is important is that the subject matter must resonate with readers.

The authors that visited The Lab School were chosen in part for how they speak to different age groups and perspectives. **Dr. Jorge Cham** visited the Foxhall campus to read from his book *Oliver's Great Big Universe*, which uses cartoon illustrations to introduce younger readers to STEM-themed concepts from the perspective of its

Beyond how visually appealing or accessible a book is, what is important is that the subject matter must resonate with readers.

11-year old protagonist. **Sunmi's *Firebird***, on the other hand, is a complex graphic novel about two queer, Asian American teenagers and is meant for a young adult audience. As a non-binary author, Sunmi speaks to the perspective of someone who has a different gender identity, just as Mat Heagerty speaks to the perspective of someone with dyslexia. "It's nice to have someone who speaks to another segment of the population, right?" says Mr. Vernon. "We are trying to hit as many different cultures or subcultures as

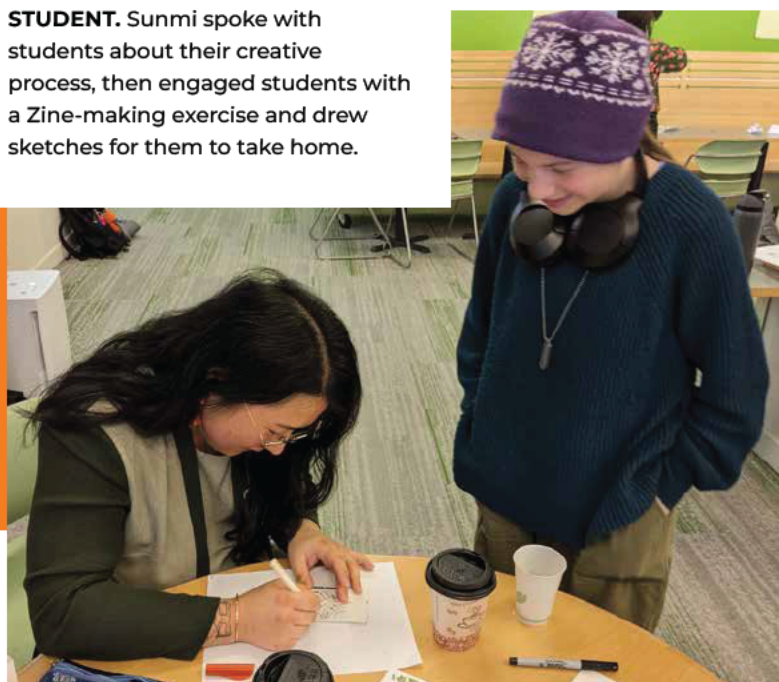
we can within a community so that everybody feels heard and seen in the books we have."

In an age of cellphones and countless other distractions vying for attention, it is more important than ever to get our students engaged with reading. Our students are systematically instructed on each of the five pillars of reading, and one of the most important ways to reinforce these lessons is by reading for pleasure. The Foxhall campus recently acquired a number of books about eels so that students can learn



STEPHEN VERNON. Lab's librarian for the 2023–24 academic year selected new books for the library that represent a variety of perspectives and focus on subjects that students are interested in.

SUNMI SKETCHING A LAB STUDENT. Sunmi spoke with students about their creative process, then engaged students with a Zine-making exercise and drew sketches for them to take home.



about the library's resident eel, Honey. The books are educational but pleasurable because the students love Honey and enjoy learning more about her. "The key is finding books that students are interested in," says Mrs. Wood. "Whether it is at a controlled and decodable text level or moving into chapter books that are more complex, they need to feel motivated to read."



“The key is finding books that students are interested in. They need to feel motivated to read.”

– MELISSA WOOD, HEAD OF MIDDLE SCHOOL

Reader's Choice Awards

The Reader's Choice Award Ceremony is an annual tradition in Lab's Upper School. Over the summer, students read books of their own choosing then write a brief explanation of why a particular person in their lives would enjoy or benefit from reading their selected book. Students can choose anyone; friends, family members, classmates, and teachers have all been selected as recipients. At the ceremony, the students from each grade with the best submissions are chosen to share their explanations and present a copy of the book to their special guest!

Upper School Reader's Choice Winners from the 2024–2025 Academic Year:

9TH GRADE

Ameen Bassam:
Spare Parts, by
Joshua Davis

10TH GRADE

Bonez James:
Night, by Elie
Wiesel

11TH GRADE

Jackson Atuobi:
*When I Was
the Greatest*, by
Jason Reynolds

12TH GRADE

Kate McNamara:
Drama High, by
Michael Sokolove



Ameen Bassam '28 gifting a copy of *Spare Parts* to his father Robert Bassam.



Bonez James '27 won the Reader's Choice Award for her dedication of *Night* to her grandfather, Gideon Frishman.



The Power of Experiential Learning at The Lab School

Both inside and out of the classroom, Lab's dedication to experiential learning helps students integrate all of the parts of their brain in a full sensory experience.

THE JOURNEY DOESN'T STOP HERE! The Lab Upper School also provides a number of travel-based experiences for students. During the 2023–24 year these trips included a Civil Rights tour through Alabama and Georgia and an arts-focused trip to New York City, as well as the return of international travel during the Spring Break trip to Costa Rica. In 2025, destinations include New York City, New Orleans, England, and France!

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IS one of the bedrocks of the education provided by The Lab School. It is the process of “learning by doing” which was one of the fundamental ideas pioneered by Sally Smith when she founded the school in 1967. “Traditional classroom lessons failed other children who were non-readers and untraditional learners; yet, all of them learned one way or another outside of school,” she wrote in her book *Live it Learn it*. “I asked myself, ‘What are these children doing at home, on the sidewalk, or in their backyards in order to learn? How can children learn a great deal in camps, outdoor programs, and special projects but not at school? How can some children feel smart outside of school and stupid in the classroom?’” The answers to these questions led to Lab’s Academic Club Methodology, where students from Lower School through the 6th grade build knowledge, fluency, and critical thinking through immersive hands-on learning.

DECORATING THE CAMPUS. Students pose with one of the benches they built during their week of experiential learning at Bretton Woods Recreation Center.



“ We integrate experiential learning tenets frequently within our walls, so our kids are poised to maximize those experiences when we take them into the real world. ”

– DR. AMANDA PALMER, CHAIR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING,
LAB MIDDLE SCHOOL

Even after students graduate out of the Academic Club system, the tools of experiential learning are a driving force in a Lab education.

Every aspect of the content curriculum, from English and writing to science and math, relies on this framing through hands-on experiences. “This means that Lab teachers and

students are primed to get the most out of ‘traditional’ experiential learning moments,” says Lab Middle School’s Chair of Teaching and Learning **Dr. Amanda Palmer**. “We integrate experiential learning tenets frequently within our walls, so our kids are poised to maximize those experiences when we take them into the real world.” During 8th Grade trips week, students leave campus for some of these more traditional experiences. For the past few years, students have traveled to the Teton Science School or the Bretton Woods Recreation Center, though additional destinations are being considered for the future.



“We know that when kids are happy while they’re learning, they learn more,” says Dr. Palmer. “So many of our students have a long history of experiencing learning when they are sad, upset, stressed, scared, or embarrassed. When we can have them learn in a space that makes them happy, that’s a good thing! On these trips outside of Lab, our kids are being asked to do a lot of difficult tasks that require all of the parts of their brain working together but in a new and exciting environment.” By bringing academic tasks, executive function skills, and Lab’s social and emotional learning curriculum into one multi-sensory experience, these trips form a core memory of the Middle School experience.

In this way, these trips have become an important tradition at Lab. Students have these big experiential

learning moments to look forward to or reflect back on, reinforcing a sense of belonging in the community. Physical reminders of these trips allow students to leave their mark on campus and give a taste of these experiences to younger students. At Bretton Woods, students learned how to build the benches that now decorate the courtyard outside the Middle School. For younger students, these benches are a promise of the marks that they themselves will get to leave behind one day.

Throughout a student’s time at The Lab School they will encounter many of these engaging experiential milestones that foster critical thinking. From the hands-on learning of the Academic Clubs to the real-world experiences of the Junior Internship Program, each step of a student’s journey through Lab ensures learning and lasting, positive memories.



By integrating experiential learning into the curriculum, The Lab School empowers students to engage with the many different parts of learning and develop skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

DRAGON MURAL. The 8th Grade Mural Club commemorated some of their experiences with a new mural using words, images, and symbols specific to the 8th grade experience. Working alongside visiting Howard University artist **Demond Young**, the students collaborated on the design that pays homage to the 2023–24 academic year with mountains representing the trip west to the Teton Science School and the tree standing in for Bretton Woods. The door represents the transition in their journey and the future that awaits them beyond Middle School.







2023–2024 ANNUAL REPORT

for The Lab School of Washington

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 23 Head of School Reflections
- 24 Board Report
- 27 Advancement Report
- 28 Combined Giving
- 29 Lab School Fund Donors
- 34 The 39th Annual Gala
- 40 Donor Designated Gifts
- 42 Tribute Gifts
- 44 1967 Society
- 45 Gifts of Time



Head of School Reflections



Here at Lab, we have one mission:
Turning differences into advantages.

In his Commencement speech on June 14, 2024, Liam Crowley '24 captured the essence of what makes Lab the special place that it is:

“These differences are the backbone of how we perceive the world around us. People often believe these differences are what restrict them from accomplishing their goals and dreams. However, we know, because of our time at Lab, that our learning differences allow us to think differently, be innovative, and find the loopholes that others can’t see... Ultimately, these differences allow us to find a way to succeed.”

Since Sally Smith opened Lab’s doors on September 25, 1967, we have always believed that our students have strengths that are under-valued in the world at large because on traditional measures of “success in school” they have sometimes struggled to perform. By contrast, we have *always known* that **the world needs different thinkers to solve difficult problems.**

As we prepare to celebrate Lab’s 60th anniversary in 2027–28, we are engaged in the exciting enterprise of **defining the strategic priorities that will drive our work for the next 5–7 years**, while preparing to **build the philanthropic and financial support** that will allow us to achieve our goals and ensure that Lab is here for our current students’ grandchildren.

Our Board of Trustees has entrusted **our strategic planning project** to a team made up of trustees, parents, alumni parents, alumni, teachers, administrators, and experts in education, with some members of the team representing several of these constituent groups. Together, this group is imagining Lab’s future and creating a roadmap for how we get there.

The world at large is catching up to what we have known for almost 60 years: our students’ brains are not broken, and they do not need to be fixed. Our students learn differently, and this Annual Report is a reflection of our belief that the world our students deserve is one that embraces those differences as extraordinary.

Your investment in our School allows us to hire and retain the expert and inspiring teachers, clinicians, and professionals who encourage our students to reach beyond what they



believe is possible. Each dollar given to support Lab ensures that we remain accessible to families whose students can thrive in this unique educational environment.

We are grateful beyond measure for the many individuals who have contributed to ensuring that Lab is **the** community where students with language-based learning differences thrive.

We could not do this essential work without you, and we look forward to all that is ahead for this amazing institution in the years to come.

With warmest regards,

Kim Wargo
Head of School

Board Report

From Our Board Chair



As Chair of the Board of Trustees, I am delighted to present The Lab School of Washington's Annual Report for the 2023-24 academic year. This report demonstrates the continued dedication, generosity, and commitment of our entire community.

The Lab School concluded this fiscal year with a strong financial position, surpassing the fundraising goals we had established for The Lab School Fund. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has supported The Lab School this past year, from our parents and alumni to our corporate partners and community friends. Your contributions – detailed in the pages of this Annual Report – are vital to our success and the ongoing realization of our mission.

As we look ahead to Lab's 60th anniversary in 2027-2028, we are more committed than ever to preparing our school for the next generation of learners. In doing so, we have also been reflecting on how we tell Lab's story. The exceptional, arts-integrated educational experience at the heart of Lab's mission remains consistent with Sally Smith's original vision, even as we collaborate with all of our stakeholder groups – parents, alums, students, faculty, and more – to ensure that Lab is equipped to meet the challenges of the future.

The unwavering dedication of our Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, families, and every single donor is what makes Lab an extraordinary place. Thank you for your continued support, and thank you for being an integral part of The Lab School's journey. Together, we will continue to strive for a brighter, more inclusive future for all of our students.

Warm regards,

Kate Fulton
Chair, Board of Trustees

2023-2024 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

INCOME

Tuition and Fees	\$ 24,514,778.00
Contributions, including campaign	\$ 1,779,741.00
Other Revenue	\$ 447,500.00
Investment Income	\$ 167,023.00
Total Income	\$26,909,042.00

EXPENSE

Education and Related Services	\$ 18,674,299.00
Administrative	\$ 3,598,443.00
Plant and Facilities	\$ 3,097,356.00
Depreciation	\$ 1,485,219.00
Total Expense	\$ 26,855,317.00

Net **\$ 53,725.00**



The Lab School of Washington Board of Trustees 2023–2024



Front Row, left to right:
David Bower, Kathryn Hamm, John Jonas, Christine Winchester, Martha Bridge Denckla, Dave Sohier.

Back Row, left to right:
Mark Nielsen, Kate Fulton, Peter Zimmer, Kim Wargo, Davis Camalier, Elizabeth Wrege, Krista Di Iaconi.

Not pictured: Joe Clark, Patrick Corvington, Shenearah Lassiter, Michael Miller.

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Elizabeth Wrege
Peter Zimmer

SMITH FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE

Randall Smith

THANK YOU TO LAB'S OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER, JOHN JONAS

John Jonas stepped down from the Board of Trustees after twenty years of dedicated service to The Lab School. He was Lab's longest serving Trustee, having worked with six Board Chairs and all four Heads of School in Lab's history.



His wife Sheila Jonas first served Lab as both a Trustee and Head of the Parents Association while their son Ben Jonas '00 was a student. A few years later John brought his legal and government relations expertise to the board and his wise counsel over the years has benefited all of us.

Lab's founder Sally Smith could never have imagined that John would remain so devoted for the next 20 years, offering his professional expertise, (including pro bono advice from his law firm) leadership, guidance, insights, sense of humor, and calm, rational perspective on a myriad of challenges. John was one of the key board members who led a shell-shocked faculty, staff, board and parent body through the unexpected loss of Sally and the first few months of transition. He later co-chaired the national search that found our current Head of School, Kim Wargo. He has always been a champion of our faculty and staff.

We will miss John as a trustee but will always be grateful for his tremendous counsel and leadership. We know he will remain an advocate and supporter of this inspiring institution.

New Board Members



JESSICA MCKECHNIE

Jessica McKechnie, Ph.D., is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Counseling, Higher Education, and Special Education at the University of Maryland, College Park. She has degrees in Psychology, Vocational Rehabilitation Counseling, and Counselor Education from the University of Maryland. Dr. McKechnie has co-authored several book chapters and presented at national conferences on the subject of multicultural counseling.

She and her husband **Andrew McKechnie** have been Lab parents since 2022 and have two daughters at The Lab School: in the Middle School, **Isabella “Isa” McKechnie** is in the fifth grade and **Penelope McKechnie** is in her first year in the Lower School.



BILL STIXRUD

William ‘Bill’ Stixrud, Ph.D., is a clinical neuropsychologist and founder of The Stixrud Group. He is also a faculty member at Children’s National Medical Center and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics at the George Washington University School of Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Stixrud is the co-author, with Ned Johnson, of the national best-selling book, *The Self-Driven Child: The Science and Sense of Giving Your Kids More Control Over Their Lives*. Dr. Stixrud’s approach to neuropsychological assessment has been shaped by an appreciation of the importance of identifying the strengths of children, teens, and young adults, as it is their strengths that they will use to find their way in the world.

He has been a fan favorite of Lab’s Lecture Series and most recently was the Guest Speaker at Lab’s Lecture Series: *Addressing the Mental Health Crisis in Children, Teens and Young Adults: What Parents and Educators Can Do*, in October, 2023.



DANIEL WILSON

Daniel Wilson is the Senior Director of Government Affairs & Advocacy at the National Council on Aging. Previously, he was the Director of Marketing and Outreach for the DC Dual Choice Health Plan at United Healthcare. Mr. Wilson earned an Associate of Applied Science degree in Mortuary Science from the University of the District of Columbia and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Hampton University.

He and his wife **Keely Wilson** have been Lab parents for four years, and he has been active in the past as the Communications Coordinator for PALS, Lab’s Parents Association. Their son **Rutherford “Ru” Wilson** is in the seventh grade.

Advancement Report

A Note from the CAO



In my first year as the Chief Advancement Officer of Lab, I have been energized by the support our community has shown for this special institution. During the 2023–24 year, we raised 74% more than the previous year. Just as importantly, we did so by increasing the participation of all of the stakeholders in our community. We had 93% more donors vis-à-vis the preceding year and saw a faculty and staff participation level of more than 75%. The generosity of our parents, faculty and staff, alumni, past parents, grandparents and friends demonstrate how much The Lab School is supported by the people who know what a difference it makes in the lives of our students. It is the strength of this community that will be so important as we imagine what comes next for the future of The Lab School.

Your philanthropic support over the past year translated to:

- Increased financial assistance totaling \$2,347,650 for the 2024–25 school year, representing 10% of Lab’s operational budget
- Expanded budget for professional development opportunities for our faculty, clinicians and staff

It has been my privilege over the past year to meet so many of you and hear the stories about why you support this school. The learning environment here is truly special and shows our students how their differences are also their strengths. Each gift to Lab helps celebrate these differences and makes the mission of our school possible. We are grateful for your continued support and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Thank you for being an integral part of The Lab School’s journey. Your belief in our mission and your commitment to our students make all the difference.

With profound gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Althea Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Althea Wilson

GIFTS RECEIVED

Annual Giving	\$	812,521
Endowment	\$	404,510
Gala	\$	416,179
Total new funds raised	\$	1,633,210



Combined Giving

Combined Giving Societies

The Combined Giving Societies acknowledge and celebrate the generosity of donors who supported any and all of our fundraising efforts at the highest levels during the 2023–24 fiscal year. This list includes cash gifts received for the Gala, The Lab School Fund, payments on Capital Campaign pledges, or any other designated gifts (it does not include new pledges). We are incredibly grateful for your above-and-beyond support.

EDISON SOCIETY **\$100,000 OR MORE**

Anonymous
Alan Dabbiere
Benitha Howells*
Robert and Aimee Lehrman
Hal Malchow* and Anne Mahoney

PICASSO SOCIETY **\$25,000 OR MORE**

Robert and Sarah Bassam
Bruce and Deborah Downey
Malcolm Goodridge III*
Agnes Gund
[REDACTED]
Andrew and Jessica McKechnie
Mark Nielsen and Robert Crawford
Anna Traggio

* *deceased*

GRAHAM BELL SOCIETY **\$10,000 OR MORE**

Anonymous
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Trevor and Ciera Ashley
Jeffrey Bauman and Linda Fienberg / The Beech Street Foundation
Thomas DePasquale and Rafik Djida
Krista and Thomas Di Iaconi
Linda Fisher
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Kathryn Hamm and Amy Walter
Marc and Leana Katz
Dennis Kern
Jeff and Anne Mitchell
Dominic and Kimberly Pomponi
Matt Reilly
Jon Riberas and Belen Orjales / Fundación Ribera
Tige and Elizabeth Savage
Randy Smith and Diane Sinclair
Peter and Kathy Tenhula / Frechette Family Foundation
Deborah Wise / The Edith and Herbert Lehman Foundation
Peter and Cheryl Zimmer

The Societies are named for historical figures who struggled with traditional learning and are thought to have had learning differences as we know them today.



The Lab School Fund

Leadership Gift Levels

Contributions to The Lab School Fund are vital to the financial well-being of the school as these unrestricted and designated funds support Lab's general operating budget and key priorities including financial aid and faculty development opportunities.

THE VISIONARY CIRCLE **\$25,000 AND ABOVE**

Anonymous
Alan Dabbieri / The Dabbieri Family
Foundation
Bruce and Deborah Downey
Malcolm Goodridge III*
[REDACTED]
Robert and Aimee Lehrman

THE FOUNDER CIRCLE **\$10,000 TO \$24,999**

Anonymous
Trevor and Ciera Ashley
Jeffrey Bauman and Linda Fienberg / The
Beech Street Foundation
Thomas DePasquale and Rafik Djida
Krista and Thomas Di Iaconi
Linda Fisher
Jeremy FitzGerald
Kathryn Fulton and Robert Kyle
Dennis Kern
Jeff and Anne Mitchell
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Dominic and Kimberly Pomponi
Matt Reilly
Jon Riberas and Belen Orjales / Fundación
Ribera
Peter and Kathy Tenhula / Frechette Family
Foundation
Debby Wise / The Edith and Herbert
Lehman Foundation
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THE HEAD OF SCHOOL **CIRCLE** **\$5,000 TO \$9,999**

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Yurman Family Foundation

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 Christine Winchester
 Kim Wargo, *ex officio*
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 Peter Zimmer

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 Russell Stacy and Mary-Margaret
 Joan Wise

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 Adam Price and Margot Brown
 Mark and Stephanie Duatschek
 Russell and Stefanie Firestone III
 Scott and Danielle Garten
 Phearom Mey
 Vernard and Cynthia Portis
 Wes and Aggie Schwark
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House 5

Anonymous (2)
 Katie Byrd
 Daniel and Gena Feith
 Marc and Leana Katz
 Robert and Suzanne McDonald
 Jessica and Andrew McKechnie
 Bill and Leah Musico

MIDDLE SCHOOL

5th Grade

Anonymous (4)
 Maggie Bright
 Cary Devorsetz and Jenny O'Shea
 Mark and Stephanie Duatschek
 Kianna Fowlkes
 Steve and Holly Hartell
 Amy Lovejoy
 Oscar Maccio and Rebecca Moudry
 C.J. and Becca Mahoney
 Thomas Moore and Betsy Williams



Brian and Erin Roth
 Toby Russell
 Kelly Ryan
 Mark Sagat and Kerri Wade
 Matt and Jenn Scully
 Peter and Cheryl Zimmer

6th Grade

Tuve Floden and Dana Al-Ebrahim
 Christian and Inga Barry
 Shawn Ciers and Kameya Shows-Ciers
 Joseph Clark and Keisha Streeter-Clark
 Selim and Laura Elekdag
 Joel and Arielle Elliott
 David and Ellen Ginsberg
 Constantine and Frenchie Gogos
 Keith and Shelby Harper
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 Brian McIlhargie and Julie Reddig
 David and Jennifer Miller
 Mark Nielsen and Robert Crawford
 Casey O'Shea and Wendy Adams
 Chris and Emily Pistilli
 Dominic and Kimberly Pomponi
 Kelly Ryan
 Roy and Kelly Schwartz
 Keith and Leah Sumner
 Erskine and Loren Wells III

Loren Williams
 Eric Widra and Jessica Garcia Widra
 Daniel and Keely Wilson

7th Grade

Anonymous (2)
 Cheryl Boyce
 Alyson Chrzan Scott
 Russell and Stefanie Firestone III
 Brandon and Marta Flickinger
 Mathew Verghis and Mona Khan
 Stephen and Pam Krooth
 Justin Lavella and Joan Zoey
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 Tobi Osobukola-Abubu
 Brian and Katie Peters
 Luke and Alicia Pressel
 David and Susan Pugach
 Matt Reilly
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 Neal and Darcey Thomson
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8th Grade

Anonymous
 Robert and Sarah Bassam
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 David and DeJha Bower
 Patrick Corvington
 Thomas DePasquale and Rafik Djida
 Mark and Djinni Field

Jesús Soriano Molla and Corinne Graff
 William and Jocelyn Gross
 Ben and Lauren Hilyard
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 Sam and Emily Strulson
 JoAnn Volk
 Elizabeth and Kevin Wrege

UPPER SCHOOL

9th Grade

Anonymous
 Steven and Julie Barrios
 Wendy Blaupied
 Jeff and Laurie Chenoweth
 John and Kathryn Dobes
 James D'Orta and Jed Ross
 Russell and Stefanie Firestone III
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 Joseph and Alysa Hutnik
 Shenearah Lassiter
 Carrie Mahan
 Jess Saalfield
 Emmy Shacter
 Nicolas Fetchkoand Lisa Signorello
 Roger and Melissa St Louis
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10th Grade

Deborah Becker
 Yvonne Bennett
 Heath Cox and Christina Sharkey
 Greg and Kelly Doolan
 Elisabeth Huybens
 Jeffrey Kohn and Susanne Matthiesen
 Robert and Aimee Lehrman
 Jim Lichoulas and Shannon McNamara
 Claudia Menashe
 Khaled Rabbani and Katrina Holliday

11th Grade

Caleb Kramer and Ryan Allen
 Peter Skerlj and Roberta Alvarez
 Robert and Seda Brown
 Sean and Katherine Buckley
 Carlos and Stephane Casal
 Kathryn Hamm and Amy Walter
 John and Erica Hurvitz
 Marty Spitzer and Christine Lewicki
 Tom and Jana Lynch
 Charles and Jan McNamara
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 Emmy Shacter

12th Grade

Anonymous (3)
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Katherine and Trevor Voglmayr
Lee Walzer and Kevin O'Keefe
Pamela Wasserman and Daniel Adcock
Lisa and Lloyd Weems
Timothy Welsh
Mark and Wendy Wigtil
Susan Wolk

* *deceased*

ALUMNI

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Anonymous
Jacob Brody-Ogborn '17
Kevin Bucher '91
Lauren Clark '22
Ann Marie Coakley
June Durkee '17
Raven Featherstone '00
Michael Fedoruk '00
Demetri Hooker '11
Jamie Hundley '20
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The 39th Annual Gala

For nearly 40 years, the Annual Gala has highlighted the achievements of people with learning differences who have found great success in their various fields. This year's Gala recognized and celebrated **Dr. Toby Cosgrove, MD**, former CEO of the Cleveland Clinic; **Quinn Murphy**, celebrity make-up artist, podcaster, and entrepreneur; and **Lindsay Wright '02**, a school counselor and business owner who is also the 2024 Distinguished Alum.



Held on The Lab School's Reservoir Campus, the Garden of Growth-themed night was a magnificent celebration of the Lab community. The evening's live and silent auctions raised crucial funds for increased financial aid and teacher salaries, and guests were treated to a special performance of "Far From the Home I Love" from the LabDrama production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. It was an amazing night of food, dancing, and celebrating Lab's power to cultivate our students' futures!



“The persistence that students with dyslexia learn going through the education system will wind up as a gift. The gift is about thinking differently, about being creative, about seeing things in a different light. The combination of persistence and creativity and being able to think differently is an amazing opportunity. So, I look at dyslexia and the different ways brains work as a gift, and I think you all should look at your children as gifted. I have a daughter who is dyslexic. I know how hard it is to be a parent, particularly to someone who is not suited to the round hole they are trying to be fit into. The combination of persistence and the gift of thinking differently is what will distinguish your children, and what distinguishes this school.”

– DR. TOBY COSGROVE



GALA DAY AT FOXHALL. The awardees visited students in their classrooms to learn about the Lab experience first-hand.



ASSEMBLY IN THE GYM. With the whole student body gathered together, **Lindsay Wright** and **Quinn Murphy** shared their inspiring stories and answered audience questions.

Thank you to everyone who supported the 39th Lab School Gala!

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The dedicated educators and therapists at Lab did not just teach me to be successful, they unlocked potential and equipped me with the tools to navigate the academic challenges that once seemed insurmountable. To the faculty and staff of The Lab School, I extend my deepest gratitude. You believed in me when believing in myself seemed too far to reach, and you provided me with the foundation which I stand upon today. The skills and strategies I developed at The Lab School have become the cornerstone of my career as a professional school counselor. Every day, I draw upon the lessons learned and the experiences gained during my time at The Lab School to support and advocate for students under my care.



– LINDSAY WRIGHT '02



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I think The Lab School is the greatest school in the world. Honestly, I walked around and thought everyone, learning differences or not, should have the opportunity to learn in a school like this. I was completely blown away. To the parents: your kids are amazing. They're going to be ok; they're going to be successful – just keep believing in them. The kids I saw yesterday are thriving in school. I thought, 'I wish I could've gone here, who knows what I could've made of myself if I had gone here.' The only problem that dyslexic thinkers have is in the school system that teaches you that if you're not a rote learner then you're not smart and you're not going to succeed. We need to let go of that old thought pattern.



– QUINN MURPHY



TOURING LAB. Student ambassadors led the honorees and their family members on a tour of Lab's Reservoir campus.



Here's the thing I believe about our kids: yes, they have learning differences and sometimes that is really challenging and it takes a lot of hard work to overcome those challenges, but what we know here is that our kids are filled with amazing gifts and strengths, and we always start from their strengths to work on the things that are hard for them.



– KIM WARGO, HEAD OF SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE

THE LAB SCHOOL **LAB**

40TH ANNUAL GALA

Saturday, April 26, 2025



The Lab School Fund

Show your love for Lab by making a gift to The Lab School Fund, which supports the general operating budget and impacts all aspects of the school.

Learn more by visiting us online at labschool.org/support-lab or contacting Nia Graham, Director of Annual Giving, at nia.graham@labschool.org.

Make a gift at labschool.org/giving or scan the QR code.



There Are So Many Ways to Give

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AARON BOOSE MEMORIAL FUND

This fund was established in 2021 in memory of Aaron Boose, a beloved social worker at Lab. It provides financial aid for students from historically underrepresented communities to attend Lab and fully utilize our innovative programs, including Psychological Services, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and school-sponsored travel opportunities. His impact on our school continues to resonate, and through the Aaron Boose Memorial Fund, we ensure Mr. Aaron's work lives on, providing equity and access for future generations.

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Transforming Lives. Transforming Education. Gifts below are new gifts to the Capital Campaign that built the new high school or payments on campaign pledges paid during the 2023-2024 school year.

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STEVE WOLFE TEACHING INNOVATION FUND

Named for an innovative former science teacher at Lab, the Steve Wolfe Teaching Innovation Fund presents an annual award to a Lab teacher who embodies the creative teaching that is central to Lab's mission.

Tige and Elizabeth Savage
Evan and Sondra Wolff

The **Steve Wolfe Innovative Teaching Award** is given each year to a Lab teacher who demonstrates a commitment to creative and unique lessons in the classroom. Parents and faculty are invited to nominate teachers who they believe exemplify creative teaching excellence and then nominees submit applications describing their innovative approach to teaching. This year's winner is Upper School science teacher **Jon Alexis** for his work empowering students to direct their own learning through experiential and real-world applications.

In addition to teaching earth science, environmental science, biology, and an introduction to engineering to Upper School students, Jon directly advises 12th grade students completing their Senior Thesis projects on STEM topics. He also has a passion for inspiring students of color to explore the possibility of STEM careers through exposure to enrichment programs and resources, and in the past has sponsored an extracurricular group known as Tinkering Engineers of Color, or TEC.

When he first arrived in the Lab Middle School, he was profoundly influenced by observing the innovative teaching of **Steve Wolfe**, the award's namesake. Since then, and as he transitioned to the Upper School, he has endeavored to incorporate real-life applications for the topics covered in his class, from catapult launches to encouraging students to act as advocates for environmental justice, measuring their own ecological footprints and exploring how they can be reduced. His efforts to strike a balance between formal schooling and experiential learning has been noticed outside of Lab as well: this year he received the **Bob Thompson Excellence in Energy Award** from the National Energy Education Development for representing the childlike wonder of science and energy.



FRANKLIN STROUD FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Franklin Stroud Foundation for Children with Learning Differences

The 2023–2024 Franklin Stroud Foundation Scholarship was granted to **Claire Buckley '25**.



STEVEN TIBER SCHOLAR AWARD

Tiber Financial Aid Endowment Fund



The 2023–24 winner of the Steven Tiber Scholar Award was **Cristian Martinez '28**, pictured here with his mother **Necole Martinez** and Endowment Fund sponsor **Stephen Tiber**.

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Lab's success couldn't be possible without our parent volunteers. We are so grateful to them for the work that they do to bring the community together and support The Lab School.



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Stefanie Firestone

6th Grade

Jennifer Pellegrini and Shelby
Harper

5th Grade

Christine Winchester and Kianna
Fowlkes

4th Grade

Leana Katz and Stephanie
Duatschek

3rd Grade

Mary-Margaret Stacey, Katherine
DeBenedictus Buckley and
Shadonna Maes

2nd Grade

Courtney Parrie

The Lab School Annual Report 2023–2024

The donor lists included in this Annual Report were compiled by the Institutional Advancement Office of The Lab School of Washington. We have made every effort to prepare this report accurately. However, despite our best efforts, errors and omissions do occasionally occur.

If you made a contribution between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 and your name was omitted, please accept our sincere apologies. To advise us of an error, please contact the Institutional Advancement Office at (202) 944–2201 or email althea.wilson@labschool.org.

Career Day



Graduates from The Lab School have gone on to thrive in a wide array of fields. In March, Upper School students had the opportunity to hear from some of these alums during our first Career Day since before the pandemic.

IN MARCH, UPPER SCHOOL students participated in Career Day 2024. The program opened with Keynote Speaker **Audra Gray**, Lab's Director of Human Resources & Funded Billing Manager, who has insights into, and responsibility for, facets of Lab's daily operations that encompass multiple career fields. Ms. Gray shared how her early years influenced her professional journey, the importance of self-awareness and making good choices, and the different forms of professional relationships within the workplace.

Upper School students then attended three sessions of their choosing, each led by a Lab School Alum. Our 16 Alum represented a variety of fields - from mechanical and software engineering, information and cybersecurity, and fine arts to school counseling and clinical counseling, facility operations, and television production and more.

In their sessions, Alums shared the professional journey that led them to their current position and details about their current roles - including typical daily tasks and aspects that are

most rewarding and most challenging, as well as guidance on courses of study, skills, abilities, and attributes that lead to success in the field. This was a unique opportunity for current students to hear from individuals who truly understand the creative ways they think and learn, and who have capitalized on their strengths to find great success!

Our graduates shared many nuggets of wisdom about how their Lab School experience prepared them for life after Lab, including college and the professional workplace.

Jack Feeley '07, now an ABC News Producer, put it like this:



First, Lab taught me that because of my learning difference, I am entitled to certain benefits at universities like disability services, which in turn afforded me things like extra time for exams. That was absolutely enormous for me when I attended a state university whose teaching model is more geared toward big lectures. Second, Lab taught me to look at my difference as an advantage. Just because I see things in a different way from most people doesn't mean I'm stupid. I may see things most people DON'T see, and that is truly powerful. ”

Hearing from successful professionals with learning differences and a shared experience as a Lab School student was affirming for our Upper Schoolers. The speakers offered many different perspectives on career opportunities from a wide array of positions and fields.

The positions and employers represented during Career Day:

- **Joint Awards Program Manager**, Department of Defense
- **Associate Professor**, Howard University Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts
- **Producer**, ABC News
- **Manager of Facility Operations**, Janjer Enterprises
- **Architect & Designer, Founding Partner**, Jacobsen Architecture, LLC
- **Staff Software Engineer**, Blackbaud
- **Communications Director**, U.S. House of Representatives
- **Senior Technical Program Manager**, UiPath
- **Internship Coordinator**, The Lab School Upper School
- **Emergency Medical Technician**, INOVA Loudoun Emergency Room
- **Manager, Business Operations**, National Geographic Partners
- **Protective Armor Specialist**, United States Secret Service
- **Mechanical Designer**, JEM Engineering
- **Nephrology Social Worker**, Children's National Hospital
- **Uniformed Division Police Officer**, United States Secret Service
- **Professional School Counselor**, Prince George's County Public Schools



Graduation 2024



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE Class of 2024! Their graduation on June 14 was the culmination of their time spent at The Lab School of Washington. Whether they joined this community just for their senior year or have attended since their days on the Foxhall campus, the growth and success of these graduates has been remarkable. They are the first Upper School class to go from freshmen to graduation under Head of School **Kim Wargo**. “From Day One they demonstrated their willingness to have a conversation with the head of school at any given

moment,” recalled Ms. Wargo during her address at the commencement ceremony. “This speaks to their kindness: to adults, to younger students, and to each other. Each and every one of them adds something special to this class and collectively they have enriched our community.”

The Class of 2024 overcame a great deal of adversity to reach the graduation stage in the Lab gymnasium, including beginning Upper School remotely in the fall of 2020. Senior class speaker **Liam Crowley** spoke about these



Be bold, take on challenges beyond your wildest dreams, do that thing that scares you because there's a big world waiting out there for those who want to grab it. And I think at The Lab School you've been taught to reach high, to do well, to be kind, and to grab all the opportunity in the world. ”

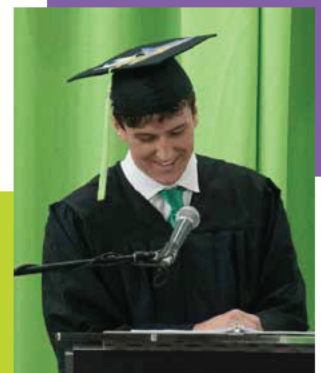
– MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER

experiences in his commencement speech. “Adversity is there to challenge us, giving us the choice to either give up or keep going,” he said. “When we tackle adversity, we learn who we are as individuals, and begin to better understand our strengths and weaknesses. We also learn how to adapt, innovate and push beyond what we think we are capable of. I have no doubt that each of us sitting here today has the strength and skills to overcome any challenge you are about to encounter.”

Commencement speaker **Mayor Muriel Bowser** also addressed this theme in her speech to the graduates, telling them, “one of my favorite things to say in life is ‘keep pushing.’ In life, you’re going to hit obstacles – you’ll meet challenges, you’ll meet great opportunities and disappointments. And what I’ve learned being the mayor of a big city, an important city, is

that forces will try to get you off your path but no matter what happens, it’s important to keep pushing.”

As the new alums take their next steps beyond The Lab School, we are excited to see the ways in which they keep pushing. Now equipped with a Lab education, we are excited to see where their journeys take them!



Many of us have learning differences, but these differences are the backbone of how we perceive the world around us. People often believe these differences are what restricts them from accomplishing their goals and dreams, however we know because of our time here at Lab that learning differences allow us to think differently, be innovative, and find the loopholes others can't see. ”

– LIAM CROWLEY '24, STUDENT SPEAKER

“ When I think of the Class of 2024, I think of how committed they have been as individuals to their goals and passions and how determined they have been to leave Lab a better place than they found it. As individuals, each of them is a testament to the fact that different thinkers are capable of solving difficult problems. As a group, I know that they will lead the way to helping the world see differences as extraordinary. ”

– KIM WARGO, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!





First Row, left to right: Safia Rabbani, Reisa Blum, Anthony Bowler, Sion Bell, Owen Toner, Chase Davis, Penelope Chavez, Miguel Diaz-Lerman, Hailey Morrison, Matthew Meyer, Amanda Dabrowski

Second Row, left to right: Lucas Mace, Trey Ruth, Trogon Friedenson, Luca Williams, Mari Weisskopf, Jaylin Ivey, Devin Cohen, Angus Larson, Juan Riberas, Matthew Lippock, Josh Arnold

Third Row, left to right: Trinity Chandiramani, Chris Blake, Ignacio Velasco Basterra, Ben Harrison, Will Dolan, Louis Brahin, Liam Crowley, Gavin Smith, Leah Chaffin

Class of 2024 College Acceptances

Adelphi University
 Alfred University
American College of Norway
 American University
 University of Arizona
 Boston University
 Champlain College
 Christopher Newport University
Clarkson University
 Clemson University
Colby College
College of Charleston
 Columbia College Chicago
Davis & Elkins College
 University of Dayton
 University of Delaware
 University of Denver
 DePaul University
Drexel University
 Duquesne University
Elon University

Florida Atlantic University
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Florida International University
 Fordham University
Frostburg State University
Full Sail University
 George Mason University
Goucher College
 Guilford College
 University of Hartford
Hofstra University
Holy Cross College
IE University Madrid
 Illinois Wesleyan University
 Ithaca College
 James Madison University
 Kettering University
 Loyola University Chicago
 Loyola University Maryland
 Marist College
Marymount University

McDaniel College
 Mercyhurst University
Montana State University
Montgomery College
Mount St. Mary's University
Muhlenberg College
University of Nebraska Lincoln
 New England Institute of Technology
 University of New Haven
 Northeastern University
Pace University
 Parsons School of Design
Pennsylvania College of Technology
 University of Pittsburgh
Pratt Institute
Prince George's Community College
 Providence College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
 Rollins College
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Saint Joseph's University
 Salisbury University
 University of South Carolina
 Stevenson University
University of Tampa
 Temple University
 Towson University
 University of Vermont
 Wake Forest University
Wheaton College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

**bold indicates final destination*

Departures



BECKY ALBERTS

In 1999 when **Becky Alberts** was hired by Sally Smith and Sally Seawright to teach eighth grade science in Lab's Junior High, she told them that she was only going to be staying for a couple of years. Instead, she spent the next 25 years embodying Lab's philosophy of blending academics and the arts. She has multiple degrees in the arts and education and, while teaching at Lab, also served on the adjunct faculty at the Corcoran School of Art and Design George Washington University.

Whether using art to teach science or science to teach art, her approach shaped countless Lab students. "I think of the arts as not just the actual 'making.' It's a way of thinking. It's how you approach things," says Ms. Alberts. "A really good thing for students in high school to understand is how you can use art as a tool for learning when you leave this institution."

Ms. Alberts spent her first 17 years at Lab teaching a variety of science courses to the students then in Junior High, and her background as an artist was fundamental to her teaching style. "I can tell you that I did horribly in science when I was in school," she says. "It was solely pulled from a textbook and

it just didn't make sense to me the way it was taught." An experience during an AmeriCorps program became her "aha moment" when students interacted with scientific principles while creating sculptural pieces. This led her to think about the scientific principles behind her work with lithographs and etchings and she began to pull art and science together in her teaching.

In the fall of 2016, Ms. Alberts moved to the newly built Upper School. Over the years, she taught biology and developed courses in oil painting, sculpture and metalworking. "In metals, one of the things that's really great for our students is that actual physical metal is not forgiving. You have to go in a certain order, and students have to start coming up with strategies for how to work within that structure," she says.

The metals program helped show off the Upper School's new Makerspace, and it also gave Ms. Alberts the opportunity to model a course after a college art program. "It's a very

different thing to have to approach art as a discipline and understand that you can't always do what you want to do. It can be a hard adjustment when students go to art school, so I wanted them to have a little bit of that experience so that it would be familiar."

"One of the things that has kept me here is the autonomy of the teachers. You can be really creative and you can try all different kinds of things. There's so much enrichment that I personally have gotten through this whole experience," she reflects. In her retirement from Lab, Ms. Alberts returned to Maine, continuing to adjunct teach, and having plenty of time for her own artwork.





SARA HAWKINS

Director of Visual Arts Grades 1–8 and Teaching Artist **Sara Hawkins** accepted a position at Congressional School near her home in Falls Church. Arriving at Lab in 2015 to teach Intermediate Museum Club, she took over as Director of Visual Arts after **Mark Jarvis** retired as the leader of Lab’s Arts program in 2019. “Katherine Schantz asked me if I would be willing to take over as sort of the ‘inspiration leader’ of the visual arts department,” she recalls. “She wanted me to continue to inspire and breathe life into the arts department. To me that’s a great challenge, because Mark Jarvis brought a lot of joy and there was always something creative and funky and something new going on.”

As the new visual arts director, she helped support Lab Social Worker **Aaron Boose** organize the first Identity, Art, Music, and Unity event in 2019. (Find more about IAMU on page 6.)

After COVID-19 necessitated a switch to virtual learning, Ms. Hawkins helped ensure that IAMU would continue in the wake of Mr. Aaron’s tragic passing. “A lot of us who helped support him in the first one got together and we decided ‘we have to do this.’ So even though it was virtual, it was actually a really, really special one because we had these three visiting artists who Zoomed in and met with each division.” She continued to help

organize the event in the following years as it shifted from virtual to hybrid to finally fully in person during the 2022–23 school year.

As the need for social distancing reduced, Ms. Hawkins was able to spearhead more art installations and collaborative murals around campus. She frequently helped change the scenery in the Castle building’s gallery, whether with an exhibit from her Museum Club or the work of her Visual Arts class. “Lab is like the magical school that I never thought existed as a learner and as a teacher,” says Ms. Hawkins. “The freedom to teach to the students’ interests and needs was a totally new concept for me. I wish I could have been taught like this!”



LIORA VALERO

Liora Valero, Lab’s Head of Academic Clubs, stepped down from her role at the end of the 2023–24 academic year.

Liora first arrived to Lab in 2016 to teach the Renaissance Club and credits former Head of Intermediate **Kim Brown** for finding her this perfect role. “She took a chance on me and helped me get into classes at AU and develop more as a teacher.” The immersive and experiential learning of the Academic Club Methodology was a perfect fit, and in 2022, Liora took over the leadership of the program following the retirement of former Head of Academic Clubs **Noel Bicknell**.

Outside of Academic Clubs, Liora held several roles at Lab. Her teaching portfolio grew to include a visual arts class and during the 2023–24 academic year she also joined Lab’s Global division.

She found her most personally meaningful role at Lab when she joined Lab’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Team as a coordinator in 2020. “Joining the DEIB team was life changing. I’m so grateful for all of the folks there that helped me grow,” she says.

A talented musician and singer, she was a member of the Lab Faculty Chorus for the duration of her time at Lab. She will be focusing on music and art following her departure from Lab though she plans to continue to teach with the Fusion Academy in DC. “I’m grateful and appreciative of so many of the people I have worked with at Lab,” she says. “I’ve loved watching the kids at Lab learn and grow, and teaching the Academic Club Methodology has helped me grow as well. I will take a lot of Lab and its philosophy with me.”

SHORTS

Dear Dyslexia...

As part of National Dyslexia Awareness Month in October 2023, a group of Upper School students visited Capitol Hill for the launch of *Dear Dyslexia: The Postcard Project*. They heard from speakers including Gil Gershon, founder of the project, Representative Larry Bucshon, sponsor of the *21st Century Dyslexia Act*, and dyslexic parent and advocate Winifred Winston who hosts the Black and Dyslexic podcast. Lab students were among the hundreds of people around the world who participated in the project, which involves choosing images and words to represent the unique perspectives from having dyslexia. The event was a celebration of the strengths and “hyper-abilities” of dyslexic thinking.



Maryrose D'Orta '27, Laila North '27, Head of Upper School Audra Krupp, Angus Larson '24, and Jason Lehrman '26 attending the *Dear Dyslexia* event in the Rayburn House Office Building.



ISSAC Champions!

In February, the 7th and 8th Grade girls won the ISSAC MS Girls Basketball championship. Coached by **Sydni Williams '15** and **Jabari Miller**, the team won their trophy with a 21–10 victory over Berman in The Lab School Gym. It was a great game with lots of excitement on both ends of the court. Congratulations to all the players!



Night Light: A Collaborative Arts Experience

A new arts experience from teaching artists and student artists across divisions was launched in January 2024. In partnership with the PALS Chili Cookoff, *Night Light* illuminated Main Street with giant lanterns, glowing planetariums, paintings seen by blacklight, and other art installations playing with light and color. Teaching artists from the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools used their creative visions to support their student artists in the creation of the vibrant works that made up the exhibit.

Back to the Nest

Devised in 2020, the Lab Global Division has offered our unique approach to students anywhere around the globe through daily synchronous online learning. Though our Global students usually gather for class in their own homes, the Back to the Nest event is an opportunity for them to meet in person and spend time on The Lab School's campus in Washington, DC. In the fall of 2023, Global Division students and faculty members who were able to attend the event traveled to our main campus from all around the world, from as far as Brazil and Luxembourg to as close as Sterling and Potomac. The grand finale of the event took place on stage at the Shaun Miskell Theatre. Students put on a showcase for the gathered families, showing off the songs, dances, and performances they had prepared in class.



Alumni News

LATE 60s & EARLY 70s

Michael “Mike” Marlin is Director of the California Braille and Talking Book Library in Sacramento, a regional library in partnership with the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled. He shared that he is a “proud blind and recovering reading disabled librarian!” Among his hobbies, Mike plays free improvisation banjo with prepared objects and, although his avant-garde sound differs widely, he hopes he makes his late grandfather Ted Marlin, a tenor banjo Swing-era musician on the Pennsylvania/Ohio dance band circuit, proud. Mike travels the world with his yellow lab guide dog Teddy (no relation to his grandpa!).



70s & EARLY 80s

Simon Jacobsen lives in Delaplane, Virginia. An architect who works internationally, his book *American Modern Home: Jacobsen Architecture + Interiors* was published in late 2022.

EARLY 80s

Charles Hunter is living in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, retired and enjoying life!



1990

Kate Silfen is a Health Sciences Librarian at Boston University.

1991

From 2014–2023, **Jon Ford** served in the Indiana State Senate. Jon is currently serving as President of Reliable Energy, Inc, and he was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for Indiana State University by the Indiana Governor. He and his wife Kirsten, a pediatric occupational therapist, have twin boys who are completing their bachelor’s degrees.



1995

Cindy Gramlich-Clem and her husband built their dream home in Edgewater, Maryland. Their three daughters have all graduated from high school, and her eldest graduated college in 2023. Cindy is enjoying the small craft business she started, Crafty Creations by Cindy, and attends craft fairs all around the DMV, in addition to organizing events at her local church.

1996

Brendan Carey lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with his wife, where he is a special education teacher working in autistic support for IU-13, an educational service agency in Pennsylvania, while simultaneously pursuing his master’s degree through Wilson College.

Marissa Riegel (nee McClelland) lives in Virginia and works at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security Service.



1999

Matthew Boyle is enjoying the great weather and laid back lifestyle in Southern California where he lives with his wife Ge, their daughter Penelope, and their Doberman Low Key Dynamite. A senior Research Data Architect for Precision Medicine at the City of Hope Comprehensive Cancer Center, his team focuses on changing how cancer is studied by multiplying data available for both human and AI analysis. In 2023, they received a Bio-IT Innovative Practices Award for their POSEIDON platform!

For more than 20 years, **Jade Curtis** has worked at the Library of Congress. As a Digital Imaging Specialist focused on cultural heritage, she has supported dozens of exhibits and worked on many different digitization projects that are part of the LOC online collections.



2000

Andre Dickerson is in his tenth year as a Senior Network Engineer with Kaiser Permanente. He is in charge of network operations for Chicago, Georgia, DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

For 14 years, **Raven Featherstone** has been a member of the teaching faculty at Howard University. She is now a tenured Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Design Program at the Chadwick A. Boseman College of Fine Arts. She continues to produce her own art and exhibit in galleries and museums.



2001

Luciano Carafano is a Senior Business Process Analyst for Inflow, supporting the DoD Office of Inspector General, in Alexandria, Virginia. He and his wife have a three year old son.

Patty Gray is a Women's Protection and Empowerment Technical Advisor at the International Rescue Committee. She collaborates with phenomenal female colleagues to provide gender-based violence response services in a humanitarian setting while also contributing to the women's and girls' rights movement. In Brooklyn, Patty lives with her husband Hari and their dog Georgie.

Jason Hunter is a Program Specialist at the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. His office is dedicated to programs and projects to enhance the quality of early childhood

education, improve educational opportunities, and boost employment prospects for individuals with disabilities. Additionally, the office aims to elevate the expectations for people with disabilities, their families, their communities, and the nation.

With a BFA in Sculpture and a minor in Crafts focused on metalsmithing from Virginia Commonwealth University, plus years of experience in the outdoor design world, **Chris Johannsen** is now Owner of and Principal Designer for CREATIVEscapes. He designs high-end pools and outdoor living spaces, and his work has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Pool Magazine*, and *Luxury Pools Magazine*.

Lorin Mones is a realtor on the Homes with Mones Team with RLAH Real Estate. He and his wife Jackie (plus their pup Walter) recently welcomed Jordan into the family! And, their home proudly includes a stool Lorin made in Deiter's workshop during Middle School.



2002

Luis Catarineau is CEO, Music Producer, and Audio Engineer of The Way Home Productions, LLC, a multimedia production company and video marketing agency.

Jeremy Dann is a Stagehand at Rhino Staging & Event Solutions.

In April, **Joshua Goldberg** began work at Oracle as a Senior Systems Engineer.



After earning his Master of Social Work in September 2023 from Yeshiva University, **Will Young** began work as a Behavioral Health Specialist at Allwel in New York. He is also a commercial voiceover actor and award-winning actor, writer, and producer who has performed in America and England.

2003

Mariana Bornstein is an independent stylist who runs her business, Golden Hour, out of Rose & Sparrow Salon in DC. A mountaineer and alpine athlete, her work allows her the flexibility to achieve her goals in the mountains.

Laura Catarineau and **Dan Drury** live in Seattle with their daughter Mia. Laura specializes in User Growth at TikTok, and Dan is an Application Release Engineer for Amazon Web Services.

Michael Markowicz is an Audio Visual Technician at ACE AV. He is a 2024 graduate of Arizona State University with a degree in Graphic Information Technology.



Charles White married Rachel Trego in Washington, DC, on Palm Sunday!

2004

Happily married, **Zachary Aronow** and his wife are expecting a baby boy early this fall (they're already parents to two rabbits!). Zachary is a Senior Research Associate with the Democratic National Committee.

Alicia McNeill is the Physical Education Coordinator at Lab!

2005

Justin Uehlein and his wife Hali celebrated their first anniversary in August and are enjoying their new house. Following a Ph.D. in anthropology from American University and time in academia, Justin is now Vice President of Research and Industry Analysis at the National Music Publishers' Association.



2006

This past spring, **Nimi R B Maupin-Andersen** earned his Associate of Arts in general studies from University of Maryland Global Campus and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in general studies from the same university. He and his business partner recently started Capital Consultant Real Estate, LLC in Washington, D.C.



2007

Kirsten Brown continues to work at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and was recently promoted to Joint Awards Program Manager!

2008

In addition to working in the ICU at Friendship Hospital for Animals in Tenleytown, **Joseph Blum** attends Montgomery College. While he loves working with animals, he loves working with people even more and is pursuing a degree in social work.

Larry Jeter works in the event industry as an L1 Lighting Tech/AV General Tech. He has a four year old son and lives in DC.

Jessica Orloff was recently promoted to Store Director at Madewell in Portland, Oregon.



With many years of experience as a locksmith, **Maya Solomon-Lane** recently joined the team at Able Locksmiths LLC in Frederick, Maryland. Through training with Assa Abloy, Maya's education and certification in life safety and fire codes are rapidly expanding. This October Maya will marry partner Anneliese!

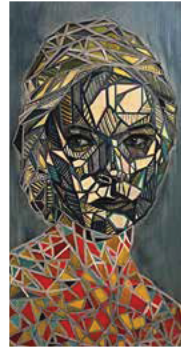
2009

In February, **Emily Cooper** joined MissionWired as an Account Director.

Michele Grote (nee Lipow) lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with her husband Hugh and young sons Hugh and James.



Following years of successful work as an actor and artist, **Will Kenyon** is now returning to the classroom to pursue a degree in social work from UDC.



2010

Tyler Hill is now in his seventh year as a member of Lab's Middle School staff.

A Senior Client Account Executive for AttainX, **Louisa Pearson** leads Air Force, Space Force and NOAA accounts. She has seen this women-owned small business quickly grow from 30 people when she first started to almost 350 people today.

2011

Vica Carpio (nee Kleiner) is the Lifestyle & Leisure Manager for an independent senior living community located in Rockville, Maryland. She recently got married and is looking forward to starting a family!



Edward Gildenhorn married his childhood crush, bought a house, and is playing open mics as often as possible. As a Lyft driver for almost six years, he's had the flexibility to focus on his two biggest passions - family and music - and he couldn't be happier!



Following many years as a Sales Representative and then Sales Manager at UniFirst Corporation, **Demetri Hooker** recently transitioned to an exciting new venture as Founder/Content Creator of A Witness LLC. He, his wife Sharon, and their new baby boy Hudson live in Jacksonville, Florida.

Liam McNamara is an Advanced Technology Account Executive for CDW-G in Austin, Texas. He was recently recognized with the prestigious President's Club award.



James Norden is a Senior Technical Program Manager within the Cybersecurity Department at UiPath.

Ryan Reardon is an Appraiser for KERR Central Appraisal District. He and his wife Rachel live in Texas.



In August, **Sasha Saidman** published her fourth children's book! *Melonade*, available on Amazon, is a beautiful story of how our differences can be our superpowers and how daring to stand out can often be the secret of success. Sasha, her husband and two children live in DC.

2012

For the past seven years, **Melanie Kent** has loved working at Reston Children's Center. Having earned an associate's degree in Early Childhood Development, she is now enrolled at Arizona State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. A highlight of the past year was when Melanie and her family visited the Kilele School in Kenya, singing a nursery rhyme in Swahili with the children and donating to the school's mission.

In the spring, **Amanda Libby** started a new position as Volunteer Communications Assistant at Bethesda Friends Meeting.



Alex Quist (nee Hollar) is an EMT at the INOVA Loudoun Emergency Department who also volunteers as an EMT with the Ashburn Volunteer Fire & Rescue. She is married to Matt and mom to two adorable kids, three-year-old Hank and newborn Zoe.



Stefan Walz is a Videographer/Multimedia Producer at GoTriangle Regional Public Transit Agency in Durham, North Carolina.

2013

Bryan Bradley lives in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and works for Virginia-based Accenture Federal Services as a Senior Application Developer. He and his wife Sam are the proud parents of Grant, who turned one in February.



2014

Russell Goodacre is a Program Analyst at the General Services Administration.

Eli Hovland is pursuing his Juris Doctor degree at Northeastern University School of Law. This summer he interned with the National Council on Disabilities and credits this placement, in part, to his Lab junior year internship in disability policy at the Senate HELP Committee. And, on June 15, he married fiancée Greer Turner in Philadelphia!



Marilena Siegel teaches 3rd Grade at Sidwell Friends School.



David Walters is completing his graduate degree at American University in their Special Education: Learning Disabilities Program. Last year he worked as a Teacher Assistant in the Middle School at The Katherine Thomas School and this year he joined the staff at Lab as an AU Fellow in our Middle School program!

2015



Michael Bryant is a Human Resources Business Partner for Priority Financial Group and for Dynamic Advisor Solutions in Phoenix.

Chris Kunk lives in New York and works full time as a stone carver. Since earning his MFA at the New York Academy of Art, he has focused his work on bas-relief, fine art medallions, statuettes, and pieces in bronze.



Matthew Prenskey is Communications Coordinator at the Institute for Justice.

Sajjan Singh is working toward a degree in sports management at Lynn University. He's also a part-time streamer on Twitch who still does his music and posts on YouTube from time to time.



Sydni Williams has a two year old son Roman. This past school year, Sydni joined the staff at Lab as a Head Coach for the Middle School Girls' Basketball Team – and they won the 2023–2024 ISSAC Middle School Championship in February! Sydni is also Assistant Coach for the Track and Upper School Volleyball teams, and she assists in the Middle School PE classes.



2016

After earning her bachelor's in Special Education and Early Childhood Education from New York University and her master's in Elementary Education from the University of Pennsylvania, **Madeline Boudy** joined the team at Elwyn Early Learning Services in Pennsylvania. She is a Lead Teacher in an early intervention program for children 3 to 6 years old who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Cole Hoch works as an Emerging Technology Strategy Consultant at Deloitte.

In New York, **Manuel Jolliffe-Mahoney** is a Network Support Specialist at Electronic Environments, a full-service residential custom electronics design and integration company.

2017

Following graduation from New College of Florida, **Jacob Brody-Ogborn** worked there full time as Coordinator of Campus Recreation. Last fall, he transitioned to part-time, allowing him to travel to Colombia, Peru, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and Spain. In addition to taking Spanish classes while traveling, Jacob has dedicated time to: volunteering at a hostel in Colombia, a non-profit school that serves low-income youth in Peru, and a foundation that sells books in Argentina; running a half marathon in Argentina; hiking Machu Picchu and both the Chilean and Argentinian side of Patagonia; and experiencing hundreds of other great adventures.



In August, **June Durkee** started a new role as AIM (Autism Initiative Mercyhurst) and Learning Support Services Coordinator at her alma mater Mercyhurst University.

Caroline Ryan is a Senior Analyst in the executive office at Goldman Sachs in New York City.

This summer, **Sydney Treat** joined the team at Rising Tide Interactive, a full-service marketing agency dedicated to helping Democratic and Progressive campaigns, committees, PACs, and nonprofits develop and implement digital strategies to succeed within their sector.

Eric Yorgey started his own business in Washington, DC, Frubie's Creative Cooking, which can be found online and on Instagram. In addition to cakes, cupcakes, cinnamon rolls, doughnuts and other sweets, he makes all kinds of "pizza adjacent" items, orange or ginger chicken, and chicken alfredo that are to die for. He also spends time live-streaming with a group of international friends on Twitch.



In June, **Charles Herman** started working with the Arizona Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee as a Field Organizer in Legislative District 2. In this position, Charles and their team are responsible for volunteer recruitment, planning and execution of events, data entry, and direct contact with voters.



2018

In addition to working toward his master's in Special Education from The George Washington University, **Davis FitzGerald** is a special education math and social studies teacher at Eastern Middle School.

Shortly after graduating *summa cum laude* from Union College with a degree in political science, **Nathaniel Hutton** joined M.C. Dean as a consultant. He was recently promoted to Technical Analyst 2.

Baxter Nichols works as an usher at both Signature Theatre and The Kennedy Center, in addition to working as an Accounting Clerk at Declaration Networks Group.



2019

Ben Garris is a Front Desk Agent at The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner.

Since July 2023, **Caitlin Green** has worked at Carahsoft Technology Corporation as an Account Representative.

Sam McKone graduated from McDaniel College in May with a bachelor's degree in philosophy. He then headed to North Carolina to work for the USGA at the US Open!

Yosi Zelalem is pursuing an environmental studies degree at The George Washington University. Since March, he has also served as the Mason District (Fairfax, Virginia) Representative For The Community Action Advisory Board.

In June, Class of 2019 Alumni **Jack Cameron, Angus McCredie, Caitlin Green, Ben Garris, and Grace Kyle** met for dinner at Lupo Verde near campus. They had a great time reconnecting and reminiscing!



2020

In May, **Evelyn Connor** graduated with Latin Honors from Allegheny College. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Community and Justice Studies, with minors in Black Studies and Education Studies. Her Senior Comprehensive Project, which she dedicated to Aaron Boose, was entitled "Effectively Building Anti-Racist Classrooms in Low-Income and Historically Marginalized Black Communities as a White-Presenting Teacher." Evelyn has just started her graduate studies at American University and a position as an elementary school teacher through City Teaching Alliance.

In December 2023, **Jackson Garwood** earned a degree in investment management from Lynn University. He is now an Assistant Property Manager with WBS Properties in Boca Raton, Florida.

In May, **Claire Hopkins** graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from McDaniel College. This fall, she is working toward a trauma, crisis, grief, and loss certificate at Hood College.



2021

Alice Hockstader recently completed their junior year, which included study abroad in Rome, at Bryn Mawr College. This year they will earn their degree in Classics & Classical Languages.



2022

Lauren Clark just entered her third year at Sarah Lawrence College in New York and was elected Junior Class President for the 2024–2025 academic year! Lauren is double majoring in film production and child psychology, minoring in education and screenwriting.



Oliver D'Esposito recently began his third year at University of Maryland College Park. A computer science major in the Honors College, Oliver is lead engineer for Sustainabli, an endeavor by University of Maryland student entrepreneurs to transform research labs into greener and more environmentally-conscious spaces. In 2023, Sustainabli earned the \$30,000 grand prize and the \$1,000 Tom's Industrious Entrepreneur Prize at the 2023 Pitch Dingman Competition. The company also received the \$5,000 first-place venture team prize at the 2023 Do Good Challenge! They are now in the Maryland Energy Innovation Accelerator and tackling their second run of pilots at the university and in hospitals.

Shortly after completing her second year at Hofstra University, **Avery Stenstrom** traveled to Northern Ireland as part of the university's Path to Peace Program. She and fellow recipients of the Transformative Learning Grant were immersed in Irish culture and traditions as they studied the history of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement.



Skye Washington is an environmental studies major in her third year at Goucher College. This past summer she interned with DC Water. Skye is also a member of The Goucher Choir, Goucher's Launch Program, and the Track & Field and Cross Country teams. Most recently, Skye placed 3rd in the women's 800 at the Mid-Atlantic Track & Field Juco Invitational! A recipient of the Goucher International Scholars Award, Skye is studying abroad in Valparaiso, Chile, this fall.

2023



Humza Akram is a sophomore at Davis & Elkins College, studying tourism and hospitality management. During his first year, he showcased his hospitality skills during events including a Homecoming dinner for the Board of Trustees and Alumni, and an Open House panel centered on the freshman year experience!

Taylor Lesnak is a sophomore at Davis and Elkins College where she is studying psychology and human studies.



This past February, during his first year at McDaniel College, **Max McLenaghan** started a broadcasting position for McDaniel Athletics. This immersive experience, and a longtime love of sports, led him to change his major from theater arts to communications with the goal of a career in sports broadcasting. His custom necktie business, started in high school, continues to be a success.

IN MEMORIAM

The Lab School mourns the passing of **Travon Gray '17** who was a beloved member of our community. During his time at Lab, Travon's ability to develop strong connections with others shaped his learning experiences and his interest in inclusivity was evident during Student Diversity Leadership Conferences in Tampa and Atlanta, and on Lab's international trips to Cambodia, Vietnam, Spain, and Morocco. More recently, Travon virtually returned to campus to speak candidly about his experience as a Black student at The Lab School of Washington. **Dr. Anthony Perry**, Director of DEIB shared, "Unsurprisingly, Travon's contributions to the conversation reflected a deep level of self-reflection, an understanding of and a pride in the multiplicity of his identities, and genuine appreciation for Lab. He was passionate about being a mirror for our students." In 2022, Travon graduated from UNC Greensboro's Department of Interior Architecture.



We also are saddened by the loss of **Lenell Truman '02**. He is remembered at Lab as a beacon of joy, laughter, and friendship. He was respected by classmates and staff alike for his positivity, conscientiousness, and intellectual curiosity. After his time at Lab, Lenell worked in the IT field with both Verizon and in the IT department at Holy Cross Hospital. For many years after his graduation, Lenell remained connected to Lab, through his friendships with classmates, his attendance at an alumni event, and his visit to tour the new Upper School. He lived in Germantown, Maryland and is survived by his wife Angela, his parents Eileen and Patrick, and his dog Nightwolf.



ALUMNI: Send us your news!



We'd like to hear about your personal and professional accomplishments.

Email:

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Lisa McMahon

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