

The Berkeley Carroll School

2020/2021 Issue

MAGAZINE

BEYOND BC

**FROM HOLLYWOOD TO THE OVAL
OFFICE, A NEW GENERATION OF
BERKELEY CARROLL ALUMNI
ARE BRINGING THEIR CRITICAL,
ETHICAL, AND GLOBAL THINKING
TO A DIVERSE SET OF CAREERS.**



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The Berkeley Carroll School Magazine is published by the Communications Office for parents, alumni, grandparents, faculty and friends of the school.

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From Hollywood to the Oval Office, a new generation of Berkeley Carroll alumni are making their mark on the world.

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2020 has been a summer of change. At a time when the nation is reckoning with longstanding systemic racism and demanding important cultural and legal changes, independent schools across the country, including Berkeley Carroll, are taking a hard look at their past and present. Read about the next steps in our school's anti-racist work.

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the view from lincoln place

Dear Friends,

When I last wrote this column, I could not have imagined the seismic shifts that would impact our world, our nation, and our school in 2020. Over the past months, we have had to leverage our resolve both to combat the ravages of the COVID-19 global pandemic and to reckon with the persistent scourge of racism and bias in our communities.

Since spring, our faculty, staff, students, parents, guardians, and our Board of Trustees have shown tremendous dedication and determination in the face of uncertainty and upheaval. The March 2020 pivot to remote learning was swift and successful. During the summer, faculty engaged in extensive professional development, which allowed us to fortify the remote program in a fashion that reflects the best in a Berkeley Carroll education.

Within the context of historic, nationwide protests against anti-Black violence and oppression, Black students and alumni from independent schools throughout New York City called out the structural and interpersonal racism endured during their time in our care. At Berkeley Carroll, their work has been a catalyst not only for reflecting outward on the larger society but also for looking inward and redoubling our efforts to make our school a place where students and adults across all races, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities feel respected, supported, and included.

I am pleased but not surprised by the ways in which members of our community have sought to accelerate learning and cultivate engagement during these turbulent times. As you will see in the feature about our alumni and throughout this edition of the magazine, our students and graduates bring an outstanding level of curiosity, creativity, and confidence to public service, scientific research, the fine arts, and countless other pursuits.

I have often expressed my confidence in the capacity of our students to use the intellectual, social, and emotional skills that they hone at Berkeley Carroll to transform the world around them. As we strive to make positive change and to fulfill our promise, they both challenge and inspire us.

All best,

Lisa Yvette Waller, Ph.D.

Head of School



LISTEN TO WHERE BC CAN TAKE YOU

Berkeley Carroll's alums are on diverse professional and personal trajectories, and now you can hear about those journeys on the **Beyond BC Podcast**. Hosted by Timothy Quinn, Jr. '05, learn more about how our award-winning alums are changing the world after they leave Lincoln Place. Subscribe to Beyond BC on Spotify, Stitcher, or Apple Podcasts.



Khalid Rahman '95



Rebecca Ballhaus '09



Devin Gilmartin '16



Elisabeth Thomas '06



ON

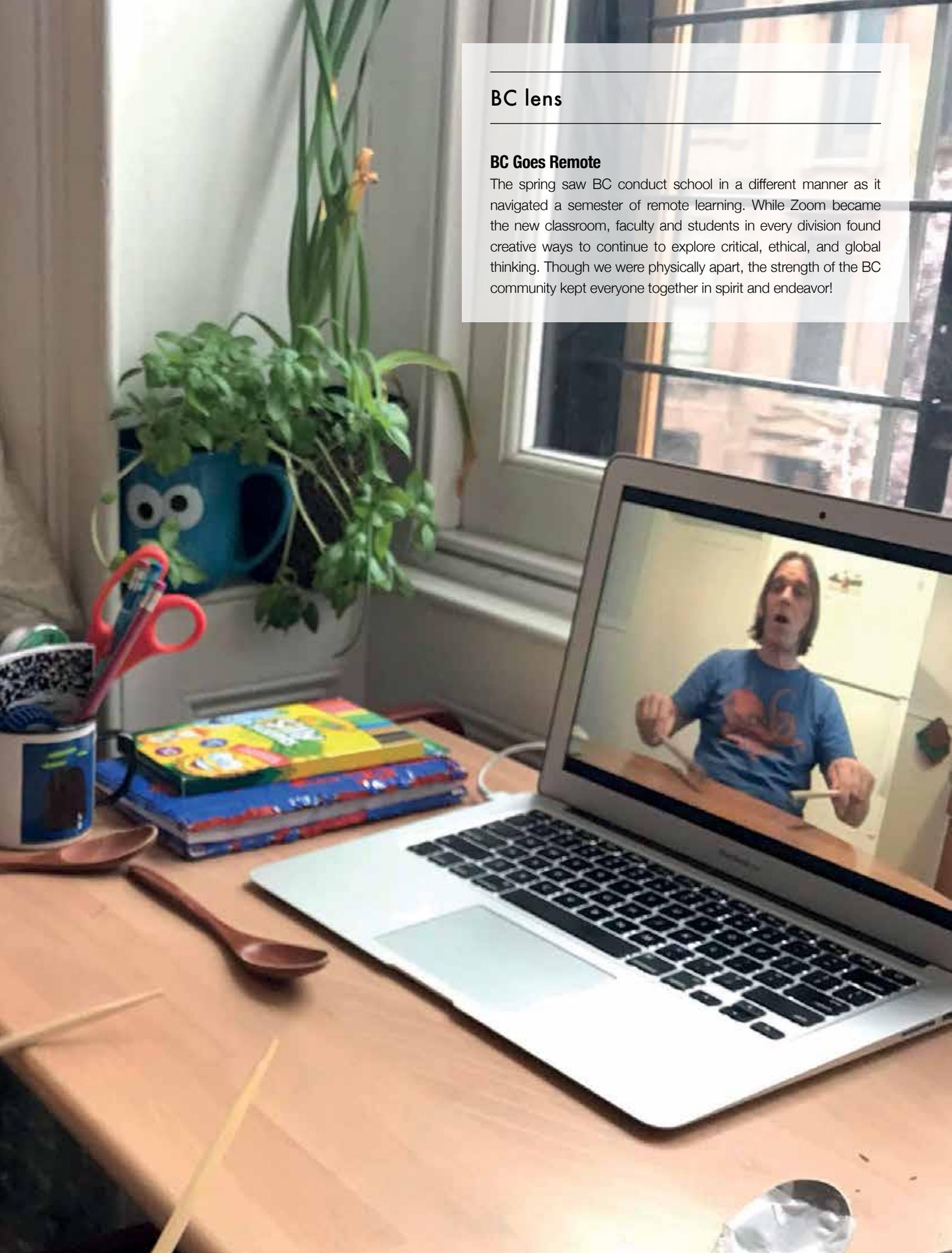




BC lens

BC Goes Remote

The spring saw BC conduct school in a different manner as it navigated a semester of remote learning. While Zoom became the new classroom, faculty and students in every division found creative ways to continue to explore critical, ethical, and global thinking. Though we were physically apart, the strength of the BC community kept everyone together in spirit and endeavor!





UPPER SCHOOL FACULTY MEMBER PUBLISHED
Upper School English Teacher and College Counselor **Khaliah Williams** published an essay about her mother, grandmother, and Jane Austen called “My Mother’s House is Full of Books” in *The Second Shelf* magazine. In her piece, Ms. Williams also writes about teaching Jane Austen’s works during Spring Intensives at BC.



11TH GRADERS VOLUNTEER AT GOWANUS CANAL CONSERVANCY
11th graders interested in climate action volunteered with the Gowanus Canal Conservancy as part of the Upper School’s Community Engagement program. Students spent the afternoon helping to clean and maintain the 6th Street Green Corridor, which consists of 11 bioswales, or curbside rain gardens, featuring native plants and grasses that provide a habitat for local wildlife along with engineered materials that can absorb and filter nearly 3,000 gallons of stormwater.



THIRD GRADER RECORDS ALBUM, PERFORMS AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL
Third grader **Zoe Sullivan '29** was the youngest member of The Broadway Star Project Singers, a group of kids who work on Broadway and who this year recorded “The Holiday Star Experience.” Zoe and the group then performed at Radio City Music Hall to open for the Rockettes in the Christmas Spectacular.



BOYS VARSITY SOCCER NAMED LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

The **Boys Varsity Soccer** team had an historic 2019 season, winning both the ACIS Playoff and League Championships. The team was seeded #6 in the NYSAIS State Tournament where they eventually lost to #3 Riverdale in the quarterfinals.



LIONS ROAR!

BC Upper School Lions showed their pride at the first Upper School Pep Rally. Organized by the **BC Spirit Squad**, the group got the crowd excited with contests, games, and prizes, and recognized all the fall sports teams and their senior leaders for great seasons.



LOWER SCHOOL SCIENTISTS HELP RESTORE NYC OYSTER POPULATION

As part of their study of the Hudson River watershed, **4th grade students** visited Brooklyn Bridge Park to collect data on oyster restoration in partnership with the Billion Oyster Project, a non-profit that is working to restore oyster populations to NYC and help clean waterways. Students measured oyster growth, counted organisms like fish and sea squirts, and tested the water quality including salinity and temperature, then shared their findings with scientists at the Billion Oyster Project.



BC SENIOR WINS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY HAMILTON PRIZE

Recent BC graduate **Brianna Johnson '20** received this year's prestigious Wesleyan University Hamilton Prize for Creativity which comes with a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to attend Wesleyan. Brianna was selected from a pool of over 400 applicants and honored for her mixtape/album, *Tell 'Em The Truth*, for best reflecting the originality, artistry, and dynamism of the award-winning Broadway musical *Hamilton*, created by Wesleyan alum Lin-Manuel Miranda.



OBSERVING A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

Upper School students in the Human Anatomy and Physiology course got a front row view of an actual kidney transplant when they connected virtually with St. Barnabas Medical Center in New Jersey to watch from BC as doctors walked them through every step of the procedure. Students were able to interact with the doctors, ask questions and learn more about organ donation.



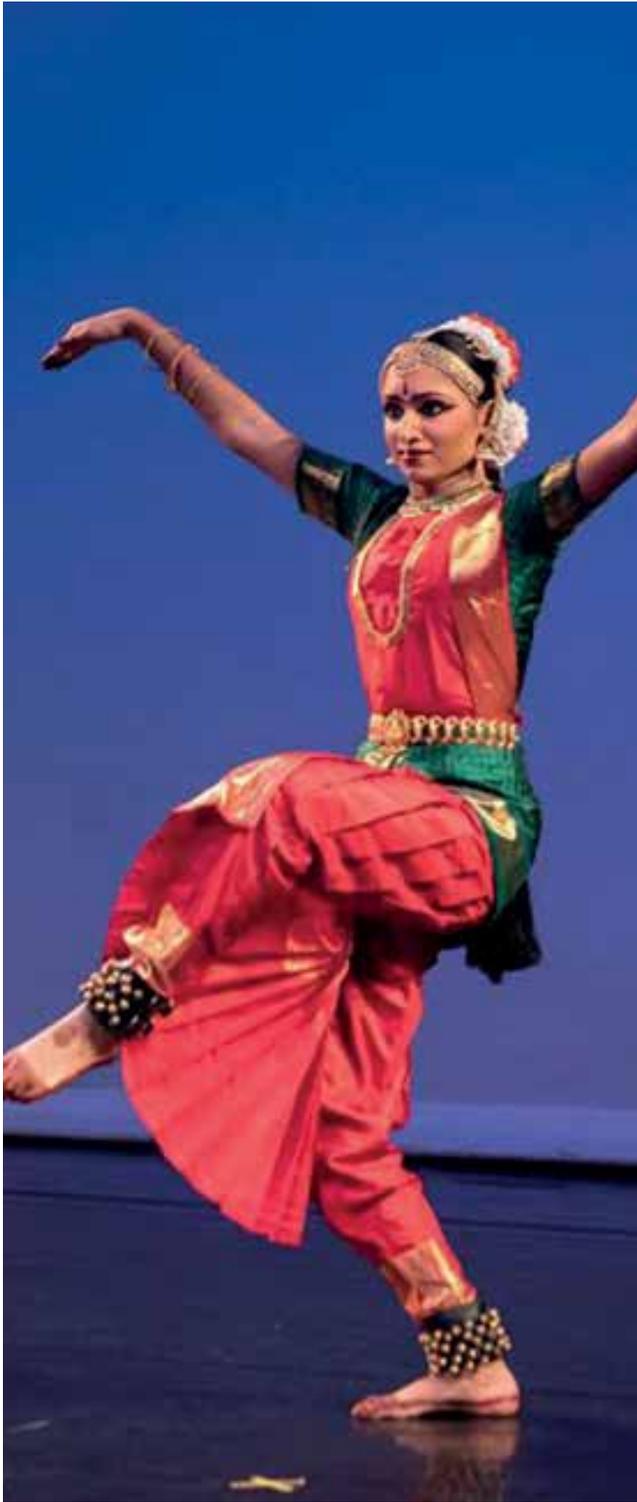
1ST GRADERS DIG INTO RECYCLING

The average American produces about 4 pounds of trash a day. **1st graders** learned that's a lot firsthand when they spent a week collecting trash from home to create their own classroom landfill. Students discussed the impact waste can have on a community and what they can do to reduce, reuse, and recycle more.



IOWA STATE SENATOR TALKS LEADERSHIP

The Upper School welcomed Iowa State Senator Zach Wahls to BC as part of the **Visiting Speakers Program** to talk about the realities of working in politics. Senator Wahls began his political journey when his 2011 speech to the Iowa State House Judiciary Committee during their hearing on marriage equality went viral. In 2012, he was invited to speak at the Democratic National Convention and then won election in 2019.



UPPER SCHOOL STUDENT DANCE DEBUT

BC 11th grader **Shreya Balaji '21** spent 12 years training for her first solo artist performance and had an incredible “arangetram,” or debut, in the Indian classical dance, Bharatanatyam.



MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER STORY WORKSHOP

Middle School Math Teacher Sharona Kahn was selected by New York City’s Academy for Teachers to participate in a master class on storytelling with acclaimed comedian, actor, and storyteller Mike Birbiglia. Ms. Kahn learned the basic principles of story structure and performance and then wrote an original story about her life as a teacher.



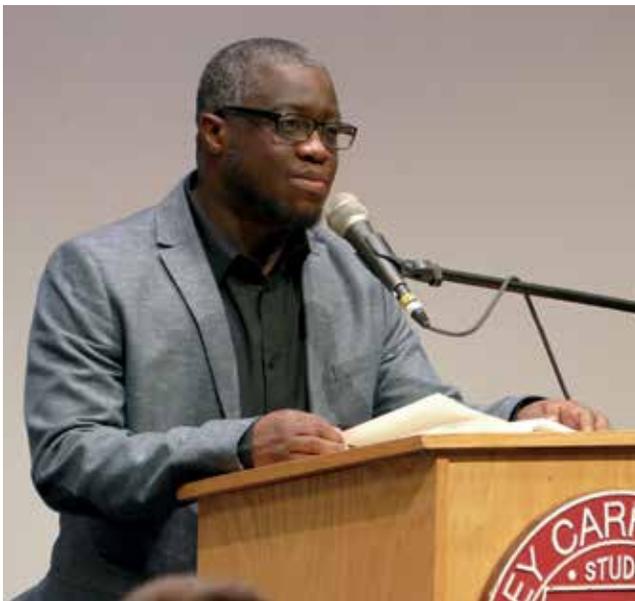
STUDENTS VOLUNTEER WITH #HASHTAGLUNCHBAG

For the second year in a row, **10th grade students** partnered with the grassroots collective #HashtagLunchbag in the BC cafeteria to make nearly 300 bag lunches for people in need. BC students and community members delivered the lunches to shelters, food pantries, and other locations around Brooklyn.



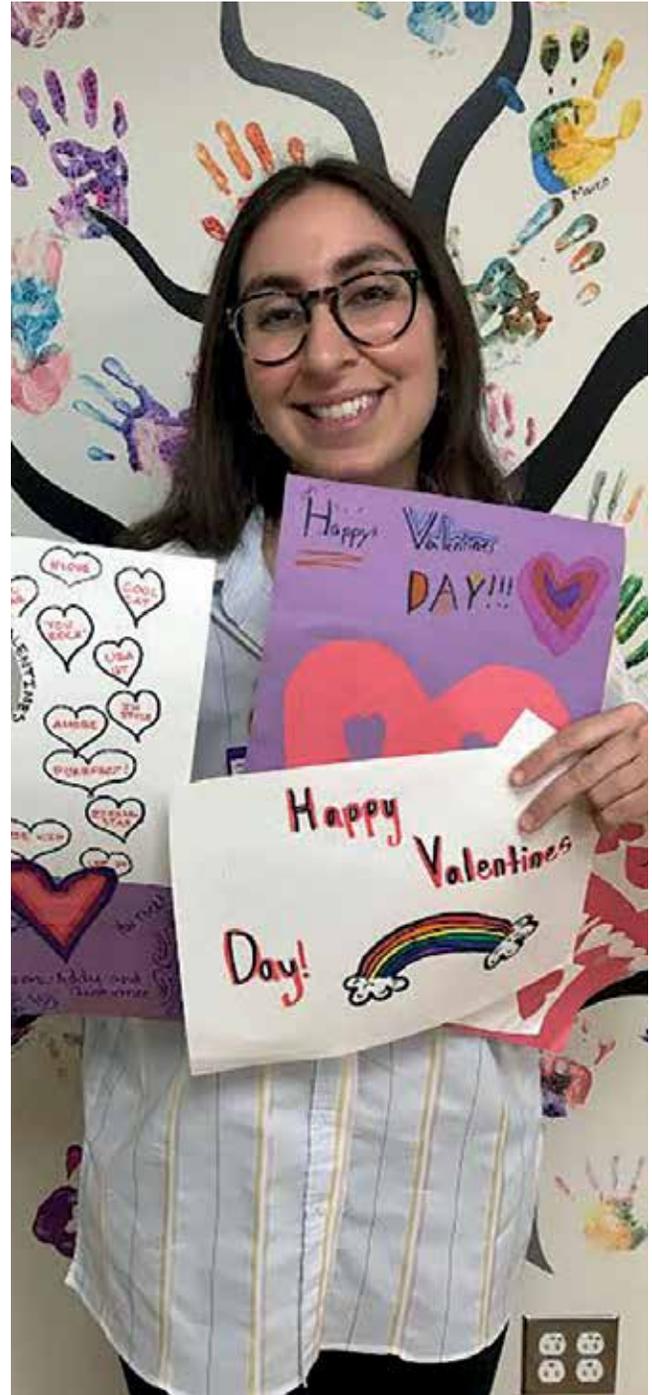
AMERICAN STUDIES REFLECTS ON DESEGREGATION

Head of School **Dr. Lisa Waller** visited with 11th grade students in American Studies to discuss segregation, Jim Crow, and the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision. She answered questions and shared her own research on school desegregation activism in NYC in the 1940s, '50s, and '60s that she conducted while she was a doctoral student at Duke University.



AWARD-WINNING AUTHOR SPEAKS WITH UPPER SCHOOL

The **BC Upper School** welcomed award-winning author Rion Amilcar Scott who read from his latest collection of short stories, *The World Doesn't Require You*. Mr. Scott received the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize in 2016 and shared with students the inspiration for his stories and how music and pop culture have shaped his creativity over the years.



KINDNESS CLUB DELIVERS

The **Lower School Kindness Club** sent nearly 300 Valentine's Day Cards made by Lower and Middle School students to children in the pediatric ward at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. BC alum **Olivia Saleh '14** is a child assistant at the hospital and said patients were very excited to receive them!



8TH GRADE WAX MUSEUM

Frederick Douglass, Dolly Parton, Mr. Rogers, and 75 other influential figures from throughout history and today were portrayed at the annual **8th Grade Living Wax Museum**. The Wax Museum is a popular BC tradition for 8th graders, who select from a wide variety of historical figures to research. During the night's gallery walk, students greet visitors in character and share the story of their historical figure's life and work.

2020 LOWER SCHOOL ARCH DAY

On June 5, PreK through 4th graders took the annual walk through the arch to celebrate the end of a great school year! **Oli Ellis '28**, **Vera Feder '28** and **Nate Fischer '28** spoke on behalf of the 4th grade and celebrated entering the Middle School. Students and faculty also enjoyed class slideshows and songs.





2020 MIDDLE SCHOOL CLOSING CEREMONIES

Middle Schoolers celebrated an outstanding year at Closing Ceremonies on June 5, and wished the 8th graders luck as they moved up to the Upper School! **Juliana Mendiola '27**, **Julia Manzola '27**, **Theo Martin '27**, and **Ryan Speaker '27** spoke on behalf of the 5th grade; **Jada Sanon '26**, **Izzie Bermudez '26**, **Genevieve Eisner '26**, and **Ellis Thompson '26** spoke on behalf of the 6th grade; **Will Farjami '25**, **Katie Fludgate '25**, **Mykah Lieberthal '25** and **Max Makatsaria '25** spoke on behalf of the 7th grade; and **Ava Meisami-McAllister '24** spoke on behalf of the 8th grade. The Middle School Orchestra also performed "Here Comes the Sun" by The Beatles arranged by Music Department Chair **Kate Mollica**.

THE CLASS OF 2020

Congratulations to the 74 members of the Class of 2020 who graduated from Berkeley Carroll on June 8 at the school's Remote 133rd Commencement Exercises! Head of School **Dr. Lisa Yvette Waller** and Upper School Director **Jane Moore** welcomed the audience, and **Julian Ansoorge '20** was the class Commencement speaker. The Upper School Orchestra also performed "Here Come the Sun" arranged by Music Department Chair **Kate Mollica**.







CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020



Since arriving at Berkeley Carroll on September 7, 2016, the Class of 2020 has accomplished so much, and we know will accomplish so much in the future! You have helped carry on so many BC traditions while starting or elevating others like BC Talks, Spirit Squad, and pep rallies. All of you made us so proud, not only over the past four years, but also over the last three months of the school year, which tested your spirits and resiliency to an unprecedented degree. You are a distinctive and wonderful class, and your presence and participation in our community has made each other and BC better.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Jake Agüero-Van De Perre

Colorado College, CO

Renee Amos

Drexel University, PA

Julian Ansonge

Brown University, RI

Zachary Ashen

Cornell University, NY

Kirill Bektashev

Kings College London, England

Leah S. Bell

Hamilton College, NY

Max Emilio Bermudez-Deane

University of Pittsburgh, PA

Cecelia Rosadia Danguilan Blake

Oberlin College, OH

Renata Sara Bourin

Smith College, MA

Jason A. Bowen

Drexel University, PA

Camila Chamecki Brik

Emory University, GA

Luca Rafi Broder

Tufts University, MA

Caroline V. Cahill

Syracuse University, NY

Zachary Hyam Camhi

Johns Hopkins University, MD

Ayden B. Cherry

Colorado College, CO

Sarah Kala Cryan

Colgate University, NY

Phoebe Degn

Skidmore College, NY

Mary C. DeSouza

Sarah Lawrence College, NY

Lucas G. Diamond

Rochester Institute of Technology, NY

Colette Pearl Drinkard

Scripps College, CA

Oliver Cameron Duncan

University of Vermont, VT

Peter G. Fabens

Lafayette College, PA

Helen Dale Fexy

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

Theodore Richard Padron Friedman

Carleton College, MN

Bernadette Yael Frishberg

Bennington College, VT

Damaris A. Gomez

Lafayette College, PA

Devon Aleksander Grover

Bard College, NY

Hallie Rose Hayne

Bates College, ME

Jordan Annie Melissa Hickson

Barnard College, NY

Rachael Marie Hipkins

University of South Florida, FL

George Thomas Humphreville

University of Chicago, IL

Brianna Kennice Johnson

Wesleyan University, CT

Clay R. Johnson

Whitman College, WA

Grey William Jones

Southern Methodist University, TX

Benjamin Kaplen

Emerson College, MA

Maya Karmaker

Bates College, ME

Sofia O. Lavion

SUNY at Purchase College, NY

Kalif Emmanuel Levine

CUNY Hunter College, NY

THE CLASS OF 2020!

Evelina Levy
Colorado College, CO

Emily Li
Stony Brook University, NY

Abigail C. Schweizer Lienhard
Wellesley College, MA

Cleo Juan Lynn
Parsons School of Design at The New School, NY

Irene Summer-Sky Madrigal
Barnard College, NY

Alba Kissandra Martinez
Dickinson College, PA

Kyra Leaf Maynard
Sarah Lawrence College, PA

Sierra Alizabeth Meloy-Chapnick
University of California Santa Cruz, CA

Donald Michael Minerva Santora
Northeastern University, MA

Nicole J. Neil
Columbia University, NY

Oliver Orman
University of Guelph, Canada

Jacob Pellett
Goucher College, MD

Matthew Pinnock
Pace University, NY

Zoe Rabinowitz
Wesleyan University, CT

Aaron Eric Rice
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, NY

Alyssa Rios
Muhlenberg College, PA

Mae L. Ryan
Dickinson College, PA

Isabella Raenko Rykoff
Wesleyan University, CT

Maëlle Tamera Sannon
Amherst College, MA

Elden Felix Santana
Lawrence University, MA

Balthazar David Saunders
Undecided

Abigail Rose Sears Mauro
Syracuse University, NY

King Joseph Snider
Beloit College, WI

Isabella M. Solimine
Wesleyan University, CT

Sophia Chase Sondey
Amherst College, MA

Shailee Sran
Barnard College, NY

Chigozirim Cassandra Stanley
Northeastern University, MA

Benjamin Z. Steckel
Skidmore College, NY

Philip H. Steckel
New York University, NY

Hope R. Swetow
Colgate University, NY

Miguel Tejada
Wesleyan University, CT

Caroline P. Tuck
Scripps College, CA

Sol Rey Vashez
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, AZ

Justin R. Walker
Cornell University, NY

Sean Andrew Wiesner
Cornell University, NY

Luca Ray Yang
Parsons School of Design at The New School, NY

In Memoriam, Aidan Cameron Silitch

athletics highlights spring 2020





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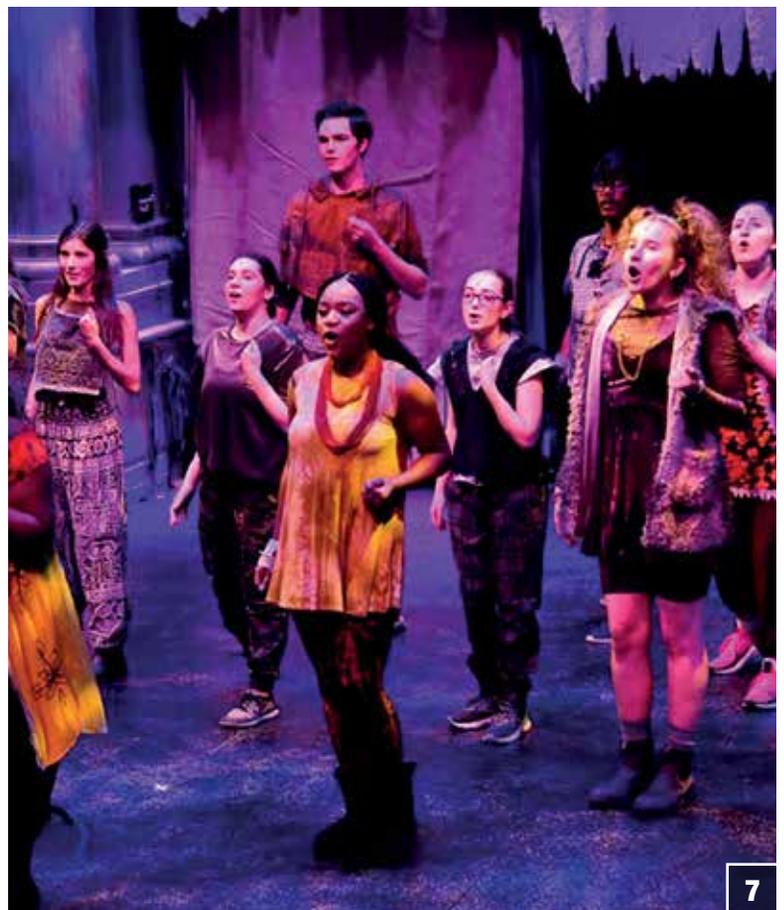
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1. **Varsity Cross Country** had a strong season led by eight seniors. The Girls took second place at the ACIS Championship meet and the Boys took fourth overall.
2. **Girls Varsity Soccer** had a great season led this year by senior captain Hallie Hayne '20.
3. **Girls Varsity Basketball** had a successful season capped off by earning an #8 seed in the AAIS playoffs and making it to the semifinals.
4. **Boys Varsity Soccer** had an historic season winning the 2019 ACIS and Playoff Championships before falling in the quarterfinals of the NYSAIS State Tournament.
5. **Girls Varsity Volleyball** had a remarkable season that saw them make a run in both the AAIS and ACIS playoffs.
6. **Boys Varsity Basketball** qualified for the NYSAIS State Tournament, a mark shared by only 4 other schools in New York State, defeating Brooklyn Friends School in the opening round before falling in the quarterfinals to Friends Seminary.
7. **Varsity Swimming** finished a strong season by setting a number of personal records and a school record in the league championships.

To keep up with all of BC's athletics teams, follow us on Instagram!

 @berkeleycarrollathletics

arts highlights spring 2020





1. 15 **Middle and Upper School jazz musicians** were selected to play in the Independent School Music Association of New York City's annual Jazz Honor Band concert, and were featured in a big band led by Steve Wilson, world class alto saxophonist and director of the City College of New York's Jazz program.

2. Students in Ms. Garcia's **Kindergarten** class had their artwork displayed at Columbia University Teachers College in a special exhibit on the themes of exploration and kindness.

3. Audiences were kept guessing about who did it during the **Upper School** fall production of *Clue*.

4. Singers in the **Upper School Choirs** had the chance to work with internationally renowned musician and world-class oud player Mohamed Alsiadi for a Syrian Music Master Class for their performance of a traditional Syrian folk song during the winter Choral Concert.

5. They may have been at home, but BC dancers still danced during the annual **Middle School and Upper School Spring Dance Concert**.

6. After working with Upper School students to learn about shadow puppets and narrative storytelling, **Middle School theater students** reimagined their spring production of *The Odyssey: A Journey Home* for remote learning with help from their families, pets, and their own creative minds to make 22 short films following the adventures of Odysseus.

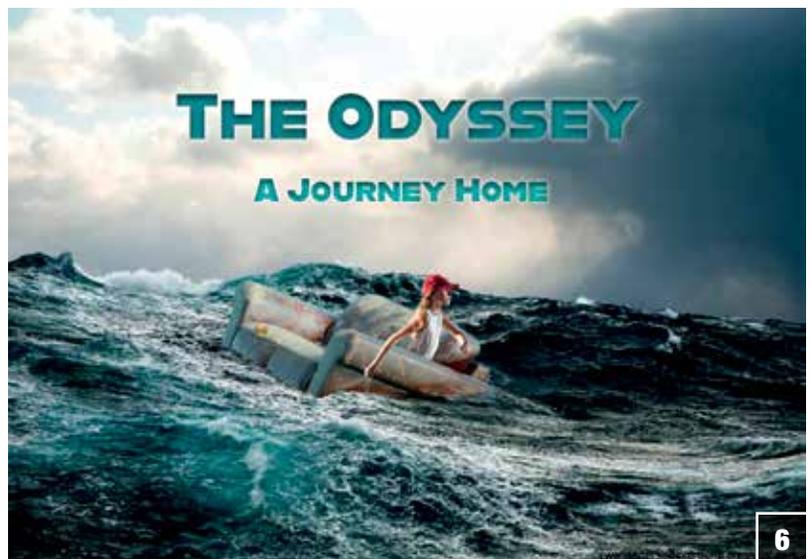
7. The **Upper School** put on a magical production of *Pippin* for their spring musical.

8. This year's **All School Winter Concert** was a huge success with great performances from our Fourth Grade Chorus, Upper School Orchestra, Philharmonia, Choir and Jazz Band.

To keep up with BC's Arts Department, follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

 @berkeleycarrollartsdepartment

 @berkeleycarrollarts





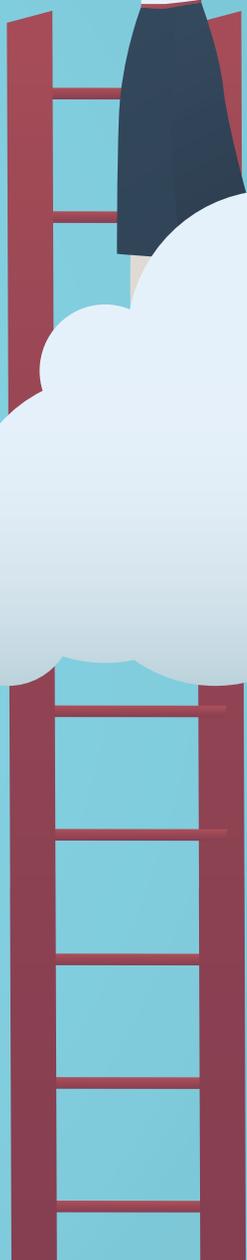
BEYOND BC

FROM HOLLYWOOD TO THE OVAL OFFICE, A NEW GENERATION OF BERKELEY CARROLL ALUMNI ARE MAKING THEIR MARK ON THE WORLD.

By Andrew Bauld

The mission of Berkeley Carroll is to foster critical, ethical and global thinkers, preparing students to become leaders in an increasingly complex and changing world. Now, a new generation of graduates are putting those principles into action.





From winning a Pulitzer Prize covering the White House to running for political office in New York City, researching the very first creatures to walk the Earth for the National Science Foundation to helping create some of the unimaginable monsters for the hit Netflix series Stranger Things, meet some of our recent alums who are making their mark on the world beyond BC in a myriad of professions.

UNCOVERING REAL-LIFE SEA MONSTERS

Caleb Gordon '14 remembers some of his happiest days as a kid spent at the aquarium or on seashores. In particular, he loved imagining some of the monsters that might live just beneath the waves.

It was this passion that led him to study evolutionary biology as an undergraduate at Bowdoin College and to his current work as a Ph.D. candidate at Yale University researching the evolution of ancient marine reptiles. This past spring, Gordon was named one of just eight paleontology students in the United States to receive a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

The story of how the first reptiles conquered the ocean to

eventually become some of the largest carnivores ever to walk the Earth has perfectly combined his two loves.

“By studying the biology of ancient marine reptiles, I get to read and tell the story of incredible, real-life monsters that actually once lived in the world's oceans, like whales and dolphins do today.”

At BC, Gordon first began to learn how science works and discovered his enjoyment of research through courses like Advanced Topics in Biology and the three-year Science Research and Design (SRD) program.

“SRD taught me how to read and distill work in peer-reviewed journals, design experiments, and contact experts in the field,” he says. “I honestly can't thank my BC science



Caleb Gordon '14

Rebecca Ballhaus '09



Crystal Hudson '01



teachers enough for this program.”

Gordon also credits his experience at BC learning how to write at a college level, and how to write about biology for scientists and non-scientists alike. Despite all his achievements in the field, he still maintains a wonder for the ocean he had as a child.

“Every now and then it hits me how incredible it is that I get to study these animals for a living. It’s like diving into an ancient world. When the data collection is done and the story of a particular specimen or project comes together, it can be very immersive.”

FROM THE BC BLOTTER TO A PULITZER PRIZE

Even before **Rebecca Ballhaus ’09** won a Pulitzer Prize as part of a team covering the White House for the Wall Street Journal, she was already in love with journalism. When she arrived at Lincoln Place she launched her own newspaper in Middle School, and in 9th grade she immediately joined the staff of the Upper School’s paper, the BC Blotter.

After BC, Ballhaus studied political science at Brown University, where she joined the student paper, covering local politics and eventually becoming editor-in-chief. Less than a week after graduating, she started an internship with the Wall Street Journal, where she’s now a White House reporter.

“It was initially nerve-wracking to be surrounded by all these impressive journalists right out of college who had been covering Washington and politics for decades, but it was a really welcoming office, and they let me do a lot right off the bat.”

Since joining the Journal in 2013, Ballhaus has covered campaign finance and the White House, and appeared as a political analyst for NPR, MSNBC, and CNN. In 2019, she was part of the team that received a Pulitzer Prize for the paper’s coverage of the Trump administration. While the work can be exhausting, she says being a journalist is well worth the challenges.

“There are a lot of hours but it’s the most rewarding job I’ve had because the people are the most engaged. My friends, who aren’t super into politics, are reading my stories

and asking me about them, and that’s been a really fun aspect of the job.”

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR NEW YORKERS IN NEED

Political office wasn’t necessarily a career **Crystal Hudson ’01** envisioned for herself as a high schooler. After graduating from BC, the Brooklyn native went to Spelman College in Atlanta and then studied sports management at the George Washington School of Business in Washington, D.C.

More than a decade into her career in advertising and marketing, working for the likes of the WNBA and NBA, Hudson realized she missed having a more direct impact on her community. When her mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, she returned to Brooklyn to help with her care and realized the difficulties New Yorkers caring for

family members faced getting information about available services and programs.

“Navigating bureaucratic systems and gathering information for my mother was challenging. I believed there had to be a way to make this easier for people going through similar experiences, and I decided I could do that by getting into public service,” she says.

After working for New York City Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, Hudson became the First Deputy

Public Advocate for Community Engagement in the New York City Public Advocate’s office. There, she learned firsthand how city government runs, and the fight over issues like environmental justice, housing equity, and educational opportunities.

Now, Hudson is hoping to take her experience advocating for New Yorkers to the next level as a candidate for the New York City Council’s 35th District, representing Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, Crown Heights, Prospect Heights, and Bedford Stuyvesant. As a 3rd-generation Brooklynite, she says it is particularly important to ensure more voices are heard on the council, and to expand Black, female, and LGBTQ+ representation.

“I do feel called to this work,” Hudson says. “Life

“I do feel called to this work. Life experience and circumstances have put me here and I think representation matters. I’m here to show all the folks who look like me and never thought about running for office or switching careers that all things are possible.”

– Crystal Hudson ’01

experience and circumstances have put me here and I think representation matters. I'm here to show all the folks who look like me and never thought about running for office or switching careers that all things are possible."

BRINGING THEIR STORIES TO THE BIG SCREEN

Becoming a showrunner's assistant on the hit Netflix series *Stranger Things* a few years after graduating college was a dream come true for **Megan Gilbert '10**. It was at BC when she realized her passion for storytelling could be something more than just a pastime.

"I took a course on film and video as my art credit every semester," Gilbert says. "I grew up watching a ton of movies with my dad, but it was in those classes I realized people make movies for a career and it was something I could actually do."

After graduating from Boston University with a degree in film, Gilbert now lives in Los Angeles. In addition to her work on the upcoming season of *Stranger Things*, she is also writing a script for a project of her own, inspired by Alfred Hitchcock and the horror films she watched with her dad as a teenager growing up in Brooklyn.

When it comes to breaking into the industry, Gilbert says staying true to yourself has proved the most important thing. "Don't worry about what will sell. If you're passionate and it's in your own voice, your writing will always come out better."

That proved to be the case for **Aaron Fisher '06**. Fisher always knew he wanted to direct films, starting with the homemade movies he made with friends. But when it came to his first feature film, he wasn't just behind the camera, but also on the screen.

Writing, directing, and starring in *Inside the Rain*, the award-winning movie is a fictional story of a film student who finds himself kicked out of college, and, for part of the storyline, Fisher drew on his own experiences living with bipolar disorder.

"I had no idea this would be the main angle, but it became more and more autobiographical as I worked on it. The story flowed organically and it really just took off," he says.

Inside the Rain was named Winner of the Best Feature Film at the 2019 Big Apple Film Festival and officially made its debut on NBC's Peacock TV in July. Besides the critical accolades, Fisher says writing the film and sharing what it is like to live with bipolar disorder proved a therapeutic experience. The reaction from fans for the honest portrayal of mental health has also been immensely rewarding for the young filmmaker.

"People who have family members who are bipolar or are bipolar themselves thank me and tell me how important it is to show the world what it's like to be bipolar."

THE DREAM OF A NOVEL BECOMES A REALITY

As a student at BC, **Elisabeth Thomas '06** was already imagining about how she would balance her future writing career with everything else she wanted to do in her life.

That dream became a reality this year with the

publication of Thomas' debut novel, *Catherine House*, a gothic-infused literary suspense tale that she began writing shortly after graduating from Yale University. The story is inspired by her own time as an undergraduate as well as some of her favorite books from childhood.

"I wanted to write something that I really would have loved as a young girl and that I would also love as an adult," Thomas says.

"Something that played

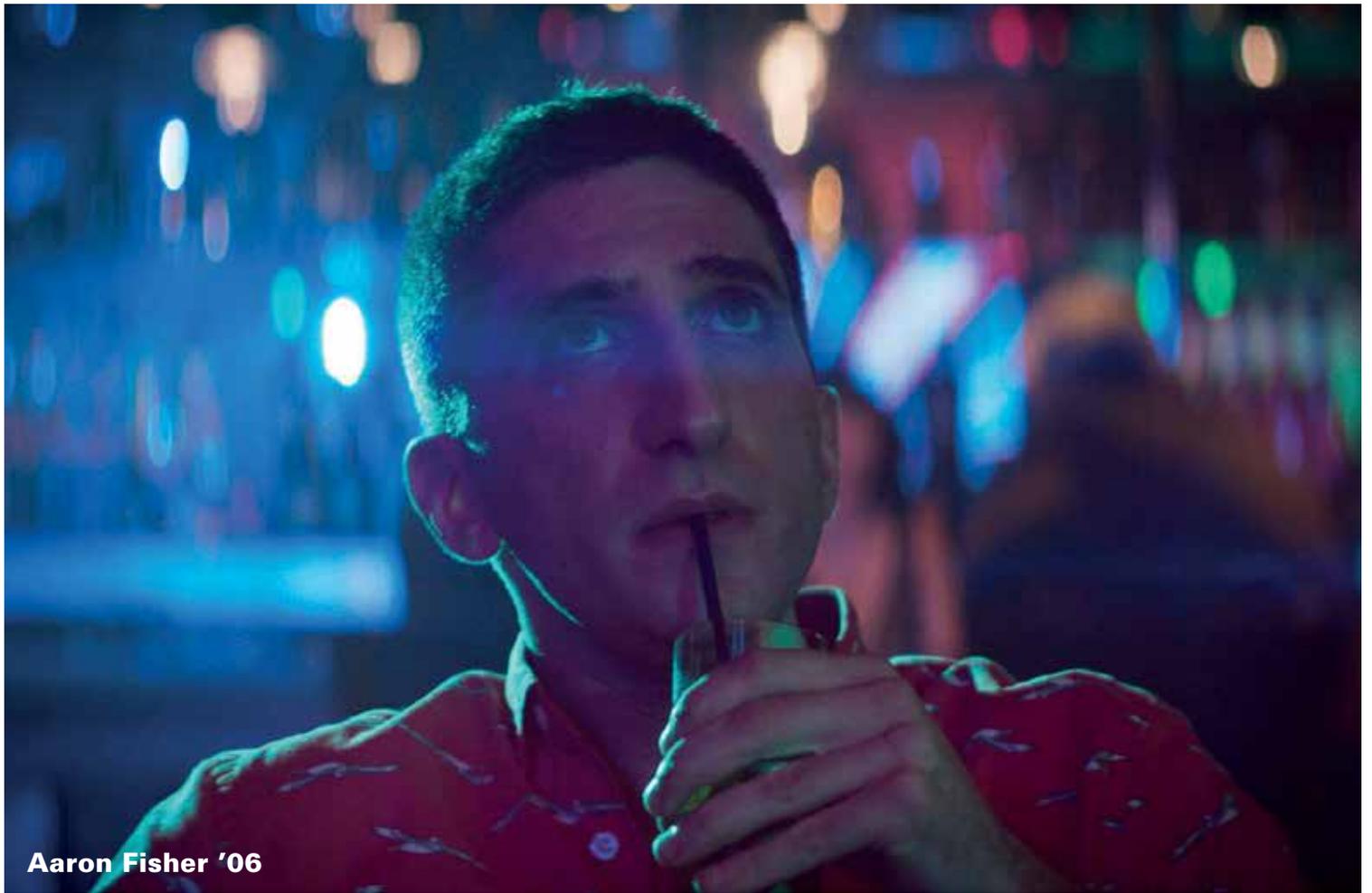
with those tropes I loved as a little girl, those kind of haunted house stories, like *Jane Eyre* and *Rebecca*."

Combining those romantic gothic stories she loved with a modern twist, Thomas wrote *Catherine House* while also working a full time job as a museum archivist at The Museum of Modern Art in New York City. She says the hardest part was finding the discipline to write everyday, even if just for a few hours after coming home at the end of a long workday. Already on to her next novel, Thomas says publication and praise has been nice, but the real joy for her comes from the writing itself.

"The most enjoyable part is during the writing when it's going well. I think if I didn't like the day-to-day work of it, I'd be done, because that takes way more work than the time it takes to receive a compliment."

"I took a course on film and video as my art credit every semester. I grew up watching a ton of movies with my dad, but it was in those classes I realized people make movies for a career and it was something I could actually do."

— Megan Gilbert '10



Aaron Fisher '06



Megan Gilbert '10



Elisabeth Thomas '06





BC lens

Middle School Students Light Up The Stage

The **Middle School theater department** wowed audiences with their production of the musical *Fame, Jr.* Based on the hit motion picture, television series, and stage show, *Fame, Jr.* is set during the last years of NYC's celebrated High School of Performing Arts, and Middle School students put all their energy into bring the coming-of-age story to life.

IN *RESPONSE* TO THESE *TIMES*

As this issue of BC Magazine went to press, the June 2020 Black Lives Matter protests were sparking the beginning of cultural, legal, and societal changes to confront systemic racism present in our country, the world, and our school. Below, we share a letter BC Head of School Dr. Lisa Yvette Waller sent to our community on July 3rd which reflects on the movement and BC's next steps in anti-racist work.

Since June, I have been in conversation with Black students and alumni about the racism that they have experienced at Berkeley Carroll as well as the broader context of anti-Blackness in the nation at large. Some of these discussions have also included non-Black Students of Color. We have shared ideas about proactive means of addressing structural and interpersonal racism, speaking to preventative work as well as appropriate responses to racist behavior in our community.

Note: After this issue went to press, Dr. Waller sent the BC community a detailed update on the school's antiracist work which can be read at www.berkeleycarroll.org/antiracist.



MOST RECENTLY, following publication of the @BlackatBC and the @LGBTQatBC Instagrams, a group of our alumni and current students have created a list of Action Items intended “to encourage positive change and accountability within our community.” We are committed to promoting an anti-racist environment at Berkeley Carroll that is supportive of Black students. It bears noting that such an environment is in keeping with the stated aspirations of our school and would benefit our entire community. We must work to ensure that students and adults across all races, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities feel respected and supported at school.

I appreciate the effort that alumni and students have put into the Action Item document; it is thorough and I have taken the time to review it carefully with my colleagues and other members of the Berkeley Carroll community, and hope also to discuss the document with its authors. A number of the proposals dovetail with efforts that have already been underway. For example:

- Our psychology team now includes two colleagues of color who were hired in the spring of 2019 and in March of 2020. They offer expertise in a variety of areas including culturally competent and trauma-informed support for Students of Color and LGBTQ students.
- Hiring protocols have been revised twice in the past five years to reduce bias in the hiring process while attracting faculty and staff who represent a variety of identities and perspectives and who also have demonstrated involvement in diversity, equity, and inclusion work.
- With Board support, staffing in the Office of Equity and Inclusion will increase in the coming school year so that our reach and capacity in this area allow us to better serve our multifaceted community of students, parents, guardians, and colleagues.
- Berkeley Carroll’s Policy on *Hate Speech and Biased Behavior*, developed in the spring of 2019 and cited in the 2019-20 Student-Family Handbook, expressly prohibits the use of slurs and epithets based on identities including race, color, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ability, and religion. This policy applies to both academic and informal settings.
- We are moving forward with the Upper School sequence of study that I proposed prior to the end of the 2019-20 school year. The preliminary course titles are: *Race and Racism in the United States: The Theoretical and Practical Foundations of State Sponsored White Supremacy*; *Social Organizing and Social Movements in the United States: Theory and Practice*; and *Generative Conversations and Coalition Building*. A course focused on identity development and empathy through reflection and engagement with societal systems is being developed for Middle School. Additionally, we will pursue the through lines that these courses for older students share with the Lower School and Health and Human Sexuality Curriculum and the Anti-Racist Curriculum that was launched in the Lower School last year.
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-themed professional development and programming for faculty, staff, students, parents, and guardians has been ongoing; however, we will additionally require anti-racist professional development on an annual basis for faculty and staff during the 2020-21 school year while expanding anti-racist programming for students and families across all three divisions.
- The invitation to convene a mandatory school meeting during which racism and anti-racism are defined and applied to the Berkeley Carroll context is one that I eagerly accept.

Beginning this summer and continuing into the 2020-21 school year, the administrative team will undertake additional initiatives suggested in the Action Items document along with others that were already under consideration. Toward fulfilling our goals, committees focused on curriculum, programming, professional development, and improving school and community accountability will help to drive this work. Additionally, a task force with representatives from various constituencies in our community will be formed to help to assess our efforts to strengthen current practice and drive additional change across the areas highlighted above.

In the coming weeks, in addition to the existing option of voicing their concerns directly to an administrator or other school representative, students, parents, guardians, faculty, and staff will have a new option of using a digital form to forward concerns and complaints regarding racist, transphobic, homophobic, and other biased behaviors. This form will go directly to the Head of School; Division Directors; and the Director of Equity and Inclusion. Individuals who submit the form will receive confirmation that the matter is being pursued. As determined by the division in question, the Upper School Dean of Student Life, Middle School Dean of Students, or Lower School Assistant Directors and Divisional Equity and Inclusion Representatives will also receive the form. A trusted adult in the community can fill out the form on a student's behalf if the student prefers. Similarly, upstanders who witness inappropriate behavior may submit a form.

“We are committed to promoting an anti-racist environment at Berkeley Carroll that is supportive of Black students. We must work to ensure that students and adults across all races, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, and gender identities feel respected and supported at school.”

Part of the summer and early fall's work will be examining and further developing a method of documenting complaints, engendering follow up, and tracking progress while promoting accountability and upholding the opportunity for those who have a concern and those who fall under scrutiny to participate in a fairly adjudicated process. The administration affirms the support for reconciliation and restorative justice referenced in the Action Items and will provide training to students, faculty, and staff involved in this process.

I will continue meeting with members of our community, including students, alumni, parents, guardians, faculty, and staff, as well as members of the Board's Community and Inclusion Task Force, the Parents Association's Mosaic Committee, and the School Culture and Equity Council among other groups. These conversations will help to inform our planning and additional details will be forthcoming as our efforts progress.

As I have noted previously, the work before us will present challenges. Berkeley Carroll is situated within a nation that has not reckoned with the historic and contemporary anti-Blackness codified in its foundational documents, borne in its history, and rife in its present. There are structural and conceptual flaws that have compromised equity initiatives in our private and public schools. Notwithstanding these impediments, Berkeley Carroll is called to do more and to do better. We all have the capacity to grow and to deepen our commitment to this work. Across generational lines and myriad identities, both at home and in school, we must ask ourselves how best to model the integrity, rigor, grace, and empathy that foster a just and supportive learning environment. We must accelerate learning, cultivate engagement, and nurture hope; these combined efforts promise to enhance our capacity both to envision and to create substantive and lasting change.

BC lens

Gold Medal Winning Paralympian Inspires Kindergarteners

Kindergarteners were so excited to meet gold medal-winning Paralympic swimmer Rudy Garcia-Tolson. Despite 15 operations as a child that led to the removal of both his legs, Mr. Garcia-Tolson never gave up on his love for swimming and went on to break records in three Paralympic Games. Students had the chance to ask questions and even try on his gold and silver medals, and left with Mr. Garcia-Tolson's encouragement to say "Yes, I can!" whenever they are faced with a challenge.





NIKE

NAME TAG

CHALLENGED ATHLETES
CAF
FOUNDATION

FIRE
EXIT

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THE CHOICES WE MAKE: THE HOLOCAUST AND HUMAN BEHAVIOR

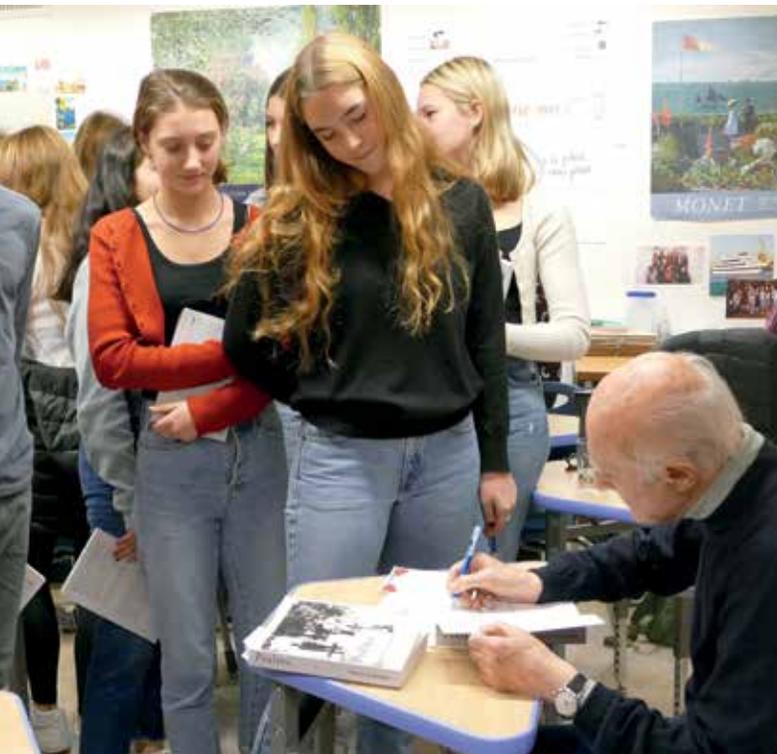
UPPER SCHOOL STUDENTS GRAPPLE WITH THE PAST AND THE FUTURE IN HISTORY COURSE

By Andrew Bauld

Growing up in Holland, Upper School teacher Ernestine Heldring felt the history of the Holocaust all around her. The Second World War was a part of nearly everyone's personal story, including her own, growing up with grandparents who were part of the Dutch resistance during the war and helped shelter nearly a dozen Dutch Jews from the Nazis.

Ms. Heldring says hearing those stories firsthand as a teenager, and even meeting one of the individuals who hid in her grandparent's home, inspired her to study history and become a teacher. It's fitting that she now guides one of Berkeley Carroll's longest-standing Upper School electives, "Holocaust and Human Behavior."

The class has been taught at BC for nearly 15 years and was designed and led for many years by acclaimed longtime history teacher Dr. Marvin Pollock. The inspiration for the course came from "Facing History and Ourselves," an education nonprofit that has introduced tens of thousands of students around the world to critical questions about what it means to be human and connects choices made in the past to those they will confront in their own lives.



Dr. Pollock says confronting atrocities from the Holocaust and throughout history left an indelible mark on students.

“The Holocaust is a historical case study of human behavior,” Dr. Pollock says. “How do humans behave under stress? What kinds of choices do they make? I was always asking the kids, would you just stand by? I always wanted to make it relevant.”

When Dr. Pollock retired from teaching at the end of the 2018 school year, Ms. Heldring jumped at the chance to continue the course.

“This topic is why I wanted to become a teacher in the first place,” Ms. Heldring says. “Only twenty years ago anti-semitism was often being taught as something in the distant past; now, unfortunately, it feels so urgent and relevant.”

Students learn about the Holocaust through texts, but what makes the course unique and particularly powerful is the chance to hear the stories firsthand from Holocaust survivors and feel the emotions behind the history.

“For young people to listen to 80-and-90-year-old

people and value their experiences and their stories, it’s a gift they are receiving, while they are also providing an audience. It’s a powerful and moving experience,” says Ms. Heldring.

From 91-year-old Hirsch Grunstein describing his capture and dramatic escape during the Nazi occupation of Belgium to BC grandparent Sally Frishberg who was one of only a dozen Jewish citizens from her village in Poland to survive the war, these class visits have had the most profound impact on students.

“It can be hard to wrap one’s head around the fact that each and every one of those millions of Holocaust victims had their own stories and lives,” says Joseph Gordon ’22. “Mr. Grunstein’s moving story and testimony really cemented that idea for me, and I feel extremely lucky and honored to have had the opportunity to hear from him.”

Beyond reflecting on the past, the course also pushes students to confront the present and future. Students use their understanding of the Holocaust to look at other genocides through history including in Armenia, Rwanda, and Darfur, and to think about larger questions of justice and healing.

“The central question of the class is ‘How does learning about the choices people made in the past impact choices today?’” says Ms. Heldring. “Students are thinking about decision making and their own vulnerabilities, and recognizing that it’s not easy going from being a bystander to an upstander.”

“It really gave me some faith in humanity. With everything going on in the world it can be hard to remember that one person can make a huge difference. I believe now more than ever that the things I do can really have an effect.”

– Sophie Gould ’21

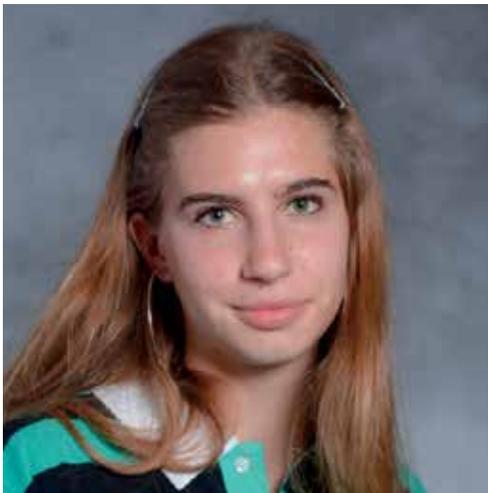
“It’s still urgent to learn about today,” says Dr. Pollock. “We’ve got refugees, people waiting on the border, and the rise of authoritarianism. If you look at some of the language used then, we’re hearing the same things today. There are endless connections.”

Despite the overwhelming horrors they are studying, the small stories of human compassion and bravery

have left students with a sense of hope.

“It really gave me some faith in humanity,” says Sophie Gould ’21. “With everything going on in the world it can be hard to remember that one person can make a huge difference. I believe now more than ever that the things I do can really have an effect.”

20



20

SENIOR SCHOLARS 2020

Berkeley Carroll's Senior Scholars program prepares 12th graders to be responsible researchers, inquisitive citizens, and dynamic writers. This selective and demanding program is designed for students who are interested in pursuing serious scholarly work in the humanities.

In May, ten seniors presented the findings of their year-long independent research through both a formal written paper and public oral presentation on a range of topics including American Indian boarding schools, dystopian literature, and the horseracing industry's role in social injustice.

JULIAN ANSORGE '20

Resistance and Revolution: Poetry in the Trump Era

RENATA BOURIN '20

Sometimes Anime IS Better!: LGBT+ Representation in Anime vs. American TV

SARAH CRYAN '20

Equines and Evil: the Horseracing Industry's Hidden Critical Role in Social Injustice

COLETTE DRINKARD '20

Hysterical Power: The Fox Sisters, Mary Eddy, and Madame Blavatsky Elude the Patriarchy

JORDAN HICKSON '20

The Dangers of Religious Justification: How the Dutch Reformed Church Has Upheld Systems of Oppression in South Africa

EVIE LEVY '20

Can *Brave New World* Save Us from Ourselves? The Activism Factor of Dystopian Literature

JAKE PELLETT '20

Uncle Sam's (Not So) Secret Superpower: The Role of Comic Book Superheroes in the American Propaganda Strategy

ISABELLA RYKOFF '20

The Rise of Soviet Avant-Garde in Vitebsk

IRENE MADRIGAL '20

Equity or Equality: How Universal is New York City's Pre-K For All Program?

SIERRA MELOY-CHAPNICK '20

Assimilation or Eradication: The Creation, Implementation and Reform of American Indian Boarding Schools



SCIENCE RESEARCH AND DESIGN 2020

The fascination with why humans do the things they do is universal – and it’s a theme almost all of the senior student scientists in our Science Research & Design program built on this year, from how humans process emotion through the senses to the very meaning of humanity in the form of a computer program.

WHAT IS SCIENCE RESEARCH & DESIGN?

In the highly selective, three-year Science Research & Design (SRD) program, 10th-12th grade students conduct original scientific research and become experts in a field of study, writing their own essential questions and gaining a deep understanding of the dynamic, evolving nature of science.

The goal of the program is for students to experience scientific research as scientists do.



RESEARCH TOPICS

Humans and Emotion

SOPHIA SONDEY '20

Emotional Response to Fragrance Smell and Marketing—Using Heart Rate and Self-Reported Questions to Measure Gender Differences in Physiological and Psychological Impact

PHOEBE DEGN '20

The Effects of Music on Stress in Adolescents

Humans and Memory

ZOE RABINOWITZ '20

The Effect of Musical Training on Verbal Memory in Seventh and Eleventh Graders at Berkeley Carroll

BELLA SOLIMINE '20

Accuracy of Memory Recall and Formation of False Memories in Eyewitness Testimonies

Humans and Sleep

HOPE SWETOW '20

The Significance of the Dreaming: A Case Study Examining the Dreams of 13 High School Students

LUCA BRODER '20

The Effect of Screen Usage on Sleep Quantity of Adolescents

Humans and Technology

ZACK ASHEN '20

Computational Methods in Intelligent Computing

The Science of Plants

DONALD MINERVA '20

Difference in Growth of Romaine Lettuce Plants: Hydroponics vs. Aeroponics



BC lens

BC Students Strike for Climate Action

BC Middle and Upper School students joined with other youth climate activists around the world as part of the global climate strike. Students made signs and then traveled over the Brooklyn Bridge to Foley Square to add their voices along with millions of others at 2,500 events in over 150 countries in the call for climate justice. Lower School students also showed their support with signs and a march of their own around Carroll Street.





SCHOOL
STRIKE 4
CLIMATE

KILL amazon
NOT THE AMAZON

EARTH

OUR C...

ING OUT

SPRING INTENSIVES

2 WEEKS, 19 OPTIONS

FOR 1 IMMERSIVE COURSE

Beyond the regular curriculum, BC's two-week Spring Intensives provide a chance for Upper School students to drop regularly scheduled courses to take a deep-dive into a specialized topic they are passionate about. Faculty get a chance to show their interests through a variety of topic areas, emphasizing thoughtful comprehension over content coverage. And even though our global academic students were unable to travel abroad this year, they still found ways to immerse themselves into another culture and virtually connect with peers abroad.

Here's what students studied in 2020:

- » The Aesthetics of Blackness: Black Pop Cultural History
- » Beyond 9 to 5: The Modern Working World
- » Broadcasting: Neighborhoods in Transition
- » Conscious Cuisine
- » The Devil Designs Prada?: Behind the Scenes in the Design Industry
- » The Epic Adventure of Devised Theater: Reinventing The Odyssey
- » Evolution of Hip Hop: From Social Justice to Pop Culture
- » Illuminated Manuscripts: Manuscript Culture from the Sacred to the Satanic
- » Marine Science: Current Research and Innovative Solutions for Today's Challenges
- » The Melting Pot and The Salad Bowl: Food and the History of Immigration in New York City
- » Ornithology 101: The Pigeon and Beyond
- » Poetry and Performance
- » Politics in America: The 2020 Elections and Beyond
- » What is a Photograph? Beyond Basic Photography
- » Woodworking in the Studio
- » Granada, Spain
- » Cap-D'ail, France
- » India
- » The US South Since Reconstruction



Illuminated Manuscripts: Manuscript Culture from the Sacred to the Satanic exploring the production and the vibrant history of these literary and artistic works.



What Is A Photograph - Beyond Basic Photography investigating the changing artistic techniques of film and digital photography.



Woodworking in the Studio using basic woodworking techniques to design and build their own furniture.



The US South Since Reconstruction journeying through historic Civil Rights landmarks in the American South from Selma to New Orleans to Memphis.



The Aesthetics of Blackness: Black Pop Cultural History visiting Washington, D.C., to examine the roots and impact of popular Black culture.



Broadcasting: Neighborhoods in Transition recording podcasts to share their research into gentrification and development in Brooklyn.

THE BENEFIT FOR BERKELEY CARROLL: BACK IN BROOKLYN





The Benefit for Berkeley Carroll on March 6th was a memorable evening for the school community. Trustees, parents, alumni, faculty, and friends came together at the Brooklyn Museum to celebrate Berkeley Carroll and raise money for the school's programs. Class art projects, as well as experiences and items donated by school families, encouraged generous bidding and some friendly competition. Wonderful food and a great DJ rounded out the night.



A special thank you to our co-chairs, Lillian Chege, Stacey Gomez, Kate Hosford and Karen Synesael for their leadership and dedication, and to Kerstin Krall Walz, for expertly hosting the champagne tasting.

class notes



Courtney Roach '12



Elliot Tucker-Drob '00



Helen Ogbara Reeves '01

1940s
Ann Coffeen Turner '48 moved to New Hampshire after retiring at 87 from Gill St. Bernard's School in New Jersey.

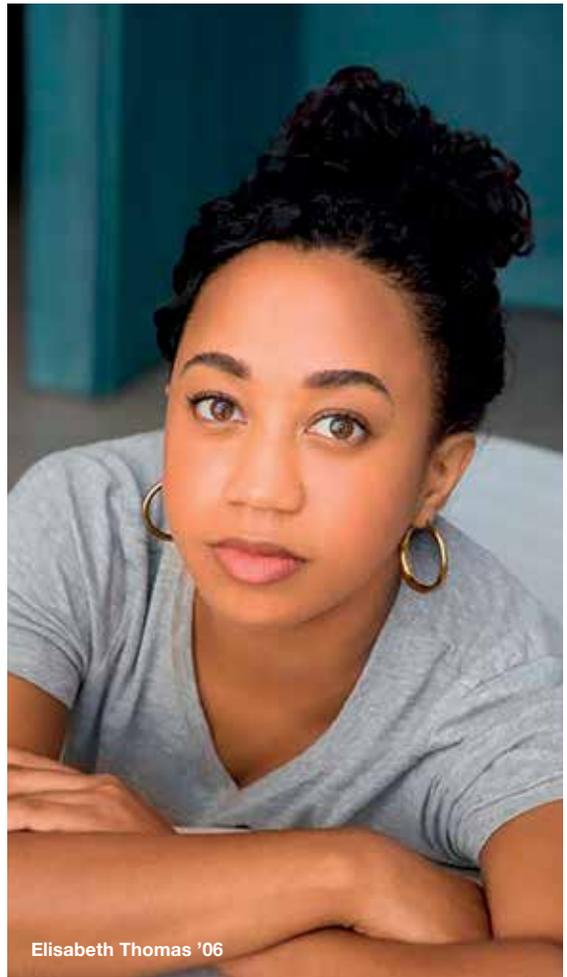
1950s
Nina Gralnick Primer '59 writes: "Proud of my grandson's graduation from University of Delaware. Steven Hartog has been a First Responder as EMT during the COVID-19 Pandemic of 2020. At the age of 21 he became a bone marrow donor as a result of a cheek swab match. He's a 'mensch'! Best regards to my classmates, and all students and staff."

1970s
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Simurro, Jr. '75 writes: "The last several years have been a blur of activity. Moved to Upstate New York from Brooklyn in 2016 after retiring from teaching chemistry and within a year took a part time Lutheran parish, became the dean of congregations in four counties, was appointed to the bishop's staff and tend almost nine acres of rural land as I become a gentleman farmer (raising mostly weeds and chasing woodchucks). This is about as un-Brooklyn-like as my wife and I can imagine, but we love it. Hope to see my classmates next year at our 45th!"

1990s
Featured in *The New York Times*, **Conor Gately '98** has been leading a project to create the most detailed map of carbon emissions from cars in America. Gately, who holds a PhD in Geography & Environment from Boston University and recently did postdoctoral work at Harvard, has worked to map the greenhouse gas emissions from driving on America's roads over the past three decades, helping to highlight the need for big changes in American cities.



Clarke Rosenthal '06



Elisabeth Thomas '06

2000s

Elliot Tucker-Drob '00 was awarded the Max Planck-Humboldt Medal in Berlin on November 5 for his achievements in the fields of development psychology, aging, and behavioral genetics. The prestigious Max Planck-Humboldt Medal is awarded to extraordinary scientists with outstanding future potential and includes research funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Dr. Tucker-Drob is an Associate Professor of Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin where he is also the Director of the Lifespan Development Lab.

Helen Ogbara Reeves '01 was named a 2019 New York Law Journal Rising Star. The award recognizes the region's 31 most promising lawyers under 40. A graduate of Harvard College and Columbia Law School, Ms. Reeves is Venture Technology and Emerging Growth Companies counsel at Denton's, the world's largest law firm and was recognized for her work advising startups and growth-stage companies along with her efforts representing diverse venture capitalists, founders, and entrepreneurs.

Clarke Rosenthal '06, former Assistant District Attorney at the Bronx County District Attorney's Office, currently employed at a private medical

malpractice firm, McAloon & Friedman, PC, married Michael Eisenstein, a 7-time Emmy winner and Associate Director and Senior Associate Producer at NBC Sports, on Sunday May 24, 2020.

Also in attendance were BC alum **Chandler Rosenthal '10**, a graduate of Yale '14, who has been pursuing an acting career and made her television debut on Netflix in *Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt: Kimmy vs The Reverend*; BC alum **August Rosenthal '13**, who just finished his first year of law school at University of Texas Austin; and proud BC parents Dr David Rosenthal, MD, and Nancy Rosenthal, aka Nurse Nancy, BC's Middle and Upper School nurse since 2005.

class notes



Miranda Cornell '15



Jona Inniss '19



Sara Tobias '18

Congratulations to **Elisabeth Thomas '06** on her debut novel with Harper Collins entitled *Catherine House*. A gothic-infused literary suspense tale that was inspired in part by her love of great fiction such as *Jane Eyre* and *Bluebeard*, it also draws from her time as an undergraduate at Yale University.

2010s
Courtney Roach '12, Trinity '16, was named one of the "50 for the Next 50" honorees by Trinity College.

Members of the Trinity community nominated women to honor those who have had and will have a lasting impact on the future of Trinity College. Courtney is currently a Senior Assistant Director of Admissions at Trinity and was celebrated along with the other honorees in the spring as part of "Women at the Summit," a commemoration of the 50th anniversary of coeducation at Trinity.

Caleb Gordon '14 was awarded a Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation.

Caleb is earning his PhD in Marine Paleobiology at Yale, and was one of eight Paleontology students in the United States to receive the award this year. The fellowship will support Caleb's research on the developmental evolution of the limb in aquatic reptiles.

Miranda Cornell '15 was selected for a 2020 Van Lier Fellowship through the Asian American Arts Alliance. Miranda is a theater director and educator, and was selected by the fellowship committee for her exceptional talent as a director who



Chandler Rosenthal '10



Conor Gately '98



Caleb Gordon '14



Kennedy Austin '15

has already shown qualities of being a leader in the field early in her career. The fellowship includes financial support and professional development training and career support.

Kennedy Austin '15 published an essay on how midwives can be a means to address racial disparities in reproductive healthcare. Kennedy is currently a masters degree candidate in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at Columbia's Mailman School of Public Health.

Sara Tobias '18 helped the USA

National Baseball Team win gold last summer. An undergrad at Middlebury College, Sara was a pitcher and outfielder on the 2019 Women's National Team.

Jona Inniss '19 was featured on a segment of National Public Radio's *This American Life*, which is heard by nearly 5 million people each week. Jona and her mom appeared in Act 2 of the episode "We Come From Small Places" to talk about steel pan competition during the Labor Day Carnival and the West Indian American Day Parade in Brooklyn.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

We want to know! Submit your own class notes and photos:

www.berkeleycarroll.org/classnotes

Email: alumni@berkeleycarroll.org

Mail: The Berkeley Carroll School
c/o Alumni Office
152 Sterling Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217

in passing



Betty Nexsen DeVries '39 passed away peacefully at her home in Manhasset, New York, on Saturday, October 19, 2019.

Born on Armistice Day, November 11, 1919, to Randolph Halliday and Maud Klink Nexsen, Betty attended Little Miss Kirk's School, the Berkeley Institute, and Packer Collegiate Institute. At the Juilliard School of Music, Betty studied voice and became an opera singer with numerous solos and roles at the New York City Center.

Betty married her first husband, Edwin Kleine, in May 1944. Edwin served in the Air Force during World War II and he and Betty were based in Rome, NY, where Betty sang in the USO. In 1972, Betty married Walter DeVries in Manhasset, NY.

Betty was always service oriented, volunteering her time and talents in many organizations. She was President of the Manhasset Congregational Church Women's Club, Church Moderator, Deacon and Trustee, President of the Manhasset Community Club, member of P.E.O. Sisterhood

Chapter AW, American Legion Auxiliary, Kiwanis, and Colonial Dames of America.

Betty focused much of her time in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution where she served in many capacities on Chapter, State and National levels. She was a member and a past Chapter Regent of the North Riding Chapter, NSDAR. On the state level, she was NY State Regent, and Honorary State Regent. On the National level, she was a Vice President General and a National Officer as Reporter General.

She is survived by her daughter, Diane Kleine Kuebert and her husband Edward Kuebert of Southport, NC; grandson Brian Kuebert and his wife Whitney Kuebert of Oak Ridge, NC; grandson Kevin Kuebert of Edwards, CO, and two great granddaughters, Caroline Nicole Kuebert and Mary Elizabeth Kuebert, of Oak Ridge, NC.



Gertrude Grace Sill '44 died on Nantucket at the age of 93. An art

historian and author of numerous books, articles, and exhibition catalogs, Sill's most popular work, *A Handbook of Symbols in Christian Art*, was originally published in 1975 and has remained in print ever since. Whether in her classroom at Fairfield University where she taught for twenty years, or in museums and galleries in the U.S. and Europe, her lectures were erudite, witty, and engaging for the professional and amateur alike.

Sill attended Smith College and after graduating in 1948 she moved to Paris for a year, working for *Vogue* magazine as a model and freelance writer, and studying art history at the École du Louvre. Returning to New York in 1949, she took occasional work as a model, and also worked as an editorial assistant for the iconic *Flair* magazine. She met Davis Andrews Sill, a textile salesman, and they were married in 1950. Two years later, they moved to Southport, Connecticut, where Gertrude Sill lived for the next 62 years.

After raising two children, Sill returned to school and earned a Master of Fine Arts degree from Wesleyan University and began her teaching and lecturing career in earnest. Sill served on a number of boards, including those of the Bridgeport Architectural Conservancy, the Bridgeport Symphony, as President of the Westport Community Art Association, and as the first female President and Chairperson of the Board of the Pequot Library in Southport, a position of which she was particularly proud.

She is survived by her son, Andrews Sill; her daughter, Lucinda Morrison; their respective spouses, Joana Miranda and David Morrison; four grandchildren; and two sisters,

in passing

Marea Grace Carroll and Catha Grace Rambusch. Her husband and her sister, Margot Grace Hartmann, predeceased her.

Gertrude Grace Sill will be laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York.

Alice Mecklenburg (Miller) '46 died on December 27th, 2019, having celebrated her 90th birthday on December 14, 2019. She leaves behind three broken-hearted children, Faith, Jonathan and Tim, who were by her side when she died; two grandchildren, Christopher and Margaret; and two very devoted cats, Camilla and Jasper. Ms. Mecklenburg was the valedictorian of the class of 1946.



Dr. J. Elizabeth Pinkston '65 of Staunton, Virginia, died on Sunday, December 1, 2019, from complications of breast cancer, first diagnosed in 2007. She was a pediatrician for many years in both Staunton and

Fishersville. She is survived by her husband of 45 years, James Dungan; her children Amelia Dungan of Düsseldorf, Germany, Jesse Dungan of Vashon, Washington, and Samuel Dungan of Huntington, West Virginia, and their respective spouses, Norbert van Bebber, Meghan Ahearn, and Suzanna Dungan; her grandsons, Walter Dungan and Wilhelm van Bebber; her brother, Russell Pinkston of Austin, Texas; her sister, Lucy Pinkston Schroth of Tucson, Arizona; her nephews, Malcolm Pinkston, Gabriel Dungan, Adrian Dungan, and Vincent Dungan; and her niece, Caroline Pinkston.

Dr. Pinkston (or “Betsy” to her family and friends) was born on August 14, 1947, in Beirut, Lebanon, the eldest child of Dr. James Oliver Pinkston, who was serving at the time as the Dean of the Medical School of the American University in Beirut, and Margaret Fountain Pinkston. When she was three years old, Betsy’s family moved to Brooklyn, NY, where she grew up and attended the Berkeley Institute.

Betsy received a B.A. in History from Mount Holyoke College in 1969. While still in college she was arrested while protesting against the Vietnam War at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. After graduating, she worked for VISTA for a short time before moving to San Francisco, California, where she worked as a long distance telephone operator while living in Haight Ashbury.

After returning to the East Coast from California, she lived in Massachusetts, Vermont, and eventually rural West Virginia with James Dungan. She and James were married in 1974 and Betsy returned

to university to complete her pre-med courses and received a B.S. in Biology from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1977. In 1979, Betsy started Medical School at State University of New York at Upstate in Syracuse, NY, and in 1984, Betsy received her M.D. degree and began her Pediatric Residency at SUNY-Upstate.

In 1987, Betsy served as a pediatrician in the National Health Service Corps in Nassawadox, Virginia. She moved to Staunton, Virginia in 1990, where her mother was a Professor of Chemistry at Mary Baldwin College. Later, she ran her own pediatric practice, and finally joined a group of pediatricians at University of Virginia-Augusta Pediatrics in Fishersville, from where she retired in November of 2017.

Dr. Pinkston was a member of the American Academy of Pediatrics and an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant. She strongly believed that children should be vaccinated, ride in car seats, wear bicycle helmets, and that all mothers should have the opportunity to breastfeed.

After her retirement Betsy loved visiting her children, playing bridge, quilting, knitting, and participating in the citizen science projects (including “Feeder-watch”) organized by the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology. Betsy was a longtime member of the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton and went on all of the choir’s trips to sing in cathedrals in England. At the time of her death she was a member of the Vestry at Trinity.

A memorial service was held at Trinity Episcopal Church on December 21.

(Adapted from obituary originally published in The News Leader)

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