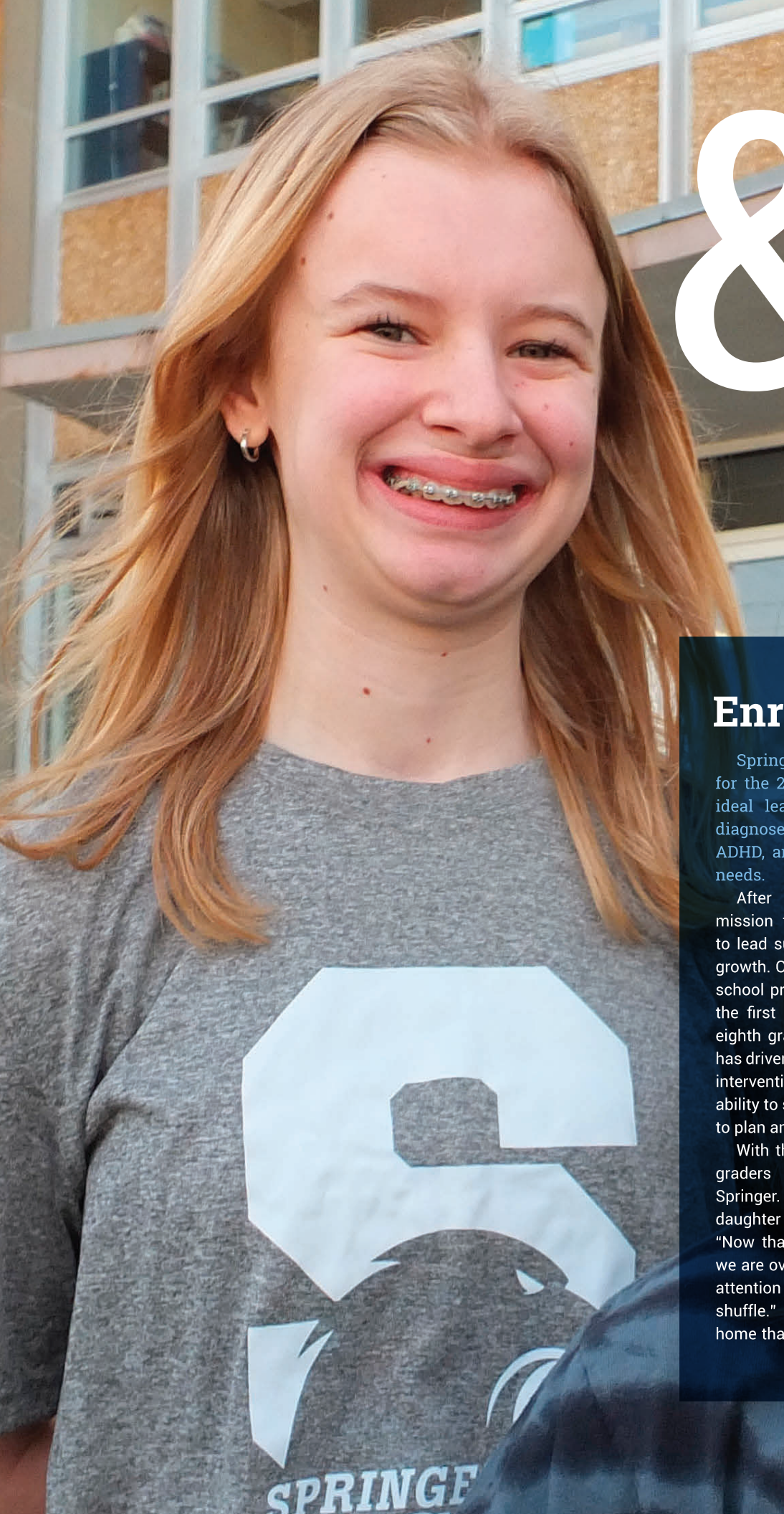


WINTER/SPRING 2023

News & VIEWS

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SCHOOL AND
CENTER

WWW.SPRINGER-LD.ORG



Enrolling Ninth Grade

Springer is currently enrolling ninth grade students for the 2023-2024 school year. Our ninth grade is the ideal learning option for students who have been diagnosed with a learning disability such as dyslexia, ADHD, and for those who have executive functioning needs.

After celebrating Springer's fiftieth anniversary, our mission to empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives continues to drive organizational growth. One important part of the expansion is providing a school program to as many students as possible, and for the first time, extending specialized classrooms beyond eighth grade. Springer's ninth grade will emphasize what has driven success in its lower grades: Providing diagnostic intervention, enhancing students' self-knowledge and ability to self-advocate, and helping students develop skills to plan and prioritize.

With the addition of ninth grade, some Springer eighth graders are choosing to continue their education at Springer. Whitney, a current Springer parent, shares why her daughter Ellie will attend in the inaugural ninth grade class. "Now that we have the chance to expand our time here, we are overjoyed because she's going to get the individual attention she needs and she's not going to get lost in the shuffle." She adds that she's thrilled to have found "a home that takes into consideration her entire being ... truly

Continued on page 2

▶ Letter from our President

Springer has experienced monumental success over the past few years – strong enrollment, plans for a beautiful new building, and a vision to expand ways to support our region in the future. Springer is pushing the bounds of ways in which we support students and families, and there are plenty of great things still to come!

At our core our role is to help students find true success. This is not a false sense of security or hope. Our job is to know each student amazingly well – we gain a deep understanding of each child's strengths and thoroughly assess their learning priorities and needs. We then work as a team – in partnership with parents – to design and deliver an educational experience that helps each child become successful in their learning, executive functioning, self-awareness and self-advocacy. This is not light work, but it is the rock-solid foundation on which we are built.

The plans we develop for each child lead to coaching from adults who support them. Coaching leads to learning, and soon learning and success becomes a pattern. Then, we all celebrate. Once our students experience success regularly it becomes a habit that drives them. By the time they leave us, success is now an expectation they have of themselves, which is a drastic shift from where many started in their schooling experience.

In the year ahead we have a great deal of work to make our vision expand to reality. We will begin offering diagnostic services to help families better understand their child; we will build a beautiful new building to modernize our campus and expand our space for education and programming; and we will begin enrolling students in 9th grade as part of our study to understand the viability of offering a full-scale high school program for our region. Things at Springer are moving, and we want you to be a part of this excitement!

Thousands of people and organizations continue to support Springer by telling prospective families about the Springer experience, by sharing the ever-flowing good news about Springer, and by contributing to our Annual Fund and current Capital Campaign. If you are seeking a way to offer support please do not hesitate to reach out! We are always looking for ways to advance our mission of empowering students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives. Thank you for being a champion of Springer!

Brett T. Marcoux
President



> *Marian, a lower school student, describes her SHARE goal and how it has helped her learning.*



Tara Willig with Ellie (right), who will be a founding member of Springer's ninth grade class.

(CONT. FROM COVER)

understanding the whole child." Teens from across the region now have the option to apply for acceptance to Springer where they will benefit from small class sizes, individualized intervention and research-based curriculum. Senior Director of Special Projects Tara Willig emphasizes that in Springer's ninth grade students with learning disabilities will truly "be seen" for their strengths while they develop into well-rounded, confident young adults. Students who enroll for the 2023-2024 school year are considered founding members, providing input to develop the program. Ella, pictured on the cover, is looking forward to being part of the inaugural class. She says "I like being able to know that I'm not the only one with a learning disability" adding, "I think it's a really good opportunity for me." Scan the QR code to hear what parents think about ninth grade at Springer.

> **Scan to learn more!**





> Above: Rendering of projected enhancements for illustration purposes. Renovation may differ.

► Students & Community to Benefit from Donor Generosity

Made possible by contributions from hundreds of generous families, alumni, individuals and community members, Springer's capital campaign, *Advancing Success*, will provide funding for an addition to the Madison Road campus.

Growth made possible by the capital campaign is focused on financial aid for students, construction to support school and center operations, and expanding reach beyond the immediate school community. "We know we can help our 200 students find success, but there is an entire region that needs our support." Brett Marcoux explains during the campaign launch. The additional square footage to the school building will be a modern and efficient structure for learning spaces, offices, and important Center programming such as tutoring and workshops for parents and teachers of the region. Additionally, planned improvements will ease traffic during school arrival and dismissal and beautify the campus.

► More Choices, More Fun

From 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Springer is still abuzz with activity, even though the school day has ended. That's because our Eagles are busy with their choice of more than ten extra-curricular activities.

In many schools, students with learning challenges spend their late afternoon hours catching up on the day's lessons or seeing a tutor. Because classroom time is maximized by Springer's specialized teaching, our students regain their after-school hours for hobbies and enrichment activities.

Extracurriculars build upon existing strengths, help children develop new skills, and allow freedom to try new things in a supportive environment. Rachel Eccles and Laura Fusting, the After School Activities Team, talk frequently with students about their interests and passions. Together



> Glazing fired clay in ceramics

they select and organize the offerings. Favorites have been flag football and taekwondo along with arts-focused photography and ceramics. With the addition of choices including film club, handball, and yearbook club, more than half the student body has found something to join. In fact, nearly 70% of the student body has participated in at least one activity

The campaign has raised 96% of its goal which allows the project to move forward. However, rising costs mean that more is needed to meet campaign goals. Underscoring the importance, Vice President of Institutional Advancement Kirstin Eismin explains "We are so proud of the important work we do for families and children in the region, and at the same time we know that there are more families that need our services." If you are interested in contributing, there is still time to make an impact with your gift. Contact the development office or visit Springer-LD.org/giving.

Groundbreaking is planned for late May, with school and center activities continuing throughout construction. Because the project will occur in part while school is in session, students will be brought into the process through demonstrations and conversations with contractors. This will help demystify the process and provide organic learning opportunities. In fact, Business Director Mark Priest explains, "Choosing a company who has plenty of experience working on a school campus while the school remained open was very important to us." The campus renovation is expected to be complete in August 2024.



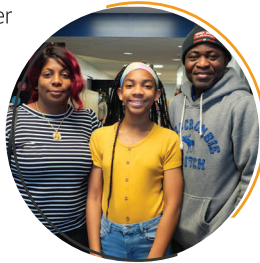
> Lower School students devise an attack during chess club.

so far this year!

Renesmee, a fourth grader taking ceramics, says that her favorite part is painting with glaze. She completed several pieces during her seven-week winter Ceramics session.

► Friendship Strengthens School Community

New social activities and old favorites have students and families making friends and getting to know one another on Springer's campus. In November Be Our Guest Day brought special guests to experience Springer and to enjoy each other's company. For many students, school before Springer had been an unpleasant experience. Family and close friends aware of the struggle are delighted to see the renewing effects of Springer's specialized education and warm supportive community. "I'm thankful for Springer because they help us to learn to help our grandson," one grandparent shares. Guests spent time talking, visiting classrooms and making crafts, and students showed off lessons and projects. In middle school classrooms, students interviewed their guests about what life was like when they were in school. One grandfather recalls, "We came home from school and played sports every day." Another remembers a classic Cincinnati pastime for teens old enough to drive: "Friday nights we would drive around the Frisch's parking lot, and we'd meet at Frisch's and see all our friends." Making time for special guests is something we love to do every year and it was a great way to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday.



Dean of Students Shanda Arthur has worked alongside parent volunteers to bring social events to fruition. A family picnic in the fall gathered students

> Above: Gabby and visitors on Be Our Guest Day 2022.

with many staff and their families to outdoor campus spaces to talk, laugh and play together. Shanda recalls, "We had a great turnout with so many smiles!" Springer families commute from all over the tristate, so these laid-back activities provide extra time to connect and get to know each other.

In the same spirit, Family Movie Night was held in January with around 150 people camping out in the gymnasium to watch the 2008 comedy, Bed-time Stories. A third school-wide event is in the works for the spring.



Art teacher Kristen Zanos with Loreli Knaley, Grace Strong and their published artwork.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART MAKES THE COVER

Seventh graders Loreli Knaley and Grace Strong recently saw their artwork published in the *Journal of Learning Disabilities*, an international scholarly publication. Their paper mosaic style images were chosen for not one, but two covers this past fall. Journal editions are the September/October and the November/December issues. This is quite an honor. In fact, you might say their art speaks volumes!

► Student Philanthropy Inspires Hope

This year's annual contributory activity raised \$2,324 for Inheritance of Hope (IoH), a nonprofit helping families of people with serious illness. They host support groups, provide special travel opportunities, and arrange fun activities for families to make lasting memories. Students learned about the organization from Ethan Harned, a support group facilitator who got involved with IoH when he was only sixteen years old. Elizabeth (Liz) Crellin, a middle school instructional assistant at Springer and volunteer for IoH, helped teach the students about the powerful work the organization does for families.

Funds were acquired through a coin drive led by student council, with teams and classes competing to raise the most money. Parent volunteers helped count the pounds and pounds of coins. Student council homeroom representatives kept classes updated along the way. Seeing their coins overflowing jars and hearing dollar updates on the loudspeaker each day motivated the whole student body to keep efforts strong for three solid weeks.

Partway through the project, students learned that IoH received an anonymous matching pledge, meaning every dollar Springer contributed was in fact doubled, making their total gift more than \$4,600! When the



Ethan, a support group facilitator, and Elizabeth Crellin teach students about Inheritance of Hope before they begin raising money for the organization.

funds were presented to IoH in December, Liz helped accept the gift and expressed to students the meaningful impact their donation will make.

► Talent Shines in Residencies

Hallmarks of the Springer experience are the arts residencies hosted each year. Three separate residencies give students at every level the chance to work closely with arts professionals from a cross-section of disciplines.

Eileen Earnest, an actress and comedian who teaches improvisation, was the thespian in residence this year. She worked with all students for a week in December teaching the big rule of improv, "Say yes and." Marian, a fifth grader, talks about an exercise in which a simple prompt, "I'm packing my suitcase and in my suitcase is a ..." The yes rule means no matter how silly the response is, the rest of the group enthusiastically shouts "Yes!" and continues the game. Marian explains, "Improv is all about go with the flow." The sessions were active and fun, creating a strong positive vibe. Lower School Green students spent the most time with Eileen as they learned a whimsical snow-themed play performed at an all school assembly just before Winter Break.



> Lower School students play an improvisation game.

never make a mistake and you can always try new things." Their beautiful finished piece is displayed near the school's main stairwell.

This spring Springer will welcome Holly Pratt as the year's Musician in Residence. Holly is a nationally known harpist, educator and founder of Lyrica, an outreach program dedicated to bringing music to the places where people live, work, learn and spend their time. All students will learn about the harp with Holly during music classes and a core group of fourth and fifth graders will work with her to develop and perform a musical piece.

Co-curricular activities like our residencies introduce hobbies and disciplines to spark interest and create wonderful memories. Springer students benefit from the Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence and Norita Aplin Musician in Residence Funds which allow Springer to provide these meaningful experiences each year.



Lower School Green performs a winter-themed play with actress Eileen Earnest.



Artist in Residence Cedric Michael Cox and eighth grade artists showing their completed paintings.

Springer's Artist in Residence, now a thirty-year tradition, hosted local contemporary painter Cedric Michael Cox in January. Cedric's works consists of numerous murals in the city and his paintings are in several museum collections. Cedric worked with all students during art classes making abstract collages focusing on shape, color and theme. A group of eighth graders worked closely with Cedric on paintings similar to the artist's own abstract and colorful style. As they collaborated on a large painting, students also came to understand ways that art can be meaningful. "I appreciate that Mr. Cox creates art as a way to help people," Levi, a middle school student, shares. Teddy states, "I learned in art you can

Farm to Feast: Good things are Growing!

Don't miss A Springer Celebration: Farm to Feast on April 20, 2023, at the historic Newport Car Barn in Newport, Kentucky. The event will include all of your favorite activities: silent auction, dinner and drinks, a live auction and more! Carrie and Rob Gould are charing the event. Joe Danneman will emcee and Kip Kummerle, alumnus and Springer parent, will be our guest speaker. Kip is owner of Grassland Graze, 100% grass-

fed beef and stock operation, and Liberty Farm Market. The local food co-op is a values-driven food market located on a family farm in Liberty Township.

Springer's fundraiser can be fruitful for you, too! Go online to get your Buffalo Trace Distillery raffle tickets for your chance to win a package of five bottles from the 2022 Antique Collection valued at \$11,000! Whether you like to eat salsa or dance salsa, you'll want

to enter to win the vacation for two in South Beach, Miami, Florida! Runner up prizes are \$500 in gas and groceries. Go to bidpal.net/farmtofeast to learn more, buy your tickets and get a sneak peek at the auction items.

Please join us for an evening of home-grown, authentic fun! We will celebrate all the good things growing at Springer while raising money to empower students with learning disabilities to lead

successful lives. Turnip for a great time, and stay out pasture bedtime, because hay, it's for a great cause!



► High Schoolers Invited

Adventures in Summer learning is now enrolling! All the favorite summer courses will be returning with the addition of new programs for high-school-age students.

For teens, effective study skills can pay dividends for years. Adventures in Summer Learning now includes study skills courses for grades six through eleven. For high school students looking toward college, Writing for the College Common App is an excellent opportunity to get one-on-one guidance on writing the dreaded entrance essay. The course promises students will leave with a completed essay—what a great way to get ahead!

Students in grades six through eight can choose a summer schedule based around their areas of need including math, writing, study skills and social skills. In all age groups, curriculum is chosen intentionally with learning differences and ADHD needs top of mind. Expert teachers using evidence- and research-based instruction are part of what makes Springer's summer programs so effective. The summer experience also provides parents insight into their child's learning profile.

Morning Expeditions, Activity Club and mini camps are the main attractions for children in grades one through five, who have many options for how to build their camp days. Morning Expeditions is the academic component of the day lasting from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and including proven instructional programs like Wilson® and Vmath™. In the afternoon many children stay for lunch and attend Activity Club, formerly called Fun With Friends, which is a social and activity-based learning experience to compliment the morning. Mini camps are add-on opportunities to dive into



Adventures in Summer Learning is offering courses for high-school age students this summer!

interests and hobbies like chess, pottery and theatre. For parents who want to help their child develop or hone social skills, The Art of Friendship Making is an excellent experience. The class is led by Rachel Eccles, LPCC-S, and features an informational session to teach parents how to practice newly-learned skills at home. To learn more and register visit Springer-LD.org/summer.

& Memorials & TRIBUTES

(AS OF 2/28/2023)

In Honor Of Jacob Bambauer

Cindy Bambauer

In Memory Of Paula Whitehead Cline

48Forty Solutions, LLC

Heather Bucher

Mike Hachtman

Lisa and Dale Justice

Carmella Mays

Bonnie Morgan

Marianne Pelletier

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Gayle Grajewski

Kirk Guthrie

Elizabeth Hart

Julie Heide

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Diane and Tom McNamara

Ann Marie and Anthony Morrissey

Raquel (Rocky) Parisi

George Rhodes

Christina and Mark Rogal

Bryan Seahill

Jean and R.J. Schlidt

Amy Steffek

Chris Wilks

Sharon Zecchino

In Honor Of The Birth Of Elliott Graham, Son of Andy and Elaine Kaplan

Barbi and Greg Sherman

In Memory Of Terrence Hill

Heidi and Mark Baechle

Jacalyn and Frederick Dennis

Jordan Hill

Patti Ballaban Klotz

Judy Newport

In Memory Of Les Kovel

Barbi and Greg Sherman

In Honor of The Bar Mitzvah Of Miles

Barbi and Greg Sherman

In Honor Of Donna Sue Mousie

Julie Beinkemper

Sheri Bussard

Deborah and Terry Chapman

Janice and Wayne Chapman

Kim and Bill Coppoolse

Michael Hamberg

McElvogue Family

Emily Reynolds

In Memory Of Joe Ohradzansky

Sally and Edward Kamphake

In Honor Of The Birth Of Leni Rose, Daughter of Ed Wolf and Amy Diamond

Barbi and Greg Sherman

In Memory Of John P. Thomas

Cynthia and David Bauer

Frieda and Don Dunton

Christine P. Stavarakis

Niehaus Financial Services, LLC

In Honor Of Traci and Braden's Wedding

Barbi and Greg Sherman

In Honor Of Mark Wilkison

Brett and Elizabeth Joseph Giving

Fund

In Honor Of Dr. Wolff

Mary and Steve Martin

► Alumni Bring Smiles to Faculty

Students grow close to peers and to staff members in the close-knit community at Springer. Each year at commencement, alumni are encouraged to keep in touch!

The 2022-2023 school year has seen more than a dozen visits

from alumni in just the first half of the school year. Teachers and staff are thrilled to reconnect with former students. Alumni of any age can schedule a visit by contacting Alumni Relations Coordinator Marika Lefke at mlefke@springer-LD.org. Alumni updates can easily



Above: Music teacher Judy McMahon with Anna Burger ('20). Left: Middle School teachers Doug Gallant (left) and Shanice Carter-Harris (right) with Andre Slabber ('21).



be sent through Springer-LD.org/alumni-updates, or by using the QR code at the bottom of this page.

Are you an alum who has recently moved out of your parents' home?

If so, be sure to give Springer your new address so you can receive our newsletters and invitations. Don't forget to connect via social media, too! Look for @SpringerLD on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS



CLAIRE SCHWIEBERT '22 is a student at Saint Ursula Academy. She describes SUA as the perfect academic challenge and a fun school where she has made many new friends. Claire is involved in the Crest (yearbook design club), the Mental Health Awareness club and Hands Across Campus, the diversity and equity club. Claire is keeping in touch with her Springer friends, recently attending homecoming with three of her fellow alumni.



MAX MATARAZZO '21 is a sophomore at Archbishop McNicholas High School. Recently, Max was an assistant director of a film that was up for an award in NYC. The short film "Away Yet Awake" has won several awards thus far. This film was written and performed at Fourthwall Youth Studios, Cincinnati.



GORDON HUSTON '16 was recently honored by Thomas More University with the creation of an award inspired by his accomplishments in public speaking. His former professor Steve Oldfield created the award and named it The Gordon Award. Gordon received an A+ in the class despite dealing with complications from surgery to combat epileptic seizures that affected his speech. In December Gordon presented the award to a student who met the criteria for "most improved and courageous student" in the class.



WILLIAM NORTH '12 graduated from Madeira High School in 2016 and Gateway Community and Technical College in 2021. Today, William works as a heavy-duty diesel mechanic at Fyda Freightliner. William shared, "Springer gave me the tools to be successful in my career field. With ADHD, I was struggling with the demands of my career. I had to remember and apply the tools Springer gave to me to be successful. But since I did, I have become successful, I purchased my first home at 23 years old, own two classic trucks, and love my career as a heavy-duty diesel mechanic."



CHRISTIAN (CJ) ELFERS '10 graduated from Purcell Marian in 2014. CJ recently got married and is currently working in the HVAC business. He also coaches high school basketball at Seven Hills School. CJ says, "Springer taught me so much, and I wouldn't be where I am today without the lessons I learned while attending Springer. I am so grateful for the three years I spent at Springer."



ANDREW CAMPBELL '89 Andrew graduated from Summit Country Day in 1998 and Mount Saint Joseph University in 2003. Today Andrew works at the Cincinnati Public Library. Andrew shares the following: "Attending Springer has truly been one of the more memorable times of my life. I began my time there in the fall of 1986. I could not have had more exceptional teachers. Dr. Mark Helmick, Marlene Baer, Carol Schumrick, and the principal at the time, Dr. Norita Applin, wrapped me with love and helped me believe that I was not defective and that I was capable of being whatever I wanted to be. Springer is my foundation. To this day, every time I drive by, I smile and imagine running around on that playground. Thank you, Springer."



► Scan to share **YOUR** update!



Get your tickets today!

You're Invited



**THURSDAY
APRIL 20
6-9:30 PM
NEWPORT
CAR BARN**

We can't wait to see you, celebrate the changing seasons, and enjoy dinner, drinks and authentic fun at the historic Newport Car Barn in Newport, Kentucky. We're already harvesting some incredible items for our live and silent auctions!