Brent is a multi-faceted and diverse community, so it is no wonder that our alumni would continue to traverse different and interesting paths after graduation. Brent alumni span the globe and have such fascinating stories of their journeys, adventures, and successes in both their personal and professional lives.

Many thanks to the alumni and friends who sent in their stories, pictures and updates to the Alumni Office and were willing to share them with the rest of the Brent family in this second issue. Please keep those stories coming and help create a greater awareness of what it’s like to be a Brent lion in the wide, wide world!

CROSSING THE FINISH LINE
with ANDRES CALMA ’14

Congratulations to race car driver Andrés Calma ’14 of Toyota Alabang who captured the 2015 Toyota Vios Cup Season 2 overall championship in Subic recently. Aside from the trophy, he also won a brand-new Vios Manual 1.5G, one of the biggest prizes in local motorsports.

Even though Andres is an all around athlete, having demonstrated prowess on both the varsity basketball and varsity baseball teams during his high school years at Brent, he was always more fascinated with cars. He started karting at age nine before pursuing his dream as a race car driver. While Andres makes waves in the racing circuit with his superb driving, he continues to complete his studies at De La Salle University.
A STORYTELLER OF MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES
by JOSHUA SPAFFORD ’91

When I think of my years studying at Brent, I’m struck by the memory of two primary sensations. Firstly, there was an incredible sense of camaraderie. Perhaps that’s a typical part of any school or high school, but even at 15 (the age I enrolled) I had already travelled to some 30 countries and had attended over 12 schools, and in all those scenarios, I had yet to experience such an overall, generally harmonious microcosm. And it wasn’t just amongst the students. I can recall genuine communication, discourse and friendship between the teachers, administration and staff there too. I felt like I had been adopted by a really special family.

There was also, for me, a degree of relief in being with a good percentage of people who were “like me”. And what I was, what I am, is a person of mixed cultural heritage (Filipino/American), a person who had traveled a lot as a child, a child who had been exposed to multiple points of view. In short, I was an international school kid and international school kids probably have an idea of that “otherness” I’m talking about. That doesn’t make you better or worse as a person, but it’s something as a young person you really feel. We’re “everyone and noone” my Brent classmates used to commiserate. I used that ability honed in my Brent years to identify strongly with different national and cultural backgrounds endlessly in my later years traveling, surviving and learning in major cities around the world: London, NYC, LA. They’re really competitive places and this mercurial quality you adopt learning to coexist in a micro international community like Brent really gave me an edge and got me in a lot of doors.

My experience at Brent had a directly impactful result on my life. While in the 10th grade my classmates (it may have been Audrey Enriquez ’91 and Susan Brennan ’91 if memory serves me right) dragged me to audition for a school play, The King and I. So I went, and I was cast in a tiny part. We staged this play at the iconic Meralco Theater (the leads Julia Thomson ’89 and Jovit Moya ’91 were so accomplished and professional in it) and just like that, the spell was cast. I played the part of British Ambassador, Edward Ramsey. (Funnily enough later in life, my partner’s last name is Ramsey and we even named our son just born this January, Ramsey!) I was barely seventeen (and still in high school burning the candle on both ends) when I joined Repertory Philippines. Through my training with them under the tutelage of Zeneida Amador, I rose up the ranks from bit player to leading actor for the company for close to eight years. My work with Repertory Philippines fostered a passion for storytelling. I founded my own theater company in Manila and earned a grant to study directing in London from the British Council. From there, I studied Shakespeare at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and that led to a classical directing and acting career all over the world: Othello in over four productions, playing Richard the 3rd in Central Park, Tamburlaine, Gilgamesh, Mercutio and then later evolving into photography and film directing. Now I’m back in the Philippines starting a new film company that celebrates Filipino talent and scenery exclusively for foreign film festival audiences. It all comes full circle directly back to a small moment in a thriving (then tiny) international school called Brent. Thanks, guys!
What seems like a lifetime of waiting to grow up and graduate then seems like a barely a minute now in retrospect. There were epic scavenger hunts, Song Fests, the aforementioned school plays, and the special pride that comes with being House Captain of Emerald and leading them to victory. Yeah! It was also a time of political unrest when we had coup d’etats, plus earthquakes and the really, really bad fashion of the 90’s.

In the years that passed, I quietly watched other people from my years at Brent blossom and succeed with ease in their chosen careers: fellow theater artist Jeremy Domingo ’89, Jovit Moya ’91, the charismatic and accomplished Thomson Family, educator Audrey Enriquez ‘91, my cousins Angela ‘89 and Louise Lopez ’91, brilliant Manuel Quezon ‘89, and the Farley Brothers, just to name a few. What an exceptional collection of people. I’m proud to have been part of that pool, even briefly. It feels amazing to be back home and reconnected with my first family, Brent International School.

J. Spafford Starke is an award winning storyteller of multiple disciplines: director, actor and photographer. Newsweek Magazine’s Creativity Issue called him: “an out of the box thinker with unique visual perspective”.

Joshua’s work was informed by an early life of highly shifting perspective: The Eurasian son of a Filipina woman of a political family and a gypsy British entertainer, Joshua was raised on a series of sailboats he and his family made from hand. They sailed around the world, sometimes encountering coups, storms and pirates. By the time he was 15 he had traveled to 30 countries and spoke 5 languages.

By the age of 18 Joshua became one of the Philippines youngest television directors while also taking on that country’s leading classical and contemporary stage roles for the next 10 years.

After studying Shakespeare at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, Joshua moved to NYC where he cofounded Inverse Theater (named Best Downtown Theater Co by the NYPress) with Sundance Grand Jury Winner Chad Gracia and “The American Shakespeare”, Kirk Bromley. In NYC Joshua played the title roles in Richard the 3rd (In Central Park), Tamburlaine (Target Margin), Judas (Verse Theater Manhattan) and Gilgamesh (Pulitzer Prize Winner Yusef Komunyakaa). He has played Othello in three productions around the world: once in the Philippines and twice in NYC including a production for the OBIE winning National Asian American Theatre Co. Also, in NYC directed and designed scores of Off Broadway productions including the world premiere of “On The Origin of Darwin” with music by TONY winner Mark Hollman. Joshua also served as the Director of Events for the New Globe Theater Initiative which included US Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton, Al Pacino, Philip Seymour Hoffman and Mark Rylance as supporters. Of his work as an actor and director of classical material, the New York Times has said he is “unseen since the death of Raul Julia”.

Joshua’s work as a photographer and DP has been equally recognised. In addition to gallery shows of his photography of magical realism in NYC, he has been seen in GQ, Esquire, NBC, ABC, The Washington Post and the Academy Award nominated films. He resides between Los Angeles and the Philippines. More of his work can been seen at StarkImages.com.
THIRD CULTURE KIDS
by ERIN SINOGBA ‘01

As a student at Brent, Erin Sinogba ‘01 was always involved with helping others, whether it was giving a patient ear to her friends or as a member of the Peer Helpers. As someone who had grown up in South Korea, Grenada, and the Philippines, she valued having friends from different nationalities and cultures, which the Brent community had in abundance. These traits earned her both the Rosemary Penn and Mary Sheffer Prizes in her junior and senior years. Her commitment to serving others continued when she attended Grinnell College, a school known for its long tradition of social responsibility and its progressive outlook, in Grinnell, Iowa, U.S.A. At Grinnell, she studied anthropology and global development studies, sang in a gospel choir, co-founded a magazine on multiculturalism and social justice, and became involved as a social justice activist. After graduating in 2006, she embarked on a career dedicated to helping and empowering underserved communities in the U.S., the Philippines, and all over Asia around various issues, including immigration, public health, the environment and climate change, and human rights. Among her many projects, she is currently a consultant working on environmental projects at the Asian Development Bank and completing a Master of Development Communication at the University of the Philippines Open University.

In the course of her advocacy work, Erin found that her own experiences, as well as those of many of her friends, of growing up internationally mobile were not well-known or understood by many people. Like her friends who were immigrants or refugees, third culture kids challenged ideas about identity, but many had not heard of them.

Ruth Hill Useem and Richard Downie (1976) introduced the term third culture kids as young people “living abroad as dependents of parents who are employed overseas”, wherein the “third culture” refers to “the behavior patterns created, shared, and learned by [people] of different societies who are in the process of relating their societies . . . to each other” (Useem et al, 1963). David Pollock and Ruth Van Reken provide an expanded definition of third culture kids (TCKs) in their landmark book, Third Culture Kids: Growing Up Among Worlds (2009), as “a person who has spent a significant part of his or her developmental years outside the parents’ culture. The TCK builds relationships to all of the cultures, while not having full ownership of any. Although elements from each culture are assimilated into the TCK’s life experience, the sense of belonging is in relationship to others of a similar background.”

The population of TCKs continues to grow and become more relevant in today’s hyper-connected world. According to InterNations’ Expat Insider Survey Report 2015, twenty-one percent (21%) of expats surveyed are raising children abroad. Much research has cited the benefits that come with growing up as a TCK, including an expanded worldview, cross-cultural enrichment, adaptability, the ability to blend in, and less likely to be prejudiced. Slightly more than half of all expat parents (51%) surveyed by InterNations (2015) are raising their kids bilingually, while 34% are being raised with three or more languages. However, these come with negative side effects. The numerous downsides include extreme depression (90% of TCKs reported feeling “out of synch” with their peers throughout their lifetimes), issues with self and cultural identity with an expressed lack of sense of belonging, and unresolved grief.
Eventually, online social media became the conduit with which a geographically spread-out community of people who grew up globally and culturally mobile would be built. In 2006, fellow Brent alumna, Nicole Araneta ’01, started a global Facebook group called Third Culture Kids Everywhere. It was here that Erin volunteered her time as a group administrator to begin and contribute to numerous discussions on identity, culture, international schools, and a common love of airports. From here, in 2008, one of those active contributors, Brice Royer, spun off of Facebook and established a new website, TCKid.com, which was featured on the BBC, ABC News, The Telegraph, the U.S Department of Defense, and Education Week. Rich with resources, TCKid.com became the template for building an online community of third culture kids scattered all over the world. TCKid has a community membership now of over 30,000 and grown to include local chapters around the world in addition to its central virtual community on TCKid.com. Under its current C.E.O., Myra Dumapias, MSW, TCKid was incorporated in 2011 as a non-profit organization and became a U.S. 501(c)(3) public charity in November 2013. TCKid has since started several programs for its global community, including TCKid TV, Research Bridge for TCK-focused researchers, and Life Transitions for TCK caregivers.

Since moving back to the Philippines in 2007, Erin remains committed to promoting awareness of and supporting transnational and cross-cultural people. Since 2009, Erin has been involved as a volunteer executive assistant and community manager for TCKid’s core team. In 2012, she founded TCKid Philippines, one of thirty offline local chapters located worldwide. TCKid Philippines is active mostly in Metro Manila, with over 130 members, and organizes bi-monthly meet-ups for interested TCKs to share a meal, socialize, and share stories about their experiences growing up globally. TCKid Philippines also organizes special educational events for its community members, including TCKid Table Talks featuring prominent TCK speakers such as journalist Maria Ressa and lawyer and political researcher Edsel Tupaz and small workshops tailored to the TCK community. Going beyond the TCK community, Erin also helped start a program serving transnational children and youth in the Philippines with the Transnational Institute for Grassroots Research and Action Philippines, which serves TCKs, children of overseas Filipino workers, children of non-Filipino parents, and other similar populations living in the Philippines. Through her work, Erin believes that TCKs and other transnational and cross-cultural communities can help transform society.

To learn more about TCKid, click here: http://www.tckid.com
To join TCKid’s social networking site, click here: http://my.tckid.com
To support TCKid, a non-profit organization that is currently volunteer-run, please click here. Your contribution to helping our community is much appreciated. http://news.tckid.com/why-support-us/
If you’re in the Philippines, join TCKid Philippines by clicking here: http://www.facebook.com/groups/tckidphilippines
Design projects for the Academy of Arts University

When I moved back to Manila in late 2011, I had to figure out if I’d want to work for someone else or for myself. I decided to jump into the metaphoric ‘water’ and work for myself and took in clients starting with my mother, her friends, and my friends. I then decided to also take in freelance work for another designer, Lulu Tan Gan, who is a family friend. She then invited me to join the 2012 Look of Style Awards contest. Happy to say that I was one of the 10 chosen contestants amongst many that auditioned to show our collections at the show.

ENRAPTURED BY FASHION

by ROXY HOEY ’03

I graduated from Brent in 2003, and somehow I knew I was going to be in fashion or the arts. I was always drawing, doodling, and bringing my magazines to school to look at the latest designs. I also took up theatre during 11th and 12th grade, which I really loved, after I was given a part in the school production of “Bye Bye Birdie”.

After high school, I spent one year at Centenary College in New Jersey where I experienced all four seasons. I then realized that I was more of a West Coast girl, so I sent my application to the Academy of Arts University in San Francisco. I moved and studied there from SU 2004 - SP 2009. It was the best experience I’ve ever had living in a wonderful city that I connected well with. Art school taught me the basic fundamentals of the fashion business, including design and pattern-making. It also taught me to be really savvy with my presentations and to toughen up if someone gave my work a bad critique (people everywhere will always judge your work no matter what). It was all hard work. It’s nothing that anyone would expect fashion would be because of all the glitz and showboating that magazines do, but that’s just the surface of it all. Fashion has so much more depth and difficulty in it, which is why it’s a $7 billion dollar industry. Hence the hard work, internships, late nights, no sleep, coffee binging and teary eyes while figuring if my work was good enough to present. Because in the end, you can be your worst enemy when you critique your own work.
That same year I came out with my first preview collection of work which I called 'Destination'. It was the start to my label "RH by Roxanne Hoey".

After that I decided to start a small limited line of casual wear of soft fabrics and chic silhouette which I sell from my website and in my studio when customers drop by. In 2014, I took a trip back to San Francisco as a vacation which then inspired me on my next collection, 'Enrapture' with concept inspiration from fairy tale stories and the colors of Provence. I decided to have the private show in my home where it would be more intimate and controlled in a way. Up to now I still do custom gowns and dresses for special events and am also working on my next collection.

If you have any inquiries, you can email me at roxannehoeystudio@gmail.com.
Also please check my website: www.roxannehoey.com.
So what does the former Deputy Headmaster (2008 to 2014) and Upper School Principal (2002 to 2008) do now that he has retired from Brent? The life that he and Sandra, his lovely wife of almost twenty-nine years have chosen is one we planned for long and hard, and one we feel blessed to enjoy every day.

We put a great deal of love, thought, energy, planning, and basic “blood, sweat and tears” into the creation of our retirement home here in Barangay San Teodoro, Sitio Guitisan, Mabini, Batangas. We call the property Halelani, which in Hawaiian means “heavenly home,” and for the last year, it has proven to be just that!

The property was purchased in 2002 with the thought that it might become a place for us to enjoy the quiet life of the Barangay in our retirement years and to keep an eye on the ocean we love. The houses - there are two, a two bedroom, two bathroom main house and a two bedroom, one bathroom guest house - took a little over one year to complete, with construction starting in early January 2014 and culminating the end of January 2015. Mrs. H provided the oversight, the creativity and the design control as General Contractor.

After Mr. H officially retiring from Brent in August 2014, we put the finishing touches on the houses and the property and together with our family of three loving dogs - two yellow labs and one feisty beagle - we moved “lock, stock and barrel” into Halelani on 28 January 2015.

Our beloved dogs - our “babies!” - have adjusted so well to Halelani. They keep watch on the property and on us. They swim in the ocean as often as they can, and basically provide us with the unconditional love so much a part of their lives and our needs. They are the loves of our lives!

Sandwiched into the months from August 2014 to January 2015, however, was a pulmonary embolism event for Mr. H. Basically, blood clots traveled from a deep vein in my right leg to my lungs causing the flow of oxygenated blood to slow considerably, a major health problem! I am well now thanks in no small part to the love and support of Mrs. H and the expertise and care of the professionals at Asian Hospital.

The year, then, has proven that life away from Brent and the hustle and bustle of the city is rewarding and challenging, but most assuredly serene, slow and relaxing. Leaving the tranquility of Halelani even to drive the twenty minutes to Mabini or forty minutes to Bauan for simple shopping or other activities has proven to be “difficult” psychologically. It is just so comfortable here and tough to leave!
So what does one do while enjoying the tranquility here in our heavenly home? For Mr. H, it has been a time to catch up on missed reading, to play guitar, to listen to and enjoy our more than 50 Gb of digitized music – classical, opera, jazz, rock, folk, country-western, - and simply to appreciate a slower pace of life. Oh, and then there are the sunsets – every day brings a unique surprise!

For Mrs. H, it has been a time to rediscover her considerable cooking talents. The beautifully designed and incredibly functional kitchen allows her the space and atmosphere to be creative and inventive. Believe me, we eat very well here at Halelani!

The gardens at Halelani have also proven to be a source of amazement, enjoyment and fantastic beauty. Mrs. H has always loved gumamelas - the diversity and beauty of these “twenty-four hour wonders” is something to behold. They open with the sunshine in the morning and are basically gone by the next morning.

Here are five stunning examples of the different colors and varieties that arrive each day at Halelani for a short blast of color, texture and total amazement.

Does Mr. Hammett miss Brent? There are many things about that “former life” that are special and will always be missed - the relationships with colleagues and with students, the excitement and sense of fulfillment in watching students at all levels mature and grow into responsible and caring young people, the unconditional love and caring felt throughout Brent, but so particularly evident in the ELC.

And, there are some “realities/responsibilities” of that life that are not missed at all. The stress of managing people in so many different situations can be exhausting. After doing that for most of my thirty-plus years in international education, honestly, it gets old!

Finally, for those Upper School young men who might remember “international haircut days” back when Mr. Hammett was Upper School Principal and attempting to get you guys to follow the dress code, here is a reminder that, as long as you still have some hair on top of your heads, even at 68 years old, it grows! And being retired means I don’t have to cut my hair at all. Hooray!

Greetings from Halelani!
After living overseas for 17 years, Paul, LuAnn, and Grant Sicard ’15 returned to the USA in June of 2015. Paul and LuAnn worked at Brent from 1998-2002 (Grant attended Nursery school), and then the Sicard family lived and worked in Libreville - Gabon (West Africa), Cebu City - Philippines, Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia, and Caracas - Venezuela. The Sicards currently call Pembroke Pines, Florida home and have many fond memories of their time in the Philippines.

While overseas Paul continued his career as a school administrator and served as a director, elementary, middle, and high school principal. He is currently the deputy director for the American Association of Schools in South America (AASSA). LuAnn taught every grade level from Kinder through grade 8 while overseas, including middle school ELL, Special Education, and English. She is currently teaching special education - grades 4 & 5 in Broward County, FL. Grant flourished at both sports and academics during his elementary, middle, and high school years and played Varsity Volleyball, Softball, Basketball, and Soccer. He is currently a freshman at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and is on their Division 1 Soccer Team - Go Flames!

“We were so fortunate to connect with Gaby in Chicago while we were there visiting Grant!” - Paul

Crossing paths again in Chicago: Paul Sicard, LuAnn Sicard, Gaby Garcia ’11 and Grant Sicard ’15

“After 2 years of drafting ideas, hunting down awesome guitar players, and slaving away at production, this is an announcement I’d never thought I would make. It’s completely surreal to me to have realized a huge, long term dream of mine. The album is being received so well by people I never thought would support me! I am currently in the process of drafting up a brand new song for everyone interested, and I hope to have it finished by the end of February!”

Nick’s Debut EP “Chase Lights” is Out!

Nick Azurin ’13 is a solo guitarist and sound engineer, as well as a Sound Engineering student at the Australian Institute of Music

Stream “Chase Lights”: https://youtu.be/4X7TIFWvlEQ
Download “Chase Lights”: https://azofficialmusic.bandcamp.com/
Available on Spotify/iTunes/Google Play
The Class of 1991’s fun-filled get-together after 24 years last December 2015, joined by a few from the Classes of 1990-1993.

Joshua Thomson ’90, Herb Betz ’91, Jecelyn Lao ’91, Jovit Moya ’91, Charlotte Teodoro ’91, David Alexander ’91, Malu Ignacio ’91, Claire Peña ’91, Alma Antonio ’91, Sacha Calagopi ’91, Alison Yeap ’91, Christopher Betz ’92, Sherry Alexander ’90, Akiko Thomson ’92 (seated), Mandy de la Rama ’91, Mark Punzalan ’91, and Vito Sarmiento ’93

Lunch with the ’99!
Batch gatherings are now accompanied by growing families and adorable children in tow. Spot the alumni of ’99: (in back) Andrew Fulo, Camille Sambrano, Cathy Mercado, Zarla Po, Trina Aquino, Mary Jo Baula; (in front) Pedro Roxas, Lloyd Lim, Jeanette Neumann (Batch ’00), Jeff Simpson, Dennis Oliva, and JR Coling.
CONTRIBUTE YOUR STORIES!

Do you have a favorite story or picture to share? It could be a mini reunion, a new job, an advocacy you are actively involved with, a new business, a move to a new city, a family photo, an awesome vacation spot, something crossed off your bucket list, a special Brent memory, etc. We’d love to share your news and promote your endeavors.

Help the Alumni Office create a greater awareness of the numerous and diverse Brent alumni that span the globe! Email your pictures and captions to alumni@brent.edu.ph.

Back to the 90’s Reunion

Batch 1995 celebrated 20 years with their fellow alumni from batches ’93 to ’99 and some former school mentors. A 90’s inspired party was held at Saguijo Cafe, with almost a hundred alumni in attendance. This photo only shows the group that was indoors! Saguijo Cafe was jam-packed with alumni ready for a fun evening of remembering the Pasig days, getting the scoop on life since Brent, and even competing in a few House events. It was truly a great night filled with loads of fun and laughter!

Congratulations, Matteo!

Last January 2016, Matteo Guidicelli ’08 launched his self-titled album. Present at the very successful and sold out event were some of Matteo’s former Brent mentors during his time in IB Theater and school productions like “Pippin”, Lulu Floresca, accompanied by her husband Ding, and Dr. Arthur Casanova.