The classes of ’15 & ’16 fellows at the fall retreat in Boston

Spring 2015 Newsletter

F.A.O. SCHWARZ FAMILY FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Julianna Noone (’15, Please Touch Museum) shares a butterfly with young museum visitors
Greetings!

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship has had a great year so far with many exciting projects and updates to share. This fall, the fellowship welcomed five new fellows serving at Breakthrough New York (2 fellows), Philadelphia Mural Arts Program, Strong Women Strong Girls, and Playworks. The first retreat was held in Boston and the fellows had the opportunity to participate in recess at the Blackstone Elementary School, meet with mentors and mentees from Harvard SWSG, and sit in on a Jumpstart session in action. Fellows, Boston-based alumni, and trustees enjoyed a reunion dinner and networking.

In addition to the work at current organizations, several of the fellows have taken on legacy projects that will grow and strengthen the fellowship’s visibility and brand. Dawn Lavalle (’16) drafted several project proposals that would increase the fellowship’s branding and presence and presented at the February trustees meeting. One proposal has already been put into action, with current fellows utilizing their network, alma maters, and social media to publicize the openings for the ’17 class. Margaret Kearney (’16) has designed several beautiful flyers featuring the photos of the current fellows in their service work. These new initiatives will help both prospective fellows and future employees understand the incredible opportunity that the fellowship provides.

In a few short days we will be convening (some for the last time) for our spring retreat in Philadelphia. We are excited to learn more about the work of the three Philadelphia based fellows, as well as some interesting professional development topics. The fellows will participate in a goal setting activity, learn about blogging best practices, focus on leadership development, and several other topics that were requested after the fall retreat.

Next year, we are excited to welcome four new fellows and two new host organizations into the fellowship: Generation Citizen and Riverkeeper.

Be sure to visit faoschwarzfellowship.org for information about opportunities and send along to any seniors or recent college graduates who may be interested in joining the fellowship!

2015-16 Host Organizations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Philadelphia</th>
<th>New York</th>
<th>Boston</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Food Trust</td>
<td>Row New York</td>
<td>Generation Citizen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program</td>
<td>Riverkeeper</td>
<td>Playworks</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Breakthrough New York</td>
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<td>Return fellows</td>
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<td>Strong Women, Strong Girls</td>
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Open positions for new fellows
Gabriella Gomez, Breakthrough New York
I am currently in the middle of teaching research class to thirty-four 8th graders at the Brooklyn site of Breakthrough New York. In this class each of our students write a research paper about any subject that ties back to their community. My favorite part has been seeing their papers develop over time and getting to know my students better as writers.

Sarah Kacevich, Strong Women, Strong Girls
In Sarah’s first year at Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG) in Boston, she has been busy managing a program for adult volunteer mentors and their college-aged mentees, visiting after-school mentoring sites for girls, and supporting development and operations. SWSG is currently amid a busy spring of programming and special events. In addition to an upcoming retreat with the SWSG team in Pittsburgh, Sarah is looking forward to leading the Peace Circle at the FAO Fellows' spring retreat in Philly.

Margaret Kearney, Philadelphia Mural Arts Program
This spring I’ve been having a lot of fun working with a great group of 12th graders at Mastery Shoemaker to research environmental impacts of an upcoming project in their neighborhood and translate their findings through art making. I’m also gearing up for an exciting project I’ll be working on at Mural Arts this summer with Cohabitation Strategies, a cooperative for socio-spatial research, design, and development. This summer I’m also looking forward to working with our high school youth to help paint a new neighborhood mural. My fellowship has been wonderful so far, I feel like I’m constantly learning new things about myself and my field!

Dawn Lavalle, Playworks Boston
It’s hard to believe I’m already more than a quarter of the way through my fellowship! So far it has been a whirlwind of experiences including a fantastic fall retreat getting to meet all of the awesome fellows, organizing two community events for our fifth grade leaders, supporting our Playworks coaches around Boston, Cambridge and Lawrence, and helping to create some new resources to grow the brand of the fellowship. I already feel this experience has given me skills to start becoming a stronger asset to the nonprofit world in Boston and I can’t wait to continue to grow over the next year and a half.

Joseph Rosales, Breakthrough New York
I have had a very busy 2015, as I’ve worked on a variety of projects during my first year at Breakthrough New York. I have been working to revamp the High School program, developing curriculum for the shift into Saturday programming and working with outside organizations to find a space to fit the growing number of high schoolers. I have also been working diligently with the seniors as they get ready to make their college decision during these next few weeks. So much to do, and I’m loving every minute of it!

Amy McDermott, Jumpstart
I can’t believe I am almost finished with my fellowship! This year has been very busy and exciting as I work as an Program Associate on Jumpstart’s national Education and Research team, and as the Associate Site Manager at Boston College. In the national office, I have been supporting Corps member and staff trainings, field research, and managing the internship program. At BC this year, we have had 50 Corps members serving 200 or 300 hours with Jumpstart at 5 preschools across Boston. In addition, I’ve had the opportunity to join Jumpstart’s Connection Committee and the Culture Committee to discuss current strengths and areas of growth for the organization. After I finish with Jumpstart in July, I will be moving to NYC to pursue a dual MBA/MPA with NYU’s Stern and Wagner schools. While I am sad to leave Jumpstart for now, I am excited for this new opportunity to study both business and policy with a focus on social enterprise!
Juliana Noone, Please Touch Museum
I’ve been busy running workshops with PTM guests to teach the little ones about nutrition, gardening, and where food comes from. I just wrapped up my winter programming, a seed paper making workshop. Little guests learned about recycling by reusing discarded paper from our craft room to make new handmade paper. We added herb seeds to the paper so that it can be planted and grown. These pieces of paper were then used to make thank you cards for friends and loved ones, to practice gratitude by giving a super special card that can be grown into a useful herb garden at home. I’ve also been working with our teens in our work-based learning, enrichment and mentoring program ACES (Achievement through Community Service, Education and Skill Building). We’ve been talking about healthy lifestyles and the importance of proper nutrition. They are helping me design and plan our garden that we will be planting on the museum grounds, so that they can experience growing herbs and vegetables first hand. We will be planting our garden in the upcoming month, and using the food we grow later in the summer to make delicious, healthy treats! I’ve also been busy preparing for the upcoming Philly retreat. I’m looking forward to it, although it will be bittersweet. I’m sad to be reaching the end of my fellowship, but looking forward to my next steps, whatever they may be.

Deshaun Parris, The Food Trust
I have continued working with our youth leadership department to expand the visibility of the HYPE(Healthy You. Positive Energy) program throughout Philadelphia. We have just established councils in Camden, NJ and we have recently been awarded a collective impact grant from Glaxo Smith and Kline to act as the backbone organization that will support a network of other organizations to increase access to resources due to the work that we have done through HYPE. I will be attending the University of Pennsylvania this fall to pursue my MPH (master of public health) and will continue my work at The Food Trust as a full time employee.

Charlotte Rendon, Row New York
This is my second year as a FAO fellow and Row New York and currently we are on the water preparing for Spring Racing Season!!!! Our girls have worked hard through this cold winter and are ready to make their presence known on the water. From there, our alumni network is bursting with news. We have an upcoming event for Workplace Women's Empowerment partnered with Estee Lauder and the Barclays Center for college ages alumnae to take place in May. As my term is finishing soon, I am excited for the future. While I am still considering options for advancement at Row New York, I have other thoughts as well including fitness training. More to come!

Shaina Spann, Jumpstart
I am working on building our community engagement through the South Jamaica Reads initiative. South Jamaica Reads is a partnership of 10 literacy organizations within Jamaica, and I am working specifically on increasing our child and family outreach by hosting literacy events, workshops and community fairs in our target areas. We have had about 11 events this year and are continuing to expand our partnerships. My goals for post fellowship are to continue my work in community outreach and hopefully pursue a career that will allow me to travel and pursue community development overseas.

ALUMNI UPDATES

----------Class of 2014----------

Jonathan Baez, Breakthrough New York
I am currently a Recruitment Associate at KIPP NYC. I recruit teachers for our 5 elementary schools in New York City. So far we are half way through our busy season and a third away from reaching our goal. Our goal is to hire 100% of teachers by June 31st. The teacher pool this year is VERY small but that’s where I come in to search wide and far for the best staff to work with our awesome kids. It’s a challenge but I am up for it. If you know someone who is interested in teaching at KIPP NYC, let us know - there’s a $1000 referral bonus! :)

Katherine Evering-Rowe, The Food Project
I am still working as the Youth Development Specialist at The Food Project, supervising two youth programs throughout the year, writing a lot of curriculum about food and social justice for our youth programs, and working with large volunteer groups. I’ve recently been invited to be on the board of Boston Mobilization, which I’m very excited about. Outside of nonprofit work, I trained as a doula in the fall, and am working with my first client this May
Michael McNeill-Martinez, Zumix
I am currently working as an English Teacher at Centro Cultural in San Jose, Costa Rica. In a few months, I will start as a Middle school English Teacher at an International K-12 School in Tres Ríos, Costa Rica.

Kayla Peck, Strong Women, Strong Girls
I am working on the National Foundation Partnership team at Teach For America (TFA). In this role, I help to create donor strategy and craft donor-centric materials to secure multi-million investments for the organization. I’m currently living in Brooklyn, NY, but will be moving back to Boston, MA at the end of May, staying in my current position at TFA.

Caroline Smith, Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia
I am completing my M.Ed. and am a resident with the Boston Teacher Residency at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School, teaching 10th grade English. I will graduate in July, and am currently applying for teaching positions in BPS.

------------Class of 2013-------------

Louis Berman, Jumpstart New York
I am still living in Boston and working with Jumpstart’s Boston Community Corps. It’s a pleasure each day to help older adult volunteers to support young children prepare for kindergarten. I’m happy to share that I was recently admitted to the Collaborative Internship Program at the Shady Hill School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Through this 14 month program, I will work towards earning my Initial Teacher’s License in Early Childhood by teaching daily at the Shady Hill School. I’m excited to begin the fall!

Sara Wilson, Year Up
I am still working with Columbia University as a Content Curator researching world affairs, scholarly campaigns and jurisprudence related to the Office of the President initiatives and leadership interests. I am currently looking into different opportunities within the University to get me closer to my passion for public health work; I thoroughly enjoy the realm of higher education and hope to continue my professional growth within the field.

Gregory Wright, The Food Trust
I am still with my host organization, The Food Trust. Following my tenure as the FAO Schwarz Fellow I worked with the Food Trust’s Nutrition Education team, educating youth and adults in many of the same communities I served as the fellow. I was recently promoted as the HYPE Youth Coordinator, working closely with The Food Trust’s current FAO Schwarz Fellow Deshuan Parris. In this role I encourage youth around the city to lead the charge in health and wellness advocacy in their school and community.

------------Class of 2012-------------

Lauren Brincat, Museum of the City of New York
This past May I received my MA from the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware. After graduation, I received a part-time position as the Executive Director of a very small local museum on Long Island. I have since transitioned into a full-time curatorial position at the New-York Historical Society. My main focus concerns the reinterpretation of the Museum’s permanent collection to develop an engaging gallery space that inspires, provokes contemplation, and educates visitors and school students about New York’s history and culture

Lakeisha Gerald, The Food Project
In May 2014, I graduated with a Master’s Degree in Clinical Social Work from Simmons College. In September I became a Student Success Coach for Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology in Boston where I support students become active learners prepared to be successful individuals in technological fields. I am still the COO of ASA Road Service, assisting thousands of customers a month in and around Boston, MA. Lastly my Boyfriend and I are in the process of closing on a home in a month!

Maley Mullin
I am still at Jumpstart as the Site Manager at Emerson College. This year has been a challenging because of the weather, but my students remain in good spirits! I am excited to begin working toward my Masters in Social Work this fall at the University of Chicago.

Bridgit Paula, Wheelock College
Kerry Sorensen, Breakthrough of Greater Philadelphia
I am in my 3rd year as the 10th grade Internship Coordinator at Mastery Charter School in Philadelphia. As the Internship Coordinator I teach a career and college readiness curriculum and recruit and place all 10th grade students at internships in the city. Currently I have 125 students placed at internships all throughout the city!

--------------Class of 2011--------------

Ariana Dugan, Year Up
After a few years working in operations, I've moved back to the education space and am working at General Assembly as of November 2014. General Assembly builds a community around practical education by providing business, design, and technology classes aimed at empowering people to succeed in the work that they love. I build online digital marketing lessons for our corporate clients and am excited to get exposure to the many different ways General Assembly is experimenting with improving adult education. And of course, living with Supreme Fellow Mariah Peebles makes everything that much better.

Shameka Edmond, Groundwork
I am currently still working for KIPP NJ as a 4th Grade Teacher at SPARK Academy. This past fall, I got my MAT in Elementary Education from Relay Graduate School of Education. I am planning to go back to school and get my Masters in Educational Leadership. I am currently living in Newark, NJ.

Emily Goodridge, Jumpstart
I'm living in Cleveland now, working as the resident Teaching Artist at Cleveland Play House

Mariah Peebles, Year Up

--------------Class of 2010--------------

Sarah Goetz Abood, Please Touch Museum
I have been working for Girls Inc. of Greater Indianapolis for the past two and a half years as their Volunteer Engagement Specialist and recently resigned to spend some time at home with my newborn son. William Robert Abood was born on February 2nd. He was 8 lbs, 21 inches long, and is so very loved by his family. In June, Rob, William, and I will be moving back to the Pittsburgh area and we are looking forward to living close to our family and friends once more.

Danielle Calnan, YMCA of Greater Hockomock Area
I am in my fourth year with the YMCA, I am the Director of Early Education and Association Curriculum for The Hockomock Area YMCA which consists of three large branches in North Attleboro, Foxboro, and Franklin. Ted, myself and our dog Maximo moved from Houston back to Massachusetts in October and we are in the process of selling our first house and buying our second. We are so excited to be back with our family and look forward to being in one place for a few years! We plan on getting married Summer 2016 in Cape Cod and seeing what life brings to us next!

Stephanie Dueno, Museum of the City of New York
This has been an incredibly busy year at the Museum of the City of New York! We just celebrated the 25th Anniversary of New York City History Day. To mark this special programmatic year, we partnered with the New York City Department of Education to provide resources, content and pedagogic support to a cohort of public middle and high school educators. We also received special funding from the National Archives that allowed us to recognize the work of winning students. And finally we were able to award two exceptional educators with small grants for their contribution to the History Day program. I’m now managing the second year of the Pinkerton Foundation Internship Program. We’ve expanded to incorporate interns from three community-based organizations, including the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Community Center, The East Side House Settlement and The Door. I’m looking forward to seeing the 2015 cohort develop into museum educators – they’ll be responsible for leading all of our elementary and middle school programming this summer.

Julia MacMahon, Wheelock
I am in my second semester of my MSW program at Boston College, where I am studying Social Innovation and Leadership. I love the program and am excited to travel to Chile for a course this summer. Currently, I am interning at Year Up Boston and will begin an internship through the HRSA Fellowship at Boston Children’s Hospital next fall

Alexis McConnell, Boston Children’s Museum
Liana Mitman, Jumpstart
I am in my 4th year of running the Diller Teen Fellows program at the Jewish Community Centers of Greater Boston. I am serving as a new board member (and the only one under age 45) for an organization called Yad Chessed that works to support Jewish individuals/families in poverty in the Boston area in need of immediate financial assistance. It was a great experience recently serving on the search committee for their new Executive Director. This past January I completed a certificate program from Yeshiva University and received a certificate in Experiential Jewish Education.

Brianne Studer, Boston Children’s Museum
This spring, I’m transitioning from a dual role at Science Club for Girls as Boston program manager and Farrington Nature Linc as Program Director, to working more full time at Farrington Nature Linc. I’m excited to be expanding their program beyond the Lincoln, MA property, and we are piloting several after school programs this spring, hoping to enter several Boston and Cambridge area after school programs and schools in the coming year. If you know of a program in the Boston area that would like to run a nature-based afterschool program or run a STEM or team-building field trip on our property, let me know!

----------Class of 2009----------

Tory Kline, Please Touch Museum
This past May I graduated from Palmer Theological Seminary with a Masters in Theological Studies and a concentration in Christian Education. Upon graduation I was hired full time as Children’s Ministries Director at Manheim Brethren in Christ Church in Lancaster County, PA. On April 20, 2014, my wonderful fiance proposed. David and I will be getting married in a little under three weeks on April 11, 2015.

Massomeh Muhammad, Year Up
I directly supervises the over 9 staff Ops members in 2014-2015 school year and will oversee 15 ops members across two school campuses. My role is to ensure the effective implementation of all administrative systems within the school including our yearly lottery and enrollment. I am the point person for issues related to all operational policies and procedures with staff and families. Additionally, I oversee human resources, facilities, security, personnel and monitors budget spending. I work closely with the School Leader, Board of Trustees and Director of Finance to maintain the financial sustainability and long-term goals of GUGCS, while also ensuring compliance by completing various required local, state and federal reports critical to the overall success of the school. I got engaged last year and am getting married on October 10, 2015. Lastly, I am training for the NYC Marathon which I will be running in November 2015.

Barbyose Noisette Sanders, Big Brothers Big Sisters

Bianca Van Heydoorn, Vera Institute of Justice

----------Class of 2008----------

CJ Anderson, BELL
I am in my 3rd year at the Hajjar School in Billerica teaching 5th grade. I had the pleasure of working in a cohort with the Teaching and Learning Alliance this year in an effort to implement a balanced literacy program in our school. CJ and Christyne have two children (Declan who will be 4 in May; Aubree who turned 2 in December) and are expecting their 3rd child, Melanie, at the end of May.

Christyne Anderson, Associated Early Care and Education
I just celebrated my second anniversary at Harvard Medical School working as a Senior Grants Manager. I enjoy consulting with faculty to help them finance their research. CJ and Christyne have two children (Declan who will be 4 in May; Aubree who turned 2 in December) and are expecting their 3rd child, Melanie, at the end of May.

Jordy Owen, Children’s Literacy Initiative
Joanna Steinberg, Museum of the City of New York
I am managing student programs at the Museum of the City of New York. I’ve hired and trained new educators, and written curriculum for new school programs connected to the Museum’s exhibitions and collections such as: Hip Hop Revolution, Bronx Tales: A History of the Borough, Capturing the City Through the Camera, and others. In addition to Saturday Academy, which provides unique electives for students interested in American history, I’ve been managing a program that helps at-risk students prepare for the Regents examination in U.S. History and Government. I can’t believe the fellowship is in its 10th year, and am grateful to have been a part of it from its first year!

Emily Kuross Vikre, Boston Children’s Museum
I defended my dissertation and earned my doctorate from the Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition last May. I’m living in Duluth, MN with my husband and our 19 month old son, Espen. My husband and I opened up a craft distillery in Duluth and have been distributing products for over a year now. We craft handmade spirits inspired by the nature and culture of Northern Minnesota. Our company is a triple bottom line, equally valuing people, planet, and profit in our decision making, and we are using the distillery as a platform for working on the issues we care about most, namely local food/agriculture, community-building, and watershed preservation. I’ve spent the last two semesters as an adjunct professor for UNE and Tufts teaching online courses about organizational theory in public health and behavioral theory in health. I’ve also been freelance food writing and have been contributing to a variety of publications including Food52, Minnesota Public Radio, Lucky Peach, and Cake & Whiskey Magazine amongst others. But, the thing that brings me the most joy, is spending time with my family and playing with our amazing little guy out of doors and getting to see the world through his eyes.