

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

OUTLOOK

WINTER 2019 • VOLUME 39, ISSUE 2



Taylor Miller '05

ALUMNI



ALUMNI LEGACY BREAKFAST

Oakridge legacy families came together August 30 for the school's first Alumni Legacy Breakfast. Who is a legacy Owl? A current or graduate Oakridge student whose parent(s) graduated from The Oakridge School. Alumnus and legacy parent, Chef Kyle Slater '95 of Wooden Spoon, catered the event where 48 of the 52 legacy students enrolled in the 2019-2020 school year gathered for breakfast in the Library on College T-Shirt Day.



ALUMNI LEGACY BREAKFAST



ALUMNI NEWS: WINTER 2019

CLASS OF 1993

Philip Farhat '93 and his family: wife, Marissa, and legacy owls Ford (6th), Jack (4th), and Duke (1st) enjoyed the Baylor University vs. Oklahoma University game and caught up with sophomore Baylor Football Tight End/Oakridge alum, **Christoph Henle '18**, after the game.



says Taylor. She and her husband Blaine live in Arlington, TX, with legacy owls Emma (10th) and Wyatt (4th) attending The Oakridge School. Follow her on Instagram @ontherocksbyfs and visit her website ontherocksbyfs.com.



CLASS OF 1996

Stephanie Murray '96 has been a global meeting & event planner for the past 19 years. She left Dallas for the bright lights of New York City back in 2011, when she was running the hospitality division of a sports marketing agency to help build the NY business and event team. She then took an opportunity to work with J.P. Morgan's Private Bank at the JPMC Headquarters in Manhattan, where she has been the last five years and was recently promoted to become the Head of Western Region Events. This summer, she relocated to work out of the firm's Los Angeles office and is now residing in Santa Monica, CA.

CLASS OF 1995

Taylor Gray '95 is loving life on the rocks with extra salt and lime! She is the founder of On the Rocks by SFS - a stylish accessory and gift line featuring Brazilian geodes and cowhides. "Stylish entertaining and accessories are my passion, and I love that they are all made locally."



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2001

Adam Meltzer '01 and Frances Meltzer welcomed their third child, Teddy, on September 23, 2019. The Meltzer family resides in Austin, Texas.



CLASS OF 2003

Eric Balch '03 got engaged to Jennifer Smith September 13, 2019.



Kenitha Ellison

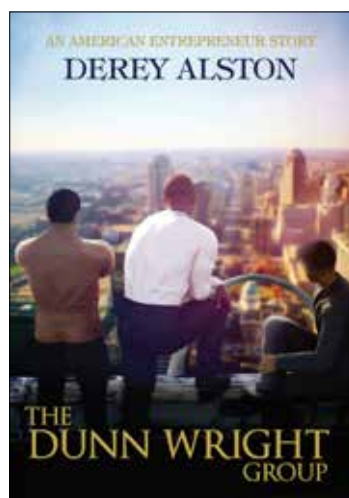
'03 earned her master's degree in Strategic Public Relations from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and recently received a Digital Marketing certificate from Southern Methodist University.



CLASS OF 2004

Derey Alston

'04 published his first fiction novel, *The Dunn Wright Group: An American Entrepreneur Story*. "I wrote this book first and foremost to inspire and encourage all entrepreneurs to chase their dreams and never give up," Alston says. He received his degree in business administration from Hampton University in Hampton, Virginia. Derey was a registered investment advisor at Edward Jones Investments and has over nine years of experience working in the financial services industry. Derey was a registered investment advisor at Edward Jones Investments. He has also worked with Fortune 100 companies, including the Teacher's Insurance & Annuity Association, as a wealth management consultant working directly with high net worth individuals. Derey's book can be found on Amazon.



ALUMNI NEWS

William Van Wagner '04 is the owner of South of the Line, a food truck that is unlike anything else in town: imagine if Nashville Hot Chicken and Buffalo Wings got married in Fort Worth, Texas. This chicken is that marriage with heavy influences of all three places, they have been able to create a fried chicken that is unlike anything you've ever had. Follow South of the Line on Facebook @SOTLChicken and Instagram @southofthelinechicken for more information on their next fry.



CLASS OF 2005

Kathy Nguyen '05 married Hien Vo on November 10, 2018, celebrating one year of marriage. The couple loves to travel and recently vacationed to Santorini, Greece, and Rome, Italy.



Kaylee Perry '05 got engaged to Christopher Land on April 20, 2019.



Taylor Miller '05 shares his hike adventure at Dirty Harry's Balcony Trail in North Bend, Washington, which overlooks Mount Kent, McClellan Butte, and Mount Washington. Taylor lives in Mercer Island, Washington. Follow Taylor on Instagram @that_miller_guy9000 to view breathtaking images of his hiking adventures.



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2006

Abbey Soto Cheek '06 and her husband, Cody, welcomed Spencer Vaughn Soto-Cheek on October 8, 2019. He weighed 10 pounds, 14 ounces, and joins big sister, Coco, and big brother Anderson who are legacy owls in preschool and third grade this year at Oakridge.



Derek Ray '06 and **Allison Brown Ray '06** welcomed their second child, Thomas Scott, on March 29, 2019. Thomas joins a proud big sister Caroline. The family lives in Charlottesville, VA, where Derek is attending the University of Virginia getting his Ph.D. in Foreign Affairs.



CLASS OF 2007

Millie Zandi '07 is an artist living in Los Angeles, California. Search for @artofmilliezandi on Facebook to follow her work.



CLASS OF 2008

Brittney Gooden '08 visited Chefchaouen, Morocco, and Madrid, Spain, to celebrate her 30th birthday. Brittney went specifically to take pictures in Chefchaueon (nicknamed the “Blue Pearl of Morocco”). Her favorite part of the trip was taking pics in the blue city (pictured), riding camels, and eating dinner at night in the Agafay Desert in Marrakech, as well as riding a mule up the Atlas Mountains. “It was definitely a trip to remember, and I recommend everyone visit,” she said.



ALUMNI NEWS

Mariam Shafi '08 earned her certification to be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker - Board-Approved Supervisor (LCSW-S) from the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners. Mariam also celebrates her engagement to Sameer Jaffri. The couple will wed in December 2019.



CLASS OF 2010

Christopher Grubb '10 graduated with a medical degree from the Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons (VP&S). Christopher also



married Neda Bionghi, a classmate from Columbia VP&S '19. Alumni **Danny Martinez '10**, **Chris McCartan '10**, and **Jeremy Keith Gooden '10** were groomsmen. Both Christopher and Neda will be continuing their medical training in the Internal Medicine residency program at New York-Presbyterian / Columbia University Irving Medical Center.

CLASS OF 2011

Grace Cuda '11 is now an attorney with the Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., and lives in Arlington, Virginia.

CLASS OF 2012

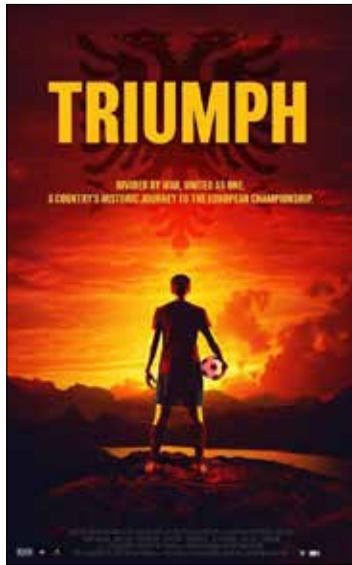
Andrew Read '12 and **Samantha Caroline Read '13** started dating at Oakridge in 2009 and married on July 20, 2019, at Trinity United Methodist Church. Their wedding party included **Ashley Brentlinger Read '05**, **David Read '06**, **Christine Read Da Silva '03**, **Paulo Da Silva '05**, and legacy owls Avery Kate Read (Kindergarten), Addison Da Silva (Pre-K), and Aiden Da Silva (Preschool).



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2013

Lejla Korca '13 started her own production company, Two Heads Production. Her first film to produce is titled "Triumph". "Triumph" is a film chronicling the Albanian national team and their journey to their first qualification to a major tournament. "Triumph" won the audience award at the Dokufest film festival. Lejla recently celebrated the theatre premiere in Tirana, Albania, with the Albanian national soccer team. You can follow the film and watch the trailer on their Facebook and Instagram page @triumphthemovie.



CLASS OF 2014

Thomas Cuda '14 earned his Masters' Degree in Accounting from the University of Dallas and currently works for Ernst & Young in Dallas, Texas.



Jon Vecchio '14 graduated in May 2018 from Austin College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. On June of 2019, he was accepted to the J.D. program at St. Mary's University School of Law and began his first semester of law school on August 10, 2019.



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2016

Angelique Southern '16

is a senior International Studies and Chinese major at Spelman College. She is a semifinalist for the prestigious Luce Scholars Program. The program selects graduates from 75 colleges and universities or young professionals under age 30.

The program intends to provide an immersion experience in Asia for an outstanding group of young Americans who would not otherwise have the opportunity to come to know Asia intimately. The finalist announcement will take place in the 1st quarter of 2020. Recently elected Montgomery, Alabama Mayor Steven Reed, visited the Atlanta, GA office where Angelique currently interns and captured this photo with her.



Abigail Hurd '17

recently performed in her first opera, "Charon." She has been awarded a scholarship to study abroad in Italy next summer and will be returning to Italy for a music competition with her vocal coach, Twyla Robinson. Abby was recently elected Independent Greek Council VP

and newly elected president of Mu Phi Epsilon. We are proud of her continued academic successes in the John V. Roach Honors College.



Jacob Pakele '17 was accepted to the ACU study abroad program at Oxford University in the spring of 2019. He had the opportunity to study and experience the British and European contributions to the world and deepen his faith through a community in service-learning opportunities. He spent his weekends traveling throughout Europe, appreciating the beauty of different cultures.



CLASS OF 2017

In addition to studying Astronautical Engineering at the University of Southern California, **Noah Gladden '17** is singing and arranging music for UnderScore a cappella. Check out the new EP "Enter" on Spotify or Apple Music.



ALUMNI NEWS

CLASS OF 2018

Avery Pennywell '18 is a sophomore men's tennis player at Southern Methodist University (SMU), where the team was recently honored with the Long Ellis Intercollegiate Award by the Southern California USTA. The award is given to a program that exhibits excellent sportsmanship. Avery is studying finance with a concentration in pre-medicine and plans to become an orthopedic surgeon.



CLASS OF 2019

Austin Foster '19 was recently named "Mr. Texan" by the Optimist Club of Texas. Austin was among twelve finalists selected. Austin is a freshman studying business and political science at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas. He is Pledge Class President of Delta Sigma Pi, Commons Council Homecoming Vice-Chair, and actively involved in Wesley House ministry and intramural soccer. Austin's professional goal is to become a business attorney and has already received admittance to the Dedman School of Law.



Alumni News Submissions

Do you have news you'd like to share with fellow alumni? Are there any changes in your life such as new job, promotion, new degree, marriage, engagement, children, or any other announcement?

Please send us your news along with a photo to
alumnirelations@theoakridgeschool.org
or use our online form at
www.theoakridgeschool.org/alumnioutlook

ALUMNI SOCIAL: HOMECOMING 2019



More than 100 alumni returned to campus on Friday, September 27, to celebrate Homecoming 2019. Alumni reconnected with their classmates, enjoyed a spread from On the Border Mexican Grill & Cantina, reminisced about their time at Oakridge, and created new memories with friends and former teachers at the alumni social.

To guarantee you don't miss any alumni fun, please make sure we have your updated contact information. Call the Alumni Relations Office at 817-563-9781, send an email to alumnirelations@theoakridgeschool.org, or visit online at www.theoakridgeschool.org/alumniupdate.



ONCE AN OWL, ALWAYS AN OWL



ALUMNI KICKBALL

Old school sports are making a comeback, at least with our alumni! Thank you to all Oakridge alumni and family who came out to play in the first alumni kickball events in summer 2019.

Oakridge's softball field was an excellent location for alumni to run the bases. Head of School Jon Kellam grilled outstanding hot dogs and hamburgers. There was also music and laughter during this fun-filled alumni event like no other. Be on the lookout for next year's kickball schedule.

Next up is winter dodgeball on December 21. There will be giant Connect 4, Cornhole, and Jenga to play, as well. The alumni association will provide refreshments. Come ready to play or cheer on your fellow alumni Owls!





RAISING THE BARRE

Earlier in this issue, we provided a glimpse at Oakridge's new strategic plan, which includes a wellness pillar. While we aim to empower our current students and faculty to lead healthy, balanced lives, we also encourage and applaud our alumni for their focus on wellness.



Hillary Blair Cornell '03 is among our Oakridge graduates putting her best foot forward when it comes to wellness. Her commitment to her health intensified after she became a mom. She recently detailed her journey for *Outlook*.

I married my high school sweetheart, **L.D. Cornell '04**, almost 12 years ago. We met at Oakridge when he started 6th grade in 1997. We live in Aledo with our three children, Walker 11, Vivianne 5, and Barrow, who is six-months-old. I started taking Pure Barre classes to get back in shape after Vivianne was born and quickly became hooked. I had the opportunity to buy the studio in 2017 and haven't looked back.



Highly-trained instructors lead Pure Barre classes. Pure Barre features four group class formats that deliver an effective total body workout focused on low-impact, high-intensity movements that lift and tone muscles and improve strength, agility, and flexibility for everybody. With Pure Barre, you'll strengthen, lengthen,

and tone your muscles for a stronger, leaner physique.

At Pure Barre, our mission is to be a destination for people of all shapes, sizes, and ages to empower their bodies and minds through a supportive, safe community rooted in confidence building, transformative barre exercise.

Follow Pure Barre Fort Worth on
Facebook @PureBarreFortWorth
3400 West 7th Street, Fort Worth, TX
817-999-9127



BALANCED NOT BUSY



Ciji Tatum Townsend '02 is the chief motivator at Balanced Not Busy, a lifestyle brand for people who want to thrive and recharge. Townsend says finding your balance is the alignment of what you think, speak, and do. It's creating harmony in all areas of your life and showing up as the best version of yourself during each of life's seasons.

Who is Balanced Not Busy for?

Balanced Not Busy is for go-getters who also want to rest. It's for people who want to shift from hurry to harmony, rigor to rest, and "crazy busy" to "confident calm." Townsend specializes in public speaking and workshops that focus on issues such as time management, increasing productivity, and prioritizing wellness.

Follow Balanced Not Busy on Facebook and Instagram @balancednotbusy or visit www.balancednotbusy.com.



FARM TO TABLE

Maggie Brentlinger Loudermilk '05 started Maggie's Farm with her husband, Taylor, and two-year-old daughter, Eleanor Rose, as her family's passion for creating a sustainable agrosystem in their backyard. They have since expanded their Mansfield operation to a six-acre plot to provide healthy, high-quality, organic food to the local community.

"We grow vegetables and herbs. We have chickens, which provide us with fresh eggs and manure," said Maggie. "We have a potato box and a peach tree too!" Their salad mix features nutty sunflower shoots, flavorful microgreens mix, and spicy arugula that are washed and ready to eat. Maggie will be at Arlington Foodies Farmer Market at New Main Brewery Co. from 6:30-10 p.m. on December 14, 2019. She hopes to see new and familiar Oakridge Owls.

Follow Maggie's Farm on
Facebook @Maggiesfarm or visit online
at www.maggiesfarmtx.com.



UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

2019 Alumni Games
CO-ED SOCCER
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
10:30 am
Lunch provided



CONATSER STADIUM
5900 West Pioneer Pkwy
Arlington, TX 76013

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL
Alumni Association

2019 Alumni Games
DODGEBALL
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21
12:00 pm
Lunch provided



CONATSER STADIUM
5900 West Pioneer Pkwy
Arlington, TX 76013

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL
Alumni Association

Save the Date
April 4 and 5

The Oakridge School is heading to New York City

NYC Owls, Head of School Jon Kellam wants you to join us for an alumni event.

Stay connected for details. We are Oakridge!



ONCE AN OWL, ALWAYS AN OWL.

Stay connected through all of life's best moments.



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