

the Connect

BVT ALUMNI NEWSLETTER | FALL 2023

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In Hot Pursuit

Do you remember what career you dreamed of having when you were a child? The answer often is one that offers action, fame, or the chance to help people. Sometimes a childhood interest can be a powerful tool in shaping your future pursuits when you're at a career crossroads. Learn how Cameron Bern (*Multimedia Communications, Class of 2020*) discovered his true calling in our Multimedia Communications program, and what once was a childhood dream is now within his grasp.

Cameron has been busy pursuing his passion, a unique education and training, and observational experience that has led him back home.

If the Bern name sounds familiar, but you don't know Cameron, you may know his brother, Matthew Bern (*Engineering, Class of 2018*), or his sister, Julia Bern (*Construction Technology, Class of 2023*).

"I wanted to follow in my brother's footsteps and pursue a vocational education," said Cameron. "I liked the rotating schedule, a week of academics, and then a week in shop. I explored Electrical, Construction Technology, Engineering Technology, Drafting & Engineering Technology, Health Services, and HVAC. But I liked Multimedia Communications, which was my first choice. I was interested in movie production and thought I wanted to be a director."

"In shop, I learned excellent communications skills, time management skills, and how to multitask, valuable assets I use daily," said Cameron. "I was good at web design, a skill I still use to help run a website for a non-profit organization."



John Lennon wisely observed that "life is what happens when you're busy making other plans." It's an astute perspective. And one that 2020 graduates, impacted by the pandemic, understand all too well. "You can set all the goals you want for the future, but life can be unpredictable," said Cameron. "Navigating high school during a pandemic certainly gave me a deeper appreciation for the present and the ability to be flexible."

Halfway through high school, Cameron realized that being a director differed from what he had envisioned for his career. Rather, looking back at his childhood interests, it became evident that the role he wanted all along was that of a police officer or a detective, as he'd seen

portrayed on TV and in movies and encountered in the school community.

"Officer Carl Ambrosino, now retired, was the school resource officer (SRO) while I was a student at Miscoe Hill Middle School and BVT. Thinking back now, having observed his interactions within the school and the positive relationships that Upton police officers have within the greater community certainly influenced my decision to pursue a career in criminal justice and ultimately an internship with the Upton Police Department," said Cameron. "The internship was not a college requirement, but it has validated why I want to work in a community-based police department in a suburban town like Upton one day."

"The Police Program at Fitchburg State University (FSU) is a one-of-a-kind model where, in 5 years, I will obtain a dual-degree (*bachelor and master*) in Criminal Justice and complete my Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee certification to become a full-time Massachusetts municipal police officer," said Cameron. "Upon completing this program, I will be fully certified to serve as a municipal police officer in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

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“Being a police officer requires a lot of communication with the public,” said Cameron. “I used to describe myself as shy, but having public speaking experience through Multimedia Communications courses has made it much easier for me to build upon that skill set at FSU and to be confident when speaking to an audience and with individuals in the community.”

“I didn’t have any family members who were police officers, but I was always interested in the detective work involved in solving a crime — following up on leads, interviewing witnesses, victims, and suspects, and building a case against those who commit crimes in our community,” said Cameron. “For example, in the hours after the Boston Marathon bombing, the immediate need for investigative work, poring over photographs and video footage to identify two persons of interest. I realized that being of service and making a difference in the community I serve is important to me.”



Officer Poxon keeps Upton’s neighborhood safe and sound with his newest recruits.

Community Policing

Over the summer, Cameron split his time between the FSU Police Department directing traffic and interning with the Upton PD, where he learned more about the department’s staff, mission, activities, programs, and services.

“At the end of the school year, I stopped by BVT with Officer Poxon. We checked out the school’s surveillance cameras, walked around campus, visited Multimedia Communication, said hello to my shop instructors, and spoke with some students.”

“I’ve had a very positive experience learning more about how the Upton Police Department functions and building relationships with the officers,” said Cameron. “The fact that this internship opportunity led me back to Upton and BVT is really special.”

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A Catch of a Lifetime

Right Place at the Right Time

We encourage our students to take advantage of every opportunity. But, sometimes, you need to be at the right place at the right time. Aaron Buckley of Hopedale, the bat boy for the Worcester Red Sox, a recent graduate of our Automotive Technology program, found himself in such a spot on June 1, 2023.

Aaron was seated in the front row of the Monster seats at Fenway Park when he noticed a ball coming his way during the eighth inning “of the Red Sox’ win over the Cincinnati Reds. So he jumped up in an attempt to corral the home run ball with his baseball mitt.

“The catch made,” NESN broadcaster Dave O’Brien said. “It is a great night to be in the Monster seats.”

It sure was! Following the highlight-worthy grab, Aaron and his younger brother, Bryton, shared a big hug as the two celebrated the catch heard (and seen) all around the Commonwealth.

“That’s going to be a moment we never forget,” said Aaron. “I’m happy I was able to share that moment with him.”

“It was just amazing. I didn’t think anything like that would happen,” said Bryton. “We were making jokes about catching the ball the whole night, and it was just crazy that it came to reality.”

Big Red Sox Fans

Aaron has been a Red Sox fan for as long as he can remember. The recent graduate got



his love for baseball from his father, Joe, who grew up in Brighton and went to every single Red Sox spring training from 1984 until Aaron was born in 2004.

“I don’t go to spring training anymore,” Joe said with a laugh.

In 2003, Joe camped overnight outside Fenway Park for the first-ever sale of Green Monster tickets. On Thursday, Joe was seated in the family room of his Hopedale home when he saw his oldest son catch Connor Wong’s home run atop the Monster.

“I almost fell right out of my chair,” Joe said. “I had to replay it hundreds of times. My phone has been blowing up.”

Right before Aaron’s catch, Bryton had a premonition. So he shared the hunch with his older brother.

“He says, ‘I feel a home run here, get ready,’ ” Aaron said.

The next pitch, the Sox catcher rocketed a ball that looked to be going a row above where Aaron and his brother sat. At least until Aaron gave it a stab.

“I kind of jumped up, threw my glove up there, and it landed in the right spot,” Aaron said.

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Protecting Your Investment

Community Investment in the Future

Our students often describe BVT as a home away from home. When it comes to protecting our homes (and our school), the roof is often the first line of defense. It protects us and everything underneath it from the outside elements—rain, snow, hail, sleet, wind, and the hot sun—making the roof an important aspect of any building.

Simply put, our school’s roof is the primary protector of your investment. Therefore, we remain fiscally responsible while doing everything we can to maintain our roof and everything underneath. Our Facilities personnel use all available resources to perform routine maintenance. We’ve previously self-funded roof repairs by participating in the MSBA Accelerated Repair Program to make improvements when needed that made our building more energy-efficient and generated substantial cost savings for the District.

Always mindful of your investment, we carry out our mission with care and consideration to cost. We enhance our vocational, academic, and community offerings with grants that strengthen our ability to serve our students and the greater community. We also continue to explore and investigate self-funding options whenever feasible and affordable to continuously address the upkeep and enhancement of our well-loved school, which now houses 18 vocational shops. Each shop has state-of-the-art tools and equipment that provide our students with industry experience and skills to prepare them for future careers in their trade.

Like a home, there comes a time when we have to repair and protect our investment. The District needs your support as it seeks to be fiscally responsible in addressing capital projects across our campus. Components of a bond would address:

- **Final Phase of Roof Repair:** Replace approximately 60,000 square feet of the 100-wing.
- **Retaining Wall & Wheelchair Ramp:** Build accessibility by replacing the front retaining wall, ramp, and stairs due to deterioration.
- **Hot Water Heater:** Replace and upgrade with a more energy-efficient water-heating system.
- **Three Seasons Restaurant:** Renovate the restaurant entrance and security protocol.
- **Building Access Control:** Redesigning a new access system to increase security.
- **Science Labs:** Utilizing in-house talent to renovate two science labs.
- **HVAC Units:** The remaining funds will be used to replace approximately 40 aging HVAC roof-top units as they approach end-of-life.

This essential repair list will protect your investment for years to come. Our District School Committee will make every effort to advance this endeavor within a maximum borrowing threshold not to exceed \$10 million. Thank you for your continued support.

10.15.23

SAVE THE DATE!

Calling all Culinary Arts alums, your reunion will be held on **Sunday, October 15th**, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Uxbridge VFW Post #1385, 13 Cross Road. Catch up with classmates and teachers while supporting a good cause. Bring your appetite and a little cash for a chance to win a raffle. Your \$15 admission and all proceeds will support the “Mr. B” Scholarship Fund. Tell your classmates so they too can join the fun. E-mail your questions to Kathleen Manoogian: kmanoogian@valleytech.k12.ma.us

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“It has been an honor to observe Chief Bradley and his department while interning alongside Lieutenant Benjamin, Sergeants Mansfield and Rankins, Detective Bergstrom, SRO Poxon, and O’Connor, and Patrol Officers Eugster, Borozcky, Valdivieso, Nalon, Deiana, Stanley, and Connors.”

“Many police departments devote time to training officers to use communication skills and conversations to de-escalate and diffuse situations,” said Cameron. “I’ve had a few opportunities to safely observe how officers can use their active listening, verbal and non-verbal communication, and negotiation skills as an effective way to approach everyday interactions in the community with peaceful outcomes.”

In a relatively short time, Cameron learned firsthand how dedicated the UPD is to providing quality and professional policing to the community. Through proactive community-based policing programs, strive to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life for all residents while delivering police services in partnership with the community they serve.

Cameron attended a coffee with a cop event at the new Upton Community Center. This event helps facilitate communication between police officers and the people they serve through coffee and conversation. He shared that Detective Bergstrom and Officer Deiana participated in the Upton Library’s “Read around the Town” series, reading books to children, followed by a tour of the police facility.

When we share our stories, our experiences can inspire others. No matter where you are in your journey, as you pursue your goals, let Cameron’s story remind you that no matter where your career path leads, we know where we belong. So stay focused, go after your dreams, and keep moving toward your goals — in hot pursuit!

It’s Easy to Be Green



In this digital world, e-mail communication is a reliable and environmentally friendly way to connect. So, we’re going FULLY GREEN with the Connect! Many of you already receive our Alumni Newsletter via e-mail, and we thank you! For those who received the printed newsletter, it will no longer be mailed to you. Stay connected and go green with us by signing up for e-mail delivery through our Alumni Registry (www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/alumniservices). See you online!

WooSox Bat Boy an 'Overnight Sensation'

After the catch, the Worcester Red Sox shared a message on Twitter about their bat boy snagging a souvenir, and some of Aaron's favorite baseball pundits, Steve Perrault and Jared Carrabis reached out to offer their compliments.

"He's become an overnight sensation," said Mario Oliveira, the WooSox clubhouse manager.

The next morning, Aaron flipped on the TV to watch SportsCenter and caught a replay of his catch on ESPN.

"That's a childhood dream right there, so it was cool to watch that," he said. "It's been one of the coolest moments of my life, honestly, so I don't know how I'll be able to top that."

Earlier this year, Aaron applied to be a clubhouse attendant with the WooSox. When he

heard back from Oliveira, the idea of being a bat boy came to fruition.

"Luckily, I ended up with the job," said Aaron, who plans to study sports broadcasting at Dean College in Franklin.

During every game at Polar Park this season, Aaron helps out with equipment, setting up dugouts and bullpens, and even catches ceremonial first pitches. He's good with a glove, after all.

"It's a dream-come-true type job for me," Aaron said.

The same sentiment can be said about the catch he made atop the Green Monster.

"How crazy can baseball be that the WooSox bat boy ended up with a Red Sox home run?" Aaron said. "Baseball has all of these crazy moments, and this was one of them."

Remembering Old Friends, Classmates, & Teachers...

- Allen B. Coffin – 55, Class of 1984 (*Auto Body*) of Milford, passed away on 11.20.21
- Edward L. Douville – 72, Class of 2070 (*Auto Mechanics*), of Millbury, passed away on 1.4.23
- Ronald L. Knapik – 68, Class of 2073 (*Carpentry*), of South Grafton, passed away on 3.14.23
- Nicole Akstin – 46, Class of 1994 (*Auto Tech*), of Grafton, passed away on 3.28.23
- Linda Lonardo – 60, Class of 1980 (*Graphic Arts*), of Worcester, passed away on 4.8.23
- Joseph Kozlowski – 47, Class of 1993 (*Carpentry*), of Sutton, passed away on 6.7.23
- Paul F. DiBaro Jr. – 36, Class of 2005 (*HVAC&R*) of Millbury, passed away on 6.9.23

Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement

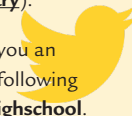
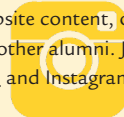
- Raymond Lehner – Science Teacher, 23 years
- Debra Massey – Teacher Assistant-Title I, 23 years
- Michael Swanick – Carpentry Instructor, 16 years
- David Theroux – Maintenance Custodian, 23 years
- Constance Ward – Reading Teacher, 10 years

Connect...



Keeping in touch with your classmates is easier than ever through the Alumni Services section of our website (www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/alumniservices). It's your go-to resource for alumni spotlights (www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/alumnispotlights), information on special alumni events and planning your class reunion, as well as how to sign-up to receive the Connect via e-mail (www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/alumniregistry).

In addition to this newsletter and our robust website content, our social media sites will give you an opportunity to connect and engage with us and other alumni. Join in on the conversation by following us on Twitter: www.twitter.com/BVTHighSchool and Instagram: www.instagram.com/bvt_highschool.



Equal Opportunity

BVT welcomes and is open to all students, offering equal opportunities in all approved programs and courses of study without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, national origin, homelessness, or disability.



Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School
65 Pleasant Street, Upton, MA 01568
508-529-7758
www.valleytech.k12.ma.us

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