



Upcoming CHS Events

Annual Fashion Show

Friday, Feb. 23, 2018
6pm-8 pm

The 5th annual Fashion Show features local food and clothing businesses. Students, teachers, & staff walk the runway to help raise money for senior prom.

Dinner Gift Raffle Auction

Jumping Brook Country Club
Neptune, NJ

Saturday, Apr. 14, 2018

Basket viewing 6 pm

Dinner/Raffle 7pm -11pm

You're Invited!

We will have a table reserved just for you and your fellow alumni. Click on chs-psfa.org to access the reservation and raffle ticket information.

CHS in the News

CHS Ranks 3rd in NJ Statewide School Rating

CHS was named one of the top NJ schools in the new state ranking released January 24 as reported in NJ.com. Kudos to the faculty, staff, and students on this achievement!

Next Issue

Our next newsletter will be published in May 2018. We'd love you to share your stories with us. Please email us at alumni@chs-psfa.org.

Past Issues

Our newsletters are available on the CHS Website at <http://chs-psfa.org/alumni-2/alumni-newsletter/>

Happy New Year to Our Alumni!

Thank you for coming to the first-ever CHS Alumni Homecoming! We hope that you found the day meaningful and memorable. We look forward to seeing you again.

We dedicate this issue to the Homecoming which was held on December 28. In our 'Company Spotlight' we proudly present a company founded by our very own alum. This issue's 'Alumni Reflections' features brief interviews with some of the attending alumni.

The Homecoming was funded by the PSFA and organized by the Alumni Committee. Our deep appreciation to everyone who were involved on stage and behind the scenes, from parents and student volunteers, to administrative, faculty, and staff members, it was truly a joyful collaboration of the work of many members of the PSFA.

If you are not receiving this newsletter you may not be in our email list. Please take a moment to update your email address and complete the online survey at <http://chs-psfa.org/alumni/>. All responses will be kept confidential and will be used for planning future alumni events.

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

First CHS Alumni Homecoming a Great Success

More than 90 CHS alumni and their guests attended the inaugural Alumni Homecoming last month. Graduates from the first class of 2004 onward arrived to share their stories and explore changes that have taken place at CHS over the years.

The cafeteria was festively decorated in the school colors of blue and silver. Guests and faculty enjoyed an expansive lunch, selfie booth, swag sales, games, and door prizes. Mr. Gleason gave a school tour to eager alums who were amazed, especially with the changes in the studio classrooms. Alums also wrote messages and advice to current students. Friendships were re-ignited, new acquaintances formed, and NHS student volunteers enjoyed interviewing graduates to learn about life in the early days of CHS.



Company Spotlight: Lin Pernille Photography

Each issue will introduce you to an organization where our alumni either mentored or are employed. This month, we highlight Lin Pernille Photography, owned and operated by CHS 2010 graduate Lin Pernille Kristensen.

By Lin Pernille Kristensen | Photographer, Videographer, and Educator



Lin Pernille Kristensen

I first discovered my passion for photography after getting involved with the Photo Club during my freshman year at Communications High School. I was able to experiment and familiarize myself with all of the top-of-the-line photography equipment that CHS provided, and take several advanced, college-level photography courses.

By the time I graduated, I had learned all the ins and outs of DSLR cameras, Adobe Photoshop & Bridge, digital photography, studio lighting, photojournalism, exposure, composition, and darkroom film development. I was also given the opportunity to represent CHS at the Skills USA State competition and win the Gold Award for Photography - an award that boosted my resume tremendously and helped me land internships, mentorships, jobs, college acceptances, and scholarships.

In 2010, I was awarded a full academic scholarship to attend Montclair State University, where I majored in Photography and minored in Business. Because of the portfolio I had built and the knowledge I had learned throughout high school, I was able to skip two 100-level photography courses in my first year of college, which allowed me to get a head start on my college course load.

In 2013, when I was in my junior year of college, I knew I wanted to make photography my career, so I decided to incorporate my photography business, Lin Pernille Photography, which specializes in wedding, event, and portrait photography and videography services.

Since then, I have been lucky enough to capture 92 weddings of a wide variety of cultures, sizes, and styles, and work with hundreds of happy clients all over the tri-state area.

This past year, I started a new branch to my business, Lin Pernille Education, where I host workshops & courses for aspiring photographers, so that I can help other ambitious photographers reach their dream of owning a thriving photography business.



Communications High School has had a tremendous impact on my photography career and I often think about all the ways it has influenced my life, even eight years after graduating from CHS. I credit a huge part of my success to the unparalleled teachers at CHS and the advanced, college-level courses that I was able to take at such a young age.

To see more of Lin's photography and education services, visit:
www.linpernille.com • linpernilleeducation.com

ALUMNI HOMECOMING 2017



Left photo: (L-R) Meghan Dougherty/2010, Maj Kristina Kristensen/2009, Lin Pernille Kristensen/2010.

Right photo: (L-R) Christian Wagner/2008, Tim Sigler/2006, Sandra Gammon/2006, Melanie (Hoffman) Dallavalle/2005.

Thoughts on Homecoming from CHS Principal and Faculty

“Work hard, play hard!” Mr. G.

CHS Principal James Gleason and faculty member Justine Lane visited with alumni who attended the Homecoming. Mr. Gleason noted the day was a great success. “It was great to see so many alumni come back and share their stories with us,” he commented. “Most important, the alumni day provided all the CHS graduates an opportunity to come back to CHS to see one another.” Mr. Gleason added a message to all alumni: “We are very proud of your accomplishments and we are excited to see you still reaching out to one another.”

Ms. Lane enjoyed the opportunity to visit with CHS graduates. “We don’t get to see most of the students after the first couple of years after graduation,” she said. “It was so nice to see how our students were doing as adults. I also got to connect with a few of the current parents in a way that is not possible at school events. I hope it becomes a CHS tradition!”

Alumni Reflections

This issue of the alumni newsletter features highlights of interviews with CHS Alumni who attended the Homecoming.



Melanie (Hoffman) Dallavalle – Class of 2005

Melanie is a Strategy Consultant at Ernst & Young. This is her third job in the company after being in the Marketing and then Social Media departments. She was excited to be back at CHS. She noticed that the parking lot is a lot bigger – it was only half the size when she was at CHS and she remembered having to fight to get a parking space. She was impressed by the upgrades in the studio and recording classrooms. She recognized five alumni and enjoyed hanging out with them.

Christian Wagner – Class of 2008

Christian is a Digital Manager in the music field (Record pressing co./ managing bands, websites, social media). He's worked in communication and in radio/TV station management. Upon returning to CHS, he thought that everything is different but the same; the faces have changed but the foundation is the same. He was glad to talk to Mr. Gleason and Mr. Applegate (a former CHS teacher who attended Alumni Homecoming).



Kelsey Miller – Class of 2011

Kelsey is currently a Karate teacher and working at an Elementary/Preschool in Neptune. She said she attended art school, but it was not for her. She's been practicing karate since she was 14 and is still doing it. She hadn't been back to CHS for a while and was glad that she attended the Homecoming with her brother who just graduated last year. She has another sister who also graduated from CHS and is married to a CHS alum. She noticed that the mural in the cafeteria was different from when she was at CHS. She was happy to catch up with Mr. Gleason.

Kevin Woods – Class of 2012

Kevin is an animator at Fisher Price in East Aurora, NY. He is a graduate of the Savannah College of Art and Design/Animato. His sister, Emily, is also a CHS graduate. During the Homecoming he met up with former classmates Kevin Webber and Nick Bobyrk, and spoke with Mr. Gleason. He noticed the different mural in the cafeteria, the showcase of student work, and the bigger parking lot.

Jessica Noe – Class of 2014

Jessica transferred from Mount Holyoke and is currently a student at Rutgers University. She also has an Associate's Degree in Media Communications from Brookdale Community College. She enjoyed having lunch and hanging out with her former CHS classmates at the Homecoming. She was surprised how most things in the school stayed the same which had brought a lot of fond memories. She was expecting to see more teachers and hoping to see her favorite teacher Mr. Salowe. She had returned for Alumni Days and always wished that it was open to all alumni. She is super happy that we had the Homecoming event!



Evan Noone – Class of 2015



Evan is a Junior at The College of New Jersey as a Tech Education major. He is learning to teach in the School of Engineering. It's an intense curriculum and he's taking engineering classes and education classes. Evan is proficient in using a fully equipped workshop to work with wood and metal which he thought was "Both terrifying and rewarding!" He works as a Stage Technician in the campus theater, He's VP of the Student Film Union and the Publicist for (and member of) the TCNJ improv troupe, The Mixed Signals. (His projects can be found on the TCNJ campus movie festival website.) He is still in contact and involved with many current CHS students. He visits CHS frequently and spoke with many teachers on Alumni Day.

Emily Woods – Class of 2015

Emily is a student at Rutgers University with a Double major in Theater and Psychology and a Minor in Women & Gender Studies. She said Rutgers is a very big school, very different from CHS. She enjoyed "Reliving the glory days!" at CHS, and said it was great chatting with Mr. Gleason.



Thomas Campbell – Class of 2017

Thomas is a student at The College of New Jersey, as a Multi Media major. He had a mentorship at Solari Creative while at CHS. He enjoys dorm life, work, and games. He misses CHS people. CHS is so unique; his college doesn't have that "charm." He was sad to see that his brick was painted over. He enjoyed seeing classmates Connor Bruneau and Steven Topper. His sister is currently a Freshman at CHS.

Annie Ruoff – Class of 2017

Annie is attending Boston College and is a Prelaw/ English major and a Theatre minor. She's VP of Residents Hall Council and is involved in the Improv Comedy Club. She noticed the basketball hoop which was donated by her class. She met up with former classmates Connor and Stephen.



Matt Miller – Class of 2017

Matt is a student at Stockton College, majoring in Physics. He's involved in the Track Club and is running the Honors College Board. He enjoyed coming back the second time in the same week (Alumni Day & Homecoming). He met up with former classmates and talked with Mr. Gleason during the Homecoming.

Mark DiSpigna – Class of 2017

Mark is a Freshman at Stevens Institute and is a Quantitative Finance major. He ran for SGA at Stevens but didn't make it this year. He said he has a "deep, deep love for CHS" and still keeps in touch with the PSFA and enjoys the nostalgia. He was glad to see that the mural was finished since he graduated. He met up with classmates Annie Ruoff and Connor Bruneau.



Special Thanks for Alumni Homecoming 2017

The co-chairs and members of the Alumni Committee would like to thank the following individuals who assisted with Alumni Homecoming 2017:

James Gleason - CHS Principal

Jody Sackett & Laura Anderson - PSFA Co-presidents

Gayle Topper - Hospitality Committee

Justine Lane - NHS Advisor

Susan Andrews, Ray Peterson, & Rich Pucci - Custodial Staff

Parent Volunteers: Herbert Cheng, Sharon Jemas, Theresa Karron, April LaRocca, Aphrodite Noone, Hope Raymond, Raymond Sackett.

NHS Student Volunteers: Paulina Corcoran, Kelly Forrester, Mia Gallo, Jacqueline Geller, Kaitlyn Hammond, Emma Hecht, Kyra Lally, Delia Noone, Allison Paglia, and Julianne Sackett.

Annual Dinner & Gift Raffle to Be Held April 14

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

Mark your calendars for the 14th Annual Dinner & Gift Raffle, **All That Glitters**, to be held on Saturday evening, April 14 at the Jumping Brook Golf Club in Neptune. All alumni are invited to attend this event and can request to be seated at their own table or tables. Be sure to RSVP early and take advantage of our Early Bird Special. Registration is available here: chs-psfa.org.

This event is the largest PSFA annual fundraiser and provides the capital to enrich the CHS students' education with events and programs offered throughout the year.

The proceeds from the Dinner/Gift Raffle will go toward class trips, Color Wars Barbeque, schoolwide events, Bagel Breakfasts, graduation expenses, and much more!

Advertising opportunities are also available in the event ad journal. For details, pricing and specifications, visit <http://chs-psfa.org/support-the-psfa/dinner-and-gift-auction-2018/>.

For more information on the event, please email our DGR Chairpersons Sharon Jemas and Louise Krall at DGR@chs-psfa.org.



Get Social

Be sure to "like" the CHS PSFA on **Facebook** and follow on **Twitter** for photos, news, and more. Look for periodic updates and announcements on social media. Be sure to use the hashtag **#CHSAlumni** to share your news on Instagram!