

Manlius Pebble Hill School

#becauseMPH Interview with Philip Andrews '99

1) **What were your interests as a student at MPH? What did you want to be when you grew up?**

When I was in high school, I wanted to be a diplomat when I grew up (or maybe a ski bum), which explains why the alpine ski team and Model United Nations were two of my primary interests at MPH. I enjoyed the camaraderie, friendships, and healthy competition cultivated by teams. I enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships that I developed as a member of these teams, as well as the healthy individual and team competition cultivated through both experiences.

2) **Were there any particular faculty members who or classes at MPH that played a role in helping foster your love of writing (or other areas of interest)?**

Thinking back on my five years at MPH, there were so many great teachers who made an impression on me: Mr. Curtis and Mrs. Salter (Sherman), both inside and outside of the classroom, and the entire English Department, including Dr. Temes and Mrs. Bentley. Admittedly, it was not until I was in college and graduate school that I fully appreciated the writing skills I gained at MPH. Only then did I realize my MPH teachers had taught me how to communicate effectively, take a position, and influence others.

3) **What was your academic and professional path after graduation from MPH?**

After MPH, I studied political science and environmental conservation at the University of New Hampshire. Following college, I moved to South Carolina where I worked in local and national politics for two years before returning to UNH to get a masters in public administration. Not ready to finish being a full-time student, I then went to Suffolk University Law School in Boston.

4) Tell us about the work you do now and why it is so important.

In 2010, I accepted a research position at Harvard Business School, and my first interview was a writing test... see, writing matters! It helped get me hired at HBS! For the last eight years, I have worked as a corporate relations director in HBS Career & Professional Development office. In this role, I have two primary responsibilities: (1) I build relationships with companies in Africa, Canada, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East, which is not quite the same as being the diplomat that I wanted to grow up to be, but my job has allowed me to visit 40 countries around the world and meet with hundreds of interesting people and innovative companies; and (2) I advise HBS students and alumni – and their employers – on U.S. immigration regulations. This work is important because I help connect HBS students and alumni with jobs where they can be a leader and make a difference in the world.

5) What lessons that you learned as a student at MPH are still useful in the work you do today?

Without a doubt, MPH instilled in me a passion for lifelong learning, always seeking new information, perspective, and lessons both inside and outside of a classroom.

6) What is a “pearl of wisdom” you’d like to share with today’s MPH students?

As you make decisions in your life, especially about your professional life, pay attention to your passions. For example, if you love music, and also like business, consider exploring a career that brings these two interests together. By acknowledging your passions, and allowing them to help shape your path, your work and life will be rewarding!