



# The ByLine

SUMMER 2022



“ALL GOOD THINGS”

**HONORING KATHERINE HATCHER**

2022-2023

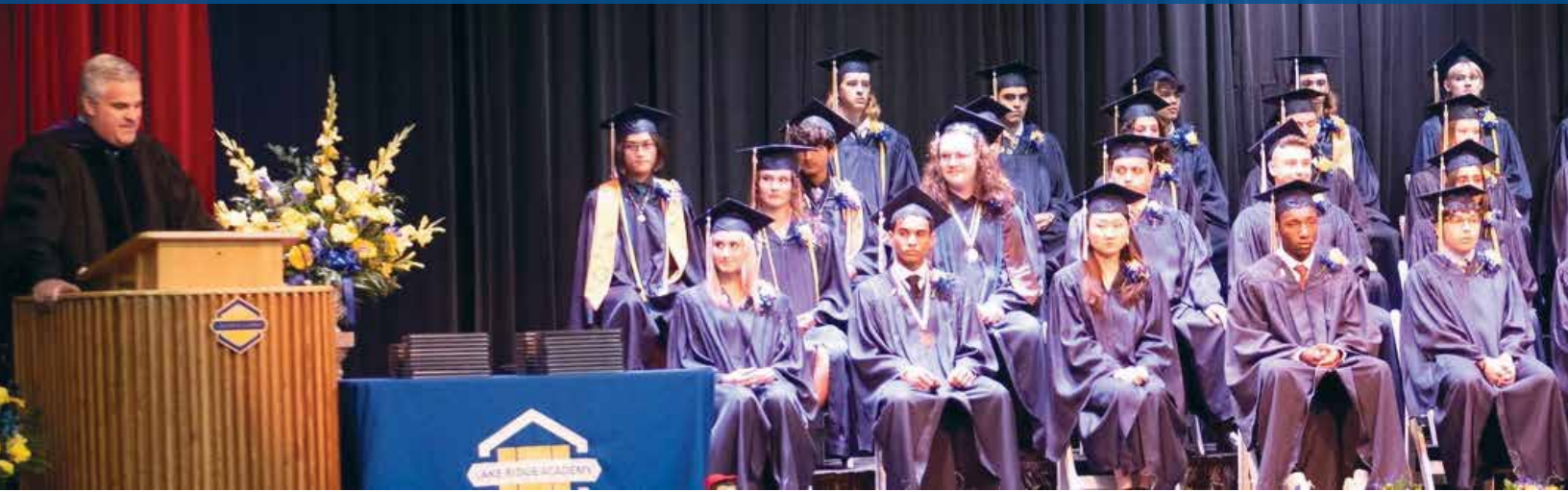
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A lower school student and their Grandfriend on Grandfriends Day.



Our Middle School students participating in The Big Dig.

**TO ASPIRE IS TO BE**  
Integrity ◀ Scholarship ◀  
Respect ◀ Personal Best

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## Mission

Our mission is to send into a changing world confident young people of integrity who think critically and creatively while embracing the joy of lifelong learning.

**On Cover:** Katherine Hatcher at the Day of the G.O.A.T. Celebration

### Editors:

Ryan Herhold, Assistant Director of Marketing and Hayley Munroe, Director of Advancement

**On Page Two.** The graduating class of 2022 with Head of School, Mitch White

## A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL MITCH WHITE

### WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

#### Jared Oakes, JD, MBA



Jared Oakes (Braden '27, Olivia '29, and Avery '32), is Partner and Vice Chair of Real Estate and Environmental Practice Group

at Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Aronoff LLP. He earned his JD and MBA from Case Western Reserve University, and earned his BA in Finance and Accounting from Mercyhurst University. Jared serves on the Advancement Committee, 60th Anniversary Campaign Committee, and Athletic Boosters.

#### Kari Sommer Halko '01



Kari Sommer Halko '01 (Ethan '29, Brooke '34) was an Ohio State Highway Patrol Trooper and former Vice President of Operations at Sommer's Mobile Leasing. She earned

degrees in Criminal Justice and Sociology, with a minor in Psychology, from Ashland University. Kari serves on the Finance and Advancement Committees, 60th Anniversary Campaign Committee, and served on the Lower School Director Search Committee.

### Dear Lake Ridge Academy Friends,

As we open the doors for the 2022-2023 academic year, I look forward to many things: the energy that our students and teachers bring to our halls and playgrounds, and the sense of belonging that makes Lake Ridge feel like home. And as the threat of COVID has evolved away from an acute pandemic, I am especially looking forward to beginning the school year in a more normal school environment.

Though the immediacy of COVID's threat has lessened, as educators we are continuing to address COVID's effect on the learning and wellbeing of our students. The pandemic heightened our appreciation of the importance of community, and affirmed our commitment to highly personalized student-teacher relationships that enable healthy academic challenges. **Simply put, exceptional teaching and learning can only occur in an environment where student and adult wellbeing is prioritized.**

In 2020, our Board adopted a five-year strategic plan focused on the wellbeing of our students. That plan, coupled with the lessons learned from the pandemic, are informing our investments in the health and wellness of our community. We have created a new Leadership Team position, the Director of Student Support and Campus Wellness, and have further expanded our Student Support team to include an additional counselor in Middle and Upper School. During our opening meetings, all of our faculty underwent additional professional development focused on how best to support our students.

Our focus on health and wellness is not made at the expense of academics, but rather in support of our exceptional teaching and learning. The close relationships our teachers have with students, the individualized attention they provide, and their support of diverse learners enable our faculty to challenge students to do their best. It is because of our focus on wellbeing that we can push students academically to excel in a way best suited to their interests and abilities.

As I enter my fifth year as Head of School, I am grateful for the advice, guidance, friendship, and support I have received from all of you: our students, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. You are our greatest strength. I look forward to an academic year where we as a community continue to sustain each other, and to change in ways that support positive growth in all aspects of our lives, inside and outside the classroom.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mitch".

Mitch White  
Head of School

# Campus Highlights Winter/Spring

## MOCK TRIAL

The Mock Trial Program was founded at Lake Ridge Academy in 2000 and is comprised of Upper School students looking for a challenging club to be a part of. The program takes part in mock trial competitions through the Ohio Center for Law-Related Education. Each year, Lake Ridge students compete against other schools at the district-level, in the hopes of advancing on to regionals and later the state competition, where they would face the fiercest competitors in all of Ohio. The cases argued are selected from a pool of ACLU constitutional cases that reflect modern events. The participating students are split into four teams; blue, red, purple, and green. These teams practice both the attorney and witness roles for the prosecution and the defense. The program found early success when the 2002 team advanced to the state competition, and since then, LRA has gone on to qualify sixteen times. Many Royals have also won individual awards, such as Best Attorney and Best Witness, which were easily achieved this year by our students at every level. This past spring, our teams qualified for the state-level competition, and finished seventh overall in the state of Ohio. Royals have also won individual awards, such as Best Attorney and Best Witness, which were swept by the students this year at every level.



## ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Lake Ridge Academy's Academic Challenge team competes in several events throughout the school year. The first is the Erie Shores Academic League competition, comprised of schools in Lorain County. Students compete head-to-head in weekly matches with questions covering a full range of academic subjects, such as math and science, American and world literature, history, geography, American government, and fine arts. Since joining the league in 2010, Lake Ridge has won a majority of the team championships, and is currently boasting a three-year winning streak.

Winning their league qualifies the team for participation in the Ohio Academic Competition, a statewide tournament that includes up to ninety-six schools of varying sizes who compete in six regional tournaments from which sixteen state finalists qualify to compete in Columbus for the championship. This year's team consisted of captain Tyler Young '22, Tanish Makadia '22, Alex Masgras '22, and Finn Pasatta '23 who



finished fourth overall at regionals, defeating Broadview Heights, Olmsted Falls, and St. Ignatius, but narrowly missed out on the state qualification after losing to Solon and Aurora, the eventual first and fifth place winners of the state competition.

Lake Ridge has also participated in the Academic Challenge television show on

WEWS in past years. Two of the team's last three appearances on the program have earned the school a grant from the program's sponsor. In 2020, the team earned a \$1,000 grant for finishing in fifth place, and in 2014, their appearance earned a \$2,500 grant for progressing to the final episode and finishing third overall out of over seventy teams.

The final competition is the Scholastic Games of Lorain County, a radio program broadcasted weekly during the winter and spring that pits participating Lorain County schools against one another in a five-round academic and current events quiz competition. After winning last year's championship over Zoom, this year's team was thankfully able to compete in-person this year, defeating Avon Lake, Vermilion, and Keystone to reach the championship match against Olmsted Falls. After an exciting back-and-forth match, Lake Ridge emerged triumphant to win the school's fourth Scholastic Games championship, having won previously in 2006, 2010, and 2021.

# Campus Highlights Winter/Spring



## NATIONAL SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

The Lorain County Regional Scholastic Art Exhibition has been providing a program to recognize, exhibit and honor excellence in visual art by seventh to twelfth grade students for over fifty years. The 2022 exhibition kicked off January 10, and included artwork from twenty-three of our students.

The Scholastic Art Awards program is the largest annual art competition in the country. Students in schools across the United States and Canada create one hundred and fifty thousand entries each year. The Lorain County region includes public and private middle and high schools from Lorain, Erie and Huron counties. Over one thousand three hundred and forty pieces were entered from twenty high schools and twelve middle schools. Lake Ridge Academy visual arts teachers Carolyn Alexander, Tim Callaghan, and Val Grossman entered a variety of their students' two and three-dimensional works this year. Work was juried by an esteemed panel of art and design professionals and professors from northeast Ohio. Work was judged by originality, technical skill and emergence of personal vision and voice. Grade 7-8 students compete in one division with all categories mixed. The high school students are competing together at the "varsity level" within various separate media categories. Students earn third place "Honorable Mention," second place "Silver Key" and the first place of "Gold Key." Placing among the 540 pieces in this show is like placing in "districts" in sports. Those works earning a regional "Gold Key" here advance directly to national jurying in New York City.

The exhibit is hosted at the Stocker Center gallery on the campus of Lorain County Community College and sponsored by the Nordson Corporation with additional funding from the C. Paul Stocker Arts Foundation and Lorain County Community College.



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING SYMPOSIUM

### SEVEN LRA STUDENTS RECEIVE SCIENCE FAIR HONORS

Lake Ridge Academy has, for decades, hosted its own science fair for middle school students. It is built into our science curriculum, and requires each student to complete an independent research project – often for the first time. Competing in a school-run science fair is required for most outside science and engineering fairs, including the Northeast Ohio Science and Engineering Fair (NEOSEF), District and State Science Days which are sponsored by the Ohio Academy of Science (OAS). Mr. Robertson has been a member of OAS for a long time, and even prior to working at LRA was involved in judging and organizing science fairs. LRA is the only school that he is aware of that has all of its students complete their own projects. Other schools often run their science fairs as after-school programs or special interest clubs.

Robertson is often hesitant to encourage his students to engage in competitive science fairs. There is a great deal of research that suggests competition can have a negative impact on students at this early stage in their identity development as STEM scholars. It is even more evident for girls. And so, during his tenure here, and with support of his colleagues, LRA has migrated away from the traditional “science fair” model into something that we now call a “science and engineering symposium,” where the sharing of results is emphasized over the judged scoring of the projects. Even so, LRA continues to flood our regional science fairs with outstanding student projects.

At the same time, Robertson has worked to more fully support students who are interested in doing engineering projects, rather than just science projects. Traditionally, engineering projects get “shoehorned” into the same process as science projects, but this is problematic. Whereas a science project should attempt to answer a question using the scientific method, an engineering project attempts to solve a problem using the engineering design process. Those two processes are analogous, but not the same. Separate steps have been developed for each, and students decide early on if they are solving a problem (engineering) or answering a question (science). From that point, they are on divergent paths. Students receive guidance and evaluation for those processes using different criteria.

The goal is to encourage the students to learn about and use the processes that real scientists and engineers use. One benefit is that aspects of these processes, finding background information, citing sources, managing time, and troubleshooting, for example, can be applied in other classes and other fields of work.

Finally, presenting that work to “outsiders,” who are often parents or members of the LRA community, provides a real world experience. The stakes feel higher than just turning in an assignment or presenting work in class. LRA has always done a good job of making the event into a special day for the school. Students from other grades as well as faculty and staff to engage the students during the symposium. We hope to restart our pre-COVID style symposium next year, which will include student art, performances, and a keynote speaker from our fantastic and supportive pool of alumni and parent STEM professionals.

Congratulations to all of our middle school students as they work toward becoming our next generation of scientists and engineers!

## AWARDS:

### GRADE 7

#### **Ben Bartyzel**

**NEOSEF:** Second place

**District 18 Virtual Science Day:**

Excellent rating

**BEST Medicine and Engineering:**

Special awards from Cleveland Clinic Medtrack

#### **Owen Conway**

**NEOSEF:** Honorable mention and special awards from American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

NEOSEF Board of Directors

#### **Amber Ellis**

**Mohican District Science Day:** Superior rating/state qualifier and special awards from Ohio Water Environment Association  
Mohican District Award

#### **Tim Moff**

**NEOSEF:** Honorable mention

#### **Logan Orloff**

**NEOSEF:** Second place

#### **Rahil Patel**

**District 18 Virtual Science Day:**

Excellent rating

### GRADE 8

#### **Amaan Siddiqi**

**NEOSEF:** Honorable mention and special awards from:

- American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
- American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers
- American Society of Civil Engineers  
Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers
- International Society of Automation
- Lemelson Early Engineer Award
- Rockwell Automation

(**Note:** Amaan earned more special awards at NEOSEF than any other attendee from any school at any level!)

**Mohican District Science Day:**

- Superior rating/state qualifier and special awards from Michael Hudson Outstanding Scientist
- Ohio Tuition Trust (529 scholarship)
- JLG Excellence in Engineering

# Campus Highlights Spring



## MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL UN

This year, twenty students from the 7th and 8th grades took part in the annual Model United Nations conference hosted by the Cleveland Council on World Affairs. This conference has students take on the role of delegates to the UN and represent nations from around the world tackling the biggest problems that our globe currently faces. Students spent two days at the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association debating, discussing, networking, and writing joint resolutions to try and solve issues of poverty, war, hunger, and violence. In the end, two of our students took home the award for Excellent Delegation. Amaan Siddiqi ('26) and Thomas Reed ('26) represented the nation of Austria in the Human Rights Council while discussing the issues of accountability for human rights violations and protecting the rights of migrant workers. Amaan and Thomas continue a long legacy of Lake Ridge Academy students' success at Model UN. Over the last seven years, Lake Ridge Academy Middle School has had four position paper award winners, five excellent delegation recipients, seven superior delegation winners, and five gavel award-winning best delegates (the highest award a delegate can earn). Each year this program continues to grow and we look forward to all the future success in the program and to those 8th graders moving on and sharpening their diplomatic skills in Upper School.



## MADELEINE ALBRIGHT

Lake Ridge Academy remembers the first female Secretary of State in United States history, Madeleine Albright. She was the featured speaker at the 2004 Diversity Forum at Lake Ridge, where she visited campus to speak with students from different educational backgrounds from all over Northeast Ohio. The forum focused on the role of women and immigrants in American life in the twenty-first century. Due to the political office she held, as well as being an immigrant herself, she was the perfect choice for our featured speaker. Our Royals had the privilege to explore this topic and gain insight from such a uniquely qualified speaker. The LRA family honors both the legacy and contributions to our community that Madeleine Albright provided and hope that our students continue to be inspired by the experiences she shared with them that day.







## LRA THESPIAN TROUPE #7171

In 2007, the Lake Ridge Academy Parents' Association allocated grant money to charter an International Thespian Society troupe at LRA. In the 15 years since, we continue to celebrate and honor student excellence in theatre arts, and in 2022, our theatre students have achieved much recognition in the State of Ohio. Ren Gleason '22, Cole Stellato '23, and Jacob Robertson '24 joined a company of 23 students from theatre programs throughout Ohio to produce the high school premiere of the musical *Fun Home*. Gleason played the male lead, Bruce, while Stellato earned a featured solo and Robertson played his cello in the pit orchestra of the show. It was the centerpiece of the Ohio State Thespian Conference in March.

Natalie McMahon '23 also found her spotlight on the State Thespian Conference stage. McMahon competed in the Ohio Thespian fall event in the solo musical theatre category with her performance of "I'm Not Waiting," by Andrew Lippa. She earned Superior ratings from both of her judges, and she then performed her piece at the closing

ceremonies of the conference in March. McMahon took her piece to the International Thespian Festival at Indiana University in June.

Ren Gleason '22 further led the Ohio Thespians by serving this school year as a North Area Student Thespian Officer. He led the student planning of our area's conference, a day of workshops and performances by local schools, held at LCCC's Stocker Arts Center. Gleason's vision of bringing local theatre programs together has carried beyond that weekend as many of the 100 participants have traveled to other schools to see their productions.

The Lake Ridge Academy Theatre Program was also honored as a Gold Troupe by the State of Ohio at this year's conference. This highest honor for a school program is given to troupes who demonstrate tremendous work both on and off stage in categories including: mainstage programming, innovative programming, social service plays, community service, and theatre advocacy.



# Campus Highlights

## CAREER DAY

On March 11, Upper School students gathered in the Bettcher Convocation Center for Career Day. The students had the unique opportunity to meet with and learn from six Lake Ridge Academy alumni from varying professions. The day began with alumni interacting with students of all ages in classrooms. Our speakers enjoyed lunch with faculty members before participating in a panel discussion where they shared personal stories from their college and career paths with Upper School students. Students then interacted individually with the panelists to discuss specific college and career paths, job shadowing opportunities, internships, and future job options.

If you are interested in returning to campus for Career Day 2023 or can offer a career experience, please contact Hayley Munroe, Director of Advancement ([alumni@lakeridgeacademy.org](mailto:alumni@lakeridgeacademy.org)). Next year's event will be held on March 10, 2023.



### **Thommy Butchko '04** Commercial Finance Partner at Thompson Hine LLP

Thommy is a Partner in the Commercial & Public Finance Practice Group at Thompson Hine LLP. His practice is focused on the development, negotiation, and documentation of senior and subordinated credit facilities, asset-based loans, senior and mezzanine debt placements, acquisition financing, structured finance transactions, and other complex financing transactions involving banks and other financial institutions, as well as public and private companies. He was selected for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America® 2020 through 2022. Butchko earned his JD from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and his BA from the University of Cincinnati, where he graduated magna cum laude. At UC, Thommy was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest honor society in the United States.

Thommy currently serves as Chair of the Lake Ridge Academy Alumni Council, is a board member for the Cleveland Chapter of the American Constitutional Society, is legal advisor to the Board of Directors for The Elyria Country Club, and is a 2021-2022 class member of the Bridge Builders.

### **Monica Mahajan Fullerton '08** Founder & CEO at Spouse-ly | Forbes #Next1000

Military life often requires wearing lots of hats and that's especially true for Monica. Named a Trailblazer in Tech by Military Spouse Magazine, Forbes Next 1000 List, and recently named on the MIGHTY 25 list as one of the most influential leaders supporting the military community, Fullerton is an ambitious entrepreneur, mom of twins, and Air Force spouse.

She has long dreamed of becoming an entrepreneur, but she wanted her efforts to support a greater purpose than just starting a business. In an effort to provide highly-transient military families, as well as those that have previously served, a space to market their products and services regardless of their duty

station, Monica launched Spouse-ly. Monica and her team remain diligently committed to nurturing a community that emphasizes learning and income-generating opportunities for the creators, service providers, and entrepreneurs within a military family.

### **Troy Hatcher '07** Director of Engineering at Winston Products LLC

After earning a BS in Engineering from Case Western Reserve University, Troy Hatcher dove into various avenues of engineering in the Cleveland area, including general mechanical engineering, product development, and engineering management. Troy's career began right out of college at Tipton Design and Engineering, an upstart company consisting of two full-time employees, and now ten years later, Troy leads the engineering department at Winston, a thriving retail consumer products company that develops hundreds of products for major brick and mortar retailers including, Walmart, Lowe's, and Home Depot. Growing up, Troy enjoyed working on cars in his garage and helping his parents make improvements to his childhood home. As Troy navigated the first decade of his career, his experiences included machine and fabrication shops, low-medium-high volume production, design houses, medical and consumer goods, but he never lost interest in the hobbies that led him into engineering in the first place, and he continues to look forward to the challenges that lie ahead.

### **Dr. Sarah Vandevender Jerew '05** Doctor of Pharmacy/Pharmacy Manager

Dr. Sarah Vandevender Jerew is a Pharmacy Manager for Walgreens Pharmacy in Cincinnati, Ohio. Previously, she worked as a staff pharmacist and became a manager in 2015 in Toledo, Ohio. She received her Doctorate from The University of Findlay in 2013, and is currently working towards her MBA in International Business through DeVry University. Dr. Jerew completed her experiential rotational year with University Hospitals, Richmond Campus and electives at the Ohio



Troy Hatcher '07, Dr. Alex Venizelos '99, Thommy Butchko '04, Dr. Sarah Vandevender Jerew '05, Maria Scarpitti '16 (Not Pictured: Monica Mahajan Fullerton '08).

Pharmacist Association and Elmendorf-Richardson Air Force-Army Base in Anchorage, Alaska.

Dr. Jerew currently serves on the Curriculum Committee for The University of Findlay and as a preceptor to pharmacy students at Ohio Northern University, The University of Findlay, and The University of Toledo. She has been a field expert for WTOL news regarding the opioid crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic. During the beginning stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, she supervised the inception of the first Walgreens testing site in Toledo. Dr. Jerew was part of a collaborative pharmacist group for House Representative Bob Latta regarding the opioid crisis. She also advocated for patients in Washington, D.C. by meeting with House Representatives and Ohio State Senators on bipartisan issues including opioid regulations, direct and indirect remuneration fees, and pharmacist provider status.

Dr. Jerew's field interests include continuing education, student development, medication therapy management, immunization education, and interdisciplinary medical team approach to patient care. Her personal interests include spending time with friends and family, travel, sailing, reading, and cooking new recipes with her husband.

### **Maria Scarpitti '16**

#### **Pardot Associate Success Guide at Salesforce**

Maria is an Associate Success Guide at Salesforce in Indianapolis. She graduated from Butler University in 2020 with a degree in Marketing and Entrepreneurship, and began working at Salesforce in July of 2020. Salesforce is a cloud-based software that is ranked the world's #1 CRM (customer relationship management) system. As an Associate Success Guide, Maria is a technical marketing consultant affiliated with one of the many Salesforce products, Pardot, a business-to-business email marketing tool. Maria lives in Indianapolis and is involved in various organizations, including Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana, Special Olympics of Indiana, and the Butler



Young Alumni Board. During her time at Lake Ridge, Maria was involved in choir, was a proud member and eventual leader of Locke House, and was awarded the President's Award.

### **Dr. Alexander Venizelos '99**

#### **Endovascular Neurologist at Summa Health Neuroscience Institute**

Alexander is an Endovascular Neurologist at the Summa Health Neuroscience Institute. His special interests include neuro-interventional surgery, ischemic and hemorrhagic stroke, pre-surgical tumor embolization of the brain and spine, vascular disorders of the head, brain, and spine – including cerebral aneurysms, subarachnoid hemorrhage, cerebrovascular atherosclerotic disease and dissection; arteriovenous malformations (AVMs) and fistulas of brain & spine, and refractory epistaxis.

Dr. Venizelos attended medical school at the Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine in Dayton, OH, followed by a residency at the Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago, IL. He also completed a fellowship at Chicago's Rush University Medical Center in Neurocritical Care, as well as at the Texas Stroke Institute in Endovascular Surgical Neuroradiology.

# Campus Highlights

## SUMMER CAMP

This past summer Lake Ridge Academy celebrated another six weeks of highly successful Summer Programs! The Summer Programs offered over 30 different camps and classes, with robust programs that matched a variety of interests including themed discovery camps, fine arts, technology/STEAM, environmental and experiential, academic, athletic, and chess camps. The brand new camp “Fantastical Fantasy Writing” was led by our very own alumna Kelly Tooman. What an honor it was to welcome Kelly back to campus and have her share her talents with our future alumni. Another highlight of the summer was LR Art Discovery Camp. Campers created a beautiful art gallery that was displayed for parents, students, and faculty/ staff to enjoy on the final day of camp. We are already excited for next year!





# Faculty and Staff News

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



**Linda Kozler**  
**Director of Student Support and Campus Wellness**

Linda Kozler is entering her 20th year of working in independent schools. Coming into education from the mental health field, she spent the first 14 of those years as a school counselor and counseling department chair, and loved every minute of it. She was especially energized by helping students succeed, and by caring for the whole person of each student. She was then invited to move into school leadership and – being someone who loves to embrace new challenges – she said yes! Linda spent two years as a successful high school Assistant Principal and three years as a successful upper and middle school Director. In the past couple years, however, as she has accompanied students through the COVID pandemic and witnessed its impact upon them, Linda felt the desire to return to direct student services. Along with a return to her “roots” in fostering student wellbeing, Linda hoped to find a position in which she could do so while also continuing her presence in leadership. Even more, she longed to find this kind of blended position (wellness/leadership) within a school community that expresses a strong commitment to student and faculty wellness. When she saw the posted position at LRA for a Director of Student Support and Campus Wellness, Linda felt it was the answer to all that she was searching for. Linda is absolutely thrilled to be at LRA, bringing wellness measures and programming – and all of the positive outcomes that come with them – to everyone on campus!



**Emily Benni**  
Upper School English



**Donald Bittala**  
Upper School Social Studies



**Michelle Kaczay**  
Physical Education



**Maura Moes**  
School Nurse



**Omid Tavakoli**  
Digital Photography



**Erin Unger**  
Kindergarten



**Mollibeth Cardwell**  
Strings



**Peter DiLalla**  
4th and 5th Grade Language  
Arts & Social Studies



**Dr. Rachel Donnelley Smith**  
Director of the Lower School

Dr. Rachel Donnelley Smith began working with children in summer camp settings, quickly falling in love with the energy, creativity, and curiosity they bring to every interaction. She soon found her way to independent school environments, where the powerful relationships built with and between students allows learning to flourish. Rachel has been a teacher of preschoolers, middle schoolers, and everyone in between! Over a decade ago, when Rachel stepped into educational leadership, she chose to focus on the elementary grades because of the strong foundations they provide to support lifelong learning. When Rachel heard about Lake Ridge Academy’s commitment to knowing students as individuals, the ways that it fosters curiosity for the natural world, and its exceptional academic program, she was immediately drawn to it. Rachel is excited to build on the successes of the Lake Ridge Academy Lower School, continuing to cultivate a culture of joyful teaching and learning!

## Milestone Years

Lake Ridge Academy celebrates the following employees milestone years of employment at our school. We recognize and appreciate all of their hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence during their years of service.

Name	Years at Lake Ridge
Christine Allchin	5
Ken Boris	5
Vanessa Butchko	5
Jen Calkins	5
Wendell Hagler	5
Rachael McCray	5
Chuck Verhoff	5
Leannie McAllister	10
Lisa McElwain	10
Lisa Medvetz	10
Regan Pore	10
Rachael Reighley	10
Pat Smith	10
Laura Lane	20
Ron Gosselin	25




**Katie Alford**  
Welcomes Baby

Third grade teacher Katie Alford and her husband, Tyler, welcomed their healthy baby daughter, Lydia, on March 17th! We are excited to see the newest little Royal visit campus soon.



**Karen Yost**  
Retires

Karen joined the Business Office in 1996, holding various roles with her most recent role in accounts receivable and state aid. In addition to her defined roles in the Business Office, Karen also assisted in many of the “other duties as assigned,” often helping the other members of the Business Office in special projects. One of Karen’s favorite activities was coordinating trips to the Lorain County ESC for employee background checks, and turning the ride into her own version of carpool karaoke.



“Don’t you just hate it when children act their age?” This mantra, championed by Lower School Director Katherine Hatcher, sums up a career spent prioritizing the needs, abilities, successes, and stories of the children at Lake Ridge Academy. Over her 25-year career, Katherine Hatcher has filled any number of roles, including sixth grade Language Arts/Social Studies teacher, fifth grade Homeroom, Social Studies and Language Arts teacher, fourth and fifth grade Math teacher, Lower School Social Studies Curriculum Coordinator, Director of the Summer Program, Director of the Center for Creative Thinkers, and of course, Lower School Director. Regardless of what role she filled, it was always her students who were at the core of what she did and why she did it.

“ALL GOOD THINGS”

## HONORING KATHERINE HATCHER

Written by Tim Unger, Director of the Middle School



As a classroom teacher, Katherine was known to make lessons meaningful to students by pushing them to go beyond the obvious. When students were making observations outside, she would encourage them to look for the subtle colors in the sky and the shadows to include in their writing and drawings. She found ways to help students connect themselves to history, building projects where students interviewed their own family members to facilitate learning about the past. She also designed experiences to make learning a special event for students. Whether it was an evening event featuring a 1940s canteen that showcased all of the students' learning, or a red carpet, high-fashion, Newbery Book Awards celebration, students celebrated their learning in ways that were both joyous and memorable.



When Katherine assumed the role of Lower School Director in 2008, she was the faculty's overwhelming top choice, a reflection of the trust and respect she had built up among her colleagues over the years. At that time, it was important to have someone knowledgeable of the school culture, the curriculum, and all of the constituent groups as Lake Ridge worked to rebuild the Lower School so that each grade had two sections of students. Katherine oversaw the rapid transition to a larger Lower School as sections were added. This included building and managing appropriate staffing and scheduling. By 2014, the Lower School had two sections of each grade, and a Lower School population of 154 – a 50% increase in population in just five years. Growth like that can really impact the culture of a division, but Katherine handled it beautifully, keeping our Lower School true to our mission.

As a mentor, Katherine coached and guided faculty, believing in them when they themselves sometimes didn't. A good listener,

she was always interested in growth, empowering the faculty in the Lower School in ways that promoted faculty initiative and interest. She brought her strong curricular knowledge to the division and regularly demonstrated a desire to grow in that understanding. This ultimately led to the adoption of the Natural World Curriculum in the Lower School. As an outgrowth of that, Katherine has been a leader in encouraging our whole school to get out onto our 93-acres to let children learn in nature.

Any discussion of Katherine's time and leadership at Lake Ridge would be incomplete without mentioning the flood of 2011, when the entire Lower School found itself under 18+ inches of water. Students and teachers were moved to alternate locations, school resumed in a shockingly short amount of time, and materials, infrastructure, and furnishings were all reordered, replaced, and reinstalled. It was a Herculean effort for all involved, and Katherine stood at or near the center of the entire process.

Katherine's understanding of the history of the school has been a grounding force over her tenure. She was known to ask the right question at the right time to help maintain the focus on the benefit of our students. She was often the person to say "What about..." when discussions grew lengthy and complex, drawing the conversation back to our school's mission and purpose.

Katherine was never one for the spotlight, even as her retirement was announced and subsequently celebrated, but hers is a career worth celebrating and highlighting as much as possible. With two Lake Ridge alum children of her own, Troy '07 and Katie '15, Katherine can now, after 25 years of dedication, consider herself a Lake Ridge alum. We wish her well and look forward to welcoming her back to visit when her life's adventures allow.

## DAY OF THE G.O.A.T.

To properly honor Katherine Hatcher's retirement and decades of service to Lake Ridge Academy, her legacy was celebrated during the last week of school on a day affectionately dubbed, Day of the G.O.A.T (Greatest of All-Time). Nigerian Dwarf goats wearing onesies with Katherine's name on them came to campus and visited with our Lower School students. After the goats left, our G.O.A.T. was gifted a bench by the Lake

Ridge Academy Parents' Association, adorned with a plaque detailing her many years of excellence. To cap off our day of celebration, there was a reception held in the library attended by Katherine's friends, coworkers, and family. After sharing happy memories and saying farewell, Katherine was met with a surprise pony – one she's always wanted.

# Graduation



Class of 2022 Co-valedictorians Jinglong Yang and Alex Masgras and Co-salutatorians Tanish Makadia and Tyler Young.

## CLASS OF 2022 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HONOREES

The National Merit Scholarship program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarship funds that began in 1955. About 2 million juniors entered the program by taking the Preliminary SAT National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The top scores in critical reading, mathematics and writing skills advance only 16,000 students to the Semifinalist list. 15,000 finalists are selected based on academic records, written essays, participation in school and community activities, evidence of leadership and any other honors or awards received. Only 7,500 National Merit Scholarships are awarded nationally each year.

Congratulations to Alex Masgras, Tanish Makadia and Tyler Young who earned National Merit Semifinalist and Finalist recognition this year. Tanish and Tyler were among the 7,500 students awarded a National Merit Scholarship. Aashna Lakkaraju was named a Commended Scholar, representing the top 5% of the nation's top high school seniors.

## CLASS OF 2022 ACHIEVEMENTS

1

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

3

NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

3

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SEMIFINALISTS



## CLASS OF 2022 COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS

Written by Rhett Rybarczyk

Like the rest of the world, the Lake Ridge Academy class of 2022 was deeply impacted by COVID-19. This is a group that can't easily recall what a normal classroom looks—or feels—like; a class relearning and recreating old traditions; a class that can easily switch from an in-person format to a virtual one. Such resiliency speaks to the special quality of this group of diligent and determined young men and women. When they couldn't visit colleges in person, they researched online to find schools that aligned with their academic and social passions. They practiced mock interviews before meeting with schools over Zoom. They polished their essays, volunteered, and worked hard to make the best of a bad situation. It has been an honor to build relationships with each and every student as I helped guide them on their first step toward reaching their goals. Resilient. Determined. Hardworking. The Class of 2022 has a bright future ahead!

**Our 38 graduates matriculated to the following colleges and universities and were awarded \$5.2 million in college scholarships.**

Melisa Aksoy University of Cincinnati	Aashna Lakkaraju University of Cincinnati
Uzair Beg Ohio State University	Ko-Chien "James" Lin Carnegie Mellon University
Sooyeon "Kelly" Choi Florida State University	Tanish Makadia Brown University
Jabiri Crowley Cleveland State University	Alex Masgras University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Saleh Daoud Ohio State University	Mona Mchaourab Ohio State University
Ted DeMarco II Baldwin Wallace University	Max Micklitsch Baldwin Wallace University
Yunzhong "Louie" Ding College of William and Mary	Madeline Morse Baldwin Wallace University
Sam Dresing Montana State University	Madalyn New The College of Wooster
Andrew Dunleavy Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology	Benjy Norton Wittenberg University
Lindsey Eyring Manhattanville College	Lucas Norton Denison University
Maria Gilles Washington & Jefferson College	Evan Robertson Skidmore College
Warren "Ren" Gleason Jr Ohio Northern University	Rianna Saffian Cleveland Institute of Art
Zane Haidar University of Cincinnati	Alexander Sandhu American University
Gavin Hammonds University of Cincinnati	Mikos Sison Tulane University of Louisiana
Angelica Isckarus Ohio State University	Connor Spencer West Virginia University
Claire Kingsley Ohio University	Haley Viskocil Ohio University
Yasemin Koprulu John Carroll University	Jinglong "Ben" Yang Vanderbilt University
Anthony Kubec Ohio University	Yuxuan "Megan" Yang University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Joel Lacoste Xavier University	Tyler Young Harvard College

# Oh What a Night!

LAKE RIDGE ACADEMY

— Saturday Night —

DISCO

Lake Ridge Academy's Auction Gala is a longstanding event that goes back to the school's earliest days. Parents, alumni, former teachers, current teachers, and devoted friends of the school gather each year to support our students and faculty.

The 2021 Lake Ridge Academy Saturday Night Disco, sponsored by the Obid Family and the Ajmani Family, was a night full of dancing, bidding, and fun! Guests enjoyed a disco-themed party which included a performance by our amazing student disco dancers! The event was emceed by Natalie McMahon '23 who interviewed students, Layla Tilk '30, Nirwa Makadia '29, Kailash Merugu '27, Tanish Makadia '22, and Lake Ridge Academy alumna Liz Navratil '20. Our students stole the show.

Four new members were inducted into the Hall of Fame. Sue Haendiges was honored for her excellence in teaching and coaching over her 35 years at Lake Ridge Academy. John and Deb O'Neill were recognized for their tremendous influence in the Lake Ridge community and in Northeast Ohio as philanthropists, volunteers, advocates, and business leaders. Jennifer Zinn Lagasse '86 was inducted for her outstanding alumni leadership, volunteerism, and lifelong devotion to her alma mater.

Auction Co-Chairs Ashley Doolos, Erin Haney, and Anca Obid planned an amazing evening for guests who purchased

once-in-a-lifetime experiences, vacations, unique gifts, and items that were handmade by people in the Lake Ridge community – including our students and teachers. Overall, the event raised more than \$370,000 for Lake Ridge. Like the Annual Fund, Gifts from the Heart and other auction gifts enhance our academic program and care for our 93-acre campus in ways that tuition alone cannot do.

During the live auction portion of the event, Gift from the Heart earned more than \$200,000 for the project, which was focused on health and wellness. The centerpiece of this project was creating an accessible, one-kilometer limestone path that connects Aspiration Acres, (last year's Gift from the Heart project) to the Sugar Shack, as well as other new features in the west woods.

In addition to the crushed limestone path, the project is also supporting a review of the Lower School HVAC and electrical systems in hopes of upgrading systems.

This memorable evening concluded with guests dancing the night away to popular disco music! Thank you again to our wonderful sponsors and volunteers who made this event a success! We look forward to another memorable auction on Saturday, November 19, 2022, at the Ritz-Carlton Cleveland. The auction will be a Casino Royale themed event filled with fun and entertainment. We hope to see you there.



## Deborah and John O'Neill



Deborah and John O'Neill were inducted into the Lake Ridge Academy Hall of Fame in November 2021. The couple was presented with The Founders Award for their devoted volunteer service and leadership, transformational philanthropic influence in our community, and longstanding advocacy of the school.

Deborah and John first became affiliated with Lake Ridge when their nephew, David O'Neill '01, enrolled as a second grade student in 1990. Shortly after that, Deborah and John's first child, William O'Neill '07, entered Lake Ridge as a kindergarten student in the fall of 1994. William was closely followed by his two younger brothers, Richard "Richie" O'Neill '10 and James "Jay" O'Neill '13, who both started at Lake Ridge as kindergarten students; and last by his sister, Claire O'Neill '14, who enrolled as a first grade student.

When asked to write about their relationship to Lake Ridge, the couple shared, "Lake Ridge Academy has been a fixture of our lives for 20+ years. In 1990 our nephew, David, enrolled in second grade and we quickly became acquainted with Lake Ridge by attending concerts and events he was a part of. Once our firstborn, William, enrolled in kindergarten at Lake Ridge in 1994, we knew that the next 20 years of our lives would inevitably revolve around the school."

The couple shared many fond memories of their time with Lake Ridge, most notably, the numerous events and activities they attended together in support of their incredibly well-rounded children. The list includes, soccer team dinners, piano play-ins, Mock Trial tournaments, jazz band concerts, School of Fine Arts showcases, and many sporting events cheering their children on to victory. Other fond memories include the three Middle and Upper School exchange students the family hosted: Charlotte, Arnaud, and Vanessa.

In addition to supporting their children while at Lake Ridge, the couple supported the entire Lake Ridge community through their dedicated volunteerism and benevolence. Deborah served as President of the Parents Association from 2004-2006, and also served on the Board of Directors from 2005-2014. For much of the time, Deborah was Treasurer of the Board of Directors.

Outside of their affiliation with Lake Ridge, both Deborah and John work at O'Neill Healthcare. John is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and is President of the company. Deborah,

CPA, serves as the Chief Financial Officer. This family-owned business offers a wide range of senior-care services in six facilities around Greater Cleveland. Currently, David '01, Richie '10, and Jay '13 are the third generation of O'Neills to be involved with the business.

The O'Neills have remained involved long after their youngest child's graduation in 2014, and have served as tremendous leaders in the Lake Ridge Academy community, helping to shape the institution in significant ways. During construction of the Kemper Science and Engineering Building, John spent countless hours on campus, supporting and overseeing construction of the building. In the couple's own words, "Every member of our family formed close friendships through Lake Ridge Academy that continue to this day."

## Susan J. Haendiges



Susan J. Haendiges was inducted into the Lake Ridge Academy Hall of Fame in November 2021. She was presented with The Wilfred Hemmer Headmaster Award for her demonstrated exemplary leadership within Lake Ridge, outstanding service to the school and greater community, and undeniable excellence in her field of work.

Sue retired in 2020 as a beloved physical education teacher and coach after serving Lake Ridge Academy for 35 years. Sue joined Lake Ridge in 1980, where she taught physical education across each division, and health to the tenth grade class. From 1980 until 1988, Sue also acted as the Physical Education Department Chair and served as an Upper School advisor.

Sue attended Southeast Missouri State, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Health & K-12 Physical Education with a minor in Recreation. After graduating college in 1975, Sue went on to pursue her Master of Arts in Teaching. While in graduate school, Sue worked as a graduate assistant in physical education and athletics at Southeast Missouri State, taught undergraduate courses, and was the Assistant Swim Coach.

Prior to joining Lake Ridge Academy, Sue taught girls physical education at Saint Thomas Moore from 1975 to 1976 in Brooklyn, Ohio. In 1977, Sue moved to Missouri, where she taught physical education and health at Crystal City High School. There she also coached the varsity volleyball, basketball, and gymnastics teams. During her tenure at Crystal City, the gymnastics team won Second All-County.

After serving the Lake Ridge Academy community for 8 years, from 1980 to 1988, Sue left for a brief time to teach physical education at Elyria City Schools. There she also coached the Middle School volleyball and basketball teams, as well as the freshman volleyball team.

In 1993, Sue rejoined the Lake Ridge family, taking back her previous position as Health and Physical Education Department Chair. Outside of teaching, Sue held many coaching roles at Lake Ridge, in addition to managing the Lower School Intramural Program. Sue's coaching experience and the extracurricular activities she managed are as follows:

- Coached girls basketball, 1980-1985
- Coached varsity field hockey, 1980-1988
- Acted as Assistant Coach for track and field, 1980-1988
- Coached Middle School basketball, 1986-1988
- Launched the school's volleyball program, 1993
- Served as Interim Athletic Director, 1993
- Coached varsity volleyball, 1994-2000
- Coached junior varsity volleyball, 2008-2020
- Coached Middle School girls basketball, softball, and track and field teams as needed, 1993-2020
- Chaperoned Upper School ski trips (winter) and camping & rafting trips (spring)
- Organized Lower School Field Days & special holiday activities

In her retirement, Sue enjoys volunteering through her church to serve meals and deliver gifts during the holiday season. When asked what she would like shared with the Lake Ridge Academy community, Sue wrote, "I have had the opportunity to work with wonderful, smart, caring people and supportive families. I have been very fortunate to have found my passion in teaching and coaching, and had the opportunity to pursue my career at Lake Ridge Academy!"

Sue's retirement was bittersweet for the entire Lake Ridge Academy community. Speaking of her 35 years at Lake Ridge, Sue explained, "My teaching and coaching colleagues have been like family to me, and have helped mold me into the best teacher and coach I could be! But it has always been the students who inspire me the most to give my best each day whether I'm in the classroom or on the court."

## Jennifer Zinn Lagasse '86



Jennifer Zinn Lagasse was inducted into the Lake Ridge Academy Hall of Fame in November 2021. She was presented with The Donald W. Kaatz '70 Alumni Award for her outstanding alumni leadership, generosity, and lifelong devotion to her alma mater.

Jennifer first became

acquainted with Lake Ridge through her mother, Dr. Mary F. Zinn, who began teaching at the school in 1978. Shortly thereafter, in 1980, Jennifer enrolled as a seventh grade student. The two summers before starting at Lake Ridge, she spent in her mother's classroom prepping for the return of the academic year.

Thinking back on her first days at Lake Ridge, Jennifer recalls,

"On my first day, I was told by a fellow student from Oberlin not to tell people I was Dr. Zinn's daughter, as she was known for being a very strict teacher. I was able to continue this subterfuge for the first few weeks, despite having Dr. Zinn for my first period every day, as she was teaching Life Sciences that year. As many who know us both are aware, neither of us is a morning person. Anyhow, the first period lab came, and Dr. Zinn warned us to be very careful with the burettes we were using as they were incredibly expensive and fragile. Needless to say, Adam Rasiwala '86, Eric Tower '86, John Wismar '86, and myself managed to break ours about five minutes into the lab. I wailed out, "Mommy," at the top of my lungs as it shattered on the lab counter. Instantly, the room went completely silent and Mom replied, "Jennifer, may I help you?" I had two additional classes with her during my time at Lake Ridge, Chemistry and AP Chemistry, and managed to never call her anything other than Dr. Zinn in the classroom again!"

As a student, Jennifer was highly involved. She served on the Student Council for many years, acted as Junior Class President and planned the first prom in downtown Cleveland, was Co-Editor of the student newspaper, *The Lion's Mouth*, her junior and senior year, played field hockey and tennis, was the alternate for the Academic Challenge team, and was a longstanding member of the National Honor Society.

Jennifer thrived at Lake Ridge, winning numerous awards in both science and English, and took a special interest in studying languages. She would often be found spending time with the French teachers, in an effort to maintain and increase her language skills. Today, Jennifer is happy to share that she is nearly fluent, and has spent years living in China and Europe communicating in French daily. In July 2019, Jennifer had the opportunity to visit her former French teacher, Frank Catanese, in Sicily while on a trip to spend time with her goddaughter in Paris, France.

After graduating from Lake Ridge Academy in 1986, Jennifer went on to Cornell University, where she was in the Honors Chemistry Program until the spring of 1989. She then started at Oberlin College in 1992, and graduated the following year with a degree in Religion.

Post-grad, Jennifer worked as a Quality Engineer, Manager of Waste Water and Lead Auditor to QS900 for Metokote Corporation. From there, she moved on to Johnson Controls Inc., where she served as a Quality Engineer and primary contact for the Ford Plant they supplied. From 1999-2012, Jennifer went to work for QSI, which later became IBS America. During those years, she and her family lived overseas. While there, Jennifer spent countless hours volunteering at organizations such as the Bonn International School and the Parents Organization of Yew Chung.

Today, Jennifer spends her time volunteering in Oberlin. She is a past member of the CATSS Board and at one time, served as the Board Secretary. Jennifer is also heavily involved with Lake Ridge Academy. Prior to joining the Board of Directors in 2019, Jennifer served on the Alumni Council, Advancement Committee, and the Auction Committee.

Although she never lost touch with the school, Jennifer rejoined the Lake Ridge Academy community as a parent in the fall of 2013, after moving back to Oberlin from Germany. That year, her son, Oliver '20, enrolled as a sixth grade student, and her other son, Sebastian "Guppy" '23, enrolled as a third grade student. Although the move to the United States was difficult for her children, Jennifer credits Greta Leshner, Pat Smith, and Katie Alford with supporting her children through the adjustment to America.

Speaking of Lake Ridge, Jennifer states, "Lake Ridge created, via education and socialization, the person I am today. I wanted the same for my children, and the children of our community. I am grateful for the education and values imbued in me during my time at Lake Ridge, as they provided me with the career that allowed me the opportunity to give the same education to my children."

# Advancement

## PAST GIFT FROM THE HEART PROJECTS:

**\$170,000**

for the Carol Klimas Scholarship and CRC makeover

**\$150,609**

for several campus safety and beautification projects

**\$240,000**

for Aspiration Acres

## 2021 GIFT FROM THE HEART PROJECT:

**\$203,000**

for a 1-kilometer path and its corresponding components



## ASPIRATION ACRES UPDATE

At the 2020 Auction Gala, we announced the barn/silo project, which has since been named “Aspiration Acres.” The name was suggested by a parent who participated in our community-wide naming contest in the fall of 2021. With the implementation of Aspiration Acres on campus, we have enhanced our outdoor curriculum by adding a barn, silo, cistern, natural rain garden, and chicken coop to the open field behind the Kemper Science and Engineering building.

In the spring of 2022, Mr. Harris’ fourth and fifth-grade science classes watched as ten chickens hatched. After three weeks, the chicks were moved into the chicken coop, where they will continue to grow, munch on grass, and eventually begin to lay eggs. With school back in session, we look forward to watching

students take advantage of the learning opportunities available in and around the barn and silo.

As a permanent symbol of our gratitude for all those who donated to help bring this project to life, a recognition wall has been erected at the entrance of Aspiration Acres. Under the direction of Upper School Engineering teacher Todd Morrison, students Nathan Barens ’24, Jonathan Lin ’24, and Jeremy Ma ’24 used the laser engraving machine in the Kemper Science and Engineering building to create this one-of-a-kind recognition wall.

We are excited to watch our faculty utilize these new outdoor spaces, and encourage you to stop by for a tour!





# Advancement



## GIFT FROM THE HEART 2021

Each year, the Lake Ridge Academy community comes together to fund a single campus project through Gift from the Heart at the school's annual Auction Gala. Alumni, parents, teachers and friends of the school collectively pledge financial support with their bid paddles or via mobile bidding to make a transformational impact on our students and campus.

In the fall of 2021, we asked our faculty and staff to submit ideas as to what they thought would be a transformational project for campus that would also have a significant impact on their curriculum. Kindergarten teacher, Margaret Haase submitted the idea of "an accessible paved walking path throughout campus, which could help classes get through the woods easier, and would include benches for rest, and a possible space for cross country students to use....," and from there an idea was born!

From the podium the night of the 2021 Auction Gala, Head of School Mitch White announced a project to create a 1-kilometer path that would wind through the west woods of our campus, and ultimately end at the entrance of Aspiration Acres, our 2020 Gift from the Heart project. The 1-kilometer path will be accessible to all students, faculty, staff, and parents, and will allow Lake Ridge Academy to host cross country meets on our campus for the first time in our school's history, as well as an annual 5k & 1 mile walk open to the greater North Ridgeville community each fall. Other aspects of the project include:

- A storybook trail with fourteen stops.
- Nine parkour stations, including monkey bars, pull ups, push ups, balance beams, stepping stones, and more.
- An observation deck where faculty can take students for outdoor learning.
- A vernal pool and a deer exclusion fence that will allow a portion of the path to be untouched by deer, affording our students the opportunity to study the undisturbed tree and plant growth.
- An updated HVAC system in the Lower School.

Due to the overwhelming generosity of our community, we were able to move forward with all aspects of the project in the 2021-2022 school year. Thank you, Gift from the Heart 2021 donors, for funding this exciting project!

## GIFT FROM THE HEART 2021

In a single evening, the Lake Ridge Academy community generously donated \$203,000 for a new 1-kilometer crushed limestone path, parkour stations, storybook trail, and an updated HVAC system in the Lower School. We are so thankful for the generosity of each donor who supported this project to enhance our 93-acre campus.

Anonymous  
Rosanne Aumiller  
Bank of America  
Mathew & Jamie Lee Barker  
Jim Bartyzel & Pauline Kwok  
Tricia Beach  
Dryck & Dannette Bennett  
Mike & Tschanen Brandyberry  
Robert & Cristina Brauchla  
Thommy '04 & Vanessa Butchko  
Albert Chan & Annie Tan  
Steven & Shannon Conway  
Mark & Kristen Craig  
Dave Currie  
Tom & Kate Dake  
Parry & Leila Daiuto  
Cesar & Vanessa Delgado  
J.R. & Ashley Doolos  
Tom '83 & Janna Dresing  
William & Vicki Dufford  
Bob & Cindy Fairchild  
Cole Fauver '79  
Teresa Fowler-Jenkins  
Dennis & Joyce Freeman  
Jon & Laurie Gatten  
Kenyon & Betsy Glor  
Shawn & Lauren Givan  
Jacob & Jennifer Gorny  
Michael & Margaret Haase  
Sue Haendiges  
Craig & Stephanie Haller  
Erin Haney  
Joe & Janel Hofstetter  
Gregory Holzaepfel & Erin Currie  
Holzaepfel  
Apollonia Hutson  
Jon & Colleen Hyman  
Dan Karchmer & Sunita Mathew '95  
KeyBank  
Matthew & Jennifer Kegyes  
Brian & Cathy Kingsley  
Jeff '83 & Annette '84 Knapp  
Carl & Kimberly Krueger  
Linda LaFleur  
Chris & Erin Longmoon  
The Lubrizol Foundation  
Chetan & Parshis Makadia  
Kurt & Leannie McAllister  
Andrew Milluzzi '08 & Kristin Madewell  
Kenneth Moore Sr. & Cindy Holland  
Phil & Clare Navratil  
Ed & Denise Neugebauer  
Norton Family Foundation  
Ben G. & Jane Norton  
Ben P. & Brenda Norton  
Brad '86 & Debbie Norton  
Gretchen Norton '17  
Jared & Jill Oakes  
Rick & Anca Obid  
John & Deb O'Neill  
Ferdinand '79 & Donna Plecha  
Jim & Barb Ridel  
Dean & Michelina Rozar  
Rebecca Ruppert McMahon  
Michael Saffian  
Govind Sandhu & Niyati Sheth Sandhu  
Joe & Nancy Scarpitti  
Michael '01 Sertich & Julia '01 Bilz Sertich  
Brian Shimko '04  
Garik & Melanie Shmois  
Ed & Nyree Skimin  
Patrick Smith  
Ed Spellman & Chann Fowler-Spellman  
Erin & Peter Srsen  
Nick & Erin Stellato  
Sally Stipic  
Jutta Swoboda  
James & Angela Thomas  
Jim & Lisa Tilk  
Allen & Molly Tittle  
Ravi Vedula & Chandana Mozumdar  
Mitch & Shelby White  
Carol Woodward  
Joe & Karen Yost  
Jon & Megan Zahler  
Mike & Lisa Zidar  
John & Doreen Ziska

# THE NORTON FAMILY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Lake Ridge Academy is pleased to announce the newly launched Norton Family Endowed Scholarship program to provide support to students with demonstrated financial need, with a preference given to students who live in Lorain County. The Norton Family Scholarship will award \$5,000 annually to a student in grades 6-12 and can be combined with the school's generous need-based tuition assistance program that can reduce tuition by up to 60%.

The Norton Family Endowed Scholarship program was initially funded by Ben and Brenda Norton. Ben Norton grew up in Lorain, and both Ben and Brenda have strong ties to the Lorain County community. Their children, Gretchen '17, Katie '20, and Ben '22, are all graduates of Lake Ridge Academy. The Norton Family Endowed Scholarship is part of a larger gift by the Nortons to support Lake Ridge Academy's investment in student health and wellness.

Ben Norton's parents, Ben Sr. and Jane Norton, also made a generous contribution to the family's scholarship program this past spring. Ben and Jane have been longtime supporters of the school, as their other two sons, Brad '86 and Brent '89, are Lake Ridge Academy alumni.

As founding members of the Norton Family Foundation, Ben and Jane have served on numerous health, education, arts, service, athletics and religious boards. Their commitment to improving the Lorain County Community serves as a testament to their hardworking and kindhearted nature which has certainly been passed on to their children and grandchildren, all of whom have made a long lasting impression on our close-knit Lake Ridge Academy community. In the words of Ben Sr.'s late father, "We all have the responsibility to give back to the community in return for what it has given to us."

"We prepare our students for a changing world where life skills like resiliency, self-advocacy, and collaboration are developed alongside uncompromising academics. The Norton Family Endowed Scholarship program will help us extend the outstanding opportunities that a Lake Ridge Academy education offers." – **Mitch White, Head of School**



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Gretchen '17, Benjamin G., Brenda, Katie '20, Benjamin K. '22, Jane, and Benjamin K.

## WHAT HAPPENED TO THE HONOR ROLL OF DONORS?

Starting this year, the traditional Honor Roll of Donors will be moved out of the ByLine. Instead, the Advancement Office looks forward to publishing an Annual Report in December 2022.

The Annual Report will be shared with all those in our close-knit community, as well as potential shareholders outside of the organization. Through the Annual Report, the Advancement Office aims to showcase all advancement activity that took place during the last fiscal year (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022), and will highlight the impact of philanthropy on Lake Ridge Academy's greatest assets—our people, programs, and campus.

Some highlights from the report will include:

- A recap of the most recent fiscal year
- A comprehensive fundraising report
- A look into philanthropy's impact
- A list of all those who made a gift to Lake Ridge Academy in the previous fiscal year

# Advancement

## THE **ASPIRE** SCHOLARSHIP

Your Cost = \$0 • Benefit to a Student = \$1,500

Lake Ridge Education...**Priceless**

The newly created Aspire Scholarship affords deserving students of financial need the opportunity to receive a Lake Ridge Academy education. Using funds raised through a new program that allows Ohioans to receive a dollar-for-dollar tax credit of up to \$750, The Aspire Scholarship will allow more students to benefit from a Lake Ridge Academy education.

As of 2022, Ohio taxpayers can now choose how they will “spend” up to \$750 of their 2022 Ohio income tax liability. Donations designated to Lake Ridge Academy,

made through the Ohio Association of Independent Schools Scholarship Granting Organization, will be directed toward The Aspire Scholarship, which will prioritize scholarships for families with financial need who seek a high-quality education for their children. Donations to The Aspire Scholarship can be made annually and are per-taxpayer, meaning married couples can receive a deduction up to \$1,500, should each person make a gift of \$750. Should your Ohio tax liability be equal to or greater than your donation of up to \$750 per person (\$1,500 for a married couple), **your donation will ultimately cost you nothing.**

### Important Facts

- For your donation to qualify for the state tax credit, your gift must be made through the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS) Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) website. **Use the QR code** to access the donation site or visit <https://bit.ly/LRA-SGO>.
- Married couples can receive up to two separate \$750 deductions, totaling \$1,500. To do so, a donation of \$750 must be made in **each person’s name**.
- Parents, grandparents, alumni, friends – **ANYONE living in the state of Ohio** can make an SGO donation, so long as they are an Ohio taxpayer with a state tax liability.

Scan to  
Donate  
Now!





## FAQ

### 1. Can I make a donation of less than \$750?

Yes, you can make a donation of any amount up to \$750 on the OAIS SGO donation site; however, the tax credit is dollar-for-dollar, meaning a gift of \$200 will ensure you receive a \$200 tax credit towards your state of Ohio income tax liability. As a general estimate, those individuals who earn \$45,000 per year or more will have an Ohio income tax liability of \$750 or more, and therefore, would benefit from making a gift of the maximum amount (\$750).

### 2. How do I ensure that I receive the tax credit?

To receive the dollar-for-dollar tax credit, be sure to submit your emailed tax receipt from OAIS SGO when filing your tax return.

### 3. Can I make a donation to Lake Ridge Academy directly via check, ACH, or online donation and have it count towards receiving the state tax credit?

No, in order to receive the state of Ohio tax credit, gifts must be made through the OAIS SGO donation site.

### 4. Can I make a one-time donation of \$1,500 and have it count for my spouse and me?

No, unfortunately two separate donations of \$750 must be received, one in each person's name, through the OAIS SGO donation site.

### 5. Have any additional questions or concerns before donating?

Contact Hayley Munroe, Director of Advancement, at [munroeh@lakeridgeacademy.org](mailto:munroeh@lakeridgeacademy.org) or call 440.327.1175.



## How to Donate

- Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/LRA-SGO>
- Designate Lake Ridge Academy in the section titled "Select Schools," if not already pre-populated
- Click "Submit Donation"
- Check your inbox for a tax receipt from OAIS SGO and be on the lookout for a note from Lake Ridge Academy letting you know we've received your donation

# Advancement

## INTRODUCING THE ROYALS FUND!

Formerly known as the Annual Fund, the Royals Fund is Lake Ridge Academy's top fundraising priority. Gifts to the Royals Fund are the most mission-based gifts that the school can receive because they support everything that you already love about Lake Ridge Academy.

Alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty and friends give to the Royals Fund at every giving level to collectively provide each student the opportunity of a Lake Ridge education. Since no student pays more than 75% of the cost of a Lake Ridge education, ALL students are supported by Royals Fund gifts that make their LRA experience possible.

In addition to the name change, the Advancement Team has also taken steps to reinvigorate the Royals Fund Giving Society. Formerly known as the 1963 Society, named after the school's founding year, the Lake Ridge Academy Royals Fund Giving Society will acknowledge donors of varying levels who make **unrestricted gifts** to the school each year. The updated giving society levels can be found below.

- **The Herb Kaatz Founders Society** will honor donors who give **\$15,000** or more in a year to the Royals Fund.
- **The Scrib Fauver Founders Society** will honor donors who give **\$10,000** or more in a year to the Royals Fund.
- **The Charles Small Founders Society** will honor donors who give **\$5,000** or more in a year to the Royals Fund.
- **The Head of School Society** will honor donors who give **\$2,500** or more in a year to the Royals Fund.

In an effort to acknowledge our incredible alumni who give generously each year to the school, the Advancement Office is excited to announce the addition of the Lake Ridge Academy Alumni Giving Society. Alumni who give each year to the Royals Fund at the following levels will be honored as members of the Lake Ridge Academy Alumni Giving Society: \$1,000+, \$500, \$250, \$100, and \$50. As our school grows and our alumni continue to positively impact their chosen communities, we look forward to naming these levels after alumni who exemplify LRA's core values of integrity, respect, scholarship, and personal best.



### Gifts to the Royals Fund support the following Lake Ridge Academy initiatives:

#### SUPPORT FOR OUR CAMPUS

- Maintaining our 93-acre campus through landscaping, building and maintenance, and security features
- Ensures LRA can employ a robust cleaning and maintenance staff
- Provides students access to transportation to and from school as well as field trips off campus

#### SUPPORT FOR OUR FACULTY

- Ensures LRA can secure world-class educators who are passionate about creating an exemplary learning environment for our students
- Provides the necessary funds for professional development opportunities
- Provides the funds to ensure our faculty has the support they need to thrive

#### SUPPORT FOR OUR STUDENTS

- Provides funding for field trips, fine arts performances, athletic teams, and school and art supplies
- Helps purchase new technology that is accessible across all three divisions
- Provides funding for programs that enhance the student experience, including but not limited to, Lower School Reenactment, Middle School Community Building Day, and all three Centers of Excellence

# Alumni News

## THE ROYALS' REUNION



The Lake Ridge Academy Alumni Relations Office hosted The Royals' Reunion in late November, which spanned two lively weekends. Alumni from near and far kicked off the celebration on Friday, November 19 at a happy hour event in downtown Cleveland. The alumni in attendance spanned three decades, but most notably, it was members of the classes of '81 and '86, both of which were celebrating their 40th and 35th reunions, respectively.

The following evening, alumni, parents and Lake Ridge Academy community members attended the Saturday Night Disco Auction Gala. The gala signified a return to normalcy and a much needed social outing for our community, who had greatly missed out on time spent together during the pandemic.

For alumni, a highlight of the evening was the annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony which honors individuals whose excellence and relationship to Lake Ridge Academy have made a positive impact on the school and others in our

school community. At this past year's ceremony, Lake Ridge Academy was pleased to honor the following members of our community:

- Susan J. Haendiges received the Wilfred Hemmer Headmaster Award
- Jennifer Zinn Lagasse '86 received the Donald W. Kaatz '70 Alumni Award
- Deborah and John O'Neill received the Founders Award

The following weekend, a team of young alumni faced off with the current LRA varsity basketball team at our annual Thanksgiving Games. Many current and former Lake Ridge Academy community members attended the game, looking to cheer their chosen team on to victory. After a close game, the alumni team ultimately proved victorious, beating the varsity basketball team in the final minute.

Thank you to everyone who attended The Royals' Reunion this past fall! We look forward to seeing you on campus sometime soon!

# Alumni News

## LAKE RIDGE ACADEMY ALUMNI AND FRIENDS GOLF OUTING

On May 23, 2022, Lake Ridge Academy held its 18th annual Golf Outing. Golf Chair and Lake Ridge Academy parent, Dean Rozar, proudly welcomed parents, alumni, and friends to Westwood Country Club for 18 holes of golf. Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the course, followed by dinner and prizes. Please save the date and plan to join us for next year's Golf Outing - Monday, June 5, 2023.



**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!**



The Tom '83  
and Janna Dresing  
Family





# Alumni News

## FEATURED ALUMNI

### MARY DELIA ALLEN '91

In late 2021, Lake Ridge Academy alumna, Mary Delia Allen '91, published her very first book, *Enjoy Your Solo: How To Be Great at Being Single*. This self-help guide is a testament to how, contrary to popular opinion, being single does not equate to being sad.

Writing a book has been a lifelong dream for Mary Delia, which ultimately came to fruition in March of 2020, when she checked into a hotel and dedicated an entire weekend to nonstop writing. Of the writing process, Allen states, "It was a hard process, but completely worth it in the end. To write something like this, you have to be ready to share very personal things with the world."

To help her gain the confidence to publish, Mary Delia selected three close friends, including one former Lake Ridge Academy classmate, to offer their feedback on her work. "I knew that if my friends liked the book, then I would not care what anyone else had to say," said Mary Delia.

Prior to becoming an author, Mary Delia spent twenty years as a luxury event logistics professional. In this role, she has had the opportunity to work at fifteen Super Bowls, the Olympics, MLB All-Star Games, MLS Finals, NCAA Final Four Games, political conventions, and countless corporate meetings. Each of these experiences helped shape her opinion of single life, but one position in particular that she held for ten years showed her the meaning of "single and happy."

As Lead Travel Director for Singles Travel International, the #1 travel company dedicated to creating life-changing experiences and unique opportunities to "meet the world" for singles, Mary Delia was able to spend roughly forty to fifty days a year at sea traveling with and entertaining singles. Through this role, Mary Delia was able to experience the joys of single life and began to learn from herself how best to build a life perfectly suited for her. Her time with Singles Travel International paved the way for her book, as it gave her a new perspective on single life that she could not wait to share with others.

During our discussion, she shared that nearly 48% of US adults are single and nearly 30% of US households consist of a single person living alone. She also adds that Pew Research predicts that one in every four adults between the ages of twenty-six and forty-one will never marry. With that in mind, she notes that for every person, you are 50% of your next relationship, but you are 100% of your relationship with yourself for the rest of your life.



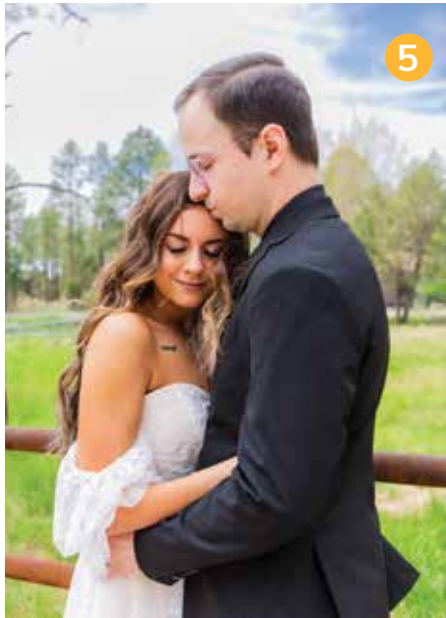
With her book, Mary Delia hopes to shed light on the positive aspects of being single. She shares how so much of modern day marketing and advice is targeted towards singles, in terms of finding, attracting, marrying, and recovering from intimate relationships. While these topics are valid, Mary Delia poses the question, what about building a life you can love alone?

Her book is just a start to answering this question. "The solo is a DIY project that is 'one size fits one' that compels each of us to build a life for ourselves." Of her book she says, "Enjoy Your Solo seeks to help singles spend their limited resources on creating a full solo life in the times between partner-driven relationships."

Since publishing her book, Mary Delia shared how proud she was to receive a review of her book on Amazon from her now retired former LRA English teacher, Teresa Jenkins. Mary Delia is especially grateful for the support of the Lake Ridge Academy community, and looks forward to sharing her future endeavors with us. Mary Delia is active as a wellness and women's empowerment keynote speaker on all things single life and alone time.

To buy Mary Delia's book, *Enjoy Your Solo: How To Be Great at Being Single*, visit the following Amazon link: <https://amzn.to/3vVeAOR>.

# Alumni News





**1 Keith Rathbone '04** recently published his book *Sport and Physical Culture in Occupied France: Authoritarianism, Agency, and Everyday Life*.

The book offers a scholarly and reader-friendly account of the golden age of French sport during the Vichy regime. Keith says the book is based on wide and quite deep research in primary sources conducted in three regions of France: Paris and its environs, the Nord-Pas-de-Calais, and the Midi-Pyrénées.

In *Sport and Physical Culture in Occupied France*, Keith explores the growth of wartime French sports as a top-down and bottom-up phenomenon. Between 1940 and 1944, the Vichy regime expanded the government's physical education and sports expenditures. Government ministers placed physical culture at the center of the state's ambitious program of national regeneration. A new Sports Ministry, the Commissariat général à l'éducation générale et aux sports, flourished under the leadership of the charismatic tennis superstar, Jean Borotra. Local and regional officials spent lavishly: hiring new gym teachers, sponsoring sporting associations, and building athletic facilities.

The state's dramatic investment inaugurated a golden age, but if the regime's growing intervention into physical culture suggests an expansion of state power, its reliance on local and regional stakeholders empowered ordinary people to organize, contest the political goals of the regime, acquire state resources, and use those funds for their own ends.

In looking at both state efforts to politicize sports as part of the National Revolution and individual and groups' agency to complicate those state efforts, this book reveals an 'Innovative France' in which individuals and organizations learned to survive, and even thrive, despite the dual authoritarian regimes of the German Occupation and the Vichy government. To learn more about Keith's book, visit the Manchester University Press website.

**2 Kouri Akagi '07** has been busy these past few years. In 2019, he was commissioned by the US Army as a Captain to be a Behavioral Health Officer. In 2020, Kouri completed his doctorate in clinical psychology. Recently Kouri completed his post-doctoral residency at Tripler Army Medical Center, where he gained specialized training in military psychology, trauma therapy, and consultation. He will soon be stationed in Kansas at Fort Riley, where he will be the Behavioral Health Officer for a brigade of 4,500 soldiers. In addition to treating soldiers, Kouri will also serve as the behavioral health consultant and subject matter expert on

all things mental health for over 45 commanders within the brigade. He also bought a house!

**3 Sara Mays '08** and her husband, Tim Rinnac, welcomed their second daughter, Nora Mays-Rinnac, on March 16, 2022 in Chicago, IL. Their two year old, Rory, has mixed feelings about being a big sister.

**4 Samantha (Potoczak) Lindsay '12** and her husband, Scott, welcomed their daughter, Alexandra Marianne Karen Lindsay, on December 23, 2021 at 8:51PM. She measured 20 inches and weighed 7.0lbs. She gets her namesake from her late uncle, Alexander Potoczak, as well as her two grandmothers. Her favorite color is pink, and just like both of her parents, already loves soccer! She has hazel eyes and her hair is turning red! When she's not napping, Alex loves to watch her favorite Disney movie, *The Little Mermaid*. She loves to giggle and babble...now we're waiting to see if she ends up with a British accent like her dad!

**5 Alexandra Ridel '13** and Zachary were married on May 11 in scenic Pinetop, Arizona. They held a very intimate ceremony witnessed by parents, siblings, and their two dogs, Moose and Bear.

**6 Victoria (Tori) Fisher '17** is excited to announce her engagement to her best friend, Neil Ruthen. Tori and Neil began dating in 2018 after getting to know each other in their Romantic Revolutions and Organic Chemistry classes at Oberlin College. The couple plans to be married in the summer of 2023.

**7 Alyssa Kubec '17** recently graduated magna cum laude from Youngstown State University with her Bachelors of Applied Science and Certification in Forensic Science. Alyssa will be attending Cleveland Marshall School of Law, Class of 2025. Aside from studying, Alyssa will also be spending much of her time planning her wedding. Alyssa will marry her boyfriend of six years, Darryl Chajon, who proposed on December 24. The couple is hoping to be married in June 2024 and could not be happier.

**8 Jessica Toncler '18** graduated magna cum laude from Lawrence University with a dual degree, BA in International Relations and BM in Violin Performance. She had the honor of being chosen by a student, staff, and faculty committee to be the Senior Class speaker, where she reflected on both the successes and obstacles of her college experience. Jessica will be returning to Cleveland this fall to pursue a Juris Doctorate at Case Western Reserve University School of Law.





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THE LAKE RIDGE ACADEMY

# CASINO ROYALE

AUCTION GALA

Saturday, **November 19**, 2022

THE RITZ-CARLTON  
CLEVELAND