

100 Years

“Great

enterprises often have two births:

and small

first in purity, then in maturity.

The idealism of the Declaration of Independence gave way to the cold-eyed balances of the Constitution. Love starts in passion and ends in car pools.” That’s David Brooks writing in his *New York Times* essay “Rhapsody in Realism.” He could be writing about The Post Oak School; after fifty years of history, we certainly have car pools.

Brooks invites us to consider Post Oak's first birth: a one-room school that opened with a revolutionary approach to education at a time when America was wailing about the failure of its schools; it was the passionate work of a visionary Texas woman, Carol Ferguson, implementing the passionate work of a visionary Italian woman, Maria Montessori.

Has that early passion simply 'ended in car pools?' Hardly. Post Oak is a great enterprise that is experiencing a second birth in maturity. Yes, we have given up the simplicity of the one-room schoolhouse. At the same time we have strengthened our commitment to education that is joyous and challenging, different from conventional schools, and which develops children who are entrepreneurial, courageous and creative.

OUR STORY BEGINS HERE >

President John F. Kennedy sends a civil rights message to Congress calling for voting rights and educational integration

63

The Little School House, Houston's first Montessori school, opens with one Primary classroom

Beatlemania begins as the Beatles arrive in the U.S. for the first time to appear on the *Ed Sullivan* television show

64

First Young Children's Program is established

65

Protests against the Vietnam War gain momentum as 63,000 marchers descend upon the Washington Monument

66

The Beatles usher in the summer of love with the release of Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

67

68

Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin land the Apollo 11 lunar module on the moon and return safely to earth

69

First Lovell Elementary classroom is established

70

Infant Community:
Classroom teachers and parents planned various events to build community and support their children.

Our graduates are physicists and film makers, actors and doctors, engineers and business people, lawyers and teachers, diplomats and writers, musicians and computer scientists. What explains this diversity of paths? It has always been our aim to help each individual student identify their interests, develop a passion, listen to their inner voice — and in so doing, make a contribution to the world.

Yes, we have maintained our idealism and our commitment to founding principles. And over time we have deepened the complexity and maturity of our practice, of our work with individual children, with each classroom as a community, and with the school as an organic whole.

71

The first hand-held calculator is marketed by Bowmar Instruments Corporation (list price is \$2.49)

72

American swimmer Mark Spitz wins a record seven gold medals for the U.S. team in the 1972 Summer Olympics

73

A creative arts program is introduced to the school curriculum

74

President Richard M. Nixon becomes the first U.S. president to resign from office following the Watergate break-in

75

A helicopter evacuation removes the last American troops from South Vietnam as Saigon falls to the North

First Upper Elementary classroom is established



George Lucas releases the movie *Star Wars*, which becomes the second highest grossing movie in history

76

77

Post Oak School Middle School program is established

78

Iranian militants seize the American embassy in Tehran and take 90 hostages, including 63 Americans

79

80

Primary:
"The Importance of Sleep in Children" presented by Post Oak Parent, Dr. Aparajitha Verma, was well-attended.

We have also extended our reach, adding new programs for the very youngest children at the same time we were opening the high school. Post Oak is now one of few schools anywhere serving children from birth to university. Parents and teachers are the primary guides for children as they navigate the journey to adulthood and Post Oak has deepened its commitment to help prepare both for their roles. We expanded the range of parenting classes we offer, even as the Houston Montessori Institute, housed in The Post Oak High School, welcomed its initial class of teachers-in-training. Dr. Montessori spoke of the supportive three-sided relationship among the child, the teacher and the parent—in service to the child. Post Oak has strengthened each leg of that triangle.

The school moves to a facility on Harwin Drive and is renamed "The Post Oak System"

81

IBM enters the personal computer field with the IBM 5150 and the race for dominance is on

Barney Clark becomes the world's first recipient of an artificial heart transplant and lives for 112 days

82

Astronaut Sally Ride becomes America's first woman in space as she blasts off aboard the space shuttle Challenger

83

First Infant Community classroom is established

84

The school is renamed "The Post Oak School" upon the opening of the Bissonnet campus

85

A joint French-U.S. team locates the wreck of the Titanic, which sunk in 1912 after hitting an iceberg

Space shuttle *Challenger* explodes after liftoff, killing seven aboard including the first citizen chosen to go into space

86

The school celebrates its 25th anniversary

87

The troubles of two whales trapped in the Alaskan ice stir international attention and compassion

88

The Board of Trustees names Suzanne Pugtn Head of School

Primary Home Environment opens

89

90

Lower Elementary:
Student enrollment in lower elementary was near capacity for the 2013–2014 school year.

The school continues to be recognized around the world as a beacon, and among Montessori schools, as a leader among leaders. Two key initiatives from the past year communicate clearly our commitment to educational best practices and our role as a leading school. On one front, Post Oak is participating in three cutting-edge research projects designed to measure intrinsic motivation, teamwork, creativity, curiosity, and grit. Montessori educators have long intuited the significance of these ‘soft skills,’ but have lacked the instruments to measure them. Research results now demonstrate that these skills better predict success in career work and personal life than conventional school grades and test scores.

The Soviet Union breaks up into 15 constituent republics after President Mikhail Gorbachev's resignation

91

A text-based Web browser is made available to the public; within a few years, millions of people become users

92

A bomb explodes in the basement garage of the World Trade Center, killing 6 and injuring at least 1,040 others.

93

The School's first computers are installed

94

Drs. Ian Wilmut and Keith Campbell (UK) create the world's first cloned sheep from embryo cells

95

The Board of Trustees names John Long Head of School

The School begins working toward Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) accreditation

96

J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone is published in the U.K.

97

Post Oak's capital campaign funds the building of a new gym, library and art studio facilities

98

Stanley Kubrick, the iconoclastic director of such legendary films as 2001: A Space Odyssey, dies in London

99

00

Upper Elementary:
Students participated in numerous events celebrating the school's 50th anniversary including several 50-for-50 service projects.

Consequently, energy and money are being invested to determine the educational approaches that best develop soft skills—or twenty-first century skills. Post Oak is helping to develop one study, and is actively participating in two others.

On a second front, Post Oak is working with a group of leading AMI-Montessori schools to develop a new approach to institutional excellence and growth based on self-study and peer review. In the interim, Post Oak has dropped participation in the AMI-USA school recognition program, feeling that program no longer meets our need to grow in understanding and deepen our practice. Our commitment to Montessori principles and AMI teacher training remains as strong as ever, and we continue to partner actively with AMI as it develops a new approach to international school recognition.

Terrorists ram jetliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; a fourth airliner crashes near Pittsburgh

01

Tropical Storm Allison drops 98.5 inches of rainfall in 12 hours necessitating school renovations

02

French scientists report that they have unearthed a seven-million-year-old member of the human family

03

The School begins offering prospective parent classes

04

Hurricane Katrina wreaks catastrophic damage along the Gulf coast displacing a million people and killing 1,800

05

Implementation of new student database and electronic record keeping

The School achieves (ISAS) accreditation.

06

Post Oak opens its fourth Lower Elementary classroom

07

Apple announces a revolution in phone technology: the iPhone

Major website redesign and development of new logo

08

President Barack Obama is sworn into office as the first African-American president of the U.S.

09

The School establishes its third Upper Elementary classroom

10

Middle School:
The humanities curriculum culminated in trips to research first civilizations of the southwest and a Washington, D.C. based trip focusing on peace studies.

All of these efforts point to a second birth for Post Oak, a period of great creativity and energy. Built on fifty years' experience, a strong faculty and academic leadership team, a mature organization with institutional strength, and a highly effective board of trustees, the school is moving forward with several recent initiatives that broaden and deepen our work with you and your children, and extend our influence in the world beyond our walls.

—John Long, Head of School

*Post Oak School launches its BIGWork
Capital Campaign*

11

Occupy Wall Street, an organized protest in New York's financial district, expands to other cities across the U.S.

12

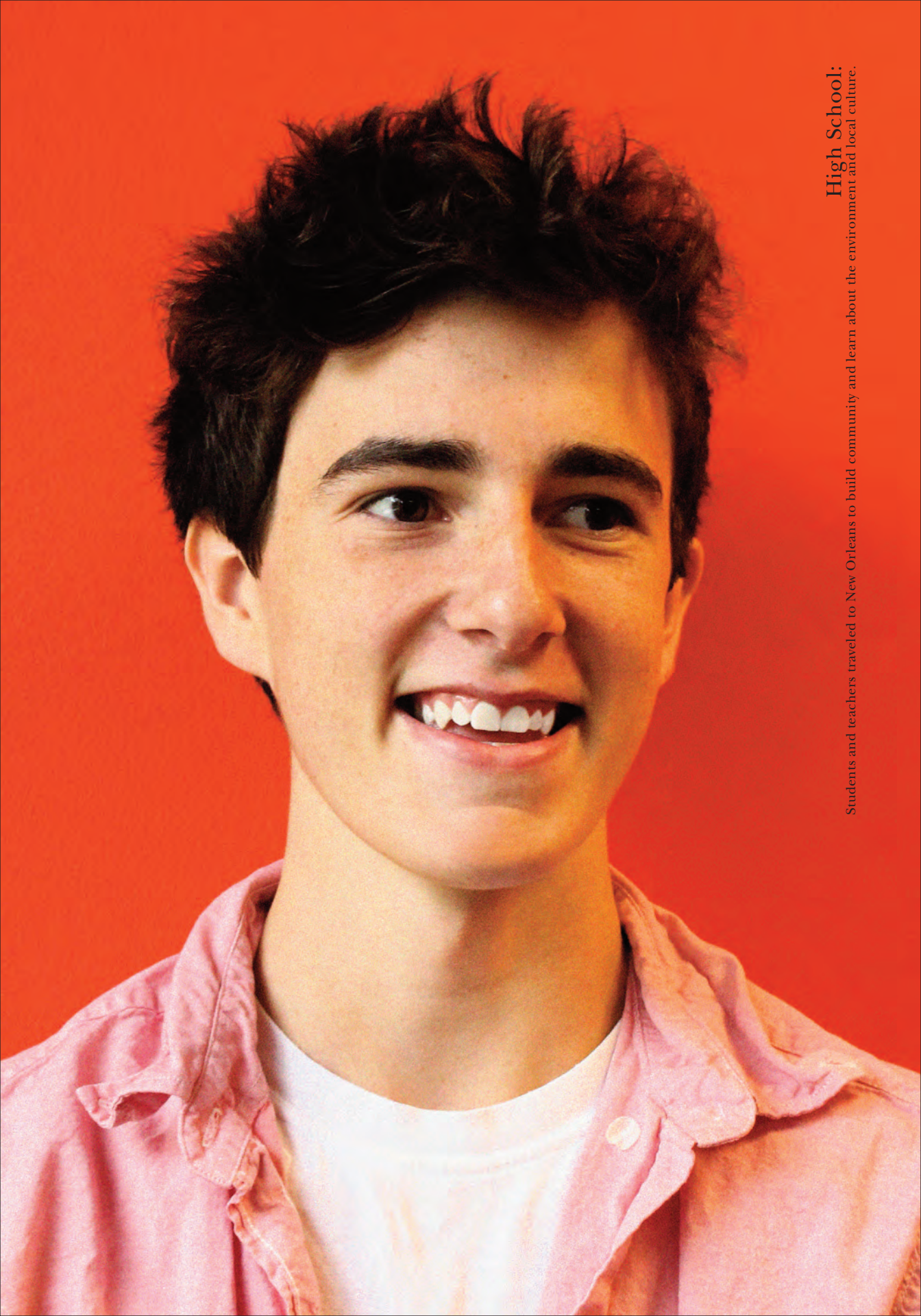
*The Post Oak High School opens,
becoming one of few schools serving
children from birth to university*

13

The Boston Red Sox defeat the St. Louis Cardinals in six games to win their third World Series title since 2004

*The Houston Montessori Institute
is founded*

➤ AND IT CONTINUES HERE



High School: Students and teachers traveled to New Orleans to build community and learn about the environment and local culture.



Environment matters.

Post Oak faculty work meticulously to create a visually rich, purposeful, and engaging environment for each student at each age level. As we broaden our scope beyond the student to the families at Post Oak, the same principle applies. The physical, social, and communal environment can strengthen all that is good about a school. When looking at our Post Oak families and how they interact with one another—the bonds formed, the deep and lasting friendships cultivated on the grounds of Post Oak—it is clear that the role of environment continues to matter at all ages.

Post Oak families work together as volunteers, chaperones, class captains, room parents, field trip drivers, and more to help create an atmosphere of community and camaraderie. In this celebratory year, it was evident in many different ways. Our grand 50th Jubilee celebration in October at the Houston Museum of Natural Science was chaired by alum parents, Pam Boyar and Cc Hetherington, who returned to campus to kick-off the celebration with Post Oak friends young and old. The anniversary festivities continued with the big Birthday Bash in November followed by a successful Book Fair in March. All year long, our families and faculty spread their desire to do good work throughout the broader Houston community in the 50-for-50 Service Projects initiative. The community environment created by all of these efforts allowed us to honor the history of Post Oak and look toward its future.

From all of us at Post Oak, we offer thanks to each and every volunteer who lent a hand in the classroom or worked through the details of an event. We also offer deep gratitude to all Post Oak families, friends, corporations, and foundations who generously gave financial gifts to the school including those to our ongoing BIGWork capital campaign, and those who contributed to our record-breaking year for the Post Oak Fund. The inclusive, caring, and giving environment of Post Oak is created by those who so willingly participate and contribute what they can for the betterment of the school. We are grateful.

—Christina Kopanidis-Cantu, Development Director





2013–2014 Financial Report

The financial stability of the Post Oak School continued during the 2013–2014 school year as we enrolled our second class of ninth graders in The Post Oak High School. Our audited financial statements for the 2012–2013 school year resulted in an increase in net assets of \$2,376,738. The unaudited results for the 2013–2014 school year show an increase in net assets for all funds of \$1,291,702. The School experienced a significant increase in enrollment on the main campus to 414 students and an enrollment of 29 students in the High School.

The overall financial success for the 2013–2014 School year was driven by positive budget variances in the operating budget, an extremely successful annual fund as well as donations of over \$1.5 million to our capital campaign. With the completion of the High School remodeling, the School was able to begin rebuilding cash reserves during 2013–2014. The School maintains a strong working capital position throughout the year due to the prompt collection of tuition and fees in advance of the need for funds to operate the School. In keeping with our commitment to the Post Oak School Endowment, the School was able to transfer \$15,750 at the close of the 2013–2014 school year.

The investment policy of the Post Oak School Endowment directs a long-term investment approach. The current asset allocation target is 20 percent cash and fixed income, and 80 percent equities to maximize long-term returns. More than 80 percent of the portfolio is invested in low cost institutional asset class mutual funds managed by Dimensional Fund Advisors.

The combined portfolio experienced a 20.76 percent investment gain for the one year ended June 30, 2014 and 66.24 percent since inception. The market value of the endowment accounts was \$1,665,017 at June 30, 2014.

Last May, the School elected to put the main campus construction project on hold after a benefactor acquired a piece of property contiguous to two of the three properties owned by the School on the Museum District Campus. Over the summer, the School undertook a master planning exercise for both campuses with the assistance of Gensler Architects and Forney Partnership. A steering committee consisting of a wide variety of Post Oak constituents including board members, faculty, staff and parents assisted with this process. The Houston Montessori Institute, certified by both AMI and the Texas Workforce Commission, completed its second summer session with 17 students. The School's continued fiscal discipline as well as the generosity of all of our donors has allowed us to expand our world-renowned Montessori program to support students from birth through the completion of High School as well as the training of Montessori teachers.

Income Statement	Operating Fund	Temporary Restricted	Endowment	2013-2014 Total
Revenue				
<i>Tuition Based Revenues</i>	\$ 7,752,469	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 7,752,469
<i>Other Hard Income</i>	527,823	—	—	527,823
<i>Other Income (Loss)</i>	436	—	308,669	309,105
<i>Annual Giving</i>	318,673	—	—	318,673
<i>Special Events (Net)</i>	1,685	—	—	1,685
<i>All Other Giving (Net)</i>	3,980	1,546,200	—	1,550,180
TOTAL REVENUE	8,605,066	1,546,200	308,669	10,459,935
<i>Net Assets Released from Restriction</i>	7,817	(7,817)	—	—
Total Revenue	\$ 8,612,883	\$ 1,538,383	\$ 308,669	\$ 10,459,935
Expenses				
<i>Salaries and Benefits</i>	\$ 5,424,364	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 5,424,364
<i>Financial Aid</i>	835,549	—	—	835,549
<i>Other Program Expenses</i>	849,603	—	—	849,603
<i>Plant Expenses</i>	994,302	—	—	994,302
<i>General Administration</i>	737,106	322,002	5,307	1,064,415
Total Expenses	8,840,927	322,002	5,307	9,168,233
<i>Transfers In/Out</i>	—	—	—	—
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (228,041)	\$ 1,216,381	\$ 303,362	\$ 1,291,702

Consolidated Balance Sheet	General Fund	Temporary Restricted	Endowment	2013-2014 Total
Assets				
<i>Total Cash and Investments</i>	\$ 4,681,707	\$ —	\$ 1,823,326	\$ 6,505,033
<i>Net Student Receivables</i>	25,843	—	—	25,843
<i>Other Pledges and Receivables Net</i>	36,650	1,558,487	—	1,595,137
<i>Prepaid Expenses and Other Deposits</i>	175,450	—	—	175,450
<i>Interfund Payables/Receivables</i>	4,686	638,027	—	642,713
Total Current Assets	4,924,336	2,196,514	1,823,326	8,944,176
<i>Total Fixed Assets</i>	9,761,454	—	—	9,761,454
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 14,685,790	\$ 2,196,514	\$ 1,823,326	\$ 18,705,630
Liabilities				
<i>Accounts Payable</i>	\$ 188,254	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 188,254
<i>Accrued Salaries and Benefits</i>	351,730	—	—	351,730
<i>Deferred Income</i>	2,165,604	—	—	2,165,604
<i>Interfund Payables/Receivables</i>	638,027	—	4,686	642,713
<i>Accrued Interest Payable</i>	821	—	—	821
<i>Other Accrued Expenses</i>	5,832	—	—	5,832
<i>Accrued Expenses</i>	6,653	—	—	6,653
<i>Notes Payable</i>	2,365,963	—	—	2,365,963
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 5,716,231	\$ —	\$ 4,686	\$ 5,720,917
Fund Balance				
<i>Net Assets</i>	\$ 8,969,559	\$ 2,196,514	\$ 1,818,640	\$ 12,984,713
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 14,685,790	\$ 2,196,514	\$ 1,823,326	\$ 18,705,630



Alumni Update

Our graduates remain part of the Post Oak community. Their interests and accomplishments are impressive and diverse: pure and applied science; visual and performing art; business and non-profit enterprise; government and social service; medicine, law, and finance.

Class of 1982

Daniel Marchione—*Daniel is the Head of School at the Trinity School of Midland. He received his Masters of Education from Endicott College in Beverly, MA in 2004. He became a lifelong learner because of Post Oak and such an experience inspired him to pursue a career in the education field. Aside from Watermelon Day at the end of school, Daniel's favorite memory is meeting George Bush Senior on his middle school D.C trip.*

Kirby McCool—*Kirby McCool is currently living in Houston where she dedicates most of her time and energy towards her two children. Kirby started at Post Oak when she was only 18 months and continued here through 8th grade. Because of her experience she has incorporated Montessori values into the lives of her own children.*

Class of 1995

Masoud Darvishi—*Masoud Darvishi graduated from the South Texas College of Law in 2008 after completing his undergrad at the University of Texas. He is currently practicing law at a firm here in Houston. He has recently taken an interest in cycling.*

Class of 1997

Caroline Sharp—*Caroline continues to branch out into multiple areas of endeavor. She has acted on stage, in a web series, and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. She is recording*

audio books, and has gotten involved in the graphic novel world.

Philip Storey—*I just finished an intern year in internal medicine at Kaiser San Francisco and have started an ophthalmology residency at USC in Los Angeles.*

Class of 1999

Justin Boyar—*Justin lives in Panama, and is currently working for an international commercial real estate company as a senior consultant. He's fluent in Spanish, and spends much of his time traveling in South America to Guyana and Columbia for work.*

Class of 2001

Amelinda Melanson Hendrickx—*Amelinda is working as a mechanical engineer at Aagard in Alexandria, MN. Following her wedding last September, she and her husband, Jake Hendrickx, moved to a country house on 14 acres of river front property outside of Fergus Falls, MN. Her growing expertise with gardening has led to more and more food preservation, from jams and jellies to sauce and salsa, and canned vegetables. She and Jake have also become very active in the rental house business, acquiring 5 houses in less than 2 years, renovating them and renting them out.*

Abbie Kamin—*Abbie recently graduated from the American University Washington College of Law in May. She is back in Houston, and has been studying for her upcoming Bar Exam as well as doing some exciting work for the Wendy Davis Campaign.*

Class of 2002

Sam Geer—*I currently do freelance work in the realm of film production. Most of my work of late has been as a production assistant on a variety of projects from short films to a pilot for an NBC TV show that unfortu-*

nately didn't get picked up to be a full series. I also have been doing illustration and poster designs for concerts here in Los Angeles as well as Literary Readings that a friend of mine hosts every month, which has been a nice way to flex a different set of creative muscles than I get to use in the film world.

My real labor of love over the last year has been working on a screenplay for a feature film that I plan to direct. In May I submitted the script and an application to both the Sundance Film Institute's Screenwriter's Lab as well as the Film Independent Screenwriter's Lab here in Los Angeles. If I am accepted to either program it will be an exciting opportunity to finesse my script under the mentorship of established professionals in the industry.

In the meantime, I am working with fellow POS alumni Jonathan Ward to put together a budget and a business plan for raising money to shoot the film. We're planning to begin the fundraising process in the fall.

The other exciting bit of news in my personal life is that I recently got engaged to Caelin White, a fellow Houstonian who I first met in high school. We're excited to get started planning our wedding and looking forward to what the future holds in store for us out here in California.

Nick Hetherington—*I am with the Loughorn Network and was recently promoted to Associate Producer. We are excited for this year's football season with the new coaching regime; we started coverage at the first football practice August 4th. I traveled to San Miguel de Allende with my family for an 8-day vacation over the summer. My family has been coming to this city for over 20 years; it truly is our home away from home.*

Class of 2003

Sam Boyar—*Sam Boyar is pursuing an energy-focused MBA at the Rice University Jones Graduate School of Business. Sam interned over the summer at ConocoPhillips, where he evaluated global company assets in the Investment Appraisal group. Sam spent more than two years in the oil patches of East Texas as a well-site geologist after graduating from the University of Texas's Geology program and has now turned his attention to learning the business side of the oil and gas industry.*

Brittany Fondren—*I'm still working at Cornerstone, which is going well. I have started writing grant requests in addition to my other responsibilities. I have not traveled recently but there may be some trips coming up in my future, possibly to Germany and the Czech Republic. I'm also looking into going to grad school for my Masters in Public Health. I have not performed or published anything, although I did write and record a song for fun. I also ran the Houston marathon in January and have signed up to run it again next year.*

William Wawro—*After graduating from Syracuse University in 2011, William Wawro moved to Los Angeles where he is now working as a post-production editor. Some of his projects include acting as lead editor on Fullscreen's cover of Ne-Yo's "So Sick" by Max Schnieder and Sam Tsui as well as editing the music video for "Still in Love" by Devon James.*

Class of 2004

Will Duin—*Will Duin is living in Charleston, SC. He recently bought a new house, and likes to spend his time fishing. His favorite memory of Post Oak is playing sports with Coach Tucker. He believes that Montessori goes into much further detail in the curriculum because of the one-on-one*

interaction the teachers have with the students.

Jennie Kamin—*I recently moved to Los Angeles from New Orleans in further pursuit of a career in acting/filmmaking. As a result of tax incentives, Louisiana is home to a booming film economy. This last year, I worked on some great projects, including "Artists Die Best in Black" with Malcolm McDowell.*

My Post Oak education definitely contributed to the shaping of my desire to pursue a career in both a creative field and one that excites me. In my experience, our teachers created environments where we were encouraged to explore our interests and to take ownership over our work. For much of Lower and Upper Elementary, my teachers encouraged me to write and direct my own material and include my class in the production of my story. It's not surprising that several other POS alums are currently working in the film industry.

Christina Moser—*For the last two years I've been living in Austin, TX and working as a graphic designer. My first job after graduating college was as a production artist at an ad agency, but for the last year or so I have been working on my own as a freelance graphic designer. Last winter, some friends and I started a drawing collective called Weeekly as a creative outlet, and every week each of us creates an image to post to Instagram (@weeekly). My next adventure was picking up and moving to Ithaca, NY this past August, where I am ready to take on new challenges and experiences.*

Bethany Sharp—*Bethany graduated from Boston University last year, and is now working as a graphic artist for Simple Truth in Chicago, IL. She also sings with an A Capella group, which includes writing and arranging music, as well as performing in various concerts and competitions. Bethany*

treasures her memories from Blackwood and believes Post Oak fostered her independence. She says, "In a Montessori School, a student has to choose what work to do and use time management to get everything done."

Class of 2005

Allison Bereswill—*Allison Bereswill obtained her Masters in Accounting at Southern Methodist University. She is working as a CPA, and is thankful to the Montessori number chains.*

Rebecca Bereswill—*Becky is attending the University of Michigan and interned in New York City this past summer. Becky has long been pursuing her passion in figure skating and is thankful to Post Oak middle school for being so cooperative with her figure skating schedule. She is confident that it helped her to get where she is today. Becky is the skating performer acting as Elsa for Disney's on Ice "Frozen". She is the first person to play this character. The tour began in September with performing dates in Houston on April 15-20, 2015.*

Class of 2006

Michael Harvey—*I recently graduated from Notre Dame, and I started work for JPMorgan Chase as a Commercial Banking Credit Analyst in June. I was in Chicago this past summer for credit training, but returned to Houston to start work full-time.*

Stephanie Styles—*Stephanie graduated summa cum laude from The University of Michigan with a B.F.A. in Musical Theatre. During her last semester, she performed in concerts at Jazz at Lincoln Center in NYC and at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. She filmed her first feature film "The Submarine Kid" in April in L.A. and her voice can be heard in several national radio commercials for AT&T. She is currently residing in NYC and*

performed in "Grease" at The Muny in St. Louis this past summer.

Chris Wawro

Chris graduated from St. Edwards in Austin earlier this year. He is now attending the University of Texas to pursue a Masters in Accounting.

Class of 2007

Joe Anthony Martinez—Joe Anthony is a junior at Carnegie Mellon. He is spending a semester in Washington, D.C. to learn about international politics. He has a unified double major in psychology and biology. Joe Anthony has the long term goal of becoming a research scientist and professor. His Post Oak trip to D.C. and visit to the National Archives inspired his semester abroad. He believes that Post Oak helped him to fully understand the importance of education.

Class of 2008

Thomas Harvey—Last semester I studied in Washington, DC while interning in the personal office of Chairman Michael McCaul. This summer, I am interning with the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. I have returned to Notre Dame for the fall semester where I am studying Political Science and Peace Studies before I head off to London in the spring to study abroad again.

Lou Posada—I am currently a junior at the University of Texas at Austin studying Chemical Engineering with a focus in Cell and Tissue Engineering. I recently finished a microgravity research project with NASA. The team I was a part of looked at how water freezes in zero gravity in order to design and implement a supplemental heat rejection system that is water-based for the next generation of spacecraft.

This past summer I took a couple of classes at the University of Houston and did some shadowing with a pul-

monologist at MD Anderson. In early August I headed back to Austin to start working in a research lab at UT. My long term goal is to go to graduate school, either to study medicine or continuing with cell and tissue engineering or both by applying to an M.D./PhD program. I've applied to be part of a bike team at UT that rides from Austin, Texas to Anchorage, AK to raise money for cancer research.

Post Oak helped me foster an appreciation for the "big picture". As Montessori students we are able to make connections between what we learn in class and how that applies to the real world and use what we learn to make the world a better place.

Nikhil Schneider—Nikhil is a junior at University of Houston where he is majoring in Environmental Science and continues to participate in the Honors College. He is working for the UH Outdoor Program and plans to take more of a leadership role there next year, leading bicycle rides and climbing events. He rode the MS150 this past spring for the first time since being a part of the Post Oak Pedalers.

Nikhil spent the summer in the Austin area, living with his uncle and learning to make Indian food with his grandmother. He was employed as a lifeguard through the local recreational center and connected with friends from POS as well as his former childhood school, Community Montessori School—some of whom he had not seen since he was 9 years old. Nikhil enjoyed rediscovering his former hometown and appreciating all of the outdoor activities that Austin has to offer (especially rock climbing).

Class of 2009

Joshua Brenner—I started my sophomore year as a biology/plan II double major at UT Austin. I've been writing for the school humor publication, the Texas Travesty, and working in an RNA sequencing lab in my spare time.

Natalie Wade—Currently I attend Colorado College and major in chemistry with a global health minor. I hope to be a doctor. I love hiking and spending time with my friends, and next summer I plan to spend a semester abroad in Spain.

Class of 2010

Karis Barker—Karis graduated Magna Cum Laude from Episcopal High School last May, and is currently a freshman at UC Irvine where she is studying Biological sciences. She is focused on acclimating to college, and feels that the independence, punctuality, and time management skills she attained from Post Oak will undoubtedly help her in that process.

Amelia Eskridge—Amelia started at SMU this fall. She was also admitted to Trinity, Elon, Lafayette, Pepperdine, Rhodes, and Santa Clara. She chose SMU to attend the Lyle School of Engineering, which offers a program under which she will also finish with an MBA. Time permitting, she'd like to minor in Spanish and Voice, two passions she has had since her days at Post Oak. She has attended Spanish classes every year since Infant Community, and singing was a big part of her high school life. She was selected a soprano in the All-State Choir, and performed in many musical theater performances, including "The Sound of Music" and "Shrek."

Avery Peters—I recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Episcopal High School, and I'm excited to attend the University of Richmond this fall. I am still unsure what I will be majoring in, but I am leaning towards Political Science or International Studies. This past year I was a member of National Honor Society, a member of the Student Senate, and a Students of Service (S.O.S) project leader. I am looking forward to meet-

ing new people in college, and living in a place where it will snow in the winter!

One of my favorite Post Oak memories is the time we would spend getting ready for Cinco de Mayo, and how every year the dances would get a little more advanced. Post Oak really taught me how to use my time wisely and get everything done, while still being able to spend time on personal interests and hobbies.

Daniel Sanders—Daniel graduated from St. Thomas High School in May. He is working for a builder of large apartment complexes and began school at Texas State University in San Marcos in August.

John Henry Styles—John Henry Styles is a freshman at Stanford University, and is planning on studying Environmental Engineering. He was recently selected in the 36th round of the MLB draft by the Washington Nationals. Besides playing baseball, he really enjoys traveling. He believes that Post Oak helped instill the work ethic that has helped him up to this point.

Allison Wawro—I began my first year at the University of California Santa Barbara in the fall. In the short term I am excited about getting through my freshman year of college, but in the long term I aim to pursue a PhD in physics. I have Post Oak to thank for my love of physics. Post Oak, unlike other traditional schools, never snuffs out a child's innate desire to learn. Because of this, I love knowing how and why things happen in our universe. Physics allows you to explore and learn from the world around you, which, to me, is the heart of every Montessori classroom.

Class of 2011

Benjamin Brenner—Benjamin began his senior year at Carnegie Vanguard High School. He is in Debate and Engineering club, and is planning to

apply to Rice, Harvey Mudd, Colorado School of Mines, Northwestern, and University of Texas. He spent the summer working in a research lab at Baylor College of Medicine.

Amy Pascoe—Amy Pascoe is a senior at Kinkaid. She has been managing Kinkaid's Dance Company throughout high school and is excited to have joined their intermediate level during her senior year. She is a member of the Community Service Council at Kinkaid, and is chairing their 2015 Special Olympics Bocce Ball Tournament with her fellow alumna, Elise Peters.

Rachael Levy—Rachael Levy is a senior at Kinkaid. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, and won an award at the end of her junior year for her work in her Spanish class. Rachael participated in the ISAS Arts Festival in Houston and won an award for the sculptures she created as part of her independent study. She worked in an internship with a city planner in Houston over the summer, a career path she finds interesting.

Emily Paul—Emily Paul, a senior at Kinkaid, has discovered a passion for medicine while in high school. She co-founded the Health and Fitness Club at Kinkaid and has had the opportunity to shadow several surgeons in the Houston area. Post Oak taught her to not let age prevent her from pursuing her dreams and to think outside the box. Emily has excitedly welcomed an exchange student from Finland that will continue to stay with her during her senior year.

Thomas Rasor—Thomas is a senior at Episcopal High School. He plays volleyball and is a member of ETV, a film and video club at EHS. His interests include moviemaking and economics. He believes Post Oak helped provide him with good time management skills and the ability to face ob-

stacles. His favorite Post Oak memory is the trips to Blackwood, an experience that brought his class together as a strong team.

Elise Peters—Elise is a senior at Kinkaid where she is a member of the French Honor Society and Dance Company. During her junior year, she placed among the top 5 rankings in the National French Contest. She also attended the VASE art competition for printmaking where she placed in the highest regional division with a perfect score. She also received a Gold Key in printmaking from the regional Scholastic Art Competition. Although her hobbies include dance and visual arts, she is currently focused on college applications, looking at schools in the northeast. Elise feels as though Post Oak has really helped her to become a leader within and outside of the classroom. She is a member of Kinkaid's Community Service Council, and this year, she is co-chairing Kinkaid's 2015 Special Olympics Bocce Ball Tournament with her fellow Post oak alumna, Amy Pascoe.

Megan Routbort—Megan is a senior at St. John's School. This year, she serves as editor of her school's award-winning newspaper, The Review. She is grateful for the opportunity to pursue her passion for the written word and to serve her school community in this position. Megan also has continued studying the flute and was selected as a part of the TPSMEA All-State Band. Despite the trials of her hectic life as a student, her love for nature still plays an all-important role in her life as she attempts to visit all 397 national park sites.

Devina Schneider—Devina spent her summer at Denali National Park working on adding a switchback to a hiking trail. She was invited to participate with the Denali Crew for one month through the Student Conservation Association (SCA). She was

camping and working hard through an especially rainy season. As a junior, Devina ran cross-country in the fall for EHS and was the Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC) first place winner. In track and field during the spring, she won 1st place in the 1600 meter race and 3200 race at the end-of-the season SPC event as well. Devina was offered a Scholastic Gold Key writing award for a poem that she submitted.

Jahnavi Schneider—This past year I won third place in the cross country SPC championship, and received the best sportsmanship award in my sport. I was awarded Best in Show for a self-portrait in the 2013 fall semester EHS art show, a Silver Key award in the Scholastic Art Competition, and second place in the University of Houston Art Competition. I also volunteered with the Students Conservation Association group throughout the school year. Over the summer I traveled to Washington State to work with the same program and worked at a vet's office as a technician.

Class of 2012

Samantha Pulaski—Samantha is a junior at Episcopal High School where she is involved in both dance and community service. She is interested in pursuing her interest in sailing so that she can one day sail around the Caribbean. She loves to travel and recently went to New Zealand. She attributes her time at Post Oak to fostering her leadership qualities, maturity, and passion for taking part in community service.

Class of 2013

Grace Kaplow—Grace is in her sophomore year at St. Agnes. She is grateful Post Oak taught her how to learn and how to study which helped her to make the Honor Roll after receiving all A's her first year of high school. She went to camp this summer, and is

still continuing with her passion for ice skating.

Carson Parenti—Carson is a 10th grader at Westchester this year and is working hard to attain his goal of becoming a National Merit Scholar. He aspires to someday get a job in the sciences—especially physics. His favorite memory of Post Oak was his Middle School trip to Washington D.C. He believes that Post Oak taught him to be open to learning which allowed for greater opportunities and experiences.

Matthew Sanders—This summer, Matthew took a trip to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil where he attended soccer camp and was fortunate to see several World Cup games. He plays soccer for Awty International School and the Houston Express. He is in his sophomore year at Awty.

Other Alumni

Payal Chana—Payal and her husband, Manny, are celebrating the recent birth of their daughter, Dia Chana. Dia was born on June 12, 2014. In addition to being an alumna, Payal is also a Post Oak parent. Her son, Dev Chana, is in Primary.

Will Geer—Will recently graduated from USC's Thornton School of Music with a BA in Music and a minor in Psychology. He is currently living in Los Angeles and performing with his band *The Big Gone* (thebiggone.band-camp.com/releases, ello.co/thebiggone) and working in commercial music production.

Sara Llansa—I began a new position in July with Emerge-HISD. Emerge is a program that prepares talented HISD students from underserved communities to successfully attend and graduate from Ivy League and other top tier universities. I am an Academic Program Manager, meaning that I am responsible for running

the Emerge program at a few HISD schools. I am very excited about this new position.

Ben Sanders—After graduating from St. Thomas High School, Ben spent the summer working in Warsaw, Poland. While there, he traveled to Germany, France, and Holland. He has been working in construction and is currently in his second year at Texas A&M.

Chloe Wood—I am now settled in the Bay Area and have officially changed careers. In July I started as an Associate at Jump Associates, an innovation consultancy that helps companies create new products or enter new markets. This is my dream job at my dream company so I'm excited about this great opportunity!

* * * * *

To all former Post Oak students, whether you are a graduate or only attended in the early years, you are our alumni and we would love to hear from you. If you don't see your friends, ask them to contact Jessica Jackson at jessicajackson@postoakschool.org or connect on our website at postoakschool.org/postoak/alumni.asp.

College Admissions

Post Oak alumni populate top colleges and universities throughout the state, the nation, and abroad. College acceptances over the past ten years include:

Alfred University
American University
Art Institute of Boston
Art Institute of Chicago
Art Institute of Houston
Auburn University
Austin College
*Baylor University**
Belmont University
*Boston University**
Bristol University
Brooks Institute of Photography
Brown University
California College of the Arts
Carnegie Mellon University
Chapman University
Christopher Newport University
Clemson University
*College of Charleston**
Colorado College
Colorado School of Mines
*Columbia University**
Cranbrook Academy of Art
*Dartmouth College**
Denison University
Drew University
Drexel University
Eckerd College
*Elon University**
Emerson College
Evergreen State College
Fashion Institute of Technology
Fordham University
Furman University
Georgetown University
Georgia Tech
*George Washington University**
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Hampshire College
Ithaca College
Juniata College
Kansas University
*Lafayette College**
Lone Star Community College

Louisiana State University
Loyola University, New Orleans
Millsaps College
New York University
*Northeastern University**
Notre Dame University (Honors)
Oberlin College
Oklahoma State University
*Pepperdine University**
*Princeton University**
Purdue University
Randolph College
*Rhodes College**
Rice University
Richmond University
Rollins College
San Diego State University
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
*Santa Clara University**
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design
Seton Hall University
Sewanee—The University of the South
Skidmore College
Smith College
*Southern Methodist University**
Southwestern University
*Stanford University**
St. Edwards University
St. John's College
Syracuse University
Texas A&M University
*Texas Christian University**
Texas Christian University (Honors)
The Citadel
The College of William and Mary
*Trinity University**
*Tulane University**
University College of London
University of Alabama
University of Arkansas
University of Arizona
*University of California—Irvine**
University of California—Los Angeles
University of California—San Diego
*University of California—Santa Barbara**
University of California—Santa Clara
*University of California—Santa Cruz**
University of Colorado—Boulder
University of Delaware
University of Georgia

University of Houston
University of Houston, Cullen College of Engineering
University of Houston (Honors)
University of Indiana
*University of Kansas**
University of Massachusetts—Amherst
*University of Miami**
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of New Orleans
*University of North Carolina**
University of Notre Dame
University of Oklahoma
University of Portland
University of the Pacific
*University of Richmond**
University of St. Andrews
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
University of Southern California—School of Cinematic Arts
University of Texas—Austin
University of Texas—Austin, Plan II
University of Texas—Business Honors
University of Texas—San Antonio
University of Texas—Tyler
*University of Tulsa**
University of Vermont
University of Virginia—Richmond
U.S. Naval Academy
*Vanderbilt University**
Wake Forest University
Washington University in St. Louis
West Point
Wesleyan University

* Denotes college acceptances for 2010 Post Oak graduates



Thank You

The Post Oak School is deeply grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of the 50th anniversary celebratory school year.

