RISK

THE BULLETIN



2026

KISKI

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P=Parent

ABOUT THE COVER:

An early start with a golden glow. A student begins his day as the sun rises over Kiski's campus.

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While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this publication, The Kiski School does not accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

The Kiski School admits students of any race, color, sexual orientation, nationality, or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at The Kiski School. The administration does not discriminate on the basis of color, sexual orientation, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarships and loan programs, athletics, and any other school-administered programs.

In This Issue

Letter from the Head of School 2

A Time to Honor, Reflect, and Celebrate 5

Honors Convocation Awards 6

Matriculation 10

Leadership in Action at Kiski 12

Leaving It All on the Field:
Athletics in Review 13

A Culture Reignited:
The Evolution of Academics at Kiski 20

A Seat at the Table:
The Enduring Tradition of
Formal Meals at Kiski 24

Cougars in Dublin:
Football, Friendship, and a
Journey to Remember 26

Driving Change:
How Kiski Golf Is Building a Modern
Program from the Ground Up 28

New Faculty and Staff 31

Let It Spin! Celebrating the
Lee F. Friesell '68 Vinyl Record Room 32

Kiski Luminary — In Harmony:
The Legacy of Mary Vlahos 34

Answering the Call Home 37

Reunion Weekend 41

Class Notes 43

Building Momentum 50

In Memoriam 52



Letter from the Head of School



Dear Kiski community,

Spring is a very rewarding time to be an educator. With one semester concluded and another beginning, it can be a fresh start for students. A chance to redouble their efforts, take feedback, learn from the fall semester, and continue on the journey of growth in the pursuit of excellence. While piles of snow and ice still dot the Kiski campus, expansive stretches of grass are emerging, and in the air we can all sense that spring is coming, along with extended rejuvenation and sunshine.

This is the 138th year of The Kiski School and my second year as the eighth Head of School in our distinguished history. This is a tremendously exciting time for us. Last year, after 137 years as The Kiski School for Boys, we were reborn as The Kiski School for Girls and Boys, or, as you've heard me say, The Kiski School for Families, as all are welcome. Last year, we enrolled 25 pioneering young women as our inaugural coeducational class; this year, we welcomed 38 young women to campus. That's a 52% increase. The fabric of the school, and with it, our mission, continues to evolve and rejuvenate.

At Kiski, every student is seen, known, and supported, and as always, the distinctive elements of the Kiski experience endure. A few weeks ago, I completed grade readings once again, going from MacColl to Vlahos to Fosnaugh, Daub, and McClintock, and wrapping up at Hoag, just as Chris Bruningsen, Jack Pidgeon, and others have done, extending the spirit of the school back to our founder, Andrew Wilson. The fall semester wrapped up in inspiring fashion, with a gathering in Rogers for the holiday concert and our final formal meal of the term, during which students took turns sharing what they were grateful for in their Kiski experience. Interspersed throughout the winter months were dorm decorating contests, cookie decorating, and holiday dress-up days, all of which celebrate our community's core values of kindness, respect, and generosity toward others.

So many of you have asked, "How is it going, and how is the second year of coeducation?"

The students are really the ones who should answer that question, so I asked them to write a few words responding to this: "What do you love about Kiski?"



Carter, from South Carolina, said, "What I love most about Kiski is the welcoming environment and the unwavering support." Max, from Montana, said, "I love the community and how connected everyone is."

Ella, one of our pioneering girls, from Ligonier, PA, wrote, "For it being my first year at Kiski, I love that everyone has been so welcoming and helpful. Everyone feels like family."

Indeed, Kiski's distinctive relational ethos continues, as students carry forward the values of hard work, humility, tolerance, and civility. I'm excited to report that our new academic initiatives have been well received, as students have leaned into the 12 new AP courses. Our new faculty members, a strong group of emerging educators from Cornell, Haverford, Kenyon, and Brown, are making a significant impact in the classroom and increasing the rigor of the student experience. In addition to English and history, students are now required to take an Independent Reading course, in which they select six books per semester and dedicate one daily period to reading. The Harkness classes, too, have enhanced teaching and learning. The Harkness philosophy is rooted in collaborative learning through the sharing of ideas around tables in a participatory environment. You can read more about the evolution of our academic programs on page 20.

The early news for our seniors from the College Counseling Office is affirming, with admissions to Swarthmore, Northeastern, and the Rhode Island School of Design.

The Advancement Office has been a busy place, as Chief Advancement Officer Megan Chasin and her team are still reveling in the success of Giving Tuesday. We saw a 27% increase in overall donation amounts over last year, along with 25 first-time givers. Faculty giving was up, along with alumni, parent, and grandparent giving. Our Pittsburgh alumni gathering at the Heinz History Center in November was a success, with nearly 100 attendees. We have also hosted a busy series of alumni events in California, Toronto, Mexico, and Texas, with more slated to come in Charlotte, Cleveland, Columbus, and Philadelphia.

Our sports teams are all competing hard, and you can find specific updates in this issue. In December 2025, we were thrilled to announce the launch of two new programs for the 2026–2027 year: girls basketball and girls lacrosse. Throughout the year, the McCrady Golf and Learning Center has been busy on weekends as students sharpen their swings. Even in the winter, the newly opened pathway to Saltsburg continues to receive rave reviews.

As valued community members, your support continues to be essential to the sustainability of our business model. Three channels fund this school: the draw from the endowment, fundraising through major gifts and annual giving, and net tuition revenue. Kiski's mission has always been to provide educational opportunities to deserving students from every quarter, and thanks to your generous support, we have held true to that ideal, extending funding to thousands of students over the years. This year, more than 50% of our students received some form of financial aid, scholarship, or merit award. Adjusted for inflation, our operating expenses have remained flat for the past 10 years.

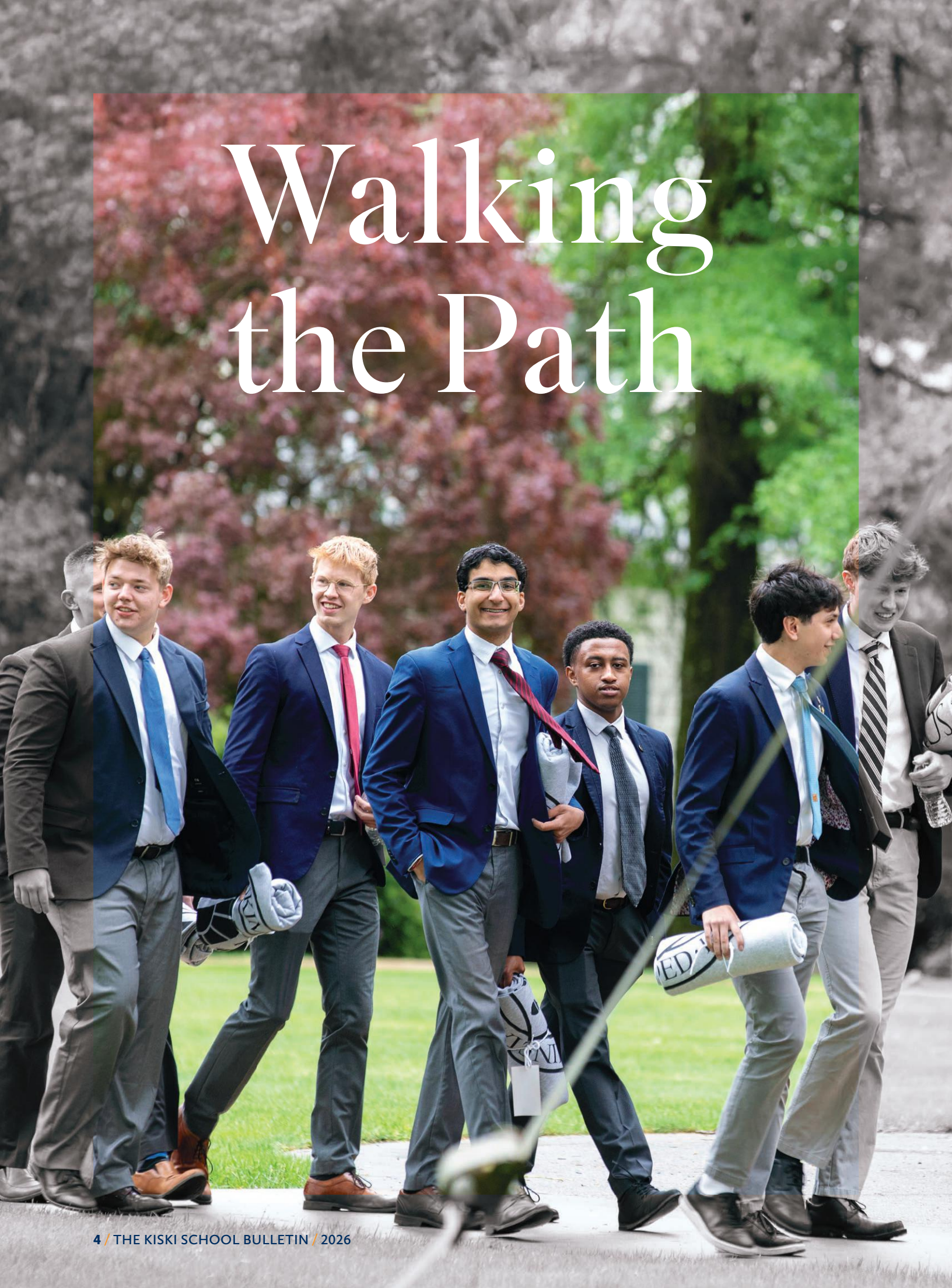
Tuition revenue is the engine that drives our operations. If each of you referred just one student to us, it would make a significant impact as we strengthen the foundation of the school. Your support is essential.

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. Thank you, too, for your willingness to invest in the future of Kiski. Please continue to be ambassadors by guiding new students to us, including your sons, daughters, grandsons, granddaughters, nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome, and in 2026, Kiski is truly a "family school."

Warm regards,



Walking the Path



MAY 18–23, 2025

A Time to Honor, Reflect, and Celebrate

The close of the academic year brought the Kiski community together for a meaningful series of events that celebrated achievement, character, and the enduring bonds that define a Kiski education. From recognizing underclassmen at Honors Convocation to applauding the accomplishments of the Class of 2025 at Senior Awards and Commencement, the time was filled with pride, reflection, and optimism for the future.

Honors Convocation was held Sunday, May 18, 2025, on Yukevich Quad, and drew a full house of students, families, faculty, and alumni. The ceremony honored underclassmen for academic excellence and leadership, including the induction of new members into the Cum Laude Society. Students who will serve as leaders in the coming school year were also recognized with pins and certificates. Student speaker Lorne Chesters '25 reflected on the importance of relationships, encouraging his peers to stay connected to friends and family amid their many pursuits. Kiski Trustee Nathan McCutcheon '03 spoke and shared a powerful message about perseverance and remaining true to oneself, reminding students that success is built on authenticity and resilience. The ceremony was a proud moment for the entire community, and a preview of the promise held by Kiski's rising leaders.

On the evening of Thursday, May 22, the campus turned its attention to the Senior Awards Ceremony, honoring the Class of 2025 for their academic achievements, leadership, and contributions to the school. Families gathered to celebrate their seniors during their final night at Kiski, making the event especially poignant. Parent speaker Dr. Kathleen Collins P'25 offered thoughtful guidance as students prepare for college and life beyond Kiski, urging them to build and sustain community, take advantage of available resources, stay engaged, and recognize the rewards of their efforts. Faculty speaker Jonty Loukes shared his appreciation for Kiski and emphasized the importance of family, both at home and within the school community. Head of School Dr. Mark Ott captured the spirit of the evening in his remarks to the graduating class:



"In the future, you will need to draw on your ability to adapt to changing circumstances, your skills in collaboration and teamwork, and most importantly, to complete a task to a standard of excellence, to succeed in the workplace. You can do that. You will do that. And you'll make us proud."

The celebration continued Friday, May 23, with Kiski's 137th Commencement, a day marked by rain showers but also by unmistakable joy and tradition. As bagpipes played and seniors let out a spirited cheer before the procession, the weather faded into the background. Student speakers brought their own reflections to the podium: Charlie Boon likened preparing for the future to spending more than 500 hours in a Kiski van; Alexa Deng spoke about the importance of living in the moment; and Brayden McNellie reflected on change, symbolized by Kiski's iconic white squirrel. Diplomas were awarded in memorable fashion, with Lorne Chesters receiving the first and Gael Matos the last. The ceremony concluded with the faculty gauntlet, emotional, joyful, and deeply meaningful, as families and friends celebrated the accomplishments of an extraordinary class.

Together, these events marked not just the end of an academic year, but a celebration of growth, community, and the lifelong connection to Kiski that each student carries forward.

Honors Convocation Awards

Achievement Awards:

ENGLISH: Joseph Izeko '26, Charlotte Cruz '27, Milo Vignovic '28

FINE ARTS: Kevin Lee '27, Nathaniel Winter '26, Alik Mboya '28, Solomiia Geraschenko '28, Demian Geraschenko '28, Kaitlyn Zhan '28

HISTORY: Parker Hannah '27, Graeme Crowder '26, Daniel Moriarty '27, Max Provost '28

MATHEMATICS: Ally Waugaman '27, Elin Bash '26, Gary Han '28

PHOTOGRAPHY: Michael Kavouras '26

RESEARCH: Graeme Crowder '26

SCIENCE: Kevin Lee '27, Joseph Izeko '26, Josh Logan '28

WORLD LANGUAGES: Ally Waugaman '27, Owen Bordin-Pusey '26, Milo Vignovic '28





Namesake Awards:

THE BAUSCH AND LOMB AWARD is presented to a member of the junior class in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and superior intellectual promise in the field of science: Khuyen Phan ’26

THE BLAKE-HAMILL AWARD is presented in memory of Joseph Blake ’71 and John Hamill ’71, who passed away in an automobile accident on the eve of graduation in 1970. The award recognizes a member of the junior class who best exemplifies their spirit: Joseph Izeko ’26

THE BORTZ IMPROVEMENT AWARD recognizes individuals who have shown marked improvement throughout the year in academics, athletics, and more: Roman Mosites ’25, Luke Latimer ’26, Diego Castro ’27, Carter Walrond ’27

THE CLIFFORD BRETT AWARD recognizes a junior who has been elected the next Head Prefect of The Kiski School: Joseph Izeko ’26

THE FREDRICK DOUGLAS AND SUSAN B. ANTHONY AWARD is attained by a member of the junior class in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and superior intellectual promise in Humanities and Social Sciences: Joseph Izeko ’26

GEORGE EASTMAN YOUNG LEADERS AWARD is given to a member of the junior class who has shown outstanding school leadership as well as academic achievement: Kiran Rihn ’26

THE KING AWARD is given in loving memory of Coltart King ’70, to a member of the junior class who has earned the highest scholastic average: Khuyen Phan ’26

THE MATHIAS AWARD is presented to a member of the junior class who adheres to the highest personal standards and always displays chivalrous conduct on the athletic field as personified by Robert Mathias ’49: Mamadou Tall ’26

THE RENSSELAER MEDAL recognizes the superlative academic achievement of a member of the junior class who has distinguished themselves in mathematics and science, to motivate students toward careers in science, engineering, and technology: Elin Bash ’26



Lorne Chesters ’25

Additional Honors:

CUM LAUDE SOCIETY is an international academic honor society recognizing superior scholastic achievement for high-achieving junior and senior students, who demonstrate not just high grades but also character, rigor in coursework, and a love of learning, promoting lifelong scholarly pursuit in member schools worldwide: Shaurya Gulati ’25, Hanzhen Teng ’25 and Joseph Izeko ’26.

THE COLONEL JOHN J. DAUB SOCIETY recognizes students who have demonstrated an exemplary commitment to community service in memory of Col. Daub, class of 1907, and longtime faculty member, for his service to his country and The Kiski School: Francisco “Paco” Aguilera ’25, Lorne Chesters ’25, James “Wade” Collins ’25, Alexa Deng ’25, Logan Gates ’25, Joseph Izeko ’26, Tristan Morrison ’25, Khuyen Phan ’26, and Cristian Guadalupe ’26

LEADERSHIP AWARDS: Graeme Crowder ’26, Ryan Mockenhaupt ’27, Kaitlyn Zhan ’28

Senior Awards Ceremony



THE CARL L. ARNOLD AWARD is presented for excellence in mathematics: Shaurya Gulati

THE BATES AWARD is given in memory of William Palmer Bates '29, killed in service to his country in 1945, to a senior who most exemplifies the qualities of honor, sacrifice and concern for others through dedication to his or her school and country: Alexa Deng

THE EUGENE L. BIDDLE AWARD is presented for excellence in science: Shaurya Gulati

BORTZ IMPROVEMENT AWARD is presented to a senior who has shown marked improvement throughout the year in academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities: Roman Mosites

THE CANADY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD is given to a graduating senior following in the footsteps of the award's creator, Major Canady '13. The recipient receives financial aid for each of his eight college semesters and mentoring guidance: Yeabsera Samson Oli

THE GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD is presented by the office of Pennsylvania State Senator Joe Pittman to recipients that exemplify qualities of outstanding character and leadership: Ryan Eckenrode and Justin Urban

THE WILLIAM V. GRIER '14 AWARD recognizes a senior who has compiled the highest scholastic average: Brayden McNellie

THE KISKI AWARD is presented to a graduating senior who, in the opinion of the faculty and the Head of School, through his/her scholastic achievement, leadership, breadth of interest and high personal standards has been of great value to the school: Charlie Boon

THE KISKI INTERNATIONAL AWARD recognizes a senior international student who has made a significant contribution through his proven leadership and active participation in organizations and extracurricular activities: Hanzhen Teng

THE JOHN A. LOMBARDO AWARD recognizes excellence in world languages: Brayden McNellie

THE WILLIAM H. MCKILLOP AWARD recognizes a graduating senior who, in the opinion of the faculty, has at all times displayed chivalrous conduct on the athletic field: Kade Kronen

THE JOSEPH H. MILLAR AWARD for Excellence in English: Lorne Chesters

THE JOHN A. PIDGEON HEADMASTER AWARD is presented to a graduating senior who, in the opinion of the faculty and the Head of School and through exemplary accomplishments, dedicated leadership and uncompromising habits of mind and heart, embodies the admirable qualities and high standards of Mr. John A. Pidgeon, who served The Kiski School as a teacher, coach, and Head of School for 45 years: Shaurya Gulati

THE HARRY A. STUHLDREHER AWARD is given in memory of Harry Stuhldreher, class of 1921, to a senior who has made an outstanding contribution to the school's athletic program: Sam Kamenko





INVENTIONLAND INSTITUTE'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE is given to a student who exemplifies the highest levels of innovation and engineering in the creation, design, and marketing of an original problem-solving invention: Mason Smith

THE RUSSELL C. SWANK JR. AWARD is given in memory of Russ Swank Jr. '42 to a member of the senior class whose optimistic outlook and positive school spirit has had a beneficial impact on his classmates and our school: Lorne Chesters

THE E. WILLIAM TURLEY JR. MEMORIAL AWARD is presented in loving memory of E. William Turley '64, to a senior who most closely embodies the qualities of gentleness, propriety, and concern for others that so personified Bill Turley: James Sparks

THE ZACHARY J. VLAHOS AWARD for excellence in history: Yeabsera Samson Oli

THE ANDREW W. WILSON AWARD is presented in memory of Kiski's first Head of School, to a senior who best exemplifies the principles on which Dr. Wilson's beloved school was founded - Faith, Humility, and Tolerance: Radomir Bryzgalov

THE JACOB E. ZEIGLER AWARD recognizes a senior who, in the opinion of the faculty, has contributed the most cheer to the school year: Logan Gates

THE CREATIVE WRITING AWARD: Jacob Carter

THE CULTURE POT LEADERSHIP AWARD: Yeabsera Samson Oli and Francisco "Paco" Aguilera

EXCELLENCE IN FINE ARTS AWARD: Alexa Deng

EXCELLENCE IN DRAMA AWARD: Logan Gates

FACULTY APPRECIATION AWARD: Owen Sinclair, Brian Fox, Sebastian Waugaman, Hara Espinosa Rodriquez and James Wade Collins

NATIONAL FORENSICS LEAGUE AWARD: Francisco "Paco" Aguilera

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN DIGITAL MEDIA AWARD: Kade Kronen and Bryce Ferguson



Matriculation

The Class of 2025 is composed of 70 young men and women who, through their experiences at Kiski, are prepared to succeed in college and in life. They have chosen to continue their education at the following institutions:

Allegheny College*
Augustana College*
Boston University
Campbell University
Carlow University*
Carnegie Mellon University
Colorado College*
Concordia University
CUNY Brooklyn College
DePaul University
Duquesne University
Hamilton College*
Hampshire College
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indian Hills Community College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
John Cabot University
Keene State College
Lawrence University
Long Island University
Lynn University
Mercyhurst University*
Merrimack College*
Montgomery College
Morehouse College
Northeastern University
Oberlin College*
Ohio Wesleyan University*
Penn State University
Queens University of Charlotte*
Rochester Institute of Technology*
Russell Sage College
Seton Hill University*
Southern Utah University
St. John's College
Stephen F. Austin State University*
SUNY College at Brockport
Temple University
Texas A&M University
The University of the West Indies
United States Naval Academy
Universidad Europea
University at Albany
University of Cincinnati
University of Michigan
University of New Hampshire*
Vassar College
Volunteer State Community College
Washington & Jefferson College*
Washington and Lee University
Western Connecticut State University*
Western Washington University

* Indicates the college has a 2025 Kiski graduate competing as a student-athlete.




36

Leadership in Action at Kiski

Leadership development is a cornerstone of the Kiski experience. Each year, students step forward to serve their peers and strengthen our community. The following students have been appointed to key leadership roles for the 2025–2026 school year.

Prefects

Our Prefects are exemplary student leaders who embody Kiski's values. Through their guidance and example, they help foster a culture of respect, responsibility, and integrity across campus. Seniors: Elin Bash, Jeremy Bjick, Owen Bordin-Pusey, Graeme Crowder, Gabriela Donado Diaz, Cristian Guadalupe, Brayden Horton, (Head Prefect) Joseph Izeko, James Kendall, Zachary McKnight, Jacob Petnuch, Mayte Plata, Kiran Rihn, Joshua Silnutzer, Rade Vignovic, Nathaniel Winter, Cy Zufall. Juniors: Diego Castro, Brayden Frischolz, Noah Hammond, Simon LaBelle, Einstein "Kevin" Lee, Ryan Mockenhaupt, Daniel Moriarty, Cheo Stevenson, Jake Wright.

K-Club President and Head Tour Guides

These student ambassadors are often the first to welcome prospective families to campus. Their warmth, knowledge, and enthusiasm help visitors experience what makes Kiski so special. Head Senior Tour Guides: Elin Bash, Gabriela Donado Diaz, Kiran Rihn, Rade Vignovic (President). Head Junior Tour Guides: Jonah Hilty, Daniel Moriarty, Cheo Stevenson.

Headwaiters

Headwaiters uphold the traditions of the Turley Dining Hall, ensuring meals run smoothly and supporting new students as they learn dining customs. Their leadership helps preserve one of Kiski's most distinctive community experiences. Seniors: Ryan Cornell, Gabriela Donado Diaz (Maître D'), Sergio Dubois, Michael Kavouras, Liam McKlveen, and Khuyen Phan.

Culture Pot Leaders

Culture Pot Leaders enrich our community by promoting cultural understanding and celebrating the diversity within Kiski. Their work helps students, faculty, and staff appreciate the broader world in which we learn and live. Co-Presidents: Joseph Izeko '26 and Cheo Stevenson '27. Co-Vice Presidents: Daniel Moriarty '27 and Jake Wright '27.

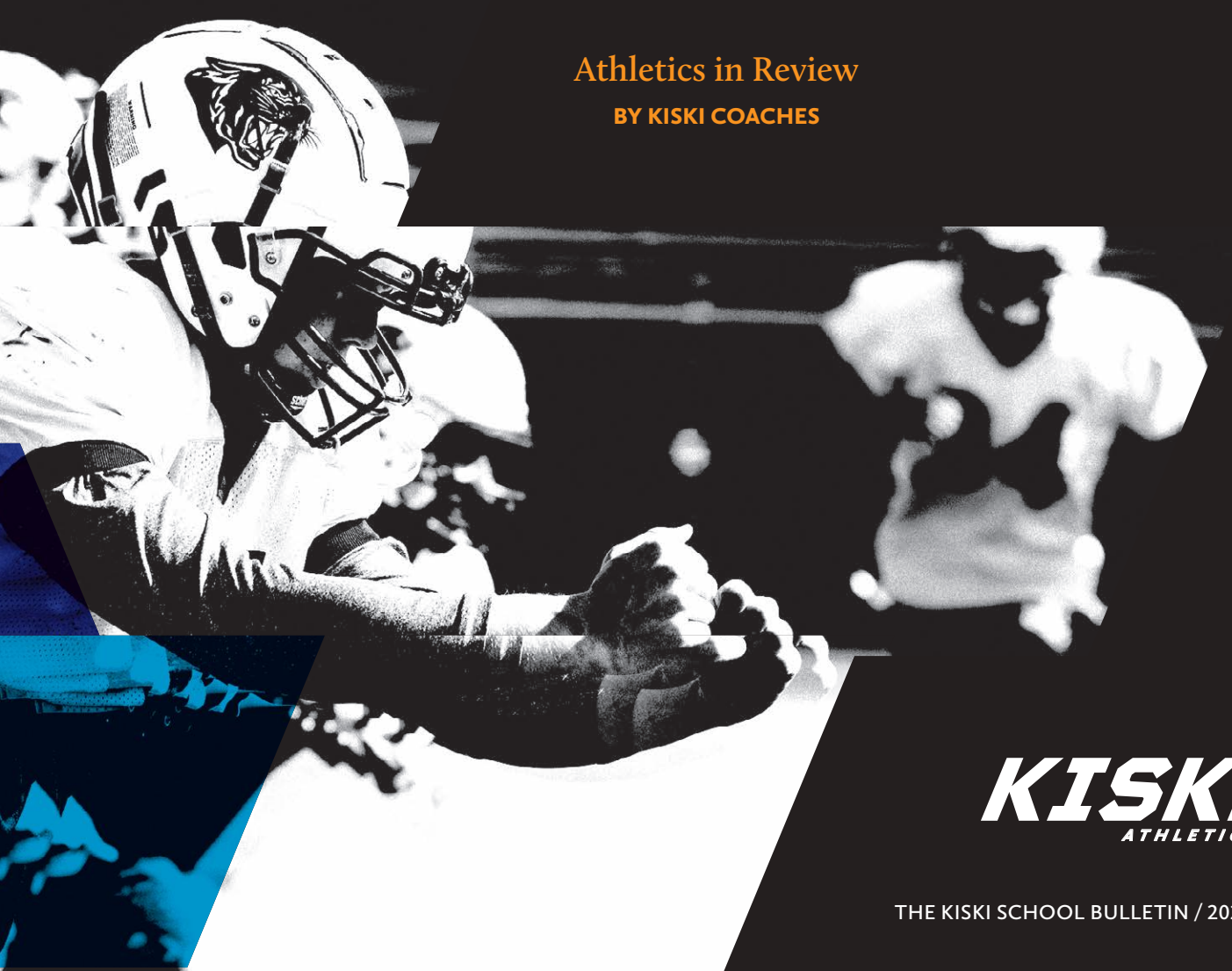
Honor and Discipline Council

Service on the Honor and Discipline Council requires exceptional maturity and character. Council members provide a trusted peer voice during confidential discussions of serious disciplinary and Honor Code matters, helping to uphold the standards that define our school. Seniors: Elin Bash, Jeremy Bjick, Owen Bordin-Pusey, Graeme Crowder, Gabriela Donado Diaz, Joseph Izeko, Michael Kavouras, Liam McKlveen, Jacob Petnuch, Kiran Rihn, Rade Vignovic, Cy Zufall. Juniors: Daniel Moriarty.

Leaving It All on the Field

Athletics in Review

BY KISKI COACHES



KISKI ATHLETICS

WINTER 2024–2025

BASKETBALL



The 2024–2025 Kiski basketball season was a masterclass in adaptation, as the program successfully navigated the departure of a high-scoring senior core. Sam Kamenko ’25 stepped into the spotlight as the team’s definitive leader, evolving into a premier all-around threat and a defensive Swiss Army knife capable of guarding every position on the floor. He was bolstered by a disciplined senior class: PJ Latauskas provided a physical interior presence, CJ Brewster and Noah Kaniki anchored the backcourt, and the duo of Mathias Gbeblewu and Phin Okolie utilized their length to transform the defense into a lockdown unit. The emergence of sophomore Jake Wright solidified the roster, showcasing the depth and future potential of the program.

On the court, the Cougars’ growth was highlighted by a season sweep of Saint James School, a home win over The Lawrenceville School, and a resounding victory against a 24–6 Sewickley Academy squad. The team carried this momentum into the postseason, defeating Germantown Friends Academy to reach the Centennial Cup Championship. While the season ended with a hard-fought loss to Mercersburg Academy, the run cemented the 2024–2025 squad’s legacy as a group that refused to let a “transition year” be anything less than legendary.

HOCKEY

The varsity hockey team had a record of 5-11-1 in the 2024–2025 season. The coaches considered the season a success as the team was never at full strength after the second game of the season. Unfortunately for the team, injuries came early and often throughout, but the team displayed an uncanny ability to face all challenges head on, and more importantly, not complain or feel sorry for themselves.

The mental toughness that the young men displayed exemplifies what it means to be a Kiski student-athlete, and how Kiski teams play through all adversity. The skating Cougars traveled to Maryland, Ohio, and Canada, while also competing against rivals, The Linsly School and Shady Side Academy. The coaching staff would like to thank the seniors for their leadership this season and look forward to coaching the team in the 2025–2026 season.



SWIMMING

The 2024–2025 swim season marked a historic step forward for the program, defined by a culture of daily improvement and the successful integration of our coed team. While returning veterans provided a steady foundation of hard work, the arrival of several new faces significantly elevated the team's competitive edge. Among these newcomers was Alexa Deng '25, a standout performer who became a trailblazing record-setter for the girls' team. Her exceptional season at Kiski has paved the way for her to continue her swimming career at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Alexa and Yuegao Han both represented Kiski at the Eastern Interscholastic Swimming & Diving Championships, where they delivered strong performances against elite competition. As a leader of the program's rising generation, Yuegao proved he could hold his own at the championship level with a series of solid swims. With a strong pool of returning swimmers, the team anticipates a solid upcoming season.

WRESTLING

The wrestling team navigated a rigorous 2024–2025 season, defined by steady improvement and historic milestones. The Cougars finished the dual season with an 11-16 record, highlighted by a definitive 48-36 victory over rival Western Reserve Academy and a dominant 4-1 showing at the Plum Duals. This winter also marked a landmark moment for the program as Lili Turpin became the first female wrestler in school history. She put together a remarkable debut campaign, finishing 18-11 and securing a third-place podium spot at the County Tournament.

On the individual stage, the team's postseason was bolstered by several standout performances at the State Tournament. Junior Liam McKlveen led the way with a 21-10 record and a fifth place finish, while fellow junior Adrian Valdez turned in a stellar 14-3 season to take fourth. They were joined on the state podium by Josh Silnutzer (7th) and Emanuel Safikhany-i (8th), capping off a strong showing for the Kiski lineup. While the future remains bright with these returning leaders, the program bids a grateful farewell to a deep senior class—Roman Mosites, Miles Provost, Jamie Sparks, Langston Overton, Brandon Abreu, Braydon McNellie, and Jake Maury—whose grit and camaraderie set the standard for the season.



SPRING 2025



LACROSSE

The 2025 Kiski lacrosse season marked a significant turning point as the program transitioned to its first year without longtime coach Chris Spahn, though his legacy continued with his son, TJ Spahn '18, joining the coaching staff. Despite graduating 14 seniors the previous year, the Cougars demonstrated remarkable growth under the leadership of senior captains Charlie Boon, Kade Kronen, Zach DiLauro, and Bryce Ferguson. The team navigated the rebuilding year successfully, finishing with a 13-9 record highlighted by marquee victories over Everest Academy and Blue Ridge School.

Individual milestones were headlined by goalie Graeme Crowder, who set a new school record with 25 saves in a single game against Hill Academy. Post-season honors recognized Offensive MVP Charlie Boon, Defensive MVP Owen Bordin-Pusey, and Most Improved Player Santino Giachetti, while Kade Kronen received the Coaches Award and both Zach DiLauro and Bryce Ferguson earned four-year letterman status. The season concluded on a high note with the announcement that all seven graduating seniors will continue their lacrosse careers at the collegiate level, reinforcing Kiski's reputation as a premier developmental program.

BASEBALL

The 2025 Kiski Cougars baseball team demonstrated significant progress, closing the season with an impressive momentum shift. Led by seniors Ben Dunkleberger, Owen Sinclair, Wade Collins, Logan Gates, and Brandon Abreu, the team ended on a high note with a dominant 10-run victory over a playoff-bound River Valley High School squad and a five run lead over Western Reserve Academy that was ruled a tie due to lightning cancellation. The season was highlighted by a signature win against section champion Leechburg High School and a thrilling, narrow extra-inning battle against arch-rival Mercersburg Academy. The offense was sparked by Tyler Hahn, who hit .419 while establishing himself as a premier catcher in Western Pennsylvania, while junior Cy Zufall dominated on the mound with a 0.77 ERA—ranking him among the top 10 pitchers in the state.

The program's future looks exceptionally bright under new Head Coach Jeremy Zufall, a former WPIAL Section Coach of the Year. The Cougars return a strong veteran core, including Hahn and Zufall, who enters his senior year with 99 career strikeouts. With the addition of nationally-ranked talent Tyler Faust to a roster that already features returning starters Fielding Strauss and Parker Hannah, the Cougars are well-positioned to build on this year's successes and challenge for a title in the 2026 season.



TRACK

The 2025 track and field season was defined by significant growth and the successful introduction of the program's first women's team. Under the leadership of captains Joey Izeko and Michael Kavouras, a roster largely comprised of newcomers quickly adapted to rigorous training expectations. This transition was highlighted by the immediate impact of the women's squad, where Carlota Sanchez Linares excelled in the long and triple jumps, and Solomiia Gerashchenko made a rapid ascent in the javelin to qualify for the state meet by the season's end.

The men's team mirrored this success with several standout individual achievements at the state level. Emanuel Safikhany-i showcased his speed in the 100-meter dash, while Michael Kavouras capped a consistent season by competing in both the 1600-meter and 3200-meter events at states. Additionally, Mason Smith '25 emerged as a force in the throwing events, securing fourth place in the shot put and seventh in the javelin at the state meet. Collectively, these performances underscore a season of resilience and set a high standard for the program's future development.

TENNIS

The 2025 varsity tennis season was a masterclass in resilience. Despite being limited to only three official matches, the squad, comprised of Gabriela Donado Diaz, Noa Seyi Onobiono, and Fernando Vazquez Godoy, refused to let the lack of court time dampen their spirits. Instead, the season became a testament to the group's character, defined by a team-first mentality and a sense of humor that maintained high morale.

Individual excellence was recognized through three primary awards that highlighted the team's depth. Senior captain Juju Oli received the Coaches' Award for his steadfast leadership and responsibility, while Fernando Vazquez Godoy was named Most Valuable Player for his fearless competitiveness and consistency. Additionally, Javier Bustos Pinas earned the Most Improved Player award, embodying the spirit of growth and determination that fueled the program. The season successfully revealed a mature and unified group ready for the challenges of next year.

FALL 2025

CROSS COUNTRY

The 2025 Kiski cross country season was defined by consistent improvement and historic milestones across 10 competitive 5K races. Senior captain Michael Kavouras led the boys' varsity squad with a personal record (PR) of 17:33 at the Westmoreland County Championships. He was supported by a disciplined group that saw every varsity runner set a new PR this season, including sophomores Liam Porter, Basil Kim, and Wyatt Bennett, along with seniors Cristian Guadalupe, Eric Ding, and Landon Thompson. Their collective progress culminated in the program's first qualification for the PAISAA State Championship in Philadelphia in several years.

The girls' program reached unprecedented heights, establishing a formidable foundation for the future. Junior Ella Luke set a new school record for the fastest girls' time on Kiski's challenging home course (21:35) and achieved a personal best of 21:13. Alongside junior Wiktoria Wolkowska and first-year Emma Schweikert, the team made history as Luke and Schweikert became the first female athletes to represent Kiski at the state championship race. These performances signal a new era for the Cougars, proving that both the boys' and girls' squads are prepared to compete with the state's elite.

FOOTBALL

The 2025 football season was a testament to resilience, bookended by international success and a dominant six-game win streak to finish 7-2. The year began with a transformative trip to Ireland, where the team secured a resounding 59-0 victory. However, the Cougars were quickly tested upon their return, suffering two heartbreaking losses decided by a combined five points. The team "righted the ship" during a pivotal road game at The Peddie School, leaning on a powerful rushing attack that surpassed 200 yards and ignited a momentum that would carry them through the remainder of the season.

The championship-caliber finish was fueled by standout individual performances and a stifling defense. Mac Armstrong earned Offensive Player of the Year honors, headlined by a game-winning drive against The Linsly School, while freshman Ryan Chambers was named Offensive Lineman of the Year for anchoring the front. Defensively, the Cougars were impenetrable, allowing just 8.3 points per game under the leadership of Defensive Player of the Year Levi Porter and Defensive Lineman of the Year Jeremy Bjick. With special teams contributions—including a 43-yard field goal from Lewin Tauberschmidt—the Cougars proved to be a complete team that thrived under pressure.



GOLF

The 2025 golf season was defined by exceptional depth and a commitment to excellence that resonated throughout the roster. Under the leadership of senior co-captains Jacob Petnuch and Nathaniel Winter, the Cougars fostered a resilient team dynamic that proved vital during a highly competitive schedule. Their veteran influence provided a calming presence, particularly as the team navigated demanding tournaments and high-pressure match play.

The squad's defining characteristic was its ability to rebound from adversity, most notably after a mid-season loss to River Valley High School. The Cougars responded just two days later by posting a season-low team score of 207 to defeat Greensburg-Salem High School by four strokes. This momentum carried into their rivalry series with The Linsly School, where a decisive victory in the third match secured the overall series win. As the program says goodbye to seniors Petnuch, Winter, Luke Latimer, and Rade Vignovic, the future remains bright. With a core of returning golfers and the transformative training resources of the McCrady Golf Center, the program is well-equipped to reach even higher standards in 2026.



BOYS SOCCER

The 2025 boys soccer season was a historic campaign that solidified the program's reputation as a regional powerhouse. The Cougars established an intimidating home field advantage, finishing the year with a flawless 5-0 undefeated record on their own turf. This dominance propelled them to the top of the Prep Premier League (PPL), where they finished tied for the first seed in the West and secured the third overall seed for the postseason. Throughout the regular season, the team's seamless dynamic and relentless work ethic turned a group of talented individuals into one of the most feared squads in the league.

The season was defined by high-stakes victories, most notably a thrilling 3-2 win over Western Reserve Academy, who held a No. 14 national ranking at the time. The Cougars also proved their class with shutouts against Spire Academy and Mercersburg Academy. On an individual level, Mamadou Tall delivered a legendary performance, finishing the year as the No. 9 ranked player in Pennsylvania and earning All-American honors. While the team's deep playoff run ended in the PAISAA second round and a tough PPL quarterfinal rematch against Spire Academy, the season stands as a landmark achievement for the Kiski soccer community.

GIRLS SOCCER

The girls soccer team completed a resoundingly successful second season for the program. The Cougars went from last seed in the Commonwealth Cup in 2024, to the eighth seed in the Pennsylvania Independent Schools Athletic Association's State Playoff. The girls' overall record was 4-4-1, with a league record of 3-2-1. In only the second year of the girls program they secured wins against The Hill School, Perkiomen School, and a tie against Mercersburg Academy.

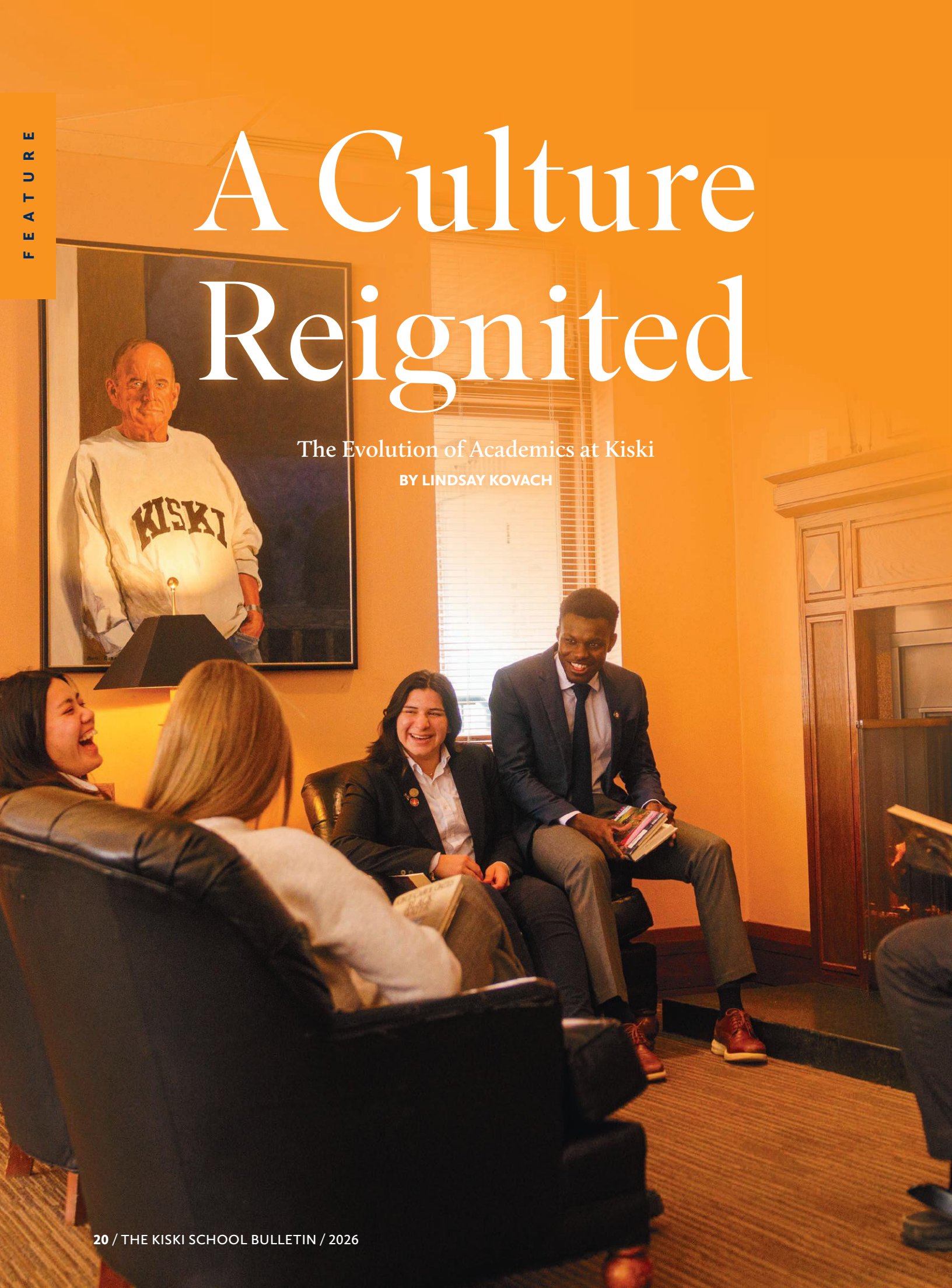
Led by Captains Gaby Donado Diaz of Mexico and Elin Bash of Irwin, PA, the team has four athletes going on to continue their soccer careers in college. In fact, Lexi Botti signed on National Signing Day to play at Seton Hill University.

FEATURE

A Culture Reignited

The Evolution of Academics at Kiski

BY LINDSAY KOVACH



At The Kiski School, a renewed academic spirit has taken hold of students. A spirit defined by focus, purpose, and the confidence to think boldly. Rooted in tradition yet energized by innovation, Kiski's academic program is undergoing a thoughtful evolution that places learning at the center of the student experience. From cellphone-free academic days to the introduction of an Independent Reading course, the return of Advanced Placement (AP) courses, and an expanded commitment to Harkness teaching, Kiski is reinforcing a remarkably clear message: academics are a top priority.

"Our goal is to create an environment where students are fully present, intellectually, socially, and emotionally," said Head of School Dr. Mark Ott. "When distractions are minimized and expectations are clear, students rise to the occasion. The successful return of 12 AP courses this year reflects that focus, and with 18 AP courses planned for next year, we're seeing deeper engagement, stronger relationships in the classroom, and a renewed sense of academic confidence."

Presence, Focus, and Intellectual Curiosity

A cornerstone of Kiski's academic approach is its cellphone-free academic days. By removing the constant pull of social media notifications, text messages from friends, and the urge to film the newest TikTok dance, students are encouraged to engage fully with their coursework, peers, and teachers.

"When students aren't dividing their attention between a lesson and a phone, the quality of discussion and focus improves dramatically," explained Director of Studies Brendan Moriarty '86 P'27. "Without their cellphones in hand, I am seeing students take greater ownership of their learning."

Students agree. "At first, it felt strange not having my phone during the day," said freshman, Zoe Kinderman. "But now I actually like it. I'm more focused in class, and I feel like I understand the material better because I'm really paying attention."

This culture of presence has helped ignite confidence, critical thinking, and bold ideas. All qualities that define Kiski's academic identity.

Building Lifelong Readers

Perhaps the most distinctive addition to Kiski's curriculum is the Independent Reading program, a required course for all students alongside English and history. Designed to cultivate lifelong readers, the program gives students something increasingly rare: time.

Each student selects six books per semester based on personal interest, reading level, and guidance from faculty. One full academic period each day is dedicated solely to reading, with no homework beyond maintaining a reflective reading journal.

"This program is about rediscovering the joy of reading," said Moriarty. "We want students to see books not as assignments, but as experiences."

The results have been immediate and encouraging. Students are reading more than ever, exploring genres they may never have encountered, and engaging in meaningful conversations about what they read.

"I never thought I'd look forward to a reading class," said junior Cheo Stevenson. "But choosing my own books makes a huge difference. I've found authors I love, and reading doesn't feel like work anymore."

Dr. Ott sees the program as foundational to Kiski's academic mission. "Strong readers become strong thinkers," he said. "By giving students the time and freedom to read, we're fostering intellectual curiosity that extends far beyond the classroom."



Growth Around the Table

Kiski's renewed academic focus is also evident in its growing commitment to the Harkness method of teaching and learning. Through a partnership with Phillips Exeter Academy's Harkness Initiative, Kiski faculty continue to refine a classroom approach centered on collaboration, dialogue, and shared responsibility.

In a variety of classes, students gather around oval Harkness tables to discuss ideas, analyze texts, and learn from one another. The teacher serves as a facilitator rather than a lecturer, guiding discussion and encouraging participation from every student.

"The Harkness philosophy aligns perfectly with our goals," said Dr. Ott. "It builds confidence, sharpens critical thinking, and teaches students how to articulate and defend their ideas in a respectful, collaborative environment."

The commitment to Harkness is visible throughout campus, literally. Under the guidance of Art faculty member Andy Scott '85, students have designed and built three handcrafted oval Harkness tables, blending creativity with purpose.

Faculty members will continue their partnership with Exeter with another visit scheduled for April 2026, reinforcing Kiski's dedication to professional growth and instructional excellence.

A Transformative Academic Atmosphere

Together, these initiatives are shaping a transformative academic atmosphere that bolsters confidence, nurtures curiosity, and fosters a genuine love of learning.

"What excites me most is seeing students believe in themselves as learners," said Dr. Ott. "They're asking thoughtful questions, taking intellectual risks, and discovering what they're capable of. That's truly the heart of education."

For students, the impact is both academic and personal. "From talking with friends currently in college, I feel really prepared to graduate and take the next steps in my education," said senior, Elin Bash. "I'm ready," she laughed.

At The Kiski School, academics are not just a requirement, but a shared pursuit. Through intentional design, innovative programs, and a clear commitment to excellence, Kiski is redefining what it means to learn, one focused day, one great book, and one powerful conversation at a time.




SPRINGS SCHOOL
FOUNDED



A Seat at the Table

The Enduring Tradition of Formal Meals at Kiski

BY BEN TACKETT '14

Formal meals are among Kiski's most enduring traditions, woven into the fabric of the school since its earliest days. It is an experience shared by generations of students and alumni alike—a rare constant that links the past to the present. Day after day, week after week, and year after year, the community gathers to break bread together.

Standing at the front doors of Turley Dining Hall, faculty member Mr. Bo Buran, who oversees formal meals, reflects on their timeless quality: "For a moment, without the technology and outside influences, it could be 1986, my first year, or even earlier." It is this sense of continuity that makes formal meals feel both grounded and remarkable.

The ritual unfolds with familiar precision. Faculty members, prefects, and head waiters enter first, followed by waiters who exchange their jackets for blue aprons, which is today's evolution of the traditional red waiter coats. Meanwhile,



the rest of the student body gathers in the dining hall lobby, buzzing with conversation about weekend plans, dorm life, or the test just completed. When the moment arrives, the head waiters open the doors, and students file in to their assigned tables, a scene any alumnus can easily picture.

Each table brings together a faculty member, a prefect, a student waiter, and five students. Once seated, a bell signals the start of the meal. Announcements are made, and the head prefect leads the community in a non-denominational blessing. Only then do the heads of each table sit, granting permission for the rest to follow. The meal is served family-style, with faculty and waiters working together before students may begin eating.

At first glance, formal meals emphasize etiquette, and rightly so. Students learn to wait until everyone is served, pass dishes rather than reach across the table, use utensils properly, and ask permission to leave. These lessons matter. But the true education of the dining hall extends far beyond manners.

Formal meals are a master class in soft skills. They build confidence, foster comfort in conversation, and, most importantly, create community. With assigned seating, students find themselves alongside peers from different neighborhoods, states, and countries. What unites them is simple and powerful: they are all Kiski students. That shared identity opens the door to conversations about upcoming events, last weekend's games, current news, or even favorite fast food spots. Guided by faculty, students begin to open up.

Over the course of a year, students share meals with nearly every member of the school community. Maître D' Gabriela Donado Diaz '26 speaks to the impact of that experience: "Personally, it has helped me connect more with the faculty members and get to know them a little more before I graduate." She adds that some of her favorite moments come while taking attendance from table to table.

The benefits of formal meals also extend well beyond campus. Students practice navigating social situations, engaging respectfully with authority figures, and contributing thoughtfully to group discussions. In doing so, they prepare for future job interviews, professional dinners, conversations with college professors, and countless everyday interactions. The lessons learned within the walls of Turley Dining Hall echo far into adulthood, just as they have for generations of Kiski alumni.

"I get to ask how everyone is doing. Sometimes I even stay a little longer to talk, make jokes, and laugh. Those interactions are why I really love being a head waiter and why I love formal meals, because everyone connects in one way or another."

— Gabriela Donado Diaz

When the meal concludes, students remain seated until everyone at the table has finished. The waiter clears the dishes, and, almost seamlessly, the school day resumes. In the routine lies the beauty. In the tradition lies the strength. And in each shared meal, Kiski's past, present, and future come together — one table at a time.

FEATURE

Cougars in Dublin

Football, Friendship, and a Journey to Remember

BY VICKIE FLUHARTY



In August, the Kiski Football team embarked on an unforgettable international adventure to Dublin, Ireland, an experience made possible through the Global Ireland Football Tournament (G.I.F.T.) program and the generous support of Kiski Trustees. The opportunity blended athletic excellence, cultural exploration, and the shared memories that define the Kiski brotherhood on the gridiron.

The highlight of the week came on game day, when the Cougars took the field against the Junior Irish Wolfhounds. From the opening whistle, Kiski demonstrated discipline, teamwork, and determination, securing a commanding 59–0 victory. Yet the matchup was more than a game; it was a celebration of sportsmanship between two programs eager to learn from one another and honor the global reach of the sport. The boys left the field with a win, but the friendships they forged with their Irish counterparts proved even more meaningful.

As part of the G.I.F.T. experience, Kiski joined three other participating teams for a pep rally, celebrating international competition, camaraderie, and the spirit of the tournament. At a reception held after the game, G.I.F.T. also recognized a student ambassador from each school. Representing Kiski was team captain and current senior Levi Porter, who was honored for his leadership, character, and sportsmanship.

Beyond their own competition, the team joined thousands of fans at the Kansas State vs Iowa State NCAA football game, experiencing the excitement and pageantry of Division I football, this time on Irish soil. For many players, witnessing American college football in such a unique setting added even more energy to an already extraordinary week.

The trip also immersed students in the rich history and culture of Ireland. A tour of Malahide Castle offered a window into nearly 800 years of Irish heritage, while hands-on participation in the Gaelic Games, including hurling, handball, and Gaelic football, introduced them to Ireland's national sports and the athletic spirit that defines them. During a traditional Irish dinner with live folk music, the boys even took to the floor to dance with the performers, embracing the moment with characteristic Kiski enthusiasm.

In addition to the 31 teammates, four coaches, and six Kiski staff, the group was joined in Dublin by 45 Kiski friends and family, turning the city into a true gathering place for Cougar Nation.

More than anything, this journey showcased what makes the Kiski experience exceptional. Our students represented their school with maturity and pride, embraced another culture with curiosity and respect, and strengthened bonds that extend well beyond the playing field.

The week in Dublin will long be remembered for its victories, its lessons, and its moments of connection, both within the team and with the Irish community that welcomed Kiski with open arms.

Cougar Nation traveled far, and we returned even stronger. K



Left: The Kiski football team and coaching staff at Malahide Castle. **Right:** Showing their Cougar pride abroad are Board of Trustees Chair John Jacob '89, P '18, P'20, P'23 and his wife, Melinda, and Board of Trustees Mike Rock '79, and his wife, Beth.

FEATURE

Driving Change

How Kiski Golf Is Building a Modern Program from the Ground Up

BY MEGAN CHASIN

The Kiski School's golf program is in the midst of a radical transformation, fueled by new state-of-the-art facilities, and a focused, professional vision. At the center of this change is Head Coach Scott Glass, a PGA professional who took the reins in 2024 and recently accepted the post of Assistant Director of Admissions at Kiski. Coach Glass is not just building a team; he's building a competitive program designed for the modern game.



The New Lab: The McCrady Golf and Learning Center and Trackman

Ask Coach Glass about the program's greatest asset, and the answer is immediate: the McCrady Golf and Learning Center. "The golf center is absolutely huge," he says. More than just a room with a simulator, the center is a comprehensive, climate-controlled indoor facility with hitting bays that Glass describes as a "full-on indoor driving range" or "private Top Golf." This state-of-the-art structure features multiple hitting bays, a dedicated indoor putting green for essential short-game work, and a comfortable lounge area for team camaraderie. The centerpiece is the Trackman, the leading platform for ball tracking, swing analysis, and virtual golf simulation. This climate controlled facility guarantees practice, even on cold, rainy days, a "huge benefit" that few competing schools can offer. The design allows players to hit a live ball and see its flight, an advantage over closed-off simulators.

Coach Glass considers the McCrady Center a "lab" where serious work is done. The practice philosophy is simple but powerful: "lab to field."

"You can get on the Trackman and get that dialed in," Glass explains, "and then you can step out onto Kiski's golf course and recreate those yardages."

The Trackman is indispensable because it translates the abstract elements of a golf swing into concrete data. Coach Glass uses it to diagnose swing flaws by looking at key metrics like club path and club face. Using the Trackman, a player can diagnose a slice, practice a drill at an adjacent station, and return to the simulator in the same session to immediately measure improvement. This visible, data-driven improvement is "incredibly encouraging" for any golfer. The goal is to provide students with the knowledge and tools so they can continue to improve their game in any setting and become "lifelong golfers."

Program Strength: Start with the Short Game

This approach has already sharpened the team's focus. After an initial "experimental year" to determine the most effective use of the center, the program is now heavily focused on the short game, specifically 50-, 75-, and 100-yard shots. The short game is a great place to start and is the easiest way to lower scores. The short game process will then transition to the long game approach and overall help our golfers improve their overall scores.

"Honestly, that's where you would see the quickest improvement to score," Coach Glass states. While many recreational golfers focus on the tee shot, Glass points to a key statistic: roughly 70 percent of a golfer's shots are played inside 100 yards, including putting. By mastering those critical wedge distances, players can attack the pin or easily get the ball back into play after a wayward shot, saving strokes and lowering their scores.



Photo: RMD Photography



Head Coach Scott Glass works one-on-one with a student, fine-tuning his swing and reinforcing the fundamentals. ©RMD Photography

A Vision for the Future

Coach Glass's vision for the next five years is ambitious: to grow the boys' program and develop a competitive girls' team, with full rosters of eight to 10 athletes each. Success will be measured by becoming "really competitive" in big events against top private schools.

His new role in admissions is a key strategic advantage in this effort. He gets "early access" to potential student-athletes who list golf as an interest. Coach Glass says he now "leads with the McCrady Golf Center" when speaking with families, because the facility is a genuine "attention grabber" and unique in Kiski's space.

Beyond the indoor facilities, the program's future also includes exciting plans for the campus's existing 9-hole course, which currently serves as an extension of the practice range. Coach Glass adds, "we've discussed a short game practice green as a part of those plans" for course improvement. The addition of a dedicated practice green, combined with the indoor hitting area and Trackman, would give Kiski a facility with essentials, a range, an indoor practice facility, and practice greens— that would be "pretty amazing for a non-collegiate program."

With the McCrady Golf Center as its foundation and a clear focus on development, the Kiski golf program is rapidly moving toward its goal of becoming a premier destination for competitive high school golf.

To support the next phase of development, including our proposed practice green, please contact Chief Advancement Officer Megan Chasin at 724-639-8082 or megan.chasin@kiski.org to discuss leadership giving opportunities.

New Faculty and Staff

HEATHER ALBRIGHT joins Kiski as Associate Director of Admissions. She previously served as Dean of Admission at St. Vincent College and Director of Admissions at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

KYLE BOOZER joins the faculty as a mathematics teacher. A graduate of Kenyon College, he serves as a dorm parent in MacColl Hall and assists with baseball.

MEGAN CHASIN has been appointed Chief Advancement Officer. She previously served as Senior Director of Campus Development at Penn State University and Parent and Special Giving Officer at Shady Side Academy. She holds an M.B.A. from Chatham University and is pursuing her doctorate at The University of Pittsburgh.

SARA ELLIS joins the faculty as a mathematics teacher. She is a graduate of St. Vincent College and holds a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction.

ALEXANDER GANNUSCIO joins Kiski as a Spanish teacher. He earned his Ph.D. in romance languages from Cornell University and will serve as a dorm parent in Daub Hall and assist with tennis.

SCOTT GLASS has been named Assistant Director of Admissions. He will continue his role as Varsity Golf Coach. which he has held for the past two years. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, he was formerly Head Golf Professional at The Rolling Rock Club.

LINDSAY KOVACH has been named Director of Communications and Marketing. She previously served as Corporate Director of Communications at Howard Hanna Real Estate, and spent 14 years as Associate Director of Communications at Shady Side Academy. She holds a master's degree in Organizational and Strategic Communications from Texas Tech University.

RICARDO MORALES joins Kiski as Director of Soccer Operations and Varsity Boys' Head Soccer Coach. He brings boarding school experience and will serve as a dorm parent in MacColl Hall.

QUINN SEIDENMAN joins the faculty as an English teacher. A graduate of Brown University, he will serve as a dorm parent in Vlahos Hall and assist with soccer and basketball.

REED SOLOMON joins the English faculty. A graduate of Haverford College, he will assist with cross country and track and field and serve as a dorm parent in Vlahos Hall.

RACHEL THAYER joins Kiski as a French teacher. A graduate of Grove City College, she brings 15 years of teaching experience and directs an immersive French language program at Washington and Lee University in the summer. She will serve on the Hoag Hall residence life team.



Let It Spin!

Celebrating the Lee F. Friesell ’68 Vinyl Record Room

BY VICKIE FLUHARTY

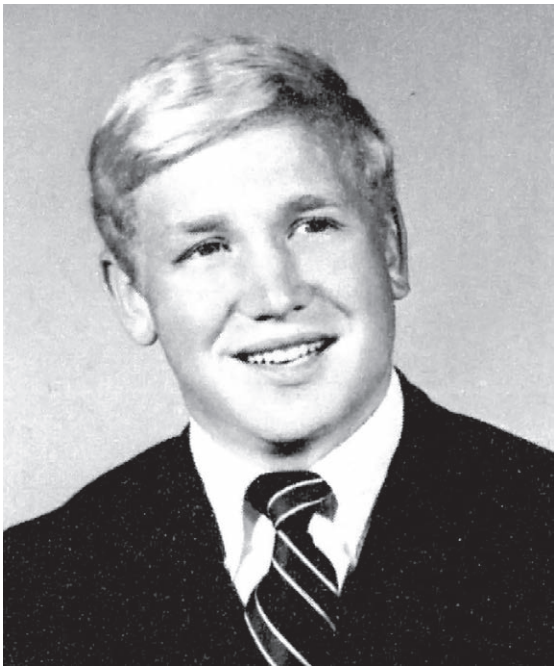
During the Hall of Fame Cocktail Hour on Oct. 31, 2025, members of the Kiski community gathered for a special moment in the Swank Student Center: the ribbon cutting and dedication of the Lee F. Friesell '68 Vinyl Record Room. This new space honors a remarkable gift that will enrich student life for years to come.

Although Lee's widow, Teresa, was unable to attend in person, she sent her warm greetings from Las Vegas and expressed how deeply moved she is by the school's decision to honor Lee in such a meaningful way.

A proud member of the Class of 1968, Lee Friesell carried a lifelong passion for music. His tastes were broad, he loved it all, but jazz and the iconic sounds of the 1960s and '70s held a special place in his heart. Over decades, Lee curated an extraordinary collection of more than 3,600 LPs, 45s, and books, along with turntables, speakers, and custom shelving. His collection reflects not only his love for music but also his belief in the joy of discovery and the simple magic of listening.

The new Vinyl Record Room brings Lee's passion to life on our campus. More than a listening space, it is a place for students to gather, explore, and connect, experiencing the warmth of analog sound and the stories behind the music. It stands as a tribute to Lee's curiosity, generosity, and the delight he found in sharing music with others.

Kiski was proud to officially open the Lee F. Friesell '68 Vinyl Record Room, a unique addition to student life at Kiski. Lee's legacy will now inspire Cougars for generations to come.



Top: Lee Friesell '68 senior yearbook photo.

Left: Ribbon cutting dedication of the Lee F. Friesell '68 Vinyl Record Room. (left to right) Science faculty Bo Buran, Head of School Dr. Mark Ott, Director of Annual Giving Vickie Fluharty, Director of Vocal and Instrumental Music Dave Minda '89, and Mark Orsatti P'24, faculty emeritius.

Right: Inside the Vinyl Record Room showing some of the collection donated by Lee and Teresa Friesell.





In Harmony

The Legacy of Mary Vlahos

BY HALLE REED

Mary Vlahos's life is a tapestry woven from music, education, family, and a deep sense of service. From her early days as a young organist to decades spent shaping the culture of The Kiski School, Mary's journey reflects dedication, resilience, and a quiet but profound influence on the people around her. Mary is also the first Luminary to be featured who is still living, giving us the rare opportunity to capture her story firsthand, in her own words.

Mary received her bachelor's degree from Wilson College in 1955, where she was a member of the college's choir. She then continued her education at Indiana University in Bloomington, where she earned her master's degree, graduating with honors. During her time there, she toured for three weeks with choir group, the Indiana Belles, and was awarded the National Federation of Music Clubs scholarship to study a summer at the Chautauqua Institute in New York. During this time, Mary met her husband, Zachary Vlahos, while they were both working at a restaurant in Ocean City, MD., where Mary was a waitress and Zach worked in the kitchen.

Mary and Zach married in 1957 and lived in Long Island, NY, while Zach was completing his doctorate at Columbia University. It was not until 1961 that the Vlahos' made their way to The Kiski School. Mary and Zach raised their three girls on campus, first living in Wilson Hall for four years, then moving to Daub for seven years, and finally landing at Brinker House. No matter where the Vlahos' went, the students frequently visited for advice and the welcoming family atmosphere they had to offer.





Above: Annie Vlahos Zachara ’82, Mary Grace Muster, Mary Vlahos, and Stephanie Bryant ’84.

Left: Mary and Zachary Vlahos

After 10 years of being on campus, Mary’s love of the arts and music had prepared her for her next project, the Kiski Glee Club. Mary single-handlely transformed the glee club and many of the boys’ views of music with her passion for teaching. She had around 35 boys, featuring four unique voice groups, that frequently travelled to perform with nearby girls’ schools, providing the boys with a new atmosphere and musical opportunities.

However, the Glee Club was only one of Mary’s many accomplishments, with her most notable being her three girls. While her oldest daughter, Mary Grace, love of sports drew her to a girl’s boarding school, her two other daughters, Annie ’82 and Stephanie ’84, graduated from Kiski. Growing up and attending school on an all-boys campus was challenging but shaped them into the strong and intellectual women they are today. Despite Mary Grace not attending Kiski with her sisters, she ended up marrying a Kiski faculty member, Marcus Muster. Mary believes her children and grandchildren’s achievements are the greatest rewards of her life.

Throughout Mary and Zach’s marriage, they both loved travelling immensely. Mary’s love of music and Zach’s love of history drove them to many museums and landmarks across England, France, Germany, Poland, and Italy. Also throughout, music remained constant. The couple held season tickets to The Pittsburgh Symphony and would often attend after Mary finished playing for church services on Sundays. After the symphony, the couple enjoyed ending their evening with dinner at Flavio’s Restaurant in Vandergrift.

After Zach’s passing in 2011, Mary continued to live in their Greensburg home for 10 years, which was the first home they had bought and built together after moving off campus. Today, Mary keeps busy with reading, listening to her records, and still playing the organ for services and other events. Despite Mary not being able to return to campus as often, she still remembers and misses the structure of everyday life, the relationships with faculty, and the students whose lives she had helped shape as much as they helped shape her own.

When asked what she believes her legacy at Kiski is, Mary hesitates. She thinks of herself simply as “Zach’s wife,” or someone who lived in the dorms and directed the glee club. But to former students, colleagues, and her family, Mary’s legacy is far richer. She brought warmth, and elevated music on campus. She shaped young men and raised three remarkable daughters amid it all. Her life is a quiet testament to dedication: to students, to family, to music, and to the communities she served. And in the memories shared by former Glee Club boys, and in the stories her daughters and grandchildren carry forward, the impact of Mary Vlahos endures.



Roger Kishman ’62 and
Major Canady ’13

A Tradition of Sticking Together

A Celebration of Our Community

BY LINDSAY KOVACH

OCTOBER 31 – NOVEMBER 1, 2025

Answering the Call Home

Homecoming Weekend at The Kiski School is more than a series of events—it is a powerful tradition that brings generations of Cougars back to campus to reconnect, celebrate, and reaffirm what it means to be part of the Kiski community. The 2025 Homecoming Weekend was a resounding success, welcoming students, alumni, families, and friends for a full schedule of meaningful moments, spirited competition, and shared pride. From Friday evening's Hall of Fame celebration to Saturday's athletic contests and family festivities, the weekend highlighted the enduring bonds that unite Kiski across decades.

Homecoming

Saturday brought campus to life with a full day of Homecoming activities that blended tradition, fun, and forward-looking Cougar spirit. The day began with the Cougars on the Loose 5K, where runners joined members of the cross-country team for a spirited run that combined fitness, camaraderie, and nostalgia.

As the day continued, families and alumni enjoyed food trucks, lunch in Turley Dining Hall, and a variety of family-friendly activities in the Ross Athletic Center, including face painting, bounce houses, and trick-or-treating. Kiski athletics took center stage throughout the afternoon, with boys and girls soccer facing Western Reserve Academy and the football team competing against The Linsly School. Packed stands and enthusiastic crowds witnessed strong performances across the board, as Kiski teams delivered exciting victories.

At halftime of the football game, Head of School Dr. Mark Ott recognized the Hall of Fame honorees on the field, offering students and guests the opportunity to celebrate former student-athletes and the legacy they continue to build.

Current Kiski students celebrated Homecoming weekend by attending a number of events, concluding with a semiformal dance at Swank Student Center.







From Left: Lexie Botti ’26 controls the ball against Western Reserve Academy / Bryant Mason ’62 takes in the soccer games with Robert Jamison Jr. ’64 / Rade Vignovic ’26 offers Elin Bash ’26 a canvas to practice her face painting at one of the numerous family-friendly activities / Mac Armstrong ’26 airs it out on the football field









Hall of Fame Induction

The weekend began Friday evening with the Kiski Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, which set a reflective and celebratory tone. Alumni and guests gathered for cocktails and appetizers before honoring the newest inductees: Louis Saban ’89, Jason Mathews ’93, Major Canady ’13, and the 1979–1980 Swimming Team.

Emceed by Director of Athletics Chris Spahn, the formal induction ceremony was a powerful reminder of the excellence, leadership, and dedication demonstrated by Kiski alumni. The evening celebrated not only individual achievements, but also the lasting impact these Cougars have had on the school and beyond—reinforcing the pride alumni feel in remaining connected to Kiski.







From Left: Ben Tackett ’14, senior Zach McKnight, junior Brody Fletcher, junior Ryan Janese, and senior Owen Bordin-Pusey after the Cougars on the Loose 5k. Janese was the first place finisher. / Kiski football fans cheer on the Cougars / Mark Orsatti catching up with Joseph Allegra ’81 at the Hall of Fame cocktail reception. / Former basketball coach Darren Freeman and current basketball coach Joseph O’Shea connect with Brian Regan ’84.







Above: Major Canady ’13, Mike Hile ’80, Ralph Bower ’80, Mark Crawford ’82, Craig Scott ’80, Jason Mathews ’93, Scott Brinker, Tom Hill ’82, Louis Saban Jr. ’89 Left: Director of Athletics Chris Spahn, Jason Mathews ’93 and Head of School Dr. Mark Ott






KISKI
PUMAS


CLASS OF
1989


CLASS OF
2020




CLASS OF
2015

Reunion Weekend 2025

Following months of outreach by dedicated Class Captains, Kiski was proud to welcome alumni and guests from the Classes of 1961–2021 back to campus for a vibrant Reunion Weekend in May 2025. The strong turnout reflected the enduring bonds of the Kiski community and included special recognition of our "Farthest Traveled Alumnus," Ted Vincent '75, who journeyed from Rancho Santa Fe, CA, and our "Most Experienced Alumnus," David Wolfson '61.

As always, alumni engagement was the cornerstone of a successful weekend. Adding to the experience, our dining partner, CulinArt, delivered a delicious menu with Irish-inspired flair, while Kiski's maintenance and housekeeping teams ensured the campus looked its very best. Even with a bit of uncooperative weather, the weekend proved ideal for reconnecting, reminiscing, and renewing friendships.

This year's Reunion Weekend featured both beloved traditions and several exciting additions. Popular activities such as the golf clinic, campus tours, kayaking, fishing at McDonald Pond, yoga in Swank, blacksmithing, the photo scavenger hunt, and Paint & Sip returned, while two new offerings with Head of School Dr. Mark Ott were added to the agenda: a State of the School presentation and a Class Captain Meet & Greet. Throughout the weekend, alumni gathered under the tent and in Swank, strolled the campus, and shared stories and refreshments around evening bonfires.

Saturday evening brought the community together for cocktail remarks followed by the Reunion Banquet. Dr. Mark Ott welcomed alumni back to campus, and Board Chair John Jacob '89, P'18, P'20, P'23 presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Issac Trip IV '70. The program concluded with a fundraising update and additional award recognitions.

After such an energizing and memorable weekend, anticipation is already building for Reunion Weekend 2026, scheduled for May 29–31, 2026. Alumni are encouraged to reconnect with classmates, mark their calendars, and register early at **kiski.org/alumni/reunion.**





Class Notes

1960s

Michael Chapel '66 has been living in Guatemala since 2019. He works to develop opportunities for rural Mayan girls to obtain an education.

1970s

Andrew S. Birrell, Esq., '73 was elected president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers at the Association's annual meeting in Seattle, WA in July 2025. Birrell is the senior partner of Birrell Law Firm, Minneapolis, and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, an honor limited to the top 1% of lawyers in the state. Birrell was the first chairperson of the Minnesota State Bar Association Criminal Law Certification Board and was the first lawyer in Minnesota to be certified by the Minnesota State Bar Association as a board-certified criminal law specialist.

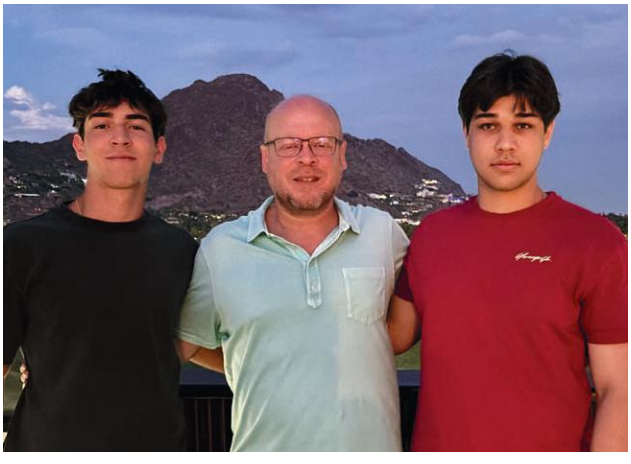
1980s

Lou Saban '89 is proud to share that he is the grandfather to an amazing baby girl, born in August 2025. She was in attendance when he was named to the Kiski Hall of Fame during Homecoming 2025.

1990s



James Bradley '90 joined **Chris Cushman '15, Ramon Triana '73** and **Ben Tackett '14** in Fort Lauderdale, FL, for an evening of dinner, drinks, and Kiski stories.



Steve Ferguson '90 reports that his son, **Bryce Ferguson '25,** has settled into Colorado College for his first semester this past fall. Bryce has joined his big brother on campus, **Michael Ferguson '23.**

Cam Webb '17



Dave Ritchey '97 and **Jeremy Walker '97** happened to bump into each other at the Indianapolis Airport in November 2025. The former teammates were both pleasantly surprised to see each other.

2000s

Nathan Crooks '01 writes, "I started a new role in 2025 with Thomson Reuters as Houston Bureau Chief, covering the heart of the United States oil and gas industry."

Josh Jacobs '08 reports, "I started a new role as senior producer, digital games marketing, at Wizards of the Coast. I'm looking forward to moving back to Los Angeles."

2010s

Nicholas Drohan '11 began a new role as vice president at George Smith Partners, a prominent national commercial real estate capital advisory firm based in Los Angeles, specializing in arranging complex debt, mezzanine, and equity financing for developers and investors. He received a B.A. from UCLA.

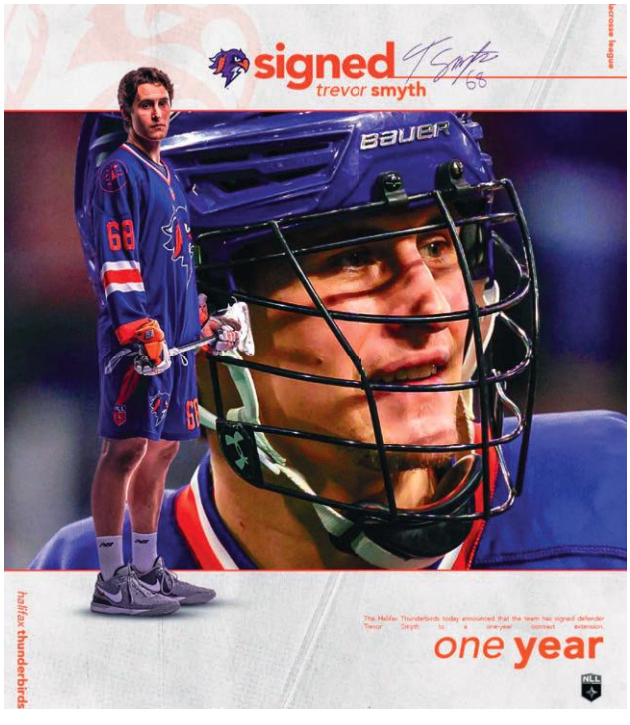
Shin Hyung Lee '11 graduated with his Ph.D. in behavioral aspects of health from Indiana University, Bloomington. He is now working as a postdoctoral research associate at University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine.

August Luptak '13 was named a 2025 Future Leader by Homecare Homebase. The award recognizes individuals under 40 who are rising stars in healthcare leadership, known for driving innovation and shaping the future of care.

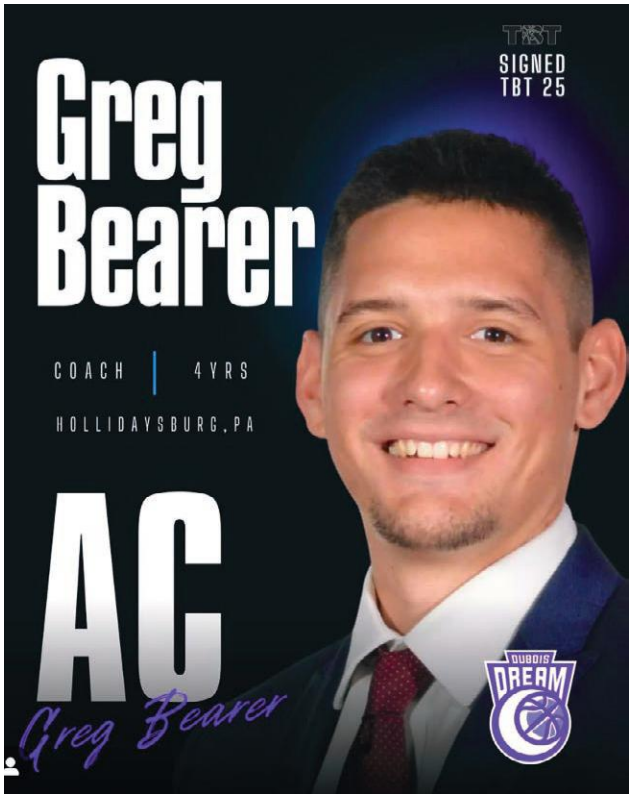


Zach Ursu '13 and his wife, Stephanie, welcomed baby Layken Ursu into the world.

Robert Guldenschuh '14 began a new role as Vice President, Associate Portfolio Manager at BNY Mellon, a premier global financial services company and the world's largest custodian bank.



Trevor Smyth '14 officially signed on for an eighth year as a Halifax Thunderbird, a team in the National Lacrosse League.



Greg Bearer '15 was named assistant coach for the Dubois Dream, a pro basketball and youth development non-profit organization. He is also in his first season as an assistant coach at West Liberty University in West Virginia.



Peyton Manko '17 and his fiancé welcomed their son, Maddox, into the world this past year. Maddox made a guest appearance at the Kiski Golf Outing, held at the Pittsburgh Field Club in Fall 2025.

Samuel Tackett '18 started a new position as an RD&E process engineer II at Applied Materials in Albany, NY. He and his fiancé are looking forward to getting acquainted with the Albany area.

TJ Spahn '18 was named head lacrosse coach at Millbrook School in Millbrook, NY.



John Jacob Jr. '18, Patrick Jacob '20, and **TJ Spahn '18** hit the links at the infamous Firestone Country Club in Akron, OH. The trio enjoyed a full day of golf accompanied by perfect weather.

2020s

Donavan Phillip '23, a junior on the North Carolina State University men's soccer team, was awarded the 2025 Hermann Trophy as the top male soccer player at the collegiate level. The Hermann Trophy is college soccer's oldest and most prestigious award – soccer's equivalent of the Heisman Trophy.

Chris Rathwell '24, Wyatt Wiggins '23, David Peterkin '22, and **Zach Tucker '23** won gold at the 2025 U20 World Lacrosse Championship. Team Canada delivered a historic 6–5 victory over the United States in the championship game, breaking a nine-tournament run of U.S. dominance at the U20 level. Among those who raised the gold medal for Canada were four Kiski legends, who now play at the collegiate level: David Peterkin (Hobart and William Smith Colleges); Wyatt Wiggins (Harvard University); Zach Tucker (Robert Morris University); and Chris Rathwell (Lehigh University).

Gabe Hilty '24 was named First Team All-Conference by the All-Presidents' Athletic Conference. Hilty is a sophomore guard at Grove City College.

We want to hear from you!

Submit your class notes.

Send your latest news and updates to advancement@kiski.org





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THANKS TO YOU WE CAN GUARANTEE

- ★ Preservation of our historic campus
- ★ Exceptional faculty development and support
- ★ Enghanced programs academics, arts, and athletics
- ★ Scholarships for deserving students

The Kiski School Report of Annual Giving is Coming This Spring!

See the profound impact your support made last fiscal year and view the honor roll of our incredible community donors.

LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED? BECOME A DONOR!

Advancement@Kiski.org / 724-639-8029

Alumni & Friends Regional Receptions

MARCH 7 / 9-11 AM

Charlotte, NC

Hosted at the residence of Neil '91 and Molly Hart. Then join us for a Kiski Cougars tailgate at noon to cheer on the boys lacrosse team as they take on The Blue Ridge School.

APRIL 9 / 6-8 PM

Columbus, OH

Hosted by Gregg Hamilton '73 at the beautiful Athletic Club of Columbus

APRIL 17:

Philadelphia, PA

APRIL 24:

Cleveland, OH

For additional details and to RSVP, email halle.reed@kiski.org.

Visit us online for full reception details and the latest alumni events. Visit kiski.org/alumni.

Weddings

Hannibal George ’14

Ben Tackett ’14

Michael Borsh ’15

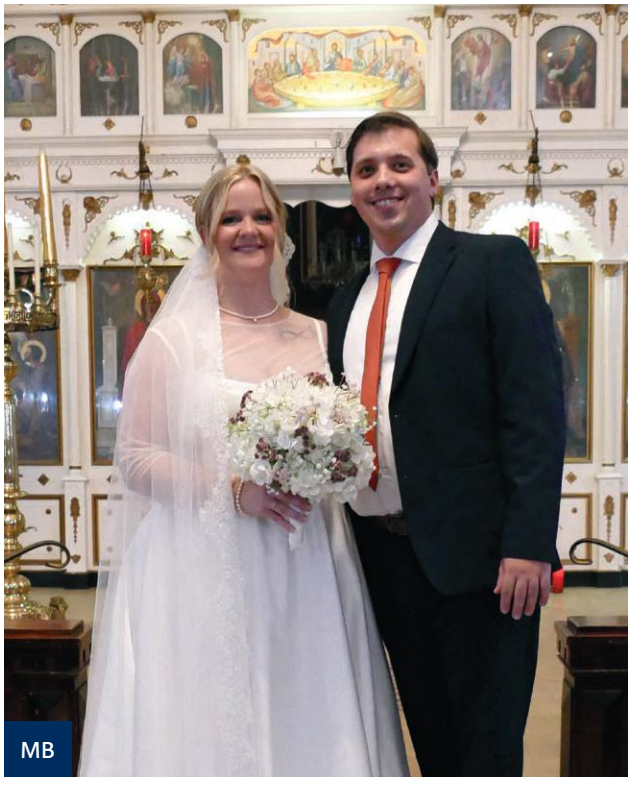
Luke Gregor ’15

Joe Holleran ’15

David Medina ’15

Cam Webb ’17


JH


MB


DM



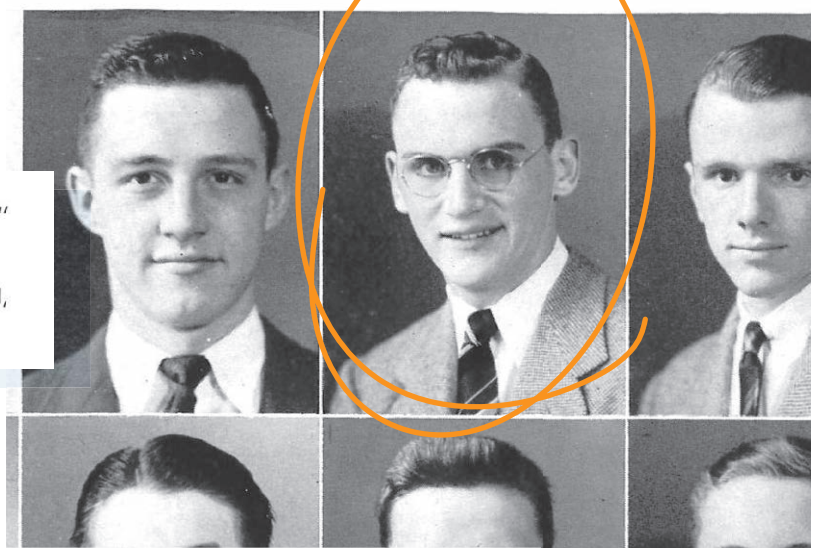
BT



LG



HG



DAVID C. MOORE "Dave"

Remembered for: his efficiency.

Activities: Rifle Club, Camera Club, Honor Roll, Kiskiminetan, Student Council.

Building Momentum

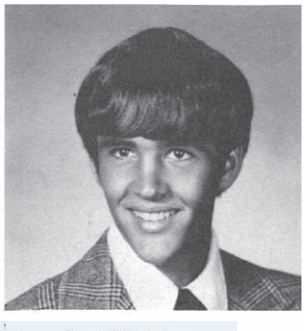
For the Moore family, a year at The Kiski School is a tradition passed down through generations. The legacy began during the 1900-1901 school year when Barclay Welch Moore arrived on campus for a post-graduate year. At the time, Kiski was only in its 12th year of operation, with founder Andrew Wilson Jr. still at the helm. Barclay made his mark as a pitcher for the baseball team and earned an award for General Progress.

The tradition continued 42 years later when Barclay's oldest son, David C. Moore '43, enrolled for his own post-graduate year, participating in the *Kiskiminetan,* Student Council, and the Rifle Club. His brother, Donald B. Moore '45, followed shortly after in 1944. Don was a prolific student leader, contributing to the *Kiskiminetan* and *Kiski Minutes,* but he was perhaps best known as a standout Center on the varsity football line, followed closely by his "Hall League Basketball" championship win with the Fair Hall team.

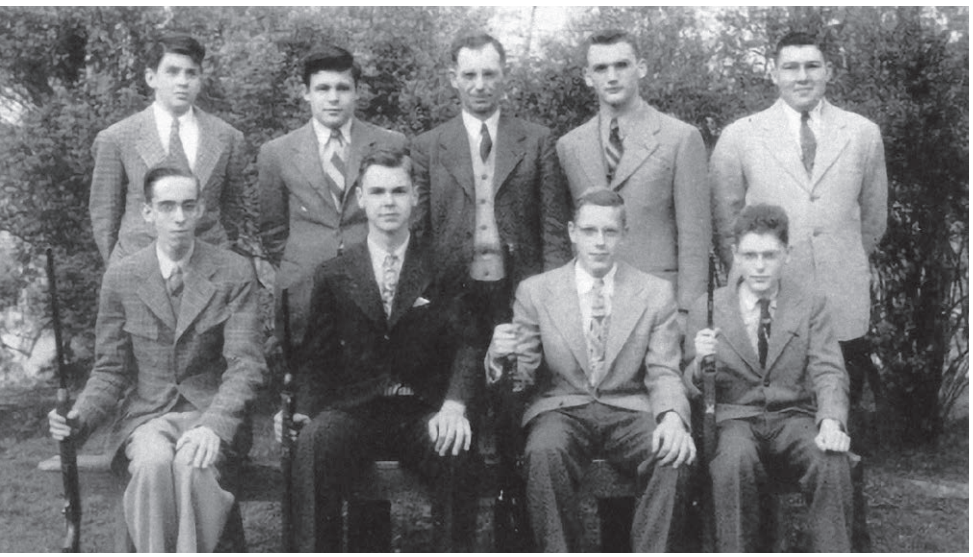
Inspired by their father's stories, Don's sons, Douglas '74 and Jeff '77, eventually made the trip from Boulder, Colorado, to join the Kiski ranks. For Doug and Jeff, Kiski represented the same transformation it had offered their father. Don often credited the school with teaching him the discipline necessary to succeed in college and medical school. The family's connection to the school remained so strong that they even detoured from a 1988 vacation to attend the Centurion Celebration. From studying physics under the legendary Jacob Zeigler to carrying on the family name, the Moores are woven into the fabric of Kiski history.

In honor of Don Moore, the family is proud to provide a gift to The Kiski Fund honoring their family's generational legacy. We are deeply grateful for their generosity and their enduring place in the Kiski story. The Moore family's experience illustrates how a Kiski education can transform a family for generations; if you are part of a legacy family, consider honoring your heritage and connection to Kiski with a gift that helps sustain the Kiski experience for future generations. For more information on how to make your impact, contact Chief Advancement Officer Megan Chasin at megan.chasin@kiski.org

Joseph Lee Barnes . . . . . Pittsburg
George Smith Cunningham . . . . . Blairsville
Roy Alton Elwood . . . . . Wiester
Hilary Brunot Klingensmith . . . . . Blairsville
Barclay Welch Moore . . . . . Cadiz, Ohio
William A. Shaw . . . . . Bellevue
Rome Shirley . . . . . Mamont
Edward Russell Spencer . . . . . Scranton
Elias Sunstein . . . . . Allegheny
Irving Emory Wood . . . . . Pittsburg



Douglas W. Moore



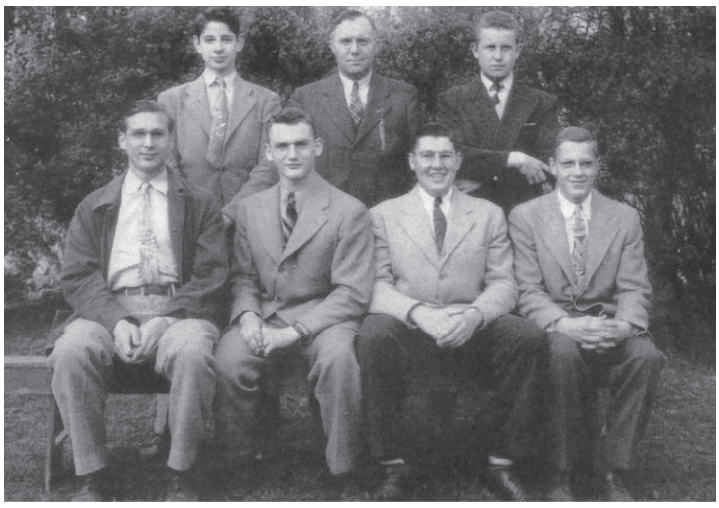
DONALD BARCLAY MOORE "Don"

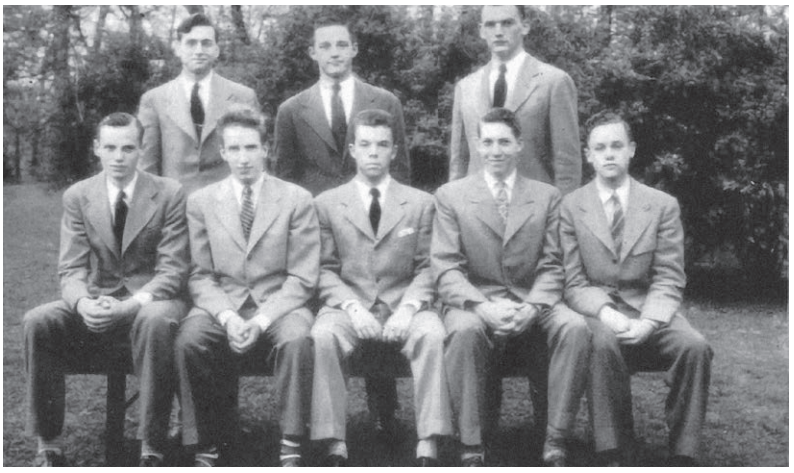
The quiet quarter of the Cadiz Quartet. Don excelled in scholarship and was first string center on the football team. He left early in May to continue his quest for knowledge at Washington and Jefferson.

Varsity Football, Hall League Basketball, KISKIMINETAN, Kiski Minutes, Band, Glee Club, Rifle Club, Chapel Choir



Standing—Campbell, George
Seated—D. Moore, President D. Martin, Burley









Seated—Hund, Gross, Brandon, C. Brown, Rothballer, Smyth
Standing—Jones, Braun, Moore, Campbell, Clark, Fisher

In Memoriam

The Kiski School offers its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the following members of our community who recently passed away.

1940s

Ralph S. Caplan '42
June 4, 2020

Donald Barclay Moore '45
June 11, 2025

Robert B. Brown '46
April 29, 2024

Arthur C. Benner '47
August 26, 2023

Samuel J. Swigart '47
September 13, 2022

Emery A. Szalai '47
May 24, 2020

Edward A. Bush '48
August 30, 2025

Earl H. Comstock '48
May 31, 2021

Robert E. Fulton '48
February 2, 2023

Donald W. Morris '48
September 6, 2020

Willliam J. Stephenson '49
August 9, 2021

1950s

Earl C. Hower '50
June 6, 2020

M. Boyce Squires Jr. '50
July 15, 2022

John N. Bair '51
February 5, 2023

Dennis J. Malos '51
March 31, 2021

Herbert E. Meyers '51
March 4, 2024

Lester L. Bartlett '52
February 20, 2020

James R. Cavanaugh '52
February 6, 2025

James B. Macbeth '52
February 14, 2024

Dan M. Winzeler '52
June 25, 2021

Donald W. Elkin '53
March 21, 2022

Joseph Glasgow Jr. '53
November 3, 2020

Robert M. Hess Jr. '53
May 1, 2024

Gordon N. Ball '54
June 17, 2024

Theodore R. Boccuzzi '54
January 16, 2022

Clarence R. Ellison '54
August 26, 2023

Irwin A. Hicks '54
June 29, 2022

Michael M. McClain, Sr. '54
July 26, 2025

John M. Seitz '54
January 15, 2025

Will S. Brown '55
February 20, 2025

Harry Duane Dillie '55
April 15, 2020

Roy D. Marrs '55
November 5, 2024

John A Roffoni '55
October 1, 2020

We wish to honor those we have lost. Please help us remember our community members by sending notifications to The Kiski Schol Advancement office at advancement@kiski.org or call 724-639-8006.

David B. Tuttle '55
October 14, 2022

Charles G. Wack '55
March 7, 2021

Harvey F. Wimmer '55
March 11, 2023

Thomas B. Worrall '55
July 30, 2022

Eugene T. Coughlon '56
March 1, 2024

David L. Hartung '56
March 5, 2021

Philip W. Laughlin '56
April 8, 2024

Allen T. Schomaker III '56
January 18, 2026

Raymond J. Tarasi '57
September 30, 2021

Evan C. Young, DO '57
February 13, 2024

1960s

Roger B. Sippey '60
April 17, 2025

Russell C. Gourley III '62
December 13, 2025

Stephen M. Hicks '62
November 15, 2025

Brooks Carl Gentzel '64
October 13, 2025

William J. Kribbs '65
May 11, 2025

1970s

David Lane Huddleston '73
October 18, 2025

John P. Shutrump '75
December 30, 2024

1980s



Lane E. Bender '86 passed away July 20, 2025. Bender was head prefect and captain of the varsity football, basketball, and baseball teams. At graduation, he was presented The Kiski Award for his outstanding academic, athletic, and personal achievements. In 2024 he was inducted into the Kiski Hall of Fame. Lane will be missed by many of his fellow alumni and family.

1990s

Eric W. Ferri '98
December 6, 2024

2000s

Jack Pantanella '14
November 8, 2025

Friends and Family of Kiski

Gloria Boccuzzi
Wife of Theodore R. Boccuzzi '54
January 2, 2022

Michele Entwisle
Wife of Edward B. Entwisle III '63
August 21, 2024

Donald R. Geary II
Former Kiski faculty member
May 28, 2025

Richard M. Gunter
Father of Richard A. Gunter '99
September 17, 2023

Rosemary McClain
Wife of Michael M. McClain '54
October 27, 2024

Martha McClean-Wolfson
Spouse of David A. Wolfson '61
April 19, 2020

Judy Morgan
Wife of Jack C. Morgan Jr '67
May 14, 2020

Jane Schlauch
Mother of Stephen D. Schulauch '02
February 12, 2025

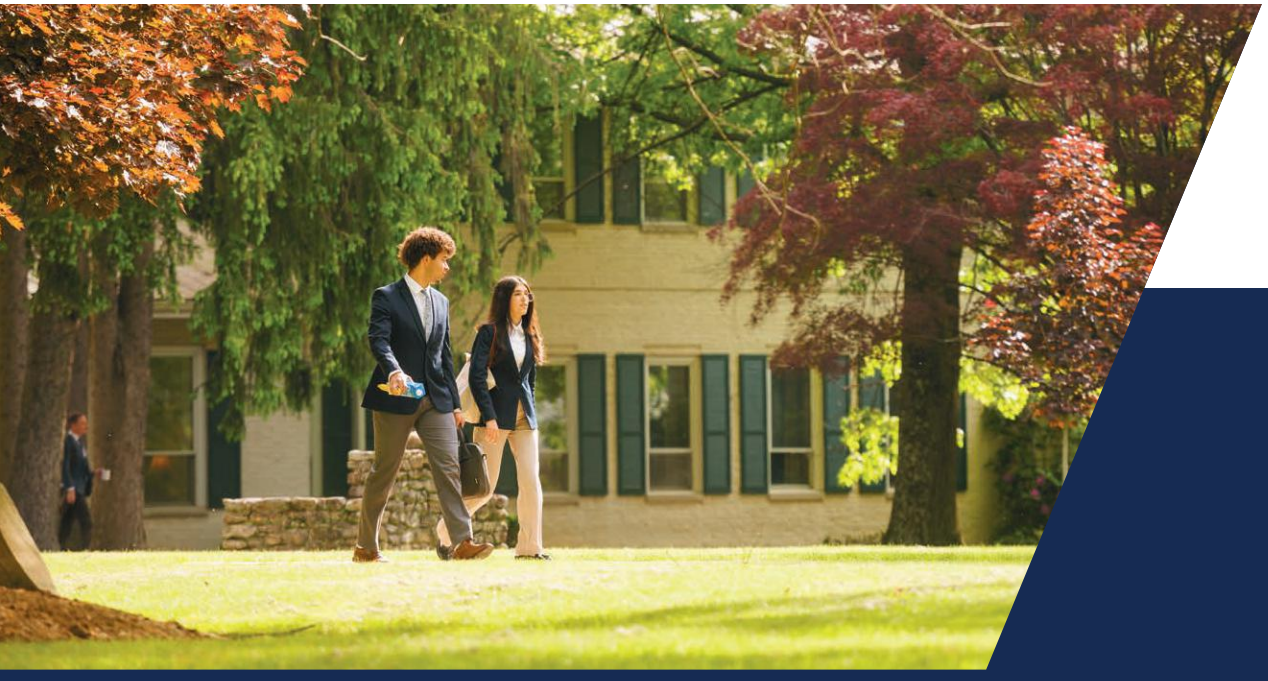
Sondra E. Schwartz
Mother of Paul A. Schwartz '07
August 7, 2025

Herbert Sirowitz
Father of the late Robert M. Sirowitz '88
January 7, 2023

KISKI

The Kiski School
1888 Brett Lane
Saltsburg, PA 15681

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Refer a Student

As a Kiski alumni, you know that the strongest connections are made within our own community. You serve as a valuable resource in helping us welcome future generations of outstanding students. If you know a student that would thrive at Kiski, we would be honored by your introduction. Visit **kiski.org/admissions/refer-a-student** and fill out a referral form. Thank you!