

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

GEOFFREY MAY, CLASS OF 1985

Music and diving have been a driving force in Geoffrey's life. At the age of twelve, while a student at PBDS, he received his diving certification. He has been fortunate to turn his pass-time passions into successful careers. Twenty five years of scuba diving has led Geoffrey to numerous oceans, seas, rivers, caves, and holes in the ground around the globe. He and his wife Carrie have three children. They live in Gainesville, Florida, where he is the CEO for sales at Dive Rite - a scuba equipment manufacturer.

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

My years at PBDS were filled with experiences that could only have occurred in the unique town of Palm Beach with the exceptional people and businesses that comprise it. The school environment for me was that of learning and expression of ideas. The academics, drama, sports, the administration and teachers were all integral parts that helped to create this atmosphere.

- Mr. Butler: Headmaster and ringleader for the community - always easy to talk to no matter what your age. I remember him during my initial interview and he reminded me of President Ronald Reagan - eloquent and soft spoken, yet a stern leader who earned respect.

- Mr. Bayless: Whether screaming "Hustle, Hustle" on the soccer field or guiding us through our countless one minute speeches, he always offered enthusiasm and support. His encouragement to each and every student was genuine and passionate.

- Mr. Greco: Teaching with a flair that only "El Greco" could possess. I remember that the books he required us to read always seemed like the largest and longest books he could find. His spelling tests often required my mother to pull out the dictionary to assist me. His commitment to quality and his passion for teaching were transparent.

- Mr. Davis: A cool science teacher and a genuinely good man. The only teacher to ever send me to "the office" for disrupting the class - it was only because of my excitement about the projects he would create for us.

- Mr. Sarko: Mr. Space Shuttle himself. His ability to make all of his classes "fun" was artistic. The trip to see the launch "live" was unforgettable. I bet he still has the plaque on his desk that reads "out to launch."

- Mrs. Mendoza: She was my Spanish teacher and provided a wonderful classroom environment - ripe for learning.

- Mr. Laird: The thing I learned most from Scott was how to manage notes and ideas for future study. He was committed to teaching us an effective study guide. These tools proved invaluable throughout my high school and college years. Thank you! Mr. Laird was also responsible for providing all



9th graders with their official "nicknames."

- Mrs. Close: I really did not like Math at all but I enjoyed her classes. Thank goodness for the overhead projector! Her ink-covered hands must have led to permanent digit discoloration! Thank you for helping out the mathematically challenged with a smile.

- Mrs. Andre: Well I saved her for last because she was such an important part of my entire experience at PBDS. I took drama every year, no matter what performance was presented. Her knowledge of acting was well beyond our understanding at the time, but her presentation of it to us was remarkably tangible. Along with her assistant, Mitch Sussnar, she led us on a journey each semester to find within ourselves a place to create new personalities and form a cohesive team. She built confidence in each of us. The importance of drama to a child can never be understood until later in life when we realize that the entire world is a stage. Thank you Amy! I appreciate all that you did for me.

After Palm Beach Day what schools did you attend to continue your education?

I attended Cushing Academy for 10th grade then finished high school at The Williston Northampton School. I then received a BS in anthropology from the University of Florida.

Tell us about the concert promotion company you started while in college?

This company was started because of the passion I have for music. In 7th grade while at PBDS I began to play the drums. I continued to hone my skills for the next several years until, in college, I became

good enough to form a rock band with a few friends. We played and composed rock/blues music and soon wanted to share our songs with others. The venues that we performed in around town were appropriate, but we all really wanted to play a "Woodstock" type outdoor festival. The easiest way for this to happen in our opinions was to create the music festival ourselves. By this time I had a large group of musically inclined friends who all played in bands and toured throughout the South and East Coast, playing in bars and student venues, selling our cassettes and CD's to anybody that would buy them. A group of us began to see the potential revenue that could be obtained from producing a larger music festival that highlighted the Florida bands that performed original music. No "cover bands" were to be included. Our Mission Statement was to "promote and unify the original music of Florida." We went on to produce one of the largest music festivals in the state, and it became an annual event until 2001. Several bands were actually offered record deals after playing our stages. The company was in existence for nearly a decade before I sold my share.

What made you decide to change your career and start a new career in scuba diving?

September 11th 2001! My festival production career continued as I moved from Florida to New York City for a brief time in early 2001. To make a long story short the events of September 2001 changed many careers. I was no exception. After watching the towers fall down in front of me I quickly moved my family back to Florida and went back to my basic rule about work - "find something you love to do, then figure out a way to make money doing it." Scuba diving was second in line behind music for me.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

I have a passion for scuba diving, and this enables me to immerse myself in a business that I truly enjoy. I have the freedom to scuba dive as much or as little as I wish throughout the year and around the world.

What do you think were the most valuable aspects of our school?

The teachers and students. Although I do not communicate with many of my friends from PBDS, I do think of them often.

Other than the usual "stay in school" admonishment, what real-world advice would you give to students at Palm Beach Day?

Find something you love to do, then figure out a way to make money doing it!

Geoffrey can be reached at
geoffrey@diveite.com

ALUMNI NOTES

'64

Fred Martin reports that he and his wife Janet now live in Minneapolis. They have two children and four grandchildren. Fred and Janet would love to hear from Fred's classmates at Palm Beach Day. fredmartin@comcast.net

'66

Mike Garvan fondly remembers English with Mr. Skinner and French with Mme. Maddox. After graduating from St. Andrew's High School in Boca Raton, Mike attended Boston College and the Graduate School of Education at Harvard. In addition to teaching, Mike joined the Boston Jazz Quartet. His most recent recording, Havana Nights, was influenced by music broadcast from Cuba in the 1960's. You can find more information at www.mikegarvanmusic.com. Mike lives in Orleans, MA.



Mike Garvan

'68

Mary Hufty Alegria and her husband Daniel are celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary. They enjoy riding, golf, fox hunting, gardening, and their involvement with Archbold Expeditions, which runs Archbold Biological Station for agro-environmental and pure ecology research - helping the world care for and "get to know the real Florida." Mary continues to practice family medicine at the Palo Alto Medical Clinic.

'77

Lisbeth Barron has joined as partner at Centerview Partners, an investment banking advisory practice and private equity business based in New York. She brings to Centerview Partners 22 years of experience in the media and entertainment industry, first as an Institutional Investor-ranked research analyst, and then as head of Bear Stearns' corporate finance practice for clients in the film and television content, recorded music, location-based entertainment, and branded licensing and merchandising industries. For the past 11 years, Lisbeth was a Bear Stearns partner and headed up



Lisbeth Barron

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. She earned her MBA degree from Harvard Business School and a BBA in international business and finance from Florida Atlantic University. Lisbeth will be involved in expanding the firm's Media and Entertainment advisory practice. Our apologies to Lisbeth for the errors in the last alumni edition.

'85

Erik Kirk lives in Tallahassee, FL with his wife Kristen Scarola Kirk and their four children. Erik is president of Kirk Consulting Group, a government relations lobbying firm with offices in Tallahassee and West Palm Beach. He remains in touch with PB Day alumni **Daniel Slotkin '85**, **Andreas Bessenroth '85**, **Jen Scelfo '85**, and **Pepe Fanjul '86**.



Erik & Kristen Kirk and Family

'87

Cassie Foley Glover and her husband Paul announce the birth of their son, Pierce Sebastian, born on January 5, 2009 in New York City. He joins his big sisters Cecilia and Olympia. They live in the West Village, where Cassie serves on the Board of Trustees of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation.

Jen Hayes was married to C. Patrick LoPresto in 2006. They live in Baltimore with their new baby daughter Malena, who was born on January 29th. She writes that they waited until they were 36 to start a family and Jen is still debating as to whether sleep is overrated... or not! After being on maternity leave, she recently returned to work as a National Account Manager for a nationwide office coffee and water company. Her brother, **Vincent '84**, is a Chiropractor in Newport Beach, CA. Former classmates



Jen Hayes & Patrick LoPresto

or teachers can contact Jen at jenhayesny@hotmail.com.

'89

Chris Fineburg, his wife Karen, and their son Garrett recently welcomed their new daughter and sister Ella. They currently reside in Pittsburgh, Penn. where Chris works as a Director for Greycourt & Co. If anyone happens to be located in the area or is passing through please drop him a note. vze266xd@verizon.net

'92

Tiffany Marks is engaged to marry Simon Isaacs. Tiffany is a graduate of Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. A spring 2010 wedding is planned in Palm Beach.

Christian Miller is engaged to Jessie Smith. They plan to marry on May 25, in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Christian is a graduate of The Benjamin School and Princeton University. He obtained his doctorate of philosophy from the University of Notre Dame in 2004. He is an assistant professor of philosophy at Wake Forest University, NC.

'94

Brian Kirkpatrick recently joined Lydian Bank & Trust as a vice president/relationship manager. Before joining Lydian, Brian was a portfolio manger and financial analyst at Cypress Capital Group. He has an MBA from the University of Miami in international business and a bachelor's in finance from the University of Florida. Brian and his wife Kelly live in Palm Beach Gardens.

'95

Jordann Miller and R.J. Weingartner were married on May 9, 2009, at the home of Jordann's parents, in Palm Beach. Included in the wedding party were Jordann's brother **Mosie '91**, sister **Holly Weston '90**, and **Kathleen Koons '95**. PBDA student **Jackson Miller '21**, the bride's nephew, was the ring bearer. Jordann is a graduate of Babson College with a business degree, with a focus on entrepreneurial studies. She is the owner of JEM Jewelry, located at Rapunzel's Closet in Palm Beach.



R.J. Weingartner & Jordann Miller

'97

The marriage of **Kelly Kirkpatrick** and Gene Platt took place on December 6, 2008 at Amelia Island, Florida. Kelly, a graduate of the University of Miami, is the co-owner along with her sister **Sabra van der Poel '93** of Alphabet Soup, a children's boutique in Palm Beach. They live in West Palm Beach.

'98

Romain Rigby graduated from St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island in 2001. He graduated from Hobart College, Geneva, New York, in 2006, with a degree in Asian studies, with a focus on Mandarin Chinese. In 2007 he attended the Inter-University Program for Chinese language studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. He is completing a masters degree at John Hopkins University in Nanjing, China. He will graduate in June of 2010.

'00

Angeline Gauntt is a counselor employed by the New York Foundling Hospital's Care Prevention program. She was recently promoted to Supervisor and she leads a team of five social workers and oversees the case management of about seventy-five cases/families.

'01

Emma Rigby graduated cum laude from St. George's School in Newport, Rhode Island in 2004 and then with distinction in three years from McGill University in Montreal in 2007. After working for the Inter-American Development Bank in Miami, she is currently living in Washington, DC, where she is working for a law firm as a government affairs analyst and Deputy Director of the Canadian American Business Council.

Jessica Scorpio has turned her passion for international affairs into a successful career in Canadian politics, working first as a writer for the Prime Minister's Creative



Jessica Scorpio

Director, and now as a political aide to the Minister of International Cooperation. Three years ago, she founded IDEAL and launched www.idealmesh.com to connect young leaders with mentors in their diverse fields. She is a new member of the Summit Series, a group of the top

young entrepreneurs in America. Jessica is graduating with honors from Carleton University in Ottawa this month. She plans

on attending Singularity University at Moffett Field, CA, for graduate studies. NASA Ames Research Center, Google and other foremost authorities in science and technology have teamed to create Singularity University.

'03

Palmer Rampell, a rising senior at Harvard University, has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's oldest academic honor society. Palmer was one of twenty four Harvard students who were named to the society in their junior year. His studies are concentrated on English, and he plays on the tennis team. Palmer received a Harvard-Cambridge Fellowship to write poetry at Cambridge University in England this summer.

'05

Michelle Rattinger, a rising sophomore at George Washington University, has been named the Photo Editor for the school's newspaper, the G. W. Hatchet. As a freshman, she was one of fifteen staff photographers. Despite being informed that freshman rarely get assignments, Michelle managed to average two photos an issue. She is very excited and looking forward to the task.

'06

Casey Aylward graduated Valedictorian from Ashley Hall School in Charleston, SC. She will attend Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, in the fall.

Eric Bilotti graduated from Oxford Academy in Westbrook, CT. This summer he plans to travel around the US on a rail pass. In the fall Eric will do a post graduate year at Oxford Academy.



Eric Bilotti



Hayden Blank

Hayden Blank graduated from The Benjamin School in May. She'll be working this summer before attending the The University of Maryland - College Park in the fall.

Alexandra Ciomek graduated Salutatorian from Suncoast High School. She was in the International Baccalaureate program, where she ranked in the top ten for all four years. She was a National Merit Scholarship semifinalist, a National Honor Society member, and an AP Scholar with Distinction. Alexandra was captain of

the varsity volleyball team and a member of the Mu Alpha Theta and Hispanic Honor Society. This summer she will travel to Poland with her family. She will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.



Alexandra Ciomek

Alfy Fernandez graduated cum laude with honors from Westminster School in Simsbury, CT. He received awards for cross country and paddle tennis. Alfy was a member of the



Alfy Fernandez

Black and Gold Society and a proctor. This summer he will be traveling with his family and working. In the fall he will attend Trinity College in Hartford, CT.

Kendall Glazer graduated from The Benjamin High School; she will be attending Tulane University in New Orleans in the fall.

Daniel Gross graduated from The Benjamin High School, where he was a member of the varsity basketball team for three years. He was the team captain his senior year, started 54 consecutive games, and was the MVP. He received numerous other related awards. Over the summer he plans to work at sport camps and at a law firm. He will attend Union College in Schenectady, NY, in the fall.



Daniel Gross

Jonathan Horowitz graduated from Suncoast High School. In the fall he will attend Cornell University School of Hospitality Management in Ithaca, NY. Jonathan has continued to advance his taekwondo skills, and he has a third degree black belt. This summer he plans to backpack through Europe and working at a hotel, casino, or nightclub.

Madeleine Kemble graduated from the Groton School in Massachusetts, where she was the varsity team captain for the '09 basketball season and received the basketball coach's award. This summer she is returning to the Dominican Republic for a second year as head counselor at DREAM Project, a nonprofit organization improving education for children in rural areas and

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small communities on the north coast of the Dominican Republic. Madeline will be attending the University of Vermont in the fall.

Michael Lazzara graduated from Cardinal Newman High School, where he received the University of Miami Dean's Scholarship Award, the Cardinal Newman Scholar-Athlete Award, the Lacrosse Varsity Best Defense Award, and the Varsity Football Defense Award. Michael is a recipient of a Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. In 2008 he participated in the Intern Exchange Program at St. Barts Hospital in London, UK, in the Department of Endocrinology. In the fall Michael will attend the University of Miami, where he has been accepted into the Neuroscience program.



Michael Lazzara

Cornelia Lorentzen graduated from Deerfield Academy; she will attend Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT, in the fall. She will be volunteering and relaxing over the summer.

Bradley Methe graduated from the William T. Dwyer High School Academy of Finance. He will spend time traveling with his family before starting the summer session at the University of North Florida.



Bradley Methe

Sarah Richter graduated from A. W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, where she received awards for Speech and Debate, and for the Pacemaker (high school journalism). Sarah was a first place winner for page design from The Palm Beach Post for Excellence in High School Journalism. This summer Sarah will intern at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in the jewelry and textiles department. She will attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall.

Kyle Ruderman graduated from Cardinal Newman High School. He will be attending Palm



Kyle Ruderman

Beach Community College in the fall. He hopes to pursue a career as a pilot.

Tyler Schrier graduated from The Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, NJ; he will attend Trinity College in Hartford, CT, in the fall.



Tyler Schrier

Andrew Sharpe graduated from A. W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, where he was a member of the Thespian Society and the director of "The Real Inspector Hound." Andrew also received a letter for playing on the varsity tennis team. He will be working as a camp counselor at Camp Shalom of Central Florida over the summer. In the fall he will attend Stetson University in Deland, FL, as a recipient of the Faculty Merit Scholarship.



Andrew Sharpe

Dylan Sloane graduated from The Benjamin School. He made the honor roll every year and the Headmaster's List for his senior year. A member of the VP Career Club and a peer counselor, Dylan played on the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams as a sophomore, junior, and senior. Dylan will be working for McCraney Property Company, a commercial real estate and management company, and Starbuck's over the summer. He will attend Florida Atlantic University in the fall.



Dylan Sloane

Edwin (Win) Warfield graduated from Brewster Academy in Wolfebore, NH, where he played on the varsity lacrosse and ice hockey teams. This summer he is working at a restaurant called Sen in Sag Harbor, in the Hamptons. He will attend Stevenson University in Stevenson, MD, in the fall.

Sam Wedge recently completed his junior year at the Salisbury School in Salisbury, CT. He is regularly on the Dean's list, and he plays on the squash and golf teams. Sam will spend the summer running his commercial striped bass charter business in Falmouth, Mass. In the fall he will be looking at southern liberal arts schools,

where he can further his passion for golf.

Ethan Zisson graduated from A. W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts, where he was the Editor-in-Chief of the school's news magazine. He was a member of the varsity boys soccer team, which was undefeated for the 2008-2009 season. He will be working in Martha's Vineyard over the summer and attending Brown University in Providence, RI, in the fall.

'05*

Molly Cullen graduated from the A. W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts. Her summer plans include working and having fun. She will attend Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY as a recipient of the Hofstra Presidential Scholarship.



Molly Cullen

Wesley Jaynes graduated in the top twenty of her class at A. W. Dreyfoos, Jr. School of the Arts. She received awards for Most Excellent Senior Portfolio, Academic Honors, and the Principal's List. She will spend the summer in the Hamptons before attending Florida State University in the fall. Wesley is the daughter of Nikki Morrow, the Facilities Manager on the PBDA Lower School Campus.

** Molly and Wesley graduated in the Class of 2005 (the eighth grade) from The Academy of the Palm Beaches.*

'07

Adam Susaneck, a rising senior at the Westminster School in Simsbury, CT, was named the winner of the WALKS Foundation's Constitutional Essay Contest. Annually five schools, Westminster, Avon, Loomis, Kingswood-Oxford, and Suffield, nominate two finalists to compete in the contest. This year, students were asked to analyze the role of the vice presidency and how it has changed over time.

IN MEMORIAM

Serena Bostwick Kaytmaz '78 passed away on Friday April 23, following a riding accident. A well known West Palm Beach business owner, she and her husband owned Café Centro, an eatery in Northwood, WPB.

ALUMNI

Send Us your News

to Alumni Director Rosemary Cove at rcove@palmbeachdayacademy.org