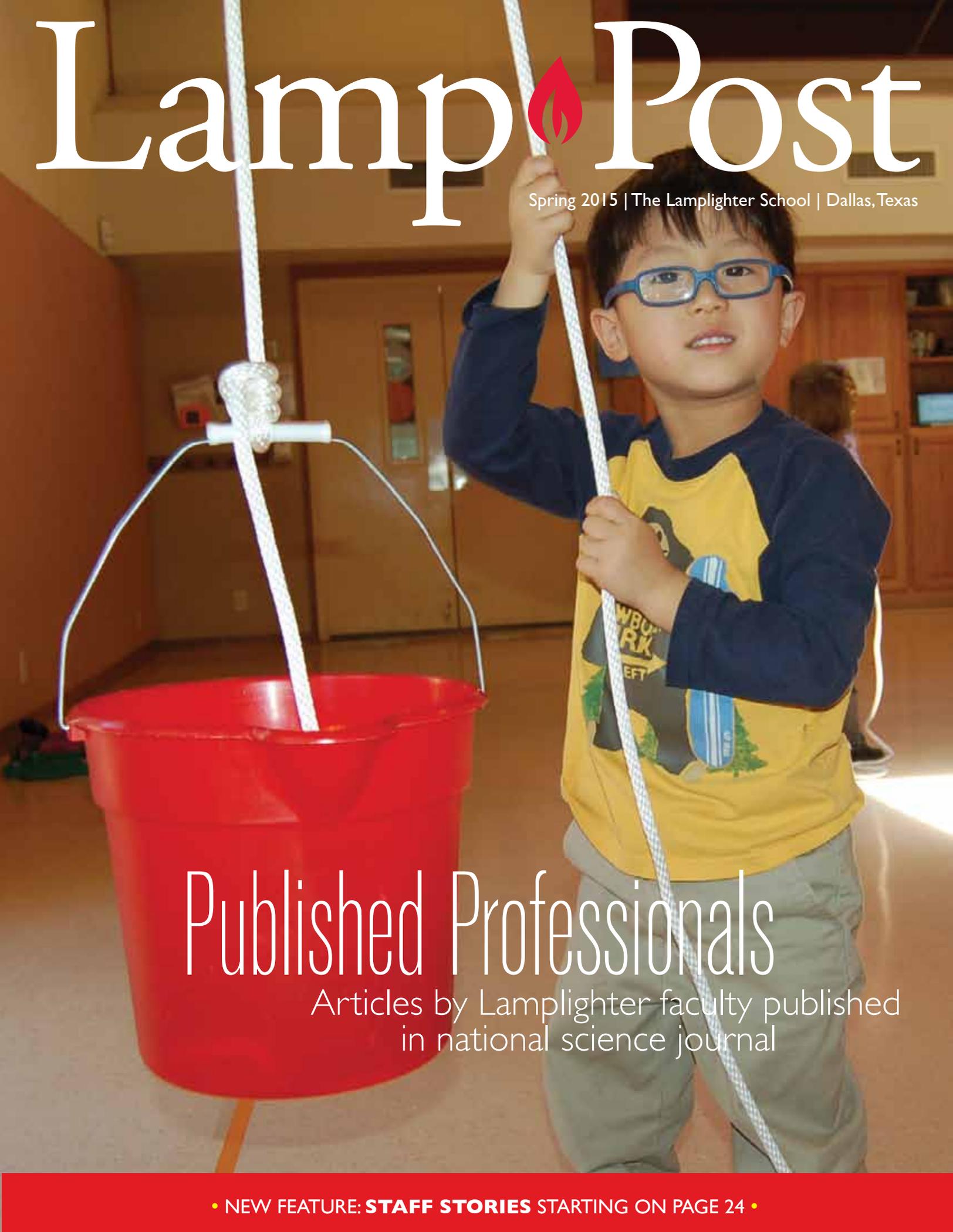


Lamp Post



Spring 2015 | The Lamplighter School | Dallas, Texas

Published Professionals

Articles by Lamplighter faculty published
in national science journal

Fall 2015

August

- 20 New Family, Pre-K, and Kindergarten Parent Orientations
- 24-25 Parent Intake Conferences
- 26 First Day of School

September

- 7 Labor Day (Holiday)
- 11 Donuts with Dads/Popsicles with Pops (EC and LS)
- 18 Soles4Souls Kick-Off
- 15-17 Class Pictures
- 25 Carnival

October

- 12 Columbus Day (Holiday)
- 22-23 Parent Conferences, No School
- 30 Halloween Hootenany, Parade, and Picnic 10:30 a.m.

November

- 5 Fourth Grade Luncheon
- 9 Dolores Evans Speaker Series (#1)
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 3 Media Center Open House
- 18 All School Program
- 21 Winter Break Begins

Note: All dates are subject to change. Please log on to www.thelamplighterschool.org to view the most updated school calendar.

On the cover: The cover features a photograph of a Lamplighter Pre-K student engaging in "STEM in the Gym" activities that was featured in a recent national publication. The article, written by Lamplighter teachers Bill Burton and April Seeds and Lamplighter Perot Museum Liaison Gretchen Pollom, was published in the February issue of *Science & Children* magazine, published by the National Science Teachers Association. The article is the fourth article published in that periodical by Lamplighter faculty over the past three years. Read more on page 8.

Spring 2015

Managing Editor

Edward Ritenour, Director of Communications & Marketing

Art/Design

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Contributors

Landy Fox, Sandy Diamond, and Christian Freberg

Mission Statement

Dedicated to igniting the potential of each child, Lamplighter engages children in the joy of learning through intellectual discovery in a creative, inclusive, and collaborative environment.

Diversity Statement

Diversity will strengthen the education of Lamplighter children and enrich the lives of all members of the Lamplighter community. Lamplighter will, therefore, strive for the lamps that we light to reflect the ever-changing community in which we reside. We value individuality and encourage all children to reach their potential, while respecting their similarities and differences. We are united in purpose and committed to working together to accomplish the mission of The Lamplighter School.

Non-Discrimination Statement

In compliance with federal and state laws, The Lamplighter School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, sexual orientation, or disability in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, financial aid program, athletic and other school-administered programs, or the employment of staff.

Contact Us

Send story ideas to Edward Ritenour (eritenour@thelamplighterschool.org). Deadline for articles, photographs, and news for the next issue (Fall 2015) is August 1, 2015.



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The Lamplighter School is a joyful place to learn.



Dear Parents,

“I have never seen so many happy children per square foot in my life,” Dr. Harold Gores, President of Educational Facilities Laboratories wrote about Lamplighter several years ago. In conversations with you over the course of the school year...the statement holds truer now than ever. There are so many reasons why I believe that The Lamplighter School is a joyful place to learn, but here are my top five:

■ **Everyone is mission focused.** Each day we begin dedicated to igniting the potential of each child. Faculty engage children in learning through intellectual discovery in a creative, inclusive, and collaborative environment.

■ **The curriculum supports our belief** that the work of the child is play and that learning happens best when children are engaged. Whether students are preparing lunches for Austin Street Shelter, learning about the journey that pioneers traveled hundreds of years ago, working on a math challenge, or planting strawberries in the garden, learning happens in a way that engages the child so completely that most days feel like the opposite of what school connotes.

■ **The faculty and staff are life-long learners.** As evidenced by attendance at conferences, involvement in networking lunches with teachers from other schools, or exchanging information about a recent book, our faculty members are committed to learning. There is an openness when you are willing to engage the world with curiosity rather than as an expert. Besides it is fun to learn and try new things with students.

■ **Parents are involved** and are an integral part of the work. Attend just one Carnival or Auction and you quickly learn that it is all of us together in service to the children. Parents are “all in”.

■ **It's Lamplighter!** It doesn't matter if this is your first or seventh year at the school or you are an alum, the Lamplighter community is filled with optimistic people who wish the very best for our students and for each other. By all measures we are enjoying a wonderful

school year and as much as we live in the present, Lamplighter has a bright future ahead, a future that is being seriously contemplated and planned for by our Board of Trustees. Lamplighter continues to plan to improve the campus by building a new innovation lab, updating the learning spaces, and building a stronger endowment for future generations. Over the summer I will be writing to update you on the plans that will certainly be crystallized by that time. For now, take confidence in the many programs that distinguish our school. We would not enjoy this level of success without you!

It is an honor to lead this fabulous school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Buchanan Hill".

Joan Buchanan Hill, Ed. D.
Head of School



Dear Lamplighter Community,

Lamplighter is a place where friendships are made for a lifetime. Now, as my sons Alex, Charlie, and Jack have moved on to middle and high school, I am especially aware of just how special the Lamplighter experience really is. This spring LampPost issue, I celebrate a cornerstone of what defines the Lamplighter experience: its community and families.

Lamplighter creativity, individualism, and friendship was on full view at the Lamplighter Auction this February. This year's auction chairs, Emily Clarke, Erin Hillman, Aarthi Ram, Megan Ratcliff, Naheed Shahid, Laura Trubey, and their incredible team, put together an "out of this world" evening in celebration of our school. Watching parents and friends in coordinated and imaginative costumes (from the Jetsons to Back to the Future), was a joy.

Lamplighter is a place where friendships are made for a lifetime.

The support that our community has committed to the Annual Fund is enviable. These resources are critical to making each year enriching for Lamplighter students. Thank you all for responding to the call (sometimes literally!) of the school's Annual Fund team under the leadership of Annual Fund Chair Catie Enrico.

The Spirit Award Luncheon recognizing award recipients Judy Gass and Kirsten Kerrigan was a celebration of the Lamplighter ethos—what really distinguishes our school. Years ago, Judy Gass described Lamplighter as "the gift of childhood." In her luncheon remarks, Kirsten Kerrigan spoke eloquently about lifelong learning as she learned and embraced new skills and challenges as a Lamplighter mom and Trustee.

How right Judy and Kirsten both are.

With my sons off to older grades, my time at Lamplighter is bittersweet. I am filled with awe and envy at the boys' new experiences in middle and high school, how they are using the skills they used at Lamplighter daily—curiosity and responsibility, what it means to work together, how to be a good friend. Our Lamplighter friends—theirs and mine may be at different schools, but we hold those friendships tight. While I would give anything for the boys to be in one last Hootenanny, I know Lamplighter Spirit does not end in 4th grade.

Catherine Rose

Catherine Rose
Board Chair

Senior Tribute Class of 2015



Azal Amer
Caroline Anderson
Alex Bautista
Ben Bautista



Jackson Benners
Hudson Bloom
Henry Boykin
Josh Brylowski



SuSu Campbell
Alia Chand
Jack Cohen
Chris Dimas



Bella Ehring
Max Garner
Porter Gaunt
Rivers Glover



Maya Harrington
Arielle Henley
Cruz Hoitsma
Saira Khatri



Jake Kirk
John Lee
Mercer Lee
Anna Lobdell

Senior Tribute



Teagan Loehr
Julian Maas
Steele Martilik
Caraday Martin



Audrey Mitts
Jack Moses
Katherine Mote
Akash Munshi



Hanna Newberger
McLain Niven
Angeliki Paulos
Liam Pham



Alexa Plumlee
Akash Raghunathan
Nadia Sethuraman
Mekyle Siddiqi



Roman Solis
Meg Steinhart
Ayla Sumer
Sanjay Vattamreddy



Samantha Ward
Alexandra Warner
Elizabeth Warren
Jackson Whitaker

Published Professionals

Articles by Lamplighter faculty published in national science journal



The Lamplighter faculty and staff distinguish our school. On staff, there are several published authors. These teachers are researchers – lifelong learners who continually develop new and creative ways to light the lamp within each student. As stated in the School’s motto, Dr. Hill reminds the Lamplighter community, “a student is not a vessel to be filled, but a lamp to be lighted.”

As author and co-author, science teacher Bill Burton has had four articles published in *Science & Children Magazine*, a National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) peer-reviewed journal for elementary school teachers. His articles include one featured in the February 2015 *Science & Children* by Lamplighter faculty. “Physical Education Meets Physical Science” was co-written by Burton along with Physical Education teacher April Seeds and Lamplighter’s Perot Museum of Nature & Science Liaison Gretchen Pollom. Prior to that, articles written by Burton include “The Tightrope Challenge” in September 2014 and “Experiencing Friction in First Grade,” published in October 2012.

The January 2015 issue also featured a story by Lamplighter faculty regarding the School’s hydroponics program. Burton wrote the article along with second grade teachers including Ana Casanova, Annie Jonas, and Lakeshia Peters. Former Lamplighter teacher Jessa Adler was also involved.

To research the February article, Pollom, Burton, and Seeds planned and taught a kindergarten lesson based on the Pitsco “S.T.E.M. in the Gym” unit. This past fall, they used their experiences and results to write a paper that *Science & Children* subsequently published.

“With Bill’s guidance, we developed a cross-curricular science and P.E. lesson focused on developing gross motor skills while reinforcing the kindergarten students’ understanding of simple machines and force,” Pollom explained.

The first step in planning the lesson involved creating an overall vision for the students’ experience. The next step focused on implementing and documenting the lesson. The final step involved assessing the work, collecting photos, and writing the paper. “This taught us the most valuable lessons of the experience: what worked; what we would do differently; and what other opportunities exist for a P.E. and science ‘connection,’” Pollom continued.



The January article, “The Future of Farming,” focused on an integrated, multidisciplinary unit that introduced second grade students to hydroponic gardening. To extend the program throughout cross-curriculum opportunities, Burton met with the second grade teacher team, and after considering the program, they agreed to help by adding language, math, and social studies skills for a plant science unit. The team decided to write the article early on in the process. This permitted the group to “be mindful of capturing photos, saving student work, and jotting down student reactions to certain activities,” Burton explained. After completing the first draft, Peters and Adler wrote the math section while Casanova and Jonas collaborated on the language-social studies content.

“I found the hydroponics program to be both innovative and challenging,”

remarked Peters. She explained that during the learning process, she and the students were able to further explore plant science and ways to connect to mathematics. “The mathematical connections that students made first stemmed from their prior knowledge of plant life. This led to discussions of measurement with various measuring tools and data interpretation and analysis,” she described.

Then Burton submitted the revised draft to *Science & Children* through “manuscript central.” He said the article then went through a “double blind” peer-review process, and four reviewers provided several comments. “We met as a team to address comments and make some minor changes to the manuscript,” he reported. “Then, we resubmitted.” A few weeks later, the manuscript was accepted for publication. Once accepted, it is usually published within two years. “Most of our articles are published much sooner than that,” Burton explained. “This one took the longest. The students featured in the photos were second grade students at the time. Today, they’re in our fourth grade class.

“When teachers give up some control of a project and hand it over to students, some amazing things can happen,” Burton cited. He said he believes that when students are given open-ended challenges to solve, “authentic learning takes place.”

To read the *Science & Children* articles, please visit the Lamplighter Web page (www.thelamplighterschool.org), and click on “Quick Links” found at the top right corner. Choose “Media Coverage” from the dropdown menu. On the Media Coverage page, select the article you wish to read.

Barnyard Buzz



Celebration Innovation 2015

Lamplighter Auction: An Out-of-This-World Celebration

To raise money for training and professional development for the School's faculty, the 2015 Lamplighter Parents' Association (LPA) Auction featured the theme, "Celebration Innovation." The Auction celebrated Lamplighter's past, present, and future, with an "electrifying and innovative journey through time and space" on Saturday, February 7. According to Chair Laura Trubey, the Auction is a "special time to share in the company of fellow Lamplighter parents while supporting our beloved School." In addition to being an important fundraising event, she described the Auction as a "true celebration" of the school community.

In keeping with the pioneering spirit of Lamplighter, the Auction venue headed to a "new frontier," 6500 Cedar Springs, Trubey explained. Originally constructed in 1952 as a General Electric warehouse, the group lit up the 20,000-square-foot open floor plan with

all things futuristic such as an LED dance floor, an electrifying DJ, and a neon light show "that pulsed the party," she said grinning.

Trubey was joined by Auction co-chairs Emily Clarke, Erin Hillman, Aarthi Ram, Megan Ratcliff, and Naheed Shahid for the "out-of-this-world" experience. However, the Auction is not just a fundraiser, but serves as a "community-building event for Lamplighter families and friends," clarified Lamplighter Head of School, Dr. Joan Hill. "Our wonderful Auction team put together a really memorable night for everyone that served both our community-building and fundraising goals equally well." She also thanked parents for being "the spark that ignites the innovative spirit of our children, faculty, and school community." Hill added that she appreciated the volunteers' generosity with their time, with the event that takes almost a year to plan and execute. She described

it as "yet another example of how Lamplighter embodies the definition of community."

Trubey believed the "afterglow of Celebration Innovation will continue to ignite our beloved school and teachers for years to come." With the proceeds from the event supporting faculty development, "Lamplighter teachers will be provided with the support necessary to continue to be innovative in their methods and materials," according to Hill.

After the bidding closed, the guests, most of whom were dressed in amusing cyber, sci-fi, or cosmic costumes, with many in neon accessories and colorful makeup, danced the night away to Lamplighter alum, parent, and professional DJ Lucy Wrubel. The group appeared to cherish the last minutes of their trip to space, knowing their support of the event would greatly benefit the faculty of the School.



2015 Auction Committee



Reddy to Write

More about the Auction from Special Student Contributor Naviya Reddy

I thought the Auction was looking at items to buy, but it's not. It's the parent association's largest fundraiser. All the money the parents raise goes to the school. The auction has a silent auction and a party room. The party room is for the parents to take a break from all the work they've done all year and have fun. It's like the second grade marble party. The silent auction room is where the parents buy cool auction items for their kids, like my pioneer book or this interviewing job. Many parents raise money for the school. I interviewed kids for what they got and what they got to do. I interviewed two kids from Pre-K. They talked about the pretend sleepover that they had. I think they were nervous when I interviewed them, but I got lots of information. They both said the best part was watching Big Hero 6. The fourth graders did a Lock-In. When I first heard the name Lock-In, I thought they were locking up the school, but it was when they do the opposite of school, like running in the halls, screaming, and other opposite of school things. Joey in third grade won Head of School. He gets to be Dr. Hill for a day. I think it sounds really fun. I hope my parents win the Head of School for me someday! I learned a lot about the auction, and I hope you did too. Thank you, parents, for all you do for us!





A Dooley Author Twist, Oh My!



For over 10 years Patricia Vermillion, as the Lamplighter Media Center Coordinator, has conceived and arranged visits to Lamplighter by some of the nation's leading children's authors and illustrators. With the support of the Dooley Author Series fund, Vermillion has created opportunities for Lamplighter students to interact with the likes of Mordicai Gerstein, Norton Juster, Chris Raschka, and most recently, 2014 Caldecott Medal winner Brian Floca.

This year in a wonderful twist, Mrs. Vermillion was nominated by Dooley Author Series patron Marilyn Halpin to

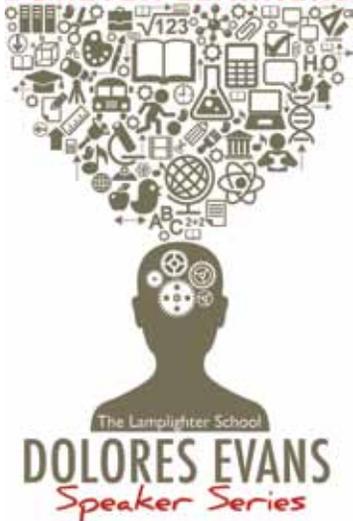
present to Lamplighter students based on her publication of *Texas Chili, Oh My!* "What?! Are you sure?!" exclaimed Vermillion when invited to participate. The committee was very sure, as Vermillion is a uniquely personal and particularly inspiring example for budding Lamplighter readers, writers, and illustrators. *Texas Chili, Oh My!* is a Texas-styled retelling of the venerable Three Little Pigs, and was recently nominated by the San Antonio Conservation Society Publication Award Committee to recognize authors of the best recently published books on Texas history.

Presenting Vermillion as the Dooley visiting author helped students see the author's experience with new eyes. Vermillion, as Media Center Coordinator, has brought hundreds of books and works of art and research to the attention of students. During her presentation on her own work, she was able to help students assimilate their previous knowledge of her love of reading with a new understanding of her disciplined approach to writing. Vermillion provided visual examples of brainstorming exercises, outlines, drafts, rewrites, more

rewrites, mock-ups, and still more rewrites. As Vermillion stated, "I am here every day. They see me as the Dooley Author guest, then they see me at the media center desk in the morning." The new perspective prompted one student to ask in awe, "How do you find time to write and do your job as a librarian?"

Choosing Vermillion as the speaker had ripple effects. "I'm usually the one preparing for the event," she explained. The duties of arranging the day's schedule and events fell this time to Assistant Head of Academics Vicki Raney. Commenting on the number of details, from arranging the luncheon (chili, of course) to coordinating complementary lessons with teachers and arranging for students to introduce the guest speaker, Raney described the switcheroo as "pretty eye-opening," adding, "I was determined that Patricia experience the day as an author."

Ms. Raney may need to stand by for further assists. Vermillion's second publication, *Hound Dang*, will be published in August of this year.



SPEAKERS DISCUSS CHANGE AND LOGIC



Jeff Whittington moderates Change Makers panel discussion



James McLurkin with fourth grade demonstrating his robot swarm



Jim Fay, founder of Love & Logic Institute

The 2014-15 season of The Lamplighter School's Dolores Evans Speaker Series kicked off in November with "Change Makers: Changing the World with Food, Robots, and Pencils" with three speakers who are improving the lives of children through innovative thinking.

The program included discussions about the passion the speakers have for seeking innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. Speakers included Adam Braun, a *New York Times* bestselling author and founder of Pencils of Promise, an organization that has built 200 schools around the world; Ellen Gustafson, a sustainable food system activist and author of *We the Eaters: If We Change Dinner, We Can Change the World*; and James McLurkin, a robotics engineer who worked on projects with Disney Imagineering and iRobot and was recognized by *Time* as one of America's top engineers.

The three guests were interviewed by Jeff Whittington, executive producer for KERA's Think Series and host of "Anything You Ever Wanted to Know." Whittington was presented by Lamplighter Head of School Dr. Joan Hill. "We were very excited about the opportunity to have innovators speaking about topical issues," Dr. Hill explained as she introduced the series.

Though the Speaker Series traditionally features individual authors or other speakers, Dr. Hill decided to try something different in 2013 when the first "Change Makers" program was presented. "Schools should be at the forefront of new thinking," she explained, and added that risk-taking that can lead to innovation is "something we try every day to instill in our students."

In January, Lamplighter welcomed Jim Fay, co-author of the popular parenting book *Love and Logic* for the second event of the 2014-15 Dolores Evans Speaker Series. Dr. Fay, whose presentation focused on how parents should "set and enforce limits" with their children, is one of America's most sought-after presenters in the fields of parenting, positive discipline, and classroom management. For more than 30 years, *Love and Logic*, a philosophy founded in 1977 by Jim Fay and co-author Foster W. Cline, M.D., has been the approach of choice among leading educators, parents, and other professionals worldwide.

Their book, updated in 2006, is a 2010 Parents' Choice Award Winner. It focuses on teaching children responsibility. According to the Love and Logic Institute, parents can "raise children who are self-confident, motivated, and ready for the real world with this win-win approach to parenting." They reason that children win because they will learn to solve their own problems "while gaining confidence" and that parents win "because they will establish healthy control without resorting to anger, threats, nagging, or exhausting power struggles."

Fay's presentation was primarily a guide to these "practical techniques to raise self-disciplined kids," with amusing stories about parents and their young children sprinkled in. The audience had the opportunity to gain new strategies that can be used for "avoiding power struggles" at home and in the classroom as well as tips for guiding kids "to own and to solve their own problems." He also described how parents might discipline "without losing their love and respect," and strategies for "raising achievement."

SENIOR SALUTE: FOURTH GRADERS CELEBRATED AT ANNUAL EVENT

The Lamplighter School's annual "Senior" luncheon was held on November 6 to celebrate the School's graduating fourth grade class. The gathering provides not only an opportunity for students and their parents and teachers to reminisce, but it is also the School's way to celebrate the fourth graders' achievements during their seven years at Lamplighter. Invited to address the group were two young alumni, Sloane Castleman and Eli Krakow. Castleman, a junior at The Hockaday School, and Krakow, a freshman at Greenhill School, returned to share a few memories and offered heartfelt words of advice to the enthusiastic Seniors.

Head of School Dr. Joan Hill kicked off the luncheon by welcoming the 48 students and their parents and teachers. After the fourth graders performed "The Raddish Song," and of course, "Lamplighter Spirit," led by their drama teacher, Jeff Peck, Dr. Hill asked the Seniors to join her on stage. She invited the students to tell the audience about "their funniest Lamplighter experience" or "what do they think Lamplighter will look like in 10 years?" to which one student answered, "In 10 years kids will be tele-porting from our beds to school!"

Several of the "funniest Lamplighter experience" responses focused on the students' "crew" shifts during Lamplighter Layers, the School's entrepreneurial program where fourth graders run an incorporated "chicken-raising and egg-selling" business. Every week they sell the eggs to parents in the carpool line. One student said that during crew, "a chicken chased us and it freaked us out." Another responded that a chicken flew right over her head. And finally, another admitted that she "left the chickens out all night!"

Otherwise, a few students mentioned the time when music was playing and the students decided to have a spontaneous dance party, and another described the day when "the pig got out of the pen and teachers chased him around the school."

Next Dr. Hill told the crowd that "Lamplighter created this day for you,

our fourth grade families, as a time to pause, a time to reflect on the past, to celebrate the present, and to look toward to the future." Then, after asking parents to present a School-provided senior pin to their children, Dr. Hill introduced the event's special guests, Castleman and Krakow, and expressed her appreciation to them for "returning to inspire our fourth graders."

"LAMPLIGHTER CREATED THIS DAY FOR YOU, OUR FOURTH GRADE FAMILIES, AS A TIME TO PAUSE, A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE PAST, TO CELEBRATE THE PRESENT, AND TO LOOK TOWARD TO THE FUTURE."

In her speech, Sloane Castleman gave "both parents and fourth graders some remarks, tips, and tricks for surviving fourth grade." For the fourth graders, she provided three bits of "confidential" advice.

- 1) "When you leave Lamplighter, you will carry the legacy of this school with you and you can never detach yourselves from it. In this way, you will never really leave Lamplighter."
- 2) "Remember that your years at Lamplighter have prepared you to successfully continue with your journey to your next school."
- 3) "Remember that friendships forged at Lamplighter will last forever."

Next, Castleman offered the parents in the audience pieces of advice "coming from your fourth grader."

- 1) "Let your children enjoy fourth grade and enjoy it with me because this year is absolutely the best, and I want you to take lots of pictures."

- 2) "I am ready. Lamplighter has given me the gift of problem solving, academic confidence, creativity, and living the Golden Rule."

- 3) "And most importantly, thank you for sending me to Lamplighter, for supporting me, and for having confidence that I will end up at the right school for me."

Echoing Castleman, Eli Krakow told the group of students, "You make so many great friendships at Lamplighter that continue on for a long time." Krakow described his "many wonderful memories of Lamplighter." These included the School's sing-along "Hootenanny" assemblies, the spring fourth grade trip to Austin, about which he recalled "a long but fun bus ride," and then he stressed that, "most of all, I remember my great teachers, several of whom are here today."

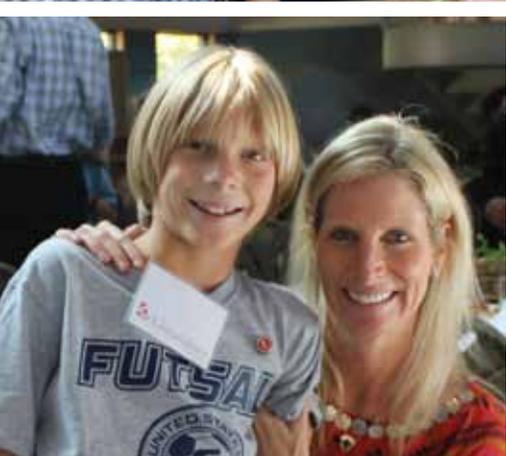
Next he explained to the group that Lamplighter provides great preparation for middle school and that those teachers often say Lamplighter kids are well-prepared. He advised the students to "use what you learn here." He then described the middle school experience as very exciting "because it provides opportunities to try new things and to discover new interests such as sports, music, art, sculpture, or film, which he disclosed as a subject he's become very passionate about.

He concluded by telling the children that there is "no better place than Lamplighter" to prepare you for the future. "It certainly prepared me well."

After an hour of celebrating their senior year achievements with teachers and parents and listening to advice from the two high school students, a fourth grader summed up the event this way, with his answer to "what will Lamplighter look like in ten years?" He replied, "In 10 years, it doesn't really matter what Lamplighter looks like, it's what the kids feel about it that is important." And the two visiting young alumni "couldn't have provided better examples of this," observed Vicki Raney.



Eli Krakow and Sloane Castleman with Dr. Joan Hill





Dancers Delight

To kick off Black History Month, Dallas Black Dance Theatre entertains students with “Peter and the Wolf.”

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre visited Lamplighter on February 2 and performed “Peter and the Wolf” to kick off Black History Month activities at the School. Kindergarten through fourth grade students “were thrilled with the 45-minute presentation,” said Vicki Raney, Lamplighter Assistant Head for Academics.

The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the founders of Black History Month, had announced that the theme for 2015 was “A Century of Black Life, History, and Culture.” Over the past century, African American life, history, and culture have become major forces in the world. According to the Association, “In 1915, few could have imagined that African Americans in music, art, and literature would become appreciated by the global community.”

Founded in 1976 to inspire minority boys and girls to appreciate dance as an art form and to realize the possibility of dance as a means to express their creativity, the Dallas Black Dance Theatre now offers dance opportunities for the entire population, regardless of race, age, or circumstance, through professional dance concert performances, arts-in-education programs, community outreach activities, and dance training classes.

According to the dance company, education is a primary focus; therefore, they offer workshops, master classes, lectures and demonstrations, residencies, mini-performances, student matinees, and a variety of dance services to elementary, middle, and high schools, colleges and universities, social service agencies, and recreational facilities around Dallas/Fort Worth and across the nation. Raney said she appreciates the efforts of second grade teacher Lakeshia Peters and Lamplighter parent Candace Martin who “worked on booking them for more than a year!”





[Night at the Museum]

Family Science Night at the Perot



Wasn't It Grand!



Grandest Friends' Day



Forever Learners



Patricia Vermillion in the Lamplighter Media Center
Photograph by Jennifer Shertzer

In this continuing section, LampPost illustrates the ways our accomplished faculty teach, engage, inspire, and mentor as they deliver serious education wrapped in the wonder of childhood. Learn more about our published authors, world travelers, and our “lifelong learners” who are earning advanced degrees and professional development certificates.



Sue Ann Pemberton, president; Patricia Vermillion; and Carolyn Frost, event chair (Photo by Vicki Raney)

Alamo Heights

Life is full of smiles and surprises...by Patricia Vermillion

The story *Texas Chili? Oh My!* a Texas retelling of the Three Little Pigs, was originally written to introduce Lamplighter students to the native animals, plants, and settings of Texas, with a fairytale twist. The students appreciated this Texas version and I thought other Texas students might benefit as well. I submitted the story to TCU Press. The Mission of TCU Press is to publish significant, relevant, and innovative titles in the area of history and literature of Texas and the American West, with a distinct focus on the discovery and preservation of local history. They surprised me and liked it.

I was invited by TCU Press to autograph books at the Texas Book Festival held in Austin in October 2014. One of the largest and most prestigious literary festivals in the country, the annual Texas Book Festival features 250-plus nationally and critically recognized authors. It was at this festival I met our 2014 Dooley Author, Brian Floca, and our poet, Naomi Nye.

In December 2014, I received the following letter from the San Antonio Conservation Society. The purpose of the Society is to preserve and encourage the preservation of historic buildings, objects, places and customs relating to the history of Texas, its natural beauty and all that is admirably distinctive to our State, and to educate the public, especially the youth of today and tomorrow, with knowledge of our inherited regional values, and –Whereas, outstanding contribution toward the accomplishment of this aim has been made by Patricia Vermillion with *Chili Texano? Ay Dois! / Texas Chili? Oh My!* The 2015 Children’s Publication Award was awarded for the first time in several years. Guests at the luncheon were surprised and pleased that a Spanish edition is also available.

My next picture book, *Hound Dog*, is a Southern retelling of The Little Red Hen, and will be published in the fall of 2015 by TCU Press. The illustrations are by Society of Children’s Book Writers and

Illustrators award winner Cheryl Pilgrim. I have written and published articles in *Library Sparks Magazine*, *School Library Monthly*, *Teacher Librarian*, and *Mississippi Magazine*.

I continue to smile, be surprised, and look forward to the future.



Patricia Vermillion and Jezabel Guadalupe, Spanish Teacher and book translator



Lamplighter teachers Jennifer Grauberger and Leslie Whitfield with Night Light class

Three's a Charm

Lamplighter teachers launch Night Light 3-D printing class
by Hannah Brown, Leslie Whitfield, and Jennifer Grauberger



Hannah Brown instructs students on how to use the 3-D printer, as fellow teacher Kirby Young looks on

A spark lit and ignited a fire of excitement and promise in the minds of Lamplighter students taking the 3D Printing course in the Night Light after-school program. On the first day, our eight Lamplighter students were told that they signed up to think of ways to change the educational, social, and economic trajectory of children more than 2,300 miles away. Hands shot up in the air as they began to wonder

and question how they were going to accomplish such a weighty feat. Immediately, the uninhibited students started to think like engineers. They proposed a series of questions, came up with different hypotheses, and then questioned their original ideas again. This cycle continued throughout the class. Like engineers, the students thought about ways to help solve problems to improve the lives of others. Before Lamplighter students began to speak through a Spanish translator to students at our partner school in Nicaragua, we brainstormed ideas about a few of the main concerns in developing countries. This was an interesting discussion that covered such topics as unclean water and electricity and food shortages.

The result of the real-time Skype engagement had a profound impact on our students as well as the students in Nicaragua. A cross-cultural consciousness began to develop in our students during the exchange of ideas on creating sustainable electricity. This conversation empowered our students to think about

global issues and solve them through collaboration. The students learned firsthand that it is vital that we listen and engage with the stakeholders so sustainable solutions to problems take hold. Throughout the remainder of this course, students learned to use cutting-edge software used to print 3D objects. The 3D printer has multiple ways of solving both domestic and global problems. As the students learn to use this leading-edge technology coupled with their ability to work together in teams, they will be uniquely prepared to solve problems and improve the lives of others.

Throughout the remainder of the class, Lamplighter students held Skype conversations and made a solar circuit so that those without electricity in Nicaragua have a ready means of electric power. It was interesting for us as teachers because our initial thought was that we were teaching our students to help others. The reality, however, was that our students were inspired to make daily changes in their own lives despite having easy access to electricity.



Debbie Herskovitz, Gesell Workshop leader; Sally Wells; and Cara Hicks

Gesell in the Well

*Lamplighter teachers host training workshop
By Cara Hicks and Debbie Herskovitz*

Last year, Lamplighter pre-K teachers Debbie Herskovitz and Cara Hicks attended The Gesell Developmental Observation-Revised (GDO-R) Workshop on early childhood development. Following the training, Mrs. Herskovitz and Mrs. Hicks shared the information with the rest of their Lamplighter team as well as other teachers in the region. As a result of their networking and enthusiasm, Lamplighter had the privilege of hosting the Gesell workshop at Lamplighter this spring. Teachers from the Dallas/Ft. Worth area attended the three-day conference in early March and left with new, exciting, and developmentally appropriate practices for their students.

The workshop focused on the natural development of children ranging from 2 1/2 to 6 years old. Workshop presenter

Sally Wells taught teachers how to use the GDO-R which is an assessment tool used by teachers, counselors, and other professionals to determine the developmental age of a child.

“Developmental age” refers to the age at which a child is able to perform certain tasks that may or may not be the same as his or her chronological age. Understanding the developmental age of a child is helpful for teachers when differentiating lesson plans for their classrooms. For example, some children are developmentally ready for a mature pencil grasp, while others are not; this is based on the child’s developmental age and not their chronological age. At the completion of the workshop, teachers were equipped with new tools to recognize new developmentally appropriate practices.

At Lamplighter, Early Childhood teachers are differentiating their lessons to cover a wide range of developmental ages and stages starting in pre-K. The pre-K teachers have implemented a fine motor program into their Integrated Learning curriculum to foster the natural development of fine motor skills in their youngest learners.



Big Ideas from the Big Apple

Lamplighter teachers attend training workshop at Columbia University



Olivia Claiborn and Maggie Fulton

During the December holiday break, first grade teachers Olivia Claiborn and Maggie Fulton attended the first annual Reading Toolkits and Progressions Institute at Teacher's College at Columbia University. The five-day program included keynote addresses, small group study, and interactive discussion groups as part of the Reading and Writing Project, founded by education professor Lucy Calkins.

Mrs. Claiborn and Miss Fulton had the opportunity to collaborate with teachers from across the country and learn what they are doing in their schools in regard to Reading Workshop. They learned new information about strategies to teach narrative and informational texts, efficient anchor charts, and important word-decoding skills. By attending this workshop, Mrs. Claiborn and Miss Fulton

learned more about how to differentiate reading instruction and help all of their students achieve success in reading. In addition to networking and developing academic tools, the program also offered the opportunity to explore the ever-evolving neighborhood around Teacher's College: Morningside Heights. The scholarly atmosphere combined with multicultural influences give this neighborhood a unique environment filled with diverse perspectives. The lunchtime discussions in small cafes with professors and students from the university were a highlight of the trip, and proved to be just as educational and meaningful as the seminar itself. Both Mrs. Claiborn and Miss Fulton left Manhattan with a refreshed purpose; to bring back the ideas discussed and implement them in their classrooms.

P.E. R+D

Lamplighter chosen as one of 100 national testing sites for research study

By Kathy Ritz

Lamplighter has the honor of being involved in a research study! The Test for Gross Motor Development, 3rd Edition, by Dr. Dale Ulrich is currently in the process of being updated, and researchers were looking for test sites to help with normative data collection. The University of Michigan School of Kinesiology, Center on Physical Activity and Health in Pediatric Disabilities, posted an ad on the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education, and Dance e-newsletter looking for schools willing and able to participate in the latest version of the TGMD. This is an individually administered instrument designed to measure the gross motor abilities of pre-school and school-age children. It is one of the most widely used assessments in the U.S. and worldwide.

That's where I entered the picture. I responded to the ad by contacting Dr. Kip Webster, a Post-Doctoral Research

Fellow working at the U of M with Dr. Ulrich, and expressed my interest in participating. I was able to tell her that not only am I familiar with the TGMD (I've used the second edition for years to help identify children with possible motor delays) but our age range is exactly the target group for the test, ages 3 to 10.

In order for Lamplighter to be eligible as test site, I had to demonstrate reliability in scoring. So, for the first time in many years, I took a test! I was sent two videos, each showing a child performing all portions of the TGMD-3. I scored all six components on the locomotor subtest and all seven components on the ball skills subtest for each child, and then submitted my total performance criteria scores. I was thrilled when I received an email permitting me to begin the standardization process. Currently there are around 100 U.S. sites participating as well as sites in 12 other countries.

This is such a wonderful chance for professional development and a once-in-a-career opportunity. The bonus has been working with kids one-on-one and seeing their excitement in helping with

this special project. It's also continued to keep focus on the Lamplighter Physical Education curriculum. As a result, I've reinforced skills being evaluated in the TGMD-3 that needed additional instructional time and practice by our students. "Practice makes progress" frequently resounds in the Cook Gym, and it's a joy to see it every day in class.



Kathy Ritz with early childhood students

Staff Stories

LampPost introduces “Staff Stories.” With this new section of our publication, the goal is to spotlight Lamplighter staff members who embody the concept of “forever learners.” While they may work behind the scenes at our school, their life experiences and diverse hobbies truly demonstrate the spirit of Lamplighter. Learn more about these valuable members of our community and their immersion in art, adventure, and volunteerism.

A person wearing a black winter jacket, a yellow headband, and red gloves is standing on a snowy mountain slope. They are holding a red rope. The background shows a large, snow-covered mountain peak under a clear blue sky.

Self-
Starters

FRIENDS IN LOW AND HIGH PLACES

By Ed Goff | Network Administrator

I grew up with a love of the outdoors, nurtured by family car-camping trips out west every summer. I read books about explorers and mountaineers, but I assumed the world had already been explored. The wildernesses I knew all had campgrounds. High mountains, on the other hand, seemed remote and out of reach. It wasn't until my mid-20s that these influences clicked into a real hobby. One day in 1994, a friend made an offhand remark about spelunking that got me thinking: Hmm, I've been to tourist-attraction caves like Carlsbad Caverns with lights, paved trails, gift shops... But those caves haven't always been that way... Someone must have discovered and explored them... I wonder if there are caves that haven't been explored... I wonder if there are people who do that...

Once these wheels started turning, it wasn't long before I located some actual "cavers" (who, it turns out, disdain the term "spelunker") and started going caving, first at Colorado Bend State Park here in Texas—which is still a great place to get started caving—then branching out to other caves around the state, other states, and other countries. I learned that yes, there are caves left to explore: many thousands of caves all over the world and new ones being found every day, caves as deep as 7,000 feet and as long as 400 miles. And there are people who explore

them, practically a global network of cave explorers. From them, I learned how to make accurate maps of caves using surveying equipment. I learned how to rig ropes and descend and ascend them to explore vertical caves.

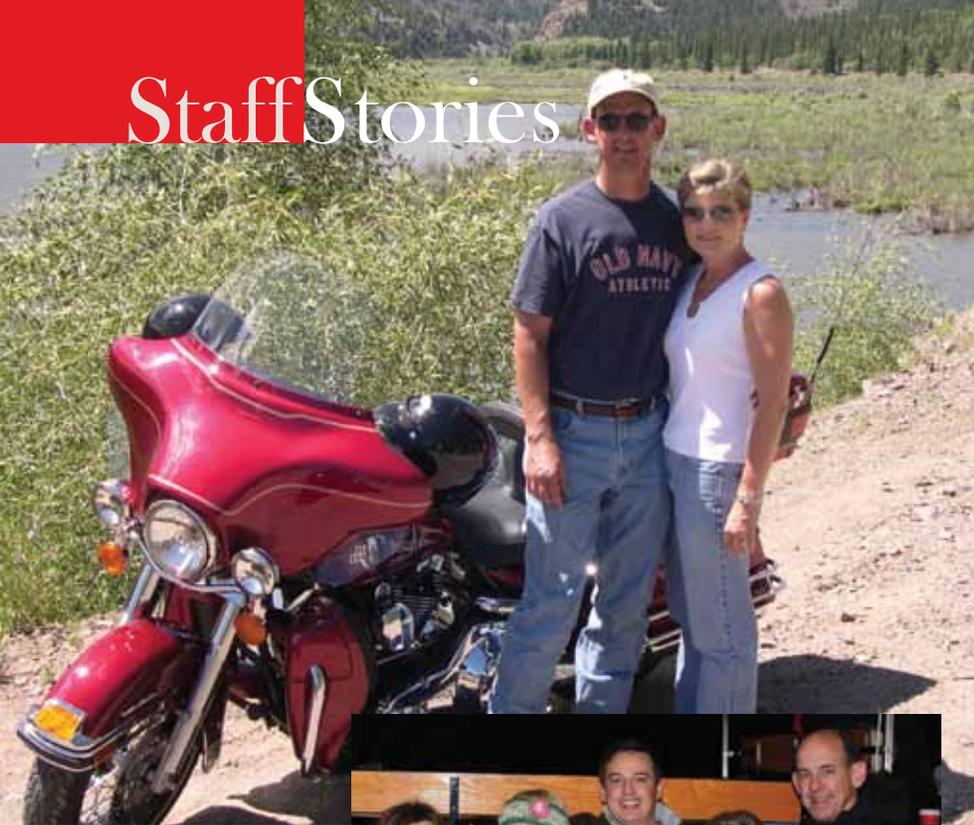
Over the years, I've visited and explored caves in 11 U.S. states, Mexico, and Peru. It would be hard to pick a favorite of all the caves I've seen, but one that comes to mind is a 1,650-foot-deep cave called El Pozo de Montemayor in the mountains of northern Mexico. To get to the bottom of this cave, you rappel down one huge pit after another lined with towering calcite formations hundreds of feet high. For me, the best thing about caving is that it's still possible to discover strange, beautiful places like this where no human has ever set foot.

Getting deeper into caving eventually led me higher, too. In 2002 some caver friends in Mexico who were also mountaineers invited me along on a climb of Izta (pronounced EES-tah, short for Iztaccíhuatl), a 17,159-foot-high dormant volcano not far from Mexico City. Izta is one of three high volcanoes in Mexico with permanent glaciers on their slopes. (These are the only glaciers between Colombia and Colorado, and they're steadily shrinking; their days are numbered.) I bought an ice axe, crampons,

and insulated climbing boots and headed south, a little nervous and not knowing quite what to expect. What I found was a hard slog up steep snow to an absolutely breathtaking summit. It was enough to get me hooked.

In 2005, I went with the same group to Peru to try a couple of 6,000-meter Andean peaks, Tocllaraju and Chopicalqui. I came down with the flu on the plane and landed in Lima with a 104-degree fever. It's a wonder I made it through the airport. Over the next few days, I recovered just enough to attempt the climbs. I didn't summit on either one, but I got very close on Chopicalqui, just a couple hundred feet from the top. Turning around there was a disappointing moment, but I took some solace in the fact that I was higher than the summit of Mount McKinley, the highest point in North America.

Since then I've climbed Orizaba, the highest of the Mexican volcanoes at 18,500 feet and the third-highest mountain in North America; Mount Rainier in the Cascades; a couple of peaks in the Canadian Rockies; and some Colorado 14-ers. Lately, caving and mountaineering have been taking a backseat to another challenging pursuit: raising four little explorers. Different summits, different discoveries, but no less an adventure.



Johanna Nystrom and family



TRUE TEXAN

by Johanna Nystrom
Finance/HR Coordinator

Texas has always been my home. I was born in Beaumont but lived most of my life in Waco. I enjoyed running track, played volleyball in high school, and took whatever racket sport I could in college. My husband, Greg, and I met in badminton class in college, of all places! We just celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary. Our children, Ryan and Whitney, are graduates of TCU. Greg is a Baylor graduate, and I am a recent graduate of the University of North Texas. We welcomed our first grandchild, Lucy Grey Nystrom, on March 30, 2014. We are fortunate that she lives so close in Frisco.

Greg and I were part owners of his family's printing business for five years. Most of my career has been spent in not-for-profit organizations. I served as the Director of Operations for The Art Center of Waco for eight years before moving to the Dallas area in 1998 and starting my career at Lamplighter.

While in Waco, I enjoyed numerous volunteer opportunities such as Parents' Association President for two years and General Chairman for the Brazos River Festival, which benefitted the Historic Waco Foundation. At the time, it was the second-largest all-volunteer festival in the state of Texas with over 2,000 volunteers.

My hobbies include cooking, needlework, and spending time with family and friends.



Kathy St. Clair and family

BIG EASY TO BIG D

by Kathy St. Clair
Lamplighter Controller

Born in New Orleans, I am the oldest and only girl of five. So I'm sure you'll understand why I decided to go to school in Texas – I had to get away from those boys! After receiving my degree from the University of North Texas, I went on to work for Ernst & Young, LLP as a staff auditor. Most of my career has been in audit; my past roles include audit manager with A. H. Belo, senior financial analyst with Hunt Oil Company, and senior auditor with Pricewaterhouse Coopers LLP. After working in corporate for 15 years, I never thought I would transition into education; however, this has been one of the best decisions I have made. I am excited about my new role as Controller here at Lamplighter; and I'm overwhelmed by the hospitality I received since I started in December. Not only did I start a new job, I just got married! Nate and I were married here in Dallas on Saturday, April 18. This is a busy yet exciting time for me, and I'm enjoying every minute!



DESIGNING WOMAN

by Ana Bohanan | Lamplighter Communication and Design Coordinator

When I am asked about being an artist, the easiest thing to say is that I make stuff. I'm an artist, designer, stylist, and maker of things.

I love to design and build everything from props and costumes to jewelry and home furnishings and photo styling is one of my passions. If I have an idea for something I want, I look around at what I have on hand, and I make it! I've been doing this since I was a kid.

Both my parents are creative, even though they would not call themselves artists. My mom always had a craft project in the works and was very talented at sewing. She taught me to how use the sewing machine at a young age and I loved to make clothes and furnishings for my dolls. She also provided me with private art lessons and all the art supplies I wanted. My dad is also very clever and can make anything. We would go out in the garage and build dog houses, science projects, and costumes and props for school plays. Looking back, I suppose I grew up in a kind of "maker space" with freedom to experiment and create.

My mom took me to see art all the time—something we still enjoy doing together. When I was in elementary school, I saw an Alexander Calder sculpture exhibit at the Dallas Museum of Art and I said, "That's what I want to do!" In college I majored in fine art and received a BFA in Sculpture from the University of North Texas. Several years later, I returned to complete an additional BFA in communication design.

I have worked in photo production, advertising, and design for more than 20 years in various creative and sometimes not-so-creative roles. I've been a photo producer, studio manager, food stylist,

prop stylist and builder, art director, tough negotiator, pizza baker—you get the idea. I ran my own design business for several years, specializing in hand-made cards and invitations, including one card line that was sold nationally, and another that was sold during the holiday season at Crate & Barrel stores. Another of my favorite jobs was building craft props for *Better Homes & Gardens* magazine.

Isabella, my 14 year-old daughter, is also a very talented artist. She introduced me to Anime and cosplay. We love working together designing costumes and props for anime conventions. At the first convention I went to, I was surprised to see so many talented and creative people all in one place in these amazing and elaborate costumes. It's really a lot of fun and inspiring!

Prior to coming to Lamplighter, I worked at Dallas advertising agency TracyLocke as an art producer for eight years producing photo shoots for clients such as Pepsi, Harrah's, 7-Eleven, and Pizza Hut, among others. I didn't really know what to expect when I left the crazy advertising world to work at a school. I was familiar with Lamplighter, but I had no idea it would become by far my favorite job that I have ever had. It's the best mix of all of the things I love to do – fine art and communication design.

Working in Communications with Communications and Marketing Director Ed Ritenour, I wear all of the hats I've collected over the years in advertising as art director, art producer, and print producer. I also get to work with one of my favorite artists and friends, art teacher Pam O'Krent, collaborating and designing displays of the children's wonderful art. I have discovered that Lamplighter truly is an environment of life-long learning!



Where are they now?

THE LATEST ON WHAT YOUR CLASSMATES ARE DOING



2009

Lamplighter alums **Rives Castleman** and **Holmes Davis**, students at ESD, and **Whit Payne**, a student at St. Mark's School of Texas, were reunited in Switzerland during the fall 2014 semester.

See page 32 for more.

1974

Jeff Miller remembers the excitement of running in the Lamplighter auditorium during afterschool athletics. After graduating from St. Mark's School of Texas, he attended McNeese State University on a rodeo scholarship and received a bachelor's degree in agriculture and business. Before joining Halliburton in 1997, Jeff worked for Arthur Andersen LLP for eight years. In 2012, Jeff was honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award from Mays Business School at Texas A&M where he earned his MBA. Jeff and his wife Rhonda will celebrate 28 terrific years of marriage in May 2015 and have two outstanding boys, ages 20 and 17. Jeff is currently the President of Halliburton Company.

1976

Mike Wallace lives in Austin with his wife Kate and son Morgan (6). By day he is a contract negotiator in the Legal Department at Dell, where he has just begun his 10th year of service. Mike is an active member of Austin Ridge Bible Church and takes every opportunity he can get to stalk bass on local waters with his fly rod and race 30-foot sailboats on Lake Travis. (Sadly there aren't nearly enough such opportunities...) Mike was a 2006-2007 Lamplighter Spirit Award recipient.



Mike Wallace '76

1978

Lucy Reeves Wrubel is a fifth generation Texan and DJ for clubs and events all over the world. Lucy graduated from Highland Park High School and film school at the University of Southern California. Her career in the arts has included voice overs, acting jobs, and work with the famed Groundlings Improv Troupe. Lucy's daughter, Stella, is a current third grade student at Lamplighter.



Stella and Lucy Wrubel '78

1980

Jennifer Bryan is a paraeducator at Manhattan High School in Manhattan, Kansas.

Courtney Nichols Gould is the founder of SmartyPants LLC, makers of gummy vitamins for kids and adults. For every bottle the company sells, a matching nutrient grant is made to a child or expectant mother in need that covers one year's worth of Vitamin A. This lifesaving supplement program is recognized to be the most efficient way to eliminate 25 percent of global childhood mortality. Courtney reports that her company has made nearly 750,000 matching one-for-one grants since the program's launch in 2010. Courtney is married to Gordon Gould and is the stepmother of two children, Kylan (12), and Oliver (10). The Goulds have lived in

Venice Beach, California, since 2009. Prior to that, Courtney lived in New York City for 15 years. The 1980 graduate says she “Loves Lamplighter so much. It’s a place dear to our whole family!”



Courtney Nichols Gould '80

1985

Priya Swamy Zeikus was recently named president of the Dallas Dermatological Society. Two of Priya’s four children are currently attending Lamplighter.

1990

Flauren Fagadau Bender recently participated in Alumni Days at Lamplighter. She read to pre-K students and answered questions about

how things had changed at Lamplighter since her time as a student. Flauren remarked about her visit, “What a huge treat for me: sitting in the well again as an alum and parent and reading to my son Jack’s pre-K class with his brother Leo on Leo’s third birthday!”



Flauren Fagadau Bender '90

Sarah Cross O’Brien lives in Palo Alto, California with her high school sweetheart (and now husband) Brandon and their two sons, 4 and 2. After living in Seattle for five years, Sarah and her family moved back to the Silicon Valley in September. Sarah’s favorite Lamplighter memory is the Halloween Parade...a fun event that exemplified the strong community feel of Lamplighter and its unique

quirks (e.g. ukuleles!). Sarah commented, “Having recently gone through the experience of lining up a new daycare/ preschool for my kids and now starting to think about kindergarten options, I have really begun to appreciate the influence that Lamplighter had on me. I find myself looking for something similar for my own kids. Specifically, I find myself gravitating to programs that encourage creativity and experiential learning, harnessing a child’s vivid imagination to guide learning.” After Lamplighter, Sarah attended Greenhill School and The Hockaday School, before moving to Connecticut where she graduated. Sarah received her BSE at Princeton and an MBA at Harvard. Sarah manages the Global Advanced Analytics Practice for Bain & Company, a strategy consulting firm. She says her primary accomplishment these days is juggling career and family. Sarah enjoys watching sports of many kinds, reading, watching movies, and taking advantage of living in places with beautiful surroundings.

Marc Wallenstein moved to Honolulu, Hawaii, and was sworn in as an Assistant United States Attorney. He previously served as a law clerk to a local federal appellate judge. Marc has aspired to serve as a federal prosecutor for most of his adult life, and achieving this goal is, as he described, “the most humbling and satisfying experience of my professional career.” Marc says he is “immensely grateful” to all the teachers, coaches, professors, friends, and supervisors “who have been there for him” along the way, including the “incredible teachers at Lamplighter who so thoughtfully shaped the early years.”



Marc Wallenstein '90

1991



LILLY OF THE VALLEY

Lilly Albritton just completed her Ph.D. in Humanities with a focus on Aesthetics Studies at the University of Texas at Dallas. Since 2007, Lilly has photographed the festivities and rituals surrounding the Virgin of Guadalupe’s feast day in seven cities: Mexico City; Santa Fe, New Mexico; Los Angeles; San Antonio; El Paso, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Phoenix. In a recent photography show at the McKinney Avenue Contemporary, Lilly’s dissertation *¡Qué Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!* bore witness to the beauty and pride inherent in these expressions of popular devotion to the Virgin of Guadalupe. Lilly’s son James Briant is a current Lamplighter student. Lilly is the incoming president of Lamplighter’s Alumni Council.

1993

Ashley Carter completed her master's degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from the University of Texas. She is working as a pre-AP biology instructor at MacArthur High School in Irving. Ashley's daughter Jordan is a current Lamplighter student. Ashley serves on the Lamplighter Alumni Council.

Finley Harbaugh is a member of the Industrial and Technology Practice Groups at Stanton Chase International. She identifies and places top talent across functions, with particular expertise in operations, engineering, sales, and marketing search assignments. Her clients include both Fortune 500 corporations and venture capital-backed enterprises in North America, APAC and EMEA. In addition to serving on Lamplighter's Alumni Council, Finley is an active volunteer for Carry the Load, CASA, and Equestrian Therapeutic Horsemanship.



Finley Harbaugh '93

Scott Palmer is Director of Advancement Operations at St. Mark's School of Texas. Scott will finish his MBA at SMU this summer. He and his wife Joni have an 18-month-old daughter, Renee. Scott serves on the Lamplighter Alumni Council.



Scott Palmer '93 and family

1994

Sean Leatherbury taught art history courses in Brooklyn at Kingsborough Community College, finished a post-doctoral fellowship in Jerusalem, and then had a respite in Kilarney, Ireland. He is now doing research and writing at the Getty Villa in Los Angeles. Sean has a contract for a book on late antique art, titled *Inscribing Faith in Late Antiquity: Between Reading and Seeing*, which will be published by Ashgate Press in 2016.

1996

Gray Malin is best known for his aerial photos, often capturing the beaches of Australia, Europe, and Africa from above — a habit he picked up after observing beachgoers from a Las Vegas balcony. Gray has recently announced his first global partnership with Le Méridien Hotels and Resorts for Follow Me, a multifaceted global art collection. Le Méridien hotel lobbies will feature the

captivating Follow Me video of a 24-hour visual journey to inspiring destinations. Hotel guests will also be provided an exclusive Gray Malin-shot image on their key cards. Gray is also collaborating with Sperry Top-Siders for a collection that matches his images with American iconic style and celebrates the spirit of the sea.



Gray Malin '96

1997

Colin Leatherbury is working in Sales Finance at Twitter. He enjoys experiencing the challenge and beauty of nature — climbing Mt. St. Helens, camping under the Northern Lights, and hiking the Hornstrandir in Iceland.

1998



Grace Cook in Costa Rica and with heart patient Chintushig and his parents at the airport.

GRACE'S GIFT

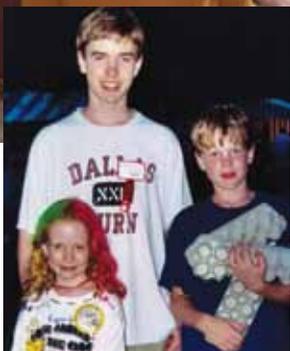


Grace Cook still has her Lamplighter senior jacket, and it fits! She has worn it to recent Lamplighter Carnivals and loves the stares she gets from the kids. One of Grace's favorite Lamplighter memories is the fourth grade Opera where she was a zombie princess. Grace earned numerous awards when she was selling knives for CUTCO: she broke her first national sales record by selling \$37,000 in her first 10 days and was the fastest and youngest person to hit \$250,000 in sales in company history. Grace's sales background now helps her fundraise for HeartGift. The group works to make sure that children in developing countries with congenital heart defects can get surgeries to save their lives. Cook, who serves as a board member for the organization, was able to travel to Ulan Bator, Mongolia, with the family of one such child in November. Cook acted as a transporter, meaning that she accompanied the family on their trip back home to make sure everything ran smoothly with passports and other necessary documentation.

BANKS STATEMENT



Hunter '98, Brian '00, and Katie '04 in Fall 2014 (above) and a throwback to Lamplighter Carnival days (right).



1998

Hunter Banks is a Ph.D. student in the physics department of the University of California, Santa Barbara where he is studying semiconductors and nonlinear optics. He is set to graduate next year. Hunter enjoys programming in the backyard, playing golf, and cooking. His most vivid and favorite Lamplighter memories come from Carnival with all the stands and rides. "Those were so much fun."

2004

Katie Banks is currently a junior at George Washington University where she has been accepted into an early selection program for the medical school. Katie is majoring in Women's Studies and minoring in Biology and Sustainability and does undergraduate research in the biology department. Katie enjoys theater and dance. She co-produced the student production of the *Nutcracker*, directed a One Act, and is also on an executive board for a student theater group as an associate producer. Katie had the opportunity to study modern art in Paris for a class, and she said "It was amazing!"

2006

Katie Payne is a freshman on the Dean's List at Duke University and is hoping to study Political Science and Women's Studies. Last semester, she took part in an intensive program that focused on American Studies. Katie currently contributes to an online student publication called *The Standard* and writes a bi-monthly column on modern feminism and female culture today. Katie hopes to continue writing on women and politics and will be studying at the London School of Economics this summer. Check out her articles at getthestandard.com.



Katie Payne '06

2007

Katherine Dau is a senior at The Hockaday School. She received the Smith College Book Award and the Sudie Duncan Award for Citizenship. Katherine is involved in Meals on Wheels and serves on the Nasher Sculpture Center Student Advisory Board. Katherine is a member of the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

Tim Simenc is a senior at St. Mark's School of Texas and signed a letter of intent to play water polo for the University of California at Berkeley. Tim will be the first native Texan ever to play at Cal. Tim was named the best high school water polo player in Texas last season and has competed throughout the world, including for Team USA at the 2014 Pan American Games. He is also a member of the Youth National Team

for water polo. Tim is one of just two high school players invited to compete with the New York Athletic Club team in the USA Water Polo National League in Orinda, California. Tim is serving on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee. His hobbies include screen writing and film studies. Tim also plays varsity volleyball.



Tim Simenc '07

2008

Sloane Castleman is a junior at The Hockaday School where she is on

the Headmistress' List and received the Sudie Duncan Character Award. Sloane plays junior varsity soccer, varsity field hockey, and lacrosse. Outside school, Sloane enjoys volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, photography, and tutoring. She also loves dogs. Sloane is serving on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

2009

George Dau is currently attending St. Mark's School of Texas where he is on the Honor Roll and Captain of The Rocketry Club. Building and flying planes and drones is one of his hobbies. George grows an annual crop of the hottest peppers in the world (Carolina Reaper) hydroponically. George is the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash Committee Chair.

2009



Friends Forever: Holmes Davis, Rives Castleman, and Whit Payne

SOPHOMORES IN SWITZERLAND

When sophomores **Whit Payne**, a student at St. Mark's School of Texas, and **Rives Castleman** and **Holmes Davis** of ESD visited Italy on a Lamplighter summer trip five years ago, they never thought they would be reunited in Switzerland during the fall 2014 semester. "They were thrilled to see each other there! What a funny coincidence that the lifelong friends did not know that they would all be applying to the same Swiss Semester," smiled Whit's mom, Jennifer Karol.

According to the program's website, "Swiss Semester is a coeducational program of academic, personal, and physical challenge for high school sophomores located in Zermatt. This outdoor paradise epitomizes the security, stability, healthfulness, and natural beauty for which Switzerland is renowned." I am always amazed at what these sophomores are capable of given the appropriate challenges and the encouragement to overcome them," said Swiss Semester Director Kris Robbins. Among other activities, the group was able to climb mountains, including the Matterhorn.

2009

Ali Simenc is a sophomore at Greenhill School where she has received the Latin Student Award, the Humanitarian Award, the Student Council Award, and the President Award. She has taken five different language courses. Ali remembers her first day of school at Lamplighter when all of the lights went out and everyone had to meet each other with the use of flashlights. Ali also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

Jared Steinhart is currently attending Highland Park High School where he received the Community Service and Citizenship Awards. Jared also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.



2010

Sarah Hodgson is a freshman at The Hockaday School where she is on the Headmistress' List. Sarah also volunteers as a member of National Charity League.

2011

Shea Castleman is in the eighth grade at The Hockaday School where she is involved in lacrosse, cross country, and the school newspaper. In the summers, she goes to Camp Longhorn. Shea also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

2012

Kirsten Kirk participates in choir and piano at The Hockaday School where she is in the seventh grade. She enjoys singing, acting, playing guitar, volleyball, swimming, and softball. Kirsten was in two shows at The Firehouse Theatre in Farmer's Branch, where she played a new

orphan in the sequel to *Annie*, *Annie Warbucks*, and played a 70's, 90's, and current girl in *A Firehouse Christmas*. Kirsten also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

2013

James Carr is currently attending St. Mark's School of Texas. He is a part of KD Studio Actors Conservatory and Theatre Three. James also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

Jake Darlak is in the sixth grade at St. John's Episcopal School where he is the grade representative for Student Council and received the Citizenship Award. He is on the honor roll, in the Math Club, and involved in basketball, cross country, and tennis. Jake enjoys skiing and reading. He is a Star rank Boy Scout and received the Lion Heart Award. Jake also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young

Alumni Car Wash committee. He has been snorkeling with sharks and sea turtles in the Galápagos.

Danny Enrico is in the sixth grade at Greenhill School where he is on the high honor roll. Danny has two dogs and is involved in baseball, lacrosse, and playing drums. He also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

Jack Genender is currently attending St. Mark's School of Texas. Jack enjoys water polo. He also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

Everett Graves is in the sixth grade at Greenhill School where he is on the high honor roll. Everett is involved in soccer, baseball, lacrosse, and robotics. Everett also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee. He fondly recalls the Lamplighter United soccer team.

LET IT SHINE!



Lamplighter's Fifth Annual Young Alumni Car Wash

Saturday, May 9 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers Still Needed!

The car wash committee is made up of current middle and high school Alumni who plan the event, secure sponsors, create posters and banners, and sell cookies, lemonade, and t-shirts. Join us at Lamplighter for this fun event that supports Lamplighter. Contact Christian Freberg at 214-369-9201, ext. 355, or email her at cfreberg@thelamplighterschool.org.

The 2015 Lamplighter School Young Alumni Car Wash Committee

Committee Chair

George Dau - Sophomore
St. Mark's School of Texas

Jack Kraus - Sophomore
Greenhill School

Committee Members

Dulany Bloom - 6th Grade
Greenhill School

Emma Light - 6th Grade
Greenhill School

Carolina Campbell - Sophomore
The Hockaday School

Sarah Lochridge - 8th Grade
Good Shepherd Episcopal School

James Carr - 6th Grade
St. Mark's School of Texas

Ben Meyer - 6th Grade
St. Mark's School of Texas

Sloane Castleman - Junior
The Hockaday School

Margot Meyer - 5th Grade
The Hockaday School

Shea Castleman - 8th Grade
The Hockaday School

Avery Mitts - 6th Grade
The Hockaday School

Jake Darlak - 6th Grade
St. John's Episcopal School

Michael Mosle - Junior
St. Mark's School of Texas

Katherine Dau - Senior
The Hockaday School

Alex Rose - Freshman
Greenhill School

Danny Enrico - 6th Grade
Greenhill School

Avery Savage - 6th Grade
The Hockaday School

Jack Genender - 6th Grade
St. Mark's School of Texas

Emma Siegel - Sophomore
The Hockaday School

Everett Graves - 6th Grade
Greenhill School

Ali Simenc - Sophomore
Greenhill School

Inez Johnson - 6th Grade
The Hockaday School

Tim Simenc - Senior
St. Mark's School of Texas

Kirsten Kirk - 7th Grade
The Hockaday School

Jared Steinhart - Sophomore
Highland Park High School

Inez Johnson is currently at The Hockaday School. Inez plays soccer and enjoys doodling, skiing, rock climbing, backpacking, and dancing spazzily to Taylor Swift. Inez has climbed 14,154 foot Mount Democrat. She also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee. Winning the Lamplighter Layers presidency is Inez's favorite Lamplighter memory.

Emma Light is on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash Committee. Emma recently visited Lamplighter and was able to enjoy homemade ice cream that students made with Mr. Burton and Ms. Pollom in science. Emma is involved in lacrosse and tennis and attends Greenhill School. She has traveled to Africa.



Sue McCullough and Emma Light '13

Ben Meyer enjoys tennis and card manipulation. He is in the sixth grade at St. Mark's School of Texas. Ben has won 10 medals with the math team. Ben fondly remembers the Lamplighter playground tunnel, the swings, and the zip line. Ben also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

Avery Mitts is a member of the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash Committee. Avery attends The Hockaday School and is involved in soccer, volleyball, and basketball.

Zoë Purdy recently volunteered in the Lamplighter Media Center. She is in the sixth grade at Greenhill School and is involved in gymnastics.



Patricia Vermillion and Zoë Purdy '13

Avery Savage is currently in the sixth grade at The Hockaday School and is involved in dance. Avery also serves on the 2015 Lamplighter Young Alumni Car Wash committee.

2014

Matthew Wiggins is in the fifth grade at Parish Episcopal School. He performed in the middle school's production of *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* with six other Lamplighter alumni in the cast, and one directing the show (Jessica Barnett '97). Matthew also participated in a Lego robotics competition. He recently volunteered in the Lamplighter Media Center.



Matthew Wiggins '14 and Kate Ogden

President's Corner



Dear Lamplighter Families:

Starting last spring, LPA committees began fresh plans for the coming year. Their diligent work has continued since. Much as our children enjoy the room to dream, imagine, design, and create, I have seen the same spirit in our LPA Board, to amazing ends.

Most visible of all LPA activities are our sensational events. We kicked off the year with the Under the Big Top Carnival chaired by Brenna Lambert and Stefanie Nielson. It was over-the-top fun for the whole family with food, grand attractions, stilt walkers, the chicken toss, and the much-anticipated senior jacket ceremony!

The winter holiday season brought us the Media Center Open House chaired by Danielle Cate and Treasure Hickman. It was a festive day of donating books and iPads in honor of our cherished faculty and staff as we listened to student musicians.

Our Celebration of Innovation Auction was out of this world. Chair Laura Trubey, along with Co-Chairs Emily Clarke, Erin Hillman, Aarthi Ram, Megan Ratcliff, and Naheed Shahid, created an evening featuring fiercely futuristic ambiance, delicious bites, music by DJ Lucy Wrubel, dancing on a light-up dance floor, and irresistible auction items, all to support the Faculty/Staff Development Endowed Fund!

International Night, chaired by Lori Browne, engaged explorers to "travel" to more than 20 countries while enjoying food, entertainment, and the senior flag parade of nations. Throughout the year, students were able to experience multiple

Year in Review from the LPA President

events organized by Cultural Awareness Chairs Stephanie Byrd and Elayna Erick. Children snacked on Cuban food during Hispanic Heritage month, learned about Mahatma Gandhi's life and teachings for Gandhi Day, experienced the Lion Dance for the Lunar New Year and, in May, will honor their own heritage for Children's Day.

Keeping parents properly informed through effective communication is key. New Families Coordinators Tiffany Wilmer and Cindy Hanson did a fabulous job welcoming new families last spring and summer and kept the dialogue flowing all year. Communication Chair Denise Stewart worked with school staff to publish an impeccable weekly eNews and eReminder. All of our Grade Level Coordinators – McKinley Wier, Rachel Trowbridge, Nicole Householder, Mary Nix, Kris Keesy, Selena Lyons, Heather Balestri, Karen Lobdell, Pam Wills-Ward, Dana Garner, and Mi Jung Warner – kept us organized with Sunday emails and coordinated back-to-school parties, all of which foster a sense of community.

Several committees were dedicated to reaching out to key Lamplighter constituents. Faculty and Staff Appreciation Chairs Catherine MacMahon, Janelle Pinnell, and Katie Oudt beautifully coordinated food deliveries and special holiday and year-end appreciation events for faculty and staff. Dads' Program Coordinator Eric Loehr planned Donuts with Dads, Popsicles with Pops, and a dads' group in support of Carnival. Community Outreach Chairs Kristen Phillips, Laura Godkin, and Kate Hoedebeck continued to strengthen Lamplighters' relationship with our COMMIT! partner schools and facilitated meaningful service projects for our children with Austin Street Shelter.

We could not fund these LPA events and programs without two critical fundraisers: Spirit Store Chairs Allegra Feito and Natalie Oudt selected fun Lamplighter attire that was a smash hit with kids and parents alike. Friday Lunch Chairs Sunny Knocke and Robyn Neuhoff worked their magic each Friday throughout the year arranging for every child to receive a custom-ordered hot lunch.

Several key LPA Board volunteers kept the LPA organization running smoothly all year. Treasurers Suzanne Pham and Amisha Patel meticulously tracked LPA finances. Secretary Mandy Dake carefully documented meetings and maintained records. Carpool Chair Natalie Johnson spent summer hours preparing carpool packages. Volunteer Chairs Jen Lochridge and Amy Mitts closely managed the volunteer database to ensure shifts were properly staffed. President-Elect Shannon Morse and President Advisor Courtney Plumlee provided sound advice and countless hours of work to the LPA organization. Their collaboration provided me critical support to perform the role of President. Under the leadership of the phenomenal incoming LPA President Shannon Morse, next year promises to be fantastic.

All of our LPA programs are run in cooperation with the school's administration. Dr. Joan Hill and the entire leadership team have been incredibly supportive. Director of Advancement, Sandy Diamond, and Parent Relations Coordinator, Cindy Connolly, have tirelessly worked and fostered an invaluable partnership with the LPA Board.

I am so grateful for the 2014-15 LPA Board, all parent volunteers, and our school partners, and I'm excited for the year to come!

Sincerely,

Carmen Yung



Board Members of the 2014-2015
Lamplighter Parents' Association

Sharing the Spirit



Kirsten Kerrigan and Judy Gass

To kick off the School's Alumni Days, more than 100 faculty, staff, parents, board members, and alumni attended the annual Lamplighter Spirit Award Luncheon on February 18. This year's honors were awarded to Board of Trustees member Kirsten Kerrigan and former Interim Head of School Judy Gass. The award was established in 2003 during the School's 50th anniversary. According to Greg Marquess, President of the Lamplighter Alumni Council, Kerrigan and Gass were chosen because they "embody the Spirit of Lamplighter; lifelong learners who are willing to take risks and display creativity in their work."

Annual Alumni Award luncheon celebrates "lifelong learners who embody the spirit of Lamplighter"

Karen Pollock, former Lamplighter Board Chair, introduced the first recipient to be recognized, Judy Gass. Explaining how she embodies this award, Pollock said Gass' sense of humor and wisdom are a magical combination.

Gass began her speech by thanking the Lamplighter community for allowing her the opportunity as interim Head "to risk and lead and win and lose in a small and supportive atmosphere with confidence and strength." She explained how grateful she was "to have been a part of the history of this amazing and unique school. I appreciate this award more than I could ever describe."

Wearing their now-too-small Lamplighter letter jackets, David and Patrick Kerrigan, students

at ESD, introduced the second honoree, their mother, Kirsten Kerrigan. Just as Kirsten Kerrigan was about to approach the stage and accept her award, a surprise visitor appeared. Unexpectedly daughter Katie Kerrigan stunned her family and the audience. She embraced her family and then re-introduced her mother. Wiping joyful tears from her eyes, Kirsten Kerrigan approached the podium and after expressing her appreciation, explained that her story "is simply that I am a Lamplighter mom who was lucky enough to get involved." Kerrigan explained that she attended all the school programs: "Hootenannies and Halloween parades since 1996." She smiled and said that she was able "to do all of this because I was a Lamplighter mom!" Kerrigan said that even though her kids moved on, she wanted to stay involved "and give back to the place that had given so much to our family." Admitting little experience and confidence, Kerrigan announced that she "branched out, grew, and explored. I learned new things and loved learning," she grinned.

"I gained confidence and made lifelong friends... Sounds a little familiar doesn't it?" she asked the participants. Kerrigan explained that Lamplighter did for her what it had done for her children. "This place touches you and your family and gives our children the very best start they could possibly have." She explained that while her children are long gone from Lamplighter she is "lucky to still be involved."

Lamplighter also celebrated Alumni Days during the same week, in conjunction with the annual Spirit Award Luncheon. Lamplighter welcomed several alums to campus for visits with Early Childhood and Lower School students including Finley Harbaugh '93, Ashley Carter '93, Flaura Bender '90, and Lucy Reeves Wrubel '78.



Finley Harbaugh '93 presented to students during Alumni Week

Spirit Award Recipients

The Lamplighter Spirit Award was established in 2003 during the 50th Anniversary of the school to recognize individuals who embody the spirit of Lamplighter.

2014 – 2015

Judy Gass
Kirsten Kerrigan

2013 – 2014

Sheila McCartor
Juli McGinnis

2012 – 2013

Nicole Small '83

2011 – 2012

Kate Mosle '04
Frank Welch

2010 – 2011

Lamplighter Parents' Association

2009 – 2010

David Corrigan '68
David Fields '71
Jennifer Mosle

2008 – 2009

Teel Gray
Dr. Carmen Michael
Dr. Ludwig Michael

2007 – 2008

Steven Davidoff '85
David Miller
Kevin Miller '76
Barbara Nichols

2006 – 2007

Marilyn Corrigan
Jeff Mankoff '71
Michael Wallace '76

2005 – 2006

Daniel W. Cook, III
B.G. Porter '75

2004 – 2005

Rolf R. Haberecht
H. Scurry Johnson '73
Pat Mattingly

2003 – 2004

Sara Albert
Jennifer A. Bryan '80
Judge Robert Porter (posthumously)
Eric M. Reeves '74
Margaret Jonsson Rogers

Parents: If this issue is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent residence in your home, please send us the correct address to the school address above or email it to advancement@thelamplighterschool.org

*You are the spark . . .
that inspires the joy of learning*



Your gift is the spark that helps ignite the joy of learning in our students.

Thank you

for supporting the 2014-2015 Lamplighter Annual Fund!