

Volume 1, Issue 1
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CHS ALUMNI NEWS

~ A quarterly publication for graduates of CHS ~

Upcoming CHS Events

SkillsUSA/NTHS Career Day
December 2, 2016
11:30am – 1:45pm

Please consider speaking at our next career day! Presentations are 20 minutes each for 6 different sessions. Lunch will be provided from 10:30-11:30. Please email Ms. Maher, dmaher@ctemc.org, by Monday, November 7 for more information about how you can help.

CHS-PSFA Dinner Gift Raffle,
Under the Sea!
Jumping Brook Country Club,
Neptune, NJ
Sat., March 25, 2017
Basket Viewing 6:00pm
Dinner 7:00pm – 9:00pm

We would like to extend a cordial welcome to all of our CHS alumni to attend this year's Dinner Gift Raffle event! An "Alumni Table" can be reserved for all attending. Please email Sharon Jemas, chsdqr1740@gmail.com, for more details.

Next Issue

Our next newsletter will be published **January, 2017**. Wishing you a happy, healthy, and peaceful holiday season!

Welcome!

Greetings CHS Alumni and welcome to our inaugural issue of *CHS Alumni News*! The CHS-PSFA Alumni Committee is committed to helping you strengthen your ties with the Communications High School community and your fellow alumni. Together with the PSFA, the Alumni Committee will provide communication and volunteer opportunities as well as recognize the accomplishments of our talented alumni. Please share your photos, stories, and memories with us via email: alumni@chs-psfa.org.

- Carol Pardee and Vivien Cheng, CHS-PSFA Alumni Committee Co-Chairs

Alumni Survey

Please take a moment to answer our [online survey \(http://chs-psfa.org/alumni/\)](http://chs-psfa.org/alumni/) so that we can better serve you! All responses will be kept strictly confidential and will be used for planning future alumni events and initiatives. Thank you for your support!

Company Spotlight – Vydia, Inc.

Each issue will introduce you to an organization where our alumni either mentored or were employed. This month, we highlight Vydia, Inc., located in Freehold, NJ, written by Jenna Gaudio, Vydia's Director of Marketing.

Technology is quickly growing into one of the top industries thriving in New Jersey by providing extensive broadband connectivity to support product development and top-ranking, higher education establishments nearby to recruit an agile workforce. Successful New Jersey startups have been doing their part by focusing on mentoring and retaining young talent in the area. Vydia, New Jersey's fastest growing video technology startup, is a proud advocate of helping young talent, especially CHS students, prepare for careers in the tech industry and get their foot in the door.



The Vydia Team

Vydia's Founder and CEO, Roy LaManna could see that the digital landscape was encouraging an increase in video creation and consumption, leading to a business model that would need to scale quickly. When LaManna identified the need to bring on new tech talent, an intern working for LaManna, Christian Wagner (CHS 2008), thought of his former classmate, Mark Allen (CHS 2008). Allen was still early in his college career when he agreed to spend his summer working full time for LaManna. The increase in user demand for music video submissions to major networks was the spark that led to the Vydia Platform, which would incorporate a suite of different tools that video creators can use to manage their content in a multitude of ways and a partnership with Vevo which enabled the feature to monetization of content.

After raising over \$1M in a Series Seed round of funding, Vydia entered hyper growth mode to expand the team. Former intern Sagar Gupta (CHS 2012) recruited former CHS classmate Nick Bobryk, who now works as a Software Engineer under his CHS Alumnus, VP of Engineering, Mark Allen. When Allen and Bobryk were asked what advantage CHS provided them,



Mark Allen '08 and Nick Bobryk '12

they pointed to the fact that the teachers and system provided a safe place for them to explore their passion for coding. Bobryk said he felt like CHS gave him a head start and was exposed to more internship opportunities early on that prepared him for college and eventually the 'real world.' Allen explained that CHS allowed him the opportunity to explore possible career paths that interested him. For example, he started out with the desire to be a video editor but after taking practical classes and exposure to different related subjects, he was able to refine and pivot his career path.

The best advice these former CHS students would like to pass along to the next generation would be: "Find something you like and focus on being as good as you possibly can at it. Continue your education on your own outside of the classroom. You have to go out of the way to make it happen," coaches Mark Allen.

"Work on what you're passionate about in your free time and always be building your portfolio. When you start interviewing, if you have projects you've created in your spare time, it shows that you are passionate about your field," explains Nick Bobryk.

To learn more about Vydia and the opportunities available, Nick Bobryk will be presenting at the Skills USA and NTHS Career Fair on December 2nd.

Alumni Reflections

Bri Dazio, Class of 2014

Bri is a junior at Virginia Tech and a member of Delta Omicron. She is majoring in Interior Design with a minor in Business Leadership. Her fondest memory of CHS is the senior year canoe trip.

I know it's only October, but I'm sure a lot of you seniors, and maybe even some juniors, are excited for graduation and the day you head off to college. You might already be counting down the days until you can decorate that blue cap, put on that gown, and shake Mr. Gleason's hand as he hands you your hard-earned diploma. I remember the feelings of excitement and anticipation that accompanied the thought of leaving home and going to college. College is an amazing four (or more!) years of your life; but high school is amazing too! Enjoy every minute of it, because the next eight months are going to fly by. When you meet new people at college, you'll have to describe Communications High School in just a few short sentences. There is truly no way to describe the quirky community of CHS. When people talk about their AP

classes, tell them about your state-of-art broadcast studio, the darkroom, the hundreds of Mac computers, and the DV green screen. Try to describe Mr. CHS and lip sync to your new friends. They may laugh at the absurdity of it all, but you'll know just how fun, weird, and unique the CHS family is.

So appreciate all that CHS has to offer while you're still there. Go to Winterball with your friends and maybe go out to Hoffman's in Spring Lake afterward. Participate in spirit week and save up your coins for penny wars. Eat Mrs. Campbell's McGuapos while you still can, the college dining halls don't even come close. Don't forget to thank the PSFA for bagels and Sunny D during exams because you'll have to buy them yourself in college. Go to the DV club film festival and appreciate the hard work and talent of your classmates. Cut your team t-shirt, smear war paint on your face, and cheer on your team at Color Wars. Help decorate a locker pod for the CCC festival and learn a little bit about places you could potentially study abroad in college. When it's time for the senior dinner, sit with your friends and family and laugh at the senior video and how the past four years have flown by. Decorate that cap and walk proudly across that stage at graduation. After all, you've earned it for surviving physics with Mr. Godkin and history with Mrs. O'Keefe. Enjoy every second of high school. Take photos to hang in your new college dorm room and make memories with your best friends. College may be just around the corner, but the memories and your CHS family will last forever. Good luck, CHS!

Evan Noone, Class of 2015

I am currently a Sophomore at The College of New Jersey in Ewing, New Jersey. I am pursuing a Technology Education Degree and expect to graduate in 2019. On campus, I am part of the Improv Comedy Troupe, The Mixed Signals, and am the Secretary for the Student Film Union.

I will never forget performing my sleight of hand routine at Coffee House my Senior year of CHS. Seeing the reactions of the crowd over something that I had been practicing for years was so gratifying. I had a friend of mine act as my lovely assistant, and it was, dare I say, a "Magical" evening. I'm happy to say that I have continued my practice of sleight of hand at TCNJ, and am lovingly referred to as the "Magic Man" on campus. Through my performances, I discovered many performing arts organizations, namely, the Mixed Signals Improv Comedy Troupe. I auditioned my Freshman year and have been performing with them ever since.

Sallie Haas, Class of 2016

Sally is a freshman at the Fashion Institute of Technology in NYC and is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Fashion Business Management. Her fondest memory of CHS is running the fashion show.

When I was seven years old, my mom took me to the museum at the Fashion Institute in New York. There was a book sitting on a small table at the exit of the exhibit for guests to write their thoughts. On my way out, I wrote "See you in 10 years!" Ten years flew by, and I am now a Fashion Business Management Major at FIT. However, it wasn't as easy of a choice as it seems. I always had a lot of school spirit and loved science and history, so I really thought I wouldn't go to a school that had barely any sports, school pride, or gen eds. After visiting every school, I knew I didn't have a choice. I had been planning to enter into one of the most competitive industries in the world since I was seven, so FIT was my best shot at success. In the beginning it was sad seeing my friends at football games surrounded by so many different kinds of people but really nothing beats living in New York City. All my professors are in the industry, I'm surrounded by some of the most talented kids in the world, and I even got to work at New York Fashion Week. The skills that I learned at Communications have helped me succeed and get ahead in my first few months here. Although I miss CHS and all the people there, I am grateful for all the experiences and memories I have and wish only the best for my fellow alumni.

Alumni News

In Memoriam

In loving memory of Debra C. Parmentola, Clemson University; CHS Class of 2012

With a heavy heart we share the sad news that Debbie passed away on September 26 at the age of 22. If you wish to make a donation in her honor, please donate to one of her sorority's favorite organization, Safe Harbor, <http://safeharborc.org/donate-now/>.

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Be sure to like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#) for photos, news, and more. Use hashtag [#CHSAlumni](#) to share your news on Instagram. You may also visit us on the [CHS PSFA Website](#).