



## Congratulations to Class of 2019!

### Soon to be Alumni!

Keep involved in your  
alma mater!

We hope to share your  
stories in our future CHS  
Alumni Newsletter!

Wishing you continuing  
success and exciting  
adventures ahead!

Thank you to all teachers,  
staff, and parents for  
making this year a  
success!

### Next Issue

October 2019

Please share your stories.  
Email us at [alumni@chs-  
psfa.org](mailto:alumni@chs-psfa.org).

### Past Issues

Available on the CHS Website  
at

[http://chs-psfa.org/alumni-  
2/alumni-newsletter/](http://chs-psfa.org/alumni-2/alumni-newsletter/)

## CHS Past, Current and Future

As we congratulate the Class of 2019, we urge all alumni to visit and answer our online survey. You are CHS past, current and future! Please keep the ties with your alma mater. Your responses will enable us to communicate, to provide opportunities for you to share your accomplishments and your life journeys, to provide volunteer opportunities, to inform you of CHS and PSFA events such as Reunion, Career Day, Dinner Gift Raffle, Mingle & Jingle, etc.

This newsletter is distributed to CHS alumni, current students, current parents, teachers and staff to share “what new and cool things our fellow alumni are up to,” as Emily (Krohn) Eustace writes. It brings personal stories from our graduates. Stories that bring connections, memories, inspirations, hopes, excitements and smiles to all of us. They are the lineage of CHS past, current and future!

*-Vivien Cheng and Mary Ellen Landolfi, CHS-PSFA Alumni Committee Co-Chairs (Vivien has been honored to be part of this newsletter since its inception in 2016. She will miss it as she graduates along with her daughter, class of 2019.)*

## 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 – PTE

*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 are pleased to highlight Push the Envelope PR located in Freehold, NJ. Our thanks go to Sarah Yung, Account Executive, for sharing this article.*



PUSH THE ENVELOPE

### Push the Envelope PR

was born from an intense love of beautiful things and the passion for sharing those things with the world.

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*Paddywax  
(candle brand)*

### **MENTORSHIP/INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

Push the Envelope PR has had nothing but positive results participating in Communication High School’s Mentorship Program. Every student our agency brings on board surpasses our expectations with their creative flair and strong initiative for each and every project assigned to them. Over the years, CHS students at PTE have been given the opportunity to showcase their creative skills by working with members of the team to brainstorm, draft and create one-of-a-kind pitches and images to be sent to top tier editors across a variety of publications - both in book and online. The CHS students always surprise our team with their sharp attention to details, articulate writing skills and meticulous eye for creating unique imagery.

**LINK:**

<http://www.pushtheenvelopepr.com>

We are a full service, boutique PR agency representing a full curated collection of fashion beauty and lifestyle brands. We find success for our clients through the connections we create; connecting products we are passionate about with media outlets. We connect brands with their target audience and build bridges between our clients and their consumers to establish a clear and strong presence in whatever space they occupy. We deliver results by becoming an extension of our brands and their image.

Our goal is to elevate a brand and capture their voice. We want to share their talents with the world. We know that the brands we work with have big things planned. They're going places and we want to help take them there. Pretty lofty goals, we know, but a talented group of dedicated minds are here to help.



*Olivina Men  
(men’s grooming brand)*

# Alumni Reflections

Emily (Krohn) Eustace, Class of 2007

Middle School English Faculty, Sacramento Country Day School, Sacramento, CA

When I try to explain CHS to my fellow teachers or my middle school students, it usually begins with the statement, “I went to a really small high-school for nerds who like photography, art, TV and radio.” Then I pause for the inevitable questions (“A real radio studio?” “There were only 60 kids in your graduating class?” “What do you mean you didn’t have any sports?”) before continuing with, “We didn’t have music class, but we had a working printing studio and one of our crowning achievements was convincing our English teacher to have a celebration every month. Oh, and we once had a hoe-down themed dance. It was amazing.”



*Emily with hubby and Beau on a cross-country break, Wyoming.*

They were open and honest with us, setting us up for success in the working-world. My classmates and I grew into young adults, ready for the demands of college and career.

I didn’t realize how valuable the skills I learned at CHS were until the recession of 2008 came to a boiling point. The reality was that jobs for college grads were going to be scarce and lucky me, I had picked an area (English and Journalism) at NYU that was a dying art ... or so we were told. But then I realized, while sitting in my specialized journalism classes, that not everyone knew

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And it was. My time at CHS helped shape me as a student, professional, and life-long learner. I had a solid elementary and middle-school education, which made transitioning into the rigors of high-school easier. Once I was at CHS, though, everything was different. I met people from towns in Monmouth County I had never heard of, despite growing up there for most of my life. I learned about different career options through career days and mentorship connections. My teachers were professionals with industry experience.



how to put together a nut graf or how to use Photoshop. That including a photo montage for a story wasn't commonplace like it was when you worked for the *Inkblot*, but instead was seen as going above and beyond -- and not everyone had worked after school in a radio studio. These skills put me ahead of my peers and gave me the tools to navigate the world of job-hunting confidently because I could say that I had 5 years of experience with industry-standard programs and a rich and varied portfolio to showcase who I was as a student, professional, and person.



*Emily (Krohn) Eustace and fellow alumna Shina Alade, at the Chicago Bean, IL*

So here I am, 12 years post-graduation. I turned 30 in April, which just feels weird. A lot can happen in 10 years. When I was 20, high school was still fresh in my mind. I was gearing up to graduate from college and both anxious and excited at the prospect of the working world. Remember that recession? Its effects were long-lasting and in 2010, when I graduated from NYU, it was still hard to get full time work, even with a solid resume. Because of that, I have pretty much done all of the jobs. Well, maybe not all of them, but a whole heck of a lot. I worked in New York City in different schools tutoring students. I did boutique infant photography. I dog walked, babysat, and sold children's consignment clothes. In 2012, I got my first full time job working for Bard College in Red Hook, New York, where I was part of a graduate admissions team. I travelled across the country, coordinated social media and ran different events. I knew that I loved working in education and left Bard to work at school for children with autism in Towson, Maryland, which then led to getting my masters in Leadership in Teaching from Notre Dame of Maryland University and teaching middle school English and Literature at a small independent school outside of Annapolis, Maryland. I was then recruited to teach at Sacramento Country Day School, another independent school, here in Sacramento, California. In August of 2017, my husband and I (along with our dog, Beau) packed up and headed west!

I truly love teaching middle school. There is always something to do and something to learn. I draw on my experiences from CHS to craft my lessons by reaching out into the community for professionals, looking for opportunities for cross-curricular projects, and incorporating elements of fun, spontaneous celebrations and community during Spirit Days, birthday parties and school dances. I wouldn't trade my time at CHS for anything and am always excited to hear about what new and cool things my fellow alumni are up to in the world. So don't be surprised if I reach out and ask you for a little CHS magic to help bring a little bit of nostalgia, plus industry expertise, for one of my students because those lasting connections are what sets CHS alumni apart from the rest!

## Thomas Evancho, Class of 2008

Graduating in the class of 2008, I look back on my years at Communications with only the fondest memories. The school, it's faculty, and my friends taught me about academic commitment, exposed me to new challenges, and earned me lifelong relationships.

I was engaged by the coursework - generating a front page on deadline in Mrs. Mulshine's journalism class, recording a radio show in studio with the support of Mr. Bond, and the simple, but entertaining trigonometry lessons treating SOHCAHTOA with Mr. Balma. But I took equally meaningful memories from our clubs and activities - school dances, Color Wars, and all the bus rides down the parkway to the school. My favorite aspect though, is the fact that I'll always have those experiences in common with a small, special community full of people bonded by that building and the program.



*Thomas at CHS Graduation*

In fact, I loved it all so much that I've now been a part of the district professionally for six years, teaching social studies at Biotechnology High School in Freehold. My instructional responsibilities include a 20th century world history course, economics, and a capstone epistemology program, as well as advising the Student Government Association, National Honor Society, and the Business Club. This is a dream job for me, leading kids who make a strong commitment to academic learning while also connecting with them as they grow personally and make decisions about college and their future.



*Thomas teaching at Biotechnology H.S., 2018*

While having authentic intellectual discussions and designing creative lessons is rewarding, it is my history of strong student-teacher relationships that I have always taken the most pride in. It is what motivates me, ensures each day is always different, and makes my position fun and meaningful.

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*Thomas Evancho speaking at a CHS wedding*

Outside of school, life is a little less chaotic. My wife and I live in Wanamassa. We enjoy traveling, cooking, and walking the boardwalk or sitting on the beach. We spend a fair bit of time working on our home, and lots of time with our friends, many of whom are also Communications graduates.

Our weekly trivia team includes two other members of the class of 2008, and my regular Sunday morning golf group is composed of two friends I made in the first few months of freshman year. I treasure that we've been able to keep those relationships for what is now over 14 years since we met.

Our high school class had its ten-year reunion this past December. Even when reuniting with the people that I've not seen in some time there was a sense of familiarity. The first day of high school sounds like a long time ago now. But the rewards from CHS have proven timeless.

I try to use those connections in the way that I design impactful teaching. I hope to accentuate the strengths of each individual student while supporting them in their weaknesses. This differentiated instruction means that sometimes individual students in the same class will be working on unique activities concurrently. While this often may appear chaotic in practice, it is absolutely the best method through which I can get the most out of each member of the classroom. I'd admit that I'm very proud of having maintained that mindset throughout my career.



*Thomas traveling in Copenhagen*



## Julianne Sackett, Class of 2018

Currently attending Northeastern University: D'Amore McKim school of business

Up until my freshman year of college I considered my life very normal. There was nothing especially unique about me as I grew up in a small town in New Jersey. I stepped out of the ordinary for the first time when I decided to attend CHS. Having a positive experience with choosing a more unusual path in high school prompted me to make the decision to attend Northeastern's NU.in program (not misspelled, it stands for the program). This unique program sends a third of the university's freshman class abroad to eight different countries for their first semester of college.

I chose NU because I wanted to jump into something big. As a senior in high school, I wanted to do something extravagant with my life, and this seemed perfect. I sent in my deposit and decided to study in London, which offered me a small handicap of not having to deal with a language barrier. Whenever I told anyone I was going to live in another country in the Fall they either appeared excited or more often than not asked, "Why?" As my departure date got closer, I became increasingly stressed, and started to wonder why I had made this decision. I began to envy my friends who were busy dorm shopping, since I had to pack everything I needed to start college into a suitcase.



*Julianne on top of the London Eye*

Sitting on my plane as I departed for Heathrow, already homesick, stressed, and overwhelmed, all I could think was, what did I get myself into? It turned out that I had gotten myself into the best experience of my life. Although there were a multitude of flaws with my program, and I spent the next four months hungry and jet-lagged, I can't imagine my life without this experienced. I developed more responsibility than anyone I knew at my age. I went from having my mom pack my lunches during senior year, to shopping for and cooking every meal I ate, learning to live in a foreign country on a tight budget, and planning several international trips traveling to 6 countries with friends, accommodating language, transportation, and currency differences.

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*Julianne Sackett and fellow student, Jack Gontowski  
visiting canals in Denmark, Copenhagen.*

All aspects of my life drastically changed my first semester in college. At first, it was extremely hard to adjust to my new home and it felt like my life had been flipped upside down. However, the four months flew by and now I find myself constantly thinking about all the memories and the lessons I learned abroad. From attending London fashion week and Carnival to Irish dancing in Dublin and having a picnic under the Eiffel Tower, it is hard for me to believe this was my life at 18. I believe that there is great value in stepping out of one's comfort zone, and I would strongly recommend an experience like this to everyone.



*Julianne and Jack on a Bird scooter  
outside Notre Dame, Paris.*

## 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 these programs, your contribution will directly benefit our student and faculty community. Please donate at <http://chs-psfa.org/support-the-psfa/annual-donation-campaign/>. Thank you for your continued support!

**The CHS PSFA**