African and African American Studies
Anthropology
Architecture
Art
Biological Sciences
Chemistry
Chinese Studies
Cognitive Science
Computer Science
Creative Writing
Decision Science
Design
Drama
Economics
English
Environmental Studies
Ethics
Ethics, History, and Public Policy
European Studies
Film and Media Studies
French and Francophone Studies
Gender Studies
German Studies
Global Studies
Global Systems and Management
Hispanic Studies
History
Information Systems
International Relations and Politics
Japanese Studies
Linguistics
Logic and Computation
Mathematical Sciences
Music Performance
Music Composition
Music Technology
Musicology and Cultural Studies
Philosophy
Physics
Policy and Management
Professional Writing
Psychology
Public Policy
Religious Studies
Russian Studies
Sociology
Statistics
Introduction

We are pleased to share with you recent feedback from graduates of the Bachelor of Humanities and Arts (BHA), Bachelor of Science and Arts (BSA), and Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts (BCSA) degree programs at Carnegie Mellon University.

Established in 1993, the BHA Program is designed for students who are gifted in both the fine arts and humanities and/or social sciences. This program enables students to combine studies in both the College of Fine Arts and the Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

The BSA Program was launched in 1999 for students who are gifted in both the fine arts and the natural sciences or mathematics. This program enables students to combine studies in both the College of Fine Arts and the Mellon College of Science.

The Bachelor of Computer Science and Arts (BCSA) Program was created in 2008 by the College of Fine Arts and the School of Computer Science. It provides an ideal technical and conceptual foundation for students interested in pursuing fields that comprehensively meld technology and the arts.

Collectively the BHA, BSA, and BCSA programs are grouped under the single heading of BXA Intercollege Degree Programs.

The BXA Intercollege Degree Programs support an outstanding group of innovative students. These students are creative thinkers who have unique visions of how their two (or more) disciplines combine to offer them an individualized education. They are often campus leaders who are honored with both artistic and scholarly awards. BXA students frequently complete internships and capstone projects that contribute to shaping their career path. A BXA Intercollege degree prepares students for graduate study and careers in an enormous variety of fields, including traditional graduate training in the arts as well as academic areas, positions in arts and education non-profits such as museums and foundations, and technical positions with media and technology companies.

The BXA Intercollege Degree Programs represent a small and cohesive group of students within the larger university community. The size of the three programs combined is approximately 135 students. As of August 2012, 320 students have graduated from BHA, 39 from BSA, and 8 from BCSA.

For this survey, BHA, BSA, and BCSA alumni were asked to tell us:
• What they have done since graduation.
• What they are currently doing.
• How well their interdisciplinary degree has served their life goals.

It is always a great joy to hear from BHA, BSA, and BCSA alumni. Their lives continue to reflect their beautifully textured and individualized undergraduate experiences.

M. Stephanie Murray, Ph.D.
Director & Academic Advisor, BXA Intercollege Degree Programs
Sonni Abatta  
BHA 2003  
Creative Writing & Journalism and Drama  
With a minor in Spanish

Worked for 6 years at CBS affiliate KDKA-TV in Pittsburgh, PA. Currently working (for the past 2.5 years) at Fox affiliated WOFL-TV in Orlando, FL.

I learned how to write effectively and under strict deadlines. I learned other forms of writing—screenwriting, short story—that expanded my repertoire of writing tools. Having a grasp on the form of a story from my creative writing degree also helps me to understand the elements of a good story, and relates directly to the storytelling aspect of news reporting. Drama focus—particularly a speech class—helped with proper enunciation in live anchoring/reporting.

Melissa Acosta  
BHA 2011  
Global Systems & Management and Design  
With an additional major in Human-Computer Interaction

I’m working as a user experience designer at Kaiser Permanente.

I create new workflows, processes and systems to implement across Kaiser Hospitals. I’ve been applying all of my design skills via rapid prototyping and ethnolography. I utilize my humanities skills through cross-cultural communications across departments and Kaiser regions, along with project management skills when I work with teams in different locations.

The BHA program ensured that I received a well-rounded education where I learned to also work with people across disciplines. I find that this is an important skill to have when working with people in different departments, where you can recognize and leverage other people’s skills and communicate how you can contribute to the team.

Kendra Albert  
BHA 2011  
History and Drama

Internship, which turned into a full year position in academia.

I work as a full time RA for a professor studying cyberlaw. Not directly related to my concentrations, but skills were helpful.

Diverse range of skills, adaptable.
Rebecca (Albrecht) Allison
BHA 1996
Architecture and Human Behavior Studies

Immediately after graduation, I moved to Houston, TX with the Teach for America program for two years and then returned to Pittsburgh to work at CMU in student affairs for five years. While there, I received a master’s in Public Management in Leadership in Higher Education from the Heinz College.

In 2003, I moved to Arizona where I taught elementary and middle school for 5 years, and now I work at Arizona State University in student affairs.

I think that the chance to self-design a program that truly matched my interests was very beneficial. The experience made me a strong advocate for my own education.

Joshua H. Anderson
BHA 2001
Cognitive Science and Communication Design
With an additional major in Human-Computer Interaction

Went directly into industry—financial services.

I am a partner in an investment consulting practice, focusing on retail and institutional wealth management. My educational background helps me translate sophisticated and complex financial concepts and products into simple, understandable solutions.

Coming from a top-tier university with a multi-disciplined degree grants me a unique perspective in almost everything that I do, be it qualitative or quantitative.

Ashley Bakelmun
BSA 2009
Mathematics and Architecture
With a minor in Business Administration

After graduation, I did a 3-month summer research internship at CMU, working with a professor to integrate the sustainable building features of a Pittsburgh elementary school with the school’s environmental curriculum. I then did an internship in India for 2 months (PRIA International Internship Program—http://www.pria.org/about-pria/our-divisions/piall/internship-programmes-), focused on participatory governance in low-income areas or slums. I then moved to Washington, DC for a job at GreenShape LLC.

I’ve been working at GreenShape LLC, a sustainable building consulting firm in Washington DC, (www.greenshape.com) for 2 years. I definitely use both concentrations. I work with architects to help improve the performance of buildings they design—I’ve needed to heavily rely on my architecture degree to understand the design and construction process and make relevant suggestions. Architecture also taught me a lot of design and layout, and my firm has often come to me to design graphics or create presentations that are visually appealing. When working with building design teams, I also have to review engineer’s drawings and calculations (for example, water savings calculations). Even though extensive math knowledge is not needed, I found I’m able to understand and communicate with the engineers more quickly and accurately than many of my colleagues.

When interviewing for jobs, the BSA degree set me apart from other applicants. I’m entrepreneurially minded, so I was looking for jobs at companies where I could use both artistic and scientific skills to contribute to an innovative and constantly changing company. This degree fit perfectly with that mindset. The biggest challenge is articulately explaining how this degree makes you a qualified candidate for the company you’re applying to. I also had a business minor from CMU, which I personally found very helpful (especially marketing classes) in being able to realize the skills I had that would contribute to a company’s growth. I was able to help with the business development for the small company I’m working in as well (there are 7 people), which the business minor helped qualify me to do.

Liam Barber
BHA 2001
Philosophy and Drama

I worked in the New York theatre industry for 6 years (mainly as a technician) and then went to law school.

Currently employed as an attorney. I don’t think it directly draws on my concentrations, but philosophy (logic/comprehension/etc) and performance do play a role in my work.

Yes. The broad scope of the classes I took and the access to arts classes that would have been unavailable to strict humanities majors helped me immensely.

Elizabeth Barsotti
BHA 2008
Creative Writing and Book Arts

I am currently enrolled in Chatham University’s interdisciplinary graduate program in Food Studies.
I am the general manager at my family’s restaurant in Pennsylvania’s Laurel Highlands. The job is interdisciplinary in every way! I write our menus, design the restaurant’s print materials and cook. We’ve also recently opened a small cafe and gallery next to the restaurant where I’m developing exhibits surrounding my BHA concentration in book arts.

This program gave me a new understanding of learning, a new holistic modality.

**Kelly Bowles**  
**BHA 1999**  
**Information Design**  
**With an additional major in Human-Computer Interaction**

Master’s at CMU in HCI then work.

Full-time still using my concentrations as a manager at an e-commerce company.

Tremendously!

**Jeremy Bradford**  
**BSA 2007**  
**Mathematics and Music Performance**  
**With a minor in English**

I went straight to graduate school at the University of Maryland College Park where I am pursuing a PhD in mathematics.

I work as a teaching assistant.

The math background I got in the BSA program was excellent and prepared me well for my graduate studies.

**Matthew Browne**  
**BHA 2006**  
**Information Systems and Music Composition**  
**With a minor in Piano Music Performance**

Master’s in Film Scoring (Music Composition) at NYU.

Web developer at Jazz at Lincoln Center; freelance music and web development work.

It was a great experience to be able to study both of my primary interests. Also in this economy, the information systems background has proven to be very practical. There’s also a great potential for intersection between musical promotion and discovery and the web, and I hope to be doing more projects that involve both in the future. Currently I am working on a project to generate custom cell phone ringtones over the web.

**Diana Bush**  
**BHA 2008**  
**Hispanic Studies and Architecture**

Worked for an architecture firm. Did a sustainable building internship in Costa Rica. Started grad school in community and regional planning. Quit grad school. Enrolled in culinary school. I’m about to start a pastry externship at a 3 Michelin star restaurant in NYC.

I am currently employed at an architecture firm while externing at a restaurant. This obviously utilizes my architecture concentration more than Hispanic studies, but I think the Hispanic studies gave me cultural understanding.

The BHA program has allowed me to think outside of the box in term of my career possibilities. While pastry and baking school may seems like a far cry from anything I studied at CMU, I think that the combination of creativity, science, and culture I learned from architecture and Hispanic studies will benefit my pastry career.

**Rebecca Bush**  
**BHA 2003**  
**Ethics and Drama**

After graduating from Carnegie Mellon, I worked at hospitals for a few years while trying to decide upon a career. In 2008, I enrolled in The John Marshall Law School as a juris doctor candidate. But recently, I left The John Marshall Law School after deciding that I would be better suited to a more creative career.

The BHA program opened the doors to job opportunities in many diverse fields.

**Brian Callahan**  
**BHA 2009**  
**Anthropology and Music Performance**

Graduate study in anthropology.
It opened me up to a wide variety of opportunities in the graduate world, which I have been fortunate enough to take part in. I have found that graduate programs are very excited to bring in interdisciplinary students who can think outside of and challenge the status quo.

**Theresa (Lacombe) Castillo**  
**BSA 2001**  
**Mathematics and Architecture**

I had had 3 internships with contractors at NASA-JSC prior to graduating, so I moved to Houston to pursue full-time work. Unfortunately my verbal job offer with Lockheed Martin disappeared after I arrived here, due to post 9-11 layoffs in the aerospace industry. I worked for a daycare for 10 months (I love kids), and then I worked for the Girl Scouts as a membership executive for another 10 months (I am a lifetime member and Gold Awardee and was a member of Alpha Phi Omega while at CMU), and then I was hired by Science Applications International Corporation, another contractor at NASA-JSC. I worked on the Orbital Space Plane program as a member of the integration team for 5 months, and then that program was shut down by the Administration at that time so that those resources could be moved to the newly-formed Crew Exploration Vehicle program (which has since been cancelled), but instead of transferring to CEV I took a job (transferring within SAIC) involved in International Space Station Operations. I stayed at that job for almost 7 years, and worked as a Safety console operator in the International Space Station Mission Engineering Room in the Mission Control Center at NASA-JSC. In this job I was accountable for ensuring the safety of the astronaut crewmembers on board the ISS during daily operations, and I held the position of “safety lead” for 3 Space Shuttle missions to the ISS, in which major elements of the stations were brought up on the shuttle and assembled (I was accountable for the safe execution of those operations).

Currently I am a Probabilistic Risk Analyst on the International Space Station program. My current employment heavily leans on the Mathematics side of my BSA.

I always knew the mathematics side of the degree would help me at NASA. I had always envisioned going into Space Habitat design, and knew that while that path would involve a lot of architectural skills, the design of pressurized elements would require a heavy background in math as well. I hope to get back to habitat design eventually, with all of this sound operations knowledge under my belt, but even in my current career path, the architecture side of my BSA continues to be useful, as I believe architects are true integrators, able to envision systems integration as well as programmatic integration, and those skills have been invaluable to my career, in both the tricky task of learning the ISS vehicle, nuts to bolts, and also in learning to navigate the program and how to get requirements met and teams to come together for a common goal.

**Anthony M. Catania**  
**BHA 2011**  
**History and Architecture**

In my case, it was a great background for an architectural degree—by stepping outside of the profession and architectural academia and viewing the discipline and everything that it affects more holistically.

**Robyn Chittister**  
**BHA 1997**  
**Professional Writing and Performance Studies**

I’ve been a technical writer for Netscape, Microsoft, eTravel, Oracle, Avanquest, and the California Chamber of Commerce. I’m also a mom.

I’m a mother to two children, and I work part time as a technical writer. Performance studies always gets brought up in interviews. Professional writing is a very good basis for technical writing, even better than the technical writing emphasis would have been.

I feel that mostly, it allowed me to learn how to learn, to be excited about learning, and to take initiative.

**Rhys Conlon**  
**BHA 2001**  
**Fine Arts and Creative Writing**  
**With a minor in French**

From 2001–2003, I taught high school English in San Jose, California through the Teach for America program. Following my commitment to Teach for America, I moved to New York to pursue working in the arts. I held an internship at Aperture magazine prior to working for the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Museum of Modern Art. At the Whitney, I worked in the Communications Department, and at MoMA, I served as an assistant to a curator in the Department of Painting and Sculpture. I completed my MA in art history (Hunter College, City University of New York) in December of 2010, and since moving to the DC area, I have been working as a freelance researcher for independent scholars as well as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Furthermore, I have continued to make art since graduation. I paint on a regular basis and still enjoy photographing.
I am currently working as a freelance researcher for independent scholars as well as the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. I hope to begin working full-time in a museum in the near future. My work involves the arts and writing, and as a fine art and creative writing major, there is no question that my current employment (researcher for art historians, etc.) utilizes my undergraduate concentrations. I find that thinking creatively—a crucial skill for researchers—comes naturally to me, and my writing skills were undoubtedly strengthened during my time in the BHA program. I also gained essential knowledge from my studio courses—knowledge that not only helps fine artists but also art historians.

BHA allowed me to follow two of my passions (creative writing and fine art) without compromising either one of them.

Laura Conrad Mandel
BHA 2004
English and Art
With a minor in Spanish

Director of Prism, the young adult network of the new center for arts and culture in Boston. I use my background everyday as I produce arts and culture events for young adults!

Yes, my interdisciplinary background has allowed me to pursue my love for art and writing in many ways.

Emily Crement
BHA 2000
Drama Aided Learning and Development

I have been teaching. I have two master’s degrees in Reading Education and Educational Leadership.

Full-time teacher in a middle school.

I feel my CMU education was well-rounded.

Alison Decker
BHA 2007
Anthropology and Music Performance
With a minor in Jazz Performance


I just accepted an offer to work for Smith Center for Healing and the Arts in Washington, D.C. I think the mission of the organization is a really great fit with my interests and background. I didn’t expect to find a job that catered to my unique academic history, but this seems to be it! I think the job will involve some interdisciplinary thinking, flexibility, and creativity—all things that the BHA program helped me to foster.

I think because the unique degree may make it difficult to figure out a career path (so many possible paths, and also a difficult economic situation), it has made me a stronger person, and one with more perseverance.

Melissa Dolin
BHA 2009
Creative and Professional Writing & Art
With a minor in Communication Design

I am currently a third-year law student at the George Washington University Law School.

In September, I will begin working at Fox Rothschild LLP in Philadelphia, PA. I will be doing a variety of different types of work, but I am planning on focusing on copyright and trademark law. I am better able to relate to these kinds of clients because of my understanding of the arts and my appreciation of what their intellectual property means to them.

I feel that it was extremely beneficial. I was able to develop my artistic side, while also maintaining my writing skills that have helped get me through law school.

Patrick Donnelly
BSA 2005
Chemistry and Art
With a minor in Communication Design

MBA, Flair bar-tending competitions (Vegas, Canada, Virginia Beach, Cleveland), Started a company QrArts LLC.

I work in Corporate Development for WCG doing social media planning for pharmaceutical and consumer goods.

Helped me become an integrated thinker.
Missy Hammond Dunaway  
BHA 2010  
Visual & Material Culture and Art

I have been pursuing the life of a professional artist. I have exhibited paintings in 6 group shows throughout the United States, and 1 group show abroad. I also was an artist-in-residence at Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT, from September–December 2011.

Since completing my painting residency at Vermont Studio Center, I have been applying for jobs in the arts in New York City. I have also been applying to more artist residencies within the United States and abroad. My art training has given me the technical and conceptual skills necessary to continue building a portfolio after graduation. The writing skills and professional skills I gained from my humanities concentration have helped me to write proposals for grants and exhibitions.

Despite their talent, many professional artists struggle because they do not have the skills to market themselves, sell their art, and apply for grants. I feel very lucky to have strengthened my business practices, writing skills, and professionalism while in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. The numerous writing assignments, presentations, deadlines, and research projects that were required in my humanities courses equipped me with many skills I use everyday as a professional artist.

Josh Einstein  
BHA 2005  
Drama and Cultural Studies  
With an additional major in Chinese

I worked for a year in broadcast television, then left for China for a year and a half teaching English. I then worked at the Olympics for half a year. After working at the Olympics, I came back to the US and the economy was awful, so I applied and was accepted to the BU LEAP program. I graduated in September 2011.

I am currently working as an Electrical Engineer at Presco, Inc in Connecticut.

I feel that the BXA program is the only way to do cross-college programs at CMU, and that CMU is a good school itself.

Oyinkansola Fasehun  
BHA 2004  
Drama and Creative Writing  
With a minor in Film and Media Studies

1) Internship under an Academy Award winning producer for Lighthouse Productions 2) Talent Escort/Production Assistant on the Jerry Lewis Telethon 3) Founder of Independent Film Production Company, Fasehun Films 4) Founder of a film program at a school in Manhattan 5) Singer/Songwriter with songs on iTunes distributed online through Island Def-Jam 6) Film, tv article writer, and graphic novel reviewer at Campus Circle magazine 7) Filmed documentary in Africa in post-production 8) Producer of Godspell revival on Broadway 9) Various TV & film jobs as associate producer, publicist, and production coordinator.

Freelance work (producing, publicity), independent projects under my production company, and teaching film. My undergraduate concentration was directing under drama, creative writing under English and minor in film. I definitely think my current employment utilizes my concentrations.

Getting a degree from the BHA program taught me that with hard work, a positive attitude, and perseverance that anything is possible.

Lauren Feldman  
BHA 2003  
Philosophy and Fine Arts

Graduate study at University of Pennsylvania in Computer Science. Worked as a programmer for a while and am now on the monetization team at a social gaming company.

I work on the monetization team at a social gaming company. My role is to oversee the profitability of our products. I utilize my art and philosophy skills every day when evaluating games which extremely visual and sometimes emotional experiences. My degrees allow me to communicate clearly, identify and understand creative barriers while problem solving in a practical way that leads to profitability for the company. I also work in an extremely collaborative environment containing professionals of all disciplines. My degree(s) allow me to communicate confidently regardless of the discipline of my colleagues.

Collaborative thinking and participation is critical to any business; the BHA program allowed me to explore all my interests and identify similarities between them.
Andrea Fisk  
BHA 2008  
Architecture and Creative Writing  
With a minor in Photography and Digital Imaging  

Graduate study—Master of Architecture at Washington University in St Louis.

The BHA degree program was like a gift that allowed me to freely pursue whatever I was interested in. I feel extraordinarily lucky to have been able to dabble in so many different fields, in such a healthy and inspiring academic environment. Without the intellectual and creative freedom that I had there, I surely wouldn’t have such a firm, diverse foundation on which to build the rest of my career and practice in architecture.

Allison Gallant  
BHA 2008  
Communication Design and Psychology  
With an additional major in Human-Computer Interaction  

I completed an accelerated Master of Human-Computer Interaction from CMU. After graduating with that degree, I was hired at Microsoft as a User Experience Design for the Windows design team.

I have now been at Microsoft for 3 years. My undergraduate degrees in CD and Cognitive Psychology were a really great backbone for my HCI master’s, and have served me well as a designer. Both visual design and psychology come into play as you try and create useful, usable, principled, and desirable experiences.

It allowed me to customize my educational focus to exactly what I needed.

Andrea Georgiana  
BHA 2002  
Communication Design and Literary Studies  
With a minor in Multimedia Production  

I have been working full time in the tech/design space, and volunteering on the board of a non-profit art organization in San Francisco.

My current career completely leverages both design and writing, as well as my minor in multimedia.

I feel that getting the BHA allowed me to focus my interests in both design and writing and get an understanding of how both of these disciplines work.

Emily Giacomarra  
BHA 2009  
History and Architecture  

I was employed part-time at the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh for 5 months before accepting a full-time position at the Danforth Museum of Art in Framingham, MA.

I am currently the School Registrar at the Danforth Museum of Art. I think my employment utilizes my undergraduate concentrations somewhat—my job is a combination of the arts and the more practical side of running a school. I was always balancing the two sides of my concentration.

I feel my BHA degree is beneficial because I am able to work independently and successfully towards my goals. Because the program was open-ended and had so much flexibility I am able to translate that to my current job and am more prepared in general for the challenges of post-undergraduate life.

Hannah Gilchrist  
BHA 2011  
Information Systems and Design  

I am excited about the prospects of utilizing skills from both technical and artistic concentrations in the business environment. I feel that most graduates are forced to choose between those two talents.

Laura Lynn Gonzalez  
BSA 2002  
Biological Sciences and Arts  

Worked on grants: NIH SEPA (science education partnership award) with John Pollock at Duquesne and PTEI in Pittsburgh from 2001-2011, with freelance on the side. Started my own company in 2008, wrote and was awarded an NSF SBIR grant in 2010 to make a biology iPad app. Currently pursuing other funding from commercial and grant-based sources.

Self employed (I’ve always been self-employed).  
http://greeneyevisualization.com; http://lauralynngonzalez.com
Laura (Marsh) Hudson  
BSA 2003  
Biological Sciences and Art  
With a minor in Psychology  

After graduating with my BSA degree in Art and Biology and a minor in Psychology, I worked as a teacher in a variety of early education classrooms. While teaching I pursued a certificate in elementary education through online classes. I completed my student teaching requirement in 2010 and received my certificate shortly thereafter.  

My current employment is as a mother, and I make good use of what I’ve learned. Working with my one-year-old demands that I understand the importance of process versus product, experimentation, observation, communicating non-verbally, and a whole host of other skills that I developed through my BSA concentrations.  

My previous employers have been impressed with my interdisciplinary degree and my ability to bring disciplines together as an educator. My degree is a great way to start conversations during job interviews; it really stands out in the minds of potential employers. As an educator, I have really benefitted from being able to customize my own education—it helped me to better understand the importance of motivation and self-determination as it applies to learning. The degree program also afforded me the opportunity to learn how to communicate with artists and scientists, who think about and approach problems in very different ways. This understanding of individual differences is especially useful when the scientists and artists in question are still very young. Understanding different ways of thinking is an essential 21st century classroom skill.

Juliet Iler  
BHA 2006  
Creative Writing and Drama  


Creative thinking. Appreciation of multidisciplinary work.  

Andrea Harley  
BHA 1996  
European Studies and Art  

I’ve worked in in-house creative agencies for fortune-100 companies. Most recently as Creative Director.  

Freelance Creative/Art Director with clients such as Turner Broadcasting, USA TODAY, Time Warner Cable, and AMC. I came out of CMU with a well-balanced background in art and creative thinking and problem solving.  

It was really the door to the career I have now. What I learned in the BHA program was that I could bridge different interests and that it didn’t have to be all or nothing.

Alia Hassan  
BHA 2007  
Communication Design and Policy & Management  

I’ve been working as a graphic designer since I graduated.  

I work as the Principal Designer at a firm in NYC called Blue State Digital. While we do have corporate clients, a lot of clients in the political, cultural and non-profit spheres, so in that way, yes, I do think that my current employment utilizes my undergraduate concentrations and my interest in design and public policy/current affairs/politics.  

My BHA degree allowed me to explore two seemingly disparate fields of study, has made me a more well-rounded person, and has allowed me to connect with a diverse group of people on a more meaningful level than I think I would have had I only studied one of the two areas that I did.

Robyn Gray  
BCSA 2011  
Computer Science and Art  

Graduate program, University of Southern California, Master of Interactive Media.  

Working part time as a research assistant at the Institute for Creative Technology doing art and programming.  

Good for continuing into a program like the ETC or Interactive Media. Programming side has been especially useful.

Juliet Iler  
BHA 2006  
Creative Writing and Drama  


Creative thinking. Appreciation of multidisciplinary work.  

Andrea Harley  
BHA 1996  
European Studies and Art  

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Melinda (Hungerman) Johnson  
BHA 2000  
**Art and Psychology**

After graduation, I earned my Master of Arts Management degree at CMU’s Heinz College. I have worked as a development professional raising funds for variety of arts and education nonprofit organizations including Pittsburgh Public Theater, the Foundation for the National Archives, the National Building Museum, and Carnegie Mellon University.

I am working as Assistant Director of Major Gifts at Carnegie Mellon where I provide outreach to alumni, parents, and friends and encourage people to give back to the university to help us reach our goals as part of the Inspire Innovation capital campaign. My undergraduate coursework was in art and psychology, so much of my understanding of people’s motivations may help in my current work. My background knowledge and passion for promoting the arts informs discussions about opportunities related to those areas.

I learned time management and prioritizing during my college years, which have served me well in all jobs. I gained experience and confidence in working with people from varying fields.

Hester Kamin  
BHA 1997  
**Drama and Creative Writing**

Graduate school at Jacques Lecoq International School of Theatre in Paris, 15 years working as a performer, director, choreographer, playwright, and arts educator in France, Hawaii, New York, New England.

Director of Education of Barrington Stage Company, Pittsfield, MA.

Max Kaufmann  
BSA 2006  
**Mathematics and Art**  
**With a minor in Computer Science**

After I graduated, I worked for a short while as a freelance game developer and interned at the (then) Pittsburgh-based game studio SilverTree Media. I worked as a programmer and technical artist on several games there for Disney (PixieHollow, Tron Light Cycles, Tron Disc battle), EA (Spore 2D), and original IPs (Cordy, Sleepy Jack). Cordy was featured as a pack-in title on the initial release of the Motorola Xoom Android Tablet. In 2010 SilverTree relocated to Palo Alto, in Silicon Valley, and last year I left to join a startup in San Francisco, Sifteo, developing children’s games for miniature, tactile computers (http://www.ted.com/talks/view/lang//id/457).

Game development is intrinsically interdisciplinary; we regularly encounter subjective/creative problems, which require a technical solution. More so, for Sifteo Game development—the cubes’ computational capacity is limited, and the hardware is designed and developed in parallel with the games, so we often need to answer technical, UX, and gameplay/story questions simultaneously through a kind of inter-specialty Vulcan mind-meld where we anticipate each other’s needs and requirements.

Absolutely; in addition to technical and creative skills, I was also able to network with faculty from both the School of Computer Science (BCSA was unavailable during my time, so I minored in CS along with my Math concentration), and the School of Art who were invaluable in connecting me with opportunities.

Ana Kim  
BSA 2010  
**Biological Sciences and Art**  
**With a minor in Biomedical Engineering**

Dental School.

Best for student pursuing dentistry, which require scientific knowledge and artistry (hand skills).

HJ Helen Kim  
BHA 2010  
**Psychology and Music Performance**

Graduate study at Columbia University.

I’m thankful that I got a degree from the BHA program. I was able to pursue all my interests without sacrificing one for another.

Jennifer Kim  
BSA 2009  
**Biology Sciences and Architecture**

MS in Cell and Developmental Biology at Rutgers University 2012.
I am able to do things I love doing, even if the skills required in the projects I work on are not inclusive of both sides in my BSA.

**Emily Lee**  
*BHA 2009*  
**Creative and Professional Writing & Art**  
**With a minor in Business Administration**

I am attending Pratt Institute for my M.S. in Communication Design. I have held internships in graphic design.

I am currently in school, but I do think that what I am studying encompasses my undergraduate concentrations.

I feel like getting a degree from the BHA program has been beneficial in exposing me to different areas of study. My educational background is diverse and will allow me more options when looking for employment.

**Susan Lin**  
*BHA 2010*  
**Information Systems and Art**

Graduate Study: CMU master’s in HCI.  
Full-time Employment: UX/UI Designer at Vast.com, Inc.  
Side Projects: sketch/art blog, indie game in the works, web application project in the works.

I work at a start-up and it is rather valuable to hire a designer, who in addition has a fine art and application development buff than one who purely and only studied design.

Allowed me to keep my broad interests. Made me very flexible in handling large amounts of work and context switching when practicing different disciplines.  
“Wearing many hats.”

**Diane Loviglio**  
*BHA 2005*  
**Anthropology and Architecture**

Started a company, started an annual conference, freelanced and worked at a company.

Full-time at a tech company = Mozilla. Architecture and anthro was all about understanding people and their experiences—their needs and wants and as a user experience researcher, I’m taking that knowledge and helping product teams build products that better fit the needs of our current and potential users.

Many ways. Helped me to explain my interests from an early stage and helped me know that being interdisciplinary was not weird, but actually forward thinking.

**Julie Ludwick**  
*BHA 2005*  
**Psychology and Art**

I received my master’s of arts in art therapy from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Since graduation, I have worked full time as an art therapist.

As an art therapist at a community center. Yes, my concentrations are used every day.

I had all the needed coursework to pursue my graduate degree without receiving a double major or needing additional classes after graduation.

**Kristen Lukiewski**  
*BHA 2008*  
**Professional Writing and Communication Design**

Upon graduation, I took a four month internship as a designer with a B2B publishing company, Future US. I currently manage the content and member experience of the website for the VC-backed Recyclebank—recently named the 37th most innovative company in the world by Fast Company—which rewards people for learning about and enacting small changes that better the environment.

It sounds cheesy, but majoring in Communication Design and Creative Writing taught me how to think and how to continue to learn no matter where I am. More specifically, my experience as a BHA major taught me how to think analytically, to understand how visual and verbal communications are interpreted by users in a multitude of environments. These skills have allowed me to deftly maneuver from designer, to copywriter, to creative manager and web manager positions, where I oversee how these things come together to create a better experience for people visiting our website.
design background has helped me enormously with field research, data visualization, and presentation skills. When I first started graduate school, I felt ahead of the curve in these areas.

I don’t think that the title of my degree or the fact that it was interdisciplinary has helped me, but the substance of the degree (arts and sciences) made me a much more well-rounded scientist.

Brian Mathias
BHA 2007
Psychology and Music
With a minor in German

As a grad student studying the psychology of music, both concentrations are essential.

Was the perfect blend of studies for entry into the cognitive neuroscience of music research niche.

Katy McKinney-Bock
BHA 2006
Hispanic Studies and Music Performance

Pursuing a PhD in Linguistics at University of Southern California (expected 2013).

Michael McParlane
BHA 2008
Creative Writing and Art

I’m currently completing an MFA in Film, Video and New Media from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, where I received a full tuition Trustee scholarship. I’ve been a resident artist at the Children’s Museum of Pittsburgh and participated in La Pocha Nostra’s international performance art workshop.

I will graduate from SAIC in May 2012.

I believe the BHA program was beneficial because it allowed me to develop my own language as a visual and performing artist, one that incorporates a variety of disciplines.

Kimberly Markel
BHA 2006
History & Policy and Art & Design

I completed my MSPPM degree at CMU right after. I spent a few years consulting in DC.

I now work for the state of Rhode Island and am their Chief of Program Development within the Department of Elderly Affairs. The policy portion of my degree, and my master’s degree, has helped me immensely. I work as a silversmith, too, but only on nights and weekends.

It allowed me to pursue all of my interests while in college.

Josh Maszle
BHA 2004
Decision Science and Drama

Went straight into the workforce—I’ve focused on the “Drama” part as a sound designer/engineer for theater. I designed a few shows in Pittsburgh, had a full time position at Pittsburgh CLO’s Cabaret Theater downtown for a few years before relocating to New York where I’ve worked on Broadway and gone on the road as well.

Not to sound cheesy, but an interdisciplinary degree helps you better understand how life works. When someone graduates with a concentrated degree and that subject is all they know, they often have trouble seeing the other sides of situations. In many professional situations, there’s the romantic, grand dreams of how things should be, and there’s the realistic, actual way things CAN be. By having a better, more rounded understanding of your field, you can much more easily find where these polar opposites can meet.

Catherine Matassa
BSA 2004
Biological Sciences and Architecture

I earned a professional science master’s degree at Northeastern University in Marine Biology in 2006. I continued at Northeastern as a doctoral student beginning in 2006 and plan to finish up my dissertation (marine ecology) next year.

I’m a graduate student in biology still, so the connections are clear to that subject, but my work in architecture has been surprisingly helpful. Visualizing 3D space, building things, presenting my work to my peers, and a good general
Elizabeth Neuman Rose  
BHA 1997  
Communication Design and Social History

I am currently self-employed as a graphic designer. The design education was certainly helpful in my career, as was the history as it gave me a foundation in thinking and writing clearly.

It made me a well-rounded person and gave me a good foundation to build from.

Berit Elizabeth Nowicki  
BHA 2005  
Psychology and Drama  
With a minor in Spanish

I went directly into NYU’s master’s program at the Gallatin School of Individual Study, where I received a self-designed MA in Emotion Studies and Physical Theater.

I am currently employed at the Brain Balance Center as a sensory motor coach, and assistant director. I’m also starting my own business called Emotive Agility that teaches emotional intelligence skills using a specific physical theater technique.

My work is geared towards individuals who want to develop on self presentation, as well as children of all grade levels. This is an arts-based socio-emotional learning program that I am now implementing in a preschool, but can be applied to grade levels as high as high school. My company is also developing an online course for leadership development, based on my Emotive Agility technique.

Amazingly beneficial because I learned to follow my passion and create myself, rather than being confined to a certain track.

Pauletta Pan  
BHA 1996  
Cross Cultural Communications and Communication Design  
With a minor in French

After a study exchange in France my last year at CMU (via Boston U’s program), I stayed in Europe for 4 years. The company I had done my internship with had given me a job in User Experience Design. Then I moved to Silicon Valley, found out about Product Marketing Management so got an MS (Information Systems) and MBA to get the skills and experience (more internships) required. Got a few scholarships in China and Europe in between. Decided I wanted to definitely live and work outside the USA for the rest of my life.
Strategy consultant/account management for e-commerce. The blend of technical knowledge and strategic business thinking are critical. Undergrad laid foundations for grad school and helped provide a framework for more directed work experiences.

**Nicole Rappin**  
**BHA 2011**  
**Cross-Cultural Communication and Music History & Culture**  
**With a minor in Hispanic Studies**

Graduate Study—MBA with a specialization in International Development at the Monterey Institute of International Studies; Peace Corps Master’s International Program—will be leaving for Peace Corps service as part of my graduate degree in Fall 2012.

**Gretchen Reinhart**  
**BSA 2001**  
**Biological Sciences and Art**

I had an NCI/NIH research internship for one year, then went to medical school at the University of Pittsburgh. After graduating medical school, I completed an OB/GYN residency at the Medical University of South Carolina and joined the faculty there.

I am currently an assistant professor of OB/GYN at the Medical University of South Carolina. My concentration in biological sciences has provided the foundation for my medical education and practice; the training I received in art has a less direct application, but has been helpful with pattern recognition and my surgical practice. I also have put it to use in providing the artwork for my office.

It allowed me to combine training in two fields that I love, and it has provided a framework for continuing to integrate them into my life.

**Hannah Ridge**  
**BHA 2012**  
**Policy & Management and Music Performance**  
**With a minor in Business Administration**

I am currently doing a three-month practicum at a microbrewery in Basel, Switzerland working under the business manager, mainly marketing.

**Ariel Rosenberg**  
**BSA 2011**  
**Physics and Drama**

I am doing Teach for America in Tulsa, OK. I applied and was accepted in November of my senior year, so it is the only thing I have done since graduation.

I am employed by Tulsa Public Schools as a Physical Science teacher. I am interested in starting a school play or something, but have not ventured there yet. I am drawing on my science background a lot. But taking classes in SOD that used physics for people who did not know physics/lots of math is helping me teach my students a lot.

I believe it helped me get my job. I learned early to push for what I needed schedule-wise. And I use that skill every day. Also, it is a unique talking point. I love mentioning the fact that I have a BSA and then explaining what I did!

**Guy Russo**  
**BHA 2010**  
**Linguistics and Music Composition**

I’m playing with a band called Broken Fences. We’ve had a song featured on the CMU homepage, our single “Wait” played in the TV show Flashpoint, and we are releasing our debut album on June 1, 2012, at Club Cafe in Pittsburgh.

Other than playing and singing music, I am tuning and servicing pianos. I also blog regularly. I draw from music and linguistics background at CMU all the time.

It provided the diversity I needed to find what I loved to do.

**Danielle Saudino**  
**BHA 2008**  
**Psychology, Creative Writing and Art**

Photographed a best-selling cookbook (and sequels), ran a portraiture studio, ran a chain of portraiture studios, managed a cake shop, managed a major jewelry store, now am an independent diamond buyer. Lived in New Zealand 2008–2012, moving back to New York (via most of Asia) in May 2012. I am also the editor of a Canadian magazine, which is a small but paid position. I also do commercial photography for major international clients—Lufthansa, the SPCA, Richmond Foods, etc.
I am currently an independent diamond buyer, commercial photographer, and magazine editor. Diamond buying and jewelry design require strong artistic sensitivities and fierce negotiation skills. Editing (and writing) draws from my creative writing background. I have continued leading a very successful interdisciplinary existence.

It allowed me to obtain an education that more accurately prepared me for my life—I have never been interested in limiting myself to one discipline (or even one career) and more self-contained degree programs would not have permitted me to ‘be myself’ so to speak, and learn in a way which engaged and inspired me.

Annie Savarese  
BHA 2004  
Music and French

After graduation I joined the Teach for America program, through which I had the opportunity to teach music at an elementary school in Baltimore. After my two-year commitment, I went to medical school. And now I am a first-year resident in the Georgetown/Providence Family Medicine Residency Program.

As a medical resident, I often rely on skills learned as an interdisciplinary undergraduate student. From appreciating the multi-faceted background of a patient to communicating effectively with colleagues, I feel as though my studies in the humanities and arts have been and will continue to be a real asset as a healthcare provider.

The BHA program instilled in me a real desire to learn/study/explore. Even though my undergraduate concentrations are quite different from my current career focus, I largely attribute my desire to learn/study/explore to the interdisciplinary nature of my undergraduate studies.

Victoria See  
BHA 2009  
Ethics, History, Public Policy and Art  
With a minor in Communication Design

I worked at both the Pittsburgh and Seattle symphonies for one year each. I worked in their public relations and marketing departments. My degree helped me get the job in Pittsburgh, which in turn helped me get the job in Seattle.

After working in arts management for 2 years I have decided to reconsider my options and now plan to go back to school for statistics in a few years. I currently work at a theatre doing front of house management and I sit on the board of a music nonprofit, The Music Bus Tour.

It prepared me perfectly for a job in arts management. My music background and humanities background were equally important for getting my first jobs at the Pittsburgh and Seattle symphonies.

Erin (Weber) Skurdal  
BHA 2005  
Communication Design and Psychology

I have continued leading a very successful interdisciplinary existence.

I believe that the mixed-program degrees are beneficial because they offer a student so many paths to a solution. The interdisciplinary core of the program gives us more pools to draw from and a broader base of knowledge to start with.

Roberta Kay Sefcik  
BHA 2011  
Psychology and Music Performance

Accepted to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

It allowed me to study diverse fields that I have passions in. It also showed me how these fields inform one another, and how important interdisciplinary collaboration is.

Megan Shand  
BHA 2009  
English, Psychology, and Music Performance

I interned at R/GA as a designer. Then I was a designer and marketing manager at the International Trade Center in Washington, DC and for a luxury furniture store in NYC. I got my master’s degree in Design Management at Pratt.

I am a Program Manager at frog (a well regarded global innovation firm). Yes, I am extremely effective at my job because of my CMU under graduate background. I also use my skills in my teaching of the Management Communications Class at the Design Management program at Pratt.
I have a more holistic approach to problem solving. My background sets me apart from regular applicants and enhances the differentiating value I offer employers.

Amanda Spangler Bartle  
BHA 2004  
Architecture and Urban Studies

Work in community economic development. Principal/owner of consulting firm. Executive Director of nonprofit affordable housing development corp.

Real work is by nature interdisciplinary.

Victoria Spindel  
BSA 2008  
Biological Sciences and Art

I worked as a fashion designer in NYC for Isaac Mizrahi’s line for Liz Claiborne. I designed accessories for 2 years and then decided to go to dental school. I am now in my 2nd year at Tufts University School of Dental Medicine and am loving it!

I am in graduate school now studying all the time!

It was amazing. I was able to pursue my dream of fashion and because I completed my biology degree was able to apply to dental school on a whim, without any problem. I have used my strong science background for my coursework in school and my art skills have helped tremendously in my clinical and lab courses! I was accepted to so many dental schools when applying. I believe my unique background of art (as well as being from a strong academic school) made me stand apart from everyone else!

Brittany Stanley  
BHA 2010  
International Relations and Art  
With a minor in Business Administration

I am a head curator for Videoart.net, an online community of video artists from all over the world. This past December, I helped to organize and host the 2011 Video Art and Experimental Film Festival, held at Tribeca Cinemas in New York City. At the festival, I moderated a panel between industry greats Kalup Linzy, Shelly Silver, and Brian House. In addition to the festival, I have built and am the Editor in Chief of the Videoart.net blog. I have conducted many interviews with people working in the field of video art, experimental film, and other new media art forms. I have also hosted several artist talks in conjunction with Mana Fine Arts Contemporary located in Jersey City, NJ. On of the artist talks included a live large-screen Skype session with Israeli artist Yael Bedarshi, all the way from Tel Aviv. As an artist, I am currently in the process of completing a screenplay for a work that will be shot in June 2012, featuring an fellow alumni of the Carnegie Mellon School of Art. I have applied for several grants to help fund the project, and am currently awaiting reply. One of my video works, “That Perfect high” (2010), was recently chosen to be apart of the Midas Touch Video Hour in Manhattan which will screen the work on a public broadcast television series that will air multiple times throughout the summer.

I am currently employed at Videoart.net as a head curator, public relations manager, and the editor-in-chief of the videoart.net blog. My undergraduate concentrations, Art and International Relations allow me to relate to the international community of video artists and filmmakers that I work with on a daily basis. For example, my studies in Peru have lent me invaluable relatable knowledge to collaborate and discuss future ideas with Videoart.net festival artist Marco Castro. I plan to take my independent work abroad, merging my passion for Latin American culture and video and time-based art.

The BHA program has prepared me with the critical skills necessary to be successful in a highly integrated multi-disciplinary career path. I have also been able to tap into a wider network of video artists that connect back to my contacts at CMU.

Staci Steinberger  
BHA 2007  
American Studies and Material & Visual Culture

I completed my MA in American Material Culture at the University of Delaware (2009). Since then, I have been working at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

I am a curatorial assistant at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and contributed to the exhibition and catalogue for California Design, 1930-1965: “Living in a Modern Way.” My CMU majors focused on American Culture and on exploring culture through object and image making; both areas of study feed into my current research, which uses historic objects to tell the story of mid-century California.

More than any specific skill or class, the “be proactive” mantra of BHA has been crucial to my approach to both education and work. The self-discipline, focus, and the tendency to fully explore a problem rather than accepting its parameters, all skills required to thrive in BHA, have been beneficial.
Matthew Sware  
BHA 2007  
Psychology and Music Performance

Director of Development, the Clinic for Special Children. Fundraising requires a diverse set of skills and diverse knowledge base. My cognitive psych training aids in my understanding of the research happening at the clinic and allows me to better communicate our case for support with both scientists and non-scientists. Music performance training has helped me in public speaking/presentations. Finally, the combination of disciplines was an excellent primer for the realities of the working world. Our job title or description may say one thing, but we are constantly challenged outside of that boundary. Specifically related to fundraising, I often work with donors to combine a personal passion with a need in our organization. This exercise requires a certain level of creativity and understanding for the individual’s passions and/or interests much like the creative combination of arts and humanities.

Shaunach D. Talley  
BHA 1998  
Art and Modern Languages

Received a degree in Fashion Design from Parsons and worked as a designer for 4 years in NYC. Pursued an MBA in Marketing and an MA in International Management.

I am a manager over a team of designers that develops new private brand products for Michaels Stores, Inc. The language skills have been useful in my foreign travels for work, while the art skills have been highly beneficial in working with the designers. Whether it’s looking at color and balance in print and pattern development or leading conceptual brainstorming sessions, the strength of my artistic foundation was fostered at CMU.

It allowed me to take a holistic approach to my career. I knew I wanted to go into fashion design so sculpture helped me segue into 3D development. Meanwhile I was also aware of the fact that I would travel, so French and Italian would be highly beneficial. Overall it allowed me to pick and choose exactly what I needed to move to the next phase in my career development.

Jessica Thurston  
BHA 2009  
Urban Design and Professional Writing  
With a minor in Hispanic Studies

I completed one year at CMU’s Heinz College, leaving to take a job with the U.S. General Services Administration. I work for the agency in New York, and will be completing my master’s part-time at Columbia University starting in the fall of 2012. My MS will be in Sustainability Management.

I am fully employed and starting graduate school part-time. While I wish my work included more urban design, I definitely pull on my background in sustainability from CMU, and most definitely my writing degree on a daily basis for work.

My BHA degree has truly made me more flexible and well-rounded in the workplace.

Steven Jude Tietjen  
BHA 2010  
History and Music Performance

I’m in the MA/PhD program in musicology at Rutgers University, where I’m also a graduate teaching assistant. Since graduating from CMU, I’ve interned at New York City Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. This summer I will be working at the Glimmerglass Opera Festival, and I am affiliated with the dell’Arte Opera Ensemble in NYC as their dramaturg and production assistant.

I’m a private voice and piano teacher with about 30 students in my studio which is almost exclusively related to my music concentration. I also freelance as an opera critic and an opera dramaturg, both of which rely entirely on both of my concentrations.

I think and write about music more clearly and with a fresher perspective because I understand it from a historical point of view. I’m comfortable challenging longstanding and traditional views of music and providing fresh and individual insights.
Erin Toal-Rossi  
BHA 2007  
Urban Environmental Studies and Art  

I went to the Heinz School for a master’s in Public Policy and Management.

I work at Booz Allen Hamilton as a Senior Defense Research Analyst. I do a lot of data collection, data visualization, metric and methodology development, and project management. My art skills are utilized but I do not do anything with my urban environmental studies background.

I have a unique background, which assists me in thinking outside of the box and creatively approaching and solving problems.

Adam Torres  
BHA 2004  
Communication Design and Spanish  
With a minor in Architecture  

Graduated from NYU in 2006, MS in Digital Imaging and Design.

Lead Artist at BioDigital Systems.

J.T. Trollman  
BHA 2006  
Professional Writing and Communication Design  

I worked for about three years to help start up the US branch of a UK-based content/design agency. After growing to about 25 people, I left to pursue a career as an independent UI and visual designer.

For the past two years and change I’ve worked as an independent UI and visual designer, consulting with and overhauling a range of small start-ups in the San Francisco Bay area and working on various projects at larger clients like IDEO as well. My everyday work leans heavily on my background in both communication design, and in written and verbal communication (the latter bolstered by my concentration in professional writing).

The BHA program gave me the freedom and the confidence to choose the classes that would best benefit my goals for my education. There was no better way at CMU to propel me immediately into the design industry with a strong foundation in what was needed—not just as a designer, but as someone with a broader range of skills.

Gabriela Uribe  
BHA 2010  
Multimedia Production and Architecture  
With a minor in Photography and Digital Imaging  

I pursued graduate study right after graduation. I’m currently a master’s student at CMU in the School of Design for Interaction Design.

It gave me a great foundation and a wide skill set. My degree did not focus on a specific career path, which is why I decided to pursue a master’s degree, but I am very proud of my undergrad degree as well.

Laura Warne  
BHA 2005  
Anthropology and Art  
With minors in Photography and Digital Imaging  

I got an MPhil degree in Museum Studies at Cambridge, then began working at Columbia University’s East Asian Institute. I work there organizing conferences, lectures, seminars and other general resources for students and faculty who study East Asia. I am also finishing an MA degree in Chinese history.

Yes. I work with people from many different disciplines and departments, so my BHA degree taught me to be open to different intellectual approaches.

It was tremendously beneficial to have the freedom to pursue what interested me and to find connections and areas of common ground across departments. This is pretty much what I do on a daily basis in my job!

Corey Werner  
BHA 2010  
Creative Writing and Art  

Teach for America 6th Grade Math teacher in Indianola, MS.

It provided a varied skill set, which is useful in the classroom/educational setting.
Jennifer Wig
BSA 2009
Environmental Biology and Art
With an additional major in French and Francophone Studies

Graduate school in forest ecosystems and society at Oregon State University.

Graduate research assistant and graduate teaching assistant. I teach about environmental science topics, and I do research on ecosystem ecology and biogeochemistry that I began learning about as an undergrad.

People really value interdisciplinarity. Even though I don’t do art for school, the fact that I have trained the creative part of my brain was an asset when applying to grad schools. Also, it makes me able to focus on multiple things. When I get a PhD, I’m planning on getting a minor in Economics (with a dual PhD in Soil Science and Forest Ecosystems and Society).

Ari Winters
BHA 2005
Film and Media Studies and Music Composition
With a minor in Music Technology

Master’s in Entertainment Technology. Composer/Sound Designer for video game Music and software development. Have been a core member of the Heavyocity/Heavy Melody Music team since (before) graduation.

I am working as a composer, writing music for Video Games (most recently EA’s Shift 2: Unleashed, nominated for an award). Also work as a core member of Heavyocity Media, award winning virtual instrument development for composers and sound designers. We have 4 products on the market now.

It prepared me to work with all types of individuals in the creative/production fields.

Kiliii Yu
BHA 2001
Design Metaphysics and Cognition

Started a design boutique, began a wilderness program, guided kayaks and taught kayak building and design, became a commercial photographer.

Commercial photography. I think being able to bridge many disciplines makes me a much stronger person with real stories to tell—BHA helped me break out of specialization mold.

For one, I would have graduated two years later had it not been for BHA. Also BHA’s degree helps me to explain to others, from employers to clients, that I am a diverse person.

Seldon Yuan
BHA 1998
Multimedia Methodology and Design

I worked as a web designer and then began freelancing as a flash developer in 2002. Have continued to make visual art and exhibit and published a book of poetry. Then went to grad school in 2005 for visual art. Currently still freelancing as graphic designer and flash developer and started bicycle bag company and still exhibiting art work nationally and internationally.

Freelance graphic designer and flash developer. When I was at CMU I was learning the beginning of web design and all the tools to do that and more. It was completely related to my current employment.

I have always been interdisciplinary and had many interests and the program let me explore that and keep my knowledge broad and vast. It allowed me to be versatile and aware of many different ideas and approaches which was useful in balancing the practical and the theoretical.

Fred Zeleny
BHA 2000
Creative Writing and Fine Arts
With a minor in Japanese

I began working in the game industry as a writer/designer, and have developed three AAA titles (Fallout 3, Elder Scrolls: Skyrim, and Kingdoms of Amalur: Reckoning), which have seen world-wide release and acclaim.

Principle Narrative Designer at Big Huge Games. It combines writing, light programming, general creativity, and a great deal of flexibility to work with a variety of other departments, particularly programming and art.

Not only did it give me a good foundation for many skills which would be directly applicable to my job, but more importantly, it taught me how to work with many different disciplines, find areas of commonality between them, and how to quickly learn new subjects.
Breanna Zwart
BHA 2007
International Relations and Drama
With a minor in Hispanic Studies

Master of Science in Public Policy and Management at Heinz College.

Special Assistant of the Executive Secretary at the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Being able to go in and out of multiple worlds is priceless.
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