

Billings Middle School – Alumni Spotlight



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-David Trapp, class of 2005

1). Can you describe a specific experience or moment at Billings that still stays with you? Why was it meaningful?

In the summer of 2006, I traveled with Billings to Guatemala on a ten day trip throughout the country. Then in 2007 I went back on my own accord with a friend and was volunteering at an NGO building a preschool. I was walking through town one day when I happened to notice three very familiar looking people. I immediately did a double take and recognized them as Peter, Deirdre, and Ted (former Billings teachers). As casually as I could, I walked over and said hi. They were just as surprised as I was and after we finally got over the surprise, I was able to tell them what I was doing there and was able to find out what they were doing. They were supervising another summer trip in Guatemala and happened to be spending a week in the same small town I was working in, though this town was not one we had visited the year before. My friend and I were then lucky enough to spend a week with them, traveling throughout the area.

More than anything, this served as a reminder of the importance Billings places on traveling and understanding the world through a different lens.

2). What are you up to now?

Currently, I'm a volunteer for Peace Corps beginning my two years of service as an agricultural extension agent in Paraguay. I will be living in the town of San Jose, outside of the city Paso Yobai in the Guairá department. I graduated from Fairhaven Collage at Western Washington University with a self-designed degree titled "Energy, Agriculture, and Climate Change" in 2014. Since then, I've done some traveling/teaching English throughout South Asia, worked for the forest service in Colorado, and worked for a landscape construction company in Seattle.

3). How was your experience transitioning from Billings into high school and from there into the college/working force world?

Transitioning from Billings to Ingraham High School was a difficult transition as I went from a school of 84 to 1,300. But my time at Billings taught me skills I've been using ever since -- from the independence I developed during trips, to my appreciation of nature. I can honestly say that the experiences I had at Billings were a part of what led me to join the Peace Corps. I loved my time at Billings and still appreciate all the opportunities it provided.

Interested in being a featured alumni in an upcoming newsletter? [Email Riley Burns: rileyb@billingsmiddleschool.org](mailto:rileyb@billingsmiddleschool.org)