



## A GOOD DEED, LONG REMEMBERED

MINDFUL OF THE MYRIAD EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES HE FACED, FERNANDO DESIGNATED THAT THEIR FUTURE BEQUEST BENEFIT PEDDIE'S FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM "BECAUSE OF A DESIRE TO HELP GOOD STUDENTS AFFORD A SUPERIOR EDUCATION."

### Although Dr. Fernando Milanes '53

has not been back to campus since graduation, his one year at Peddie left a lasting impression. Now, 65 years after graduating, he has joined the Bell Society to help honor a decades-old good deed that changed his life.

Fernando was attending Ruston Academy in Havana when former President Fulgencio Batista took power in a military coup, throwing his educational future into doubt. "My father wanted me to have a pathway to medical school in the U.S. in case the University of Havana closed due to the uncertain political situation. So, he suggested I attend an American boarding school."

His father chose Peddie, given its proximity to the University of Pennsylvania, which he wanted Fernando to attend. "At first I was homesick at Peddie, but I was received very well by my classmates. I lived in a single downstairs room in Coleman, and three dorm mates asked to use my window to break curfew and go into town. I figured I couldn't tell anyone – if I was caught, I would also be found guilty, so I joined the group. A few weeks later, we were indeed caught and received many demerits. That took my grades down from summa cum laude to cum laude!"

It was still strong enough for acceptance to Penn, but Fernando opted to attend the University of Havana, where his father was a prominent gastroenterologist. He began his medical studies there and later spent a year at Wake Forest, until his education was interrupted by the 1959 revolution in Cuba.

Leaving Cuba with his family in 1960, Fernando returned only once to take part in the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion. It wasn't until 1968, now married with three children, that he had saved enough money to re-start his medical studies at the University of Granada in Spain.

"They requested proof of high school graduation, and Cuba would not send it to me. When my wife contacted Peddie, the school responded very fast, sending all the paperwork needed. Without that, I would have needed to spend another year repeating my high school subjects. Peddie rescued me – and my donations to Peddie over the years were in gratitude for that."

Fernando went on to be a professor of psychiatry and vice-chair of the department of mental health at the University of Miami. A desire to help veterans led him to serve as associate chief of staff for mental health at the VA Hospital in Miami, where his innovative programming was adopted by VA hospitals nationwide.

Over dinner in Miami last fall with former Director of Gift Planning Regina Ketting, Fernando and his wife, Nuria, expressed their gratitude for Peddie's long-ago assistance by becoming members of the Bell Society. Mindful of the myriad educational challenges he faced, Fernando designated that their future bequest benefit Peddie's financial aid program "because of a desire to help good students afford a superior education." 📌



## AN ENDURING CONNECTION WITH THE CLASS OF 1963

**Ellie Svenson**, the wife of the late John Svenson '63, still holds fond memories of her husband's time at Peddie, an association that dates back more than five decades. As part of the fabled Class of 1963, "The Swede" was a towering presence on the football and lacrosse fields, and one who left his mark on his classmates long after his untimely death in 1995. Ellie's decision to join the Bell Society was inspired by her respect for the transforming power of education as well as the enduring connection her husband enjoyed with his Peddie friends.

"Oh, I used to hear all about those campus escapades and wonder how they made it through. John was a dorm monitor, and he had to walk a fine line between reprimanding his friends while also maintaining his many friendships," recalled Ellie, who still reads the *Peddie Chronicle* cover to cover. "Thanks to Mike Duffy's class notes, I still know what all those guys are up to."

A bit of luck brought the couple together at Denison University, where John was joined by four of his Peddie classmates. A last minute decision by Ellie to forego Smith College brought her to Denison as well. "I just decided I wanted a coed college and, happily, my father gave me the okay," she said.

John had transferred to Peddie from North Caldwell High School expecting to be part of the Class of 1962, but

fortuitously chose to repeat 10th grade, making him a member of the Class of 1963 instead. He and Ellie met early in their freshman year; the couple married in 1967, just a few months after their college graduation.

A graduate of the John Burroughs School in St. Louis, Mo., Ellie has long admired the type of individualized education an independent school provides, which she witnessed firsthand as a math teacher and later as a member of the admission office at the Whitfield School, which her grandchildren now attend.

In joining the Bell Society, Ellie designated her bequest for the support of faculty enrichment and professional development. "These schools afford children the opportunity to fail and not to be afraid to take a leap. Too many students come from families that only focus on success."

On the occasion of the Class of 1963's 55th reunion this year, the class dedicated a Memorial Grove "in memory of classmates and friends who have left us and will leave us in future years." Ellie happily supported this cause as well. "Peddie was always number one in John's life; it defined his being and formed who he was," said Ellie. "There is also that special lifetime bond the class has and that is very meaningful to me." 📌

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## HENRY CHRISTENSEN III '62

**Henry “Terry” Christensen III '62**, longtime trustee and former chair of the planned giving committee, died November 3, 2017. An early advocate of Peddie’s gift planning initiatives, Terry’s wise counsel greatly benefited the Bell Society over the years.

A graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School, Terry was a prominent private client attorney, especially well known in the area of international estate planning, serving as partner at Sullivan & Cromwell and McDermott, Will & Emery in New York. His continuous support and guidance on a wide variety of school matters enhanced Peddie’s academic rigor, curricular programs and faculty enrichment.

One of only five recipients of The Thomas B. Peddie Award, Terry embodied service to his alma mater and to numerous institutions in his own community. His commitment, generosity and leadership will continue to reverberate at Peddie. 📌



## CHANGING OF THE GUARD Anne DeMesa Appointed New Director of Gift Planning

**We are pleased to announce** that Anne DeMesa has joined Peddie, effective August 1, as the new director of gift planning. She will be taking the reins from Regina Ketting who has moved on to Columbia University as their new director of gift planning after 10 successful years as part of Peddie’s alumni and development team.

Regina’s impact at Peddie has been substantial, securing multiple major gifts and growing the Bell Society by 73 percent, creating a pipeline of future gifts for Peddie’s endowment. Her colleagues and scores of alumni with whom she interacted will miss her wisdom, energy and sound advice.

Anne joins us from Robert Wood Johnson Barnabas Health where she is assistant vice president of gift planning. At RWJBH, Anne served as the primary gift planning officer working with each of their 11 affiliates. Prior to RWJBH, Anne served as director of major and planned gifts for the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and had significant experience with the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark, St. Peter’s University and the Jersey City Museum. We are thrilled to welcome her to our team. 📌

# CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY RATES INCREASE



The American Council on Gift Annuities has announced an increase in gift annuity rates beginning July 1. The Charitable Gift Annuity is a contract between you and Peddie whereby you make a gift of cash or marketable securities (starting at \$25,000 for donors 65 and older) to Peddie in exchange for payments to you for life. The gift is designed to eventually distribute 50 percent of the gift amount to the school. Below are the new rates:

## ONE-LIFE PLAN

Age	Rate
65	5.1%
70	5.6%
75	6.2%
80	7.3%
85	8.3%

## TWO-LIFE PLAN

Age	Rate
65/65	4.5%
70/70	5.0%
75/75	5.5%
80/80	6.2%
85/85	7.3%

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FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
PLEASE CONTACT ANNE  
DEMESA, DIRECTOR OF  
GIFT PLANNING, AT  
BELLSOCIETY@PEDDIE.ORG  
OR 609.944.7521.

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## EXAMPLES:

A person age 75 who contributes \$100,000 for a gift annuity would receive \$6,200 per year for life.

A couple, both 75, who contribute \$100,000 for a gift annuity with payments to them jointly and then to the survivor would receive \$5,500 per year for life.

## CONSIDER THE BENEFITS:

- 1 Receive dependable, cash-flow for life, regardless of fluctuations in the market.
- 2 In many cases, receive payments at a rate higher than the interest you are currently receiving on investments.
- 3 Receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your gift.
- 4 A portion of your annuity payment will be tax-free for a number of years.
- 5 If you fund your charitable gift annuity with appreciated securities, naming yourself as beneficiary, no capital gains tax is due on the transfer. Only a portion of your capital gain will be reportable, and the tax will be spread over your annuity payments.



## BELL SOCIETY REUNION WEEKEND BREAKFAST

**June 2, 2018** – The annual Reunion Weekend Bell Society breakfast, hosted by Bob Werner '53 and Kurt Bilderback '78, was held in the Annenberg Hall lobby, adjacent to the namesake Wilson Hall bell and the plaque listing the growing number of members who have remembered Peddie in their estate plans.

## SAVE THE DATE

**September 25**

**Bell Society Dinner**  
Yale Club of New York  
hosted by Charlie Ascher '52  
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Bell Society honors those whose estate plans benefit Peddie School. For information on charitable bequests, trusts, gift annuities or other planned giving opportunities at Peddie, or if you have listed Peddie in your will but have not yet informed the school, please contact Anne DeMesa, Director of Gift Planning, at (609) 944-7521 or [bellsociety@peddie.org](mailto:bellsociety@peddie.org).



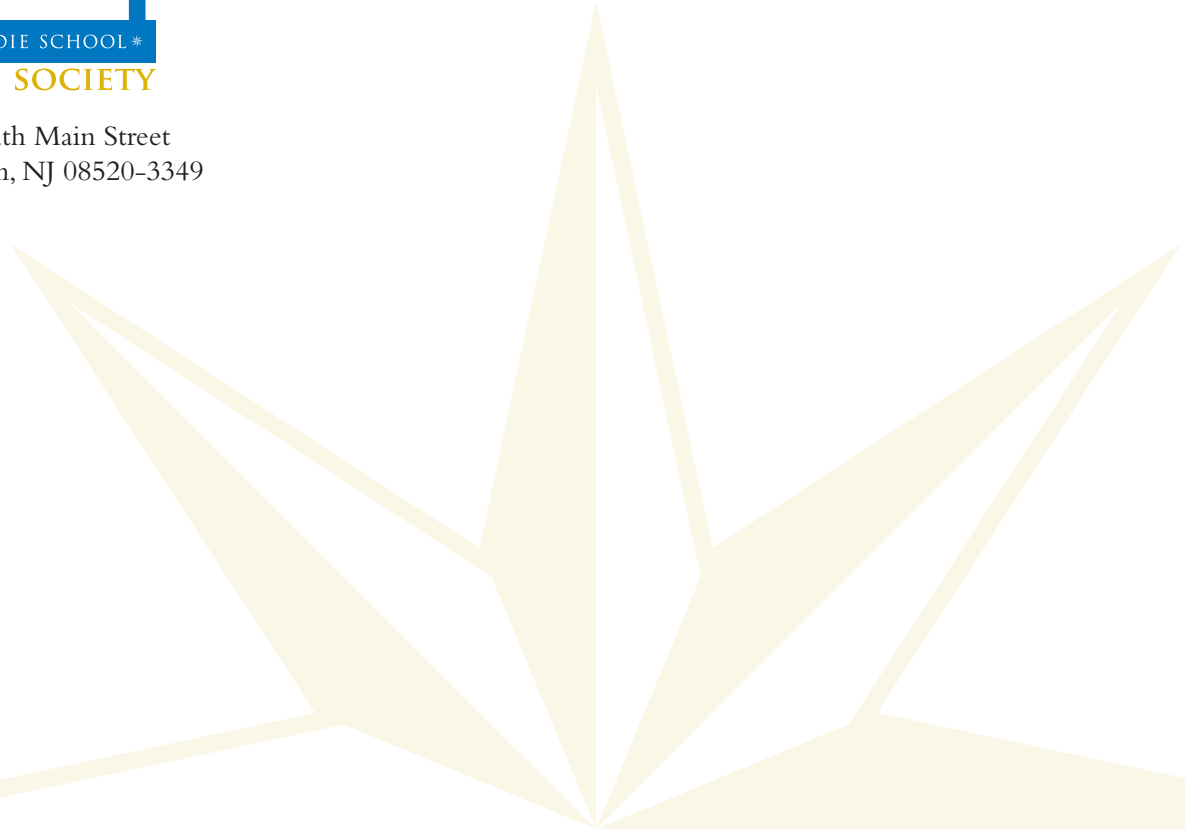
## BELL SOCIETY DINNER AT THE YALE CLUB

**November 9, 2017** – Ira Haupt '52 and Stephanie Martin '91 hosted a festive evening of cocktails and dinner for a group of 40 Bell Society members and their guests who enjoyed a school update from Headmaster Peter Quinn and Peddie trustees.





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STORIES FROM THE  
**BELL**

GIFT PLANNING NEWS  
AND INFORMATION FROM  
THE BELL SOCIETY AT  
PEDDIE SCHOOL

SUMMER 2018