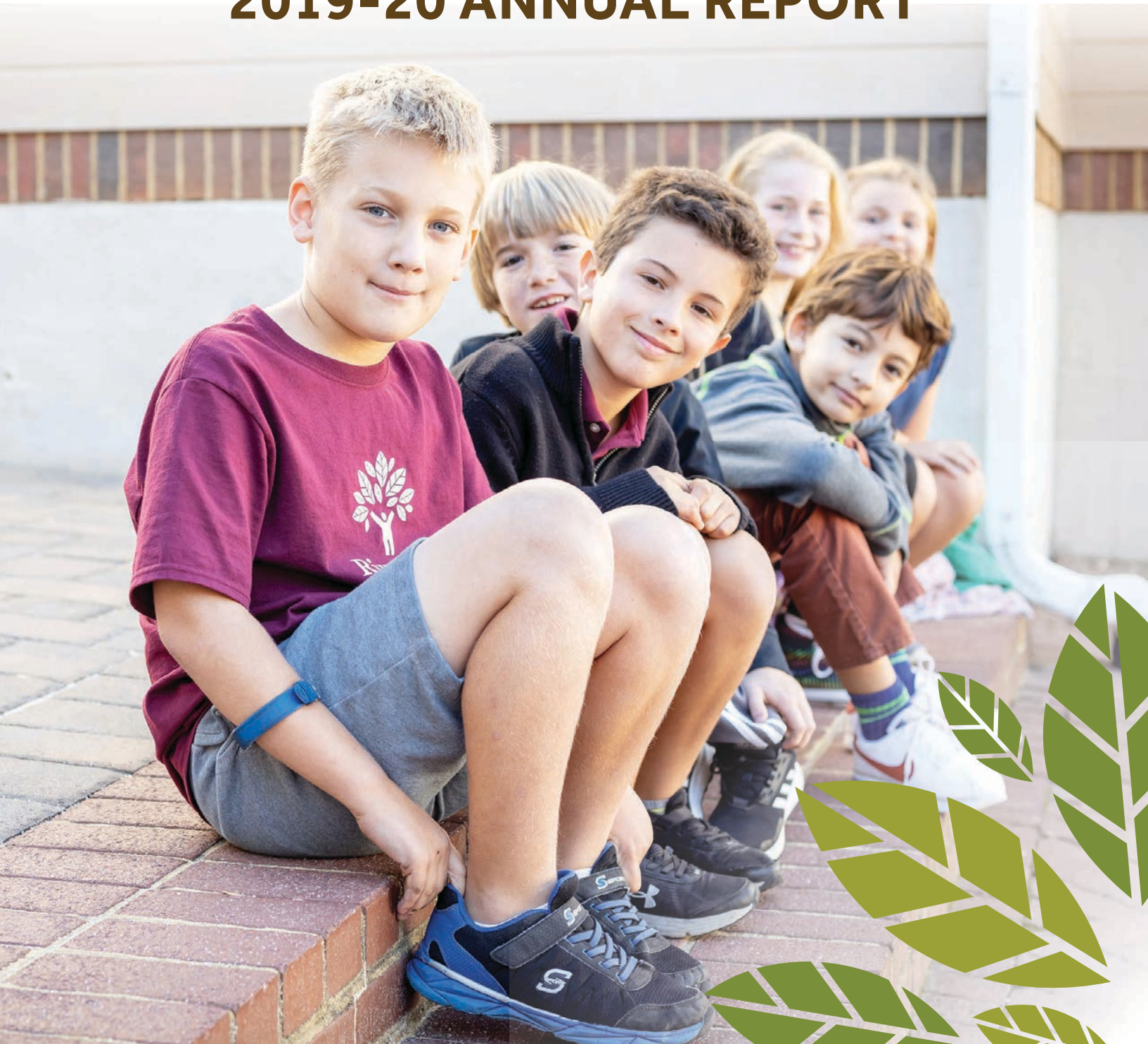




Riverside

SCHOOL

2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT

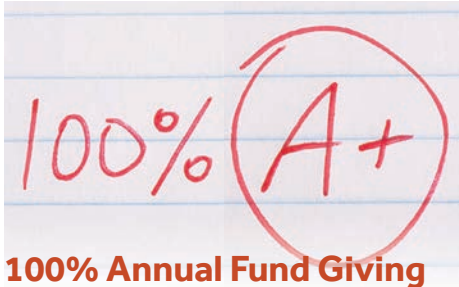




**Riverside School is Virginia's
most trusted school for
students with dyslexia
in grades K-8.**



YOUR IMPACT ON RIVERSIDE



100% Annual Fund Giving Participation by Parents, Faculty and Staff, the Board of Trustees, and Advisory Council.



YOUR SUPPORT...

- Enabled Riverside to increase financial aid by 23 percent from \$121,000 to \$150,000 last year.



- Helped Riverside upgrade the school's technology resources such as laptops, iPads, and document cameras, which enabled the school to better launch remote learning during Covid-19.



Impact on the

COMMUNITY



Helping more students than ever before!

- Maintained highest ever enrollment of 81 students.
- Had 30 students 'move on' to their next academic venture, equipped with skills to help them succeed.



- Provided 41 free literacy screenings to the public
- Supplied more than 1,000 hours of Orton-Gillingham training to 93 participants, including teachers, parents, and community members.



Riverside is unique

- The **only** Orton-Gillingham Academy-Accredited school in **Virginia**, and the **only** Academy-Accredited school in the **world** to offer one-on-one tutoring to all students.



- In 2019-20, Riverside supported families from 10 different jurisdictions in central Virginia.



NEWS, NOTES, AND QUOTES

RIVERSIDE'S FOOTPRINT CONTINUES TO EXPAND thanks to the support the school receives on a number of different fronts, including from those who so generously lend their time, talents, and resources to facilitate the school's and students' growth.



SILVIO'S SERVICE TO THE SENATE

Silvio Troy, Riverside's Student Council president, worked as a Senate Page in the 40-member Virginia Senate during the General Assembly session this year.

As part of this prestigious honor, Troy (pictured second from the left) was at the Senate each day during the week assisting legislators in a variety of tasks. He also had a rare, firsthand look at the legislative process and how the three branches of government work.



AWARD-WINNING ARTIST

Using her enviable imagination and artistic talent, Riverside student Waverly Adams Parrish earned first prize in Scholastic's national 'The (Really) Great Outdoors 2020' contest sponsored by the TurfMutt Foundation.

Adams Parrish, 12, designed and illustrated a creative nature park for tweens and teens, laid out in the shape of a tree trunk with branches symbolizing landforms, greenery, and water. Adams Parrish dubbed the park 'The Community Tree.'

She claimed top honors among more than 2,300 contest submissions. Adams Parrish also took home an award of \$2,000. Her winning entry further earned Riverside Studio Arts teacher Christy Lantz and the school \$500 each in additional prize money.



LEGO ROBOTICS CLUB MAKES A FORMATIVE DEBUT

A group of dedicated Riverside students in grades 5-8, as well as a contingent of adult advisers, were a part of the school's inaugural Lego Robotics Club.

The contingent of seven students constructed a robot and other mechanical devices from scratch via a Lego kit to perform various tasks on and around a 'mock city.' Ultimately, the newly formed group presented solutions to various scenarios such as programming the robot to carry Legos and other objects to specific locations on a city and corresponding municipal map.

Moreover, students learned how to solve real-world problems by thinking through tough challenges, learning from and with fellow students, as well as trying out new ways and ideas. They even competed in a regional competition.

In addition to grasping new concepts about engineering, the club also enhanced participants' collaborative and problem-solving skills.

"I learned a lot about teamwork. I learned to let everyone else have a turn. I learned to be patient, have fun, and not quit," says Lillie, a Lego Robotics Club member.



"Be a pioneer in what you love because it will make you unique and will be a driving force that will put you ahead."

Chip Brierre, Riverside School alumnus

"The teachers are really great about helping you understand you."

Georgia Macomson, student at Riverside School



COMBATTING THE CORONAVIRUS

Many individuals with a touchpoint to Riverside provided comforting care and healing words during the Covid-19 pandemic, including Riverside board member Robin Blanchard and Language Fundamentals instructor Jenn Walker, among others.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT COVID-19

A Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), Riverside board member Robin Blanchard is part of a Facebook group called 'Virginia CRNAs and SRNAs' (Student Registered Nurse Anesthetists) that stores a warehouse of information about the coronavirus from and for industry-based professionals. The communications chairperson for Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists, Blanchard dove headlong into the task of ensuring the page is updated and a valuable resource as experts seek to zero in on diminishing coronavirus cases.

Today, the page includes scientific-based facts and figures, related articles, financial tips, tech talk, what's working / what's not intel, and personal testimonials. Additionally, there are pointers for maintaining physical and emotional health, to name only a few of the pertinent items.

The hope is that the knowledge gleaned from sharing data further empowers specialists in health and medicine and plays a role in treating—and perhaps defeating—the disease.



Robin Blanchard



"I love celebrating what students know on a daily basis, rather than only on a worksheet. I wish I would've been taught that way."

Sarah Scott, Language Fundamentals instructor at Riverside

NO MASKING LF INSTRUCTOR'S COMPASSION

As a way of ensuring that the coronavirus does not spread unnecessarily, Riverside Language Fundamentals instructor Jenn Walker made face coverings from her Richmond home and distributed them.

In addition to manufacturing masks for family members, including husband, Brian, and daughter, Hana, Walker generously gave the protective gear to friends who had to work and didn't have a choice but to be in close contact with others.

Two layers of the masks Walker produced were formed of tightly-woven cotton. There's also a flannel interior. On occasion, the masks she made were reused after being washed.

It has been routine to see individuals out in public covering their nose and mouth, making Walker's mask-making all the more important and admirable. And she practices what she has, well ... sewn.

"I feel like I am doing the right thing by wearing a mask and protecting others around me," Walker says.



Jenn Walker

DID YOU KNOW?

THIS PAST FALL AND WINTER, RIVERSIDE HOSTED four Subscriber Sessions. This continuing education learning opportunity was aimed at giving Riverside parents, grandparents, and community members insight into the nature of dyslexia and a basic understanding of the Orton-Gillingham Approach. Average attendance at each session was 17, and the participants were eager and engaged in seeking knowledge.

Taught by Riverside's AOGPE Fellow, Cynthia Davis, this was official AOGPE coursework, and those who attended all eight hours were eligible for Subscriber Level Membership in the Academy.

Congratulations to Riverside friends Brittany Cooper, Linda Fletcher, Jody Liesfield, David DiRoma, Donna DiRoma, and Bonnie Turnage, who each finished their Subscriber Coursework.



Cynthia Davis

WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF FOR THE 2020-21 ACADEMIC YEAR

Chelsea Garrison (Language Fundamentals instructor)
Denise Glidden (Office Manager)
Danielle Nagy (classroom teacher)
Kathie O'Neill (Language Fundamentals instructor)
Erin Reardon (Language Fundamentals instructor)
Kara Smith (Language Fundamentals instructor)



NOW, THAT'S DEDICATION!

As always at Riverside School's Founder's Day, there was great fun, including silly staff events such as goat-smooching by classroom teacher Mrs. Mayer—all for a good cause.

A MESSAGE FROM P. MICHAEL JONES

*PRESIDENT OF THE RIVERSIDE SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DURING THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR*

THE 2019-20 ACADEMIC YEAR was full of personal achievements and educational accomplishments, but we have also faced unique challenges that every member of the Riverside family has had to confront. After witnessing how the Riverside community pulled together to overcome these barriers, I couldn't be more excited about our future.

Our nation has been struggling with a pandemic. Riverside families have had to grapple with big changes in our daily routines, our health concerns and, all too often, our financial security. We have had to adapt to a completely different way of working and living and educating our children. In the midst of these uncommon times, we find both our cities and nation confronting old problems and asking difficult questions about how to heal longstanding divisions.

I believe everyone in the Riverside family will look back with pride on how well we met these obstacles. Our teachers, Language Fundamentals instructors, faculty and staff devised distance learning curricula and technologies under severe time pressure. Their hard work and innovative thinking allowed Riverside to accomplish its educational mission under new and difficult circumstances.

Our parents have always been key partners in reaching our educational goals. Distance learning required parents to provide a whole new level of effort and engagement. They did so while so many other aspects of their lives, and those of their children and loved ones, were changing.

The entire Riverside family displayed uncommon creativity, passion and ingenuity in overcoming the hurdles of what was a one-of-a-kind school year. Riverside is flourishing in a variety of ways and I am looking forward to seeing what the coming year brings us.

The dedication of the Riverside family, on a variety of fronts, is remarkable. Together, I know we will work to ensure that the momentum our school has built will continue into our new school year.

Yours very sincerely and respectfully,



P. Michael Jones
President, Riverside School Board of Trustees



A MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL HAL WALLER

IT IS DIFFICULT FOR ME TO EXPRESS THE GRATITUDE I FEEL to the Riverside community for your generous and continuing support. Even through all of the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, you, our families, friends, and partners provided incredible support for us through your philanthropy. Thanks to your generosity, our 'little school on McRae Road' is able to make a big impact and change the lives of our students with dyslexia.

This year's Annual Fund total of more than \$211,000 is the highest in recent memory and perhaps in the history of the school. This money allows us to provide the 'margin of excellence' in everything we do, including teacher training, technology, and financial aid.

In addition, we achieved 100 percent participation in Annual Fund Giving from two very important constituencies—both from our current parents and from our faculty and staff. This is a ringing endorsement of Riverside's mission and application of this mission for our students.

I would be remiss if I didn't point out the truly extraordinary work our faculty and staff did in taking Riverside into remote learning this spring.

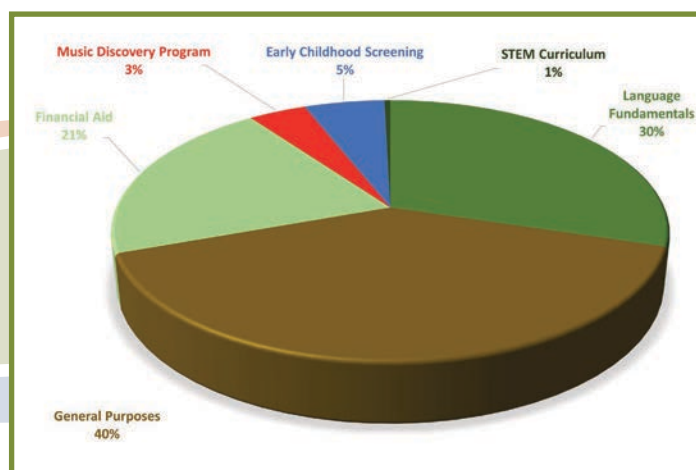
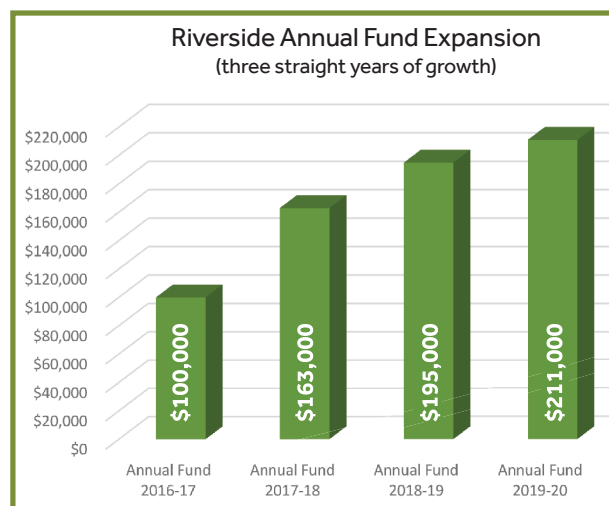
The transition was rapid, the teaching and learning continued seamlessly, and, most importantly, our teachers kept our sense of community for their students. At no point was Riverside diminished as a school, and all of the credit for that goes to our faculty and staff.

I have never worked with a more talented faculty in all of my 25-plus years in education, and they have my complete admiration.

Many thanks,



Hal Waller
Head of School



GRANT FUNDING AND ALLOCATIONS

General Purposes	\$50,000
Language Fundamentals	\$37,500
Financial Aid	\$26,000
Early Childhood Screening	\$7,000
Music Discovery Program	\$5,000
STEM Curriculum	\$500

RIVERSIDE'S REACH

Riverside Alumnus and Family Fund Teacher Training Scholarship

by Mary Helen Sheriff

A FEW YEARS AGO on alumnus Quinn Agnew's 1-hour-and-15-minute commute to Riverside School, he passed a lottery billboard.

"If I won the lottery, I'd make Riverside bigger so more kids could go," Quinn told his mother, Julie Agnew.

Julie, a professor at the Raymond A. Mason School of Business at William & Mary, was struck by this comment. Was there a way to spread the Riverside magic beyond the school walls without lottery winnings, she wondered.

Prior to being a student at Riverside, Quinn attended a private school in Williamsburg where it became clear that he needed more support in reading than the school was equipped to provide. When the Agnews learned about Riverside, they arranged to send Quinn to Camp Riverside's summer session to get a better feel for the school before making a decision about whether or not to enroll him.

Turns out Riverside's multisensory approach to learning at the camp was a great fit for Quinn. After his entry to Riverside became official, he was a part of grades 1-4 (2015-19). Quinn's reading progressed dramatically. His mother describes his time at Riverside as 'happy, positive, and life-changing.'

Now a rising sixth-grader at a public middle school in Williamsburg, Quinn reads for enjoyment and reports that the 'math, reading, and spelling methods and strategies that I learned at Riverside helped me to be successful at my new school.'

As a way of better supporting Quinn's reading journey, Julie took the AOGPE Associate Level coursework offered to the wider community by Riverside. The course covers the Orton-Gillingham approach to teaching reading, spelling, and handwriting through 50 hours of

classroom instruction and 10 hours of optional applied practice. In the training, students learn about the brain basis of dyslexia, multisensory procedures, assessment, and diagnosis of dyslexia. There are also lessons covering phonology, the structure of language, decoding, fluency, reading comprehension, handwriting, spelling, and lesson planning.

"The course was incredible," Julie notes.

Given the course's impact on her, she wanted to ensure the full sessions would be available to interested individuals, no matter the economic climate. Truth be told, that's when the idea for the Quinn Scholarship came together. The Quinn Scholarship, funded by the Agnew family, provides tuition for the AOGPE Associate Level coursework at Riverside to one elementary or special education preservice teacher at William & Mary each year.

Two educators have benefited from the scholarship so far. Ellen Frackelton, the 2019 recipient, will start a new role at a public elementary school in Williamsburg this fall where she'll provide reading intervention to children. Frackelton will also be collaborating with the rest of the faculty to improve reading instruction and support throughout the school.

Frackelton traces her longing to help children with dyslexia back to an early age.

"I was actually a kid who struggled to learn to read. My interest came from a desire to learn why it was hard," she says. "Then as a first-grade teacher, I was seeing some kids pick up reading seamlessly and for other kids it was such a struggle. I didn't really know what to do to help those kids."

Later, as a way of addressing some of



A recipient of the Quinn Scholarship, Ellen Frackelton met Quinn Agnew, the inspiration for the scholarship. She credits the resources from the grant in providing unique learning opportunities to help children with dyslexia.

(JIM AGNEW)

those questions, Frackelton enrolled at William & Mary for a master's degree in Literacy Leadership. It was through this program that she first learned about dyslexia and structured literacy, as well as systematic reading instruction that is both multisensory and explicit.

Through the generosity of the Quinn Scholarship, Frackelton attended the professional program-based Orton-Gillingham course at Riverside in the summer of 2019. She describes working with mentor Robin Hegner, Fellow-in-Training/AOGPE at Riverside, as the highlight of the training.

(continued on page 14)



2019-20 LIST OF DONORS

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2019-20 Revenues and Expenses

Revenue: \$2,782,112.74

Tuition and Fees: \$2,354,602.56
Contributions: \$371,626.32
Investment and Other: \$55,849.86

Expenses: \$2,551,575.72

Program Expenses: \$2,041,505.88
Management and General:
\$393,925.47
Fundraising: \$116,114.37

Note: Pre-audit numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand. Riverside School is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), and applicable donations are tax-deductible.

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Virginia Outside

Rebecca Warner and Sylvan Spirit

Washington Capitals

Washington Football Team

Washington Wizards

Wegmans

*If your name is listed incorrectly or
missing, please accept our sincere
apologies and contact Riverside's
Development Office at (804) 320-3465.*

1974 society

Riverside's 1974 Society recognizes
individuals who have included the
school in their estate plan through
a planned giving method such as a
bequest.

Janet Marie Voltz Dolan*

Curtis Hofstetter

Fran Kay

Neil Millhiser

W.E. Singleton*

Hal Waller

Carolyn* and Les Webb

If you have included Riverside
School in your estate plan or would
like more information on planned
giving and the 1974 Society, please
contact Riverside's Development
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* indicates deceased





THANK YOU, ALUMNI DONORS

Michael R. Abouassi '17	Alex Merhige '10
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(continued from page six)

"Robin was fantastic with the feedback she gave me, describing to me how I could tweak teaching, even small tweaks in my language, to make my teaching clearer for students," Frackelton reflects. "I was able to roll that over into my role as a classroom teacher almost immediately once school started."

Frackelton describes her experience as impactful in a variety of ways.

"I just want to stress how powerful this opportunity was for me as a public school teacher," she says. "This training allows me to provide instruction to students and families that may not be able to afford a private tutor or private school. Learning to read is, unfortunately, an equity issue and this training allows me to meet the needs of all students."

Debbie Ramer, clinical faculty in special education and coordinator of the elementary education program at William & Mary, serves on the committee that chooses the Quinn Scholarship recipient. Through Frackelton, the committee saw an opportunity to help students that hadn't been formally identified as needing targeted aid. Additionally, as information is gleaned and shared, teachers are empowered to uncover learning disabilities in students, such as dyslexia, at an earlier age.

The effects of the Quinn Scholarship aren't limited to its recipients and their students. Ramer notes with satisfaction that the Quinn Scholarship recipients have "stayed in Williamsburg and James City County, where they are not only helping the students with whom they interact, but are also advocates for change within the curriculum to better support the early identification of children with dyslexia."

The impact of the grant continues to ensure a brighter future for children. For their part, teachers go through training and gain knowledge about dyslexia and language-based learning differences.

"The Agnews establishing the Quinn Scholarship has caused a chain reaction," Frackelton says. "William & Mary has a firmer partnership with Riverside and plans to partner with (Riverside) as we develop an O-G course that will be offered in the summer at William & Mary. It has also propelled William & Mary's Literacy Lab project."

The Literacy Lab will be available to anyone in the community for assessments and tutoring. William & Mary students will provide the assessment and tutoring under supervision as part of their teacher training. A pilot for The Literacy Lab is expected to launch this fall at three elementary schools in Williamsburg. Furthermore, there is hope of offering an online dyslexia certificate program taught by faculty members at Riverside School and William & Mary.

Due to Covid-19, there will not be a recipient of the Quinn Scholarship in 2020. The scholarship is expected to be offered again in 2021. In the meantime, as more teachers are trained in the Orton-Gillingham approach, more children will benefit, and Riverside's outreach in the community will continue to expand.

Author Mary Helen Sheriff (Raper) is the author of the forthcoming 'Boop and Eve's Road Trip' (October 2020). She is a former Riverside School Language Fundamentals instructor and the parent of an alumnus.

GIVING GRANDPARENTS

RIVERSIDE'S GRANDPARENTS HELP FACILITATE student growth at the school. They support educational initiatives and strengthen the school's mission on a consistent basis. Actively involved in school life, Riverside's grandparents regularly attend special events while ensuring their loved ones, and all students, get the most out of their experience both in and out of the classroom.

Incredibly conscientious, Riverside's grandparents appreciate the significance of keeping the school's momentum going and being forward-looking. Their generous contributions to the Annual Fund are important to bolstering Riverside's resources in the near and long term. We look forward to seeing these dedicated Riversiders at the school's next Grandparents and Special Friends Day.

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Riverside School Alumnus a Talented Documentarian in the Making

by Mary Helen Sheriff

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD RIVERSIDE SCHOOL ALUMNUS, MICHAEL TROWNSELL, is a budding historical documentary producer of remarkable talent. To date, 26 short documentaries can be found on YouTube under his production label TS Productions.

Trownsell is currently a rising ninth grader at The New Community School in Richmond, but his passion for filmmaking and history began during his four-year tenure (2015-19) at Riverside. He credits classroom teachers Mrs. Hague and Mrs. Sculthorpe with nourishing his love for history thanks to their social studies lessons. Reflecting on his time at Riverside, Trownsell recognizes classroom teacher Mrs. Estes for improving his ability to communicate through writing, an important aptitude for authoring scripts for his documentaries.

Michael is sure his fond memories of his time at the school will be everlasting.

"For me, Riverside was such a different place. I felt part of the larger community. Everybody was like me," says Trownsell, who entered Riverside at age 10. "It was a lot better to have a place where people understood dyslexia and could help me. I was more confident and understood dyslexia. It was a great experience."

The one-on-one instruction at Riverside provided him with the strong grammatical skills he uses when sending professional emails to subject experts. Furthermore, the depth of relationships Trownsell developed in this setting supported and motivated him outside the classroom. It was his Language Fundamentals teacher, Ms. Miller, who inspired him to reach out to Michael Wood, one of his idols in the documentary making world.

"The teachers were monumental in shaping his character, his habits and his work effort," Michael's father, Dave Trownsell, notes. "They really were amazing."

Michael actually exchanged correspondence with Wood, who encouraged him to continue to celebrate history using his penchant for capturing the right moments in telling a compelling larger story. At the end of his email, Wood wrote to Michael "...best of

luck with your future projects, in a few years time I look forward to seeing your films on PBS!"

Filmmaking is not without its challenges, Michael admits. That said, he's not lacking for creative awareness and skill. For Michael, there's seemingly always a new endeavor on the horizon.

"Halfway through a project, I get this other great idea but I'm already dedicated to another project," he says of the creative dynamic. "It's an endless cycle."

Before attending Riverside, Michael attended another well-respected private school in the area with caring teachers and five tutors, who, unable to provide him the support he needed, eventually pointed him to Riverside. He arrived a non-reader and within six months, through the guidance of the Riverside community, Michael had cracked the reading code.

Now, his father reports that Michael is not only a capable reader, but an avid consumer of the written word by choice.

These days, he is also shining on a variety of fronts at The New Community School, including academically. There, as a middle school student this past academic year, Michael was the recipient of the Julia Ann Greenwood Award for Academic Excellence. The honor recognizes achievements in academic excellence, exemplary citizenship, and exceptional progress.

Beyond the school's hallways, Michael celebrates the history of Virginia and the United States through his filmmaking. During his time at Riverside, Michael's video work included spanning a 400-mile journey for a show called 'Communities Along the James.' The film celebrates America's founding river, the James, in the commonwealth's pastoral countryside. In producing the piece, Michael visited the historic communities that have impacted our nation.

His growth and imaginative acumen are no surprise to his teachers at Riverside.

"Michael always had a tremendous work ethic and it shows in everything he does, whether it is inside or outside the classroom," Mrs. Estes says. "His curiosity about the past has really supported his love and



Michael Trownsell, who attended Riverside for four years, has tapped into his creative side to produce and share vivid stories through filmmaking.

(JAY PAUL/RICHMOND MAGAZINE)

passion behind the camera as well as in front of it. I am so very proud of him."

He is currently working on a documentary about the role of the Church of England in Virginia during the 17th and 18th centuries. This topic is larger in scope than his previous undertakings, and he's anticipating it will result in an hour-long video. Producing this project has kept him engaged during the Covid-19 shutdown.

The depth of Michael's work has caught the attention of Dr. Edward Ayers, a noted historian and president emeritus at the University of Richmond.

"It's wonderful to see a young filmmaker such as Michael forging a new path for history," says Dr. Ayers, who was president at UR from 2007-15. "History is new in every generation, so Michael is creating the future even as he imagines the past."

Indeed, Michael says he hopes "to make more meaningful, truthful history documentaries on a wide range of subjects that embody what it means to be an American."

Author Mary Helen Sheriff (Raper) is the author of the forthcoming 'Boop and Eve's Road Trip' (October 2020). She is a former Riverside School Language Fundamentals instructor and the parent of an alumnus.



Riverside
SCHOOL

OUR MISSION:

Riverside School transforms the lives of students with dyslexia and similar language-based learning differences while supporting a community of highly trained teachers and staff who specialize in educating these students to their highest potential.



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