

KRISTEN LAPPAS '01

FEATURE PRODUCER, ESPN



From meeting famous athletes to trekking across Nepal to seek out undiscovered talent, life as an ESPN feature producer is never dull for Kristen Lappas.

After graduating from Boston College with her bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism, Kristen was hired at ESPN in 2009 as a production

assistant. She worked on ESPN College Gameday for three years where she got her first taste of producing human interest stories. From there, Kristen moved up to associate producer, associate producer II, and now feature producer.

No two days are the same for Kristen, but luckily she does not see what she does as work. "I've truly valued every single day I've worked at ESPN. I've never looked at a clock and thought I have two more hours left of this day," Kristen said. "It's more like 'oh my gosh that flew by!'"

Kristen is constantly looking for the next interesting story. As a feature producer, her day-to-day goes in cycles and she has to wear many hats. Whether she is researching, pitching ideas, making calls, conducting pre-interviews, traveling, writing, editing, or searching for the next big story, Kristen is never bored.

Kristen has been nominated for two individual Sports Emmy Awards and is the recipient of four Sports Emmy wins as part of the ESPN College Gameday staff, two as an associate producer and two as a feature producer. "I am so fortunate and I literally count my blessings everyday," Kristen said. Her goal is to win an individual Emmy for one of her documentaries.

Currently, Kristen is producing a 30-minute documentary that tells the story of how a young girl, who grew up in a shed on a golf course with almost nothing, became the best female golfer in Nepal.

"It's always good when you can dig into a story you are passionate about," Kristen said. "I hope for good things for this

girl. ESPN is a large platform, so hopefully there can be a positive effect." The documentary should air on ESPN this spring.

At Holy Child, Kristen was a shy child but instantly made friends with whom she is still close today. Naturally, she was drawn to sports; she played field hockey and was the captain of our varsity basketball team. She has many incredible memories from Holy Child, but her favorite memories come from the School plays. "I never ended up getting a large part because I was a horrible singer," Kristen said with a laugh, "but some of my favorite Holy Child moments are from the musical. The family dinners and the practices and auditions, it was like a family. I would love to come back and go to one of the plays."



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“I attribute who I am and the way I am to Holy Child, both in the classroom and from the teachers.”

Although she has not returned to Holy Child since she graduated in 2001, Kristen treasures the memories and gifts she has received from our School.

"The values from a Catholic-based education stick with you. You become a person who wants to help others and do good for people that have less than you. Still to this day, the reason I love what I do is because it helps people and it gets people's stories out in the world and makes a difference. That goes all the way back to Holy Child. Being around good people for so long really does instill all the wonderful values of treating people with respect and dignity."

This spring, Kristen will marry ESPN feature producer, Russell Dinallo, and her maid of honor will be fellow Holy Child alum Hilary Hannan Saylor '01. In the future, Kristen hopes to direct full-length documentaries, and maybe even expand outside of sports. "I'm just so intrigued by the human condition and how people's lives are different around the world." ❀