

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## Dario Zagar, Class of '86

Teachers remember Dario as a likable, well rounded, gifted student. Mrs. Close recalls him as a great math student who instantly grasped new math material. He and his wife Carrie and their two year old daughter Julia live in Fairfield, CT, where he practices at Associated Neurologists of Southern Connecticut. Dario has remained close friends with Mike May '86 and stays in touch with Chris Heinz '87.

Below are Dario's responses to our questions about his life after attending PBDA.

*What are some of your fondest memories of PBDA?*

Since I attended Palm Beach Day from second through ninth grade, I have too many fond memories to list! I remember my first crush on my second grade teacher, Ms. Daves (Mrs. Kettler, at the time). Field trips to the beach. Being wowed by a production of The Hobbit—Peter Jackson's computer effects still can't match my memory of Gandalf holding a big cane with a glow stick stuck on top! Going on a trip to see a Space Shuttle launch, hosted by Mr. Sarko. Mischief and shenanigans with my buddies Mike May and Aaron Mett. I remember what characters so many of my teachers were, and how much they taught and influenced me.

*After leaving PB Day what schools did you attend to continue your education?*

I went to Pine Crest after graduating from PBDA, and then on to Columbia College for undergraduate studies. I went to medical school at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, and then back to Columbia for residency and fellowship training in clinical electrophysiology and neuromuscular disease.

*When did you know that you wanted to be a doctor and why?*

I became interested in neurology when I took my first psychology classes in college. While I had originally intended to study in the arts, specifically architecture, my interest in psychology took me in

a different direction. What I found fascinating was learning about what makes people behave the way they do, and more specifically about neurobiology and how our brains work. Learning about the many things that can go wrong with the brain helps understand what makes us human. Even though I was interested enough to complete the pre-med classes, by the time I graduated I felt burnt out and not ready to make the commitment to go to medical school. I did a couple of years of research, first in a psychology rat lab, where I



Dario and Carrie and their daughter Julia

realized: 1.) I am allergic to rats, and 2.) I much prefer working with people than rodents! I managed to become a research assistant for a community study on aging, and then another on stroke. I really enjoyed interviewing patients, talking to them, and learning about them as people, not just as sick people. This experience helped me decide that I was not only interested in the subject matter, but that I really wanted to be a doctor.

*What is a neurologist?*

A neurologist is a physician that deals with illnesses involving any part of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, nerves, and muscles. Practically speaking, that includes anything from migraine headaches to more serious conditions such as stroke, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson's disease. It is always amazing to me the variety of strange and fascinating disorders we get to see on a regular basis. Patients in

neurology, probably more than in any other medical specialty, present a puzzle that we try to solve through taking a history and performing a detailed physical examination. Sure, there are high tech studies we use as well, but we are one of the last specialties where examining the patient can answer questions in ways that no other test can.

*Other than the usual "stay in school" admonishment, what real-world advice would you give to our students?*

Expose yourself to everything, not just the things you are interested in at a given time, both in school and out. Being at a school like Columbia, which has a strong "core curriculum" of mandatory fields of study, allowed me to learn about things I may not have otherwise. I took psychology as a core class, but my life could have been completely different if I had focused only on what I thought I wanted to study. Also, get a job! Working lame summer jobs during high school taught me to appreciate the value of money earned, and also made me realize what I did not want to do with my life; working for a couple of years after college made me ready to make the jump into medical school, and helped me appreciate the classroom atmosphere.

*Looking back over your years at PB Day, what do you think were the most valuable aspects of our school?*

For me, Palm Beach Day was an academically rigorous school that, most importantly, taught me how to learn. In hindsight, I am impressed by the high expectations the teachers had for us, with assignments that were far more advanced than those other kids our age were doing. They could be tough, and made us push ourselves to accomplish more than we thought we could. As a neurologist, I can now understand why I still vividly recall grammar from Mr. Greco's oral quizzes—he already knew the adrenaline produced by being terrified is the key to forming long lasting memories!



Dario and Mike May recently stopped by the school to visit with their former family. Barbara Bayless Close '67 Carrie, Julia, Dario, Mike May and his friend Christi, Hilary Beesch Mendoza '71

A L U M N I N O T E S

'70

**Kim Conway Coleman's** son Reed is engaged to Lindsey Burnett and they will be married in Palm Beach next Spring.

'86

The marriage of **Rachel Rogers** and David Supple took place Saturday, April 26, 2008 at The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach. Rachel earned a bachelor's degree in art history from the University of Virginia, where she was a member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. She received her master's degree in elementary education from Vanderbilt University. Following a wedding trip to Cambodia and Thailand, the couple will live in Atlanta, Georgia.

'88

**Marc Saiontz** and his wife Stacey are living in Chappaqua, NY, with their two children, Elliott and Jared. He is working for American Securities Capital Partners in New York City.

'89

**Kathleen Brooks Emmett** married Michael Patrick Filosa on Friday, June 13, 2008, in a private ceremony overlooking the Tyrrhenian Sea in Positano, Italy. Kathleen earned a Bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Georgia. Currently, she is a Vice President of Resource Development for Spectrum Healthcare Foundation supporting Hospice of Palm Beach County. Her husband Mike is Managing Partner of MMB, Inc., a real estate development company based in Franklin Park, Illinois. After a stay in Positano, the couple will travel to Sorrento, Capri, and Rome. They will reside in West Palm Beach and Chicago.

'90

**Julia Close, M.D.** has just completed her fellowship in hematology and oncology at



Ayden Gallogly, Barbara Close '67, Julie Close '90 and Benjamin Gallogly

the University of Florida. In July, she will be a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology at the University of Florida. She is pictured with her mother **Barbara Bayless Close '67**, PBDA's Math Department Chair, and her two sons Ayden and Benjamin Gallogly.

'92

**Christian Miller** is currently an assistant professor of philosophy at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, having recently completed his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Notre Dame with a dissertation entitled "Agency and Moral Realism." Christian continues to enjoy living and working in Winston-Salem. He will be up for tenure this fall, which is an important and stressful step in the academic world

'97

**Kelly Kirkpatrick** is engaged to marry Gene Platt. She is a graduate of Cardinal Newman High School and the University



Kelly and Gene

of Miami. Kelly and her sister **Sabra '93** are co-owners of Alphabet Soup, a children's clothing store in City Place, West Palm Beach. A December wedding is planned in Fernandina Beach.

**William "Michael" Thorstad** is currently a realtor-associate with The Corcoran Group Real Estate in Palm Beach. He graduated from Palm Beach Lakes Community High School in 2003, and then he attended Rollin's College School of Arts and Science in Winter Park, Orlando through 2004. He graduated from the Rinker School of Business at Palm Beach Atlantic University in 2007. Michael will pursue a masters degree in Public Policy / Public Administration at American University School of Public Affairs in Washington, DC.

'99

**William "Trey" Sned** has joined Lydian Bank & Trust as a financial adviser. Trey's family has a century long legacy of banking in the Palm Beaches dating back to 1909. He is a graduate of Duke University in North Carolina.

'00

**Caroline Kirkpatrick** is living in Pasadena, California, where she is working for Lululemon Athletica. She graduated in 2004 with a BS in Health and Sports Studies from Miami University of Ohio.

'01

**Tony Barbieri** graduated from the University of Central Florida with a BS in Electrical Engineering. He will be working for Datamax Corporation in Orlando. Tony continues to write music and play bass for his band, The Dropta Stone. The band will release their first EP, a small CD this month.

'02

**James Bohannon** and **Nathanial Wish** are the founders of Del Toro, a company which specializes in custom shoes. They began this venture over four years ago to meet the demand for a comfortable formal shoe for college students. Visit their web site to learn more about their company: [www.deltoroshoes.com](http://www.deltoroshoes.com).

'03

**Ryan Helfrich** graduated from Farmington High School in Farmington, CT, where he was named a National Merit Finalist. He was a member of the varsity diving team and he competed in the all conference diving meet. This summer he will intern at Protraxx Inc., in Middletown, CT. Ryan will attend Lehigh University's IBE program in the fall, where he will continue to dive.



'05

**Ali Armour** graduated Cum Laude from Saint Andrew's High School in Boca Raton on May 24, where she received an AP Spanish award. Ali was captain of the varsity water polo team and she received

the 2008 MVP award. She was named the Palm Beach Post Female Athlete of the Year, Boca Raton News Female Athlete of the Year for Water Polo, Academic All American, Athletic All



American in Water Polo. Ali will attend the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia in the fall.

**Fletcher Baker** graduated from Saint Andrew's High School in Boca Raton. Over the summer he will travel with his family to Mexico and New York.

**Sterling Champion** graduated from Pine Crest School in Fort Lauderdale, where she was a member on four varsity sport teams. She was a two year captain of the lacrosse and cross country teams, a player on the 1st Team All-District, All-League, and All-American Lacrosse teams. She was named Player of the Year by the Miami Herald and the Sun Sentinel. Sterling's summer will be busy with work, travel, and playing lacrosse. She will attend Tufts University in Boston in the fall

**James Cohen** graduated from Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach, where he was a player on the varsity soccer team for four years. He will be traveling over the summer with his family to Montreal to watch the Formula I racing event. They will also travel to London and the South of France to visit relatives. He will attend Johnson and Wales University in North Miami to study business.

**Mike Fuchs** graduated from the Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, NY,



where he received the Soccer All League Honorable Mention award and a

Community Service award. He has a deferred acceptance to the University of Michigan.

**Charlie Metzger** graduated with high honors from the Suncoast High School, Math, Science, and Engineering &

International Baccalaureate Programs, in Riviera Beach. This past spring, Charlie was a Palm Beach Post PathFinder Scholarship Award winner (first place in History/Political Science). He was the class President, debate team captain, National Debate Champion, and member of the varsity tennis team. Over the summer he will work as a debate coach at the Florida Forensic Institute and he plans to do some traveling. He will attend Princeton University in the fall.

**Stephen Methe** graduated from William T. Dwyer High School in Palm Beach Gardens, where he received the Academy of Finance Award and the Florida Medallion Scholars Award. He will attend the Florida State University Campus in Florence, Italy, in the fall.



**Samantha Milbauer** graduated from Miss Porter's School in Farmington, CT, where she was the captain of the varsity lacrosse team and she received the coaches' award for volleyball and lacrosse. She played on the New England All-Star lacrosse team. Sam will travel this summer with her family to Hawaii and Eastern Europe. She will attend the College of Charleston in Charleston, SC in the fall.

**Hunter Morgan** graduated from the Forest Hill High School International Baccalaureate Program in West Palm Beach. He received an award for his service



Hunter with parents Don & Susan, and little sister Katie '14

as the technical manager in the drama club for three years. He will be attending Florida Atlantic University in the fall.

**Thomas Patton** graduated with honors

from Alpine High School in Alpine, Texas, on May 30, 2008. He was a star player, at 6'5", on the varsity basketball team. He will be attending Baylor University in Waco, TX, for mechanical engineering. Thomas attended PBDS in 2000 and 2001. He enjoyed the classes and playing lacrosse.

**Chessy Ricca** graduated from Cardinal Newman High School in West Palm Beach, where she was named Crusader of the Year by the athletic department. This past spring, Chessy was a Palm Beach Post PathFinder Scholarship Award winner (fourth place in Art). Chessy won an opportunity to display one of her paintings *Summer's Solitude Under the Banyan Tree*, for one year in the Capitol's Cannon Hall, in Washington, DC, by participating in the annual Congressional Art Competition for Miramar Democrat U.S. Rep. Alcee Hastings' 23rd Congressional District. She will attend the Savannah College of Art and Design in the fall, where she will study art history. Her sister **Copley '98**, is a graduate student at New York University.

**CB Scherer** graduated Cum Laude from Culver Military Academy in Indiana. He achieved the highest rank of Cadet Captain and served as a Unit Commander, Squadron Commander, and Leader of the Lance Platoon Honor Guard. CB was the Chairman of the school's Honor Council,



Continued next page



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The Bridge is published by Palm Beach Day Academy to inform its community of the activities of the school, its students, faculty and parents. Editor Richard Tummon and Alumni Director Rosemary Cove invite your suggestions, reactions and comments regarding *The Bridge*.



[www.palmbeachdayacademy.org](http://www.palmbeachdayacademy.org)

ALUMNI NOTES

*Continued from previous page*

as well as a two year captain of the varsity Polo team. He will attend the University of Virginia in the fall.

**Jenny Shuster** graduated from The Benjamin School in North Palm Beach on May 23rd. She plans to spend the summer traveling with family and friends to St. Barth, the Mediterranean, and London, England. Jenny will attend Arizona State University in the fall.

**Ryan Talks** graduated from Saint Andrew's High School in Boca Raton, where he was a boarding student for the past three years. He played on the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams, and he was a stage hand for the drama department, setting up the stage for their productions. He spent the past two summers traveling in China. He will attend Rollins College in Winter Park, FL in the fall.

**Jesse Terry** graduated from The Governor's Academy in Byfield, MA. He plans to spend the summer traveling with his family and friends. He will attend Eckerd College, a private liberal arts college in St. Petersburg, FL in the fall.

**Brian Tummon** graduated from Jupiter High School in May. This past spring, Brian was a Palm Beach Post PathFinder Scholarship Award winner (3rd place in Forensics/Speech). He was the first Jupiter High School student to be named an All American by the National Forensic League. He served as Debate Team Captain. Brian is a member of the National Honor Society and National Science Honor Society. He will attend Tufts University in Boston, MA, in the fall.



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The Development Office and the Auction Committee wish to apologize to Corporate Sponsor, Unique Motorsports, for mistakenly publishing an incorrect telephone number. The correct number is 1-866-770-0133.

'06

**Becky Schinabeck** has been selected for membership by The National Society of High School Scholars. The society recognizes top scholars and invites only those students who have achieved superior academic excellence. She is a rising senior at The Benjamin High School in North Palm Beach.

'07

**Charlie Hooker** has completed his sophomore year at Culver Military Academy in Indiana, where he was a member of the soccer and lacrosse teams and a novice polo player.

Births

'90

**Kerry Gargano** and his wife Cecilia celebrate the birth of their son, Kerry Egan, called Kegan on Valentine's Day. Two year old big sister Gavin has adjusted well to her new brother and new home in Wilton, CT. Kerry is a Manager for Turner Broadcasting in Manhattan, in their Digital Strategic Planning Division.

PBDA Class of 2005

Please Contact Development Director, Rosemary Cove, with news about your high school graduation and plans for the future.

rcove@palmbeachdayacademy.org  
561 • 832 • 3308

The Walter H. Butler  
Alumni Golf  
Tournament

THE BREAKERS  
October 25, 2008



Former Headmaster  
Walter H. Butler

IN MEMORIAM

**John C. Cassidy** passed away on March 30, 2008, A past parent, friend, and supporter of Palm Beach Day, he was the founder of John C. Cassidy Air Conditioning and a respected Palm Beach community leader. He is survived by his wife, **Mercedes**; a daughter **Nannette**, and son's **John** and **Christopher '91**.

ALUMNI

Send Us your News

to Alumni Director Rosemary Cove at  
rcove@palmbeachdayacademy.org

Parents of Alumni

If your child / children no longer live at home, please forward a current address where we can send them a copy of The Bridge

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The  
Bulldog

School Store

M,W,F 7:30 - 8:30 A.M.

Tue, Th 2:30 - 3:30 P.M.

The Bulldog Store is closed for the summer. Beginning August 10, it will be open daily, Monday to Saturday, 10:00 A.M. til 4:00 P.M., until the start of school, when regular hours will resume. Uniform items are also available year round at [www.harrisschooluniforms.com](http://www.harrisschooluniforms.com), or by phone, 881-8689.