

TASIS TODAY

Fall 2022

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



Lynn the Builder

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

My mother, Mrs. Mary Crist Fleming, was a great lady, a wonderfully inspirational public presence, and she loved the limelight of center stage. I continue to remember her with love, gratitude, and admiration—as do so many of our alumni—but I have never personally enjoyed the public role in her way. For over 50 years I have been largely responsible for producing the TASIS alumni magazine, highlighting the growth of the schools and their programs while also drawing attention to the contributions of the key individuals who helped make their successes. We did this again recently in the volume I put together entitled ***Beauty and Duty***, which drew particular attention to the contributions of our colleague **Fernando Gonzalez** on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his noble, productive engagement with TASIS.

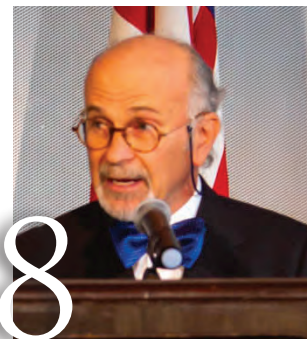
It seems strange and a bit uncomfortable for me to be the “cover girl” of ***TASIS Today*** and to have the spotlight turned on me. But I suppose, as veteran Chairman of the Board and at age 76, with serious recent and current health problems, it makes sense for me to be featured and to make some further reflections, in the hope that I shall stay alive and active enough to complete some important life projects, including the TASIS Global Village.

I am in the last generation of a family that for over 120 years has had its members involved in educational administration—the founding and running of independent schools. My grandparents, my mother, and I all founded and ran schools and educational programs, in the USA and Europe, over that period. With our family’s bequest 25 years ago to the nonprofit TASIS Foundation, I and my brother (as Foundation Board Chair) will be the last members of our family involved in this way. I am most grateful to the individuals we have brought into the organization, as board members, administrators, and teachers, who give me confidence in the future continuation of the organization and its fidelity to the aims and goals expressed in our guiding statement, the Paideia. I am particularly proud of having been able to recruit and work alongside several of them.

Despite extraordinary challenges—Covid, international political crises, currency fluctuations, competition (especially from for-profit schools)—TASIS just now is stronger than ever. Yet the number of variables with which we contend is truly daunting. The School has always emphasized academic excellence, and I hope and pray it will always do so. But the intangible qualities that make individuals and institutions really outstandingly good are often harder to identify, and thus harder to safeguard. At our best at TASIS we have always had a climate of unusual courtesy, good cheer, hopefulness, and loving-kindness, extended to all persons—teachers, staff, students. We have, and have always had, students from every imaginable ethnic background but also from painful and sometimes tragic family circumstances often completely unknown to us. Electronic manias and social isolation are a new field of distress and demoralization for young persons. Thus the competence, solicitude, concern, and loving-kindness of our administrators and teachers have never been more important.

I believe most of our alumni are beneficiaries of our academic excellence and of our ethical ethos—the latter particularly endangered today in our pluralistic but also relativistic world. As a now old woman that I never thought I would be!—I ask you our alumni to help us realize our plans for the School, to keep it alive and vigorous, a “saving remnant” of sanity and loving-kindness in an otherwise often very dark and confused world.


Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63,
Chairman of the Board



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INSIDE COVER: FUTURE REUNIONS; *BEAUTY & DUTY*

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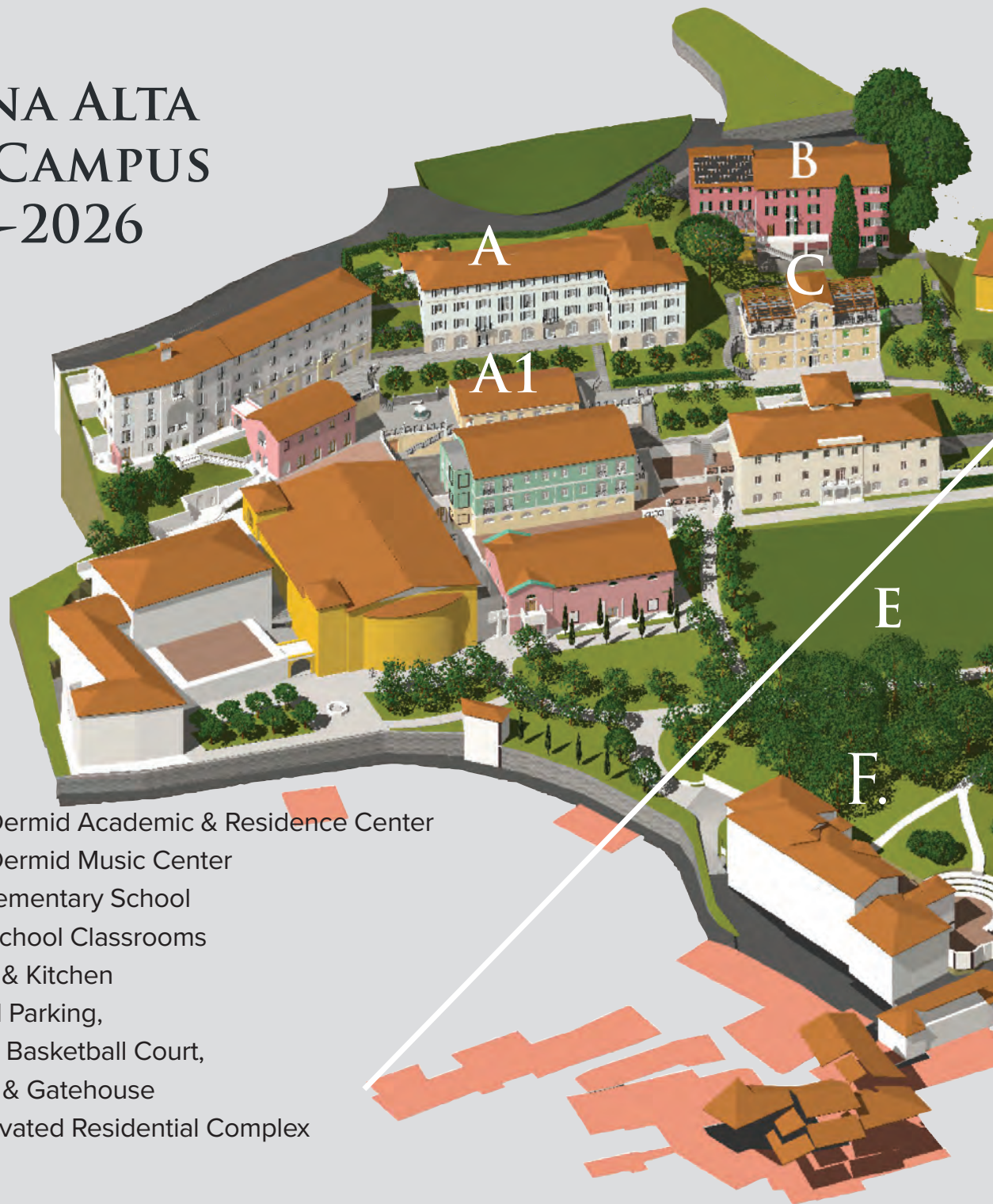
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The American School In Switzerland
Printer: Lane Press, South Burlington, VT

THE UPDATED TASIS

COLLINA ALTA UPPER CAMPUS 2022-2026



- A. Donald MacDermid Academic & Residence Center
- A1. Donald MacDermid Music Center
- B. Belvedere Elementary School
- C. Elementary School Classrooms
- D. Dining Room & Kitchen
- E. Underground Parking,
Playing Field, Basketball Court,
Greenhouse, & Gatehouse
- F. Hadsall Renovated Residential Complex
- P. Pool

The Master Plan we developed in 2020–21 and submitted as our Piano di Quartiere (zoning plan) to the Comune of Collina d'Oro at the end of December in 2021 coincided with the Comune's approval of a drastically revised Piano Regolatore, which changed the rules governing building heights and setbacks; moreover, we have since learned that the Canton has revised the setbacks from the roads along the upper campus boundary to allow for eventual road widening. We were therefore forced to withdraw the application and redesign, under the guiding hand of **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63**—meaning we were undaunted and creative in doing what's best for TASIS, maintaining the philosophy that has guided our master plans for 26 years while satisfying the new regulatory requirements.

CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

THE TASIS GLOBAL VILLAGE: OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE



COLLINA BASSA LOWER CAMPUS 2026-2030

The Master Plan currently in development to be submitted this fall retains all of the buildings from the plan of 2021, adapted to the new requirements; at one level, then, nothing has changed, and yet everything about each building—its position, height, and details—has changed. Perhaps the most noticeable difference in the new Master Plan is that the swimming pool has been detached from the dining hall and relocated across the road and below the hill from Hadsall, occupying the site of the former Valsecchi residence. This frees up more space for outdoor dining while allowing the pool itself to grow a bit.

We are committed to a campus that is a model for sustainable development on the Collina d'Oro, despite the bureaucratic obstacles that have instead sacrificed the architectural character and rapport between buildings and open space that once characterized the hillside. The TASIS campus is a globally recognized investment in traditional community building and has always surmounted the obstacles put in its way. The affection for TASIS of our alumni around the world is the best reward for that investment. The future British King Charles III commented several years ago of our Campus Master Plan that “This kind of thing gives me hope.” (See page 88)

David T. Mayernik
Master Architect

SPACES MATTER

The Global Village puts students at the heart: the way they move through buildings as their days progress; the heights achievable with state-of-the-art classrooms and equipment; areas for work, play, and rest.

TASIS is committed to creating spaces that inspire and connect our community. Bringing the Elementary School onto the main TASIS campus will bring our community together physically as well as symbolically. Shared facilities for the arts, music, theater, sports, and study will encourage children of all ages to become their best selves.

Since the opening of Campo Science in 2014, TASIS has seen an impressive increase to IB and AP test scores, an internationally recognized robotics team, and a student-led Future Medics group. In 2012, the Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center opened with light-filled classrooms and

purpose-built studios that have resulted in excellent visual arts results and art college admissions. The opening of the Palmer Cultural Center in 2009 immediately impacted the theater department, giving students and directors a welcoming, exciting space in which to perform.

Buildings change things. They are a tangible commitment to our future students.

The TASIS Global Village is an internationally recognized model of stewardship and sustainability. Completing the Global Village requires dedication, hard work, and financial support over many years. The challenge is enormous and exciting! As we realize our Global Village Master Plan, we strive also to have the most beautiful campus in Europe: a shining light for Ticino and a proud expression of America’s contributions to international culture.

CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW: FINANCING THE NEW CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

To complete Collina Alta of the Global Village Campaign, **our goal is to raise CHF 5,700,000 toward the total cost of CHF 15,000,000** to build the Upper Campus Complex of four buildings.

CHF 4,300,000 has already been pledged from donations, including the most generous CHF 3,000,000 Donald D. MacDermid legacy gift. CHF 5,000,000 will be funded through TASIS Foundation resources and bank mortgage financing.

Phase I:

A. The Donald D. MacDermid Center for Music, Academics, & Residence	CHF 9,300,000
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Phase II:

B. Belvedere Elementary School Center	CHF 3,200,000
C. Elementary School Classrooms	CHF 2,500,000

Total	CHF 15,000,000
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THERE ARE NAMING OPPORTUNITIES FROM BUILDINGS TO CLASSROOMS, BEDROOMS, TERRACES, LOGGIAS, AND PLAYGROUNDS.

Tuition income covers all operating costs of the academic year as a requirement of the TASIS Board of Directors in preparing the annual operating budgets. Annual giving provides funds for program enhancements otherwise not included in the annual budgets. Buildings are largely funded by individual gifts.

The history of fundraising at TASIS, starting in 1995, reflects significant and generous gifts, in addition to annual giving, on the part of appreciative alumni and parents for program enhancements, such as the transformational Opsahl Global Service Program.

Past Capital Campaigns include the campaigns for the M. Crist Fleming Library (2004), the John E. Palmer Cultural Center (2009), the Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Center (2012), and the Campo Science Center (2014). More than \$11,500,000 has been raised for capital campaigns to date, but we need to keep moving forward!

See www.tasis.ch/support.

For any questions about making a donation, please contact Bill Eichner, Director of Institutional Advancement, at eichner@tasis.ch.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY SUPPORTING THE NEW TASIS GLOBAL VILLAGE CAMPAIGN

Ways to Give

By credit card online:

www.tasisgiving.com

By wire transfer:

To make a donation via bank transfer, please email or call Bill Eichner, Director of Institutional Advancement, at eichner@tasis.ch or +41 91 960 5114

By check:

US donors:

Please make the check payable to the TASIS Foundation, Inc., and mail to:

TASIS Foundation, Inc., 107 S West St. Suite 957, Alexandria, VA 22314

Non-US donors:

Please make the check payable to the TASIS Foundation and mail to **TASIS Development Office, Via Collina d'Oro 15, 6926 Montagnola, Switzerland**

TASIS Foundation, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization, and gifts by U.S. taxpayers are deductible as permitted by law (tax ID#13-6225772). Gifts by Swiss citizens to the TASIS Foundation are tax-deductible within the limits fixed by the donor's canton and the Federal government in Bern. For other countries, please consult your tax advisor.

SIMPLE, BUT NOT EASY— THE INGREDIENTS OF A SCHOOL

by Christopher Nikoloff, Headmaster



These days I find myself pondering the distinction between “simple” and “easy.” Education is simple, but not easy. Much of life is simple, but not easy. According to the Online Etymology Dictionary, simple means a folding into one, a unity, or from the 14th century, “unqualified; mere; sheer” and “clear, straightforward; easily understood.”

Easily understood is different from easy. When Mrs. Fleming said her recipe for a school is simple, she did not mean easy; she meant easily understood, but hard to do. What are Mrs. Fleming’s simple ingredients for a school? A “commitment to study, sports, the arts, and responsibility to others.” A beautiful property filled with young people and caring adults. The excitement of learning and life. All of these ingredients fold into one great school. I will focus on just a few of them.

Mrs. Fleming began with “a commitment to study” because a school’s primary obligation begins with academics. At TASIS, we are a knowledge-based school, having organized our curricula into four categories: 1) academic knowledge; 2) academic skills; 3) essential questions; and 4) big ideas. Knowledge comes first because sequenced and coherent knowledge in all academic disciplines drives all higher order thinking. We want students to deploy academic skills, ask essential questions, and wrestle with big ideas, but these are only possible with background and foundational knowledge. How can I use thinking skills with nothing to think about?

On August 26, TASIS hosted four guests on the importance of a knowledge-based curriculum:

Nuno Crato, former Minister of Education in Portugal and a current member of the Board of Directors for TASIS Portugal; **Natalie Wexler**, leading educational author on the importance of knowledge in curriculum; **Erica Herro**, Assistant Head for Academics at TASIS Portugal; and **Gina Anderson**, Lower School Director and Core Knowledge Coordinator at TASIS Portugal.

Among the many insights during what was an edifying and inspirational day for our faculty, Natalie Wexler emphasized the importance of background knowledge to reading comprehension while Nuno Crato demonstrated that much of learning is civilizational, not natural, requiring repetition, spacing, memorization, and meaning to transfer knowledge from short-term to long-term memory. Promoting knowledge in a school's curriculum is a simple idea, but it is surprisingly not always easy to do.

Mrs. Fleming adds “a commitment to sports and arts” to her recipe for a school because a full education doesn't stop at the boundaries of the classroom. The belief in a well-rounded education, including co-curricular activities such as athletics and performing arts, is one of the hallmarks of an American education. Steve Jobs famously studied calligraphy, for instance, which unbeknownst to him at the time became the basis for the beautiful fonts he incorporated into the early Apple computers. We engage in co-curricular activities not only for their usefulness but also for their intrinsic value. They are both a means and an end.

Continuing with Mrs. Fleming's recipe, a school should promote a “responsibility to others.” Why? For one thing, how many of us believe that the world could use more smart, capable, but evil or amoral people? Any educational program, either implicitly or explicitly, communicates a moral aspect. A school invites students to work to fulfill their potential, but we also have to ask, potential for what? Education without

ethics is like a “what” and “how” without a “why,” or a ship, however sturdy, without a rudder or ballast. The inscription from Rabelais in our own Campo Science Building warns, *Science sans conscience n'est que ruine de l'âme* (Science without conscience is but the ruin of the soul).

At TASIS, we are reflecting on how to be as kind as possible with the thousands of small acts on campus each and every day. Heads of the TASIS High School **Mark Abisi** (Academics) and **KC McKee** (Student Life) reflected on kindness at this year's Opening Assembly. Dr. Abisi reminded us to fill up each other's buckets instead of taking from them; Mr. McKee demonstrated how advances in genetic knowledge show that we are all part of the same family.

Our Middle School Math Chair and Khan-Page Award winner **Patrick Alava** has a quotation on his email signature from Mrs. Fleming, one of my favorites: “Even small steps, but taken daily, start producing results—a kind word, a helping hand, an effort to speak another language, an offer to help someone small, weak, hurt, or sad.” TASIS was founded to make the world a better place, but we can do so with the small but impactful steps we take everyday with those in our immediate community.

One of the most learned of men, the great writer Samuel Johnson, asserted that “Man needs more frequently to be reminded than to be instructed.” That which we need reminding of is often simple, but not easy, hence the need for reminding. Society is full of vectors that draw our attention in many different directions; schools like TASIS serve to return us to the simple ingredients that promote human flourishing. Simple, not easy, and worth aspiring to every day.

I look forward to a wonderful year and send my gratitude to the entire TASIS community!

HOPE IS A CHOICE

*Excerpted from the 2022 Commencement Address
by Prof. David T. Mayernik, TASIS Master Architect*



David T. Mayernik at Graduation

I'm a teacher, and an architect and artist who mostly gives talks on buildings and art: I can't remember the last time I spoke to an audience without slides! I'll have to rely on you for the images: later I'm going to ask you to use your own memories and imaginations. But first we should take stock of where we are.

TASIS Class of '22, you've lived a challenging few years of high school. And I don't just mean the snack bar that was promised but never opened. I promise, I had nothing to do with that.

From the looming and very real threats of climate change, to a global pandemic, to a war in Europe the likes of which no one thought they would ever see again, your world has been rocked. The long term challenges your generation will face, especially the shortage of resources in an increasingly hotter and drier world, can seem like an impossible burden.

Partly because, at least in the West, we've known mostly peace and prosperity since World War II, we don't know how to deal with crises in the short term, much less the long term. And I mean deal with them psychologically, both individually and collectively. The global mood, and I am thinking especially about young people today, seems to be despair. The sense that the good times have passed, that the future will not necessarily be better, and that the present isn't so great either, is natural. The news bombards us with reasons to despair, and maybe rightly so. We seem to be sleepwalking into a nightmare future.

You should realize, though, that the world has been through tough times before. And often out of those deadly decades some people still managed to do great things. The famous lines spoken by Orson Welles in the movie *The Third Man* go like this:

After all, it's not that awful. You know what the fellow said—in Italy, for thirty years under the Borgias, they had warfare, terror, murder, and bloodshed, but they produced Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and the Renaissance. In Switzerland, they had brotherly love, they had five hundred years of democracy and peace. And what did that produce? The cuckoo clock.

OK, so Welles later learned the cuckoo clock was made in Germany. But the point had more to do with what happened in Italy. The Renaissance happened in spite of the times.

I want to focus today on one single resource that is at great risk, and without which we cannot survive.

Unlike many other resources, it's often been close to disappearing, even before the scale of modern consumption. I want to suggest it's the most important resource you all need to cultivate, and for which you are uniquely prepared. I'm talking about Hope.

What is Hope? Is it wishfulness? That makes it sound impractical, or unreasonable. Does it have something to do with optimism? If pessimism and despair go hand in hand, first believing the worst and then giving up hope, optimism and hope seem to be related. But what is optimism? Most people would use the "glass half full" analogy. But seeing a 250ml glass with 125ml of water as half full isn't optimism, it's spin. It's interpreting a situation in the most favorable way possible, rather than dealing with it. An optimist isn't the person who sees the glass as half full, the optimist thinks there must be more water out there somewhere to fill the glass. Optimism isn't about how things are, it's about how things will be, or can be.

Optimism is a hopeful point of view. But hope is a conviction. It's not certainty, because mostly the things you hope for are out of your control. Hope is about the possible more than the probable. Hope doesn't offer guarantees.

Hope is hard work. In a world that will disappoint you often, to hope is an act of will. It's easier if you've experienced reasons for hope, if you've had a taste of a better world. I would argue that, at TASIS, you have.

You come from 36 different countries, and out there in the world they don't always get along. But at TASIS you've had to share dorm rooms, classrooms, dining halls, and gyms. You have read in the same library, climbed the same flights of stairs, sat on the same benches. You have been a community, and not

just you but the teachers and all of those who have made your life here what it has been. Community doesn't just happen. It takes respect, courtesy, and responsibility.

And, as the architect of the campus, I would argue it doesn't just happen anywhere either. Public life happens in public space: places where you feel ennobled, places that encourage lingering and encountering. Think of a collection of buildings like a group of people. The buildings that know how to share space, to shape space, to collaborate and get along, make a better public world. The TASIS campus is made of buildings of many different shapes, sizes, and colors. They don't get along because they are all the same, but because they all share a similar purpose.

If you can call to mind the fresco painted above the door in the upper loggia of the Palestra, you have a hopeful image of mine. It tells of the Choice of Hercules where, after he's made his club he'll use to perform his labors, the hero sits down to rest. He's visited by two women who represent a choice of two options, Vice or Virtue—a life of ease in a shady grove, or the hard, rocky, uphill path to fame. The Palestra was the first major building of our master plan, and you have to imagine that above it was just an open hillside. There was no Fiammetta or Lanterna with its arch looking out to Lake Lugano. I put a trowel in the hand of Virtue to suggest building is a heroic act, and she points uphill to the buildings yet to be built. I thought they wouldn't happen for decades, but **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman** and TASIS made them happen within 10 years. So, my hopeful fresco came true.

We always champion in our master plans at TASIS the spaces between the buildings—the stairs, the terraces and piazzas. I'm sure that some of your

most memorable times at TASIS have happened in those spaces. And those spaces, like community, don't just happen. They take determination and purpose, civility and grace. Pride, but not egoism. The experience of that kind of community should give you hope. I'd like you to take a moment to remember a positive encounter you've had with a teacher or a classmate in one of those places. And I invite you to take that memory away with you when you leave.

But maybe all of your hopes didn't come true—the grade you wanted, or the date you wanted, or your team didn't win. Hope will hurt. To hope is to be vulnerable. There's an expression, hoping against hope—hoping in the face of the hopeless. Not having hope is safe, it's risk-free. If you give up hope, you may never be disappointed. But you will also never be rewarded.

Hope is a habit that needs to be formed early in life. An old American joke describes the person getting married again after a couple of divorces as The Triumph of Hope Over Experience. As you get older, experience can weigh you down, can make hoping harder. But I hope for you that, at the beginning of your adult lives, you have had the kind of experiences that will actually fuel your hope. Because you'll need it to make a positive impact in the world.

My image of hope is **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63**. What I most admire about Lynn is that she never seems defeated because she always has hope there's a solution to every problem. Which is not to say that Lynn isn't critical. Hope is not about romanticizing how things are—remember the half full glass—but how things can be. Mrs. Fleming's founding of TASIS was a great declaration

of hope. Lynn is that declaration's most stalwart manifestation. Her hopefulness has built the campus whose memory you will cherish after you leave.

Hope builds up, it doesn't tear down. Hope collaborates, it doesn't isolate. Hope trusts, it doesn't resent. Without hope, which is what despair means, we will not build a better world in the face of our many challenges. We will retreat, hide, or even destroy to protect ourselves. Hope is no guarantee, but without hope there is no hope. Hope is a choice. It's a resource that continually wells up if we go digging for it. We need hope. You need hope. And you, TASIS Class of 2022, are our best hope. Cultivate that resource. We are counting on you.

*Prof. **David T. Mayernik** is the Master Architect of the TASIS Schools. He is Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame, near Chicago, from which he graduated cum laude in 1983. David is a fellow of various institutes, including the American Academy of Rome, where he does most of his teaching in the Notre Dame program there. He is also a painter and designer and the author of articles, book chapters, and books, including a guide to several great Italian cities illustrated with his own drawings, Timeless Cities. David has won awards, prizes, and commendations in the US and Europe for architecture, urban planning, and landscape design. These include awards for the TASIS campus here in Montagnola, on which he has been working for over 25 years with his patron, colleague, and friend, **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63**. The campus we enjoy today is largely their creation. We were gratified to welcome this visionary, versatile, multimedia artist and intellectual back to the campus he has done so much to shape and build. —Dr. M.D. Aeschliman, May 2022. See also page 88.*

OF EXILE AND TOGETHERNESS

Enjoy glimpsing a remarkable young mind;

written and read at graduation by Valedictorian Alexia Dochnal '22



When Polish poet Czesław Miłosz returned home in 1981, crowds of people welcomed him at the airport with tears in their eyes, bearing flowers and gifts. Miłosz had spent almost 50 years living in the United States, exiled from his native land—however, he continued to write poetry in his mother tongue, and is celebrated as a national hero in my home country today.

In his “Ars Poetica,” one of my favorite poems, Miłosz writes: “The purpose of poetry is to remind us how difficult it is to remain just one person.” Miłosz’s quotation suggests that by navigating our way through the challenges and complexities of life as “one person” alone, we bear a heavy, “difficult” burden—for to celebrate our humanity is to celebrate the power of shared experience. According to Miłosz, it is up to “poetry” to “remind” us of the central role that togetherness and community play in our lives.

I wonder if during today’s commencement ceremony, we can consider the word “poetry” as used by Miłosz here, to be synonymous with the word “education.”

One of the greatest gifts that my TASIS education has given me is the space to recognize, explore, and cherish the idea that all of us, as human beings, share this beautiful, startling, and wonderful world. Living in community not only makes our everyday endeavors more exciting and more fruitful; it also imbues our lives with wonder and meaning.

Throughout my high school career, I have had the privilege of probing the great questions of literature and of life under the guidance of **Dr. Christopher Love**. In 9th grade, our Honors Introduction to Literature class delved into the mystical worlds of Homer’s *Odyssey* and Plato’s *Republic*. When reading these works, we studied the structure of the ancient Greek city-state, or *polis*. In Plato’s ideal city-state, individuals support, sustain, and nurture one another, united by an aspiration towards the common good. Citizens contribute to the *polis* not only through a commitment to their own success, prosperity, and well-being, but through a sense of shared responsibility and communal engagement. In the ideal city-state, to care for one’s own interest only is to remove oneself from the collective good; to neglect the crucial importance of community is to choose a brutal form of exile.

Over these past four years, I have grown fascinated with representations of exile in art and literature. A loyal student of the arts and humanities, I feel incredibly fortunate to have attended a school whose founder viewed the arts as “the heart and soul of education.” Thanks to Mrs. Fleming’s legacy, TASIS both encourages and presents its students with meaningful opportunities to engage with art in all its forms.

Throughout these years, I have had the honor of studying Roman sculpture and Renaissance painting with **Mark Aeschliman** in Art History; of deepening my love for classical ballet and piano; and of studying Dante's *Divine Comedy* while roaming the streets of Florence with Dr. Love's Honors World Literature class. I have come to learn that the greatest works of art have often been underpinned by a sense of exile. Artists across time and space have written their greatest masterpieces while distant from their native lands, ranging from Dante, who wrote his iconic epic exiled from his beloved Florence, to Chopin, who wrote most of his piano works exiled from his birthplace.

Perhaps, then, in art and in life, the concept of exile is universal. If we define exile as a sense of estrangement or alienation from a place that feels like home, then each of us has experienced exile at some point in our lives. We can feel exiled from a place on earth, from those around us, or even from our own selves. But we can also experience exile together.

In 2020, the world as we knew it suddenly changed following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. School shut down, borders left campus, and Zoom became our new classroom. All of us, for the next few months, would experience a strange form of exile. We were physically exiled from our beloved campus, but we were also figuratively, and maybe spiritually, exiled from the concept of community that had been foundational to our high school experience. We felt a longing to return not only to external conventions of normality but also to an abstract, intangible sense of togetherness.

For many of us, the exile that we experienced during the pandemic deepened our appreciation for the aspects of everyday life that we had previously taken for granted and overlooked. We felt new rushes of joy and excitement when heading to in-person classes and assemblies; we cherished each moment of casual conversation with our

friends. And today, as we enjoy this delightfully normal commencement ceremony, we realize that even in the face of unprecedented challenges, our community has clung to hope and emerged victorious.

The student-led groups and initiatives that came to life during the pandemic—such as the Students for Social Justice Club, the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion group, and the TASIS Literary Magazine—as well as the wide-ranging efforts made by the groups like the TASIS Speaker Series, the Sweet November Dance Company, and the Global Service Program to sustain their mission while adapting to new circumstances, are testaments to the strength, resilience, and sense of shared aspiration that our community has shown in this challenging time. I feel truly honored to have been a part of these initiatives and am deeply grateful to all of the students and faculty members who have supported, contributed to, and led these groups.

During our final meeting of the year, our IB Literature class read an extract from Aimee Nezhukumatathil's *World of Wonders*. In the extract, the author poetically describes the migration routes of monarch butterflies. Monarch butterflies complete their journeys from Mexico to North America across generations. As new butterflies are born, they continue the voyage from where their ancestors left off until they reach their final destination. The young butterflies carry the legacy of those who came before them as they step into new stages of their journey across oceans.

All of us graduates gathered here today will soon join new communities. By moving to the next stage of our life's journey, however, we are not by any means exiling ourselves from the community of which we have been a part thus far. Rather, we are carrying all that we have shared at TASIS with us like a generational treasure, just as monarch butterflies carry forth the flight of their ancestors.

To conclude, I would like to echo these words by Miłosz, the poet with whose story we began today's commencement address: "It is sweet to think that I was a companion in an expedition that never ends."

Alexia Dochnal '22 is a freshman at Yale University, where she is studying Comparative Literature to continue her passions for creative writing and the

performing arts. She was chosen to take part in Yale's Directed Studies program (directedstudies.yale.edu) due to her "truly exceptional academic record and broad intellectual interests." Alexia is the first student in TASIS history to achieve a perfect score of 45 on the International Baccalaureate examinations.

GRADUATION AWARDS 2022

Excellence in Art

Najedah Tamer



The Horst Dürschmidt Award for Excellence in Photography

Matvey Kolesnichenko



Excellence in Architecture and Design

Olivia Garcia-Atance Arimont



The Bertha Seifert Award for Excellence in Music

Sarah Sofya Rappoport



The Kay Hamblin Award for Excellence in Theater

Filipp Ermakov



Excellence in English as an Additional Language

Alina Leger



Excellence in Modern Languages:

Carly Bachofen and Payton Clardy



The Cynthia Whisenant Award for Excellence in English Literature

Alexia Dochnal



Excellence in History

Carly Bachofen



The Shah Akbar Khan Award for Excellence in Mathematics

Noe Matozzo



Excellence in Science

Marcello Mastronardi



The Salutatorian Scholarship Award

Alejandra Cova



The Valedictorian Scholarship Award

Alexia Dochnal



The Headmaster's Award

Valentina Alencar Barros



The ECIS Award for International Understanding

Zhamilya Mussaibekova



The Jan Opsahl Service Award

Carly Bachofen and Payton Clardy



The Michael Ulku-Steiner Leadership Award

Alessandro Carlesimo



The H. Miller Crist Award

Alejandra Cova



To learn more about this year's winners, visit tasis.ch/blog.

MASTER TEACHER AWARD 2022



Master Teacher Federica De Bianchi

*On June 10, during the final all-faculty meeting for 2022, Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff announced Middle School Italian Literature Teacher **Federica De Bianchi**, who has taught at TASIS since 2006, as the recipient of the 2022 Khan-Page Master Teacher Award. Below is the Headmaster's citation.*

This teacher started her career at TASIS as an Elementary School teacher but found her home in the Middle School, where she has been able to spread her passion and deep knowledge of literature and poetry. This teacher is a very humble person who is always questioning herself and constantly trying to improve, not only by teaching a high level of academic content, but also by teaching critical thinking, creativity, analysis, and drawing connections. She always tries to find ways to keep the students engaged by making the literature, characters, and important writers come to life.

Her caring and compassionate personality and her commitment to academic excellence are the essence of her journey as a teacher. Her ability to help students connect their lives with what they read and write, along with the literature they study together, allows her students to grow both intellectually and personally. Her students find in her a comfortable space where they can open up and confide in her, both on an individual level and as students in a classroom. She

has helped students to better express themselves and find confidence in themselves through the unpredictable years of middle school.

Every year at the end of the *Inferno di Dante* unit, students create their own Inferno, often showing an impressive understanding of the original masterpiece. In her endless efforts to impact her students' lives and support those whose native language is not necessarily Italian, she has brought to the Middle School new projects and new pedagogical strategies, some of which are now part of the entire MS curriculum, such as the 8th grade *Tesina*. [This is a written essay connecting a topic in the three subjects taught in Italian—History, Literature, and Art History. Students orally present their essay to a faculty team of evaluators including Federica. This is similar to the exam that Italian students take at the end of middle school. -Ed.]

She has done so in a humble and unpretentious way, only focusing on the students' benefit and learning. Because of her, an American middle school can proudly claim to promote exceptional students in the field of Italian Literature. She is a true ambassador of Italian literature to our students.

She is one of those teachers whom former students return to after they move on from her class. Some of them will never forget her tears while reading about the death of Clorinda in Tasso's *Jerusalem Delivered* or her passion explaining and paraphrasing Dante, Petrarch, or Ariosto.

As a colleague she is generous, empathetic, a special listener, and ready to help out whenever possible. She is a loyal person and has very strong work and personal ethics. She is hardworking, consistent, goal-driven, positive, and spreads joy and enthusiasm without drawing attention to herself. It is my honor to present the 2022 Khan-Page Award to **Federica de Bianchi**.

CELEBRATING MASTER TEACHERS



TASIS Master Teachers: Melody Zaneccchia, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Kerry Venchus, Mark Aeschliman, Peg Crockett, Amy Bloodworth, Brigitte Cazebonne, Carolyn Heard, Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff, and Patrick Alava. Not present: Cynthia Whisenant, Giorgio Volpi, Mario D'Azzo, and Dr. Brett Merritt.

Marking the start of a new annual TASIS tradition, Headmaster **Christopher Nikoloff** and Chairman of the Board **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63** hosted a dinner for all Khan-Page Master Teacher Award recipients in Casa Fleming on the evening of December 3, 2021. Eight of the 12 winners of this prestigious award, which is named in honor of two exceptional teachers who taught in the TASIS family of schools for many years—**Akbar Khan** in Mathematics and **Max P. Page** in English—were present for the occasion.

Khan-Page Master Teacher Award

Bestowed annually since 2009, the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award recognizes an exceptional teacher who represents a high standard of professional pedagogy, possesses advanced subject-area

knowledge, has a capacity to convey the joy and importance of learning to students, and demonstrates a fundamental sympathy with the aims and goals of TASIS as expressed in the Paideia.

The Khan-Page Master Teacher Award is an initiative supported by the M. Crist Fleming Endowment and was proposed by the TASIS Foundation in 2009. The award is funded by the TASIS Board of Directors as part of its broader efforts to support and encourage the faculty as the heart of the TASIS experience and the center of the School's improvement in future years. Candidates may teach in any grade level but must have taught at TASIS for at least five years to be eligible for the award, which comes with a monetary prize of CHF 5,000.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

FALL 2021



TASIS opened the 2021–22 academic year with 684 students from 57 nations, including our youngest students, the TASIS Class of '36! This included 478 returning students (87%) and 206 new students—and 19 students are the children of TASIS alumni! Covid protocols, including an on-campus testing center, ensured safety for our community. Swiss regulations had eased somewhat, so students were able to enjoy a number of activities that couldn't happen in 2020, including an evening for High School students on Lake Lugano.

TASIS Speaker Series—Once again the TASIS Speaker Series enlightened our students with conversations and ideas that challenged their thinking. The first guest of this year's series was renowned theoretical physicist and astronomer Dr. Marcelo Gleiser, the Appleton Professor of Natural Philosophy at Dartmouth College and the first Latin American winner of the Templeton Prize. His keynote address focused on questions that “have an impact for the kind of people we are, for the way we look at

life, for the way we think about the world, and for the way we think about the future.”

CNN journalist Daniella Diaz came to TASIS in February to discuss the three characteristics—courage, kindness, and humility—that helped propel her from an ambitious high school student to an on-air reporter, and how these three qualities can be applied to any situation as students strive to achieve their goals at university and beyond.

In March, Innosight partner **Pontus Sirén '89** came to campus to discuss his varied and rich background, which includes earning postgraduate degrees from the University of Glasgow and Cambridge University, founding a biotech company, completing Finnish military service, and serving as an EU official. Pontus encouraged students to have broad experiences and acquire a range of skills instead of being fixated on one discipline and being in a rush to build the perfect CV.



Hadsall boys in front Capanna Prodör

Weekend Adventures—As part of our revamped Academic Travel program (see p. 46), our students spent many weekends exploring Switzerland by hiking to remote Alpine huts and exploring nature. Trips included Prodör, San Gottardo, Lago Ritom, Olivone, San Bernardino, and more. Our Elementary School children got in on the action, too, spending October 22 exploring Bellinzona castles, llama trekking, touring Isole di Brissago, and hiking up Monte Bré.

Academic Travel—Fall 2021 destinations for high school students included Venice, Florence, Rome, Santa Margherita, Munich, Heidelberg, Zurich, Leysin, Bern, and Lausanne. Tenth graders went on Outward Bound in Baad, Austria. Our middle schoolers explored the Gstaad area and even learned to make an igloo.

The Performing Arts are Back!—Our TESIS thespians, dancers, backstage crew, and directors were delighted to create performances for live audiences! In November the High School Theater Program gave outstanding performances of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. Just before Thanksgiving break, the Sweet November Dance Company presented *Rain*, a beautiful dance showcase featuring both classical and modern dance performed by TESIS students, faculty, and families.

Holiday Cheer—A snowstorm in early December quickly brought winter cheer to the Collina d'Oro. The TPA created its cozy Winter Garden on the Kay Hamblin Terrace for the second year in a row and hosted a Holiday Market to raise funds for Service Learning programs. TESIS hosted the annual Christmas Service in the Palestra, which featured many students and faculty members contributing with their vocals, instruments, and readings. Just before the winter holiday our youngest students presented their Christmas Concert, including ten jolly holiday songs.

SPRING 2022



The International Food Fair on the Kay Hamblin Terrace

International Week—Always one of the most memorable experiences for TESIS students, International Week 2022 was a celebration of cultures and languages. Elementary school students participated in a Parade of Flags and dance party at Al Focolare featuring world music. Other activities included the annual World Cup soccer tournament, a student vs. faculty volleyball match, a performing arts global showcase, a bake sale, and, of course, the International Food Fair.

TESIS Travel—High school students visited a number of locations including Venice, Lausanne, Vienna, and Siena. More than 200 students took to the slopes in Engelberg for a riff on the traditional TESIS Ski Week, enjoying skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, sledding, and spending time together. Middle schoolers visited St. Moritz for four days of playing in the snow. In March, our seniors traveled to Davos for their final adventure together as a class. And over Spring Holiday, our first Global Service Program trip went to Thailand to work with OurLand, a wildlife reserve and education center located at the southern

tip of the Western Forest Complex and Salakphra Wildlife Sanctuary. They visited three types of wildlife sanctuaries to learn about ethical elephant tourism, talked to those on the front lines of human-elephant conflict, and helped out locals when and where they could. Also during Spring Holiday, a group of students and faculty trekked 40km of the Via Francigena, on the Camino to Rome medieval pilgrimage trail. A trip to complete the second leg of the trip is scheduled for fall 2022.

On With the Show!—High school students gave excellent performances of the Broadway smash *Into the Woods Jr.*, which includes iconic fairy tale characters Rapunzel, Red Riding Hood and the wolf, Jack and his beanstalk, and Cinderella.

Alumni Return with Wisdom—In late May, four TASIS alumni returned to campus for a panel discussion about the university application process with 11th graders. **Ella Abisi '21, Filippo Cipolini '19, Jacopo McConnell '18, and Jorge Otaola '12** discussed the importance of work experience and telling a personal story to admissions teams and why organization and structure are crucial to the process.



Our youngest students explore Valle Versazca during the Summer Programs

Summertime, Again!—We're delighted that our Summer Programs sold out this year. Over the course of two sessions, 740 students representing 55 nations came to the Collina d'Oro for a summer of learning, adventure, and travel. The Summer Programs are an excellent introduction to TASIS and a wonderful way to share the TASIS experience with children. Over 20 alumni children attended the Summer Programs this year.

Correction: In the 2021 issue we announced the Board Awards and Commendations that paid tribute to a number of faculty and staff members who went above and beyond the call of duty during the tumultuous first months of Covid-19.

High School Head of Student Life **KC McKee** was omitted from this prestigious list. KC received *Commendation for extraordinary, selfless service*



to TASIS during the health crisis of 2020, with great appreciation from the Headmaster and Board of Directors. We apologize to KC for this oversight and thank him again for his dedication to our community.

RESORT COLLINA D'ORO

Hotel, Apartments & SPA



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

LYNN THE BUILDER



Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 wears a lot of hats. Officially, she's Chairman of the TASIS Board of Directors and Chairman of the Board Campus Development Committee, and she also served as Vice-Chairman of the TASIS Foundation Board. She's the first "TASIS Lifer" who spent most of her education at TASIS. She's a wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, granddaughter.

She's a founder, mediator, entrepreneur, and savior of old buildings. She's an educator. She's a visionary.

Some of these titles she would refute; "visionary" might seem arrogant, and Lynn isn't one to brag. But it is undeniable that TASIS is the school it is today because of Lynn's foresight, her audacity, her fearlessness. As well as her unwavering commitment to TASIS: its past, present, and future; in this, she is not unlike her mother.

THE EARLY YEARS

For generations of students, **Mrs. Fleming** felt like a mother. Of course, she was the real mother to Lynn and her older siblings **Tom** and **Gai**. Growing up in the orbit of someone as dynamic and fearless as Mrs. Fleming left an indelible impact on Lynn in particular. "I was raised by a single, divorced mother," Lynn recalls. "I was expected to work. My mother was never visibly discouraged. Even as a child, she gave me great opportunities and expected me to perform."

As a child at TASIS, Lynn was as involved in school life as any other child. One of the earliest stories her mother told of her was when, as a five-year-old, after learning of a teacher's absence, she marched into the classroom and began teaching the students from an upside-down book. Lynn loved drama productions and photography. She made brownies and cakes and sold them at the school store and made sure students had cakes on their birthdays. Her kindness toward others has remained a core value throughout her life as she has quietly supported and guided countless others.

Like many alumni, Lynn credits TASIS and Mrs. Fleming for shaping the life she has lived. One particular legacy imparted by her mother is the importance of inspiring buildings, and the impact that these have on people. "Beautiful spaces were just part of my life,"

she remembers. “As a child, we lived in old houses, a garage, a tool shed, a greenhouse—all of which my mother transformed.” This has resulted in an uncanny awareness of spaces. Nearly every story Lynn tells begins with an explanation of the setting, the view, the light, the furniture. She can visualize the potential of a place, be it a room, an old building, a complex of buildings, or an expanse of open land ripe for construction or protection.

As a teenager Lynn had considered a number of career options, including veterinary medicine and even surgery; she spent months doing work experience with a surgeon aunt in California. She enjoyed photography and the thrills of car-racing and flying airplanes and even parachuting from them. Culture has always inspired her, particularly architecture. So when, in 1968, Mrs. Fleming bought a remote property in Tuscany, Capitignano, with dilapidated farmhouses and barns and a crumbling chicken coop, Lynn spent a year restoring and developing the main villa, and periodically over subsequent years several others. She befriended and employed local craftsmen and used local materials to make the buildings habitable—and beautiful.

Lynn first met her “life and soul companion” **Michael Aeschliman** in 1966 while they were both students at Columbia University in New York. She returned to New York from transforming Capitignano and they got together, getting engaged in 1972, marrying in 1974, and living in New York City for several years before returning to Europe. In the mid-1980s they went back to the US, where Lynn started an architectural restoration business in Virginia. Her first client was herself; she found one of Teddy Roosevelt’s crumbling hunting cabins, moved it to a more hospitable place, and created a home for her family. This was the first of several disintegrating 18th-century wooden buildings in the Charlottesville area that Lynn bought, moved, then renovated using recycled materials. Lynn has a gifted eye; “I can see how to

renovate an old building, and what it will become. I love the challenge of creating new uses for existing spaces. It’s problem-solving, because there is always a solution, one just has to be creative.

RETURNING TO EUROPE (AND TO TASIS)

After renovating the TASIS England campus in the mid-1970s, and living in the US 1984–1993, with her own annual summer programs in French Switzerland and southern France, Lynn and her family returned to Europe in the mid-1990s. Mrs. Fleming put her to work advising on potential buildings for present and future TASIS programs—new buildings, stately homes, and even châteaux. At one point Mrs. Fleming considered relocating the School to Geneva because the Montagnola campus was so small and difficult to expand. But Lynn saw the potential and possibilities for growth, through acquiring more land and developing a campus plan. “The Collina d’Oro is a beautiful place. This is the legacy, it’s here, I felt: with the alumni loving Lugano, and the memories they have—it’s incredible the attachment people have. Especially the boys of Hadsall!” So her focus was on improving and expanding the Lugano campus.

Twenty years before, Lynn had been thrust into overseeing the TASIS England campus and the school too. In the late 1990s, to perpetuate TASIS, the Fleming family decided to donate the Schools and properties to the TASIS Swiss Foundation. And as Mrs. Fleming, Lynn, and Tom Fleming began figuring out how to structure this development, they realized that each school would need its own Board—a new concept for TASIS, which had always shared funding from program to program, school to school. “I realized that TASIS Lugano needed to be independent,” Lynn says, and dived into the numbers to find a way.

“Michael often says I have education to the bottom of my fingertips with the experience I’ve gathered



Lynn and husband Michael Aeschliman

in a lifetime with my mother and starting my own programs and schools,” Lynn says. She had been considering opening an elementary school in Lugano for 25 years but was unable to get permissions in place. But in 2005 it was finally possible. “My mother asked, where are you going to get the kids? And I reminded her that she started TASIS with only nine kids, plus her own three. She always believed in starting small, begging or borrowing students and funds along the way, and doing a damn good job. And then it grows.”

Indeed, it did grow. “It took off so fast the first year that we had to keep moving locations. We had 45 children the first year, 90 the second—it was staggering. And the timing of things was really important. We hit the market just right.” This was certainly part of the success, but also critical was Lynn’s understanding that TASIS needed more profitability, and expanding enrollment to include more day students was the answer. Currency fluctuations, international political turmoil, and so many other uncontrollable factors affect international schools, and Lynn’s foresight has ensured that the School remains in good financial stead.

“My life is filled with extraordinary providential encounters, and making something out of them,” Lynn says. Some might call it a nose for perfect timing, but Lynn has a deep faith in God, and the serendipity of one particular meeting set the stage for the campus as we know it today.

A REMARKABLE PARTNERSHIP

In the mid-1990s TASIS needed a new gymnasium. Building something of that stature on a restricted campus required magical thinking. Mrs. Fleming asked Lynn for help, and Lynn agreed but only if the budgeting was transparent. The initial proposed design was hyper-modern in style, “a big box crashing into the hill.” As a classicist, Lynn saw this as incoherent to the existing elegance on campus. On a broader scale, however, Lynn also was frustrated that there was no cohesion, no vision for the future of the campus.

Around this time, Lynn and Michael visited the French Riviera village of La Napoule to view a château she was considering for a summer program. A program for architects run by an American university was on at the time, and Lynn met with a few of the architects—all modernists; but one of them mentioned another architect who was also in La Napoule, a classicist.

So Lynn approached **David Mayernik**, a brilliant draftsman and University of Notre Dame-trained classical architect. “We were having breakfast on a stone table overlooking the sea. And he invited me to see his work...he really knew how to draw!” Lynn told him that TASIS was about to embark on a new gymnasium and how ugly it was. She mentioned the lack of a master plan. And she invited him to Lugano.

David remembers a similar story. “Our exchange went something like this:

L: Young man (I was 36), I hear you’re an architect.

D: I am.

L: I like classical architecture.

D: I’m a classical architect.

L: We need a master plan for our campus in Switzerland.”

A few days later, David was in Lugano on a campus tour given by Lynn, **Fernando Gonzalez**, and then-Headmaster **Chris Frost** with a running commentary about the School’s history and Mrs. Fleming. David recalls, “Just before I was to leave for my train Lynn said, ‘So, young man, if we hired you what would you propose doing?’ I realized that this was maybe a make-or-break question, so I decided to lay my cards on the table. There was a map of the campus and Certenago, and I put my hand over Certenago and then over the land around Monticello—both about the same size—and said, ‘You could build Certenago around Monticello and preserve the rest of the campus as green space.’ And Lynn exclaimed, ‘You’re hired!’”

So began a partnership stretching nearly three decades of joy, stress, and revisions that has resulted in a campus that is among the most beautiful in the world. David and Lynn envisioned a village sympathetic to the historic buildings in the vicinity and on the campus, intertwined with elegant new buildings housing state-of-the-art classrooms, gathered around green spaces for work and play. “It’s the most difficult, confined, restricted building space David has ever worked with,” Lynn recalls, and yet they have made it happen.

The obstacles began when David’s classicist style jarred with the Ticino planners, whose focus was on modernist design. But Lynn doesn’t quit, she pivots. She tracked down the elderly man who wrote the

“building code bible” for Ticino. “We found him and told him that we couldn’t move forward with David’s design with the code written as it is. So this man suggested we could follow the code by making new buildings contiguous to others, so instead of building new, we’d just be creating additions to the existing buildings.” This was a crafty breakthrough that allowed for the first of David’s creations, the Palestra gymnasium, to be built in 1999, and echoes David’s initial thoughts about Certenago: creating a true village atmosphere, buildings fused to complement each other and inspire those who use them.

“Lynn and I have adapted, but we have never really compromised, in the sense of sacrificing our principles,” David says. “It’s a bit of a chess match, since rightly or wrongly the Collina d’Oro, and much of the world, has made building new Certenagos effectively illegal. Things are changing for the better in the US, and in the UK, but Switzerland is a bit behind.” Building codes and zoning regulations are driven by a hyper-modernist agenda: “from Bauhaus to our house.”

The achievements have been impressive: nine new buildings have been erected in less than 25 years. The School has also acquired and adapted several properties to expand the campus. Lynn and David remain steadfast in their commitment. “I feel invested in it, to say the least,” David says. “And like Lynn, I like challenges and don’t shrink from battles. But most importantly, I think we’re doing something really important, not just for TASIS but as a model of how the Collina d’Oro, Ticino, and the rest of the world should be building: concentrate new buildings into compact village or urban environments, and preserve larger areas of open green space as a consequence. If the area around the campus had done the same thing over the last 70 years, much more of the historic landscape of the Collina d’Oro would have been

preserved. It's a model of sustainable development. And it's a community. Most architects don't get the chance to see something of this complexity realized over such a long period of time. I feel lucky."

The newer campus buildings already include a number of sustainable features, such as groundwater heating, geothermal pumps, double-glazed windows, and efficient air conditioning systems. But Lynn wants more: renewable energy, solar panels, even generating its own power. Ambitious, but not for Lynn and David.

As Michael says, "They're a great team because he's enormously gifted, and Lynn is a very intelligent patron who is also visually very adept. She has a very advanced understanding of space utilization, interior decoration, and the School's practical needs. And so the two of them have proved to be an extraordinarily effective working partnership."

A CRITICAL FUTURE

Lynn has focused much of her energy on completing the Global Village Master Plan—in whatever incarnation it may be, once the planners and Collina d'Oro comune agree. Why is this project so important to her?

"My mother raised me to finish what I started," Lynn says. "And if I hand it over, nobody will have the drive, interest, or taste that is required to do it well. I don't trust anyone else, or a committee, to have the chutzpah, the perseverance."

David describes the Global Village path so far as a contradiction: "At some level it has felt like a long time since we started. At another, the campus has grown quickly in spurts—like a jasmine plant—that have been the result of bold decisions on Lynn's and TASIS's parts. Michael likes to tell Lynn that life is a marathon, not a sprint, but the reality is our campus master plan has been realized in what seems like a series of sprints over more than two decades! That's very much Lynn in action."

Lynn is the last of four generations of educators who, for over 125 years, have educated children in beautiful buildings and inspiring surroundings. Spaces can change the way children learn: "it's architectural, but also instructional and educational," Lynn says. "As much as I can, I will continue this trajectory."

David adds, "I think Lynn sees the campus plan finished in her mind as much as I do, and wants to make it real. Partly, I think, because she sees herself as her mother's heir, not just of TASIS but of the taste that shaped all the choices of the TASIS campus locations across Europe."

Lynn's energy and dedication would be impressive for those 20 years younger, but her efforts are even more astonishing when coupled with a number of health complexities. She has lived with Multiple Sclerosis since a diagnosis in the late 1970s, has had unpublicized major surgery in Florence and Zurich, and in the past six years has had surgery on her lungs for cancer. This year has not been easy either, with severe complications and rehabilitation required after heart surgery in May. "Until recently I never allowed these issues to become public knowledge," she says, "and I have always tried to keep them from limiting my effectiveness, but for the near future I shall concentrate on recuperation and firing up the new Master Plan to get permission to start building in the spring." Lynn's doctors have promised that the heart operation and proper convalescence will bring her another 15 years of life—enough to complete the Global Village! "I need massive help from our alumni and parents to ensure that we can make this dream into a reality while I am still here. My mother used to say nothing was impossible, but difficult things can take a bit longer!"

Lynn's exceptional life remains true to the core threads that sustain her: her religious faith, her commitment to TASIS, caring for others, and love of family. "I have tried



to build buildings that aren't just buildings but places of high-quality education and community, based on my family's view that while times change, true values don't." Lynn saw the potential of the Lugano campus when she was a child, and herself benefited from it, and that has sustained her involvement to this day, creating a place that will continue to attract and inspire children and families from around the world—and what better legacy than a true Global Village?

KINDER THAN OUR KIND DESERVES

I tramped on the Autobahn south from the Rhine,
Slept rough in the truckstop latrine,
Ate little or nothing for days at a time—
Oh what a sight to be seen!

She's kind unto animals, students, and strays,
For she counts it a pleasure to serve.
So she puts them to work and then sends them away:
'Cause she's kinder than our kind deserves.

My belly was empty, my wallet was light.
But she gave me a bed and a meal.
She chatted so friendly till dark of the night,
Then took me to graveyards to steal.*

She's graceful and pleasant, and harder than nails—
She accelerates driving through curves—
And we're grateful whenever her goodness prevails
'Cause she's kinder than our kind deserves.

She sent me on errands of shopping and toil,
For cheese and for wine and for meat,
And she knew if I faltered, or shyly recoiled,
We'd none of us have 'aught to eat.

She'll stiffen the back of a weak-hearted fool,
She faces the future with nerve,
And she pours out her passion to build up a school,
'Cause she's kinder than our kind deserves.

* *"graveyards to steal"* —A local Tuscan church had thrown out some old grave stones and left them



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

outside the local cemetery. Lynn got visiting student Will and her husband Michael to save them and cart them away.

*Written for Lynn's 60th birthday and first published in Grace Under Pressure, a volume of tributes published for this occasion, in January 2006. **Rev. Dr. William Schumacher** has served as a Lutheran-Christian missionary and teacher in several African countries with his wife Tamara and their children. He is a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.*

THE LADY HAD SPOKEN

Of the countless meetings I had with Mrs. Fleming over the many years I spent at TASIS, I can't remember many where the subjects of style, character, quality, standards, and discipline didn't come up. Her dedication to delivering the highest standard of education in a beautiful setting was her 24-hour motivation.

I was at TASIS from 1981 to 1998, and for those who remember those years TASIS was in an expansion phase and much was happening, it seemed daily, that required meetings with MCF who, as many of you remember, wanted to move at warp speed. This was prior to the formation of the TASIS Foundation and Board, but they did little to slow her down.

During that period, a part-time list of proposals and current operations included, besides TASIS England and TASIS Lugano, TASIS Hellenic, TASIS Cyprus, TASIS France, Geneva, and several summer programs. MCF applied her filter to all these programs and none would proceed without seeking the best headmaster, the best teachers, the best facilities, the best staff, the best curriculum, the best location, and a campus to be proud of.

No campus would have a second-rate theater, theater being a passion of MCF. The facilities had to include not only a theater and a theater program of excellence but a beautiful campus, solid academics, and the arts.

How important was this triple minimum?

Let me give you a good example.

During the 80s there was at TASIS in Lugano, mistakenly, the feeling that Lugano was too isolated and removed from the international scene to grow and prosper and to have an elementary school. There was an offer from Geneva of a large K-12 school, well regarded, for sale. The owner had health problems.

MCF, a Francophile, loved the idea of being in a French-speaking canton. We set out immediately and were greeted in a suburb of Geneva by a charming owner and headmaster. This man had developed a fine school and Geneva was a prime location for an international school. And there was a lower school.

The school was big and well-maintained. I was enthusiastic, as were several TASIS staff members who were with us. I thought we had landed on an ideal situation. That was until I had dinner with MCF the next day.

I am paraphrasing now, but when I asked her what she thought of the campus and the possible move to Geneva, this is what she said. The campus was well-run but charmless. The buildings were all functional and serviceable but drab. This is not a TASIS school.

I said that our market would be Geneva. She said I don't see this as a TASIS school. Yes, the location was good, but we have a standard and this just doesn't meet that standard. Case closed: the lady had spoken.

Let me return to my comment about how mistaken we were about the future of TASIS in Montagnola. TASIS was in an absolutely beautiful setting. The old buildings and facilities needed an upgrade. But what it needed most was a market. And that's where Lynn stepped in and performed the jewel that now sits on the Collina d'Oro. Through all of this talk of Geneva, Lynn was adamant that we were mistaken about our assessment of Lugano.

Lynn, who had the same commitment to Beauty and Duty that her mother had, turned the TASIS Lugano campus into the splendid village it now is and, to boot, built a prosperous lower school. Her mother, MCF, would rejoice if she could see the campus now. A jewel of a finished campus that can justifiably claim to be the most beautiful campus in Switzerland: academically

top-rated in a jewel of a setting. May we all have such standards.

*First published in Beauty and Duty in May 2022. **Paul Zazzaro** was Administrative Director at TASIS from 1981 to 1998 and a close personal friend of Mrs. Fleming and the Aeschlimans before, during, and after that period.*

KINDNESS, PATIENCE, CHARITY, FORGIVENESS

It is impossible for me to imagine Lynn in any state other than as I knew her ten years ago—as an inexhaustible source of radioactive energy, like the sun, powering and giving life to everything in its sight; the focus of gravity that held everything in the institution in its proper orbit. I can't imagine Lynn in any other form than that, and I can't imagine TASIS without her clear vision and her huge presence and influence.

But there is more than that for me personally! Lynn is perhaps the most Christian woman I have ever met, and by that I mean she publicly and unapologetically staked her religious ground, then tried to hold herself to that standard. She tried to conform her thoughts, impulses, and deeds to her faith, which is an extremely difficult thing to do and the opposite of what most of us do. The kindness and patience, the charity and forgiveness that she extended to me personally remains the most important thing I have taken away from my six years at TASIS—more important than all the lovely experiences I had living in that beautiful part of the world; more important than any technical aspects of my craft or CK or reading instruction or whatever. It is Lynn's example and her kindness to me personally, extended from one person to another person, that has endured and that I cherish most!

***Nyman Brooks** served as Head of the Elementary School for six years.*

WE WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



The TASIS Board of Directors: Marco Ornaghi, Sara Rosso Cipolini, Lyle Rigg, Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, Mathias Mühlhofer '95, Carla Arimont '94, Lars Titland

We are delighted to announce the two newest members of the TASIS Board of Directors, **Carla Arimont '94** and **Lars Titland**.

Carla was a standout boarding student at TASIS for six years, earning both the Valedictorian Award and the highest honor—the H. Miller Crist Award—in her final year. Her connections to TASIS are deep; sister **Barbara '92**, brother **Miky '00**, and niece **Valentina**

'19 also attended TASIS. Her son **Sol '24** is a current student and daughter **Olivia '22** graduated in the spring, winning the Excellence in Architecture and Design Award.

The Founder and Managing Partner of Lincoln Leadership Advisors, Carla is a firm believer in constant growth and development. Throughout her 15+ years of experience in talent management, she

has provided coaching to more than 500 senior professionals, and she brings more than 25 years of experience in executive search to her Leadership Advisory practice, offering a well-structured and deeply rooted understanding of how leadership skills are identified, assessed, trained, and nurtured.

Fluent in Spanish, English, and French, Ms. Arimont has extensive professional experience across diverse industries in North America, Europe, and Latin America. She has cultivated her expertise in talent management and executive coaching through a trajectory of work with various international organizations, including the United Nations (Washington DC), Seeliger & Conde (USA & Europe), Drax Group (Europe), and Lincoln Leadership Advisors. She is also a Board member of EADA's Business School and Vice President of the Spain-US Chamber of Commerce.

Carla holds a joint Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs and Diplomatic Studies from George Washington University and Georgetown University and a Degree in French Civilization and Literature from Université de la Sorbonne.

Following his military service as a cavalry trooper, **Lars Titland** studied Art History at the University of Oslo and received his Bachelor's in Economics from Copenhagen Business School and Master's in Economics and Business Administration from Copenhagen Business School's International Business Program with an average grade of 10/ Outstanding.

Lars subsequently worked for 25 years in the finance industry. He was a ranked equity strategist in Credit Suisse First Boston, worked in corporate finance in CSFB and DVB Bank, and was portfolio manager and partner in hedge funds at Pamplona Capital Management and Langlade Capital Management. He also served on the board of Odfjell Drilling, a leading

European offshore drilling contractor, and is a current board member of Hafnia LR shipping pool. With his wife Marianne, Lars now manages the London family office for Odfjell Capital, which has a broad range of financial interests.

Lars and Marianne—an active member of the TASIS Parent Association—moved to Ticino in 2016. Their talented daughter Caroline is thriving as a day student at TASIS.

A warm welcome to Lars and Carla. We are grateful for their commitment to TASIS.

LIGHTING THE WAY

The pull of TASIS is decades-strong for **Curtis McGraw Webster '75**, who retired from the TASIS Board of Directors earlier this year after serving since its inception. He has shown remarkable vision, leadership, and commitment to TASIS and continues to be one of the School's most consistent and generous donors. We are so grateful to Curtis for sharing so much of his time and resources with our community.





Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Donald MacDermid '61, and Curtis McGraw Webster '75

Curtis first stepped onto the TASIS campus in 1966 when he and his family were visiting his half sister Debby, who was attending TASIS. Less than a decade later, after attending the Princeton Day School and the Lawrenceville School, he found himself back at TASIS as a student.

Curtis was interested in how TASIS operated even when attending TASIS. He wanted to know why things were as they were, how the budgeting worked, and how and why decisions were made. Perhaps it was inevitable that Curtis would eventually be a member of the TASIS Board of Directors for nearly two decades and also become one of the School's most benevolent donors.

Mrs. Fleming's influence had a lasting impact on Curtis, particularly her incredible ability to remember names. Curtis eventually learned about Mrs. Fleming's meticulously-studied "face books"—created decades before the founders of the social-media giant were even born—which included the names and photos of everyone in the student body. Curtis took this tactic into his professional life. To this day when he meets someone in a new situation, he writes down the

person's name and takes notes in a steno pad to study, memorize, and recall when needed. It's a particularly effective technique to make everyone feel like a valued individual—of course, one of Mrs. Fleming's superpowers.

Since Curtis graduated, he has made an annual donation, always on behalf of the Class of '75, with his generosity through the years having grown to total over a million dollars. He has always felt a sense of ownership towards TASIS. In the early 2000s, when he was approached by the development director, **Dr. Frank Klein**, Curtis concerned himself with how the School was approaching development. He visited the campus to spend time with Dr. Klein and renew his relationship with Mrs. Fleming. At the time, the School was transferring ownership from proprietorship to the TASIS Foundation, and in 2005 TASIS reached out to Curtis to be a founding member of the Board of Directors. Curtis graciously said yes.

From 2005 to 2021, Curtis and the Board helped steer TASIS through a number of transitions, world events, and even headmasters (Curtis served on several Head of School searches). And while Curtis doesn't connect the stewardship of his gifts with his time on the Board, his commitment of both time and money is worth celebrating. The work that the trustees of schools do is critical, and the hours that Curtis put in throughout the years have most certainly resulted in a more robust position for the School.

Curtis feels the travel program is a key asset for the school as an educational tool that opens up students' minds. Indeed, when he returned to the US after graduation, he felt he was a world traveler when compared to his parents! But even more important for Curtis are the service learning programs. When Curtis was involved with the Development Board in the early 2000s, Dr. Klein asked him to join a service trip to Romania with TASIS students. The experience resulted

in a five-year-plus commitment to chaperoning student trips to Romania to meet abandoned children living with HIV. This flows into his philanthropic interest in youth services and his work with Dr. Klein's Assisting Children in Need non-profit dedicated to improving access to education, medical care, and independent living for children around the world.

Curtis also has a passion for music. He owns a state-of-the-art recording studio in New York called the Vertical Corporation that has hosted global chart-topping artists. He has written original music for the theater and worked on sound design for productions in New York City and at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Scotland. He continues his involvement in the performing arts by serving on the board of the Blue Curtain Foundation, which supports young performers, international artists, and new music.

As President of the Curtis W. McGraw Foundation, Curtis oversees the non-profit's support of the arts, education, medical research, and social services programs, working with over 130 groups annually. Of particular interest has been HIV/AIDS outreach and research in addition to educational and environmental causes, along with youth outreach programs. He is also the President of the Lisa McGraw Figure Skating Foundation which supports individual figure skaters and figure-skating professional and arts organizations. He has also served on the boards of the Princeton Hospital Foundation, Patriots Theater Foundation in Trenton, New Jersey, and currently, the Blue Curtain Foundation.

For Curtis to have a regular history with an institution and giving to it regularly for so many years is a testament to his belief in TASIS. One of the fascinating and unique points of the School is the dozens of nationalities and how the community faces world events as united global citizens. The coming together of personalities and cultural history results in a uniqueness that is unlike any other American boarding school, as TASIS is nurturing



Mrs. Fleming cuts the ribbon to open the Aurora building with Fernando Gonzalez, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Nilda Lucchini, Bill Eichner, and Curtis.

the future leaders of our planet. We are immeasurably grateful to Curtis for his exceptional commitment to TASIS, which has helped light the way for our School in ways that will echo for generations to come.

With Gratitude for Curtis

Curtis and I served on the TASIS Board since 2005. As an illustrious alum, his astute and attentive perspective always added depth and consideration to all our various discussions and enterprises. I enjoyed our many interactions immensely and Board gatherings do not feel the same without sitting across from Curtis during meetings or catching a ride with him to the Bellavista. TASIS is fortunate to have the dedication and loyalty of outstanding individuals like Curtis. I look forward to our paths crossing again soon, on campus or elsewhere in the world. —**Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, Vice Chairman of the Board.**

I am forever indebted and grateful to Curtis for his loyalty, generosity, and wise service to TASIS since I asked him to be a founding member of the Board of Directors in 2005—a memorable luncheon. *Grazie di cuore* to my dear friend Curtis. —**Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Chairman of the Board**

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TASIS TAKEAWAYS

Yvonne Procyk looks back with fondness and gratitude



A few months have gone by since I finished working, and it's time to reflect on my TASIS experience. Naturally this is a partial and totally subjective view, and certainly not exhaustive, but I'd like to share a handful of the memories that are most meaningful to me. Of necessity, there will be some dear friends whose names aren't even mentioned; I hope they won't be upset or think I've forgotten them!

First of all, and how could it be otherwise, I must mention my everlasting gratitude, admiration, and affection for **Mrs. Fleming** for her vision in founding TASIS, and for the dedication shown by her daughter, **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman**, and many, many others whom I was

privileged to work alongside over the generation I was at the school.

Before starting at TASIS in 1994, I had worked seasons and moved around a lot. The warm and nurturing environment at TASIS allowed me to develop and blossom, to discover my organizational skills, and all in the company of interesting people. In a sense, I came home when I found the school. Home to what was important to me, what I cared about, and what my own schooling prepared me for while also making use of the experience I had developed in the intervening years in the hotel trade. And I reveled in being part of a multinational community.

My first 12 years were spent working in close contact with the student body, first as Headmaster's Assistant and then as coordinator of big events like Commencement and Family Weekend. I have some wonderful memories of students and faculty, annual events like Arts Festival, and the Grand Fete for Mrs. Fleming's 90th birthday in 2000 with the extraordinary original musical composed right here on campus by **Todd Fletcher**. But it's the 13+ years that I spent as the Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations that have been the most rewarding and the most memorable. It's not surprising really; I had the great pleasure of interacting on a daily basis with thousands of TASIS alumni from all the years of the school. And indeed from multiple schools.

Although I enjoyed *all* the reunions and events and visitors, some special moments and individuals stand out. What would be top of my list? I suspect it would be a lunch in Palm Springs when the late **Steve Maloney PG '61** renewed his friendship with **Alicia Brauns '82**

and met **Jeanie Cunningham '75**, leading to the three of them collaborating on Steve's magnificent project *Take Me Home Huey*, the documentary of which later won an Emmy. Alicia figures in another of my most moving memories when she brought her dad Jack Brauns to campus to meet TASIS students, sharing his memories from being interned in a concentration camp during World War II. We were all so enriched by that remarkable visit!

I have to admit to having a soft spot for our alumni from the 1970s—this is my cohort as I would be class of '76 myself, and this group is so enthusiastic about their memories of Mrs. Fleming and their time at the School, and of **Angelo Piattini** and his sandwiches! I love the way the 70s crowd has had numerous multi-class reunions, and even those who didn't overlap while at school are now the closest of friends. The Big Bang Reunion in Lugano in 2014, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the class of '74, is a textbook case of how to plan and hold a reunion. We had so many laughs!

During my years in the office, I was really happy when we could offer additional opportunities for our alumni. I was very pleased that we were able to offer four or five alumni hikes over the years, planned and led by **Peter Boynton '69**. The participants discovered some beautiful parts of the Alps during these hikes, augmented by miscellaneous and intriguing bits of info gathered and shared by Peter.

Memories of the 60th anniversary of TASIS in 2016 fill me with warmth and pride. Everyone on campus worked so hard to make that a huge success, with the Gala being simply the culmination of a year of celebrations on the website and in the community. We were so fortunate to have such a wonderful team in the Communications Office making that happen.

TASIS has a multitude of talented alumni, and **Michele Josue '97** is one of those. I saw professionalism and

creativity in action when she designed memorable events for us on campus for the Gala Openings of the Palmer and the Şahenk Centers, bringing marvelous honoree alumni to campus to help us celebrate. She also helped us with reunions in the LA area, and it was a special moment when she won an Emmy for her movie *Matt Shepard is a Friend of Mine*—on the night before our LA reunion!—and brought the Award with her to the reunion.

The TASIS community is broad and diverse, and when our alumni office in Lugano took over the communications for the alumni who had attended the TASIS schools in Greece, Cyprus, and France, little did we know how successful that would be, and how much fun! Greece in particular, having operated for 25 years, has a large group of alumni—all with the same sort of affection for their experience that we know from the Lugano alumni. The Greek reunions have been wonderful, and quite different from all the events we held elsewhere. I also hope to read in a future *TASIS Today* that the Cyprus alumni have returned to the island to hold a reunion. One of my regrets is that the pandemic interrupted the planning toward that.

The years were made up mostly of days in the Alumni Office, and I have very fond memories of being in Casa Fleming (Mrs. Fleming's former bedroom) for ten years and sharing the office with **Zuleika** and **Michelle**. We had lots of laughs and were sometimes asked to close our office door so that our gales of laughter didn't disturb meetings taking place downstairs! Finally, two sweet and fun memories: MCF cookies, always a talking point when they appeared at a reunion; and ghostwriting the contribution to Lynn's 60th birthday tribute book from her dog Baux. Great memories! I take these and so many more with me to my new life in Vienna. If you're visiting any time, get in touch (yvonne58procyk@gmail.com), and maybe we can grab a *kaffee* together!

COMPELLING CHARACTERS

In a recent essay, **Yvonne Procyk** wrote: *TASIS is special; its compelling character comes directly from its Founder's vision and manifests itself in an international community, a family really, steeped in beauty. TASIS alumni remark on this again and again, especially when returning to campus, and appreciate anew the privilege they had as teenagers growing up in such a rare environment. A privilege that I share and acknowledge wholeheartedly.*

The idea of TASIS as a “compelling character” extends to those who inhabit it, including Yvonne herself. As Associate Director of Alumni and Development for nearly a decade and a half, she has been the unifier of hundreds of compelling characters, our alumni, through her meticulous planning of all-class reunions, assistance with local reunions around the world, and efforts to keep in touch with countless alumni.

Yvonne grew up in England in a Polish-Dutch family and made the move to Switzerland in 1979 to try it “for a couple of years.” Yvonne moved to Lugano in 1990 and started at TASIS in 1994 as Headmaster’s Assistant, coordinating events and publications, and as Board Chairman **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman’s** assistant. After living in the US for two years to work with Foundation Board member **David Hicks**, she returned to TASIS in 2008 to work with Alumni and Development.

After retiring in March 2022, Yvonne spent a few months traveling and wrapping up life in Lugano. She moved to Vienna in September, where she will indulge her passion for opera, art, and culture. **Heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Yvonne for her extraordinary commitment to the countless compelling characters who make up our global alumni community.** She will be sorely missed.

TRIBUTES TO YVONNE

Carissima Yvonne, TASIS will never be the same without you as you have been a true treasure. I’ve loved knowing you over the years...discussing alumni affairs, working with you—twice—in my role of MCF in *MCF: What a Life!*, seeing you in NYC, and discussing opera.

Speaking of opera, you have chosen the perfect city for your next chapter. Vienna embodies your many characteristics: cultured, sophisticated, and efficient. You will be living in the former musical capital of the world and can immerse yourself in Mozart, Beethoven, and Strauss. *Tanti auguri speciale! Benedictions et Bisous* —**Elisabeth Crawford ’66**

Time with Yvonne was always filled with color, entertainment, and surprises. We shared unforgettable meals with students and teachers at charming local restaurants. Yvonne was always cool, level-headed, and energetic, especially during horrific, unpredictable moments such as when our new rental car blew up with me behind the wheel. We were stranded on the side of the road, but Yvonne sent a new car and arrived at the scene without batting an eyelash. Yvonne was so focused on her work and helping others, she has no idea how much she helped me with my writing skills. I will always remember her wisdom as brilliant guidance.

While I was working on TV shows at Warner Brothers, Yvonne coincidentally organized a reunion at the Warner Brothers lot. During my lunch break it was wonderful to see Yvonne scouting the lot for her upcoming event. Yvonne will be truly missed at future TASIS reunions. I will always be grateful for her finding a variety of fantastic locations that included thoughtful details such as Mary Crist Fleming and TASIS paraphernalia.

Yvonne spreads light and wisdom with her wherever she goes. She has an ability to connect people together

that sparks synergy. Yvonne's invitation to visit the studio of a TASIS alumni artist, the late **Steve Maloney PG '61**, started out as a fun adventure. I had met Steve during a week at TASIS celebrating the opening of the Ferit Şahenk Fine Arts Building.



Yvonne and Steve Maloney PG '61 in his Ride-Em Copter in Palm Springs

Yvonne's underlying desire to bring Steve, TASIS alumni singer and composer **Jeanie Cunningham '75**, and me, a filmmaker, together in Palm Springs changed my life. Moments after our amazing tour of Steve's art house, Steve commissioned me to make a film about his current art project because he had seen my documentary *The Mosaic of Life* screened at TASIS. Steve also commissioned Jeanie to write a song for this project. Working on Steve's *Take Me Home, Huey* documentary was an honor, as I witnessed him and his art heal and prevent Vietnam veterans from suicide. It was an eye-opening, and at times heart-wrenching, experience that concluded with our film winning an Emmy.

Kudos, cheers, and gratitude to Yvonne! As she enters a new chapter in her life, I know she will always be a light and continue to bring positivity to those around her. —**Alicia H. Brauns '82**

Yvonne is a true professional and a delightful person. She handled all the arrangements for my sculpture, *The Next Step*, to be shipped to the TASIS campus in 2013.

Yvonne was a great alumni pen pal. She took a personal interest in each of us, which was amazing. She also had the stamina to attend all the reunions... around the world. Yvonne was a great communicator and connector for TASIS. She made many friends as alumni director and I am honored to be her friend.

—**Mary Seyfarth, PG '66**

I first met Yvonne in October of 2010 at an all-class reunion in Los Angeles at the Getty Center. We soon became friends and began exchanging emails about my experiences at TASIS and my love for the school. We shared our thoughts, our love, and our respect for Mrs. Fleming on numerous occasions. We met again in February of 2014 at another all-class reunion in Los Angeles at the Warner Brothers Studios.

It was in 2013 that a few of us started planning the Class of 74's 40th and 70s graduates' reunion in Montagnola in 2014. During the 14-month planning period, I worked with Yvonne almost on a daily basis. Without her enthusiasm and assistance, our BIG BANG LUGANO REUNION in June of 2014 in Montagnola wouldn't have been possible. It was a dream come true, and we owe Yvonne big time for making it happen. The 70s students dearly love and respect Yvonne. We will miss her, but she will always remain in our group and in our hearts. —**Roubik Aftandilians '74**

Yvonne Procyk, during her long—near a generation—tenure at TASIS, responsible for much of alumnae relations and endowment, in countless, thoughtful diverse actions and deeds, fostered and helped sustain, for worldwide alumni, a connection to TASIS, often, for them, decades on.

TASIS was Yvonne's life's work, an endeavor she devoted her utmost energy to. Her actions have contributed much to establish a strong foundation in alumni relations and giving, one that will inform much that transpires in the future.

Yvonne exuded, in the course of her efforts with alumni located all over the world, an innate sense of goodwill that, enhanced by an engaging tone of voice and manner, evoked a sense of wellbeing among us and towards our alma mater. The alumni events Yvonne curated animated thousands of greetings, smiles, and reminiscences that rekindled the TASIS ethos.

A great foundation on which Yvonne built, TASIS as an ideal informed, animated, and guided Yvonne's actions. She found many of us lost in history, bringing us back to our past and, thereby, reaffirming for us the degree to which TASIS Informed, animated and guided us into what became our futures. I am personally indebted to Yvonne for this gift.

Yvonne did much to remind alumni that great schools such as TASIS are remarkable because of an outstanding built environment, and, most importantly, because of the outstanding caliber of teachers, staff, and students, all contributing in their own way, as Yvonne did aplenty, inspiring the academy as a place of wonder.

Yvonne's TASIS legacy will, to paraphrase an old song, echo down the years, and the watch words

will be these, 'Yvonne, Yvonne here's to thee, thank you for a job very well done. You enriched our lives. Guide thee on.' —**Christopher Hyland '66**

I don't think anyone, even Yvonne herself, really knew what her job description entailed. She kept track, organized and identified the thousands of alumni/ae in each and every one of Mrs Fleming's myriad of programs—not to mention the increasing number of programs established by Lynn Fleming Aeschliman.

I am a Class Agent (PG '66), and Yvonne not only knew every agent but also many classmates in each of our classes or programs. Yvonne became an active member, a co-alum if you will, omnisknowledgeable of agents and class members in EVERY one of TASIS's classes and programs. I can safely speak for every class or program coordinator in saying that we will miss Yvonne and thank her for making US look good in keeping track of everyone and keeping us abreast of our friends' varied and often crazy (TASIS-style) adventures. She also welcomed past participants back to campus, showing them the changes, and making us feel welcome and as belonging as we felt when we left. This also included organizing class gatherings and all-school reunions that included dinners (both at school or at favorite Lugano restaurants) and trips to favorite locations, past school locations, and our cherished Val Verzasca! In addition, she coordinated myriad successful international gatherings in foreign and sometimes new-to-her locations. And then there was fundraising, successful fundraising, and promoting Lynn's Global Village that today approaches being more than just a village! We wish you well, Yvonne. Keep in touch, and best of luck in Austria! —**Ned Lynch, PG '66**

THE INNER LANDSCAPE

Through experiences, we discover who and what we are. —Mario D’Azzo



Mario D’Azzo serenading TASIS students

Mario D’Azzo is speaking on Zoom from a sunny corner of his home in Montagnola. Despite the distance, Mario exudes the warmth and joy that he brought every day to our community during his two decades at TASIS.

Born in Pavia, a town 70 kilometers southwest of Milan, Mario and his family moved to Sicily when he was three. The island left a significant mark on his life and shaped what Mario calls “the inner landscape,” an aspect of life that he sees as critical to the full human experience.

The myriad joys found in Mario’s inner landscape include the things his students and colleagues will most remember him for: his humor, his passion, and his music.

The Troubadour

Mario picked up a guitar at 16 and began composing his own songs. Soon after, he met a singer/composer who was on the brink of fame, which sparked Mario to focus more seriously on his own music. “I recognized

something in him that was also deep within myself, a precise feeling of having stories to sing, from the heart.”

Part of why Mario chose to study *lettere e filosofia* (literature and philosophy) at the University of Milan was the opportunity to study history, to understand the stories of societies and communities from around the world. “History is the group. Literature is also the group, the church, society, the law, but through the individual. But I was still missing something, and that is when my spiritual path came in.” Mario began what has become a lifelong study of religion and spirituality to further understand the human spirit, the soul—the inner landscape.

All of this came to inform his songs. Mario favors an intense, short style of songwriting that stems from learning his craft in the 1970s. “Songwriters were able to say something significant and meaningful,” he recalls of this era, when songs became more than just entertainment. “Music is a language that transcends verbal expression and touches deeper points in the individual,” he says. “It’s the highest language we know.”

Mario was still at university when his songs landed him a recording contract with Polygram. He made his first record in 1978 and spent three months on the road performing. It was a strange world for Mario; he was used to studying in the evenings rather than singing in discos after midnight.

Eighteen months later, Mario was pulled into a meeting with Polygram’s president and the artistic director about his second record. Mario sang some of his new songs. “The president thought the songs were fresh and light. But the artistic director was of another opinion; he said it was time to punch people in the stomach with a song.” Mario’s response? “I said, I think we are here to purify rather than pollute. And that was probably not

the right sentence because they broke the contract two days later.” It was disappointing, and caused Mario to reframe his world for a time; he went back to university and to studying, but the songs came anyway.

“Certain phrases come to the surface and you don’t really understand why they come,” he says of songwriting. “They have a rhythm and a tone, and you are curious: what is the source, and what duty do you have? Once you find the shape and sound, they become a vehicle to understanding the meaning of life.”

The Teacher

While Mario was making music, he was also teaching Italian at the Southern California Institute of Architecture’s European Studies program, where he worked for nearly a decade. The teaching schedule of four days a week gave Mario ample time to write, read, and compose, and by the end of the 1980s he had made his second record.

By 1992 Mario had signed with a new label and released his third record, and while the label took care of distribution, the promotion was minimal. Mario quit his job with SCI-Arc and he and his band spent three years on the road, including playing his song “Apro le mani” for the Eurovision song contest (it’s on YouTube!). For his fourth record, he broke with his label and began producing himself.

A few years later, while teaching at Istituto di Lingua Italiana in Lugano, he was put in touch with (now retired) TASIS teacher **Nilda Lucchini**, who called him in for a meeting. His first day at TASIS was in September 2000. “I thought I would have time to make music and compose,” he says, though learned that teaching at a boarding school involved teaching six classes, coaching, working in the library, and advising students. “I thought I’d leave by Christmas,” he laughs.

But he stayed; “I found ways to renew myself.” He found teaching International Baccalaureate (IB) courses particularly interesting as he was able to teach literature. The overlap between songwriting, languages, and literature is the bedrock of Mario’s work. “I love the diversity of sounds,” he says; combine the rhythm of sounds, of words, and even of entire lessons, and it is easy to see how someone with Mario’s talents was so comfortable in the classroom. His students remember his passion, his joy, and, of course, his jokes. “Teaching is a serious thing, but you can’t take it too seriously.”

Mario particularly enjoyed creating the curriculum for his IB classes. Choosing texts for the IB meant he could both teach things he enjoyed and watch students as they took in information from a variety of sources and composed their individual realities and inner landscapes. Authors such as Dante Alighieri, Rumi, and Lao Tzu were always on the syllabus. “I am proud of having prepared the students for their exams and given them tools to expand their views of the world and the meaning of life,” he says.

Students will fondly remember Mario’s performances at all-school events. He also taught many of our staff and faculty how to speak Italian, and enjoyed this time with his colleagues. He also worked for the Summer Programs for a number of years.

In 2015, Mario won the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award honoring his teaching and commitment to the School. “I was particularly happy to receive this because the community was recognizing that I was doing something good. And that I was appreciated by a lot of people. I was grateful.”

The Present and Beyond

Life without TASIS often comes as a shock to our retirees. “I miss the daily contact with students,” he

says, also recalling the joys of knowing colleagues in every part of the School community. Now, he is enjoying seeing more of his sons, Pico and Falco, and spending quality time with his partner.

But without the class prep and the duties, he also has time to write. He’s composed a few songs and hopes to keep up his current habit of releasing a record every decade. We’ll hold him to that—which means a record by the end of 2022!

Mario is also furthering his spiritual practice through reading, translating texts, and working with others. He is looking forward to working more on the inner landscape that has sustained him throughout his life—alongside an excellent soundtrack, of course.



Portrait by Peter Locke

SIGNOR SUNSHINE

Gratitude and Praise for Mario D'Azzo

*When the callout was made for tributes for 2015 Master Teacher Award winner **Mario D'Azzo**, our inboxes were inundated. TASIS presented a keepsake book to Mario in early 2022 that included every word of your generous tributes to him. Below is a selection of tributes from our community.*

Mr. D'Azzo was a wonderful teacher. An excellent curator, he introduced us to lesser-known books and authors that have become modern classics of Italian literature and that I find myself revisiting to this day. Some teachers embody the values of TASIS so closely that they become a synonym for the school, and Mr. D'Azzo was certainly that.

—**Tomaso Grossi '10**

There is no doubt in my mind that I am a better reader, writer, and teacher due to Mario's influence. I can only imagine this same influence on the hundreds of students lucky enough to take a class taught by Mario D'Azzo. —**Dr. Christopher Love, HS English Department Chair**

I was fortunate to have Mr. D'Azzo as my IB Italian teacher for two years. A real TASIS institution, he showed me how to look for and find the meaning that lies between the lines. Appreciating the authorial intent that informs every word in a text is among the most precious lessons I keep from his class. His goal was not only to open our eyes to the beauty of literature and poetry, but to expose us, through his choices of texts, to various ideas of the meaning of life, empowering us to forge our own path and develop our own values. —**Filippo Cipolini '19**

Maybe the legacy of a teacher is measured by the hours they spent in a classroom, or the number of young minds they tutored. But if the impact they had on one, or, in this case, two students is enough, know this: Mr. D'Azzo taught us literature but gave us lessons on life. —**Angela Locatelli '15** and **Antonia Locatelli '14**

When I started teaching just a little over a year ago, I couldn't help but remember the little Monticello classroom with the correction from *qual'è* to *qual è* scribbled on the blackboard and Mr. D'Azzo's cheerfulness, brightening up our afternoon lesson.

Mr. D'Azzo's classroom was a space in which I felt free to express myself without judgment and grow intellectually. I can only hope that I can bring the same kindness in my teaching and instill the same confidence in my students as he did for me.

—**Ariane Mottale '12**

Italian lessons with Mr. D'Azzo were never just lessons. He would always add a broader view to the world, mostly in the form of song and wisdom. Looking back, his lessons felt more like meditation.

You can imagine my happiness when I found out that I could take Italian lessons with him once again when I joined TASIS as a HS German teacher years after graduating.

Not only did Mario believe in my abilities as an Italian-speaker, he also believed in me as a person. Being seen like this through the eyes of another is an invaluable gift. —**Lea Richter '03, PG '04, former faculty**

ADELE, THE ULTIMATE CAREGIVER



Adele McLeod was a patient care coordinator of a long-term care unit in Cornwall, Canada, when she was asked to work at TASIS for a year. So she took a leave of absence from her job—for 17 years!

Adele means a great deal to our school community, not least because of her close relationship with **Mrs. Fleming. Lynn Fleming Aeschliman** asked Adele early on to help provide care for Mrs. Fleming in the final years of her life. Adele was a huge support to Mrs. Fleming and the family, spending much of her time ensuring Mrs. Fleming was comfortable and content.

Their relationship was one of respect, admiration, and love, and Adele soon learned that the vision Mrs. Fleming had for her students also extends to faculty, staff, and those who work for the School. Adele took advantage of every opportunity at TASIS. Academic Travel to the Côte D'Azur, Ski Week in Crans-Montana—Adele discovered the world both through her own eyes and those of the students.

Both H1N1 and Covid-19 presented challenges, and Adele took these on with grace, kindness, compassion—and flexibility. Even during a crisis, she was able to provide a safe space; she was conscientious and a great listener. Her excellent communication skills meant she had good relationships with parents and the wider TASIS community.

Now she has returned to Cornwall, Ontario, where she looks forward to spending time with her children and grandchildren and looking after her parents. I'm sure she'll look after them with all the love and care she gave our students for 17 years. She is already sorely missed. —**Marie Josée Breton**, Head of Middle School Student Affairs

In Gratitude: Adele has been the kind of leader and colleague who “gets things done” with no hesitation or self-congratulatory fanfare. She has been purely dedicated to TASIS and its community for almost two decades, always putting the needs of those around her first. She has established a thriving Health Center that will serve generations of students to come and deserves all the best in her retirement. —**Headmaster Chris Nikoloff**

THE LINKS TO TASIS

Registrar Elide Scurio retires after 18 years with TASIS



When **Elide Scurio** met **Horst Dürschmidt** in 1982, little did she know that her life would one day come full circle. “I wanted to learn English, and a friend said she knew someone who wanted to learn Italian. So we met once a week at Horst's house, spending half the evening speaking Italian and half the evening speaking English.”

A few years later Elide moved to the US. In 1999, she and her husband were trying to find a private school for their son, who was about to start third grade. “We had a meeting with a headmaster, and he heard my son and I speaking Italian. He said, ‘Are you Swiss Italian?’ And my jaw dropped, because it was rare in the US to have someone know that you were speaking Italian, let alone Swiss Italian!” The headmaster

was former TASIS head **John Engstrom**, a second link to the School.

When Elide moved back to Lugano in 2004, she needed a job. She brought her CV to TASIS and was hired as Registrar. And one of the first times she was in the faculty room, who did she run into? Why, Horst, of course!

As she enters retirement, Elide is looking forward to not waking up with her alarm clock. She is excited about the free time ahead for some of her favorite weekend projects: creating things with wool and silk and returning to her love of drawing and painting. Most importantly, Elide will be able to frequently visit her son, who is a lawyer working for the Illinois Attorney General in Chicago. We wish Elide many happy years of travel and joy ahead!

A PART OF MY HEART

Florence Kofler began teaching French during the TASIS Summer Programs in 1988. She reprised this role many times during the next three decades, enjoying the pace of summer on the Collina d'Oro. In 2000, she heard from a friend that TASIS needed a French teacher for the academic year and went on to teach TASIS students for 22 years.

“My favorite memories of TASIS are the International Weeks and our Commencement ceremonies,” she says. In retirement she is looking forward to spending more time with her family and will share her time between France and Switzerland. Of her time at the School, she says, “A part of my heart is in each student that I met.”



WHERE HAS THE TIME GONE?

by Margaret Villeneuve



I've been fortunate to spend the last 20 years of my retirement from active nursing in Canada to working as a health care provider at TASIS. What a wonderful way to semi-retire. There's a saying: when you hang with young people it keeps you young. My daughter always commented: "Mom, when you come home from TASIS there's always a skip in your step." There's something to be said about that.

Where has the time gone? I can't believe it's been 20 years since I first came to TASIS, and what an adventure it's been. The friendships I've made, the places I've been are just too many to count.

I am looking forward to my return of enjoying my family and friends and of course all that goes with it. I have much to catch up with and know I will be keeping busy until my next adventure. I do hope to continue visiting my friends here at TASIS and be drawn back to that magical mountain we all call Montagnola.

A STANDOUT YEAR

Exceptional IB Scores

In May, 65 TASIS students sat for at least one International Baccalaureate (IB) exam and achieved exceptional results. The IB is arguably the most rigorous high school program in the world and the assessments, a culmination of years of study, are critical for students aiming to attend elite universities around the world.

Standout Scores

TASIS students have the option of taking individual IB exams as well as pursuing the full IB Diploma, which includes six courses plus Theory of Knowledge, a course that challenges students to consider the nature of knowledge, and an Extended Essay. Last spring, TASIS students took 345 exams in 44 different subjects, attaining an impressive average score of 5.42 out of 7. Fifty-one students achieved perfect scores of 7. The average score for TASIS Diploma students was 35 compared to the global average of 33, and eight students scored over 40 points, a score achieved by only nine percent of students worldwide. All Diploma candidates passed their exams, marking the tenth consecutive year TASIS students have passed at a rate of 97% or higher. And for the first time in TASIS history, Valedictorian **Alexia Dochnal '22** achieved a perfect score of 45. She has just started the highly selective Directed Studies program at Yale University (see p. 11 to read her Valedictory speech).

Notably, 11 TASIS students received bilingual IB Diplomas, meaning their first language (Language A) is not English or their Extended Essay was not written in English. Four different languages were represented: Bulgarian, German, Italian, and Russian.



AP Students Impress

The Advanced Placement (AP) program continues to challenge TASIS students. A record 119 students took at least one AP test in spring 2022 with another record of 264 exams taken in total. AP exams give students the chance to complete college-level coursework while still in high school, offering college credit for courses at institutions across the US, Canada, and 100 other countries.

AP exams are assessed on a scale of 1—5, and TASIS students recorded either a 4 or 5 on half of their exams. Last spring, 67 exams were scored a perfect 5. The College Board, which administers AP, considers a score of 3 or higher as "successful," and 102 of the 119 students who sat for AP exams scored a 3 or higher on at least one exam. Half of the exams achieved a score of 4 or higher. Overall this is the fifth straight year that TASIS students have achieved a rate of 82% or higher.

Congratulations to the students, and thanks go to the devoted teachers who helped them prepare.

ACADEMIC TRAVEL AT TASIS



Our alumni might forget the grade they got in 10th grade math class or the research paper they worked so hard on in AP class, but no one ever forgets the trips they took, exploring Europe with their peers and teachers.

Travel has always been important to a TASIS education; indeed the School pioneered the concept in 1956. Mrs. Fleming felt that internationalism was critical to forming well-rounded individuals and ensured that travel was part of the curriculum. Travel at TASIS has taken many forms throughout the years: weekend trips, In-Program Travel, independent travel, and more recently, Academic Travel.

Covid-19 created unprecedented challenges to our Academic Travel program. The School has since done a thorough review of the program, including the goals and outcomes of recent years. The result is a new-look

Academic Travel that provides our students with the best of Switzerland, Europe, and beyond.

Natalie Philpot, Director of Academic Travel, feels the benefits go beyond sightseeing. “So many students nowadays are glued to their screens, live with constant ‘FOMO’ [fear of missing out] and are navel-gazing to unprecedented levels. Many students struggle working in groups, or making true connections with their peers. Requiring them to be active outdoors is an effective antidote to many of today’s struggles. It’s essential to their growth as healthy, well-rounded individuals.”

The new program is broken up into three categories of trips: blue, which focus on cultural or class-related experiences; green, which focus on mountain or outdoor experiences; and white, which focus on snow sports. This echoes the traditional Swiss system of

mandatory “green” and “white” weeks that take school children into the outdoors. TASIS high school students are required to go on at least three trips per year, one of each color. A student who stays at TASIS for all four years of high school could go on more than twenty trips to more than five countries.

“Our AT model provides our students with agency and many options to personalize their travel portfolios while ensuring a balance of learning experiences across cultural, natural, and winter domains,” Natalie says.

BLUE: EUROPE AS A CLASSROOM



Blue trips are related to classroom learning and include traditional TASIS trips that have been running for decades: science trips, language trips, history trips, and visual arts to Geneva, Venice, Rome, and Florence for example.

GREEN: MOUNTAIN AND OUTDOOR EDUCATION



Green trips explore the natural beauty of Switzerland and include experiences such as hiking to an alpine hut and Outward Bound trips. In 2021, TASIS became an Independent Award Center for the Duke of Edinburgh’s International Award, which encourages students to challenge themselves in physical recreation, skills, service, and an independently-planned Adventurous Journey, which is part of the Green system.

WHITE: SNOW SPORTS



Since 1956, TASIS students have attended mandatory trips to Alpine ski resorts. Andermatt, Zermatt, St. Moritz, Verbier, and Crans-Montana have all hosted generations of TASIS students for what is often a highlight of their time at the School. White trips will

offer skiing and snowboarding in Engelberg for underclassmen, and in Davos for seniors. The white trips will offer other winter sports such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, skating, and sledding.

The first year of this new system was a huge success despite the constraints and frustrations around Covid—and the countless trips that Natalie had to create from scratch. “We had higher than expected participation,” Natalie says. “The students really enjoyed their trips. In part thanks to the faculty who continue to lead trips in their area of expertise or passion, but also because students got to choose what trips they went on. Many faculty commented on how well-behaved and engaged students were on their trips.”

A focus on outdoor education is a newer model for TASIS, but one that will ensure every student has the opportunity to experience what Switzerland has to offer. “The outdoors provides the perfect venue and opportunity for every caliber of student to enjoy the great satisfaction of overcoming struggle,” Natalie says. “Being forced to push themselves out of their comfort zones, then succeeding, is probably the single most important ingredient for growth that then cascades into all other parts of their lives.” We look forward to the continued success and impact of Academic Travel.

Academic Travel Purpose Statement

The Academic Travel Program uses the natural and cultural setting of Europe to provide opportunities for experiential education to expand minds, build character, and create community within our student body. Blue trips help students make sense of classroom learning and its pertinence in the real world; green trips encourage students to appreciate the beauty of the natural world by participating in activities that push them out of their comfort zone; white trips give students the opportunity to appreciate and enjoy a quintessential Swiss mountain experience while building community.

Recent Blue Trips: Europe as a Classroom

Drawing and Painting in Venice
Photography in Venice
Ancient History in Rome
Honors World Literature in Florence
Modern History in Florence
IB European History in Florence
IB Environmental Systems and Societies in Liguria
Culinary Discovery in Tuscany
Intensive Italian in Bologna
Theater Retreat in Turin
Theater Retreat in Brescia
Intensive German in Heidelberg
Art History in Munich
Physics in Geneva/Bern
Art History in Basel
Intensive French in Lausanne
College Admissions in Lausanne
IB Biology in Zurich
Computer Science in Zurich
Economics/Business Management in Zurich

Recent Green Trips: Mountain and Outdoor Education

Sailing in Sardinia
Hiking in Cinque Terre
Camping in the Dolomites
Mountain Biking in Finale Ligure, Italy
Rock Climbing in Arco, Italy
Walking the Via Francigena Camino in Tuscany
Duke of Edinburgh Adventurous Journey in Vallemaggia, Switzerland
Outward Bound in Baad, Austria
Camping in Interlaken
Canyoning in Interlaken
Kayaking in Ticino
Overnight Hut Hikes all over the Swiss Alps

Recent White Trips: Snow Sports

Ski Adventure in Engelberg
Senior Ski Trip in Davos
Skiing and Snowboarding Day Trips throughout Switzerland

UP FOR THE CHALLENGE!

TASIS robotics team among the best in Switzerland—and the world!

“I am so proud of these kids that my heart could burst!”

Amy Bloodworth is thrilled at the incredible journey she and her robotics team shared during the 2021–22 academic year, which led them to a highly selective international tournament in April. The 2016 Master Teacher Award winner, Amy teaches Middle School science and coding and High School computer science, and she has coached the TASIS robotics team for many years.

In February, nine TASIS students competed in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge in Bellinzona. TASIS Tigers 1—**Mariaurora Rosso '24, Maddy Costa Felix '26, Serafina Ballerini '26, Olivia Canga '26, and Diana Xiao '26**—placed third out of 10 teams in the overall ratings while TASIS Tigers 2—**Alken Sarsenov '26, Batian Hegelund '26, Ilia Soloshchenko '28, and Ishaan Patel '29**—finished in a tie for fourth place. Other highlights included TASIS Tigers 2 taking first place in the Core Values category, Amy taking home the Coaching Award, and the TASIS Tigers 1 finishing second in both the Robot Game and Research categories.

“It’s so much more than just one day,” Amy says of the tournament. “This is months of work and dedication for these students. They not only have to perform under pressure in a high-stakes robot game, but they are judged on programming and engineering design and must present an unbelievable research project—and do it all with gracious professionalism and resilience. I also owe an incredible thank you to their parents and dorm parents who hosted many late-night practice sessions and were there with just the right pep talks when needed.”

The competing students have been honing their skills in the Middle School’s After-School Robotics Club, which



Amy co-founded in 2018 with former Middle School Math Teacher **Claire Thomas**.

A few weeks after the FIRST LEGO tournament, the TASIS Tigers 1 team was chosen to represent Switzerland at the FIRST LEGO League CARGO–CONNECT World Festival in Houston, Texas, from April 20–23—one of only 108 teams worldwide to earn an invitation! A total of 35,140 teams from 110 different countries competed for a place at the festival.

The trip was a remarkable experience both on and off the robotics mats. “It’s like the Olympics of robotics,” Amy said of the team’s time in Houston. “When you think that more than 35,000 teams around the world started this competition in September, and we made it to the last hurdle of 108 teams, just being there was an incredible sense of achievement for us.”

This team has certainly caught the competitive robotics bug! “I loved talking to the other teams and exchanging ideas,” said **Olivia Canga '26**. “It made me really motivated, like I want to try these things next year. I want to try to get to the World Festival again.”

ENDLESS SUMMER

After canceling the 2020 Summer Programs and offering a leaner program in 2021, the 2022 Summer Programs were back—keeping Mrs. Fleming’s vision and the genesis of the TASIS schools at the heart.



“My number one thought, always, is, are the kids safe?” It’s August, deep into the second session of the TASIS Summer Programs, and the newly-appointed Summer Programs Director **Marc-Pierre Jansen** is relaxing with a coffee in the garden of Casa Fleming. Pinning down an hour to speak with him was challenging, but Marc-Pierre is laser-focused on the conversation. This ability to focus on the most important task of the moment is undoubtedly one of the reasons he was hired for this role.

This is Marc-Pierre’s 20th summer with TASIS. He first came to TASIS in 2002 as a Middle School Program (MSP) counselor and rose to Head Counselor, Sports Director, and eventually MSP Director in 2009, a role he held until 2021. From September to June, Marc-Pierre works with **Tom Fleming** at the TASIS USA office, marketing the Summer Programs and the TASIS schools to families around the US. His knowledge of

TASIS is deep and prolific.

Marc-Pierre’s steady personality is another positive that he brings to the position. “If you bring too much emotion to any decision you won’t make a good one,” he says. “Anxiety has to stay at the door. And if the kids are safe, what’s the rush? It also gives me time to get feedback from staff.” The staff are in the trenches and Marc-Pierre is a bit removed from the minutiae of daily life, but his steadfast nature is a calming force and he gets incredible commitment from his staff. “I entrust my staff with the lives of all these children. And that’s a huge trust for any parent. If I have to micromanage my staff, I break that trust. If I can’t trust you to run an errand or lead a trip, then I definitely can’t trust you to take care of these children.”

As with our academic year program, the pandemic pushed the Summer Programs to consider operations, management, and structure. The School’s first response was to create an overall Summer Programs Director to oversee all three programs: Le Château des Enfants (CDE, ages 4–10), MSP (ages 11–13), and the High School Program (HSP, ages 14–17, formerly TASIS Summer Program, or TSP). So what appealed to Marc-Pierre about this role?

“I saw a lot of redundancies,” he says. “I knew things could be streamlined. The challenge was, how can we retain the content that families expect but operate everything more efficiently?”

Changes included streamlining the schedules to be more parallel so, for example, MSP and HSP students could share a bus to Lucerne, split into programs for the duration of the trip, and share a ride home. Staff were also able to share their skills across programs, perhaps teaching photography to HSP students and leading a MSP photography discovery hour.

A bonus of this new structure is that communication has improved. “People are supporting each other a little more across programs. Counselors share the same spaces so have to interact. There is more collaboration going on than I’ve seen before.”

Entrusting TASIS

This has been the first full-scale summer for **Abigail Gagnon**, who became Summer Programs Admissions Director in 2019. “It was disappointing to cancel 2020, and then in 2021 we knew we had a number of factors determining what we could do and who could come. For this year, we knew that so many kids desperately needed a normal summer. A lot of kids had months of online schooling, and lost years of socialization and fun. They may have arrived nervous, but once they got into the groove here they blossomed.”

One of Abby’s challenges was communicating the magic of TASIS through a Zoom call. Many of her work days (and evenings!) were spent on calls to nervous families who were out of practice with travel and exploring. Abby spent a lot of her time painting a picture of the location and activities, and also the mission of TASIS. “I had to tell parents why they can trust us, why this is a transformational experience, not just a summer camp.”

Abby, alongside Director of Admissions **Emily McKee** and Director of Institutional Advancement **Bill Eichner**, is tasked with explaining to families that TASIS magic—a



phrase Abby returns to often. “The Communications Department at TASIS does a lot of the heavy lifting in terms of getting the message out,” she says. “I want families to understand that they’re not just a number to us. Every single child is important. And every child will go through some sort of a transformation.”

Learning, Culture, Fun

When students leave after a TASIS summer, they are often bewildered by how much they have done in a few short weeks. “The summer is really intense,” Marc-Pierre says. “There are three pillars for our programs: learning, culture, and fun. The kids want the fun, the parents want the learning, and as an institution we want the cultural element. Their schedules are packed with things from morning to night that adhere to these pillars.”

The amount of experiences on offer is critical to how Abby communicates with families: “I need to know about their child before I can explain what we do here. And once I know the child’s age, interests, personality, I can paint a picture for the family of that child’s life at TASIS.” Abby is also very honest: “I never sugarcoat the fact that it can be tough in the beginning. It’s a lot, and it’s busy. But then everything clicks. I’ve never seen anything like it.”

Exceptional Staff

Some TASIS summer staffers have been working the summer programs since the 1980s. There's something about the setting, the students, and each other that keeps them coming back, year after year. "Education is service," Marc-Pierre says. "It attracts a certain kind of person that is confident, generous, and willing to give themselves to our students." He looks for people who have an edge on service or generosity, and a connection to TASIS is helpful, too. Indeed, a huge number of summer staffers have a connection to TASIS; "those who know TASIS will have an idea of the culture of the place." When he interviews staff, he gives them the worst-case scenario; "you will marry the job. It's a short marriage and you may not like it, there's no off-time. You're always here. And the irony is, people want to come back!"

Looking Ahead

The world has changed since Mrs. Fleming brought American students to Switzerland for the summer nearly seven decades ago. In 2022, TASIS welcomed 740 students from 55 countries to the Collina d'Oro. There were waiting lists for each program, and parents are already signing up for 2023. So what will the Summer Programs look like in the future?

Marc-Pierre says, "The short-term goal is to solidify the foundation of this new structure. But parallel to that, and the five-year goal and beyond, is to consider our market, which changes every year." For a long time, the majority of students came to TASIS to learn English. For the first time in 2022, every student arrived at TASIS with at least some English, which is a first that Marc-Pierre can remember. Now, international students want to come to TASIS to study something else but use English in the course. The first HSP classes to waitlist are Lean Startup, La Cucina Italiana, Architecture &

Design, and the other experiential learning courses. "In 2019, we had six English classes in MSP. Now we're down to four. We need to ensure we're sensitive to what families want, what students want. And doing a course is an exciting way to practice English."

Verum, Bonum, Pulchrum

More important than adapting to the market is ensuring the core values of TASIS remain and ensuring our families understand the value of a TASIS education. Abby says, "I tell families that our Headmaster teaches a freshman course in the academic year on Aristotle and stoicism to let them know that ethics is important. I tell them about Mrs. Fleming's commitment to spreading an understanding of culture, goodness, beauty, nature, languages, and how her vision began with a summer program. Thirty percent of our academic year students have done a summer program. It's a taste of what TASIS can offer students. The summer programs are the best parts of TASIS, squeezed into a month!"

Marc-Pierre sees truth, goodness, and beauty in everyday life at TASIS. "You can think of it on a superficial level; that's a beautiful view. What a good thing that child did. But these exist on a deeper level. What we do is so much bigger than what's right in front of us."

This love for TASIS extends to our alumni; indeed this year we welcomed twenty alumni children and just as many staff who attended a TASIS school or summer program. "We know that our returning students consider themselves TASIS alumni," Abby says. Word-of-mouth praise from our alumni is critical; so many families hear about TASIS from someone who attended, or their parent or grandparent attended. Alumni also benefit from a 10% discount for their children or grandchildren. "That's an open secret," Abby says, smiling. "Our alumni are so special. Our programs are special. I've

never seen anything like the commitment people have to this school. I love that I landed here and I'm really proud of the program."

TASIS LEGACIES

Over 20 alumni children were students at TASIS this summer, and we welcomed nearly two dozen alumni staff members, too! Below are photos from the second session. We hope to welcome more alumni children and adults in the future!

CDE alumni students and staff, from l to r: Alara Secilmis, Ana de Pablo Huete, Kiran Balasa, Payton Clardy, Adèle Couture. Front row: Julian Aeschliman, Nicholas Aeschliman, Marisol Balmelli, Leone Facchinetti, Monica Lapiedra Salcedo, Selim Auf Hamada, Talya Auf Hamada, Haya Auf Hamada, Madison Mikhov, Marcelo Larangeira Kayath, Vid Zidaric, Eduardo Larangeira Kayath, Rashed Hammoud



HSP students and staff, l to r: Jesse Dakota Ruyle, Elyse Guizzetti, Emily Schnarr, Hadrien Amany-Hequet, Adrienne Wright, Vittoria Bitossi, Allegra Bitossi, Margaret Burton



MSP students and staff, from l to r: Dominik Kamenski, Julieta Avila Galaraza, Avery Gillett, Daniel Koenig, Matti Verhagen, Meena Ramakreshnan, Aline Lea Jardini, Tin Zidaric, Alessandro Casamassima, Behic Ender Yorgancilar, Cyril Merlo, Erik Balmelli, Daria Capelletti, Leyla Auf Hamada, Charlotte Olympia, Faissol Muller, Eliot Engelmaier



Minnows Lavinia Facchinetti and Elena Clarke Balasan



NEW BEGINNINGS

The term “refugee” can have myriad definitions, colored by our experience, our ancestry, our politics. But wrapped in this contentious word are human beings who dream of better lives for their families.



The official photo Ania's parents had taken before leaving Poland

Ania Barciak-Shields has been working for TASIS since 2017 as IB German teacher, co-leader of the Mongolia Global Service Program, Lanterna dorm parent, and Modern Language Department Chair. She was also a refugee.

In December 1981, five-year-old Ania and her parents fled Poland; the Communist country was under martial law due to political rebellion against the authoritarian regime. The family had tried to leave before, but Ania's father's passport was denied. Ania and her mother left the country anyway and returned, sending a signal to officials that they were not a flight risk.

Around this time, her parents had an official photo taken. Of course Ania thought little of it, but the reason is sobering: her parents were afraid they might be separated on their journey. Ania's father got his passport, and in December 1981 they boarded a train to Austria.

After they crossed the border, the train was stopped—it wasn't a vacation for any of the passengers. Polish men came onto the train offering taxis directly to an Austrian refugee camp for a hefty fee. "My parents chanced it," Ania says.

Ania's family was lucky; because her parents had a small child with them, they got in sooner than others. They stayed in the camp for ten days. "It was pretty awful," Ania recalls. "I thought I was going on holiday, and here we were in this place. I didn't have any toys, and I was sad."

On the tenth day the family moved to a hotel in the Austrian Alps near Vienna that was filled with refugees. "My memories are fantastic," Ania recalls from their four months in the hotel. "It was snowing, and other kids were there, and we played a lot in the snow. I loved it." Ania, who turned six while staying at the hotel, remembers the kindness of the locals, particularly at Christmas when they were showered with presents.

All of the families in the hotel were seeking asylum, and different countries would come to Vienna to interview families. Ania's parents heard that the Swiss

government had offered to take in refugees. Ania's family was interviewed and was accepted. And here's where the story gets even more interesting.

"They asked us to come back the next day, in the same clothes, to have the same interview again," Ania remembers. "My parents didn't speak German, so they needed a translator, but they soon figured out that the officials wanted to recreate our interview for a documentary." Swiss national television was searching for a family to include in a film about the experience of refugee and asylum seekers in Switzerland, so the Barciak family had a camera crew following them until they arrived in Switzerland in March 1982.

The family's Swiss adventure began with two weeks at a camp until the Red Cross set them up with a home just outside of Bern. The apartment was in a building attached to a factory, where they were expected to work. This was a blow to Ania's parents; her mother had been a nurse, her father had been a carpenter, but their former qualifications didn't matter in Switzerland. But for Ania, it was perfect. "It was good timing for me, as a child, because I don't have negative memories, and that's a blessing."

Ania often cites this when discussing the refugee plight. "We should keep in mind that it's not too late for children to have a positive experience." The experience of adults versus children can be drastically different, but her parents' goal of giving Ania a better life was reached.

"This is what I want people to understand," Ania says. "It's what I discuss with my students regularly. Someone only leaves their country if they're desperate enough to be willing to either lose their life or lose their family; that the situation is so bad that you are going to take that risk."



Ania is 46 and has been away from Poland for most of her life. "I think it's something that TASIS students can relate to—I always felt like I grew up between cultures," says Ania.

In early 2022, Ania's IB Higher Level German students were doing a topic on refugees, just as the Ukraine conflict began. "I didn't plan it," Ania says, "and I told the students we don't have to talk about Ukraine, we can talk about refugees and immigration in general. We read about a Pakistani German man who works for an organization in Hamburg and felt that most refugees just need a hot cup of tea and someone to hug them. And now this has become a thing: providing hot coffee and tea and creating a space where refugees can feel comfortable with each other and create a community outside their home countries. Being there if they need help with translation, or preparing for a job interview, things like that. These matter."

So how can we support refugees, no matter where they are from?

One of the ways TASIS has responded is by buying and donating things to local centers, including toys and games. "Things like toys might seem like quick fixes, but they can be quite meaningful," Ania says. "I can almost guarantee you that a child is going to have that toy 20 years from now. It's inspiring."

EMOTIONS AND CONFLICT

In a global community like TASIS, wobbles in the world outside our bubble can be confusing and even devastating. When the conflict in Ukraine began in late February, TASIS Counselor **Tanya Jovanovic** took the initiative to ensure our faculty felt prepared for uncomfortable conversations that might happen.

A few days after the conflict began, Tanya provided guidelines and a basic blueprint that indicated the importance of having open, honest discussions with students and suggestions about how to facilitate them. “You can’t turn a blind eye, especially in an international community like ours,” she says. The guidelines were divided into age groups, with one set going out to Middle and High School faculty with the intent of being used in advisor group meetings. Tanya and ES Counselor **Adrienne Poulos** created another set of guidelines for Elementary School children. “Children and adolescents have very different ways of expressing their emotions,” Tanya says. “It is our job as adults to help students process the difficult emotions that may arise. With adolescents, who are glued to their phones, it is important to focus on the misinformation on social media. We have to be able to combat that, and come at them with factual information. Most important is that we’re all humans, and we have to leave our emotions and opinions out of these discussions with students.” For example, the language adults use is important; not attributing blame, but focusing on the people. “We say, people have been displaced, and now they need help. We encourage compassion.”

Tanya commends the TASIS spirit, particularly in those first weeks after the conflict began. “The kids have been really respectful of each other, and that is so critical. It is important to validate and normalize how students are feeling.”

IN TIMES OF CRISIS

by Chris and Alexi Love, TASIS faculty

On March 2, 2022, the Red Cross Refugees service learning group, part of the Opsahl Global Service Program, held its first Wednesday meeting since the Russian invasion of Ukraine the week before. Until that Wednesday, the TASIS sophomores met weekly to discuss the dire challenges the world’s 27 million refugees face today. These same TASIS sophomores often spent Saturday morning hours at the Red

Cross center in Paradiso, where they met with refugees from Syria, South Sudan, Somalia, Eritrea, and other countries suffering political, economic, and ecological crises. In hearing these refugees’ stories first-hand, TASIS students gained insight into the ordeals and resolve of human beings displaced from their homes. The widespread and continued destruction of lives and civilian infrastructure in Ukraine resulted in an exodus of nearly 4.8 million refugees to Europe.

In the face of this swelling tragedy, the TASIS students gathered in Monticello 1 posed the salient question: how could they help? The response of the Lugano, Montagnola, and TASIS communities was heartening and immediate. **Dominique Sganzi Nerfin**, wife of TASIS Chair of the Department of Visual Arts **Martyn Dukes**, immediately organized efforts to donate medicine, supplies, and clothing to the recently organized collection center at the Centro Esposizioni. WhatsApp groups blossomed among students, faculty, and the TASIS Parent Association as the TASIS community found ways to gather supplies to help refugees arriving in Lugano at the local Red Cross Refugee Centers and in Montagnola as members of the TASIS community provided housing. Many students and their families gathered supplies and particularly medicines to be sent to Ukraine and a number of fundraisers were organized (for example, selling baked goods at TASIS theater productions). Three Saturdays in a row, TASIS Red Cross group members made trips to the Ukraine donation centers to help sort and box supplies. The leaders of the TASIS Red Cross Refugees group were encouraged by the students’ energy, decency, and generosity during the months that followed Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. These leaders were also struck by Russian members of the Service Learning group who were among the most active and generous contributors to the Red Cross’ efforts to support Ukrainian refugees.

Toward the end of the school year, in late May, the Red Cross Refugees group met for the last time. The faculty leaders invited Masha Timoshenko to the meeting. Masha fled Kyiv with her four-year-old son soon after Russia launched missiles on her city. Occasional tears punctuated her account of what it meant to live a normal life in your country one day and flee it the next. Ms. Timoshenko’s account of the anxieties, fears, tribulations, and uncertainty were clear and evocative. At the end of the meeting, two Russian TASIS students approached Ms. Timoshenko and gave her a big hug. The moment underscored the goodwill and the learning to which TASIS Service Learning devotes itself.

BUILDING COMMUNITY AT TASIS

by Jean Wu



Events like Teacher Appreciation Mexican Night help build community spirit.

Walking around the TASIS campus today, you will find a healthy mix of boarding students and day students. The day family population has increased over the years, particularly after the Elementary School was created. Families who live near campus are fortunate to be able to take part in a vibrant social and cultural life connected to TASIS. As the School has grown, so have the opportunities for parents to find belonging and a sense of connectedness through TASIS.

Every fall, the school year kicks off with orientation, including a Used Uniform Sale organized by parents. I stopped by on our first day at TASIS, and loved that there were parents who cared enough to organize this sale.

That day, I found not only some new shirts but also some friendly faces. One of the first people I got to know at TASIS was a woman who was volunteering at the sale. When she introduced herself to me, her warm and sincere welcome made coming to a new school less of an overwhelming experience. As time went on, I too volunteered at used uniform sales whenever I could. Being on the other side of the table, it felt gratifying to be able to help others, especially people new to TASIS, because I remember how grateful I felt to have someone show me friendship on my own first day of school.

Gratitude plays a big role in why I volunteer at TASIS, whether it is to show teachers gratitude during Teacher Appreciation events or to express thanks to the *personale* during Staff Appreciation. I am grateful to the people who have built and who lead the School, and I am grateful to the School itself, as an institution that nurtures my children intellectually, creatively, and emotionally.

I sometimes ponder, though, what it means to ‘give back to the community’, especially when the community does not seem to be one that lacks anything by material measures? If we view a community as a group of people who share a set of values and experiences, then the notion of giving back might be seen as taking part, building, and encouraging the conditions that strengthen those values and create those experiences for members to share. It might be seen as contributing to the sense of unity that is experienced when people collaborate. Or it could be seen as the act of being involved and believing that there is a school spirit that transcends any individual and extends to all members of the group.

For me, the crucial element is the act of involvement itself, whether big or small, frequent or sporadic, because it signifies a desire to belong in the community. The more involved you are, the more familiar you will be with the students, parents, teachers, staff, and administrators at TASIS. You will undoubtedly begin to feel the energy and positive spirit of belonging to the TASIS community.

It is worth recognising that when we take the opportunity to be involved at school, we are doing something very special for our children. We are role modeling community-building and demonstrating that we care about creating bonds with others. We are letting them know that we value acts of service and are willing to share our time and blessings with others. We are sending a message about how important their school is and that the importance of school extends beyond the classroom.

Jean Wu is a parent of two children at TASIS: **Michael Wu Maffe '24** and **Rosaling Wu Maffe '27**.

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT



Self-driving cars have steadily become more reliable and, more importantly, safer. And while cars from recent years can be considered partially autonomous, there is still a long way to go. **Tomaso Grossi '10** has been working in this industry since 2016.

He shares a bit about what we might see in the future.

In recent years, how has the relationship between Silicon Valley and the auto industry changed?

The main change compared to a few years ago is that there has been an industry-wide realization that the challenge of building self-driving cars is tougher, more expensive, and more time-consuming than initially anticipated. The result is that a lot of the startups that aimed to develop a self-driving vehicle from the ground up have run out of resources, have been acquired, or have folded. Besides a few exceptions (Waymo and Cruise), the step-wise approach [identifying and assessing needs and risks] of the traditional players from the auto industry has so far proven more suitable.

While early adopters will be thrilled with the idea of self-driving cars, many others will find it troubling or even scary. Can you comment on the arguments that can be made in favor of autonomous driving such as cars on demand, access for those with mobility issues, and impact on the environment?

The main argument is safety, as the premise of autonomous vehicles is that they'll be a lot safer than the average driver, potentially bringing the number of traffic-related deaths from 1.4 million per year to 0 in the long run. Autonomous mobility-as-a-service (think of a self-driving Uber) is also another possibility that would be enabled by autonomous vehicles, and there are already pilots ongoing in San Francisco, Las Vegas, and outside Phoenix where you can hail an autonomous taxi to take you from A to B on pre-defined routes. With regards to the impact on the environment, autonomous and electric

typically go hand-in-hand, as the majority of vehicles on the road today with automation features are electrified (fully electric or hybrid), and as a result will be more sustainable.

How much reworking of our current city planning will be required to support autonomous vehicles?

In cities, that largely depends on the roll-out of autonomous mobility-as-a-service fleets, which have the potential to reduce car ownership, meaning that a lot of the parking infrastructure could be re-imagined and re-used for other purposes, such as parks and living spaces.

While the data from self-driving vehicles seems not too much further a step from the data our phones are already giving away, is there a dark side of the data that will be collected from an autonomous vehicle?

Autonomous vehicles will need huge amounts of data to operate safely, meaning they will also generate and capture immense amounts of data. However, we're mainly talking about road, infrastructure, and vehicle data, so in terms of personal data I don't believe it's a much different paradigm than the one we face already today with data from our smartphones.

What excited you most when working with TomTom on their autonomous driving projects?

Definitely the fact of being at the dawn of a new technology with such huge potential for societal change, from saving lives on the roads to providing global access to mobility.

You've recently left TomTom for a role as an Incubation Manager at Bridgestone. Can you tell us more about this new job?

My new role is still in the sphere of new mobility, and my responsibility as Incubation Manager within the Bridgestone corporate incubator is to oversee the development of new innovative projects to help fleets optimize their operations, from supply chain management, to fleet electrification, to fleet automation. It's an exciting challenge, as our projects have a longer time horizon, so it definitely has more of a startup feel to it, and it allows me to leverage my experience in the industry.

ALL BOOKED UP

by Jean Wu

The idea for a book club came about when a fellow TASIS parent and I were talking about some of the books we loved. As we traded names of authors and titles, it struck us that other parents might also want to share their love of books. It was the height of the pandemic, when students were attending classes online, masks were mandatory, and socializing in person was a challenge. A book club seemed like something that might give the community a chance to connect meaningfully in the era of social distancing.

Over the following months, we read a variety of books, from historical fiction to contemporary novels, from prize-winners to thrillers. Because TASIS is such an international community, the diversity of books selected reflected the diversity of our community. I have come into a meeting not especially impressed by a book, but after listening to someone else's perspective, gained a new appreciation. Book Club represents the very best of what an open-minded community can be.

The Book Club has hosted a number of special sessions. TASIS alumni author **Arianna Neumann '88** spoke about her book, *When Time Stopped*, via Zoom last June. Ariana reflected, "My four years at TASIS were instrumental to my development as a 'citizen of the world' and a writer. Thus it was particularly meaningful for me to connect with people of such varied backgrounds who are involved with this marvelous place. Taking part in this Zoom brought back so many vivid and happy memories. And, of course, it was a huge honor to have the TASIS Book Club read my memoir and to join in the discussion!"



On another occasion, the Book Club held a special session with the TASIS college counseling team to discuss Frank Bruni's *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania*. Parents benefited from hearing the book's message that what matters most to a person's success is not the name of the school on their child's college diploma, but on their child's efforts in and out of the classroom, wherever they go to college.

Some readers regularly showed up to Book Club meetings, and others popped in and joined when a particular book interested them. Book Club is also a space for TASIS alumni parents to stay connected. And for parents new to TASIS, Book Club is a chance to make friends and meet people.

*TASIS parent **Jean Wu** is a writer and a reader; a learner and a teacher; an advisor and advice-seeker. Her favorite kinds of books are books that make you go "hmmm....."*

LES TAPIES ARTS & ARCHITECTURE: A REBIRTH

by Fernando Gonzalez



After a two-year hiatus due to Covid, the Les Tapes Arts & Architecture program reopened this summer for a three-week session with a full capacity of 28 students. Despite many challenges, the program was a big success and it was gratifying to see the French mountain hamlet filled with creative passion once again with motivated, talented students and a dedicated, caring staff.

With the retirement of **John Smalley** and **Perrin Tingley**, veteran TASIS England faculty and original co-founders of the program in 2004, my greatest challenge was replacing such experienced master teachers with a new team. The only other returning staff member was TASIS alumnus **Barry Iverson '74** who has taught the Photography major for the past five years. Fortunately **Jo Alam** filled in admirably in the Drawing & Painting Major and Minor, and the new cooking team of **Donna Garner** and **Tracy Aldous** provided delicious, freshly cooked meals throughout the three weeks. The teaching staff were

supported by guest artist **Lauren Bechelli**, a veteran of the TASIS Summer Programs, as well as our two excellent interns, **Vickie Santana**, who is a student at Oxford University and attended Les Tapes for two summers and **Nicolas Nefiodow**, a Columbia University graduate student in Architecture.

Other obstacles that had to be overcome were the numerous flight cancellations and delays on opening day, the breakdown of two rental vans during the full-day excursions, and the intense heat of 37C/99F. The patience and flexibility of our students and staff were remarkable and key factors in the program's success. Also critical was the close-knit community which was created at the very beginning due to the shared artistic interests of the students.

The program built on the success of the past 15 years by drawing on the unique setting of Les Tapes in the South of France and the cultural riches of Provence with weekly excursions to Avignon, Pont du Gard,

and Aix-en-Provence, home of master painter Paul Cézanne. The intensity of the program produced some impressive work which students presented in a final exhibition during the last week of the program. The presentations were attended by six sets of parents, who expressed their appreciation for the calibre of the work produced in such a short time.

One of the unique features of the program is the Design & Build Minor in which students design specific projects to provide additional amenities for the hamlet. The students then choose which to build and gain hands-on experience by constructing the projects by the end of the program. This summer the students learned dry stone wall-building, then built a flower and herb garden with a paved path and retaining wall. A second project was construction of a trellis using 80-year-old timber posts resourced from an old vineyard and 5-meter-long beams freshly cut from the local chestnut forest by our local farmer. The pergola was strategically located at the end of the pool to provide shade and a “room with a view.” This experiential learning technique is a strength of the program, whether it be *plein-air* painting in the landscape, surveying an existing building in the hamlet for a restoration project, or taking photo portraits on excursions.

A weekly newsletter with photos kept the parents informed, but the culmination of the students’ work was only truly revealed in the final presentations when students spoke about their artistic journeys. In the written surveys, the students consistently said that they “wished the program was longer” and that “the beautiful setting and design of the hamlet were inspirational.” When asked how they would describe the program to a friend interested in attending Les Tapies, the students’ responses included the following: “An absolute must!”, “It’s truly a life-changing experience, the view is unbeatable, and the

people unforgettable... 100% recommend it!”, “life-transforming”, “Coming to Les Tapies will be a choice you will never regret; it’s amazing to be surrounded by people who share the same passion as you.”

Although the intensity of the work in draining heat was exhausting, the satisfaction of seeing students perform to such a high level and expand their skills in such a short period of time is extremely satisfying and reflects the TASIS formula of surrounding students with beauty, stretching them to do their very best, providing them with role models who share their passion in a given subject matter—in this case, the arts—and finally, sprinkling a generous amount of tender loving care to bind the recipe.

Mrs. Fleming’s educational formula for success is fool-proof and she often said “small is beautiful.” Les Tapies Arts & Architecture, sponsored by TASIS Dorado, is certainly the smallest TASIS program, and its intimate size adds greatly to its success. Les Tapies is the ideal teaching environment and for me the opportunity to be back in the classroom brings me such joy that its rebirth reminds me of why I have stayed in education for over 50 years.

Fernando Gonzalez has been associated with TASIS since 1972 in several administrative, and executive roles. A graduate of Phillips Academy Andover, he holds a B.A. from Harvard University in Visual Studies and studied architecture at the Harvard School of Design. He was Chairman of the Art Department at TASIS, was Administrative Director of the TASIS Schools for 20 years, served as Interim Headmaster of TASIS England in 2004, and has also served on the Governing Boards of all three TASIS schools, including the Puerto Rican school TASIS Dorado, which he founded and where he serves as president. Fernando also founded TASIS Portugal and serves on its Board as well as the TASIS Foundation Board.

A WINNING FORMULA



The Olympics. For anyone working in sports, it's one of the most coveted jobs in the industry. While on our screens (or, for the lucky few, in the stands) we see the athletes, coaches, and fans, thousands of people are working in the background to create a Games that is thrilling for everyone.

Veronika Muehlhofer '97 is used to the pressure of working for the Olympics; she's worked nearly every Games since 2006. Most recently, Veronika has worked in media operations at various venues. "The world lives the Olympics through the media," she says. "Each venue has a media center which has facilities to allow the world's media to come and do their jobs: to tell the stories of the Olympic Games." For Paris 2024, Veronika is Venue Press Operations Manager, which means she is coordinating the media centers for every venue at Paris 2024.

It's a huge job that begins with discussions with architects, as temporary spaces must often be built to accommodate over 6000 press photographers and new media outlets, plus another 20,000 broadcast journalists from around the world. The media centers must have adequate power outlets, internet access, and spaces to work. In addition, whole departments focus on accommodation, food, and transportation for the press. Veronika is recruiting over 200 staff from around the world to help make this happen.

But the pressure is worth it; "during my first Olympics in 2006, it was a dream that I could work at this level. But I applied, and was lucky, and things fell into place. It's complex, professionally interesting, and challenging. But I'm also a sucker for the Olympics. I believe in the Olympic spirit."

Veronika was born in Vienna and her family, including brothers **Mathias '95** and **Tobias '98**, moved to Lugano when Veronika was seven. She and her brothers attended a local school in Paradiso (the TASIS elementary school didn't open until 2005) where they quickly picked up Italian and studied French, and the idea of adding English to this mix appealed. All three siblings started TASIS as seventh graders, which appealed both to their academic goals but also, for Veronika, her sporting goals, as well.

"I've always loved sports," she says. As a Lugano child she really wanted to play ice hockey, but there wasn't a girls team, so instead she played soccer for the girls team in the youth sector of Rapid Lugano. She continued varsity soccer at TASIS where she also played varsity tennis and basketball.

At the time Lugano didn't have a university and Veronika was planning to return to Vienna to attend the same business school her parents and brother Mathias attended. But the TASIS College Counseling office, then run by **John Carr**, encouraged her to think both broadly and big. "I took my SATs and a bunch of AP courses," Veronika says, and her scores made her think both broadly and big. She applied to Harvard, Stanford, Princeton, Yale, and Berkely. "I thought, let's just see what happens, and I got into all except Harvard."

Veronika had visited some of the campuses with her family when Mathias was considering a US university, and she really loved Princeton and Stanford. Ultimately it was Palo Alto that appealed. Veronika considered playing for the Division 1 Stanford soccer team, "but playing at such a high level would mean all I could do was school and sports. I thought, if I'm going to move halfway around the world, I want to see and experience some things." Instead, she decided to go for a club sport, and discovered rugby. So began a love affair with the sport that has lasted three decades.

While at Stanford, she worked with the sports events team and enjoyed the buzz of club sports matches and tournaments. At graduation she had no idea what to do next, so she went to her father for advice. He said, why don't you try working in sports? "It seems so obvious now," Veronika laughs. She ended up spending over five years as Team Marketing and Event Manager at Stanford.

This was the start of a career that has included eight Olympics and events work for the International Ice Hockey Federation and the European Games. She has lectured on Event Planning & Operations and Facilities & Infrastructure Management for the FIFA/CEIS Executive Program in Sports Management. She also owns her own sports events management consultancy, Millionsports. Her dad was certainly on to something!

As a player, Veronika loves ice hockey and skiing—"I am Austrian, after all!"—but rugby has been a particular highlight of Veronika's life. "It's a culture, it's more than just a sport. I play rugby wherever I move and it's always an instant family and camaraderie." She's been involved with global Rugby 7s and is a World Rugby Level 3 certified coach. She spent eight years as CEO of Swiss Rugby. She currently sits on the board of Rugby Europe and represents Rugby Europe on the board of World Rugby.

Veronika's talent in languages has been helpful as she has found her niche in world sport. German is her native language and she learned Italian second, then English and French. She can get by in Portuguese and Spanish, and 15 years in Zurich means she can also get by in Swiss German. "My six years at TASIS impacted my language learning a lot," she says. "A big part of why I'm able to work in Paris now, in French, is what I learned from **Brigitte Cazebonne** in class."

The cultural aspect of TASIS has also made a big impact. “There are certain things TASIS kids have in common, even now when we meet, 30 years later,” she says. “The multicultural aspect, and friendships between cultures.” While at TASIS, she didn’t even think about the cultural differences because they were a part of everyday life. “I’ve been fortunate to immerse myself in different cultures in my work life. And a huge part of being able to do that successfully is the cultural sensitivity I learned at TASIS. It’s not that I came out being an expert of all cultures, but I came out understanding that you need to learn cultures and embrace cultures, you can’t just come in and do things your way, even if you’re in charge. At TASIS cultural sensitivity becomes second nature.”

And all cultures can connect through the language of sports. “In the Olympics, in rugby, there’s a fan culture. Everyone is traveling to a location for a big celebration of friendship, humanity, and sports. It’s a common language.” Sport is a great connector; “if you move somewhere unfamiliar and join a team or a club, playing sports with people, you immediately have this kinship and brotherhood.”

It’s an interesting word choice, ‘brotherhood’. Veronika has seen her share of gender discrimination in sports and has had to prove herself every step of the way. But she’s proud of the work the Olympics in particular has done for equality. “Things don’t have to be the same, there just needs to be equal opportunity, and the Olympics are quite ahead of that.”

Veronika works with a nonprofit called Equal Playing Field that is focusing on creating camps in countries where women and girls are unable or not allowed to play sports. It also shines a light on places where women and girls don’t have an equal playing field or the same opportunities as men and boys. “My generation, and those younger than me, we’re in a



fortunate position. Those before us fought really, really hard to force open doors that were firmly shut. And now I try to walk through those doors, sit at the table and work within the system. Things are improving, but there’s still a way to go.”

She’s proud of her work with the Olympics; “it’s like coming home, for me.” Many of those who work behind the scenes have been colleagues for years and enjoy working with locals at every site. “A part of what the Games are meant to do is create this knowledge and legacy and experience in every host country.” She’s working with and mentoring a lot of younger people; “they come to work every day super excited about what they do, and you don’t really have that in every workplace.” Veronika is already looking ahead to Milano Cortina 2026, which is so close to where she grew up; a double homecoming.

But for now, there’s Paris. “I really love it. I used to come here quite a bit to visit and for business, but living here is even better, and I love my job.” Veronika is definitely on to a winner.

Veronika will be on campus from January 16–18, 2023 as part of the TASIS Speaker Series. We can’t wait for our students to be inspired by her life and achievements.

HE TAUGHT US HOW TO SEE: TRIBUTES TO HORST DÜRRSCHMIDT



Horst Dürrschmidt left an indelible impact on the hearts and lives of countless alumni. His death on February 19 at the age of 79 came as a shock to many who were used to seeing him around the Collina d'Oro, having a coffee at the Boccadoro near the Hermann Hesse Museum, or dinner at the Bellavista. He enjoyed seeing former students when they dropped by Lugano and kept in touch with hundreds of students on social media and via email.

Horst taught Photography and Art at TASIS for 35 years, from 1974 to 2009, and was the major force in developing the Art Department. He organized the first TASIS Spring Arts Festival in 1975 with colleague **Fernando Gonzalez** and secured a prominent place for the fine arts in the TASIS curriculum, ensuring students gained a lifelong appreciation for creativity and the arts. Horst inspired generations of students, many of whom went on to careers in photography and design. The TASIS Fine Arts Center, which includes the Dürrschmidt Gallery in Horst's honor, was donated by **Ferit Şahenk '83**, who was greatly influenced by Horst.

Countless alumni posted tributes on a special TASIS web page (tasis.ch/horst). Below is a selection.

Mr. Dürrschmidt inspired in me a lifelong passion for photography and learning. I remember spending hours upon hours working in his studio darkroom. Long discussions under those red lights. The sound of running water. The smell of chemicals. Him sharing his knowledge. I was a lousy photographer, he was a great teacher. Patience. His perspective on the world—looking for the best in what we see. He was the best teacher. The world is lesser without the legendary Horst Dürrschmidt.

—**Myron Jacobson '85**

Mr. Dürrschmidt was my favorite teacher and advisor of choice. He taught me photography and an appreciation for the arts. My leadership style today is heavily influenced by the way he and Mrs. Fleming would always trust students and give them responsibilities to grow into. He taught me how to develop my own lens. So grateful for him. —**Mathias Muehlhofer '95**

Mr. Dürrschmidt was the best teacher I ever had. I loved every minute of learning with him. The skills I learned in his IB class helped me to launch a career in journalism. I currently work at BBC News and sincerely believe I have him to thank for that. —**Max Matza '06**

Imparting not only knowledge but skill and self-worth is the aim of any virtuous educator, and Horst was one of the finest. He sought to challenge your assumptions without being adversarial; he taught the basics without being condescending; he embodied passion without obsession, and all while never lacking in compassion or sincerity. Horst showed that anyone could peer into



the pentaprism, off of a mirror and through the lens to extract the essence of our world. I will be forever grateful for having known Horst as my advisor, my teacher, and ultimately my friend. That which I learned from you can not be quantified or described, but nor can it be forgotten. —**Luca Stickley '07**

He opened my eyes to the world of photography and I was forever changed. —**Lorenzo Angelides '90**

I ended up being an art historian. Horst played a crucial role in my education, and I was grateful to have had such a creative and encouraging teacher. As his students and friends, we are part of his great legacy, and he lives in us and in our hearts. —**Armando Droulers '77**

My mentor, my teacher, my friend is gone but his spirit and brilliance live on. Horst: a unique person to whom I owe a deep debt of gratitude. —**Janne Sirén '88**

As a dorm father, teacher, and friend, Horst was a very special and beautiful part of my life and will be greatly missed. Being the caring, loving, and special human being he was, I know there are a lot he touched around the world that are feeling this loss too! My heart and healing prayers go out to them. —**Darby Hinton '75**

He taught us to see the beauty in the ordinary. —**Ashley Walhaug Garrison '02**

I was so lucky to have crossed paths with him from '87–'90. His energy and love for his art was something. When

I mention TASIS, his name is number two behind Mrs. Fleming. He will not be forgotten. —**Patrick Nunley '90**

Horst jump-started my passion for photography and taught me PhotoShop. I always wanted to tell him that it was thanks to him that I landed my dream jobs at NBC Universal. He was so kind and patient. —**Anastasia Maria Cimino '09**

In fall 2006 I was the first tenant of the apartment Horst created below his home on Ra Cürta. He took a cold concrete room and transformed it into a luxurious apartment—an apt metaphor for how he taught students to see the potential beauty in everything. His hospitality is legendary, and living below Horst meant a lot of evenings of music, wine, and conversation. In the decade and a half I knew him I learned so much about how to live and what to value. How lucky to have been his friend. —**Kristin Pedroja**, TASIS staff

He taught me how to develop my own lens. So grateful for him. —**Permele Doyle '05**

The world has lost a beautiful soul. Horst had that innate ability to help his students find their blocks and then give them the tools to let them go. I'll never forget my first class and piece of work with him and my shocked statement, "Oh wow, I am an artist!" I had always been told I was terrible... And here I am today still painting and creating. He touched SO MANY lives, and we were lucky to be with him for awhile...I just wish I had reached out before to share this with him. Such a loss. —**Laney Sproat Pitt '78**

He always pushed me to take that extra moment so that I could look at things a little differently. He would help you find the beauty in everything. Thank you so much, Mr. Dürrschmidt. —**Jack Savoretti '01**

We are all better people for having known him. —**Loretta McPheeters '93**

THE LEGACY WILL CONTINUE

In a given week, the John E. Palmer Cultural Center hosts classes, workshops, music classes, parent meetings, after-school drama workshops, college counseling seminars, and lectures. It is a gallery, performance space, and theater. Since opening in 2009, it has become one of the most vibrant spaces on campus.

The Palmer Center exists thanks to the generous bequest of **John E. Palmer '64**, which funded half of the building costs. John's passion for the performing arts and for TASIS will live on for generations in this elegant, welcoming building.

We often talk about Mrs. Fleming's legacy, how her impact has expanded beyond what perhaps she even thought possible. The M. Crist Fleming Legacy Society extends this reach to include our extended School community. All bequests, no matter the size, will make a difference to TASIS students.

A number of vehicles for giving are available, from gifts of corporate stock to life insurance policies to setting up a Charitable Remainder Trust. All are tax-deductible and will play a significant role in the future of TASIS.

What motivates our Legacy Society members to give? We asked a few of them to tell us why they want their connection to TASIS to be everlasting.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Dr. Kirk Pillow '85 is our most recent Legacy Society member. An established scholar in aesthetics and the philosophy of art, he is currently Professor of Social Science and Cultural Studies at Pratt Institute

in New York City. Kirk served as Provost of Pratt from 2015–2020. Before Pratt, he was an academic at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia, Corcoran College of Art + Design, and Hamilton College of Art and Design. He is a graduate of Trinity University and received his master's and doctoral degrees in philosophy from Northwestern University.



As someone who has committed his life to education and academia you will understand the effect that legacy gifts such as yours can have on an institution and its students. Can you tell us a bit about what prompted your generosity to TASIS?

I had the opportunity to spend two years of high school at TASIS in the early 1980s. It was really a life-changing experience for me to become friends with fellow students from all over the world and learn about

their cultures. I wish to support a school that enables such horizon-expanding learning experiences for young people.

Any anecdotes or memories you'd like to share from your time on the Collina d'Oro?

I still have the picture of my friends and me in front of the Prato dorm (since demolished) circa 1982, on a tacky dress-up day. We definitely look the part. With many of these friends I have marvelous memories of exploring Europe on TASIS trips to Paris, Vienna, Venice, of course St. Moritz, and elsewhere.

We often don't understand the impact of an experience until years after it happens. Looking back on your life so far, how has your time at TASIS affected your life?

I think learning at TASIS instilled in me a life-long appreciation for diversity of people and cultures. As a quirky kid from suburban Texas, my years at TASIS helped me mature into myself, greatly broadened my perspective on the world, and developed in me a continuing passion for travel.

Did your time at TASIS help ignite a spark to spend your life in education and education administration, and if so, in what ways?

I was first exposed to philosophy while in the ninth grade at TASIS and first learned art appreciation on my TASIS travels. Years later I obtained my doctorate in philosophy, focused on aesthetics and the philosophy of art. I have since taught philosophy at the college level for many years and have served in administrative leadership roles at several art and design colleges. These interests and my career path all began for me at TASIS.



Christian Draz poses under a portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette at the home of the French ambassador in Washington, fall 2021

TASIS OPENED THE DOOR

Christian Draz '70 once decided to run away from TASIS rather than get a haircut. “I asked for my passport and left campus,” he recalls. “I was far too cautious to go anywhere but to my family’s home in Geneva, but I sufficiently scared the administration; I was never told to cut my hair again! It turned me into one of **Mrs. Fleming’s** ‘bad boys’, so she always remembered me and we became very fond of each other.”

TASIS was an important piece of Christian’s greater experience of discovering countries and continents. “Its instruction was so unlike the schooling I’d had in America—much more intimate, and intellectually challenging. And I carried that greater intellectual rigor into my subsequent schooling and my life as a

thinking person. Being at TASIS made me understand that there was a life to be lived outside of America and it did lead directly to my practice of spending two to three months in Paris annually for many years. It made me think of myself as not just an American but as an American abroad—which is a special and privileged category of American! TASIS was the door that opened up Europe to me.” Indeed, Christian claims that TASIS launched his path to lifelong Francophilia!

Christian remains loyal to the impact of a TASIS education. “It takes you out of your home culture and introduces you to what should be global values—tolerance, cross-cultural understanding, trans-national humanitarian values rather than strictly national interests. It can produce a much more worldly and ideally sophisticated person.” He notes that this is missing in a large part of society. “I am endlessly angered by the average American’s disinterest in even thinking about the rest of the world, stuck as they seem to be in a navel-gazing ignorance of anything not home-grown and obviously American. An education at TASIS these days throws you in with several dozen other nationalities and that is a good thing for any American.”

Christian decided to make his generous bequest to TASIS out of gratitude for his education. He also notes, “Additionally as a mark of respect for the way **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman ’63** has run and expanded the school. I could have given to my college, Vassar, but a gift to TASIS is more financially meaningful. When I tell people about my TASIS experience, I say it changed my life, it was the happiest year of my education, and it left me with wonderful memories and an abiding interest in the School’s well-being and greater success. I look at what TASIS offers now and I am flabbergasted by its richness.”

THE TASIS TOUCH



***Nickerson and Maggie Miles** sent their children to TASIS in the 1990s. They remain steadfast supporters of the School and its impact.*

When you think of TASIS, what immediately comes to mind?

Both of our children (**Josh ’93** and **Christina ’00**) graduated from TASIS, so the school has had a profound influence on our family. Both had attended as semi-boarders while we were living in northern Italy as expatriates. They’d be at school during the week and we’d fetch them for the weekends. After we moved back to the US when our daughter, Christina, was half way through her junior year, she became a full-time boarder. We cannot put a price on “The TASIS Touch” to their education—the influential teachers, the in-program travel, the ambiance of the campus and Montagnola, the overall caring nature of the school.

Can you tell us some of the ways TASIS has influenced Christina and Joshua as they've become adults?

We believe that TASIS imbued both Joshua and Christina with traits that have shaped their adulthood. Both have embraced broad, global perspectives. Both are comfortable interacting with people from all parts of the world—Christina as an award-winning visual-arts teacher at an independent school in the Pacific Northwest, and Joshua as a purveyor of fine wines in Manhattan. They see themselves as citizens of the wider world. They share a sense of adventure. They're open to different perspectives. They appreciate cultural diversity. And they're adaptable. They lived full lives while at TASIS, juggling courses, extra-curricular activities, and strong friendships. And they have continued doing the same as adults. How much of that do we as parents attribute to TASIS? Frankly, a lot.

Would you share some memories of impactful moments while the children were at TASIS?

In many ways while we were living in northern Italy, TASIS became a big part of our social network. We got to know Mrs. Fleming and members of the faculty and administration quite well, given that we were on campus every weekend. We were fortunate to be able to attend theater productions, art shows, and any number of other campus events. We even reciprocated by hosting a dinner for faculty at our home before leaving Europe—giving them a chance to escape the campus for an evening and to feel how much we appreciated their influence on our kids. In that sense, we felt we were a real part of the school as parents, even as TASIS became part of our own family. It was a very special situation that we realize that not all parents are able to enjoy—so

we wanted to make the most of it.

When Christina was a sophomore, her first school-sponsored excursion was titled “The Trip to Hell.” It involved a frenetic trip through Italy to see various artistic depictions of the Last Judgment. At the time, I thought it was a brilliant idea that might appeal as much to adults as it did to the students. Christina still talks about it, and it influenced her development as an artist. She has led her own students on trips to Florence and Poland. Josh has traveled the world as a wine merchant. We believe that the boarding school environment can also drive life-long friendships. We see that in both our kids; in fact, we still love hearing about the achievements of many of their TASIS friends.

Are there particular reasons behind your generosity to TASIS?

Our decision to include TASIS in our estate plans simply reflects our appreciation of TASIS's impact on the lives of our family members. Every one of us. Let's just say, it's our way of giving back, of returning the favor.

A COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Ned Lynch PG '66 found his world transformed after a year at TASIS. In the years since, Ned has remained connected to the School in a number of ways, including many years as Class Agent where he helped to organize reunions and stay in touch with his peers. A longstanding and invaluable member of our global community, Ned generously bequeathed a portion of his estate to TASIS, a long-term investment that will increase in value for many years to come.



TASIS inspired in Ned a lifetime commitment to travel; indeed, he has visited over 160 countries. He co-founded a private computer company in Boston and since retiring he spends his winters in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and the rest of the year in his Boston home. But he remains an avid traveler and understands firsthand the cross-cultural understanding and connection possible through travel.

“In 1966 I attended the Post Graduate Program,” Ned recalls. “This was an innovative travel-study program, a unique and daring creation of the School’s founder, **Mary Crist Fleming**. Mrs. Fleming recognized the need for a School with superior academic quality while at the

same time providing intense travel-study opportunities. This made the TASIS academic program unique and one of the most advanced secondary school programs in the world.”

In 1999, Ned established the Edward E. and Edyth K. Lynch Fund at TASIS to honor his parents and their commitment to international education. “My parents had the courage to entrust the Founder of TASIS, Mary Crist Fleming, and her unique School, with their only child. In order to thank my parents for their courage and vision in providing me with a life-changing educational experience, I established a planned gift in their name,” he says. He continues to be grateful for his passion for travel and cultures that began while at the School.

In May 2022, Ned repurposed this annual donation, creating the Lynch Global Service Program Extension Award, a fitting tribute to the memory of his parents. The award is given to a deserving senior who wishes to continue working on a Global Service project or wishes to attend a second Global Service trip abroad, continuing the work that was begun in his or her junior year thanks to the generosity and vision of **Jan Opsahl ’68** by establishing the Opsahl Global Service Program. Students will be chosen by a committee including the Headmaster, Director of Institutional Advancement, High School Dean of Students, and Opsahl Global Service Program Director.

Ned is particularly proud of this donation as experiential learning is an area dear to his heart. Of the Fund, Ned says, “More than thanking my parents, I established this gift to help deserving young people to be able to participate in the unique, necessary educational experience of TASIS. The TASIS scholastic travel study program, with students attending from all over the world, is an environment that will dramatically and positively change all of their lives—just as it did mine.”

**With deep gratitude
to the following members
of our community who
are part of the
M. Crist Fleming Legacy Society:**

Paulise & Rick Bell PG '65
Christian Draz '70
Maude Glore PG '67
Richard Jensen '73
Helen Kochenderfer '75
Ned Lynch PG '66
Nicholas Major PG '68
Dieter Metzger '74
Nick & Maggie Miles
Donald D. MacDermid '61
John E. Palmer '64
Kirk Pillow '85

Immeasurable gratitude to **Donald D. MacDermid '61** whose legacy gift will not only help build The Donald D. MacDermid Center for Music, Academics, and Residence but will also benefit TESIS's Performing Arts program for decades to come. Donald has remained loyal to TESIS throughout his life. "My love for TESIS hasn't changed. It opened me up, and I stayed open. It's always with me because of what it did to me. It changed my life. ...TESIS has been terribly important to me. It made me larger, in a sense. It made me who I am.

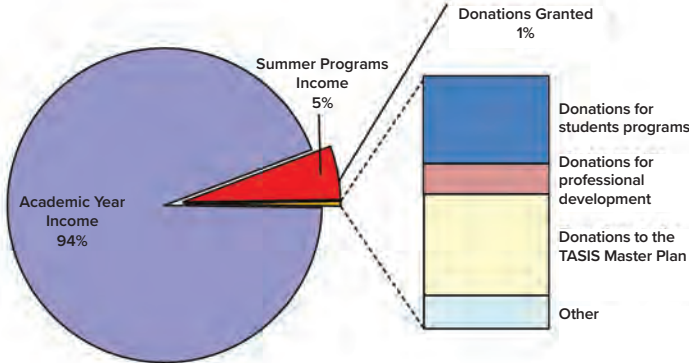
If you have named TESIS as a beneficiary in your will, please let us know so that we can recognize you and thank you in your lifetime!

For more information about becoming a Legacy Society member please contact Bill Eichner, Director of Institutional Advancement, at eichner@tasis.ch.

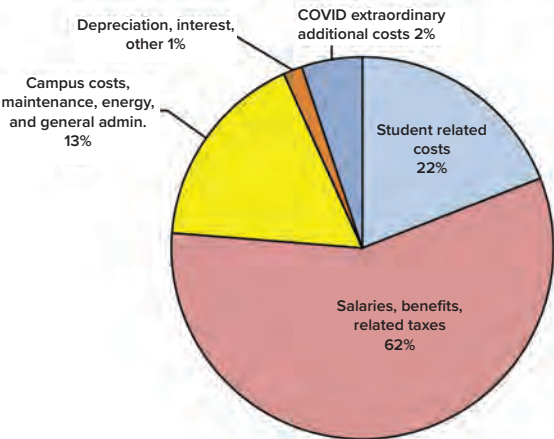


TASIS FINANCIAL REPORT

TASIS Operating Income and Fundraising 2021–2022

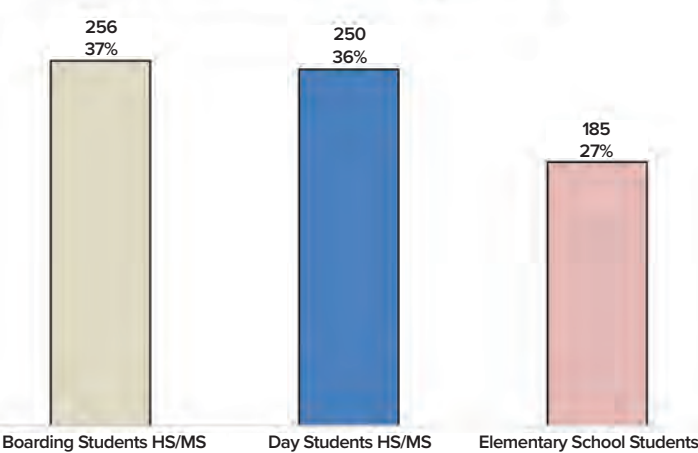


TASIS Operating Costs



June 30, 2022

TASIS Students 2021–2022, average number 691



SIT DOWN AND RELAX

The Class of 2022, TASIS’s newest alumni, were inducted on May 26, including some students who spent their entire education at TASIS—our TASIS lifers! The same day, the class unveiled its gift to the school, a bench on the MCF piazza outside Monticello between the fountain and the entrance to the library. We thank them for their generosity. Generations of students will make memories on this bench!



FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE



Yvonne Procyk, Michelle Arslanian, and Zuleika Tipismana relax in Casa Fleming, March 2022

After nearly 30 years with TASIS and 13 years as Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations, **Yvonne Procyk** retired in spring 2022. TASIS was happy to celebrate this milestone but will miss her dedication to TASIS and her invaluable support of our alumni community.

Yvonne will be replaced by **Michelle Arslanian**, which will ensure continuity in the Alumni Office. Michelle has filled a number of roles since starting at TASIS in 1996, including helping with website management since 2000 and serving as Associate

Webmaster since 2014, providing assistance as a public relations liaison with local and national Swiss media since 2012, and working with the Alumni Office since 2009. Her institutional knowledge, impressive language skills, and familiarity with our alumni community make her a great fit for her new role.

Michelle will work alongside **Zuleika Tipismana**, who has been with the Alumni Office since 2006 and will continue in her role as Alumni and Development Officer. They can both be reached at alumni@tasis.ch.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS 2021–2022

DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022

IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

With great appreciation to the alumni, parents, faculty & staff, and friends of TASIS who have made a contribution to the School this year, supporting the Annual Appeal, the Endowment, or The Global Village Campaign. Your support brings direct benefits to our students and the entire TASIS community—thank you!

ANNUAL GIVING

\$75,000

Curtis McGraw Webster '75,
in honor of the reunion class of 1975

\$50,000

Marianne Odfjell and Lars Titland (parents),
The Collina Alta Global Village Campaign

\$30,000

Irina Rappoport (parent)

\$10,000–24,999

Rick Bell PG '65
Shannon and Rob Crane Family Fund
of the Columbus Foundation (parents)
Pietro and Gretchen Gussalli Beretta (parents),
The Collina Alta Global Village Campaign

\$2,500–4,999

David Beebe PG '66

\$1,000–2,499

Paolo Dell'Oro (parent)
Amy and John Gage '60
Mary Boyd Gould '75
James C. Gray '66
J. Michael Horak (former faculty)
Thomas Little '84
Ned Lynch PG '66
Diana Rader Moyle '69
Geoffrey Parker PG '67
Robert S. Perkin PG '66
Riccardo Romani and Lavinia Cosattini Romani '90
(alumni parents)
Deborah Webster '66

\$500–999

Judy Callaway Brand '63
Bill Gage SH '62
Berkley Latimer (former faculty and Board member),
in honor of the School's personnel
Katherine Wetzel Murphy '74
Scott Whittle '71
One anonymous donation

Up to \$499

Thomas Bailey '72
Cuauhtemoc Balcarcel Benitez
and Roxana Pereda Gomez (parents)
Jonathan Barkich '76
Ana Costa Felix (parent)
Constant Crohin '89
David and Melanie Damico (former faculty)
Christian Draz '70
Lorri Fien '76
Margrit Gillespie (summer faculty)
Jim Haley (summer faculty)
Marilyn Frison Hand '69
Robert Hawley PG '66
Seiji Koda and Kei Yamamoto (alumni parents)
James McCarthy '73
Lexie Smart Mouton '92
Christina Olson '97
Ermenegildo Parlatore (alumni parent)
Barbara Pritzlaff Pierce '74
Elizabeth Harris Pritchard PG '61
Yasmine Rana (former faculty)
Adriana Espitia Redmond PG '91,
in honor of Maria Elena Mendoza Aviña
Alexander Rezanov and Alena Rezanova
(alumni parents)
Fred Roland '64
John Romer (former faculty)
Leslie Gordon Ross '63
Mary Seyfarth PG '66

Constance Shields '88
Elaine Mack Timbers '68
Colin Toole '03
Victoria Leonhart Trefts '71
William Tyler '10
Pavel Voznesenskaia, in honor of Ksenia Voznesenskaia
Robin Weaver PG '65
One anonymous donation

**OPSAHL GLOBAL
SERVICE PROGRAM**
Gift of \$180,000

With immense appreciation and gratitude to **Jan Opsahl '68** for his continuing support by way of regular donations from his Service Learning Trust.

**DONATIONS TO THE
MCF ENDOWMENT**

Up to \$499

Leslie Downes FCF '74
Denis Petrov and Yulia Petrova (alumni parents)
Alison Mirylees (former faculty)

\$500–999

Samir Abasgulyev and Nigar Afandiyeva
(alumni parents)
Walter Garbuio and Hamdina Sacic (parents)
Daniel Levin and Stacy Title (alumni parents)

\$1,000–2,499

Hideki Sato (alumni parent)
Deborah Webster '66

ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN SAN FRANCISCO, OCTOBER 27, 2021

After a 19-month delay and a series of four hoped-for dates on the calendar, on October 14 it was at last possible to send out the usual pre-reunion info message to eager attendees in San Francisco announcing, “The countdown is ON!!” More than 50 took advantage and joined us at the first post-pandemic, all-class reunion, fittingly held at the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco—it was slated to host a gathering on March 14, 2020, which had to be canceled at short notice as the world hunkered down for the first lockdowns in response to Covid.

Those present covered all decades and all schools, ranging from the early 60s to the 2010s and including alumni whose TASIS experience was in Switzerland, England, or Greece, as well as a handful of former faculty. It was a true community-wide event.

The view of the sunset over the Golden Gate Bridge set the scene for a mellow evening of socializing and networking too. Some alumni met classmates at the reunion while others made new connections. Four members of the Class of 2001 were there to start on a series of reunions to celebrate their 20th anniversary and discuss how and where to bring a bigger group together. All classes ending in ‘0’ and ‘1’ have been in this situation and, while there’s still uncertainty, it’s great to see things starting to happen. —Yvonne Procyk



1 Darrin Moravec '83, Tjerk de Ruiter, Carolina Roman '78, Christiane Cunial '78, Mabel Chan, Shay Yuval TSLP '91 **2** standing: Yvonne Procyk, Yvette Brault Rogers '69, Bill Gage SH '63, Fred Roland '64; seated: Raul Torres, Molly Botkin Rossiter '61 with her yearbook **3** Meaghan Heeren, Ryan Boselli TE '11, Margaret Burton TE '11, Shea Matthews, Molly Bachmann, Taylor Sayward '09, Meagan Vincent **4** Denice Anderson Gilling '83, Chante McCormick TH '89 **5** Anghelika Elliott Maddalena TH '84, Nada Ziady TH '84, Christine Antonakopoulos TH '93, Katerina Igoumenopoulos TH '93, Yvonne Procyk, Chante McCormick TH '89 **6** Oliver Rizzi-Carlson '01, Ivan Simic '01, Courtney Pickus '01, Nick Goddard '01 **7** Alyssum Wier '92, Diane Schumacher, Sonia Tsuji Pasquali '91 **8** Lorri Fien '76, Henry Bilbao '76, Kelly Bilbao **9** Chris Boynton '74, Diana Rader Moyle '69, Michael Nelson '70 **10** A big group shot of the first all-class reunion to take place post-Covid!

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 19, 2021

The excitement was palpable from the moment the invitation went out to our alumni, with a rapid and strong sign-up leading to the largest registration ever seen for a reunion—and finally translating into a lively and happy gathering of around 200 at The Yale Club on November 19. It truly was an All-TASIS evening with alumni representing TASIS schools in Lugano, England, Greece, Cyprus, Fleming College Florence, and a variety of summer programs. Former faculty and staff joined in as well.

It was great to see alumni reconnecting with old friends and making new ones from a different decade or a different school: the TASIS spirit is a perfect common denominator.

Director of Institutional Advancement Bill Eichner and former Headmaster (and current Board of Directors member) Lyle Rigg were there to deliver remarks and represented four schools between them, delighting their former students and colleagues. This reunion was a year overdue, but we came back in force! —Yvonne Procyk



1 Luiz Afonso Fernandes Lopes '16, Paulina Gazin '16, Marianne Tissot '16, Lyle Rigg **2** Yvonne Procyk, Bill Eichner, Lyle Rigg **3** Juliana Solheim Mackinnon '07, Melissa Eichner, Nola Seta Herlihy '07, Denise Chiang '07 **4** PG '66 classmates Robinson Leech, Elisabeth Acer Crawford, Robert S. Perkin **5** Ilayda, Tuana, and Alara Arin '16 with Bill Eichner **6** Eric Wen '70, Joyce Paton '71, Kristen Lowman '70 **7** Lara De Vido '89, Toni Clayton-Hine '89, Valentina Bardawil Powers '90, Christian Powers **8** Nicholas Kalogeropoulos TH '88, Frank Miller TH '88, Alex Tsimonidis TH '87 **9** Hilary Gunn '07, Steve Mauro PG '84 **10** Nick Letsios TH '87, Marina Letsios, Kirk Karabelas TH '87, Foula Gavrilis **11** Bill Eichner, Donald MacDermid '61 **12** A lively crowd from all TASIS schools enjoys the evening together!

CLASS OF 2017: 5TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION | LUGANO



Nearly 40 members of the TASIS Class of 2017 reconvened on campus for their 5th-year reunion on the evening of May 28, 2022. The young alumni toured campus with Director of Institutional Development Bill Eichner, visited the Monticello dormitory with Associate Director of Development and Alumni Relations Michelle



Arslanian, rang the bell they gifted to the School back in 2017, and enjoyed aperitifs and dinner with some of their former teachers at Casa Fleming, where they also had a chance to pour over the 2017 Yearbook and rewatch the slideshow that was played at their Farewell Assembly that year.

CLASS OF 2012: 10TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION | LUGANO



While TASIS was being transformed for the opening of the 2022 Summer Programs, this 10-year reunion brought the campus back to life on Friday, June 17. Four alumni stayed in the Lanterna dormitory for the weekend, each arriving amid hugs and a surreal disbelief at being back at TASIS. One even arrived with Swiss Francs that are no longer in circulation—after 10 years!

The rest of the attendees—including three members of the Class of 2013 and one from the Class of 2011—trickled in in time for the campus tour at 18:00. A tour was led by Director of Institutional



Advancement Bill Eichner, and a highlight was visiting the Drawing and Painting Studio in the Şahenk Fine Arts Center, where Visual Arts Department Chair Martyn Dukes set up a display of artwork created by members of the Class of 2012 and invited the guests to (finally!) take their pieces home. The tour ended with the class spilling into the Casa Fleming garden for Mimosa cocktails, wine, appetizers and a delicious buffet dinner. Many thanks to Alexis de Bruin for pulling this reunion together and to Ekaterina Ikonomova for organizing the evening in Lugano!

CLASS OF 1982: 40TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION | LUGANO



The Class of 1982 returned on Saturday, August 6 for an evening on campus, beginning with a campus tour led by Director of Institutional Advancement Bill Eichner. Former faculty member Howard Stickley also led a group to Hadsall so that the ‘boys’ could see their old dorm. Master Teacher Mark Aeschliman and former faculty member



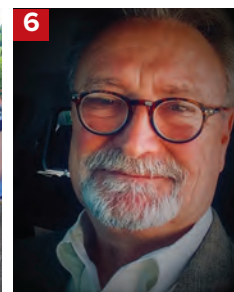
Chantal and Gordon were also in attendance. The tour’s last stop was Casa Fleming, where memories were shared over hors d’oeuvres and wine. And then, a surprise guest—Angelo, who appeared carrying his freshly-made panini! Everyone agreed that they were just the same as the ones from Angelo’s store!

CLASSES OF 2001 AND 2002: JOINT 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION | LUGANO



The Classes of 2001 and 2002 joined together on campus to celebrate their 20th-year reunion on the weekend of August 19–21. Alumni joined TASIS faculty and staff for tours of campus, then dinner on the De Nobili terrace. The group also met for drinks on Piazza Riforma and had a “boat dance” on Lake Lugano with late-night dancing at Prince. The next morning the group met for Sunday brunch on campus and a tour of Hadsall which ended in the basement snack bar as the group shared so many memories.

ALUMNI *Class News*



If your Class Agent's email is not listed, contact alumni@tasis.ch.

60

Class Agent: John Gage gage.john1@gmail.com

John Gage celebrated his 80th birthday at the beginning of 2022, which led to a wonderful family celebration: "We were visited by my brother, **Bill SH '63**, and his family, my nephew, Colin, and my niece, Michele, her husband, Matt, and their 4-month old daughter, Mia Jean. **Lisa '86** and her younger daughter, **Evangeline CDE '08**, also joined us. It represents a real family gathering which is virtually unprecedented. I'm very touched that my birthday can be an opportunity for some renewed family interaction." ¹

61

Class Agent: Rick Mayne

62

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

63

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

64

Class Agent: Joe Cook jacook4646@yahoo.com

65

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

66

Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman
Debby Webster updated us in September: "We did a Road Scholar trip in Italy and then Steve returned to the US after a few days in Florence. I spent some time with my roommate from Junior Year Abroad in Italy (she actually worked for Mrs. Fleming at Fleming College briefly!) and I met a friend from Vail in Prague for another Road Scholar trip on the Danube from Prague to Budapest." • **Patricia Harris Bayne** is retired from teaching and will run the Bayne Fine Art and Automotive Museum in Pittsburg, TX, with her husband Harry. They will be opening sometime next spring. Good luck, Patricia!

67

Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman
Virginia Brooks continues to enjoy her biggest passion in life: "You never really retire from being an artist. I stayed busy during the last two years painting on location all over the Southwest. I also began writing notes on my palette while I painted, and they have turned into the foundation for a memoir. Great fun, and Mr. Wilson would be so pleased! I continue to work full-time. I still give one-on-one painting lessons in my home studio in Carefree, AZ. Many interesting people walk through my studio door, and I am grateful to have them in my life. Art goes a long way towards keeping me young at heart." ²

68

Class Agent: Pamela Springer Bryant tasis1968class@gmail.com
Pam (Stevie) Springer Bryant was on a Disney Cruise in June with her family. Photo of Pam and her husband Carl on Pirate Night! ³

69

Class Agent: Pamela Carrillo Jackson

70

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

71

Class Agent: Charles Hodgkins chodgkins@gmail.com

Nancy Hubbard Carty is currently preparing a series of 8x8-inch acrylic panels which will explore the theme *Bedazzled by Blue: At the Water's Edge*. The exhibition will take place at the Halle Gallery in Apex, NC, from Sept 9–Nov 17, 2022. Nancy trained as a photographer and art educator at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1980. Her career as an art educator has spanned 33 years where she implemented full-scale art programs in the US and abroad. Awarded a Fulbright Scholars award to Japan in 1997 and Fulbright Hays Award to travel to Argentina in 2002, Nancy has combined her love of travel with sharing her passion for art and culture in her teaching experiences. Nancy currently lives in Raleigh, NC, where she teaches a landscape painting class at the Pullen Art Center. www.NancyCarty.com ⁴ • In June 2022, four classmates from the Class of '71 met for a long weekend in the mountains of western, NC. Photo from l to r: **Nancy Hubbard, Gina Tapper, Robin Hamilton, and Hilarie Horne**. "Our grateful thanks to **Gina Tapper** for organizing our splendid lodging. In one day we managed to enjoy a croissant-laden breakfast (reminding us of De Nobili) and a picnic lunch by a waterfall featuring the famous Bel

Paese cheese sandwiches we often purchased from Angelo's store in Montagnola. Our evening meal at a local German restaurant concluded our day with the memories of the January ski term in St. Moritz. All of us agree that our education at TASIS was remarkable and that TASIS provided a lifelong appreciation for learning. Each of our lives were deeply enriched by the bonds of friendship forged over fifty-one years ago. Grazie mille TASIS!" ⁵ • **Stan Sehested** is now living in The Woodlands, TX. "I'm about to publish the second edition of my book to be titled, *Hatch More Golden Ideas*, a blueprint for creative thinking and problem-solving. It gets five stars from readers—in paperback now and soon an ebook. Ideas up everyone! Hey to all my high school buds!" ⁶

72

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

73

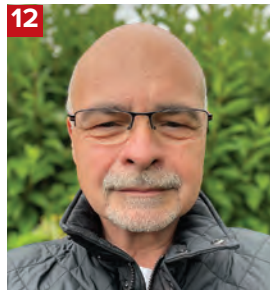
Class Agent: Wendy Barton Benson

74

Class Agent: Kathy Gamble Pilugin dulcinea_q1@me.com

Kathy is working on plans for a reunion in 2024 for the TASIS '70s groups, classes of 1973, 1974, 1975, and 1976. • **Dan Higgins** ticked another one off the bucket list with a trip to Iceland in March. "I did some sightseeing and it changed my life: snowstorms, cyclone winds, getting photo approval to photograph Damon Albarn in concert at the Harpa in Reykjavik. The black sand beach was especially moving as

ALUMNI *Class News*



were the Northern Lights. Hoping for London in December to see the Cure! Best to you all. Looking forward to the big 5-0 reunion on campus!" 7

75

Class Agent: Linda Jaekel Avery
linda.avery60@gmail.com

Linda is working on plans for a 50-year reunion in 2025 or joining in with the 70s group in 2024. • **Martha Freund Thomas** has started a new job. "I'm moving into career coaching and management. I work in recruitment and operations with a 55-person team at the McCombs School of Business in UT. I miss the art museum but I'm happy to have a new journey ahead. I plan on visiting art museums in my spare time now. I haven't done that for 15 years!" • **Patrick O'Neill** visited TASIS with his daughter in October 2021. He was happy to be on campus and said Mrs. Fleming and TASIS left a huge mark on his life. The School inspired him to pursue a life filled with travel and education. He was with the Air Force for 27 years which allowed him to travel and see a bit of the world. • **Linda Jaekel Avery** reports: "We have spent all of 2021 in Panama, exploring different parts of the country, including waterfront and mountains. We have met many lovely people and enjoy a pretty active social life, along with getting involved with the Boquete Rotary Club (in English...but our Spanish is improving daily here!), the Boquete Health group (supporting blood drives, medical equipment lending, etc.) and the dog rescue group at Dog Camp Boquete."

8 • **Carolyn Clark** published a poetry book called *Poet Duet* that includes poetry written by her and her mother, former TASIS teacher

Florence Adams Clark. This labor of love is a wonderful tribute to mother and daughter, and is in honor of her mother's passing at age 93 in April 2019. "Florence, my first model poet, loved teaching at TASIS and had very fond memories. The book has a review from *Motherhood Literature and Art* but we haven't had a proper book launch yet due to the pandemic." Carolyn also teaches classical mythology for writers in addition to teaching skiing three days a week during the winter season. *Poet Duet* can be bought via www.kelsaybooks.com. • **Barbara Levi James** was in touch this summer: "By the time this is in print, I'll have submitted my resignation letter to my employer, my paperwork to Social Security and Medicare, and be on my way to celebrating the R word—retirement! After a career in advertising and publishing, I took time off to raise my kids and then began a new career in healthcare. I am looking forward to finally taking care of myself, doing what I want to do, and enjoying life. My kids are settled in their careers and new lives. My son, after a decade in the Navy as a nuclear submariner and then instructor, is heading to WA to work at a Navy shipyard. My daughter graduated from Penn State in 3 years *magna cum laude* with dual majors—journalism and political science, and is now in Washington, DC, working as an editor for a business industry publication. I also have a grand fur-baby, Miss Maple the WonderKitty. Retirement plans include going to baseball games, rock concerts, travel, and volunteer work. I hope all is well with my fellow retirees and I'm hoping to get to the DC Reunion." • **Darby Hinton** and **Jeannie Cunningham** hooked up at Darby's book signing in one

of Palm Springs' most fashionable stores. JC writes, "Darby is still one of the most elegant, chivalrous, and hilarious people I have ever known in my entire life since day one at TASIS. His book, *Growing Up Israel*, is loaded with pictures, anecdotes, and fun facts. So grateful we had a chance to experience our most formative year at TASIS, and TASIS continues to be one of the greatest loves of my life." 9

76

Class Agents: PK Fields and Daisy Bilbao

Hugh Haynie retired after 20 years as a circuit judge and nine years as a prosecutor. "Not on any social media but please email me!! hughsmithhaynie@gmail.com."

• **Stewart Chritton** tells us, "After 30 years in anesthesia at Brigham and Women's in Boston, we are moving to South Portland, ME this fall. I will be giving anesthesia at a small hospital in Biddeford and easing into retirement up there. Our two girls are launched towards or in college. Life is good!" 10 • **PK Fields** and **Rick Mullen '77** ran into each other on Father's Day at the Rodeo Drive Concours D'Elegance in Beverly Hills, CA. 11 • **Lorri Fien** enjoyed the long-awaited San Francisco reunion in October 2021. "It was great to reconnect with old friends and learn about future plans for TASIS. Looking forward to another California reunion! After many years working as a litigation paralegal, I resigned in February 2022. I initially planned for 6 months off to do tasks I never got around to (or put off). However, in June I joined a security and risk management company assisting in pre-employment background investigations for public safety candidates (police and fire). It's very

fascinating and fulfilling. I found my new career."

77

Class Agent: Rick Mullen

78

Class Agent: Heidi Nickels Pace
heidiv29@gmail.com

79

Class Agent: Tracy Shepardson
tashepardson@gmail.com

80

Class Agent: Antonella Nosedà
anosedà@swissonline.ch

81

Nounou Taleghani nounou@stanford.edu

82

Class Agent: Tania Shetabi Nordstrom tasis82reunion@gmail.com

Roberto Castiglioni is happy to share his news: "In April 2022, H.M. Queen Elizabeth II conferred upon me the MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in recognition of my services to Aviation Accessibility." 12

83

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

84

Class Agent: Jeff LaDriere jeff@ladrierebuilding.com

ALUMNI *Class News*



85

Class Agent: Saba Dell'Oca sdo@fibitgroup.com

Summer Tompkins Walker writes, "My youngest daughter Susie finished her first year at TASIS as a freshman and is excited to return as a sophomore. So many flashbacks when I moved her into De Nobili. Life in San Francisco continues to treat us well. Work, family, and many hobbies keep us very busy. Our daughter Della is off to Vanderbilt as a freshman this fall. Our eldest son, Brooks, will be a senior at Santa Clara University. I love staying connected with **Gale Wolfe**, **Laura Wasser '86**, and **Marnie Fulton**. It was fun grabbing a coffee in Lugano with **Sammy Eitouni**. Hope to reconnect with so many more of my classmates!" **13 • Saba Dell'Oca**, **Luciano Radici '86** and his wife Camille and their youngest daughter Mina, **Giulio Antonello** and his wife **Francesca Neri '88**, **Andrea Speroni**, **Alessandro Lo Monaco '87** and his wife Samanta Gandolfi, and **Harold Doley III '86** had a wonderful evening at Grotto Figini in Gentilino. Saba writes, "The evening started young with a wonderful cocktail offered by Francesca in her house that once belonged to Herman Hesse and continued at Figini where, while remembering the old good times we all had at TASIS and at Figini, we had some especially good ribs and a very good quantity of a fabulous red wine from Bolgheri. We all remembered **Horst Dürrschmidt** and we had a good and prolonged toast in his memory. The night continued at a local nightclub where we partied and danced til 3 AM. The good old vibes that we learned while we were at TASIS are still running in our veins."

14

86

Class Agents: Maggie Hammad Boyle maggie_boyle@yahoo.com and Denise Mobley

87 Class Agent: Alex De Bruin Jennifer Wraspir visited TASIS this year and sent us this update after her visit: "After 35 years I finally made it back! So many wonderful, and life-changing, memories. A lot has changed since 1987. It was amazing to meet the alumni staff and take a stroll around the expanded campus. Spent a week in Lugano in May and then took a Viking River cruise down the Rhine river. The cruise ended in Amsterdam where I got to spend the afternoon with **Marella Verhagen**. It had been 25 years since we'd last spent time together. So much fun to see her again. When I'm not traveling, which is most of the time, I work at a company called KnowBe4 as a Director of Custom Courseware Services. In March I was fortunate enough to hang out with **Lori Romero Ketter '89**. It has been 35 years since I've seen her—and she only lives an hour away. I'd like to send a shout out to the class of 1987—we need to do a gathering soon." **15**

88

Class Agent: Laura West Presnol

89

Class Agent: Lori Romero Ketter

90

Class Agents: Franca Marena Gullett and Ken Tobe ken.tobe@nihonshokuhin.co.jp

Ken Tobe is planning a 30th anniversary reunion for October 7–10,

2022, in NYC. This reunion is open to PG's and other classes! "I understand that there is a war going on, and it may not be an appropriate moment to talk about a school reunion. However, I have thought the opposite; because of Covid and the war, we should meet at this moment. We have reached the age of 50 and it would be great to catch up, inspire each other, and just to have fun with our old buddies."

91

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

92

Class Agent: Miki Schroder Nava miki@mikinava.com
Miki is gathering feedback via a Facebook group; search for *TASIS 30th reunion for Class of 1992 in 2022!*

93

Class Agent: Paula Quijano

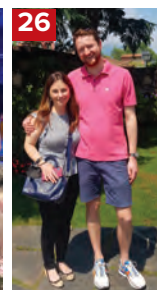
Loretta McPheeters writes, "I lived the past year in Norfolk after getting called up with the Navy reserves. It was hard being away from my family and I'm glad to be back in AZ. Family fun this summer in OH and FL. Here is a photo of a hike in Cuyahoga National Park, reunited with family again! Andrew is 5 and Sean 3. It was wonderful to reconnect with **Kristina Malcom '91** and family when in Norfolk." **16**

94

Class agent: Hege Shanor hege.shanor@gmail.com **Chih Kang Tou's** latest work of art went on

exhibition in the spring 2022. It is a unique publication that has never been done before and was exhibited in the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts. "The publication was dedicated to my family and Horst Dürrschmidt, and it was fortunate that the publication was delivered to Horst about two weeks before he passed away. A week before he passed away, we spoke on the phone for over an hour about the publication and other things. Sadly that was my last encounter with Horst." • **Natascha Jacobsen** is happy to share: "As Marketing & Communications Coordinator of my company's high-tech brand, UNIQ-E, I attended the international Contemporary Furniture Fair (ICFF) in New York last May and on behalf of my company, which develops bespoke faucets through 3D printing, I collected two prestigious design awards for kitchen and bath, including the ICFF Editors Award. While in New York, I seized the opportunity to meet up with TASIS friends **Sara Conklin '96** and **Mike Wilson** and his singer-songwriter wife Amy Bayles, at Sara's restaurant Glasserie in Brooklyn. It is listed in the Michelin Guide. The Middle Eastern/Mediterranean cuisine was fused with joy and presented in a colorful array with bountiful flavor; it's certainly the first place to dine when in the city and highly recommended. I met up for another delicious Korean BBQ evening with **Josh Miles '93** who is doing immensely well as Wine Schlepper in New York. On returning to Italy, I attended the Salone del Mobile in Milan and made a point to visit TASIS alum **Miki Nava '92** who was exhibiting her bespoke, hand-made Japanese wooden Hinoki Soken bathtubs for the first time in Milan. Although we never

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attended TASIS at the same time, we immediately felt a connection; we knew to be part of a community that has shared similar experiences. I personally also feel a great pride in offering support to businesses owned and run by TASIS alumni. It's a wonderful and supportive community." 17

95

Class Agent: Nicole Pearson Margo McClimans celebrated her 17th year running Coaching Without Borders GmbH. She and her team run leadership development training and executive coaching for leaders in global organizations and multicultural teams. Their niche is supporting senior female leaders in global businesses. This wasn't her first venture as an entrepreneur, having run International Stone Consultancy out of Asolo, Italy from 2004-2010 in parallel with her coaching work. She lives in Zurich with her Swiss partner and their patchwork family of 6. 18

96

Class Agents: Gina Van Hoof gvanhoof@gmail.com and **Francesca Nicotra** **Gina Van Hoof** sent us exciting news in July: "I'm proud to present an initiatory tale for all ages that I published this winter, *Plume dans le désert*. It's a transmission straight from my heart and soul that I hope will inspire you. Yes it's in French, but I did make an English audio version for friends who wanted to discover the story but can't read French, so feel free to reach out if you'd like the audio accompaniment. Link to the book: <http://imagination.love>. Aside from

that, I'm still based in Brussels and would love to catch up with any of you who swing by this way." 19

97

Class Agent: Kevin McMenamin

Polat Gülman welcomed his second son, Kaan Gülman, who was born on April 18th, 2022. 20

98

Class Agent: John Procter tasisclass98@gmail.com

Nina Sander is living in São Paulo. "My husband and I opened the best bar in São Paulo last year called Exit (@exitbars). My daughter Layla is 14 years old and she will soon be attending TASIS. My son Jack is 7. I often get together with some great TASIS friends, especially **Carolina Ranieri '99**, **Fernanda Vidigal '99**, and **Roberta Pires**." 21

Giorgia Di Lenardo is receiving feedback via tasisclass98@gmail.com about a possible reunion in Malta June 9, 10, or 11, 2023.

99

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Jennifer Colberg Manke writes, "recently with my new job at Alcon Vision, I've had to go to one of their campuses for training which is in Lake Forest, CA. I found through Facebook that my classmate, **Sean P. Thomas**, lives nearby in Tustin with his wife and children. We got together for the first time since graduation in '99. We reminisced about our shenanigans in CH and caught up on our news! It was so amazing

to hear and share our post-TASIS lives!" 22

00

Class Agent: Tatiana Lucchini tatiana.lucchini@ehf.ch

01 Class Agent: Caroline Rothstein caroline@carolinerothstein.com and **Oliver Rizzi Carlson** oliamgee@gmail.com

Nikko Karki wrote to us at Founder's Day 2021 to muse about Mrs. Fleming's influence: "I have certainly opted for the road trips, and boat trips with the occasional Old Fashioned! Whether we realize it or not, it certainly feels as if we all carry some of her legacy all over the world. Now with two kids of my own, they too are being brought up with the TASIS spirit of adventure." 23

02

Class Agent: Daniella Einik

03

Class Agent: Remington Franklin

04

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

Masa Yo spent the winter holidays in Slovakia with his family (wife **Sonia Maczeakova**, current TASIS faculty, and kids) and sent this adorable family photo. 24

05

Class Agents: Can Doganci candoganci@gmail.com, **Eda Aksoy**

06

Class Agent: Hailey Parsons Minder

07

Class agent: Denise Chiang

Denise731@gmail.com

Denise Chiang got married in Sardinia on May 28, 2022 to her long-time boyfriend Paul Bueti. "After delaying for 2 years due to the pandemic, I felt so grateful to have so many of my TASIS sisters attend my wedding. It was an amazing reunion. Exactly 15 years since we graduated, I still call all of these girls my family and even though we all have families of our own and we live on different continents, we still manage to show up for each other for all of life's big moments!" 25

08

Class Agents: Chingiz Aliyev. Oriana Papin-Zoghbi orianazh@gmail.com and **Consuelo Marzi**

09 Class Agents: Serge Bollag contact@sergebollag.com and **Stefano Cremasco**

Jennifer Tollefson visited TASIS in May 2022 while on her honeymoon in Switzerland and Italy! She currently works as a clinical psychologist in a private practice. 26 • **Maurice Michel** writes: "I just finished working at the emergency department at the University Medical Center Mainz in Germany, which was a great but tough learning experience. Besides patient care, I also enjoy working on research projects, focusing on nutrition, metabolic risk factors (obesity, diabetes), and the development of fatty liver disease. This year I got married, and my wife and I had a lovely party in my hometown, Wiesbaden. For our 4-week honeymoon we traveled to Vancouver, Hawaii, and Tokyo. I also became a proud godfather to my nephew Leonard. I hope everyone is well. Best wishes!" Twitter: @MMichel_MD 27

ALUMNI *Class News*



10

Class Agents: Sylvie Coll and Anna Shabalova annashabalova@yahoo.com
Richard Haschke and Nicolas Langer-Schroll met up in Lugano for a few days in September 2021 and took the opportunity to visit campus. Richard is living in Utah where he sells solar panels, and Nicolas is in Vienna, working with Deloitte.

11

Class Agents: Mark Pate, Marco Rosso and Katya Brovkin
Michelle Tyler Spicer visited campus with her husband Jared after vacationing in the family home in Slovenia. Michelle was sorry to miss the TASIS reunion in Houston in 2019, but it coincided with her wedding! Anna Shabalova '10 and Richard Haschke '10 were present to share this special day with the happy couple. 28 • Patrick Landes finished their first year of grad school at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Patrick won the Student Leader of the Year award for their work leading OUTPolitik, the student LGBTQ+ organization, and in their role as a representative on the Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Board.

12

Class Agents: Alexis De Bruin, Blair Darrell bkdarrell@me.com, and Mark Schrotter

13

Class Agents: Samantha Hercules and Sarah Wylar
Jenny Albrecht and her partner Jordan are co-founders of Parapura, an online shop that

supports sustainable products (plastic-free, vegan, zero waste) from various European labels. "We launched at the end of 2019 in London as a plastic-free cosmetics retailer but have since moved back to Switzerland and expanded the offering." Their company was featured in a recent Alumni Notes. 29

14

Class Agent: Ryan Osgood and Giacomo Braglia giacomobraglia@ticino.com
Jake Figi graduated from UCL Medical School on July 6. In the days prior he rowed for his 4th time in the Henley Regatta. His brother, Lucas '16, graduated from The US Naval Academy at Annapolis a year ago and is now in charge of a company of 40 Marines as a Second Lieutenant. • Elsa Akesson is doing her part to change the world! "I have founded my start up Spongy Bags In October 2021. We are the sustainable alternative to traditional art packaging, replacing bubble wrap and other one-time use plastic materials. We're officially recommended by the Gallery Climate Coalition, and our goal is to reduce and replace traditional packaging waste by 50% by the year of 2026. On May 18, 2022, we won Sotheby's Institute's Gavel Prize for best startup of the year. We are opening an office in NYC soon." www.spongybags.com 30 • Anton Moskvitin has opened a Japanese fusion restaurant "FAMO" in Zürich. 31

15

Class Agents: Nathaniel Brener and Tomson Carroll

16

Class Agents: Edo Italia and Pablo Tello pablotellozulu@gmail.com
Lucas Cimino graduated from college and is working in data analytics and video production.

17

Class Agents: Raid Husni-Bey and Aida Loggiodice aidamercedes99@gmail.com
Alexander Lebedev successfully graduated from École hôtelière de Lausanne (EHL) with a Bachelor of Science in International Hospitality Management, and is now pursuing a Master's degree in the global hospitality business at the same university.

18

Class Agents: Nick Barbieri and Shiva Mirchandani shivamirchandani@gmail.com
Lorenzo Mauri received his bachelor's degree from Les Roches in Switzerland in February. He took the time to meet up with Greg and Carroll Birk, his advisors, on his way to pick up his degree. 32

19

Class Agents: Filippo Cipolini filippo.cipolini@icloud.com and Aurelia Dochnal
Ashli Sartorelli updated us in July: "I recently graduated with a BA in Photography and Psychology. At the end of August, I will start my MA in Counseling at Webster University Geneva. I currently work as the librarian assistant and am off-campus dorm head. I also became the photographer assistant for the head of media and photography at the university."

20

Class Agents: Giulia De Cristofaro and Emilie Hansen emiliewh@me.com

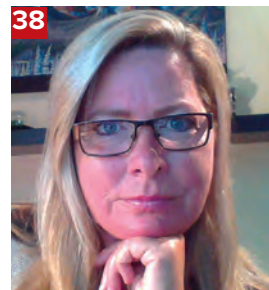
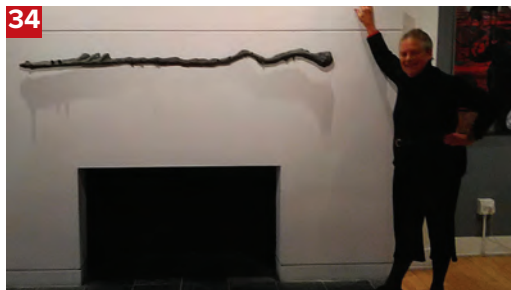
21

Class Agents: Ella Abisi and Zhan Sarsenov sarsenov@nyu.edu
Sofia Angelica Rosso is studying law at the University of Luzern. After graduating from TASIS last year with a bilingual IB diploma (English and Italian), she is now doing her course work in German. • Matteo Penin Aso is excited to share: "Right after graduating, I joined the Swiss Air Force! I worked hard to become an officer in less than a year. I'm the youngest officer in the country! After becoming a lieutenant, I achieved the last part of the selection to become a full time helicopter pilot for the Air Force. It is something very special to sit in the cockpit while flying over the beautiful Alps. TASIS taught me what hard work was and without it, I'm sure I wouldn't be what I am today." 33

22

Class Agents: Olivia Garcia-Atance Arimont and Valentina Alencar Barros
Zixin Pu transferred to Thetford Grammar School in the UK after leaving TASIS in 2020, and is preparing to move on to college after graduating in 2022.

ALUMNI *Class News*



Post Graduate Program

61

Class Agent: Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit

62, 63, and 64

Vacancy for class agents – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

65

Class Agent: Rick Bell rickbell@delawareinc.com

Rick Bell PG writes: “Things are going well here. **Mike '05** has two darling kids now. He's running Harvard Business Services, Inc. while I'm collecting classic cars on Sanibel and watching a lot of YouTube. Lovin' it!”

66

Class Agent: Ned Lynch nedleigh@gmail.com TASIS was delighted to welcome **Ned Lynch** back to campus in May. Ned met with **Michelle Arslanian** and Headmaster **Christopher Nikoloff** for lunch and visited with **Bill Eichner**. • **Mary Seyfarth** wrote in December 2021: “I have finished 3 big works this year: Beaver, Crow, and A Line in the Sand, cast bronze. I displayed this season at The Art Center in Highland Park, IL.”

34 • Loring Lapham Bolger shares: “Currently living in East Hampton, NY, in the hamlet of (The) Springs (raging local controversy about the “correct” name of the hamlet) with a pied-a-terre in NYC (LES - no controversy there) where my 2 children and 2

grandchildren live. Board member of The Arts Center at Duck Creek (AC/DC), a seasonal venue for visual art as well as a very popular music venue. Also involved in Accabonac (Harbor) Protection Committee as well as hyper local political committees trying to make life easier for local residents. I'm in touch with former classmates **Sherry Peregrin** and **Paula Peterson** and would love to get together with other classmates living in the area.” • **Elizabeth Acer Crawford** writes: “I am continuing with the Alliance Française: singing in their Fête de la Musique, joining weekly conversation groups, and, pre-Covid, I organized a French service at my Grace Church for Epiphany with The Alliance Française. I am Treasurer (ha!) of The Shakespearean Society, wherein we meet 6 times a year to dramatically read Shakespeare, and enjoy a social dinatoire in black tie attire. My Maltipoo, Choupinette, is a therapy dog at a nearby hospital, an assisted living facility, and a library for children's reading programs. She is my cherished ‘grandchild’. I started doing Tai Chi at the library, and continue with yoga, walking with ‘Choupe’, and hosting garden parties. I am also writing memories, children's stories, and poetry. I love living in Providence; I'm near my sister in Boston and enjoy weekends at her lake house in NH as well. In these troubled times, I am thankful for my many blessings and am at peace with retirement.” **35**

67

Class Agents: Geoff Parker gspkr@mac.com and Susan Lo Forti lofortisusan@gmail.com

68

Class Agent: Kathy Sanders-Phillips

**From 1972 onwards, High School Class Agents also serve the PGs.*

83

Julia Prud'homme writes, “Hello from Seattle-LA! I finished my masters degree in psychology and am working as a therapist associate while moving towards full licensure. My acting career continues; I'm currently auditioning and occasionally booking jobs in LA, Portland, and Seattle. The PG Class of 1983 recently held a couple of Zoom reunions (thanks, Kate!)—it was so good to see everybody!”

36 • Kate Shablott is getting the conversation started about a 40-year reunion for the PG '83 group in Lugano.

Fleming College

70

Todd Young was in touch recently while traveling: “Don't know if others in our class remain TASIS subscribers. I am sitting in Ted Stevens airport... who knows where Ted Stevens airport is? Anchorage, Alaska. I moved here from Minneapolis when I reached retirement age and resumed working as a lawyer. Hope others in my class are happy and healthy.”

TASIS HELLENIC

81

Janice Colon-Maloney's son graduated

from the US Air Force Academy and is now attending a masters program that will follow pilot training. “I decided to relocate to the Mediterranean coast of Murcia, Spain nine months ago. I'm truly loving my new home! Being back in Europe is great, although it takes some getting used to again, but happy to be back!” **37**

82

Kathryn Gorman Sharp tells us: “The political situation in the US along with Covid had a big impact on me as my position of 15 years was eliminated due to tariffs imposed on China just as Covid shut down the US. Following a year off to re-evaluate, I'm happy to report that I've found a wonderful position as a technical advisor for the international company, QIMA Limited, headquartered in France. I am working from home and have diverse hours as I work with a global team in China, India, and the Middle East. On the personal side, I'm working with my mother to launch a home-based business making custom handbags. It's a lot of fun both making and selling them. Perhaps we'll be a major brand someday. Fingers crossed.” **38**

87

Tina Hill Matteson works as director of Music Ministries at a church and has become the first assistant manager at a clothing store called Maurices. “I've been there nearly four years now, and am very thankful for this new career that found me so much later in life!”

98

Kathleen Swift shares: “Following a career in marketing and global proposal writing, I decided to go

ALUMNI *Class News*



solo, and set up my own freelance company. I am a content designer, copywriter, and copyeditor writing for clients from diverse industries. I design the reader experience through effective words based on real user needs, and write believable, goal-oriented copy with a competitive edge. Check out my website and feel free to get in touch to discuss how we can collaborate on your projects." www.kathleenmswift.com 39

Swiss Holiday

60

Christina (Tina) Kimball Wittmann visited TASIS with her family in June and reflected on her visit: "All the amazing memories from Swiss Holiday are unique and could never be duplicated. At 16, I was focused on fun and new friends and the adventure of it all. I had no thoughts or even imagined that Mrs. Fleming would build such a large and special school. I knew the first time I met her that she was special but now having visited TASIS and seen what the school became, I have a much greater appreciation of her vision. Swiss Holiday gave me an interest in learning about different parts of the world and their people and their cultures. This contributed to me joining the Peace Corps after graduating from college in 1965, and I spent more than 2 wonderful years in Liberia. Later, my husband and I spent some years in East Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Vietnam." 40

64

Lucy Hadsall Hedrick celebrated

the arrival of her new grandson in November: "We are FULL of gratitude this holiday season. Thomas Michael Gabriel Hedrick arrived a little early and quickly on Nov. 26. Big sister Isla is over the moon, as are we all! We have lost many friends in 2021, but a new arrival confirms the circle of life. Our hearts are overflowing!"

TSLP/TSP

00

Elena Isella sent an update to **Betsy Newell** in fall: "I said yes to Steve after five years of dating. We got married in DC this July, and our reception was on a yacht. Unfortunately, my family from Italy couldn't attend due to the travel ban, but it was a beautiful day." 41

Former Faculty

Greg Birk continues to travel and run marathons, and in fall 2021 he and **Carroll** were in Munich for the marathon and stretched it into a long weekend to visit **Sonny Lim** and family at their new home outside of Munich. Greg's next trip was to the Netherlands for the Rotterdam Marathon and he planned to see **Fatah Soroush '14** while there. We love hearing about these ongoing connections. 42 • **Caroline Christiansen** reported on a fall faculty reunion in Thorpe, UK. "Debbie Baird came south from the Scottish Borders, where she now lives, and we were able to make her visit into a catalyst for a couple of very happy reunions with current and former TASIS faculty. Both

English and Spanish were spoken, and it was great to see old friends and colleagues again after having so few opportunities to do so over the past 18 months." The group included **Max** and **Marcia Page**, **Kate Gonzalez Woodward**, and **Chantal Gordon** from Lugano and TE, **Karl** and **Caroline Christiansen** from TH, TF and TE, and a dozen others from TE. • **Richard Mitchell** is producing a musical, *It Can Happen*, in Oxford, England, this fall. "Mrs. Fleming would have loved it. Greetings to my former American History and American Literature students who have by now retired from their professions, but, I hope, not from what they learned at TASIS—an adventure with life."

Alumni Parents

In 2021 **Nick** and **Maggie Miles** shared this lovely Christmas update along with their greetings: "This year has seemed like a mere extension of the previous one as we continued to live cautiously. Still, we managed to visit our daughter, **Christina Bertucci Miles '00**, and her family in Tacoma, WA in May, and they returned the favor in August. Sophie is about to turn 2, and Adrien 6. Christina chairs both studio and performing arts at her school, while Marc-Clovis manages technology and enrollment for a novel seminary. **Josh '93** and Lori, while still working from home, have managed to travel more this year, even while renovating an old farmhouse in the Catskills as their new getaway retreat. We continue to teach and enjoy Rhode

Island friends. In his artwork Nick has been exploring the usual combination of glass and stone mosaic with encaustic (painting with hot beeswax). Peter Smith, one of our favorite restaurants in Fairfield, CT is owned by one of my former students—**Billy Auer FC '70**. He was a student at Fleming College when I was there as Acting President for Mrs. Fleming 1969–1970. Also, when I was on the faculty at The Masters School, Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. another past TASIS Headmaster came to work there—**Chris Frost!**

The class agent emails that appear are for individuals who have granted TASIS permission to print their information. If you are seeking a class agent not listed please contact alumni@tasis.ch.

IN MEMORIAM



Alexander Bodell PG '72 passed away in the summer of 2021.

Myriam Guscetti passed away in Ticino in late 2021. Myriam spent many years at TASIS, at first as School Nurse and eventually as Head of Housekeeping for 30 years.

Betty Haniotakas, Director of Admissions and Registrar at TASIS Hellenic from 1980-2010, passed away on June 21, 2022.

Jason Keller TH '83 passed away peacefully at home in San Pedro, California on August 16, 2021 from cancer. He attended both TASIS Hellenic and TASIS England and returned to San Pedro after graduation. He is survived by his wife Yevone Malveaux and son Zachary. **43**

Takashi Kitamura '92 passed away in August 2021 in Yokohama, Japan. He is survived by a wife and three children. **44**

Dawn Taylor Kraemer TC '84 died on September 29, 2021 after an extended illness. Dawn lived in Denver, CO, and was employed as a production coordinator at ROR Partners. A Celebration of Life Memorial was held on November 13 in South Carolina where she grew up.



Alan Logie TH '85 died on December 21, 2021 in Burlington, Ontario, Canada. He is survived by his wife Lisa Henri Logie and children Kayla, Gregory, and Sandra and grandchildren Noah and Bentley. Diagnosed with MS seven years ago, he was determined that the disease wouldn't stop him from living a normal life, and indeed he was working full time until a week before his death. He worked as a chef and businessman and was a devoted Montreal Canadiens fan.

Alex Myers TH '80 passed away in January. Friends shared photos and memories on Facebook.

Wesley Pace '78 died in February 2022 after losing his battle with brain cancer. He was 61. Wes is survived by his father, Bill, his sister, Carlynn, three sons, Daniel, Peter, and Benjamin, and three grandchildren.

Robin Walker Sletten '75 passed away on July 29, 2021 in Park City, UT. After TASIS she completed high school at Choate Rosemary Hall and then moved to Lake Forest, IL for college and remained in the Chicago area for many years. She is survived by her husband Mark Sletten.

Camille Van de Velde '05 passed away in London in October 2021 from heart disease. She received her Bachelor's from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany and two MAs in History from Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales and Karl-Ruprechts-Universität Heidelberg. Camille spent many years working in publishing and bookselling, spending seven years at Heywood Hill bookshop in London's Mayfair. She was instrumental in developing Heywood Hill's book subscription service. Camille is survived by her parents and her partner John Myerscough. A service took place on November 15, 2021 in London and she was buried in Sion, Switzerland near her parents.

Anna Riva Vicario passed away in July 2021 at the age of 91. Anna taught Italian at TASIS from 1959-68, and was a refined, cultured woman who delighted in teaching. She leaves behind her husband, lawyer Vincenzo Vicario, and many former colleagues and students who will remember her fondly.

In May 2021 students, friends, family and colleagues held a Remembrance for TH, TASIS, FCF and ARTE teacher **George Marchi** via Zoom. They sent in photos and memories, and many facets to George's life were shared, and the impact he had.

The memorial can be found online at <https://bit.ly/3oBYJAY> "Don't miss the clip from Ariel's Dream 2008 by Robert Martin,

with George Marchi performing in *Warsong*, a one-man play by James Keller based on George's experience as a WW2 enlisted servicemen and the sinking of the ship Leopold at Normandy. We also have a clip from *Warsong* performed by Bruce Kaplan at the Live Oak Theater, Berkeley, CA in 2010. And lastly, a recording sent in by Eric Kolvig, fellow Fleming College Florence teacher." Thanks to **Sue Bolea FCF '74** for sending us this.

Richard Boardman, former FCF faculty: "George was the reason for my living in Italy. It is amusing to think that this was going to be a one-year job at Fleming College but ended up with me living in Italy for 42 years before returning to England six years ago."

Marian Bremer, former FCF librarian: "George was my 'roommate' in the casa colonica where the theater was, because Richard Boardman and I lived upstairs. I didn't know George well, but he was a friend, and I admired him. It was a pleasure to go in and out of the theater and catch snatches of rehearsals. I haven't forgotten the production of *Long Day's Journey into the Night* with Shanley Heffelfinger in the lead. So much time has passed since then, but I will always remember George's graciousness and his contributions to Fleming and to me. A good—very good—man."



THE KING AND I

TASIS Master Architect **David T. Mayernik** has met King Charles III twice! The first time was as a teacher with the Prince of Wales' Building Crafts Apprentices Programme at the Lincoln Cathedral. "The Prince arrived, preceded by bomb-sniffing bloodhounds, for the last day of the summer program to review what had been done," David says. "I was the first in the receiving line with five or six others, then ran over to a table with my drawings where I was re-presented to him; he said, jokingly, 'do you have a brother?'" The photo to the left is where David discussed his drawings with the Prince. Note David's clothing was requested by the lead of the program, who told everyone to dress in "studio attire". Later that morning David met with him again to explain the fresco process he had demonstrated for the program. "He is sincerely interested in crafts and techniques," David recalls.

Their second meeting was in 2016, at the INTBAU Excellence Awards reception at Clarence House, London. The Prince was there to present an award for the TASIS campus. **Of the campus, the now King Charles III said, "This kind of thing gives me hope."**

The award for the TASIS campus means even more because of the King's longstanding interest in traditional building and especially urban design, such as campus planning, and the environment. The Prince's Foundation works with communities and partners around the world to champion sustainable community-building and heritage-led restoration.



UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

Alumni, mark your calendars!

Are you planning a reunion that isn't on the list below? Have you had a mini class reunion somewhere around the world? Let us know via alumni@tasis.ch! Visit tasis.ch/alumni/reunions to find out more and sign up via the online registration forms.

Mexico City Reunion for All Classes | Thursday, October 13, 2022

7:00 PM - Mexico City, Mexico

Contact Serge Bollag '09 or alumni@tasis.ch for more information.

All-Class Reunion in Washington, D.C. | Friday, November 18, 2022

6:30 PM–9:30 PM - The Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C., USA

All-Class Reunion in Los Angeles | Friday, March 24, 2023

6 PM–9:30 PM - The Jonathan Club (Town Club), Los Angeles, CA, USA

The following reunions are in the planning stages:

Class of 2000: 20th Anniversary Reunion

Contact Tatiana Lucchini Balmelli '00 (tatiana.lucchini@ehl.ch) about a possible reunion in Lugano in June 2023.

Class of 2003: 20th Anniversary Reunion

Contact Alice Pei-Hsuan Lee '03 or alumni@tasis.ch about a possible reunion in July or August 2023 in Lugano.

Class of 1974: 50th Anniversary Reunion and 70s Group Reunion

Kathy Gamble Pilugin '74 is receiving feedback via the Facebook group **TASIS circa 71**.

Class of 1975: 50th Anniversary Reunion

Linda Jaekel Avery '75 (linda.avery60@gmail.com) is receiving feedback on whether to have their 50th in 2025, or join the 70s group in 2024; get in touch via the Facebook group **TASIS circa 1971**.

Class of 1998: 25th Anniversary Reunion

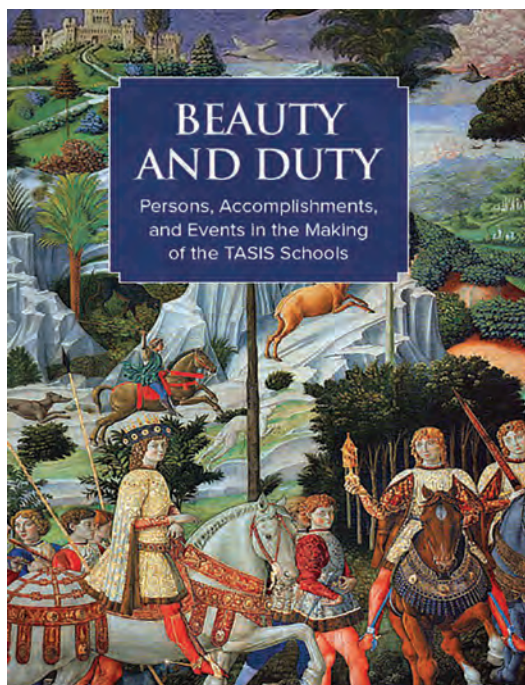
Contact Giorgia Di Lenardo '98 via tasisclass98@gmail.com about a reunion in Malta, June 9, 10, or 11, 2023.

Alumni Hike: Robert Louis Stevenson Trek Through the Cévennes, France

This hike will be led by the daughter of Peter Boynton '69 in June 2023. Email Eva Boynton (evaclaire3@gmail.com) for information.

Stay in touch! Update your contact information via www.tasis.ch/alumni/alumniinformationupdate.

Visit www.tasis.ch/alumni and click on **Social Media** for links to social media channels, including our private Facebook Alumni Forum and links to photo galleries reunions and other special events.



Beauty and Duty

Big anniversaries often bring contemplation and veneration of accomplishments, setbacks, and legacy. TASIS has recently published a volume of essays celebrating a true TASIS legend, **Fernando Gonzalez**, on the occasion of his fiftieth year with the TASIS organization.

Beauty and Duty: Persons, Accomplishments, and Events in the Making of the TASIS Schools is a set of essays solicited from long-term or prominent TASIS figures or alumni. Fernando is given pride of place in the volume, with words from 20 contributors about a man who has been one of the most important figures in shaping the TASIS Schools. The second section includes essays and tributes in honor of **Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63**. Section three consists of essays by major TASIS personalities who have given their lives to making Mrs. Fleming's dreams into reality. Also included is a final eulogy to **Horst Dürschmidt** by **Mark Aeschliman** and a series of essays about three beneficent alumni whose generosity is continuing to shape the TASIS schools: **Jan Opsahl '68**, **Ferit Şahenk '83**, and **Curtis McGraw Webster '75**.

Contact alumni@tasis.ch to purchase a copy of *Beauty and Duty* for just \$35 (including shipping). A PDF of the book can be downloaded at tasis.ch/alumni/alumni-merchandise.



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Help TASIS continue to inspire students for generations to come.

www.tasis.ch/support



Hail Alumnae!

May you never forget this bridge - the eternal peace and beauty of the valley, as eternal as the welcome that will always be yours when you return to the school. May this bridge be a meaningful symbol of a treasured segment of your life.

Remember the sunshine, the icy-pool beneath, the surrounding hills - Remember to return!

God speed you -

Affectionately,
Mary Livingston