



COTTING SCHOOL
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COTTING SCHOOL'S ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Summer 2015

SUCSESSES AND SORROWS: ALUMNI MILESTONES

CONDOLENCES

COTTING ALUMNI

Frankie DiPanfilo, Class of 2011, passed away suddenly on March 31, 2015. (See page 1.)

Grace A. Rosselli Irwin, Class of 1947, passed away on January 30, 2015. After graduating from Cotting, Grace worked as a secretary for the Buyer of Men's Clothing at the Jordan Marsh Co. Prior to her time at Jordan Marsh, she had worked at the Parker House in Boston.

Zavan Khachadoorian, Class of 1944, passed away unexpectedly in 2014. Zav, as he was known, left Cotting during his junior year and went on to attend Northeastern, where he received a degree in chemical engineering. Zav earned every dollar that paid his tuition. For forty years he worked for Ferro, a high-tech performance materials company, culminating as a Division Manager supervising 400 people. For the past 30+ years he lived in northern California.

ARTHUR DOWNING

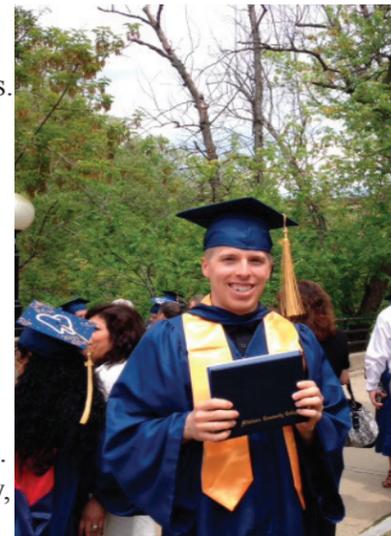
Arthur Downing, Class of 1946, died on March 5, 2015. He met his wife of fifty-nine years, Geraldine Borges, on the first day of first grade at Cotting. Arthur attended Boston College where he received a B.S. and M.S. degree. He went on to a successful career as a Program Manager at Raytheon Company, but continued to keep Cotting in his life, both as President of the Alumni Association, and as a member of the Senior and Medical Advisory Council. He and Geri also stayed in touch with their fourth grade teacher, Louise Marr, until she passed away in 2009. Arthur often remarked that, "Cotting gave us what we needed to move ahead in life."



Above, Brendon Hildreth, Class of 2011, and right, Tyler Lagasse, Class of 2005, recently celebrated college graduations.

Each June, we joyfully celebrate the senior class graduating and becoming alumni. "You are always welcome here," President Dave Manzo tells each graduating class. "This is not good-bye; it's 'see you soon!'" And then, a few short months later, it is basketball season and those same seniors return to our basketball court, wearing red alumni jerseys and competing fiercely against the Falcons.

We try to keep up with you active alums. We celebrate your triumphs as you move ahead on the road to further independence: moves to more independent living, further job training, new friends, travels, more graduations. We like to hear from you and truly mean it when we say, "Once a Falcon, Always a Falcon."



As you read this issue, you will notice that during the last year we have lost some long-time Falcons of all ages. To honor those we've lost, we've included an excerpt from Talia DiPanfilo's eulogy for her brother, Frankie, Class of 2011. We hope her remarks resonate for you, too, and that you will join us in recognizing the many different facets of life as an alum of Cotting School.

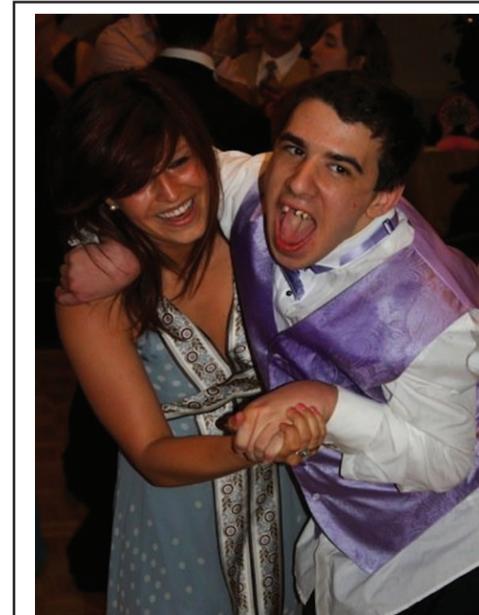
Frankie DiPanfilo

"Because of Frankie, we have been instilled with different values, different versions of what it means to work hard and to embrace each day to the fullest. And we were better people because of him.

His life was a celebration, a firework in time that infected everyone who witnessed. We would not be the same without him, and we will not ever forget.

Though we are all beyond ourselves in sadness and devastation, we must remember what he taught us, how he loved, and how he left his unforgettable mark."

- Talia Marie DiPanfilo



Find our social media links on our home page at cotting.org.

ALUMNI UPDATES

ALUMNI A-Z

Michele Adler, Class of 1991: I live in West Newton with my younger sister, brother-in-law, and niece and nephew. I work at a pre-school and take care of my niece and nephew. I volunteer at the Children's Corner behind Newton-Wellesley Hospital where I earned my 100-hour pin. I enjoy baking, cooking, and going out with my family and friends.

Darcy Beach, Class of 2011, lives in Milton in a group home with 4 other people, including J.R. Foley. She goes to the South Shore ARC for a Day Program and a Community Program; music is her favorite class. She has many friends there and a special friend, Jonathan. Her favorite band now is One Direction; she still loves the Red Sox and the New England Patriots.



Mike Camille, Class of 2011, writes, "My brother got married recently in Cambridge. I was the Best Man. I had butterflies but I did it!"

Sarah Collins, Class of 1993, will celebrate

15 years of employment at Whole Foods in November. She enjoys spending time with her boyfriend, David, her nephew, Emerson (who will be four in May) and her family.

Julie Cummings, Class of 2008, is still working as a mail clerk at Mount Auburn Hospital.

Zachary Dagle, Class of 2011, has graduated from the GROW program at Riverview School and is attending a Community Based Day Program (Opportunities & Visions) at Charles River Center. He is living at home with his parents.

Joe D'Amato, Class of 1980, wrote "I retired from Target in 2007 and live in my own apartment in Woburn. I got a driver's license in August of 2014. I enjoy reconnecting with friends on Facebook and celebrating 35 years since graduation."

Mary Denning, Class of 2003, has been working at a new job in occupational health. She also works at the Museum of Science.

Patrick Dermody, Class of 1994, wowed everyone at Reunion with his creative, fun balloon sculptures. He currently lives in Liverpool, NY, with his mother and brother. For over 14 years he's been doing balloon animals and face painting at kids' birthday parties and other family-friendly events.

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Gabriella Foley, Class of 2009, is enrolled in a program called Project Search at Salem State. She lives in her own apartment in Swampscott near her parents.

James (J.R.) Foley, Class of 2011, Alumni Council President, has enrolled in a program called Independence College, in which he's learning to be a better advocate for himself and to continue to work on gaining more independence. He works at Burgin Platner Hurley Insurance Company as an office admin and recently got a raise. When not at work, he attends a day program at the Friendship Home in Norwell. Also, he takes advantage of all the Cotting alumni events - once a Falcon, always a Falcon!

Sara Frost, Class of 2010, reports, "In June 2014, I graduated from the Project SEARCH program at the Portsmouth Regional Hospital. I now work part-time at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital as a Dietary Aide and am attending the Institute of Community Inclusion (ICI) at the University of Massachusetts. Through ICI, I work as an intern at Boston Children's Hospital in Developmental Medicine. I recently graduated from the EPIC Service Warrior program. I really enjoyed all the things I learned. We made communities a better place while showing the world our abilities!"

Karen George, Class of 1992, goes to Lifeshares in Hampstead, NH, Community Crossroads in Atkinson, NH, and participating in a theater group called Play Among the Stars in Salem, NH. She loves living with her new family from Kenya in Derry, NH.

Kristina Gillis, Class of 2010, checked in at Reunion to tell us, "I worked at a pre-school as an Intern/Teacher's Assistant and realized how much I really want to work with young children including those who have 'challenges'. Through the Aspire program, I interned in the HR and Finance departments, at Virtusa Corp, a software development company. I was recently accepted at Lesley University's Threshold Program. I am also involved in Community Rowing, Westport Community Chorus, Waypoint Adventures and AccesSport America.

Barbara Hardaway, Class of 1968, reports that retirement in Guatemala is "wonderful." She is learning Spanish, and is teaching English to locals; she supports the hearing-impaired community in Guatemala. Barbara works on her art (www.arthardaway.com) and enjoys the inspiration of living abroad. Five public spaces are designated for her pieces in Guatemala City.

Brendon Hildreth, Class of 2011, graduated on May 16th with honors and a certificate in Computer Aided Design from Craven Community College in New Bern, NC (see page 1). He plans to pursue further studies. In December 2014, he met with his State senator to discuss spreading the Accessible Icon project.

Sarah Hooper, Class of 2007, has been working at a day program in Natick. She still plays baseball and basketball at Cotting.

Josh Hunt, Class of 2003, is currently in college and has one more class before getting his degree in human services. He's getting married next June.

Shawn Koehler, Class of 2007, told us at Reunion, "I am still working at Ramsey Rehab, and continue to do freelance web design work. I have been active in the Lions Club for two and half years now and am the current webmaster and communications person."

Katherine Kreeft, Class of 1991, writes, "I am still working at CVS in Newton as a cashier and greatly enjoy many social activities with my social club Springboard, part of T.I.L.L. I also have a huge ragdoll kitten named 'Poof.'"

Erik Kruszewski, Class of 1995, "turned 40 years old on April 10th." He let us know he's been working 12 years at Trader Joe's; he and his fiancée, Valerie, are planning their wedding.

Thaddeus Kurpiel, Class of 1984, moved to a group home in Lynn. Ted reports, "It's nice. I love it."

Tyler Lagasse, Class of 2005, graduated from Middlesex Community College in 2014, (see page 1) and is currently attending UMass-Lowell, in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree. Tyler took part in the 2014 Special Olympics USA in golf; he was the emcee for the SOMA Hall-of-Family ceremony and won 3 gold medals in Alpine Skiing during the 2015 SOMA Winter games.

Josh Lilley, Class of 2007, works for his family's organization, AccesSportAmerica. He also goes to the Options program in Belmont and has a business called "Somebody's Flowers." He spends a lot of time at Zeno Mountain Farm and travels to Maui once a year to see his sister.

Kevin Mahoney, Class of 2007, writes "After I graduated from Cotting, I went to Middlesex Community College for 2 years. I volunteer at Cotting three days a week, which I really love. I also volunteer at the Waltham Police Station and at Newton-Wellesley Hospital. When I'm home, I like to watch all the Boston sports teams."

Pam McLaughlin, Class of 1958, recently published a second book, *A Glass Heart, an Inspiration of Love*, a compilation of her columns for the *Woburn Advocate* about family life and her Catholic faith.

Lucy Morse-Fortier, Class of 2009, has fun news: "I am going to be a maid of honor for my sister and am an aunt to my brother's child."

Sarah Oliver, Class of 2012, participates in a program at the Jewish Family and Children's Services, and volunteers at Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Meals on Wheels, and at a women's shelter in Boston. For fun, she skis on two teams."



Andonia Orlando, Class of 2002, has a beautiful son, Angelito, who is in Kindergarten and her pride and joy. Andonia works for the City of Somerville as a sub-lunch attendant; she loves it.

Becky Robinson, Class of 2007. "I am still volunteering at Mount Auburn Hospital, and have been living on my own for two years. I am taking time off from school and getting lots of work experience."

Ilyse Ross, Class of 2012, graduated from Berkshire Hills Music Academy on May 17th, and has decided to make South Hadley her home. She will continue in the LIVE program at the school. A few of her friends and her boyfriend have all decided to stay on in the community. Her parents are relocating to western Mass. and will be about a half hour away from her.

Alana Russo, Class of 2003, writes, "I really enjoy volunteering at Lahey on Fridays. I'm looking forward to a cruise to Bermuda in October with friends."

Christine Russo, Class of 1980, says she currently attends the Co-operative Elder Services in Arlington four days a week. The program is excellent and she is busy with exercise programs in the a.m. and special activities of all kinds in the p.m. They also provide a healthy hot lunch at noon. Christine "loves it all!"



Keaton Sakowich, Class of 2013, reports, "After graduating from HOPEhouse in February (photo at left), I've been attending a day program through JRI in Natick. We go bowling, serve Meals on Wheels, and do other activities in the community. I also do shredding at a law office."

Timothy Sullivan writes, "I went to New York for a trip to see my brother graduate from college. I live in my house with my four housemates in Natick. We have a lot of fun together."

Craig Tarentino, Class of 2012, started a new program with Life Choices. He is learning a lot and is making lots of new friends. Since the program is geared to his age group. He is busy the whole day and enjoys it enormously.

James Toolin keeps in touch with many Cotting friends via social media.

Elia Veloso, Class of 2004, is currently a certified nursing assistant. She passed the state exam on her first try! She has a full-time job with the NorthEast ARC doing the PCA program. She still likes creating art like drawing Japanese Anime and crocheting.

Gregory Walsh, Class of 2001, continues to be an active member of the Board of Directors of Cerebral Palsy of MA; he is currently serving his 16th year on the board. He attended the dinner after the Annual Golf Tournament at the Pine Hills Country Club in Plymouth, MA. The proceeds of this fundraiser are used to provide scholarships for high school seniors with a disability going on to further their education. Cotting School graduates have been recipients of this scholarship in previous years.



ONCE A FALCON, ALWAYS A FALCON!