

2019

ECHOES



BOWMAN GRAY '84

SEE PAGE 10

Summit[★]School
Inspiring Learning

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Summit encourages and cultivates each child's voice.

To have voice, we must know two things:

1. That we have something meaningful to say or share.
2. That those around us—those whom we love and respect and by whom we are loved and respected—value who we are and what we express.

Voice emerges along the path of lifelong learning that begins at Summit. The stories in this issue of Echoes chart the travels of alums whose lives reflect a confidence born of competence: from sound production to singing; from acting to radio; and from poetry to photography.

What do these alums have in common? Journeys in which rich experience, the igniting of curiosity and deep engagement are woven into their pursuit of enduring passions.

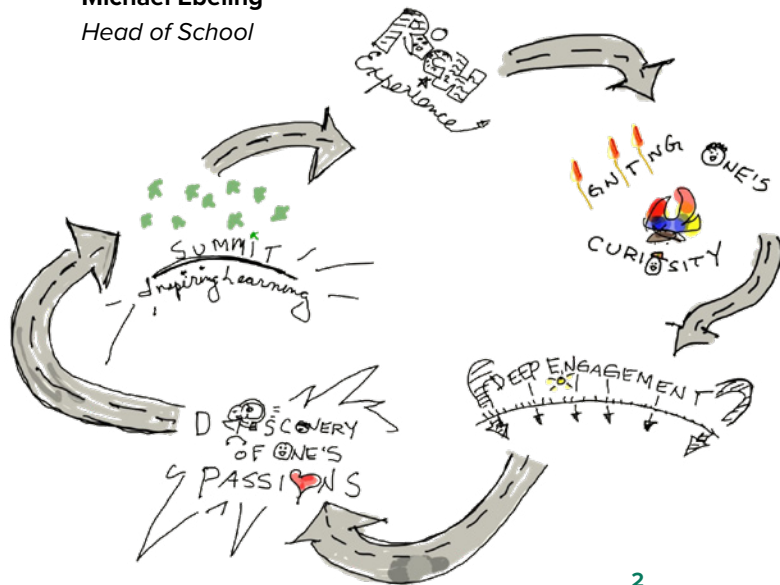
At Summit we call this Inspiring Learning.

Thank you for all that you are and all that you do to make the Summit experience possible, now and far into the future.

Onward and Upward,

Michael Ebeling

Michael Ebeling
Head of School



Summit School's Echoes is published annually for alums, parents, and friends by Summit School.

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Summit School admits students of any race, religion, color, and national or ethnic origin.

If your Summit alum has moved, please update us with his/her new address at alums@summitmail.org.

Cover Photo by Daniel Gray '14

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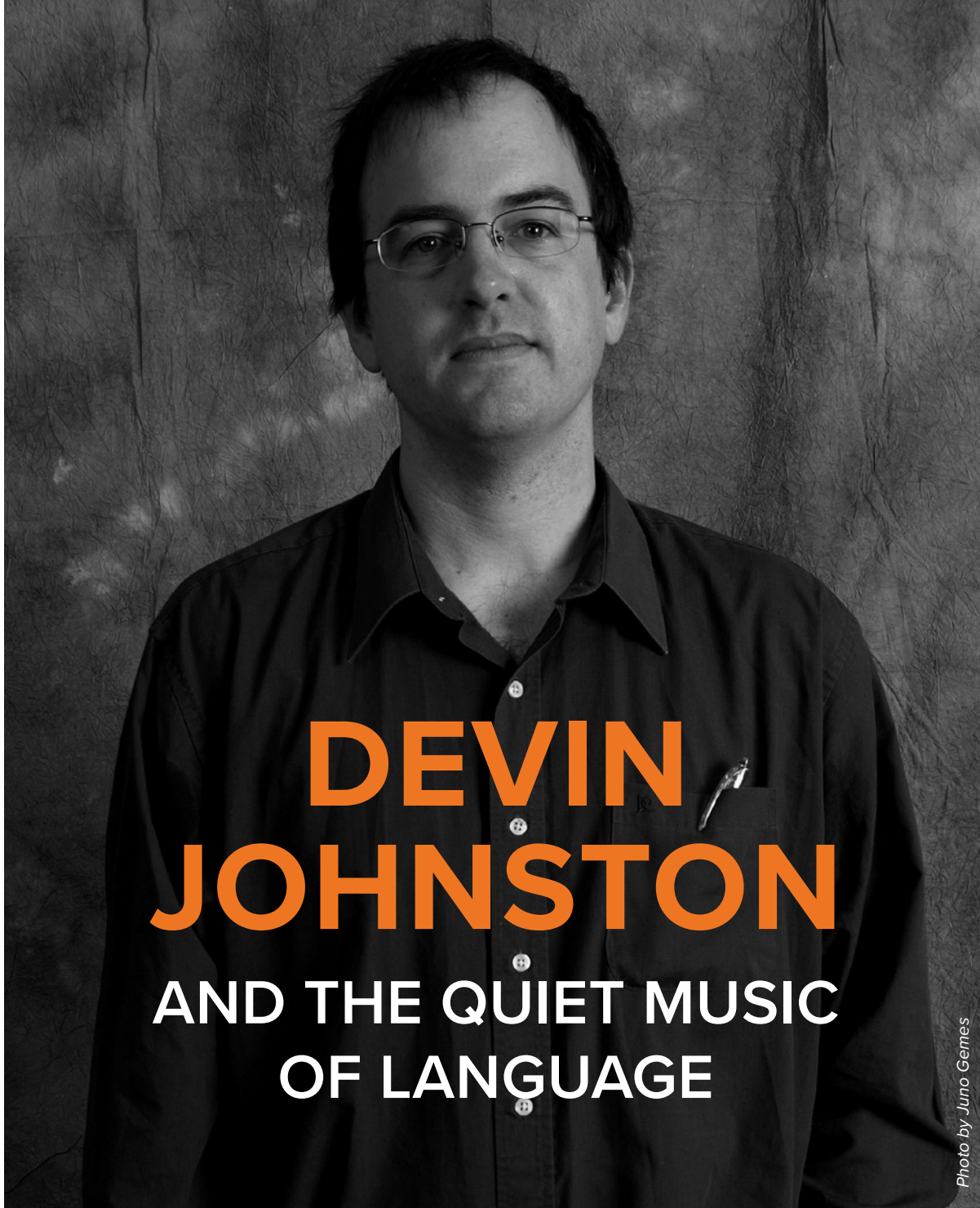


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Summit is more than just a school or a place on a map—it's a home. And no one understands that sentiment better than **Devin Johnston '85**. Devin has become an accomplished poet, with a half-dozen published collections and a professorship teaching poetry at Saint Louis University in Missouri. He took a moment to tell us how his journey at Summit paved the way for his passions later in life.

Devin, we know you're an accomplished poet. Tell us about your journey, have you always had this passion for poetry?

I have always written things down in notebooks, sometimes alongside drawings when I was younger. In that sense, poetry has always been part of the noise in my head. It wasn't until I was in my late teens and began to read more that I recognized

these jottings could be poetry. There are many aspects of poetry that appeal to me deeply. That it can be done independently, with no resources or permission necessary. That it can involve thought and feeling, image and music, succinctly.

After Summit, I went to R.J. Reynolds High School, and then Oberlin College in Ohio. I studied Classics in college, but all along I was writing and reading poetry. After graduation I lived in London for a year, working for a bookshop and doing a little freelance writing. Then I moved to Chicago, where I enrolled in the literature program at University of Chicago, settling there for most of the 1990s. I worked as poetry editor of Chicago Review, a literary journal. I would read submissions, write to authors, edit and typeset each issue. From the other side of the world, I struck up a correspondence and friendship with an older Australian poet and editor named Robert Adamson. We would send poems back and forth, and he eventually published my first book in Australia in 2001. He brought me to Sydney to give some readings, and to attend the Sydney Writers' Festival. That was my first real experience of being a poet in public. Since then, I've published a half-dozen books of poetry and two books of prose.

I mostly write out of daily life: family life, travel, stray observations from walks or work, phrases that lodge in my head. It's finally the quiet music of language that compels me.

You're a professor at Saint Louis University and your mother, Anne Coggan Johnston, taught JrK at Summit before becoming head of the Lower School. Have you always had a passion for teaching or did your mother inspire you to teach?

Yes, my mom did offer a great model for devotion to teaching, though I didn't imagine myself as a teacher early on. I still think teachers in early education tend to be the most devoted and willing to experiment.

I was hired by Saint Louis University in 2001, and I've worked there ever since, teaching creative writing and literature (as well as helping to organize a prison education program). It took me a while to be a confident and comfortable teacher, but I'm getting there! I like the fact that the challenges are always a little different, just as the students are. I realized early on, in teaching, that I don't need to be an expert,

and that I could "lead as fellow-traveler" (as Walt Whitman says). When a class goes well, it feels like a shared enterprise.

Turning to your time at Summit, were there teachers or lessons that inspired you in your classroom?

I think the best teaching is less a matter of advice, and more a matter of making space for exploration. In her art classes, Ms. Moore was that kind of teacher. She set us to tasks involving shape, line color, and texture, and let us find our way. She never evaluated the results, never said "this is good" or "this is bad." At times this approach seemed odd, even baffling. But it gave me the sense that art could be more than a facility; it could be a way of looking at the world, and of sounding and testing perceptions. Ms. Moore was a quiet teacher, but I've thought about her through the years.

You have quite the connection with the school, tell us more about that.

As you know, my mother taught "pre-k" at Summit, and later became head of the Lower School. Many of the women with whom she worked helped raise me, and were a community of lively and independent-minded people. They still travel together, drink martinis together, and rely on one another. So Summit felt in that sense like a second home.

Because my mom taught at Summit, I was often there before and after regular school hours. So I would spend time in the reading lofts, or looking at displays under the windows, or wandering around the school theatre. I have a pretty clear map in my head, after all these years, how the spaces connected, the hidden nooks, even the feeling of the door handles. Elementary schools tend to be the first places we spend extensive time, outside our homes; so they make a deep impression.

Of course, I did not feel so at ease with everything about Summit. Most families were more affluent than we were, and most were socially and politically conservative. But I think the best aspects of Summit worked quietly against those tendencies. I recall teachers working to communicate ideas of justice, equity, and difference. The school tended to discourage displays of privilege, and it encouraged basic kindness. It probably wasn't progressive by today's standards, but I think it was for its time and place.

BECCA STEVENS'S QUEEN POWER



Photo by Shervin Lainez

by John Whitaker '94 about Becca Stevens '99
complete article can be found at *Scalawag Magazine*, July 17, 2018

Scalawag sparks critical conversations about the many Souths where we live, love, and struggle. We amplify voices of activists, artists, and writers to reckon with Southern realities as they are, rather than as they seem to be.

One frosty December evening in Manhattan a few years ago, I saw the Becca Stevens Band perform a cover of “Walking In The Air,” from the animated children’s movie *The Snowman*. It was so unexpectedly moving that the tune remained stuck in my head into spring. I would hear it, and

Stevens’s big, breathy voice, while envisioning the corresponding scene in the film, in which the Snowman reaches for the boy’s hand and takes him on a magical nighttime flight over land and sea. But in my mind’s eye I would see a giant accordion—which had featured prominently in her band’s jazzy

rendition—floating in the sky alongside the duo, as if played by the hands of God. And this little reverie managed always to brighten my mood. I like to think I’m a fairly normal human adult; but that’s what Becca Stevens will do to you.

I am not alone in this sentiment. A couple of years ago, the folk legend David Crosby, of Crosby, Stills, Nash, and Young fame, encountered Stevens at a rehearsal for a new jazz album. Both Crosby and Stevens had been invited to contribute songs to the project, and when the time came Stevens strapped on her charango to rehearse a version of “I Asked,” from her 2014 album *Perfect Animal*.

“It was one of the most stellar musical things I’ve ever heard in my life,” Crosby told me. “I was standing there, just *gobsmacked*.”

Crosby, who helped discover the likes of Joni Mitchell and Jackson Browne, saw in Stevens a similarly rare talent, having found himself “stricken with her presence and her voice and her writing and her playing,” thinking “she is completely different from anyone else I’ve ever heard in my life.” The two quickly became friends, and he ended up collaborating with Stevens on her latest album, *Regina*, for a song about creative inspiration called “The Muse.”

Regina is Stevens’s fourth album, and best. Released in 2017, it is also one of the more remarkable works to come out of a fraught year in American history. The album takes its name from the Latin word for “queen,” and features eleven tracks that revolve around the theme of queens and female power. *Regina* is also a character that Stevens embodies—a sort of muse or alter-ego, she told me, that “allows me to materialize as this stronger version of myself.” The album is not explicitly political, but resonates deeply with the times, given the women who are speaking out against sexual harassment, and the alarming degree to which toxic masculinity characterizes our current leadership. The queen theme, as Stevens puts it, “is about getting this strong, divine, regal nature out of me, and out of other people, and into the world.”

Stevens grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and began performing in her family’s band, the Tune Mammals, not long after she could walk. I first saw her onstage, in fact,

when I was in the second or third grade; she was about three. I remember being summoned to the Summit School auditorium, where the Tune Mammals waddled onstage dressed in vibrant costumes and carrying an assortment of instruments. Stevens’s older brother, Bill, was my age, and played goalie for my soccer team; but now, dressed in a flat cap and wielding a fiddle, he seemed to have stepped out of a previous century. Stevens’s parents were both classically trained musicians, and the songs were kid-friendly and steeped in Appalachian folk: one was about a centipede who spent all winter taking off its shoes, so that it could run around barefoot in time for summer.

Stevens eventually studied classical guitar at the North Carolina School of the Arts, then jazz composition at the New School, in New York. She soon collaborated with a string of accomplished musicians, including the jazz pianists Brad Mehldau and Billy Childs. She also became the vocalist for Travis Sullivan’s Björkestra, an eighteen-piece jazz orchestra that interprets the work of the Icelandic musician Björk. Despite her talents, Stevens flew mostly under the national radar. In a review of her first album, 2008’s *Tea Bye Sea*, The New York Times hailed her as “something of a best-kept secret.” Her following albums, *Weightless* and *Perfect Animal*, received critical acclaim, if not widespread recognition. Stevens, meanwhile, began touring throughout the country and Europe, patiently building a following, and putting on shows that could make the audience feel as if they were walking in the air with a friend made of a billion snowflakes.

Stevens, now thirty-three, has shaped her own voice from these jazz and Appalachian folk influences. The Los Angeles Times has described her as “a more folk-tinged St. Vincent.”

When Stevens was getting her start in New York a decade ago, I would occasionally go see her perform in the basement of an old Italian restaurant on Amsterdam Avenue. I lived a few blocks away and welcomed the escape from my journalism school studies. I’d spent a year examining how nationalism had helped turn the Balkans into a killing field in the 1990s, and how, in Russia, Vladimir Putin’s kleptocracy stayed in power by shredding the rule of law, murdering ➔

journalists, and making enemies of America and its values. The darkness of all this weighed on the conscience. You almost didn't want to know what humans were capable of, how easily they could look the other way when evil was being done in their name, if it had some small benefit to them or their tribe, or how easily they could be led to mistrust, even hate, the very people trying to tell them the truth. The susceptibility of modern civilizations to tribalism and propaganda—that was terrifying, and was what I felt so much responsibility to convey as a writer, as America was already showing troubling signs of not being immune. The sound of the Becca Stevens Band would calm my nerves, bring me back to my roots, make me think of the mountains in North Carolina, my favorite place in the world, a place that had always seemed safe from such madness. Stevens would pluck a little ukulele, or a six-string guitar made of iridescent Hawaiian koa, and sing with a smile that radiated joy. Her voice was soft, sensuous, airy—the tone somehow reminded me of butterscotch, as if it were the aural equivalent of a Werther's Original. She would say a charming word to the audience as we forked our gnocchi and sipped our wine, and then play a transcendent version of the Smiths's "There Is a Light That Never Goes Out," and the horrors of authoritarianism would melt from my mind.

I scarcely could have imagined that, a few years later, her work would feel so resonant in a time of such anti-democratic fervor on our own shores. Or that we would be reeling from a foreign enemy's effort to undermine our first female presidential candidate—an attack on our democracy that a former acting head of the

C.I.A. would call "the political equivalent of 9/11." Or that so many millions of women, of all political persuasions, would become so instrumental in rescuing our democracy—women who were fed up with the misogyny, the bigotry, the assaults on our institutions, and those cravenly abetting it; fed up with the anti-media rhetoric that echoed that of the Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin; fed up with being grabbed, and with their fellow citizens' brains being grabbed by authoritarian cowards.

So when I learned last spring that Stevens, during her *Regina* tour, would be playing a small show in Winston-Salem, at her brother's recording studio, I decided to travel home for the occasion, and to bring my three young nieces, Amory, Lila and Eve Kelly, current Summit students, to see her. I wanted them to hear a voice that reflected the same love, kindness, and empathy with which they were being raised, and which they were already radiating wonderfully back into the world. And indeed they sat enraptured as Stevens performed, while Bill sat in the adjacent sound-booth, visible through the glass as he recorded his baby sister. One could feel the love in the air on an evening none of us will forget.

Our country's present ills cannot be escaped by closing our eyes and flying into the sky with a magic snowman. Nor can music—or any art—alone save us. But in Stevens's voice, I hear hope and strength. I sense an irrepressible devotion, and an echo of the passion of millions of Americans as they undertake the process of beckoning this country back to its values. *Regina* is an achievement that, in dark times, radiates light. Becca Stevens's blast of queen power is for us all.



ONWARD AND UPWARD WITH THE ALUMNI COUNCIL

In 2014, the Alumni Council was formed to keep alumni in better touch with Summit. Sandlin Douglas '94 and Kay D. Burress King '83, current parents and members of the Board of Trustees, served as chairs of the council during its first two years. In 2016, they passed the reins to Matt Spear '86 who agreed to serve a 2 year term. Spear said, "when I reflect about Summit both from the indelible memories of the experiences of my three siblings and what I see in Summit's bright present, I think about fun, passion, pride, learning, inclusiveness, ambition, relationships, community, and teamwork." Summit is delighted that Carolyn Sherrill Fuller '85 serves as chair for 2018-2020.

The primary goals of the council are to get alumni involved and to share with them inspiring moments happening at Summit today. The council exists to bring alumni from all over the country together to remember the old days and be a part of the new.

Carolyn Sherrill Fuller '85, Chair
Lynda King Morris '63
Barbour Strickland '67
Leesa Lybrook Goodson '71
Ridgely Medlin Phillips '76
Jimbo Galloway '80
Kay D. Burress King '83
Drew Cannon '91
Sandlin Douglas '94
Rachel Neely Johnson '99
Mimi Driscoll Bennett '04
Suzanna Roemer '05
Blitz Hoppe '07



Council meeting, Founders Day, 2018 at Summit School
L to R: Michael Ebeling, Barbour Strickland '67, Suzanna Roemer '05, Lynda King Morris '63, Kay D. Burress King '83



To get involved, please reach out to any of the Alumni Council members. Or, contact Sarah Dalrymple, Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement, at alums@summitmail.org or 336-722-2777.



Photo by Bowman Gray '84

BOWMAN GRAY

DEVELOPED HIS INTEREST IN ART WHILE AT SUMMIT

Bowman Gray '84 has always had an adoration for the arts. A stockbroker by day, he says that's just what pays the bills. His true passion is photography. "I always like to say that being a stockbroker feeds my stomach, but photography feeds my soul," he says.

In fact, his infatuation with photography began early on in Summit School's darkroom in Mr. Shaver's photography class. Later, as a teenager, he started sneaking away with his parents' camera to their property in Sparta, North Carolina, where he'd take pictures of the landscape and spend hours trying to capture the land's littlest details.

In 9th Grade, Gray was gifted with his first camera, a 35mm, and in 2004 he bought his first DSLR. His love for landscape photography only grew over the years. He likes to think that it forces him to see the beauty in the world.

"You know, I like to say I wear two hats: stockbroker and photographer," Gray says. "As a stockbroker, I have to think about moving from point A to point B, and I don't always get to take in what's around me. But when I'm in photography mode I get to look at all the details. I get to see the beauty in things, and it forces me to slow down."

But as responsibilities like family and careers took over, photography began to take the back burner in favor of other things. It wasn't until after he bought his DSLR camera that he started spending more time on his photography, balancing a full-time career in finance with carving out time to stretch his creative muscle.

In 2009 he took on his first project, a reprise of James Allen's "As A Man Thinketh" in the form of a coffee table hardcover book. The project paid for itself. And then seven years ago he found metal printing, a process where digital images are produced on metal through a sublimation process.

When asked in this interview what, in his mind, sets metal printing apart from regular photography Gray quoted New York artist Sean Scully and said this: "Metal makes for the most wonderful partner

because it provides a hard echo of everything you put on it." Meaning nothing is lost from your painting or image when it transfers to the metal, it's all right there. And while digital photography can often times lend itself to (as he puts it) "cheap mistakes," there's just something about metal printing that speaks to him.

Whatever it was in metal printing that spoke to him worked. Gray's career began to take off. He started working with Richard Brenner '78, another Summit connection, whose company produces metal printing. There he started producing his landscape photography on metal—and it was a hit. Soon he was showing his work in Gallery VI on Trade Street and Diamondback Grill. Now, his work hangs up and down the East and West Coast, and he even sold his first piece in the UK this year.

When he reflects upon his early interest in the arts he does credit Summit for nurturing that budding passion for photography. "Summit, I think, offers the most well-rounded education," Gray says.

As a student, he recalls Louise Futrell walking the halls at age 90 and knowing every child by name. "Her approach, which is now known as the Orton-Gillingham model, was to teach to the students' strengths and it was just incredible," Gray says. And he would appreciate this sentiment better than anyone.

As a child, Gray struggled with dyslexia. He remembers his teachers at Summit taking an individualized interest in him. "They took kids like me," he says, "and showed us that we could learn, showed us how we could learn, and then made our experience very normal and mainstream. We never felt like our experience was different than that of other students."

Now, Gray splits his time between his day job and sneaking away to the mountains of Virginia or the coast of Maine to shoot landscapes or just fall in love with the world all over again. He's grateful for his Summit experience as it's what's led him to where he is today. "From a holistic standpoint Summit was extremely encouraging," he says. "You know, you realized you **can** do this."

KEENAN ROGERS WORKS IN THE FILM INDUSTRY



FROM
UNCSCA
TO LA

Keenan Rogers '11 always knew he would end up in the film industry. In fact, he made his first film at the age of 11 while experimenting with a Wii and an SD device with his cousins. “We started recording things like jumping down the stairs or eating a piece of bread and then playing it backwards,” Rogers says. “We thought it was one of the funniest things in the world.” But what started out as an amusing activity with family quickly grew into a full-blown passion.

It’s this passion that drove him to attend the Film School at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts (UNCSA) where he majored in editing and sound. There, he cultivated his talents and played with different storytelling mediums. But he always came back to film.

“Looking back,” he says, “I think I’ve always had a passion for narrative and I found that I could express that through film.”

Now, Rogers lives in Los Angeles, California, where he’s taken his knack for sound production to the next level. Though he can’t say much about the film projects he works on—his mother even jokes that he may actually work for the CIA, that’s how secretive some of these projects are—he does say that Summit played a large part in getting him to where he is today.

“Summit is a place I really have a deep connection with and feel very passionate about,” Rogers says. “It’s a place that gives you a really interesting set of skills that I think most students at most schools don’t develop at that age.”

It is actually Rogers’ 9th grade speech experience that resonates with him the most. He remembers how public speaking built confidence in him. How the lessons he learned throughout the speech-giving process gave him the courage

to speak in front of complete strangers and—as he puts it—“the world didn’t end.”

“I realized I could do things,” Rogers laughs. It is this realization that helped guide him throughout some of the biggest moments in his adult life—from giving presentations in high school to his college interview.

His college interview at UNCSA is a moment in particular that sticks out to him as one where the skills he learned at Summit prepared him for his future. He remembers not being nervous during the interview. This is in part due to those early public speaking skills he developed at Summit. Another, larger part is the confidence he built throughout the speech process and the self-assuredness he took away from that day in 9th Grade that he could do whatever he put his mind to.

Before moving to Los Angeles, Rogers spent time working at Summit as an Information Technology intern where he worked under the tutelage of Chris Culp '82. When Rogers reflects upon his time as a staff member, he recalls how Culp helped guide him through the early days of his career and how he showed him that every aspect of the Summit experience is geared toward the student.

“Summit is more than the sum of its parts,” Rogers says. From expanding the WiFi on campus to exploring new learning styles, everything is about the student and their quest for knowledge.

“I’ve never been to a school before that feels like Summit,” Rogers says. “It really, truly feels familial. It’s a community unto itself. It’s not just a school where you have students and you have teachers. These are people who really, truly care about the students.”

In October of 2018, **Caroline Chambers '04** released her first cookbook, *Just Married*, a cooking tutorial for newlyweds looking to up their confidence in the kitchen. But the journey to published author and foodie entrepreneur hasn't always been easy—or even conventional.

Though her passion for food began early on, it took years for Chambers to make a career out of it. In fact, it was actually her mother, Francie Thompson, who originally sparked the interest in her for all things food. She says her mom used to assign making dinner as a weekly chore for her and her siblings to do together when they got home from school. But what started as a task that she and her siblings resented slowly became something Chambers really loved. “It morphed from ‘I have to do this’ to ‘I want to do this,’” Chambers says.

After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill in 2011, Chambers moved to New York City where she began a career in advertising. Chambers says that she was always more drawn to her food and beverage clients. She also started a food blog while living there. “It was terrible,” Chambers jokes, “but it was something. I always knew I had this passion for food but it took me a while to transform that passion into a career.”

By 2013, Caroline was married and life took her in a new direction. As newlyweds, Chambers and her husband moved to San Diego where he was stationed as a Navy SEAL. Once they settled in, he encouraged her to follow her dreams and try to find a way to turn her passion into a career.



IN THE KITCHEN WITH **CAROLINE CHAMBERS**

It wasn't long before she had a successful organic, farm-to-table catering company called Cucina Coronado up and running. What started as a small company soon blossomed into a business that regularly catered to 300 person weddings. “That's when I started getting asked by magazines and food companies to do recipe development for certain brands,” Chambers says.

Through social media Chambers was able to grow her career from successful caterer to recipe developer, food stylist, food photographer, and, eventually, published author.

In fact, the idea for the book came about after Chambers' career took off. She started working longer hours and her husband was the one with a more flexible schedule. “I was working insane hours and so our roles sort of switched,” she says. “I was always the cook of the family and all of the sudden he's calling me asking ‘what should I get at the store?’ and ‘how do I make this?’”

She realized pretty quickly that their dynamic was similar to that of her other newly married friends. Friends who wanted to cook for their spouses but didn't know how, or even really where, to begin.

“I feel like there's a lot of guilt around not cooking together as newlyweds,” Chambers says. She recalls conversations with friends where they described a sense of dread at having to cook. They would order takeout instead, and then immediately feel bad about that decision. “It's not a bad thing,” she says. “It's just hard if you don't have the confidence in the kitchen.”

And thus the idea for *Just Married* was born. Chambers says her husband is exactly the type of person her cookbook is written for. “He's not a confident, ‘freestyler’ in the kitchen,” she says. Meaning he can't just look in the fridge and make a meal based off of what ingredients he finds in there. “He is a really confident recipe follower though,” she says.

And she doesn't want her readers to necessarily become freestylers in the kitchen. She just wants them to build more confidence in the kitchen whether that's learning how to follow a recipe or cooking a meal without feeling a sense of dread or panic.

“I think being cooked for is such a cool act of loving and giving,” she says. “And I want that for all of my readers.”

Just Married, Photography by Linda Pugliese

SUZANNE TEAGUE

INSPIRES ACTOR **BEN BAKER**



For **Ben Baker '89** acting is more than just a passion, it's a legacy, a way to connect with the next generation. His adoration for the arts started at an early age. As a fifth grader and new to Summit School, Baker started dabbling in drama under the tutelage of teachers Mary Kerr and Loma Hopkins. They gave him his first taste of performance by casting him in starring roles like Count Dracula and Daddy Warbucks.

From there his passion for the arts only grew. Baker's time at Summit School launched him into a career as a professional actor. He went on to attend New York University for college and later moved to Los Angeles, California, to pursue his calling for theatre.

"I lived in Los Angeles for a total of fourteen years," he says. "When I first moved there I started out small and got a job as a production assistant for the Center Theatre Group." This gave him access to several productions that were performed in the Ahmanson Theatre and The Mark Taper Forum. One in particular was directed by Sir Peter Hall, the founder of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Eventually he and his late wife moved back to Winston-Salem when they found out they were expecting their first child together: Henry '27. "It felt like the right time to make a change for our family," he says. But that didn't stop him from pursuing acting. He got his MFA in theatre from the University of North Carolina Greensboro (UNCG) and started teaching acting classes at Wake Forest University and UNCG.

When Baker looks back on his time at Summit School he thinks of one person in particular who helped shape him in a meaningful way: his fifth grade teacher, Suzanne Teague. "Growing up I felt a bit like an outsider," Baker admits. "But she was able to identify that and help me work through my insecurities."

She taught him how to roll with the punches and that hardships may come but they don't always knock you down. "She was absolutely instrumental in how I grew as a human being, not just during my career at Summit, but well beyond," he says. "The lessons I learned from her, and her love of learning and understanding of children are still relevant and necessary to my life today."

So relevant, in fact, that he uses the lessons Mrs. Teague instilled in him thirty some years ago in his classrooms today. And not just with his undergraduates, but with the students he works with during Summit's Afternoon Academy and Summit Summer.

"That's certainly one thing, to be able to communicate with college students," he says, "but a much bigger hurdle for me is having to communicate with fourth, fifth, and sixth graders because you can't really hide from them. They understand you much faster than college students do."

Baker says that he has enjoyed his time working for Summit's Co-Curricular Programs because he's been able to help kids create ideas and then watch them run with it, turning it into fruition. He loves that Summit encourages collaborative environments and developing an open mind. He says that it builds character, and helps the students get a sense of their space and place in the world.

"What Summit does amazingly well during these early grades is that they let these kids come up with ideas and try them," he says. "Some of the ideas work and some of them don't, but at least they get to experiment. They get to try."

It's this aspect of Summit's culture that brings his experience full circle: that learning is more about trying than succeeding. His son Henry is now a student at Summit and already Henry is starting to learn the lessons Baker encountered at Summit.

"When I left Summit I knew that I could try anything that I wanted to try," he says. "I could walk into any classroom or home in Winston-Salem and speak to any adult with confidence. I want my son and the students I work with to understand that they can do the same and more."

HUGH BRAY

INSPIRES OTHER STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

In Fourth Grade, **Hugh Bray '17**, was diagnosed with dyslexia, a language based learning disability that affects 20% of the population, making reading and writing more challenging. To give him the academic support he needed, Hugh's parents, Francie and Greg enrolled him at Triad Academy, which at the time was a school of 55 students located on Friedberg Church Road on the Davidson County line. Seven years ago when Triad Academy became a division of Summit School, Hugh moved to the Summit campus, where he eventually transitioned out of the Triad division and graduated from the Ninth Grade.

Let's talk about where this all began. You were in the middle of Fourth Grade at Whitaker Elementary when you first came to visit Triad Academy, which at the time was a free-standing school on Friedberg Church Road.

I remember walking down the hallway and seeing the small classes and thinking that this would be a better learning experience for me. At the time, I was really into NASCAR. My dad told me that coming to Triad was a pitstop along the way. I needed a tune-up to help me get to new and brighter places.

In Fifth Grade you moved to the Summit campus. How did your teachers in the Triad division and other divisions of Summit help prepare you for what was to come?

Mrs. Thomas, my language tutorial teacher, was awesome at teaching me all the rules. Ms. Lawrence made learning fun. STEAM helped me with problem solving by understanding the material and assessing how to work through

problems to find solutions. Mr. Stackhouse '86 told me that there are three things I need to do:

1. Study and review as much as possible.
2. Use a planner.
3. Take advantage of study hall.

I know that your passions include lacrosse, radio and engineering. How did you get involved in each. What are you doing now?

Before Sixth Grade, I had never played lacrosse. Mr. Merrick helped me understand the sport. I worked really hard to be a better player. I play at R.J. Reynolds and hope to play in college.

I've always loved cars and working on them. I would love to be a performance engineer for a car company. Working in the wind tunnels and figuring out the angles of a car fascinates me. Since I was ten I have worked to save money to buy my first truck. On my 16th birthday, I drove a Ford F150 off the lot.

I first became interested in radio in Mr. Heidtmann's class. I knew that I had a voice even though I struggled sometimes to get the words out. Being on the radio meant people would listen to me. I take the Radio 101 class at Reynolds and have produced two stories that have aired on WFDD, one on cars and the other on the challenge of being a student athlete.

Compared to your peers in high school, how do you think you were different because of your Summit education?

At Summit I learned the importance of having strong communication skills. I wrote my ninth grade speech on storytelling. To tell a story on the radio, you have to know how to take the listener from point A to point B. Being able to tell a story is an important life skill to have. I also gained the confidence that through hard work, I can accomplish whatever I want to do.

What are some of your fondest memories of Summit?

The sports program is strong. Mr. Shaw challenged us by having us play high school teams, which has helped me at Reynolds. Being on sports teams helps you develop strong friendships and manage your time better. I liked the ninth grade year a lot, especially the trip to Costa Rica.

What advice would you give to Summit students as they look ahead to their futures?

It's important to find a balance between school, sports and whatever else you want to do. I use a planner to help me manage my time. I knock out the hardest subject first. Instead of seeing friends or playing Xbox, I work ahead so that I can play sports and have extra time to practice.

1. Find your own path.
2. Know what you can handle.
3. Challenge yourself.
4. Keep the balance.
5. Build good relationships with everyone you meet because you never know when you will want to ask them for advice like Mr. Heidtmann and Mr. Culp '82.

Triad Academy, a division of Summit School serves children in First through Eighth Grades who have been diagnosed with dyslexia and other language-based learning difficulties. "Children as young as two or three can begin to show early signs of dyslexia," says Carrie Malloy, director of the Triad Academy Division. "Early diagnosis and intensive remediation is consequential in closing the gap between a child's intellectual potential and his or her academic achievement."

by Karen Pranikoff, Admission and Development, Triad Academy at Summit School

Photography by Martin Tucker

REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1986

Since 2005, friends and family of Greg Garcia '86 have gathered annually to celebrate the way Greg connected all of us and provided so much joy. This "reunion" has grown to include friends new and old from other social and work connections, and we always have a good turnout from Summit and R.J. Reynolds folks. It's all about the opportunity to catch up with people we don't see often enough. The event is a simple potluck held in April or May in Winston-Salem.

If you want to be informed about the next Greg Garcia Gathering, just let me know and I'll add you to the email list.

Dack Stackhouse '86

dstackhouse@summitmail.org



DIAMONDBACK REUNION

Classes of 2002-2012



REUNIONS

Class of 1968

FOUNDERS DAY



Classes of 2013-2018

YOUNG ALUMS



Photography by Martin Tucker



CLASS NOTES

1948

Augusta Gibson Johnston sent an article from the *Winston-Salem Journal* dated 1947 which depicts her being named “Sir Galahad” in the annual Knighthood Award Day exercises. The knighting of Galahad was the highlight of the Arthurian pageant which was staged by the Student Council. Johnston lives in Greensboro, NC. She said, “I was at Summit 2nd through 8th grade and loved all of it, especially art, french and glee club.”

1964

Vernon Glenn writes, “I am still trying cases, and recently spoke at a Charleston Bar Seminar on Trial Practice where I was described as one of the ‘great old lions of the Charleston Bar,’ surely there is a mixed message there.” Glenn is a published author and is working on a sequel to his first novel *Friday Calls*. An illustrated children’s book, *You Never Know Who Your Angels Are*, published summer 2018. He adds, “I worked on the children’s book with the remarkable Winston-Salem artist Cheryl Ann Lipstreu, what a great collaboration we have become! The work is really challenging and fun.”

1972

Congratulations to **Sally Colhoun Engram** who was inducted into the Salem Academy Athletic Hall of Fame in February.

1976

Will Spencer and his wife Christy were featured in the January issue of *Winston-Salem Monthly* for the role they have played in revitalizing Winston-Salem’s Industry Hill, a historic neighborhood encompassing the northern edge of downtown. Until a few years ago, it was largely forgotten, a remnant of the factories and businesses that had been in full swing at the beginning of the 20th century. “In those days, people used to live in apartments above their stores,” says Spencer, CEO and President of JKS Incorporated, a local marketing firm. “Blacksmiths, shoemakers, grocers—they all worked in this neighborhood.” Spencer’s great-grandfather, B.F. Huntley, owned a furniture factory in this part of town. “I wanted a collective mix of affordable, accessible experiences that support the Innovation Quarter without competing with it,” Spencer says. Plans include a restaurant, an indoor and outdoor event space, Airbnb rooms, a brewery, and a beer garden. It’s clear the Spencers have an entrepreneurial spirit, as well as a passion for preserving history; they’ve uncovered information not only on the Booe and Robert Hall buildings, but also on his great-grandfather’s furniture factory, which was acquired by Thomasville Furniture Industries in 1961 and operational until 2006. Spencer said, “The part that is special for me is that I can preserve all they [my father, grandfather and great-grandfather] did for Winston in so many different ways.”

1986

After serving as the head men’s soccer coach at Davidson College for 18 years, **Matt Spear** is now the President and General Manager of Richmond Kickers Pro Soccer. “Serving Davidson where I studied and played was amazing. But this is a neat opportunity to stretch myself into different capacities outside of coaching and college athletics. Richmond is a great city that has had pro soccer for over 25 years. The new ownership and management group are striving to push the club to another level of success and civic impact.”

1988

Tyler Bouldin Battaglia sent a message, “Blake and I moved from Boston to Dallas in August 2017. Our girls Kate (14) and Lauren (11) attend the Episcopal School of Dallas. Kate won the English Award for 7th grade last year! Our most recent family member is Fenway, a Coton de Tulear puppy!”

1993

Dan Blynn is a Partner in the Advertising and Marketing and Class Action Defense practices in the Washington, DC office of Venable LLP. In August 2017, Dan was honored by Law360 as a “Rising Star” in the area of Consumer Protection Law - one of only three attorneys in the United States to receive this recognition. He lives in McLean, VA with his wife, Sarah, and their three-year-old son, Jackson. Dan is a novice boxer, training in DC, but has largely hung up his soccer cleats and stopped modeling. His brothers, **Harlan Blynn ’96**, and **Aaron Blynn ’98**, live in Denver, CO and Miami, FL, respectively. Harlan was recently profiled as Cornell University’s SC Johnson College of Business “Profiles in Leadership” for his urban farming program, which aims to address food insecurity. Aaron is a Partner in the Miami office of Genovese Joblove & Battista; when he’s not in court, he’s traveling and enjoying life in Coconut Grove.

Loni Worsley was inducted into the R.J. Reynolds High School Sports Hall of Fame in January. While a student there she played tennis and basketball.

1997

Alex Polychron Collins and husband welcome Parker Wallace Collins to their family. Older brother Turner adores his new baby brother.

1998

Hayes Wauford was named to the 40 Under 40 list by the *Triad Business Journal*. Wauford and his wife, Amy, and sons, Hayes and Clay, live in Winston-Salem.

2003

Dylan Conrad recently completed a thru-hike of the Pacific Crest Trail, a 2,650 mile National Scenic Trail from Mexico to Canada. He completed the thru-hike in September 2018 at the Canadian border after four and a half months hiking through the wilderness. Approaching a decade in the film industry, Conrad continues to work as a focus puller and camera operator in the US and abroad. He plans to tackle the 3,100 mile Continental Divide Trail and the 2,200 mile Appalachian Trail in the next several years.

Liz Krewson McCall and **William McCall ’04** were married September 2018 and the couple live in Durham. He is a Senior Engineering Consultant with Deloitte and was recently featured in the NC State University Alumni magazine as 30 Under 30 Engineers. She is the West Coast manager for Andersen Products, Inc. in Haw River, NC.



JOHNSTON '48



GLENN '64



WORSLEY '93



COLLINS '97

CLASS NOTES

Bobby Mittlestadt celebrated 100 performances at the Metropolitan Opera. “I’m very proud, and very lucky, to share this stage with the best artists in the world. Here’s to 100 more! (But hey, who’s counting?)”

2004

Liz Krewson McCall '03 and **William McCall** were married September 2018 and the couple live in Durham. He is a Senior Engineering Consultant with Deloitte and was recently featured in the NC State University Alumni magazine as 30 Under 30 Engineers. She is the West Coast manager for Andersen Products, Inc. in Haw River, NC.

Clayton Pennell was recently inducted as an artist in The Blue Ridge Realists, a group formed in the 1950s by artist Bob Timberlake. This group celebrates rural realist art in North Carolina and will be on exhibition at the Hickory Museum of Art from April 27th to August 18th. “It is an honor to join this esteemed group of artists alongside my mentor and friend, Mr. Timberlake,” Pennell said. Additionally, Pennell was selected to exhibit his artwork at one of the largest wildlife art shows in the nation, the Southeastern Wildlife Exposition (SEWE) in Charleston, SC in February 2019 as well as the Plantation Wildlife Festival in Thomasville, GA.

Ben Winikoff and wife Holley welcomed their first child, a baby girl named Lindley Rose Winikoff, September 2018.

2005

Wilson Hunter contacted the Alumni Office and said, “[I was looking at] the alumni portal because we are looking at future schools for our 4-year-old girl in Charlottesville, VA, and I was reminiscing about my awesome experiences at Summit! I am the founder and director of CardBoard Live, a technology startup focusing on innovations in digital media and ecommerce and how those technologies can be applied to streaming games.”

2006

Emily Krewson graduated from NC State University with a Masters in Clinical Mental Health Counseling in December. She is currently an outpatient clinician focused on substance abuse and mental health, working toward becoming a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist at Insight Human Services in Winston-Salem.

2007

Blitz Hoppe lives in Fort Worth, Texas and works as an operating room nurse. She is studying for her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree at Texas Christian University. In her spare time, she designs custom jewelry and is planning a fall wedding.

Ryanne Probst, who was a Summit intern back in 2014, has returned to the Summit fold and contributed several articles to this edition of *Summit Echoes*. After living in NYC for several years she’s returned to North Carolina where she works as an Associate Editor for Pace Communications. She is also a regular contributing writer to the millennial women’s media site: Betches.com.

2008

David Gorelick, a doctoral student in the Dept. of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill, was one of 17 graduate students who received a 2018 Impact Award from the UNC Graduate School during a ceremony held in April, 2018 in Chapel Hill. The Award honors graduate students in programs throughout the University for their discoveries that contribute to a better future for and have a direct impact on people and communities in North Carolina. Gorelick’s research, “Maintaining Water Supply Reliability Through Raw Water Transfers,” centered on identifying additional ways to maintain sufficient urban water supplies during droughts in North Carolina. His research paper was also recently published in the Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management. Gorelick is a graduate of R.J. Reynolds and received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Ashley Pullen works as an account executive at SFW Agency in Greensboro, NC.

Robert Zieser-Misenheimer was in touch with Summit faculty and shared this update, “I was fortunate to graduate from the Naval Academy in 2015, and was commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps upon graduation. Shortly thereafter, I became an infantry officer. I led a rifle platoon of 42 Marines on a deployment

to Spain, Italy, and Niger, where we served as the Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force - Crisis Response - Africa (SPMAGTF-CR-AF) from the summer of 2017 to the spring of 2018. I currently serve as a Combined Anti-Armor Team (CAAT) Platoon Commander in my battalion, leading Marines in vehicles with heavy machine guns and anti-tank missiles.”

2010

Hayes Brenner reported, “I’m currently living in Los Angeles pursuing a career as a filmmaker. I spent time interning with Kerner Entertainment Company. I completed a short starring **George Whitaker '10**, a fellow Summit alum. I’m currently trying to read a lot of books and watch a lot of movies.”

Elizabeth Zieser-Misenheimer graduated from Duke University and works in Winston-Salem. She reflects about Summit, “it makes me so happy to know that the school that made me fall in love with learning hasn’t slowed down a bit.”

2012

Josh Golden visited the Summit campus, November 2018, and shared photographs and artifacts from his study in New Zealand. This spring, Golden graduates from NC State University where he has taught introductory Biology and Ecology, participated on the club swim team, and served as an ambassador for the study abroad program. After being accepted to 5 dental school programs, he chose the University Of New England School of Dental Medicine in Portland, Maine.

CLASS NOTES

2013

Lucy Jones is currently studying in Cape Town, South Africa, exploring intersections of race, identity, reconciliation, and whiteness through classes and service learning. She has enjoyed being challenged, growing interculturally, and embracing everything South Africa has to offer!

Jack Sari is a member of the Clemson football team which won the College Football Playoff National Championship in January. He serves as a student manager. Sari graduated from Woodberry Forest where he was also a member of the football team. Sari is a management major with an emphasis in entrepreneurship, minoring in Athletic Leadership.

2015

Tori Huggins plays basketball at Emory University. The team played in the NCAA Division III national championship tournament earlier this year.

Carver Semans writes, “this past August I competed in the World’s Championship Horse Show in Louisville, KY which is the equivalent of the Olympics to other disciplines. I am Reserve World Champion in the 14-17 five gaited junior exhibitor age group.”

2016

Kendyl Stewart has committed to play lacrosse at Amherst College.

2017

Andrew Bowman has been awarded the rank of Eagle Scout; he is a member of Troop 722 in Winston-Salem. Bowman is a junior at Reagan High School.

Nathaniel Carson received a headmaster’s commendation spring 2018. The commendation is awarded to 10 students each year who have made a meaningful impact on the Christ School community.

Merrick Semans also competed in the World’s Championship Horse Show in Louisville, KY last August in the three gaited 14-17 division. She was third with her horse.

Henry Slater’s poem, “Foliage in the Wood,” was selected for print publication in the November 2018 issue of *Teen Ink*, the nation’s largest publisher of teen poetry, essays, stories, reviews, art and photography. Published by the nonprofit Young Authors Foundation, less than 3% of submissions are selected for print publication annually. *Teen Ink* has over one million in readership. Slater was selected to represent Reagan High School in the 2019 Poet Laureate competition. Two students from each high school are chosen to represent their high school in the county-wide poetry competition hosted by the Forsyth Educator Partnership in conjunction with the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

2018

Hunter Johnson was named 2018 All-County Junior Varsity football team (kicker), voted by all coaches in Forsyth County. Johnson is a sophomore at Mt. Tabor High School and also plays receiver.

JJ Sloan is a student at West Forsyth High School, a talented two sport athlete who plays football and lacrosse. Sloan became interested in fashion in the 7th grade but started designing during his 9th grade year at Summit. While in art class, his teacher, **Elizabeth Kerr Wild ’84**, suggested he think of a brand name - and Not Basic was born.

Bailey Hatchett is a Georgia State University scholarship athlete and a Presidential Scholar.

The diversity of Georgia State’s student population and the cultural opportunities available in downtown Atlanta were a major draw for Hatchett. But it was her athletic achievements on the volleyball court that first put Georgia State on Hatchett’s radar.

“I fell in love with Georgia State on my first visit here,” said Hatchett. “It was my recruiting visit and I loved Coach Van Fleet and was so impressed with everyone I met, all the opportunities in downtown Atlanta, and all the resources the school offers to help me in my career.”

But success on the volleyball court and in the classrooms of Ronald Reagan High School in Pfafftown, N.C., only tells part of Hatchett’s story.

A more complete picture of the Class of 2022 honors student would include her folding her 6’1” frame into the tiny chairs of an elementary school cafeteria where Hatchett would eat lunch with underprivileged children.

Despite a rigorous academic load and year-round practice, Hatchett chose to spend the free period of her last two years at Reagan High volunteering at Petree Elementary School. There she would join her grandmother in bringing lunch to students in need and then stay to eat with them.

“Getting to know the personal stories of some of the kids—growing up in poverty and, at times, really rough environments—



Bailey Hatchett '15

and having the chance to listen and maybe help was so meaningful to me,” said Hatchett. “Their experiences were so different from mine and connecting with them is something I became passionate about.”

Hatchett plans to study business with a focus in Spanish. She’s long been interested in the culture of various Spanish-speaking countries.

“Receiving the Presidential Scholarship and having the support—outside of athletics—offered through the Honors College means a lot to me,” said Hatchett. “The internships and study abroad opportunities are important to me, as is getting entrance to a community of scholars and similarly academic-minded peers.”

by Matt Nixon

Reprint with permission from Georgia State University, November 14, 2018

Class of 2022 Presidential Scholar Also On Volleyball Court

For more information about the Presidential Scholarship or to apply, go to: honors.gsu.edu/the-presidential-scholarship/

Media Contact: **Kathleen Joyner**, Director of Communications
Honors College, 404-413-5571, kjoyner@gsu.edu

CLASS OF 2015 COLLEGE LIST

Noah Aaron	Yale University	Anthony Kranis	University of South Carolina
Cameron Archer	University of South Carolina	Josh Lenchik	Providence College
Joe Baicy	Appalachian State University	Emmie Littlejohn	UNC-Wilmington
Michael Bodenhamer	College of Charleston	Michael Macko	James Madison University
Ariyana Caldwell	Chowan University	Sophie Macon	NC State University
Caitlin Casey	NC State University	Lucy McGinnis	Wake Forest University
Jake Charnes	Southern Methodist University	Carson McManus	Stevens Institute of Technology
Lily Charnes	University of Oregon	Reagan Millican	UNC-Chapel Hill
Nicolas Chen	Wake Forest University	Lindsay Mims	UNC-Chapel Hill
Wills Combes	Wake Forest University	Matt Mims	Georgia Institute of Technology
Jay Creamer	University of South Carolina	Fadzai Mushayamunda	Wofford College
Katie Dalrymple	Elon University	Rob Neill	UNC-Chapel Hill
Bekah DeForest	University of Mississippi	Michael Noll	University of Texas at Austin
Hill Douglas	Furman University	Nick O'Brien	Belmont Abbey College
John Driscoll	Furman University	Rohan Patel	Wake Forest University
Max Edwards	University of Virginia (2019)	Catherine Patrick	Furman University
Jordan Fant	NC State University	Matthew Powell	University of South Carolina
Olivia Garner	UNC-Charlotte	Max Rubin	Virginia Commonwealth University
Davis Gilmore	Furman University	Sepand Salem	UNC-Chapel Hill
Kate Ginn	University of California -Santa Barbara	Henry Seitz	Elon University
David Green	UNC-Chapel Hill	Carver Semans	High Point University
Joyner Gross	UNC-Asheville	Gracie Shaw	NC State University
Alex Grosswald	NC State University	Katie Sohmer	UNC-Chapel Hill
Bailey Hatchett	Georgia State University	Brooke Stewart	Appalachian State University
Tommy Hopkins	Wofford College	Jordan Stroupe	University of Georgia
Henry Hough	Sewanee: The University of the South	Will Sutton	Wofford College
Gwyneth Howerton	NC State University	Emma Sweeney	UNC-Charlotte
Zoe Howerton	NC State University	Robert Toole	Appalachian State University
Wyatt Hoyle	Lenoir-Rhyne College	Thatch Townsend	Washington and Lee University
Daniel Hudgins	Mars Hill University	Sydney Tribble	East Tennessee State University
Davis Huff	High Point University	Campbell Turner	University of Virginia
Ash Huggins	UNC-Chapel Hill	Aaron Weinberg	UNC-Chapel Hill
Tori Huggins	Emory University	Mary Adams Weston	UNC-Wilmington
Jennifer Hundley	William and Mary	Fleet Wilson	UNC-Chapel Hill
Mary Chapman Johnson	University of Mississippi	MacKenzie Wray	Southern Methodist University
Ava Kincaid	University of Chicago	Maddie Wright	Appalachian State University
		Alex Zades	Rochester Institute University

If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact Sarah Dalrymple, alums@summitmail.org, with updates.

WELCOME TO 41 NEW ALUMS CLASS OF 2018



In May 2018, 41 students graduated and the group was celebrated at a class breakfast hosted by the Advancement Office. Dack Stackhouse '86, Summit faculty member, spoke to the group about maintaining a relationship with 'their mother,' better known as their alma mater.

ON CAMPUS

JOHN SEYMOUR



Former faculty, John Seymour, (center, left) gathers with current faculty and alums at Summit. Special thanks to Richard Brenner '78 for organizing the event.

IN MEMORIAM

Alumni/ae

1942 Martha Hanes Womble
June 17, 2018

1947 Aurelia Gray Eller
September 11, 2018

1947 George Mountcastle
January 23, 2019

1948 Molly Thomas Henderson
January 26, 2019

1950 Mary Anne Payne
January 7, 2019

1951 Ed Irvin
October 6, 2018

1954 Fred Fowler
November 10, 2018

1957 Tom Cooper
October 9, 2018

1960 Ann Fearington Cox
October 18, 2018

1964 Frank Bahnson
April 25, 2018

1966 Ben Ramey
August 18, 2018

1967 Mac Bond
March 5, 2019

1990 McNair Tornow
August 24, 2018

1991 Rob Butler
October 16, 2018

Former Staff

Rachel Malcolm
May 29, 2018

Jane Niven
August 3, 2018

Donna Whitley
May 29, 2018

STAY CONNECTED

By Connecting, You Can —

- Visit our web site, summitschool.com/alums and get up-to-date information about Alum Events
- Contribute to The Summit Fund
- View a photo gallery of Alum Events
- Follow Summit on Facebook and Instagram @summitschoolws

We want to hear from you and so do your classmates!

Send information about job updates, weddings, births, high school and college graduations, honors and activities, and new addresses. We also love receiving photos. Please note that we can use only high resolution digital photos in publications.

Email information to alums@summitmail.org or fill out the form below and send it to:

Sarah Dalrymple, Director of Alumni and Parent Engagement
Summit School
2100 Reynolda Road
Winston-Salem, NC 27106

Class Notes

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State _____ Zip _____ Summit Class Year _____

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