

On March 18, 2020 at 10:46 PM Stuart Yamartino Software Engineer for DOCKWA; > wrote:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Stuart Yamartino and I graduated from Wayland High School in 2011. I was the last graduating class from the old high school before they knocked it down and I have incredibly fond memories of the time I spent there. WayCAM was an absolute highlight of my high school career and has led me to pursue a technical and creative career.

I started out taking a few entry level WayCAM classes where I built my skills doing editing as well as trying to get out in front of the camera. During that time, WayCAM decided it needed a new logo. I was getting into graphic design at the time and if I recall I made over 50 designs for the new logo. One of my lucky 50 logos was picked and it is still the logo for WayCAM to this day! I take great pride in that, and have continued to pursue graphic design as part of my job.

My senior year, WayCAM teamed up with the theater class and started a new program, Script to Screen. This was going to be a full year of writing, casting, filming, editing, and releasing a short film. I was lucky enough to be picked to direct my own film and wow what a wonderful experience that was. That was the highlight of my senior year and still to this day is the most memorable part of my time at Wayland High School. Being the director meant I had to keep the project moving and make sure everyone was where they needed to be for a shoot. We filmed all over the high schools campus, at peoples houses, around Wayland, Natick, and Framingham.

The website to our movie "The Barn" still exists (<https://sites.google.com/site/thebarnmovie/>) and is a constant source of nostalgia whenever I look at it. Working on the website as part of this project was a great source of creativity and exploration for me. I spent hours fidgeting and tweaking the site until I thought it was *just right*. That is one of my favorite parts about WayCAM is that it gives so much room to try new skills and explore technologies that would be out of budget or out of reach as a highschooler.

I have always enjoyed building things and so as part of Script to Screen I sourced the materials and built a low budget steady cam. It was very basic, a camera mount at the top, 3 axis gimbal with a handle under that that I build from PVC pipe and ball bearings, and a threaded pipe down a few feet with counter weights. It worked pretty well and I was able to use it when filming to stabilize some of the faster paced moving shots in the movie.

At the end of that year, we had the first annual film festival. There was a red carpet, everyone in all the films came, as well as friends and family. I was awarded "Best Director" and I can tell you that award still sits proudly atop a bookshelf in my room almost 10 years later.

I consider myself very lucky to have been a part of the first Script to Screen program and I still am honored when I get to be a judge on the films the students still make every year. It is pretty amazing to see the quality of films get better and better, in part due to all the new HD cameras, wireless mics, and technology that they have been afforded now.

Today, I am living and working in Cambridge Mass. working as a software engineer at <https://dockwa.com>. Most of my job entails of web development and graphic design, two things I fell in love with, in large part because of WayCAM. I love that WayCAM wasn't just about video, it's about all the media and technology surrounding video production. I still film videos and edit for myself as well as friends and family and never edit a video without remembering the time I learned how to use Final Cut Pro at WayCAM.

Also Jim Mullane is truly one of the all time best teachers and leaders at Wayland High School. I am forever indebted to the care and willingness to help me as a student. His approach to pushing students to try new things and getting people into situations where they had to creatively problem solve was an approach I wish more educators had. Jim is one of the all time greats and the quality and care he puts in WayCAM is truly what makes it great.

Sincerely,  
Stuart Yamartino

PS: Jim,

I hope to come to more film festivals in the future, will keep our fingers crossed with the current state of the world right now. Stay healthy. All the best Jim!

-Stuart Yamartino