

Alumni Connect Newsletter

Educate. Inspire. Empower.



Alumni Connect is designed to provide communication and networking for Willamette Academy graduates. Even after graduation, you can continue your connection and access to valuable resources at Willamette Academy through our “Connect” program. Receive college advice and assistance, scholarship information, learn about employment opportunities, as well as attend networking events and more!

Willamette Academy’s Alumni Connect Program



— Willamette Academy Class of 2010 —

Facebook Reminder!



Still not part of the Willamette Academy group on Facebook? Join the group and stay updated on WA news and fun opportunities. Don't see one of your fellow WA peers in the group? Add them!



Delia Olmos-García
Willamette University



Qiana Barton
Willamette University



Reina Miranda
Willamette University

The year 2014 brings us a new group of graduates. After having been part of Willamette Academy and having accomplished their goal of attending college, they can now proudly say they have accomplished another great goal. It's great to witness our alumni further succeed. It's time for them all to begin another great journey as they decide the next steps they will take. Whether they decide to go to graduate school or find themselves with employment, we hope you all do great things.

Congratulations Graduates of 2014

Greetings from Our Academic Support Coordinator, Emmanuel Macías

Higher education, student advocacy and community empowerment have all played a vital role in my goals for life, respectfully.

I am delighted and honor for the opportunity to work alongside a group of welcoming and driven staff as the Academic Support Coordinator. Originally a native of Eastern Oregon, I am a first-generation student and second in my family to graduate from college completing my Bachelors of Arts degree in the Social Sciences with a concentration in sociology and Spanish minor from Western Oregon University, Class of 2013. During my undergrad years, I was

involved in MEChA, WOU Volleyball Program, Latin@ Mentoring Program, and collaborated in the creation of an international internship advocating for LGBTQ civil rights in Rosario, Santa Fe, Argentina.

At the Academy, I oversee the daily operations of the Academic Resource Center, providing regularly academic support services. Since joining the Academy, I have enjoyed the opportunity to support students and families in one-on-one and group settings, working with Willamette University student volunteers, and taking students on college visit trips including



University of Washington and University of Oregon. I am excited to join the Willamette community and to be a part of Willamette Academy!

————— Emmanuel Macías —————

Congratulations to the 8th Graduating Class of Willamette Academy

Lucee Bathery - UNDECIDED, **Ira Cuello-Martinez** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Elizabeth Cuesta-Torres** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Stephany Frias** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Pastor Garcia** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Kenia Hernandez-Quintero** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Jesus Maciel-Ochoa** - UNDECIDED, **Maria Yasmin Martinez** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Moises Mendoza** - WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY, **Rachal Meza Rojas** - SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, **Adrian Ochoa** - UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, **Maira Y. Pelayo** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Izabel Peña-Venegas** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Jessenia Pineda** - GEORGE FOX UNIVERSITY, **Valerie Roa-Baez** - UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO, **Lina Truong** - WILLAMETTE UNIVERSITY, **Juanita Valdivia-Olson** - WHITWORTH UNIVERSITY, **Efrain Zuniga** - POMONA COLLEGE



We are very happy to have our eighth graduating class, the class of 2014, heading off to college this fall. In this year's graduation ceremony, the commencement speech was given by Brianne Dávila, Sociology Professor at the Willamette University, and by Willamette Academy alum Delia Olmos-Garcia, who graduated this May from Willamette University. Efrain Zungia was chosen to represent the graduating class as the senior speaker. Collectively, Willamette Academy students were awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships. Among those scholarships two students received the Ford Family Foundation Scholarship, with one student receiving the Marion-Polk County Medical Society scholarship. This group of seniors received admission invitations from over 40 institutions from all over the United States and as far away as Rome, Italy. We are very proud of our students and are happy to see them begin a new journey.

WA Alumni Offer Advice to Graduating Seniors



On Saturday Feb. 22nd, 2014 Willamette Academy alumni were invited to serve as a panel to help current Willamette Academy seniors transition into their first year as college students. The alumni represented various universities throughout the state. In the panel they were asked two questions from the Student Academic Program Director about their experience at Willamette Academy: What was your best experience at Willamette Academy, and how did WA help you transition into college? After the

16 alumni shared their experiences at Willamette Academy, they answered several questions from WA students. Some of the questions regarded time management, dorm life, stress relief, etc. At the end, the alumni received both applause and time to catch up with fellow Willamette Academy students. Ultimately, the panel helped the seniors have a clearer understanding of the path that lies ahead of them.

Where are they now?

Q & A With Recent Grads



Name: Leticia Falcon
Willamette Academy Class: 2010
Graduated: June 2014 from Linfield College School of Nursing with a BSN
What have you been up to: At Linfield College I have had many experiences working with different cultures in various communities. This includes doing health assessments on workers from a Yamhill nursery and spending a month in Cameroon providing health assessments and health education to

communities there.

Future plans: I hope to start my nursing career at the local hospital, gaining more experience in order to become a labor and delivery nurse.



Name: Margarita Gutierrez
Willamette Academy Class: 2008
Graduated: May 2012 from Willamette University with a degree in American Ethnic Studies
What have you been up to: I am currently working at a law firm in Portland, Oregon, serving immigrant communities. When I'm not at work, I can usually be found spending time with my family and loved ones, creating art, or organizing with a collective fighting for the rights of immigrants, people

of color and other marginalized communities. Some weekends, I support the Academy as an instructor during the Saturday Sessions.

Future plans: In the near future, I plan on going back to school for my Master's degree. I continue to have a passion for education, but my job has increased my interest in law, so I have a big decision ahead of me!

Willamette Academy Alumni Scholarship

This scholarship is for undergraduate students who, after having received their financial aid letter, still are in need of aid to cover their tuition. The Willamette Academy Alumni Scholarship is to be used exclusively for school tuition and related expenses. Scholarship recipients are selected based on: academic achievement, financial need, community involvement, and personal qualities and strengths as portrayed in a personal statement.

Contact Michele Gray at mgray@willamette.edu for applicant criteria, the scholarship deadline, and any other questions.



A Day in the Life of A College Student

Participating in college activities or wearing your school gear? Send us your pictures of fun, exciting, and adventures college moments! Your pictures could be featured on the next Alumni Connect Newsletter. Email photos to academy@willamette.edu


WILLAMETTE
ACADEMY
willamette.edu/academy
(503) 370-6103



HOW TO DONATE

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Photos courtesy of WU sophomore, EDGAR JIMENEZ.

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