

# MEET

## THE NEW KIDS ON THE MK BLOCK

### MEET

#### Neil Heilberg

After being a New Yorker for most of my life, I took the plunge and moved to the suburbs of New Jersey in 2000. I now live in Warren (as you might already know, Warren is famous for being the home of the Ciraulo Family) with my wife, Leslie and 2 children (Ross, age 14 and Julia, age 11). I have always spent a considerable amount of my time being involved playing sports – basketball, tennis, skiing or anything else that gets me outside. My main love was playing basketball, however as my body and my kids have gotten older, I spend less time on the court and more time on the sidelines coaching basketball and soccer.

The programs today are much more intense than when I was younger, but it is great working with the kids and I probably know every soccer field in the state by now. The good news is that I received no technical fouls or red cards this year. Hopefully, I can keep it up and more importantly I can help the kids grow and thrive both on and off the field.



### MEET

#### John Leslie

I am 28 years old, and I have always lived in the State of New York. I have spent the past 6 years working with commercial mortgages in various capacities, and I am always looking to learn new things about the real estate industry. In my spare time I love to play golf, play tennis, run, skateboard, snowboard, see live music, and play guitar in front of the largest crowds that will listen. I also eat a borderline-inappropriate amount of Mexican food. I consider myself a very active person, and you will rarely find me in front of a TV (unless a re-run of LOST is on). My motto is "love life, and sleep when you're dead."

## MEET

### Dylan Murphy



I am 38 years old and grew up on the West Side of Manhattan. Before beginning my career in real estate in 2006 I was one of the top personal trainers at Crunch Fitness for many years. Nowadays, you can find me running at the Central Park Reservoir and lifting at home to help counteract my passion for steaks, cheeseburgers, and Coors Light.

In 2009 I moved into a garden apartment on the Upper West Side and I turned into an obsessive gardener and charcoal grill master. I also love video games, military historical fiction, and watching any movie or television show where people hit each other with swords. I have a 7 pound poodle named “Biggie” who is simply the coolest and most intelligent dog that I have ever met.

I met my wife 9 years ago, and she was also a personal trainer at Crunch. We worked side by side as business partners at Citi Habitats and she has only recently followed me into commercial real estate, focusing on retail tenant rep at Lee & Associates. The two of us love to travel together and frequently escape to Atlantic City.

## MEET

### Dan Maurer

Hey, I’m Dan, and for the last 22 years I have lived in New Jersey (and yes I hate MTV’s Jersey Shore). Sports have always been a big part of my life. I dove (1M & 3M springboard) at Penn State Altoona until my sophomore year, started skiing when I was 3 and have been to many places throughout the country for it including: Breckenridge, CO., Park City, Snowbird, Alta & Snow Basin, UT. (where this photo was taken) and all over NY, VT & NJ. I played soccer until my senior year of high school and also studied Isshinryu Karate for 10 years. More recently spending time with friends, playing basketball and working out have consumed my life. I love all kinds of music and an ideal day for me would be right out of Kenny Chesney’s song “No Shirt, No Shoes, No Problems.”



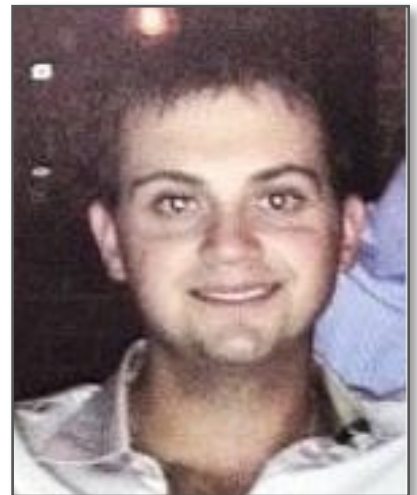
**MEET**  
**Josh Gruber**



I'm 25 years old, grew up in Westchester and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh. I'm a huge basketball fan; watching and playing. I still love to get out on the court and play when I can, especially during the summer. The Big Lebowski is one of my all time favorite movies. I'm a huge fan of the HBO classic The Wire and for a long time thought it was the best show I had ever seen, but then I began watching a little show called Breaking Bad and my world was turned upside down. I watch it every Sunday, have become obsessed and truly believe it is the greatest show ever made.

**MEET**  
**Robert Rappa**

Im 23, and grew up in Westchester, NY and spent the past 4 years studying at Boston University. Surrounded by the real-estate industry my entire life, it seemed like the only logical decision for a career choice. In college I spent my time playing rugby for Boston University. Now, I prefer more laid back sports, playing golf and basketball on the weekends.



**MEET**  
**Robert Finkelstein**



I'm always ready for a challenge and prepared for the next one, especially MK's expectations of excellence for their employees and the "family".

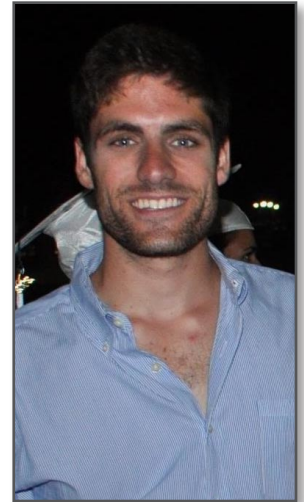
Competition in life and my career in real estate has always been my challenge. I try to integrate sports, healthful eating and keeping fit as my lifestyle, enabling me to focus on my career. As a co-captain of several NYAC tennis and platform teams, team work is paramount for success. Next year I hope to be selected to represent the United States in tennis for the 19th Maccabiah games in Israel. Hopefully my two sons can also join me, not as spectators, but as squash players, proudly representing the US in their respective divisions.

Nothing good comes easy. Hard work is the only way - it's emotionally, physically and financially satisfying.

**MEET**  
**Ryan Hughes**

I never imagined that I would end up living in New York, home to the arrogant Jets, perfection-defying Giants, and the brash Knicks. And don't even get me started on the Yankees. So when I told my friends that I was leaving Boston to take my talents to South Manhattan, I became the LeBron to their Cleveland and my friends let me know it. Almost daily, I am bombarded with texts deeming me the Benedict Arnold of Boston sports fanatics. How could I live in the city that spawned Aaron Boone, David Tyree, and Rex Ryan? If and when the Red Sox faltered, would I jump ship to the Bronx Bombers?

I have loved every moment of living on the Lower East Side, even if I have been fully immersed among Yankee fans for the past two months. I have been tempted at every turn to leave the last-place Red Sox behind for the World Series favorites in the Bronx, but I have remained faithful to the failing Fenway gang. And if you're going to MetLife Stadium during Week 12, look out for me. I'll be the one in the Brady jersey.



**MEET**  
**Greg Bartlett**

Born in Jamaica, growing up in Connecticut, attending school in Boston, living in Staten Island (Go SI!) and now working in Brooklyn has given me a surreal perspective of the effervescence life. Brooklyn has so much history, culture, arts, shopping, entertainment, architecture and now a Basketball team! I am happy to call Brooklyn the place I serve and my family's future home.

Having moved to New York from Connecticut within the past two years, it has been an exciting, uncertain, but promising opportunity! More recently, I have taken the leap into the commercial real estate industry and resigned from my previous employer. There goes the guaranteed income lol... Real estate has been a passion of mine for several years now and I just never knew how things were going to workout to be successful. But if there's one thing I've learned in life, "never ask how things will work out, just focus and believe in your vision." It was by sure luck that I was introduced to MK, but it was truly the best thing that could have happened for me at this time of my life. I am now newly married to my beautiful and supporting wife Genevieve; who amazingly works on Montague Street with me as a Hairstylist at an upscale salon. My son Iamiah is now able to experience life with the innovative mindset that thrives in this great city. I enjoy working out; I am an avid college football fan, and I enjoy playing chess. Competition anyone?



## MEET

### Zachary Reubel

The coolest aspect of working at Massey Knakal has been the opportunity to see parts of Brooklyn that I may have never otherwise discovered. One would assume that after growing up in Manhattan over the past 24 years, I have experienced all the city has to offer, but in truth, it has become evident that New York is simply too expansive to conquer in one lifetime.

One hidden gem at a time, my hometown reveals itself to me and with each trip to the territory, my appreciation for the city grows. I find it exhilarating to know that only a few miles from my East Side neighborhood lay endless new discoveries and experiences waiting to be uncovered. I look forward to exploring.



## MEET

### Paulina Apostolides

I am originally from Stamford, Connecticut but have been calling New York City my home since I was a teenager. I achieved a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Parsons School of Design, only to turn around and pursue a career on Wall Street. As one of the few female equity traders on the Street, I overcame many obstacles and challenges and amassed a successful career of 20 plus years. As Wall Street began to change, I pursued and received a Masters Degree in Finance from Zicklin School of Business at Baruch College in 2009. Recently, I attained the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) designation.

I enjoy reading and learning about new things as well as exercising and staying fit. I speak Greek fluently and although I love and respect the culture in which I grew up, I am always eager to learn about other cultures and traditions, which is reflected in my love to travel. Fashion and design, the original components of my blueprint, will always be a passion of mine.

When all is said and done, my favorite thing of all is spending time with my husband, Chris. Whether in our Astoria apartment or out east at our home in Hampton Bays, we enjoy and celebrate life together with our rescue animals: Memphis the canine and Maxwell the feline.





## MEET Benn Starr

I was born in Manhattan, raised on Long Island, and educated in Queens. I love to visit new places - I've been to 27 states, 17 countries, and of course, all 5 boroughs.

My family is a big inspiration to me. My first relative here was my paternal great-grandfather Elensen Starobinsky, who had his name changed to Starr on Ellis Island. He fought in WWI for his U.S. citizenship and later had a deli in Brooklyn that survived the Depression. My mom's side of the family is French. They live in Brittany, a coastal region that is one of the six Celtic Nations. My French family has produced corsairs, semi-pro soccer players, Naval officers and resistance fighters in WWII.

I graduated from Queens College with a degree in history. I never expected it to be much more than a path to law school, but I'm thrilled to be working here. Real estate is a living history of New York. People like Peter Minuet, Robert Moses, and Fiorello LaGuardia have been immortalized for their roles in shaping the city. While I don't expect to be remembered like those men, I love New York and plan on making my own contributions.

I would love to bring the Dodgers back to Brooklyn some day.

## MEET Shakira Singho

I am a high-profile rock star... in my daydreams, I suppose. In my very spare time, when I am not discovering the hidden delights of my native city or paddle boarding along the coast of the clearest beaches, I spend time wondering what life would be like if I could sing like Mariah Carey, moon walk like Michael Jackson, contort my body like the performers of Cirque de Soleil, and write poetry like Shakespeare. Life would be sweet. I am on an interminable pursuit of this life. . I already have the ability to hit notes on frequencies beyond the range of human hearing. I can't quite moonwalk, but I can glide backwards on rollerblades. While I am unable to contort my body, I certainly enjoy Bikram yoga, which is a feat in and of itself! Lastly, Shakespearian language is rather hard to replicate, but I try my best. Would you like to hear?

"Romeo, Romeo, wherefore art thou Romeo?"  
Juliet, Fooliet, why haven't I sued you yet?  
You think of me all day and night  
I wish you would just take a flight."

On a normal day, free of mental artistry, I enjoy spinning, watching foreign films without subtitles, attending plays, participating in the occasional improv show, and strategizing ways to sneak on stage during a Roundabout Theatre Company performance.



## MEET

### Alexander "Ax" Hayssen



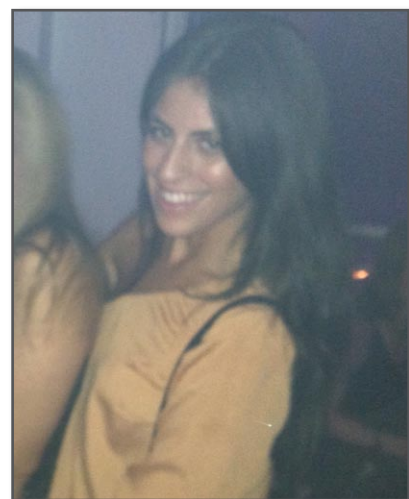
Before I was born my parents made a pact that I would be named Alexander so long as I was called Ax. It has been that way ever since. In addition to this unique name I had a unique upbringing. Born in West Hartford, CT, my family has lived in CT, St. Louis, Missouri, Western Massachusetts, and I just moved to the city from Stratton, Vermont. I also went to boarding school in New Hampshire and have lived four months each in Keystone, Colorado and Kunming, China.

I just graduated from the University of Vermont, I enjoy reading about the American Civil War, have three sisters, own a single share in the Green Bay Packers, and love to ski.

## MEET

### Theresa Rimarachin

I'm 22 years old and I graduated from the University at Albany this past May. I studied Urban Planning and Studies with a minor in Business and really enjoyed my time there. My parents are from Peru but I was born and raised in Rye, New York. I just moved to Brooklyn this summer with my college roommates and it has been very exciting! In my free time I love taking Pilates and Yoga classes. I'd like to continue my education in some field of Urban Studies, but haven't really set a plan. My only definite future plan is purchasing property in one of my favorite cities, Miami!



## MEET

### Patrick Yannotta



I was born and raised in Morristown, NJ. Although my Jersey roots naturally entail a dedication to Springsteen, I have grown to love country music. In fact, attending The Country Music Awards in Nashville is one item on my bucket list. Growing up wearing ice skates on the pond across the street from my parent's house has influenced my decision to play hockey my entire life – which included winning the National Championship when I was 12 years old. Sports have always been a big part of my life, both playing and as a spectator. I also grew up playing baseball and skiing as frequently as possible. As a devoted Rangers, G-Men, and Yanks fan, I bleed blue. Figures, now that I'm finally just six blocks away from the Garden, the NHL decides to punish me by not having a season. Becoming a Rangers season ticket holder is another item on my list.

**MEET**

**Karen Kasteel**



I grew up worlds away from the big city on a small dairy and corn farm in rural Grand Island, NE, where my brother and I were the hired hands! From there I pursued my dream of becoming a professional dancer. I had the great fortune of achieving my ultimate dream, ending up with stage, TV and movie credits and eventually becoming a Radio City Rockette. During my dancing days I spent a few years traveling the Caribbean where I enjoyed some of the best beaches of the world on a daily basis, cruised through a hurricane in the middle of the Atlantic and went horseback riding through the rain forests of Costa Rica during several Panama Canal repositioning trips. Needless to say, in addition to my passion for dance, I love travel, adventure and being in and on the water (as long as it's warm of course)!

After spending the past 10 years on the west coast, I'm thankful to be back in NYC with so many of my friends from my former life and where a vibrant cultural community is alive and well. I couldn't live without dance and yoga, and after working intensively with an amazing naturopath, am very focused on optimal health practices through raw, non-processed foods and nutrition.

**MEET**

**Edward DiTomasso**

I'm 21 and a recent graduate from Florida State University. Although I'm a Brooklyn native, I've spent the last three years either on the Southern end of the country or across the Atlantic. Since high school, I've been lucky enough to travel pretty consistently (with also multiple trips to Japan and Korea under my belt) and have developed a real taste for exploring anywhere I can – from the local tri-state area to the Eastern bloc.

Despite a passion to visit new places, I've learned that there's probably no better place in the world than right here in New York City. In addition to trying to eat and drink my way around every neighborhood in New York (yes, I'll even venture to Staten Island) I try to slip away from the city to go auto-crossing as often as I can. A bit of hands on motorsport action is probably the best way to blow off any frustration from commuting (surviving?) the Van Wyck every weekday.







## MEET

### Aliaksandr "Sasha" Svetlakov

Growing up in a family of five children in a post Soviet Union country is not a pleasant childhood to have. Despite the hardship and misfortunes, my parents, brothers and sisters (admiration, thanks and lots of love and respect to them) were able to show me the most valuable and precious gift that doesn't cost anything and makes life much more enjoyable – LOVE. It might sound very cheesy, but I love my work, I love the people I work with and the atmosphere that is created in the office. And of course I love my family back home in

Belarus, but there is that one person I love the most, my son Russell. I think only parents can understand the level of joy that children bring our lives. Shout out to all the parents!

I have a very eventful life and went through lots of successes and failures, but today I am absolutely certain that I am in the right place to elevate my career to the next level. And hopefully a few years later I will be able to spend more time with my little man. And of course teach him the wonderful game of tennis that opened up so many doors for me ever since I started to play.

P.S. Feel free to reach out for complimentary advice if you struggling on the court or simply want to get better.

Good luck!

## MEET

### Mark Gallucci

I'm 28, and recently moved "home" after a five year stint in Los Angeles. Although there was a lot to like about life in Southern California, there's nothing like being back in NY with family and friends.

My perfect day would combine hanging out with fiancé, watching college football, and eating Mama Theresa's Pizza. I enjoy anything Americana, love traveling around the country, and hope to get to all 50 states...I have 8 left.

The last job I had before getting my first opportunity in commercial real estate was delivering pizzas for a local place around Towson University.

When I walk by Radio City Music Hall this time of year, it brings back warm memories of "performing" in the Christmas Spectacular Show as a 7 year-old...my child-acting career unfortunately ended there.



**MEET**

**Shawntel Chartles-Martyr**



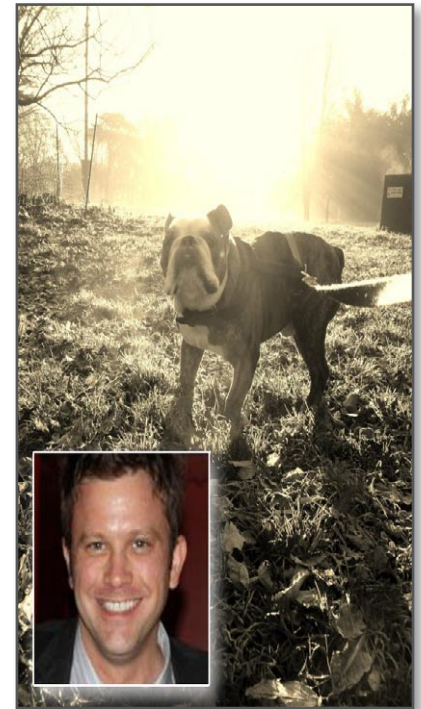
I am 23 years old and from Queens, New York. I am the middle child and only girl out of three children. I love fashion and like to keep up with the latest trends. My mother likes to call me her personal “Diva Stylist”. I also love to dance and have been a member of my church’s Liturgical Dance Ministry since the age of 6.

I enjoy going out and spending time with family and friends. This summer I took a trip to Las Vegas and had the time of my life. I won \$150 playing Blackjack and found \$162 in the ladies bathroom. I look forward to more traveling and enjoying life.

**MEET**

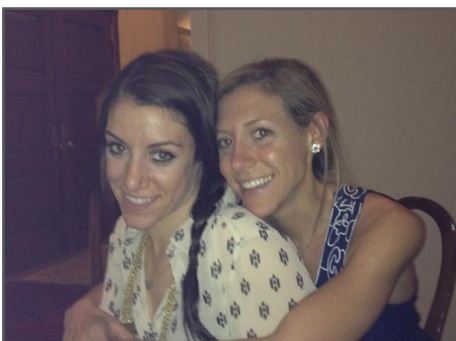
**Robert Dibiase**

I grew up on the Jersey Shore and I spent almost every summer day at Great Adventure, Point Pleasant or Seaside Heights. I love to travel! Especially weekend getaways anywhere that has clear oceans, palm trees and warm sun. I have been to Europe several times as well. I spent three years in our nation’s capital, Washington, DC and I recently moved back into the area near Prospect Park in Brooklyn to have a place to play with my seven year old English Bulldog Maximus. I’ve been working since I was 14 from fast food to a produce market to real estate. After graduating college, I went into real estate full-time and I haven’t looked back.



**MEET**

**Kimberly Kines**



A few things you may not know about me: I play the cello, took Latin and may or may not have been on the bowling team (in high school and in college). I have also always been a bit of a music junkie and will jump at the opportunity to see just about any genre of live music performed. My sister always said that I was a dork... at least on paper... but I rather think of myself as an enthusiastic participant of life. I think that we should all surround ourselves with the people and things that we love as much as possible, but never be afraid to venture out of our comfort zones- a lot of the time that’s where the best stuff is hiding.

This is a picture of me and my beautiful sister, Marisa (right)... give me a month and I will probably be blonde too.

## MEET

### Mark Holz



Even though I am German, I am not a big fan of many of the traditional German dishes like 'Haxe' or 'Sauerkraut'. I, nevertheless, love Currywurst! My wife and I moved to the US (New York) in the spring 2012, so we are still new to the city and keep absorbing what it has to offer. We love it.

Other than analyzing macro economic and property related stuff, I like travelling the world. And the best trip I had, so far, was driving down the West Coast from Vancouver to San Diego in a big Chevy. I am not the biggest sports nut but I really like music and became the drummer of a band last year, playing just for fun. Not easy, learning a new instrument at 33 years-old.

I am afraid of heights but eager to get over it, for example by hiking the Swiss Alps or flying around Manhattan in a helicopter (see picture). But, please, never ask me to go bungee jumping or anything like that.

## MEET

### Justina Lombardo

I do my best to be adventurous and go outside my comfort zone, especially when it comes to my two biggest passions in life: food and travel.

I try to order the most obscure thing on the menu, especially if it is the delicacy of a culture or the speciality of a restaurant. Some examples are beef tongue, goat, escargot, pig's foot, pig's snout, pork belly, foie gras, frog's legs, and quail egg shooters. Luckily for me, being a native New Yorker, I am able to get delicious foods from all over the world right here in my hometown.

I have always been fascinated by other cultures and my passion for travel began when I studied in Rome and it really has not stopped since. I am fortunate enough to have been to some amazing places so far, like the Eiffel Tower, Vatican, Colosseum, and Versailles. I have gone parasailing in the Dominican Republic, partied in Ibiza, learned to play blackjack at a casino in Madrid, shopped in the markets of Turkey, and went island hopping in Greece. Some advice - when given the option on the island of Santorini to take the cable-car or donkey down the mountain, take the donkey!



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## MEET

### George D'Ambrosio

As I was growing up, my mother always instilled in me the importance of trying new things. I was exposed to every sport under the sun and was lucky enough to experience several beautiful parts of the world. Each day I wake up with a smile on my face and keep it there. Life is too short to let anything get in the way of happiness and the joy of bringing a smile to someone else's face is unmatched. Throughout my childhood I developed a passion for the game of golf. Not only is golf one of the most challenging sports, it is one of the most rewarding. Golf has taught me invaluable lessons about people and the importance of a strong work ethic. I am excited to keep growing every day and am looking forward to what the future has in store.



## MEET

### Michael Geraci



I was born and raised, still live in, and will probably never leave Brooklyn. My real estate career began here nearly 10 years ago, but my family history dates back closer to 100 years. My great grandfather started what is now a 5th generation seafood business right here in NYC in 1918. The family business then moved to Sheepshead Bay in the early 1930's. Fast forward to today and it is still standing while being known as the best seafood stop in NY, thanks to my grandmother's sauce.

With roots that deep I am obviously passionate about my family, they mean everything to me. I am the 4th of 6 children that my mother and father had the courage to raise. My beautiful wife Jessica and I were blessed with our Little Angel Julianna almost 6 years ago, she amazes us everyday! This Christmas the 3 of us will get the ultimate present when we welcome our second child into the world. Jules prefers a little sister because she says "Brothers are annoying", either way it is God's gift to us and we are excited to find out what it is!

My other love is basketball. I love to play it, watch it and I am even big on the NBA 2K video games. I am originally a Michael Jordan fan from the early 90's (that means I am getting old). I love that the Knicks have the best team that they have had in over a decade this year, as there is no better place to watch a game than at The Garden. However, now we have the Nets and the crowd here in Brooklyn will eventually give The Garden crowd a run for its money.

## MEET Nick Gillott



I grew up outside of Boston, went to school in Philadelphia and now I've just moved to New York. I am definitely excited to explore a new east coast city, especially one so much bigger than Philly. Luckily I have a bunch of friends who also live in New York so they can show me the ropes.

I love being in the city since there's so much happening at all times, but every once in a while it's nice to escape. In the summer I'll go to the Berkshires in Connecticut with my family and relatives and stay at a house right on Twin Lakes. The house is so out of the way that there's no cell phone service and we only recently got TV and internet, which is a refreshing break from the city.

In my spare time I like to stay active, which usually means a trip to the gym, but I'd love to get involved in a competitive team sport once spring and summer come around.

## MEET Nishant Shah

My name is Nishant, but everyone calls me Nish (you're welcome to as well). Recently my sister gave birth to my nephew, 3 years after giving birth to my niece. Most of the events/decisions in my family revolve around those two nowadays and I'm happiest when I'm around them.

I'm 28 years old and I've lived in New York all my life. I grew up in Elmhurst, Queens and moved out to Long Island in 2003 while I was a sophomore at Stony Brook University. I have a wide variety of interests but the first thing I'll put on television is ESPN! One of my personal/professional goals at the moment and what much of my time revolves around is attaining an accreditation called the CFA. I'm a third of the way there and I'm taking the Level II this June, wish me luck!

