

The American School in London Accents

Fall '09



Cover self portrait:



Ava, Grade 1

“I’m new to ASL this year. It’s very different from my last school. I have two brothers in Grades 2 and 8, and a sister in Grade 5. I like Italian and art the best; recess is fun, too. We play games in Italian. My friend, Helen, sits next to me in art. She is nice and really funny. Our last field trip was to Canons Park. We had a contest to see who could find the most conkers.”

Accents, Fall '09
© The American School in London The American School in London One Waverley Place London NW3 ONP United Kingdom T +44 (0)20 7449 1200 F +44 (0)20 7449 1350 alumni@asl.org www.asl.org
The magazine is mailed without charge to all current parents, alumni and former faculty and staff, and to many parents of alumni and friends of the School.
Editor: Wendy Robinson
Acting managing editor: Dionne Griffith
Contributors: Andrew Bentley '83, Joanna Bielska, Nina Cameron '72, John Clark, Chris Clark, Greg Cole, Kevin Conaty, Lucie Eckersall, the Guarino family, Erin Herzeelle, Coreen R. Hester, Ruth Heuman, Laurie Hindley, Mary Jordan, Jo Kember, Patrick Mahany, Mariam Mathew, Rebecca Moore, Erik Niemi, Doug Poggioli, Stephan Potchatek, David Robinson, Wendy Robinson, Isabelle Stransky '98
Photography: Patrick Mahany, Rebecca Moore, Craig Prentis, Phil Sayer, Cynthia Larson Richard, Wendy Robinson, Astonleigh Studio, Linda Lee, Steve Gangelhoff
Illustration: Debbie Powell c/o The Artworks Inc (page 6–8), Jacinta Sullivan (page 18–21)
Design and art direction: Powell Allen
Printer: Finlay Printing, USA

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

6

Where are we from?
A closer look at the composition of the ASL community

10

Taking the pulse of ASL alumni
Report on alumni survey of June 2009

14

Commencement 2009
Commencement for the Class of 2009 at the Royal Festival Hall

18

Four long-serving faculty members retire
ASL says a fond farewell to Ed Elliott, John Wilson, Ruth Heuman and Ethan Higgins.

&

Gallery	3
Letters to the editor	4
Spotlight on London	22
Class notes	32
Faculty news	48
In Memoriam	49

News

Seeds of Peace Week: Advancing reconciliation and coexistence	24
Robotics team partners with Quintin Kynaston	24
10th PCA Auction	24
New sculpture for Lower School	26
Eva Schloss visits High School drama students	26
New Director of Advancement for Alumni Relations	27
Winnie Goonan leaves ASL	27
Master Classes, short courses for adults	27
Middle East Night: Art from Iran	27
Athletics, news and results	28
Drama, Prettiest Friend	30

**The American School in London
Educational Trust Limited**

Members of the Board of Trustees

The United States Ambassador to the
Court of St. James's
The Hon. Louis B. Susman,
Honorary Chair

Lori E. Fields, *Chair*
Lisa Bennett, *Vice Chair*
Mark E. Sohn, *Company Secretary*
Coreen R. Hester, *Head of School*

Hassan Alaghband
R. Derek Bandeen
Andrew M. Bentley '83
Hyman K. Bielsky
Alison L. Blood
Karen L. Brush
Caroline M. Clark
Linda M. Ely
Michael R. Ericksen
Donna Lancia
Mary F. Marsh
James D. Melville Jr.
Karsten N. Moller
Sanjay H. Patel
William A. Plapinger
Richard H. Powers
Victoria K. Robertson
William H. Roedy
Julie G. Skattum
Ramez Sousou
Michael P. Spies
William T. Tucker
Jay H. Walder

Advisor to the Board of Trustees

Richard A. Bailey

**The American School in London
Foundation**

William A. Obenshain, *President*
Barbara G. Coloney, *Vice President*
Coreen R. Hester, *Head of School*

Julie Alexandre
Albert D. Angel
Daniel F. Coughlin
Timothy Craighead
Brad F. England
John R. Farmer
Lori E. Fields
David E. Fife '89
Diana H. Greene
William C. Mules
Janet S. Newkirk
Barry M. Sabloff
William L. Scheffler '66
Ellen R. Stofan
Barry S. Volpert
R. Philip Wheeler
Susan Wilen

Ex Officio Members

Cathleen Wolfe '86, *President,*
Alumni Association
Ralph H. Jahr, ISS, *Secretary/Treasurer*

**The American School in London
Foundation (UK) Limited**

William A. Obenshain, *President*

Hyman K. Bielsky
Karen L. Brush
Lori E. Fields



Letter from the Head of School

Each year, we welcome new faces at ASL, from 4-year-old kindergarten students to faculty interns fresh out of college to seasoned administrators moving abroad. This past September, we greeted 392 new students—a whopping number—along with five new administrators, 33 new faculty members and 12 new staff members. We truly are delighted that ASL attracts the best and brightest—of all ages—from around the world, and that we like change!

Think about it: 392 new students. That means that more than 25 percent of the student body at ASL started fresh this fall. We know we have to be good at providing care and comfort to all of these students stepping into the School and, for many, into an international school and a new country for the first time. It's meaningful work, and it is essential to do it well if ASL is going to not only function, but also excel, as an inclusive and vibrant community.

Our 45 new faculty and staff members come to us from Ankara to Auckland, from the London School of Economics to fresh out of Williams College. Our new administrators include Paul Richards who joins us from Needham High School in Massachusetts, and Patty Strohm, our Director of Academic Advising and College Counseling from the Washington DC area. Coming to us from Valencia, Spain, is Robyn Chapel, who fills a new role at ASL as Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Annabel Smith, our new Director of Service Learning and Community Partnerships. A diverse and talented lot and a good reflection of our student body, which also hails from all over the world.

In the spirit of transition and change, I am proud to introduce this edition of Accents, a new look for a new year that builds on similar design changes to our admissions viewbook and our website. I hope you enjoy this issue and that our paths cross—in London or around the world—in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Coreen R. Hester

Coreen R. Hester
Head of School

**Left:
Gabriella Hungate, Grade 6
Head of School, 2009,
pen and ink**

Gabriella joined the School in 2008 in Grade 5. Before coming to ASL, she spent at year at Abercorn Place after attending HKIS for two years. Her brother, Sebastian, is in Grade 3, and her sister, Beatrice, is in K2. Her mother is Anouk Reichenstein Hungate '84.

**Below:
Alec Ashford '09
Fractal, 2009**

Image created using Shareware program Fractal Domains. Fractals are mathematical objects, representing numbers on the complex plane (numbers using the square root of -1 .) Alec joined the School in 2004. He now attends Willamette University.



November 2009

Dear Editor,

Steve Wasley and "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe"

I had to write when I got my copy of Accents [Fall 2008] and saw your piece on Steve and Cindy Wasley. Mr. Wasley was my Grade 3 teacher for the 1979-80 school year. My family had been living in England since 1975; my older brother and sister went to ASL from the beginning, but my younger brother and I attended the British school that was literally in our backyard. Knowing that we were going to be transferred back to the States in 1980, my parents enrolled all of us at ASL for that school year. I thank my lucky stars that I was placed in Mr. Wasley's class.

Of all the teachers I had over the years, he is by far my favorite. Mr. Wasley was fun, challenged us and made me love school. I still have the copy of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" that he gave each of us that year. It remains my favorite book to this day and I cherish the copy I own. Every afternoon, Mr. Wasley read us a chapter or two from the book. It was the class's best time of the day. When the movie came out in 2005, I could not go see it for, in my mind, Mr. Wasley is the voice of Aslan, Peter, Edmund, even Susan and Lucy.

Every week, we had spelling words. For Mr. Wasley, you could study the first list or the challenge words. One week, I chose not to do the challenge words. Mr. Wasley was disappointed in me and I knew this because of his trademark move: one raised eyebrow. I didn't skip the challenge words for the rest of the year!

I was back at ASL when I was in high school—I attended the American School of Paris—and we were there for a volleyball game. I ran into Mr. Wasley and he actually recognized me, eight years after being in his classroom! Made my day.

And now, here I am, almost 30 years, a husband and three children later, and Mr. Wasley is retiring with his beautiful wife, Cindy, who I certainly remember as a great art teacher. ASL will not be the same without him. I'm sad that when I finally get the chance to visit London with my family, he won't be there.

Mr. Wasley, thank you for being such a great teacher. The world needs more like you! I wish you and your family good health and happiness as you embark on your new adventures.

Sandy

Sandy Fuller Ubriaco '89
Matthews, North Carolina

November 2009

Dear Editor,

Mildred Buhler and Square Dancing in the 50s

I very much enjoyed Tosh Lee's interview with Jay Marron '59 and Jerry Sandham '59 Accents [Fall 2008.] It brought back many great memories.

I attended the American School in London from 1952 to 1954, in Grades 7 and 8. I well recall our playing baseball, football and soccer in Hyde Park. For a while we also played sports on the lawn behind Winfield House, when it was the Officers Club. However when it was converted to the Ambassador's residence we moved to Hyde Park. I also remember, on days with inclement weather, trying to play basketball in what at one time had been a coach house or in the mews behind 13 Grosvenor Square.

My mother, Mildred Buhler, was the person teaching square and ballroom dancing on Friday afternoons. Before moving to London in 1952, she was one of the leading square dance callers in the western United States. She had her own live radio show on Sunday mornings broadcast from a restaurant in Belmont, California, and was an editor of "Sets in Order," a California-based square dance magazine. Attached is a photo from the cover of "Sets in Order" when she announced her departure for London.

When she arrived in England, she was disappointed with the English interpretation of American square dancing. She was a founder of the British Association of American Square Dancing. The last time I checked, this association was still going strong with over 300 clubs in Great Britain. A few of the students who learned square dancing during those Friday afternoon sessions eventually joined an exhibition group that consisted largely of American teenagers. The group demonstrated American square dancing at the Royal Albert Hall and several other events, including the premier of the movie "Cowboy."

Fred

Fred Buhler '58
Nevada City, California



Where are we from?

BY PATRICK MAHANY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ADVANCEMENT

LIKE her classmates, Katherine Guarino, Grade 12, is in the thick of the college application process. Fall of senior year is a particularly busy time for every student and Katherine is approaching the months ahead with a teenage exuberance common in the High School.

In many ways Katherine is a typical ASL student. The daughter of American expats living in London, Katherine's family chose ASL's college-prep education to prepare her for studies at an American university. She's now reviewing her options after college tours to the States this past winter and summer to see various campuses.

But, as with many in the ASL community, a chat with Katherine reveals a complex background that belies first impressions. "I'm excited about going to college, and experiencing the States," Katherine says, giving away the first hint that hers may not be a straightforward journey. As it was with her brother, William Guarino '08, now a sophomore at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., when Katherine goes to college it will be the first time that she lives in the United States.

"I'm from the New York area and John is from Philadelphia," explains Katherine's mother, Cynthia Guarino. "William was born in Lausanne, Switzerland and Katherine in Dubai." The Guarino family now live in Maida Vale, but the five years they've been in London represent the longest time the family has ever spent in one country.

John Guarino began an overseas posting with Philip Morris more than 20 years ago when he and Cynthia were newlyweds. "It was supposed to be for two years," he says, but Switzerland led to work in Dubai, with six months in Stockholm in between. Then came a great opportunity with Coca-Cola and, with that, moves to Bahrain and Berlin, before reaching London.

On the surface, everything points to an all-American life: John with an iconic American brand and Cynthia handling events and sponsorship for the National Football League. And all four members



1



2



3



4



5



6

of the Guarino family hold only US passports. In spite of this, Katherine and William have never spent a year in the country. Where are her children from? "I don't know. Maybe they can answer that," says Mrs. Guarino. William believes that his upbringing directly affected his college choice. "After 18 years of living overseas, I wanted to know what it was like to live in America for four years."

- 1 Dubai Gold Souk
- 2 Verbier, Switzerland
- 3 Bahrain
- 4 St. Basil's Cathedral, Moscow
- 5 Berlin Wall
- 6 Bali



Who goes to ASL?

The questions of identity that the Guarino family experience on a personal level mirror those that ASL is currently exploring as an institution.

ASL is working on the next strategic plan that will guide the School for three to five years. Among the key questions under study: Who goes to ASL? Have admissions to ASL changed in the past few years? How dependent are we on any particular sector of the economy? What admissions-related issues will ASL need to address going forward?

Jodi Coats, dean of admissions, has witnessed the School population evolve due to any number of factors during her 20 years at the School. “The demographic makeup of our population is like a study in human geography,” says Ms. Coats. She has seen everything from the civil war in Lebanon to the boom years of

the Japanese economy, the Gulf Wars to the Big Bang in the City financial services industry—all have an impact on applications.

Such has always been the case, in fact, as ASL’s population has mirrored local migration trends from the beginning. An influx of Americans to post-war London prompted the School’s founding by Stephen Eckard in 1951. With US government and business needs growing in London, these parents sought the continuity of an American education for their children while they were posted here.

“Since 1951 the American School in London has well served the American community in London,” wrote Board Chair Albert F. Lager in 1967. “It has ... proved its permanence, durability, and indispensability to the thousands of young people who have passed through its program as well as to their parents

assigned to London for business and professional reasons.”

The School grew steadily, until the discovery of North Sea oil in the late sixties brought with it a larger stream of families associated with the US oil, construction and automobile industries. The St. John’s Wood campus was purchased and a modern, purpose-built facility constructed to accommodate an expanding population. Throughout, ASL offered an American curriculum to a multicultural community.

By 1990, the School trumpeted a student body that was 70 percent American while more than 40 countries were represented. “ASL welcomes this diversity,” the 40th Anniversary program states. “Both students and teachers see the understanding of different backgrounds as an essential component of today’s education.”

Recently, there’s been anecdotal evidence that the ASL population is becoming increasingly international, but does data bear out the perception? ASL trustee Caroline Clark (Lindsay ’07; Charlie ’09; David ’12), co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, examined the numbers as part of her strategic planning working group. In the spring, Mrs. Clark gave a presentation on ASL admissions and financial aid. Among her group’s findings:

- 54 percent of students are from families where every family member holds only a US passport
- 45 percent live in a household where at least one member holds a second passport
- 17 percent are from families where no family member holds a US passport
- 18 percent are from families where the student has a US passport but at least one family member does not

“I was pleased to see we’re as international as we are. At the same time, examining the data highlighted how complex a task measuring our ‘international-ness’ can be,” says Mrs. Clark. “I know from personal experience. My 10th grader was born here and he even speaks with an English accent, although he received his British passport relatively recently.”

The challenges associated with determining ASL’s current demographic makeup are representative of the constant movement of people within business today. New arrivals in fall 2009 included the McKeon family relocating from Shanghai and the Sierra family from Honduras who have moved from Indonesia with Chevron. And ASL has always drawn from a local, non-American population as well. All come to Waverley Place seeking the continuity of curriculum and the outstanding American education offered by ASL. “I know that any time one tries to categorize people into data points the full story can be cut short,” says Mrs. Clark, “and I think we were surprised by the many exceptional stories we uncovered in the course of our study.”

What do you call yourself?

The term “third culture kids” resonates throughout many of these stories on Waverley Place. These children, who have spent a significant amount of time in one or more countries outside of their own culture, defy anyone looking for tidy statistics. Culturally, who is the American?: the boy who holds a US passport but who has never lived in the States or the girl who is

“Both students and teachers see the understanding of different backgrounds as an essential component of today’s education.”

Brazilian but who has only been schooled in the Washington, D.C., area before coming to ASL? Are both? Maybe neither?

ASL’s counselors, deans, teachers and administrators help reassure both parents and kids who can question their own identity daily. “ASL faculty and staff have a great understanding of transition-related issues,” says the School’s educational psychologist, Helen Jackson ’79, “perhaps because many of us have a complicated background as well.” Dr. Jackson is an adult third culture kid herself, as is Lower School counselor Aerian Gray. “There is a shared experience among third culture kids. It’s significant. It’s unique,” says Ms. Gray.

The book “Third Culture Kids: The Experience of Growing up Among Worlds” is a recommended and dog-eared resource in ASL’s Mellon Library. Reassuringly, authors David Pollock and Ruth Van Reken write: “As [third culture kids] have the opportunity not only to observe a great variety of cultural practices but also to learn what some of the underlying assumptions are behind them, they often develop strong cross-cultural skills.”

Mr. Guarino’s own observations could have been lifted straight from the text. “Living overseas has been great for our children. We travel frequently and I see it’s very easy for them to appreciate the culture and history of places. I know that my children could now walk into any country, any culture, and be comfortable.”

With a keen awareness of the benefits of an international upbringing, the family has also chosen to make a deliberate effort to teach the culture of their country of citizenship, in a way most families would take for granted. “One of the things we were aware of was that we wanted them to grow up understanding America, to know what it means to be American, to have an affinity with America,” says Mrs. Guarino.

Mr. and Mrs. Guarino bought a house in New Jersey, between her relatives in New York and his in Philadelphia, about 15 years ago. The family’s summer home

quickly took on a greater significance than holidays; it became a symbol of permanence amidst frequently changing surroundings. “The Jersey house allowed the children to know what it’s like to be American, to have something that didn’t change, to have a connection to the States.”

“The neighborhood has about seven or eight best friends I’ve known since I was five so it’s a great place to go,” says William. “I love it. It’s the only consistency I’ve had in my life. Regardless of where we’ve moved, we always came back to the same place every summer, with my same friends, the same families around. I know they will always be there for me,” says sister Katherine.

Indeed, Pollock and Van Reken write: “Often those [third culture kids] whose parents move every two years rarely consider geography as the determining factor in what they consider home. Instead, home is defined by relationships.”

In a conversation with any member of the Guarino family—and anybody at ASL for that matter—it is the relationships that stand out amidst the raft of cities and schools they’ve experienced. ASL friends and classmates, teachers and fellow families, relatives and summer pals all appear to represent a part of their identity in a way that place might figure more prominently for others.

So, after all, where are William and Katherine from? “When people ask me that, I think: you really don’t want to hear this long story,” says Katherine. “It takes ten minutes to explain. Passports really can’t tell where you’re from.” ■

TAKING THE PULSE OF ASL ALUMNI

To tweet, or not to tweet?

THAT was the question. Or at least that query about social network use was embedded in one of the 64 questions posed to ASL alumni across the world to gauge their attitudes toward, and experiences with the School.

“We wanted to capture a baseline of attitudes and feelings from our alumni as part of the overall strategic planning process the School is currently conducting,” says John Clark, who assumed the role of Director of Advancement in 2008. “Rather than presuming we know what our alumni think, want or feel, we decided to ask them directly in a straight-forward manner.”

The online survey was crafted and conducted by Market Street Research of Northampton Massachusetts, from 29 May through 14 June, 2009. Working with members of the Advancement Office, Market Street Research designed questions for probe our alumni’s collective feelings about ASL, their attitudes towards academics and community life at the School, and their current involvement and connections with ASL.

Additionally, the survey set out to determine their sources of information

about the School, their interests in specific types of information, the ways in which they would like to become involved with ASL and their attitudes toward financial support of the School.

Alumni surveyed were those for whom the School has a working email address. The survey resulted in 969 alumni responses, for a 21% participation rate from those surveyed. The margin of error for the study was plus or minus 1.7% to 2.8% at the 95% confidence level.

The survey cross-referenced the responses from four distinct alumni groups: those who attended ASL prior to the construction of One Waverley Place (1951–1969); the '70s (1970–1979); 1980–1993; and 1994 to the present (1994 representing the first year of an alumni/development office at ASL). The School considers someone to be an alumna/us if she or he attended ASL for any period of time, from six months to 14 years, in Lower, Middle or High school.

Key recommendations suggested by Market Street Research emanating from the survey results include continuing to uphold ASL’s commitment to academic excellence and increase opportunities to use the School’s unique location and student population to enrich students’ lives through cultural exploration.

As far as our alumni are concerned, recommendations include maintaining and increasing communication with alumni; focusing alumni involvement efforts on relationships with classmates;

reviewing the content of the School’s communications to ensure that news about ASL alumni is reported; and increasing the number of local alumni events.

“There are a number of actionable directives from the research,” Clark suggests. “To name a few, it seems that ASL alumni would prefer class-based reunions to all-school ones, social and networking events to cultural or speaking engagements, and email communication over any other form of media.”

Increasing the level of connectivity to ASL, Clark says, will be the real measure of the School’s response to the survey’s findings. “I would hope that when we measure alumni feelings of connection to classmates and today’s school three years from now that the percentage who feel ‘very connected’ will have risen substantially from this year’s levels.”

As for Twitter, the social network du jour, only 6.8% of ASL alumni use it currently, as opposed to 59% who use Facebook.

“We are delighted to have this feedback from our alumni,” Clark asserts. “Based on this data we will strive to provide better communication and connections for everyone.”



Most important aspects of the ASL experience

High quality academics

“It was obvious to me that the academic program was superior to my previous schooling.”

Culture and ethnic diversity

“Meeting people from all over the world who are extremely friendly because everyone has been in the position of being a new student in an unfamiliar place.”

Access to London

“The amazing opportunity to experience London and all that it has to offer as a high school student.”

Travel abroad, access to Europe

“[ASL] gave me the opportunity to travel Europe. [I] was exposed to a variety of cultures, I was given a freedom that I would not have otherwise had and therefore became a more independent young adult.”

Community life

“All the teachers were friendly and it was a very encouraging environment. Also the community feeling of ASL was unparalleled to all other schools I have attended. Most importantly it was great going to school with other people like me who have traveled the world and lived in many places.”

Incorporation of real world into curriculum

“I felt the faculty was very unique and creative, challenging students to think and experience beyond our textbooks. Cultural exposure through local field trips to museums, performances, community service, and travel to European and other cultures were encouraged and sponsored by the School.”

Fig. 1
Preference for and interest in reunions and events

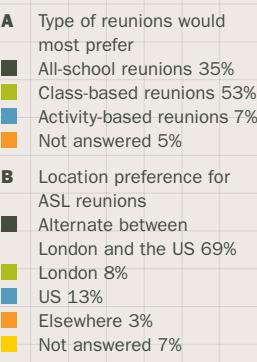


Fig. 2
Preferred vehicle for receiving information about ASL

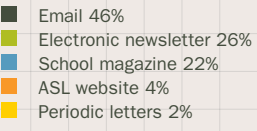


Fig. 3
Would like to be more closely connected to ASL

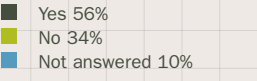


Fig. 4
Alumni interest in specific types of information

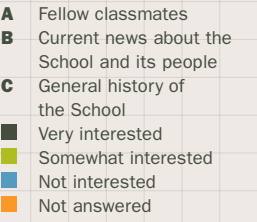


Fig. 5
Top priorities: charitable giving to ASL

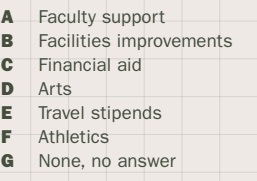


Fig. 6
Most important aspect of experience at ASL

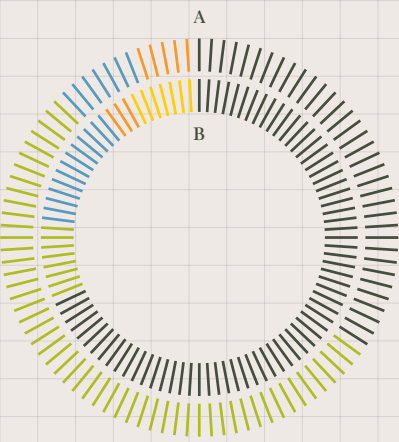


FIG 1

PREFERENCE FOR AND INTEREST IN REUNIONS AND EVENTS

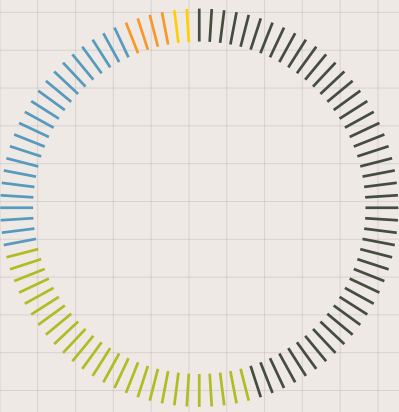


FIG 2

PREFERRED VEHICLE FOR RECEIVING INFORMATION ABOUT ASL

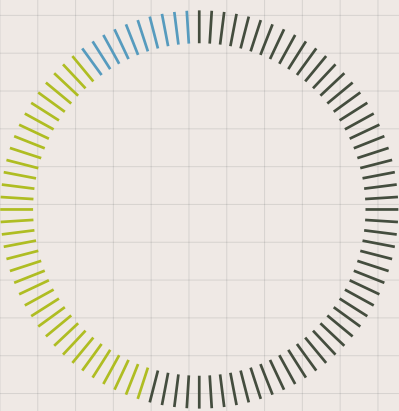


FIG 3

WOULD LIKE TO BE MORE CLOSELY CONNECTED TO ASL

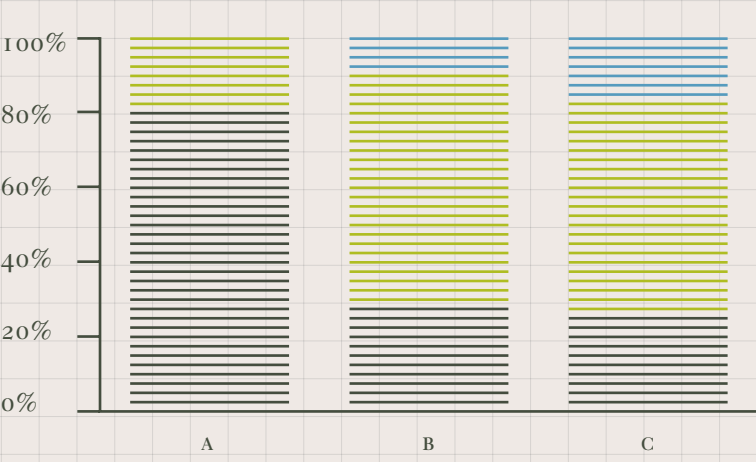


FIG 4

ALUMNI INTEREST IN SPECIFIC TYPES OF INFORMATION

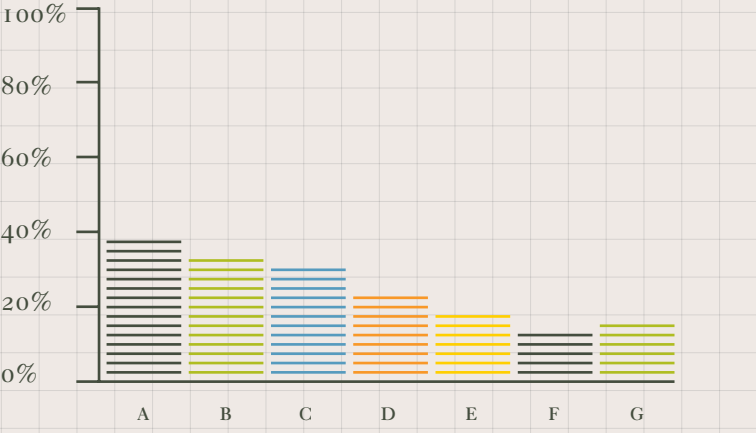


FIG 5

TOP PRIORITIES: CHARITABLE GIVING TO ASL

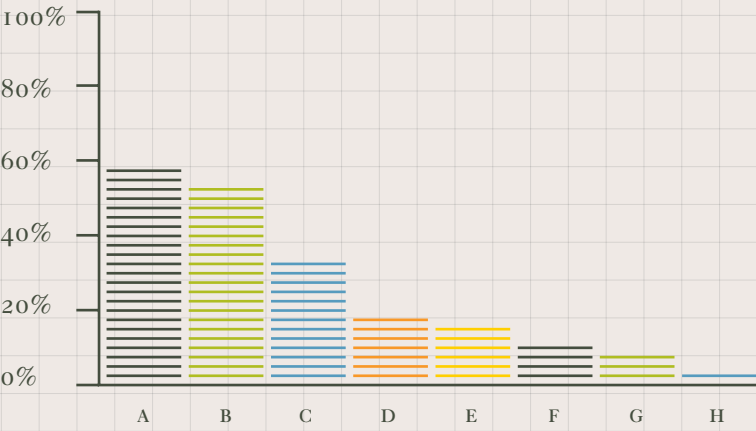


FIG 6

MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF EXPERIENCE AT ASL

Feature



THE CLASS OF 2009 received their high school diplomas at a ceremony at the Royal Festival Hall on Friday, 12 June. Head of School Coreen R. Hester advised the graduating class that design and diligence are more likely to bring success than good luck, and wished them well in their upcoming adventures in college and beyond.

Board Chair Lori E. Fields congratulated the Class and their families on this important milestone. In his address, Councillor Duncan Sandys, the Lord Mayor of Westminster, remarked on the history of the essential and enduring bond between the US and the UK.

HS Principal Gary Gruber acknowledged all the grandparents in attendance. In addition, he expressed the School's appreciation for the exemplary student-teacher relationships exhibited by retiring teachers Ethan Higgins and John Wilson, who served 30 and 38 years respectively.

The Class of 2009 numbered 124, nine of whom were "lifers," having attended ASL since Grade 1 or earlier: Catherine Breña, Carolyn Gaines, Anna Higgins, Sara Kushma, Coleman LaMaster, Michael Molinaro, Thomas Plapinger, William Sohn and Cosima Travis. In addition, Michael Molinaro was lauded for his perfect attendance record since Grade 5. The class included three National Merit Finalists, Charles Clark, Andrew Hardt and

Aadrita Mukerji; Aadrita was named National Merit Scholar. Dr. Gruber introduced Salutatorian Anna Higgins, describing her as a thoughtful listener and writer, with outstanding analytical skills. He praised her commitment and conscientiousness, and commended her powers of perception and observation. Anna expressed her thanks for the wisdom and support of all her teachers at ASL. She related that her greatest regrets from her time at the School, lie not with the mistakes she made, but with the ones she didn't; the risks never taken and the conversations that didn't take place.

Valedictorian Cosima Travis was defined by Dr. Gruber as unique, spectacular and a creative spirit, with the ability to concentrate on what matters: a scholar, artist and thinker. Instead of a traditional speech, Cosima delivered a sound recording for which she had interviewed her classmates on what ASL meant to them.

Charles, 9th Earl Spencer, gave the commencement address "beautifully." He spoke on the importance of good and effective public speaking. His advice to the members of the Class of 2009 was to find their individual, authentic voices as speakers, and go out into the world and take every opportunity to soar.

The ceremony was punctuated by an uplifting musical selection provided by

the high school women's ensemble and the high school choir.

At an earlier ceremony on Thursday, 11 June, the Senior Awards were announced in the Farmer Family Gymnasium. The Stephen L. Eckard Award for service to the School was received by Rainey Jernigan. The Mary Bradley Prize for Independent Study went to Andrew Hardt. Ravina Ghanwani was presented with the Marcus A. Spencer Award for her contribution to championing relations between ASL and the British community. Indra Djojohadikusumo was honored with two awards: the ECIS Award for International Understanding, and the Peter Waller Award for promoting friendship and interaction in the high school community. Lastly, the William Harris Award, named for the School's fourth head, was bestowed upon Sara Kushma for her excellence in both academics and athletics. The senior address was given by John Rittenhouse. ■





The members of the Class of 2009 celebrate their graduation from the American School in London, with family, friends and faculty.



Life after ASL for the Class of '09

Sachit Ahuja	University of Pennsylvania
Kristopher Ali	University of Michigan
Jean-Luc Almond	City and Guilds of London Art School
Eve Alpert	Bard College
Ian Anderson	Saint Joseph's University
Gillian Ashdown	Boston University
Alexander Ashford	Willamette University
Andrew Barton	Colorado State University
Victoria Bata	Johns Hopkins University
Ralph Bell	Saint Michael's College
Elizabeth Bennett	Connecticut College
Isabel Bernstein	Wesleyan University
Reilly Bertasi	Dartmouth College
Margaret Boykin	Barnard College
Elizabeth Breeden	Smith College
Catherine Brena	Tufts University
Alexandra Burston	Yale University
Ayela Butt	Williams College
Allison Card	Harvey Mudd College
Christopher Card	Colorado School of Mines
Sophia Charow	University of Edinburgh
Julianne Marie Cirenza	Stanford University
Charles Clark	University of Chicago
Sean Connolly	Leeds Metropolitan University
Bradley Cumming	Dalhousie University
Drew Cumming	College of the Holy Cross
Thomas Deighton	Brown University
Sitie Djojohadikusumo	Scripps College
Toni-Marie Dorazio	Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey at New Brunswick
Caroline Elwing	The George Washington University
Aya Ephrati	New York University
Haley Anne Evans	Utah State University
Ashley Feldmann	Miami University, Oxford
Rebecca Flora	California State University, Long Beach
Alexandra Fodor	Eckerd College
Claire Elizabeth Forster	Scripps College
Grace Fowler	Macalester College
Daniel Frydman	Skidmore College
Carolyn Emily Gaines	Gettysburg College
John Garner	Dartmouth College
Ravina Ghanwani	Royal Holloway, University of London
Lee Gilbert	Duke University
Meghan Gilligan	Boston University
Angelo E. Gnodle	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, AZ
Casey Goldman	University of Michigan
Caroline Gould	College of the Holy Cross
Brandon Grigull	Middlebury College
Noah Guiney	Harvard University
Devon Guralnick	The George Washington University
Estefania Hageman	Northeastern University
Andrew Hardt	Carleton College
Damon Hatheway	Middlebury College
Michael Hegan	University of Leeds
Anna Higgins	University of Edinburgh
Grace Hodge	Bowdoin College
Elise Hoffmann	Queen's University (Gap Year)
Anastasia Holodny	Vassar College
Barbara Holt	United States Air Force Academy

Katherine James	Wake Forest University
Margaret Jennings	Bard College
Rainey Jernigan	Babson College
Allison Johnston	Vanderbilt University
Olivia Kinet	University of Kansas
Matthias Kleven	University of San Francisco
Rachel Knaster	Harvard University
Sara Kushma	Princeton University
Daniel K Lakhdir	Harvard University
Cole LaMaster	College of Charleston
Rebecca Lambden	University of Edinburgh
Zoe Thoria Lazaridis	Smith College
Cosimo P Leone	Northeastern University
Anders Magnus Link	Rhode Island School of Design
Rachel Lipton	University College London (Gap Year)
Zachary Long	Brown University
Kathleen Markovich	Southern Methodist University
Margaret Marsh	Princeton University
Amanda McCarthy	Boston University
Ona Louisa McConnell	Yale University
Alexandra McKeon	Middlebury College
Christopher McMahon	University of Southern California
Tristan Mead	Rhode Island School of Design
Michael Molinaro	Gettysburg College
Beatrice Moller	Skidmore College
Taylor Moore	Tufts University
Olivia Morrissey	Georgetown University
Aadrita Mukerji	University of Southern California
Tarini Nalwa	Brandeis University
Naomi Nishimura	Oxford Brookes University
Julia Nowicka	University of Cambridge
Jacob L. Pakula	Tufts University
Abhinav Parameshwar	Carnegie Mellon University
Emma Claire Phillips	University of Richmond
Thomas Plapinger	Wheaton College
Samuel Plotner	Brown University (Gap Year)
Olga Popova	University of Nottingham
David Preddy	Wesleyan University
Danya Qattan	Tufts University
John Rittenhouse	College of William and Mary (Gap Year)
Lauren Ruelens	University of Toronto
Michael Heritage Rushmore	Haverford College (Gap Year)
Kasra Sarikhani	Bard College
Ariana M.K. Saxby	Harvard University
John Shivanandan	Georgia Institute of Technology
Fouad Shour	Loyola University New Orleans
Kolin Smialek	Emory University
William Sohn	Hamilton College, NY
Gretchen Spiegel	Pratt Institute
Bryan Stuart	University of Nottingham
Christina Taranenko	Georgetown University
Emily Theodore	Gap year
Simon Jesse Toop	Oberlin College
Cosima Travis	Columbia University
Nicholas von Lehmden	University of Leeds
Olivier John Willems	Boston University
Riley Williams	University of North Texas
Stephen Williams	Ithaca College
Casey Jo Williamson	Boston University
Mary Young	Chapman University
Sade Zimmerman-Feeley	Brown University

Farewell to four long-serving faculty members

JUNE is a time for goodbyes at ASL. Shortly after we bade adieu to the Class of 2009, it was the turn of departing faculty at a celebratory lunch after classes ended for the 2008-09 school year. High School social studies teacher since 1971, John Wilson, left full-time teaching to develop an outreach program to get local schools involved in history and politics. Grade 8 teacher Ed Elliott, who joined the School in 1972, departed to take courses at Sotheby's, and polish his modern languages. Middle School teacher Ruth Heuman, who first joined ASL in 1970, remains in London, but plans to travel with her lecturer husband, and has also agreed to help with alumni tours and events at ASL. Science teacher Ethan Higgins left ASL after 30 years. He plans to travel a lot.

In addition, we said farewell to Associate Head of School Margaret Grandy, who began work at the School in 1985; Director of Advancement for Communications Rebecca Moore, who joined us in 1995; Substitute Coordinator Eileen Flood, who left after 16 years; and Director of Advancement for Capital Giving Katherine Precht, who joined in 1993.

John Wilson

Mr. Wilson will be best remembered for bringing the popular Quiz Bowl to ASL, way back in 1976. He also pioneered the School's participation in Model UN, a program that High School students have been involved with for more than 30 years. He remembers winning the Best Delegation award in the first year, a prize that has eluded every delegation since! He encouraged students to participate in the English-Speaking Union, and ran the Debate Club for many years, since speech and debate are activities close to his heart.

He plans to spend more time reading many books and furthering his plans for the outreach program with local schools. "I want to continue to do that," he says, "it generates plenty of goodwill."

He has mixed emotions about leaving the School. "I'll miss the day-to-day contact with the students."

Ed Elliott

In the fall of 1972, Ed Elliott joined his wife, Michele, at the School as a Grade 7 teacher. He remembers a "wild and crazy place that didn't have dividing walls until the early 80s!"

Mr. Elliott's sons, James '96 and Charles '00, are both ASL lifers, who passed through their father's classes on their journeys through Middle School.

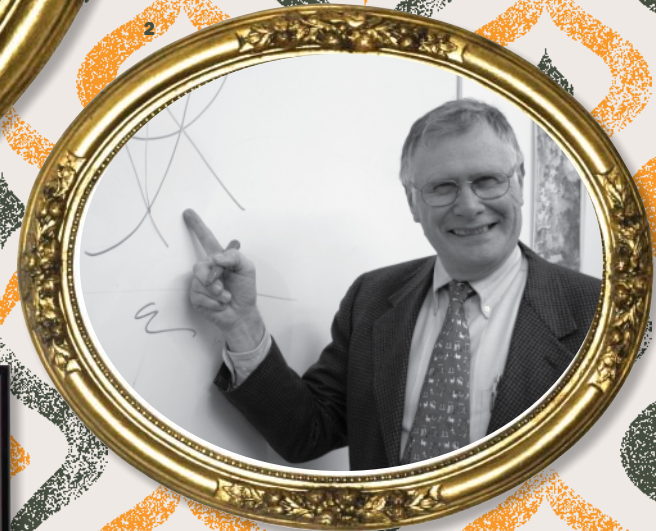
It was Mr. Elliott who started the trips to the World War I battlefields. He brought in Chelsea Pensioners to talk to the students about life in the trenches in the area around the River Somme. "It made the trips so much more vivid for the students because they had talked to the men who had fought there," he says. Another innovation was inviting World War II re-enactors to the School in genuine uniforms with original equipment.

And what will he miss most as he leaves the School? "The kids and the parents. I've made lifelong friends here." His future plans include a trip to Chile and some white-water rafting.

1



2



3



4

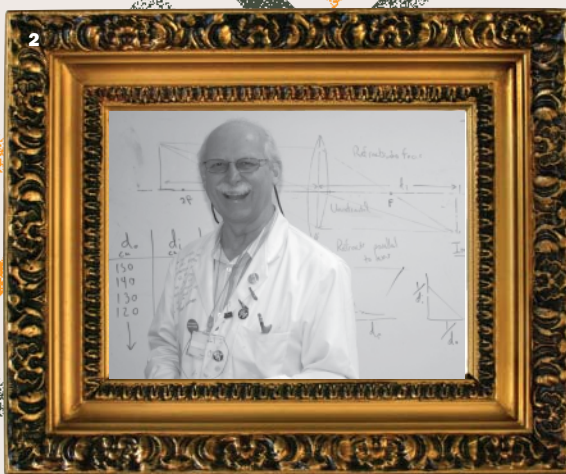
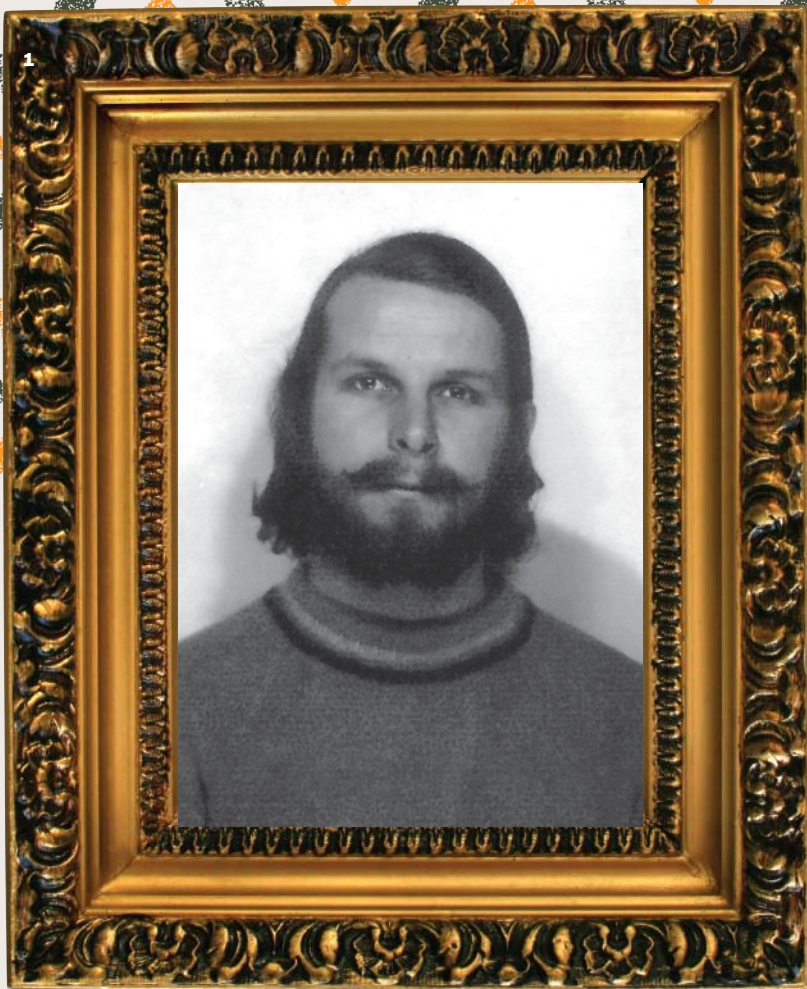


- 1 & 2** John Wilson
- 3** Ed Elliott with wife Michele Elliott (ASL 1971-84) and sons James '96 and Charles '00
- 4** Ed Elliott

1 & 2 Ethan Higgins
3 & 4 Ruth Heuman
5 Left to right: Board
Vice Chair Lisa Bennett,
Board Chair Lori E.
Fields, Margaret Grandy,
Head of School
Coreen R. Hester

**Nominate
Outstanding
Educators!**

*The Alumni Association honors
former ASL faculty and staff with
The Stephen Eckard Award for
Inspiring and Dedicated Service to
Education. For more information
and to submit nominations, email
alumni@asl.org.*



Ethan Higgins

Ethan Higgins joined the School back in 1979. Although he spent the last 20 years primarily teaching physics, Mr. Higgins contributed so much more to ASL. In his time at the School, he taught every level of math from General Math to BC Calculus. Early in his career at ASL, he coached volleyball for four years, and in two of those years his team won ISST gold. An accomplished musician, Mr. Higgins will be fondly remembered by many alumni for the hours spent jamming after school.

Latterly, Mr. Higgins has taught mainly seniors, an area in which he thrived, preparing them for their departure from ASL into the greater unknown.

For more than 20 years, Mr. Higgins' classes have chosen a unique way to express their sentiments and feelings about their experiences under his tutelage, by giving him a white lab coat on which they wrote their thoughts. This from a student on one of those 20 coats, "With you, Higgins, I can FEEL the science!"



Ruth Heuman

Ruth Heuman was the last person to work at ASL who was hired by founding head Stephen Eckard in 1970. That first year, she taught MS math in the still developing Loudoun Road building, while the Lower and High schools remained at York Gate. She remembers the building being constructed around her classes.

Although she stayed only a year before moving away, Mrs. Heuman returned to the School for good in 1973 to teach Grade 7 for the next 13 years. In 1986, she went back to teaching Grade 6, and since 2004 she taught Grades 5–7, covering math, history, science and English.

She'll miss the noise of happy children learning, thinking about what to do with kids when they have a problem, and convincing students that they can do math when they think the can't.

On her time at ASL, the last word goes to Mrs. Heuman, "I've had a really good run here; I've had a ball. I've been allowed to do things I never would have been allowed to do elsewhere, and allowed to be very creative and fulfill any promise I might have ever vaguely shown in anything. It's been lovely; absolutely lovely."



Harold T. Cruikshank Award

The Board of Trustees awarded Margaret Grandy the Harold T. Cruikshank Award for extraordinary service and contribution to the School at the Trustees Reception on Friday, 11 September. Recipients of the award are past or present members of the ASL community who have distinguished themselves by extraordinary effort and achievements in service to the School over a number of years. Ms. Grandy retired in June as the associate head of school after 24 years of outstanding service to ASL.

The Harold T. Cruikshank Award was established in 1996 in honor of Mr. Cruikshank, a trustee, Chair of the Board and Foundation Director over the course of more than 30 years. It is not necessarily awarded on an annual basis. All members of the ASL community are eligible except for current trustees.



Museum of London

Grade 4 students took time out of the classroom to explore the City of London and discover Roman Londinium. They visited the Guildhall Art Gallery where they viewed the entrance to an amphitheatre unearthed during the gallery's construction. The students were intrigued to tour other sites where artifacts had been uncovered during excavation work. They saw the ruins of a Roman temple to the god Mithras, and viewed a reconstruction of a water wheel. Many of the discoveries are now housed in the Roman Gallery at the Museum of London where the students ended their day. The displays illustrate how people from that period dressed, cooked, prayed, traded and even how they buried their dead.

News



Seeds of Peace

ASL continues to blur the borders of nationality in all realms, including extracurricular programs that bring students in touch with the diverse and complex world in which they live. Two examples from the 2008–09 academic year—Seeds of Peace Week and Middle East Night—underscore the richness of experiences available to our students.

Last March, ASL hosted its second Seeds of Peace week. Seeds of Peace is a non-profit, non-political organization dedicated to empowering young people from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence. Sixteen Israeli and Palestinian young people—“Seeds”—visited ASL and London, working with students and faculty from all three divisions in classes and in conflict resolution activities. Their visit culminated with a Speakers Series panel involving four Seeds entitled “In Your Shoes: Living with Conflict in the Middle East.” In the last two years, several ASL students have attended the Seeds of Peace summer camp in Maine, which draws more than 2,200 teenagers together to overcome centuries-old prejudices.

Robotics power partnership

The ASL robotics team, The Griffins Team 1884, has been participating in the FIRST Robotics Competition, www.usfirst.org, for the past four years, in partnership with our neighboring school, Quintin Kynaston (QK). The two schools have competed jointly in regional events in Houston, New York, Orlando and Chesapeake Bay. In their rookie year, the team received the Judges Award, to honor their pioneering cooperation as a team, and collaboration between two different schools and nations.

The team continues to grow and develop as the partnership between ASL and QK strengthens. The program is made possible by generous funding from ASL, along with long-time sponsor Inmarsat and recent sponsor DST International. QK provides space for the team to design and build the robot in their design technology labs for the duration of the intense robotics season. While the team begins to meet and fundraise in the fall, the robot is built during a six-week period starting in early January. Once this strenuous build period is over, the robot is shipped to the US for competition. The Griffins look forward to their fifth year in the international competition and hope to continue to build on previous successes.

Spring Forward Auction raises £400,000 for ASL

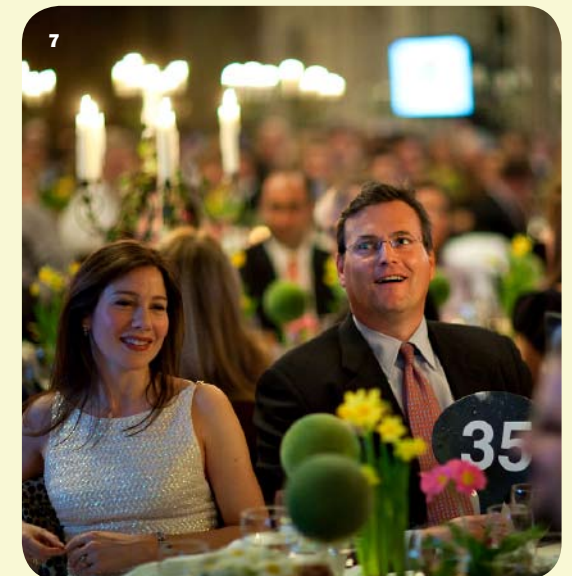
The 10th PCA auction—a spectacular two-day fundraiser—took place Friday–Saturday, 20–21 March 2009. The fun-filled Friday event was attended by close to 500 parents and more than 500 students. The parents enjoyed a delicious lunch and shopped for hundreds of irresistible auction items, while the students were entertained with beach party activities, including limbo, hoola hooping, face-painting, a DJ and the ever-popular class basket raffle.

The Saturday gala at the historic Guildhall was a sell-out event. The lavish dining room flourished with stunning spring flowers, and the 575 attendees enjoyed a fabulous evening of festivity and fundraising, concluding with dancing in the Guildhall’s medieval Crypt.

The events were planned by a dedicated group of parent volunteers, led by auction co-chairs Claire Sohn and Donna Lancia.

The money raised from the PCA auctions has been pivotal in funding major building and endowment projects for the School as well as supporting all the PCA programs that go on throughout the year. All of the proceeds from the PCA’s main fundraiser directly benefit the School and its students.

This year’s allocation from the 10th PCA auction includes, among others, grants of £75,000 to the faculty and staff compensation program, £50,000 to a PCA endowment of student financial support and £10,000 for the Grade 8 music program.



- 1 “Seeds” gather on Waverley steps
- 2 Lunch, music, games and a silent auction brought the community together in Farmer Family Gymnasium
- 3 A Lower School student Springs Forward!
- 4 Becky Lindon, president of the Parent Community Association 2007-09
- 5 Historic Guildhall bright with candlelight and flowers
- 6 Auctioneer and BBC presenter James Rylands
- 7 Parents, faculty, staff and alumni supported the School at the Saturday gala dinner



1 After (2009)
2 Before (2008)
3 Eva Schloss
4 Erin Herzeelle
5 Student organizers in front of Mahdi Saeedi's painting, *Concentric*, 2008

Lower School sculpture
In September 2008, a bronze sculpture, “Evie,” by sculptor Brian Alabaster, was installed in the garden by the Loudoun Road entrance. The sculpture was given to the School in memory of Sheri Everson, a former ASL parent.
At the end of the school year, Brian returned to ASL to install a beautiful new sculpture, “Dan Learning to Read,” alongside “Evie.” “Dan” was donated to ASL by Alan and Kathleen Williamson, and friends, in memory of the Willamsons’ son, Christopher, a former Lower School student, who died in 2004 after returning to the US.
In June, Grade 4 students gathered around the new sculpture to listen to LS Principal Julie Ryan tell them about Christopher Williamson. Each year, students are asked to nominate a peer in Grade 4, who has the special personal qualities that Chris demonstrated: friendship, empathy, tolerance and a sense of justice. The Chris Williamson Award was presented at the LS Farewell Assembly, in June, to Farid Sousou.



A first-hand account
Anne Frank’s stepsister and Holocaust survivor Eva Schloss spoke movingly to High School students about her family and experiences. In December 2008, the HS presented *And Then They Came For Me: Remembering the World of Anne Frank*. To the cast members of the play, who portrayed members of her family, she presented a photograph of their character.



Advancement office shifts
Director of Advancement John Clark announced a number of changes in the advancement office recently.
Erin Herzeelle has joined ASL as Associate Director of Advancement for Alumni Relations. Erin comes to ASL from Massachusetts, where she worked for TeenLife Boston as director of school relations, helping area schools implement community service and internship programs. Previously she worked at Wellesley College, her alma mater, serving as director of internships for four years. In that position, she helped students find experiential learning opportunities all over the world. The advancement office is eager to provide ASL alumni with career networking and service opportunities, so Erin’s background will help augment that initiative.
Erin joined the office in mid-October, and succeeds Laurie Hindley, who held the position for three years. Laurie is now the Associate Director of Advancement for Annual Giving, in turn succeeding Patrick Mahany, who becomes the School’s Associate Director of Advancement for Major & Planned Gifts, following Katherine Precht in that role. Katherine left ASL after 15 years last spring to become director of development at the American University in Cairo.



Winnie Goonan
Long-serving catering team member Winnie Goonan checked out after 27 years working the till in the cafeteria in December 2008. Since 1981, Winnie’s smile has brightened many a day. In 1999, she won the Uplift Award for “improving the atmosphere of the School and for keeping us all glued together.”

Master Classes come to ASL
In fall 2008, the School introduced Master Classes—short courses for adults in the community run by ASL teacher Alice Leader (ASL 1975–present.) The program has gone from strength to strength, with courses frequently opening waitlists because of the level of interest. In October 2008, Alice offered two courses, London in Literature and News in the Broadsheets. Courses met once a week for 6–8 weeks for two hours. The response was overwhelming and the courses filled quickly.

Two more eight-week courses were offered, Shakespeare, Fire and Plague and How They Lived, followed, in the spring, by Ancient Britain, and a repeat of the popular News in the Broadsheets. This fall saw record enrollment for Jane Austen and Saxons and Vikings and Bears, Oh My!
The classes offer lively chat, a fun look at history and literature, and the chance to go on field trips. Registration is open for winter courses. Jane Austen will run again, along with The Brontë Sisters, from January to March 2010. For more information, visit www.asl.org, or contact Alice, alice_leader@asl.org.



Middle East Night
One of the highlights of the calendar each year, Middle East Night celebrates the region’s rich and varied cultural, artistic and intellectual traditions. This past year, to correspond with the thirtieth anniversary of the Iranian Revolution, student leaders Danya Qattan ’09, Roxanne Alaghband ’11 and Noora Aboukhater ’10 chose to highlight the diversity and richness of contemporary art from Iran. With nearly two dozen pieces on loan from the Xerxes Gallery, the exhibition “Unveiling Iran: Arts After the Revolution” was a showcase for the breadth of artistic expression from this diverse and compelling country. The evening itself, a fundraiser for the Popli Khalatbari Charitable Foundation, was keyed by London-based lawyer, businessman, collector, gallerist and curator, Ali Bagherzadeh, who spoke of the history of Persian art.

Athletics

Baseball

Due to a smaller than usual turnout for baseball, Coach Gladis chose one varsity team for the 2009 season in which students from all grades in the High School played together. This gave many younger players the chance to learn and grow with more experienced team-mates. The team improved steadily and ended the regular season on a high note with a win at TASIS to bring their record to eight wins and five losses before ISSTs.

At the tournament in Brussels, the team continued to improve and played their best baseball of the season in the crossover game against Cairo. After extra innings, the game ended in a tie, and unfortunately Cairo was awarded the win due to the tiebreak system. Instead of hanging their heads, ASL went on to play an almost flawless game against The American School of Paris to win fifth place in the tournament. "This was an amazing group of players to share the season with. They not only worked hard to improve, but had fun doing it," said Assistant Coach Niemi.

Golf

At the ISSTs, held at the Foxhills Golf Club, the ASL team took third place. Individual places were taken by Ryan Healy '10 in fifth place, and Francesco Melpignano '10 placed seventh.

Boys crew

Boys crew had one of the most successful years to date over the 2008–09 season. A total entry of 111 race seats during the year resulted in bronze medal wins for eight of our rowers and two coxes at the Ball Cup South in the J18 coxed fours and J15 coxed quads. Both these crews then went on to race at the UK National Schools Regatta, with the J18 four narrowly missing out on qualification, and the J15 quad making the semi-finals. This was an outstanding finish to the year for what looked very much like a development squad when the season began. The results are particularly notable given

that most schools start training their rowers a year or two ahead of us, meaning the J15s (in their first year of crew) had a huge amount of catching up to do. Our J18 crew comprised 16 and 17 year-olds, and raced against crews that were both older and significantly more experienced. Both crews remain with the team this year, and the J18 four will race in the same category. Watch this space!

Girls crew

The girls crew finished the 2008–09 year on a real high. From the start of the year and with the biggest turnout ever, but struggling to win races, the team progressed pleasingly to a climax of many boats making finals at Nationals, a medal and a rower representing the USA.

The winter season saw a scattering of wins, but also much soul-searching and hard training. Perhaps not achieving the levels to which the team aspired propelled them into harder workouts and a deeper commitment. By May, when Nationals were upon us, the team was in much better shape. The results from that competition speak for themselves: the WJ16 eight came in sixth place, the WJ18 four came in fifth, the WJ18 single scull of Rachel Knaster '09 came sixth, and Margy Bertasi '10, in the WJ16 single, won the silver medal, ASL's best ever result at Nationals. While the rest of the team had put their feet up after the season, Margy continued training, hoping to make the USA WJ18 team. She qualified for the quad, the top sculling boat, and was selected to go to the Junior World Championship in France, where the USA came ninth, their best ever placement in that boat class. ASL girls crew continues to go from strength to strength, and we are excited about the upcoming season.

in the gold medal game. Coach Greg Cole said, "The girls kept their nerve, played one inning at a time, and developed the ability to come back after a difficult inning. In the key games they supported each other and never lost their confidence. Winning was truly a team effort, and the parents' support was amazing. Winning ISST was a great end to the season."

Tennis

ASL won gold at the ISSTs! The varsity teams were team champions in the combined competition, while Sara Kushma '09 and Tom Deighton '09 were the girls and the boys champions respectively. Molly Horgan '10 placed third in the singles, and Hilary Udow '10 and Alexandra McKeon '09 took third in the girls doubles. Kolin Smialek '09 and Will Tucker '10 held off stiff competition to become boys doubles champions. JV girls and JV boys continued the winning streak in the LSSA; both teams were tournament champions.



2

Track and field

This year's teams stepped up to the challenges and enjoyed a really positive season. Although the teams were far from strong in all areas, they gave a very good performance overall. Coach Eckersall says, "In the ISSTs, the varsity girls did well, but didn't medal; and the JV boys, although inexperienced, have a great foundation to build on. The JV girls, a team of only four, did really well; and the varsity boys won for the first time in many years."

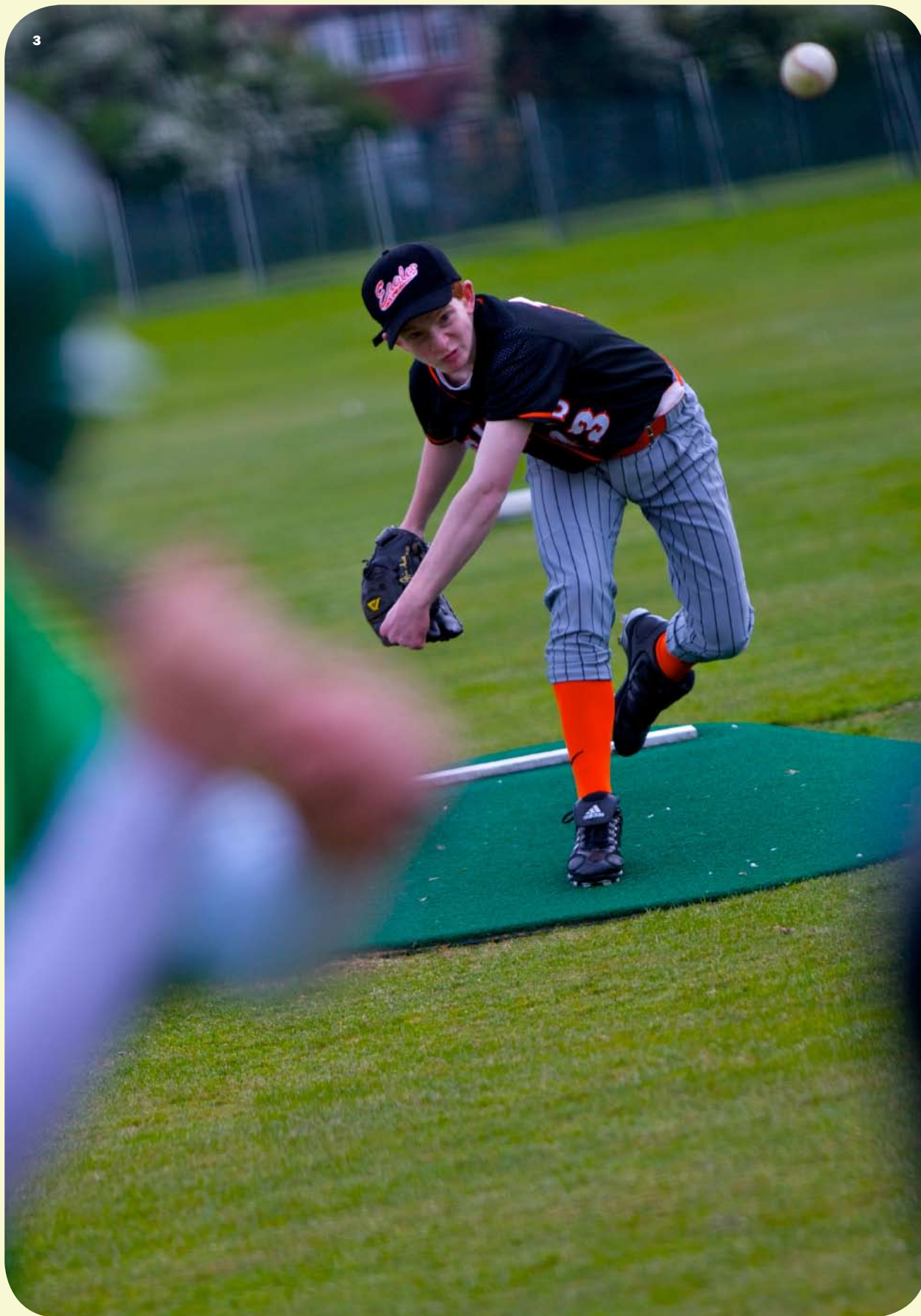


1

Softball

The varsity softball team had an excellent season. Despite an early-season loss to perennial rival TASIS, the team responded to the challenge and won the ISST, defeating the defending champion International School of Brussels, 5–4,

- 1 Varsity softball
- 2 High School track at Cobham
- 3 Middle School baseball



3

Drama



Playwright collaborates with ASL students

LEO Richardson, actor and playwright, worked with High School drama students to produce *Prettiest Friend*, a play he wrote in collaboration with Buck Herron's Advanced Acting: Play Production class. The play ran from 28 April to 1 May 2009 to packed houses in the School Center. Actor Grace Fowler '09 described the play, "High School is meant to be the best time of your life, but not everyone's having a great year... Exploring the idea of peer pressure, *Prettiest Friend* reminds us that people aren't always as deep or as shallow as they seem, and that it can sometimes be difficult to remember that everyone has feelings."

The project began when Mr. Herron went to see a play staged by Curving Road, an organization with a mission to nurture new talent and bring their work to the public eye, run by parents of alumni, Sonja Rein and Sue Guiney. On Mr. Herron's recommendation, a group of

students went along to see the play at the Trafalgar Studios, and were blown away by the brilliantly acted performance, with minimal set, in a confined space. As a result, it relied heavily on the sharp, contemporary dialogue; an opening scene featured a poking war on Facebook. Among the actors was Leo Richardson.

As a surprise, Mr. Herron brought Leo to school to meet his class. There ensued a lively exchange of ideas and Mr. Herron detected a definite connection between the actor and the students. It was too good an opportunity to pass up so Mr. Herron asked Leo if he would consider writing a play that involved collaborating with the students in the process—a topical play, like the play that had sparked the introduction, based around people just like them with the same problems and challenges. Leo agreed and the process began.

All of the students auditioned by performing monologues and scenes while Leo took copious notes and asked plenty of questions: What issues are important to you? What would be your ideal challenge? Leo says, "What struck me was that each individual had such a great energy and personality, and had their 'own thing' going on." Getting to know the students well was important. "He really delved into our personalities, and as a result we became a very connected cast," says Kaitlin Kelly '10.

The first draft arrived and the students were excited to get involved with the play,

set in an American school, and their characters. Leo asked for their reactions to the script and the group was happy to advise him on Americanisms and some word choice. A lively relationship built up as Leo shared his dialogue tweaks with cast members, and they, in turn, provided thoughtful feedback. The students described it as a very interesting creative challenge.

Leo says, "I came up with the idea for the play when I thought about the dynamic of a class or school. How we each separate ourselves and move in our own circles, often oblivious to other people." He wanted to capture the different social groups and wasn't afraid to confront issues such as love, sexuality, fitting in and bullying.

The students agree that they received an outpouring of support from the School. Approximately 80 percent of the High School came to see the play, along with the playwright, his friends and his agent! Opening night didn't go completely without a hitch—the fire alarm went off during a song and dance routine—but all those involved agree they'd do it again in a heartbeat.

Mr. Herron was impressed by the students' dedication to the piece. "They created all the posters, which changed daily, as well as organizing the marketing. People became curious. It was the perfect theatrical, educational, ensemble experience." ■



This fall's High School production is a new musical, *All Shook Up*. Although set in the 1950s, the storyline mirrors that of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*.



4

Class Notes

'64

David Romano sends the following update, "I continue my research in Greece working at the sanctuary of Zeus at Mt. Lykaion, Arcadia. We received good press coverage in the *Science Times*."

'67

Congratulations to **Andrea (Rhodin) Tebbets** who married Robert Baker in May 2009.

'72

Craig Cary and his daughter Robin enjoyed a tour of ASL during which he reminisced about Elton John, and teacher Linda Hurcombe, whom he credits for awakening a love of reading. Craig, a marine scientist at the U. of Delaware, set off on a deep-sea adventure from Manzanillo, Mexico, on the 21-day "Extreme 2004: Exploring the Deep Frontier" expedition. The scientists lived aboard the 274-foot research vessel *Atlantis* and explored hydrothermal vents in a submersible.

Dr. Jette Labianca, husband Tormod and son visited campus while she was in town for a conference. Jette, who attended ASL for her senior year, is a physiatrist and lives in Copenhagen.

'73

Peter Kohn, who is currently filming a Russell Crowe/Ridley Scott film stopped

by for a tour of the School with his wife and two children.

Robert Martin visited ASL with his family during a trip to London. He enjoyed pointing out the years he was a member of the winning ISST teams for a variety of sports, as well as marveling at the changes to the Gym. Robert and his family live in NC.

Chris Muns came to ASL with his family. He was very excited about seeing the School again, and was especially pleased to see the Gym. He saw Elton John play there both times, and was also part of the winning ISST soccer team in 1971.

'74

Martha Wart visited with her family from their home in RI. Martha had not been back since she graduated more than 30 years ago!

'75

Members of the class of '75 have been reminiscing about their shared memories of ASL. Many mentioned Elton John, seeing the Rolling Stones in Hyde Park, Chuck Berry, Eric Clapton, Led Zeppelin and many more. **Christian Stevens**'s family still comes back to London regularly. He remembers "Dr. Weyant's acting class and all the plays we went to, Yes concerts, driving to school at 16 on a CT state learner's permit, and the students' smoking area outside the faculty lounge." **Isabel Beiser-Berg**, **Geordie Gillespie**, **Pamela Rowton-Dyer** and others have

enjoyed reading *Wyoming Trail* by **Cheryl Moskowitz**. Geordie writes, "I just finished reading it. What an incredible book. Thank you so much for bringing this to the world. I didn't want it to end, and now I'm looking forward to reading the sequel." Cheryl responded to her classmates and fans, "I'm thrilled and flattered that so many of you have tracked down a copy of *Wyoming Trail* and are reading it. It's a blast from the past, even for me, as it was published 10 years ago." She sent an update of her life since ASL, "I've never really left London since graduating ASL early. I went to Sussex U. to study developmental psychology and then dramatherapy. After that, I acted (stage, film, tv) for 12 years, and have been a writer ever since (poetry, novel, plays, short stories.) I teach at Sussex on an MA in creative writing and personal development, and run lots of writing projects in the community. I'm married to a musician (currently musical director of *Mamma Mia!* in London's West End,) and have two daughters and a son." Isabel sends the following update, "I've been living in the Boston area since the 80s. I've been practicing law part-time since my kids were born. About five years ago, I decided to add another career, and now work as a children's book buyer and creative director for a bookstore and school bookfair company. My parents continue to live in London (and France), so my family and I have a great excuse to go over and visit at least once a year. London is still my favorite place!"

Lynn (Byron) Wilson visited with her mother and daughter. She remembers when the School was located at York Terrace and then Gloucester Gate before moving to St. John's Wood. The Byron family was at ASL in the late 60s and through the 70s.

Ann Bater joined ASL in 1969 in Grade 7. She remembers, "the opening of the modern new school in St. John's Wood was very exciting. My primary impression was one of the maze-like quality of the building. It was like a little fortress made of never-ending brick. I remember the new smell, a combination of concrete dust and new carpet."

Paul Svensson writes from Sweden, "I just moved back to Stockholm from the Swedish west-coast. I married a Swedish girl, have two daughters and one grandchild. Only two days ago, when unpacking in the new apartment, I found a poster for the *Stop the World* musical we put up at ASL in 1975. There was also a photo (that I took) with the whole crew and Dr. Weyant, how young we were."

Edwin Cathey writes, "After ASL, I graduated from Texas A&M U. in 1979 and moved to Wilmington, NC, where I reside to this day. I'm married (28+ years), have three daughters (27, 25 and 20) and our first grandchild was born in July."

Jessie Chapman remembers being co-editor of the senior class section of the 1975 yearbook, along with **Chris (Roller) Emerson**. She sends us the following update, "I've been in NYC and CT since graduating from Skidmore College, and live in Westport, CT. Most of my career has been in marketing, most recently Dutch-Anglo Reed Elsevier, which gave me the pleasure of traveling to Amsterdam and London on business. My accommodation at the Pulitzer in Amsterdam was considerably better than the flea bag hotel in the red light district where we stayed with Bear van Wyck's class trip to Amsterdam in 1972! I'm proud and happy to say that some of my closest friendships today were made at ASL over 30 years ago." **Kathy (Wilson) Luck** agrees and adds, "I wouldn't trade my teenage years in London for anything! After graduating from ASL, I returned to Houston and suffered mightily from the humidity and heat. Survived Rice, went to UT law school, married a fellow law student and then moved overseas for 10 years to London and Germany in the 90s. Three of our four children also went to ASL when they were younger. We now live in Houston."

'76

Warren McMicken has moved to Doha, Qatar, with ExxonMobil. He writes, "Look me up if you ever come through Doha!"

Patricia (Braham) Danver and her husband, Bruce, spent a lovely weekend with **Sue (Boucher) Simington** and her husband, Bryan Smith, sailing on the Georgian Bay in Canada.

Alex Von Braun has been living in the Northeast since 1986. He writes, "I finished a complete professional retooling, and am now an energy-efficiency engineer working in the NYC metro area."

'78

Julie Odermatt visited ASL with her husband, Walter, and their son, James. The Odermatts live in Houston, TX, where James attends an international school.

Andrew Tiedemann writes, "I am vice president for communications and marketing at Emerson College. I live north of Boston with my wife, Amy, and daughters Lauren, 18, and Jen, 15."

Accents Fall '09



David Lumley and Eric Bonnoit made time to catch up with each other in Southern California.

'79

Jean (Carroll) Kemp visited with her husband, Todd, and sons Nicholas and Aidan. They toured the building during their trip to Britain, which included visits to Windsor, Oxford and all the London sites.

Mark Williams also visited ASL for the first time in 10 years while on business in

- 1 Andrea (Rhodin) Tebbets '67
- 2 Craig Cary '72
- 3 Dr. Jette Labianca '72
- 4 Peter Kohn '73
- 5 Robert Martin '73
- 6 Martha Wart '74
- 7 Lynn (Byron) Wilson '75
- 8 Patricia (Braham) Danver '76 and Sue (Boucher) Simington '76
- 9 David Lumley '78 and Eric Bonnoit '78



- 1 Jean (Carroll) Kemp '79
- 2 Mark Williams '79
- 3 Christine "Tina" (Glavin) Di Scipio '79
- 4 Ray Sams '81 with friend Misha
- 5 Laura (Tooker) Abuhl '84
- 6 David Herron '84
- 7 Angela Bartuska '85
- 8 Michael Johns '85
- 9 Kate McNulty '87
- 10 Laika Dajani Lebreton '85
- 11 Julie (Seligson) Redfield and Muriel Soenens, both '87
- 12 Leann Borton '88
- 13 David Gourlay '89 with his fiancée
- 14 Dan Dominik '89
- 15 Paul Schwartz '89



London. Mark and his wife live in NY with their three children. Mark bumped into history teacher John Wilson, who remembered him from the 1979 winning quiz bowl team.

Christine "Tina" (Glavin) Di Scipio visited ASL with her husband and four children during a family trip to Europe. One of the first faces they saw was Mr. Carter, who taught and coached several of the six Glavin siblings who attended ASL. The Di Scipios live in Colorado.

Congratulations to **Michele Yardumian** whose second novel (in collaboration with three of her students) was released in July. "It is a young adult fantasy novel in the style of Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, complete with illustrations and its own language. It is called *Run Before the Wind*, and is the sequel to *The Alliance*."

'80

Dr. Stefani (Arzonetti) Hite spent last year as deputy head of international school ACS Cobham. Stefani was pleased to return to England.

'81

Natalie Freeburg was born in Venezuela and raised in Iran, Libya, and England where she started community building in her senior year at ASL. She writes, "I launched an orientation group with a couple of friends to make sure new students had someone to sit with at lunch and to go out with on weekend nights." Natalie moved to San Francisco, CA, after graduating college almost 20 years ago, and has been credited with rejuvenating the Potrero Hill Parents Association (PHPA), growing it from a few dozen members to nearly 500 people over the past five years. Natalie also serves as a consultant with First 5 San Francisco, a non-profit that advocates and provides educational support for families with children under five years old. She completed a yearlong training with Bay Area Parent Leadership Action Network, a non-profit dedicated to creating educational equity and social justice for families. Natalie credits her success at community building to her parents' insistence on living among the native peoples in the countries in which she was raised. "When we were overseas, my parents made sure we lived in a neighborhood rather than a company compound. That helped foster relationships with locals and allowed us to experience their cultures deeper than many ex-pat families ever could."

William Duncan will graduate college with a degree in accounting in December 2009. "After living in London for two years, my mother, father and I moved to Panama for one year. We then moved to Bodega Bay, California, where my father retired. I was in the US Coast Guard for four years, then an officer in the California Highway Patrol for almost 20 years, but had to retire because of back surgery."

Sophia Gordon moved to Hong Kong and would like to connect with any other alums in the area.

'82

Neil Fleet visited ASL for the first time in more than 10 years. He had fond memories of basketball and playing in the band with the Bassetts. He lives in Florida, but returns to London every few years.

Ariana Pettigrew writes, "The past year has been a rollercoaster. I was diagnosed with cancer halfway through my last semester in an MBA program. I'm happy to say that the treatment was successful and I graduated with honors!"

'83

Sad news from **Motria Cahikivsky**, who, along with her brother, **Andrew '85**, writes, "We were deeply saddened by the loss of our Mom in September 2007, but are inspired by her courageous six-year battle with breast cancer." Motria continues, "I was diagnosed around that time but luckily my tumor was found very early. I feel like this is my second chance at life and Mom's legacy gives me strength to continue to see the joy in life."

Allison Richardson was back in London at the end of March for the first time since 1988. "I almost didn't recognize the place! Visiting St. John's Wood and the neighborhoods where I used to live brought back many fond memories of my old classmates."

'84

William Marotta joined a "Rocky Horror Picture Show" group in Kansas City, bought a motorcycle and started attending dance classes in the same year that he became a grandfather to baby Lillith.

Laura (Tooker) Abuhl stopped by ASL with her children, Schuyler, Olivia and Bremen. The family was visiting Europe with a study abroad group organized by Laura's husband, a German teacher in North Dakota.

David Herron, who attended ASL from 1971-74 and was in the first Kindergarten class of the School, enjoyed visiting the Lower School and seeing which parts had or hadn't changed. He now lives in California with his wife and four-year-old daughter.

'85

Angela Bartuska visited with her parents, husband and children, and brother Chris. Angela is a HS art teacher and her husband teaches math. Chris lives in Doha, so they met in the middle.

Laika Dajani Lebreton lives in London with her husband and four children. She came by to see the new School Center with her daughter, Laila, and son, Matthieu.

Michael Johns visited with his wife, Nina, and their daughter, Nathalie. Michael had not been back since he left after Grade 11, but he remembered the colored stairwells and the pods.

'86

Colin Young works as the artistic director of Reverie Productions, an 11-year-old not-for-profit theater company in NYC. "After Duke Engineering undergrad and Yale School of Drama MFA, I have been living in Brooklyn, NY, for 15 years."

'87

Congratulations to **Kate McNulty** who married Brian Howell on 14 June 2008 in Berkeley, CA.

Julie (Seligson) Redfield and Muriel Soenens had lunch together in NYC this summer.

Ray Sams visited ASL with his friend, Misha. Ray lives in Atlanta, GA, where he is a creative director for the Weather Channel.

'88

Leann Borton stopped by campus for the first time since leaving ASL in 1987. Eastman Kodak brought the Borton family to London in 1984 when Leann joined Grade 9. Leann went on to graduate from Cornell and today she lives in Danville, CA, in the Bay Area, where she is a psychologist working with children in foster care. Leann has two pre-school children.

Congratulations to **Tod Myerscough** and his wife, Marwa, who celebrated their wedding on 3 August 2008, at the

Ritz-Carlton in Laguna Niguel, CA. The couple had a three-week honeymoon in the Seychelles and France. They currently reside in Orange County, CA, where Tod is an investment consultant specialising in hedge funds, and Marwa is a real estate investor.

'89

Congratulations to **Amy Hatch** and husband Channing Paluck who are thrilled to announce the birth of their second child, Henry Aloysius, on 6 August 2008. Big sister Emmeline declares him gorgeous. Amy, a freelance writer, is the author of the weekly travel column, The Back Page, at www.travelmuse.com. She and her family live in Urbana, IL, while Channing pursues a doctorate at the U. of Illinois.

Dan Dominik attended ASL Grades 8–11. On a recent holiday in Europe, Dan and wife Constance visited campus during their stop in London. As both are architects in the San Diego area, they had a keen interest in the major structural changes to the Waverley Place campus since Dan left in 1988.

Paul Schwartz visited from Austin, TX, with wife Raejune. Paul left ASL in Grade 6.

David Gourlay visited from Ottawa, Canada with his fiancée.

Congratulations to **Hunter Dubose** and his wife, Jenny, on the birth of their daughter, Sophia.

'90

Jonathan Newman won the Mustang Stories short film competition with his entry, *Father’s Day*. His winning entry will be screened during the launch of the car company's highly anticipated 2010 Ford Mustang model at the Los Angeles Auto Show. As the grand prize winner, Jonathan will direct a second film spotlighting the iconic vehicle. The tale of a father and son’s relationship led to his prize.

Congratulations to **Alison Hipp** and husband Eric on the birth of their second son, Edward “Teddy” Albert Hipp, on 31 March 2008. He joins big brother Connor.

Congratulations also to **Stephanie (Moore) Freeman** on the birth of her daughter, Katherine Green Freeman, on 10 September 2008. She writes, “Her big brother, Elliott, is fantastic with her.”

'91

Michael Troxler has moved to Venice, CA, with his daughter, Leilani, and partner, and is making the best of the economic

down times by getting to grips with his new longboard.

Jorge Presidio visited with his wife. They live in Brazil and have four children.

Congratulations to **Mark Solak** and his wife on the birth of their third son, Parker Alexander, in December 2008. His brothers, Whitt and Bennett, are very excited. Mark has been working for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Houston since 1999 and recently moved to NJ for a two-year assignment in their national technical office.

Dr. Shilagh Mirgain attended the American School of the Hague before coming to ASL for Grades 8 and 9, where she remembers playing volleyball, Mr. Murphy, the Bassetts, Mr. Elliott and Mr. Jesse. She finished high school at the Latin School of Chicago. Shilagh's specialties include behavioral medicine, adjusting and coping with medical illness and injuries, biofeedback, stress management, pain management, individual psychotherapy, couples treatment and women's issues.

Congratulations to **Brandon Bakshi** whose daughter Leilani was born on 8 October 2008.

'92

Brandon Riegg sends us the following picture taken on the Los Angeles set of *Dancing with the Stars*. He writes: “I attended ASL 1989–92 and currently work at ABC television, where one of the shows that I oversee is ‘Dancing’. In a strange coincidence, one of my new coworkers at ABC is also an ASL alumnus, **Josh Belkind '93**, who works on the show as a broadcast standards executive. And in an even stranger coincidence, this season on ‘Dancing’ I cast TV personality Steve-O (from MTV’s Jackass.) Steve-O’s real name is **Stephen Glover**, an ASL alumnus from the same period. I had no idea! But Josh was friends with him at ASL, and filled me in on Steve-O’s past once we announced our new cast for the season. It was a crazy reunion of sorts when the three of us finally met up at the start of the season, 17 years after we had left London, and halfway around the world, all of a sudden working together randomly on a hit show for ABC. The ASL network certainly has some broad reach.”

Congratulations to **Andrea Medic** on the publication of her novel, *A Toast to Love and Sacrifice*.

Price Wilson celebrated his bachelor party in New Orleans with fellow alumni **Alex Terri** and **Andrew Hanniffy**.

'93

Alycia (Wilson) Abts visited with her husband, Toby, and their son, Caden, on their way to Nigeria, where they have moved for two years.

'94

Lindsay (Miller-Jones) Anderson and her husband write from Chicago with news of their first child, Bryce James Anderson, born on 23 September 2008.

'95

Congratulations to **Stephanie (Dement) Little** who gave birth to twin girls, Carly and Cassidy, on 15 June 2008. Carly and Cassidy are the fourth and fifth children for Stephanie and husband Jarrod. The twins join brother Hunter, and sisters Lauren and Kellie. The family reside in Louisville, KY.

Simona Kuhl attended **Rikard Bergbrant**'s wedding to Kasia Swiderska in Lysekil, Sweden, on 2 May 2009.

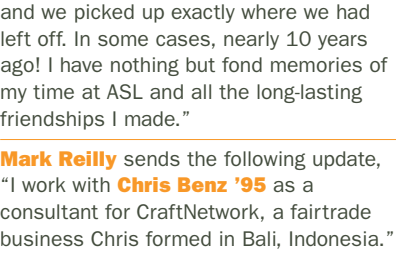
Congratulations to **Alexandre Slawson** and **Kristen Kintzer-Slawson '99** who were recently married. They stopped by ASL on their way to the Amalfi Coast in Italy where they spent their honeymoon. The couple have recently moved from San Francisco to Boston where Alexandre is studying.

Santiago Osorio, who lives in Colombia, sends us the following update, “After college, I lived in New York City for eight great years and then made the move to Bogota at the end of 2006. My brother and I started a hedge fund here that invests in Latin America with a concentration in the Andean region (Colombia, Peru, Panama.) I loved being a New Yorker, but we deemed it important to have a local presence if we were going to sell a local insight.”

'96

Brett Wesoky sends a photo from his July wedding at the Legion of Honor museum in San Francisco, CA, where he lived with his wife. There are nine alumni in the photo (see page 39), including two couples who met at ASL and later married!

Julie Iacobescu lives in Bucharest, Romania, where she has opened a women’s clothing boutique. “My parents are still based in London and I am over quite often both for business and pleasure. I was in New York and Atlanta a few weeks ago and nearly every evening I was away, I met up with fellow ASLers



and we picked up exactly where we had left off. In some cases, nearly 10 years ago! I have nothing but fond memories of my time at ASL and all the long-lasting friendships I made.”

Mark Reilly sends the following update, “I work with **Chris Benz '95** as a consultant for CraftNetwork, a fairtrade business Chris formed in Bali, Indonesia.”

'97

Megan (Auckenthaler) Haines sent a picture with fellow alums **Brock McCormack '98** and **Amy (Reep) Wartick '98** in St. Paul, MN.

Marie (Basile) McDaniel is pictured



at her September 2008 wedding to Alex McDaniel, a behavior analyst in Davis, CA, where Marie is finishing her dissertation on early American history at UC Davis. Other ASLers at the wedding included brother **Mark Basile '94** and **Erin Danly**.

- 1 Katherine, daughter of Stephanie (Moore) Freeman '90
- 2 Jorge Presidio '91
- 3 Dr. Shilagh Mirgain '91
- 4 Brandon Bakshi '91 and daughter Leilani
- 5 Brandon Riegg '92, Stephen Glover '92 and Josh Belkind '93
- 6 From the left, Alex Terri, Price Wilson, Andrew Hanniffy, all '92, and friends
- 7 Alycia (Wilson) Abts '93
- 8 Bryce, son of Lindsay (Miller-Jones) Anderson '94
- 9 Alexandre Slawson '95



From student to teacher

Jason Costa '95 spoke with Middle and High school students in activism, global issues and leadership classes about his work as a public defender and the Georgia Innocence Project. During his visit, Jason also caught up with Mr. Wilson, Mr. Conaty, Mr. McKinley and Mr. Ratoff. Jason received the 2006–07 Distinguished Alumni Award for his work.



The Killion family has been busy! **Anne '97** married Benjamin Bass on 2 May 2009 in Bella Vista, Arkansas. Her twin brother, Andrew Killion, married Brook Beaumont Killion on 24 April 2009 in Denver, Colorado. And, sister **Kyna (Killion) Sanderson '02** married Caleb Sanderson on 25 July 2009 in Fort Worth, Texas. Many ASLers gathered at Anne's wedding: **Jenny Moyers '98**, **Anne Killion Bass '97**, **Erin Danly '97**, **Aurelie Dauphin '97**, **Erin Gibbons '97**, and **Jeremy Spencer '97**.

- 1 The wedding of Rikard Bergbrant '95. Far right, Simona Kuhl '95
- 2 The wedding of Brett Wesoky '96. Counterclockwise, starting with the bride: Jessie Wesoky, Brett Wesoky '96, Mark Majors '96, Alexandra Wesoky (Craig) '94, Sean Wesoky '93, Blakeley Greenhalgh '96, Brian Stewart '96, Josh Wesoky '89 (holding his daughter, Tatyana,) Matt Picard '96, Darcie Moore Picard '96 (center)
- 3 Nicole Ceccacci '97
- 4 Brock McCormack '98, Megan (Auckenthaler) Haines '97 and Amy (Reep) Wartick '98
- 5 The wedding of Marie (Basile) McDaniel '97. Left, Mark Basile '94; second right, Erin Danly '97
- 6 Ella, daughter of Erin (Crowe) Cawley '98
- 7 L-R, Sarah Roeder, Margaret Garrard, Isabelle Stransky, Natalia (Michault) Love Poormand, Jackie Saleh, Vanessa (Petrie) Daley, friend, Joanna Preston, all '98
- 8 Ian McClelland '98



Congratulations to Philip Stransky '98 on the completion of the Xtreme Norseman Triathlon (Iron Man) in Norway in August 2008. Philip dedicated his performance in the triathlon to the memory of his older brother, Jan '82. Jan died tragically at the end of his first year of law school at Georgetown U., following his graduation from Princeton in 1986. The Stransky family established a scholarship in Jan's name at Georgetown Law Center for students interested in public service law. Nineteen law students have already benefited from this scholarship. Philip's Iron Man sponsors' donations went to the scholarship in Jan's name. Philip trained for six months for the triathlon, and completed it successfully in 16 hours and 20 minutes. Response to Philip's request from friends and family has been overwhelming and the whole family is extremely grateful.



public sector in South Africa for Klerksdorp and Tshepong Hospital Complex. He is enjoying being a medical doctor.

Natalia (Michault) Love Poormand married Hash Love Poormand in Mallorca. **Isabelle Stransky, Jackie Saleh, Sarah Roeder, Margaret Garrard, Vanessa Petrie** and **Joanna Preston** attended the wedding.

Ian McClelland visited with his new wife, Kristin, after their wedding in Sicily. Ian, an ASL 'lifer' commented, "In the 13 years I went to this school, there was no construction. Then I leave, and everything gets a makeover!" Ian and Kristin live in NY.

Lisa Manning attended ASL for five years 1986–91. She graduated from high school in the US, but has kept in touch with a number of her friends from ASL and has many fond memories of her time as a student. Lisa graduated from law school, and accepted a six-month post-grad program in London with UN-sponsored legal NGO in international criminal and human rights law.

Gavin Heffernan directed and edited the film *Grand Wheel*. After premiering at SXSW 2008, this experimental walk through the Peace Movement in the United States has played more

Claressinka Anderson opened an art gallery in Santa Monica, CA, and would love to connect with other ASLers in the business and, of course, people that love contemporary art.

Nicole Ceccacci and her mother, Theresa, visited London for a spring holiday. Nicole teaches advanced English in Las Vegas, NV.

Congratulations to **Sarah Muir** on her wedding to Oliver Bailey.

Natalie Pelman produced *The Mountaintop*, a short play about Martin Luther King in London's West End during the summer.

Sara Zachariah visited ASL on her way to a teaching interview in Sevenoaks. She was pleasantly surprised to see how much the School had changed since her years here—especially the School Center where

she had spent most of her time as a student. Sara is currently living in Washington, DC.

'98 Congratulations to **Kim (Krocker) Hymes** and husband John on the birth of their baby, Rebecca Isabelle Hymes, in April.

Congratulations also to **Erin (Crowe) Cawley** and husband Emmett on the birth of their baby, Ella Kathryn Cawley, in June.

Matthews Banda completed his BS at Franklin & Marshall College in 2002. He went on to return to South Africa where he enrolled with the University of Cape Town to further his studies. He completed his medical degree in December 2008 and graduated with Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery degrees. He is working in the

- 1 Rebecca, daughter of Kim (Krocker) Hymes '98
- 2 Jillian (Nalevanko) Ward '99
- 3 Michael Gibson '03
- 4 Kendra Conway '03 with Mr. Herron
- 5 Elaine Harris '04 with Christine Rudolph '85 and Mr. Herron
- 6 Todd Odess '04 with Ms. Bailey
- 7 Katherine Nixon '05 with Mrs. Neutze
- 8 Katie Matthews '06 and Laura Matthews '04
- 9 Daniel deSa '07
- 10 Rebecca Mentzer '12



than 20 of the top film festivals across the country. In addition to the USA screenings, the controversial short film has found a global audience, with festival screenings in Russia, Germany, Spain, Italy, Greece and Denmark. *Grand Wheel* was also awarded the Special Jury Prize for Best Cinematography at the 2008 Canadian Film Festival in Toronto.

'99

Jillian (Nalevanko) Ward married Dan Ward in NH in October 2008. She writes, “We met at Cornell as undergrads and live in Fort Collins, CO, where Dan is finishing a PhD in atmospheric science. I work as a sous chef and freelance musician. We came to Colorado five years ago and since then have started playing as a classical violin and cello



duet for weddings and corporate functions. We love Fort Collins, but plan to relocate to New England in 2010 to be closer to family.”

'00

Kabira Alieva is making her mark on the London art scene. This year she held exhibitions at the Crypt Gallery of



St. Pancras Church in Euston and St. Mary-le-Bow Church in the City of London, both mysterious and atmospheric locations.

Christopher Scharer completed his PhD in cell biology at Emory U. Chris researched markers for prostate cancer for his thesis and has now moved on to a post-doctoral position at Emory looking into vaccines and the human immune system. He remains an avid Liverpool and England soccer supporter and continues to play adult soccer as often as possible.

Congratulations to **Mina Sabih** who was married in February. She and husband Jeremy bought a house in May, which they share with their miniature dachshund, Marvolo. Mina completed her MA in history in May.

'01

Lisa (Hillman) Omundsen, Elizabeth Kennedy and **Sarah Lothman** caught up in Estes Park, CO, to celebrate Lisa's marriage to Thor Omundsen in July 2008. Lisa lives in Denver and works as a medicinal scientist for Amgen Pharmaceuticals. She is also working on her MBA. Elizabeth is living in Boston and working for the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, an agency that provides funding for renewable energy projects in the state. Elizabeth is also working on her MBA at Boston U. Sarah lives in Chapel Hill, NC. She works for Hazen and Sawyer, an environmental engineering firm in Raleigh, NC. Sarah is also working on her master's in environmental engineering at the U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

'02

Ian Everhart worked on the Obama campaign in Akron, OH.

Christina Snodgrass is in Australia, after living in Amsterdam for a year and returning to London to give walking tours and substitute teach (at ASL!).

Fashion designer **Catherine Holstein** launched her first collection, 'Primary Colors.' Available to buy at Barney's NY, Lane Crawford, and Hong Kong Philosophy, Catherine aims to “make easy clothes that are stylized but simple enough that you don't have to think about them. I don't believe you should have to change your outfit to go out at night.” She says her inspiration is the early twentieth-century artist Joan Miro, “The hearts and structural paintings for fall are my creation but definitely his idea.”

'03

Kendra Conway visited ASL from Boston, MA, where she works for a non-profit organization. Kendra remembered working on the lighting design for drama productions during Grades 9 and 10. She reconnected with Buck Herron, her teacher at the time.

Michael Gibson is undergoing flight training in Pensacola, FL, at Naval Air Station Whiting Field. He writes, “I graduated from the Coast Guard Academy, received my commission as an ensign in the US Coast Guard, and am hoping to fly helicopters for the remainder of my 13-year commitment to the Coast Guard. I should graduate from training and receive my pilots wings sometime in early 2010”.

'04

Todd Odess is serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Benin, West Africa. He visited ASL to speak about his experiences to Meg Bailey's human geography class and Ghislaine Rose's French class (to whom he spoke entirely in French!)

Elaine Harris explored the new School Center with media technician **Christine Rudolph '85** and drama teacher Buck Herron. Elaine graduated from Tufts U. and lives in Chicago.

Kimberly Pucher is living in NYC and working for UBS as a financial analyst. Kimberly is living with **Christina Chou** who went to ASL from Grades 2–7.

'05

Alexander Fahmi graduated from Northwestern U. with a degree in industrial engineering and a second major in economics. He is in New York City working for Citigroup in capital markets.

Katherine Nixon stopped by ASL on her way to teach English in Korea. She caught up with Sunny Neutze, her Grade 5 teacher, and took a tour of the building.

'06

Jess Konigsburg is studying at Colorado College having very quickly adapted to his new New York roots. Brother **Ben '14** is in Grade 7 at Riverdale Country School in the Bronx where he played the lead in the musical *Bugsy Malone*.

Katie Matthews is a senior at Brown University. and spent last year studying at the School of Oriental and African Studies. She visited ASL for the first time since she left in Grade 3, and the tour led to a six-month internship in ASL's advancement office! Katie worked on alumni social networking projects, events and writing for the web and Accents. Her sister, **Laura Matthews '04**, graduated from Georgetown U. and is now a medical student at Northwestern U.

Stephanie Hummel is studying at Emory U., and spent six weeks in Salamanca and Seville, Spain, taking a summer course of study.

'07

Leigh Ercole studied at Hamilton College, Clinton, NY. She competed for the varsity swim team.

Daniel deSa worked at Oxfam in London the summer between his freshman and sophomore years at Columbia U. where he is studying aerospace engineering.

Daniel and his sister, **Rebecca deSa '05**, attended St. Paul's School after the family left ASL in 1998. Rebecca studied environmental engineering at Brown U. The family lives in Westchester, NY. Daniel enjoyed seeing the new School Center and reminiscing about Mr. Wasley, “I don't know where I'd be today without Mr. Wasley.”

'09

Sean Donovan is studying government and international relations, and playing basketball for Dartmouth College. He was a *Chicago Sun Times* and *Chicago Tribune* All State selection, and the only Scholar All America from the state of Illinois.

'10

Congratulations to **Evan Einstein** on the release of his first album, “Overtimed Epitome,” which can be heard on myspace, iTunes, Amazon and other online music distributors. Capitalizing on the new world of digitized music, Evan played, recorded and mixed all the instruments on the album.

'12

Willow Macy attends Conserve School, an independent boarding school in northern WI. Although she misses her friends at ASL, she is making new ones and enjoying the outdoor environment of a campus on 1,200 acres with seven lakes. She is on the school's quiz bowl team and excels at all the geography questions, having lived all but one year of her life overseas! She comes home to London for school breaks and hopes to see her many friends at ASL.

Rebecca Mentzer came back to ASL with her parents for the first time since they left in 2004. The family lives in Texas, where brother **Nathan Mentzer '07** is majoring in mechanical engineering at Texas A&M.





Yesterday: ASL in the early 1970s was an eye-opening experience

BY NINA CAMERON '72

EVEN though I attended eight different schools in four different countries, ASL had the biggest impact on my life. I'm a product of Canada, the US, Switzerland and England and all the amazingly different schools I attended in each of these places. But it was the people, particularly the wonderful ASL teachers, I met along the way who had the strongest influence on me.

ASL had some exceptional teachers. Mr. David Campbell (ASL 1967–69) taught Grade 9 social studies. On his classroom wall he posted a giant list of extra things we had to do to complete his course. I remember visiting the Guinea & Piggy Pub for extra credits; it was an early all-you-can-eat establishment where you ate like a piggy for a guinea (1 pound and 1 shilling). My parents might have complained about my traipsing around strange parts of London, but I always said, “I have to do it for a school project!” Other extracurricular activities included seeing Parts I and II of the extra-long film *War and Peace* and visiting unusual museum and art exhibitions. These activities not only got me out of the house on weekends, but also expanded my horizons. I remember seeing extremely weird and wonderful exhibitions in Soho,

at the Serpentine Gallery in Hyde Park, and in quirky parts of the East End. One avant-garde exhibit I went to in Grade 9 involved taking my shoes off, walking through sand poured onto a concrete floor and colliding into giant mirrors suspended from the ceiling.

I still remember that Mr. Campbell hosted a Friday night “happening” in the Nash Terrace buildings in Regent’s Park, where Grades 6–9 went to school in 1969, before the “new school” was built in St. John’s Wood. Neighbors called the police after hearing a lot of loud music, and I traveled home on the bus covered in paint and laughed at all the funny things that had happened that night. In 1990, on a visit to London en route to South-East Asia, I returned to the “scene of the crime” and found our former school buildings were now the headquarters for the Rotary Club.

Mr. Campbell also devised an exercise to teach us about discrimination. For one week, all brown-eyed students were favored. Those with blue eyes were made to sit at the back of the classroom on cramped benches. They had to carry our books around and were generally treated badly. As I have brown eyes, I thought it was a great week. Then the second week was the blue-eyed students’ turn to get back at us, which they did. It was an experience that has stayed with me.

Paul Morton (ASL 1963–97) was another influential teacher in those years. You didn’t just take an algebra class, but were encouraged to attend an evening opera or two to gain extra credits. I’m not sure if our parents ever knew that if someone’s grades were hovering between a B+ and an A– Mr. Morton gave them the higher grade if they’d attended three or four opera productions, but I remember hearing parents bragging about their teenagers taking an interest in opera, all thanks to Mr. Morton.

If anyone messed up on their algebra calculations, Mr. Morton pointed out that if we had been working for NASA, we’d have sent our astronauts to the wrong planet. Or worse, they’d missed their intended destination and were now sentenced to a perpetual life in outer space. It definitely made me double-check my math after that!

Excellent classes taught by superb teachers made learning interesting. Added to this were the fabulous ASL library where I spent many hours reading and the field trips we took to Stonehenge, Canterbury Cathedral and other locations in and around London, which also contributed a lot to my education. These elements all made me the questioning and curious person I am today.

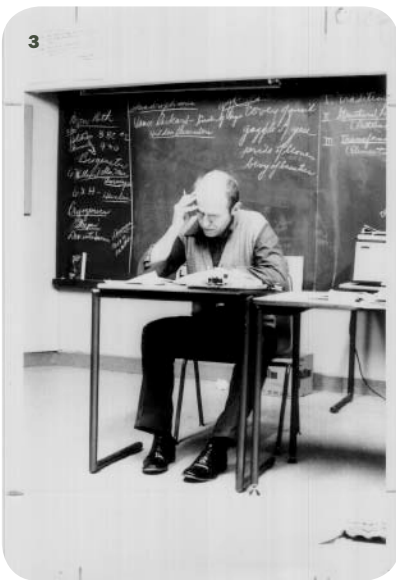
Then there were the unexpected



experiences at ASL that altered my view of the world. Most of the ASL teachers working in those years had great reputations. I didn’t have Don Jesse (ASL 1964–91) as a teacher, but I had heard about him doing creatively crazy things to encourage learning. As ASL classrooms in those days were truly open-plan, with no doors or walls, I often listened in on his classes and overheard him reading aloud some very interesting texts. One day he came to school with half his head and half his beard shaved and I believe he did it because he lost a bet against a student.

On a December afternoon, Mr. Jesse organized an “Orphan’s Christmas Party.” I helped raise the money for presents and wrapped the gifts. It was great to see the children’s wide-eyed excitement as they opened their presents and enjoyed afternoon snacks. During the festivities, one little girl tugged on my sweater and asked, “Could I take some milk home for my mum?” I was shocked. Were there children in London who worried that their mothers couldn’t provide milk for their families? I found a bag for the little girl and put a couple of full milk bottles inside. I can still hear those heavy bottles clinking together as she walked out of the room.

It’s easy for all of us to live in our own sheltered cocoon and forget that most of the world—and many in our own backyards—don’t share such comfort. That simple experience was a real eye-opener for me. How could I have been so blind to inner-city poverty? I guess, like a lot of upper-middle class teenagers, I was completely wrapped up in my own world of social activities and getting good grades. I hadn’t realized how fortunate I was living in Kensington, taking the Underground to school in St. John’s Wood, and not



If anyone messed up on their algebra calculations, Mr. Morton pointed out that if we had been working for NASA, we’d have sent our astronauts to the wrong planet.

worrying about having enough food on the table every day.

My veil of naivety was completely lifted. There’s a tragic assumption among many of us that people who visit food banks or who are on welfare aren’t trying hard enough. Many people just aren’t lucky enough to have a good education, and misfortune can strike anyone at any time.

During my adult life I’ve spent a lot of time fundraising for different organizations in my community. Mother Teresa believed that we should help those in our own neighborhood, rather than worrying about people on the other side of the world so much. She would agree that it’s important to send aid to China or Myanmar, but not to forget those less fortunate ones living in your neck of the woods. Whether it’s donating time or money, it’s important to give something back to our communities. The rewards are so immense.

Whether it’s buying a homeless person a pair of winter boots—something I did when working in Ottawa—or donating cans to the food bank, keep the less fortunate on your mind and in your heart. A pair of gloves, shoes, a business outfit

to wear to a job interview or a package of spaghetti can make such a difference in a person’s life. When my Lioness Club (part of Lions Clubs International) was collecting food for the local food bank, one of our members said not to donate a macaroni-and-cheese dinner because some families couldn’t afford to buy the milk to make the mix. What a fascinating insight and again, we’re back to the milk!

Thank you Mr. Jesse and all the creative teachers at ASL for opening my eyes to so much, so many years ago. ■

Nina Cameron '72 attended ASL from 1969–1973 (for an Ontario grade 13). She graduated from York University in Toronto, Canada in 1977 with an Honors B.A. in English and history. For the next 20 years she and her husband of 30 years, Bob McClelland, published a restaurant and hotel newsletter, wrote columns in more than 30 trade journals and gave seminars around the world. From 1996–2006, she worked with Elections Canada as a Federal Returning Officer in Toronto and at the Ottawa headquarters. She was also an election observer with the Vienna-based OSCE. Nina continues to write and lives with her husband on the edge of a UNESCO Biosphere in Long Point, Ontario, Canada.



1A (San Francisco)

Head of School Coreen Hester with hosts John and Tawnie Farmer (P '91, '94, '97) at the Marines' Memorial Club in San Francisco

1B (San Francisco)

Richard Lautz husband of Laurie Williams '71, Laurie, Steve Wilson '73, David Schwind '71 and Lauri (Tresnon) Klein '72

2 (Chicago)

Lower School Principal Julie Ryan, Dina Dacy, Isaac Dacy '19, Andy Dacy '84 and Head of School Coreen Hester at the Chicago Alumni Reception in the Dacys' home

3A (Washington, DC)

Eddie Seyller and hostess Emily Wasley '00 with Clayton (ASL Faculty 1980–95) and Susan (92–94) Lewis (P '01, '03) at the Cosmos Club alumni reception in Washington, DC

3B (Washington, DC)

Hostess Emily Wasley '00 with Tosh Lee (ASL Faculty 1975–98), Chuck Dodson (ASL Faculty 1973–2001, P '94 '98), Head of School Coreen Hester and Bob Carter (ASL Faculty 1969–2006) after the alumni reception in Washington, DC

4A (LA)

Chuck Dodson (ASL Faculty 1973–2001, P '94 '98), Yolanda White '79, Bob Carter (ASL Faculty 1969–2006) and Anthony Linick (ASL Faculty 1984–2002)

4B (LA)

Los Angeles alumni event hosts Betsy and Mark Kogan (P '11, '13) in their home with Head of School Coreen Hester



4C (LA)

Mindy Eirmann '98, Tosh Lee (ASL Faculty 1975–98), Michelle Roberts '99 and Katie Bennett '98

5A (Boston)

Frank and Sheila Boes (P '85, '87, '89) with hosts Julie and Todd Boes '85 at the Boston Alumni Reception at Somerset Club

5B (Boston)

Ed Ladd (ASL Faculty 1983–90), Doreen Carter, Bob Carter (ASL Faculty 1969–2006), Teresa Genaro (ASL Faculty 1995–98), Anita Hellyer, Chuck Dodson (ASL Faculty 1973–2001, P '94 '98), Bill Iacuesssa (ASL Faculty 1979–2000), Doug Neuman (ASL Faculty 1996–2000), Alice Iacuesssa (ASL Faculty 1979–2000) at the Boston Reception

6A (NY)

Andrew Williams '00 and Alicia Ferro '00 at the New York area alumni event

6B (NY)

Kevin Kish '79, David Wagstaff '80, Bob Carter (ASL Faculty 1969–2006) and Justin Haythe '91 at the New York Times Building



US Tour '09

Head of School Coreen Hester along with former faculty members Bob Carter, Chuck Dodson and Tosh Lee traveled to Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, DC, to meet with alumni, parents, former faculty and friends of ASL.

We are very grateful to our hosts Todd Boes '85 and his wife, Julie; former chair of the Board of Trustees John R. Farmer and his wife, Tawnie; former board member Mark Kogan and his wife, Betsy; Andy Dacy '84 and his wife, Dina; parents of alumni Larry and Vicki Ingrassia; and Emily Wasley '00.

Viva '69!



Getting better all the time

Forty-seven people gathered for four days in Las Vegas to celebrate the ASL Class of 1969's Fortieth Reunion, the sixth such gathering of the class since its graduation. The highlight of the 22-25 October weekend was attending the Cirque du Soleil production of *Love*, the homage to The Beatles, at The Mirage. Members of the class came from Connecticut, Massachusetts, Washington, California, Texas, North Carolina, Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, Vermont, Indiana, Illinois, New York and Toronto. Director of Advancement John Clark represented ASL, and wrote about the gathering in his blog, *Alight here....*, which appears regularly at www.asl.org.



- 1** The Class of 1969 gathers outside the Revolution Lounge at The Mirage following the Cirque du Soleil performance of *Love*.
- 2** Skip Carnes, Gail McCleary Craft, and Jim Craft
- 3** Joel Rosow and Jerry Post
- 4** Paul Pride, Deb Spiers-Wood, and Joel Rosow
- 5** Skip Carnes, Joel Rosow, Steve Gangelhoff and Paul Pride
- 6** Jerry Post, the chief reunion organizer
- 7** Paul Pride, Steve Gangelhoff, Linda Lee and her husband, Jay Isham
- 8** Skip Carnes, David Ahern (partner of Deb Spiers-Wood), Deb Spiers-Wood, and Paul Pride. Behind them, reunion crasher Blair Miller '70
- 9** Rob Woolam and his wife, Katia Belanger
- 10** Friday morning outside the Mandalay Bay Hotel—Hale Smith (spouse of Linda Tucker Smith, David Ahern (partner of Deb Spiers-Wood), Deb Spiers-Wood, Mike Stone, and Linda Tucker Smith





1



2



3



Nominate outstanding alumni!

Many alumni embrace and exemplify the ASL mission and spirit daily. Let's honor them!

Previous recipients:

- 1 Norah Vincent '86
Author and Human Rights Advocate
- 2 Jason Costa '95
Community Advocate and Attorney
- 3 Gavan Meehan '90
Freelance Journalist and Attorney

We welcome nominations for the distinguished alumni Crystal Eagle Award to recognize outstanding service. For more information and to submit nominations, email alumni@asl.org.

Faculty news



John and Marcia Servente are enjoying life in Venice. John has been learning to row like a gondolier and sent us this picture. He noted, "In the background is the Palladio's Redentore church and Giudecca Island where I live."



Hot off the press

Our new Viewbook has been published and is on its way to prospective students and their parents across the world.

It was designed and written to take the reader on a journey. Not a journey in the usual sense and not a tour of the School, this was 'A Journey through the Ages'. From age 4 to 18, the book shows what to expect from our School, what the learning process would be like, and reassures transient internationals and locals alike that ASL is as much a community as an academic institution.

'A journey through the ages' captures the essence of life at ASL and reflects our School's ability to provide an American curriculum with an international perspective, in a way that is both engaging and exciting.



In memoriam



Barry Murphy, ASL '02-06

Our condolences to the family of Barry Murphy, age 27, who was involved in a fatal road traffic accident near his parents' home in Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland, on 1 November 2008. He was traveling by motorbike when he was involved in a collision with a lorry. Barry is survived by his parents, two brothers, grandmother, sister-in-law, and a large circle of friends. While at ASL, Barry was a valued member of the tech department.



Peter Hoffman '03

We are very sorry to report that Peter Hoffman '03 died of a rare and aggressive cancer on 28 March 2009. After graduating from George Washington University with a degree in engineering, Peter worked and traveled in Australia. The ASL community extends its heartfelt sympathy to Peter's parents, Gary and Peggy, and his sisters, Kaitlin '01 and Colleen '06.

Back cover:

A selection of Mr. Higgins' lab coats



The American School in London

15 Roszel Road
Princeton, NJ 08543
USA

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Mailed from Hartford CT
Permit No. 768577



The American School in London

One Waverley Place

London NW8 ONP

