

Alumni and Friends Newsletter January 2025



Evening at Putney, Snow and Barn (2022)

Dear Putney Alumni and Friends,

Recently, at the beginning of a Long Fall trip, Kate Knopp (Putney's assistant head of school and dean of faculty) said to an assembled group of nervous teenagers, "How we spend our days **is** <pause> **actually** <pause> how we spend our lives."

Did the teenagers get it? Maybe. Kate was talking mostly about phones, as we were about to embark on a tech-free trip into the woods. But her point was bigger than that, of course. Look up and see the owl. Help someone every day. Engage.

It's January at The Putney School. Putney remains a place of busyness with purpose: MLK Day workshops, trad music jams, an undefeated gHoops basketball team, assembly presentations about elections and women in forestry. We tune in and encourage the students to do the same. How we spend our days is how we spend our lives.

Wishing you all peace and health, and sending our thanks for staying in touch with Putney and with each other.

Stephan Syz '65 Recognized for 30+ Years of Protecting Rivers



Photo by John Lazenby

More than 30 years ago, a local landowner posted a "no trespassing" sign at a beloved local Vermont swimming hole. Stephan Syz '65 and many others didn't like it, and they worked to ensure public access to it. From this work, the Vermont River Conservancy was born.

Last August, Stephan was awarded the Conservancy's first ever Founders Award, recognizing the decades he has spent protecting access to rivers and working to minimize the devastating effects of climate change for the Conservancy, which operates "at the nexus of land, water, and communities."

Read the [full story about Stephan's award and commitment to the Vermont River Conservancy](#). Thank you, Stephan, for your work. Hope to see you at Reunion in June.

Help Us Raise our Alumni Networking Game



The Putney School

Primary and Secondary Education · Putney, VT · 1K followers · 479 alumni

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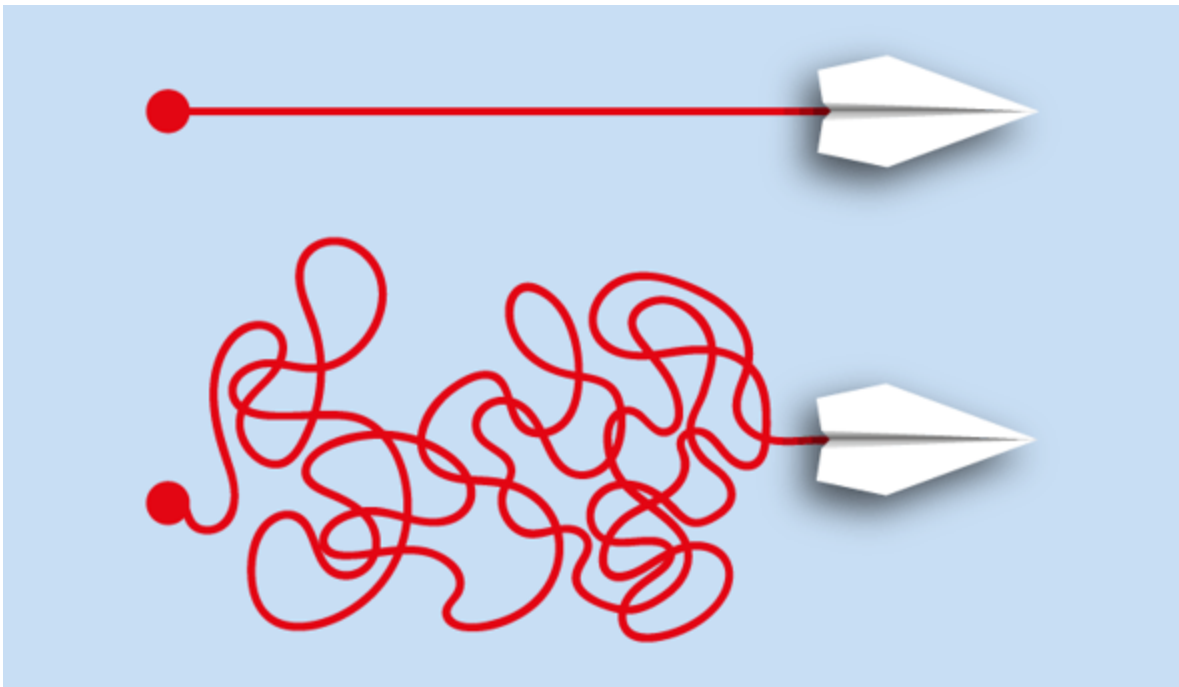
Alumni

We've been wondering for years how to improve professional networking for Putney alumni. As LinkedIn has improved its functionality around high school education information, we see this as a tool we should absolutely be using more proactively.

Here are some tips and ideas: if you don't need them now, we encourage you to do them anyway, as there might be an alum out there who would love to connect with you.

1. Add The Putney School in your education history. Be sure to link to [the school's official page](#).
2. Update your own LinkedIn profile to reflect what you're doing, where you work, your profession, and location.
3. Join [The Putney School Network on LinkedIn](#). If you're hiring, post a job there.
4. Use the school's official page (see "Alumni" tab pictured above) when you're looking for work or hoping to network. The Alumni section allows you to search other Putney alumni by location, profession, college attended, and more.
5. Win stuff! If you (a) post a job opening on The Putney School Network, or (b) connect with another Putney alum via LinkedIn and have a fruitful networking interaction (let us know [by email](#) or post it on LinkedIn), we'll put your name in a hat and draw a name on December 1, 2025. Winner gets a piece of Putney gear from the school store.

Putney Post Notes: The Non-Linear Path



Putney Post alumni notes! **Send an update for the Putney Post by January 31.** Please send photos, too. We love photos. We're taking the 30,000-foot view in this issue, writing about, as a Putney parent recently wrote to us, the "curiosity and non-linear path to discovery [that] could have been stifled" at other schools.

What was your non-linear path? Where in your life did your curiosity bloom?

We also welcome updates about what you're reading, stories and pictures of the quotidian or the extraordinary, and more. The alumni notes section tells the story of Putney better than almost anything else, and your voices make that happen. Thank you!

Email afrye@putneyschool.org
or text to 802-258-1812 (Alison Frye's cell)

Hallie Herz '07 Builds Queer Community and Gets People Outdoors



In 2023, Hallie Herz '07 and their partner, Eva Fury, opened [Kindling Collective](#), the first queer-focused outdoor gear library in the country. Their vision and purpose shine through in [this piece Hallie recently wrote](#) for the Maine Sports Commission. "We wanted to create spaces where queer people could try an outdoor activity for the first time in an environment that celebrates being a beginner, taking risks, and making mistakes. And we wanted to create a library of

outdoor gear that anyone of any identity can use, as long as they're on board with supporting and affirming queer folks."

Help spread the word about [Kindling Collective](#). Cheers to you, Hallie and Eva!

Nuts & Bolts



Name change?
Address change?
Transcript request?
What events are on the horizon?

It all lives at putneyschool.org/alumni

Karla Baldwin to Retire After 32 Years at Putney



Photo by Gabriel Cooney

For 32 years, Karla Baldwin has helped Putney students find their voice. On stage. In class. In their transitions to life after Putney. Her loving, encouraging, take-no-bullsh!t presence has lifted countless students and pushed them to become the people they are. What a gift she has been to Putney. If Karla were to put on all of the hats she's worn at Putney, she'd have to duck to get through the door as she walks toward retirement.

If Karla had an impact on your Putney experience—on your life—we hope you'll reach out to her to tell her, with a note in the mail*, and/or with an [alumni note for the upcoming Putney Post](#).

*418 Houghton Brook Rd, Putney VT 05346

Putney Events and Alumni Connections



Above: Putney alumni gathered in New York City for a peer schools networking event last April. Join us this year!

We hope to see alumni and parents on the road (and here on campus) in the coming months. You can find full event details and RSVP at putneyschool.org/alumni

Young Alumni Professional Networking Events

Join alumni from Putney and eight other New England boarding schools to network, learn, and connect over professional endeavors, ideas, and passions. [Get in touch](#) if you'd like to attend.

New York City
April 1, 2025
6:30–9:00 p.m.
The Penn Club
30 W. 44th Street
NY, NY

Boston
April 3, 2025
6:30–9:00 p.m.
The Exchange
212 Northern Ave.
Boston, MA

Putney will once again join a group of New England schools for two professional networking evening events. Last year's events were Putney's first opportunity to join, and we look forward to expanding the number of alumni who attend, and the industries represented. We are especially excited to bring arts, theater, culinary arts, and fashion into the conversation. If you're interested in representing Putney and leading a roundtable conversation about your work in any industry, [we'd love to hear from you](#).

Reunion

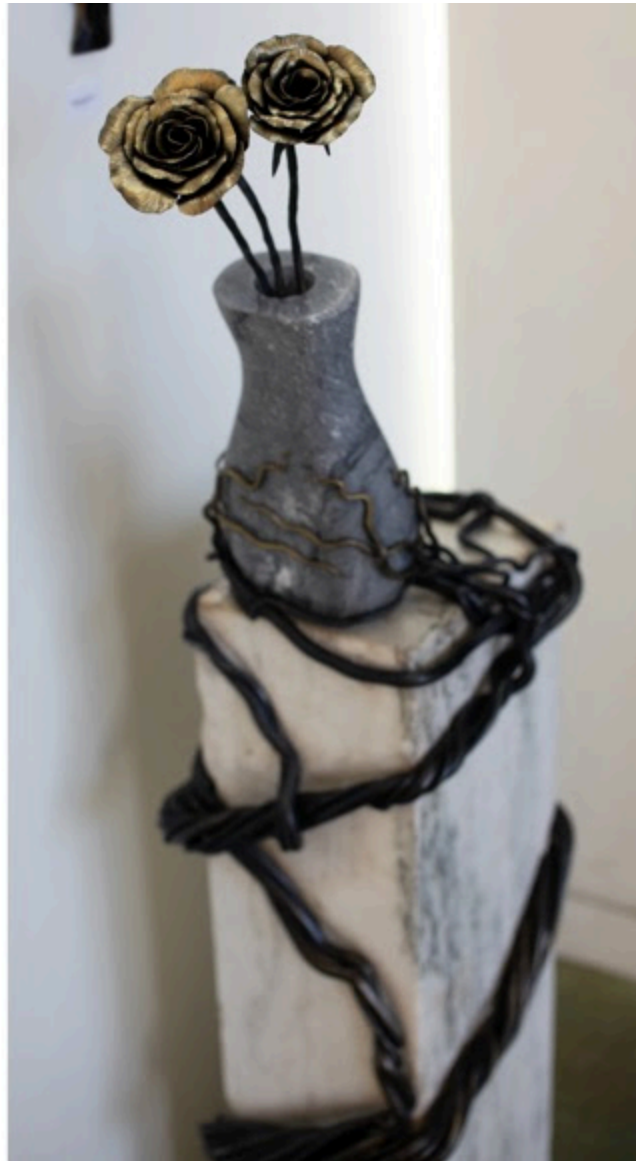
June 6-8, 2025

Classes of 65-66, 70-71, 75, 90-91, 99-02, 08-10

Registration opens April 1, 2025

[Reunion website](#)

Student Art Around Campus / Sculpture Program Fundraiser



Lewis '25

Lost to Time, 2024

Lewis '25 packed a lot of creativity and philanthropy into his December Project Week. Lewis and sculpture teacher Brian Quarrier '05 dreamed up a plan to make

sculptures, [create a promotional video](#), set up an online auction, and auction Lewis's work, all within an 11-day Project Week. Proceeds supported the purchase of updated equipment for the sculpture studio.

All told, Lewis sold eight pieces, and raised almost \$4500.

Thank you, Lewis, and thank you to everyone who bid and supported this endeavor.



Stay in touch:

Please use this [link to update](#) your information and preferences with The Putney School.

[We welcome your feedback.](#)



The Putney School
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