

Wildwood Alumni News

Our Newest Alumni: Class of 2010

Before they head off to college in the fall, our new crew of alums has shared some of their exciting summer plans:

Gabe Beitcher is going to travel in Europe with fellow grads Wyatt Donen, Ethan Joffe, Zach Poncher, and Alex Spire. "We are going to Barcelona, Amsterdam, Ibiza, and Berlin. After that, I am meeting my parents in Barcelona and going to Rome and Puglia," he says. "Once I come home, I am going to Santa Fe to visit the set of Jon Favreau's new movie, *Cowboys & Aliens*. I leave for Hampshire College in late August and start classes in early September."

Emily Berkshire will be working, traveling, and spending a lot of time with family and friends over the summer. "I have a part-time job at Landis Stationery Store on Larchmont Boulevard, where I hope to continue working through June. Then on July 1, my family and I go to Michigan, where we have a summer house. While there, I will probably spend a lot of time at the beach, see a lot of my family, and celebrate my 18th birthday," Emily says. "I am going to the music festival Lollapalooza in Chicago in



Jani Brock, Class of 2004, is the director for community resources for StandUp For Kids (SUFK) in Tacoma, Wash., a national organization that works with homeless youth. Jani, who hails from Germany, had her first experience working with the homeless as a senior at Wildwood School, when she volunteered for the Ocean Park Community Center as part of her senior project. We recently caught up with her.

Tell us more about StandUp for Kids and how you became involved.

StandUp For Kids is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping homeless, street, and at-risk youth. I first heard about SUFK in Los Angeles. Last year at the Ethnic Fest in Tacoma, I ran into StandUp For Kids again. They had a booth and I signed up to volunteer. I went through orientation and training and shortly thereafter became the director of community resources.

Jani Brock (Formerly Beck) '04: Youth Advocate

Approximately 13 kids die on the streets every day from disease, suicide, and abuse. At SUFK, we talk to the kids and listen to what they have to say, and then try to help them get off the streets. We help kids get IDs, find jobs, etc. We also give them hygiene, food, and clothing items.

How did your experience at Wildwood influence your decision to get involved with StandUp for Kids?

Wildwood helped me be open to volunteering. I volunteered at two animal shelters and then at Ocean Park Community Center, which was part of my senior project. I assisted the homeless there. I really enjoy volunteering and don't care one bit that I don't get paid for it.

Can you share a success story from your work with the organization?

There was this one particular kid who kept saying that he did not want to get off the streets and that he liked sleeping under a bridge. I think he was saying that because he had no self-esteem and probably didn't think he could do anything else. Today, he is living with a friend. I think I had a role in that, because I really stayed on him and convinced him that living under a bridge was not a good choice.

In addition to your work with StandUp for Kids, you just got a new job. Tell us about it.

I work for Complete Business Consultants in Tacoma. I answer phones, enter data into QuickBooks, reconcile bank accounts, and do payroll. Basically, I work with numbers, and I enjoy numbers.

In addition to your job and SUFK work, what keeps you busy?

I got married on June 21, 2009. I wasn't able to look for a paid job since I didn't have my green card, so I looked for volunteer work. That's when I got involved in SUFK. I got approved for my permanent resident card in December 2009. Once I got my green card, I applied for a social security number, and then started applying for jobs.

Is there any part of your Wildwood education that still stands out for you?

I think that the Habit of Ethical Behavior has always stayed with me. I always treat people right and respect and listen to their opinions and their views. And most of the time that pays off because in return, people listen to mine.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Still married, living in Tacoma, and volunteering for SUFK.

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early August and then coming back to L.A. to have a few weeks at home before I leave for Boston."

Clyde Corley explains his plans this way: "EUROPE!!!! BARCELONA< IBIZA< VENICE< AMSTERDAM< BERLIN< MADRID< FLORENCE< PARIS< LONDON< DUBLIN!"

Ben DiPietro also is traveling to Europe. "I will be seeing Barcelona, Madrid, Ibiza, Rome, Venice, Florence, Berlin, Amsterdam, Paris, London, and Dublin. I will be there for about five weeks."

Julia Glosserman is another alum who is crossing the pond. "This summer I'm traveling through Europe with my friends. We are visiting Paris, Spain, Serbia, Croatia, and Amsterdam. After Europe, I'm going to orientation at U.C. Santa Cruz and then from there to Squaw Valley for Wanderlust, a yoga/music festival. In August I plan on going to Outside Lands music festival in San Francisco, and I will end the summer by camping among the beautiful Sequoias."

Tory Harrison is traveling to Ireland after graduation. "I plan to drive around the country, seeing both large cities and small villages. After that I will be staying with my grandma and aunt in Seattle and getting ready to go to Lehigh University in the fall."

Emilie Mirvis is going to Europe to visit Spain, Greece, and Italy for two weeks with family. She'll come home to start her summer job: working

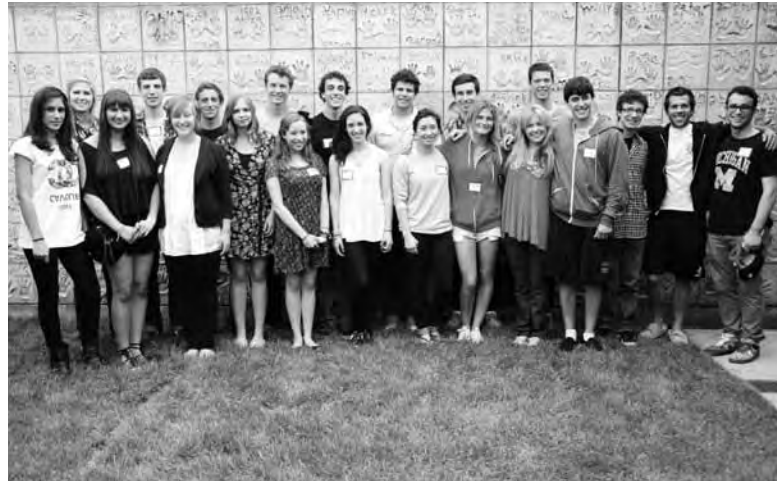
at Wildwood. "I am helping with the summer production of *Into the Woods*. I will be co-directing with Melissa Bales and Stephanie Darby for the summer school program."

Dakota Nadlman plans to play shows with various bands. He will also visit Columbia College of Chicago, where he will be attending school in the fall. He may also go to Northern California or Oregon for music festivals.

Lily Ng is going to Paris, Spain, Serbia, Croatia, and Amsterdam with pals Julia Glosserman, Jessy Tarnoff, and some other Wildwood grads. "After that, Julia, Jessie, and I are going to U.C. Santa Cruz for orientation and then camping at Wanderlust music festival. After that I plan on soaking up Los Angeles until I leave for school."

Sophia Poulos will be working in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at UCLA after graduation. "I'll be doing work in the structures lab with a few professors I worked with last summer. As I love the outdoors, I'm planning on taking a week to climb Mt. Whitney and explore Death Valley with a few friends. And then in August, I'm going back east to Northampton, Massachusetts, where I will be attending Smith College."

Alyssa Reaves plans to visit her future college campus, Chapman University, "to show the rest of my family the campus and film school building where I will be studying my major. Additionally, I will be traveling to Arizona to



The culminating class of 2005 poses in front of the Handprint Courtyard."



Katie (far left) and Pod 2 teacher Monique Marshall (fourth from left) pose with Lauren Berliner, Hannah Ullman-Levine, and Spencer Horstman (l-r).

Class of 2010 Alums Share 5th Grade Memories

Just days after receiving their upper school diplomas, newly minted Wildwood alumni came back to the elementary campus in June to reminisce and celebrate their culmination from 5th grade. Hosted by the Alumni Association, the 5th Grade Reunion drew more than 60 graduates and alumni parents. They enjoyed a picnic lunch and the opportunity to catch up with elementary teachers and old friends. Many attendees lingered over copies of the 5th grade farewell messages that were copied from their elementary yearbook. After a group photo, several alums headed to the basketball court for a game of hoops. To see more photos from the event, check our Facebook alumni group page.

Class of 2005 Alumni Reunion Brings Friends Together

A backyard luau at the family home of Jeff Ponchick, '05, was the setting for the Class of 2005 alumni reunion in June. Alums from Wildwood's second graduating class—and pals Joey Kanengiser, Matt Kinzelberg, and Jamie Estes from the Class of 2004—caught up with each other and Wildwood faculty and administrators, including Head of School Landis Green, physics teacher Tengiz Bibilashvili, and elementary teacher Monique Marshall, who briefly served as the librarian at the Wildwood middle and upper school. Here's the buzz from the party:

- Julie Friedman graduated from University of Colorado at Boulder in 2009 and is working on a master's degree in teaching at the University of Southern California. This summer, she's co-teaching a class at Wildwood's middle and upper school summer program.
- Jeff Ponchick graduated from the University of California Santa Cruz last year and is doing production work for EMC West in Burbank.
- Nick Bernardi graduated from the University of Washington in 2009 and works as an assistant location scout with Warner Bros.
- Lauren Wemischner, who recently graduated from Cal Arts, landed a lighting apprenticeship with Fulton Theater in Lancaster, Penn.
- Using her bachelor's degree in psychology from University of the Pacific, Allison Martin works for Beautiful Minds Center for Autism as a therapist.



Members of the Classes of 2004 and 2005: Matt Kinzelberg, Allison Martin, Julie Friedman, Nick Bernardi, and Lauren Wemischner (l-r).

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visit family, as well as my past internship supervisor at Province Community in Maricopa. I think it is important to stay in touch with the people I have been fortunate enough to meet and work with on a professional level."

Tatiana Rogers says that before she moves into her new digs at the University of San Diego, she'll be working as a lifeguard at a public pool in Inglewood. "I will also be traveling to New Orleans to visit family," she adds.

Kara Rubenstein is going on a safari trip around Africa with Jake Reiner, '09, and his family. "We will be going to Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania. I will also be going to Kauai for a week on vacation with my family. I might be working at another internship with a production designer who I worked with last summer, but I'm not sure yet. Finally, I'll be working on packing and planning for my next year in college."

Lauren Schneider is going to New York with her mom and friend to see the play *American Idiot* in June. "I'm staying for a weekend. In July I am going to Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts, for a freshman orientation and staying there for three weeks. In August, I am going to Chicago for the Lollapalooza Music Festival. Also in August, I am staying at a beach house in Newport Beach for two weeks. Then it's off to college."

Nina Serbedzija will spend part of her summer acting. "This summer my mom is directing Shakespeare's *The*

Tempest at Ulysses Theater in Croatia. It premieres in late July, and I will be playing Miranda to my father's Prospero. My Wildwood girls are going to visit me in Serbia at the Exit Music Festival and also on the Brijuni Islands in Croatia, where the Ulysses is. Then Audrey and I are going on a little Europe trip to celebrate our 18th birthdays. We'll start in Venice to visit my friends in Jesolo, then to a hostel in Barcelona for a bit to show off our Spanish skills and enjoy the architecture. After that, hopefully Paris for a few days and then London."

Alex Sheftel will be working at a math camp for part of the summer. Then he'll attend a summer program at U.C. Santa Barbara before starting school there in the fall.

Jordy Steingard is traveling with family to Europe and the Middle East for the first time. "I'm going to Paris, Versailles, and Giverny in France, as well as Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa in Israel. For the rest of the summer I will be in Los Angeles before moving to New York at the end of August."

Jessie Tarnoff is part of the European travel contingent. "I am traveling to Paris, Spain, Serbia, and Austria with two friends. After that I will be attending UCSC orientation and the Wanderlust Yoga & Music Festival in Lake Tahoe. That's all I've got so far!"

Class Notes Classes of 2000-2009

Leah Lucid, '00, graduated from Wesleyan University this spring. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and won the Leonard Prize for displaying the "highest standards of character and performance in campus life."

Corey Fredman Fetzer, '04, has started working as a page for NBC.

Scott Beckendorf, '06, has been working part-time at Enterprise Rent-a-Car since graduating from Southern Methodist University in May. He plans to continue living in Dallas and is looking for full-time employment.

Brennan Degan, '06, will start his fifth year at Northeastern University in September. "It's a 5-year school, so I'm not behind. I am going for a degree in political science. I am currently on co-op, the Northeastern version of Wildwood's internship program, at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT), where I am working in the secretary's office, dealing with governmental affairs. I will work at MassDOT for six months full-time before going back to class. My job consists of dealing with the state legislator as well as tracking bills going through the state house and state senate. The co-op I had before this was with Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray's Committee to

Re-elect. This last academic year I was the photo editor of *The Huntington News*, the school's independent newspaper, as well as the web editor for the *Northeastern University Political Review*. My first semester of my final year at Northeastern is going to be spent taking classes abroad in London with the Hansard Society. This will consist of classes at the London School of Economics, a thesis, and an internship that will most likely be in the British House of Commons. After that I will come back to Boston and finish up the rest of my schooling, eventually graduating in May."

Victoria Densham, '06, will begin the two-year master's in teaching program at Sarah Lawrence this fall.

Jeremy Preimesberger, '06, and Jeremy Munter, '06, recently graduated from college and are working in partnership on several entertainment-related projects. They will spend much of the summer filming and editing a screenplay they co-wrote titled *LIFE OF THE PARTY*.

Leila Shaik, '06, is going to Washington, D.C., for a two-month internship at the White House through a program called International Leadership Foundation. "I'm looking forward to a completely new experience. I want to stretch myself and learn more about our government. Then I'm heading back to Sarah Lawrence in the fall for my last semester. I'm graduating in December."

Ben Thaler, '06, graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UCLA in June and next starts law school at Loyola.

Jenny Brum, '08, is studying abroad with Semester at Sea next year. "We travel to the Bahamas, Dominica, Brazil, Ghana, South Africa, Mauritius, India, Singapore, Vietnam, China, Japan, and Hawaii, all in 104 days. I will be taking theater, English, psychology, and studio art classes."

Molly Gruber, '09, plans to enjoy her first summer back from college. "I am possibly going on a road trip with some friends from college. I am officially declared as a double major in romance languages and cinema studies. I am extremely happy at Oregon and look forward to returning as a sophomore."

Eva Warren, '09, worked with the Early Childhood Center (ECC) in the 1st grade classroom this past year. "I specifically chose to work with the ECC because its philosophy is similar to Wildwood's in the sense that both schools recognize the importance of individual attention, incorporate arts education into their curricula, and sustain progressive teaching methods. Next year I will be interning with Community Word Project (CPW), an organization that integrates arts education into public schools in New York. CPW is a New York City-based arts-in-education organization that inspires children in underserved communities to read, interpret, and respond to

their world and to become active citizens through collaborative arts residencies and teacher-training programs. In the fall semester, I will be going through an intense training program in Manhattan, at which I will learn how to teach creative writing and poetry through reflecting on my own work. In the spring semester, I will be going into public schools and teaching creative writing."

Kelsey Weber, '09, says that after finishing up her freshman year, she's going to be working this summer and "just hanging out around L.A. I'm hoping to go abroad to Amsterdam next spring to work on my major—religious studies and film focusing on human rights—so all my energy is being devoted to that."

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