

OBE SPOTLIGHT

The Old Brentonians Executive played a significant role in shaping the initiatives and programs offered to our over 7,000 alumni worldwide this past 2014/2015 school year. Brentwood is thrilled to report that all seventeen OBE members have confirmed they will continue providing their valued time and thoughtful input for the upcoming 2015/2016 school year, and we could not be more honoured to have such a diverse and knowledgeable group of individuals choosing to stay committed. Taking time away from family, jobs, and other volunteer opportunities, our valued members strive toward our collective goal of strengthening the Old Brentonians network, by creating new opportunities to leverage connections, and meaningful ways to give back. Please read on for some perspectives on different issues from some of the members of the OBE.

Tammie (Morrison) Toriglia (ALEX '79) on involvement—Being involved in the OBE is not a huge time commitment. Our group meets in person every couple years. This year we met during Regatta weekend, which gave us a chance to connect with many alumni. We communicate, for the most part, via email and we try to attend alumni events whenever possible. Being a part of the OBE has re-connected me with the school and I've really enjoyed meeting other generations of Brentwood alumni!

Bruce Foreman (ELLIS '84) on our philanthropic footprint—I believe that everyone should give back, some way, somehow, in whatever capacity best suits them. Over the years I have narrowed my focus to a handful of causes and institutions to which I contribute. This actually makes it easier for me to say no to others, as I feel great about the difference I am making to the few, and know that there is something out there for everyone. We all have a little extra time and/or money to give, and personally the satisfaction I have gained from my philanthropy has been extremely rewarding.

Brentwood has become more important to me as the years have passed and I am pleased to be able to volunteer my time as a member of the OBE, as well as contribute a little financially. One of the school's greatest strengths is the alumni group, which gets larger and more diverse with each graduating class. With this comes opportunities to carry the torch to all corners of the globe and keep the flame burning brightly. Each and every Brentonian can make a difference, even just by speaking proudly of their school.

Brentwood is as much a part of me as I am of it, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Marisol Van Vliet (MACKENZIE '05) on changes at Brentwood since she graduated—Having just attended my 10 year Brentwood reunion I have to say I 'feel not much has changed', rather than 'see not much has changed', because simply visually speaking the school has changed. Even more so for those attending anything upwards of a 10 year reunion. Yet Brentwood itself has not.

Brentwood, for most of us alumni, was more than a campus, more than a temporary home. It was an experience we Brentonians all have in common, and as such, a sort of bond we share. And while our experiences may have differed over the years and generations, in the end it was an experience we all went through in our own right. As such, we still have this little Brentwood 'right of passage' tucked somewhere in our beings that can quickly be recalled and brought back to the surface; which makes us feel we belong on campus no matter the buildings.

So while it was strange, during the reunion, to once again be thrown in a situation of deciding whether to find someone to go with you to the 'caf' was more important than the gnawing hunger in your gut, it was in a sense comforting to realize how easy it was to slide back into the Brentwood world again.

"Brentwood is a place, or perhaps a presence to which I can easily keep coming back: to which all Brentonians can." Or so I thought as I sat on the veranda of the beautiful Crooks Hall, contemplating, with a mouthful of breakfast cake, and Mount Baker on the horizon.

Chris Van Vliet (ROGERS '81) on OBE travel—Where are you? I asked this question of the other members to get an idea of how much travel is involved when an OBE meeting is called. Your OBE members travel to meetings when they can, and when they can't they are often tied in by teleconferencing. Most reside on or near the west coast but the group is anything but 'local.' As with many Old Brentonians (yes, you!), this group comes from a surprising variety of backgrounds and professions which includes travel and work from all over the world. Perhaps Michael Brown puts it most succinctly:

"Where is 'home' for me depends on the definition and has been a tricky and awkward answer my whole life. After disclaiming as such, I usually get follow-up questions like...

- Where were you born? (Saudi Arabia)
- Where did you grow up? (5-6 possible answers)
- Where were your parents born? (Victoria)
- Where does your family live? (Southern California)
- Where have you lived the longest? (New York City)

None of the answers are truly good answers; in reality it's a real mix and hopefully contributes to an appreciation for different cultures and perspectives."

Travel to the school is a welcome opportunity to reconnect with the campus energy, the staff, and each other. It helps to center our focus on the very special feeling that being connected to Brentwood brings, and keeps fresh our desire to share and rekindle that feeling with all of you. The future for so many vibrant young minds is being created and shaped every day at Brentwood, as it was for us in our day, and it is a marvelous and inspiring experience to remain connected to and be a small part of that process as an Old Brentonian.



Rob Dixon (ELLIS '94) on an initiative he is excited about—Last summer, while visiting Vancouver Island, I had coffee with my old coach, teacher and friend Nick Prowse. Since leaving Brentwood 20+ years ago, I appreciate with some perspective, the influence Nick had in shaping the person I am today. Enthusiastically, Nick and I sat for hours; catching up, chatting about world events, history, past epic rugby matches and tours we were both involved in, as well as the cast of characters we know. It was a joy! Parting ways that day, I was reminded, just how much I cherish our friendship and that undoubtedly there must be others who feel the same way. Great teachers are a rare gift!

Accordingly, I resolved that day to honour Nick's legacy by putting together an event (which successfully took place on Saturday, September 26th). Currently, I am a perpetual donor to the recently established Prowse Bursary Fund. With the dinner event to honour Nick's legacy in mind, as a secondary benefit all proceeds were directed to the Bursary Fund. It was a great evening of laughs, sharing stories and paying tribute to our teacher and friend Nick Prowse.

I feel lucky to have gone to Brentwood and know Nick. May his legacy and the Fund allow others to experience Brentwood!

Ryan Gallagher (ROGERS '13) on friendship—It has been a great privilege to maintain a connection to our school through my involvement with the Old Brentonians Executive. I was fortunate to be at Brentwood with some of the members of the OBE, and I have had the pleasure of getting to know others through our meetings. The foundation of our shared background at Brentwood has provided a great place to create new connections. It's wonderful to know the value the school places in continued fostering of friendships of its alumni which is a key goal of the OBE.



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Jessica (Purdy) Rozitis (ALEX '88) *on Events*—Being a third generation Brentonian, I have always felt a strong connection to Brentwood. That connection has only gotten stronger in the past few years, being on the Old Brentonian Executive Board, plus I have attended more events organized by Brentwood. I feel that the inaugural Brentwood Alumni Networking event was successful right out of the gate. The Advancement team does a great job producing these events and did not disappoint when the 2nd annual Alumni Networking event took place. I have always found value in attending the regional receptions as well. It is a great opportunity to reconnect with old classmates and teachers in a casual, yet organized setting. I also love meeting new people from the different eras of Brentwood. We have a common bond, and it is so easy to just walk up to a group of like-minded people and share parallel memories.



Michael Brown (ELLIS '02) *on underutilized Old Brentonian resources* —As an alumni group, I think we could all do more to help fellow alumni and current students out with networking, career and education advice. There have been advances recently with the Vancouver event, LinkedIn etc., but we are a diverse and spread out bunch of people, so there is a long way to go. In that vein, if anyone in the Brentwood family is thinking about working in finance, doing something entrepreneurial, or trying to choose between various universities in the U.S., I would be more than happy to share my two cents.



Jennifer Wheeler (MACKENZIE '00) *on connections*—Last year I had a bad concussion for several months. From one bad fall my life changed, and it meant no longer being able to see, hear, think, communicate or move around, amongst many other symptoms. It was a hard time. We plan for success in life, we plan for goals and dreams, but we don't plan for how life changes after an accident. I had a lot of help show up along the way, and some of that help came from people through Brentwood. Friends would bring me food when I couldn't get to a store, drive me to appointments when I couldn't drive, get an appointment with a specialist who was not taking on more patients, or just offer encouraging words and support, reminding me I could get through it. These were the people who didn't blink to lend a hand where they saw a need.

For me that's what makes Brentwood connections unique, it's not about who might get you the next great job or introduce you to a promising contact, it's that they just help others selflessly.

In partnership with the Old Brentonians Executive, it is our pleasure to announce that Brentwood College School will present three awards annually, recognizing the outstanding achievements of Old Brentonians. All Brentwood College School alumni are welcomed and encouraged to nominate deserving individuals for each award. In addition to the criteria outlined below, each nominee should exemplify the Brentwood values of excellence, integrity, and empathy. Nominations will be accepted until February 15th 2016, by online submission. A link to this form can be found on the Brentwood website's *Alumni* tab.

Lifetime Achievement Award

Recognizing an Old Brentonian who has had a distinguished career and is recognized as a leader in his /her industry.

Outstanding Brentonian

Honouring an Old Brentonian who has made outstanding contributions in his or her chosen profession, and/or to society as a whole.

Extraordinary Young Brentonian

Honouring an Old Brentonian, 30 years of age or younger, who has made significant achievements in his or her career or through service to Brentwood College School.



Alumni Awards