

Norfolk Collegiate Featured Alumni

Arranged by graduating year

Don Cōqayohōmuwōk Chapman

NCS Graduation Year: 1972

College(s) Attended: University of Maryland

Current Profession: White House Advisor / Consultant on Native American Affairs and Economics



What arts-related activities or courses did you take or participate in at Norfolk Collegiate School?

No courses, but performed (guitars/vocals) in some school events put on by the Humanities class.

How has art impacted your life?

Musical performance is my personal passion. I am very fortunate to still perform very regularly (60–70 performances per year) in Northern Virginia and national concert venues. It is my “sorbet of life” as it cleanses the palate of life by allowing me to express myself creatively, which can be difficult to do when surrounded by policy and politics in my work week. It is very rewarding to perform with others and well as be creative with others in artistic environments.

What is your greatest accomplishment as an artist/performer/designer?

I have performed and collaborated with some true greats such as America, Firefall, Pure Prairie League, Poco, Jaco Pastorius, Three Dog Night, John McLaughlin, and recording with Larry Burnett. These are my greatest accomplishments.

What advice would you give to a current student pursuing a degree or career in the arts?

Try to always recognize that these are more than subjects and studies. The arts can become driving passions and creative outlets that you will have and can share for the rest of your life.

Why is an investment in the arts important for schools?

Knowledge of and practice in the creative arts bring a better and more well-rounded approach to science and math to the student. It is important to recognize the perspective that creative arts brings to ones personality and application of knowledge.

Melinda Vooss

NCS Graduation Year: 1987

College(s) Attended: University Of Georgia, Old Dominion University

Degree(s): BA in Journalism 1991, BA in Art Education 2004

Current Profession: NCS Lower School Art Teacher



How has art impacted your life?

I feel very fortunate that I was able to go back to school and pursue a career that I love. I have always had an interest in the arts as I was an art minor at the University of Georgia many years ago. I grew up around paintings. My mother is a self-taught oil painter and would often be selected for the Ghent Art Show (now Stockley Gardens). She eventually gave it up to raise her three daughters but I was always inspired by her incredible talent. After I had children, I found that I wanted to do something that I felt was more rewarding. Becoming a teacher has allowed me to really tap into the creative spirit of children. Rather than create my own art, I really want children to create. I believe in the quote from Picasso that “Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up.” I love finding new ways to inspire my students to make them realize that art is such an important part of learning and what they do every day.

What is your greatest accomplishment as an artist/performer/designer?

I can speak to my greatest achievements as an art teacher. I have had the pleasure of many parents telling me that they never knew their child was an artist and that they are amazed at what they bring home from their art classes at school. I have had parents email me telling me that they appreciate the guidance I gave their child while in elementary school because it tapped into a something that guided them through middle school and now high school. For me, that is the best compliment I can get. As an art teacher, my ultimate goal is to encourage, embrace and nourish a child’s artistic talents.

What advice would you give to a current student pursuing a degree or career in the arts?

I did not want to be an “artist” but wanted to be an art teacher. These are two very different avenues. I think students should go wherever their talents take them. If a student graduates from high school and they know that art is their goal, than they should do anything and everything they can to achieve that goal. It took me almost 15 years after graduating high school and college to realize that I was meant to be an art teacher. It is the best decision I made, and I have no regrets.

Why is an investment in the arts important for schools?

Creative thinking is what makes 21st century learners. By using art and curriculum you allow students to gain knowledge from varying avenues. We have computers, text books, videos, etc., but there are so many things connected to art. We can learn about almost anything through art. If students are learning about the light spectrum in science, what a better way to show them the color wheel and how the color wheel can be made? If a student is learning about Egypt, it is incredible to show them the art of hieroglyphics. If a student is writing narratives on “self” in their English class, why not combine it with either a traditional self-portrait or a self-portrait that uses symbols to describe or depict who they are. Art nourishes the soul in so many ways. For students it is an outlet that allows them to create in an environment without boundaries or “boxes.”

Rachel Devine

NCS Graduation Year: 1988

College(s) Attended: Pitzer College

Current Profession: Photographer, Author and Blogger

**What arts-related activities or courses did you take or participate in at Norfolk Collegiate School?**

I took general art classes and was the Yearbook editor and photographer.

How has art impacted your life?

Art drives my life. I process moments, good and bad... big or small through my imagery. I can look closer or step back and still find the beauty in life to share. I am very lucky to have been able to take my love of photography and turn it into my job.

What is your greatest accomplishment as an artist/performer/designer?

I have written two books on the subject of photography. "Beyond Snapshots on Amphoto"/Random House and "Click! How to take gorgeous photos of your kids" on DPS (e-book). To see my work and words in print is a dream come true. Knowing that I am helping people to take better photographs of their own lives is my joy.

What advice would you give to a current student pursuing a degree or career in the arts?

Keep working on your craft. Explore different techniques and never stop developing your skills and your passion. Intern for artists that you respect and soak up each moment of that work experience to use in your own journey.

Why is an investment in the arts important for schools?

The arts are such a therapeutic part of life. I can't imagine raising children in today's stressful and fast-paced society without giving them the opportunity to express themselves through music, painting, photography or words. Even if it is not a career path, it is an essential element of the soul. I feel that raising great people means raising well-rounded people.

Jennifer Farrell

NCS Graduation Year: 1988



Since graduating from Norfolk Collegiate, what are you up to now?

Tell us about your life and career.

After graduating from Collegiate, I studied art history at both college and graduate school, receiving my PH.D. in art history with a focus on modern and contemporary art and the history of film and photography. I have taught art history at several colleges and universities, as well as curated exhibitions and written art reviews, and books. I am currently the curator of exhibitions and contemporary art at the Fralin Museum of Art at the University of Virginia. In addition to organizing exhibitions and programs and collaborating with other curators on their exhibits, I am able to work with contemporary artists on projects and installations.

What motivated you to pursue this type of work? Have you always known you would end up working in museums?

I grew up visiting museums, such as the Chrysler and the museums in D.C., and had a great experience studying art as well as art history with Sally Rector at Collegiate. I enjoyed making art, but found I was equally interested in learning about art made by others and these artists' histories and motivations as well as the various ways in which works have functioned and been interpreted at various moments. I think I was most drawn to contemporary art because of the opportunity to work directly with artists and help facilitate the creation of new work. I am very fortunate that I have the opportunity to curate exhibitions and help artists realize projects that will hopefully engage the various communities that visit our museum, as well as allow them to see things in a new way.

How did Norfolk Collegiate prepare you for college and life beyond college?

Norfolk Collegiate taught me how to think critically, as well as creatively. In addition to the art classes with Sally Rector, I greatly enjoyed the humanities class and advanced French taught by Francesca McCleary as well as the English classes that I took at Collegiate. Mrs. McCleary assigned texts by writers such as Samuel Beckett and Albert Camus, as well as other writers and philosophers who challenged us to think differently, both about art (meaning what a sculpture, book, play etc. could be) and the role of the artist in society.

Since you have been working in this profession, what is the most unique/memorable collection you have worked on?

I recently published a book on the Richard Brown Baker collection of postwar art, a collection he donated to Yale and the Rhode Island School of Design. Baker believed that in order to build a collection of contemporary art, one needed to "get there first and decide promptly." He had an incredible eye—he was one of the first to buy work made by the pop artist Roy Lichtenstein—and was very interested in learning about what artists were making. He had limited funds and did not use advisors, nor did he ever go back to fill in any gaps or artists or movements he may have missed. Because of that, he built a highly personal collection that reflected his own taste and interests. He did not sell from his collection, believing it was more important to keep it complete so that it would be a record of what was being made, shown (he bought mainly from galleries and never from auctions) and collected by him during a particular period. He was aware that artists dismissed one decade might be valued another (and vice versa), so he felt it should remain together so that it could be studied and used by scholars.

Farrell, cont.

I also recently worked with the contemporary artist Suzanne McClelland on an *in situ* installation entitled *STrAY: Found Poems from a Lost Time*, which was based on a series of poems written by the writer and UVA professor George Garrett. In his poems, Garrett "lifted" phrases from letters written by two soldiers - both distant family members - who fought on opposite sides of the Civil War. Suzanne then created "portfolios" comprising photographs, prints, and fragmented phrases from Garrett's poems that cascaded down the wall, like paper pinned on a bulletin-board. The exhibition not only engaged the soldiers' experience during the Civil War, but also broader issues of conflict—both internal and external and personal and within a society or group.

What advice do you have for others that may be interested in becoming a museum curator?

I would advise them to take art classes so that they have a better understanding of art materials and how to make art. It will make them better able to talk with artists about their work—and make them more sympathetic to what artists go through when creating something! I would also suggest that they take classes in the humanities and philosophy to develop their analytical skills. I think internships are very important to find out more about the profession and what type of place you would like to work. Not only should they consider whether they want to work in a museum, a gallery, or a non-profit space, they should think about what kind of museum they would like—in addition to the differences between large institutions and smaller spaces, university and college museums are different in many ways than other museums, and encyclopedic museums are different from museums devoted to art from one period or collection.

One of the most valuable experiences I had was working in visitor services at a large museum in NY. I was able to talk with people visiting the museum and find out their impressions, not only of the art, but also how it was presented. For example, did the exhibition require wall text or a brochure? Did we provide too little information or too much?

What is one of your most memorable experiences as a student at Norfolk Collegiate?

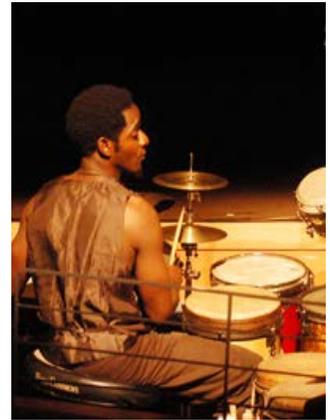
I still remember the wonderful field trips we took to the museums, theater, opera, in particular, a trip to NYC with Francesca McCleary's class

Marcus L. Miller

NCS Graduation Year: 1988

College Attended: Washington & Lee University (1988-1992)

Current Profession: Professional Musician

**What arts-related activities or courses did you take or participate in at Norfolk Collegiate School?**

I was an original member of first NCS band under the direction of Kevin Ross.

How has art impacted your life?

As an artist, I have made a career doing what I love to do. I am able to educate, entertain and inspire others to pursue their dreams.

What is your greatest accomplishment as an artist/performer/designer?

Still TBD, but I am proud to have recorded and released 11 albums for my record label Universe Soul Records... with many more to come!

What advice would you give to a current student pursuing a degree or career in the arts?

Practice, practice, practice (put in at least 10,000 hours). Be patient, persistent, and relentlessly pursue your goals.

Why is an investment in the arts important for schools?

The arts are our cultural legacy. If we don't invest in the future artists, one day we'll wake up in a world devoid of art. An education in the arts is invaluable. It opens the mind, liberates the soul (spirit) and makes the body feel better.

Scott Weinstein

NCS Graduation Year: 1991

College(s) Attended: William & Mary (1991-1993) Pratt Institute (1993-1997)

Degree(s): BA Film & Television (Pratt Institute)

Current Profession: Television Producer - Weekend Update Co-Producer for Saturday Night Live

**What arts-related activities or courses did you take or participate in at Norfolk Collegiate School?**

I was the photo editor of the yearbook during my junior and senior years at NCS.

How has art impacted your life?

It has had a massive impact on my life. I've made my career in the creative arts.

But more importantly the arts have guided my social life. My closest friends are all artists.

My wife is a singer. Once I embraced my creative side, I found I always wanted that element around me.

What is your greatest accomplishment as an artist/performer/designer?

I'm very proud of my work at Saturday Night Live. But the work that means the most to me is the comic book I created called "After-School Agent." It may not have been very successful, but it was my own creation that I took from a germ of an idea and managed to sell to real people.

What advice would you give to a current student pursuing a degree or career in the arts?

Experiment and take risks in class. Develop all of your ideas to learn what will work and what won't. No one will let you do that in the working world. But that is the only way to find your voice. And while you're doing this in school, also find internships or entry-level jobs. Build your resume now. There are plenty of jobs to be had in the arts, but no one will hire you if you don't have any real-world experience.

Why is an investment in the arts important for schools?

Arts fuel creative thinking. They encourage unconventional solutions to problems. It is this mentality that leads to innovations in science, math and politics.



Jaqui Lilly

NCS Graduation Year: 1990

College(s) Attended: University of Virginia

Degree(s):

Current Profession: Marketing Manager at The BOW Group

Tell us a little about what you have been doing since you graduated from Norfolk Collegiate. Where did you go to college? What were you involved in?

I went to UVA with intentions to pursue communications and become a journalist. After a few internships, I realized that I did not want to be a reporter. I looked into international relations, sociology, and a wide variety of career paths. After graduating, I started writing advertising copy for a few clients, and advertising led to marketing. I also began to paint, with instruction from fellow artists in Richmond and overseas. I have been a painter/writer ever since, traveling throughout the U.S. and abroad until I decided to come back to Virginia to "settle down" in 2001. Returning to Hampton Roads was a great move, and I'm now married with three wonderful children.

As the Marketing Manager at The BOW Group, what exactly do you do on a daily basis?

The BOW Group is a small business development, marketing, and communications firm that caters primarily to architects, engineers, and construction firms, but lately, we have been working with other industries and will continue to expand our horizons. As the Marketing Manager, I handle communications for our clients. This includes brochures, Web copy, direct mail, proposals, and presentations. There really is not a routine that I can follow, since my work is so varied, but most of my time is spent writing.

I have my own business as well, painting: [Jaqui McBride Fine Art](#). I try to incorporate art into my activities every day, whether I'm actually working on a piece, looking for subject matter, or visiting a gallery.

What would a young person who is interested in your field do to prepare themselves now?

For marketing: Pay attention in English class! Read a lot. Keep up with current events and media.

For art: Practice often. Get involved with other artists. Participate in your community--you are marketing yourself constantly.

How did Norfolk Collegiate prepare you for life after high school?

The environment at NCS was always encouraging and resourceful. Teachers and coaches were ready to launch their students' success every day, and I felt motivated because of them and my surroundings. This boundless energy has enabled me to push myself throughout my life.

What is one of your favorite memories from Norfolk Collegiate?

This is terrible, but in driver's education, I hit a squirrel, and Mr. Swearingen whipped his head back and forth in shock, saying, "You just hit a squirrel!!!"

You are about to celebrate your 25 year reunion. What are you most looking forward too?

Seeing old friends. It's been a long time.

Pam Karangelen Crenshaw '92

NCS Graduation Year: 1992

Current Profession: Speech Language Pathologist

**What are you up to now? Tell us about your life and career.**

I'm a Speech-Language Pathologist and the Owner/Director of Norfolk Speech and Language Services. My husband and I moved back to Norfolk about nine years ago, and we have three children -our sons are in the 5th and the 2nd grades at the Lower School, and our daughter will be an Oak in a few years when she's ready for Kindergarten.

What motivated you to get in this type of work?

I always had an interest in health care sciences. When I was a senior at NCS, one of our classmates, and one of my closest friends, Ean Katz, was in a very serious car accident. He sustained many physical injuries including a traumatic brain injury. Observing him go through so many months of rehabilitation, including speech and language therapy, really opened my eyes to this type of health care, where you can truly make a difference in people's lives by helping them communicate their needs, wants, and thoughts. That experience later helped shape my decision to attend graduate school to become a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP).

Speech-Language Pathology has a very wide scope of practice, which gives me the freedom and ability to work with many different types of patients and in settings ranging from schools and private practice to rehabilitation facilities and hospitals. As an SLP, I evaluate, diagnose, treat, and help prevent disorders relating to speech, language, cognitive-communication, and swallowing. Helping my patients and their families understand their communication needs from a neurological perspective, and then working with them to find ways to communicate more effectively is my passion, and it is incredibly rewarding.

Owning your own business is a challenge. What have you learned most about this experience?

My biggest challenge is making sure that I keep a good balance between the time I spend in the clinic with patients and doing research, and the time I spend at home with my family. In 2011, *Money Magazine* ranked Speech Language Pathology number one for "Best Jobs for Working Parents." I believe that ranking, because even though there is a lot of responsibility involved with owning a business, my job allows me the flexibility to spend as much time with my family as possible, which is my first priority. I've also learned that sometimes you can't do it all on your own, and that it's important to delegate and to ask for help when you need it. For example, I've found out that accounting is not one of my strengths, but, I'm fortunate to have family and friends who do have those skills, and, thankfully, they're willing to help and teach me!

How did Norfolk Collegiate prepare you for college and life beyond college?

Norfolk Collegiate gave me a superior education, and that foundation has served me well throughout my academic and personal life. Just as important as that education, though, is the sense of family and the support system that I will always associate with the school. My parents, along with the teachers and staff at NCS, were always encouraging and nurturing, and they helped me realize the importance of giving back to your community and helping others... even at a young age. I love that I still see that sense of family and community at NCS as a parent and an alumnae.

Crenshaw, cont.

What advice do you have for others who may be interested in this career?

Talk to Speech Language Pathologists in different settings and ask them what they love about their job, and, if possible, spend time observing therapy sessions to see if it appeals to you.

Also, that same *Money Magazine* article that I referenced earlier? It ranked Speech Language Pathology number fourteen for “Best Jobs for Saving the World.” I don't know if I'm doing anything to save the world, but I do think that Speech Pathologists make a difference, and it's important to find a career that gives you that sense of fulfillment.

What is one of your most memorable experiences at Norfolk Collegiate?

There are so many, but for some reason, one that really stands out is from 8th grade in Anne Curtis' Pre-Algebra class. We were in a temporary school while the new upper school was being built, and the classrooms were pretty tiny, but that didn't stop Mrs. Curtis from jumping off of a desk and doing a congratulations cheer for us (to a Whitney Houston tune, no less!), because we all did so well on a test she had given the day before. She couldn't find pom-poms to use for the cheer, but since she was also our soccer coach, she used some balled-up soccer shorts instead, and ... it was pretty awesome! Where else do teachers get that excited for their students?!

Kevin Fields

NCS Graduating Class: 1998

College(s): VMI

**Tell us a little about what you have been doing since you graduated from Norfolk Collegiate. Where did you go to college? What were you involved in?**

I did my undergrad at VMI and was happy there were some NCS alumni in the upper classes that could help me out a little. After VMI I did some Psycholinguistics research with University of Richmond, and later got recruited into the Vocational Rehabilitation field helping people with disabilities find and maintain employment.

At about this time I got married and we started running marathons. I enjoyed Voc Rehab, so I went to VCU for a Masters Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling and I'm currently working on my Doctorate. Allie and I have a two-year-old son, Luke.

How did you get involved or interested with the Department of Veteran Affairs?

One of the primary investigators for the Spinal Cord Injury Vocational Integration Program: PrOMOTE contacted the VCU Rehab Counseling department head requesting candidates for a Vocational Rehabilitation Specialist (VRS) position and she recommended me. I have respect for those in the military and those who have served and saw this as an amazing opportunity to be involved with research that could expand the services provided to our veterans and have multiple positive ripple effects.

What is the most rewarding part of your job? Biggest obstacle?

The most rewarding part of my job has been seeing the change in the culture of our SCI Unit to accepting a VRS as a member of the treatment team and considering employment post SCI a realistic goal. We've found the veterans want to participate in the return to work program, and they do find employment. Employment is now part of the regular conversation on the SCI Unit and we couldn't be happier.

The biggest obstacle has to be the injuries the veterans have. While there are some general similarities based on the location and severity of injury, each person has different capabilities, a unique set of medical concerns, and a varied level of chronic pain. The body systems also behave differently following an SCI, which can be a problem for employers. It takes longer to get up and get out the door for work, the probability of medical complications is very high, and recovering from an illness generally takes longer. I call a lot of medical team meetings to discuss a veteran's concerns and changes so we can coordinate care that addresses small problems before they become big ones that can cause someone to lose a job.

What would you recommend to a young person that is interested in a career like yours?

I'd recommend they shadow an individual in the field for a day. Aside from the counseling and medical aspects it's my job to know the industries and different employers in Virginia. That means scheduling meetings and tours of anything I can think of that's relevant to the veterans I'm helping, in hopes of finding the right employer with the right need. They're usually more than happy to discuss their businesses, provide tours, and meet with veterans. Many employers are open to creating new positions to address issues in an unconventional manner.

Fields, cont.

As for how to get into the field: search for a job description that interests you, note the requirements, backwards plan the steps needed to get there, and then work your plan. Identify a teacher or coach who can be a sounding board during the process if you notice you aren't moving forward like you originally planned. Having a realistic plan and a knowledgeable mentor can lead to great things.

How did Norfolk Collegiate prepare you for after your high school experience?

I went to VMI feeling confident I could succeed. Teachers and coaches taught me the skills needed to assess a situation, decide a realistic goal, and how to maintain the discipline necessary to achieve the goal. I also learned to value my network as a means by which to reach mutually beneficial ends and to conduct myself accordingly.

What are two of your favorite memories from Norfolk Collegiate?

From academics: Taking part in the GAPP exchange program by going to school in Germany and hosting a student return really changed my perspective on many things. I experienced the transition of classroom knowledge to real-world capabilities in a way I hadn't in other classes and my experiences there helped shape the decisions I made during senior year and beyond.

From athletics: Remembering the wrestling match we had during school hours with the upper school in attendance always makes me smile. It was validating to have so much support and recognition for the work we had invested. We were the only private school wrestling team ranked in the top 15 and we crushed an enormous public school's team.

John Tumeh

NCS Graduation Year: 1999

College(s) Attended: William and Mary Degree(s): Economics

**Tell us a little about what you have been doing since you left Norfolk Collegiate. Where did you go to college?**

After graduating Norfolk Collegiate, I studied Economics at the College of William and Mary with one year abroad at the London School of Economics. After returning from London my senior year and working as a Summer Analyst in Investment Banking in NYC, I decided to pursue medical school. I subsequently enrolled at University of Virginia School of Medicine and, after graduating in 2009, pursued residency in General Adult Psychiatry at Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, University of Pittsburgh. I started the William and Mary Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu club, which attracted many students who wanted to practice martial arts. I was also involved in student government.

What motivated you to get in this type of work?

Psychiatry is a wonderful field. It brings together every aspect of the human being: neuroscience, psychology, social and economic, spiritual and more. The field has so much to offer from clinical work to research and more. It's the most exciting field in medicine!

Owning your own business is a challenge. What have you learned most about this experience?

I did not expect to start my own medical practice so soon after graduating residency. Interestingly, I was offered a job to run a Behavioral Health Unit but, shortly after accepting the position, the hospital shut the unit down due to financial reasons! Thus I was back on the job market only weeks after taking my first position. After many interviews, I finally decided to open my own psychiatric practice, Tumeh Psychiatric Services. I stayed in the city I was originally offered a job in, Uniontown, PA, a small city about one hour south of Pittsburgh. Opening a medical practice can be quite challenging. There is a ton of administrative work (e.g. credentialing with insurance companies, etc...) but in the end it is really worth it, particularly for those with an entrepreneurial flair.

How did Norfolk Collegiate prepare you for college and life beyond college?

My years at Norfolk Collegiate were amongst my favorite lifetime experiences. I loved the school, the teachers, the basketball and sports and made many good friends. It provided a solid education for college and taught me that hard work does indeed pay off! It also taught me about the importance of staying involved in multiple activities (e.g. sports, extracurricular, etc...).

What advice do you have for others who may be interested in this career?

Go for it! Psychiatry is a great field and there is a tremendous need for good clinicians, not only psychiatrists but also psychologists, therapists, counselors, etc...My advice for those interested in mental health is to get exposure to clinical care e.g. shadowing clinicians. Nothing replaces face-to-face time with the patients!

What is one of your most memorable experiences at Norfolk Collegiate?

I had so many wonderful experiences at Norfolk Collegiate, from early morning homework reviews with Mr. Davis, to basketball games (including the road trips). Certainly I loved my years playing basketball with Coach Key and learned a lot from him. One of my most memorable experiences was a three point shot I scored to tie the 8th grade basketball championship game with around one minute to go. If I recall correctly, that shot tied the game and then my colleague Josh Peters scored two foul shots to put us ahead for the victory. The excitement after the game was tremendous for our championship team. We celebrated at Bill Georghiou's pizza restaurant in Virginia Beach....one of my best days!

Eric Morgan

NCS Graduation Year: 2000

College(s) Attended: Lynchburg College

Degree(s): Sports Management

**Tell us a little about what you have been doing since you graduated from Norfolk Collegiate. Where did you go to college?****What were you involved in?**

After graduating from NCS, I attended Lynchburg College, receiving a degree in Sports Management and minor in History. From LC, I went to graduate school at Old Dominion and earned a masters degree in Sports Management. While at ODU, I completed an internship at Christopher Newport University at their multi-purpose athletic facility, the Freeman

Center, within the athletic department. Following the completion of the internship, I worked at CNU for a year and a half until I was hired in Minor League Baseball in North Carolina. I spent 3 years as the Director of Stadium Operations for the Carolina Mudcats located outside Raleigh. I then moved back to Norfolk, spending a season as a Group Sales Associate with the hometown Norfolk Tides. After a season with the Tides, I was hired in the Building and Event Operations Department at Philips Arena in Atlanta, home of the NBA Atlanta Hawks, WNBA Atlanta Dream, former NHL Atlanta Thrashers, and the #3 ranked concert venue in the US (#21 in the world) according to Pollstar magazine.

How did you get involved or interested in working in sports?

I have always loved sports and when my playing days ended after NCS, I still wanted to be involved in some way. The LC sports management program opened the door into the entire business side of sports. I discovered that I really enjoyed the facility and event management aspect of the sports industry and have been doing it ever since.

What is one of the most memorable times since you have been with the Atlanta Hawks?

Philips Arena plays host to a wide variety of events a year. We host NBA games, WNBA games, concerts, family shows, NCAA games, religious shows, circuses, and Disney on Ice just to name a few. My two most memorable times were when we hosted the 2012 ACC Men's Basketball tournament and a recent 30 day run of games and events this past fall. The ACC tournament was one of the biggest events we have hosted and was a massive production to pull off. This past fall from September 18 - October 18, we hosted 13 family shows, 9 concerts, 5 conferences, 2 Hawks games and 1 WWE event, with a total attendance of 328,306. It was exciting to see the arena being used in so many different ways, hosting a variety of different events in such a short time.

What would you recommend to a young person that is interested in a career like yours?

For a student wanting to work in building and event operations, it is very important to get any and all experience that you can. It is what we look for the most when hiring. Most schools with large athletic departments hire students for part-time employment. If there is a local sports team, ask them about part time work or internships. The extra hands on experience will pay off when you are applying for jobs; even if the previous experience didn't actually pay you.

Morgan, cont.

How did Norfolk Collegiate prepare you for after your high school experience?

Norfolk Collegiate's faculty and staff demanded excellence. We were challenged from an educational perspective, which aided in the transition into college academics.

What is one of your favorite memories from Norfolk Collegiate?

One of my favorite memories of NCS is playing in the TCIS tournament finals for 3 straight years in volleyball.

David Krohn

NCS Graduation Year: 2002

College(s) Attended: Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University (BM), The Juilliard School (MM)

Degree(s): Bachelor of Music, Master of Music

Current Profession: Opera Administration/Singer

**What arts related activities or courses did you take or participate in at Norfolk Collegiate School?**

Wilton Sale's AP English 11 Class was a real eye-opener as to the fervor with which one could speak about arts and the humanities. He had generously Donated his collection of VHS videos of great opera productions to the library, about forty in all. Ms. Klein, the librarian, permitted me to take them home one at a time to watch them. I was blown away. I had previously succumbed to the social pressure and conformed into making fun of opera as boring and not relevant to my life, but I was clearly mistaken. Ms. Murphy's instruction in the choir helped me gain confidence in my voice. Carolyn Sleeper always instructed her students to follow their passions and be courageous. I'll never forget coming back to Hampton Roads to do a concert and seeing so many of my teachers from NCS in attendance - John Zimmerman, Will King, Bob Morissette, and many more.

How has art impacted your life?

Simply put, the arts ARE my life. I found my calling in opera - whether is it singing, creating, or working as an ambassador for my beloved art form, it is what I believe I was placed on this earth to do. I wish this same happiness for anyone reading this.

What is your greatest accomplishment as an artist/performer/designer?

I once performed a cycle of German songs (Schubert's Winterreise) in a small town in the south of France, which had been occupied by the Vichy loyalists during WWII. Following my performance, there was an old man in attendance who told me, through his tears, that he was small boy when the Nazis came to his town and that through the power of this music, hearing the German language in a new light, he was able to come to terms with his past. It was a remarkable experience.

What advice would you give to a current student pursuing a degree or career in the arts?

Be ready for incredible hardship. Be ready for many periods of uncertainty in all aspects of your life. Be ready to pick up your life and move to far corners of the world on a moment's notice - without friends, family, or loved ones. But if you are ready for the great challenges that lie ahead of you, you will soon realize that the rewards come from within. No amount of adoration or accolades will replace the moment of creative flow that you experience while on stage, in a workshop, a dance studio, or anywhere you can experience your art.

Why is an investment in the arts important for schools?

Year after year, the National Endowment for the Arts publishes numerous reports showing the measurable impact of arts education on students, and yet public funding gets slashed in exchange for other priorities. Years ago, high school graduates were expected to have a knowledge of world literature, music, the visual arts and more; not because they were going to become authors, opera singers, or painters, but because it was part of a complete education. The arts teach students to relate to their classmates in a collaborative and healthy way, express their emotions through creativity, inspire critical thinking, and so much more. An investment in the arts is an investment in our children's futures and the future of our world.

Woody Granger

NCS Graduation Year: 2008 College(s) Attended: University of Virginia
Degree(s): Music and History

Tell us a little about what you have been doing since you left Norfolk Collegiate. Where did you go to college? What was your degree in? What were you involved in?

After graduating from Collegiate in 2008 I attended the University of Virginia for four years. Though I formally studied music and history, my clearest memories tell me that I spent most of my time exploring. Whether that includes woodworking, singing in a gospel choir, finding the best ice cream spots, or roller blading through the grounds, I remember

(and perhaps learned most from) those adventures outside class. Unable to cope with leaving the beautiful Charlottesville, I worked for my church for one year after graduating. Surrounded by wise mentors, my job at Trinity afforded me the opportunity to mull over my future vocation, which I decided could be teaching.

**How did you end up on the trip of a lifetime to Africa?**

The trip of a lifetime began with my reluctant application to teach at the African Bible College Christian Academy as suggested by a pastor at my church. I had received such little feedback from jobs in the U.S. that I had to venture outside my comfort zone – very far. In hindsight – essentially after my first day in Malawi – I was as thankful for the experience as “trip of a lifetime” sounds exciting. However, I must admit that I initially approached the decision with trepidation, and accepted the position with more.

Describe a typical day in Malawi.

A typical day on the campus of ABC looked much like that of a small boarding school. In the mornings I taught three sections of history; I coached high school P.E. after lunch; I directed the band in the afternoon. The culture shock would come on the daily errands to the grocery store, excursions to villages not far away, or runs to the hospital.

Grocery shopping required negotiation with vendors. Occasionally the store would run out of chicken for a couple of weeks. Fruits and vegetables were only available when they were in season. I only had one choice of toothpaste. Adjusting to these differences was rather easy. I suppose the typical day in Lilongwe was similar to one in Norfolk. However, an atypical day in Lilongwe was like nothing I had ever experienced before. Those days also seemed much more frequent than an atypical day in the first- world. It was during those unusual days where I saw the limitations of medical care, the severity of poverty, or the consequences of greed and political corruption.

What is the biggest life lesson you took away from this trip?

A little girl from an impoverished village taught me a life lesson – or perhaps better put: evinced a long- held understanding - that I hope changes the way that I live my life. She exhibited what one of my professors would call “lived theology.

Granger, cont.

To witness greed is sad. To witness the vague entanglement of necessity and greed is painful. Last October I ventured ten kilometers south from my house to spend time with orphans living at a ministry called Children of the Nations. After teaching the Ten Commandments, and playing football, we passed out donations that had just arrived. The children lined up in an organized fashion to receive the gifts that we passed out. Boys' shirts were shreds; girls were without underwear; only a small minority wore shoes. Initially, kids were joyful, even tearful. But as the boxes dwindled, and the desire for more clothes and toys mounted: the structure toppled into pandemonium.

As supplies decreased, I realized what remained in my box would not satisfy the children - no box could fully satisfy. Some gifts incited envy from onlookers, others were rejected. A friend compared the afternoon to the living water that John references.

"But whoever drinks from the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

-John 4:14

Christ's love shared is greater than any gift I can give. I weep at the thought of innocent children that live without clean water, sufficient nutrition, and shoes; and I try my best to reconcile these problems. However, only God can rescue us from our poverty. A drink from the fountain of living water is an everlasting gift. In the midst of the chaos I experienced a truly ethereal moment. My supply was depleted - I was left with unwanted gifts: heaps of ribbon and a Beanie Baby crab named Claude.

A little girl who shyly made eye-contact with me during the teaching was sitting with her younger brother on a bench. They were the only two not vying for donations. I introduced myself in my best Chichewa, "Woody!" I exclaimed pointing to my chest. "Dzina lako ndani?" "Esnart" she whispered. I passed Claude to Esnart motioning that it was a gift from me to her. Esnart masked her sweet smile for a few seconds - a futile effort - until she warmly embraced the skimpy brown crab.

I believe it was the action, not the gift, that she so cherished. Esnart's joy illustrated to me the hope that even malnourished, impoverished orphans can have - a hope fulfilled by the knowledge of our Savior who embodies love. In order to penetrate my progress-centric worldview, God revealed this experience in a penniless orphanage. Esnart reminded me that our hope is found not in fiscal security, opulent pleasures, and fleeting happiness, but in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

What is your favorite memory?

Joseph Phiri, Chris Buckley, and I were co-band directors at the academy. Joseph, a college graduate of ABC, taught woodwinds, Chris taught percussion, and I taught brass. We were asked to play a piece for the final music performance of the year, so we arranged "Amazing Grace" for trombone, clarinet, and piano. We played the verse three times through in a slow New Orleans jazz style, regularly trading the melody between us. The school loved it and asked us to play at the graduation of the high school, the college, and a baccalaureate service. My favorite performance however was in Joseph's church, Kaninga. Mr. Phiri (Joseph's father) introduced us to the congregation. They were familiar with the tune Amazing Grace, but most members at Kaninga had never heard a brass or reed instrument before. The slow melody and accompanying harmonies echoed loudly through the concrete church. I had never had such an attentive and complimentary audience. It was a wonderful way to spend my last Sunday in Malawi.

How did Norfolk Collegiate help prepare you for this trip?

Creativity, time, and versatility. We all have lasting memories of the dedicated teachers that invested their efforts into our lives. I will never forget Mrs. Repass teaching the most boring chapters of American history in exciting, creative ways - so much so I wanted to be a teacher. Nor will I forget Mr. Banyay sacrificing his time to chauffeur my brother and me around all of Hampton Roads for District Band. And the versatile Mr. Davis: teaching in the math and science department, stepping in as Dean of Students, and playing the necessary tuba in the Pep Band.

Granger, cont.

Each student - I am sure - has a unique list. The enduring commitment made by our teachers throughout each year provided me the model for how I wanted to work.

Now that you are home from Africa, what is the next step for you?

I will be teaching history and coaching sailing at the Gunston School on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Aside from my job description, I cannot tell too much more about the step simply because it has not begun. However, my hope and prayer is that my experience in Malawi, my lesson from Esnart among others, and my role models from Collegiate influence the way in which I teach and coach.

Daniel Hayes

NCS Graduation Year: 2008

College(s) Attended: Florida Southern College

Degree(s): B.F.A in Theatre Performance, B.F.A in Technical Theatre (Scenic Design)



What arts-related activities or courses did you take or participate in at Norfolk Collegiate School?

I took all theatre courses (musical theatre, drama) that were offered and was involved in every production that Collegiate presented starting in middle school. I was also a part of Men's Ensemble and Jazz Choir and during my Junior & Senior year was President of the Art Club.

How has art impacted your life?

It is my life. I know now that there is nothing I would be happier doing. On the other hand, I suppose a visible impact would be self-confidence and sensitivity. In the entertainment business, you have to be confident in what you are bringing to an audition or interview; if you aren't, there are 60 other people waiting in line behind you that are. It sounds corny, but you have to believe in yourself enough to put yourself out there in front of hundreds of people, which then inevitably translates into everyday life. Also, to be an actor you must be able to put yourself in a character's shoes. I have found that through that experience I am more likely to sympathize with people rather than judge them for their shortcomings. For instance, "the bad guy" in a show is usually not inherently "bad," something has happened to make him/her this way. You begin to think about these things in your interactions with people on a daily basis.

What is your greatest accomplishment as an artist/performer/designer?

In the few short years I have been working professionally, I have had the honor to play phenomenal roles such as Artie Shaughnessy from House of Blue Leaves (the first time I ever learned a monologue was in eighth grade at NCS and it was from this show... full circle moment!), Orgon in Moliere's Tartuffe, and the title role in Sweeney Todd. Aside from performing, I have enjoyed working behind the scenes as a carpenter, stage manager, and production manager. I was hired last summer at Interlochen Arts Academy, a prestigious conservatory where high school students are able to begin honing their craft at a very young age. Even more recently I was promoted to production manager, and I am now able to be fully involved in every production witnessing the growth of these amazingly talented students.

What advice would you give to a current student pursuing a degree or career in the arts?

Make sure that there is nothing else you want to do first. Not that a career in the arts is a bad idea by any means, but it is hard work. To have a successful career in the arts, you must be married to your craft. Once you have decided that you don't want to do anything else, learn everything you possibly can about it. I started out as an actor and quickly realized that I wanted to know more about theatre. Now I can audition and continue vocal/acting training, but at the same time maintain a full-time job that will pay the bills (not all actors have to starve!). Above that, knowledge of all aspects of your craft will create a heightened respect for the hundreds of hours that go into making a production happen.

Hayes, cont.

Why is an investment in the arts important for schools?

It never ceases to shock me when I hear that arts programs are dying in school systems across the nation. The arts are highly important to simply be a well-rounded individual. A theatre class can teach you how to speak clearly, and more importantly how to communicate effectively, which can be implemented in almost any career path one chooses. On a broader scale, any arts course/involvement will challenge you to use your imagination and unlock inner creativity you didn't know you had. With technology taking over everything it is more important now to tap into our inner creative self rather than letting computers and iPhones do all of the work for us. I would challenge every student to not judge "theatre geeks" or the "art kids" and try out for a school play or take an arts course. I guarantee that if nothing else, you will have fun.

David Bonnewell '09

NCS Graduation Year: 2009

College(s) Attended: University of Miami

Degree(s) Received: BS in Applied Physics and German with a minor in Math

**Tell us a little about life after Norfolk Collegiate- Where did you go to college? What was your degree in? What are you doing now?**

So after graduating from Norfolk Collegiate, I attended the University of Miami for four years. I graduated with a Bachelors of Science. I majored in Applied Physics and German and minored in Mathematics. During my senior year, on the advice of my German professor and the Office of Prestigious Awards and Scholarships at Miami, I applied for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Germany. I was selected and am now working in Limbach-Oberfrohn. It's a city of about 25,000 in the eastern part of Germany. I'm working with two different schools, the Albert Schweitzer Gymnasium and the Berufliches Schulzentrum Limbach-Oberfrohn.

What does a normal day look like for you in Germany?

Most days begin around 6:30 as my first class is often 7:30 and I have to ride a bike to school. I'll normally work in three or four classes during the day with some time in between. I almost always work in English classes, but I have taught a math class. After classes, I'll normally head back to my apartment but I've also been practicing with an Ultimate Frisbee team at a university in a city nearby.

What has been the biggest culture change from America?

One of the biggest differences I've found between the United States and Germany is the education system. They have different kinds of high schools. The most academically rigorous are the Gymnasiums. They are also the most similar to American high schools. When they graduate from the Gymnasiums they receive their Abiturs. There are also Real and Oberschules. These are vocational schools that run til either the ninth or tenth grade. From there most of them go onto internships, but some try to pursue their Abiturs. The Berufliches Schulzentrum helps out with both of these. They have classes for those doing internships and also have classes for kids trying for their Abitur.

What are some of the "quirks" of the English language that you teach about?

Well English has a lot of tricky pronunciations (like read (present) vs. read (past)). The teachers who I work with are all German so while they all speak excellent English, it is not their native language so I am often able to provide insight that they might not have.

After your time is finished in Germany, what do you plan to do after?

I'm not really sure. I'm considering graduate school, but I'm uncertain what I would like to study.

How has Norfolk Collegiate helped you get to where you are today?

Norfolk Collegiate gave me a real love of learning. I never would have majored in Physics if it hadn't been for the teachers at Collegiate. Norfolk Collegiate also was a great environment for me from first grade to senior year. I met a lot of my best friends there.

Jamie McLemore

NCS Graduation Year: 2009

College(s) Attended: University of Virginia

Degree(s): BA and Masters of Teaching

**Tell us a little about what you have been doing since you graduated from Norfolk Collegiate. Where did you go to college? What were you involved in?**

After graduating from Norfolk Collegiate in 2009, I went to the University of Virginia and graduated in May of 2014 with a Bachelor's of Arts and Master's of Teaching. During my third year at UVA, I began splitting my course load between graduate level classes and undergraduate classes, so that I could get both degrees within 5 years. At Virginia, I was involved with elementary school tutoring services, on grounds community service organizations, and Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Did you always know you wanted to be a teacher?

Throughout elementary, middle, and high school, I went back and forth with the idea of being a teacher. I didn't know whether or not I wanted to have to deal with homework of my own! I know that I came back to the idea of teaching sometime around my junior year at NCS. Mr. Davis, who taught me both AP Calculus and AP Physics, frequently talked with me about my goals of being a teacher. Although he encouraged me to go for high school math, I wound up settling on the younger grades.

How is the new job in Nashville?

I am currently working at an urban, middle school in Nashville. My students come from extremely low-income and under-educated communities, which can certainly be challenging. I teach science with 5th grade, which is the first year of middle school in Tennessee. I am used to 5th grade being elementary school but am very excited about the middle school environment.

What is the biggest difference between being a teacher's assistant and having your own classroom?

My student teaching experience was great preparation for having my own classroom, however, it is incredibly different to actually have my own class. I think the biggest difference of being a student teacher (or even having a student teacher) is the extra breathing time allowed by having two adults in the room. When being the only adult in a classroom with 25-30 students, there isn't much time to stop and catch my breath!

How did Norfolk Collegiate prepare you to be a teacher?

Norfolk Collegiate taught me how to be a challenging and caring teacher. My teachers at NCS truly cared about my well being, both academically and personally. All of my teachers made themselves accessible because they cared about how we performed as people and not just students. Although I teach in an urban public school, my school is not much larger than NCS. I enjoy being able to get to know my students on a personal level by asking about their life, attending their sporting events, and showing I care through small gestures. No matter where your students come from, creating and maintain relationships can be a key to a successful year.

McLemore, cont.

What is one of your favorite memories from Norfolk Collegiate?

A lot of my favorite memories from NCS happened in the math classroom. I remember when Mrs. Curtis called my house with a goofy voice to ask me questions on my second day of Algebra. I remember her dancing with students to teach the distributive property and doing hand stands for reciprocals! Many of my favorite memories from my last years at NCS were with Mr. Davis during AP Calculus and AP Physics. Our class had very strong sense of competition and camaraderie. Outside of academia, I loved the clubs I was able to join while at Collegiate. I was able to develop my passion for service and philanthropy through Day of Service, Bake Club, Think Pink! Fashion Show, and For Us. One of the reasons I wanted to be a teacher was so that I could help students develop their own passions, inside and outside of the classroom.

Emily Bennett

NCS Graduation Year: 2011

College(s) Attended: James Madison University

Degree(s): Public Policy and Administration

**Tell us a little about what you have been doing since you left Norfolk Collegiate.**

Since graduation from Collegiate, I have been pursuing a bachelor's degree in Public Policy and Administration from James Madison University. I also have a Non-Profit Studies minor. During my time here at JMU, I have gotten involved in a few organizations on campus including Honor Council and a Christian fellowship organization, InterVarsity. My freshman year, I had a paper published through two different scholarly journals.

How did you get involved with the Honor Council at Norfolk Collegiate?

I was not involved with Honor Council at NCS. I got involved with JMU's Honor Council my first semester freshman year. At JMU we have what is called Student Org Night every semester; it is where all of the organizations on campus try to get you to sign up for their organization. I walked past the Honor Council booth, and I recognized the Vice President because he had spoken at a lot of the interest meetings I attended. We talked for a few minutes and he told me what Honor Council is all about and so I decided to write my name down to apply. That year, I was a student representative on the Honor Council; I went to about 10 hearings and found that I was really enjoying it. I like the feeling of making a difference in the community. Then at the end of the year an email was sent out about applying to be on the executive board, and I thought I might as well give it a shot, so I applied. A few weeks later I found out that I was chosen to be on the executive board as a student investigator. Then, at the end of my sophomore year, a few of the members of our current board graduated, including our president, so I decided to apply for that. My career with Honor Council started off as I might as well get involved with something that will help my resume and it has now turned into something I am truly passionate about.

What made you want to continue doing it?

Over the last three years, Honor Council has really opened my eyes to the inner-workings of JMU's campus. I have had the opportunity to meet a lot of the different faculty on campus as well as students. Serving on Honor Council is my way of giving back to the JMU community. Out of 20,000 students at JMU, there are six of us on the executive board for Honor Council. We work as a group to instill academic integrity in the JMU campus, and that is something that I am beyond proud of.

How is the honor council in high school different than in college?

In high school, I did not know much about honor council because there was not much use for the honor council. Collegiate instilled academic integrity in us from the beginning, so honor council was not something that we had to be concerned with. I knew that Honor Council was something that we voted for, but that was about it. At JMU, students do not vote for the Honor Council. Those that want to be on Honor Council must apply and then the current executive board selects the student representatives. JMU's Honor Council is fully run by students; we have a faculty coordinator to assist us, but it is ultimately the students that make decisions.

Bennett, cont.

What did Norfolk Collegiate teach you about being the President of the Honor Council at JMU?

As I said, academic integrity was instilled in me as a part of my character starting in Kindergarten. Collegiate taught me what honor is and the difference between right and wrong. Collegiate also taught me to desire responsibility. From the beginning of my freshman year, I knew that I wanted to make a difference and be a leader within the JMU community.

What are you plans after graduation?

After graduation I plan to pursue a Master's degree. After I have accomplished that, I want to found a non-profit in Guatemala. I was recently there on a mission trip and recognized the need for public recreation facilities. It is my dream to found a non-profit like the YMCA in Guatemala. I want to provide a safe environment for children and their families to go and be able to relax and get involved in competitive sporting events.

Ashley Cota

NCS Graduation Year: 2013

College(s) Attended: UNC-Wilmington

Degree(s): Marine Biology

How did you go about fundraising for your trip?

I sacrificed my social life and babysat for hours on end.

What did you enjoy most about your trip to Mozambique?**What was your favorite memory?**

I really enjoyed the scuba diving in the Indian Ocean, the abundance and variety of fish and corals was incredible. My favorite memory was when Nick, the divemaster was showing us three white tip reef sharks and all of a sudden he rapidly shook his rattle and pointed towards the surface where a humpback whale was swimming past about 30 feet away from us!

**What type of research did you do?**

I mainly did data analysis for the Marine Megafauna Foundation, MMF. I worked on manta rays, whale sharks, and sea turtles. I worked with spreadsheets, graphs, and the databases which may sound boring, but for me it was exhilarating. I was happy to help with any assignment no matter how simple or small it was. It is very rewarding to know my work will actually be put to use in scientific publications from the scientists at MMF.

How did you get into Marine Biology and Oceanography?

My father was an oceanographer and from a young age I always took an interest in the sea. I have decided to become a marine biologist because I truly love the animals in the ocean, specifically sharks and stingrays. I am taking the opposite approach my father did by studying the creatures not the features in the ocean.

What do you plan on doing with this in the future?

I plan on heading to the University of Queensland in Australia to do my PhD after I finish my studies at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. From there I plan on becoming a field researcher with an emphasis on Elasmobranchs (sharks and rays). Most likely after I finish my field research and years of traveling, I will settle down and become a research professor or a preschool teacher.

Are you going on any more research trips?

I have been invited by Dr. Andrea Marshall and her research assistant, Libby Bowles, to accompany them to Ecuador to do field research on giant manta rays and possibly be featured in the footage of Andrea's new national geographic documentary. But unfortunately it is very expensive to be traveling so frequently and it happens to fall on my move-in and first week of college courses so I will not be able to make it to Ecuador this year but I am saving up money for other wonderful opportunities that may arise.

What is something that Norfolk Collegiate did to help you prepare for your trip?

The sense of family and community at Norfolk Collegiate helped me tremendously throughout my journey. When I first received the initial invitation to go to Africa it was merely a dream but with the encouragement and kind words from so many faculty, staff, and students I made my dream a reality. Ever since kindergarten Norfolk Collegiate has supported me and taught me to chase after my dreams. NCS has bestowed upon me the foundation of knowledge and I will forever be grateful that I have the honor of calling myself a thirteen year survivor at Norfolk Collegiate.

