

The Laker

WINTER 2022

LAKERS HIT THE LAKE!

A week of self-discovery
and team building at
Camp Manito-Wish



From the Head of School

Lakers one and all!

In October we hosted the Lake City Conference Championships on our beautiful woodland cross-country course, where we needed five strong to make a ULS team but only had one runner. No problem! Four from boys soccer (Ben, Egann, Matt, and Cole) caught wind of the shortage, ran up the hill to join Seamus, put in their three miles, earned us 2nd place in the Conference, and then jogged back down in time to start their soccer game. It's hard to put your finger on what it is that makes this place so impossibly great, but a story like this helps tell it.

And – told lovingly by our talented Laker Magazine staff – the stories you'll find in these pages: a father and son who bike together across the country. A daughter who gets to learn math from the same great teacher as her dad (and the great math teacher who composes both of their senior songs). Sisters from Chile who call this place home, twice. An Advancement Director who puts on coaching sweats ("Sure, I'll do that") to lead our first-ever Middle School Girls Volleyball season. Junior Kindergartners learning that in each creature nature wears a different face and befriending each of our chickens by name (Pickle, Potato, Bufooy, Midnight, ChipChip, and Mrs. BooBoo). And thirtysome Laker families who helped Mrs. McSorley put the "camp" back in "campus" by setting up tents, cooking over fires, playing capture the flag with lightsticks, and waking up in community to greet another day in the best great place we know. Has life here always been so rich?

Yes, it has. Welcome home!



John Dewis
15th Head of School
University Lake School



GET TO KNOW JOHN DEWIS



SEVEN QUESTIONS FOR JOHN ASKED OVER A CUP OF COFFEE

Q: What song best describes you and why?

A: The song of the black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*). What a loud sound to come from such a small bird. What you see is not really what you get. Or Chopsticks on the piano. It's a crowd pleaser and just about anyone can play it. I also like Gordon Lightfoot's *Ghosts of Cape Horn* which is pretty much a perfect song and has lots of whistling in it, too.

Q: What did you want to be when you were 10 years old?

A: At a certain point, I thought the best job in the world must be Doctors Without Borders, because you get to fly a plane and then serve some purpose when you land.

Q: What's one thing (most) people don't know about you?

A: In 1996 I spent a summer looking after a small colony of bats. Among my duties was to feed them mealworms by hand and then exercise them by letting them fly around a big room, recapture them (best is to catch them from behind otherwise they are famously good dodgers), and put them back in their small tank where their pulmonary outputs were carefully measured, thanks to a grant from the National Science Foundation. The idea was to figure out whether the impulse to breathe during torpor was from lack of oxygen or too much carbon dioxide.

Q: What is something you learned in your acting career that you take with you today?

A: The observation that for an actor, it is possible to be anyone anytime, and that this appears to be one route to true empathy. Also, never share the screen with a child or an animal because they are always more interesting to watch.

Q: If you could have dinner with someone dead or alive, who would you invite?

A: I think living company would be better, but if we had to raise someone from the dead it would probably be the 17th Century Dutch mystic Baruch de Spinoza. I would want to know whether his treatise on ethics was livable, and if so, did it make his life a happy one? I think there might be other people I'd want at this dinner. Socrates would, of course, be a good dinner guest, but I'm not entirely sure what I would ask him since he usually does the asking.

Q: What do you think would be a fitting epitaph on your gravestone?

A: I know what my father would make the epitaph: *Here lies John, often wrong but never in doubt.*

Q: What's the most adventurous thing you've ever done?

A: It is a true rumor that I hiked across the Himalayas in my penny loafers carrying nothing but a small briefcase of pressed shirts. But even that was less adventurous than taking a job as the Head of the best school in the world.



Hawk Hill Happenings

1 We enjoyed another fall Field Day on September 30. The gorgeous day was made even more special as we celebrated Mr. John Doherty's 100th Field Day! Our senior Hawks and Eagles captains honored him with a cake and a pack of Diet Coke. Thank you, John, for all of the time and energy you've put in to make every Field Day so fun and memorable.

2 It was a busy fall for reconnecting with students from the 1970s, as many alumni and former students gathered both on and off campus for reunions. We celebrated the class of 1972's 50th reunion from ULS, welcoming nine alumni back to campus on October 21. Once a Laker, always a Laker!

3 Alumni, parents, friends, and staff gathered in the ULS Barn for a night of fun and live music at this year's annual Barn Bash on October 1.

4 Nearly 30 families participated in the first-ever ULS Family Camp Out on Hawk Hill! Campfires and tents adorned the Michels Campus Green in late September as students and parents enjoyed extended time together, admiring the beauty of campus at night.



5 We celebrated Homecoming week on Hawk Hill with a variety of fun events in early October. Highlights included the sixth annual Apple Crisp Run, a Booster Club chili cook-off, soccer and field hockey games under the lights at the Pabst Athletic Fields, a carnival put on by Upper School students for our younger learners, and a parade through campus.

6 ULS' first ever Middle School volleyball team stepped onto the court this fall. The nine student-athletes were coached by Liz Montgomery, who also serves as Advancement Director. Go Lakers!

7 This summer, we added two chickens, Pickle and Potato, to the four already in the coup. Led by Mrs. Lindsay Sandstrom and Mrs. Cathy Wilkowski - the "Chicken Mama" - our JK4 class helps to care for our beloved campus chickens. Each week, three chicken helpers are chosen to fulfill daily tasks such as scooping poop, feeding and providing water, and collecting eggs.



Written by Liz Montgomery



Mike and Quinn get ready to start their cross-country ride, posing here at their starting point in Cannon Beach, Oregon.

Mike Dolan joined the ULS staff in 1990 and served as the college counselor, English teacher and coach before retiring in 2018. He and his wife, Laurie, are parents to Brendan ('03), Peter ('06), Brigid ('09) and Quinn ('11), each of whom loved their time at ULS so much that they never missed a day of school in 13 years.

"We've biked across Iowa and Wisconsin, now it's time to ride across America!" Avid cyclists and father-son duo, Mike and Quinn Dolan, dreamt to do just that. Mike embraced Quinn's new quest as an opportunity to bond but also as a chance to discover more of our nation's hidden gem colleges. Together, they mapped a path to bike the country from the furthest point west to the furthest point east in the contiguous United States. Mike and Quinn departed from Cannon Beach, Oregon on April 14, 2021 for the adventure of a lifetime.

Each morning, Mike and Quinn mapped out the ride, incorporating a stop for lunch and the end point of the day. Mike would say goodbye to Quinn for a few hours, and while Quinn biked, Mike drove their RV to the agreed-upon day's destination - which was typically 60+ miles east - parked the vehicle, rode his bike back to meet Quinn, and together they would rendezvous with the RV.

Mike recounted, "Many of our overnights were in towns of less than 500 people, where we would 'boondock' (using only solar

power and no hookups). Interestingly, each small hamlet was like an oasis with its own unique and beautiful park. Wherever we stopped, we were warmly welcomed and queried about our odyssey. Although the pandemic and the politics of the time may have isolated or divided much of the country, the hundreds of people whom we met made us feel as if we were on Hawk Hill and being treated like family." Both cyclists agreed, "The majesty of the mountains and the grandeur from coast to coast are truly breathtaking, but it's the people who make America beautiful."

During their two months on the road, the Dolans made a point to support as many 'Ma & Pa' eateries as possible. Quinn noted the importance of refueling with a big daily lunch, eating sandwiches and french fries. Fried foods were key, all in the name of carb-loading. The best meal during their two-month long journey? "Easy! Grandpa's Southern BBQ in Idaho Falls," Mike smiled at Quinn, nearly re-tasting that memorable meal. Mike reminisced, "It was a Kentucky-transplanted, family-owned diner, and some of the sweetest people whom we met engorged us with a five-course meal." And don't worry - these Wisconsin guys made plenty of time to support nearly 50 breweries along the way.

There is no doubt that a cross-country cycling crusade comes with a few setbacks. The original plan was to depart from Cape Alava, WA; unfortunately, when they arrived, the only two bike routes were closed off: one due to a mudslide and the other for a Covid quarantine. So, they headed south to Cannon Beach, OR. Other typical construction detours were tolerable, and six flat tires were more than manageable. However, for all of Nebraska and Iowa, the prevailing westerly winds reversed into 15-30 mph headwinds. As an example of the grind, Mike parked in Independence, IA and was averaging 26 mph heading west to meet up with Quinn, but that speed was cut in half after the two met up. Interestingly, by drafting off of Dad for the last leg, Quinn's heart rate had dropped from 166 to 122 bpm.

On May 23, Quinn met up with five of his classmates from Notre Dame as well as his brother, Pete, who also graduated from ND. As a group, they rode the 105 miles from the Buckingham Fountain in Chicago to South Bend, IN, ending the day at their alma mater. Speaking of colleges, the Dolans' trek led them to visit 18 university campuses throughout the country, bringing Mike's lifetime total tally to 872 college visits.



Quinn takes a break to admire the beauty of the Grand Tetons.



Quinn ascends Mount Hood, the highest mountain peak in Oregon located just east of Portland.

Total length of trip
64 days

Height of climb
112,400 feet

Distance covered
3,646 miles

Time in saddle
203 hours

Calories burned
157,000

Max elevation
9,577 feet

Approx pedals
1 million

Breweries visited
46

Mike and Quinn believe the pandemic has encouraged us all to slow down and to seize opportunities to bond with others. Mike postulated, “Each new path mate was like a link in our bicycle chain, connecting us together as fellow sojourners.” Quinn shared that the trip also opened his mind to many possibilities in life. “Sky’s the limit now,” he quipped.

I asked Quinn how he felt when he completed his cross country journey. “It was a big feeling of, now what? It was also good to see mom,” as she joined them in Maine for the last three days.

In September 2021, Quinn ‘Everested’ Lapham Peak. Everesting is ascending a hill repeatedly until one has climbed 29,029 feet, the elevation of Mount Everest, in less than 24 hours. Quinn’s ascent was 152 miles in 13.5 hours. Hawk Hill was considered, but it would have taken over 350 laps versus the 192 at Lapham. This past September, Quinn completed a 202 mile ride from Lower Nemahbin Lake to Ephraim, WI in 10.5 hours. Next up? Quinn and Mike plan to bring brother Pete along for the Scottish Highlands’ North Coast 500, a 516 mile scenic route beginning and ending at Inverness Castle in May of 2023. They’ll also include the Isle of Skye loop. Sky’s the limit!



Mike and Quinn show their true colors at the West Quoddy Head Lighthouse in Lubec, Maine, the end point of their trek.

Senior Spotlight

HANNAH MYHRE

Q: What is it you love most about ULS?

The opportunities! I would never have been able to create my own independent study at any other school. Going to a smaller school like ULS allowed me to feel comfortable enough to even ask to create my own class. At any other school, the administration likely would not have even known my name, much less be willing to put in the effort to help me make it happen.

Q: Favorite subject at ULS?

My favorite subject at ULS has always been my writing classes. This year my favorite class is Creative Writing, and sophomore year my favorite class was AP Language and Composition.

I also really like our college counseling class, because it gives me time at school to work on college applications and get input from teachers. It was really helpful last year when I was a junior because it gave me time to figure out where I wanted to apply for college.

Q: What are you involved in here?

At ULS, I'm involved with the Varsity Ski team, Student Government, and the Culture, Art, and Language Club. Outside of school, I work at Ixonia Bank as a teller and customer service representative, and I volunteer at the Oconomowoc Library.

Q: Favorite memory from ULS?

My favorite memory from ULS is every time we've all gotten excited about a school event like school dances or games. One of my all-time favorite ULS memories was the 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. because we all got to travel together and that's something we will never have the opportunity to do again.

Q: Plans after graduation?

After graduation, I plan to attend Belmont University or Marquette University to study business. My plan is to go into business either as an entrepreneur or work with other companies to help with marketing



aspects. Whatever I end up doing, I would like to be able to work remotely in some way so I could travel while working.

Q: Words of wisdom for younger students?

Start writing your college essays as soon as possible and make the most of high school because it goes by faster than you think.

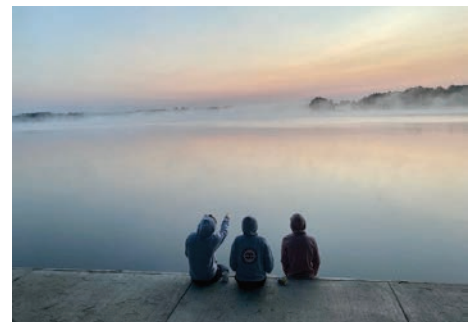
COURSE SET FOR MANITO-WISH

Written by Hannah Myhre

As a lifer here at ULS as well as a second-generation Laker, this is my 15th and final year on Hawk Hill. At the beginning of the year, our class took a senior retreat up to Camp Manito-Wish and it is safe to say that it was the perfect start to my final year at ULS.

Camp Manito-Wish is a YMCA camp in Boulder Junction, Wisconsin designed

to help youth build character, embrace traditional values and cultivate leadership skills. The Upper School students have been going up to Camp Manito-Wish for more than 25 years, and over those years this trip has become a well-known and loved tradition at ULS. In years past, the 9th-11th graders went up to camp while the seniors stayed back and participated in a service week, but because of the





pandemic the past couple of years, all four grades had the opportunity to visit Camp Manito-Wish this year.

Our Manito-Wish adventure started out with an early morning bus ride in the rain and lots of wet suitcases. We arrived at camp around lunch and were greeted with tacos and churros before the sophomores and juniors were sent off on their canoeing and camping trip. The seniors then headed to the Manito-Wish Leadership Center (MLC) to talk about camp rules, but instead got distracted by a piano and singing “Take Me Home, Country Roads” by John Denver. We spent the rest of the afternoon unpacking, getting to know the counselors, and playing icebreaker games as a class. The first game we played was bracket-style rock paper scissors, and not to brag, but I got second. After we broke the ice, we headed into the woods to do some journaling in the arboretum as well as some tree climbing. After a day full of activities we headed back to the cabins and played “For the Girls” in the girls’ cabin. This might have been one of my favorite parts of the trip because I got to talk to some of the girls I typically don’t talk to at school. It was the perfect way to end the first day up north.

On day two, we headed back to the MLC after breakfast and broke off into

brainstorming groups. We spent the morning in small groups talking about our plans, hopes, and ideas for our senior year and eventually came back together as a class and shared what we had brainstormed. The common themes throughout were a need for more school spirit, senior activities, and lots of trips. Hearing everyone’s ideas helped get all of us on the same page and ready to work together to make it happen. We ended day two with a night hike and star gazing on the bridge.

On our third and final full day at camp we spent the majority of the day making cakes. The goal of this activity was to come together as a group to bake a cake with no instructions, no oven, and a small budget to purchase only what we deemed as necessary ingredients and supplies. To start we were separated into three groups and tasked with creating a game plan for how we were going to make our cake. While the task seemed simple, we were quickly surprised by the level of thoroughness expected from us. Our first proposal presented to the judges was denied, bringing us back to the drawing board. On our second attempt, we reviewed our expenses, discussed how we intended to build our fire and even created an alliance with another group as an emergency plan. Despite the initial setbacks, we did not come in last. That

title was presented to the group who created an inedible, charred carrot cake.

We ended our last night gathering around the fire, roasting marshmallows, telling ghost stories, and apologizing for anything we felt necessary. This activity caused a few to shed some tears, but it created a blank slate for everyone to start over.

The next morning we welcomed the sophomores and juniors back to camp with a song:

*“Break out the oars,
Course set for Manito-Wish.
Swing on the oars,
Got to get to Manito-Wish.
Had a good trip,
now let a rip for home...”*

While we were only there for a few days, Manito-Wish brought us all closer as a senior class and allowed us to see different sides of people we would have never noticed at school. I am grateful we were able to go up to camp one last time before we all head our separate ways. It was a memorable trip for us all and I couldn’t imagine a better way to start my senior year.



CREATING A GLOBAL FAMILY

here



University Lake School has a long-standing tradition of welcoming international students. Inviting students from all over the world to join our School family cultivates a learning environment that is welcoming, open-minded, and joyful.

Our Laker community and the families who open their homes to international students are vital to this effort. This year, we have nine international students staying with local families.

The story below is written by a 2015 ULS exchange student whose sister is spending her Junior year at ULS this year. Her host father used to be an international exchange student himself when he was in college.

Hello Lakers! My name is Isidora Weitzel, I am from Chile. In 2015 I had the opportunity to be an international exchange student here at ULS. Before I tell you my story, let's travel back to 1987.

In 1987 my dad was 17 years old, and he decided he wanted to study abroad. My grandparents supported him to make his dream come true, and he flew all the way to Arkansas. My dad and his host family had a great relationship that is still alive. Actually, the first time I visited the United States, I was 5 months old. I traveled to Arkansas with my dad because he wanted to show his new daughter to his American family.

Years passed and I was a Junior in high school when suddenly my family got some news from school. A group of kids from Wisconsin were coming to Chile and they needed a host family. This is how I met Ian Doherty (Mr. John Doherty's son). Getting to meet all the kids and teachers gave my parents a great idea. They wanted me to be a Laker! This is how I made it to

Wisconsin and stayed with the Rahmlow family. I copied my dad's style and made them my family, too. That's why after seven years, I still call my host family members sister, mom and dad.

Studying abroad helped me grow up, learn a new language and encouraged me to get to know a new and different culture. It's amazing how "rich" you feel after living abroad, but not rich in money, rich in knowledge, and I would love that everyone could feel like that. My parents were so happy and excited about how everything turned out that they wanted my sister, Agustina to go and live the same experience that I did.

This summer, I took my sister to Wisconsin. One of the Laker families kindly offered to host Agustina. That's how I met the Drake family! Tony Drake, Agustina's host father, grew up in Milwaukee. He is a financial advisor manager and father of three kids, Alyssa (19), Anthony (15) and Ava (12), and now - the host father of Agustina Weitzel (16), my sister. Last year, the Drakes hosted Matthias from France and had a great experience.

I got the chance to sit down with Tony and talk about his international exchange experience, as a host father, but also as a former exchange student, and here's what he had to say:

"I was really fortunate. Our parents really encouraged us to take at least one semester of college abroad. I lived in France for a semester, my sister lived in Africa, and my brother lived in Brazil, so it was an important part of our family to experience different cultures"

"One of the things that impacted me while living in Europe was that the building where I lived was older than the country of

the United States. So, it made me realize how old the world was.”

“I encourage the ULS families not to be afraid to give it a try! From a cultural standpoint, it is an experience that would enrich your family’s life. International student presence is very important to support our kids’ experience of being around people from different countries, different backgrounds, with different traditions. This experience is crucial in the business world. The more people from different walks of life you are around – the greater life skills you are going to have.”

I couldn’t agree more with Tony, I get the same feeling about hosting and being hosted. It’s always a challenging experience, but what you get from it is just wonderful, and it stays with you forever.

Go and see new countries, different cultures. Open your home and also let them in. You won’t regret it.

If you are interested in learning more about our international student program and hosting opportunities – please contact Yulia Pavlova at julia.pavlova@universitylake.org.



Anthony, Ava and Alyssa Drake with Matthias Porcheret in Disney World.

Leading Through Service



As a community, ULS has always valued service to others. Although the Upper School Service Club has only been official for about six years, staff and student support of service activities has been a part of our ethos since the beginning. Since then the club has provided numerous opportunities for students to support others. Two organizations that we have supported over the years are The Gathering, which provides hot and cold meals to the food insecure of Milwaukee, and Waukesha Christmas Council, which provides holiday gifts to deserving children of Waukesha County.

Last year, our students were inspired to support the people of Ukraine who had their lives destroyed by war. The Service Club sponsored a successful two week Currency for Change campaign which raised more than \$9,000 for World Central Kitchen, an organization that provides food for Ukrainian refugees.

This year we’re trying out new activities. As soon as the signs are installed, we will be the proud sponsors of an Adopt-A-Highway section of Highway 16 near Sawyer Road. We’ll be looking for volunteers, so stay tuned - many hands make light work.

Help From Our Friends



Our School is blessed to benefit from the generosity of professionals who make our school a better place at which to learn and work. In-kind donations, contributions of goods or services, are welcomed and appreciated, and we extend our gratitude to the following in-kind donors:

Ben and Jen Costa, current Lower School parents, are helping to cover the costs of labor to remove dead trees on our campus and to clear brush surrounding our campus roads. Ben is Owner and Founder of Costa Property Maintenance.

Mike Soley, past parent (Rachel ‘20) and current Board of Trustee member, lent us a Case Minotaur to use this fall. The equipment allowed our Facilities Director, Chris Buday, to clear a new trail so that our cross-country team and PE classes aren’t required to dash on the street for 100 yards in the middle of the course. Mike is President and CEO of Miller-Bradford & Risberg.

Thank you for helping to make our campus more beautiful, safe and enjoyable!

ULS: '90s vs Today

Written by Abby Schlater

On June 6, 1993, Jeff McCarthy graduated from University Lake School, and 30 years later on June 4, 2023, Jeff's daughter, Ashleigh, will join the University Lake School alumni community. Much has changed over the years since Jeff has been on Hawk Hill, but he gets to experience all the great changes happening as his two daughters enjoy their time here. Jeff and Ashleigh share their experiences at ULS as we compare what it was like on Hawk Hill in the '90s vs today.

Q: What is your favorite memory of ULS?

JEFF: My favorite memory is the soccer season my senior year. There were five of us who were seniors on the team and we had a great time. We beat Brookfield Academy (our #1 rival at the time) 1-0 in the final game to win the conference. It was cold and pouring rain that day, and one of our freshmen scored on a header to win 1-0. We were the first ULS team to go on to play in the state tournament since the 1970s. It felt like such an amazing accomplishment.

ASHLEIGH: My favorite memory of ULS would have to be winning the conference tournament my freshman year for volleyball. I was the only freshman on Varsity and that made it even better. I still smile rewatching the video of the serve that won it all.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher and why?

JEFF: It's hard to do better than Mr. Bronner! He was always so much fun, and now my daughters enjoy his teachings as well. How cool is that? It's also fun to hear a verse from my senior song every time I see him.

ASHLEIGH: Mr. Flaherty - the way he teaches makes it feel like you are already at college. The lecture style of teaching and many presentations will for sure help me in the future.

Q: What was your favorite class? Did you enjoy the class because of the subject or because of the teacher?

JEFF: I always enjoyed art class with Mr. Bielot. He let us determine our own projects and explore them in our own way, which I appreciated. Art wasn't about following rules or a set pattern; rather, it was about exploring things that spoke to you as an individual. It's why I'm so glad fine arts are still a part of the curriculum at ULS. I believe you can learn just as much, if not more, about yourself through the arts as you can in any other classroom.

ASHLEIGH: My favorite class was Advanced American Literature my junior year. This class was taught by Mr. Niemczyk and was such a fun class and was something I looked forward to every morning. The way he taught made it seem like you weren't necessarily learning advanced skills, but once he made you put the skills into perspective or on a test, it all made perfect sense.

Q: What was Field Day like? What was everyone's favorite game?

JEFF: Field Day was a lot like it is today! I really enjoyed playing broomball in the winter, and flag football in the spring. My kids will tell you all about my performance as the White Team (Eagles) quarterback my senior year, as they've heard me describe it many times. The spring Field Day always ended with the tug-of-war, although we didn't have a permanent pit like they do now. The pit was always dug out that day and filled with water. It's a great tradition that my daughters are now on the same team I was on, and that the Eagles/White Team continues to dominate.

ASHLEIGH: Field Day was by far my favorite day of the year, especially in the spring! My favorite and many others' favorite game is definitely the tug-of-war pit.

Q: Did you go on a leadership trip while you were in the Upper School?

JEFF: At the time, the only class that took a trip was the freshmen. Each year, the freshman class would take a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters in northern Minnesota. I remember the powdered food we'd have to make on the campfire. I also remember us struggling to carry the big packs and the canoes on long portages between lakes. But it was a beautiful part of the country and I've not had the chance to return there since.

ASHLEIGH: Yes, all four years. In my freshman and senior years, I headed up to Camp Manito-wish for a week-long camp experience while working with my class and becoming closer to my fellow classmates. My sophomore and junior year, the whole Upper School stayed in the area and we spent time biking, hiking, canoeing and doing service. The Upper School students were mixed together and split into groups, giving everyone a chance to spend time with people they wouldn't typically hangout with, bringing all the grades together. I gained relationships with older and younger students that I still keep in touch with today.

Q: Jeff, what are two big things that you notice have changed at ULS since your time here? Ashleigh, what are two big changes that you've noticed at ULS since you first started?

JEFF: The biggest changes I've noticed have been the facilities themselves. When I was at ULS there was a parking lot where the Fine Arts building is now. The Green Room was our cafeteria, our theater, and where we took finals and standardized tests. There was a 2-story library at the northeast end of the upper school, and the senior room was next to it. Mr. Bronner and Mr. Doherty look a

little older, but not much! Amazingly, the feel of the school has remained largely the same. The small class sizes, the individual attention the students receive, and the opportunities given to participate in multiple extra-curricular activities remain. It's a true testament to the culture of the school.

ASHLEIGH: During my years at ULS there have been great facilities changes. This year coming back from summer break the Upper School had updated bathrooms, floors, and carpeting. Another big change was in school leadership. This year is Mr. Dewis' first year as Head of School. He has done a spectacular job so far and has been so involved with the students and anything else that he can.



Soccer team seniors, featured left to right: Matt Saiia, Mike Piehler, Dan Roehl, Me, Brady Frank.



Ashleigh and Jeff McCarthy.

Auction Thank You!

Thanks to the generosity of our 2022 Auction Fund-A donors, we've made a significant investment in our classroom technology. It is our goal to use technology in ways that empower students to be engaged explorers in the learning process and teachers to serve as impactful guides.

As a result of the funding initiative, we purchased 27 instructional flat panels for classrooms, 10 iMacs for the Fine Arts program, several new iPads, and backup student Chromebooks and additional staff laptops, meaning less downtime when devices stop working. We also added an Instructional Tech Lead stipend to each division for added user support.

We are so grateful for your partnership in updating our classroom technology!



Friday, April 14, 2023

**RUSTIC MANOR 1848
HARTLAND, WI**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Plans are underway for the 2023 ULS Spring Auction! Can you donate an item/experience to the live or silent auction? Would you or your business serve as an event sponsor? Please contact Liz Montgomery, Director of Advancement, at elizabeth.montgomery@universitylake.org to discuss available opportunities.



The ULS Auction is the single largest fundraiser for The Laker Fund, which supports student financial aid, classroom resources, campus improvements, faculty development and athletics.

Exploring Outdoors with Rob Fuhr

“Without continuous hands-on experience, it is impossible for children to acquire a deep, intuitive understanding of the natural world that is the foundation of sustainable development.”

Robin C. Moore and Herb H. Wong

Rob Fuhr, an outdoor specialist, joined the ULS team in 2022 to optimize experiential learning by embedding outdoor opportunities into everyday curriculum in all grade levels.

ROB FUHR: I am delighted to be working as an outdoor specialist at University Lake School. The students I have met and worked with are so inspiring, fun, and bright. The staff and faculty are creative and engaged with kids, campus, and the outdoors. My role at ULS is to help facilitate teachers’ goals related to the outdoors. The teachers and staff at ULS had been well on their way of tapping into this amazing campus and outdoors before I arrived, and it’s great to see their wonderful ideas coming true for kids.

I am a retired teacher and coach from the Minneapolis area, spending the past 32 years at Hopkins High School. The last ten years of my career, I taught AP 2D Design and Computer Science. I coached Cross Country Skiing, a lettering sport in Minnesota. I was a Faculty Advisor of the Hopkins High School Earth Club.

I have led kids outdoors in wilderness backpacking, canoeing, and climbing in Colorado, Apostle Islands, and Boundary Waters. I also have experience in trail building and carpentry. When you come to campus, take time to hike the trails and enjoy the campus and forest!

Since August 2022, Rob has collaborated on several outdoor projects on campus:

- Designing and building a connector trail with Middle School teachers and students.
- Developing our new outdoor classroom, the Campitheater. The Campitheater is used for student gatherings, journaling, nature observation, and it is strategically located close to the 6th Graders’ maple tree-tapping area.
- Identifying and creating Toad Village in partnership with the Fourth Grade class: an area in the woods for Lower School learning and collaboration.
- Working with the Environmental Club on revitalizing the fire pit gathering area outside the north end of the Upper School with new log seating.
- Teaming up with Dr. Mulrooney’s senior English class to clear buckthorn from an old oak tree, the living companion for their literary and ecological investigation of Tallamy’s “The Nature of Oaks.”
- Preparing for the return of the prairie burn in November 2022.



Making birdhouses to study Wisconsin wildlife by birdwatching.



Exploring animal tracks in the mud pit.

Strategic Plan Update

Written by Becky Tiffany

In January 2020, our Strategic Plan was drafted in collaboration with students, parents, faculty, staff, board members, and alumni. From this great work evolved an updated school mission, vision, priorities, goals, and 99 initiatives with the scope of accomplishing as much as possible by 2025. We are working to approach and accomplish this work in the spirit of ULS “reimagined as an educational innovator empowering students to lead and thrive in a global community.”

From this thoughtful work completed by the administration, faculty, staff, and the entire ULS community, we have added a

Director of Curriculum and Assessment and an Outdoor Specialist on campus, the new Broadcast Productions course in the Upper School, JK3-12 SEL programs that fit our mission, and professional development built into the school calendar to support teacher development and allow time to plan and collaborate.

As work within the strategic plan continues, we are busy “returning to our roots” by developing opportunities that encourage outdoor connection to the beautiful campus we call Hawk Hill.

Lakers We've Lost

January 19, 2022
ROCKWELL “CHIP” L. BROWN III
Alumnus ('73)

July 12, 2022
JOHN L. GOLDBACH
Past parent

July 18, 2022
DAVID G. FODE
Current parent

July 19, 2022
GERI O. HOWLEY
Past parent, former staff member

August 16, 2022
ELLEN LANGILL
Former faculty member



Leave your mark on future Lakers.

Create a lasting legacy of meaning to you and maximize the benefit of available tax incentives by making a planned gift today.

The de Peyster Society was formed in honor of University Lake School's first Head, Joseph B. de Peyster, and recognizes the growing number of Lakers and Laker friends who have designated ULS as a beneficiary in their will or estate plan.

Interested in making a planned gift or have you already made plans to do so? Please let us know by contacting Liz Montgomery, at elizabeth.montgomery@universitylake.org.



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To share comments or ideas regarding The Laker, please email us at: thelaker@universitylake.org.



Freshman canoe trip, circa 1982.

Young alumni/parents: if you/your child graduated from University Lake School and no longer lives at home, please share their current address with us so we can add them to our Laker mailing list.

Visit universitylake.org/for-alumni and click "Update" under the Connect section. Thank you!