

THE OVERLAKER

The Overlake School

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Two Sides of the Same Coin

From artist to athlete, the
life of an Overlake student
takes many forms



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THE OVERLAKER

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The Overlake School

1967-2017

Dear Overlake Community,

A few weeks ago, I attended *Evening of the Arts*, an Overlake tradition, where our Arts Department faculty share their music, theater, and studio art skills and talents with parents, guardians, and friends in attendance. Hosted by Randi Hedin and Andy Gardner, the evening celebrates and recognizes the arts and our incredible faculty. What also stands out is what we all infer while watching and listening to these teachers:



how fortunate our students are to learn from practicing artists, all of whom know intimately the hard work that's behind making something of quality as well as the demands that come with performing for an audience. What they also know and eagerly share with our students: how the arts showcase humans at their best, be it through making music, theater, paintings, drawings, photography, or sculpture and often to share with and inspire others.

Earlier that same day, I was at the gym, where I noticed that one of the Unaccompanied Bach Cello Suites was playing. That this music has endured for almost 300 years in and of itself suggests the crucial role of the arts in our lives. Beyond its history, this piece has an alluring appeal, which may well come from how the cello's sound is the closest to the human voice. Many find the cello has an almost instinctual appeal. I'd like to think this same type of invitational quality extends to the arts more generally.

Juxtaposed to such human connections and artistic inspiration are the challenging events happening every day all around the world, events where humans treat each other heartlessly. Now more than ever, we need to commit fully to Overlake's mission and the particular ways we live it, including through the extraordinary opportunities that our arts program provides. There are so many critical lessons the arts teach, ones that have enduring value for our students, long after they graduate from Overlake. Whether they learn how to work with their hands or how to get up in front of an audience and speak or play with confidence, they will grow in crucial ways through their participation in the arts. And, this could also simply be as an audience, able to sit and value the performance of others, to tour through a museum and think about what's offered in an exhibit and to appreciate the impact art has in everything we touch — including the design elements found in our daily technology. In these ways and more the arts provide an inspiring refuge from the mundane and the devastating.

In this issue, you'll get a close look at our arts program, and, in particular, you'll meet several of Overlake's young artists. All students at Overlake pursue the arts and often do so in tandem with participating in athletics and other extracurriculars. Our hope is that they'll build skills and interests that will endure, enrich their lives, and enable them to contribute to the world in ways that will sustain and inspire them and others.

Warmly,

MATT HORVAT, HEAD OF SCHOOL

CELEBRATING
50
YEARS
1967-2017



Celebrating Our 50 Years

Shortly after school began we celebrated our 50th birthday with a series of weekend events. Here are some snapshots captured during the Oct. 6 & 7 events, including The Overlake Show, Flight of the Owls fun run, alumni speaker presentation and Athletic Hall of Fame Inductions.

Creating a Giant 5-0

The very first day of school in our 50th year provided the perfect reason to do something a little different. Instead of everyone meeting at the gym for the last part of the day, students, faculty and staff headed down to the lower fields.

There, a new tradition took hold, indoctrinating the youngest members of our community, the fifth-grade students, into Overlake's two teams — Green and Gold.

After participating in a sorting hat style of ceremony, everyone, including faculty and staff, formed a large green five and gold zero in honor of the school's birthday.

After being sorted into Green or Gold, students run through a celebration tunnel.



CELEBRATING **50** YEARS
1967-2017



- < Bill (Army) Armstrong and members representing the 2006 State Championship Boys' Tennis team are inducted into the Hall of Fame. Army is the first coach ever inducted.
- > 50th Anniversary Alumni speakers, including Kim (Palmer) Poplawski ('79)



Flight of the Owls fun run



Flight of the Owls fun run



Visitors at the 50th Anniversary reception view the new history display created by Chris Erlich (see story next page).



The Overlake Show

Showcasing Our History

In preparation of our 50th year, we enlisted the help of Chris Erlich, a curator who has worked for various museums and institutions around Puget Sound. Erlich quickly got to work sorting through the more than 80 boxes of materials dating back



Chris Erlich

to our earliest years. She organized and salvaged our materials, turning them into working archives that are preserved for the next 50 years. She also helped create an entire wall in the Campus Center to showcase Overlake and its rich history for our community to enjoy and learn.

We sat down with Erlich at the completion of her year-long journey with us to gather what

she's learned about Overlake through this process.

Briefly describe your background in this sort of work:

I've been working independently helping museums and other organizations with collections management and history exhibits for more than a decade. I have also been a small museum director, a role in which I was responsible for everything from exhibits and collections to fundraising. It really taught me how exhibits can support an organization's overall mission.

What interested you in this project?

One of the best things about my work is the opportunity to learn new facets of local history. Past projects have had me deep into the maritime history, the Interurban, roads and bridges, hospitals, floods, and even volcanoes. This was my first school history project, so I was intrigued. Having attended an independent school myself, the topic resonated with me.

Was there something that surprised you in looking through the archives of the school?

I think one of the things I most enjoy when going through any archive is discovering the threads that weave through the history of a place. One of the delightful consistencies in Overlake's history is the importance placed on the close relationships between student and teacher and the recognition of the significant role that plays in student success. It is wonderful to see how this has been honored over time. It informed the various iterations of the mission and philosophy statements. I think too that

these relationships gave rise to some of the unique programs the school developed over time- inspiring faculty and administrators to try new ways to help students be their best- both academically and personally.

Do you feel like you have gotten to know us through this process?

Yes! I think one of my favorite experiences was talking with Army. I asked him lots of questions about past administrators and general history, and he graciously and thoughtfully answered. But he absolutely lit up when he talked about his students. His passion and dedication were so apparent and authentic. It really informed how I came to understand the school and what it has meant to those who have been part of it.

Do you have a few words of wisdom for the next 50 years that you would like to share with school leaders?

You should feel proud of the school's longstanding and clear commitment to the unique potential of each student — aspiring to both academic and personal excellence. Your mission statement and unique programs are both products of this. Keep these and build on them, and there will be more future success stories.

Cheers to **50** Years

SAVE THE DATE!

**The Overlake School
50th Anniversary Gala**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018 • 6:30 PM
MOHAI • 860 TERRY AVE N, SEATTLE

Join us to celebrate the past, present and future of The Overlake School — a festive evening with cocktails, food stations, entertainment and community building. Revel and reunite with Overlake friends, old and new.

Questions? Please contact Doris Jackson at dojackson@overlake.org.

Gates Foundation Cambodia

Overlake's commitment to its Cambodia School continues this spring as students prepare for their Project Week journey. Advisors and students spend countless hours preparing for the trip, but past travelers all agree that once you set foot on Cambodian soil, it becomes a life-changing moment.

The school has become an international story and made famous by Pulitzer Prize Author Nicholas Kristof's bestselling book, *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*.

“As we got to the school, all the children were lined up, clapping for us, and excited to see visitors. You learn to accept people for who they are rather than what they have or need.”

Michelle Zhang ('17)

Last June, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center opened an exhibition titled *Women Hold up Half the Sky* that shows how women are making a difference in male-dominated cultures. Among the featured groups is Overlake's Cambodia School. Current and former Overlake students and teachers who made the trip were on hand to discuss how the school is changing lives.

Allison Schoening ('08) made two trips to Cambodia as an Overlake student. She says the trip's impact on her life was immediate. “When a child grabs you by the arm, looks up at you, and wants to talk, it makes my heart melt,” says Schoening. “It was a huge moment in my life where I realized these kids don't need me to be anything to them but myself. In that moment, it was more important to play with them than help them.”



Students who make the Cambodia trip say that while preparations are important, it is important to be flexible and keep an open mind about the experience. Michelle Zhang's ('17) experience meant a spectrum of emotions from joy to tears. She recalls her arrival. “I remember going there thinking I was going to pity the people,” says Zhang. “As we got to the school, all the children were lined up, clapping for us, and excited to see visitors. You learn to accept people for who they are rather than what they have or need. They're happy with what they have, and you can't help but feel the same way.”

Both students say they are amazed at all the attention the trips still garner. Exhibit visitors asked dozens of questions about the experience with most to the students. “It's really had a big impact on my life, and led me to teaching, says Schoening. “Ten years later, it's still my responsibility to show my commitment and gratitude for a service trip like this. It's humbling, and I'll continue to give my time and efforts to keep something like this going.”

The *Women Hold up Half the Sky* exhibit continues at the Bill and Melinda Gates Visitor Center until January 27, 2018.



Current and former students and faculty meet at the Gates Foundation Visitor Center.

How a Teeter-Totter Helps Make Better Singers

As Overlake's Chamber Choir prepares for their Project Week performances in Italy this spring, Choir Director Erin Gabriel used an unorthodox way for her students to build chemistry.

Led by Outdoor Education Director, Kent Renno and Project Week Coordinator, Joey Pauley, dozens of singers used Overlake's outdoor challenge course to build unity. "If we're able to take them out of their element, in this case the choir room, and run them through several challenges, we not only build trust, but we develop accountability and collaboration skills," says Pauley.

Students teamed up with always changing partners in several drills including a blindfolded trail walk and the popular whale watch teeter-totter. Climbing one-at-a-time while keeping it balanced, students had to work together as they stepped onto the massive teeter-totter. For Alyssa Marcus, who just started her junior year here at Overlake, the exercises took on a more personal role. "My favorite part was singing in the woods," says Marcus. "Being new, it really helped me bond and create connec-



tions with my new classmates. Some people were quieter and others louder so that conflict of us having to meet in the middle created this interesting dynamic."

Pauley adds that the conflict among the group is actually intended. "Highly effective groups have all gone through conflict," says Pauley. "Otherwise it's artificial harmony. It's by committing to resolve creative conflicts that groups see success in their performance."

SAVE THE DATE

Overlake's Benefit Concert

Saturday, January 20, 2018 we will be holding our annual Benefit Concert, a tradition begun by **Nadia Petschek Rawls ('03)** who will be on hand to help us celebrate. Students and faculty will perform music, dance, and comedy. All proceeds go to support a non-profit organization that students select each year.



Students rehearse for last year's concert.



Student organizers from last year celebrate another successful event.



Meet Our New Faculty and Staff

Tanya Cummings

COLLEGE COUNSELING



Coming to Overlake from deep in the heart of Texas, Tanya Cummings is embracing life here in the Pacific Northwest. As the Vice President of Compliance at Dallas' Vista College, Cummings has comprehensive knowledge of what it takes to succeed in college. Now, she's bringing that knowledge to Overlake. Whether it's working with

students to find the right fit or answering concerns from parents, Cummings looks forward to working with students to make their college planning experience joyful and memorable.

Ashlynn Hoover

FOOD SERVICE



Ashlynn Hoover is excited to join Overlake's Food Services team. She brings several years of restaurant experience to her position as she has handled ordering, inventory, scheduling and money transactions. Growing up, Hoover was a girl scout and she continues that service as a volunteer for a local library and food bank.

Nancy Iff

UPPER SCHOOL ENGLISH



If you ever have a question about your favorite superhero, Nancy Iff is the person you'll want to ask. She comes to Overlake from the University of Washington where she taught a number of courses in Literature, Cinema, and Media. That included being honored with an Interdisciplinary Educator Award in 2011 for her course, A History of

Superheroes, that focused on the medium of comics. Only seeing her college students once or twice a week, she's looking forward to building relationships with our students on a daily basis where she can see them progress. Working with students

in outlining and writing, she'll prepare them for the rigors of college. Outside the classroom, Iff is an Ultimate Frisbee player and plans to help coach some of our Owl players.

Dana Len

MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTS



Dana Len returns to the classroom after spending almost two decades as an Art teacher and administrator at Punahou High School in Hawaii. In 2014, she returned to Washington and has volunteered for art organizations. In addition, you'll notice Len working with prospective families as she'll also be working in our Admission department.

Rachael Lydeard

LEARNING SPECIALIST



Rachael Lydeard says good bye to tinsel town as she makes Seattle her new home. As a school psychologist in Los Angeles, she has worked with students in both one-on-one and group settings. With a deep understanding of learning differences, she will support and counsel students to their strengths.

Kevin McKenna

MIDDLE SCHOOL/UPPER SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES



Teaching Social Studies is one thing, but living it takes it to another level. For new Social Studies teacher Kevin McKenna, a life of activism in LGBTQ issues is included in his curriculum. Most recently an instructor at Lewis and Clark College, McKenna taught History courses while obtaining his PhD from the University of Washington. He continues

his teaching even when he is not in the classroom. Working actively in the Seattle Project, McKenna has been documenting the city's civil rights and labor history.

Meet Our New Faculty and Staff

(continued from previous page)

Jasmine Park

ADMISSION ASSOCIATE



No stranger to the Overlake campus, Jasmine Park joined Overlake last spring to assist families in the Admission Department. With hard work and a commitment to families in the admissions process she quickly fit into Overlake, and now she's joining us full-time. Park spent several years as the Associate Director of Admission at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bellevue. She has what it takes to ensure that prospective families know what makes Overlake special.

Emma Ross

UPPER SCHOOL SCIENCE



Ross is an example of how Arts and Science mix. After earning her degree in Piano Education at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, she attended and earned a degree in Biology from Oberlin College. Ross has worked in schools in California and joins us after spending last year at Glacier Peak High School in Snohomish. She's a strong supporter of students being able to revise their projects and assessments until they achieve proficiency.

Jose Simonet

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPANISH



It's highly likely that you'll see Jose Simonet carrying his guitar case along with his lesson plans across our campus. A band leader for more than two decades, Simonet's love of music is reflected in his teaching. Also, a published poet, his language classes are full of spirit and emotions. Simonet joins us from Yale University where he was a lead instructor in their language department.

Transportation Bus Drivers

There's a big change in Transportation this year at Overlake, and even your student may not ride a bus to and from school, they'll likely be using our transportation to get to games, service days, retreats, and field trips. In the past, our school teamed up with a private carrier for our school bus needs. This school year, it's all being done internally. Transportation Director Bill Neil hired four drivers to operate new buses for routes and special events. **Leslie Conn, Victor Graves, Jill Turner, and Tim Villeneuve** have extensive experience driving school buses. "There is no question that these drivers are incredible on the road," says Neil. "I wanted people who reflect that Overlake spirit when they transport our kids around the region."



Leslie
Conn



Victor
Graves



Jill
Turner



Tim
Villeneuve

Retirements and Departures



Katherine Lavine (2 years) | Steven Karaikos (2 years)
Not pictured: Natalia Morales-Wiedmaier (10 years),
 Sean Ohira (1 year)

Celebrating Milestones at Overlake



Bob Bristol



Not pictured:
Doris Jackson, Sam McCutcheon



Beth Highland | Marilyn Walters | Megan Sykes
Gerald Buhaly | *Not pictured:* Steve Mraz,
Natalia Morales-Wiedmaier



Lisa Orenstein | Sarah Fitzpatrick



Matt Horvat | Sara Baquero-Garcia | Rachel
Anne Bradbury | Limei Xu | Sandra Mocanita
Not pictured: Lance DeLay, Mark Lotz



Margaret Lynch | Rhonda Andres
Not pictured: Roberta Maize



From Artist, to Actor, to Athlete

The life of an Overlake student takes many forms

We've all heard the cliché, "You can't judge a book by its cover," but at Overlake, it seems to describe so many of our students including Oliver Thomas ('21) and Shri Iyengar ('20).

If you were to meet the Thomas family at October's Flight of the Owls 5k run, you would immediately notice they are an active bunch. All four enjoyed the race which wound through Overlake's scenic campus. At the finish line, they still had energy to take some post-race family selfies. Despite his family's interest in athletics, there's so much more to Oliver Thomas's Overlake resume. As a freshman, he's no stranger to the Fulton Performing Arts Center. Whether it is singing in choir, acting on stage in Overlake's latest production, *Almost, Maine!*, or competing in the State Cross Country meet, this freshman balances his passion for the arts and athletics.

Shri Iyengar's Overlake experience started in the fifth grade. Her parents chose Overlake because they wanted their daughter to have an education that included music, visual arts, and a robust academic curriculum. Much to their surprise, Iyengar, who had always been a thoughtful and introspective student, began to demonstrate self-confidence and leadership skills. She became equally comfortable working on a science project in a lab as exploring different mediums in an art studio.

Making it all work

An Overlake education is as broad and diverse as its students and their interests. Teachers nurture each spark of inspiration and help channel each student's talents through encouragement

and instruction. None of this happens in a vacuum. The departments work together to ensure that every student is able to participate in as many activities as possible and they work to minimize conflict between academics, the arts, and athletics. Planning for those time conflicts happens well before student athletes hit the practice field or step foot in an arts class. Arts Department Chair, Erin Gabriel, along with show directors, sit down with coaches, Dean of Students, Meghan Waddle and/or Athletic Director, John Wiley to go over schedules and resolve any calendar issues. "We're not a big enough school where we can be exclusive with our kids," says Gabriel. "Conversations between coaches, students, and teachers ensure that we give the kids a full rehearsal and performance experience, while still allowing them to play a sport they love to play and represent our school."



Gabriel says that Overlake has a rich history of students who cross over between activities, and that early planning, which many times occurs in spring before the next school year, also allows students to choose their activities wisely. Fortunately, most music and theater performances are built into a class block, such as this year's Advanced Drama class that attracted many student athletes. For Gabriel, who also acts as music director for musical productions, student athletes benefit from participating in the performing arts. "The kids who play sports get what it means to be a team player," says Gabriel. "Part of what I've done in choir is to remind them that we've worked together all semester on a concert, and that's our big game. That's when the lightbulb goes off in their head and they say, 'Oh yeah, I'm part of this team!'"

Sometimes that also means having to say "no" to a sport or arts commitment. This year's all-school musical, *The Music Man*, has an afterschool rehearsal schedule between January and March. Early on in the planning stages, the decision was made that

"We're not a big enough school where we can be exclusive with our kids. Conversations between coaches, students, and teachers ensure that we give the kids a full rehearsal and performance experience, while still allowing them to play a sport they love to play and represent our school."

Erin Gabriel, Arts Department Chair

upper school students would have to choose between basketball and the play. "There are so many roles in this musical where I could have seen some of our student athletes fill in perfectly," says show director, Beth Highland. "It's a hard decision for an aspiring actor or athlete to make, but there are so many moving parts that come together in this play that losing cast members for even just a rehearsal or two can be really detrimental to the final performance."

Baseball Coach Mike Davidson appreciates the cooperation between arts faculty and coaches. For years, he has encouraged his players to explore theater, music, and visual arts. "I support our kids to explore, but I always insist that they commit to their talent. As a coach, each of us has a responsibility to stay in our own lane, and in the same way that we encourage our players to be multi-sport athletes, I want them to have an opportunity to be part of a theater production or jazz band." He agrees that having a player miss offseason workouts isn't ideal, but a player should never be punished for pursuing a talent. "Institutionally, it's on us to set up kids in ways to be successful. Yes, we want kids to advocate for themselves, but we never want them to be part of a conversation between coaches and faculty and feel like they're forced to choose or disappoint," says Davidson.

For students like Oliver Thomas, the balance conversation begins with his teachers. "So far, I'm not concerned with the



Music Man was last performed in 1996

***Music Man* Hits the Overlake Stage... Again**

An encore, nearly 50 years in the making

Back before Overlake had the Fulton Performing Arts Center; back before Overlake had a dedicated Arts Department with full-time faculty teaching their craft; back when rehearsals meant sleeping at the campus in sleeping bags, the students performed the school's first musical, *Music Man*.



Jean Orvis

"Early on, to rehearse we had Thursday night rehearsals and the kids just brought their sleeping bags and stayed overnight so they could rehearse," explains Jean Orvis, Overlake's first French and Latin teacher who also started the school's arts program. "We had a study hour, dinner, rehearse until ten, bed down in the sleeping bags, and then had pancakes in the morning. For years we did that."

This spring, Overlake students will once again put on this award-winning musical to an eager audience. Co-directors, Erin Gabriel & Beth Highland chose this piece to honor the school's 50th year, and because it's also a terrific play with a wonderful score that accommodates a large ensemble; perfect for an all-school, all-grades performance.

Rehearsals begin right after the first of the year every Monday through Thursday with several Saturday rehearsals in January and February.

Performances are Friday, March 2 at 7:30pm and Saturday, March 3 at 2:30pm and 7:30pm.



The Thomas family

workload," says Thomas. "My teachers, like Bill (Johns), are great at asking us about all our work outside of their class. He gives me advice on how to manage it and works with my schedule if I have any issues." Running cross country in the fall, Thomas had several early dismissals due to a varsity schedule that led all the way into November with the state finals. With proper planning, and because *Almost, Maine!* is a class, it has allowed Thomas to play a major role in the play. Johns says the balance works when a role becomes an assignment and a director allows each student to explore characters outside the class. "If the students are doing the work, they're the expert on their character," says Johns. "I can't know every detail about 19-different characters so I trust them to do the work and be the expert."

Shri Iyengar was also in the *Almost, Maine!* cast, but her passion is in music and the visual arts. She credits longtime drawing and painting teacher C Jaap with her development in the visual arts. "When you think about a typical east coast prep school, you think of a place that is really uptight and rigorous," says Iyengar. "While Overlake is rigorous, you can tell that the teachers really care about you. I've had teachers ask me after class, 'How's everything going?' They encourage you to talk to them, and that's the difference." Recently, Iyengar was given the opportunity to attend a prestigious arts boarding school. She decided not to take them up on their scholarship offer. "While it's a fantastic arts school, it was only focused on the arts. I wanted a broader education," says Iyengar who also attended a Stanford summer program in Physics.

Thomas and Iyengar are among the hundreds of Overlake middle and upper school students who make daily choices between academics, arts, and athletics. For most, the choices they make aren't for the purposes of saying "I'm best" at an activity, but rather, which ones will stretch their imagination or exploration. It is a lesson for all of us. "You can ask an alum from any year about their biggest regret, and they'll always answer that it's something they didn't try," says Davidson.

A family's view on balancing arts and sports

Three years ago, when the Thomas family looked for a school for their two children, their criteria was simple. Find a school that stresses academics but builds well-rounded adults. Their decision to choose Overlake was solidified by two campus activities they attended in the admission process. "A parent suggested we check out some events on our own," says James Thomas. After attending a varsity boys' basketball game and a student-produced theater production, it was clear that Overlake was the place for their children. "Seeing how the community interacted really solidified our decision to send our kids to Overlake. We always encourage our kids to explore, and seeing the students here doing arts and sports with support from the community made us want to be a part of it."

Ninth grader Oliver Thomas has taken advantage of that exploration by playing several sports, being a member of the choir, and active in theater. He says both activities share a similarity. "I love sports here and being part of a team that represents the school," says Thomas. "I get the same feeling when I'm on stage. We all work together for one common goal which is a great performance." Starting in middle school, Thien-Di Do and James Thomas stressed participation in sports and arts. Finding that balance is part of the learning process, and they believe that their

“We always encourage our kids to explore, and seeing the students here doing arts and sports with support from the community made us want to be a part of it.”

James Thomas, parent

children's success is aided by Overlake's faculty. "What we love about Overlake is that they're able to try new things and take risks," says Thien-Di Do. "If performing arts isn't the right fit and next year they choose music, then we look at that as an opportunity. I know teachers support that decision too."

Decision-making for Thomas hasn't been easy. A huge soccer fan, he'll put the cleats and shin guards away for a lacrosse stick and helmet. He's also doing more in theater. Taking an Advanced Drama class, he performed in the fall production *Almost, Maine!* He says the relationship between the arts and sports helps build his confidence. "It's not always about being the lead character in a play that I enjoy. Being in Bill's (Johns) class as a freshman is special because I get to be with students that I normally don't hang out with or know. My stage performance will be stronger from being in a class with so many senior leaders."

The Thomas family says the biggest benefit from Overlake's rich arts and athletics blend can be felt in their home life. Making the decision to eliminate "select" sports and focus on Overlake offerings, the Thomas parents say their children's talents are a way to contribute to the Overlake community while keeping to a

saner schedule. "We really value family time and noticed with these 'select' sports that we were all going in different directions," says James. "Having it all in one school and being able to sit down at the dinner table together has been an amazing value added to our home."

The value of a broad education that includes the arts

Raja Krishnasamy and Vaidehi Venkatakrishnan have always wanted the best for their daughter.

For them, it started with their daughter's education. They wanted a school that offered an overall education rather than one that focused solely on core academics. They sought a middle school experience that included the arts, academics, and athletics; where teachers not only teach, but help to build strong adults.

They chose Overlake because of its progressive mission. "Shri gets to broaden her thinking in a very liberal way, and I think this is the best of multiple worlds," says Krishnasamy. "I wanted my daughter to get the right attention and preparing her for that life was very important to us."

For a child entering the fifth-grade, future happiness is not a likely main consideration when looking for a school. Friends and a social life are what kids often seek, but for Shri Iyengar, Overlake teachers nurtured her curiosity and activism. Through the annual retreats, Project Week, and service learning, her interests and confidence developed. "In the fifth and sixth grade, I was a very quiet person. Spending more time with my classmates and getting to know them better, I definitely realized that Overlake was my second home," says Iyengar.

continued next page >

Meet Dana Len, Visual Arts Faculty

Dana Len couldn't imagine finding another school community as welcoming as the one she left behind at Punahou School in Honolulu, but then she hadn't stepped on the campus of Overlake yet.

"We decided to move to the Seattle area three years ago," explains Len. "I wasn't ready to get back into the classroom yet, I wanted to get my family settled first."

But after settling in, Len came to miss the rhythm of the classroom and much to Overlake's benefit, she re-entered the classroom here at the beginning of this school year. "The sense of community really drew me in," says Len. "The artists on campus are respected."

Len teaches drawing basics to middle schoolers perhaps just beginning an interest in art. But she hopes that even an introduction to art can instill an appreciation that can last a lifetime. "Artists don't just paint pictures and put them up; artists have a place in all industries and exist in so many different capacities," explains Len. "An artist designed these buttons on a shirt. An artist designed the textile used in this book cover."

Len, like all of Overlake's art faculty create outside of school. "My art always changes because I get so interested in materials in general, but currently it is oil painting. I like to build the stretcher bars themselves, and then stretch the canvas, and then paint. I really involve myself in the whole process. It feeds the painting."

Because Len is an artist who also teaches, she is able to instill a real common-sense approach to being a working artist that is helpful for her students to see. "The reality is we want to all sit in our studios and create art, but there's the whole marketing side



of how are you going to create something that puts food on your table. There are compromises that need to be made, in whatever career you choose, but if you're going into the arts you have to think about this, even when you don't want to," stresses Len. "There's not a clear path and that can make people nervous. If you're an artist, you're going to have to create the path."

Solid advice for students looking for a career in the arts, as well as those who might never go that route, but need to have the flexibility of determining a future that fits their passions, whatever they may be.

Preparing to Sing Overseas

This year during Project Week, members of the Chamber Choir will head to Italy on a two-week immersive experience. The students will not only perform in an international choral festival in Verona, but will participate in homestays with students from Gobetti-Volta ITC, a school in Florence.

To help defray some of the cost of the trip, OFTA (Overlake Friends of the Arts), a volunteer arm of the arts program steps in to help. The group organizes ArtsFest each spring. This event celebrates student art throughout the campus. The event features a small auction in which proceeds from the sale of items go to alleviate the cost of these trips. Last year's recipient is the Chamber Choir. **ArtsFest this year will be held Friday, May 4.**

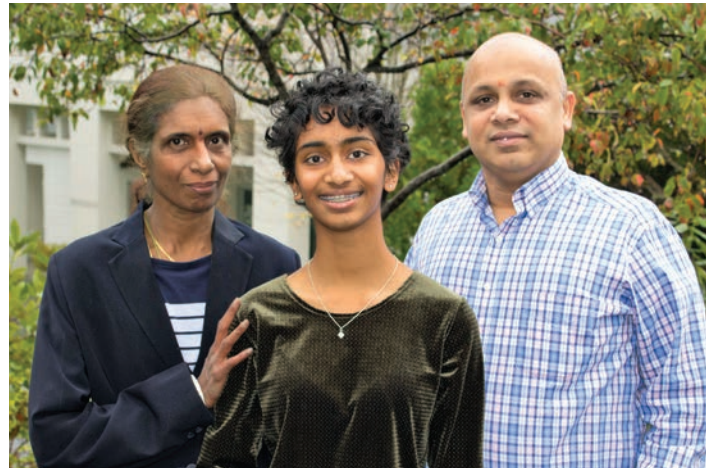
Below are some photos from past excursions.



continued from previous page

Her parents noticed the difference too. "Early on, Shri would always ask us what she should do," says Vaidehi. "As early as the seventh grade she was completely independent with her work and decisions. Because of Overlake, we've seen these remarkable changes."

Those changes were most evident in her visual arts education. Her drawings and paintings appear in campus galleries, and her art is used in creating promotional posters for several campus



Shri Iyengar with her parents, Vaidehi Venkatakrisnan and Raja Krishnasamy.

“Our teachers encourage you to do what you want to do. You're supported in doing the things that you love. In the end, that's going to lead you to a place of higher achievement.”

Shri Iyengar, student

events. "In your art class, you learn how your work can affect science or social studies. Whether it's design or social change, art is powerful, and teachers like C make mine better," says Iyengar.

Not only passionate about her academics, this tenth grader has taken on leadership roles in student government, plays on Owls' basketball and ultimate teams, performs on the Overlake theater stage, and shares her art talents with the community. Her parents beam with pride at all her accomplishments and know there are many more ahead.

Not willing to take all the credit for all her hard work, Iyengar says much of the credit goes to her teachers. "Our teachers encourage you to do what you want to do. You're supported in doing the things that you love. In the end, that's going to lead you to a place of higher achievement."

Taking the Arts on the Road

Most of us in the Overlake community enjoy our theater, music, and visual arts displays in the Fulton Performing Arts Center. Whether it is on stage or a gallery, families and friends are always here to support our student works.

Our teachers know that not everyone can make the trip to our shows, and that is why we take the arts to the community. Music and art classes take several trips annually to local retirement communities to perform scenes and music for senior citizens.

"Music is meant to be heard and appreciated," says Band teacher Steve Mraz. "It's a win for everybody. Our students get the experience of playing in front of an audience, and, for many of the older folks, it's a chance for us to bring a little joy to them."

Mraz adds that the experience also benefits him as a teacher to see who does well in a performance setting.

As for the senior citizens, they not only enjoy the performance and love the company of a younger generation. "It's a real treat for them to be entertained by those they can characterize in their minds as their own family members," says Mechele Anderson of Redmond Heights Senior Living. "Circumstances sometimes prevent them from seeing their grandchildren often, so they are able to live vicariously through your students."

A highlight for all is a November Veteran's Day performance. Overlake's 7th and 8th grade's band presents of number of patriotic tunes in a toe tapping program.

Overlake's Theater is also active in community engagement. In addition to providing tickets to local senior living residents, music teacher and director Erin Gabriel has actors perform songs and scenes during rehearsals. Last spring, four students from the Upper School production of *Big Fish* performed at Fairwinds Retirement Community in Redmond.

"The audience was much smaller, but, by their smiles, I know it made a difference in their day," says Maya McQueen ('17) who sang songs from the play.

It is yet another example of how everyone benefits from our culture of academic excellence and service learning.



Arts Calendar

We hope you can join us for the following art events. All events are free unless otherwise noted.

- MAR. 2** *The Music Man – All school musical* ▪ 7:30pm, Fulton Performing Arts Center (FPAC)
- MAR. 3** *The Music Man – All school musical* ▪ 2:30pm & 7:30pm, FPAC
▪ Admission: \$10 general, \$8 students/seniors
- APR. 24** *Upper School Orchestra Concert* ▪ 7:30pm, FPAC
- APR. 26** *Jazz & Concert Band Performance* ▪ 7:30pm, FPAC
- APR. 27** *Upper School Choir Concert* ▪ 7:30pm, FPAC
- MAY 4** *Fifth Grade Music Night* ▪ 5:00pm, FPAC
- MAY 4** *ArtsFest: A celebration of the arts at Overlake* ▪ 6:00pm, FPAC and campus-wide locations
- MAY 18** *James and the Giant Peach – 7th & 8th grade musical* ▪ 7:30pm, FPAC
- MAY 19** *James and the Giant Peach – 7th & 8th grade musical* ▪ 2:30pm, FPAC
▪ Admission: \$10 general, \$8 students/seniors
- MAY 30** *Middle School Band Concert* ▪ 7:30pm, FPAC

Faculty Who Create *and* Teach

All of the faculty members of Overlake's Arts Department are professional artists in their own right. It's something that brings real authenticity to their teaching. Below are examples of some of the productions and creations that exist after the school bell rings.

Erin Gabriel



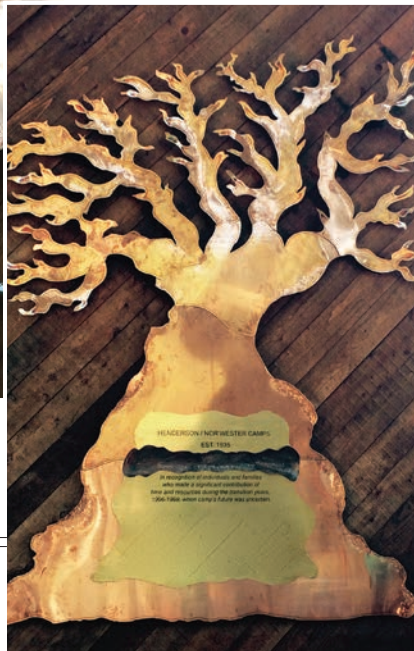
A member of Seattle Pro Musica. Earlier this fall, Gabriel performed a solo in "REARRANGED: A Cabaret" at the Triple Door.

www.seattlepromusica.org

Mollie Montgomery

Over the summer, Montgomery created a copper sculpture in the shape of a Madrona tree to honor Camp Nor'wester, a summer camp that Montgomery had been its program director for eleven years.

The Copper Madrona Tree, which serves as a donor piece for the camp, is more than 10 feet tall and eight feet wide, and took two years of planning and 75 hours of fabrication to hammer together the nine individual copper pieces into place.



Dana Len

Len has turned her garage into a studio where she creates everything from jewelry to paintings. Currently Len's creativity takes the shape of oil paintings.



Bill Johns

Taking the stage over the summer, Johns performed at the Harlequin Theater in Olympia in the drama, *August: Osage County*. Johns also took the stage in Tacoma at the Pantages Theater for the Christmas Revels.



Andy Jackson

Andy Jackson joined Male Ensemble Northwest this year. This choral group, comprised of 15 choir directors who work in the Pacific Northwest, perform throughout the year, including performances in Oak Harbor and Portland this winter.

www.menorthwest.org

Art Loving Alums

Since our first graduates in 1972, Overlake has helped inspire the artistic talents of hundreds of alums who have taken their talents and created a career in the arts. We had the opportunity to reach out to some of our past Overlakers to find out how their time with the Overlake arts program helped shape who they are today.

Cody Katz ('12)

GRAPHIC DESIGNER AND PHOTOGRAPHER



Cody Kautz is a Portland-based artist who blends his passion for the outdoors and computers to create designs for a variety of clients. A graduate of California Polytechnic University in San Luis Obispo, his degree in Art and Design has charted a career in the visual arts. He credits his Overlake t-shirt screening business as the encouragement for a design career.

What did you participate in at Overlake that was in the arts program?

Graphic design, photography, drawing, screen printing independent study, and woodshop.

Did you also participate in other activities outside of arts and if so, how did that impact your overall school and home life schedule?

I played varsity lacrosse and golf at Overlake as well as ice hockey outside of school. I remember being super busy in high school. I wasn't a great student, to be honest. However, when I got to Cal Poly, I had more time to enjoy school and had acquired a strong work ethic, thanks to Overlake.

How accommodating were Overlake teachers and coaches in helping you find time to participate in arts and other programs as well as get your schoolwork done?

They were great, but I think the responsibility really fell to the students to get all of our work done on time. I do remember having a math homework assignment dropped though so that we could focus on winning the state title in lacrosse my freshman year.

How does what you did at Overlake impact your world now?

I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing now without Overlake. I am currently a lead designer and photographer at a company called Revant Optics, headquartered in Portland. When I started

studying design I knew I wanted to work in the athletics/action sports industry. So far, I have had the opportunity to work for GoPro and Dragon Alliance as well. Before I could get here, I needed to get into design school and to do that I had to submit an extensive portfolio. I remember sitting with Troy and C for several hours refining that portfolio before sending it off. The skills I learned at Overlake gave me an amazing start in design school and have allowed me to take on additional roles in my work.

Is there a particular arts class that stood out to you?

Darkroom photography is an art form that is increasingly harder to get into, but the lessons in camera control and the history of the practice are invaluable!

Thomas Arndt ('03)

ARTIST AND MUSICIAN



Thomas Arndt has lived and worked in Berkeley, California for the past ten years and is now exploring living and making art in the San Juan Islands. He has a BA in Human Rights from Bard College.

Tell us about your arts experience at Overlake?

I was involved in Stage Craft, Visual Arts (C Jaap still makes fun of the sad little chopstick legs I once poked into a balloon papier-mâché animal), Band, Chorus and of course lots and lots of Theater with Sarah and Erin. My fondest theater memories in life, the ones that fired me up to spend my life engaged with the arts, are from plays and musicals in the old black box theater. It was hot, the audience sat on top of each other, and we had to use Erin and Sarah's offices for green rooms and offstage areas.

Can you remember some of the performances you were in?

I'm thinking of *A Flea in Her Ear*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, *Barnum*, *Hello Dolly*, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Though the most fun

I've had on stage was *Fiddler on the Roof* my senior year with the all-school cast putting on an amazing show.

What have you done since graduating from Bard College in New York?

I moved to the San Francisco Bay Area and got involved with political organizing work, which shifted after a few years into writing and directing social justice-based plays with students from 2nd to 12th Grade. I think that I can look back and say that classes with many Overlake teachers really pushed me to look at injustice in the world from many different perspectives, while also supporting my creative endeavors.

Words of advice to art students at Overlake?

If I could speak to all the budding artists at Overlake, I'd tell them a few things... number one, trust yourself, give yourself time, don't worry 10 steps down the line or what it will all mean or look like in 10 years; start right now, right where you are and do what moves you and feels powerful. Number two, seek out other artists, thinkers, creators, people who inspire you and support your growth. And number three, allow yourself to be in conversation with and tuned into the workings of the world.

Jessica Herron ('07)

UX AND COMIC BOOK ILLUSTRATOR



Jessica Herron graduated from Overlake in 2007 and from Rhode Island School of Design in 2011. She's now a user experience designer and comic book illustrator living in Portland, Oregon.

Tell us about your arts experience at Overlake?

The arts program wasn't so much of an aspect of my Overlake experience so much as my sanctuary within it. At any time of the day when I wasn't obliged to be in one class or another, all my friends knew they could find me in one place: C Jaap's classroom. Whether it was helping younger kids make sculptures or making popcorn and diving into my sketchbook, her room and no-nonsense presence were what kept me from imploding with teen angst.

Did you take part in theater performances?

I was a part of Sarah Fitzpatrick's homeroom and participated frequently in the theater, though I wasn't on the stage much after middle school. I still remember how much fun we had painting the theater backdrops — I never get to paint things that big anymore! I'd also be remiss if I didn't mention the AP Art History course I took with Army. The only reason I ever got interested in critical thinking is because I found out it could be applied to art. So, thanks Army.

How did the teachers balance your interests in the arts with the rest of your studies?

While Overlake is a very STEM-oriented learning environment (unsurprising, considering the local companies), I know the arts faculty fought hard to allow students more time and space for creative expression. I know they were strong advocates of mine and I was very lucky to be under their collective wing.

How has Overlake impacted your world today?

The fact that Overlake shaped my current world is inescapable; I went there for almost the entire eight-year duration so, of course, it had impact. I knew the classes were thorough, I knew the teachers cared about us, I knew I had some really smart classmates who would take their lives in interesting directions. But, all that mattered to me, was that there was one room on campus where I knew I'd always be welcome... and there wouldn't be anyone to tell me to stop getting paint everywhere. And in fact, C might encourage it, if it were in the interest of a better piece.

SAVE THE DATE



The Overlake School WRITER'S SYMPOSIUM

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018

Our Writer's Symposium is an annual tradition founded by Bill Armstrong in 1995, modeled on the highly regarded program at Kingswood-Oxford School in West Hartford, Connecticut. The program is to bring a world-renowned writer to our campus to speak with our students and the larger community.

To mark our 50th anniversary, we are doing something a little different this year: bringing back three Overlake Alumni who are distinguishing themselves as young writers. We will host **Eva Anderson ('98)**, **Nadia Petschek Rawls ('03)**, and **Brett Rawson ('03)**. Anderson is a successful television producer and writer (*Comedy Bang! Bang!*, *You're the Worst*, and *Andy Richter's Home for the Holidays*). Rawls is Director of Social Media and Audience Development for TED, and Rawson is involved with a number of literary projects including *The Seventh Wave*, a collaborative online blog.

There will be a daytime program for students and an evening program open to the Overlake community and public. The Writer's Symposium is funded in part by an endowment and the school's annual operating budget.



Fall Sports Wrap-up



BOYS' TENNIS Coach Jeff Loranger

Playing as a team in a sport that is very individualized. That's what Coach Jeff Loranger was building with this year's tennis team. While the wins and losses record was even, the coach was impressed with his team's willingness to make changes and contribute in any way possible. "I'm really proud of the guys for showing their support for each other," says Loranger who also was named Emerald City League's Coach of the Year. "We really strive to promote a team atmosphere in our program."

Highlights included an impressive win over a top ranked South Whidbey team, and his team's effort in a match lost at SAAS. "That was one of the more tiring afternoons for me as I was running back and forth from court to court watching one or two points at a time trying to keep track on all the courts," said Loranger.



BOYS' ULTIMATE Coach Joel Pauley

The Overlake Ultimate program led by captains Matt G. (First Team All-League) and Nick W. made it to the post season for the first time since 2009.

Coming into the season we had a group of solid players who had been brought up through our system. A team effort was made throughout the season to get into the weight room. After exhausting workouts players were challenged to throw several completed passes. This prepared us for long points and come back wins as the season went on.

It takes a village. Assistant Coach Nancy Iff and JV coach John Quant were instrumental to the system our players bought into. The team committed to even longer practices with Callahan Award winner, Ben Wiggins, on the four ways to beat your defender.

At our post season meeting with the other coaches of the Emerald City League, Overlake was praised for the toughness, grit, and spirit we brought to the game. We played hard and had fun. I am proud to coach a team other coaches appreciate playing, even when they lose.

Next year we lose four seniors but bring a talented group of players with post season experience to build the program even further.



BOYS' GOLF
Coach Sprague Kolp

Finishing their ECL schedule at 3–3, the Owls had their ups and downs, but are optimistic about the team's success. With fourteen golfers on the roster, Coach Sprague Kolp is looking forward to a team that will improve. "We had nine freshmen on the team this year," says Kolp. "Our numbers were much improved from last year, and while I think there might be some rebuilding, I'm pleased with our overall improvement as a unit throughout the season."

The team struggled at this year's Emerald City League tournament where blustery conditions affected scores, but Kolp also credits the competition. "The ECL was likely one of the most improved leagues overall I've ever seen. Between the addition of many new, talented freshmen and the offseason improvement of several other players, the ECL was a tough place to get a W this year," says Kolp.

Trent G. ('18), Rish R. ('18), Justin P. ('18), and Conrad I. ('21) qualified for the spring bi-district tournament which will determine who goes to the finals at state. "They all possess enough talent to move on to state. We'll need to clean up our course management and short game play if we are to contend in the spring," says Kolp.

This year's state tournament takes place on May 22 and 23 at the Liberty Lakes course in Spokane.



GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL
Coach Justice Magraw

It was a return to the state tournament for Overlake's Girls Volleyball team. The last time the Owls sent a team was in 2006.

Led by first-year coach Justice Magraw, the Owls dropped their first game of the season opener against Charles Wright, but did not look back. They went on a 15-game regular season winning streak and captured Overlake's first-ever Emerald City League Championship.

Walking into a program with talented young players, Magraw had to get the basics down from her squad. "From that first practice where we were just trying to learn each other's names to the state tournament, we've come a long way," says Magraw. "Senior leadership and young players developing really made this season special."

With several All-League players, the Owls leadership on the court came from Liv Sather ('18) who was also named the League's Co-Most Valuable Player. "We never get down, and we pick each other up after every point," says Sather.

Team highlights included winning the ECL tournament, a dominant Senior Night performance that included a student tunnel, a thrilling win against Northwest in October, and a fan packed "Rallying for Relief" game that raised money for hurricane victims in Texas.

That encouragement was important in Bi-Districts where the Owls lost to a tough Lynden Christian team in the finals. Entering a strong state tournament field, the Owls lost their two matches but gained experience.

The Owls lose three seniors to graduation, but field a roster of seven 9th graders. "As a player at U-Dub, I learned the importance of having fun, learning from your mistakes, and playing your best," says Magraw. "I know we're only getting better with this experience."

The Owls finished their season with a 15–4 record.



GIRLS' SOCCER

Coach Sally Goodspeed

Overlake Girls' Soccer team entered the season defending a State Championship, but it wasn't the priority for Head Coach Sally Goodspeed.

Despite the loss of several All-League players, the longtime coach did what every winning leader does when facing adversity. She developed younger players to fill roles and build team chemistry. "It was important to treat this season independently and not put unnecessary pressure on the players," says Goodspeed. "I will always be a one game at a time coach, as it never pays to look too far ahead."

Winning their first six games, the team's confidence grew, and the idea of a state title repeat was within reason. Defense was key for the Owls as they only gave up ten goals all season and posted ten shutouts.

Entering post season play, the team took a blow in the league championship game losing to rival Seattle Academy 2-1 after a close 3-2 shootout.

Ranked 4th in MaxPreps state poll, this year's state tournament bracket was not kind to the Owls with the team traveling far for games. After traveling to Montesano and defeating the Bulldogs 2-0, the team reversed direction and headed east to play Cascade in Wenatchee's Apple Bowl in the State Championship quarterfinals. For more than 60-minutes the team played to a scoreless tie before Cascade broke the game open with two late goals.

"The disappointment we feel over not making it back to the semis will only fuel the returning players to get back there next season," says Goodspeed. "There's been a great tradition of success in this program starting with Bill Armstrong, and over the years, I've always wanted players to feel connected to the history and pass down that winning mentality to new players."

Girls' Soccer finished the season with a 15-3-1 record.



CROSS COUNTRY

Coach Micah Orr

Overlake's Cross Country teams are becoming a popular fixture at the state meet. Once again, the Boys' team made the trip to Pasco in hopes of bringing a title back. Our runners came back with a 12th place finish in the 1A race.

Led by Spencer A. ('18), the Owls program continues to rise in state polls and personal records. The senior took the title of Overlake's all-time fastest runner with a record finish at a season meet in Sammamish. "I don't know how much of that came from my coaching," says Coach Micah Orr. "He understands race tactics over the entire 5k course."

On the Girls' side, Overlake sent two runners to this year's state meet. Ultimately, Orr would like to see both the girls and boys teams make it to the state meet, and he knows he's got the numbers and young talent to do it. "The kids have adopted the correct attitude and work ethic to get there," says Orr. "They show up every day and give one hundred percent effort. They're not only committed to their work, but they're committed and loyal to each other." He rewards that effort with a schedule that includes unique races. This year, the team went on a weekend trip to Yakima where they competed in the 44th Annual Sunfair Invitational along with 25-hundred other runners from several states and Canadian provinces.

All City League Fall Sports Selections

BOYS' TENNIS

COACH OF THE YEAR

Jeff Loranger

DOUBLES

Wesley Chan ('18), Charlie Hill ('19)

SINGLES

Reyhan Virani ('18)

BOYS' ULTIMATE

FIRST TEAM

Matt Gold ('18)

GIRLS' SOCCER

CO-COACH OF THE YEAR

Sally Goodspeed

FIRST TEAM

Kayla Ngai ('19), Defender

Faith Kipnis ('18), Defender

Sofia Beachman ('19), Midfielder

Anne Parsons Proctor ('20), Midfielder

SECOND TEAM

Kate McConnell ('18), Defender

Jamison Foster ('21), Goalkeeper

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

COACH OF THE YEAR

Justice McGraw

LEAGUE CO-MVP

Liv Sather ('18), Libero

FIRST TEAM

Liv Sather ('18), Libero

Amanda Lin ('18), Middle Blocker

SECOND TEAM

Allie Kelly ('19), Outside Hitter

Marusia Leavanidova ('20), Outside

Hitter/Middle Blocker

CROSS COUNTRY

Spencer Arons ('18)

Zach Foster ('19)

Alan Ngouenet ('21)

Anyia Sharma ('21)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Winter Season Preview



Boys' Basketball Lose Height, but Add Tenacity

Using an All-State player, you'd think Overlake Basketball would be struggling to find a replacement for someone who stood six-foot ten-inches in the paint. Finishing with a 16–5 record, the team graduated two towering post players. Lacking size, the Owls work with a deep roster of guards and small forwards.

For Coach Justin Prohn, it's simply changing his team's style of play to fit with his roster. "Even though our guys are small, I'm focusing on rebounding because it wins games," says Prohn. "These guys can shoot, play up tempo, and drive to the basket. Defense wins games and we'll be tested on the boards."

Prohn plans on working several rotations until he sees results. That team chemistry will likely be a combination of newer players and players like Tellier Lundquist ('18) who have plenty of minutes. "We're doing an offensive remodel," says Lundquist. "I think Overlake can be a dark horse this season. Quick, tenacious, and annoying are three words I'll use to describe our team."

The senior says he has no doubts about the team's development as he's seen Prohn develop players ever since he started playing ball in middle school. From the coach's perspective, he thinks finding that chemistry at the right time will make all the difference. "It's all about timing. You want to be playing your best ball into the playoffs, and your goal should always be to win state."

Girls' Basketball

The old sports adage is that games are won by players on the court. Overlake's Girls' Basketball team is the proof. Quietly, the team is building a squad that hopes to be a formidable force in the Emerald City League. If they're to do so, it'll have to be with a new coach. Last year's League Coach of the Year has departed and days before the first practice, the Owls hired longtime assistant Courtney Hellem to lead the team. "I've known these girls for years," says Hellem. "We're in a great position developing these girls into great players."

A fixture on Overlake's basketball courts over the past five years, Hellem has worked with many of the girls on her roster. Team Captains Amanda L. ('18) and Holly H. ('18) are prime examples. Both lead practices through fundamental regiments that Hellem uses at the beginning of practices. "I can really depend on those two to move the program forward," says Hellem. "As I walk through the door, they're already working with our younger players."

Asked what style of ball her team will play, Hellem answers "all of the above" as she looks to her players' strengths to determine game flow. "We'll press, we'll push the ball to the hoop, and we'll feed the post. We've got guards and post players who will help us win," says Hellem. That mix of young talent and senior leadership is a combination that will hopefully have the Owls going far into this year's post season.



A Look Back:

All Alumni Reunion & 50th Anniversary Kick-off

Christian Fulghum ('77), Director of Alumni Relations & Major Gifts Officer

CELEBRATING
50 YEARS
1967-2017

Keeping with the trend since 2014, we saw continued growth in attendance at our reunion weekend in June, with over 250 Alums, former faculty and staff, family and friends gathered to celebrate together.

The classes of 1977 and 1987 held

events on Friday night, and then all Alumni were welcomed back to campus on Saturday.

The day started with two Alumni Lacrosse games, the men's at noon, and for the first time in many years, the women's at 1pm. Director of Admission and coach Lou Sabino organized the men's team, and Donor Records Manager and coach **Julia (Hunt) Auve ('05)** brought together the women's.

We then had the second annual **Ben Ball ('08)** Memorial Ultimate game, with players of all ages in a friendly but competitive match. Ben's family and friends were there to cheer on the players and hand out beverages, snacks and commemorative swag.

In the afternoon, we had campus tours, a fun photo booth, interviews for the archives conducted in the newly built Media Lab, a mini 1972-73 reunion including one Alum on the phone from Australia, the debut of our 50-year timeline in the Campus Center, as well as our digital timeline on our website.



The highlight of the afternoon was the speakers program. Bob Bristol spoke about the history of Overlake, from the start-up years to the present. **Michael Ko ('76)** introduced Bill Armstrong, as we honored Bill for his 46 years of teaching and coaching. Bill then took the podium, and made some very poignant and grateful remarks. Finally, Head of School Matt Horvat talked about the future of Overlake, going from our present happy position to the next 50 years and emphasizing how important it is to retain the values that we have had from the beginning, regardless of how the school evolves.



Bill and Ann Armstrong with their children Michael ('01) and Briana ('99)

A Look Forward:

SAVE THE DATE!

Overlake Alumni Reunion Weekend
June 15 & 16, 2018

Friday, June 15: All 1970s reunion at JM Cellars in Woodinville. Hosted by Peggy McCroskey Bigelow ('78) and her husband John.

Friday, June 15: All 1980s reunion. Location TBD.

Saturday, June 16: All Alumni Reunion. We plan to have Lacrosse and Soccer games, the third annual Ben Ball ('08) Memorial Ultimate game, campus tours, class photographs, archival storytelling and speakers.

More details to be announced in the new year!

Alumni Notes

1970s

Eric Hvalsoe ('76) recently lent his master boat building skills to helping students at the Center for Wooden Boats on Lake Union with the process of lofting. Lofting is a "fascinating mental exercise in three dimensional management and layering" and a vital tool in the design and building of a new boat.

Steve Bowman ('76) and his wife Kristie hosted a summer party to celebrate Bill and Anna Armstrong for their many years of service to Overlake. Guests included **Michael Ko ('76)**, **Barb Stanton ('76)**, **Robin Eising ('76)** and **Todd Lum ('77)**.

Susanna Sigg ('77) made the journey all the way from Winterthur, Switzerland to attend the 40th Reunion of the Class of '77. She was not the only classmate who made a long journey. **Susan Ide Jacobs ('77)** flew in from upstate New York, **Kari Rawson ('77)** from Wasilla Alaska, **Lauren Arnold Gorter ('77)** and her husband Sid from Chicago, and **Chuck Roberts ('77)** with his family from Los Angeles. Local alums attending included **Ele Dootson ('77)**, **Tom McNutt ('77)**, **Tom Hughes ('77)**, **Ren Dike ('77)**, **Todd Lum ('77)**, **Christian Fulghum ('77)**, host **Spafford Robbins ('77)**, **Howard Robbins ('75)**, **Leigh Callaghan ('78)**, **Mark Callaghan ('79)**, **Martha Cahill ('77)**, **Jill Jacobsen Hansen ('78)**, **Laurie Stusser ('78)**, **Peggy McCroskey Bigelow ('78)**, **Jeff Silverman ('76)**, **Bart Hutchinson ('77)**, **Kim Robertson ('77)**, **Carroll Holman**



Varner '77, **Karla McKinnon Torgerson ('75)**, **Eric Hvalsoe ('76)**, **Val Vanyo ('75)**, **Tom Isaacson ('77)**, **Dan d'Heilly '77**, **Sue Kelly ('76)**, **Barb Stanton ('76)**, **Liz Parrott ('76)**, **Cathy Conner ('75)**, **Kate Rabinowitz ('78)**, and **Bill and Anna Armstrong**, among others.

1980s

Alex Smith ('81) and his wife Ange recently made a special appearance live onstage with The Underhills, a band that includes **Christian Fulghum ('77)**. Smith displayed his impressive blues harmonica skills on "Honky Tonk Women" by The Rolling Stones. The event was a fundraiser for the Rivkin Foundation, which supports research to end Ovarian Cancer.



Chelsea Sunshine Miller ('89) serves as director of development at The New Press, a role she has held since 2011. In this capacity Miller is responsible for raising

major support from individuals and foundations, and provides strategic thinking for the organization. She also manages the Press's institutional communications, a public interest book publisher focused on issues of social justice, from criminal justice to education and economic inequality. Founded in 1992 with the belief that underrepresented and marginalized voices were not being heard by the large commercial publishers, The New Press has established an acclaimed list of books that are both award-winning and commercially successful. Fellow Alum Marc Favreau ('86) also serves as Editorial Director of *The New Press*.

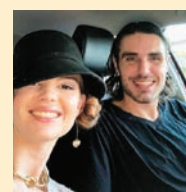
1990s

Brent Nourse ('92) recently moved his family to Socorro, New Mexico to assume the duties of Director of Rugby for New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. He says he is acclimating well to the 5,000 foot altitude.



Jed Fowler ('98) and his wife Elisabeth recently welcomed new baby Helen into their family.

2000s



Sarah Marsh Tompkins ('05) recently joined the Overlake Alumni Board. She works as a lobbyist for the Rare Disease Legislative Advocates association.



Samantha Reising Bement '07 writes that after several successful years in real estate management and remodeling, she is now enjoying being a stay at home mom and has

her own Etsy shop making name tags and place cards.

Kara Brown ('07) has been listed in *Forbes Magazine's* annual 30 under 30, an accumulation of young people who are making a difference in their respective careers. Brown is highlighted as one of the 30 people in the Hollywood and Entertainment world. Brown had been a senior writer for *Jezebel*, and is now a staff writer for "Grown-ish", a TV comedy series starting in January on Freeform. You can see the listing here: forbes.com/30-under-30/2018

Nathan Johnson ('07) is working on his combined MD/PhD at Tulane University in New Orleans. He received his Bachelors degree in Biology with minors in Art History, Business, and Biochemistry from the University of Oregon. His research for his PhD is on gene and immunotherapy.

Alex Salter ('08) currently lives in Seattle, where he is pursuing an MD/PhD at the University of Washington while conducting PhD research at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Salter's lab is researching new cancer immunotherapies.

Richa Pardikar ('09) attended the recent New York Alumni Reunion at the Yale Club celebrating Bill and Anna Armstrong. She is studying to be a physician at New York Medical College.

2010s

Natalie Chin ('10) lives in Spokane, where she is a first year medical student at the University of Washington. Explains Chin, "UW has a regional medical education program called WWAMI, which stands for Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. This means that I'm spending 1½ years completing pre-clinical classes in Spokane, and 2½ years doing clinical rotations throughout these five states." When she has free time, she volunteers at a homeless shelter in Spokane, providing medical care along with health education and disease management.

Daniel Lee ('13) was selected as one of four salutatorians for the Dartmouth Class of 2017. Lee's degree is in engineering sciences with a mathematics emphasis. He plans to join Blackstone as an analyst.

Lauren Bazley ('14) was among the returning members of Wellesley's 2016 NCAA Division III Women's Rowing National Championship team recognized by **Hillary Rodham Clinton** (Wellesley '69) when she returned to that campus earlier this year.

Chris Chin ('14) is currently a Junior at UC Berkeley studying civil engineering, focusing on the field of transportation engineering. Chin writes, "In addition to classes, I spend a lot of my time doing academic research. This semester, my research involves using advanced simulation software to develop algorithms to improve traffic. Rather than build more roads or increase the number of lanes, we can make subtle changes to signal timing to decrease traffic delay. Beyond school, I play on IM Soccer and Ultimate teams, two sports that I played extensively at Overlake. I enjoy exploring the outdoors around the Bay Area, including Marin Headlands and Yosemite."

Keep those stories coming; we love to hear from you! If you have an update you would like to share, please email alumni@overlake.org.



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Alums and alum parents are also welcome to support their Senior Class Legacy Funds at give.overlake.org.



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During our Flight of the Owls fun run, we caught this photo of participants running past our senior's 2018 sign. It reminds us of our community running toward the next 50 years.