

Campolindo High School

Alumni Project



JOEY KOCHLACS

Class of 2007

Attended CSU Chico

Lived in Europe, worked on farms

Owens a woodworking business

During my final year at Campo, I was having trouble deciding where to go to school largely because I didn't see any degree you could get leading to a career I actually wanted so I chose my college based on the cross country and track coach and team as well as affordability. I loved it and would do it again, though I would major in Business because ultimately I went on to start my own small business and the tax and accounting side of things is totally outside my realm. After college I wanted to start a goat dairy and make cheese, so I went to Europe and worked on organic farms in a few countries as part of the Wwoof (world wide opportunities on organic farming) program, which is a very loose organization of different farms' contact information. The goat thing hasn't worked out but I have found a calling in woodworking, which I enjoyed as a freshman under Don Dupont at Campo. I get logs from tree services that take down hazardous trees, fallen trees or salvage stumps on my grandparent's property. I mill them and then make furniture. It is very rewarding work and ultimately I am following two passions because I am still running a lot and getting to be a creative furniture designer and builder.



MIKE STEVENS

Class of 2005

Attended DVC; San Diego State University

Network/Systems Administrator at 3D Robotics

After graduating from Campo in 2005, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life or which college I wanted to go to. Since I was not set on anything, I went to junior college at DVC. While at DVC I took some Psychology classes and I really enjoyed them. I eventually got into San Diego State, declaring Psychology as my major. After graduating, I returned home and Psychology jobs were hard to come by. While looking for work, I would sometimes help my friends with their computer problems. I really enjoyed doing this and realized that a career in IT might be my best choice, but wasn't sure how to get into the field without an education in IT. I reached out to all of my friends, asking if they knew of any open positions and eventually landed an entry level IT job at a software company in San Jose. After a few years in a desktop support role, I moved into a systems administration role supporting users and systems at a drone company in Berkeley. If I learned anything it would be how important networking is and staying in contact with friends and classmates. Building a network and working hard can really help lead to landing your perfect job.



NATASHA SCHOTTLAND

Class of 2008

Took a gap year and lived in Italy

Attended the University of Montana

Will attend UC Irvine to work towards teaching credential

As most of my high school friends began accepting their spots into top universities, I bought a plane ticket to Paestum, Italy to go work on a water buffalo farm. Although I did apply to several universities before leaving, only one, the University of Montana, allowed me to defer my application for my year abroad. In Italy, I worked at a bed and breakfast where almost no one spoke English. This forced me to learn Italian and learn the customs and culture of Italy. When I came back, I started my studies at US and decided to major in History and Women and Gender Studies. Today, I am working with dogs and in the fall I will be starting at UC Irvine to complete a Master's in Education along with a teaching credential. I one day hope to become a high school history teacher.

JENNY CASEY

Class of 2005

Attended Baylor University in Waco, Texas

Worked 5 years at the Texas House of Representatives

Currently lives in the Bay Area and works as a project manager

Lived in the Netherlands, Austin, and Boston.

After I graduated from Campo in 2005, I decided to go to Baylor University in Waco, Texas. Because I loved history and Youth & Government at Campo, I majored in political science with a focus on state government. I had the opportunity to study international relations in the Netherlands during college, and I earned an internship at the Texas House of Representatives. I volunteered on several campaigns and became a legislative aide to a Texas lawmaker after graduation. I worked at the Texas Legislature in Austin for many years and enjoyed every challenging, rewarding, and frustrating minute of it. I'm grateful to Campo, and especially my history teacher Ms. Brownlee, for helping me discover my interest in politics and my passion for public service.





LAURA DUPONT

Class of 2005

Graduated from Boston University

Working in Yosemite National Park

My passion has always been people--understanding them, helping them, and guiding them. After high school, I received a BA in Psychology, but applied this degree to an unexpected field: the hospitality and tourism industry. Five years ago, I traded in my lab coat for hiking boots, and currently live and work in Yosemite National Park, directly assisting the public to experience the beauty of remote wilderness.

Over the years, I have served countless families, foreigners, and friends to bring unforgettable memories to their lives, but the strongest impact has been within myself. I have recognized the infinite reward of service to others--of doing something to make others happy and that puts them first. Keeping an open mind to unexpected options on my trail has led me to a life of adventure, travel, connection, and service to others.



SAMUEL CROSSLEY

Class of 2012

Attends San Francisco State University

Assistant Editor at Bonfire Labs

I'm an adventure filmmaker and photographer and tend to document the experiences people have in the outdoors. After graduating Campolindo, I got into rock climbing and combined my knowledge of camera-work and story with my new hobby. I came upon the niche domain of active lifestyle media production. In the past two and a half years I have shot for National Geographic, The North Face, Adidas, Clifbar and Camelbak among others. A recent film I worked on, "Sufferfest 2", documented Alex Honnold and Cedar Wright as they attacked their ambitious goal to climb 45 of the American Southwest's most iconic desert towers. I was the Director of Photography and the film has been awarded multiple awards at international film festivals including Banff Mountain Film and Kendal Mountain Festival.

JESSIE BOOTH

Class of 2005

Attended UC Berkeley

Studying Landscape Architecture at Harvard University

After graduating from Campo in 2005, I attended U.C. Berkeley, where I developed my interests in design, ecology, and environmental studies. Post-graduation, I took a break to travel in South America, and then started my first job at The Nature Conservancy in San Francisco. After a few years working, I decided graduate school would be a good choice to further explore ecology and design. I am now in the middle of a three-year landscape architecture program at Harvard University. Writing has been the most important skill I took with me from Campo (thanks Mr. Ward and Mrs. Mayer!).





BRYCE PINKHAM
Class of 2001
Broadway/TV/Film Actor

Anyone who tells you they became an actor because it's the "only thing they could do" is lying! In order to become a professional actor, one has to be able to do a wondrous many things! My education at Campolindo and beyond is part of the reason I have a career in the arts. Actors, musicians, and visual artists must learn how to survive in a professional world just like anyone else. Not only that, the best actors know how to take ideas from the written page and apply them to the world at large; they know how to digest and debate big ideas, as well as design a budget to match their often erratic income. If you want to be on Broadway, my best advice (besides obviously getting the performance training you need) is to strive to excel in all areas of school, you will need them all along the way, and once you are here! Go Cougars! Stomp the Mats!

ADAM STREETER

Class of 2009

Took a gap year in Ghana

Attended George Washington University

Teaching English in the West Bank

I'm indebted to the teachers at Campo who taught me to think critically, write effectively, and who infected me with a love for other languages and cultures. After graduating from Campo in 2009, I deferred admission to George Washington University (GWU) and moved to Ghana for 10 months through the Youth Exchange and Study (YES) Program, a high school exchange program that's funded by the U.S. Department of State. At GWU I majored in Middle East Studies, walked onto the school's Division I Water Polo team, and interned with a refugee resettlement agency. After graduating last year, I coached a summer swim team in Walnut Creek in order to save money for traveling. Using my salary from swim coaching and a fellowship that I received from GWU, I moved to the Occupied West Bank last September where I've been studying Arabic, teaching English and filming recruitment videos for the YES program. I'm flying back to the Bay in April to coach swimming for one last summer and then I hope to either return to the Occupied West Bank or work on Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign if he decides





DEMETRI VILLANUEVA
Class of 2005

Attended college, left to pursue a career instead
Senior Building Inspection Coordinator with Solar City

After graduating from Campolindo, I went to college for several years. I traveled a lot, backpacked a lot, and realized what I was going to school for did not make me happy. After working several construction jobs I still wasn't very happy. I wanted a job that made a difference. I finally found the best of both worlds. I have been working for a solar company for several years and couldn't be happier. I'm now the senior building inspection coordinator and it's an amazing job. Education is power. I never stopped learning and continued my education through electrical certifications and more classes. Find what you love and do it!

MARK DEWEESE

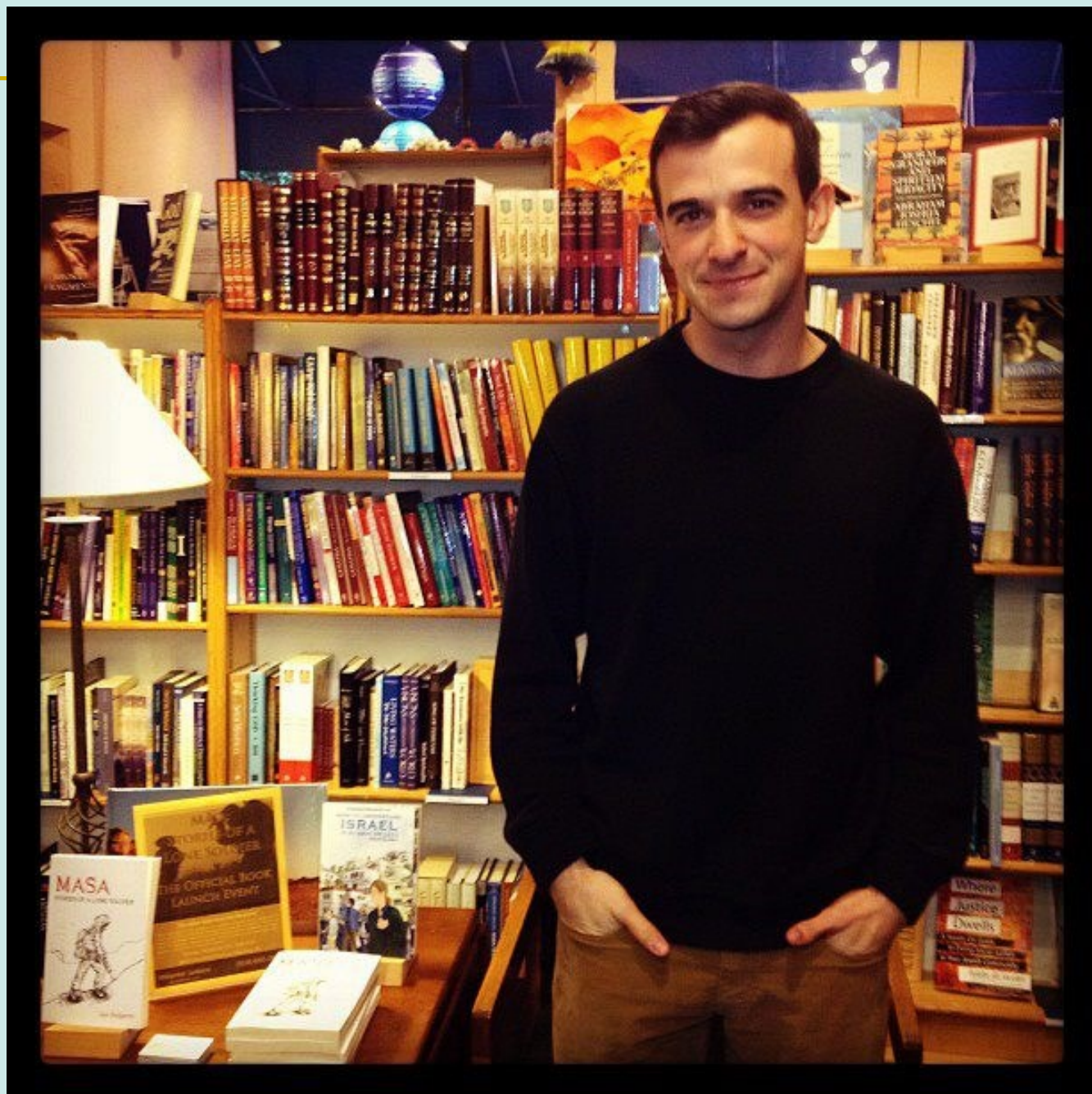
Attended College

Traveled and Played Football after College

Works for Moraga-Orinda Fire Department

The path I took after Campolindo went down many different avenues. I went to college, got a job in finance with Merrill Lynch, quit that job to travel and play football overseas, then changed careers again and became a firefighter. The skills I learned and experiences I had at Campo gave me the opportunity to explore what I wanted to do in life and gave me a knowledge base and skill set to apply to a number different options. Eventually, by 30, I figured out what I wanted to do career-wise to have success and a happy lifestyle for my family and myself.





ILAN BENJAMIN
Class of 2008
Served in Israel Defense Force
Self-Published a Novel
Attending USC School of Cinematic Arts

When I graduated from Campolindo in 2008, I jumped on a plane aimed straight for the Holy Land and served in the Israel Defense Forces for two and a half years. There I learned the true meaning of leadership and honed in my skills as a writer. I finally had a story worth telling. In the Summer of 2012, I self-published my first novel about my experiences in Israel and was accepted into the USC School of Cinematic Arts. Since then, I have written three feature films, won awards for a number of short films and worked with Ron Howard and Brian Grazer as the show runner of an interactive web-series. I have just tipped my toes into the beast that is the film industry, but I am as sure now as I was then as a bright-eyed Cougar, full of dreams, that I was meant for this: to be a storyteller.



TONY EVANS

Class of 2003

Ph.D. from Brown University in Providence, R.I.

Associate Professor of Psychology,

Tilburg University, Netherlands

As a social psychologist, I conduct research to learn about how people make decisions and interact in social situations. In college I majored in psychology and economics. After volunteering as a research assistant, I decided to pursue a career in academic research. My work involves developing theories about when and why people are willing to cooperate with strangers. I test these theories using data provided by companies and by conducting controlled laboratory experiments. Psychological research involves creative thinking (to develop theories and design experiments), knowledge of statistics (to analyze the results of experiments), and communication skills (to write about and present the results of research).

KINGSLEY FRAZIER
Class of 2005
Attended UC Davis

After Campolindo, I attended the University of California at Davis where I stumbled my way into an American Studies major. I decided on an emphasis of Violence Against Woman after becoming an intern with the Campus Violence Prevention Program. Through that internship I developed a class called Greeks Against Sexual Assault. The class taught sorority and fraternity members about healthy relationships and sexual assault awareness. Creating and teaching this course, and an internship working with Mr. Verbanszky, sparked my interest in teaching and immediately following graduation I began my Masters in Education with an emphasis in Educational Technology Leadership at California State University, East Bay. There I completed my Masters and Single Subject English teaching credential. While finishing my credential, I spent a semester student teaching with Mr. Brady-Smith. During that semester, I spent a lot of time working with Mr. Lanuza and the Learning Intervention Center and Learning Skills students. I realized that teaching Special Education was my passion; there was an opening at Campolindo the next Fall and I was hired as a Special Education teacher. That March, Grant came home and proposed in my classroom. We got married and spent the next two years living in Tennessee before coming back to Moraga and having our daughter, Marley. I've been surprised by where life after Campolindo has taken me, but could not be any happier that things have come full circle.

GRANT FRAZIER
Class of 2005

Attended United States Military Academy at West Point

After graduation, I attended United States Military Academy Prep School to redshirt for lacrosse. After a successful year, I moved up to New York to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. At school I played lacrosse and moved into Sandhurst, an international military competition, where I led and competed for the following three years. In 2010, I graduated and was commissioned as an Infantry Officer in the United States Army. Immediately following graduation, I was stationed at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia for Infantry Basic Officer Leadership Course where I also graduated Airborne School. The next year I went to Fort Campbell, Kentucky to be with the 1-506, 4th BCT, 101 ABN DIV AASLT. Once there, I worked in Brigade, Battalion, and platoon level Operations. In 2013 I was medically discharged from the Army and moved back to the Bay Area where I began working as an Operations Manager for Able Services. I am grateful for the outstanding teachers I had at Campolindo. They taught me the to see the value of my hard work and determination. That grit lead to my ability to become a successful Cadet and Army Officer that my peers often looked to for leadership.





RYAN BROOKS MOTHORN

Executive Chef at The Pour House Restaurant Chico, CA

Owner/Chef at Tannins Wine Bar Chico, CA

After graduating from Campolindo, I started to attend CSU, Chico as an Art major. After completing 2 years while cooking during my studies, I started cooking as a full time job. I fell in love with the heat as well as the creative process. I thank Coach Walsh for telling me "Pain is a matter of the mind; if you don't mind, it doesn't matter." If you're willing to put in the work, you can make your dream yours! Also, a big thanks to Mr. Verbanszky, for showing me that I had to find my own way.



NIKKO TRIGGAS

Class of 2007

Attended Ohio State University

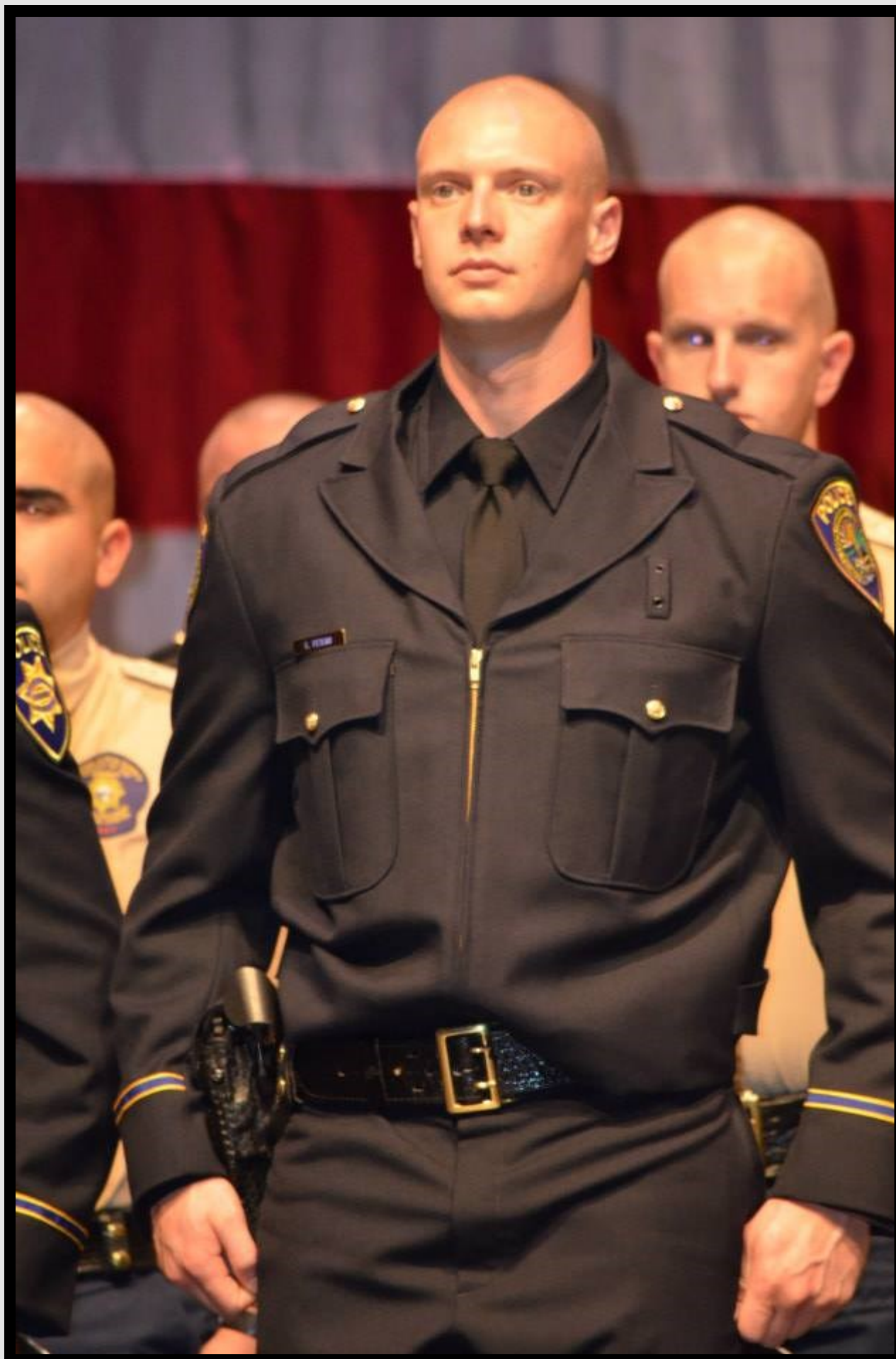
Lives at Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs & Oslo, Norway

After graduating from Campolindo High School in 07, I attended The Ohio State University. The path was uncharted as I left a small high school in beautiful, sunny California to attend the nation's largest University in cold, snowy, tornado alley. My path was again divergent as I entered Ohio State in the fall of '07 and graduated in the spring of '13. Yep, 6 years! (I attended college full time for 3 years, took a medical red shirt and part time school for 1 year, took an Olympic Waiver for 1 year to train and then returned full time for 1 year) Currently, I live and train for the Olympics. I travel the world for international competition. I reside at the US Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs AND the Norwegian Training Center in Oslo, Norway. I am currently in Hungary for training and competition. As an international athlete, I attribute my years in the Campolindo wrestling gym as the foundation necessary to sustain my competitive drive.



EVAN PETERS
Class of 2009
Attended Diablo Valley College
Recent Graduate of Contra Costa County
Law Enforcement Training Center

After graduating from Campo, I attended Diablo Valley College for a little over two years where I continued playing football and also became a Police Aide. After graduating from DVC, I continued working full time while also pursuing my bachelor's online through Arizona State University. I then participated in the 176th Basic Police Academy at the Contra Costa County Law Enforcement Training Center and graduated on February 20th, 2015. I will be working at the Contra Costa Community College District Police Department.



GAVIN SCHLISSEL

**Took a gap year in Germany
Attended Princeton and UC Berkeley**

I wouldn't have fallen in love with school if I hadn't taken time off before going to college. I applied to college my senior year of high school, but at the same time I also applied to a gap year program to study abroad before going to college. I ended up deferring my college admission to spend a year in a German high school with a State Department run exchange program. Taking a year off the college track let me catch up on some of my less academic hobbies—I spent my mornings reading, my afternoons playing pickup soccer and my evenings at the local bar with friends from school. After I came back from Germany, I felt focused and ready to engage in more serious academic work. I went to Princeton for college and majored in molecular biology, and now I am in graduate school at Berkeley studying genetics.





ADAD WARDA

CLASS OF 2000

VIDEO STORYTELLER/WRITER/DIRECTOR

LIVES IN PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

I always loved filmmaking and telling stories. My Spanish teacher, Mrs. Taylor, helped me showcase a film I made while at Campolindo at the Language lab. My drama teacher, Terry Boero, helped me gain the skills I needed in judging acting. I studied Film and Spanish at San Francisco State. After graduating I began directing commercial web videos. After college, a friend invited me to do the same work with him in Prague, Czech Republic out in Europe. I have been traveling the world making videos for the past 7 years and loving it! And I am now currently working on my sci-fi promo to pitch a TV series idea I have entitled, "Sky City Haya." The skills that helped me most were believing in myself, speaking multiple languages and practicing, practicing and more practicing. There's no substitute for hard work and if you can take pleasure in the process, you will be heading in the right direction!



CHRISSY BRADY-SMITH

Women's Empowerment Coach <http://chrissybradysmith.com>

Campo class of 2004 (oh 4 sho!)

UC Berkeley

Master's in Education at University of San Francisco

Currently lives in San Francisco

If you asked me in High School if I'd ever dream of starting my own business, I'd laugh in your face. For all of my formal education from Kindergarten to Graduate School, I thought I was going to be a teacher. My mission was to create the safest space possible for my students to discover their own unique gifts and heal any insecurities holding them back from stepping into their power. When I finally landed my first teaching job, it hit me like a ton of bricks that being a school teacher no longer aligned with my purpose to support others in healing and empowerment. I wanted to play a bigger game that gave me more freedom to travel, get plenty of sleep (no kidding), and enjoy my life all the while serving the world at the highest level. I can blame this inspired heart of mine on Jamie Donohoe, because he turned me into a transformation junkie in 2004. In his English class I made the conscious decision to never settle again. 12 years later, I've now attended every workshop and retreat I could get my hands on to support my leadership as a woman, and as a bonus I got certified in Life Coaching. I've now coached and facilitated hundreds of women committed to breaking through their upper limits of success and happiness in my workshops, retreats, and private coaching.

Please contact Jessica Hoffschneider at jhoffschneider@acalanes.k12.ca.us for more information about the alumni project.