

CAMELOT ACADEMY

2014-2015 Alumni Newsletter



809 Proctor Street
Durham, NC 27707
www.camelotacademy.org

Letter from Class of '15 Graduate

I am honored to have been asked to write this year's alumni newsletter. While my time at Camelot was a mere four years, I was lucky to have spent my entire high school career here. I had wonderful classmates, many of whom became my closest friends. I was privileged to have incredible teachers who got to know me well and challenged me to grow as a student. I loved being part of such a supportive community. I tried new things and became passionate about them. By the end of my time here, I had grown into a leader.

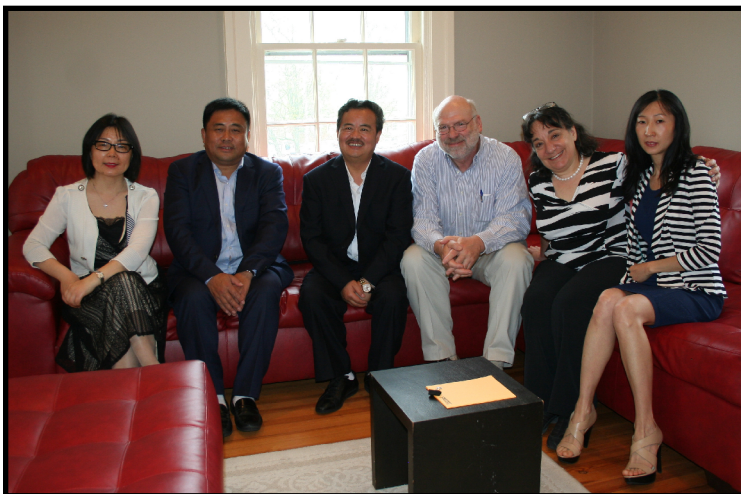
The theme for Camelot's 2014-15 school year was "Building Bridges." As a school, we "built" many bridges. We started off the year constructing toothpick bridges. We built bridges to other countries by enrolling our largest group of international students. We participated in many different community service projects that helped to build bridges to the Durham community. We traveled to many places. We continued our school-wide "Love Lunch" which built bridges within our own school. Many new classes helped us build new knowledge. We formed a connection with a sister school in China. The bridges we built this year will serve us for many years to come. They brought our already close-knit community even closer, and connected us to the world.

I hope that in these few pages I have captured a year's worth of memories that will last us for a lifetime. I know that I personally will always keep a bridge built to Camelot, and will always be a part of the Camelot community.

--Fiona Castorina, '15

2014-2015 A Year of Building Bridges

As usual, Orientation centered on our theme. We constructed our own bridges using toothpicks. The Upper School took a day-trip to Bethesda Park, where some students crossed bridges on Durham's newest obstacle rope course.



Camelot built bridges to other countries by hosting its largest ever number of international students and by beginning a Sister School relationship with the Experimental School of SMS in Chengdu, China. In March, administrators and teachers from this school visited Camelot.



Love Lunch continued to "Build Bridges" within the Camelot community, with many of the older students serving as group leaders.



2014-2015 HIGHLIGHTS AND HONORS

Under the guidance of NHS president Zax Milkereit, the entire school helped to cultivate a Rain Garden.



Camelot was awarded the Silver Sneaker award for participation in the 2014 Crop Walk.



9th grader **Willa Holt** was awarded the Silver Award, the highest honor in Cadette Girl Scouting.

4th grader **Ethan Salemy** won the Speech Eloquence Award at the 2015 North Carolina Chinese Speech Contest.



The seniors created a memorable Evening of the Arts show, as the emcees for the evening. They also presented Thelma a rocking chair as a class gift.



Many Middle and Upper school students took a 3-day trip to Charleston, where they explored this historical city.

The Camelot Knights Ultimate Frisbee team finished in 2nd place in the conference tournament.

The Upper School continued to take a break from their normal schedules with "Special Fridays" which included the option for teachers to pull students out for extra time, and more structured classes such as Health, Yearbook, Communications, Coding, and Illustration.



On May 30th, Camelot celebrated the graduation of 9 seniors with a skit entitled "Back to the Future".

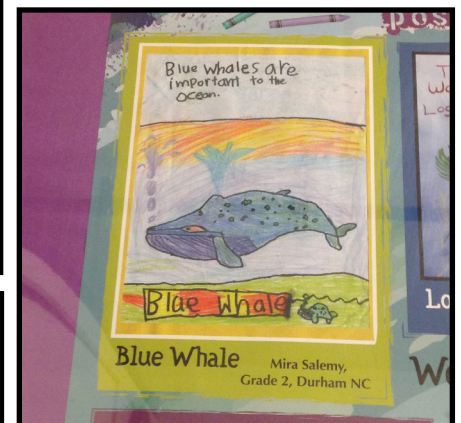
2nd grader **Mira Salemy** won 1st place in an art contest held by the North Carolina Zoo.



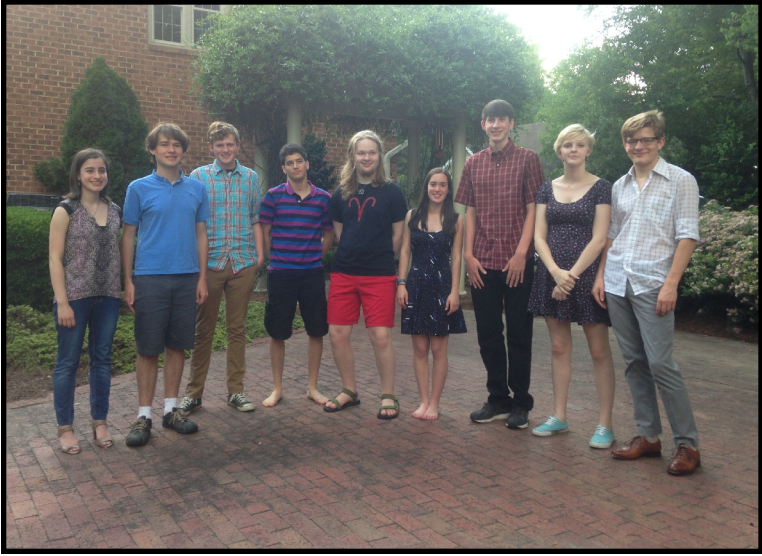
7th graders **Isabel Brown**, **Jude Holt**, and **Evan MacDonald** were recognized in Duke's Talent Identification Program National Grand Ceremony.



To allow for a more "Mastery-Based" learning approach for Camelot's youngest students, Kinder-Mapp was established.



Camelot Academy Class of 2015



Left to Right:
**Liv Castorina,
Lance Wilkes,
Andrew Ofner,
Zax Milkereit,
Zander Hall,
Fiona Castorina,
Alex Berro,
Jenna Smith, and
Ryan Felton**

Meet a few members of the Class of 2015!



Zax Milkereit

"I am Zax Milkereit, and I like traveling, break dancing, food, people, being outside, trying new things, writing brief descriptive blurbs about myself on smartphones, and graduating high school. I am taking a gap year, in which I will travel the world. I have just arrived in Boulder, CO, after spending a few days in NYC. My next stop is Dixie National Forest in Utah. If you feel so inclined to know more, I am writing a travel blog at staychasing.tumblr.com. I plan on studying biology while at UNC Asheville next year."



Fiona Castorina

"My name is Fiona Castorina, and I like ballroom dancing, traveling, bicycle touring, writing, and watching Dancing with the Stars, as well as talking about it. I am also the wonderful writer of this awesome newsletter. My favorite Camelot memory is when the Class of 2015 gave Ms. Thelma a rocking chair as a class gift at Evening of the Arts. I plan on studying Communications and furthering my love of travel through many study abroad opportunities while at Elon University."



Liv Castorina

"I am Liv Castorina. I am a major history and literature geek, and I love writing stories, writing music, traveling to far-away cities, and spending time with my infamous dog, Bella the Corgi. One of my favorite Camelot memories was going to England in Spring 2013, even though it was grey and cold the entire time! I am looking forward to having loads of freedom to discover what I want to major in, as well as having the wonders of Washington, D.C. a metro ride away when I attend American University in the fall."

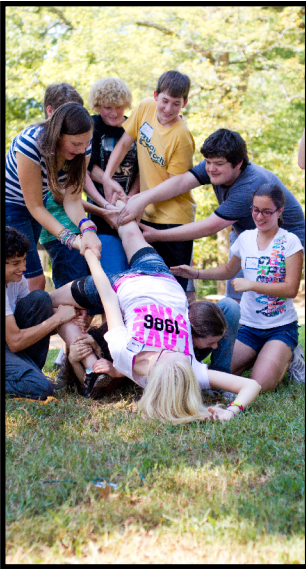


Alex Berro

"I'm Alex Berro, and I love playing sports (Basketball, Ultimate, Soccer, anything really), hanging out with my friends, traveling, reading, and Netflix. My favorite Camelot memory is getting 2nd place in the conference Ultimate Frisbee tournament in 2015. It was our best finish in the tournament ever even though it was one of our youngest and most inexperienced teams compared to past seasons. I am undecided on what I want to major in, but currently I am looking into studying biology or chemistry."

Class of 2015 Highlights

- Had a class photo shoot downtown for a 2 page spread in the 2013-14 yearbook
- Instead of doing the "normal" class T-shirts, the Class of 2015 decided to have banana suits as their class outfit, and wore them during Morning Meeting on the last day of school in 2013-2014
- Gathered after school as a class to work on college essays together
- Pulled a senior prank in which they put magnets on Mr. Matt's car during standardized testing week
- Continued the tradition of emceeing Evening of the Arts, but made it even more memorable by presenting Ms. Thelma with a rocking chair as a class gift



Final College Decisions:

Alex Berro: Davidson College

Fiona Castorina: Elon University

Liv Castorina: American University

Ryan Felton: High Point University

Zander Hall: Warren Wilson College

Zax Milkereit: UNC Asheville

Andrew Ofner: Guilford College

Jenna Smith: High Point University

Lance Wilkes: UNC Asheville



ALUMNI NEWS

Emily Gibson '98, pictured below, is a practicing lawyer in Wake and the surrounding counties. After graduation, she attended Appalachian State University, UNC Chapel Hill and did a study abroad in Sevilla Spain. After college, Emily worked for non-profit Latino advocacy organizations and ended up attending law school at NC Central School of Law. She became a public defender in Asheville, NC and has now relocated to the Triangle where she is in the process of opening her own firm, Gibson Law, PLLC. Emily lives in Wake county with her husband, one-year-old son and their cat. Emily enjoys hanging out with her family above all, but also likes swimming, yoga and her criminal law practice.



Josh Stallings '13 just finished his sophomore year at Harvard and spent his summer as a residential adviser for high school students at Harvard Summer School. He is excited to begin working on his thesis and other research projects in women's, gender, and sexuality studies and social anthropology.

After graduating from Camelot, **Isaiah Bartlett '05** earned a BA in Psychology and later a Masters in Social Work. He worked as a child and family therapist in Boston doing home based therapy for three years and then ventured out to the Pacific Northwest and landed in Portland, OR. He continues to work in community mental health as a child and family therapist and is in private practice part time. He spends his spare time hiking, cycling, skiing, publishing his creative writing, eating vegan food, and hanging out with his dog!



In Yoon '11 is currently attending American University with a double major in International Business and Finance. He is minoring in Mandarin Chinese. He also, went to Tianjin, China for a year to study. He is currently working at the Korean Embassy in Washington DC and hopes to keep working there after he graduates.

Michael Berro '10 is still living and teaching in the Middle East. He is looking for a new teaching position for next year. He and his wife went on vacation to Muscat, Oman one weekend. They've also been camel riding, stood on top of the tallest building in the world and they might go skiing in the desert sometime soon!

Molly Williams '10 moved to St. Louis in March to work as the Content and Community Manager for a company called Throwboy that makes plush toys and home goods based on pop culture. Their current line includes Emoji Pillows and Candy Heart Pillows as well as social media button pillows.

AJ Lewis '03 is currently a Business Leader at GE Transportation in Erie, PA. He manages 3 large supply chains and 104 union employees. He also owns several patents that he's currently developing with the Department of Defense for use in tactical vehicles.

Josh Pettway Hinton '13 is working at the Carolina Theatre and looking into internship opportunities through UNC Chapel Hill. He changed his major from Clinical Laboratory Science to Communications Studies, with a Concentration in Media Production. He is considering pursuing an Interdisciplinary Studies major.

Alumni Events

CAMELOT ALUMNI ULTIMATE GAME



We would love to hear what you have been up to since graduating from Camelot! As an alum, you have the opportunity to connect with others and build and maintain friendships, as well as benefit from the knowledge, resources, and experiences of other alumni. Please update your information at:

www.camelotacademyalumni.org

Camelot Alumni Pizza Gathering

2015-2016 ALUMNI EVENTS

New Years Alumni Brunch

(a new take on the our traditional Pizza Party!)

Monday, January 4 at 10:00am at Camelot

Alumni Ultimate Game

Thursday, June 2 at 5:30pm at Forest Hills



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Upcoming Camelot Alumni Events

Academic Fair: November 20th--8:30am

at the Durham Convention Center - 301 West Morgan St. in Durham

New Years Alumni Brunch: January 4th--10:00am

in the Big Hall at Camelot - 809 Proctor St. in Durham

Evening of the Arts: May 6th--6:45pm

at the Hayti Heritage Center - 804 Old Fayetteville St. in Durham

Graduation: May 28th--9am

at the Carolina Theater - 309 W Morgan St in Durham

Alumni Ultimate Frisbee Game & Food Trucks:

June 2nd--5:30pm

at Forest Hills Park - on grassy fields across from 1639 University Dr. in Durham