TASIS TODAY

Fall 2013

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of The American School In Switzerland

Jan Opsahl '68
and the new
TASIS Global Service
Program

From the Chairman

Dear Alumni and Friends of TASIS,

It's always a pleasure to introduce our annual alumni magazine, as it gives me a chance to reflect on what has been accomplished in the past year, as we keep our eyes focused on the future. So much that is good keeps happening, at a velocity and with the excitement that has come to be expected at TASIS: the gala opening of the magnificent Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center; the moving graduation banquet and ceremony; the departure of a wonderful young Headmaster and the arrival of a veteran Headmaster; generous donors supporting the work of TASIS, most especially Jan Opsahl '68, the inspiration behind our new Global Service Program that will touch the lives of every student in the high school; the arrival of two scholarship students from Kabul; vibrant summer programs and new programs; the new Science Center rising out of the ground; spirited gatherings of alumni on campus, in France, in the US; and all of this against the backdrop of the day-to-day foundational work of educating all our students ages 4 to 18 in mind, body, and soul — a wonderful and ennobling life's work carrying on the legacy of my mother, Mrs. Fleming, and her own school-founding parents.

Along with our wonderfully talented Master Architect David Mayernik of the University of Notre Dame, with whom I have been working for 18 years, I am particularly concerned with the infrastructure of the campus – both its utility and its beauty, its facilities and its aesthetic effect. The great American art historian Bernard Berenson, long resident in Florence, wrote to his sister in 1892: "Architecture and manners are perhaps more closely connected than any two other expressions of the human personality." Following my mother, I passionately believe this.

We love to have our alumni visit their alma mater in person, and particularly appreciate the children and grandchildren of our alumni attending TASIS summer and academic-year programs. The TASIS mission, momentum, and trajectory continue to be vitally effective. With our sister-school in England, we hope we are the independent 'schools of choice' in Europe in beauty, facilities, programming, and moral ethos. Your support and interest are crucial to our success.

With every good wish and blessing to each of you,

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Chairman of the Board

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Take Risks: You are the yo

Commencement Speaker Ferit Şahenk '83

This year's speaker is among the most respected businessmen in the world. He has been profiled by *The New York Times*, *CNN*, and *Forbes* and has been a featured speaker at the World Economic Forum in Davos. He is among the most successful businessmen in Turkey and his family foundation has transformed the lives of thousands of Turks through educational and health initiatives. He is also a TASIS graduate.

In 1983, Ferit sat where you are sitting now. He had big dreams for himself and for his country. He was on his way to Boston College, then Harvard Business School, and this educational repertoire has been instrumental in his business style and attitude, which echoes both American capitalism and a fierce respect and loyalty to the traditions of his native Turkey.

Currently, Ferit serves as Chairman of Doğuş Group, one of the largest private-sector conglomerates in Turkey. He is an Executive Board Member of the Foreign Economic Relations Board of Turkey and serves on the Regional Executive Board for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Sloan School of Management. I could go on to mention the countless hats he wears, but perhaps the most inspiring on this day is his commitment to his alma mater.

Your graduating class is the first to have taken courses in the Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center. You had the opportunity to experience firsthand the generosity of this fine man, and how philanthropy can enhance learning, encourage creativity, and change lives. Creativity is a crucial part of critical thinking skills, whether for the politician, professor, or businessman. For many years to come, TASIS students will learn how to think differently within the walls of the Arts Center that bears his name.

I am delighted to introduce this year's graduation speaker, Ferit Şahenk.

Chairman of the Board, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman

uth who will create a better world

It's a great, great honor to be here. I was sitting here in 1983, but in a more humble location. This School has been transformed to be an unbelievable place. Thanks to Lynn, and of course to her mother, who created this place.

I want to thank Mrs. Fleming very much, and I want to thank my father, and I want to thank God. I am here today, and if I've learned a lot of things it's because of them.

And to the parents, I want to congratulate you. You have made the unbelievable decision to send your most precious, loved daughters and sons here. You may not be able to understand this; I know this. I lived it, and I know what this place has done for these young men and women. I know this is not normal but I would like for my friends to get up and clap for your parents. You don't know the psychology they ran through until that first day they left you here, to the warmest home of TASIS.

TASIS is the same. TASIS has the same values of respect, of understanding one another. Of finding common points for human relationships. For living together. For the acceptance of diversity that, unfortunately, in today's world, we don't often have. I wish the whole global world that we live in today could be more like TASIS. And I know these young women and men are going to do their best to give this energy, this positivity of TASIS wherever they go.

We have to, of course, create a better world. But I go back to the years between 1979 and 1983 when the ill word in the world was communism. The ill word for us was Russia, the Soviet Union. The ill word to us was China. The Eastern Bloc. And I'm so proud to be here today, to see the Russians, the Eastern Europeans, the Turks, the Latin Americans – we can live together. It's a great example for the world.

My young friends, I'm not going to give you a speech about high school, because you are beyond that. Instead, I'm going to give you the advice that I wish I'd received at an earlier age. Slowly, you are moving from school life to the School of Life. The education that your families and school have given to you is now within yourself. And this advice is slowly coming to an end.

You guys have to start making choices. You guys have to be the captain of your own ship. Your ship is your life. You have to manage and guide your destiny. You have to see and be aware of life. Be aware of who you are. Be aware of what you are. Be aware of what you want to do and to be in life. The values you embrace you will have in you. Because all of the decisions you are going to make in life are going to be based on values. All the other things are going to change.

Don't forget – the only thing that does not change in life is change itself. You have to set goals and be passionate about them. Do what you want to do. Be what you want to be. Don't let people tell you what job you should take. Don't let people say, "no, you cannot do that." Be an optimist, not a pessimist in life. Ignore the naysayers, because they will always say no. Some people in life will be the 'do-ers' and the others will criticize.

But write your destiny, write your future, with a pencil, not with a fountain pen. Why with a pencil? Because the world that we are living in is always changing. So you have to fine-tune, sometimes, what you're going to do tomorrow.

As I said, embrace your values. Don't get stuck on the old rules. Break them! Sometimes, be the first to change things. Be the first to be left alone in a room. Be the first who will be criticized by everybody. This is the same in life, in social life, in business life.

I've done things that have been criticized by my own society, by my colleagues, by my friends. Everybody was criticizing me. But slowly, society will shift, will move forward, will change. During these times, you need people who have graduated from TASIS.

Maxim Agafonov and Hilary Aeschliman lead the class of 2013 through the faculty guard of honor.

Michael Ulku-Steiner, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, and Ferit Şahenk congratu

But learn, nonstop. As you learn, you will see the self-confidence in you. Listen. When you're having a conversation, don't barge in. Let them finish. Then answer them.

Be an excellent communicator. Sometimes when we think, I gave my message to a person, why don't they understand? But sometimes we need to say the same thing a hundred times. And that's okay. Because that day, somebody could have had a fight at home or might have had a bad day; you may be talking to them and they aren't listening to you. Don't worry. Communicate, nonstop, and say the same message as much as you can.

And please, trust people. Trust people. Human beings are not bad. When you meet a person, trust them. It's okay. It's okay to be different. It's okay to say, I made a big mistake, I trusted this person. Go with the trust. Go with the positive energy in life.

And forgive. Forgive. Let people make mistakes. We can make mistakes; other people can make mistakes.

Learn from failures. Unfortunately, there are failures in life – in business life, in social life. It's about making decisions, taking risks, but learn from them. This is very crucial.

You are the youth who will create a better world. We are one; your parents, your teachers, your friends, your countrymen, and all humanity. We are waiting and looking for your leadership. I wish you the best for what you want to be in life.

late Alessandra Celotti on winning the EAL Award.

Rocio Herrera Montero and Rustam Guliyev during the processional.

Graduation Awards 2013

Excellence in Art	Marie Yamamoto
Bertha Seifert Award for Excellence in Music	Jan Vincent Huntenburg
Horst Dürrschmidt Award for Excellence in Photography	Tudor Craciun
Kay Hamblin Award for Excellence in Theater	Savannah Renauldi
Excellence in Architecture and Design	Chiara Ravaioli
Excellence in English as an Additional Language	Alessandra Celotti
Excellence in Modern Languages	Karina Nigmatullina
Cynthia Whisenant Award for Excellence in English Literature	Grace Beyer
Excellence in History	Maria Clara Neves Da Cunha Braz
Shah Akbar Khan Award for Excellence in Mathematics	Alessandro Cremi
Excellence in Science	Cole Miller
Salutatorian Scholarship Award 2013	Ryota Ohno
Valedictorian Scholarship Award 2013	Peng-Yu Lai
Headmaster's Award	Samantha Hercules
ECIS Award for International Understanding	Alessandro Cremi
Jan Opsahl '68 Service Award	Sarah Lina Wyler
Michael Ulku-Steiner Leadership Award	Savannah Renauldi
H. Miller Crist Award	Ryota Ohno

Alumni Awards 2013

Pritzlaff Leadership Award	Nicole Toussaint
Cathy Clark '87 Scholarship	Deborah Russo

Ferit Şahenk '83 Fine Arts Center Opening Gala

Excerpts from Bill Eichner's Speech

Tonight we celebrate ***Fernando Gonzales*** and ***Horst Dürrschmidt*** and also ***David Badgley*** and ***Mark Aeschliman***. These inspiring teachers are the pillars of our arts department, and contributed to making the strong visual arts program we have today. Our Alumni Honorees were inspired by their teachers and time at TASIS.

Steve Maloney PG'61's work is whimsical and thoughtful. He finds his inspiration in the commonplace. His renowned Banned Booty collection includes artwork made from the confiscated items at airport security. In the tradition of pop and found art, he creates objects rich in commentary and humor.

All of you are familiar with the work of ***Barry Iverson '74***, though you may not know it. His photographs for *Time* have become part of the iconography of our time. His portraits of key figures in the Middle East, from Queen Noor and King Hussein, to Gadhafi and Saddam Hussein, have helped us understand the personalities in that region. His images of children playing in the desert and soldiers lying dead in the desert have given our understanding more depth.

And have you seen ***Mary Seyfarth PG'66's*** feet? She creates delightful sculptures of feet, reflecting the experience of walking through a particular environment. I'd love to know what she would propose for this campus, designed more for the hiking boot than the amazingly high heels we so often see. Perhaps she was inspired by the gigantic foot in Rome, from the Colossal Statue of Constantine that she would have seen on a TASIS trip as a student.

Rei Inamoto '92 is another artist you are all familiar with, though may not know it. As the Chief Creative Officer of a marketing agency, he's a leader in interactive marketing. He's a pioneer in this field, light years ahead of the competition. His clients include Nike, Audi, Ferrari, Visa, GAP, Warner Brothers, Heineken, even the Xbox 360. Forbes has called him one of the most influential individuals in marketing, and he is ranked in the top 25 most creative individuals in advertising.

Eda Aksoy '05 is our youngest honoree. She's only a few years out of college, and has already launched a career combining her Art History and Photography backgrounds, working at galleries and auction houses and exhibiting her photographs. It was Mark Aeschliman who inspired her to pursue art history at the University of Virginia, and she credits Horst Dürrschmidt with giving her the confidence to take her photography to the professional level.

Photographer ***Tou Chi-Kang '94*** has recently received major accolades for his moving, dignified portraits of shelter dogs, taken moments before they are put to sleep. But long before this project, he was an award-winning photographer, having won the Golden Tripod award in Taiwan several times. Tou has created photo essays on a wide range of topics, including the 2004 tsunami and Hurricane Katrina.

Fashion designer ***Umit Benan Şahin '98*** is a young man going places in a hurry. It seems that every time I pick up the *Herald Tribune* I see an article on Umit. It was only in 2009 that he launched his first menswear collection, and in 2010 won the Best New Designer award in Italy. Last year he won the award in Japan for Best International Designer of the Year.

I was struck by something Umit said in an interview: "What makes clothes interesting, gives them meaning

Tou Chi-Kang '94, Eda Aksoy '05, Rei Inamoto '92, David Badgley, Umit Benan Şahin '98, Horst Dürrschmidt, Mark Aeschliman,

and ultimate definition, is the inspirational characters who wear them." I find this comment applicable to our new Arts Center. So much of what makes the Şahenk Fine Arts Center interesting, gives it meaning and ultimate definition, are the inspirational people who populate it and the artistic activity that takes place within its walls. It is not only the beauty of this building we are celebrating, but the beautiful things that this building inspires.

***

Ferit Şahenk '83 is known as Turkey's most dynamic businessman. He is known throughout the world for his business acumen and personal demeanor. But we are lucky enough to have known Ferit as a teenager.

To learn more about our guest of honor, I dug into his teenage past. I looked at his old TASIS records. I found that we have six college recommendations on file for him. Six! Some of you remember how hard it was to scrape together the required three. It seems that our faculty were lining up to support Ferit.

The first one I came across was from Paul Greenwood, who was Ferit's precalculus teacher. Paul begins: *Mr. Şahenk is very mature for his age and has been a good citizen throughout his stay at this school.*

Mr. Şahenk? Mr. Greenwood calls 17 year old Ferit Mr. Şahenk! And not once, but twice in the same letter. And this isn't today's Mr. Greenwood, the kind old Englishman who teaches middle school science. This was the rather scary disciplinarian of the early '80s, the guy you didn't want to see at check in on Saturday nights.

Paul goes on to indicate that *the younger students respect and obey him and he maintains good discipline at the same time as being kind and thoughtful.*

Respect: Mr. Greenwood captured a very important aspect of how Ferit was perceived at TASIS. Respect. Ferit had the respect of all. Why did Ferit command so much respect at TASIS? Here's what some of his other teachers had to say, and a picture will emerge of Ferit as a high school senior:

A dedicated student, one teacher said. *Takes his work seriously,* said another. *Approaches his work with thoughtfulness and originality.* Certainly, a picture emerges of a successful student, but what led him to command so much respect? Let's read some more comments:

Well-mannered and courteous. Naturally warm personality. A perceptive individual. Work occasionally reveals remarkable insight. Enjoys adding his own creative flair. Made many friends during his stay at TASIS.

A picture is coming into clear focus. There was depth to this teenager, character traits instilled by his father and mother, and put to the test as a young boarding student at TASIS.

Two of Ferit's teachers are among our faculty honorees this evening: ***Mark Aeschliman*** and ***Horst Dürrschmidt***. Here's what Mark had to say: *Faculty and students alike have respect for his earnestness and serious attitude. Always trustworthy and dignified in actions and general demeanor. His steady character is perhaps exemplified by his fine photographs – the product of steady and decisive vision.* Horst added: *He produced photographs of high artistic merit, infused with human concern. Especially praiseworthy is the generous assistance he lent to beginning photography students.*

Mary Seyfarth PG'66, Steve Maloney PG'61, Barry Iverson '74, Fernando Gonzalez, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Bill Eichner

Finally, one of the more telling statements, this one by Gray Lindgren, our college counselor at the time: *Ferit has clear and conscientious goals in mind. He wishes to pursue an education in the United States that will eventually lead him to an MBA. With this background, he hopes to return to Turkey, his native land, to help guide that country towards economic health.* Imagine that foresight as a teenager. Remarkable.

By all accounts, Ferit was a powerful and positive presence at TASIS back in the '80s, and it foretells the Ferit we know today. He was not just a good student, but a very good human being. A young man with a moral compass, who had a mission to change not only his life, but the life of his country. And today Ferit is not just a great business leader, but also an individual dedicated to doing good.

He is respected around the world. When Mr. Şahenk speaks, people lean in and listen. People at Davos; people at CNN, *Forbes*, and the *New York Times*. He is not only a respected voice on the Turkish economy, but on the state of the world economy. And most importantly Ferit is a loving family man and a kind, generous person. I asked Ferit's daughter, Defne, TASIS class of 2016, to tell me something about her father. She said: *There are three things that matter for my father: his family, his nation, and the Fenerbahçe football team.*

Listen to how he is described by his wife Dianne: *Ferit is a man who carries many flags: a family man, a friend, a leader and a great, humble guy who lives to help others. His kind, polite mannerisms make him stand out in a crowd, but his personality makes you love him unconditionally.*

I like to think that we saw the potential in the young man who was a well-liked prefect from the class of '83.

Steve Maloney PG'61, Barry Iverson '74, Mary Seyfarth PG'66

Ferit Şahenk '83, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Bill Eichner, Jim Carroll

Success Doesn't Happen Alone

It's a great pleasure to be here tonight, standing in front of you. I've had this unbelievable welcome. To have this great honor presented to me and to my family, I thank you very much.

There are two people that we are missing here tonight. One of them is obviously Mrs. Fleming. The second is my father, Ayhan Şahenk. I know in my soul that they are here tonight. They are watching us. One thing I have to say though…Mrs. Fleming's daughter cannot kiss like her! She has to work on that!

Why TASIS? TASIS is a miniature reality that we all would have loved the world to have. But unfortunately, it's not like that. This should not be a sad speech, but we must also talk about realities. You know today, in the southern part of Turkey, two bombs blew. And 40 innocent people died and 100 people were wounded. Why?

This is the future of the world we are living today. Today we are living in a world that talks about differences. Different Bibles. Different backgrounds. Different religions, different everything. Where, in this school, we learned to love people with their differences, and we found common ground together.

So my friends, this is the reason why not me, but this Class of '83 donated, and that's why the Arts are very important. And again I have to thank two beautiful people. Mark Aeschliman has carved a lot of things into my life. He may not know that. And also Horst Dürrschmidt. I am in the media business today, and sometimes I look at the screen and then I call the television station and say, 'There's something wrong about this perspective.' It's because of that gentleman right there.

And Mark, thank you very much. He got me going about leadership. [He gave me] courage about leadership. I always say this: people do not lead, people coordinate. They have to have good people around them, whom they trust. Some of them are here with me tonight from our group as well. Success doesn't happen alone. We have to thank God, whatever your religion. I come from Istanbul, where we can be Christian, we can be Jewish, we can be Muslim, we can be nothing. You are treated equally.

And I am very happy that God gave me the fortune, the capability to show my classmates my home country, and I'm proud of my country. I am proud to be a part of TASIS. Thank you very much for honoring me.

I have given speeches in Davos, I have given speeches in many places. But this is the most sincere, the most transparent conversation. Thank you very much for this night, for this event. Class of '83, we will be back.

Ferit Şahenk '83

Jim Carroll '83

TASIS Unites Us

We are all here tonight to celebrate The American School in Switzerland. Some of us are here to celebrate reunions. My class of 1983 is celebrating the 30th anniversary of our graduation from TASIS.

No matter what year you graduated (or will graduate) from TASIS, we can all agree that it is a unique experience. One of the many lessons we learned while attending TASIS is that it does not matter where you are from or what your family does. At TASIS, what matters is the kind of person that you are.

For example, in the aftermath of the Iran hostage crisis in the early 1980s, our class elected Anoush Boghraty, from Iran, as our student council president.

Why did we elect Anoush? Well, obviously because of his fabulous hair and wonderful smile but also because Anoush was the right person for the job. It did not matter that he was from Iran and many of his classmates were from America. But while Anoush is a good example of the TASIS Experience, perhaps no one person better exemplifies the TASIS Experience than Ferit Şahenk.

When I first arrived at TASIS in 1980, I was assigned to a room in upper DeNobili with David Wallace, from Minnesota, Jak Benardete from Turkey, and Ferit Şahenk. Note to current students: be very nice to your roommates.

When I think of Ferit as a roommate, I remember he was always thoughtful enough to bring a box of Turkish Delights to share with us every time he returned from Turkey because he knew how much we would enjoy it.

When I think of Ferit at TASIS, I think of his service as the yearbook photographer our senior year, one of the main reasons the 1983 yearbook is filled with so many pictures of pretty girls.

When I think of Ferit in Turkey, I think of the man who cared enough about his high school class to reunite us – two hundred of us – in Turkey after 28 years of being spread around the world, all while proudly promoting the beauty and the majesty of his country.

When I think of Ferit today, I think of the man who cares enough about his School to leave his permanent legacy by donating a new building, a building that will serve to educate tens of thousands of students in the Fine Arts in the years to come.

It is clear that Ferit cares deeply about his country, his family, and his school. And when I say "family" I include not only his immediate family but also his extended family of employees and classmates.

This is why Ferit best exemplifies what we appreciate most about the TASIS experience. At TASIS, it is not the culture you are from, the religion you prescribe to, or your economic status that is important. What is important are your values, and how you demonstrate these values through your actions. And nobody does this better than my former roommate and our life-long friend, Ferit.

Jim Carroll '83

It Takes a Village to Run a Successful Event

Lynn Aeschliman, Bill Eichner, Yvonne Procyk, and Zuleika Tipismana wish to thank everyone who made the Gala weekend a rousing success by assisting in so many ways - including flexibility, creativity, and sheer hard work.

Gala Team: Leader Michele Josue '97, Anna Josue '00, Hollie Culler '00, Ava Klein '97, Craig Trudeau, Crista Rivera, Alfred Hawkins.

Support Team: Mariella Tullini, Michele Dinelli, Michele Bertera, Giampietro Bassi, and all members of the Maintenance Team, Mariangela Tognalli, Wendy Kessel, Michael & Beril Ulku-Steiner, Melissa Eichner, Jonathan Morris, Hilary Aeschliman '13, Heidi Hibbard '13, Simone Aeschliman, Michelle Arslanian, Kristin Pedroja, Michele Kestenholz, Ivan Sansone, Luca Ugolotti, Luigia di Bacco, bottle collectors, Chef Antonello Rota, Massimo Pappalardo, Alessandro & Rosa, Ada and all members of the TASIS Laundry, Ocean Gebhardt '96, Natalie Philpot, Nilda Lucchini, MJ Breton, Angelo Piattini, Fausto Vavassori, Capocantiere Antonio, Milo Zanecchia '08, Marilu Riva, Jacopo Riva, Reni Scheifele, Savannah Renauldi '13, Auctioneer Ed Rising, Eleazar Damjanovic, and all who helped behind the scenes.

Fine Arts Department: Martyn Dukes, Mark Aeschliman, Brigit Hurst, Kim Nelson, Frank Long, Valerie Carlson, Gillian Eames.

TPA Auction Committee: Chairman Katherine Weeda, Valentina Fantato, Maria Luisa Bueno Haefliger, Donna Smith, Michelle Wood, Amy Rowe, Sarah Sharratt, Oksana Novak.

Ferit '83 and Dianne Şahenk

Yi-Min Lin '00, Elisabeth Malcolm, Yu Chen Lin '96, Ebru Büyükşahin '98

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Alicia Brauns '82, Levi Chen '81, Karin Knolle '82, Anoush Boghraty '83

Bill Eichner, Yvette Brault Rogers '69

Natascha Jacobsen '94, Margo McClimans '95, Lizzie Jarvis '94

Kay Hamblin, Patricia Schmidt '04

Rick PG'65 & Paulise Bell

Veronika Muehlhofer '97, Michele Josue '97, Patricia Schmidt '04, Lizzie Jarvis '94, Toshie Yamashiro Kahane '96, Anna Josue '00, Rei Inamoto '92, Margo McClimans '95, Ava Klein '97

Polat Gülman '97, Peta Richter, Fiona Struengmann '05, Anna Katharina von Stauffenberg '05

Milo Zanecchia '08, Horst Dürrschmidt, Simon David '08

Sammy Eitouni '85, Mouna Eitouni Smith '86

Barry Iverson '74, Fernando Gonzalez, Jim Carroll '83

Tributes

What an honoring, humbling, and motivating experience to be invited back to a place I call 'home'. The weekend has left me with such a positive outlook to do more.

Eda Aksoy '05

There was magic in the celebration! I am very proud of my fellow alumni and wholly impressed by their talents. The level of understanding between us was electric. I am honored to be among the chosen.

Mary Seyfarth PG '66

It was a great week in Montagnola. I was humbled by the whole thing, and moved that I received an honor from my old high school. Who would have thought, back then! We all get enamored to our environments. Living in Lugano and being in the "now", it is easy to overlook just how beautiful a place Lugano really is. That is what I took away on this trip, the beauty. And coming back to this great school – it's something that I appreciate now more than ever.

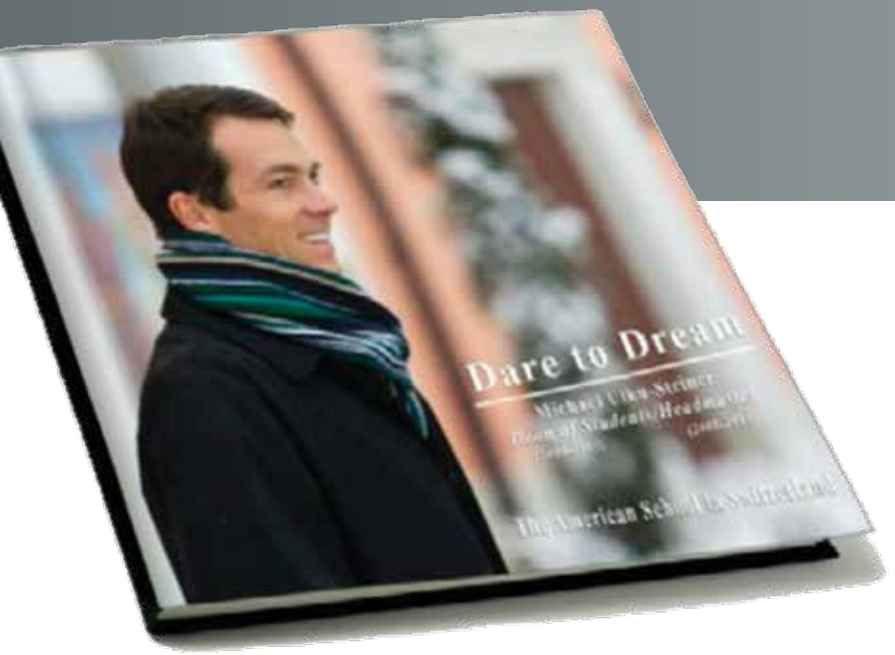
Barry Iverson '74

I was humbled and thrilled to be part of the Arts Festival as one of the honorees. I especially enjoyed getting to know the others because you allowed enough time for us to interface. Thank you so much again. The campus looks terrific! The new Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center is wonderful. I am also amazed how global TASIS has become, congratulations. Mrs. Fleming would be proud, for sure.

Steve Maloney PG '61

Fond Farewells to Hea

Excerpts from Dare to Dream, *a book of*



The Good Man Speaking Well

Michael, you have been an inspiration and have given me so many insights and good memories for which I want to thank you. When asked to describe you I have always said you are the best communicator I have ever experienced. Your storytelling is unique and ever so visual. Whether for the Board or for any other part of the TASIS community, your ability to present all sides of a case in order for you and those concerned to be able clearly to understand and, therefore, agree on the best decision has proven its value time and time again.

Jan Opsahl, '68, Board Director

Our Profound Gratitude

From the entire TASIS Foundation Board I express our profound gratitude for your leadership over five years as Headmaster at TASIS. You have, more than any Headmaster in the history of the School, contributed to establishing TASIS as an institution that communicates a clear sense of its purpose and an institutional permanence. I believe you have achieved your goal of making TASIS the school of choice in Switzerland.

Tom Fleming '61, Chairman, TASIS Foundation

An Outstanding Leader

As Interim Headmaster the year before Michael became Headmaster in Lugano, I developed a deep admiration both for the School and the people who were part of the extended TASIS family. I also learned a lot about the many challenges that the School and its new Headmaster were facing. I was eager for the School to attract a new leader who not only could meet these diverse challenges but who also would ensure that Mrs. Fleming's vision continued to prosper. When I met Michael during the interview process, I was convinced that he was the right fit for TASIS and the right person to carry on the School's mission.

Lyle D. Rigg, TASIS England History Teacher, Assistant Headmaster, Head of Upper School 1979-82, Headmaster 1984-98 and Interim Headmaster 2009-10; TASIS Headmaster 1982-84 and Interim Headmaster 2007-08.

Finest Headmaster

Fortunately for the educational world, Michael Ulku-Steiner is not retiring but only departing to share his gifts with another institution. It is thus with sadness but also with enormous gratitude for his contributions to TASIS that I pen these words of tribute to the finest Headmaster I have encountered in my forty years of teaching and administering in the secondary-school world.

Michael has been an exemplary communicator. He has been honestly direct when speaking truths hard and easy. His relations with parents and students (remember his determination to learn the name of every student?) have been equally impressive. But

US Ambassador Donald Beyer, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 and Michael Ulku-Steiner

Michael Ulku-Steiner with students

dmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner

tributes to Michael Ulku-Steiner by Kim Nelson

Michael is also a listener, focusing on what others are saying rather than just on formulating his own response. He is disarmingly non-defensive and open, even when hearing personal criticism. This is because he does not see himself as flawless or the one with all the answers. Rather, he is an inclusive seeker of solutions who focuses on problem-solving rather than assigning blame or taking credit. Michael is a man of vision and empathy whose understanding of the direction that TASIS needs to go complements and implements the School's Paideia.

Berkley Latimer, Ph.D.; Emeritus Master, St. Paul's School Concord, NH; TASIS Board Director

Youthful Gravitas and Wise Vision

Michael lives his role as Headmaster with youthful gravitas and wise vision. Regardless of the topic, he remains open-minded and focused, intent on understanding the issue at hand. He unabashedly motivates stakeholders to take responsibility. I particularly enjoy his wickedly compassionate sense of humor and his pragmatic temperament steeped in humanism. Michael's superb communication skills and penchant for transparency have opened doors and paved ways. He has led TASIS to new pinnacles and taught us much along the way. *Grazie, Michael!*

Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, Board Director

Very Good

A very good tennis player, a very good swimmer in Lake Lugano, a very good runner and, in addition, an extremely good Headmaster, transparent and trustworthy, who brought TASIS to a superior level. We will miss him.

Gianni Patuzzo, TASIS Finance Director & Board Director

Superstar

Michael is an all-around superstar at school administration. His energy is always apparent, always positive, always inspiring. He embraces major projects one after the other, and brings everyone in on them. Big things get done. TASIS needed a superstar to lead as we rapidly grew from a high school to a K-12 educational institution. We were fortunate to have Michael during this unique period in TASIS's history.

We respect his own vision of his and his family's future. And, with sweet sorrow, we bid him adieu. At the same time, we take comfort in the fact that we know we can expect his continued support, as he has ours.

Rick Bell PG '65, Board Director

Good Job!

Michael embodies what it means to be a good leader. He leads with integrity, empathy, and a strong moral compass. He leads by example, incorporating his ideals into everything he does. This generates respect from all those who work with him.

In the context of TASIS, he has catalyzed a huge increase in the professional level of the school. He expects great things and motivates people to be the best that they can be. We will miss him but his influence is so strong that it will continue on long after his departure.

Jennifer Broggini, Alumnae Parent & Board Director

Outstanding Headmaster

Michael is one of the most well-rounded and complete leaders I have met, and I have met quite a few. This, in combination with his true passion for each individual student, has made Michael an

Michael Ulku-Steiner with Board Directors Riccardo Braglia and Gianni Patuzzo breaking ground for the new Science Center.

Headmaster Michael with Chairman of the Board Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63

absolutely outstanding Headmaster. Jane and I are grateful that we were TASIS parents during the time he led the School.
Michael Grindfors, Alumni Parent

The Exception

After a while, you start to reckon TASIS history in terms of headmagisterial reigns. The job calls for unusual diplomatic skill in juggling the demands of the owners with those of the faculty, staff, students, and parents, while keeping your own ideals and principles front and center. Michael has judged the balance well, while dealing kindly, articulately, professionally, and when necessary firmly with all the constituents. Some headmasters are leaders and some managers. Michael is the exception in succeeding in both these roles while maintaining his sense of humor and his ability to be a fun sports buddy and a happy family man.
Paul Greenwood, Veteran Physics Teacher

A Better Boss

In my career I have had the privilege of working for several bosses. Probably the worst of them was….me. That boss, in the end, sold the company and never wanted to be boss of me again. So what did boss Michael do better than boss Max? Where do I start! Michael listened. Michael didn't rush to decisions. Michael didn't take things personally. Michael remained calm. Michael remained pleasant. Michael defended his team. Michael involved others in the process. In the end, Michael is making Max a better boss. Thanks for being a role model.
Max Gygax, TASIS Business Manager

Magical Powers

You came to a needy school with a culture damaged by a succession of controversial and contentious headmasterships, and you inherited a relatively new and inexperienced Board. From my distant perch it seemed you possessed magical powers — able as you were to repair these foundational deficiencies while moving the School forward, advancing the campus dreams of its founder and Board chair and calming the fears of the local Montagnolians. You have done a saving work here, and the TASIS Foundation Board is deeply in your debt and sad to see you leave us.
David V. Hicks, TASIS Foundation Board, Veteran Educational Leader and Writer

Outstanding Leadership

During the past five years as TASIS headmaster, your first experience in this role, you have far exceeded the lofty goals set by yourself and the Board on a yearly basis. This you achieved following a turbulent period in the School's history with constant turnover of headmasters and faculty. In my 40 years at TASIS, I can state unequivocally that you have been the most effective, successful headmaster in the School's history. The School has grown from strength to strength and you have reestablished the School's ethos and mission to reflect Mrs. Fleming's vision.
Fernando Gonzalez, Board Member of TASIS, TASIS England, and the TASIS Foundation

A Remarkable Leader

From day one, Michael encouraged me to reach beyond what I thought was possible. Thanks to his belief in me and in our vision, we have a thriving Middle School today. Michael's support, guidance, trust, positive energy, and constructive criticism challenged me in ways I never imagined. Michael's legacy still challenges me every day, and I continue to become a better teacher, leader, and administrator, but perhaps more importantly, a better person.
MJ Breton, Middle School Dean of Student Affairs

Filo da Torcere

Sin dalla prima informazione che ho ricevuto su di te, mi sono detta "è un tipo intelligente" poiché sono venuta a sapere che avresti mandato i tuoi figli o nella Sezione Italiana o in una scuola pubblica.

In effetti, in questi anni di lavoro insieme, ho avuto la possibilità di apprezzare il tuo desiderio di integrarti con la comunità locale, in ogni sua forma e sfumatura. Non immagini quanto sia stato importante per gli insegnanti non madrelingua sapere di poter parlare con il preside nella propria lingua madre, o anche solo leggere o sentire qualche parola familiare in un comunicato o discorso ufficiale. Mi auguro che il tuo percorso e la tua apertura culturale servano da esempio per i tuoi successori.

Al contempo mi auguro che tu e la tua famiglia portiate un po' di questo vecchio continente nel vostro Paese così che l'orizzonte culturale d'oltreoceano possa essere arricchito tenendo vivo lo scambio reciproco. Io stessa mi sento cresciuta e maturata professionalmente grazie alla collaborazione con te, perché, bisogna dirlo, mi hai sempre dato filo da torcere!
Guia Berera, Head of the Italian Section

Continuous Patience

Even after a collaboration of almost five years I realize that I don't know your favorite writer, poet, songwriter, time of the year, color, or meal…nonetheless there is something I know for sure: I loved working for you!

Susi Nussbaum, Assistant to the Headmaster

We Will Miss Your Smile

Thank you for all you brought to our community. TASIS is definitely now in better shape than ever, mainly thanks to your vision and professionalism. We will miss you at the ES morning meetings; we will miss your ability to address the younger students with anecdotes they will remember for their whole lives; we will miss your smile.

Sara Soncina, Assistant Head of the Elementary School

So bright, so wise, and how old did you say he was?

Michael's youth is only accentuated by the fortunate fact that he appears even younger than his actual years. I first knew him as the well-liked, ever-smiling, energetic Dean of Students on his first TASIS tour. Many of his skills were readily apparent: the natural rapport with students, the ease and care of his communication with parents, the inclusion of faculty and advisors in the decision process. It was clear to all that Michael had a brilliant future in education ahead of him. It took some time, however, before I understood just how perceptive and wise he was when it came to the nuances and machinations of school administration.

Michael joined TASIS at a time of looming transition. Mrs. Fleming had celebrated her 90th birthday and set into motion the formation of the governance structure that works so well today. But the earliest days of this transition were wrought with uncertainty, and the complexities of shifting the leadership from Founder to Board allowed for some tensions within the administration.

Without going into happily forgotten details, I recall that Michael, as our young Dean of Students, was presciently wise about one particular incident that threw the administration into dysfunctional overdrive. He was in fact the first to blow the whistle on an issue of leadership that took the rest of us months to catch up on. It was then that I knew that the bright future that awaited Michael would be as a Head of School.

I was delighted when Michael asked for the challenge of leading TASIS, and it is remarkable to think of how the School has flourished during his five-year tenure. He will credit Strategic Planning, Admin. Retreats, Inclusive Decision Making, or something he picked up from a TED talk for his effectiveness, but as one who has a longer perspective on the evolution of TASIS, I know it is in fact largely due to Michael's personal style and abilities that the School is so firmly set on our current course.

Michael wove the various, at times discordant, strands of a young board, an established high school administration, a new elementary school, and an evolving middle school into one coherent whole. And all against a backdrop of a developing campus with several more buildings, a dozen more faculty and a hundred more students than it did when he started. His ability to juggle the competing interests, and resolve the vexing issues that percolate daily at TASIS is, as he might say, magnificent. What we are thanking Michael for is true leadership: the grounding and establishment of not merely a functional school administration, but one with clarity, purpose, and vision. As he moves on to a continued bright future in education, he has helped set TASIS on the course to its own bright future.

I take a certain sadistic pleasure in knowing that Michael will wince at all the praise contained on these pages, such is his humility. I want him to know that I have appreciated working with him, and that he is part of what has made working at TASIS so rewarding. I hope Michael will find time to remain involved with TASIS, and of course we are all curious about an Act Three!

Bill Eichner, Director of Admissions

Elan Vital! *On the Right Course*

In the footsteps of my mother, you share her *Elan Vital,* her verve and vital striving. You have been a real joy to work with, as an indispensable, inspiring partner in leading the School. For such a young man, you often amaze me with your modesty, equanimity, fair-mindedness, generosity of spirit, judicious responses, prompt and rapid follow-through, and wisdom.

You are the first Headmaster other than Lyle Rigg whom I have trusted completely to lead the School, which in turn has enabled me to step away from the day-to-day operation of the School to concentrate on longer-term planning and projects. You have strengthened the School enormously in your five years at the helm, leaving it healthy and vibrant and solidly on the right course for the next chapter.

When I asked for confirmation of Michael's years at TASIS, he responded "2000-2003 and 2008-2013, but please don't carve any headstones yet! Or at least leave room for a third tenure at some point."

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Chairman of the Board

The TASIS Board of Directors is proud to announce the renaming of the annual Leadership Award to the ***Michael Ulku-Steiner Leadership Award***. This is an honor fittingly bestowed on our fine former Headmaster who served and led our school with remarkable wisdom, charm, and aplomb for five years, having served it previously for three years as Dean of Students. He left TASIS all the stronger for his leadership. With heartfelt gratitude, we wish him well as he takes up a new Headship in America.

We congratulate the first recipient of the Michael Ulku-Steiner Leadership Award, Savannah Renauldi '13.

Harmony, Learning, Service: Michael Ulku-Stein

After a full month of closing ceremonies and emotional goodbyes, I find myself 30,000 feet above the Atlantic, traveling with my family back to the United States. Old friends and new challenges await us, but our minds and hearts remain full of TASIS.

As happens with our graduates, memories from the magical school on the Collina d'Oro won't fade easily for Lucy, Kenan, Beril, and me. You alumni and former faculty know that TASIS experiences provide both a lens and a lamp for much that follows in our lives.

When asked to reflect for these pages about the five years behind us, I was first flooded with gratitude. I consider myself extraordinarily lucky – to have learned in such a wildly diverse community, to have lived in such a beautiful piece of the planet, to have worked with such talented and dedicated colleagues, to have played with such good friends on campus and around Switzerland and Italy.

Beril and I feel most grateful for the million lessons offered to our children. Two years in the local public schools and three at TASIS provided Kenan and Lucy a range of experiences that would be hard to match anywhere in the world. Struggling through and beyond the frustration of Italian immersion; building relationships and skills through their local soccer, tennis, and track clubs; traveling in Europe, Africa, and Asia; making loyal friends from every continent. Where else could they have such formative experiences? Throw in the series of terrific teachers they had at TASIS, and we feel as if the only appropriate thing to say is "*Grazie, grazie, grazie!*"

Michael and Beril Ulku-Steiner

Five years at TASIS is the same as fifteen in other schools. Mrs. Fleming's founding dynamism, combined with the intelligent and visionary impatience of her daughter Lynn F. Aeschliman, mean that TASIS moves forward at dizzying speed.

The School has changed in some conspicuous ways. In 2008 there was no Palmer Cultural Center; no Lanterna dormitory, apartments, and classrooms; no Fiammetta classrooms; no Şahenk Fine Arts Center; and no plans for the Campo Science Center. In the last five years, school-wide enrollment has increased significantly. The Elementary School has grown and developed into an integral part of TASIS. The Middle School has expanded and matured from an oft-overlooked program to a robust and developmentally-appropriate division of the school.

Beneath and behind all those visible changes are some more important shifts in the TASIS community. I would be foolish to claim much responsibility for engendering these changes, but it sure has been fun to feel the shifting currents in three areas:

- **Harmony** – During my previous tenure at TASIS (as Dean of Students from 2000 to 2003), I and others often noted many spectacular elements – whether individual teachers, discrete programs, or singular events – that somehow failed to come together as a coherent whole. Whether because of frequent Headmaster transitions (a few of them peaceful, some of them bloody), high rates of faculty turnover, disharmonies among the Board, administration, and faculty, or the old habits of a small "family business," somehow it seemed that the band was too seldom playing from the same sheet of music. For two decades, TASIS has worked earnestly on board governance, mission-driven programming, faculty retention, and policy development. In recent years, those efforts have begun to crystallize into real progress. Now, the Board of Directors is stable, dedicated, informed, and highly effective. Faculty turnover (which has been as high as 40% annually) has been between 10 and 15% for several years. Linked by a robust website, Gmail, Veracross, and more clear policies and procedures, we are moving ever closer to a community that communicates openly, transparently, and harmonically with each other and the world beyond our gates.

ner Reflects

• **Learning** – With that increased harmony has come a sharpened focus on our central purpose as a school. TASIS has always provided a challenging college-preparatory education in the American liberal arts tradition. TASIS has always been equally committed to fostering virtue in its students. In recent years, we've been able to devote our time, money, and collective work more efficiently toward improved teaching and learning and more vigorous character education. We now hire more experienced, better-degreed teachers. We offer more purposeful professional training for faculty. We orient, observe, and support teachers better than ever before. We have started using student performance data to inform our teaching. We have mapped our curriculum from Pre-K through Post Graduate. We provide better technological tools for students and teachers. Our Academic Travel program is every year more focused and academically relevant. With more clear and consistent enforcement of rules, disciplinary problems (from class absences to external suspensions) have reduced significantly. Better faculty retention means more comfortable, prepared, and future-focused teachers – building the relationships with students for longer periods and through a wider array of activities (a robust ES/MS after-school program, expanded MS/HS athletics, smaller dormitory groups, a more vibrant Student Council, etc.). All these varied initiatives point at the same important goal: helping students learn.

• **Service** – If the point of our work is learning, then the point of our learning is service – to each other, to the planet, to humanity. This idea was, of course, a fundamental belief of our Founder. In recent years, we've been able to build structures beneath our rhetorical "castles in the sky." A revived Senior Humanities Program has brought more than thirty distinguished guests to campus for one- to five-day visits – clarifying and raising our expectations for the kind of truth, beauty, goodness, international understanding and humanitarian action that we expect of our oldest students. The service learning program (now fully-articulated from Pre-K through the High School) has allowed students to learn about – and then begin to solve – local and global problems. The extraordinary gift of Jan Opsahl '68 allows us to offer (require, in fact!) a global service trip for every single TASIS graduate. The TASIS Leadership Academy will give linked cohorts of students from the TASIS schools in Lugano and England two years of intense training with political, entrepreneurial, and/or service-related leadership. In all these efforts, we remind our students that the immense privileges of a TASIS education come with immense responsibility for the health and future of our world.

Having spent much of the last week meeting with incoming Headmaster Charlie Skipper, I could not feel more optimistic about the trajectory of TASIS. The shifts identified above are just beginning to gain momentum. Charlie brings deep and broad leadership experience. With waiting lists at most grade levels, our admissions profile is stronger than ever. The Global Village Master Plan is taking shape even more quickly than we envisioned. Of course TASIS remains a school full of human beings (many of them adolescents). So surprises and challenges remain on the horizon. But the future is bright for TASIS.

I thank all our students, colleagues, parents, and alumni for your support during the last five years, and for continuing to help the School – like each TASIS student – grow into its best self.

New Skipper of the Ship: TASIS Welcomes Hea

Headmaster Charlie Skipper and wife Anne

• Sound mind. Sound body. Sound heart. Done well, a school is a place where the virtues of respect, integrity, discipline, perseverance, care, and sportsmanship are treated seriously.

• Sound mind. Sound body. Sound heart. Done well, schools take on the responsibility of educating the whole child because that whole child appears for class each day, and that whole child is the essential person in tomorrow's community.

• Sound mind. Sound body. Sound heart. Done well, a school offers a range of educational activities and experiences beyond the classroom. There are lessons to be learned about self, about others, about teams, and about community that are best taught, best experienced, on the stage, on the playing field, on a trail, or serving in a soup kitchen.

Of course our Headmaster Search Committee took notice when they read these statements, included in Dr. Charles Skipper's application packet. This philosophy could be taken from a TASIS assembly, or a professional development day, or even a conversation with Mrs. Fleming.

On paper, the fit seems perfect. And in the flesh, Dr. Skipper is a likeable and thoughtful man whose eyes light up when he speaks about education. He joins TASIS with over three decades of experience as an educator in boarding and day schools in the US and El Salvador. He's been a teacher, a coach, a dormitory resident, a department chair, a dean of faculty, a president, and a headmaster. His résumé is thick with published papers, conference presentations, international service projects, and professional affiliations.

Yet despite his depth of knowledge, he still holds education at his core. "I'm just teaching a different audience," he says. "Teaching is where I started and where I'll end." He seems to revel in the myriad of teaching opportunities that his role as Headmaster provides, and the idea that education remains at the core of every part of a school. "The term 'learning community' can seem trite and cliché but if you look at learning in the expansive sense, it is powerful stuff," he says.

So what qualities define a good teacher? "The best teachers have passion or love for the subject but are able to be as enthusiastic at helping others understand and dance with the subject," he says. "Ultimately, you want the students themselves doing the dance, not just watching you dance or dancing along with you."

The dance takes a lot of dedication, but Charlie feels that inspired teachers can motivate in ways that are both involved and allow students the chance to grow. "When I find what students are excited about, I can move them into other things. There are lots of places for kids to hook in – TASIS already does this well. If a kid can hook into a particular interest, we can build from that. Teachers expand horizons."

Within the context of a school, the role of teacher, or administrator, or indeed any adult, is expanded. "It's our responsibility to be aligned with the institution's goals, and at

dmaster Dr. Charles Skipper

TASIS that means upholding the School's mission and Paideia," he says. "But it also means that we realize the vision of our best selves." As leader, he focuses on the individual, too. "I ask, what are your professional and personal goals? How can we work together to accomplish these things?"

But Charlie is adamant that it's not just up to teachers to create solid educational experiences; "Kids have to bring something to the table, too." So what makes a good student? "Those who are willing to make a leap of faith," he says. "There is so much cynicism and skepticism in the world, it's hard to feel like you can go ahead and do things you're not really comfortable with or sure about. It takes a leap of faith at a lot of levels. But if they're willing to jump, the rewards are stupendous."

He also feels that kids should get involved in a lot of areas. "This is a time of their lives when they have opportunities to do a lot of things that they may never do again. They can build a wellspring of experiences to draw on down the road."

Charlie illustrates his point by mentioning a student in El Salvador who burst into his office one day. Charlie didn't know this student, but had heard of him. He asked Charlie to teach him an AP course that the school didn't offer, and this grew into his doing five independent study AP courses, ultimately resulting in the student receiving the Jefferson Scholarship. This year, the student graduated from the University of Virginia and has been accepted into the Ph.D. program at Princeton and to the Yale law school. "Of course that isn't every student's path, but that's the passion we need to have, both as teachers and students."

Having led schools since 1995, Charlie understands the challenges of managing a diverse group of people. "Communication is tough enough in one language and culture," he says, laughing. "This is taken to a geometric level of complexity when across languages and cultures."

Leading a school, especially one as dynamic as TASIS, is a delicate balance of what Charlie calls 'invitational leadership'. "The open door concept is real for me," he says. "It's open-air magic. No hidden things or secrets, and everybody understands what's happening and why things are happening." He also goes out and engages in the community, which ensures he has his finger on the pulse of everyday life on campus. "Leadership isn't power-related. It's like love. The more you give it, the more there is."

He is also a staunch believer in leadership that promotes what is right. "It's not enough to say, 'This is what we do.' We also must ensure the explanations are meaningful enough to resonate with those who lack the background to understand fully." This is especially important to him in terms of personal integrity and intellectual responsibility. "We need to do it better. For example, the institution doesn't use pirated software because it's illegal and ethically dubious; we need to instill those values in students so they don't think it's okay to download music or video games illegally."

For Charlie, this idea of being true to our ideals stretches to all areas of the community. "Schools are always about tomorrow, about building a better future. A lot of schools talk about being part of the global community, but truth be told there's a lot of rhetoric and hot air there," he says. "TASIS lives that philosophy. It's a global school with worldwide impact. And it's not good enough that we're doing it well. Our job is to show a better way, because when we do it well and in a better way, it's replicable, even in a variety of cultural settings. This is tremendously exciting."

One of the projects Charlie is especially drawn to is creating connections with other schools and institutions around the world. "Schools aren't self-contained entities," he says. "Links with a variety of organizations add value to the school, students, and faculty."

Charlie also believes in creating meaningful connections with parents. "It's important that all our parents understand the unique nature of the boarding/day school," he says. "This is something we'll be addressing, because it is powerfully and critically important. It plays out in how teachers and the institution approach dealing with kids." He looks forward to a period of great communication, understanding, and creativity as parents and the School work together, which gains the best of both worlds. "I would love to see our parents using TASIS as a resource in the area, and creating a community of adults as vibrant as our student body."

Charlie and his wife, Anne, are looking forward to exploring their own leap of faith as they settle into Lugano life. He admires what TASIS does well, especially the School's commitment to travel and service, but as someone new to TASIS he will also bring fresh eyes to how we can further improve the experience for future generations of students. "It's not a case of where I think I know best or know all the answers; great teachers, and great leaders, can't do that," he says. "It is truly a voyage of mutual discovery."

Changing Lives: TASIS's
by endowing the Glob

It is difficult to imagine TASIS without the dynamic variety of nations that make up our community. But until 1965, the student body was only American and native English-speaking. Then **Jan Opsahl '68** turned up, a blue-eyed Norwegian with a limited knowledge of English owing to foreign language lessons in Norway and a four-week summer language program in England.

Born in the small Norwegian town of Hamar in 1949, early on Jan was intrigued by his parents' lives. They started a business in 1937, three years before they were married. Soon after this, his mother completed business school as the first woman and at the top of her class. Jan's mother continued to be the controlling force behind their business, his father taking on the more creative roles. "Until he died at the age of 94, they basically spent three generations working side-by-side," Jan recalls, and their commitment to their company and to each other shaped much of his life.

From an early age, Jan often traveled abroad with his family. This was uncommon at this time and instilled a sense of cultural curiosity in young Jan. His father would return from frequent business trips to America with what were exotic things at that time, like chewing gum, kites, or electronic cars.

"It made us feel special," Jan says. "We got to experience things that most others didn't get to experience at the time." This also instigated a feeling of transience, which stayed with Jan throughout his life.

But let's go back to the summer when Jan was 15. When he returned from England his parents told him they were moving to Lugano. "It was not the time of family democracy, where parents ask the children where to move," he laughs. And if he'd known what was about to happen, he'd have taken his English studies far more seriously. But the decision had been made, he was to attend an American high school, and he even had to apply. "They asked me to write something, an essay," he remembers. "Except I didn't know what an essay was!" As the School's first non-American, and non-native-English-speaker, TASIS wasn't really sure how to fit him in. "But, in the spirit of Mrs. Fleming, TASIS decided to take a chance," Jan says. "It was pretty scary. It was the start of something quite new, certainly for me, and, as it turned out, for TASIS as well."

Jan feels this was the first time he'd ever faced a real challenge. "It was sink or swim," he says. "There were a couple of days I stood on the Hadsall lawn and looked over the lake towards where my parents' apartment was, and thought, this wasn't very nice of you." The language was one issue, but another part was the cultural challenges. "Watching Perry Mason on television did not provide a very realistic picture of American culture," he recalls. "I hadn't seen Bermuda shorts in my life, and I came with my short shorts! We used down comforters in Norway; here, I felt strapped into my sheets and blankets that had to be made in a certain way. There were plenty of ways you could feel out of touch."

But TASIS responded in a way that resonates with him even now. "I stand by this statement: if you're ever going to get lost in the world, make sure there are Americans around. They are the most welcoming and inclusive people, always wanting to help others." His classmates were curious about him and were interested in the world that he came from. "I got so much support. Students stepped up to help. They offered to take notes for me, to help me study, or to help with my English. In reality, I had more than 100 EAL teachers at my disposal." He's never forgotten their kindnesses. "I don't care if some people think that Americans seem false when they say 'hello' to everyone. At least they give you a chance!"

Jan soon found his feet at TASIS, excelling at sports and especially enjoying the seven-week ski term in Andermatt. "On my wooden skis, I beat the heck out of those people on metal ones!" he remembers. He also played tennis with the only other person who played on campus – the Headmaster – which drew some frowns from his peers.

s first international student makes history
al Service Program

Not having any choice but to speak English, within the first year he felt very comfortable with the language, and by the following year he had excelled enough to win the American History Award as a junior, and as a foreigner. "I'm still pretty proud of that," he says. "I have a fascination with American history, and our teacher, Hendrick Woods, was excellent. We had discussions, rather than just learning facts. I'd never been asked to do analysis in courses before."

After three years at TASIS, after achieving AP credits in various subjects and with recommendations for Headmaster Raymond Robbins' alma mater, Jan attended Dartmouth on a five-year, two-degree program which included an M.B.A. from Tuck Business School. After this, he spent three years working in New York for the Singer Company, but had a yearning to return to Europe. An opening came up to work for Singer in Scandinavia, headquartered in Helsinki, and he jumped at the chance. It was a good move; indeed he met his future wife, Birgitta, there.

After a few years, Singer offered him a European-wide position that he, however, felt was far above his experience level, but he was promoted by a boss whom Jan had met before, a man who had stormed out of the room after Jan refused to budge on a major issue. Apparently Jan was the first person to stand up to this boss – obviously impressing the man for daring to tell him that he was 'wrong'. "Standing up for what I know is right: that is a character trait I know I have," Jan says.

Jan moved back to Norway after his time in Finland and began leading his family's Norwegian business. During his free time, he got involved in sports administration in Hamar for teams he had been playing for before leaving Norway. "For seven years I was chairman of a big club with 13 different sports activities, mainly for children. This was the beginning of giving my own time for the benefit of others," he says, noting that this was especially exciting during the 1994 Winter Olympics.

He was also active in the Rotary Club, and during his tenure as President he encouraged his fellow members to become more service-minded, as the motto of Rotary is 'service above self'. This was slow in developing, so when he left Norway in 2007, he wanted to thank the club for all it had added to his life and inspire them to do more. "I presented the club with a challenge. If you come up with a suitable project to actively support in developing countries, then I'll put money towards it," he says. One member of the club was an eye surgeon who had spent time in Nepal setting up a hospital and training local eye surgeons. They needed money to run periodic eye clinics in remote areas throughout Nepal. The club took the challenge, and for many years thereafter several hundred people in Nepal got their eyesight back through simple cataract operations performed in primitive facilities in the Nepal bush. "It made me happy and proud to see pictures of people thanking Rotary for being able to see again; this allowed them to again be useful and support themselves. True, I had not done the work myself, but I had sowed the seed."

Jan and his wife moved to Lugano in 2007, having successfully completed the businesses in Norway, now ready to take on new challenges. His mother, who turned 100 in February 2013, is in the same facility where Mrs. Fleming spent time later in life, so the two women often saw one another. Once Jan was settled into his new home, he visited TASIS, as he had often done before when visiting his parents. However, this time he met Hans Figi '75, then Director of Development, who recruited Jan for the Development Board. Soon after, he was asked to join the TASIS Board of Directors. "Well, I have no children, nor any experiences with school administration to limit my thinking, so I must know all the answers," he laughs. "I know TASIS from a special time, I know it from being a minority. And I know that TASIS changed my life."

Once he joined the Board, he began to question things. "How good is the School? How good can it be? What is the School known for? I was having trouble grasping it. I knew what it had given me, and what it had given to a lot of people. And when you ask people who have been here, they say the atmosphere, the ethos, the beauty, the travel. But these things are so difficult to convey."

At about the same time, when talking with his mother, she expressed a desire that some of the assets, created through their hard work, be used for the benefit of others, mainly

Board Directors Jan Opsahl '68 and Rick Bell PG '65 at the TASIS Serata Ticinese in May.

children. Jan looked into giving to larger organizations, but to him it seemed "too intangible. It was just giving money away, and I didn't like that idea. And setting up our own charitable foundation was a time-consuming process. Then we thought, maybe TASIS?" So Jan approached then-Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner. "I asked Michael, if I was to make a sizeable donation, and not towards a building, what should it be for? We discussed many things, but I wanted it to be something that would make a real difference in the lives of students, and at the same time help TASIS stand out as a school."

They soon landed on the concept of Service Learning, which had long fascinated Jan. He and Michael fleshed out a way to turbo-charge our service program into a global, sustainable, buzz-creating program. "This would be a program to set TASIS apart," Jan says, "where all students get to experience something life-changing, at the same time helping others." The result is the new TASIS Global Service Program.

Jan feels that the opportunities to help others in the world are immense. "We need to do a lot more by creating more ways of social equality, especially giving women their rightful opportunities in life. Once people have the basics – food, shelter, water, health, education – they create opportunities for themselves. A feeling of uselessness is mankind's worst enemy."

It may seem odd to want to help people in the developing world by donating to a boarding school in Switzerland. "I'm investing in the benefits arising from each project," he says. First, on their trips, the students will support communities in various ways, from tutoring a child in English to helping build a school to planting seeds on a sustainable farm. Next, these experiences will result in every student returning as a changed person. "This sort of journey early in life is important," Jan says. "Our students will soon understand how good it feels to give someone hope."

Jan feels that the cultural element of this program is as important as the service projects themselves. Inspired by events such as Howard Stickley's annual trip to Botswana and Zambia, the Global Service Program also aims to immerse students into completely different cultures. "Cultural understanding is paramount to world peace. It takes away the perceived fear of our differences and prevents misunderstandings. I learned English by being immersed in the TASIS environment. I want students to learn about the world through cultural immersion," he says. "This immersion, with all of the discomfort and challenge and fear and awkwardness, will lead to an eye-opening, life-changing experience. There are many ways to look at the world."

But he's also investing in the ripple effect. "I want this program to awaken students to global humanitarian needs, and lead them towards a life of active citizenship and a commitment to service," Jan says. "If some of these students later on say 'I'm successful in business', or 'I've inherited something', they will remember their experiences. There's nothing wrong with making money. But be sure to retire early and spend your time and money helping others."

The TASIS Board of Directors was thrilled with this unusual, yet powerful idea. "The enthusiastic reception by our Board was overwhelming," he says. "We're used to things coming to us in the form of bricks and mortar. It refocused our minds to investing in the students, not just the campus."

Ultimately, Jan wants to create future philanthropists and policy-makers who can change the world. "We must learn how to be good," he says. "We are one world, and TASIS is a wonderful cultural melting pot. If we add this sort of experience to the overall TASIS education, it is a game-changer. Students will take ownership of their experience. Whenever people talk about doing extraordinary things in the world, it always comes with some sort of dramatic revelation. What students do with this experience is up to them, but I feel that it will stay with them for life."

Jan Opsahl '68 with Headmaster Charles Skipper

Lifelong Passion

Growing up in third world countries such as Chad, Kenya, India, and Nicaragua, I was exposed to extreme poverty. On a daily basis I would see what men, women and children had to suffer through because they didn't have enough food or water to support their families. It was heartbreaking. Every child I saw on the street begging for food made me want to try and help even more. As I grew older, my desire to help others became stronger. However, despite all the sadness that came with the poverty, I knew that I was capable of changing things and I made it my goal to do so.

Although it is hard for me to pinpoint when exactly my love for service began, I know I was inspired by my father, Heinz Wyler. He worked for the Red Cross, bettering the lives for those in impoverished countries, and from that moment onwards, I wanted to follow in his footsteps. My dream is to work with Red Cross when I am 25 so I can continue doing what I love best.

I feel like a different person when I do something to help others. For example, organizing fundraisers brings me happiness. Some people think I can be a very shy person, but when it comes to service I am not afraid to speak my mind and share my passion with others. In my years at TASIS, I realized how much serving others brought me joy. More importantly, the feeling I get when I am able to inspire others and make them want to do more for the world is a feeling I cannot describe.

May 1, 2013, was a day I will always remember. I hosted a Walk for Water, and to my surprise 110 students and faculty members joined to support me. My goal was to raise $1000, and with the help of the community and all the support from the School I was able to raise $2,205! Seeing how the TASIS community supported me and the Walk for Water almost brought me to tears. I saw the community come together to help me achieve my goal to help a community somewhere else get access to water.

TASIS has given me the opportunity to show what I am capable of and to show the community exactly how much one dedicated person can make a difference. I'd like to thank my IB CAS coordinator, Zach Mulert, for always believing in me. From the very beginning he saw the passion I had in me for service. I could not have done everything I did in my two years of TASIS if it weren't for him.

Sarah Wyler '13

Sarah Wyler '13 with Jan Opsahl '68

The New TASIS Global Service Program: Transfoma

TASIS students mixing termite mud to make the walls of a house for homeless people in Mwandi, Zambia.

"**The Global Service Program's vision is to provide every TASIS student with an authentic service experience**," says Zach Mulert, the Global Service Program Coordinator. "Up to this point, we've been theoretical; it's been more about talking, rather than doing. This has been a missing component to some of our groups." Jan Opsahl '68 also feels that exposure is important. "Students need to see how others live. They need to feel the joy of giving someone else joy – it's a different joy to buying Gucci at Foxtown."

Zach has seen the impact of service trips on students. After getting his Master's from Teachers College, Columbia University, and working in San Diego, he took a group of high schoolers to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. "They came back aware of the needs and the misappropriation of funds. They said, 'what can we do to change this?' It opened their eyes to hope," Zach says.

Zach is well aware of the challenges the program will face. "In a world of so much need, where do you begin? Discerning who the best partners are for TASIS is a challenge," he says. "We also need to consider how we spend the 25 minutes a week we meet. We need to switch from theory to skill-building and preparation. We need to scaffold correctly so kids will experience it well. Then we must process it afterwards."

Zach and his intern, Milo Zanecchia '08, have been working hard to get the program off the ground for the 2013-14 school year. This year it will start small, with a view to growing with time. Thirteen groups will include work with organizations in Lugano, across Europe, in Africa, and Asia. The program will be rolled out in stages, with the goal of having complete implementation for the Class of 2015.

"We can take this to a new level by exploiting our connections around the world," Headmaster Dr. Charles Skipper says. "We can affect more communities by linking with organizations in the NGO world and in governments." His experience with numerous programs in a similar vein will add much to the development of the TASIS Global Service Program.

Jan is excited to see how students respond to this program. "The joy of seeing firsthand how helping makes a difference is transformational. Giving someone hope for a better future is so important," he says. "By doing, and not just observing, they will feel what time, resources, and other assistance can do to help those less fortunate create better lives for themselves."

TASIS hopes that the Global Service Program will reshape the culture of service at TASIS. "I believe if the kids have this one moment, they're going to have to accept their responsibility to the world," Zach says. There's no guarantee that the GSP will create future philanthropists, but TASIS believes that the transformative nature of these experiences will inspire our students to be those who try and transform policy. "Philanthropy is not limited to financial gifts," Zach says. "I think it will inspire our students to consider the many ways we can all make a difference."

Preparing the rafters for a house for the homeless in Mwandi, Zambia.

tive experiences in Lugano, Europe, and Beyond

Global Service Program Mission Statement:

The TASIS Global Service Program transforms lives by providing every High School student with a unique opportunity to connect across borders – whether geographic, economic, or social – through comprehensive experiences that build empathy and encourage personal responsibility. The Program awakens students to humanitarian needs, inspires them to build enduring, mutually-beneficial relationships, and leads them toward a life of active citizenship and committed service.

LUGANO

Casa Elisabetta: TASIS students go at least once a month to this center for children and disadvantaged mothers, organizing celebrations and activities.

Red Cross: TASIS students volunteer twice a month with the Centro Insieme, an after-school program for young children (ages 6-14) as they teach them Hip-Hop dance and exchange life stories.

SOS Ticino: TASIS students meet twice a month with young (12-18-year-old) refugees currently residing in Ticino, and help them adapt to life in Lugano by providing both cultural activities and language lessons.

Tea Time: TASIS students visit Al Pagnolo, a local retirement home, twice a month for the chance to develop meaningful, intergenerational relationships and to improve the quality of life of the residents there. Students use their talents and interests to plan and prepare activities (e.g. reading, playing games, cooking, singing, etc.) with the residents of Al Pagnolo.

EUROPE

Embracing Romania: TASIS students visit the Bucium Community Center near Iasi, Romania, for eight days in October, helping students and young children at their "Center of Excellence."

Habitat for Humanity in Hungary: TASIS students help with a renovation and insulation project in the greater Budapest area for eight days in October, helping provide homes for three Hungarian families.

Kiva Microfinance in Albania: TASIS students work with a small microfinance institution in Tirana for eight days in October, measuring the social impact of loans made to aspiring entrepreneurs.

BEYOND

Caring for Cambodia: Over eight days in October, students will help build schools and volunteer at local educational facilities in Siem Reap, Cambodia, with our partner, Caring For Cambodia.

Ethical Food Malawi: Ethical Food researches the ethics and sources of our food choices, and works with the TASIS kitchen to make the food consumed at TASIS healthier, more ethical, and more delicious. To learn about local and global perspectives on the politics and practicalities of food production, students will spend nine days working at the Freedom Gardens, a sustainable organic farm located in Malawi.

Nepal: Over 14 days in April, students will trek to the Tserok Tibetan Refugee Camp in Nepal, helping refurbish schools and infrastructure for these stateless people.

Nuovo Fiore Ethiopia: Over 14 days in June, students will work in tandem with the Nuovo Fiore in Africa (Auxilium) school, providing English and technology lessons, along with assessing and providing additional resources for the community.

Serving Southern Africa: Over 21 days in June, students will assist in a rural community in Zambia, helping the elderly, volunteering at the local school, providing health resources and medication, building environmentally-sustainable solar ovens, planting trees, and transforming the community through their service.

WISER Kenya: Over nine days in February, students will get to know the community of Muhuru Bay, Kenya, and assist with the WISERBridge (Grades 6-8) school program, educate the community on the benefits of purified water, and work closely with the WISER school and aspiring female entrepreneurs.

An art workshop with orphaned street children in Livingstone, Zambia.

New Flowers of Hope: Girls' education is fundamental to the mission of Nuovo Fiore

Riccardo Braglia is a man of many talents. As CEO of the tremendously successful pharmaceutical company Helsinn Group, he oversees hundreds of employees in four countries. He also chairs the Board of Helsinn Therapeutics, which focuses on cancer research and development. He's on the Ticino Chamber of Commerce and serves on the TASIS Board of Directors, focusing his energy on community relations and campus development. He is Vice President of the Lugano Tigers basketball club and can be found skiing down a hill in winter and scuba diving in summer. He is a devoted family man. His foresight and investments led him to receive the Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Ticino in 2011, and Swiss Entrepreneur of the Year in 2012.

Riccardo is an impressive man. But perhaps most laudable of his many accomplishments is his involvement with Nuovo Fiore, "New Flower", a charity he and his family founded in 2011 to change the lives of children in Ethiopia.

Riccardo's family has been involved in philanthropy for generations, but Riccardo never felt a true connection with the various organizations he supported. "I travel a lot for work, and I see poor countries facing this reality," he says. "You face this and have to do something. It is not easy. You need to find a quality way to help." Then one evening in 2007 he invited Sister Giuseppina of the Salesian Sisters over for dinner. They began discussing ways his family could get involved, and she said, "Well, I have this land in Ethiopia…" – planting a seed that would become Nuovo Fiore.

What began with one school on a plot of land in Addis Ababa has become a nursery school, primary school, and middle school, with a high school and technical college currently under construction. A church in Gog and elementary school in Gambella will follow later this year. In 2013 Nuovo Fiore expanded to include land in South Sudan, where they are building an elementary school. Other projects include a home for the Salesian Sisters and a multipurpose sheltered playground and playing field. So far, the schools serve around 500 students and this number will grow by 100 kids next year, eventually serving up to 1500 students.

"Coming from a health-related business, education is a logical progression," Riccardo says. "Education is the only way to teach children how to take care of themselves, from learning hygiene to taking malaria pills. This is especially important for girls." He is well aware that the conditions women endure in countries such as Ethiopia and Sudan can be abysmal, and girls' education is fundamental to the mission of Nuovo Fiore. "Education is linked to the value of each life and to the health of each life. It's the most important thing we can teach these children."

Riccardo didn't push his sons Gabriele Braglia '13 and Senior Giacomo to become involved in the charity, but hoped he would inspire them to take part. "They asked to participate, and they're better boys now. There's no more complaining about food at home or at TASIS," he says with a grin. "My older son wants to have his own project of drilling a well in a nearby town in Ethiopia. Charity work can teach you how to be an entrepreneur, to use the skills you have to impact others."

This dual force of personal connections to a project and using skills to help others has been the basis of the Nuovo Fiore Service Learning group, which began in 2012 and will continue as part of the TASIS Global Service Program. The group mainly sponsored fundraising events this year while studying the issues that impact the area around the schools. "The next step will be thinking about specific ways to help – perhaps sponsoring a library or computer room. When young people can take ownership of a project they can do remarkable things." Riccardo sees an ongoing relationship between TASIS and the schools in Ethiopia, where interactions inspire students in both countries.

Riccardo has approached Nuovo Fiore as an entrepreneur. He's been project managing the buildings from afar, hiring a contractor he trusts implicitly, sorting out the planning, authorization, financing, and setting a timeline. Interestingly, 80% of the workers who build the school are women, as men tend to have jobs in public service. "Building the schools really inspires the women who work there, as their own children will attend," Riccardo says. The school ensures that the children of all staff members are students. But as an entrepreneur, Riccardo is aware that people must invest in their children's education to respect the outcome. For example, the Sisters make the students' uniforms, yet families must pay for them; in turn, children treat the uniforms well.

Eventually, Riccardo hopes that some of the surrounding land will be used to create workshop space for graduates to start their own businesses, helping the foundation to become self-sustainable. He knows the challenges that lie ahead. "Sometimes I go and come back completely frustrated, but it's a parallel for entrepreneurs. But I get so much out of the experience."

Riccardo Braglia with students in Ethiopia

English teacher Dr. Christopher Love runs the Nuovo Fiore Global Service group. In mid-May 2013 he visited the Auxilium School in Ethiopia to learn more about how the TASIS group can make a difference.

Chris said about his trip, "I visited the Auxilium School, taught English classes, and learned as much as I could about what we could do to help the children. The trip was both startling and inspiring. The extreme poverty and degradation plaguing these students and their families stuns and disheartens, but the children and the school offer a rare, real, and heartening sense of hope. The second I got on the plane to return to Lugano I couldn't wait to get back to Addis Ababa to see the kids again."

How did you see Nuovo Fiore impacting life for the families in the area?

Nuovo Fiore is a godsend. Without the educational opportunities and social assistance provided by Riccardo Braglia, Auxilium, and the magnificent Sisters Pina and Celine who run the school, the children would likely end up on the streets. In fact, I had the opportunity to see teenagers living on the streets. They were once children who had no Auxilium and thus no hope. Riccardo has given these children a safe place not only to survive, but to thrive.

TASIS students will make their first trip to Addis Ababa next year. If the children make 10% the impression they did on me, they will still change our TASIS students' lives immeasurably; and vice versa, of course.

Any particular experiences you want to share?

I met a six-year-old boy named Binyam the first day. He ran up to me and gave me a very hearty handshake. Sister Celine told me that Riccardo has already deemed Binyam to be Ethiopia's future Prime Minister. I believe it. Over the weekend, Binyam memorized an entire song in English that he wanted TASIS to hear. On Monday after school, Binyam sought me out. While flies swarmed his face and children played in the distance, Binyam sang his entire song with calm passion and without a single error. Binyam lost his father last year and without Auxilium he most likely would receive no further education his entire life.

After leading the Service Learning group and getting to know Riccardo's vision, how do you see TASIS building its relationship with Nuovo Fiore in years to come?

I've never seen a program that so drastically changes lives as Nuovo Fiore will do over the next few years. Every dollar and every resource we can provide Nuovo Fiore will take a child bound for destitution and homelessness and provide the kind of life a solid education will provide. I plan to work with our TASIS students to raise as much money as possible for the Nuovo Fiore kids, but these kids do not only need financial aid. They need English teachers and mentors. These "human resources" are exactly what our TASIS students can provide the kids next year. Our students' presence in Addis Ababa will give the Auxilium kids the kind of help and guidance that can change their lives forever.

Any final thoughts on your experience?

Two weeks ago, I was excited about how we can help Riccardo with his Nuovo Fiore project. I got back to Lugano at 3am. Although it had been quite a while since I slept, I couldn't help but write a long document to Riccardo detailing my observations of what I had seen as well as my plans for next year. I really cannot wait to work with our TASIS students in the future to help Nuovo Fiore make a radical change in the lives of some of the world's most disadvantaged children.

Life-Changing Experiences in Africa

For the past decade, TASIS veteran teacher **Howard Stickley's African service trip to Botswana and Zambia** has been challenging and inspiring students to consider creative ways to help those less fortunate.

"The trip is designed so that students come face-to-face with the reality of life in these countries. We integrate – we cycle through slums with open sewers, we go to the local markets to buy school supplies," Howard says.

This can be challenging for some students. "It is difficult to fully prepare them. They have opportunities to reflect throughout the trip. Some react strongly to the injustice."

During the 21-day trip, TASIS students work for a local school, teaching preschool-aged children up to Middle School-aged children arts and crafts, reading, and mathematics. To prepare, the group works closely with TASIS Elementary School teachers, assisting in the classrooms and putting together teaching materials that will benefit the African children. Our ES community also donates clothing and medicines for the group to take with them. "There is a great connection between the trip and the school year. Upon returning, our group puts together a presentation to show the ES children how their donations and time helped the African children."

The group doesn't limit itself to working with children. They also plant trees, and work with a women's group promoting the use of solar ovens, and help with housebuilding for the homeless women and orphaned children. It's no wonder that most of the students call their experience in Africa "life-changing" and "amazing." Howard says, "Some students are so influenced by their experience that they go on to study certain subjects at university that could lead to policy change."

Howard ensures that the students see how responsible tourism can help these areas. "The trip is devised so that all money is fed into local organizations, from tour guides to markets and lodging. We show students how to responsibly spend their money to encourage local eco-tourism." This includes a short safari in Botswana run by a local company.

Howard will continue the trip as long as he can. "I get enjoyment out of seeing student reactions to the challenges they face," he says. "It is great to see them interact, and it is always amazing to see how it brings out certain traits and sides of students you'd never expect. Every student is transformed in different ways." He is also impressed with the conversations

Playing breaks down barriers at the pre-school in the slums of Livingstone, Zambia.

they have about aid, and the creative solutions the students consider after seeing these issues firsthand. "Development can't just come from hand-outs or aid."

The trip is a bond between students that lasts a long time. "There is a great group spirit of working together. We don't aim to change their lives. We aim to give them an experience of a different reality, and they can play a part in changing that reality. It opens their eyes to the rest of the world."

Arts and crafts bring TASIS students together with local Zambian children.

Parental Guidance

"I did become rather nervous during the ten days of Howard Stickley's trip," admits Jennifer Broggini, mother of Francesca Broggini '10, who attended Howard's 2010 trip to Africa. "My daughter was completely out of touch with us. It was a fantastic experience for her to be in such a remote place, but more difficult for me as a parent."

This admission likely mirrors the feelings most parents have when their children embark on a life-changing trip, like those that will make up the core of our new Global Service Program. But thanks to trips like Howard's annual Africa trip, the annual Habitat for Humanity trip to build homes in rural Europe, and visiting the WISER institute in Muhuru Bay, Kenya, TASIS knows how to train students for the challenges that come with this sort of travel.

"I think TASIS does a wonderful job of preparing the students by having them meet regularly during the school year so that the students can begin to understand what they will experience," Jennifer says. "In addition, parents can help by discussing in detail what students should expect. We should help our children move beyond observing what they may see during a trip of this nature towards actually understanding and empathizing."

Jennifer's daughters returned with a clearer understanding of what poverty, war, and famine really mean. "There was a brief moment during Francesca's trip to Africa when she was hungry and could not immediately find something that she was able to eat," Jennifer recalls. "And when my daughter Isabella '12 travelled to a war zone in Bosnia I think it really hit home as to what kind of destruction is done during a war, and how it damages not only infrastructure and homes but also the social fabric of the society. She met orphans who had lost their parents to war."

Jennifer's daughters returned from their service trips eager to talk about their experiences, and open discussions are an excellent way to help build a connection between students' experiences abroad and their everyday lives. "Those of us in the TASIS community, both parents and children, are very fortunate. It is hard for most of us to imagine what it is like not to have enough food to feed our entire family every day or not to have the means to bring a sick child to a doctor," Jennifer says. "People in impoverished countries love their children just as much as we love ours, and the feeling of helplessness that they might have in the face of suffering is something that we will never be able to fully understand. Parents can help by discussing what it might be like to have lost a parent to war or how a parent would feel to have to choose which child gets the good food today."

Michael Ulku-Steiner with Board Director Jennifer Broggini

A lifelong philanthropist, Jennifer is on the Executive Board of TechnoServe (www.technoserve.org), a non-profit organization founded by her father which provides business solutions to poverty. "I strongly believe that helping people to help themselves is the only effective way to help people pull themselves out of poverty with dignity," she says, noting that this 'help' can include everything from teaching to providing intellectual tools to empower individuals. TechnoServe helps small businesses link to markets and grow, creating wealth that locals then put back into local economies.

"When I travel to impoverished countries, what strikes me most is the similarity between the people that I meet and myself," Jennifer says, noting that she learns much from those in trying circumstances: strength in the face of adversity, appreciation of life, happiness despite extreme difficulty. "I think that is the really powerful effect of the new TASIS Global Service Program. Students will be able to spend time with local communities and hopefully get a better understanding of how similar we all are. I hope students might learn that helping people to realize their dreams and improve their lives is extremely rewarding and that the people we try to help are dignified, intelligent people whose opinions should be respected."

Nearly every student who has attended a service trip in the past has returned forever changed. The TASIS Global Service Program will give this opportunity to every high-school student, forging an important lesson for every individual. "In the best case scenario, TASIS students will become lifelong philanthropists and volunteers as a result of the Global Service Program," Jennifer concurs, "but even in the worst case I think these trips will help all of us appreciate the important things in life."

In addition to her work with TechnoServe, Jennifer Bullard Broggini is Managing Director of Studio Broggini SA in Lugano and as alumnae parent serves on the TASIS Board of Directors and Finance Committee. She is a Director of the Ticino chapter of the Swiss American Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the town council of Savosa, Switzerland. Jennifer has spent many years working in investments, private banking, corporate banking, and M&A with financial institutions in New York City and Switzerland, including Kieger AG, Banque Fiduciary Trust, and Manufacturers Hanover Trust (now JP Morgan Chase).

To all our Donors *In gratitude for your generosity!*

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Making Connections in Kabul

TASIS teacher Peter Locke and Board Director Curtis Webster '75 at the Super English Class in Kabul.

Lugano seems a million miles away from war-torn Afghanistan, but thanks to a commitment from the TASIS Board of Directors two Afghan students will be attending TASIS from August 2013.

The story begins a decade ago, when TASIS Board Director Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80 met Peter Dalglish, a Canadian humanitarian and founder of Street Kids International who currently serves as Senior Advisor and Deputy Chief of Party for UN-HABITAT in Afghanistan. Inspired by Peter's commitment to philanthropic projects, Alexandra asked Peter to join the JHS Foundation jhs-foundation.org, an organization that Alexandra started in 2000 that supports students from developing nations through tertiary studies in their country.

Alexandra had experienced Peter's effectiveness as a speaker and motivator, and watched him inspire young people to look beyond their immediate horizons to the world we all share. "I thought he might be an interesting visitor to TASIS," she says. "One of his many projects around the world is to identify great prep schools that have the courage and compassion to offer scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. And we know that TASIS was built on the courage of an educational visionary and the tradition continues."

In January 2013, Peter visited TASIS and participated in an assembly and a luncheon as part of the Senior Humanities Program, and met with Service Learning groups. He also presented to the Board of Directors, which resulted in an offer of a scholarship to a student from Kabul to attend TASIS.

A Mission Team of Dean of Student Affairs Tom Bendel, English teacher Peter Locke, and Board Director Curtis McGraw Webster '75 and his wife Jennifer visited Kabul in March 2013. They were welcomed into a school where Peter Dalglish teaches English, where the team played games and participated in activities with the students. Dalglish recommended a number of students for the TASIS scholarship, keeping to the strict criteria of the team. This included a level of English that was strong enough for TASIS and for future university admission; having a family that was supportive of their child attending school in the West; achieving solid academic results; and having the motivation to return to Afghanistan and help the country on its road to recovery. The team also wanted to support a female student if possible, due to the harrowing conditions for female scholars in the country.

"We met a half dozen students who met our criteria, and a dozen more that could benefit from a chance like this," Tom says. "We hope to leverage our connection in Afghanistan into placements for as many of these students as we can at other institutions."

Tom and the team were impressed with all of the candidates, but couldn't choose between two especially strong students. "So we convinced the Board that we needed to bring two kids," Tom says. "Fatah Soroush is a senior and will be staying one year. Morsal Safi is a 10th Grader and we're happy to say she'll finish her high school education at TASIS."

This relationship is not a one-off, either. The team hopes to continue this for many years to come, funding two students from disadvantaged countries who are determined to attend college and return to their home countries to do good.

While this program is not directly related to our new Global Service Program, the parallels are obvious. "What still amazes me is that the same weekend that ignited these fires was also the weekend where Jan Opsahl '68 announced his very generous endowment to launch the new TASIS Global Service Program," Alexandra says. Serendipitous? Perhaps. But also very telling of our community's commitment to philanthropy.

First day at TASIS for Fatah Soroush '14 and Morsal Safi '16, greeted by Wendy Kessel and Masa Yo '04.

Master Teacher Award Winner: Giorgio Volpi

Khan-Page Master Teacher Award 2013

Excerpted from a speech by Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner

I am so pleased to present the Fifth Annual Khan-Page TASIS Master Teacher Award to **Giorgio Volpi**.

Every year with this award I have reversed our conventional pattern of waiting to say the name until after a long citation. Why? Well, first, if I talk about an Elementary School PE teacher, we are left with very little suspense. Second, I'd like us not to be distracted by guessing games and looking around the room as I ramble through a long citation. Part of this annual ritual is tuning in with full attention to the kinds of things that make for a career of excellence at TASIS and more broadly in this noble profession. So…listen up.

I doubt that anyone on this terrace teaches more students, or more varied students, than Giorgio does. All day long, he teaches 185 TASIS elementary schoolers, ages 4 through 11. On afternoons, evenings, and weekends, he coaches high schoolers and young adults on his American football team.

One might think that teaching PE is just a matter of tossing out the balls and watching the children play. Anyone who has watched Giorgio teach knows otherwise. He has a full set of detailed lesson plans for each grade, derived from clear objectives for health and skill development. He was doing this all along, long before Atlas Rubicon.

As a teacher, he is always firm and always affable. Kids love his humor and playfulness, but it never disintegrates into idle, random play or babysitting. His lessons are always full and meaningful, from the first to the last minute of the period.

Giorgio is among the world's most flexible and patient human beings. His classrooms are often stolen for assemblies, exams, concerts, galas, and exhibitions. His subject is always the last to be scheduled, and he often seems to get the short end of the stick. Somehow, without whining or complaining, he manages.

As Giorgio's department chair and longtime office-mate, Jen Bendel has a unique perspective on his personality and work. She writes, "I hired him because he had an awesome beard and all the right answers as to why he wanted to help me teach Elementary PE in a tent. He is one of the most generous people I have ever met. If you ask him to help he will, no questions asked. He insists that his students stop and say hello, thank you, and please. Manners count in Mr. Volpi's gym."

Ask any Elementary School student who their favorite teacher is and they will say Mr. Volpi. They love his class and cannot wait to get there. When they arrive they come bursting into the gym, sit in their assigned spot (their casa) and tremble with excitement waiting to see who will get to carry the rubber chicken to lead the warm up.

Giorgio Volpi with a group of Elementary School students

He teaches a unique blend of movement education and Swiss physical education. I don't think you will find it anyplace else. When students arrive to our Middle School from his PE program they know their sport skills. They are fit, agile, can balance, are flexible, are strong and healthy, love moving, and have learned how to behave in a PE class.

When the seniors graduate they pile thanks on their teachers, dorm parents, advisors, their dean, a coach, the headmaster... usually someone from their recent experiences who helped them with some monumental senior task. They never thank the guy that started them out on the right path. They have forgotten that once they could not shoot a basket, hit a ball, move with confidence, feel certain when challenged, work in a group, dance...they forget that Mr. Volpi got them started and helped shape them into the person they are in that senior year. They may have outgrown him, but a part of him is there with them as they cross the finish line.

Mr. Volpi writes the most complete lesson plans I have ever seen. He is the ultimate professional in regard to his teaching. Finally, Jen writes, "he looks good in a tiger hat...or any hat really."

PE colleague Tom Lill writes, "I'm honored to have had the chance to work alongside such a fine person. His passion and professionalism inspire me immensely. He is able to get all ES kids moving and sweating and they adore him for it. He has the right balance as a teacher and students trust and respect him greatly. Giorgio exudes a charisma that is infectious and it can't help but put a smile on your face."

Giorgio, Tom is not alone in celebrating our choice for this award. Thank you for being the person you are and for sharing that person so generously with your students and your colleagues. Congratulations, Giorgio!

Senior Humanities Program

The Senior Humanities Program (SHP) draws from some of the best elements of the TASIS identity—truth, beauty, goodness, international understanding, and humanitarian action—to provide TASIS Seniors and Post Graduates with a signature educational experience. Seniors and Post Graduates enhance their intellectual experience through discussions, trips, lectures, and tours focusing on these five elements. This year-long program conveys a clear message to Seniors and Post Graduates about what the School hopes for and expects from them after they leave TASIS.

The Senior Humanities Program is a reality because of the on-going generous support from Michael and Jane Grindfors, parents of Emma '08 and Carl '13, and the work done by the Headmaster and a dedicated group of teachers and students who worked to create this special program.

The 2012-2013 schedule included inspiring speakers in the arts, sports, medicine, and philanthropy.

Dr. Amy Lehman (October 2012) is Founder of the Lake Tanganyika Floating Health Clinic, an international organization whose mission is to address the problem of health care access and education for isolated communities in the Lake Tanganyika basin/Great Lakes region in Central Africa. She is also mother of TASIS alumnus Max Lehman '13.

Dr. Janne Siren '88 (November 2012) served as Director of the Helsinki Art Museum from 2007-2013. One of the largest cultural institutions in the Nordic region, the Museum manages the City of Helsinki's art museums, public art projects, and visual arts policies. Janne recently became Director of the Albright-Knox Art Museum in Buffalo, New York.

Dr. Jack Brauns (February 2013) is an 88-year-old Holocaust survivor with an extraordinary message to share about hope, perseverance, and perspective. (See page 47 for more about *The Mosaic of Life*, the documentary made by his daughter Alicia Brauns '82 who accompanied her amazing father.)

Josh and Nina Church (March 2013) are a young couple who founded Nika Water, an organization dedicated to providing access to clean water in developing nations.

Dave Wottle (April 2013) is a retired American athlete. He was the winner of the 800-meter run at the 1972 Summer Olympics.

The New TASIS Leadership Academy

Throughout the years, TASIS has inspired leaders in a variety of fields, and in the spirit of this tradition we are proud to announce the new TASIS Leadership Academy (TLA). Fully funded by the TASIS Foundation, the TLA is a collaboration between the TASIS Schools in Lugano and England and will introduce students to the challenges of global leadership in the 21st Century.

Selected students (six from each school in 2014 and 12 from each school in subsequent years) will participate in a two-year leadership development program, which will include a spring seminar on leadership, built on readings and discussions. The program will include two fully-funded summer experiences that combine academic study, writing, and travel. The first takes place in London and Oxford for orientation and grounding in the field of leadership, Geneva to provide a view into the complexities of contemporary leadership, and Florence to provide time for reflection and collaboration. The second summer experience will be a guided internship in one of the following areas:

- Politics (in the oldest, most expansive sense of the word), Public Policy, and Diplomacy
- Service to the Common Weal
- Entrepreneurialism and Business

The TLA will take shape around the assumptions that excellent leadership is Global, Ethical, Creative, and Service-Oriented. Throughout the program, students will form and execute a plan of study and action and make a public presentation reflecting this plan and its implementation, elaborating on lessons learned throughout the process. Along with providing students the opportunity to engage in thoughtful leadership objectives, the TLA offers students enrolled at TASIS Switzerland and TASIS England full tuition scholarships funded by the TASIS Foundation.

This school year will mark the inaugural year of this new program. Sophomores will be eligible to apply by November 1, and selections and alternates will be announced before winter break.

Summer on the Collina d'Oro

Step on to the campus during the summer months and you'll see the Collina d'Oro buzzing with activity. Our Summer Programs welcome over 750 students (day and boarding) from around the world to campus in two sessions for a program of academics, sports, and the arts. **Le Château des Enfants** program is for children ages 4+ to 10 and is filled with learning and cultural activities that celebrate our global community. **The Middle School Program**, for children ages 11-13, includes a robust language-learning curriculum and an excellent musical-theater program along with age-appropriate activities which allow children to explore Switzerland and beyond. **The TASIS Summer Program**, for teenagers ages 14-18, includes academic programs in Italian, French, English as an Additional Language, Digital Photography, Musical Theater, Architecture & Design, and Fashion & Textile Design, along with an exciting mix of activities and travel. We also have a program in **Château-d'Oex**, in the Alps of Canton Vaud, which focuses on French and English language-learning and adventure activities.

Global Village Keeps Expanding: New Science

The new Science Center

The TASIS campus continues to grow, providing our students with inspiring, sustainable spaces to live, learn, and create. We've already broken ground on our newest building, the Science Center, and we need your help to ensure completion of this state-of-the-art, purpose-built facility for the study of science.

From vaccines and satellites to solar power and the internet, scientific discoveries have enriched, improved, and saved human lives. By investing in the most advanced science center possible, we can better encourage TASIS students to question, experiment, theorize, and explore. Whether in medicine, engineering, biotechnology, or environmental stewardship and defense, TASIS students should be prepared to make a lasting impact on the future of our planet.

Over three-quarter of our goal of CHF 2.5 million has been generously donated or pledged. We ask you to include the TASIS Science Center in your charitable giving this year.

Heartfelt gratitude to the following Donors to the Science Center:

The Mingde General Science Laboratory – **David & Maria Chan**
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General Science Laboratory	CHF 250,000	CHF 250,000
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Garden	CHF 100,000	USD 250,000
Atrio Entry Hall	CHF 50,000	CHF 100,000
Terraces	CHF 50,000	CHF 100,000
Stairways – interior & exterior	CHF 20,000	
Atrio Halls (6)	CHF 10,000	CHF 100,000
Laboratory workbenches	CHF 5,000	USD 100,000
Science equipment	CHF 500+	CHF 60,000
Paving Stones	CHF 200	CHF 60,000
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WETAG is a worldwide known private real estate company based in Ticino with offices in Lugano, Locarno and Ascona. **WETAG** has been the exclusive affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate (in short "CIRE") in the Canton of Ticino for many years. "CIRE" is the world's only real estate network owned by a fine art auction house: Christie's. In 2011 **WETAG** was voted as Christie's International Real Estate's 2nd best affiliate worldwide out of more than 140 companies. Unlike most other real estate companies, **WETAG** concentrates on one segment of the market only: exclusive private property (apartments and villas), mostly situated in Ticino, priced from CHF 1 million up to CHF 60 million. **WETAG** is well known for its highly educated crew (expect everyone at **WETAG** to speak four languages), and similarly renowned for its efficient and transparent service (expect the **WETAG** crew to know the true values of properties, about advantages and disadvantages, as well as about law and taxes).

Let's talk with the team of Directors at WETAG about aspects related to main residence in Ticino.

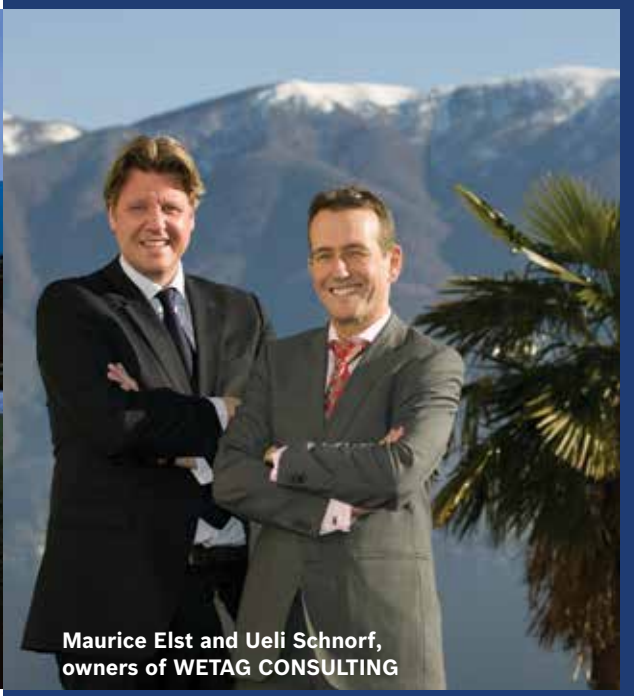
What are the main needs of WETAG's international clients who are considering becoming residents in Ticino?

We ask Deborah Fontana, who is the Director of WETAG's Lugano office: "Finding a home", she says, laughing, "this is only where it starts. We are often contacted by someone looking for a home. Most of our clients are not after a simple holiday property but they want a home to live in. They want to relocate and live in Switzerland, and this is a very different thing. **They rapidly understand that they will only be happy if we fine-tune their idea for their perfect lifestyle, which means synchronising living, working, schools, leisure and financial needs. This is our daily job at WETAG, and finding a home is just one aspect of it."** Silvia Van Roomen, Director of WETAG's Locarno office, adds: "When we look into details with our clients, their ideas often change completely. For example, many of our clients do not know that the purchase price of their home will affect their future tax situation, others do not know that there are English-speaking schools in Ticino, or, again, others do not reflect on the fact that the financing of a purchase can be done in many ways and it is very attractive in Switzerland, and so on." Ueli Schnorf, co-owner of WETAG points out: "Being specialized means being the best at what we do. We help our clients in all possible matters, but we send them to specialists as soon as this is necessary. Mostly these specialists are banks, lawyers and financial advisers. But in these cases we tell our clients where to go: which addresses we consider the best. There are so many of all these professionals in Ticino, and surely there are some differences..." Maurice Elst, co-owner of WETAG adds:
"We basically offer our clients a complete service, from finding the right home to relocation and settling-in services to even home decoration and construction services."

becoming a permanent resident in Ticino?

ing and find out how they can assist you!

Fairytale villa in Montagnola sold by WETAG CONSULTING



Maurice Elst and Ueli Schnorf, owners of WETAG CONSULTING

What are the main advantages of WETAG's services to its clients?

According to Maurice Elst: "International connections make the big difference. WETAG counts amongst the internationally best connected real estate companies worldwide. Due to the fact that WETAG constantly has 60-75% of its yearly customers coming from abroad, since the very early stages, WETAG has focused on a superior international network." Ueli Schnorf adds: "WETAG is probably the most international real estate brokerage company in Ticino. Our company is a member of the most prestigious Christie's network, but is also the exclusive member of the network of "Leading Real Estate Companies of the World" and its luxury department "Luxury Portfolio" as well as a founding member of the high end London based "European Real Estate Network – EREN", where I actually serve as one of the directors of the Board. WETAG is also the exclusive partner of Property 4 East, a high end marketing company focused specifically on the Eastern European clients. Year after year, within all these international organizations, the WETAG team participates in numerous conferences and annual meetings around the globe as highly acclaimed speakers and panellists." Maurice Elst says: "This means a huge investment of course, but for our clients it is a true advantage. We speak "their language": not only do we know about their home market and their habits or expectations regarding real estate markets, very often we can even assist them with their real estate needs "at home", things that you simply cannot generally expect from a local realtor." Ueli Schnorf adds: **"Our main client groups are Italians and Germans, followed by Dutch, Scandinavians and Eastern European clients, but we have served people from 71 nations since the year 2000. When I did the survey in our database I could barely believe it myself."**

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Reunions

New York, November 19, 2012

Robbie McClintock SH counselor '58-'61, George Clark '62, Maggie & Dieter Metzger '74, Dr. Michael D. Aeschliman

Kristen Lowman '70, Joyce Paton '71

Casa Italiana

Dr. Michael D. Aeschliman, Jim Campbell (former faculty)

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Paul & Robin Geise (TE faculty), Elizabeth Acer Crawford PG '66

Yvonne Procyk, Ned Lynch PG '66

Rei Inamoto '92, Bill Eichner, Yu Inamoto '92

Eyal Einik '03, Caroline Rothstein '01, Nick Goddard '01, Amanda Adams-Louis '04, Maria Mejia '03, Ivan Simic '01, _, John Tanner, Oguzhan Iskenderoglu '05

Donald MacDermid '61, Robbie McClintock SH counselor '58-'61

Stephen Brown, Virginia Frick FCF'74, Lisa Maxwell FCF'74

Washington D.C., March 8, 2013

Swiss Ambassador's Residence

Grace Wei '02, Mike Cichy '02

Maria Romero Pons '04, Capucine Mabika '04

Francesca Broggini '10, Marie McLaren '10

Michael Esman '69, Ellen Doscher Terpstra '69, Celeste Clement '69

Luis Medina, Daniela Paoli '02

Harry Belin, Jessica Portman Hachmeister '66

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Dr. Frank & Mei-Ling Klein

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, John '98 & Vanessa Procter, Bill Eichner

Dr. Michael Aeschliman, Guillaume Scheurer (Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland), Anna Brooke '60

Robert Winer (former faculty), Gholi Soltani '77, Amy & Russell Parks '65

Ashley Taylor '00, Ho-San Kim '97

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Class Reunions

PG'61, Chicago September 2012

TASIS Post Graduate class of '61 celebrated their 50th (plus one) reunion, in Chicago, September 19-21, 2012. The weather was perfect for our Architectural Boat Tour, Millennium Park and the Art Institute. It was a wonderful, fun and memorable time of reconnecting and reminiscing. We hope it is just the beginning of many more reunions.

Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit

left to right: Betsy Brown Phillips, Joyce Nassar Leary, John Taylor, Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit, Martha Sproat Fields, Liz Harris Pritchard, Steve Maloney, Patricia Elson Altopher

70s Reunion, Miami, April 2013

From beginning to end, the weekend of April 5-7, 2013, at the TASIS 70s Miami Reunion, was undeniably, one of the most memorable, fun, emotional, unforgettable experiences, shared by all attendees and alumni. Thirty friends, some old, some new, composed an image that will forever be cherished and engraved in our memories.

Friday started with cocktails and continued with a school bus tour of Miami – complete with Latin music which had us all dancing. Saturday's catamaran cruise on Biscayne Bay was just perfect, especially when the special delivery of OJ via jetski signaled 'mimosa time'. Another delicious group dinner and a jazz brunch on Sunday rounded everything off on a high note.

Daisy Bilbao '76

Just time for a group photo before the catamaran cruise on Biscayne Bay

2008, Lugano, May 2013

While a five-year reunion is uncommon at TASIS, the Class of '08 chose not to wait the standard ten years to connect again! Flying in from all corners of the world, we gathered back at the place we all once called home. Some of us had not been back since we donned our white gowns and black suits, but one weekend of reminiscing, laughing and wine-drinking took us right back to our high school days!

Oriana Zoghbi '08

2008 classmates are caught in group shots around campus

2003
Lugano, June 2013

Nyawira Kariuki, Stephanie De Vos, Melanie Balasopulos, Lea Richter, Casa Fleming maid Irene, Barbara Borghi, Serena de Tomasi, Alice Passuello

Twenty-five members of the class of 2003 concluded that it really was time for their 10th anniversary and returned to campus in June 2013 to mark the occasion. A few stayed in the dorm, others stayed downtown, but all converged on Casa Fleming for a delightful evening catching up and reminiscing over prosecco. After revisiting old haunts in Lugano, Sunday saw the now standard 'send-off brunch' at De Nobili, with the welcomed additional company of faculty members Jim Haley (newly arrived for the summer programs) and 'Super Mario' d'Azzo.

Lola Toscani, Lea Richter, Barbara Borghi, Nyawira Kariuki, Cynthia Bowie, Stefano Dufour, Remi Franklin, Selim Bilgic, Tori Aaker, Serena de Tomasi, Ilya Sokolov

Alumni Walking Holiday in France, June 2013

TASIS hikers celebrate the end of their walking holiday with a group shot at Château d'Andelot.

Fourteen people rendezvoused with **Peter Boynton '69** for lunch in Bourg-en-Bresse on June 27th, at the start of nine days of walking and conviviality in the French Jura. Lodgings were at the beautiful 12th-century Château d'Andelot, chosen for the family connection with Peter's erstwhile roommate, the late **Peter Graham Belin '69**. The Belin family have been careful stewards of their historic château, restoring it to tasteful splendor. Days on the trails featured walks through gentle pastures, passing the occasional herd of placid white Charolais cattle and less placid guard dogs, with regular stops to admire waterfalls or salt mines, or to learn about the production of local wines and cheeses – and taste them, too! Lunches were mostly al fresco, but the evenings featured delicious dinners in the vaulted dining room of the château – a real treat after the day's exertions. *Merci beaucoup* to Peter Boynton for his hard work in researching and planning a trip to suit all ages. Thank you also to gracious hosts Delphine and David Belin, and their sons Theo and Augustin, for their truly exemplary hospitality.

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Arcipelago Toscano - Isola d'Elba - Italia

80s Reunion, Lugano, May 2013

Just two of the many shots of 80s alumni enjoying catch-up time - seen here at Grotto Flora and at the home of Mouna Eitouni '86

On the weekend of May 9-12, 2013, over 50 alumni from the 80s descended on Lugano to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Class of 1983. The weekend kicked off with a water taxi ride and delicious lakeside dinner in Caprino, organized by Annette Rossi-Roetger '86, and continued in style as they explored old haunts and spent a lot of time catching up with each other. As well as joining in the festivities surrounding the Grand Opening of the Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center their list of "must-do" activities included visiting their dorms, walking the path to Montagnola, and – of course – a lot of gelato!

Many more reunion photos can be seen on the alumni pages of the TASIS website!

Reunion Calendar 2013-2014

All-Class Reunion in New York, November 23, 2013 - Casa Italiana at Columbia University, 6-9pm

All-Class Reunion in Los Angeles, February 22, 2014 - Warner Bros Studios, Burbank, 7-10pm

All-Class Reunion in Boston, April 11, 2014 - Swissnex, Cambridge, 6:30-9:30pm

Classes of 1963 & 1964 – 50-Year Reunion, New York City, April 4-6, 2014
Contact Joe Cook (jacook4646@comcast.net), Judy Yale (yaletrade@aol.com) or Marta Babson (mbabson@hotmail.com) for more information.

Class of 1974 – 40-Year Reunion, Lugano, June 11-16, 2014
Contact Roubik Aftandilians (roubikA@aol.com), Kathy Gamble Pilugin (dulcinea_q1@yahoo.com), Dieter Metzger (dietermetzger@hotmail.com), or Daisy Bilbao '76 (daisybilbao@bellsouth.net). Other 70s alumni are also invited!

Class of 2004 – 10-Year Reunion, Lugano, June 20-22, 2014
Contact Masa Yo (yo.masa@gmail.com) for more information.

PG'83 reunion in SoCal, Summer 2014
Contact Kate Lewin Shamblott (kshamblott@yahoo.com) for information.

If you're planning a reunion, please contact the alumni office to add your plans to the calendar.
For more information or questions, please contact the alumni office at **alumni@tasis.ch.**

Sharing His Mosaic of Life

Dr. Jack Brauns and daughter Alicia '82

It was a very special week for the TASIS community when **Alicia Brauns '82** brought her parents to campus to help share her father's remarkable story as part of the TASIS Senior Humanities Program.

Dr. Jack Brauns had a happy childhood in Lithuania until war arrived in 1941 and he and his family were forced to move to a ghetto with 30,000 other Jews. Three years later, Jack and his family were herded by gunpoint to Germany, where he and his father were separated from his mother and brother and put on a train heading south. Throughout the year spent in the inhuman work camps of first Kaufering and then the notorious Dachau, Jack spent his nights reliving his childhood memories and made a conscious decision to hold on to hope and the beautiful things in life, for without them he saw no reason to strive for survival. After liberation from Dachau on April 29, 1945 (which he considers his second birthday), Jack made his way via Budapest to Italy – traveling on the roofs of trains and crossing the Alps on foot. Here began a new life for Jack, who received his medical degree in Italy and moved to the United States in 1956.

During his week-long residency at TASIS in February, Dr. Brauns made presentations to our 5th Graders, Middle School, and High School, and visited all MS and HS European history classes. Members of Chris Love's Grade 10 English class jostled for the privilege to sit next to him at their Casa Fleming lunch, and this sort of enthusiasm was repeated again and again. Our students were transformed by his attitude and philosophy. Many noted a similar idea: focusing on anger doesn't help; it only impedes your own progress toward healing. One student said, "As I walked away from the assembly, I felt a tear well up in my eye even though I struggled to keep it hidden. Dr. Brauns is a living Holocaust survivor, but that fact is not as amazing as he is. Throughout everything that he had been through, Dr. Brauns felt no hate or anger toward those who inflicted great pain upon him. He only felt sympathy and compassion."

Alicia first became fully aware of her father's ordeals on a TASIS In-Pro trip to Dachau in 1981. Chaperones and classmates remember what an impression this visit made on teenaged Alicia, and it is no wonder that this talented filmmaker later decided to tell her dad's story. The Mosaic of Life is no ordinary Holocaust documentary, however. Alicia especially wants to share her dad's positive philosophy, which made all the difference to his survival and to his subsequent success in life. Now in post-production, Alicia's inspirational film won the 2nd Roy W. Dean Film Grant of 2012. TASIS students and faculty were able to view a 10-minute preview of the film during assemblies, and there was a further screening during the May Gala weekend. To find out more about Alicia's film, visit www.themosaicoflifemovie.com.

Magical Place

TASIS for me was always this magical place that my mother spoke about. It was a place that only existed in my imagination. It was only when I had the opportunity to visit Montagnola and the campus that I actually got to make the dream a reality.

My mother loved TASIS. It was a place she fondly remembered. It was a place she felt safe, and from that security she was able to become the person she was. For her, TASIS was home. I feel that love and security every moment I spend on campus. I know that she would be proud of my many accomplishments, but becoming a teacher at TASIS would, without a doubt, make her happiest of all.

My mother never had the opportunity to know me as an adult or even a teenager, and I think the one thing she always wanted to do was expose me to The American School in Switzerland. To come here after her tragedy and be received in the way I have been, you can imagine the feelings and emotions that it gave me. It was like finding home in a place you only imagined existed, except only better.

Thank you, TASIS, Paul Distefano

***Paul Distefano,** dance teacher in the summer Musical Performing Arts Program. His mother **Fran Yarbro '76** tragically died climbing Mount Everest.*

TASIS USA

Toni Soule and Marc-Pierre Jansen

Yes, it's true: George Washington slept a few yards away from the TASIS USA office. The TASIS USA office, you ask? Why, yes - a little bit of Lugano on the East Coast!

Originally, TASIS USA was located in New York, but in 1995 it moved to Washington, D.C. A building sale in 2010 meant that TASIS USA once again had to move, but this time they shifted across the river into Alexandria, Virginia, in the center of a thriving historic community. The office, in Old Town Alexandria, is located in a row house that was once the home of George Washington's cabinet-maker.

TASIS USA is staffed by **Tom Fleming '61, Toni Soule,** and **Marc-Pierre Jansen**. Tom has headed up the office for decades, and Toni joined in 1995. She's the mother of four grown sons, all of whom attended TASIS Summer Programs. Marc-Pierre joined in 2006. He met his wife, Jessica, while working as a summer staff member. They have two young children, one of whom attended the summer programs this year, and a third on the way. Marc-Pierre is also Director of the Summer Middle School Program.

Together, the US team works to serve TASIS in a variety of ways. They serve as the initial contact that American families have when inquiring about the TASIS Schools or Summer Programs. "We educate prospective families about TASIS and the options available to them," Toni says. "Many conversations take place over the phone, but whenever possible we meet with families in person. Marc-Pierre and I take approximately 15 trips a year around the US." Along with family visits, they visit high schools, educational consultants, corporations, and TASIS alumni. They also attend both summer and academic-year fairs that are held throughout the country each year.

Their travel schedules are posted on the "TASIS On The Road" section on the TASIS website, and they encourage alumni to contact them if they will be in their area. "In cases when Marc-Pierre or I cannot personally attend an event, we keep a database of TASIS summer teachers who live in the US or academic-year teachers who have recently relocated back to the US. These educators, along with willing alumni, are a huge help to us, often attending events that otherwise would not have a TASIS presence."

The US office is also responsible for mailing TASIS catalogs and viewbooks to all North American inquirers, as well as corresponding with families seeking information via email. All emails with US or Canadian addresses are forwarded to them for response.

Toni and Marc-Pierre maintain a close relationship with the State Department, meeting with their Family Liaison Officers at least once a year. They attend alumni reunions and are happy to welcome TASIS alumni, faculty, and friends to their office. Toni says, "Our door is always open and the welcome mat is out. Please come see us the next time you're in the Washington area. We keep a very healthy supply of Swiss chocolates available to make you feel at home."

Of Theaters and Terraces

Kay Hamblin on the terrace that bears her name

Wonderful, humbling, appreciative. That is my response when asked, "How does it feel to have a terrace at TASIS in your name?"

A teacher, like a parent, works with young people, both trying to give their best. Sometimes the results are immediately evident, as in a fine performance with a close-knit cast. Sometimes the results continue to appear. In this case, the generosity of TASIS alumnus Rick PG'65 and Paulise Bell was a welcome gift as I retired from TASIS. Their son Michael '05 had been an easy study once I got him onstage. He was a natural speaker and performer. Their appreciation for the benefits of theater on Michael's life, and my many happy years of directing the theater program at TASIS, resulted in the magnificent Kay Hamblin Terrace. My opportunity to be present for the Serata

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Ticinese was also their gift. It was a delightful evening, one that I shall long remember - the food, the wine, the music, family, and friends.

It is most gratifying to know that my name will exist at TASIS for a long time. My grandchildren, Zoe and Max, can go to summer school, or visit Ticino as adults, stand on the Kay Hamblin Terrace, and remember me as they gaze at the beautiful Alps in the distance and the thriving campus below. What a rare gift for a teacher, or anyone, to receive. Thank you. This is a great honor.

I hope there will be many parties on my terrace. It is a perfect place to enjoy conversation, laughter, and friends. It is a wonderful place to celebrate life. To all of you who will toast your good fortune there, I raise my glass and join you.

Kay Hamblin, former TASIS theater teacher

Dr. Emily Gammoh '08

We congratulate **Emily Gammoh '08** on recently earning a slew of letters behind her name. Emily graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland – Medical University of Bahrain with highest honors. (No surprise to us – she was our Valedictorian, too!) That means she can add MB Bch BAO to her name – Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, and Bachelor in the Art of Obstetrics. She is currently working as an intern at the King Hamad University Hospital in Bahrain and plans to continue her training in Bahrain or in the United States, hopefully in pediatrics.

She still claims TASIS helped mold her into the successful young woman she is today. "TASIS taught me how to be self-reliant and made the transition to university life and living without my family very easy," she says. "TASIS also gave me a more open and understanding view of all cultures and people because of its diverse student body, which has made it easier to empathize with my patients irrespective of where they are from."

Peace-maker

TASIS alumnus **Oliver Rizzi Carlson '01** wrote to spread the word on his "Nesting Peace" summit on infrastructures for peace, to be held in Geneva this fall. Writes Oliver, "This will be an innovative, landmark event in the history of peace, promoting novel and effective approaches to peacebuilding. What's more, we are organizing and designing the event itself as an example of an infrastructure for peace in order to demonstrate its principles and its value. This self-referential approach is not only rare in peacework, but also serves to reveal peace as essentially a process of learning and cultural development. I believe others in the TASIS community would be interested to know about this project by an alumnus who owes much of his interest and understanding of peace to TASIS!" http://www.gamip.org/

Research Associate

I am excited to share this story as a father and as a TASIS employee who believes strongly in the continuing development of a solid science program at TASIS.

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BACK FROM RUSSIA IN 1852, COSTANTINO BERRA BUILT AN ELEGANT HOME ON THE COLLINA D'ORO

When sculptor Costantino Berra, cousin of the architect Camuzzi, returned from Russia in 1850, he built his new home in Certenago. The villa is an example of 19th century architecture and is inspired by Berra's time in Russia in the architecture of the façade and the interiors, where art and history combine.

An elegant art nouveau gate made of wrought iron originating from 1904 and previously a part of Villa Seerose in Horgen opens up to the small road leading to the mansion. Two majestic sycamore trees overshadow the square in front of the villa with an original sundial from 1850 on the façade.

The entrance of the house is characterized by the ceiling, decorated with delicate gold trimmings and a painting of the sky. To the right is a library with walnut paneling. The adjoining sitting room faces a spacious terrace leading to the garden, with Venetian stucco walls picking up the colours of the original 19th century frescoes on the ceiling. An elegant dining room is to the left of the entrance, and a stone staircase leads to the upper floors.

The first floor includes a lounge with original rhombic tiles and a trompe l'oeil mural which picks up the colors of the antique frescoes on the ceiling. Also on the first floor are the master and guest bedrooms. The top floor includes a separate apartment with views over the countryside surrounding the home.
The property consists of the main villa and a dépendance with an apartment and an office, which is currently occupied.
The square next to the villa includes parking for several cars.
The house boasts a well-tended garden with planning permission for a pool, and the surface area of the land allows for additional buildings or an extension of the mansion.

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In mid-2012, several hundreds of students in physics, electrical, chemical, and materials engineering applied for 12 Research Associate openings at the prestigious Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, which is jointly managed by the US Department of Energy and the University of California at Berkeley.

Stefan Gygax '08, a student in materials science at the University of California at Berkeley, was one of the 12 selected candidates. Since January he has done classified research on advanced semiconductors for computing in space, researching nano-materials aimed to withstand the exposure to cosmic radiation. He has joined the Dubon group and is also working at the National Center for Electron Microscopy. He is working with the most powerful microscopes in the world, capable of distinguishing between single atoms.

Of course I am a proud father, but I am also proud of a TASIS alumnus achieving so much in the sciences. We are continuing to prove that our graduates can succeed in the arts, business, and science.

Max Gygax, TASIS Business Manager

NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship

Caroline Gorham '07 is the second University of Virginia doctoral candidate to win the NASA Space Technology Research Fellowship. Along with encouraging publication and presentations, the fellowship includes a grant of $10,000 to travel and work at NASA during the year. Caroline's research focuses on the need for energy harvesting in space to ensure return mission success. She intends to investigate the effects of non-crystalline structure, i.e., tetrahedral and fractal networks, on photovoltaic device efficiency. Read more on her website: www.carolinesgorham.com

Ukes In Schools

Our own **Jeanie Cunningham '75** is making waves in California with the Ukes in Schools program! Started in October 2012, the program teaches local schoolchildren how to play the ukulele, which has been a huge success so far, even making the local news! She spent the summer developing a uke instruction manual for teachers. Find out more by viewing 'CBS Eye on Ukesters 2' on YouTube.

Making Waves in the Water!

Geena Krueger '08 is a waterski champion who competes in professional events around the world. She's a member of the German Waterski National Team and will be competing in the European Championships in September in Greece and the World Championships in November in Santiago, Chile. She is sponsored by Teamlife and Sansrival Waterskis. Based in Winter Garden, Florida, Geena is web editor of *Waterski Magazine* and *Transworld Wakeboard*.

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Il Santabbondio

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Alumni

class news

1

2

3

4

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Class Agent: Rick Mayne
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63
Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Pauline Brock Houghton updated us in January: "I'm still in Cambridge, Massachusetts and have stopped teaching at Shady Hill School, but have been working at the Harvard ceramics studio. Both my boys, Brock and Nick, live in LA and I spend time there. I go to Maine in the summer. My husband died two years ago but I was able to show him TASIS before he died. I have such happy memories of Lugano and Lausanne, where my family lived." • **Judy Callaway Brand** says, "My daughter Kelly, who spent two summers at TASIS England in the 80s, will join me on a trip to England soon. We are looking forward to visiting the TASIS campus so Kelly can see the changes and I can see it for the first time. I was disappointed that I was not able to visit the Lugano campus in May to celebrate the 50th anniversary of my high school graduation. However, I'm hoping to visit before the end of 2013."

• **The Class of '63 will celebrate its 50th anniversary** at a reunion in NYC from April 4-6, 2014, along with the Class of '64. Contact **Joe Cook '64** jacook4646@comcast.net or **Judy Meyerhoff Yale '64** yaletrade@aol.com for details and to sign up!

64
Class Agent: Joe Cook
jacook4646@comcast.net

Jim Yohe passed on news of his experience with Hurricane Sandy: "Without a doubt, Sandy produced the most severe flooding that has ever occurred in New York City. Our gallery, which is a block from West Street that parallels the Hudson River, is four feet above the street level. Water came in but only into the basement and at its highest may have been two feet deep. Thankfully, the gallery itself remained dry. We lost some books, furniture, and records in the lower level and the basement was a mess, but none of the art in the gallery was damaged. The most difficult issue for us was the lack of electricity. To clean up, we had to work in the cold and darkness. Added to that misery was the lack of phone or internet service. We are now beyond most of these problems and the gallery is well on its way to a full recovery. All in all, we were exceptionally lucky. Many other galleries and other people in the path of Sandy suffered much more."

• **Stan Lipin** has been living and working as a business consultant in Milan since March 2013 and is enjoying both the work and living in Italy. "In fact, it is like coming home, partly because so much of my youth was spent in this area. Now I can appreciate it so much more," says Stan.

• **Mary Bailey Basrai** writes, "I have always remembered and been influenced by my schooling in Lugano. It was an exceptional educational experience shared with intelligent and worldly people. I became a registered nurse and worked in home care, hospice, public health, mental health, and finished my career as a teacher. I married a wonderful man from India and have two daughters and two granddaughters. It has been a life filled with curiosity, love, and change. I am now a Buddhist meditator. I help organize and co-lead retreats and days of mindfulness, and I volunteer in state prison meditation. There is always something new to learn! Right now I am starting to play chess, lacto-fermenting foods, growing a vegetable garden, and swinging in my hammock reading as many books as I can. I just finished a book on building sandcastles, so now I am off to the beach."

• **The Class of '64 will hold its 50th anniversary** at a reunion in NYC April 4-6, 2014, in a joint celebration with the Class of '63. Contact **Joe Cook** jacook4646@comcast.net or **Judy Meyerhoff Yale** yaletrade@aol.com for details and to sign up!

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Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Bill Quinn, Maria De Ronde, and Hilda (Cox) Mills met for an excellent Italian dinner and a bottle of Chianti in Scottsdale, Arizona. 1

• **Peggy Johnson Cannell** wrote during the summer, "Retired now from my life as an equestrian trainer, I am teaching ESL and GED English to adults. My daughter **Kristin '84** lives nearby and she was able to attend the reunion in Turkey and had a blast. I have six grandkids and they would all like to go to TASIS if possible. The two eldest are spending some time in Costa Rica this summer as volunteers. My passion is photography and I had one joint showing a few years ago."

66
Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman
ckitsman@aol.com

Susan Frank (**aka Ronnie**) is an international consultant and corporate trainer for IT and telecommunications organizations. "TASIS was truly a gift in my life, and being an 'adventurer' I fully took advantage of the location of the School, much to the faculty's dismay. I have, however, gone on to be a 'student of the world' as my work has taken me around the world many times." She would like to reconnect with **Alice Maresi Haller**. Recently, Susan reconnected with **Kris Lasker**: "I was studying to be a trainer through an organization steeped in metaphysics. As a trainer I had privileges to observe any of the programs offered. I went into an advanced program and asked to go through the applications of participants, and came across an application by Kris Lasker. During a break I asked the woman by that name where she had grown up, and she replied with the name of the city where Kris lived. I introduced myself - we were both shocked! Kris is an attorney in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is married and has children."

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Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman
ckitsman@aol.com

Leslie (Hughes) Pierpont tells us, "My first grandchild, a boy named Palmer, was born July 10, 2012. I visited with **Susan (Stover) Hill** recently. I was just named a Garden Club of America Horticulture Judge. My husband survived throat cancer." 2

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Class Agent : Pamela Springer Bryant, ohsaycanuc@cox.net

Tom Butler shares with us: "After TASIS, I attended the University of California at Berkeley, graduating in 1973 with a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. I worked in the nuclear power industry in Oregon for a couple of years and then went to the University of Washington (where my future wife was in graduate school) to get my M.S. in Mechanical Engineering. I got married and went to work for Boeing in Seattle. That started a 36-year career culminating in my election as a Technical Fellow in 2006. I retired this year and Joan and I are about to celebrate our 37th wedding anniversary. We have two daughters; the oldest is a special education teacher, the youngest working on her Ph.D. in molecular biology at the University of Michigan. We look forward to traveling in our retirement and hope to visit TASIS in the future." 3

• **Doran Watters** is moving to Denver from Connecticut as soon as her house sells. Her two adult children both live in Colorado and she would like to be close to them.

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Class Agent: Pamela Carillo Jackson, pjackson@tectron.net

Wendy Jester Garling and **Rebecca Zaidman von Bachelle** reunited in April 2013 in Konigstein im Taunus, Germany, where Wendy's family lived when she was at TASIS. Rebecca and Wendy took a one-week road trip through Holland where they enjoyed good food, beautiful springtime gardens and lots of art, mostly Van Gogh. They also toured the newly-reopened Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. 4

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Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Doreen Mosher Louderback and her husband Terry recently visited family in San Francisco. They roamed the city from Russian Hill to the Golden Gate Park and from Point Reyes to northern beaches along the Pacific. 5

• **Sarah Spitz** reports, "Since retiring from KCRW public radio in December 2011, I have been actively engaged in volunteer work on behalf of food justice and sustainability issues with the UC/Cooperative Extension LA County Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver programs. I am an outreach coordinator, writing press releases and keeping our Master Food Preserver Facebook page current (www.facebook.com/mfpla). I also host two monthly information booths at the Santa Monica/Pico and Mar Vista Farmers Markets where the Master Gardeners give away seeds and seedlings and answer gardening questions for the public. I've also begun a monthly series of free, hands-on food preservation classes in association with Santa Monica Farmers Market and the city's Parks Department at Virginia Avenue Park. I'm on the Advisory Board of a young and exponentially growing non-profit gleaning and harvesting organization, Food Forward (www.foodforward.org), which does backyard harvests, public space picks and private corporate orchard picks, and salvages leftover produce from five area farmers markets, which is donated to social organizations who feed low-income clients and offer them culinary service training as well. It's an organization I've watched from its inception to the present and am thrilled to be part of its growth. In my spare time, I attend cultural events for my weekly column in the *Santa Monica Daily Press*, called "Culture Watch" (http://smdp.com/category/life/culture-watch). It keeps me in the know about theater, music, arts, and performance in the LA area. In September I'll be attending the Heirloom Seed Expo in Santa Rosa on behalf of The Seed Library of Los Angeles (www.SLOLA.org), a group I helped co-found. I'm about to embark on the sale of my rental condominium, a milestone, as it was the unit I purchased for my parents to live in. Now that they are gone and my lovely tenant is moving to Berkeley, I decided it was time to let it go. I still live in my unit, where I've been for more than 30 years, here in lovely Santa Monica. That pretty much sums up my life. It's full, it's fulfilling and I have a great circle of friends, so I'm content. And, oh yeah, the tomatoes in my patio garden are looking really good, despite the standard SoCal June gloom that has begun to extend into July." 6

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Class Agent: Scott H. Whittle
incal@earthlink.net

Tracy Stephens is an award-winning kitchen and bath designer and shares some of her interior design projects, inspirations, and commitment to green design in a YouTube video. http://bit.ly/1ei1rOL

• A few friends from the Class of '71 got together from May 3-5 in Raleigh, North Carolina to celebrate many years of friendship as they turn 60 this year. **Robin Hamilton-Brooks** and **Nancy Hubbard Carty** hosted the group for a weekend of meandering down memory lane and catching up on current lives and adventures. **Hilarie Horne** travelled from Miami, Florida; **Carol Wuerthele Garbarino** came from Newtown, Connecticut; and **Terry Banning-Michiels** hailed from Seattle, Washington. Terry's sisters **Wendy '73** and Pam joined them for dinner the first evening. 7

• **Catherine Steele** writes, "**Michael Nelson '70** and **Peter Boynton '69** were part of my surprise 60th birthday party. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw them sitting at the winery casually sipping wine! I continue to work part time for Sutter Health as a Palliative Care RN, and fill the rest of my working time consulting for the Coalition for Compassionate Care of California. I am also enjoying the challenges of being on the Board of Directors of the California Hospice and Palliative Care Association. My daughter graduated with her Ph.D. in Health Care Communication and my son Jarrett is racking up his intern hours for a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. Life is good and I love seeing all who attend the reunions." 8

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• **Bob Stokes** shares with us, "Sue and I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary this year by walking 300 km in France. Our son Reed will be attending law school this fall. I am a full-time volunteer for PeaceTrees Vietnam, a demining and development charity that works in Quang Tri Province among the ethnic minorities and hill tribes. In the last year I have spent six months there and find the work very rewarding. I will be leading a trip there in September. It's great that retirement has led to such an opportunity."

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Class Agent: Patricia Mullen Rempen, TrishRempen@gmail.com

Clifford Clavel lives in Lugano where he teaches English. He became a grandfather three times over in the past year when his son Anthony had a daughter, and his other son Alex had twins!

• **Penny Payakaniti Johnston** writes, "I was transferred to Columbus, Ohio from Atlanta about three months ago. This has been a fantastic move. I stay in touch with some of the TASIS classmates via Facebook. **Chuck Burkert** was kind enough to create a page for us. We wish more would join though. I work for Rush Enterprises, Inc., the parent company of the largest commercial truck dealership. I'm the finance manager for our eight locations in Ohio. I love what I do!!"

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Class Agent: Wendy Barton Benson, wendybbenson@aol.com

• **Sean Butler** reports, "I was part of a presentation to Los Angeles City Council for World Day for International Justice on July 17, celebrating the day the conference of 160 nations reached agreement on the terms of the Rome Treaty for the International Criminal Court." 9

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Vacancy for Class Agent

Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

• **Leslie Lishon Sosnowski** continues her work with Boulder Shares with a focus on bringing investment opportunities to Haiti while simultaneously expanding her philanthropic endeavors in the region.

• **Joannie English Guy** writes, "My husband and I are living/working in Abu Dhabi, UAE. I am Senior Director for the Cleveland Clinic Abu Dhabi Perioperative Services. We love Abu Dhabi thanks to the wonderful Emirati people and this amazing opportunity. My husband and I are constructing a house in the Dordogne region of France for retirement and plan to retire in three years between France and Sonoma County. We spent time this summer with **Wendy Boynton '73** in France."

• **Shellie Ruston Munn** told us recently, "After TASIS I wanted to return to Europe. Fortunately, I was able to study first at New College in Sarasota, Florida, entering as a sophomore (thanks to the fantastic education I received at TASIS) and obtaining the equivalency of a French Baccalaureate. I then trained in Nice to perfect my French and entered Le Faculté de Droit, getting the needed DEUG in Law to enable me to transfer to the University of Denver Law School. With my law school study partner and my father, we opened our first law firm specializing in aviation law and juvenile law with a smattering of contract law and wills and trusts. After about a decade of that, I moved on to form a real estate partnership and continued as in-house counsel specializing in real estate leases. Along the way, I met and fell in love with my long-term friend and neighbor. We have two sons, the eldest is entering his second year at Wake Forest University and our youngest is a junior in high school here in Colorado. So far it's been quite a ride, fortunately with more ups than downs. My experience at TASIS provided me with a great background and instilled a love of learning. My husband and I are about to become graduate gemologists and are excited to start a new direction in the sale and import of large gems and the design and sale of objects of utilitarian value made with gems." 10

• **Daniel Higgins** writes, "I'm so psyched to be coming back to TASIS after 40 years. The Class of 1974 reunion will be a blast. I'm still fortunate to be a working freelance photographer after 23 years." 11

• **Larissa Shmailo** writes, "I edited an anthology called *Twenty-first Century Russian Poetry,* which recently launched. It features 50 noted contemporary Russian poets, translated by equally gifted poets. It is available online here: http://bigbridge.org/BB17/poetry/twentyfirstcenturyrussianpoetry/twenty-first-century-russian-poetry-contents.html. Also, my poetry group, The Feminist Poets in Low-Cut Blouses, read at the New York City Poetry Festival in July. I keep in touch with TASIS friends online. Recently, **Dieter Metzger** shared photos of friends in a 1974 production of Chamber Music, including **Alison Furth**, **Anne Arnold Guthrie**, and **Zarina Charlesworth** (whom I got to see in person recently here in New York). We all remember our TASIS time fondly."

• **Kathy Gamble Pilugin** recently published a book called *Expat Alien.* The book takes us through her childhood growing up as a Third Culture Kid. She talks about traveling around Europe and living in Africa. She survived a plane crash, a coup d'etat in Burma, earthquakes in Mexico, driving through the Andes in Colombia, and army ants in Nigeria.

• **The Class of '74 will hold its 40th anniversary reunion** on the TASIS campus in Lugano, June 11-16, 2014. Contact **Roubik Aftandilians**, **Kathy Gamble Pilugin**, **Anne Arnold Guthrie**, or **Dieter Metzger** for info. (See page 46)

• **Leslie Lishon Sosnowski's** daughter, **Sara '15**, is currently in 11th Grade at TASIS. We hope Sara will enjoy her time at TASIS just as much as her mom did!

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Class Agent: Linda Jaekel Avery Averylin@aol.com

Barbara Levi James wrote recently: "It has been quite the year! I guess it started with my being ill, with an infection that couldn't be touched by antibiotics, turned into bacterial endocarditis, and destroyed my mitral valve. Had open heart surgery, pacemaker, and was in the hospital for over two weeks. The good news is that I am now healthy and feeling better than I have in years. I eat right, have given up sugar and don't miss

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it, and I try to exercise. Being sick is a wake up call that life is indeed short, and I have a greater appreciation for the little things. The kids are great. My little one is 15, doing well in high school, and is considering a career in forensic psychology. She loves music and we've taken her to a bunch of concerts, including Bruce Springsteen, U2, and Bon Jovi. My big one turned 18 while in Navy boot camp, so I couldn't celebrate this milestone with him. He enlisted at 17, realizing that despite his intelligence and driving ambition, college was not for him. His military aptitude test scores qualified him for nuclear engineering training, so he is now in Navy nuke school, training to be on a nuclear sub. I'm freelancing as a reporter for the local newspapers, doing a ton of volunteer work, involved in local politics, and keeping busy. I recently traveled around the East Coast following Springsteen, which was awesome! I am generally trying to live life, not just go through the motions. I hope to make it back to the campus next year; as I type this we are getting ready to go to Italy for 10 days. Of course I have been there already, thanks to TASIS, and we're also going to Rome for a Bruce concert, which I promise to report back on!"

• **Cindy Fletcher Rothstein** recently sent us a picture. **12**

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Class Agent: Daisy Bilbao
daisybilbao@bellsouth.net
P.K. Fields
pkfields@earthlink.net

Stewart Chritton updated us in November: "I'm now in Rwanda, teaching anesthesia to resident doctors and technicians. It's for a year through a US-funded Human Resources for Health grant. My wife and two girls are happy to be here, too. Next summer I'll return to Boston, teaching and practicing anesthesia at Brigham and Women's Hospital. I am looking forward to visiting **Jay** and **Karen Long** (former faculty) in Madagascar."

• **Janine Mantle** writes, "I am currently living in Israel and performing music concerts around the country. I have a 12-year-old daughter named Nicole." **13**

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Class Agent: Richard Mullen
rdmullen@verizon.net

Kathleen Murray got in touch out of the blue, 40 years since attending as a 7th Grader in 1971-72: "It has been so long ago, my sketchy memories of TASIS are fading. I loved being in Europe as I had lived in Florence for more than a year before that. I now live on the Monterey Peninsula in California. I am an oil painter and a single mom to a 28-year-old son. It has been a life-long dream to return someday, to paint and visit those spots that will never fade, and to bring my son to Europe and expose him to a different way of life, other than America. Perhaps I'll sell a painting or two and then come!"

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Class Agent: Heidi Nickels Pace
heidi.pace@asd20.org

Doug Pinard (aka Elmer) updated us in January: "**Kamil Khayat** and I have just started a new business together and we are bound and determined that 2013 will be the best year ever! Our company is KDR-Designs, LLC (K=Kamil, D=Doug & R=Rita, Kamil's wife). Our first product can be seen at www.tiltedbox.com. Kamil designed the product and my job is to get it out to market. We have other designs that we will bring out in the near future as well. On another note, just last week I met with **Ed Fletcher '77**. I live in Pennsylvania and Ed lives in northern Maryland, and we get together every few months. Ed and I have been good friends ever since we both attended the University of Florida. At TASIS, he was a year ahead of me, however we played rugby together there and became close friends while at U of F."

• **Valerio Leone** wrote in April: "In 2012 I won the European Championship Historic Formula 3 again, with a 1983 Formula 3 car. This makes four championships in a row: French in 2009, Italian 2010, and European 2011 and 12. The new championship just started in France with a double victory — so far so good. As far as work is concerned, I am still in the bicycle business and although we are going through a very difficult economic situation, the company is running well. We keep improving products and are always looking for new ideas, design, and accessories for our bicycles. In February 2012, my son (23) started to work with me and I must say it's a special feeling for a father. My daughter is 19 and after living for two months in New York for work, she will now start university. I travel a lot all over the world with them. We enjoy our time and take a lot of pictures." **14**

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Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

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Class Agent Antonella Noseda Quadri, anoseda@swissonline.ch

Graham Bonnett reconnected with **Heather Hartsock Cobb '81**, and they had a great dinner at her house with her family. Graham bought an old house in Texas and is spending time restoring it. **15**

• **Alexandra Putman** reports, "As for news, my IT services business is thriving in New York. I had the pleasure of spending five weeks in Bordeaux in the fall and am looking forward to a lifestyle in which I can go back and forth between Europe and the US. My eldest daughter is getting married in October and will be settling in Colorado Springs. My younger daughter is finishing up her second year of college here in New York. Life is good."

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Class Agent: Nounou Taleghani
nounou@stanford.edu

Giancarlo Cantella tells us, "I recently completed 20 years as a Transit Police Officer for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority here in Boston. Another three years to go. Have to start thinking about what I'm going to do with myself after that. I will still have to work (and I'd like to head back to school part-time, to study something like anthropology just to keep the ol' brain functioning) but I'd like to find something completely different, nothing law enforcement-related. I have two loves: my wife, Mary Ann (14 years) and my motorcycle. Have made it to Europe these past several years to visit my parents who in the

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past couple of years moved from Paris to Florence. I've biked a good bit of the USA on the motorcycle as well. Not such extensive travelling as **Tom Mullen**, but fun nonetheless. I find I have to keep returning to work to pay for the travels." **16**

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Class Agent: Tania Shetabi Nordstrom
tsnordstrom@yahoo.com

Kim Waite Niggel writes, "I am the executive director of a non-profit that provides therapeutic horseback riding for individuals with special needs. We have been in need of a facility upgrade for some time. Through many blessings my husband and I were able to purchase the perfect property to provide a permanent home for the riding program. It has a lovely little house on the property, so we now live right here on the horse farm."

• **Jill Ruedy Welch** lives in Beijing, China, having just taken a new marketing role with Johnson & Johnson. She is a proud parent of a new high school graduate, Richard, and a new middle school graduate, Mary. Jill has been married for 24 years this September to Rich, a lawyer.

• **Wyatt Williams** says, "I have had the pleasure of visiting with some TASIS classmates recently, including **Karin Knolle** and **Kelli Hunter Jarrell**. My wife Sandra and I hosted a foreign exchange student from the Czech Republic this past school year, which was a wonderful experience. Anna Genserova was a student at Cinco Ranch High School, and we were able to show her around Texas and the southeastern United States. Coincidentally, I had visited Prague during my senior year at TASIS." **17**

• **Darryl Bartlett** updated us: "My wife of 13 years, Antoinette, and I own a successful Italian restaurant (http://www.alittlepizzaheaven.com) in Scranton, Pennsylvania. We have been open for seven years and look forward to many more years. Our two daughters are both married. Jennifer, a pharmacist, lives in Delaware, and Joellen is the bursar at a medical college. Our life couldn't be better. I would love to hear from any alumni who live in the northeast or Atlantic region."

• **Gretchen Schaefer** is working as a driver at IMG in Bradenton, Florida. Her email address is swgfarm@gmail.com.

• **Tania Shetabi Nordstrom** wrote last year: "From October 18-21, several of the XTR crew got together for a mini-reunion at the Wynn in Las Vegas. In attendance was mostly class of 1983, with the exception of me. The group began arriving on Thursday and met up for an amazing Thai dinner. Friday was spent poolside, enjoying cocktails and some sun, while waiting for the rest to arrive. Saturday was spent in a private cabana, watching football, catching up, and enjoying each other's company." **18**

• **Banu Bilginer's** daughter, **Ayse '17**, joined the TASIS family this fall.

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Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Eva-Lena Kost Fehlman writes, "Since TASIS I've become a Polarity RPP and Somatic Experiencing practitioner. I have my own business in Lugano and Bern where I have a great opportunity to contribute to people's health and well-being. It's very rewarding." **19**

• **Stephen Brooks** and his family still live, work, and attend school in Covington, Louisiana. **20**

• **Ferit Şahenk** enjoyed his time at TASIS, and looks forward to hearing of his daughter Defne's adventures when she attends this fall.

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Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Billy Zane reports, "Outside of the usual film world, I have a solo exhibition of my paintings in London at The Rook And Raven Gallery in Rathbone Place, Soho during the Frieze Art Fair. A collection of new works featuring abstract expressionist paintings and some graphite figurative drawing will be displayed between September 15 and October 15, 2013. Past shows and some works can be seen at http://www.billyzanemuseum.com"

• **Nazli Ghassemi** recently published *Desert Mojito*, a tantalizing tale of life in the modern Middle East. "I'm also happy to share with you that my book launch event in San Diego was very successful. It was a humbling experience. I found out that *Desert Mojito* has made it to the top of the Bestsellers List at Warwick's Bookstore, which hosted my book launch," reports Nazli. **21**

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Class Agent: Boris Bakovic
bbakovic@mac.com

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Class Agents: Maggie Hammad Boyle, maggie_boyle@yahoo.com, **Denise Mobley**
dmobley415@comcast.net

Holly Musgrove still lives in Asheville, North Carolina with her husband and three sons, ages 4, 8, and 13. She continues to work as a family medicine physician. This July she caught up with **Pietro Vago, Julie Gardner Cord, Andrea Cabada Strebin, Heidi Hyndman,** and **Polly Short Mahoney** in Venice, Italy for a 7-night Mediterranean cruise to Greece.

• **Carolyn Keshock Franco** has been living in Zug, Switzerland, for a year. Before that she lived in the UK where her two daughters, Sophia and Claudini, attended TASIS England.

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Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Jenn Wraspir writes, "It seems like a hundred years since I graduated from TASIS, yet every day I seem to be reminded of the great times I had there. I'm still working at Microsoft in our Global Government Affairs group. I'm doing Program Management here and love the team and the work. I've taken up jogging recently and am aiming to jog one 5K each month this year. We'll see. We had a tough holiday season last year as my dad passed away in June 2012. Losing Dad has reminded me just how important family and friends are. I'm oddly thankful for Facebook because I am able to keep up with so many friends from TASIS. We may not see each

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other for years, but we seem to be closer than ever thanks to Facebook. One of my best friends from TASIS, **Claudia Nielsen '88**, lives in New York. We recently spent the day together catching up. It was as if no time had passed between us. I'm still active in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day. I volunteer on a regular basis and was a 'Walker Stalker' for the Seattle event this year. I also traveled to San Diego in November to 'Walker Stalk' my team as they walked in that event. I'm proud to be a part of this organization and so very thankful for all they do for breast cancer."

• **Alessandro Lo Monaco** is proud that his three kids, Tancredi, Tommaso, and Celeste, will be joining TASIS this year!

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Class Agent: Laura West Presnol
lpresnol@starbucks.com

Laura West Presnol had dinner with **Don Anderson** while on a business trip to the University of Houston. 22

• **Janne Gallen-Kallela-Siren** has been appointed Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY. Janne enjoys teaching, and was pleased to interact with **Mark Aeschliman's** and **Martyn Dukes'** classes on his recent visit to TASIS as part of the Senior Humanities Program. 23

• **Michele Jordan Wright** wrote last year: "We have had a blessed year. My husband Luchas and my 3 children (Yaz, Luchas III, and Adrienne) and I are enjoying life in Bowie, Maryland. My husband started a Motivate the Future campaign to encourage the youth to stay in school and shoot for the stars. This year

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I started a nonprofit organization called Abundant Health, Inc. Our goal is to bring medical, nutrition, and fitness communities together to bring people abundant health. My daughter Yaz was selected and participated in the Disney Dreamer's Academy in 2012. She is a budding chef and artist. My son participated in Destination Imagination, Lego Robotics, and the Severn Crossings Swim Team. My daughter Adrienne will start kindergarten this fall already reading and learning to swim! Life is moving fast. Hope to catch you all at a reunion soon." 24

• **Francesca Neri** and **Giulio Antonello '86** are happy their son and daughter (Filippo and Claudia) will be attending TASIS this fall.

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Class Agent: Lori Romero Ketter
loriketter@q.com

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Class Agent: Franca Marena Gullett, fmarena@aol.com

Barnes Brooks and her husband Todd Evans welcomed the newest addition to the Evans family, Olivia Katherine Evans, born on February 16, 2013.

• **Robin Salant** says, "It's been an incredible year! I'm still living in Memphis, Tennessee, which I would not have predicted, but all is well and we travel often to family, friends, and film festivals. In 2012 I married Erik Jambor and welcomed our daughter Simone into the world, just two days before the start of his annual film festival. A film I worked on (*Red Flag,* 2012) won a juried award and Simone accompanied me to the awards show at just five days old. I'm currently working on a local exhibition this fall, and the Taos Ice Cream Olympics taking place this September in New Mexico. We are looking forward to another great year with the Indie Memphis Film Festival, and Simone's first birthday around Halloween. We are working on an addition to our home so hopefully soon we will be able to house more visitors. Last year I met up with **Valentina Bardawil Powers** in New York, and **Kathleen Carlson '91** in Seattle. I've also enjoyed keeping in touch with TASIS friends on the book of face." 25

• **Lavinia Cosattini Romani's** daughter **Isabel '15** returns to TASIS as a junior this fall. Her elder daughter **Sarah '13** joined the alumni community after graduating in May.

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Class Agents: Kristina Malcolm
kmalcolm44@gmail.com
Gina Jose Heydari
ginajose@hotmail.com

Sarah Warner keeps busy with her business, Warner Literary Group, which expanded in 2012 to take on a partner. As well as literary works, the agency occasionally handles movie and TV scripts.

• **Oliver Summers** plays with the Santa Monica Rugby Club and recently played in a tournament at Newport Beach California. It made him think of the TASIS days! 26

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Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Miki Schroder got married in Stellenbosch, South Africa on January 5. Wedding guests included TASIS alumni **Cristina Rigamonti '93**, **Kiana Kim Mandeville '93**, **Carla Bigio Cortinovis** and **Hulya Sen**. Miki sent a picture with her husband Richard Nava and their baby girl Gaja. 27

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• **Carla Bigio** married Paolo Cortinovis on June 29, 2013 in Ibiza. She wrote "We loved our super-special day, and we were so lucky to have some TASIS friends in attendance. **Miki Schroder Nava**, **Hulya Sen**, **Cristina Rigamonti '93**, and **Kiana Kim Mandeville '93** were there to enjoy the experience with us. The week started with Cristina and I meeting up in Eivissa Town on Wednesday for a quiet dinner, then Thursday all the fun activities began. Thursday night the gang (except for Kiana) were in attendance for a girls' night out at Sa Punta restaurant. Friday night we had a welcome dinner and cocktail at Nagai Japanese/Italian restaurant where the whole gang reunited. Saturday was the day of the wedding, at beautiful Agroturismo Atzaro. It was so magical and we couldn't have asked for a more perfect day. Sunday we had a brunch on the beach, which everyone attended. Then finally, on Monday **Kiana**, **Cristina** and I went sailing to Formentera, and Miki could not join us because she was there with her gorgeous daughter Gaja." **28**

93

Class Agent: Paula Quijano
quijano.paula@gmail.com

Joanna Shook Randolph and her husband moved to Belize this summer.

• **Joshua Miles** continues to sell fine wines for distributor Martin Scott Wines in Manhattan.

94

Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Chih-Kang Tou took advantage of his TASIS visit in May to travel in Italy with his wife and reported afterwards, "Italy was great! My wife was in Europe for the first time, she loved it, and she likes and misses TASIS the most! Europe has become a lot more expensive than 20 years ago though, in contrast with the salary standard in Taiwan that has remained almost the same for the past 20 years."

• **Erica Engstrom Cali** shares, "Well, the Calis are on the move again. We've spent the last four years teaching and directing theater at Korea International School in Seoul, and are now headed to Indonesia to teach at Jakarta International School, where Mike will be teaching Dance and I will be teaching Performing Arts. The year will definitely be an exciting one with lots of new adventures and a new baby due in September! There's nothing like moving to a new country to work at a new job with a new baby! Mike, Aliana (3), and I are very excited about the upcoming year." **29**

• **Betsy Blaisdell** is working in Environmental Stewardship with Timberland. She visited TASIS while in Lugano for a week of meetings, and admired the development of the campus.

95

Class Agent: Nicole Pearson
rothko333@yahoo.com

Margo McClimans adores being back in Switzerland and can't think of any place she'd rather live than Zurich. It offers so much culture and fun with concerts and exhibits galore, the beautiful lake, and of course the mountains nearby. She loves her work doing leadership development training, 1:1 coaching, and intercultural training for companies around the globe (www.coachingwithoutborders.com). She also has created a leadership program which is open to the public called Whole Leadership, which takes place twice a year in Zurich and Istanbul (www.whole-leadership.net)

• **Lizzie Jarvis** tells us, "My kids are now aged 5 and 8, and growing fast and strong. Professionally, I'm thrilled to have moved into the philanthropic world, having joined the corporate charity, The Thomson Reuters Foundation, in June. My first task as Deputy Director of Communications is to promote and organize a women's rights conference, Trust Women, which will be held in London in December (www.trustwomenconf.com). It's been a sharp learning curve and I love every moment. Would love to hear from any social-entrepreneur or legal-profession alumni or those working for NGOs; lizzie.jarvis@thomsonreuters.com." **30**

• **Brian Igel** is a New York City-based attorney focusing on fashion, beauty, media, entertainment, and the arts. He recently spoke at the RewardStyle Fashion & Lifestyle Blogger Conference in Dallas and penned a chapter on manufacturing with his partner, Daniel Bellizio, for the upcoming book The ABA's Legal Guide to Fashion Law. He lives with his wife, Stacy, a fashion designer, on the upper west side in Manhattan. For more information about Brian and his law practice, visit www.bilawfirm.com."

• **Jorge del Villar** visited us this summer. He came with his wife Paola, and daughter Ana Paula. **31**

96

Class Agent: Gina Van Hoof
gvanhoof@gmail.com

Toshie Yamashiro Kahane writes, "After our visit to TASIS for the art center opening, we have been quite busy moving from London, and preparing to deliver our second baby in Okinawa before we move to Dallas, Texas in September/October. Life is a big adventure for the Kahane household!"

• **Robert 'Ocean' Gebhardt** is in between Taiwan and Lugano and running Acahi, an online translation service that does translation from Chinese to European languages and vice versa.

97

Class Agent: Kevin McMenamin
mcmenamin@hotmail.com

Shannon Callihan got married November 23, 2011 to Jonathan Hardee. On November 16, 2012 they welcomed their little bundle of joy, Ellie Alexandra Hardee! **32**

98

Class Agent: John Procter
johnoprocter@gmail.com

Joy Clavecillas Conway shares a picture of her son Harrison, wearing a t-shirt that proclaims his love for TASIS. **33**

99

Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Kerry Murray Landon shares, "Josh and I welcomed our first

baby, Lucas, in October 2012. He's simply awesome! We live in the Washington, DC area where I work in grassroots for the National Cable & Telecommunications Association." 34 • **Andrea Jasson** visited us early this year. He was living just around the corner from campus, but is now amid a year's sabbatical skippering a ship around Polynesia, South America, and Antarctica. 35

• **Adrien Aeschliman** and **Meg Smith Aeschliman PG '00** are enjoying parenthood and all its rewards. Their son Julian Michael Aeschliman was born February 19, 2013. Adrien's Bottega trattoria has opened in Baltimore at 1729 Maryland Avenue. Meg returns to Johns Hopkins University in the fall to pursue her Master's degree to become a Nurse Practitioner. 36

00

Class Agent: Tatiana Lucchini
talucchi@hotmail.com

Milos Markovic is a proud father. He shares a photo of himself with his son Ivan, born on October 31, 2012. 37

• **Chiawei Yang** and **Suyi Chao** are enjoying life with their son, Yang Ting, who turned 4 this year. 38

• **Christina Miles** teaches art at a middle school in North Kingston, Rhode Island, and helps manage a community arts program for urban teens at the Rhode Island School of Design. Her parents, **Nick** and **Maggie**, continue in their respective careers – Nick as a marketer for the TIAA-CREF, Maggie as a high school English teacher at Saddle River Day School.

01

Class Agent: Caroline Rothstein
caroline.rothstein@gmail.com

• **Jason Nagashima** is working in NYC. He was in the city when Hurricane Sandy hit. Luckily he came out unscathed although he did not have power for a couple of weeks!

• **Felix Hammelsbeck** visited campus in May and enjoyed revisiting his old dorm room in Del Sole and reminiscing about the many pranks he and his classmates were involved in – especially the water bombs! Felix continues to run the family bakery business in Munich, and invites anyone visiting Munich during Oktoberfest to join him for a beer. 39

• **Ines Quinones Fabregas** reports, "I have recently started to help my boyfriend manage his hotel in Sifnos, a small island in Greece. It is very special and we have worked a lot to make it precious. This is only the third summer it's been open, so it's a whole new experience and we are learning a lot still. It's such a wonderful place I would love everybody to know about it: www.kamaroti.com. During the winter I focus on my career as an accessories designer for Massimo Dutti, where I design bags and jewelry." 40

• **Daniel Ciraldo** writes, "I've become active in my hometown of Miami Beach helping to save historic single-family homes from demolition. In December, I started a petition to save one of our oldest homes from being demolished and replaced with a McMansion. We are now trying to enact new laws to end the senseless demolition of our most historic structures by real estate speculators. The ongoing battle has been covered in the *New York Times* and on 'Good Morning America'. We are hopeful that the City will adopt new laws to save historic homes in Miami Beach before they are all gone. My time at the beautiful TASIS campus helped inspire me to advocate for historic preservation." 41

• **Diana Baclawski Turowski** writes, "I have a 3-year-old son, Jack, and a daughter Juliette, born September 2012. **Merritt Gurley Gazendam** and her new husband, Jago Gazendam (married this past December in Thailand) are Juliette's godparents. Merritt and I went together to NYC this past July. Otherwise, my family and I spent the summer on Martha's Vineyard. This September my husband and I will be celebrating our eighth wedding anniversary."

• **Oliver Rizzi Carlson** is part of The Global Alliance for Ministries and Infrastructures for Peace (GAMIP), a worldwide community of individuals in civil society, business and government who work toward a Culture of Peace by promoting the development of infrastructures for peace at various levels. http://www.gamip.org/summits/switzerland-2013-nesting-peace/

• **Michaela Cribb** finished her Master's degree as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in May 2012 and is working for a nonprofit community health center on the central coast of California. She was married this year.

Alumni class news

42

43

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46

47

• **Jack Savoretti** has a new album out called Before the Storm. It's now available on Amazon.com.

02

Class Agent: Daniella Einik
daniellaeinik@gmail.com

Isotta Cleps wrote, "**Daniela Paoli** and I were selected to be founding members of the WEF's Global Shapers community. We randomly found out from each other's Facebook pages in fall 2011. I was selected as a founding member of the Geneva Hub in August 2011, and in June 2012 was elected Curator for our Geneva Hub. This is indeed a great opportunity to be part of a network of humble and humbling individuals who have an incredible drive and have achieved so much both for their local communities and on the global level. It's truly inspiring."

• **Alex Zanecchia** married girlfriend Elizabeth DiMattia in June 2013 after meeting in 2007 while working for MSP. They moved to Lugano in August, when Liz began teaching kindergarten at TASIS. Alex continues to work remotely for his Washington, DC-based software company. Alex is a composer and music producer and most recently scored the soundtrack for brother **Milo '08's** documentary film on the Malawi Freedom Gardens, a sustainable agriculture project. (https://vimeo.com/57407524) **42**

• **Ashley Walhaug Garrison** and her husband Heath welcomed their first child, a daughter named Zoe Wynn Garrison, on May 14, 2013. **43**

• **Silvia Simoes** was married last October to Marcos Andrade Pimentel. **44**

03

Class Agent: Remington Franklin
rfranklin@resolution-ent.com

Remington Franklin is a talent and literary agent in California working for the Resolution agency. Remi has made a big name for himself in the world of rising talent and stardom. He recently agreed to be the class agent for 2003, and we know he will handle this role with much enthusiasm.

• **Fred Drews** and his fiancée welcomed the newest addition to the Drews family, Cataleya Johanna Drews, born on March 12, 2013. **45**

• **Jo Fabbri** exhibited her latest collection,"Attimi Rubati", in Milan. Her artwork was on display through September 2013.

• **Stefano Dufour** shared with us after the 2003 Lugano reunion, "After a series of collaborations with architects and designers in Milan and Lugano, in January I finally took the big step: my business partner and I founded our own architectural office in Lugano. It's not easy, but I love it and every morning I wake up happy, doing what I always dreamed of. Right now, we are working on restorations and public competitions. The office is called DUMAA (which stands for Dufour and Magnani Architects). If any of you need an architect, you should definitely contact me!" **46**

04

Class Agent: Masa Yo
masa.yo@gmail.com

Evgeniy Kazarez has been living in London for the last three years since graduating from university in Milan. Everything is great there, except that he has "unfortunately too much work". Evgeniy keeps in touch with **Julia Hoerster PG '04** (who is also in London), **Marcus Henrion** and **Amanda Adams-Louis**.

• **Christof Zanecchia** graduated with a Master's in Economics from the Swiss University of Lugano and St. Gallen, and after a six-month internship was offered a full-time job at VF International, the parent company for North Face, Vans, Reef, Timberland, Napapijri and a host of other action brands. **47**

• **Capucine Mabika**, **Ania Zdunek** and **Patricia Schmidt** are all working and living in London. They meet once a week to catch up and talk about the exciting TASIS days. **48**

• **Aykut Noyan**, **Emre Ulasti '03**, **Andrea Uribarri**, **Giovanna Scavone '02**, **Pascual** and **Tara Scavone**, and **Patricia Schmidt** met at **Ana Perez-Pla '03's** wonderful wedding in Madrid. **49**

• **Serdar Altinbas** recently met soccer star Didier Drogba (recently signed by Istanbul's Galatasaray club). **50**

• **Masa Yo** and **Sonia Maczeakova** were married this summer on campus! Many alumni and friends were in attendance.

05

Class Agent: Eda Aksoy
edaksoy@gmail.com
Maitri Shila Tursini
maitri.tursini.09@ucl.ac.uk

Ninah Mars visited campus in November 2012 and wowed students and faculty alike when she spoke with music classes about her experience breaking into the world of rock music. Ninah attended Full Sail University after TASIS where she learned the technical side of music production before turning to singing. She attended the wedding of her brother **Fabrizio Marcotulli '04** and **Maripaz Ponce Cardenas** in December 2012.

• **Melanie Holzer** recently finished her Master's in Forensic Science and relocated to Sydney with her fiancé, Joe. They added another cat to their family (that makes two) and are excited for their wedding next January after being together for over seven years. Melanie is currently working as a Technical Assistant at a university while she searches for a career job.

• **Permele Doyle**, **Jarrah Al-Buanain '06**, **Corrado Agusta '00** and **Sharifa Al-Sudairi** met up for drinks in London this summer. **51**

06

Class Agent: Hailey Parsons
haileyparsons@gmail.com

07

Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Jane Nagashima started her job at Boeing as an accountant in spring, and enjoys every moment of it! She hopes to save enough money so she can visit Lugano soon.

• **Matthew Schultz** recently got engaged to Kristel Kautzky in Philadelphia and graduated with a Master's of Architecture from the University of Pennsylvania this May. **52**

08

Class Agents: Chingiz Aliyev
morr25@gmail.com
Consuelo Marzi
conzumz@hotmail.com

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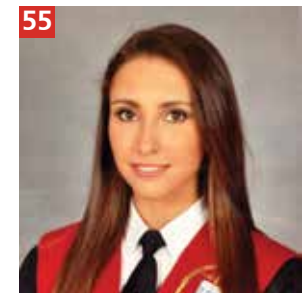
55

Julia Fox graduated in December from Northeastern University. Her proud dad wrote us, "Over the last two years, she accelerated her class load and graduated six months early – with all A's!" Julia is moving back to Los Angeles and hopes to enter the film or TV industry.

• **Milo Zanecchia** graduated in June 2012 with a Master's degree in Geopolitics from the University of Edinburgh and, along with girlfriend **Melody Tibbitts** (a CDE staff member), worked for a month in Malawi before an autumn overland adventure through Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, and South Africa. Milo followed this with a trip to the Dolomites in Italy to film ski touring for a mountaineering company, and a trip to New Zealand to photograph the wedding of MSP staff **Ross Fleck** and **Nicole Graf**. In June 2013, Milo, **Robin Gilli**, and **Simon David** went to Antigua to visit **Roberto Falangola**, founder of Credendo Vides, a charity focusing on mentoring young people (http://www.credendovidesantigua.org). In July 2013, Robin and Milo had the opportunity to work as official photographers and videographers at Andrea Bocelli's annual concert at the Teatro del Silenzio in his hometown of Lajatico in Tuscany.

• **Jon Harris** is a filmmaker and photographer. He and **Simon David** moved to London together last fall.

• **Eda Karakaya** has a boutique villa in Turkey, available for rental with concierge services. Visit the website for more information: www.degirmen81.com.

• **Emily Gammoh** graduated in May from The Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland Medical University of Bahrain (RCSI-MUB) as a medical doctor with highest honors. Her father, Sultan Gammoh, who submitted this news, is very proud and grateful for her TASIS experience. 53

• **Jessica Cross** is working at a law firm in Des Moines. She went to surfing camp in Costa Rica in July 2012 as her graduation present to herself. She loved Costa Rica, and is thrilled to be returning in fall 2013 as a volunteer for WorldTeach, a non-profit organization that places volunteers as teachers in under-resourced schools in the developing world. "I am very excited to undertake in a year of service. I really feel that attending TASIS opened my eyes to the world and instilled a sense of service in me, and I am happy to be able to spend a year in Costa Rica teaching English, which is my passion. TASIS was where I first experienced a multi-cultural community, and it has really inspired me to become an ESL teacher." 54

09

Class Agents: Stefano Cremasco
stefanocremasco@gmail.com
Diane Salimkhan
diane.salimkhan@gmail.com

Lucía Rodríguez-Portugal Dobarro just graduated from San Pablo CEU University in Madrid and is now moving to New York to study an LLM in International Business and Trade at Fordham Law School. She would love to meet with anyone who is living there right now, so please let her know! 55

10

Class Agents: Anna Shabalova
chanelshoes.girl@gmail.com
Sylvie Coll
scoll1@mac.com

Patrick Cross is a junior and an accounting major. He was hoping to get a student ticket to see Notre Dame in the BCS Championship football game, but the lottery did not go in his favor. Hopefully next time!

11

Class Agents: Mark Pate
swisscheese007@gmail.com
Marco Rosso
marcorosso@me.com
Katya Brovkin
katerina.brovkin@gmail.com

12

Class Agents: Blair Darrell
bkdarrell@gmail.com
Mark Schrotter
jmschrotter@gmail.com

Blair Darrell is happy at college in Chicago, and getting involved in clubs and many after-school activities.

• **Ekaterina-Madlen Ikonomova** was accepted at the Academia di Architettura in Mendrisio. She is excited to start her first year at university.

13

Class Agents: Samantha Hercules
sami.hercules@gmail.com
Sarah Wyler
sarah.wyler13@gmail.com

Victoria Haschke wrote, "I finished my junior year in high school and next year I will be a senior applying to colleges. I am very excited for this whole process and I'm eager to

discover where it will bring me. My junior year has been my busiest year yet. I've continued to work in the zoo, and next year I will be a Zoo Curator, which is kind of like a proctor position in the zoo. I make sure that every student (or as we call them, 'zooies') feeds their animal, and if they need any help I am there to assist. The black and white ruffed lemurs are definitely my favorite animals. I also love the red pandas and the parrots. When I sing to the parrots, one of them starts dancing! I keep playing guitar and writing songs, as well as performing in plays and musicals. I am looking for a college that will allow me to keep studying the performing arts, as well as major in English literature, but who knows, things could change between now and 2014. Although I always try to plan things, the future is too unpredictable." 56

14

Elsa Akesson and her brother **Karl '10** are doing well and are studying in England. As before, they continue to travel between Madagascar, Paris, and now London.

• **Jake Figi** was just made captain of the Charterhouse rowing team for this year. Last October his Royal Marines Cadet team won the coveted Pringle Competition for top Royal Marines schools contingent in the UK.

16

Lucas Figi received an award at an international rifle competition in Oldenburg, Germany last June. He shoots for the GB Junior National Team. At this event he won a silver medal in the 50m prone and came in fourth overall in three positions. He has also competed in the British National Championships recently. 57

• **Carolin Jung** is doing very well in her high school in Lugano (Istituto Elvetico). She will stay in Lugano for another four years.

Post Graduate

61

Class Agent: Mimi Trieschmann Nesbitt
jtnesbitt@att.net

Steve Maloney tells us, "I just finished installing my newest sculpture, 'Ties Required', a giant tie cut and welded from 1/2 inch stainless steel. It's standing 9.5 feet tall outside my studio in Rancho Santa Fe, California."

PG '62-'63-'64-'65-'67 & '68:

We would like to appoint class agents for these classes. Are you interested in helping out? For more info, email alumni@tasis.ch!

66

Class Agent: Ned Lynch
nedleigh@gmail.com

Laura Bradley Hoekstra reported in March, "I recently joined a mission trip to Jamaica and taught pottery skills to Teen Challenge kids. Then, the best part: swimming with dolphins! What incredible animals."

• **Cindy Crabtree** writes, "It was great to hear about the Gala and our dear friend and classmate **Mary Seyfarth** being an honoree. She sent **Charlie James** and me the Gala video. Charlie just had his 65th Birthday and his wife had a surprise Birthday Dinner Cruise for him à la TASIS! Also the three of us are a part of the Downtown Abbey Cult and had a Downtown Abbey Party this past February with original period recipes and drinks. We are all planning to be in Lugano for our 50th anniversary reunion in 2016. Only three years away!" 58

• **Betsy Goldsmith Grajeda** and her husband went on a five-week trip that took them to Krakow, Budapest, and Berlin, on a Baltic cruise, and then to a ten-day stay in Russia. She felt a tremendous pull toward the past, visiting places she hasn't seen since 1965-66, when she took her spring holiday riding the rails through Hungary, Russia, and Poland. She and her husband, Tom, appreciate her time with TASIS so much, because it gave her a passion for travel and her husband benefits from her expertise.

• **Ned Lynch** was honored with the Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award at Franklin College's commencement in May. 59

67

Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Geoff Parker writes, "I'm working as a brand ambassador for PARKER Pen, helping to celebrate the brand's 125th anniversary. Since the majority of PARKER sales are outside the US this has meant some traveling. So far this has included trips to Shanghai and Moscow. My last visit to Moscow was on the PG '67 trip. My advice to any others who were with me back then .... go back! When not travelling I'm working on a biography of George S. Parker, my great-grandfather, who started the business in 1888. This will be the fifth in a series of detailed histories about PARKER and its products."

88

Class Agent: Laura West Presnol
lpresnol@starbucks.com

Caroline Gamboa-Langner reports, "I lost my job in December, but that's ok as I have three kids that I'm running around after: James (3), Flynn (13), and Emma (10). Summer is busy with camps, but I am currently starting my own design/product business out of my art studio. I will be setting up a website and hope to be selling by the fall. Hope everyone is well out there and wishing everyone the best. Thank you TASIS for the wonderful memories."

96

Class Agent: Gina van Hoof
gvanhoof@gmail.com

Catalina Llinas writes, "I'd love to share that my husband Derek and I had a beautiful baby boy: Martin Edward Gustafson, born in Newport Beach, California on December 9, 2012. We named him Martin in honor of my dad, Jose Martin Llinás. We couldn't be happier with our little angel." 60

07

Vacancy for Class Agent
Contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Jeff Danoff wrote, "I live in Chicago with my girlfriend, Ashley Conroy, who is going to graduate school at Columbia College for her MAT to become a teacher. I now work for Wintrust Mortgage as a mortgage loan processor. Summer plans are to hang out in Chicago and enjoy the beach. If anyone wants to visit in Chicago they are always welcome to stay with us, we enjoy travelers. Chicago is a great city that often gets overlooked."

TSLP

84

Julie Kaplan and her husband had a baby boy in July. They also recently adopted twin toy poodles named Sophie and Zoe. **61**

88

Florian Anderhub studied Communication Sciences at USI (Lugano) where he also attended Professor **Michael Aeschliman**'s classes. He updated us in May: "I am a partner at Ander Group SA in Manno, an Independent Brand Communications Consultancy. The agency is the first and only in the Canton of Ticino to be recognized by the 'BSW Leading Swiss Agencies' and its team of 15 designers and developers covers a wide range of needs when talking about corporate branding and digital communication."

92

Marcus Di Lenardo lives in Lugano with his wife, **Juliana TSP '00** and their three-year-old son, Jonathan, whose baby brother is due in September 2013. Marcus has now opened his own online Swiss travel agency: www.travelmdl.com. It specializes in business travel worldwide in addition to every other aspect of travel. He looks forward to hearing from his TASIS friends! **62**

Fleming College

70

Katherine Trent wrote us in December: "Living in Tennessee on Lookout Mountain, and am heavily involved at Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church. I am married and have a 26-year-old son. I had the opportunity to visit Franklin College, Lugano, for their recent reunion."

Fleming College Florence

Class Agents for all FCF alumni:
Marcus Liuzzi
marcus@crossroadsinc.com
Stephen Gould
gould.sb@gmail.com

74

Lisa Gates writes, "It's hard to believe that I have a 14-year old daughter who will be going to high school in the fall! It seems only yesterday that I was in China holding a cuddly baby – well, it was in 2000! She graduated 8th Grade with all kinds of honors and is eagerly waiting the high school experience. She has aspirations of being a screenwriter; I guess that's what living in the Los Angeles area does! My little one, who is really not so little anymore, will be 8 years old in October and is always progressing. She is still teeny-tiny (only 35 lbs.) and hasn't started using words yet but she is great at American sign-language. For a child who doesn't use words she is extremely expressive and very social – she loves a party and is always happy. I finally feel comfortable in the regime that I've created to address her special needs and get her all the services and therapies that she needs. She is thriving! I am still private chef for celebs here in the LA area and still love to cook! It's a job that fits in nicely with what I need to do as an only parent for my daughters. I've been trying to get ahold of **Virgie Frick** and have lost contacts with **Leslie Downes.** I heard from **Parker Watkins FCF '73** which was great! It brought back the great memories of Florence! I look forward to the reunion here in LA when it rolls around!" **63**

Swiss Holiday

59

Ford Barrett retired after 42 years as a lawyer for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, a bureau of the US Treasury that regulates the largest banks in the United States. In retirement, he will remain in Washington, D.C. and do volunteer work in historic preservation. In May 2013, he traveled to England with a small group to visit buildings reflecting the architectural influence of Palladio, the 16th century Italian architect.

Project Europe

70

Class Agent for all PE alumni:
Bob Horner
bhorner30@yahoo.com

Sophie Lugo lives in Florida. "Since moving to Orlando in 2002, I've been deeply involved in the local real estate market as an investor-developer, both in residential and commercial projects. I also worked as a consultant with a major business law group, interfacing with international clients and managing the group's websites, video production, and social media presence. I've also worked as a volunteer with the Orlando Police Department's Mounted Patrol Unit for the last 11 years. My lifelong experience as an equestrian has served me well in training the Unit's police horses, patrolling the city with our sworn officers and working community events. I'm also also a professional K-9 dog trainer, still practice Okinawan martial arts, and enjoy flying as a private pilot." **64**

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68

Former Faculty

In May **Sharon Creech** and **Lyle Rigg** moved into their new home in Camden, Maine. They now live close to their daughter (**Karin TE'87**), son-in-law, and grandchildren (Pearl and Nico) who also moved to Camden recently from Washington, DC. Sharon released a new book (*The Boy on the Porch*) in September and Lyle plans to volunteer his services at a local historical society and local independent school starting this autumn.

• **Kiki Petrosino** was in touch in October: "After I left TASIS, I returned for two rounds of graduate school, focusing on creative writing. In 2009, my first book, *Fort Red Border*, was published – I actually think a copy might be in the TASIS library. My next book is slated for publication in 2013. Currently, I teach literature and creative writing at the University of Louisville."

• **Chris Chesley** updated us in November: "A lot has happened since I left TASIS. I spent a few years in Texas and a few years in Boston where I met my wife Kierstin. We have been married for three years and our daughter Elin was born in April. We live in Traverse City, Michigan – the largest cherry producing area in the country as well as home to 30 wineries. I am Director of Education Programs at the Interlochen Arts Academy, which is the premier arts boarding high school in the world. We have full pre-professional programs in Music, Theatre, Dance, Visual Arts, Creative Writing, Motion Picture Arts, and Comparative Arts. Our students put on something like 250 performances a year; it is a fascinating place. We have a huge summer camp, a small arts college, a concert presentations company, and our own radio station. It is a fun job and work keeps me very motivated and busy."

• **Robin Groelle** wrote: "My independent practice in college counseling is going well and I'm really enjoying the opportunity to work with students who have little if any access to post-graduate planning. I work with students from China, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Belize, and of course, many from the US (mostly in Florida)."

• **Peter** and **Sarah Curran** got in touch in February. Peter is Director of Admissions at Blair Academy in Blairstown, New Jersey, while Sarah works at a hospital about an hour away as a registered dietitian. They keep in touch with **Barton Ballard**, **Bangaly Kaba**, **David Damico**, **Martyn Milne**, **Jeff Bradley**, **Jeremy Birk**, and **Leslie Morden**. "We have such fond memories of TASIS and can't wait to get back to Europe to introduce our twins Grace and Toby to the school and community. Please send a big hello to everyone at TASIS from us!!" 65

• **David Damico** writes, "From one paradise to another. I'm enjoying my time in Lake Placid, New York. North Country School is celebrating its 75th year, and, like TASIS, has a family history. It is also on a 200-acre working farm. The education is traditional in some senses, but quite different with the community work jobs, daily chores with animals and the garden, arts abound, lots of outdoor activity in rain, snow or shine, freezing cold, etc. **Melanie** is quite happy here, as are the two kids! See photo of Samantha, who just graduated from Little Peaks pre-school." 66

• **Vivienne Brenner** tells us about a TASIS encounter: "Just a funny thing really. Last September I helped some local friends when a group came to Lugano to visit their beautiful English gardens. While chatting here and there, I ran into **Terry Stone Thompson PG '65**, on the tour with her sister. I think both our jaws dropped! This was unexpected! Recently, we had a visit from **Nancy Mellon**, along with her daughter Victoria and her husband Giuseppe and their children, Simone and Emilia. We spent a happy day together in Novaggio.

• **Karen Long** writes, "**Jay** and I were on the TASIS faculty from 1981-84 and again from 1986-92 and have been working at the American School in Antananarivo since 1997. **Stewart Chritton '76** and his family came to Madagascar in December 2012 to visit Jay and me. Stewart has been in Rwanda for a year teaching anesthesia at the university teaching hospital for Rwandan doctors."67

• **Taylor Johnson** went on a trip to India for Spring Break. He visited Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. This summer he continued the renovation work on his home.

• **Nina** and **Jim Scott** wrote during the summer: "After TASIS we went to Middlesex School in Concord, Massachusetts, and subsequently (in 1968) to Amherst, Massachusetts, where Jim taught sciences at Amherst Regional High School and I was a professor of Spanish at UMass until 2003. We have continued to live in Amherst, as it is such a nice place to live. I was asked to be interim chair of the Spanish departments at both Mt. Holyoke and Amherst Colleges (sequentially) after my retirement from UMass. Now we are both fully retired and active in Five College Learning in Retirement. Jim has also done lots of work with the town conservation commission and a local land trust (Kestrel Trust). In the summers we head for Maine and do a lot of sailing in our Pearson Triton - old but beautiful. Things are good." 68

• **Max** and **Julie Achtau** sent Christmas greetings last year and included: "Our daughter, Elizabeth, is five years old and in kindergarten. Our son, Max, is three years old and in preschool. Julie and I look forward to perhaps one day returning to TASIS with the kids." 69

• **The Rehms** moved to Northern Virginia as **Chris** took a new job as Associate Head of School at Middlebury Academy. **Sasha** continues to work for the Annenberg Fellows Program through the University of Virginia. Their children Caleb (6), Lily, (4), and baby Avery Ann, keep them busy! 70

• **Frank** and **Mei-Ling Klein** recently hosted a mini-reunion in their home in Alexandria, Virginia. Those in attendance were: **Michal Cichy '02**, **Grace Wei '02**, Sharon Huang, **Adam Kuei '05**, Sheila Zhang, **YouJung Cheng '05**, **Tessa Klein '01**, and **Melissa Klein '03**. 71

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In Memoriam

Alan Lagin '64 died in 2011. The news came from **Fred Roland '64** on October 24, 2012: "I just received the sad news that Alan died about one year ago. It appears to have been a hereditary problem. I was told that Alan's father also passed away at a young age." Alan worked with NASA.

Nancy Carson '64 died on September 18, 2009. She lived in Alameda, California. Classmate **Joe Cook '64** wrote, "Nancy's death is a terrible blow to all of us who loved her as a sister. One of her contributions was the party that we had the night of our graduation. That was her idea and something that she thought up while we were in Andermatt. I'll always remember that."

Merrick Fall (faculty 1974-75) died unexpectedly, and peacefully, on December 3, 2012 at the age of 70. Merrick had visited TASIS in October 2010 and was scheduled to return to campus in March 2013 to speak as part of the Senior Humanities Program. Following his year at TASIS, Merrick's main career was with the United Nations. Serving as a Civil Affairs Officer, he was active in post-conflict construction in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Somalia, Eritrea, and Bosnia. He subsequently worked as a consultant with the Ecole Hotelière de Lausanne (EHL), guiding them through their accreditation process with NEASC.

Susan Hemphill Wigert PG '67 died in August 2012. Her husband Bill wrote: "I am sad to report that after 27 years of marriage Susan passed away from an incurable brain tumor on August 12." Together with her husband, Susan managed the Black Heron Inn, a charming guest house on the Point Reyes National Seashore in California.

Peggy McCormick Ramey '65. "I am sadly writing to report the death of my beloved twin sister, Peggy McCormick Ramey, on January 2, 2013, after a valiant almost three-year battle with pancreatic cancer. Peg was a talented lawyer, mother of two strong women, Caitlin and Meg, and just recently, grandmother of Beatrice Anne. She loved travelling, in no small part due to our senior year of high school at TASIS, loved all things Irish, including her small House of Peg next to me in Donegal, Ireland. She was brave in the face of the worst of pain and disease, and never lost the 'black humor' of our Irish heritage. Thanks, **Marcia McCormick Davenport '65.**"

Tony Gaye '65 passed away on December 13, 2012. Members of the Class of '64 found out about his death while trying to contact him and invite him to their 50th anniversary reunion in 2014. They were very sad to have missed connecting with him by just a few weeks.

Sean Kinkade '80 was killed in an accident on icy roads in southern Montana on February 23, 2013. Sean earned a B.A. degree in Movie and Film Production from Northeast Louisiana University and went on to serve in the U.S. Army for six years. With his wife Carol he pursued his life-long dream of designing and manufacturing radio-controlled ornithopters, which they built into the international business Hobby Technik. Sean was a kind, caring man filled with curiosity and a great sense of humor who possessed brilliant artistic and musical talents. He loved many things, but especially cats, drums, trains, dirt bikes, flying machines, and most of all his family.

Robert Clingan '86 died on May 18, 2013 after a 16-year battle with brain cancer. Much of his professional career was spent directing numerous critically-acclaimed plays in the Baltimore area. He was an assistant professor of theater at Loyola College and later at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay. He then moved to remote Elim, Alaska, where his wife Diana was a Head Start teacher in the village. Robert was an active supporter of environmental causes and enjoyed the outdoors, hiking, canoeing and rock climbing whenever possible. His adventures included, but were not limited to: The Grand Canyon, Denali National Park, the Inca Trail, Mt Fuji, the base of Everest, the Great Pyramids, Bali and Borneo. When not outdoors, he enjoyed listening to his extensive collection of classical music.

TASIS Summer Programs 2014

LUGANO

TASIS Summer Program (14-18): English as an Additional Language, French, and Italian; Musical Theater, Photography, Architecture & Design, Fashion & Textile Design. Artistic pursuits, sports, and excursions throughout Switzerland and Italy. AC Milan Jr. soccer and Armani Jr. basketball camps.

Middle School Program (11-13): English as an Additional Language, French, Italian, and Musical Theater. Sports, arts, and excursions. AC Milan Jr. soccer and Armani Jr. basketball camps; tennis and golf academies.

Le Château des Enfants (4+-10): English as an Additional Language, Italian, and French through lessons, games, activities, music, sports, art, and excursions.

CHÂTEAU-D'OEX

TASIS Summer Language Program (14-17): French and English as an Additional Language. Adventurous Alpine sports and cultural excursions throughout Switzerland. Optional 5th week in Paris for French students.

Middle School Program at Château-d'Oex (11-13): French or English as an Additional Language. Mountain sports, cultural activities, and travel around Switzerland.

NEW
TASIS Ecological Leadership Action Program (14-18) in collaboration with Horn & Co.

Intensive project-based learning for physiological wellness & nutrition, environmental stewardship, leadership, team-building, wilderness survival skills, first aid and rescue; nature studies, photography, film-making, journalism, social-media, and orienteering workshops; mountain climbing, hiking, and biking; swimming, sailing, canyoning, whitewater rafting, and horseback riding. 5th week: Eco-Action project.

ENGLAND

TASIS England Summer School (10-18): London Through a Lens, International Business, IELTS Preparation, TOEFL Preparation, Writing & Speaking Enhancement, Fashion & Textile Design, ShakespeareXperience, Creative Drawing, Sketching & 3D Design, Middle School Skills, Television Production, Algebra Review, Advanced Mathematics, Geometry, and Algebra II.

TASIS English Language Program: British Council accredited, offers English language courses for students from beginning to advanced levels. London theatre, sports, and excursions to historic sites around England.

FRANCE

Les Tapies Arts & Architecture Program (14-19):

Intensive design and cultural experience through a hands-on study of French vernacular architecture.

PUERTO RICO

NEW
TASIS Dorado Spanish Summer Program (13-18)

Intensive Spanish with creative arts, sports, activities, and excursions. Ocean exploration and ecology course in association with the Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment Center.

Ways of Giving Back to Your Alma Mater

Help build the TASIS Global Village. By September, 2014, our well-worn labs in De Nobili will be replaced by eight new spacious and well-equipped science laboratories in the Campo Science Center.

Campaign Goal: 2.5 Million Swiss Francs

Over three-quarters of our goal has already been raised. Building is underway but there is still time to participate in this important campaign. Make a donation now, and help us with the final push to reach our goal! All donations, large and small, are most welcome and will be recognized on the Donors' Wall.

- **Donate to the Annual Appeal**. Tuition provides the base, generosity provides program enhancement. Proceeds from the annual fund allow TASIS to take advantage of opportunities that arise part way through the budget cycle. Recent enhancements supported by the annual fund include: classroom sets of iPads; rowing machines, treadmills, and other sports equipment for our athletes; video equipment for Global Service Program projects; fine arts books and equipment.
- **Purchase an engraved paver** for CHF / USD 200 in honor of a friend or family member, or your class. Or simply set your own name in stone and make your mark on the TASIS campus.
- **Make a gift to the M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership** to support international service projects, the Senior Humanities Program, student scholarships, and professional development for teachers.
- **Join the M. Crist Fleming Legacy Society**. Naming TASIS as a beneficiary in your will, trust, or retirement asset provides a future source of support for students, faculty, and programs. Contact the Development office for more information, or to tell us if you have named TASIS in your will.
- **Set up an Award or Scholarship** to reward students for achievements in a given field. Currently, two annual awards for juniors are provided by the Pritzlaff Fund and the Cathy Clark Memorial Fund. Contact us if you would like to explore the possibility of establishing an award.
- **Find out about alternative donations**: Corporate matching gifts and gifts of corporate stock are greatly appreciated. Donors can also contribute to TASIS through a life insurance policy or a Charitable Remainder Trust. For more information, or to donate a non-cash gift-in-kind, please contact the Development office.

Time and goodwill are also valuable and welcome gifts. Thank you for all you do!

How to make your donation:

US donors:
by credit card online at www.tasisgiving.com
by check to the TASIS Foundation, Inc., 112 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

non-US donors:
by credit card online at www.tasisgiving.com
by check to the TASIS Development Office, Via Collina d'Oro 15, 6926 Montagnola, Switzerland

For more information on any of these opportunities, please contact: yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch

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Booklets available online (www.tasis.ch/support-tasis) or in print:
The TASIS Global Village: Trajectory 1996-2020 and Making a Difference: Supporting TASIS Past, Present, and Future

TASIS

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

Founded in 1956

UPCOMING REUNIONS

New York City
Casa Italiana
Columbia University
November 23, 2013

Los Angeles
Warner Brothers Studios
February 22, 2014

Boston
Swissnex
April 11, 2014

Anniversary Class Reunions:

New York City
Classes of '63 & '64
50th Reunion
April 4-6, 2014

Lugano
Class of '74
40th Reunion
June 11-16, 2014

Lugano
Class of 2004
10th Reunion
June 20-22, 2014