# **GOW AT A GLANCE**

### A Monthly News Snapshot from The Gow School



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Online marketplace open from July 17-31.

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### Gow Alumni and Faculty Spotlight



Gow Alumni Spotlight **CHRIS CEREN '08** As a longtime believer in the future of autonomous vehicles, learn more about Chris, his career with Zoox, their fully automated taxis, and why he appreciates Gow.



### Faculty Focus **JASON AND ALEX ROTHFUSS**

As key members of Gow's faculty and residential life program, the Rothfuss' share more about why Gow is a meaningful place to work and raise their growing family.

## **SAVE DATE**

June 30-August 3	Gow School Summer Program
September 2	Gow School Year Begins
September 20	Grandparents' Day
October 11-12	Fall Parents' Weekend
October 12-20	Fall Break
April 25-26	Spring Crimson & Navy Weekend

GOW SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE My favorite things about GSSP...

### Afternoon Activities! I love going down to the creek to find all the creepy crawlies!

Oscar, 11 yrs old 2nd year at GSSP Tampa, FL



Meeting new people from all over the world and playing Gaga Ball.

Penny, 12 yrs old 6th year at GSSP Buffalo, NY



Trips! I love the weekend trips, especially last year's Niagara Falls trip.

Lachlan, 11 yrs old 3rd year at GSSP Aspen, CO

## Teachers are nice and this is somewhere that people understand you.

Timmy, 10 years old 2nd year at GSSP Buffalo, NY



This is my third day here and my classes have taught me so much already!

> Zoey, 12 yrs old 1st year at GSSP Mooresville, NC

Making new friends and enjoying evening activities with them.

> Emma, 13 yrs old 1st year at GSSP Tampa, FL

## For Jason and Alex Rothfuss, the

**Faculty Spotlight:** 



For Jason and Alex Rothfuss, the essence of campus life is Gow's tightknit community. "Campus life is very family-oriented, which is one of the great things about Gow. For students living away from home, being around faculty families and pets helps provide a stronger sense of community for all," said Jason.

Jason and Alex Rothfuss moved to Gow ten years ago when Jason began his career as a middle school science teacher. He now teaches lower school math and 6th and 7th grade science and serves as a dormitory parent and fitness coach. Alex, who stayed home to raise their three children, recently started working as an Admissions Counselor for the Gow School Summer Program (GSSP). "Working in Admissions, I can tell families firsthand about life on campus and in the dorms. It's rewarding to introduce Gow to potential students and to help them understand how they learn," said Alex.

Over the past decade, the Rothfuss family has grown to include Levi, 9, Caledon, 6, and Piper, 5, with a fourth child due in late July. Jason values the unique experience of raising his children on campus. "We often find students wanting to join us for a meal or knocking on our door to request a homemade peanut butter and jelly sandwich. We always give them that PB&J to help them feel at home," Jason shared.

Jason and Alex also appreciate Gow's setting and all it offers. As a family, they are often seen walking on campus and exploring the creek. Both Alex and Jason love rock climbing and Jason also enjoys cycling the hills around Gow.

"We are truly grateful to be part of Gow," said Alex. "With small classes and individualized attention, Gow gives students the tools to succeed and helps them understand that there are many others who learn just as they do."





Pictured: Jason with Max '28; the Rothfuss children; Jason and Alex

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CHRIS CEREN '08

### Using Gow skills to help make autonomous vehicles a reality

For alumnus Chris Ceren '08, Gow provided the foundation and skills he uses every day. "From learning how to research and write papers to the advanced technology in Robotics class, Gow uniquely prepared me for life and a career in autonomous vehicles. I learned to manage people as a Gow School Summer Program (GSSP) counselor and as a Resident Assistant for two years," he said. A graduate of Roanoke College, Chris attended Gow for four years, worked as a faculty member for one year, and at GSSP. He and his wife, Marycruz, live in the Bay Area with their two daughters, Miranda and Mariana.



**ZOOX Turbotaxi** 



Chris works as a shop foreman for Zoox, an autonomous vehicle (AV) company owned by Amazon and based in Foster City, CA. Chris oversees a team of six vehicle technicians who deploy test vehicles across the San Francisco Bay area, including the Zoox Robotaxi which seats up to four people and can drive in multiple directions. Chris believes autonomous vehicles have a promising future. "As cars get more expensive and traffic increases, it means more hours behind the wheel and AV may offer a solution. In addition to San Francisco, we just launched testing in Miami and Austin. My hope is that one day we can make it to Buffalo, once we figure out how to operate in the snow," Chris said.



Chris moved to San Francisco ten years ago to work for Tesla. Previously, he worked in Michigan for Toyota in crash testing and for East Aurora-based Moog. "While working as a teacher at Gow and overseeing the Robotics program, I was proud to partner with Moog and learn from their engineers who helped our students design and build their robots."

Currently working on the frontlines of AI, Chris is excited about autonomous vehicles and what it can mean for Govians. His advice is "Get comfortable with AI. It will be a big part of everyone's life, and learning how to utilize it will be crucial to your future success. I thank Gow for giving me the confidence and skills to work in this dynamic field." *Pictured: Chris and his wife, Marycruz, and their daughter; and Chris and Darren Preston '07 at a San Francisco Alumni Event* 



# THE WOLBACH LEGACY SOCIETY Planned Giving at Gow

Including Gow in your estate will help you, your heirs, and our school.

### WHAT IS PLANNED GIVING?

A Planned Gift is a charitable plan that offers tax benefits for you and your heirs. Creating a Planned Gift provides the comfort of knowing that your favorite people and charities are supported in perpetuity.

### THERE ARE SEVERAL EASY WAYS TO CREATE A PLANNED GIFT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

### INCLUDE GOW IN YOUR WILL

Commit a set amount or percentage of your estate to Gow by including a few sentences in your will. This agreement can be changed at any time.

CREATE A NAMED ENDOWMENT FUND Donate \$50,000 over five years to create a fund to support a favorite project or department in perpetuity.

### DONATE APPRECIATED STOCK This allows you to receive a charitable donation for the full stock value and avoid paying capital gains taxes.

DONATE FROM YOUR INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT (IRA) If you are 70 1/2 and take required minimum distributions (RMD), donate your RMD directly to Gow.

### MAKE GOW A BENEFICIARY OF YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN

We would love to talk with you about giving to Gow! For more information, please contact the Development Office 716-687-2075 or development@gow.org. To determine which donation type is best for you, please contact your tax professional.

### **Gow Summer Apparel Sale** Online Store Open from July 17 - July 31

TO ORDER:

Gow Alumni News

 Scan the QR code or go online to <u>https://thegowschoolapparelsale2024.itemorder.com/</u>
 Add items to your cart and securely check out with your credit card ONLINE STORE ENDS WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024 (11:59 P.M. EDT)



Items available in men's and women's sizes \* Orders shipped to Gow or home \* Allow 4-6 weeks for processing and shipment \* All sales are final \* No refunds or exchanges



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**#1 - Mike Cunningham '63** lives in Evergreen, CO where he and his wife enjoy retirement and travel; **#2 - Tom Haydock '80** and his wife live in Traverse City, MI and Hookset, NH. Tom recently had breakfast with Gayle Hutton, Director of Development, and Todd Avis, Gow's Interim Director of Enrollement Management; **#3 - Jason Brown '91** lives in Denver installing home audio visual systems. **#4 - Mike Bergin '03** and his girlfriend recently visited Gow. Mike is a welder who lives in the Chicago suburbs and travels the country as a wireline operator in the oil industry. **#5 - Dan Smalheiser '05** and his wife live in Seattle.

#6 - Steven Greve '08 is engaged to Alexandra. He lives in Princeton, NJ and is an Engineer. **#7** - Tyler Bishoff '11 and his girlfriend recently moved to Buffalo where she is getting her PhD. Tyler graduated with his Masters in art from RIT. (Pictured with Mark Szafnicki, Gow Faculty and Director of Athletics); # 8 - Alumni are back to work as counselors at The Gow Summer Program (GSSP) Jaheim Johnson '21, Mychal Liriano '20 (teaching videography), Daric Frech '22, Kyle Suriner '15, and Marc Burris '23; #9 - Jake Podyma '12 is getting his MBA at Canisius University. (Pictured with his girlfriend). #10 - Megan Young '21 and Lindsay Denning '20 attended the Luke Combs Concert at Ralph Wilson Stadium in April. Megan is working at a school and Lindsay is an aide at a retirement home. #11 - Jack Buckley '20 graduated from Goucher College in May with a degree in Political Science. He participated in Student Government and was captain of the swim team. Congratulations Jack! **#12** - Seth Fisch '23 and his family attended a BattleBots show in Las Vegas. Trey Roski '84 and John Remar '86, the show's creater and VP, arranged for Seth to meet the show's host (pictured); #13 -Dave Mendlewski (Former Faculty/Staff) is Head of the Briarwood School in Houston. His two children are counselors in The Gow Summer Program; and **#14 - Joe Siebert (**former faculty) and his wife, Amy, live in East Aurora.









**FONDLY REMEMBERED: Dorothy "Dot" Wilkes (Librarian)** passed away April 23 in East Aurora. Dot worked at Gow as a librarian for twenty years.









