

**The
American
School in
London**
Accents

Fall '13



Cover:

Oliver Chene ’16

Self portrait, 2013

Acrylic on paper

Oliver joined the School in Grade 2 when his family moved to London from Greenwich, CT. His brother, Jasper, graduated in the Class of 2013. Oliver is a three-season athlete, playing volleyball and basketball, and rowing on the crew team. In London, he enjoys watching movies with his friends and finding the best burger restaurants in town.

The class project that produced Oliver’s work began with students taking a series of photographs of themselves. Once the perfect shot was achieved, it was uploaded to Photoshop, manipulated by the artist, and then overlaid with a

2cm x 2cm grid on an A3 format. The students then transferred by hand the image to a larger A2 canvas overlaid with a 4cm x 4cm grid—an enlarging technique often used by artists during the Renaissance.

Using acrylics in a cool and a warm shade of each primary color plus white, the students set to work on recreating their portraits in paint.

Visual arts teacher **Martin Drexler (P ’23; ASL 2008–present)** says, “This is a perfect example of mixing old techniques with new technology. And rather than an exercise in portraiture, the project was primarily an assignment in color theory. The students responded extremely well and produced some wonderful pieces that will make up part of their Advanced Placement Studio Art portfolios.”

Accents, Fall 2013

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The American School in London, founded in 1951, is an independent, non-profit, college preparatory day school for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. The student body comprises 1,350 boys and girls who represent more than 50 nationalities.

Our mission is to develop the intellect and character of each student by providing an outstanding American education with a global perspective.

The American School in London is a non-denominational school and does not discriminate against any individual in any way on the basis of race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or ethnic or national origin in the administration of its recruitment, admissions and educational policies.

Contents

4

Commencement 2013

The Class of 2013 at Central Hall Westminster

10

Alumni in Technology

Five ASL alumni help to shape today’s tech world

19

Technology at work at ASL

A snapshot of how ASL students embrace technology in their learning

22

When computers came to ASL

A look back at the early days of the computer at ASL

&

News

Gallery	3	Join Together Auction success	15
Spotlight on London	8	The New Frontiers campaign for ASL	15
Class notes	26	TEDxASL	16
Faculty notes	31	A big round of applause for the 2012–13 Annual Fund	16
Alumni news	32	The Commons transformed	17
Alumni events	34	Harold T. Cruikshank Award	17
In memoriam	37	Trustee news	18

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Letter from the Head of School

It has often struck me that it's impossible to go anywhere in the world and not bump into someone who has a connection to ASL. Our alumni populate every interesting place there is to go! Whether it's on an airplane to a remote island, at a falafel truck at midnight in some city center, or a chance encounter at an engaging cultural event, the ASL connection is always there, ready to be discovered.

So there's nothing quite like an ASL reunion event to reinforce this notion. Last night I was in Washington DC for our fall reunion get-together. Particularly touching was witnessing students, parents, faculty from all decades make immediate connections. Somehow that shared understanding of the energy, excitement and eccentricities of an education in London came to the surface, even for those meeting for the first time. The tales abound—the beloved teachers, the world events, the family adventures, the wonder of London, the travel delights and disasters—and invariably the conclusion, “It was a life-changing experience.” Truly, I feel so fortunate to hear the stories through many lenses.

This fall's issue of *Accents* features an emphasis on our alumni in technology as well as our regular news items about the special happenings on campus. Kudos to our alumni who have used the characteristic ASL creativity and drive to come up with innovative uses of technology, from new phone apps to accessing services on the web. Always current, always dynamic, we applaud our alums. You make us proud. And we'll surely be seeing you soon, somewhere around the world!

Warmly,

Coreen R. Hester

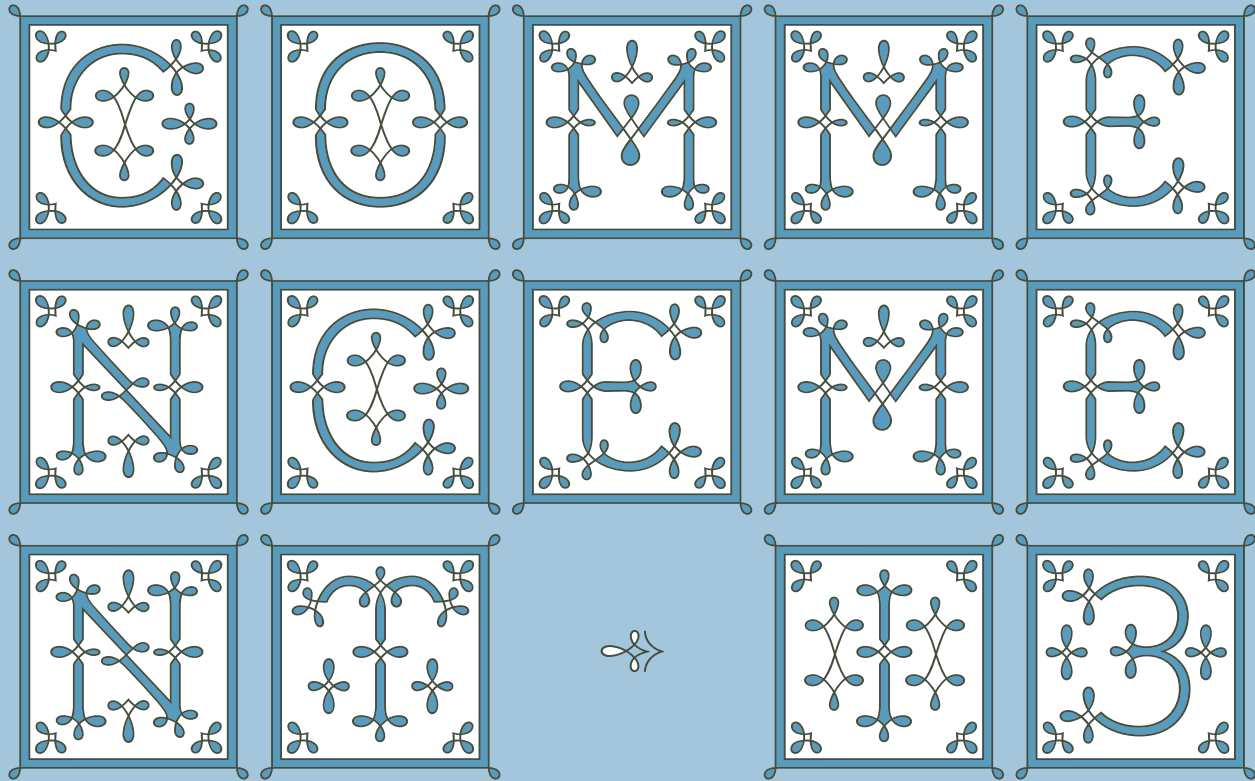
Coreen R. Hester
(P '02 '04; ASL 1995–97, 2007–present)
Head of School

Left:
Alessandra de Costanza '11
Mrs. Hester, 2011



Left:
Juliette Rooney '19
Elephant
Mixed media on paper

MS visual arts teacher **Salma Raza '93 (ASL 2005–present)** says, “Grade 6 students selected a variety of patterns and infused them in the space of their favorite animal. The black-and-white designs were juxtaposed against a vibrantly layered background created in ink.” Artist Juliette was moved to produce her painting by a family trip to Africa last November. She says, “I saw many elephants and African animals, which gave me my inspiration.” Juliette was born in London and has attended ASL since K1. She has a brother, Sam '17. Juliette's favorite classes in school are art and English, because she loves drawing and writing.



THE sun always shines for graduation. Always. But on Friday, 14 June, the “currant bun” is struggling to emerge from the low-lying cloud that has loomed over the city for the past week. Nothing, however, can dull the spirits while emerging from Westminster tube station in an eager stream of ASLers—faculty, staff, families, friends—to be met with the full glory of St. Stephen’s Tower, which houses arguably the most famous bell in the world, and the Palace of Westminster. “Earth hath not anything to show more fair,” wrote Wordsworth, and he was probably right.

The crowd teems forth into the light as the sun tries its best to break through the clouds. It’s a short walk via Parliament Square to the home of graduation in recent years, Central Hall Westminster, a building whose distinguished visitors have included Mahatma Gandhi, Sir Winston Churchill, the Dalai Lama and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The Great Hall, with its spectacular self-supporting dome, was the venue for the first ever meeting of the United Nations in 1946. Today, it’s the turn of the Class of 2013 of the American School in London.

It’s 10:30 am as the opening chords of *Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1* erupt from the 4,600 pipes of the great organ. Elgar’s opus, composed in 1901, is an integral part of commencement and

familiar to every ASL graduating class. Everyone stands to honor the graduates as they process to take their places in the spotlight. This is the culmination of their education at ASL—an education that has developed their intellect and character and given each and every one a global perspective.

Following rousing applause, Head of School Coreen R. Hester takes her place at the podium to begin the morning’s proceedings. After welcoming those assembled to the commencement exercises for the Class of 2013, Mrs. Hester shares her reflections on the class that leaves a noteworthy legacy. “The first word that comes to mind about this class,” she says, “is creative—with a capital C.” The graduates of few other classes have delivered the range of achievements—from all quarters—that these students have accomplished during their high school years.

Addressing the graduating class directly, Mrs. Hester continues, “You are ‘aware’ and willing to take on the tough issues of our day: you’ve shown leadership in the independent school gender equity work; been instrumental in recasting the peer leadership program; and delivered the best election campaign awareness program I have ever experienced, including a memorable interview with Senator John McCain, who commented that ASL students served him with some of the best questions he had ever heard.”

She adds that the faculty are impressed with the Class’s commitment to the school’s Community Partners, athletic leadership, and engagement in the Middle East Cousins project. “You have brought a compelling combination of skills and perspective to ASL.”

To finish, Mrs. Hester lauds the attributes of the Class of 2013, “Multilingual and international, artistic and political, you possess guts and gutsiness. You have earned our respect. Welcome to your graduation exercises.”

Board Chair **Lori E. Fields (P ’08 ’10 ’14)** adds her congratulations to the graduating class and introduces the Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Louise Hyams, who welcomes the gathering on behalf of the borough.

The High School Concert Choir, as always on top form, delivers a moving rendition of “Follow the Golden Sun,” by Ruth Elaine Schram, before High School Principal Paul Richards introduces Salutatorian Maria Blesie.

Maria recounts how daunted she was by the idea of going to college, but how, during a college prep workshop where they discussed their resumes, she quickly realized the Class of 2013 had come so far already. She lists the many accomplishments and interesting factoids about her fellow seniors and marvels at just how much they could go on to achieve in the world.

The Concert Choir members return to



their positions to deliver an uplifting version of “Home,” by Drew Pearson and Greg Holden. Then it’s High School Assistant Principal Annie Leonard’s turn to introduce Valedictorian Lisa Ho.

Having discarded a plan to deliver a speech about her great love, math, Lisa decided on a faithful representation of her class. She tells an amusing and touching fictional life story woven from the lives of every one of her fellow graduates, with each sentence coming from a different voice, highlighting the diversity and wealth of experiences of the Class of 2013.

Joanna Shields (P ’17), Trustee, ASL parent, Chief Executive Officer for Tech City UK and UK Business Ambassador for Digital Industries follows to deliver the traditional commencement address. She congratulates the graduates, not only for



their academic success at ASL, but also for their absolutely perfect timing in arriving at the start of a new millennium, when this always-on, digital and connected world gives us unprecedented opportunity to create change for the better. Joanna lauds, “I couldn’t be more optimistic about the generation you belong to.” Additionally, she asks these promising students to take great care in this era of unfettered access to information, where integrity has never been more important. “Remember, a good name—like goodwill—is got by many actions and lost by just one,” she cautions. Reminding graduates that technology is no substitute for human interaction, she urges them to step outside their comfort zone, absorb the physical communities of different people, different places and different cultures, and return ready to be problem-

solvers and build a better world.

Now it’s time for the ceremonial part of the proceedings—the presentation of ASL high school diplomas. Dr. Chodl reads the names of the members of the Class and they step forward to receive their well-deserved certificates from Mrs. Hester and Ms. Fields.

As the newly graduated students return to their seats, proudly clutching their gilded diplomas, Dr. Richards asks the Lifers in the Class—those who have attended ASL from first to last—to stand and be recognized. This year, there are 13 students who have attended ASL from Grade 1 or before: Brendan Anderson, Alfie Astor, Austin Brush, Camille Coric, Alex Ericksen, Spencer Lake, Annabel Learner, Michael Lee, Suryansh Rastogi, Katharine Sohn, Dorothea Weitzer, Ben Wolfson and Jonah Wolfson.

Mrs. Hester takes to the podium one last time to congratulate the Class of 2013. “I encourage you to continue to commit to helping each other and making a difference for others. Act with integrity and remember who you are. You number among 14,000 ASL alumni. Remember: Once an Eagle, always an Eagle. Visit often.”

Afterward, teachers, coaches, graduates and families attend the traditional celebratory reception in the Lecture Hall, which is bursting with familial groups congratulating the graduates. High school is well and truly over for the Class of 2013, and the outlook is sunny. ■

Watch the speeches from Commencement 2013; visit asl.org > Academics > High School > Commencement 2013.



Life after ASL for the Class of 2013

Priya Agrawal	University of Colorado at Boulder
Mustafa Ahmed	University of Edinburgh
Mohammad Alaghband	Boston University
Brendan Anderson	Gap year
Kareem Asfari	University of St. Andrews
Alfred David James Astor	Northwestern University
Sophie Aversas	University College London
Emily Bell	Johns Hopkins University
Matthew Bentley	Northwestern University
Gabrielle Bielsky	Northwestern University
Maria Blesie	Princeton University
Audrey Blinkinsop	University of Connecticut
Asher Bohmer	University of Cambridge
Kamillah Brandes	Fordham University
Austin Brush	Tufts University
Jonathan Byman	Cornell University
Patrick Carmody	University of Southern California
Jasper Chene	Northeastern University
Camille Coric	Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Charlotte Cowles	Vanderbilt University
Kasey Craig	Colorado State University
Riley Thomas Craig	McGill University
David Cress	Lafayette College
Christopher D'Angelo	University of Chicago
Kyle Dartnell-Steinberg	Columbia University
Andrea De Luca	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Jacob Dooris	Duke University
Nils Elwing	The George Washington University
Deirdre Ely	Princeton University
Alexander Epstein	Middlebury College
Alex Ericksen	Harvard College
Sydney Fass	Franklin and Marshall College
Sarah Fletcher	Durham University
Sterling Marie Foster	University of Miami
Paolo Franceschini	City University
Joshua Frydman	Carnegie Mellon University
Duncan Gans	Colby College
Clement Gelly	Columbia University
Alan Ginzburg	University of Chicago
Ishan Guha	Middlebury College
Kayla Hanigan	George Mason University
Kaho Hasegawa	Duke University
Julia Hatheway	Middlebury College
John Herron	Davidson College
Lisa Ho	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Philippe Holodny	Post-graduate year: Northfield Mount Hermon
Lyia Hurley	New York University
Alessandro Joabar	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Sae Kawakami	University of Cambridge
William Kennedy	University of Notre Dame
Lara Kingstone	Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya
Sarah Kotis	Tufts University
Seh-Joo Kwon	Carnegie Mellon University
Spencer Lake	University of Pennsylvania
Duncan Lambden	Syracuse University
Dana Landman	Northeastern University
Annabel Learner	Vanderbilt University
Michael Lee	Brown University
Soren Lind	Gap year: Nordiska Muikgymnasiet
Alonso López Mendoza	University of Exeter

Daniel Lyew	Macalester College
Shahid Mahdi	New York University
Nabil Mahmud	McGill University
Danielle Brady Makous	The George Washington University
Emily C Mark	Washington University in St. Louis
Tarek Masri	Johns Hopkins University
Patrick Mayr	University of Pennsylvania
Courtney McClure	Syracuse University
Jacob McWethy	Colorado State University
Any Mer	New York University
Annabelle Mercer	Duke University
Ariko Mikoshiba	Waseda University
Phoebe Mitchell	Middlebury College
Jihan Mnaymneh	Columbia University
Albert Montoya	New Jersey Institute of Technology
Jad Mourad	Colorado College
Juliana Murray	University of Manchester
Viraj Nanda	University of California at Los Angeles
Zachary Nathan	Cornell University
Julian Nebreda	University of Chicago
Jack Nevins	University of Southern California
Mackenzie Nguyen	Westmont College
Paige Norris	Saint Joseph's University
Inda Patel	Harvard College
Hunter Pribyl-Huguelet	Columbia University
Austin Price	Elon University
Suryansh Rastogi	Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine
Owen Rees	Occidental College
Kailum Rinaldi	Wake Forest University
Sophia Rittenhouse	College of William and Mary
Shannon Roney	University of Notre Dame
Douglas Rose	Universita Bocconi
Sydney Rossiter	The University of Western Ontario
Kabir Sadarangani	Duke University
Gabriel Salitan-Alvarez	Skidmore College
Chloe Sappern	Cornell University
Tate Sedar	Syracuse University
Faisal Shour	New York University
Bret Silvergate	University of Chicago
William Smithies	Australian university/January entry
Katharine Sohn	New York University
Natalia Sollecito	University of Virginia
Shikhar Sood	Emory University
Andrew Stracener	Rice University
Kelly Swensen	La Sierra University
Leland Swift	Carleton College
Edward Thomas	Texas Christian University
Kevin Tokola	Western Washington University
Jane Victor	Boston College
Priya Wadhwa	University of California at Berkeley
Luke Walden	Colorado College
Brendan Ware	Purdue University
Abigail Watson	Georgetown University
Dorothea Weitzer	Georgetown University
Alexia Willems	University of Virginia
Ben Wolfson	Colgate University
Jonah Wolfson	Wesleyan University
Anna Sophia Young	Yale University
Tyler Zschach	Syracuse University



London is our classroom

Grade 3 teacher **John O'Toole (ASL 1991–present)** writes, "What better topic of study for third grade social studies than London itself! And what better to explore than London's two lifebloods, the River Thames and its transportation system. Grade 3 students spend a day of exploration, getting around by boat, tube, bus and the DLR. On board, we pass the historic seats of power such as the Palace of Westminster and the Tower of London to land in the Royal Borough of Greenwich, birthplace of Henry VIII, his daughters, Mary I and Elizabeth I, and, of course, home to the famous tea clipper, Cutty Sark. After a final stop to straddle the Prime Meridian, a foot in each hemisphere and lunch on Greenwich Hill, we board the DLR to begin our journey home!"

BY LIBBY JONES, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

ALUMNI IN TECHNOLOGY

THEY'RE building apps and creating companies. They're science sharks, design gurus, engineering ingénues—and like you, they are part of the ASL community. Here's a peek into some of our past students who've helped shape the tech world.

Laksh Bhasin '12
Developer, London Bus Buddy

Laksh is a physics major at Caltech who spent part of his freshman year last spring conducting research with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) Scientific Collaboration, where teams of scientists are developing super-precise equipment in an effort to detect gravitational waves. Sound intimidating? He also recently returned from a stint in Munich at the Deutsches Zentrum für Luft-und Raumfahrt (DLR), a research center for aerospace and technologies, to gain hands-on experience with fiber optic sensors intended for use in medical robots. Animated about topological insulators and quantum mechanics, Laksh is a precocious young man with peculiar scientific talent. Considering his acute interest in string theory and condensed matter physics, among other specialized fields, it's hard to believe he once got his science, math and computer programming fix at ASL.

Laksh came to One Waverley Place as an MS student in 2006, in part because of the legion of activities on offer for STEM education, community service and student leadership. "ASL's commitment to academic excellence was far more noticeable than any other school I previously attended," Laksh said when describing his first impressions as a new student. It didn't take him long to



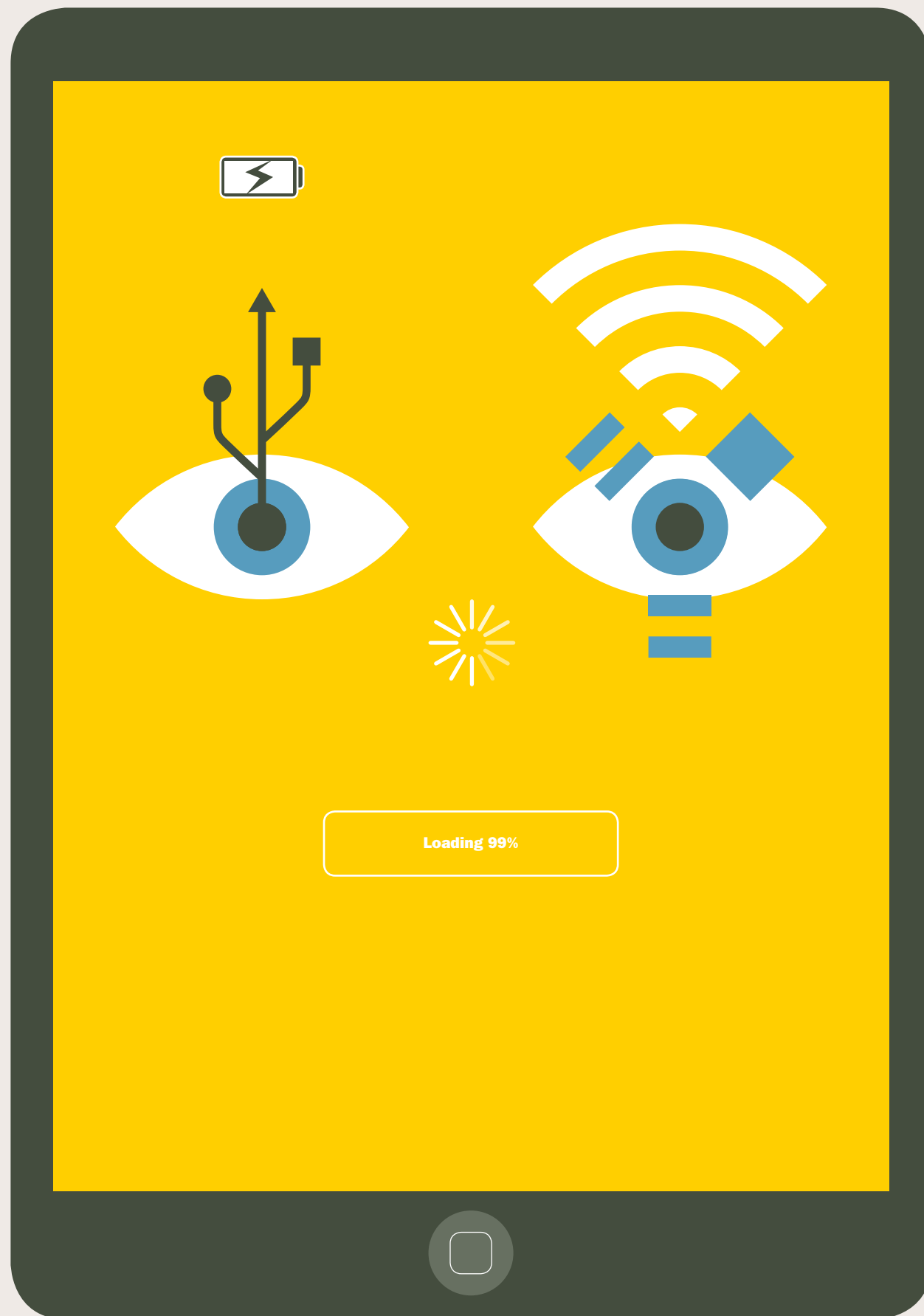
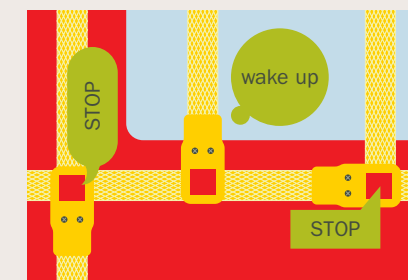
start taking advantage of these ASL opportunities, such as teaching himself the basics of multimedia platforms thanks to the School's laptop program. A few animations turned into advanced video editing for a film, video and animation elective taught by **Erik Niemi (ASL 2007–present)**. Taking up robotics was the natural next step when Laksh joined the High School; he co-captained the team as a senior and oversaw the programming and electronics side of things.

"It's fair to say I was fairly well-exposed to technology at ASL," Laksh concluded. His computer savvy came in handy his sophomore year, when Laksh was struck by a "seminal" idea for an iPhone app after missing his bus stop. "I wasn't paying attention," he explained. "But then I thought how useful it would be if an app could just wake me up as I was nearing my stop." That misspent bus ride launched the genesis of London Bus Buddy, an app that aims to ease traveling via London bus. In addition to an alarm that alerts you when you're close to your stop, the app features a journey planner, timetables and bus locations. Since its release in 2010, LBB has been downloaded 130,000 times, grossly exceeding the young developer's expectations. Many users hail from the ASL community,

which Laksh found to be remarkably "positive and encouraging" during the whole process.

"Word about the app propagated throughout school quicker than I thought it would," he remembered. A few friends even helped him work out some of the app's earliest bugs. To this day, Laksh donates all of the app's profit to Muskaan, an Indian-based charity whose mission is to provide a basic education to disadvantaged kids so that they can be employable in a modern world. "In my opinion, groups that try to provide children with the skills they need to lead better lives than their parents are very beneficial to society," he said.

Citing how difficult it was to be a "part-time developer" alongside of his ASL commitments, Laksh has put app-building on hold to focus on his Caltech coursework. His dream job is to be a physics professor, and his advice to ASL students who want to pursue careers in science, in sum, is to brace themselves for the hard, fascinating work ahead. "Get involved in as many STEM-related activities outside of school as you can," he advocates, "and pick up some college-level textbooks on what you find cool or interesting." That, and think about how you can translate a missed bus stop into a new opportunity.



“All these people are spread all over the world, and we keep information flowing for them. We keep their information accessible, we keep their tools and their emails safe and secure. Such responsibility is both exciting and terrifying.”

ERIC WAGES '96

Charlotte Rademaekers Binns '92
 Founder and CEO, Call2Action

In her junior year at ASL, Charlotte was on assignment to deliver a presentation on rainforest destruction to her social studies class. Wanting to plead a show-stopping case against deforestation (in a pre-Internet world), she sought assistance from Director of Technology **Bill Iacuessa (ASL 1979–2000)**, who introduced her to the AV equipment in the library. Charlotte dug through old slides and VHS tapes to produce a video story of what depleting rainforests meant for endangering the environment and how to take action against it. She received a standing ovation from the faculty—and discovered her calling as a video editor who can invoke change.

Today, Charlotte is the founder and CEO of Call2Action, a New York-based social enterprise with a purpose to “transform more viewers into doers.” In other words, explained Charlotte, “Imagine if every time you watched a YouTube video, you could make a donation, join a mailing list or sign up to volunteer right then and there.” Call2Action helps clients leverage their online videos by wrapping them with action tools, or “sparks,” so that a viewer can instantly join a cause, sign a petition or pledge money, among other feel-good deeds.

“The technology in the back end is complicated, but for the viewer, it’s a



simple solution,” she related. Clients include Chrysler, whose “Letters for Lyrics” campaign incited over 70,000 people to write letters of appreciation to deployed US soldiers, and Columbia University, Charlotte’s alma mater. She spent two years developing video-based educational websites at the university’s Center for New Media before working in advertising and documentary. But the impact she first made when researching rainforests in ASL’s AV room—marrying technology to a cause and inspiring action—stirred something in her that she wanted to transform into a career. “Call2Action is an extension of documentary,” said Charlotte. “If we make these great films, we should activate people to care about them.”

Creating her own company in 2007 was a foray into self-discovery as well as running a startup, which posed many challenges to the determined alumna. “Running a business is nuanced,” Charlotte cautioned. What did she learn?

“Technology is a tool, not a solution,” she said. “You have to build the relationship with people first, and you have to earn the love.”

Certainly, Charlotte has earned both the love and her reputation as one of the leading technology and social entrepreneurs in her field. *Fast Company* listed Call2Action as one of the “25 Women-Run Startups to Watch” in 2011, and last year, she served on Techweek’s panel, “Women Tech Leaders who are Changing the World.” She encourages those who want to follow in her footsteps to first get some industry experience before setting out on their own.

“Learn from people who are already endeavoring to do something in that space so you can save yourself some lessons,” she advised. Currently in conversations to sell the company, Charlotte is ready to broaden her skill set. “I would like to become an expert in other technology that serves the same kind of purpose to help a specific cause,” she said. No doubt her expertise will continue to grow—just like her fervent hope for the rainforest years ago.

Eric Wages '96
 Site Operations Manager, Google

As a Grade 8 student at ASL, Eric was a self-professed “musical geek” who filled his free time with brass instruments and guitars. Now, as the site operations manager of one of 13 global Google Data Centers, he’s a science and math geek who oversees the teams that maintain tens of thousands of servers. His past adventures in computer engineering include helping to build the world’s largest Apple supercomputer. “I’m not bored by any stretch of the imagination,” assured Eric from his office near Charleston, South Carolina. Not bored, but certainly busy.

When considering his time at ASL, Eric feels grateful for the broad, internationally embracing perspective that the School offered him. “It really gave me a good idea of what it’s like to exist as an American in the larger sense of the rest of the world,” he said. This larger sense is particularly applicable to Eric’s daily work at Google, where he manages teams of employees who deploy the computer hardware systems within the datacenter that run Gmail, YouTube, Docs and other Google services—for millions of people. “All these people are spread all over the world, and we keep information flowing for them,” he explained. “We keep their information accessible, we keep their tools and their emails safe and secure. Such responsibility is both exciting and terrifying.” Eric wouldn’t have it any other way. “We do incredible things at Google,”



he commented. “We do things at a pace that no one else can do.”

Being an expert in exceptional tech projects has been a hallmark of Eric’s career since graduating from the University of Maine’s computer engineering program in 2000. In 2004, when the US Army decided to develop one of the world’s most powerful computers, the MACH5, to support army and NASA research, Eric took on the role as the supercomputer’s primary engineer. Comprising 3,000 systems, this high-powered computational cluster based in Huntsville, Alabama, was Eric’s “...first taste of doing anything that huge.”

Due to both his profession and his expat experience, Eric is an active advocate of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. “My time abroad taught me to be responsible and to ask questions,” he said. “It’s the only way we can keep up with the technology.” Pointing out that proactivity in the workplace is a critical management tool in technology, Eric encourages ASL students who hope to join the Google workforce or become computer engineers to find opportunities beyond the classroom, like robotics. “Start talking to people,” he advised. “Be willing to seek information. Show the initiative to do these things.”

Lara Serebrier Paul '94
 Founder, iKidNY

“We don’t stop being efficient New Yorkers just because we have little ones!” Savvy mom-of-two Lara insists that navigating the Big Apple with children can be stress-free, straightforward and fun. But this was not her opinion five years ago when, as a new parent to an infant son, she suddenly found herself mired in unfavorable circumstances previously unknown to her. “I knew NYC very well, but it was a whole new city to explore and figure out after I had a child,” Lara recalled. Whether she was stranded at a subway stop with a stroller and no elevator, searching in vain for a kid-friendly restaurant or, worst of all, desperate for a baby changing table, Lara grew exhausted from Googling a multitude of mom-related crises.



That’s why she developed iKIDNY, a smartphone app that can instantly guide parents to spaces and places especially for kids: playgrounds, libraries, eateries with high chairs and the nearest diaper-changing stations, to name a few. Founded in 2009, the app “took off right away,” according to Lara, who oversaw its creation from the initial idea sketch to the press release announcing its launch. The process was exciting and yes, overwhelming for the musical theater major with no background in technology. “I had never done anything like this before:

marketing, PR, designing—nothing.” Doing the majority of the legwork on her own gave her invaluable experience, however, and she would counsel other newbie app developers to do the same. “Do as much as you can by yourself, because no one is going to care about your project like you do,” she recommends. Her hard work paid off: Lara’s first app received terrific attention from the *New York Times*, DailyCandy and numerous other outlets. “As a parent, iKIDNY is such a time-saver,” Lara beamed. “I get emails from people all over the world who are interested in having an app like this for their own cities.”

Looking back on her ASL days, Lara wouldn’t have predicted that her career path would eventually involve app development. “I learned to type in computer class, but I spent more time singing with the Madrigals and going on music tours,” she laughed. Lara landed in London with her musician parents as a teen and found ASL to be a “fun, warm

News

and open place” that inspired creativity. “I was taught to think of ideas and make them happen,” she explained. Lara continues to be busy consulting, marketing and developing other business ideas. Her advice for aspiring ASL tech-entrepreneurs mirrors one of the most important lessons she gleaned from her ASL experience: “Find something that you are passionate about, and set about creating it.”



Sahil Lavingia '10
Founder, Gumroad

“I’m not an entrepreneur, I’m a problem solver.” 21-year-old Sahil is adamant about this distinction. As a freshman at the University of Southern California, Sahil was sought out to help design Pinterest when it was just a fledgling social network. He is now in his second year of running his own startup, Gumroad, an e-commerce site aiming to streamline—and perhaps revolutionize—the process of selling what you create. “Make stuff make money,” he said succinctly. Arguing his case that selling things should be as easy as sharing things with the advent of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, Sahil exudes confidence and matter-of-factness. His early success with building smartphone apps, from the age of 16, speaks to his natural talent and business acumen. Today, Sahil is touted as one of the rising stars of Silicon Valley, a “wunderkind” who is a whiz at building a product and raising money for it (it only took him four days to round up \$1.1. million from investors for Gumroad).

What few realize is that he got his start in tech design at ASL, where, as a new sixth grader, he became enamored with the Photoshop software available on the School’s computers. “I started playing around, Googled a few tutorials and making stuff for fun,” Sahil recalled. Making stuff led to website design for friends, teachers and parents; he was even tagged to build the ASL auction website. The sheer innovation involved in those projects is what drew Sahil into computer engineering. “Every time you make something—a website, a presentation, an app—you are adding something to the world that didn’t exist

“Every time you make something — a website, a presentation, an app — you are adding something to the world that didn’t exist an hour ago. That’s the coolest feeling in the world.”

SAHIL LAVINGIA '10

an hour ago,” he explained. “That’s the coolest feeling in the world.” Sahil left London for Singapore with his family in 2007 and started to spend his weekends designing ideas for apps, eventually selling them in online marketplaces.

His initial plans to study computer science at USC and later join a startup company were thwarted when the Pinterest founders approached him to be their fourth employee. “The team seemed super nice and felt enthusiastic about solving this problem that existed,” said Sahil on why he accepted their offer. For a self-starter like himself, Sahil’s small-shop gig meant more opportunity for learning and doing: he designed Pinterest’s smartphone app, the site’s social sharing buttons and most of the front-end work. What was the coolest part about working at Pinterest? “Every time I built something, it was used millions and millions of times. To be able to have that scale is pretty neat.”

Sahil left Pinterest a year later to start Gumroad and already has success stories to share about his startup. The site, he related, makes it “super easy and super fast for anyone to take something of value that they have made and sell it.” Customers include everyone from independent authors who now make six figures a year to artists like Bon Jovi who sell songs directly to their 40 million fans. Much like Gumroad’s usability, the secret to Sahil’s growing achievement is simple:

his focus. “At the end of the day, building something really useful takes a lot of time and effort. Amazon is so successful because it has spent 26 years focused on solving the same problem. When Google was worth nothing, it was still trying to solve the same problem that it’s solving today. Focus is the characteristic of a powerful company.” And it’s also the characteristic of a powerful tech star who once attended ASL. ■



ASL nominated for prestigious award in Westminster

Earlier this year, ASL was nominated in Westminster for the ‘Better City, Better Lives Award,’ which “recognizes an outstanding individual or group that has shown leadership in the local area by taking responsibility for decision-making, a service or a local amenity.” More than 300 nominations were entered for the Westminster Awards this year, and ASL was shortlisted as one of three finalists for this specific honor.

K–12 Director of Service Learning **Tamatha Bibbo (P’23 ’26; ASL 2011–present)** writes, “ASL was nominated by Westminster Academy for our partnership in SHINE, the after-school

Community Partnership Program, PCA Community Connections grants, ASL’s Service Learning Summit, the Learning Institute, and ASL’s overall commitment to Westminster Academy, its students and the entire school community. It is an honor for ASL to be recognized in Westminster as not only an excellent school, but also an entity that goes beyond its doors to support its local community in many meaningful ways.”

ASL was awarded its runner-up certificate at a ceremony at the Victory Services Club, Marble Arch, on 6 June. The School was represented by Ms. Bibbo, and SHINE coordinators **Belle Hayward (ASL 2007–present)** and **Jennifer Kirstein (ASL 2009–present)**.



Join Together Auction is a resounding success!

The two-day, community-building, biennial PCA auction took place Friday-Saturday, 15–16 March 2013. The “Join Together” event kicked off on Friday in the Farmer Family Gymnasium with a brunch and silent auction, followed by a kids’ party with games and treats in the afternoon, and an exciting concert by popular entertainer Randolph Matthews. On Saturday, 16 March, an evening celebration was held at the Royal Courts of Justice.

The auction is always an exciting and special weekend that serves as the PCA’s primary fundraising source for its programs, projects and grants covering a two-year operating budget. The proceeds from this year’s event helped to fund the fabulous refurbishment of the Commons.

NEW FRONTIERS *Our Promise. Our Future.*

The new campaign for the American School in London

Big things are coming to ASL! Keep your eyes and ears open for news about endowment growth and construction projects that will have a major impact on our program at the School. Under the leadership of the Board of Trustees and in accordance with our Strategic Plan, a major initiative is underway that will involve adding significant funds to our endowment, particularly in support of financial assistance to help increase the socio-economic diversity of ASL’s student population. In addition, major renovation and new construction will take place for our middle school and high school science labs, which will be brought up to 21st century instructional standards. A four-story Community Arts Building will be constructed at the corner of Grove End Road and Waverley Place that will be connected to the main building by an underground Fitness and Aquatic Center. This is the biggest addition to the ASL campus in many years, and we look forward to reporting more on this project as we come closer to ground breaking in spring 2014.

Keep in touch!

Connect with friends, classmates and the ASL community online:

Facebook: facebook.com/americanschoolinlondon

Twitter: twitter.com/aslnews

LinkedIn: http://tinyurl.com/linkedinasl

Stay updated with life at One Waverley Place, from robotics competitions and athletics updates to the latest from the student editors at the *Standard*, asl.org/socialmedia



The Learning Institute

at
ASL

Save the date...

Next summer's Institute: 16–18 June 2014.

Course offerings include:
Creating a Culture of Thinking
Ron Ritchhart

Pedagogy and Approaches to Teaching and Learning in a Technology-Enriched Environment
Jeff Utecht

Cognitive Coaching
William Powell and
Ochan Kusuma-Powell

Positive Discipline in the Classroom

Jane Nelsen, Mary Nelsen Tamborski
and Joy Marchese

Visit the website for more information!
www.asl.org/LI

The Institute, in its fifth year, goes from strength to strength in providing world-class professional learning opportunities for educators in the heart of London. Hosted by ASL, our courses are handpicked to reflect the most current educational trends and research.

The mission of the Learning Institute at ASL is to inspire excellence in teaching and learning through innovative, research-based professional development opportunities for educators world-wide.



1

TEDxASL

Plans to stage an independently organized TED event at ASL began in earnest last spring when ASL students set about recruiting prestigious speakers and working on the logistics of hosting TEDxASL here in St. John's Wood. All their hard work paid off! On Saturday, 12 October, the School Center was at capacity for TEDxASL, where a line-up of speakers from a range of backgrounds spoke about how we as individuals can benefit our community. Open to the general public as well as the ASL community, the event comprised 14 speakers presenting on the theme "Empowering a community through one," interspersed with TED videos throughout the day.

K–12 Director of Curriculum and Instruction and member of the TEDxASL speaker selection committee **Roberto d'Erizans (ASL 2010–present)** said, "It was impressive to see the product of this student-driven event. From beginning to end, students were the driving force and

the organizers, and they made everything happen. It was great to give some input through the committee, but all the credit goes to the students. They reached out and compelled the incredibly thought-provoking speakers to share their story with us at ASL."

TEDxASL lead coordinator Alec '15 added, "I think the event was very successful, but I think its true success will be what our audience does with the ideas that were presented at TEDxASL."

TEDxASL team member Gabriel '15 observed, "TEDxASL was about beginning a conversation—a conversation universal to our community that involved not just the topics delved into on the day, but one that would further promote and enrich the intellectual environment within our school."

HS Technology Coordinator and TEDxASL mentor Mariam Mathew said, "TEDxASL was an amazing event, not just because it was the first of its kind, but also because hosting such an event at ASL is a rare opportunity to 'break through the bubble' of our building and our wonderful community and reach into the greater part of London, and even the world. Our theme this year, 'Empowering Community through One,' reminds us of the power of one idea, one person, one spark to set a community ablaze. Let's hope we've moved closer to doing that with what we've heard at TEDxASL this year!"

To find out more about the event and read speaker biographies, visit www.tedxasl.com.



A big round of applause!

Thank you one and all for your contribution to the 2012–13 Annual Fund! A truly successful parent volunteer effort led by **Jennifer and Thomas Sheehan (P '16 '19 '23)**, the 2012–13 Annual Fund reached new heights, raising £1,637,921. We are grateful to all our generous donors—trustees, parents, alumni, parents of alumni, grandparents, and our faculty and staff—whose participation and support is essential to ensuring the margin of excellence at ASL.

As you know, tuition alone does not cover the actual cost of educating each student—in fact, tuition revenue generates 90 percent of the expense of each student's education. To help offset this shortfall, the Annual Fund contributes approximately 5 percent toward ASL's operating budget each year. A successful Annual Fund is essential to all school operations and is ASL's top fundraising priority.

As the new school year begins, so does the kick-off for the 2013–14 Annual Fund. Your gift allows ASL to cover costs associated with running a strong academic program and provides the resources needed to support our faculty and staff, and bring outstanding education opportunities to each and every student. Every gift makes a difference.

Please visit www.asl.org/giving to make your online gift today!

2



The Commons transformed!

The ribbon may have been orange, but it was a blue-ribbon moment for ASL history! On Monday, 19 August, the new Commons officially opened to thunderous applause from returning faculty and staff in a ribbon-cutting ceremony held during an all-school lunch. Head of School Coreen R. Hester introduced the dynamic team of architects and engineers who executed the renovation, and she expressed gratitude to Director of Operations & Technology **Jim Heynderickx (P '15 '17; ASL 2007–present)** and Facilities Manager **Kevin Moffat (ASL 2003–present)** for "sweating every detail." As Jim held the scissors in preparation for the grand cut, chief architect Ed Toovey of Ed Toovey Architects shared his vision for the improved space. Noting the circular shape of the room, the extension of natural light, the new windows with views of the outdoor courtyard and the additional entrances to the School Center Foyer, he said, "this circle gives a sense of togetherness, and that is what this community is all about."

All thanks for this project go to our Parent Community Association (PCA). Proceeds from the hugely successful Join Together Auction, held in March, were donated to the School to fund the transformation. During the summer, the Commons interior was stripped down and remodelled to create this fabulous community space.

3



Meet Libby Jones

Libby Jones is thrilled to join ASL as Associate Director of Advancement for Alumni Relations. She succeeds Liz Allen, who now serves the advancement office as Director of Online Communications. Previously, Libby worked as communications manager at the Buckley School in New York City, where she was responsible for the school's alumni magazine and website content. She also spent two years teaching and living at a British boarding school, deepening her love of school communities (and Harry Potter). A native of Darien, Connecticut, and a proud alumna of the University of Virginia, Libby volunteers with the UVa club in London when she isn't finding occasions to bake salted caramel brownies for her lucky colleagues. Welcome to ASL, Libby!

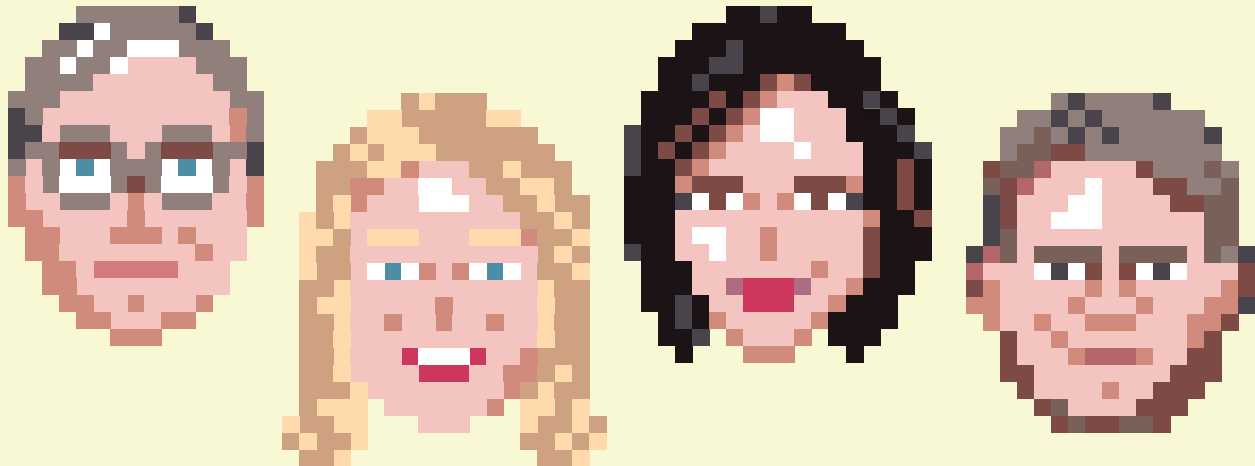
- 1 TEDxASL
- 2 Ribbon cutting in the Commons
- 3 Libby Jones
- 4 Board Chair Lori E. Fields, Donna McClure, Head of School Coreen R. Hester and Trustee Bill Roedy



The Harold T. Cruikshank Award

On Friday, 20 September, the Board of Trustees recognized the dedication and service of **Donna McClure (P '13 '15)** by presenting her with the Harold T. Cruikshank Award at the annual trustees' reception for faculty and staff at Gibson Hall. The award is bestowed on an individual who has given extraordinary service to ASL. Trustee **Bill Roedy (P '14 '16 '20 '22)** presented the award to Ms. McClure on behalf of the Board.

Since joining the School in 2007, Donna McClure has contributed enormously to ASL as a volunteer, serving as PCA Corresponding Secretary, Booster Club Coordinator for the Middle School, PCA Grade Rep, member of the Communications Council, and Booster Club President—a role she held for two years. And this past March, she spearheaded—as auction chair—the superb fundraising efforts of the PCA Join Together auction, whose proceeds went to the incredible refurbishment and transformation of the Commons this summer.



Trustee news

The ASL Board of Trustees has elected four new members in 2013.

Christopher Finn (P '10 '14 '21)

Christopher Finn and his wife, Anne Patterson Finn, were ASL parents for one year in 1998–99, when their eldest son, Atticus '10, was a student at ASL and then returned as parents in 2011 with their children Conor '14 and Charlotte '21. Chris joined the ASL Board of Trustees in February 2013.

Chris and his family lived in Lausanne, Switzerland for four years. Chris served as Chair of the Board of the International School of Lausanne (ISL) and their children attended ISL during that time.

Since 1996, Chris has served as managing director of The Carlyle Group, a global alternative asset manager. He is based in London. Previously, Chris was executive vice president at the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) in Washington, DC, the US Government agency that provides financing to US investors in the developing world.

Prior to that he worked as executive vice president for equities at the American Stock Exchange.

After graduating from Harvard College in 1980 with a BA (honors), Chris held various positions in New York State and federal government.

Alison LeMaire (P '12 '14 '17)

Alison LeMaire and her husband, Dominique, joined the School in April 2000, along with daughter Charlotte '12. Their sons, Henry '14 and Nicolas '17, are currently students at ASL.

A pediatric nurse practitioner with extensive experience, Alison served as

a medical care provider for at-risk, inner-city children in Boston and New York for 10 years.

Alison has volunteered with the PCA for many years and is an active member of the Communications Council. In addition to serving as chair of the Mini Grants Program, she founded Friends of the Lower School Library. She has served as a grade rep many times, been a member of the Booster Club Board, served as PCA treasurer for two years and acted as PCA President for the 2011–13 academic years.

Her philanthropic interests include Sadlers Wells, where she is a patron, and the Aspire Campaign for Princeton University. She has also co-chaired the Young New Yorkers of the Philharmonic.

Alison holds a BA in art history from Princeton University, a BS in nursing from Columbia University School of Nursing, and an MS from Yale School of Nursing.

Joanna Shields (P '17)

Joanna Shields and her husband, Andrew Stevenson, joined ASL in fall 2010 as parents of Ben '17. Joanna was appointed to the ASL Board of Trustees in February 2013.

In October 2012, Joanna was appointed by Prime Minister David Cameron as Chief Executive Tech City UK and Business Ambassador for Digital Industries.

Previously, Joanna served as vice president and managing director of EMEA at Facebook. Since moving to the UK in 2000 to run RealNetworks International, the company that invented streaming audio and video, she was at Google, where she served as managing director EMEA, and Bebo, where she served as chief executive.

During her career, Joanna has also served as CEO of Veon (acquired by Philips Electronics), VP and managing director international for Decru, (acquired by Network Appliance) and VP of Production Systems for Electronics for Imaging (Nasdaq:EFIL).

Joanna sits on the Mayor's London Smart Board and is a trustee of Save the Children.

Kashif Zafar (P '16 '18)

Kashif and his wife, Sujatha, became ASL parents in 2009, entering the School with their sons, Rehan '16 and Amaan '18. Kashif was raised in Pakistan and has wide experience in diversity programs in the workplace.

Kashif is a managing director and global head of rates distribution and e-distribution at Barclays, based in London, having joined the company in 2005 in Barclay's New York office. He is a member of the Global Sales Management Committee and the Global Diversity Council and also serves as co-chair of the EMEA Cultural Awareness Network.

His philanthropic interests include serving on the boards of Race for Opportunity and the British Pakistan Foundation in the UK, and on the boards of International House and American Pakistan Foundation in the US. He is an associate partner of Acumen and a member of the Global Advisory Council of Developments in Literacy.

Prior to joining Barclays, Kashif worked at JP Morgan and Credit Suisse in the US.

Kashif graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Middlebury College and he holds an MBA from the Wharton School of Business.

TECHNOLOGY AT WORK AT ASL

TECHNOLOGY has come a long way at ASL from the two Tandy computers that arrived at ASL in 1979, the first parent-sponsored LaserWriter of 1985, and the retirement of the last Apple II+ in 1992. Today, technology is an integral part of students' daily lives and its use is accepted in the classroom just as readily as pencils and paper.

To appreciate how technology is working for our students in the classrooms of ASL, let's look at a snapshot from each division.

Last year, in the Lower School, Librarian Joanne Morris and Lower School Technology Coordinator Peter Cassidy worked with several lower school teachers to produce a vision statement about the technology program for our youngest students. Joanne and Peter spend a lot of time facilitating the use of technology in Grade 3 and 4 classrooms, where their work is completely integrated with classroom projects.

The Lower School believes strongly that technology exists to enhance and support inquiry and student learning in a collaborative learning community. It's important to remember that technology is a tool and not a learning outcome. Across the division, teachers focus on the skills and strategies they want students to use. Just the right amount of technology is utilized to enable students to achieve their aims. With lower school students, tech use is fluid, integrated seamlessly across the curriculum, and, most importantly, is developmentally appropriate. At ASL, students are encouraged to choose from a variety of engaging technologies to learn, communicate and create. They use it efficiently to find, evaluate, use and



develop content, and to transform knowledge and skills into products, solutions and new information. At the same time, teachers are able to select from a plethora of technological tools to deliver the curriculum; to communicate; to access, manage and evaluate student-related information; and to connect with other professionals in personal learning networks.

The implementation of new technology in the Lower School is a thoughtful and responsive process. Any new hardware is purchased with learning objectives in mind. Sound planning provides equitable access for all our students and promotes the safe and ethical use of technology.

The Grade 4 iPad program

A prime example of technology in action every day in the classroom is the Grade 4

iPad program, the idea for which was born in spring of 2011. A technical proposal was drawn up for a 2:1 set of iPads for the 2012–13 academic year, which has evolved into a fully fledged 1:1 program starting this fall. Grade 4 Team Leader Matt Kish was enthusiastically supported in his bid to get the nascent project off the ground by Grade 4 teacher Kristin Howe, who spent a year as ASL's technology coordinator. Both teachers were excited by the challenge of how to integrate iPad usage into all areas of the curriculum.

Already, students are happy to grab an iPad for a project whenever they see fit; they're comfortable with the technology and make it work for them. "After all," Ms. Howe asserts, "kids are natural experts. We don't teach technology skills; the students grasp the technology as they



explore tools that are introduced to them or chosen by them to work toward their learning goals." Mr. Kish observes, "Students reach for the technology like they would reach for a pencil." Ellis '22 wholeheartedly supports the new initiative. She says, "I think it's really good, because the teachers add apps to help us learn math, history and spelling."

Teachers are now able to take what they taught in the past and add a level, and the iPads have changed the way students approach writing projects. Having the ability to bring in multimedia instantaneously has made for a more real-world approach for these lower schoolers. Both Matt and Kristin have witnessed that with the new technology students write more and they write for longer.

Working with laptops in Grade 6

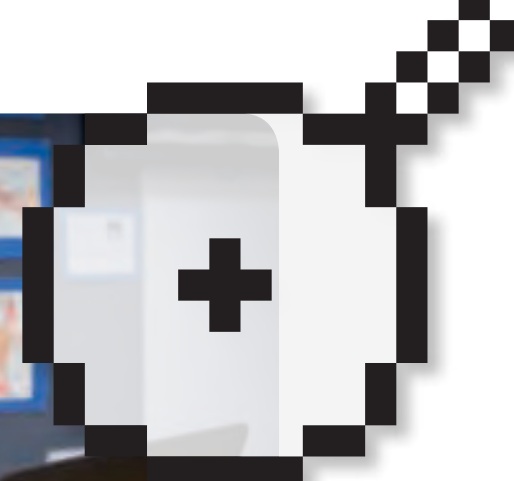
As students progress through the School, the use of technology in the classroom is just as valuable. Middle School Technology Coordinator Colin Bridgewater takes up the story, "When students in Grade 6 arrived in August, they were each assigned a laptop that would be theirs to use for

the year. Unlike the program in Grades 7 and 8, the Grade 6 laptops are used only in school and will not go home; however, this expansion of the 1:1 laptop program will allow students greater access to resources and enable teachers to further differentiate their teaching.

"Before the start of this school year, Grade 6 students did have access to laptops in school, but only when their teachers planned ahead and signed up for them. With one laptop for every two students, there were times when teachers found that the laptops were fully booked, so they had to change lesson plans to work around the availability of the technology. Even when they were available, class time was lost as students were led from the classroom to the cabinets in the pod to pick up a MacBook. Then, students had to login to each machine before being able to get back on track with the topic at hand. Because students often picked up a different machine each time, it didn't make sense to ever save anything locally, save any bookmarks, or customize their laptop experience to meet their educational needs. In particular, this became a problem any time students

used iMovie, as the files were too large to be stored anywhere but on the hard drive of the laptop. Projects that involved iMovie over multiple days became an endless merry-go-round of students hunting for the laptop they had used on previous days and asking to swap with students who were using them in other classes.

"Now that students have the use of a single laptop for the entire year, it opens up a wealth of possibilities. Teachers can plan to make use of the technology when it makes sense in the curriculum, not just when it happens to be available. But the biggest impact may well be when technology is used even when teachers hadn't planned on it. When the laptops are locked in a cabinet in the pod, there is no opportunity for spontaneous use of the laptops to check a fact, explore a news site, or produce something creative. But when the laptops are already in the classroom, those opportunities will appear quite frequently."



The high school laptop program

This year, the School welcomed Technology Integration Specialist Liz Perry to support the tech program and help teachers with unit planning, professional development, and technology integration. Since arriving in London, Liz has hit the ground running and has met with more than half of the faculty already. Clearly, Liz's year at ASL is going to be a busy one!

In the High School, a laptop program has developed from the need for students to constantly access the tools required for their classes, from Google Apps to mapping timelines to using discussion and wiki resources through the Haiku Learning Management System. Tools can be class specific, such as LoggerPro (Science) and Geometer's SketchPad (Math), LogicPro (Video Editing), DiLL Language software, or Adobe Photoshop and InDesign, as well as having cross-subject appeal, such as collaborative documents, online dictionaries, etc.

For many years, the High School has made available a cartload of laptops for use in a specific class, which teachers can reserve, but this seems cumbersome in the age we now live in where students have access to various devices constantly. In recent times, students have been

bringing in MacBooks to class on a regular basis. This has brought a significant and beneficial dynamism to class and so the transition to a one-to-one program began to make sense.

Conversations between teachers involved in the long-standing and successful middle school program, high school faculty and students have been going on for a couple of years about how to bring the High School into the laptop arena. With more than 90 percent of high school students having ready access to a MacBook, the School decided to make it a requirement for the 2013-14 academic year.

Although early days, the program has gotten off to a successful start. Students are administrating their own machines; they join the School's network and use ASL resources. The School provides free software to each student, namely LoggerPro, Microsoft Office Suite, GSP and ClamXav, an anti-virus tool.

In addition, the School has implemented a service for ASL families, making it possible for members of the community to bring in non-functioning Apple products for diagnostics. The high school tech office

facilitates the repair via its connections if this is the family's wish.

High School Tech Coordinator Mariam Mathew writes, "In 21st-century education, it is impossible to ignore the growth of the use of electronic devices to enhance learning. A school that is forward-looking needs to provide students with experiences in collaboration and sharing through technology. Our students need to be comfortable with communicating, connecting, cloud computing, and developing design ideas through technology.

"The Laptop Program in the High School is a development and outgrowth from this need. The challenge for us as educators is to create an environment and culture that facilitates our students to become responsible and productive digital citizens. We must assist our students in developing comfort and ease with learning and using new technologies and identifying how new developments can be of use to them in their academic and personal lives.

"Perhaps we should consider today's school laptop programs as being more than just a "1:1 program," but more of a "1:World program," as some schools are referring to their laptop programs. This phrase better represents the world of opportunities such programs open up to our students to share, collaborate, learn, and ultimately, grow. We look forward to the increased opportunities for developing communication, collaboration, and enhancing learning through the panoply of technology resources available at our fingertips."

Every day at ASL, we see exciting programmatic uses of technology at work in the classrooms. From robotics across the divisions to using Google Docs to draft essays for peer editing. We consistently strive to ensure purposeful access to technology for our students K-12, and we are excited to continue to explore innovated ways to enhance their learning.

WHEN COMPUTERS CAME TO ASL.

Alice Iacuesssa (ASL 1979–2000) and Cathy Adams (ASL 1974–2005) asked fellow former faculty members Bill Iacuesssa (ASL 1979–2000) and John Servente (ASL 1980–2008) to cast their minds back to their early days at ASL to recall the first 20 years of computers at ASL. Compared with the wealth of technology we take for granted today, it makes for interesting reading.

'72

First computer at ASL is actually a terminal with keyboard and monitor that connects to a university mainframe via a dial-up modem. BASIC programing class is taught by **Paul Fecher (ASL 1972–95)** in the math department.

'79–'80

Math department buys two Tandy computers. They are so unusual and valuable that they are kept in a locked work area! They use tape recorders to save files. Additional programming classes are offered by a number of teachers in the math department.

Diane Heard Homer (ASL 1979–81) and Bill Iacuesssa arrive at ASL. Both are keenly interested in computers. Diane owns a Sorcerer PC, which she uses in her math classes. A proposal is made to purchase four Apple II computers for the Middle School. The high school math department buys an external 5.25"

floppy drive, which replaces one of the tape recorders, and offers faculty in-service workshops.

'80–'81

Another computer enthusiast, John Servente arrives at ASL. The MS acquires four Apple II computers, and more workshops are held for faculty. A MS computer committee is formed, along with an after-school computer club. In November, Grade 7 holds a mock US presidential election with four Apple computers set up in the Boardroom to be used as voting machines to record students' votes. A final tally is distributed giving overall results along with a breakdown by homeroom, grade and gender.

Jonathan Nash '85 and **Chris Leventis '87** are two students keen to learn how to program.

'81–'82

John Servente becomes the first K–12 computer coordinator in a half-time position. Additional computers added in MS and HS.

'82–'83

Educational commercial software becomes available. Some teachers begin using it with their classroom computers. **Ruth Heuman (ASL 1970–2009)** introduces LOGO to her math students.

'83–'84

Bill Iacuesssa takes over from John Servente as K–12 computer coordinator. He writes a software program to score the ISST cross-country championships, and **Eddie Hufford (ASL 1967–2005)** asks him to write software for recording results and scoring at ISST track and field championships—both are firsts for ISST events. Athletics Director **Chuck Dodson (ASL 1973–2001)** starts to use word processing to improve communication with coaches, parents and athletes.

The library purchases its first Macintosh computer at the request of AV Coordinator **Keith Bing (ASL 1981–2003)**, and a dial-up connection is installed to connect to the Internet.

'84–'85

John Servente returns to ASL to resume his role of K–12 coordinator.

'85–'86

First computer lab is created in Bottom Green for use by K–12 classes. An unofficial computer department is created with John Servente as HS coordinator. Bill Iacuesssa acts as K–8 coordinator and teaches MS computer classes, which are offered for the first time. A lab assistant is hired.

A parent donates money to media services to purchase the first LaserWriter at ASL. Keith Bing works with **Tosh Lee**



(ASL 1975–98) to print *The Standard* on the LaserWriter.

Ed Ladd (ASL 1983–90) and Tosh Lee become enthusiastic users of the lab for writing classes. Evening classes are offered for parents.

'86–'87

HS computer lab is created, also in Bottom Green. Large-screen monitors are purchased for use in classrooms.

'87–'88

John Servente publishes a rationale for using word-processing that includes how to compose electronically and the benefits of doing so.

'88–'89

MS lab moves to Bottom Red with Apple IIGS computers and computer classes continue. The lab is available to LS and MS teachers. The MS is the first to publish its student newspaper using desktop publishing software.

A writing lab with 18 PCs is created using a combination of donations of used equipment and the purchase of new ones.

'91–'92

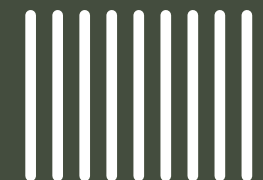
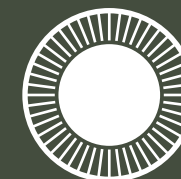
The last Apple II+ is retired after 10 years of active service.

“We had one Apple II allocated to each classroom in the sixth grade so when anybody wanted to do something, we would gather the students in one room with electrical cords running about like a snake house. At one point John Servente was running a computer lab in the classroom next to mine in Bottom Red. There was only one specially installed telephone jack, which was meant for use on the ancient dial-up connection. I used to drive him crazy by unplugging it to have access to another telephone link on the floor.”

MIKE MCKEEN (ASL 1973–97)



2





“I don’t recall there being a lot of technology prior to the establishment of a computer lab, which was pretty advanced for its time. I believe the first machines they used there were Apple IIs. Prior to that, the only thing that comes to mind are the mimeograph machines in the teachers’ areas with the crank handles for making photocopies.”

JONATHAN NASH '85



“In the MS art department, I used the computer a little as a teaching tool but as we only had one, it was not very effective. When I retired in 1995, I still wrote reports by hand!”

SALLY MARLOW (ASL 1964–95)

“When I came to ASL as a sixth grader in 1979, technology was just beginning to appear at the School. In 1980, I clearly remember taking a summer programming course in the HS computer lab, which was full of TRS-80 computers. We wrote simple programs in BASIC that printed HELLO all over the screen. In 1980, as a seventh grader, the MS staged a presidential election. **Nestor Carbonell '86** was Ronald Reagan, **Heather Ferguson '86** was John Anderson, and I was Jimmy Carter. **Alice Iacuesssa (ASL 1979–2000)** organized the campaign and **Bill Iacuesssa (1979–2000)** organized the voting. The Boardroom, which back then was the first room on the left at the Loudoun Road entrance, became voting central. Apple II computers were set up and students came in and voted electronically. This was very high tech considering elections in Britain still used paper ballots and voting boxes. There was no need to have a team of people counting the ballots by hand as the computers did all of the tallying for us. Brilliant! In Grade 10, I took Journalism I with **Tosh Lee (ASL 1975–1998)**. She made us do something unheard of back then, but that was so important for our future. She made us compose our class work straight into the computer. Of all the things I learned at ASL, nothing was more important for my academic future than learning to compose work straight into the computer.”

JONATHAN SCHWARTZ '86



“When I arrived in 1972, the School had one computer monitor and keyboard with access to a mainframe computer at a university for one hour per day. Access was via telephone. If one wanted to ‘save’ a program that had been written and typed, one saved it on paper tape. At that time, there was one computer programming class, taught by **Bernie Olimunder**. Bernie left ASL in 1973 and I was recruited to teach the course. In the early 80s, there were two or three computer programming classes taught in the math department by myself and later **Phil Young (ASL 1969–99)**, **Joyce Anderson (ASL 1980–2012)** and **Dave Sutherland (ASL 1970–98)**.”

PAUL FECHER (ASL 1972–95)

“I remember the first time we were exposed to computers; it was in the 80s. **Bill Iacuesssa (ASL 1979–2000)** led a workshop for MS teachers. We all sat there with this amazing machine trying to write simple programs that would do things like count, bounce a ball back and forth, etc. We were thrilled with the results. We used little discs in the early days and had to save everything on them—and the discs did not always decide to work.”

KAREN SELLARS (ASL 1968–2004)

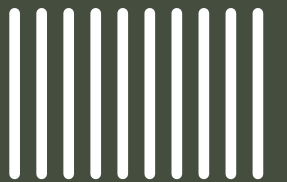
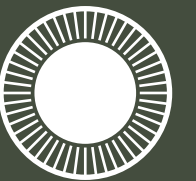
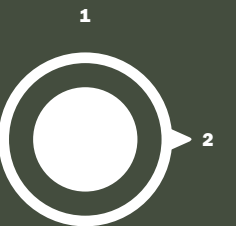
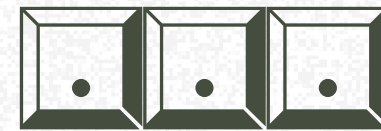
The picture of technology at ASL today is a world away from these humble beginnings. On a typical school day, between 200 and 300 gigabytes of information are downloaded from the Internet. At peak times, up to 1,000 users utilize our wireless network simultaneously. Year on year, our Internet bandwidth increases by 50 percent. The School runs 170 iMacs and 80 Dell desktop computers, primarily for administrative use. There are 82 printers around the building, 94 projectors, 40 servers and 12 terabytes of storage. Who knows what the next 20 years will bring to One Waverley Place!

“My first computer memory was in 1978 when little **Jonathan Nash '85** came into my room selling cards. I asked him if he was selling the cards for charity. He said no, he was saving up to buy his own personal computer. I said I'd buy some cards, but I'd never heard of such a crazy idea in my life! His own computer! In 1980, **Paul Fecher (ASL 1972–95)** led some sessions in the Boardroom for interested HS/MS teachers. We shared two computers among 20 teachers, and he tried to teach us BASIC. I went on a computer sabbatical in 1981–82 and studied with Hap Peele at UMass (an Iacuesssa suggestion). He sent me to New York City, where Seymour Papert was conducting a seminar introducing teachers to his new language called LOGO. I read Mindstorms and fell in love with LOGO. From 1982 to 1986, we taught LOGO in Grade 7, mainly on a project basis. I also ran a girls' computer club after school in 1985, since the girls found it difficult to get any time on the two Apple II+ computers we had in each grade. I remember two tiny fifth grade girls, **Ellen Goldberg '91** and **Becky Storck '91**, carrying huge heavy computers, disk drives, and monitors up the stairs from the fifth grade so we could have enough machines to run the club.”

RUTH HEUMAN (ASL 1970–2009)

“At the dawn of the computer era, I had been teaching long enough to believe I had encountered every conceivable excuse for late or shoddy work. Students always seemed to dwell in households populated by paper-eating dogs, paper-swallowing snakes, paper-stealing birds, or mothers who thoughtlessly threw homework in the trash. However, an alibi I had not heard previously turned up when a student explained a missing assignment with: “The computer lost my files.” I couldn’t follow his explanation for this disaster, but not wishing to betray my ignorance of the new technology, I grudgingly accepted his excuses.”

RAY REUHL (ASL 1978–93)



Class notes

'63

Anson Krickl stopped by ASL on a whim while visiting a friend in London. A graduate of the Gloucester Gate location, this was his first visit to our St. John's Wood campus. Anson lives in Cape Cod.

'68

Mary Claassen sends a "bonjour!" to all of her classmates. She is living in Quebec Province working on a permaculture farm.

We send our utmost gratitude to **Kathy (Somers) Dunsmore** and **Ellen Zoschak** for organizing their class's 45th reunion in Chicago this past October. Kathy is living in southern California, where she owns her own locksmith business and spends time with her 14 "awesome" grandchildren.

'69

Alumni sweethearts **Virginia (Striplin) Dollahite** and **John David Richards** have been together since reconnecting at a class reunion in 1999. David has a painting business in the North Carolina mountains, and they spend the winters in Florida. Virginia and David send their regards to all of their classmates!

'70

Novelist **Steven Axelrod** shares exciting news about his upcoming books: "In January 2014, the first of my Henry

Kennis Nantucket mystery novels, *Nantucket Sawbuck*, will be published by Poisoned Pen Press. The second one, *Nantucket Five-Spot*, is due in 2015. In April 2014, Gutter Books is bringing out my dark noir thriller *Heat of the Moment*, sections of which have already appeared in the genre magazines *Pulp Modern* and *Big Pulp*. Big Pulp will also be running my zombie story, "The Risen" in its all-zombie issue next June. My work can also be found online at The Good Men Project, Salon.com and my own blog, whereaminowwhenineedme.blogspot.com. I recently joined the masthead at the online arts magazine *Numéro Cinq*, run by Douglas Glover. Douglas was one of my professors at Vermont College of the Fine Arts, where I earned my MFA in writing."

'71

Anne (Schultz) Hodges writes, "Our 22-year-old son, Kevin, recently came home with a few cans of shandy and asked me if I would like to share one with him. Recalling my days in London, I remembered how awful it tasted: warm beer and lemonade is simply an aberration to the taste buds! Sorry, Kevin, you're on your own for this one!"

'74

Last February, friends and former classmates **Carolyn Dobias** and **Erica Müller** paid an impromptu visit to ASL for the first time since graduation. Carolyn, a resident of Toronto, remembers



the teaching at ASL as "second to none." "University was a breeze!" she recalled. Erica, who "lived in the art room" as a student, now lives in Sweden. These lifelong friends greatly enjoyed their return to campus.

'76

Kathleen (Vollenweider) Waring had a tour of ASL from **Ned Thomas '13** while in London in April. One of her favorite ASL memories was attending Elton John's concert in the gym—a favorite recollection for many alumni of her era. She lives in New Orleans with her family.



'77

In April, **Wes Lohec** stopped by ASL with his daughter, Katie, who spent her spring semester at Boston University studying abroad in London. The two had a wonderful time touring the School and discovering how much has and hasn't changed in more than 30 years.

'78

Doug Osmon visited ASL with his wife, Lisa, and his three daughters, Maddy, Kyra and Julia, this past winter. This was Doug's first return to the School since he graduated, and his kids enjoyed looking up his senior photo in an old yearbook and comparing ASL to their schools in Rochester, Minnesota, where they now live. Lisa was amused to discover that Doug planned on earning an MBA after high school, as he is now an MD and associate professor of medicine with the Mayo Clinic. The family was headed to Oxford for more sightseeing, where Doug was presenting a lecture for work.



'80

A rugby reunion! In February, **John Lockwood (ASL 1967–2007)** and **Bob Carter (ASL 1969–present)** met up with several ASL rugby alumni for a lively, memorable dinner at London's Guinea Grill. Teammates in attendance were **Mark Pearson**, **Dave McCloskey**, **Chuck Rhea** and **Timothy Sickinger**. These veteran athletes revisited some of their ASL glory days spent on the pitch. Following dinner, the group met up with **Raul Biancardi** and **Mike Cottle '79** to see Scotland defeat Ireland in the Six Nations rugby match at Murrayfield. Go Scotland (and go Eagles)!

In March, **Anne Sholander** visited ASL with her three children. Her son, Matthew, is spending the semester abroad in London, and the family was eager to visit their mom's old high school. Anne remembers being active in the drama department while studying at ASL.

- 1 Anson Krickl '63
- 2 Ned Thomas '13 and Kathleen Waring '76
- 3 Roger Yapp '84 with his family
- 4 Tara McEldowney Hartley '85
- 5 Paul Cantini '81
- 6 Wes Lohec '77 and daughter Katie
- 7 Drawing of Erica Müller '74 from her senior yearbook
- 8 Andrew McGovern '84 and his kids

'81

While in London for work, **Paul Cantini** stopped by campus for his first trip back to ASL in more than 30 years. He vividly recalled how, after falling from the bleachers during PE and breaking his elbow, the late **Eddie Hufford (ASL 1967–2005)** picked him up and carried him to the hospital. Paul enjoyed catching up with MS teacher **Linda Benson (ASL 1990–present)** and swapping stories about life at ASL when the St. John's Wood campus had just opened. He lives in Geneva with his wife and kids.

Gayla (Adams) Stewart and her husband, Kelly, dropped by campus in July during their backpacking adventure through Europe. Both teachers in Aberdeen, Washington, where they have raised three terrific kids, the couple has taught at the same school for 19 years!

'84

Over the summer, **Andrew McGovern (ASL 1991–93)** and his children, Jana and Billy, paid a visit to ASL.

Roger Yapp and his family visited ASL during their London vacation in June. Roger described the daily commute to school from Moor Park, where a dozen ASL families lived at one time. The Yapps now live in Chicago.

'85

En route to Wales for a special presentation of *The Odyssey*, **Tara (McEldowney) Hartley** stopped by ASL for a quick visit. She recalled fond memories of her English class with

Don Jesse (ASL 1964–91) and of fencing after school. Tara still lives in Canada.

'86

In March, **David Menashy** and his sister, **Sary '88**, stopped by ASL for a quick tour before catching their flight back to New York. The siblings happily bumped into **John Wilson (ASL 1971–2009)** in the High School, who was prepping a class for a quiz bowl “just like in the old days!” David and Sary fondly remember Mr. Wilson as their favorite teacher.

Jonathan Schwartz and his daughter, Zara, visited ASL in March. Together with **Bill and Alice Iacuessa (ASL 1979–2000)**, they took a tour of the School and were happy to run into **Stan Ratoff (ASL 1982–present)**, **John Farmer '97 (ASL 2012–present)**, **Meg Bailey (ASL 1990–present)** and **Chris Almond (ASL 1994–present)**. The group enjoyed exchanging ASL stories and catching up with former teachers and colleagues.

'89

While on vacation from their home in Canada, **David Gourlay** and Danielle McGee visited campus. David, a director at Citibank Canada, served on the alumni board in 2005 and vividly recalled the all-school reunion in Las Vegas.

'90

In March, **Nasser Zarroug** and his wife, Alma, visited ASL and took a tour of the School. The couple lives in Dubai. On his return to ASL, Nasser commented, “It’s great to see how ASL has developed and evolved over the years. I always feel pride to know that my family and I share a long history in this School. I look forward to my next visit!” We do too, Nasser.

While visiting London with her family, **Christine Zoffinger** stopped by campus for the first time since she graduated. Christine lives in Princeton, NJ, and works at Rutgers University.

'92

Reagan (Thompson) Hupp and her husband, Jonathan, visited One Waverley Place at the end of May and bumped into Reagan’s former French teachers, **Victoria Hamadache (ASL 1985–present)** and **Ghislaine Rose (1990–present)**. Reagan was also elated to discover that a photo of her at field hockey practice appears in

the School’s historical timeline! Reagan and Jonathan reside in Kansas with their five children and work in campus ministry at Kansas State University.

Jennifer Majka and her husband, Eric Lindstrom, stopped by campus during a trip to London in May. The couple lives in Ithaca, NY, and Jennifer works as an assistant dean at Cornell.

'96

Sulaiman Al-Rubaie Al Shaheen writes, “Wow! I can’t believe it has been 17 years since graduation. After ASL, I went to Cornell and studied engineering but decided to pursue a career in investment banking in London and Kuwait. I received my MBA in 2008 from London Business School and have been working in private equity since then, [initially] in Dubai and now finally home in Kuwait. I am frequently in touch with **Faisal Al-Awadi** and recently, ASL’s own **Raul Biancardi '80** has joined our firm. It is like a blast from the past, and we would love to hear from you all!”

'97

Assistant Athletic Director **John Farmer (ASL 2012–present)** and his wife, Chandra, were married on 3 August 2013 in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The festive occasion proved to be an ASL reunion of sorts for several alumni from the Class of 1997, including **Alex Caparros**, **Carl Ludwigson** and **Nick Ingrassia**. Also in attendance were **Heddy (Farmer) Botic '94**, **Polly (Farmer) Pringle '91** and John’s parents, **John and Tawna Farmer (P '91 '94 '97)**.

We were elated when **Patrick Mace** decided to drop by for a visit to ASL on Founder’s Day in April. It was his first trip back to the School in 18 years. Patrick caught up with **John Farmer (ASL 2012–present)**, whom he hadn’t seen since running into John at the San Francisco airport when Patrick was on his way to New York to start his freshman year at Cornell! Patrick and his fiancée live in New York City.

Magdalena Zenaida (néé Allison Bannister) is now a published children’s author, whose first book, *An Honest Boy*, *Un Hombre Sincero*, celebrates the life of Latin American hero José Martí. To learn more about Magdalena’s work, visit her website, www.magdalenazenadia.com.

'98

Julia (Wasley) Lee and her husband, Reginald, welcomed their son, Andre, on 5 November 2011.

Andrew Stewart visited ASL on Tuesday, 8 January. He also attended the Home-coming reception at The Salt House later that week.

'99

While in London helping their parents celebrate their wedding anniversary, **Emily Riemer** and sister **Katherine '01** stopped by ASL to have a tour of their alma mater. The two are now based in Chicago.

'00

Former teacher **Ed Elliott (ASL 1972–2009)** called to share the news that **Claude Deering** had a small part in Side Effects, a feature film starring Jude Law and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Kelsie Johnson stopped by ASL while visiting London for work. She took a tour of the School and leafed through old yearbooks. After graduating, Kelsie studied nursing at the University of Virginia and is currently living in Baltimore.

Emily Wasley married Eddie Seyller on 10 November 2012.

Charlotte Jarvis Mellors (ASL 2011–present) and her husband, Pat, joyfully announce the birth of their son, Freddie, born on 19 December 2012.

'01

Rory Regan and his wife, Melanie, paid a visit to ASL on 19 March 2013. The couple was in London on their honeymoon; they were married in August 2012. Rory took a trip down memory lane and remembered his trumpet-playing days at ASL. Following London, he and Melanie were making their way to Paris and Amsterdam.

'02

Fawaz Al-Daihani came to campus on 7 March. He took a quick tour of the School and was especially excited to see the Farmer Family Gymnasium, where he spent a lot of time as a student.

Meghan Rathman Ellis and her husband, Mike, welcomed the arrival of Henry Carter Ellis on 3 June 2013. Weighing in at 8 pounds 15 ounces, he is a bundle of joy to his proud parents and their extended family.

Koichiro Horie stopped by One Waverley Place while on his honeymoon with his wife, Wakana. He caught up with



- 1** The wedding of John Farmer '97
- 2** Mohamed Abdullah '01 and Mohammed Zarroug '01
- 3** Bill Iacuessa, Zara Schwartz, Jonathan Schwartz '86 and Alice Iacuessa
- 4** Wakana and Koichiro Horie '02
- 5** Doug Osmon '78 and family
- 6** Julia (Wasley) Lee '98 with husband Reginald Lee and their son, Andre William Lee
- 7** Danielle McGee and David Gourlay '89
- 8** Freddie Mellors, son of Pat and Charlotte Jarvis Mellors '00
- 9** Henry Carter Ellis, son of Mike and Meghan Rathman Ellis '02
- 10** Julia (Wasley) Lee '98, Eddie Seyller, Emily (Wasley) Seyller '00, and parents Cynthia and Stephen Wasley (ASL 1975–2008)
- 11** Jennifer Majka '92 and Eric Lindstrom
- 12** Reagan Thompson Hupp '92 checking out her photo

- 1 JD Leonard '05 and Laura Elizabeth Shepard
- 2 Ryan Doherty '05
- 3 Cat Martin '03 and Kendra Conway '03 at Kendra's wedding in June 2012
- 4 Caitlin Simpson '10 had the lead in GW's production of *Emma*
- 5 Brooke Brown '19 with sister Claire '13
- 6 Mark Wilson and Tara Wilson Jones '98

Bill Kenney (ASL 1990–present) and **Kevin Conaty (ASL 1991–present)**, two teachers who inspired him to enter the medical field. Koichiro lives with Wakana outside of Tokyo, where he works as a doctor.

'03

Kendra Elizabeth Conway wed Shawn Patrick Sluss on 2 June 2012 in Bristol, Rhode Island. Kendra and Shawn met while attending Northeastern University in Boston. They now reside in Charleston, South Carolina, where Kendra is an event manager and Shawn is a clinical pharmacist. **Cat Martin** was one of Kendra's bridesmaids and made the journey from London for the special weekend.

'05

While finishing up his semester abroad at St. Andrews University, **Ryan Doherty** visited London and ASL for the first time in 15 years. He recalled his middle school years vividly, particularly his class with MS teacher **Anne Edwards (ASL 1998–present)**. Following high school graduation, Ryan studied at the University of Maryland and is about to complete his MA in international relations at Georgetown.

Alexander Fahmi is currently a second-year student at the University of North Carolina, pursuing his MBA degree. He is studying investment management and real estate and is scheduled to graduate in May 2014. Alex spent his summer interning with Goldman Sachs' private wealth management group in San Francisco. Before studying at UNC, he spent three years with Citigroup as an analyst in their debt capital markets practice.

JD Leonard married Laura Elizabeth Shepard on 15 December 2012. The couple met at Rice University and now lives in Oakland, California. Laura works at Chevron, and JD is an independent web developer and consultant in the Bay area.



'06

Vocalist **Lizzy Plapinger** and her band, MS MR, have been touring nonstop since the release of their debut album, *Secondhand Rapture*. MS MR performed on the "Late Show with David Letterman" and has been featured on *Vogue.com*, and in *The Times* and *The Guardian*, among others. Their worldwide tour includes LA, Vancouver, Amsterdam, Berlin, Paris and of course, London!

'07

Congratulations are in order for **Kevin Donovan**, who recently earned his master's in international economic development from the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He will continue his studies in a PhD program at the University of Michigan.

'09

Sean Donovan received his BS in economics and international affairs from Dartmouth College and joined Morgan Stanley as an analyst in their health care investment banking group in June. Well done!



While on break from George Washington University in January, **Devon Guralnick** returned to ASL with a friend. The two took a tour of the School and had a brief visit with former teachers **Victoria Hamadache (ASL 1985–present)** and **Greg Cole (ASL 2004–present)**.

In May, **Ona McConnell** graduated from Yale as one of four seniors who received the David Everett Chantler Award, given to students who best exemplify qualities of courage, strength of character and high moral purpose. Ona, a goalie for the varsity field hockey team, was recognized for her grace and bravery when a diagnosis of Myotonic Dystrophy (DM) derailed her ambitions to play field hockey in the Olympics. She led a campaign that raised \$50,000 for research of this disease.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Make sure we have your up-to-date email and address, and you'll receive:

London Calling: the alumni e-newsletter

Regional Reception Invitations: events in San Francisco, L.A., Houston, London and more

Access to the Online Directory: find classmates and friends

Send us your details! Email alumni@asl.org.



'10

Stephan Mecklenburg stopped by ASL with a friend in January. Stephan spent a year in the Lower School years ago and was eager to tour the LS library as well as some of the classrooms. He was spending a semester abroad studying business at Florida State University.

During her spring semester at George Washington University, **Caitlin Simpson** made headlines for her captivating performance as the scheming heroine in GW's production of *Emma*. How fitting that her first lead role in college traces back to her London roots!

Will Tucker is a senior at Connecticut College, where he recently earned the distinction of being an Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar Athlete. He is entering the new tennis season as varsity captain and off the court, he is chairman of residential life.

'13

While visiting London in March, **Claire Brown '13** and sister **Brooke '19** paid a visit to ASL to say hello to former teachers and classmates. Claire joined



a senior English class with a friend and relished the chance to catch up with **Kevin Conaty (ASL 1991–present)** and relive her favorite memories from their physical sciences class. Brooke and her mom, **Elna Drava (P '13 '19)**, said a special hello to **Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–2013)**.

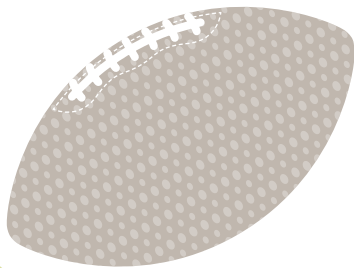
During a recent UK trip for a family wedding, **Kaveen Singh** stopped by One Waverley Place to have a tour of ASL and see a few of her former classmates. Kaveen left ASL in 2008 but is still in touch with several of her friends. A graduate of Churchill High School in Potomac, Maryland, she is now a freshman at Carnegie Mellon University.



Faculty notes

What a special surprise! While in London surprising his parents for his mother's birthday celebration, former LS teacher **Mark Wilson (ASL 1981–90)** and his daughter, **Tara Wilson Jones '98**, stopped by ASL for a visit. Mark taught Grades 3 and 4, and also coached hockey and track during his ASL tenure. He was thrilled to bump into **Christine Rudolph '85 (ASL 1989–present)**, **Doreen Murphy (ASL 1988–present)**, **Trevor Jones (ASL mid-80s–present)**, **Joan Dyer-Westacott (ASL 1987–present)**, **Jodi Warren (ASL 1988–present)**, and **John Farmer '97 (ASL 2012–present)**, who remembered Mark as "one of the best teachers I ever had." Tara, in turn, was able to catch up with her former kindergarten teacher, **Diane Weissman (1980–present)**, and take a poignant photo in front of the tree she planted outside the Loudoun Road entrance in honor of her friend and classmate, **Laura Owens '98**, who was tragically killed in the Pan Am flight 103 crash over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. The tree continues to flourish! Tara now lives in Washington, DC, with her husband, Dylan Jones, and is the director of communications and public relations at Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Mid-Atlantic. Former math teacher **Helen Dewey** has been living in her hometown of Perry, Iowa, since retiring from education in the late 80s and stays busy with politics and gardening. Because of her failing eyesight, she is now in a care facility in Perry and would love to hear from past colleagues and students. Cards may be sent to Helen care of Perry Health Care Center, 2625 Iowa Street, Perry, Iowa 50220.

Alumni News



A stroke of Luck for ASL

A special alumnus received a warm welcome from the ASL community during his visit in May. **Andrew Luck '08**, NFL quarterback for the Indianapolis Colts, returned to campus for the first time since he was a lower school student from 1995 until 1998. The esteemed athlete left London for Frankfurt before settling in Houston, Texas, with his family, where he not only excelled in high school football, he also graduated at the top of his class as co-valetorian in 2008. Andrew matriculated to Stanford University as the number four quarterback in the US, according to scout.com. He played quarterback for the Cardinals and majored in architectural design.

In town to watch the Champions League final, Andrew made a point to stop by One Waverley Place and spend some time



Charles Elliott '96 meets Obama

In January 2013, **Charles Elliott '96** had the pleasure of meeting Barack Obama the day before the President's inauguration. A member of the US Naval Intelligence Reserve, Charles was one of 40 military personnel selected to serve as a military escort to high-ranking officials during the festivities celebrating the President's start to his second term in office. How exciting to see our ASL alumni in action!

Aadrita Mukerji '09 wins academic award at USC

Aadrita Mukerji '09 graduated from the University of Southern California as a recipient of the Emma Josephine Bradley Bovard Award, a prize granted to graduating USC students who have attained the highest scholarship average of all undergraduate women. She maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA throughout her college career. The accomplished economics major reflected on high school, college and the creative adventures that await her in the next chapter. Aadrita found it hard to believe that five years have passed since she arrived, fresh from northern California, to start her senior year at ASL. Landing in a new high school required some adjustment, but Aadrita weathered the transition like a seasoned expat. "ASL was a much smaller community than my public high school. It was really close-knit, and the teachers cared a lot about getting to know you as an individual," she explained. It also didn't hurt that Aadrita's family had previously lived in Portland, Oregon, where the grey, blustery weather rivaled London's. "I moved around a lot as a kid, and I found that was the norm at ASL," Aadrita recalled. "It was nice to meet people all over the world who had those experiences." Two ASL classes, English and Economics, ultimately shaped her course of study at USC: her A.P. Economics class with **John Wilson (ASL 1971–2009)** convinced her to major in econ, while her heightened love of writing drove her to enroll in a screenwriting seminar as a college freshman. "USC places an emphasis on breadth," Aadrita said. "It's a school that really encourages you to study as many different things as you can." In addition to her econ major, Aadrita graduated as a double minor in screenwriting and French. Ever an innovative pupil, she found fascinating ways to combine these loves, including taking six econ classes in French during a semester abroad in Paris. It is screenwriting, however, that has captured her heart. "Thanks to USC, I genuinely

with a fan club of students and faculty. Highlights of his ASL stopover include a trip to the playground, where he tossed footballs to eager and adoring MS students, a tour of lower school classrooms, meeting up with former LS Principal **Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–2013)**, and an interview with editors from *The Scroll*. What a lucky day for our school! We thank MS Assistant Principal **Pete Lutkoski (ASL 2003–present)** for organizing this memorable program for students.



found what I want to do with my life," Aadrita affirmed. "I want to write for TV." This summer, the 21-year-old began her first job as an assistant to the showrunner on Fox's *New Girl*, the first step in realizing this dream. "I'm really excited," she enthused. She also admitted to having trepidation about entering the real world. But with a top degree from USC, it's clear that this distinguished alumna is going into the real world with some special gifts to share.

Alex Morris '12 sets record for Middlebury track

We have exciting news to relay about **Alex Morris '12** and her distance medley relay team on women's indoor track at Middlebury College: they achieved a record-breaking run! In February, Alex's extraordinary race set a new record for Division III indoor track at the Open New England Championships. The girls came in second behind Providence College, a Division I track team, but in this instance, a second place finish definitely felt like first.

"It was so surreal, I still can't believe that it happened," remarked Alex. She was quick to give credit to her three relay teammates who are also phenomenal athletes. As a freshman, Alex considered it a "huge honor" to join a relay team



of three seniors. "I felt a certain responsibility to do well for them, as this was their last year to really shine," she explained. The 400 meters she sprinted in the second leg of the race, at 58.28 seconds, was a personal best time. "The adrenaline really steers you on," Alex added.

Alex adores collegiate life at Middlebury. "It's more than I could have ever imagined," she enthused. A long sprinter on the outdoor track team at ASL, she initially found running 200-meter laps indoors to be a challenge. "Indoor track demands more tactics and strategy," Alex said. Though she humbly claims she has much more to learn, her outstanding performance at the Open New England Championships suggests otherwise. Alex and her team also competed at the NCAA indoor track championships in Chicago, an experience she summarized as amazing. "I never thought in my wildest dreams I would be going to a national tournament in my freshman season," she shared. As for juggling academics with a varsity sport, it comes naturally to the former three-season Eagle. "It wasn't a shock. I had to balance my time carefully at ASL," she said. When she's not training, weight-lifting or sprinting, Alex can be found reporting stories for the sports section of the *Middlebury Campus*,

- 1 Andrew Luck '08
- 2 Charles Elliott '96 with President Obama
- 3 Adam Bond '99 with the cast of *A Picture of Dorian Gray*
- 4 Aadrita Mukerji '09
- 5 Alex Morris '12

her college newspaper. Her journalistic pursuits are another important legacy of her tenure at ASL, since Alex served as the sports editor of *The Standard*. When asked if she misses high school, Alex grew nostalgic for London and for off-campus lunches on the high street. Still, this new chapter has proven to be pretty enticing for the young alumna. "I ended up at my dream school, and I am so happy about that."

Lessons in diction from Adam Bond '99

Last spring, a handful of HS students could be found warming up in preparation for their big performance. They weren't running laps in Canons Park or shooting hoops in the gym; instead, these student actors were warming up their voices for roles in *A Picture of Dorian Gray* with the help of their dialect coach, ASL alumnus **Adam Bond '99**. "I am helping them speak the Queen's English," Adam jokingly quipped. The kids under his tutelage were eager to perfect their accents and made terrific progress during their sessions together. "The kids were great," Adam praised. "They were like sponges, absorbing everything."

Adam, a professional actor, spent five years at ASL, where he was active in the School's theater and musical ventures. Among his most memorable acting gigs are those that took place on the storied stage of ASL's old Annenberg Theater, including *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* and *You Can't Take it with You*. The former was directed by **Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present)** and **Scott Jeneary (ASL 1995–2001)**. It was Mr. Herron who recruited Adam to help out with *Dorian Gray*. "This was my first time being back in an ASL classroom since I was a student," Adam explained. "It's been terrific!"

Alumni Events 2013



Connecticut

In April, Head of School **Coreen R. Hester (P '02 '04; ASL 1995–97, 2007–present)** and members of the ASL advancement office ventured across the pond to host a reception in Connecticut for alumni, parents of alumni and former faculty members. More than 70 guests gathered in Waveny Park to fly kites, toss Frisbees and savor lunch at an ASL family picnic. The weather was glorious—as was the company! Among the attendees were **Lois and Jeff Meyer (P '07 '10 '12 '16)**; **Kate Flaherty Stimpson '89**, her husband, **John Stimpson '90**, and their kids; **Diane Discenza (P '09 '12)**; and **Marissa Greve Lowthert '92** and her family. The afternoon was a grand affair for the ASL community in Connecticut.



New York

On Monday, 29 April, ASLers enjoyed a special soiree at New York City's Union League Club. Former faculty and staff, including **Jan Mikrut (ASL 1974–98)**, **Katherine Precht (P '08 '15; ASL 1993–2009)** and **Katherine Snedeker (ASL 2007–09)** caught up over nibbles and wine. Alumni families, including **Michael and Carmela Molinaro (P '05 '09)** and **Sara Molinaro '05**; and **Cynthia Princi (P '05 '08 '13)** and her daughter, **Alexa '05**, visited with old friends. Among the alumni swapping stories and sharing memories were **Marc Watkins '89**, **Kimeran Daley '94** and **Jeremy Dworken '02**.

Thank you to all who turned out!

Attention, classes of '63, '64, '65 and '66!

Save the weekend of 31 May–1 June for a reunion in San Diego. Contact **Charles Scudder '64** for more details, charles.scudder@akzonobel.com

Save the dates!

We hope to see you at our 2014 alumni receptions! Reminisce and raise a glass with the ASL community in your neighborhood.

Thur, 30 January: Boston

Sat, 15 February: San Francisco

Wed, 19 February: Los Angeles

Sun, 27 April: Connecticut

Mon, 28 April: New York City

Questions? Email Alumni Director Libby Jones, libby_jones@asl.org

Founder's Day

*Three score and two years ago
ASL was founded
Launching thousands of academic careers
Stephen Eckard would be astounded*

*That the school he started in his flat
With thirteen students strong
Would grow and grow in St. John's Wood
Where we all proudly now belong*

*Elton John, Roald Dahl and John McCain
Are some past distinguished guests.
Trips abroad, sport wins and top courses
Are some reasons we're the best*

*So happy birthday, ASL
Here's to sixty-two great years
The best is yet to come
For the school we hold so dear!*

ASL celebrated Founder's Day on Monday, 22 April. In honor of the School's 62nd anniversary of its founding, StuCo representatives handed out spirit wristbands to all who passed through the doors, and students later received bookmarks during morning classes outlining the School's history. Yet another treat awaited the ASL community at lunch: Founder's Day cupcakes. Happy Birthday, ASL! Here's to many more years of academic success.

Philadelphia

A philodemic in Philly! In February 2013, ASL alumni, past parents, and former staff and faculty gathered for a reception at the Mask and Wig Club in Philadelphia. Guests and ASLers **Coreen R. Hester (P '02 '04; ASL 1995–97, 2007–present)**, **Roberto d'Erizans (ASL 2010–present)**, **Annie Leonard (ASL 1996–97, 2010–present)**, **Paul Richards (2009–13)**, **William Vaughan (ASL 2011–present)**, **Elizabeth Allen (ASL 2011–present)** and **Libby Jones (ASL 2012–present)** enjoyed catching up with alumni and colleagues over drinks and appetizers. Young alumni **Courtney Gans '10**, **Viv Jois '11** and **Michael Steele '11** offered an inside view into undergraduate life at UPenn. Past faculty members who had traveled to Philadelphia for the NAIS conference, including **Chris Bright (ASL 1993–2001)** and his wife, **Jana (ASL 1998–2001)**, and former head of school **Judith Glickman (ASL 1992–98)** welcomed the opportunity to unwind with friends after a day of professional development workshops. Members of the **Schwartz family**, **Jonathan '86**, **Adam '99** and **Linda (ASL 1991–2007)** shared stories of their time in London. Alumnus **Jerry Sandham '59** had the distinction of hailing from the oldest ASL class at the reception. Among his fond memories of ASL was when founding headmaster Stephen Eckard called on him to show off his dance moves at an all-school assembly! The evening was a special reunion indeed for our ASL community in and around the Philadelphia area.

- 1 Cory Zimmerman '02 and Viv Jois '11
- 2 Jackie Tileston '79, Jerry Sandham '59, Coreen Hester and Peggy Tileston '73
- 3 Betsy LaMaster, Kathy McMahon and Kelly Welch
- 4 Liz Schiff gives a toast
- 5 Guest of honor Julie Ryan stands between Peter and Lisa Cirenza



Parents of alumni reception for Julie Ryan

At the end of the 2012–13 school year, the ASL community was busy bidding adieu to beloved Lower School Principal **Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–2013)**. On 6 June, parents of alumni attended a celebration for Julie held in the garden of Bruce House. **Betsy LaMaster (P '07 '09)**, **Kathy McMahon (P '09 '12)** and **Kelly Welch (P '12 '16 '18)** were among those that enjoyed the sunshine while saying farewell to Julie. Past parent **Liz Schiff (P '93 '03)** prepared a poignant toast for the occasion, which made everyone laugh and smile—particularly Julie!

The Bruce House Society

A bequest may be best

A bequest in your will may be the best way to make a deferred gift to ASL.

A bequest:

- can provide generous support without affecting your current income or cash flow
- can be directed to a specific program or for a specific purpose
- will provide a charitable estate tax deduction
- is easy to accomplish with a simple codicil
- will help future generations at ASL.

The Bruce House Society

The Bruce House Society celebrates the tradition of generosity at ASL and promotes a connection from this generation of ASLers to the next. The Society will recognize those individuals and families who have included the American School in London in their long-term financial or estate plans. Informing the School of a bequest provision, a life-income gift or other deferred giving arrangement, qualifies an individual for membership. Members of the Bruce House Society will be listed in the school's Annual Report and invited to special events.

The Bruce House Society is named for ASL benefactor David K. Bruce, US Ambassador to the Court of St. James's 1961–69, who was instrumental in helping ASL acquire and develop the St. John's Wood campus. Bruce House, the head of school's residence at 49 Grove End Road, is named for Ambassador Bruce who gave generously to the 1970 construction of the site. If you have already included ASL in a bequest or other planned gift, we hope you will let us know. Your willingness to be listed as a member of the Bruce House Society encourages others to follow your example. We acknowledge and respect those who wish to remain anonymous, but we urge you to inform us of your plans on a confidential basis as it supports the school's planning for the future.

If you have not included the School in your plans, and you would like to explore the best options for you and your family, do not hesitate to contact Associate Director of Advancement for Annual and Capital Giving Sandy Mateus, +44 (0)20 7449 1446 or sandy_mateus@asl.org.

In memoriam



- 1 Hilton "Tex" Davis '61
- 2 Anirudh (Rudy) Menon '05
- 3 Kevin O'Brien '72

We are sorry to report that **Hilton "Tex" Davis '61** passed away on 28 September, 2013. A resident of Coffeyville, Kansas, Tex was the president of American Craftsmen, Inc.

It is with a heavy heart that we share the news that **Anirudh (Rudy) Menon '05** passed away on Tuesday, 4 June 2013. Anirudh and his brother, **Arjun '09**, were students at ASL from 1998 to 2003.

With great sadness we report the death of **Kevin O'Brien '72**, who died in a hang-gliding accident on 23 June 2013. Kevin was a great, thoughtful friend—an adventurous raconteur who was seldom without his camera and a new story to tell. His ASL friends will remember his achievements in student politics, journalism, photography and theater. Among the attendees at his memorial service this summer were **David Austin '70** and **Susan (Findeiss) Austin '71**, **Wayne Austin '70** and

Debbie (Nelson) Austin '71, and **Chip LeGrand '72**, who delivered words of remembrance. Kevin is survived by his wife, Dominique, and sons Ian and Gregory.

A book in the Mellon Library Collection is dedicated to each member of the ASL community who passes away. For more information, please contact the American Memorial Collection (AMC), amc@asl.org, or visit asl.org > **Community/Login** > **AMC**.



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