

# Living a Deliberate & Adventurous Life

Barbara (Ember) Full '78



Adam Bittner '17



Adam Bittner '17 with friends and former co-workers in Paris, France



Katherine Bittner '12, Bob Bury, Liz Bittner Bury, Taylor Bury, Megan Bittner '14, and Adam Bittner '17

When Adam Bittner '17 was a student at York Catholic, he was familiar with York Catholic's mission that states in part that the school prepares students to serve the global community. He took it to heart and travels the world learning, exploring, and making a difference wherever he goes.

The son of Brent Bittner and Liz Bittner Bury, and the brother to Megan '14 and Katherine '12. When Adam was a freshman at college, his father Brent passed away. Rather than let this moment define him, he decided to be deliberate in shaping an adventurous and fulfilling life. Adam said, "early on I realized that the most important times are now, and that my life was one worth celebrating. I think that knowing and understanding [myself] is the greatest gift that I can give. I'm always changing and adapting, [and] I hope that by living in this way, I can positively impact others."

Working summers and weekends as a farmhand in Dallastown, he became enthralled with studying different types of agricultural systems and eventually arrived at Iowa State University. However, the drudgery of high-level calculus, economics and the pandemic did not provide the nourishing learning opportunity he was hoping to experience. For that reason, he took a gap semester working on a ranch in Neuquen, Argentina and pursued a language degree in Spanish and a minor in US Latino Studies with a focus on regenerative agricultural systems. Adam spent the last semester of his senior year outside of the United States studying literature, art, and working at a Slow Food farm at The University of Extremadura in Cáceres, Spain. Long story short, he loved it. Through moving, the expansiveness of his world continued to grow, and he chose not to return for his graduation ceremony. He believes this is an example of his orientation and perspective—always forward.

During and after college, Adam coordinated scholarships and exchange opportunities between youth in agriculture and the

United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and related NGOs with the International Association of Students of Agriculture and Science. Adam got to work on projects which included biodegradable plastics made out of milk in Ecuador, organic indigenous coffee cooperatives in Guatemala, and farming initiatives in Nepal, where the lack of flat arable land presents unique challenges. Work took on a new meaning, and it fueled and inspired him.

Later, Adam worked remotely from Big Sky, Montana; Berkeley, California; and Berlin, Germany. He focused on moving to Japan, and he enrolled in classes at his local community college. Finally, in August of 2024, he moved to the other side of the globe with the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET). This program allows unique cultural exchange opportunities for Americans to work in schools and government offices in Japan.

Again, through combining his diverse interests and experiences, Adam moved to Tokyo and took a job on the Product Team with Eighty Days Japan, a sustainable tourism company specializing in bolstering rural economies and rejuvenating local communities that are facing challenges due to Japan's declining population.

Tokyo provides a dynamic, fast paced, and perfect environment for a person to challenge and reinvent themselves as Adam has done so many times in his young life. His visits to more than 20 countries make him prepared for this moment and for whatever comes next.

In the future, he plans to create his own company representing agricultural products abroad. With his vast and varied knowledge, his exciting sense of adventure, and his knack for thriving in a worldwide landscape, Adam will be a success wherever he plants his roots.