

Peddie



CHRONICLE

SPRING/SUMMER
2025

*Farewell,
Mr. Quinn!*

IN THIS ISSUE



16

2020 Vision

Five years later, the Class of 2020 looks back on their disrupted senior year.



22

Unseen Peddie

Explore hidden campus gems, from a secret tunnel to a Heisman Trophy, in this behind-the-scenes tour.

Departments

2
On Campus

14
Alumni News

10
Retirements

35
Class Notes

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“Peddie has always been this idea of beginning anew.”

— Head of School Peter Quinn



26

The Citizen-Maker

Retiring Head of School Peter Quinn reflects on his years at Peddie, the school's enduring spirit of reinvention and the legacy he leaves behind.



◀ **BREAKING BARRIERS ON THE MAT**

(From left) Amelia Kenney '28, Sarah Karlekar '26 and Addison "Addie" Collins '27 made up the girls' contingent on the 2024-25 Peddie wrestling team and found a welcoming community on the mat. "Everyone was super supportive and super nice about me joining," Collins said. Karlekar, who won her first match of the season, added, "I was pretty proud of that." Kenney hopes their presence will encourage other girls to follow: "I'm really glad that I've inspired other people to consider the possibility," she said.



Read more at peddie.org/wrestle.



Sree Lakkamraju '25 is Changing the Conversation on Tourette Syndrome

A MISDIAGNOSIS CAN BE FRUSTRATING. FOR SREE LAKKAMRAJU '25, IT WAS A CATALYST. NOW, SHE'S USING HER VOICE TO RESHAPE THE NARRATIVE AROUND TOURETTE SYNDROME.



Sree Lakkamraju '25 (center) has found an inclusive community at Peddie, but managing her Tourette Syndrome symptoms is a continuous effort.

Sree Lakkamraju '25 carries herself with quiet confidence. But her voice takes on a new intensity when she speaks about her journey from a long-overdue diagnosis to lobbying on Capitol Hill.

Two years ago, after doctors repeatedly dismissed her tics as allergies, excessive screen time and other unrelated issues, Lakkamraju received confirmation that she had Tourette Syndrome. The

diagnosis brought clarity to years of uncertainty.

"It was this missing puzzle piece," she recalled.

Within months of her diagnosis, Lakkamraju channeled her experience into advocacy, becoming a youth ambassador for the Tourette Association of America, the only national organization dedicated to serving people with Tourette Syndrome and other tic disorders. She also joined the

youth council for the New Jersey Center for Tourette Syndrome (NJCTS).

In March 2024, her advocacy led her to Capitol Hill for the Tourette Association's National Advocacy Day. There, she met with Rep. Tom Kean Jr., Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman and staff from Senator Cory Booker's office, advocating for the Safe Step Act, which would prevent insurance companies from requiring patients to try and

fail on lower-cost medications before covering prescribed treatments.

"They were super welcoming," she said of the officials. "They took the time to get to know us, really hear what we had to say and listen to our experiences."

Daily life with Tourette Syndrome presents its challenges. At Peddie, Lakkamraju benefits from smaller classes and supportive teachers, but managing symptoms requires constant effort. "Trying to focus on calculus while also controlling my breathing, keeping my eyes from darting, making sure my neck isn't moving; It's insane," she said. During particularly difficult periods, when stress intensifies her tics, she sometimes needs to visit the Health Center. "People wonder why I wasn't at a Spanish quiz. It's

like, because I literally could not stop ticking," Lakkamraju said.

A turning point in her Peddie journey came when a teacher encouraged her to enter the Reeves Speaking Contest, and Lakkamraju chose to share her experience with Tourette Syndrome. She made it to the finals. "It was the first time I acknowledged it at Peddie. I was really scared to talk about it, but my teacher said, 'You need to take this and turn it into something positive,'" she recalled.

The community's response touched her deeply. "There were people I didn't know coming up to me. Some teachers said, 'Thank you for sharing your story.' That made me really happy," Lakkamraju said.

Through her advocacy work, Lakkamraju frequently addresses misconceptions about

Tourette Syndrome. "People usually assume one person's symptoms are universal, but that's not true. It differs for everybody. For me, it might be tapping my hand or my eyes wandering around," she said.

She recalled an encounter highlighting common misunderstandings: "They said, 'Oh my god, you have Tourettes? Do something crazy. Why aren't you screaming? Why aren't you being crazy?'"

In addressing such misconceptions, Lakkamraju emphasized patience. "(I) don't get defensive when trying to address these things because people usually aren't intentionally trying to be rude," she said.

Media portrayals, she said, only add to the stigma. "The media likes to publicize 'crazy stuff.' It looks better on TV.

They don't realize that tic disorders are also really subtle stuff."

Lakkamraju's experiences have also shaped her career aspirations. This fall, she'll attend New York University to study communicative sciences and disorders, though she hasn't ruled out pre-med. As she prepares for the next chapter, she hopes her advocacy continues to shift perceptions.

"I hope I can help people see Tourette Syndrome for what it is — a part of life, not a limitation," she said.



◀ MASTER'S GAMBIT

Narayan Venkatesh '28 claimed the 14-and-under title at the North American Youth Chess Championship in Washington, D.C., this past December, earning the prestigious FIDE Master (FM) designation — the third highest title in chess after Grandmaster and International Master. Venkatesh began dedicating himself to chess during the pandemic and has since worked tirelessly to surpass an ELO rating of 2300, a milestone that signifies exceptional skill and qualifies him for the FM title. "I'm proud that my perseverance and hard work paid off," he said. Venkatesh is scheduled to compete in several tournaments this summer.

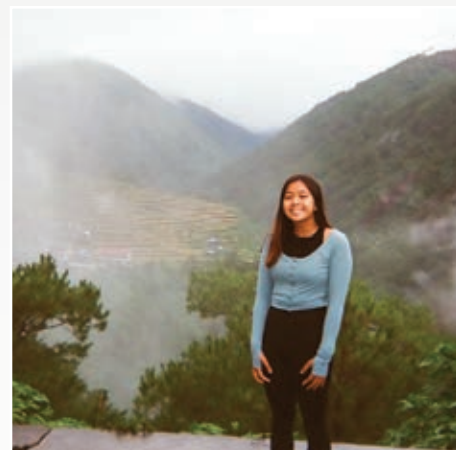
The Future Makers

in Peddie's Signature Experience Program

Whether they're pushing the boundaries of forensic science, diving into cultural anthropology, or taking the stage in New York City, Peddie students in the Signature Experience program aren't just learning — they're doing. This immersive program empowers students to turn curiosity into action, transforming their education into real-world impact.

In a forensic science lab at Rutgers University-Camden, Molly Olds '25 advances DNA identification techniques that could reduce wrongful convictions. Across the Delaware River in Philadelphia, Leena Mirchandani '25 co-authors a research paper on eosinophilic esophagitis at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). Meanwhile, in Boston, Sean Li '25 analyzes brain water flow patterns at Massachusetts General Hospital to improve traumatic brain injury detection.

Far from the lab, Antonette Uy '25 treks through the mountains of the Philippines,



Antonette Uy '25 visits Indigenous communities in the Philippines.

visiting Indigenous communities and uncovering new perspectives on global development. In Spain, Maggie Blakely '25 immerses herself in the rhythms of daily life, navigating a new language and culture. And in New York City, Yanelly DeLeon '25 takes the stage, training with professional actors while falling in love with the energy of the city she hopes to call home some day.

Olds, Mirchandani, Li, Uy, Blakely and DeLeon are just a few of the approximately 75 students who participate in Peddie's Signature Experience program each year. Students gain practical skills through immersive opportunities in STEM, the arts, computer science, creative writing, modern languages, Asian studies and a design-your-own Summer Signature Experience.

A Journey of Discovery

The results often surprise the students themselves.

Uy's Summer Signature Experience was initially a marine biology project studying thresher sharks in the Philippines. But when a medical condition prevented her from obtaining scuba certification, she had to pivot. Instead, she embarked on a deeply personal journey to explore her Filipino heritage, visiting the Tagbanua, Ifugao and Butbut Indigenous communities.



Maggie Blakely '25 pauses for a photo during her Modern Language Signature Experience in Spain's Aragon province.

"I traveled about 6,882 miles by plane, over 600 miles by car, 10 miles by boat, and about nine hours by foot," Uy recalled. She organized much of the project herself, with her mother helping to make contacts through travel organizations.

The experience fundamentally shifted her perspective. "After seeing how much gentrification and tourism affected everyday lives, I became interested in developmental economies. I want to help marginalized groups thrive," Uy said. She plans to study anthropology and economics in college, hoping to work in developing countries.



Inspired by her mother's collection of Patricia Cornwell novels, Molly Olds '25 studied forensic science for her STEM Signature Experience.



Leena Mirchandani '25 (second from right) gets a taste of city life during her STEM Signature Experience at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

For Blakely, the experience was less about shifting career goals and more about pushing boundaries. For her Modern Language Signature Experience, she spent five weeks in Spain through the School Year Abroad program, living with a host family in Huesca, in the Aragon province. Every weekday, she took Spanish grammar and history classes, followed by extracurricular activities such as art, dance and cooking — all conducted entirely in Spanish.

"One of the rules of the program is that you're only able to speak Spanish with your host families, even though mine spoke English," Blakely explained. "So I was super nervous when I first got there, but my host family was so patient with me, and it ended up really improving my Spanish-speaking abilities."

By the end of her stay, she had gained fluency and a deeper appreciation for

cultural immersion. "Towards the end of the program, I felt that I was able to understand not only conversations that I was in but between other members of my host family as well."

Unexpected Lessons

This kind of personal evolution is common among Signature Experience participants.

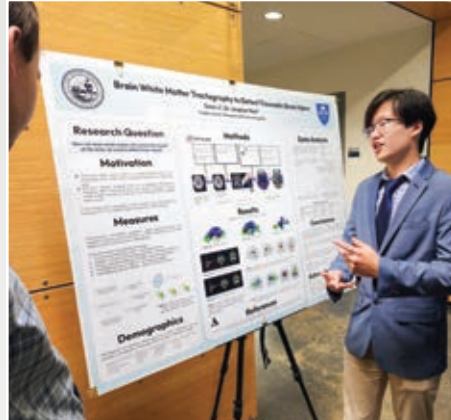
Mirchandani's summer at CHOP for her STEM Signature Experience began with an unexpected challenge: a collapsed shower tension rod in her Philadelphia apartment forced her to confront the realities of independent living. "I was like, 'Things are falling from the sky. What am I supposed to do?'" she remembered. By summer's end, fixing a shower rod would seem trivial compared to co-authoring a research paper and mastering complex lab protocols.

The path to these transformative experiences isn't always smooth. When the professor Olds was initially set to work with suddenly went on sabbatical, she had to quickly change course and advocate for herself to secure a new position. Her persistence paid off — she became the first Peddie student to pursue forensic genetics research through the STEM Signature Experience program.

Olds' passion for forensic science began at home, with a well-worn collection of Patricia Cornwell novels on her mother's bookshelf. "I read one in three days and thought, 'I must read another. This is amazing,'" she said. A class in biochemical forensics at Peddie cemented her interest.

Yanelly DeLeon '25 (center, holding camera) and her classmates at the New York Film Academy meet actor Matthew Modine.





Sean Li '25 shares his Computer Science Summer Signature Experience research project with peers and teachers at Peddie.

Her research focused on genetic identification. “Everyone’s like, ‘Oh, if you commit a crime, DNA will get you.’ But in actuality, DNA technology and identification are not as advanced as people think,” she explained. This fall, she’ll take that knowledge and resilience to the University of New Haven, where she’ll major in forensic science.

A Glimpse into the Future

The program offers some students a preview of the life they hope to lead.

DeLeon spent three weeks at the New

York Film Academy’s (NYFA) acting program, staying in Pace University dorms and training with professional actors. To qualify for the Arts Signature Experience program, she had to compete in the Declamation Contest, act in multiple Peddie productions, and complete every available acting elective. Her dedication paid off when she arrived at NYFA with a schedule of six to seven classes daily, culminating in student film productions.

“I had to go in front of 175 kids, and I had to audition by myself,” she recalled. Between classes and performances, she explored the city she hopes to eventually call home, even meeting actor Matthew Modine of “Stranger Things” fame. “I fell in love with the city,” she said. “That’s where I want to go to college. And that’s where I want to live when I get older.”

Li’s Computer Science Summer Signature Experience at Massachusetts General Hospital similarly combined professional and personal growth. As the only high school student in the lab, he learned to set his own research goals while analyzing brain injury data. “I was given this data set, but I wasn’t really told what to do with it. I learned a lot about how to set my own goals and create ideas,” he explained. Graduate students using similar software became unexpected mentors, offering guidance and expertise.

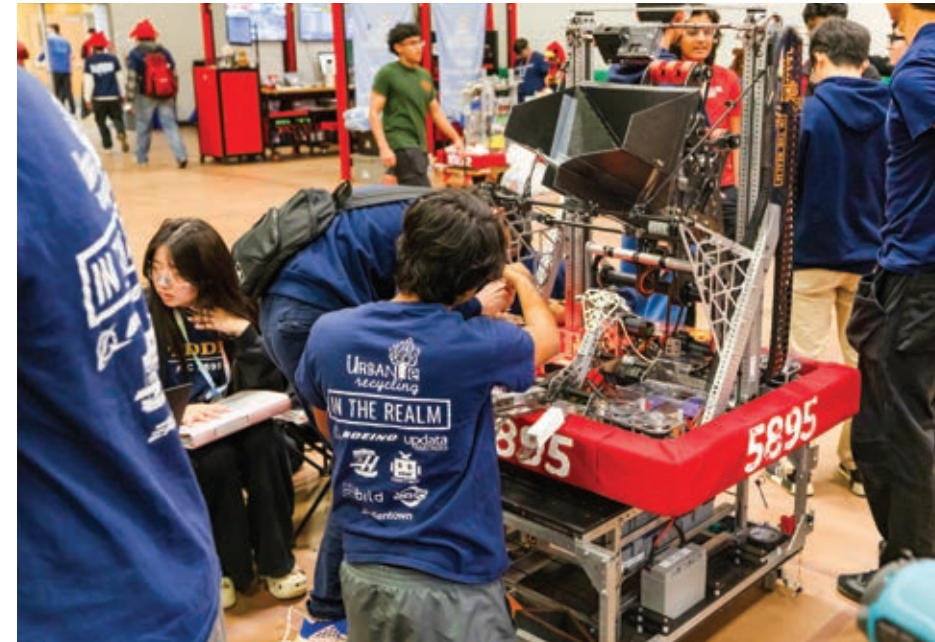
Outside the lab, Li navigated Boston’s public transportation and expanded his cooking capabilities — occasionally setting off fire alarms in the process. The lab experience solidified his decision to study electrical engineering at Cornell University, with plans to apply his skills to medical applications.

Beyond the Classroom

What sets Peddie’s Signature Experience program apart from traditional coursework is its emphasis on authentic, independent experiences. Students aren’t just observing — they’re doing. Whether it’s Mirchandani earning her colleagues’ trust in a professional research environment, Uy coordinating complex travel logistics or DeLeon auditioning in front of 175 peers, participants face real challenges that demand real solutions.

“I felt truly valued,” said Mirchandani, reflecting on her time at CHOP. It’s a sentiment echoed by her peers, who consistently describe their experiences as transformative.

Each journey is different. Some students uncover unexpected passions, others solidify lifelong ambitions. But all emerge with a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them, ready to take their next bold step.



FEAT OF ENGINEERING

Peddie Robotics Team 5895 members make adjustments to their robot during a recent competition. The team advanced to the FIRST Mid-Atlantic District Championships in early April, where they narrowly missed the title in a close final match — but earned enough points to qualify for the 2025 FIRST Championship in Houston, the pinnacle of the robotics season.

“We head to Houston ranked 30th out of 3,690 teams in the world by Statbotics and 32nd by YouTube robotics news channel First Updates Now,” said team mentor Kevin Brown.

“They’re a very dedicated group that loves the intellectual challenge of creating a machine that can compete at the highest level,” added lead team mentor Robert Tackett. “As a result of their efforts, the team is performing among the top robots in the world.”

PEAK AMBITION

Director of Health Services Dr. Aimee Goodman stands at Everest Base Camp, proudly holding the Peddie flag after an 11-day trek through the Himalayas. “This was a trip I had dreamed of since reading ‘Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster’ at age 10 — a true bucket list journey, a lifetime in the making,” Goodman said. “Preparing for the trek took six months of dedicated training, and it was the most physically challenging thing I’ve ever done, but also the most rewarding. Standing at Base Camp, surrounded by the world’s highest peaks, was an unforgettable experience.”

Read more Employee Notes on page 60.



GAME ON: THE NEXT STEP IN PEDDIE ATHLETICS

Peddie is making decisive moves to elevate its athletics program. The Zhao and Li Family Fitness and Exercise Center, which opened last year, set a new standard for training and wellness. Now, the focus shifts to revitalizing the outdoor facilities to meet the needs of today’s student-athletes and ensure Peddie remains a top destination for athletes.

After an 18-month review, a committee determined that the grass fields, built over former agricultural land without modern irrigation or drainage,

are unreliable for practice and games. Weather conditions make scheduling a challenge, and playing time is limited without lighting. Immediate action is needed to remain competitive with peer schools and provide the best possible experience for our athletes.

The top priority is transforming the existing grass football field into a state-of-the-art synthetic turf field, increasing its usability from serving one team in one season to six teams year-round, including football, soccer, field hockey and lacrosse.

Upgrading the turf and track surfaces and adding lights will more than double Peddie’s practice and playtime capacity, allow for night games and create a true hub for the school’s athletic community. Additionally, modern in-ground irrigation will improve the grass fields for baseball and softball, and practice areas for football and soccer, while reducing water waste.

The Peddie Board of Trustees approved this \$5.5 million project contingent on successful fundraising efforts with a goal to raise 70% of the total cost



in time to execute the project before the next home Peddie-Blair Day in the fall of 2026. Fundraising is underway, and those interested in contributing can contact Ryan Baumuller at rbaumuller@peddie.org or (609) 944-7692.

CATHY AND PAUL WATKINS BID FAREWELL TO PEDDIE

After 36 years of inspiring students and enriching the Peddie community, Director of Visual Arts Cathy Watkins and History Teacher and Writer-in-Residence Paul Watkins are retiring.

The morning of her interview at Peddie in 1989, Cathy Watkins nearly didn't make the drive from Baltimore. A graduate student at the Maryland Institute College of Art, she had never considered teaching at an independent school.

"I woke up that morning and said to Paul, 'I don't think I want to live in New Jersey. I'm not going to that interview,'" she recalled. Her then-boyfriend, now husband, encouraged her to go anyway.

That fateful meeting with Interim Head of School Ann Seltzer proved serendipitous in more ways than one. Seltzer had recently heard Paul, an accomplished novelist, speak on NPR's "Fresh Air" about his latest book. Soon, what began as a job interview for one became an opportunity for both. Cathy joined the visual arts department, while Paul — initially wary that full-time teaching might dull the edge of his writing career — agreed to teach evening classes part-time and was designated Peddie's writer-in-residence.

Growing up, Paul had attended "very strict" all-boys boarding schools in England — "uniforms and all that sort of stuff" — and assumed teaching at a boarding school would feel too familiar. Instead, he discovered a passion for the classroom.

"Not only did I enjoy it, but I particularly enjoyed [teaching] high school. I kept fighting against it because it didn't fit into this kind of narrative I created for myself," Paul said. "Now I'm super proud of being here, and I'm such a total blue and gold."



Paul and Cathy Watkins circa 1989

Building a Life and Legacy at Peddie

When Cathy and Paul arrived at Peddie, they weren't yet married and, as such, were not invited to live on campus.

"We were banished to some banana-colored condominium complex," Paul joked. They married soon after, and Cathy became department chair. Eventually, they moved into Octagon House, a residence that, according to school records, they have occupied longer than any faculty member has lived anywhere on campus, ever.

"We love the quirkiness of that house," said Cathy. "I mean, it's very drafty. It's a good old house with tall ceilings. It is just fun. People say it's haunted."

Paul added, "Doc Martin, the school archivist, stopped me the other day and wanted the official word on whether it's actually haunted. I hate to dispel the myth, but I do think we have a lot of squirrels."

Transforming Peddie Arts and Humanities

The Peddie that Cathy and Paul encountered in 1989 was a very different place. The transformative Annenberg gift was still years away, and the arts program was in its infancy. Cathy was the only full-time visual arts teacher in the newly opened Swig Arts Center.

"We had a part-time music teacher. The choir that year for Vespers had two people in it," she remembered. "There was no instrumental program, and Harry Holcombe was the full-time theater teacher. We were literally knocking around in that building [Swig] that first year."

Under Cathy's leadership, the visual arts department evolved into what she described as an "extremely rare" program at the high school level, one that emphasizes experimentation and creative risk-taking. The 2022 addition of the Donna L. Sands '82 Exhibition Hall and specialized studio spaces have allowed students to push artistic boundaries even further.



Cathy Watkins prepares the Mariboe Gallery for her spring retrospective, "BETWIXT," a farewell exhibition.

"I have a special soft spot for the senior thesis shows that go up in early May. The seniors who've been in Honors Studio Art all year have invested a great deal of their time, and also their vulnerability, their heart, into making the work," Cathy said.

Meanwhile, Paul — the reluctant teacher — found his calling in the classroom. His creative writing and history classes became legendary among students, distinguished by his theatrical approach to storytelling. He would arrive to class with duffel bags full of artifacts, allowing students to handle historical objects and try on period military coats. His gift for narrative transformed history into drama.

"There's never a year gone by when I didn't at one moment look out and see that particular focus of gaze of a student who is having that moment, where, even if they're not thinking, 'Oh, I want to be a history teacher,' they are passionate about something," Paul said.

A Life Interwoven with Peddie

Cathy and Paul reflected on what they'll miss most about Peddie: the fresh start each school year brings, the unexpected moments of discovery in their classrooms and the holistic connections that make boarding school life unique.

"I know I will miss the interactions with the perpetual, youthful student body," Cathy said. "The beginning of each year and the excitement of seeing how students will respond to a particular assignment prompt."

One of their fondest memories involves raising their children, Emma '14 and Oliver '17, within the Peddie community.

"We were really lucky in that there were a number of other faculty families at the time," Cathy said. "Everyone learned how to ride their bikes out there. Everyone learned how to skateboard and ride scooters, and they had amazing make-believe games in the bushes with their dolls and on the far fields built forts."

Paul added, "My memories of walking into the house, kids running past me — kids who weren't mine. And just the idea that you never knew quite where people were, but your house was just a pit stop on the way to their house. And then, of course, they all matriculated to Peddie."

Leaving an Indelible Mark

Reflecting on his wife's legacy, Paul highlighted the deep and lasting impact Cathy will leave on Peddie.

"There are certain people who, through a combination of longevity and commitment, somehow become part of the DNA of the establishment," he said. "Every now and then there's a rock that appears in the stream, and the stream can't wash away that rock. Similarly, I think there will always be a part of her here."

Cathy, in turn, credited Paul with teaching her an important lesson: "Not being afraid to be completely eccentric, willing to throw caution to the wind, and frankly, at times, just make a fool of yourself

"I think there will always be a part of her here."

in the service of livening up the room or driving home a certain point," she said. "I think it is a tremendous legacy."

Their next chapter will unfold at their lakeside home in Northwest Maine, a place Paul described as "endlessly rejuvenating," where motorboat rides across the water take an hour and solitude is abundant. It's a retreat that naturally encourages reflection.

"It forces you to slow down and notice things," said Cathy. She looks forward to spending time in her art shed, while Paul will have space to write.

"It's extraordinary how much there is to nourish yourself within the world out there," said Paul. "And we've had a great adventure, but it's only made me realize how many more there are to have."



Cathy and Paul Watkins, seated at their Octagon House home on campus, said they look forward to relocating to their lakeside home in Northwest Maine.



Paul Watkins demonstrates the use of a lensatic compass with a history class.

TWO DECADES OF DEDICATION

History Teacher Lynn Berrettoni and Math Teacher Andrew Cagliaris



History teacher Lynn Berrettoni highlights a historical event with a pin on a map while discussing European history in her classroom. During her 20-year tenure, Berrettoni helped reshape Peddie's history curriculum to reflect a more global perspective.

When Lynn Berrettoni and Andrew Cagliaris moved across the country to join the Peddie community in 2005, they were doing more than escaping the Arizona heat: They were looking for a place where they could really make a difference.

Twenty years later, their influence on students, colleagues and campus life is undeniable.

Over their two decades at Peddie, Cagliaris and Berrettoni have played key roles in the transformation and growth of their respective departments. When the history department moved from Coates-Coleman House to its current home in the Casperson History House, Berrettoni was a part of the department-wide initiative to shape the new space to encourage collaborative, discussion-focused learning. As the surroundings changed, so did the history curriculum, shifting away from a Eurocentric focus to reflect a more global perspective. "We're always evolving," said Berrettoni. "No pun intended, but we're not stuck in the past."

A passionate historian, Berrettoni worked to bring complex historical moments and marginalized voices to the forefront in her classroom, looking to college professors for inspiration and guidance in designing her courses. "She's very dedicated, both as a teacher and a historian," said Cagliaris. "She's more than someone who is just delivering the material. She's passionate about keeping up with trends in the field."

Although his favorite subject is statistics, Cagliaris has taught every level of mathematics at Peddie, from algebra to calculus. "In the classroom, he has helped students be better, no matter what their level is," said Berrettoni. "He's there. He doesn't give up."

Cagliaris brought his wide-ranging expertise to mentoring his colleagues and helping the department evolve, introducing game-changing, evidence-backed courses to Peddie's mathematics

curriculum. "Being in an environment with people who have innovative, interesting ideas keeps me motivated and excited," said Cagliaris.

His time as an international student in university gave Cagliaris the perspective and understanding to serve as an advisor to Peddie's international students, offering guidance and support for the unique challenge of seeking an education far from home. This led to Cagliaris traveling to Peddie's sister school, EFZ, in Shanghai to teach for a semester. "Being able to do that was really unexpected and delightful," he said.

Outside the classroom, the pair have raised two daughters (now Peddie alumnae), and made contributions to both athletics and residential life. Cagliaris served as assistant JV soccer coach, while Berrettoni served as scorekeeper for varsity basketball and soccer. As longtime members of the Mariboe Dormitory staff — Cagliaris a dorm parent and Berrettoni a substitute — they created a warm and welcoming home for generations of Peddie students. "There's a sense of community, where the kids look after each other," said Cagliaris of Peddie's uniquely close-knit dorm culture. "They're really tightly connected."

Berrettoni and Cagliaris will miss the enthusiasm of their students and the support of their colleagues, but they're also looking forward to retirement, where they will settle in Delaware and use their newfound leisure time to travel and visit family and friends. They leave the community with good memories, and a legacy of dedication and navigating change.

"The passion and energy and enthusiasm and dedication that we bring to the classroom," said Cagliaris. "I hope that's what people remember about us."

Math teacher Andrew Cagliaris works with students in his classroom. Since 2005, Cagliaris has played a key role in evolving the department, mentoring colleagues and introducing innovative, evidence-backed courses.



MY LITTLE CITY

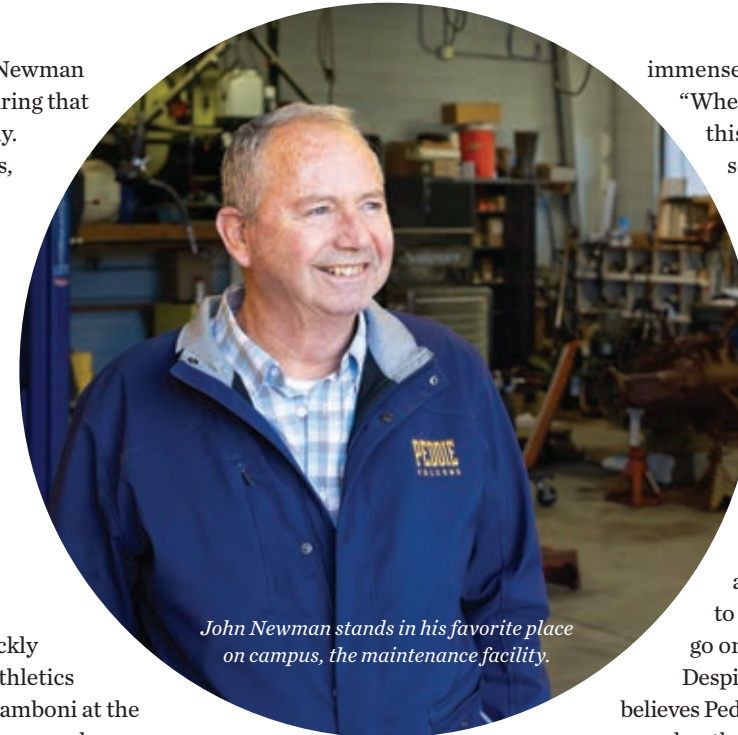
Director of Building Services John Newman

For nearly five decades, John Newman has been the steady hand ensuring that Peddie's campus runs smoothly. As director of building services, he has overseen everything from routine maintenance to multimillion-dollar construction projects, shaping the campus into what he affectionately calls "my little city."

Newman arrived at Peddie in 1976, when he took a part-time janitorial job in the school gym, working evenings while spending his days laboring on local farms and nurseries (Newman, after all, grew up on a farm.) He quickly became indispensable to the athletics department — operating the Zamboni at the old ice rink, distributing uniforms, and maintaining the playing fields and clay tennis courts. Before long, he transitioned into the maintenance department, mastering plumbing, electrical and carpentry work.

As Peddie embarked on ambitious construction projects during the 1980s and '90s, Newman gained invaluable experience in large-scale campus improvements. By the early '90s, CFO Charlie Galbraith appointed him director of building services.

Under Newman's leadership, Peddie's landscape evolved dramatically. His impact is evident in the construction of the Arts Center, Athletic Center and new dormitories, as well as renovations to faculty housing, athletic facilities and existing dorms. He takes



John Newman stands in his favorite place on campus, the maintenance facility.

"I'm proud of what I've accomplished here."

immense pride in Peddie's growth, saying, "When visitors come and say, 'Oh my God, this place is unbelievable — nicer than some colleges I've seen,' that means a lot."

Looking back, Newman credited mentors like Galbraith, former CFO Mike McKitish and current CFO Sanjeev Puri for shaping his career. "I had good mentors," he reflected. He fondly recalled Peddie's former daycare facility, which made life easier as a working parent. "I always knew where my kids were," he said. "I loved being able to pick them up and take them to lunch." Three of his children would go on to graduate from Peddie.

Despite decades of change, Newman believes Peddie's core remains the same. "It still has the same values. It's not a pretentious school. It's diverse, and I think it produces good-quality students," he said.

When asked for his favorite spot on campus, his answer was immediate: the maintenance facility. "There's

camaraderie with the guys. The facilities are great — the carpentry shop, wood shop, auto shop."

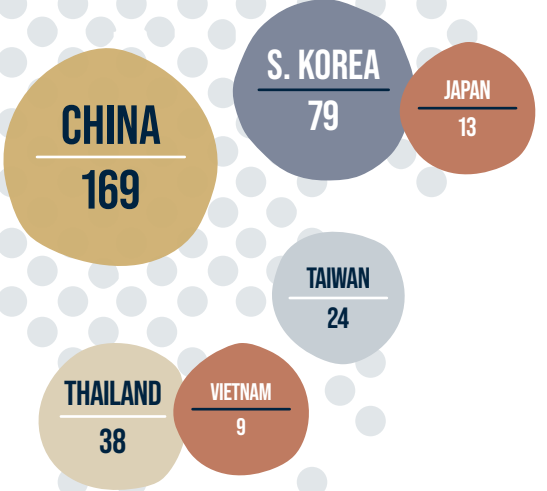
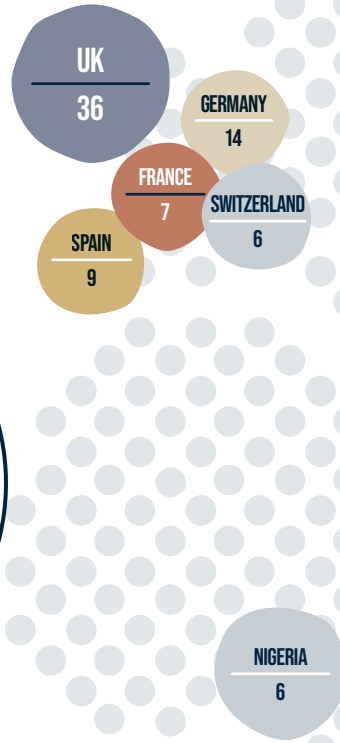
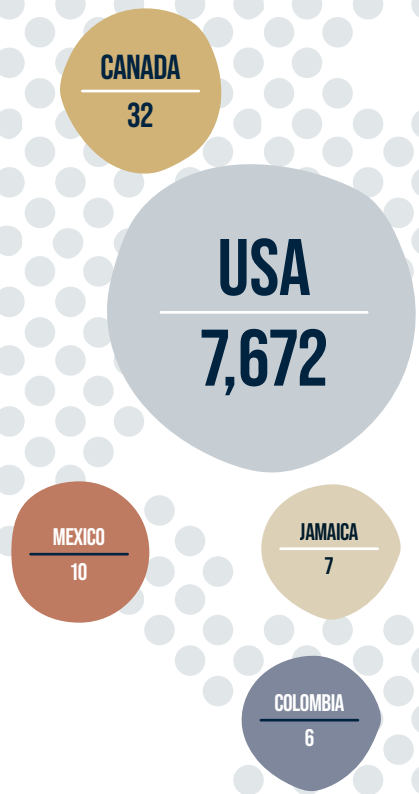
As he prepares for retirement, Newman looks forward to tending his 22-acre farm in Pennsylvania, about an hour south of State College, where he grows corn and beans and enjoys hunting.

After nearly 50 years of service, he leaves with quiet pride. "I'm proud of what I've accomplished here," Newman said. "I can go out and feel good about what I've done in my lifetime."



From the bustling streets of New York City to the beaches of Bermuda, Peddie alumni are everywhere. With more than 8,000 known alumni spanning 78 countries and nearly every U.S. state, our community is as global as it gets. While New Jersey remains our home base, alumni hubs are booming in Washington, D.C., and Denver, and in the past decade, Peddie footprints have reached 10 new countries. Check out the map to see just how far the Peddie network stretches – you might even find a fellow Falcon in your own backyard!

**8,293
PEDDIE ALUMNI
ACROSS
79 COUNTRIES**



U.S. STATES
with the most Peddie alumni

NEW JERSEY	2,573	VIRGINIA	281	NORTH CAROLINA	182
NEW YORK	838	MASSACHUSETTS	227	GEORGIA	142
PENNSYLVANIA	579	MARYLAND	213	COLORADO	113
FLORIDA	568	CONNECTICUT	188	ILLINOIS	92
CALIFORNIA	480	TEXAS	186	WASHINGTON	84

Peddie alumni live in 49 U.S. states and the territory of Puerto Rico.



TOP U.S. CITIES

NEW YORK CITY	SAN FRANCISCO
PHILADELPHIA	CHICAGO
WASHINGTON, D.C.	ATLANTA
LOS ANGELES	DENVER

**NEW COUNTRIES ADDED
OVER THE LAST DECADE**

Afghanistan	Cayman Islands	Mongolia
Armenia	Hungary	Norway
Belarus	Kazakhstan	Saint Lucia

**WHERE IN THE
WORLD ARE YOU?**
Moved recently? New email? Update your info
so we can keep you in the loop.

[PEDDIE.ORG/UPDATE](https://peddie.org/update)

Source: Office of Alumni & Development

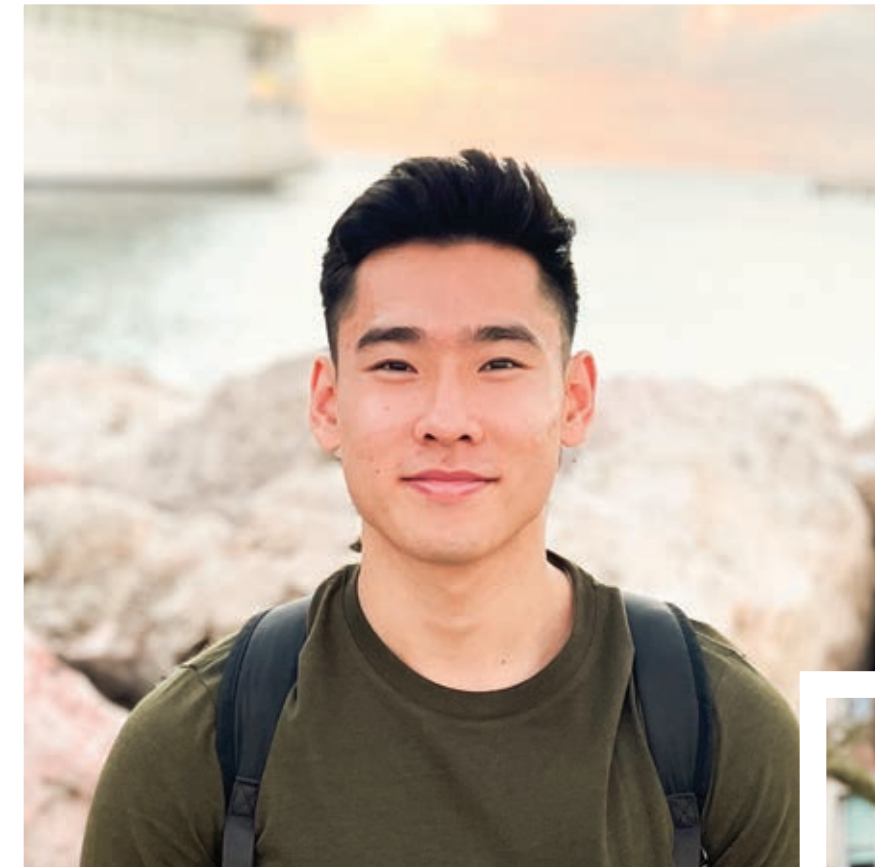
THE CLASS OF 2020 REVISITED



Luke Marolda, a Carnegie Mellon University graduate, is a derivatives trader at Morgan Stanley in New York City.



Bateman Solms, who studied marine biology at the University of St Andrews, now works in data science for a bank's climate team in Edinburgh, Scotland.



Dennis Zhang, a Columbia University graduate, is conducting research in Copenhagen, Denmark, on a Fulbright fellowship while applying to MD-Ph.D. programs.

THEY MISSED THEIR
SENIOR SPRING,
BUT THEY DIDN'T
LET IT DEFINE THEM.



Julia Patella recently earned her degree in dance and sociology from Barnard College and works as a dancer and choreographer in New York City.

No Peddie class experienced a senior year quite like the Class of 2020.

COVID-19 upended everything. Prom was canceled. Commencement went virtual. The rites of passage that typically mark the end of high school simply ... didn't happen.

When I first spoke with Peddie's senior class leaders — Luke Marolda, Julia Patella, Bateman Solms, Johnny Sussek and Dennis Zhang — it was the spring of 2020, and we met over Zoom because, well, there was no other option. They were scattered across their homes, finishing high school in isolation, trying to make sense of an ending that never really came.

Five years later, we met again — still on Zoom, but for very different reasons. Now, it was time zones and careers, spanning New York, Edinburgh and Copenhagen, that kept them in different places, not a global lockdown.

I looked for signs that five years had passed. The banter had shifted from homework and college aspirations to jobs and life after graduation. Some had grown facial hair. Others had shorter hair. But the biggest change wasn't in their appearances. It was in their perspectives. The same thoughtfulness and resilience I had admired in 2020 were still there, now deepened by half a decade of life experience.

This is the story of the Class of 2020 — a reflection on the milestones they missed, the lessons they've learned, and how time has reshaped their perspective on that strange and uncertain spring.



Carrie Harrington

Carrie Harrington
Editor

Editor's Note: Johnny Sussek was unavailable for this interview.



Read the original story, "Missing Out On Milestones," from the Spring/Summer 2020 Peddie Chronicle at peddie.org/2020.



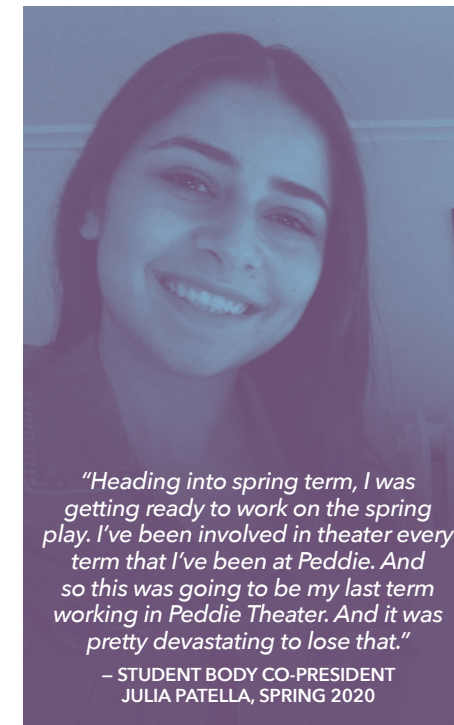
Members of the Class of 2020 reunite at Peddie on June 5, 2021.

Editor: Have any of you had the chance to return to Peddie since graduating?

Luke: I play golf a lot at Peddie with Toby Bickford '20 and some other friends I still keep in touch with. And I'm definitely going to reunion.

Julia: I'm living in Manhattan, and I've been commuting back home to New Jersey once a week because I've been called back to Peddie to choreograph their theater production this semester. It's been really lovely connecting with current Peddie students and seeing the similarities in our experiences, having been a Peddie Theater kid.

Dennis: Even though I haven't been back in person, there's been a number of serendipitous ways that I keep coming into contact with Peddie folk, and it's always a good time.



"Heading into spring term, I was getting ready to work on the spring play. I've been involved in theater every term that I've been at Peddie. And so this was going to be my last term working in Peddie Theater. And it was pretty devastating to lose that."

— STUDENT BODY CO-PRESIDENT
JULIA PATELLA, SPRING 2020

Bateman: I have not been in the States a whole lot since I started university, to be honest. I've mostly been staying over here in Scotland and working.

Editor: Looking back five years later, how do you feel about missing those pivotal high school milestones?

Bateman: It's something that will always hurt a little bit. I remember a few weeks before it all happened, Dennis and I were touring prom venues. But I have a lot more sympathy looking back. No one knew what was going on. Everyone did their best with the situation at hand.

Julia: My perspective has certainly changed with time. I recently revisited that [Chronicle] article from 2020 and was struck by how sad we were and the sense of loss and sacrifice. I had this impulse to chuckle at myself and at us for being so angry and sad about it. But I think it's important not to dismiss how dark that was and the pressures we were under.

Luke: The lack of a high school graduation put much more emphasis on college graduation. It made it even more special because it was now closing two big four-year chapters at once. I also look back, and I'm like, I was so mad for no reason. Obviously it was rough, but there's a lot of larger challenges and things that people have to go through than missing out on one of two proms.

"MY PERSPECTIVE HAS CERTAINLY CHANGED WITH TIME."

— JULIA PATELLA '20

Editor: Do you think Peddie handled the challenges of the pandemic in the best way possible?

Luke: I think Peddie did a great job. They did all they could. I remember the Zoom graduation morning. I remember walking away disappointed. Looking back now, it pales in comparison to all the other things that we as adults actually think about and have to deal with. It almost feels petty looking back on it and still expressing any form of disappointment.

Julia: We say things like loss of prom and loss of graduation, but there were also a lot of non-trivial griefs and anxieties that we were going through, simple fears of the danger of going outside and really heavy ethical moral questions about weighing risk. We were reckoning with the hard stuff, too, and staying positive, or giving off an image of staying positive, or rallying our classmates to have hope during that time. It was a truly insurmountable ask of us, and forced us to reckon with a real deep sense of uncertainty.

Dennis: I certainly echo both a feeling of disappointment then, and that being valid, but also thinking about what we lost in the grand scheme of what many people were losing at that time. I appreciated that there was an effort to talk to us as the class leaders and to try to involve us. I remember there were these points of transparency where school officials admitted what they were feeling and the uncertainty that they were facing.

Editor: Julia, you mentioned in 2020 how heartbreaking it was to lose the spring play, having been deeply involved in theater at Peddie. Has returning to Peddie Theater helped you heal from that loss?

FEATURES

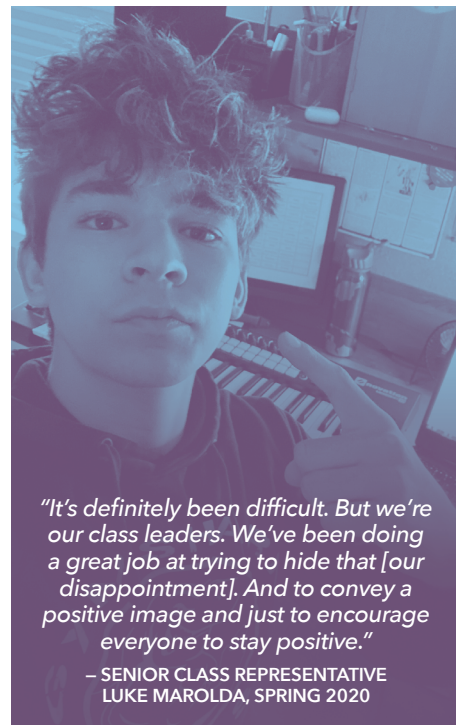
Julia: Something we all learned from sacrificing the experiences we lost during that time was to not take those experiences for granted. And every theater experience I've had since that time, I feel a heightened gratitude for being in the room together.

Returning to Peddie has been the most beautiful nostalgia. I cherish all the lessons that I got out of my time as a student in Peddie Theater, and I approach it hoping to give the students some of that gift.

Editor: Back in 2020, you spoke about the responsibility you felt as class leaders to remain optimistic for your peers. How do you feel about the way your group handled that role?

Dennis: We were reaching for these silver linings. Whether or not we were truly believing it in our hearts, I think, hopefully, it made some level of a difference.

Luke: I definitely feel proud about our collective optimism. I haven't really thought about this stuff in a long time, but I remember how optimistic we were about hoping to even get a graduation. I'm pretty proud of how we handled it, especially because it felt so unfair at the time.



"It's definitely been difficult. But we're our class leaders. We've been doing a great job at trying to hide that [our disappointment]. And to convey a positive image and just to encourage everyone to stay positive."

— SENIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE
LUKE MAROLDA, SPRING 2020



Members of the Class of 2020 celebrate after Blue & Gold Chapel on November 1, 2019, just four months before the COVID-19 global lockdown.

Editor: Dennis, in 2020, you shared a story about waving your Peddie flag around the house after learning you wouldn't be returning to campus. Do you still have that flag?

Dennis: I do remember it, and I still have that flag. It was actually the flag that the cross country team waved around on Blair Day. I remember keeping it after Blair Day, hoping maybe to bring it to future ones or to hand it down. When it finally got announced that we wouldn't be returning to campus, I think waving around the flag was a moment of nostalgia and trying to come to terms with the moment.

Editor: Has experiencing such a significant disruption during a formative time impacted how you handle challenges now?

Bateman: It taught me to roll with the punches. When situations go wrong, it doesn't really help to panic. It does you the best bit of good to just kind of figure it out, take it one step at a time and breathe through it.

Luke: Because we didn't have a clear cut transition, I think it forced our class to think a lot harder about what we want and how to deal with real-world uncertainty. It forced us all to grow up a little bit faster.

"I DEFINITELY FEEL PROUD ABOUT OUR COLLECTIVE OPTIMISM."

— LUKE MAROLDA '20

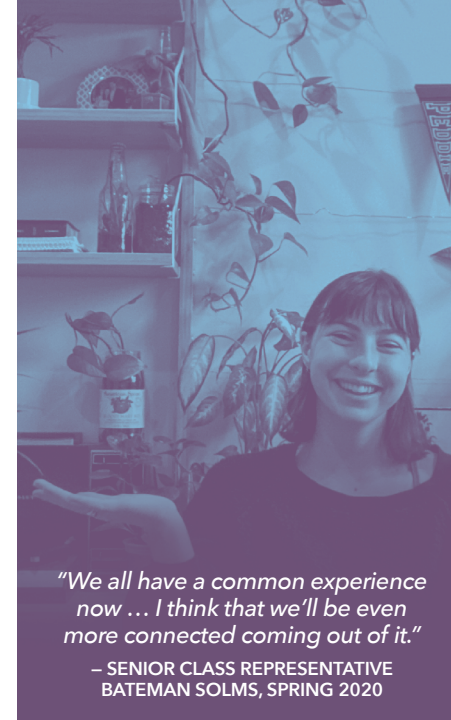
Editor: Back in 2020, many of you felt that the shared trauma of that year would create a unique and lasting bond for the Class of 2020. Does the Class of 2020 remain as close-knit as you thought it would be?

Bateman: I absolutely think so. Obviously, it was quite horrible, but oddly, it set us up well to stay connected. I text with classmates probably every single week, at least a few different people. So I would say we're definitely close-knit and have stuck together.

Dennis: In my interactions with Peddie classmates, it is now almost a humorous point to talk about how we spent the pandemic, the ways we coped and jumped right into what we're doing now. And there's a level of excitement that maybe is tied to the fact that we went through this trauma together. Beyond bringing our Peddie class together, the pandemic, in some ways, is a shared trauma between everyone in our generation. It's certainly something that I think will continue to be a talking point moving forward. Maybe it's something we'll tell our kids one day or future generations when we say, "Back in my day ..." I think there is a unifying component to going through a shared event like this together.

Editor: If you could relive one Peddie memory from before the pandemic, what would it be?

Luke: The soccer game at Blair Day junior year. After four years of collegiate soccer, that's still the greatest sports memory I've ever had. We were 1-10, we won one game, and it just so happened that the fate of Blair Day rested on the soccer team for once, which was very unusual because normally

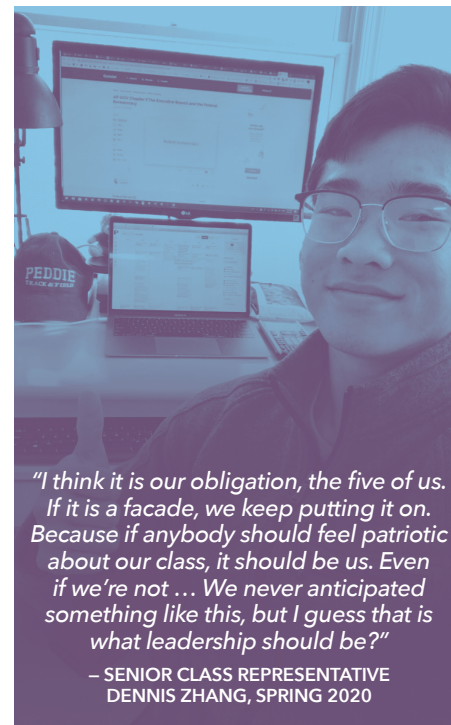


"We all have a common experience now ... I think that we'll be even more connected coming out of it."

— SENIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE
BATEMAN SOLMS, SPRING 2020

it's the football team. I still have videos of it. I still look back at it. And it was just a great moment of camaraderie from the soccer team, and it was very emotional. We did what we had to do. We pulled out the win to tie Blair Day.

Julia: I would relive being a freshman in a Peddie Theater show, looking up to the talented older kids and feeling so lucky to be in the room with them and just dreaming about what was possible.



"I think it is our obligation, the five of us. If it is a facade, we keep putting it on. Because if anybody should feel patriotic about our class, it should be us. Even if we're not ... We never anticipated something like this, but I guess that is what leadership should be?"

— SENIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE
DENNIS ZHANG, SPRING 2020

"PEDDIE WAS ALWAYS A REALLY PEACEFUL AND HOMEY PLACE FOR ME."

— BATEMAN SOLMS '20

Dennis: Blair Day. I was on the cross country team, and each year it would be the seniors or those who were leading the team that would eventually hold a flag and lead a charge around the track in a final victory lap. One of my fondest memories is running around that track with teammates that I literally shed blood, sweat and tears with to give a final hurrah.

Bateman: The dorm experience my senior year was one of the most wonderful things. I'm actually going to get emotional now, but Coach Jensen [dorm supervisor] really paid attention to what kind of snacks we liked. One night she made melted chocolate and raspberries, which is one of my favorite snacks, and I think we ordered pizza. It was

"THERE IS A UNIFYING COMPONENT TO GOING THROUGH A SHARED EVENT LIKE THIS TOGETHER."

— DENNIS ZHANG '20



Student Body Co-Presidents Johnny Sussek and Julia Patella, and Senior Class Representative Dennis Zhang, wait for Convocation to begin on September 2, 2019.

just kind of the coziest dorm night. Peddie was always a really peaceful and homey place for me. And that night was a perfect example of that.

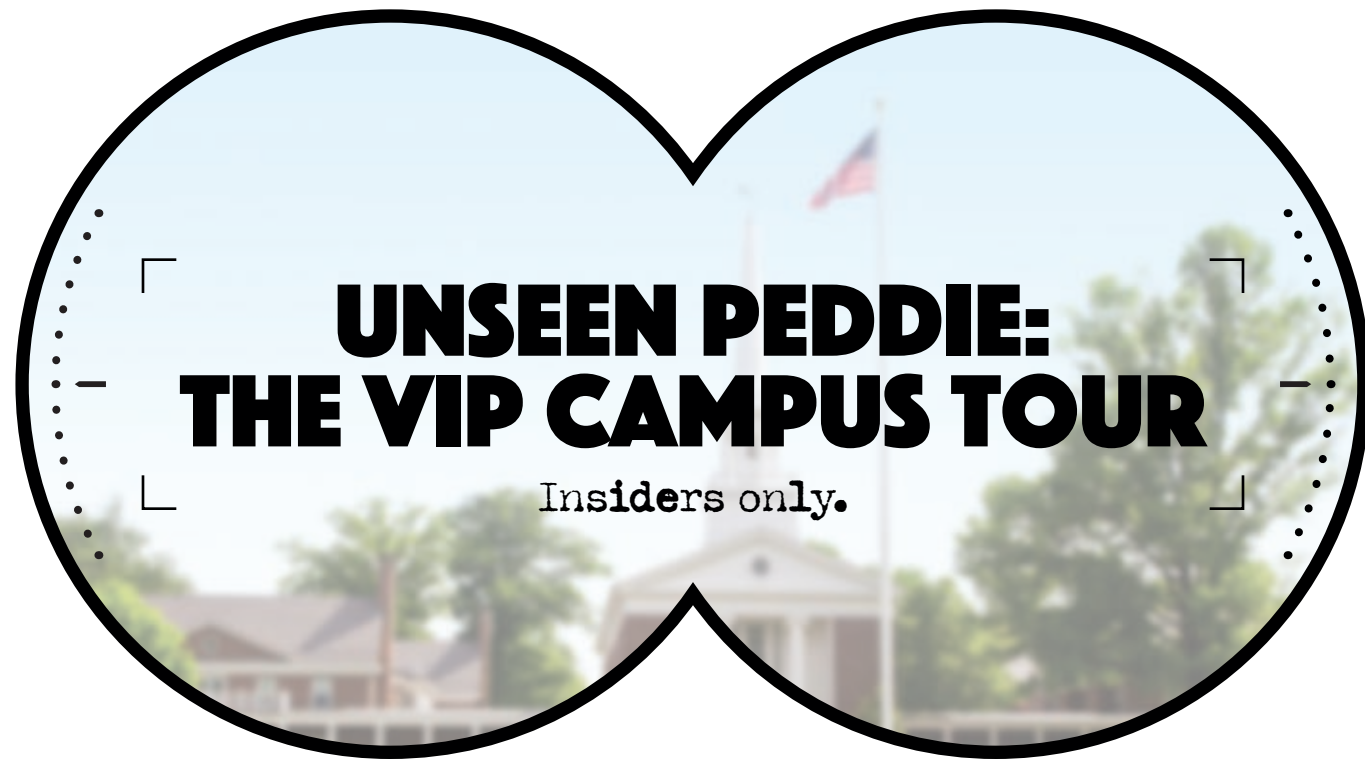
Editor: What would you say to the current senior class at Peddie?

Dennis: Have fun. You make a lot of fun memories in that liminal space between the end of this one chapter in your life and then whatever uncertainty comes next.

Luke: Say yes to things. Go make that experience because you will look back and regret the things that you said no to when you could have said yes.

Julia: Embrace the unexpected, say yes to things and keep an open mind about what your path will be.

Bateman: Take all the opportunities that come at you because it's such an exciting time and there's going to be so many chances to join things and do things and experience new things. That was also a lesson from the pandemic. You don't know how many choices you have until it's all taken away.



UNSEEN PEDDIE: THE VIP CAMPUS TOUR

Insiders only.

Zoom in and squint all you like at a Peddie map, but either you won't see these places on it or you haven't heard their whole story. Until now.

Lace up your shoes (real or virtual) and take this self-guided tour through campus, where we spotlight gems hidden in plain sight that reveal some of Peddie's surprising history, sweet slices of life ... and one seriously off-limits door.



SYMBOLS ON THE ALTAR AYER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Striking representations of faiths, displayed across the back wall, illustrate Peddie's inclusivity and rich diversity. They include a plaque with the 99 names of Allah (Islam), a wall hanging of Om (Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism), a Star of David (Judaism), a cross and chalice (Christianity) and a framed Ik Onkar (Sikhism).



THE CLASS OF 1963 MEMORIAL GROVE NEAR POTTER NORTH DORMITORY

Several members of this class raised funds to create and maintain the grove, a place where they can pause and remember classmates and friends who have passed. Beautifully landscaped with trees and shrubs, the secluded spot is also a quiet, peaceful refuge for today's students. It was dedicated in 2018, at the Class of '63's 55th Reunion.

THE PROP STOCK GEIGER REEVES HALL

Two floors of this room house props and set dressing for Peddie's mainstage, black-box and student productions. Items from housewares to suitcases to electronics and more are grouped together by era, allowing directors to make informed choices about how to bring their shows to life — no matter the time period.

HEAD-SCRATCH MOMENT: What's with the weird layout and ramp? And why is the lower portion solid tile? Because the building was originally the school's first gymnasium — and you're standing in the pool.



WARD BURIAL PLOT NEAR PEDDIE ARTS CENTER

Until Peddie broke ground on Swig (completed in 1989), this 22 x 11 x 4-foot mausoleum between Swig and Izzo Design Laboratory had been hidden under a leafy canopy for decades. Members of the Ward family, who, in the mid-19th century, farmed on what became the Peddie campus and for whom the street at the north end is named, are interred there. It reads "Opened 1794," making it the oldest known structure on campus.

FEATURES

A HEISMAN TROPHY

IAN H. GRAHAM '50 ATHLETIC CENTER

An athlete at Peddie, Lawrence M. Kelley '33 went on to Yale University, where he won the second-ever Heisman Trophy (awarded to the top football player in the United States) in 1936. Kelley later returned to Peddie to teach math, coach football and serve as alumni director. He donated the trophy to Peddie, where he said he came of age, in 1993.

HEAD-SCRATCH MOMENT: Real or replica? A little of both. Years later, Kelley requested a second Heisman to be made and gifted that one to Peddie. He eventually sold the original at auction.



HEAD OF SCHOOL'S OFFICE ANNENBERG HALL

The corner office features tall windows that offer a sweeping view of campus, a magnificent Art Deco wood and brass desk used by each head of school since at least Rev. Dr. Wilbour Saunders in 1935, and an intricately carved fireplace. One can't help but imagine the evenings each of those eight heads of school spent by the fire, through lean years, through abundant years, contemplating Peddie's past and making plans for its future.



GOATS

SOLAR FIELD BEHIND ATHLETIC CENTER

To trim and fertilize the grass on the solar panel field, Peddie's Buildings and Grounds staff adopted a herd of goats. These grass-guzzlers (rather than gas-guzzlers) provide a natural way to keep the grounds tidy ... and they're very friendly, to boot.

THE ROOF OF ANNENBERG HALL

In 1941, as World War II raged on, the American Legion trained U.S. civilians to become lookouts for enemy aircraft. Annenberg Hall (then Memorial Hall), with its high, flat, wide roof, was Hightstown's official 24/7 spotting post. Those on patrol took two-hour shifts and were required to report anything suspicious that they saw or heard. Volunteers who put on regulation field glasses and took the post included English teacher Clinton I. Sprout; Max and David Zaitz, whose family farm was in Hightstown; and Richard Hornberger '41, who went on to become a surgeon and writer, most notably authoring the novel "M*A*S*H."



THE TUNNEL

BELOW ANNENBERG HALL

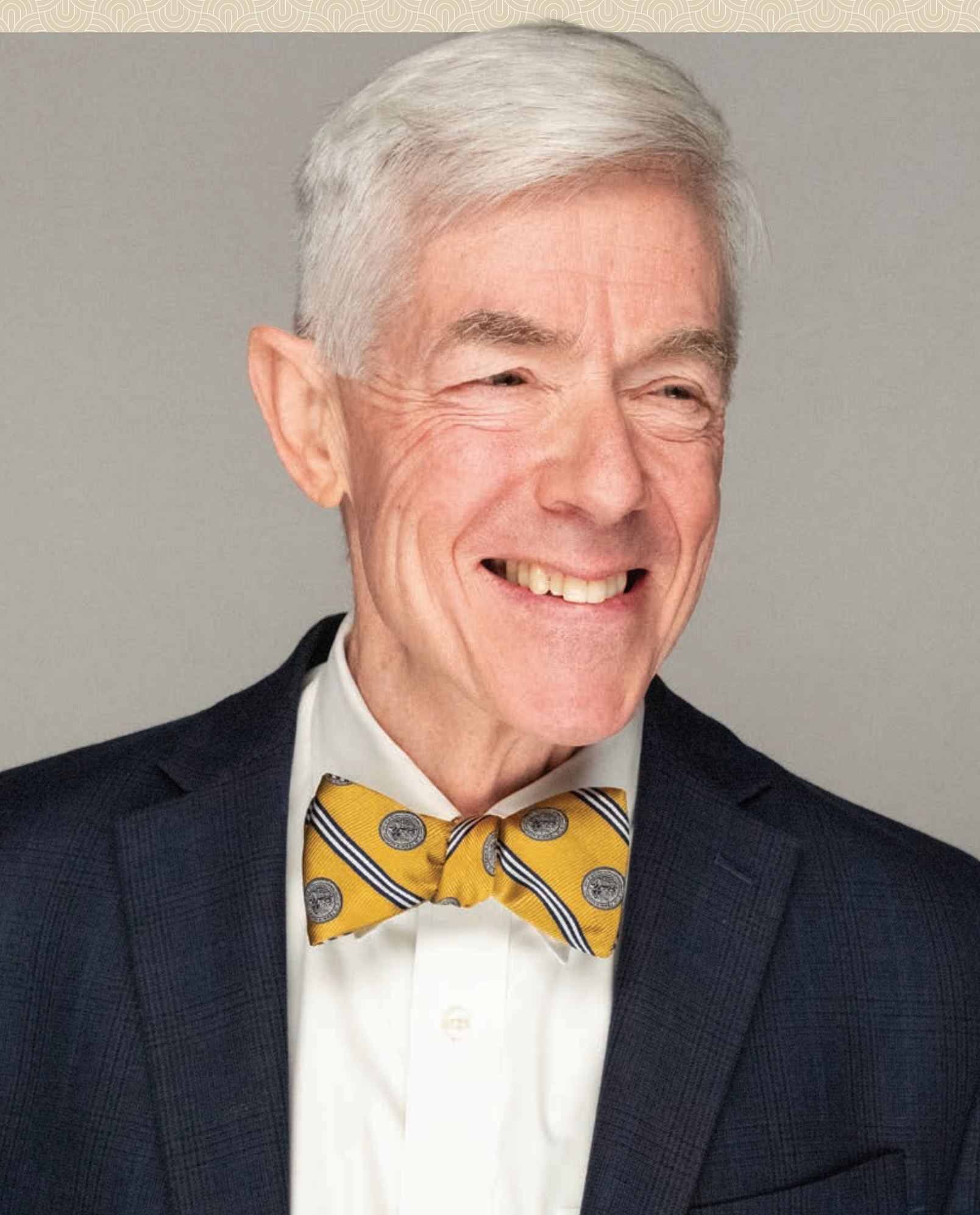
This low, dark and humid steampipe passage under Annenberg Hall leads several yards northeast to the former power house by Peddie Lake. Former teacher, coach and sports information coordinator Doug Mariboe '69 P'10 '14 grew up on Peddie's campus in the 1950s and '60s, and in the Spring/Summer 2022 Chronicle, he shared his memory of unlatching the door many times with fellow faculty kids and sneaking inside ... until someone got wind of it. One fateful day, the giggling young explorers emerged at the end of the tunnel to find several sets of fuming parents. Thus ended the underground adventures, and today, the door remains locked.

THE ARCHIVES

COATES-COLEMAN HOUSE

The room at the end of the hallway on the top floor is brimming with rarely-seen items that connect us to Peddie's past. Established by the school's first archivist, Carl Geiger, in the mid-20th century, the archives house a remarkable variety of historical photos, the school charter, a death mask of school savior Thomas B. Peddie and original letters from Head of School Saunders, written to alumni serving as World War II soldiers. Other curiosities include vintage Blair Day buttons, a Wilson Hall cornerstone brick and a hand-painted, mid-century megaphone.





The Citizen-Maker



PETER QUINN'S ENDURING LEGACY AT PEDDIE

Peter Quinn has often called Peddie “the most American of boarding schools.” It’s an observation that speaks to the soul of the institution he has led for 12 years and the philosophy guiding his leadership. Like America, Peddie is driven by reinvention, an insatiable push for improvement and an unwavering pursuit of its highest ideals.

“That restless, optimistic, youthful spirit has always been a defining attitude at Peddie,” Quinn reflected earlier this year from his office. Shelves of yearbooks chronicling more than a century lined the walls, while an Art Deco wood desk, a fixture of generations of heads of school, stood as a reminder of Peddie’s evolving story. With retirement on the horizon, Quinn spoke with both nostalgia and anticipation: “Peddie has always been this idea of beginning anew,” he said.

Quinn’s leadership embodies Peddie’s Latin motto, *Finimus Pariter Renovamusque Labores*: “We finish our labors to begin them anew.” More than a call to persistence, it’s a declaration that every day is a new

beginning. As Quinn prepares to step down as Peddie’s 16th head of school in June, he leaves behind an enriched institution. Not just in its physical campus or academic programs, but in its fundamental understanding of purpose: to shape responsible, engaged citizens.

“You may think you want to apply to a school because it will get you into Harvard,” Quinn explained. “We don’t think that. We think you should apply to a school because it’s going to make you a great citizen.”

A LEADER IN THREE ACTS

Quinn’s relationship with Peddie unfolded in what he called “three incarnations.” He arrived in 1985 as an English teacher and coach, drawn by a school that felt refreshingly unbound by convention.

“I liked the openness of it, liked the lack of pretense,” Quinn recalled. Unlike other institutions that “took themselves way too seriously,” Peddie struck him as refreshingly different — not quite “Wild West,” as he put it, but with freedom that felt invigorating.

After a year at the Hackley School in New York, during which he and his then fiancé, Maryanne, were married,

Quinn returned in 1988 as an assistant college counselor. When Head of School Ed Potter unexpectedly passed away that summer, Quinn worked under Interim Head Anne Seltzer. By 1991, new Head of School Tom DeGray recognized Quinn’s talents and tapped him to lead admissions, which would prove fortuitous as Peddie stood on the brink of transformation.

THE GIFT THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

If Quinn’s vision for Peddie has centered on citizenship, it was Walter Annenberg ’27 who first articulated it as the school’s defining mission — and provided the resources to realize it.

In 1992, after reading an admissions report Quinn had prepared, Annenberg was struck by a troubling trend: Peddie was consistently

losing top applicants to competitor schools. The discovery, Quinn recalled, struck Annenberg with a sense of urgency.

What began as a closely guarded conversation between Annenberg, DeGray and

Seltzer (then director of development) evolved into one of the most transformative moments in the school’s history, resulting in a \$100 million gift from Annenberg, announced on Father’s Day 1993, that monumentally reshaped Peddie’s trajectory.

“That restless, optimistic, youthful spirit has always been a defining attitude at Peddie.”

— PETER QUINN



Peter Quinn, then director of admissions, talks to reporters in Ayer Memorial Chapel following the announcement of the Annenberg gift in 1993.

Annenberg’s gift wasn’t just about resources — it was about a vision. With financial barriers lowered, Peddie could focus on shaping a student body defined beyond test scores. Quinn and his team developed a new admissions philosophy centered on “excitement, curiosity and character.”

“We didn’t want to be a place that only takes kids who are already perfect,” Quinn said. “That’s when we first began to focus with pride on Peddie’s transformational approach and success.”

Quinn remembered Annenberg’s message as clear and constant — one that he embraced wholeheartedly.

“Annenberg would often say, ‘The thing I learned at Peddie, which has guided me all my life, is to strive for the highest quality of citizenship. That’s why I’ve lived my life the way I have,’” Quinn said.

CITIZENSHIP AS THE NORTH STAR

Three years after the Annenberg gift, Quinn departed for a 17-year tenure as head of Wakefield School in Virginia. When the opportunity to return to Peddie as head of school arose in 2013, Quinn’s decision was driven not by career advancement, he said, but by his deep and abiding love for Peddie.

During his time as head of school, Quinn saw the opportunity to make citizenship more than just a guiding principle — he sought to integrate it deeply into Peddie’s culture. While many peer schools focused on rankings, prestige and accolades, Quinn doubled down on shaping students to be engaged, responsible citizens.

“Yes, we are this place with an innovative curriculum. We are this place with first-rate, consistent classroom teaching. Most importantly, we are this place that says it is our job to teach you to value the quality of citizenship.”

He added, “We’re making you good at all these things so that when you stand up and advocate for a responsible direction for your community, you know what you’re saying. And they listen to you.”

In his view, Peddie’s role isn’t to cultivate exclusivity: “We don’t sell elitism. We don’t sell intimidation. We sell inspiration.”



Peter Quinn processes with faculty for his first Convocation as Peddie’s head of school on September 2, 2013.

“I love being on campus with a bunch of people who are all engaged in the same thing.”

— PETER QUINN

UNDER PETER QUINN’S LEADERSHIP SINCE 2013, PEDDIE HAS:

Implemented a comprehensive strategic plan.

Invested over \$45 million in facilities.

Developed an award-winning robotics program.

Established formal Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.

Grown the endowment to \$459 million.

Raised \$106 million through the One Peddie campaign.

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES WITH RESILIENCE

Quinn’s tenure has not been without hardship. The sudden deaths of community members left lasting scars, and the COVID-19 pandemic tested the school’s resilience in ways no one could have anticipated.

“When we most needed to be together, we couldn’t be together,” he said, reflecting on the difficulty of navigating a socially distanced world while also confronting issues of racial and social justice in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd.

Through it all, under Quinn’s leadership, Peddie adapted with remarkable agility. In the midst of the global pandemic, faculty pivoted to remote instruction, employees shipped laptops and hotspots to students and, in his mind, the school emerged stronger. “We were incredibly agile and moved expeditiously to address the most material parts of the educational process,” he noted.

Quinn responded to the social justice moment by hiring a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion director and launching DEI programs focused on ensuring that everyone at Peddie feels ownership of their community.

In addition to overcoming crises, Quinn also adapted to long-term shifts, including in Peddie’s athletics program, which remains a priority for the school. “It’s a significant challenge that happened on my watch,” he acknowledged. “And that’s probably because we weren’t focused on hiring coaches the right way. We’ve also got a huge demographic shift. Our students aren’t playing the same sports they used to.”

A LEGACY SECURED

Reflecting on Quinn’s tenure, Board Chair Doug Davidson ’64 pointed to Peddie’s “remarkable strides during this period while remaining true to the school’s ideals and mission.” Under Quinn’s leadership, the school has seen many achievements, including a comprehensive strategic plan; the One Peddie Campaign, which raised \$106 million, the most in Peddie’s history, and the addition of key facilities such as Kaye and Green Dorms, the Art Center expansion, and the Zhao and Li Family Fitness and Exercise Center.



Peter Quinn stands outside his South Main Street home, preparing for his regular bike ride across center campus to his office in Annenberg Hall.

“Peddie simply could not have been better served. The ‘Quinn Era’ legacy is firmly a part of Peddie lore.”

— BOARD CHAIR DOUG DAVIDSON ’64

“Peter has throughout demonstrated the judgment, demeanor, empathy and passionate dedication to Peddie’s mission and core values that one needs from a head of school,” said Davidson. “His strong moral compass and commitment to access and attaining the highest quality of citizenship have set an example for the entire Peddie community. We have been so very fortunate to have Peter as our head these past 12 years. Peddie simply could not have been better served. The ‘Quinn Era’ legacy is firmly a part of Peddie lore.”

THE NEXT CHAPTER

As Quinn approaches retirement, moments of reflection come and go. “Usually it’s a place,” he said. “And I remember what happened in that place.”

This way of remembering — through places rather than timelines — feels fitting for a leader whose legacy is woven into the very fabric of Peddie. It lives in the transformed campus, in the evolving school

culture and in the countless students shaped by his vision for education. Quinn follows in the footsteps of his father, James H. McK. Quinn, who served as headmaster of The Episcopal Academy, and his grandfather, Rev. Albert H. Lucas, who led St. Alban’s School.

As he and his wife, Maryanne, prepare to return to Williamsburg, Virginia, their children are each forging their own paths — Andrew ’21 is studying for the CPA exam, Charlotte ’18 is pursuing her passion for working with horses and Lucas ’15 is preparing for the bar exam. As he prepares for life beyond Peddie, Quinn knows what he’ll miss most: “I’ll miss having a campus to call home. I love being on campus with a bunch of people who are all engaged in the same thing. And that won’t be true when I move off campus.”

Meanwhile, Peddie stands ready for its next chapter, carrying forward the work of shaping citizens — a task, true to the school’s motto, that is never truly finished but always beginning anew.

THANK YOU, PETER QUINN



“PQ is as much a symbol of Peddie as a falcon is. I remember what it was like being on campus and seeing him in Annenberg one day, then in pictures from China the next day. He was always doing everything he could to make Peddie the wonderful place that it is. I hope he has a well-earned and restful retirement.”
— *Joseph Forbes '24*

“I will always be grateful for his partnership and the reassurance he provided when I needed it most.”

— **DR. AIMEE GOODMAN,**
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH SERVICES

“Peter was director of admissions for many years when I was also working in the office. It was so fun to work with him that I remember becoming teary-eyed when he came into my office and told me he was going to leave Peddie to become headmaster at Wakefield School. The \$100M Annenberg gift was given to Peddie during Peter’s admissions office tenure, and what an adventure that was for us! For a while, our office mantra was ‘Be careful what you wish for,’ as we were inundated with more applications than ever before, and a huge percentage of the people who inquired expected substantial, if not total, financial assistance. Our mission was to fill the school with students who showed exceptional excitement, curiosity and character. Though the long hours poring over application folders were sometimes difficult, it was a treat to be in the position of selecting such incredible new Peddie students. While I think of Peter as having a strong commitment to Peddie and an exceptionally admirable work ethic, what I think of most is his sense of humor and the fun we had in the admissions office under his guidance. If laughter is the best medicine, we were a healthy group!”
— *Elaine McClellan P’88 ’90 GP ’19 ’21 ’25*

“In an age of email and texting, Peter Quinn is also admirably committed to handwritten notes. After a chapel talk, performance, big game or difficult moment, Peter’s use of the personal handwritten letter is kind, reassuring and supportive. That is Peter: He takes the time and makes the effort; he’s old school but personally connective and heartfelt.”
— *Matt Roach*
Director of Teaching and Learning for Citizenship and Scholarship

“As an 8th grader in 1991, my seat was in the balcony at Geiger Reeves for the weekly community meeting. One day, Peter and Bill Hill grabbed me on my way in and gave me a black tap shoe. They said they would be doing a skit on stage, and at one point, they would say, ‘Well, where am I going to find a black tap shoe?’ and at that moment, they said I should stand up and yell, ‘I have a black tap shoe!’ Sure enough, the skit went off without a hitch, and I ran the shoe up to the stage to a room full of laughter and applause.”
— *Brian DiFeo '96*

“My mother loves to share how I responded when she asked me what I talked about in my admissions interview: ‘Oh, we mainly talked about the Beatles.’ Grateful for Mr. Quinn and Peddie seeing more than just a ’60s music fan in that 14-year-old and the amazing classmates Peddie brought together under his leadership. Truly made for life-shaping experiences for so many of us mid-90s students! Friendships I still hold dear today.”
— *Katherine Hollis '97*

“Peter’s support was never more evident or critical than during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we navigated uncharted territory together, his steady leadership, trust and willingness to make difficult decisions in the best interest of our students and staff meant everything. Knowing that I had his full backing through every challenge, policy change and moment of uncertainty allowed me to do my job confidently and purposefully. I will always be grateful for his partnership and the reassurance he provided when I needed it most.”
— *Aimee Goodman*
Director of Health Services



“I had the privilege to have Peter as a teacher, to know him in the admissions role, and to welcome him home as head of school as my son started his freshman year at Peddie. Thank you for everything.”
— *John Coiro '87*

“Every Family Style Dinner, before I get on the microphone and before the kids walk in, I get a few quiet minutes alone with Mr. Quinn. Those few minutes of discussion can be about anything. The state of the world, reviewing a meal he enjoyed, asking about one another’s breaks, talking about our families, or me asking him if he is OK with such a busy schedule he leads. Mostly, we laugh and have inside jokes about what we have just talked about. Then, I secretly will include that in my speech about the menu and look back at Peter and see him with his head down and giggling. But sometimes, during our more serious discussions, there is always a life lesson to be learned from him, which I

much appreciate. Peter has always shown great delight and surprise when our paths cross, saying in his deep, professional tone, ‘Hello, Mr. Stahl.’ I can’t remember how many times during the pandemic, Mr. Quinn came through, checked in on Peddie Food Service (PFS), asked us how we were holding up and thanked us for serving the community. I will fondly miss the times he sneaked through PFS to take a quicker path to another part of campus, always stopping in the office and saying hello. I hope his next chapter will hold fond memories of his time at Peddie; I know my time with him at Peddie are memories I will not forget.”
— *Jeremy Stahl*
Executive Chef



“What other way for the head of school to enjoy Blue & Gold Games than to join the water balloon roulette with some of the bravest Peddie students on campus? Thank you for being present. Thank you for being visible. Thank you for encouraging the students to be nothing other than their unique, authentic selves.”
— *Corey Punter*
Assistant Director of Admission

“From 1993 to 1996, I worked for Peddie Aquatics, overseeing community lap swim, running the masters swimming program and coaching the youth and varsity teams as an assistant. Peter Quinn was the director of admissions, and he showed up at the pool almost every day around lunchtime to swim laps. There was a lot of activity at the pool around that time. The phone at the aquatics office rang off the hook, and we directed the inquiries to Peter and his office. He would always ask about the kids. Sometimes, we had so much to talk about he barely got his laps in. Between 1994 and 1995, Peddie had a big resurgence in the pool and won the Swimming World Mythical National High School Championship, becoming the only school in American high school swimming history to lead the nation in all six relays. Peddie wasn’t just good; the team was dominant and is now part of the Peddie Sports Hall of Fame. Peter Quinn had no official role with the swim team, but he had a significant role in our success and was always one of our greatest supporters.”
— *Bill Volckening '84*

“‘Relax, it will be fine!’ These were the first words Peter ever said to me, and I still remember them vividly. It was during my admissions interview — my very first encounter with him. He spoke with a reassuring smile, but at the time, my English was limited, and I struggled to hold a conversation with the director of admissions at Peddie. I was extremely nervous, convinced that I would be judged and rejected. But Peter was not there to scrutinize me; he wanted to make sure I would thrive at Peddie. “This defining aspect of his character stayed with me throughout my time at the school. “On another occasion, my brother Steve ’92 came to visit, and Peter invited us to dinner at his home. As the younger sibling and a beginner in English, I struggled to keep up with their conversation. But even though I couldn’t grasp every word, I could see how warmly and attentively Peter engaged with my brother. His genuine interest and kindness made me feel included, even when I didn’t fully understand. “As the evening went on, I watched Peter and my brother exchange stories about their time at Peddie, laughing at old memories and reflecting on lessons learned. Though mostly an observer, I felt a deep sense of comfort knowing that Peter saw us not just as students but as family. He turned to me occasionally, asking questions and patiently waiting as I found the right words to respond, never making me self-conscious about my English. “As we left his house that night, I realized that Peter’s impact extended far beyond academics. He didn’t just teach — he nurtured, guided and cared. Peter was more than just a teacher; he was an educator, a father figure in America and a lifelong mentor.”
— *Han Jin Lew '96*

THANK YOU, PETER QUINN

“Mr. Quinn was my English teacher and JV soccer coach (way back in the '80s!) and formative to my experience at Peddie and my maturation through my teen years. I wish I had a better memory of my time then to share, but overall, he was the perfect role model (along with Mr. Hill) of everything I wanted to become as a young male entering college. Mr. Quinn exuded intellect that was ‘cool’ and epitomized the scholar athleticism I aspired to achieve.”

— Alex Golden '89

“I vividly remember meeting Peter for the first time. Bill Hill, who was/is a great friend of Peter's and a loveable antagonist of mine, suggested we have dinner at my home on John Plant Drive. All that Bill would tell me was that this guest would remind me of actor Jimmy Stewart and that I would like him a lot. Both assurances turned out to be true. While the Stewart resemblance faded as I got to know ‘Peter, the person,’ the ‘like him a lot’ part never did. Peter and I worked closely over the years in a wide variety of capacities, and I was able to observe firsthand his consistent integrity, his quick humor, his steady thoughtfulness and his absolute determination to do the right thing — the ethical thing — regardless of consequences. Shortly after being named head of school, Peter called me from Virginia. He knew I was planning on retiring that June and asked if I would consider staying on one more year so that we could collaborate once again. I could pretend that it was a difficult decision for me, but the truth is that I immediately agreed, and I am happy that I did. Working with Peter was always an honor that came with many laughs, great kindness and good challenges. I hope and trust that he will always consider me his friend, and I wish him and his family every happiness in his richly deserved retirement!”

— Rosemary Gleeson
former Dean and Chaplain



Paul Albert '60 and Peter Quinn during Quinn's visit to Houston in January as part of the Peddie World Tour.

“I always felt that my daughter was in good hands — and that the school was in good hands as well.”

— MATTHEW M. DAVIS P'24

“When my daughter Emily was in her first year at Peddie, I drove to see her. I was parked outside her dormitory, waiting for her to come down from her room. It was a cold night, and there was a little snow falling. The visibility wasn't great.

“I was sitting inside my Honda Odyssey van, looking down at my cell phone. Suddenly, I became aware of someone standing outside the van, not far from the driver's side window. After a second or two, I looked up and realized it was the Peddie head of school — Peter ... What was his last name? Peter Quagliaro? Peter Quintano? Peter Quince? No, no — Peter Quinn!

“Then it occurred to me how the situation must look to him. Jesus, I thought, here I am, sitting alone in a van outside a girl's dormitory in the dark of night! What's he supposed to think? Actually, I'm glad he's vigilant enough to approach me and ask me what I'm doing ...

“While these thoughts ran through my head, I rolled down the driver's side window. I was about to explain who I was and why I was idling there when Peter said, ‘Dr. Davis! How are you this snowy evening?’

“To say I was surprised

would be an understatement. At this point, I think I met Peter once in a large crowd of parents. My daughter had only been at Peddie for a few weeks. My wife and I had donated, I dunno, maybe \$100 to the school at that point — not the kind of money that makes a typical head of school feel he needs to know your name. But Peter did know my name. And he knew I was a professor. And, as I soon discovered, he knew what subject I taught and where I taught. I wasn't just surprised; I was stunned. I mean, I've taught university students who still aren't quite sure what my name is at the end of the semester. I decided then that Peter Quinn was really on the ball, and after a few minutes of conversation, I decided that he was also a really likable guy. Over the next three years, I never had occasion to revise either of those opinions. I always felt that my daughter was in good hands — and that the school was in good hands as well.

“I don't know what Peter has planned for his retirement, but I certainly hope it's relaxing and won't require him to spend too many nights accosting weird men in vans or memorizing hundreds of names.”

— Matthew M. Davis P'24



“Our son, Nathan, started at Peddie at the tail end of the pandemic. As an international family from Hong Kong, our travel was severely limited during the admission process. When Nathan applied to boarding school, he had to decide without ever setting foot on campus. Of course, because we couldn't visit, we devoured the Peddie website. I think I read every page.

“The first time we were physically on campus was when we arrived to unpack. International families were scheduled to arrive first, with staggered times to allow for a smooth transition and physical distancing. The campus was quiet when we pulled up, and we headed to Potter South to begin settling in. Needless to say, we were nervous.

“Not long after we started unpacking, there was a knock on the door. A tall, scholarly-looking gentleman with white hair stepped in, introduced himself to Nathan, and — without hesitation — began helping us unpack some items. I immediately recognized him as Peter Quinn, the head of school, but I couldn't believe that he would take the time to do something so personal and unexpected. Nathan, however, had no idea who he was.

“It was a hot day, and Peter casually commented on how lucky Nathan was to have an air-conditioned room. There was no formality, no grand speech — just a warm and natural conversation. As soon as Peter left, I asked Nathan, ‘Do you know who that was?’

“Nathan, still oblivious, shook his head.

“‘That was the head of school.’

“The look of surprise on Nathan's face said it all. It was such a simple yet profound moment that perfectly captured Peter Quinn's warmth, humility and deep investment in the students of Peddie.

“Peter Quinn's leadership is more than administrative; it is deeply personal. Whether through a small act of kindness on move-in day or through fostering an environment where students can thrive and discover their passions, Peter has shaped Peddie into a place where students feel seen, valued and encouraged to explore their potential. We are forever grateful for his presence in our son's journey and the Peddie community. Nathan is so lucky to graduate from Peddie with Peter in the Class of 2025!”

— Arcadia Kim P'25

“One of my fondest memories of Peter Quinn is back in my student years when he, Bill Hill and Bruce VanDusen did a few PSA skits about edict and behavior at community meetings. VanDusen played the role of a mob boss-type figure, with PQ and Hill as his enforcer sidekicks.

“Later on, after I returned to Peddie in a staff position at the theater, PQ was part of student Chuck Worthington's production of *Mary Poppins*, where he played Bert, while Bill Hill was cast as *Mary Poppins*.

“I owe a lot of gratitude to my college counselor, PQ, for helping me navigate the college process to find the right fit for my love of technical theater.

“Thank you for all you have done for me and our Peddie community over the years.”

— John E. Lucs '90

Theater Technical Director

“Peter and I have a fairly regular morning check-in about world events. Peter enjoys a political/historical conversation, and these conversations have sometimes helped me keep Peddie stresses in perspective. That said, Peter's grace and patience when faced with the significant pressures of being head of school has been a hallmark of his leadership.”

— Catherine Rodrigue,

Associate Head of School

HONOR PETER AND MARYANNE'S LEGACY

Established by the Peddie Board of Trustees, the Peter A. and Maryanne F. Quinn P'15 '18 '21 Endowed Scholarship Fund will provide access to students who exemplify excitement, curiosity, character and the highest qualities of citizenship. Support the Quinn Endowed Scholarship Fund to ensure their profound legacy extends to future generations of Peddie students.



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