



## Upcoming CHS Event

### Family Fun Night

Friday, 5/18/2018

7:00 pm to 8:30 pm

### Bluegrass Mini-Golf

Monmouth Race Tract  
200 Port Au Peck Ave.  
Oceanport, NJ

### Next Issue

We'll be back in the fall with our next issue. We'd love you to share your stories with us. Please email us at [alumni@chs-psfa.org](mailto:alumni@chs-psfa.org).

### Past Issues

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

**Have  
A Safe &  
Wonderful summer!**

## Spring has arrived!

The PSFA Dinner & Gift Raffle in April at the Jumping Brook Country Club was a great success. Over 160 guests attended the fabulous PSFA Dinner & Gift Auction on April 14th and everyone had a ball. From the delightful glittering decorations, to the fabulous array of 125 gift baskets, it was clearly a magical evening. In addition to the popular SurPrize cigar box game and the Luxury Wine Raffle, the new Heads & Tails game was quite a hit and a riot to play.

This event is our main fundraiser, and we are ever so grateful to the guests, the Gift Auction committee, the generous donors, and the many parent volunteers that made it all possible. We appreciate the CHS Alumni who also attended – thank you for your continued support to our wonderful school! We hope to see more alumni attending this event in the coming years.



*Meredith Colonna, class of 2005 had a great time at the Dinner & Gift Raffle.*

In this edition, we are very proud and delighted to feature yet another of our very own alumnus entrepreneur, and three alumni personal stories. Last but not least, graduation is only a few weeks away. We look forward to welcoming the class of 2018 as our newest alumni! Check out some of their pictures!

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

## Alumni Online Survey

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.

## Company Spotlight

### WebPublisher Pro, David Walsh, Class of 2005

Each issue will introduce you to an organization where our alumni either mentored or are employed. This month, we highlight WebPublisher Pro, located in Red Bank. The article is written by CHS 2005 graduate David Walsh, owner and CEO of Web Publisher Pro.



*David Walsh, Class of 2005*

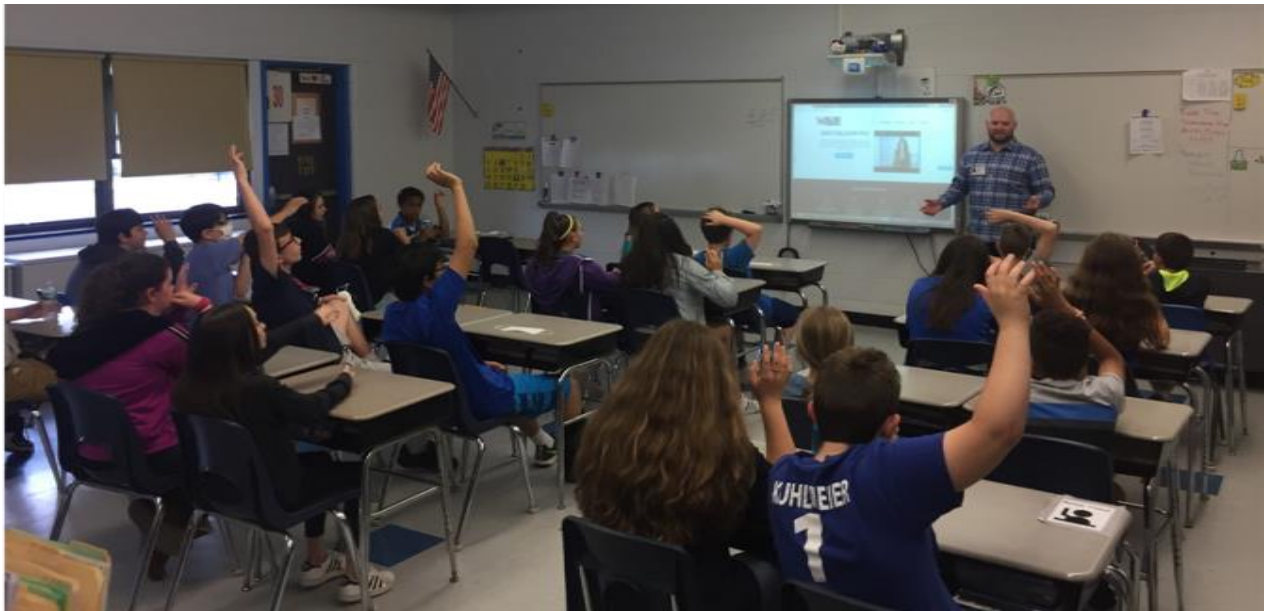
I can remember all the way back to 5th grade or so, when I first logged on to AOL through a 14.4Kbps modem and discovered the internet. I was amazed at the vast opportunities. Through middle school, I would spend all of my time on the computer learning how to write basic HTML code, making websites, and creating flash animations.

When it came time to choose a high school, I was amazed by the opportunities to go above and

beyond the usual curriculum with this new school that had only opened a year prior and offered various courses in digital broadcasting, programming, graphic design, and other related areas. Despite being waitlisted at first, I can still remember how happy I was on the day I was accepted. I was an average student throughout high school, but I excelled in the courses I was passionate about.

During high school, I started a company called Simple Tech with my best friend and fellow CHS alumnus Lucas Scavone. Together, we would spend hours after school building custom computers and websites for our friends, their parents' businesses, and anyone else who would let us. I did also manage to squeeze in four years of varsity ice hockey and plenty of social time. I loved my time at CHS and learned practical skills that are still applicable today. While I didn't expect it at the time, I was also fortunate enough to meet peers and teachers I still count as friends nearly 17 years later.

After high school, I went to NJIT with the intention of majoring in computer engineering, but I wound up pursuing a degree in finance instead because I thought that's where the jobs and money would be. It wasn't until years after college, and a handful of jobs I hated, that I decided to return to my old hobby of programming and building websites. Before I quit my job, I started talking to potential clients and searching to find anyone who would be willing to pay for custom websites. Once I found enough work to justify making the switch, I was able to quit my job to focus full time on building my company, Walsh Creative.



*David Walsh, CEO of WebPublisher Pro, presents to students at a local career day.*

Building a company from scratch take time, patience, and hard work. I started by working with customers on small one-off projects, but it didn't take long to realize that maintenance contracts would allow me to upkeep client websites while also providing a source of recurring revenue to support my entrepreneurial ventures.

Fast forward to today. My company, now named Web Publisher PRO, has a full-time staff that builds and manages websites for digital publishers. Our work serves millions of readers each month and generates millions of dollars in revenue. Enabling others to reach their potential is what encouraged me to start Web Publisher PRO. However, the most important part is that I love what I do, I am passionate about it, and I am having fun. I chose to be an entrepreneur because I felt that it was the best way to follow my passion. Whatever you choose as your path, follow your passion and you will find success.

## Alumni Reflections

### CHS Pursuits Lead to Dream Career in Hospitality, Christina Tobia, Class of 2007

Some of my earliest memories were watching Martha Stewart on TV, and then climbing up the cabinets to experiment in the kitchen. Through adolescence I would imagine the empire I was going to build, like Martha's -- only bigger and better. When I got to CHS, that dream was stronger than ever, and during my freshman TV class I wrote two cooking shows that I hosted and produced in my mom's kitchen after school. When they ran on local public access television, I felt like everything was starting to fall into place.

I spent the majority of my E-Commerce class meticulously magic wand-ing the edges of my pearl and silver wire-wrapped jewelry to make the most professional site for my jewelry company, took on every extra project Mrs. Sobko would throw my way in Advanced Graphic Design, and stayed after school for weeks working with Mr. Allen to print catalogs for my custom cake, jewelry and catering LLC.

Spoiler alert: I have not (yet) built an empire to dwarf Martha Stewart's. I have, however, been leading a fulfilling path since graduation (including working for Martha for 3+ exciting years), and am thankful that CHS helped to nurture and develop my many interests. After CHS, I studied Economics, Entrepreneurship and Italian Studies at Fairfield University, and upon graduation began working at Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. After three years there working across publishing, merchandising and digital divisions, I read a book



*Christina Tobia with Ina Garten*

called *Setting the Table* about another inspirational founder with a very different leadership style, Danny Meyer. After refreshing the Union Square Hospitality Group careers page for a few months, I found a marketing position and joined the team. I will celebrate my fourth anniversary with USHG in a few weeks. I am currently Associate Director of Digital Marketing, overseeing our team that manages social media for 20 restaurants, bars, cafes and other businesses throughout New York City as well as our websites, email marketing, and digital/content partnerships. Every day is different and fun and challenging...and there's usually delicious food involved, so I can't complain.



*Christina Tobia at Martha Stewart 2012*

In reflecting on my high school days, I realize now that the greatest part of CHS was the environment of acceptance that teachers and administration created for all students. Sadly, that's not a given in all schools, and it should not be taken for granted. Being able to focus all of my energy on academics, friendships and my excessive number of extracurricular activities (seriously, I was like a slightly more self-aware Max Fischer from Rushmore) for four years was the greatest gift. I hope that current and future CHS students take full advantage of that privilege and focus all their energy pursuing their passions...and being good to one another.

*Christina Tobia with USHG's Director of Marketing, Amelia Mayberry, visiting one of their farms.*





## Lauren Casas (Richmond), Class of 2010

When I was applying to colleges as a CHS senior, I had one small problem: I did not know what I wanted to do with my life. It seems when you're eighteen, you're supposed to have it all figured out, right? Wrong. I applied to a variety of different colleges and programs, including schools for journalism, film, and television production. As the deadline of the college selection process was approaching, I realized that the best path for me was to attend a liberal arts college. I knew I loved learning from my classes at CHS, and that a liberal arts education would set me up for success in any career.



*Lauren Casas at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.*

In addition to setting the path for my career, CHS taught me the value of expressing myself, a value that I still hold to great importance today. Apart from my career, I spend time creating my own art, including singing in an acappella group and performing/training in the circus arts. I've been training partner acrobatics for the past two years, and I recently started training in aerial hoop. My husband and I even did an acrobatic routine as our first dance at our wedding!

CHS gave me the experience not only to succeed in college and my career, but in my other interests as well, and helped me become a more well-rounded person. Thanks CHS!

I attended Wellesley College, and while I was there, I fell in love with art history. CHS prepared me for this path as I was already very familiar with visual analysis from my film and design classes, which was quite helpful when I began my art history education. I dove headfirst into art history as a career path, working in the college museum, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and even at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago (not quite art, but a cool experience nonetheless!), and all while still a student.

Now, I work at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston full time. I have had a few different jobs at the museum, including as a coordinator of public programs, a fundraiser, and (occasionally) a gallery lecturer.



*Mr. & Mrs. Casas performing acrobatic routine at their wedding.*

## Julia Pardee, Class of 2017

Explaining what attending CHS is like to my friends at college is never easy. I tell them it's a public school, but you have to apply to be admitted. I tell them it's a vocational school, but we don't learn cosmetology or plumbing, that it's 70% female, and there are no sports teams. Even though my high school experience was very different from most of my peers at Lehigh University, my time at CHS gave me a leg up in many unconventional ways.

Some of my friends came to Lehigh with over 40 AP credits while others have been taking STEM electives since their first year of high school. While CHS offers neither of those things, CHS students do arrive at college with something better: the ability to work as a team and communicate effectively. For my first group project at Lehigh, I was paired with some of the brightest students in my class, but I was surprised by how little they knew about functioning as a team and presenting to the class.

Going to college is no easy feat, whether you travel across the country for move-in or stay in New Jersey. For me, leaving CHS and Monmouth County behind was really tough, even though I am only 86 miles away from home. But within a few quick months, Lehigh became my new home, and I was busier and happier than I ever imagined.

From talking to my friends at Lehigh and other schools, I realized that making the most of your first semester at college depends on three things: getting involved, working hard, and some luck. The first few weeks at college are absolute insanity. You are being inundated with information. It seems like every day 50 people ask you for your name, your major, and a fun fact. But once that starts to die down, you will still be itching to meet new people, hence why it is essential to get involved. There will be a Club Fair 100x the size of the one at CHS, complete with even more free food and t-shirts. Take advantage of it – you'll be thankful you did.

More importantly, you need to work hard. Whether you are an engineering or an English major, college classes can be incredibly difficult, and late nights at the library are inevitable. But no matter how much you "work hard and play hard," a little bit of luck come into play, especially with roommates. You may have selected your childhood best friend as your roommate, and two months in, you realize you can't stand each other. Or you may have gotten a random roommate and a lifelong best friend – it's all the luck of the draw, quite literally.

My first year at Lehigh University has been the best year of my life. Thankfully, I got incredibly lucky roommate-wise and have kept myself busy as a part of Student Senate, the orientation staff, the school newspaper, and club tennis team. The classes are hard but rewarding, but hey, that's what college is for.

To the Class of 2018, congratulations! Finally deciding where you will spend the next four years is so incredibly exciting. In your last few months here, make sure to appreciate living close to the beach and eating homemade food – you will miss it more than you think. Best of luck!

### Annual Donation Campaign

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!

## *Congratulations Class of 2018*



*Future Alumni 😊*



### **Get Social**

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