

Linden Alumni!



Life After Graduation

At Linden, voice is more than expression. It is a way of being, thinking, and moving through the world. We encourage every student to speak up, ask bold questions, challenge systems, and share their story. Long after they graduate, our students carry that voice with them. They take the Linden spirit.

Our alumni are changemakers in ways both quiet and bold. Some work behind the scenes to shape policy, advance science, or build more inclusive organizations. Others take centre stage, writing books, launching community initiatives, or advocating for justice. Some build families, support neighbourhoods, or care deeply for those around them. Whatever path they choose, they carry with them the values they developed at Linden—courage, curiosity, care, and a strong commitment to equity and integrity.

What makes Linden alumni extraordinary is not just what they achieve, but how they show up in the world. They are individuals who know how to listen, lead with intention, and speak up when it matters. They also learn how to stand back and create space for others. They understand that community is not just a place, but a way of life. And they know that learning does not end when school does.

In this issue, we are proud to highlight three remarkable Linden graduates. Madison Posluns, Emma Ruby-Sachs, and Onyka Gairey each offer a unique story

and perspective. Their lives reflect the power of a Linden education—one that is grounded in identity, justice, belonging, and purpose.

Our alumni are not a chapter from the past. They are a vital part of who we are today. They return to mentor students, support events, perform, volunteer, and guide the next generation. Their presence reminds us that Linden is more than just a school. It is a community, a launch point, and a lasting connection.

If you are a Linden graduate, we would love to hear from you. Your journey is part of Linden's story, and your experiences can inspire and guide those who follow in your footsteps. Whether you graduated recently or many years ago, your voice still matters to us.

Please take a moment to fill out our alumni connection form:
lindenschool.ca/stay-connected

Or reach out anytime at
news@lindenschool.ca

Madison Posluns

on Design, Leadership, and Confidence

Engineering Her Voice

From designing window automation systems to reimagining everyday products, Madison Posluns is proof that confidence, creativity, and curiosity can take you far. At Linden, she discovered her voice—and learned to use it with clarity and courage. Today, whether she's presenting to investors or prototyping a better toothbrush holder, Madison brings both precision and passion to everything she does. Her story reminds us that leadership isn't about having all the answers—it's about asking the right questions and building what doesn't yet exist.



GRADUATED LINDEN
2017

CURRENTLY

Intermediate Mechanical Engineer at RYSE, which designs and sells retrofit smart home automation devices. She is the only woman on the hardware engineering team.

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, Western University. Completed the Co-op Program and earned a Certificate in Leadership and Innovation.

OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Western University Tobogganing Team member: Madison designed the front suspension and steering rig of the superstructure!



1 What have you been up to since graduating from Western in 2022?

I'm an Intermediate Mechanical Engineer at RYSE, which designs and sells retrofit smart home automation devices that motorize window treatments, and I work on developing new products. I started in May 2024, and was relatively new to this industry, which involves a lot of plastic injection moulding. There's been a lot of learning! Just weeks into the role, I was entrusted with a major long-term project: the SmartBlind, which is a device that replaces the tilt wand for opening and closing blinds.

This was a major responsibility early on, and I embraced the challenge. Just as major tech companies do presentations

once a year with new product releases, we have Demo Day every November, where we showcase products that have gone to market and feature new products we are working on. Last November, I showcased the SmartBlind Proof of Concept, the very first iteration of the design, to all our current and prospective investors. Since then, I've been improving the concept and creating custom parts; the early iterations used prefabricated parts. I'm looking forward to showcasing the final version at Demo Day this coming November!

2 What do you enjoy outside of work?

Outside of work, I'm designing and prototyping various products as I dream them up, and I share them on my website, madimakes.com, where I also post



Having a reflexive, problem-solving mind has been the most valuable takeaway from my degree. I love that I can think of ways to make things better intuitively.

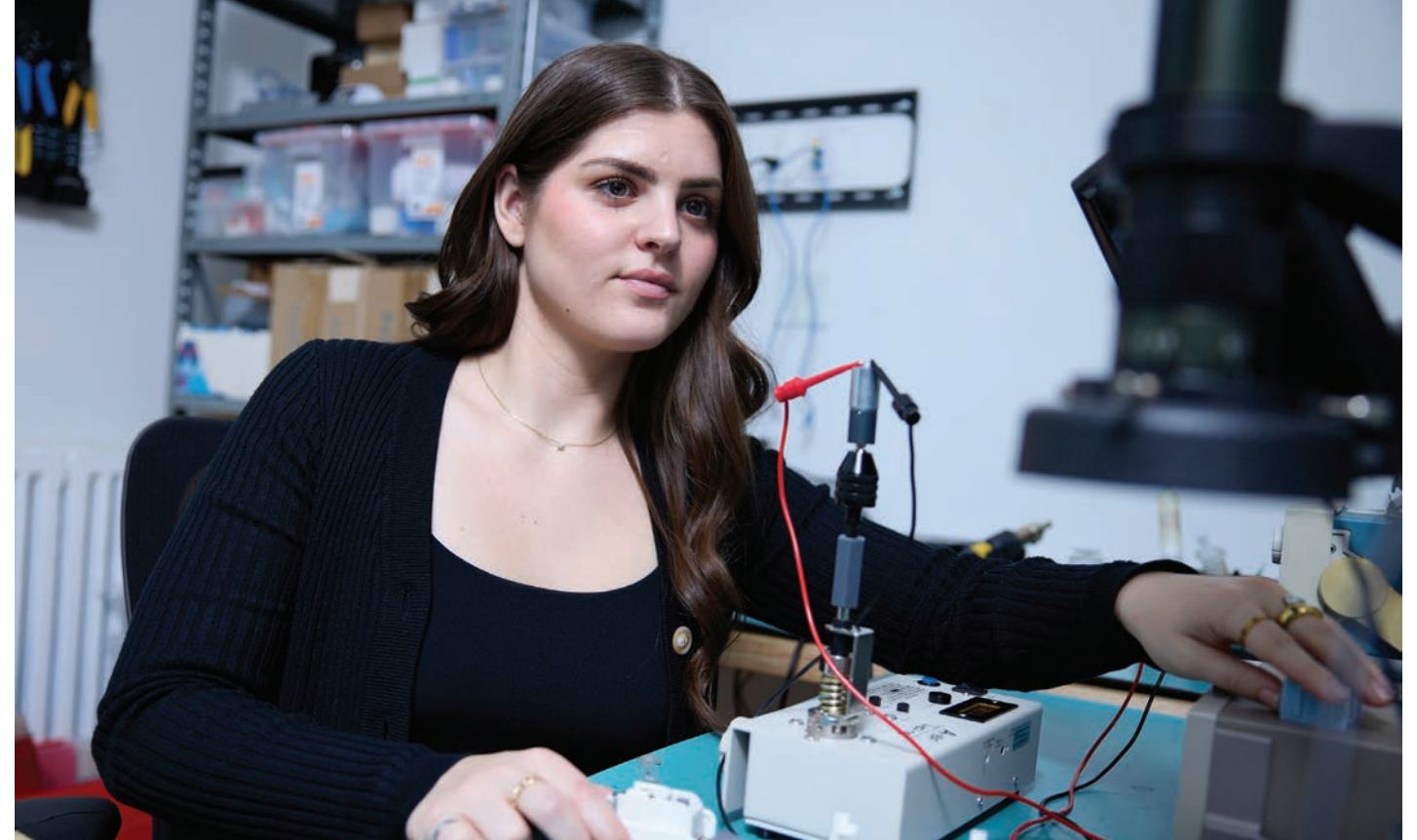
a monthly "build in public" blog to document what I'm working on. Studying and working in engineering teaches you to think in a specific way—to approach life with a problem-solving mindset. I began to notice small everyday challenges that we all encounter, and I'd think to myself, 'I can fix this pain point.' I'm working on a toothbrush holder that's easier to clean. It's such a simple idea—but no one has done it.

Having a reflexive, problem-solving mind has been the most valuable takeaway from my degree. I love that I can think of ways to make things better intuitively.

When I'm not at work or creating my own products, I enjoy seeing my close friends. I'm in a recreational volleyball league with university friends and take dance classes every week. Movement and creativity help me recharge, and both have been part of my life since Linden.

3 Describe the most significant way, or ways, that Linden shaped you?

I'm shy when I first meet people or in new environments. But when I got to university, I found that Linden had made me really confident in my academic abilities. I rarely second-guessed myself when asserting my opinion in peer spaces, which I noticed many of my female friends in engineering were



doing. As a woman in a male-dominated program, it was sometimes daunting to speak up around male classmates—but this didn't faze me.

Because Linden teachers were so approachable and easy to talk to, I've never felt shy or embarrassed to speak with my professors or ask for help. That confidence benefited my grades!

As I progress in my professional career, I need to make new connections with people from many different walks of life. I realize that, thanks to Linden, I'm a well-rounded person. Linden's strong STEM offerings obviously supported my

“ The ability to connect across disciplines and with diverse people has been an unexpected but invaluable skill that traces directly back to Linden's holistic approach.

career path—but there was also a rich emphasis on the arts, languages, social justice, and physical activity. Because I have so many varied interests, I can spark a conversation with almost anyone. (Bonus: I'm never bored—there's always something new to learn!)

The ability to connect across disciplines and with diverse people has been an unexpected but invaluable skill that traces directly back to Linden's holistic approach.

4 What are your early impressions of Linden's new space?

All the images I've seen look fantastic! The interior is beautiful, and the building's location is wonderful for students. It's close to great amenities that add value to the school. I'm excited about this new chapter of Linden! I can already imagine students building new memories there, just like we did.

5 What do you hope Linden will carry forward to its new location?

The warmth and coziness of the old space! Grade school can be a challenging time—not just academically, but

emotionally as you grow up and figure out who you are. There's something very soothing about being in a homey space that eases that stress and helps you get through the day. Linden's library was my favourite space in the old building, and I still think about it to this day.

I hope the new space will feel just as welcoming and safe—for every student to feel like they belong.

6 What advice would you offer to current Linden students?

You don't need to have everything figured out; just follow what excites you and brings you joy. Trust that things will fall into place exactly as they should, at the perfect time. Avoid comparing yourself to others because everyone's journey is unique. As stressful as life can feel at times, sometimes the best thing to do is take a step back and give yourself room to breathe. You're exactly where you need to be!

And one more thing: your path doesn't have to look like anyone else's. **Be curious. Be creative. Be you.**



Emma Ruby-Sachs

on Voice, Justice, and Leading Global Change



While powerful political forces seek to destabilize our movements, **we need to make sure we're not just reacting—but proactively building a better future.**

Emma Ruby-Sachs has always been driven by a deep sense of justice and a belief in the power of voice. As a lawyer, journalist, novelist, and now Executive Director of Ekō, she mobilizes millions around the globe to challenge injustice and push for systemic change. Whether writing about wrongful convictions, leading global campaigns, or exploring truth through fiction, Emma's work is bold, strategic, and deeply human. In this conversation, she reflects on her path, the issues that matter most today, and how Linden helped shape the leader she is today.



GRADUATED LINDEN
1999

CURRENTLY
Writer, lawyer, and the Executive Director of Ekō (formerly SumOfUs), a global movement of more than 23 million members worldwide. The Ekō community organizes campaigns that advocate for workers' rights, sustainable supply chains, and governments that prioritize people over profits.

EDUCATION
Wesleyan University and the University of Toronto Faculty of Law.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Author of *The Water Man's Daughter*, a literary novel set in South Africa.
Published opinion pieces in international outlets including *The Guardian*, *The Nation*, and *The Huffington Post*.
Former practitioner of constitutional and administrative law, who focused on wrongful arrest and wrongful conviction in Canada.
Lives in Chicago, Illinois with her family.



This world needs new models, new ideas, and new roles for people. Linden is a place founded on the idea of doing things differently. I hope every Linden student carries that forward.

1 You've made an impact across law, writing, and global activism. What do you feel called to do now?

I've been spending a lot of time thinking about future issues where public attention is lacking. What are the places where corporations are making decisions that affect humanity—and no one is paying attention, no one is regulating, no one is seeking public input? For example: the development of autonomous AI, untested climate mitigation measures, and the rise of superbugs and bioweapons. While powerful political forces seek to destabilize our movements, we need to make sure we're not just reacting—but proactively building a better future.

2 What was the most significant way, or ways, that Linden shaped you?

Not everyone shared my quirky interests when I was a kid, which was very isolating. When I got to Linden, it was a revelation. The teachers were brilliant and gave me the freedom to explore

academically. The small classes meant no one was written off or ignored. And the curriculum was challenging and advanced—I loved every minute of it.

3 What is your most significant memory of Linden?

During exams, we'd all head into the gym with our notebooks and our lucky charms—at the time, those were little plastic troll dolls. Eleanor would announce that as smart young women, we didn't need luck, and she'd confiscate the trolls until exams were over. That moment stuck with me. Something so small became a reflection of how I was undermining myself. Boys didn't bring lucky charms with them into exams the way girls did. Why let myself be fooled into believing that I wasn't strong enough to ace the exam on the power of my mind?

4 What do you hope Linden carries into its new location?

Linden is a philosophy, and its teachers and families are drawn to that philosophy. I genuinely believe that will

follow the school wherever it goes. I hope the closeness and accessibility of the school will not change. When I was there, the whole building felt like it belonged to the students—you'd find kids hanging out in the principal's office or by reception. I hope that sense of ownership and community remains.

5 What advice would you give to current Linden students?

This world needs new models, new ideas, and new roles for people. Linden is a place founded on the idea of doing things differently. I hope every Linden student carries that forward. If it's been done before, don't bother. Try something new. Follow your instincts, and aim for impact. Get on a plane before you get a degree. Explore before you worry about achieving.

There's never been a more important time to be creative, innovative, and brave.



PRESS

CAMPAIGNS

ABOUT

ENGLISH

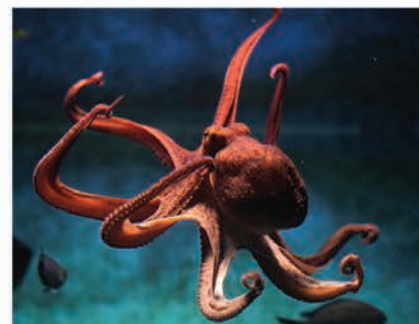


Ekō is 23,357,147 people stopping big corporations from behaving badly.

JOIN US

We win campaigns.

We use our power as consumers, workers and investors to hold the biggest companies in the world to account.



WHAT EKO HAS ACCOMPLISHED

Ekō has launched bold global campaigns holding corporations and governments accountable. In early 2025, Ekō researchers demonstrated how TikTok's algorithm pushes harmful content—such as misogyny and suicidal ideation—into the feeds of 13-year-old users within minutes¹. In 2024, Ekō mobilized more than 500,000 supporters to oppose the world's first octopus megafarm near Gran Canaria, contributing to the passage of California's *OCTO Act* (Oppose Cruelty to Octopuses)². That same year, the organization galvanized more than 58,000 Canadians to pressure Parliament to pass *Motion M-151*, advancing national action against single-use plastics³.

FOOTNOTES

¹ "Study Finds Over 33 Million Instagram, TikTok Posts Promoting Harmful Content to Kids," Global Witness / Ekō Report, eko.org/s3.amazonaws.com

² "Ekō's Petition Opposing Octopus Megafarm Contributed to California's *OCTO Act*," Manifold Project Summary, manifold.org

³ "58,000 Urge Canadian Parliament to Tackle Global Plastics Crisis," Ekō Media Release, June 20, 2025, eko.org



Onyka Gairey

on Creativity, Courage, and the Power of Pivoting

“

If anything, choosing to become a writer was about discovery. **I wanted to learn more about my voice and all the places it could take me.**

Writing New Worlds

After studying global health and conducting field research in Uganda, Onyka Gairey now writes for children’s TV, poetry anthologies, and literary magazines—blending science and storytelling to imagine new futures.

Onyka once studied water quality in Ugandan crater lakes and earned a master’s degree in Global Health Systems. Today, she’s telling stories on Canadian television and in print—building worlds through fiction, poetry, and imagination. As a Black queer writer, her voice now reaches children and readers across the country through CBC Kids, Penguin Random House, the Art Gallery of Ontario, and other notable platforms. In this conversation, Onyka reflects on her creative pivot, the community that shaped her, and the books and classrooms that first taught her the power of connection.

Onyka’s journey from global health to creative expression isn’t a departure—it’s an expansion. Whether she’s analyzing algae blooms or crafting worlds for children, her voice is rooted in curiosity, courage, and community. At Linden, she discovered that learning doesn’t stop at the page. Today, she’s helping others discover what’s possible when you live—and create—boldly.



GRADUATED LINDEN

2012

CURRENTLY

Onyka is an emerging Black queer writer. She has written for TVO Kids’ *Project Rube*, *Family Jr’s The Fabulous Show with Fay and Fluffy*, and CBC Kids’ *Bestest Day Ever with My Best Friend*. Her short stories have been published in Penguin Random House and The Nia Centre for the Arts’ anthology *GRIOT*, and her poetry has appeared in the Art Gallery of Ontario’s *Foyer* magazine. She was a semi-finalist in the Ottawa International Animation Festival’s 2023 Pitch THIS! Competition, and is nominated for an episode that she wrote on *The Fabulous Show with Fay and Fluffy* won a Youth Media Alliance Award of Excellence 2025.

EDUCATION

Honours Specialization in Biology and Master in Management of Applied Science (Global Health Systems), Western University.

Alumna of BIPOC TV & Film’s Kids’ TV Writing Incubator.

Alumna of the Nia Centre for the Arts’ Black Pen program.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Awarded a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarship.

Travelled to Uganda as part of a research team that monitored crater lakes and investigated differences in water quality and the presence of toxic algae blooms.



At Linden, I was guided out of my own bubble. I got to see the real-life implications of the things we studied, whether they were issues with social justice, women’s rights, or even health and science.

1 You’ve boldly changed course! After earning a master’s degree in Global Health and working in Uganda, you pivoted to writing. What led to the change of direction?

I have changed directions! I appreciate the descriptor ‘boldly.’ It reminds me of some of my favourite speculative fiction and how the understanding of what we know can be grounded and transcended by futures we dream.

I knew that I wanted to pursue science because of my love for learning and reading. That hasn’t changed! If anything, choosing to become a writer was about discovery. I wanted to learn more about my voice and all the places it could take me. Science will always be a dear friend.

The highlights of my career are the programs and people who have guided me along this journey. I also deeply appreciate how my family and friends have encouraged my creativity and always ask questions about what I’m working on.

2 Describe the most significant way, or ways, that Linden shaped or influenced you?

Linden helped build my confidence, both in general and academically. Before Linden, I was a very shy kid who liked to read. I would stay inside my public school’s library at recess and just read as many books as I could, and I never really excelled or got out of my comfort zone there.

At Linden, I was guided out of my own bubble. I got to see the real-life implications of the things we studied, whether they were issues with social justice, women’s rights, or even health and science. I was shown that none of these things exist in isolation: they’re all connected and important, and they affect real people. I was able to see that when things were wrong or unfair, I shouldn’t stay silent or in my own bubble; I should try my best to change things. These ideas followed me to university and influenced my choice of career path. In my master’s program, there was a lot of emphasis on looking at a larger system and finding the best ways to create positive change.

3 As we say goodbye to our beloved space at 10 Rosehill, could you share a favourite memory of your time at this building?

The Linden Library! I read a lot of books there and even helped catalogue it. I remember when that space changed from bookshelves set up like university stacks to an open concept layout with books lining the walls and tables in the centre where everyone could come together. I think back to Linden’s library whenever I get into a good book.

That said, the gym was where I made some of my closest friends. From All-Schools to sports and science fairs, the gym was where I connected with my community at Linden. There was so

much fun to be had there and it was where we cheered each other on!

4 What are your early impressions of Linden’s new space?

The photos look fantastic! I believe the new space will allow Linden to grow while supporting the vision and foundation built within 10 Rosehill.

5 What do you hope Linden will carry forward to its new location?

The heart of Linden is its community. I hope the school continues to nurture empathy, understanding, and care for those within and outside of its walls.

6 What advice would you give to current Linden students?

I have a few that might resonate, and a few that I am still learning myself. Challenge yourself to be the best version of yourself. Welcome change with an open mind.

And have fun in the moment. You don’t want to look back on a memory, having not lived it.



A Year to Remember

Highlights from Linden’s 2024 to 2025 School Year

At Linden, every month brings opportunities for connection, discovery, and growth. The past school year was filled with memorable events that brought our mission to life across every grade. From meaningful acts of reconciliation to creative performances, science fairs to community celebrations, our students embraced each moment with courage, curiosity, and care.

These events capture the Linden spirit and remind us that learning occurs everywhere—in classrooms, parks, stages, and in the heart of our community.