



Upcoming CHS Events

CHS Color Wars!
Fri., June 2, 2017
9:00am – 2:20pm

Students and faculty will be divided into teams to compete in all sorts of fun activities. The PSFA will provide a barbecue lunch during the day's events.

Senior Recognition Dinner
Doolan's Shore Club
Spring Lake, NJ
Thurs., June 8, 2017
6:00pm – 8:30pm

Class of 2017 Graduation
Count Basie Theatre
Red Bank, NJ
Tue., June 20, 2017
3:30pm – 4:30pm

Get Social

Be sure to like the CHS PSFA on [Facebook](#) and follow 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](#).

Editors' Note

Welcome to our third issue of *CHS Alumni News*! As a new committee, we set two goals for the year: to begin reaching out to alumni and collecting their contact information, and to invite them to share their stories in our newsletters. Although these are ongoing goals, we are happy to say that we have had a successful start. Future initiatives include planning reunions, networking opportunities, and other social occasions for all interested alumni and current students. We hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter and catching up with your fellow classmates!

Please let us know what events interest you and help us spread the word to your friends, family, and acquaintances. The alumni committee can be contacted via email at alumni@chs-psfa.org. Lastly, if you haven't already done so, 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. Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

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

Company Spotlight – M studio

Each issue features an organization where our alumni either mentored or were employed. This month, we highlight M Studio, a graphic design and public relations agency located in Asbury Park, NJ, and founded by Jenna Zilincar.

Since 2004, woman-owned branding and communications agency M studio has been recognized for their innovative marketing campaigns, leading edge creative vision, and compelling communications strategies. Led by founder and creative director Jenna Zilincar and public relations director Shannon Furey, M studio serves a diverse national and international client base consisting of established businesses, start-ups, and virtual entities. The M studio team has generated work across various sectors of industry, including travel and hospitality, lifestyle and fashion, arts and entertainment, food and beverage, business to business, and consumer goods.

Always looking for new insights and fresh perspectives, M studio is happy to participate in Communications High School's student mentorship program each semester. While M studio is proud to help each student grow in his or her creative endeavors, they are also consistently delighted by the students' drive and wide range of talents.

"We welcome the input of our student mentors and always look to challenge them to push their creative boundaries. We hope every student finishes out their semester with a greater skill-set and better understanding of what it's like to work in the world of marketing," writes Zilincar.

Over the years, CHS student participants at M studio have been afforded the opportunity to work on projects ranging from advertisement and email marketing design to logo development and custom graphics.

Visit mdidit.com for more information on M studio's range of branding, communications, and marketing services.

Alumni Reflections

Melissa (Melms) Mills, Class of 2005

Senior Editor, Bustle

Growing up, I dreamt of being an editor at *Vogue* or *Glamour*. Fast-forward to more than ten years since graduating from CHS (wow!!) and I definitely have my dream job – even if it's not exactly what I imagined it'd be. The funny thing, though, is that while I knew I wanted to work in the editorial world, it took a lot of jobs in a lot of different fields to get where I am today. After studying "Media, Culture, and Communication" at New York University, the adventure began. First I worked at a startup magazine in Hoboken, NJ, where I wrote and edited, but also went door-to-door selling ads, planned monthly networking events, helped manage the social media accounts, and, yes, even vacuumed when they needed me to. After that, I started working at *Glamour* magazine as a research editor, fact-checking stories that'd be published every month. But I still wanted more. I started taking editors out for coffee and pitching stories left and right, and soon enough I became an official blogger for glamour.com while also contributing articles in print as well. At that point, it became very clear that just about everything was moving to digital. As obvious as that seems now, there just wasn't much of an investment in social media or websites at that time. So I decided to completely change it up and move into the social media world, all so I could continue building my own portfolio. I worked as a digital strategist, advising clients like WE tv and HBO on how they should promote their new series online. And then one day I got an email from a former colleague telling me about a job at a women's website, and I knew that everything had come full circle.

Thinking back, I realize that my time at CHS prepped me for my post-college path. All of that dabbling in the communications field allowed me to try my hand at everything – and succeed. So here I am, a senior editor at Bustle, the largest digital media property aimed at millennial women (reaching more than 50 million unique readers every month!), running the site's app and homepage – something I couldn't even have envisioned when I was still in high school. But I'm an editor, and I'm using every single ounce of experience I picked up along the way.

So here's my advice: Say "yes" to everything. Do as many internships as you can. Be a team player. Never stop learning or following trends. But, most importantly, follow your heart! You never know, your dream job might not even exist yet.

Holly Horne, Class of 2012

Freelance Assistant Camera

Holly graduated from Emerson College with a BFA in Film Production in 2015. She has been working as a freelance assistant camera in the film industry since 2014.

When people told me to take advantage of everything CHS would have to offer, I never imagined it'd give me the foundation for my career. As a first assistant camera in Los Angeles, there's not a day that goes by that I don't use something I learned here. For everyone confused about what that job is, including my own parents, I'm responsible for assisting the cinematographer with all things camera related, including building the camera, troubleshooting when it's not cooperating, and focusing it in real time as actors miss their marks around the set.

Honestly, I can't believe I graduated CHS just five years ago. This school taught me the basics of filmmaking and set etiquette (thanks Salowe!), which made it easier to approach people about working on set later on. CHS taught me how to work quickly under pressure and how to juggle multiple projects. It taught me how to work with others to cohesively

create a vision for a film. It taught me how to communicate ideas effectively and think clearly when everything is going off the rails. It taught me how to ask questions and learn quickly on the fly.

I'm the luckiest girl in the world because I haven't had a day go by that feels like work and I really only have Communications to thank for giving me the confidence to pursue my career before I even graduated college. If you're still at CHS and reading this, pay attention to your teachers and classes. You might learn something.

Clay Paley, Class of 2016

Clay Paley graduated CHS in 2016 and just completed his first year at University of Connecticut.

I never wanted to leave CHS. The people, the classes, the environment in general... it had become a second home for me in the 4 years I spent there as a student. I made lifelong friends while attending, and I was challenged academically. As sad as it was to leave, it prepared me extremely well to move onto the next chapter of my life. The University of Connecticut is a pretty big school: 24,000 undergraduate students big. Communications High School at the modest size of 323 students when I attended, made me fear whether I was truly ready to be a small fish in a big pond. However, I quickly got involved in campus life and met some incredible people from all walks of life.

My strong interest in politics and the law in general led me to my first few clubs, which included the UConn Law Society and ConnPIRG, an on-campus organization focused in grass-root movements. From early on in September, I worked with ConnPIRG on registering students on campus to vote in the general election in November. In total, we registered thousands whilst educating them on voting locations and preparing them for voting on issues other than the presidency. Although this wasn't a direct result of my attending CHS, opportunities like this aren't available to everyone. My position in ConnPIRG as an intern only presented itself because of what CHS had helped me to put on my resume.

My advice for students, alumni, and even prospective students of CHS is to take advantage of the opportunities and experiences Communications High School offers its students. Attending a school of such prestige is often taken for granted, but it's important to remember that the education and opportunities that we are provided is what sets CHS students apart from others. My friends and I often remarked on a popular Communications saying, "Monmouth County's best and brightest," rather rhetorically. But CHS was the experience of a lifetime, and I promise, the best and brightest of Monmouth County are truly and proudly represented by students from Communications High School.

Congratulations Class of 2017!



Senior Prom, 05/19/17

Best wishes for your exciting adventures ahead!

On a personal note, my daughter is among this year's graduates so this is my last issue as Alumni Co-Chair. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading your personal stories, learning about your successful post-high school education and careers, and appreciating your fond memories of this great school. Remember all the special people that have enriched your life during your high school years – your family, your friends, your teachers, your mentors, and the wonderful environment CHS has provided. I know that my daughter and I will!

Fondly, Carol Pardee