

— EXCLUSIVE —

## King of Horror: An Interview with Stephen King GP'17, '19, '22

ALEX DiBLASI '19

NO ONE conjures horror more than novelist **Stephen King GP'17, '19, '22**. His ability to transport millions to fictional places like Castle Rock where they confront their darkest fears is unparalleled. Since 1974, the Maine native has sold over 350 million books and he has won countless prestigious writing awards such as the National Book Award. Several of his stories have been turned into blockbuster movies like *Salem's Lot*, *The Green Mile*, and *Misery*. I recently had the privilege to interview Mr. King regarding his inspirations, philanthropy, and education.

**DiBlasi: In your youth, what**



Stephen King. SHANE LEONARD.

**inspired you to become a novelist and develop characters such as Carrie White, Jack Torrance, and Pennywise?**

King: *I just loved writing and making stuff up. And I liked to involve people in my stories, get a reaction from them. Laughing, crying, screaming. All were good. I will admit I loved scaring the crap out of people.*

**Several of your books like *The Body* and *It*, have a nostalgic theme. Primarily, the strong friendships that the characters have with each other, which in the end gave them the strength to escape bullies and demonic creatures. Are these friendships indicative of your childhood relationships?**

The *Body* was based very roughly on the friends I grew up with. I've often used little bits of my history in the stories I write. Chris in *The Body* was based on a supposed bad kid who got accused of everything. Some stuff he did, other things—like stealing the milk money—he didn't. He just got blamed. The scene with the leeches really happened, but most of the other stuff is made up. Nostalgia is a dangerous idea, because it tends to blur reality with the so-called "romance of childhood." I tried to keep the kids in that story as real as I could. *The Body* strikes some as nostalgic, I'd say that's in

their minds rather than mine.

**Throughout the past decade, there has been a steady decline of English majors graduating each year from universities across America. The humanities seem to be losing the battle against the lucrative world of finance. As a high school Scholastic Art Writing Award winner, what do you think schools can do to nurture a student's passion for writing and what advice would you give to aspiring writers?**

The basic problem is that education is seen as a device to improve the bank account rather than the mind. It's very easy for students to forget that the true purpose of education at all levels—but especially the higher levels—is to improve one's ability to think clearly. Most kids love stories, but too many are told (by parents and teachers) that pursuing that love will never make them good consumers—what Jackson Brown calls "happy idiots in pursuit of the legal tender." Teachers and parents who nurture the love of stories and the desire of readers to write their own stories are extremely important. That's one step. The other is for teachers and parents to drop this idea that college is basically an academic ATM machine. No. The goal is to grow intellectually, and if that means becoming an English

major (or a philosophy major, or whatever), then that's terrific.

**The Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation chaired by you and your wife has been extremely generous through the years, especially to libraries in your home state of Maine. Nationwide libraries are witnessing a decline in funding and support. Are you fearful for their survival in the digital age?**

Nope. Wikipedia will never replace libraries and the research that goes on there. Libraries are becoming more and more focused on digital technology, but that makes them easier to access, especially for young people of your generation. Fossils like me have a harder time, but we adapt.

**As you are an avid Red Sox fan, which Sox team do you think was the best of all time and why?**

The one that captured the World Series this year is by far the best. The pitching could use a bit of improvement, but otherwise... the best ever. And we have the trophy to prove it! ■

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"People think that I must be a very strange person. This is not correct. I have the heart of a small boy. It is in a glass jar on my desk."

## Head of School Dr. Peter H. Quimby Returns from Asia Trip

TIANYU FANG '20

BYFIELD, MA—After a week in Asia, Head of School Dr. Peter H. Quimby '85 returned to Byfield just before Thanksgiving break.

Dr. Quimby set off his week-long trip on November 8 to visit three cities in Asia—Beijing, Seoul, and Tokyo—where he hosted receptions for families and alumni of the Academy.

"I travel internationally for the Academy roughly once a year and most of those trips take me to Asia," said Dr. Quimby. He spent more time abroad last spring when he found himself 35,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean—en route to Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul, Busan, Taipei, and Bangkok—in just two weeks.

"Most often we are hosting receptions for parents and alumni—holding meetings with individuals who want to support the school," he noted. "We have a very active

Korean Parents Association, a growing group of alumni in Korea, and an increasingly engaged group of parents in China."

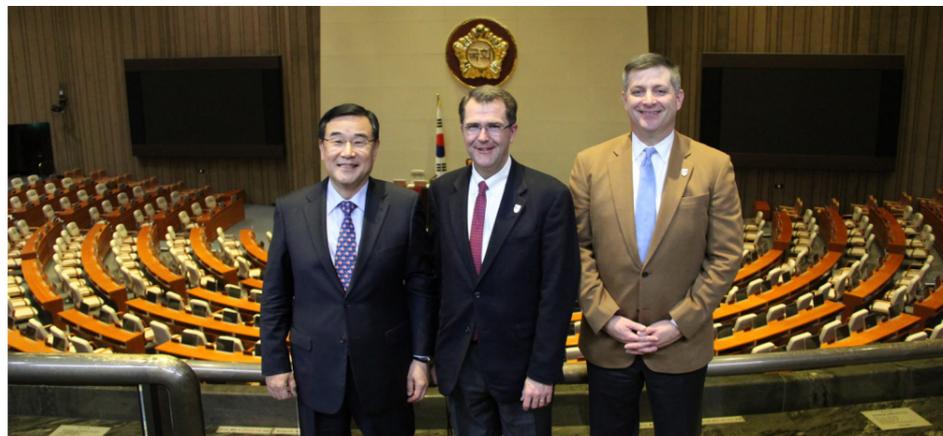
The Academy currently has a 14 percent international student ratio with parents residing in eighteen foreign countries. Outside the United States, China and South Korea are the largest student origin countries.

One goal of these visits is to help parents and alumni who live in Asia feel a part of the larger Governor's family, Dr. Quimby said, but he also represents the school in admissions events—as he did this November in Seoul, where the Admissions Office held a reception for prospective students in South Korea and their families.

Dr. Quimby believes that through these receptions, parents and alumni strengthen their relationships with the school—and amongst one another—and hear about what's happening on campus. ■



Dr. Quimby meets with Governor's parents and alumni in Beijing, China.



Left to right: Congressman Jung Hoon Kim P'19, Dr. Quimby, Director of Advancement Mr. William Deptula.

## POETRY

## 'Twas the Night before College Decisions

ALEX DiBLASI '19

'Twas the night before college decisions came out  
and all through the campus, anxious seniors scurried about.

College sweatshirts hung in the closets with care,  
in hopes that admissions officers heard their prayers.

The college-commits were all tucked in their beds  
as images of lacrosse sticks and soccer balls raced through their heads.  
The newspaper editors were wrapping up their next issue,  
when out of nowhere, screams and cries continued.

I darted to Phillips and ran up the three floors;  
threw open the door to find college applications galore.  
When what to my scared eyes did appear,  
but Mr. Bobrowskas on his computer full of good cheer.

This quiet man was more vocal than ever before,  
and felt they could not do anymore.  
He shouted, 'Ms. Dolan, 'Ms. Kobus, and 'Ms. Shows our work is done.  
So, now it is time for fun!

With a cup of eggnog in hand, they toasted,  
but, 'wait, we all got in?' I boasted!  
Oh how they chuckled as they put away their notes,  
and quickly cleared their throats.

'Oh, Alex' Mr. Bobrowskas said as he shook,  
'Maybe, if your essays had a better hook.'  
I said not one word,  
with hopes that I'd at least be deferred.

One by one, they grabbed their coats  
and swiftly disappeared with my high hopes.  
Then suddenly, I heard them proclaim,  
'remember going to your safety should give you no shame.' ■

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*Good luck to all the seniors!*

## 'TIS THE SEASON

What You Need to Know:  
Holiday Traditions At Governor's

HAODI SHI '20

## Candlelight Service

EVERY YEAR the Governor's community gathers at the Mosley Chapel to illuminate the building with candles, perform music, listen to readings, and sing carols. At the end of the Candlelight Service, the Quimbys pass the flame for people to light their candles that they received on their way into the building. "The Candlelight Service is an annual tradition that is one of the most beautiful, centering, meditative moments of the year," Mr. Currie Huntington, director of the service, told *The Governor*.

According to a history written by former faculty member Chris Drelich, who passed away in the summer of 2014, the Candlelight Service can be traced back to the early days of the Academy when students walked up Elm Street to the Byfield Parish Church for Sunday services. In the following years the Little Red Schoolhouse, the Cobb Room, and the Moseley Chapel hosted religious activities including lessons and carols services.

With the vast diversity of cultural and religious traditions at the present-day Academy, the historically Anglican lessons and carols model has become more ecumenical and inclusive. While traditional Christmas carols are still included in the service, readings and poetry are now drawn from the Jewish, Islamic, Sikh, Native American, Wiccan, Celtic, Nordic, Hindu, and other traditions.

"We can gain insight into other cultures through their teachings, and it is fascinating to note how many religions and belief systems teach the same essentials," concluded Drelich. "May you find something here that speaks to your heart and leave with a sense of peace and joy."

## Candy Cane Hunt

With 16 percent of the vote from the community, the Candy Cane Hunt—searching for candy canes hidden by faculty around the campus—is the second most popular holiday tradition at the Academy.

"Like most great ideas, the Great

## Holidays in Byfield

## THE EDITORS

WE RECENTLY sent out a survey regarding the holiday season. Check out some of the responses that we received!

## Name a failed New Year resolution that you made last year.

**Most Popular Answer**  
"Better diet" "More exercise"  
"Didn't make one"

**Mr. Mike Delay**  
"To stop hitting the snooze button"

**Katie Resnick '20**  
"To become a sentient hot dog"

**Aidan King '19**  
"Actually I failed the previous year's resolution to make a resolution the next coming year"

**Colin Bourque '21**  
"To achieve a sub 1 minute 4x4x4 Rubik's cube average time to solve"

**Ms. Tracey MacCormack**  
"To win the lottery"

## Least favorite thing about the the Holidays/New Year?

**Most Popular Answer**  
"Not long enough"

**Brooke Thurston '22**  
"Homework over break"

**Katie Resnick '20**  
"Every passing year reminds me of my own fleeting mortality"

**Andre Rocker '22**  
"The 'see you next year' joke"

**Daniela Hamel '22**  
"When you're all alone because it's cuffing season"

**Jason Ho '19**  
"The fact that people refuse to call 'the holidays' Christmas, which is exactly what it is"

## What's one important thing you have learned this year?

**Mr. Gary Satow**  
"My advisees don't know how to wrap gifts"

**Mr. Steve Ogden**  
"Our students/parents/world is growing increasingly anxious"

**Ms. Sharon Slater**  
"Our country is resilient but the environment is not."

**Joné Pérez '19**  
"Cereal first, then milk"

**Nick Luikey '20**  
"65-1=64"

**Brandon Boulos '20**  
"Mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell"

**Dr. Monica Palmer**  
"Regarding my to-do list, I do not have to boil the ocean. Instead, boil one pot at a time"

**Mr. Paul Wann**  
"I don't have to say YES to everything"

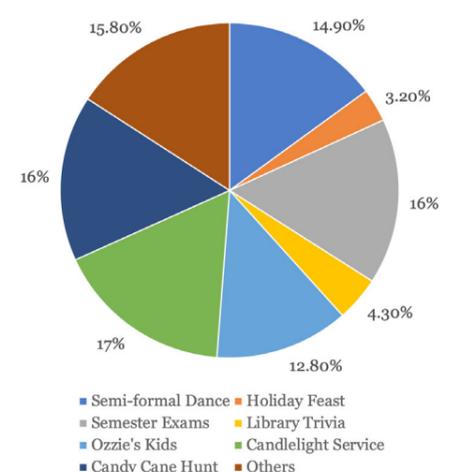
**Billy Marella '19**  
"Arif smells." ■

Candy Cane Hunt was a student's idea," according to Mrs. Samantha Howson. The Candy Cane madness started in 2012 when Social Head Eli Morrissey '13 proposed this idea. Little did he know that, with support from Academy President Jean Bower '13, Senior Class President Ryan Scarfo '13, and Mrs. Howson—then director of student activity—the tiny idea would later become one of the most popular holiday traditions at the Academy.

In the first year, Mrs. Howson hung 10 "special" candy canes and several "regular" candy canes around campus. After the surprising success of the inaugural hunt, Mrs. Howson started putting the smaller peppermint candy canes on dining hall tables and increased the number of prizes to 25. She also sent email updates about students' findings.

Ms. Faith Kagwa, director of student activities, said she enjoys watching students run around campus hunting for candy canes. "For faculty [members], no one wants their candy cane to be the first one found, so we try to

Favorite Holiday Traditions at Governor's



find the best hiding spots," said Ms. Kagwa.

Little things can make big differences, Mrs. Howson believes, especially during this stretch of time when students are stressed about exams, college acceptances, and holidays. "It's nice to have something purely fun to focus on," she added. "It's a good reminder that we should take some time to be silly every once in a while." ■