



# eyes wide open

THE SPRINGMONT NEWSLETTER - ALUMNI EDITION - JULY 2017

**Springmont**  
CURIOSITY. MASTERY.  
WISDOM. DISTINCTION.

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Dear Springmont Community,

We are ready for what is sure to be a stellar 2017/18 school year – one that will continue to offer the meaningful discoveries and experiences on which our legacy is built, and one that will bring the benefits of long-time as well as fresh talent to the classrooms. It will also be my last year as Head of School, a position I have been honored to hold during 10 of the most exciting years of the school's history. As the school prepares for the next strategic plan, this is an excellent time to pass the torch of opportunity to the next school leader.

Springmont enjoys a strong faculty, teaching staff and administration with whom it has been a privilege to partner in building new programs, services and classrooms for our students. It has been a joy to witness children warm to school and families spend time together exploring the variety of learning opportunities through our beautiful gardens and exciting animal life on campus. It has been rewarding to hear our students say they love school and to witness their academic successes here and in their next school. We've done great work together and impacted many young lives. It has been a pleasure to build a relationship with so many of you.

Thank you for your support; for sharing with me when my speeches provided you the confidence and refuge you needed. Thank you for affording me the long answer when there were no shortcuts to perspective and context. Thank you for your many volunteer hours to support the efforts of the school. Thank you for the crucial conversations to clear away any question of mission or purpose. Thank you for the many notes of acknowledgement that I'm honored to hang alongside children's drawings, letters and poetry on my office door; all of which are the true rewards for any of us in the field of education.

My engagement in the best interests of Springmont and our students will not waiver in the coming year. An excellent team has come together for the transition, and their leadership toward the next phase in the life of Springmont has already begun. The Board has solid plans for securing the next Head of School. My team and I will be working diligently to ensure a smooth transition for the next Springmont leader, providing him or her the opportunity to begin the next 10 years in a position of strength! I encourage you to get involved in the selection process – the right successor will be poised to do great things at Springmont, and your legacy here is worth it!

Jerri King  
Head of School



"Free the child's potential,  
and you will transform  
him to the world."

- Maria Montessori

## Curiosity. Mastery. Wisdom. Distinction.

What's the Springmont distinction? That's the question we asked ourselves when coming up with the school's new tagline. There is a great scene in *Everybody Loves Raymond* where mom goes to talk to the math teacher about how her Elementary-age daughter feels about math. The teacher tells mom he doesn't care about those things; he cares only that his students know math. This scene is the antithesis of the distinctive Springmont approach, where knowledge and the human experience intersect.

Our highest aspiration for our students is to know things – a vast number of things which they use to become wise - and lead fulfilled lives. How is that done? Curiosity. Mastery. Wisdom. Distinction.

Social psychologist Peter Benson identified this distinction as human thriving – it is different from management and control of children, test scores, safety, physical health or athletic rank. Benson spent his life studying the vocabulary of human thriving - fulfillment, joy, kindness, generosity, passion, in love with life, contributor to society, compassion. We see these qualities demonstrated in our alumni, and our parent community does too.

Recently, a parent shared that meeting our impressive alumni when her son was in Primary helped her to “trust in the process”. Today he is thriving as an Upper Elementary student.

Benson determined that human thriving requires knowing one's affinity, having three champions and opportunity. Of those researched, 100% understood spark and 66% could identify their spark, but less than half of those had champions and opportunity. This included the smart kids who knew things. This included the kids in great schools. This left 75% of those studied NOT on the path to human thriving. Academics alone is not distinctive.

So, students must know stuff to be prepared for their future, and there's a lot of knowing and understanding going on at Springmont, but our students also love school, thrive and find success because we know innovation comes from the inside. Human thriving comes from the inside. Developing and discovering the spark happens in childhood. Distinction occurs at the intersection of content mastery and the spark, unique to each student. Nurturing both, as one informs the other, creates a distinctive student, easily identified in a crowd. Those distinctive students grow into remarkable alumni and those alumni are going on to change the world.



## Alumnus Voted onto the Springmont Board of Trustees

Andrew Winkelmann (Springmont student from 1994 - 2005) is among the newest members of the Springmont Board of Trustees. Andrew is earning his Bachelors in Business Administration while working full-time as the Purchasing Supervisor at Diaz Foods. Andrew also serves on the Board of the Sandy Springs Mission, has assisted YPL United Way of Greater Atlanta with their marketing efforts and served as the Alumni Association President for Springmont for several years. He credits his Springmont education with his abiding love for learning and his desire to lead. When not working and volunteering Andrew enjoys traveling (especially to the beach), yoga and meditation, riding his motorcycle, taking road trips, listening to music (on vinyl), workout out, reading books and playing poker. We are excited to have Andrew on “board”.



*Follow us on Instagram at SpringmontAlumni*



## Springmont Alumni selected for 2017 20 Under 20

Samantha Dyer and Katie Pleiss, Springmont alumni and 2017 Galloway graduates, were selected as honorees of Atlanta INtown's ninth annual 20 Under 20 for 2017. Public and private schools, service organizations and the general public were asked to nominate students who have been active volunteers in their communities. Samantha, Katie and their classmate Hanna are the founders and leaders of Galloway's chapter of Girl Talk, a student-to-student mentoring program where high school girls mentor middle school girls. Samantha said a moment at this past year's holiday party made her realize the importance of the organization: "We had a lip sync battle, and it was amazing to see the girls step out of their comfort zones and be truly comfortable and carefree. They soon begin to realize that Girl Talk is a safe space of trust, friendship, and unconditional support, and watching this happen makes all of the dedication and commitment worth it." Katie, who also founded the nonprofit Lead to Learn, where high school girls tutor middle school girls, says: "Since starting our chapter, I have seen girls learn how to become their best selves, and I hope to continue to impact women around me through encouragement and support." Samantha and Katie also founded Springmont's Girl Talk club and were selected from a record number of nominees!



## Alumni News

Kristin Ihns won the 2016 Black Warrior Review Award for Poetry - read more at <http://bwr.ua.edu/2016-contest-an-interview-with-poetry-winner-kirsten-ihns/>

Lane Cannon was selected to participate in this year's prestigious Georgia Governor's Honors Program (GHP).

Clayton Sinclair received the 9th Grade Excellence in Citizenship Award at The Galloway School.

Matt Fumo received the 11th Grade Excellence in Citizenship Award at The Galloway School.

Ryan Restifo was named a Scholar Athlete at The Galloway School.

Jake Pitts received the Shuler Award for Technical Execution of The Little Shop of Horrors at Walton High School.

Derrick Bass is starring as Moonface Martin in the Southeastern Summer Theatre Institute's Production of Anything Goes.

Congratulations to Nick Hines who married Dominique Grasty on July 2nd!

Katherine Maxwell presented her film "Through the Eyes of My Meal" at the Smashworks Film Festival in May. The film made its online premiere in the spring of 2016 and has since received a Vimeo Staff Pick, Critics Choice on Nowness.com and has screened at 10 festivals internationally.



Sierra Tokanel graduated from the Global Studies program at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Send us your exciting news to share in the next issue! Email Lauren Stevenson at [l Stevenson@springmont.com](mailto:l Stevenson@springmont.com).

# Alumni Stories

Springmont's former Alumni Association President and newest Trustee, Andrew Winkelmann, said it best; "Leadership values and a sense of communal purpose are characteristics that each and every alumni takes with them to share with new communities, hopefully spreading a little of the spirit that makes Springmont so special." Sharing your stories with our current families helps us articulate the Springmont difference. Share your story with us!

## Catch up with Shawdon Zadeh

Shawdon attended Springmont for 10 years, beginning in the All Day Primary class and graduating from our Middle School in 2010. At Walton High School, he was heavily involved in the school's orchestra program and a member of the Varsity Soccer team. Today he is a rising senior at Washington University in St. Louis where he is studying Finance and Economics. One of the things Shawdon most cherishes about his time at Springmont is the love of learning his teachers instilled in him. He says that Springmont's "positive approach to learning provided [him] with the tools to think independently and a propensity to never stop asking questions." Another of the values Springmont instilled in him is the importance of giving back to one's community. Shawdon

used this passion to found an organization called Consult Your Community which advises struggling small businesses in St. Louis. He looks forward to graduating in 2018 and beginning his finance career at General Electric, focusing on renewable energy.



## Catch up with Kate Newman

Kate graduated in 2004, attended Holy Innocents', and then studied English and Theology at Georgetown University. After graduation, she started her career in communications at a tech PR firm in San Francisco. She now works at the firm's content agency, Original9 Media, in New York where she writes, edits and manages digital media projects for brands. In her spare time, she co-writes a newsletter spotlighting successful women, "The Broadcast Biweekly," and volunteers in urban beekeeping.

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## New Co Chairs for Springmont Alumni Committee

We are excited to announce that Clarissa Espina (Springmont student 1996 - 2001) and CJ Turner (Springmont student 1996 - 2006) will now lead the efforts of the Springmont Alumni Committee!

Clarissa attended Holy Spirit and went on to the University of Georgia where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. While earning her degree, Clarissa was a volunteer at St. Mary's Hospital in Athens and Good Samaritan Health Center. She was also a student representative in the UGA Health Center group Healthy Dawg Ambassadors. Upon graduation, she started working at Wellstar and earned her Master's degree in Healthcare Administration at Georgia State. Clarissa is currently working at Wellstar as an office supervisor.

CJ graduated from The Paideia School and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Management Science & Engineering and a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and German Studies from Stanford University. CJ is currently a Consultant at Oliver Wyman in San Francisco but will soon relocate to Dallas, Texas with his company.

Clarissa and CJ will work with Director of Development & Alumni Relations, Lauren Stevenson, to engage (and re-engage) Springmont Alumni in the life of the school. If you are interested in joining them on the Committee please contact Lauren Stevenson at [l Stevenson@springmont.com](mailto:l Stevenson@springmont.com).



## Spotlight on...

### 8th Grade Graduating Class of 2017

Welcome to the alumni club, Class of 2017! On May 26th, Springmont graduated ten impressive students who will take their Springmont experiences out into the world. Here's a closer look at the graduates:



Max Erdmann looks forward to attending the International Spanish Academy at Walton High School.  
Catherine Friedline will attend Blessed Trinity Catholic High School.  
Robert Gordon looks forward to choosing a high school where he can continue his pursuit of a baseball career.  
Parker Hollosi will attend Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School.  
Sunny Leveson-Jones will attend the Math and Science Magnet Program at North Springs Charter High School.  
Mary Pleiss will attend The Galloway School.  
Madeleine Rojas will attend Holy Innocents' Episcopal School.  
Zachary Vogel plans to attend the Fulton Science Academy.  
Nicole Walker will attend Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School.  
Adem Wijewickrema is excited to attend the Atlanta International School.

## Good luck Class of 2017!





## Spotlight on...

### 8th Grade Graduating Class of 2013

The ten students who made up the 8th Grade Graduating Class of 2013 are off on exciting new adventures. Here's a look at where they've been and where they are off to next:

Derrick Bass graduated from The Galloway School and will matriculate to Western Carolina University in the fall where he will study for his BFA in Theatre with a concentration in Musical Theatre.

Samantha Dyer graduated from The Galloway School and will attend Clemson University in the fall.

Kate Everly graduated from North Atlanta High School and will attend Georgia Tech this fall to study biology.

Summer King graduated from The Galloway School and will attend Georgia State University next year.

Rachel Newman graduated from Walton High School and started at Georgia College this summer. She plans to study Education and Sociology in the hopes of becoming a teacher one day.

Jake Pitts graduated from Walton High School and is planning to attend Kennesaw State University in the fall to study Set Design and Stage Management.

Katie Pleiss graduated from The Galloway School and will attend Emory at Oxford University this fall.

Chandler Ross, please let us know what this next chapter holds for you!

Amy Soba graduated from The Galloway School and looks forward to attending Dickinson College in the fall.

Sara Soba graduated from The Galloway school and will attend Dickinson College in the fall. She plans to study Environmental Science or enroll in the pre-Engineering Program.



## Spotlight on...

### 8th Grade Graduating Class of 2009

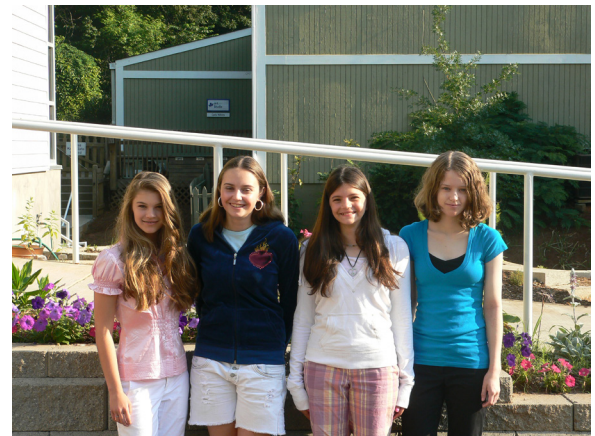
Eight years ago, four young women graduated from the 8th Grade Class. Now they are off making their marks on the world!

Natalie Camrud graduated in May with a Bachelor's Degree in Sustainability from Scripps College in California. (Stewardship of the environment at work!)

Rebecca Knowlton graduated from Trinity University with a degree in Mathematics and will be starting soon as a Pricing Analyst at USAA in San Antonio.

Serina Stacholy, please send us an update!

Olivia Stallings graduated from the University of Georgia, magna cum laude, with a double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice.



## We Need You!

Our alumni are the best examples of the value of a Springmont education! Help our current parents understand the value of a Montessori education by coming out to one of our school events and sharing your story. Please contact Lauren Stevenson, Director of Development & Alumni Relations, at [l Stevenson@springmont.com](mailto:l Stevenson@springmont.com) if you can attend any of the following events!

Tuesday, August 8th at 9:00 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. - New Parent Orientation (alumni college age and older)

\*Thursday, August 17th at 6:00 p.m. - Opening Night (alumni college age and older)

Friday, September 1st at 8:45 a.m. - First Hand Knowledge (alumni high school age and older)

Friday, September 15th and Friday, September 22nd at 8:45 a.m. - Primary Class Coffees with the Head of School (alumni high school age and older)

\*Thursday, September 21st at 6:30 p.m. - Schoolwide Parent Education (alumni college age and older)

Tuesday, September 26th at 8:45 a.m. - Muffins for Moms (alumni college age and older)

Friday, October 6th at 8:45 a.m. - Head of School Round Table/Mini Panel (alumni high school age and older)

Tuesday, October 17th at 8:45 a.m. - Donuts for Dads (alumni college age and older)

Friday, October 27th at 2:30 p.m. - Lower Elementary Musical (alumni with connection to performing arts)

Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 p.m. - Meet & Greet with Lower Elementary Teachers (alumni high school age and older)

Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m. - Meet & Greet with Upper Elementary Teachers (alumni college age and older)

Tuesday, November 28th at 6:30 p.m. - Meet & Greet with Primary Teachers (alumni college age and older)

Thursday, November 30th at 6:30 p.m. - Meet & Greet with Middle School Teachers (alumni senior in high school and older)

\*Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 p.m. - Q&A: Get to Know Our Alumni

\*Tuesday, January 16th at 6:30 p.m. - Parent Education with Special Guest Speaker (alumni high school age and older)

Friday, February 2nd at 8:30 a.m. - First Hand Knowledge (alumni college age and older)

Thursday, February 15th at 6:30 p.m. - Middle School Performance (alumni with connection to performing arts)

Friday May 11th at 8:30 a.m. - Grandparents Day (alumni 20 and over)

Friday May 11th at 6:30 p.m. - Upper Elementary Musical (alumni with connection to performing arts)

\* indicates priority event

## Save the Date!

The 2017 Springmont Festival & Montessori Mile are scheduled for Saturday, October 14th. Alumni will receive free race registration, and the Alumni Committee is currently reviewing options for event day celebrations. Check back on our social media feed at SpringmontAlumni on Instagram and Springmont Alumni Association on Facebook for information as it becomes available.





# What's New?

Springmont is always working to enhance the curriculum and school experience for our students. Here are just a few highlights. Come visit us to see the incredible changes we've made!

Technology and Computer Science are a priority for Elementary and Middle School. Hardware has already been increased in Upper Elementary and the Arts. The Computer Science scope for Elementary and Middle School is being expanded in classrooms as well as art and music.

2016-17 was the first school year with a dedicated Outdoor Education Specialist, and it shows on campus. Our animal menagerie has grown to include a new turkey, Franklin, a rabbit, Oscar, and several baby chicks. The edible garden is in bloom thanks to the Garden Party enrichment class and a grant from the Whole Kids Foundation. Landschool activities now include canoeing and fishing, and the students planted an orchard they can tend to and eat from over the coming years.

Phase I of the playground rejuvenation is underway. The concept, Chutes & Ladders, lays out a plan that takes advantage of the natural changes in elevation on our property, providing a series of slides and climbing features as well as other kinetic equipment plus space for imaginative, creative play and quiet time.

The Running Club has been an attractive Enrichment opportunity for several years, and last year Springmont introduced Swim Club. The community enthusiastically responded, asking for more athletics for our older students. The new Physical Education Teacher joining us for 2017-18 will offer 6th – 8th year students the opportunity to participate in a school sports league for basketball and volleyball.

In February 2017, Springmont welcomed Dr. Rob Evans, clinical and organizational psychologist and Executive Director of The Human Relations Service in Wellesley, Massachusetts, to campus to speak with Springmont parents. With lively wit and plain talk, Dr. Evans outlined the key dilemmas parents face as they raise children today and offered concrete suggestions for coping and successful parenting. The event was a big success and administration is working on a Leadership Speaker series for Upper Elementary and Middle School students and parents for 2017-18.

