

Looking back (part 2): Whatever happened to...?

Last time, I described the *transmogrification* of this blog (and this blogger) over the past few years and promised updates about early contributors Silandara, Becca, Pete and Brandon:

Since leaving RIT in 2006, *The Tiger Beat Blog* founder **Joanna Bartlett-Gustina** has been working as a freelance copywriter and designer of brochures, direct-mail pieces, newsletters and Web content through her company, [Earthscribe](#). “My passion is working with green companies—those that are environmentally friendly and eco-conscious,” says Jo (whom you might remember as “Silandara”). She also has done some writing for RIT’s Online Learning and occasionally posts to her blog, [Greenie Weenie](#), where she covers myriad topics including her environmental efforts, “square-foot-gardening,” spirituality and parenting (her and husband Kevin’s little ones are Duncan and Berry).

Former University News co-op student **Becca Nelson** is completing her master’s degree in professional studies at RIT. But for nearly the past two months she has been in Kenya—her second trip in two years to the African country—where she is involved in projects to assist those in the underdeveloped nation bridge the “digital divide” by building solar-powered computer centers and to construct a school in a suburb of Nairobi. On this year’s trip, Becca met for the first time a Kenyan child who had been named after her. (For more, read “[Grad’s mission is to help build computer centers](#)”—an [alumni news](#) online exclusive on the RIT Web site.) After Kenya, Becca’s not done traveling. “I’m really stoked to be back in Kenya, and then to go to India and Dubai,” she says. “I hope to check out [RIT Dubai](#) while I visit my friend.” When she’s not traveling the world, Becca works as a project assistant for [VanDamme Associates](#) in Pittsford. Follow Becca’s life and work at [rebeccalee.wordpress.com](#) and [familyfocus.wordpress.com](#).

No question about it, the biggest news from former University News Web developer **Pete Karl** has got to be his engagement to girlfriend Jannette (an RIT biomedical photo and MBA graduate). As Pete embarks on a new stage in his life and looks forward to relocating to Boston, he’s also finishing up his capstone project for his master’s in information technology and wrapping up a stint as a senior application developer for GateHouse Media. Pete has volunteered for [Digital Rochester](#), and he co-founded [Lion Burger](#), a Web development and consulting firm launched with partner [Nick Sergeant](#) in mid-2008 (check out their cool logo). How does he feel about leaving behind his adopted hometown of Rochester? “It’s been about eight years since I arrived here from New Jersey and the city has kept growing on me,” he says. When not working, Pete can be found “catching up on Web buzz, ‘tweeting’ on Twitter or investigating the next big thing in Web application development.” He adds: “I’m still a geek. ‘Tweeting’ and photography keep me from losing it completely.” Follow Pete’s every move at: [pkarl.com](#), [twitter.com/steyblind](#), [flickr.com/photos/pete-karl](#) and [www.linkedin.com/in/petekarl](#).

Brandon Borgna, another former University News co-op student, is a communications manager for the [American Trucking Associations](#) in Arlington, Va. Like Silandara, Becca and Pete, Brandon still blogs. You can read his posts on [BizCentral.org](#), a blog that the trucking association shares with a dozen other national organizations as a way to share news and exchange industry trends. When he started the job last fall, Brandon reported back to us, “They’re really excited that I’ve come from a PR background that utilizes blogs.”

Have a great weekend!