

Featured Alumna: Ashlee HOLMES Eiland, Class of 2005



Ashlee HOLMES Eiland '05 is a thought leader, writer, Bible teacher, and—as of July 2024—the Head of School at Living Stones Academy in Grand Rapids, MI. The “Christ-centered, intentionally-inclusive, and academically rigorous” school serves preschool through sixth grade and reminds Ashlee “so much” of Duchesne where she spent 13 years.

Some of Ashlee’s fondest memories include her kindergarten class in the old log cabin, speech competitions, drama productions, “the privilege of being taught by an incredible faculty,” and service projects that introduced her to the joy of tutoring children.

In Upper School, Ashlee played varsity basketball (the only freshman on her team), as well as ran Cross Country, Track and Field, and AAU Track in the summer. Her welcoming nature made her a perfect fit for the Ambassadors Club, where she delighted in giving campus tours to visitors. “It felt like a way I could give back while still attending.”

The most impactful of her extracurriculars was Student Council; she served as both class and STUCO president. In her senior year, Ashlee faced the challenge of addressing a campus tragedy as the student body leader. The experience taught her “how to acknowledge the truth while maintaining hope when leading and encouraging others.”

Ashlee earned her BA in International Relations with a minor in Managing Human Relations from the University of Southern California. She holds a Master’s in Organizational Leadership from Judson University, and has done certificate work at Moody Bible Institute and Fuller Seminary.

Featured Alumna: Ashlee HOLMES Eiland, Class of 2005

It was at USC that Ashlee discovered her love of peacemaking and diplomacy. This translated to a post-college role in Human Resources at Nestlé USA, where she distinguished herself for her empathetic and balanced leadership style. She was recruited to Nestlé's corporate management training program and relocated to Chicago. The move would change her career trajectory, but not in the way she had anticipated.

In Chicago, Ashlee found a spiritual home at Willow Creek Community Church and began volunteering with their high school camp. Soon, she felt called to ministry full time and left the corporate world to pursue her vocation.

She went on to serve as Co-Lead Pastor at Mars Hill Bible Church in West Michigan. The dynamic role had Ashlee providing high-level strategic leadership and vision for the church's future, while also pastoring individuals through loss, and preaching to the congregation on Sundays.

Growing up, Ashlee never saw women in the pulpit on Sundays. Mentorship is now an important part of her outreach ministry. She has volunteered with the [Women Speakers Collective](#) as a coach and cohort leader, encouraging other women "to step into their gifts of preaching and teaching with new confidence." She has also partnered with [The Resilient Pastor](#) initiatives where she has co-led workshops and coached fellow pastors from across the U.S. on the particular challenges of their ministerial profession.

Most recently, Ashlee led as Vice President of Partnerships for [The Colossian Forum](#), a non-profit that works to harness the power of disagreement to restore connection. Her work will be featured in an upcoming documentary on relational transformation and communal reconciliation. *Leap of Faith* from Tremolo Productions is set to be released in theaters this September.

Featured Alumna: Ashlee HOLMES Eiland, Class of 2005

In May of this year, Ashlee released her third book. One of her first stops on tour for [Say Good](#) was a visit to Duchesne's campus for a reading, author Q&A, and book signing on May 31. Three weeks later, on June 21, Ashlee was interviewed about her latest work on Good Morning America's "[Faith Friday](#)" segment. *Say Good* explores how we navigate the tense and complex world in which we live and provides a framework for harnessing your words and stewarding your voice for "good."

Ashlee lives in Grand Rapids with her husband, Delwin, their three children, and pup Chance the Rap-paw.