

Spring 2021



Viking Voice

A magazine for Lyndon Institute alumni, parents, and friends



Remembering Lawrence Kirchoff

Career and Technical Education Teacher and Football Coach

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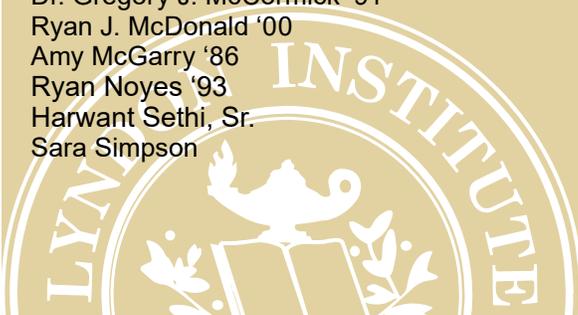
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Viking Voice

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Lyndon Institute Viking Voice is published twice a year by the Development Office. We welcome submissions for publication and letters in response to articles. Please send submissions to Melissa Hall, Director of Development, Melissa.Hall@lyndoninstitute.org.

— Head of School Letter —

As we take in the blooms and breezes of spring—welcome bright spots in an extraordinarily challenging year—I want to thank you for your support and continued interest in Lyndon Institute. And with the end of the school year coming into sight, I hope you and your families are finding ways to connect and enjoy each other’s company.

Rather than focusing on the difficulties of this school year, the lost opportunities, the missed events, and the general stress of trying to navigate the pandemic, I would like to focus on the bright spots. For there have been bright spots this year. People have been incredibly generous in giving to the school. Through the generosity of donors, we were able to reroof three buildings that desperately needed work, as well as repair and replace ceilings in classrooms on the third floor. We are now fundraising to finish refurbishing these rooms with LED lights, resurfaced floors, and a new coat of paint. We have been able to also undertake a series of smaller projects, as well.

Our students were able to compete athletically, academically, and artistically this year. They developed skills in completing classwork online, posting in forums, and using Zoom to interact with teachers and peers. They learned to be flexible, adapt to a new set of circumstances, and plan for the future, skills they will carry with them wherever they go.

LI chose to run a hybrid model this school year, with half of our students attending two days a week, alternating with being online the other 3 days. One could argue that time not spent in school or in class is wasted time. We were curious as to how our students were spending their time when they were not in school. Almost 85% of the students were using the extra time to complete their school work. Half of our students reported caring for a younger sibling

or other family members. Finally, 40% of the students also reported having some type of part-time job or volunteer experience. While time in school is important, and working with a teacher is critical for education, we clearly had students who were learning and using many other skills during this pandemic when nothing was “normal.”

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that our seniors can enjoy prom this spring, that our alums will be able to gather for our now-traditional all-class Friday night reunion celebration, and that graduation will once again be held on Robert K. Lewis field with family, friends, faculty, and staff gathered under the tent to watch our graduates march across the stage. I am looking forward to a bright summer and a more normal school year next year and hope to be able to meet with all of you at our reunions next year!

Twiladawn Perry

Twiladawn W. Perry, '77
Head of School



Class Acts: Hearts For Heart



Lyndon Institute National Art Honor Society (NAHS) members and current juniors Lunamay Waterman (left) and Tori Young (right) stand before several Valentine boxes of treats prepared and decorated by them and other fellow NAHS members. These gift boxes were created for members of the local fire and police departments in appreciation for those who serve their community.

By David Stahler, Jr.

Thanks to the efforts of the student members of Lyndon Institute's National Art Honor Society (NAHS), local first responders will be on the receiving end of these treats during this year's Valentine's Day holiday, an affectionate thank-you for those who have served the community, putting themselves on the line during an especially challenging time.

Each year, LI's NAHS chapter undertakes several projects, with at least one serving the local community and another serving the community beyond. For this year's local project, NAHS members wanted to do something special to show their appreciation for those who serve on the local fire and police departments.

Each member received a box filled with all the materials they needed: jelly jars, ribbon and lace, decorative paper, bags of chocolate and candy. What emerged was a collection of deluxe valentines--decorative works of art filled to the brim with sweet stuff, each students' jars unique in their design, some hand-painted, some wrapped in ribbon or twine, highlighted with bright colors and notes of thanks and appreciation.

According to NAHS member Lunamay Waterman, a junior who joined her sophomore year, the chapter has been an important part of her LI experience: "It's a fun way to interact with other students who are interested in the arts, kids you might know who love to be creative but aren't

necessarily in your art classes or in your grade. You get to connect through sharing something you're passionate about. We also work with organizations like the Burklyn Arts Council, so we get to connect with arts people outside of school."

"We also get to connect with people who aren't necessarily involved in the arts directly themselves," added junior Tori Young, a fellow NAHS member. "The projects we do allow us to share our skills with all kinds of people in the community."

NAHS members gather monthly to plan and undertake projects, as well as learn how to develop budgets and plan fundraising events--from hosting the annual winter Snow Ball dance to organizing dress-down days at school--to help pay for these projects. Members are currently exploring the possibility of holding a virtual "paint and sip" event (with non-alcoholic beverages, of course!) over Zoom to raise money for their next projects.

In the meantime, local first responders will receive their tokens of appreciation from the hearts of LI's artists for the heart they show every day in keeping our community safe.

*Please note that this is a truncated version of an article written by Lyndon Institute English teacher David Stahler Jr. To read the full article please navigate to <https://www.lyndoninstitute.org/news/?id=94726/class-acts-hearts-for-heart>

Class Acts: Proyecto Entrevistas

by David Stahler Jr.

Lyndon Institute instructor Chris Manges caps his Spanish 4 class with a project called Entrevistas Con Nuestros Hispanohablantes (“Interviews With Our Spanish Speakers”). The project brings Manges’s students together with native Spanish speakers in the school—something Lyndon Institute’s boarding program has made possible over the last decade—and engage in a Spanish-only dialogue.

It begins with students in the class partnering up and developing a list of questions. The interview typically starts with straightforward biographical questions (“What is your name?”, “When is your birthday?”), then digs a little deeper (“What is your family like?”, “What religion do you practice?”, “What is your native city or country like?”) before going in whatever directions the students like. (“How do you feel about winter?” is a popular one.)

Once the questions are compiled, partners sit down with their Spanish-speaking peers and apply all they’ve learned through their studies. This is the hardest part, at least at first.

“They know what it’s like to not necessarily be comfortable speaking with someone in a foreign language,” Manges said. “That’s in part why they’re so supportive and complimentary, which gives the students a real boost of confidence in their skills and makes speaking even easier.”

That confidence helps get them through the difficult moments. “If they don’t understand something, each party asks the other to try again,” Manges said. “The experience helps reinforce strategies for when my students get stuck. They learn to try different approaches.”

What Manges appreciates most about the project besides its academic value is its cultural benefit. “It’s a great way to break down barriers between our local and international students.”

I spoke with Diosan Perez who, with his sister Diosalva, came to LI last winter knowing very little English. Now, nearly a year later, he’s able to converse with surprising comfort. When I asked about his interview with Kaidin and Toby (aka “Raphael”), his face lit up.

“It was great! Just to be able to speak Spanish for ninety minutes with other kids. It feels like home and reminds me of my culture.”

The project’s final act comes once the interview is over. Students take their notes and recordings and write up a biography of their subjects in Spanish; taking second person questions and first person answers and recasting everything in the third person adds one final wrinkle. This is followed with a debriefing, where classmates gather to review each other’s interviews, chat about the experience, and analyze the differences that emerged between various interviewers and subjects with different backgrounds.

For Manges’s students, the thrill of using their language skills at the end of so many years of study can be at turns both humbling and empowering. But when it comes to breaking down barriers between people, culture, and nations, the two go hand in hand.

*Please note that this is a truncated version of an article written by Lyndon Institute English teacher David Stahler Jr. To read the full article please navigate to <https://www.lyndoninstitute.org/news/?id=83312/class-acts-proyecto-entrevistas>



Lyndon Institute students (left to right) sophomore Diosalva Diaz Trujillo, senior Kaidin Aviles, and senior Diosan Diaz Perez are pictured here with Spanish instructor Chris Manges (far right). These students took part in a Spanish 4 project called Entrevistas Con Nuestros Hispanohablantes (“Interviews With Our Spanish Speakers”). This project brings Mr. Manges’s students together with native Spanish speakers in the school to engage in a Spanish-only dialogue.



LI's Kelleigh Simpson Signs Saint Michael's College Letter of Intent

Lyndon Institute senior softball player Kelleigh Simpson signed a letter of intent to attend and play softball at Saint Micheal's College on Wednesday, November 11, before a small gathering of family and coaches. The signing was held in Lyndon Institute's Alumni Gymnasium where Kelleigh presented a short speech before signing the letter with her father.

With the spring 2020 season being canceled due to the pandemic, Kelleigh's two-season totals as a pitcher at LI are impressive. Her record includes 16 wins against only 1 loss, 101 innings pitched, just 60 hits, and 163 strikeouts.



"The first time I met Kelleigh she was a very determined young lady to make varsity as a freshman and to prove to us that she belonged there," said LI Varsity Softball coach, Chris Carr. "I thought, 'this is a kid I want on our team,' and she has worked very hard at it to stay there. She has been our starter for a couple of years, she is always working on her craft either after a practice or when she gets home, and if it's not to her liking she will keep working extra to get it right. When she is in the circle it makes our job very easy. St. Michael's college is not only getting a great all-around player and teammate but a fantastic young lady. I am really proud to have been her coach here at LI. I wish her all the best."

Kelleigh is the daughter of Kirsten and Craig Simpson, '96 of West Burke, and she plans on studying education with a concentration in mathematics.

LI Dance Instructor Receives NDEO President's Award



Lyndon Institute Dance instructor Rebecca McGregor has been a part of the National Dance Education Organization's (NDEO) Mentorship Committee since 2017. She was chosen to serve as a mentor for new dance educators around the country during the pilot round of the NDEO's Mentorship Program

before being invited in 2019 to serve as a committee member for the mentoring program.

In an email, NDEO past president Suzanne Henneman announced that the committee is being awarded the NDEO President's Award for the work it did in 2019-2020 to educate, support, and advocate for new dance educators across the United States.

The NDEO provides professional development, networking forums, honor societies, journals, research, and advocacy tools for teachers, administrators, and students in the field of dance education centered in the arts. Their members teach multiple dance genres in a variety of environments, including, but not limited to, K-12 schools, dance studios, colleges, and community centers.

Mrs. McGregor and the rest of the committee members were honored with the award at the NDEO's Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, January 28th, which was held virtually.

*Please note that this is a truncated version of an article written by Lyndon Institute Marketing Specialist Javin Leonard. To read the full article please navigate to <https://www.lyndoninstitute.org/news/?id=84010/li-dance-instructor-receives-ndeo-president-s-award>

Lyndon Institute Reveals New Basketball Court



Lyndon Institute has revealed the new state-of-the-art floor that was recently installed in their Alumni Gymnasium.

Lyndon Institute announced the completion of its new basketball court floor in Alumni Gymnasium. The original floor, installed in 1965, had reached the end of its life and could not effectively be resurfaced. Construction began in the summer of 2020 with funds made available through a donor's generosity.

"Alumni Gymnasium has received a major refurbishment. Through the graciousness and generosity of a loving friend to LI, Ms. Laura Ashton, new state-of-the-art flooring has been installed and it is absolutely stunning.

Thank you, Ms. Ashton, for making this facility improvement a reality," said Director of Development, Melissa Hall.

The graphic design for the floor was created by LI Marketing Specialist, Javin Leonard, with input from Laura Ashton, Melissa Hall, Head of School Twila Perry, and Director of Athletics and Activities, Eric Berry. The new floor is a product referred to as Bio-Channel Star and offers improved shock absorption and ball bounce for better player performance and safety.

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Development

The Benefits of Giving

MAKING A GIFT TO LYNDON INSTITUTE is the most powerful way for parents, alumni, and friends to support student success. Unrestricted gifts to the Independence Fund provide essential dollars that allow LI to provide an outstanding environment in the classroom and on the playing fields. Other current fundraising opportunities include classroom restorations, alumni auditorium speaker system and a scoreboard for Robert K. Lewis Field. All annual gifts maintain and enhance the community of learning that is so important at LI. Generations of LI students and LI families have been helped by the gifts made to LI, ensuring that the strengths of the School's tradition will be transferred to the students of the future.

Lyndon Institute is a 501 (c)(3) corporation that makes your contribution tax deductible as allowed by federal tax laws.

WHY PEOPLE GIVE TO LYNDON INSTITUTE

- Tradition
- A desire to help and make a difference
- To help give others the opportunities they had
- To support a specific department
- To honor a teacher
- To be a part of a unique educational mission
- A sense of obligation to give back to the School

HOW YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- retains outstanding faculty and brings guest lecturers to the school
- purchases laboratory and classroom equipment
- makes improvements to student and athletic facilities
- makes it possible for new library acquisitions
- maintains buildings and grounds

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT TO LI

Make a donation online by visiting: <https://www.lyndoninstitute.org/support-li/give-online> or mail a check made out to Lyndon Institute to: Melissa Hall, Director of Development, Lyndon Institute, PO Box 127, Lyndon Center, VT 05850.

Run, Walk or Ride for Lyndon Institute in our Virtual 5K

Lyndon Institute is hosting a virtual 5K for 2021. Join the fun and take part in this community event.

WHAT IS A VIRTUAL 5K

A Virtual 5K is about being healthy, having fun, and accomplishing your personal goals. It's a challenge that you can run, walk, treadmill, or bike from any location you choose and receive a sweet finisher's medal. Our Viking Virtual 5K gives you the freedom to run your own route on your own time all while being a part of something special.

Mark your calendars and take part in our virtual 5k run, walk or ride from **May 1st - June 30th, 2021** and submit your times for a chance to win a prize!

REGISTRATION IS \$20.00 AND IS OPEN UNTIL JUNE 30TH. Although the race is being conducted virtually, our purpose remains to support LI's mission to inspire students to become accomplished learners, creative thinkers, and compassionate community members. Funds raised will support every program at Lyndon Institute.

All participants will receive a medal at the conclusion of the race. Registration will be available on our website at <https://www.lyndoninstitute.org/alumni/2021-virtual-5K/virtual-5K-registration> or phone the Development Office at 802-535-3772.

Alumni Book Club

THE LYNDON INSTITUTE ALUMNI BOOK CLUB is an online community for alumni and friends of Lyndon Institute. Connect with Vikings across the globe who enjoy reading, lifelong learning, personal growth and conversation. You can read one book or all the books; whatever works for your schedule. Joining is completely free, you just have to get a copy of the book to enjoy. The group will read one book every four months so that you'll have plenty of time for each book.

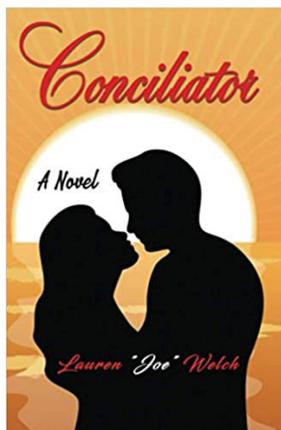
The books we will feature and read are written by Lyndon Institute alumni and there will be a discussion at the end of each four month reading period led by the book's author, when possible. We will plan to host the discussion with a limited capacity at Gateway Cottage, on LI's campus, but will also open the discussions up virtually for unlimited attendance online.

To join the book club, simply sign up on our website www.lyndoninstitute.org/alumni/alumni-book-club or phone the alumni office at 802-535-3772. Once registered, you will receive information on upcoming books, discussion dates, etc.

Our current book May 1 – August **Conciliator by Lauren "Joe" Welch, '64**

When the tenant-side garage of Nate Blanchard's duplex is torched early on a Sunday morning in May, he wonders if the destructive act could be either politically or racially motivated. The protagonist of Lauren "Joe" Welch's fourth novel, *Conciliator*, believes it could be a result of his months-long war of words on Facebook with his father's ultra-conservative parishioners at the Collinsville Evangelical Church of Christ. Then again, it could be a consequence of his recently renting his apartment to an attractive Black divorcee and her two precocious, musically-gifted children. After all, even in the tiny village of Collinsville, Vermont, tensions—both political and racial—run high during the second year of Donald Trump's presidency.

Little does Nate foresee that the burning of his garage is but a prelude to even more tumultuous events which lie ahead, events that will dramatically reshape his life by year's end.



The Thompson Cottage on the first week of the 2020-2021 school year, after the roof being refinshed.

Alumni Reunions Update - 2021

An alumni survey went out via push page and was posted on the Alumni Facebook page on Thursday, July 30th. 75% of the respondents had indicated a strong preference to postponing class reunions until we can gather in our traditional sense. Since then we have received many communications asking us to postpone reunions until events are able to be held all inclusively. Given the feedback provided, along with current state guidelines, LI will continue to put a pause on alumni weekend until the time is right to resume all the traditional events our classes look forward to.

In lieu of alumni weekend we are offering an outdoor social gathering opportunity for all interested alumni. We will have RaiZed On Radio, along with a cash bar (beer and wine), and light fare available under the Commencement Tent on our beloved Robert K. Lewis Field from 6:00-9:30 pm on Friday, June 4th.

The health and well-being of our community members is of top priority. We understand that many of you were looking forward to reconnecting with classmates, but we also understand that many are not comfortable in gathering yet. By offering this alternate interim option we hope it affords those of you who choose to come to campus and connect with fellow alum, faculty and staff some sense of normalcy while we navigate through the pandemic and all the challenges it has continued to impose.

We are deeply grateful for your understanding and flexibility during this time. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions.

With warmest regards,

Melissa A. Hall '92
Director of Development
Melissa.hall@lyndoninstitute.org

Development

Changing Lanes: Reclaiming a Piece of Lyndon History

By David Stahler Jr.



Twila Perry, Head of School and David Patoine '77, Master Cabinet Maker, stand behind one of the two refurbished tables.

SOME TREASURES are hidden in plain sight. We pass by them everyday, unaware of their value or their history, only to eventually discover that beneath the veneer of time or use or simply our own obliviousness lies a gem that with just a little bit of polish can shine again.

Lyndon Institute recently uncovered its own hidden gem and, with the help of alum and local master cabinet maker David Patoine, turned trash into treasure when it took an old, beat-up workbench located in its technical center's woodshop and converted it into two beautiful tables.

But these tables are special for another reason besides their beauty, because the workbench wasn't any old slab of wood but rather the lane of a bowling alley believed to have once lived in T. N. Vail's mansion up on the hill above LI on the site of what is now NVU Lyndon.

It's easy to see why the bench top would've been overlooked. Before Patoine got to work, its grimey and stained surface, beaten and nicked, was hardly recognizable as a bowling alley lane. In fact, it barely missed the burn pile about five years ago when Jerry Leonard, who was teaching woodshop at the time, saved it from a fiery fate.

"The welding teacher next door mentioned one day that she had this enormous chunk of wood that had been sitting in a dusty corner of the welding shop for who knows how many years. She wanted it out of the shop and was going to give it away to be cut up and burned," Leonard said. "I took a look at it and thought it seemed too valuable to toss out."

The first challenge was moving it. Leonard and his woodworking class calculated the piece—at nearly eighteen feet long, four feet wide, and four inches thick, composed of strips of hard maple expertly joined together—weighed over 450 pounds. "It took about ten of us to lift it and carry it next door to the True Building."

Once there, Leonard put it into service as a benchtop in the woodshop. But as time went on, he kept thinking about it and wondering. Having read some of the local history about Vail's mansion up on the hill (complete with its own private bowling alley) and knowing Vail—the founder of AT&T who also had a hand in establishing Lyndon Institute—had a strong connection to school, he began asking around. No other bowling alley had been dismantled in the area. And according to Leonard, many of Vail's artifacts and bits and pieces of the mansion, from windows to metal railings, had migrated onto LI's campus and into town years ago. It seemed hard to believe that this old strip of lane could have come from anywhere other than Vail's manor.

I consulted retired LI teacher and local historian Chris Raymond about the artifact. Could the piece have been salvaged when the state tore down Vail's mansion in the 1970s to replace it with a collection of new, more modern campus buildings? "Maybe," he said. "But it's more likely to have happened in the 1950s when the manor was converted into a college and Lyndon Institute moved its 'normal school' for teacher training up the hill from its main campus." In other words, the lane may very well have been collecting dust at LI for nearly 70 years.

The lane's fate took a turn last fall when Rick Angell—Director of Ancillary Programs at LI, and a skilled hobbyist furniture maker himself—received an email from Melissa Hall, Director of Development. The school was looking for a new table to grace Gateway Cottage, a recently restored home on campus that served as the headmaster's house and a gathering place for important events. Knowing of Angell's interest in furniture design, Hall asked if he'd be interested in helping craft something. Angell thought it would be nice to incorporate elements from the school's history into its design, and so the pair began to search around campus for potential artifacts.

Development



Moving of the "Old, beat-up workbench".



Sanded table top.



David Patoine begins the staining process on the newly sanded table.

Talking about the project one day, they were overheard by Rob Heath, an alum and long-time employee of the school who was working with Leonard in the woodshop. He remembered the old bench Leonard had spared and steered them toward it. Angell realized right away that it was the missing piece he'd been looking for.

Angell also quickly realized that the size of the job was going to require some special tools. So he turned to one of the region's most skilled master craftsmen, David Patoine, owner of Calendar Brook Cabinetry in St. Johnsbury, for help. For Patoine, a 1977 graduate of Lyndon Institute who got his start as a cabinet maker studying with Bob Jackson in the school's building trades program, it became an opportunity to reconnect with his own roots with the school.

It took a crew of men to remove the benchtop from the True Building and transport it to Patoine's shop. From there, Patoine went to work, cutting the piece down into two six-foot sections to create a pair of matching tables, trimming the tabletops' edges with a cherry border, and sanding and finishing the surfaces to restore them to their former glory. Angell found some elegant ironwork legs, which they joined with cherry trestles to match the tabletops' trim.

"The piece had loosened up quite a bit from age, so the first thing we had to do was clamp it together to tighten it up and add some cleats along the bottom," Patoine said. "I think it's pretty cool that it came from Vail's mansion. I had a lot of people come through the shop here when I was working on it, and everyone would get excited when they heard the story."

Now, an original piece of T. N. Vail's manor, and a piece of Lyndon history, resides in Gateway Cottage, and a surface that likely once entertained one of LI's founders and his illustrious guests—possibly even his friend and regular visitor President Theodore Roosevelt—will now entertain a new generation in a very different way. As for the table's twin, the school plans to auction it off this spring to raise money for the school. Soon, one lucky winner will have their own piece of Lyndon history to enjoy. Please visit biddingforgood.com/lyndoninstitute to place your bid for a chance to win this beautiful table.

For Angell and Leonard, the joy of the project comes from knowing that a piece of neglected and nearly discarded material will now serve a higher purpose. As Angell said, "It's always nice when something has a chance to come full circle."

Lyndon Institute Online Store

The LI School Store fully transitioned to an online school store model in January 2021. To shop for all your Lyndon Institute apparel and merchandise, visit our store at: www.rokkitwear.com/school/24340-lyndon-institute OR for Alumni branded apparel and merchandise, visit: www.rokkitwear.com/school/8798-lyndon-institute-alumni

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CONGRATULATIONS TO IAN YARNALL '15, for becoming our first annual sustaining member big prize winner! This year's prize is a \$100 Amazon gift card.

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Spring Carnival



Memories of Lyndon Institute



Donald Erskine



Coach Erskine hits the slopes in 1963

DONALD ERSKINE taught Chemistry and Physics at Lyndon Institute from 1951 to 1965. Although I did have Mr. Erskine in class my closest association with him was as a member of his L.I. ski teams during the late 1950's. This remembrance of Mr Erskine is mostly about experiences that I had while a member of those ski teams.

The standout performers at the time were Roland Mayo, Ralph Deveraux, and David and Brian Beattie. During Coach Erskine's tenure as L.I. ski coach, his teams won a number of state championships and two New England championships.

Last June during a visit to Lyndon for a reunion I had dinner with friends and was telling humorous stories about former teacher and ski coach Donald Erskine. These stories were told mostly at his expense and brought a lot of laughs from the other dinner guests. Now I feel duty bound to mention what a valued and influential mentor that he was to me as a youngster growing up in Lyndonville.

As I write this note I have a very clear picture of Mr Erskine standing in the Chem lab with his lab coat sporting his crew cut and a big grin. As others will remember he was very short of stature, and most of the students towered well above him. However, he handled this very well and exuded a lot of confidence in front of the class and on the ski slopes. He was a very good lecturer and teacher making the subject matter most interesting. Your best effort was definitely expected in class particularly if you were a member of his ski team.

During our successful ski competitions one could tell he was very proud of us and he would certainly let us know. However, if a team member made a mess of things or acted inappropriately we definitely heard about it.

There were several times when I definitely fell into that category.

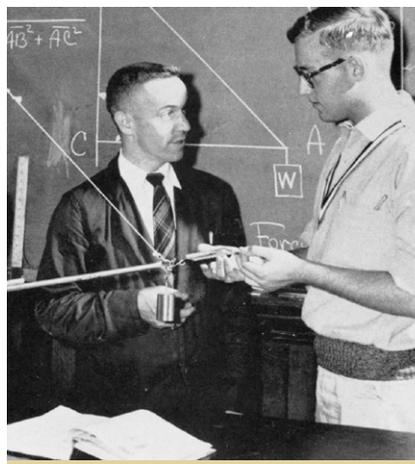
During my first cross country ski race as a Freshman held at Lyndon Outing Club I was wearing a pair of sweatpants that were not well anchored with a good tie string.

Foolishly, I started the race that way but had to stop many times having to pull up my pants. This slowed me down considerably and interfered with my racing style. Of course after the race, there was a great deal of laughter and derision concerning this misadventure. The strongest and most unpleasant comments however came from Coach Erskine.

On my second cross country race not too far from the finish I ran into a roll of barbed wire and had to finish the event with just one ski pole. Not long afterwards a skier from another school tried unsuccessfully to finish the race while being completely tied up in the barbed wire. This did not lessen the stern lecture I received from Coach Erskine after the event.

During a downhill race on the Wilderness trail on Burke Mt I had successfully completed the event and was waiting at the car feeling rather good about my performance. When Mr Erskine came down to the car he pointed out that when I came over the final steep pitch of the race I had looked like a top ten finisher. What he wanted to know was where to 'hell' I had lost all that time finishing so far down in the standings. This of course very much burst the emotional high I had been experiencing at the time.

On some ski trips the team would travel in what was referred to as 'the little red bus'. It was an old 1948 Chevrolet that the L.I. automotive shop had welded in



Mr. Erskine in the classroom

a middle piece with additional seats so as to lengthen the vehicle. The little red bus was not always reliable and this was of no little concern during ski trips. On one occasion Mr Erskine had pulled over, had the hood of the vehicle up, and was adjusting the carburetor. I happened to be in the front seat and while this was happening someone in the back threw something at me. To retaliate I turned around very quickly but my foot accidentally hit the accelerator. As one might imagine, Mr Erskine emerged from the hood of the vehicle in a high level of distress. I tried to explain my side of the occurrence but to no avail.

At the end of the ski season we were preparing to have a final ski team picture taken with full ski attire and skis just outside what was then the headmaster's cottage. Mr Erskine had suggested that we be prepared to report after school with our best alpine ski outfits. I had forgotten my ski pants and at that point, as a graduating senior, I was not really all that concerned about the upcoming photo or my appearance. In a rather loud expression of disgust Mr Erskine said 'Grant all the other boys have showed up looking nice and you have arrived wearing a pair of suntan pants!'. I was sent home so that I could return looking properly dressed for the final ski photo.

A number of us had Mr Erskine in the driver's education class while at Lyndon Institute. There were times out on the highway when I got a little nervous about these driving lessons. On one occasion he said rather quickly 'Turn here'. I responded a little too quickly and almost turned directly into a tree. At that point he took the control of the vehicle.



Les Wilkie '55, Coach Erksine, and Reg Welch '56



1961 Ski Team

There were a few times as a student when I had gotten in trouble with Mr. Erskine because I had thought it was okay to argue and discuss a point. This was not appreciated, and I remember receiving a lecture after class about some unwarranted smart remarks I had made. I began to feel rather bad about my behavior and started to choke up in the discussion we had. He immediately changed his tone and became a very consoling and supportive person. It occurred to me afterwards that he was really a very emotional and caring individual who was not the stern mean fellow that we had sometimes pictured him to be.

When I came back to Lyndonville sometime after school and was invited to dinner with Don I could see what a thoughtful and intelligent person he was. I found that as well as the times we had together at Lyndon, we shared common outlooks particularly in the areas of quantum physics and philosophy of science.

We exchanged letters during the time of his final illness. Even then he had positive and inspiring comments to make. What I had to recognize was that this positive attitude had been the case all along when he was the teacher and I the student at Lyndon Institute.

I am very grateful for having known Coach Don Erskine and for the influence he had on me as a youngster.

Submitted by: Tim Grant, '59

Remembering Lawrence Kirchoff



LAWRENCE KIRCHOFF Career and Technical Education Teacher and Football Coach 1979-2000.

After a long battle with cancer to which he gave all the strength he had, on the afternoon of Monday, Feb. 22, 2021, Lawrence A. Kirchoff, age 73, made a perfect tackle on his journey to be with the Lord. He lived a fulfilled life mentoring, educating, and coaching generations of students and athletes for over 40 years. His death leaves an immense void in so many lives.

Larry was a loving husband, father, and friend. He nurtured his three children, (Tim, Bonnie and Jen) to be models of compassion and leadership in all their endeavors. His kindness and love for family will be cherished. He was an outstanding coach and memorable teacher, both humble and intense and always a positive motivator. He brought out the best in his friends, his students, and the people he worked with.

Born on a farm with five siblings in Waterloo, Iowa, he grew up with a love for farming. He played football for Dunkerton High School (1964) and Ellsworth Junior College-Iowa, (1965/66) before being recruited in 1967 by Yankton College in South Dakota where he had two successful seasons.

At Yankton College he met the love of his life, a drill team member named Joan Wilson. They met through Joan's brother Bob (Larry's best friend) who was the team's place kicker. Larry's promising football career as a defensive lineman came to a halt during the last game of his senior year due to a neck injury.

After graduating from college, Larry was drafted in 1969 and served in the United States Army (1969-1971), deployed twice to Germany. After being discharged from the Army in October 1971, he married his love, Joan, in late December. Their strong bond and faith carried them through a wonderful 49 years of marriage.

Larry and Joan resided in Jericho, Vt. until they built their forever Northeast Kingdom home in Lyndon, Vt. in 1974. In 1979, Jack C. King approached Larry with an offer to teach Lyndon Institute's Agricultural Mechanics and Animal Husbandry programs. Several years later his programs were transformed into the Welding, Metal Fabrication, and Small Engines Repair. In addition to his work at LI, he taught technical classes for CNSU, Step up for Women, and Adult Education.

As an educator, his approach was professional but sometimes unorthodox. He had a gift for understanding what would encourage his students to make the most of their potential. Former students have told Larry and his family that he was a great influence on them and even, in some cases, helped save their life. Whether it was his teammates, colleagues, students, parents, fans, welding judges, competitors, referees, or even his farm animals, he treated everyone and everything with respect, gratitude, and integrity.

Larry was an Advisor for Future Farmers of America and VICA (Skills USA) and received the Vermont VICA Advisor of the Year, The American Welding Society Educator's Award, Who's Who Among American Teachers, and the Outstanding VT Teacher Award from UVM.

In addition to teaching at LI, Larry also served the school as a talented football coach (1979-2000). He started coaching Freshman, moved onto JV, and eventually transitioned into the role of Varsity Linesmen Coach. He was honored to be the offensive line coach for the 1997 Shrine Football Team, which was played at Dartmouth College. He also served as an assistant track coach and referee during his time at LI.

He was very active in the community, with the Lyndon Area Jaycees, the Fenton Chester Ice Arena, and the LI Alumni Chicken Barbecues. He served as President of the Lyndon Area Youth Hockey Board, Youth Football Offensive Coach, and Youth Girls' Softball Coach.

Larry found joy in helping students and athletes reach their potential and encouraging them to have confidence in their skills. Watching his students and athletes grow up to become business owners, workers, teachers, and coaches in the community and help future generations made him both humbled and proud.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks for memorial gifts to be directed to the following Lyndon Institute Programs: Welding and Future Farmers of America. The family will match up to \$1,250 in gifts. Please mail gifts to: Lyndon Institute, Attn: Development Office, PO Box 127, Lyndon Ctr., VT 05850. www.lyndoninstitute.org/support-li/give-online

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.guibordfh.com.





WINTER SPORTS WRAP UP

Alpine

In girls alpine with a limited amount of races and more time to train there was vast improvement amongst all of the skiers this winter. Brianna Allegra had top 10 results at recess and was 16th in the state championships. Abby Fillion had top 15 results during the regular season and moved up 30 places in the state championships from the previous season.

Anna Kornis improved by leaps and bounds. Her new confidence level enabled her to attack challenging terrain much no more than last season.

On the boys side Curtis Wheeler had four top-five results including winning a run during the regular season and placed 7th in the state championship Slalom. He was named to the all state team as an honorable mention. Senior Harper Ouellette had the best result of his career at the state Giant Slalom Championships. He was ninth in the race out of 70 boys on a very challenging hill. We will miss Harper next year! Kealey Ouellette and Wyatt Reed made great progress and I'm sure we will see strong performances from them next season.

Boys Basketball

Boys Basketball handled all of the adversity and challenges, such as the break in action due to covid. Their defensive rate for points per possession was .78. They will be returning four starters next season and all of the underclassmen gained valuable experience that will serve them well moving forward. They had three players average double figures, Chevy Bandy, and Evan and James Sanborn.

Girls Basketball

The girls basketball team put together a solid 5 and 4 record and were led in scoring by Juniors Kadienne Whitcomb and Olivia Lewis with 10ppg. Freshman Brooke'lyn Robinson averaged 8.4ppg. The gritty squad, which had a lot of depth, made it to the quarterfinals, and will return all but one player next year!

Boys Hockey

The boys Ice hockey team was only able to play 4 games but finished with a great record of 3-1. The team was led point wise by senior/captain Dan Lanoue and junior/captain Nick Matteis. Our Goaltending was the strength of our team led by Colin Macdiarmid and Colon St.John. With us being short on skaters our 3rd senior goaltender Sawyer Goodwin stepped up and skated out all year for us. He showed great heart and skated big

minutes for us. Our defense was led by junior/assistant captain Dylan Miller. Dylan played more minutes than most and never complained once. All the kids had great attitudes and worked hard day in and day out. We will be losing 6 seniors but keeping 11 going into next year. Looking forward to working with the returnees and wishing the graduates the best of luck.

Nordic Skiing

The Nordic team was excited to even have a season this year! Our numbers were also larger than they have been in years past which is fantastic. We are lucky to be able to ski at 3 sites, KT trails on Darling Ridge, Dashney at Burke Mtn and Willoughby State Forest trails. Everyone stayed healthy this season, adjusted to skiing with a mask and skied hard while having fun. Our season highlights included strong finishes for the Varsity boys squad made up of Andrzej Prince, Holden Middleton, Toby Ham, Max McClure, Sully Davis, Jakub Diakonowicz, Chanwoo Kim & Wilson Krause. The girls had a team score for the first time in years and they included Arya Degeorge, Nina Seeman, Grace Martin, Streeter Middleton, Una Colby and Summer Guilmette. Our boys finished 8th at states while the girls were 7th. Three skiers, Nina, Andrzej & Holden, participated in the Eastern VT Championships at Craftsbury Outdoor Center. Our JV folks were Oak Clarke, Maja Gaardboe, Quynh Tran, Vasilisa Ermolaeva, Kiele Benton, Kaylin Larrabee, Ellery Norwood and Vincent Broderic. Another highlight was being able to have our annual Ski-a-thon fundraiser event on the football field in balmy conditions. We did not ski all night this year but it was still a resounding success!

Cheer

LI cheer had a modified season due to COVID. We were unable to cheer at basketball games but we did have a competition season. The cheer squad performed a one minute forty-five second routine that consisted of dancing, jumps and tumbling skills. Competitions were done virtually with the routines being pre recorded then sent to be judged. We were entered into three virtual competitions but only able to compete in two due to a weeklong shutdown due to COVID. We participated in the VCCA competition on March 13th and finished 5th place. On March 20th we competed in the State competition in Division 1 and placed 4th.

Coach Stoddard would like to give special thank you to Captain Julia Before who helped with choreography for the routine, Mr. Berry from the athletics office for his support, and Ben Sackett from NSN who recorded a high quality video for us to submit for our competitions.

Athletics

Girls Hockey

Resilient. Persistent. Talented. These three words come to mind as I reflect on this ice hockey season in the face of a worldwide epidemic and the restraints placed on practices, hockey games, family life and personal freedoms for these players. They were resilient to a new athletic environment consisting of masks, temperature

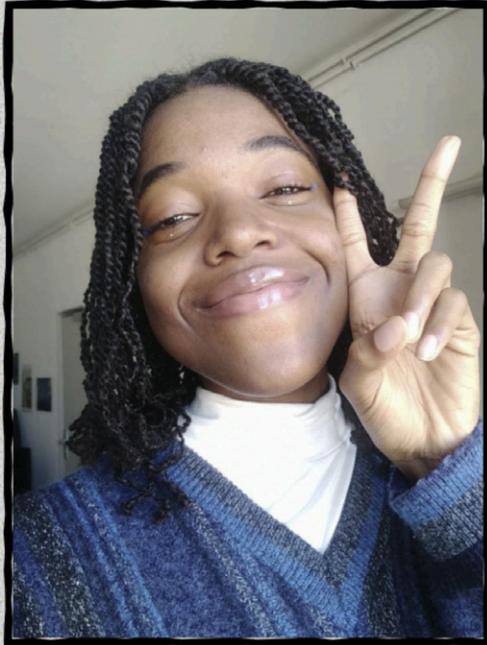
checks and social distancing; they were persistent in managing the new daily life of COVID restrictions; and, they were an enthusiastic, hard working, and talented group of young women who have set a high level of achievement for the Kingdom Blades program and a legacy for future players to attain in the years to come. The team finished 6 and 2 and made it to the D1 quarterfinals.





The moon is nestled into the summit saddle of Burke Mountain as seen from the front steps of Thompson Cottage on the Lyndon Institute campus in the winter of 2017. *Photo by LI Marketing Specialist Javin Leonard.*

POSTCARD



Hello!

I finished UNI in 2020 after a very long online/covid semester with a First Class Honors portfolio which was a sigh of relief. Then I moved to France in October 2020 as part of an English language assistant program!

I currently live in Charleville-Mézières which is a town in north-eastern region of France, quite close to the Belgian border. It's not quite Vermont in terms of landscape but it's still really beautiful and quaint. I've liked living in Europe for the most part (though I really miss Jamaican food) and I hope to start my Masters at the University of Paris Diderot next year.

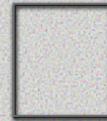
I still write, I still do music stuff (I even started a youtube channel!) and I still read. Now, I just do those things in french more often

I hope you all are staying safe and healthy!

All the best for the rest of 2021

~Kodi-Anne Brown

POSTCARD



Dear Alumni and Friends,

I have very fond memories of LI, which I keep as a treasure - hopefully I will be able to come back and visit at some point in the post-COVID future.

After graduating from high school in Germany, I completed my undergraduate in Southern Germany at Zeppelin University in Southern Germany and subsequently my Masters at London School of Economics in England. Now I'm pursuing a doctorate in organization studies at the University of Zurich in Switzerland, and I also work at the university as a research associate.

I wish you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

All the best,
Tania Weinfurter, '08

1957

Robert Ronan finally made it to Europe in 2019 and Hawaii in 2020, but his second trip to Europe was cancelled due to COVID-19. He is staying well in his cabin in Blowing Rock, North Carolina.



Photo credit Daily Hampshire Gazette

Officer Bill Laramée, with K9 Winston.

1988

Bill Laramée has been an officer with the Amherst police department in Massachusetts for nearly 26 years and has served as the neighborhood liaison officer for six years. Bill works to strengthen connections between the Amherst community and surrounding universities. It was while serving in this role that he first got the idea to look into getting a comfort dog for the town's police department. Just shy of 8 weeks old, K9 Winston is an English chocolate Labrador retriever; he was sworn in and began work immediately making connections with the community. Winston was donated by David and Peggi Brogan at Boonefield Labradors in Rindge, NH. As of now, the plan is for Bill to bring Winston to various events and places in the Amherst community so he can interact with residents. Winston will also work to provide comfort and support to the department's police officers, according to Bill, "in

good times and in bad, he makes things more comfortable with sensitive case investigations".

1993

Phil Dudas and Shannah Redmon welcomed a son, George Harper Dudas in October 2020. He joins brothers, Fox and Jackson.



Phil Dudas' son, George

1997

Laura (Haines) and Jack Schultz were united in marriage on October 26, 2020. It all started in nursery school in Lyndon Center, then a four year engagement and they finally tied the knot in a lighthouse in Nantucket. Jack is a Commercial Surveyor in Nantucket and Laura is a Chef.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Schultz

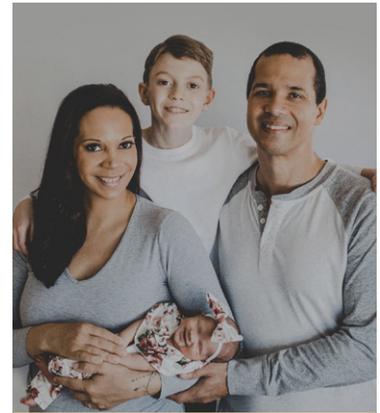
Mike Wood and Rebecca Koelnych welcomed a daughter, McKinley Lin Wood on November 23, 2020. She joins brothers, Finnley and Kelton Wood and big sister, Margo Dwyer.

1999

Ben Johnson and wife, Sandra welcomed a daughter, Ella Dee Johnson on October 15, 2020. She joins big brothers, Eric and Taylor.

2002

Krysta Billings and Kurtis Cummins welcomed a daughter, Isabella Skye Cummins on March 5, 2020. She joins big brother, Robinson.



Krysta Billings and family
Photo Credit: Jess Gregg Enterprises

2005

Magen (Dwyer) and Jeremiah Bias '02 welcomed a son, Remington Leith Bias on January 17, 2021. He joins three big brothers, Grayson, Maverick and Torin.



Bias boys, sons of Magen and Jeremiah



Shauneen (Grout) Melton and family

Shauneen (Grout) and Kevin Melton welcomed a son, Cyrus Andre Melton on November 1, 2020.

2006

Jessica (Edwards) and Mac Lynch were united in marriage on July 11, 2020 and they welcomed a daughter, Bayley Ellen Lynch on March 9, 2021. Jessica is a speech language pathologist at Rick Marcotte Central School (K-5 elementary school) in the South Burlington School District.



Jessica (Edwards) Lynch and family

2009

Lynzy (Guyer) and Adam Birchard, welcomed a daughter, Bryer Emma Birchard on October 14, 2020.



Lynzy (Guyer) Birchard and family

Lindsay (Marcotte) Brown and husband, Shane, welcomed a son, Weston Lincoln Brown on October 1, 2020. He joins a sister, Sydney.



Lindsay (Marcotte) Brown and family

2014

Jake Potter and Mackenzie (Hatch) were united in marriage on September 19, 2019 and they welcomed a daughter, Emily Jane Potter on December 15, 2020.



Mr. and Mrs. Jake Potter and daughter, Emily



2015

Ashley (Miles) and **Patrick Seymour** were united in marriage on January 1, 2020.



Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Seymour
Photo Credit: Katrina Seymour '10

2016

Renee Payne and Billy Norrie welcomed a daughter, Paisley Rose Norrie on January 29, 2021. A wedding date is set for June 18, 2022.



Renee Payne, Billy Norrie and daughter, Paisley

2017

Logan Larose was named to the fall 2020 dean's list at the University of Vermont. He is in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences.

Erin McQuade was named to the fall 2020 dean's list at Vermont Technical College. She is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Professional Pilot Technology.

2019

Abigail Ham was named to the fall 2020 dean's list at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

2020

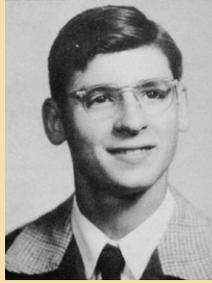
Lauren Chamberlain was named to the fall dean's list at Dean College in Franklin, Massachusetts.

Do you have news to share in a future issue of the Lyndon Institute Viking Voice? If so, contact heather.wheeler@lyndoninstitute.org.

In Memoriam



Thelma Phillips DiPierro '42, of South Portland, ME on December 24, 2020.



Frank A. Hubbard '51, of St. Johnsbury, VT on January 3, 2021.



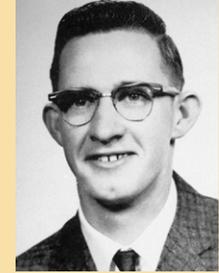
Elmer "Bud" Howland '60, of Greensboro, NC on February 1, 2021.



Oralie Lane Thurston '45, of Clarksburg, MA on September 18, 2019.



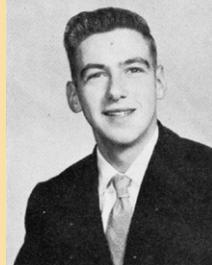
Ann C. Ovitt '52, of Danville, VT on December 21, 2020.



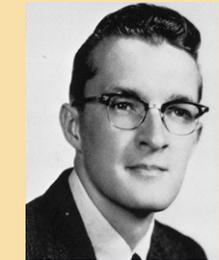
Charles O. Gilman '61, of Sheffield, VT on January 9, 2021.



Jean Pierce Wakefield '45, of Lyndonville, VT on March 19, 2021.



Durwood A. Wheeler '54, of Lyndonville, VT on January 28, 2021.



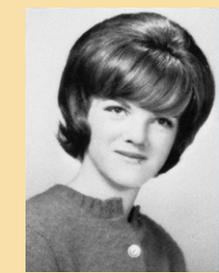
Steven E. Simpson '63, of Dunnellon, FL on November 28, 2020.



Pauline Basnar Winslow '45, of Largo, FL on February 23, 2021.



George E. Spaulding '57 of Keene, NH on December 16, 2020.



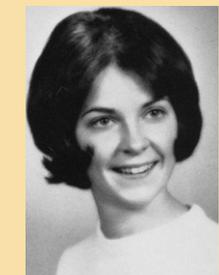
Sheryl Donaldson Barber '65, of Lyndonville, VT on February 28, 2021.



Marjorie "Ruth" Cassady Wheeler '50, of Lyndon Center, VT on February 27, 2021.



John D. Teachout '58, of West Harwich, MA on January 14, 2020.



Diane P. Stetson '65, of Lyndon Center, VT on February 11, 2021.



Marilyn Charron Weigel '50, of Lyndonville, VT on January 26, 2021.



Roland E. Mayo '59, of Higganum, CT on March 4, 2021.



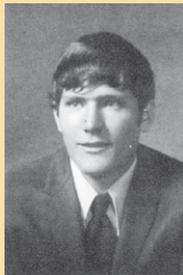
Andrew C. Wismuller '67, (LI's first Victor Viking) of Charlotte, NC on January 7, 2021.



Marie-Anne Hemond '73, of Dallas, TX on January 8, 2021.



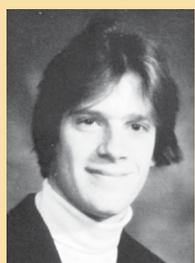
Linda Erskine Guyer '76, of Saks, AL on December 11, 2020.



Clark R. Hackett '79, of East Burke, VT on January 21, 2021.



Adrienne Metoyer Eng '81, of San Carlos, CA on September 9, 2020.



John P. Hallock IV '83, of Bethlehem, CT on January 14, 2021.



Shirl M. Sizen '90, of St. Johnsbury, VT on December 20, 2020.



Jennifer Austin Garand '96, of Danville, VT on November 19, 2020.

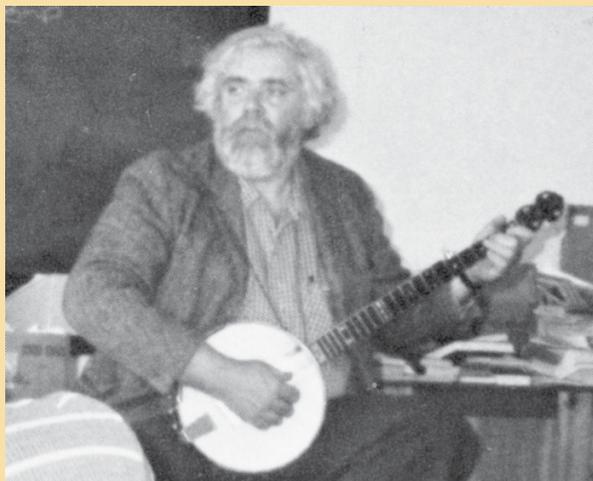
Former Faculty and Staff



Assistant Softball Coach Gustav "Gus" Hagman of Lyndonville, VT on November 16, 2020.



1969 Mathematics Teacher David W. Russell of Carmel on November 3, 2020.



1966-1999 English Teacher Burton "Burt" Porter of Glover, VT on December 29, 2020.

The Lesson

By Burt Porter

My Death has been my counselor
For many and many a year;
He always gives me good advice
And makes my choices clear.
He often tells me life is short
Therefore I should live well
And get the most from every day
Before the final knell.
He sweeps away small issues
That clutter and conceal
What matters and what doesn't,
What's false and what is real,
And when I ask him what's the best
That this life has to give,
He grins a boney grin and says
"Don't seek it out - just live."



Lyndon INSTITUTE

PO Box 127
168 Institute Circle
Lyndon Center, Vt 05850

Winter Carnival

