

HOLDERNESS SCHOOL TODAY

The Magazine of Holderness School

SPRING/SUMMER 2022



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A DESERT OASIS**
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DEAN OF STUDENTS**



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ON THE FRONT COVER: Phil Peck, May 2022. Photo by Thea Dodds.

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FEATURES

Congratulations to the Class of 2022!



LOOKING BACK WITH PHIL



JOSHUA TREE: A DESERT OASIS



COMMENCEMENT 2022

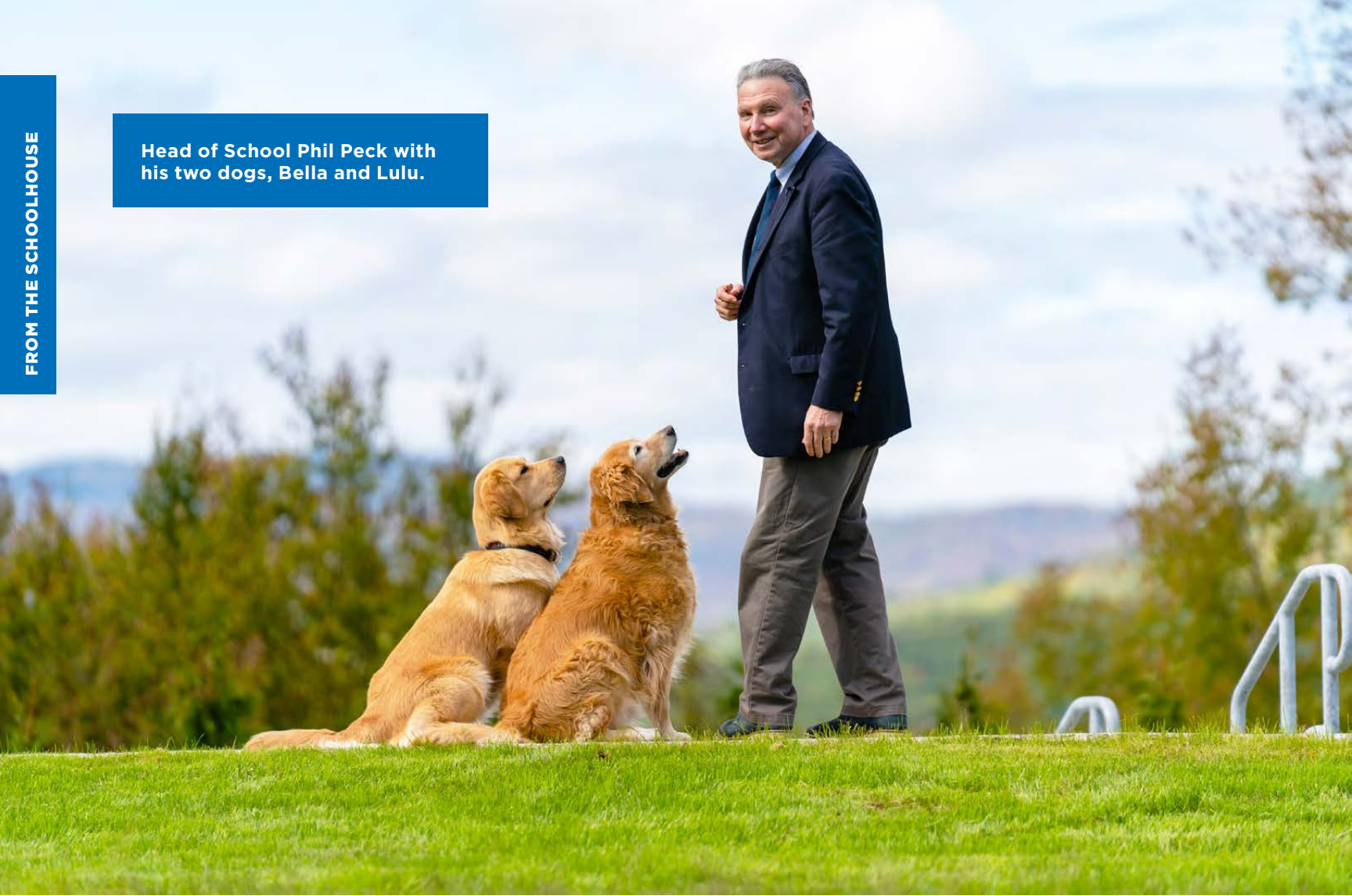


SLIDING HEADFIRST INTO HOLDERNESS

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Head of School Phil Peck with his two dogs, Bella and Lulu.



FROM THE SCHOOLHOUSE

LIVING THE DREAM

Over the last year, I have constantly said that our golden retriever, Bella, is “living the dream.” Her first day on campus was the opening day of school in 2020. Needless to say, her first year and a half of life has been a puppy’s dream; constant attention, visits to dorms, lots of walks, and constant love. As my last year at Holderness comes to a close, I realize that

I too have been “living the dream.” But unlike Bella, that dream spans almost 40 years. So why is that?

38 years ago Robin and I thought we would be at Holderness for a few years and then we would move to the West Coast, where both of us are from. Well, that certainly didn’t happen! When Don Henderson gave his Commencement talk in 1987, he encouraged the graduating seniors (and the rest of us) to



find a job where your work and play were one. He recited the closing stanza of Robert Frost's "Two Tramps in Mud Time."

My object in living is to unite

My avocation and my vocation

As my two eyes make one in sight.

Only where love and need are one,

And the work is play for mortal stakes,

Is the deed ever really done

For Heaven and the future's sakes.

On that day when Don delivered his address, I realized that I was blessed to be in a place where I was living the life described in Frost's poem.

Of course, I am not the only one who feels this way. Holderness has always been fortunate to have an adult community of educators who see Holderness as a lifestyle, not a job. This is as true for classroom teachers, as it is for administrators, as it is for colleagues in housekeeping, the kitchen, and maintenance. In the last couple months of the year, I will ask seniors who the adult is who had the greatest impact on them at Holderness. While teachers and coaches are mentioned, often a senior will mention one of our colleagues who is not a formal teacher, but has been a mentor and role model for them. The adults who I work for at Holderness truly embrace this philosophy, and it is a key reason why I am "living the dream."

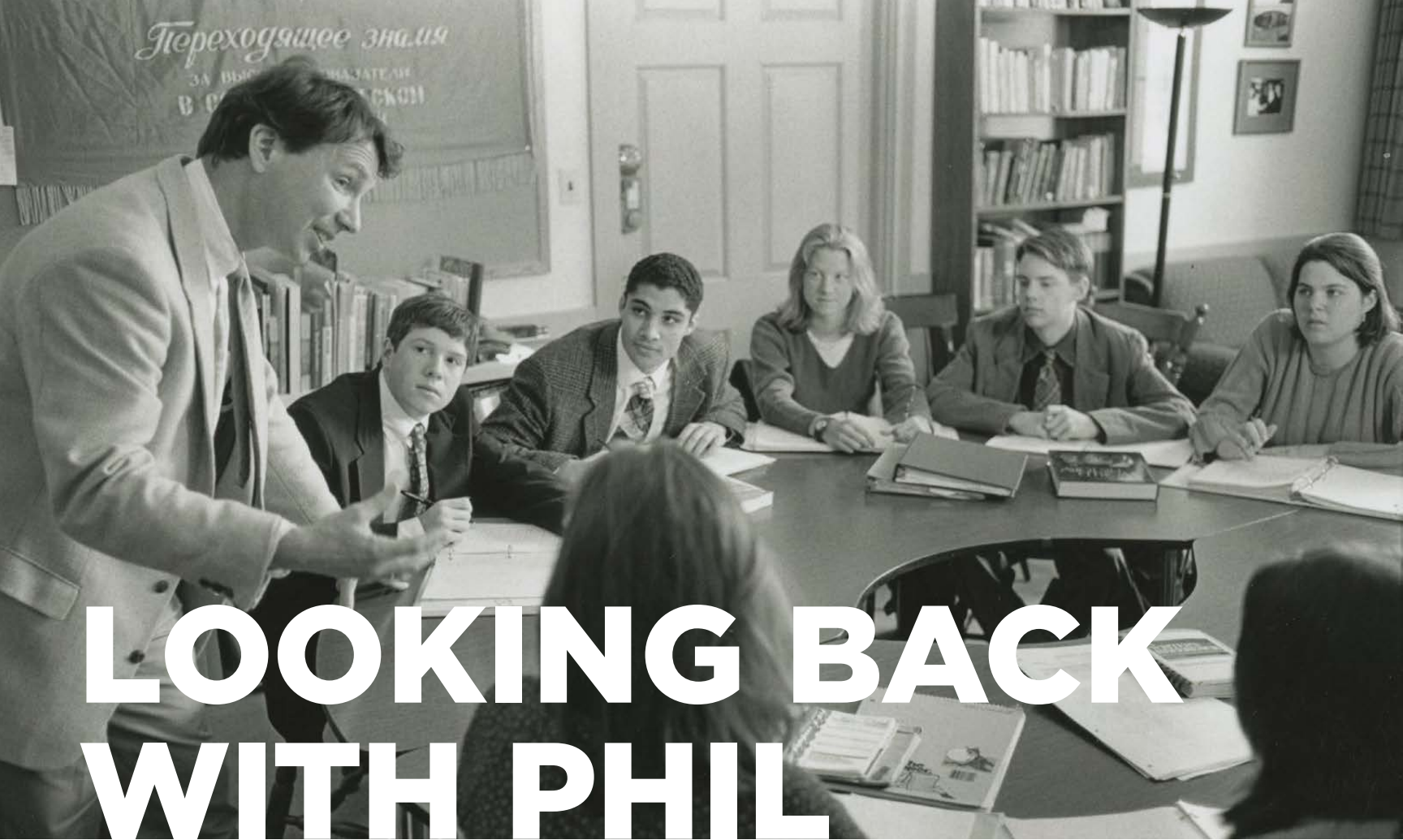
Another reason that I have felt blessed to be at Holderness for so long, and especially as head, is how aligned we are as a school. Virtually everyone associated with Holderness embraces the motto, mission, vision, and core values of

Holderness. Whether it is employees, students, alumni, parents, or the board, everyone believes in and embraces the merits of those lasting qualities. Often when I talk with other heads, the issues that are keeping them awake at night are linked to a lack of alignment with one or more of those groups. When those conversations emerge, I just count my blessings and stay quiet. Yes, we have had challenges, but for the most part everyone believes in the same values and the programs that make Holderness culturally unique.

Finally, my dream is actualized because Holderness is a learning community. Similar to Carol Dweck's "Growth Mindset," Holderness embraces a culture of always learning and growing. One of my favorite axioms is that arrogance is ultimately grounded in insecurity, but confidence is grounded in humility. I believe that humble confidence is rare in today's world and is why Holderness is always striving to be our best bold self. I see it in lots of areas, but most importantly in our alumni. There is a warmth, a lack of pretense, and a genuine interest in others that is linked to humility.

Yes, Bella has experienced the best first year and half imaginable, but I have experienced the best 38 years possible; and it is because of the remarkable people who make up the Holderness family. Thank you for welcoming me and Robin to Holderness 38 years ago, and granting me the privilege to serve Holderness for all these years. ■

Phil Peck, Head of School
ppeck@holderness.org



LOOKING BACK WITH PHIL

It would be easy to write a long feature article on the career and accomplishments of Phil Peck, the Ivy League graduate and Olympic-level Nordic coach who by coincidence stumbled upon a career in education at Holderness and then went on to lead the school for 21 years. During that time, Phil was many things to many people: Phil taught history; he taught history teachers how to teach history both at Holderness and at Columbia University's Klingenstein Center; he coached Holderness athletes with the same focus and level of care as he did his skiers at the 1984 Sarajevo Olympics; he lived in the dorms, and he even helped build some dorms while working on summer maintenance crews.

Just as Phil's young family grew at Holderness, so too did his own definition of family. Students, parents, alumni, board members, and neighbors of the school all grew to be, in Phil's own words, members of the Holderness family.

And while we could fill pages with the lessons learned of an educational leader or vignettes of a brick-and-mortar legacy, it's only fitting that the story of a head of school so focused on people would be told by those very same people. What follows are just a few of the many, many tributes—edited for length and clarity—that we received about Phil.

I never had a class with Phil, but always enjoyed looking through the window pane of his door in the lower schoolhouse seeing students enrapt in his Russian Studies lectures... In today's times, I wish I had that class. The world is seemingly violent and catastrophic now. I cannot fathom how to prepare students for their future life with so much environmental, geopolitical, and economic uncertainty. It must take a man with great resolve, calmness, and overwhelming kindness to lead such students and teachers into their new realities. I reflect on this image of Phil, as an iconic mentor, when confronting my own life challenges and conflict.

-Alec Brewster '96

Phil Peck is the epitome of everything a parent could wish for in a Head of School. He is the ultimate combination of grace, wit, wisdom and class. I could not have asked for a better mentor and role model for my two sons, Matt '12 and Jack '15. He and I had many conversations via phone and text when the boys were in school and even after they graduated. I will always consider Phil as the ultimate benchmark for incredible educators and will always be grateful for his presence in our lives.

-Trish Kinney Bozich P'12 '15

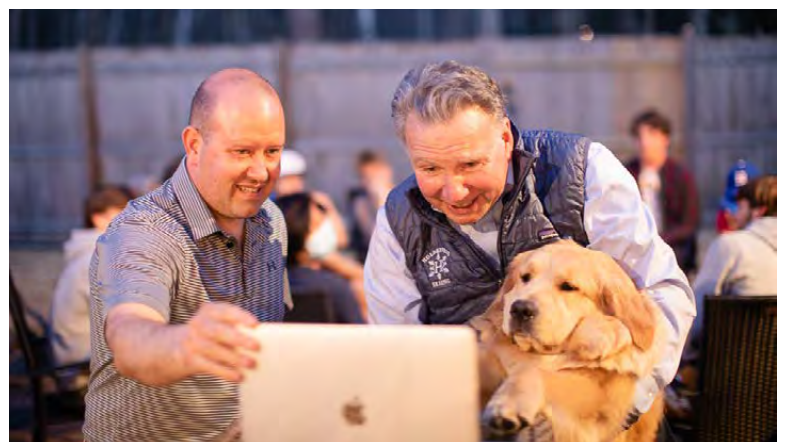


Photo courtesy Tracy McCoy Gillette '88



Phil is simply one of my heroes, someone whose intellect and heart are both so capacious as to dwarf me, whose goodness is so robust as to fortify, whose passion and love are inspiring, whose service to others is exemplary. Holderness has had, as I am sure you are aware, a leader of singular ability and character. He will leave a legacy that will guide for many years, like signs along the White Mountains, telling you of sights ahead, turns to take, dangers to avoid, and joys to behold.

-Willy MacMullen, Head of School, Taft School





One of my fondest memories is the weekend my twin brother came to visit in my senior year, and we had an alumni brownie night. Not only did Mr. Peck recognize and introduce himself to my brother (whom I do not believe he had ever met), but he made such an impression that my brother still talks about that night almost a decade later.

-Klaus Vitzthum '11



I was a greenhorn head of another New Hampshire boarding school and conversations with Phil filled my cup because he reminded me of the point of the work we do and the need to look beyond the pain of it to see the bigger picture--his background as a nordic skier surely informed him here. He was also my two sons' head of school. They loved Holderness in part because they loved Phil--and they both were able to see even as tender adolescents the salient qualities Phil manifested daily: be one's self; love mightily; giggle; work hard; rest; repeat. Amen to that.

-Craig Gemmell P'20'21, President, Brewster Academy & Brewster Academy International

What an excellent career. You sir, Mr. Peck, you impacted a generation to a greater good. Thank you for giving me an opportunity of a lifetime to study at the best place in America, in my opinion Holderness Prep School. Your impact in allowing, and by saying yes to the scholarships that a young promising Nigerian received to study in Holderness will be remembered forever. The memories I made at Holderness will last forever. Thank you for teaching me how to knot my tie on the first of class. I am really grateful.

-Olayode Ahmed '12



I can recall on one of the 100-mile bike rides I did along the Kancamagus Hwy, I was struggling to get to the top of the pass. Mr. Peck zoomed up behind me on his bike (he was biking up and down the steep stretch of road, checking on everyone, doing circles around us). After seeing that my pedaling was becoming progressively slower, he placed his hand on my back, and started pushing me up the steep grade for a short distance. This brief respite from gravity and screaming muscles was the very boost I needed, and when he released his hand, I managed to maintain the momentum he had instilled. I made it to the top of the pass and all the way back to school. I remember being so impressed at the time that not only could this man bike up the mountain with such ease, but he could simultaneously push me up too!!

-Liza McElroy '03





One cannot help but see the dramatic additions to the Holderness campus since Phil became its Head of School. New buildings, new uses for older ones—even the outdoor acres have been expanded or improved to make good and wise use of the resources the School is called to steward "For God and Humankind." All those changes are undeniable: outward and visible. But I have so appreciated the way Phil has created spaces for each of the students, faculty, staff, and trustees. In every meeting I have shared with Phil, whether individually or in a group, Phil has opened the conversation with a particular natural grace and innate kindness, that allows us to offer our best selves to the cause of raising young people to be their unique and holy self. I will always be grateful for how Phil has striven to fulfill, to the utmost of his ability, the Episcopal baptismal promise to "uphold the dignity of every human being."

-Bishop Rob Hirschfeld, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of New Hampshire, Board Member





There is something beautiful about knowing that when you catch up with Phil and Robin, they will be filled with stories about others that will celebrate their heroism or generosity. Yet the headline about Phil is more likely to be about impaling himself on his bike at 50 mph or cleaning up after his dog who just relieved [themselves] on his office furniture. The Pecks do not just philosophize about humility and generosity of spirit, they live it out every day. In our time working in boarding schools, we have not encountered an educator who has as selflessly followed a calling to lead as Phil. His service to Holderness has been nothing short of remarkable, but as a deeply spiritual man, it never stopped there or was defined that narrowly. We've never heard him reflect in precisely this way, but it strikes us that Holderness has served as a perfect vehicle for channeling his energy, leadership and focus toward the betterment of humankind and God's creation. The man, the school, and its mission are so deeply intertwined.

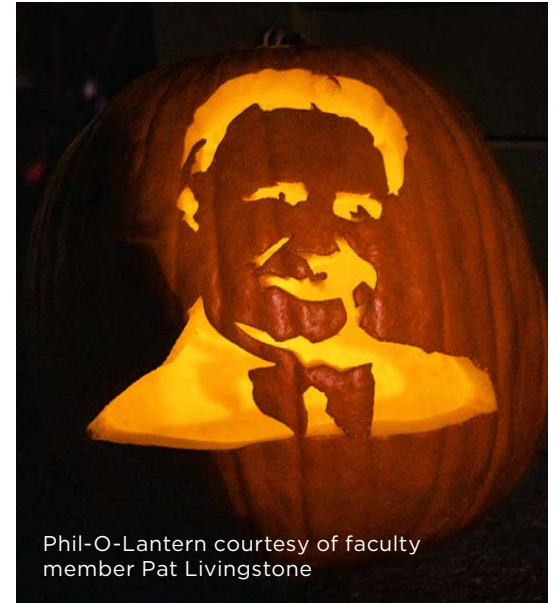
-Tyler Lewis, Head of School, Kimball Union Academy, former Holderness Director of Admission



Phil, the measure of your impact can be seen in the students. They are kind, empathetic, community-spirited, and energetic. They are part of a "we" school, not a "me" school. And you have made that happen for decades. You lead the team of teachers and staff; set the tone; model the right behavior. You live the Holderness mission for all to see. We are grateful for the impact that you and Holderness have had on our children, their friends, and all the students of Holderness.

-Bob and Kathy Cunha P'16 '19, Board Member





Phil-O-Lantern courtesy of faculty member Pat Livingstone

From cheering us on at our wedding to working hard to convince me that I really should embrace a life—not just a career—in independent schools, Phil has been an important player in the shape my life has taken. I'm grateful for his and Robin's friendship and care over the years. I'm even grateful for the time I interviewed at Holderness and he sent me out with Kate Knopp for what he insisted would be the most beautiful cross country ski ever. It turned out to be the coldest night of the year AND the hardest ski ever because the trails weren't groomed AND I had never cross country skied before AND we had to cross 175 before there was a tunnel AND there was a frozen mouse in the ski shoes when I tried them on. (To this day, I still check my shoes before I stick my foot in them!). And, honestly, it is still in my mind's eye one of the most beautiful New Hampshire winter scenes I have ever encountered. Thank you, Phil, for all the "ands," for always modeling what it means to throw yourself fully into what you love and where you find purpose.

-Nicole Furlonge, PhD, Director, Klingenstein Center, Teachers College Columbia University



Photo courtesy of Nicole Furlonge





Photo courtesy of Haiqing Wang P'22

There is a Chinese idiom "Houdezaowu", which means to cultivate people with lofty morality and broad and profound knowledge to become talents. It describes a person with a lofty moral character who, like the earth, can support all living things. Mr. Peck's dedication to education for 38 years is exactly the interpretation of this word.

-Haiqing Wang P'22



I am thinking of your golf game, your way of mastering the croquet mallet but most of all our tandem bike rides during the Prouty. Remember we beat all these guys in a drenching rain. What a win for the team Phil and your stoker Rose-Marie . We will miss all our talks about the going ons at the school. Eijk and I wish you the best in your retirement - especially good health, so we can continue the competitions.

-Rose-Marie and Eijk van Otterloo P'94





The cool desert nights make getting out of a warm sleeping bag no small task—the air is crisp, our mummy bags drawn in tight. But nevertheless, one-by-one we amass our layers and headlamps and shuffle through the sand to scramble up to the top of the boulders that surround our campsite. Erik Thatcher '08—Director of Outdoor Programs—lights the Jetboil, the coyotes begin to howl, and we sit quietly with the promise of warm drinks and warm sunlight.

For five days in January, this was the morning routine for a group of Holderness students.

After a year hiatus due to COVID the annual winter desert trip is back! We planned this trip in the fall when things were looking much brighter. Then, as our departure date neared, so did Omicron. Our COVID Response Team, including the school's medical director, reviewed guidance and advised us to stay the course—being mostly outside and isolated has proven to be a safe way to gather. And it was.

On New Year's Day a group of students and adults converged in Las Vegas, Nevada for a five-day tour of the Mojave Desert, complete with hiking, climbing, unforgettable sunrises, wildlife viewing, and just all-around, simple fun.

Food, shelter, light and warmth became the central focus of each day. Things like cell coverage or even just a charged battery become pure luxury and blatantly unnecessary. The constant stimulus of living in the 21st-century world was paused. One evening, the students actually gathered around a picnic table to play the card game Magic by headlamp—teens choosing to play cards! This is why outdoor trips for teens are so valuable. We need to unplug, but now two years into a relentless pandemic it seems more than valuable—it feels vital.

In Joshua Tree National Park, we followed a winding trail miles through the sandy desert. Rounding a corner we reach a true desert oasis like an island in the sand with palm trees, birds, water, and beaming with life. Suddenly it seems so obvious. That's what this trip is: it's not just a break from Tiktok and test positivity, it's an oasis.

JOSHUA TREE

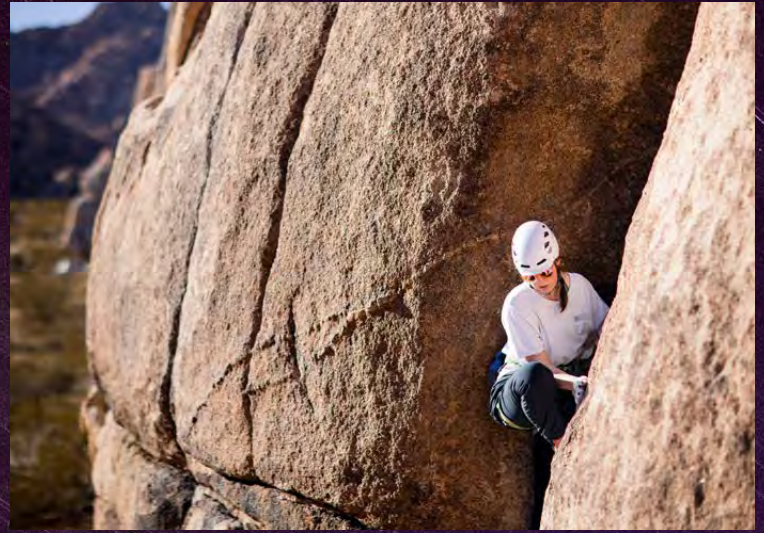
A Desert Oasis

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY THEA DODDS

Students explore Fortynine Palms Oasis on the north end of Joshua Tree National Park.




Drake Dearborn '25 huddles for warmth in the cool desert morning while watching the sunrise over the Jumbo Rocks campground.



Margot Roguet '22 works through an off-width crack on the Short Wall in Indian Cove Campground.



From the left, back to front: Andrea Sweet, Erik Thatcher '08, Seomae Aronson '25, Samuel Yap '22, Oliver Kiker '22, Margot Roguet '22, Jack Sawyer '21, Drake Dearborn '25, Bryce Patterson '23 at the Indian Cove entrance to Joshua Tree National Park.

A long-exposure photograph of a Joshua tree at night. The tree is illuminated from below, creating a warm, golden glow on its spiky leaves and thick, textured trunk. The trunk is dark against the night sky. The sky is a deep, dark blue, filled with numerous white, diagonal streaks representing star trails. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of large, rounded rocks and some sparse, dry vegetation are visible. The overall scene is a serene and dramatic night landscape.

The night sky from our campsite
in Jumbo Rocks Campground.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2022

It's always a bittersweet moment when we say goodbye to our graduating seniors, and this year was no exception. On May 22, 2022 we watched 84 seniors receive their diplomas and walk across the Holderness seal, bound for bright and exciting futures. It was also a graduation of sorts for retiring Head of School Phil Peck. After 38 years at Holderness - and 21 as head of school - Mr. Peck awarded his final diploma this year. As he joins this year's seniors in leaving Holderness, we wish him the best and look forward to seeing the bright and exciting future he will create for himself in retirement.



“YOU’VE ALL MADE IT THROUGH SO MUCH IN THE PAST FOUR YEARS, AND I AM IN AWE OF YOUR DETERMINATION AND GRACE DURING SUCH UNKNOWING TIMES. YOU ALL MODELED WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A FANTASTIC FRIEND, TEAMMATE, ROLE MODEL, STUDENT, LEADER—AND BEST OF ALL—A GOOD PERSON.”

– Jackson Ehwa ’23, Holderness School President, 2022–23



“THANK YOU, HOLDERNESS SCHOOL. THE STUDENTS, THE FACULTY—AND THE DOGS—FOR MAKING THIS SUCH A REMARKABLE PLACE. I KNOW IT’S CHEESY, BUT YOU ALL ARE TRULY MY BEST FRIENDS AND I’M NOT SURE WHAT I WILL DO WITHOUT YOU NEXT YEAR. I, LIKE MANY OF US, HAVE FOUND MYSELF HERE, AND I TRULY DO NOT WANT TO SAY GOODBYE. THE PEOPLE, THE SOUNDS, THE SMELLS THAT ARE HOLDERNESS WILL REMAIN DEEP IN MY HEART’S CORE THROUGHOUT MY LIFE. I’M TAKING YOU ALL WITH ME.”

–Maizley Tone ’22, Holderness School President, 2021–22

GRADUATING SENIORS

Sage Ann Amalixsen

From Essex, VT

Noelle Nora Boes

From Marblehead, MA

Carl Edvin Jesper Bonniver

From Saltsjo Boo, Sweden

Cooper Maurice Boulanger

From Barre, VT

Macklin Tait Bowen

From Stowe, VT

David Lewis Brandes

From North York, Canada

Michael Edward Carchidi

From North Falmouth, MA

Donovan Heiler Cole

From Thetford, VT

Francesca Lynne D'Orio

From Marblehead, MA

Ty Anders Dahl

From Plymouth, NH

Courtney Ross Diemar

From Eagle, CO

Charlie Hemming Dobson

From Bennington, VT

John James Dowling

From Greenland, NH

**Nathan Konstantinovich
Driker**

From New York, NY

Mathieu Zachary Dubois

From South Burlington, VT

Nathan Lee Dudley

From Hooksett, NH

**Morgan Elisabeth
Edenbach**

From Gorham, ME

Jeremiah E. Edokpa

From Beverly, MA

Allison Lindsay Eichler

From Mission Hills, KS

Hugo Fredrik Eneqvist

*From Saltsjo Dunvas,
Sweden*

Karalyn Grace Farley

From Campton, NH

Alyssa Makaylyne Fuster

From Center Harbor, NH

Katherine Neve Gervais

From Yarmouth, ME

Wells Taylor Gillette

From Vail, CO

Ethan Louis Greene

From Winchester, MA

Kerry Catherine Guinee

From Andover, MA

Jamir LaRon Harvey

From Robbins, IL

Ibrahim Micah Hikmate

From North Hampton, NH

Fiona Helene Hood

From Springfield, VA

Annika Lillian Howard

*From Engelberg,
Switzerland*

Grace Helen Hughes

From Meredith, NH

Jack Linwood Hutchins

From Manchester, NH

**Christopher Russell
Hutchinson**

From Marblehead, MA

Liam Andrew Johnston

From Walpole, NH

Annecy Isabella Kagan

From Nantucket, MA

Nicole Shea Kanowsky

From Ketchum, ID

Robert Keegan

From Quincy, MA

Oliver Werner Kiker

From Newport, RI

Bennett Lawrence King

From Manchester Center, VT

Anne Grace Kinsley

From York, PA

Charles Drayton Krahmer

From Duxbury, MA

Max Isaac Landis

From Scarsdale, NY

Papon Lapate

From Bangplee, Thailand

Sacha Frances Levine

From Longmont, CO

Xin Yan Li Zhu

From Madrid, Spain

Yishan Lin

From Ningbo, China

Ali Rose Marcus

From Vineyard Haven, MA

Quinn Thomas McCarthy

From Melrose, MA

Alexander Tristan McNabb

From Stowe, VT

Nicholas Daniel Messina

*From Woodbridge,
Canada*

Tobias Quinn Mills

From Montpelier, VT

Aldwyn Moynihan

*From Waterbury Center,
VT*

Hannah Rose Mullaly

From Cohasset, MA

Grace Elizabeth Murphy

From Kearsarge, NH

Ahneka D. Noyes

From Endicott, NY

Natdanai Ongarjvaja

From Bangplee, Thailand

Mary Royse Page

From Wenham, MA

Jack Benjamin Parker

From Portsmouth, NH

Mackenzie Van Pattee

From Jackson, WY

Andrew Stevens Peatman

From Waterville Valley, NH

Jasmine J. Peterson

From Bristol, NH

Matthew David Pollini

From Kennebunk, ME

Inthun Pungsomwong

*From Phrasamutchedi,
Thailand*

Emma Barrett Reynolds

From Hanover, NH

**Adelaide Campbell
Robison**

From Marblehead, MA

Margot Sophie Roguet

From Bartlett, NH

Sean Emmett Senior

From Melrose, MA

Nicholas Sheffield Sherman

From Rye, NH

Jared Robert Shimelman

From Framingham, MA

Gabriela Renee Siegel

From Waterville Valley, NH

Benjamin Andrew Singer

*From Cumberland
Foreside, ME*

Rachel Margaret Storey

Westport, NY

Lily Anne Strohecker

From Exeter, NH

Ethan Cross Swanson

From Holderness, NH

Anna Barbara Testorf

From Hanover, NH

Maizley Louise Tone

*From Cumberland
Foreside, ME*

Bryn Isabel Urdi

Truckee, CA

Jeptha Hand Wade

From Ashfield, MA

Jack Cooper Warrington

From Minneapolis, MN

Scott Ryan Watson

From Dover, NH

Jasmine Bella Whittaker

From Concord, VT

Oliver Hannes Wiedemann

From Ketchum, ID

Samuel Yap

From Beijing, China

Yifan Yin

From Qingdao, China



“THE FRIENDS THAT YOU’RE SITTING NEXT TO, YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES, YOUR TEACHERS, YOUR COLLEAGUES, YOUR FRIENDS, YOUR TEAMMATES—THESE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT REALLY MAKE US THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE. NO ONE REALLY SUCCEEDS IN LIFE ALL BY THEMSELVES. THERE’S ALWAYS SOMEBODY, OR MANY PEOPLE, BEHIND THE SCENES.”

–Chris Davenport ’89 P ’19 ’21, Holderness Trustee and Commencement Speaker





COLLEGE DESTINATIONS

Bentley University

Boston College

Bowdoin College

Bryant University

Bryn Mawr College

Bucknell University

Clemson University

Colorado College

Colorado School of Mines

Connecticut College

Dartmouth College

Elon University

Endicott College

Flagler College

Gordon College

Hamilton College

Harvey Mudd College

College of the Holy Cross

Keene State College

Lehigh University

Marist College

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

McGill University

Merrimack College

Middlebury College

Montana State University

Northeastern University

Providence College

Regis College

Saint Michael's College

Southern Methodist University

St. Lawrence University

Stockholm School of Economics

Stonehill College

Swarthmore College

Syracuse University

Tufts University

United State Naval Academy

University of California - Davis

University of California - Santa Barbara

University of Colorado - Boulder

University of Denver

University of Kansas

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

University of Massachusetts - Lowell

University of New England

University of Rhode Island

University of Richmond

University of Vermont

University of Washington

University of Wisconsin

Westminster College

Whitman College



**“MY PARTING WORDS FOR YOU ALL:
WHEN THERE ARE STARS, LOOK UP.
WHEN THERE ARE MOUNTAINS, CLIMB THEM.
WHEN THERE’S RAIN, RUN AROUND.
PET EVERY DOG YOU SEE.
BEING COLD IS ONLY A MINDSET.
AND NEVER FORGET: IF YOU ARE EVER IN A STICKY SITUATION -IF YOU
MESS WITH THE BULL, YOU GET THE HORNS.”**

-Maizley Tone '22, Holderness School President, 2021-22



INSIDE AN OUT BACK PACK

If you decided to embark an 11-day backpacking trip in the White Mountains – in winter – what kind of gear would you bring? For the 80 or so juniors who take part in Holderness School's Out Back program each year, it's more than just a hypothetical question. Here, you'll find just a few of the items that help our students thrive on Out Back, from the iconic leather OB mittens to the military surplus boots that keep their feet warm and dry in all kinds of weather.

A photograph of Dalton Donovan '23, a young man with reddish hair, wearing a blue headband with 'H' and 'S' logos, a blue quilted vest over a dark long-sleeved shirt, and dark pants. He is sitting on a plaid chair, smiling at the camera while adjusting a large, heavily loaded backpack. The backpack is packed with gear, including a rolled-up blue sleeping bag, a red tent, and other supplies. In the background, another person is partially visible, and the room has blue walls and a window. A blue text box in the upper right corner of the image contains the text: "Dalton Donovan '23 prepares for Out Back last spring." data-bbox="739 402 894 446"/>

Dalton Donovan '23
prepares for Out
Back last spring.

FIRE PAN

Trash can lid protects campfire wood from the snow and prevents fires from leaving a burn scar. Known in program as a Wilson lid, it's named after the faculty member who came up with the idea.

FIRST AID KIT

Contains basic first aid supplies for the backcountry. All Out Back leaders are trained in Wilderness First Aid.

LAYERS

Wool layers insulate just as well as synthetics, but are a bit more bulky.

BOOTS

Extreme Cold Weather Boots. In-house, we tend to call them bunny boots.

TENT

Megamid, lightweight, durable, single pole tent that does not sag in wet weather.

SNOWSHOES

MSR snowshoes.

COOKWARE

Pots, pans, and lids. Believe it or not, this is how they look when they're clean.

TARP

Students make shelters out of tarps for the three-day solos.

BOWL & SPOON

Plastic bowl and spoon for all meals. By day three, you don't care if your coffee tastes like ramen.

BACKPACK

We have both internal and external frame backpacks for students to borrow.

WOOL SOCKS

Wool socks are a must!

OB MITTS

"Chopper Mitt" sealed with Sno-Seal. Super warm, very water resistant, and the natural materials won't burn and melt when working around the fire, a common occurrence.

DAY OF GIVING 2022

Every Tidal Wave Begins With a Ripple

BY THEA DODDS

With tuition only covering 74% of operating expenses, the Holderness experience truly depends on your Day of Giving participation—and this year, boy did you ever participate!

On February 15, 2022, more than 1,900 donors came together to support the Holderness experience—from academics and athletics to the arts, access, and adventure.

On this year's Day of Giving, the community rallied to raise an astounding \$700,831, which immediately went

to support students. Day of Giving is an event to celebrate the power of participation - that every tidal wave begins with a ripple. This year, the vast majority—88%—of Day of Giving gifts were under \$250. Together, those donations have a power that none of us could have on our own - and we are truly grateful for your support. Thank you.

This was also Head of School Phil Peck's last Day of Giving, and you made certain that this was a Holderness moment that he will never forget. ■

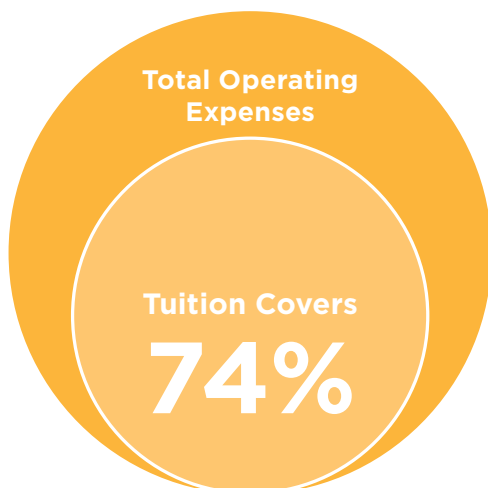
DAY OF GIVING BY THE NUMBERS

\$644,074 Giving in 2021

\$700,831 2022 DAY OF GIVING TOTAL

1,506 Donors in 2021

1,936 2022 DAY OF GIVING DONORS



Day of Giving Donors from:

43
states



13 countries

88%
Gifts were under
\$250



Dean of Students Mb Duckett Ireland [center] takes the plunge for a Special Olympics fundraiser during Project Outreach in March.

SLIDING HEADFIRST INTO HOLDERNESS

First-Year Reflections from New Dean of Students Mb Duckett Ireland

BY THEA DODDS

The sun is shining on Schoolhouse on our first real, warm spring day. Dean of Students Mb Duckett Ireland is having a quiet moment in her office after lunch. After 11 years as a form dean, English teacher, and coach at Choate Rosemary Hall, Mb Duckett Ireland joined Holderness School as the Dean of Students in the fall 2021. As her first year comes to a close, we are excited to hear her first impressions, hopes, and thoughts of Holderness School.

Now that you are wrapping up your first year at Holderness, what are your impressions of the school? What matched your expectations, and what surprised you about Holderness?

Holderness advertises a lot that we try to seek balance and educate the whole child—a lot of people say they try to educate the whole child. I think it's lived here in a different way. I loved getting to know our students and the many ways in which they feel fulfilled and the diverse ways they measure success for themselves.

What is your favorite part of Holderness?

The people. You know, everybody says that. It's true. It really is a really kind—intentionally kind—community that goes out of its way to help its members. A community where leadership in part has to do with digging into mundane service, tasks, or jobs. There are not many schools where every member of the faculty and student body knows how to run the industrial dishwasher. And the lack of hierarchy is really refreshing. It's a lot more leading by example even by the student population too, older kids to younger kids—leading by example as opposed to privileges just because we're older.

What have been some of your favorite Holderness experiences so far?

Project Outreach was magnificent. Partially because I wasn't in charge, which was great! But it was just nice to get to interact with students in a new way and

see strengths that aren't as evident in the everyday life of the school. And to not have to be the one to whom the problems are reported, it just changes the dynamics. It was just awesome to get to know a new group of kids so well, it was really fantastic.

The Pep Rally [for Proctor Day] was one of the best pep rallies I've ever been to. It wasn't showy—it was down-to-earth and had a lot of energy. It was just good, old-fashioned fun.

How would you describe the Holderness Community?

Full of the most genuine people I've ever met. Which is not a lot of pretense. It's like everyone is smiling and you're waiting for—maybe it's just the cynic in me—just waiting for people to give up the facade, but it just doesn't happen.

What do you think makes Holderness unique?

The closeness of the relationships between faculty and students and the way the kids look up to the adults is just a little bit different than I've seen before. It's more personal, and we all are just people. You just get to look around and see so many examples of what adulthood can look like.

Do you see any opportunities for growth or change in Student Life?

Yeah, we're taking a deep look at discipline and the ways that we can make it the best learning experience possible for all students involved and the greater community while maintaining the privacy and dignity of the people who make mistakes. That is a big area of focus right now. We have some student groups and adult groups meeting and talking about that.

We're looking to strengthen our Core3 program [social and emotional learning] by creating a more comprehensive experience. Right now you can be in an equity and inclusion session, you can be in a health & wellness session, you can be in a sustainability session. We're going to integrate it, and Core3 will have all of that built in, in a socio-emotional learning mode.

You started a Student Life Instagram account – how is that going?

It's great. It's fun. A couple of kids help me with it, it's a group project. I've been told by the students I have a good ratio of followers to following. It's fun to be able to share some of the more candid moments and not everything be through the lens of the professional photographers.



Mb presents the Clarkson Award to Jamir Harvey '22 on Prize Day.

Did anyone tell you the job would include a frozen slip 'n' slide or tackling a football dummy? Seems like you've really dove-in head first.

No, I didn't hear about the slip 'n' slide until after I had said yes to the job. No, tackling the football dummy was a surprise, too. It was actually a surprise that day. Because there had actually been a plan for Tobi [Associate Head of School Tobi Pfenninger] to tackle the football dummy. And then some students were chanting "Pfenni... Pfenni..." and it sounded a lot like "Mb...Mb..." And Liam Johnston [Senior and Pep Rally MC] turned the chant entirely into "Mb" and said, "Mb, I just gave the people what they wanted."

The better part of the slip 'n' slide day was the unicorn that my child got to walk around with for an hour [English Teacher and Director of Equity & Inclusion Jini Rae Sparkman wore a unicorn costume]. She wore her unicorn shirt and her unicorn boots and her unicorn hat because she knew there would be a unicorn.

You live on campus with your wife Sarah, daughter Livi, and two dogs. How have they enjoyed Holderness?

It's been great, my dogs are the happiest they've ever been. Nobody has asked them to be on leash since they've been here. The Montessori school on campus is excellent and it's been a really wonderful home for Livi. Sarah has felt very welcomed and everybody loves it here. ■

COLLEGE-BOUND ATHLETES

Of this year's graduating seniors, an impressive 19 will go on to play competitive athletics in college. These students represent some of the top athletic talent in New Hampshire and New England and are testaments to Holderness School's culture of academic and athletic excellence. We wish them the best of luck in college and beyond!



DAVE BRANDES

Sacred Heart University
HOCKEY



COCO DIEMAR

University of Denver
TRIATHLON



JACK DOWLING

College of the Holy Cross
LACROSSE



NATHAN DUDLEY

Bentley University
LACROSSE



JAMIR HARVEY

Regis College
BASKETBALL



RUSS HUTCHINSON

University of Massachusetts
LACROSSE



LIAM JOHNSTON

Keene State College
BASKETBALL



ANNECY KAGAN

Tufts University
SAILING



QUINN MCCARTHY

St. Michael's University
HOCKEY



ALEX MCNABB

Boston College
ALPINE SKIING



GRACE MURPHY

Stonehill College
LACROSSE



AHNEKA NOYES

Flagler College
LACROSSE



JACK PARKER

Merrimack College
LACROSSE



JASMINE PETERSON

Bryn Mawr College
FIELD HOCKEY



SEAN SENIER

Babson College
HOCKEY



RACHEL STOREY

Bowdoin College
BASKETBALL



LILY STROHECKER

United States Naval Academy
LACROSSE



MAIZLEY TONE

Hamilton College
LACROSSE



JASMINE WHITTAKER

Boston College
ALPINE SKIING



RAYMOND PATRICK SHANNON

Hometown:

Ontario, California

Started Working at Holderness:

June 1, 2021

Department:

Buildings & Grounds

BULLS BEHIND THE SCENES

ON MOVING FROM CALIFORNIA TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

“I’m originally from Ontario, California. I lived there for 37 years and we decided to relocate due to costs of living and pay...We drove across 14 states to get here. That was definitely a road trip. It was a challenge getting here. We drove across 14 states, two cars fully loaded with four kids, two cats, and one dog.”

WHAT HE DOES AT HOLDERNESS

I range from doing grounds work to inside painting, working on heaters, anything that has to do with building upkeep, which is nice. It keeps me going. I really like it. Here I got hired as a building maintenance worker, kind of highlighted on the irrigation. They wanted to have someone that had more irrigation experience so that if there was a problem, they would just call me and say ‘Could you fix this?’

BECOMING PART OF THE HOLDERNESS COMMUNITY

The first day I came here, I met Phil [Head of School Phil Peck] and that was kind of like a really big eye opener to how people are out here. People out here are very helpful, which kind of threw me off a little bit when I started. They reached out and Phil and Duane [Assistant Director of Facilities Duane Stevens] and all the building maintenance crew made me feel like I was at home. Like I wasn’t an outsider.

FINDING A NEW HOME

I can’t say enough good stuff about Holderness. I’m so excited and proud that I’m here, working for such a prestigious school. I live it very much with pride. It’s home. ■

Students wear ribbons in solidarity with LGBTQ+ youth during the national Day of Silence demonstration in April.





John Lin sparks a discussion during his AP Literature class.

THE JOHN LIN INTERVIEW

An interview with retiring English teacher John Lin

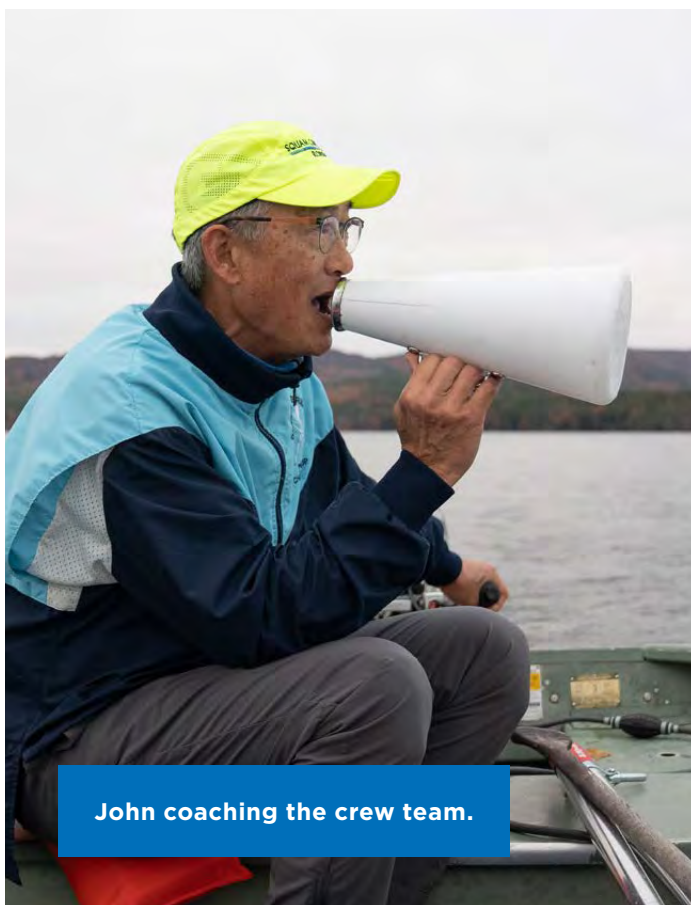
Over his 41 years as an educator, John Lin has seemingly done it all. He's been an English teacher, dean of students, and head of school. He's worked at a range of different institutions, from Phillips Academy to San Francisco Day School to School Year Abroad in Rennes, France. And he has also helped foster important diversity initiatives in secondary education, from mentoring new administrators of color to serving as a faculty member at the People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference, both run by the National Association of Independent Schools.

With John set to retire this spring, we asked him to sit down for a wide-ranging conversation about teaching, learning, and his plans for the future. Like most conversations with

John – who first came to Holderness in the summer of 2010 with his wife and fellow English teacher Marilee Lin – it was a freewheeling, philosophical exchange that touched on topics as varied as the role of teachers, the Wizard of Oz, and the meaning of life. Here's just some of what he had to say.

ON THE JOB OF TEACHERS

“I think the goal of us all as teachers is to ignite the natural curiosity you have in you. It's about to be lit—it's all ready to go—we just have to provide you something.”



John coaching the crew team.

FINDING MEANING IN LIFE

“With my seniors, I ask them ‘What are you moving towards? What have you moved your whole life towards?’ There’s no *thing* there. It’s like the Wizard of Oz. I said, ‘You guys watch the Wizard of Oz. What happened when they got to the end of the Yellow Brick Road and they were hoping for some *thing*? When the curtain parts, what did they find?’ One girl in the classroom said ‘That he was an ordinary guy.’ I said, ‘So what do you think the moral of that story is? What do you think about this? That at the end of your search, that all you found was something ordinary, would you be disappointed? Would you feel like you gave too much and didn’t get enough back, somehow? That there’s a quid pro quo, a balancing of an equation that you need to end with more or at least equal the amount? That there’s always a balancing? Is it a game you have to win? How do you know if you have to win?’”

CAREER GOALS

“For me, I don’t have a clear end post. I didn’t have 12 things I needed to do before I retired or died, or whatever. I think it’s just so much more amorphous or abstract. I would love to think that as I leave teaching that maybe some of the things I’ve said to my students over these years has helped them to discover some things about themselves and the world around them.”

HIS CONTINUING ROLE AS AN EDUCATOR—OUTSIDE OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS

“I went to public high school and I’m a person who historically has not been served by these schools as a Chinese American—an American-born Chinese person—not even an international person. The international community is highly served by these schools. I think in retirement I also want to maybe be in touch with a slightly different constituent group locally—whether it’s local students through Mountain Village [Mountain Village Charter School in Plymouth], whether it’s other students in need globally, however I might be able to leverage whatever I have, the experience I have in my life to help other people, that’s what I’m going to do... As I go towards something else, I think that it’s just more of the same but it’s a different group. It’s just less defined, it’s less given to me. I have to go seek it in a slightly different way.”

JOHN’S DAY-TO-DAY RETIREMENT PLANS

“I’m just going to keep on doing what I’m doing. I’ll try not to be too much of a pain in the neck for Marilee. I think we’re getting a puppy this summer so I will be head number-one dog trainer and dog walker. This will be the best-trained Labrador Retriever ever, in our lives.” ■



Maggie Mumford teaches students in an AP Biology class.

MAGGIE MUMFORD: DELIVERING CHANGE

Maggie Mumford didn't sleep well the night before she began her teaching career at Holderness. She was up late, delivering a baby.

"I delivered a faculty baby at 11:30 at night," says Maggie, who at the time had a busy career as an OB/GYN at Speare Memorial Medical Center in Plymouth. "I started teaching environmental science the next morning."

So that's how Maggie—perhaps a bit bleary-eyed from the night before—began teaching at Holderness. The year was 1999, and Maggie—the only OB/GYN at her small, rural hospital—was overworked and looking to make a career change. "I was the only one delivering babies, the only one doing anything related to OB/GYN. They had no hospitalist then, so I was doing any sort of intensive care

for those patients and all of the surgeries and all of the deliveries and all of the appointments," Maggie says. "I just couldn't do it alone any longer. So, I fell back on my first love from college, which was environmental science."

Maggie's commitment to environmental science would come to define her teaching career at Holderness. In short order, she went from teaching one section of environmental science to teaching full time, leaving her medical practice behind. As a new teacher at a school in the White Mountains, she pushed hard to incorporate the New Hampshire environment into the school's science curriculum. Thanks in large part to Maggie, Holderness students now regularly visit the world-famous Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest just north of campus, participate directly in a long-term study of Squam Lake, and carry out a yearly phenology study



From science labs to sustainability initiatives and programs like Out Back, Maggie has made a big impact on Holderness.

of the many trees on the school's 600-acre campus. "I'm really proud of that because I pushed hard, really hard, for experiential and place-based learning," Maggie says. "Now they're part of the curriculum and it's great to see."

Maggie also served as the director of sustainability at a pivotal time for the school. During her tenure as director, she worked as an organizer and liaison on a number of sustainability projects, including a campus-wide energy audit of school buildings; the LEED-certification of the Woodward and Pichette dorms; the construction of the school's biomass plant; the installation of solar panels on the new ice rink; and the construction of a second, 460-kilowatt solar array on campus in 2021. Through it all, she made it a point to incorporate the projects into the school's formal science curriculum. When the school announced its plans to build a 99-kilowatt solar array atop its new ice rink in 2014, for example, Maggie's students came up with a design that was within 4 percent of the energy output predicted by the professional designer the school hired. "We used basic math, a few simple programs, and their ingenuity, and they came up with just about what the professional designer did, even though the building wasn't there yet," Maggie says. "So that was pretty cool."

It's safe to say that Maggie will keep busy in retirement. She's a member of the Pemi-Baker Search and Rescue Team, which responds to lost and injured hikers in the White Mountains. She also hopes to continue the ecological volunteer work she did during her Henderson Brewer van Otterloo Chair Year, when she traveled the world assisting with research studies on koalas in Australia, sharks in Belize, sea turtles in the Bahamas, and pollinators in Costa Rica. Oh, and



she's also maintained her medical license. "In the back of my mind I've thought it would be really great to be able to use the medical degree and be affiliated in some sort of teaching and medical supervisory way over programs like that, that are ecologically based," Maggie says.

As she leaves Holderness, Maggie—never one to tout her extensive accomplishments—says she regrets not doing more to instill an environmental ethos at a school-wide level. Her hope is that students and teachers will move away from thinking about how climate change will affect their own lives and the school, and start thinking about steps they can take to mitigate climate change. "I'm hoping that there is a more widespread effort to instill the environmental ethos in everyone and I don't mean just loving the outdoors," Maggie says. "I mean respecting it and thinking about the future." ■



Photo courtesy of Dartmouth College

HOLDERNESS JOINS DARTMOUTH FELLOWSHIP FOR ASPIRING EDUCATORS

BY CHARLOTTE ALBRIGHT

For more than 50 years, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) program has advanced post-secondary teaching and learning. In 1999, under the leadership of Donald Pease, the Ted and Helen Geisel Third Century Professor in the Humanities, the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies program began offering interdisciplinary concentrations in globalization studies, creative writing, cultural studies, and general liberal studies.

Now, for the first time, MALS is partnering on a pilot project with a group of independent prep schools in Northern New England, known as the Lakes Region Consortium. The schools' goal is to recruit promising

candidates from underrepresented populations and help them prepare for successful high school teaching careers.

“Our graduate school faculty are particularly keen to teach teachers at the secondary level because they know that they go right back into their classes and use what they’ve learned in MALS to nurture younger minds,” says MALS Director Wole Ojurongbe, a 2008 MALS graduate. “It’s also an opportunity for these schools to make their faculty and staff more reflective of a diverse student body.”

Consortium fellows will join the faculties of the participating secondary schools while enrolling in MALS full-time

for at least three summer terms, earning their master's degrees from Guarini. Each member of the consortium will host at least one fellow for a two-year period, paying a base salary with benefits, providing room and board, and covering half the student's MALS tuition. Dartmouth will cover the other half and provide access to the Dartmouth Center for the Advancement of Learning, which helps faculty members develop teaching tools and strategies.

If the pilot is successful, it will be broadened to interested public schools and other employers, says Pease. Workplaces could sponsor employees in the MALS program as a way to enhance their skills and the program could help employers recruit and retain a more diverse workforce.

The fellows will benefit from the "intensely interdisciplinary" nature of the graduate courses, especially during summer term, says Pease.

"MALS holds a symposium each summer in which we engage an issue from disparate perspectives. This year the topic is 'Abolition Democracy,' a term used in the 1930s by W.E.B. Du Bois, which has been re-animated to engage conversation about systemic racism."

Inaugural teaching fellow and third-term MALS student Jordan Ferreras is looking forward to that symposium, and to meeting faculty and fellow students this summer.

Over the past two years, MALS classes have been largely virtual, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic; this year the plan is to resume in-person classes. Ferreras, who was born in Harlem, graduated from Bowdoin College and teaches statistics at the Dublin School, his alma mater, in southwestern New Hampshire.

At MALS, he is studying creative writing, which, he says, is making him a more thoughtful math instructor.

"What I am learning from MALS is that the study of statistics isn't just about numbers," he says. "Anyone who does data analysis has to understand how to make ethical decisions around using that information. I am also learning from my professors how to structure a good class, and to build a framework for students by putting up guideposts and letting them work independently within them."

As a Dublin student, Ferreras says he was grateful for a scholarship and "loved every minute" of the experience. "I felt safe there, and always supported," he recalls.

At the same time, he says, "There were no Black teachers, so it was hard to see my identity represented."

Dublin School Head Brad Bates '91, Guarini '00, who helped spearhead the Dartmouth partnership, says the Lakes Region fellowships will help diversify faculty in a way that strengthens the entire school community.

"It will be transformative, with talented people like Jordan coming to our school and bringing their own perspectives from a variety of backgrounds. It's getting all of us to think differently about the student experience, especially for an underrepresented population that is, happily for us, growing."

So is the Lakes Region Consortium, which includes, in addition to Dublin School, Cardigan Mountain School in Canaan, N.H.; Holderness School in Holderness, N.H.; Kents Hill School in Kents Hill, Maine; Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, N.H.; New Hampton School in New Hampton, N.H.; Proctor Academy in Andover, N.H.; and Vermont Academy in Saxtons River, VT.

Several other schools are considering joining the group. Nine teaching fellows are expected to attend MALS this summer, and program leaders say they can accommodate at least 12.

At Kents Hill, Rene Davis, assistant head of school for student life, says partnering with Dartmouth will bring new faculty to her campus at a time when excellent teachers are in short supply.

MALS, which currently has 165 students in its programs, offers need-based financial aid and scholarships for qualified students.

"There's an exodus around teaching for a number of reasons," she says. "This program prepares people for difficult work, but I'm hoping we can do it in a joyful way, an inclusive way, that can be modeled across the country. We hope to inspire individuals who may not have imagined themselves as educators to see the value they can bring to a boarding school, both inside and outside the classroom." ■

This article and accompanying photo were originally published by Dartmouth College under the title "MALS Launches Fellowship Program with Secondary Schools."

CYNTHIA SWEET '94

For Dog and Humankind

BY MEGHAN MCCARTHY MCPHAUL

Cynthia Sweet never meant to start an animal rescue organization. About a decade after graduating from Holderness—and living in a handful of foreign countries, earning a master’s degree in intercultural relations along the way—she was happily ensconced in a new job at Northeastern University, counseling students who were preparing to study abroad.

Then Hurricane Katrina hit. Watching the scenes of devastation unfold on newscasts, Sweet felt she needed to do something to help. She booked a one-way ticket to Louisiana, borrowed some vacation time from her new job, and headed south armed with only a flip phone and determination.

“I’d never done anything related to animal rescue before then,” she said during an interview early this year. “That event changed my life, but I didn’t want to give up my career. So my dog rescue career and my regular career grew at the same time.”

In 2011, Sweet officially founded Sweet Paws Animal Rescue. A few years later, she left the work she loved at Northeastern to focus on the work she loved rescuing animals—and, ultimately, the people who adopt them. In the years since, Sweet Paws has rescued some 20,000 dogs and cats.

Sweet credits the path that has brought her this far to her time at Holderness. In part, it was the familial atmosphere surrounding Holderness and “the really funny, amazing teachers.” And in part, it was the confidence built through programs including Out Back and her unusual senior project.

“Holderness pushed you out of your comfort zone, and it made you do things that you probably wouldn’t do if you were going to a traditional high school – or even a different boarding school,” said Sweet, who grew up on the North Shore of Massachusetts.

“When we did OB, there was record snow on the Kancamagus. You’re 17 years old, you have a 70-pound pack, and you have 10 days in the freezing cold mountains, including a three-day solo. I hated every minute of it,” Sweet recalled.

“Until we got back, and I thought, ‘That was amazing!’ That experience made me realize I could do anything.”

A year later, Sweet’s mother encouraged her to strive for something beyond run-of-the-mill—then helped her design a senior project based in Guatemala. With a classmate, Sweet spent three weeks living with a host family, going to Spanish classes every day, and studying the culture.

“I was immersed in a place where nobody spoke English, and I had to use my 10 words of Spanish and try to conjugate verbs. We learned about the indigenous culture and what was happening politically. We saw the inner workings of a small community in Latin America,” she said. “It was only three weeks, but it was that seed that compelled me to do all this other stuff.”

That stuff included taking a year off from school after graduating from Holderness, and, as Sweet recalled, being “in a different place every single September for six years.” Boston was first, where Sweet did City Year, working with HIV/AIDS-focused health care groups. She also spent time in Costa Rica, Honduras, and Spain en route to earning a bachelor’s degree.

“I wanted to travel the world, and I realized that not everybody lives like we did north of Boston,” she said. “I always found comfort in people’s differences. It was fascinating. I just found that I felt most alive when I was living in places where people were different. Those six years were really hard, but they were amazing, and they made me who I am today.”

At Northeastern, Sweet counseled students who wanted to study abroad to look beyond London and Paris, beyond typical classes and partying. As her mom had encouraged Sweet to do something different for her senior project at Holderness, Sweet now encouraged college students to find ways to immerse themselves in other cultures. Meanwhile, during her decade of working at Northeastern, Sweet’s animal rescue efforts were also escalating, although she said, “I did not mean to start a rescue. Everything happened organically.”



Based in Groveland, Massachusetts, Sweet Paws rescues animals primarily from the southeastern United States, where Sweet said a combination of vast pet overpopulation and limited—or nonexistent—public animal resources have created a perfect storm.

“There are puppies or pregnant mamas dumped on the side of the road every single day,” Sweet said. “There’s no municipal pound. There’s nowhere for them to be brought. These are poor areas, where they just don’t have the resources to care for these animals.”

A team of women who live in the areas where Sweet Paws rescues from does the initial work of saving the animals they find, caring for them until they can be vaccinated and spayed or neutered, then transported to Massachusetts. These women are part of Sweet Paws’ 200-volunteer network that helps with animal rescue, care, fostering, transportation, and ultimately adopting animals to new homes.

“It is a really, really hard field to be in. You can adopt out 20 cats and dogs, and you turn around and there are 200 more,” Sweet said, noting that she is currently fostering three Sweet Paws rescues, in addition to the six dogs she’s adopted. “You really have to celebrate the wins and the incredible adoptions we do. You have to adopt the mentality that you’re making a difference in the lives of people and animals.”

One of those celebrations came in 2020, when another Holderness School alum and former field hockey teammate, Emily Evans MacLaury, ’96, adopted a dog from Sweet Paws for her son, who had been diagnosed with cancer, at age 10, a few years earlier.

“She told him if he beat the cancer, she would get him a dog,” Sweet said. “He beat the cancer, and they adopted a puppy from us. It was this big, emotional adoption.”

MacLaury wrote about the adoption and submitted her essay to the PetCo Love competition, and earlier this year, the story of her son, Graham, and his dog, Phoebe, garnered \$75,000 of prize money for Sweet Paws. That money is being used to purchase a 70-acre farm, which Sweet plans to develop as a multispecies sanctuary – for species from pigs and donkeys to cats and sheep – and toward programming that will help both animals and people.

“One of our programs is going to be for terminally ill children to come to the sanctuary and spend time with the farm animals,” Sweet said. “Emily and Graham are going to be a part of that program. He loves animals, and now he’ll be able to help change the lives of terminally ill kids by helping create this program.”

Sweet also plans to develop programming for youth from the Lawrence, Massachusetts, area.

“I am a few miles away from some of the poorest areas in our state, and it would be a huge missed opportunity to not get them to come to the sanctuary and be with animals and run around in green spaces,” she said. “It’s really important to me to reach young, at-risk populations. I really want this to be a community facility, where kids are learning.”

Whether it’s kids or grownups, puppies or mama dogs or middle-aged cats, Sweet is out to save as many as she can—one dog or cat or human at a time. ■

To learn more about Sweet Paws Rescue, visit www.sweetpawsrescue.org.

CORINTHIA BENISON '05

Founder of the Renaissance Center of Mastery

BY GREG KWASNIK



Corinthia Benison '05

When Corinthia Benison '05 left her home in Harlem to enroll in Holderness School at the age of 13, she found herself adjusting to a completely new environment. Corinthia, a basketball standout for the Bulls who went on to earn a full athletic scholarship to the University of Delaware, says going to Holderness was a privilege and opportunity that “changed the trajectory of my life.” But it wasn’t an entirely easy transition.

“I learned a lot about myself. Looking back, I wish I was a little more sociable,” Corinthia says. “Coming from the city, being the only brown girl in my class, those are things I look back on and say ‘You know, you were doing something that no one else was really doing at the time.’ I kind of have to cut myself some slack.”

Today, Corinthia is back in New York City - and she’s still doing things others aren’t. In this case, she’s working

tirelessly to create an entirely new, community-based mental health and behavioral health clinic in Harlem. It’s called Renaissance Center of Mastery, and it will provide addiction counseling, therapy, and career development programs to underserved populations in her community. “We want to be right in the neighborhood. You don’t have to take two trains to a bus,” Corinthia says. “There are a lot of barriers in why people don’t seek treatment for therapy. We want to break a lot of those barriers and be right where the need is.”

The idea for Renaissance Center of Mastery came to Corinthia during the COVID-19 pandemic, when she, like so many others, found herself questioning her career path and mission in life. Having spent the previous decade working at Mount Sinai Medical Center, most recently as a physician access services coordinator, she was well-versed in the administrative ins-and-outs of the healthcare system. She also knew just how broken the system was - especially for patients on managed care who often have to wait longer for services and suffer from a lack of access. Corinthia knew that she could do something to help address those problems. “You know how to build networks, how organizations should partner. You know the healthcare system,” she recalls telling herself. “Do something that is not completely a redesign, but a new niche for a population that needs it, particularly youth. I just went from there.”

The need for a clinic like Renaissance Center of Mastery is greater than ever. During the first year of the pandemic, the global prevalence of depression and anxiety increased 25 percent, according to a March 2022 report by the World Health Organization. It’s an increase that is disproportionately borne by young people who, according to the report, are at a greater risk of self-harming behavior or suicidal thoughts. At the same time, New York City and many other areas across the globe have seen a marked increase in crime. In February of 2022 alone, overall crime in New York City was up 58 percent over the previous year, according to the New York Police Department. It’s a trend Corinthia has observed firsthand in Harlem, where gun violence and other forms of crime are on the rise. “Every other day we have a shootout, we have police getting shot,” Corinthia says.



Corinthia during her days as a basketball standout for the University of Delaware.

“The victims are young and the assailants—these people are under 25, in most cases. What’s really going on here?”

While sociologists and psychologists will likely spend decades studying the relationship between the pandemic, crime, and mental health outcomes, Corinthia knows one thing for sure: the young people in her community aren’t receiving the services they need. As a child, Corinthia benefitted from youth service organizations like The Harbor for Girls and Boys, and SCAN Reach for the Stars, which helped her pursue her Holderness education. “A lot of these programs don’t exist anymore,” Corinthia says. “There’s not enough to meet the needs of the youth.” Beyond the lack of services available to young people, Corinthia says, there is a stigma against seeking mental health care in Harlem and other communities of color. The Renaissance Center of Mastery seeks to break that stigma. “I want youth to know that seeing a therapist, talking about your issues—whether you’re having anxiety or depression, whether you’re discovering your sexuality – all of those things you can speak about in a safe space, and it’s ok.”

Renaissance Center of Mastery will be unique in that it will offer young people between the ages of 12 to 24 a more comprehensive clinic experience where they can see

a therapist, receive substance abuse counseling if needed, and take part in career development programs to gain skills like coding and web design. Few organizations offer all of these services in the same location. “We want to grow programs where kids are like ‘Ok, this is what I’m into, this is attractive to me, and I’m also getting therapy in the same space,’” Corinthia says. “We want to raise the bar on what a clinic experience is, in every sense.”

“IT REALLY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS. IT’S ABOUT TRUST, IT’S ABOUT PEOPLE BELIEVING IN YOUR VISION, AND GETTING OUT THERE.”

Corinthia is fully committed to making her vision for Renaissance Center of Mastery a reality. She left her job at Mount Sinai Medical Center in early 2021, and since then has devoted all of her time and energy to consulting with experts, assembling a board of directors, and scouting clinic space in Harlem. This spring, Corinthia—who will serve as the organization’s executive director—will begin a fundraising campaign to truly get the project off the ground. “Right now I’m really trying to cultivate relationships and starting a fundraising campaign,” Corinthia says. “It really is about relationships. It’s about trust, it’s about people believing in your vision, and getting out there.”

While Corinthia is devoted to making positive change in Harlem, she has also found time to give back to the Holderness community. On a visit to campus last winter, she reconnected with her old teachers, met with the basketball team, and re-lived her happy campus memories. Looking to the future, Corinthia hopes to help mentor and recruit students with backgrounds similar to hers. “I still love the game of basketball and if I could be a bridge with any kid who would want to take on that experience, that’s capable of that transition, being able to help in that way,” Corinthia says. “I think about young people like myself who could really benefit from an opportunity like Holderness, and seeing how I could help with that young generation.”

To learn more about Renaissance Center of Mastery, visit remxsocialjustice.com ■

THE JAMES CONKLIN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

James Conklin '05

BY GREG KWASNIK

When you ask people about James Conklin '05, they'll describe someone who was naturally funny and unforgettable. So it's fittingly ironic that they'll also rave about his performance of the song "Mr. Cellophane" in the school's rendition of the musical "Chicago." It's a sad, funny number in which James' meek character, Amos Hart, laments his seeming invisibility to the people around him.

"He brought so much humanity to that character, who was overlooked and never heard," says Monique Robichaud-Devine, Holderness School's theater director. "Then when he opened his mouth and sang the song I was like, 'James, you have the most beautiful voice.'" In many ways, it was a performance that shouted James's potential to the world. "To this day, when I run into old classmates and even their parents, they rave about this performance that he put on, and just how funny it was," says childhood friend and classmate Taylor Caggiula '05. "I think he left a pretty lasting impression on a number of folks."

People are still talking about that performance nearly two decades later—and more than five years after James, who lived with a heart condition, passed away unexpectedly from post-surgical complications. And while his memory lives on with friends, family, and teachers, it also lives on through the James Conklin Memorial Scholarship, a nonprofit that supports aspiring comedians like James. The scholarship was established in 2017 to support the Chicago comedy community, where James had made a name for himself working and performing improv on the house team at the legendary iO Theater. Thanks to talent and hard work, James was a regular performer on stages that had launched the careers of Tina Fey, Amy Poehler, and dozens of other comedy greats.

Today, the scholarship is seeking to broaden its impact beyond Chicago. The iO Theater, which closed during the COVID-19 pandemic, faces an uncertain future, and many Chicago comedians have moved to New York or Los Angeles to pursue their dreams. While the original scholarship paid for comedians to attend the iO Summer Intensive workshop in Chicago, it now supports artists in their creative projects, community projects, and individually. "The program we were sending people to has been shut down, so we've pivoted to more of a direct giving model and we're just kind of interested in growing," says Taylor, who sits on the scholarship's board of directors along with James's friends and family.



James Conklin '05



“TO THIS DAY, WHEN I RUN INTO OLD CLASSMATES AND EVEN THEIR PARENTS, THEY RAVE ABOUT THIS PERFORMANCE THAT HE PUT ON, AND JUST HOW FUNNY IT WAS...”

Making a living as a performer—even before the pandemic—was notoriously difficult, a reality James knew well. While performing and working at the iO Theater, he took a variety of jobs to support himself, working on supply chains for a logistics company and even doing a brief stint at Whole Foods. James’s mother, Deb Reynolds, says she warned her son against taking a job at a grocery store, given the nights-and-weekends schedule of a performer. “I used to work in a grocery store and I said, ‘You know, honey, they’re going to want you to work weekends,’” Deb says, laughing. His career at Whole Foods lasted all of three days.

Luckily, James was surrounded by supportive family and friends—and, near the end of his life, had made big strides toward his career goals. In addition to performing on house teams at the iO Theater and CIC Theater, he took a job as a comedy writer for Evil Apples, the hilarious and bawdy app inspired by the party game Cards Against Humanity. He was also actively pursuing his dream of landing a comedy writing job in New York. He was well on his way

to fulfilling the potential he had shown at Holderness, where he helped to start the school’s first improv group and wowed the community with his performances.

To Ms. Devine and others who knew him, James was a person you simply couldn’t ignore - or forget. “He was doing what he loved,” Ms. Devine says. “He absolutely loved making people laugh, and he was good at it.”

To learn more about the James Conklin Memorial Scholarship, visit [Jamesconklinmemorialscholarship.com](https://jamesconklinmemorialscholarship.com) ■

SMALL GATHERINGS

The Holderness School Alumni association includes more than 7,000 people worldwide, with many alumni gatherings taking place each year. The Holderness Alumni Relations Team plans events throughout the country—and sometimes internationally—so visit Holderness.org/alumni for a list of upcoming events. Here are just a few of the gatherings that have occurred over the last year.



NEW YORK CITY

Holderness Cheer was had by all in NYC at our annual holiday party. Special thanks to Bob and Joanie Hall P '13 '16, Stepper Hall '13 and Henry Hall '16 for hosting this event.



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020

Since the class of 2020 experienced a virtual graduation, we wanted to do something in person in August 2021. Pictured are Andrew Sheppe '00, Lilly Magnus '20, Kai Parlett '20, Malin Alusic-Bingham '20, Ellie Page '20, Amanda Vansant '20, Gus Whitcomb '20, Alex Robbins '20, Colin Casey '20, Rudy Beer '20, Isabel Tompson '20, Neal Frei '03 and Randy Houseman P '15 '18.



PORTSMOUTH, NH

We enjoyed seeing everyone in Portsmouth on February 15 to help us celebrate Day of Giving and Phil Peck's 38 years at Holderness. Special thanks to the Cassidy Family for helping organize this event.



DENVER, CO

Phil Peck traveled to Denver in March to check on our Colorado alums. Pictured: Charlie Sheffeld '14, Renee Fleisher P '87 '90, Brandon Fleisher '87, Eliza Lockwood '02, James Rowe '15, Emily Lockwood '99, Victor Frandsen P'20, Terry Fleisher P '87 '90.



ARAPAHOE BASIN, CO

Young alums gathered for a Holderness ski day at A-Basin this past March. Special thanks to Jake Rosencranz '15, Leah Curtis '15 and Charlie Sheffeld '14 for hosting this event. We look forward to one next year!



HOLDERNESS 100

More than 30 riders gathered this past August to join in on the 8th Annual Holderness 100 century ride. The group gathered at Weld for a pre-ride photo.



MT. BACHELOR, OR

A group of alumni met at Mt Bachelor, OR last spring for a late-season ski. Pictured: William Cosgrove '73, Alex and Kelsey (Muller) Rospos '09, Joe Muller '06.



VERMONT LAKE MONSTERS

Several alumni and friends joined Holderness for a Vermont Lake Monsters game. While the group was a bit larger, our young alums posed for a photo. Pictured: Claudia Canton '19, Mikayla Stolar '19, Izak Furey '19, Joey Pollack '19, Lilly Patterson '19 and Graham Allardyce.

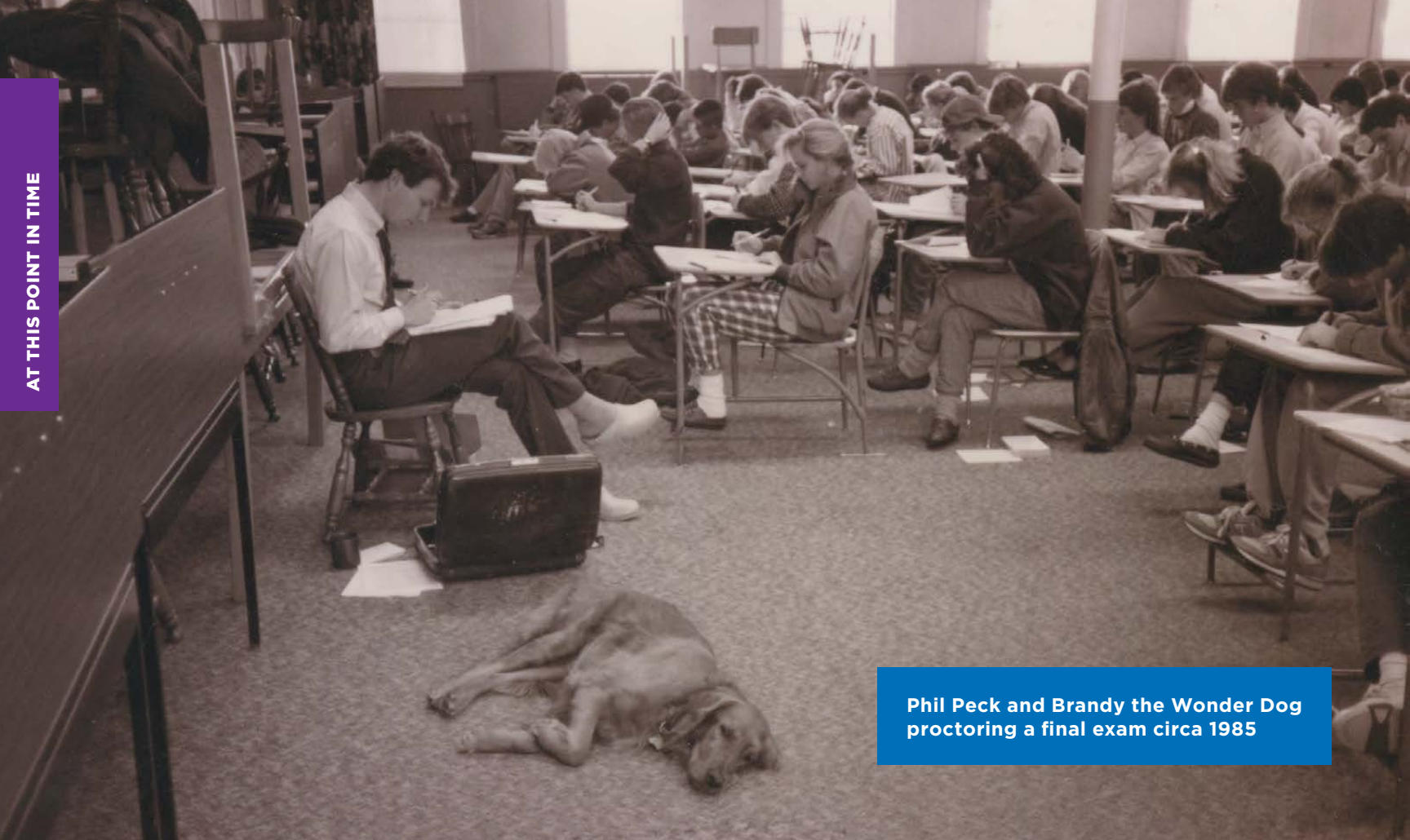


PORTLAND SEA DOGS

Several new families joined School President Maizley Tone '22 and Holderness for a summer game at the Portland Sea Dogs. Pictured: Amy Spooner P'24, Susan and Scott James P'25, Gavin James '25, Nathan Spooner P'24, Annie Bergeron '24, James Clogston, Lily Spooner '24, Maizley Tone '22, Laura and Gary Bergeron P'24, and Darren Moore '99.

Students celebrate their return from Out Back in March.





Phil Peck and Brandy the Wonder Dog proctoring a final exam circa 1985

AT THIS POINT IN TIME

There are countless memories and moments that comprise a person's life. The above photo is just one such snapshot from Phil Peck's 38-year career as a teacher, coach, dorm parent, and head of school at Holderness. When we showed the photo to Phil, he was quick to put it in context for us.

"This was a pretty typical exam scene from the old study hall in Schoolhouse," Phil said. "This was when we had the large study hall, before we did the renovation and created more classrooms. I'm proctoring a Sino-Soviet Studies exam during the fall of, I think, 1985. I've got my briefcase and my sidekick, Brandy the Wonder Dog."

In the years since that photo was taken, big changes have occurred at Holderness, from the renovation of Schoolhouse to the construction of the Davis Center, the school's state-of-the-art, 35,000-square-foot math and science building. But amid all that change, much has stayed constant - including Phil. He has remained a fixture on campus with his beloved Golden Retrievers Lulu and Bella, he still wears clogs, and he's just as committed to Holderness and its students as he was when this photo was taken in 1985. As Phil heads into retirement this summer, the entire Holderness community—its students, teachers, alums, parents, and so many others—will be forever grateful for his enduring commitment to the school and its mission. ■



Seniors receive awards from their teachers during the annual Prize Day Ceremony on May 21, 2022.





HOLDERNESS

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Seniors line up for Commencement on May 22, 2022.