Rabun Gap celebrates
Richard and John Woodruff Dining Hall Dedication

The Richard and John Woodruff Dining Hall was on display during the donors’ dedication and celebration dinner on Sunday, May 19. Guests to the event included trustees, friends, parents, and alumni who gathered to tour the building and celebrate the successful completion of the fundraising campaign and construction of the new facility.

The evening’s program began with Dr. Anthony Sgro thanking the Board of Trustees for their work on the campaign and facilities committees, and for their generous financial support of the project. Dr. Sgro took a moment to introduce Mr. Jeff Miles, who will begin his tenure as Head of School at Rabun Gap on July 1. The evening also included a special recognition of the alumni supporters whose gifts together established the Alumni Plaza outdoor dining area. This space is located on the north end of
the building which overlooks the international flag plaza and the School's iconic barn.

“The new dining hall is truly the heart of campus and reflects the sense of community that so many of our donors were pleased to support. This much-needed facility was fully funded by private gifts. There were no financing charges or debt associated with this campaign, and the project was completed slightly ahead of time and under budget. We would not enjoy this beautiful building today if it weren’t for the support of those who gave to the project,” Sgro said.

The final accolades of the evening were reserved for the Jane Woodruff family. Jane and her sons Richard “Buck” and John Woodruff were recognized for their continued support of Rabun Gap. Dr. Sgro shared the story of early Woodruff generations caring for the school philanthropically and through their devoted leadership. He highlighted that Jane’s father George was chairman of the school’s Board of Trustees for 30 years. It was also noted that with the early support of Emily and Ernest Woodruff and the members of the Woodruff family at the event, there are now six generations of Woodruffs connected to the work and mission of Rabun Gap.

Dr. Sgro acknowledged Jane’s specific role in the success of the new dining hall.

“Jane’s early advice and philanthropic commitment to the project was the cornerstone that allowed the campaign to thrive. From the first indication of her desire to support the project, we knew that the ‘cornerstone,’ the rock upon which this project would be built, would bear testimony to her leadership and loyalty,” he said.

The highlight of the evening was when Jane Woodruff approached the podium to share her thoughts on the special occasion. Her connection to the mission and to the legacy of her family was inspiring and moved the group to offer her a standing ovation. The unified expression of gratitude from the audience for Jane and her family was a poignant and fitting end to a night of celebration and thanksgiving.
Farewell Sgro family!

Employees, parents, and friends gathered in the Richard and John Woodruff Dining Hall for a final farewell to the Sgro family, honoring their eight years of service to the school during a special event on Sunday, June 2. Dr. Sgro will be moving to his new position as Head of School at Asheville School, his alma mater, on July 1.

The Board of Trustees has established a scholarship in the Sgros’ name for domestic students to study abroad at the School's campus in Spoleto, Italy. Click here to donate to the Anthony and Faulkner Sgro Study Abroad Fund.

Alumni welcomed back for Heritage Homecoming

More than 100 alumni joined us at this year's Heritage Homecoming Weekend on May 31-June 2. On Saturday, June 1, the memories of alumni and former faculty were honored during the annual Alumni Memorial Chapel. Head of School Dr. Anthony Sgro gave the message.

Alumni enjoyed lunch in the new Richard and John Woodruff Dining Hall and joined in a special prayer to dedicate the Alumni Plaza, a picturesque gathering spot on the north end of the new building. This year's Alumni Association Scholarship recipient Petey Webster ’20 of Franklin, NC addressed the crowd, and the Sgro family was there to say a final farewell to the alumni community.

See more photos here.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming alumni events!
- Fall Homecoming: Saturday, October 26, 2019
- Heritage Homecoming Weekend: June 5-7, 2020
83 graduate from Class of 2019

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School graduated one of our largest and most diverse classes in school history during the 116th Commencement Weekend.

Eighty-three graduates from the Class of 2019 walked across the stage Sunday, May 19 in an outdoor ceremony surrounding statues of school founders Andrew Jackson and Addie Corn Ritchie. Members of the Class of 2019 hail from across the nation and globe, representing 20 countries and nine U.S. states.

The 2019 Baccelaurate Service was held in the Rearden Theater prior to Commencement. This year's speaker was The Venerable Janet Tidwell, Archdeacon for Formation of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

Members of the Class of 2019 are headed to the top colleges and universities in the United States and across the world. All were accepted to college. Overall, the class received 443 acceptances. More than half of those were to public or private universities listed in the U.S. News and World Report's Top 50, with several listed in the Top 20. Students will continue their studies in 18 states and seven different countries. Five students committed to participation in collegiate athletics.

Click here to see more photos.

Dr. Karl Anderson Memorial is Friday, June 28

Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School will host a memorial service for Dr. Karl Anderson on Friday, June 28 at 10 AM in the Rearden Theater on campus. A reception will follow for family, friends, and alumni.

Dr. Anderson served as Head of School at Rabun Gap from 1956-1984. He died Friday, May 24 at his home in Florida. He was 97.

Click here to read Dr. Anderson's obituary.
Tax Credit Open Season!

Open season for the Georgia GOAL 2020 education tax credit is here, running from June 1 to Dec 31. The program empowers Georgia taxpayers (individuals and businesses) to provide scholarship funding and then get a dollar for dollar tax credit when they file their income taxes.

You have to pay the taxes anyway, why not divert some of it to help Rabun Gap students? GOAL is powerful, and our participants appreciate how it enables them to make a much bigger difference than otherwise possible. GOAL is one way Rabun Gap can continue educating youth from all parts of our society. Nearly 80% of Rabun Gap students qualify for and receive financial aid, compared to about 15% at similar schools. Through GOAL, you can make a huge difference.

During the open season, you can sign up for a tax credit in the 2020 tax year by completing a short form at goalscholarship.org. Also, it is still possible to sign up for a 2019 tax credit. Please join our team in using this program to provide educational opportunity at Rabun Gap.

Upcoming Events

Click here to view the full calendar

Dr. Karl Anderson Memorial Service - 6/28/2019 at 10:00 AM
First Day of School - 8/28/2019

From the Archives...
In memory of Dr. Karl Anderson. This photo is from our archives of Dr. Anderson at his desk.

For any questions regarding our archives, please contact David Grist '67 at dgrist@rabungap.org
Donate to the Fund for Excellence

The School's Fiscal Year ends June 30, 2019.

Annual giving to the Fund for Excellence supports every area of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School experience. While tuition provides an important foundation, gifts to the Fund for Excellence enable the school to provide a depth and breadth of education that would not be possible with tuition alone.

Make your one-time or recurring gift at www.rabungap.org/giving!

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