



Upcoming CHS Events

Wine and Design Pinot's Palette Red Bank, NJ

Friday, Oct. 27, 2017
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

PSFA fundraiser. A fun evening of socializing and painting wine glasses. Over 21 only as wine will be served.

Coffee House Friday, Nov. 17, 2017 6:30pm – 8:30pm

A night of musical performances by CHS students.

PSFA Mingle & Jingle Thursday, Dec. 7, 2017 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Festive holiday event with a cookie exchange, coffee & holiday refreshments, and the "CHS Mall" (fundraising items from CHS Clubs).

Career Day Friday, Dec. 8, 2017 11:30 am – 1:45 pm

SkillsUSA/NTHS event

Dinner Gift Raffle Auction Jumping Brook Country Club Neptune, NJ Saturday, Apr. 14, 2018

More details coming

Next Issue
Our next newsletter will be published January 2018

Happy Holidays!

Welcome Home, Alumni!

The CHS Alumni Committee is excited to kick off our second year by announcing the first ever Communications High School Reunion and Homecoming! Please tell all your CHS Alumni friends! Many thanks to Principal Gleason for his support. If you are not receiving this newsletter, perhaps we do not have your current email address. Please visit our online survey and update your email address. We are grateful for the Alumni who have made this newsletter possible by contributing to our "Alumni Reflections." We love to hear from you and are always looking for more personal anecdotes. Please send your stories, photos, or questions to alumni@chs-psfa.org. Career Day is around the corner! At last year's Career Day, alumna Rachel Belli shared how CHS helped her land her dream job (her story is in the January 2017 issue of the newsletter). Kindly consider speaking at our upcoming Career Day. All students will be thrilled to learn about your career.

Vivien Cheng and Mary Ellen Landolfi, CHS-PSFA Alumni Committee Co-Chairs

Alumni Online Survey

Please take a moment to update your current email address and complete the online survey <http://chs-psfa.org/alumni/>. All responses will be kept strictly confidential and will be used for planning future alumni events so we can serve you better. Thank you for your support.

You're Invited!

Reconnect with old friends at the Reunion and Homecoming! All CHS alumni, faculty, staff and their spouses and children are invited to attend. RSVP at <https://goo.gl/forms/tco14loUCPfcZeE63>.

Communications High School 2017 Homecoming & Reunion

Brunch
will be served

Compliments
of
CHS PSFA



Thursday, December 28

11:00 am to 1:30 pm

at Communications High School

RSVP by December 7, 2017

<https://goo.gl/forms/tco14loUCPfcZeE63>

Please respond even if you do not plan to attend. This will help us keep our alumni class lists up to date.

You're Invited!

Meet Old Friends
Photo Booth
Tour CHS
Games
Door Prizes
Shop CHS Merch
& More!

Company Spotlight: Rizco – A Creative Campaign Agency

Each issue will introduce you to an organization where our alumni either mentored or were employed. This month, we highlight Rizco, located in Spring Lake Heights, NJ. Article written by Kerri Ehrmantraut, Senior Account Manager, Rizco.

We're busy, but we're passionate about mentoring. That's why, 10 years ago, when the Communications High School (CHS) contacted us to hire an intern, we immediately said, "Yes." And since that time, we've hired a total of six interns (and soon to be seven!) from CHS.

We are Rizco. Founded at the turn of the new millennium by Debra and Keith Rizzi, Rizco is an award-winning creative campaign agency based in Spring Lake Heights. Melding strategic thinking and creative expertise seamlessly, Rizco's focus is on building brands and growing companies through all aspects of branding, design and communication strategies. We use an integrated approach to brand building to help clients creatively engage with their audiences and deliver results. From securing a vote "YES" on the NJ Gas Amendment with one month to Election Day on behalf of the New Jersey Asphalt Pavement Association (NJAPA) to helping the global, luxury brand, Waterford, reach a younger audience, over the past 17 years we've partnered with exceptional clients to produce measurable results.



Photo: Mike Hom (CHS 2016), pictured with Keith Rizzi (Rizco's Partner & Creative Director), Michelle Mazur (Rizco's Director of Operations), & Debra Rizzi (Rizco's President and Partner). Hom currently attends Drexel University, the alma mater of Keith Rizzi and Stephanie Salerno, (Rizco's Senior Designer, not pictured).

love having fresh talent as part of our business mix and personal growth model."

At Rizco, we make every effort to ensure that students are gaining a valuable experience outside of the classroom. We encourage students to make the most of their internship. Isaiah Drake, Rizco's most recent intern, offered this advice for future CHS interns, "Look for a company that is willing to teach and expose you to different aspects of graphic design and marketing. Also, when you do intern, don't be afraid to ask questions - it's the key to learning." Rizco's Debra Rizzi adds, "Be yourself. Show initiative and have a positive attitude. And don't forget to keep in touch. We always love hearing what our former interns are up to." (Continued on page 3.)

For more information about Rizco, visit www.rizco.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) (keyword: Rizco Design).



Select samples of some of the work produced by CHS students during their internships at Rizco. (Photos: Rizco)

Alumni Reflections

Michael Manzella, Class of 2004

If there is one guarantee in life, it's that there is no telling where it will lead you. One other near certainty, though, is that the education that CHS students receive is, and will always be, invaluable to whatever endeavor its alumni happen to pursue.

When I decided to attend CHS, I thought that I was going to be embarking on a career in television production. However, upon advancing through the curriculum, it was my courses in computer networking that began to formulate my post-secondary education career interests. This led me to Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken post-graduation to study Computer Engineering. Halfway through my undergraduate studies, I changed course again and instead graduated as a Bachelor of Engineering in Engineering Management. After a brief stint in project engineering for an aerospace manufacturing firm in Connecticut, I decided to shift tracks yet again and come back to New Jersey to pursue a graduate degree in City and Regional Planning with a concentration in Transportation Planning and Policy at Rutgers University. It was in this career choice that I finally had a chance to fully apply all of the skills that I learned at CHS: a mastery of computer skills, an eye for good design, and the communication of abstract theoretical principals to citizens of a community in ways that affect their everyday lives.



Photo: Michael Manzella (center), Asbury Park Mayor John Moor (far left), along with residents, Councilwomen, City staff and CHS Students.

Following almost three years at an engineering consulting firm back home in Middletown as a Transportation Planner, I decided to pursue a new opportunity and a newly created position - Transportation Manager for the City of Asbury Park. I have been in this role for nearly a year, working in a City Hall that is located just 5 miles from CHS! This work has been personally rewarding and fulfilling; there are still many times where I find myself utilizing a skill or technique that I learned at CHS in my daily job. Just recently, CHS has started to creep back into my purview. The City of Asbury Park has hired CHS students as interns to assist our Communications Director. I have been so impressed with our interns, and our latest, Veronica Yaron, is now a member of the Mayor's Wellness Committee, which I chair. Veronica helped organize members of the Cultural Community Club at CHS to participate with the Mayor's team in the American Heart

Association Heart Walk on October 1 on the Asbury Park Boardwalk. As a member of the school's first graduating class, it was great to meet the next generation of CHS students and know that we all have so much to be proud of! Life can lead you in many different directions, and sometimes it leads you back to where you started.

Chelsea Whittemore, Class of 2008

I remember my first day of high school so well. I had already decided I would focus all of my time in the TV studio before I walked in the front doors. The shiny cameras, the huge green screen, and the control room with the fancy flashing buttons drew me in and excited me beyond belief. I couldn't wait to learn everything I needed to know about "making TV" and lucky for me, I didn't have to wait. My first semester of freshman year I was blindly thrown into the studio and started creating some very "unique" shows; everything from cooking shows, to exercise shows and even our own version of American Idol. I was 14 years old, yet found something that got me so excited and so motivated, I didn't want to stop doing it. Throughout my four years, I spent my hour lunch breaks in the broadcast studio, I volunteered for any TV shows people would use me for and eventually I traveled across the country to represent our high school in California at the Student Television Network competition! Fast forward almost 10 years later and I'm still doing that thing I love. I am now a producer at FOX News where I write scripts, book guests, do research, build graphics, cut video and decide on editorial content for the show. Thanks to the passionate teachers, the most creative friends, and of course, the state of the art equipment at CHS, I was able to prepare for the career I so badly wanted. **High school was where I found my true passion.** So, find your passion, follow it, and don't give up. It's not always an easy journey, but it will be worth it!

Kevin Gibson, Class of 2014

I had been interning at a small business in Pittsford, NY for 8 months before going back to classes at Rochester Institute of Technology this fall. It was a huge readjustment to need to budget my time between clubs, classes, homework, and my job as an RA once I was back to being a student. Because I was only focusing on work for so long, I found I'd lost my ability to prioritize my tasks and stay caught up with everything. I was floundering but the funny thing was that I realized I haven't felt this way since I was a freshman in high school. I thought back to my first year at Communications in 2010 and how terrified I was because for the first time, school was really challenging. Back then I had to pull myself together and reevaluate my work ethic and how I made time for things like Digital Video Club, my massive load of World History homework, and socializing with a whole new group of people in my class. And again, in Senior Year, balancing my Advanced Java Programming class with my new 35-hours-a-week job at the local Staples wasn't exactly easy. I'm very grateful for those experiences though, because they've helped me now, seven years later, with figuring out how to adjust to new responsibilities and get back into the groove of college life. I want to give a huge thanks to CHS for being more challenging than I ever expected. It really helped! Stay golden.

OTHER NEWS AND UPDATES ...

Annual Donation Campaign

Another year of academic excellence and creative learning at CHS is underway. Each year the PSFA strives to enrich the CHS experience for students, faculty and parents. We are delighted to provide many outstanding programs, benefits and experiences from the annual Beach Bonfire and Color Wars, to bagel breakfasts on exam days to annual scholarship programs.

In order to fund many of these outstanding programs, our Annual Donation Campaign is underway. Your contribution will directly benefit our student and faculty community. For information on how to donate and to view the donation letter, please visit <http://chs-psfa.org/support-the-psfa/annual-donation-campaign/>.

Thank you for your continued support of our truly outstanding school!

The CHS PSFA

SkillsUSA/NTHS Seeks Career Day Speakers

SkillsUSA/NTHS Career Day will be held at CHS on December 8, 2017 from 11:30 am to 1:45 pm. Please consider speaking at this upcoming event! Presentations are 20 minutes each for six different sessions. Lunch will be provided from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. For more information, please email Mr. Stengle at stengle@ctemc.org by Friday, Nov. 10.

We are also looking for companies and individuals to sponsor our event. Sponsorships range from \$50-\$1,000. If you or someone you know would be interested in sponsoring Career Day, please email Mr. Stengle as well.

Thank you for your support!

**Emma Wilenta,
SkillsUSA President**

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.

Past issues of our newsletter are available on the **CHS Website** at <http://chs-psfa.org/alumni-2/alumni-newsletter/>.