

# Patriot Review

Amelia Academy's Alumni Newsletter

Summer 2018

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## The End of an Era

### Carol Senger Chambers retires after more than 40 years at AA

For more than three decades, Carol Chambers has been a fixture in our front office at AA. Carol was a student here from 1972-1984 and upon graduation immediately began working part-time as a secretary for us. In July, 1988 she became our full-time business manager and was the sole person manning the front office for more than a decade.

During her tenure here, she's seen both of her children graduate from AA: Emily (Class of 2011) and Daniel (Class of 2015). Carol loved working the same place where her kids were all day. She will definitely miss being surrounded by all the kids and her friends on staff. But she won't miss juggling the myriad responsibilities of the front office or the unexpected things that pop up and monopolize a day. In fact, as much as we will miss her, it's unlikely she will miss us. She'll be too busy taking care of Kaylee Grace, her 8-months old granddaughter, for whom she will provide daycare while daughter Emily returns to work.

Sherry Reynolds, AA class of '86, will be stepping into the role of business manager. Carol is happy to see someone else have the opportunity to work at the Academy where their own kids will be in school all day.

There was a reception for Carol on June 7<sup>th</sup>, in the gym. Headmaster Rodney Taylor led the heartfelt farewell, thanking Mrs. Chambers for her many years of service. Mr. Taylor declared June 7<sup>th</sup>, "C-Day" in her honor. He added that she is a trusted advisor as well as a good friend; loved and respected by all and wished the very best by everyone. Mr. Taylor also extended warm wishes from former headmistress, Dallas Lewis, and former headmaster, Rick Davis.

Kelly Anderson, the Chairman of the Academy's Board Members, spoke about her loyalty and dedication saying Mrs. Chambers personifies these qualities and has been "God's gift to AA." Mrs. Eva Scott also spoke on behalf of AA's Board and added her sincere respect and appreciation for all Mrs. Chambers did for AA. She presented a gift from the Board to the retiree.

Former headmaster, Jimmy Grizzard spoke. He called Mrs. Chambers the consummate professional who did everything in her power to assure the Academy's success. "She was a fantastic colleague," Mr. Gizzard said, adding that she was a colleague who always took the time to listen to people and the opportunity to help people during tough times.

Mrs. Chambers thanked the speakers and attendees. "God has truly blessed me," she said. She thanked her family for the sacrifices they made to send her to the Academy. She added that she believes strongly in AA and is grateful for all that it has contributed to her life. She closed her remarks by saying, "May God bless each of you and Amelia Academy."

Her last day was June 29<sup>th</sup>. There is no doubt she will be missed!



Carol with granddaughter Kaylee

## What's Happening in... Bible

### Amelia Academy students build Godly habits into their everyday lives

Coach Morris leads our Bible classes daily for the Upper School and helps our Patriots 'build Godly habits' into their everyday lives. Each year, students' grow stronger in their spiritual journey toward Christ.

The curriculum is wholly Bible-based and designed to help our student body understand fully what it means to accept, follow and serve Jesus Christ as adults. At Amelia Academy, students and staff openly pray in unity and find solace in prayer when tragedies occur.

The Bible classes proactively respond to national disasters by collecting food and clothing to aid in relief efforts. They respond to terrorist acts through prayer for the victims, families and survivors and try to be an example of "love in action" to all.

By the time our Patriots graduate and go on to college and careers, they are well prepared to face the challenges that will impact their lives with strength and faith.



Students help load goods collected for the Hurricane Harvey relief drive, held this past September.

## Baby, it's COLD inside...

On May 1<sup>st</sup>, O'Neal's Electrical completed the installation of a topnotch A/C system for AA's gymnasium. The system works superbly and includes a sophisticated digital thermostat with both a physical key and remote smartphone access.

While our school building was air conditioned nearly twenty years ago, there were insufficient funds at the time to air condition the gymnasium. The project has been open on the books ever since. And it got pushed down in priority due to various unforeseen circumstances such as hurricane damage to the gym's roof and floors, which (naturally) took precedence.

For the past 5+ years, an active effort has been made by the Boosters to raise funds to complete this project. For a few years, our Boosters worked the racetrack concessions two weekends a year, but that contract ended when RIR sold the track.

When all funds were finally raised, an audible sigh went through the school as everyone anticipated the frosty air that would cool the space that is used for so much more than gym classes—intramural and

league games, luncheons, special programs, evening events, dances and graduation exercises all take place in our gym.

So, for the first time, our graduation ceremonies were held in air-conditioned splendor. Lucky Class of 2018!



Heavy equipment was needed to run underground electrical lines for the air conditioning units.

# Patriot Profiles

## Alumni: Hannah Critchfield '16



Hannah has been on a path to succeed since setting foot in AA the first day of preschool and has steadily walked that path since leaving AA to major in Mathematics at JMU. This driven life-long member of our

Patriot Nation

consistently makes Dean's List or President's List each semester as she combines special interests in cryptography and numerical analysis, as well as minors in Economics and Logic and Reasoning.

She's also found time to research spacial graph theory and make three- dimensional models of Petersen graphs; work as a math tutor and as a senior lab assistant for JMU's Mathematics' 3D Printing Lab.

Hannah's found time for plenty of fun stuff while at college, too. She's joined several clubs, groups and societies including the Math Club, Alpha Delta Pi sorority, Pi Mu Epsilon (the math honors frat) and the Association for Women in Mathematics. She serves in leadership roles in several of these organizations. She's gotten to know and love the area surrounding JMU—walking, camping and just exploring downtown Harrisonburg. And she finds time to cook and bake whenever she has an hour of down time.

This May, she attended a Women and Mathematics program at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey where she focused on the Mathematics of Modern Cryptography and met lecturers from NSA and Microsoft. And later this summer, she'll be paid to do research on graph theory with Dr. Emily Marshall as part of a math Research Experience for Undergrads in Allendale, MI. Hannah will have the opportunity while participating in this REU to formally share her research at the Michigan REU Conference and at Mathfest—the Mathematical Association of America's summer meeting.

Her goals after graduation are still open. She'll apply to various doctoral programs and pursue jobs at NSA, Google, Amazon and the like. Wherever her future path lies, she's laid the groundwork to succeed through the diligent pursuit of her goals.

## Student: Hannah King '19



Rising senior, Hannah King, spent her summer break preparing for college by taking part in a couple of unique summer

camps—one in Florida and one closer to home in Farmville.

She attended "Pirates, Protest and Preservation" at Flagler in St. Augustine and honed her writing skills as she learned about historical events that are often glossed over in standard history courses. During the week-long camp, she wrote essays and helped make a documentary film. She loved the experience.

"It is probably the best week I've had in my life so far," she said. While Hannah's not certain which college she will attend after graduation, this week at Flagler has deepened her conviction to further her education.

Hannah also represented AA at Girls State, which was held at Longwood during the summer. This structured program was set up like a state government with multiple cities represented. About 40 girls represented each city and each had a unique role to play. Hannah sat on her city's council and advised their mayor. It was an exhausting program, but—by the end of the week—she felt a real sense of accomplishment when a girl from her city won the election for lieutenant governor.

## Staff: Jesse Roberts



Like many valued members of the administration and teaching staff at AA, Jesse Roberts' children—twins Carson and Emilynn—initially

brought her to

us in 2014 when they began Pre-K. This past fall, she joined our staff and is now both the office manager and preschool director. Today, Mrs. Roberts' twins attend third grade and her son, Henry, is in first grade in the Lower School.

Working at AA is a big change for the Virginia Tech grad who majored in Human Nutrition, Foods & Exercise. Prior to her career here, she was the Chief Deputy Clerk in the Nottoway Court System. Now, she has a hard time remembering what it was like to work anywhere else. "I love the children and the people. Everyone is so nice, and no day is ever the same," she says.

She also loves the Christian environment fostered at AA, especially the fact that it feels like one big extended family where everyone genuinely cares about each other and God. "You can tell that God is ever present here," she added.

Mrs. Roberts has been married to her husband Dustin for 14 years. This long-time Hokie and Atlanta Braves fan, enjoys watching all sports and loves to read. She looks forward to every day spent with her nuclear family and her extended family at the Academy.

## Giddy Up

**Our students are achieving milestones in their riding and have learned a lot about equine vaccines, hoof care, anatomy, and much more this year.**

The Equine Program is in its second season and continues to grow and evolve. Open to any Upper School students, the program teaches all aspects of equine care and English riding skills.

The structure of the Equine Program at AA is unique. Classes are held daily; students ride three times a week, have a classroom lesson once a week and a hands-on session at the stable to reinforce what they learned in class. Riding and hands-on learning occurs offsite at Zephyr Stables.

Students do not need to have former riding experience or to own a horse. They learn to ride single rein English style and can be first time riders when they initially join the program. They ride school horses from

Zephyr's and regularly ride different mounts to build up their confidence.



**The Academy's leased horses, Chloe and Ginny.**

The program is small and each student gets lots of individual attention. Both girls and boys are welcome, but so far all participants have been girls.

Along with riding, our students learn a lot of practical skills including hoof care, vaccinating and worming techniques, leg wrapping, body clipping, pulling manes, etc.

Some students plan to continue riding over the summer and begin competing. AA hopes to develop a competitive team in the future and compete in Interscholastic Equestrian

## Patriot Games 2018

On Friday May 11, AA's Patriot Games 2018 took place. The classes divided up into two teams: Navy (odd year graduates) vs. Maroon (even year grads) for a Field Day of fun.

The Opening Ceremonies saw each class parade through and display their class poster. Then the Lower School students split off to participate in an 'Around the World' Field Day of outdoor games and the Upper School students competed in Academics and Games indoors.

A variety of fun activities comprised Field Day. There was a Bounce House to jump like kangaroos from Australia. Teams played basketball in the gym as part of a 'Salute to the Troops' for the USA. And there was a special Hawaiian Island adventure with a luau theme using hula hoops and including face painting.

Upper School Games included Stacking Cups with paper plates and cups to build a tower; the Tape Measure Roll, Elephant March, Junk in the Trunk and the ever popular Candy on the Move where students suction up M&Ms with a straw to move them from one plate to another.

After lunch, there was time for free play, games with beach balls and squirt guns, a board walk, etc. The day ended with tug-of-war events

and a celebration where all teams and classes came together to eat cake and dance.

When it was time to tally points, the Navy and Maroon teams were very close...but in the end, there was only one winner. The Maroon team won and the Patriot Games banner in the gym now proclaims Maroon for all time as the winner of the 2018 event. Go Patriots!



**The Class of 2018 fights hard for a tug of war win.**

# Patriot Annual Report

**“With the ever-increasing costs associated with operating independent schools, we will see an ever greater need for annual fund support in the coming years,” said Rodney Taylor, Head of School.**

A dedicated group of alumni, parents, and friends donated a total of \$42,421.89 to the Amelia Academy Annual Fund during this year’s campaign that extended from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. This support helped bridge the gap between tuition and the real cost of the Academy’s operation.

<p><b>Founder’s Circle \$5000+</b>                  Aubrey &amp; Christine Anderson                  Nellie Keener                  Stephen Lane ('71)</p>	<p><b>The Blue &amp; Maroon Club \$1000-\$2499</b>                  Capital One Services, LLC                  Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation                  Matthew Harvie ('02)                  Jim &amp; Carol Hix                  T. C. &amp; Anne Reames                  Rick ('70) &amp; Lisa (Reames '79) Watkins</p>
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**The following gifts were given in memory or in honor of a loved one.**

- Robert & JoLynn Allen in honor of Jennifer Faeth
- Eddie Ashman in memory of Ann Ashman
- Patty Averett (Courter '76) in memory of Virginia Lee Courter
- Jack & Norma Easter in memory of Linda Duncan
- Martha Easter in memory of Linda Duncan
- William E. Hardy ('74) in memory of Mrs. Ann E. Hardy
- Gordon Harvie ('77) in memory of Mr. and Mrs. A.T. Harvie Jr Taylor ('74) & Pam (Anderson '74) Harvie in memory of Frances Fleming
- Carolyn T. Hoover (Thornton '72) in memory of John and Ethelene Thornton
- Nellie Keener in memory of Harry Midkiff
- Nellie Keener in memory of C. Wayne Keener
- Gene Carter & Mary Nell (Blanton '71) Tatum in memory of Reuben Lee and Nell C. Blanton
- David W. & J. Shane Newcombe in honor of Martha Womack

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- Ann J. Courter
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- Bonnie Crowder
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- Shirley Goodman
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- Hillman-Hix Funeral Home & Florist
- Norman Hutchens
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- Karen McGill ('82)
- Derek ('93) and Wendy McMillian
- Jason & Mary Margaret Morris
- Thomas & Brenda Osborne
- Daphne Ratliff
- Preston & Barbara Senger
- Herbert Shaw
- Jimmy & Ruby Southall
- Charles & Deborah Spivey
- Thomas Stark, III
- Irving & Stephanie Taylor
- Mr. and Mrs. Preston R. Willson

**Gifts In Kind**

- Kelly ('84) & Angela Anderson
- Robert & JoLynn Allen in honor of Jennifer Faeth
- Mike & Teresa Carwile
- Bill & Jennifer Faeth
- Tom & Jennifer (Hix '98) Hayghe
- Alison King
- David W. & J. Shane Newcombe
- Shawn Stern Computer Services, Inc.
- Jim & Joanne Webb

**Donations for Capital Improvement, such as the security system and the gym air conditioning**

- Kelly ('84) & Angela Anderson
- Anderson Bros. Lumber Co.
- Steve Binford
- Troy & Cathy Carter
- Alan & Leigh Anne Chambers
- David W. & J. Shane Newcombe
- Thomas Stark, III

## Anchors Aweigh

Amelia Academy graduates plan to serve their country by joining the Navy

This summer, two Class of 2018 graduates will be joining the US Navy after graduation: Travis Bowlin and Caleb Crotty.

Travis is set to go to boot camp in Great Lakes, IL in August and then on to Pensacola, Florida for training as an aviation mechanic. He'll continue his education in January 2019 at Longwood University and serve in the Navy Reserves throughout his college years. Upon graduation from LU, he wants to go on active duty with the U.S. Navy as an officer.

Caleb hopes to go into the NROTC at VMI in the fall. But if not, he will enlist in July when he turns 17. He wants to pursue a career as a naval pilot.

Both Travis and Caleb want to serve their country and feel the Navy is the best way to do that. Both believe the military will provide good benefits and career growth.

Their families support their decisions and are proud of them. So are we at AA.



**Caleb Crotty and Travis Bowlin**

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