

"Whatever my future will be, I am inconceivably excited." - Nancy Lilly '11

Will Robinson, Mar 29 2011

Two-dozen alumni took time out of their busy schedules and returned to campus this past Saturday to participate in the school's annual Career Day. Students embraced the opportunity and spent the morning exploring a variety of career paths and fields, including non-profit leadership, finance, law, medicine, publishing, and scientific research.

The morning began with a keynote address from Journalist Jamila Trindle '98 who discussed the arc of her career starting out as a field reporter for Philadelphia's NPR affiliate WHYY, moving to public television as a reporter, becoming fluent in Chinese, covering the Beijing Olympics and now working for the Dow Jones Report and the Wall Street Journal.

When asked by a student how she approached her everyday work Jamila encouraged students to take everything head on. "I like the steep end of the learning curve. Go to the knotty part, like you do in Mr. Speers' English class or in Mr. Kemer's Chemistry class. Work on the most confusing, the hardest part first, and work it out from there."

Afterward, alumni provided students with brief introductions before leading six separate small group discussions with students interested in various fields. Students had the opportunity to go to two different sessions with many choosing to learn about careers they hadn't considered before. The morning ended with alumni sitting down with students at lunch to continue the conversation.

Nancy Lilly '11 described day's electric vibe: "Today my future was completely ripped to pieces, stomped on and rebuilt over and over. One minute I was destined to be an FBI agent carrying around my 35lb bulletproof vest with a firearm by my side, the next minute I was constructing my own charity, and yet the next I was working at the grassroots level in the Peace Corps gaining experience before becoming a diplomat. Whatever my future will be, I am inconceivably excited. This dip into the pool of alumni gave me just a taste of the support web St. Andrew's can offer."

George Hutton '97 echoed Nancy's sentiment about the support and encouragement alumni can provide during a Science & Technology breakout session. "You all are sitting on an incredible gift in the alumni community. Reach out to us. We'd do whatever we can to help you find your career."

Special thanks to Director of Alumni Affairs Chesa Profaci '80 for all the work she did behind the scenes to make the day a success and to all the alumni who came back to help support the current generation of St. Andrew's students. You can find a list of alumni participants below and a more in-depth biography of each via the pdf under the "Relates Files" section of this page.

Health & Wellness

Anush Parikh '95, Radiologist, Mid-Delaware Imaging

River Elliott '96, Plastic Surgery Resident, University of Pennsylvania

Preston Gazaway '71, Obstetrician, Baltimore County Health Department

Howard Snyder '61, Pediatric Surgeon, Professor, University of Pennsylvania

John Pinney '61, President, Pinney Associates

Lindsay Lowa '99, Family Therapist, Montgomery Mental Health Center

Law & Order

Henry Ridgely '67, Justice, Delaware Supreme Court

Josh Wilson '95, Associate, Arnold & Porter, LLP

Non-Profit/NGOs

Colin Smith '99, Executive Director, Change for Kids

Nikki Mowbray '98, Project Director, YMCA of Delaware

Jeff Lilley '82, Director, International Republic Institute

Daphne Patterson '04, CSR Team, World Wildlife Fund

Emily McAlpin Rauch '96, Grants Manager, Vanguard Charitable Fund

Science & Technology

Eddie Hickman '05, Research Assistant, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center at Georgetown University

George Hutton '97, Productivity Manager, W.R. Grace

Cory McCarty '96, RF Signals Technologies Group, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Finance & Architecture

Erica Landskroener '04, Financial Planning, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney.

Bill Mott '78, Managing Director, Deutsche Bank

Bret Peters '81, Architect, PA Office for Planning and Architecture

Communications & Marketing

Jamila Trindle '98, Journalist, Dow Jones Report, Wall Street Journal

Kathy DeMarco '84, Screenwriter, Film Producer, Author, Creative Writing Professor, University of Pennsylvania

John Schwab '82, Northeast Market Manager, International Demographics