

## Alumni Trustee: Lexi Brownell Reese '92

Lexi arrived at Taft as a lowermid and never found an extracurricular she did not like. From serving as a school monitor and leading the Taft Environmental Awareness Movement to co-editing the Papyrus and trying out, unsuccessfully, for Hydrox four times, Lexi was a sponge for everything Taft had to offer. After Taft, Lexi graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Latin American history and spent time in Nicaragua producing a documentary film about adolescent prostitutes before joining Accion International as a public policy advocate for microfinance. She



went on to Harvard Business School, where she met her husband, Corby, in the hockey locker room (an unexpected benefit of picking up hockey at Taft). She joined American Express in 2002 and rose quickly from a rotational program

to become a director of marketing and operations in the small business division. While there, she co-founded the Make Mine a Million Program, a coaching, mentoring and financing program for women business owners. In 2007, she moved to Google to start their AdWords division on the East Coast. She has

earned a reputation as a business builder in the online media world who works fluidly across many groups to successfully grow Google's social media practice and ad network business. Most recently, Lexi became the director of sales for Google's Ad Exchange in the US. She is working with ad networks, major agencies and publishers to build a stock market for buying and selling ads, often cited by the Google leadership team as the company's next billion-dollar business. Outside of work, Lexi sits on the board of Citizen Schools, an extended learning program for middle schoolers in low-income districts of New York City. She lives in New York with her husband and daughter and is proud that her best friends from Taft are among the closest people in her life today.

### Musical Mentor

Glenton Davis '03 resigned from JPMorgan in 2009 to pursue his lifelong passion, music, full time. He currently has a song called "Go Get on the Floor" on the charts in Canada, which recently broke through the Top 400 songs in the country. His latest record *Are You Ready*, an EP of original and cover tunes, was released in April.

But for Davis, this career shift has been more than just about his music. He recently established a nonprofit called Soul Pop University, to connect emerging artists in the entertainment business with middle and high school students.

"In the last four months," said Davis, "it has been an exhausting and humbling process to watch the organization grow from an operation of one to an actual enterprise with a team of seven, backed by a global corporate law firm, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP."

Soul Pop University's first sponsored artist, Michal Towber, is an Emmy-award winning composer and songwriter for *One Life to Live* and a graduate of Columbia Law.

"What I find so exciting about the organization is that we maintain mission-based relationships with artists. It is their back stories that we find interesting, and the fresh musical perspectives they bring are the hook for both educators and students."

One of the students they have worked with is a young girl named Love at August Martin High School in Queens, NY.

"We have worked with her for over two months since first presenting at August Martin. To hear her goals, her interests and the desire to work to make them all her reality, is honestly incredible."

August Martin students also founded and run BoahVille Productions, a

production company Soul Pop sponsored and collaborated with to film a music video.

"We provided them with the equipment and transportation to help make the video," says Davis, "and a few boxes of pizza."

"It is really great that you are following your dreams," Love wrote to Davis, "You make me want to make my dreams come true. I still want to be a pediatrician. Thank you so much!"

For more information, visit [soulpopuniversity.com](http://soulpopuniversity.com)

