PAW Alumni & Friends of PAW, February 2019

**Top Row:** Monique MacFarlane (Peru Leader), Julia Zrobek (Cambodia), Shilah Anderton (Thailand), Mat Blundell (Cambodia), Samantha Goodwin (Thailand), Chloe Turner (Thailand)

**Middle Row:** Xavier Aleba (Peru)

**Bottom Row:** Jamie Cassie (Thailand Leader), Madeline Au (Cambodia), Kennedy Newton (Peru), Kenadi Kuzyk (Cambodia Leader), Cassidy Stromberg (Peru)
MEET THE 2019 TEAM LEADERS

Jamie Cassie

“Hi I’m Jamie! I’m in my first year of my Bachelor of Education after degree and I’m so excited to be leading the 2019 Thailand Team! After my time as a PAW participant in 2016 I worked for Disney Cruise Line, and as an Au pair in Scotland. However, I realized I didn’t want my time with PAW to be over! My favourite play memories from my time in Thailand are the giant slip and slides, water fights, and the day the children created their own marble mazes! I can’t wait to see this year’s team grow, learn, and become inspired through play!!”

- (Team Rayong, 2016)

Kenadi Kuzyk

“Hey, I’m Kenadi! A Kinesiologist, outdoor-lover & adventure seeker. I completed my PAW experience this past summer in Phnom Penh and am SO excited to be leading this year’s ‘Team Cambodia’. I still hold the memories made, relationships developed and lessons learned close to my heart. I look forward to watching this year’s team develop and create an experience of their own. Through play, I am confident they will achieve great things.”

- (Team Cambodia, 2018)

Monique McFarlane

“Something I learnt during my PAW experience in 2017 is that play has no age limit. Our in-country Play Day reinforced this. I will never forget the wide range of ages that were engaging in free play before my team and I. Now, as a Therapeutic Recreation student, I am reminded daily of the important role that play and recreation have in our lives and on our wellbeing.

I am over the moon excited to be going back to Peru and supporting team 2019 in their learning journey and can’t wait to see what lessons they will bring back home.”

- (Team Peru, 2017)
No one could’ve predicted this experience
What I learned here, no one can take away
You’ll learn about life
And discover more of yourself
You’ll lose a part of you
And gain a new dimension
You’ll feel what it’s like to be a child again
And how precious children are
You’ll learn what’s beautiful to you
And how others see beauty
You’ll grow in friendships
With the people you meet
And those you live with
Some you’ll never see again
And others you’d like to keep for a lifetime

“But your heart expands in understanding and compassion.”

You’ll share adventures
And live in moments
Of spontaneity
And adventure
You’ll keep the memories
The pain and struggles
The laughter and The joy
And you’ll treasure all of it
You’ll learn about a new world
Its beauty, and charms
The history, and language
It’s life and culture
But most importantly, the people

We have our differences
Though our similarities are abundant
And you’ll realize we are all the same
Human beings
And nothing separates you from them

Your heart will be heavy
With goodbyes
But much fuller in joy
In the end, your world shrinks
But your heart expands
In understanding, and compassion
You’ll grow in peace, and experience
Love
And you’ll never be the same again
My name is Jorell
And this was my Play Around the World experience

Announcement:
Hayley! I still have your journal and would love to return it to you!
*Anyone knowing the whereabouts of Hayley Kaczanowski (PAW Team Thailand 2017) please contact Mary Ann Rintoul (mrintoul@ualberta.ca).

Play Day Fun!
National Child Day

On November 18 play around the world participated in National Child Day at the William Lutsky YMCA.

This was a great opportunity to engage the community with carnival games, parachute activities, and a box station where your only limit is your imagination. We had a variety of families join us for the event where good old fashion play was experienced by all!
On January 26, 2019 Play Around the World participated with Kids Create at Enterprise Square- an even put on by Alumni relations. It was a great opportunity for the 2019 team to experience their first play day. With over 400 people registered, the PAW team was busy supporting the creativity of children.

The team put together sensory stations, a building station, and create your own skateboard station. It was a lot of fun and laughs had by all!

Shout-out to Trail Appliances:
Thank you for your donation of BIG BOXES used at National Child’s Day!

SAVE THE DATE

Click the link below to purchase your tickets!
Beth Warner Hudson was a recipient of the NWT Recreation and Parks Association Award program which recognizes recreation professionals and volunteers in northern communities for promoting recreation. Beth was the 2018 winner of the Innovation Award for her work in Fort Providence. Beth was part out first PAW team of Canada North and emulates PAW values of community. Congratulations Beth! Read the full article here:
It has been four years since I was a participant of Play Around the World in 2015 on Team Rayong, Thailand. Four years sometimes feels like forever, and then other days it feels just like yesterday that I was playing with the kids from Sanuk Daycare or playing an intense game of volleyball with the youth from Huoy Pong. Having participated in PAW early on in my university career, my experience in Thailand greatly impacted the rest of my schooling and other experiences I have had in my life.

After returning from Thailand in 2015 I was excited to continue my Bachelor of Arts in Recreation, Sport and Tourism while pursuing a Certificate in International Learning along with a Certificate in Global Citizenship. After returning home I got straight to work on my application to study abroad in Dunedin, New Zealand at the University of Otago. In February of 2016 I cried happy tears yet again as I found out I was accepted to study abroad a second time, this time in the Southern Hemisphere! The following year I was on a plane to Auckland, New Zealand which would mark the start of a 7-month journey.

I had a nervous-excited energy buzzing around me in the months leading up to my departure and although I was apprehensive at times, I knew I could do this with the tools that PAW had given
me. My time in Thailand as a play leader prepared me for various experiences in New Zealand such as meeting people from different cultures, having the ability to be adaptable and teaching me to be flexible because most of the time, things don’t go according to plan (am I rite??)!

PAW taught me to suspend my judgements, be curious and to juggle a heavy course load while playing hard. I lived with three strangers yet again and navigated the ebbs and flows of flatmates. However, I would argue the most important thing PAW taught me, is how to play.

Although the type of play I did in New Zealand is not the typical image we conjure up in our mind, I played indeed. The landscape and mountains in New Zealand became my playground and in the wild I juggled with risk, rough and tumble, locomotor, mastery play and more. I embodied the spirit and motto of PAW, and this experience, much like Play Around the World, impacted my growth, learning and who I am as a human.

Today I work for Edmonton Tourism as a Meetings and Conventions Specialist having graduated from the University of Alberta in June of 2018. I am beginning to delve into the world of rock climbing while exploring the infinite opportunities that exist to play in the mountains. I am grateful to still be a part of the Play Around the World community via the Program Management Committee and will forever be thankful to the individuals that made my PAW experience such a significant part of my life.
“Play energizes us and enlivens us. It eases our burdens. It renews our natural sense of optimism and opens us up to new possibilities.”

- Stuart Brown
CURRENT PAW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Program Management Committee (PMC):

Program Director – Mary Ann Rintoul
Secretary- Francis Sobierajski
Advisory Liaison – Kirsten Jackman
Leadership – Lauren Turner
Community Connections – Meghan Klettke & Nicole Farmer
Budget Coordinator – Anna Knight
Fundraising – Tracy Simon
Play Day Liaison – Taylor Seal & Joel Johnston

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Christine Ma
Gord Stewart
Colleen Mooney
Kirsten Gamblin
Mary Ann Rintoul
Royle Harris
Susan Green
Tannis Davidson
Katrina Maximchuk

For more information contact

Mary Ann Rintoul, Program Director
Call: 780-492-9621 or email:

mrintoul@ualberta.ca

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2019 Leaders

Jamie Cassie (Thailand)
Kenadi Kuzyk (Cambodia)
Monique McFarlane (Peru)