

Hometown girl makes good

Studies have taken Emily Enderle from Covington to Yale

By David Fong, Executive Editor

NEW HAVEN, Conn. – Emily Enderle travels have taken her to all corners of the globe – from the Middle East to Central America, from England to India and back to Yale University – but she’s never forgotten where she came from or how she got to where she is.

“I would say it was the work ethic I was taught by my family, coaches and teammates that really made it possible for me to excel athletically and academically at the collegiate level,” said Enderle, a 1999 Covington High School graduate. Enderle currently serves as the associate director of admissions outreach and the admissions diversity coordinator at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

Since graduation as Covington’s salutatorian, Enderle has redefined the term “student-athlete.”

As an undergraduate at Oberlin College, she played basketball, volleyball and was on the track and field team. In track, she was an academic all-American, the North Coast Athletic Conference Field Athlete of the Year, an NCAA all-conference pick three times and an NCAA national championship qualifier in the javelin.

“I’m originally from Colorado –I grew up in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and was always interested in conservation,” said Enderle, who moved to Covington when she was 12.

After graduation from Oberlin she worked in San Francisco for two years before being accepted into the master’s program at Yale.

She completed her Masters in Environmental Management in 2007, with a concentration in policy, economics and law. Along the way, she completed a book, “Diversity and the Future of the U.S. Environmental Movement.”

By attending Yale, she also became the fourth Covington High School basketball player in less than a decade to attend an Ivy League school. Before her, Erica Bowman played basketball and graduated from Princeton University, Jason Meyer played basketball and graduated from Dartmouth, Myer’s younger sister, Michelle, is a junior on the Dartmouth women’s basketball team.

“It’s kind of funny the way that has happened,” Enderle said of the proliferation of former Buccaneers on the Ivy Leagues. “Especially if you look at the female athletes. A lot of them have gone to really achieve a lot, academically, after they graduated from Covington. I think it helps being from such a small, tight-knit community. Someone like Erica Bowman – who was a few years older than me – is someone that I really looked p to when I was at Covington. When older girls who I played with all went off to college, I think that’s a big reason why I was so gung-ho about academics. You look at someone like Shelli Manson, who went on to earn her master’s degree.

“My senior year I took half my classes at Edison (Community College), which really helped me a lot, too. Between my classes at Edison and my honor classes at Covington, I really had some excellent teachers.”

After earning her master’s from Yale, Enderle was hired to work at the school, a position she holds to this day.

Even though she’s halfway across the country, the Covington High School Hall of Fame inductee still keeps close tabs on what’s going on in her hometown.

“I am a huge fan of watching my nephews, Trey and Jake Stewart, participate in Covington athletics,” she said.

Sounds like she hasn’t forgotten where she came from.