



# Alumni *focus*

Fall 2010

## *Embracing Differences*

### COMMUNITY FUNDRAISER

**WHO:** You, family, and friends

**WHAT:** The CAS Community Fundraiser

**WHEN:** Saturday, March 12, 2011 7:00-10:00 pm

**WHERE:** Exploratorium - San Francisco, CA

**WHY?:** Come support CAS, meet up with old friends and teachers and have a **great** time!

★ Invitations will be mailed to you in early January! ★



## *Donate to the CAS Annual Fund! You Can Make A Difference!*

The **CAS Annual Fund** is the cornerstone of the Charles Armstrong School fundraising program and 100% participation is an important indicator for foundations and other major funders.

Gifts to the Annual Fund support the unique curriculum we offer and provide:

- Financing for the Gifts and Talents program—enabling students to explore and develop their strengths in science, drama, sports, music, and art
- Financial aid for those families who would otherwise not be able to send their children to CAS.

Learn more about the Annual Fund by going to: <http://www.charlesarmstrong.org/support/waystogive.php>



# Alumni Spotlight



James Appleby  
Class of 2000

## What years did you attend CAS?

From 1993-2000 (4th-8th grade).

## How do you feel that CAS helped you?

The best thing about CAS is that I was able to express myself in creative and unique ways.

## Who was your favorite teacher at CAS?

That's easy—Mr. D, because he understood me emotionally, mentally and creatively, and he helped me relate to people.

## Where did you go to high school after leaving CAS?

I went to Junipero Serra High School in San Mateo. At Serra I played football for two years, was in the choir for four years, and was involved in drama and their musicals for four years. While with the Serra choir, I sang the National Anthem twice at Pac Bell Park! In drama class, I performed in *Somewhere Together*, which was a medley of performances, I was in the ensemble in *Pippin*, I played Audrey II-The Plant in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and played Javier in *Les Miserables*. I was also president of the multi-cultural club while at Serra.

## What did you do after graduating from high school?

I went to San Francisco State University for one year and majored in theater, minored in voice. Then I joined a two-year program at Foothill Theater Conservatory and performed in eight different shows. I started an open forum for all lovers of hip hop art, incorporating the elements of poets, songwriters, musicians and all artists who want to celebrate the love of our culture. I also sang with a gospel choir.

## What brought you back to CAS?

I came back to CAS from Broadway in New York to be part of the CAS summer camp. I was also asked to help with the choreography in last year's CAS musical, *The Music Man*. Now I am really happy to be a small group specialty teacher instructing first through fourth graders in Movement. It's great to be back at CAS!!!

# Alumni Updates

## 1986-1988

### **Brendan Pierce Bradshaw**

Brendan attended Charles Armstrong School (CAS) from 1986-1988. When he transitioned from CAS, Brendan attended Corte Madre School, and then Woodside High School, graduating tenth in his class. He went on to the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 2000 with a B.A. in Psychology. He then entered the work force for two years before returning to school at Mills College in the post-graduate pre-med program. After completing that program in 2004, Brendan worked in the operating room of the California Pacific Medical Center as a technician while applying to medical school. He was accepted to several medical schools, and decided to leave the Bay Area to attend the University of Minnesota Medical School, where he graduated in 2009. He is currently a Resident Surgeon in the highly competitive field of Otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota Medical School. Brendan is grateful for the support and encouragement he has received from the faculty and fellow students. He plans to return to the Bay Area to continue his medical career.

## 1998-2001 (6th-8th grades)

### **Sam Kroon, Class of 2001**

After leaving CAS, Sam attended Serra High School in San Mateo and then the University of the Pacific, graduating in 2009. Sam's mother writes, "Armstrong played a large part in Sam's path to self-sufficiency. Learning strategies taught by Tuck, perseverance and fair play instilled by Coach Smith, and the work of a host of other "angels" at Armstrong turned a child who was ready to give up on school in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade because he couldn't learn into a life-long learner."

## 1998-2001 (6th-8th grades)

### **Caitlin Roth, Class of 2002**

Caitlin is attending the College Internship Program in Berkeley, California, where she was recently elected Student Body Secretary. Caitlin also completed coursework at Dutchess Community College in New York and passed the examination for her CDA certificate (Child Development Associate). The last we heard, she was searching for a preschool teaching assistant position in Berkeley.

## 2003-2006 (6th-8th grades)

### **Cole Perry, Class of 2006**

Cole went to Gow High School and made the honor roll all four years. He was also an RA for two years and was on both the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams. In addition, Cole did snow boarding during the winter and was the head mechanic on the robotic engineering team. He began Linfield College in Oregon this fall and his parents are thrilled to have him back on the West Coast!

## 2003-2006 (6th-8th grades)

### **Zachary Adamis, Class of 2006**

Zachary attended Serra High School after leaving CAS, where he was the recipient of the Thomas Oswald Christian Service Award. This is an award that is given to seniors who have shown outstanding efforts in the field of Christian/Community Service. He had to write an essay explaining "What Christian Service Means to Me." The last we heard from Zachary, he had been accepted to CSU Dominguez Hills College and was still waiting to hear from other colleges.

## 2002-2008 (3rd-8th grades)

### **Hannah Greenberg, Class of 2008**

Hannah attended Mercy High School her freshman year of high school after leaving CAS, and then transferred to Half Moon Bay High, where she is currently a junior and thriving academically. She loves science, theater and dance and plans to seek out a small liberal arts college that supports her learning challenges.

## 2005-2008

### **Nathan Schadle, Class of 2008**

Nathan is into weight lifting and competed over the summer in a national competition in the 16-17 year old class. He snatched 3 for 3 and clean and jerked 2 for 3. His best snatch was 105Kg (231 lbs.) and his best C/J was 126Kg (277 lbs.). He placed second in his session and won a silver medal!

## 2003-2007 (3rd-6th grades)

### **Madeline Cohen, Class of 2009**

Maddy is enrolled at St. Lawrence Academy and participates in many activities, including the boys' soccer team! She is also in the improvisation club and the FAST (fitness) club. She is doing well and feels like St. Lawrence Academy is a perfect fit for her.

## 2007-2009 (7th-8th grades)

### **Hart Vachon, Class of 2009**

Hart is a sophomore at King's Academy in Sunnyvale and will be taking American Sign Language at De Anza in his Junior and Senior years. He played JV baseball last spring and enjoyed it. Hart misses his CAS buddies.

## 2001-2007 (1st-6th grades)

### **Connor Menden, Class of 2009**

Last year Connor, his brother Austin, and his father Craig successfully completed the notorious swim from Alcatraz Island to shore! Way to go Connor!



## Claudia's Corner

Welcome to our first Alumni Bulletin of the 2010-2011 school year, alumni! You may have moved beyond the CAS classrooms, but you are all remembered by the staff and faculty here at CAS with warmth and very fond memories!

It's amazing that though I came to CAS 22 years ago in 1988, some of you were students here even before I arrived! I know I taught many of you myself over the years and those are truly some of my favorite times at CAS.

You will be pleased to know that great things are continuing to happen at CAS and we are making breakthroughs with students every day. Our mission to empower students with language-based learning differences such as dyslexia to thrive as learners in school and life continues.

As alumni of our school, we would love to hear from you and have you share with us how your life journey is coming along. We want to hear about your challenges and your successes. We want to know that we taught you the resiliency skills you need to move through life with confidence and character! If you have not already done so, please send us an update on your life after Charles Armstrong School! More than anything, we want to stay connected with you! You will always be a part of the Charles Armstrong School family.

Warmly,

*Claudia*

### CASAA Update Form

Mail to CAS, Attn: Gail Jackson or email [gjackson@charlesarmstrong.org](mailto:gjackson@charlesarmstrong.org).

Name: _____	Date: _____	Phone: _____
Last Name while at CAS: _____	Years Attended: _____	Grades at CAS: _____
Home Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	Zip: _____
E-mail: _____		
Your news: _____		
_____		
_____		

### Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time/Location
Community Fundraiser	3/12/11	7-10pm / San Francisco Exploratorium
<i>The Wiz, The Musical</i>	5/6, 5/7, 5/8	Friday/ Saturday: 7pm, Sunday: 2pm Bayside Performing Arts Center, San Mateo
Commencement	6/9/11	10:30am-12:00pm / Notre Dame de Namur
Summer Alumni BBQ	TBA	Charles Armstrong School, Belmont

### CASAA eGROUP

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