







### MISSION statement

MAUMEE VALLEY COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL'S MISSION IS TO ENABLE STUDENTS TO BECOME ENLIGHTENED, COMPASSIONATE, AND CONTRIBUTING CITIZENS OF OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY, WHILE PREPARING GRADUATES FOR THEIR BEST OPPORTUNITIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

THE SCHOOL ATTRACTS MOTIVATED, ABLE STUDENTS WHO HAVE A RANGE OF ACADEMIC INTERESTS AND DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, AND WHOSE FAMILIES VALUE EDUCATION. ITS CHALLENGING CURRICULUM, STUDENT-CENTERED SCHOOL LIFE, AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY INSPIRE AND EQUIP THEM FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING.



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WHAT'S INSIDE



Dear Maumee Valley,

It is my sincere hope that you are safe and well in the midst of our global pandemic. What a year it has been!

In the midst of loss and uncertainty, it is important to lean on the strength of our community and to remember to be grateful for and celebrate the small moments. This issue of The Valley is filled with wonderful Maumee Valley moments—student achievements, examples of creative collaboration in the midst of remote schooling in the pandemic, and a celebration of twenty years of performing arts excellence in our Millennium Theatre. The arts have long been a hallmark of a well-rounded Maumee Valley education. Theatre, in particular, allows students to learn from characters and empathize with a person different from themselves. Theatre often gives actors a view into a different world. This ability to see another perspective is so critical to understanding and compassionate dialogue right now.

These celebratory moments also come in the midst of national and global turmoil. I cling to the understanding that at its core, Maumee Valley stands for what is just, equitable, and good in our world. Our alumni are making a difference. Our students are making a difference, and they are the future leaders. As I shared in a former letter to our community, we are not perfect. We need to continue to change systemically to be more equitable and inclusive. The Board and I are committed to this work and will continue to move the needle within our own community.

In this issue, we celebrate the amazing and resilient Class of 2020. Losing their final months of being on campus with faculty and friends was not easy for them. Yet they reflected on their experience and found ways to continue to connect with one another. The Class of 2020 celebrated their graduation not on the Bluestone, but at a drive-in movie theater so that all could safely gather. They are heroes to me! I wish our Class of 2020 well as they begin the next chapter of their journey.

Enjoy this issue of The Valley. I look forward to seeing you on campus hopefully soon.

With thanks and admiration,



**Lynn D. Casto**  
Head of School





**LOA CHO '20** was selected as one of the Toledo Symphony League Young Artist Competition Winners and performed "Introducing the Orchestra" along with three co-winners and members of the full orchestra, on Friday, January 24th at St. John XXIII in Perrysburg. Loa won this honor by competing with piano, string, woodwind, brass, and percussion students, 18 years old or younger, who reside in the Ohio and Michigan counties served by the Toledo Symphony. Professionals chosen by the Toledo Symphony judged the competition.

Loa has been playing cello for 10 years, and at the young age of 16, she already has impressive credentials. She has performed at various institutes, including Cellofest in London, Young Artists Program at Wilfrid Laurier University in Ontario, the National Cello Institute in LA, Indiana University's Summer String Academy, and Meadowmount School of Music. Loa was one of the winners of the Cleveland Cello Society Competition, MTNA's Buckeye Audition, and the Toledo Symphony's Director's Award. As an avid chamber music performer, she has featured in live performances on WGTE and WTOL and organizes musical presentations at various local venues. Her previous teachers include Renee Goubeaux, Ren  Schiffer, Horacio Contreras, Alan Smith, and Julia Lichten. She currently studies with Amir Eldan. In her free time, she enjoys writing in her journal, dancing, and riding horses. Loa will continue her academic and musical studies in NYC next fall in the Columbia University, Juilliard School program.



ENSEMBLE AWARDS

OMEA 2020

Ohio Music Education Association

	<b>SUPERIOR:</b>
Grace Lee '22	Violin Solo
Joscelyn Dixon '22	Viola Solo
Duncan Jones '20	Viola Solo
Sharon Deng '23	Cello Solo
Stephen Kilpatrick '22	Bass Solo
Arthur Chen '22	Piano Solo
Cindy Sang '20	Piano Solo
	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
Bryan Li '22	Violin Solo
Neena Dzur '22	Piano Solo
	<b>GOOD</b>
Renee Watkins '23	Violin Solo

SOLO AWARDS

Students also competed in music ensembles, and received the following **SUPERIOR** awards:

**PIANO TRIO**  
Sharon Deng '23, Grace Lee '22, Cindy Sang '20

**STRING QUARTET**  
Isabelle Broman '22, Jasmine Deng '22, Joscelyn Dixon '22, Bryan Li '22

**VIOLIN QUARTET**  
Ariana Fahl '22, Calvin McCullumsmith '23, Cindy Sang '20, Renee Watkins '23

**STRING QUINTET**  
Jonathan Buchanan '20, Sharon Deng '23, Duncan Jones '20, Grace Lee '22, Stephen Kilpatrick '22

**STRING CHOIR**  
Lucy Arrigo '20, Isabelle Broman '22, Jonathan Buchanan '20, Ranen Chew '21, Loa Cho '20, Jasmine Deng '22, Sharon Deng '23, Joscelyn Dixon '22, Neena Dzur '22, Ariana Fahl '22, Lila Foster '21, Duncan Jones '20, Avi Joshi '23, Stephen Kilpatrick '22, Grace Lee '22, Bryan Li '22, Calvin McCullumsmith '23, Megan McNally '21, Lojayne Osman '21, Paradon Pipatjarasgit '20, Cindy Sang '20, Renee Watkins '23, Annie Williams '20, Tameem Zaidat '23, Kenan Zaidat '21



**MAUMEE VALLEY** musicians had a very successful day at the Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Solo and Ensemble Contest on Saturday, February 8th. Entered in 15 separate events, students came home with 12 top ratings of Superior (I) and two ratings of Excellent (II) and one rating of Good (III). These ratings were awarded by five different judges on five separate stages. It was a joy to hear so many excellent performances.

Since its founding, National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) has recognized over 3.3 million students and provided some 432,000 scholarships worth over \$1.7 billion. The honors awarded by NMSC to exceptionally able students are viewed as definitive marks of excellence. Recipients of Merit Scholarship® awards, Achievement Scholarship® awards, and corporate-sponsored Special Scholarships have increased the nation's respect for intellectual accomplishments. They have contributed significantly to its talent pool of future leaders.

Over the past 10 years, Maumee Valley has had 25 NMSC finalists!

DID YOU KNOW ??



JONATHAN BUCHANAN '20 & STEPHANE GRANATO '20

HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS FINALISTS IN THE 2020 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM







## CHEER SQUAD!

SCHOOL SPIRIT is a vital component to the health and well-being of the student body. It's the fuel that helps a school maximize its potential and maintains a special place in the heart of our alumni that lasts years after graduation. This year's cheer team provided our athletic community with enough energy, enthusiasm, and pride to fill not only the gym, but the very hallways of our beloved campus. They challenged themselves with new routines and courageous stunts that engaged the student body and the entire Hawk Nation. Thanks to the leadership of seniors **LISA SUN** and **ANGEL ZHANG**, the cheer team rose to the occasion time and time again and fuelled the spirits of our athletes as they fought formidable opponents. Walking into The Valley for a game was electric, and thanks to our cheer squad, our teams were able to enter into each game with heads held high and spirits soaring.

\*winter sports!

On average, 65 percent of students in grades 7-12 participate in an athletic program at Maumee Valley

## 40-STRONG . . .

....is the number of **INDOOR TRACK ATHLETES** we had this season, and while their numbers were significant, the results were even better. A typical afternoon had the Maumee Valley athletic wing and the Upper School hallways filled to capacity with athletes and coaches working on sprints, jumps, stretches, and much more. The brutal cold, snow, wind, and rain, which define wintertime in Ohio, are not the ideal conditions to be outside training for explosive movements. An ability to adjust and adapt is a vital tool for our student-athletes to learn and apply to real-life situations before they move on from MV. Our indoor track team did just that. Led by their coaches' creativity and commitment, they

found ways to build skills in the areas they needed. The athletes did this without complaint or giving in to the confines of the training environment.

Because of that ability to adjust and adapt, almost every athlete experienced a personal best throughout the season, and seven of our athletes were state finalists. **PATRICK LYELL** continued to add to his historic career at MV, finishing as state runner up in the 800M. Freshmen **Emily Porter** & **Allison Launder**, sophomore **Zach O'Neill**, and juniors **Megan McNally**, **Kevin Yu**, & **Jackson Dias** all finished in the top 14 in the state as well. What an amazing accomplishment for this program!



**MILLER KARNIS** is not someone who enjoys being in the spotlight. Miller prefers to stay behind the scenes putting in hours of hard work, reaching for that perfect 10. An NCAA Division I dive talent, Miller quietly made school history on his own, finishing his decorated dive career as two-time district champion, and back-to-back State Dive Finalist. This year he put forth his best effort coming just short of perfection and finishing 6th in the OHSAA Division II State Meet. We are incredibly proud of Miller's accomplishments during his celebrated career at Maumee Valley.

The same can be said of our other swim and dive seniors, **ALAINA FOSTER** and **BAO NGUYEN**, who often spent odd hours traveling distances to practice and to compete under the Maumee Valley banner in the sport they love! Alaina had a very successful swimming career at MV. She was a District Qualifier in the 100M Backstroke all four years, making the All District in Backstroke in 2019 and 2020 with her best time being 1:00.60. Alaina was also a District Qualifier in the 200M Individual Medley earning All District Honors in that event with her best time of 2:19.62. We look forward to seeing Alaina continue her swimming career next fall at Wellesley!

**FUN FACT!** Maumee Valley swimming began in 1983 with senior **Rob Recker** who qualified to participate in the 1984 Olympic Trials.

*Go Hawks!*

aquatics  
MAUMEE VALLEY swim + dive





**THIS YEAR** saw some changes to the boys basketball program. Ramone McBrayer, in his first year as Head Coach of the Hawks, took on a massive challenge. The Hawks, fresh off of making school history, lost some of the firepower that had led them to back-to-back district championships and a history-making regional runner-up last year. The loss of last year's players, including University of Michigan commit Zeb Jackson and graduate Parker Chatman, were significant to the team. Still, the Hawks viewed it as an opportunity to have other players step up. Veterans DEZ JETT and LUCAS FANKHAUSER had played three seasons of Varsity Basketball against some of the best competition in the country. They were prepared to do their part to compete, with arguably, the toughest local high school schedule. Junior standout J.R. Lumsden also rose to the occasion in a variety of ways, as he logged several outings with 20 plus points combined with 20 plus rebounds. He was good enough for a First team all TAAC Selection and just missed First team all-district. The team faced several Division I, II, III, and IV state-ranked opponents throughout the season and competed with every one of them. Although the season ended with a last-second loss to a very tough Edgerton, the team has much to be proud of and faces a bright future.



**The Boys Basketball team finished the season 11-12 after playing a number of top-ranked and Division I teams.**

**DEZ JETT broke the all-time steals and assist record closing out his impressive four year career.**

**The Girls Basketball team finished the year winning 7 of 9 games after a slow start before winter break. Seniors MAYA FRANCISCO, MADDIE PEEK, SANIYAH BRANDON, and ALANA PAPOCCHIA all led the way during that great stretch and leave a legacy of the first ever Girls Basketball TAAC Championship during their great careers.**



**WHILE REMAINING** competitive in most of the first seven games of the 2019 girls basketball season, the team remained without a victory as they headed into a long winter break. While most teams would be defeated, and some might even give up, our girls basketball team did the opposite. They used the break without gameplay to work on building skills, chemistry, and putting together a strategy to give themselves the best chance of success in 2020. The team will tell you they did so because they care too much about each other to do anything but give their best effort to get better. The work paid off, as the team won seven of their next nine games, giving League Champion and State Ranked, Toledo Christian, all they could handle during that stretch. Seniors MADDIE PEEK, ALANA PAPOCCHIA, SANIYAH BRANDON, and MAYA FRANCISCO, led the Hawks through those tough times and during the turnaround of the season. The hard work that the 2020 seniors exhibited during their final season comes as no surprise since that same group helped turn around the girls basketball program after losing over 60 games in a row, to then winning the first TAAC girls basketball league championship in MVCDS history! This season will be a lesson they carry beyond these walls as well as an example handed down to future girls basketball players at Maumee Valley!







## The Little Mermaid, Jr.

Based on one of **HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN**'s most beloved stories, Disney's *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* is a heartwarming look at the sacrifices made for love and acceptance. This 65-minute re-telling of the 1989 animated Disney film features music by Alan Menken and lyrics by Howard Ashman and Glenn Slater. It is adapted from Disney's Broadway production and the motion picture. This musical featured over fifty first through eighth-grade students, many making their theatrical debuts.

In a magical underwater kingdom, the beautiful young mermaid, Ariel (Sophia Bernard '29), longs to leave her ocean home, and her fins, to live in the world above the sea with the humans. Her friend Flounder (MJ Conover '29) will help. Ariel defies her father, King Triton (Izzy Husain '25), and manages to avoid Sebastian (Jack Lassman '25), who is supposed to keep her out of trouble. She makes a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula (Anne-Marie Gabel '25), to give up her voice in exchange for human legs. Once on land, she has to convince the handsome Prince Eric (Mariam Doumani '27), whose life she saved earlier, that she is the girl with the enchanting voice he has been seeking.





*...a year like never before*

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## scenes from a *different* kind of graduation







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CLASS OF 2020



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**Hobart and William Smith Colleges**

Lucy Arrigo  
**Ohio University**

Tessa Baker  
**Hobart and William Smith Colleges**

Karina Bozanich  
**Gap Year**

Saniyah Brandon  
**The University of Toledo**

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**Indiana University Bloomington,  
Kelley School of Business**

Jonathan Buchanan  
**Harvard University**

Alena Card  
**The College of Wooster**

Loa Cho  
**The Juilliard School, Columbia University**

Khang Dang  
**Baylor University**

Charlotte DeRosa  
**The University of Toledo (Honors Program)**

Lucas Fankhauser  
**Michigan State University**

Alaina Foster  
**Wellesley College**

Maya Francisco  
**Allegheny College**

Klaus Friedrich  
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Stephane Granato  
**Georgetown University,  
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Noah Greenbaum  
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Giovanna Jaidev  
**Smith College**

Colette Jarrell  
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**Wells College**

Duncan Jones  
**Denison University**

Mihir Joshi  
**The Ohio State University**

Miller Karns  
**Oklahoma State University**

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**Pratt Institute**

Kristin Leong-Fern  
**Wheaton College**

Congyu Luo  
**University of California Irvine**

Patrick Lyell  
**Grand Valley State University**

Chu Lyu  
**University of California, San Diego**

Rui Ma  
**University of California, Irvine**

Bao Nguyen  
**The Ohio State University**

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**Boston University**

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**Cleveland State University**

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**The University of Chicago**

Nathan Smith  
**University of Miami**

Hanyang Song  
**University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign**

Jingyi Sun  
**Mount Holyoke College**

Lucas Szollosi  
**United States Naval Academy**

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**Kenyon College**

Eugenie Turner  
**University of San Francisco**

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**Santa Clara University**

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**Boston College**

Shiman Zhu  
**University of Massachusetts Amherst**

Bofu Zou  
**University of California, San Diego**





SOMETHING'S AFOOT! IN THE MILLENNIUM THEATRE ON OPENING NIGHT IN 1999

# THE FEATURE STORY



# THE MILLENNIUM THEATRE:

## CELEBRATING 21 YEARS of PRODUCTIONS



### ACT I: A THEATRE IS BORN

WRITTEN BY KEVIN HAYES

**THE FIRST THING PEOPLE** needed to learn about the Millennium Theatre 20 years ago was that there are two “Ns” in “millennium.” But the more important idea was that a theatre is a blank space waiting to be filled with creativity and joy. The Millennium Theatre is itself a gorgeous space, with beautiful sightlines, comfortable seating, and a warmth that invites actors and audience to join forces during a production. But the space only comes to life when words and players create an imaginary universe, or when music and singers transport the listeners to a far off place.

There had been two other attempts to put a theatre on the Maumee Valley campus prior to 1997. That was when Phineas Anderson kicked off the capital campaign that resulted in the construction of the Millennium Theatre just two years later. Earlier theatre designs called for an extension of the Smead building, but this was different. We wanted to use the space beneath the dining room and the ravine to the west. In selecting this location everyone involved knew that the new addition needed to work in harmony with the architecture of the Wolfe Gallery.

Ideas for the type of theatre were plentiful. Should it be a black box? A true proscenium? Or perhaps a thrust stage? I suggested that we use as much of the natural shape of the ravine to create an arena style seating area with a modified thrust stage. What I had in mind was something akin to the Teatro Olimpico in Vicenza. After discussing my vision with the architect, the design resulted in 295 seats, plus five wheelchair spaces, all within 35 feet of stage. As it turned out, there wasn't a bad seat in the house! This gave us a generous performance space and allowed for the entire area under the dining room to be used for the Drama and Music classrooms, music practice rooms, and our costume and scene shops.

As one might expect, there was a great deal of interest in the construction from groundbreaking to ribbon cutting. We led many tours through the classrooms as they were transformed from concrete boxes to veritable mazes of aluminum studs and finally to spaces that were covered in drywall and painted, nearly ready to be occupied. The seating area was a particular favorite with younger students once the ravine was shaped and the concrete levels were completed, but long before the building envelope was complete. Jumping from one seating level to the next became a favorite pastime when the construction workers weren't around to patrol the area. The autumn before the theatre was completed, we took a whole-school picture in the space before the walls

and roof went up. It was truly an exciting time for the school. Maumee Valley also received a second theatre in this process, the Alida Ashley amphitheater. If you look closely you can see how the new brick of the amphitheater was painted to match the old brick of the Smead chimney to the north. The outdoor theatre is a lovely space for music and for public speaking--and has become a favorite place to sit in the sunshine or take senior “jumping” photos.

**In 21 years, there have been  
42 plays, 84 concerts, and  
countless lectures, spelling &  
geography bees, 21 8th Grade  
Moving-Up exercises, and many  
more celebrations.**

**HOWEVER DIFFICULT** it might be to imagine the campus without the clock tower, it was not in the original plans for the theatre. In fact, it was a fanciful addition to one of the proposed drawings by the architect. Several Maumee Valley families liked the idea so much that they raised the money to include the clock tower in the construction. There were many discussions about the clock, or clocks, for that tower. Should there be only one? How about four? Should it be in Arabic or Roman numerals? Ultimately, the educators among us all agreed that Roman numerals would be a daily lesson for all of the younger Maumee Valley students. In the end, the clock tower has become a central anchor of the campus throughout the myriad changes that have occurred during its twenty-one year-history since the Millennium Theatre was dedicated in March of 1999 with pomp and ceremony. We dedicated the theatre with music from the String Ensemble, my acting class presented a choral reading of Hamlet's advice to the players, and Martha Farmer recited one of her favorite poems. The ribbon was cut and we were on our way!

### OPENING NIGHT

The first three productions that I directed for Maumee Valley were TWELVE ANGRY JURORS, A MIDSUMMER'S NIGHT DREAM, and TARTUFFE. All three were presented in the Milhon auditorium, but first two were staged on the floor of the auditorium to allow for increased engagement between actor and audience. Only TARTUFFE was performed on the stage as a sort of farewell to the space, which had served Maumee Valley's Drama program for years.

I thought that the first show in the Millennium Theatre should be a musical. The Drama program was growing but not sufficiently enough for a major musical with a cast of thousands. I started searching for a small cast musical that was accessible and was within the reach of our eager actors. Wayne Anthony, our music director in those days,

### MARTHA WOLFE FARMER

AS REMEMBERED BY KEVIN HAYES



KEVIN HAYES, TONY MORRIS SMITH '44,  
AND MARTHA WOLFE FARMER '44

What words describe Martha Wolfe Farmer '44 ? Formidable, comes to mind first. She was a force of nature with a will of iron. Generous, inquisitive, and passionate as well. Martha had definite ideas about virtually everything. Martha lived for the arts most of all.

I met Martha in 1967 when the chairman of the OSU Theatre department, Dr. Firman Brown, asked me to interview for a teaching position at the OSU Lima campus. I had just completed my MFA in Acting after earning an MA in Theatre Education and Directing. Dr. Brown warned me that there was a woman there in Lima who had founded the theatre department at OSU Lima and was nearly impossible to please.

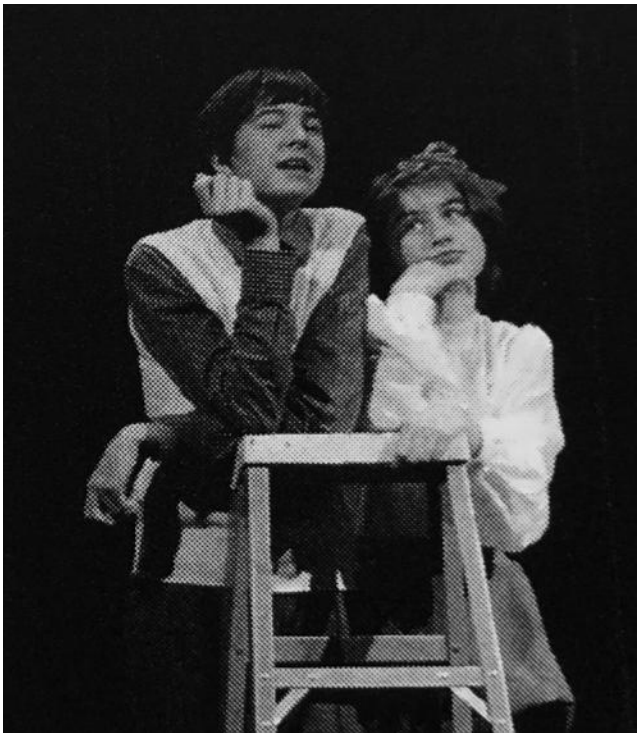
During my first meeting with Martha we talked art, music, and theatre non-stop for three hours. Martha was the warmest and most genuine mentor on earth. Martha liked my choices of plays and my direction. If she felt that I had missed the mark, she let me know without hesitation.

It was ten years later when Martha called and asked me to consider applying for the position at MV. She told me that her alma mater had an opening and that I would be a good fit. Well, when Martha asks for something, it was rarely a good idea to say no. I came to interview, fell in love with the school, and spent 19 years here.

Martha was a major contributor to the building the new theatre, but to her credit, she did not want her name attached to it. We discussed many options including jokingly considering "Martha's Vineyard." She liked the idea or, "The Dogwood," due to her fond memory of the many dogwood trees on campus when she was a student (see photo on page 5).

I suggested, however, that a theatre should avoid any mention of “dog” in its name. She offered, “The Trillium,” but that was shot down because that name was already in use somewhere else in the school. A shame. Martha wanted something that was powerful. I suggested that it start with the letter “M” to go with the name of the school. Given the approaching turn of the century, we decided that Millennium was the final choice. So, there we are, a name that will be misspelled for years to come!





and I joked that if we tried to stage SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS we would have to cut it down and rename it A COUPLE OF BRIDES AND THEIR GROOMS. So I contacted Geoff Nelson, the artistic director of the Contemporary American Theater for advice. He recommended what was an “actor’s musical,” with a manageable cast, none of the vocal challenges of a Sondheim musical, a good score, and a lot of laughs. And so I selected SOMETHING’S AFOOT, a musical spoof on the standard Agatha Christie murder mystery, AND THEN THERE WERE NONE, but with plenty of special effects.

The plot was simple and familiar. A group of strangers have gathered at a mysterious mansion on an island at the invitation of a wealthy recluse. The servants do their best to see to the needs of the demanding guests who all gather in the great hall of the manor. The butler descends the stairs and announces, “The master is dead. Dinner is served.” At that moment the stairway explodes beneath the butler, killing him. The guests break into the opening number, “Something’s Afoot, and the Butler didn’t do it!” Of course, a sudden storm cuts off any escape from the island and the phone lines are down. The mansion seems to be knocking off everyone, one-by-one, until only the innocent young heiress and the handsome college athlete are left to sort out the comic mayhem.

We rehearsed SOMETHING’S AFOOT in Milhon auditorium right up until 10 days before opening night. We waited for approval from the inspectors and gambled

that it would come in time to actually build the set and rehearse on the stage a few times before opening. The cast included Imani Roach ’00, Ben Griffith ’99, Hope Welles ’00, Chancey Christianson ’01, Leah Whitaker ’00, Joss Kiely ’01, Wasseem Abaza ’99, Jenny Lau ’02, and Michael Bohl ’00.

After this roaring first success, over the years, our productions became increasingly popular and our casts grew in size from 10 or 12 to 50 or 60 members. We expanded from two performances to three by adding a Sunday matinee. We often sold out every seat, mostly on opening nights, but also on the new Sunday matinees which offered family members from out of town a chance to travel home after our closing performances. One of my favorite moments happened on the opening night of THE KING AND I when the theatre was so jam-packed that people were sitting on the steps and even up in the side galleries. That night I announced that the next season would include two productions of THE KING AND I!

**I AM A FIRM BELIEVER** in the idea that one must understand history in order to make sense of the present. This was drilled into me by my undergraduate professors, Doc and Iva Saraceni. The result was a keen sense of the connection between society and its many forms of entertainment. It also resulted in better understanding of history, sociology, psychology, and anthropology as we learned the connections between creative artists and the world that surrounded them in a profoundly complex manner. And throughout my nearly twenty years teaching and directing at Maumee Valley, I aimed to pass along this understanding to my students and to the many audiences that gathered in the Millennium Theatre.



**PETER STEVENS**  
*Former Head of School*

Even though I left MV in 1990, well before the theatre was built, I recall many conversations...and I do mean many...with Ann Stranahan, who of course was board chair during part of my tenure at MV: "Wouldn't it be wonderful if...", or "Think what we could accomplish when...", or "proscenium or black box...?" We dreamed and schemed, and I can remember the sparkle in her eyes, the vision, the imagination. I think it was Larry Anning who, during one of my several visits back to campus in years since, first toured me through the Millennium Theatre. One more evolution of dream to reality. Check!



# ACT II: A REFLECTION ON THE MAUMEE VALLEY THEATRE PROGRAM

WRITTEN BY BRIAN BOZANICH

**SINCE MY ARRIVAL**, The Maumee Valley Theatre Program has worked to expand student opportunities in theatre. For student designers and technicians, we upgraded our lighting inventory, installed a digital sound board, and reconfigured the tech booth to make running performances smoother for the student team. The new LED lights are more energy efficient and allow for over 16 million colors. The ability to wash the stage with color allows designers to more easily create the look they want. The digital sound board provides the training students need on the most up to date equipment. We specifically purchased the model used at most universities, places of worship, and event presentation halls, so that students gain real-world experience before graduating. In the tech booth, we raised the counter, mounted the lighting monitors and rewired the house speakers to focus the room on control of performances by student technicians.

The theatre program also expanded the performance schedule. By moving to a three show season with a two year rotating schedule, students now have greater opportunities to be on stage and off. The middle and upper school plays and musicals switch off fall and spring semesters. That way, spring sports students can participate in a musical during their fall off season every other year. The newly created, winter performance alternates between an upper school student directed play and a lower/middle school musical. This project, in just two years, has involved over 100 students in productions. These shows are "no cut" meaning any student who can make a certain number of rehearsals can participate.

Our program growth also includes more challenging material. Upper school students have tackled the effects of active shooter drills (Lockdown) and saw the Ohio premiere of HEAD OVER HEELS, a show whose acceptance of LGBTQ characters was presented joyously this past fall.

I love the intimacy of the Millennium Theatre. The steep rake of the audience means that every seat has a great view. The acoustics for orchestral music are incredible. I have made the decision to move the performers closer to the audience and redefine the stage depth by painting the proscenium arch. My plans for the future include repainting the lobby and interior of the theatre to integrate it more fully with the rest of the school, and I look forward to the next world the students will create in the space.



VIEW FROM THE ALIDA ASHLEY OUTDOOR AMPHITHEATRE

ANTHROPY





PREPARING FOR THE NEW  
ACADEMIC YEAR OF **SOCIALLY-  
DISTANCED** LEARNING

————— at least 6' —————



# BOARD NEWS !

**ANNOUNCING NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Maumee Valley Country Day School welcomes two new members this fall to its Board of Trustees.



**RAJ KATTAR //** Raj was born in India and raised in Wisconsin. He moved to Toledo in 1998 and joined the cardiology group of physicians which today is called Promedica Physicians Cardiology. He was Chief of Staff at St Luke Hospital from 2014-2016 and is currently President of the Promedica Heart Institute, overseeing the cardiology service line for the entire system. Raj and his wife of 30 years Rajitha have two sons that graduated as “lifers” from MV, Nihal '13, and Sahil '18. Raj is a talented singer and an avid fan of sports and music.



**DOUG LIEDBERG //** Doug and his wife, Sherri, are proud parents of Andrea '24. He currently serves as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Dana Incorporated. He also serves as Dana's Chief Compliance Officer.

The new members bring a wealth of experience to the board and will use that expertise to propel Maumee Valley forward.

We would like to thank the following members who concluded their service to Maumee Valley Country Day School this past June:

**FRED DEICHERT  
J. MATTHEW BUCHANAN  
BRIAN REDDY  
PAULA GRIEB**

## DINE ..... IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

This year the Advancement team worked with current parents to host a series of dinners based not around teams, casts, or grade-levels, but their neighborhoods. Current parents volunteered to host and all Maumee Valley families within a few miles of the home were invited to attend. Three of these events were hosted and more than 60 families were represented with attendees. The evenings were fun and festive with a short program from a member of the advancement team and lots of delicious food.

Attendees were surprised by the number of MV people living in their neighborhoods and lots of great connections were made while mingling. Dogwalkers were arranged, business opportunities discussed, and one featured an awesome trivia contest. The evenings were very well received and we will be looking to expand this program during the 2020-21 school year. If you are interested in virtually hosting and/or when the opportunity safely allows it, let us know!





This year with a brand new team, the advancement office was excited to chair our first **FUNDRAISER** together within the community. We came up with a theme that would connect the old traditions and values of Maumee Valley Country Day School with the school's current innovations and cutting edge approach to education. Through decor to the run of events, we were excited to embrace our past, present, and future to remember the best ways in which Maumee Valley has stayed the same yet continues to adapt to the times and change for the better. With only a few weeks until April 18, everything came to a screeching halt. COVID-19 forced the closure of thousands of schools and businesses across the country.

For the next month, we had our work cut out for us. We worked with sponsors and item donors to guarantee that we could still offer the same one-of-a-kind items and experiences to our community, created an online catalog and bidding website through the Greater Giving software, added a new social media strategy which would incorporate varied video content to try to capture the energy and connection of the event in a very isolated society, tried new tactics such as the live auction raffle and the gift card frenzy to get people excited and to participate, and planned two livestream broadcasts to bookend the beginning and ending of the event.

On May 16, we kicked off the virtual fundraising with co-hosts **Jaden Jefferson '26** and **Ford Koles '82**. The night featured videos starring MVCDS students, social media games, conversations about different items between Jaden '26 and Ford '82, input from Head of School Lynn Casto, and a video from former faculty Nancy and Jim Fish in which they highlighted the importance of our Raise the Paddle initiative MVCares. Despite the team having some technical difficulties, we saw a great turnout from the community and raised over \$30,000 the first night.

On May 23, Ford returned to your computer screens during the livestream for the live auction event. At this time we closed out our silent auction and focused on some of the

incredible experiences and vacation packages from our MVCDS families. Thanks to Ford's wit and delightful commentary and the incredible donations from our donors, the community was able to raise \$28,550 for the school.

**THANK YOU** to the community for coming together to raise over \$150,000 to benefit the school and its students. Thank you for your generosity toward Maumee Valley Country Day School and the flexibility with which everyone approached the virtual auction. Thank you to our sponsors, who despite signing on for an in-person event, stayed with us when we pivoted to a virtual event. Thank you to the donors who not only generously filled up our auction item list with incredible opportunities and amazing products, but remained flexible and adjusted dates and offerings to adhere to a post-COVID society.

Thank you to the always charismatic Ford Koles '82 for agreeing to be our auctioneer for a virtual live auction that we truly did not know would work with our audience. His fearlessness and dedication helped to keep the community motivated to bid and support the school even at a time when we were disconnected. Thank you to Jaden Jefferson '26 for co-hosting with Ford during our initial kick-off event and for starting us off energized and hopeful for what was yet to come.

Thank you to our Head of School, **Lynn Casto**, for her guidance and support and for trusting us to raise money for the school in a manner that has not been seen before at MVCDS.

Thank you to our volunteers who solicited item donations and sponsorships and who helped us in data entry. We could not have changed course as swiftly as we did without your help in securing these essential pieces to the puzzle. Thank you to **Carter Bayer '10** who volunteered to rally some of our more recent alums and motivate them to participate to help the school during a tough time. And thank you to everyone who bid on silent bid auction items, signed up for the parties and experiences offered, and donated to the MVCares Fund.

At the heart and soul of Maumee Valley Country Day School is our community. A community that continually has shown support for our students during athletics, the performing arts, and academic events; a community that has banded together to promote and elevate MVCDS; and a community that has supported families and causes in need. Now more than ever we need to connect with each other for the good of our students' education and future.

When we work together, we can continue to **soar** to new heights.

**AUCTION**



TAJÉ TJ ROBINSON-MEREDITH '10

**ALUMNI PAGES**



# ALUMNI EVENTS

## 1 Faculty (Current/Former)

December 21, 2019  
Gingi Rothman, Ron Euton, Weezie Foster Stoddard '82, Leigh Ann Meinecke, Ken Meinecke, Jill Posta, and Alicia Underwood '15.

## 2 Holiday Alumni Party

**Back Row L-R:** Weezie Foster Stoddard '82, Jim Willey '70, Zach Greenfield '09, Charlie Williams '13, Sam Rothman '11, Stephen Foster '84, Michael Liu '10, and Kevin Stockard '84. **Middle Row L-R:** Hannah Mosiniak '13, Jad Salem '13, Hunter Williams '11, Paige Willey '12, Kaylou Stoddard '15, Addy Rothman Parker '09, Kay Rathbun Foster is '58. **Front Row L-R:** Mar Willey Schwartz '10, Alicia Underwood '15, and Steve Foster '58.

## 3 Get Back Day

**Back Row L-R:** Thao Minh Ho, Ellie Griffith, Collin Boissoneault, Hudson Filas, Even Heritage, Grace Momenee, Shay Bailey, Patrick McNally, and Mujahid Abdel-Ghani. **Front Row L-R:** Natalie Frost, Sneha Kamath, Shannon Herrmann, Denise Tamesis, Karl Ludwig, Joel Helmick, Daniel Wainstein, Shreyas Banerjee, and Maya Williams.

## 4 Holiday Hoops

December 21, 2019  
**Back Row L-R:** Emma Daugherty '17, Jewel Woodard '77, Kaylou Stoddard '15. Tasso Cocoves '08, Joe Hall '10, Hudson Filas '19, Parker Chatman '19, Newt Ziegler '19, Karl Ludwig '19, Juwaan McGee '16, AJ Johnson '18, Devin Brandon '17, Daniel Brandon '11, and Oran Williams '16. **Sitting:** Sam Crane '18.



ALUMNI



PARTY



NEW YORK



GET BACK  
DAY



HOLIDAY  
HOOPS



GEORGIA



# TRIBUTE TO COLLEEN

## Remember one of the Greats!

It happened so suddenly that many of us simply couldn't believe the news. When we received word that Colleen Sieberg had passed away this past January, we simply couldn't accept the news. How could there be a Maumee Valley without Colleen, who taught strings and general music for 40 years? That daunting figure coaxing music out of singers and musicians just had to be there for the next concert. We might accept retirement on her part (but do musicians ever really retire?). But Colleen had enough energy and passion for a dozen teachers. In her career she had won two teaching awards at MV: the Stranahan Award, which took her to Europe and China, and the Maumee Valley Dream Odyssey. Traveling was in her blood, and she was also an avid sports fan. But her legacy is in the sumptuous concerts she presented and the individual students who grew to love music in their hearts. We offer some tributes from colleagues and students.



## WRITING ABOUT COLLEEN

### Lou Ann Glover

Colleen Sieberg loved life and she loved music. Her joy could be seen while teaching music to young people most recently junior kindergarten through 6th grade. She was loved, respected and admired by so many people: family, friends, teachers and students. Colleen was always asking questions, solving problems and helping others. She embodied excellence in her teaching, research, writing, and composing. Colleen developed a strong music and strings program for our students here at Maumee Valley and the wider community to enjoy.

Colleen integrated history, literature, cultural traditions, dance, science, Spanish, and art into her curriculum. Her students gave performances about civil rights, the weather, solid, liquid, gas, the Middle Ages, Africa, India, and China to name a few. She challenged her students in meaningful, integrated and creative methods which led to fantastic performances.

Colleen organized visiting musicians, supported the Young People's concerts for her students, and assisted with the Creative Arts Program which provided individual music lessons for those who wish to take private lessons. Recitals are also part of this program.

When not teaching her music classes, she offered choir for grades 3-6, and worked with students interested in doing skits, participate in a dance groups or small choir at their lunch or recess time. She organized and taught string ensembles for elementary students after school and often helped students individually when needed.

She worked countless hours composing at the computer for her students, but always had time to help anyone who needed it, with any project. She assisted the theatre department with their musicals, the sets and costumes. Colleen could be counted on to brainstorm ideas with classroom teachers to create Showcases to integrate with their areas of study. Her help in setting up art shows in the gallery was always appreciated. She created platforms to feature her music students, like special Halloween and Holiday break assemblies, pep rallies, and our lower school town meetings. Colleen directed students who performed at our graduation ceremonies and numerous alumni events.

Colleen was a true professional, actively participating in the life of the school, and always striving to better herself and her students. She was generous with her time and her talents. She was proud of her students, how they grew, and how hard they worked to polish their music, speaking, and dancing skills.

We have taught together for more than 30 years, integrating lessons, making costumes and props and I have enjoyed supporting her visions. We enjoyed going to art fairs, galleries, museums, movies, and out to dinner. She made a great social director, travel agent, personal shopper, and lunch buddy.

Colleen will be in our hearts forever.

### Tom Cambisios

I have a confession to make. I am not particularly wild about horns on automobiles that go waaaaaaaah, ooga ooga. Forgive me, Chuck Sprandel, but the lyrics to that little song don't make any sense. It's as if some host of a children's TV show wrote them with a bottle of whiskey in front of him, knowing he was going to be fired the next day. Musically, there's a middle section where the notes resemble a pileup of cars on the Autobahn. I hate that song. So every Get-Back Day, just before Thanksgiving, I've trudged to the Resource Center, dreading what's to come.

And yet.

And yet, every Get-Back Day, this amazing muse gets up in front of several hundred people, and with the joy of the season in her heart, this force of nature wills us to sing along, to bathe in the child-like joy of those lyrics, and for two minutes, against my better judgment, I too am wild about horns on automobiles. Colleen Sieberg made this silly ditty resonate like Mahler's Fifth. That, my friends, is a great teacher.

A great teacher doesn't make you learn against your will. What Colleen did was find that part of you that wants to love music but resists sharing it





with the world – and she gave you permission to do so. And that is powerful. That was easy with some students; there were children in her chorus who were born to sing. She taught string players who could coax beauty and pathos out of their instruments. But her greatness, in my opinion, came in her work with the musical schlubs of the world – you know, people like me. The child more interested in merely mouthing the words or picking his nose during a performance, the violinist who sat way back in the tenth chair, the bass player who kept losing his place in the piece – you were not safe to hide. Colleen pushed you to succeed, but not because she wanted another pat on the back for the magnificent performances in Millennium. It was about helping you to find your own personal joy in music.

To watch Colleen on the violin was to see what any symphony orchestra would have treasured: remarkable skill, passion, joy. She played the music for the graduation procession as if she were discovering it for the first time. But she chose teaching, and those of us in the classroom



know right away how much you give up when you decide to become a teacher. It's only after many years that we find out how much you gain.

You cannot be timid and be great. So much of a teacher does is evanescent. Today's wonderful lesson doesn't matter when you get to school tomorrow. The performance ends, the curtain comes down, we all go home.

And yet.

And yet. What the great teachers do is plant our future. They inspire us: to read more, to think better, to listen with care, to work harder, to love beauty wherever you find it. Colleen taught thousands of us to find joy in music. How many times did you leave the school concert transported, feeling the music in your soul and thereby knowing that life is transcendent? How many times did you leave a conversation with her with a new insight on something? How many times did she just make you laugh?

Do not mourn Colleen. Embrace the joy she gave us. Go home and listen to some beautiful music. Or something silly. Oooga-oooga continues on.

**Megan Sieberg '03**

Colleen was my mom, my teacher, and my friend. My brother and I were not just MV-lifers, we were faculty kids, from the Red Balloon to graduation. Being Colleen Sieberg's kids meant that we spent most of our childhood at our second home...school.

Mom loved to teach, and she worked all the time. She arrived for her morning string classes before the sun came up, and she stayed to write original music and lyrics for her concerts until after the sun went down. I spent evenings doing homework in her music room, shooting hoops in the middle school gym, and exploring every nook and cranny of the building. It was so familiar to me. It was comfortable. I still remember how the old wood smelled when it rained.

But, for as much as mom loved to teach, she loved her family most. She was a daughter, a sister, a wife, an aunt, a cousin, and...in her purest element...a mother. I feel overwhelming gratitude for every single day that my dad, brother, and I got to spend with her on this earth. She was an incredible woman, and the center of our world. She spent countless weekends and summer days driving us to sports practices, games, and tournaments. As a family, we played Euchre, swam at the community pool, went to symphony concerts, explored museums, rode roller coasters at Cedar Point, watched movies, and took trips together. I couldn't possibly list everything. She hosted our birthday parties and slumber parties, and she even bought me blue Adidas Sambas because...like...they were sooooo cool.

Everyone close to her knows that gift-giving was one of her love languages, and that Christmas was her absolute jam. She was totally out of control during the holiday season, in the best kind of way. I feel nothing but joy remembering our house decked out like National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, and the ridiculous piles of presents under our tree on Christmas morning. The holidays, and every single other day, were about her family. It was so fun. I loved my childhood.



As I grew into adulthood, mom and I developed a new kind of relationship. We talked every week, sometimes for hours at a time, and I could tell her anything. She was a listener, an advocate, and a good friend. She was also, always, and forever, a mother. Sometimes, when I would visit home from Chicago, we'd go to the Franklin Park Mall together to shop for nothing and everything. Nearly every time, we would run into at least one current MV student, and mom would always say to that student “This is Megan, she's my baby.”

From the times we spent with her at MV to the times we spent at home as a family, I miss her constantly. But, mom will never really be gone. Someone with an energy and impact like hers never goes away. She will always be at the center of our family, and an enormous part of the MV spirit. I wish I could talk to her again, but the pictures of her I keep above my fireplace and next to my bed will remind me of everything she was and still is. I love her.

**Daniel Dona '93**

I have many fond memories of Colleen stretching back to when I first sat down to play Orff instruments as well as sing in her class when I came to MV in 1986 as a sixth grader. My most intensive memories of her come from my Upper School years when I played in the string ensemble and the extra chamber ensembles she would organize to send to OMEA Solo and Ensemble. From the Vivaldi Concerto for Four Violins I played with Diana Block, Bill Mitchell, and Alison Reed to the various duos I played with Jon Rose, the extra time she gave us after school to coach us on that repertoire was in retrospect truly formative. She also asked me to play Stamitz duets with her at various Thackeray's nights (I miss that bookstore!) and I had so much fun collaborating with her.

The seeds that she planted eventually grew into my obsession with playing chamber music that eventually led to my current position in the Arneis Quartet. Her choosing to give me a volume of Mozart String Quartets when I received the Music Prize as a graduating senior was prophetic! I was honored when she invited me to bring Arneis to MV for a mini-residency in 2010 where we worked with students and performed a couple concerts, including a side-by-side with MV musicians. One of the other traits that I wouldn't fully appreciate until much later

when I myself started teaching was Colleen's seemingly infinite energy that she shared with all her students. This is something that I have come to appreciate about all the teachers I worked with at MV (and give them a much-belated thanks!), but as I started playing the violin relatively late I was a little behind my colleagues that started at an early age her support was especially important in providing educational kindling. Playing the violin didn't really catch fire until I started Upper School, and two of the major catalysts were Colleen's passionate instruction as well as my participation in the Toledo Junior Youth Orchestra under the baton of her husband Tom. Colleen recognized that I had really taken to music and she nurtured my love for it as much as she could, and I will forever be thankful for that.

In her last email I received from her in February 2014, she wrote “You are an inspiration to all musicians. You had a dream and you made it come true. Bravo!... You are busy!” I regret that I didn't follow up with her and dropped our line of communication. Life was indeed very busy at that moment, due in no small part to my own teaching load at the time. I hope that she knows that in a lot of ways her legacy lives on in the way I interact with my students, including my faith in their abilities no matter where they are on their path.







“Next time you're visiting home, stop into your high school. Reconnect with your old teachers and let them know all you've accomplished with the foundation they helped you build.”

Visit Your Old High School, Because Nothing is Forever

John Sullivan Baker

Ally Sauber '00

I will be forever haunted by “pass the beanbag” running on a loop in my head...it is a legacy I have passed on to my own kids. Always cheerful and positive in the face of restless children, a true picture of patience and positivity.

Vin Gupta '01

I saw Mrs Seiberg in April 2019 for the first time since I had graduated two decades prior. During my MV days she was an almost daily fixture of my life. Zooming out to April 2019, she was as I remembered her: devoted, loyal and committed to her students, regardless of whether they were current ones or distant memories like me. She leaves an incredible legacy and will always be synonymous with what makes our community so great.

Emily Boehm '05

We all know that Mrs. Sieberg was an absolute force. Looking back on decades of beautifully orchestrated recitals performed by inept children, there can be no doubt about that. But my lasting impression of Colleen is of a devoted mother with great instincts. I was in the class of '05 with her son Ryan '05. Somehow, I always seemed to find myself with Ryan or his best friend, Broer Oatis '05, as a dance partner in our semi-annual productions. Diehard fans will recall the three of us in our standout roles as rapping umpires in "Don't Dump on the Ump."

As a kid, this pattern seemed totally random to me. We weren't particularly friends, just bonded together in that vaguely familial, MV-lifer kind of way. But Mrs. Sieberg's gut was right. By the time we graduated, Ryan, Broer, and I had become deeply good friends, part of a happily nerdy cadre with Mariana Brandman, Anna Gale, Andrew

Bishara, and Tommy Paladino. These friendships persist on the eve of our 15-year MV reunion. So, Colleen, thank you for your insight and for whatever part you played in bringing us all together. We miss you and we love you.

Linnea Johnson '13

The Millennium Theatre holds many of my happiest, proudest memories at Maumee Valley. From my first Lower School concert in primary to my last performance of The King and I as a senior, the performing arts program at MV instilled in me the confidence, discipline, and interpersonal skills that have empowered my success in every area of life. Even more importantly, through participating in theatre, I felt a sense of belonging in a supportive and enthusiastic community of friends that it still in touch nearly a decade later. I am forever grateful to Mr. Brown, Mrs. Sieberg, and every teacher and mentor who put their heart and soul into facilitating my growth through the arts.

Emily Griffith '13

Participating in the MV theatre program was one of the highlights of my high school career. After joining a rehearsal as a freshman, I quickly found my MV home. I was almost always found off the stage, headset and call script in hand. The MV theatre program taught me skills I have been able to apply in and outside of the arts world. It encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone, grow into my strengths, and have fun. Through theatre classes and productions I found a deeper appreciation for the arts, classic literature, and design—interests that have stayed with me throughout my higher education. Within the Millennium theatre I found my MV family. The community of students, faculty, and parent volunteers created there will remain for a lifetime.

Neema Kamala '15

Over the course of my four years at Maumee Valley, I was on the Millennium Theatre stage in a multitude of capacities: as part of the choir, as a perpetual second violin in string ensemble, and as a member of vocal ensemble. But the majority of the hours I spent on that stage was dedicated to the theatre department.

My experience with Maumee Valley Theatre began in the Spring of 2012. I was a chorus member in the musical Brigadoon and I still remember the terror of being told I had to run down the Millennium theatre steps

in a floor-length skirt. However, what I remember most was the thrill of participating in something that felt bigger than myself. I loved the way that everyone pitched in to produce something that would've been impossible to pull off alone and it was in that space that I learned how to be a good collaborator.

Through MV theatre I also learned what kind of leader I wanted to be and perhaps more importantly what kind of leader I didn't want to be. Those lessons followed me through college where I continued my involvement in theatre and will continue to guide me as I pursue my Masters in Event Management. Some of my favorite MV memories were made in that space and I hope the Millennium Theatre continues to be a place where students get to grow and learn and make their own special memories.

Lynn Casto

Maumee Valley's current Head of School summed up the beauty of Colleen's life: "Colleen loved her family, loved teaching, and loved all her students-past and present. She knew everything about everyone because she took the time to talk and to listen. Each performance she created was a masterpiece, carefully written, integrated with



the students' learning in the classroom, and cast so that each child was featured doing that which he or she loved best. A stalwart educator, Colleen embodied all that Maumee Valley holds dear: kindness, respect, acceptance, academic excellence, creativity, and innovation. A tradition herself, a Maumee Valley education will not be the same without her."

Gary Boehm

Gary Boehm called her "a force of nature. She was often at school late into the night preparing lessons, transcribing music, and writing skits for her students to perform. When she was done with her classroom work, she'd go out to the athletic fields or the gym to cheer on the students. Colleen was a caring and demanding teacher who had high expectations for her students, and as a consequence, she showed students what they could accomplish with hard work."

Phineas Anderson

Phineas Anderson, also a former Head of School at Maumee Valley said, "Colleen was a true wonder. How she managed production after production, year after year, with apparent ease and in a loving way, was simply amazing. She was the creative mainstay at Maumee Valley whose memory among hundreds of students will not be forgotten."

Peter Stevens

Peter Stevens, former Head of School at Maumee Valley, said, "Colleen's sparkle and smile and high standards continue to shine for me. I've measured innumerable other teachers in my life against everything she stood for and against the impact she had on our lives. Few have compared favorably. We treasure her gifts of song and note and beauty."



# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s



**ERIE "CHIP" CHAPMAN '61**  
MVCDs Renaissance Student Award  
Photo (L-R): Loa Cho '20 with Erie Chapman '61 after she was awarded Erie's Renaissance Student Award.

The Renaissance Student Award is a merit award modeled after the life of Leonardo Da Vinci and is given to a rising junior or senior at Maumee Valley Country Day School who exemplifies extraordinary passion and accomplishment across a diverse range of fields, including social justice and the arts. The purpose is to encourage and recognize multi-talented students who specialize in more than one field of study.

This year, Loa Cho '20 received the award and a \$1,000 scholarship for her passion for music, the arts, education, and thinking globally about how to solve problems. She was presented the award by Erie Chapman '61, head of the Erie Chapman Foundation, which sponsors the Renaissance Student Award.

Past recipients:  
2012-13 Linnea Johnson '13,  
2013-14 Nichole Kanios '14,  
2014-15 Asma Elgamel '15,  
2015-16 Will Cagle '16,  
2016-17 Jude Furlong '18,  
2017-18 Denise Tamesis '19,  
2018-19 Carolyn Schutte '20,  
2019-20 Loa Cho '20

## 1970s



**DR. JIM WILLEY '70**  
Dr. Willey, M.D., professor of medicine, George Isaac Endowed Chair for Cancer Research, UTMCD published an article for the Toledo Blade "*Health care research benefits region.*" The article reported that the University of Toledo Medical Center, the former Medical College of Ohio Hospital, Pathology molecular diagnostics lab worked quickly and expertly to provide rapid coronavirus testing to the citizens of northwest Ohio. This was indeed uplifting news for our region, stressed by the worst pandemic in 100 years. [toledoblade.com](http://toledoblade.com)



Bruce Baer '72 and Trina Joyce '72 in Alaska



**KYLE CUBBON '72**  
Kyle and her sister, Kay Cubbon McArdle '69, made masks for family members - mainly their children and their families. They spent their days cutting and sewing. Kyle and her husband Spiros Cocoves "bubbled" with Kay and her husband Tom during the pandemic.



**TALI MAGOUN '77**  
Tali finished up 20 masks for Denver area hospitals using guidelines developed by medical personnel.



Cathy Baer '73, Bruce Baer '72, and Trina Joyce '72



Marc Rayman '74 is pictured above at the ceremony to receive the esteemed Swigert Award, named for an Apollo 13 astronaut.

**DR. MARC RAYMAN '74**  
Dr. Marc Rayman '74 is still living his dream-come-true, exploring the cosmos from NASA/JPL. His most recent mission, Dawn, far exceeded all expectations and ended successfully with the spacecraft in orbit around dwarf planet Ceres. Because Ceres has all the ingredients for life, Dawn was not allowed to contact the ground, where the probe's terrestrial materials would contaminate that important astrobiological environment. The final orbit was calculated to be stable for centuries. Marc received numerous awards during the past year, including NASA's prestigious Outstanding Leadership Medal (his seventh NASA medal), the International Space Operations Award, and the esteemed Swigert Award, named for an Apollo 13 astronaut. (The photo shows Marc at the ceremony, and you can see the five-minute video, including his entertaining acceptance speech before more than 1100 people, on MV's website under Alumni, Alumni Spotlights.) After he had many personally gratifying experiences designing, building, and flying interplanetary probes, JPL created a new position specifically for him in which he now has technical responsibility for all space missions. He devotes most of his time to helping missions that face especially challenging obstacles, including Voyager-2 (a mission he first heard of while a freshman at MV), Juno (currently in orbit around Jupiter), a mission preparing to go to Jupiter's moon Europa (which has a subsurface ocean), and another preparing to travel to a 140-mile-wide asteroid made of metal. In his spare time, he is a popular dance teacher throughout Southern California, something neither he nor anyone who knew him at MV would ever have predicted!



# CLASS NOTES

## 1980s



**HELLER SHOOP '84, LAURA KLINE '83, AND ELISSA CARY '83**  
Heller '84 and Greta were visiting from the East Coast and met everyone for a mini-reunion lunch at Woodbridge Pub in Detroit, MI.

Photo L-R: Greta Schaefer, Heller Shoop '84, Laura Kline '83, and Elissa Cary '83

## 1990s



**JAYSON POWELL '92**  
Jayson and Jessica Powell welcomed Theo (Theodore Jackson) Powell on May 12, 2020, weighing 7 pounds and 10oz. and 19.5 in. long.



**DYLAN BERNSTEIN '92**  
Dylan is an Ashtanga yoga instructor and travels the world to teach, now through the use of Zoom. As Dylan travels through Asia, Europe, he stopped at the Great Pyramids at Giza in February 2020.



**TIM LORD '83 & ERICKSON BLAKNEY '83**  
MV lunch at the Pinkerton Foundation  
Photo (L-R): Tim Lord '83, Weezie Foster Stoddard '82, Erickson Blakney

'83, Lynn Casto (Head of School), and Christopher Holinski (Director of Advancement) in New York City for lunch at the Pinkerton Foundation.



**NIKHIL TORSEKAR '93 AND ERIC LEVIN '93**  
Nikhil and Eric celebrate together before The Bank of America Shamrock Shuffle it's one of Chicago's best running celebrations! The Chicago tradition continues the St. Patrick's Day celebration and kicks off the spring running season in Chicago.



**ERIK RUSSELL '98**  
Erik did his part during COVID-19 through his company, Frogtown Computers. He gave discounts to front line workers, Doctors, nurses, teachers, and students.



**CHANTELLE MARSHALL '94**  
I normally work as an NP in the outpatient Liver Center at Massachusetts General Hospital, but during the COVID-19 surge, I along with many of my colleagues was re-deployed to work on the inpatient floors to help care for patients. It is a steep learning curve, but the support and encouragement from other staff and patients alike are wonderful!



**DR. TORAL PATEL '96**  
As an adult infectious disease specialist in Chicago, one would say that I'm at the "frontlines" of this SARS-CoV-2 crisis.  
  
I really cannot remember ever being so busy in the hospital. Yet, we in our field are deeply frustrated not being able to offer safe and effective treatments to our patients suffering from COVID-19 infection.  
  
Clearly, this is a very fascinating and challenging time in medicine and I'm hopeful that this current crisis paves the way to better health care in this country.



**DR. BOBBY MAHAJAN '98**  
Bobby is an interventional pulmonology director with Virginia's Inova Health System. He was recently interviewed on a special "Washington Journal" Primetime edition about the coronavirus pandemic with a focus on patient experience and safety on April 1, 2020. He talked about the importance of ventilators in treating critical cases of COVID-19 and how they are used in a clinical setting.



# CLASS NOTES

## 2000s



**ERIKA MCDANIEL  
CARTLEDGE '01**

Erika and Roger welcomed James on September 16, weighing 6lbs. 6oz. and 18.75 inches long.



**ERIKA MCDANIEL CARTLEDGE '01  
& WEEZIE FOSTER STODDARD '82**

Finished my presentation at @caseadvance and was greeted by my second biggest supporter (the first was behind the camera!)



**DR. VIN GUPTA '01**  
Dr. Vin Gupta says a national lockdown is crucial to slow the virus and in Seattle, “strict measures have worked.”



**SAMI LEA KONCZEWSKI '02**  
"Stillness During Chaos: 75 Minute Flow: This is what yoga is for, to guide you toward your epicenter of stillness within the madness. Savor a stripped down, simple, and soothing flow tailored specifically for practicing during the time of Coronavirus." [downunderyoga.com](http://downunderyoga.com)



**LENA RW STEINER '02**  
"While my small piece of direct action may not have made a huge impact on the policy choices of my Senators, it was important to me to set the example for my children, friends, and family that in a democracy, every voice matters." [securefamiliesinitiative.org](http://securefamiliesinitiative.org)



**ANANT TAMIRISA '02**  
Anant was featured in the Toledo Law Alumni eNews: May 2020. “Making an impact in Hollywood and the surrounding area community.” Anant is the Vice President of Business and Legal Affairs for AGC Studios in Hollywood, CA. He oversees all business and legal affairs matters for AGC and its divisions, including scripted television, non-scripted television, non-fiction film/television, and feature film.



**JEN IOFINOVA '02**  
Jen is a scientific researcher working on the Coronavirus outbreak, and a member of one of several academic teams in Austria modeling the disease and helping their government manage the outbreak.



**DR. ANITHA RAO '01**  
From technology startup board rooms to the COVID-19 frontlines. Dr. Anitha Rao, a physician entrepreneur,

was asked to serve on the frontlines again as a Neurologist to help treat aging adults experiencing neurological emergencies.



**BERKLEY WELLES  
WELLSTEIN '02**  
The Co-Founder of Jane's Room, opened their ninth Jane's Room at Children's Memorial Hermann in Houston, Texas. “This was such a wonderful and caring team to work with and we are proud to have partnered with such an amazing hospital”. As one caregiver put it today, “We can't always cure, but we can always care.”—and they put forth amazing care!



# CLASS NOTES



**ERICA WALSH RECKERS '03**  
Erica Walsh married Carl-Christoph Reckers on April 25, 2020 in San Francisco, CA.



They had a virtual wedding ceremony with over 400 guests in attendance from all over the world.



**HANNAH KASPERZAK JACOBS '05**  
Hannah and Steve welcomed Bruce Kasperzak Jacobs on December 18, 2019 at 7lb. 15oz. and 20 inches long.



**ADAM FISH '05**  
Adam and Lindsay were married on on August 25, 2019. They welcomed Aubree Michelle Fish on July 7, 2020, weighing 7lbs. 2oz. and 20.5" long.



**LESLIE ANDREWS ATHMER '04**  
Leslie and Brian welcomed Lola Marie born on December 18, 2019, weighing 7lbs 10oz. Her big brother and sister are so proud!



**ANNE VIRTUE '04**  
Anne and Rob welcomed Emmett James Wilson on February 14, 2020, weighing 8lbs. 2oz and 21 3/4in.



**AMANDA KAUFMAN '05**  
has taken her karate practice and her students virtual by providing regular online classes. "I think we're igniting the students who may have thought they lost something they love to do every week, so I'm excited to provide that for them, keeping them physically fit, mentally fit when they might be experiencing some cabin fever." Last October, Amanda Kaufman '05, as



**MEREDITH BAYERS GAYNOR '06**  
Meredith married Evan Gaynor on March 21, 2020. They had a very small ceremony at Farnsworth Metropark with close family Katherine Kaplan Byers '81, Fritz, Abby '10, and the harp music from sister Eleanor '21.



head coach of the Ohio Branch of the U.S. Martial Arts Team, led a group of her students to London, England to compete in the World Martial Arts Games. They brought home 35 medals, 11 of which were Golds in their respective divisions! Amanda competed in empty hand forms, wooden weapons and metal/blades weapons, earning bronze,

silver and gold. She's been teaching karate and self-defense classes to the community (for business, girlscouts and boy scouts) since 2005. Owner and Head Instructor of Advancing Karate, Ltd., she's adapted to online classes during this quarantine, recently on 13abc news.



**ROBIN NORLÉN '06**  
Robin and Linnea welcomed Leon Jonathan Norlen on February 20, 2020, weighing 8lbs. 1oz and 20in long

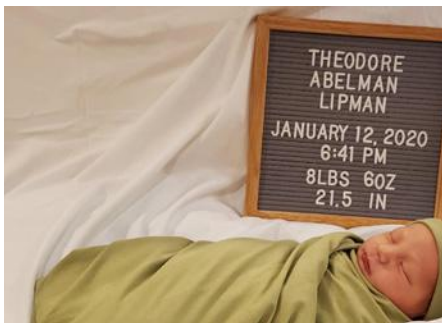


# CLASS NOTES



## LEIGH RORICK '06

Leigh got engaged to Daniel Webster-Clark on February 27, 2020, in Captiva, FL.



## ELI LIPMAN '07

Eli and Ashley welcomed their first child, Theodore Abelman Lipman, Sunday, January 12, 2020, 8lbs, 6oz, and 21.5" long.



## ELIJAH SANTIAGO '08

Elijah and Christina welcomed their baby boy, Edward Santiago, on December 24, 2019, 6lbs, 1oz, and 19" long.



## ANNA PEARL SHAPIRO '08

Anna Shapiro '08 married the love of her life, Travis Krew, on May 2, 2020, in a small ceremony with immediate family. Anna and Travis met during their psychiatry residency at the Cleveland Clinic. Anna's sister, Laura Shapiro '12, presided as the maid of honor. Anna's childhood best friend Michelle Filanovsky Baechtold '07 was present over Zoom.



## AARON GELLER '08

Aaron, Hanna, and big sister Ariyah welcomed Hadassah Noa Geller on October 18, 2020, weighing 6lbs, 3oz, and 21" long.



## TOVA LINDER '08

Tova and Sofie welcomed Harry Eddie Linder on May 17, 2020, 7lb. 9oz. and 20.4 in long in Linköping, Sweden.



## MARGAUX FOSTER FORD '09

Margaux and Will welcomed Liam on December 16, 2020, weighing 8lbs. 12oz. and 22.5" long.



## DR. ALOK HARWANI '09

During Alok's third year as a residency program, he was on the front lines in the ER. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin this spring and is working at UW in the Department of Emergency Medicine.



HAWKS OF ALL AGES! PARTICIPATE IN A COLORING CONTEST BY COMPETING THE ABOVE IMAGE AND SENDING A HIGH QUALITY SCAN TO WEEZIE BY OCTOBER 1ST! WSTODDARD@MVCDS.ORG

## WILL SANTINO '07

He is a professional artist and recently created free downloadable coloring pages for kids with a team at UW-Madison. They're available for download for free from my website: [www.willsantino.com](http://www.willsantino.com).



# CLASS NOTES

## 2010s



**JESSIKA PARRY '10**  
Jessika got engaged to Dylan Amaral on July 11, 2020, in Stoughton, MA.



**YUI YAMAGUCHI '10**  
Yui married Tatshiro Kobayashi on July 18, 2017. Yui and Tatshiro Kobayashi welcomed Aoi Kobayashi (Pronounced Ah-Oh-ee) in Japan on February 13, 2019, weighing 8.5lbs and 20in long.



**TAJÉ TJ ROBINSON-MEREDITH '10**  
Tajé has worked for Delta for 6 years and is based out of Davenport, IA.



**ELI KAUFMAN '11**  
Eli Kaufman married Emily Abigail Waife on May 24, 2020. After over a year of planning, Eli and Emily's plans had to change due to the rules and regulations laid out in Illinois regarding gatherings and COVID-19. Within two weeks of their original wedding date, the two of them planned and orchestrated a ZOOM wedding.

The outdoor Zoom wedding ceremony took place on May 24, 2020, at Anshe Emet Synagogue in Chicago, IL. The wedding was co-officiated by Cantor Jamie Gloth, formerly the Cantor at Congregation B'nai Israel in Sylvania, via Zoom from Temple Aliyah in Needham, MA, and with Rabbi David Russo who was present from Anshe Emet Synagogue. Over 175 "screen connections" and an estimated 350 people "attended" the first Zoom wedding in both congregations' histories including from the United States, Canada, Israel, and Norway.



**TED ESTEN '11**  
Ted and Melissa welcomed Jordan Quinn Esten on July 20, 2020, weighing 7lbs. 5oz. and 21" long in Landstuhl, Germany.



**YASMIN ABDEL-KARIM '11**  
Yamin and Bahaa welcomed Rawan Bahaa Korjie on June 20, 2020, weighing 8lbs 7oz and - 21in. long, in Charlotte, NC.



**LINNEA JOHNSON '13**  
Linnea got her Master's Degree in Museology (Museum Studies) graduated from the University of Washington and is now working at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Discovery Center in Seattle, WA.



**CHANDLER JOHNSON INGLE '13**  
Chandler and Joshua welcomed Charlotte Reese Ingle on March 3, 2020, weighing 9lbs. and is 21.5" long.



**MADDIE KASER '15**  
Maddie got engaged to Rob Thompson on May 17, 2020.



**JOHN SULLIVAN BAKER '16**  
While attending undergrad at Cornell, John wrote for the Cornell Sun. Here is one of his quotes about Maumee Valley Country Day School and the passing of Colleen Sieberg.



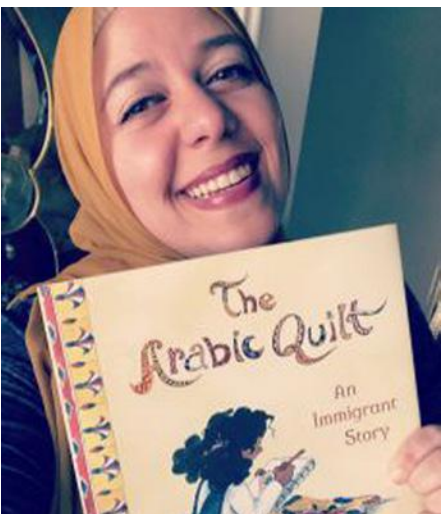
**EMILY BRETZLOFF-ROHRS '13**  
**Michigan Medicine RN!**  
Emily '13 has been a neonatal intensive care nurse for 2 years and started at Michigan Medicine last July. She is currently working in the hospital and working hard to protect her patients, herself, and all of us through her work.

**"Next time you're visiting home, stop into your high school. Reconnect with your old teachers and let them know all you've accomplished with the foundation they helped you build."**

**Visit Your Old High School, Because Nothing is Forever**  
By John Sullivan Baker



**FRIENDS GIVING 2019**  
Maumee Valley Alumni gathered at the Frascos' for their Friendsgiving gathering. Front row l to r: Cameron Conrad '12, Stephen Shin '12. Next row up, l-r: Rick Deichert '12, Nick Frasco '12, Alex Karcher '12. Next row up, l-r: Joyce Chao '12, Zayd Safadi '12. Next row up, l-r: Kelsey Conrad '09, Paige Willey '12, Gautham Madhira '11. Top l-r: Shawn Hassen '08, Michael Ahrens '08,



**AYA KHALIL**  
**FORMER FACULTY**  
When people tell you that your stories don't matter and then you write and publish a book that is a #1 New Release (!!!) with Anait Semirdzhyan (Illustrator)



# IN MEMORIAM



**FRITZ WOLFE '47**



**MARILYN "SMITTY" SMITH BORN '49**



**SUZANNE GUINIVERE '51**



**ASDGHIG (ASTRIG) TUTELIAN**  
FACULTY 35 YEARS



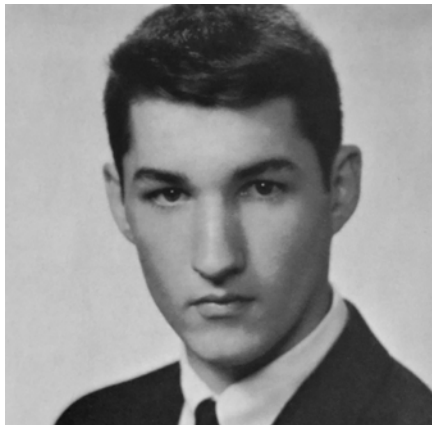
**JUNE JOHNSON**



**CAROL BLOCK**  
FORMER BOARD MEMBER, PARENT  
OF DIANA BLOCK '91, NANCY REID  
'95, AND KATHERINE BLOCK '00



**ANTHONY AYERS '58**



**P. CHARLES "CHAZZ" SINCLAIR '62**



**JULES LAMSON VINNEDGE '66**



**CORRINE ANN JOSEPH**  
FORMER BOARD MEMBER,  
PARENT OF G. CHRISTOPHER  
JOSEPH '71, PAUL JOSEPH '73  
(DECEASED), BRADLEY JOSEPH  
'74, CRAIG JOSEPH '76, DAVID  
JOSEPH '80



**FLOYD "SKIP" STEWARD**  
PARENT OF PATRICK BERINGER '10



**DAN JOHNSON**  
FORMER BOARD MEMBER



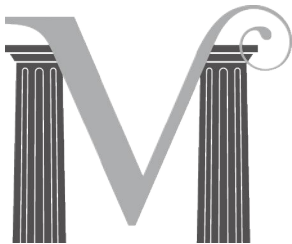
**LOUIS D. ABNEY III '67**



**PAMELA HEYMANN RICCIARDI '67**



**COLLEEN SIEBERG**  
FACULTY 45 YEARS





# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE ALUMNI COUNCIL

Greetings Members of the Maumee Valley Community,

I am certain that the year thus far has been quite a challenge for all of us whether we are based in Ohio, California, or Hong Kong or any of the many other states and countries in which our alumni reside.

2020 has certainly been a year like no other. Just last fall it would have been unimaginable that facemasks would become simultaneously a necessary health precaution and a fashion statement. That Maumee Valley's graduation would take place in a drive-in movie theatre. That perhaps the seeming anachronism of the drive-in movie theatre is actually an excellent way to socially distance in a crowd and do something as banal (and yet so enticing!) as watching a movie. And yet here we are and here we remain for the moment.

Over the past two years, I have helped to reshape the Alumni Council into a structure that is more understandable and manageable for its members; as always, we hope to expand our reach and engage ever more of our outstanding alumni community. As part of this process, we have taken on a re-design of The Valley beginning with this issue. You'll notice changes large and small, and yet most are geared toward bringing our history and rich heritage to the forefront. This includes the "Remember When?" photo series, now located on the back cover. (Football...at MVCDS, you say?!) In addition, there is a new "Community Spotlight" on the opposite page that will highlight clubs, groups, and activities past and present, including the longstanding Afro-Am Society which began in 1972 as the Society of United Love (S.O.U.L.) Look for more spotlights and throwback images in future issues!

As you are likely aware, the Alumni Council's annual event, the Smead Luncheon, has been canceled and will resume in the spring of 2021, hopefully to much collective, in-person fanfare. Although I will no longer be serving the school in my current role at that time, I hope to see many of you there. In good Maumee Valley tradition, the peaceful transfer of Alumni Council leadership will mean that our friend and colleague Jessica Bohl Naprawa '98 will move into the role of the Alumni Council President for the next two years. I wish her well and hope you will all welcome and support her in this new position.

Until we meet again in person, I hope you stay well, stay happy, and stay in touch.

With best wishes,



**Joss Kiely, Ph.D. '01**

President, Maumee Valley Alumni Council, 2018-20

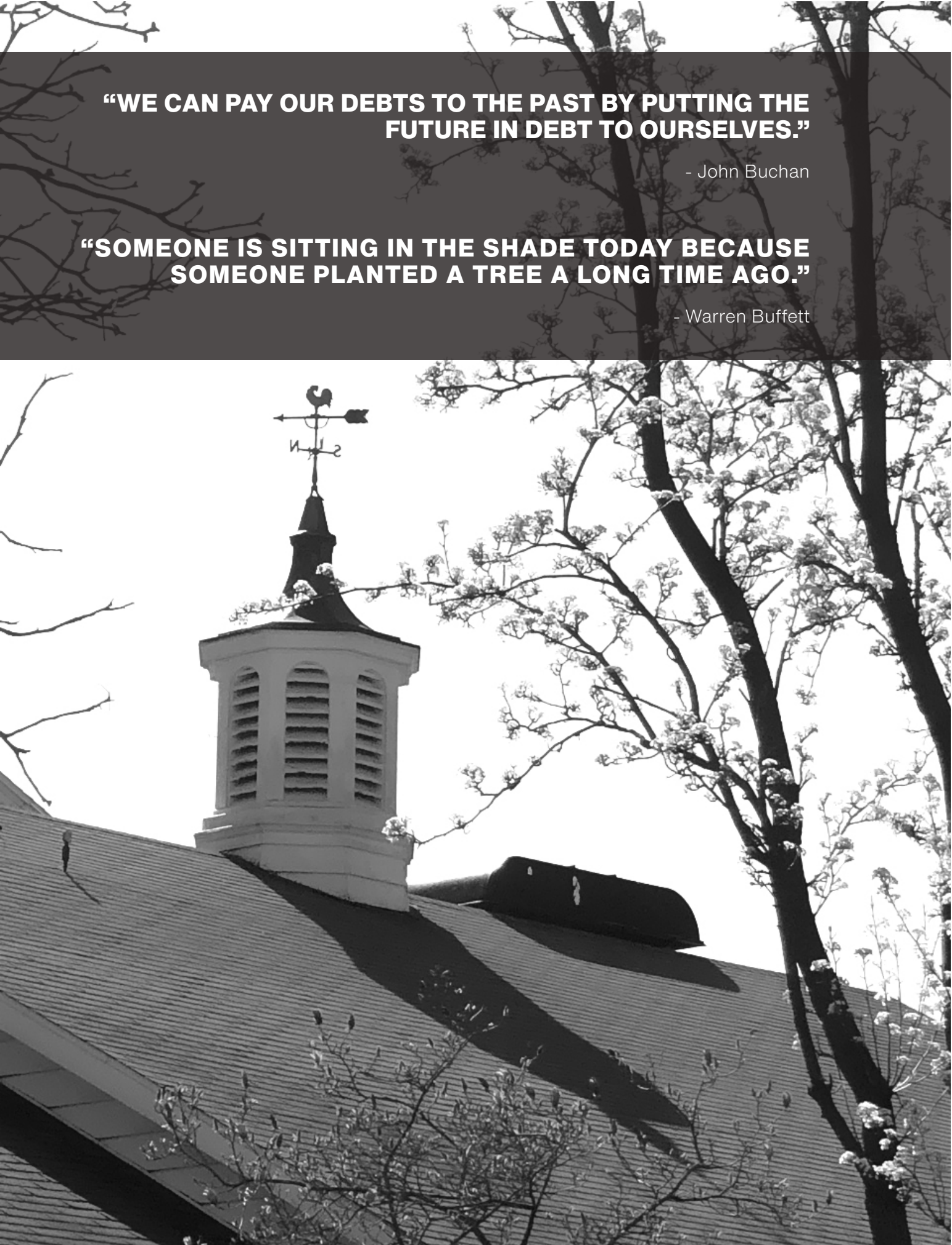
## COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

### [AFRO-AM]\* THROUGH THE YEARS

\*ORIGINALLY FOUNDED IN 1972 AS **S.O.U.L. [SOCIETY OF UNITED LOVE]**, THE AFRO-AM SOCIETY IS FOCUSED ON THE CULTURE AND LIFESTYLE OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS AND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE AFRICAN-AMERICAN IN TODAY'S POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC CLIMATE.







“WE CAN PAY OUR DEBTS TO THE PAST BY PUTTING THE FUTURE IN DEBT TO OURSELVES.”

- John Buchan

“SOMEONE IS SITTING IN THE SHADE TODAY BECAUSE SOMEONE PLANTED A TREE A LONG TIME AGO.”

- Warren Buffett

# THE WEATHERVANE SOCIETY

A LEGACY GIFT

***How to prepare now for the future?***

This is a question that each person will eventually ask and answer for themselves to varying degrees.

What about an institution like **Maumee Valley**? How does one demonstrate concern about the destiny of a hospital, library, park, museum...or a school?

***How does Maumee Valley fit in your plans?***

Maumee Valley Country Day School hasn't survived for almost 140 years due to happenstance or luck. It has progressed through a shared vision, judicious planning, and a wise use of resources.

Almost 5,000 alumni populate a long, blue and white line featuring leaders in art, science, music, medicine, law, journalism, industry, and philanthropy. Would these alumni claim success all on their own? Unlikely. Most realize that their education and careers were furthered by those who'd preceded them. Forebears consciously created a legacy that would positively affect the school's future.

Who first planned, designed, funded, built, and improved the Smead School?

Who made it possible to attract and retain a talented and devoted faculty and staff?

Whose foresight prompted an impressive expansion of the service, global education, sports, arts and extracurricular programs?

The answer to each: our predecessors. People with the prudence to envision and capitalize projects for the benefit of the young men and women who followed them. Each generation of the **Maumee Valley** community has planned for the future well-being of the next.

How to prepare now for the future? There are multiple ways that we might each, in his or her own fashion, answer the question of how to care about—and plan for—**Maumee Valley's** future.

You can be a part of the **Weathervane Society** by including Maumee Valley in your estate plans. Many members have simply named the School as a beneficiary of a retirement account, or in their will or trust. Your forward thinking will ensure that future generations of students can experience the life-changing opportunity of a Maumee Valley education.

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING LEGACY GIVING, PLEASE  
CONTACT **CHRISTOPHER HOLINSKI**, DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

**CHOLINSKI@MVCDS.ORG**  
**313.779.0003**



**MAUMEE VALLEY  
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL**

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TOLEDO, OH 43614-1499

419-381-1313  
WWW.MVCDS.ORG

**PERSONAL  
EXPERIENTIAL  
GLOBAL**



**REMEMBER** WHEN?



**SEND YOUR BEST GUESS AND MEMORY TO [ADVANCEMENT@MVCDS.ORG](mailto:ADVANCEMENT@MVCDS.ORG)**