

## **ANDREA KIRBY PEREGO '00**

*Finding her path at Linden Hall*

### **How did Linden Hall affect your life after graduation?**

At LH, I had several experiences that shaped the course of my adult life. One was being a foreign exchange student in Japan, and the second was attending a Friday afternoon assembly where the guest speaker was the author of a book about women in the Diplomatic service. Both experiences deepened my interest in traveling and working abroad; I decided I wanted a global career and wanted to speak several languages. It also helped being a part of such a diverse and international student body, and where several parents of friends had international careers themselves. I realized that my dream really was within reach. I met my future husband while studying at the School of International Service at American University, and it turns out we shared the same dream. He is currently a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, and I've had the opportunity to work alongside him on two overseas tours (Panama City, Panama and Maseru, Lesotho). We leave for our next tour to Almaty, Kazakhstan next summer.



Linden Hall remains a very important part of my life. My husband and I were married in the Mary Dixon Chapel almost 7 years ago.

### **What piece of advice would you share with girls at Linden Hall today?**

Know that despite the stress of tests, papers, and getting into college, you are so fortunate to spend these formative years in the caring and nurturing environment at Linden Hall. Challenge yourself and try new things - you'll be rewarded. You will look back on this time fondly for the rest of your life.

### **What did you love most about Linden Hall?**

The intimacy of the school, my small classes, and very important friendships.

### **Describe your experience at Linden Hall. What is your favorite memory?**

I grew up in Lititz, and was always aware of the impressive campus but knew nothing

about the school. I attended the 'bring your friend to school day' out of curiosity, and was hooked on the small classroom sizes, the fact that it felt like a college (and much less institutional than my public school) and that there weren't any boys - I was always a serious student and got frustrated by boys acting up in class. It was a great place to come of age, be challenged academically, and be supported by everyone on staff. My favorite memories are from every fall when school started - reconnecting with everyone, and catching up. Those were the days before constant social media and email, and few of us had cell phones! Ok, the dances at Valley Forge were a lot of fun, too.

### **How many years did you attend Linden Hall?**

Five, though one year was spent as an exchange student in Japan.

### **What clubs or sports were you a member of?**

I tried a number of things from Yearbook and echo staff, to riding and softball. I also played volleyball for LH and was a competitive swimmer at a local club. I also learned how to juggle in a random club offering. That was another great thing about LH - you could try anything you wanted to!

### **What Blue and White team were you on? Blue!**

### **What college did you attend; and, where?**

I initially attended American University in Washington, DC, but transferred to Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster PA, where I earned a B.A. in Anthropology.

### **What is your occupation?**

I'm currently a stay at home parent to a wonderful 3 year old boy. While abroad on assignment with my husband, I have held a number of positions with the Department of State, and I plan on joining the Foreign Service once my son is older.

## **JUST FOR FUN**

### **What is your favorite book?**

Really hard to choose, but Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible* always comes to mind.

### **What is your favorite movie or TV show?**

These days, I don't watch much of either, but *if* I watch TV, it's going to be whatever is on the travel channel or food network.

### **3 things you couldn't live without?**

Access to beautiful outdoor space, a decent place to sleep and cook, and a camera - to capture all of life's adventures and remember them forever!

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Linden Hall is always delighted to hear from you!

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