WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

ME Alumni brings you interviews with past Montessori East students. Our students go on to succeed in high school and beyond. They are as well prepared academically as in any other quality school, yet they benefit long term from truly individualized learning, structured independence and self-discovery in a caring, balanced environment that is unique to Montessori.

MEET: Anthony Confos, 22

1994-2001: Montessori Pre-school and Primary School, Vaucluse and Bronte
2002-2009: The Scots College
2010-2012: Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting & Finance), UNSW
Present: Senior Adviser, Private Enterprise, KPMG

ME Alumni: What do you remember about your transition from Montessori East to The Scots College?

Anthony Confos: It was easy. I think I’m pretty adaptable. The workload was about the same at Scots. There was homework, but that wasn’t anything dramatic. I just remember getting used to a uniform.

MEA: What do you value most about your Montessori experience?

AC: I value the adaptive learning, choosing work and going at your own pace. The learning is so “hands on” at Montessori and I really value that. My Montessori experience has made me very open-minded about people, in every area of life. I value the friendships very highly and am still in touch with Montessori friends. They are different friendships from others I have made; in that we grew up together and have total acceptance of each other. They are the type of friendships that are able to be picked up from years ago with no awkwardness present.

MEA: Do you think your Montessori experience influenced your choice of tertiary study or work?

AC: Yes. Montessori gave me a love of maths which has endured, and so I wanted to study Commerce. I always loved working with all the mathematical materials. The materials meant that you could feel and physically represent mathematical concepts, and that is so valuable.

MEA: What are you doing now?

AC: I am working in the “Private Enterprise” area at KPMG. That’s essentially tax accounting for small-medium privately listed companies and medium-high net worth individuals. I really enjoy it, and I like the people and the office environment.

MEA: How has your Montessori experience influenced the person you are today?

AC: It’s made me very independent about my choices. I choose what I want to do, and don’t follow the rest of the world. Montessori is an environment in which people always help each other, and that became a habit and is part of who I am. It is natural for me to step in and help people when I see an opportunity.

MEA: Do you have a funny memory of Montessori you’d like to share?

AC: One of the funniest moments I remember of Montessori was at pre-school with Raji in Vaucluse. I can’t exactly recall what happened but I remember pointing my index finger at Raji and screaming on the top of my lungs, “you be rude to me” because I did not get my way with something. I will always remember how good it was being hosed down on hot days in Vaucluse.

** Postscript: It’s true that Raji used to take the hose out on a hot day and cool off the children. They loved it but she often remarks on how this would not be allowed now!!