

alumni profile



Stefani Scamardo '83

The courage to follow her heart freed alumna Stefani Scamardo to unleash her creativity and fashion a successful music career.

After Stefani Scamardo '83 graduated from The George Washington University, she set off for New York City to put her degree in psychology to work. Soon after arriving, she discovered that jobs in her studied field were hard to come by. Taking the supportive advice of her parents to follow her passion—if not her major—she decided to learn more about the music business.

As a member of the first class to include women at Bullis, Stefani captained the basketball, softball and soccer teams while also running track. “I loved playing sports and enjoyed art, but my biggest passion was music, playing drums and electric guitar. I even used my drums in an English class presentation at Bullis.”

To learn how to make a record, Stefani enrolled in an audio engineering class.

Another student was already an executive with Island Records, a company that was experiencing great success producing records for artists like U2, Melissa Etheridge and Tone Loc. That connection led Stefani to an internship with the company, followed by a series of increasingly responsible positions with Island Records, ultimately as Artists & Repertoire (A&R) director.

“I was so lucky,” she says. “I didn’t realize at the start how great interning would be to get into the business. And it was so inspiring to work with great talent, seek out and develop new bands and learn how to make records.” That foundation helped Scamardo start her own company in 1994, Hard Head Production and Management, which two years later led to an offer to start her own label, Evil Teen Records.

Today the company manages and produces the work of musicians in a range of genres, from rock to indie/alternative and alternative country. In addition, Hard Head produces music festivals across the country, including the popular Mountain Jam in Hunter, New York, and the Christmas Jam in Asheville, North Carolina, which raises money and awareness for the work of Habitat for Humanity. Both Hard Head and Evil Teen remain strong and successful boutique firms in a changing and challenging music industry.

“It’s a tough business now, but I’m confident that the industry’s true creativity will unveil new ways to monetize entertainment and allow the industry to survive and thrive,” says Stefani. And because she’s not busy enough, Stefani has taken her passion and knowledge to the airwaves,



From left, Stefani with her husband, Warren Haynes, and candid images from the 1983 "Roll Call" yearbook.

broadcasting a daily radio show on Sirius XM radio called "Jam On" for the last six years. "Now I'm more known, which is fun and interesting. It keeps me on my game."

Stefani looks back fondly on her years at Bullis. "It was a great time to come to Bullis. I was on every one of the first girls' teams at the school. I remember playing some of them simultaneously, running from one field to another to jump from a softball game to a track event!" She credits the experience of competing against more established teams with helping her build the confidence to work hard and achieve.

Most importantly, Stefani is grateful for the friendships she made. "We were a small class and a very tight-knit group. My best friends today are still those I made at Bullis."

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