



Upcoming CHS Event

WINE & DESIGN

CHS-PSFA Fundraising

Inviting all alumni to join
our fun adult party!

Friday, February 10, 2019

5:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Home Décor Wood Signs!

Pinot's Palette, Red Bank

Sign up by Jan. 27 at

<https://www.pinotspalette.com/>

redbank/event/288836

DINNER & GIFT RAFFLE

CHS-PSFA Fundraising

Welcome all alumni! Reserve
your seat at the Alumni Table!

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Time: 7pm to 11 pm

Jumping Brook Country Club

Neptune

Register at www.chs-psfa.org

Next Issue

May 2019

Please share your stories. Email us
at alumni@chs-psfa.org.

Past Issues

Available on the CHS Website at
<http://chs-psfa.org/alumni-2/alumni-newsletter/>

ALUMNI REUNION

The second CHS Alumni Homecoming was held on December 28, 2018 at CHS. PSFA Alumni Committee together with the Parent Student Activities and Hospitality Committee organized a fantastic event. Thank you to all alumni who attended the event. We hope you had a good time reconnecting with prior classmates and teachers. Please go to page 8 to see some pictures of the reunion. We would like to thank our chairlady MaryEllen Landolfi, Gayle Topper, Dania Bruneau, and Sharon Jemas for their hard work and dedication. Thank you to Ms. Lane and NHS students for coming out and lending a hand, to Senora Campbell for sharing "McGuapos", and Ms. Clevenger for visiting with the alumni.

We welcome sponsor corporations and alumni to share stories of their personal life experiences and journeys. Without their contributions this alumni newsletter will not be possible.

-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 – Six Things

Each issue will introduce you to an organization where our alumni either mentored or were employed, or a business founded by our alumni. This month, we highlight Six Things located in Boulder and Los Angeles, started by our very own alumna, Kayci Baldwin, Class of 2010.



When I graduated from Harvard in 2014, I had no clearer an idea what I wanted my career to look like than I had when I graduated from CHS

four years prior, but I knew things. First, I knew I was wildly captivated by how I saw innovation altering the ways my generation interacted with our society. Second, I knew that I would never be happy sitting in a cubicle. Third, I knew I'd always found my deepest motivations in social activism and the fight for equality for all groups.



Alumna Kayci started Six Things

Company Spotlight – Six Things (continue)

So, I swore off cubicle life and set out to immerse myself in social innovation. I spent two years working as an in-house brand strategist, community manager and growth marketer at technology startups in New York and Boston. At each startup, I learned more about the challenges that face every entrepreneur, the impact of a skillfully crafted brand and the importance of building a company culture that employees actually want to be a part of.

I was inspired by the innovative thinkers around me and energized by work that I loved, but I was struck by the lack of diversity I saw in the space I'd grown to love so much. Thanks to the eclectic range of experiences I packed into the first two years of my career, I met a handful of creative female professionals who thrived on startup energy but shared my frustration working in an industry that too

often lacked diversity and inclusion. One of these women was once the first female employee at a start up and they didn't even know where the women's bathroom was when she asked. So we took a leap. We left our well-paying, unlimited vacation days, free lunch and beer-on-tap startup jobs and set out to increase representation in the world of innovation by supporting and working with businesses helmed by the historically underrepresented.

Three years later, our "startup for startups" has helped dozens of emerging companies and entrepreneurs connect with their most meaningful audiences through thoughtfully branded customer experiences. We've grown to work with ventures at all stages, from seed funded startups to Fortune 500 companies, and recently won an American Business Award for Founding Team of the Year. Still, we're proud to say

that while less than three percent of venture funding is awarded to women-owned startups annually, over sixty percent of our client base is comprised of woman-owned businesses. And for me, the lesson is this: don't be afraid to leap. I was 24 when I started Six Things and had every reason to doubt myself, but for some reason I chose trust. I trusted myself, my intuition and my vision and took a leap. The reality is, startups are messy and entrepreneurship is exhausting on the best days, but still, I challenge you to bet on yourself. Have the courage to demand meaning in your career, and watch your impact multiply.

For more information about Six Things visit www.sixthings.com.



Kayci Baldwin & Julia Silva, Patner entrepreneurs & fellow CHS Alumnus

Alumni Reflections

Julie Alter, Class of 2017

I'm a sophomore at Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in Graphic Design and minoring in Media and Cultural Studies. RISD is crazy, but in all its chaos it brings back memories of another one-of-a-kind place: Communications. My CHS experiences, both good and bad, have helped me survive art school (so far).

Like CHS was, my school is different from most of the places my friends attend. Freshman year, I had eight-hour studios three days a week, then academic lectures the other two. Homework took twelve hours per assignment, and I was spending a fortune each week on supplies. I tried handling all the work I got, but ended up pulling all nighters to finish homework almost weekly.

I know that us CHS alumni could go on and on about the skills that our high school taught us to give us a leg up, and there are certainly plenty of those; but that sort of mentality can also be a detriment. For example, there is quite a mental blow when you get to college and realize that maybe you aren't so ahead of the game, maybe you're even behind...



Julie posing in front of one of her drawings from 2018. 8' x 6'!

Julie's hand-made-and-installed swing installation for freshman spatial dynamics class.



Everyone coming to RISD was the “art kid” of their respective high schools. We roll up with our vintage overalls and superficial knowledge of impressionist painters feeling cocky. From there, it’s a Hunger Games-like scenario. At CHS, we were constantly told that we were special, but so was every student at RISD. Some do not handle this realization well. I’ve seen students cry, yell, and curse during critique when they are faced with comments from professors and peers that oppose their preconceived value of their work. While I tried to handle the transition maturely, I also felt suffocated by the intense and perpetual demand for original and creative art. At RISD, your work is your worth and everybody’s is on display: on our studio walls, on our Instagram, on our self-printed clothing brands. Here, artistic expression is more than just expression, it’s a power move. You gotta be hustling to do your homework, networking for big-name internships, all while maintaining that 90’s thrift aesthetic. It’s a lot to juggle, physically and mentally.

You know how in the Hunger Games they form teams and friendships even though they are gonna have to kill each other in the end? It’s sort of like that. It’s a loving community of artists supporting each other, but when it comes down to it, we know that we can’t all be the next Warhol. That underlying sense of competition both motivates and eats away at us all.

So, what have I learned in this atmosphere so far? To ignore it all. Going to CHS taught me that even in a competitive place, the greatest feat isn’t beating others, it’s challenging yourself. By accepting this mindset, I’ve been able to focus on just trying my best rather than proving myself. I love all my classes and I’ve made artworks I never dreamed I could create. Yet, what I value most about my college experience is how I’ve grown as an individual in the face of hard work, a journey that began at CHS.



Video projection exhibition, Julie's self-designed font sophomore typography class.



*Mike, proud owner of his first home
Troy, NY*

Mike DeSocio, Class of 2013

At the end of my senior year at CHS, one of my teachers told a group of us soon-to-be-graduates that only a small fraction of us would actually be doing anything communication-related in five years. It was a sobering, if not accurate, thought for a group of career-driven communication nerds.

It's been almost six years since I graduated now, and I'm proud to say I've proved him wrong. I left CHS with big dreams of being a journalist, with a focus on visual journalism. And a year into my post-college career, I'm still a journalist, working as the

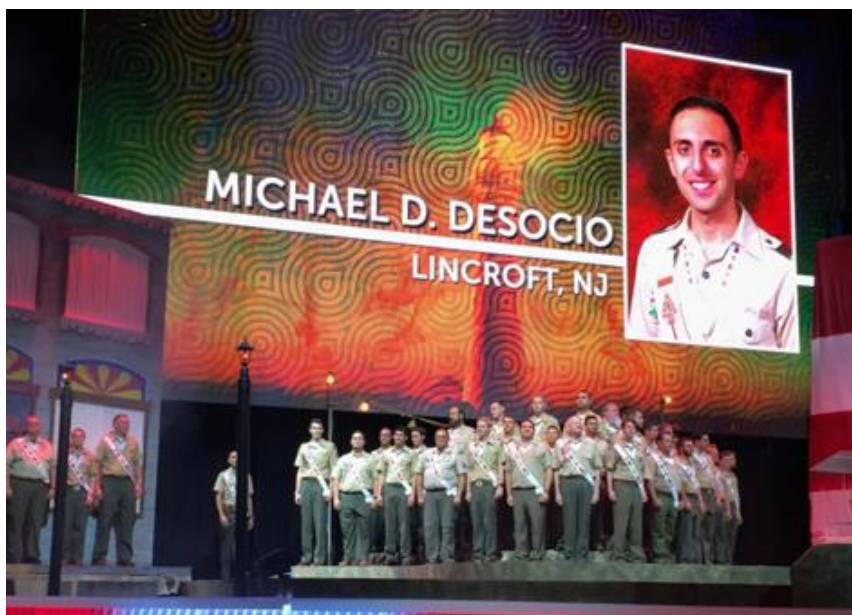
Digital editor of the Albany Business Review. I'm lucky to be in a role where I can combine many of my journalistic passions (photography, video, writing and reporting) at one of the few remaining companies committed to quality local journalism (looking at you, American City Business Journals!)

But let me be clear: While I may have ended up in just about the same place, the path here was not a straight line. College pulled me in more directions than I count, and I loved every moment of it. During my time at Boston University, my major remained journalism but I battled a constant existential crisis about whether to change it. Am I more passionate about graphic design? Italian language and culture? Advertising?! (One summer I even interned at an advertising startup, venturing briefly to the "dark side.")

These vacillations very much reflected my interests and experiences at CHS. And most of my CHS classmates and teachers won't be surprised to learn that my obsession with *The Inkblot* led to an obsession with my college paper, *The Daily Free Press*, where I served as Editor-in-Chief.

It's really hard to overstate how well CHS prepared me for college and career alike. Every time I told my journalism classmates or bosses where I went to high school, they were awed with jealousy – you went where? An entire high school dedicated to communication? Yes, I would assure them, it exists and it's as great as it sounds. My advanced skills and experience from CHS also allowed me to fly through the more introductory communication courses in college, giving me space to pursue new interests and more advanced courses.

College and career aside, CHS also led me to one of the most rewarding experiences of my young adult life – let me explain. As a high school student I was very involved with Boy Scouts, earning my Eagle Scout rank and thinking that would be the pinnacle and finale of my experience (as it is for most). But in college I fatefully came across a Facebook post one day calling for young adults to join the National Communications Team for the Scouts. I filled out the interest form, outlined some of the writing, photo and design skills I learned at CHS, and waited.



*Award Presentation – National Boy Scout Conference
August 2017*

When I heard back, I was asked to be the lead designer on a project so huge it blew my mind – redesigning the logo and establishing a new brand for the Order of the Arrow, which is Scouting’s National Honor Society. I accepted, and was thrown into a years-long commitment to the National Communications team during college. I went on to lead branding and design efforts on a national level, putting my stamp on countless programs, projects and two national conferences. It tested not

only my design skills (I became intimately familiar with Adobe Illustrator), but more so my leadership skills, many of which I forged in CHS clubs along with Boy Scouts.

This summer, I had the unbelievable privilege of attending a national Boy Scout conference to receive the Order of the Arrow’s highest honor: the Distinguished Service Award. Since 1940, only 1,000 of these awards have been presented in an organization with membership in the millions. I stood on stage at Indiana University this August, in front of nearly 10,000 of the nation’s most dedicated Scouters, to be recognized for my leadership on the communications team.



*Mike with proud parents at the Distinguished
Service Award*

My involvement with the Boy Scouts has given me some of my closest friendships, allowed me to do some of my proudest work and inspired me to keep using my communications skills for good.

So as cliché as it sounds, CHS has been integral to nearly every aspect of where I am today. It gave me the skills and confidence to pursue my dreams, and I’ll always be incredibly grateful for that. I can’t wait to see where it takes me next.

Steve Goldberg, Class of 2011

Reflecting back on my high school years and my entire education in general, I have always been fortunate to know the profession I intended to pursue. That is what initially drove me to CHS, led me to various internships, and guided me into sports broadcasting. Obstacles have arisen along the way, and more may come in the future. But my unwavering faith in my abilities and desires has always kept me motivated through it all.

After graduating high school and moving out on my own, my career has taken me to places I never would have imagined. I travel the country on a regular basis and even lived in Australia for a bit. A career in sports is not a for everyone, but I have found it extremely rewarding to see athletes around me realize their dreams while simultaneously working toward achieving my own.



*Steve – Director of Sports
Broadcasting*

My primary position is Director of Broadcasting and Media Relations with the Mobile BayBears, a Double-A baseball team affiliated with the Los Angeles Angels. During the offseason, I am the radio voice of women's basketball at the University of South Alabama and freelance with Westwood One Sports as a statistician for football broadcasts.

I take pride in my literary skills, which are extremely valuable in my baseball job with a major public relations component. Writing a large amount at a fast pace on a daily basis with a high level of accuracy is likely second nature if you attended CHS. I feel like this gave me an advantage throughout my college days at the University of Missouri, and it continues to be an asset for me today.

The job market is competitive for a career in sports. Even for internships and entry-level positions, hundreds of candidates with similar qualifications are applying for a limited number of positions. If you have prior career-related experience from high school and college, you have a better chance of standing out in a stack of resumes and getting called back for an interview.

It's a subjective business. Rejection happens. How you deal with it and what you make of the opportunities you are given define who you are. It is important to ask questions, seek feedback, and build relationships with everyone you meet. If you work hard and have a positive attitude, even when things are tough, you will stand out and people will remember you. That lasting impression is critical when you need a recommendation or an introduction to a valuable contact down the road.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the faculty members who were a part of my journey through high school. While some are no longer at CHS, many still remain and continue to be role models for future generations of students. Each one of you made an impact on me and helped shape the person I am today. I encourage current students to take advantage of all the resources CHS has to offer and never take anything for granted.



Dear CHS Alumni & friends,

Please accept this invitation to 'Havana Night'! Chat with friends and fellow Alumni. Reunite at the Alumni table! Catch up and have a wonderful time! We hope to see you!

*Sincerely,
Sharon Jemas & Louise Krall
Dinner Gift Raffle Co-Chairs*



CHS PSFA Presents
15th Annual Dinner & Gift Raffle
Welcome Alumni



Havana Night

Saturday, March 30, 2019

Cocktails & Auction Bidding 6pm * Bidding, Dinner & Raffle 7pm - 11pm

Jumping Brook Country Club, Neptune, New Jersey
By Invitation Only

Reservations and tickets are available at



www.chs-psfa.org

Cash Bar Available

