



# The ByLine

FALL 2019

## LONGEVITY AT LAKE RIDGE

Reflections on Why They Stay



# Academics ◀ Community ◀ Opportunity

## 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.

2019-2020

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The fifth and sixth grade classes, along with their Upper School buddies, cleaned up Edgewater Beach and tested Lake Erie's water quality during the Year of Service Kick-Off Day.

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Integrity, Respect, Scholarship and Personal Best

Editor: Susan Haas, Director of Marketing and Communications

On Cover: As the longest-serving faculty members, Teresa Jenkins, holding the staff carved by Byron Fouts, and Sue Haendiges lead the faculty procession at commencement.

## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



### THOMAS E. DAKE II, MPA

Tom Dake (Benjamin '28) is the vice president and partner of the fire and life safety division of Superior Industrial Insulation. He earned his bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering from the University of Toledo and his master's degree in public administration from Cleveland State University. Tom has served on the board of directors for several industry organizations. Prior to his board service at Lake Ridge, Tom served on the Parents Associations' Scholarship Committee, has been a generous donor, and volunteered for many school activities.



### JEFFREY KNAPP, BA '83

Jeff Knapp '83 is a chief operating officer in the pharmaceutical/biotech industry. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology from Wittenberg University and lives in California with his wife, Annette (Wasem) '84, and their family.



### JENNIFER ZINN LAGASSE '86

Jennifer Zinn Lagasse '86 (Oliver '20 and Sebastian '23) pursued a career in automotive manufacturing and business software systems before moving overseas with her family where she volunteered with several philanthropic organizations. Jenn studied at Cornell University and is a graduate of Oberlin College. She currently serves on the board of the CATSS organization. Prior to serving on the board, Jenn served on the Alumni Council and Lake Ridge Development Committee.

## WELCOME BACK PREVIOUS BOARD MEMBERS



### DONALD W. KAATZ, MBA '70

Don Kaatz '70 (Heather '98 and granddaughter Kayleen '19) is the president and CEO of Adventure Growth, Inc. He earned his bachelor's degree from Hiram College and his masters of business administration from Indiana University. Don was the Lake Ridge Academy Board Chair from 1990 through 1997, and has volunteered and supported our students in ways that are too numerous to count. He and his wife, Linda, have been wonderfully generous over the years and inspired many others to make Lake Ridge a philanthropic priority.



### BRIDGET MORENO

Bridget Moreno (Kathryn '10, Emily '12, Adam '14, and Kevin '17) has been an active member of the Lake Ridge Academy community for many years. Her past roles include co-chair of the Auction Gala, committee chair of the Parents Association, and member of the development committee. She and her husband, Bernie, have championed the Annual Fund, scholarships, and other Lake Ridge priorities through their generosity. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan.

## A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

### Mitch White

Dear Lake Ridge Academy Friends:

This issue of *The Byline* is a special edition that focuses mostly on our outstanding teachers (both current and retired), honoring their service to Lake Ridge Academy and thanking them for their tireless efforts on behalf of our students. During my first year at Lake Ridge, hundreds of students, parents, and alumni unequivocally told me that our teaching is outstanding.

While our teachers have exceptional academic and professional credentials, those qualifications alone are not what set us apart. Almost without exception when I ask alumni what made their time at Lake Ridge special, I hear stories about a special teacher. And more often than not, the story is about an individual teacher who went beyond all expectations. Frank Catanese offered a one-student section of Italian on his own time. Teresa Jenkins cast a shy student as the lead in a play. The late Dr. Mary Zinn took a second chance on a student in trouble. The student/teacher relationship is what distinguishes Lake Ridge from other schools.

Recently, I was energized when looking at the results of the school survey we conducted as part of our accreditation process. When asked if our students were well-known by faculty, our parents, students and alumni responded positively, at a significantly higher percentage than those at other independent peer schools.

Of course, if you are reading this, I don't have to rely on data to prove the point—you already know that our teachers are Lake Ridge. I believe we have the best teachers anywhere, and I am pleased to present this special issue of *The Byline* to you in honor of our long-standing teachers, past and present.

Warm regards,

Mitch White  
Head of School

# Highlights Fall

## YEAR OF SERVICE KICK-OFF DAY



On September 18, students, faculty, staff and parents volunteered at the annual Year of Service Kick-Off Day. The Year of Service Kick-Off Day builds school camaraderie and a sense of community while giving students a chance to learn about the importance of service and environmental responsibility. Many projects employ a buddy approach, in which older students work side-by-side with younger students to make a difference while building relationships.

Students traveled to several area parks in Lorain County to clean up grounds and learn about plants, animals, and resources in their natural settings. Volunteer site locations included Carlisle Nature Center, Cascade Park, South Central Park, Oberlin's Legion Field Community Garden, and Edgewater Beach. Other teams worked on campus beautification projects such as erecting a new fence for a nature preserve garden and preparing materials for a low rope course that were supported by last year's Gift from the Heart donations.

## FALL FAMILY DAY AND SOCCER UNDER THE LIGHTS

Fall Family Day turned into a full weekend experience for many of the students and their parents this year. On Friday, all of our students had the pleasure of meeting Logan Broadbent, the world's second-ranked boomerang competitor and three-time American Ninja Warrior contestant. Logan shared his talent and knowledge of boomerangs, particularly as they relate to history, math and engineering, at an all-school assembly and by visiting individual classes. His visit was made possible through a 2018 Auction Gala donation that was secured by Rockell Churby Llanos and offered by Gary Broadbent (Logan's father).

On Saturday, our campus was jam-packed with fall activities for all ages to enjoy including face painting, pumpkin decorating, hayrides, a bake-off, a dunking booth (featuring Mr. Davis as dunker), a touch-a-truck, and crafts. Many fans stayed to support the girls and boys soccer teams for their annual "Soccer Under the Lights" games against Oberlin. That evening, more than 20 families participated in our overnight Camp Out, making memories around the campfire to end the magical day!



## THREE SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMI-FINALISTS, ADDITIONAL THREE NAMED COMMENDED SCHOLARS

Congratulations to the six seniors who received recognition as semi-finalists or commended scholars in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program. Our three semi-finalists are Ryan Rosu, Connie Tian and Carter English, and the Commended Scholars are John Harrington, Kira FitzGerald, and PJ Yoo. The semi-finalists will join the approximately 16,000 others nationwide who will continue in the competition in hopes of earning one of the 2,500 National Merit \$2,500 scholarships to be awarded next spring. It's a tremendous accomplishment to have six students receive National Merit recognition from a senior class of 50 students!



## MIDDLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY BUILDING DAYS

The Middle School started its year as it always does, with a Community Building Days sleepover. The goal of this two-day event is to help students make connections to their advisories and family groups. Advisories are a same-age group of peers, and family groups are a mixed-age group of classmates. Each group is led by a faculty member who serves as an adult point of contact for our students.



This year, students spent a Thursday morning in August kick-starting their advisory programs and then spent all afternoon running around campus in a massive scavenger hunt. The day also featured our traditional paper-rock-scissors game, which ends with the whole school cheering on their classmates as they progress through head-to-head face-offs. Thursday always ends with a campfire, s'mores, and our on-campus sleepover. On Friday, students visited Lakewood Park where family groups played field games. The weather was perfect and the students enjoyed flying the kites they had built, playing ultimate Frisbee, and more. As always, parents play an integral role by providing meals throughout the entire event and teachers' willingness to spend a night on campus with their students makes the event possible. As a launch to the year, Community Building Days continues to be a well-loved tradition in the Middle School among students and faculty, as it sets the tone for what is hopefully a year filled with strong, meaningful connections among students and between students and faculty.

## PLEASE JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

**NOVEMBER 23, 2019**

Auction Gala and Reunion Week Kick-Off

**NOVEMBER 26, 2019**

Alumni and Friends Gathering

**NOVEMBER 29, 2019**

Thanksgiving Game - Alumni vs. Varsity

**DECEMBER 12, 2019**

Upper School Winter Concert

**DECEMBER 19, 2019**

Middle School Winter Concert

**JANUARY 26, 2020**

Winter Family Open House

**FEBRUARY 27-29, 2020**

Upper School Musical  
The 25th Annual Putnam  
Spelling Bee

**MARCH 5, 2020**

Lower School Winter Concert

**MARCH 6, 2020**

Career Day

**MARCH 12, 2020**

Upper School Choral Concert

**APRIL 5, 2020**

Spring Family Open House

**APRIL 23, 2020**

Jazz Concert

**APRIL 25, 2020**

Culture Fest

# FAMILY INDIVIDUALIZED TUITION

## Accessing Educational Excellence Part II

The spring issue of *The ByLine* featured a story about the school's ongoing commitment to giving more students the opportunity to attend Lake Ridge Academy thanks to donor-funded scholarships. In addition to scholarship support, the school has also been reviewing tuition and how to award financial aid in order to make a Lake Ridge experience affordable and equitable for all families.



**“One of the best investments a family can make is in their child’s education, and the goal of FIT is to make the decision to attend Lake Ridge an easy one by making the tuition process as equitable and achievable for as many families as possible.”**

– Head of School Mitch White

After months of research in the independent school and higher education sectors, the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee has introduced a new tuition model called Family Individualized Tuition (FIT). The committee sought to design a program that would build transparency, equity and simplicity into the overall tuition and financial assistance process. Simultaneously, committee members wanted to design a program that would give more families access to a Lake Ridge education by reducing financial obstacles.

Under the FIT program, tuition will be determined for each family based upon its unique financial position and ability to pay. When families express a willingness to make Lake Ridge a budget priority, the school will, in turn, also invest in their child to make tuition as affordable as possible for their financial situation.

The term ‘financial aid’ will no longer be used. Instead, each family’s tuition will be a measurement of their discretionary income as determined by an independent third-party service, School and Student Services (SSS), followed by the school’s internal FIT review. SSS analyzes financial information but often generates expected family contributions that doesn’t accurately reflect what a family can pay because the system does not account for major healthcare expenses, layoffs, or even tuition paid to other private schools.

Going beyond SSS, the Lake Ridge FIT program extends the review process and includes a review of documents that tell more of a family’s story about other impactful discretionary

income factors. As a result, families receive individualized tuition rates that make more sense for their financial circumstances, which could make their decision to enroll their sons or daughters at Lake Ridge an easier one.

FIT calculations can result in a 1% to 60% reduction in tuition based upon a measurement of each family’s discretionary income. In addition to FIT, a separate scholarship application process remains in place to provide merit-based and donor-supported scholarships to exceptional students.

Under the new FIT model, admission reviews will continue to be conducted in a need-blind manner by a committee of faculty members. The FIT analysis will occur only after a child has been admitted. After the first year, those new families (along with existing families seeking assistance) will apply for financial aid each year with supporting documentation.

The new FIT model combined with a review process related to donor-funded scholarships represent standard industry best practices in both the independent school and higher education sectors. Head of School Mitch White serves on the FIT and Scholarship Committee and is excited about the many benefits of FIT. He said that, “One of the best investments a family can make is in their child’s education, and the goal of FIT is to make the decision to attend Lake Ridge an easy one by making the tuition process as equitable and achievable for as many families as possible.”

## **PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP ADDS BLUECOATS PARTNERSHIP**

For the last two years, the Public Service Scholarship program has supported the education of newly admitted students whose parents are first responders. Six donors helped the school to expand the program.

This year, Lake Ridge Academy was able to partner with the Bluecoats of Cuyahoga County, an organization founded in 1956 whose mission is to support the family members of police, fire, and EMS who died in the line of duty. This partnership has increased accessibility to Lake Ridge to even more public service families and has helped to support deserving scholarship recipients.

# LONGEVITY AT LAKE RIDGE

# REFLECTIONS ON

# WHY THEY STAY

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When students and alumni are asked about what influenced them the most at Lake Ridge, the answer is unanimous—it's the relationships they had with their teachers. Whether it's a carefully crafted lesson plan that goes the extra mile to include a hands-on learning opportunity, or a heartfelt one-on-one motivational talk with a struggling student, the faculty's commitment to help all children achieve their personal best is noticed and appreciated.

Dedication by our faculty is shown in many ways, one of which is the longevity of their careers at Lake Ridge. This fall, one beloved teacher, Teresa Jenkins, marks her 40th (and final) year of teaching at Lake Ridge—a new school record. But, there are many like her—30 teachers to be precise, who have taught at our school for 20 years or more. These faculty members, both retired and current, have made lasting impressions on our community. We honor them for the differences they have made in the lives of many.

Here, we are honored to share personal reflections from teachers who served Lake Ridge Academy for 30 or more years.

## TERESA JENKINS – 40 YEARS

Teresa's 40th year celebration is bittersweet since she retires at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

Teresa joined the Lake Ridge faculty in the fall of 1980 as an Upper School English teacher. Landing the position was rather happenstance, as she had never heard of the school until she drove past it while getting lost on her way to the Elyria school board office. She poked her head in and inquired about a position, but was rebuffed. "It's August and we are not hiring right now." As luck would have it, the next day the English teacher quit, and she got the call for an interview.

Teresa began her career teaching freshman English along with additional electives, and her teaching role has never changed. She remembers feeling rather inadequate as a young teacher with only public school experience who was now teaching in a private school

setting. Sandy Spike became an important mentor to Teresa and influenced her teaching method. She recalls, "From watching Sandy, I soon understood that you don't just spoon feed and get back information from students; you teach kids how to think. This was the most important lesson to me, and it made teaching more fun and more of a challenge. Also, we are trusted as professionals here to do our job and are given freedom to envision how to take broad concepts and break them into little steps."

Particularly over the last decade, the biggest and most important change in teaching English has been the inclusion of teaching information literacy, which gives students important skills on how to identify factual versus biased information on the Internet. She reflected, "I am most proud of how our department began teaching this imperative skill much earlier than other schools."

Teresa has filled several important leadership roles at Lake Ridge over the years, including directing fall plays and advising the Student Senate and Mock Trial teams. "Being involved in these organizations made it clear to me that life skills are often best learned and applied through extra-curriculars," Teresa said.

She helped shape the Student Council into the Student Senate, altering it from an organization that planned dances to one that filled a governmental role by acting as the voice of the students. The senate enacted improvements like the Honor Code, Honor Council, and test calendar policy. Teresa fondly remembers directing the play of her favorite book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, that

### THE TERESA TOUR – LIVE!

Celebrate Teresa Jenkins' 40th year of teaching at Lake Ridge by joining us at one of several alumni gatherings happening in 2019 and 2020 in locations across the country!

See back cover to learn more.



**"When they went to college, their papers were used as models for the rest of the class; they were just so well prepared. We always talk about how we raise the ceiling here, but really we raise the floor."**

took a color-blind approach to casting and taking the full production of her final play, *David and Lisa*, in which the students wrote the accompanying music, to the state convention. Another special memory was working with all the Mock Trial teams, including the state-winning team that went on to nationals in 2008. There is one team that was especially memorable. She recalled, "I'll never forget this one stellar freshman team that beat the junior/senior team to make it to the quarter finals. That team included Emily Moreno '12, and to this day, Elyria Municipal Court Judge

Rothgery lectures his lawyers that they need to get to her level. I also thank LRA parents Rich Sweebe and Cher Mosgo for building a stronger curriculum for our team, which really allowed us to be more prepared and competitive."

There are so many reasons why Teresa says that she stayed at

Lake Ridge for four decades, but one of the most prominent is the community that is at the heart of the school. "Personally, the faculty here is like family to me. But also, the school does a wonderful job of creating an atmosphere of 'Camp Lake Ridge;' we promote community and respect, but we are also a rigorous college-prep school. I don't see many other schools doing that combination well." She continued, "The student-teacher relationship is so unique here. I'm known as a teacher who makes many mistakes, but as long as you are authentic, the students will laugh with you but still respect you. There is definitely a sweet spot of camaraderie and deference."

Teresa is the parent of two Lake Ridge alumni who started in kindergarten, and she has seen first-hand the difference their education at Lake Ridge has made in their lives. She commented, "When they went to college their papers were used as models for the rest of the class, they were just so well prepared. We always talk about how we raise the ceiling here, but really we raise the floor."

Knowing that this is her last year has been a rush for her as she experiences the "last time" of her favorite events like TGWBIS or class units such as *Inherit the Wind*. She explained, "I call it my Emily year, like Emily Webb in the play, *Our Town*, who has the opportunity to come back to earth after dying and learns to appreciate the little things that happen in an ordinary day. I am really just appreciating everything since it's my last time."

# BYRON FOUTS – 36 YEARS

by Ron Davis, Upper School English Teacher

*I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?*

– Mary Oliver, “The Summer Day”

When it comes to knowledge, Byron Fouts contains multitudes. He'll be the first to tell you he has no clue what is going on; yet he has forgotten more than I will ever know. When I first arrived at LRA, I was drawn to him. At the time, I didn't understand why. Over a decade later, having been mistaken for father and son many times and as the central focus of the class of 2017's theory that he and I are the same person (one of us is a time-traveler), I get it, and I've gained a best friend. I'm honored for the years that we've had together, learning and working to make the school a better place for the kids.

For Byron, it has been all about the kids, ever since his Bank Street days. He spent nearly four decades at our school, doing everything from teaching art to coaching track to helping legendary Amish barn builder Josie Miller and his son build our beloved barn on the eastern side of the campus. He also helped to start the fine arts program. He carved and carried the stick held by the senior-most faculty member at graduation. He is marathon-runner, tech guru, and salt-of-the-earth farm boy. He's the original sandal-wearing, bowtie-bearing LRA Transcendentalist. His life is full to the brim with experience, yet he loves nothing more than learning something new.

As much as many of us think of him as a mentor and guide, he'd tell you he's the one who learned from us, and that the pleasure is his. Byron is always happy to help, and on the very rare



**Byron is always happy to help, and on the very rare occasion that he doesn't already know how to do something, he'll learn alongside you, which might actually make him happier.**

occasion that he doesn't already know how to do something, he'll learn alongside you, which might actually make him happier. Despite having retired four years ago, he's in every part of what we are. And while he is no longer known by everybody on campus, he doesn't mind. Byron understands that what we do here is bigger than who we are. He'd rather work hard than wear honors. Like Mary Oliver's narrator, he doesn't know who made

the world. But he knows it exists, and that is reason enough to do everything he can to make it a better place, to explore, to share, to grow so that we all learn, together. It is all about the kids, all of them. Including us. Byron Fouts helps us to understand that we're all growing, always; it is what we should plan to do with our one wild and precious life.

## JUTTA SWOBODA – 35 YEARS

When Jutta Swoboda joined the Lake Ridge community in 1985, she especially appreciated the small classes and enjoyed the freedom to teach in a manner that best met the needs and interests of her young students. “I was excited that I was able to get to know my students in a way that was not possible when I had 35 students in my classes at the Catholic school where I had been a third-grade teacher,” she recalled. During her first ten years at Lake Ridge, she taught first grade. “I loved reaching first graders and developing lessons in a variety of subjects and planning activities that would engage my students.”

Later, Jutta moved into the role of teaching technology in the Lower School for eight years before stepping into the librarian role. She even held both positions for a period of time. One of her goals as the technology instructor was to reinforce skills and concepts students were learning in their classrooms with both computer games, such as Reader Rabbit and Kidspiration, and productivity software like Kid Pix, Excel, and PowerPoint.

Some of the joys of being the Lower School librarian include seeing students respond to literature and their excitement when they find books they love, find evidence of visits by the Shelf Elf and his “cousins,” participate in puppet plays, the Poetry Café, our International Dot Day celebration, and Mystery Theater.

“My main goals as the Lower School librarian are to help students develop a lifelong love of reading and learning, to inspire them to use their imaginations and express themselves creatively, and to develop information and media literacy skills,” she noted. Because she wanted the library to be a welcoming and magical space, Jutta used funds from the book fair to transform the



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storytelling room. Today, it is painted to look like the inside of a castle and includes a puppet stage. Decorations in the library change to match themes and holidays. As one child commented, “You never know what you will see when you come to the library. It’s like a surprise.”

Jutta has served important roles on numerous committees at Lake Ridge Academy and has represented the school within the educational community. She has been a member of the Cleveland Council of Independent Schools Librarians’ Association and the WVIZ advisory council and steering committee, and she was the Lake Ridge Academy representative for the Ohio Association of Independent Schools for several years and organized a regional technology conference that took place at Lake

Ridge. She is the chair of LRA’s Local Professional Development Committee, assisting Lake Ridge faculty members in completing the process required to renew their teaching licenses. She has given presentations on integrating technology into the curriculum at technology conferences and at the Mazza Museum’s Summer Institute.

Jutta concluded, “I treasure my relationships with current and former students, parents and the wonderful people with whom I work. I have seen many changes over the years, but one thing that has never changed is how fortunate I feel to belong to a caring community whose members are deeply committed to making LRA the best school it can be.”



## SUE HAENDIGES – 35 YEARS

Sue Haendiges was first hired as a physical education teacher at Lake Ridge in 1980 early in her

teaching career. During this time, she was head coach of field hockey and varsity girls' basketball teams and assistant coach to track and field teams. She recalls one special early memory when the field hockey team won the Western Reserve Conference championship, a division filled with many competitive east side teams. She enjoys the trust that the administration gives its teachers, along with the team teaching approach at Lake Ridge Academy, something she hadn't experienced in her first teaching position at a public school in Missouri.

Eight years later, she left Lake Ridge for a position in the Elyria school system. In 1993, she returned after receiving a call from Athletic Director Bill Crowell offering her a position to start a volleyball program at the school in addition to a P.E. teacher



role. She decided to take the opportunity and return. "I really missed the team teaching and relationships with colleagues—especially in the Lower School at Lake Ridge. The whole K-12 program is special here. I've seen kids grow up, graduate, and now I have their kids in my classes," she stated. The volleyball program started in the Middle School and eventually grew to include varsity and junior varsity teams.

In Middle School, she likes encouraging students to try something new. "It's really fun to see kids who might be shy or quiet who then come to athletics and display a whole different side." Sue was instrumental in adjusting the Middle School class schedule to incorporate daily athletic practice to prepare them properly to compete against other schools, which made drastic improvements in team development.



## MALOU SUSKIN – 33 YEARS

by Joel Lacoste '22

Almost 50 years ago in the fall of 1970, Lake Ridge Academy welcomed Malou Suskin as the new Middle School and Upper School French teacher. Having only lived in the United States for three short years before starting at Lake Ridge, Malou Suskin was extremely excited to start her new position. She still remembers receiving a call from Wilfred Hemmer, the first headmaster at Lake Ridge, offering her a job. Malou continued teaching for 33 years and left a lasting impact on the curriculum and community life we enjoy today.

During her time at Lake Ridge, Malou observed her own children grow up and graduate as "lifers" from Lake Ridge while also being the Foreign Language Department Chair for many years. Most notably, Malou was the founder of the longstanding tradition of the 8th grade

Quebec trip. Though the current 8th grade Quebec trip has evolved from its original configuration, the foundations of the trip remain. Malou speaks fondly of the visits to Quebec. "The trip was wonderful in opening the eyes of the students to a different culture, while they also realized something new about their own." Accordingly, the relationship with her students was especially close due to the travels they'd done together. These trips are some of the many Lake Ridge experiences that bond faculty and students.

During her years at Lake Ridge, Malou taught almost every grade in every division. Every year, students had different approaches to learning, so she had to adjust whether that was with the curriculum or perhaps with their specific needs so they could all succeed. When the Internet was

## RON ADAMS – 33 YEARS



After relocating to Elyria from upstate New York in 1981, Ron Adams was in search of a new teaching position and drove by Lake Ridge on the turnpike. He thought it looked nice and he had an interest in teaching at a private school since he had previously worked at a Catholic school. The timing was right as the school was in search of a couple new teachers, and Ron joined the Lower School faculty as a fifth grade teacher.



His first impressions were that the families, students, faculty and administration were all exceptional, but there were fewer buildings then. “I’ve really gotten to see tremendous growth of the campus—the track, the pond, fine arts building, additions to the Upper School and gym, the CRC and Kemper Science and Engineering. All were built during my 33 years here,” he stated.

Over the years, Ron always taught in the Lower School, usually teaching fourth or fifth grade, but he also taught sixth grade before it moved to the Middle School building. One thing that has drastically changed is the use of technology in the classroom. He said, “Technology is so different now than when I first started. Although, I did continue to use an overhead projector to teach math! Textbooks are still the spine of the curriculum, but there are now many good online activities to enhance the math program.”

Ron participated in many professional development experiences that inspired him. He recalled, “I was so fortunate to participate in many science and math conventions and benefited from exciting professional development experiences where I learned so much. I spent two weeks with NASA in Virginia and a week with the FDA in Washington, DC. I even walked onto a 747 cargo jet.”

Ron was known to be a bit of a prankster with his classes, which made

him very memorable to his students. He remarked, “I like to make them laugh and have fun with them, in a balanced way, of course. Maybe I’d toss some three-hole punch confetti on their desk from time to time or tell them that today, I will only help them answer odd numbered questions. It’s all in fun and makes them smile.”

Ron left to work at another independent school for a few years where he taught grades 3-5 science, but he did not have a homeroom class. He realized he missed that special connection with students and parents that a homeroom class offers. “Lake Ridge felt like home,” he commented. “Even though there were new teachers when I returned, there was still a special warmth here between the parents, kids and teachers that was comforting. I also felt respected and supported to try new things. It was a great place to be.” He continued, “I loved to watch kids grow, not just academically but also as people. It was fun to see them graduate or return for Career Day. Last year, Zack Sweebe '08 and Terra Soto-Bouschard '11 came running down the hall and gave me a hug. I don’t think you get that opportunity as much in a public school. That’s what I loved about this place.”

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Editors Note: For personal reasons, Ron recently left Lake Ridge. We will miss him and wish him well.

Over the years, Sue has taught health and physical education at every division. She even filled in as Athletic Director for one year for Danielle Parrish, who was on maternity leave. After making phone calls and scheduling games as A.D., she was happy to return to teaching. Currently, Sue is the Physical Education Department Chair, teaches both Middle and Lower School physical education, and coaches Middle School volleyball and track and field.

Teaching the fundamentals in Lower School physical education curriculum is important to Sue. She commented, “We’re not just teaching dodgeball. We are teaching movement, while letting kids move at their own pace to gain cooperative skills outside of their comfort zone. I get a lot of joy seeing their confidence grow.”

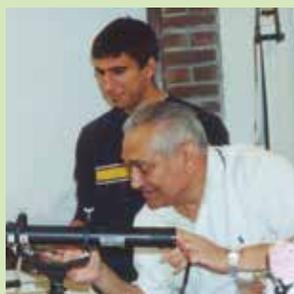
invented, she was the first teacher to be connected to it. She recalled, “I went to the headmaster and showed him the new programs that could be used to efficiently teach kids how to memorize conjugations and vocabulary.” Thereafter, she was referred to as the “Queen of the Internet” by her students on campus.

In class, she would provide concrete learning lessons while always configuring ways to make it fun for the students. “If the whole class earned a certain average grade on a test, then I would make chocolate mousse for them,” she mentioned. Malou’s favorite aspect of teaching at Lake Ridge was easily the students. She commented, “It was wonderful to be able to open their minds with a new perspective.”

# REFLECTIONS FROM DEDICATED FACULTY MEMBERS WITH 20+ YEARS AT LAKE RIDGE

## IN MEMORIAM SAMIR NASR – 27 YEARS

Just hours before this issue went to press, Samir Nasr passed away. We are grateful to have this beautiful tribute written by his grandchildren Marc '16, Danielle '20, Gabriella '20 and Nicholas '20.



We've loved our grandpa dearly and saw over the years how everyone who met him loved him too. His genuine love for Lake Ridge Academy was apparent and unwavering.

Our Geddo was one of the three founders of the science

department at Lake Ridge and taught physics, AP physics, and calculus over four decades from 1978 to 2006. His arrival at Lake Ridge is an amazing story.

Geddo and his wife, Mimi, son Karim '86, and daughter Maryam '87 (our mom) had just immigrated to the United States. A headhunter sent him to Lake Ridge for an interview, but Geddo didn't have a car yet. Having never had loans or lines of credit overseas, he took some cash to buy the car, but the salesman told him that only shady characters carry bags of cash!

So, his brother agreed to drive him to LRA. They stopped for directions at a restaurant, but no one there knew of Center Ridge Road or even any "academy" in North Ridgeville.

Of course, generations of students know that Geddo made it to Lake Ridge where he wrote his own textbooks that he never published and used only for his students. He always felt that the students and families at LRA were unparalleled – not only in their appreciation for education but also because of their high character and sense of community.

He had fond memories of teaching classes with as few as one student, leading his Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) to first place competitions, and taking his students to see the legendary Dr. Jearl Walker at Cleveland State University to "see the beauty of physics" as he dipped his hand in molten lead or walked on hot coals.

We will never forget when he came to our classroom after retiring. He brought chocolate cake and showed us amazing science experiments. Even when he had an offer to work at NASA, he could never imagine leaving his Lake Ridge family.



"Being part of a K-12 community where kids don't want to leave at the end of the day, where our colleagues are our friends, makes Lake Ridge unique. As a teacher, being able to create my own curriculum and develop an art program was a freedom that I didn't have in public school."

– Ann Bort – 27 Years



"Teaching is special to me because it's a chance to create community! Community is empowering and life changing! LRA encouraged me to design my theatre and playwriting classes with a wide arrangement of creative, community classes. We had so many unique ideas, like Write Friends, Kaleidoscope, and

Nightscene, among others. My students jumped into the community experiences with enthusiasm and a desire to learn how to use drama to create community.

I also fondly remember when LRA won a place representing the State of Ohio at the Scottish Fringe held in Edinburgh, Scotland. Sam Riffle '03 jumped up during a particularly chaotic moment onstage, flung her arms out and took over the stage while we were rehearsing. Everyone in the cast snapped to attention and we had one of the BEST rehearsals. Also, while we were in Scotland, our students waited outside for every single cast from the United States after their performance and clapped for each school. No other school did this for the other schools performing. What an incredible gesture of support! I was so proud!"

– Maureen Johnson – 26 Years



"I began teaching at Lake Ridge in its first building in 1965 and 26 years later retired after teaching mostly 7th and 8th grade English. In the classroom, my students might remember a quote I often used to relate their favorite sentence structure activity, 'If it's about it (I'll let them finish the quote), hang it off it.' My students and I also enjoyed combining our English and Mr. Chanaca's social studies classes to bring historical figures to life through research, performance, and a final written piece, mostly suggested by Steve Allen's Meeting of the Minds."

– Sandy Spike – 26 Years



"The best part of teaching for me is, and has always been, the students."

– Katherine Hatcher – 25 Years



"In my 8th Grade Language Arts/Social Studies class, we were studying religions around the world and discussing various religious

sects. One day, Joey Yost '04, who was doing well in the class, proudly proclaimed that he was a sects expert. (You must say this aloud to understand the impact it had on the class.)"

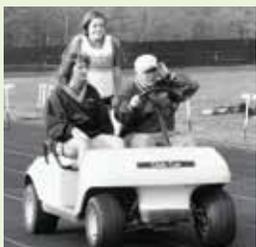
– Michael Shaulis – 25 Years



"My most favorite classroom memory would have to be the first day I stepped into my 'real' music room in the newly

completed Fine Arts Building and prepared to meet my classes in an amazing space for which I had waited over 20 years. After being housed in the doublewide trailer (complete with pink flamingos occasionally), two mods, and even sometimes walking the halls of the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools as the 'bag lady', I was at long last 'at home.'"

– Marilyn Crooker – 24 Years



"Teaching at LRA was the best job I have ever had. I learned as much from my students as I may have taught them. I grew up at LRA,

starting there when I was 23 and cherished every year. The families and the

faculty are what make it unique. I don't think I will ever work with a better group of people. I consider them my family."

– Danielle Parrish – 24 Years



"One of the biggest memories for me was the resilience of the teachers and Lower School students and our

shared sense of community that arose when our Lower School flooded. When 8 inches of water flowed through our building, everyone—including parents, teachers, administrators, and older students—came together to salvage what we could and move every single class out of the Lower School and into other areas of our campus. The students handled themselves beautifully, never letting this catastrophe slow them down. My third graders (who are now seniors) had a grand adventure that winter/spring, and we still talk about it today."

– Kim Parrish '87 – 24 Years



"To me teaching is almost a sacred trust. Parents share their most valuable 'possession' with me in order to

help the kids develop their minds and prepare them for whatever future awaits them. The students also trust me to do the best I can to help them gain the knowledge I am imparting to them. As a result, I have no choice but to come to school each day and work my hardest to be worthy of that trust."

– Andy Wright – 24 Years



"Every child matters, and as a teacher, I worked very hard to meet each student where they were to learn math or

chemistry. Each time in the lab, my interaction with students was very special. In the spring, the AP Chemistry class prepared fun experiments for the first graders to enjoy at the Chemistry Carnival. One year, Josh Scofield '15 was trying to make his experiment 'Elephant Toothpaste' bigger and better, and the experiment was moved into the Upper School Commons, so as not to stain the ceiling in the Chemistry Lab again! I was also proud of my AP Chemistry students who once determined experimentally that a chemical supplier had mislabeled the concentration of the acid that they were titrating. They designed several experiments to determine the actual concentration and called the supplier to have them test their lot number. The students applied what they were learning in class to help solve a real-life problem!"

– Betsy Glor – 22 Years



"Teaching is my vocation, and teaching at Lake Ridge is my life. Only such a cliché can correctly describe my experience

here. Nature did not give me any biological children because it was going to bless me with one hundred and seventy kids. And nature did not give me siblings because it was going to provide me with a family of great colleagues who are more precious to me than any sibling. There is nowhere else I would want to be EVER."

– Chandana Mozumdar – 22 Years



"Teaching means piquing students' curiosities so they want to learn more about a subject. I also think teaching is definitely a

two-way street—I often learned things from students and enjoyed the exchange of ideas."

– Rachele Bilz – 20 Years

## THE ATTICUS FUND

Teresa Jenkins' record-setting 40 years of teaching at Lake Ridge Academy prompted Head of School Mitch White to find a way to recognize teachers' outstanding dedication to the school in kind because, though Teresa has set a record that will be tough to beat, many teachers spent decades of their teaching careers at Lake Ridge. And, let's be honest, their longevity does not stem from their compensation.

So then, how to honor them appropriately?

Lake Ridge teachers are experts in their fields and are often invited to lead workshops, study in another country, or participate in an activity elsewhere that will benefit them and their students. Too often though, our teachers must weigh these invitations against their own ability to finance the cost of the trip because professional development funding at Lake Ridge is limited. Thanks to many past donors, professional funding development does exist, but not at levels that would cover the cost of study or travel. Instead, professional development is often reserved for opportunities that benefit multiple teachers rather than unique opportunities that support just one teacher.

So, Mitch began talking with a small number of parent leaders and a few alumni who remain close to Teresa. Nearly all of them offered to help honor her, and many of them offered their financial support as lead donors to a newly created fund that will be used to fund extraordinary (and likely expensive) professional development opportunities.

With thanks to the Parents Association, the Gordon Family, Zack Sweebe '08, Librarian Jutta Swoboda, Mona (Raj) Rinaldi '90, Vic Fusilero '84 and Mike Fahy, Caroline Sherman '94, and Steve Bamberger '87, The Atticus Fund was born. These lead donors offered \$40,000 to create The Atticus Fund to support teachers who wish to pursue professional



*The Atticus Fund will support faculty professional development.*

development in other countries, for longer periods than a typical workshop would afford, or exclusive invitation-only kinds of opportunities.

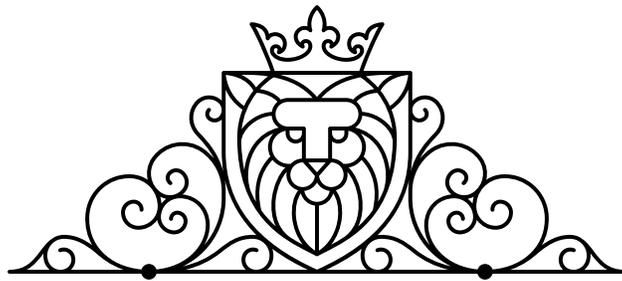
Beginning this winter, teachers will be able to apply for a grant from The Atticus Fund, and the review committee will determine how to disburse the funds. Retiring teachers Betsy Glor, Teresa Jenkins and a few other Lake Ridge "celebrities" will serve on the inaugural grant committee (not administrators), and the first award will be offered in the summer of 2020.

If the fund can grow to \$100,000, the endowed fund is expected to produce an annual award of approximately \$5,000. At that level, grant funds may be able to support two or more teachers every year in perpetuity.

All inaugural year donors will be recognized on a plaque at the school somewhere near Teresa Jenkins' classroom. Donors who wish to honor a Lake Ridge teacher are encouraged to visit the school's website for more details.

Even those of us who are not alumni know that Lake Ridge teachers do so much for each child who passes through their classrooms. Their full respect and love for students allows teachers to simultaneously challenge students to reach their full potential while helping them to discover newfound confidence in themselves.

And, Lake Ridge teachers do that without ever expecting anything in return. Now, we have an opportunity to thank them.



# A ROYAL SOIRÉE

== Glitz, Glamour and all that Jazz ==

## Lake Ridge Academy Auction Gala and Reunion Week

### Monday, November 18

Last day to register for online bidding

### HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

### Wednesday, November 20

5:00 p.m. Early bidding begins

### Saturday, November 23 – Auction Gala at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown

5:30 p.m. 1963 Society and Sponsors Reception  
(by invitation only)

6:30 p.m. Reception, Silent Auction, Alumni Alcove,  
1920's Band

7:30 p.m. Dinner and Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

9:00 p.m. Traditional Live Auction

9:30 p.m. Alumni, Parents, and Friends After-Party –  
with live entertainment

### Tuesday, November 26 – Market Garden Brewery

6:00 pm Alumni and Friends Gathering  
with special guests

### Friday, November 29 – Lake Ridge Academy

4:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Game  
(Alumni vs. Varsity Basketball Team)

6:00 p.m. Campus Tour



**Cole Fauver '79**

The Don Kaatz '70  
Alumni Award



**Betsy Glor**

Wilfred Hemmer  
Headmaster Award



**Jane Maczuzak**

Wilfred Hemmer  
Headmaster Award



**Richard and Bonnie  
Sweebe**

Founders Award

Register online at [LakeRidgeAcademy.org/events](http://LakeRidgeAcademy.org/events)

For more information please contact Leannie McAllister at  
440.387.5381 or [auction@lakeridgeacademy.org](mailto:auction@lakeridgeacademy.org)

# Gift from the Heart 2018 Update

Every year, for just one hour, the Lake Ridge community rallies together to fund a single campus project through Gift from the Heart at the school's Auction Gala. Alumni, parents, teachers and friends of the school collectively pledge financial support with their bid paddles, and the display of generosity funds initiatives that make a transformative impact on our campus and its students.

In the past, Gift from the Heart projects have funded \$125,000 in transportation needs, \$135,000 in technology infrastructure upgrades, \$170,000 for the Carol Klimas Scholarship and CRC Makeover, and famously, \$1.1 million to build the Kemper Science and Engineering building.

In November 2018, a record-breaking number of donors raised \$150,609 for several Campus Safety and Beautification projects that were completed during the summer months. Their gifts were later matched by an Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation grant, which yielded even more support for the school.



**Thank you, Gift from the Heart 2018 donors, for funding these exciting projects!**

- High-resolution security cameras with remote-controlled capabilities to capture images of all campus traffic—even at night
- Devoted parking spaces for visiting police officers
- Improvements to the Lower, Middle and Upper School common areas that speak to the positive living and learning environments in each division
- Phase III of the Lower School roof
- Several outdoor improvements including the purchase of farm implements and natural world enhancements to our playground

# Gift from the Heart 2018

Guests at the 2018 Auction Gala offered more than \$150,000 for “Campus Beautification and Preservation.” Their gifts were used to enhance the Lower School playground, purchase security cameras, install a dedicated police parking spot, install low ropes stations for Middle School, refresh all three division common areas, complete the third phase of the Lower School roof, and install gardens behind Kemper Science and Engineering.

Kumud and Cecilia Ajmani  
Levent Aksoy  
John Amentas and  
Biljana Belinda Radjenovic  
Todd and Mary Amsdell  
Bryan and Sarah Andrassy  
Scott Bagi and Cherie Crawford  
Emily and Todd Benni  
Jihad and Sandra Bitar  
Bodnar Printing Co.  
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Megan Bus '08  
Thommy '04 and Vanessa Butchko  
Erica M. Cameron  
Albert Chan and Annie Tan  
Kelly and Erika Coble  
Community West Foundation  
Steven and Shannon Conway  
Jon R. Cromling and  
Cynthia A. Cromling  
Tom and Kate Dake – lead donor  
Hall and Carol Dillon  
J.R. and Ashley Doolos  
Thomas '83 and Janna Dressing  
Don and Sherry Esch – lead donor  
Fairchild Family Foundation

Michael and Amelia Farago  
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Stephen FitzGerald and Yumi Ijiri  
Michael and Bridget Flannery  
Katarina Gardner '07  
Dave and Megan McNamee  
William and Teresa Gardner  
Rob and Jackie Gerberry  
Kenyon and Elizabeth Glor  
Sean and Susan Haas  
Haytham and Debora Haidar  
Joe and Brooke Hammond  
Anna Haney  
Katherine Y. Hatcher  
Gregory and Meghan Flannery  
Hayes '98  
Janel and Joe Hofstetter  
Lee Howley '07  
G. Tracy '84 and Kelly Ilg  
Bob and Paula Janmey  
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Deborah and John O'Neill  
William O'Neill '07  
Greg and Joanna Orloff  
Peter Parrish '86 and  
Kimberly (Kemper) '87 Parrish  
Fred '79 and Donna Plecha  
Rob and Michelle Robertson

Lynne D. Romero  
Dean and Michelina Rozar  
Nancy and Joseph Scarpitti  
Michael and Michelle Sherwin  
Brian Shimko '04  
Ed and Nyree Skimin  
Bob and Susan Smith  
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Jay and Cindy Viskocil  
Shelby and Mitch White  
Jon and Pam Wild  
The Williams Family  
Megan and Jonathan Zahler

## GOLF OUTING

On June 3, 2019, Lake Ridge Academy held its annual Golf Outing, sponsored by Winfield and Associates. Golfers enjoyed a beautiful day on the course followed by dinner and prizes. Lake Ridge Academy would like to thank Biff Baker '86 and Bill Baker of Winfield Associates for their title sponsorship. Their longstanding sponsorship spans several years.

Please **save the date** and plan to join us for next year's Golf Outing – **Monday, June 1, 2020** at Westwood Country Club.



# Honor Roll of Donors

## Annual Fund Giving July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019



## Mission-Based Giving to the Annual Fund

There is no better mission-appropriate gift to the school than a donation to the Annual Fund. Annual Fund gifts fund our Centers of Excellence, keep our class sizes small, bring hands-on projects to our classrooms, and support our teachers. Donors who supported the Annual Fund gave 20% more than the prior year and made gifts totaling an incredible \$353,192 for the school's highest priorities. Annual Fund donors make our school better every day!

## 1963 Society

Deep investments from 1963 Society members honor the school's founding year and provide as much as 80% of Annual Fund resources each year. As part of the 1963 Society, Founders Club members provide the most generous Annual Fund gifts each year to some of the school's greatest needs and assets – including our amazing teachers.

### HERB KAATZ FOUNDERS CLUB - \$15,000+

Linda and Don Kaatz '70  
Ben and Brenda Norton - Annual Fund Chairs  
Michael Shaulis and Sarah Durn Shaulis  
The Stocker Foundation

### SCRIB FAUVER FOUNDERS CLUB - \$10,000+

American Endowment Foundation  
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Annette (Wasem) Knapp '84  
Nancy and Joseph Scarpitti  
Julianne Sheerer  
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Eric '80 and Celia Sutherland  
Wells Fargo  
Don and Chrissy Wostmann

### CHARLIE SMALL FOUNDERS CLUB - \$5,000+

Bettcher Industries, Inc.  
The Clara Weiss Fund  
Paul and Marjorie Coble  
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund  
Kent and Gail Sommer  
Sommer's Mobile Leasing Inc.

### FOUNDERS CLUB - \$3,500+

Maryam (Nasr) '87 and Sabry Ayad  
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Lee and Jo Ann Howley  
Jennifer Zinn Lagasse '86 and Luc Lagasse  
Joe '90 and Marie Micalt  
Phillip and Clare Navratil  
Benjamin G. and Jane Norton  
Manbir and Maria Sandhu  
The Laub Foundation  
Franklin White  
Mitch and Shelby White

### 1963 SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP - \$1,963+

Alumnus '04  
Mark Beeler  
The Benevity Community Impact Fund  
Lindsey (Sommer) '99 and Daniel Braddock  
Community West Foundation  
Steven and Shannon Conway  
Katinka Domotorffy  
Thomas '83 and Janna Dresing  
Don and Sherry Esch  
Michael and Amelia Farago  
Cole Fauver '79  
Elizabeth and Kenyon Glor  
Kari (Sommer) '01 and Tom Halko  
The Kastelic Family

KeyBank Foundation  
Carol and Dan Klimas  
Rebecca Ruppert McMahon  
Andrew Milluzzi '08  
Ken Moore  
Chandana Mozumdar and Ravi Vedula  
National Philanthropic Trust  
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Joyesh Raj '89  
Kristin (Kemper) '84 and Mark Roshkowski  
Schwab Charitable  
Nitesh Sharan '92  
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Sherwin-Williams Foundation  
Bob and Susan Smith  
Jennifer and Tim Soliman '99  
Erin and Peter Srsen  
Vanguard Charitable  
Betty Weiss  
Nate Woodward and Amanda Buzo  
Megan and Jonathan Zahler  
John and Doreen Ziska

Wide community support is important at every giving level. 25% of our students as future alumni made gifts to the school—many for the first time. Thanks to the students and other new donors to the Annual Fund, participation jumped up by 20% over the prior year!

<b>\$1,000+</b>	Tim and Anastasia Pettet Plus Delta Partners Mohammad and Amina Reza Harold and Fae Audre Mona (Raj) '90 and Tony Rinaldi Frank Roberts and Mary Jamieson Rob and Michelle Robertson Shelly and Mike Sison Sandy Spike Wendel and Doris Willmann Robert and Carrie (Moore) '79 Young YourCause, LLC Grover Zinn	Huma Rizvi and Najmul Siddiqi Megan Daley and Ryan Smith Katharine Spore Nick and Erin Stellato Joseph and Jennifer Sun The Lubrizol Foundation Cathy Thompson '70 Brian Tian and Wendy Li Mourhaf and Bana Traboulssi Transponder Island Inc John and Mary Ann Vargo Jay and Cindy Viskocil Wade and Janice Zwingler	Timothy Callaghan and Krista Tomorrowowitz Ray and Patty Campbell Carolyn Carr Ely Cavaco '27 Isaiah and Stephanie Cavaco Adrienne L. Chan '21 Bunsi Chapadia '19 Todd Christopher Kelly and Erika Coble Lilly Corona Moreno and Alejandro Moreno Laura Coufalik Stacy Cozart Dana Cunningham and Stephanie White Will Cunningham '19 Shiraz '91 and Holly Cupala William Curley '29 Ben Dake '28 Tom and Kate Dake Saleh Daoud '22 The Davey Tree Expert Company Ronald Davis and Laura Guggenheim Cesar and Vanessa Delgado Leilani Delgado '30 Ted DeMarco '22 Xiaojing "Jodie" Deng '19 Ed and Mari Dickson Mallory Dickson '26 Taylor Diehl '26 Vivienne Doolos '30 Samuel L. Dresing '22 William and Victoria Dufford Andrew and Jennifer Dunleavy Eaton Corporation Peter and Sandy Eckendorf Andrew and Stori Edgar Rollin and Deanna Edgar Amber Ellis '27 Paxon Elyaderani '25 Abby Esch '18 Emma Esch Megan T. Esch '09 Katrina Escuro '03 and Djuro Karanovic Robert and Martha Eyring Hera Farago '24 Marcello Farago '27 Robert '70 and Virginia Fauver Carter Fay '30 Kori Zurawski Fitzpatrick '04 Rex and Carol Flansburg Lena Foltin '28 E.B. Fouts-Palmer '03 Michael Fradley '97 Paul and Melanie Frankiewicz Heather Freiberg
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# Honor Roll of Donors

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Marilyn E. Koethe  
Jake Kolbay '23  
Riley Kolbay '26  
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Elizabeth Krueger '29  
Kathryn Krueger '27  
Kimberly and Carl Krueger  
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Gina and Joe Kubec  
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Nicole Klimas - Morrison  
Matthew Nahorn '08  
Lawrence Nandwa and Anne Wanjiku  
Henry and Michele Nave  
Liz Navratil '20  
Maia New '26  
Benjamin Norton '22  
Bradley '86 and Debbie Norton  
Gregory Norton '06  
Gretchen Norton '17  
Logan Norton '26  
Braden Oakes '27  
Olivia Oakes '29  
Jacob Obid '31  
Danielle Odle '19

Gary and Peggy Orloff  
Greg and Joanna Orloff  
Logan Orloff '27  
Nora Ostrica '24  
William and Betsy (Evans) '77 Owens  
Dale Pagano  
Everett Palache and Tara Bowen  
Kenneth and Jossett Palache  
Dan and Deborah Palmer  
Declan Palmer '31  
Phil Paoletta and Bintou Sagara  
Jennifer Parrish '20  
Vishwas Patel '19  
Laura Paxton  
Jacqueline Pelsey '07  
Alek Petek '21  
Ava Petek '23  
Angelika Pettet '26  
Jimmy and Roberta Pettit  
Lee Pfeil '05  
Sue Ann Philippbar  
Halle Piero '30  
Mike Piero  
Baron Pineda and Gina Perez  
Paul Pirozzola '30  
Fred '79 and Donna Plecha  
Suresh Pola '98  
Regan Pore  
Sophia Priess '30  
Mike and Kelly Prill  
Cynthy Rademaker  
Embry Radune '31  
Giovanna Raj '31  
Prasanta and Chandra Raj  
Lourdes A. Ramirez '04  
Steven and Jane (Mercer) '70 Ramsay  
Ralph and Jennie Reed  
Thomas Reed '26  
Grant and Teresa Reeves  
Eric and Rachael Reighley  
Rob and Fran Reinholz  
Brent and Kim Repenning  
Lindsay Repenning '25  
Faisal Reza '19  
James and Barbara Ridel  
Austin Roach  
Kenzie Roach '31  
Lauren Roberts '24  
Rachel Roberts '83  
Ralph and Debbie Roberts  
Evan Robertson '22  
Jacob Robertson '24  
Neil Robertson '19  
Kristy and Michael Rodriguez  
Marta K. Roshkowski '19  
Eric and Shari Ross  
Marinel and Debbie Rosu  
Ryder Roth '26  
Paul and Lynn (Hyman '80) Rudolf  
Alyssa Ruggles '18  
Judy Rumsey  
Laura (Pettit) '80 and Jeffrey Rusick  
Aisha Saaka '99  
Zohair Safdar Khan '26

Alex Sandhu '22  
Emily Saracusa  
Jillian and Matthew Scarvelli  
Justin and Michele Schafer  
Spencer Scheeler '11  
Jerry and Annette Schwartz  
Dennis and Cindy Scott  
James and Cynthia Seidel  
Julia Bilz Sertich '01 and  
Michael Sertich '01  
Jennifer Shaw  
Andrew Shebak '26  
Cara and Mike Shebak  
Melanie and Garik Shmois  
Dana Taylor and  
Carolyn R. Simmelink '73  
Mikey Sison '20  
Ed and Nyree Skimin  
EJ Skimin '28  
Kyla Skimin '30  
Liam Smith '31  
Pat Smith  
Brayden Snezek '19  
Kyle Snyder  
Connor Spencer '22  
Anna Stafford '24  
Judy Sun '25  
Bella Svoboda '27  
Sara and Jim Svoboda  
Zachary Sweebe '08  
Mark and Edie Sweeterman  
Jutta Swoboda  
Kendall Szulewski-Francis '09  
Cooper Szwagulak '29  
Jeff and Jen Szwagulak  
Ryan G. Thomas '12  
Lauren Thome  
Ben Thompson '30  
Jack Thompson '28  
Olivia Thompson '26  
Layla Tilk '30  
Kelly Tooman '87  
Neil and Jennifer (Moore) '84 Tramer  
Adela Tremp  
iZel Van Epps '19  
Howard and Marissa Velie  
Steven and Dinah Volk  
Lloyd and Deborah Wakefield  
Andrew Walleck '00  
Michelle Waltz  
Nate Waters '19  
Olivia Watling '19  
Ava White '28  
Jackson White '30  
Caitlin Whiteman '03  
Brian and Dawn Wisniewski  
Maclyn Wrenhaven '29  
Steven and Kelly Wrenhaven  
Andrew and Carol Wright  
Joseph and Karen Yost  
Charise Zablotzky  
Andrew Zaky '30  
Joe and Andrea Zepernick  
Wenwen Jiang and Guangning Zhao

# Special Gifts

Many donors in the Lake Ridge Academy community offer extraordinary commitments, sometimes over three to five years, to fund initiatives that are not supported by the Annual Fund such as new projects, scholarships, technology upgrades, and special equipment needs. Some of these significant gifts were made as endowed gifts, in which case they will sustain programs in perpetuity rather than just for a short term. All of these major gifts have a significant impact on the school and were offered by donors between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

## UNRESTRICTED GIVING SUPPORTING THE SCHOOL'S HIGHEST PRIORITIES, TEACHERS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS

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Linda and Don Kaatz '70  
Ben and Brenda Norton  
Mike Shaulis and Sarah Durn Shaulis

## ATHLETICS

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### Basketball Shooting Machine

Mark and Mary Roach

### Cross Country and Track Team Tent

Lake Ridge Academy Athletic Boosters

### Volleyball Net System

Durand and Tonya Hopkins  
ServiceMaster Cleaning and Restoration Services

### Rob Hall Investments - Fitness Center Flooring, Team Bench Seating, Royal Pride Signage

Lake Ridge Academy Athletic Boosters  
Nancy and Joseph Scarpitti

## THE ATTICUS FUND (ENDOWMENT) PROVIDING EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR TEACHERS IN PERPETUITY

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The Gordon Family in honor of Teresa Jenkins  
The Parents Association in honor of all teachers  
Mona (Raj) '90 and Tony Rinaldi in honor of Teresa Jenkins  
Zack Sweebe '08  
(See *Atticus Fund* story to learn about post-July 1 donors)

## BETTCHER CONVOCATION CENTER

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Bettcher Industries, Inc.

## CAMPUS INVESTMENTS - LANDSCAPING, GARDENS, OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT AND BEE HIVE POPULATION

---

Todd and Mary Amsdell in honor of Robert '19

Jim and Chris Heusinger (donor and dedicated volunteer landscaper)  
Betty and John Kemper  
Ben and Jane Norton  
The Norton Family Foundation  
Kristin '84 and Mark Roshkowski

## CENTER FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP - TEACHERS, LANGUAGE PROGRAMS, AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

---

Albert Chan and Annie Tan

## KEMPER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING - ENGINEERING PROGRAM, EQUIPMENT AND ENDOWMENT TO PRESERVE THE BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

---

Bettcher Industries, Inc.  
Cindy and Jon Cromling in honor of Jarrett '18  
Andy Milluzzi '08  
Phillip and Clare Navratil  
The Walt Disney Company

## SCHOLARSHIPS

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**Aspire Scholarship supporting students with financial need**  
Linda and Don Kaatz '70

**College Bound Scholarship providing competitive, need sensitive financial awards**  
Jeff '83 and Annette (Wasem) '84 Knapp

**The Dresing Family Scholarship**  
Tom '83 and Janna Dresing

**The Kauffman Family Scholarship supporting students with financial need**  
Vaughn and Karen Kauffman

## THE CAROL KLIMAS SCHOLARSHIP (ENDOWMENT) OFFERING A COMPETITIVE AWARD IN PERPETUITY TO STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

---

Sarah and Bob Dresing  
Rebecca Ruppert McMahon  
Phillip and Clare Navratil  
Ben and Brenda Norton  
Bob and Susan Smith

## PUBLIC SERVICE SCHOLARSHIPS SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN OF FIRST RESPONDERS

---

Ralph Engelberger in honor of Mitch White  
The Fauver Family  
Michael Hall in honor of Mitch White  
Glenn M Kurtz and Kimberley Morey Kurtz in honor of Mitch White  
Nancy and Joseph Scarpitti  
Mark Shaver in honor of Mitch White  
Eric '80 and Celia Sutherland  
Chrissy and Don Wostmann in honor of Alec '19

## THE JOYCE B. SOMMER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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Kent and Gail Sommer  
Sommer's Mobile Leasing

## HARDING FAMILY CHARITABLE TRUST SCHOLARSHIP PROVIDING COMPETITIVE, NEED SENSITIVE ASSISTANCE TO ENTERING STUDENTS FROM OLMSTED FALLS AND BERA

---

Harding Family Charitable Trust

## YANNA VOUTSIOTIS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP HONORING STUDENTS WHO EXCEL IN ATHLETICS, ACADEMICS AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

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George, Vivy and Alexia '07 Voutsiotis in memory of Yanna Voutsiotis '05

## Legacy Society

Members of the Lake Ridge Academy Legacy Society have thoughtfully planned for the school's future by naming the school as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Their gifts will fund scholarships, foreign languages, Centers of Excellence, landscaping, preservation of our campus, teachers, and technology – all in perpetuity.

These donors have made gifts that will benefit their own heirs, provide a life income during their retirement, or pass tax-free assets to their family members. Their will commitments, trusts, gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, and gifts of life insurance will benefit generations of students long into the future.

Richard and Kathy Ader	James and Sally Fell	Sally Hudnutt	<b>Alumnus '04</b>	Betty Weiss
Dale and Brenda Alexander	Ralph and Barbara Fisher	Don '70 and Linda Kaatz	Chauncey Smythe*	Bob* and Hope Wismar
John Wesley Brown*	William* and Lucille Hassler	Herbert and Mildred Kaatz**	Joyce* and Ken Sommer	
Peter and Dana Corogin	Pat Hemmer	Lawrence and April	Kent and Gail Sommer	
<b>Cole Fauver '79</b>	Jim and Chris Heusinger	McCormack	<b>Jutta Swoboda</b>	* deceased
Scrib* and Ann Fauver	Lee and Jo Ann Howley	Gary and Angela Rasoletti	Marilyn Wasem*	<b>bold – new member</b>

If you would like to create a scholarship in your family's name, honor a teacher or loved one with a special gift, or otherwise make a gift to Lake Ridge Academy through a future gift, please let us know. You need not disclose the details of your gift in order to be recognized as a Legacy Society member, but we would appreciate the chance to thank you for your plans.

## Event Giving

The Auction Gala, Golf Outing and Night at the Derby provide more than \$425,000 to support our curriculum, teachers, technology, athletics and 93-acre campus. Since tuition provides just 75% of a Lake Ridge education, gifts to these events between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019 supplemented the Annual Fund and provided important resources to ensure that our educational and athletic programs remain excellent.

### EVENT SPONSORS

Sponsors cover 100% of the event production costs so that every dollar offered by other guests can go directly to our students and teachers.

Anonymous	Anthony and Melanie Gondor	Ohio Real Title Agency, LLC
All Metal Sales, Inc. (Auction Gala and Golf Outing)	Pat Harrington and Cynthia Brown-Harrington (Auction Gala and Golf Outing)	Oswald Companies
Biff '86 and Patti Baker	Lon RX	Fred '79 and Donna Plecha
William and Linda Baker	Linda and Don Kaatz '70 (Auction Gala and Golf Outing)	Kristin (Kemper) '84 and Mark Roshkowski
Barnes Wendling CPA's, Inc.	Betty and John Kemper	Ross Environmental Services
Amy Bircher-Bruyn and Rob Bruyn	Kemper Cognitive Wellness	Manbir and Maria Sandhu
Bettcher Industries, Inc. (Auction Gala and Golf Outing)	Kemper House Strongsville (Auction Gala Title Sponsor)	Mike Shaulis and Sarah Durn Shaulis
Bodnar Printing Company	Alison and Tom Klocker	Bob and Susan Smith
Cerity Partners	Julie and Chris Latkovic	Chann and Ed Spellman
Community West Foundation	Maloney + Novotny	Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
Corrigan Krause	MMI Textiles, Inc.	Winfield Associates (Golf Outing Title Sponsor)
Mark and Kristen Craig	Phil and Clare Navratil (Auction Gala, Golf Outing and Night at the Derby)	Woodbine Products Company (Auction Gala, Golf Outing and Night at the Derby)
Jon and Cindy Cromling (Auction Gala, Golf Outing and Night at the Derby)	Brenda and Ben Norton (Auction Gala and Night at the Derby)	Nate Woodward and Amanda Buzo
Kate and Tom Dake	O'Neill Healthcare (Auction Gala and Golf Outing)	Christin and Don Wostmann
Megan '09, Emma '16 and Abby '18 Esch	Deborah and John O'Neill	
Cindy and Bob Fairchild		
Amelia and Michael Farago		
First National Bank		

### UNIQUE ITEMS AND EXPERIENCES OFFERED FOR THE AUCTION

Lake Ridge Academy's Auction Gala is somewhat unique in that none of the items offered during the evening are purchased; all are generously given by other members of the school's community. We are grateful to these donors for opening their homes and offering unique experiences that collectively raised tens of thousands of dollars for the school.

John and Belinda Amentas  
Abra Ames  
Scott Bagi and Sheri Crawford  
Amy Bircher-Bruyn and Rob Bruyn  
Tim Callaghan  
Brenda and Ben Norton  
David Radulovich '11  
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame  
Michelle and Michael Sherwin  
Mike and Shelly Sison  
George Souris DDS  
Annie Tan and Albert Chan  
Bing Gaspar-Yoo and Bo Yoo



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Cindy Morrison '90 and Brent Norton '89

Many friendships built at Lake Ridge Academy stand the test of time. One such friendship is the one between Cindy Morrison '90 and Brent Norton '89. The two recently joined forces to swim across Lake Erie from Canada to Lorain, a distance of 38 miles! The LoCo Lake Erie Swim brought together a total of twelve swimmers who also happened to be lifelong friends who grew up in Lorain and spent their summers playing on the shores of Lake Erie. The swim raised \$12,000 for a non-profit local clean-up and kayak group in Lorain called LoCo 'Yaks. LoCo 'Yaks provides access to and education about Lake Erie and the Black River with the goal of building awareness for protecting Lake Erie from pollution.

The swim took two days with each swimmer completing several 30-minute swim rotations.

Cindi stated, "The swim was awesome, mostly because we got to re-bond as lifelong friends while swimming in our favorite lake and cheering on our favorite people! Many of us had to travel long distances to participate, and we experienced a few set-backs along the way, like lightning strikes that at one point forced the committee boat to briefly turn back, little to no sleep for the sailors and swimmers, and hundreds of insanely persistent and resilient biting black flies. But everyone pitched in, jumped in, took the helm, swam, and kept going with smiles on their faces. This group of friends is insanely hard-working, resourceful, and altruistic!"

Coordinating the swim was something that was talked about for years by the group of friends. "Initially, it was just going to be a fun swim, but it transformed into a way to help clean and to give back to the lake we grew up on."

# Alumni News



## 1996

**Tiffany Elena Washington** received her PhD in Art History from Case Western Reserve University in 2013. Since then, she has lectured in Europe and throughout the United States and continues to publish on the primary market for American prints in the 1930s and 40s as well as the marketing of Regionalist art and its corporate patronage. She has taught as an adjunct instructor at various colleges and universities in the NE Ohio area. More recently, she created Pineapple Home Apothecary, an historically-inspired skincare company. She creates organic soap and body products, marrying her love of research, aesthetics, and cutting-edge technology. Tiffany and Marko reside in Hinckley and their son, Julian, and daughter, Livia, are in 6th and 4th grades at Old Trail School. Tiffany visited Lake Ridge in April and was thrilled to see many familiar faces, a highlight being a lunch with Teresa Fowler followed by a get together with Dana Cunningham.

## 2001



**Bryant Bitar** and his wife, Krystina, welcomed their son, James Brody Bitar, on June 18, 2019. Their daughter, Audriana, loves being a big sister.

**Michael Sertich** is excited to be opening his second restaurant location in six months. After owning and operating three Jimmy John's restaurants in Lorain county, Michael is venturing into the coffee business. He recently opened Biggby Coffee, a specialty coffee franchise based in Michigan. Biggby is located on the corner of Route 57 and Griswold Road in Elyria, next door to Jimmy John's.



2003



**Megan Gardner** and her husband, Dave, welcomed their baby boy, William Gardner McNamee, to the world on July 25, 2019. William is named after his grandpa, William Gardner, and his poppy, William McNamee.

2004



**Thommy Butchko** and his wife, Vanessa, welcomed their son, Charlie Thomas Butchko, on June 8, 2019. Big sister Alice is enjoying her little brother!

2006



**Brian Veber** and Tara Shanahan married in Garrison, NY on August 17, 2019. They celebrated with family and friends, including LRA alumni Brett Cannaday '06, Erik Escuro '06, Sebastian Chahda '06, Diego Chahda '08, Eugenia Chahda '04, and Sam Maczuzak '05. The couple met in New York City while Brian was in town from Washington, DC visiting friends. They now reside in Jersey City, NJ, where Tara works as a Senior Publicity Manager for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and Brian works in Financial Planning & Analysis for Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group. They both see a dog in their near future.

2007



**Ethan Glor** and Claire Gober were married on August 17, 2019 in a wonderful ceremony in Philadelphia. Ethan and Claire currently live in Philadelphia where Claire works as a medical director for a medical communications agency and Ethan is a chemist for Dow Chemical. They both are looking forward to an extended vacation in the spring.

2009



**Mary-Cait Holbrook (Phalen)** and her husband, Chris, welcomed their daughter, Kelsey Róisín, in May after moving back to Cleveland from Raleigh, NC. Mary-Cait and Chris are very happy to be raising Kelsey around their friends and family.

2010



**Kathryn Moreno** and Richard McMahon married on July 27th, 2019 in NYC, where the couple lives and works. Kathryn graduated from NYU in 2018 with a master's

Introducing the Lake Ridge Academy Alumni Mobile App

The Alumni Relations Office has launched an alumni-only app! LRA Alumni can now download the app, register, and start enjoying these and other benefits:

- Access the faculty email directory (current and former teachers)
- Find alumni living in major metropolitan areas
- Contact classmates and other alumni
- Post a job to recruit other Lake Ridge alumni
- Search for a new job offered by other alumni
- Share your news on a direct link to alumni social media pages
- Find scheduled alumni events

If you have any questions please contact Leannie McAllister at alumni@lakeridgeacademy.org.



**Congratulations to our Alumni App drawing winner, Beth (Sekerak) Chenelle '81, who scored an Apple Watch Series 4 for being an early registrant!**

degree in art therapy. She works part-time as an art therapist and is currently enrolled in a 5-year licensure qualifying program in psychoanalytic training. Richard graduated from Abu Dhabi University with a master's degree in finance in 2012. He currently works at Credit Suisse as a member of the debt and restructuring team.



**Sarah Ziska** married Kian Nejadfard on September 21st, 2019. **Erica Lasky Moran '08** was instrumental in planning the event with her team at A Charming Fete. Sarah and Kian were surrounded by friends and family from around the world on their big day.

## 2013



**Qun Ren** graduated in May from the University of Maryland with a master's degree in music. Qun is currently freelancing and teaching in the Baltimore/Washington, D.C. area as a professional musician.

## 2014



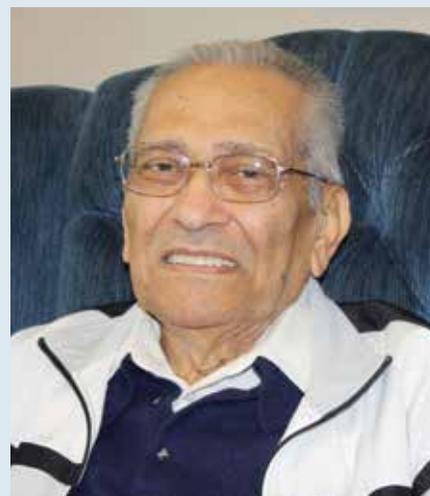
**Zaeem Lone** graduated from Johns Hopkins University in May 2018. Zaeem then took a year off to do research while applying to medical school. He is currently a first year medical school student at Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, which is a 5-year MD program and the nation's first tuition free medical school. Zaeem says, "When I left Ohio after graduating from Lake Ridge, I wanted to leave Ohio and after 5 years away I'm so thrilled to be back home. Northeast Ohio is a place where nothing is given and everything is earned; you work for what you have. This motto was really instilled in me through my time at Lake Ridge through the mentorship I received from not only science teachers like Dr. Glor but also faculty like Dr. Mo. I hope to visit more frequently and connect with old teachers now that I am back home!"

## 2015



**William Cousino** graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University in May with his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sports Management. Just before graduation, William began working at

Cyclebar Polaris in Westerville, OH as the Assistant Studio Manager. In September, William was promoted to General Manager of Cyclebar Polaris. William says "I am loving every moment of it and working with hundreds of people with various fitness levels to help change their lives for the better."



**Samir Nasr**, beloved Upper School physics and calculus teacher, passed away on November 3, 2019. Samir joined the Lake Ridge faculty in 1978 and spent 27 years teaching at the school before retiring in 2005. His teaching career began in 1965 after graduation from Ain Shams University in Cairo. While taking postgraduate courses, he taught physics and math at the Higher Institute of Petroleum and Mining in Suez, Egypt. In 1972, the College of Science and Technology, Kaduna Polytechnic, which is located in Nigeria, recruited him to teach their engineering students.

Known by many as the "nicest man in the world," Samir motivated his students by approaching the subject from their point of view. "I put myself in their shoes," Samir noted in an interview for a previous *ByLine*. "A concept may seem easy to me, but I remember this is the first time they have heard it. It may not be so easy!"

Samir was a proud Lake Ridge parent, grandparent and uncle. Both of his children, Karim Nasr '86 and Maryam (Nasr) Ayad '87 are alumni, and Samir was still teaching when his nephew Tim Soliman '99, niece Amanda Soliman '05, and grandchild Marc Ayad '16 were students. Three of his younger grandchildren (Danielle, Gabriella, and Nicholas Ayad) are seniors at the school; they and grandchildren Alexandria, Sarah and Jacob will miss him.



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# THE TERESA TOUR – LIVE!

Save these dates to celebrate with Teresa Jenkins during her 40th year of teaching at Lake Ridge. Registration details will be shared via email prior to each event.

Alumni: If you did not receive an email or post card about these events in the last two weeks, you are “lost” since Lake Ridge does not have your contact information. Update your information on the event site or download the Lake Ridge alumni app to stay in touch!

✓ **Downtown Boston –  
October 28, 2019**

Hosted by Miguel Beltran '13 and  
Alexia Voutsiotis '07  
Generously sponsored by  
Jason Hamilton '91

✓ **New York at Hudson Yards –  
October 29, 2019**

Hosted by Malou Suskin,  
Cole Fauver '79, Karen (Gordon)  
Robelen '90, Eric Sutherland '80 &  
Zack Sweebe '08  
Venue provided by Marc Suskin '97  
and Cooley LLC

**Chicago – February 7, 2020**

Hosted by Diego Chahda '08 and  
Cole Fauver '79

**Cleveland – March 6, 2020  
(also Career Day on campus)**

Hosted by Alumni Council Members  
Thommy Butchko '04, Jessica Golski '04,  
Greg Norton '06, Chris Pfeil '70 and  
Kristin (Kemper) Roshkowski '84

**Washington, DC – March 16, 2020**

Hosted by Emily Moreno '12 and  
Caroline Sherman '94

**San Francisco – March 19, 2020**

Hosted by Steve Bamberger '87,  
Kendall Szulewski-Francis '09,  
Jeff Knapp '83 and Annette (Wasem)  
Knapp '84

**Los Angeles (West LA) –  
March 20, 2020**

Hosted by Vic Fusilero '84

**Cincinnati – April 17, 2020**

Hosted by Brian Shimko '04 and  
Mona (Raj) Rinaldi '90

[www.lakeridgeacademy.org/alumni/events](http://www.lakeridgeacademy.org/alumni/events)