

CRANBURY SCHOOL – TEN YEARS LATER

Presented by the Friends of the Cranbury Public Library

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NICK CUSWORTH

Nick Cusworth, 24, has spent much of the past decade straddling the music and filmmaking worlds and thinking he had to choose one, only to wind up essentially having his cake and eating it, too. At Princeton High School he dedicated much of his time to the award-winning PHS Studio Band under the direction of Dr. Anthony Biancosino (Dr. B, as he was known to the kids) and later his brother Joseph Downey. In his four years spent in the band, he moved from flute to the 2nd tenor sax chair, to 1st tenor sax, back to 2nd tenor sax (Dr. B was known for such "motivational" tactics), and then back to the first tenor chair a few weeks later, where he remained for 2 1/2 years. After graduating in the top 10% of his class in 2005, Nick entered Bard College, where he studied film and music, eventually settling upon a combination of the two in an Integrated Arts major. For his senior thesis project he put together an hour long live show featuring 5 original music compositions (and a rotating group of 18 musicians) along with 5 video compositions projected upon three large screens to accompany the music. He graduated Bard in spring 2009, moved back to Cranbury, and spent the following year and a half working various internships and part-time jobs in New York City and central Jersey (even joining a popular local 80s cover band at one point), all the while continuing to write and perform music and produce videos in his spare time. Since the beginning of 2011 he has worked at one of the world's biggest music publishing firms in NYC as a digital content editor. He currently lives in Brooklyn, where he's still spending most of his free time being creative and plotting his next big project.



POLLY SILVERMAN

After Cranbury School, Polly spent a year as a day student at Peddie, then transferred to St. Paul's School, a 500-student all-boarding school in Concord, New Hampshire. She was attracted to St. Paul's by its strong academic reputation and the fact that it was all-boarding (even all of the faculty live on

campus). In addition, Polly was at that time serious about both sports and ballet, and at St. Paul's she could pursue both without even leaving campus because the school had its own in-house ballet company.

Polly danced her first year at St. Paul's, but then decided to give it up because she wanted more time for other more-academic pursuits. She was, though, able to try lots of different sports: soccer (which she had played at Cranbury), cross country skiing, ice hockey, and crew, which she fell in love with. She rowed on the varsity boat, and at the end of her junior year got to go with the team to England to row at the fabled Henley Regatta. She also loved her classes at St. Paul's, and was the head math tutor her senior year.

Crew - particularly girl's crew - is a sport for which colleges recruit. Polly was recruited by several colleges, and chose Columbia. Meanwhile, she had both studied and done service work in other countries on several high school programs, and decided that she wanted to take a "gap year" before enrolling at Columbia. Colleges actually love for students to do that. You go through the normal admissions process, accept the admissions offer, and ask to defer for a year. Colleges encourage that because students who defer are generally more mature and more ready to buckle down on their studies when they do enroll.

Polly spent the summer after her high school graduation in Vietnam, traveling and doing service work. That fall she lived in Italy where she was enrolled in an intensive Italian language program. In January she moved to Peru, where she spent five months as a volunteer for a non-profit organization teaching poor children.

Polly did then start college very ready to be serious about her studies. She was a pure math major at Columbia - she had been on the math team at Cranbury, so she was following a strength that she had identified very early. She minored in linguistics. Her time in Peru had piqued her interest in Quechua, the native language of the Incas. It turns out that some languages, including Quechua, are math-based, so in studying linguistics and Quechua she was able to combine both of those interests. Polly was on the crew team her first year at Columbia, but a back injury then caused her to have to quit the sport.

Polly's first summer job in college was at a bank in Lima, Peru. She by that time was fluent in everyday Spanish, but working at a bank forced her to learn business Spanish as well. The next summer she worked for an investment firm in New York City. After graduation, she again took a job at an investment firm. She has now quit that job and is in the process of applying to law school and business school. Having worked full time for a year, she has a much better idea of what it is she wants out of a career - and what she needs to do in order to get the sort of position that would be fulfilling.



LAUREL KANAWYER

Laurel Kanawyer can go by many different titles, but the one you'll probably recognize best is marine biologist! However, she feels that "aquatic scientist" is a broader and thus more accurate way of describing the many ways in which she has worked to improve both the waters of our planet and also

people's understandings of how they can contribute to the fight for healthier aquatic ecosystems. Laurel was lucky enough to study at one of the best-respected fisheries science programs in the country (University of Washington, School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences), and was even luckier to augment her studies with a year of marine sciences Masters classes in a beautiful seaport on the west coast of France. After graduating, she spent a year in Atlanta, GA as an intern at the Georgia Aquarium, then moved back to her college city of Seattle seeking work that would help her have a more directly positive impact on aquatic life. Laurel has been a volunteer informal science educator at the Seattle Aquarium since 2005 and an employee of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources since 2011; both positions allow her to interact regularly with the public and help show others what incredible life lies beneath the water's surface. Laurel is delighted to be here today to tell you about her exciting, scary, and unconventional journey so far.



WHITNEY PATERSON

Ten years ago Whitney was entering freshman year at Princeton High School. Besides participating in a variety of sports, she took part in Science Olympiad (in Chemistry) and hospital volunteer work. During the summers, Whitney did a church mission trip to Mexico, studied in Paris, and spent 6 weeks in a small village in Greece living with a family and doing volunteer work/travel. In and around her travels, she worked at Whole Earth in Princeton during high school and college.

Whitney left home for Dartmouth College in the fall of 2005. There, she majored in Anthropology and minored in French. Whitney continued pursuing her interest in learning, and traveling abroad- her semester abroad was in Paris with a Dartmouth academic program. She spent a summer in Beijing, China as an English tutor (during the summer Olympics), then, during her Dartmouth off term, Whitney decided to spend a concentrated month becoming a certified yoga instructor on Paradise Island in the Bahamas. It was there that she began her love of yoga and everything connected with it.

After graduation from Dartmouth, Whitney headed home and ended up working at lululemon athletica in Princeton for a few months. After brief stints in California and NYC figuring out what she wanted to do, Whitney's research led her to a place in Massachusetts called Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health. Her interest was in their one year certification program to be an Ayurvedic Lifestyle Consultant. She applied and was accepted for the following school year. In the meantime, Whitney decided to work at Kripalu for 6 months before school started. She recently completed her course of study there for certification and, upon graduation, Whitney decided to be a volunteer and live at Kripalu for 4 months. It's a place she loves- not only the people but the lifestyle there.

Now, she's living in Arlington, Virginia- finishing off some college coursework she needs for her Ayurvedic certification- Anatomy and Physiology I and II. Whitney is working at lululemon athletica in Washington DC, and will soon begin working for an Ayurvedic Center in Arlington doing bodywork, Ayurvedic consultations and yoga instruction. She will also be teaching yoga at a new studio, Epic Yoga in Washington, DC after the New Year.



EMILY KEHRT

After graduating from Cranbury School, Emily went to Lawrenceville, where she had the opportunity to travel to Haiti and Thailand for community-service trips, as well as back-pack through the Canyonlands in Utah, the San Juan Mountains in Colorado, and Patagonia, Chile. Her senior year, she was the Student Council Vice-President for Community Service. After Lawrenceville, Emily went to the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. Her initial "Swab Summer," or boot camp indoctrination period, was broken up by a weeklong trip on America's Tall Ship, the EAGLE, which she sailed from Rota, Spain to Madeira, Portugal. During her time at the Coast Guard Academy, Emily served on Coast Guard cutters in Key West, Florida and Newport, Rhode Island, studied abroad for a summer in Prague, Czech Republic, and participated in Varsity Sailing and Diving. She earned a bachelor's degree in Government, with a senior thesis in West African maritime engagement. Her senior year, she served as the Regimental Executive Officer, or second in command of the Corps of Cadets. Upon graduation and commissioning as an Ensign, Emily moved to Seattle, WA, where she served aboard the USCGC HEALY (WAGB-20), the US's only polar icebreaking research ship. She completed two six-month trips to the Arctic. Emily currently is a Lieutenant (junior grade) living in Washington DC. She works in the Coast Guard Office of Resource and Budget Execution and is applying to grad school for international development and democracy programs.