

PATRIOT REVIEW

Alumni Newsletter of Amelia Academy

September 2014

50th Anniversary Celebration—May 3

It was a weekend to celebrate for the alumni, parents, grandparents, students, and friends of Amelia Academy. The Academy hosted several programs through the weekend that brought together those who remembered the early years and the younger generation who are benefiting from their dedication.

On Saturday afternoon, 363 people attended a program and reception to mark the occasion. James D. Grizzard, former headmaster, led a prayer, and Brenna Maples ('08) sang the National Anthem. Kelly M. Anderson ('84), the current president of the Board of Directors, welcomed everyone and recognized several special guests. T.C. Reams, Jr., and James L. Hamner, original board members, were in attendance as was Madeleine Flippin, a member of the first faculty.

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Alumni pose for a class picture at the 50th Anniversary

New Teachers and a New School Year

Over the summer, four new teachers have been preparing for the first day of a new school year at Amelia Academy. On August 15, they joined the current faculty for the annual Book Day in which students and their parents visit their classrooms and meet the faculty for the upcoming year.

"It's an exciting time for all associated with our school. We are preparing for our best year yet," said Rodney L. Taylor, the Academy's headmaster.

Palmer Bowen ('09) will be teaching history and government courses this year. Mr. Bowen holds a bachelor's degree in government from Hampden-Sydney College. Most recently, he served as an intern for Congressman

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Mr. Anderson then introduced Charles B. Goodman, Jr. ('70), who was a member of the Academy's first graduating class. Mr. Goodman reminisced about what it was like to be "a senior each year" as he was in the highest grade each year. The Academy had seven grades in the first year and added one grade each year. Therefore, Mr. Goodman said, he and his classmates never had a class ahead of them.

Eva F. Scott, Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors, introduced Robert F. Lane who was the Academy's first headmaster. She offered a tribute to Mr. Lane who was known for his extraordinary dedication to the students and their families.

Mr. Lane shared a prediction about the Academy from a person who told him in 1964 that "those private schools wouldn't last as long as the morning dew." He expressed his gratitude to the teachers who shaped the school in the first years by setting a rigorous academic standard for the students. Now, fifty years have passed, Mr. Lane said, and he gave a great measure of the credit to the people who founded the school and served it well.

Pamela A. Harvie ('74), a member of the Board of Directors, introduced Knotty McMillian ('76) who presented the history of the Academy. Mr. McMillian highlighted the building projects through the years that were largely the result of parents and patrons who came together in support of the Academy. The current school building was completed in 1966, and the gymnasium was added next. Other construction projects included an addition and roof, as well as two projects that followed a tornado in 2003 and a straight-line wind in 2013.

Rickylyn Cundiff ('14) took the podium to reflect on what it means to be a student today. She spoke about the Academy being a "family," a term she remembered being used by Mr. Grizzard when he was headmaster. Small classes and close friendships remain hallmarks of the Academy experience as do Spirit Week and athletics.

Reginal E. "Jay" Flippin, Jr. ('78), a member of the Board, introduced Rodney L. Taylor, the Academy's current headmaster. Mr. Taylor spoke about the benefits of independent school education and the unique qualities of the Academy that will characterize a strong future during the next fifty years and beyond. Speaking about the celebration, he said, "What an incredible feeling to see the generations of students and leaders who have shaped this school."

In closing, C. Carter Harvie ('08) sang the alma mater, the lyrics of which were written by the class of 1970 with the music composed by Agnes Fleming ('71).

After the program, guests enjoyed refreshments while catching up with old friends and fellow classmates. They also toured a timeline through the decades, which included memorabilia such as yearbooks, scrapbooks, and photographs.



Derek McMillian ('93), left, and Tead Harvie ('99) organized a cookout and bonfire as part of the celebration.

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Randy Forbes. In his spare time, Mr. Bowen enjoys a variety of athletic pursuits. Of his return to the Academy, he said, "Amelia Academy promotes a wonderful small-town atmosphere that values learning, discipline, and family."

The new Spanish teacher at the Academy is Cindy Butler. Mrs. Butler graduated from Flagler College and holds a bachelor's degree in Spanish and secondary education. She lived and worked in Santiago, Chile, for more than a year. In addition, she has taught in Pennsylvania, Texas, and Kentucky. Mrs. Butler's hometown is Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and she currently resides with her family in Powhatan. She enjoys time with family, travel, and reading mystery novels. So far, she has found everyone at the Academy "helpful and welcoming."

Paul Fetter, the pastor of Central Baptist Church, will join the Lower School faculty as a teacher of Religion, Etiquette, and Music. Currently a resident of Victoria, Mr. Fetter's hometown is Norfolk where he served for twenty-one years with the Norfolk Fire Department. He also served in the Cleveland County, North Carolina, Emergency Management System. He has been a paramedic and taught CPR and Life Support. Mr. Fetter enjoys baseball, softball, and theater, as well as being

outdoors. He has found the Academy students to be "bright and enthusiastic."

Ashley Havens will be teaching English in the Middle School as well as Upper School Economics. She grew up and currently resides in Amelia. Mrs. Havens holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies with a minor in English from Longwood University. Of her first impressions of the Academy, Mrs. Havens said, "I am looking forward to starting my career at Amelia Academy. The opportunity to become a part of the Patriot family is amazing. With the faculty and staff we have, I know this is going to be an incredible year."



Front: Mrs. Butler (left) and Mrs. Havens; Back: Mr. Fetter (left) and Mr. Bowen ('09)

Class Notes

Share the events in your life with your fellow alumni by emailing your news to: jfaeth@ameliaacademy.com

1986

Charlene Johnson Williams has a granddaughter, Karli Brooke Ashman, whose mother is Ashley Williams Ashman ('06). Another granddaughter, Kinsley Nicole Williams, was born this year. Her father is Dustin Williams ('03).

1998

Jennifer Hix Hayghe ('98) and her husband Tom graduated summa cum laude last May from John Tyler Community College with an Associates of Applied Science in Funeral Service. They passed their National Board Exam. After completing an internship at Hillsman Hix Funeral Home and passing a state Board test, they will be licensed funeral directors.

2005

Rusty Barnard ('05) and Katie Blevins were married over the summer.

Justin Havens ('05) and his wife, Ashley, have two

children—a daughter, Rylee, and a son, Keagon. Ashley is a teacher at the Academy.

Amanda Williams Moore and her husband, Daniel, have two children—a son, Landon, and a daughter, Maddison. Amanda is attending Liberty University School of Law.

50th Anniversary t-shirts and decals are still available.

Honor your memories of the old gym floor with an ornament-sized floor section. They make a great gift for anyone who played sports on the original gym floor.

Call the office to purchase these or other Patriot Store items.

Alumni, get involved...

If you are interested in helping plan an **alumni gathering in May**, please contact Jennifer Faeth at jfaeth@ameliaacademy.com.

Cindy Butler is teaching a **Life Skills program** in the second semester as part of the SAT/Life Skills class. Made up of mostly juniors, the class will cover topics, including money management, resume writing, choosing a career, to name a few. If you are available to share your career expertise in these areas, please contact Mrs. Butler at cbutler@ameliaacademy.com.

Join the Amelia Academy community for the seventh annual 9/11 Never Forget Program. On September 11, the Academy community will gather at 8:30 to remember the victims of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. The program on the front lawn will feature speakers and student performances. Earlier, in the pre-dawn hours, students arrive at school to place 2,997 flags on the lawn, each a memorial tribute to a life lost on 9/11.

Come out and support your alma mater—the volleyball and cross country teams will be competing in the upcoming weeks. Visit the Academy's website for team schedules.

Questions or comments? Contact us at:

Amelia Academy
1241 N. Five Forks Road
Amelia, VA 23002

(804) 561-2270

contactus
[@ameliaacademy.com](https://www.instagram.com/ameliaacademy.com)

Visit us on the web at
www.ameliaacademy.com

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News Briefs

The St. Andrew's Pipe and Drum Corps presented a special performance at the Academy on Aug. 18. Students were encouraged to consider the establishment of an Academy corps.

Haley Ferrell, a seventh-grader at Amelia Academy, was named Argent Credit Union's Outstanding Youth of the Year. The contest required an essay and academic record as well as a faculty recommendation.

The Senior Class, pictured at right, attended a breakfast, hosted by Angie ('88) and Sam Arrington ('88), parents of senior Wil Arrington, on the first day of school. Later, the students drove in a caravan to school for a school-wide welcome on the first day of their senior year.



SAVE THE DATE...

Check the website for more details

Turkey Shoot—SEPT. 20

Fall Festival—NOV. 1

Barnes & Noble Book Fair—NOV. 8-9