

ITINER A

TRINITY SCHOOL AT RIVER RIDGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Where are they now?

Mark Driessen, 2000

Where do you live now and how did you end up there?

I currently live on Oahu. Initially, I moved to Maui about 10 years ago to pursue my interests in sailing, surfing and scuba diving. Prior to moving to Hawaii, I worked for the French Ministry of Education and Research on the Overseas Departments of Reunion Island and Guadeloupe, so the island life fit me well! While on Maui, I worked for a sailboat company for several years called Trilogy Excursions, where I also met my wife ;) Subsequently, I attended law school on Oahu, and I now work as an associate attorney at Case Lombardi & Pettit, located in downtown Honolulu.



What are your hobbies?

If I am not working, you will find me in one of two places – out on the water or up in the mountains. I absolutely love the ocean and spend a significant amount of time playing in it! My wife comes from several generations of sailors/adventurers, and we love to surf, sail and dive together. I also love to explore the

mountains in our backyard. There are great trails here that will take you to some pretty epic places, if you know where to look.

What are you reading right now?

I love to read! I did my masters in French Literature ;) Let's see, I just finished *The Sea-Wolf*, by Jack London, and I'm currently reading *Nocturnes*, by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Are there any studies from Trinity that you are still discovering or pursuing?

Probably my two favorite classes at Trinity were 7th grade Life Science and 8th grade Earth Space Science. I have always had a great love of the natural world, and in those classes I got to learn the names of birds and trees, how to navigate by the stars, and how to read the weather by the wind and the clouds. I never stopped. If you go out on my porch today you will find a pair of binoculars next to a bird identification book. The website I visit most



frequently forecasts the wind and waves in detailed models and charts. And if you were to come hiking with me, I would pull out my flora and fauna identification book so that we could stop and name as many plants as possible!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Where are they now?

Mark Driessen '00
Elizabeth Tigan '93
Rosie O'Hare '11
Ian Johnson '05
John Kieffer '07

Calendar

2008 Class Reunion

Who's That Class?

Coming Up



TRINITY
SCHOOL
AT RIVER RIDGE



SAVE *the* DATE

FEBRUARY

Winter Classic Gala

Saturday, February 2nd, 2019

Parent Information Night

Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 at 7:30 pm

MARCH

Enrichment Workshop: Art Workshop*

Saturday, March 2nd, 2019 at 9 am

Senior Drama Performances: Romeo & Juliet

Friday, March 15th, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 16th, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Open House

Thursday, March 21st, 2019 at 7 pm

Enrichment Workshop: Art Workshop*

Saturday, March 23rd, 2019 at 9am

Enrichment Workshop: DaVinci Day*

Saturday, March 30th, 2019 at 9 am

APRIL

Parent Information Night

Tuesday, April 9th, 2018 at 7:30 pm

MAY

Fine Arts Festival

May 6th - 25th, 2019

Parent Information Night

Tuesday, May 14th, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Senior Drama Performances

Friday, May 17th, 2019 at 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 18th, 2019 at 7:30 pm

JUNE

Commencement

Saturday, June 8th, 2019 at 1:00 pm

Summer Enrichment Camps - more information coming soon!

JULY

Summer Enrichment Camps - more information coming soon!

*Questions? Contact: [Sarah Serdar](#) or

register online: [Enrichment Registration](#)

Where are they now?

Elizabeth Tigan, 1993

What do you do for a living?

When I think about what I do for a living, I like to break it into two categories – what I do professionally, and also what I do to make a life for myself and my family. Both my professional work and the work that I do for my living are based in the field of agriculture. I am the Certification Manager at an organic certification agency in Viroqua, WI; Nature's International Certification Services, or NICS. We are a mid-sized agency accredited by the USDA to provide organic certification in all scopes – Crops, Livestock, Processing/Handling and



Wild Crops. We serve around 1000 clients all over the US. I have worked for NICS since 2012 and have served as an inspector and Certification Specialist, and now manage our

Certification Team to provide sound and sensible organic certification to our clients, based on good records and common sense. Prior to working with NICS, I worked for a number of different organic farms in different capacities, but most endearingly as a farm hand and self-declared milkmaid on a jersey dairy farm in the Northeast Kingdom of Vermont called Butterworks Farm. My family and I have a small farm where we rotationally graze and shepherd a flock of Cheviot sheep – mostly for meat but with an expanding interest in fiber as well. This is where we make our living. We sold our first farm and are currently taking a neglected piece

of old farm land and using permaculture principles to regenerate the land and feed our family and community. We are also building a house! It is pretty exciting to have a blank slate to be working with, and the opportunity to create our own infrastructure is both a joy and a struggle. Our well is 489 feet deep and that is not cheap!

My interest in food, sustainability and the health of our ecosystems and our planet help fuel me and my family. I have been working in the organic food system and as part of the organic and sustainable agriculture movement in many different roles since 1996. Social justice, food justice and sustainable living are all tied together in what we do, and there is a lot of work to do. This is the work that really drives me.

Is there anything about where you live/the culture you live in, that brings you more life and more enjoyment? How does living in a rural community challenge you? Has it changed you or your perspective?

The area I live in is called the Driftless – which is an unglaciated area in MN, WI and IA. One of the things that makes this area so unique, besides the incredible geology, is the passion and commitment people have for food and land. This is a place where agriculture still drives the economy, and in the Driftless organic agriculture drives the economy. It is absolutely life-affirming and wonderful to go to the grocery store – which for me is the Viroqua Food Cooperative – and see farmers bringing their produce to the store and then turn around and get their kids from the truck and go grocery shopping alongside the folks that came out to perform their organic inspection a few weeks before. In a rural community, everyone works together and you see it happening! All of the things that I might consider to be a challenge really represent an opportunity for our community to develop our resiliency and get down to the basics. When we needed more organic and healthy food we brought it to the leadership at the coop, and now our food coop has just completed a big expansion and has the ownership base that equals the population of

our town! The biggest challenge to me right now is that the racial divide here is pretty deep and my kids aren't living with people of all different races – it's a pretty white community here. The other problem is that there isn't a Thai restaurant within 100 miles.

Is there anything that would surprise people about your day-to-day?

I spend all day talking about organic farming and our food supply! We work to ensure that the farmers and processors we let use our seal can comply with all of the regulations we enforce. I used to spend all day farming – milking cows, cleaning barns, moving fences for grazing cows, grinding feed, milking cows, cleaning barns! These days our sheep require less maintenance than the cows – cows require twice a day! The sheep are good every day or so the way we have worked our system.



Were there any interests discovered at Trinity that have formed or fed your work now? Any studies from Trinity that you are still discovering or pursuing?

The broad pursuits of Goodness, Truth and Beauty still inform and help focus my days. Surely we know that the truth that lies in care for the earth and opportunity for goodness in our communities comes first through our daily sustenance, our food and our water. Caring for each other and the earth is the most beautiful pursuit and one which we are striving for every day.



The class of 2008 celebrated their 10 year reunion on December 26th!

Back Row (L to R): Nick Raway, Michael Coughlin, Andy Bowar, Ben Altman;

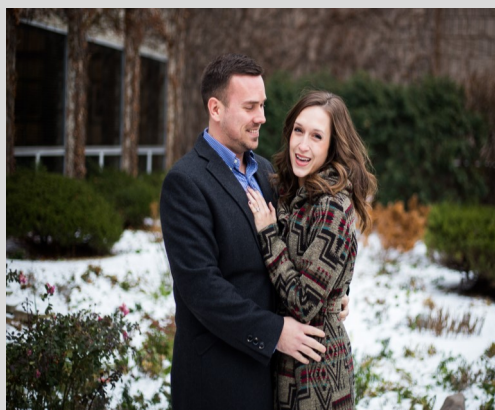
Front Row (L to R): Isaac Willard, MJ Zappa, Nick Lambrecht

Where are they now? Rosie O'Hare, 2011

Hello! My name is Rosie O'Hare. I've been asked to share a little about my life and where it's led me since my time at Trinity.

I'll start by saying: I have loved my adventure. After high school, I took a year off to serve with NET Ministries, where I traveled with my team throughout the midwest and east coast to put on retreats and help middle schoolers and high schoolers discover Christ in a deeper way. I came home and dove head first into a rigorous nursing program at the U of M, which brought me to my first job as a critical care nurse in the Cardiovascular ICU. After a few years, I moved on to work for the Veterans Health Administration in their surgery center. I love everything about my job - the fast pace, my team, my managers, my life balance - and I feel absolutely privileged to serve our nation's veterans. My daily life

looks a little something like this: opening up the surgery center bright and early, working with the rest of the surgical team to prepare our patients for surgery, and seeing them come out on the other side for us to stabilize them, wake them up, and send them on to the next appropriate phase of care.



What inspires me is seeing people become more who they are meant to be. This comes out in a very practical way in my career - helping to bring about healing and returning people to their best possible quality of life. It's an added bonus that I get to spend so much of my day with some of

the most respectable, disciplined and courageous men and women in our country. In a more spiritual way, I find joy and inspiration in walking with young people as they navigate life and build a solid foundation of truth and beauty and the Father's love. I get to do this in my work with high schoolers from the Community of Christ the Redeemer. I am entirely amazed by the resilience, goodness, humor, and desire for holiness, and I am called on by them daily to become more and more holy myself.

What some of you may not know about me is that I am recently engaged! I spend my days preparing for our wedding this summer and, more importantly, preparing for our marriage! Please keep Ross and me in your prayers as we get closer to our next big adventure!

Where are they now?

Ian Johnson, 2005

During the thirteen years since graduating from Trinity at River Ridge, I've embarked on a career as a historian. I currently teach at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, where I am the Associate Director of the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy and a lecturer in the Department of History.

My immersion at Trinity in verum, bonum, et pulchrum has shaped my career. Seeking the first has been the guiding light of my professional life: as a historian, I try to uncover the "landscape of history" as best I can, rediscovering the past through research, then conveying it through writing and teaching. My particular areas of interest were also inspired in part by the classic works of Russian literature -- like *War and Peace* and *The Brothers Karamazov* -- that I read while at Trinity.

A typical day for me starts around 7 am. I wake up and spend a little time reading over coffee and breakfast. I then go through the emails that have accumulated overnight; depending on the time of year, these are usually students asking for extensions on papers! Time permitting, I then practice my language skills a little: for research, I use Russian and German frequently. Most mornings, I take a short break to go for a run around 8:45 am, ideally along the water: my wife and I live in Branford, Connecticut, a small seaside town near New Haven.

By 10 am, I am usually in my office on campus. I hold my office hours in the mornings, then teach in the afternoons. This coming spring, I will be

co-teaching the Grand Strategy Course, which explores strategists from Thucydides to Martin Luther King, Jr. I am also offering a seminar on the History of the Second World War. Most evenings, class is followed by a formal Grand Strategy dinner that we host with a visiting speaker. These events include students, faculty, and a distinguished guest, who discuss pressing questions of strategy, history, and politics over dinner.



Over the last two years, visitors have included senators, generals, diplomats, social activists, and academics from a wide variety of backgrounds. This coming semester (among others) we are hosting dinners with former National Security Adviser General H.R. McMaster, historian Max Boot, and President of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights Vanita Gupta. Coordinating these visits is part of my job.

The last part of my work life centers on research and writing. Over the past two years, I've written for a variety of popular publications like *The National Interest*, as well as academic journals like *Technology and Culture*. I have also had the chance to make some media appearances, the most interesting of

which was a guest spot on a Russian talkshow where we discussed US-Russian relations. But most of my time has been consumed by two book projects. Last summer, I finished editing the long-lost memoirs of a Russian anti-communist politician for publication (*The White Nights: Pages from a Russian Doctor's Notebook*, Bowen Press, 2018). The other book, which is not out yet, is drawn from my doctoral dissertation. After years of research in Russia, Germany, Poland, the United Kingdom and elsewhere, I wrote my dissertation on a covert alliance forged between the Soviet government and the German military in 1922. Together, they built a network of secret bases, laboratories, and factories in Russia, where they jointly trained thousands of officers and developed new tactics and technologies. This led, eventually, to the outbreak of the Second World War in Europe in 1939. That book will be coming out with Oxford University Press late this year or early next.

Without Trinity, I cannot imagine having the chance to teach at a place like Yale. From the depth of Latin to the breadth of humane letters, I came away from Trinity with a real sense of how to read, write, and most importantly, how to learn. Trinity inspired a thirst for learning and discovery that has undergirded my professional life. Last but not least, there are the amazing friends I made there who have helped so much along the way. During my first few visits to Yale as a research fellow -- which led to my first appointment there -- I stayed on classmate Mike Kuplic's couch! I have no doubt that those students at Trinity today will one day look back with equal gratitude for the great opportunity they enjoy.



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Remember when you surprised yourself year after year at Trinity with your hidden art skills and how much you enjoyed art? Or remember how yesterday you were still really good at art? No matter which you identify with, we have something for you...

Alumni Art Club

Still..

COMING

SOON!

For more information or if you're interested in helping, please contact

[Rachelle Wind.](#)

Veritas Journal

Awakening to the True, the Good, and the Beautiful

Have you ever wished that some of the aspects of the community of learners that you experienced could be continued in your college and adult life? Ever wanted to sit down again with a group of friends and battle it out over a good book, a tough math problem, or a work of art?

Welcome to [Veritas Journal](#) – a new extension of our community of learners to alumni, parents, and the wider world. We don't pretend that an online forum could ever take the place of the joy of face-to-face discussion. But if you are hungry for some material for reflection, read along with us and join the discussion at [veritasjournal.org](#). Perhaps you could even begin a *Veritas* discussion group in your city or town!

Do you have a job that excites your engagement with the world? Think about sharing some insight from that part of your life. A hobby that drives your curiosity? Describe some little corner of reality that it brings you up against. We would love to give you a forum to share your ongoing wonder about the world. Or maybe you are an educator yourself (or even think a great deal about education in the broadest sense). We are also looking for articles on education in the Trinity School tradition (though not explicitly about Trinity School). If you are interested in writing for *Veritas Journal*, [click here](#) for more information!

Whether as a reader, discussion participant or writer, check out [Veritas Journal](#) online ([www.veritasjournal.org](#)). Follow us on Facebook, by RSS feed, or by signing up to receive email notifications. And help us promote the journal by sharing it with your friends!



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Where are they now? John Kieffer, 2007

Location: Washington, DC in a humble apartment (which costs an arm and a leg).

Work: I am a Preventive Medicine resident – translation: I am a medical doctor pursuing further medical training which includes a lot of epidemiology, biostatistics, getting an MPH and some research.

Life in DC: I often forget I live in DC, since I am busy with work, but there's a wealth of cultural, historic and natural activities to do. The frequent question I ask myself is whether I should stop studying and go visit a museum or see a show – so far, I have rarely engaged in this type of adventure (hopefully, soon!). Another big positive to living in DC is that my good friend and Trinity classmate, Chris Miller, lives here with his wife Laura and daughter Pippa. It's a wonderful thing to maintain friendship



with him ever since we were mere seivies at River Ridge.

Hobbies: I enjoy studying languages

and I have the completely irrational hope to surpass Dr. Beane someday in linguistic mastery. I've also started to learn a coding language called "R" that is commonly used for data analysis. Needless to say, I am currently at a language competency with R that is roughly equivalent to saying "Hello, what is your favorite color?"

Air Force: I am active duty Air Force, which means I do not have as much control over where I live or what I wear to work but my co-workers are excellent people. I recently PCS'd (military move) from San Antonio where I worked in the clinic serving basic military trainees. San Antonio was a great place to live.

Reading: Currently, I am reading a very informative book about the Taliban by Ahmed Rashid and another about Chinese medicine by Manfred Porkert. I would also recommend Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Steven Pressfield's *Gates of Fire* (not for kids) which I completed via audiobook. Since I have nothing better to do, I am reading Dante's *Inferno* again but this time in the original Italian which makes for very slow but rewarding progress.

Trinity heritage: I am very grateful I was able to attend Trinity school, despite the fact that at the time I was often less enthusiastic about learning. Only now, 11 years since graduation, have I finally grasped what all the fuss about "sense of wonder" entailed. I owe much of this appreciation to G.K. Chesterton and Thomas Aquinas as well as the physicist/philosopher Wolfgang Smith (*Science and Myth*). That's all for now folks, get out there and seek the good things!



Who's That Class?

The Class of 2001 -
showing us how to take
a class picture!

Trinity School at River Ridge

2019 Winter Classic

Saturday, February 2, 2019

5:30 pm

RSVP HERE!

Walk-ins welcome!



RSVP HERE!

Walk-ins welcome!

2019 Class Reunions

Class of 2014—5 years

Class of 2009—10 years

Class of 2004—15 years

Class of 1999—20 years

Class of 1994—25 years

Celebrate your time at Trinity by planning your class's milestone reunion! If you are interested in volunteering, contact Rachelle Wind at rwind@trinityschools.org. TSRR is happy to help you promote your event!

STAY CONNECTED

Moved recently? Changed your email address? Have a class note to share?

Keep us updated by filling out this [Google Form](#) or sending us an [email](#).



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