

FAO SCHWARZ FAMILY FOUNDATION SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER

This newsletter includes the following articles:

- ❖ Trustees Select Three Organizations to Host 2013 FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows
- ❖ Fall 2010 Fellows Training in Philadelphia a Success
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Trustees Select Three Organizations to Host 2013 FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows

At its February 2011 board meeting, the trustees selected three organizations to host FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows for 2011-2013. Outlined below is a short description of the direct service and special project work for each Fellow. 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. **If you know of any interested college seniors or recent college graduates who might be interested, please send them a copy of the attached more detailed recruitment document (which has the contact name where interested candidates can send a resume and cover note).**

Food Trust (Philadelphia)

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow will provide nutrition education and leadership activities to youth in low-income communities. For the project work, the Fellow will work on state and national policy initiatives to increase access to healthy food in underserved communities, with a focus on prevention of childhood obesity. The mentors to the Fellow at the Food Trust are trustee Molly Wing-Berman and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Mariah Peebles '11 (who is completing her fellowship at Year Up).

The GO Project (New York City)

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow will help launch a new out-of-school program for middle-school students. The mentors to the Fellow at the Go Project are trustee Eliza Ladd Schwarz and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Shameka Edmond '11 (who is completing her fellowship at Groundwork).

Year Up (New York City)

The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow will provide high service and support to the approximately 300 Year Up New York alumni for the direct service work. For the project work, the Fellow will work on various alumni engagement activities. The mentors to the Fellow at Year Up are trustee Rae Paige Schwarz and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Ariana Dugan '11 (who is completing her fellowship at Year Up).

Important Upcoming Dates

Thursday, May 5 – Saturday, May 7, 2011

Training for FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows in Boston

- Breakfast for host supervisors, trustees, current and alumni fellows on May 6 from 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. at Jumpstart (308 Congress Street – 6th floor) - Pls. RSVP to Priscilla if you are an alum or trustee.
- Graduation event for second year fellows on May 6 from 4- 5 p.m. (at Jumpstart, 308 Congress Street – 6th floor) followed by dinner for current/alumni fellows at Red House in Harvard Square (Pls. RSVP)

Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Dinner for NYC Alumni Fellows, NYC current Fellows and Trustees at 6:30 p.m. at home of Rae Paige Schwarz (1220 Park Avenue, #6A, corner of 95th Street)

For Trustees Only

Thursday, October 6, 2011

Board Meeting from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. (114 West 47th Street)

Friday, February 3, 2012

Board Meeting from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. (114 West 47th Street)

Fall 2010 Fellows Training in Philadelphia a Success

Written by FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Ariana Dugan '11

The nine current FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows gathered in Philadelphia in Fall 2010 for their semiannual training experience. This particular retreat was the first time the second year fellows were able to welcome and meet the first year fellows, and all involved agreed that the bonding and development experience that the retreat provided was truly inspirational and invigorating for everyone involved.

The training started off with a visit to Children's Literacy Initiative, where Jordy Owen, FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Alumna Fellow '08, completed her fellowship and is currently working. Through a series of both humorous and thoughtful interactives woven throughout the trainings for the day, the fellows were able to learn from and grow with each other. The more formal sessions included an overview of the FAO Schwarz Family Foundation from Priscilla Cohen, Executive Director of the FAO Schwarz Family Foundation; a discussion with Jordy Owen about her fellowship experience and a leadership deficit discussion led by Linda Katz, Executive Director of Children's Literacy Initiative. Overall, the day set a wonderful tone for the rest of the retreat and the FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship experience in general, as it immediately put fellows in the mindset of both team-building and long-term leadership planning.

The fellows then had the chance to spend an entire day led by Breakthrough Philadelphia staff (Dana Barron, Executive Director; Phyllis Barsky; Jessica Hoagland; and Kerry Sorensen, FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow '12). Breakthrough Philadelphia staff delved into a series of highly effective and relevant trainings. The fellows engaged in a silent web activity that prompted a discussion about urban education, a diversity training session, and a "calm as strength" workshop. After the day of training, the fellows were then treated to a delicious dinner at Marathon Grill with FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Trustee Molly Wing-Berman, and FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Alumnae Fellows Tory Kline '09 and Barbyose Noisette '09.

The final day of the training occurred at the Please Touch Museum. Here the fellows experienced a collaborative training between Please Touch Museum staff (Concetta Bencievenga, Executive Vice President; Leslie Walker, Director of Community Programs and Partnerships; and Tory Kline, FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Alumna Fellow '09) and Breakthrough Philadelphia staff (Sophia Harrison, Germantown Friends School Site Director; and Dana Barron, Executive Director). The day included a scavenger hunt throughout the museum and a training session about leadership styles using the leadership compass model.

Overall, the combination of information, professional development, discussions, and formal and informal team-building allowed the first and second year fellows to appreciate the various types of support that the FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship provides. In the moments of reflection that the fellows had at the end of the retreat, everyone was pleased to agree that the three days were useful and thought-provoking as they struck immediately to the core of that with which every fellow is concerned during their two year fellowship opportunity: being able to make a difference at a young age in the educational experience of children and young adults. This experience, combined with the true sense of camaraderie that developed throughout the three days, left everyone feeling inspired and empowered to move forward with her professional experience in the proceeding six months until the next retreat in May 2011.

FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow Alumni Updates

The following are updates from all 16 of the FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Alumni Fellows.

Class of 2008: Class Marshall Christyne (DeMango) Anderson

❖ C.J. Anderson '08

C.J. received a Master's in Teaching in Elementary Education with Initial Licensure from UMass Boston in December 2010 and is substituting and working at an after-school program in Lexington. CJ and Christyne, who got married in 2009, are expecting their first baby (a boy!) on May 9.

❖ **Christyne (DeMango) Anderson '08**

After four years at Associated Day Care (where she completed her FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship and then worked for two years), Christyne was hired by Wheelock College as the Senior Administrative and Project Specialist at the Aspire Institute. She graduated in the summer of 2009 with a Master's in Education with a concentration in Higher Education Administration and a post-graduate certificate in Adult and Organizational Learning. She and CJ are expecting their first child on May 9.

❖ **Jordy Owen '08**

After completing her FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellowship at Children's Literacy Initiative (CLI) in Philadelphia, Jordy was hired by the organization and recently promoted to content development supervisor. In addition, she is pursuing a masters of education degree part-time from the University of Pennsylvania's program focused on education, culture and society. The FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellows, during their fall retreat in Philadelphia, had the pleasure of spending time with Jordy at CLI.

❖ **Joanna Steinberg '08**

Joanna, who was a FAO Schwarz Family Foundation Fellow at the Museum of the City of New York, wrote: "I completed my graduate work in Public History at New York University this past May (2010), and since then I have been working full-time at the Museum of the City of New York. I teach school programs on a daily basis, and coordinate the Museum's Saturday Academy program, which was recently featured as the best museum program for high school students in *New York Magazine's* "Best of New York in 2011" issue: <http://nymag.com/bestofny/kids/2011/kid-friendly-museums/>. In April (2011), I will be presenting a paper at the Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region Conference about the oral histories I conducted for two years. This research had culminated in an exhibition I curated at NYU entitled, *A Sanctuary for the Arts: Judson Memorial Church and the Avant-Garde, 1954-1976*, which received critic's pick in *Time Out New York* in October."

❖ **Emily Kuross Vikre '08**

"By way of an update, I got married this fall, and have changed my name to Emily Vikre. I am continuing to work on my PhD, working on a lifestyle intervention to prevent obesity in new immigrant mothers and children using a popular education curriculum and motivation interviewing. I am also working on writing a curriculum for a pilot portion of the grant about civic engagement and its connection to health. In the bit of free time I have, I have been volunteering with an after school food art program at a friend's church, and I am continuing to blog about cooking and life at <http://fiveandspice.wordpress.com>."

Class of 2009: Class Marshall Massomeh Muhammad

❖ **Tory Kline '09**

After the completion of her Fellowship at Please Touch Museum, Tory was hired on a full-time basis to work there. She recently wrote: "I'm still working at Please Touch Museum as Collections Coordinator. In the past year, I made the decision not to pursue my masters in Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins. Instead, I've chosen to attend Palmer Theological Seminary for my Master's in Divinity. The plan is to continue working at the museum full-time, while attending classes at night and on the weekends."

❖ **Massomeh Muhammad '09**

Massomeh was hired to work full time at YearUp in the position of Alumni Coordinator after the completion of her fellowship there. In the summer of 2010, she was promoted to Site Director. Massomeh is also a graduate student at the City College of New York for the Study of the Americas.

❖ **Barbyose Noisette '09**

Barbyose got married in May 2010 to Alfred Sanders. In the fall, she became site coordinator at Clymer Elementary School, managing the daily operations of the 21st Century after school program and managing approximately 10 staff members.

❖ **Bianca Van Heydoorn '09**

After the completion of her Fellowship at the Vera Institute, Bianca was hired into a full time role as a Program Analyst in Vera's Center on Youth Justice. Almost a year later, Bianca left the organization to take on a position as Career Services Manager at Getting out & Staying Out, a reentry program for males ages 18-24 who have recently been released from Rikers Island. In addition, Bianca completed her graduate degree in

criminal justice in December 2010 from John Jay college of Criminal Justice. She recently returned from a memorable trip to South Africa.

Class of 2010: Class Marshall Liana Mitman

❖ **Dani Calnan '10**

“Since leaving the fellowship in July, I have been spending a lot of time with close friends and my family. In June, I started an M.Ed program with a focus in instruction, curriculum, and management in Out Of School Learning Time. I have loved being back in school and will be completing the program in August. After a lot of training, I have become a member of the American Cancer Society running team, DETERMINATION. I have participated in many running events and am currently training for the NYC half marathon on March 20th. In August, I started teaching kindergarten at a private school in Wayland Massachusetts, and have been working closely with the curriculum team to improve the quality of our classrooms.”

❖ **Stephanie Dueno '10**

After the completion of her Fellowship at the Museum of the City of New York, Stephanie was hired by the Museum to be their History Day Coordinator. In late March, Stephanie wrote: “I just wrapped up the 21st Annual New York City History Day competition. 320 students from all five boroughs presented 175 projects to our volunteer judges. Despite the weather on March 6th, History Day was a huge success. It seems that 3rd time really is the charm. The program continues to improve each year! I’m currently collecting feedback, supporting students and teachers as they move on to New York State History Day and forming a plan of action for next year’s competition. In the meantime, I’m enjoying teaching our four new school programs including a walking tour of New Amsterdam (lower Manhattan) and a gallery based program focusing on the temporary exhibition *Ain’t Nothin’ Like the Real Thing: How the Apollo Theater Shaped American Entertainment*. “

❖ **Sarah Goetz '10**

“Currently, I'm midway through my second semester at Saint Joseph's University. I'm pursuing a Dual Master's Degree in Elementary and Special Education and expect to graduate in the Spring of 2012. Also, I still regularly volunteer with the ACES program (the teen enrichment program) at Please Touch Museum.”

❖ **Julia MacMahon '10**

After the completion of her Fellowship at Wheelock, Julia moved back to Texas to be closer to family and to continue to work to support youth leadership and provide opportunities and supports to teenagers in the Dallas/Ft Worth area. When the first position she took as Program Coordinator at BRIDGE Lacrosse Dallas turned out to be too administrative, she transitioned to working as a College Advisor to mostly first generation students at a public high school through Academic Success Program. Julia wrote “While the position is temporary (through the end of June), I will be working directly with young people and will be able to build relationships with school leaders who can help me to find a permanent position later. While things didn't work out with BRIDGE, I am glad I gave it a try because I learned a lot about what kind of position I am actually looking for and how to better screen for a good fit in the future.”

❖ **Alexis McConnell '10**

“I'm living in Fort Lauderdale, Florida now, working as a Chiropractic Assistant and part-time Wellness Consultant. I'm hoping to return to school to finish classes so I can do my internship and take the exam for the Registered Dietician certification also.”

❖ **Liana Mitman '10**

Liana is now the Operations Manager, CAYL Institute in Boston and is on the Board of the Young Leadership Division at Combined Jewish Philanthropies. Liana wrote: “I’m working on growing my jewelry party business (Beadazzled Birthdays) and have been selling customized jewelry. I recently moved to an apartment on the border of Brookline/Boston.”

❖ **Brianne Studer '10**

Brianne wrote: “I’ve been working with a group of people over the last year to found Cambridge Community Kitchen. Long story short, CCK will be an incubator kitchen that will lower the barrier to entry for individuals hoping to become culinary entrepreneurs. In addition, it will also be a food-focused educational and community center, providing nutrition and food education for children, families, and adults. “