

Alumniotes



On a crisp November day, to cap off our annual Fall Clean Up, we reprised the Alumni Reunion and soccer game – complete with some Montessori alum parents in play! Thanks to all who came and enjoyed our chili lunch and alum soccer game!

Last spring we began a new level of Alumni connectivity: *Alumni Ambassadors*. We want to keep connected to all our alumni (and past parents!) and we know one of the best ways to do that is to ask for help from the alums themselves. Our Alum Ambassadors have helped gather updates on their fellow alums, so thank you to the inaugural Alum Ambassador team: Ariana Arcenas-Utley, Matteo Bruni, Callie Ferguson, Katy Gray, Julia Guarino, Wes Hamilton, Michaela Haynie, Brooke James, Lauren Kranzlin, Nico Lob, Chelsea Miller, Bella Pisano, Harrison Potter, Ali Tesluk, Peter Rosiello, Martine Trinka and Justin Wright.

Sam Alkaitis (UE '01) is just finishing up a one year course in classical (2d) animation in Vancouver, Canada and will be graduating on the 16th of August. He is about to finish his second animated short which will be online in a few weeks.

Alex Amador (MS '06) is entering his junior year at Lafayette, pursuing a major in international affairs, specializing in Latin America. He recently returned from a semester abroad, studying at the University of Havana, Cuba. Although in line with his academic concentration, his decision was motivated by a desire to discover his identity as a Cuban-American. Writes Alex, "I had such a great experience and I will cherish my memories of Cuba forever. It really fulfilled my lifetime

dream of unveiling the mystery of my roots and helped me understand my identity."

Ariana Arcenas-Utley (UE '96) writes: "I live in Santa Barbara, CA with my husband, Chris, and our dog Callie. I moved here about five years ago to attend grad school at UCSB and ended up staying! I got my Masters in Environmental Science and Management, and for three years have worked in the Corporate Responsibility Department at Deckers Outdoor Corporation. I am involved with measuring and reducing environmental impacts of our products and business operations, as well as watching over social issues and running the company's volunteer program. In my free time, I try to swim, bike and run, and am currently training

for a triathlon. I love to hike and do basically anything outside!”

Emily Bennetts (UE '03) writes that she “recently graduated from Marist College with a BA in Psychology and minors in Communications and Photography. I’m working in the fall at Brainy Academy, a Montessori tutoring center in Brooklyn, NY as a head teacher.”

Natalie Bickford (UE '01) is in graduate school to get her doctorate of physical therapy at Boston University. It’s a three-year graduate program and she has just completed her first year. She is doing her first clinical in Salt Lake City, living with her sister **Annika** (UE '96).

Remy Boléa (UE '01) is living in Denver and works as a broker with Charles

Schwab. He likes to spend time outdoors and go snowboarding as much as possible.

Marie-Laure Couët (UE '96) writes “I live in Dudley, Massachusetts on my farm where I keep 14 chickens, three geese, one cat and a vegetable garden. I am in the process of planning and building a cheese making room and an underground cheese ageing cave to start my business.”

The summer of her sophomore year at Bowdoin, **Callie Ferguson** (UE '04) spent in Los Angeles interning at Monkey Deux, a small production company that produces creative content for feature films and network TV shows. She and **Celine Bondoc** (UE '04) shared an apartment in Los

Angeles as Celine spent her sophomore summer from Washington University in St. Louis working in the film industry as well. Writes Callie: “I’m learning loads about the entertainment industry, as well as useful skills and know-how about production, script development, editing and how an office functions. Living smack in the middle of Hollywood, as well as getting to explore LA with Celine has been extraordinarily fun and quite a growing experience.”

Christian Fernando will be attending Georgetown University in the fall. He has recently published a book of short stories entitled “Tales of Terror”!

Rebecca Fisher-Tripodi is living in the Vinings area of Atlanta with her three

dogs and two cats. She is an administrative assistant for a company called AirWatch and is interested in moving over to the events team. Rebecca shares that “I spend a lot of my days at the river or the lake!”

Kia Guarino (UE '01) has just finished working at Operation Smile as the Programs Manager for Africa, where she was based in Ghana and worked in Ethiopia, Rwanda, DRC, Ghana, South Africa, and Morocco developing medical training and surgical programs, as well as office and employee development. In August, she started a dual Masters from Johns Hopkins in International Development & and MSPH in Global Public Health. She will be based out of Bologna, Italy for the first year and will be returning to the US the following year in the DC area to finish the program.

Wes Hamilton (UE '91) writes “My soon to be 4 year old Mirabelle attends the Montessori School of Central Vermont, in Montpelier. I plan on joining the Board this coming fall.”

Grace Hough (UE '01) lives in Manhattan and reverse commutes to her job in Stamford. She was recently promoted and writes, “I work in design and production for several trade magazines. My official title is Design and Production Assistant—but say I am the CEO!”



A bevy of Alumni Moms gathered in June at the home of Kim Nabulsi. Back row: Jackie Scott, Sara McCalpin, Annette Terry, Denise Sellhausen, Belinda Clark, Susan Clark, Martha D’Adamo, Lois Amador, Ilinca Creveling, Kate Weber, Diane Harley; front row: Kim Nabulsi, Ena Van Eck, Barbara Al Haffar, Kathleen Tesluk, Beth Flavin and Heather Maccabe.

Sam Hough (UE '99) recently took a new position as a consultant at FactSet in Norwalk. He lives in Stamford where he has discovered the joys of league play in football, basketball, kickball and dodge ball and serves as commissioner of his Fantasy Football league.

Brooke James (UE '01) lives in Washington, DC and works in Technology at Fannie Mae doing stakeholder & project management. On the side she writes features for Sweet Lemon Magazine. She loves entertaining, traveling, reading and spending time with friends.

Grace Jones spent a month in Cambridge this summer taking mock classes in psychology and international relations as a "look into college life".

Aiden Kaye (MS '10) writes that he is now at the High School of Art and Design in NYC and was a paid intern for an architectural firm last summer and fall. More recently, Aiden made a film about Hurricane Sandy that was accepted by the Tribeca Film Festival for documentaries.

Amanda Kesselman (UE '01) is living in Harlem, teaching 11th grade English in the Bronx. She just completed her masters at Columbia Teachers College.

Lucas Kesselman (MS '10) enjoyed an early summer trip to London and Brugges before returning to Connecticut

to work at WSTT camp at Bedford Middle School.

Jacqui King is a senior at UCONN working on a degree in Math. She loves waitressing and tends bar over the summer at Quattro Pazzi in Fairfield.

Catherine Michelle King (UE '00) graduated from Syracuse University in Industrial Design. Her thesis was on Healing, using all the monitoring data collected by the medical staff for their use, reorienting it to answer questions by the patient and their loved ones. She works at Welch Allen, a medical supply company, as a user interaction designer and lives in Skaneateles, NY.

James Kitt (MS '11) is at Greenwich HS and enjoying playing varsity football.

Alex Kranzlin (MS '06) is back in Connecticut and working in construction. We are especially delighted to report that Alex is engaged to **Janine Atweh**, a Montessori School classmate from Margherita and Ashley's Primary Class!

Kathleen Kranzlin (MS '08) is working on her major of Global Environmental Changes and Sustainability and minor in Behavioral Biology at Johns Hopkins.

Lauren Kranzlin (MS '10) writes that she spent the

summer working at Bridgeport Hospital, volunteering and shadowing Chief of Surgery Dr. Nabil Atweh (Montessori alum dad of **Dany** (UE '99), **Julian** (UE '01) and **Janine**) to help her decide whether or not to pursue a career in medicine.

Shelly Lindo (MS '08) tells us that she is "attending the University of Rhode Island on a full track scholarship, which is great! I love the team, everyone gets along well and my coach is supportive. I'm in Health Studies and focusing on Maternal/Public Health."

Hannah Leonard (UE '01) just finished her Masters in Child Development and Montessori Assistants to Infancy (0-3) training at the Montessori Institute of San Diego and is living in Manhattan working at a new Montessori school.

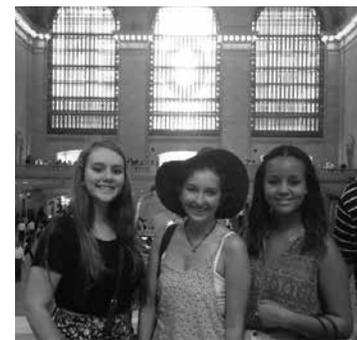


Hannah Longman (UE '01) lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn with a friend from high school and works at a boutique beauty PR agency (RED PR) in Soho. She is still close with many Montessori families.

In her spare time she spends lots of time sprucing up her backyard, biking, going on neighborhood walks, and hunting great restaurants.

Marten Martensson (MS '09) graduated from the Academy of Information Technology & Engineering and has received a rowing scholarship to Marist College starting in the fall.

Chelsea Miller (MS '12) wrote "I had a really nice July 4th! I have spent quite a bit of time with **Alyssa (Malner)** (MS '12) and we went sailing with **Skyler (Sallick)** (MS '13), spending a day in the the city just touring around.



Rahman Nabulsi (UE '00) graduated from Northeastern in 2011 and now lives in Somerville, just outside of Boston. Rahman works at Instrumentation Laboratories (a medical device company) in Bedford, MA. His brother, **Bashar Nabulsi** (UE '03) graduated from the University of New Hampshire, having majored in Accounting and Finance. In the fall he will be moving to Sommerville and seeking full-time employment.

Rand Niederhoffer (UE '95) and husband, Adam Lapidus, are expecting their first child in December!

Since moving to Pennsylvania, Alum Mom Linda Paseltiner writes that **Daniel** (UE '06) attends Bates College, **Matthew** (UE '10) attends Conestoga HS and **Isaac** is at Valley Forge Kinder House and that "all are doing well in their respective communities, enjoying soccer, swimming, theater, music and looking forward to summer in Maine."

Jonathan Piazza-Harper is working as a Financial Advisor at Northwestern Mutual in Westport, CT. On the side, Jonathan owns a boat maintenance company in Boston, Topside Marine Services.

Bella Pisano (MS '11) writes "I spent a week of my summer volunteering at MDA camp (a camp for boys and girls with muscular dystrophy). It was an amazing experience and I will for sure volunteer again next year."

Recent alumna **Gaby Pisano** (MS '13), collected donations of soccer equipment for a community in Haiti last year. With help from The Montessori School community and the Norwalk Junior Soccer Association the donations of cleats, shin guards, socks, balls and jerseys were very impressive. At the start of



this school year she received a letter from the organization with a photo of the newly constituted girl's team and this note: "Your donation is helping to develop responsible citizens on the island of La Gonave through soccer."

Harrison Potter (MS '10) planned on being in Turkey in June but the trip was cancelled due to the protests. Instead, Harrison spent the summer on Nantucket where he has taken up golf. On island, he did volunteer work for Holidays for Heroes, a non-profit that brings veterans and their families to Nantucket for a vacation and reunion, giving them an opportunity for support and to educate the community about the challenges our returning veterans face.

Alexander Richards (UE '01) is an airline pilot for American Eagle, living in Norwalk and flying out of JFK and LGA, traveling for fun whenever he can.

Isabel Richards (UE '01) just graduated from UMass Amherst this Spring with a masters in Art History and minor in Classics. She is now

living back home in Wilton and works at the Philip Johnson Glass House in New Canaan.

Peter Rosiello (MS '07) just finished his sophomore year at Bowdoin College, majoring in History with a focus on East Asia. He continues to enjoy performing as member and business manager of the Bowdoin Longfellows a cappella group. This summer he completed a pre-MBA program at the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, and traveled to Sri Lanka in August. Next year he'll be studying in Rome.

Lily Schweitzer (UE '01) is working at Omega teen camp as the Arts Director. "I've been living at Mountain Gardens, a botanical/medicinal herb garden and permacultural project in Celo, NC prior to this position, studying plants and how to make medicine out of them (as well a other "earth-based" skills) and teaching kids at the Arthur Morgan School autonomous health care practices."

Dana Schwendner (UE '01) is working at an advertising agency in Darien. Prior to that she worked at Island Def Jam records in NYC.

Maeve Serino (UE '07), in her senior year at Hopkins, won the George Gillespie Prize for Excellence in

Literary Scholarship and the Hispanic Letters Prize.

Ben Slaughter (UE '01) went to Miami University in Ohio and since then has been living in Chicago. He works at an advertising agency called HY Connect and is an Associate Media Planner.

Sam Slaughter (UE '99) is living in Nairobi, Kenya where he runs a business that installs renewable energy systems for homes, schools, clinics, tourist camps, and other off-grid facilities in East Africa. (www.powergen-re.com).

Uma Smith (MS '10) is living in Saudi Arabia and attending an international school. This summer she wrote "I am in Boston visiting my aunt and taking an art class and then we'll be going to Turkey to sightsee and then India to visit my relatives."

Jaelyn Stultz (MS '10) says "I'm working with Norwalk summer youth employment program and I work at NCC in admissions. Going to South Carolina for a family reunion, hanging out with friends, and summer work of course."

After graduating from Endicott College, **Meaghan Wheeler** worked as an Assistant in Upper Elementary here at The Montessori School, inspiring her to pursue her Montessori training. This spring she received her AMI Elementary Diploma from the Hershey



Montessori Training Institute in Cleveland. She has returned to The Montessori School to teach in Lower Elementary!

Gordon Whelpley (UE '99) is currently living in Venice Beach, CA where he works at a whistleblower law firm as research analyst and IT specialist. On nights and weekends he works at

El Segundo Brewery as a brewer's assistant and sales representative.

Jessica Whelpley (UE '01) graduated from Fairfield University with a BS in Biology with a focus on Marine Biology and Ecology, and a minor in Mathematics. She is living in Blue Hill, ME and working at the Marine Environmental Research Institute as the Coastal Monitoring Intern, monitoring Blue Hill and Penobscot Bays for phytoplankton, bacteria levels and water quality. Recently she started work on a new program to look at the amount of microplastics in the ocean. After this position ends in December, she is looking at a position in Puerto Rico studying crabs.

Justin Wright (UE '98) is living in Boston and happily transitioning his burgeoning communications business from freelancer to consulting firm. Working with schools, companies and non-profits on effective communications, conflict management and mediation, he is finalizing the creation of the non-profit arm and plans to finalize the for-profit arm before the end of 2013.

Maximus Zeman became a big brother to his sister Theodora on July 3rd and will begin his Montessori education in Brooklyn this fall. Max's parents are **Ben Zeman** ('87) and Fiona Zeman. Fiona is PR and Marketing Director for the North American markets of Ted Baker London and



Ben is a senior trial attorney at Brooklyn Defender Services.

Joanna Zeman Lane ('90) and Brian Lane welcomed their son, Sawyer, on February 16, 2013. Joanna is Senior Partner of Talent Engagement and Inclusion for Publicis Groupe. She and Brian are moving from Boston to Washington DC this fall where Brian has taken a leadership role with 2U.



A tradition for over a decade, alumni families gathered for 4th of July festivities at Roton Point. Bottom row: Ena Van Eck, Denise Sellhausen, Dick Ferguson, Jan Van Eck. Top row: Barbara Al-Haffar, Quinn Ferguson, Zak Al-Haffar, Steve Sellhausen, Maher Al-Haffar, Jake Al-Haffar, Mette Martensson, Marissa Ferguson and Sebastian Van Eck.



Thank you to everyone who submitted news—please keep it coming! You can send word to Lisa Potter at lisap@themontessorischool.com. If updates from you were received after our deadline for this publication, we apologize that you were not included herein, but we promise to include you in the next AlumNotes.