



THE CATALYST

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**OUTSIDE
PERSPECTIVES**
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
Page 2

**SERVANT
LEADERSHIP**
FOUNDATION IN ACTION
Page 2

**DEMONSTRATIONS
OF LEARNING**
FROM THE CLASSROOM
Pages 3-4

**COLLEGE BOUND
ALUMNI**
ALUMNA NEWS
Page 5

EMPOWERING YOUNG LEADERS



EDUCATOR'S PERSPECTIVE: ALUMNI IN COLLEGE

BY ELLIE MOORE

Joe Lovelace's chemistry professor at Middlebury College, Rick Bunt, notes that even in a class of forty students, Joe stands out. "He is very willing to speak up and chat," says Bunt, "He has a maturity and confidence that is unusual for a first year student."

The self-sufficiency Lovelace gained through his leadership training with the Alzar School has made him seem "more experienced," according to Bunt. "Little things don't throw him," unlike most first year students. Alzar School students learn to deal with adversity and uncertainty in very authentic situations. When the trailer gets a flat tire in the Chilean Andes mountains, it's up to the student leaders to decide how to proceed. When participating in an English class Harkness discussion, students need to do more than look for the "right answer." They need to learn to ask complicating questions to drive the discussion forward. "Pushing to do things that are unknown - or where you don't know the answer," says Bunt, "things that are more open ended, where you have to figure it out for yourself," those are the experiences that prepare a student for college success.

Bunt has seen the transference of this exploratory and critical mindset applied in his Chemistry classes. "In science classes," Bunt explains, "you have to have an ability to go beyond what you are presented with and extend that to new situations." He notes that Joe is great at problem solving in unfamiliar situations and seeing the connections between disparate topics.

At Alzar School, students are put in leadership positions in which they have to weigh the options and potential outcomes and make a choice for the group. Through this experience they leave most notably having grown in one area: "Confidence," says Joe's Microeconomics professor Steve Pecsok. "That's the word I'd use to describe Joe - the confidence to try things without being afraid of being wrong." ▲

STUDENT BIO

NAME

Joe Lovelace

HOMETOWN

Boise, ID

COLLEGE

Middlebury College in Middlebury, VT

ALUMN OF ALZAR SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- RIVERS OF CHILE 2010
- FLOW 2011

THE CATALYST

KRISTIN BIERLE
Executive Director
Co-Founder

SEAN BIERLE
Head of School
Co-Founder

ELLIE MOORE
English/Spanish Teacher
Editor

The Catalyst is a quarterly publication of the Alzar School, a 501c3 non-profit education organization with the mission to facilitate the leadership development of high school students.

The Catalyst celebrates the accomplishments of young leaders and seeks to inspire other young people to be involved in their communities.

Alumni and supporters can direct address changes to kristin@alzarschool.org.

A paperless version of The Catalyst is available at www.alzarschool.org/catalyst

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FOUNDATION IN ACTION: SERVANT LEADERSHIP

BY KRISTIN BIERLE

Living, studying, and traveling as a small intentional community are a powerful ways to see the impact of individual actions upon the group. Students learn the power of personal leadership and willingness to help others in motivating and inspiring a group.

Tucked into a valley at the base of a mountain, the Alzar School could easily function within our 100 acre woods with little interaction with the larger community. The Alzar School seeks to broaden connections and take the internal lessons we learn about servant leadership to the larger community. The Alzar School volunteers at local events: sprucing up and organizing the local library and serving guests at nonprofit fundraisers. We see servant leadership domestically and abroad as students learn to support each other and the school community:

- Charlotte, from Brunswick Maine, reflected at the end of her semester, "At first I did school chores because it was what I was supposed to do. As the semester progressed I realized that it benefited everyone I loved here at the school and began to find more pride in completing the tasks well, knowing that it helped my friends."
- "Arriving at Alzar School...we built our own reputations and our own community, and we were given the opportunity to make our own choices without any judgement from others. Through all of this freedom and responsibility, we end[ed] up making choices that benefit the community. When I was leading everyone down the Trancura river and we had to make that decision, I did just not take in my own opinion, but I surveyed the group, trying to please everyone." - Isaac
- "Instead of thinking someone else will get it, now I jump in." -Lexi

At the close of the semester students plan a culminating leadership project to tackle in their home communities. Projects often build on personal interests and benefit a community of which they are a part. Students turn an individual passion for kayaking into kayaking lessons for peers with disabilities. An individual passion for art becomes 3 months of art lessons for elementary students and connecting the professional artists in town to the next generation of artists. Through this exchange, or service, students discover the power of individual actions in making change. ▲

ALZAR SCHOOL EDUCATES AND FACILITATES THE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

ALZAR SCHOOL'S SIX FOUNDATIONS



Academics



Leadership Training



Environmental Stewardship



Outdoor Adventure



Cultural Exchange



Service Learning



DEMONSTRATIONS OF LEARNING

BY ELLIE MOORE

Instead of a multiple-choice final, Alzar School English students demonstrate their semester's learning by synthesizing their critical thinking and communication skills to deliver dynamic presentations to the entire community. They detail their growth over the semester through the lens of one Habit of Mind. These 16 "Habits of Mind" were developed by Art Costa as a list of elements of highly successful thinkers. Many school systems have begun referencing these Habits of Mind in the classroom, believing that, "In fact, it is not in the standards or assessments, but rather these personal habits where success or failure -- in academic terms -- actually begin."

"The honest route led me to really think about things that I should be proud of. I should be proud that I know how to light a fire now. I should be proud of the APUSH video that I created...Now everyday I'm going to remember to self-reflect correctly and never dismiss or overlook my positives." - Darby Huye, Semester 4

With a semester spent living in yurts through the seasons with seven peers, investing in high level academics in riverbank and mountain top classrooms, learning to paddle challenging whitewater, traveling self-sufficiently both in the backcountry and abroad, and understanding how to connect with a foreign culture over six weeks in Chile, students have a diverse encyclopedia of experiences from which to draw.

HABITS OF MIND

HABITS OF MIND

1. Persisting
2. Living with intention
3. Listening with understanding and empathy
4. Thinking flexibly
5. Self-reflection
6. Striving for accuracy
7. Questioning and problem posing
8. Applying past knowledge to new situations
9. Thinking and communicating with clarity and precision
10. Gathering data through all senses
11. Creating, imagining, and innovating
12. Responding with wonderment and awe
13. Taking responsible risks
14. Finding humor
15. Thinking interdependently
16. Remaining open to continuous learning

"I did a combat roll successfully. But it wasn't any combat roll; it was a complete representation of my whole Alzar School experience. I had held back on what I could do because of fear. Jumping directly into something uncomfortable intimidated and scared me, but it ended up being one of the best things I've ever achieved. I felt now as if I could do anything; I decided that this could be applicable to anything important. I learned to step out of my comfort zone." - Charlotte Duncan, Semester I

Their growth is immense. Parents are often shocked at the mature young leader who return home after their Alzar School semester: a son who will all of a sudden get up after a meal and start washing dishes, a daughter who asks her mother how her day was, a son who can manage his own time and complete assignments without nagging, or a daughter who is suddenly self-motivated and excited to give back to her home community through her Culminating Leadership Project.

"For Isaac, Alzar School was truly amazing. Words can't capture it. He gained skills which will remain at the very core of who he will become. He gained perspective which will influence his choices moving forward. He gained confidence in himself outside of academics and sports. He developed friendships that will endure a lifetime. He set goals he had never even previously considered." - Michelle Goldstein, Semester III parent

We could not be more proud of our alumni when they depart their Alzar School semester. They leave knowing it is an experience they cannot recreate, an experience that has left an indelible mark on their character. They leave ready for the next challenge, the next adventure. They are more prepared to handle adversity with courage and calm, whether it be an AP test or a stormy backpacking trip with friends. They leave more prepared to listen, more prepared to try. They leave as leaders. ▲



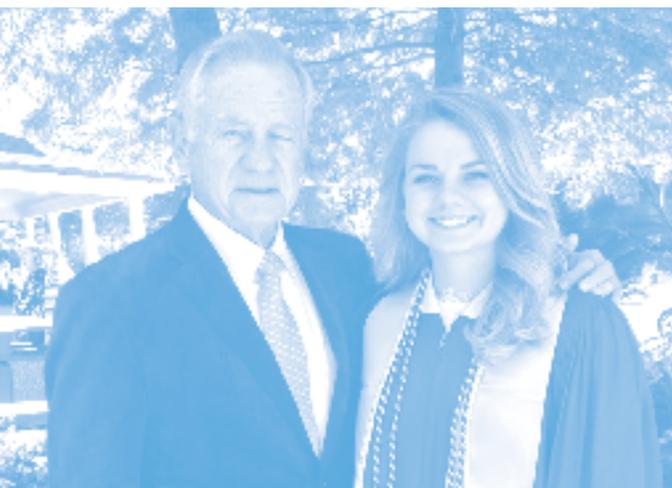
ALUMNA IN ACTION

COLLEGE BOUND ALUMNI

We are very proud of the Alzar School alumni who are graduating and making decisions about college. This graduating group of students received scholarship offers totalling over \$750,000 to wonderful schools across the country. From Colorado College to Duke, we have alumni finishing college, studying abroad, and leading adventures. A big congratulations to Derik Ryan who is graduating from Montana State University, Scott Boiko who is graduating from University of Washington, John Scott who is graduating from NC State. ▲

ALZAR SCHOOL ALUMNI CLASS OF 2018:

- Berklee College of Music
- Sewanee: University of the South
 - *½ tuition merit scholarship
- Washington & Lee
- Clemson University
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- University of Alabama
 - * Full ride out-of-state merit scholarship
- Southern Methodist University
- Claremont McKenna
- Idaho State University
- Maryland Institute College of Art
- University of Virginia
 - *Full ride
- University of Utah
- Humboldt State University
- Lewis and Clark State College
- Westminster College
- University of Idaho



EVENTS CALENDAR



JUNE 19-21

WEEK OF WORK

June 19-21st, 2014

Alumni will descend upon the school to tackle campus projects and reconnect with peers from various Alzar School programs.

Students will work on the new yurt, perimeter trail, and garden in the mornings. In the afternoon the group will kayak.



JULY 14-15

CAMP CUP

Every year over 100 teens from summer camps across the US join the Alzar School for a two day kayaking event in Western North Carolina.

Students race in downriver and slalom events and meet other young people from their home towns who enjoy river sports.

When: July 14-15, 2014

APPLY TO THE ALZAR SCHOOL



Spaces are available for highly motivated sophomores and juniors for the 2014-2015 school year. Spend a semester exploring Idaho and Chile while taking academic classes.

The world awaits...

SPACES ARE LIMITED

Learn more and apply at:
AlzarSchool.org/Student



ALZAR SCHOOL

Empowering Young Leaders

Donate to: **Raise the Yurt Campaign**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

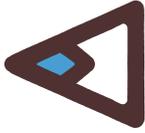
The Alzar School has raised \$72,000 of the \$80,000 needed to build more student housing (yurts)! The foundation has been dug, the power line has been trenched. Help us finish Raising the Yurt.



Enclose form and mail check to: Alzar School | PO Box 1609 | Cascade, ID 83611
View campaigns and donate by credit card online at: www.AlzarSchool.org/donate

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