

gssm now



SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL
for Science & Mathematics

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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gssmnow
THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF
SC GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL FOR
SCIENCE & MATHEMATICS

Dear Fellow Alumni,

On behalf of the entire GSSM Alumni Board, welcome to the newest issue of *gssmnow*, GSSM's alumni magazine. The Alumni Board has worked hard to put together this issue, and we hope that you enjoy reading it as much as we enjoyed making it. As *gssmnow* grows, we invite you all to contribute in whatever way you can, whether it be sharing anecdotes and pictures from your time at GSSM, updating us on where you are now, or writing an article to provide insight into your work or other areas of interest.

In addition to creating this issue of *gssmnow*, the Alumni Board has been hard at work planning reunions and regional gatherings for our growing alumni base, as well as fundraising so that we can all continue to take pride in GSSM remaining one of the premier high schools in the nation. Our school has finally completed the expansion of its student body, which began with the move from the Coker College campus to its current location in 2003. As the student body has grown, so too has our alumni network. We are eager to hear what our fellow alumni have been up to and look forward to reading these updates in future issues of *gssmnow*.

As a final note, we encourage all alumni to get involved in the GSSM community. Whether volunteering to serve on the Alumni Board, making a financial donation, or even just helping us keep our alumni database up-to-date, your contributions are important to our school and our fellow alumni. If you are interested in giving back, please feel free to contact Meg Senn (meg@scgssm.org) or any member of the Alumni Board.

Sincerely,



Cody Whetsel '05
President, GSSM Alumni Board



Bryant Hutson '05
President-elect, GSSM Alumni Board

ALUMNI  ASSOCIATION

KEEP UP
TO DATE
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CAREER SERVICES
JOB PORTAL
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ALUMNI
DIRECTORY
scgssm.org/alumni-directory

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES

AWARDS

The Awards Committee names an Outstanding Alumnus of the Year and additional award(s) each spring. The committee establishes explicit selection criteria, solicits nominations, chooses the recipient(s), and plans and holds the award(s) announcement.

2015–16 MEMBERS: Sarah Spruill, Jason McKellar, AJ Maulion, Bryant Hutson, Dewey Nguyen, Alexis Myers, Kenzie Foster

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee works with the alumni relations manager to improve communications between GSSM/GSSM Foundation and the Alumni Association. The committee solicits and generates content for the monthly alumni newsletter.

2015–16 MEMBERS: Tina Baggott, Jacob Kline, Ben Pleune, Dan Ward, Latoya Dixon, Gabi McNulty

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising Committee works with the alumni relations manager to garner financial support for both GSSM and the Alumni Association from alumni. Committee members personally contact their classmates and students in the years immediately above and below to encourage them to support GSSM and increase alumni participation.

2015–16 MEMBERS: Kristin Garris, Tina Baggott, Michael Thompson, AJ Maulion

MEMBERSHIP/NOMINATING

The Membership/Nominating Committee works with the alumni relations manager to encourage participation by all alumni in the Association. The committee oversees the regional alumni chapters and leverages their classmates and networks to maintain contact with all alumni. Additionally, the committee oversees the election of board members at the end of each fiscal year, working with the alumni relations manager to coordinate nomination efforts, develop a slate of officers, hold elections and post results.

2015–16 MEMBERS: Todd Pleune, Ben Pleune, Patrick Cleary, Patrick Gorospe

PROGRAMS

The Programs Committee works with the alumni relations manager to develop, establish and maintain programs through which all GSSM alumni can give back to the school. The committee coordinates alumni reunions, the annual winter gathering, and alumni reconnect dinners.

2015–16 MEMBERS: Brian Kelley, Tiffany Haigler, Jan Levinson, Samantha Griner, Anna Capps, Kenzie Foster

5 FACTS ABOUT NEW GSSM PRESIDENT DR. HECTOR FLORES



1

Attended a bilingual Catholic school for 11 years, run by the NY-based Maryknoll order. As a result, he was reading Macbeth and Neruda by age 3.

2

Moonlighted as a jazz DJ for six years on and off.

3

Is an avid foodie, gourmet cook and gardener.

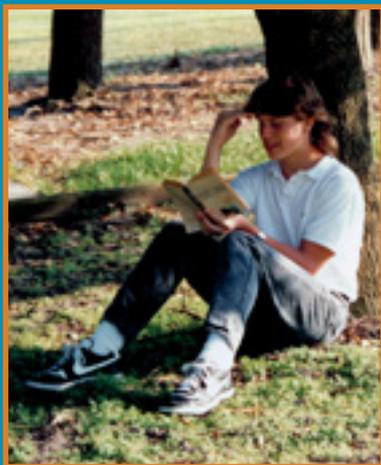
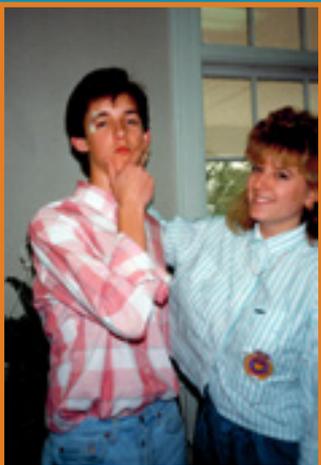
4

Has a collection of about 8,000 books and counting (from arts and classics to signed first editions and spy thrillers).

5

Loves dogs, and currently has a 10-year-old black lab mix named Tango and a 2-year-old Doberman/lab mix problem child named Ginger.

FLASHBACKS



MORE ON PAGE 14

Trapeze Hobby Helps Alumna Overcome Obstacles

I'm one of those people who is bothered by stillness. Even when I'm sitting down, there is almost always some part of me that is moving. This inability to accept a static state is not just physical. I am always looking for ways to keep my life fresh and exciting and I have always wanted to challenge both my body and my mind.



I find that physical activity helps me to be mentally sharper and more focused. To that end, I have pursued my career in veterinary pathology but have always maintained a variety of physical hobbies. Over the years, I have played soccer, squash and tennis; ridden a bike and a unicycle; taken up running, hiking, and rollerblading; and tried martial arts and rock

climbing. When I was a pathology resident at the University of Georgia, I had the good fortune to be introduced to aerial arts by the wonderful staff at Canopy Studio in Athens, Georgia. I began taking trapeze lessons and have now been performing as an aerialist for more than 10 years.

By day, I am a veterinary anatomic pathologist, which was made possible in part by the foundation in science that I received at GSSM. I spent the first 10 years of my career in a university diagnostic lab in Athens, Georgia, doing a combination of diagnostics, teaching, and research. I had the privilege while there to

work on some very exciting projects, but after 10 years I decided it was time to make a change. I moved to New York City in March of 2015, where I now work in a commercial diagnostic lab. It is a challenging job, and, while most of the cases I see are relatively routine, there is always the unusual case that keeps the job interesting.

In my spare time, I have continued my pursuit of aerial arts. I began with dance trapeze, but I now work primarily on the lyra, which is a spinning metal hoop. When I started my trapeze lessons, I did it solely because it looked like fun and it was a great creative and physical outlet. I had no idea how much it would change my life. Not only have I learned to do some crazy tricks over the years and developed upper body strength that I never had in spite of being physically active my whole life, but I have also developed a new level of self-confidence that has carried over into all aspects of my life.

I was always very shy and never liked public speaking or any sort of public performance. However, as a graduate student and later as a professor, I was expected to present research findings at national meetings. Whenever I had to do this, I got so nervous I felt nauseated. At my trapeze studio, no one was forced to perform, but performance was encouraged in a very supportive way. At my first show, I was almost paralyzed with fear and was just praying that nothing horribly embarrassing would happen (like falling off the trapeze or completely forgetting my routine). Fortunately, I made it through without any problems. After that, it got progressively easier each time I performed and public speaking began to seem like less of an obstacle. After all, once you've



been hanging upside down in a Spandex bodysuit in front of a room full of people, a 15-minute talk about ocular tumors in cats seems much less daunting.

Now, I continue to enjoy my dual life. During the week, I am Dr. Ellis, veterinary pathologist. I wear normal business attire and work in an office. In my free time, I am spinning, hanging from my toes, working on my splits or training with some amazing circus artists. I do not know if I will continue doing aerial arts for the rest of my life or if I will eventually give it up to take on some new challenge, but I will be forever grateful for the positive influence it has had on my life, and I will never give up having an active hobby or continuing to push my own boundaries.

Angela Ellis '91 is a veterinary anatomic pathologist with Antech in New York.

ALUMNI SPEAK OUT

Off the Beaten Path

Many GSSM alumni start on one path after graduation, only to end up in a completely different career. Whether alumni choose to stay in STEM or not, each story is as diverse as the school. Check out a few different journeys in their own words:



Patrick Cleary '01

BS, Chemical Engineering, North Carolina State University
JD, Law, University of North Carolina

“During a summer at a research lab at the University of British Columbia, I realized (thanks to a lab fire) that I didn’t have the passion to get a PhD in the sciences. I took the LSAT on a whim and decided law was a good fit for my eclectic mind. I’ve been extremely fortunate to work on some of the most

technically challenging consumer product cases in the past five years, including vehicle embedded control systems and airbag propellant technologies. I don’t know what the future holds, but I assume it be completely different and equally challenging.”

Patrick’s company’s marketing strategy was the creation of “Bag Monster.” The company had determined the average American uses 500 plastic bags annually, and the outfit was a body suit that had 500 plastic bags on it; they would send employees wearing the outfit to governmental bodies debating plastic bag taxes/bans.

James Kwon Lee '07

BS, Biology, Duke University
MFA, Film and Television Production, University of Southern California

“I was well on track to go to medical school. However, after taking one film class the second semester of my junior year, everything changed. I dropped all my medical school applications and applied to film schools instead. Unfortunately, I was rejected from all of them. Undeterred, I re-applied, but this time, I got accepted to the very selective University of Southern California Master of Fine Arts Film program. I packed my bags and moved to Los Angeles. During my last year at USC, I was hired by a TV company. The CEO of Propagate Content (former President of NatGeo) noticed my short films and called me in for a personal interview. While I was at Propagate, a film producer noticed my short film and hired me to direct an upcoming two-hour feature film. I hope to continue to direct feature films and write stories that entertain and inspire people.”



**TELL US
YOUR STORY!**
Keep in touch by emailing
meg@scgssm.org



Keri Smith '96

BA, Biological Anthropology and Anatomy, Duke University

"I majored in biological anthropology and anatomy, but I work in entertainment as a manager and producer, primarily with comedians. When I first got into this line of work, I thought it would be a temporary move while I took some time off before grad school, but I found I really loved working with creative folks and especially producing funny projects! My partner and I founded Whitesmith Entertainment in 2008. While this kind of job can be as stressful as any other, the most rewarding times are when you're creating something smart and funny—and having fun doing it!"

Kacey Coley '07

BS, Computer Engineering, Clemson University
MFA, Digital Production Arts, Clemson University

"I enjoyed working with computers, but was also interested in creating films, games and visual effects. When I learned about the Digital Production Arts program at Clemson, I thought it was the perfect opportunity to use the skills I learned as a computer engineer but to apply them creatively. Now I am working as a production engineer at Industrial Light and Magic in San Francisco. I'm constantly learning and keeping up with the latest in technology, especially virtual/augmented reality and game development. Hopefully, I'll be able to create some impressive apps in the future!"



Rachel Korpan Lee '00

Published as Caroline Lee
BA, Pre-modern History, Lafayette College
MA, Non-Western World History

"After the Governor's School—which, while being the most wonderful experience of my young life, was very difficult for me academically—I decided to major in something 'easy' for college. I studied History; I knew that I didn't want to "do" history for a living, I just thought it was fun. Sure enough, I went into business administration right after school. I

needed an excuse to move to the District of Columbia to be

with my fiancé, so I

decided to attend grad school and

ended up with an MA in

comparative world history.

After years of reading historical romance novels, I

decided to try my hand at it.

And the rest, as we shall say, was history.

I still have a day job,

administration work for George

Mason University, but I'm focusing 70 percent of my energy on my author brand. All of my books have reached the Amazon best-sellers' lists (top 100 books in their category, Western romance), and my first one has never dropped off. Each day is an adventure, and the best part is that I get to create that adventure, thanks to my imagination and my trusty laptop."





Lee Ringer '97
METEOROLOGIST

North Carolina State University:
Bachelor of Meteorology

When a tornado swept through Lee Ringer's hometown of Newberry, South Carolina, he became fascinated with the weather. It's no surprise that the 1997 GSSM graduate is now a meteorologist for Time Warner Cable News in Raleigh, Durham and Wilmington, NC.

"I was definitely challenged in my two years (at GSSM) and I learned that to be successful, it takes a lot of hard work."

He went on to attend North Carolina State University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in meteorology. His first TV job after college was as the weekend meteorologist at KTRE-TV in Lufkin, Texas. In 2005, Lee moved to Raleigh, where he became the weekend meteorologist for Time Warner Cable News. In 2007, he became the weekday morning meteorologist for the network's channel's covering central and coastal North Carolina.



Latoya Dixon '08
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR

University of South Carolina:
BS, Mechanical Engineering

Following graduation from GSSM, Latoya received an internship with Bose Corporation in Columbia until she began her mechanical engineering program at the University of South Carolina. As a student, she participated in academic Fuel Cell research and did an REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) in automotive research at Virginia Tech.

During Latoya's senior year, she took an internship with Pure Power Technologies and was hired on as a Performance Test Engineer following her graduation. Later, she accepted an offer with GE Power & Water to complete their two-year rotational program in supply chain called OMLP (Operations Management Leadership Program). Latoya recently graduated from the program and is now a Production Supervisor at the GE Gas Turbines plant in Greenville, South Carolina.



Sarah Funderburk, PhD '00
SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

MIT: BSc, Brain and Cognitive Science
Universität Hohenheim: PhD, Molecular Biology

Sarah started out in medical communications after a postdoctoral position in the neurology department at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, where she was investigating molecular pathways involved in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Although she loved her research, she longed to make a more meaningful impact with her work.

She found a position as a scientific associate in a medical communications company in Stamford, Connecticut, and her world quickly changed. Suddenly, Sarah was working with multiple thought leaders and pharmaceutical companies in multiple therapeutic areas, helping to disseminate critical scientific communications on new drugs. She eventually moved back to NYC, taking a senior medical writer position at Caudex, where she has been for four years. She has worked her way up to scientific director and now manages her own team of writers.



Joe Gardner '93
SOFTWARE ARCHITECT

Georgia Institute of Technology:
Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering
University of Texas:
Master of Business Administration

Gardner attended Georgia Institute of Technology, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering in 1997. In 2006, he earned his MBA from the University of Texas.

"I often describe GSSM as two of the best years of my life," he said. "You're just constantly surrounded by these incredibly bright and driven peers."

That sort of environment is something that Joe has tried to emulate in his career. Gardner often seeks out workplaces that are full of the same motivated and challenging individuals. After two years at Westinghouse Electric Company in Pittsburg, he moved to Austin, Texas. He is currently the Principal Cloud Architect at National Instruments.

WHERE IS MY ANYWHERE |

JACOB RABINOVITCH

As a second-semester senior at GSSM, I have seen a lot, done a lot and learned a lot about myself and the world around me. Through my summer research experience in Germany, I learned what it would be like to be a scientist at a world-class biomedical research laboratory. Through an academic course load more intense than I ever would have imagined, I explored the boundary between what I can and cannot do—granted sometimes at two or three in the morning. Through my social interactions with forty other guys on my residence hall, I learned the importance of friendship, community, and camaraderie that is necessary in order to live together. In just a few months, I will graduate and leave GSSM more experienced and knowledgeable than I was when I came here, but there is still one question that remains unanswered: Where is my anywhere?

I applied to GSSM largely for the same reason as so many others before me. I had hopes that the opportunity to take more advanced, harder classes would help me to narrow down what exactly I wanted to do with my life. During my time here, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to take advantage of many of the advanced elective courses GSSM has to offer. Taking Computer Science with Mrs. Bunn proved to be like solving puzzles with symbols and numbers instead of with cardboard pieces. Environmental Science with Dr. Wagner introduced me to the joys of grazing in nature. Genetics with Dr. Taylor trained me not to be scared of reading thick, intimidating research papers on complicated topics. Finally, the famed Organic Chemistry with Dr. Jones-Cooper not only taught me how simple chemical reactions have really complex mechanisms, but also how



to persevere through a seemingly impossible task. (Shout-out to all the Orgo kids out there!)

Although I have had countless academic experiences since coming to GSSM, I cannot begin to firmly answer the question, "where is my anywhere?" Many of my peers have very specific career and life goals, and are talented enough that they can undoubtedly accomplish them if they set their mind to it. Some days I envy them, but most days I'm glad I still have the intellectual freedoms to follow my interests and passions. I love and appreciate many subjects, from molecular biochemistry to music, and no matter what field I end up choosing, I will face my responsibilities, duties and personal interactions with energy and enthusiasm.

So a hundred-ish cups of coffee, around fifty Cook Out milkshakes, too many bowls of easy-mac and an arbitrary number of sleepless nights later, I still don't have a clear path laid out to where my life is heading. But at the end of the day, my "anywhere" could be, well, *anywhere*, and GSSM has put me on the right path to get there.

Jacob Rabinovitch is a current senior at GSSM from Greenville, SC.

ALUMNI SPEAK OUT | WILSON WHITE

GSSM Experiences Help Realize Dreams

My life's ambition is to continue to lift as I climb. I was raised in a rural town so small that my third-grade Career Day essay was published in my hometown newspaper. In that essay I enthusiastically—and perhaps naively—proclaimed that I would one day serve as a lawyer or judge.

Rather than discouraging those goals or tempering my enthusiasm, my parents and community assured me that with humility, hard work and faith in God, I could accomplish anything.

When I arrived at the Governor's School in the fall of 1997, I had no idea how the experience would play into my dreams of being a lawyer. And I was certainly out of my comfort zone when I entered Mrs. Elizabeth Bunn's computer science class that first semester.

I had grown up in the public schools of Andrews, South Carolina, and up to that point, my only real exposure to a computer was the terminal in the high school library that doubled as a digital card catalogue and our portal to the amorphous concept of the Internet.

For the first time in my life, I was expected to dictate how a computer would perform its operations using an unfamiliar language and lexicon. At the time, I didn't fully appreciate how exposure to a rigorous curriculum in computer programming at Governor's School would fundamentally alter the trajectory of my life and, ultimately, help define my professional career.

After Governor's School, I went on to study computer engineering in college. After a brief

stint as a software developer, I earned a law degree and clerked for a federal district court judge. These experiences propelled me into a career as a patent attorney, where I helped clients obtain legal protection for their inventions and understand the obligations and risks associated with the intellectual property rights of others.

When Google was looking to strengthen its internal expertise in patent law, I was fortunate to land a job in the legal department doing patent litigation. Once Google launched its public beta of Google Glass, the innovative product design was met with reactions from policymakers and regulators all over the world, and I was asked to help the team navigate those government relations issues. Since then, I have summoned my experiences as a computer engineer and lawyer to delve into larger public policy issues impacting technology and innovation globally.

When I visit other parts of the world, I frequently am reminded of the critical role STEM plays in society. High technical skills and the ability to innovate are critical to maintaining America's standing in the world. Several aspects of our national security (e.g., military, intelligence, economy, energy, education, health care) will be in jeopardy if we do not maintain America's innovative edge. I know from my own experience that unless we greatly improve the quality of our public education system, we will be ill-equipped to meet the science and technology challenges of the future.



My story is a testament to the transformative power of STEM education. Each aspect of my career has been aided by a solid foundation in science and math. STEM does not limit you to being an engineer, scientist or mathematician. Rather, a strong background in STEM gives you the necessary skills to find and/or to develop effective and efficient solutions to complex problems, whether that problem is a software bug or determining who should be liable for a traffic accident caused by a self-driving car. Today I am able to advise senior leadership at Google about the public policy implications of their product decisions because I understand the technology. I understand how people interact with technology and the impact technology can have on society. None of this would be possible without the training I received at Governor's School.

Wilson White '99 is the Public Policy & Government Relations Senior Counsel for Google in California.

FACULTY MESSAGE

GSSM since the beginning

“Get Here. Get Anywhere.”

This wonderful new theme for GSSM resonates with me—but apparently I did it backwards. After going lots of places, I ended up at GSSM in the fall of 1988. It was a new adventure for all of us, and I am afraid we tested all sorts of things on the charter class as we refined curriculum, assignments, protocols and expectations. They were both experimented with and pampered (we took the entire school to the beach for a day—just because). Fortunately, they were a fantastic class and seemed to thrive on our mutual development of a new kind of school. The first years on the Coker College campus were exhilarating and exciting with changes, most especially the summer mentored research program. Most interesting of all was the relationship between the junior and senior classes, which seemed to change every year. Some years there was mentoring and camaraderie and other years there was competition and frustration, but always they worked it out in the end. I still remember a graduation in which the entire junior classes was in tears as the seniors entered Center Theater, and the seniors joined in the deluge as they walked across the stage.

The move to our own campus was a major change that altered the way we were viewed as well as the way in which we viewed ourselves. About the time we adjusted to our new home, the enrollment moved upward to our current full status, which meant way more changes. The faculty more than doubled—no longer did every student who took history have me as their teacher—and where there were once few options in the other departments, now there

was an amazing variety among the faculty. The outreach growth matched the growth of the school, especially with the addition of the engineering program. Placing summer research became more

of a challenge, even with the addition of our partnership with Germany and Korea for research and the addition of entrepreneurship research as well.

One of the major changes at GSSM has been technology. Who among you remembers the good old days when we had no personal computers, a computer lab that closed at 10 p.m. and one wall phone on each hall of the residence building? The result, not surprisingly, was stronger relationships among students who had to depend on one another, as well as a completely different learning process. Now everybody has their own computer (but not in my classroom) and a smart phone, and we have internet access across the school. To me, one of the biggest differences, which seems to derive from this change, is the different level of knowledge the students bring to GSSM. Where once I could count on a general basis of common knowledge, now the knowledge is so scattered (according to each person's preference) that I often find it necessary to cover what once was pretty fundamental information. It certainly makes classes interesting for me. Also, and I must admit that I was thoroughly spoiled by the early classes, it often seems that the more recent classes' work ethic is less focused than in the earlier classes—but again, perhaps there are just more available distractions.

Speaking of change, on a different note, in my Mid-Century class we talk about the changes in fashion, etc., and recently I have been taking them on a walk down the hall of graduation pictures and observing the various noticeable changes in the attire and demeanor of the

classes from then to now. There you are, part of a history class—doesn't that make you feel old. Some things do change, but others seem always reliably consistent.

To me, still, the best part of GSSM is the students. They are fun and interesting and have a unique outlook on life. I never cease to be entertained and informed by them (and they are always ready to help me cope with technology—though, of course, I still have a chalk board in my classroom).

Change continues everywhere, but the fundamentals of GSSM remain the same—outstanding students, a strong curriculum going beyond what is usually offered in high school and an awakening of our best minds to the possibilities of the future. More changes are coming with the arrival of our new President in April, and I expect, as I have seen so often in the past, that there will be yet another exciting chapter in the story of GSSM. From here, you really can get *anywhere*.

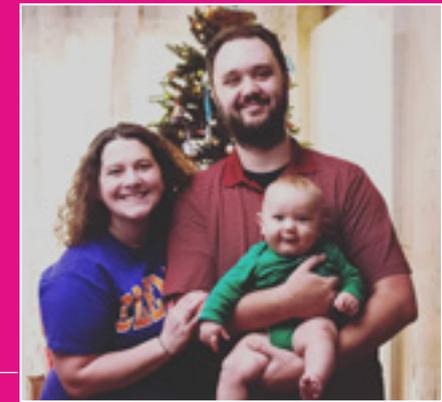
Dr. Carlanna Hendrick has taught AP History at GSSM since its opening in 1988.



CLASS NOTES

Caroline Mix Stapleton '04

Alex and Caroline welcomed their first child and future Govie, Elizabeth "Eliza" Landing Stapleton, on November 13, 2015. Stapleton lives in DC, where she is an attorney practicing financial services law at BuckleySandler LLP.



Mary-Kate (Spillane) '09 & Dan Ward '07

Mary-Kate and Dan welcomed baby Will on June 15, 2015.

Class of '00

Several members of the class of '00 met up for an informal mini-reunion in Columbia over the winter holidays. Pictured from left: Elizabeth Harrington, Rachel Korpan Lee and her boys, Paula Randler, Shigeharu Kobayashi, Peter Zhang and his fiancée, Cory Tong.



Will Quick '03

Will welcomed his son, Shepard, on October 15, 2015.

Gabi McNulty '13 & Alyssa Ralph '14

This past May, Gabi flew to California to see Alyssa Ralph, her senior-year suite-mate, at CalPoly, where she goes to school.



Tyler Harvey '13 & Ashani Ranwala '13

Tyler and Ashani met up in Costa Rica for a peaceful break from college.



Tyler Harvey '13, Nicole Cyr '13, Toby Holden '13 & Hannah Kahng '13

Tyler, Nicole and Toby visited Hannah in Hong Kong during Christmas break.



CATCHING UP CLASSES OF '90 & '15

No matter what year you graduated, being a part of GSSM is a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience. Whether a member of the charter class with years of experience under your belt, or a member of the latest graduating class in your first year of college—once a Govie, always a Govie. Here's what some members of the classes of '90 and '15 are up to now!



Michael Martak '90

I graduated from Boston University with a degree in computer science. I moved to the Bay Area to work in the booming dot com industry, then moved to New

York to work in the

booming world of credit derivatives. Don't ask me to pick your lotto numbers. I reside in the Bay Area (again!) and am about to become a father. I still play *Dungeons and Dragons* and could regale you with stories of Tipper Gore and the Satanic Panic.

Kate Marks Sojka '90



I currently live in Ojai, California, and have a PhD in molecular and cellular biology and pathobiology. I have worked in the field of cancer diagnostics for 10 years. I am currently

traveling in New Zealand for three months with my husband, Jeff, and 9-year-old daughter, Natalie.

GSSM was an amazing time in my life, as I am sure you have heard echoed from my classmates. I remember when Patrick Lowrance set up his telescope and showed us the rings of Saturn. It was the first time I had seen anything like that. I was overwhelmed with the beauty and also in awe of how cool it was that this is what my friends were doing in their free time.

JaLisa Decker '15

Since coming to Furman, I have become involved in several activities that are meaningful to me, including hosting prospective Furman students, volunteering in downtown Greenville every week and working as a lab coordinator in the biology department.



I am looking forward to performing research at Furman with Dr. Dubash this summer, as well as continuing to explore my current career aspiration of becoming a genetic counselor. One

of my favorite memories at GSSM was finals week during the fall semester of my senior year. Through the stress of studying, I was not only able to realize how much I had learned over the semester, but also the value of my relationships with my friends and peers. In between studying, sleeping and snacking, my roommate and I still found down time to de-stress by watching all eight Harry Potter movies.

Crystel Sylvester '15

My favorite memory from GSSM? It's difficult to choose just one. Friday night dinners at Sophia's were always a lot of fun. I'd also say senior prom because it was not only fun, but also sentimental.

Currently, I am attending George Washington University, right in the heart of the District of Columbia, and double majoring in finance and computer science and minoring in creative writing. I'm also working as a tutor with DC Reads, which is a program that helps students in District of Columbia public schools.



FLASHBACKS

MORE ON PAGE 4



ACADEMIC UPDATES

GSSM has undergone many changes since it first opened its doors in 1988. From class size to course offerings, innovation continues to pave the way to amazing opportunities.

Added summer research in South Korea and Germany

Working on a site in Spain and possibly England. Added summer research opportunities in economics and finance at various universities, startup companies and municipal offices.

Increased faculty
from 14 to 33

Increased student body
from 128 to 288

Added advanced courses

Advanced Genetics, Botany, Biological Evolution, Analytical Chemistry, Fluids/Thermodynamics/Optics, Regression Analysis, Number Theory, Mobile Applications using iOS/Swift/Objective C, Introduction to Artificial Intelligence, Physically Based Animation using OpenGL/C++/Linux, Engineering Design I and II, Engineering Mechanics, AP Microeconomics, AP Macroeconomics, Introduction to Creative Writing, Poetry, Topics in Science Fiction, Introduction to Philosophy, Natural History and Science Writing, African-American History, Civil War and Reconstruction, World War II, AP US Government, Hispanic Theater and Film

2015-16 ALUMNI CHALLENGE DONORS

CLASS OF 1990

Vik and Corey Beberta
 Jamie Doornbos
 Kristin G. Garris
 Patrick Lowrance
 Susan Lucas Kamat
 Paul and Donna Moore

CLASS OF 1991

Anonymous
 Brent Faulkenberry
 J. Matthew Hands
 Allison Jordan
 Makaala Mazat
 Dmitri Schoeman and Victoria Huang
 Brigid Troan
 Brygg Ullmer

CLASS OF 1992

Anonymous
 Rebecca Horton
 Michael Keinath
 Susan Neely-Barnes
 Todd Pleune
 Sally Hiers Satterfield
 Whitney Steele
 Beth Dixon Vo
 Jimmy Wells
 Lin Odom Woodson

CLASS OF 1993

Anonymous
 Christopher and Michelle Crosby
 Joe Gardner
 John M. Gilbert III
 Jason Hong, in memory of Brantley Stone
 Robyn Kelly
 Sarah Spruill and Tim Hudgens

CLASS OF 1994

Anonymous
 Jennifer Newton Gissendanner
 Elizabeth McElwee Jans
 Chas Sisk
 McLeod Williamson
 Ariel and Jenny Wolfer

CLASS OF 1995

Anonymous
 Tina Beasley Baggott
 Britt Garris
 Jim Hollifield
 Shawn and Roneka (Ravenell) Price

CLASS OF 1996

Annie Frazer
 Katherine George
 Tap and Legare Gresham
 Timothy R. LeCroy
 Victor Li
 Andie Ward

CLASS OF 1997

Shane McDaniel
 Lee Ringer
 Katherine Gruene Segersten

CLASS OF 1998

Jennifer Cruz Chamberlain

CLASS OF 1999

Michael Bishop
 David Gorney

CLASS OF 2000

Anonymous
 Aziz Ansari
 Romiya Barry
 Sarah Funderburk
 Carl Johnson
 Rachel Korpan Lee
 Robert Lawless
 Sara Lioi
 Paula Randler
 Shan Wu
 Peter Zhang

CLASS OF 2001

Anonymous
 Gopal Chakrabarti, in memory of Chris Kantus
 Patrick Cleary
 Patrick Crosby
 Paige DeBenedittis
 Bevin Hearn
 Peter and Leslie James
 Lynsey Parker, in memory of Chris Kantus
 Natalie Hardwick Rao

CLASS OF 2002

Ben Chou
 Allison Garrett
 Thomas and Tiffany Langston
 Julie Proell Reeves
 Laura Tam

CLASS OF 2003

Bailes Brown

Brooke K. Harmon
 Gauri Pradhan
 Rachel Rosenberg

CLASS OF 2004

Jonathan Beam
 Peter Henry
 Dewey Nguyen, in honor of Joshua Nguyen
 Kathryn Pedings-Behling
 Caroline Stapleton
 Mackenzie Yore

CLASS OF 2005

Bryant Hutson
 James Razick
 Lee Tupper
 Cody Whetsel, in memory of Corey Claytor

CLASS OF 2006

Anonymous

CLASS OF 2007

Anonymous
 Betsy Cannon
 Dan Ward

CLASS OF 2008

Anonymous
 Kirsten and Jordan Floyd
 Chong Ni

CLASS OF 2009

Mary-Kate Ward

CLASS OF 2010

Rowan Armstrong
 Nick Bishop
 Lily Elsner

CLASS OF 2011

Jordan Bailey

CLASS OF 2014

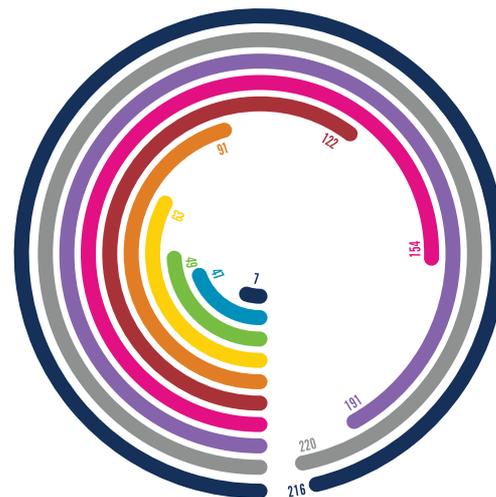
Natalie Alvarez
 Patrick Gorospe
 Storm Harvey

CLASS OF 2015

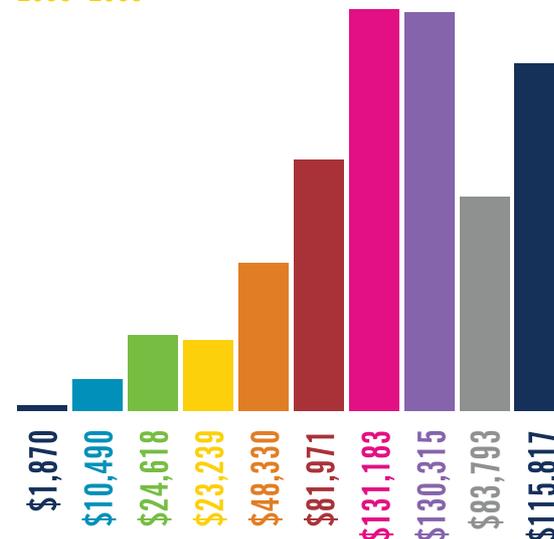
Tommy Berrigan

DONORS ARE JULY 1, 2015–JANUARY 31 2016
 FISCAL YEAR ENDS JUNE 30, 2016

ALUMNI DONORS BY FISCAL YEAR



2005–2006	2009–2010	2012–2013
2006–2007	2010–2011	2013–2014
2007–2008	2011–2012	2014–2015
2008–2009		



TOTAL \$ GIVEN BY FISCAL YEAR



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for Science & Mathematics

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