

alumni news

GASTON DAY SCHOOL

2018

Congratulations to **Katie Elder**, who has been named a Newcomb Scholar, Class of 2022, at Tulane University. Katie was one of 20 young women selected for the Tulane Newcomb Scholars Program, which, according to the university, taps “intellectually curious and motivated women each year to participate in an academically rigorous interdisciplinary learning and leadership cohort experience over four years. Together, the Scholars create a community of diverse thinkers, leaders, and activists, which challenges and empowers them to be innovative and compassionate leaders in the 21st century.” Well done, Katie!

Carol Yu began her freshman year at New York University’s campus in Florence, Italy. Carol says “the best thing about studying here is that I can travel to cities nearby and other countries in Europe. I went to Cinque Terre during the early October, and it’s such a wonderful place! I also went to Prague, Vienna, and Budapest during fall break, and they’re also very beautiful cities.”



2017

Melissa Moore has been accepted into the Walker Fellows program in the business school at Appalachian State University, and plans to spend the fall 2019 semester onboard the Semester at Sea program for her second time.

2015

Gray Heath will graduate from NC State University in May 2019 with a BS in Fashion and Textile Management, and has accepted a position



with Kohl’s corporate offices in Milwaukee as a product development coordinator. Gray says she will be assigned to one of their private label brands, where she will be in charge of maintaining production schedules with vendors overseas, inspiring design and merchants through analytical competitive market analyses, and working with marketing to ensure packaging fully encompasses the branding of the private label. Gray says “the job is extremely cross-functional, pulling on all divisions of the textile industry that I’ve learned about here at NC State.” Congratulations, Gray!

2012

Tom DeFrancisco is a founding member of the new Chicago acting company *Silencio*. Check out their website at www.silenciochicago.com.

Amir Feinberg spoke to Gaston Day students on November 2 about his experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Moldova, where he has spent the past 18 months as a health education volunteer, teaching health and wellness to students in 2nd through 8th grades in the village of Festelita, a rural farm community of about 1,500 residents in the Stefan Voda region. Amir returned to Moldova shortly after his visit to Gaston Day for his final seven months of volunteer work, and plans to attend medical school in the fall of 2019.



2011

Congratulations to **Leah Fayssoux**, who recently passed the New York state bar exam. Leah earned her law degree from Georgetown University in May 2018.

We would love to hear your latest news!

Please send your information to alumni@gastonday.org or call (704) 864-7744, ext. 119.

Please share your support today with a gift to the Gaston Day School Fund www.gastonday.org/support

Published November 2018

2007

Lt. Robert Grant, U.S. Navy, instructs aviators to fly the F-35C, the Navy's stealth fighter. "We train both pilots that previously flew the F-18 and new pilots who have no experience in tactical Naval Aviation," he said. Robert joined the Navy after graduation from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and returned to Naval Air Station Lemoore, California last year after a three-year tour of duty in Japan.

Holley Nelson Winikoff and her husband Ben welcomed Lindley Rose Winikoff a few weeks early on September 30, 2018. Lindley Rose weighed 6 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19 inches long. Holley says "she's a strong, sweet little girl!" Congratulations, Holley and Ben!



2002

Chris Campbell will speak to Gaston Day students on February 11, 2019 at 1:35 pm in the PKW Auditorium. Chris graduated Cum Laude from Morehouse College with a BA in Economics, and was recently named a director in the Atlanta office of Northwestern Mutual, where his focus is on expanding the company's presence in diverse markets. A member of Emerging 100 Atlanta, Chris is also active in TAG, the Technology Association of Georgia, and has devoted much of his career to mentoring young African American high school students. Chris and his wife, Lina, and their 14-month-old son, Christopher Prince, live in Vining, GA. **All Gaston Day**

alumni and former parents are invited to attend Chris's presentation, which will be followed by a reception in the PKW lobby.

1975

Congratulations to **Gene Matthews**, who was awarded The Spirit of the Carolinas Award at the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce's Salute to Business & Manufacturing event on October 30, 2018. Gene was honored for his business and philanthropic commitment to the community. Joining Gene and his wife Katherine in the celebration were his son **Ben, 2005***, and daughter **Katie, 2008***.



While There Were Still Birds: A Personal History of Southern Quail Hunting, written by Gaston Day Head of School, **Dr. Richard Rankin**, was a finalist for the 2018 Ragan Old North State Award for Non-Fiction. Dr. Rankin's latest book, published by Mercer University Press and based on his personal experiences, explores how race, gender, and environmental change impacted Southern quail hunting from the mid 1930s until today.

Friends and families joined the Gaston Day community on August 29 to recognize and thank donors to the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign who made the 50th Anniversary STEM initiative a reality. Donors included the **William Hall and Sandra Rivas-Hall family (Al Hall, 2011 and Alena Hall, 2008)**, the **Doug Meyer-Cuno family (Doug, 1981; Addison Meyer-Cuno Gilbert, 2008; Brendan Gilbert, 2008; and Erin Meyer-Cuno, 2010)**, and the **Carstarphen Family Foundation (Bill Carstarphen, 1982; William Carstarphen Jr., 2010; Brittany Hovis Carstarphen, 2009*; Ben**

Carstarphen, 2010; and John Carstarphen, 2015). Their generosity made possible the William Hall and Sandra Rivas-Hall Family Biology Lab, the Meyer-Cuno Family Idea Lab and The Carstarphen Family Foundation Prep Lab.

The Dr. Tannis Brown Chemistry Lab was underwritten by gifts from the **Jason Brown family (Drew Brown, 2022 and Megan Brown, 2024)** and the **Tom and Katie Grimm family (Hannah Grimm, 2016; Bizzi Grimm, 2019; Sarah Grimm, 2022; and Emily Grimm, 2024.)**



Doug and Margaret Meyer-Cuno, left, and Addison and Brendan Gilbert, right, at the dedication of the Meyer-Cuno Family Idea Lab.



Megan, Jason and Drew Brown at the dedication of the Dr. Tannis Brown Chemistry Lab.

In Memoriam

Gaston Day School offers condolences to the family of Bonnie Jacob Mack, who passed away on October 11, 2018 at the age of 84. Mrs. Mack taught music at Gaston Day during the late 1970s.

2001 Gaston Day School Road Gastonia, NC 28056
704.864.7744 www.gastoday.org alumni@gastoday.org

The Alumni News welcomes and includes news from all alumni, not just those who are GDS graduates. Non-graduating alumni are marked with an asterisk.