

FAO SCHWARZ FAMILY FOUNDATION SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

Happy Spring! I hope to see many of you at the **Reunion Dinner on Friday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. in New York City** (100 Riverside Drive – Apt 15A). All current and alumni fellows and trustees are invited.

This newsletter includes the following articles:

- ❖ Trustees Select Organizations to Host Five FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows for 2014-2016
- ❖ FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Alumni Updates: Classes of 2008 - 2013

Trustees Select Organizations to Host Five 2014-2016 FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows

At its February 2014 board meeting, the trustees selected four organizations to host five FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows for 2014-2016. Outlined below is a short description of the direct service and project work for the fellows. The new FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows will benefit from having a trustee mentor and a FAO Schwarz Family Foundation alumni Fellow mentor, the assignments of which are indicated below.

Breakthrough New York (New York City)

There will be two FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows at Breakthrough New York. One will focus on placing middle-school students in college-preparatory high schools and the other will support high school students on their pathway to college. The mentors to the Fellows at Breakthrough New York will be trustee Rae Paige Schwarz and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Jonathan Baez '14 (who is completing his fellowship at Breakthrough New York).

Philadelphia Mural Arts (Philadelphia)

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow will coordinate programming, support community outreach efforts and leverage social media to support youth in creating art that transforms public spaces and individual lives. The mentors to the Fellow at Philadelphia Mural Arts are trustee Molly Wing-Berman and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Michael McNeill-Martinez '14 (who is completing his fellowship at Zumix).

Playworks (Boston)

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow will develop lesson plans and share best practices to support the organization's goal of transforming school playgrounds into unconventional classrooms designed to foster social skills, improve student's ability to focus, decrease behavioral problems and promote student leadership. The mentors to the Fellow at Playworks are trustee Eric Schwarz and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Katherine Evering-Rowe '14 (who is completing her fellowship at The Food Project).

Strong Women, Strong Girls (Boston)

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow will play a key role in implementing volunteer training and helping to scale efforts to serve more girls. The mentors to the Fellow at Strong Women, Strong Girls are trustee Peter Schastny and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Kayla Peck '14 (who is completing her fellowship at Strong Women, Strong Girls).

FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Alumni Updates

The following are updates from the "supreme" and wonderful FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Alumni Fellows:

Class of 2008: Class Marshall Christyne DeMango Anderson

❖ **CJ Anderson '08**

CJ, who completed his FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship at BELL, is working in Billerica as a 5th grade teacher. CJ and Christyne DeMango Anderson '08 have two children -- daughter Aubree was born in December 2012 and son Declan was born in May 2011. They recently bought a house in Wilmington.

❖ **Christyne DeMango Anderson '08**

Christyne, who completed her fellowship at Associated Early Care and Education wrote: "Last spring, CJ (Anderson '08) and I sold our condo in Tewksbury and bought a house in Wilmington. I am a Senior Grants Manager for Harvard Medical School. Our son, Declan, will be 3 in May and our daughter, Aubree, is 14 months. When we are not working, we are spending time with our children and family. "

❖ **Jordy Owen '08**

Jordy, who completed her fellowship at the Children's Literacy Initiative, wrote: "I am still working at Children's Literacy Initiative and last year I was given a new position as the Manager of Family and Community Partnerships. In this new role I am developing a new strand of work for CLI in which we coach teachers and schools about how to engage in authentic partnerships with families towards the goal of student academic achievement. This position is a great match for me and for what I studied in both undergrad and graduate school (I graduated in the winter of 2011 with a MsED in Education, Culture and Society, teaching and learning focus) and I am so incredibly happy to have my role here at CLI evolve in this way. On the personal front I recently moved to Collingswood, NJ, adopted a cat who may or may not actually like me, and I am looking forward to traveling to Paris this fall for the first time."

❖ **Joanna Steinberg '08**

Joanna, who was a FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow at the Museum of the City of New York, was recently promoted to the Manager of Student Programs at the Museum of the City of New York. She teaches, develops curriculum, trains staff, and manages School Programs, Saturday Academy, and a U.S. History Regents Preparation program. Both last summer and this upcoming summer, she was accepted into the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History's Teacher Seminars. Last summer she participated in Eric Foner's *Reconstruction* course at Columbia, and this summer she will take Thomas Sugrue's *America in the 1960s* course at University of Pennsylvania. Joanna wrote that she is "very excited about these trainings and her new projects at MCNY!"

Emily Kuross Vikre '08

Emily, who completed her fellowship at Boston Children's Museum, keeps a food blog called Five and Spice (<http://fiveandspice.com/about/>). Living in Minnesota, Emily co-founded Vikre Distillery which is "a startup craft shop in Duluth, Minnesota dedicated to making innovative spirits by hand from the grains, herbs, wood and water of the Lake Superior Watershed."

Class of 2009: Class Marshall Massomeh Muhammad

❖ **Tory Kline '09**

After the completion of her FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship at Please Touch Museum, Tory is pursuing her Master's of Divinity degree (with a children's ministry focus) at Palmer Theological Seminary. She is also working part-time as the Director of Children's Ministries at the Church of the Redeemer, a large Episcopal church in Bryn Mawr, PA.

❖ **Massomeh Muhammad '09**

After completing her Fellowship at YearUp, Massomeh is currently working as an Operations Manager at Growing Up Green Charter School which is located in Queens, NY.

❖ **Barbyose Noisette '09**

Barbyose, who completed her fellowship at Big Brothers and Big Sisters, wrote: "I am currently in my second year working as a Volunteer Specialist for the American Red Cross. It has certainly been an interesting experience. In the

2 years I've been here, our volunteers have responded to thousands of local disasters and quite a few national disasters. The volunteers I recruit and train continue to amaze me everyday. They are an incredibly committed to the mission of the Red Cross. Most recently, a friend and I officially became business partners and we launched "Byose&Lueverge Events!" We thoughtfully create events, from engagement parties to weddings, baby showers to birthday parties, and much more! We are currently working on an outdoor Engagement Party. Last but not least, my husband and I are planning a cruise trip for the fall- a long overdue vacation!"

❖ **Bianca Van Heydoorn '09**

Bianca, who completed her Fellowship at the Vera Institute, wrote: "Things are going well at the Prisoner Reentry Institute. One of the programs I oversee, the *Prison-to-College Pipeline* is in its third year and flourishing. We just secured funding from the Ford Foundation, which will allow us to operate for another two years! We also just completed recruitment for the 2014-2015 academic year, which included providing the CUNY Assessment Test to over 50 incarcerated men in three different prisons. The work keeps me very busy, but I am lucky to contribute to something I love! There is nothing like knowing that I have a role in helping someone access college. Higher education was such a transformative experience for me, I'm glad I can be a part of someone else's transformation."

Class of 2010: Class Marshall Liana Mitman

❖ **Dani Calnan '10**

Dani, who completed her FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship at Tenacity, wrote: "Ted and I moved from Kansas City, MO to The Woodlands, TX in July-We bought our first house and we have loved being homeowners! I was fortunate to be able to transfer to The YMCA of Greater Houston and fill their Youth Development Director position. I am managing youth development programming, hiring and training staff, taking a lead in our regional trainings, and creating OST curriculum. Ted has grown in his role at Layne Christensen and is now the Corporate Project Manager for both domestic and international affairs. The weather in Texas has allowed me to train full time for marathons which has been amazing. We have had a crazy two years and now that we are established in our home, we are on the search for a dog!"

❖ **Stephanie Dueno '10**

After the completion of her Fellowship at the Museum of the City of New York, Stephanie was hired by the Museum. She shared this update: "I'm excited to report that over the holidays I received a promotion and now manage not only NYC History Day but an internship program funded by the Pinkerton Foundation. We have partnered with the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center in East Harlem to select 12 candidates who will work at the Museum from March through August. The program introduces young adults to the study and practice of museum education and provides them with professional experience working in a museum that focuses on their history. Things have really come full circle through this program – we're focusing quite a bit team-building and professional development so I've been able to pull from techniques and strategies I learned through the F.A.O. Schwarz Fellowship. I'm already learning so much about managing staff, building team rapport and curriculum planning. I'll be sure to keep you in the loop as the summer progresses."

❖ **Sarah Goetz '10**

Sarah is currently working at Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis as their Volunteer Engagement Specialist. In this role, she recruits, trains, and engages volunteers for the organization.

❖ **Julia MacMahon '10**

Julia, who completed her fellowship at Wheelock College, wrote: "I am still working as the Lead Organizer for the B-PEACE for Jorge Campaign at the Episcopal Diocese. In fact, I will be presenting a workshop as well as joining a plenary panel at the national Episcopal Church's anti-violence conference in Oklahoma City this April. I am excited about the progress we have made in the year and a half since Jorge's death and we continue to hone our campaign and our work. I have decided that now is the most opportune time for me to transition out of my role so that the campaign can take on new leadership and I can pursue graduate studies. I have decided to pursue my MSW in Social Innovation and Leadership at Boston College. I will be attending full-time for two years starting this fall and am really excited to get started!"

❖ **Liana Mitman '10**

Liana, who completed her FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship at Jumpstart Boston, wrote: "I am in my third year of my role as the Teen Program Manager at the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston. I have

been able to grow and expand the JCC Boston Diller Teen Fellows program since I began in this role; we are now recognized as the most prestigious and competitive leadership development program for Jewish youth in Boston. I created a model that is being replicated in several other Diller Fellowship cities, in which I have matched young professionals to coach and mentor the teens in creating mini social justice start-ups for their communities. I am serving my 4th year on the board of Combined Jewish Philanthropies' Young Leadership Division; this year I am co-chairing a leadership development series for Jewish young adults in Boston. I am enjoying living in Coolidge Corner in Brookline! I just got accepted to a program at Yeshiva University, it is a Certificate in Jewish Experiential Education. They chose 24 Jewish educators from across the country to attend 3 trainings over the course of 6 months and to do some online work as well. It will culminate in a project for my own organization.”

❖ **Brianne Studer '10**

Brianne, who completed her FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship at the Boston Children’s Museum, wrote: “I am working as the Boston Program Manger for Science Club for Girls, running informal science programs primarily for girls in grades K-5 throughout the Boston area. I am also working as the Program Director for Farrington Nature Linc, a Lincoln, MA-based program that brings urban youth out for environmental education programs on our 75 acre property. Both programs are growing substantially, and I look forward to the day when I only have enough time to work on one. In addition, I am running my first ever half marathon this spring! “

Class of 2011: Class Marshall Mariah Peebles

❖ **Ariana Dugan '11**

Ariana, who completed her fellowship at Year Up New York, wrote: "After over two years working as a logistics supervisor, then training manager, at McMaster-Carr (an industrial supply company), I've moved into the tech entrepreneurial world. I am now the COO at the Occom Group, a tech consultancy that collaboratively defines a product vision with companies that want to build a web or mobile application. I'm also happy to be living with fellow FAO alum, Mariah Peebles, in Brooklyn and still volunteering as a mentor with Year Up."

❖ **Shameka Edmond '11**

Shameka, who completed her fellowship at Groundwork, is a 4th grade teacher at SPARK Academy in Newark, NJ, which is part of the KIPP school network.

❖ **Emily Goodridge '11**

Emily shared that “I am in my last semester at Emerson and student teaching at Brimmer and May, a private K-12 school in Chestnut Hill, MA. I graduate in May and am currently job searching, hoping to secure either a teaching or teaching artist position for next fall. “

❖ **Mariah Peebles '11**

Mariah, who completed her fellowship at Year Up New York, wrote: “In September I moved back to New York City to start a new job at Sunny Bates Associates as Project Manager. SBA convenes innovative, forward-looking think tanks to help clients tackle their most pressing problems. For over 25 years, we've built deep relationships with experts across a wide range of fields; people who live and think in the future and work on the edges; people who relish big problems and ideas. When working with our clients, we bring a selection of these folks together, to explore topics that we all believe are vital to the betterment of business and the improvement of the human condition. It's been a ton of fun. On the side, I continue to try to learn guitar and go to yoga. And I have the pleasure of living with another "supreme fellow," Miss Ariana Dugan, as my roommate and partner in crime.”

Class of 2012: Class Marshall Maley Mullin

❖ **Lauren Brincat '12**

Lauren, who completed her fellowship at the Museum of the City of New York, wrote: “I am completing my last semester as a Lois F. McNeil Fellow in the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture. This past year, I curated an exhibition entitled *Encountering 'Others' in the Delaware Valley* which investigated cultural exchange and trade between English settlers and Native Americans in Delaware and Pennsylvania during the seventeenth century. I also had the opportunity to guest lecture for a University of Delaware undergraduate course about food and drink in early America. Over the summer, our class travelled up and down the east coast from Savannah, GA to Plymouth, MA visiting various historic sites and museums. In January, we made a visit to the F.A.O. Schwarz Children’s Center at the Museum of the City of New York where we learned from my former colleagues and F.A.O. Schwarz Fellow alums about educational programming and the rewards of a career in museum education. Currently,

I am diligently writing my MA thesis: *John Bowne's Flushing: Material Life on a Dutch Frontier, 1669-1738* – a topic inspired by my time at MCNY!”

❖ **Lakeisha Gerald '12**

After completing her fellowship at The Food Project, Lakeisha began working as the Operations Manager for ASA Road Service while pursuing her graduate school degree. Lakeisha wrote: “I just finished my last finals this weekend for my MSW (at Simmons Graduate School of Social work) ! I will be receiving my degree in May! I am still interning at TechBoston Academy as a Social Work Intern where I counsel eight students and mentor 15 youth, in hopes to become a High School Guidance Counselor! In May I will be studying for the Social Work & MA Teachers Licensing exams! Wish me luck. Currently I am still at ASA Road Service as the Operations Manager as we continue to service about 3000 customers monthly with future plans to expand to some of the surrounding states of MA.”

❖ **Maley Mullin '12**

Maley, who completed her fellowship at Jumpstart Boston, wrote: “I am currently in my fourth year at Jumpstart and my second year as the Site Manager at Emerson College. Being part of the Emerson community continues to be a wonderful experience and my Emerson students have been doing really phenomenal work in the classroom to support preschoolers. In February I took a two week trip to Australia for a friend's wedding and was able to spend time in Sydney and Melbourne. I fell totally in love with the country and Australians! Since I got back I have mostly been brainstorming how I can possibly return to Australia as soon as possible.”

❖ **Bridgit Paula '12**

Bridgit, who completed her fellowship at Wheelock College, wrote: “This has been an exciting year for me! I transitioned from my role as a visual arts teacher at Phoenix Charter Academy in Chelsea & Lawrence to a Behavioral Aide position at FA Day Middle School in Newton MA. It has been an exciting shift into the world of special education. I am also in the process of applying to Graduate school for School Counseling. Lastly, I am so happy to announce that I got engaged at the end of December! “

❖ **Kerry Sorensen '12**

Kerry, who completed her fellowship at Breakthrough Philadelphia, is currently completing her second year as the internship coordinator at Mastery Charter School Shoemaker Campus in West Philadelphia. As the Internship Coordinator, Kerry wrote that “I am responsible for finding over 100 internships for my 10th grade students. I also teach a career prep and college exploration curriculum. I love the work I do at Mastery! My favorite thing about job is being able to watch my students grow from students into young professionals. “

Class of 2013: Class Marshall Louis Berman

❖ **Louis Berman '13**

After completing his fellowship at Jumpstart NYC, Louis was hired by Jumpstart to work in the Boston office. He wrote: “I am nearing the end of my first program year as Site Manager for Jumpstart's Boston Community Corps. We recruit, train and support 100 older adult volunteers in providing a supplemental language and literacy curriculum to 3 to 5 year preschool old children. It has been an incredibly interesting and rewarding experience to lead our dedicated volunteers in this vital work. I'm enjoying living in Jamaica Plain, Boston and am greatly looking forward to the summer!”

❖ **Sara Wilson '13**

Sara, who completed her fellowship at Year Up, wrote: “I have recently acquired a job with Columbia University as a Content Curator (a.k.a research assistant) for the President's Office. After the Fellowship I was working with Rockefeller Philanthropies and it was a happy match, however this position is strongly aligned with my future career goals and my love for academia! I have officially transitioned and recently started with Columbia University.”

❖ **Greg Wright '13**

After completing his fellowship at The Food Trust, Greg was hired to work at The Food Trust on a permanent basis. The current fellows had the pleasure of seeing Greg during the fall retreat in Philadelphia.