

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Meredith Bagby, Class of '88

Meredith entered Palm Beach Day in Second Grade in 1981 and graduated with her Ninth Grade class in 1988. She is a teacher, and author of six published works which include *We've Got Issues: A Young Adult Political Guide* and *The Annual Report of the USA*, a widely acclaimed book that analyzes the U.S. budget. Meredith is regarded as an expert on trends among the youth. She has testified from a youth perspective before members of the U.S. Congress, including the Senate Finance Committee, the Bipartisan Commission on Medicare, and the President's Committee to Strengthen Social Security on economic issues facing Americans. She lives in California.

What are some of your fondest memories of Palm Beach Day?

Mr. Greco vociferating, word-for-word, Julius Caesar, making 7th graders "get" Shakespeare. Mr. Skinner leading us in his Latin jingles "...when conjugating verbs, declining nouns --and picking daisies-- you gotta first get hold of the stem!" Mr. Butler using the phrase "pussy-foot around the sticky wickets" -- in describing what his favorite historical figure Napoleon, did not do. Mr. Bayless bounding over his podium --always balanced precariously on its edge-- punctuating Kubla Khan, with his big hand.

Overhead projectors commanded by Mrs. Close and Mrs. Bayless. Lines of blue and red ink leading to solutions and then disappearing on the purple palms of their hands. Pink uniforms with the maroon trim. Penny loafers. Our names in black ink on gymnasium dresses over white bloomers, from another era. A crisp blue blazer with the emblem of a yellow palm tree.

After leaving PBD what schools did you attend to continue your education?

I went to a local public high school -- Palm Beach Lakes. And then went to Harvard College and Columbia Law School.

When did you realize you were interested in finance and politics?

I have always been fascinated by politics, largely because it was the dinner topic of choice in my family. When I was seven, I met Ronald Reagan and was bowled over by the majestic grandfather-figure. Shortly thereafter he began his presidential bid and

I was hooked. I remember watching his debates with Carter -- even at that early age --and arguing with my grandmother who was an old-fashioned southern Democrat.

As a math fan, in college I majored in economics and decided to marry that study to my love for politics. It was the era of big deficits and worry about American competitiveness abroad. I became interested in how we as Americans could



better understand our economic situation, on a broad level, so that we could do something to make our future more stable and friendlier to real growth.

You're the author of six publications, including The Annual Report. Tell us what motivated you to write this report?

As a student in the mid-90s who studied economics, I was made to be worried. It was a time when our professors warned of deficit spending, over-indulgence and rampant consumerism.

Many of these warnings, sadly, have come to pass in recent months. Today, America faces, perhaps, its greatest economic crisis. What is deeply unfortunate is that we could see much of this economic tragedy coming decades ago. Some had the foresight. But our republic requires more than that. Reform in America usually comes as a tide and not a trickle.

In this way, I am focusing my career on translating complex financial and demographic trends into easily digestible information for the average person. I want to help explain some of the more complex issues we face as a nation--consumption versus savings, the role of our education system in the new economy, the coming reformation of our entitlement programs (Social Security and Medicare) or the regulations of financial markets being

written into law as I write this.

It was in this spirit that I first authored the Annual Report of the USA, in 1995, which is a guide for American citizens about where our tax dollars go and which attempts to explain some of the larger economic trends we face as a nation. The book was published for four consecutive years. I will be writing another edition this year.

Through the report, I was able to become an advocate for government responsibility in spending, working as a commentator for CNN, authoring two other books on generational politics and working on the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security as well as testifying at the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare.

Why should young people be involved with political issues?

Young adults today should have a great deal of hope in the political system. It was the youth vote that helped Barack Obama win the primary, as well as the general election. There is a new generation rising to the highest echelons of government. While we have crisis in our country -- on almost every level -- we also have an unusual opportunity to be heard. Simply, the old ways, the established institutions have collapsed and it is time to make some new magic in this dusty world, as Thomas Wolfe might say.

Right now, I am trying to get young people interested in politics through founding a "guerilla civics" program for high-schoolers. We teach them about current political issues and then get them up on their feet debating. By the way, I still use my notes from Mr. Greco's speaking course!

Looking back over your years at PBD, what do you think were the most valuable aspects of our school?

PBDS gave me many gifts -- in some ways too many to count -- from a great foundation in math, writing and reading to teaching me to be a physically fit adult through the every-day-sports program. But above all -- and specifically for me -- PBDS gave me an opportunity to learn writing in an intensive way. I remember the weekly essays that Mr. Greco required of us. Mr. Greco took the time to sit with each of us individually as he read our essays aloud. It could be a harrowing moment for a kid, as he sat with his big red pen poised to strike out a split infinitive, a wrongly used pronoun, a sentence ending in a preposition-- or worse -- a fragment. But it was an absolutely invaluable experience. (Fragment) And you learn right then and there -- words are everything.

A L U M N I N O T E S

'77

Lisbeth Barron has joined as partner at Centerview Partners, an investment banking advisory practice and private equity business based in New York. Lisbeth has an MBA degree from Harvard Business School and a BBA in international business and finance from Florida Atlantic University.



Lisbeth Barron

Previously she was a partner at Bear Sterns and headed up its corporate finance practice for clients in the entertainment industry. Prior to that, she was head of the media and entertainment corporate finance team at SBC Warburg for North America and Latin America.

Lisbeth will be involved in expanding the firm's Media and Entertainment advisory practice.

'88

Carter Dillard is teaching law at Loyola University in New Orleans, LA. He also has a research fellowship with the Optimum Population Trust, in Manchester, UK.

'84

Mary Ullman Maupai was unable to attend the Wine and Cheese in November but she wanted to express her thanks and memories to Mr. Greco, Mrs. Close, and Mrs. Mendoza: To Mr. Greco, she writes that her English writing skills paid off immensely as a grant writer for non-profits, helping her secure close to a million dollars in funding for various organizations. Thank you for teaching me the correct use of punctuation. To Mrs. Close, she writes that she finally learned her numbers. As an Executive Director for a YMCA in Richmond, VA, she had to master the numbers and actually came to like them. To Mrs. Mendoza, she says her Spanish actually did come in handy when she lived overseas for three years in Paris (when she traveled to Spain, her Spanish was not pretty, but it did get her fed, helped her to make a reservation, and of course find the bathroom! Mary is currently working as the Director of Development for Safe Harbor, a domestic violence agency in Richmond. She has been working for non profits for the past ten

years. She and her husband Skip have been married for two years, and they enjoy scuba diving, traveling, watching movies.

After graduating from Garrison Forest (1987) and Hobart and William Smith Colleges (1991) with a BA in English, **Suzanne Strasser** worked for MTV Networks and Conde Nast in New York. She is currently working as the West Coast head of sales for Google TV, a new product launched by Google in 2007. She has lived in LA since 2004. Suzanne is in contact with **Alana Henry '85** and **Merrilee Holt '84**, who also live in LA. Thanks to Facebook, Suzanne has reconnected with many classmates. She would love to hear from others. You can reach her at sstrasser@google.com.

'81

The marriage of **Sally de Marcellus** and **Olivier de Sury** took place on Saturday, August 9, 2008, at Holy Comforter-St. Cyprian Church in Washington, D.C. Her sister, **Mary Le Gouellec '88**, was the matron of honor. Sally lives in Paris and works for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

'85

Adam Lynn is a rabbi at the University of Pennsylvania Hillel. His wife Ruthi, teaches parenting classes in Philadelphia. They have five children ranging from 9 years – 14 months. They spend their summers in Israel, and each year Adam travels with students to South Africa, Poland, Prague, & Israel to expose them to Jewish history. Adams's brothers **David '88** and **Peter '93** are also rabbis. David lives in Jerusalem with his wife Keren and their (soon to be) five children. Peter and his wife Regine also live in Israel with their three daughters.

'91

Tad and **Mae Ferguson** celebrated the birth of their son, **Thomas C. Ferguson III**, born at St. Mary's Hospital on January 15, 2009.

Cyrus Massoumi, the CEO and co-founder of ZocDoc, won a \$100,000 grand prize in Forbes' Annual "Boost Your Business" contest, beating out 1,500 other entrepreneurs over eight months

and three rounds of competition. ZocDoc is an online free service to book doctor and dental appointments instantly. It serves 60,000 patients per month in Manhattan and Brooklyn and offers an average of 4,000 appointments per day. Cyrus graduated from Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and completed his MBA at Columbia University. He lives in New York City.



Cyrus Massoumi

'95

Stefanie and **Andrew Cove ('99)** celebrated their grandfather's eightieth birthday



Andrew & Stephanie Cove

on January 11, in Melbourne, Australia, with their parent's **Rosemary and Harvey Cove '61**. Rosemary is our PBDA Development Director, and Harvey a former PBDA trustee. Stefanie is a sales catering manager at The Little Nell

in Aspen, CO and Andrew is a computer programmer for Naughty Dog, a Sony company, in Santa Monica, CA.

Jordann Miller and **Raymond Weingartner** are engaged and plan to marry in May, 2009. Jordann graduated from Babson College. She is the designer of Jordann Jewelry and the owner of JEM Jewelry. She is the aunt of **Jackson Miller '21**.

Hans Holland has received a Master of Science in Computer and Electrical Engineering from the University of Miami. He credits Mrs. Close for his career choice and states that he is living proof of her dedication to her profession. Hans is the Chief Technology Office at StoryBoard Consulting, an IT consulting company based in Boynton Beach, where he and his wife Lauren live.

'96

Diana Sarko is continuing her post-doctorate work in neuroscience at Vanderbilt University with Dr. Kenneth Catania, a MacArthur Fellow. She recently coauthored an article for "Scholarpedia" with Dr. Roger Reep of the McKnight Brain Institute at the University of Florida (see <http://www.scholarpedia.org/article/Tactile_hair_in_Manatees>). "Scholarpedia" is like "Wikipedia", but it's actually peer-reviewed, just like a scientific journal article submission. Each article is written by experts in the field. After an article is reviewed and accepted, other people can modify the content of the submission, but any modifications have to be approved by the authors/curators.

'98

Christina Matthews is engaged to Benjamin Macfarland; they will be married in Palm Beach in the Spring. A graduate of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, NC, she also graduated in April 2008, with a diploma from the Florida Culinary Institute. She is currently working as Resource Development Officer at the nonprofit center for the homeless - The Lord's



Benjamin Macfarland & Christina Matthews

Place. She was an organizer of Sleepout 2009, an event to raise awareness about homelessness in Palm Beach County, held at the Meyer Amphitheater on February 6. Christina is applying to graduate school for the fall, seeking a Masters in Public Administration. Her interest is nonprofit management. Christina is the daughter of current PBDA trustee, and former Board president, **William M. Matthews '67**.

'03

After graduating from Deerfield Academy in 2006, **Blair Brandt** enrolled at the University of Richmond, where he plays on the Men's Lacrosse team. He is majoring in Business Administration, Leadership Studies, and Law in the Liberal Arts. He spent the fall semester of 2008 studying abroad in Spain and traveling through Europe. This past summer, Blair worked at Christian J. Angle & Associates, Inc., a boutique-style real estate brokerage firm in Palm Beach. He will be working for the firm this summer as a realtor-associate. He celebrated his 21st birthday with **Preston**

Bertles '03, at Nick & Johnnie's in Palm Beach, and many fellow PBDA alumni and friends. After his graduation from Richmond in May 2010, he hopes to pursue



Peter Turchan '04, Dale Closi, Fritz van der Grift '03, & Blair Brandt.

a career in residential and commercial real estate. Blair can be reached at (561) 309-6353 or blairbrandt@gmail.com.

'04

Ashley Jones, a sophomore at Rollins College majoring in economics, was a debutante at the 54th International Debutante Ball at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York on December 29, 2008. The proceeds benefit the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guard and Airmen's Club.



Ashley Jones

Emilie Finney is a sophomore at University of Central Florida. She is an honor student studying graphic design with a minor in animation. She holds a part time job in a printing company on campus and among other tasks, designs logos for their customers. She is involved in an organization called the Lead Scholars. Through this organization she is an advisor to a group of freshmen students, helping them adjust to their environment. She also has to perform 10 hours of community service per semester with schools or adult communities. For fun she does intramural volleyball, & soccer, and sings twice a week in an a capella group which just won a competition in Gainesville in late February. She plans to participate next year in a semester overseas in Scotland for the Edinburgh Festival and to study architecture and art. Emilie is very excited about her studies and loves her life at UCF.

'05

Hunter Morgan, a pre-med student at FAU Jupiter, was recently elected to the Executive Board of FAU's Resident

Student Association as Marketing Director. Hunter reports that he is looking forward to summer travel and that he is especially enjoying Latin. Hunter's sister **Katie '14** is in 4th Grade here at PBDA.

Jack Rau graduated from St. Mark's School in Southborough, MA and he is attending the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Algernon Roberts graduated from Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine; he is a freshman at Montana State at Bozeman.

'07

Ben Gramentine, a junior at Saint Andrew's School (Boca), was a member of his school's delegation to the Harvard Model Congress in February. HMC is the nation's oldest government simulation conference run exclusively by undergraduates at Harvard College. While in Boston, Ben and hundreds of high school students from across the nation engaged in open debates, caucuses, trials, press conferences, and testimonies, and became thoroughly immersed in the purpose and function of American government.

Benjamin Finney is a junior at Forest Hill High School in the Environmental Science Academy. He has received High Honors for the past 3 years and is enrolled in AP Statistics, AP English Literature and Honors Chemistry. In the Environmental Science Academy he takes Marine Biology and participates in Science Fair. Last year his project, the study of mercury in fresh water fish, received a first place in the county level competition. Ben is also an active member of the Science Honor Society. He played freshmen football, played tennis his sophomore year, and is swimming this year. Ben also enjoys surfing, fishing and hunting. This summer he is applying for a

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The Bridge is published by Palm Beach Day Academy to inform its community of the activities of the school, its students, faculty and parents. Editor Richard Tummon and Alumni Director Rosemary Cove invite your suggestions, reactions and comments regarding *The Bridge*.



www.palmbeachdayacademy.org

Alumni Notes

Continued from previous page

science internship at Scripps Institute and hopes to deepen his knowledge in science. He plans to apply to the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Former PBDS teacher **Susan Terens Gilbert** writes that after thirty-one years of teaching, the last twenty-one years being overseas, she has retired from the Department of Defense Overseas Dependent Schools. She and her husband moved to Colorado to be close to her mother and two sisters and have settled in a lovely golf community in the foothills west of Denver.

IN MEMORIAM

Jordann McCracken passed away unexpectedly on December 15, 2008, at the age of 27. Our condolences to **Jebb '96**.

SAMANTHA MILBAUER '05 REPORTS ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S INAUGURATION

January 20th was a day filled with a lot of History. President Barack Obama was sworn into office as the 44th President of the United States of America. I had the opportunity to be in Washington D.C. to experience this amazing event. I was in D.C. for a program with 5,000 other college students. We had the chance to meet Colin Powell, Luke Russert, and Al Gore as well as hear them speak. Each of them gave us a different message. Having listened to all of these amazing people, I realized that the opportunity I was given was one of a lifetime.

With so many people attending the inauguration, it was really hard to know what to expect. I had the privilege of having a ticket to the actual ceremony. Getting there at 9:00 A.M. was perfect. I went through security and was waiting for the ceremony to begin. Standing around thousands of other Americans from

different races, ethnic groups, and locals was very interesting. It was great to see America come together as one, after months of issues that have kept the country in such unrest. This proved to me that America is one country, made up of people of different religions, backgrounds, and beliefs, that can bring all of the pieces together as a whole.

When president Obama spoke to the country on the day of the inauguration, he said that we would come together and fix what we needed to fix. We would move on as one country and not worry about the past but rather move on into the future.

After the Ceremony, it was time to get ready for the Ball that I was attending. Although it was not one of the "official" balls, it was an

experience that I will treasure forever. I was able to celebrate my trip to D.C. and have a wonderful time. The experience of attending the Inauguration was one that I would not change.



 ... for our children,
for their future,
for our planet

**The 2009
Palm Beach Day Academy**

Dinner and Auction

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Silent Auction - 6:30 P.M.

Dinner and Live Auction - 8:15 P.M.

ALUMNI FAMILIES

JOIN US FOR THE AUCTION

Alumni, Past Parents and Grandparents who would like to attend the auction and honor Mr. Matthews should contact the Development Office at 832-3308 to request an invitation. We'd love to see you there!

ALUMNI

Send Us your News

to Alumni Director Rosemary Cove at rcove@palmbeachdayacademy.org

Parents of Alumni

If your child/children no longer live at home, please forward a current address where we can send them copies of The Bridge

www.palmbeachdayacademy.org

Palm Beach Day Academy

Web Site

Visit the web site for access to up-to-date information.

Flagler - "Flagler Focus"
Seaview - "Seaview Update"

Under the homepage "Bulletin" link

Username: bulldog

Password: pbda

www.palmbeachdayacademy.org

2009-2010 School Calendar Important Dates

First Day - September 8
Winter Break - December 18
Classes Resume - January 5
Spring Break - March 12
Classes Resume - March 29
Bridge Ceremony - June 9
Commencement - June 10

A Full List of Major Dates is available at www.palmbeachdayacademy.org/docs/0910PBDAcalendar.pdf

The Bulldog

School Store
M,W,F 7:30 - 8:30 A.M.
Tue, Th 2:30 - 3:30 P.M.