

# Peddie

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CHRONICLE



# *Rival* RELATIONSHIPS





The oldest prep school rivalry in New Jersey began in 1903 when Peddie School and Blair Academy first faced off on the gridiron. Except for 1944, when a polio outbreak at Peddie canceled the game, the Peddie Falcons and the Blair Buccaneers have competed in football every year.

The rivalry has expanded to include all athletic competitions and culminates in the much-anticipated Peddie-Blair Day, the annual fall face-off in which the Falcons and the Bucs vie for the coveted Kelley-Potter Cup.

The rivalry between Peddie and Blair is intense. Yet the spirit of competition is steeped in respect and sportsmanship. In this culture, rivals become friends, new opponents remain friends and, for some, a rival school becomes a new home.

As the following stories prove, through it all one constant remains: Once a Falcon, always a Falcon.

## Editor's Note

Amidst 115 years of thrilling wins, heartbreaking losses and fiery debates, generations of Falcons and Buccaneers acknowledge deep respect for the Peddie-Blair rivalry and the special relationship between our schools.

So exceptional is this that the editors of the Peddie Chronicle and Blair Bulletin came together to co-create content for this feature. The stories you see here will also appear, repackaged, in an upcoming issue of Blair's alumni magazine.

It all began with Class Notes. Earlier this year Clarence Kugler '63 gave us an update about his 14-year friendship with Don Mattucci, Blair Academy Class of '45. Their friendship inspired us. Certainly, there were other stories of Peddie-Blair relationships out there!

We reached out to Blair Academy to see if they would be interested in collaborating on a feature ... and faster than you could say "Kelley-Potter Cup," they were all in. Together, we did research, conducted interviews and even organized a joint photo shoot with our respective school mascots.

We're not aware of other independent school rivals who have allied on this scale before. It feels pretty momentous.

Ala Viva!

Carrie Harrington  
Editor



# Rival FRIENDSHIPS

**P** CLARENCE KUGLER '63

**B** DON MATTUCCI '45

## Where they met

At a dog park in Deerfield Beach, Florida. It was 2005 and Clarence had just returned from active duty in Iraq. He was walking with his dog, Marley, when he met Don, a fellow military veteran, and his dog, Mikey.

**Clarence:** Don had a very feisty dog. We had to leash them when they were together. I think the dogs knew something about our Blair-Peddie relationship and they sensed hostility.

## Two storied athletes

Clarence was on the varsity football, wrestling and lacrosse teams at Peddie. He was captain of the lacrosse team and recipient of the Maurice P. Shuman Award, presented each year to an outstanding football player.

Don was on the varsity football, swimming and tennis teams at Blair. He was captain of the football team in 1944 when the Peddie-Blair game was canceled due to a polio outbreak. Blair instead played against Lawrenceville and won the game.

**Clarence:** My last memory of Blair was during my senior year when a Blair running back stepped on my facemask, a foot from our goal line, and fell down one inch from the line as time expired. Peddie was able to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. I try to remind Don as frequently as I can of that indelible memory.

**Don:** That's one of the things Clarence and I kid about. He played with a face mask. We didn't have face masks in my day. We had leather helmets and high top shoes.

**Clarence:** And Don is *still* remarkably good looking.

## An active social life

Clarence and his wife, Ali, meet Don and his wife, Eleanor, for dinner every Wednesday.

**Clarence:** We go to the same restaurant every week, Muddy Waters. We try to get in there before the Happy Hour. Don is sort of my mentor for old-old age. I mean a guy that will have two Scotches for cocktails ... that's the way I want to age!

## How they keep the rivalry fun

**Clarence:** It certainly helps to have a Blair man that you see three to four times a week to keep the sparks going. ... Don gives no quarter on kidding me, and I try to return the serve.

**Don:** We let him run with the ball.



From left: Don Mattucci, Blair Class of '45, and Clarence Kugler '63 pose for a photo on Veteran's Day in 2017.



# Rival FRIENDSHIPS

**P** KATIE CLARK '16

**B** JENNA FAUST '16

## Where they met

In the airport on their way to new student orientation at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee. The girls started talking while waiting for their flight, realized they attended rival high schools, and have been friends and Kappa Delta sisters ever since.

## How Katie and Jenna keep the rivalry fun

The girls have been known to scream “Beat Blair!” and “Beat Peddie!” across the college dining hall during Peddie-Blair Day, to the bewilderment of other students.



From left: Jenna Faust, Blair Class of '16 and Katie Clark '16 celebrate at a Kappa Delta event at Rhodes College.

**P** ELLEN TIMKO '18

**B** LUKE CORRADO '18

## Where they met

At summer camp in New Hampshire when they were nine years old. Ellen and Luke attended the same camp every year and became close friends when they realized they would be going to rival high schools. Ellen is a freshman at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, and Luke is a freshman at Fordham University in New York City.

## How Ellen and Luke keep the rivalry fun

Though the two have had heated arguments over whether to call it “Peddie Day” or “Blair Day,” Ellen and Luke supported one another during sporting events.

**Ellen:** It was really cool how we bonded so quickly over our schools' strong history rather than be divided by the rivalry. Blair Day was always so fun for us! We would watch each other's soccer games, and we cheered loudly for one another, but still rooted for our own teams.



From left: Luke Corrado, Blair Class of '18, and Ellen Timko '18 reunite at Blair Day in 2016.

**P** REBECCA SEMAN '14

**B** SOVANN STARK '14

### Where they met

At Hilltop Country Day School in Sparta, New Jersey. Rebecca is from Blairstown, and Sovann is from Branchville. They've been best friends since first grade.

Rebecca, a recent Rutgers University graduate, works for a law firm in Princeton while Sovann is in her final year at Rutgers. The two became roommates in September; they share a townhouse in North Brunswick.

### What it's like to find out your best friend was accepted to your rival school

**Rebecca:** I think I always knew that Sovann was going to go to Blair since both of her siblings went there. So I wasn't really shocked when she got in.

**Sovann:** We were both really sad that we weren't going to be together, but it was also time for us to separate because we were inseparable. ... But we knew we would still see each other since Rebecca lived in Blairstown and because of the Peddie-Blair rivalry.

**Rebecca:** And we both played tennis so we knew that we would see each other at tennis matches.

### What it's like to play tennis against your best friend on Blair Day

**Sovann:** Tennis is such a mental sport. You don't know how it's going to affect you, especially when it's someone that you like and care about outside the competitiveness of your sport. It can be distracting, or it can motivate you more.

**Rebecca:** My coach knew that it was weird for me, but I had to do it.

### Keeping up on Blair Day wins

**Sovann:** After my grade graduated, we started losing.

**Rebecca:** Yeah, and then my side starting winning. We are one of the only classes that never won Blair Day.

### How they have kept the rivalry fun over the years

**Sovann:** People would sometimes comment, "Oh, you know someone from Peddie." But it was obviously friendly and funny.

**Rebecca:** People would say, "Not only are you from Blairstown, but your best friend goes to Blair. Can we trust you?"

**Sovann:** We joke with each other, but at the end of the day your friendship is going to triumph.

From left: Rebecca Seman '14 and Sovann Stark, Blair Class of '14, moved into their North Brunswick townhouse in September.



# Rival FRIENDSHIPS

**P** PETE MCCLELLAN '90 P'19 '21  
assistant head for student life at Peddie

**B** TODD SMITH '90

## Where they met

As freshmen at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. Pete recognized Todd's Blair sweatshirt at a party and they instantly connected.

**Pete:** Todd was impressed right away.

**Todd:** Pete saw this outgoing, energetic, charismatic guy from Blair and he knew to stay close to him if he wanted to make friends at Lafayette.

The two soon realized that they had once gotten into a heated exchange on the soccer field that sent both of them to the bench with yellow cards. Eventually, Pete and Todd became roommates at Lafayette, which both of them described as a "great" experience.

## What it's like to be close friends with someone from a rival school

**Pete:** We obviously had our differences. For example, Todd was an excellent tennis player who looked like an intimidating football player while I was a great ping pong player who looked like an average ping pong player. Still, the common experiences we enjoyed while in boarding school helped to cement a relationship I cherish.

**Todd:** I am not sure if this friendship would have ever happened if we didn't have that initial encounter from our Blair-Peddie soccer days. Which by the way I was UNDEFEATED in ... still stings Pete to this day that he NEVER beat my Blair teams. He may have beat us in baseball, but that doesn't count since I didn't play. I was too busy going undefeated against Peddie in tennis too.

## How Pete and Todd keep the rivalry fun

**Pete:** Todd is quick to remind me that he is undefeated as an athlete in this rivalry. Understanding that Todd is sensitive and perhaps even a fragile man, I rarely talk about the rivalry in terms of school records.

Seriously, even when we were in college and making the trip for a Peddie-Blair Day, I don't remember us giving each other gibes. Rather, we were enjoying each other's company, hanging out with folks from each other's schools, and getting a yearly reminder of our good fortune – our almae mater have a rivalry that is the envy of every other high school in the nation.

**Todd:** I worked at Blair for five years out of college and then when I moved to Montclair [Todd is the athletic director at Montclair Kimberley Academy] Pete headed to Peddie to begin his career there, so I think one of us has been working at our beloved alma maters since 1994. That has kept the friendship and the rivalry alive and kicking. ... I just can't wait until we're celebrating our 50th reunions from Blair and Peddie in 2040 and I can remind him once again that I was and still am UNDEFEATED against his Peddie teams!



From left: Todd Smith, Blair Class of '90, and Pete McClellan '90 P'19 '21 celebrate their graduation from Lafayette College in May 1994.





**P** MEGAN ZUCKERMAN '12

**B** CATERINA GLEIJESES '13

### Where they met

At Nike Communications, a small New York City-based agency that specializes in marketing luxury and prestige brands. Megan and Caterina's desks are adjacent to one another and they discovered their Peddie-Blair connection while planning the company's holiday party together last year.

### Advice to others who discover they are working with an alum from a rival school

**Caterina:** You can still be friends with an alum from a rival school. If anything, finding out we went to rival schools was a reason for us to become friends.

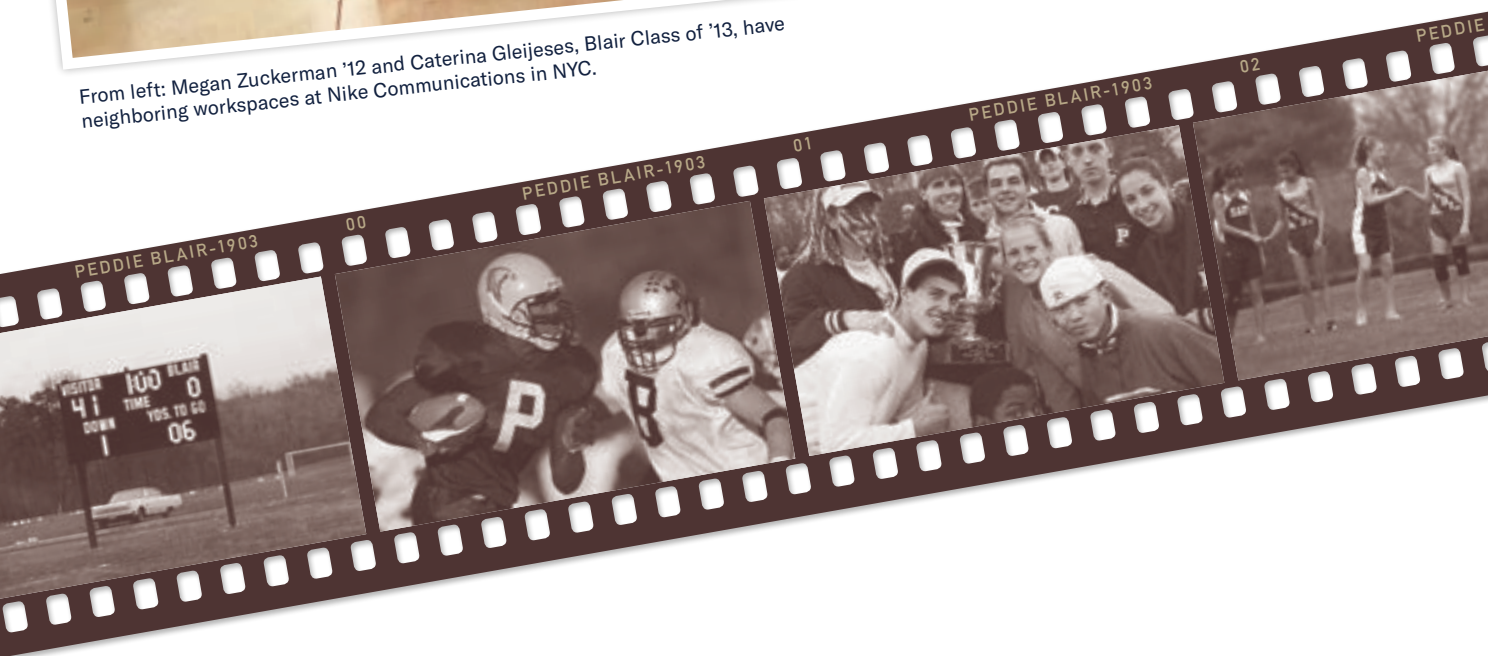
**Megan:** The rivalry is really good-natured, and while I know everyone is really passionate about their own team, they are also really excited for the other team when they win.

### A special friendship

**Caterina:** We have a connection in the office that we don't share with anyone else because, even though we didn't know each other at the time, we have so many shared experiences. It bonds us together and gives us another reason to be friends.



From left: Megan Zuckerman '12 and Caterina Gleijeses, Blair Class of '13, have neighboring workspaces at Nike Communications in NYC.



# Rival MARRIAGE

**P** BILLY LONG '84

**B** SUSAN LONG  
assistant director of advancement  
for parent relations at Blair Academy

## Where they met

At Washington College in Maryland in 1998. Susan and Billy are parents of two Blair alumni and one of their sons is a current Blair student.

## How Billy, who grew up near Blairstown, wound up at Peddie

**Billy:** My father worked for [former Peddie Board of Trustees Chair] Finn Caspersen, so he pushed me to check the school out.

## What it's like for Billy to be part of a Blair family

**Billy:** It has gotten brought up a lot over the years and there has been a lot of good-natured ribbing, but it is all in good fun. I will say that my Peddie clothes are used every year in the Blair skits at the Peddie Eve pep rally.

## Billy and Susan share their thoughts on the Peddie-Blair rivalry

**Susan:** It has always been a positive and fun rivalry. I think this comes from the top down and the culture is carried down over the years. As much as we want to win, we are all friends.

**Billy:** The rivalry is intense, but there is something endearing about it. The intensity is there, but deep down, the schools are connected and care for each other.

## What Blair Day is like for Billy these days

**Billy:** Until Susan starting working at Blair in 2008, we were always on the Peddie sidelines. Now, we switched. I hedge, no matter who wins. But I have been known to wear my Peddie t-shirt under my gear on Peddie-Blair Day.



From left: Susan Long and Billy Long '84 show off the Peddie-Blair rivalry on the Blair campus.



# Rival EMPLOYEES



**B** MOLLY DUNNE '93  
director of admission at Peddie

**B** ANDREW MARVIN '12  
manager of multimedia strategy  
and production at Peddie



**P** SARAH NEWBURY '11  
math teacher at Blair



**P** GWYNETH CONNELL '96  
dean of teaching and learning at Blair

**P** BRAD STRAUSS '91  
athletic trainer at Blair



## LISA DURKEE

chaplain and chair of the religion and philosophy department at Blair Academy

### Family connection

Lisa is the first cousin of Peddie's thirteenth headmaster, Ed Potter. Growing up Lisa spent time with her cousin "Eddie" during summers in Vinalhaven, an island off the coast of Maine.

### Ed Potter's influence

Lisa recalled one Easter holiday she spent with Headmaster Potter when she was an undergrad at Wellesley.

**Lisa:** I remember Ed telling me that I'd be a great triple threat as a teacher, coach and dorm parent, especially because I was a high school and college athlete. When I interviewed at Blair in 2017, I thought of Ed the whole time. I called his brother, John, and said, "You'll never guess where I had an interview." ... Ed and his brother were two strong models of my generation who really shaped who I became as an adult and educator.

### On the loss of Ed Potter, who died suddenly in 1988 at the age of 45

**Lisa:** He was so dynamic — larger than life. He loved people, and his joy day-to-day was so authentic and infectious. To say he was a people person is a gross understatement. He connected to people and genuinely loved to hear their stories. He was always beaming. I can remember the last time I saw him at Vinalhaven and the smile on his face. ... Our family was always very musical, and Ed could play the piano by ear. I have many fond memories of us all standing around the piano as he or his dad played, with everyone breaking into four-part harmony.

### What it's like as a Blair faculty member to have a Peddie connection

**Lisa:** It has been fun to come to Blair and find all of these connections to my family and Ed's legacy at Peddie. When I was young, the only time I ever heard of Blair, despite growing up in New Jersey, was in the context of it being Peddie's rival. ... Going to Peddie Day last year made me wistful, and I asked a lot of people I met there, "Did you know him?"

Lisa Durkee shows off her Potter t-shirt on the Blair campus.





**P** DANIEL NEWMAN '17

**B** JASON NEWMAN '17

**L** SCOTT NEWMAN '17

### Family connection

The triplet brothers were intent on going to different high schools so that they could have a sense of individuality. Now, they attend separate colleges: Daniel attends Brown University in Rhode Island, Jason attends Claremont McKenna College in California and Scott attends Princeton University.

### How the brothers chose their high schools

**Daniel:** I really liked the relaxed environment of the school [Peddie]. Also, it was close to New York and close to home ... I just felt at home when I first visited the campus.

**Jason:** I really wanted to go to a school with a community of people who wanted to be there, who wanted to engage with each other. And that's exactly what I got out of Blair. I got a family.

### Why they chose to go to separate schools

**Daniel:** My mom passed away while we were in the sixth grade. We decided that boarding school was the best option for us as a family. ... In eighth grade, we all decided to go to separate schools.

**Jason:** We're all actually very different people. You can tell by looking at us, too. We've got very different interests. ... As great as it is being Daniel's brother and Scott's brother, I didn't want that to be the basis of my reputation, and none of us really did.

### Two commencement ceremonies, one day

Jason graduated from Blair on a Thursday, while Daniel and Scott's ceremonies, at Peddie and Lawrenceville, were both on the following Sunday. When the boys' father found out that the graduations were on the same day, and at the same exact time, he reached out to the heads of the schools and asked if Scott could be first in line at Lawrenceville and Daniel last in the commencement line at Peddie. The schools agreed.

**Jason:** My dad and grandmother went to my brother Scott's graduation at Lawrenceville, and a family friend and I went to Peddie. We were there ready to take pictures and videos in case our dad didn't make it.

**Daniel:** There was a parking spot reserved for him right in front of Annenberg by the graduation tent so he could pull into the parking spot quickly. Luckily, everything worked out.

### Family above rivalry on Blair Day

**Jason:** Whenever he was playing in a game [Daniel played football for Peddie], as much as I wanted Blair to win, I was rooting for Daniel. ... None of my friends were ever mean-spirited that I had a brother going to Peddie. They actually thought it was pretty cool. They said the Newmans are going to take over the MAPL.

**Daniel:** I just enjoyed seeing my brother and my dad that day. And I thought it was cool to have a family experience.

**Jason:** Hopefully in 50 years when we're 70 we'll drive up together to Peddie or Blair Day and just enjoy the good old times and see what has changed since. I think this rivalry will always be a part of us.

From left: Brothers Daniel Newman '17, Scott Newman, Lawrenceville Class of '17, and Jason Newman, Blair Class of '17, are "very different people," said Jason.

