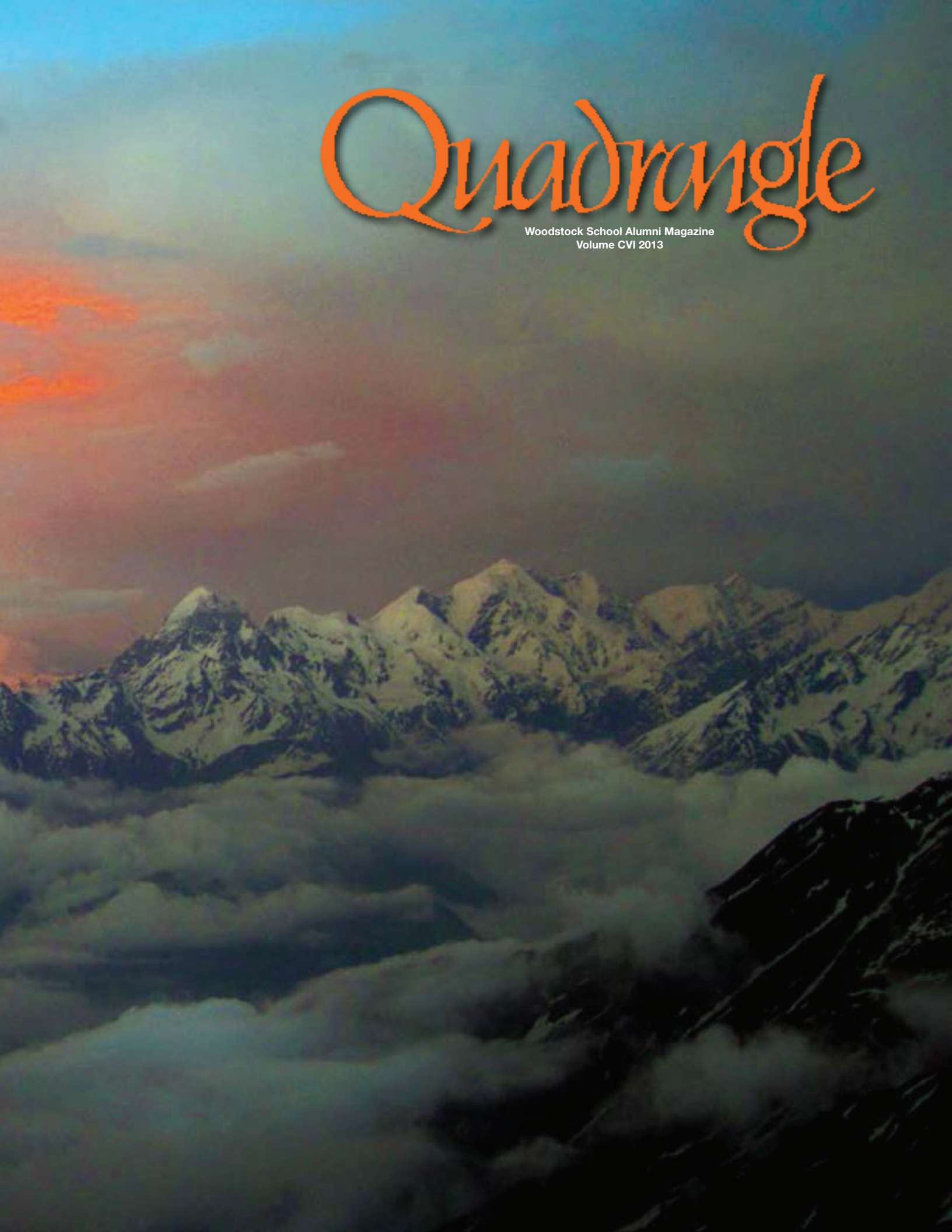


Quadrangle

Woodstock School Alumni Magazine
Volume CVI 2013



PEACE BROKERS
ENTREPRENEURS
BRILLIANT THINKERS
DEAL MAKERS
EDUCATORS
MUSICIANS

GAME CHANGERS
WRITERS
PROBLEM SOLVERS

STUDENTS
ARTISTS
ACTIVISTS

We've left out a few. so tell us: what sort of an alum are you?

2014 Friends of Woodstock School Annual Meeting

July 11th through 14th

Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore

registration will open soon at fwsfoundation.org

Quadrangle

Woodstock School Alumni Magazine

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Front cover: Bandarpoonch staff expedition,
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Photos: Phuriwat Chiraphisit '13, Ed Beavan

Any ideas for improving Alumni services?

Write to us at alumni@woodstock.ac.in

From the principal

Dr Jonathan Long, Principal



Last semester I spent almost a month connecting with alumni groups and individuals on the east coast of the USA and Canada. Across the generational divides, Woodstock continues to be significant and transformative in people's lives. Whether meeting with those who left Woodstock more than 50 years ago or connecting with recent graduates, the stories resonate with a strong sense of a powerful and formative shared experience.

I increasingly detect a common golden thread running through the reflections of Woodstock alumni. Firstly, there is what I call the pedagogy of place. There is something compelling about the natural and physical environment at Woodstock that leaves an imprint on the soul long after graduation. Plato described the formative impact of the natural environment very well more than 2000 years ago: "Our youth should dwell in the land of health amid fair sights and sounds; and beauty will meet the sense like a breeze and insensibly draw the soul even in childhood into harmony with the beauty of reason."

Secondly, there's always been something in a Woodstock education which is characterised by qualities of care, joyfulness, and engaging with life in all its opportunity and intensity. From the present day to times past, this characteristic echoes consistently and clearly.

Thirdly, I often find amongst our alumni an ongoing process of self-reflection which is never satisfied with the status quo – an urge to look beyond the immediate horizon – to always play things forward positively and purposefully. This has, I think, created a sense of momentum over the years which stills runs energetically through the alumni community.

It's been an enormous pleasure for me to talk about the exciting vision Woodstock has and to see how the alumni community has engaged with it and been excited by it, recognising it as being characteristic of the Woodstock they know and love.

This reminds me of a story from 1992 when two contrasting worlds came together in a powerfully symbolic and poignant moment at the equator in the Pacific Ocean.

The Hawaiian people, keen to reconnect with their ancient heritage, had constructed a replica of an ancient tribal canoe that had once transported their ancestors in the Polynesian Triangle – an area of over 15 million square kilometres and containing some of the wildest seas imaginable.

Using only the stars and the currents these intrepid sailors of old navigated their simple canoes over thousands of kilometres of un-

charted open sea. That such voyages were both deliberate and repeated, and not the result of luck, was something many contemporary anthropologists believed impossible until they were proved wrong by recently recreated voyages. The reconstructed replica canoe, named *Hokule'a*, was completed in the spring of 1975 – it was to become a significant cultural symbol and icon for the Hawaiian people. An article at the time referred to *Hokule'a* as a "spaceship of our ancestors".

And so, fast forward to a remarkable moment in 1992 when Hawaiian astronaut Charles Lacy Veach, onboard the spacecraft *Challenger*, makes contact from space with those sailing the *Hokule'a* as they both crossed the equator: One orbiting the future, the other navigating the past. There are many possible lessons to draw from this poignant tale. For me, this is a powerful symbol of Woodstock's challenge (and opportunity!) – to remain connected with our past as we launch out to orbit the future.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *Quadrangle*. With all good wishes,

Dr Jonathan Long
Principal

Around the sundial

Ed Beavan, Communications Associate

A summary of the academic year 2012–2013

AUGUST As always the first major event of the academic year was the flag raising ceremony to celebrate Indian Independence Day. Guest speaker and alumna Bhavenesh Kumari Patiala '50, one of the first women to practise in the Indian Supreme Court, urged the Woodstock community to work together to overcome problems and to "constantly reach out to people less fortunate than us". She also read the poem *Where the Mind Is Without Fear* by Bengali poet Rabindranath Tagore, which extols the idea of global citizenship which Woodstock seeks to promote.

SEPTEMBER There was much excitement around the fourth visit of the 14th Dalai Lama to Woodstock. During his speech in the Win Mumby gym, he reminded staff and students that we are guilty of forgetting that "we are fundamentally human beings and brothers and sisters", and urged us to remember our common

humanity rather than seeing difference in religion or nationality. He recognised the international diversity of Woodstock, a place he described as having "students from many different countries, where they stay and study to become brothers and sisters".

The third annual student-organised Goal-athon saw fancy footwork, flamboyant fouls and flying footballs in the Win Mumby gym, raising a significant amount for the Himalaya Trust charity, assisting those affected by the flooding in Uttarakashi. The overall winners were BDP2 for the boys, and Spartas for the girls.

September also saw the first visit of a team from the University of London's Institute of Education, paving the way for the new staff professional development programme which sees the school returning to its founding vision as a teacher training college.

OCTOBER There was relief as monsoon abated to be replaced by the October sunshine, perfect conditions for the annual school Sports Day. Competitors looked like ants scurrying around Hanson Field when viewed from the school level, as a resurgent Merlins claimed victory.

Worldwide Woodstock Day was celebrated

at more than 50 events on six continents: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Europe, and Australia. Gatherings at Indian restaurants as far afield as London, Toronto, Melbourne and Hawaii were extremely popular, while about 70 alumni, including the visiting class of 1967, gathered on the hillside for a celebration in Mussoorie.

NOVEMBER The annual Mussoorie Writers Festival went from strength to strength, with a mountain theme this year, drawing in a host of outstanding speakers including American mountaineer Steve Swenson, Italian alpinists Herve Barmasse and Maurizio Zanolla, and Indian army hero Captain MS Kohli. Musical and poetic entertainment was provided by Grammy-award winning poet and lyricist Gulzar, renowned Indian playback singer Rekha Bhardwaj, and the Tetseo Sisters, who sang a distinctive form of folk music from Nagaland.



Guest speaker and alumna Bhavenesh Kumari Patiala '50 on Independence Day



Independence Day



Dalai Lama visit



Easter service in the gym



Having a laugh: The Dalai Lama



Employees leaving tea in February



Fred Osgood '44

As part of the festival the inaugural Mussoorie Half Marathon took place, with around 250 runners taking part in the half marathon, 10K and 5K runs. PE teacher Shannon Schultz won the women's race while head of PE Steve Luukkonen took second place in the men's section. The route went from the Mall Road out to Everest House and back to the Woodstock main gate. It is hoped it will become a permanent fixture on the sporting calendar.

The high standard of drama productions continued under new Dean of Enrichment Bethany Okie, with a chilling production of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in Parker Hall; senior Shalaka Ghiara put in a powerful performance in the lead role.

DECEMBER The run up to Christmas saw the annual tradition of junior school students performing their Christmas presentations in the Quad, while for the second year running Woodstock was one of the destinations for Santa's sleigh on the NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command) Santa Tracking Programme.

FEBRUARY The new term got off to a



The Goalathon girls



Fancy footwork at the Goalathon

sad start with two deaths in a week. John Montgomery, a teacher at Woodstock from 2000 to 2007, died of a heart attack while back visiting the school. Shortly afterwards, long-serving employee Sabal Singh Rawat died after an extended illness.

Alumnus Paul Livingstone '89, a professional sitar player who took up the instrument at Woodstock and went on to study under the legendary Pandit Ravi Shankar, returned to Woodstock to give a wonderful performance as part of his concert tour of India. He was accompanied on the tabla by Atul Datta '90.

We were reminded of the draw Woodstock has on its alumni when Frederic Osgood '44 came back to the school for the first time since he graduated 68 years ago.

For the first time in around a decade a staff show was performed in Parker Hall. The musical *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, a series of vignettes based on the *Peanuts* comic strip, was received with rapture by the community.



Nepali boys at graduation



Matthew Sailo '13, at graduation

Meanwhile two long-serving and dedicated Woodstock School employees, Daulat Singh and Krishan Lal, with combined service of more than 50 years to the school, were honoured at a farewell tea.

MARCH School emptied on March 1 for the annual outdoor learning day, with activities including a silent hike, a literary walk, a trek recording the sounds of nature, a hike up Nag Tibba, and an opportunity to build a labyrinth.

An activity offered for the first time which proved a great success was a re-creation of the Battle of Verdun of 1916 on Flag Hill. The brainchild of Academic Dean and European History teacher Amy Seefeldt, students were given roles such as German or French soldiers and commanders, medics, members of the press, or well-known artists of the time, such as Pablo Picasso. In a result which went against the historic reality, Germany won the battle! The exercise proved to be an excellent learning



The staff vs employees cricket match



Steve Luukkonen, centre, at the start line



The first French Masterchef competition



Taking a dip on Activity Week



Jazz Jam in Parker Hall



Snow joke: Nag Tibba hike



Shannon Schultz and Steve Swenson

experience, helping students see the futility and boredom of war.

The first Carnatic music performance at Woodstock in several decades took place in Parker Hall, in conjunction with SPIC-MACAY and sponsored by the Festivals Committee, featuring Carnatic violinist Kumaresh accompanied by Sankaranarayanan on the mridangam, and Pramath Kiran on the ghatam.

Students in Grades 7 to 9 were in the limelight for the spring drama, with a terrific production of Disney's *Mulan Jr.*

Easter was marked a few days early with a powerful and moving chapel service on Maundy Thursday in the Win Mumby gym. The theme of the service was *A Journey With Jesus* and saw a re-enactment of Jesus' life in the final hours before the crucifixion, moving through to the resurrection on Easter Day. The drama was performed by students from Grade 10 while staff members narrated the story.

APRIL Woodstock's first-ever story festival took place in April, featuring student and staff-created films, plays, poems and stories performed on the school theme for the year, *Thought for Food*. Linking into this theme, an international food festival also took place in the Quad with delicacies on offer from South Korea, Tibet, Nepal, India and Bhutan.

The annual Jazz Jam saw Parker Hall transformed into an atmospheric jazz club, with smooth sounds of the various jazz ensembles entertaining a packed auditorium. Another music group, Woodstock's Toradaiko percussion group, drummed up plenty of new fans when they performed at local orphanage Firs.

Meanwhile Woodstock's boys' basketball team won their third Win Mumby tournament in a row with a 67-42 victory over Welham Boys' School, after an excruciatingly close semi-final victory against Modern School. Alumni could listen to the action across the globe thanks to Head of PE Steve Luukkonen's excellent internet radio commentary.

A staff cricket team had less success in the sporting arena, when they were soundly thrashed by an employee team on Hanson Field.

MAY/JUNE History was made in May when a new partnership was set up with Woodstock and the University of London's Institute of Education (IOE), a world leader in educational research. The partnership will see the IOE run a professional development programme for Woodstock staff over the next two years, enabling them to gain credits towards international teaching credentials and Master's degrees.

Meanwhile the Hanifl Centre for outdoor education and environmental study hosted 13 participants from across Uttarakhand and beyond for a unique training course in Hindi, which helped trek leaders brush up on essential outdoor living skills, wilderness first aid, and rope use.

There was more sporting success in early May when the senior girls' basketball team won the Lawrence School Sanawar



The school presidents at graduation



Graduating boys, 2013



And the girls!



Silent Hike on Pepperpot

All-India Tournament.

The end of term saw the usual frenzy of activity for graduating seniors, with the Junior-Senior Ball, the Sports Assembly, induction into the alumni association at the WOSA assembly, and a series of outstanding advanced concerts.

On June 1 the mist descended and monsoon seemed to arrive early as the Class of 2013, *Kairos*, graduated. For the first time the Baccalaureate service and graduation ceremony took place on the same day, with Booker-winning author Kiran Desai the graduation speaker.

And then after tears on the ramp and good-byes another eventful and amazing year at Woodstock was concluded, and just the memories remained.



Victorious Merlins on Sports Day



Win Mumby: Three in a row for Woodstock



You're A Good Man Charlie Brown



Steve Luukkonen in bazaar



Toradaiko drummers at Firs

From Ahmed to Ziegler

The Joy Rugb Memorial Library in the Alumni Office at Woodstock contains a growing collection of books written by Woodstock alumni. We are always pleased to receive additions to the library. If you are a published author, please consider sending us a signed copy of your work.



Twelve years at Woodstock School: A reflection

Pete and Dot Wildman leave Woodstock next June after 12 years. During this time, as Communications Manager and later Director of Community Relations, Pete has been responsible for most editions of the *Quad* and *Brown & Gold*, so we asked him to give us a personal reflection on working at Woodstock during a period of considerable change.



In 1998 we visited Woodstock School for the first time as part of our 25th wedding anniversary trip to India. Four years later in 2002, we sold our house, ended our careers in the UK and moved to the Himalaya. Eleven years on and we are halfway through what is most likely our last year at Woodstock. I have worked under five principals, helped to develop two strategic plans (in 2002 and 2012), and spent innumerable hours thinking of varied ways to express and explain the unique character of this fascinating, frustrating and exuberant place. Our story is not particularly unusual for Woodstock, and there are many who have done more, but it may stand as a celebration of the countless people down the years who, in many ways and for different reasons, have been drawn towards the Himalaya to become part of this wonderful, ongoing enterprise.

A city on a hill

When we married in 1973, our first instinct was to go and work abroad. The word “missionary” has an old-fashioned ring to it nowadays, but as Christians, we wanted to serve somewhere we could do good – and there’s certainly a romance about doing that in exotic foreign climes. Scroll forward five years and we were still in our hometown of Liverpool. I was heavily committed to an NGO I helped to found which provided halfway houses for ex-prisoners, and Dot was preparing to re-enter her teaching career – not exactly what we planned, but equally demanding and worthwhile.

In 1996 we spent a week visiting friends working in Istanbul, and we both had the same

thought: now is the time! For the next year, as we actively considered our direction and went to a few overseas conferences, we acquired a leitmotif, seemingly preached about wherever we went, and most oddly on one occasion discovered typed on a piece of paper on a coffee table in Dot’s staffroom. It was part of a verse from Matthew chapter five: “A city set on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Now, in the context of our last 11 years, that rings all sorts of bells, but remember, we had never so much as heard of Woodstock School at that time. Our only inclination was towards the Himalaya. For me, that was a result of my childhood reading of *Biggles in the Gobi*, where the prototype James Bond flies over Lhasa to rescue missionaries trapped by the Chinese communist uprising. The picture of the Himalaya painted by Capt W.E. Johns has stayed with me for 50 years.

On-the-ground research was obviously called for, so we decided that, for our 25th anniversary, we would take that “trip of a lifetime” to India, and see what transpired. We needed guidance – so we consulted Geoff and Pauline Williams, whom we knew to have an extensive knowledge of opportunities for working overseas. They reeled off the options and offered a range of contacts in various places. “Geoff”, I said at the end of our time together, “the only clear guidance we have is the phrase ‘A city on a hill’. Where might that be?” Geoff exchanged a glance with Pauline and simply said, “Woodstock School”.

It turned out that they had worked for 15 years in Mussoorie, including time Pauline spent supervising the catering at Woodstock, and their four children were all alumni. The net finally closed, and before we even visited Woodstock, towards the end of our India trip, we fully expected that this would be the place for us to come and work. It took another four years for everything to come together, during which time I returned to classroom teaching for a refresher, and in 2002 we finally arrived.

Twelve years on

Already we are picturing ourselves in that little

cottage by the sea back in England, tending our roses. Not much chance of that, between the collapse of the rupee and the cost of houses in the UK. But even more so because working at Woodstock just gives you a completely different perspective on the world.

We proudly point to our life experience, so divergent from anyone else we meet here: for the first 52 years of our lives we never lived further than three miles from where we were born. The next 12, by contrast, have been filled with people and places we could never have anticipated. It’s not just empty words when we proclaim that a Woodstock education is rooted in the meeting of radically different cultures, and their synthesis into a community that belongs to all places and to none. I don’t think I’d even met an American until I came to Woodstock, and only a couple of Indians. Living in this setting has changed the way I view the people of the world, and, I suspect, has made it forever impossible to hold prejudices and deal in typical British stereotypes.

I have also done so many interesting things. As a long-time hobby guitarist, arriving in the musical environment of Woodstock presented so many opportunities – the staff rock band, accompanying the Okies’ mountain music on mandolin and banjo, playing jazz in a staff quartet, recording crossover albums with sitarists, fiddle players and country singers. I’ve performed on Parker Hall stage – Punjabi dancing, stand-up comedy, musical theatre, Jimi Hendrix covers (staff member Darab Nagarwalla ’80 came up to me near to tears after playing bass guitar for that particular show, and said “I’ve waited 20 years for this – we weren’t allowed to play Hendrix when I was a student!”).

And this is not to mention the crushing hike up Nag Tibba (I’ve never been particularly fit!), being caught in a blizzard while trying to get to the source of the Ganga, driving to Yamunotri and Shimla, tours around India, the stunning road trip to Ladakh, the bike trip to Har-ki-Dun, staff weddings in Malaysia and New Zealand, road tours in the US for alumni visits. It will take us most of our retirement just to assimilate and reflect on it all.

Thirdly, I feel that I have been pushed to my limits in so many areas that I have grown as a person and as a professional. I have never known such intensity. Almost by definition, those who work at a place like this are not pen-pushers or time-servers. There is a striving after a goal – one which is “more felt than tell’t” – and a rooted dissatisfaction with faults and failures which, frankly, makes for a sometimes uncomfortable ride. The challenge of meeting myriad expectations, from students, staff, parents and alumni, is at times overwhelming, and creates very real and immediate opportunities for personal growth – tolerance, patience, integrity, perseverance, commitment to relationship.

I have also learned many new skills within the professional arena – my knowledge of

websites, video, online communication tools, educational philosophy and principles, marketing and strategic planning is far beyond anything I came with. That’s another reason for not limiting our future to gardening and walks in the park, attractive though that seems just at present. Having delved so deeply into the inner workings of an international school, and lived in such a cross-cultural setting, we feel as if we could go anywhere and help make a difference. I guess that’s another outcome of the Woodstock experience, for students as well as staff: tell us what you need – we can do it!

A time well spent

I could go on, and there’s much left unsaid, but let me conclude with perhaps the simplest and strongest statement. This was a time well spent. The investment of more than a quarter

of our working lives in a place we never knew existed until we were almost 50 seems to us like a wonderful, serendipitous and fruitful use of our time.

At the farewell service in Liverpool, just before we left, our friend who had worked in Turkey for ten years said this: “Take a good look at Pete and Dot; when they come back, they will be different people.” No doubt there has been some benefit to Woodstock by our being here, but our friend was right. We are taking with us far more than we have given, and that will last for the rest of our lives. Thank you, Woodstock.

You can follow the story of Pete and Dot’s last year at Woodstock on their website at <http://wildies.wordpress.com>

The Hanifl Centre Ten years and counting

Almost ten years to the day since its opening in October 2003, Paul and Sue '63 Turner Hanifl returned to Woodstock for a celebration of the first decade of the Hanifl Centre for Outdoor Education and Environmental Study.

Other members of the Class of '63 who were back for their 50-year reunion also attended the celebration, where they were entertained by the melodious sounds of the Woodstock Jazz Band.

The Hanifl Centre was inaugurated by Shri Narayan Dutt Tiwari, the Honourable Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, and was made possible by the generous support of the Hanifls. It has become a beacon of excellence for outdoor education and environmental study in Uttarakhand and across India.

As well as facilitating Woodstock’s wide range of outdoor education activities, it holds an annual skills course for trek leaders in Uttarakhand, and has this year hosted the first ever Pitt in the Himalaya programme, a partnership with the University of Pittsburgh, which has seen a group of 15 students spend a term in the Himalaya.

Speaking at the celebration dinner, Sue Turner Hanifl said she was delighted see the advances the centre had made in the first decade, and hoped she would return in 2023 for the 20-year celebration. Woodstock Principal Dr Jonathan Long said the Hanifl Centre would remain the epicentre of the school’s outdoor education programme which is an intrinsic part of the holistic education Woodstock seeks to offer.

One prospective Woodstock student, after visiting the Hanifl Centre, described it as extraordinary. He added: “When I visited the place I was in awe as it had top class equipment for camping and hiking as well as a fantastic library.”

It is hoped the Hanifl Centre will continue to inspire hundreds of other students and visitors like this in the years to come.



Paul and Sue '63 Turner Hanifl with Krishnan Kutty, director of the Hanifl Centre, at the 10-year celebration in October 2013



The Hanifl Centre today

Friends for life

Jane Cummings, Executive Director

Woodstock has an amazing way of getting under a person's skin. Alumni of course know all about that. No matter how many years pass, a dream for many is to once again climb the vertical path from the residences up to the Quad, or to sit under the Lyre Tree to catch a few rays of wintery sun or watch in awe the winterline spread across the horizon as the mellow sounds of the *azaan* waft across the valley.

I first came to Woodstock about 34 years ago – a Kodai alumna who dared to think she could penetrate the hallowed bubble of Woodstock and actually assume some responsibility for the school's alumni affairs in North America. And here I am again all these years later, jettisoning dreams of a peaceful retirement to work a spell with Friends of Woodstock School (FWS) in North America and serve on the Woodstock School Board of Directors. But I'm hooked: enchanted with the sense of this place, invigorated once again with its potential and believing completely in a concept of education that I firmly believe can make a difference in the lives of young people and to the world in which we live. I am indeed a Friend of Woodstock School.

Friends of Woodstock School is both a concept and an organisation. The concept is one that is shared by alumni, parents, former staff and others who have personally experienced or in some other way have an interest in and commitment to the Woodstock educational experience. And there is currently one officially registered Friends of Woodstock School in the United States – the first of what we hope will be a model for similar organisations that will take root in countries around the world where there are alumni and friends interested and supportive of Woodstock School.

In the United States, FWS is a registered 501-c-3 tax-exempt organisation, the successor to Kodai-Woodstock International (KWI). Within its more inclusive arms it embraces WOSA-NA as well as former staff, parents, groups and others supportive of the philosophy and goals of a Woodstock education. While we officially use the name Friends of Woodstock



School, we honour and acknowledge that the Woodstock "Old" (as in "former", nothing to do with age) Students Association (WOSA) is the strength and backbone of the corporation.

FWS is both a "friend-raising" and fundraising organisation. With more than 3,000 Woodstock alumni and friends residing in North America, a large part of what FWS does is provide the opportunity for alumni to stay in touch with each other, develop networks based on professional or other interests, facilitate regional and national programmes and events, and be a link between alumni and the school.

The responsibility for implementing this lies mainly with the FWS Alumni Committee, chaired by Lorrie Doman-Sheydayi '87. Recently we established Woodstock Regional Clubs in 18 cities across North America, with plans to increase the number to meet the demand. Each regional club has a regional coordinator who works with other alumni in the area to develop programmes of interest to alumni, provides a contact directly between Woodstock and the region to help in areas such as interviewing students or staff, recruiting students for Woodstock and otherwise promoting the Woodstock educational experience in the region. There are many opportunities, limited only by the imagination and enthusiasm of regional alumni. The Alumni Commit-

tee also organises the FWS Annual Meeting and Reunion, a popular event in North America that annually draws upwards of 200 alumni and friends.

Like every educational institution, tuition fees alone cannot support a Woodstock education. There are numerous extra programmes, scholarships, capital needs, and staff development opportunities at schools and colleges, which are only made possible with the financial support of alumni and friends. FWS is an active partner with Woodstock in this area. Consulting with the Woodstock School administration and Board, FWS identifies specific projects and programmes it will support, raises funds for them from alumni and friends and grants the funds to Woodstock to complete the project or programme. As an independent 501-c-3 organisation registered with the US Internal Revenue Service, the FWS Board adheres to strict policies and procedures to maintain its tax-exempt status for donors.

Over the past year FWS made grants to Woodstock totaling over \$215,000 for projects such as scholarships, building renovations, science and media equipment and for faculty continuing education through the University of London - Woodstock partnership. All of these grants were made possible with support from our North American alumni and friends.

Woodstock alumni and friends live in 95 countries around the world. They share a common bond, an interest in the future of the school that educated them and prepared them for life. We believe that encouraging Friends of Woodstock School clusters in various countries and regions is important for alumni and friends as well as crucial for the future of Woodstock. If you would like to know more about Friends of Woodstock School in North America or are interested in establishing a Friends of Woodstock School group in your country or region, please let us know! We have much to learn from and share with each other.

Jane Cummings
Executive Director
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www.fwsfoundation.org

Kush — the film

It is not every day that a film receives its world premiere at Woodstock, but that is exactly what happened in Parker Hall in August.

Alumnus Shubhashish Bhutiani '09 returned to the school to show his short film *Kush*, based on the inter-religious tensions in the wake of Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984, and inspired by an anecdote told by teacher Shonila Chander in a Woodstock Economics class.

As a student here Shubhashish developed a passion for theatre and film, directing a production of *Peter Pan*, and also appearing in a short film made in Mussoorie by another alumnus Rahul Gandotra '94, entitled *The Road Home*. After graduating from Woodstock Shubhashish pursued his passion in film at the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

Following the premiere an entertaining Q&A session with Shubhashish shed more light on the primitive filming methods used for the movie (tying the cameraman onto a moving car with rope) and where it was filmed (Mumbai and in the Borivali National Park).

Shubhashish also said he was surprised how much interest the film had received, and explained the genesis of the film all those years ago.

"Kush is the name of the main character who is a Sikh boy. It came about after Ms Chander told us the story of what happened to her during the activity week in 1984 [when Woodstock Sikh students had to hide on the bus as the riots took place].

"An idea to make a film about it stuck with me for the next five or six years. I guess it's more a story about history, but it's also about India. I had never heard about the riots until Ms Chander told us, it's something of a dark spot of our history. But I thought visually it would be a beautiful way of seeing India through the lens of a bus, and a fascinating way to tell the story. A school bus is not necessarily a place you would expect religion and social status to exist.

"We don't really talk about this time much, even in history classes. But it's still an issue which is relevant today; recently some of the 1984 cases were re-opened here, while in the US there has been anti-Sikh violence, such as the massacre in the gurdwara in Wisconsin."



A few weeks after his visit it was announced that *Kush* had won the *Orrizzonti* award for the best short film at the Venice Film Festival, deservedly so as far as those Woodstockers who saw the powerful and thought-provoking film were concerned.

Shubhashish was the youngest director at the Venice Film Festival and the only Indian director. The film has even been shortlisted for the Oscars and everyone in the worldwide Woodstock community is immensely proud of what he has achieved, and wishes him well for his future career.

For more information on the film go to www.kushthefilm.com

Woodstock on *The Late Show*

Alumnus and anti-poverty campaigner Hugh Evans '01 made waves around the Woodstock community when he mentioned the school on an American talk show in August.

Hugh, who spent a year at Woodstock when he was 15 in the late 90s, appeared on *The Late Show with David Letterman*, explaining what influenced him to become a humanitarian and set up the Global Citizen Project, which aims to halve the 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty around the world.

Hugh, 30, originally hails from Melbourne in Australia and came to Woodstock as part of the exchange programme Woodstock has with Carey Grammar School in Melbourne.

He told Mr Letterman of the profound impact his experience of being at Woodstock and living in India had on him:

"I was living at a school in the Himalayan mountains of India called Woodstock and each

weekend we would go down and volunteer in an orphanage in Dehradun, and in the holidays we got to work with a disabled children's school in Delhi, and in the slums of Delhi working with the various aid organisations that were there.

"To be honest that was the solidifying year for me, I came back to Australia at the end of that experience, and I said, you know, I want to do everything I can in my life to see an end to extreme poverty."

Hugh is remembered fondly from his time at Woodstock and was involved in numerous CARE activities. He also founded the *I Can Be A Seed of Change* campaign.

After graduating from Monash University in Australia in 2008, Hugh set up the Oaktree Foundation, a charity providing aid to countries in the Asia Pacific and African regions.



He then founded the Global Poverty Project, of which he is now the CEO, which aims to increase awareness of and counter extreme world poverty. He was also involved in the Make Poverty History campaign in Australia in 2006.

In September the organisation held its second Global Citizen Festival in Central Park in New York, with artists including Stevie Wonder, Alicia Keys, Kings of Leon and John Mayer on the bill.

The festival aims to raise awareness of global poverty and coincided with the United Nations General Assembly in New York, reminding world leaders of the need to focus energies on issues of extreme poverty.

www.globalcitizen.org

Alumni unearth amazing archive artifacts



A group of hardworking alumni unearthed some amazing artifacts in the school's archive as they sorted through piles of disordered documents.

Margo Warner Curl '67, Lauranne Barnard Cebulak '67, Cate Whitcomb '66, Sue Swanson '67, Max Marble '67, and professional archivist Lori Osborne spent several weeks in October and November 2013 sorting through the archive, which was established in 1997 by a donation from the Class of '42.

During their cataloguing they came across some interesting historic artifacts from the school's past.

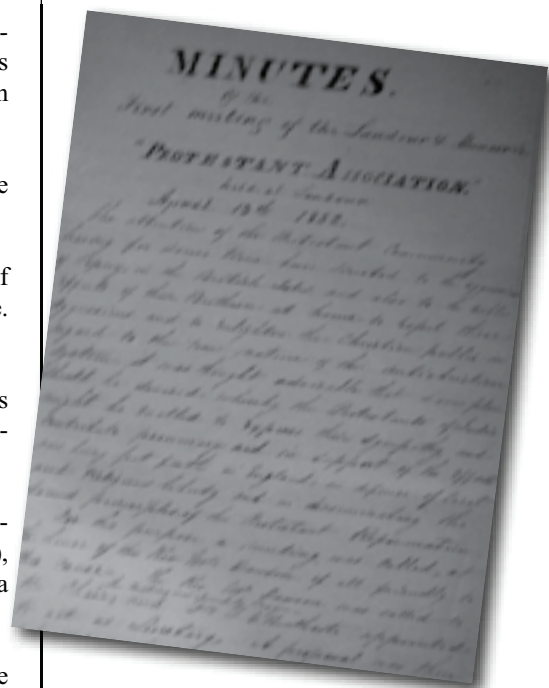
Firstly, they found the minutes of a meeting in 1852 of the Protestant Association of Landour, which raise the question of starting a Protestant school for girls in Mussoorie. This school of course was the predecessor to Woodstock.

They also came across a drawing from the 1870s of the Woodstock estate, which was featured in the *Woman's Work for Woman* magazine, a Presbyterian missionary publication. This could be one of the earliest remaining depictions of the school.

The group, which included two former librarians (Margo and Sue), an expert in educational administration (Cate) and the archivist of the city of Evanston, Illinois (Lori), made significant progress in re-ordering the archive which had become something of a "dumping ground" in years gone by.

Margo said: "Working as a team really helped get a lot more done than we would have individually. We also had a great combination of expertise which helped. The archive is in a much better state than when we arrived, but there's still some way to go."

The whole Woodstock community is grateful for the hard work and time the group has given to the school to improve the archive.



The impact of giving: Jyotika's story

Jyotika Dangwal '13, now studying at the University of British Columbia in Canada, had her life transformed after she was chosen to be sponsored through Woodstock by a donor from the United States. Here she writes about her experience and how it has inspired her to help other young girls in a similar way in the future.

If someone had not intervened, I would be married with children now. I would not be pursuing a higher education.

I last saw my mum when I was four. I last saw my dad when I was seven. Ma died in a fire. Papa died trying to save me. He wrapped his arms around me as our scooter flew off a cliff. He sheltered me with his body from the harsh rocks that hit his head and sent him into a seven-month coma from which he never woke. I felt like everyone was leaving me. I have no final image of either my mother or my father. All I am left with are fading memories. After my parents' deaths, my three sisters and I went to live with my grandparents in a northwest Indian village, Salan Gaon. Grandparents are expected to spoil their grandchildren. This was not my experience. My grandfather ordered us around the house. "If you were a boy, you would take care of the whole family," he always said. My grandfather wanted to marry us off so he would have fewer mouths to feed. At mealtimes, he always ate first.

Then, again, my life changed dramatically. A woman, who was born in Mussoorie near my home village and who had moved to the United States, came to my crowded public girls' school looking to sponsor a girl to attend the best private school in the area, Woodstock School. My principal recommended me. I was interviewed. I was chosen.

I will never forget my first day at Woodstock. I did not know any English. Only a few kids knew how to speak Hindi. Most were from wealthy families and had numerous toys on their beds. They vacationed in the UK and wore designer clothes. I had never seen so many clothes in my life.

Soon, my classmates started making fun of me. While the others in my class were reading third grade books, I was learning to read kindergarten books. I worked twice as hard to get to where the others were. Over time, however, school got easier. I started to



eat American, Chinese, and Tibetan food. I learned to dance, sing to pop music, speak in public, and ask questions in class. I was learning about cultures I had never even heard of before. My view of the world was expanding.

When I was 12, I went to visit my sponsor in the United States during summer break. I stayed in Ms Gita's large house. We went out to fancy dinners. She helped me to see things from a different perspective: to be proud of myself, to trust myself, to believe that I could achieve anything, and to be independent. I now call this woman Auntie.

Today, I continue to balance my life between vastly different worlds: visiting my Aunt during the summers and my sisters, who still live with my grandparents, in the winters. I realise that if my Aunt had not intervened I would have been forced to marry just like my oldest sister and other young village girls around her. When I go back to my village, I realise I no longer fit in. I have become a confident young woman excited to continue my education. I know that one day I will return and help change the lives of many young girls, just as my life has been changed.

Gita Bakshi, Jyotika's sponsor, writes: *Sponsoring Jyotika at Woodstock has been a life-fulfilling experience for our entire family. This event added a new dimension to our world view and our spiritual lives. Woodstock school on the other hand, provided this young one with opportunities to grow that only a warm and nurturing environment could. My personal experience with Woodstock can only be described as transcendental. It made my dream come true. My advice to a would-be sponsor is that it takes more than monetary help to bring up a child. It takes a moral commitment.*

Woodstock School invites you to help offer education for a world of difference in our diverse and vibrant student community. To donate, go to www.woodstockschool.in/access

Why I'm not giving to Woodstock

We're always delighted when alumni give money to the school, however, we're equally pleased when we see the values that have been instilled by a Woodstock education inspire alumni to help those worse off than themselves. That's why we were heartened to receive this e mail from Ranjit Pal '55.

Dear Dr Long,

I have just read your e mail and letter. May I compliment you on your effort at supporting two African children. I regret I will not be able to support your programme.

I would request your understanding in the matter. I love Woodstock and my nine years there did a lot to mould me. I find many needs for my limited resources that seem more important than Woodstock, who I know will get the support it needs. I find satisfaction in supporting the education of poor children from the slums, providing free soymilk in a slum school, supporting Christian fathers who are setting up a school in Naxilite Chhattisgarh etc and finally in being a good employer.

I am now registering a trust so as to ensure my resources continue to be used with objectives of supporting poor children, particularly with education. My sons have enough to take care of themselves well as long as they continue to work hard - something I have no doubt they will do.

May I credit Woodstock for playing a major role in giving me these attitudes. I find it difficult to spend on myself. People sometimes think I am stingy. I am when I look at the greater needs of others. How can I help others more and use my personal earnings well?

Thank you Woodstock.

Ranjit Pal '55

Baccalaureate address

Dr Jonathan Long, Woodstock School Principal



As we bring this service to an end I want to leave some closing thoughts. Not to everyone here, only to the Class of 2013. These are words I first shared with staff at the beginning of the year. And today I want to leave them with you.

Marshall Goldsmith is one of the world's leading business and leadership experts. He's published more than 30 books, and he has a reputation as a remarkable leader, and inspirer of men and women. But he is also a very spiritual man.

Some years ago a very good friend of mine who works in the oil industry was sitting at a hotel having breakfast. And who was sitting across from him but this remarkable man – Marshall Goldsmith. Normally you pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to spend an hour with this man. But over breakfast that day my friend John Moorhouse had a chance to spend an hour with one of the world's greatest leaders.

And for free he shared with him some thoughts which sum up not only what it is to be a leader, but what it is to live our lives from a spiritual focus. And I'm only going to take a few minutes to tell you the nine words he left with my friend, nine words which I think sum up everything Woodstock wants to give you today, as well as the tiny piece of paper you're going to leave the commencement ceremony with.

These are the nine words. The first three: Be happy now. One of the greatest diseases you will find in the world today is: "I'll be happy when..." I'll be happy when I graduate. Well, why wouldn't you? I'll be happy when I get my college degree.

I'll be happy when I get that new house. I'll be happy when I get married. I'll be happy when I'm not, some people might say! I'll be happy when I have children. I'll be happy when they've left home. I'll be happy when I get a good job, I'll be happy when I get a million dollars, I'll be happy when I get another million, I'll be happy when I retire. If that's the way we live our lives the only happiness you've got to look forward to is: "I'll be happy when I die." You can only be happy with what you've got. And isn't that what Woodstock has tried to teach you? Be happy now.

There's an ancient Sanskrit prayer that says this: "Look to this day, for in its busy course lie all the virtues and realities of your existence. The bliss of growth, the glory of action, the splendour of achievement. Today well lived, makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well therefore to this day." Be happy now. Don't get infected with the great western disease "I'll be happy when..."

The next three words he shared with my friend: Let it go. I imagine all of us sitting here this morning could scratch up from our memories some disappointment, some regret, someone we hurt and never said sorry to, someone who hurt us who we never forgave.

Two monks once came to a river. They were about to cross when they saw a woman wanting to cross the stream too. But she was wearing a beautiful dress, and the monks looked at each other and said, what a pity we can't help, we're not allowed to touch a woman. But one of the monks stepped forward, lifted up the woman, put her on his shoulder, and waded across the stream – her dress did not get wet. She continued on her journey.

The other monk crossed the river too, he was furious – how dare you touch that woman, that was an awful thing to do. And all through the journey to the monastery that monk kept on wagging his finger at his friend, but the friend was just calm and relaxed. Late that night, two o'clock in the morning, the monk was fast asleep, when the angry monk knocked on the door. The man yawned and said "What's the matter?"

The other monk said, "You touched that woman, you bad monk."

"Woman, what woman...? Oh yes, that woman. Listen, I only carried her across the stream. It seems you've carried her all the way to the monastery!" Let it go. I'm not saying it doesn't matter what has happened in the past. What I'm saying is: what matters is what you can do now. Be happy now. Let it go.

Thirdly and finally; Marshall Goldsmith sitting with my friend John Moorhouse at breakfast, said: "Life is good." Despite the miseries and the pains and the disappointments and the heartaches and the guilt, the broken friendships, the disappointed relationships, life is still profoundly good.

Didn't Jesus say to us, "I've come that you might have life, and life more abundant." Life is good, we are amongst the world's most privileged. The vast population of the world has less material possessions, less contentment than we have. And yet even if we lose it all, life is still good. Because the one thing we will never lose control of is our ability to choose our attitude.

I could have told you these nine words the day you entered Woodstock if I'd been here. I could have told you them at the beginning of the year, and you might have saved yourself a lot of time, if a Woodstock education can really be summed up in nine words. But saying them is easy. My challenge to you all: go out and live it. Be happy now. Let it go. Whatever that thing is you're still carrying on your shoulders. You took it across the river and it's still there. Let it go. And life is good. Today is good.

Make the most of it.

Commencement address

Kiran Desai, Author and Winner of Man Booker Prize



On Saturday, June 1, 2013, award-winning novelist Kiran Desai presented the commencement address for the graduating class of 2013 at Woodstock School. Her remarks focused on the significance of the Himalayas as a landscape of retreat and reflection; the importance of art and literature in a world dominated by nationalism and intolerance; the need to follow individual passions despite failure and discouragement; and the importance of eating green vegetables, honouring your elders and, when the time is right, “heading for the hills.”

Ms Desai began her remarks by noting that two of her closest family members, an uncle, Karam, and her mother, Anita Desai, were born in Mussoorie. They were delivered by the infamous Dr Butcher, whose assistant was rumoured to be Nurse Blood. But these mountains absolved their births of any gruesome connotations and provide her family with a Himalayan inheritance.

Later, two sets of Ms Desai’s cousins returned to Mussoorie and attended Woodstock. Ms Desai went to school in Delhi, then moved to the United States at the age of 14, where she completed her education at Bennington College and Columbia University, studying creative writing.

Despite the dislocation of her American surroundings, Ms Desai found that her writing brought her back to India and the Himalayas, which remain at the core of her imagination, providing the characters, situations and landscapes for her fiction.

Speaking of her early struggles as a novelist, Ms Desai mentioned how ten years elapsed between the publication of her first book, *Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard*, and her second novel, *The Inheritance of Loss*. During this difficult hiatus, she faced all of the doubts and discouragement of

being a creative person. Refusing to get a job while living in New York, she stuck to her writing and continued her education through reading.

Her inspiration and commitment to literature comes from a variety of authors from different centuries and various cultures. These include Dickens and Dostoyevsky, Mark Twain and Chekov, Marquez and Naipaul. She emphasised that literature transcends borders and gives even the most dislocated readers a home of their own.

Creativity, she believes, is a gift and compulsion that must be nurtured and protected from the influences of greed and prejudice, as well as the materialistic demands of society. A writer or artist accepts the role of being an outsider in a world that often dictates homogeneity and conventional compromise.

Using her uncle, Karam, as an example, she described how he gave up a corporate career in Mumbai and moved to the hills of Kumaon to grow garlic, avocados and olives. His eccentricities and exuberant failures inspired her to choose an unconventional life as a writer. She encouraged the Class of 2013 to seek those paths that lead to real satisfaction and self-worth rather than simply fulfilling the expectations of others.

Having spent three weeks at Woodstock as a writer-in-residence, meeting with English classes in the senior school and interacting with individual students, Ms Desai told the graduates how fortunate and privileged they were to have received an education here in the Himalayas, within a secure and global community. She exhorted them to take full advantage of their Woodstock experience and seize the opportunities ahead. In a world where loneliness, poverty, violence and alienation remain prevalent, we can always recall our Himalayan roots as a source of strength, morality and motivation.

As each of the graduates looked forward to college and careers, Ms Desai reminded them to make honest choices, whether it be to eat karela and kaddu or to respect their parents, grandparents and teachers. But most of all, she urged the senior class

to seek out personal goals and objectives that do not conform to business plans, religious dogma or political platforms, but follow a path that is true to their hearts, wherever it may lead. She concluded by saying, “You have had an extraordinary beginning, make it an extraordinary middle and an extraordinary end, an extraordinary story, stranger than fiction, larger than life. Onward, upward...and cheers!”

—Steve Alter

Kiran Desai is a novelist and winner of the Man Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Fiction Award for her novel The Inheritance of Loss. She visited Mussoorie and Woodstock during May 2013 as a Writer-in-Residence, sponsored by Mussoorie Writers and Winterline Foundation. Hullabaloo in the Guava Orchard, Desai’s dazzling debut novel, won the Betty Trask Award. It is a wryly hilarious and poignant story that simultaneously captures the vivid culture of the Indian sub-continent and the universal intricacies of human experience. Desai’s second novel, The Inheritance of Loss, is set in the 1980s in the hill station of Kalimpong. Briskly paced and sumptuously written, the novel ponders questions of nationhood, modernity, and class, in ways both moving and revelatory. Ms Desai lives in New York but travels extensively, often returning to India. She studied creative writing at Bennington College, Hollins University, and at Columbia University.

Valedictorian speech

Advitya Khanna



Good Morning Dr Nicholson, Dr Long, esteemed parents, Woodstock staff and *Kairos* – whose name means the perfect moment – whom I want to address most importantly today.

I would like to begin with a question: Does a 65 per cent constitute competent, while 100 per cent perfection? While our education system may have ingrained this notion in our minds, remember that after today, there may not be report cards to measure our achievement. Because life is something that we experience, not something that we measure, we are no longer cloistered by a “core curriculum” or daily routine. Parting with the asylum of our high school years, we are governed only by our instinct and our judgment.

From here onwards every step we take will define whom we become. Hence it is important to maintain focus on the moment, and take every step carefully. Whatever path you choose to tread *Kairos*, remember Martin Luther King Jr’s words: “The time is always right to do what is right.”

So what is “right”? I believe that to do what is right means to preserve our integrity. And this is what I want to talk about this morning. I believe that integrity is a purity of mind and heart that knows no deception, no excuses, no justification. And living with this integrity essentially allows us to

live in the moment. I believe that integrity comprises of three essential aspects:

1. Cultivating/keeping an absolute honesty with one’s self
2. Choosing to grow through and in spite of circumstances
3. Respecting and serving other people

The external world defines us by our name, gender, nationality, race, religion, height, weight, role, job, qualifications etc, but these superficial descriptions are not who we truly are. I was reading an article on the *New York Times* website the other day, and it talked about how humans are all inherently actors. We live to mask our true self through superficial descriptions of our self. What I am trying to say is that just because I am Advitya and I am Valedictorian today, these traits do not define who I am in the present. It just means that I got good grades on a couple of tests and quizzes. But all this is not important, as I had said before: “Because life is something that we experience, not something that we measure.”

Instead of collecting labels like so many post-it notes, it is important to experience the true self. The true self is so profound; I do not know where exactly this real self can be found, YET. But I can tell it lies somewhere in your understanding of yourself. The way you think of yourself and the world around you at present is probably the fairest reflection of one’s real self. Essentially: “You are what you think about most,” as stated by Rhonda Byrne in her book *The Secret*.

I think I have talked enough about the true self and where it can be found. Now I shall talk about how we remain honest with our real self, and how this relates to living in the moment. Firstly, what we were yesterday cannot be changed. And what we are to be tomorrow cannot be determined. So we need to be our whole selves in the present. And we do this by remaining true to our best thoughts, which essentially determines who we are. I know it sounds profound. But it is actually quite simple. We do what we feel is right to do. Referring back to Martin Luther King Jr’s words again: “The time is

always right to do what is right.”

We say what it is that we want to say, whilst remembering to keep our morals intact. Our morals can be derived from religion. For example, if you are Christian, do what the Bible says. If you are Hindu, do as the Gita says. If you are Muslim, do as the Quran says. And if you are a non-believer, live as close to your own truth as possible. But for all, living in wholeness with integrity is of utmost importance.

The aforementioned idea about religion brings me to another aspect of integrity, which is personal growth. Faith and religion have driven many people to consciously choose personal growth and development, in order to live within their own parameters of integrity. Men and women of the stature of Martin Luther King Jr and Mother Teresa have found personal growth in faith.

I personally have found that I have been able to grow in reconciling the beliefs of different faiths in the Woodstock School environment. Living in Amritsar I only came across my Hindu faith. But, at Woodstock nine years later, I feel like I have grown as a person learning from Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Sikhism, Judaism, and Hinduism. And how has this helped me to live in the moment? Well, the answer is that it has taught me to live in the moment. All religions, I have found, want us to focus on getting in touch with our emotions of the present, to let go of stale patterns that no longer serve us, to feel more at peace in a stressful situation, to help us realise new things about ourselves, and understanding our place in this world. Reconciling my Hindu beliefs with new ones has helped me to grow personally and live in the moment; it has helped me to live within the parameters of integrity. You may not find personal growth in religion or reconciling new faiths as I did; but look for it in other avenues - perhaps in service.

I want to talk about service and respecting other people. *Kairos* implies the opportune moment to act, to live with integrity. So I thought it might be worthwhile talking about respecting other people and serving them, because relationships - spontaneous and unexpected acts of kindness - produce the greatest impact, and we can’t be sensi-

tive to these kinds of opportunities unless we're living in the moment.

I am sure most of us have served someone or the other in our lives, be it through CARE activities or just helping someone out with Math homework. Is it not gratifying and personally fulfilling? What I mean to say is that if we stay in the moment, there will be no room for jealousy, nagging about things not done, worrying about work not being complete, and preoccupation with work. This will allow us to build lasting relationships, ones where respect is mutual. In turn, such relationships will add to our integrity and inherently help us to live in *Kairos*.

I have said enough about living in the moment and integrity. Now what exactly is going on in this moment of living? Well, about 20 people have to go to the bathroom, and they have a long time to wait. I guess most of us, students and parents, want to get this ceremony over with. I know there are dozens of you who can't pay attention because you're just too sidetracked by my charming personality. But, if we're lucky, 60 per cent of you are soaking in everything I'm saying. 50 per cent, maybe? Regardless, we're all here and in a couple of hours we won't be. Let's focus for one more moment on this idea of *Kairos*, of the perfect moment.

So this is it. This is our time to look around, but not to think "we did it" or "we can do anything". Instead, this is our time to look around and think: "I am here, we are here, now, together." I know, this idea is not as complex; it actually seems pretty basic. But what I'm meaning to say is that the need to focus on the present is not only relevant to special honours and ceremonies. It connects to every action that we perform, every conversation that we inhabit. Do what you want to do, but remember to do it with integrity.

So our immediate goal is to focus on the present, this ceremony, and to enjoy this honour for exactly what it is. What is graduation? Well, I know for certain that it's our last time here, now, together. Twenty years from now, this moment will be the past, so don't wait until this ceremony is over to dwell on exactly how you felt sitting where you are. Remember to feel what you feel right now, to think what you think right now. And feel and think what you feel and think every "now" that you encounter. *Kairos*, let us remember to preserve our integrity and do what is right, while living fully in the moment. Right now, Let us graduate *Kairos*, Class of 2013, in the perfect moment.

Salutatorian speech

Harshit Agrawal



I am here to say thank you. It has been a really long journey but it has finally come to an end. We have been living in a tightly-knit community known as the Woodstock bubble. However, the bubble has finally popped. It is time for us to move on to the real world. Before that let us see how it all began.

Metamorphosis is the transformation of an individual from an immature form into an adult form. A caterpillar is trapped in a cocoon before it finally metamorphoses into an adult butterfly. Before coming to Woodstock I was a shy, conservative boy trapped in my own cocoon. My first roommates here were a Korean, a Swiss and a Vietnamese. Each of them acted as catalysts in helping me transform.

Dominic, the hyperactive Swiss boy, got me used to sleeping late, watching TV shows such as *Chuck* and *How I Met Your Mother*. Yesua, the Korean musician and artist, got me addicted to Korean pop like *Mona Lisa* and taught me how to shuffle. Minh, the Vietnamese footballer, taught me the importance of relaxing in life no matter the work pressure. Within a semester I broke out of my cocoon and metamorphosed into a global, open-minded citizen whose entire perspective on world and life had completely changed.

Woodstock exposed me to people from all over the world, each unique with their own culture, personality, and language. Namaste, annyeonghaseyo, xin chao, hallo, hei, swadi, ciao, bonjour and hello. Good morning respected principal, honorable chief guest, teachers, parents and my fellow classmates. It is an honour to address you all in this special occasion – the graduation

of my class, the Woodstock Class of 2013.

The Woodstock experience, as we call it, has been from between one to 12 years for all of us. Some literally consider Woodstock their first home because they have stayed here longer than they have stayed at their own houses. The Woodstock experience includes everything from studying in classrooms to playing in the gym, hiking a kilometre uphill to be in classes to learning how to react when a monkey is standing in front of you, surviving on whatever food we get in school to sniffing out food from our friends in dorms, and from watching TV shows in dorms to swimming in 15 degrees celsius water with a smile on our faces. We have experienced it all and we have loved it all.

Each of us leaves this school with special memories. The football players will miss playing soccer in the gym and in the Hostel basketball court. The Model United Nations participants will miss sitting in various classrooms across the school, arguing for world-changing policies with delegates from other schools. The Student Council members will miss sitting in the Quad conference room discussing plans that can improve the school. The runners will miss the jogs and runs along the mountains and across the chakkar. And finally the slackers will miss sitting in Cozy Corner or Char Dukan with friends asking Anilji, Vipinji or Groverji for bun omelette and wai wai.

One thing that Woodstock has taught me is to be myself, no matter what other people think. Throughout my two years in Woodstock I have been teased a lot for wearing cartoon t-shirts and for mispronouncing a few words. But should this stop me from wearing cartoon t-shirts? Should this stop me from talking freely in fear that people will laugh at me? If I stopped then, I would not be standing here but sitting in a corner somewhere trying to copy what everybody is doing, without having a mind of my own. But I chose not to stop. I still wear cartoon t-shirts because I like them. I will occasionally mispronounce words and try to learn how to speak them correctly, but I will continue to speak freely. I want you guys to know that each one of you is distinct and has an individuality that distinguishes you from the rest. Don't lose it, otherwise you will just become a zombie in the 21st century.

Finally after all the ups and downs that I have experienced in this place, I was hit with a feeling of nostalgia yesterday. No more school on Mondays, no more chapel on Sundays. No more monkey adventures, no more hiking ventures. No more Mussoorie mountains, no more Delhi-Dehradun trains. No more school food, no more Win Mumby games to be viewed. No more study halls, no more assemblies in Parker Hall. No more morning treks to school, no more follow the rule. No more bazaar trips with friends, no more Woodstock trends. But as Yajush said, we should not be sad that we no longer have these things, but be happy that we at least had them in the first place.

I would like to thank all my classmates for the unforgettable moments in the past two years. I would like to thank teachers for their constant support in helping me become a better person. And I would like to thank the whole Woodstock community for giving us all an unforgettable experience in the Himalayas that has completely transformed us into better individuals.

Are we ready for the outside world? Some of us want to leave this place as soon as possible. Some want time to stop still so that they can stay here forever. Some are ready to leave this place but do not want to leave their friends. Some are still debating their inner feelings on graduation. I myself am excited for college. But despite all these differences in opinion, I personally feel that all of us are ready to face and survive in this world. The world better be prepared for us. It's the time of the Woodstock Class of 2013. It's the time of *Kairos*.

Thank you.

Graduating Class of 2013



4th row L-R: Minh Le, Matthew Remtluanga Sailo, Neel Patel, Bendix Kemmann, Felix Turck, Srikar Kilambi, InHyuk Park, Uddhav Mehra, Sainyam Khanna, Zain Krishnan, Himal Rizal, Pares Khetan, Harshit Agrawal, Martin Øien Søfting, Tushar Tyagi, Milo Cannings, Pachara Ratanabanthoon. 3rd row L-R: Pema Chozom, Se Hyun Lim, Namsay Norbu, Ashta Madathil Mooliyil, Juliana Pesavento, Samuel Jourdan, Ronald Robinson, Kautiya Mewawala, Gultaj Sangha, Hung Nguy[n], Nutchakrit Puangserree, Dongll Chun, Prasanna Jung Bista, Pranav Rajouria, Neil Magzine, Andrew Cashion, Shubhankar Aggarwal, Advitya Khanna, Varun Kedia, Hiroshi Masumura, Yesua Jeon. 2nd row L-R: Maya Kimura, Ashima Rangi, Teva Kaplan, Mapem Rose Lanigan, Achi Gerutshang, Sanghyeon Cho, Sangwho Park, Dave Rebello, Ye Jin Kim, Dechen Pelgi Tenzing, Prakriti Gurung, Martha Asad-Dehghan, Fayza Iqbal, Liang-Yun Cheng, Rohit Agrawal, Hee Seo Shin, Nissi Undurti, Jin Young Park, Pauline Lawmzuali, Rachel Shira, Tsewang Dhoenkyi Sadutshang, Yajush Hingle. 1st row L-R: Mokyoung Kim, Priyanka Das, Yamima Sharma, Karis Park, Khakkhak Khayi, Leiden Doma, Shalaka Ghiara, Shivangi Pant, Aparajita Naik, Jyotika Dangwal, Spreeha Thapa, Bidushi Adhikari, Isabella Vogel, Deborah Nazareth, Megan Crocker, Joanne Philip, Prakruti Golechha, Srishti Golechha, Manvi Lohia, Maggie Phillips

2013 awards

Each year outstanding achievements by Woodstock students are recognised through the presentation of awards, many of which have been established to honour the lives of former teachers or students. Below are the recipients of the major awards in both senior and junior school for the academic year 2012-13.

SENIOR SCHOOL AWARDS

Valedictorian Advitya Khanna
Salutatorian Harshit Agrawal

Best All-Round Student Award
 Liang-Yun Cheng

Student Government Award
 Isabella Vogel, Harshit Agrawal

Pratap Chatterjee Memorial Science Award
 Ye Jin Kim

Music Awards

- **Poad Music Shield** Mokyoung Kim, Ye Jin Kim
- **Mubarak Masih Indian Music Shield** Prakruti Golechha, Liang-Yun Cheng

E. E. Miller International Award
 Jyotika Dangwal

Principal's Award
 Liang-Yun Cheng, Isabella Vogel, Bendix Kemmann

Centennial Shield Grade 9 (Class of 2016)

Jimmy Cassinath Memorial Awards

- **Drama** Juliana Pesavento
- **Writing** Not Given
- **Art** Dechen Pelgi Tenzing

Hiking Awards

- **W. Lowrie Campbell Memorial Hiking Cup** Johann Arthur
- **Karen Krenz Cup** Margaret Phillips

Drama Awards

- **Outstanding Acting** Milo Cannings, Shalaka Ghiara, Aryan Shankardas
- **Audio-Visual Crew Award** Zain Krishnan and Juliana Pesavento
- **Stagecraft** Ein Jung

Certificates of Outstanding Achievement

- **Mathematics** Liang-Yun Cheng
- **Science**
 - Biology** Maya Kimura
 - Chemistry** Advitya Khanna
 - Physics** Harshit Agrawal
 - Environmental Science** Juliana Pesavento

Social Studies

History Shalaka Ghiara
Psychology Maya Kimura
Economics Liang-Yun Cheng

Modern Languages

Hindi Prapti Joshi
French Bidushi Adhikari

Visual Arts

Mokyoung Kim

Music

Orchestra Achi Gerutshang
Band Bendix Kemmann
Choral Emily Janet Steers
Indian Music Hee Seo Shin

Outstanding Achievement on External Exams

- **SAT (Math and Chemistry)** Harshit Agarwal
- **SAT (Critical Reading)** Ishaan Pathak

Citizenship Awards

- **Midlands** Liang-Yun Cheng
- **Hostel** Se Hyun Lim

Writing Awards

Priyanka Das, Harshit Agrawal, Bendix Kemmann

Community Service Awards

Namrata Mohapatra, HeeSeo Shin, Hannah Yi

Scholastic Achievement (GPA of 3.45 or higher)

Harshit Agrawal, Advitya Khanna, Margaret Philips, Bendix Kemmann, Pranav Rajouria, Shivangi Pant, Ashima Rang, Pareshe Khetan, Joanne Philip, Hee Seo Shin, Pachara Ratanabanthoon, Sang Hyeon Cho, Teva Kaplan, Srikar Kilambi, Manvi Lohia, Prasanna Bista, Shubhankar Aggarwal

Scholastic Achievement with Silver Pin (3+ awards)

Liang-Yun Cheng, Ye Jin Kim, Priyanka Das, Juliana Pesavento, Isabella Vogel, Tsewang Sadutshang, Namsay Norbu, Maya Kimura, Uddhav Mehra, Achi Gerutshang, Mokyoung Kim, Karis Park, Bidushi Adhikari, Prakruti Golechha

JUNIOR SCHOOL AWARDS

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

- **Grade 1** Elias John Lewis
- **Grade 2** Rhiana Stinchcomb and Joshua Emmanuel
- **Grade 3** Aditya Nagrath
- **Grade 4** Aadya Aryal
- **Grade 5** Tej Dhungana
- **Grade 6** Khushi Agrawal

Ruth Shepherd Award for Creative Writing

Joshua Francis

Citizenship Awards

Satvika Sinha, Rohan Mathias, Jigmet Angmo, Anna Snader, Samuel Francis, Samuel Stinchcomb

Head of School

Khushi Agrawal

Honor Roll

- **Grade 5** Rigpea Wangchuk, Tej Dhungana, Abik Mehra, Joanna Victor, Dhurbhagat Singh, Dhurbhagat Singh
- **Grade 6** Sangyoon Kim, Shreeyansh Khetan, Sanyoon Kim, Katherine Nisser, Khushi Agrawal, Shubham Tibrewala, Tenzin Chowang Taklha, Tenzin Yugyel Norbu

Hiking Awards, Gold Level

- Samuel Francis, Asha Snader, Abel Thomas, Anna Snader, Jalori Mathias, Edward Berger, Rohan Mathias

Did you receive an award at Woodstock of which you are still proud? Tell us about it. Mail us at alumni@woodstock.ac.in and share your story.

Distinguished Alumni 2013

Justice George H Carley '56

Justice George H Carley '56 has been added to the Woodstock School Distinguished Alumni Roll for his long and illustrious career in the field of law, culminating in him becoming the 29th Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court in 2012.

Justice Carley was born in 1938 in Jackson, Mississippi. His father was posted to Burma as a member of the United States Public Health Service, and during this posting Justice Carley attended Woodstock, from 1951 to 1953. He graduated from Decatur High School in Georgia in 1956.

After graduation he served in the US military reserve before receiving his law qualification from the University of Georgia Law School in 1962.

Justice Carley was admitted to the bar in 1961 and practised in Decatur from 1963 until becoming a judge in 1979. In April 1979 he was appointed to the Georgia Court of Appeals, and subsequently elected to full six-year terms in 1980, 1986 and 1992. He was Chief Judge from 1989 to 1990 and Presiding Judge from 1991.

In 1993 he was elevated to the Supreme Court of Georgia, and then elected to a full six-year term in 1994, before being re-elected in 2000 and 2006. In 2009, Carley was elected as Presiding Judge. In his retention elections, he never faced opposition.

On May 29, 2012, Presiding Judge George Carley was sworn in as the 29th Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court. At Carley's investiture, all six living former chief justices were in attendance. By letting Carley serve as chief justice, his fellow justices allowed him to become the first in Georgia history to serve as chief justice and presiding justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, as well as chief judge and presiding judge of the Georgia Court of Appeal.

He has won a raft of awards for his years of public service, including the Logan E. Bleckley Distinguished Service Award for his years of judicial service, the Pheonix Award, given

to a Georgian for service to his community and state, and the American Board of Trial Advocates for service to the legal community.



Justice Carley has been very active in both the Georgia state and national High School Mock Trials Programme, which encourages high school students to make persuasive legal presentations in mock trial competitions.

Justice Carley says that his years in Burma and attending Woodstock School were fundamental in preparing him to serve as a judge and justice. Practicing law in the American South at the time of integration, his international experience gave him a broader perspective to think globally and not only locally.

Justice Carley married Sandra Lineberger in 1960, and they have one son and two grandsons.

Dr Shobha Arole '78

Dr Shobha Arole has been added to Woodstock's Distinguished Alumni Roll for her outstanding contribution to serving people in extreme poverty and improving rural healthcare in Maharashtra, India. Her work has brought extraordinary health and social benefits to hundreds of villages in the region, and the health programme she runs has become a model for excellence in rural healthcare not only in India, but around the world.

Shobha was born on February 2, 1961, in Kola in Karnataka. Her early schooling was in the United States where her parents, who were both doctors, were pursuing postgraduate medical studies. She joined Woodstock in Grade 5 in 1970 and graduated in 1978. At Woodstock Shobha particularly enjoyed the medical hikes, when students delivered first aid supplies to villages in the Garhwal. This influenced her choice of medicine as a career.



After Woodstock Shobha went on to study medicine at the Christian Medical College in Vellore, India, graduating in 1986. She then returned to Mussoorie to work at Landour Community Hospital on the Share project, and was school doctor at Woodstock from 1986 to 1989. During this time she also practised in rural parts of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, before joining the Comprehensive Rural Health Project (CRHP) in Jamkhed, Maharashtra, founded in 1970 by her parents Drs Raj and Mabelle Arole.

In 1992 she became associate director of the CRHP which achieves exceptional results in alleviating poverty and disease by building up the capacity of communities through training up local village healthcare workers to address economic, social, agricultural, and health needs through self-organisation. At the core of this comprehensive community-based approach is its embrace of equality for all, using healthcare as a means to break the cycle of poverty.

The work of CRHP has been recognised by the World Health Organisation and UNICEF, and has been introduced to 178 countries across the world. Annually CRHP provides services that directly impact half a million people in the state of Maharashtra. Since the opening of their training centre in 1994, more than 22,000 local and 5,000 international representatives from NGOs, governments and healthcare have been trained in the CRHP approach.

Shobha has had much of her research published and been recognised as a Social Entrepreneur of the Schwab foundation of the World Economic Forum in 2001. Two leading

American health academics have described the work of CRHP as being unparalleled anywhere in the world for its success in improving healthcare and empowering women and other marginalised groups. She has won numerous honours for her work, including the Times of India Social Impact in Health award in 2011.

Shobha is an ordained minister and honorary presbyter at the Jamkhed Community Church. She dedicates much of her time to teaching and promoting comprehensive healthcare both in India and around the world and is also significantly involved in national policy discussions.

MAYADAS, Carolyn, wife of A Frank Mayadas, died on Oct 30, 2013.

MCVICKER, Irene, mother of William '66 and Bruce '67, died on Feb 25, 2013.

MILLER, Robert '62 died on Jan 28, 2013, survived by wife Carol and sister Jane Miller Powell '59.

MITCHELL, DANIEL '56 passed away on November 13, survived by brothers David '50, Paul '52, and sisters Jean Spitzer '58 and Anne Hanchett '63.

MONTGOMERY, John, former Staff passed away on Feb 2, 2013.

MUNDHENK, Alice, wife of Norman Mundhenk '59, passed away on May 25, 2013.

NICODEM, Harold '42 died on Jan 1, 2013, survived by wife Margery and brother Frank '41.

OWEN, Wynne, husband of Colette Imtiaz-Xaille Owen '46, died on Aug 12, 2013.

PETERS, Becky Snyder '56, passed away on Jan 16, 2012.

PHILLIMORE, Ruth Wilkinson '45 passed Mar 30, 2013, survived by brother Robert Wilkinson '51.

RAWAT, Sabal Singh, former Staff, died in Jan 2013, survived by his son Sandeep, currently on staff at Woodstock.

ROXBURGH, Betty, mother of Hilary Roxburgh McKenzie '65, Rachel Roxburgh Ross '70 and John '71, passed away on Mar 19, 2013.

SCHROETER, John '60 died on Feb 4, 2013, survived by his twin sister Jane Schroeter Owen '60.

SHAM RAO, Prabhaker Devanelli, father of Andrew '84 and Rachel Rao '86, and grandfather of Jeremiah Rao '05, died on May 24, 2013, also survived by wife Rajeshwar.

SHIRK, Elsie, mother of Sylvia Dannelley-McCree '65, passed away on Nov 4, 2012.

STEGENGA, Kees, husband of Mary MacKay Stegenga '58 died on May 21, 2013.

STEWART, Marilyn Quiah '92, passed away on Nov 22 2013. She is survived by her two sons Art, Steele, and Treasure, her parents and sister Michelle Altenhoener-Quiah '90.

TAYLOR, John '33 passed away on Jan 31, 2013. Surviving are sisters Margaret Taylor Courtwright '35, Gladys Taylor McGarey '37, brother Gordon Taylor '40,, children Sally Taylor Stout '59, Peggy Taylor Ar-

rington '64, Virginia Taylor '66, John '68, Fred '69, Alison '71, Carla Taylor Rooke '74, and grandson Devin Arrington '97.

TAYLOR, Reginald, former Staff, died in Sep 2012, survived by wife Margaret.

THIESSEN, Arthur '40 passed away on Apr 15, 2013. Surviving are wife Jeannette, sister Dorothy Thiessen Anderson '59, and daughters Camilla Thiessen Warren '73, and Velma Thiessen '75 and son-in-law John Grose '75.

THOMPSON, Richard '42 passed away on Nov 8, 2013, survived by his wife Jenny.

VAN ROOY, Gordon died on Apr 21, 2013, the father of Gordon '67, Steve '68, Norman '70, and Vernon '73.

VERGHESE, Thomas, the father of Kieve '81, passed away on May 8, 2013.

VICHERT, Bruce '55 died on Aug18, 2013, survived by brother Alan Vichert '59.

WEISS, Beti Weir '45 passed away on Dec 9, 2012, survived by sister Martha Weir Close '48.

WILKINSON, Harold '49 died on Mar 23, 2013, survived by his wife Maxine and brother Robert Wilkinson '51.

Do you have a nomination for the Distinguished Alumni Roll?

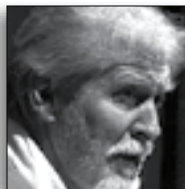
2013

George H Carley '56, Dr Shobha Arole '78



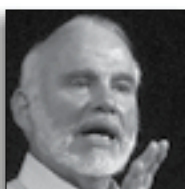
2012

Jagdish Sagar '60, Philip DeVol '66



2011

Gabriel Campbell '65, Tom Alter '68



2010

Ashoke Chatterjee '51, Margaret Loehlin Schafer '56



2008

Bob Fleming Jr. '54, Chris Anderson '74



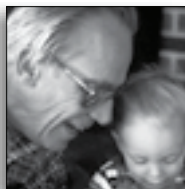
2007

Bhavenesh Kumari Patiala '50, TZ Chu '52, Dorothy Irene Riddle '60, Robert E. Scott '62



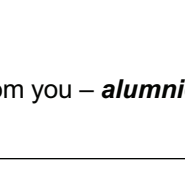
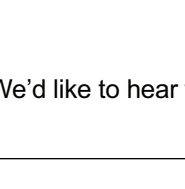
2006

Mark Kenoyer '70, Frank Mayadas '57



2005

Marty Alter Chen '60, Richard Brown '58, Gerry Williams '42



2004

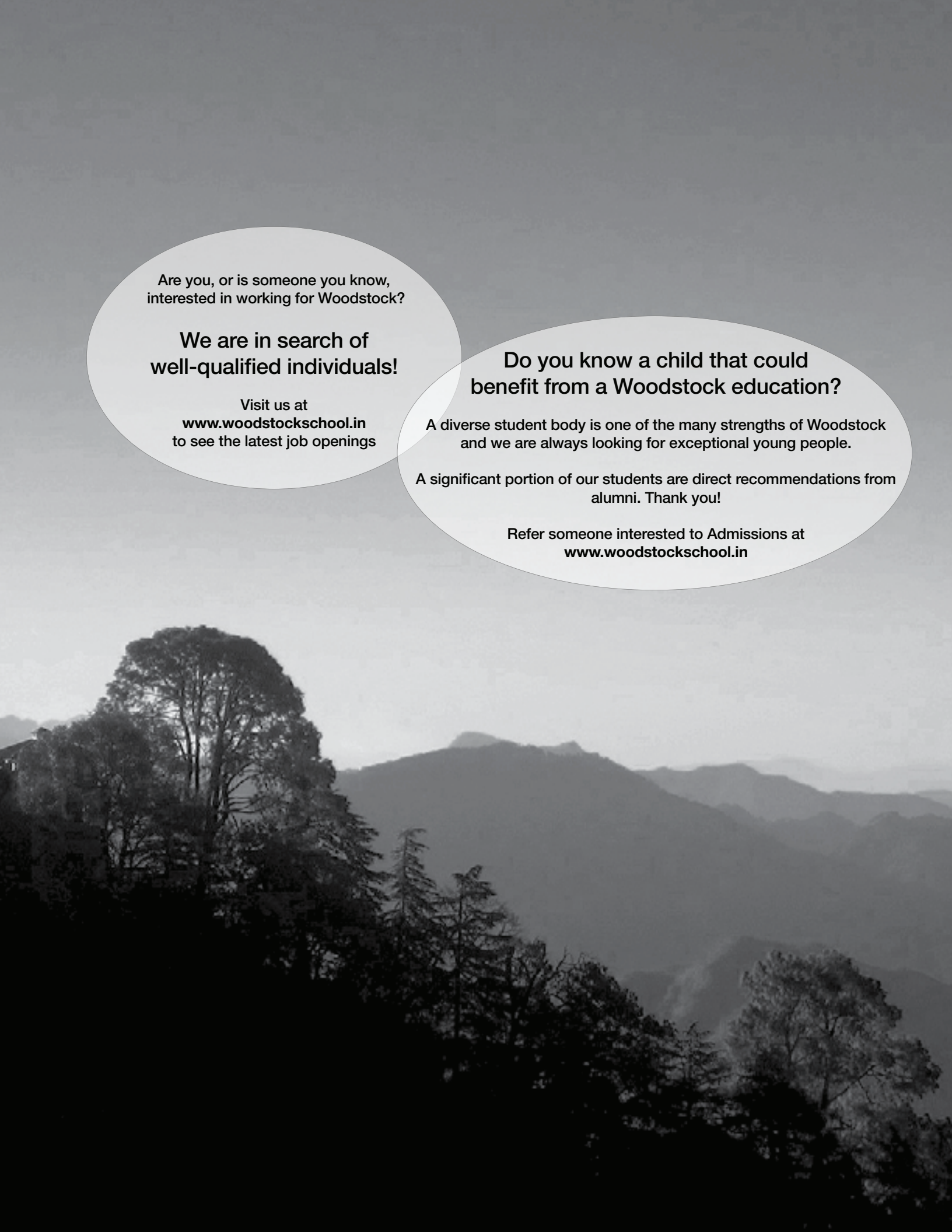
Brig. Hukam Singh Yadav '38, Smt. Nayantara Sahgal '43, Dr. Frederick S. Downs '49



2003

Dr. Robert C. Alter '43, Dr. Robert B. Griffiths '52, Dr. Carl E. Taylor '32

We'd like to hear from you – alumni@woodstock.ac.in



Are you, or is someone you know,
interested in working for Woodstock?

**We are in search of
well-qualified individuals!**

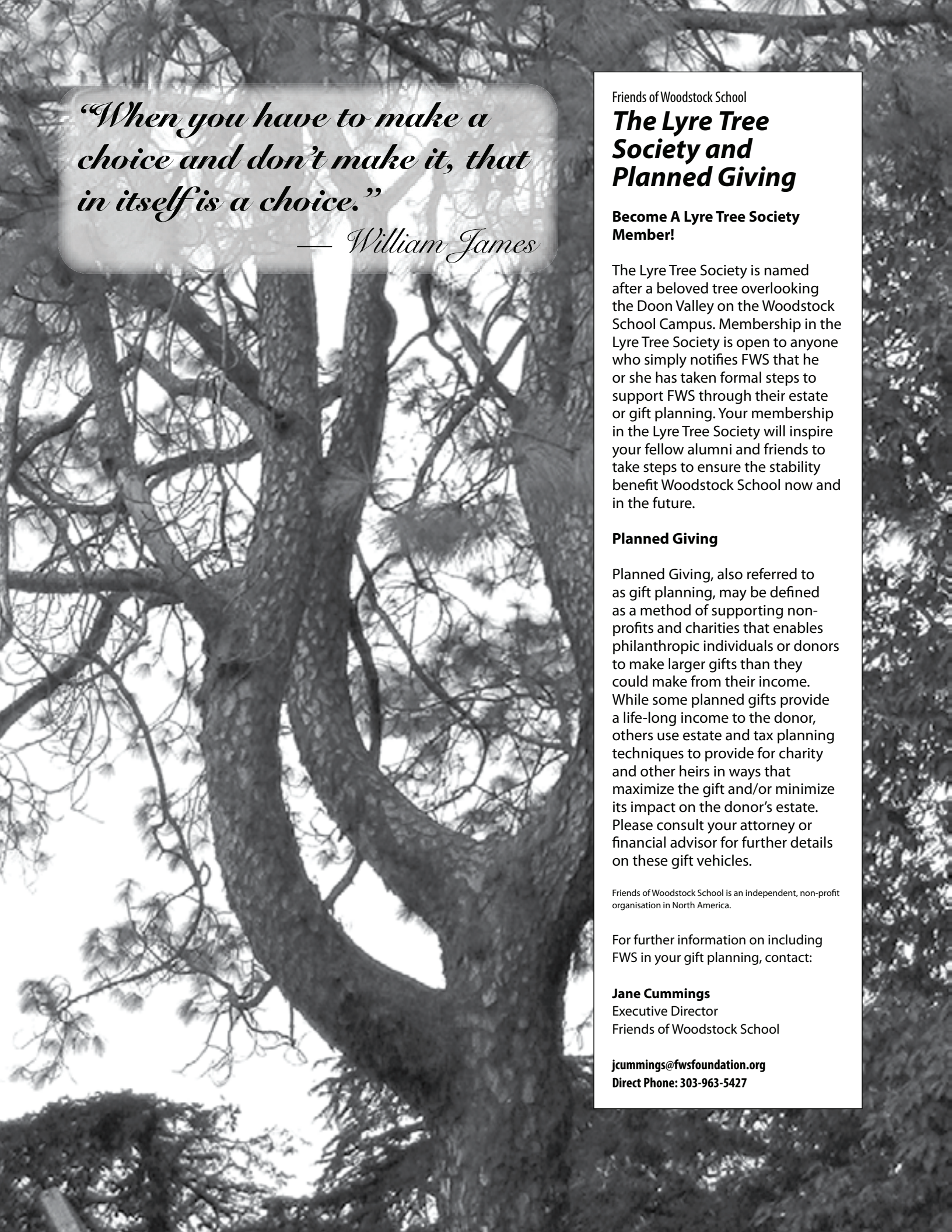
Visit us at
www.woodstockschool.in
to see the latest job openings

**Do you know a child that could
benefit from a Woodstock education?**

A diverse student body is one of the many strengths of Woodstock
and we are always looking for exceptional young people.

A significant portion of our students are direct recommendations from
alumni. Thank you!

Refer someone interested to Admissions at
www.woodstockschool.in



“When you have to make a choice and don’t make it, that in itself is a choice.”

— *William James*

Friends of Woodstock School

The Lyre Tree Society and Planned Giving

Become A Lyre Tree Society Member!

The Lyre Tree Society is named after a beloved tree overlooking the Doon Valley on the Woodstock School Campus. Membership in the Lyre Tree Society is open to anyone who simply notifies FWS that he or she has taken formal steps to support FWS through their estate or gift planning. Your membership in the Lyre Tree Society will inspire your fellow alumni and friends to take steps to ensure the stability benefit Woodstock School now and in the future.

Planned Giving

Planned Giving, also referred to as gift planning, may be defined as a method of supporting non-profits and charities that enables philanthropic individuals or donors to make larger gifts than they could make from their income. While some planned gifts provide a life-long income to the donor, others use estate and tax planning techniques to provide for charity and other heirs in ways that maximize the gift and/or minimize its impact on the donor’s estate. Please consult your attorney or financial advisor for further details on these gift vehicles.

Friends of Woodstock School is an independent, non-profit organisation in North America.

For further information on including FWS in your gift planning, contact:

Jane Cummings
Executive Director
Friends of Woodstock School

[jcummings@fwsfoundation.org](mailto:jcumings@fwsfoundation.org)
Direct Phone: 303-963-5427



Jesus Healing the Sick is a Frank Wesley (Staff 1969-1973) painting that is housed in the Senior School library.

This stunning oil on hardboard creation was discovered in the Landour Community Hospital storage facility and restored in 2009 by funds from generous alumni.

The restoration was carried out by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in New Delhi.

