





THE FAST TRACK:

20 OF HARRISBURG ACADEMY'S FASTEST-RISING

YOUNG ALUMNI

Harrisburg Academy graduates measure success in many different ways.

Some see it as rising quickly to the top of their chosen field. Others find it deeply satisfying to work quietly for an important cause. Still others find success in creative expression. A few find their way to careers that are truly unique.

Academy alumni share a common background of self-discovery and challenges not only met, but surpassed due to the many advantages of an Academy education. They all have experienced the benefits of a small school community that embraces the liberal arts and nurtures the “whole child” along his or her education journey. Our graduates’ backgrounds and chosen life paths may be extraordinarily different, yet our school is the unifying place at which they all laid the first bricks of their lives’ foundations, where their passions were ignited, and where their future dreams were born.

Our school helped them build confidence and character, and guided them to the next step — a step they did not merely accept, but actively sought through wisdom and understanding that comes from years of guided mentoring. And now, several years later, each Academy alumnus and alumna is making a unique, definitive mark across the country and the world.

“The Fast Track” is a special feature — the first of its kind in Academy NewsMagazine history — showcasing a large group of successful young alumni at one time. It’s easy to tell the story of our more established graduates because quite simply, they’ve been at it longer. But we felt it was important to showcase the group that is just now starting to launch their careers and lives, because their success stories are nothing short of amazing. Accordingly, we asked for your nominations of alumni in their 20s and 30s who had interesting stories to share. The Fast Track is the result of this collaborative effort, and it is a group that we all should be proud to recognize as part of our greater Academy community.

It is also important to note that this list is not exclusive. Academy alumni everywhere, not just those featured on these pages, are contributing to the betterment of their global and local communities. This smaller sub-set is but a representation of a much larger, powerful group. We encourage all alumni to be in touch with our Alumni Relations Office about their own success, for we cannot share your story if we are not aware of your story!

And without further ado, we present
THE FAST TRACK.



THOMAS FAERCH '90

Partner and Attorney at NORDIA Law Firm, and founder and CEO of Gefion Group
Copenhagen, Denmark

My greatest accomplishment: In 2004, after having worked as a corporate attorney, I founded a small boutique law firm that specialized in mergers and acquisitions, and commercial real estate. The firm expanded over the next couple of years until we employed 30 lawyers and became a member of a Nordic law firm covering Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Finland. I recently founded a small real estate development company specializing in converting empty Copenhagen office buildings into residential apartments. I would say, therefore, that my greatest accomplishment has been to find the courage to step away from the nice, safe life as a corporate attorney in order to start a new venture as a real estate developer!

In five years: I will either be retired or bankrupt, as this is normally the way things go in the real estate business.

My Academy foundation: Although I spent only one year at Harrisburg Academy, I feel that the people I met and the friends that I made at the Academy during my stay are part of the foundation that I have carried with me. Living a year abroad in a foreign country and experiencing a different culture and school system is something that I will never forget and which will be of great value to me for the rest of my life. I hope that many Academy families are still willing to invite international students into their homes!

The teacher(s) who mentored me: Because I was at the Academy for only a year, I do not really think that I had a mentor as such, but I do recall that I had several great teachers, including Mr. [Richard] DiBianca.

Thomas attended the Academy for his senior year. He was an international student from Espergaerde, Denmark, near Copenhagen, where he now works.



BEN ABRAMS '92

President at Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc.
Harrisburg, Pa.

Harrisburg Academy and the Abrams family have one very important thing in common: legacy. The Abrams family has been in the Harrisburg area since 1904, when Benjamin Abrams emigrated from Lithuania and started peddling recyclable materials and scrap metal. One hundred and ten years later, Ben Abrams '92 is now president of Consolidated Scrap Resources, Inc. (CSR), the company that has evolved from Benjamin Abrams' vision.

As president, Ben (the current-day one!) oversees the processes at CSR, which include metal, paper, and plastic scrap recycling at six locations in Southcentral Pennsylvania. "I really enjoy my work — both the industry and being a business owner, able to control my own destiny," said Ben, who is an Academy "Survivor."

After graduating from Harrisburg Academy, he attended the University of Pennsylvania and went on to earn a law degree from Pennsylvania State University's Dickinson School of Law in 2001 and a master's degree in real estate and real estate finance from New York University in 2006.

Ben lives with his wife and two children, who he says are his greatest accomplishment. While at the Academy, he played soccer and lacrosse. He was inducted into the Academy's Athletics Hall of Fame in 2010 for his many contributions to the Academy's programs.

The Abrams family continues to stay connected to the Academy; Ben, his parents, Richard and Marilynn, and his brother, Neil '96, support the school in various ways. Marilynn served on the Academy's Board of Trustees from 1983 to 2000, was Board president from 1992 to 1995, and received the school's highest honor, the McCormick Medal, in 2004.



GENE KIM '92, ESQ.

Vice President - Corporate Strategy and General Counsel at Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc. New York, N.Y.

In an office on the 52nd floor overlooking Grand Central Station in New York City, Gene Kim '92 serves as the vice president - corporate strategy and general counsel for Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc., a privately-held generic pharmaceutical company with partners around the world. Back in high school, if you had asked him what he would be doing today, he definitely would not have said working for a pharmaceutical company. "Yet, here I am, thoroughly enjoying my work, finding business to be surprisingly creative and rewarding... I'm a firm believer if you constantly improve yourself, work hard, follow your interests, and do good for others, you'll always end up where you are supposed to be," Gene said.

In his current position, Gene is responsible

for overseeing the entire legal functions of the company from corporate, intellectual property, and regulatory and litigation matters. He also manages the legal staff and focuses considerable time on the business-development and corporate functions of the company. But more than anything, he is having fun and being creative with his job. Nearly 10 years ago, Gene had the opportunity at Breckenridge to build an entire legal department from the ground up. He embraced this chance to be innovative and approached the process with an analytical yet unstructured mindset — a viewpoint Gene fostered at the Academy.

"Without any reservation, I can say that Harrisburg Academy was a major influence in shaping my own unique perspective and outlook. Out of the very specific and distinct culture at the Academy, I was able to hone an uncompromising sense of independent thinking and curiosity, as well as intellectual rigor, at an early, critical age," he said.

Before transitioning into corporate law at

Breckenridge Pharmaceutical, Inc., Gene began his career at law firms in New York and New Jersey specializing in employment law and commercial litigation. Gene earned his bachelor's degree in sociology from Northwestern University and his law degree from Rutgers University.

Part of what makes Gene's line of work so fulfilling is the opportunities he has had to help others find success and fulfillment in their own jobs. It's a mindset that seemingly comes naturally to Gene, who credits his parents as a large source of inspiration. After retiring, Gene's parents chose to give their time to various non-profit organizations and serve as volunteers in Guatemala. His father, a retired veterinarian, donates goats to people in impoverished areas and then teaches them to become more self-sufficient by raising the goats for milk.

"No golf or tropical holidays for them! To make these choices at this stage in their lives," Gene said, "I find that to be very inspiring."



DR. ZACH SCHEINER '93

Science Officer at California Institute for Regenerative Medicine
San Francisco, Calif.

After Academy alumnus Dr. Zach Scheiner '93 graduated from Yale University with a bachelor's degree in molecular biophysics and biochemistry, he returned to the Academy as a Middle School science and math teacher for three years. "When I returned to the Academy to teach, Mr. [Steve] Stewart was a fantastic mentor and role model, and I reconnected with Mr. [Randy] St. John who, to me, has always embodied the Academy ethos of lifelong curiosity and love of learning," said Zach, who exemplified those qualities himself when he went on to earn a doctorate degree in neurobiology and behavior from the University of Washington.

Currently based in San Francisco, Calif., Zach serves as a science officer at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. In this role, he is responsible for a \$40 million portfolio of stem cell research grants across a range of development stages and scientific fields, working to improve the lives of patients. For this and other reasons, Zach received the Academy's Rising Star Award in 2011.

Zach credits the Academy as the place where he laid the groundwork for his current career, learning writing skills that stick with him even today. "The Academy gave me an incredible foundation — I could talk about it *ad nauseum*. When I arrived at college, I was intimidated by all of the incredibly smart people in my classes but relieved to find that writing was one area in which I had a leg up," he said. "The Academy also encouraged curiosity and a love of learning, and the confidence that it's okay to be a geek!"



JAMES ADAMS '95, CFA

Senior Investment Analyst at a private trust company, N.A.; Author
Lancaster, Pa.

My greatest accomplishment: To-date, I consider writing "Waffle Street: The Confession and Rehabilitation of a Financier" my greatest accomplishment. "Waffle Street" is a memoir of my experiences in the world of institutional asset management and, subsequent to a layoff during the global financial crisis, a six-month stint waiting tables alongside ex-convicts in a 24-hour diner. A screen adaptation was optioned by a major film producer in 2012; we have just started casting actors, with shooting to commence this August in Utah.

In five years: If post-college life has taught me anything, it's the truth of President Eisenhower's adage that "plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." I'm currently working as an investment professional at a trust company in Southcentral Pennsylvania and can certainly envision myself here for a while. My two current aspirations are penning a finance/economics textbook for high school students and an action/drama screenplay set in antebellum Kansas.

My Academy foundation: I couldn't have asked more from a secondary education than what Harrisburg Academy afforded me. First and foremost, it instilled an academic work ethic that has subsequently served me very well. During my freshman year at Wake Forest University, I discovered that many of my peers had not accumulated comparable self-discipline. Academy classroom dialogues fostered an ability to articulate and defend positions extemporaneously, and the high faculty-to-student ratio enabled me to develop my expository writing skills.

The teacher(s) who mentored me: I attribute most of my development as a writer to Dr. [Lee] March, who taught me literature as an Academy upperclassman. Amongst other lessons, Dr. March imparted the integral value of cultivating one's editing skills. A writer may offer a number of valid points, she explained, but his or her ability to persuade is largely a function of how coherently the total argument is structured.

DR. KRISTINA PINTO '95

Director of Research, Evaluation, and Policy at Fishing Partnership Support Services; Running Coach; Author
Burlington, Mass.

My greatest accomplishment: I would have to say that creating a career in running has been my greatest accomplishment. That passion and dedication carried me through 11 marathons, including the Boston Marathon four times, and also enabled me to use my love of running — whether serving as a running coach or sharing my words of wisdom as an author — to support other women in achieving their goals.

In five years: I'd like to continue doing work that supports people in their health and wellness. Right now I'm working to support the health of workers in the commercial fishing industry, which isn't an area I thought I'd be in five years ago.

My Academy foundation: At the Academy, I learned to appreciate my blessings and to use my education through service and thoughtful reflection. I learned to write at the Academy, and I learned to value community service as a way to use my privilege in receiving a great education to improve quality of life for other people. Having close connections with teachers made all the difference in teaching me that ethic of care.

The teacher(s) who mentored me: I had a lot of mentors at the Academy, particularly Mrs. [Karen] Morrow, Mrs. [Elizabeth] Frederick, Mr. [Richard] DiBianca, Mrs. [Susan] Roller, and Mr. [J. Gregory] Morgan. They all taught me how to write and how to think for myself.

Read more about Kristina in the Fall/Winter 2014 NewsMagazine, where we featured the release of her new book, "Fit and Healthy Pregnancy."



ALEX KAPLAN '97

Vice President of Global Partnerships at Swiss Re Group
Washington D.C.

"I learned so much at Harrisburg Academy," said Alex Kaplan '97. "I found that the environment it provided to think critically and have true discourse in the classroom was unparalleled.

"I spent most of my life at the Academy, with the exception of 9th and 10th grade," he continued. "Those two years at public school were tough and I learned quickly how powerful an Academy education is — I had to go back."

At the conclusion of his Academy education journey, Alex sought a globally minded career in government and the public sector, currently serving as vice president of global partnerships at the Swiss Re Group. In this capacity, Alex helps governments, global financial institutions, and non-governmental organizations manage financial risks by developing innovative risk transfer options.

However, his "most exhilarating" experience was working as a policy advisor to U.S. Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson from 2006 to 2008. "I had the opportunity to work on some very interesting topics, from trade agreements and foreign direct investment to terrorism finance and Senate confirmations. The greatest part of the whole experience wasn't the job itself, but the people with whom I was able to work. Regardless of your political beliefs, you'd be proud to see the caliber of people we have running our government."

Alex earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, N.Y. and is currently based in Washington, D.C.





DESIREE COOPER '96, AIA

*Project Manager at Little Diversified Architectural Consulting
Arlington, Va.*

"A strong work ethic and the importance of giving back to the community are for certain the key values that I took away from the Academy," said Desiree Cooper '96. "Both have provided me a means by which to accomplish my goals while meeting many wonderful people along the way."

For Desiree, a passion for community service has been alive and well since her time as an Academy student. These days, she uses her talents as an architect to create and manage low-impact building projects for Little Diversified Architectural Consulting in the Washington D.C. metro area. She stays active in a variety of other service activities, ranging from those geared towards supporting inner-city youth (YMCA after-school programs; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Capital Cause; and Millennial Changemakers) to those that positively impact the environment and the future of her industry. Desiree enjoys volunteering for environmental clean-up efforts in the D.C. area and through the Urban Land Institute, mentoring high school students interested in land development careers.

Desiree attended North Carolina State University after graduating from the Academy and earned a bachelor's degree in environmental design in architecture. She also has a master's degree in architecture from Temple University.

According to Desiree, "I'm grateful to be in a position and line of work where I have been able to contribute to the development of low-impact and mixed-use communities. I have been lucky enough to have had the opportunity to participate on a variety of projects that work to bring people of varying economic status and backgrounds together while helping to preserve the environment through sustainable design practices."

ETHAN TITELMAN '97

*Vice President of Media and Entertainment at Penn Schoen Berland
Los Angeles, Calif.*

Have you ever wondered how movie studios and other media and entertainment companies choose content to develop branding and advertising strategies, create trailers and TV ads, or research current trends? Often they do it with the help of a consultant like Ethan Titelman '97, the vice president of media and entertainment research at Penn Schoen Berland, Santa Monica, who has consulted on over 1,000 media and entertainment research projects for companies such as 20th Century Fox, The Walt Disney Studios, Universal Studios, Sony, and Electronic Arts.

Ethan, who currently lives in Los Angeles, helped start and build the media and entertainment practice firm and has consulted on marketing campaigns for more than 150 major motion pictures. In the process, he helped create a forecasting model that can predict a movie's opening weekend box office receipts months before it is released.

After graduating from Harrisburg Academy as a "Survivor," he attended the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in international relations and political science. Then he earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of California, Los Angeles (Anderson School of Management), finishing at the top of his class.

"Harrisburg Academy provided me with a well-rounded education and extracurricular opportunities that allow me to do what I do today. My job requires me to be both analytical and creative, which are skills that were developed at the Academy. Despite its small size, I have always felt prepared for the large challenges that I have faced both academically and professionally because of my 13 years at the Academy," Ethan said.



SARAH LONGWELL '98

*Senior Vice President at Berman and Company
Washington, D.C.*

"In college, it didn't take me long to realize that I had been given a tremendous advantage by having gone to a high school with college-level expectations," said 2013 Professional Achievement Award recipient, Sarah Longwell '98. "Not only did the Academy's preparation serve me well in college, it provided a foundation that has served me in all facets of my life."

But even one as grounded as Sarah can harbor a weakness — she admits she has always had a paralyzing fear of public speaking, which she thinks is terribly ironic, considering her role as senior vice president at Washington D.C. political communications firm, Berman and Company. No one would have guessed this fear, given Sarah's spirited and engaging alumni award acceptance speech in a McCormick Auditorium filled with Academy students, faculty, and friends last fall.

Sarah shared that her greatest accomplishment to-date is how she learned to neutralize her fear by simply facing it and pushing through it. "I said 'yes' to every offer to go on TV or give a speech," she said. And because she could work through her fear, she was able to experience a career high-point at the 2012 Republican National Convention: she found herself in the New York Times press box, giving a television interview arguing why the Republican Party should drop its opposition to marriage equality, with the convention going on in-sight behind her.

Working at her "dream job," Sarah has several Academy mentors to thank. "Dr. [Dan] Jones, Mrs. [Susan] Roller, and Dr. [Lee] March were all critical to my academic and personal development," she said. "They were all superb teachers and incredible mentors. Dr. Jones especially — by constantly challenging my assumptions and forcing me to defend my positions — did the most to whet my appetite for politics and policy. The older I get, the more I appreciate both the things that he taught me and the way that he taught them."

FARAH MAJID '01

*Global Trade Compliance Specialist II at Xilinx, Inc.
ECTI Accredited Export Compliance
Professional-EAR®
San Jose, Calif.*

In the land of steep hills and red cable cars, Farah Majid '01 works in Global Trade Compliance at Xilinx, Inc., the world's leading provider of All Programmable FPGAs, SoCs and 3D ICs that are used in a vast array of technological hardware components. The California-based alumna never pictured herself working on the West Coast, let alone in the technology industry. However, the entirety of her education journey has prepared her to work in San Jose, the capital of Silicon Valley where international trade and e-commerce is bustling.

After graduating from the Academy, Farah earned a bachelor's degree in religion from Temple University and a master's degree in public and international affairs, and global political economy from the University of Pittsburgh. A highpoint of her graduate school experience, Farah was invited to speak at the 13th Annual Harvard East Asia Society Conference, "Facing East: Conversations and Connections."

"I feel that nothing ever came easy to me, and I always had to give it my all and fight to achieve what I sought after," Farah said. "Overcoming that struggle and getting to where I'm at today has been my greatest achievement thus far. It's not going to get any easier any time soon so here's to grit and greater accomplishments!"

Farah credits her time spent at the Academy with helping develop this sense of self that she has carried with her into her professional life. "One of the integral foundations the Academy built in me is the ability to stay true to myself. I never felt that I had to change who I was to fit in and that goes a long way in life — from an educational setting to a professional one, and all other aspects. That, in turn, gives you a sense of self and confidence that other people recognize and appreciate."

Beyond her busy professional life, Farah also serves as a policy specialist and volunteer on the fundraising team for the Northern California chapter of Organization of Women in International Trade (OWIT).



REBECCA SZYMCZAK '01

Designer; Owner of BEX NYC
New York, N.Y.

My greatest accomplishment: This past year, I left the corporate design world to start my own company. I learned quite a lot from my many years working for global fashion brands but I am extremely excited to now be able to focus on building my own lifestyle brand, BEX. I am proud to be sending great products out into the market, collaborating with retailers like Henri Bendel and incredible artists like Lady Gaga and Ivy Levan, and most of all, creating a fun, inspiring, and positive workplace for young creatives to evolve and play.

In five years: I will grow BEX into a large corporation by expanding into more product categories and geographic territories. I want to expand our charitable contribution, donating more to our current charities: Designers Against AIDS, Fashion Fights Cancer, and Look Good Feel Better, as well as expanding our overall charitable outreach.

My Academy foundation: The internship program senior year encouraged me to apply to various brands that offered design internships. Securing my design internship with NIKE that year was the entry to a four-year career with the company, that I maintained while I was in college.

The teacher(s) who mentored me: I had a very challenging transition when I moved from Amsterdam back to Southcentral Pennsylvania. I really didn't fit in; I felt isolated and out-of-place. Mr. [Terry] Bowie helped me through this incredibly difficult time. He saw my frustration and my stubborn refusal to "blend." He really challenged me to use my energy and channel it toward my love of design and my goal of attending an art and design college in a large, metropolitan city.



DANIEL HAWKINS '03

Cellist, Composer, and Educator
Philadelphia, Pa.

Those who remember Daniel Hawkins '03 from high school will inevitably think of his blue stand-up bass and bluegrass band, Raisin' Kane. Before earning a living as an award-winning cellist and composer, Daniel found inspiration during these years from Academy music teacher, Mr. [Randy] Gutwein. "Randy jammed with us, and gave us his own compositions to play; he was excited about collaborating with us, which invited us to be excited to learn from him and to make music ourselves," he said.

"The Academy gave me a small community of people who supported and believed in me," he added. "This was invaluable for me at the time, and the confidence it gave me has continued to prove invaluable in my adult life."

Since his time living in Southcentral Pennsylvania, Daniel has traveled the country and the world on a "musical passport:" he earned an undergraduate degree with high honors in composition and cello performance from Princeton University; finished a master's degree with academic honors in contemporary improvisation from the New England Conservatory; and has played countless shows — as a solo artist and with various ensembles — throughout the United States, Europe, China, and Africa. Currently, he performs with Driftwood, a string-based duet whose sound draws from classical music and folk traditions of the American North Atlantic region.

When he's not performing, writing, and recording, Daniel is a dedicated teacher and volunteer, maintaining a private studio in Boston. "Randy taught me many things, one being the importance of including your students in your own excitement for music. I try to apply myself towards making every little rehearsal, gig, and jam session the best it can be, because you never know who is listening, who really needs to hear you, and what your impact on them will be. I suspect these small points of contact are endlessly more significant than any one single big success," he said.





THE CHERNICOFF BROTHERS

ADAM CHERNICOFF '10

*Advance Associate for the White House
Washington, D.C.*

What is the common bond between a theoretical physicist and an aspiring public figure? Brothers and Academy graduates, Michael Chernicoff '05 and Adam Chernicoff '10, share more than a last name; they share the myriad experiences offered as part of an Academy education. Although they have chosen different paths, both have excelled in their chosen fields, and credit, in part, the Academy with their success.

"Most obviously, I received a very thorough education that gave me a step up when I started college. It also showed me that I shouldn't be content with taking the easy way through things," said Michael, who is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in theoretical physics from Boston University. "But I also learned some valuable lessons in humility and responsibility at the Academy, not only from my teachers but also my fellow classmates. I learned that respect is just as important as knowledge when it comes to passing that knowledge on to someone else."

For his younger brother, Adam, who just completed his senior year at Lafayette College, the Academy opportunity that most propelled him onto his current path was his high school senior internship, through which he worked at the Governor's Press Office. During the summer of 2013, he was chosen for the extremely competitive White House Summer Internship program for the Office of Scheduling and

MICHAEL CHERNICOFF '05

*Ph.D. Candidate at Boston University
Boston, Mass.*

Advance. "My time at the White House has taught me that anything is possible, and to always be open to new opportunities," said Adam.

He will spend the next year traveling full-time as an advance associate for the White House, helping to set up the logistics of presidential visits in different cities and countries before the president's arrival.

In contrast, Michael is not as set on where he wants to end up, but he is sure about what he wants to do. After completing his doctoral program, Michael would like to continue working in the academic sector, as teaching is one of his favorite parts about the graduate school experience.

"I think my proudest moments are the times when, after a semester has ended, a student from a class that I've instructed tells me just how much he appreciated the help I gave him. I certainly enjoy the research I am doing in grad school, but knowing that I have been able to help someone else understand science a little better is what really makes everything worthwhile to me," said Michael, who first completed his undergraduate studies in physics at Amherst College.

And it may just be at Harrisburg Academy that Michael first discovered a passion for teaching. Both brothers say that there are many Academy teachers who supported them and provided "invaluable advice and knowledge."

MARIA CLAUDIA PERSICO '05

Advisory Senior Associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers
Atlanta, Ga.

My greatest accomplishment: Mentoring a young girl in the Atlanta community through a youth development volunteer organization. My "little sister" does not have the positive support environment at home that I had growing up and attending the Academy, so it is important that I am there to be her sounding board, and to encourage her to invest time in her education and pursue her dreams.

In five years: I plan to have an MBA and hope to be on the cusp of starting my own business!

My Academy foundation: Harrisburg Academy fundamentally shaped who I am today. To have the opportunity to spend time in an environment where everyone is truly invested in your success and willing to go above and beyond to support you is rare. The Academy not only gave me the tools I needed to succeed, but also instilled in me the confidence to pursue my dreams.

The teacher(s) who mentored me: I was fortunate to have had several teachers and coaches who mentored me throughout my time at the Academy. Teachers like Madame [Kathleen] Brown and Coach [Jeane] Serino taught me that I could do anything I put my mind to and encouraged me to take on new experiences.

Maria earned a bachelor's degree from Emory University, where she majored in business administration with a concentration in finance. She was the 2013 recipient of the Academy's Rising Star Award.



DR. SAMANTHA ZUCKERMAN '05

Diagnostic Radiology Resident at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Few people, especially those under 30, can say that in their short careers they have obtained two graduate degrees, published scientific research, and been recognized for their community service by the United States government. However, Dr. Samantha Zuckerman '05 has done just that! After graduating college a year early from University of Pennsylvania, Samantha obtained a master's degree in bioethics from the University of Pennsylvania and then matriculated at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

While a medical student, Samantha conducted novel breast cancer imaging research that she presented at the 2013 American Roentgen Ray Society national meeting and published in the May 2014 edition of the Breast Journal. She was also awarded a President's Volunteer Service Award Gold Medal for her work with MedStart, a summer and after-school program for East Harlem middle school students interested in medicine.

Prior to medical school graduation, Samantha was elected into both the Alpha Omega Alpha and Gold Humanism Honor Societies. She just completed work as a medical intern at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York and has started her residency in diagnostic radiology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

An Academy "Survivor," Samantha attributes her work ethic and dedication to her formative years at the Academy. "The Academy showed me how essential education is to future success and how important it is to give back to others."

Samantha credits her love of math and science to a number of Academy teachers who encouraged her along the way, including Dr. [David] Buckthal and Mrs. [Pamela] Sanders. "Also, I would be nowhere without the love and support of my parents, both outstanding mentors and role models."



DEVIN DADIGAN '06

Corporate Cash Manager at Deutsche Bank
New York, N.Y.

"Harrisburg Academy has given me a strong foundation to work hard, play hard, and to then lay that foundation for others," said Devin Dadigan '06. "The Academy taught me that measuring success is not about money or power, but about impacting the lives of others in a positive manner — one person at a time."

Devin built his own foundation while at Harrisburg Academy, being inspired by mentor, Steve Pancoski, Varsity Boys' Basketball head coach. Devin collected a laundry list of accolades as a three-sport athlete: being the first 1,000-point scorer in Academy Boys' Basketball history and earning the Sports Club Trophy twice.

Devin continued his success as an undergraduate student at Syracuse University, earning bachelor's degrees in economics, finance, and entrepreneurship all while maintaining a 3.95 grade point average. He spent time consulting internationally as an intern, both in Stellenbosch, South Africa (helping an entrepreneurial firm develop its marketing efforts and business plan) and London, England (creating a database system and business proposals for a merchant bank). Devin received many awards in college, too, including the prestigious Syracuse University Scholar — the highest undergraduate academic honor given by the university to 12 of its graduating seniors.

After graduation, he accepted full-time employment as an analyst for Morgan Stanley and is currently employed by Deutsche Bank as a corporate cash manager. Devin is proud that he has had the opportunity to raise and manage over \$2 billion in corporate cash while at the same time, staying true to his roots by giving back through the iMentor program.

"Over the past three years, I have mentored a Brooklyn high school student. Last year, my mentee was accepted on a full scholarship for underprivileged students to DePauw University, and he mentioned me in his valedictorian address. I'm proud to say that I think my mentee has a layer of the Academy's foundation, without ever stepping foot in the Academy's door."



ANNIE STONE '06

Editor at Harlequin Teen
New York, N.Y.

My greatest accomplishment: Simply stated, I believe my greatest career accomplishment is how far I've come in such a short time. I started my career in 2010 as an editorial assistant at HarperCollins Publishers. Through personal initiative and a bit of good luck, I was able to quickly take on editorial responsibilities. Now I am an editor at Harlequin Teen.

In five years: As much as I love hands-on editorial work, I have found I enjoy the business of publishing just as much; the opportunity to help shape strategy decisions as a part of my current job has been fascinating. I'd love to continue to grow into a more strategy-based role (while continuing to edit and acquire!).

My Academy foundation: My instinct not to "color within the lines." I distinctly remember Mr. [Terry] Bowie expressing his dislike of coloring books. Why color inside lines that someone else has drawn? I'm incredibly grateful to have learned at a young age that just because something has always been done one way, it doesn't mean that's the best way.

The teacher(s) who mentored me: I was a "Survivor," so I was benefiting from the amazing Academy education as early as I can remember. Creative inspiration came from Mr. [Randy] Gutwein and Mr. Bowie. Mrs. [Betsy] Rumberger, Mrs. [Charlotte] March, and Dr. [Lee] March fostered my love of reading and writing. Mrs. [Lisa] Nazar helped me launch a newspaper out of her classroom. Madame [Kathleen] Brown was my advisor and was like my second mother. Mr. [Randy] St. John introduced me to the magic that was philosophy and theory and probably is the reason that I focused on literary theory at Harvard. The list goes on!



SARAH WALBORN '06

*Professional Ballet Dancer for Kansas City Ballet
Kansas City, Mo.*

Enduring strength, poised beauty, and elegant weightlessness only begin to scratch the surface of what it means to be Academy "Survivor," Sarah Walborn '06, a professional ballet dancer for Kansas City Ballet. After graduating from the Academy, Sarah entered the San Francisco Ballet's trainee program and secured a spot in the company. She has also danced with the Washington Ballet, and will be moving on to join Ballet Arizona this summer.

"The hardest part of any career is getting your foot in the door and proving yourself worthy. My first contract with the San Francisco Ballet proved my dream had finally become a reality," said Sarah, who has performed in George Balanchine's "Diamonds" and Helgi Tómasson's "The Nutcracker," "Don Quixote," and "The Sleeping Beauty," to name a few. "The hard work and dedication are still needed every day, but to show my passion to my community is my ultimate accomplishment."

Sarah is always looking towards the future, as "a dancer's career is short-lived." However, the move to Ballet Arizona is one that could provide many options. Her main goal for the future is to maintain a role in a ballet company by becoming a ballet mistress, who teaches professional classes and is responsible for staging ballets and running rehearsals. "As a ballet mistress, I would be able to use my passion and give back the knowledge that I have obtained over my years of being on stage and performing," Sarah said.

And passion is something that Sarah doesn't take lightly, having been taught by others who found fulfillment in their jobs. "There is not one person at the Academy who is unwilling to give advice. Sometimes they may not even realize how much they give to each student every day," said Sarah, who looked to Dr. [Lee] March and Mrs. [Cindy] St. John for support both at school and in her other endeavors.

Sarah credits the Academy with teaching her the things needed to succeed in any career, not just excellent academics. "It starts from the very core values the Academy has of honesty, integrity, and respect. Without these three things, I don't know if I could have ever gotten to where I am today or even come close."