

eTASIS TODAY

Fall 2010

An e-magazine for Alumni and Friends of The American School In Switzerland



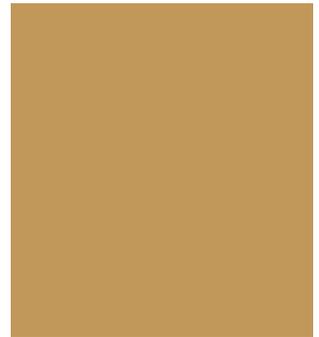
Another TESIS school
year is underway!

eTASIS Today Launched!

As you know, **TASIS Today**, the TASIS alumni magazine, is produced and printed every spring. Though this publication focuses on the bigger events at TASIS, it only tells part of the story that makes up daily life on the Collina d'Oro. To supplement our annual **TASIS Today**, we have created **eTASIS Today** to help share more of the story.

This first issue is filled with photographs, news, and anecdotes from numerous happenings on campus. Our goal is to rekindle memories for our alumni, to share more photographs with current TASIS families and friends, and to connect you to the vibrant whirlwind of life at our School.

Although this e-publication will be on our website, its format allows us to send it directly to your email address. Some alumni and TASIS friends will not receive this in their inbox, however, since we are still missing the email addresses of many of you. Please share this publication with others and encourage past friends and alumni to contact us with their current information. Contact alumni@tasis.ch if you want to be included in future mailings, and note that we will not share your address with anyone.



CONTENTS

- 2 Campus News
- 6 Another School Year Begins
- 10 TESIS Traditions - Class Outings and the Boat Dance
- 14 Andermatt - The Adventure Continues
- 16 ES Fall Festival
- 18 Reunions and Remembering
- 20 Looking Back: Palmer Center Opening
- 26 Remembering May Celebrations
- 28 How to Find TESIS on the Internet
- 29 Parting Shots



Watch for these Special Buttons!

eTASIS Today allows you to connect with TESIS beyond the stories included in this e-publication. Look for these buttons, which will take you to a photo gallery, to one of Michele Josue's excellent TESIS videos, or to the TESIS website with further information.



Photo Galleries



TESIS Videos



Read Additional Information

Basic Life Support training for teachers

For the TESIS Faculty, Saturday, October 16 wasn't just for grading and comment writing; it was also a day of learning how to save lives! Fifteen faculty members (Grade Deans and dorm resident staff) spent Saturday, October 16 doing a Basic Life Support training course. Future training sessions are in the pipeline for additional TESIS faculty/staff and proctors. The School has four Automated External Defibrillator (AED) units placed in specified locations on campus. This is a portable electronic device that can help restore a normal heart rhythm if ventricular fibrillation occurs.



Tea, anyone?

In the photo above, Lanterna's Dorm Head, Tamara Schumacher, and Lanterna Dorm Faculty, Courtney Hawes, are joined by local residents during a recent Lanterna Dorm weekend event. When deciding what activities to offer for the weekend, the Lanterna girls wanted to invite local residents from the surrounding area to see the new building. Tea and cakes were served in Lanterna's common room after dorm residents took guests on a tour of the building. Posters advertising the Open House were placed throughout Montagnola and the community.

AC Milan coaching with TESIS soccer teams

In the world of soccer, AC Milan is a household name. TESIS students have the fortunate opportunity to work with AC Milan's youth soccer program, thanks to a program unique to TESIS. Amadeo Cataldi is a trainer for AC Milan, and he travels to Lugano Monday through Thursday for TESIS soccer practices. Alternating days with the girls and boys teams, Coach Cataldi provides his expertise and knowledge to help our soccer players develop their skills. Both boys and girls soccer teams, the TESIS coaches, and Coach Cataldi will travel to Verona, Italy for Academic Travel and an intensive three-day soccer workshop. This extra training will be put to the test in the 2010 Swiss Group of International Schools (SGIS) Soccer tournament directly after Academic Travel on October 30.



Amadeo Cataldi

TESIS hosts the SGIS soccer tournament every year in Locarno at the Tenero Sports Complex. Last year the girls finished in 3rd place with the boys in 7th.

The School's relationship with AC Milan continues beyond the fall soccer season. In the spring, our Middle School soccer players get to work with Coach Cataldi. Twice a week, 15 Middle Schoolers are either in the Palestra working on ball handling skills or at the nearby Paradiso Field in Grancia, where they have more complete workouts.

The TESIS Summer Program also includes an AC Milan component with the AC Milan Junior Camp. This is an intensive soccer program under the supervision of additional AC Milan coaches. Both TSP and MSP programs include this as a sports option where students attend three or four afternoons a week, after morning language instruction. Participating students in all the AC Milan programs throughout the year are issued an AC Milan soccer kit.



Fall 2010 Sports Galleries



TESIS and AC Milan Video

Senior Humanities Program

The Senior Humanities Program (SHP) provides TASH seniors and PGs with a signature educational experience, drawing on the best elements of the TASH identity: truth, beauty, goodness, international understanding, and humanitarian action. Through a coherent set of discussions, trips, lectures, and tours focusing on these five elements, seniors and PGs are provided with an enhanced intellectual experience. This is the third year of the SHP in its current format.

Maxim Atayants, Russian architect and long time friend of TASH, was on campus on October 19 as the first speaker for the 2010 - 2011 Senior Humanities Program. His topic was Beauty in Architecture, and he shared his love for traditional and classical architecture and explained how a project develops from an initial idea to an inhabited building.



Architect Maxim Atayants

As the whole world watches the 2014 Olympics in Sochi, Russia, Atayants' work will be experienced firsthand. His proposal for the design of the 2014 Olympic Village was accepted by Olympic organizers largely because the 'modernists' submitted plans containing lots of striking, but heterogeneous 'object' buildings that failed to mesh into a unified whole.

TASH students got an inside look at how a classical architect and his ideas were chosen above other plans. Work on the village is going well, and a Fall 2013 date is predicted for completion.

The next SHP event is October Academic Travel. One group of seniors is traveling to Geneva and will examine the topic Global Responsibility. In November, child prodigy and internationally published author Adora Svitak will be on campus to visit with students and present a lecture.

A student-led conference exploring the theme of global responsibility will take place in February. Additional information for this conference and a list of past and future speakers of the SHP can be found on the TASH website.



Read more about the SHP

Middle Schoolers get in the spirit!

Every Middle Schooler takes part in the MS Service Learning Program during the school year. This fall the MS service learning group had the opportunity to plan, decorate, and then be part of the Haunted House during the Elementary School's Fall Festival. There were mummies, mad scientists, fortune tellers, and other scary characters on hand in the Dance Studio to help out and be part of the ES party. By the line at the door, and the screams heard throughout the hallways, the event and the Middle School students were a big hit!



Come back and visit!

Hardly a week goes by without a TASH alum stopping on campus for a quick visit to say hello and spend time walking around, rekindling memories from their years as a TASH student or summer programs participant.

Laura West Presnol '88 found herself in nearby Luzern on a business trip and decided to bring a friend to see her old stomping grounds. When Laura was a senior Monticello opened its doors for the first time, and so she was part of Monticello's first residents. She was able to find her old room and laughed with Yvonne Procyk, Assistant Director of Development and Alumni Relations, that the chest of drawers might possibly be the same one!



Laura West Presnol

If business or pleasure bring you to the Lugano area please contact the alumni office and arrange a visit!

College Counseling

Students busy with fall college applications

For our seniors, the school year begins by diving into discussions about their plans after graduation. The College Counseling Team assists our students in this important, but often stressful time. This year, TESIS welcomes Greg Birk, Director of College Counseling, who brings over 15 years of experience in college counseling and nine years as a college admissions director. His wife Carroll Birk is also a TESIS college counselor who has worked in the field since 1999. Working alongside them is Melissa Gygax, who will be focusing on European university admissions, and Howard Stickley, our resident expert on the UK process.



Seniors enjoy themselves at a seminar for the UK Admissions process.

This fall, over 20 colleges and universities will be visiting TESIS. The first representative to share his expertise was David Hautanen, Northeastern University's Director of Undergraduate Admissions. On Sunday, September 12, Mr. Hautanen met with seniors

The College Counseling team is working throughout the year with younger students as they prepare themselves for the admissions process. The team is sponsoring various information sessions about the US, European, and UK systems, and how



2010 - 2011 College Counseling Staff: *Carroll Birk, Greg Birk, Howard Stickley, and Melissa Gygax*

who plan on applying to American colleges or universities and presented a college essay writing workshop. His engaging style and honesty helped motivate our Seniors, who are often at a loss when attempting their essays. Along with campus visits, many TESIS students will attend an international college fair in Milan, where over 50 colleges and universities from around the world will be on hand to discuss our students' futures.

“ It is a stressful and confusing time, but I am excited about college.”
 - Claire Kasbeek '11

sophomores and juniors can choose activities and courses that will set them on the best course for their futures.

Gone are the days of thick folders of prospectus catalogs and photocopies of test scores. TESIS is now utilizing the Naviance system that helps students organize their data electronically. Information such as lists of possible careers/majors, application task lists, or a resume, are kept online on a password-protected personal site. This system is proven to help students organize themselves as they juggle the many demands of their final years of high school.



TASIS Girls Volleyball

Varsity and Junior Varsity dominate!

For many years, TASIS has hosted an annual Girls Volleyball Tournament in the fall, and this year's event was more exciting than ever! Both the Varsity and Junior Varsity teams did not lose a single game throughout the tournament. **Bump, set, and spike** provided the mantra for TASIS teams the entire day. Consistent serving, strong defense, accurate setting, and powerful spikes led both teams to first place medals at the end of the tournament.



The Varsity team is one of the favored teams to win the SGIS Tournament in November.



Girls Volleyball Photo Gallery

Read for the Record



On October 7 in conjunction with a worldwide event, TASIS hosted a Read for the Record extravaganza for our AI Focolare students. The selection for the year was *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats. The children listened to the story and then participated in fun winter-themed activities and enjoyed a snack. Middle and High School volunteers were on hand to assist with the different activity stations.

ES Fun-raising! *Playground becomes a reality*

Last spring fundraising efforts for the Hadsall Playground Fund were a great success! The students were delighted with the dress-down day and were enthusiastic participants in a raffle and prize drawings. Another fundraising event included a silent auction, with items as diverse as a signed Champion's League ball and a stay at an idyllic Irish cottage. The auction alone raised over CHF 17,000!



When all was said and done, over CHF 50,000 was raised. A sincere thanks to everyone who helped out at the various events, those who donated items for the auction, and to the parents, teachers, and children who supported this important fundraising effort.

Mrs. Fleming would have been able to see the playground from her bedroom window, and she would have loved seeing the "tent" gone and this wonderful new playground in place! Congratulations!



Before the students arrive

Cleaning out the bunker...learning about the Ticinese Grotto...classroom preparation...name tags...chicken and potatoes...department meetings...climbing the steps t

It is always exciting and a bit scary starting at a new school. For both new students and new teachers, the transition to a new place can be overwhelming - so many different people, customs, traditions, and so many stairs!

Two weeks prior to Opening Day, new and returning faculty are always on campus feverishly working to settle in at TASIS and prepare for the arrival of the students. The Proctors also arrive early to lend a hand in getting the campus ready. In addition to moving suitcases and making room signs, these students spend time setting goals and thinking about their role as student leaders. Proctors are an important connection between the adult community and student body. They are always available to answer student questions and are often excellent problem-solvers.

Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner emphasized in his opening remarks to faculty before the students arrived that “..those of you who will thrive at TASIS won’t just accept risk, you will embrace it! My advice to you is to go out into your classes, and make some bold mistakes. Take risks. Remember that, like Mrs. Fleming, we are here not to avoid life but to live it.”

When students arrived on campus on September 3, all the planning and orchestration paid off. The registration tables were set up in the library and Monticello 3, and new/ returning students arrived in a steady stream beginning at 9:00 am until the registration desks closed at 5:00 pm. Proctors helped boarding students move their luggage to their rooms, and were on hand all day to help answer questions. An all-school assembly took place in the evening where Michael Ulku-Steiner said to all students and faculty, “Do more. Build more. Be more.”

Orientation continued throughout the following two days with Mathematics and English placement tests, dorm meetings, campus/Montagnola/Lugano tours, and a Saturday night ice cream social. It was almost a relief once Sunday night arrived...because then it was almost time for the first day of the new school year.



Orientation Photo Gallery

o Lanterna...having a gelato...introduction to Veracruz...making room signs...faculty meetings...opening a bank account...driving lessons with Angelo...trip to Migros



Faculty Facts

- 3 Michaels, 3 Matthews, 3 Carolyns, 3 Daniels, & 1 Brody
- 12 Nationalities
- 69 Full time
- 19 Part time faculty
- 12 Faculty children (enrolled)
- 4 doctorate degrees (Ph.D.s)



The First Day of School





The first day of school is often bittersweet. For some it is the first time they've ever been this far from their home, and for others it is the beginning of their final year of high school. Students aren't the only ones anxious about finding their classrooms and meeting the people they'll spend the next nine months with...behind a teacher's calm exterior you often find an excited and sometimes scared adult. Hopes and dreams for a successful year are on everyone's mind the first day of school.

The first day of the 2010 school year included a few major changes, including the addition of our new building, Lanterna. Four classrooms, two faculty apartments, a girls dormitory, the infirmary, and the Headmaster's new home are all found in this beautiful new structure towering above Monticello. The space that Lanterna provides for the MS and HS allows the ES to shift some of their classes to Aurora. Pre-K-2nd Grade meet at Al Focolare, Grades 3-4 meet in Hadsall, and Grades 5-6 and

Music meet in Aurora. With over 200 students now enrolled in the Elementary School, this added space is critically needed.

An added benefit of the new building is toned legs, thanks to the 144 steps from Monticello to the top of Lanterna. This is the equivalent of walking up the steps of a ten-story building! There are a series of elevators, however, for students and faculty to use when injured or to move supplies up and down the hillside.

 **Looking Back on September Photo Gallery**

 **First day of School Photo Gallery**

2010-2011 Facts & Figures

(as of September 6, 2010)

MS/HS

400 Total Students
 281 Boarders/119 Day
 171 Boys/229 Girls
 Grade Breakdown:
 7th - 38
 8th - 22
 9th - 51
 10th - 94
 11th - 124
 12th - 69
 PG - 2

ES

200 Total Students
 93 Boys/107 Girls
 Grade Breakdown:
 Pre K - 15
 K - 13
 1st - 38
 2nd - 24
 3rd - 32
 4th - 23
 5th - 25
 6th - 30





Discovering Ticino

— one step at a time

“Hearing about the Swiss Alps was always fascinating, but seeing them is breathtaking.”

- Will Yates, PG

Class Outings have been a cornerstone of the TESIS experience since the early days of the School. Mrs. Fleming loved going into the mountains, and would pack picnic lunches, load students into buses or vans, and head up to Valle Verzasca. This tradition of exploring lives on today in the form of Class Outings.

In early September, the entire school takes off for a day of hiking somewhere in Ticino. On September 15, 400 TESIS students took to the nearby mountains or hills. These trips are just one more way TESIS helps students and faculty understand and appreciate the area. In the past, Class Outings were known as Class Hikes.

Trips this year included: 7th Graders walking from Gandria to the Lido; 8th Graders enjoying hiking on Monte Generoso; 9th Graders taking the cable car up to Monte Tamaro; 10th



Graders hiking from campus to Casoro; 11th Graders exploring Valle Verzasca; and 12th Graders/PGs walking up to Lago Ritom at 1850m.

With so many new students, these hikes give each grade a chance to spend time with their classmates and advisors. This year, faculty member Josh Keith was in charge of organizing the day for everyone. As one can imagine, it is not a small job! Former Class Hikes coordinator, Paul Greenwood, described the job as a "military operation with lots of complexities"!

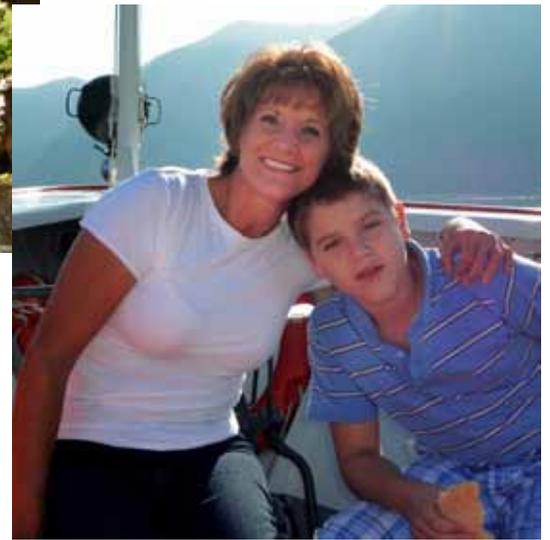
For TASIC Alumni out there: we'd love to hear some of your memories of class hikes - the joys and more! Rumor has it there are some good stories of groups taking wrong turns and other adventures. Please send your memories to: alumni@tasis.ch



Photographs on this page by Akito Goto '11



Class Outings Photo Gallery

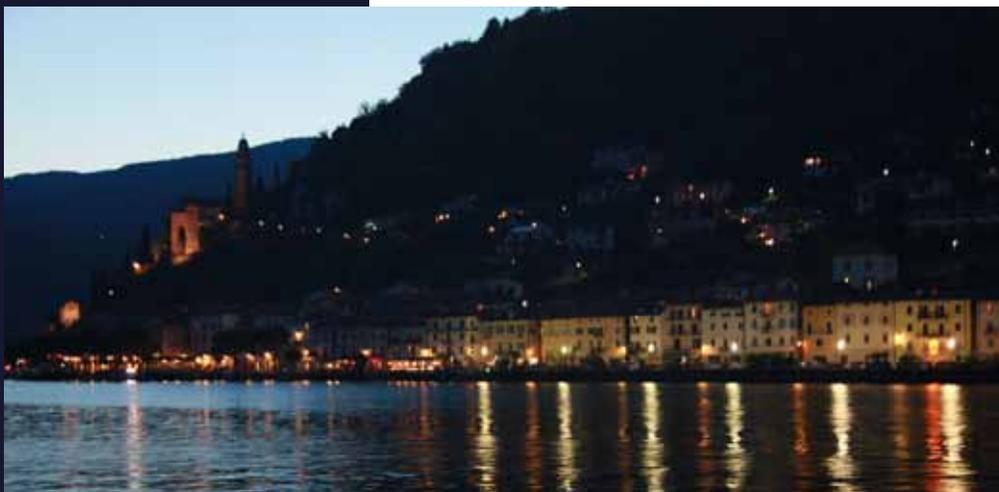


A Wonderful Evening on Lake Lugano



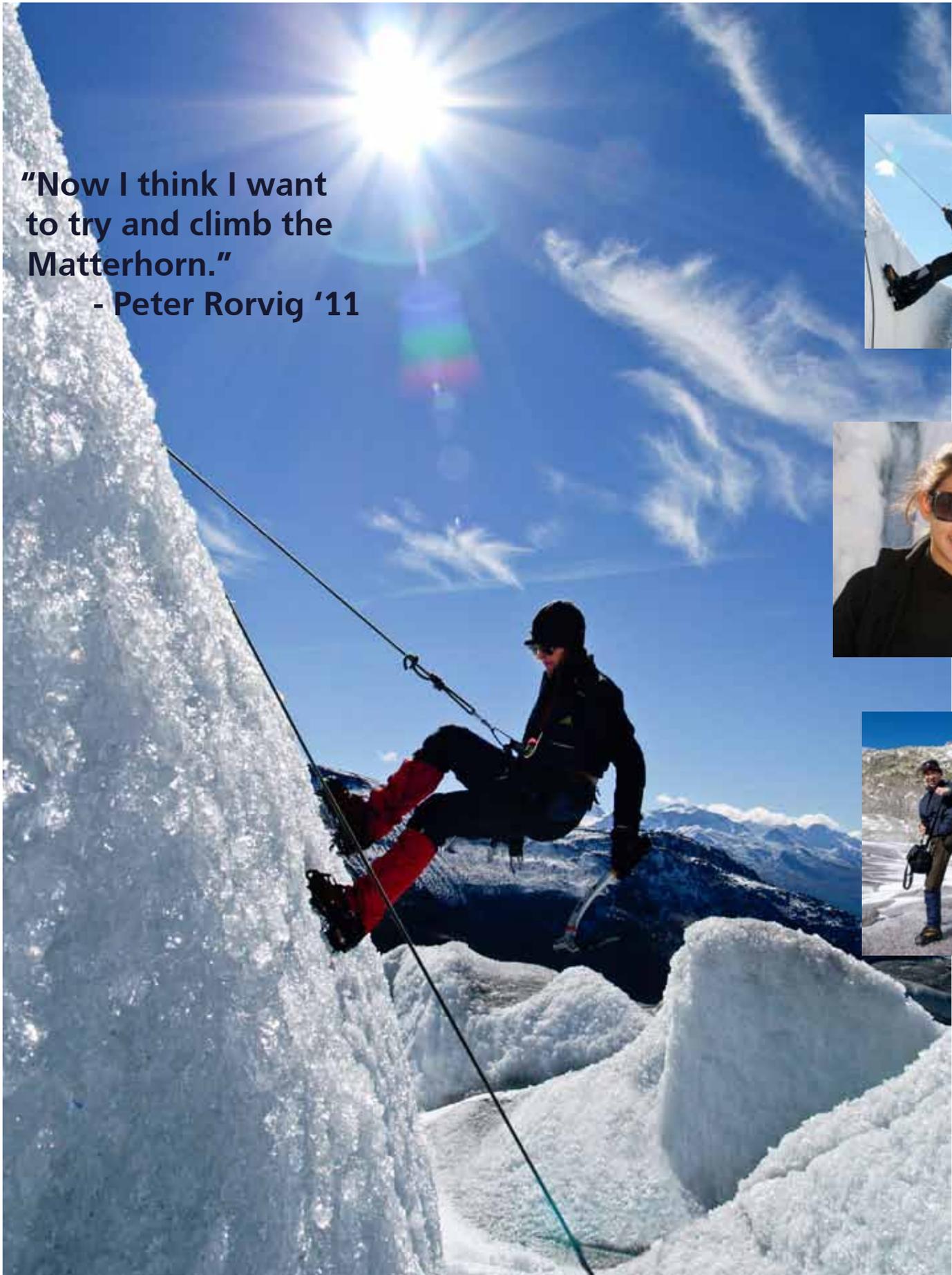
TASIS Boat Dance - A Fall Tradition

The Boat Dance is another autumn TASIS tradition. It provides just the right atmosphere for the student body to get to know one another. The combination of a beautiful setting, two boats tied together in the middle of a lake, snacks, and dancing make for an evening to remember. The faculty chaperones tend to be newer faculty members, and the evening allows them to experience Lake Lugano in all her spectacular glory. There is nothing more beautiful than watching the sun set as the lights of Morcote begin to twinkle. John Nelson, Academic Dean, has attended ten boat dances and has often stated "It is a wonderful evening...I wouldn't miss it."



Boat Dance Photo Gallery

**"Now I think I want
to try and climb the
Matterhorn."
- Peter Rorvig '11**



Andermatt

An Alpine Adventure

By Matt Zehner

Photographs by Artem Bulashev '12 and Will Yates, PG

An autumn tradition at TESIS for students and faculty alike is to head to Andermatt and the Furka pass. On October 2, TESIS faculty members Matt Zehner and Dan Schiff took nine students for some time in the mountains. The group rented mountaineering boots and crampons and hired two professional mountain guides, who escorted the group to the Rhone Glacier. After a brief explanation of glacier travel and safety, they donned their harnesses and crampons and stepped onto the ice. The large group was broken into two smaller groups and took turns walking atop the glacier, learning about its history, and using crampons and ice axes to ascend out of a crevasse and learning how to safely set a belay using ice screws. Once everyone had their fill of glacier travel, they walked back to the foot of the glacier and enjoyed their lunch outside the Hotel Belvedere.

But the day didn't end there! After lunch the group began a two-hour hike to a mountain hut at 9000 feet. The hut offered amazing views of the glacier, surrounded by snow-covered peaks and impressive granite spires. Hot tea and a hearty Swiss-style mountain meal in the evening was a perfect end to an amazing day. Bedtime came early for most, but a few stayed up writing in journals or playing games.

The next morning started with a hike back to the van, and then on to a crag for some climbing. Strong winds did not impede the

group, who climbed 10 different routes ranging in difficulty from 4.c to 6.a. Artem Bulashev '12 and Patrizia Wyler '11 seemed to be naturals on the rocks, climbing anything they were presented.

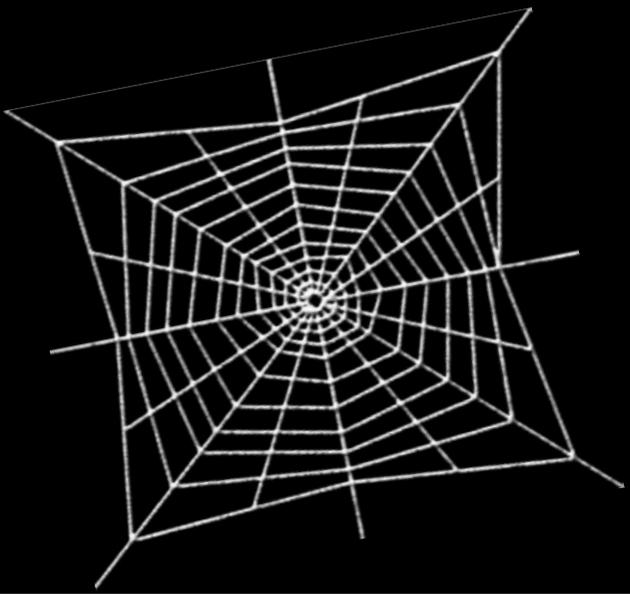
After everyone's hands were too sore to continue, it was time to load up the vans and head back to campus. A quick stop for dinner provided one final opportunity to share stories of the weekend before homework and duty called.

Once the snow starts to fall, Andermatt will once again be a favored skiing destination for TESIS faculty and students. It is one of the closest downhill skiing areas to campus and almost every weekend as long as there is snow, TESIS students and faculty will be there!



Andermatt Online Photo Gallery

TASIS ES Fall Festival



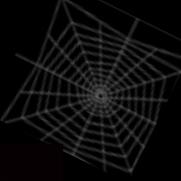
Even rainy weather couldn't dampen the spirits of revelers at the annual Elementary School Fall Festival! Goblins, witches, secret agents, superheroes, and even Popeye turned up for a night of food, games, and fun. The TASIS Parents Association sponsored this highly-anticipated event, and over 30 volunteers gave up their Saturday to transform the Palestra for the night. TPA President Kim De Morgan was in charge of the event, and came suitably dressed as Superwoman!

Upon arrival, the costumed guests quickly found their way to a haunted house in the Dance Studio of the Palestra. Our Middle School Service Learning group transformed the Dance Studio into a spooky space and themselves into mummies, mad professors, and other creepy characters. In the gym, games were set up for kids of all ages. Pumpkin bowling proved most popular, along with mummy-wrapping, a candy race, face painting, and spooky Memory.

A highlight of the evening was the amazing selection of baked goods for sale. Three tables were covered with homemade cupcakes, cookies, crepes, and breads. Also for sale in the Student Lounge were hamburgers, hot dogs, and french fries, catered by Parco Ciani.



Additional photographs from the Fall Festival are located in a protected ES Photo Gallery on TASIS Smugmug. Contact the ES office for details on how to access these galleries.



Celebrating TASIS

Around the World

Every year TASIS Alumni come together all over the world to reminisce and reconnect. In November, New York City is the place and plans are in full swing! Former teacher Horst Dürrschmidt will be making the trip to New York to visit with former students and TASIS friends.

If your class has plans for a get-together, no matter how big or small, please let the alumni office know. The TASIS Lugano Facebook page is a great place to find old friends and to start planning.

Join Us!!



The New York Reunion

Club 101

6:00 - 9:00 pm

November 20, 2010

Register at www.tasisreunion.com

TOKYO, September 2010



Left to right: Munetaka Hirosaki '07, Shinnosuke Muraoka '09, Jo Imada '08, Kumiko Hirata '08, Admissions Director Bill Eichner

CLASS OF 1990, Palm Beach, October 2010



Top row (l to r): Ken Tobe, Andrew Kloser, Sharon Yi Kloser, Mike Vongeningem, Greg Shields, Erin Shields, Mike Shanler, Eric Amundson, Faye Amundson, Randy Lanier. Bottom row (l to r): Megumi Tobe, Heidi Mundhenk Jacobsen, Franca Marena Gullett, Clare deGraw, Kari Lanier. Not pictured: Bob Guarini

CLASS OF 1985 Lugano, June 2010



Diane (Swofford) Wege '85 and her husband in Lugano



Catherine Steele '71 and Boris Bakovic '85

BAY AREA COOKOUT, October 2010



John Gage '60, Bill Gage '62, Margit & Fred Roland '64

Please note that Los Angeles Reunion photos will be posted soon.



Reunion Photo Galleries

Founder's Day

*"Don't kid yourself! I will be watching
all of you long after I am gone!"*
- MCF

September 7 marked a new tradition at TASIS, Founder's Day, in honor of Mrs. Fleming. Students, faculty, and staff gathered at the first assembly of the year to celebrate our founder, who would have been 100 on September 10.

Michael Ulku-Steiner addressed the TASIS community and shared some of his memories of Mrs. Fleming. A short segment from the video "Pushing All the Buttons" was played and suddenly, Mrs. Fleming's voice filled the Palestra. For a moment, everyone in the room heard her voice and felt her presence among them.

Special guests for the assembly included composer Todd Fletcher and singer Melody Tibbits. They performed two songs from Fletcher's original musical *MCF: What a Life!* The afternoon ended with everyone tossing yellow rose petals into the fountain, then enjoying pistachio ice cream on the piazza.

Mrs. Fleming was, indeed, watching us all on this special day.



Watch and listen to Mrs. Fleming



Premiere of Todd Fletcher's
Overture for Choir and Orchestra



The TASIS campus was abuzz with excitement at the beginning of May for the long-awaited Grand Opening of the Palmer Center. Although the Palmer Center had been in use for a number of months, the décor of the facade and foyers were finished with just hours to spare. In true theatrical tradition, there was much scurrying behind the scenes prior to the opening but when the curtain went up the handsome new addition to campus presented seemingly effortless elegance.

To help us celebrate in an appropriate style, we were joined by seven alumni who have created successful careers in the performing arts. Ken Biller

'82, writer, producer and director; Jeanie ("JC") Cunningham '75, writer, singer and composer; Brad Farwell PG '84, actor and writer; Darby Hinton '75, actor, director and teacher; Ollie Rasini '99, actor and director; Jack Savoretti '01, singer and composer; and Billy Zane '84, actor and director.

**Palmer Center
Grand Opening Weekend
May 7 - 9, 2010**

An Alumni Showcase

The excitement began on Thursday when these Honoree Alumni introduced themselves to the students at an all-school meeting and shared a few fond memories from their time at TASIS, and continued that evening at the Honoree Showcase. This unrehearsed event was a huge success. Who can forget the improvisation led by Ollie Rasini with the wonderfully good-natured participation of Darby Hinton and Jeanie Cunningham and TASIS students! Or Edmund's monologue from King Lear as presented by Brad Farwell in three different moods and styles.

Into the classrooms, a concert, and Angelo's risotto!

The buzz continued on Friday with honoree class visits, allowing many students the diversion of taking their subject out of the textbook and into the real world. Students worked through a scene with Billy Zane and gained new insights into the economics of Hollywood

with Ken Biller. Later that afternoon the PCC was packed for a concert by Jack Savoretti (accompanied by Alex Zanecchia '02). The audience of students and faculty showed their appreciation with a standing ovation.



Ollie Rasini '99 and Darby Hinton '75 showcase their improvisational skills.

As students vacated campus for weekend travel (the last 'free weekend' of the academic year), TASIS prepared for special alumni events. Friday's Serata Ticinese offered a casual welcome evening complete with Ticinese music by local band Il Duo Nostranello, Feldschlösschen beer (the object of much reminiscing by alumni), merlot, and - the highlight for many - delicious risotto prepared by Angelo Piattini and his friends from La Pentola. De Nobili was decked out with herb plants on each table and echoed with the joy of people renewing acquaintance after the gap of a few years. This was originally foreseen as the early evening of the weekend, but did not quite work out that way - as Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner mentioned in his weekly Heads Up email, sent around midnight, 'Casa Fleming rocks on as I write'.

The Grand Opening

On Saturday evening alumni, parents, faculty long-timers, and friends of TASIS reconvened in formal attire for the Grand Opening festivities. Due thanks were expressed to our generous donors, the TASIS Development Board for their commitment to the campaign, and most of all to John E. Palmer '64. Sadly, he died in 2007, and will never see the fruit of his generous legacy gift, but his name will live on at the very heart of the TASIS campus where he spent three happy years. The ceremony was bookended with excerpts from South Pacific, performed by TASIS students and accompanied by maestro Jonathan Morris,



Billy Zane '84 works with classes in the Palmer Cultural Center.



Palmer Center Photo Gallery 1

and Todd Fletcher's new *Overture for Orchestra and Choir*, commissioned for the occasion and performed by the Palmer Ensemble & Singers. Our performers and musicians truly 'raised the gate'.

After observing Mrs. Fleming's ritual of 'cocktails at 7pm' with her signature drink, the Bourbon Old Fashioned, guests moved into the Palestra for dinner. The large space had been transformed into an elegant Black & White banqueting hall, with beautiful lighting and chic tables decked out with candles, calla lilies, and hydrangeas. Party favors included Mrs. Fleming's lipstick, Revlon's Cherries in the Snow, for all of the ladies. Clips from old Hollywood movies played silently on the big screen during dinner, which was inspired by *La Cucina Italiana* (Bill Eichner's favorite magazine) and facilitated by Editor in Chief Michael Wilson '94.

Having thanked and recognized our donors earlier on, it was now time to celebrate the honorees, introduced by a video



Ken Biller '82 is honored at the Saturday night dinner.

montage by Michele Josue '97. First up were the performing arts faculty who were honored for the inspiration and guidance given to their students: Gary Malins (music director, 1992-2000), Todd Fletcher (composer

and lyricist), Candace Owen-Williams (drama

director, 1991-96), and Kay Hamblin (drama director, 1996-2010), who retired in 2010. Unfortunately drama director Robert Wilson and music director Chris Maggio had had to cancel their attendance. Finally, our alumni performers were honored and celebrated for their successes in this most competitive of fields, and all responded with heartfelt words about the important role TASIS had played in their lives. After dinner the photo booth did a brisk trade while the dancing began and continued through the wee hours.



A Premiere

On Sunday, many of us were back in the Palmer Center for a showing of *Big Kiss*, Billy Zane's directorial debut. Filmed in the south of France, it is a zany and light-hearted caper. (Pun intended.)



**Palmer Center Opening
Billy Zane Video**



**Palmer Center
Photo Booth Gallery**

Thank you!

After such a successful event, we are left wondering how we will ever match it in the future. One thing is certain: we could not have done it without the hard work of many people on campus and the help of our many volunteers.

Thanks to Travis Belgard '98, who designed the lighting scheme and scaled the heights of the Palestra to illuminate the evening. Thank you to Ocean Gebhardt '96 for helping out where needed. Special thanks go to Anna Josue '00 and Ava Klein '97, who spent many days in the 'sweat shop' in the costume room. The creativity of Anna and Ava, along with Mayce Aljazara '00, helped transform the Palestra into a magical venue thanks to their hours of work on the décor and seating arrangements.

But most of all, the event would not have had the focus nor the glamorous look without the inspiration, creativity and sheer hard work, over months, of Michele Josue '97. Michele, GRAZIE MILLE!



Michele Josue '97 and Ava Klein '97



The Month of May A Time of Celebration



The final weeks of a TASIS school year are packed with parties, dinners, banquets, the Prom, and, of course, graduation and moving up ceremonies. Enjoy a look back at May 2010.



2009- 2010 Photo Galleries
Hundreds of photos from last year!





Where do I find TASIS on the internet?

TASIS has an extensive web presence that isn't just for students! Stories, photographs, videos, calendars, forms, conversations, and a variety of important information is at the click of a mouse. If you're feeling nostalgic about your alma mater and can't hop on a flight to Lugano, it's still easy to be a part of what's happening today. See the view from the De Nobili terrace, read about what's happening in varsity sports, or check out photos from a recent Tokyo, Los Angeles, or New York reunion. Stay in touch in a number of ways! Check out the TASIS Switzerland website, the official TASIS Lugano Facebook page, the TASIS video library, or the over 9000 photographs in the TASIS photo galleries hosted by Smugmug. Find long-lost friends, and catch up with teachers and staff from your high school years. It's a great way to spend some time at the place that lives on in your memories. Join us as TASIS continues to grow and impact more young lives!

Click on the thumbnails below and explore TASIS's web presence!

TASIS Switzerland



The TASIS website
News, calendar, information,
photos, and much more...

TASIS Smugmug



TASIS Smugmug
Over 9,000 photos are
located on this site.
View, enjoy, and even
purchase your favorite
TASIS photographs!

TASIS Video Library



The TASIS Video Library
Filmmaker and alumna Michele
Josue '97 has captured the
TASIS spirit on film.

TASIS Switzerland Admissions Facebook



TASIS Switzerland
Admissions Facebook
Coming soon!

TASIS Lugano Alumni Facebook



TASIS Alumni Facebook
This is the only official Facebook
page for TASIS alumni. Other
pages are sponsored by past
faculty, students, and friends.

TASIS Summer Programs



TASIS Summer
Programs
Information about
the extensive summer
programs in Switzerland.

TASIS Parting Shot



Berlin August 1961

“During the crisis parents called Mrs. Fleming. Parents worried because the Soviets had blocked the corridors and moved troops and tanks close to Berlin, but we had a good time climbing around the US tanks, joking with the soldiers, going to museums and discos. Mrs. Fleming asked me to send her this photo. We just came back from Nuremberg and got blocked. Gore Vidal was with Kennedy, and he wrote that the world was at the edge of World War III...”

(The Alumni Office would love to know who wrote this note about Berlin in 1961. Please let us know if these words were yours!)



If you were part of a TASIS adventure or have a wonderful memory to share, please send your story and if possible a photograph. We hope to publish more TASIS Parting Shots online and in future publications!

Thank you!

Send information to:
alumni@tasis.ch



TASIS The American School In Switzerland
CH-6926 Montagnola, Collina d'Oro, Switzerland
Tel: +41 91 960 5151 - www.tasis.com