



TO EACH A UNIQUE PATH
Camelot Academy

Alumni Newsletter | Fall 2017

In Search of the Holy Grail of **BALANCE**

The 2016-17 theme at Camelot was **BALANCE**. In addition to exploring things like Balancing Time, Balancing Your Mind with Meditation, Balancing Sleep, Nutrition and Exercise, and more in special Friday classes, we repeatedly reflected on how almost any endeavor requires a balance of something.

In History, we have to balance varying perspectives on events. In English, we tried to balance genres and depth vs. breadth. In math, of course, we balanced equations, but we also discussed balancing real-life application of math skills with traditional textbook learning.

At Pie Supper, we watched the documentary *Screenagers* and had students lead discussions with parents about the struggles we all have with balancing technology. The conversations are endless.

The year was also an exciting one because Camelot's newly acquired farm property was added to the mix, so students spent time there hiking, working, playing and even writing poetry. They put up fencing to protect trees from beavers, cleared a yard for goats, built a chicken coop, and watched eggs hatch. Our farm is a cherished outlet for balancing our lives with Nature!

Our Founding Director, Ms. Thelma, spent Spring Break this year eager to acquire the first animals for our farm. After deciding upon ducks, she read for days all about how to care for them but in the end, she realized she needed to stop reading and just go ahead and "GET DUCKS." This became a mantra around school - sometimes you are weighing something too much (reading facts and figures in books, for example), and you need to balance that with real-life experience and go out and GET DUCKS!



(Top) Kinder MAPPer Joanna Coker dressed as a duck is balancing out book learning on the teeter totter on stage at Graduation. (Bottom) Students literally balance while balancing their minds and body in an outdoor Friday yoga class.

How do YOU find balance in your life?
What do you need to go do now, next month, next year?
What does "Get Ducks" mean in your life?

Send us your thoughts as alumni at alumni@camelotacademy.org and we will share them in an upcoming publication.



Introducing Camelot Academy's Class of 2017





Back row from left to right

David McShea	SUNY Purchase
Richard Carruthers	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Cameron Stell	Guilford College
Yunfan "Peter" Zhao	University of California, Los Angeles
Danny Sutton	NC State University
Qiuyu "Simon" Dong	University of California, Los Angeles
Xiaoran "Jeffrey" Zheng	University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign

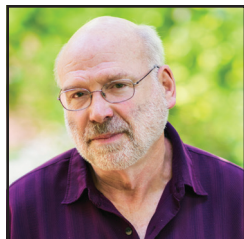
Front row

Eddie O'Brien	Florida State University
Toyin Tosh	Guilford College
Lily Wieleba	Guilford College
Elizabeth Provenzale	Guilford College
Elise Jelstrup-Iachetta	Guilford College



Faculty News

CAMELOT'S VETERAN FACULTY



Scott Mitchell

Scott Mitchell has been in and around Camelot for over 20 years and is the Director of Admissions and Marketing. He has overseen the expansion of the student body from 80 to 140 students and was the original inspiration for our international student program. In 2016, he travelled to China with Camelot students to visit our sister school in Chengdu, Sichuan Province and to see the country.



Michelle Banal

Michelle Banal has been at Camelot for over 15 years, leading the Middle Schoolers through their classroom education and on many trips to the mountains, beach, historical sites, and of course, Great Wolf Lodge. Since traveling is her passion, she started her own company that provides summer travel opportunities to students. During the school year, you will find her in the front classroom and porches at Camelot, guiding middle graders through their important transitional years.



Lori Hilliard

Lori Hilliard has been teaching science at Camelot for twenty years. Her responsibilities over the years have included an amazing variety of endeavors - mentoring teachers, organizing the dance and student orientation, orchestrating standardized testing requirements and co-ordinating our school accreditation process, just to name a few. All this is on top of serving as a "Mama Bear" to Camelot Upper School students. She is excited to be teaching a new Agri-Science class in 2017-18, that utilizes both her agricultural roots and her vast science knowledge.

NEW CAMELOT FACULTY

Joshua Erb, a Durham native, is returning to his roots to teach English. Josh went to Duke and Columbia Universities, where he majored in English. He then earned a Masters in Neurobiology and started his PhD before realizing his passion is teaching English. He earned a Masters in Teaching English from Brown University last year and is sharing English-teaching responsibilities with Ms. Amy this year.

Irfan Azam, also a Durham native, has joined us to teach math and science. Irfan is an Electrical Engineer with a B.S. from NC State. He most recently taught math and technology courses at the Triangle Collaborative School. Irfan enjoys music and film production.



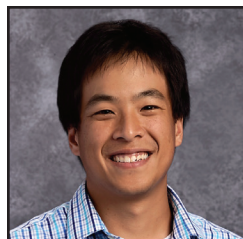
Joshua Erb



Irfan Azam



Jill Sugg



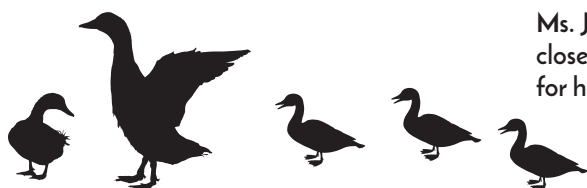
Oliver Khamky

"SEE YOU SOON!"

Jill Sugg and **Oliver Khamky** have departed for new chapters in their lives. Instead of "Goodbye," we are saying "See you soon!"

Mr. Oliver and his new wife, Cameron, have moved to Rhode Island where Cameron will be embarking on her career as a pediatrician. They have family members in the area which make it especially wonderful for them. Oliver will continue to work for Camelot from the northeast by building some technical systems that meet our very individualized and specific school's needs (think Notices online, for example!). He also plans to visit in the capacity of some ongoing curriculum work he will be doing for us.

Ms. Jill has taken on the challenge of teaching Classical Literature at a school much closer to her home. She will be on a year-round school schedule, which will work well for her family and will also allow her to visit us during her school's breaks!



Alumni News

RETURNING ALUMNI

The graduation skit this year imagined Camelot several years down the road with the Class of '17 employed by the school and sharing their passions with future students. This was inspired by the fact that three alumni returned to Camelot to work here this year.

William Radcliffe (Class of 2013) and **Brian Powell** (Class of 2014) supported students in math and provided other help at the Big Table over the course of the year.

Michael Berro (Class of 2010) returned from a couple of years of teaching in the Middle East to become our International Student Coordinator. In addition to helping with the increasing number of international students Camelot hosts each year, he taught World History and coordinated after school programming. In 2017-18, he is also serving as Athletics Director.



Michael Berro

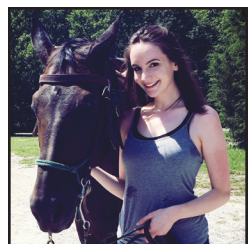
OTHER ALUMNI NEWS

Brian Harvey (Class of 1988) is a Cyber-Security and Implementation Specialist in Little Rock, Arkansas. He has an M.S. in Cyber-Security and Information Assurance and is a Certified Ethical Hacker and Certified Hacker Forensic Investigator. Besides continuing his education in the field of cyber-security, he also enjoys kayaking, fishing and camping with his wife Dianne.



Brian Harvey

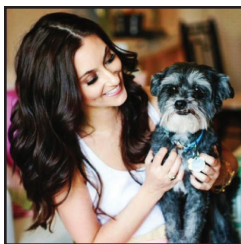
Becky Silver (Class of 1995) Rebecca received her bachelor's degree from Wellesley, and her MD from UNC Chapel Hill, and is currently a psychiatrist for Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte.



Molly Williams

Molly Williams (Class of 2010) works for Square's Customer Support team in St. Louis. She lives in Illinois on the bluffs looking out over the Mississippi River with her boyfriend, dog, and cat. In her free time, she hikes, experiments with new recipes, and attempts to do yoga, although her dog and cat view this as more of a team sport.

Christine Le Sesne (Class of 2011) was recently named one of the 50 most stylish Southerners by Southern Living Magazine. She and her business partner and sister, Mary Delpit, founded The Blush Label, which sells bright kaftans, silk scarves, and throw pillows that deliver "a dose of colorful retro resort style to homes."



Christie LeSesne

Josh Stallings (Class of 2013) Graduated from Harvard in May and will study English and American Studies at a year-long Master's program at Oxford University in Oxford, England.

Josh Pettway-Hinton (Class of 2013) graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with a Communication Studies degree with a concentration in Media and Technology Studies and Production. He headed out to Los Angeles to work at two Hollywood Media Internships and hopes to break into video editing.



Fiona Castorina

Fiona Castorina (Class of 2014) studied at the Semester at Sea program this spring. She took classes on a ship while traveling around the world to Asia and Africa. Here she is with a note to her Camelot family from the top of Table Mountain in South Africa. Back at Elon, she is majoring in psychology with an education minor.

Zax Milkereit (Class of 2014) just finished his first year at UNC Asheville and spent the summer as a firefighter in Idaho. He returned east just as the major fires started out there so did not see any hot action, but he contributed by helping to set up and prepare!



Zax Milkereit

Alex Berro (Class of 2015) enjoyed a second place finish in the National Ultimate Tournament for Division 2/3 Schools as a member of Davidson's Ultimate Frisbee team this spring (thanks, of course, to the fantastic coaching he got at Camelot).

Check out www.camelotacademyalumni.org for more updates from your classmates, and to tell us what you are doing

Highlights

CAMELOT ROBOTICS

Camelot's FIRST LEGO League and FIRST Tech Challenge Teams won numerous awards again this year including a 1st place in regionals and 4th Place at the state level competition, and the coveted INSPIRE awards. As a result, the LEGO team was invited to participate in the FLL North American Open held at Lego Land in Carlsbad, California, which was a huge honor and a big adventure.



FIRST LEGO League Team



FIRST Tech Challenge Teams

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Seven more students joined our English-Language-Learning program this year including two from Cameroon and one from South Korea, bringing new perspectives into Camelot discussions.

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY

Six Middle Graders had a very unique idea for fundraising this year. They collected Halloween candy from the student body and turned it into a local dentist that was paying children for it. They amassed 350 pounds and donated the \$350 earned to victims of Hurricane Matthew. The candy went to troops overseas.

Camelot also won the Crop Walk Silver Sneaker Award for the third year, and raised money for various other causes. National Honor Society won a Keeping Durham Beautiful Grant to plant and keep up a pollinator garden on the main campus.

TRIPS

Camelot sent students to *Washington, DC*, *Yosemite* and *Ecuador* this year.

The Ecuador trip was a month-long excursion involving homestays and true immersion experiences.



(Above) Kathleen Stancil-Sutton and Kendall Sliva relax in hammocks. (Above Right) Camelot students and Ms. Charlotte (second from left) in the Botanical Gardens in Mindo. (Bottom Right) Cailey McGinn paints a trash can as part of a community service project.



GIVE BACK TO CAMELOT

As you know, we do not seek alumni donations, but if you want to give back to your alma mater, we still can use your talents and time! Host a student at your college! Provide a job shadow experience! Allow current students to talk to you about your college or job experiences so they can learn more. Be a guest speaker!

Email alumni@camelotacademy.org to share your ideas of ways you can contribute.

Upcoming Events

EVENING OF THE ARTS

Friday, May 4 - 6:45pm

Hayti Heritage Center

ALUMNI VISITS TO CAMELOT

Week of May 21-25

GRADUATION

Saturday, May 26 - 9am

Carolina Theater

SUMMER ALUMNI EVENT "GET DUCKS" DAY

July 27, 2018

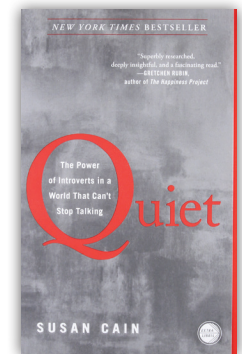
Camelot Farm

Keep in touch and update your contact information
at www.camelotacademyalumni.org

JOIN US IN OUR COMMUNITY-WIDE SUMMER READING:

Last year we started the tradition of assigning a community-wide read over the summer. In 2016, every student and teacher read excerpts from the book *Quiet* by Susan Cain, about the value of introverts. We discussed **BALANCING** our approaches to education and to others who may have different personality types from our own.

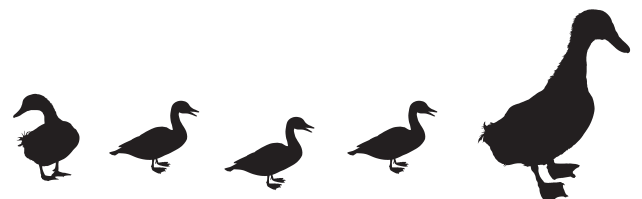
In 2017, in order to explore the theme of **ROOTS**, all members of the community read a biography of their choice. We reflected on how basic character traits and core experiences shape life stories.



We would love to hear from alumni what you have been reading. Have you read a biography recently? Do you have recommendations for 2018? Email alumni@camelotacademy.org with your suggestions.



Camelot students at the new "Dream It Build It" Summer Program constructed a gorgeous covered cedar deck off of the barn at the Camelot Farm.





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