



# Alumni News

# Kuper Academy

## Kuper Connections Thrive!

Welcome to our second alumni newsletter! As you all know, Kuper Academy has been busy serving families from many different countries of origin for over twenty-seven years. We understand that the history of a school lies not only in its buildings or artifacts, but in the very people who have passed through its hallways. The fond memories that Kuper evokes will continue to linger in the hearts of alumni – as stories to be passed down generation to generation. Alumni are ambassadors of the school and are always welcome to attend fundraisers, special events, and activities held on campus throughout the year. We hope to continue to build the Kuper network with your help and contributions. We would greatly appreciate any input from you. Please ‘like’ the Kuper Academy Alumni Facebook page and feel free to use that medium to submit any feedback on the newsletter as well as photo contributions. If you have any suggestions or requests for future newsletters or events, we’d love to hear from you!



# Where Are they Now?

Since graduating in 2011, Kuper alum Cem Ozan has been... busy. But he has still managed to find time to come back and visit the Kuper community to share what he's been up to since graduation. Cem started at Kuper Academy in grade nine after having attended schools in Denmark, Austria, and Sweden. A true international student, Ozan looked forward to attending an open-minded multicultural school and he loved studying within Kuper before moving on to John Abbott College. Fast forward to 2014 and Ozan now attends the University of Ottawa (honours) and is studying electrical engineering and computer science. When talking with Cem, he reflected upon his experiences at Kuper and related his learning in the Kuper classrooms to the path that he's taking now. Ozan participated in the Science Fair during his ninth grade year at Kuper and this experience was actually a starting-off point for one of his current entrepreneurial projects

entitled "Active Surface", which is intended to be the creation of an affordable way to interact with a computer through multi-touch surface. The project initially began with a 30" by 30" box which won the Bell Communities Award for New Technologies in 2011. It is an infrared tracking technology whereby the camera of a pen tracks its movement with an LED light within it made out of whiteboard. Active Surface is currently in the testing phase and Ozan intends to market the product as an alternative to Smartboards. When he is not working on his engineering degree, Cem is busy meeting with investors hoping to eventually incorporate the product. In addition to the above, Ozan is also working as a marketing manager for a company based in Rockhill South Carolina, called Atlas Copco. He got the job through the first company that he created which imported gadgets from China for re-sale in Canada, and the company was created as a global online retailer. At Kuper, Ozan learned how to interact with people on an international scale and he learned to appreciate the differences between people, nurturing an understanding that everyone had different expectations for themselves yet that we all have to share the world together and help each other out. "Nothing is really unattainable. Be flexible and work towards common goals." Some good advice.



**Cem Ozan, Class of 2011**



Since graduating in 2006 as Vice-President of the Student Council, David Leblanc has been on the move. Seeing an opportunity to be a student athlete in the United States, Leblanc headed from Kuper Academy straight to Deerfield Academy Prep School in Massachusetts on a baseball scholarship. Much like Kuper, Deerfield is known not only for its athletic strength but also its academic rigour. Thus, after attending Deerfield, Leblanc had the opportunity to attend the University of Tampa in Florida on yet another baseball scholarship. As a result of his hard work and self-discipline, Leblanc signed professionally to play baseball in

May of 2013. He is now in his third season of professional baseball and is also the president of a sport-specific training company entitled Evolution Athlete ([www.evolutionathlete.com](http://www.evolutionathlete.com)), which offers personalized programs to athletes, virtually, from professional trainers. Leblanc also coaches with Baseball Canada in the offseason. Despite his busy schedule, his Kuper connections remain strong: "I still have some of my best friends from Kuper and see them daily, and those I don't see daily I still communicate constantly with- we were a very tight group".

**David Leblanc,  
Class of 2006**

# Keeping In Touch!



**Diya Saigol, Kuper Class of 2012**

Diya Saigol spent thirteen years at Kuper Academy. Beginning in K5 she worked her way through elementary and high school within the Kuper classrooms, loving the warmth of her teachers and the emphasis on fostering leadership skills. Proving she was ready to be a leader while still in high school, Diya was credited with starting the Glee Club during the 2011-2012 academic year. Beginning that initiative helped her grow not only her leadership skills but her organizational skills and her creativity. “By helping to get the Glee Club started I was able to plan rehearsals, to learn what worked, what didn’t, etc.. That helped me once I got to Marianopolis.” Looking back, those skills were vital as Diya accepted the role (after being nominated by her peers) of Co-Executive Producer in the Marianopolis Theatre Company musical “Nine To Five” that ran during January of 2014. The musical was originally a Broadway production that Marianopolis licensed. There were sixty one students on board and that meant that managing the production involved excelling in organization, people

skills, and due diligence with respect to planning and timing. It took one year of hard work to get the production to the stage and they raised over \$5000 for the Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation (over and above all of the expenses of the production). Diya wanted to support this cause because, during her senior year at Kuper high school, she experienced chronic back problems and missed months of class time. Having spent a lot of time in the hospital, she understands that it is an important facility to invest within. When looking back on her Kuper experience, Diya discussed how the challenging homework that Kuper tasked students with was beneficial in terms of her current ability to manage her time, to be diligent with respect to her work ethic, and to create a good balance between her extracurricular activities and her academics. “Kuper taught me how to work hard and how to be engaged within my community.”

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Camille Dumais graduated from Kuper as one of the most successful student-athletes from the class of 2007. She moved from Kuper to Dawson College, and graduated with a diploma in Pure and Applied Science. Still wanting to achieve more both academically as well as through sport, Camille applied for and was accepted to Dartmouth College in New Hampshire- an Ivy League Institution. Camille credits her participation in sport at Kuper (and as a young girl within her community) for enabling her to be successful and well-rounded, and she maintains that some of her best friendships began in the hallways and the locker rooms of Kuper Academy. “I still remain in contact with some of the girls I played with on my hockey team. Every year around Christmas time, we have a three-versus-three tournament organized by George (Martin), and we all meet up and hang out. It’s great to see everyone.”



**Cami Dumais, Class of 2007**

Dumais credits Kuper Academy for her appreciation for the English language, which will open many doors for her within and outside of Quebec. “Kuper allowed me to develop my English. I come from a French family and I applied to and attended Kuper because I knew I would need to be fluent in English in order to have more opportunities in the future. I would love to go back to a class reunion to be able to see everybody else that graduated with me.” Since having initially communicated with Camille, she has gone on to graduate from Dartmouth and is now studying in Montreal.

# Where Are they Now?

For anyone looking to see just how far Kuper graduates go, you need only take a look at the members of the Eugenin family to get a very good idea. Class of 2004 grad Ignacia Eugenin has recently finished medical school and is now working within the Pediatrics Residence at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. As seen in the photo on the right, she recently got married to her long-time boyfriend and classmate from medical school. In her correspondence with Kuper, Ignacia shared that she looks back on her years at Kuper fondly, and suggests that Kuper helped her to understand the value of working hard to pursue your goals. "It's been a busy few years, so next year my husband and I plan on taking it easy. I will most likely be working as a pediatrician within neonatology. But after that, the following year I plan on applying for a subspecialty- my husband and I don't get tired of studying (insert smile here). I have my hopes set on neonatology and ICU care". Ignacia's entire family (they are five children in total!) attended Kuper and Ignacia assures that they loved it as much as she did. At this point in time Joaquín (class of 2004) is finishing up his engineering degree, Josefa is busy completing a degree in photography, Claudia is currently in her second year of engineering, and Jorge is in his first year of psychology at university.



**Maria Ignacia Eugenin, Class of 2004, recently got married Congratulations!**

## **Sam Murray & Ben Gubiani, Class of 2014**



clear that they both still felt tied to the Kuper community, and that they likely would forever. Ben shares that the strength (in Kuper) is definitely the people. "The teachers are fantastic and the friendships that we made last". Really... what more can you ask for?

It didn't take long for Ben Gubiani and Sam Murray to revisit their alma mater after graduating. We caught up with the two recent graduates this fall when they stopped by Kuper to say hello to their favourite teachers and friends. Having had the opportunity to study within a new (college) setting, the two grads had some definite opinions about how their attendance at Kuper has helped them along the road to higher learning. "I realize now how tightly-knit the Kuper community is. Now that I attend a much larger institution, I can see what a difference it makes in education when you have a friendly supportive environment with teachers who are always willing to give more than is expected", claims Ben. "I am studying freelance film production and visual arts, and I eventually hope to work within the gaming industry. Kuper helped me work to create this vision for myself and gave me the confidence to go after what I want". After spending a bit of time with both Ben and Sam it became

## Class of 2003

Kuper's First High School Graduating Class met in the winter of 2014 to catch up and find out what each of them were up to in their adults lives. Seen on the left: Olena Zlatkina and Stan Filine (class of 2004). Seen right and below: Susan Moreno and Stephen Mouradian



Class of 2003 Reunion. What better place to pose for a picture than in the front hallway of the high school. Posing with owner and Head of School Joan Salette and Vice Principal Eric Casarotto are grads of 2003 (from left to right): Reda Farag, Susan Moreno, Mrs. Salette, Kriss Beaudjekian (back), Taranjeet Lehal (front), Mr. Casarotto, and Stephen Mouradian



Seen here are: Olena Zlatkina and Susan Moreno. The evening was spent laughing, reminiscing, and rejuvenating old friendships.

# Are You in One of These Photos?

Looking Back Through Pictures...



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Recognize these  
members of our alumni?