

# Peddie

SPRING 2024

CHRONICLE

**RICH D'ANDREA '01  
IS CHARTING A  
WINNING COURSE  
FOR PEDDIE  
ATHLETICS**



IN THIS ISSUE

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## The future of Peddie Athletics

New Athletic Director Rich D'Andrea '01 is on a mission to strengthen Peddie's competitive edge.

## The rise and legacy of WTPS

Dive into the untold story of the student visionaries who launched Peddie's boundary-pushing campus radio station in 1985.



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“Tim trusted us and believed in our abilities. It really helped with my self-esteem as I entered a challenging male-dominated field.”

— Sue Groveman '85, clinical dietician and software developer at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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### PEDDIE CHRONICLE

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Braelen Crump '24 dominates at the Peddie School Invitational Tournament in December. The varsity boys basketball team secured their first tournament championship since 2016. See page 20 for more Peddie Athletics highlights.

Dear Peddie Friends and Family,

I will be retiring from Peddie on June 30, 2025. Respecting the search process timeline, Board Chair Doug Davidson and I agreed that sharing the news now puts the Board of Trustees in a good position for a robust search for Peddie’s next head, whose tenure will begin July 1, 2025.

It will be a good time for the Quinns and for Peddie to make this change. I will leave with profound gratitude that is difficult to express. I have been lucky to enjoy 22 years at this remarkable school, and my wife, Maryanne, has shared that opportunity with me for 20 of those 22 years. I’d like to take on some activities, travel and have lots of time with Maryanne and our children. We plan to move back to Virginia, where we have family.

I have been lucky to hold several different roles at Peddie since first moving into little Longstreet in late August of 1985. In this, my last role, I had phenomenal support from and partnership with three board chairs, which is in and of itself a remarkable testament to the Peddie community. It has been a joy and privilege to work over the years with faculty and staff to continue beginning anew. In addition, having parent and alumni communities as vibrant and committed as we do has been a gift.

Peddie, never short of ideas for its own improvement, has completed several innovative curricular, student life and capital projects since 2013. Some of these found support in the One Peddie campaign, which so many of you supported. Other improvements, physical and programmatic alike, sprang from the minds and gifts of Peddie leaders in their normally extraordinary service to what former Head Roger Swetland called “the Greater Peddie.”

The Board of Trustees and senior leadership have just completed — on the heels of that campaign — an extended and thorough review of our four Strategic Priorities. We have solicited input from faculty and staff and chosen our most important objectives under those priorities for the next several years. The next head of school will have the opportunity to pursue those as they see fit with the support of an extraordinary board, faculty and staff.

In the head of school’s office is a collection of Old Gold and Blue issues from 1903 to 2023, telling the story of Peddie through the decades. While each yearbook marks the themes of that year, and the contributions of the students and adults whose voices reverberate in so many ways here, they also carry the theme of the school’s motto. One year, early in the 20th century, features these thoughts from the editors: “These are only a few items on the program [for the future], but they suffice to show what a future lies before the school. What will our next stride be?” That — that restless, optimistic, youthful spirit — has always been a defining attitude at Peddie.

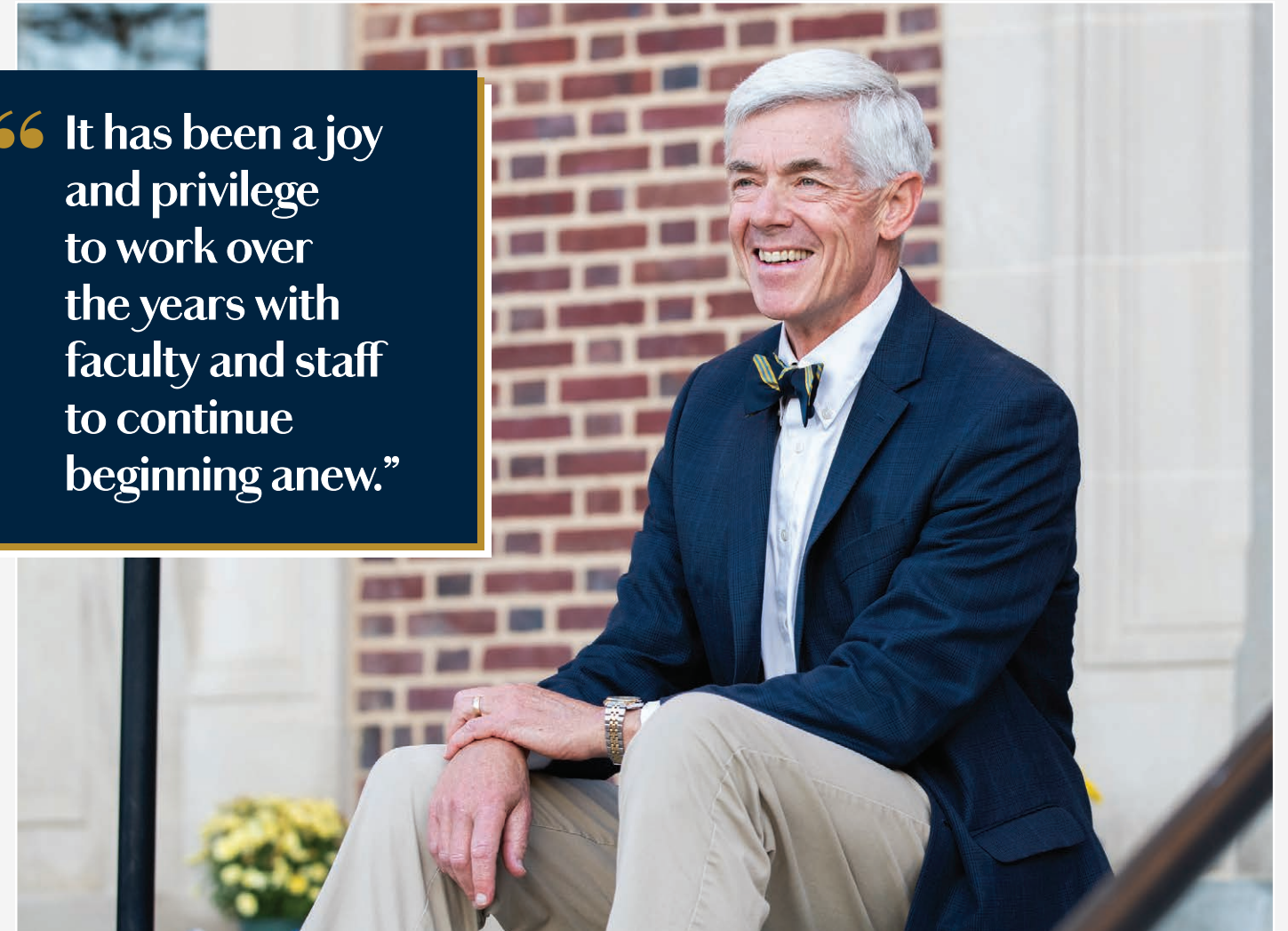
The next 14 months will see that habit continue. Finishing the fitness center renovation and expansion, continuing to develop the structure around our emphasis on citizenship, enrolling the next two incoming classes, and recruiting the most committed faculty and staff — these will be my focus.

Ala Viva!

Gratefully,

Peter A. Quinn P’15 ’18 ’21  
Head of School

“It has been a joy and privilege to work over the years with faculty and staff to continue beginning anew.”



WHAT’S NEXT

Peddie’s Board of Trustees has formed a Head of School Search Committee, comprising nine members, including six trustees and three faculty members. To assist in the nationwide search for potential candidates, the Search Committee has engaged the services of the Isaacson, Miller search firm. The process of identifying and interviewing candidates will unfold over the coming months, with the goal of presenting the next Head of School to the Board of Trustees by the fall.

HEAD OF SCHOOL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Trustees

- Doug Davidson ’64 (Chair)
- Pat Dennis ’98
- Rob Ruberton ’93
- Mike Smith ’79
- Tracey Wetmore ’97
- Sean Woodroffe P’19

Faculty

- Jenate Brown (11th Grade Dean, English teacher)
- Marc Onion (Chaplain, English teacher)
- Catherine Rodrigue (Associate Head of School)

# THE PROM

\*\*\* WINTER MUSICAL \*\*\*

After extensive preparations by the student cast and crew, Peddie's winter musical, "The Prom," graced the stage of William Mount-Burke '54 Theatre from February 15-17.

The musical delves into the story of an Indiana high school student facing discrimination for wanting to bring her girlfriend to the prom. Enter a group of vibrant Broadway personalities who converge on the conservative town of Edgewater,

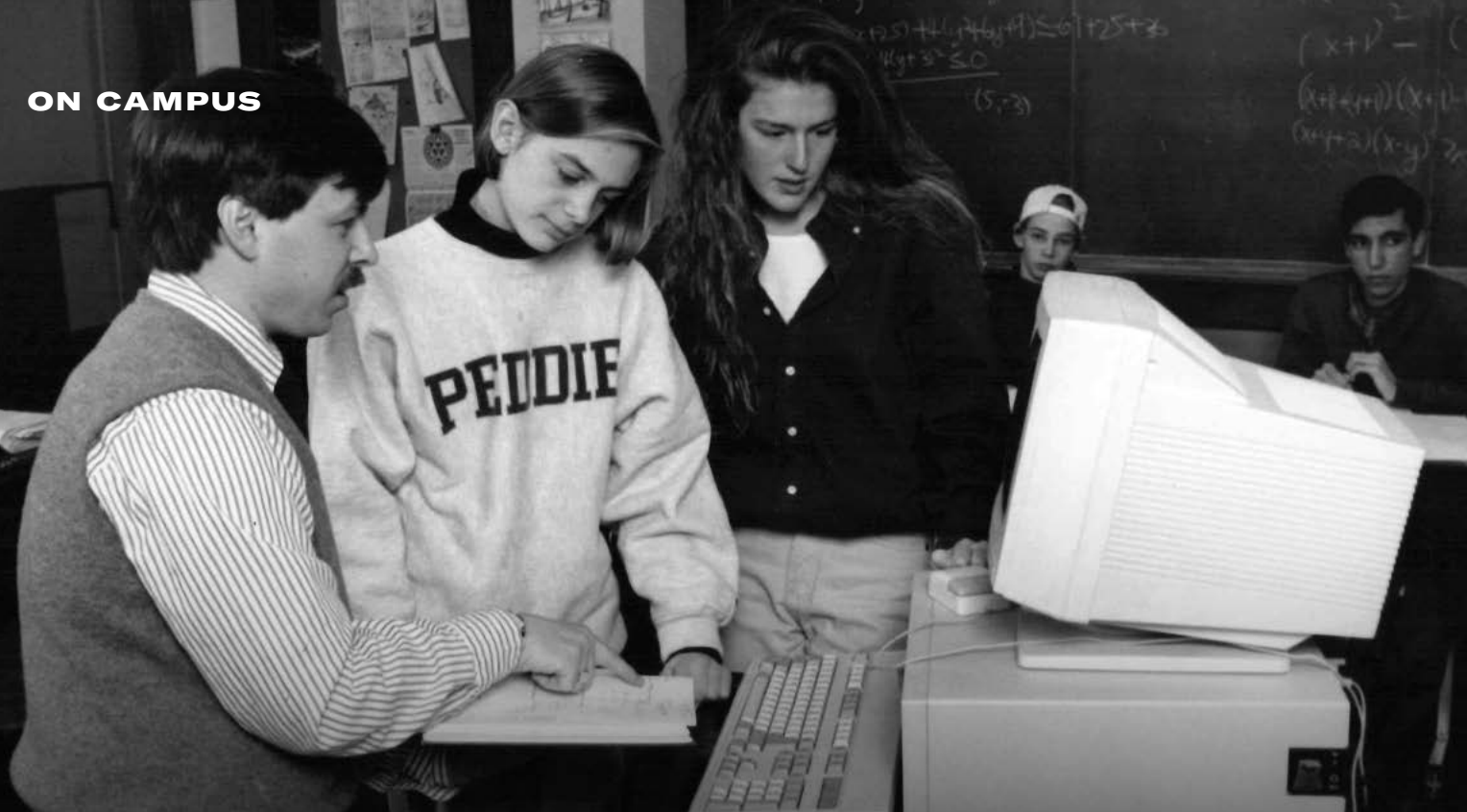
Indiana, determined to challenge this injustice (and repair their own reputations). As they navigate their past glories, these actors are united in their mission to support the student's plea for inclusivity at her high school event.

Reflecting on the production, Assistant Director Imogen Dale '24 remarked, "Existing in an identity labeled as 'other' is challenging, but the show pushes that joy can always be found."



“Existing in an identity labeled as ‘other’ is challenging, but the show pushes that joy can always be found.”





## TECH TRAILBLAZER TIM CORICA P'03 '08 SET TO RETIRE

CORICA HAS A DISTINGUISHED 45-YEAR PEDDIE CAREER

### Head of School Ed Potter made a pivotal decision in 1982 that forever altered Tim Corica's career.

Despite Corica's relatively brief tenure at the school, Potter approved a sabbatical for him to pursue computer science studies. The decision proved to be a game-changer.

The ripple effects of Corica's sabbatical were profound. They paved the way for groundbreaking initiatives at Peddie, notably the launch of the school's first AP Computer Science class in 1983. Additionally, they positioned Peddie as a leader in technology integration in education during the early 1990s. Corica spearheaded initiatives like establishing a campus-wide network and introducing email, setting Peddie apart from many other high schools at the time.

Corica's early influence extended beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his authorship of programming textbooks and newsletters tailored for high school computer science teachers, alongside his service on the AP Computer Science test committee.

Reflecting on those formative years, he reminisced, "We were making noise for a while."

In 1994, Corica became director of academic computing. He oversaw the distribution of laptops to select students and faculty as part of the school's innovative Principio Project, which paved the way for the broader implementation of laptops in the community.

The Peddie Laptop Plan in 1998, in which Peddie issued a laptop to every student, showcased Corica's visionary leadership. Recalling the momentous occasion, he marveled, "I held in my hand a purchase order for a million dollars ... Unbelievable!"

The initiative garnered national attention, solidifying Peddie's reputation as a trailblazer in technology-driven education. "Most schools were like, 'You have to buy a laptop, here's one of the models you can buy.' And we were like, 'No, we are giving you a laptop as part of your tuition.' That was an amazing thing. Those were exciting, heady times," Corica said.

Amidst rapid technological advancements, Corica still emphasizes preserving human exchange in the

classroom, especially as tools like AI gain prominence. "Interaction is at the heart of the educational experience," he said. "It's the small exclamations, the shifting of students in chairs, the shared emotion when something interesting or surprising comes up. For the foreseeable future, that's an experience that a machine-based tool can't hope to provide."

### A FOUR-DECADE JOURNEY BEGINS

Corica's journey at Peddie dates back to 1979 after he graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry. His initial exposure to Peddie during a summer teaching stint in 1978 sparked his interest in the school's inclusive environment.

Corica remembered, "One of the attractive qualities of Peddie was the comfort I felt as a public school graduate who knew little about independent schools. It didn't feel stuffy or highfalutin. I could walk into the cafeteria and feel welcome at any table."

Peddie continued to play a significant role in Corica's life. His two sons are alumni, and in 1981, he married his wife, Maryanne



Above: Tim and Maryanne's wedding in Ayer Memorial Chapel in 1981.

Opposite: Corica taught Peddie's first AP Computer Science class in the early 1990s.

Ruggiero, in Ayer Memorial Chapel, with students and employees as guests and a cake reception in the dining hall.

Over the years, Corica's impact on Peddie has been profound. He served in various roles, including math department chair for a combined 20-plus years, a nine-year tenure as the director of technology, four years as dean of faculty, and, most recently, chair of the STM (Science, Technology and Mathematics) Research and Development Group.

The year 2001 stands out in Corica's memory, as it marked his appointment as dean of faculty alongside the arrival of Head of School John Green and Associate Head of School Catherine Rodrigue, coinciding with the tragic events of September 11th. "Our first week of school was 9/11," he recalled. "It was John and Catherine's first week here and my first week as dean of faculty."

Reflecting on her collaboration with Corica, Rodrigue said, "I loved collaborating with Tim and always sought his advice, and still do." She added, "Early on, Tim and I worked with data and surveys, and Tim provided me with a statistician's caution. To this day, I don't completely trust my first impressions of data, or people."

Corica's dedication to fostering curiosity among his students has remained steadfast throughout his four-decade tenure. "I'm always curious about the world, and I share that with my students," he said. "I want students to be so excited about what they've experienced in class that they bring it up

that evening at the family dinner table. I want them to have that same curiosity about the world that I do. And math is a way of understanding the world."

Rodrigue praised Corica's commitment to innovation in the classroom. "Tim is brilliant, but he's also humble, and that humility makes him infinitely creative in how he manages his classroom, how he works with students and how he connects with students," Rodrigue said. "Tim makes everyone around him better thinkers and better people."

His impact is evident in the profound effect on students like Beth Strum '94, now the director of business development at Compass, Inc., who recalled Corica's influence as her computer science teacher. Strum said Corica instilled in her a distinctive analytical approach that continues to influence her three decades later. "Through science, you learn problem-solving skills, and getting unexpected results is considered a learning opportunity," she said. "Computer science is like that, only sometimes a lot faster. But then it's also a puzzle you have to solve. Where did you code it wrong? How do you fix it? Mr. Corica made learning to code fun."

Despite the passage of time and life's demands, Strum noted that she and Corica maintain contact. She said, "Lives get busy, but I will never forget my awesome comp sci teacher, Mr. Corica!"

*"Interaction is at the heart of the educational experience," said Corica.*



Former Peddie Trustee George Chen '84 attests to Corica's influence, which propelled him toward engineering and computer science degrees at Brown University. Recalling their time together in Corica's inaugural AP Computer Science class, Chen reminisced about the early morning sessions in the computer lab. He shared, "Tim had an extremely busy year, but I could sense he enjoyed learning and seeing us learn. I have followed this life lesson ever since — to do what you love, and no matter how hard, there will be joy."

Brendan Houle '02, now a software engineer at ESPN, echoed these sentiments. "Tim fostered our curiosity and encouraged us to explore our ideas further, and in so doing, he imbued us with the joy of discovery," he said.

### LEGACY

As Corica bids farewell to Peddie, he leaves a legacy of curiosity, passion and dedication. His retirement marks not an end but a new beginning — an opportunity for exploration, learning and creativity.

"I feel like I'm 22 and just graduating college," Corica mused. "Suddenly, there is an opportunity to do the writing projects I haven't been able to get done, to take classes at Princeton, and go to those lectures at Princeton that I see but can't attend because I have school the next day."

# Mathematical marvel

## JERRY LIU '26 ACHIEVES PERFECT SCORE IN PRESTIGIOUS MATH COMPETITION



Sophomore Jerry Liu '26 scored a flawless 150 in the esteemed 2023 American Mathematics Competition (AMC), sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America.

Liu's perfect performance marks an unprecedented achievement for a Peddie student; historically, only a handful of students worldwide achieve a perfect score each year.

The world-renowned AMC program provides a stage for students to showcase their mathematical prowess. It opens doors to exclusive opportunities, including the American Invitational Mathematics Exam (AIME), the United States of America Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO), and ultimately, the International Mathematical Olympiad.

Along with Liu, Albert Yang '26, Nancy Xue '25 and Karen Yao '24's outstanding AMC scores earned them eligibility for the AIME. Liu and Xue's performances propelled them into the prestigious USAMO.



At Peddie Summer Academy, students in grades 6-8 spend two weeks living on our beautiful campus, attending classes led by Peddie faculty and creating memories with new friends from around the world!

APPLY AT [PEDDIE.ORG/PSA](https://peddie.org/psa)



# Former Head of School John Green addresses Peddie community on Founders Day

Former Head of School John Green delivered a heartfelt reflection on legacy during the 129th Founders Day at Ayer Memorial Chapel on February 12.

Founders Day, initiated in 1895 to commemorate Thomas B. Peddie's pivotal intervention that saved the school from bankruptcy two decades earlier, is a tribute to the exceptional leaders who have guided Peddie with loyalty, integrity and vision. Held annually in February to coincide with Peddie's birthday, the event serves as a poignant reminder of the enduring values upheld by the school's past leaders.

As the 15th Head of School, Green influenced Peddie profoundly. His retirement in 2013 marked the culmination of 12 years of devoted service, during which his leadership propelled the school forward in myriad ways.

During the ceremony, math teacher Tim Corica, who worked closely with Green as the dean of faculty in 2001, praised his "selfless caretaking of students, faculty and the institution of Peddie." Corica recounted Green's remarkable leadership during the tumultuous aftermath of 9/11, which he described as "the most unsettling and terrifying moment in the history of the school." He characterized Green's management style as a "masterclass in running a school."



Green stressed the significance of recognizing the unsung heroes whose contributions have shaped the school's legacy.

"Walk this campus, and you will see their names and expressions of their love, too, on plaques adjacent to trees, for example, on the benches on which you sit, on brick steps that connect the upper to lower campus, and even on a baseball dugout. There are countless other physical manifestations of love and legacy all across campus, inside and outside. Slow down. Take note."

As Green concluded his remarks, he inspired a deep appreciation for Peddie's rich history and a collective commitment to its enduring values.

"What I hope for all of you is that one day you will come to love our school as much as I do," he said.

During his tenure as head of school, Green crafted a five-year plan for Peddie, directing substantial investments into essential facilities projects such as The Walter and Leonore Annenberg Science Center, the Caspersen History House, the Ian H. Graham '50 Athletic Center and the Aquatic Center. Additionally, he prioritized faculty recruitment and professional development to enhance diversity and expertise.

**“What I hope for all of you is that one day you will come to love our school as much as I do.”**

Watch John Green's Founders Day speech at [peddie.org/foundersday24](https://peddie.org/foundersday24).





*Sophie Wang '27 prepares to perform on Peddie's new Steinway concert grand piano in Ding Music Hall during a winter recital.*

## A MELODIC COUP

*Inside Peddie's acquisition of a Steinway concert grand*



An undeniable grandeur now echoes in the chambers of Ding Music Hall, courtesy of the school's recent acquisition — a retired Steinway concert grand piano, hailed in the music scene as one of the most coveted treasures in the region.

This majestic instrument, previously housed at the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia, has been graced by the nimble fingers of virtuosos such as Emanuel Ax, Yuja Wang, Lang Lang, Daniil Trifonov and Jonathan Biss.

Chair of the Arts Department Alan Michaels was the architect behind this melodic coup.

"Our previous concert piano, also a Steinway, was over 100 years old. It still serves us well, but it no longer produces the tone quality to match the acoustics of Ding Music Hall," he explained.

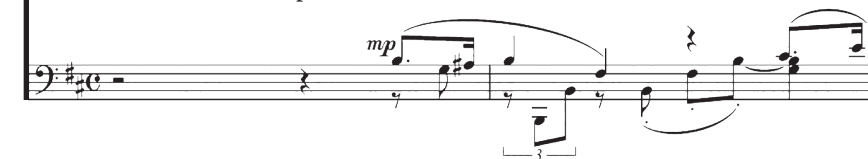
To validate the excellence of this newfound treasure, Michaels sought the expertise of a trusted piano connoisseur. "The expert confirmed with me that the piano was a great instrument, perhaps as good, if not better, than any in the northeast region," Michaels shared.

Recognizing the significance of the Steinway's arrival, regional piano retailer and broker for the deal Jacobs Music sponsored artist Delvan Lin to perform at a special piano recital. "His performance brought the music hall into a state of sonic synchronicity," said Michaels. Prior to his performance, Peddie student pianists performed their own pieces on the instrument.

"Playing on the new piano is an extraordinary experience," said Kyle Song '24. "During my performance of Chopin's 'Ballade No. 1 in G Minor,' I felt a profound connection to the instrument, allowing me to express each distinct emotion of the piece to the audience."

Jacobs Music also arranged a private tour for students at the Steinway & Sons factory in Queens, N.Y. Reflecting on the experience, Michaels said, "We gained an appreciation for the care that goes into manufacturing the 12,000 parts in a Steinway piano and the precision required to combine all of those parts."

Jacobs believes no piano has left a more indelible mark on the music community over the past decade, making this acquisition a once-in-a-lifetime musical triumph for Peddie.



# Roommates bound for West Point and Naval Academy

**Sophia Gimino '24 and Rosie Carmichael '24 share a connection reminiscent of a lifelong friendship, although they've only known each other since the start of the school year.**

Becoming roommates at Peddie last August, the duo, born two days apart, embarked on a postgraduate year before pursuing distinct paths. A postgraduate year serves as an additional year beyond high school graduation, allowing students to enhance their academic and personal growth, better positioning themselves for success in college. Gimino heads to the United States Military Academy at West Point this fall, while Carmichael will join the United States Naval Academy.

Gimino encountered obstacles during her West Point recruitment, as she was set to participate in javelin for track and field but had to contend with a knee injury. While researching schools to meet the academy's requirement for a postgraduate year, she discovered Peddie, attracted by its vibrant track program. A swift response from Head Coach Tim Brennan solidified her decision. "Coach Brennan reached out to me almost immediately, which convinced me I should choose Peddie," Gimino recalled.

Meanwhile, Carmichael navigated the intricacies of securing a nomination for the Naval Academy. Sponsored by the USNA Foundation for a postgraduate year, she chose Peddie for its standout swim program. "I feel like Peddie's swim program is similar to college training. I won't be swimming at Navy, so I wanted to take this opportunity to swim at a college level," she explained.

As roommates, they've cultivated seamless harmony, with their shared commitment to service academies forming the bedrock of their friendship. "The fact that we are both going to a service academy has really helped," said Carmichael.

Both have taken on mentorship roles, adopting freshmen into their circles. Carmichael chuckled as she shared, "We'll come back to our dorm, and people will ask, 'How are your kids today?'"

They also connect over being out-of-state students, with Gimino hailing from Wichita, Kansas, and Carmichael from St. Augustine, Florida. "It's nice to have somebody who gets that," said Carmichael.

Immersed in the quintessence of New Jersey life, their conversations are sprinkled with lighthearted moments, like lively debates about bagels and pizza. "Everyone is crazy about the bagels here," said Gimino. "People teased me because, before coming here, the only bagel I'd ever had was a Panera bagel. Everyone was like, 'You're missing out, man!'"

As their Peddie chapter concludes, Gimino and

Carmichael's friendship is poised to endure. From attending the Army-Navy game in Boston last December to proudly adorning their dorm room door with flags representing their respective academies, Gimino and Carmichael's bond is a celebration of camaraderie, laughter and the pursuit of dreams.



*From left: Rosie Carmichael '24 and Sophia Gimino '24 attend the Army-Navy Game at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, last December, where Army beat Navy 17-11.*

# Ace Analysts advance

**Peddie team secures top 10 spot in Wharton Global High School Investment Competition**

Team Ace Analysts advanced to the finals of the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition, an experiential investment challenge for high school students.

Out of the more than 4,000 teams initially enrolled globally, 1,500 progressed to the next stage, and 50 made the semifinals. On March 20, team Ace Analysts learned they were among 10 teams to advance to the finals.

**"This is a huge deal."**

— YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS CLUB ADVISOR IMAD LABBAN

"In the three years that Peddie has been participating in this competition through the Young Entrepreneurs Club, this is the first group to make it this far," said Club Advisor Imad Labban. "This is a huge deal."

Teams are graded on portfolio performance, client interaction and strategy formulation. The Ace Analysts, consisting of Andy Wang '25, Ethan Yang '25, Ethan Jin '25, Lue Fang '25, Jiabao Hu '25, Yang Han '25 and Eric Huang '25, impressed the judges with their innovative approach named "Bump, Set, Spike," aligning the client's investment goals with their shared passion for volleyball, a detail derived from the client case study.

To advance beyond the semifinal round, the team completed a detailed questionnaire and prepared a video, which was judged by three respected financial industry specialists.

Reflecting on the journey that led them to the finals, team member Andy Wang recounted the moment he received the email confirming their semifinalist status. "When I saw the email, and it said 'Congrats!' — that's when it hit me, 'Oh my gosh, we made it to the semifinals,'" Wang recalled.

Now, they eagerly anticipate the next stage of the competition, the Global Finale on April 20 at Wharton's Philadelphia campus, where the grand prize winner will be revealed.

"It would be incredible if we win," said Wang.



*Team Ace Analysts celebrate their advancement to the Wharton Global High School Investment Competition finals. Pictured in the top row (left to right) is Eric Huang '25 and Jiabao Hu '25; middle row (left to right): Lue Fang '25 and Ethan Jin '25; bottom row (left to right): Yang Han '25, Andy Wang '25 and Ethan Yang '25.*



*In this March 5 photo, Priyanka Seth '24 races through the treetops on a zip line ride in Costa Rica. Seth was among a group of Peddie students who traveled to Costa Rica during spring break.*

**“I never leave home without my notebook! I use it to write down any thoughts that I have, beautiful things I see around me, or anything that inspires me.”**

Claire Chen '24

**“A poster with my picture on it that my family signed, wishing me good luck at boarding school. I brought the poster to campus with me to remind me that I make my family proud every day.”**

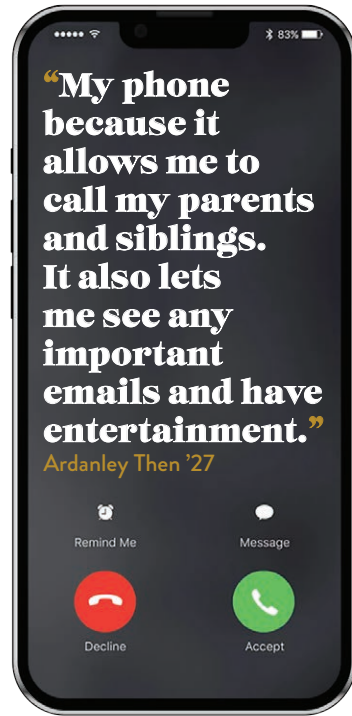
Tamia Stafford '25

# BAGGAGE & BEYOND

From cherished mementos to practical tools, we were curious about what Peddie students consider their campus must-haves.



**“A bottle of Vintage lemon-lime seltzer because I like seltze.”**  
Austin Hayden '25



**“My phone because it allows me to call my parents and siblings. It also lets me see any important emails and have entertainment.”**

Ardanley Then '27



**“Tide To Go travel stick.”**  
Sarah Drake '25

**“My stuffed animal, Cowie.”**  
Freja Jensen '27



**“My personality.”**  
Preeya Govil '24

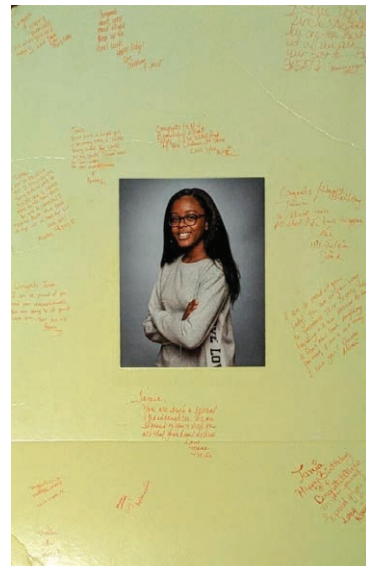


**“A fan.”**  
Sree Lakkamraju '25



**“LED lights and posters. This will be your home for a year; bring something that makes your room feel comfortable and reminds you of home so you are not homesick.”**

Jonathan Lerner-Nunez '26



## 5 QUESTIONS WITH OBERLIN SWIM CAPTAIN AUDREY WEBER '20



Weber is finishing her final year at Oberlin, where she is pursuing majors in anthropology, Hispanic studies and Latin American studies. Recognized with the Katherine H. Nicholson Award at Peddie for her embodiment of compassion, encouragement and a nurturing spirit, Weber reflects on her leadership journey and future aspirations.

1

*Can you share the journey that led to you becoming a co-captain for the Oberlin swim team?*

My journey began at Peddie, where I was elected captain. It was a transformative experience that reassured me of my ability to positively impact a team. At Oberlin, my conscientious work ethic and commitment paved the way for me to be named a captain.

2

*How do you approach this responsibility, and what advice would you give aspiring leaders?*

I lead by example, setting the tone for productive practices and supporting my team. I have made it a point to swim in the middle lane and be one of, if not the first, people in the water every day to set the mood for a productive practice. My advice for aspiring leaders is to embrace your unique style and consistently make decisions for the betterment of your team.

3

*Reflecting on your time at Peddie, how has that experience contributed to your leadership role at Oberlin?*

Peddie's unique captain selection process, where the team elected leaders, influenced me to act as a leader long before receiving the title. I have never been the fastest on any team I have swum with, nor the loudest in the room. Being a role model is about understanding your position and influence and using that to guide the success of every team member.

4

*You're also part of OSteel, Oberlin's steel pan ensemble. Can you share how you became involved in OSteel?*

Growing up in the Cayman Islands, I was part of a middle school steel pan band. At Oberlin, I joined OSteel after taking a course on the instrument's history and culture. Joining OSteel challenged me to improve my musical skills and has provided a fulfilling and quirky addition to my Oberlin experience.

5

*Looking ahead, what are your plans for the future?*

I plan to pursue a fellowship in Latin America before studying human rights or immigration law. I have applied for numerous opportunities to live abroad and am a semi-finalist to receive a Fulbright research grant in Peru. The tight-knit and supportive community environment at Peddie influenced my decision to attend Oberlin and gave me the confidence to take on challenges head-on.



# Celebrating Kate Guittari '22, Morehead-Cain Scholar

In the serenity of her University of North Carolina dorm, a moment of destiny unfolded for Kate Guittari '22 last fall.

It was then that Guittari, currently pursuing a neuroscience major on the pre-med track, received the news that she had been selected as one of the inaugural recipients of the Morehead-Cain Scholarship's Sophomore Intake Initiative.

Guittari vividly recalled the instant the email arrived. "I was sitting in the lobby of my dorm, obsessively checking my inbox. When I finally received the notification and read, 'Congratulations,' I leaped out of my seat, ran out the front door without any direction in mind, and called my mom and others who have always supported me."

Traditionally reserved for incoming students, the Morehead-Cain Foundation extended the prestigious merit-based scholarship to UNC sophomores this year. Guittari stands among an elite group of 15 scholars selected from a competitive pool of 4,000 applicants, following in the footsteps of former Morehead-Cain Scholars from Peddie, Tom Golden '07 and JR Rodrigo '11.

Peddie's Head of School Peter Quinn shared his excitement, stating, "I am thrilled for Kate. She was an exceptional student at Peddie, and more importantly, she made a substantial contribution to every undertaking, every team and every group of which she was a member. Her achievement as a Morehead-Cain Scholar is a testament to her attitude and approach and how earnestly she seeks the 'highest quality of citizenship.'"

Guittari plans to pursue a self-designed project next year. With aspirations of becoming a pediatrician, she looks forward to leveraging the wisdom of Morehead-Cain advisors and UNC Hospital pediatricians throughout her journey.

Guittari recognized the transformative impact of her Peddie experience, stating, "At Peddie, I realized that I was more inquisitive, resilient and capable than I had believed myself to be. I learned that curiosity is invaluable, as it can lead you on paths that challenge your perception of the world."

She added, "Just as I did at Peddie, I will continue to learn by seeking out meaningful experiences and relationships."



Photo by Ira Wilder

“At Peddie, I realized that I was more inquisitive, resilient and capable than I had believed myself to be.”

## Vampire Weekend returns with long-awaited album



Chris Tomson '02 and his indie rock band Vampire Weekend released a new album, "Only God Was Above Us," on April 5 via Columbia Records. Following the chart-topping success of 2019's "Father of the Bride," which clinched the Grammy for Best Alternative Music Album, this fifth studio album promises a nostalgic ode to 20th-century New York City.

Tomson, the band's acclaimed drummer, once contributed to the Peddie orchestra with his trombone and electric bass talents.

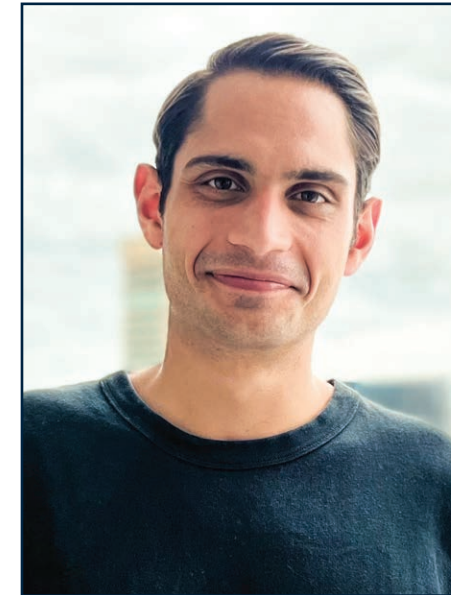
The band performed in Austin, Texas, on April 8, coinciding with the total eclipse, to kick off their 35-city North American tour.

# Brandon Kumar '12 graces Forbes 30 Under 30

In the ever-evolving digital innovation landscape, Brandon Kumar '12 has emerged as a trailblazer, earning a coveted spot on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for 2024. Forbes recognized Kumar, leading the way at Layer3, for his groundbreaking contributions to the crypto world.

Founded by Kumar and his partner Dariya Khojasteh, Layer3 is an interactive platform tailored for individuals keen on navigating the intricacies of blockchain technology. Offering bite-size lessons or "quests," users can dive into the world of blockchain, exploring topics from non-fungible tokens to the nuances of writing smart contracts. With a thriving community of 250,000 monthly active questers, Layer3 has gained recognition from industry giants like Coinbase and Uniswap, who have contributed to the platform's impressive \$6.5 million seed funding.

The acknowledgment on Forbes 30 Under 30 highlights Kumar's expertise and underscores the rising significance of digital assets and blockchain technology in shaping modern financial services. Kumar



said he envisions a transformative shift towards user-owned software, with digital ownership (crypto) as a foundational element enabling novel user experiences. "Layer3's mission is to be the gateway to the ownership economy," he explained.

Kumar emphasized the critical role of independent thinking in innovation — a trait he said Peddie excelled in fostering. "At Layer3, we've made several decisions that went against consensus or advisor guidance. But they were clear to us and have contributed to our success," he said.

Additionally, Kumar acknowledged the distinguished Peddie alumni who have graced the Forbes 30 Under 30 list over the years, some of whom he knows personally. "Being recognized alongside some of them is an honor," he said.

## Erik Hanson '83 inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame



From left: Erik Hanson '83 reunited with his former coaches, Lew Watts and Al Lozier.

Peddie Sports Hall of Famer Erik Hanson '83, celebrated for his stellar baseball career, was recently inducted into the Wake Forest Sports Hall of Fame.

Hanson's athletic greatness began on the Peddie courts, under the mentorship of Al Lozier, a Wake Forest alumnus. Initially focused on basketball, Hanson's trajectory shifted when Lozier persuaded him to try baseball, leading to an impressive high school career marked

by a state championship and captivating performances that drew the attention of numerous MLB scouts.

Hanson's All-American achievements at Wake Forest paved the way for an illustrious 11-year tenure in the MLB with the Seattle Mariners, Cincinnati Reds, Boston Red Sox and Toronto Blue Jays.



# Lab Partners

Kevin Weiner '00 mentors Peddie students in UC Berkeley Cognitive Neuroanatomy Lab

**Peddie takes pride in its students supporting fellow students — all parties working together to achieve a goal. It's a manifestation of our mission to strive for the highest quality of citizenship.**

When that mutual support extends beyond campus, that's cause for even more pride.

Driven by profound personal experience, Kevin Weiner, Ph.D. '00, associate professor of psychology and neuroscience at the University of California, Berkeley, has mentored several young Peddie alumni and current students at his UC Berkeley Cognitive Neuroanatomy Lab.



*A snapshot of Weiner delivering his chapel talk in March 2019.*

It all began in 2019 when Weiner returned to Peddie for a chapel talk. His brother, Matt '98, had died of an undiagnosed heart condition in 1999 while a freshman at Princeton University. During those 20 years, Weiner had become frustrated with the U.S. healthcare system while battling his own series of health conditions. He spent his first year at UC Berkeley building the infrastructure for his lab while seeing doctor after doctor before being diagnosed with May-Thurner syndrome.

"My own medical saga was unrelated to how Matt died but triggered memories of a prior chapel talk I gave after his death," he said. "I planned to come back home anyway to visit my parents and Tina (Weiner's sister, also Class of '98) for the 20th anniversary of Matt's death, and thought, 'Why don't I give a chapel talk in honor of the anniversary?'"

Science teacher Shani Peretz, Ph.D., contacted Weiner, inviting him to meet with Summer Signature Experience (EXP) students during his visit. Peddie's EXP program empowers students to design summer internships, enabling them to

explore subjects that deeply interest them, gain practical experience and connect with field experts. Weiner graciously accepted the invitation, and Peretz informed him that Chahat Mittal '20 would be his host for the day.

"Chahat asked me more specifics about what was going on in my lab," Weiner said. "She was very interested and asked if I would be willing to host her for the summer." Now at NYU, Mittal joined Weiner at his lab in the summer of 2019, studying "Evolution, Development, and Behavioral Relevance of Sulci in Lateral Prefrontal Cortex."

Subsequently, Priyanka Nanayakkara '22, Szeshuen "Cecilia" Chen '23, and Yixuan "Kyle" Jia '24 continued the trend of Peddie students conducting research in Weiner's lab.

Reyansh Sathishkumar '21, currently an undergraduate at Berkeley, includes Weiner among their mentors and has collaborated on a published paper with him and Mittal, which Weiner speculates could be the first peer-reviewed neuroscience paper to have three Peddie alumni as co-authors.

Weiner humorously described himself



*Opposite: Weiner answers questions from EXP students after his chapel talk. Above: Chahat Mittal '20 answers questions from peers at UC Berkeley.*

as "competitively uncompetitive" and motivates students by setting and celebrating milestones.

Highlighting the labor-intensive nature of their work, he said, "Our work requires hundreds and thousands of manual, painstaking tracing of indentations in the cerebral cortex known as sulci. Chahat has the record for being the youngest person to define the most sulci in the lab. She identified 863 sulci in six weeks."

While working alongside Peddie alumni and students, Weiner observed the same solid work ethic and hunger for knowledge that he remembers from his own Peddie experience.

"Peddie was probably the hardest time for me in my academic and athletic career," he said. "You want to succeed, you want to get into college, you're motivated, all of the students at Peddie are brilliant — it's really good training. I think it's funny and somewhat fortuitous that I spent so many hours staring at the line on the bottom of the pool, and now I spend countless hours staring at lines and patterns on the brain.

"The EXP students are very, very motivated to learn as quickly as possible so they can see the end product," he continued. "If they have no coding experience, they're not afraid to be exposed to a Jupyter notebook and have the graduate students go through it with them. The common theme is their motivation, their ability to manage their time really well, and be involved on

**“All of the students at Peddie are brilliant — it's really good training.”**

multiple projects.”

That drive was evident during a lab meeting when Mittal presented her research to peers at UC Berkeley. Weiner offers EXP students the opportunity to practice presenting their findings, preparing them for the presentations they'll deliver once back at Peddie. Before he finished introducing Mittal at her meeting, the undaunted teenager went straight to

the front of the room, then confidently presented and adeptly fielded questions from faculty, postdoctoral fellows, graduate students and undergrads.

"Everyone clapped, 'That was great,' and I'm like, 'Slow down!'" laughed Weiner. "You have to acknowledge that no one filtered their questions here, and Chahat is in high school, held her own, wanted to get started as quickly as possible, and gave a kickass presentation. It was very impressive."

Weiner writes college recommendation letters for all students he's hosted, boosted with quotes from the grad students who worked directly with them.

"The grad students are shocked that the EXP students are as advanced as they are for high school students," he said. "And then, because we've had such success, when I say we're going to get another Peddie EXP student, all the grad students are like (raises hand), 'I'll mentor them!'"



RICH D'ANDREA '01 IS  
**CHARTING  
 A WINNING  
 COURSE**  
 FOR PEDDIE ATHLETICS

*“Peddie unearthed the best parts of me and taught me things about myself that I had no idea existed.”*

Rich D'Andrea '01 knows a thing or two about perseverance.

The former Peddie lacrosse captain led the 2001 team to an undefeated season and top 15 national ranking. Yet, amidst their on-field victories, the team grappled with significant challenges.

“We had teammates that struggled through the losses of family members,” recalled D'Andrea. “And while it was nearly impossible to find words to meet the situation, the brotherhood formed through that team experience had a healing quality of its own.”

In the face of adversity, D'Andrea gleaned invaluable lessons.

For him and his team, success transcended mere victories; it centered on wholehearted commitment, selflessness and solidarity. “I'm grateful for that experience because it taught me the value of relationships, how to be a leader, knowing when to speak up and when to listen,” he said.

These fundamental principles, instilled during his time at Peddie, continue to guide D'Andrea's leadership approach today.

Since assuming the role of Peddie's athletic director last summer, D'Andrea has been on a mission to stabilize the school's athletic programs and strengthen its competitive edge. His appointment marks a pivotal moment for Peddie Athletics, which has faced leadership turnover and recruitment hurdles in some sports in recent years.

D'Andrea's achievements extend beyond the lacrosse field. Following a stint in commercial real estate, he transitioned to Princeton Day School, where he served as an English teacher, lacrosse coach and admissions officer. He returned to Peddie in 2021 to serve as an admission officer and coach boys lacrosse. He continues to coach lacrosse and teaches English, a role he finds personally enriching.

Throughout his professional journey, Peddie has remained a constant source of inspiration for D'Andrea — where he discovered his strengths and fostered enduring relationships.

“I've always felt a sense of indebtedness to Peddie,” he said. “It's where I cut my teeth and learned the importance of hard work and the value of good relationships. Peddie unearthed the best parts of me and taught me things about myself that I had no idea existed.”

**EDUCATION THROUGH ATHLETICS**

Central to D'Andrea's vision for Peddie Athletics is the principle of “Education through Athletics.” Drawing inspiration from his mentor, the late Peddie lacrosse coach Dietrich von Schwerdtner, affectionately known as “Von,” D'Andrea recounted a formative experience as a freshman in the late 1990s. D'Andrea and



Above: Rich D'Andrea '01 stands by the lacrosse captain boards in the Peddie athletic center, where his leadership as team captain in 2000 and 2001 is commemorated.

Left: Rich D'Andrea '01 is Peddie's new director of athletics.



*“‘Education through Athletics’ may speak to the valuable lessons learned through competition, lessons we carry with us throughout life.”*

several students helped Von intertwine excerpts from speeches by Abraham Lincoln during a chapel presentation, weaving them into a metaphorical rope of resilience and bravery.

D’Andrea said, “Looking back, it’s clear to me that Von had been teaching the entire community — me among them — about the importance of perseverance and courage.”

While “Education through Athletics” might translate into honing individual skills or grasping tactical nuances, its essence also embodies a comprehensive approach to personal development and community engagement.

D’Andrea elaborated, “Education through Athletics’ may speak to the valuable

lessons learned through competition, lessons we carry with us throughout life. Hard work, accountability, resiliency, time management, understanding how to contribute to a cause greater than ourselves, elevating those around us, and so on.”

Moreover, he said, it extends to navigating through profound challenges. “Sitting in sadness with a teammate that’s lost a family member, helping others or being helped by others going through depression, showing up and navigating through the darkness — together. These are the moments when I’m grateful to know there’s a rope to grab onto.”

The “Education through Athletics” philosophy serves as a unifying force for the athletics program. D’Andrea emphasized,

“Having a clear and focused message to rally around creates unity within our community and it very much aligns us with the school’s core values.”

### PRIMED FOR A RESURGENCE

D’Andrea is optimistic about the future of Peddie Athletics, seeing it as primed for a resurgence. He recognized past challenges, and acknowledged, “We’ve had some turnover in coaching positions and with athletic directors. Consistency across a lot of our programs has been lacking.”

In response, D’Andrea and his team have initiated strategic measures to inject new vitality into the program. Leveraging

partnerships with admissions and alumni networks, they are intensifying student and coaching recruitment efforts while enhancing visibility. “We’re raising our flag a little higher,” D’Andrea noted.

Embracing a balanced approach, the department nurtures individual athlete interests while encouraging students to explore new avenues. D’Andrea emphasized their philosophy: “We meet each student-athlete where they are, then gently push them beyond their comfort zones in a manner that empowers them for the future.”

Recent innovations include tailored off-season workouts for specific teams, catering to aspiring college athletes — a move that has garnered enthusiastic support from coaches

and students alike. Furthermore, Peddie is investing over \$7 million in upgrading its athletic facilities, which are slated for completion this fall. These enhancements include a varsity weight room, a community weight room, erging rooms for the rowing program, and a golf simulator room complemented by a nearby putting green.

A particularly gratifying aspect for D’Andrea has been the return of alumni as coaching staff, including Bridgette McKnight ’10 (basketball), Julie Sheldon ’05 (field hockey), Shannon Madden ’13 (softball) and Ethan Kibrick ’11 (lacrosse). Their presence, he said, underscores the alumni community’s deep connection and enduring commitment to Peddie Athletics.



### TESSA HUGHES ’26 ON RECORD-BREAKING SPREE

Tessa Hughes ’26 shattered four school records during a stellar indoor track and field season.

The first feat came in December when Hughes conquered the Peddie 45-meter hurdles at 7.18, breaking the previous record set by Melanie Nicholas ’04 in 2004 at 7.44.

Next, at the Bishop Loughlin Games in Staten Island, Hughes broke the 55-meter hurdle school record with a time of 8.53, surpassing the previous record set by Gabby Moise ’10.

Hughes extended her streak of record-breaking performances, achieving a time of 42.77 in the 300-meter run and surpassing the previous Peddie record set by Ruby Avila ’17. Additionally, in February, Hughes set a new record in the girls’ 400-meter run at the MAPL Indoor Track & Field Championships, clocking in at 59.15 and surpassing the previous record set by Veronica McRipley ’00 in 2000.

Reflecting on breaking four school records in a single season, Hughes said, “I’ve grown a lot in general, getting stronger and having a stronger mindset of what I want to do with running and everything in general.”

Head Coach Tim Brennan, impressed by Hughes’ ability to perform consistently well under pressure, remarked, “It is rare that such talent prevails at a young age.”



### BOYS BASKETBALL ARE PSIT CHAMPS

In the 50th year of the Peddie School Invitational Tournament (PSIT), the varsity boys basketball team won its first championship since 2016. Team Captain Noah Payne ’24, who surpassed 2,000 career points this season, was named PSIT Most Valuable Player (photo at right). The eight-team tournament hosted by Peddie showcases top independent school basketball talent in the Mid-Atlantic region.



*“We meet each student-athlete where they are, then gently push them beyond their comfort zones in a manner that empowers them for the future.”*

*“There must have been around 400-500 people watching the game. People were going nuts.”*



### CURRENT GROWTH AND SUCCESSES

D’Andrea highlighted recent accomplishments, including standout individual performances and team triumphs. “This year, we’ve witnessed exceptional feats,” he said, citing Tessa Hughes ’26’s record-breaking achievements in indoor track, Noah Payne ’24’s 2,000th career point and the boys basketball team’s victory at the PSIT. Notably, the girls tennis and boys indoor track teams secured wins in the MAPL Championships this year.

Illustrating growth areas, D’Andrea pointed to the transformation of the field hockey program under Julie Sheldon’s guidance, evolving from a modest record to noteworthy accomplishments. “If you go and watch the games, you’ll see they have a really great foundation, and you can see that growth happening in real-time,” he said. Additionally, he highlighted the boys lacrosse team’s progress, attributing it to robust underclassmen recruitment efforts.

D’Andrea reminisced about the exhilarating ambiance at the Blair Day boys JV soccer match last autumn. “There must have been around 400-500 people watching

the game. People were going nuts,” he said. D’Andrea feels that such vibrant enthusiasm within Peddie’s sports community serves as a catalyst for momentum. “As success builds, we start to attract a diverse array of student-athletes to the school,” he said.

### THE ROAD AHEAD

In the delicate balance between professional demands and personal fulfillment, D’Andrea finds solace and joy in family moments. Married to fellow alumna Erika Kapp ’98, with three lively boys ages 11, 9 and 6, he cherishes the joys of parenthood. “My wife is approaching sainthood for dealing with all four boys in the house,” he quipped.



*“I do this because I love it. I do this because of you.”*

– Dietrich von Schwerdtner

D’Andrea often thinks about his close friend and mentor, Dietrich von Schwerdtner, whose wisdom influences his leadership approach. Recalling their last conversation on a bench outside the Athletic Center, D’Andrea was struck by Von’s candid response when asked about his dedication to coaching and teaching. “He responded immediately, ‘I do this because I love it. I do this because of you.’”

In this spirit, inspired by Von’s legacy, D’Andrea leads Peddie Athletics into an exciting and transformative new era, determined to make a lasting impact on the institution that has molded him into the leader he is today.



### KASEME LECKIE '24 SOARS

Kaseme Leckie ’24 is a two-time champion in the Mercer County Tournament Association indoor track boys high jump (in 2023 and 2024). Leckie recorded a 6-02 jump during the January event. Furthermore, Leckie won three events at the February NJISAA Prep A Indoor Track Championships, securing first place in the 55-meter and 200-meter dash and winning for the second consecutive year in the high jump.



### GIRLS SWIMMING DOMINATES HOME TURF

The Peddie varsity girls swimming team clinched victory at the MAPL Swimming Championships in February, surpassing six other teams in eight individual and relay events at their home venue.



### VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS SECURES MAIDEN MAPL CHAMPIONSHIP

The Peddie varsity girls tennis team made history on October 28, clinching their first-ever MAPL Championship following fiercely contested matches held at Blair Academy.

Karen Yao ’24 and Saanvi Gudapati ’26 secured second place in second and fourth singles, respectively, after battling fiercely against Lawrenceville. Ely Ting ’26 and Ivy Zhao ’25 clinched the MAPL doubles title with a victory over Pennington.

Lakhi Raju ’24, who had previously clinched the Mercer County title at third singles, added another feather to her cap by winning the MAPL title after defeating Lawrenceville.

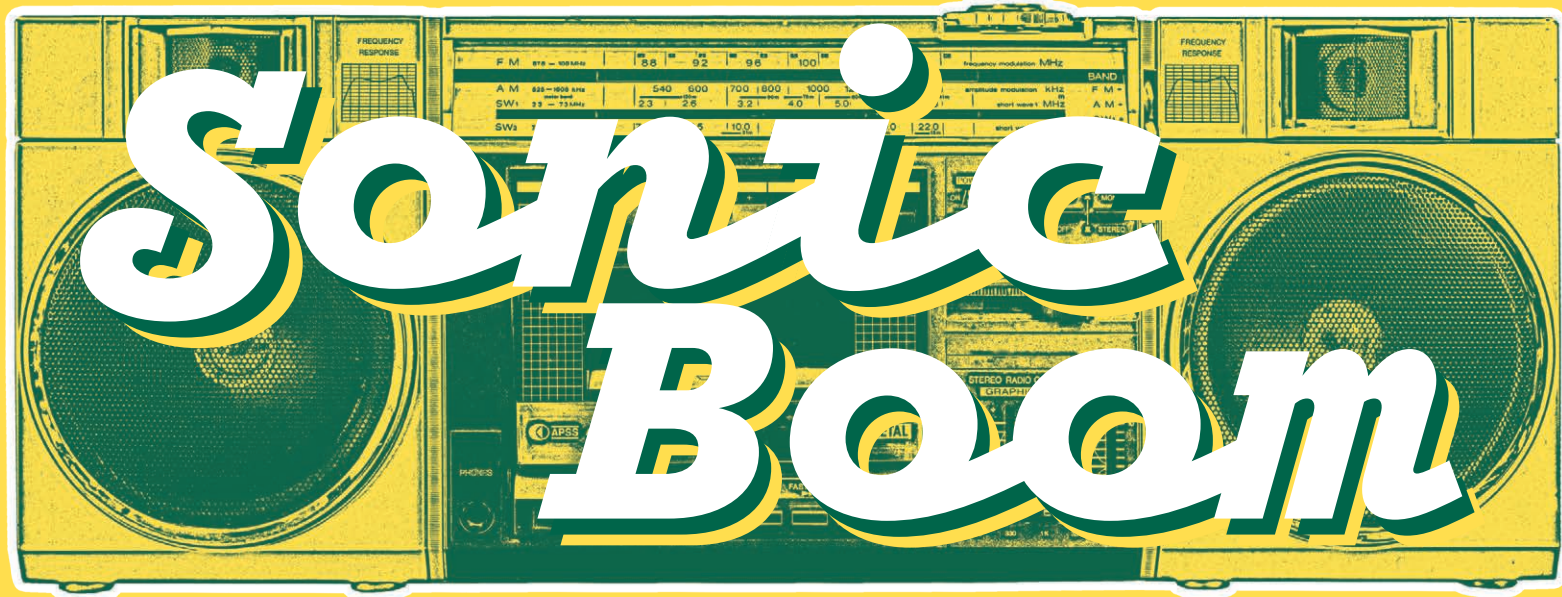
The championship’s pinnacle moment came from Brielle Quaye ’26, seeded second, who faced off against the number one seed from Pennington. Despite losing to her opponent twice earlier



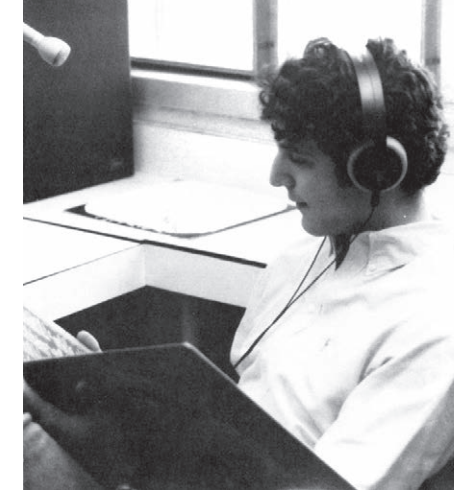
in the season, Quaye emerged victorious in the final tiebreaker.

Quaye shared her excitement, saying, “It was really special because my dad was there, so it was a special moment for me.”

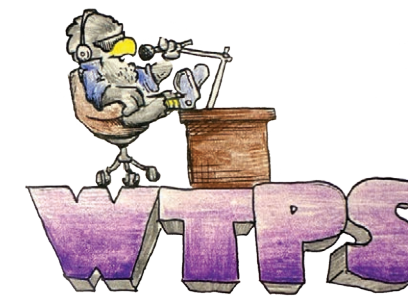
Coach Dubrulle added, “The girls were very excited. We came close to a county title this year and MAPL title last year. For these girls to get a title is pretty nice for them.”



**“The mid-’80s was that moment when music really took a step forward.”**



*Station founder Brian Ades '86 on the air at WTPS in 1986.*



*The original WTPS logo, drawn by J. Samuel.*

**Peddie is fertile ground for all kinds of sounds – laughing, cheering, lively discussions.**

But on Monday, November 4, 1985, the school was host to an entirely new sound: music transmitted via radio station WTPS (“The Peddie School”) all across campus.

Station founder and acting manager Brian Ades '86 remembers the exhilaration of “the first broadcast and feeling the electricity of the signal going through the dorms.”

Beginning in the early '70s and continuing in earnest in 1981, the U.S. government deregulated FCC laws governing media, making low-power FM licenses more accessible for schools to obtain. Ades arrived at Peddie in the fall of 1984 as a new junior, keen to ride the wave.

“My interest in radio and music was directly tied to growing up in the Washington, D.C. area, listening to Howard Stern on DC101 and following the punk scene in Georgetown,” said Ades. “The '80s was a unique moment in music. There was so much going on, and it was exciting. I remember a lot of people walking around with a Walkman. And the mid-'80s was that moment when music really took a step forward.”

But the process of launching the high school radio station was a lot of one step forward, several steps back.

“There was a template for how to run a radio station. But there’s not really an existing template to start one,” explained Ades. “So you’re working in the dark.”

Ades was attempting this pre-internet, as a teenage boarding student. For advice on how to tackle the project, he relied on “old-school letter writing. I would go to class and then come back and write letters and letters” – or he’d visit those in the know.

“Wednesdays and Saturdays were half-days of classes at Peddie, so I would go and try to talk to someone at WPRB at Princeton University,” he said. “WMMR out of Philly was really helpful. And in Washington, D.C., someone at DC101 would give me five minutes and say, ‘do this’ or ‘try this.’”

By the spring of '85, Ades had amassed enough information as well as several partners on the project, including Michael Levine '86 and Dominick Cerisano '86, to gain a foothold. He began meeting regularly with the head of school to discuss their progress.

“Mr. Potter was with me from day one and was my mentor, guard rail and critic,” said Ades. “He put me to task.”

That summer, more key pieces fell into place. Levine interned with WPLJ in New York City, and Cerisano worked to raise capital.

Ades conducted extensive research with the FCC and selected a closed circuit system – a radio with a small broadcasting range – for the station. “It looped some form of transmitters in the different dorms. So we did an installation on campus, and from there, we were able to create a signal,” he said.

In September 1985, The Peddie News announced the station’s imminent launch, and WTPS went live in early November. Six

days a week, student disc jockeys climbed the stairs to the studio on the third floor of Caspersen Science Building (now Caspersen History House), filling shifts on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to midnight and on Saturdays from 6:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

At Kerr Dormitory, which had been situated at the north end of campus, students tuned in to 640 AM. Avery and Trask Dormitories and Austen-Colgate Hall and Masters House set their dials to 530 AM. In the student center, the station broadcasted over the P.A. system.

### BEHIND THE BOARD

“Peddie’s pretty diverse, between the jocks and the rockers and the artists, and the station evolved organically,” said Ades. “Day students were picking up on the New Jersey vibe, which was beach-oriented, a lot of Springsteen. And you had the boarders. They played Grateful Dead. The punk scene at that time was pretty vibrant, and you had

### THE SHIFT I REMEMBER

**Brian Ades '86**

Ades and friends reenacted a popular Miller Lite TV commercial from the '80s, provoking (possibly) the only hand-slapping the station received.

“When we first went on air, I had everyone on one side of campus open their windows and scream out, ‘Tastes great!’ and the other half on the other side scream, ‘Less filling!’ Then I got a knock on the door and was told, ‘Don’t do that.’”



**“We were doing something a little bit different than other high school kids; we were sitting in a radio station playing subversive music.”**



DJ Mark Cox '86 takes the mic during a WTPS broadcast in 1986.

European music, which wasn't necessarily the Stones. Each group brought its own flavor to the shows and introduced it to people."

Ades credits Cerisano for helping to create a genre balance in playlists and Levine for inspiring DJs "to tell a story with their shows."

"We were Peddie English students," said Ades. "There was a push not just to get into music, but also the lyrics and telling a story. Everyone's looking for an identity at that age. We were all exploring our own ways."

That spirit of exploration, encouraged by the station leaders, led to WTPS being a laboratory for new music. College radio, which was pushing the broadcasting envelope, served as further inspiration.

"My friends and I liked the college stations that were coming out of Princeton and Penn and Temple because they were

pushing the boundaries," said DJ Mark Cox '86. "Early hip-hop, reggae that you wouldn't find anywhere else on the dial. It wasn't necessarily the big rock stations who were playing Led Zeppelin for the five millionth time.

"I vaguely remember that we had some musical concepts, but it might as well have been the didgeridoo — nobody cared," said Cox. "It was, 'That sounds good. Go do that.' Obscure, weird music. That was the stuff I loved and still do. To be able to play that — it was a huge part of why I wanted to be on that station."

Spinning tunes — at the start, the studio housed just two turntables — meant DJs were required to review the station's limited music library before devising their playlists. Soon after launching the station, The Peddie News requested more LP donations to add

### THE SONG I REMEMBER

Michael Barless '87

"Me and my friend Anthony Ciaravalo '88 co-hosted two Saturday morning radio shows. We once opened a show with 'Fire on High' by ELO and decided to play it backward to hear what they were saying: 'The music is reversible, but time is not. Turn back, turn back, turn back.'"



to the library. But many DJs simply toted their own music collections back and forth across campus, at all hours.

"I had a stack of records like a foot high, and I'd carry them over to the radio station every week," said Stephanie (Smith) Harris '87, who hosted a show with Carin Beyer '87 during her senior year from 10 p.m. until midnight.

"One time, we played a song and didn't like it, so we just took it off in the middle. And the next day, (social sciences teacher) Mr. Murphy said, 'Hey, I really liked that song. Next time, let it play!' and I was like, 'Wow, an actual adult is listening?'" Harris laughed.

Musical experimentation paired with a fair amount of carte blanche from Peddie's administrators was a heady combination — one WTPS students deeply valued.



Far left: DJ Ed Nader '86  
Left: WTPS DJs gather for a yearbook photo in 1993. From left (back): James Carlisi '93, Justin Connell '93 and Michael Zulla '93. From left (front): Craig White '96, Amy Calhoun '94, Dawn Sittinger '94 and Michael Pratico '95.

### THE SCAM I REMEMBER

Jeff Schneider '88

"In the years before cell phones, we had a unique way of taking requests at the station. People would use the pay phone in the student center to make collect calls from the bands they wanted to hear. For example, 'Collect call from INXS. Do you accept the charges?' No, but we knew which record to play next."



"We had the trust of the school to be outside of the dormitory after hours," said Cox, who also had a 10 p.m. shift. "We were doing something a little bit different than other high school kids; we were sitting in a radio station playing subversive music.

"It was like, 'Wow, you're going to let two 15-year-olds broadcast to the entire school?' That was a cool feeling. It was a very progressive thing for Peddie to do. And we got a lot of nice feedback."

Harris had a similar experience. "There was never a time when anybody said, 'You

can't say that, you can't do that, you can't play that,'" she said. Plus, "I was a boarder and wasn't one to sneak out. But I felt like we were doing something crazy coming back across campus at midnight. That felt like freedom for sure."

### MOVIN' OUT, MOVIN' IN

In the early '90s, WTPS packed up the turntables, newly acquired cassette deck and CD player, crates of records and other equipment from the third floor of Caspersen and relocated to the first floor of the former

student center. The late mathematics teacher and dean Samuel "Sandy" Tattersall spearheaded the move to offer the station greater accessibility and space.

Dawn Sittinger '94 and Amy (Calhoun) Robb '94 teamed up at WTPS during their freshman year, often bringing their own mix tapes and CDs to their shift and indulging in the excitement their predecessors had enjoyed.

"Wait, we have an hour slot to play whatever we want?" said Robb of the opportunity to host their own show. "We did our own thing, playing music that we liked, that we thought was fun. It was a time of discovery of music for us."

"This was before the genre of yacht rock existed, but we were pioneers of yacht rock!" said Sittinger. "I remember laughing a lot — sitting up there laughing at what we could play next that would get people to react in a positive way. Our intention was always to make people laugh and smile."

"It was a great moment in time," Robb said. "To come across all these new bands and new genres — that was the thing to do. That was our way of being able to share music with folks around us."

But by the early '90s, when the women had their show, student involvement had waned — from about 50 members in its 1986 heyday to just a handful.



WTPS DJs in 1988

### THE SONG I REMEMBER

Mark Cox '86

"It was a time of apartheid, and we were really negative about the regime in South Africa. We played 'Sun City' (Artists United Against Apartheid) all the time, and we felt really strongly and passionately about it. We thought we were furthering the cause, and maybe we were in some small way.

"But we also liked to play stuff that we knew our teachers probably weren't so happy about — some songs with drug references, maybe some bad words in there. We never got in any trouble, so either they weren't listening (or Mr. Potter wasn't listening)."

WTPS "was a little bit of a launching pad for me." (Cox still does radio. Stream his show at [freirad.at](http://freirad.at) "The Endless Summer").



## “‘What were you guys doing?’ And we were like, ‘Playing the music, man!’”

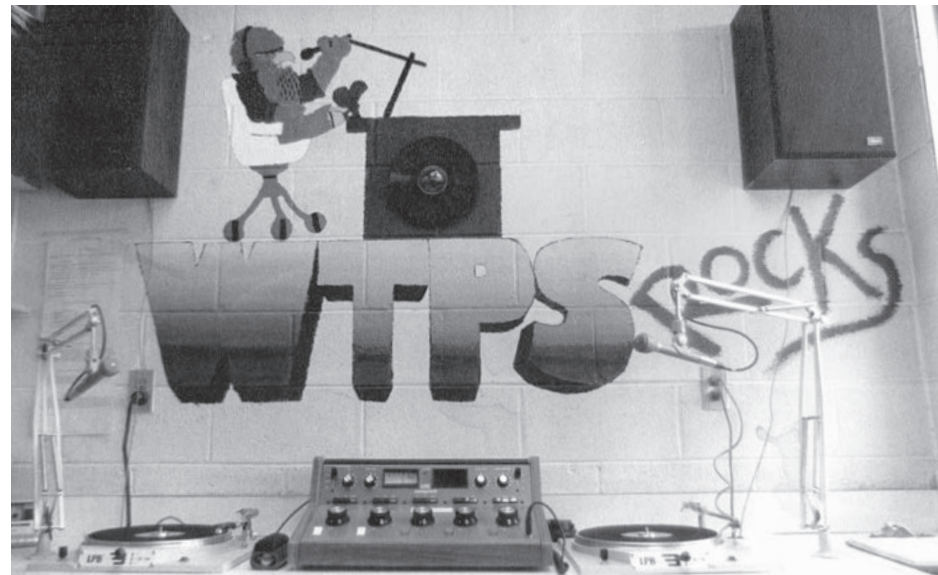
“I don’t think people realized we were in there,” said Sittinger. “And they’d see us walking out of the room and be like, ‘What were you guys doing?’ And we were like, ‘Playing the music, man!’”

### A NEW CHAPTER?

Between 1995 and 1996, the old student center was demolished and a new one was

built. The last few disc jockeys graduated. There’s likely a correlation between these events and the station folding in the same timespan.

Will Peddie radio reemerge? No one can say. But the school is, as ever, home to healthy boundary-pushing and exhilarating discovery. The WTPS Falcon can always rise from the ashes.



### THE SONG I REMEMBER

Dawn Sittinger '94 and Amy (Calhoun) Robb '94

“‘Sunglasses at Night’ by Corey Hart was our signature song. That’s what we signed off with. I remember someone calling us from the pay phone out in the hall and saying, ‘Stop playing ‘Sunglasses at Night!’”



**MUSIC OF AN ERA**  
(MID-'80S TO MID-'90S)

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