

# TASIS TODAY

Fall 2016

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



**TASIS Celebrates 60 Years**

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## Highlights & Challenges

I think of Janus, the Roman god of transitions and portals for beginnings and endings.

We had a great 60th Anniversary celebration on campus in August with alumni from all six decades of TASIS. Particularly touching was the participation of a number of alumni from the first years of the School in the 1950s.

Our students under Maestro Jonathan Morris performed a magnificent and inspiring musical about my mother's life, originally composed for my mother's 90th birthday by the brilliant composer Todd Fletcher in 2000. The spirit of my mother was present and alive and well in the musical and celebration, as is her school, your school. The foundations built over 60 years are solid and strong. (A professional recording and film are being made of the *MCF: What a Life!* musical to share with you and the world.)

Check the TASIS website to see coverage of two special events: the 60th Anniversary Celebration ([www.tasis.ch/60th\\_news](http://www.tasis.ch/60th_news)) and Founder's Day ([www.tasis.ch/foundersday](http://www.tasis.ch/foundersday)).

*Mrs. Fleming's ground-breaking vision and the extraordinary spirit of TASIS were beautifully relayed in the recent production of "MCF: What a Life!" Andreas and I were moved to tears: this musical reminds us all of the unwavering pertinence of its message. A must see!*

Board member Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80

*The history of TASIS is so powerful and is a big part of what makes the school so special.*  
Board member Jennifer Brogini

*Great Blog on a wonderful celebration of this masterful woman. She practiced Social Impact Investments long before it became a business term.*

Board member Jan Opsahl '68

Graduation this year saw the largest Senior Class ever leave our portals well-prepared and guided for the next chapter in their lives and beyond. Particularly touching were the six alumni parents presenting their children with the TASIS diploma.

The assertion **"Times change; values don't"** was often quoted by my mother.

Building on the strengths of our past, we prepare to head into the next 60 years for TASIS. The Board and Administration are taking a comprehensive look at the school in all of its facets to plan strategically for the future. We are focusing on strengthening our academics, becoming more efficient, and right-sizing the school, led by the "Operational Analysis Working Group" of Headmaster Lyle Rigg, Admissions Director Bill Eichner, our excellent new Financial Director Vincenzo Campanale, TASIS veteran Director of Studies David Jepson, and me.

Part of the "new" world means also securing our campus, safeguarding our students, and investing in fencing, gates, video cameras, and 24/7 guards. Alumni are always welcome to visit their alma mater, but will need to check in with the guard at the main gate.

As times change, the "new" world order is also the challenge to TASIS to maintain our values that are imbedded in our Paideia. This was the essence of my mother's inspiration and passion, to change the world for the better by educating the youth of the world. It is **"up to us"** (song from the *MCF* musical) to continue my mother's legacy. To learn more, visit [www.tasis.ch/paideia](http://www.tasis.ch/paideia).

In the tradition of my educator grandparents' piety and vision and my mother's zest for life and passion for education, I quote from the most eloquent apostle, St. Paul, writing to the Philippians nearly 2000 years ago:

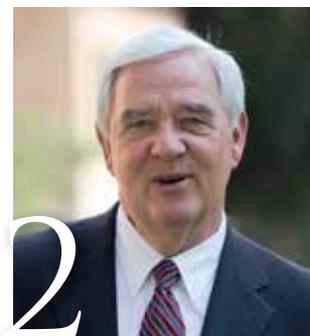
*And now brethren, all that rings true, all that commands reverence, and all that makes for right, all that is pure, all that is lovely, all that is gracious in the telling; virtue and merit, wherever virtue and merit are found --- let these be the argument of your thoughts. (4:8)*

With gratitude, good wishes, and blessings to each member of our TASIS family, including our precious alumni,

  
Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63

## In gratitude to our dedicated Board of Directors:

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Chairman, Rick Bell PG'65, Jennifer Bullard Brogini, Sara Rosso Cipolini, Fernando Gonzalez, Berkley Latimer, Jan Opsahl '68, Marco Ornaghi, Gianni Patuzzo, Curtis McGraw Webster '75, Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80



# WAYS OF GIVING BACK TO YOUR ALMA MATER

*What we are doing, or at least attempting to do, is to create not international schools but international human beings, men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth. - M. Crist Fleming*

## 60th Anniversary Campaign

This year marks 60 years since TESIS began, and in honor of this remarkable legacy we are encouraging our alumni, families, and friends to make a gift to the M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership.

This fall, TESIS opened with a student body representing 61 nations—creating a “microcosm of what the world should and could be.” **The Endowment is an important resource to ensure the long-term continuity of Mrs. Fleming’s ideals**, with the interest from the Endowment supporting and funding a variety of initiatives that carry on her vision.

In the past, this Fund has helped bring two students from war-torn Afghanistan to TESIS, both of whom are now thriving at university. It supports the Senior Humanities Program and the Global Service Program, both of which are now pillars of our School’s curriculum. It also funds the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award, the highest honor for a TESIS teacher and a key part of the efforts to encourage our excellent faculty, for so long the heart of the TESIS experience. **Funding the Endowment means support for more initiatives that bring Mrs. Fleming’s vision into a world that is badly in need of her guidance.**

Our goal for the 60th Anniversary Campaign is to raise \$600,000 by the close of 2016, and we are 20 percent of the way there thanks to \$60,000 from the estate of Nicholas Major PG '68 (part of a generous \$460,000 legacy gift) and other gifts totaling \$60,000 so far. We still have a long way to go to reach our target. Will you join us?

## The Annual Appeal

Contributions to the Annual Appeal allow program expansion above and beyond our planned operations. Funds have provided scholarships, purchased new lab and sports equipment, brought wifi and LCD projectors to campus, and equipped our new foreign language lab.

## Support the TESIS Global Village

The Global Village (see page 17) is an ongoing challenge through 2023. Naming opportunities are available for upcoming projects, and donations are always welcome to help speed up the completion of our Global Village.

## Awards or Scholarships

Set up an Award or Scholarship to reward students for achievements in a given field, or to inspire students in a particular discipline.

## Alternative Donations

Other ways to give include corporate matching gifts and corporate stock, contributions through a life insurance policy, a Charitable Remainder Trust, or a non-cash gift-in-kind. Contact the Development Office to learn more.

Thank you for all you do!

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:

- by credit card online at [www.tasisgiving.com](http://www.tasisgiving.com)

- by check to the TESIS Foundation, Inc., 112 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

For wire transfer information, or any other questions, please contact: [yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch](mailto:yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch)

*Donations to the US TESIS Foundation, Inc., a Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit educational organization, as well as to the Swiss Foundation, are tax deductible to the extent allowable in their respective countries.*

Informational booklets available online ([www.tasis.ch/support-tasis](http://www.tasis.ch/support-tasis)) or in print: The TESIS Global Village:

Trajectory 1996-2023, and Making a Difference:

Supporting TESIS Past, Present, and Future

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN

## Highlights & Challenges

I think of Janus, the Roman god of transitions and portals for beginnings and endings.

We had a great 60th Anniversary celebration on campus in August with alumni from all six decades of TASIS. Particularly touching was the participation of a number of alumni from the first years of the School in the 1950s.

Our students under Maestro Jonathan Morris performed a magnificent and inspiring musical about my mother's life, originally composed for my mother's 90th birthday by the brilliant composer Todd Fletcher in 2000. The spirit of my mother was present and alive and well in the musical and celebration, as is her school, your school. The foundations built over 60 years are solid and strong. (A professional recording and film are being made of the *MCF: What a Life!* musical to share with you and the world.)

Check the TASIS website to see coverage of two special events: the 60th Anniversary Celebration ([www.tasis.ch/60th\\_news](http://www.tasis.ch/60th_news)) and Founder's Day ([www.tasis.ch/foundersday](http://www.tasis.ch/foundersday)).

*Mrs. Fleming's ground-breaking vision and the extraordinary spirit of TASIS were beautifully relayed in the recent production of "MCF: What a Life!" Andreas and I were moved to tears: this musical reminds us all of the unwavering pertinence of its message. A must see!*

Board member Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80

*The history of TASIS is so powerful and is a big part of what makes the school so special.*  
Board member Jennifer Brogini

*Great Blog on a wonderful celebration of this masterful woman. She practiced Social Impact Investments long before it became a business term.*

Board member Jan Opsahl '68

Graduation this year saw the largest Senior Class ever leave our portals well-prepared and guided for the next chapter in their lives and beyond. Particularly touching were the six alumni parents presenting their children with the TASIS diploma.

The assertion **"Times change; values don't"** was often quoted by my mother.

Building on the strengths of our past, we prepare to head into the next 60 years for TASIS. The Board and Administration are taking a comprehensive look at the school in all of its facets to plan strategically for the future. We are focusing on strengthening our academics, becoming more efficient, and right-sizing the school, led by the "Operational Analysis Working Group" of Headmaster Lyle Rigg, Admissions Director Bill Eichner, our excellent new Financial Director Vincenzo Campanale, TASIS veteran Director of Studies David Jepson, and me.

Part of the "new" world means also securing our campus, safeguarding our students, and investing in fencing, gates, video cameras, and 24/7 guards. Alumni are always welcome to visit their alma mater, but will need to check in with the guard at the main gate.

As times change, the "new" world order is also the challenge to TASIS to maintain our values that are imbedded in our Paideia. This was the essence of my mother's inspiration and passion, to change the world for the better by educating the youth of the world. It is **"up to us"** (song from the *MCF* musical) to continue my mother's legacy. To learn more, visit [www.tasis.ch/paideia](http://www.tasis.ch/paideia).

In the tradition of my educator grandparents' piety and vision and my mother's zest for life and passion for education, I quote from the most eloquent apostle, St. Paul, writing to the Philippians nearly 2000 years ago:

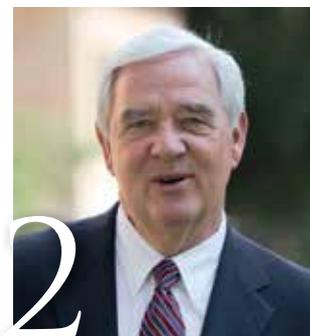
*And now brethren, all that rings true, all that commands reverence, and all that makes for right, all that is pure, all that is lovely, all that is gracious in the telling; virtue and merit, wherever virtue and merit are found --- let these be the argument of your thoughts. (4:8)*

With gratitude, good wishes, and blessings to each member of our TASIS family, including our precious alumni,

  
Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63

## In gratitude to our dedicated Board of Directors:

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Chairman, Rick Bell PG'65, Jennifer Bullard Brogini, Sara Rosso Cipolini, Fernando Gonzalez, Berkley Latimer, Jan Opsahl '68, Marco Ornaghi, Gianni Patuzzo, Curtis McGraw Webster '75, Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80



# CONTENTS



**Senior Editor**  
Lynn F. Aeschliman  
**Editor & Writer**  
Kristin Pedroja

**Contributing Writer**  
Mark Chevalier

**Address changes**  
[alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch)  
Alumni Office c/o TESIS  
CH-6926 Montagnola,  
Switzerland

**Alumni News  
Editors**  
Yvonne Procyk  
Zuleika Tipismana

**Story submissions**  
[alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch)  
Attention:  
Yvonne Procyk

- 2 **REFLECTING**  
Thoughts from Headmaster Lyle Rigg
- 4 **DEVOTED KEEPER OF HER LEGACY**  
Headmaster Lyle Rigg introduces graduation speaker Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63
- 5 **VERUM, BONUM, PULCHRUM**  
An excerpt from the graduation speech by Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63
- 6 **GRADUATION AWARDS 2016**
- 7 **THE STRINGS BACK TO TESIS**  
Valedictorian Paulina Fae Gazin '16 on the bonds that she'll cling to tightly
- 8 **TESIS: A FAMILY TRADITION**
- 9 **A LIFE WELL LIVED**  
As TESIS celebrates 60 years, we celebrate Mrs. Fleming's colorful life
- 13 **CONTINUING THE LEGACY**  
Words from Chairman of the Board Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63
- 17 **THE MASTER PLAN EVOLVES**  
Master Architect David Mayernik on the final stages of the Global Village
- 19 **INTRODUCING NEW BOARD MEMBER MARCO ORNAGHI**
- 21 **SERVING GLOBALLY**  
Highlights from this year's Global Service Program trips
- 25 **THE TESIS ADVANTAGE**  
How our College Counseling team prepares students for success after TESIS
- 28 **SCIENCE AT TESIS**  
Combining excellent teachers and facilities to make for an exceptional program
- 34 **SHINE ON, YOU DIAMOND!**  
Remembering the wonderful 60th Anniversary Celebration weekend
- 38 **DO YOU REMEMBER?**  
Alumni reflect on 60 years of TESIS
- 44 **WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE**  
Highlights from TESIS at Expo Milano
- 46 **GIANNI PATUZZO RETIRES**
- 47 **OUR AWARD WINNERS CONTINUE TO SHINE**  
Catching up with H. Miller Crist Award winners
- 60 **HUEY ON TOUR**  
A tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War
- 62 **HONOR ROLL OF DONORS**
- 64 **REUNIONS**
- 68 **ALUMNI NEWS FEATURES**
- 76 **ALUMNI NEWS**

Cover Image: Elisabeth Acer Crawford PG '66 plays Mrs. Fleming in the musical MCF: What a Life!

**Contributing Photographers**  
Kim Nelson, Graham Pearsall,  
Brendan Shea,  
TESIS Faculty & Students

**Graphic Design**  
Jacopo Riva

© Copyright TESIS 2016  
The American School In Switzerland  
Printer: Lane Press, South Burlington, VT



# REFLECTING

*Thoughts from Headmaster Lyle Rigg*



\* \* \*

*Graduation and moving-up ceremonies were poignant reminders of what makes TASIS so special—and why we all do what we do.*

As I write these remarks, we have just finished the 2015-16 school year and I am getting ready to go to Maine for my summer vacation. While I am on vacation, one of my favorite things to do is to take my rowboat out on the lake early in the morning, while the lake is still peaceful and calm. Sitting in the middle of the lake with a cup of coffee (weak American coffee!) gives me an excellent opportunity to reflect and to plan. I believe we all need time for reflection.

Among the things that I will reflect on while I'm on the lake are the results of the survey completed by many of our parents in early June. I was pleased to see that most of our parents are either "particularly pleased" or "generally satisfied" with all major aspects of our programs. Specific comments will give my colleagues and me much to think about and to work on in the coming year.

Among the goals that the Board and I set for the year, the community's impression is that most progress was made on the following: a) instilling a sense of confidence, trust and stability; b) highlighting the TASIS mission including civility, service, beauty, and compassion; c) improving communication; d) developing a strong Board-Head relationship; and e) ensuring that academics are highlighted at TASIS and that there is quality instruction across the grade levels.

While I'm floating in the middle of Megunticook Lake, I also will give a lot of thought to goals for the coming year. Without question, quality academics will head the list, and this always should be our top priority. Among the other important goals that I plan to emphasize

for the coming year are the successful search for the School's new headmaster, increased opportunities for professional development for teachers and administrators, the development of a digital learning strategy, and continued work on risk and safety issues. We will also emphasize the importance of honesty and integrity in our community and focus on building a positive culture of collaboration among all of the School's constituencies.

Graduation at the end of May and moving-up ceremonies in our middle school and elementary school in early June were poignant reminders of what makes TASIS so special—and why we all do what we do. Our largest senior class in history (123 seniors and PGs) has earned admission to a wide range of universities throughout the globe, including some of the world's most selective schools. Many of our middle school graduates spoke eloquently about their years at TASIS—and one boy even spoke about what a "problem" he had been until his teachers helped convince him to turn things around. And the end of the elementary school ceremony lifted all of our spirits as 200 youngsters from Pre-K to grade 5 held hands and sang "Together."

By the time this article appears in *TASIS Today*, we will have celebrated a huge gala in honor of our 60th birthday and I will be back in Montagnola. My rowboat will be stored for the winter. I hope, however, that the time that I have had for reflection and relaxation on Megunticook Lake in Maine has served both me and TASIS well. Once the 2016-17 school year is completed, I will have plenty of time for rowing on the lake and for reflecting.

# DEVOTED KEEPER OF HER LEGACY

*Headmaster Lyle Rigg introduces graduation speaker Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63*



On this 60th anniversary of the founding of TASIS, it is a great pleasure for me to have the honor of introducing today's commencement speaker. Lynn Fleming Aeschliman is a remarkable woman.

Lynn possesses extraordinary and diverse talents. Largely because of Lynn, her mother's dream continues. Look around you and you will see Lynn's stamp everywhere.

Her vision has helped to make TASIS one of the most beautiful campuses in the world. The Global Village is largely her inspiration and creation.

The TASIS Elementary School also was one of Lynn's dreams and initiatives. Despite many advising Lynn not to do this, the Elementary School opened in 2005 and has flourished. Two of today's graduates entered TASIS when the elementary school opened in 2005 and have spent 11 years here.

Largely because of Lynn, many of the TASIS traditions established by her mother continue. TASIS continues to have an incredible impact not only on the lives of those who study here but also on the lives of those who teach and work here.

If Mrs. Fleming were still with us, I know that she would be very proud to see her daughter—TASIS's youngest student in 1956—not only as today's graduation speaker, but also as the strongest supporter of her vision and the devoted keeper of her legacy.

\* \* \*

*Please take these three simple words to heart as guideposts for your life—always to pursue Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in order to live an honorable, noble, and fulfilling life.*

# VERUM, BONUM, PULCHRUM

*An excerpt from graduation speaker  
Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63's speech  
encouraging our seniors to seek truth,  
goodness, and beauty*

I was the youngest and one of the first TESIS students, along with my sister and brother, when my mother, Mrs. Fleming, started TESIS 60 years ago. I received a most remarkable education from the School and my mother, living and working by her side in the shaping of TESIS for most of my life. Through thick and thin, I never saw her discouraged or lose hope; she was a real pioneer, with an indomitable spirit full of optimism and perseverance, no matter what the challenges and difficulties. She taught me the power of positive thinking, a strong work ethic, the power of one person; that an individual *can* make a positive difference. Though she sometimes stumbled, like all of us, the constant search for Truth, Goodness, and Beauty was at the heart of her vision of a welcoming, loving, truly educational community.

I trust that TESIS has prepared you well for the challenges ahead. There will be much of the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly, as we all know—there are many instances of this in the world every day.

Please pause before leaving TESIS later today and take the imprint of what is written above the M. Crist Fleming Library portal: *Verum, Bonum, Pulchrum*—Truth, Goodness, Beauty. Please take these three simple words to heart as guideposts for your life—always to pursue Truth, Goodness, and Beauty in order to live an honorable, noble, and fulfilling life.

The **Truth** is essential for peace in your heart from a clear conscience in all of your affairs, in every small and large dealing with your fellow beings. There is no hiding; the Truth always comes out, maybe late, but eventually. “The mills of the Lord grind slowly, but exceedingly fine.”

Seeking to do **Good**, the right thing, is also crucial in all of your actions and human relationships. Knowing you have done the right thing, even when no one is around to see you do it, gives you peace in your heart from a clear conscience.

And **Beauty** is essential in our lives. We at TESIS strive to surround our students with beauty, which you all see around you and we hope you will remember. I often hear from students, past and present, and most recently from Senior Alessandro Scavia, how beautiful our campus is. But, then, to my surprise, Alessandro also said to me that our school is *too* beautiful! In explaining his comment, he mentioned that former students he knows sometimes tell him that when they leave TESIS for further studies they find mostly ugly and confusing places—nothing to compare to the beauty of TESIS.

Take a very careful parting look at the campus that has been your home for one, three, six, ten, eleven years, and look above the library portal to store *Verum, Bonum, Pulchrum* in your hearts.



# GRADUATION AWARDS 2016

*Congratulations to the following students:*

<b>Excellence in Art:</b>	Svetlana Esmukhanova	<b>The Shah Akbar Khan Award for Excellence in Mathematics:</b>	Wendi Zhang
<b>The Bertha Seifert Award for Excellence in Music:</b>	Antonella Piconi	<b>Excellence in Science:</b>	Antonella Piconi and Edoardo Italia
<b>The Horst Dürschmidt Award for Excellence in Photography:</b>	Amanda McAfee	<b>The Salutatorian Scholarship Award:</b> <i>Gift pens generously donated by Cartier</i>	Carmen Alban and Maria Clara Oliani
<b>The Kay Hamblin Award for Excellence in Theater:</b>	Adam Osgood	<b>The Valedictorian Scholarship Award:</b> <i>Gift pen generously donated by Cartier</i>	Paulina Gazin
<b>Excellence in Architecture and Design:</b>	Lucas Cimino	<b>Headmaster's Award:</b>	Edoardo Italia
<b>Excellence in English as an Additional Language:</b>	Begüm Emirsoy	<b>The ECIS Award for International Understanding:</b>	Pablo Tello Zuluaga
<b>Excellence in Modern Languages:</b>	Serena Pisa	<b>The Jan Opsahl Service Award:</b>	Carmen Alban and Isabella Piconi
<b>The Cynthia Whisenant Award for Excellence in English Literature:</b>	Paulina Gazin	<b>The Michael Ulku-Steiner Leadership Award:</b>	Rron Lluka
<b>Excellence in History:</b>	Carmen Alban	<b>H. Miller Crist Award:</b>	Jonathan Xie
<b>Ambassador's Cup for Excellence in US History:</b>	Jonathan Xie		

To learn more about this year's winners, visit the TASIS News section on our website.

# THE STRINGS BACK TO TESIS

*Valedictorian Paulina Fae Gazin '16 on the bonds that she'll cling to*

We are who we are today as a result of every interaction and experience we've ever had, both good and not so good. Every conversation, every argument, every exchanged smile has influenced us in some way. Thank you to everyone who is a part of the TESIS community for leaving an impact on us.

There are few occasions such as this, in which excitement and relief are so interwoven with the anticipated sadness of having to say goodbye. Goodbye to this beautiful campus which has been our home these past years, and goodbye to the friends we have made here. We do not, however, have to say goodbye to our memories. So what will we really remember about TESIS?

Many of us probably won't remember the process of transcription in prokaryotes, or the electron configuration of chromium, but we will remember the effort that Dr. Price and Mr. Ogilvie put into teaching those classes, and we'll remember the many study sessions that turned classmates into friends. We might forget to write marginalia in our books in the future, but we will not forget Dr. Love's love of goats, nor will we forget roaming the streets of Dublin.

We may not remember how to use De Moivre's theorem of complex numbers, or maybe we never really understood how in the first place, but we will remember the way Mr. Schwartz loved to yell at people who were being loud outside his classroom. We might not remember every basketball play that Coach Hercules taught us, but we'll remember the long, and loud, bus rides that bonded our team. We won't remember what we had for lunch every day, but we'll remember Massimo's smile. We'll remember Ski Week, Academic Travel, and above all, the friendships we have made here. We will



remember each other. And this is what we will miss the most.

We came to TESIS from all corners of the world, from different countries and cultures. We were, and still are, very different and unique individuals. But now, we have something in common. We will all go our separate ways following this day, but as alumni of the school, we will always be able to trace the strings back to TESIS.

My parents once described to me what it was like when they emigrated from the USSR to the United States almost 40 years ago. When they said goodbye to their friends and teachers, it was forever. The strings were cut and there was no sense in which the strings belonged with each other any more. They had no way of finding each other.

We are fortunate to live in a time in which the internet has made the world small enough for us to keep in touch and connected. As long as this school remains, both physically and in our memories, there will be something that unites us, and moving forward we are not alone. **We are many, we are one. We are the class of 2016.**

# TASIS: A FAMILY TRADITION



Ayse Cevikel with her mother, Banu Bilginer '82.



Alois de Bruin with his father, Alex de Bruin '87.



Isabel Pena del Valle with her mother, Jeanette del Valle '86.

*Many TASIS alumni choose to give their children a similar experience, and in recent years we've had a record number of enrolled children of alumni. This year's graduating class included six of these students. On graduation day, each student was given his or her diploma by the alumni parent—a lovely nod to the past, the present, and the future! Congratulations to our graduates and their proud parents!*



Emma Hartssock with her mother, Heather Cobb Hartssock '81.



Alex Jordan with his father, Michael Jordan '87.



Defne Şahenk with her father, Ferit Şahenk '83.

# MARY CRIST FLEMING

## *A Life Well Lived*



\* \* \*

*“I am only one, but I am one;  
I cannot do everything, but I can do something”*  
*(words written in 1897 at the front of Mary Crist Fleming’s mother’s Bible)*

It is often said that one person can have the power to change or influence another person's life, but in reality it's rare to find someone who actually has. Mrs. Mary Crist Fleming was one such rarity. Through hard work, sheer determination and tenaciously following her own personal vision, she had a positive impact upon thousands of lives over the course of her 98 years. Not only that, but the legacy she left behind, in the form of her schools and the people that run and teach in them, will continue her hugely positive influence on many children's lives for years to come.

She was born in September 1910 in Boston, Massachusetts. She was the only child of two teachers who later founded and owned their own school in Pennsylvania – an example that would influence the course of the rest of her life. She was initially educated at her parents' school and in the late 1920s she spent a year at a school in Lausanne, Switzerland, where

she learned to speak French. She also studied in Italy in Perugia, attended the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston, and graduated from Radcliffe College, Harvard University, with a degree in French. Fluent in French and speaking good Italian and German, she was passionate about the importance of learning languages. In a speech to Radcliffe alumni in 1984 she spoke of her concern about Americans' "complacency" about learning other languages, saying: "Communication between individuals or nations is difficult enough even in a world grown small – the knowledge of another person's tongue becomes vital. How else to overcome cultural differences and attitudes of mind?"

It was this love of languages coupled with her curiosity about the world (and Europe in particular) that led her to one of her earliest adventures. Showing the sense of humour for which she would become renowned, she called it "Fording Europe." She spent two summers



criss-crossing thirteen European countries with five other young women in a Ford V-8 Phaeton. She would have been unable to go alone, so she established herself as chaperone to five girls she described as “five minutes younger” than herself. They took eighteen pieces of luggage and lots of other things that they considered essential – including a drinking kit, comprising an ice basket and an ice pick—for when they needed to make cocktails (she was rather partial to an ‘Old Fashioned’). The adventures which ensued, which included flirting with Mussolini’s officers, a night in an Istanbul jail, and getting very proficient at changing flat tires, would easily fill a book.

She later said that these dual loves of learning languages and living in other countries gave her “a deep conviction of the need to bring the young people of the world together, to educate them together.” It was therefore perhaps inevitable that she was eventually attracted to the world of education and to the venture for which she is best known – the founding of The American School in Switzerland (TASIS).

The roots of TASIS might be found in the Swiss Holiday Program that she started in 1955, a successor to the Frog Hollow Country Day School in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, which she ran from 1943 to 1953. Swiss Holiday began with four buses fanning out across Europe and grew to some 22 buses, camping as they went, and after a week’s excursion in France, Germany or Italy, returning to a beautiful villa based in southern Switzerland. It was on a Swiss Holiday excursion that Mrs. Fleming first discovered the beautiful but derelict and unfurnished villa near Locarno that would become her first school campus.

It was in founding TASIS that her love of beautiful surroundings and her self-professed lack of patience (and resultant reluctance to read instructions) stood her good stead. Unlike those who would be inclined



to follow established procedures, Mrs. Fleming plunged straight in. She was unconcerned about the fact that it would be almost impossible to get finance for the mission. Her vision for the project was such that details that would have put lesser souls off, such as renovating the entire villa, did not faze her in the slightest. She started the school in 1956, with just 12 students, three of whom were her own children. After three years she had 50 students, which was far too many for her Locarno campus – even this was no obstacle, she simply moved 20 of them into a small hotel which was due to close, while she charmed contractors into constructing new dormitories in the lower garden (she was unable to get a loan to pay them up front, but they were so intrigued by the whole operation and so trusting of her that they agreed to go ahead with the work anyway). By the end of this third year the construction costs meant that she ran out of money and her bank clerk warned her that she could go bankrupt. Her response was: “Young man, there *is* no such word as ‘can’t’ in my vocabulary, and if you use it you *cannot* work for me!” She then went to the States and raised the money she needed. The young man in question proceeded to work with her for more than twenty years.

Many such visionary projects have failed, but thanks to Mrs. Fleming's charm, determination and good humour, TESIS not only succeeded but went from strength to strength and opened campuses across Europe. This is not to say that every venture she embarked upon was a success. She cheerfully acknowledged that she had opened and then closed many ventures in arts and education, but she was never afraid to fail and always ready to start again. Her spirit of adventure and endeavour was, and remains, at the heart of TESIS – which prides itself on creating well-rounded world citizens. The school's Mission Statement sums this up and demonstrates that her vision still dominates their ethos today: *"TESIS is committed to transmitting the heritage of Western civilisation and world cultures; the creations, achievements, traditions and ideas from the past that offer purpose in the present and hope for the future. Seeking to balance the pursuit of knowledge with the love of wisdom and promoting the skills of lifelong learning, an appreciation for beauty and the development of character, each school combines a challenging academic program with opportunities for artistic endeavor, physical activity and service to others."*

Mrs. Fleming's legacy has taken many forms. Her charm, humour, charisma, vision, and achievements inspired a Boston University doctoral dissertation about educational leadership, a popular novel for young people by Sharon Creech, two books about her life, and a letter from American President George H. W. Bush, who remarked: "Yours has been a noble endeavour spanning nearly six decades, and I congratulate you on a job well done." Her life story was even made into a musical comedy, *MCF: What a Life!* with words and music by composer Todd Fletcher.

One story gives a charming glimpse of Mrs. Fleming's attitude to life. Late in life, driving alone with her dog on the Italian autostrada she broke down. When she approached the SOS call box she was faced with three different coloured buttons. She pressed all three buttons, which summoned every rescue service available. When her rescuers, comprising a repair truck, a police car, and a fire vehicle, asked her what was wrong, she replied, "I don't know, that's why I called you." She then served them all drinks and snacks. She would later say that starting TESIS was the same: "you push all the buttons."



# CONTINUING THE LEGACY

*Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 on her mother's life and work*



\* \* \*

*My mother was an adventurer, an entrepreneur,  
and loved people, of all ages and stages and backgrounds.*

*Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63*

Daughter of the Founder, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman has been involved in one way or another with TASIS for her whole life. (Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Crist, Mrs. Fleming's parents, were also school founders and directors.) In 1956, along with her sister and brother, she was among the twelve students in the first year of the School when the student-faculty ratio was 2:1. After education at TASIS, Mrs. Aeschliman took her degree at Barnard College, Columbia University, in 1968.

In 1996, Mrs. Aeschliman took over leadership of the TASIS Schools as Executive Director. Then in 2005, as the Fleming family completed the donation of all the TASIS Schools and campuses to the TASIS Foundation, a Swiss non-profit educational foundation, Mrs. Aeschliman became Chairman of the newly-established Board of Directors, as well as Vice Chairman of the Foundation. In 2005, Mrs. Aeschliman also founded the very successful TASIS Elementary School, the first and only English-language elementary school in Ticino.

**In the video on the TASIS website about the history of TASIS, Mrs. Fleming's warmth and personality is all encompassing. I got such a sense of her curiosity, determination and sense of humour.**

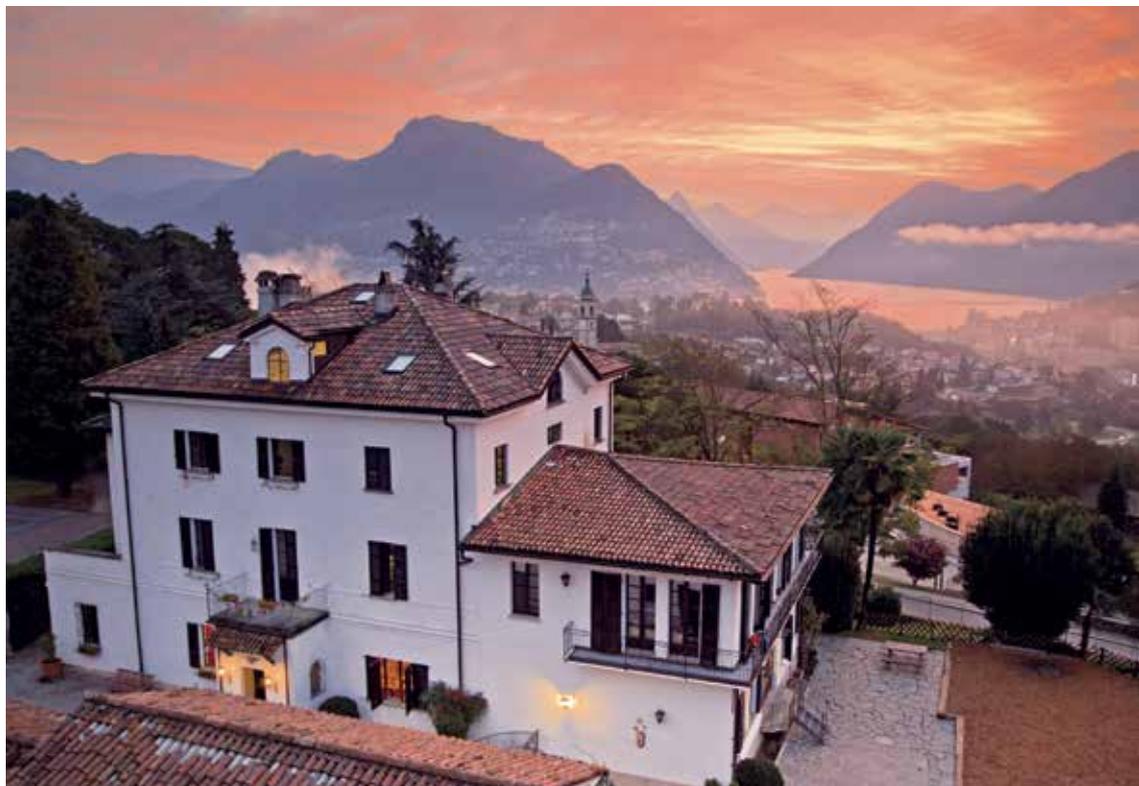
That's all for real: she was an original. She was also much better educated than most women of her generation, and she refused to take a back seat to men as a matter of course.

**It's incredible that one woman achieved what she did—especially at the time that she achieved it. Were you conscious as a child of how exceptional she was?**

Not really, because it was all part of our lives and seemed normal. We three children were expected to roll with the punches, and help wherever and whenever needed. She was a single mother and had to be mother and father to her 3 children, without any support from our father, and she launched the TASIS empire from nothing, except an extraordinary



*Mrs. Fleming with her children, Lynn, Tom, and Gai*



upbringing from her parents, who started their own school in the USA before World War I.

My mother was an adventurer, an entrepreneur, and loved people, of all ages and stages and backgrounds. She taught us both ‘to greet the Queen and to clean toilets’ if need be. I never saw her down. She loved life and threw herself into it. I learned from her that if you commit yourself to life, you receive it more bountifully—she loved Rev. Peale’s assertion about ‘the power of positive thinking.’ We had wonderful picnics, everywhere and anywhere, summer or winter, but the spot always had to be beautiful, or she would make it beautiful. It was said that if she was in a telephone booth for more than 5 minutes, she’d decorate it.

I was at her side for almost all of her initiatives. She loved starting schools and programs. She provided great opportunities for me and I was expected just to jump in and do what was needed—starting schools, summer programs, colleges, traveling theatre program, etc.; renovation of Italian, English, French villas, palazzi, castles, ruins, garages, green houses, farm houses, manor and Tudor houses; using other languages.

I was a good student but not a scholar (as my professor husband is), but I graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University, during the revolution of ’68. I learned by doing, the old apprenticeship way of learning, and I apprenticed to my mother from day one.

**You were one of the first children at Mrs Fleming’s first school. What are your memories of this time?**

Very vivid—a happy and adventurous time. See above.

**You must have met some amazing people and been to some beautiful places over the years? Do you have any particularly treasured memories?**

Lots! Living, traveling, and working at my mother’s side. I have been blessed to be able to spend a lot

of my life in southern France, Tuscany, and French and Italian Switzerland, very beautiful places that have retained much of the harmony of classical and Christian civilization at its best. Part of our mission from my mother is to surround young people with beauty. I conceived, with our classical architect David Mayernik, and supervise the building of our beautiful Global Village campus (1996-2022).

**Mary Crist Fleming was particularly insistent on how important education, and the learning of languages, was to the understanding of other people’s culture and ideas. After 9/11, she spoke of education as ‘the only way to fight chaos’. This must seem particularly vital to today’s international climate?**

Yes! She was an ‘un-alienated’ person, with a secure set of traditional values and virtues that she personified and also articulated, with both humour and force. Among those values was welcoming and respecting all sorts of people.

**Your mother left behind an incredible educational legacy. How is TASIS working to fulfil and develop that legacy today?**

My husband and I and our Foundation Board constantly fight to preserve this legacy and try to have board members and hire senior administrators dedicated to the vision of my mother—not an easy challenge in this day and age where a nihilistic popular culture is damaging or destroying our young for its own profit, and where much education is proudly ‘value-free.’

Look at the TASIS website ([tasis.ch](http://tasis.ch)) under About Us to see our foundational documents, especially our Paideia educational statement. In planning the perpetuation of TASIS beyond the three generations, and before my mother’s death, our family gave away our inheritance—campuses and schools in Switzerland and England—to the Swiss non-profit

TASIS Foundation. The Paideia treatise was vital at that time in our decision and is even more vital now to maintain the ethos and values of my mother's vision and mission in the schools she founded.

**In many ways through TASIS, with its holistic focus on educating the whole person, not just test results, Mrs. Fleming created a whole new theory of education. How do you think this compares with what other schools offer today?**

Not a whole new theory, but a traditional mode of education, enlivened by her unique charm, energy, and personal force, and now in contrast in many ways to what other schools are doing. She liked the adage, "Times change; values don't"; though maybe it would be better to say, "virtues don't."

**The school website is full of children and adults who have been inspired and transformed by their education at TASIS. What do you think Mrs. Fleming's advice to them would be?**

Hold fast to traditional values and mores, with energy, humour, and force: vindicate what is best in Western,

classical-Christian civilisation, including justice and courtesy for everyone as goals. She loved that assertion "Times change, values don't!"

**You've personally contributed towards the huge success of TASIS in a variety of roles over the years. Is there anything which you think is particularly important to the TASIS ethos?**

Yes, our Paideia, the residual momentum of an embattled civilisation, and maintaining it in the face of what seems a collapsing Western culture and brutal fanaticism outside of it. But kindness, courtesy, and humour are absolutely necessary virtues in dealing humanly with human beings.

**It's clear that Mrs. Fleming had lots of stories to tell about her experiences. Do you have a favourite tale?**

Many from my lifetime of 70 years! She made time live; so should we all. Life is very short.

*Adapted from an interview by Joanne Walker*

*Both "A Life Well Lived" and "Continuing the Legacy" are courtesy of Hedition magazine ([www.heditionmagazine.com](http://www.heditionmagazine.com)), reprinted with thanks.*



# THE MASTER PLAN EVOLVES



*The future of TASIS: restructured and expanded Hadsall with sports field, courts, and pool above underground garage*

Three critical issues remain to be resolved for the TASIS campus: the completion of the hillside village, access to the campus with parking and sports fields, and the transformation of Hadsall into a dedicated elementary school complex. These comprehensive projects will substantially improve the harmony, security, and functionality of the campus.

At the top of the Global Village is projected a building called Corona, because it crowns the hillside. In fact a complex integration of two volumes, somewhat like La Lanterna and Fiammetta, the two linked buildings provide a total of six floors for various functions, from a student center at the lowest level (at the first level of the Şahenk arts classrooms), music classrooms and practice rooms on the lower

levels, general classrooms and a faculty room, to dormitory rooms with faculty apartments (connected externally to Lanterna) in the long upper wing. The two buildings frame an intimate outdoor court that terminates the public walkway between Lanterna and Fiammetta, tying all the various parts of the hillside together.

The new campus entry, with increased security, an integrated drop-off sequence for parents, and underground parking, includes a reserved area for tour-bus loading. A double layer of secure access—a gate at the road opening into a turnaround and bus-loading area, and a second gate with gatehouse giving access to the campus itself—allows the campus to be secure while facilitating parent drop-off and pick up, with the security pavilion connected directly to a waiting loggia and an underground connection to both the elementary school at Hadsall and the underground parking garage. The new first impression of the campus will be secure, convenient, and elegant.

Building the underground garage will enable the realization of the sports field, and hard surface courts for basketball and tennis will be located to the north in the curve of via Collina d’Oro. At the top of the slope into the curve of the road will be an in-ground swimming pool, its systems powered by solar panels. In order to create the sports field, the retaining wall to the north of the Campo Science building will be

extended the length of the field. Midway along the wall will be a small research greenhouse for the sciences, flanked by study gardens at the first floor level of the Science building. The greenhouse will be a model of sustainability, collecting rainwater, employing natural ventilation, and storing excess heat for energy. Below the greenhouse a loggia connects to stairs leading to the underground parking.

The tunnel connection under the via Collina d’Oro is part of a comprehensive redesign of the Hadsall land. With notable support from the Comune, the intention is to completely renovate the interior of Hadsall house for dedicated elementary school functions, connecting it to Coach House with a wing containing dining and classrooms on three floors, and finally a terrace toward Lago di Lugano with classrooms below opening onto their own terrace. The final project will create a purpose-built elementary school complex that preserves the memory of the historic nineteenth-century villa in the best traditions of TASIS.

The ancient Roman architect Vitruvius in his treatise said successful architecture provides firmness, commodity, and delight. These last three critical components of the TASIS Master Plan satisfy all of Vitruvius’ requirements for success.

*David Mayernik  
Professor of Architecture,  
University of Notre Dame (USA)  
TASIS Master Architect*

# LIFE-LONG LEARNER MARCO ORNAGHI JOINS THE TESIS BOARD



*The Ornaghi family: Mario, Alberto, Marco, and Lorenza*

TASIS is very fortunate to have on its Board of Directors a group of highly-qualified and committed persons who bring various kinds of perspective, expertise, and support to the School and help manage its present activities and secure its future stability and improvement. To this group the School has been unusually blessed to be able to add over the last few years an Italian couple now resident in Lugano, Marco and Lorenza Ornaghi, originally of Milan. Both of them have been involved with the School since 2012 and it was hard to choose which one of these talented parents and professionals to serve on the Board as both are so highly qualified and committed.

The Ornaghis have two children in the School, Mario and Alberto: this autumn Alberto will enter the eighth

grade and Mario the seventh grade, their fifth year at the School. Both boys had previously been for many years in TESIS summer programs. Marco says that in the summer program their sons “started loving the School and its unique spirit and kept asking when we would finally move them to TESIS.” Marco notes “how self-confident the School has helped them become...and the unique ownership they developed of the subjects they studied over the years at TESIS. This is of great credit,” he adds, “to the many devoted and enthusiastic teachers they have encountered” at TESIS.

Lorenza’s involvement with the School began immediately after their arrival in 2012 when she got involved with the TESIS Parent Association (TPA). She has helped out in various areas and is now the Treasurer of the TPA. Marco describes the TPA as “a fantastic group.” Lorenza also serves in the Parents’ Support Group, which meets regularly with the School faculty “to discuss topics relating to the School administration and academics and provide TESIS with the parents’ perspective.”

Marco now sits on the TESIS Board and serves as Chairman of the crucial Risk and Safety Committee, whose activities concern students but also faculty

and staff members. This is an area of maximum importance in the currently risky and volatile international situation. The School is fortunately located, he argues, “in a beautiful and still tranquil part of the world, but we want to make sure we respect strict standards of safety and keep our attention focused on the welfare and safety of all parts of our community.” He adds: “I have found TESIS has incredibly committed and hard-working members of staff who are always ready to go the extra mile to improve the quality of life at school and the safety of our community.”

Both fluent in English, Marco and Lorenza Ornaghi were educated first in Milan, where both graduated cum laude in Economics from Bocconi University. Lorenza subsequently took an M.A. in tax law from Bocconi and has published and taught in the field. Marco and Lorenza have had extensive business experience and are now Swiss branch directors of Alma Mater SA, a real-estate investment and asset-management company with property interests in Switzerland, Italy, and England.

What was particularly impressive about Mr. and Mrs. Ornaghi from early on was their desire to continue learning themselves so as to understand and help the School. Before and during the interview process for a new Elementary School Head, Marco set about reading major works on elementary education such as E.D. Hirsch’s *The Knowledge Deficit* (2006) so as to understand the School’s curricular approach. He displayed his insight in carefully questioning the candidates for Elementary School Head. Many

parents (and some educators) are regrettably prone to accept fads, over-simplifications, slogans, bromides, and “buzz-words” about education—slogans such as “child-centered education” and over-simplified appeals such as “STEM” (science, technology, engineering, and math), forgetting that responsible teachers must teach **subjects** to children and give them a true sense of educational content and standards, not indulge a flattering, “killing kindness” that fails to prepare the students for subsequent educational and occupational challenges. Poorly informed, militant parents often push for grade inflation (such as adding A+’s to transcripts), unwittingly giving a false sense of security and accomplishment to students who are thus set up for future disillusionment or failure. “Feel-good” short-term policies often lead to long-term weakness—a disservice to many, and a disaster to some, students.

Marco and Lorenza Ornaghi implicitly know that learning is a life-long activity and that it takes work. TESIS is very grateful to have them both involved in the School’s affairs.

*M.D. Aeschliman is a widely-published writer, Professor Emeritus of Education at Boston University, Professor of Anglophone Culture at the University of Italian Switzerland, and a member of the TESIS Foundation Board. He has served as Chair of the TESIS Board Academic Committee and also served until recently on the Board Academic Committee of TESIS England.*

# SERVING GLOBALLY

The Global Service Program (GSP) continues to thrive. In the three years since its inception, the program has given hundreds of students the opportunity to serve others in varying capacities from Montagnola to Mongolia, Nepal, Ethiopia to Morocco. Some students have paid their own way to attend a second service trip, and indeed one student has now participated in a trip to Ethiopia three times!

Last June marked the GSP inaugural trip to Mongolia. This group has roots in the partnership between TASIS and numerous Mongolian teachers who have come to the School over the past three years as interns and observers. The group worked with a school in Ulgii in western Mongolia building a language lab and creating a library, along with providing lessons for children.



*Madyson O'Connor '17 poses with some of the children she taught in India. TASIS students worked alongside the Gram Vikas organization, which has worked with the underprivileged in Odisha, India for nearly 40 years.*

## Annual Events

Each year, the Service Learning Board sponsors initiatives to help raise awareness and funds for various organizations.

In December, many TASIS students took part in the third annual Day of Silence to highlight the voiceless in the world. Participants bought one of five colored t-shirts with the word 'silent' on the front and statistics printed on the back that focus on education, women's rights, water and sanitation, or the environment. This year, all funds benefited SOS Ticino, a local organization which serves refugees in the local area.

The annual Walk for Water took place in April. This year's event included 89 students, staff, and community members of all ages, who carried a 10 to 20-kilo bucket of water around a one-kilometer course to stimulate what many people in the developing world go through daily to secure clean water. The event raised CHF 1,150 for clean water initiatives in Nepal, Kenya, and India.

## GABRIELLA PICONI '16 TRAVELED TO ETHIOPIA WITH THE NUOVO FIORE GROUP IN MARCH.

From morning to early afternoon, we led educational activities for the K-5 students at the Auxilium School. In the late afternoons, we stayed in the compound, enjoying sports with the children.

One afternoon after classes, we hiked with some of the students through their villages, led by Binyum, a third grader. We took the walk some students had to take every morning, often very early. Afterwards, when the time came to say goodbye until the next morning, I was surprised, perhaps wrongly, about how easy it was for Binyum to say goodbye, and disturbed at how lightly he took, or, how accustomed he was, to being abandoned. A line of TS Eliot's came to mind: "And should I have the right to smile?"

Having to say goodbye was the hardest part, and even though I knew that 1) I had to do it, and 2) what it would



*Students build a fence in Cambodia*

be like, the inevitable reality of us leaving them didn't make sense. I felt a little like the Tin Man, because all I could think was, I know I have a heart because I can feel it breaking.

**ADAM NOVAK '17 TRAVELED WITH THE SERVING SOUTHERN AFRICA GROUP DURING SPRING BREAK.**

**Days 5-8**

Our goal in Mwandu was to help build a mud hut for a family. Our friends Gaby and Martin started construction months ago, but there was still a lot of work to do. We divided the jobs so that progress would move quickly: some mixed the mud, some covered the walls with mud, and some passed the mud. Mud was king.

This episode of our trip required physical labor, but a substantial amount of mental power too. Working under the heat of the sun, we had to temper our concentration and muster enough determination to keep shoveling, throwing, and passing. It was difficult. Luckily, we understood from the beginning that to make the trip an extraordinary experience, we would all have to enjoy it and be on board with plans.

**Days 12-14**

We spent nearly a week in Mwandu, and we hated to see any of the time go to waste. We would wake up in the morning, eat breakfast, build the hut until lunch, eat lunch, nap, build some more, and then chill until dinner. Repeat. Progress was going well.

**Day 16**

We had the morning off, so our chaperones gave us money to do the Kwacha Challenge. The objective was to buy what we thought the family would need most in their new hut. Four groups received 100 kwacha each and went on a shopping spree. We were able to buy many helpful little gifts. After having spent our last working hours on the hut, we said our goodbyes,



*Giorgia Rocchi '16 creates handprint art with a local child in Morocco.*



*Literally walking in the footsteps of locals is one way TESIS students experienced life in rural Cambodia.*



*TESIS students alongside local women in rural India*

looked back at our work, and were proud of being able to participate in building the 147th house since 2008. The next day we would board our flight. Time went by so quickly we had trouble differentiating between memories and the present.

#### AMANDA MCAFEE '16 TRAVELED TO INDIA WITH THE GRAM VIKAS GROUP.

One would think a language barrier would inhibit communication, but this was not the case for our group when we traveled to India. The inability to rely on language as the sole form of communication made everyone listen and watch more closely than they would have before, and we saw what we might not have noticed before. Color. The red dirt that spun out clouds of dust behind our bus contrasted with the green of the rice paddies and formed the backdrop of our adventure. The colors of the walls that were painted with imagination and the houses that had been painted with pride, prayers, and ownership greeted us at the school and the villages we visited. We began to recognize the color of dignity, for it was painted on the walls of the bathing facilities Gram Vikas had helped build. We reveled in the pride that villagers took from knowing they had done something so impressive it was drawing people to them from all over the world. We found passion in the

children who voiced their dreams of becoming nurses and weightlifters. We experienced the passion, joy, and color that words can't articulate. Though we went to serve others, they served us a plate of the vibrant spices of life and showed us what to share with others through our service. I want everyone to know the spice of life and the taste of colors.

#### MARIANNE TISSOT '16 TRAVELED WITH THE MISSION MOROCCO TRIP.

The most beautiful aspect of our trip to Morocco, apart from the enchanting Arabic music and exquisite orientalist mosaic patterns and motifs, is the kindness of its people that radiated everywhere we went. Whether it was by welcoming us with amicable smiles or offering us delicious mint tea, Moroccans were amazingly hospitable and generous. From Marrakech to Agadir, nothing brought us greater feelings of joy than seeing the beautiful smiles that appeared on the children's faces as we threw a soccer ball in the air or simply stretched our arms to embrace them. This opportunity to work with underprivileged children at a daycare center taught all of us that, just like those children, we don't need much in life to truly enjoy ourselves. At the end of the day, spreading love and compassion is the key to achieving true happiness.



*Connecting with the cultural riches of rural Cambodia helped bring this fascinating country to life for TASIS students.*

# THE TASIS ADVANTAGE

*How our College Counseling team prepares students for success after TASIS*



*The College Counseling team: Carroll Birk, Greg Birk, and Howard Stickley*

Over the past five years, TASIS students have received acceptance letters from 425 colleges or universities in 20 different countries. The Class of 2016 received 63 acceptance letters from universities ranked in the top 100 of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. These impressive results are largely due to the School's outstanding faculty and a strong curriculum, but the role of the exceptional College Counseling team should not be overlooked.

The three counselors who lead the TASIS College Counseling Office combine for nearly 100 years of experience in education. Greg Birk, Director of

University and College Counseling, has spent the past 34 years in either college admissions or college counseling; Howard Stickley, UK College Counselor and IB Coordinator, has occupied a number of roles in a career at TASIS that has spanned 35 years; and Carroll Birk, College Counselor, has devoted 27 years to education, including the past 14 in college counseling.

The team has created an integrated program that begins as soon as a student enters high school. Each year is characterized by a particular theme: *Awareness* in grade nine, which includes plotting a



Howard Stickley works with Edoardo Sella '16 on his UCAS application.

four-year plan at TASIS; *Discovery* in grade 10, which opens their minds to options they may have not considered; *Directions* in grade 11, when students attend mandatory college planning classes and workshops; and finally, *Decisions* in grade 12.

The College Counseling team's approach is as personal as possible. They write reference letters for each student (rather than using a template) and provide immeasurable help with things like the personal statement, required for UK universities. "I received great help from Mr. Stickley in writing the personal statement and would not have gotten into the University of Cambridge without him," says Pavel Artemov '15.

### **Seeing is believing**

Inviting college admissions officers to hold forums on campus and creating opportunities for students to visit schools around Europe are pivotal pieces of the Discovery stage for 11th-grade students. No trip has a greater impact than the UK university visits offered by the College Counseling Office during the Academic Travel period for each of the past eight years.

Last February the college counselors took 28 students to visit universities in and around London, including the University of Cambridge, London School of Economics, City University, King's College, Hult International Business School, University of Exeter, University of Reading, and Royal Holloway.

"It's an intensive trip," says Howard. "The idea is to show them a range of universities. The really interesting part is seeing students go through all these mental steps of matching themselves with a certain type of university and course, and you can hear them talking to each other about it."

In addition to hearing from admissions officers at each university, students also meet with TASIS alumni at nearly every school. Pavel Artemov, for example, organized this year's visit to the University of Cambridge and set up a presentation with an admissions representative and two other Cambridge students. TASIS students had the opportunity to ask questions in both formal and informal settings and walked away with a much better understanding of what it takes to succeed in such a rigorous academic environment.

This year, the counselors added a networking event for TASIS alumni living in the London area. The reunion was attended by 28 current TASIS students and 27 alumni, most of whom were recent graduates from the Classes of 2014 and 2015, but some of whom were working professionals from the Classes of 2002–2004. *(See photo on page 69.)*

Reunions and discussions with alumni that are rolled into university visits are a critical part of an ongoing collaborative effort between the College Counseling Office and the TASIS Alumni Office that began eight years ago and has gained steam in recent years. A concerted effort has been made to establish stronger ties with young alumni and to create channels in which current TASIS students can benefit from their wisdom and experience.

“We’ve worked together to do a better job of keeping track of where all our students end up,” says Howard. “Our current students can benefit greatly from these connections, and it’s always interesting for our students to hear about the different journeys our alumni have gone through.”

### **Global students prepared for the future**

One theme emerges time and again: college

admissions officers love the internationalism of TASIS. “When college admissions officers visit our campus, they’re impressed with our kids and impressed that we are, so to speak, the United Nations,” Greg says. “They see how many different nations are represented in the room and understand that we truly are an international school.”

Howard has heard similar feedback from UK admissions officers. “On the last Academic Travel trip we took, one of the admissions officers said that he found our students to be very much more mature than British students of a similar age, and that is a comment I frequently hear from British universities,” he says.

Admissions officers are impressed not only with the sophistication of TASIS students, but also with the overall level of preparation they’ve had in their high school years.

“The message we so often get from the UK universities is that they are particularly appreciative of the preparation that our students have had—their ability to work independently, to meet deadlines, and to go beyond just regurgitating information and actually using it in novel ways,” Howard says. “They tend to be especially well-prepared when it comes to researching topics and writing papers. And I think that comes from our students too. When we speak to our alumni in the UK, many of them say that frankly when they get to university, they feel a bit underworked the first year.”

*This article is an excerpt of a longer piece focusing on the College Counseling team and the many students who have been inspired and influenced by their guidance. Visit the TASIS website for more about College Counseling at TASIS.*

# HOW TASIS BUILT AN EXCEPTIONAL, CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE PROGRAM



*That to me is what education is all about—not only the absorption of pure facts, as important as many of them are, but the teaching of values and the transmission of high levels of skill.*

*—MCF*



*Alec Ogilvie, High School Science Department Chair, lectures his students in one of the purpose-built classrooms in Campo Science.*

## AN INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM

The excitement is tangible as 14 sixth-grade students stream into the state-of-the-art Middle School (MS) Science Laboratory in the Campo Science Center. Several students are so eager to begin that they must be told not to crack into their Raspberry Pi kits until their teacher, Amy Bloodworth, can explain the day's lesson.

"It's not always like this," laughs Amy, who received the 2016 Khan-Page Master Teacher Award. "Engineering and Invention is the unit they get most excited about."

Created by both Amy and MS Science Department Coordinator Dr. Brett Merritt in 2013, the Engineering and Invention unit combines inquiry-based and problem-based learning. A TASIS Foundation grant purchased the Makey Makey, an invention kit used to turn everyday objects into touchpads and combine them with the internet, and the Drawdio, a pencil that allows students to draw music. "The goal was to get these devices in the hands of every single one of our sixth-grade kids so that we could start to realize what we thought was its potential

learning capacity," says Brett, who was honored with the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award in 2014.

The devices have generated much enthusiasm and interest, inspiring Amy to apply for a grant for the Raspberry Pi, an inexpensive, credit-card sized computer that plugs into a monitor and uses a standard keyboard and mouse. The device enables people to learn the Scratch and Python programming languages.

"The kids thought they could never do this when we started, but they're amazing me with their patience," Amy says. "They're getting really good at identifying their errors and correcting them. They love the creativity of imagining something and being able to see it through." Once students have mastered the basics of coding, Amy pushes them to use their newfound knowledge in novel ways, such as taking apart stuffed animals to create animatronics.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) has been a rising movement in recent years as schools strive to improve competitiveness in



*Amy Bloodworth works with students on an integrated technology experiment.*

both scientific and technological development. TASIS teachers have worked for years to continue crafting the science and mathematics parts of the equation, but Brett and Amy recognized that there was much work to be done on the technology and engineering side.

“We needed to update our program and enact a curriculum for a world that does not yet exist,” says Amy. “Every UK university and most US college science courses now include at least one compulsory module on coding. In order to properly prepare our students for this, we can’t wait for High School. We need to introduce coding and these new technologies in the Middle School and even the Elementary School.”

HS Science Department Chair Alec Ogilvie often drops in on MS lessons and has been struck by the level of student interest and enthusiasm. “That’s what matters more than anything because you are switching science on to be this cool thing,” he says. “This has massive repercussions later on. If students believe that science is fun, cool, and interesting, we’re on our way.”

### AN INNOVATIVE BUILDING

A combination of great teachers, an inventive curriculum, and first-rate facilities has made TASIS a very attractive destination for science enthusiasts. “I think we’ve put science very much on the map here, which it wasn’t, to be honest, a number of years ago,” says Alec Ogilvie. “People didn’t come here to do science particularly, and now they can, and do.”

The transformation was years in the making, but science began to really take off at TASIS when the Campo Science Center was added to campus in the fall of 2014. Alec was involved in the process of designing the labs, and he consulted all the Middle and High School teachers to see exactly what layout they preferred for their lab and how they wanted to equip it. “As a result, we have individual labs that fit perfectly for each subject,” he says.



*MS Science Coordinator and Master Teacher Dr. Brett Merritt lectures to students in the new MS Science Laboratory.*



*Isabel Romani '15 works on an IB Biology experiment.*



*Middle School Science teacher Dr. Prash Sinnathamby and student Paola Bernasconi '20 play with fire.*



*Dr. Brett Merritt cheering on Middle School students Sokratis Stylidis '20 and Julian Losekoot '20.*

Much like the Science Department's innovative approach to teaching, the new center has done a great deal to generate enthusiasm in students of all ages. "When kids walk into our labs at the beginning of the year or when the Elementary School kids come up to visit for their Shadow Day, what they see and what they feel tells it all because they are wide-eyed," says Brett. "We've created an experience here at TASIS where all our kids are

walking into a classroom and it's not really a classroom—it's a laboratory first. It just happens to be a classroom, but they feel that it's a place where science happens."

The Science Center has dramatically changed the trajectory of a department that desperately needed a facility worthy of its innovative and ambitious group of teachers. "Campo has made all the difference in the world," says Brett. "Before 2014, our 6th graders learned in classrooms with no running water and two or three outlet plugs, so try doing an Engineering and Invention unit when you can only plug in a few devices. It would have taken days of logistical planning."

Teachers who were already excellent are now reaching new heights. "I feel like Campo is pushing our teachers to be as good as the building," says Brett. "It's pushing our creativity, dedication, and abilities to grow into a building that we know can handle just about anything we want to do."

## THE LONG VIEW

The results are tangible; indeed, students have responded with two consecutive years of excellent IB Science results, up to 2.26 points higher than the world average. These improved results would not be possible without an unprecedented level of cohesion and collaboration between the Middle School and High School Science Departments.

"We are always keeping an eye on the immediate picture, which is to sustain and try to generate even more interest in scientific topics and scientific skills," Brett continues. "Our medium focus is to try to prepare them in their skills and knowledge for High School classes. But we also have a long-term view, knowing that these kids will have an opportunity to actively participate in the major social-ecological problems to come—climate change and global warming trends, loss of habitat, loss of diversity, threats to the food system, overpopulation, and the many

doomsday scenarios. We are trying to prepare students to be able to participate thoughtfully and intelligently in the debates, votes, and conversations that are going to happen around them no matter what.”

Alec similarly recognizes that while the short-term goals of the High School are to help students perform better on IB or AP exams and get into the universities of their choice, his department’s most important job is bigger than that. “The long-term goal is enjoyment of science, and that enjoyment springs from understanding science—applying it, comprehending it, and being able to think for themselves. Who knows what jobs will be out there in 20 years? Whatever line they follow, whether it is in science or other fields, they’ll benefit from being able to logically decipher data and understand trends and patterns and connections. I’m not interested in regurgitation at all. I’m interested in students being able to think.”

Amy believes TESIS has only just begun to scratch the surface of what is possible. “I’m really interested in making coding something that kids do from Pre-K to grade 12,” she says. “They wouldn’t need to use a computer at all until second grade because so many aspects of coding can be taught without one.”

That future may not be far away. TESIS Instructional Technology Coordinator Tim Venchus has been teaching

Scratch, a free visual programming language, to Middle School students, and in turn these students have taught the language to Elementary School students. Students who receive this training are very well-prepared when they begin the Engineering and Invention unit in grade six.

“The key, whether it’s Middle School or higher up, is getting them interested in it,” says Alec. “It’s even better if you can start younger because they have a natural fascination with it.”

The benefits of learning to code at a young age are enormous. Students develop a fluency with technology, learn valuable problem-solving skills, become more creative, and establish a lifelong curiosity for understanding the “how and why” of their surroundings.

“Most kids today are just end-product users, and I want them to understand how things really work and to create things that are meaningful to them,” says Amy Bloodworth. “There’s something very creative about coding, inventing, and robotics. As kids move up grades with these skills, we’ll be able to do so much more with them.”

*This article is excerpted from a longer piece about the outstanding Science program at TESIS. Visit the TESIS website for more about how the Sciences are evolving at TESIS.*



# SHINE ON, YOU DIAMOND!

## *TASIS Celebrates 60 Years*



*The Fording Europe scene from MCF: What a Life!*

More than 300 TASIS alumni and friends returned to Montagnola from August 19-21 to celebrate 60 years of TASIS! The weekend kicked off on Friday morning for the PG '66 class, who had a chance to wander the Villa Negroni in Vezia, which was their campus 50 years ago. That evening, guests gathered on the De Nobili Terrace for a *Serata Ticinese* featuring merlot, *luganighetta*, Angelo Piattini's famous risotto, and traditional music from Duo Nostranello.

Saturday's torrential rain didn't stop our alumni from enjoying three special events—a boat tour of Lake Lugano, an architectural tour with veteran TASIS teacher Mark Aeschliman, and a visit to Valle Verzasca, where

five brave visitors went for a swim in the icy waters of the Verzasca River!

Saturday evening's spectacular Gala evening began with an aperitivo on the Fleming Piazza (featuring Mrs. Fleming's signature cocktail, the Bourbon Old Fashioned), followed by a wonderful performance of *MCF: What a Life!*, the original musical by Todd Fletcher which featured a host of TASIS alumni and current students. Dinner and dancing rounded off the evening.

The weekend celebrations culminated in an encore performance the next day that was open to the community. Over 250 guests came to the matinee performance.

## SERATA TICINESE



Roubik Aftandilians '74, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Angelo Piattini, and Yvonne Procyk enjoying the Serata Ticinese.



Yvette Vartanian Baroian '73 and Roubik Aftandilians '74 pose beside a vintage blue VW van.

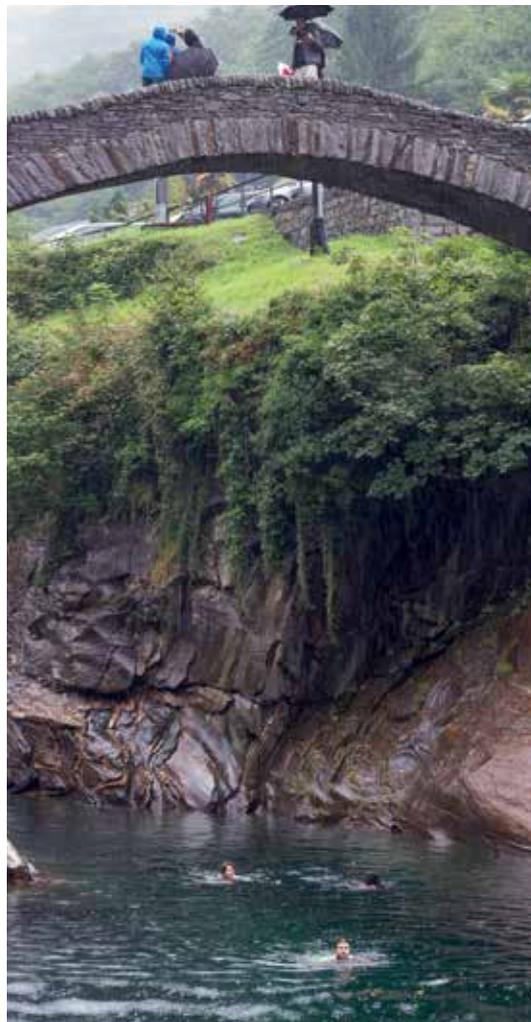


Simon David '08, Emilio Lari '08, Roberto Falangola '08, Moussa Ndiaye '08, Luca Marziale '08, Simone Garbagnati '08, and Mahmoud (Moody) Binzagr '07 gather around Niida Lucchini during the Serata Ticinese.

## SATURDAY TRIPS



Definitely one of the highlights. Mark Aeschliman was fantastic and I was an art major, so the cultural excursion was right up my alley!!! - *Cindy Crabtree PG'66*



The cultural excursion was simply amazing. Many thanks to the great guide!

*Maurice Michel, who attended TASIS from 2007-2009*

Verzasca was wet, but five swimmers were undaunted and the rain did not deter them. We loved the valley, the dam jumps, the old villages, the churches, and the tiny cafe.

*Anna (Nan) Brooke '60*

The informal setting together with Angelo's famous risotto and live music was an unforgettable evening.

*Yvette Vartanian Baroian '73*

# GALA EVENING



*The wonderful cast of MCF: What a Life!*



*The MCF company performs Recipe for a School*

**FANTASTIC! What amazing talent! It really captured the force of nature that was Mrs. Fleming!**

*Mary Blumberg Dean, Swiss Holiday '62, PG '66*



*Young alumni turned out in force for the activities*



*George Clark '60, one of the first alumni, with TASIS veteran Betsy Bacon Newell*

**Wonderful company, excellent selection of alumni at the tables, great food, the candles, and the smell of lilies and then of coffee.**

*Clifford Clavel '72*

Why did I come back? The impact TASIS  
and especially MCF had on my life.

*Roubik Aftandilians '74, Summer Programs counselor '75*



Members of the PG Class of '66 pose on the "forbidden bridge" of Villa Negrone,

GREAT! Wonderfully orchestrated, and it was  
enjoyable to see "old" and new friends!

*Antonella Nosedà '80*



The organization was remarkable—  
the setting, the stage, the musical! Just fantastic!  
But what made it really special was the huge  
number of alumni of all ages who came from all  
over the world to be part of it.

*Sara Rosso Cipolini, TASIS board member  
whose sons Filippo '19 and Michele '21  
are current students*

I was deeply grateful for the opportunity  
to be here once again with all of you and to take  
part in this coming together of positive  
energy, talent, and dedication. Thank you for the  
whole experience!

*Kay Hamblin, TASIS  
drama teacher from 1996–2010*

With grateful thanks to our corporate sponsors and supporters:



# DO YOU REMEMBER?

*Memory is a funny thing, especially  
after many years of remembering stories,  
anecdotes, or just the daily rhythm of life.*

*We asked alumni from the past 60 years to share  
their favorite TESIS memories.*

*Maybe they'll trigger your memories, too.*

## JOHN GAGE '60

*lives with his wife Amy in Mill Valley, California, and on Neahkhanie Mountain, Oregon*



TASIS made a wonderfully transformative impact on my education and my youth. I was a student during the first year of TASIS in 1956-1957. The School's contribution to my development was very personal, as would be the case for any subsequent student, but our small group of 12

were keenly aware that we had embarked on a new experiment, and fortunately we were focused on thriving rather than suffering through the inevitable growing pains of a new institution.

My memory is that there was a significant change in the faculty during the Christmas break, and numerous components of the program experienced abrupt alterations, but we had terrific esprit and looked on all changes as being part of a grand experience forging fond memories of resilience and adventure. In addition to the most demanding academic curriculum of my education, we skied in Andermatt and traveled to Spain as a large family for Christmas and to Greece for Easter. The cultural riches of Europe were breathtaking for a kid from a small town in Michigan, and Mrs. Fleming became both a mentor and something like a second mother to me. My relationship with TASIS and the Fleming family has now endured and increased in richness over 60 years – nearly a lifetime.

## JILL NEWMAN IVERSEN (FROG HOLLOW; SWISS HOLIDAY '57, '58)

*has spent most of her working life in publishing. Her greatest pride and joy is her son.*



When I think back on my childhood, it's hard not to think of TASIS because my association with the Flemings began at the age of five, so the school and my formative years will always be inextricably entwined. I also have a memory for things big and small, which means that I can remember the name of

every single counselor I ever had, and just about every single kid I came in contact with at Frog Hollow Farm.

I remember the song, "Twenty froggies went to school, down beside the swimming pool," and I remember that very same swimming pool where we had our annual

regattas—all dressed in crepe paper costumes with Sousa blaring in the background—but they were never as much fun as lying on our stomachs and sunning ourselves on the concrete edges that lined the water. I remember poor old Robin Waxwheeler who got poison ivy on his private parts, which, by the time he was discharged from the infirmary and the story had been disseminated from the boys' cabins to the girls' Playhouse, weren't so private after all. I remember Milton Berle's daughter was in my "cabin," the Cottage, and he amused us by balancing a ball on his finger, and we were admittedly callow youths and had no idea we were in the presence of Mr. Television.

If class, quality, care, loving, and sheer all-around wonderfulness have any say—or should I say, play in the matter—I suspect that TASIS will be celebrating many, many more landmark anniversaries in the years to come.

## LINDA JAEKEL AVERY '75

*lives in Telluride, Colorado, and enjoys the mountain lifestyle while living on a lake. Linda sells real estate, specializing in land and ranches.*



and made an immediate and enduring impression on students arriving for the first time.

A beautiful memory that I have of TASIS is arriving alone by taxi at the campus gates, and having a teacher who was just walking by call out to me by name and welcome me to the school. Mrs. Fleming's "face book" was such an inspiration,

Mrs. Fleming's ability to recall all of us by name and experience, decades after graduation, was truly remarkable too; a great trait for a very special lady and visionary. She also designed a special cohesiveness within the student body—well crafted by mingling within our diverse assigned tables for dinner, dorms, travel groups, classes, and other activities—and making our time at TASIS just wonderful! My thoughts of my time at TASIS all revolve around great teachers, great experiences and friends, and an overall wonderful time in life.

## DAISY BILBAO '76

*attended university in the San Francisco Bay Area. She calls Miami, Florida home, where she works in real estate.*



In the 1970s, high school students and faculty from around the globe came together for an educational and personal experience, resulting in a family-like union for years to follow. The goal of this little private co-ed boarding school nestled in the village of Montagnola exceeded

In preparation of the founding of the 60th anniversary celebrations, I reminisce about the dreams and visions of our beloved Mary Crist Fleming, and the outcome of true friendships that evolved. Simultaneously, we commend the 40th anniversary of the graduating class of '76, and I can't help but close my eyes and take a trip down memory lane...

all expectations. Our little paradise on the "golden hill" certainly lived up to its name. It was an experience perpetually etched in our minds.

As a young teenager, I was privileged to dine in Villa de Nobili, the 17th-century mansion adorned by armor suits and antiquities. I walked the steps of the 15th-century Casa Fleming tower and around historic dormitories such as Hadsall House, and the charming 19th-century Casetta: my place to call home.

Friendships inevitably formed stronger bonds outside of class. We made connections in the snack bar, dancing and singing to tunes on the jukebox that take us back when we hear them today. We engaged in mischievous but harmless 'dorm raids' when we found toilet paper hanging from the outside and inside of the girls dorms, the work of anonymous culpable boys. Thankfully, I had my twin brother (Henry Bilbao '76) and cousin (Erwin Bilbao '77) protecting me and my space, where damage was prohibited!

There was Skip Day, when Angelo prepared his signature sandwiches at the break of dawn for the entire student body before they set out for a day on Mushroom Meadows. Every semester's In-Program Travel experiences around Europe were conducive to building different relationships. And who can forget our post-winter break encounters in the snowy mountains of St. Moritz for Ski Term?

One of my most memorable events was a performance produced by our teachers and staff members. *The Return of Rock* sock hop was an event which took weeks to prepare: students took 50s dance classes prior to the big event, and the night itself featured slicked-back hair, motorcycle jackets, poodle skirts, bobby socks and saddle

shoes! My wish was to someday gift the same experience to my two children. To quote Mrs. Fleming: "Make a difference in the world. These are big hopes and dreams, but you have to hope big and dream big to have bigger dreams come true." [Graduation speech, 1998]

I still feel privileged and grateful for the experience of that little piece of paradise we all called home, for as short or as long as we endured it. As we reconnect 40+ years later, whether at a large, medium, or mini-reunion, the undeniable TASIS family bond is incomparable! It engraves an image of memories in our minds that will forever be cherished. Sometimes, you never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory.

## SANDRA HECHLER '00

*spent 11 years on the TASIS campus, summer and winter, from age seven to 18. She works for Continental as a business development manager in Frankfurt.*



1989. "Mausi, we are here!" My dad stopped the engine, turned around and smiled at me. The Ticino summer air was filled with a heavy blossom scent and the sounds of children's laughter. This was the place where I would spend my first summer away from home and on my own.

"Château des Enfants..." I read out loud. "Mama, what does that mean?" "It is French and means castle of the children, Schätzchen," she said.

I was excited. I felt I had arrived at a majestic place. As a German with Singhalese roots, I was somewhat acquainted with international people but I clearly remember my surprise at seeing so many children with different ethnic backgrounds playing in one courtyard. For the first time in my life, I did not feel like the exotic flavor in a vanilla ice cream dessert but sensed a far greater deliciousness.

I finally felt that I belonged. As the afternoon sun shone on me, I was warmly welcomed and introduced to my teachers, dorm parents, and roommates. I was excited to finally learn English and to play sports, create in art, drama, and singing classes, go camping at a place where the water in the river matched the blue of the skies, Valle Verzasca, and perform in our all-school play for our parents at the end of the summer. What I did not find so wonderful was the fact that I had to make my bed every morning, but my mom seemed to like the idea.

My seventh summer was a very special one and was the foundation for many wonderful experiences to come. In only four weeks, my eyes were opened to so many wonders of the world, cultures, and languages. I was pushed to learn many things about myself: how to battle homesickness, how to communicate and be understood by others even if we didn't speak the same language, how to make friends and find the crucial common denominator between individuals. I became more courageous and confident. But most importantly, I finally knew that it was not me who is different from my white friends back in Germany, but that we all were but tiny fragments that made one big, colorful world!

## ALEXIS DE BRUIN '12

*recently graduated from Bentley University with a Bachelor of Science in Economics-Finance. He travels between Europe and the United States. His father and brother are also TESIS graduates.*



There are so many things that make TESIS unique. Everyone who has set foot on the campus might list a different combination of a few dozen reasons that have shaped their time at the School. These experiences have helped us grow

into the people we are today. When we first arrive on campus, we are all strangers, but by the end of our time at TESIS, we have this shared experience that others can't understand.

There are many things that have shaped my experience at TESIS, though the two biggest ones have to be the friendships I made and the traveling I did. I believe that what we learn from others in the dorm, the education we receive outside the classroom, is the most underrated aspect of TESIS. Talking to others and learning from their experiences in their own countries or during their travels was an immense part of my education. There are countless examples of things I have learned from my classmates or friends on the soccer team that became important later in life. When many Americans head off to college, they don't know how

to take care of themselves and end up in bad situations either academically or personally. For me and for many of my TESIS friends I've talked to, it was a very smooth transition.

I'm also very appreciative of the opportunities I had to travel during my time at TESIS. My first TESIS trip was to Basel for a soccer tournament. I remember less about the actual tournament than I do of the five-hour bus ride and the stories and jokes we shared in the back of the bus or walking through Basel at night and eating sushi with my teammates. In Crans Montana, many memories remain, but one that Jorge, Swenson, Alejandro and I remember best is how to properly eat a fondue...the restaurant owner stormed in and lectured us for not first putting ground pepper and salt into the pot. We made sure to never make that mistake again!

Even though my graduating class has split up to different parts of the world, we still have an uncanny ability to run into each other in random and distant places. We always bring up memories of TESIS and catch up on our current lives. I'm sure we will all meet up soon again and it'll seem like no time has passed since our graduation. Until then...

## VICTORIA HASCHKE '13

*is an aspiring singer-songwriter who is in her third year at Bard College, studying Theater Performance and Italian Studies.*



It's hard to hone in on only one TESIS memory. The five years I spent on the Collina d'Oro have become cherished moments in my life that have shaped who I am today. Ninth grade, however, was a very important year in my life. Lots of changes were happening

around me and our campus finally opened its first theater and performance center. The inauguration weekend remains one of my most exciting and precious TESIS memories. Several alumni involved in the performing arts came to be a part of the celebration, and each one of them spoke at our school assembly. I remember listening and absorbing every word, heeding their

advice and finding comfort in our similarities, realizing that I too could one day make a life out of performing and using my creativity. I made new friends, particularly the wonderful Jeanie Cunningham '75, whom I've been able to stay in touch with this whole time and share my music. Her friendship has meant a lot to me because she came into my life at a time when I really needed a "Big Sis," and in moments of doubt, she has helped me in more ways than she knows. I also am so grateful to Jonathan Morris and Kay Hamblin. I was able to learn so much from them.

I look back at my TESIS years with gratitude for the opportunities and discoveries that I made. I got to learn a lot about myself and was able to become a part of a community that I'll always cherish.

# RESORT COLLINA D'ORO

## HOTEL & APARTMENTS



Only a few minutes away from Lugano city centre, surrounded by an enchanting natural landscape with breathtaking panoramic views over the Alps and the lake, the Resort Collina d'Oro includes a luxury Hotel with 16 double rooms and 30 suites, a modern SPA & Fitness Centre with indoor and outdoor pools, as well as a gourmet restaurant serving refined Mediterranean dishes. The Resort also boasts 43 apartments with hotel services, available for sale and for rent for both short and long-term periods.

[WWW.RESORTCOLLINADORO.COM](http://WWW.RESORTCOLLINADORO.COM)

VIA RONCONE 22, 6927 AGRA, LUGANO  
INFO@RESORTCOLLINADORO.COM  
Tel. +41 (0)91 641 11 11



# WE ARE MANY, WE ARE ONE

## *TASIS at EXPO Milano*

On Saturday, October 10, TASIS exhibited at Expo Milano 2015, when 200 members of our community performed, presented, and volunteered, taking over the Swiss Pavilion for the day. Over 25 events featured a broad spectrum of students, staff, and alumni, proving that the TASIS community is extremely rich in talent and spirit.

Middle School Dean of Student Affairs MJ Breton was one of the coordinators. “The event created a wonderful

sense of community for the School,” she says of the event, which took nearly a year to organize.

TASIS students from all three divisions led the Parade of Flags and participated in musical, dance, and dramatic performances throughout the day. “I felt very excited and honored because I was representing TASIS in front of people from all over the world,” said Anna Savinova '20. “It was amazing, one of the best experiences of my life.”



Above, TASIS teachers and alumni enjoy the moment; facing page, clockwise from left: sophomore Taylor Wright leads the Parade of Flags; TASIS students perform a coordinated dance for the crowd; Jeanie Cunningham '75 sings; students enter the event space



# GRAZIE MILLE, GIANNI!

*We bid a fond farewell to Gianni Patuzzo after nearly two decades*



Gianni Patuzzo is a name many alumni will remember. As Head of the TASIS Business Office team for nearly 20 years, Gianni got to know hundreds of people in our community. In spring 2016 he retired, which has freed up time for Gianni's passions for gardening, waterskiing, and golf.

Originally from Ticino, Gianni studied mathematics at university in the early 1970s. An early adopter and fan

of technology, Gianni, along with other mathematics and physics graduates in Switzerland, was recruited by US-based company Control Data as part of a team to implement a new large computer system in UBS. After working in computing and IT, Gianni got his MBA from Institut Européen d'Administration Des Affaires (INSEAD) and then began working in corporate finance. He was working for a multinational bank when he answered an advertisement in the newspaper in 1997.

"It was an exciting prospect," he remembers of his first interview with Lynn, "very different from what I was used to. Though through the years I realized that TASIS is just a smaller multinational—with the same problems as other companies." He found his colleagues and the community very different, however. "They are interesting and very positive people. Nice people who aren't always all about the bottom line."

Gianni remembers Mrs. Fleming fondly. "She was an exceptional woman," he says. "I remember when I came, nobody liked computers. I brought one to a meeting with Mrs. Fleming and she said, *what is this?* She wanted nothing to do with it. *You are polluting my room*, she said. Of course I took it away!"

"I spent 17 years working with Gianni," says Luca Ugolotti, TASIS Business Manager. "I learned a lot from his experience. He was always calm and I never saw him lose his patience, even if under stress." Luca also talks fondly of Gianni's wife Bea. "They were always happy to welcome us into their home for lunch. We looked forward to those lunches!"

Now Gianni has more time to spend with Bea and his two sons, who live in French Switzerland. We wish Gianni all the best in his retirement – and many successful golf tournaments!

# KEEPING UP WITH OUR *Crist Award Winners*

WE CATCH UP WITH WINNERS OF TASIS'S TOP GRADUATION AWARD, THE H. MILLER CRIST AWARD

In 1990, TASIS established an annual award to recognize the student who best embodies the values of the School. Students are nominated on and voted for by the faculty during what is always one of the most passionate and lengthy faculty meetings of the year! Named for Mrs. Fleming's educator-father; the H. Miller Crist Award has acknowledged students who have gone on to become global successes in fields as varied as entrepreneurship, finance, film, oenology, and government.

H. Miller Crist Award winners are introduced with the following description: *This award is given to the senior student who, in the opinion of the faculty, best represents the ideals and goals of the school. This is the highest recognition accorded by the TASIS faculty to a senior who, by his/her actions (academic and otherwise), best embodies or pursues the ideals, aspirations, and goals of the School. In some ways, the award combines the stipulations of the Service and Leadership Awards with an expectation of academic excellence.*

Here we introduce you to some of our past winners and learn about how TASIS inspired their life trajectories.



# MAGIC > LOGIC

## Rei Inamoto '92

*on creativity, starting his own company, and his theory of five-year cycles*

Being named one of the top 25 most creative people in global advertising by *Forbes* magazine might seem daunting for many people. But **Rei Inamoto '92** brushes it off with, fittingly, a TASIS anecdote. “I had a teacher, Mr. McCallum,” he begins, launching into a story about being introduced to Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist Richard Feynman’s book *What Do You Care About What Other People Think?* “This guy was a character who had his own way of looking at the world,” Rei says of the book’s author and message. “I still carry today what I read in that book when I was 17.”

Rei personifies the sort of global ambassador that TASIS often inspires. Originally from Tokyo, Rei came to Montagnola for his final two years of high school. “Mr. Dürrschmidt, Mr. Mark Aeschliman, and Mr. Walsh – they all had a tremendous influence on me as a kid who was inclined towards art,” he recalls. “I may not practice day-to-day any of the expertise that they had [photography, art history, and pottery respectively], but their direct and indirect influence that I got when a teenager – you can’t measure it.”

Rei feels that creativity is best cultivated in these crucial younger years. “Creativity is a combination of certain technical craftsmanship skills as well as conceptual ones, and to be open to different ideas,” he says. “By the time you go to college, a good foundation of you as a creative individual is somewhat formed. When you’re in college and

above, you learn the technical things, learn more with your hands and with your brain, as opposed to when you are younger, when you learn with your heart.”

**Rei looks at his life in five-year cycles.** “Not by intention, but by pursuing what I wanted to do, I ended up at the University of Michigan for five years,” he says. “I initially pursued art and design, from the influence I had at TASIS, as I was interested in having that as a career option.” But this was the early 90s, and he quickly became intrigued by what was happening in technology, so he added computer science as a second degree.

In 1998, he returned to Japan to start working in the creative industry with renowned designer and creative director Noriyuki Tanaka, then moved to New York in 1999 “to pursue a career in design within the contexts of a technologically influenced world.” He joined global advertising and digital R/GA, staying for five years before moving to another agency, AKQA. “When I joined, AKQA only had three offices,” he says, noting that he was brought on to start up the New York office. “By the time I left it had grown to 14 offices worldwide, and went from 250 people to over 2000.” In 2005, Rei moved to San Francisco, again staying for five years, before moving back to the New York office, where he served as international Chief Creative Officer until September 2015.

The global nature of the company allowed Rei to thrive, which he credits to both his tenure with the company and his time at TASIS. “At that time, we had around 250 kids from 70 countries – that is an amazing concentration of diversity that you don’t get anywhere else,” he says. “I am able to deal with different types of people. At AKQA, I knew somebody in every office. I wasn’t consciously dealing with people differently, but I learned that skill starting with my time at TASIS.”

**And so continued Rei’s five-year cycles.** “In order for anybody to do something new and to do it really well consistently, it’s about a five-year cycle,” he says. “The first year is building the foundation, and the second year you get into the groove and make it bigger, you grow it. The third year is when you really start getting into the trajectory of that direction. And the fourth and fifth years, you’re proving to yourself that this wasn’t just luck. You can do something reasonably well, especially in the professional world, just purely by cruising on luck for the first two to three years. When it becomes really difficult is when you have to prove it again and again, and do it bigger and do it better, and that comes in the latter two years.”



Rei’s new challenge: Inamoto & Co, a fledgling Business Invention Studio which was born on February 1, 2016, and is essentially the culmination of Rei’s 20-plus years of working in global branding and advertising. “I’ve been joking to people that my starting a company is a riskier way of dealing with a midlife crisis,” he says. “I could have bought a leather jacket or a motorcycle. Instead I decided to start a company.”

This decision didn’t come as easily as it might seem. “I was talking to a colleague of mine who had also left a high-ranked position at a very renowned company a little while ago to go independent. He said, ‘in the next couple of months, you will hit a Swedish Night. It will feel so dark, and it will feel like the night will never end. But it will pass – the sun will come up. You have to live through it and you can’t run away from it.’ I feel like I went through that period during the first few months or so – the notion of, what have I done? Am I going to be okay? How the heck am I going to get this done? I’m sure I will run into those feelings and frustrations, but you have to work through it.”

In a connected world where we receive thousands of messages every day, and tend to filter most of these out, a major challenge for Inamoto & Co is to help their clients be innovative and stay ahead. “If you create what I call ‘Tools with Heart’, people will pursue those things rather than avoid those things,” he says. “That’s always been in my interest in creating solutions that attract people as opposed to disrupting people’s experience.”

A fitting perspective: remember, Rei is one of the most creative people in global advertising. “The

irony is that I never wanted to be in advertising,” he says. “When I went to the University of Michigan I was interested in art and design, and then I got interested in technology. Even when I graduated I didn’t think of advertising as a career. I wanted to pursue a career in creativity.” He still considers himself a creative thinker and maker, in the context of business. “I am not doing this purely as a hobby. I also am not doing this purely as an artistic activity – there is usually a business attached to it, clients and different types of people to find a creative solution to a business problem.”

The philosophy behind Inamoto & Co echoes this sentiment. In March, Rei and his colleagues spent a few days in the countryside together to ponder big ideas: why does his company exist? They came up with a telling mission statement: to “inspire and invent ways to bring emotion, connection, and simplicity to the world”. This is backed up by eight ‘maxims’, including such audacious statements as “Magic > Logic” and “There is a way. Always.”

### **Inamoto & Co Maxims**

1. When in doubt, subtract.
2. Never say “No” without offering “Yes.”
3. Be tough, not rough.
4. Risk nothing, change nothing.
5. Seek the invisible to do the impossible.
6. There is a way. Always.
7. Quality is a habit.
8. Magic > Logic

“To create something that has these ideas at its core, it doesn’t matter if it’s an app, or a song, or a campaign, or whatever – as long as it brings emotion, connection, and simplicity to the world.”

Lofty goals, perhaps, but with Rei’s background working with clients including Audi, Nike, Tiffany & Co, Prada, Google, and Starbucks, Rei is best placed to make an impact that utilizes his experience with these global giants combined with his ability to bring people together, despite any perceived incongruences. “TASIS is such a diverse melting pot of people, and that made me subconsciously respect the differences that others have, even if I didn’t agree with their points of view.”

**So where does Rei see himself in five years?** “Still in New York,” he says. “Whether you’re in tech, design, fashion, media, whatever, you can be in any industry in this city and have a career regardless of what country you might have come from. I love that kind of diversity here. It’s not the easiest place to live because of the cost of living and the winter weather, but I love the vibe and energy and the dynamism that New York offers.” And, of course, he would like to be sure the company has succeeded, focusing on his five-year plan as the ideal first chapter of his ongoing script.

“A lot of what I do, and I think any kind of professional services industry, is listening. Listening is more important than talking. So I think either directly or indirectly, in being able to respect differences and having that world perspective, I think TASIS is a tremendous experience. I wouldn’t trade it for the world.”

# ADAPTING TO CHANGE

## Dr. Jessica Caparas Hontiveros '98

For many TESIS graduates, experiences at TESIS nudge them towards their life's calling. **Dr. Jessica Caparas Hontiveros '98** is an example of this. She came to TESIS at the tender age of 12 and soon became involved in the volleyball and basketball teams and Peer Counselors. She was a Prefect her junior and senior years and "always enjoyed helping others adapt to TESIS." These experiences fostered her interest in sports medicine, and "physical therapy seemed like the natural choice for me to pursue since I loved helping people," she remembers.

Jessica attended James Madison University, where she received her B.S. in Kinesiology in 2002, and went on to Virginia Commonwealth University, where she received her Doctorate in Physical Therapy in 2005. "I've worked as a physical therapist in a variety of settings, including outpatient orthopedics, work hardening, and geriatrics. I am now Director of Rehabilitation at a Skilled Nursing Facility in Scottsdale, Arizona."

Some of Jessica's favorite memories feature her advisor, Bill Eichner. "When I first came to TESIS, Mrs. Eichner was the head of the middle school. I was usually over at the Eichners' apartment because I used to babysit their son, James. I developed a good friendship with Mr. Eichner and was always going to his office in DeNobili during the day just to chit-chat. I still remember how he used to have a dog bed outside of his office for his poodle, Buffa. One day while I was sitting in his office, we were talking and he said, 'You better start working on your speech for your senior banquet because my advisees always speak at the senior banquet.' I believe that I was only a freshman at that point! When the time came, I was indeed one of the Senior Banquet speakers. I was also quite the procrastinator and didn't even have my speech ready until maybe a day or two beforehand. I remember Mr. Eichner making me stay in his office to compose the speech while he paced back and forth behind me. Every once in a while, he would peek over my shoulder and say, 'Oh that's good! That'll

make them laugh!' I still have a copy of my speech and when I graduated, I listened intently to the description of the H. Miller Crist Award Winner. Mr. Eichner told me after the ceremony that he had written that description, which I still have in my TESIS 'treasure' box."

For Jessica, TESIS also fostered independence and resilience. "Looking back, it's as if I went away to college at 12 years old. I was so fortunate to have been exposed to several cultures and had the opportunity to travel at such a young and impressionable age. I learned to be independent and how to live with so many different kinds of people. I've also learned how to adapt to change. Every year (and even every semester) was different. People came and went and I had to say goodbye to so many people with whom I had become close friends."

Jessica brings up the old adage that *money doesn't buy happiness*. "Studies have shown that possessions actually depreciate over time while experiences actually appreciate," she says. "My experiences at TESIS are ones that are forever a part of me and helped shape me into the person that I am today. People often ask, 'Wow! You were so young to go off at 12 years

old. If you could, would you do it all again?' My response is always, 'Absolutely.'"



*Jessica with husband Carlo and children Mia and Luca*

# FROM FASHION TO THE UN

**Ana Sarenac '06**



**Ana Sarenac '06** spent much of her time at TASIS intrigued by both the environmental sciences and economics, and is currently working with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supporting the Serbian government in reforming public administration.

Ana graduated with honors in 2010 from the European Business School London and her studies included a year abroad at Universita Cattolica (the Catholic University) del Sacro Cuore in Milan. During summer breaks, she was involved in a variety of internship programs in Belgrade, Serbia, including work with small, family-owned businesses in retail and hospitality. She then set up her own business, which represented several cosmetics brands from the UK and included a flagship store in the Belgrade

city center. She began her Master's in 2012 and graduated in May 2016 with an MA in Economics from Singidunum University in Belgrade. It was during her master's studies that she was a research assistant and co-author of academic articles and studies, and began her work as a UNDP consultant. Her current role has her working in the Cabinet Office of the Prime Minister of Serbia.

Once at university, Ana began to experience the benefits of a TASIS education. "I realized that when I entered uni because I knew more than other students in my class," she says, noting that teaching methods such as analyzing newspaper articles and real-world sources helped to give her a more rounded perspective for analytical thinking in university courses. Also, "sharing rooms, dorms, and classrooms with so many other international students helped me grasp all different customs and cultures."

Ana credits TASIS with shaping where her life has led. "It prepared me academically very well but also in many more ways. It is such a valuable experience and such a unique place I would gladly visit again and again and again. I know it has changed a lot since I left, for the better, and I envy the students who are now there. My time at TASIS is one of the nicest memories I have."

Ana may just be continuing the legacy in her own family; her first daughter is due in November 2016. "I would love if my child decided to go to TASIS, I would support that decision 100%."

# IN THE SERVICE OF OTHERS

Jacques Ntonme '01



## **Tell us what you've been doing since graduation.**

I went to Yale, where I studied Ethics, Politics, and Economics with a focus on International Development. I then worked in energy consulting (with a small stint in TV production) and then went to Stanford Law School, where I focused on antidiscrimination law and employment law. I worked on mental health advocacy in Austin, Texas for two years and relocated to Los Angeles a year ago to work in employment law while pursuing television writing.

## **How did your experiences at TASIS help shape the decisions you've made and inspire what you're doing now?**

TASIS tapped into my latent curiosity about people and cultures that are different from me, which probably only encouraged my tendency to jump from thing to thing. I have consistently been interested in community service and public service, which is something I began to learn about from my teachers at TASIS and in my roles as a prefect and writing tutor.

## **Are there any anecdotes or people you vividly recall?**

I still keep in touch with some friends and former teachers and see them when we are in the same town. I have many fond memories: the hum of the slide projector in Mr. Aeschliman's art history class; yelling down from the front of Belvedere to friends playing basketball on the court where the Campo Science Center now sits; getting my first email address and signing up for video game newsletters before emailing my parents; a snowball fight in shorts because the clouds were so low that it was warm while snowing; slouching on the couch next to the Dean of Students Office (I spent a lot of time there my first year because I kept getting in trouble); taking the bus downtown with friends and walking back up because we missed the return bus; eating quattro formaggi pizzas near Piazza Riforma; being taught about Renaissance Italy with Ms. Miller, then seeing that art in Florence and Venice; the red stripe of my adviser Mr. Shields's Prada shoes; and of course, singing hip hop at the top of our lungs at night out the windows on the top floor of De Nobili.

## **How do you feel TASIS prepared you for where your life has led?**

TASIS prepared me to be comfortable in close proximity with people very different from me. That comfort and ease turned into a distinct curiosity about the world. Fulfilling different roles on campus and in student leadership sparked an ongoing interest in service and being in the heart of Europe embedded in me a deep love of art and storytelling that comes out in my lawyering and other writing.

# DRAMA QUEEN

Olivia Rasini '99

**Since graduating, what have you been doing?  
Where did you attend university, what sort of  
internships and work have you done, etc?**

At the end of TASIS I did the logical thing that any TASIS Salutatorian would do (right?), which was apply to Harvard and get rejected. I had no idea what I wanted to study, but I knew it had something to do with theater. This came from spending most of my afternoons in Hadsall's tiny, makeshift theater with kids much cooler than I. After graduating I took a year off after TASIS and basically bummed around (c/o my mom), then I chose to start college at Brown (based mostly on the fact that people called it the "Artsy Ivy"). After Brown I followed most of my co-Theater majors to New York, where I wore clothes from Salvation Army (ok, I still do that), took acting classes, painted my entire room turquoise, and acted in my first professional Shakespeare production, *The Tempest* at LaMama Theatre in the East Village, with a group of Balinese dancers and puppeteers. A few years later I moved to Bologna, Italy



(yes, where bologna comes from) and teamed up with an Italian actress just as insane as me, to invite US actors to Italy to perform in a yearly Shakespeare play for Italian high schools. That went amazingly well, and we got grant money for it, so we've kept it up. In Bologna I am making a living out of performing and teaching improvised theater. Which really just means wrestling our students (and ourselves) out of the ruthless grip of self-judgment in order to be creative again, be in the moment, be generous and awake to others. It's nice. And it can be so moving and so, so funny.

**How did your experiences at TASIS—the international nature of the community, your courses, trips, etc.—help shape the decisions you've made or inspire what you're doing now?**

I may not have ever stumbled across theater if it hadn't been for the theater classes I took at TASIS. Mrs. Owen-Williams was so excited about Shakespeare, she had these big sparkly blue eyes and was totally, hopelessly, cooler than anyone I'd ever met. She played "My Name is Prince" during our warmup. Kay Hamblin introduced me to improv by teaching us the game of "Freeze Tag" and letting us play without any sort of interruption for hours on end.

Sometimes someone would yell "Grotowski" and that meant Matt Wood and Chris Ford would jump on top of each other and perform a mixture of acrobatics and avant-garde dance (they were way ahead of their time.)

**Are there any anecdotes or people you vividly recall?**

I was a big nerd and I loved to study, plus I didn't drink or smoke, so all this didn't do great things for my social life (thank god for my sister Sofi: with our powers combined, our house became a major check-out destination on weekends). But of course, being a nerd, I remember every single teacher I ever had. I had a lot of great ones. The ones that absolutely blew my mind were Brigitte Hartzell-Cazebonne (French), Jim Campbell (US History), Mark Aeschliman (Art History), Cynthia Whisenant (English), and of course Mrs. O-W. Cynthia was really good at dealing with teenagers. She used to have us meditate at the beginning of every English class. She had us close our eyes and imagine our heads floating way up, above the clouds, like balloons. So we sat in a quiet classroom, with only the birds singing outside and some faraway voices in the hallway. In the hormonal and emotional chaos of adolescence, this one minute a day was the best possible respite.

# THE HUMANITARIAN SPIRIT

## Jacob Hibbard '10

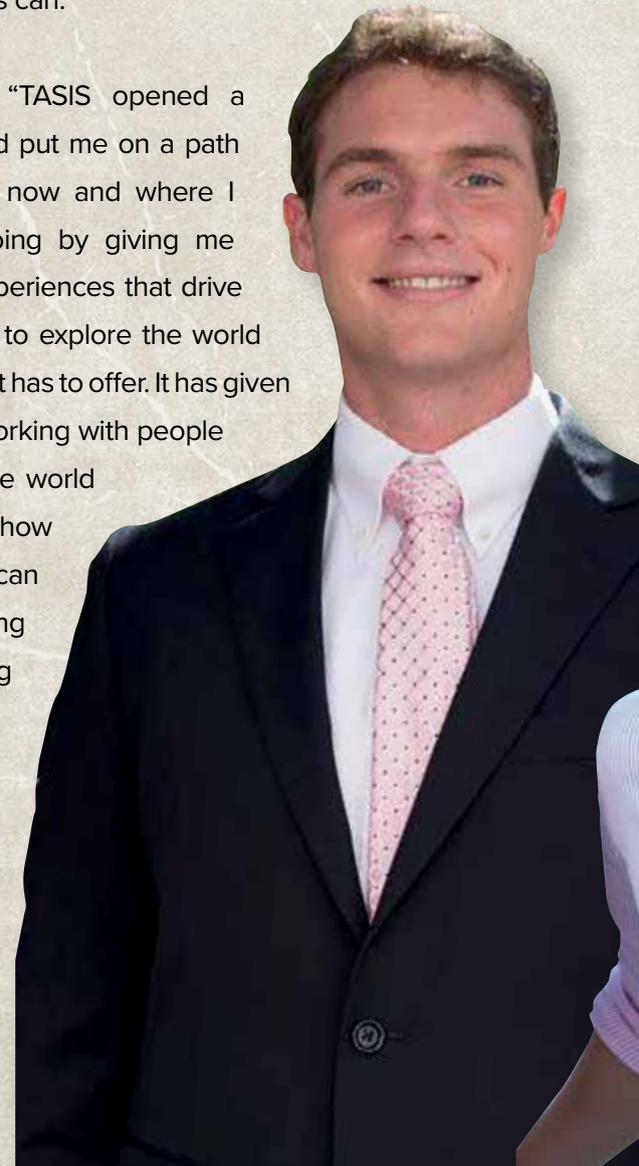
**Jacob Hibbard '10** is majoring in Economics and minoring in Global Business and Literacy at Brigham Young University. He is currently working with a team to start a business in Colombia that helps individuals in a high-risk area achieve economic independence. He hopes to continue working on this project after graduation and to pursue a career in international business.

“My time at TASIS has shaped my decisions, especially my desire to both help in a humanitarian capacity and in global business, by allowing me to interact with a variety of peoples and countries daily,” he says. “Every day was an international experience where I was able to learn more about others and myself. Being at TASIS and having these experiences, which were so enjoyable and enlightening, made me want my career to have an international element and continue to have these interactions.” Another formidable experience for Jacob was his two-year mission with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in Maryland, West Virginia, and Northern Virginia. “This experience was huge in shaping who I am and preparing me for the future,” he says.

Jacob especially credits a few teachers who have impacted his life, including Mark Aeschliman, Cynthia

Whisenant, Kay Hamblin, Lorenzo Bianchini, and Irene Avaldi-Bianchini. “Each of them pushed me individually to not only achieve results but also to appreciate the beauty in the world, and that the barrier between the arts and our everyday lives is an imagined one that we impose ourselves, and if we remove it, the humanities can enrich our lives in a way few things can.”

He continues, “TASIS opened a door for me and put me on a path to where I am now and where I hope to be going by giving me international experiences that drive me to continue to explore the world and enjoy what it has to offer. It has given me a taste of working with people from all over the world and shown me how wonderful it can be. I love working and interacting with people from all over the world, and TASIS helped me gain that.”



# TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

## Jonathan Xie '16

The 2016 H. Miller Crist Award winner is a young man with a bright future ahead. **Jonathan Xie** was a standout student during his three years at TASIS. He served as a Dorm Proctor, traveled to Malawi with his Global Service group, and was a three-sport athlete, captaining the Varsity Swimming team while also competing for the Varsity Rugby and Golf squads. Headmaster Lyle Rigg says of Jonathan, "He's been recognized as a leader in a variety of roles, and has inspired others by his example and commitment. He possesses an infectious smile, a love of life, and an intellectual curiosity that is uncommon among students his age."

Jonathan, who speaks Chinese, English, and Italian fluently, also discovered a latent passion for theater after waiting until his senior year to audition. "Taking part in the musical *Kiss Me, Kate* during the spring of my senior year was one of the

greatest things I did at TASIS," he says. "Had I not needed an art credit to graduate, this sudden passion for theater and music would never have emerged. I now truly appreciate music, dance, and acting. I am incredibly grateful to have had this opportunity."

Academically, Jonathan excelled as well, taking eight AP courses during his junior and senior years and earning four 5s, three 4s, and one 3 on his exams. "All my teachers have been fantastic," he says.

Jonathan closed out his outstanding career at TASIS by receiving both the Ambassador's Cup for Excellence in US History and the H. Miller Crist Award. Only one waitlist spot prevented Jonathan from achieving a perfect 10-10 on his university applications, and he will be studying Political Science or Economics at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Jonathan started his days at TASIS earlier than most, and he won't forget the beautiful solitude of the Montagnola mornings. "I will miss the brisk walk I took at 5:45 am, in the dark, as I shivered over the wet cobblestones to get to the gym. I played music from my phone and was alone in a different world for an hour. Then, I left the basement, shut the doors, and stared at the sky as a tangerine-tinted blue swept over San Salvatore. I will miss that the most."



# HUEY ON TOUR

*Steve Maloney PG '61's helicopter sculpture is a unique take on the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War*



Sometimes art has a way of moving us to deeper understanding. Artist **Steve Maloney PG '61** is fully aware of this power, which is the motivation behind his current project, *Take Me Home Huey*, a mixed-media sculpture using a boneyard US Army Huey helicopter which, in Steve's words, "transforms a wounded warbird into a colorful sculpture."

Inspired by the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, Steve partnered with Light Horse Legacy (LHL), a non-profit organization supporting veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and a US Vietnam War Commemorative Partner. LHL founder Dave Barron was instrumental in researching and connecting surviving pilots and the door gunner, as well as the families of two crew members who died while attempting a Medevac rescue in February 1969, Crew Chief Gary L. Dubach and Medic Stephen L. Schumacher. LHL restored and delivered the helicopter to Maloney who then transformed it into art.

His 47-foot-long sculpture is amid a three-year tour of various venues throughout America, aiming to promote healing and empathy for those struggling with PTSD. Steve's sculpture uses Huey 174's fuselage as a canvas, which includes a 'mule pack' of soldiers' duffels and vintage speakers signifying



a call to duty and music of the times. A vinyl wrap with names of Vietnam helicopter squadron names and images symbolic of American pop culture in the 60s and 70s runs along the helicopter's tail boom and main cabin area. The cockpit features a time capsule of original artifacts along with miscellaneous helicopter parts and instruments. Even the title resonates for veterans; the phrase "Take Me Home, Huey" is common to those who were part of the war.

The TASIS connection to this project runs deep. After the February 2014 All-Class Reunion in Los Angeles, TASIS Associate Director of Alumni Relations, Yvonne Procyk, got Steve together for lunch in Palm Springs (where Steve & his wife spend winters) with Alicia Brauns '82 and Jeanie Cunningham '75. The lunch quickly turned into a tour of Steve's studio and a lively discussion about art and creativity. In the ensuing months, Steve commissioned Jeanie to write a song to accompany his sculpture, and Alicia and her production partner Christine Steel are working on a 55-minute documentary film about the battered helicopter becoming whole again. Stories of Vietnam veterans and their families parallel the healing journey of Huey 174, and viewers begin to understand what veterans must face to find relief from trauma sustained during war.

TASIS Summer Programs teacher Lauren Bechelli, who has worked with Steve on a number of projects, illustrated Steve's visions into beautiful imagery that was transferred digitally for the vinyl wrap that was applied to the fuselage of the helicopter.

*Take Me Home Huey* was introduced as a work in progress on International Sculpture Day, April 24,



*Alicia Brauns '82 and Christine Steel work on the documentary*



*Huey Team Alicia '82, Steve PG '61, Jeanie '75, and Christine*

2015, with an event at the Palm Springs Air Museum featuring a performance of the song and a viewing of the trailer for the documentary. Since then it has travelled across country and has been exhibited at 11 major museums and public venues. In October it will be on exhibit hosted by the city of St. Louis in downtown next to the Soldier's Memorial before leaving for the Veteran's Day Parade in New York City on November 11. <http://takemehuey.org>

# HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

## DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2016

### IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

A big thank you to the alumni, parents, faculty & staff, corporate sponsors, and friends of TASIS who have generously contributed to the School this year by supporting the annual appeal or the 60th anniversary campaign, the Endowment, or another fund. Special thanks to those of you who have donated in memory of a classmate or family member, or included TASIS in your will.

#### ANNUAL GIVING

##### \$50,000 and above

Curtis McGraw Webster,  
in honor of the reunion class of 1975

##### \$25,000 – 49,999

Rick Bell PG '65  
V. Minoru Dondo (parent)  
+ Yumi Dondo '16

##### \$10,000 – 24,999

Carlo Pallaoro (parent)  
TASIS Parent Association 2014-15

##### \$5,000 – 9,999

Masahiko Aoki (parent)  
Marta Holsman Babson '64  
Marc Holtzman, in honor of Bill Eichner  
Viachaslau Loika (parent)  
Tammy + Fred McAfee (parents)  
Natalia Zenkevich (parent)

##### \$2,500 – 4,999

Jennifer Brogгинi  
(alumni parent, board member)  
Richard Fox (alumni parent)  
Koichi Nakagawa (parent)  
Lyle & Sharon Rigg (faculty)  
Will Weddleton '75,  
in memory of Alex Bermudez '75

##### \$1,000 – 2,499

Roubik Aftandilians '74  
Konstantin Bektashev (parent)  
Bracken & Maria Darrell (alumni parents)

Sophie Desplaces '92,  
in memory of her mother  
Friends from the classes of '97 & '98,  
in memory of Brendon Forrest '98  
Ned Lynch PG '66  
Lisa Runnells Markham PG '72  
Thomas & Karen Mauro (alumni parents)  
Yoshito Mitsuse (parent)  
Geoffrey Parker PG '67  
Gianni Patuzzo (staff)  
Robert S. Perkin PG '66  
Katherine Culbertson Prentice PG '66  
Victoria Thompson Tillotson SH '56  
Kathi White (parent)

##### \$500 – 999

Judy Callaway Brand '63  
Bill Gage SH '63  
Charles W. James PG '66  
Berkley Latimer  
(former faculty, board member)  
Kathy Pitner '62  
Cari Wolk '77  
Susan Sindoni Wright '82 (parent)

##### Up to \$500

Pamela Temple Abell '63  
Kate & Mark Abisi (faculty)  
Michael & Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63  
Mark Aeschliman (faculty)  
Randi Allfather '73  
Carol Anklan (faculty)  
Michelle Arslanian Naroyan (staff)  
Katsushiro Ashizawa (alumni parent)  
Anne Badavas '08

Thomas Bailey '72  
Thomas Barbour PG '65  
Ford Barrett III SH '59  
David Beebe PG '66  
Simona Bellini (faculty)  
Guia Berera (faculty)  
Carroll & Greg Birk (faculty)  
Silvano Broggi (staff)  
Anna Brooke '60  
Leslie Stevenson Campbell '68  
Chris Carlsmith (former faculty)  
Valerie Carlson (faculty)  
Gai Fleming Case '59  
Silvia Cavadini Stolz (faculty)  
Mark Chevalier (staff)  
Seth Coppock TFLP '87  
Theresa Cullen-Hill (faculty)  
Linda Palmer Davidge '64  
Alessio Di Tonno (faculty)  
Olga Cabrer Duke PG '65  
Amelia Eilers '77  
Leslie Heaton Evans '66  
Lorri Fien '76  
Norah Smith Foraker (former faculty)  
Christel Johnson Fox PG '65  
Julie Frazier-Smith (faculty)  
Mary Boyd Gould '75  
Bo Green (faculty)  
Paul Greenwood (faculty)  
David Gress-Wright (faculty)  
Gigi Diane Guarnieri Rosso (faculty)  
Marilyn Frison Hand '69  
Joyce Motylewsky Hansen (former faculty)  
Carolyn Heard (faculty)  
Kent Hercules (faculty)

Lee Himelfarb PG '65  
Kimball Hull PG '66  
Nancy Daum Johnson '64  
G. Taylor Johnson (former faculty)  
Annette Buckwalter Jung '65  
Valeriya Kazlova (parent)  
Ingo Kloos (parent)  
Helen Kochenderfer '75  
Natasha Koltypin (faculty)  
Christopher Landon TSLP '92  
Kelly Leagas (faculty)  
Sonny Lim (faculty)  
Susan Lo Forti PG '67  
Chris & Alexi Love (faculty)  
Frank Luederitz (alumni parent)  
Lesley Mahdjoubian (alumni parent)  
Olymar Marco Brown (faculty)  
Todd Matthew (faculty)  
Steve Mauro PG '84  
Emily & KC McKee (faculty)  
Nina Schloesser McKenna '73  
Adele McLeod (staff)  
Brett Merritt (former faculty)  
Irina Mikhaylova (alumni parent)  
Ewan Mirylees (former faculty)  
Terukazu Mishiba (parent)  
Steve Moon (faculty)  
Luis Murillo Martinez (alumni parent)  
Toby Myerson (alumni parent)  
Kim Nelson (faculty)  
Alec Ogilvie (faculty)  
Tracy Schornagel Orleans '66  
Charles Pannaci PG '66  
Evelyn Paquin (staff)  
Kristin Pedroja (staff) & Matthew Strachan

David Peters (staff)  
 Natalie Philpot (faculty)  
 Barbara Pritzlaff Pierce '74  
 Eleonora Pinton-Capponi (faculty)  
 Paola Prentice (staff)  
 Elizabeth Harris Pritchard PG '61  
 Yvonne Procyk (staff)  
 Sabrina Putnam (faculty)  
 Allison Raymond (faculty)  
 Ray & Lenita Robbins (former faculty)  
 Leslie Gordon Ross '63  
 Ruth Bowman Russell PG '67  
 Perri Sartorelli (faculty)  
 Daniel Schiff (faculty)  
 Lesli Seta (alumni parent)  
 Mary Seyfarth PG '66  
 Brendan & Cori Shea (staff)  
 Constance Shields PG '88  
 Howard Stickley (faculty)  
 Faith Dale Supple PG '68  
 Ellen Doscher Terpstra '69  
 Claire Thomas (faculty)  
 Melody Tibbits (faculty)  
 Colin Toole '03  
 Luke Toole '00  
 William Tyler '10  
 Christiane Van de Velde (alumni parent)  
 Kerry & Timothy Venchus (faculty)  
 Robin Weaver PG '65  
 Scott Whittle '71  
 Charles & Judy Williams (former faculty)  
 Cristina Wyss (staff)  
 Christof Zanicchia '04  
 Milo Zanicchia '08  
 21 Anonymous donors

**M. CRIST FLEMING ENDOWMENT  
 FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING  
 AND LEADERSHIP**  
**\$1,000 and over**  
 Brody Fredericksen (faculty)

**Up to \$500**  
 Lorenzo Bianchini Massoni (faculty)  
 MJ Breton (faculty)  
 Bill Eichner (staff)  
 Matt Federico (faculty)  
 Thomas Joyce (faculty)  
 James Lemmon (faculty)

Peter Locke (faculty)  
 Nancy Loiselle (staff)  
 Nura Madjzoub Lemmon (former faculty)  
 Zac Mulert (faculty)  
 Charles Pannaci PG '66  
 Helen Roowalla (staff)  
 Alice Keen Vassalli (faculty)  
 Stephen Vezendy  
 Deborah Webster '66  
 Charlotte Zanicchia (faculty)  
 9 Anonymous donors

**CAMPO SCIENCE FUND /  
 GLOBAL VILLAGE FUND  
 FOR CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT**  
**\$100,000 and above**  
 Estate of Nicholas Major PG '68

**\$50,000 - 99,999**  
 Gabriel & Deborah Brener (alumni parents)

**\$10,000 - 24,999**  
 Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl. Inc. Foundation  
 One Anonymous donor

**60TH ANNIVERSARY  
 CAMPAIGN**  
**\$50,000 and above**  
 Estate of Nicholas Major PG '68

**\$10,000 - 49,999 (or 24,999?)**  
 Rick Bell PG '65

**\$5,000 - 9,999**  
 Lucy Hadsall Hedrick SH '64  
 & Ronald Hadsall  
 Cari Wolk '77

**\$2,500 - 4,999**  
 Robert Cutter '83

**\$1,000 - 2,499**  
 Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63  
 Nilda Lucchini & family (faculty)  
 David MacNeil (former faculty)  
 Carla Martin Reed PG '68

**\$500 - 999**  
 Leslie Tolbert '69

Cabell Goolsby West PG '65  
 Elizabeth Sager Yates '73

**Up to \$500**  
 Mallory Lawrence Agerton '74  
 Joyce Ball (former faculty)  
 Mary Rose Cafiero PG '68  
 Janice Colon-Mahoney  
 Marco Hauert (former staff)  
 Sharon Canning Larkins-Pederson '59  
 Ariadna Piquer San Martin TSP '10  
 Ray & Lenita Robbins (former faculty)  
 John Romer (former faculty)

**GLOBAL SERVICE  
 PROGRAM**  
**Gift of \$180,000**  
 Jan Opsahl '68

**LEGACY SOCIETY**  
 We are truly grateful for  
 the bequest from Nicholas  
 Major PG '68, which resulted  
 in a gift of \$460,000.

**LINDA BUCHANAN JACOB '66  
 MEMORIAL FUND**  
**\$100,000 and above**  
 Nancy Buchanan McLoughlin '64

**\$1,000 - 2,499**  
 Joe Cook '64

**\$500 - 999**  
 Margaret Boyer Mann '64

We are delighted to announce the  
 Linda Buchanan Jacob '66 Memorial  
 Fund in honor of Linda who sadly  
 passed away in September 2014.  
 Linda attended TESIS for her  
 sophomore and senior years. Her love  
 of poetry, drama, and art deepened  
 as she studied with Robert Wilson  
 and served as art editor of the 1966  
 yearbook. Linda was an independent  
 thinker who lived her life with courage



## IN HER FOOTSTEPS

PG'66 alumna Mary Seyfarth's sculptures grace museums, public spaces, galleries, and homes around the world. Now TESIS is lucky to have an original Seyfarth, too! Finding a place for the sculpture, entitled "The Next Step", was tricky, but after careful consideration by Mary, Facilities Director Michele Dinelli, and Lynn Fleming Aeschliman, the perfect spot was found—between Casetta and the fountain, in the Fleming Piazza. "I am very pleased with the Foot's final step," Mary said. We are grateful to Mary for this wonderful donation to add more unique art to our campus.

and spirit. Her family established this scholarship as a memorial to her love of literature and especially poetry, which was nurtured in the TESIS classroom.

The Fund's contribution to the TESIS community is twofold. The **Linda Buchanan Jacob '66 Poetry Prize** is an annual award presented to a talented student who shows promise as a poet. Alongside this, a **biennial poet-in-residence program** brings talented poets to campus to engage with students and encourage their creativity and appreciation. The first visit, by Asian American poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil, is taking place this fall. Read the report in the next issue of *TESIS Today*.

# ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN WASHINGTON, D.C. **NOVEMBER 20, 2015**



**1)** Meg Smith Aeschliman PG '00, Adrién Aeschliman '99, Robert 'Ocean' Gebhardt '96, Yi-Min Lin '00 - **2)** Clinton Sebrell-Roberson '11 - **3)** Ron Jakominitch, Natalia Megas TH '92, Ford Barrett SH '59, Kia Megas TH '93, Billy Notaras TH '94 - **4)** Kaylin Dines, Headmaster Lyle Rigg, Francesca Broggini '10 - **5)** Anna Marutollo Royal '93, Brandon Royal '94, Bill Eichner, Michele Josue '97, G. Taylor Johnson, Ocean Gebhardt '96 - **6)** Bahram Solhjoui '75, Maria Morris LaGow '78, Bob Winer, Margo Williams Downes '74, Dan Higgins '74, Yvonne Procyk, Jennifer Greene '74, Shahram Solhjoui '76 - **7)** Vanessa and John Procter '98, Kerry Murray Landon '99, Ocean Gebhardt '96 - **8)** George Casey, Marilyn Miele Hayes '73, Headmaster Lyle Rigg, Silvie Amany '91, Corinne Amany TSLP '89 - **9)** Bill Eichner, Iskender Besen '88, Christine Besen - **10)** Jodi Duncan Lutz '83, Elke Gierke Powell '83, Matthew Anderson '83, Rachel Palkendo Dougan '84, Jim Dougan - **11)** Gholi Soltani '77, Daisy Bilbao '76, Yvonne Procyk, Kathy Gamble Pilugin '74 - **12)** Luchas Wright, Michele Jordan Wright '88

# ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN LOS ANGELES **APRIL 30, 2016**



**1)** Kirk Wright, Susan Sindoni Wright '82, Alicia Brauns '82, Ken Biller '82, Irene Smith '82, Tania Shetabi Nordstrom '82 - **2)** Earle Monroe '86, Arianna Monroe - **3)** Alyssum Wier '92, Jennifer Simmons Cornforth '91 - **4)** Frederick Morris '62, Roubik Aftandilians '74 - **5)** Yvonne Behrens '70, John Luttrell '75 - **6)** Dave Sarnoff '97, Jennifer Sarnoff - **7)** Doug Avery, Linda Jaekel Avery '75, Henry Bilbao '76 - **8)** Randall Sabasawa '74, Rodney Haug '73, Angelo Piattini - **9)** Bill Eichner and Michele Josue '97 with her Emmy for Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine - **10)** Jane Schaefer '76, Roubik Aftandilians '74 - **11)** Trudy White Catterfeld '75, George Hyde '76 - **12)** Taren Taylor '98, Ashley Taylor '00, Masha Tivyan Stout '96, Anna Josue '00

## CLASS OF 1985 REUNION WASHINGTON DC, SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2015



The class of '85 covered all the bases with this reunion including dinners, sightseeing, and a baseball game! Trish Munoz Kish writes: "It was wonderful to see everyone. Quite a few of us rented a mansion in D.C. and stayed there together for the weekend, which was a perfect base. At the end, we said goodbye and till the next time!" Attendees: Trish Munoz Kish, Diane Swofford Wege, Dominic Mauriello and Diane Herman Mauriello '84, Boris Bakovic, Eric Imhoff, Jim Frederick, Joanna Moore, Susanne Adahl, Karin Torres Knutson, Debbie Burke Lepercq, Bill Norton, Charles Dunne, Marnie Fulton, Paige Allison Schmidt, Libby Bingham, Paul Clegg, Angie McMillan.

## CLASS OF 1990 REUNION LAS VEGAS, OCTOBER 10-12, 2015



The Class of '90 had a great time at their 25th anniversary reunion in Las Vegas. It was a small group, but we had a lot of fun (as the photos show) and it was definitely worth it. Hopefully more people will be able to attend in 2020 for the 30th. Save the Date! - Ken Tobe

Attendees: Haley Boehning, Greg Cook, Sebastian Cordero, Robert Guarini, Stacie Shenk Hancock, Gina Jimenez Moss, Linus O'Brien, Martin Pearce, Valentina Bardawil Powers, Ken Tobe.

## PG '65 REUNION WASHINGTON DC, NOVEMBER 20-21, 2015



50 years have gone by in a flash! For this landmark occasion, Rick Bell hired a suite at the Hay-Adams where he and his classmates gathered before and after the all-class reunion which was going on upstairs. Joining Rick (second left) were George Armfield, Cabell Goolsby West, Paul O'Connor, Carter Blackford Filer, David Williams, Winkie Gillett Alogna, and Tom Barbour.

## CLASS OF 1975 REUNION PASADENA & GLENDALE, APRIL 29-MAY 1, 2016



It is hard to believe how quickly the time passed at our very fun gathering in Pasadena, CA, and the larger and VERY special TASIS gathering. And amazing how everyone really looks the same—some 40 years later! My biggest personal challenge was to mentally acknowledge that we are all actually adults and not our 17-year-old selves. - Linda Jaekel Avery

## LATE 70S FACULTY REUNION WESTERN MASS., JUNE 24-26, 2016



Our reunion was a smashingly successful weekend! Sixteen TESIS faculty alumni joined in the fun, all of whom served at some time between 1975 and 1979. We discovered, not to any great surprise, that our personal bonds are still very strong, and reinforced our own beliefs that those years on the Collina d'Oro were special indeed. – Peter Stevens

## CLASS OF 1986 REUNION DENVER, JULY 8-10, 2016



The Class of '86 had a great reunion, with around 30 alumni joining in! There was a full program of festivities including group dinners, cultural visits, a fun trip to Red Rocks with a short hike, a slide show from 1986, and plenty of time hanging out and catching up. Maggie Hammad Boyle writes "PS. The reunion also inspired Jacki Cooperman '87 and George Harrison '86 to get engaged! We are so excited for them." So are we! Thank you Maggie for organizing another great reunion!



## TASIS HELLENIC CLASS OF 1986 REUNION, ATHENS, JULY 8-10, 2016

TASIS Hellenic alumni from the 80s had a great time in July celebrating with the class of '86. Activities included an evening at Escoba (which went on till 4AM for some!), a visit to the School followed by a souvlaki lunch in Plaka and disco night, and ending on Sunday with a day at a beach. It was a marathon weekend (fittingly, as it concluded at a beach near Marathon). Thank you to all those who made this reunion happen, especially Evie Handrinou, Claus Westerberg, and Dwight Disney.



**PG '66 REUNION  
LUGANO,  
AUGUST 18-21, 2016**

Two years of planning for this 50th anniversary reunion came to fruition in the best possible way in Lugano in August. Not only were there the events to celebrate Tasis' 60th anniversary, but Elisabeth Acer Crawford reprised her role as Mrs. Fleming in the musical, *MCF: What a Life!* In addition to the wider Tasis festivities, the weekend included dinner at Federale's, a cocktail party overlooking the lake, and a very special trip down memory lane - to the Villa Negroni.



**Back:** Larry Weckbaugh, Linda "Tex" Adelman Gintel, Polly McDougal Oliver, Katie Hart Barber, Theo Brenner

**Middle:** Rob Perkin, Kathy Doyle, Mary Blumberg Dean, Kneeland Taylor, Jack Graf

**Front:** Susan Thomson Downes FC '70, Elisabeth Acer Crawford, Ned Lynch, Paul Minnick Peterson, Rob Hawley, Cindy Crabtree, Viv Brenner

**Not pictured:** Mary Seyfarth, Bert Spencer



**CLASS OF 2006  
REUNION LUGANO,  
AUGUST 19-20, 2016**

After some hesitation, the class of 2006 made exemplary use of social media to double their reunion attendees at the last minute! It was great to see this evolve and the enthusiasm. In fact everyone was so inspired by reconnecting that there are plans to gather in Gstaad January 2-8, 2017. Look for the facebook group Tasis Reunion 2017 Winter Edition. (The dinner on Thursday, January 5, is open to all alumni – see the reunion calendar for more details.)



**VISITING LUGANO?**

We are always delighted to welcome alumni to campus, but please be aware that recent security upgrades mean that all visitors must check in at the front gate and show ID. It's very quick if your name is on that day's list. If you're planning to visit campus, please let us know via email ([alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch)) or phone (+41 91 960 5181/+41 91 986 5423), and we'll make sure you are looked after.

## MEET & MENTOR SOCIAL LONDON, UK, FEBRUARY 18, 2016

Twenty-eight TASIS juniors had a unique opportunity on February 18 when alumni joined them for a networking event in London during their Academic Travel trip to visit UK colleges.



## TOKYO REGIONAL REUNION OCTOBER 31, 2015



Japanese alumni organized another great reunion at a restaurant in Roppongi to coincide with Bill Eichner's annual marketing and recruitment visit. Special thanks to Erina Ishihara '94 for pulling it all together.

## REUNION CALENDAR

### All-Class Reunion in New York

November 18, 2016  
The Yale Club, 18:30-21:30

### All-Class New Year's Après-Ski Dinner in Gstaad

January 5, 2017  
Contact [yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch](mailto:yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch) to find out more.

### All-Class Reunion in Miami

April 2017 - Look out for further info  
check [www.tasis.ch/alumni](http://www.tasis.ch/alumni) often

## CLASS REUNIONS

### Class of 1966 and friends - 50th anniversary reunion

New Orleans, October 14-16, 2016  
Everyone who was at TASIS during the 1965-66 year is invited to join in for a fun weekend!  
Contact Chuck Kitsman ([ckitsman@aol.com](mailto:ckitsman@aol.com)),  
Debby Webster ([debby.webster@gmail.com](mailto:debby.webster@gmail.com)),  
or Jenny Holloway McHugh ([jennyhmchugh@yahoo.com](mailto:jennyhmchugh@yahoo.com)) for more info.

### Class of 2006 and friends

Ski reunion in Gstaad, January 2-8, 2017  
Relive a TASIS Ski Week!  
Find out more on facebook: [TASIS Reunion 2017 Winter Edition](#).

### Class of 1992 – 25th anniversary reunion

Lugano, June 30-July 2, 2017  
Friends from the classes of 1991 & 1993 are also welcome!  
Contact Miki Nava at [sakeli@hotmail.com](mailto:sakeli@hotmail.com) to find out more.

### Class of 1987 - 30th anniversary reunion

Lugano, June 2017 - Contact Alex de Bruin at [adebruin1@live.com](mailto:adebruin1@live.com) for info.

### PG '67 - 50th anniversary reunion

Contact Susan Lo Forti ([lofortisusan@gmail.com](mailto:lofortisusan@gmail.com))  
or Geoffrey Parker ([gspkr@mac.com](mailto:gspkr@mac.com)) for info.

### Class of 1998 - 20th anniversary reunion

Lugano, June 2018 - Contact John Procter ([johnoprocter@gmail.com](mailto:johnoprocter@gmail.com))  
or Travis Belgard ([travisabelgard@gmail.com](mailto:travisabelgard@gmail.com)) for info.

Are you planning a reunion that isn't on this list?  
Please email us at [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to let us know!

# ALUMNI *News* FEATURES

## FROM ISTANBUL TO MILAN

*Bunyamin Aydin '09's fashion star is on the rise*



“It all started by the TASIS ping pong table,” said **Bunyamin Aydin '09**, whose contemporary fashion label Les Benjamins was the first Turkish brand to be featured at Milan’s world-famous Men’s Fashion Week. Over the course of five years, Benjy has grown his company from a small Istanbul label to a global brand.

Benjy first arrived at TASIS as a ninth grader in the fall of 2005. It was an eye-opening experience for a 14-year old who had lived in both Germany and Turkey. “I think the biggest thing I took away from TASIS was meeting so many people with different nationalities and cultures—engaging with them, understanding their cultures, respecting their cultures, and also seeing the natural side of the world,” he says. “It’s not all about business and money—it’s also family values and cultural values that are

so important. I think that helped me a lot and inspired me to create a global brand.”

Benjy’s artistic talent was manifest, and while he loved his drawing and painting classes at TASIS and cites Photography teacher Horst Dürschmidt and Architecture teacher Mark Aeschliman as important mentors, he also loved studying history. “I’ve been able to infuse my knowledge of history into my designs, taking references from history and combining them with modern wear. My hope is that I can help history live on because I feel like the youth right now are not interested in the past, and I’d really like to help change that.”

What Benjy stands for is collaboration, togetherness, and positivity— notions that were crystallized during his time in Istanbul. “You can go to one street

and it’s like New York and the back street of it feels like the Middle East, and that energy, that vibe...I find it very interesting,” he said. “I love how the two cultures fuse together, and right now with this huge conflict between East and West, we just try to promote togetherness. We try to promote that both can live together, and we also promote positivity. That’s the brand’s DNA.”

“I know so many people around the world who I can ask for help, ask for advice,” he said. “I love how our moments here always stay in everyone’s minds. We look back at this place and think, ‘Wow, I want to be back there.’ I think it’s really inspiring that wherever you go, you have friends waiting for you. You have family all over the world, and I think that’s the best thing I have taken from TASIS.” [www.lesbenjamins.com](http://www.lesbenjamins.com)

## BUILDING ON HISTORY

### *Andrea Bernardazzi*



Many of our alumni will remember a little shop in Certenago as Angelo's Store, purveyor of legendary sandwiches. Today, it serves as the office of architect Andrea Bernardazzi, whose connections to TASIS span much of his life. He attended the TASIS Summer Language Program from 1982-1985 and worked for the Lugano programs in 1987. He also worked a summer at TASIS England in 1988.

"I always say I grew up inside TASIS," Andrea says, noting that he was born in the rooms above his studio. His uncle

Angelo (yes, that one) living next door meant that TASIS students were around all the time during his youth. Andrea's connections to the hill continue to this day; not only does he work from Certenago, he recently built a home in Agra.

Andrea was intrigued by architecture as an art student in Lugano. "It allowed me to be flexible – to stay in the office, or work outside. I could use my creativity, which isn't always allowed in other professions," he says. He attended the Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH Zurich) and returned to the Collina d'Oro to become a residential architect. Much of his work revolves around the historic preservation of homes and renovating existing buildings. "It is difficult," he says, "especially as the laws are strict and we must respect the buildings and villages, especially in nucleos. You have to solve a lot of practical problems. You transform, rather than create."

Alongside his architecture business, Andrea was recently elected to the Collina d'Oro Municipio, which oversees the laws and regulations for the hill. Local politics isn't new for Andrea; in 2000 he served on the Montagnola Consiglio Comunale and after on Collina d'Oro Consiglio Comunale. His new role includes working with private construction firms and land planning, so is an extension of his work. "It takes a lot of time," he says, "but it is interesting work, and it is nice to have a hand in the decisions that are made for your neighborhood."

This hill has been good to Andrea throughout the years, and he is happy to be settled in Agra with his wife and children (who attended CDE in the summer of 2015). "I am lucky," he says. "If you are born here, it is difficult to stay, and I had the chance to make that happen."

## FINDING THE MUSIC WITHIN

### *Carlos Gari '90*



Many students have been creatively inspired by the beauty around TASIS, and for **Carlos Gari '90**, his time at TASIS has led to a career in music that spans decades. "It is special for me to talk about my music life to the TASIS community," he begins, "because I began to learn how to play guitar after I heard my

roommate, Michael Shanler, play AC/DC and Van Halen solos as fast as thunderlight. I never had the chance to appreciate music until that autumn of 1988."

That Christmas, his grandmother bought him an acoustic guitar, and Carlos spent the rest of the school year learning from his ever-patient roommate. By the end of winter Carlos was writing his own songs. "My art teacher, Mr. Walsh, sensing that I was somehow discovering art within, helped me to channel it," he says. "Through sculpting clay, I realized that I could use my ears the same way I used my hands to mold, change harmonies, and create melodies." This is where things changed for

Carlos. "I am not sure what would have happened in another school or even if I would have ended up in another classroom. But in any case, I believe it is the TASIS spirit that triggered my passion for music."

Carlos, who was raised in London, Miami, and New York, graduated from Bentley University and went on to write and produce music for a variety of international musicians while also performing at renowned Barcelona venues such as Luz de Gas. Carlos, who goes by the stage name of Gari DeAlda, released his debut soul album in the summer of 2016. He is keen to connect with other artists who might want to collaborate. [www.garidealda.com](http://www.garidealda.com).

# THE ART OF HELPING OTHERS

## *Gianna Dispenza '08*



A graduate of the San Francisco Art Institute, **Gianna Dispenza '08** is using her skills as an artist to work with refugees in Beirut, Lebanon. Gianna's work spans a variety of mediums. Most recently, she was a part of *7 Rooms 7 Artists*, which featured seven non-Arab and non-Lebanese artists living and working in Beirut.

### **What inspired you to get involved with refugee work in Beirut?**

I figured I'd try to find a way to make

myself useful. I was going to a country with the highest per capita refugee count in history and it felt only logical to get involved. The biggest challenge was hunting down an organization where a foreigner with limited Arabic could be of use. I started out teaching art classes to mostly Syrian and Palestinian kids at a safe house for abused and abandoned children. Now, I'm involved with an NGO called Unite Lebanon Youth Project (ULYP) whose incredible work just earned them the Khalil Gibran Spirit of Humanity Award from the Arab American Institute Foundation.

### **What have you learned while working with refugees?**

It's challenging to avoid misconceptions where there is so much division in place. The title, "refugee"—especially in a place like Lebanon, where refugee rights,

specifically for Palestinians, are virtually non-existent—breeds a kind of "us and them" mentality. For people watching this crisis manifest on the news, it can feel very distant and somehow that transfer of information can have a dehumanizing effect. The reality that most people fail to recognize is that the people who have become refugees are often equally as curious and equally as ambitious as anyone.

### **How can we, the international community, help?**

First and foremost, be informed. Then, it's a matter of finding organizations that are really doing exceptional work and are doing it transparently. I feel very fortunate to be involved with ULYP. It is a small, communal team, making huge things happen.

# SEEKING A CHÂTEAU

## *Susan Wilmerding SSIF '65*



Last year, we were on a biking trip with a group of friends traveling from Arles to Aix. We spent a night in Uzès, where I had enjoyed a memorable summer

in 1965. My husband and I went on a mission to try to find Le Château de la Boissière where the Summer School in France had been located, and I believe we found it!

I recognized the building from a distance, although the road where it was located had been upgraded recently. We rode in and tried to find anyone there. There was a dog who greeted us and a car, but no one showed their face. I was able to peek through a window and I believe I saw the courtyard in the back where we ate all our meals in the 60s. I will always remember the delicious food, especially the bread, which caused me to gain about 10 pounds that summer!

This chateau was not really very large. We all slept in bunk beds,

4 or 6 to a room. Fortunately we spent half our time out on the road, in mini-VW buses traveling around France and sleeping in campsites, so somehow the chateau was able to accommodate us.

While we were at the chateau we attended classes each morning, working on our French, and went sightseeing in the afternoons or relaxed by the pool. We were required to speak French 24/7, which was very challenging since all of us were American. Sometimes there was a little whispering in English in our bunk beds at night.

It was a memorable summer, with several interesting romances, and a wonderful exposure to France.

# A TISIS REUNION AND A STORY

*By Natalia Megas, TISIS Hellenic '92*



The last thing on my mind at last year's reunion was work. After all, I was meeting old friends and making new ones at the all-class TISIS reunion in Washington, DC. But something about my new acquaintance's three-year road trip grabbed my attention and wouldn't let go.

Former TISIS Summer Program (TSP) counselor and Dedicated Performing Arts Team (DPAT) member **Mikah Meyer** was planning a 1,116-day odyssey, visiting every single US Park Service site in the country.

Like every good freelance journalist trapped by their own unbridled curiosity, I too, was driven to uncover why the 30-year-old was trading his two steady jobs and social comforts for life cooped up in a 72-square foot cargo van for over 100,000 miles—about the distance from California to New York 33 times!

"We live in an amazing country where you can go to a tropical beach, a dense forest, a high, dry desert, mountains, swamps, and grasslands without having a passport," explains

the Nebraska native. But Mikah's reasons are personal, too. At age 19, while attending his first year of college, Mikah lost his father to cancer. He was 58.

"There's a part of me that feels like I'm doing this for him too, since he never got to retire. He just loved driving," says Mikah, whose late father, a pastor, is this trip's inspiration. "We all dream about the *what if* and to be actually living the values that I say I have excites me the most. I value living your dreams now. I value making experience a priority over making money. I value pursuing what you're passionate about," he says. Mikah has decided to retire a little at a time, while he's still young enough to enjoy it.

"There is a healing power to road trips. They show you things about yourself and the world you might not discover where you're normally living in your normal stasis. This is important," says Mikah. But so is the importance of broadening perspective, he adds. "When you know people in Afghanistan, you'll think twice about bombing them. When you've eaten or cried or worked with people from North Korea, you're going to think a lot differently about what the missile should do."

In the coming months Mikah's road trip, which began April 29, marking the passing of his father 11 years prior, will take him to 411 Park Service units that include battlefields, memorials, and monuments to nature preserves, scenic roadways, national rivers, seashores, and more. It also includes non-continental parks in Hawaii, America Samoa and Guam, Puerto Rico and Alaska, the latter being the most challenging for Mikah as he needs to afford to charter a helicopter to reach the parks. The trip also marks the centennial anniversary of the US National Park Service.

In a record-setting journey, Mikah is positioned to become the youngest person ever to visit all 411 sites in one continuous trip. Craig Bailey, the National Park Traveler's Club secretary, says that while 42 people have visited all the parks sites, nobody has done it in one long trip yet.

When Mikah and I start talking about his van, he lights up. It hasn't been smooth sailing. He first envisioned a Suburban towing a 25-foot Airstream, then a Volkswagen Passat, but his home on wheels finally became a Sprinter van, which he and his travel partner Andy Waldron, 24, nicknamed "Vanny McVanface," alluding to this year's British research ship's scorned name "Boaty McBoatface."

"Tacky with personality," says Mikah about their van's name.

But from finding a compassionate van seller on Craigslist who took his own trip after his wife died of cancer to an architect inspired by Mikah's journey, Mikah has had some good fortune on his side too. The van seller, Brett Austin, agreed to sell the van on an unusual installment plan while W. Kevin Wyllie, the architect, worked with Mikah for free. Together they created a modest home on wheels with maple-lined interiors powered by solar panels on the rooftop. The van has just the basics, keeping cost and ease in mind. There is no bathroom or real kitchen, but the van has a bed, ample storage space, a desk, a refrigerator and a 10-gallon water tank.

Excited about his journey, Mikah says, "I could very easily fail. But wouldn't I rather fail doing something I'm really passionate about?" To learn more about Mikah's journey, visit [www.tbcmikah.com](http://www.tbcmikah.com).

## THE ACCIDENTAL DIPLOMAT

*At TASIS we learn to become diplomats  
without even acknowledging it.*



*Thiago de Aragao '01 is a sociologist based in Brazil who specializes in political risk analysis. He is a member of various think tanks in the UK, France, and Brazil and is a regular columnist for the main Brazilian news group, Agencia Estado de Sao Paulo. We caught up with Thiago to learn more about his life and connections to TASIS.*

### **Can you explain your role as a political consultant?**

My company, Arko Advice, is the main political analysis and strategy company in Latin America. We

advise over 130 of the largest companies, banks, investment funds, and rating agencies in the world. My role is not only to offer my perspectives on short, middle, and long-term scenarios for the political environment in the region, but also to design strategies that can be applied by my clients in relation to a specific goal or target they have. Consequently, because of this role of explaining the political environment and its perspectives, governments of countries from all over the world often invite me to their countries to discuss Latin America with their

presidents, ministers of finance, or ministers of foreign affairs. Also, in Brasilia, where I'm based, embassies from all over the world and the government of my own country seek my views on the future perspectives of several political and social issues.

### **You are also involved in foreign policy think tanks in the UK and in France. How important are these international connections to your work?**

They are extremely important. These think tanks offer the opportunity for discussions with well-prepared individuals from several countries and to learn about their views of the same issues which I analyze. Also, the interaction between cultures and perspectives is very important to offer me new tools to use with my own analyses. Think tanks are exactly what the name suggests: groups and organizations in which thinking and seeking new views on several different situations is the main goal. My connection with the UK has always been very strong. I'm in London around six times a year where I meet many of my clients: those who work at

the think tanks I'm involved with, but also the British Foreign Office and the British media. These international connections are also interesting since they provide me platforms for presentations, which are always good opportunities to contact companies, banks, and investment funds that could become potential clients.

**Brazil has been in the global news a lot recently in many contexts; the Olympics, Rouseff's impeachment, and the Zika virus. How can Brazil use this global attention to raise its profile, perhaps leading to further tourism and investment opportunities?**

Brazil has always relied excessively on the soft power provided by its positive image worldwide: football, culture, arts, music, etc. This has generated the lazy approach of the previous Brazilian governments that has not emphasized the true assets of the country. Although we have many structural difficulties as a country, we have a democratic system with solid institutions. Unfortunately, the individuals occupying these institutions are not at the level that they should be, though the solidity of the institutions is still very visible. Brazil is a country almost the size of Europe, with a melting pot of cultures, possibilities, problems,

and opportunities. Of course we have parts of the country that suffer more due to violence and lack of infrastructure, though we also have many other parts of the country which offer conditions to expand tourism, business, and attract more and more individuals. Things are never as bad as portrayed, though they are never as good as the over-optimistic [pundits] point out.

**Your work as a columnist and speaker is prolific. Why are these roles important to you?**

These roles are very important because, at the end of the day, they are the result of my work. The more I'm invited to speak or to write, the more it demonstrates that I'm on the right path in terms of preparation and direction. To be a speaker or a columnist on Brazilian and Latin American politics, social dynamics, security, and intelligence is very complicated, as I must be on the top of the main subjects continuously. It is something that requires continuous reading, consultation with experienced thinkers, direct contact with the key decision-makers, and exchange of information with the key opinion-makers. In this sense, being invited to speak at universities and with governments is recognition that fuels me to learn more and more.

**We are keen to know how TASIS inspired or shaped your world now.**

TASIS is a magical place. I realized its uniqueness not only when I was at the school, but also every time I fondly remember my years there. At TASIS the most diverse cultures were living side by side, showing me habits, views of the world, different dreams, objectives, etc. – all under the prism of respect, friendship, and companionship. At TASIS we learn to become diplomats without even acknowledging it, and it is fantastic! Mr. Aeschliman was a teacher who had a very positive impact on me during his Art History courses. Mr. d'Azzo taught me Italian with so much passion and accuracy that I never forgot it and, today, whenever I have the chance, I proudly enjoy making presentations in Italian. Mr. Klein was a great mentor as was Mr. Panhuys.

My years at TASIS were very special years. At the time, I moved to Switzerland to play for the city football club, FC Lugano. I recall that I had to leave the school after class to practice as we were disputing several national championships with the club. At the same time, I had to come home at night and prepare homework for classes like Art History or WWII History. The clash of situations was critical for me to become a sociologist later in life.



Precious apartment a few steps  
to the city centre of Lugano  
Ref. 88361



Wetag Consulting is partner of



Wetag Consulting is affiliate of



LEADING REAL ESTATE COMPANIES OF THE WORLD

# *Let us help you find your dream home*

near  TASIS The American School in Switzerland

Finding the right home is not always easy. It takes lots of energy and time, real local knowledge and dedicated perseverance to achieve your goal. It is not only about the right home, it is about making sure that the location and everything that goes with it can offer you and your family the lifestyle you want to enjoy.

As experts in the Ticino area we see it as our responsibility to make sure you understand the nuances of the different locations and the lifestyle these locations invite. We dedicate ourselves to helping you make the right decision.

You will also reap the benefit of our extensive network of local specialists who can assist you with every aspect of your purchase, including the processes for obtaining residence permits, understanding the relevant tax issues and other legal matters.

You can also be confident that our service and support will continue long after the purchase of your new home is finalised. We pride ourselves that our clients become long term friends who can always rely on us to back them up when they need our help.

Contact us  
WETAG CONSULTING SA

LUGANO  
Philipp Peter / Owner  
Riva Caccia 3  
CH-6900 Lugano  
Tel. +41 91 994 68 51  
Fax:+41 91 994 68 52  
peter@wetag.ch



*We look forward  
to assisting you in  
every way we can  
as your  
property specialists.*

  
**Philipp Peter**  
Owner

  
**Ueli Schnorf**  
Owner

# ALUMNI *Class News*



60

**Class Agent: John Gage**  
[gage.john1@gmail.com](mailto:gage.john1@gmail.com)

61

**Class Agent: Rick Mayne**  
[fmayne@optonline.net](mailto:fmayne@optonline.net)

62

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Kathy Pitner** traveled some in 2015 along with husband Bob Leatherman, spending two weeks in Ireland and another two weeks in Eastern Europe: Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Croatia, and having just enough time in Bosnia and Montenegro to have lunch in each. **1**

• **Robert Sears** lives in the Philippines. "I'm retired and still fighting prostate cancer. I'm alive and kicking. Still working with numerous NGOs. If you remember me, shoot me an email: [Robtms@gmail.com](mailto:Robtms@gmail.com)."

63

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Judy Callaway Brand** updated us in December: "I was 70 in July. I simply can't believe it. Mrs. Fleming was much younger than that when I was at TESIS. I guess we are all growing up. My daughter, Kelly Reynolds, who spent two summers at TESIS England many years ago, joined me on a trip to the UK last summer. While we were in London, **Kate Gonzalez Woodward** came in to spend the day with us and what a glorious day it was. In the morning we met at the Wallace Collection, then we returned

to the Goring Hotel for high tea, which was heavenly. We had such fun being with Kate again. I will always treasure my TESIS connections. My other news is that my eldest granddaughter, Kristen Reynolds (daughter of **Ryan Reynolds TSLP '81**) was married June 25, 2016. She is a civil engineer and her new husband is in dental school. They live in Kansas City. The photo of Kelly and Ryan with the happy couple." **2**

64

**Class Agent: Joe Cook**  
[jacook4646@comcast.net](mailto:jacook4646@comcast.net)

**Joe Cook** writes: "I have two trips to Central America lined up for 2016. I do a lot of volunteer work with Living Waters International and we have trips to Guatemala and Honduras planned to dig water wells. Also, there is my annual pilgrimage to Las Vegas. More importantly, my daughter got married in July."

• **Barbara Swanson Sherman** visited in May with her husband at the end of a five-week cruise. The De Nobili dorm provided lots of memories and nostalgia. She was delighted to meet up with **Angelo** outside his home. **3**

65

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

66

**Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman**  
[ckitsman@aol.com](mailto:ckitsman@aol.com)

**The 50th anniversary reunion** of the Class of '66, and other mid-60s alumni, will take place in New Orleans on the weekend of October 14-16, 2016. Anyone who attended the school during that year is encouraged

to join in. Contact Jenny Holloway [jennyhmchugh@yahoo.com](mailto:jennyhmchugh@yahoo.com) or Debby Webster [debby.webster@gmail.com](mailto:debby.webster@gmail.com) to find out more.

67

**Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman**  
[ckitsman@aol.com](mailto:ckitsman@aol.com)

**Chuck Kitsman** is proud of his wife's success! "After three grueling days in up to 100 degree weather, Georgia and her partner Margaret won the 4th flight of the Golf Partnership. They played steady golf winning their matches (format 1 point low score, 1 point aggregate on each hole) 2 and 0, 6 and 4, and 14 and 10. I'm very proud of her and she has been a real trooper playing three days in a row at age 69. *Brava!* We're looking forward to meeting up with the 1960s crowd in New Orleans on the weekend of October 14-16 to celebrate 50 years since we were at TESIS."

68

**Class Agent: Pamela Springer Bryant**  
[ohsaycanuc@cox.net](mailto:ohsaycanuc@cox.net)

69

**Class Agent: Pamela Carrillo Jackson**  
[pjackson@tectron.net](mailto:pjackson@tectron.net)

**Leslie P. Tolbert** had the good fortune to be able to visit TESIS with her husband, daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren in May. "Even though we arrived unannounced and it was pouring rain, Yvonne Procyk graciously showed us around the campus, including on the tour not only the new buildings, but also my old rooms in De Nobili - recognizable despite heavy renovations! It was a delightful visit as the memories came flooding back!" **4**

• **Wendy Garling** published a book recently called *Stars at Dawn: Forgotten Stories of Women in the Buddha's Life*. The book can be purchased online at [www.shambhala.com](http://www.shambhala.com).

70

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Yvonne Behrens** graduated from the University of California Santa Barbara with a Political Science degree. She worked at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. before going back to school and getting a Master's degree in Education (curriculum development with certification in ESL) and then taught in the Arlington public school system. When her parents and spouse started having health issues she found herself becoming a caregiver, which then got her interested in working in the field of elder services. Yvonne's husband passed away with pancreatic cancer. Shortly after, she moved to San Francisco, California, and is living on a houseboat in the Bay Area.

• **Patricia Daum** says life is good. "In 1975 I moved to Canada for work and became a citizen. After 35 years of working as a librarian and records manager, I retired in 2012. Every year now I travel to Europe for 3-6 weeks to hike in the Alps or along a coastal route, and I also take a long bicycle ride to see quaint villages and historical sites. Skiing remains a lifelong passion and I have a condo at a British Columbia ski resort, Sun Peaks, and spend most of the winter there. In summers, I tend to take wilderness canoe trips in Canada and backpacking trips in the mountains. This year we are canoeing in the Canadian Arctic and expect to see musk, ox, caribou, numerous bird

# ALUMNI *Class News*



species, foxes, wolves, and ancient sites of the Inuit people. I live in Vancouver and if any TASIS alumni are in the vicinity, please contact me at [patriciadaum@mac.com](mailto:patriciadaum@mac.com)."

## 71

**Class Agent: Scott Whittle**

[incal@earthlink.net](mailto:incal@earthlink.net)

**Tom Wyllie** retired two years ago due to health issues, which have improved, thankfully. "After my year at TASIS, I attended and graduated from Woodberry Forest School. Earned a BA at Tulane and a MED from the University of Virginia. My first four years teaching were spent at Christ School in Arden, North Carolina. The next 28 years I taught and held administrative positions at Trinity Episcopal School here in Richmond, Virginia—Richmond's first IB school. My great love was teaching so I left the administrative track and returned to the classroom. My bride of 32 years is the former Josephine Keith Gregory Tabb of Richmond. My son, T. Tabb Wyllie (29) will soon reside in NYC and is a systems engineer. My oldest daughter, Maria (pronounced Mariah as we do in VA), 27, resides in Bozeman, Montana, and is involved in branding. My baby, Wilson, 21, is going into her final year at Virginia Commonwealth University Arts. I spend most of my time writing, and puttering around our farmette, by the beach house in the woods, in the middle of Richmond. You are welcome to include my email address: [thwyllie@yahoo.com](mailto:thwyllie@yahoo.com)." 5

## 72

**Class Agent: Patricia Mullen-Rempen** [TrishRempen@gmail.com](mailto:TrishRempen@gmail.com)

**Dennis Cockrell** is loving life. "I am enjoying the 100th anniversary of our National Park Service and have now

visited 197 of the 412 National Park units...almost halfway to my goal of visiting them all! Last month my wife and I took our two grandsons, aged 4 and 8, on a five-day road trip through the outer banks to see Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout, ending up in Charleston to see Fort Sumter...great fun to spend time with them away from the daily routines! I also continue to share my love of the mountains every chance I get. Best wishes to everyone in our TASIS family!" 6

• After TASIS, **Diane Behrens** moved to New York City for ten years, where she worked with actors and actresses. She then moved out to Los Angeles where she has lived ever since. She has acted in television shows, movies, and advertising. She is also a talented painter (<http://www.dianebehrens.com>). She is also a landlord, a dedicated gardener, and renovated the home that she lives in presently.

## 73

**Class Agent: Wendy Barton Benson** [wendybbenson@aol.com](mailto:wendybbenson@aol.com)

After TASIS, **Yvette Vartanian Baroian** moved to Los Angeles via London in 1983. "After college, I studied at the Gemological Institute of America. I designed jewelry and had a store importing silver jewelry from Italy. We sold the business a few years ago. I am married and retired now. We have two grown sons, both in LA and have their own law firm with one other friend/ lawyer."

• **Laurie Rodarty Ehrich** received her Master's in International Management from The American Graduate School of International Management in Glendale, Arizona in 1982. She returned to the Bay Area and worked in the travel industry for another 14 years. During this time she was

fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to China, South Africa, Europe, and Hawaii as part of her work. "I met my husband, Tim, through mutual TASIS friends (**Patricia Murtha Greenfield** and **Rob Mitchell** – they had all lived in Liberia together) in San Francisco and we were married in 1990. After having our daughter, Isabel, we decided to leave California and moved to a small rural Iowa community in 1996. It has been the perfect place to raise a child with the freedom to explore, raise farm animals and enjoy life. Tim worked as the county engineer and I have worked at our local county hospital for the past 16 years as the chief communications officer handling marketing and public relations. Our daughter is a junior at the University of Iowa. In my free time I enjoy the outdoors, walking, working in the yard, traveling to new places, and being with friends and family. As a family we have continued traveling and exploring the wonders of the world and had the good fortune of returning to TASIS for a visit in 2006."

## 74

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

**Kelly McQuillians** hopes to buy a retirement lot in a residential area called Mountain Lakes in the tiny town of Bluff Dale, south of Ft. Worth in Texas – if the price is right!

• **Joseph Steinerz** is going back to school, planning to attend City University of New York in fall 2016. "I've worked with people with developmental disabilities for 20 years, and this experience might tilt my studies in that direction although history and languages also interest me. My children have recommended that I work towards a degree. After

listening to their accounts of their studies, I am finally listening to them. With my children getting older, marrying and starting careers, I may just have some time and the settled focus that comes with years."

• **Joanie Guy** is happy to report: "We completed building our new home in Dordogne, France where my husband and I will reside six months a year!!" 7

• **Roubik Aftandilians** gives us a quick summary of life since TASIS: "I went into partnership with a friend and got involved in the fashion and sporting goods industry. We took our company public in 1992. Later I managed a large textile/fabric company in Los Angeles for 12 years. When I was offered the CEO position at SOEX GROUP in 2008 I found it very interesting that my Urban Planning education and experiences in construction, as well as my 20 years of experience in fashion and textiles have somehow come together! Life has a funny way of doing things. In 1984 I married Karineh Mirzayan, who is a licensed psychotherapist. We have two daughters; Tania, now in her final year of OB/GYN residency at Hackensack Hospital in New Jersey, and Natasha, who is working for a production company in Los Angeles and is a freelance writer and photographer."

• **Jennifer Green** is the Marketing Manager at The Durst Organization, one of the oldest family-run commercial and residential real estate companies in New York City. Jennifer attended TASIS in 1973. Her mother, **Marge**, taught Middle School English and her brother, **Geoff**, attended Fleming College Florence. She lives downtown in Battery Park City with her dog, Max. • **Barry Iverson** has an exhibition at the De Primi Gallery in Lugano this summer, showing one of his Cairo portfolios.

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 75

**Class Agent: Linda Avery**

[Averylin@aol.com](mailto:Averylin@aol.com)

**Will Weddleton** shared an update in March 2016: "I graduated from the University of Pennsylvania's Management and Technology Program with dual degrees (Wharton Business School and School of Engineering and Applied Science). I started my career as a submarine officer in the US Navy (If you've seen *The Hunt for Red October*, you'll have a sense of the work that I did). Afterwards, I spent 15 years in a Fortune 500 technology company, PerkinElmer (formerly EG&G) in various management positions. During that time I received my MBA in Finance from George Washington University. During the early stages of the Internet, I helped launch an online consumer products delivery company, Kozmo.com. After Kozmo went the way of many of the high flyers during the dotcom craze, I served in a variety of general management roles for start-up companies. One of them, privately held PCG Public Partnerships (PPL), where I have been the Chief Operating Officer now for over a decade, has grown to become the leader in its industry with contracts in 26 states. I have been happily married to my college sweetheart, Delia Arellano, for almost 35 years. She is a Senior Program Officer for the Nellie Mae Foundation. We have two children, Laura, who is in an Art History doctoral program at Bryn Mawr University, and William, who continued our family tradition of serving our country and was recently promoted to Captain in the US Army. I am a recreational triathlete and am proud to have won my age group at last year's Boston Triathlon and qualified for this year's National

Triathlon Championships. My sister, **Kathleen Weddleton Milligan '74** lives in Weston, Massachusetts and is a marketing executive for Biogen. My brother, **John Weddleton '76**, who attended TASIS in 1974 and 1975, is a successful businessman, the owner of Bosco's comic book stores, in Alaska. He is currently running for the Assembly in Anchorage." **8**

- **Hans Figi** is the Director of the Montana Outside Science School (MOSS). A favorite among the many programs offered by the school is the "Bridger Backpack (Man Mission)" summer camp. This annual 4-night backpack adventure for boys aged 11-14 is designed to teach backpacking and survival skills as well as outdoor ethics such as Leave No Trace, and also introduces the boys to details of the natural world like edible plants, geological formations and animal tracks.

- **Bill Hargrave** sent a photo of his son William Deshler Cox-Hargrave. Born 8/1/14, soon after the 70s reunion in Lugano that year. Deshler, Chrissy, and Bill (Homer) send greetings to all. **9**

- **Barbara Levi James** and her family are keeping busy! "Oldest child is now in his 3rd year as a sailor in the US Navy. He is stationed in the US, works on a sub and is an electronics technician, the guy who makes sure the nuclear reactor that propels the sub works. He loves it and is in the process of re-enlisting. We've made it through deployments and moves; it's not an easy life but it's amazing preparation for his future. My little one just graduated from high school, finishing in the top 5% of a graduating class of over 700. She found her calling early on as editor of the school newspaper and chief lawyer for her school's mock trial team. I've been involved with our town's school system

since 2001, so not volunteering next year is going to be somewhat of a shock, and something I'll truly miss. As a compulsive volunteer, however, I've already been recruited for our town's Relay for Life cancer fundraising, as well as a state drug and alcohol awareness/prevention group. I've also been elected to the Democratic County Committee, and was just named recording secretary. With the Presidential Election coming up, I'm sure I'll be kept busy. Still married to the same guy, spend a lot of time working out with Crossfit and bootcamp classes, going to rock concerts (Springsteen and Sir Paul) and working as the office manager in a wellness center. I can honestly say that for the first time in forever, I love my job, my boss, and have no complaints about anything work-related, something I know I'm fortunate to say."

- **Shirin Amini** lives in Los Angeles with her husband, John Shaw, where their twin boys (Travis & Austin) attend rival schools, UCLA and USC. She found her way into the entertainment industry and over the years has been associated with a variety of programming, from the groundbreaking *Rescue 911* to a diverse number of Discovery Channel shows, including *World of Wonder* and *Hollywood's Greatest Stunts*. After completing several seasons of the public affairs program, *National Desk*, for PBS, Shirin helped produce the thought-provoking documentary, *Darkness at High Noon: The Carl Foreman Documents* and on Easter Sunday of this year her latest documentary, *An Improbable Dream*, aired on the CBC in Canada and is now in the works to be released worldwide.

- **Linda Jaekel Avery** has had a career in marketing and sales and

since moving to Telluride, Colorado with her husband Doug, has been a real estate broker. "For volunteer time, I have done various stints as chair of alumni associations, president of the local chamber of commerce, and president of the Telluride Rotary Club. I currently serve as an Assistant District Governor. We love to travel and are considering a relocation to Panama shortly, hoping to learn Spanish (better) and explore more of Latin and South America."

- **Martha Freund Bradshaw** has two girls, Elizabeth and Maddie. She's been involved in the arts most of her career and spent 16 years in art museum management, 4 years in NYC managing international art fairs, 5 years in SFO as a brand manager and account planner in advertising. Martha currently lives in Austin, Texas.

- **Trudy Catterfeld** is a book shepherd in the changing landscape of book publishing for Book Marketing Next. She helps authors navigate through the independent publishing process creating their own imprint, and publishing company and reaching their target audiences. She has two grown sons, one who works for Boeing and the other who is a Junior in college, majoring in Finance with a minor in economics. She lives on Bainbridge Island, Washington. In her spare time, she skis, bikes, hikes, and does jazzercise.

- **June Christman** writes, "I received my Chemical Engineering degree from the University of Colorado in 1980 and hired on with Chevron in Richmond, California. Over the years I have worked for four different petroleum companies in various engineering and environmental management positions, and currently work for Tesoro in Los Angeles. I travel for fun. I probably got a bit too focused on career; forgot to get

# ALUMNI *Class News*

married and have a family. I'm looking forward to retiring and heading off into the sunset with my former college sweetheart, with whom I recently re-connected."

• **Darby Hinton** is an actor, director, producer and a life coach. "I tried finishing up college at UCLA but my acting kept taking me to places like Russia, Romania, and Bulgaria for weeks on end and the teachers didn't seem to like that. So, it was an actor's life for me. I did get to spend around 9 years traveling and working with Tony Robbins who was much more accepting of my crazy schedule. I'm also on the board, or the advisory committee, for a number of organizations that look out for child performers. I have 5 kids who are all doing great and have been happily married for 23 years now. Life's great."

• **Helen Kochenderfer** has a bookkeeping business in Santa Rosa, from which she is semi-retired. She's done a variety of volunteer work over the years, and continues her life-long love of the outdoors - hiking, camping, bird watching, and now botanizing. She's lived in Santa Rosa in Sonoma County, California for 25 years.

• **John Luttrell** tells us about life after TESIS: "In 1987 I started a consulting firm called BasisMedia Communication, specializing in multimedia production and training development. I released my first official music CD, *Underwater Flying Lessons*, in 2000 and did film production and soundtrack on indie film *The Long Way Home* by Steven Deeble in 2001. Released second CD, *A Sense of Impending Levitation*, in 2004. Worked on the score for an indie film called *Abstract* from filmmaker Ed Kaye in 2006. Released third CD *The Corridors of Time* in 2007—it originated as the score for the second film from Steve Deeble called *The Box*. Released fourth CD called *The Dream Exchange* in 2014 and it entered the ZMR Chart (New Age) at #1! Biggest music success so far! Was up for consideration in 2014 Grammy Awards. Shucks, didn't get Grammy nomination! Next time!"

• **Cindy Fletcher Rothstein** and her husband Marcus retired in 2009 and moved to Stuart, Florida. "I continued to work until the end of 2010. We have taken up extended travel, choosing to live in a country

and explore for two to three months at a time. I've written e-books about our UK experience (*Scotland at the Speed of Life* and *England and Wales at the Speed of Life*). I also have a travel blog, [spinningcompass.net](http://spinningcompass.net), and an author's page on Facebook, *Travel at the Speed of Life*, where you can read about our latest adventure in Spain. Next? We're looking at Australia and New Zealand. Marcus and I are enjoying our little corner of Florida and loving retirement. When I am not reading or writing, working out, or planning another trip, we are hanging at the beach or on our boat. Life is good! • **Michael Brus** is an educator living in San Diego. Married since 1978, he and his wife Julie welcomed their first grandchild last April. Mike was the La Mesa-Spring Valley Teacher of the Year and a finalist for San Diego County Teacher of the Year in 2014. He authored the book *Teaching and Learning on the iPad* and remains dedicated to helping underrepresented students compete in their high-tech future.

• After TESIS, **Tom Junker** searched for and found a job that would pay him to travel around the world. "The Oil and Gas industry is where I ended up and it has been good to me as they have paid for my family and me to live in 12 different countries in Europe, the Middle East, South America, Australia and currently in Singapore. I have seen parts of these countries that are not normally on the tourist trail and met a lot of locals who have given me an insight into their culture you do not get to see when you are a tourist. I am happy with where my life and my career took me and I believe that TESIS was a major part of the reason why my life went the way that it went."

## 76

**Class Agents: PK Fields**  
[pkfields@earthlink.net](mailto:pkfields@earthlink.net) and  
**Daisy Bilbao**  
[daisybilbao@bellsouth.net](mailto:daisybilbao@bellsouth.net)

**P.K. Fields** is the founder and CEO of ElderSense, a one-stop solution dedicated to helping people finding the eldercare resources they need. P.K. has been an associate feature film producer, a vice-president of marketing at Billboard Entertainment, then a head of digital marketing and content development for Mirage

Resorts and Caesars Entertainment properties. When she's not ruling the digital media world, P.K. can be found climbing Machu Picchu, hiking the Grand Canyon, kayaking the Salmon River, doing charity work in South America, serving on the board of the UCLA Center on Aging, and cycling the mean streets of her hometown, Los Angeles. P.K. is a mom to two very accomplished sons. **10**

• **Julie Mills Oswald** celebrated 30 years of marital bliss this year. She has a stepson, Will, and an ever-present golden retriever. "After dabbling in wildlife biology I decided to return to school, obtain my CPA license, and began a career in accounting and finance that included working as a consultant throughout the country. During this time we lived in California, Idaho, Hawaii, and Montana before returning to California 5 years ago. We are now settled on the Monterey Peninsula where I worked in finance at the Monterey Bay Aquarium until retiring this March. Being outdoors has, and continues to be, my passion. I love running, hiking, birding, and wildlife viewing."

• **Jane Schaefer** has maintained her own law practice in San Antonio for the past 25 years. She has also served as an Executive Board Member and Executive Vice-President of the San Antonio Battered Women's Shelter for many years, as board member and past President of the Foundation for Texas Children, as an Executive Board Member for the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), on the Board of the Association for Retarded Citizens, as well as the Seton Hospital Board. Jane has also helped raise money for the San Antonio Ronald McDonald House, the Cancer Treatment and Research Council, the San Antonio Habitat for Humanity, the San Antonio Meals on Wheels, Wounded Warriors, Toys for Tots, and the San Antonio Alzheimer's Association and the Children's Shelter. She is also a founding member of the National Women's History Museum. She is currently working to raise money for the San Antonio Library Foundation to aid the completion of the new District 2 Library "The Schaefer Branch Library", named to honor her family and their contributions to the City. She is married to Tony Eugenio and has 2

children, Victoria Grace (27) and John Marco (14).

## 77

**Class Agent: Rick Mullen**  
[rdmullen@verizon.net](mailto:rdmullen@verizon.net)

**Lawrence Cunial** visited campus in May. He recently went back to live in Melbourne, Australia, but he and his wife travel to Europe at least once a year. He works in industrial engineering and has lived on four different continents. The return to Ticino triggered a memory of skateboarding down the road at Monte Bre and the Collina d'Oro—until a law was brought in to prevent it. (see photo #31 with Sandra Hechler)

## 78

**Class Agent: Heidi Nickels Pace**  
[heidiv29@gmail.com](mailto:heidiv29@gmail.com)

**Raffaella Sottrici** found her name in the alumni 'missing information' list and reconnected with us. "I graduated in 1982 in Art/Biology at Whittier College in Whittier, California. I started working in September 1982 in the family's paper mill (Cartiere Sottrici Binda) as head of marketing and advertising until December 1995. From 1999 I started teaching English for various schools (3F, British College in Gallarate, British Institutes in Varese). Since March 2000 I have been Director at Golf Club Ispra in Ispra (Varese) and since June 2014, I have been teaching English for Connor Languages Services in Milan. I never got married but I have been dating a man for the last 26 years. I still live in Italy, between Busto Arsizio and Milan."

## 79

**Vacancy for class agent** contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role. **Tammy Wooley** writes, "I had a great 21-year career as a Software Engineer, working at Boeing, Intermecc Corporation and Microsoft. I've spent the last 8 years supporting the schools where my daughters attended by assisting teachers and providing computer technology support. I am still in touch with my two best friends from 1979 thanks to Facebook. The

# ALUMNI *Class News*



opportunities I had to travel while at TASIS, and the opportunity to develop my sense of self and my independence was priceless."

## 80

**Class Agent: Antonella Noseda**  
[anoseda@swissonline.ch](mailto:anoseda@swissonline.ch)

## 81

**Class Agent: NouNou Taleghani**  
[nounou@stanford.edu](mailto:nounou@stanford.edu)

## 82

**Class Agent: Tania Shetabi Nordstrom** [tsnordstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:tsnordstrom@yahoo.com)  
**Karen Knolle** was caught up in some dramatic news recently which made her local southern Texas paper! Karen, who is a judge in Sandia, Texas, came to the rescue when a 50-acre fire broke out in a field near her town. She was among the first to the scene, going straight in to swat at the fire with a rubber mat attached to a stick. "I remember how amazing it was to see the judge whacking away at the fire with the rubber thingy and realizing I don't know anyone else who would be doing the same thing. Battling a huge blaze in 100 plus degree heat," wrote reporter Paul Gonzales for the MySouTex.com website. "That day I saw what she does to fires, so I would hate to see what she does to criminals."

• **Roberto Castiglioni** visited Cairo to see **Ihab Abdelmoneim** in June 2016. **11**

• **Gretchen Schaefer** still lives in Ohio but spends lots of time in Sarasota, Florida. "I spend time with my sister Katrina while in Florida as she lives in Osprey, Florida. I hope some time we can organize a reunion in the Sarasota or Tampa area. How

about it alumni friends? [swgfarm@gmail.com](mailto:swgfarm@gmail.com)." **12**

• **Alicia Brauns** was inundated with deadlines this year for *Take Me Home Huey*, the commemorative project about a Vietnam War helicopter created by **Steve Maloney PG'61**. Alicia is co-directing and co-producing the documentary film with Christine Steele. Even though the film was a rough cut, it got a standing ovation when it was shown in Washington, D.C. for Memorial Day. There was also some unexpected drama when the missing co-pilot of Huey 174, Dave Adams, saw the project on the news and got in touch with them. "He was the only surviving crew member we could not find. He lives only 90 minutes away from the National Museum of the Marines Corps location, where the events for *Take Me Home Huey* were taking place. He was able to come to breakfast and the screening of the film. After the film, Dave gave an emotional speech. He never talks about this subject and felt just as guilty as the pilot all these years, plus he included a story about how he is always trying to rescue whatever he can and ripped his screen door off trying to rescue a hummingbird! Long story short, a cameraman was hired to capture an interview with Dave, Steve, and 174 others walking around the artwork with his crew members. Now we have to integrate this whole new character in the story, another incredible puzzle piece. I'm honored to witness so much healing as Steve Maloney's dream comes true and *Take Me Home Huey* is now traveling around the US. Our new deadline to have to film done is November as Christine and I are also juggling other jobs." **13**

## 83

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

## 84

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

## 85

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role. **Julie Waggoner** visited TASIS with her daughter Carmen in June. They enjoyed seeing the new facilities, especially Campo Science. Julie is now related to her good friend and classmate **Sue Bacheller** following Sue's marriage to Julie's brother **Doug '83**. **14**

• See the Reunions section for photos of the **30th anniversary reunion** in Washington, DC last fall.

## 86

**Class Agents: Maggie Hammad Boyle** [maggie\\_boyle@yahoo.com](mailto:maggie_boyle@yahoo.com)  
**Denise Mobley**  
[dmobley415@comcast.net](mailto:dmobley415@comcast.net)

**Harold Doley** visited Lugano at the end of May and found himself in town when the sons and daughters of some of his classmates graduated from TASIS. He wrote: "A group of seven alumni from 1986 and 1987 gathered at Ristorante Pizzeria Argentino for drinks that transitioned into dinner over five hours." **15**

• See photos of the **Class of '86 reunion** in the Reunions section.

## 87

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role. **Galen "Ed" Crader** visited TASIS at the beginning of May and toured campus with **Alois De Bruin '16** and **Alex Jordan '16**, sons of classmates **Alex De Bruin** and **Michael Jordan**. Galen continued afterwards to Scotland. "I had the chance to play the Old Course in St Andrews a couple of days later." **16**

• **Nicholas Bruneau** is happily settled in Wisconsin with his family. He keeps in touch with **Cristiano Radici** in Bergamo and visited Cristiano before visiting TASIS. **17**

• **Audrey Manning Seymour** lives in the LA area. She missed the TASIS reunion there because of a trip to Europe but was able to visit campus instead. **18**

• **Kurt Abrate** was on campus for the final night of the first summer session to see his son and daughter perform. They will enroll in 6th and 9th grade in the fall to carry on the Abrate family presence at TASIS.

• **Alex De Bruin** has started thinking of the 30th anniversary reunion in 2017. Contact him at [adebruin1@live.com](mailto:adebruin1@live.com) for information. **19**

## 88

**Class Agent: Laura West Presnol**  
[lpresnol@starbucks.com](mailto:lpresnol@starbucks.com)

**John Fondas** met with TASIS US representative Marc-Pierre Jansen in the Bahamas in November and spent a few hours reminiscing about his time at TASIS. John is very pleased with the classical architecture of the campus, and his choice of a career in textiles and interior design was influenced by Mrs. Fleming's insistence on beauty.

# ALUMNI *Class News*



John lives most of the year in New York, but returns to his Bahamian roots a few times each year.

## 89

**Class Agent: Lori Ketter Romero**  
loriketter@q.com

While in Dubai, Associate Director of Admissions **Emily McKee** met with **Thai-Sung Char** and his family. Thai-Sung had very pleasant and fun memories of his days at TASIS. **20**

• **Erica Hermann Gillett** returned to campus in July with her two kids, and enjoyed seeing Bill Eichner again. **21**

## 90

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

**Charlotte Bushroe** sold up and moved to Mexico at the end of June.

• See the Reunions section for photos of the **25th anniversary reunion** in Las Vegas.

## 91

**Class Agents: Kristina Malcolm**  
kmalcolm44@gmail.com and

**Gina Jose Heydari**  
ginajose@hotmail.com

**Letizia Varoli** is currently living in the UK with her little girl Luluah, and is running her own natural skin care company. She's sad to have lost touch with old friends, but would

love to reconnect with **Anita Bejmuk Thompson**, **Selene Susunaga**, **Alice Cotton '92** (the LA roomies!), **Sylvie Amani**, and any other dear friend who shared wonderful TASIS memories with her. lvaroli@yahoo.com.

## 92

**Class Agent: Miki Schroder Nava**  
sakeli@hotmail.com

**Mari Asaoka Honda** has lived in the United States, Hong Kong, and Romania since leaving TASIS, but is now back in Japan. She is married, and has a very musical family: "My son (11) plays cello in junior orchestra, and my daughter (3) has just started taking violin lessons. I enjoy playing piano with them."

• **Miki Schroder Nava** has been living just across the border from Lugano in Italy with her husband and daughters, Gaja and Soraya. "I often see **Carla Bigio** and **Cristina Rigamonti '93**. As my husband goes to Istanbul for work often, I like to tag along and go see **Hulya Sen** as well. I saw **Brandee Nunley Chylinski** in New York a few months ago, which was great! This summer I will be going to the States and will stay with **Trish Ross Markelin** for a week, so I am really looking forward to that. In October I plan to go to Japan and hope to have a mini TASIS reunion with the Japanese gang

there! I started a new lifestyle, travel & food blog, [www.mikinava.com](http://www.mikinava.com)." • **Asmat Noori** took advantage of a two-week family holiday in Europe to visit campus with his daughters Shannon and Fiona. Asmat works at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. **22**

• Associate Director of Admissions **Emily McKee** had dinner with **Hansoo Lee** in Korea. His older son, Edward is considering TASIS for his high school years. We hope to see him soon! **23**

## 93

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

## 94

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role.

## 95

**Class Agent: Nicole Pearson**  
rothko333@yahoo.com

**Lizzie Jarvis** saw **Josh Miles '93** in London earlier this year in April, a mere 19 years since their last encounter! **24**

• **Lori Gurley Stein** visited campus with her husband and two daughters. Lori worked in real estate sales before taking a break to be at home with her

girls who just finished grades 5 and 2. She enjoyed reliving the days of walking down the Belvedere steps! Lori also updated us about her sister **Emily '92** who is an epidemiologist based in Bangladesh and is currently teaching a course at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. **25**

## 96

**Class Agent: Gina van Hoof**  
gvanhoof@gmail.com

## 97

**Class Agent: Kevin McMenamin**  
mcmenamini@hotmail.com

**Desiree Estefan** took advantage of a business trip to Milan to visit campus. Some years ago, Desiree found that work was getting boring so she went to Paris to study and then founded a Mexico-based marketing and communications company for luxury goods. She keeps the company small (just her and two assistants) out of preference, realizing that strong growth would change the character of her work. **26**

• **Alex Wasylo** visited with his wife Lileya on their honeymoon which took in Croatia, Switzerland, and Italy. Alex is a broker for Marsh. Lileya is a teacher of language arts and literature at St. Bridget's in the East Village and felt at home on the TASIS campus. **27**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 98

**Class Agent: John Procter**

[johnoprocter@gmail.com](mailto:johnoprocter@gmail.com)

**Tobias Muhlhofer** has been on the faculty of University of Miami since summer 2015, where he is a professor of finance.

- **Nina Sander** has a one-year-old boy named Jack, brother to Layla (8). She has a children's clothing brand called Luca & Jack [www.lucaandjack.com](http://www.lucaandjack.com). She still lives in Sao Paulo, Brazil. "I miss all my high school friends!" **28**

- **John Procter** and his wife Vanessa have had two children over the past two years, daughter Nora, and son Nash. John has gotten to see a number of classmates over the last year, including **Kim Edwards** in Aspen, **Jessica Caparas Hontiveros** in Phoenix, **Tobias Muhlhofer** and **Andrew Wyly** in Washington, DC, and Hong Kong in August for **Sean Kim '99's** wedding. **John** and **Travis Belgard** are putting plans together for a Class of 1998 20-year reunion. Email [travisbelgard@gmail.com](mailto:travisbelgard@gmail.com) for updates and ideas.

## 99

**Vacancy for class agent** – contact [alumni@tasis.ch](mailto:alumni@tasis.ch) to learn more about taking on this role. **Sofi** and **Thea Rasini '01** work for [seriousfunnetwork.org](http://seriousfunnetwork.org), a network of camps for kids who are chronically ill, founded by Paul Newman in the 80s. Sofi is moving to London in late 2016 and just got married.

- **Jennifer Colberg Manke** emailed recently: "My husband, Tom received new naval orders from California, which brought us to Hawaii! I love island living here in Honolulu. My 3-year old son, Trent, will be starting preschool next year and I

have recently started working at the Laser Refractive Surgery Center at the military hospital. We are looking forward to spending the next 3 years in the sunshine, on beaches, visiting neighboring islands, learning about the Polynesian culture, and trekking tropical trails. Please let us know if you are flying through or vacationing. We would love to meet up or take you around. Mucho Aloha!" **29**

## 00

**Class Agent: Tatiana Lucchini**

[talucchi@hotmail.com](mailto:talucchi@hotmail.com)

**Onur Karayaka** dropped in with his wife and some friends in January. Onur works in textiles and travels often, sometimes to Milan for a *fiera*, often to London. **30**

- **Sandra Hechler** is living in Frankfurt and visited TASIS with her boyfriend in May. Sandra works in business management. For their visit to this area they chose an Airbnb place just over the border, which turned out to belong to TASIS science teacher **Amy Bloodworth!** **31** with Lawrence Cunial

## 01

**Class Agent: Caroline Rothstein**  
[caroline.rothstein@gmail.com](mailto:caroline.rothstein@gmail.com)

**Caroline Rothstein** had a cover story featured in the July issue of *Cosmopolitan* about intuitive eating. It was very well received. "I'm sending a photograph of myself and **Beatriz Rivero PG '02**. She still lives in Venezuela and had a layover before heading to Spain to visit her sister in Barcelona. She came to Manhattan from JFK for a few hours and we went to lunch. It was as if no time had passed! We hadn't seen each other in person in 15 years!" **32**

- **Yuhi Morita York** came to visit campus with her husband Shane, twin daughters Elizabeth and Alison (5), and son Henrik (1). Yuki worked in business before having the kids who now take up most of her time (especially little Henrik who will not stay still!)

- **Jack Savoretti** is having a fantastic year. Between touring and interviews, he's kept busy. In mid-January he was a guest on the BBC's *The Graham Norton Show* with his song "Catapult". His new album, *Written in Scars*, went to number 7 in the official UK charts—tucked snugly between David Bowie and Elvis Presley! **33**

## 02

**Class Agent: Daniella Einik**  
[daniellaeinik@gmail.com](mailto:daniellaeinik@gmail.com)

**Alex Zanechia** has transitioned from IT consulting to devoting full attention to commercial composing, sound design, and his music licensing business. He and his wife Liz are expecting their first child in the fall.

- **Tanya Arditi** married Miguel Saavedra on May 29 at Local Sixteen in Washington, DC, where they met a little over 3 years ago. They are beyond happy to have shared food and dance with over 250 friends and family who joined them from states across the US and as far away as London and Paraguay. **34**
- **Julia Bennett** has exciting news! "Our daughter, Livia Noa, was born on November 10, 2015 in Rio de Janeiro. There is more news - our little family of three will be moving to Cape Town, South Africa later this year." **35**

- **Sydney Conklin Fleming** visited with her husband after attending **Sofia Rasini's** wedding in Trentino. Sydney worked with Blackbaud in

the past and currently works for Microsoft. During her year at TASIS she took full advantage of the travel opportunities along with **Lorene Carlston** and **Diana Gurley**, other American girls who were over for the European experience. She was deeply saddened to hear about Lorene passing away suddenly in April 2015. Sydney lives in Charlotte, North Carolina and sees **Christian Meale '01** all the time. **36**

## 03

**Class Agent: Remington Franklin**  
[rfranklin@resolution-ent.com](mailto:rfranklin@resolution-ent.com)

**Carlyle Veale** is still based in Florida. After high school she attended Lynn University in Florida where she received her Bachelor's and also a Master's in Emergency Evacuation and Administration.

- **Vasily Vavilov** shares a picture of him and his daughter Marta. Marta is already showing her TASIS spirit! **37**

## 04

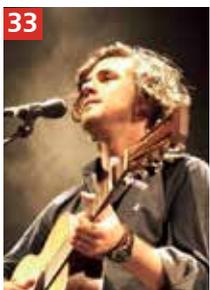
**Class Agent: Masa Yo**  
[masa.yo@gmail.com](mailto:masa.yo@gmail.com)

**Pascual Scavone** writes, "I just finished a Master's in Management at the London School of Economics and am now back in the consulting industry. **Fran '09** finished her undergrad degree at the University of Miami and is now back in Paraguay working alongside her father in the family business."

- **Christof Zanechia** was promoted to Marketing Data Manager for The North Face action brand at VF Corporation. He also continues as a lead guitarist with The Cade.

- **Supanika Ordonez Ackerman** had a second boy, James Boon Ackerman, on November 19, 2016 in Anchorage, Alaska. **38**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



33



34



35



36



37



38



39



40



41



42



43



44

## 05

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

**Michael Bell** got engaged in March on Hawaii to Christina Kappes. "We are excited to plan our wedding and will be getting married in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, on June 24, 2017." **39**

## 06

**Class Agent:** **Hailey Parsons Minder**  
haileyparsons@gmail.com

## 07

**Class Agent:** **Denise Chiang**  
Denise731@gmail.com

**Uma Khusainova** is working in the oil and gas sector as a head of a project coordination department. In her free time she does charity work. "I'm teaching a class at a new language school. They asked me to help them to get started, and I agreed to help out on weekends and teach the smallest class and my salary will go to families in need. I am starting to think that I might want to teach kids as a full-time job sometime in the future."

• **Shiva Raju Codoni** updated us in February: "I am currently working,

finishing my Master's, and teaching yoga." Shiva volunteered as Finance and Sponsorship Manager for TEDxLugano in spring 2016, held at Franklin University Switzerland.

• **Gaby Sforza** moved to Berlin in spring and is attending a three-year course in songwriting.

• **Logan George** reached out in June: "I only attended for a month and a half in 8th grade, after my family was evacuated from Israel when the US went to war with Iraq in 2003 and there was a fear Saddam Hussein would fire missiles into Israel. I have incredibly fond memories of the students and teachers I met, the picturesque campus, and the beautiful surrounding countryside. As a 13-year-old I was blown away, but even now I recognize just how special a place TASIS was." Logan is now part of a production company based in New York City that travels around the world making creative, original promotional videos for international schools. His sisters **Susannah George '03** and **Rosalind George '05** are "a bit off the radar. One is teaching middle school in Mauritania, the other is a journalist for the Associated Press in Baghdad. Couldn't be more proud."

• **Trinitario Casanova** visited campus this spring. Like so many others, he developed an interest in architecture while studying with

Mark Aeschliman and went on to study it in college. Nevertheless he later reverted to his 'first love', fashion, and now has a brand and factory in Spain: [www.lemien.es](http://www.lemien.es). **40**

• **Celeste Lai** married Peyton Harrison on May 8th 2016 in a beautiful and intimate ceremony in Brooklyn, NY. Celeste is also expecting a new addition to their family in October! **Monis Zahira** and **Denise Chiang** attended her wedding. **41**

## 08

**Class Agents:** **Chingiz Aliyev**  
morr25@gmail.com and  
**Consuelo Marzi**  
consumz@hotmail.com

**Jessica Cross** started law school in fall 2015 at American University in DC, with studies focusing on immigration and international relations. • **Laura Loizaga** is living in Zurich: "I am currently working at Deloitte AG as an Assistant Manager, which is very challenging at times, but I am learning a lot!" • **Oriana Neidecker** is currently the Creative Project Manager at General Assembly and will be leaving soon. "I got accepted to graduate school at NYU Tisch's ITP program with a scholarship. I plan on studying the emerging medium of Virtual Reality." **42**

• **Katy Howell** and her fiancé Rob are getting married on August 14

at an agriturismo in Verona. *Tanti auguri!* They had their honeymoon trip prior to the wedding and took the opportunity to visit campus. Katy is living in Durango, Colorado, which is a great location for her work in the environmental field. **43**

• After having met through the CDE summer program as counselors, **Milo Zanecchia** and **Melody Tibbits** (faculty) were married this summer in Isola di Brissago. **44**

## 09

**Class Agents:** **Stefano Cremasco**  
stefanocremasco@gmail.com and  
**Diane Salimkhan**  
dianesalimkhan@gmail.com and  
**Serge Bollag**  
contact@sergebollag.com

**Gabriela Feijoo Carillo** is currently doing a Master's degree in the Eindhoven University of Technology in the Netherlands.

• **Serge Bollag** updated us this year: "After working in London for a multi-family Office managing Uruguayan Farmland Investments as a diversification strategy for clients, I am currently enrolled in my second year of my M.Sc. at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and moved to Mexico City to conduct research for my dissertation on the Mexican Animal Feed Industry while working for FOCIR

# ALUMNI *Class News*



(Capitalization and Investment Fund for the Rural Sector). I'm already regularly meeting up with some of my Mexican TASIS friends, but would like to connect with other alumni in Mexico and potentially organize an all-class reunion. Lastly, if any alumni are involved in the agriculture industry and want to get in touch: contact@sergebollag.com"

- **Maurice Michel** is approaching his final year in medical school. "I have become highly interested in cancer research. Having started my doctoral thesis in liver cancer on hepatocellular carcinoma in 2014 at the Martin-Luther-University in Germany, I have now become engaged in a research project at the Department of Oncology at Oxford University. I currently work with two different cancer cell lines (breast cancer and osteosarcoma) in which I am trying to perform a genetic 'knockout' of a receptor that is known to be highly associated with tumor growth, and its potential to spread to other tissues. With a receptor-depleted model of tumor cells, I am hoping to find changes with regard to radio sensitization, and to exploit this information for clinical settings. In the future, I wish to work as a clinical scientist, building bridges between laboratory research and clinical medicine. As I am still looking for rotations/clinical electives in the US, I would be grateful for any help or advice (Maurice.Michel@student.uni-halle.de)." **45**

- **Bunyamin Aydin** has had a great year, with debut shows at Men's Fashion Week in Milan and in Paris as well. His brand Les Benjamins is the subject of a documentary which was partly shot on campus in January. **46**

## 10

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

**Maximilian Becker** visited in July while vacationing at the family holiday home on Lake Lugano. After going to college in Düsseldorf he is back living in Hamburg and works in finance. **47**

- **Chris Cardona** dropped in to visit campus recently. He has been living in China for three years where he taught English at the high school level with the Peace Corps. He moved back to the US this summer and looking at new opportunities, probably in the DC area. **48**

- **Patrick Cross** worked at Ernst & Young in Chicago as an auditor during the summer of 2015.

## 11

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

**Claire Kalsbeek** graduated from Franklin University Switzerland in May with a Master's in International Management. "TASIS will always be the best decision I made and Switzerland has grown to be my second home since my time on the TASIS campus. The legacy of Mrs. Fleming and her passion for exposing students to European languages and culture has influenced my life more than words can say. It inspired me to study Linguistics during my undergraduate career at Northeastern University, study

abroad every chance I get, help a friend form a non-profit organization for vulnerable youth in Zambia, and even take the chance and move back to Lugano this year to earn my Master's at Franklin. I am searching for a job to keep me in Switzerland." If anyone has any contacts that might be helpful in this regard, Claire would appreciate hearing from you at cck823@gmail.com.

## 12

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

## 13

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

**Ginevra Giacomini** is about to graduate with honors in Business Administration with Marketing from HULT International Business School in London. Next year she is going to start a business & art course at Sotheby's to gain insight into the international art industry.

## 14

**Class Agents: Ryan Osgood**  
ryanleeosgood@gmail.com and  
**Giacomo Braglia**  
giacomobraglia@ticino.com

**Ryan Osgood** continues to enjoy studying computer science at Tufts and worked at a start-up last summer. • **Melissa Cross** is studying at Notre Dame and is incredibly busy pursuing all her interests. She plans to major in Business Science focusing on Environmental Science.

## 15

**Class Agents: Nathaniel Brener**  
nbrener@mac.com and  
**Tomson Carroll**  
tomsoncarroll1996@gmail.com

**Jillian Streit** came back to see her friends graduate at the end of May and had the novel experience of staying in the very apartment she had lived in with her parents while they were in Switzerland.

- **Philipe Brener** was in Lugano to see his friends graduate at the end of May. He hasn't decided on his major yet but is enjoying the college experience at Suffolk Business School.

- **Katie Cross** is attending the University of Northern Iowa. She was ranked second in the state in the long jump in spring 2015, but tore her ACL in a track meet soon after. She recovered and was trying to get back on the road to compete at the college level.

## 16

**Class Agents: Edo Italia**  
eitaia27@gmail.com and  
**Pablo Tello**  
pablottellozulu@gmail.com

**Lucas Figi** is a shooting star-literally! As a winner of numerous shooting competitions in Europe and the US (Montana junior prone champion in 2014), he has a "little pile" of medals in the corner of his room. Lucas has received frequent invitations to compete with Great Britain's senior team, which he usually turned down because of his studies. Lucas was recently inducted to US Naval Academy at Annapolis where he embarked on a 7-week training program. His parents, **Hans '75** and Sharon, are extremely proud of what Lucas has

# ALUMNI *Class News*



been able to accomplish. "I never expected this and unless you have a child go through it it's hard to imagine the pride, apprehension, surge of patriotism and appreciation of history and tradition." **49**

• **Sami Spoon** and **Malcolm Brooks** both made the journey to Lugano to join in the festivities for their classmates' graduation. Malcolm graduated from his school early, in January, and has taken the opportunity to travel since then. He hopes to work with TASIS in summer 2017. • **Samuel Owusu-Agyemang** recently started a new project called Angelo's Incubator. "This year's program, held from July 18th - September 5th, looks to host the very best young entrepreneurs around the globe with specialties in particular fields, and nurture with them an array of successful business ventures." Samuel's project brings together a group of entrepreneurs with particular specialties and works with them to develop high potential projects so they are later equipped to launch their own ideas. Good luck with your project, Samuel!

## Postgraduate

### 61

**Class Agent: Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit**  
jtnesbit@att.net

**PG62, 63, and 64:** We would like to appoint class agents for these classes. Are you interested in helping out? For more info, email alumni@tasis.ch.

### 64

**Linda Palmer Davidge** moved to San Jose, California 18 years ago

and started painting in a class the following year. "I have sold a few paintings but it's mostly for my own enjoyment. My life is full with my two Maltese mix dogs, walks with a LGBT group, and volunteering." **50**

### 65

**Class Agent: Rick Bell**  
rickbell@delawareinc.com

**Carter Blackford Filer** shares: "I live on a peninsula about two and a half hours south of Washington, DC with tidal waters of the Chesapeake Bay on three sides and a coastal pine forest on the fourth. I know I'm lucky to be able to enjoy the splendid sense of isolation this place offers. The houses are designed to be viewing boxes on a natural world that changes daily with time and tide and seasonally with the antics of abundant wildlife in woods, water, and sky all around. Though nothing ever happens, there is always something going on, and we have a front row seat to it all. Imagine then my surprise when my daughter Kenzie came home one fall day to say there was someone she thought I would want to meet. We had a lot in common, she added mysteriously. Soon Kenzie introduced me to **Babs Mumma '67** and we quickly learned we share a mutual friend. Once upon a time we had each discovered Europe from the back of blue VW TASIS buses, and still speak enough Italian to wish the world *buon natale* or *order prosciutto* and *melone* and *prosecco*. Looking back over what is the past 50 years for me and 48 years for her, we both agree our approach to life was utterly transformed by the

time we spent at TASIS absorbing a wider worldview. My family and I were already feeling rich beyond measure to live in this place that time forgot, but meeting Babs out of the blue was a special joy I couldn't have anticipated."

### 66

**Class Agent: Ned Lynch**  
nedleigh@gmail.com

**Laura Bradley Hoekstra** regrets not being able to join the PG66 reunion this summer because she's very busy planning other trips and family reunions!

• **Steve Kampmann** has fun news: "Our children did a wonderful thing this summer. For our 35th wedding anniversary they brought us all together—children and grandchildren—the whole clan. Unfortunately, however, our anniversary fell on August 17, causing us to regrettably be unable to attend the much-anticipated 50th anniversary of the PG66 class at TASIS. I'm sad to miss seeing old friends and being part of the festivities." **Robin Leech** had a mini-reunion with **Bert Spencer** and **Elizabeth Acer Crawford** in July on Fire Island, to partly make up for not being able to join them on the nostalgic return to Lugano and the Villa Negroni. **51**

• **Sherry Pray Peregrin** and **Mary Anne Creech McIntire** met up on Pawley's Island in South Carolina in July. It was the first time in 50 years, and a small compensation for not being able to attend the 50th anniversary reunion in Lugano. Mary Anne has been traveling extensively this year so the additional trip didn't work out, but she hopes to make it to Lugano

next year. "Rudy and I have a trip to Europe planned next March. We fly into Milan and then plan to make a short trip to Lugano for a few days. I would love to visit the school at that time. I am in touch with **Diane Berol Saxton** and we are planning a visit in October in Massachusetts. I also regularly see **Gay Hydrick St. Clair** when I am in Los Angeles as she is a very close friend of mine. So I do keep in touch with my TASIS friends when possible. As you can see, I am on the go all the time now that I am retired, and I am enjoying every minute of it. I do not understand people who question their ability to stay busy! Life is good in spite of the surgery I had to have this year." **52**

• **Mary Seyfarth** came to visit TASIS in May to participate in Arts Festival and help choose a spot on campus for her sculpture "The Next Step", which she has generously donated to TASIS. While visiting she caught up with **Viv Brenner (former staff)**, whose return to campus prompted reminiscences of working in Casetta and then with Mrs. Fleming in Casa Fleming in the early 60s! **53**

• **Diane Berol Saxton** recently published a mystery novel called *Peregrine Island*. It tells the tale of a Connecticut family whose lives are turned upside-down one summer when art experts appear on their doorstep to appraise a favorite heirloom painting. For more visit: <http://www.dianebsaxton.com/>.

• **Linda Adelman Gintel, Polly MacDougall Oliver, and Katie Hart Barber** were touring Switzerland this past summer, finishing up in Lugano for the 50th anniversary reunion. They sent us a photo as a prequel of their trip. **54**

# ALUMNI *Class News*



## 67

**Class Agents: Geoff Parker**

[gspkr@mac.com](mailto:gspkr@mac.com) and

**Susan Lo Forti**

[lofortisusan@gmail.com](mailto:lofortisusan@gmail.com)

**Geoff Parker and Susan Lo Forti**

are getting the ball rolling to organize a 50th anniversary reunion for the PG67 class in 2017. Get in touch with them at [gspkr@mac.com](mailto:gspkr@mac.com) or [lofortisusan@gmail.com](mailto:lofortisusan@gmail.com) to share your thoughts and preferences. Volunteers to join the reunion committee are welcome!

• **Will Holbrook** transitioned from student to employee right after his year at the Villa Negroni, working as a Summer School in France (SSIF) VW bus chauffeur in the summers of '67 and '68, then he was on TESIS faculty '71-'72; and finally in Admissions at Fleming College Florence '73-'74. He remembers the time vividly and fondly: "I have, as all of us do, lots of wonderful memories of a most special year. Mrs. Fleming set the standards for mission, commitment, perseverance, charm, wit, elegance, and, most importantly, a genuine love for all whom she could inspire and embrace with her energy, enthusiasm and undaunted vision for a better world. Wow, that's a mouthful. And I mean it. It would be fun to return to Lugano for a reunion. I was last there in the early 80s."

• **Susan Lo Forti** moved to Palm Springs during the past year and was able to join in the all-class reunion in Los Angeles in April where she reconnected with **Eric Schloen**. Eric sent us this charming reminiscence: "At school I was also known as Rick Schloen (take the "E" off of Eric and voila!). Mrs. Fleming had me and Nick Rose horribly confused but we

gave up correcting her since "the look" we'd get back suggested that we were wrong and she was right. My best, ERIC SCHLOEN, TESIS PG'67...I know I'm right about the year...the name not so much." **55**

## 68

**Class Agent: Kathy Sanders-Phillips**

[ksandersphillips@aol.com](mailto:ksandersphillips@aol.com)

• **From 1972 onwards, the High School Class Agents serve the PGs as well.**

## 07

**Jeffrey E. Danoff, Jr.** was married to Ashley Conroy on July 30, 2016 in Pittsburgh, PA. Jeffrey is a financial analyst at Wintrust Financial in Chicago while Ashley received a Master's in education from Columbia College of Chicago in 2014 and is a math teacher for Chicago Public Schools.

## Summer Programs MSP

## 10

**Giulia Pinte**a is studying Psychology and Business Management at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts, and looks forward to joining in the next time there's a TESIS reunion in Boston.

## TSLP/TSP

## 86

**Filippo Genco** wrote in February: "After finishing my Ph.D. in Nuclear Engineering at Purdue University in 2013, I spent a few months as a Post-Doc at the CMUXE Laboratory—also at Purdue—and then joined Al Hosn University in Abu Dhabi in September 2014 as Assistant Professor. I am the Chair of the Mechanical and Industrial Engineering Department and as you can imagine, I am very busy with the many tasks at hand. The Emirates are an absolutely amazing country, very hospitable and willing to grow fast towards the future. We love living here and enjoy the many amenities the capital has to offer. My brother **Giacinto (CDE82)**, after being in the UAE for almost a year, is now a Lecturer in the Physics Department of King Fahd University of Petroleum on Minerals in Saudi Arabia. He has a lovely 2-year-old daughter, named Rosa after our mother." Filippo visited campus in July with his kids.

**56**

## 91

**Francesca Boggio Mesnil** sent us her memories of TESIS summer programs from the mid- 80s to early 90s. "Most of my memories as a child and adolescent are linked to TESIS and I cannot begin to explain how much I used to wait for those summer months that shaped so many aspects of my life. At TESIS I learned to be independent from my family at a very early age, I learned to contribute to a community, of course I learned English and French, but also discovered I had a passion for the arts. For me TESIS summer school felt like home, much more than the regular

school I attended during the year. Walking those streets, sleeping in those dorms and dining at Villa de Nobili made me feel so happy, proud, and at the right place. I also believe I survived adolescence and a very tough university degree thanks to the discipline and taste for excellence that were instilled in me during those eight weeks. I always felt my life would be that of a globetrotter away from home, travelling to different countries. But when I got married and had children, my husband and I had to decide where to settle, and I could not see a better place than Montagnola. I now live 300 meters from campus and I am planning to send my kids to CDE next summer to begin a new cycle and give my them the same lifetime experience."

## 13

**Lorenzo Aurelio Cardella** writes: "I am currently in my freshman year at college, as part of a fairly new business program. The World Bachelor in Business is a partnership between the University of Southern California, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and Bocconi University of Milan. The 45 students spend one year in each university, and then decide which of the three to attend for senior year. At the end, each student will receive three degrees, and will have gained true international experiences."

## Swiss Holiday

## 64

**Lucy Hadsall Hedrick** has had

# ALUMNI *Class News*



some fun trips in recent years: "In 2014 we started with a memorable trip to the Netherlands in May to visit the paintings of the Dutch Masters by barge, followed by a visit to Chicago in June to celebrate Aidan and Becca Dee's graduations from 8th grade. We stayed close to Old Greenwich for the rest of the summer before George retired from the Congregational Church on September 30, 2014. We expanded our trip to Sarasota as a retirement celebration, stopping in Winchester, Virginia, Twin Otter Peaks on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Asheville, North Carolina. A very special highlight was a second trip to Chicago in October to celebrate George's 80th birthday, plus a trip to Phoenix for Hunter Handley's wedding to Rebecca in November. We have many blessings to count. It will be a dream come true to see the Montagnola campus and Hadsall House again this August."

## TASIS Hellenic

### 81

**Janice Colon-Mahoney** remembers TASIS fondly. "I always remember TH with great gratitude for the education we obtained there. I'm in touch with many classmates from back in the day. We have met a few times in Greece. Last summer I went to another reunion there, and I took my 16-year old son, Patrick. He loved the place and the company, and was amused that we (including his mom) behaved like high schoolers :) Facebook has brought many of us together again, so it is just great to get together. I've met with **Mary Rogers TH83**,

**Jim Corsi TH82**, **Christophe Kinna TH82**, **Basil Comitis TH83**, **Johnathan Macris TH81**, among many others."

### 83

**Geoff Ball** updated us recently: "My wife Judy and I had our daughter Niki in 2012. I continue to live and work in the Santa Barbara, California area. My wife and I are both engineers working for an ocean defense contractor. I stay in very sporadic touch with classmate **Jim McNeill TC84**. Mostly my TASIS contacts are my mother **Joyce Ball** (former librarian in Lugano and Kifissia) and family members **Roarke Ball '77**, **Jenny Ball Mullen '79**, and **Rick Mullen '77**. I have very fond memories of TASIS and TASIS Hellenic and am grateful for and proud of the TASIS schools." **57**

### 84

**George Serentini** (known as Jreidini when at school) is working with the Greek Ministry of Tourism. George reconnected with **Tina Grammas TH86** in fall 2015 which—much to their delight—soon blossomed into a love story. Luckily Tina likes country music, a passion of George's. **58**

### 86

**Claus Westerberg** writes "I work at a school where I am in charge of the facilities management unit. In other words I am in charge of nine buildings, cleaning, alarms, maintenance, buying of inventory, and I am a playground inspector too, so I am responsible for the

security of the playground at the school and 5 kindergartens. I got bored with this and opened a business that manufactures parking units for scooters, skateboards, wave boards, and bicycles. We have chosen not to be like the others; we custom-make our units based on the Lego idea: once you buy a unit then you can build on it, either with a roof or with more units to the left or right, or with a bench. I'm also involved with three other businesses but more as a silent partner: a window/glass company, a flooring company, and a burger joint called Cocks and Cows; we have just won our 4th "Best Burger in Copenhagen" in the past 5 years! Yes it is hard work and hopefully soon I will see some money in my bank account. For now that's all... I have done many weird things in my life, including working as a stockbroker, a Harley Davidson motorcycle rental guy in the Greek islands [*in partnership with classmate Stavros Koutsoubakis – Ed*], a professional special units army guy, and for my own company in London." We're glad Claus found time to update us, AND to help organize the TH86 reunion in Athens this summer!

• **Patrick Quinn** has a close connection with a TASIS alum from Lugano – and didn't know it! Patrick lives in Cairo and works for the Associated Press. He has known **Barry Iverson TASIS '74** for years and even coaches Barry's kids in tennis, but neither of them knew of the TASIS connection until recently!

### 92

**Natalia Megias** lives in the US and keeps in touch with high school friends from Greece to Dubai on Facebook. She was also pleased to join in the TASIS all-class reunion in DC last November, along with her sister **Kia TH93**, and **Billy Notaras TH94**

### 93

**Rumen Stepanov** is living in Geneva, Switzerland, where he is a consultant at The Global Fund

to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He reached out in July: "Unfortunately, I am not able to join the Athens reunion on this occasion. The last time I was in Athens was back in 2010-11. I still keep in touch with many of my TASIS friends: we chat, we write, we are on Facebook. We mean to go to Greece next summer, but for now it is a subject of a lot of 'ifs'. The reasons are mostly good ones—my son was born only a couple of months ago and we are still figuring it out/balancing with leaves, resources, and wishes. But I want to return to be able to see some friends!" • Having already studied at Reading University and the London School of Economics, **Greg Themistocleous** hopes to start work on a Ph.D. before long.

### 94

**Dimitris Papandreou** continues to work in the TV and film industry, and takes time out when possible to enjoy Greek beaches or get together with TASIS friends. **59**

• **Eleni Haniotakis** is working as Registrar at the International School of Athens, and also handles Admissions where she ably takes on the mantle of her mother **Betty**, the TH Admissions Director for many years.

### 99

**Tasso Nikitakis** considers himself "a starter not a finisher", and that included architecture at UC Berkeley after high school. Either way he is making a successful life out of it. After years in southern California doing whatever came his way to make ends meet, he has now found a niche creating or designing everything from apps to houses, and manages his business online from Athens.

## TH Former Faculty

• **Karl Christiansen** just retired from TASIS England after 29 years there (plus one at TASIS France as well as 6 years at TASIS

# ALUMNI *Class News*



Hellenic). He writes: "I'm retiring at the end of this year so would love to try to attend a reunion in Greece whenever it might occur. Just let me know." Karl's daughter is a multi-medal-winning British Paralympian rider. Proud dad reports, "She won a bronze medal in 2004 in Athens—the youngest rider ever to have medalled; two golds and a silver in Beijing in 2008; and a delightful 3 golds in London and three golds at Rio 2016! His son is a physiotherapist working in the NHS in England and is keenly interested in neurophysio as the specific field he will pursue in the coming years. Karl's wife continues to teach French part-time at TASIS England.

• **Chris Tragas** continues to enjoy his job at ISA (International School of Athens, which took over when TASIS pulled out of Greece), where he is Assistant Director. He keeps the TASIS bond strong by decamping to TASIS England every June to lead the summer programs there. He has fond memories of many former colleagues in Lugano and Salamanca and sends greetings to them all!

• **Rena Deriziotis** (TH faculty, still at ISA) writes "I'm so glad I was part of the TH journey from September 1980 and I cherish all the good times and all the people I met. But most importantly my lovely students from all over the world, who have not forgotten me and still call me Ms. Rena. No money can buy this."

## TASIS Former Faculty

• **Sasha Rehm** wrote in August

2015: "We are doing well here in beautiful southwest Virginia. Chris is working very hard as the Head of School at Sullins Academy (where all three of our children now attend). It's a beautiful little traditional independent school on 35 acres with mountain views, a stream, a new school garden and outdoor classroom, and the kindest group of teachers you could ever meet. I continue to telecommute for the University of Virginia where I am finishing a post-doctoral five-year grant fellowship with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation and Lenore Annenberg Foundation mentoring new teachers at high needs (Title I) schools all over the country, similar to Teach for America but with much more instructional support, and thankfully, far less teacher attrition. It is very rewarding work."

• **Greg Darley-Emerson** shared recently: "I have been in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the past 10 years or so. After being at TASIS from 2000-03, I taught for three years at Taft in Connecticut and another three in a Cincinnati day school. I then hung up the chalk, changed paths, and went to law school in Cincinnati. Since graduating in 2012, I've been a patent attorney for Procter & Gamble (in fabric care - products like Ariel detergent, etc.), who has their global headquarters here. Got married in 2008 to my college sweetheart, and we now have two daughters: Dylan (5) and Gracie (1)."

• **Colin Reiners** writes, "For the last 30+ years I have been an admissions tutor, course leader, and head of department in 4 UK universities. At FCF my area was Art

& Design, Media, Humanities, and Journalism but I now do general admissions and preparation for undergraduate study."

• **Pete and Sarah Clark** are living in San Juan Capistrano, California. Pete teaches English at St. Margaret's Episcopal School, and Sarah works part time in the learning center helping students in math. "We have 3 kids: an 11-year-old boy, an 8-year-old girl, and a 4-year-old girl, so we are busy. We still love talking to TASIS connections, and there are many local ones in Orange County, including a family who just moved to our location and sends their students here but they still have a home in Montagnola! We dream of someday returning to Lugano, either for a summer session or at another stage in our lives. Please give our best to those who may remember the 'other' Pete and Sarah." [this is a reference to Pete and Sarah Curran, and current faculty Peter and Sarah Locke – Ed.]

• **DeHaven and Windie Fleming** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in style in 2015. "We flew to England for the month of September to reminisce and reunite with oldest and dearest friends. They were the absolute best bubbly we could have asked for! We wound our way to Wordsworth's 'Lady Wood' in the Lake District, ate puddings, drank tea, savored lamb, and inhaled the scents, tastes, tones of places and people we cherish. Our anniversary trip was golden!"

• **Jen Blum and Josh Keith** married in Pennsylvania in June 2016. **60**

• **Paul Distefano** and his wife Pam have recently relocated to

Glasgow. They had their baby girl, Francys Aurora Distefano on June 20th, 2016 (named for Paul's mother **Fran**, TASIS class of '74). Paul is focusing on his acting and magic these days. He's been getting on the cabaret circuit, and looking to break into the acting world in the UK. "Seems to be more acting opportunities on this side of the globe, but I don't know as many people. I may pick up some dance teaching in the near future but that hasn't been my biggest focus lately. Next year I'm aiming to do Britain's Got Talent, but that's a ways off so I'm focusing on getting other gigs going first." **61**

• **Bill O'Brien** says, "Please feel free to share that I will be living and working in Lausanne from August onward and would love TASIS visitors!"

• **Susan Maybud** works as Senior Gender Specialist in the Gender, Equality and Diversity Branch of the International Labour Organization in Geneva. She has great memories of the fantastic Istanbul reunion organized by **Ferit Sahenk '83** in 2011.

• **Chantal Cleland Eley Gordon** spent the summer on the Lugano campus as usual. Her son **Benjamin (CDE, MSP, TSP student and now DPAT staff)** was honored with the H. Miller Crist Award at his graduation from TASIS England in June. Congratulations, Ben!

• **David Damico** and his family sent their Christmas greetings last year. They are thriving and doing well. **62**

**Julia Rivellino-Lyons** sent us Christmas greetings last year. They're happy to share a family photo with us. **63**

# ALUMNI *Class News*

## *In Memoriam*

**Eugene Chebykin '07** died unexpectedly in August 2015. His classmates are shocked, but remember him fondly and are grateful for the special times they shared together while at TASIS.

**Elizabeth Schweizer (MSP counselor 2015)** from Romana, California, passed away after an unfortunate hiking accident in Eptingen, Switzerland on August 18, 2015. Elizabeth worked at MSP as a counselor for the summer of 2015. The MSP community mourns the loss of a great colleague who was diligent in her tasks and responsive to the needs of her peers. Her work ethic will be missed as well as her distinctive smile that she carried with her. Elizabeth was a sophomore at Carroll College in Helene, Montana. She was majoring in chemistry and was part of the women's cross-country team. Her parents, sisters and brother survive Elizabeth. Her sister Sarah has also been part of the MSP family for the last three summers, and Rose joined the team in summer 2016. The TASIS community extends its condolences to the family and to all who love her and miss her.

**Erwin Poot '83** passed away in November 2015 after losing his 3-year battle with cancer. He is fondly remembered by his classmates who were pleased to spend time with him at the Istanbul reunion in 2011 and at the festivities for the official inauguration of the Ferit Sahenk Arts Center in 2013.

**Peter Randolph Hallinan PG67** died August 5, 2012. The news came from **Jay Noyes**, who wondered what had happened to his roommate and found the obituary online. "Peter was a wonderful father, artist, athlete and friend. He loved passionately, valued silence and avoided chaos. He felt the tug of ocean waves, snowy mountains and far off places. He was at home with a camera in his hands, clay between his fingers, pastels on paper and color fine-tuned on the printed page. He was a dreamer, always planning the realization of a new idea. He devoted much of his young life to the swim team at the Multnomah Athletic Club where he established national swim records. In his free time, he could be

found skiing on Mt. Hood with friends or enjoying his mother's famous cooking at the boisterous family table. He graduated from Brooks Institute of Photography in Santa Barbara, California, and used his brilliant artistic skills to work as a lithographer and digital graphic designer in Portland, Oregon, and found great success in his work and much happiness with his family."

**Peter Fields '77** died November 25, 2015, aged 56. The sad news came from his sister **PK '76**. After TASIS, Peter attended the University of California Los Angeles, and Cal State University, Northridge where he studied meteorology. Peter worked as an on-air weatherman, meteorologist, and climatologist at KNDO in Yakima, WA, WEYI TV25 in Clio, MI, KTVK-TV in Phoenix, Arizona, and KNOE-TV in Monroe, Louisiana. Those desiring may make memorial contributions to the Wounded Warriors.

**Beatrice Maresi '66** passed away before Christmas from a brain tumor. Beatrice (or "Bzee" as many of her friends knew her) led a vibrant life full of energy and light. After finding her way to Aspen, Colorado, in 1969 during her final semester at Cornell University, she was drawn to the mountain lifestyle and never looked back. Beatrice made a life in Aspen filled with skiing every day, horseback riding deep into the mountains and, most importantly to her, raising her two sons. Never one to rest easy, Beatrice poured her energy into ensuring her boys fulfilled her lifelong dream of alpine ski racing at the highest level, and she could often be seen on the side of the race course, translating Italian at World Cup coaches meetings and volunteering her time as a race official. The Aspen Historical Society and Aspen Ski Club were great beneficiaries of Beatrice's volunteerism. Later in life Beatrice found joy spending part of her time on Lake Como (her childhood home) and continued her never-ending focus on her family by finding great fulfillment seeing her two sons marry. Her grandsons always brought a sparkle to her eye and she will be fondly remembered as a wonderful grandmother. Beatrice shall forever be known as the passionate Italian-Aspen

woman who left a mark on all those who were fortunate enough to call her family or friend. **64**

**Gary Strohm '75** passed away peacefully in his sleep on January 25, 2016 at the age of 58 in Irvine, California. Gary loved the great outdoors, especially hiking, skiing, and mountain biking. He was a treasured friend to many and a wonderful listener with an equally wonderful sense of humor. Gary graduated from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh with degrees in Computer Science; he was a pioneer in the field, and he successfully built his own web-based business and contributed greatly to corporate IT operations and software companies over his 30-year career. Gary loved his family and friends deeply and genuinely and will be sorely missed.

**Nancy Johnston Trice PG67** died on March 15, 2016, after an 11-month battle with cancer. She was 68. After her year at TASIS, Nancy returned to Pennsylvania and earned a degree in English from the University of Pittsburgh. She married her husband of 20 years, Harley Trice II, and had a daughter, Emilie. Later in life, she made her career in cooking, and graduated as valedictorian of her class at the Pittsburgh Culinary Institute. She went on to work with Treon at The Cafe at the Frick, at the Inn on Negley bed and breakfast, and with Bob Sendall at All in Good Taste. In 2009, she helped prepare the food for first lady Michelle Obama's "Women of Distinction" luncheon at the G20 summit. Her interests didn't stop at cooking and baking: she was also a gifted sewer, potter, photographer and gardener, and enjoyed kayaking, bird-watching and camping in her vintage Airstream trailer. Contributions can be made in her name to Pittsburgh's Quantum Theatre or to the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts.

**True Davis III '67** died on August 2, 2004. The news came from Chuck Kitsman '67 who had been True's roommate and followed up when a piece of mail was returned. After attending TASIS, True went on to study at Northwestern Military and Naval Academy in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, then worked in the oil and

gas business, serving as president and CEO of Cardinal Oil Co. and Sandstone Resources Inc. In 1980 True married Gloria Conkle Sinnett. As well as bringing him two stepchildren, Matthew and Jennifer, this union also brought him the joy of his life and favorite fishing companion, a daughter, Virginia. Throughout his life True was an avid baseball fan and passionate follower of the St. Louis Cardinals.

**Lorene Carlston '02** died suddenly and unexpectedly in April 2015. Lorene attended Lafayette College after TASIS, then joined the Americorps Teach for America program. She was teaching in Thailand in 2014-15, but traveled home to the US when she started to feel unwell. Sadly, to no avail. She is deeply missed by her classmates and friends.

**Alex Polli '03** died in a BASE jumping accident on August 22, 2016, in Chamonix, France, after hitting a tree. This report from nbcnews.com: "Legendary skydiver and BASE jumping trailblazer Alexander Polli has died following a wingsuit crash in the French Alps, authorities told NBC News. He was 31. Polli achieved fame in the world of wingsuit BASE jumping, performing cinematic stunts captured on videos that captivated millions on YouTube. He broke boundaries in 2013 with a daring flight through the opening of 'Batman Cave' in Montserrat, Spain — a stunt that saw him drop from a helicopter and hit speeds of up to 155 mph to fly directly through the narrow opening. Video of the 'high-speed hole shot' has racked up more than 13 million views on YouTube."

Former headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner wrote of Alexander: He was brimming with life force and impossible to contain - certainly within the walls, rules and schedules of a boarding school. Despite or perhaps because of this, he won me over as Dean of Students and somehow talked me out of several certain suspensions. Ultimately he did need to depart from TASIS, but his spirit and friendships lived on. Through stories, videos and occasional visits to campus, he seemed always to be asking "Are you truly happy?" and "What does it mean to be fully alive?" **65**

# TASIS SUMMER PROGRAMS 2017

## LUGANO (AGES 4½-18)



- English, French, and Italian for ages 4½ to 18
- German for ages 11-13
- Musical Theater and Academic Writing for ages 11-18
- Introduction to the IB, Digital Photography, Architecture & Design, Fashion & Textile Design, and Italian cooking classes for ages 14-18
- Outdoor sports include lake, mountain, and creative activities
- Many excursions explore the best of the heart of Europe
- Located on the picturesque, award-winning TASIS campus with stunning views of the Alps

## TASIS ENGLAND SUMMER PROGRAM (AGES 10-17)



- Courses in Geometry, Writing & Speaking Enhancement, Middle School Skills, Debate & Public Speaking, British Council-accredited English as an Additional Language, SAT Review & College Admissions, TOEFL Review, IELTS Review, TV Production, the Magical World of Harry Potter, London Through a Lens, Fashion & Textile Design, and Sketching & 3D Design
- Sports and activities
- Weekend travel throughout Britain
- Located on a beautiful campus 18 miles southwest of London

## LES TAPIES ART & ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM (AGES 14-18)



- Hands-on study in architecture, painting & drawing, and photography
- Excursions draw on the cultural richness of France
- Idyllic location in a beautifully-restored, 17th-century stone hamlet
- Intimate artistic community for talented students

## TASIS DORADO SPANISH SUMMER PROGRAM (AGES 12-18)



- Intensive Spanish program for ages 13-18
- Marine Life & Environmental Studies course associated with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment Center
- Located on the TASIS Dorado campus in beautiful Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, with ample opportunities to interact in Spanish
- Excursions explore the cultural riches of the island

# WAYS OF GIVING BACK TO YOUR ALMA MATER

*What we are doing, or at least attempting to do, is to create not international schools but international human beings, men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth. - M. Crist Fleming*

## 60th Anniversary Campaign

This year marks 60 years since TESIS began, and in honor of this remarkable legacy we are encouraging our alumni, families, and friends to make a gift to the M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership.

This fall, TESIS opened with a student body representing 61 nations—creating a “microcosm of what the world should and could be.” **The Endowment is an important resource to ensure the long-term continuity of Mrs. Fleming’s ideals**, with the interest from the Endowment supporting and funding a variety of initiatives that carry on her vision.

In the past, this Fund has helped bring two students from war-torn Afghanistan to TESIS, both of whom are now thriving at university. It supports the Senior Humanities Program and the Global Service Program, both of which are now pillars of our School’s curriculum. It also funds the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award, the highest honor for a TESIS teacher and a key part of the efforts to encourage our excellent faculty, for so long the heart of the TESIS experience. **Funding the Endowment means support for more initiatives that bring Mrs. Fleming’s vision into a world that is badly in need of her guidance.**

Our goal for the 60th Anniversary Campaign is to raise \$600,000 by the close of 2016, and we are 20 percent of the way there thanks to \$60,000 from the estate of Nicholas Major PG '68 (part of a generous \$460,000 legacy gift) and other gifts totaling \$60,000 so far. We still have a long way to go to reach our target. Will you join us?

## The Annual Appeal

Contributions to the Annual Appeal allow program expansion above and beyond our planned operations. Funds have provided scholarships, purchased new lab and sports equipment, brought wifi and LCD projectors to campus, and equipped our new foreign language lab.

## Support the TESIS Global Village

The Global Village (see page 17) is an ongoing challenge through 2023. Naming opportunities are available for upcoming projects, and donations are always welcome to help speed up the completion of our Global Village.

## Awards or Scholarships

Set up an Award or Scholarship to reward students for achievements in a given field, or to inspire students in a particular discipline.

## Alternative Donations

Other ways to give include corporate matching gifts and corporate stock, contributions through a life insurance policy, a Charitable Remainder Trust, or a non-cash gift-in-kind. Contact the Development Office to learn more.

Thank you for all you do!

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:

- by credit card online at [www.tasisgiving.com](http://www.tasisgiving.com)

- by check to the TESIS Foundation, Inc., 112 S. Royal Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

For wire transfer information, or any other questions, please contact: [yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch](mailto:yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch)

*Donations to the US TESIS Foundation, Inc., a Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit educational organization, as well as to the Swiss Foundation, are tax deductible to the extent allowable in their respective countries.*

Informational booklets available online ([www.tasis.ch/support-tasis](http://www.tasis.ch/support-tasis)) or in print: The TESIS Global Village:

Trajectory 1996-2023, and Making a Difference:

Supporting TESIS Past, Present, and Future



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL  
IN SWITZERLAND  
*Founded in 1956*

## UPCOMING REUNIONS

### **All-Class Reunion in New York**

November 18, 2016

The Yale Club, 18:30-21:30

### **All-Class New Year's Après-Ski Dinner in Gstaad**

January 5, 2017

Contact [yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch](mailto:yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch) to find out more.

### **All-Class Reunion in Miami**

April 2017

Look out for further info - check [www.tasis.ch/alumni](http://www.tasis.ch/alumni) often

## CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 1966 and friends - 50th anniversary reunion  
New Orleans, October 14-16, 2016

Class of 2006 and friends  
Ski reunion in Gstaad, January 2-8, 2017

Class of 1992 – 25th anniversary reunion  
Lugano, June 30-July 2, 2017

Class of 1987 - 30th anniversary reunion  
Lugano, June 2017

PG '67 - 50th anniversary reunion

Class of 1998 - 20th anniversary reunion  
Lugano, June 2018