



eyes wide open

THE SPRINGMONT NEWSLETTER - ALUMNI EDITION
Summer 2019

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Reflections on My First Year by Jon Alden

It's hard to believe I have been at the helm of Springmont for a year. The administrative staff surprised me with lunch on July 2nd to mark the occasion; it was a moment to pause and realize - time really does fly!

Looking back on my first year brings a smile to my face as I reflect on all the experiences and events I enjoyed for the first time. My first trip to the Landschool with the Middle School, Opening Night, Montessori Mile, International Night, Field Day and Graduation each made an indelible memory and has informed how I view the Springmont community. While each of these milestone events was important in shaping my understanding of the school's culture, I was also moved profoundly by the testimony about the Springmont experience I heard at the Alumni Panel last winter.

As each alum spoke, I realized that the Springmont experiences they described as formative were exactly the kind of education I hoped to provide to Springmont students under my direction. I believe that education must foster a partnership among the community, parents, students and educators. It is our shared responsibility to prepare lifelong learners, who will become self-disciplined, creative and confident individuals. Education should also build the foundations for integrity and a positive attitude while empowering students to achieve academic success. I look at every student as an individual, eager to gain knowledge and to be successful. All children have talents, and schools hold the responsibility for creating an atmosphere where they can excel.

I hope to cultivate an educational environment at Springmont where questions are asked and answers are challenged, and where challenge becomes the driving force for a deeper understanding of ourselves and our peers. By placing a high value on a holistic, experiential approach to education, all aspects of a student's life, from the intellectual to the social and emotional, are impacted. I strive to build a community of educators committed to discerning and fostering the development of the artist, the athlete, the philosopher, the naturalist, and the scholar in each student.

Most of all, I hope to support an atmosphere in which student and educator both benefit from the repeated interchange of question and response, introspection and resolution, risk and reward, and interaction beyond the classroom. This approach and the tools it provides produce well-educated young people who possess a sense of confidence and self-worth. It also provides me with the satisfaction of knowing I have helped to prepare a young person for success in high school and in life beyond formal academics.

I look forward to the start of my second school year at Springmont and to continuing to build this vision for the school. I hope you will visit us this year to see our work and share your insights on your Springmont experience.



Congratulations Springmont Graduating Class of 2019!

On May 24th, we welcomed nine new graduates to the Springmont Alumni Association. Each is a remarkable testament to a Springmont education - confident, informed, determined, socially conscious, collaborative and resourceful. These students are ready to chart their own courses, lead purposeful lives, and contribute to the world. Here's a look at where they are off to next year:

Nikki Collins will attend the Campbell High School IB program.

Nico Lamps looks forward to attending the Campbell High School IB program.

Happy Leveson-Jones will attend the Math/Science Magnet Program at North Springs Charter High School.

Riley MacDonald will attend high school at The Galloway School.

Sanaa Marshall will be a freshman at Chamblee Charter High School.

Brody Rohm will attend high school at The Paideia School.

Lydia Schouest will attend Mount Vernon Presbyterian's high school.

Ellie Tinley will attend high school at Atlanta Girls' School.

Azaan Wells looks forward to attending Walton High School.



As Seen on Instagram

Thanks to social media, we can keep up with our alumni! Here are some recent highlights!



Liked by annawrites10 and 177 others

annajhubert super excited to get the next four years rolling at tulane!



Liked by abstractadventurist and 89 others

jmuse2 The merriest of christmases #cleomuse



Liked by annawrites10 and 146 others

thedeersays We're 20 years old today. And everything is going great!



Liked by the_other_chris_devinney and 36 others

chrispcone 26 years ago after a long, anticipated day this cool, photogenic guy entered my life... more



Liked by rosarojas59 and 118 others

ellietinley bye.



New Zealand



Liked by thedeersays and 210 others

kateeverly done with the pacific program but not the pacific! Had an amazing time back in the Nelson region for a week kayaking and hiking with an awesome travel buddy @duco.vdb!



Liked by the_other_chris_devinney and 92 others

rosarojas59 Victoria's High School Graduation



Liked by courtneybass and 270 others

erin_jemmon thanks bt for all of the memories,, so thankful to have these gals by my side for the past 4 years



Liked by rosarojas59 and 18 others

tahmidam Parker scoring 18th goal of high school soccer season. School record was 15. 🙌

Spotlight on Springmont Class of 2015!

In May 2015, Springmont graduated nineteen 8th years from the Middle School program. They've since graduated high school and are off on new adventures. Here's a look at where they have been and where they are going.

Henry Adams graduated from Walton High School. Henry, let us know what's next for you!

Caitlin Bargouti graduated from Johns Creek High School and will begin at Georgia Tech this fall where she plans to study Computer Science.

Courtney Bass attended Sequoyah High School and will become a Volunteer this fall, attending the University of Tennessee.

Emma Bulhuis attended Blessed Trinity Catholic High School and will join the University of South Carolina in the fall.

Cameron Collins graduated from Campbell High School and looks forward to attending Georgia Tech.

Aleigha Ellis attended high school at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School and will join College of Coastal Georgia in the fall.

Sidney Hall completed high school at Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School and plans to study Nuclear Engineering at the United States Naval Academy next year.

Grant Hollosi graduated from Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School and will become a Yellow Jacket at Georgia Tech.

Anna Hubert attended The Galloway School and will proudly join Tulane University in the fall.

Bryce Jones graduated from Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School and will attend Brown University next year.

Erin Katz attended The Walker School. Erin, let us know what next year has in store for you!

Erin Lemmon completed high school at Blessed Trinity Catholic High School and will become a Wildcat in August at the University of Kentucky.

Brandon Morgan spent four years at Walton High School and will go on to serve in the U.S. Military next year.

Colm Pelletier attended Pace Academy and will join the University of Auburn as a Tiger this year.

Jillian Read attended The Galloway School and will matriculate to the the University of South Carolina.

Ryan Restifo graduated from The Galloway School and will go on to run track for Wake Forest University.

Victoria Rojas joined Holy Innocents' Episcopal School after graduating from Springmont and will attend the University of Colorado next year.

Elizabeth Sims completed Walton High School's STEM program and will move on to Rice University in August.

Nick Stacholy attended Dunwoody High School. Nick, what adventures are next for you?

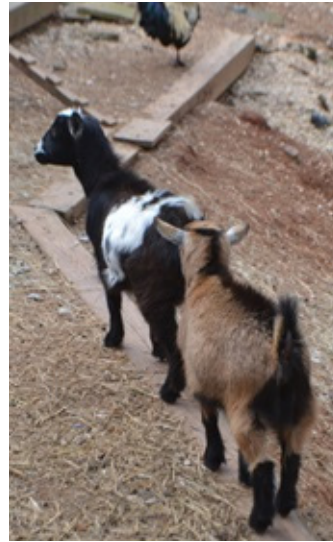
Melody Zadeh graduated Walton High School's STEM program and will join the UGA Honors Program next year.



What's new at Springmont



Students welcomed Pepper and Pickles! Often described as the puppies of the goat world, these two adorable Nigerian Dwarf goats came to us from a farm in South Georgia. Pepper is a black and white female, and Pickles is a tan, blue-eyed female.



Welcome to our two newest trustees Leandro Santos (top) and Hamilton Williams (bottom)!

Springmont was the lucky recipient of a grant from The Bee Cause Project. With any luck, Springmont will harvest some of our very own honey.



Congratulations to Lydia, Thomas and Zoe whose "Terminus" placed third out of 34 entries in the "Powering Our Future"-themed Future City Competition! Springmont was well represented, sending 5 teams to this statewide middle school STEM event focused on engineering.



Springmont's Robotics Team, the Springbots, did an amazing job at the G3 Drones for Good competition held at Grady High School. Their drone flew really well, scoring 17 points, and the students' creative problem-solving project, a hypothetical fleet of drones that could help lead people to food, shelter and medical care after a natural disaster, won 1st prize! The judges were so impressed they encouraged our students to start a business.



Springmont was honored to have three students chosen as State of Georgia River of Words art winners - Jaynanth Gupta and Gabe Wolfersberger were Art Winners and Marina Santos won the Dragonfly Award. Pictured here are Jayanth (left) and Marina's (right) artworks.



Spotlight on Springmont Class of 2011!

Eight years ago, seven students became Springmont alumni. Since then they have graduated high school and many graduated college this spring!

Jack Hrinko attended Newnan High School after Springmont and graduated this May from Florida State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminology.

Dean Papastrat graduated from Pace Academy in 2015. Since leaving Pace he has attended Georgia Tech and is currently living in Seattle where he works as a Software Development Engineer.

Evan Strickland attended The Galloway School and graduated in May with a degree in Business Administration from Elon University. He currently works for Insight Global in Atlanta.

Kyle Strickland also attended The Galloway School. After graduation, he attended Furman University where he graduated in May with a double major in Business Administration and Politics & International Affairs. He has accepted a job at Morgan Stanley in Atlanta.

Kelsie Thomas completed high school at Lassiter High School and went on to Georgia Institute of Technology where she graduated in May with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Design and a Minor in Korean Language & Culture with Highest Honors.

Zach Tolchin attended The Paideia School following Springmont and graduated in May from University of Georgia. He is pursuing his doctorate in Chemistry at University of Florida.

Daniel Vukotic graduated high school at Holy Innocents Episcopal School in 2015 and this spring earned his degree from the University of Georgia Terry School of Business with degrees in Real Estate and Risk Management & Insurance.



The Next 20 Years

As a part of Springmont's wish to always grow and improve, the Board of Trustees has engaged Chapman Coyle Chapman Architects to explore the possibilities of expanding the school's facilities on our existing seven acres. After meeting with parents, faculty and staff to explore the cumulative vision for how we may expand to serve more children and support the mission and values that make Springmont so special, the architects created the rendering below.

The plans are still a work in progress as leadership navigates Sandy Springs' ordinances and strategizes how to make these dreams a reality, but we couldn't help sharing the early stages of planning with our alumni who have made the school what it is today.

We look forward to keeping you apprised as things develop. If you are interested in learning more, please feel free to contact Lauren Stevenson at l Stevenson@springmont.com.



#SpringmontTBT

