



ALZAR
SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Alzar School
PO Box 1609
Castade, ID 83611
208.639.9891
www.alzarschool.org

THE WORLD AWAITS...

The mission of the Alzar School is to educate and facilitate the leadership development of high school students.

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My favorite part of the semester has been how close this community felt ever since we returned from Chile. I felt so supported and so much love for every single person. I feel like I have a second home and a family I can always count on.

- Ceilidh Shea, Spring 2017

The Alzar School is a non-stop semester of new experiences and adventure that is life changing.

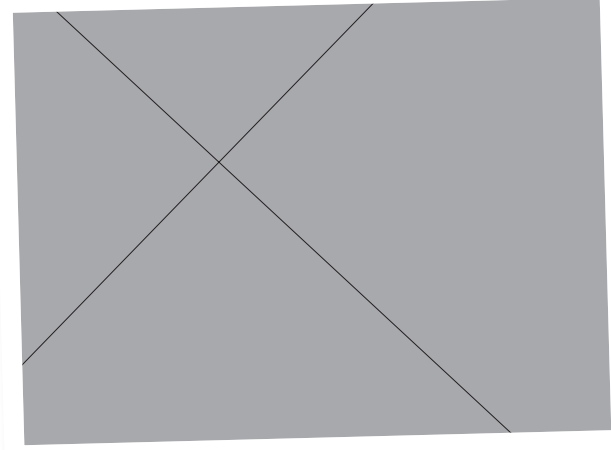
- Amelia Riddle, Fall 2016

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FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS



Year Five was a memorable one! Alzar School's enrollment grew, with 25 students in Fall 2016 and 35 students in Spring 2017. Throughout the year, new construction continued, with four additional yurts being put into service, four staff apartments becoming available, and the expansion to the Confluence Building being completed. Additionally, the school added a second food prep staff and a Director of Studies, and expanded to eight teachers.

The transformative experiences of the Alzar School continued to inspire unbelievable support from alumni and their families, allowing the school to reach its fundraising goal for the year. Members of the alumni family expanded the school's Advisory Committee and Board of Directors.

Alzar School continues to lead in the field of education. Sean Bierle participated in an accreditation review at the Conserve School. During the summer of 2017, the school hosted the Semester School Network teacher's conference. Former staff members are entering other teaching positions, Harvard Graduate School, and more. Truly, the school is building leaders, and we look forward to being a part of that movement for years to come.

- Sean & Kristin Bierle



OUR SIX FOUNDATIONS

The Alzar School accomplishes our mission through the integration of our “Six Foundations.” Academics and Cultural exchange overlap as students complete conversational challenges. Students learn the power of servant leadership through our interactions with others. Outdoor adventure cultivates an appreciation of the natural world.



1 ACADEMICS

Rigorous Classes: AP US History, AP English Language & Composition, AP Biology, Environmental Science and Biology, Harkness Discussions & Demonstrations of Learning.

2 LEADERSHIP TRAINING

“10 Elements of Leadership,” LOD experiences on expeditions and on campus. Major student leadership experiences in Chile. Mentor meetings. Writing the CLP plan.

3 OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Rafting and kayaking on the Payette, Salmon, Cato, Ñuble, Fuy, San Pedro, Petrohue Rivers. Backpacking in the Trinity Alps, Cochamo and the Owyhee Canyonlands. Skiing/snowboarding at Tamarack & Brundage Resorts. Winter camping.



4 CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Students from around the globe, including 2 from Chile. Learning to dance cueca, expeditions with Chilean students from Los Escualos. Empanadas, sopapillas, and so much more.

5 SERVICE LEARNING

Working on the perimeter trail on campus. Serving the community through cook crew. Volunteering at the Jazz Concert in Cascade. Planting trees and revegetating the Cabarton River put in.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Recycling program on campus. Heating the yurts with wood split by students. Hot showers thanks to solar water heaters. Restoring the riverbank on campus.

THE HIGHLIGHTS

In the 2016-2017 year, Alzar School notably achieved:

- Largest student cohort yet (Spring 2017).
- Operated new course areas programs in Patagonia Park, the Eastern Range, and on the Headwaters of the Payette.
- Had 230 applicants for the 2016-2017 year.
- Offered over \$176,600 in financial aid.
- Had 7 courses approved as “AP” by the College Board, and offered PSAT and AP testing on campus.
- Continued the “Challenge for Leaders” program and raised over \$210,000 to support the Buildout Campaign and student scholarships.

This was another strong year for the Alzar School, and we look forward to building on our success in the coming year, with efforts focusing on refinement and sustainability.

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YEAR IN REVIEW 2016-2017 PROGRAMS

- The semester program continued to be the primary focus of the school, with the efforts of the faculty and staff focused on scaling operations up to larger student groups, separating into two or three pods for all expeditions and into two towns when based in the Lake District of Chile.
- Academically, the school’s teachers developed syllabi to be audited by the College Board for designation as official “Advanced Placement” courses. The following courses earned AP designation: US History, World History, Calculus, Physics, Biology, Environmental Science and English Language & Composition.
- The new Director of Studies, Laura Bechdel, took the lead on the Teaching Fellowship program, and raised the bar for professional development and academics.
- The “Challenge for Leaders” program gave staff and alumni opportunities to raise money for the school. Besides co-founders Sean Bierle and Kristin Bierle’s challenge, two alumni and three staff members completed challenges, raising over \$210,000.



YEAR IN REVIEW

ADMISSIONS & ENROLLMENT

For the 2016-2017 school year, the Executive Director, Head of School, Director Admissions, and Admissions and Marketing Associate worked together to put an emphasis on finding and enrolling wonderful teens. The admissions staff continued our successful drip marketing campaign from the previous year, staying in touch with and encouraging the applications of potential students, as well as keeping enrolled students excited.

The Director of Admissions, along with the Executive Director and Head of School, presented to 31 schools around the country, had 35 lunch booths, and met with administrators at 36 other schools. We continued to engage alumni representatives from the Advisory Committee to develop peer to peer connections with potential students.

The result of these efforts is quantifiable. The number of applications started grew by 72%, while completed applications grew by 43%. This yields an anticipated increase in tuition revenue (for 2017-2018) of 22%. We will continue to enroll for the Spring 2017 semester and anticipate having growing our semesters to 34 (Fall) and 38 (Spring) students.

“The Alzar School is a once in a life time experience in which I made my best friends ever.

- Bryan Schrage

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YEAR IN REVIEW

FUNDRAISING & DEVELOPMENT

The Alzar School fundraises to make its programs a reality for a diverse group of students. The School awarded over \$176,000 in financial aid to students across the country and internationally.

For 2016-2017, the fundraising goal was originally \$175,000. To reach this goal, the school celebrated its scholarship program for Valley County students with an event in March. Challenge for Leaders campaign to raised funds for our Buildout Campaign and student scholarships. In total, the school raised over \$210,000.



I laughed the hardest on the Eastern Range, learned the most on the Salmon, had the most deep conversations in Patagonia, and was the most excited on the Rio Nublé. It's difficult to pin point a specific part that is my favorite.
- Ben Simpson, Fall 2016





DONOR RECOGNITION

Valedictorian \$2000+

Beth and David Park
 Mark and Kristina Pickard
 Philip and Lisa Lapeyre
 Laura Moore Cunningham
 Foundation
 Donald and Stacey Leebern
 Amanda and Knox Thompson
 Lydia and Christopher Skardon
 Kim and Robert Belvin
 Michael and Emily McIntyre
 Pam Gillette
 Sarah and Nick Vrolijk
 Jordan-Wilcomb Construction
 Lisa and Jeff Martin
 Patricia and Alex Funderburg
 Oscar and Christina Castellon
 Paul Raulet
 Luisa and Toby Cobb
 Joe and Lauren Stuckey
 Jennifer Gray and Jim Griffith
 Jean Bierle

Salutatorian \$1000+

Amy Robbins and Michael Cox
 Anne and Greg Cunningham
 Ed and Christy Novellas
 Edward and Phebe Hibshman
 John and Anne Olden
 Katie Hawkins
 Larry and Tricia Bierle
 Northrop Grumman
 Page and Bryan Seyfried
 Sean and Kristin Bierle
 Tucker and Mark Schrage

Dean's List \$500+

Ben and Libby Hill
 Bronwen and Gregor Kent
 Brundage Mountain Resort
 Carol Hines and David Elliot
 Dana and Richard Lloyd
 Herk and Colleen Cole
 Kathi and Worth Saunders
 Kelly Malone and Ron
 Helmuth
 Kim Tanabe
 Sue and Glen Lovelace
 Tamarack Resort
 Timothy Nau
 Tony and Daria Pori

Honor Roll \$250+

Arnold Aviation
 Ashley Inn
 Burdorff Hot Springs
 Franklin Building Supply
 Grand Targhee Resort
 Jug Mountain Ranch
 Laura and John Warner
 Mary Tracey
 Patty Barnes
 Paul Collins
 Shauna and Mike Arnold
 Tess and Josh Lewis Family
 Trinity Therapeutic
 Turin and Kyle Dickman



Graduate \$100+

Alice Hill
 Brandon Buckmaster
 Chang Won and Minhee Suh
 Diego Velez and Sarah Holloway
 Douglas McAdam
 Dwight Hurd
 Flight of Fancy Bakery
 Gary and Amanda Thompson
 Gene and Elaine Battles
 Idaho First Bank
 Jack Olson
 John and Sidney Gargiulo
 Judy and Jonathan Bryan
 Ken and Sharon Anderson
 Kent Ford
 Lakeview Chevron
 Laura Bechdel and Neal
 McAdam
 Les and Susan Bechdel
 Marc and Carloe de Jong Family
 Mark and Cindy Anderson
 Nancy Cussler
 Nick DeMarco
 O-K Gravel Works
 Richard and Nancy Rush
 Rita Foss
 Lisa and Roger Cates
 Sarah Jessup and Maggie
 Rosenthal
 Scott and Beverly Pressman
 Sean Carr
 Susan Olson and Ric Colby
 Warren Drake



Being able to really work one on one with teachers made my classes really engaging, and covering content that the teachers really seemed to enjoy made classes fun and also added to my level of engagement.

- **Lola de Garmo, Spring 2017**

I loved all of Chile... The expeditions were amazing and it was beautiful.

- **Jake Vrolijk, Fall 2016**



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Alzar School is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and supported by an Advisory Committee comprised of experts and supporters from across the country. Bylaws, minutes, and other pertinent documents can be found online.

NAME	POSITION ON BOARD	OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER	RESIDENCE
Dr. Kim Tanabe	President	Physician, St. Luke's	Garden Valley, ID
Katherine Hawkins	Vice-President	Physicians Assistant, St. Luke's	Boise, ID
Cailin O'Brien-Feeney	Treasurer	Policy Director, Winter Wildlands Alliance	Boise, ID
Shauna Arnold	Board Member	Massage Therapist, Parent Representative	Cascade, ID
Ken Anderson	Board Member	Retired, Former Principal Boise High School	Salt Lake City, UT
Tucker Schrage	Board Member	Former Teacher, Parent Representative	Alexandria, VA
Kristin Bierle	Ex-officio member	Executive Director, Alzar School	McCall, ID
Sean Bierle	Ex-officio member	Head of School, Alzar School	McCall, ID





My favorite part of the semester was Chile. The expeditions were incredible, beautiful, and I will forever remember it. It was amazing how fast my knowledge of Spanish grew.
- Lauren Borthwick Hoff, Fall 2016

