

ALUMNI UPDATE

Greetings Alumni!

Welcome to the first edition of the alumni newsletter! As Quarry Lane grows, so does our history. Our alumni are central to our history. From our very first graduating class to the most recent Quarry Lane graduates, each class paved the road for the next to follow and left their own unique mark on Quarry Lane's history. But the story doesn't end there. As our motto says, "education is a lifelong commitment". Quarry Lane alumni continue to shape our history, long after they leave our hallways. Our goal in establishing this newsletter is to keep our alumni connected and build a strong alumni community at Quarry Lane. Enjoy our first edition!



ALUMNI STORIES

QUARRY LANE ALUMNI IN THEIR OWN WORDS

MAINTAINING LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

Sena Adansi & UV Mahadeshwar ('17)

As high school students at QLS, Sena Adansi and UV Mahadeshwar were the best of friends, often roaming the halls together, commiserating about the complexities of IB classes and their duties as student body president and vice president respectively. Upon graduation, Sena prepared for her journey to the East Coast where she would attend New York's Columbia University in the fall while UV prepared for his journey to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. Hear how they're both doing in their respective journeys and how they've been able to maintain their friendship below.

SENA: Among the activities I'm involved in on Columbia's campus are Columbia NAACP (in which I am the chapter's Publicity Chair), my Residence Hall's Council (of which I am President), and the Columbia University Black Pre-Professional Society. Recently, I was accepted into a program at Goldman Sachs, and was invited to the Blackstone Group's Diverse Leaders Program. For fun, I stay involved in sports like tennis and soccer, and have taken on graphic design as a hobby.

UV: College has kept me busy through STEM courses, research, and a teaching position in the Spanish department. This term, I added a new activity to my schedule by holding the Community and Internal Training Officer positions on Dartmouth EMS, where I teach community members CPR and train EMS personnel on effective emergency medical protocol. I have also broadened my horizons by joining Dartmouth Raaz, a dance team on campus. Having a Biology major combined with a chemistry and Spanish double minor have definitely kept me occupied, but I love my college experience.

ON THEIR FRIENDSHIP: We have been talking over Facetime about once every two weeks. Our conversations range from new things we have picked up to old memories we will always cherish. We have introduced each other to our college friends and plan to meet up in New York next term. Upon coming back home from college, we make plans to hang out just like how we did in high school. College has made us grow up in a lot of ways, but one thing that has not changed is how strong our friendship is.





Throughout the years, Quarry Lane alumni have come back to the familiar hallways of Quarry Lane for a variety of reasons. Whether it's just to visit with beloved faculty members, as guest speakers at Open House events, or as a commencement speaker for graduation, we love welcoming our alumni back on campus. Some recent alumni visitors have included: **Isabelle (Izzie) Ruiz ('18)** - current Stanford University student and guest alumni speaker at our Open House events; 2018 commencement speaker and current PhD student at U.C. Riverside, **Parker Newton, ('10)**; and 2018 alumni luncheon attendees, current Columbia University undergrad, **Sena Adansi ('17)**, current U.C. Berkeley undergrad **Matthew Ortiz ('18)**, current University of Chicago undergrad, **Srihari Narayanan ('18)**, current U.C. Davis undergrad, **Dinari Kurji ('15)**, and current Arizona State University undergrad **Viraj Patel ('18)**. If you are interested in visiting Quarry Lane and/or participating as a guest speaker at one of our events, please email alumni@quarrylane.org. We would love to welcome you back!

ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 2017

Benjamin Drake

CURRENTLY ATTENDING: U.C. BERKELEY

Congratulations to Benjamin Drake ('17) who was recently accepted into the Berkeley Haas Undergraduate Business Program for the 2019-2020 academic year. Ben is currently in his second year at U.C. Berkeley as a Regents' and Chancellors' Scholar. U.C. Berkeley is currently ranked #2 in the Best Undergraduate Business Programs rankings by US News. In a letter to Dr. Arac and Senior Director, Mrs. McGraw, Ben credited his experience at Quarry Lane for bringing him to this point in his educational journey.

"Thank you for inspiring me and getting me into business. You have no idea how many times I have talked about your IB Business class as the catalyst for my enjoyment of the subject, and many of my early business courses have felt like review of the things you taught me. Not only was the content you provided pivotal to me majoring in business, but also your belief in me was second to none."

-excerpt from Ben Drake's letter
(to Mrs. McGraw and Dr. Arac)

STAY CONNECTED

We want to hear your stories, celebrate your life experiences and share your news. To share an update or a few words with your fellow alumni, contact us at:

alumni@quarrylane.org

Cynthia Cavanna
Alumni Relations Coordinator

TUSHAR KUNDU ('13)

Graduated: Swarthmore College

After graduating from Quarry Lane, I spent my next four years at Swarthmore College - a small liberal arts college just outside of Philadelphia. Today I find myself missing the lush greenery that covered the entirety of its campus. It's tiny - it takes about 10 minutes to walk from one end to the other - yet every single plant is labeled thanks to a very active grounds crew. At Swarthmore I majored in economics and math, and spent much of my non-class time as the team manager for the varsity basketball team. I feel lucky to have witnessed a team that went 8-17 my freshman year evolve into a well-oiled machine that has hosted NCAA tournament games for three years in a row. After graduating from Swarthmore, I've spent the last two years (one year at USC and now at the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge) working as a research assistant for several economics professors. The focus of our research has been on measuring subjective well-being. I've found it to be both challenging and engaging, and extremely valuable in helping me develop the skills required for graduate school. I submitted my applications this past winter, with the plan of starting my PhD in economics in the fall. I'm just now hearing back from schools, so I'm looking forward to making a decision very soon about where I'll be for the next six years!

**DARSHAN PATEL ('12)**

Graduated: Bentley University, B.Sc Finance

Graduated: Johns Hopkins, M.Sc Real Estate & Infrastructure



I started Quarry Lane as a high school freshman back in 2008, and cannot be more thankful for the opportunities I had. It may sound corny, but I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Quarry Lane, and still keep in touch with many of my friends from high school. I have fond memories of my classes with Senora Salamanca, Mr. Nguyen, and Dr. Montgomery (thanks for everything - if you are reading this!).

***"To all seniors - on behalf of all of the alumni, we wish you all the best as you move onto the next chapter of your life (feel free to reach out if you ever need help with anything).
Go Cougars - Class of 2019!"***

- Darshan Patel ('12)

I am now back in California and based out of San Ramon. After completing grad school, I started working in Walnut Creek with a company that did debt-financing, and as of recent, I have transitioned into real estate development with my family around the Bay Area.

YANGWEI (KEVIN) GAO ('14)

Graduated: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, B.A. (Honors) Architecture
Currently Attending: Yale University (pursuing MArch, Architecture)

I have taken that painful thirteen hours flight from Beijing to the Bay almost ten times in three years. Despite the twelve hours time difference, I feel like being home, treated as part of a big family, and I'm glad I was there [at Quarry Lane School]. It was such a unique journey to study abroad as a 16 year-old who grew up in a Beijing bungalow. It was fascinating to be in an environment where everyone encourages you to challenge yourself, allows you to create fashion shows and establish a fashion club, and travel with your art instructor/mentor for art competitions. No word can describe how much value these experiences contributed to my current pursuit of a career in architecture, and my study at Yale. My study at the Quarry Lane School was incredible not only because of the physical support but mental assistance from the school as well. I was able to study in classrooms full of talented people challenging each other's perspectives while praising for innovations, discoveries, and mistakes. As a young practicing architect, I'm truly grateful for the education earned at QLS.

"I was able to study in classrooms full of talented people challenging each other's perspectives while praising each other's innovations, discoveries, and mistakes."

-Yangwei Gao

LEWIS MOFFAT ('13)

Graduated: University College London,

After graduating from QLS I moved to England to start my undergraduate at University College London (UCL). For my Bachelors degree I studied Biochemical Engineering during which I also started focusing on applied mathematics. Outside of my degree I was heavily involved in loads of different activities, ranging from the sporting to the academic. I have absolutely loved my time in London and it's hard to believe that almost 6 years have passed since I left QLS. During my first and second years of uni I got heavily involved with the UCL iGEM team, a team member in the first year and advisor in the second. iGEM is an international synthetic biology and genetic engineering competition that happens every year and I thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the UCL team. I also interned within the engineering faculty to assist with research in process optimization. After my undergraduate I spent several months in GlaxoSmithKline Research & Development working on novel bio-drug development sponsored by the Royal Society of Chemistry. I ended up deciding to shift gears slightly and pursue a Masters degree in Machine Learning also at UCL after which I started a PhD. I am now in the latter end of the second year of my PhD.

I'm based at The Francis Crick Institute and my affiliated university is still UCL and I was very fortunate to have been awarded a UCL Engineering Dean's Prize Scholarship for the duration of my studies. My research sits in the intersection of Machine Learning and Bioinformatics which I adore as it lets me leverage what I've learned from both my Undergraduate and Masters. In the past six years of studying I have also seen myself heavily involved in societies, society committees, and other social activities around UCL. I particularly enjoyed my time as president of my degree society, and my time as treasurer of the Sci-Fi society. I also picked up kickboxing and several other interests since I've been in London.



"Overall the time spent since leaving QLS has been pedal to the metal but nonetheless a delight and I wouldn't change anything."

-Lewis Moffat

KAMYA ARORA ('14)

Graduated (2018): Barnard College of Columbia University,
B.A. Economics & History



Hi Cougars! It feels incredible to write to you... five years after graduation, especially since I am finding my feet once again in the East Bay. Quarry Lane gave me the foundation and confidence to move through the world as I do now. Shout-out to Dr. Montgomery and a few other special folks... I think about you often! Post-QLS I moved to NYC to begin my long-awaited and exciting college journey, as many of you will very soon in August. Walking onto Columbia's campus I was hoping to study Economics, make some lifelong friends, and maybe dance a little here and there through the next four years.

If I had to highlight a few things from college, I'd share my most fond experiences outside of the academics were definitely 1) joining Columbia University SEWA, the social justice club I fell in love with as a freshman, and 2) pursuing the Athena Scholarship for Leadership and Women's Studies through Barnard. These solidified some of my most personal passions, helped me grow, and cultivated my deepest friendships.

Through summers in the Bay Area and in D.C., I explored the tech industry and public policy research. As a senior, I hoped to begin my early career in law as a paralegal or case assistant. Recruiting and a few decisions later, last July I joined Ripcord, an early-stage VC-backed, disruptive robotics startup close to home (far from where I expected to ever be post-grad!) while I study and gear up for law school in the near future.



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