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# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2021

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## 2021 WILLIAM BEACH OLMSTED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Arthur Diaz '78, P '10, '12, '14

Arthur Diaz joined the Pomfret community as a day student from nearby Woodstock, Connecticut. During his time on the Hilltop, he served as editor-in-chief of both the *Pontefract* and the yearbook, captained the crew team, and was named valedictorian of Pomfret's class of 1978. Following Pomfret, he earned his BA from Princeton University and his MBA from Stanford University. He went on to spend eighteen years with Amoco Corporation, an international energy firm, where he held various senior financial positions in New Orleans, Houston, Chicago, Denver, Atlanta, and London. He later served as vice president of strategic planning for Bacou-Dalloz, a Paris-based manufacturer.

Arthur has a long history of service to Pomfret, first as class secretary, a position he held for ten years, and later as a member of the board of trustees, where he served six years, including four as head of the finance committee. In 2005, Arthur was hired as the School's first chief financial officer. In that role, he steered the School's finances through the Great Recession, arranged financing for the natural gas/co-generation project, doubled the faculty development budget, and quintupled the dorm and advisee group budgets. Encouraged by Headmaster Brad Hastings to "get involved in whatever interested him," Arthur coached girls JV soccer and varsity softball, developed and taught a course in personal finance, served as faculty advisor to two student organizations, and was the form dean for the classes of 2014 and 2018. He was awarded the Senior Cup in 2014 in recognition of his work as a form dean.

Upon Arthur's departure in 2015, Head of School Tim Richards wrote, "His contributions to Pomfret went so far beyond financial management. With grace, kindness, and humility, Arthur did it all at Pomfret. His influence on our school will be lasting and unforgettable."

Arthur became Groton School's CFO in July of 2015, shepherding that school through a three-year tuition freeze while also coaching soccer and teaching personal finance. He retired in 2019 and returned to Pomfret as a part-time teacher and coach. He and his wife, Eileen, live in Westerly, Rhode Island. Their three children and daughter-in-law are all Pomfret alumni.

## 2021 POMFRET SCHOOL ALUMNI AWARD



Frances Lumpkin-Webster '91

Frances Lumpkin-Webster arrived at Pomfret as a third former from Charleston, South Carolina. As an active and involved member of the School community, she participated in choir, played on the girls varsity tennis and soccer teams, and served as the Co-head of Community Service. She was the recipient of the Community Service Award. Following graduation, she went on to earn her BA at The University of the South (Sewanee).

Frances is CEO of Walrus, a New York City-based advertising and media agency she co-founded in 2005. The independent firm has helped drive business for the likes of Amazon, AMC, Bloomberg, Condé Nast, Emergen-C (Pfizer), General Mills, HBO, PayPal, Rémy Cointreau, and Staples, and has been recognized by industry awards such as Ad Age Small Agency of the Year, Cannes Lions, Effies, One Show, D&AD, and Communication Arts. In 2018, Walrus made the Inc. 5000 list of America's fastest-growing private companies.

An invested volunteer committed to service, Frances sits on The University of the South's board of trustees and is a member of the 4A's (American Association of Advertising Agencies) Eastern Region board. As an active proponent of the industry, she is a regular speaker at conferences, including Advertising Week, 4A's Management Conference, Mirren, and Ad Age Small Agency Conference. She has also appeared on the Ad Age Ad Lib podcast and has been featured in publications including *Huffington Post*, *Adweek*, *Campaign US*, *Business Insider*, *The Drum*, and *Ad Age*. An area of focus for Frances is building a pipeline of qualified female leaders and executives through mentorship, business training, and networking.

Frances is a three-time volunteer for Pomfret's annual Career Expo, an event that offers juniors and seniors the opportunity to hear from alumni experts in their career fields. In 2016, she returned to Pomfret, along with her husband and Walrus co-founder Deacon Webster '91, as the Lasell Visiting Fellow. During her visit, she spoke about Walrus' unique approach to the creative process and discussed what it is like to run a business. "Ads are like people," she said. "They are better when they are original. Being a little bit different makes all the difference."

Frances and her husband, Deacon, live in New York with their two children.

## 2021 YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



Thomas Garrison '96

Tom Garrison came to Pomfret in his fourth form year from Needham, Massachusetts. He was a member of Pomfret's football, baseball, and squash teams, and particularly appreciated the School's equal emphasis on athletics and the arts.

Upon graduating from Pomfret, Tom studied anthropology at Connecticut College. During his junior year studying abroad in Mexico and Belize, he discovered what would become a lifelong passion for investigating ancient Maya civilization. He earned his PhD from Harvard in 2007. As an archaeologist and National Geographic Explorer, Tom continued his early work with geospatial technology as he held postdoctoral and teaching positions at Brown University, Harvard University, Umeå Universitet, University of Southern California, and Ithaca College.

In 2018, Tom's collaborative research using LiDAR technology to digitally deforest the jungles of northern Guatemala and reveal the ancient landscape below received international media attention and was featured extensively in the National Geographic Channel series *Lost Treasures of the Maya*.

Tom believes that the leadership and cooperation skills he developed at Pomfret — in the classroom and on both the stage and athletic fields — were critical to his ability to perform his job directing archaeological projects, lecturing to students and the public, and appearing on television. He resides in Austin, Texas, and is currently assistant professor of geography and the environment at the University of Texas at Austin.

## 2021 YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



Jamie Brätt '01

Jamie Brätt came to Pomfret as a third form day student from Pomfret, Connecticut. She marks her time on the Hilltop as transformative — opening her eyes to a vast world of opportunity. She sang in the GriffTones, played alto sax in jazz band, and acted in several theater productions. She played varsity basketball and lacrosse, and served as co-captain in both sports during her senior year. She earned multiple athletic and academic awards, and was honored to receive the 2001 Founder's Medal. Jamie remains extremely grateful for the scholarships that enabled her education at Pomfret School and Trinity College, where she majored in economics.

For the first fifteen years of her career, Jamie made a name for herself in urban planning and economic development. Her greatest accomplishments include progressive place-making efforts in Washington, DC (2009-2012), and serving as Head of Planning & Economic Development in Hartford (2016-2018). During this time, Jamie became convinced that workforce development and tech readiness were fundamental cornerstones of a sustainable future for Connecticut's economy. This conviction inspired her bold choice to shift careers by joining Infosys, a global tech company, in 2018.

For her game-changing approach to public service and placemaking, Jamie was named Young Economic Developer of the Year in 2018 by the International Economic Development Association; 40 Under Forty in 2019 by the *Hartford Business Journal*, and a Woman of Influence by *Hartford Magazine* in 2019.

Jamie lives in the City of Hartford with her husband and two children. Her big, audacious goal is to complete a 100-mile endurance race on horseback within the next eight years.

## 2021 POMFRET SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



### Mustafa Abdul-Salaam (aka Earl Wilson) '71

Mustafa Abdul-Salaam is a native of New Haven, Connecticut. He attended the Ulysses S. Grant Foundation, an after-school program run by Yale undergrad students that tutored young African American students to prepare them for higher education. George Perry, one of Mustafa's tutors, drove him and his mother to Pomfret. After meeting with Mr. Milnor, Mustafa was accepted to attend the School as a third form boarding student in the fall of 1967.

Mustafa arrived at Pomfret a very accomplished athlete and spent hours in the gym continuing to develop his skills. In his junior year, he captained the track team and broke records in both the 100-yard dash (9.9 seconds) and the high jump (6 feet 3 inches).

As captain of Pomfret's basketball team for the 1969-70 and 1970-71 seasons, Mustafa led both teams to the New England Prep School Basketball Championship. The 1969-70 team won the Tournament Championship, and Mustafa was selected as the Tournament MVP. He averaged 22 points and 19 rebounds as junior, and 25 and 22 in those same categories as a senior. He was awarded the Mansfield Cup at graduation.

After Pomfret, Mustafa received an athletic scholarship to attend the University of Connecticut, where he earned his BA. At UConn, he was a three-year starter on the varsity basketball team and captain during his senior season. His team had a winning streak all three years and participated in post-season tournaments. He still holds the record for the highest freshman scoring average at 25 points per game. His career average was 10 points and 9 rebounds per game. He was selected second team All Yankee Conference his junior year.

After UConn, Mustafa went on to earn his MS in Urban Management/Economic Development from Southern Connecticut State University. He has an extensive background and expertise in community economic development and human service delivery, with a focus at the community-based level. He is recognized nationally as a leader in the field.

Mustafa resides in Washington, DC, where he is currently facilitating a planning process in a predominately African American community that is being threatened by gentrification. His greatest accomplishment has been his three children and seven grandchildren.

## 2021 POMFRET SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



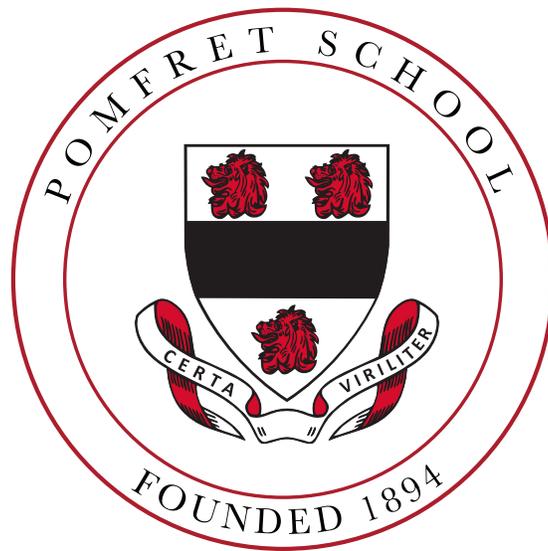
Paul Callahan '76

Paul Callahan came to Pomfret in his sixth form year from North Dighton, Massachusetts. On the Hilltop, he was a leader among his peers, making his mark as both a scholar and an athlete. He was the leading scorer on Pomfret's varsity basketball team. After Pomfret, Paul went on to triumph at one of the world's best universities, excel in investment banking, and compete at the highest level in the sport of sailing — all as a quadriplegic.

A graduate of Harvard College, Paul earned a BS in cultural anthropology in 1985. He continued his academic career at Harvard Business School, graduating in 1992 with an MBA, and was awarded the Dean's Award for overall excellence. He went on to enjoy a successful career at Goldman Sachs & Co. in New York City. Subsequently, he returned to Harvard Business School in the administration as the director of external relations.

In 1996, with his Wall Street and Harvard experience behind him, Paul was asked to assist a fledgling non-profit organization in Newport, Rhode Island. From this experience, Paul created Sail To Prevail, now the largest and most effective sailing program for people with disabilities in the USA. Simultaneously, Paul competed and earned the right to represent the USA in the Paralympic Games for Sailing in 2000 in Sydney, Australia, and in 2012 in London/Weymouth, England.

Paul continues to serve as Chief Executive Officer of Sail To Prevail, which has grown to serve over 1500 individuals annually with nine different categories of disabilities, including pediatric cancer and children on the broad spectrum of autism. The organization has pioneered a decade-long program in Nantucket, Massachusetts, as well as a five-year collaboration with the Harvard University Varsity Sailing Team. Paul's ultimate goal is to teach people to overcome adversity — whether or not they have a disability. He lives his life with a strong commitment to and deep love for his wife and twin teenage boys (youth sailing World Champions) and firmly believes in family first.



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## 2020 WILLIAM BEACH OLMSTED DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Joseph K. Milnor H '57, '73, P '73

Before his appointment as Pomfret's sixth headmaster from 1961 to 1973, Jay Milnor taught history at Pomfret from 1951 to 1957, and from 1960 to 1961. During his temporary departure in 1957, Jay served as principal of Robert Academy in Istanbul, Turkey, an arm of Robert College, an American school whose primary mission was to prepare Turkish students for the rigors of completing college engineering programs in the US.

Milnor's influence and dedication to developing the best faculty and strongest student body helped Pomfret successfully weather some of the School's most challenging and most exciting times. Always a strong advocate for coeducation and diversity, he led the charge as Pomfret forged its way to becoming fully coeducational.

For his contributions, Jay has been referred to as "A Founding Father of Coeducation" at Pomfret, and in 2015, in recognition for his contributions, Jay was honored with a Diversity Award given by members of Pomfret's VOICE group and John Irick '65, one of Pomfret's first black graduates, "for being the Father of Diversity at Pomfret School and leading the way for Students of Color to attend." After retiring from Pomfret, Jay went on to become Vice President of Carney, Sandoe & Associates (1980–1986) before assuming the interim position of Headmaster of The Castilleja School (1986–1988), an all-girls boarding and day school in Palo Alto, California. In 1988, he headed into retirement full time.

Jay's passion, candor, and pragmatic attitude surely contributed to his success at Pomfret and beyond. Jay remains a generous supporter of Pomfret and, as a testament to his impact, Pomfret has received several gifts honoring Jay and his legacy. His influence on the culture and people of Pomfret is clearly evidenced by the number of alumni and former colleagues who gather to catch up with him at reunions and other Pomfret events.

## 2020 POMFRET SCHOOL ALUMNI AWARD



Frank "Char" Miller IV '70

Char Miller is the W. M. Keck Professor of Environmental Analysis and History at Pomona College, in Claremont, California. His commitment to reaching a wider audience has led to his collaboration with museums to develop exhibits and facilitate public forums. It has also allowed him to serve as a historical consultant on a dozen documentaries; engage with K-12 teachers on curriculum and pedagogy; and write countless op-eds and commentaries for newspapers, magazines, and online venues. He has been a longtime contributor to the US Forest Service's Senior and Middle Leadership Programs, which provided him with the opportunity to learn from those on the ground how management decisions are applied in real time and under real conditions. "Each experience has roughed up my assumptions and perspectives," he says. "A wonderfully healthy and regenerative process that has made me a better citizen, teacher, and writer."

Char's most recent books include *Hetch Hetchy: A History in Documents* (2020); *Theodore Roosevelt: Naturalist in the Arena* (2020); *The Nature of Hope: Grassroots Organizing, Environmental Justice, and Political Change* (2019); *Ogallala: Water for a Dry Land* (2018); *San Antonio: A Tricentennial History* (2018); and *Where There's Smoke: The Environmental Science, Public Policy, and Politics of Marijuana* (2019). Other recent books include *Not So Golden State: Sustainability vs. the California Dream* (2016) and *America's Great National Forests, Wildernesses, and Grasslands* (2016).

Char lives in Claremont, California with his wife, Judi, a California native.

## 2020 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



Esezele Payne '00

Esezele Payne is the assistant vice president of operations & environmental services for Atrium Health. She is responsible for environmental services, financial planning, communications, talent development, and program management. Prior to joining Atrium Health, she was a member of the Global Corporate Services Team at CB Richard Ellis, Inc. In that role, she drafted and negotiated hundreds of contracts which yielded cost savings, developed national sourcing strategies, established performance management tools, and created sourcing strategies for key clients.

While at Pomfret Esezele played soccer, tennis, and basketball. She was a dean's assistant and an admissions key tour guide. After leaving the Hilltop, she received her BA and JD from American University. She is an active member of The Women's Impact Fund and a member of the Atrium Health Women's Executive Leadership Group. She was named to the Charlotte Business Journal's 40 Under 40 list in 2019.

Esezele lives in Charlotte, North Carolina, with her two children, Sloan and Tripp, and her husband, Richard.

## 2020 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



Kyle Kahuda '95

Having spent 21 years as a teacher and leader in independent schools, Kyle can't imagine anything more fulfilling. He is currently serving his final year as head of school at FlexSchool in New Haven, Connecticut. This summer, he and his family plan to relocate to Fort Worth, Texas, where Kyle will assume the role of head of upper school at Trinity Valley School.

Kyle believes there are opportunities for learning and personal growth in every moment and interaction. He began his career teaching science at Chatham Hall in Virginia and embraced every aspect of boarding school life. He credits his Pomfret mentors Marshall Eaton, Jim Rees, Ben Morgan, and many others for the positive, compassionate, and enthusiastic examples that they provided. While teaching, coaching, advising, and supporting student life, Kyle worked in college counseling, as department chair, and eventually as dean of students and head of residence. Appointments as head of upper school at Chase Collegiate School in Waterbury, Connecticut, and head of school at FlexSchool followed. The question "Is this the very best we can do for our students?" has been his guiding philosophy throughout.

At Pomfret, Kyle was inducted into the Cum Laude Society, performed with the choir and Chamber Singers, played basketball and baseball, and served as day student proctor. Following an undergraduate degree in biology at the University of Richmond, he earned his M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision at UVA. Today, Kyle's greatest interests lie in authentic and experiential learning, character development and healthy school culture, and faculty growth and support.

## 2020 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



Douglas P. Park PhD '00

Originally from Connecticut, Doug received his BA in archaeology from The George Washington University, and his PhD in African Archaeology from Yale University. His doctoral research included two years of intensive field research in Timbuktu, Mali, where he filmed a documentary on Timbuktu's ancient origins for the BBC. Before joining the private sector, he held post-doctoral positions in geospatial science and archaeology at the University of Arkansas and Rice University.

As an archaeologist and geospatial scientist, Doug has traveled extensively in Africa and elsewhere undertaking both academic and private sector investigations into the complex relationship between human society, landscapes, and climate change. "Archaeology is like being a detective," he said. "Artifacts tell a story. They can tell us about trade, technology, and many other aspects of ancient life to help us reconstruct what a society must have been like." His most recent publication is in *Nature* concerning his efforts to link deforestation with the 2014 outbreaks of Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

While at Pomfret, Doug competed in crew and was the co-captain of the 1999–2000 wrestling team. He also played on the soccer team. He credits history teacher, David Brush, with igniting his interest in archaeology, geography, and history.

## 2020 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



Sheila Killeen '75

Sheila attended Pomfret from 1972 to 1975, in a time just after the passing of Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, which prohibited discrimination based on sex in any education program or activity. She was a three-sport athlete, competing in soccer, basketball, and tennis. Sheila was the leading scorer in soccer every year she played at Pomfret, and Pomfret won every game they played during those years. In basketball, she was the top scorer each year, contributing to a winning record every year and one undefeated season. Because there was no girls tennis team at that time, Sheila competed on the boys tennis team, at one point working her way up to playing in the number one singles position in matches.

After graduating from Pomfret, Sheila entered Skidmore College, where she played tennis, basketball, and lacrosse. She and her partner were runners up in the 1978 New York State collegiate tennis doubles championship. She was a member of the 1978 Skidmore basketball team that captured the first-ever Dartmouth College Invitational Women's Basketball Tournament. In 2006, the team was inducted into the Skidmore College Athletic Hall of Fame.

After college, Sheila continued to compete in lawn tennis and won multiple New England Lawn Tennis Association (NELTA) Open Division championships in both women's doubles and mixed doubles, ranking number one three times. She continued to play soccer for another twenty years with her club team, the Worcester MsKicks.

Sheila spent her professional career in financial services, primarily with Fidelity Investments and Allmerica Financial. She has volunteered with the National Brain Tumor Society for the last twenty-five years. She is the former president of the Worcester Tennis Club and the Holden Towers Tennis Club. She is currently president of her neighborhood association.

## 2020 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME



### Hermon "Bink" Smith '58

While at Pomfret, Bink participated in football, hockey, and baseball. During his senior year, he captained an undefeated football team and led all New England prep schools in scoring. After graduation, he received his BA from Colby College and MS from the University of Oregon. While at Colby, he captained the football team and earned All American honors and a tryout with the original Boston Patriots. After Colby, he taught and coached at Suffield Academy for two years before going on to coach at three different universities. After his coaching career, he spent seven years as the city director of athletics and physical education in Manchester, New Hampshire. During that time, he was named Athletic Director of the Year for the East Coast.

Following his athletic career, Bink began his business career in cleated footwear promotions at Nike, Inc. He subsequently went into several product divisions as a marketing director. From these positions, he took over as general manager for contract manufacturing in Korea and northern China. While in China, he established a program that provided an opportunity for all Chinese contract factory workers to receive a high school education. In addition, he created a leadership program for all Nike employees in the Korean and Chinese offices. Before his retirement, Bink served as global director of contract manufacturing for Nike.

Bink is originally from Marblehead, Massachusetts and resides in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.