



ALUMNI UPDATES

June 2026



Carter A. Hunt

Carter A. Hunt (GSP-Centre 1991) is an environmental social scientist who is passionate about the conservation of biodiversity. A Professor at Penn State University, he holds faculty appointments in Recreation, Park, and Tourism Management (RPTM), Anthropology, and Latin American Studies. His recent research on the impacts of tourism and migration in the Galápagos Islands has been supported by a Fulbright Scholar Award and numerous grants from the National Science Foundation.

Will Olmstadt (GSP - Centre 1996) is Associate Dean of Libraries for Administration & Operations at Georgia Southern University. He recently completed a Doctor of Education from Louisiana State University in Shreveport.



Ryan Schulte

Ryan Schulte (GSP - EKV 2004) in his role as Project Manager, recently led the team responsible for developing and successfully flying the Orion Flywheel exercise device on NASA's historic Artemis II mission that sent 4 astronauts back the moon for the first time since 1972. He and his team are currently developing a fleet of additional reusable devices that will be used on all future Artemis missions, enabling crews to maintain their physical fitness while in deep space. After GSP, Ryan graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and has spent 18 years in various technical roles at the NASA Johnson Space Center, including Lunar/Mars surface In-Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU), pyrotechnics, human research management, and exercise hardware development. Link to full story: <https://www.nasa.gov/missions/artemis/i-am-artemis/i-am-artemis-ryan-schulte/>



Sandra Carpenter

Sandra Carpenter (GSP - Bellarmine 2007) first came to the Governor's Scholars Program as a Scholar and Commonwealth Scholar at Bellarmine University in 2007. Growing up in the Big Sandy River Valley of eastern Kentucky and southern Ohio, GSP opened a door she did not know existed and confirmed that storytelling, community, and intellectual life could be a vocation. Sandra went on to earn a B.A. in English from Eastern Kentucky University and an M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of South Florida. In 2018, she had the privilege of returning to GSP as faculty at Morehead State University, which remains one of the most meaningful experiences of her career. She is pleased to share that she recently joined Louisville Youth Group (LYG) as Executive Director. LYG is a Louisville-based nonprofit dedicated to empowering LGBTQIA+ youth through community connection, life-skills education, and social advocacy.

Madeline Peterson (GSP - Bellarmine 2009) has been working in education for five years and is now the 6-8th grade ELA teacher at St. Francis of Assisi School in Louisville, KY! She is excited to bring her ESL and English language teaching experience from JCPS, Hong Kong and the Archdiocese of Louisville to her new role at SFA.



Lindsay Quijano

Lindsey (Anderson) Quijano (GSP - Bellarmine 2008) just started a new position with Fifth Third in Lexington as an Associate Wealth Manager Advisor in the Private Bank supporting both the Louisville and Lexington markets.



Madeline Peterson



Kyle Smith

Kyle Smith (GSP - Bellarmine 2009) was named a 2026 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellow. Kyle is currently a PhD candidate in Educational Studies at the University of Michigan with an anticipated graduation date of Spring 2027.



Amanda Pennington at Yellow Door Ceramics Studio (Left) and with Evan Pennington at GSP-Bellarmine in 2010 (Right).

Amanda (Barth) Pennington (GSP - Bellarmine 2010) opened a community pottery studio in Indianapolis, Indiana in 2021 named Yellow Door Ceramics Studio. She also celebrated her 15 year dating anniversary, and 5 year wedding anniversary in 2025 with fellow 2010 GSP-Bellarmine scholar Evan Pennington. They welcomed their son in 2024.



Lindsay Lambert

Lindsay Lambert (GSP - Bellarmine 2012) Since her time as a scholar in 2012, she worked in the GSP summer office in 2015 (Bellarmine), 2016 (NKU), and 2017 (NKU). She graduated from WKU in 2017 (B.S. in Marketing, B.A. in Dance). In 2020, she completed her Masters in Mass Communication Digital Strategy from the University of Florida. After almost 7 years as the Marketing Manager at Pink Lily (another Kentucky founded business!) she recently started a new role as the Director of Marketing at Inked Brands in Bowling Green. She also spends spring weekends judging dance competitions all over the U.S. for Kids Artistic Revue, Rainbow Dance Competition, and Inspire National Dance Competition.



Allie Shaffer

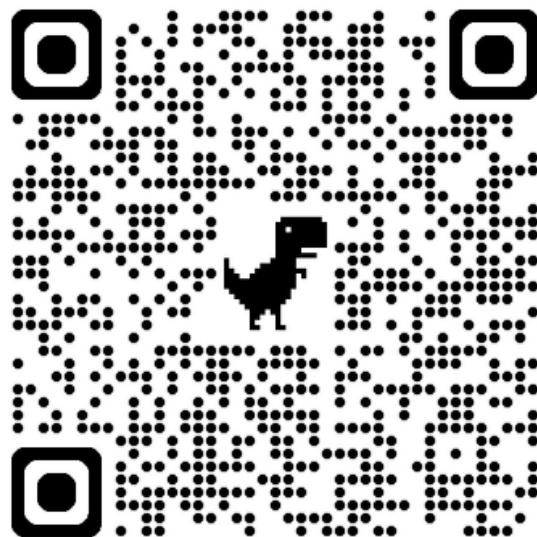
Allie Shaffer (GSP - Bellarmine 2020) started a new career as a Financial Advisor in late 2025 dedicated to serving the greater Lexington area! Her passion is equipping individuals with the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions as they pertain to their personal lives, families, and businesses. Allie's goal is to help others utilize their time, money, and life to do what matters most to them. Feel free to look her up at Edward Jones if she can be a resource to you, somebody you know, or another fellow GSP Alum!



Sam Cotthoff

Sam Cotthoff (GSP - Centre 2021) After graduating from Centre and working as a Head RA for GSP - Murray this summer, Sam will be extending the GSP irrigation system to Texas! He is attending the University of Texas at Austin to earn a MEd in Higher Education Leadership and Policy and work as the Graduate Assistant for the Sorority and Fraternity Life Ambassador Program.

Zoe Robinson (GSP - Bellarmine 2021) As a GSP alum, she wanted to share a research opportunity! She is currently a graduate student at the University of Southern Mississippi conducting an IRB-approved study on jury-decision making and is looking for Kentucky adults who are eligible for jury duty to participate in an online jury simulation.



We would love to hear about the great things our Alumni are doing these days. If you have an update you would like to share, please submit it here to be featured on the Alumni Updates page which will be updated with the next newsletter.