

Where Are They Now?

Once a year on a June evening, MAUHS graduates proudly cross the stage and begin the next phase of their life's journey, following richly diverse paths. Recently, we caught up with several graduates to find where their journeys have taken them.



Eli Bashevkin – Class of 2007

Graduate of Brown University – Providence, RI
Degree: B.S. in Mechanical Engineering
Graduate of Stanford University – Stanford, CA
Degree: M.S. in Aerospace Engineering
I work as an engineer at Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX). We are a commercial aerospace company developing rockets and orbital vehicles with the goal of reducing the cost to reach space. SpaceX currently has a contract to resupply the international space station, and is one of a few companies selected to build a crewed capsule to help replace the Space Shuttle. I am currently working on the updated version 1.1 of Falcon 9, our primary rocket. Specifically, I'm working on the design, analysis, and testing of the structure of the second stage of the rocket.

My MAUHS experience: I knew that I wanted to go into the commercial space industry when I entered MAUHS, and many teachers at MAU helped me to pursue that goal. Physics and Calculus with Steve Davis was a great experience and an introduction into the engineering field. My science classes with Ms. Hatfield and Mr. Moses were both memorable experiences that helped convince me to pursue a career in the sciences. History with Mr. Ingraham and English with Mr. Barnes, Ms. Woodard, Ms. Cormier, and Mr. Rudzewicz were all extraordinary experiences that encouraged me to explore outside of my comfort zone.



Mike Becker – Class of 2007

Graduate of Ithaca College – Ithaca, NY
Degree: B.S. in Athletic Training
During the summer of 2010, I was an intern with AAA Scranton Wilks-Barre Yankees. Here I assisted in treatment and rehabilitation of the players. After graduation, I kept the Yankees staff updated, and when a position became available, they flew me down for an interview. I signed with the New York Yankees in February of 2012 and am now in my second full season with the organization. I spent my first season as the Athletic Trainer with the short season affiliate, in the New York-Penn League, the Staten Island Yankees. Now in my second season, I am the Athletic Trainer for the Charleston RiverDogs in Charleston, SC. As a member of the South Atlantic League, the RiverDogs play a 145 game season throughout the Carolinas and Georgia, with the farthest team being the Lakewood Blue Claws in Lakewood, NJ. The prevention, recognition, care, management, and rehabilitation of injury and illness in a physically active population are the main responsibilities that my job as an athletic trainer encompasses. At any point during the

season, our team will have 25 to 30 players, ranging from 18 to 26 years of age, which I am responsible for. As an injury occurs, I coordinate between the player, the coaching staff, the front office, and medical staff to develop and carry out a program that will return the athlete to competition as quickly and as safely as possible. Other duties that I am responsible for are the travel of the team to and from opposing cities, and player movement between levels.

My MAUHS experience: As an athlete at MAUHS, I always saw myself continuing in sports, whether it was as a player or in another facet. At MAU I had the pleasure of taking a Strength and Conditioning class with Bob Kurtzner; this class was what led me to enroll in the athletic training program at Ithaca College.



Hillary Estes – Class of 2009

Graduate of Framingham State University – Framingham, MA
Degree: B.S. in Fashion Merchandising
After graduation, I began a full time position as an Assistant Buyer with The Paper Store, which is a chain of 30 plus gift stores in New England. I will be working at their corporate headquarters in Acton, MA. In the summer of 2011, I traveled with Framingham on a fashion study tour visiting Rome, Florence, Paris, and London. This summer I will do another tour to London.
My MAUHS experience: Quilting class and a sewing independent study with Mrs. Jennings helped me prepare for the fashion curriculum at college. My computer class was also very helpful because I use Microsoft Office every day at school and in my job.



Paul Harris – Class of 2007

Graduate of Keene State College – Keene, NH
B.A. in Journalism with a minor in Political Science
During my KSC years, I was actively involved in my college newspaper, and I was hired as the Multimedia Director of the newspaper's executive board. My role involved creating the newspaper's website, producing videos, and creating other dynamic web content. Recently, The Society of Collegiate Journalists awarded the KSC student newspaper (*The Equinox*) third for the best college newspaper in the country... Congrats!
After graduation, I began my professional career as a Video Editor at Yankee Publishing Incorporated, the publishers of *Yankee Magazine* and *The Old Farmer's Almanac*. I worked with a small crew and we produced, shot, edited, and marketed weekly videos for The Old Farmer's Almanac and Yankee Magazine's online subscriber base. Typically, our videos were food related. We would cook seasonal New England based recipes that are featured in the print versions of the magazines. Towards the end of my first summer with Yankee, I moved to the D.C. area and

landed a position as a reporter and social media editor for an online media company named WashingtonExec. My job was to interview various c-suite executives who work at "big-name defense companies" located in the DC area. Cool stuff. I learned a lot about how money and political power runs our government. As it turns out, Washington, DC is an expensive place; therefore, I packed up and moved up north to my Green Mountain Home. Today, I work as an online marketer at Global-Z International, a database technology company, providing companies with customized sales and marketing database solutions. Global-Z provides me with a challenging work environment, and its corporate values give me the freedom to experiment and try new things without the resistance that can be typical in larger companies. I've created a website for Global-Z that I'm very proud of. I continue to manage Global-Z's online content, SEO and SEM social media marketing strategies. It's a great company that is dedicated to its employees and its community's success.

My MAUHS experience: MAUHS has many great courses, teachers and success stories. The life lessons I learned in high school had shaped the person I am today. In addition to the public high school programs, I have to give credit to the excellent professors from the CDC. The CDC offers a wide selection of good courses to high school students and the rest of our community. Specifically, I would like to give shout outs to Judy Estes for her business typing courses, George Lerrigo (who has long since retired), for having an excellent French program, Barbara Ackerman for her passion, and Tim Foley for his video production courses and dedication to our student theatre productions.



Amy LaCroix – Class of 2004

Graduate of Northeastern University – Boston, MA
Degree: B.S. in Biology and Philosophy
After high school I headed to Boston, MA to attend Northeastern University as a double biology and philosophy major. A major component of the curriculum at Northeastern is their Co-Operative Education program. In between semesters of regular classes, students work for 6 months at a time in their field of study. This turned out to be a real benefit for me, and I gained a lot of useful job experience in labs around Boston as a research technician while still in school. After graduating in 2009, I worked for a small contract lab on the outskirts of Boston and then landed a research position at Harvard Medical School. There I worked with a small team investigating the basic intracellular mechanisms of Dengue Virus, and some of my work was recently published in the *Journal of Virology*. A few months ago I decided to pack up my bags to explore the country and took a month long road trip with Seattle, WA as my final destination. I currently work for the University of Washington Medicine and am looking for another research position out on the west coast.

My MAUHS experience: There were three experiences at MAUHS that I think had the biggest impact on where I am today. The first was the Advanced Placement program which allowed me to move directly to more advanced classes, once starting college. The second was the ability to take classes at Williams College during my senior year. This was a wonderful experience and looking back, it was a real gift to be able to take classes at Williams for free and gain some insight into what college courses would really be like. The third, though maybe not directly linked to where I am today, is the wonderful international exchange program at MAUHS. I think that coming from a small town in New England, it is easy to lose sight of diversity at times and this program helped me feel more comfortable moving to the city and able to understand other points of view.



Breanne Lucy – Class of 2007

Graduate of Barnard College – New York, NY
Degree: B.A. in English with a concentration in American Lit. and a minor in Last year, I taught middle school English Language Arts in Hartford, Connecticut. This year, I'm assistant teaching in middle school classes at a charter school in Philadelphia. I'm also running a recess tutoring program for students who are struggling academically and teaching a theater elective course. In July, I'll be starting an accelerated master of education program at the University of Pennsylvania.

My MAUHS experience: I loved Barnard's English department, and the upper level English classes I took at MAU prepared me for college level literature. Ms. Cormier's AP English Literature Composition Class helped me develop close reading and text analysis skills that I used throughout college. Mr. Chenkin's AP English Literature Composition Class exposed me to schools of criticism that I continued to work with in college literature classes. I felt well-equipped to confront rigorous course material when I got to Barnard. I minored in German, and Ms. Pfeffer's German classes got me deeply interested in the language. She even guided me through an independent study German course over a summer, so that I would be able to take the German AP exam my senior year of high school. I also value the extra-curricular activities that MAU offered. Doing theater at MAU helped me gain confidence and public speaking abilities that gave me a stronger, clearer voice in college classes, around campus, and later, in front of a classroom. After participating in MAU productions, I continued to do theater in college, which allowed me to make wonderful friends and have fun in an often stressful college environment. As I prepare to start my teaching master's program, I often think about how positive experiences at MAU helped shape my decision to become an educator. Students at the city schools where I've worked don't always have rigorous course offerings, or extra-curricular opportunities, or teachers who know them well enough to help them reach their potential. I appreciate that I had all three.



Nick Kwiatek – Class of 2004

Graduate of Parsons School of Design – New York, NY
Degree: B.F.A. in Communication Design and Technology
I currently work at Facebook as a Communication Designer and Engineer. My job is to think and learn about world culture and how Facebook makes an impact. Unlike other areas of the company which focus on giving a voice to everyday people, we question what Facebook as a company should say to the world, while encouraging a response in kind. We believe that if we can get a chance to talk with the one billion people who use our site, we can learn more about how to make things better for everyone. To do this, we create websites, videos, and printed materials which each tell our story and invite participation in different ways. I help the team by using my knowledge of computer programming to build whatever we dream up next.

My MAUHS experience: Frankly, I believe that teachers in America don't get enough praise, and every one of my teachers at Mount Anthony impacted me in some way -- so I would thank them all, earnestly. I do not believe I would be where I am today without the support of Barb Ackerman, who offered me an independent study in Graphic Design, and helped me create my portfolio entry for admission into Parsons. I will always remember the unrelenting intellect of Mr. Backus, RIP, who encouraged me to always be curious. Marge Rooen provided a haven for creative energy and performance in a federal school system that too often measures performance in arbitrary ways, and though I never ended up making it as a drummer (sorry Ms. Rooen), I still believe that the only way to get better at the things you want to do in life is to keep practicing. If it weren't for Sue Maguire, who hired my mom in the first place, I may never have stepped foot in Vermont, which would have been a great tragedy. Without Sue I also would not have been introduced to the many teachers at Molly Stark -- despite the fact that I was a substitute teacher and daycare counselor there, and most certainly not an elementary school student... I probably did act like one most of the time, and the kind people there passed on their wisdom accordingly. I still remember Judy Cohen explaining to me how to teach through empathy by looking for the "teachable moment," which I strive to do every day in my own work. Finally, I just think there is something special about growing up in Southern Vermont. The people are as honest as nature is honest. This struck me as a teenager when I moved from Southern California, which is perhaps one of the most superficial places on the planet, and it still rings true now that I find myself back on the West Coast. I can only wonder if things would be different for me were I to not grow up in such a beautiful place, with such beautiful people. P.S. To all the teachers who gave me a hard time for not turning in my work when it was due: "You were right, sorry!"

If you are a Mt. Anthony graduate and would like to share your experiences after high school, email us at smaguire@svsu.org. We are hoping to publish more graduate updates in the future.

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Zoe Nardone – Class of 2011

Freshman at Macalester College – St. Paul, MN
Double Major: Sociology and International Studies
I will graduate in 2016! I'm in college right now, so I'm not really working. Starting next year, my work study will be working with the Department of Multicultural Life on campus. Over the summer, I will be living in St. Paul and working two on-campus jobs-- with the Department of Multicultural Life, and the Civic Engagement Center. I also took a gap year, where I was an exchange student in India with the *YES Abroad Program* for 10.5 months. It was a great experience. I was an exchange student there, so I lived with a host family and attended a local high school. It was an incredible year, and I learned so much while forming great relationships with my host family, friends, teachers, and community members.

My MAUHS experience: The International Club at MAUHS has had a huge impact on where I am today. Developing relationships with many of the wonderful exchange students who attended MAU was part of what inspired me to apply for the *YES Abroad Program* (sister of the *YES Program*, which is the scholarship that continues to bring many of our exchange students to MAU). For that experience, I thank Anja Pfeffer, Martha Cornwell, and everyone else who made International Club possible. I also had a number of great teachers at MAU who definitely have had an impact on where I am today. You can visit the Yes Program web site at <http://yesprograms.org/yesabroad> for more information.



Avery Normyle – Class of 2010

Junior at the University of Massachusetts Amherst – Amherst, MA
Major: Political Science with a minor in German
In college, I became a Brother in the Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, attended CPAC Conference two consecutive years, and I am awaiting an application to enroll in an AIPAC leadership seminar. I was two years membership director of College Republicans UMass, and I organized a pro-capitalism counter-demonstration in response to the "Occupy" movement. I was among some ten students who appeared on the Glenn Beck Show, posing a question to the host personally (via College Republicans). I traveled to Denver and Memphis to attend the Pi Kappa Alpha leadership member conventions, meeting Senators Jon Kyl and Pete Sessions (both brothers of Pi Kappa Alpha). I was a teaching assistant in German History 323, a class taught in an experimental seminar format with a heavy reliance on technology and team-based learning. I worked briefly as an intern for the Scott Brown Campaign. I had a semester experience in Army ROTC program, Minuteman Battalion. I am awaiting application approval to be a part of the Political Science Undergraduate Advisory Board, while pursuing going abroad spring 2014. I am

planning to apply to law school during the next academic year and considering Officer Cadet School post-graduation.
My MAUHS experience: My teachers impacted me in many different ways. There are, however, a select few that truly helped shape my attitude towards academics and the pursuit of success. Anja Pfeffer provided me with some of the best language schooling that any high school student in the United States could hope to have in a public school situation. She sparked my interest in foreign affairs, a field in which I am considering a career. Mike Di Maio provided the most college-like classroom situation I experienced in high school when he taught AP US History during my junior year. This was my favorite class during my four years at MAU. Mr. Di Maio challenged his students to read critically, think in terms of historical context, and even poke fun at how foolish our nations' leaders of past eras could be. I also had the pleasure of taking two of Richard Caswell's upper level history courses, once my freshmen year (Honors Humanities) and the other during my senior year (AP World History). Mr. Caswell greatly assisted in developing my skill of drawing comparisons within historical contexts. He was deft in pointing out trends and patterns that made analyzing and studying the world interesting and scientific. Gene Rudzewicz created the ultimate closing environment for my time at MAU. I have never met a more clever and intuitive instructor, including the dozens of professors and teaching assistants I have had in college. Mr. Rudz treated my peers and me as adults and awarded us the respect and consideration we deserved as we transitioned into the next stage of life. Every teacher I had helped shape me and my current academic/life situation; these four simply provided the most notable examples of influence on me during high school. My advice: don't mess around. Spend the extra fifteen minutes on something to get a better grade. If something interests you, then investigate it. You have the rest of your life to joke around and be sarcastic, so don't waste your time doing too much of it now. There is too much at stake these days to not do your best in high school. Go MAU! Patriot Pride!



Megan Pini – Class of 2010

Junior at Skidmore College – Saratoga Springs, NY
Major: Government with a minor in Studio Art
I'm currently living in Berlin, Germany for a year, studying abroad through the program IES Abroad and at Berlin's own Humboldt Universität. I came here to work on my German language fluency, to study European government and international relations, and to enjoy Berlin's vibrant art scene. This summer I will have a chance to intern at an international cooperation agency called GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) for an intensive 6-week period, in order to apply my studies in international relations, development theory, and government.

My MAUHS experience: Bret Chenkin's AP English Literature had a special impact on me, specifically because of his passionate and vigorous approach to learning. Studying post-colonialist literature with him gave me new ideas about the interconnectedness of the world, and pushed me to explore it more widely and to understand it more deeply through many different lenses.



Sara Poggi – Class of 2000

Graduate of University of New Hampshire – Durham, NH
Degree: B.S. Marine and Freshwater Biology
Graduate of Southern Oregon University – Ashland, OR
Degree: M.S. in Environmental Education
After graduating from college, I spent three years in the United States Peace Corps in Bulgaria. In Bulgaria I helped with environmental education projects schools, helped start a young women's club, and worked with a bird protection organization. When I returned from Bulgaria, I worked in South Dakota banding and observing behavior of Piping Plovers. Currently I am an Environmental Educator at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve in Albany, NY. I develop and teach programs for people of all ages, create temporary exhibits, write a quarterly column for a local paper, and help coordinate volunteers among other things.

My MAUHS experience: At MAUHS I continued to develop a love of science that would lead me to pursue science in my education and career. Ms. Rivers particularly encouraged me and helped me to grow more confident as a student and as a person. I am also thankful for the lifelong friends that I acquired at MAUHS that I carry with me to this day. It is my family though, that taught me that I could dream and do anything, and they have supported me in everything that I do.



Erica Secor – Class of 2005

Graduate of Cornell University – Ithaca, NY
Degree: B.S. in Animal Science
Graduate Degree: DVM in Veterinary Medicine
I went directly from undergrad to veterinary school, so I've been a professional student for quite some time now. I graduated from veterinary school this year, and will be starting my career as a veterinarian finally. Beginning in July, I will be starting at New England Equine Medical and Surgical center in Dover, NH as a veterinary intern. This year-long position will allow me to work as a clinician under the guidance of attending veterinarians in order to hone my skills as a doctor. Following my internship year I plan on doing a 3 year veterinary surgical residency and a possible fellowship in large animal emergency and critical care medicine.

My MAUHS experience: Tom Otero was a great mentor of mine, as well as being a part of the lacrosse team in general. Many of the skills that I learned by being part of a team and a captain, I have translated to my everyday life. The decision making skills that I learned as a captain are pivotal in my career as a veterinarian, and I rely on my team in the clinic just as I did on the lacrosse field. Another teacher who helped me along my path was Kathy Slade. The medical professions course was a great introduction to the human side of medicine. The course was immensely helpful, and it made my first year of veterinary school much less stressful since I had been exposed to the terminology previously. In addition, being part of the medical quiz bowl team was a great experience. Mrs. Slade was a great coach for it, and the team did very well because of her coaching and support. I have still kept in touch with both of these amazing people, and I still value their support and encouragement in all of my endeavors.



Miles Selib – Class of 2010

Junior at George Washington University – Washington, DC
Major: Political Communication
This spring I deferred a semester of school to participate in the White House Internship Program, where I was assigned to the Office of Communications. My responsibilities included preparing press clips, helping conduct research, and assisting the press and communications staff in coordinating events at the White House.
My MAUHS Experience: While at MAUHS, I served as President of the Interact Club, played soccer, lacrosse, and was a co-captain on the varsity swim team. I credit much of my success to these activities as well as the many committed teachers and advisors at MAUHS who prepared me for college. If you are an MAU student, interested in politics and government, and want to learn more about my experiences in Washington, D.C., please feel free to reach me at mh.selib@gmail.com.



Alex Washenko – Class of 2010

Junior at Lyndon State College – Lyndonville, VT
Double Major: Atmospheric Science and Electronic Journalism
I will graduate in December of 2014. I am in my second semester of working on the campus station, NEWS7, that broadcasts online and to the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont. I am doing live news breaks, which are 45 second weather hits. I am also doing newslincs, which entail a weather hit at the green screen for as long as you need, and it gets posted on news7newsinc.net. I get to work with WCAX-3 Meteorologist Dan Dowling. Next year I will be focusing on the editorial side of broadcast to make myself more valuable as a rounded member of the broadcast team at NEWS7, Vermont Center for Community Journalism (VCCJ). I am also a part of the National and Lyndon State American Meteorological Society Club. This year I attended the AMS National Meeting in Austin, Texas (my first time out of the Northeast) where all the professionals gather once a year. This was the most phenomenal experience of my college career thus far. It was a week-long

conference of networking and brilliant meetings.
My MAUHS Experience: The whole science department at MAUHS including Ms. Blazek, Ms. Vanderpool, Mr. Reutter, and Mr. Moses all had a hand in helping me focus my mind in a science filled way. I was always a shy kid, so I decided to MC Pops Concert my senior year to come out of my shell. This helped me develop confidence, especially for my broadcast career. My favorite class was an independent study with Ms. Vanderpool. We set up the Weather Hawk station on top of MAU, and I kept records of surface maps, wind, and high and low temperature analyses. I was also taking online courses through Penn State's highly regarded atmospheric science program during my independent study. I later gave my Senior Project presentation on "The Misconceptions of Meteorology." Ms. Vanderpool was my weather buddy! She was a major motivating factor into me being where I am today; I appreciate her expertise and knowledge that she has contributed to my success. I would also love to acknowledge my guidance counselor, Coleen Macksey. She was there for me every step of the way and was very motivating through all four years at MAU as my counselor. She made sure I was on the right track to do well and be successful.