

The Valley

MATRIARCHS OF MAUMEE VALLEY

Celebrating the legacies of 3 remarkable women



**JOAN
BAYER**



**ANN
STRANAHAN**



**GEORGIA
WELLES**



INSIDE:

Celebrating the Class of 2024
2023-2024 Donor Honor Roll
Awards honor alumni achievement

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Head of School

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The MVFA supports and complements the mission and philosophy of Maumee Valley Country Day School through volunteer service, parent education, and community building. MVFA strives to actively involve and communicate with the entire parent community.

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Middle School (grades 4-8):
Angela McCray-Hancock

Upper School (grades 9-12):
Stephanie Harman

Statement of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At Maumee Valley, we recognize and embrace our responsibility to foster an inclusive, equitable, safe, and respectful community. We cultivate a community in which students, faculty, staff, and families feel genuinely welcome and are encouraged to learn from, with, and about one another. We honor the uniqueness of each individual and embrace diverse backgrounds, values, learning styles, and points of view to build a strong inclusive community. At Maumee Valley, we want all community members to know: We see you. We hear you. We value you.



mvcds.org



advancement@mvcds.org

Celebrating excellence, service, and commitment to community

Dear Friends of Maumee Valley,

As we embark on our 140th year of independent and innovative education in Northwest Ohio, I welcome each of you to the start of another remarkable school year. Our journey this fall has already been marked by exciting events such as the Fall Tournament and a memorable Homecoming Weekend, where we celebrated the achievements of our distinguished alumni.

This year, we are excited to introduce many new faces who have joined our faculty and staff, enriching our community with their diverse backgrounds and experiences (see page 13). They bring passion and a wealth of knowledge that is already contributing to our mission.

Embodying the dedication of our faculty and staff are the newest recipients of two distinguished service awards, which recognize employees with at least five years of service. Kathleen Mick, our K-5 Spanish teacher, was honored with the Alumni Centennial Award for Faculty Excellence. Kathleen embodies the highest ideals of the teaching profession by being outstanding in the classroom, a constructive faculty leader, and a contributor in ways beyond the classroom. Brian Oliver P '26, '28, '32, our director of annual giving and family engagement, was honored with the Larry Anning Award for Staff Excellence, which honors an employee who personifies the highest ideals of personal integrity, professionalism, and excellence.

To further honor the contributions of faculty and staff, the school introduced a new honor this spring: The New Hawk Award. It recognizes outstanding contributions from an employee in the first two years of service. Colleen Browning-Nyaosi, our inaugural recipient and the international program manager, exemplifies the spirit of this award through her dedication, professionalism, and service.

Speaking of service, our cover story celebrates the accomplishments and legacies of three remarkable MV parents who passed away recently and who helped to shape the institution we are today: Joan Bayer, Ann Stranahan, and Georgia Welles. I invite you to read their profiles (starting on page 36) and discover the impact they had on our community.

As we build upon our legacy of innovation and independence, let us embrace the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Together, we will inspire each other and our students to reach new heights of achievement and personal growth!

Warm regards,

Lynn D. Casto P '23, '24
Head of School



Mission

Maumee Valley Country Day School cultivates an inclusive community of intellectual excellence where learners creatively explore their passions and boldly inspire positive change in the world.

Vision

Personal. Experiential. Global.

Guiding Principle

We create an environment of freedom and responsibility to Think. Speak. Explore. Choose. Connect. Be You.

The Valley

In this issue...

24 Class of 2024 soars confidently into the future

From academic excellence to artistic brilliance, and everything in between, this class left an indelible mark on our community.



34

Good times for a good cause

Friends and supporters helped the 46th Annual MV Gala to net more than \$270,000 to support our educational mission.

36

Saying goodbye to 3 remarkable leaders

In just nine months, Maumee Valley lost three legendary advocates and benefactors: **Joan Bayer, Ann Stranahan, and Georgia Welles.**

DEPARTMENTS

- Head of School Message - 2
- Around Campus - 4
- The Arts - 10
- Hawk Sports - 20
- Alumni News - 40
- In Memoriam - 41
- Giving News - 42
- Calendar - 48

RECENT HONORS AND AWARDS

- Best Private School**
2022 Family Faves (Toledo Area Parent News)
- No. 1 Private School in Toledo Area**
2025 rankings by Niche
- 2023 Eco-School Award**
Lower School and its ongoing use of nature in its classrooms

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The Valley celebrates the students, faculty, and alumni of Maumee Valley Country Day School, and the donors making possible many of their achievements. It is produced twice a year by the Office of Marketing and Communications.

NEXT ISSUE

The Upper School's new Leadership Academy is cultivating the qualities of successful leadership, equipping students with the skills and self-awareness necessary to excel in leading student groups, clubs, and sports teams.



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

To submit stories or comments on this and future editions of *The Valley*, email kmerrill@mvcds.org.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Send address change requests to Office of Advancement, 1715 S. Reynolds Rd., Toledo OH, 43614.

MEMBERSHIPS

Maumee Valley Country Day School is proud to be a member of these organizations:

- Independent Schools Association of the Central States
- National Association of Independent Schools
- Independent School Management
- Ohio Association of Independent Schools
- National Association of Educational Procurement



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Sun rises on Class of 2025

The Class of 2025 celebrated the Senior Sunrise tradition in August by coming together to watch daylight arrive on campus. There were plenty of smiles, blankets, and memories about the journeys shared and those yet to begin. The event began the countdown to the June 5 graduation of the 54-member-strong class.



MV students organize, present at TEDx showcase

Maumee Valley presented a TEDx event on campus this spring featuring 12 local high school students, including four from Maumee Valley. This year's co-organizers of TEDxMaumeeValleyCountryDaySchool were **Layan Ridi '26** and **Daivik Patel**

'25. Speakers gave up to an eight-minute talk. The MV students participating were **Sydney Abercrombie '25** ("The Joy of Music and Life"); **Ehsan Darr '24** ("Mosaic of Identity: Piecing Together Who We Are"); **May Drew '25** ("Blood Quantum: Minimizing Identity"); and **Tristan Hirt '25** ("Dream the Storm").

Student writings win contest

Eleven 4th graders were honored this spring by having their writing selected as part of the Young Writers' creative writing contest, "Ridiculous Writers." Congratulations to **Sloaney Greenwood, Coral House, Gigi Kozak, Allie Marker, Sloane Prater, Honor Savage-Edwards, Ryan Semnani, Kareem Tal, Kaya Watkins, Millie Wong,** and **Graham Ziegler.**

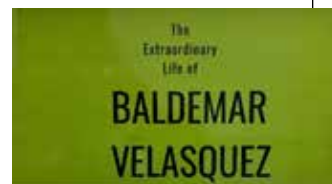
4th graders surprise local labor leader with custom bio

Moved by the story of his life and accomplishments on behalf of others, Maumee Valley 4th graders decided to do for Baldemar Velasquez what no one had done before: write his biography.

Velasquez is the founder of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), which is headquartered in Toledo and works on behalf of workers to ensure fair contracts and working conditions. The students visited FLOC last fall, where they met Velasquez and heard of his life's journey, from migrant farmworker and MacArthur Fellowship recipient to member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council.

Under the guidance of teacher **Sarah Tilton P '36, '38**, students wrote *The Extraordinary Life of Baldemar Velasquez* and illustrated 13 chapters, with titles like "Early Life," "Life as a Migrant Worker," "Famous Strikes," and "Campbell's Soup." He visited the school to pick up his copy and also signed autographs for students.

"We were astonished to learn that we had never heard about the hometown hero who was right in our backyard," the book's prologue states. "After hearing his story, we felt compelled to share it. How could such an extraordinary person not have a published biography?"



Briefs

Building Community

Throughout the school year, the Maumee Valley community strengthens its community through celebrations and special activities. These events also help students become cross-culturally literate. In April, the Indian Student Association presented its annual Holi celebration event, which included a presentation, dance performance, and food. The courageous few then gathered on the Anning Lawn to play colors. In May, the Upper School's student affinity group Gender Sexuality Alliance hosted Pride Week, including a kahoot quiz based upon posters that had been placed around the building. The students also attended workshops and heard a talk on allyship by Jordyn McQueary, the executive director of Equality Toledo.



Issue Day explores sustainability

The Upper School's annual Issue Day in April brought nearly a dozen local and national experts to campus to share insights and experiences around the theme of "Sustainability: Striving to Thrive." The keynote was delivered by Dr. Jeremy D. Semrau, the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of Michigan. Among the speakers was Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz (above), who spoke about the city's water crisis in 2014. The event was organized by the Issue Day Committee, which is part of the Global Leadership Program.



End-of-year camping bonds 3rd graders

Third graders, their teachers, and chaperones enjoyed a successful camping experience in May. After setting up tents and playing team-building games, everyone had dinner, took a night hike through the forest, and told campfire stories while eating s'mores. Next-day activities included tree climbing and learning about Northwest Ohio wildlife (both courtesy of Metroparks Toledo) as well as building fires. Thank you to 2/3 teachers **Sarah Ettore**, **Katie Gilsdorf**, and **Emily Prater P '31, '33, '33, '35** and all the MV families who volunteered to deliver a fantastic annual overnight camping experience.



Leila Harris '31 was selected as a winner in July of the prestigious Nickelodeon Our World Award in collaboration with the Jefferson Awards, a program of Multiplying Good. The award recognizes young changemakers who are dedicated to making a positive impact in their communities and beyond. In recognition of her incredible efforts, Leila received a bronze Jefferson Award and was featured on the 2024 Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards program. In May, she was honored for her community activism by Chicks for Charity, a Northwest Ohio nonprofit.



Congratulations to **Joshua Wang '25** for being named a National Merit Semifinalist. He is among the highest scoring entrants in Ohio and among 16,000 students—the top one third of the 50,000 highest scores—announced

in September by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.



Xin (Louis) He '27 finished first in the freshman/sophomore category at the 74th Annual AIA Toledo High School Design Competition (HSDC). This year's project challenged students to design a park pavilion within Rev. H.V. Savage Park for the Toledo Parks and Recreation

Department. He finished second in the Digital Media Competition. The HSDC Committee received 53 submissions from 13 Northwest Ohio schools.

Cooper Gensler '24 earned the coveted Eagle Scout award in April. For his required service project, Cooper planted more than 500 trees and bushes in a recreational park in the city of Oregon. The vegetation was planted in a newly excavated floodplain, and the roots will help to capture pollutants such as phosphorus and other fertilizers. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in Scouting America.



The MV Quiz Bowl Team made it into the playoffs in April at the 2024 Small School National Championship in Chicago. The Hawks finished in the top half of teams competing in the Open Division (non-public schools). **Eric Tang '25** was the team's highest-ranking individual, finishing in the top 15 percent nationally.



Finley Wright '33 ruled over the Lower School in May as Head for a Day. Her parents Rusty and Kelly placed the winning bid for the honor at the MV Gala. During her day, Finley welcomed students at carline, introduced herself to each Lower School classroom, toured campus on a gator, and issued several proclamations, including an extra recess and grilled cheese for lunch. She also met with Head of School Lynn Casto.



Oliver Dunn '26 and **Layan Ridi '26** completed their Youth Leadership Toledo programs through Leadership Toledo. Both were selected through a competitive process and joined 52 students from 34 schools. Through the program, participants gained the skills, knowledge, and confidence needed to become effective community leaders.



Thanks to the opinion writing of **Jaxon Van Etten '34**, he and his classmates enjoyed lunch on the house from Buffalo Wild Wings. Jaxon and his fellow 2/3 graders crafted opinion letters to their favorite restaurants explaining why they loved their products. Jaxon wrote passionately about the boneless wings and cheese curds at Buffalo Wild Wings. The letter so impressed Demetrius Nicodemus, manager of the Maumee location (pictured above with Jaxon), that he brought lunch to Jaxon and his classmates.

Rami Ridi '26 was appointed as a student representative to Perrysburg's Litter Prevention and Recycling Board.





Luella Greenwood '31 and **Finn Dowling '31** earned a Claire's Day C.A.R.E. Award for their growth as readers and their love of storytelling. The award recognizes students who demonstrated marked improvement in reading skills over the course of a school year. They attended the award ceremony at the Maumee branch of the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library. (Pictured above from left are Luella, 5th grade teacher **Jenny Thompson P '25**, and Finn.)



Max Oberlin '26 was named to the Parrhesia Ambassador Program at The University of Chicago. Students were competitively selected for the summer enrichment program based upon essays, extracurricular activities, and recommendation letters; only 30 participants nationwide were chosen. The program offers an

innovative curriculum in the theory and practice of public discourse and deliberation.



Three MV students performed this summer in local productions. From left: **Qiuhao "Ethan" Chen '25** played the role of Kevin in the Toledo Repertoire production of "The Prom." **Kevin Ham '25** played FBI agent Carl Hanratty in "Catch Me If You Can - The Musical" presented by the Perrysburg Musical Theatre Company. **Abigail Metzger '27** was part of the ensemble, also in "The Prom."

Doing their part to make the world a better place



The Lower School Green Team

(above) collaborated with Keep Toledo Lucas County Beautiful for a learning experience about sorting items that can be reused or recycled or that need to be sent to a landfill.

Students in 7th and 8th grade (right) are turning their compassion into action this school year by volunteering at local organizations. Benefitting are the SeaGate Food Bank, Metroparks Toledo, Sunshine Communities, University Church Community Garden, Ohio Living, and Maumee Valley.

From assisting and talking with senior citizens to organizing and packing boxes of food for those who are chronically hungry in the Toledo area, students actively demonstrated the Middle School pillar of Kindness.

By pulling invasive species from the area's diverse natural places and making meaningful relationships with Maumee Valley's youngest students, the 7/8 students demonstrated the Middle School pillar of Respect. Giving back to the community is a cornerstone of the MV experience where students are encouraged to give everything and expect nothing for the service to others.

Lower School students celebrated Earth Day (right) by working together to beautify areas around our buildings and in the forest.





Experiential

Passion projects, Intensives, and end-of-year class trips bring hands-on learning to life



The end of every school year brings exciting field trips by Middle School students. Clockwise from top: 8th graders visiting Chicago; 7th graders at Hocking Hills; 6th graders at Camp Joy, 4/5 graders at Camp Storer.

Maumee Valley students continue to apply newfound knowledge in original and exciting ways.

In September, Upper School students demonstrated the results of research and experiences gained during the three-week fall Intensive. A crowd favorite during the September **Intensive Fair** was the team presentations from MV BBQ. Students demonstrated knowledge in economics and culinary arts to compete for the title of best new BBQ business.

Following their Moving Up Ceremony, 6th graders in May shared their passions with peers and MV families at the annual **Passion Project Expo**. Each project complied with a checklist that took into account what they would learn and how they would present the information. Since early April, they used time during their every-other-day Advisory to work on the projects.

Earlier in the spring, K/1 students worked on a variety of **Passion Projects**. Some focused on learning more about worms and composting while others focused on turkeys by incubating turkey eggs in preparation for hatching. Students also visited a farm to see where the chicks would live. While there, 1st graders (who took part in a similar project last year) were able to see the ducks they hatched last year and collect eggs from them. Other students ran a lemonade stand to raise money to buy fleece to make tie blankets for the Toledo Humane Society's cat/kitten room.

And students in 7th and 8th grade enjoyed an opportunity for self-directed learning during **YouTube University**. Their assignment: conduct an independent style-Intensive with a topic they were curious or passionate about. The knowledge and skills acquired came through weeklong research (including, if necessary, videos on YouTube). Topics selected ranged from learning to play bass guitar to flying a drone to capture pictures and videos.



Top: Members of a student team explain their business plans at the MV BBQ taste-off on the Anning Lawn. **Below:** Students gather at the Expo to learn about a Passion Project.



Celebrating 140 years in the Glass City

Maumee Valley Country Day School is celebrating its 140th year in Toledo with commemorative events planned throughout the school year. The school has been operating continuously since 1842 when it opened as a boarding school for young ladies in western New York. Three Toledo businessmen, who were sending their daughters to the school, convinced the owners to relocate to Toledo.

The school's first day of class in Toledo was Sept. 17, 1884, when it opened as Misses Smead's School for Girls. It eventually became known as the Smead School for Girls. For its first 50 years, classes were held in one of three locations in the central city. In the fall of 1933, the school became co-ed and adopted the name Maumee Valley Country Day School. On Sept. 17, 1934, the school opened at its current location on Reynolds Road.



A scene from
"Alice by Heart"
this spring.

Reaching for the stars

MV Theatre announces 2024-2025 lineup

The Arts

As the curtains rise on a new academic year, Maumee Valley Country Day School proudly presents its lineup for the upcoming 2024-2025 theater season, promising an array of performances for audiences of all ages. Ticketing information for each production will be announced closer to the performance dates. Mark your calendars and prepare to be dazzled!

"The Bald Soprano"

Sept. 10-11 (fall Intensive production): Kicking off the season with wit and absurdity, "The Bald Soprano" was a classic of the "Theatre of the Absurd." Set in a mundane English living room, the play explored the breakdown of communication between its characters in hilariously nonsensical ways.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"

Nov. 21-24: In this Tony Award-winning musical comedy, audience members are invited into the pressure-cooker world of competitive spelling. Follow a group of quirky adolescents as they vie for spelling glory and navigate the awkwardness of adolescence. Show times: Nov. 21-23 @ 7:30 p.m., Nov. 24 @ 2:30 p.m. (Rated PG for some middle school humor)

"Newsies Jr."

Jan. 31-Feb. 1: Our Lower and Middle School students combine forces to present "Newsies Jr." The show transports audiences to 1899 New York City, where a band of teenage newsboys fight against powerful newspaper tycoons. With infectious music and inspiring choreography, this production is a true crowd-pleaser. Show times: Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2025 @ 7 p.m. (Rated G)

"The Rimers Of Eldritch"

March 6-9: A haunting exploration of small-town America, "The Rimers Of Eldritch" delves into the lives of its inhabitants, revealing dark secrets and profound truths. Landford Wilson's masterful storytelling unfolds through interconnected vignettes that challenge perceptions of morality and community. Show times: March 6-8, 2025, @ 7:30 p.m., March 9 @ 2:30 p.m. (Rated PG for a scene of violence, trauma due to violence)

"The MT Cabaret"

April 2025 (Thespian Society): Closing the season with flair, "The MT Cabaret" showcases the extraordinary talents of Maumee Valley's musical theater department. From beloved classics to contemporary hits, this showcase promises an unforgettable evening of song and dance. Show times: April 2025 with specific dates and times TBA. (Rated G)



3 artworks selected for monthly exhibition

Congratulations to Lower School students **Bronson Latta '35**, **Phoebe McAndrew '34**, and **Brooklyn Nietz '33** who had their artwork featured this spring at The Armory Arts in Napoleon during the Northwest Ohio Youth Art Month Exhibition. Above, from left: Phoebe's "Rainbow Crochet," Bronson's "Heart Prints with Name," and Brooklyn's "Abstract Painting."



K/1 artwork appears in Findlay museum

Artwork created by Maumee Valley Kindergarteners and 1st graders was on display this summer at the University of Findlay's Mazza Book Museum, which houses the world's largest collection of original artwork by children's book illustrators. The students were invited to create artwork for the museum's student gallery. After reading the book *The Art Garden: Sowing*

the Seeds of Creativity, students observed and then learned how to draw a realistic daisy based on the flowers in the story. Using this new drawing skill, they went to the painting center to explore how to take a pastel drawing of a daisy and paint over it with liquid watercolor paint. Salt was then added to create a resist effect. Congratulations to these students:

Last year's Kindergarteners: **Carrington Avery, Jonah Bittner, Levon Fowler, Greycen Harris-Hannibal, Romana Imami, William Johnston, Lukas Ning, Lucy Snyder, Maggie Su, and Lucas Wong.**

Last year's 1st graders: **Maddie Ashford, Joey Karakas, Sahar Khaitan, Bronson Latta, JoJo Lippincott, Leah Marker, Malia McCary, Brent Parent, Aarush Prabhakar, James Prater, Queen Ubunama, and Ceci Ziegler.**

5 students' artwork chosen for FOCUS show

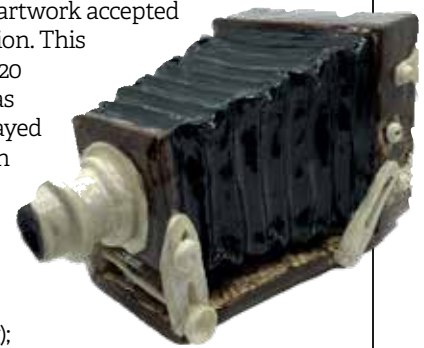
Five Upper School students had artwork accepted into the 2024 FOCUS Art Exhibition. This was a juried exhibition and only 20 percent of artwork submitted was accepted. The artwork was displayed at the BGSU Dorothy Uber Bryan Gallery this summer. The students and their pieces were:

Alexander Ni '24: "Concentration" (drawing),

"Self-Portrait" (drawing), and "All That is Taken From Us" (painting);

JJ Sills '24: "Mutation" (drawing and

"Clever Mind" (drawing); **Addy Jaffe '26:** "Keep Your Laws Off My Body" (mixed media); **Hannah Batista '26:** "Deardorff 5x7" (pictured above) (ceramic); and **Rylan Summers '24:** "Whims of Wood and Foliage" (ceramic).



Wolfe Gallery unveils 2024-2025 season

Maumee Valley Country Day School's Wolfe Gallery is set to showcase an exciting lineup of local and regional artists for the 2024-2025 season. The season kicked off with an exhibition by **Loraine Lynn '06**, whose work in fiber art is on display through Oct. 4 in an exhibit titled "This Yard Altered My Brain Chemistry." At right is one of the pieces on display. The other exhibits this year are:

- **Oct. 21-Dec. 6:** Charles Kanwischer (drawings)
- **Dec. 16-Feb. 21:** Brianna Deterling (ceramics)
- **March 7-April 18:** Justin Michael Will (illustrations)
- **May 2-June 4:** Upper School Art Exhibition

Receptions for the artists will be announced closer to each event, offering the community a chance to meet the creators behind the works on display.





Strings and Choral Concert

Student performers entertain audiences at seasonal concerts

Maumee Valley students showcased their diverse musical and artistic talents throughout a series of spring performances.

Student vocalists and musicians from the Middle and Upper Schools performed another stellar **Strings and Choral Concert** April 30 before family and friends. The vocalists sang selections from catchy pop (“Count on Me” by Bruno Mars) to the theatrical (selections from “Les Miserables”). They closed the show with “We Can Dream” by Pinkzebra.

With the theme of “Adventure Awaits!,” the instrumental pieces evoked the sounds of faraway places, from the Sahara and Kilimanjaro to the moon itself! The evening also featured several performances by the Lower and Middle School strings, who played from the pit as their older peers commanded the main Millennium stage.

The evening was special for eight seniors who performed a highlighted piece as a soloist or as part of a small ensemble. Each received a medal and a small bouquet for their contributions to the fine arts at Maumee Valley.

Thank you to all the students in grades 2-6 who entertained the Maumee Valley community on May 3 during the annual **String Concert**. We enjoyed the music and your performances!

Students in grades 7 and 8 displayed their artistic, musical, and acting talents May 8 during their **Spring Showcase**. Students took turns either presenting a group project, playing ukuleles, or acting out skits.

Kindergarten and 1st grade students presented their spring **K/1 Concert & Art Show** May 16 to classmates and families. The songs and dances borrowed themes from the book *The Noisy Paint Box: The Colors and Sounds of Kandinsky’s Abstract Art*. The book explores the artistic life of Wassily Kandinsky, one of the first painters of abstract art. Each K/1 classroom

String Concert



Spring Showcase



K/1 Concert & Art Show



also shared new insights gained regarding the properties of light, sound, and the solar eclipse. After the concert, guests had refreshments in the Dining Hall and viewed the students’ artwork.

Thank you to **Charles Brown**, grades 7-12 vocal music instructor; **Jenica Fox**; K-6 music teacher, 2-6 string teacher, and 4-6 choir teacher; and **Cecilia Johnson**, Lower, Middle, and Upper School string teacher, for their exemplary teaching and mentorship.

Welcome!

New team members bring energy, experience to MV

Maumee Valley Country Day School is excited to welcome our newest faculty, staff, and administrative leaders. Their arrival marks the continuation of our commitment to academic excellence. We also want to express our deep gratitude to our alumni, alumni families, and current employees who played a pivotal role in referring many of these outstanding candidates to us. In an era where schools across the nation are exploring innovative strategies to recruit and retain talent, Maumee Valley remains at the forefront, dedicated to achieving retention and satisfaction rates that surpass state and national averages. Together, with our new and returning team members, we are poised to create another year of remarkable learning experiences and meaningful connections. Welcome to Maumee Valley!

Aikia Carter *Lower School/Middle School Administrative Assistant*



Aikia joins Maumee Valley after an 11-year career at the Stellantis Toledo Assembly Complex in North Toledo. Her most recent role was as the administrative assistant

to the Executive Committee, where she provided comprehensive office support to committee members. Previously, she served as a logistics analyst, managing inventory and analyzing data to ensure production efficiency. Aikia also has a background in early childhood education, having worked in a five-star childcare facility where she studied Montessori and Reggio Emilia philosophies. Working with children is her passion, alongside her administrative and analytical expertise. She holds an associate's degree in applied business from Davis University, a bachelor of science in business administration from Lourdes University, and a Child Development Associate credential.

Adam Conley *Buildings and Grounds Team Member*



Adam brings a rich background in building and grounds maintenance. In his most recent role, Adam served as maintenance director at the YMCA of Greater Toledo,

overseeing all aspects of building care, including pool maintenance and staff management. His experience includes maintenance roles at Bon Secours Mercy Health, Northwest Electrical Contracting, Wood County, and The University of Toledo

Medical Center, where he handled various tasks from electrical work to plumbing. With a strong foundation in maintenance, his expertise spans various systems and settings, making him a valuable addition to our school community. He is a graduate of Clay High School, where he served as class president in his junior year.

Ryan Evans *K-3 Teaching Assistant*



Ryan joins us as a second-year teacher who most recently served as a K-5 reading intervention teaching fellow for Federal Hocking Local Schools. In that role, she

provided small-group phonics and fluency instruction to her caseload of students. She has also served as a substitute teacher for Athens-Meigs Educational Service Center; as a private literacy tutor; a summer camp teacher at the Toledo Zoo; and as a Learning Community Leader coordinator at Ohio University, a role for which she received Ohio University's Student Affairs Senior Leader Award in 2023. She holds a bachelor of science degree in early childhood and elementary education and a master's of education degree in reading education, both from Ohio University.

Salena Ferguson *Middle School/Upper School Counselor*



Salena brings extensive experience as a licensed social worker. Most recently, she served as a student assistance program coordinator for the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West.

In that role, she oversaw drug and alcohol prevention programming and provided evidence-based support to students in local school districts. She previously served as a waiver service coordinator at the Area Office on Aging, addressing the psychological and social well-being of clients over 60. At Ohio Guidestone, she supported pregnant and parenting students through individual and group counseling. Salena has also volunteered with organizations such as Lucas County Mental Health & Recovery Services and the Boys and Girls Club of America, demonstrating her commitment to community and mental health. She has more than 12 years of experience as a mental health professional, working in schools and building programs. She has a bachelor's degree and is working toward her master's degree in social work, both from The University of Toledo.

Collin Glenn *Assistant International Program Manager*



Collin brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the international program. His professional journey includes teaching English, business writing,

North American culture, and public speaking at the Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in Chengdu, China. Proficient in Mandarin, he has worked on international programs with the University of Delaware, Audencia Business School, and the University of Missouri-St. Louis. Collin has also co-owned Elite Fitness, a mixed martial arts and fitness center in Chengdu, served as a residential coordinator for GP Homestay, and provided academic support at the Cambridge Institute of International Education in Monroe, MI.

His extensive background in education and international program management makes him a valuable addition to the school community. He has a dual bachelor of arts degree in history and law and social thought, and a master of arts degree in political science, both from The University of Toledo.

Gabi Gurley *PreK/JK Teaching Assistant*



Gabi brings diverse experience from her role as a building substitute at Westside Montessori, where she worked with students as early as 13 months old up to 8th grade. She completed her student teaching at both the Montessori School of Bowling Green, where she taught daily lessons to children ages 3-6, and at Fostoria Elementary School (Fostoria, OH) in a preschool classroom. Additionally, Gabi has provided childcare as a nanny; a toddler aide at the Montessori School of Bowling Green; an assistant with the STARS program at Rossford Elementary (Rossford, OH); and as a daycare team member at Lifetime Fitness (Mason, OH). She has a bachelor of education degree in human development and inclusive early childhood education from Bowling Green State University.

Ashley Harman *Part-Time Maintenance Team Member and PreK/JK Floater*



Ashley is joining Maumee Valley in the dual roles of part-time maintenance team member and part-time floater in the PreKindergarten/Junior Kindergarten classrooms. Ashley brings a diverse background in property management, customer service, and team leadership. For the past four years, she has been staying at home with her children and nannying for other families. She previously served as an assistant community manager at Windsor West Apartments, where she managed maintenance schedules, coordinated with vendors, and ensured timely completion of all facility-related tasks. Her experience in sales management, including roles at Ashley Furniture and Victoria's Secret, honed her interpersonal and time-management skills. Her career in retail management at Target and Tillys further developed her ability to lead teams and maintain operational efficiency, qualities she now brings to Maumee Valley.

Julie Hicks *Intervention Specialist*



Julie has extensive experience as an intervention specialist, including roles at the Educational Service Center of Lake Erie West and Oregon City Schools, where she excelled in implementing IEPs, facilitating professional development, and supporting literacy interventions. She has served on various Ohio Department of Education committees and the National Advisory Panel for ETS/Praxis Reading Specialist exams. In addition, she is a certified IMSE Orton-Gillingham Structured Literacy Specialist and a LETRS Regional Facilitator. She is dedicated to fostering personalized learning and resiliency for students with learning challenges and speaks and publishes regularly regarding her work, including this September at the 36th Annual Symposium, sponsored by the Northern Ohio branch of the International Dyslexia Association. She has a bachelor of science degree in speech-language pathology and a master of education degree in special education, both from The University of Toledo. She has Ohio licenses as a reading specialist (PreK-12) and as an intervention specialist mild-moderate (K-12).

Lindsey Konrad *Part-Time Math Teacher (Grades 7-8)*



Lindsey brings experience as both an in-person and online instructor to her role as the part-time math teacher for grades 7 and 8. A passionate and innovative teacher with expertise in 7-12 mathematics, she has taught math at Whitmer High School (Washington Local Schools) and for the Electronic Classroom of Tomorrow and Ohio Virtual Academy. She enjoys engaging students with interactive lessons to facilitate critical thinking and problem-solving skills and is adept at using growth mindset techniques to encourage students' motivation and growth. Lindsey has experience in developing lesson plans and both group and one-on-one instruction. She has a bachelor of science degree in business from Miami University and a master in education degree (7-12 mathematics) from The University of Toledo.

Niki McCoy *Director of Residential Life*



Niki is the new director of residence life. Her most recent position was program manager at Sunshine Communities in Maumee. Other experiences include regional director of the YMCA of Greater Chicago and a social worker and therapist at Steel City Academy (Gary, IN). A graduate of Sylvania Northview High School, she was named to the 1st Team All-Ohio basketball for Division I in her senior year. She earned a bachelor of liberal science degree from Bowling Green State University, where she also played on the girls' varsity basketball team. She has a master's degree in social work from DePaul University and served in the U.S. Navy from 2009 to 2012.

Angela McCray-Hancock *Head of Middle School*



With nearly 30 years of experience as a teacher and administrator in independent and public schools both in the United States and overseas, Angela has taught in England, Japan, Costa Rica, California, Michigan, and North Carolina. She has experience as a 4th-8th grade teacher specializing in math and science, and has served as an assistant principal, lower and middle school director of curriculum and instruction, and STEM coordinator. Most recently, she served as the K-8 academic dean—with a year as interim middle school head—at Canterbury School in Greensboro, NC. Raised in Detroit, she is excited to be back in the Midwest and closer to family. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in educational leadership, both from Oakland University.

Kara Nachtrab *Long-Term Substitute for 4th Grade*



Kara brings diverse professional and community experience to Maumee Valley. Most recently, she served as a special education teacher at Sylvania Schools, where she planned lessons, graded assignments, and supported students in a mild/moderate classroom. An active community member

in Sylvania and Toledo, she has held roles such as chairperson for St. Joseph's Church Giving Tree and PTO secretary at St. Joseph's School. Her background also includes a successful career with Takeda Pharmaceuticals, where she excelled as a sales representative, earning top regional awards. Kara is known for her organizational skills, enthusiasm, and ability to work effectively with diverse personalities. She has a bachelor of science degree in marketing from The Ohio State University and a master's degree in education from Lourdes University.

Ashley Ouimet *6th Grade Teacher*



Ashley joins Maumee Valley from Fostoria City Schools (Fostoria, OH), where served as a middle school technology teacher focusing on

advancing students' technology skills and integrating lessons across subjects. She also worked as an academic interventionist at Springfield Local Schools, specializing in phonics intervention and student development. Her role as a curriculum designer for Ink Splash involved creating tailored curriculum and assessment materials. At Whiteford Agricultural Schools (Ottawa Lake, MI), she taught 6th grade, chaired the department, and led curriculum development efforts. She also has taught 7th and 8th grade for Toledo Public Schools. She emphasizes project-based learning, critical thinking, and leveraging educational technology to enhance student engagement and learning outcomes. She has a bachelor of science degree in international relations from Central Michigan University and a master's degree in middle childhood education from The University of Toledo.

Heather Rakoskik *7-12th Grade Physical Education Teacher and Assistant Athletic Director*



Heather begins a new role as the 7th-12th grade physical education teacher, Upper School health teacher, and assistant athletic director. She joined Maumee Valley in the

fall of 2022 as the Lower and Middle School physical education teacher and LS athletic director, while also coaching various sports. She previously taught at The Columbus Academy (Gahanna, OH) as a middle/lower school physical education and

aquatics teacher and coached basketball and lacrosse. Heather also taught and coached softball and basketball collegiately for 18 years at Kenyon College, Bucknell University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Hiram College, and Defiance College. She has a bachelor of arts degree in health and physical education from Muskingum University, where she competed in basketball and softball. In addition, she holds a master of arts degree in education from Defiance College.

Drew Ross *Upper School History Teacher*



Drew brings a strong background in history education and dedication to student success in his new role. He also has extensive experience from his role as a history instructor at

BASIS Independent Silicon Valley Upper School (San Jose, CA), where he taught AP U.S. History and World History with an impressive AP pass rate of 96 percent. He also coached cross country and track and field and advised several extracurricular clubs. Previously, he taught history, logic, and economics at Challenger School (San Jose). He has experience as a researcher, guest lecturer, and teaching assistant at Baldwin Wallace University and has tutored students for AP history exams. He has a bachelor of arts degree in history and theater from Baldwin Wallace and a master of arts degree in history from San Jose State University.

Kristen Sanders *Kindergarten-7th Grade Art Teacher*



Kristen has more than 21 years of experience in art education. She has served as an art instructor at the Toledo Museum of Art for students ages 5-18 since 2003 and

taught grades Kindergarten through 8th grade at Christ the King Elementary School. Kristen excels in two- and three-dimensional arts, including sculpture, ceramics, jewelry making, printmaking, drawing, painting, and photography. She is a Golden Apple nominee, certified yoga instructor, and has organized numerous student art exhibitions. Her work has been showcased in exhibitions at the Toledo Museum of Art and the Ohio Jewelers Association, among others. She is known for her dedication, flexibility, and effective integration of core subjects into art curriculum. She has a bachelor of arts

degree in painting and photography from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in art education from The University of Toledo.

Dona Schwalm *Middle School Math Teacher*



Dona returns to Maumee Valley this year in the new role of Middle School math teacher. She served last year as a Middle School science and social studies teacher for 4th

and 6th graders. She has been a substitute at Maumee Valley since 2007 and a teacher assistant for both the Lower School and Middle School. She has served in teaching and substitute roles for school districts in Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio. She has a bachelor of science degree in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University and a master of education degree in curriculum and instruction from Walden University.

Morgan Seavolt *Lower School/Middle School Physical Education Teacher and Assistant Athletic Director*



Morgan joins Maumee Valley having taught and observed a wide range of age groups, from young 5s to 12th grade, across various schools. She has worked in elementary and

middle schools for Hudson Area Schools (Hudson, MI); elementary, intermediate, and high schools for Tecumseh Public Schools (Tecumseh, MI); and elementary schools for Adrian Public Schools (Adrian, MI). Her hands-on experience includes developing and teaching health and physical education lessons, facilitating diverse activities, and supporting students' overall physical well-being. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in health and physical education from Adrian College, where she was a four-year member of its acrobatics and tumbling team.

Jasmine Smith**Associate Director of Admission**

Jasmine joins with a background in both education and community engagement in the Toledo area. For the past 10 years, she was a math educator for Toledo Public Schools (Bowsher and Scott high schools). In that role, she implemented state curriculum and collaborated with other educators on student progress tracking. Her leadership roles include serving as an education liaison with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Toledo and as a participant in Leadership Toledo's SPARK Program, where she honed grant-writing skills for nonprofit support. She also has worked in donor engagement with the nonprofit Young Life Toledo City. She has a bachelor of arts degree in education from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree in educational theory and social foundations from The University of Toledo.

Mike Valentine**Director of Buildings and Grounds**

Mike joins Maumee Valley from Mason Consolidated Schools (Erie, MI), where he was operations director/working operations director. He also has held general maintenance, boiler operator, and groundskeeper roles at Monroe Public Schools (Monroe, MI) and as a machinist at Colonial Tool (Taylor, MI). He earned his operations director certification from the Michigan School Business Officials organization. His other operator certifications include boiler, powered industrial truck, and aquatic facility operations.

Holly Wallace**5th Grade Teacher**

Holly brings a wealth of experience in both teaching and educational leadership. She served as principal and director of summer programming for Monroe Public Schools (Monroe, MI) from 2018 to 2023 and as the district's curriculum specialist from 2015 to 2022, where she implemented K-12 adoptions in all content areas. Holly has extensive experience in curriculum development, professional development, student and family engagement, and school improvement. She has led numerous initiatives, supervised and evaluated educators, and coordinated programs

to enhance student learning. She has taught many grade levels, including all grades 1st through 6th. She has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Michigan State University and a master's degree in the art of teaching from Marygrove College.

Morgan Weber**Kindergarten and 1st Grade Teacher**

Morgan joins Maumee Valley from Sylvania Schools, where she recently served as a 1st grade long-term substitute. Her other Sylvania experiences include student teaching in a Kindergarten classroom, substitute teaching across various elementary grades, and as a Kindergarten long-term substitute. She also has worked as a tutor to close academic gaps with students from Kindergarten through 8th grade. Previously, she has taught science education at nature centers and metroparks. Morgan has also worked as a zookeeper before transitioning into education full-time. She has a bachelor of arts degree in zoo and wildlife biology from Malone University and a master's degree in teaching elementary education from Western Governors University.

Jade West**Director of Human Resources**

Jade has seven years of experience in private K-12 education, including five years at Brightside Academy in Toledo where she was academy director. In that role, she oversaw all HR functions for a staff of 30. Most recently, she was the admissions and enrollment manager at Cardinal Stritch Catholic High School and Academy. A graduate of Start High School, she earned a bachelor's degree from The University of Toledo in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in human resource management.

Robin Wheeler**Interim Head of Lower School**

With more than three decades of experience in private K-12 education, Robin brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to our community. Her diverse background includes roles as a teacher, principal, and director, providing her with a comprehensive understanding of the educational

landscape. Most recently, Robin served as the Lower School director at Charles Wright Academy in Tacoma, WA, where she made a significant impact on student learning and community engagement. Her extensive international experience, including teaching and leadership roles in Brazil, Ecuador, and Colombia, further enriches our global perspective. Robin holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Emporia State University, a master's degree in K-12 administration from Michigan State University, and an advanced leadership certificate from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Colleen Wilson**Kindergarten and 1st Grade Teacher**

Colleen brings extensive experience from roles in various educational settings. She has demonstrated her versatility by teaching across multiple grade levels and adapting lessons to meet diverse needs. Her commitment to student progress is evident through her data-driven approach and strong communication with parents and colleagues. She has a range of leadership experiences, from serving as a grade band (3-5) lead teacher, a building (K-8) lead teacher, and a member of the building leadership team where she co-authored a school improvement plan. She is excited to provide students the opportunity to engage with nature, find their passion, fuel their curiosity, and encourage creativity and imagination along the way. She has a bachelor of arts degree from The Ohio State University and a master of education degree in early childhood from The University of Toledo.

Vivian Zhang**Residential Life Associate**

Vivian joins from Chengdu, China, where she owned Speakeasy English Tutoring Services and offered customized English language programs and maintained high client retention rates. Previously, she served as an international student host parent with GP Homestay (Monroe, MI) and as a regional manager for Hello Kitty in Chengdu. She also worked as a tour guide with Sichuan Everbright International Tours. Fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, and English, she is committed to mentoring and supporting students. A Tai Chi competitor and certified cook, she holds a bachelor of science degree in international finance from Sichuan Tian Yi College.



Athletic Hall of Fame recognizes greatness



Maumee Valley Country Day School launched its first-ever Athletic Hall of Fame this fall, marking a historic moment for the school community.

The first induction ceremony took place Sept. 20 and was a memorable event by setting the tone for honoring those individuals who have left an indelible mark on Hawk athletics over the decades.

The first inductees were **Jim Fish** and **Terri Herrmann**, both beloved figures at Maumee Valley. Their teaching and coaching careers and support of MV athletics parallel each other very closely, starting in 1987 when they became first-year teachers at Maumee Valley.

“Jim and Terri have direct ties to the success of many teams and countless athletes,” said Rob Conover, MV’s athletic director. “The MV community owes a large debt to each for the commitment they made to the school and its families. Their selection as inaugural inductees into the Maumee Valley Athletic Hall of Fame is well deserved.”

Known for her unwavering dedication as a physical education teacher and coach, Herrmann embodied the spirit of excellence and sportsmanship that defines Hawk athletics. Her induction served as a testament to her enduring impact on generations of students and athletes.

“I am incredibly honored and humbled to be one



of the first inductees into the Maumee Valley Athletic Hall of Fame,” she said. “My journey here has been one of immense joy and fulfillment, and to be recognized in this way is truly a highlight of my career.”

Fish guided MV athletics as it emerged from playing largely as an independent program to becoming a founding member of the Toledo Area Athletic Conference, all while teaching and being an assistant coach. He and his wife Nancy continued to serve MV after the school year ended by serving as co-directors of SummerTime’s Hob Haven Day Camp for nearly two decades.

“Being inducted into the inaugural class is a tremendous honor, one that celebrates not just my journey, but the dedication and spirit of every athlete and team I’ve had the privilege to coach and work with,” Fish said. “At Maumee Valley, we’re not just Hawks; we’re a community that values excellence and teamwork. This recognition is a testament to the enduring legacy of sportsmanship and achievement that defines our school.”

The Hall of Fame, situated prominently within the school’s athletic wing, serves as a tribute to not only outstanding athletes but also to coaches, parents, and community members whose contributions have elevated Hawk athletics. This initiative reflects Maumee Valley’s commitment to honoring its rich sports legacy and inspiring future generations to excel both on and off the field.

“The Athletic Hall of Fame is a celebration of our school’s athletic history and the remarkable individuals who have shaped it,” Conover said. “It is a fitting tribute to their dedication and achievements.”

Submit a nomination

Future nominations will be accepted throughout the year, with decisions on each new Hall of Fame Class made in the spring. New inductees will be honored at a ceremony during Homecoming Weekend.

If you have questions or would like to nominate someone, please contact Rob Conover, MV athletic director, at rconover@mvcds.org.



Jim Fish (far right, back row) was an assistant coach on the varsity soccer team that made it to the state quarterfinals.

Jim Fish

Longtime leader of MV athletics

Jim Fish P '00, '01, '05 joined Maumee Valley in 1987 as a physical education teacher working with preschool, Lower School, and Middle School students. In the spring of 1990, then Head of School Phineas Anderson named him athletic director, a position he would hold for the next 27 years through his retirement at the end of the 2017 school year.

A lifelong Northwest Ohio resident and 1975 graduate of Bowling Green State University (where he played rugby for three years), he was one of the original architects of the Toledo Area Athletic Conference (TAAC), which formed in 1988 with four founding members, including Maumee Valley. "We worked really hard to make it work," he recalled of the collaboration among schools. "If five of the member schools participated in a sport, then we made it a league sport." (For his efforts in building the TAAC and his accomplishments as an athletic director and coach, he was inducted into the TAAC Hall of Fame in the fall of 2018.)

Before the TAAC's formation, Maumee Valley competed mostly as an independent, although the boys' soccer program was at one time a member of the Northwest Ohio Scholastic Soccer League.

As athletic director, he worked to get both students and prospective coaches (he worked with as many as 35 head and assistant coaches during a typical MV season) excited about creating and sustaining teams. "Those were some of the successes I enjoyed as an AD—getting kids involved in sports," he said. "Some kids tried it, and they moved on, and I thanked them for trying."

"It wasn't a win-at-all-cost kind of thing. If you've done your best, you haven't really lost," he said. "There's honor in that."

Success did come to MV athletes under his leadership, so much so that he created the tradition of having plaques made to honor students who competed at or were

recognized at a state level. "It seems that almost every year, we had one athlete or a relay team down in Columbus at States," he said. "I'm proud that during my time as AD, our very academic school became more of a broader school, with athletics being an important part as well."

During his tenure as athletic director, he served as a coach, mostly as an assistant for 28 years with the boys' soccer team. He also coached both Middle School and Upper School track and field and served as head coach of the boys' golf team in 1994 for its inaugural season. He was a member of the 2004 soccer staff that led a Hawk team (including son **Adam '05** as keeper) and its 23-game winning streak into the Regional finals, a game witnessed by more than 4,300 in Findlay. For his contributions that season, other TAAC soccer coaches selected Fish as "Assistant Coach of the Year."

It was during his leadership as athletic director that Maumee Valley raised \$70,000 to build a home field for the baseball team, which then was practicing at Woodsdale Park or on the campus grounds while playing all games away.

The first Fish to work for Maumee Valley wasn't Jim, but Nancy, who had a 42-year MV career as a teacher and member of the student support staff. The couple married in 1976, and she joined as a teacher the following year. In 1986, he and Nancy became co-directors of MV's summer camp, Hob Haven, along with Chuck and Ann Sprandel. In 1987, the Fishes became sole camp coordinators and continued in those roles for 20 years.

For their ongoing contributions to campus, the Fishes received the Alumni Parent Dedication Award in 2018. In 2010, Jim received the Alumni Centennial Award for Faculty Excellence; Nancy received the award in 1991. Together, they sent three children (all Lifers) through Maumee Valley: daughters **Megan '00** and **Kara '01** and son Adam.

"I never said I was going to work while I was at Maumee Valley," he recalled. "I always said I was going to school because it felt like I learned something every day."



Terri Herrmann was both a successful field hockey coach as well as architect of much of the Lower Schools' athletic programs, including Field Day.

Terri Herrmann

Architect of field hockey dominance

Fresh out of college, **Terri Herrmann P '16, '19** applied to Maumee Valley in 1986 for a part-time junior varsity field hockey coaching position. Although she had never played or coached field hockey, with her background playing college softball at The University of Toledo, her natural athleticism, her ongoing willingness to study the sport, and having varsity field hockey coach Kathy Hudson as her mentor, she tackled the position head on.

Because of her obvious fondness of the program and Maumee Valley, she was hired in 1987 as a full-time preschool and Lower School physical education teacher and Upper School coach. It was soon after her first year at MV that Terri realized the need for a Lower School athletic program. She created the Lower School basketball program for grades 1-6, the Lower School girls' field hockey program for grades 3-6, and the Lower School track and field program for grades 3-6. While coaching many of these programs, she was also the Lower School director of athletics.

Each June, Terri created and facilitated a fun-filled Field Day for all Lower School students.

Four years after coaching junior varsity field hockey, Terri became the varsity field hockey coach and built one of the area's strongest field hockey programs while also being an incredible role model for the athletes she served.

During this time, the Maumee Valley and Ottawa Hills field hockey teams were not a part of any state league. Terri wrote the proposal for the teams to be allowed to join the Cleveland Field Hockey League. The acceptance was instrumental in providing many rewarding opportunities for MV athletes, such as consideration for All-League and All-State honors.

Maumee Valley field hockey players competed every year against powerhouse teams. With her dedication and drive for

the program, she led teams that dominated on both ends of the field through her final year of coaching in 2021. Because of her coaching and mentoring abilities, many of her athletes played at the collegiate level.

One of the athletes she coached was daughter **Shannon '19**, who was named to the All-Ohio Field Hockey Team, which recognizes the best 19 players in the state. (Son **Jack '16** is also an alumnus.)

She led the Hawks four times into the state quarterfinals (also known as the Elite Eight), despite Maumee Valley having the smallest enrollment of any of the 36 Ohio schools then competing in girls' varsity field hockey. One of those more remarkable and accomplished teams was in 2011, when only two of the 19 athletes were seniors.

Terri also coached girls' varsity basketball for eight years, including the memorable 2017-2018 team that finished as co-champs, the first-ever girls' TAAC title. For her efforts, Terri was named the 2018 TAAC "Coach of the Year." The Hawks compiled an 11-3 conference record, a big improvement over their winless season three years earlier.

Terri was known around the region by fellow coaches for her mastery of sportsmanship, sound scheme, and strategy. She taught and coached six teams each year until her retirement at the end of the 2022 school year, when she and husband Mike moved to Tennessee. (They recently moved full time to Lake Oconee, GA.)

Terri was very involved in Maumee Valley activities beyond sports, such as chaperoning many student trips to Camp Storer and Camp Joy; tent-camping on South Bass Island; a backpacking Intensive trip in California; and ski trips to upper Michigan. She was also a trained facilitator of the indoor climbing wall and the Maumee Valley Adventure Challenge Low and High Ropes Course.

For her contributions in and outside the classroom, she received the Alumni Centennial Award for Faculty Excellence in 2005.



Championship seasons

Track and field, tennis teams win conference titles

Two varsity teams had stellar spring seasons, topped by winning titles in their respective leagues. Coming out on top in the Toledo Area Athletic Conference was the boys' varsity track and field team, which captured their first TAAC title since 1998. **Jack Dias P '21, '23**, the team's coach, was named the TAAC's "Coach of the Year." And the boys' varsity tennis team defended its Northern Buckeye Tennis League title.





Undefeated

Congratulations to the girls' 5th grade basketball team for an undefeated season and winning the Toledo Area Athletic Conference Youth League title on its home court. The girls and their coaches celebrated by cutting down the net. The MV 6th grade boys' basketball team finished as league runners-up.



Sectional champs

The boys' varsity basketball team capped a remarkable season by making it into the finals of Districts, where they finished as one of the top 32 Division IV teams in Ohio. A few weeks earlier, the team defeated North Central for the Sectional title, the Hawks' first since 2019.



Season celebration

The girls' varsity lacrosse team celebrated its season with an awesome season-ending pizza feed at Stubborn Brothers, attended by 22 of 23 players.

McCoy named to lead girls' basketball program

Maumee Valley this spring hired **Niki McCoy** to lead the development of its girls' basketball program. McCoy played basketball collegiately after a remarkable local high school career. She also joined the school in the full-time role of director of residential life, where she serves the student community at Dayal House.



"I am excited for the opportunity to build a program that prioritizes player mental health and a winning mindset while setting and holding high expectations," said McCoy, a highly accomplished high school and collegiate athlete. "I believe Maumee Valley is a perfect place to set a standard of success at the very beginning of this rebuilding process both on and off the court."

"We are beyond excited to have Coach McCoy and her staff take over our program," said Rob Conover, the athletic director at Maumee Valley. "Niki is a builder of people and programs. She understands the current state of our program and is excited for the opportunity to build it back stronger than ever. I am extremely thankful to have the opportunity to work with Coach McCoy."

"The timing is ideal, and I have seen the talent and drive of current athletes and younger players coming up. I can't wait to start working and developing our teams," McCoy said. "I am truly looking forward to getting started and showing our players that I am committed to battling alongside them to achieve every goal we set as a program."

McCoy was a four-year letter winner at Northview High School in Sylvania, where she scored more than 1,000 points. She helped to lead Northview teams to a 96-4 record in her four years as well as multiple Northern Lake League Championships and two Division I State Final Four appearances.

She attended the University of Akron, where she was named to the All-Freshman Team for the Mid-American Conference and was an All-MAC selection her second year when she averaged 16.1 points and 5.9 rebounds per game. She later transferred to Bowling Green State University where she earned All-MAC Tournament honors, topped the 1,000-point mark in her career, and averaged 13.2 points per game.

Join the Maumee Valley Boosters in fueling our community spirit!

Calling all parents and supporters to lend a hand and make a difference

We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to power our mission of excellence, especially by taking shifts inside our beloved food trailer. By dedicating your time, you're not just serving up delicious treats, you also are fueling opportunities for our students and enhancing their educational experience. Whether you are a culinary connoisseur or simply eager to contribute, your involvement makes a significant impact! Contact **Rob Conover**, athletic director, at rconover@mvcds.org to express your interest.



Students perform well in class, on field

Congratulations to our 2023-2024 student-athletes for their remarkable achievements on and off the field. Their cumulative grade-point average across all varsity sports was 3.92! Leading the way was the boys' tennis team, whose athletes averaged a 4.18 GPA.



Golf team swings into action

Congratulations to two MV golfers for earning All-TAAC honors this year. Earning 1st Team was **Cranston Bannister '26** (pictured above with medal). Earning 2nd Team was **Yesh Rathore '26** (fourth from left). The athletes are pictured above at the Wauseon Boys Invitational in early August. Cranston shot a personal-best 76 on the Ironwood Golf Course, only one stroke behind the winner. As a team, the Hawks finished eighth. Pictured (from left) are Head Coach **Milton Carswell Jr.**, **Anushka Rathore '28**, **Cranston**, **Yesh**, **Harlan Poupard '27**, and **Cam Lloyd '27**. Not pictured: **Jet Conover '28**.

4 Hawks enjoy Signing Day ceremonies

Four Hawks signed letters of intent to play collegiately, and all had a chance to shine this spring by taking part in traditional signing ceremonies. The athletes (now alumni) were:

- **Amani-Jordan Chandran-Dickerson '24** (basketball) is attending Capital University. He was named Special Mention Division IV All-State. The Comets are members of the Ohio Athletic Conference (Division III).
- **Tom Lin '24** (cross country) is attending Brandeis University. The Judges are members of the University Athletic Association (Division III).
- **CJ Majors '24** (basketball) is attending Cowley College. Majors was named 3rd Team Division IV All-State. The Tigers are members of the National Junior College Athletic Association.
- **Kashi Tomic '24** (soccer) is attending Kenyon College. The Owls are members of the North Coast Athletic Conference (Division III).

MV cheers on state-bound 4x100 team

Maumee Valley cheered on its 4x100 relay team in May as it headed to Dayton to compete in the OHSAA Track and Field State Tournament. Team members (from left) were **Joshua Wang '25**, **Demetre Wheeler '25**, **Ryan Cui '24**, and **Izek Royer '24**. The squad was seeded 14th in Division III and finished fourth in Regionals (44.62).



MS track, field does well at invitational

The Middle School track and field team had a remarkable day in April at the Montpelier Invitational against 13 other teams. Leading the way was **Jenna Ridi '28**, who won two events and set two new Maumee Valley Middle School records: 17:08 (prelims) in the 100m hurdles and 31.35 (finals) in the 200m hurdles, which also set a new Invitational record. Also setting a new MV record (55.50) and taking second overall was the girls' 4x100m relay team of (pictured above, from left) **Amaiya Simmons '29**, **Sophia Caillaux '28**, **Delajiah Lacey '28**, and **Jasmyn Nupp '28**. Jasmyn also finished second in the girls' 200m dash (28.41).



Students in grades 3-6 win home meet

Maumee Valley athletes in grades 3-6 not only hosted but won their home track meet in May. Competing schools were St. Patrick of Heatherdowns, St. Ursula Academy, Trinity Lutheran, and St. Joan of Arc. Nowhere was the Hawk performance more dominant than in the 100m races. Both boys and girls swept the top three spots. For the girls, it was **Madison McCary '30**, **Mallory Amonette '30**, and **Shyah Stewart '31**. For the boys, it was **Sagun Patibandla '30**, **Marquis Hayes '30**, and **Eduardo Lima '30**.

Track and field teams excel at TAAC Championships

The Middle School co-ed track and field team had an exceptional day at the TAAC Championships in May:

- The girls' 4x200 placed 1st (**Sophia Caillaux '28, Chaarvi Baskara '28, Delaijah Lacey '28, Jasmyn Nupp '28**).
- **Jenna Ridi '28** placed 1st in 100m and 200m hurdles.
- **Chaarvi Baskara '28** placed 2nd in the 200m hurdles.
- **Luke Oberlin '29** placed 3rd in the 1600m.
- **Amaiya Simmons '29** placed 3rd in the 200m dash.
- The girls' 4x100 placed 1st (**Caillaux, Nupp, Simmons, Lacey**).
- **Jasmyn Nupp '28** placed 1st in the 200m dash.
- **Sophia Caillaux '28** placed 1st in long jump.
- **Delaijah Lacey '28** placed 2nd in the 100m dash.
- **Amaiya Simmons '29** placed 3rd in the 100m dash.
- **Luke Oberlin '29** placed 3rd in the high jump.

The varsity squad also performed exceptionally well. Event champions were:

- Boys' 4x100 relay: **Ryan Cui '24, Demetre Wheeler '25, Izek Royer '24, Josh Wang '25**
- Boys' 4x200: **Ryan Cui '24, Gabe Skinner '26, Demetre Wheeler '25, Josh Wang '25**
- Boys' long jump: **Izek Royer '24**
- Boys' high jump: **Ryan Cui '24**

Finishing as runners-up in their respective events were:

- Girls' 4x200: **Selena Young '27, Penny Weiner '26, Michelle Li '25, Isabella Stueve '27**
- Boys' 100m: **Demetre Wheeler '25**
- Boys' 400m: **Gabe Skinner '26**
- Boys' 300m hurdles: **Alex Ni '24**
- Boys' 200m: **Demetre Wheeler '25**
- Boys' 4x400: **Alex Ni '24, Cranston Bannister '26, Will Quaid '26, Gabe Skinner '26**
- Girls' long jump: **Penny Weiner '26**
- Boys' discus: **Cameron Chua '27**

Fly high with Hawk Nation pride!



Dive into our online spirit store, your one-stop destination for all things Maume Valley Country Day School! From cozy blankets to stylish drinkware and eye-catching decals, Maume Valley has everything you need to showcase your love for Maume Valley in style.

Wrap yourself in the warmth of Hawk Nation with premium blankets, perfect for cozy nights or spirited picnics. Sip in style with our sleek drinkware, featuring the iconic

MV logo, ensuring every sip is filled with school spirit. And don't forget to deck out your belongings with our vibrant decals, letting everyone know you are proud to be part of the Maume Valley community. Whether you're a student, alumni, parent, or faculty member, our spirit store has something for everyone. Visit our online store and gear up to be a true Hawk ambassador wherever you go. Find the link at mvcds.org/sports.



Celebrating the Class of 2024

A Year of Achievement



Congratulations Class of 2024!

As we said farewell to the remarkable Class of 2024 at Maumee Valley Country Day School, we reflected on their journey filled with perseverance, growth, and countless achievements. From academic excellence to artistic brilliance, and everything in between, this class left an indelible mark on our community.

“Seniors, you are ready. You have the skills to find your way, and there is no challenge you can’t tackle,” said Lynn Casto, Head of School. “Your parents, the teachers, and I are all ready to see you soar, and soar you will.”

During the ceremony, two senior awards were bestowed. **Maya Cecil '24** received the Maumee Valley Prize for best exemplifying among students the elements of growth, change, and personal maturation during their high school years. And **Alexander Ni '24** received the Head of School Award, which recognizes an individual who has combined a strong academic record with strength of character, leadership and citizenship, and who has made the most significant contribution to the general good of the school.

This year's commencement speaker was **Dr. Vin Gupta '01**, a Lifer at Maumee Valley and a national leader in public health who serves in multiple roles across the United States health care system. Described as the nation's most recognizable medical expert after Dr. Anthony Fauci, Dr. Gupta is a practicing pulmonologist who currently serves as a medical analyst for NBC News and MSNBC and as the chief medical officer of Amazon Health Services.

“I have known no greater honor than to be here today to honor all of you,” Dr. Gupta said. “Thank you for this privilege, congratulations on your achievements, and welcome to the next, exhilarating phase of your life as an alumnus.”

He shared five lessons learned from his own life with graduates: embrace change as the only constant in the universe and to be adaptable; forego dogma and always be curious; seek impact at scale as your north star; you will experience failure and that is ok and to be expected; and that kindness always wins.



Dr. Vin Gupta '01



Maya Cecil





Before their Senior Dinner, members of the Class of 2024 gathered on the steps of the Wolfe Gallery for a final photo op with friends and families.



Alexander Ni





Class of 2024 Awards

Upper School Awards (DEPARTMENTAL AND ATHLETIC)

Presented at the annual Awards Ceremony on June 3, 2024

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECIPIENT

Sagar Joshi

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Karen Chen

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMMENDED STUDENTS

Zachary Kiehl
Yunrong Qian
Phoebe Schocket
Helen Yan

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

Karen Chen
Sagar Joshi
Alexander Ni
Gurnoor Patti
Yunrong Qian
Phoebe Schocket
Annika Slotterbeck
Gracie Stough
Huangzhiyou Tang
Sida Tong
Helen Yan

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CERTIFICATION

Katheleeya Chua
Ehsan Darr
Sarah Elgamal
Noureddin Eltahawy
Cooper Gensler
Sagar Joshi
Andrew Knorek
Joss Newby
Gurnoor Patti
Somesh Saini
Phoebe Schocket
Aiden Skinner
Annika Slotterbeck
Jorge Soriano
Gracie Stough
Kaleb Tran

SEAL OF BILITERACY

Abigail Bleyer
Karen Chen
Katheleeya Chua
Sarah Elgamal
Zachary Kiehl
Gurnoor Patti
Madison Pienta
Yunrong Qian
Phoebe Schocket
Annika Slotterbeck
Jorge Soriano
Gracie Stough
Bowe Zheng

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Art Prize
Lanbin Ni & JJ Sills

J. Carroll Music Award
Zachary Kiehl

English Prize
Gurnoor Patti

Chinese Prize
Bowe Zheng

Global Scholars
Sarah Elgamal & Annika
Slotterbeck

International Student Award
April Vorontsova

Mathematics Prize
De Lin

*Marion D. Parsons Writing
Award*
Karen Chen

Theatre Prize
Isabella Uribe Paganessi

Science Prize
Yilin Chen

String Music Award
Andrea Liedberg

Vocal Music Award
Tyler Foster & Rylan
Summers

ATHLETIC AWARDS

*Joseph D. Didier
Soccer Award*
Asa Karns

*Robert W. Gosman
Memorial Trophy*
Gracie Stough &
Ziyue Zhang

*Donnie Taylor
Basketball Award*
Maya Cecil &
Christian Majors

*Outstanding Senior
Woman Athlete*
Maya Cecil &
Gracie Stough

*Douglas Whipple
Memorial Trophy*
Amani-Jordan
Chandran-Dickerson

Nuzum Award
De Lin



James Baker
Cornell University

Abigail Bleyer
Gap Year

Maya Cecil
University of Cincinnati

Amani-Jordan Chandran-Dickerson
Capital University

Karen Chen
Brown University

Xiaofei Chen
Rutgers University

Yilin Chen
University of Southern California

Brynn Chlebowski
Kent State University

Katheleeya Chua
The Ohio State University

Max Cragin
Connecticut College

Liyan Cui
Indiana University

Zetta Culkstena
Miami University

Ehsan Darr
Miami University

Sarah Elgamal
The Ohio State University

Noureddin Eltahawy
The Ohio State University

Holden Folk
Bowling Green State University

Tyler Foster
Sewanee: The University of the South

Cooper Gensler
Ohio Wesleyan University

Sagar Joshi
Purdue University

Asa Karns
University of Findlay

Zachary Kiehl
Carleton College

Andrew Knorek
Miami University

Feitong Li
Rutgers University

Andrea Liedberg
Savannah College of Art and Design

De Lin
Brandeis University

Christian Majors
Cowley College

Joss Newby
Allegheny College

Lanbin Ni
College of William & Mary

Gurnoor Patti
University of California, Berkeley

Devyn Pienta
Indiana University

Madison Pienta
Grand Valley State University

Yunrong Qian
University of Michigan

Izek Royer
The Ohio State University

Somesh Saini
Case Western Reserve University

Phoebe Schocket
Rice University

JJ Sills
Columbus College of Art & Design

Aiden Skinner
The Ohio State University

Annika Slotterbeck
Gap Year

Scott Smith
The University of Toledo

Jorge Soriano
Gap Year

Meadow Stiles
Miami University

Gracie Stough
University of Miami

Rylan Summers
Emerson College

Huangzhiyou Tang
Oberlin College and Conservatory

Vukašin Tomic
Kenyon College

Sida Tong
University of Michigan

Kaleb Tran
IBEW Local #8 Apprenticeship

Isabella Uribe Paganessi
Butler University

April Vorontsova
Cornell University

Helen Yan
The Ohio State University

Haodong Yu
University of Wisconsin - Madison

Ziyue Zhang
University of California, Davis

Bowei Zheng
The Ohio State University

Yikang Zhou
University of California, Davis



This photo took more than 12 years to set up, but it was worth every second. Introducing the Lifer group from the Class of 2024. From left are Sagar Joshi, Noureddin Eltahawy, Asa Karns, Maya Cecil, JJ Sills, Tyler Foster, James Baker, Abigail Bleyer, Sarah Elgamal, and Joss Newby.



The Fall Tournament and Homecoming Weekend gave students and families plenty to cheer about Sept. 20-21. The MV-hosted Fall Tournament featured 22 soccer and field hockey matches across campus over two days. The weekend started with a Friday afternoon pep rally, during which grades competed each other in games for bragging rights. Among the events were many tugs-of-war (left).

Homecoming 2024: A weekend to remember

Alumni returned to campus to celebrate tradition, reconnect with friends, and relive fond memories during Homecoming Weekend on Sept. 20-21.

One of the weekend's big events was the Alumni Awards Dinner. In partnership with the Alumni Council, Maumee Valley honored three individuals for their contributions to the school community and their professions. The dinner program also included the inaugural induction ceremony for the Maumee Valley Athletic Hall of Fame (see related stories starting on page 17).

These celebrations built on energy from the 89th Smead Luncheon, held May 17 in the Millhon Auditorium. Four individuals and a student group were honored at that event. Now with seven awards total, Maumee Valley, the Maumee Valley Family Association, and the Alumni Council are dividing the recognition ceremonies starting this year between the Smead Luncheon and Homecoming Weekend.



The Smead honorees (profiled in the following pages) were:

- Alumni Service Award: **Tyler Boehm '01**
- Spirit of MV Award: **Global Leadership Program**
- Alumni Achievement Award: **Dr. Amanda Gosman**
- Maumee Valley Family Association's Volunteers of the Year Award: **Angela Mabbitt '30** and **Dana Pienta '24**

Those honored during Homecoming Weekend were:

- Young Alumni Achievement Award: **Dr. Nirupama Yechoor '06**
- Lifetime Dedication Alumni Award: **Jewel Woodard '77, P '14**
- Alumni Parent Dedication Award: **Ron Euton P '78, '81, '83**
- Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees: **Jim Fish P '00, '01, '05** and **Terri Herrmann P '16, '19**

Tyler Boehm '01

Alumni Service Award



Tyler Boehm '01 is the co-chief executive officer and co-founder of Unapologetic Projects, a Los Angeles-based film company that works to tell underrepresented stories, actively fighting against the traditional movie financing model by valuing diversity and cultural authenticity over star power and big budgets. Most recently, he was an executive producer on the Focus Features release "Didi," which won the 2024 Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

Prior to Unapologetic Projects, he served as Vice President at Sobini Films, where he was in charge of development and production. His past film credits include "You Sing Loud, I Sing Louder," "JT. Leroy," "Mary Shelley," "Good Kill," and the British Independent Film Awards-winning "Filth."

After graduating from Maumee Valley in 2001, Tyler attended New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he graduated with a bachelor of fine arts degree from the Goldberg Department of Dramatic Writing and has been interweaving social justice elements with his filmmaking ever since.

Tyler has been a very active supporter of Maumee Valley while pursuing his filmmaking and storytelling passions. During the school's recent West Coast alumni tour, he hosted an alumni outreach event. He served on the Maumee Valley Alumni Council from 2016-2023 and as its president from 2021-2023. He represented the Council for two years on the MV Board of Trustees and continues to serve the board as a trustee. He co-chairs the board's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. He is the son of Gary Boehm, former head of school. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Jaimi, and sons Henry and Leo.



GLP

Spirit of MV Award

The **Global Leadership Program (GLP)** was the inaugural recipient of the Spirit of MV Award. This annual award will recognize student programs and/or groups who demonstrate a devotion to Maumee Valley and promote school spirit with integrity and honor. The Alumni Council created the award to honor the contributions of students before they become alumni.

GLP fosters the development of compassionate and aware global citizens as they acquire skills in leadership, communication, and civic action. The group supports Upper School students who embrace opportunities to learn more about world issues and events, make connections across borders, dedicate themselves to service, and demonstrate a strong commitment to preparing themselves to live in a globalized world.

It is the Upper School's largest extracurricular organization, with more than 50 members organized into four major activities: Issue Day, Community Outreach, Student Life, and Speaker Series. GLP is responsible for numerous extracurricular events, including food drives, speaker events, holiday celebrations from various cultures, and community service opportunities. GLP is also responsible for planning one international trip experience annually as part of Intensives, allowing students an opportunity to travel and experience a new culture, many of them for the first time.



Angela Mabbitt P '30 & Dana Pienta P '24

MVFA Volunteers of the Year Award

The Maumee Valley Family Association selected two recipients this year for its Volunteer of the Year Award: **Angela Mabbitt P '30** and **Dana Pienta P '24** (pictured above, left to right).

Angela has served as a member of the MVFA for several years and is considered the captain of its recess coverage contingent. She attends every MV family event ready to "do the work" so the kids can shine, said Brian Oliver, director of annual giving and family engagement.

Dana served as the "team parent" for the school's theater department. She dedicated countless hours of painting, coordinating, cleaning, cajoling, and celebrating MV student actors and crew members. She also chaired the 46th annual MV Gala, with its theme of "A Speakeasy Soiree." The event shattered records in sponsorship and net income. (See images starting on page 34)

"I am so pleased to celebrate these deserving community members for all they have done for MV this year," Oliver said.

Dr. Amanda Gosman '90 Alumni Achievement Award

If you had told **Dr. Amanda Gosman '90** when she was an MV student that she was going to be a plastic surgeon, she would have fallen off her chair in laughter. Three decades later, Dr. Gosman is a globally recognized expert on the topic and runs her own nonprofit foundation that helps address global health inequities.

Her interest in global health first emerged following a Winterim trip to Egypt during her junior year. "It was a shocking and life-changing event that opened my eyes to global equity and disparity contrasts that I previously never had even imagined," she said. "That trip directed a lot of my career from that time on and eventually led me to medical school to really think about how I could engage in global health in an equitable and ethical manner. Eventually, this led me to plastic surgery."

After Maumee Valley, she attended Cornell University and graduated in 1994 with a degree in urban and regional planning. She earned her medical degree from Case Western Reserve

University and completed her fellowship in craniofacial and pediatric plastic surgery and her residency training at the University of Texas, Southwestern. She also received training in international plastic surgery with ReSurge International (formerly Interplast).

Today, she is professor and chief of plastic surgery at the University of California San Diego; chief of plastic surgery at Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego; and the director of craniofacial and pediatric surgery. At the UC San Diego School of Medicine, she is director of the Plastic Surgery Residency Program and the Craniofacial Fellowship

Program. She also is the director of the Fresh Start Clinic for Craniofacial Anomalies at Rady Children's Hospital, where she performs reconstructive surgeries for children at no cost.

As a board-certified plastic surgeon, her clinical interests include cleft lip and palate surgery, pediatric and adult craniofacial surgery, and facial reconstruction. She has authored multiple publications and given lectures internationally on cleft lip and palate surgery, craniofacial surgery, quality of life, global surgery, and surgical education.

She has volunteered with numerous international organizations and provided care in more than 40 countries. She has successfully used telemedicine technology for more than 25 years to overcome logistical barriers to international healthcare and education, an outreach aided by her fluency in Spanish.

"I've had the opportunity to develop multiple humanitarian initiatives based off of this journey, and it really started in Maumee Valley and continues to this day," she said. (Her brother **Nathaniel '93** is also an alumnus.) These experiences led her in 2010 to create ConnectMed International (with other MV alumnus **Rita (Abbati) Albert '89**), a nonprofit that provides free reconstructive surgeries, comprehensive multidisciplinary care, and education to underserved communities around the world. She serves as both president and medical director and oversees all aspects of its medical and educational activities.

"I want to express my deepest gratitude to the Alumni Council, and especially to my parents James and Mary Ellen Gosman, without whom none of this would be possible and for bestowing upon me many gifts, one of which was the opportunity to attend Maumee Valley," she said. "It really changed my life's trajectory by opening my eyes to our larger, global community."



Ron Euton P '78, '81, '83 Alumni Parent Dedication Award

For nearly 60 years, **Ron Euton P '78, '81, '83** has expressed his devotion to Maumee Valley, first as a teacher and later as a parent, and more recently as a beloved faculty member who regularly attends school alumni and other outreach events.

The fact that he settled into one career and one place contrasts with his childhood. His father worked for a highway construction company at a time when the United States was rapidly building out its interstate highway map. As a result, Ron attended 13 elementary schools and six high schools, during which he rarely even collected a report card. His own children, raised with his late wife Bonnie, didn't have to worry about that. **Kelly '78, Holly '81, and Penny '83** were longtime students at Maumee Valley. (Sadly, Holly passed away in July 2024.)

After high school, he enrolled at Bowling Green State University, where he studied biology and history and worked in labs as a student instructor. He further developed his research skills across three summers in Oklahoma, where he was part of a team studying anthropology and geology as part of a National Science Foundation grant.

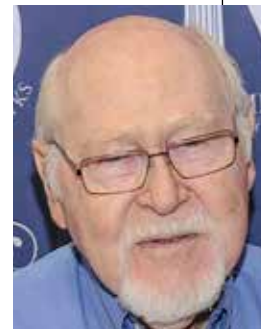
He taught biology for three years at Findlay High School before joining Maumee Valley in 1965. He initially taught biology and geology to 7th and 8th graders. He stayed at MV for the next 47 years, retiring in 2012 as the Upper School's chair of the history department. "I was attracted to the position at Maumee Valley in part because I was given the opportunity to create my own curriculum," he said.

While he eventually became primarily a history teacher, his love of science and exploration never ended. Funded in part through Millhon grants (awarded to faculty for summer professional development), he would organize student research expeditions. He and as many as 12 students traveled to places such as the Rocky Mountains and further west to California and British Columbia. He also offered a mini-block course (a precursor to both Winterims and Intensives) on backpacking across Isle Royale in northern Michigan as well as organizing backpacking trips on the Appalachian Trail during spring break. His versatility and wide-ranging interests even included offering a course on comedy during Winterim.

When not teaching, raising his family, or exploring the outdoors, he developed an interest in used and rare books and later in pop-up books. He had his own exhibit, featuring many of the 700-plus items in his collections, at a 2019 exhibit in the Wolfe Gallery. "I've been very interested in the engineering of the books and in the great variety of books that provide entertainment beyond simply reading them," he said.

For his contributions in and outside the classroom, Maumee Valley established the Ronald Euton Life of School Award to recognize his many contributions to the MV community over his distinguished career. It is awarded to the sophomore who has maintained a solid academic record and, like Ron, also made important contributions to the life of the school.

In 1985, he received the Alumni Centennial Award for Faculty Excellence, which is awarded annually to an MV teacher. He also was previously named the Virginia Secor Stranahan Chair for the Humanities.



Jewel Woodard '77, P '14 Lifetime Dedication Alumni Award

For nearly six decades, **Jewel Woodard '77, P '14** has been a steady presence on campus. First as a 4th grader and later as an alumnus, teacher, and alumni parent, the breadth of his engagement places him in an elite group of Maumee Valley enthusiasts. For his ongoing embrace of, and advocacy for, the school, he is receiving this year's Lifetime Dedication Alumni Award.



His involvement with Maumee Valley began when he was chosen as a participant in ABC (A Better Chance), a national program for identifying, recruiting, and developing leaders among underrepresented young people of color throughout the United States. In the 1960s, Maumee Valley became the first non-boarding independent school in the country to join the program at the time when Jewel was then attending Toledo Public Schools.

He started at Maumee Valley in the 4th grade; during his later years, he participated in sports (basketball, baseball) and the student choir. During his junior and senior years of high school, he was the on-field announcer for Maumee Valley's home football games.

"One of my big takeaways from my Maumee Valley experience was its emphasis on global experiences," Jewel said. "Not only were we encouraged to seek out other people and cultures, but were given the tools to better comprehend, appreciate, and celebrate the values and beliefs of others."

After graduating in 1977, he enrolled at Marietta College in Ohio, where he graduated with a degree in early elementary education. His first job as a teacher landed him back on campus in the Upper Intermediate (5th and 6th grade) area.

"Jerry Millhon called and asked if I wanted to fill an open teaching position," he said, recalling a conversation with the then Head of School. "Of course, I said yes, because teaching at Maumee Valley was my dream job." That dream job allowed him to work alongside some of the folks who had instructed him, teach some truly great students (some of whom he had known since his days as a student), and design his own curriculum. In addition to the academic responsibilities, he was also asked to coach boys' basketball, first beginning with the Middle School teams, then the junior varsity, and lastly assisting with the varsity squad.

He left MV in 1991, taking a full-time position with Toledo Public Schools, substitute teaching for a year for area school districts, and finally ending up at Frank Elementary (Perrysburg Schools), where he finished his teaching career in 2013. During this time, he and wife Donise enrolled son Thaddeus at Maumee Valley. **Thad '14** graduated as a Lifer and today is a third-year orthopedic surgery resident at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine.

"Donise and I learned that being a Maumee Valley parent came with an expectation to be active and involved, and we took those responsibilities seriously," he said. During the time that Thad was enrolled at MV, Jewel and Donise could be seen at countless sporting events, fine art activities, and alumni gatherings. Jewel even reprised his coaching duties, when he assisted fellow parent Nate Towns P '12, '15 to coach Middle School basketball.

He still actively engages with other people and cultures as a courtesy shuttle driver at Rouen Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram. "I tell people that while no school is perfect, Maumee Valley is pretty close," Jewel said with a wink and a smile.

Dr. Nirupama Yechoor '06 Young Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Nirupama Yechoor '06 is a neurointensivist and public health researcher at the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and the Henry and Allison McCance Center for Brain Health in Boston. As a clinician, Dr. Yechoor treats patients with severe brain injury and/or strokes, and she also serves as the associate fellowship director for the Neurocritical Care Fellowship at MGH. Dr. Yechoor runs a research lab that studies health care delivery, specifically through implementation science and health equity research in neurology and stroke care. Her research is currently funded by MGH, the American Academy of Neurology, and the American Heart Association (AHA).

As part of her AHA work, Dr. Yechoor was invited to speak to a neurocritical care audience. "The traditional approach [to studying health equity] is looking to see what makes our patients different such that they have worse outcomes. For example, we study race and income as determinants of clinical outcomes," she recently told *Currents*, a publication of the Neurocritical Care Society. "However, I think a new way forward could be [asking] how do we, as the health system, make decisions differently based on factors that lead to worse health outcomes? This shifts the paradigm to modifying our care, which is possible, and not simply focusing on factors we can't modify, such as someone's race."



Originally from Hyderabad, India, the Yechoor family moved to Toledo in 1994 to join their extended family: the late Dr. Gopinath Upamaka, his wife Anu Upamaka, and their children, Navin and **Neelima '09**. With Gopi's encouragement, Nirupama and her older sister Poornima enrolled at Maumee Valley in 1998. (**Poornima** graduated from MV in 2003, and is an emergency medicine physician in the Bay Area.) Dr. Yechoor's parents are both practicing physicians in Toledo, having served their community for more than 30 years. She credits most, if not all, of her success to the "three best humans I know": mom Satya, dad Siva, and sister Poornima.

After graduating from MV, Dr. Yechoor earned a bachelor of science degree in brain and cognitive sciences and biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); a master of science degree in global health and public policy from Duke University; and a doctorate of medicine degree from The Ohio State University. She completed her neurology residency at Barnes Jewish Hospital/ Washington University in St. Louis, MO, and her neurocritical care fellowship at Mass General Brigham/Harvard Medical School. She has board certifications from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology in both neurology and neurocritical care.

Dr. Yechoor thanked the Alumni Association for the nomination and award and extended her gratitude to the compassionate and dedicated educators of Maumee Valley.

"Maumee Valley is a very special and sacred place. Having an environment to grow and learn under the guidance of educators who go above and beyond to mentor their students is something I am truly grateful to have experienced," she said. "I especially want to thank a former Upper School teacher Dr. Daria Filippova, and current Middle School teacher Frank Daugherty for their lasting impacts. Dr. Filippova advocated every year for me to enroll in advanced math courses, and without her support, I would not have made it to MIT. Mr. Daugherty always encouraged me to be an individual, even if it wasn't the popular option. To feel seen as a middle schooler was truly special!"



MV Gala sets new record in style

Paddle campaign benefits faculty, staff

Friends and supporters of Maumee Valley Country Day School helped the 46th Annual MV Gala to net more than \$270,000 to support our educational mission.

The April 27 event at The Warehouse at Maumee Bay Brewing Co. was attended by more than 215 school supporters, many of whom dressed in era-appropriate clothing given the event's "Speakeasy Soiree" theme. Of the amount raised, more than a third—\$111,000—was pledged specially to support our faculty and staff salaries as part of the Raise the Paddle campaign.

"Your support, from attending the gala to donating items and contributing to our fundraising efforts, has once again demonstrated the extraordinary spirit of generosity and camaraderie that defines our community," said Lynn Casto, Head of School. "Together, we have proven time and again that when we come together as a community, there is no limit to what we can achieve."



Community members rise to the challenge

Leading the planning was an all-volunteer board of parents. We thank them for their time and energy!

- Dana Pienta P '24, Chair**
- Alan Bannister P '26**
- Sarada Das P '28, '34**
- Rachel Freeman P '30, '33, '34, '34**
- Maggie Hirt P '25, '27, '31, '34**
- Patti Moreno P '36**
- Reema Ridi P '23, '25, '28**
- Darius Zolnor P '33, '36, '37**



The 47th MV Gala will be Saturday, April 26, 2025.





All three women were in the front row at the groundbreaking ceremony on May 29, 2009, for the Under One Roof capital campaign. FRONT ROW (from left): Mary Sabin, MV director of advancement; Linda Deichert, campaign chair; Carol Bentley, grandparents division chair; Fritz Byers, president of the Board of Trustees; Hilary White, Board division chair; **Georgia Welles, honorary chair**; **Ann Stranahan, leader-at-large**; Leigh Ann Meinecke, faculty/staff division co-chair; **Joan Bayer, leadership gifts division chair**; Berkley Welles, honorary chair; Hopie Welles Jernagan, honorary chair; and David (Deke) Welles, Jr., honorary chair. BACK ROW: Jason Zajac, campaign counsel; Mark Frasco, parent division co-chair; Fred Deichert, campaign chair; Dean Kasperzak, executive chair; Gary Boehm, head of school; Kathleen Frasco, parent division co-chair; Ken Meinecke, faculty/staff division co-chair; Scott Parry, strategic division chair; Hope Welles, honorary chair; and Luke Jernagan, honorary chair.

Matriarchs of Maumee Valley

Celebrating the legacies of 3 remarkable women

In just nine months, the Maumee Valley Country Day School community lost three legendary advocates and benefactors: **Joan Bayer**, **Ann Stranahan**, and **Georgia Welles**.

Not only were they parents—each of their combined 12 children attended Maumee Valley—but they were present at numerous school events and played pivotal roles in strengthening the MV community. They served on many volunteer boards and campaigns and significantly contributed to the school's growth, including terms as president of the Maumee Valley Board of Trustees.

And their tradition of service was passed on to their children and grandchildren.

Mrs. Welles passed away in August 2023 followed by Mrs. Stranahan in April and Mrs. Bayer in May of this year.

Their shared dedication was most evident and profound during the Under One Roof capital campaign, a multiyear effort to raise \$15 million for essential

school improvements. Mrs. Welles served as an honorary chair, Mrs. Bayer chaired the leadership gifts division, and Mrs. Stranahan played a critical role as a leader-at-large. They were present at groundbreaking and ribbon-cutting events, symbolizing their dedication and leadership to the campaign and fellow volunteers.

"It is very safe to say that without their lifetime of commitment and support, Maumee Valley would not be the institution it is today," said Lynn Casto, Head of School. "We were blessed to have these strong and determined women in our corner, for the influence and advocacy they carried into the community on our behalf."

"They set an example for current and future Maumee Valley families by investing their time and talent on the school's behalf," Casto added. "They believed in the value of a Maumee Valley education and the lifelong benefits that shape the lives of alumni."



Joan Bayer (1950-2024)

You can't spend a day on campus without being reminded how much Joan Bayer, who passed away in May, loved Maumee Valley. It's on ample display, from the two bronze statues (most notably Mark Twain) that grace the campus grounds to the physical education complex that bears her name.

All three of her children—**Morgan '03**, **Carter '10**, and **Parker '12**—attended Maumee Valley. They were affectionately known as "Joan and the 3 Bayers." In addition to being an alumni parent, she was a former Board member as well as president of the Board of Trustees and a member of the Endowment Board.

"Joan had a wonderful sense of humor, was sweet and giving, supportive to those in need, and devoted to her children and Maumee Valley," said Phineas Anderson P '97, '99, Head of School at Maumee Valley from 1994-2005. The Twain statue and bench are dedicated in his honor as a recognition of his service and contributions to the school.

During the school's Under One Roof capital campaign in the early 2000s, Mrs. Bayer was the leadership gift division chair, an important role in ensuring the campaign's success. During the earlier 1997-1998 "Campaign for Maumee Valley," she served on the fundraising campaign's steering committee. The Johnson-Bayer Physical Education Complex, including a full second gym and fitness center, was built as a result of that campaign and named in her honor, along with Sarah Bess Johnson,

her grandmother and the most influential person in her life.

In addition to the iconic Twain statue, she donated the "Little Hands of Peace" statue (outside the entrance to the Smead Building) to commemorate the contributions of Gary Boehm P '01, '05 as head of school. "Joan was a generous and supportive friend to the school and to me personally," Mr. Boehm said.

"What we all noticed back then is that she brought her absolute, I-can-do-anything attitude to her committee," recalled **Dean Kasperzak '76 P '05, '07**, the executive chair of Under One Roof. "She just kept breaking glass ceilings. On her committee, if someone asked a donor to pledge \$100,000, Joan would ask 'Why don't we go for half a million? I'm just going to shoot higher than that.' And she was that way about everything."

"She was constantly bringing more to the party, challenging her group, and she did that over and over again," Mr. Kasperzak said. "Whenever there was a goal, she thought it was too small and she would up it. And almost every time she delivered. She had quite a run, from committee work to a capital campaign to head of the Board, she was amazing."

Whatever the cause or goal, Mrs. Bayer brought an entrepreneur's energy to the challenge. It's the same passion she brought to the founding of Concept Rehab, Inc. (CRI) in 1978. She instilled core values in CRI—commitment, respect, and integrity—that are still a driving force at the company, a nationally known provider of contract rehabilitation and business navigation services for senior post-acute health care providers.

"Her business career was just incredible," said Fred Deichert P '12, '14.

She was very active in the Maumee Valley Boosters, and her family served as hosts to an international student. That experience led her to become an instrumental force in the launch of the school's Global Education Program, which ultimately culminated with the construction of the Dayal House in 2013.

"She enjoyed sharing her love of the school with others," Mr. Deichert said, who also served with her on the

Board of Trustees. He recalled a time when he was on campus with his wife Linda when someone called out, inviting them behind the school to be part of a groundbreaking ceremony. "So we go back and there's this piece of construction equipment ready to break ground on what would become the Millennium project," he said. "We were just happy preschool parents visiting the school when Joan pulled us into the moment. She was that outgoing and it demonstrated how she brought people into the community."

Donating time, energy, and resources grew over time along with her affection for Maumee Valley.

"She really liked the concept of school life. She loved the fact that Carter was the point guard in basketball and she loved coming to the games," Mr. Deichert said. "To her, this was what high school life was all about. She always wanted a robust school life for all the kids, hence the construction of the Johnson-Bayer Gym."

"Joan had a wonderful sense of humor, was sweet, giving, supportive to those in need, and devoted to her children and to Maumee Valley."

Phineas Anderson
Head of School
1994-2005

"Joan loved the life that MV gave to her kids," Mr. Deichert added. "The Bayer household was one of those places that all of the kids in those classes would end up hanging out at. And Joan enjoyed it and was very generous about that."

As she became more passionate about Maumee Valley, giving and service became more like a duty.

"She knew that this school didn't just happen. There were people that gave of themselves, their time, and their money to the limit they could," Mr. Kasperzak said. "And that's why we have this incredible private school in Toledo, Ohio."

"She said I'm going to be one of those people. I'm going to do everything I can, I'm going to try and motivate people around me, bring other people in and to the school, and that will be my gift," Mr. Kasperzak said. "It will be part of my life's passion going forward. She saw herself as part of the next generation to do that, and she did it."



Ann Stranahan (1935-2024)

Maumee Valley lost one of its most dedicated supporters, and an important link to its historic past in Toledo, with the passing in April of Ann Stranahan.

Across the generations, the Stranahans became synonymous with the school's history, owing to their decades of service and the number of family members who attended. The first to graduate was Ann's future mother-in-law **Virginia (Secor) Stranahan '22**; she and her husband Duane would send six children to Maumee Valley: **Duane '48, George '49, Stephen '53, Michael '57, Mary '63, and Virginia '64.**

the school, but also for the amount of work they performed on its behalf," said **Dean Kasperzak '76 P '05, '07**, the executive chair of Under One Roof, the school's last capital campaign.

"Maumee Valley has thrived for many decades because of the devotion of many families," said Peter Stevens P '90, '92, who was MV's Head of School from 1982-1990. "But none were more faithful and more supportive than Ann, her husband Steve, and the extended Stranahan family."

Other Stranahan generations followed, including her niece **Page Armstrong '77** and her sons **Max '11** and **Ben '14 Elrod**; and grandchildren **Stephen Parry '07, Virginia Parry '09, and Sarah Parry '13.**

In addition to her MV service, she also was an active civic leader. In the early 1960s, she led the annual fund for the Toledo Symphony Orchestra. And in the late 1960s, she served on the board of the fledgling WGTE-TV, becoming integral to its successful establishment and later serving as board chair.

At Maumee Valley, she served many roles, from Board trustee and Board president to parent volunteer and fundraiser. For her tireless efforts, she was named an emerita trustee in 2009.

She was well known for her eloquence in expressing what made Maumee Valley distinct. A published poet, she helped to craft the story of Maumee Valley in numerous formats: directing a documentary about the school for WGTE's "Toledo Stories"

series; writing a history book titled *125 Years of Tradition, Leaps of Faith, and Transformation*; and crafting the detailed case for support for what would become

the Under One Roof capital campaign.

"You will hear this from everybody, but Ann just loved to write," said Fred Deichert P '12, '14, who with wife Linda co-chaired the Under One Roof campaign. "She would hunker down with the head of school and write whatever was necessary at the time to communicate the school's need to people."

"Her command of the written word was unbelievable. Whether it was a report she wrote or a quote or poem she shared or in how she read something aloud," Mr. Kasperzak said. "Just a committee meeting took on more meaning if Ann was present to read aloud something she wrote."

Her decades-long involvement with the school, as well as experiences with nonprofit organizations across the region, gave her unmatched insight.

"There's a term in golf called being a 'sandbagger,' and it's someone who is very talented but never lets it show until the money is on the line," said Mr. Deichert. "Ann would come to the board meeting with her knitting, keep her head down, and just knit away. She looked like this harmless grandmother. Then she would look up and ask these questions that would hammer you into oblivion because they were very insightful. You rarely had the answer to the question she was asking."

Her last significant service to Maumee Valley came during the Under One Roof campaign, where she served a key role as a leader-at-large. The project resulted in the new Upper School (opened in January 2011) and other campus improvements. She was a featured speaker at the ribbon-cutting in May 2011, during which she read a villanelle (a 19-line poem composed in six sections) she had written to honor Gary Boehm as the building's name was unveiled.

"Fritz Byers [alumni parent and former Board president] and I enticed her back to the campaign board because we valued her intellect and advice and can-do behavior," recalled Hilary White P '13, '15. "She somewhat reluctantly agreed to do it, but you would never have known it by the effort, time, and resources she put into it. She had already done a lot for Maumee Valley. Still, when the campaign started, she was someone we turned to and she agreed to help and she jumped in with both feet."

Without her vision and resolve, the campaign may never have started.

"The campaign occurred during the global financial crisis [2007-2008]. It was a time of trepidation," Mr. Deichert said. "We got to a point where we were just on the fence as to whether we should go or not. Ann led the way. She said this is something we can't afford not to do."

"Ann was, in a real way, the heartbeat of the Under One Roof Campaign," said Gary Boehm P '01, '05, Head of School during the campaign. "Everyone involved was charmed by her warmth and personality and thrilled by her wit and commitment. She kept us going through all the challenges we encountered. For her part, it seemed as if the campaign reignited her passion and commitment to Maumee Valley but, then again, perhaps it never waned."

"Steve and Ann were absolutely Maumee Valley royalty."

Dean Kasperzak '76,
P '05, '07

A native of Virginia, Ann married Stephen in 1958, and they kept the tradition alive by sending their four children to Maumee Valley: sons **Stephen '81** and **Daniel '88** and daughters **Frances '78** and **Abbot '83**. Mr. Stranahan had an illustrious career as a civic leader, businessman, and philanthropist in Toledo before passing away in 2019. His grandfather and great uncle founded Toledo-based Champion Spark Plug Co., which at one point was the largest spark plug manufacturer in the world.

"Steve and Ann Stranahan were absolutely Maumee Valley royalty not only because of the many number of years the Stranahans attended



Georgia Welles (1930-2023)

When it comes to dedication to Maumee Valley, it may be impossible to touch the breadth of involvement of Georgia Welles, who passed away last August. Not only did she serve on the Endowment Board and the Board of Trustees, including a term as president, but she has the distinction of also serving as head of school in 1974. Lastly, there is an endowed fund named for her in recognition of her outstanding continuous leadership over several decades.

“Georgia Welles was larger than life for most of us and well known in the national independent school world as well as at MV,” said Peter Stevens P ’90, ’92, Head of School at Maumee Valley from 1982-1990. “She was an MV sage, a font of historical knowledge, a bottomless source of advice and counsel, and an informed, careful, and caring guide and mentor.”

The Welles (husband David preceded her in death in 2007) graduated five children from Maumee Valley: **David “Deke” ’70, Ginny ’71, Jeffrey ’72, Peter ’78, and Christopher ’80.** Another Welles generation followed: grandchildren **Ted Welles ’98, Hopie Jernagan ’00, and Berkley Wellstein ’02.**

Her experience as a parent, Board trustee, and Head of School collected over dozens of years convinced her of the extraordinary value of a Maumee Valley education and why preserving it for future generations was worthwhile.

“Because all five of our children were Maumee Valley students, and three of our grandchildren also, I know

the value of an independent school education and what Maumee Valley in particular means to their thriving lives,” she wrote in a booklet that summarized the achievements of the Under One Roof capital campaign. “They all were prepared to learn and live in the rapidly changing world of today and tomorrow.”

Her service and dedication to the school are legendary, said **Dean Kasperzak ’76, P ’05, ’07**, who knew her first as a mom to several Maumee Valley classmates. “She led by example. She wasn’t one of those hands-off parents,” he said. “She would roll up her sleeves, do the work, and if no one was there, she’d step in and do it. She would serve on any committee she was asked to be on.”

“The best word to describe her was consistency,” said Hilary White P ’13, ’15, a former president of the Board of Trustees. “At any time you were thinking, what should we do, who would know this, who can we consult, who has lived through this before, her name would come up.”

“She never asked for anything but honesty, and she believed fiercely in the MV mission, style, and approach to education,” Mr. Stevens added. “And, of course, she shared her family with us, too. She walked the talk. Her gifts were many and invaluable.”

The Welles family is a longtime financial benefactor, including providing the funding for the Bluestone in front of the Wolfe Gallery. During the Under One Roof capital campaign in the early 2000s, she and family members Hopie Welles, Berkley Welles, and Ted Welles were honorary chairs.

For her ongoing support of Maumee Valley decades after her last child graduated, the Alumni Council presented her with the Alumni Parent Dedication Award in 2011.

Service to Maumee Valley and other regional nonprofit causes made her well known in Toledo business and philanthropic circles. Among her most cherished causes was the Toledo Museum of Art. In 1986, she and her husband founded the Georgia

Welles Apollo Society. The Society has purchased more than 70 works for the museum over four decades. She received the “Governor’s Award” from the Ohio Arts Council for her arts patronage as well as the “Museum Advocate of the Year” from the Ohio Museums Association.

As a result of her generosity and connectedness, people understood the significance of a phone call from Georgia Welles.

“I was in my home office, I saw that the call was from Georgia Welles, and for some reason, I stood up to answer it out of respect,” Mr. Kasperzak said. “Two thoughts come to mind when I think about Georgia Welles. The first is that when Georgia calls, you take the call. And second, when Georgia said something is not going to be a big deal, it’s actually going to be a very big deal.”

“The best word to describe her was consistency. At any time you were thinking, what should we do, who would know this, who can we consult, who has lived through this before, her name would come up.”

Hilary White
P ’13, ’15

The call was an invitation from her to join Maumee Valley’s Endowment Board. “She said it was an easy board to serve on, that it met only four times a year, and was a good way to get a feel for service to the school,” he said. “I stopped counting years on the board when it got into double digits.”

Her request had another purpose: to continue the process of introducing younger MV families into the culture of volunteer service and leadership needed to sustain the school.

“She was very instrumental in bringing younger families through the school process and providing the awareness to them that there would have to be a transfer of responsibility from older families to new ones,” Mr. Kasperzak said. “She showed us how the work was done—by everyone rolling up their sleeves. It’s a generational thing. If there is an MV tradition, she carried the torch better than anyone I know.”



Bucket brigade: Attending the San Francisco meet-up were (from left) Daniel Riley '03, Melanie Gross '91, Calvin McCullumsmith '23, Kimmi Zhao '23, Sami Ridi '23, and Jessica Hale '98.



ALUMNI COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Grace O'Leary '16
President

Nihal Kattar '13
Vice President

Jena Pugh '04
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Gail Steketee '67

Brent West '77

Student members: Jaden

Jefferson '26 & Joshua

Wang '25

(Thank you to **Mona Gohara '93** and **Melanie Gross '91**, who recently rolled off the Council, for their service.)

Getting to know your Alumni Council

The Maumee Valley Country Day School Alumni Council is dedicated to building strong, lifelong connections among its graduates. As a vital link between the school and its extensive alumni network, the Council plays a key role in nurturing and enhancing these relationships.

Over the past year, the Alumni Council has hosted a variety of successful events, including two fireside chats, a trivia night mixer in the Wolfe Gallery, Homecoming & Reunion Weekend, Get Back Give Back Day celebrations with an after party at Earnest Brew Works, the Erie Chapman Award presentation and reception, the alumni holiday party at Glass City Metropark, an Alumni Council Town Hall, travel for both the Midwest and West Coast alumni tours (illustrated by the image above), and the Smead Luncheon.

In addition to these events, the Council has facilitated professional networking opportunities between alumni and current students, recruited student ambassadors for the Council, and organized two Alumni Council retreats. Our current council is composed of active and engaged alumni and they are here to support and connect with you!

Alumni interested in getting involved with the Council can do so in several ways:

Attend events: Participate in alumni events, reunions, and networking opportunities to stay connected and engaged with the MV community.

Volunteer: Offer your time and expertise by volunteering for council initiatives, mentorship programs, or community service projects.

Philanthropy: Support Maumee Valley through financial contributions to help fund scholarships, educational programs, and facility improvements.

Communication: Keep up with school news and Council activities by updating your personal contact information and following Maumee Valley on social media.

The Alumni Council is always looking for passionate and committed individuals to join its efforts in building a strong and engaged alumni community. Your involvement helps ensure that the legacy of Maumee Valley continues to thrive for generations to come. If you're interested in learning more about the Council, please contact Brandi Baker Parcell, director of alumni relations, at bbakerparcell@mvcds.org or by calling the school at 419-381-1313.

Grace O'Leary '16

Alumni Council President, member of the MV Board of Trustees

About the Alumni Council: The Council operates under the bylaws of the Maumee Valley Alumni Association and with support from the school's Office of Alumni Relations. Its members work closely with school administration to align its activities with the school's mission and values.



ALUMNI

Glenn Hoshal '51 passed away in August 2023.

Samuel Crowl '58 passed away June 16. He was a Shakespeare professor to generations of students at Ohio University and author of seven books, including *Shakespeare and Baseball* published earlier this year.



James Walton '68 passed away June 25 in Longmont, CO. For many years, he was a restaurateur in the area of Boulder, CO. Siblings **Robert '65** and **Martha '66** also graduated from Maumee Valley.



Margaret (Peck) Iovino '69 passed away May 18. She graduated from Ohio University and later moved to New York, where she created and operated the Toys in the Attic store. In 1991, she became a volunteer for Bill Clinton's presidential campaign. Her role included communicating with the public, a role she continued in the White House for the first months of 1993 as part of the Clinton administration.



FACULTY & STAFF

Gay Lord, an MV parent and former teacher at Maumee Valley who taught Advanced Placement Art History, passed away June 7. Survivors include three children who graduated from Maumee Valley: **Tim '83**, **Charles '83**, and **Deirdre '85**.



COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Steven Daley, Jr., father to **Carson '32** and **Caiden '37** and husband to Jennifer, passed away July 25.



Summer road trip

Maumee Valley's Office of Alumni Relations headed west in June to meet up with alumni. The alumni outreach began in Seattle and wrapped up 10 days, 11 stops, and nearly 1,300 miles later in Los Angeles, CA.

TOP: Attending the alumni event June 25 in Seattle were (from left) Head of School Lynn Casto, Linda Xie, **Dmitriy Musatkin '06**; Brandi Baker Parcell, director of alumni relations; Amy Yustick, director of advancement and strategy; **Linnea Johnson '13**, Chris Atherly, **Kath Shelley '01**, **Nihal Kattar '13**; and **Natasha Riveron '13**. **RIGHT: Richard Browne '64** displays his varsity letters and *Weathervane* yearbook from 1964.



2024-2025 Upcoming Alumni Events



- Oct. 9 Leadership Giving Reception and Dinner
- Nov. 21-24 Fall musical
- Nov. 26 Get Back Give Back Day
- Dec. 3 Giving Tuesday
- December Denver Alumni and Friends Meet-Up
- Dec. 27 Alumni Holiday Party (held locally)
- January Washington, DC/VA Alumni and Friends Meet-Up
- February Nashville Alumni and Friends Meet-Up
- March 18 Alumni Virtual Town Hall
- March Maumee Valley College Tour Meet-Ups
- April 26 47th Annual Gala 'Off to the Races'
- May 2 Smead Luncheon
- June 5 Graduation



Donor Honor Roll

Thank you for supporting our mission

From auction donations and estate gifts to national days of giving, hundreds of Maumee Valley community members provided financial support to this institution during the **2023-2024 fiscal year (July-June)**. While each gift is acknowledged and appreciated privately throughout the year, we take great pleasure in sharing those names publicly in our annual Donor Honor Roll. We are grateful to every alumnus, parent, friend, teacher, business owner, and student who supported Maumee Valley Country Day School. There are many worthwhile choices when it comes to supporting nonprofit institutions. We are deeply grateful to the individuals and businesses listed here for choosing to support us as we pursue our mission every day.

Please note: The contributions listed in this Donor Honor Roll were made during the fiscal year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information presented is true and accurate. Please inform Morgan Siler P '38 (msiler@mvcds.org) in the Advancement Office of any errors or omissions, and accept our sincere apology.

\$25,000 and Up

Greater Toledo Community Foundation
Schwab Charitable Fund
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 Richard Stekete '68 and Kathleen Irwin
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\$500 to \$999

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Continued on page 45

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Tax credit aids MV students

Through a state program, Ohio residents can receive a tax credit and help Maumee Valley students at the same time. Ohio is one of 18 states with a tax-credit scholarship program. Ohio taxpayers receive dollar-for-dollar non-refundable tax credits up to \$750 for single filers and \$1,500 for joint filers for donations to Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs).

The Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS), of which Maumee Valley Country Day School is a member, is a registered SGO. When donating through the OAIS website, you can select Maumee Valley's general fund as the recipient of your gift. Maumee Valley pools the money to create a scholarship fund and assist students and families with demonstrated need. Visit mvcds.org/sgo to learn more and make a donation.



Thank you for MV Gala generosity

Thank you to the hundreds of individuals and organizations who contributed to the success of the April 27 MV Gala. From attending the Speakeasy Soiree event to donating items and contributing to our fundraising efforts, your support demonstrated the extraordinary spirit of generosity and camaraderie that defines the Maumee Valley community. Thanks to your collective efforts, we were able to raise an incredible \$305,000 in gross proceeds, including more than \$110,000 from the Raise the Paddle efforts. That money is going specifically to support our faculty and staff salaries. **The next MV Gala is April 26, 2025.**

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continued from page 43

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continued on page 46



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continued from page 45

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EVENTS



Through Oct. 4

The 2024-2025 season of the Wolfe Gallery begins with "This Yard Altered My Brain Chemistry," an exhibition of fiber art by **Lorraine Lynn '06**.

Oct. 31

Annual Strings Concert performed by students in grades 3-8. 8:15 a.m., Blakey Resource Center

Nov. 6

Annual Turkey Trot. After school in the forest

Nov. 8

Hawks Madness. Annual kick-off event to the winter sports season

Nov. 21-24

Maumee Valley Theatre presents "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." Show times: Nov. 21-23 @ 7:30 p.m., Nov. 24 @ 2:30 p.m.

Nov. 26

Everyone is invited back to campus to celebrate our community, sing songs together, and support Maumee Valley as part of the annual Get Back Give Back Day.

Dec. 6

Winter Concert presented by students in grades 4-6

Dec. 10

Strings and Vocal Ensemble Concert by Upper School and 7/8 grade students

2025

Jan. 24

Winter Intensive Fairs highlighting research projects by Upper School, 7/8 grade students

Jan. 31-Feb. 1

Lower and Middle School students combine forces to present "Newsies Jr." Show times: Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2025 @ 7 p.m.

April 26

The 47th Annual Gala is both an evening of fun and a fundraiser for Maumee Valley. More details about location and auction items arrive in the spring.

MV Fund

MV Annual Fund 2024-2025

To bring our academic experiences to life, Maumee Valley Country Day School relies on the generosity of current families, trustees, alumni, alumni parents, and community organizations. And the most important vehicle for ensuring our success is the MV Fund. Nearly 600 donors contributed nearly \$380,000 to the MV Fund last year. Gifts ranged from \$1 to more than \$75,000, and every gift had an impact on students. Support the MV Fund today.

Visit mvcds.org/giving to make your gift today.

Help Maumee Valley spread the word

Help spread the word to area families about the advantages of an MV education by sharing these recruitment dates from the Office of Admission:

Nov. 5, 2024: Hawk for a Day (prospective students spend a day on campus with us)

March 10, 2025: Hawk for a Day

details: mvcds.org/visit