

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNA AWARDED PRESTIGIOUS MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATE STUDY

After Erika Lynn-Green ('14) graduates from Yale this spring, she'll study for two years in the United Kingdom as a fully funded Marshall Scholar. During the first year, Erika will earn a master's degree in global health systems, theory, and policy at Queen Mary, University of London. Still deciding on her second year, she is leaning toward a master's in English before heading to medical school. At Yale, Erika completed both an English degree and pre-med requirements. Her long-term goal is to craft healthcare policy through an appointed position, such as Secretary of Health and Human Services.



Erika Lynn Green ('14)

Erika said her cross-disciplinary studies and extracurriculars at Yale probably helped her win the scholarship. "I work in a lot of different areas, and I also connect to those areas with a strong focus on social justice," she said. That connection originated at Sage Hill, she said, especially from her position on Honor Committee. "Before I had words to think about things like structural equity and cultural competence, I had experiences on Honor Committee with those things," Erika said. She added that her Sage Hill teachers taught her the value of mentors. "I spent a lot of time cultivating mentorship opportunities with professors who are some of the superstars at Yale," Erika said, noting the importance of those relationships in the scholarship process. The British government funds the 43 Marshall Scholars in gratitude for American assistance after World War II under the Marshall Plan.

FOURTH ALUMNUS NAMED TO FORBES "30 UNDER 30"



Lisa Conn ('06)

Lisa Conn ('06) is the latest Sage Hill alumna to be named to *Forbes Magazine's* "30 Under 30" list, an elite group of young adults whom the magazine calls "the world's most inspiring young innovators, bright rising stars and the leaders of tomorrow who are transforming the world." Lisa is making her mark in the area of Law & Policy, leading Facebook's civic leadership team in its community partnerships program. Previously, while pursuing her MBA at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she worked on The Electome, a data analytics project that studied trends in the 2016 election narrative among the candidates, the media and the public by collecting and analyzing data on some 500 million daily tweets.

Developed annually by a panel of Forbes readers and top business minds, the "30 Under 30" list has previously named three other Sage Hill alumni: Jeff Cruttenden ('05), creator of a mobile micro-investing platform called Acorns (Finance in 2016); Mark Ramadan ('04), co-founder of the Sir Kensington's gourmet condiments line which sold last year for \$140 million (Food & Wine in 2012); and two-time honoree Matthew Schlicht ('06), a social media strategist whose start-ups include Tracks.by, Chatbots Magazine, and Octane AI (Social & Mobile in 2012 and Games & Apps in 2013).



Jeff Cruttenden ('05, pictured far left) visited Sage Hill's Entrepreneurship Club.



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Members of Encore in the Studio at Sage Hill.

LIGHTNING STRIKES



Hello and Happy Spring!

Spring is a time for traditions at Sage Hill School, and this year, it's also a time for reimagining some of them. We're adding a fresh new twist to our Spring Celebration on Saturday, May 5, at the Newport Beach Country Club. The affair will feature a strolling supper with food and wine stations, blending our traditional wine event and Spring Celebration into one unforgettable evening. Live and silent auctions and student entertainment will add to the festivities. We invite you to mix and mingle with parents, faculty, staff and other members of our community in a festive setting. Watch for your invitation in the mail in the coming weeks!

Two of Sage Hill's best-loved traditions took place this month, among them was our 17th Annual Multicultural Fair on March 17. Drawing from across Orange County, the Multicultural Fair celebrates the rich diversity of our community through food, entertainment, a Public Purpose Marketplace, and more. New for this year were food booths featuring Afro-Caribbean, Bosnian, and Eastern European Jewish cuisine, as well as an international dessert booth.

Our students also had the opportunity to explore diverse possibilities for their future occupations at our annual Career Day on March 14. Manu Goswami, a young entrepreneur named to Canada's Top 20 Under 20, delivered the keynote address. Among the broad range of speakers were an optical engineer, a mayor, and a photographer. We were especially excited to count several alumni amongst our speakers. New for this year, students were invited to engage with the speakers informally following the two presentation sessions.

Behind the scenes on campus, our faculty and staff are busy working on the self-study required for re-accreditation by the California Association of Independent Schools (CAIS). This accreditation is essential to Sage Hill's national reputation and recognition with colleges. Faculty, staff and trustees are all engaged in the intensive process of identifying how well we are serving the students and how well we are meeting the objectives of the School. When the process is completed next year, it will also form the foundation for Sage Hill's next strategic plan, expected in 2020.

Also in the works is a complete overhaul of the Johnson Family Library to better accommodate our students and the many activities that occur on campus. Inside this newsletter, you'll find more details on our plans, as well as other updates on the exciting happenings at Sage Hill School. Read on, and enjoy!

Sincerely,

Gordon McNeill
Gordon McNeill, President

Patricia A. Merz
Patricia A. Merz, Head of School

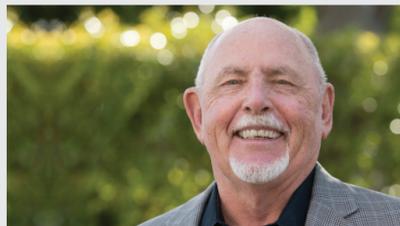
BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES NAMES NEW MEMBER, CHAIR



Lisa Merage

The Board welcomes new Trustee Lisa Bhatthal Merage, co-founder and managing partner of RAJ Capital. The firm's assets include RAJ Sports, a major partner of Sacramento Basketball Holdings LLC, which owns and operates the Sacramento Kings, Golden 1 Center and The Sawyer Hotel. Lisa also served as CEO of RAJ Swim from 2006–2016. "I was raised to see the importance of supporting education in our local community and am excited to give back in every way I can to ensure a thriving educational institution," Lisa said. Lisa also serves on boards for St. Mary's School in Aliso Viejo and Gen Next, focused on education, economic opportunity and global security. A graduate of USC's Marshall School of Business, Lisa resides in Newport Coast with her husband, Richard Merage. Their blended family includes Sage Hill junior Matteo Merage and four younger boys.



Mike Bolen

Trustee Mike Bolen has been named to succeed Mark Danner as Chair in June. A Trustee since 2011, Mike is chairman and CEO of McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. His knowledge of the construction industry proved invaluable as Sage Hill completed its master plan. "My number one goal for my term is to do what I can to increase the involvement and participation of the parent group," Mike said, adding that he wants all families to feel part of the community. Mike will also focus on keeping the School's infrastructure, mechanical equipment, and technology up-to-date, and transforming our library into an innovative hub for collaboration and learning. Mike and wife Debi are parents of Shelby ('13), Haley ('15) and Morgan ('20).

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

MATH TEACHER HAS A HAND IN IMPACTFUL SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT



Tanya Lerch with a 3D printed prosthetic hand.

A child is able to grasp the handlebars on a bicycle because of the service learning group Tanya Lerch launched at Sage Hill. Others can draw or dress themselves, all because of the dozen or so prosthetic hands Tanya's students have fabricated. Hired in 2016 as a math teacher, Tanya has had an impact both in and out of the classroom.

Building on experience from her previous school in New York City, Tanya guides a group of 26 juniors and seniors in the Sage Prosthetics Group, using open-sourced designs and 3-D printers to build and assemble functional prosthetic hands. "The devices we make are not medical grade," Tanya said. "Most of our recipients are children," she added, because they grow so quickly and medical grade devices can cost up to \$10,000. The devices our students fabricate cost about \$50 to make.

The students collaborate on each hand in groups of four. They also consult with the recipients, connected through a nonprofit organization, on fun colors and designs. Jake Laven ('18) said his experience has been "life-changing." Asked what he's learned, Jake said, "Number one, problem-solving. Teamwork and collaboration come along with it, but everything about the building process, designing process, measuring, communicating with the recipients, revolves around taking it step-by-step and solving problems as you go."

Sage Hill offered Tanya the ideal place to change young lives. When she and husband Josh, both outdoor enthusiasts, moved to California for the lifestyle, she was drawn to our school culture. "There were chances for personal and professional growth, the travel programs, all sorts of different committees and groups you can be part of, and there's a lot of autonomy," she said. "I really connected with the math department. Some teachers are very traditional, some are into the technology, some do flipped classroom, and I thought it was so cool that students get the opportunity to be exposed to different teaching styles."

Tanya holds a master's in psychology from NYU, but switched gears to teaching after a stint as a TA for a statistics class. She earned a second master's in mathematics education from Columbia University and taught in New York for five years before moving west. Now the parents of one-year-old Summit, Tanya and Josh live in Huntington Beach.

For more information about Sage Prosthetics, visit www.sageprosthetics.org.

SERVICE LEARNING SPOTLIGHT

A GEM OF AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS

More than 100 middle school girls are expected on campus April 28 for GEMfest, a day of speakers and workshops designed to inspire confidence and career goals. Organized by the service learning group Girls Empowerment Movement (GEM), the event will feature two keynote speakers: Wende Zomnir, a Sage Hill parent and co-founder of Urban Decay Cosmetics; and alumna and professional surfer Courtney Conlogue ('10). The girls will choose from speaker panels on entrepreneurship and STEM, as well as workshops on body image, coding, public speaking, and tools for success. Dynamic speakers will include a Jet Propulsion

Laboratory engineer, a food scientist, a YouTube influencer and more. At lunch, a variety of professionals will join each table of girls, creating additional opportunities for mentorship.

Lily Humphrey ('19) said she joined GEM because middle school is when girls start figuring out who they are as women. "It's important to provide role models for them at that stage so they can feel positive about themselves and feel like they can do anything," she said. "Not all girls have these amazing mentors in their lives," said GEM member Eliza Feffer ('19). "We're bringing the mentors to them so they can be given the tools they need to be successful." GEMfest attendees will come from local middle schools, including our service learning partner schools. Tickets are \$12, but waivers are available. "We want a diverse range of girls coming," Eliza said.

Through planning GEMfest, the five juniors and one senior in the group are learning essential communication and collaboration skills. They've promoted the event through presentations at schools, a website, and an Instagram account. "I

learned how to cold email people and to outreach and explain your message," said Hannah Romeo ('19). Eliza said it was intimidating yet rewarding to recruit successful women as speakers. "When you're passionate about a project and you're confident, they're going to want to be part of it," she said.



The GEMfest team meets with consultant Robin Grant of Stylecon (center) for inspiration and advice.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.gemfestoc.com or follow @gemfestoc on Instagram.

CAMPUS UPDATE

LIBRARY TO BE REPURPOSED AS CAMPUS HUB

An open space with modular furniture. Huddle rooms for small group collaboration. A cozy nook by the fireplace. These are examples of spaces where Sage Hill students will converge in the reimagined Johnson Family Library this fall.

"We're totally repurposing it," said Trustee and Chair-elect Mike Bolen. "You won't even recognize it. It's going to be more of a gathering place for people to interact as opposed to storage for books."

"It's a student union; it's your second living room; it's the old coffee shop where people used to talk politics," said President Gordon McNeill.

Plans for the \$3.5 million project, approved by the Board in December, reflect changes in the ways students work and communicate. The transformation will occur during the summer, with no disruption to school activities. Yet every student will benefit from the results. Currently, many of the activities discussed in this newsletter, like Career Day, GEMfest, and coding courses, involve complex logistics. "Where do you bring all these people together?" McNeill asked. "The library currently doesn't work for that, but soon it will." Come autumn, it will be bustling with club meetings, advisories, parent association committees, educational events, and more. It will also house the Sage Center for Innovative Curriculum.

At press time, we had raised nearly \$2 million of the funding required to complete this critical project. "Everyone's participation is important," said McNeill, noting more than 100 donors supported each of our other recent building projects. "This is about the community," he said. "It's about bringing everybody together."



Library rendering

The library is an opportunity to immediately benefit your current Sage Hill student, and to leave a legacy for future students.

For more information about the project and how to support it, please visit www.sagehillschool.org/unlocking-the-promise.

GRATITUDE UPDATE

DONORS HONORED AT ANNUAL FUND BREAKFAST

Here at Sage Hill, we go out of our way to show our community how much we appreciate all you do. One of our favorite expressions of gratitude is our celebratory Annual Fund Breakfast, held February 2 in the Le Bon Family Lobby. Donors to the Annual Fund were treated to build-your-own omelets, acai bowls, and an espresso cart, while being serenaded by the Sage Hill treble choir and a professional acoustic guitarist. No matter the size of the donation, employees, parents, grandparents, and alumni parents who have given to the Annual Fund this year were welcomed to this festive morning.

Tuition alone does not support the full cost of the academic and co-curricular programs



Donors honored at sumptuous Annual Fund Breakfast

offered at Sage Hill. The Annual Fund helps cover the costs of small class size, updated technology and supplies, and outstanding facilities. It also contributes to programs like Spring at Sage, Service Learning, and the Sage Hill Internship Program. That's why the Annual Fund is so important to the transformational experience at Sage Hill School.

Our two goals this year are to raise \$1.4 million and achieve 100% community participation.

These goals are equally important; we hope all members of our community will care enough to give at a level that is meaningful to them. Under the leadership of Annual Fund co-chairs Christian and Jane Lopez, parents of Jordan ('19) and Jake ('21), we have raised more than \$1.1 million

to date. We are grateful to the the Lopez' and their committee of more than 20 volunteers for their efforts. It's not too late to support the Annual Fund this year and help us reach our goal. Your gift makes an immediate and lasting impact on Sage Hill School.

To support the Annual Fund, please visit <https://www.sagehillschool.org/page/support/annual-fund> or contact Evelyn Ramirez-Schultz at ramirez-schultze@sagehillschool.org.

CO-CURRICULARS

Athletics

Calling all Lightning fans! Sage Hill athletics has an expanded social media presence on Instagram and Twitter. Follow us on Instagram @sageathletics and on Twitter @Sage_Athletics. At the game? Tag us in posts or photos and we'll repost on our account.

Parent Education

Sage Hill's robust Parent Education series, supported by the Annual Fund, already hosted two fascinating speakers this year. Dr. Ben Karney, a Harvard graduate and UCLA professor of social psychology, shared advice on resolving conflicts with your spouse/partner. Anna Deavere Smith, best known for television roles on *The West Wing* and *Nurse Jackie*, performed an original work that was part lecture, part performance, and part conversation. Her presentation, "In Search of American Character -- From TWILIGHT: Los Angeles to Now," reflects her experience over 30 years listening and learning from Americans. She also offered a Master Class for students.



OC Coders meet to teach coding skills.

Clubs

Twins Hana and Miya Stauss ('20) became hooked on coding through summer programs they attended. Now they're spreading that passion through their club, OC Coder. "One of our ambitious goals is to get 100% of Sage students into a coding class before they graduate," Miya said, noting that by 2020, 77% of jobs will require technology skills. The club has offered three coding classes to groups of 15 students with a fourth planned this spring. Taught by

UCI student volunteers during X-Block, the classes have exposed Sage Hill students to Java and Python. Club members have also begun teaching technology skills to seniors at the local Oasis Center. The club also participated in Hour of Code, an international event in December, bringing in more than 100 4th-8th graders for two hour-long coding sessions. Plans are in the works for future Hour of Code sessions for both students and faculty.