The American School in London Accents

2016-17

Coreen R. Hester: Hegd of School 2007-17

Cover:

Coreen R. Hester Head of School, 2007-17

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a ten-year legacy

Head of School



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Editor: Wendy Robinson

Contributors: Cathy Adams, Esther Cole, Lydia Condon, Dervla Flynn, Felice Hawley '76, Coreen R. Hester, Alice lacuessa, Marika Ison '07, Libby Jones, Sandy Mateus, Melanie O'Leary, Margaret Pringle '91, Karen Sellars, Yolandi Strydom, Dave Sutherland, Jennifer Thomas, Steve Townsend

Photography: Astonleigh Studio, Lydia Condon, Craig Prentis Photography, Di Holmes Photography, Sandy Mateus, Melanie O'Leary, Wendy Robinson

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

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

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



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Letter from the Head of School

To the ASL community,

I would be remiss if I did not say that it's a little painful to write my tenth and final message for Accents magazine. What a wonderful decade this has been, from start to finish!

When I arrived in London in July 2007, the Tour de France was starting at Westminster and the smoking ban in restaurants was first imposed. Since that time we've had royal marriages and babies, financial crises, three sets of Olympic games (including London, of course), too many humanitarian and political catastrophes, and new prime ministers and presidents come into office-including the entire presidency of Barack Obama. We've celebrated birthdays and milestones for John Milton, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, and—my favorite—Jane Austen. And we've seen a parade of cultural events unmatched, in my opinion, in any other city in the world. Not to mention Benedict Cumberbatch as Hamlet and the eighth chapter of Harry Potter! How fortunate we are to be in London.

In the past 10 years at ASL, I've also delivered well over 2,000 diplomas to middle and high school students, attended more than 150 music concerts, cheered at countless games, led about 200 parent coffees, attended around 50 alumni events, and signed at least 7,500 thank-you letters to generous and kind donors to the School. I've met talented students and dynamic families from all over the world, described the School at dozens of admissions events, surprised students as the "guest reader" on occasion, and hosted about 60 senior dinners at Bruce House. I can't begin to estimate the number of emails! It's been an honor to represent ASL and to give voice to our mission and core values, 2007-17. How fortunate I have been to guide the tiller of our fine school.

I've often said that taking the job at ASL was "irresistible," and leaving is certainly heart-rending. But it's been terrific, all the way through. The memory book is filled to the brim. My thanks to all.

See you around campus (until June),

Coreen R. Hester P '02 '04 (ASL 1995–97; 2007–17) Head of School





Jennifer Thomas (ASL 2011-present), MS/HS art teacher of painting and drawing, elaborates on the project that produced these wonderful pieces of art. "This was an observational activity for Grade 8 students. As a class, we looked at models of sea creatures to study their form. Our focus for the assignment was proportion, the use of line, showing gesture and honing watercolor techniques. It was a three-part project that began with drawings in graphite, progressed to sketches in ink with added watercolor, and culminated in the finished large-scale, full color works. The task was a study in building skills through a progression of exercises. The students were enthusiastic throughout and the finished pieces display the individual mark making and expression of their creator."

Left: Daniel Philips '21 Mrs. Hester, 2015

Top image: Jessica Swanson '21 **Bottom image:** Olivia Benjamin-MacDonald '21



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Coreen R. Hester: 9 ten-year legacy

ARLIER this year, Coreen R. Hester made the decision to step down as **ASL's seventh Head of** School at the end this academic year, in June 2017.

Coreen describes her time as Head as "the opportunity of a lifetime." In her letter to the Board of Trustees announcing her decision, she states, "We've accomplished so much, and we've done it with purpose, energy and wonderful esprit de corps." She views her time at One Waverley Place with great pride and her impending departure with more than a little sadness.

Many will be aware that Coreen spent two years as high school principal at ASL, 1995–97. Accompanied by her children, Tyler Hester '02 and Molly Hester '04, Coreen's passion for London and ASL began in earnest. In 1997, the family headed back to their native California, where Coreen began a 10-year stint as head at The Hamlin School, San Francisco. The rest, as they say, is history. In July 2007, Coreen R. Hester returned to ASL as our seventh head of school. Her vision was clear from the get-go. In a letter to the community, she outlined her educational philosophy: "The heart of a school lies in the relationship between a student and a teacher...Every decision in a top-notch school should answer two questions, and answer them well: Does this decision

fulfill the mission of the school? And does this decision enhance the relationship between a student and a teacher?" These questions, one at the broadest level and the other at the most intimate, have informed Mrs. Hester's term at the helm of ASL.

Much has been accomplished during Coreen's tenure. From revising the school's mission and establishing the ground-breaking Strategic Plan 2010, to identifying the school's core values and defining ASL's portrait of a learner, Coreen has spearheaded myriad successful endeavors to make ASL the very best it can be. Her favorite question is always, "What could we be doing better?"

Her greatest moments are laid out in her letter to the Board of Trustees in January 2016: "Revitalizing our mission statement; tackling strategic initiatives in curriculum, service learning, and diversity; growing our commitment to increased financial aid; planning and delivering new facilities; and improving our financial stability through increased endowment funds."

In the opening convocation for faculty and staff at the beginning of the 2016-17 academic year, Coreen was on fine form, energized to be standing before an eager faculty, knowing they shared her enthusiasm for the challenges of the year ahead. Coreen lives the school's mission and encourages us to examine topics through different lenses. She has also

hired some incredible people!

Coreen believes that knowing how to support and love children is the focus of everything we do at ASL. And, she opines, we can only do this if we work together. She's the biggest proponent of collaboration-"a central metaphor"to create the best teams. And throughout her tenure, she has espoused Roland Barth's quote, which she keeps on the coffee table in her office: "The quality of adult relationships within a school has more to do with the quality and character of the school and with the accomplishments of students than any other factor." To Coreen, teamwork matters, and student learning is a top priority.

As she acknowledges, there is much to be done before she leaves our school. But when the time comes, we send you off with our very best wishes for a long and happy retirement, Coreen. A trip to Australia is rumored to be planned and there are so many books to read! Visit often—and as you say, "See you around campus!"



INDING the right words to adequately convey Coreen's impact on our community during her time at ASL is a tough call. Of course, the right words rarely elude Coreen. An avid book lover and English teacher by trade, her precision with language is overwhelmingly evident. On the page, before a crowd, at the lunch table, her quips and prose are cherished by the privileged recipients of her wise counsel. And she's no stranger to quoting the sage words of others to emphasize a point. Her oft-reported, much-loved locutions are fondly referred to as "Coreen-isms." Over the years, these key words and phrases have woven themselves into the fabric of ASL.

In honor of our linguistic leader, we offer a compilation of special Coreen-isms collected during her extraordinary service to ASL, and exemplified by those who have enjoyed close associations with our seventh Head of School. We let the words speak for themselves.

"We have a chance to do something special."

I think of Coreen as someone with the wisdom to see accurately, the intellect to dream big and the courage to act. I remember when we were recruiting her. I told Coreen, at the time, that I thought ASL was the best school in the world for my children but that it could be even stronger. That seemed to really resonate with her, and she took that challenge and performed wonders. Coreen is a great example of when intellect and conviction meet energy and strength.

-R. Derek Bandeen P '07 '11 '12 '17 Trustee

"Excellence"

We know the American School in London has a long history of offering an outstanding American education to its students. During her tenure, Coreen made excellence *pervasive*. She operationalized excellence, and through a relentless drive towards improvement, she helped the staff make meaning of the core concepts of intellect and character, and the transformative nature of learning with a global perspective. Her legacy is profound, and it is cemented.

—Paul Richards P '20 '22, (ASL 2009–13)

Superintendent of the International Schools Group of Saudi Arabia and former HS principal at ASL



"Going gangbusters!"

This idiom, defined as "with great impact, vigor or zeal," is one I remember Coreen using often. In many ways, it reflects the work she has done during her time at ASL, particularly over the last few years with the *New Frontiers* campaign. When ASL was searching for the next Head of School, 10 years ago, the Board was seeking a clear curriculum leader with strong community connections. Coreen was the most outstanding candidate among a super strong field. And she went gangbusters from the moment she was hired.

—John Smithies P '13 '18 (ASL 2002–13)

Elementary School Principal, American School of Bombay, and former LS assistant principal at ASL

While there was tremendous appeal of coming to lead the High School and moving to London, Coreen was the ultimate reason I wanted to work at ASL. I remember thinking when I first met her, here is a school leader who is thoughtful, hardworking and unwaveringly kind. I'm happy to say that my initial impressions have only been reinforced these past few years working with Coreen. Her intellect and character make her the ideal school leader. And I'm honored to have had the opportunity to learn and grow under her mentorship."

—Jack Phillips P '27 (ASL 2013–present) HS Principal



"Intelligence travels with different learning styles."

Coreen captured my heart in her first year as Head of School. A group of parents, concerned about students with learning difficulties, met with her to discuss the accessibility of an ASL education. At the time, we were concerned that the School was moving away from serving children who were bright and engaging but struggled because of various learning challenges that impeded their success. Straight away, Coreen said that we were in the business of education, and that if ASL wanted the best and the brightest we had to accept those with learning differences too. Restricting access to students with these, she warned, would restrict our school's mission. Her job, and that of her colleagues, was to "challenge each child but not panic or bore them." This approach informed every decision I saw her make-hiring, training, compensating, mentoring. It truly pushed the concept of educational excellence, which I think is the hallmark of her tenure.

—Linda Ely P '06 '08 '13 Former trustee and current Foundation Director "London is our second classroom." Coreen has been a wonderfully strong advocate of the arts at ASL. She has encouraged the choices of plays produced over the years, from Eva Schloss's dramas about surviving Auschwitz to Avenue Q. Coreen understands the power of theater, especially performance pieces that ask the community to experience, examine and reflect on how theater can affect lives. Much of this comes from her personal love for the arts; she takes in an incredible amount of London theater annually, and her early work as a dramatic literature teacher gives her great knowledge of the craft. Attending at least two performances of each ASL play, Coreen shares her appreciation of the actors' performance and breakthroughs, and always offers new insight into the play's meaning for the audience. She has also encouraged my department to embrace London as our second classroom, helping to further inspire students' confidence, expression and empathy. Our drama program will miss her presence and applauds her unwavering support.

—Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present) HS Drama Teacher

The American School in London

Feature

"An energetic attitude"

It has been my privilege to work with all seven ASL heads of school, and while they have all been positive influences on the development of ASL in different ways, Coreen has been among the very best. She always approached the job with a positive and energetic attitude. It was a pleasure to work with Coreen, and I would like to put on record what a "spiffing" person she has been. Enjoy a happy retirement with your children! Please come back and see us often.

—Bob Carter (ASL 1969–2014) Former athletics director, coach, PE teacher and summer program director at ASL

"Hahahaha!"

I wish I could capture Coreen's distinctive laugh. It announces her in such a lovely way from down hallways.

-Alison LeMaire P '12 '14 '17 Trustee



"Devotion

As a speaker and a consultant, it has been an extraordinary privilege for me to watch Coreen at work, at two different schools, for nearly 20 years. And boy, does she have a capacity for work! Her commitment is extraordinary. Coreen takes great care of her school community. Some may believe she thinks about school issues 24 hours a day. That's not completely true, but it's close. When I come to London to present at ASL, it is usually for a span of two or three days, and I always try to set aside time to catch up with Coreen over a play or a concert. (Hey, its London!) I count on it. I assumed that she would always plan on spending my non-speaking evenings this way. But after several years of losing out on time with Coreen to curriculum consultants, college counseling meetings or other work commitments, I now get on her calendar months in advance to ensure we have a night out. If I have made Coreen sound like a workaholic, I must add this: I have known and worked "Always be prepared." with over 1,500 heads of school around the world and have rarely met anyone with Coreen's love of her school, her seriousness of purpose and her joy in the educational process. She loves children, teachers and parents. She goes the extra mile for all of them.

-Michael Thompson, Ph.D. Author, clinical psychologist and international speaker

"Coreen is leaving a legacy of success that is very impressive. For me, that started back in the mid '90s when she became high school principal. She brought to the position energy, commitment and the willingness to embrace change. We had just gone through some difficult years: a deficit budget, restructuring and a shifting community demographic. We needed to change, and Coreen led that change in subtle and significant ways. She is a remarkable lady."

-Chuck Dodson P '94 '98 (ASL 1973-2001) Former coach, PE teacher and director of guidance of ASL

"Jiminy's!"

When I think of Coreen, I think of laughing and learning. She has fostered an atmosphere of growth, high expectations and, crucially, humor. Whether she's telling me "tough teabags" to help me find perspective, or exclaiming, "Jiminy's!" when confronted with a challenge, we always find time to laugh it off (sometimes to the point of tears), and to learn from our experiences. She has been a mentor personally and professionally, and I will miss her dearly. But I know she'll always be on the other end of the phone for some cheer!

-Megan Gomm (ASL 2011-present) HR Manager



The ASL Foundation Board meets twice a year and is geographically distant from ASL. Yet I am always impressed with how thoroughly Coreen prepares for our meetings and her genuine appreciation for what the Foundation does. Her presentations are the highlight of our meetings. They are always fresh, comprehensive and delivered with polish and enthusiasm.

-Bill Obenshain P '92 '92

Foundation Director and former chair of the US Foundation Board

"Partnership"

Coreen is an incredible leader who insightfully relies on partnership, and the resulting collaboration, to move ASL forward. She always referred to the partnerships: the one we had as Head of School and Board Chair, the home-school partnership, and the partnership between faculty and staff. This is what underlies Coreen's success—her willingness to lead and accomplish what is best for ASL by building and emphasizing productive relationships between people.

-Lori E. Fields P '08 '10 '14 Former chair of the Board of Trustees



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Accents 2016–17



"Say it with a smile."

In every interaction I have had with Coreen, she always has a welcoming smile on her face. Her smile says, "I'm ready to talk, I'm ready to listen and be respectful." She is a supportive individual.

—Jacob Lief '95

Founder & CEO of Ubuntu Education Fund

"Be kind, be kind, be kind."

Coreen's commitment to education is unparalleled. She is wholeheartedly dedicated to her vocation while being the consummate learner. Compassionate, she has spent the majority of her life in the service of others and inspires us to put our best selves forward, each and every day. Through the school's mission and our core values, Coreen reminds us to be kind, be kind, be kind. ASL has grown in transformative ways under her leadership. Coreen is the heart of all that is good at ASL, and we are the luckiest of beneficiaries to have had this opportunity to experience this journey with her.

---Sandy Mateus (ASL 2013-present) Director of Major Gifts

"Walk the walk, and talk the talk."

School administrators frequently claim that the arts are important to kids. Everybody likes to have a clarinet player on the cover of the school magazine. But when it comes to truly supporting the arts, and making them happen in a meaningful way within a school, administrators aren't always following through on their endorsement. During my time at ASL, I was involved with over 100 concerts and musicals. I cannot recall, even once, when Coreen wasn't sitting in the audience, enjoying the program and preparing to debrief immediately afterwards. Coreen walks the walk, and talks the talk. And my students always benefitted.

-Keith Montgomery (ASL 2001-14) Executive director of the Association for Music in International Schools (AMIS) and former HS music teacher at ASL

"The quality of adult relationships within a school has more to do with the quality and character of the school and with the accomplishments of students than any other factor."

-Roland Barth

When I think of my friend and colleague Coreen, I think of this laminated quote from Roland Barth, founding director of the Principals' Center at Harvard, that sits prominently on the coffee table in her office at One Waverley Place. Perhaps the most important word is charactera value that Coreen models, frequently speaks about, and expects everyone to demonstrate. I remember her tireless insistence that character be a key element in the ASL mission statement and in the core values. Her lasting legacy at ASL will certainly include characterbuilding. Hopefully, future ASL leaders will have the same positive impact on the school culture that Coreen has had, while continuing her efforts to make ASL a worldwide leader in international education. It was an honor to be on her leadership team, and to work alongside her.

—Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–2013) Former LS principal at ASL

"We're promoting a vibrant learning process."

Even Mark Twain couldn't boil down all the wisdom Coreen has imparted to our community over the past decade, acquired from a storied career of passionately educating children. She is like a personal hyperlink, connecting each inquiring parent and student to the right book or article for further exploration. In doing so, she provides both the learning and the process she espouses. Missiondriven, intellect, character, diversity and stewardship were words that Coreen never stopped repeating to trustees, posting them as trail markers to keep the School on the right path. All along her journey, Coreen was quietly chanting a mantra: "Respect. Responsibility.

'Mrs. Hester had a huge impact on my life for a variety of reasons, but one life lesson stands out. During my senior year, a few of us wanted to go to Paris and watch our friends play in the ISST basketball tournament. This trip meant missing a few days of school. As 18-yearolds, we thought it was a simple request: miss two days of classes and support our fellow Eagles! To Mrs. Hester, it was a lot more complicated than that. Ultimately, she allowed us to seek permission from our teachers, but with the understanding that if we went to Paris we would have to take our senior spring exams, which we had been exempt from taking. It may not seem that significant, but that experience made me understand the true meaning of 'consequences.' Now that I am in academia, I often think of that lesson as I guide the next generation."

—John Jensen '97

Director of career development and associate dean of students at Washington & Lee University

Kindness. Integrity. And the courage to act." While her mantra came from an extensive process of gathering just the right words from the minds and mouths of our whole community, they are, for me, the truest Coreen-isms, as she has said them and lived them every day, in every action, throughout her time at ASL.

--Dwight Poler P '14 '15 '25 Trustee and Chair of the New Frontiers campaign **1** With Julie Ryan, former lower school principal, at the Global Festival

- 2 Joining in the Fourth of July celebrations during her first week at ASL as Head in 2007
- **3** Getting into the spirit of the ASL London Reunion, Get Back, in 2008

Overleaf

- 1 With teachers Bill Kenney, Bob Carter and Kevin Conaty at the Aquatics Centre in the Olympic Park in 2014
- 2 At Canons Park with Director of Athletics John Farmer '97
- **3** With parents of alumni Jane Deering and Peggy Benz in 2008
- 4 With teacher Peter Cassidy and his son, Bertie '21 in summer 2007
- 5 With her children, Tyler '02 and Molly '046 Another Global Festival, with Lower School
- Principal Susan Young 7 Auction gala, with High School Assistant
- Principal Karen Bonthrone
- 8 Coreen throws the first pitch at the Baseball ISSTs at Canons Park, 2008

"Coreen is always the smartest and wisest person in the room. Listen!"

—Paige Jernigan P '18 '20 '25 Former trustee

"Always do your best."

Coreen was completely devoted to doing what was best for her students, both for their present and future successes."

—Natalie (Marcoux) Winkelman '08

"Family"

Coreen is devoted to her family, and ASL has been her family away from California.

--Patty Strohm (ASL 2009-present) Director of Academic Advising and College Counseling

"Molly Hester and Tyler Hester"

I could write volumes about Coreen's kindness, generosity, sense of humor or intelligence. But it's her special identification of her children that comes to mind when I think of her common expressions. I always found it interesting that whenever Coreen talked about either of her children, she included their surnames. For example, she would say, "I talked to Molly Hester this morning," or "Tyler Hester is coming to visit." I never asked her why, but I can only assume that it was her, always, precise use of language and love of clarity. guess she didn't want us to think that she was talking about some other Molly or Tyler!

---Cathy Funk (ASL 2011-15) Former MS principal at ASL













"A positive force"

Since I've been old enough to talk, people have always made a point to tell me what a positive impact my mom has made. Students and employees would pull me aside at school functions to say, "I just want to tell you what a positive impact your mother has had on my life," or "the school," or most special of all, "my child." My mother is the strongest and most positive force in my life, and to have had more than 20 years of people telling me that she has been a positive impact on their lives as well? That's not something everyone is lucky enough to have. As I have grown up and learned how to be a student, an employee, and an adult, I have thought about how people tell me these positive stories about my mom. And you know, your parents are always proud of you—but it's a special thing to be able to be proud of your parent. This is a vocal pride: I'm always chatting about a book she's read, a philosophy she espouses, or a great conversation she and I have had on a challenging or exciting topic. So much so that my friends think of her as a celebrity. Everyone I know has met or is on the waitlist to someday meet 'Mama Hester.' She was the hit special guest at my 30th birthday party this year! These are a drop in the bucket—a drop in the ocean!--of my experiences growing up as Coreen's daughter. I can't begin to list all the ways I am lucky to have her as my mom.

-Molly Hester '04

Mechanical design engineer, Amazon Robotics







"Our highest calling is to work in the service of others."

Mom's life is one of service. She has poured her heart and soul into the school communities that she has led over the course of her career. And as the folks at those schools can attest, she is relentless in seeking out excellence and striving to be the best servant-leader she can be. Mom is committed to continual learning and growth. We frequently spend our weekly Skype sessions talking about her latest findings on leadership from a new book she just read. But to me, Mom's most moving act of service has been her commitment to Molly and me. In 1990, when our dad passed away, she resolved that our lives wouldn't be harmed one iota more than was inevitable. Consequently, Mom has served as the most incredible parent a kid could ask for. Her willingness to go





Coreen,

Congratulations upon a job well done-very well done! And welcome. Soon you will be joining the small gathering of former Heads of School. You will take your place, next to me, 'hanging out' on the wall in the lobby of One Waverley Place. You'll enjoy the action: seeing the children arrive each morning, overhearing snippets of faculty gossip, observing anxious families arrive at the admissions office and seeing the new Head scurry about for hours on end. The front desk is ASL's Grand Central Station. It is fun to be there when you don't have any place to go. Hanging quietly on the wall, we are the reviewing stand of the parade that Stephen Eckard launched 65 years ago. We look forward to having you in our number. I'll save you a place.

-Bill Mules (ASL 1998–2007) ASL's sixth Head of School

to any lengths to support both my sister and me exemplifies what love looks like. Thank you for practicing what you preach, Mom. I love you.

—**Tyler Hester '02** Senior managing director, Teach for America (Richmond, California) ■



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An appointment at the Royal Academy In October, Kindergarten 2 art students visited the Royal Academy to view the Abstract Expressionist exhibition. Having studied in class the works of Jackson Pollock, Mark Rothko, Franz Kline, Joan Mitchell, Robert Motherwell and Helen Frankenthaler, the students were excited to see the art up close at a gallery. Kindergarten Creative Arts Teacher Melanie O'Leary P '11 (ASL 1997-present) explains, "All of the students were amazed by the size of the artists' work at the exhibition, and were thrilled to see paintings they recognized from their studies. Each year, we like to choose an artist or group of artists whose work we can see in London. In previous years, we have been to Alexander Calder and Paul Klee exhibitions."

At the beginning of the school year, the students looked at 'land art with loose pieces,' observing the works of Andy Goldsworthy and Richard Long. The fall is the perfect time for trips to Hampstead Heath to source materials! For second semester, each class has chosen a project to work on as a group.

STATISTICS.

The American School in London

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Spotlight on London

Commencement for the Class of 2016



HE commencement exercises for the Class of 2016 took place on Saturday, 4 June 2016, at Central Hall Westminster, the world's first purpose-built conference center, and the very building where the first **United Nations General Assembly** met to elect its first secretary general 70 years ago. Sir Winston Churchill, Mahatma Gandhi, the Dalai Lama and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have addressed audiences from the stage.

In her opening welcome, Head of School Coreen R. Hester praised the members of the Class of 2016 for their noteworthy accomplishments. "You have made a difference at ASL and in the wider community, and changed our school for the better," she declared. She went on to say, "Yours is a class of many firsts, including providing leadership for the first ever west London Model United Nations, and for the first ever Young Power conference with neighboring state schools; memorable artistic accomplishments on the stage; and bringing home more goals than any other class in recent history."

In the class of 123 graduates, there are 16 'lifers,' students who have attended ASL 'first to last:' Emma Abele, Jed Alberts, Ayesha Bhalla, Robert Collins, Deniz Erginbilgic, Matthew Gallagher, Jack Glen, Milo Kremer, Thea Littlewood, Nicholas Muoio, Liam Roedy, Maia Roman, Maxwell Roth, Elizabeth Vann, Courtney Welch and Lila Wolfson. Following the Lord Mayor of Westminster's welcome, on behalf of

1 Co-Valedictorian Emma Abele 2 Co-Valedictorian Emanuele Gualandri **3** Lord Mayor of Westminster, Fazeelat Aslam '03, Coreen R. Hester

the Board of Trustees, Chair Dave Novak P '18 '20 offered his congratulations to the Class of 2016. He introduced this year's commencement speaker, Oscarwinning ASL alumna Fazeelat Aslam '03. Read about Fazeelat's address over the page.

The proceedings were interspersed with a selection of musical interludes from the Senior Choir, graduating senior Sophie Clark on harp, the High School Concert Choir and Senior Strings Ensemble. Introduced by High School Principal Jack Phillips P '27 (ASL 2013-present), there were thought-provoking speeches from co-Valedictorians Emanuele Gualandri and Emma Abele.

After the diplomas had been awarded, Dr. Phillips presented the Class of 2016 as graduates of ASL. Then it was hats in the air, and time for the celebrations to begin.

Check out the ASL website to view full coverage of the commencement exercises for the Class of 2016, www.asl.org/ commencement.



Choose to be brave: **Fazeelat Aslam '03** delivers HS commencement address

BY LIBBY JONES. DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

IEN Fazeelat Aslam '03 was asked to be ASL's **2016 commencement** speaker, she couldn't have guessed at how busy such a commitment would keep her. The **Oscar-winning filmmaker and** journalist arrived on campus a week before the 4 June commencement exercises, prepared to impart some choice lessons to the graduating class—as well as catch up with Security Officer Bhupendra Patel (ASL 1998-present).

Her dance card quickly filled up with additional appearances, events and end-of-year celebrations, and Fazeelat, honored and unfazed, attended them all with her characteristic pluckiness and charm, which teachers like Victoria Hamadache (ASL 1985-present) and Ken McKinley (ASL 1991–2015) recall from her high school days. She judged a high-stakes lip-sync contest at the Senior Retreat, started a serious dialogue with members of the Social Justice Council, participated in Middle East Night and underlined the importance of the ASL alumni network at Senior Send-off.

But Fazeelat's bold and compelling commencement address is how the 31-year-old really made her mark on the ASL community. Introduced by Mrs. Hester as someone who brings "urgent and heart-rending stories to life," Fazeelat shared some of her story, beginning with her own graduation from ASL 13 years ago. "My mother was grief-stricken that I had not won one of the prestigious awards," she joked.

"Talk to me in five years," Fazeelat told her mom. "Five years is a lot of time for someone who procrastinates as much as I do, so I hoped I could pull something off by then."

From ASL, Fazeelat headed to Wellesley College, where she double-majored in film and women's studies and hoped to put her degree to work by returning to London and launching her career. "My father told me I could do whatever I wantedas long as I could pay for it," she said wryly. "So I moved into my parents' house in Pakistan."

Although born in the Pakistani city of Lahore, Fazeelat had spent most of her life outside of her native country. She returned, at 22, to a Pakistan she knew next to nothing about, save from the deeply villainous view that the media cast. "No one was talking about Pakistan's small triumphs, the stories of courage that needed to be told," Fazeelat explained. So she set out to tell them herself. Her search resulted in an Emmy-winning documentary she helped produce on the urbanization of the Taliban, and an Oscar for her work on Saving Face, a film about acid attack survivors. Certainly, Fazeelat met her deadline to win an award in under five vears.

For all of her glittery new accolades, however, she was crushed to discover how little they actually did for the people featured in her films. "Did the award stop acid attacks?" she asked. "Did it alter those women's lives?" Recognizing that her new identity as an Oscar winner didn't stop the suffering she encountered, Fazeelat revealed a startling truth to her young listeners: "Winning that Oscar made me realize just how little winning can mean," she said. A privileged woman telling the stories and crimes of poor people, who are poor and criminal because of a system upheld by the privileged, Fazeelat was angered by the hypocrisy she unintentionally perpetuated. "It is odd when your greatest achievement also feels like your greatest failure," she admitted.

She left Pakistan for New York, determined to push herself and the envelope to become an honest, ethical and effective storyteller. What did it cost? A job at a huge media company for pointing out their bias against Muslims. This came as little surprise to Fazeelat's high school English teacher, Patricia Barry (ASL 1972-2003), who described her empathetic former student as someone who was "unafraid

to question authority." Though Fazeelat landed a job at HBO's VICE—"They loved my ASL accent

because it appealed to many ethnicities

across the demographic board"—and added another Emmy to her collection, she still felt her work was dishonest and empty. "I hadn't won the trophy, I was a trophy," she conceded. "I kept getting opportunities because I understood the formula to win awards, and nothing else mattered." Once again at a crossroads, Fazeelat sought guidance from a friendan ASL classmate who told her, at age 18, to "imagine the person you aspire to be, and every day take a small step to try to become that person." Not only was that friend, Amia Srinivasan '03, valedictorian of their class, she was also in the audience to hear Fazeelat give her commencement speech.

Embracing Amia's wisdom, Fazeelat shifted her focus from the path she was told to take and endeavored instead to forge her own. Last spring, when Humans of New York founder Brandon Stanton contacted her about photographing portraits of Pakistanis for his blog, Fazeelat directed him to her friend Fatima. a "modern day Harriet Tubman" who works tirelessly and fearlessly to end bonded labor in Pakistan's brick kiln factories—a form of slavery that traps more than 1 million men, women and children.

Fazeelat had interviewed Fatima for an episode of VICE, and three days after the activist appeared on Humans of New York, more than \$2 million poured into Fatima's small-budget organization. At last, Fazeelat's storytelling created the type of impact that could better people's lives and not just her career. "More slaves are being freed than ever before in Pakistan," she enthused. "That means more to me than any award."

Closing her speech with a round-up of observations she made from her return visit to ASL, Fazeelat proudly concluded that ASL's young adults give her hope for the future. "Their articulation and wisdom is immense," she praised. And while she was elated to celebrate the seniors' high school commencement, Fazeelat reminded them that happiness and winning are not synonymous. "Happiness is not limited to our graduations, our awards and our accolades," she said. "Not everyone will win the award, not everyone will graduate, and not everyone will give the commencement speech. But because I got the chance to today, I will finish with my last words of advice: Never stop asking questions. Choose to be brave. Choose to be honest. Make your own path."

Congratulations, Class of 2016! May your future burn bright and your actions be brave.

Life after ASL for the Class of 2016

Emma Abele	Brown University		
Henry Abrahams	The University of Texas, Austin		
Marina Albanese	Yale University		
Jed Alberts	University of St Andrews		
Lillian Atkins	Middlebury College		
Lilian Badian	London South Bank University		
Emma Bareihs	Elon University		
Ayesha Bhalla	Middlebury College		
Edward Black	Falmouth University		
Gabrielle Black	Durham University		
Isobel Bohmer Dexter Bohn	Tufts University University College Maastricht		
Marie Boussard	Wesleyan University		
Khari Brandes	Syracuse University		
Joseph Burston	Wake Forest University		
Emeline Callaway	University of Virginia		
Ariel Calver	Georgetown University		
Quinn Carlson	University of Chicago		
Matthew Castello	University of Virginia		
Stefan Chao	King's College London		
Oliver Chene	Brown University		
Sophie Clark	Middlebury College		
Philip Clement	University of		
	Southern California		
Robert Collins	Harvard University		
Claudia Costa	Georgetown University		
David Costin	Drexel University		
Evan DaCosta	University of Notre Dame		
Alexandra Dark	Fordham University —		
	Lincoln Center Campus/		
	Rose Hill Campus		
Patricia De Ridder	University of California,		
Jacoba Deadan	Los Angeles Australian University		
Jessica Deagan	January 2017		
Jack DeNoma	University of		
Suck Dertoinu	Wisconsin, Madison		
Caroline Dibble	University of Virginia		
Abigael Dillon	University of Vermont		
Kyle Dominguez	Massachusetts Institute of		
	Technology		
Victoria Dreyer	Columbia University		
Yarra Elmasry	University of Chicago		
Deniz Erginbilgic	University of Surrey		
Filippo Fabrini	Georgetown University		
Ryan Farrell	The College of Wooster		
Baya Faure	McGill University		
Dima Fayyad	Duke University		
Brigitte Fink	Yale University		
Andrew Franz	Bucknell University		
Virginia Galbraith	Bucknell University		
Matthew Gallagher Emmanuelle Gers	The University of Texas, Austin Northwestern University		
Jack Glen	Fordham University —		
	Lincoln Center Campus/		
	Rose Hill Campus		
Emily Gossett	University of Miami		
Anna Graham	The University of Edinburgh		
Emanuele Gualandri	Harvard University		
Maya Hariri	Boston University		
Lucy Horgan	Vassar College		
Stefano Joabar	University of Wisconsin,		
	Madison		
Maya Jotwani	Pomona College		
Zubin Jotwani	Claremont McKenna College		
Rami Kablawi	University of Chicago		
Sulaiman Khalaf	University of Kent		
Janna Khalaf	Goldsmiths,		
	University of London		
Milo Kremer	Pomona College		

Annabel Kronfeld Drew Learner Julia Leland Alexander Liederm Hannah Link **Thea Littlewood Zachary Longboy** Lorenzo Maglione Zara Mandel **Sydney Martin** Sebastian Mayr Leif Merlino Marko Milovic **Jack Mullally Hatzn**

Nicholas Muoio

Vishrut Nanda **Jack Neblett** Andrew Noorani **Beck Nunnink** Amin Ojjeh José Orive **Gabriel Perez John Potrykus Gareth Rees Mackenzie Reid Liam Roedy** Maia Roman **Cameron Rosen Maxwell Roth Pierre Roux-Lafarg Trilok Sadarangani** Ana Salitan-Alvare **Mathilde Sarfas Nadia Sawiris Yasmina Sawiris Eden Schulkes** Yael Schulkes Michal Schulkes **Julian Scott Caroline Sheehan Isobel Sheil** Nicolette Sheil **Ilay Sheves Marius Skaerved Georgie Smith Juliana Smith** Maureen Steele **Spencer Swanson Maria Tavierne Anna Timbers Elizabeth Vann** Pamela Villacis Eric Volpert Lucy Webb **Courtney Welch Kristoffer Westgaa** Serena White-Reve

Renata Wilson Lila Wolfson

Rowan Yearley Charlotte Young Rehan Zafar Muhammad Zakaria

Daniel Zimmerman

	Tulane University
	Duke University
	Mount Holyoke College
an	Emory University
	Columbia University
	University College London
	Davidson College University of Notre Dame
	Brandeis University
	New York University
	Dartmouth College
	Loyola Marymount University
	University of Bath
mann	Fordham University —
	Lincoln Center Campus/
	Rose Hill Campus
	University of Miami
	Georgia Institute of Technology
	The University of Texas, Austin
	Tulane University
	University of Pittsburgh
	Stanford University
	Boston University Yale University
	University of Chicago
	Chapman University
	Boston University
	Georgetown University
	Barnard College
	Duke University
	Boston College
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	Duke University
z	University of Richmond
	Lehigh University
	University of Pennsylvania
	Babson College
	Imperial College London
	Northeastern University
	The New School—All Divisions
	University of Surrey Georgetown University
	New York University
	New York University
	Undecided
	Middlebury College
	Wake Forest University
	Wake Forest University
	Johns Hopkins University
	University of Pennsylvania
	Boston College
	Vanderbilt University
	Wesleyan University
	Thomas College
	University of Chicago
	Johns Hopkins University
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	College of William and Mary
	New York University
	Cornell University
	Yale University
	Middlebury College
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News



Robin S. Appleby appointed ASL's eighth **Head of School**

In October, the Board of Trustees announced the appointment of Ms. Robin S. Appleby as the eighth Head of School of the American School in London, commencing 1 July 2017.

Robin is an accomplished educational leader with a wealth of experience in both US independent and international schools. Her experience, knowledge and deep commitment to education are well suited to ASL's mission, core values, and vision for excellence. We look forward to welcoming Robin and her family to campus in July.

Read more about Robin's appointment: www.asl.org > About > Head of School search.

Speakers Series presents a journalism panel on the US election

On 10 October, ASL hosted a journalist panel discussion on the 2016 US presidential election. An ASL tradition during election season, the event. in Head of School Coreen R. Hester's words, is the essence of Speakers Series—to discuss a world event through the lens of our local ASL community. The School Center welcomed parents, students, faculty, staff, parents of alumni, former faculty and staff, and friends for a record-breaking turnout.



Mrs. Hester shared that the journalist panel was one of her favorite ASL events. She introduced the evening's moderators, seniors Martha '17 and Chris '17. The students went on to invite the four panelists to share with the audience a short summary of their careers in journalism.

Jessica Hartogs '00 is an ASL alumna and international journalist. Currently with CNBC, she has worked at various outlets in both New York and London, including CNN International, CBS and AI Jazeera International. Jessica is French and has a deep interest in European politics.

John J. Edwards III P '19 '22 is a current ASL parent and trustee, with children in Grades 7 and 10. He is deputy business editor for Europe, the Middle East and Africa with the Wall Street Journal. He is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists, and served on the board of Children's PressLine, a former New York-based nonprofit dedicated to training young people in journalism.

Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan

P '13 '15 are former co-bureau chiefs for the Washington Post in London. In addition to covering the election, Mary has been working on a book about Donald Trump with a team of journalists including Bob Woodward. Kevin's focus during the run up to the election was on the electorate-researching the nature of Trump supporters. Kevin is a former ASL Bergeron Fellow.

The moderators steered the panel through a series of challenging questions about their experiences reporting on this "highly unusual" election before opening up the questions to the floor.

Reflecting on the event, Mrs. Hester said, "The evening was electric! It's such a measure of our community to have this level of engagement around the import of this moment in US history—clarifying so many issues around the role of media in the presidential campaign."

Read more about the Speakers Series US election panel on www.asl.org > News.



Celebrating culture at the Global Festival

"Our ASL Mosaic"—50 countries, 1,750 attendees, 12,000 bites of food. 85 tables decorated and more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work...the numbers from our enormously successful ICC Global Festival, which took place on 20 March 2016.

"Our festival was about making connections," said festival co-chairs Heidi Rosenwald P '21 '23 and Monica Hottenrott P '22 '23 '25 '27. "It was a day that celebrated the Venn diagram of all the cultural overlaps that define each person in our community."

The chairs remain grateful for the outstanding community support. "We are incredibly privileged to have worked with so many amazing individuals and groups within the School. The continual positive response from the staff, faculty and administration, the pleasure of seeing how much care and thought went into each activity, each stage act, and every single food table---it is overwhelming. A heartfelt thank you to each and every person who helped make it happen."

To view a slideshow and film of the event, visit www.asl.org > News.







Welcome to new **Director of Advancement Beth Crutcher!**

University as well as Princeton

be here. This is a stellar opportunity

Trustee news

Last fall, the ASL Board of Trustees welcomed John J. Edwards III P '19 '22 and Stacey Towfighi P '18 '20 '23 (pictured) as new members.

At the end of the 2015–16 academic year, four trustees retired: Paige Jernigan P '18 '20 '25, Larry Richter P '16 '18. Thomas Sheehan P '16 '19 '23 and Kashif Zafar P '16 '18, to whom we extend our grateful thanks for their dedicated service to ASL.

Read more about the ASL Board of *Trustees on asl.org > About.*

Say Goodbye...









On one of the sunniest days of the summer, faculty and staff gathered in the School Center to bid adieu to much-loved colleagues and friends. In June 2016, we gave a rousing ASL farewell to four teachers and an alumna whose length of tenure at ASL is unlikely to be surpassed any time soon!

Jamie O'Donnell (ASL 2004–16)

Band instructor Jamie O'Donnell has been inspiring students in the finer points of jazz musicianship since his arrival at ASL 12 years ago. As a dedicated composer and musician, specializing in the saxophone, Jamie has enjoyed his years at ASL, where, he says, "Students are encouraged to be musicians, not just to play and pass exams." He holds fond memories of taking a group of ASL musicians to the Honor Jazz Festival in Luxembourg in 2008, a group he remains in touch with to this day and is delighted to report that they are still playing! Jamie plans to spend more time with his sons, Tom, Ben and Dan, as well as perform with his jazz quintet. Watch out for his dates around London, including Club 606 and Ronny Scott's.

Eileen and Jason Cancella P '27 '29 (ASL 2004–16)

The Cancellas arrived in London from New York in the summer of 2004 fresh from teaching at a public school in Washington Heights. Eileen joined the science faculty while Jason became a social studies teacher in the High School. During their time in London, they welcomed daughters Isla '27 and Jasmine '29, who later joined them at ASL. A favorite memory from their time at One Waverley Place is of traveling with students to South Africa on a service-learning adventure and seeing their charges rise to the challenge of being outside their comfort zones. What they will miss most are their collaborative and fun-loving colleagues across the divisions, as well as the students. Eileen says, "ASL has been a wonderful school to teach at, and we will miss it dearly." The Cancella family has moved to Tokyo, a dream of many years, to teach at the American School in Japan.

Suzanne Lituchy P '12 '15 (ASL 2003–16)

Suzanne moved to London from Los Angeles in 2003, with husband Todd and children Alex '12 and James '15, to teach in the Lower School at ASL. During the past 13 years, Suzanne has taught K1 and Grade 3 and her favorite memories of her time here are the many tales that emerge from her interaction with students in the classroom. All who know Suzanne enjoy her plethora of stories gathered over many years. She returns to LA, where Todd works in television, where she can be closer to her children who are in college in the US. Suzanne says, "I'll miss the wonderful children, parents and colleagues at ASL. I have made lifelong connections that I will cherish." Suzanne hopes to follow her passion for writing. She has written a picture book for children, and is working on a young-adult novel.

- Jamie O'Donnell
- 2 Eileen Cancella, right
- 3 Jason Cancella, cente
- 4 Suzanne Lituchy
- 5 Christine and Frank Rudolph
- 6 Coreen R. Hester, Bill Obenshai Barry Sabloff



Christine Rudolph '85 (ASL 1989–2016)

There's absolutely no chance we'll forget Christine Rudolph. Ever. ASL alumna, and a 20-year-plus ASL employee, her name is emblazoned on no fewer than four of the plaques in Waverley Place Reception. In June, School Center Manager Rudolph called time on literally a lifetime of ASL. Christine joined the School in 1972 when her late father, Frank Rudolph (ASL 1972-2000), joined ASL to teach math and

science in the Middle School. Christine joined the Lower School and started to make her mark on ASL.

From her days as a student, her favorite teachers remain Alice lacuessa (ASL 1979–2000), Margot Sreberny (ASL 1971–86), Frances Hall (ASL 1972–2002) and Luke Bergeron (ASL 1973–91), for whom ASL's Bergeron Fellowship is named.

After graduation, Christine couldn't keep away from ASL and returned as a member of the media services team in 1989.

So what will Christine miss about ASL as she heads of into the wild green yonder of rural Suffolk? Unequivocally she responds, "The camaraderie of the people! ASL is a friendly and caring environment; everyone is considerate and kind. I'll miss that." Read more about Christine's experiences at ASL in Alumni news on page 46.

While we're sad to say goodbye to these long-serving members of our ASL family, we send them on their way with our very best wishes and the hope that they won't be strangers. Come back and visit often. We're missing you already!

anna

Bill Obenshain P '92 '92 steps down as Foundation Board chair



Bill Obenshain, founding director of The Foundation (UK) Limited, has stepped down as chair of ASL's Foundation Board. While a parent at the School, Bill served on the ASL Board of Trustees for two years, 1988–90. He joined the Foundation Board in December 1990 and took on the role of president in 1994. He retired officially as Foundation Board chair at the foundation meeting on 9 November 2015, although he remains an active member.

At a dinner in Chicago in April 2016, on behalf of the ASL Board of Trustees, Head of School Coreen R. Hester was honored to award the prestigious Cruikshank Award to Bill to celebrate his dedication to ASL. The event was attended by Bill's family and many colleagues, past and present, in the ASL community.

The Cruikshank Award is presented to members of the ASL community who have distinguished themselves by extraordinary effort and achievements in service to the School over a number of years. The award was established in 1996 to honor Harold T. Cruikshank, a trustee, board chair and foundation director for more than 30 years.

Bill and wife Penny make their home in Chicago. They have been faithful supporters of the School for many years.

Bill and Penny's sons, **Andrew Obenshain '92** and **Gregory Obenshain '92**, attended the School until 1990.



Drum roll for the Annual Fund 2015–16! Thank you to the entire ASL community for the success of our 2015–16 Annual Fund. We are so grateful to those who

Thank you to the entire ASL community for the success of our 2015–16 Annual Fund. We are so grateful to those who shared their talent, time and treasure towards ASL's most important fundraising effort. Led by our chairs, **Stacey and Ali Towfighi P '18 '20 '23**, we think you'll agree that 2015–16 had many highlights.

Parent

participation

513 A record number of parent gifts

£1.62m Donated by the community in 2015–16



414 Surpassed our goal of 400 alumni

gifts



115 Largest ever team of parent volunteers



65% Faculty/staff participation 82%



25 years of giving

In 2016–17, we celebrate our Annual Fund's 25th anniversary. Since 1992, ASL's tradition of Annual Fund giving has helped to ensure an outstanding education for each student. **Marita and Nikos Stathopoulos P '21 '23**, as this year's Annual Fund co-chairs, are leading the community towards our goal of £1.75M.

We hope we can count on your participation in this important ASL tradition. Annual Fund gifts support every teacher and student every day!





ACK in 2010, after much collaboration with the school community, our Board of Trustees outlined areas for growth at ASL, with a promise to transform our educational program from a foundation of strength. These goals included an inclusive and diverse community, long-term financial stability and flexibility, and effective space to meet future needs. Three years later, the New Frontiers campaign was born, with a firm focus on growing our endowment for student financial assistance, bringing 21st century science to ASL, presenting an exemplary visual arts program, expanding physical education, and unlocking the potential of our campus.

Thanks to the generosity of our community—parents, alumni parents, current and former faculty and staff, alumni, grandparents and friends— 2016 saw the dream become a reality. In January, our Community Arts Building opened its doors, complete with a photographic lab, art studios and gallery space. Last fall saw middle school students move into the newly created science labs and MILL (Make Innovate Learn Lab). And the Aquatic & Fitness Center has proved a huge hit, enabling students to swim during PE classesthat final, much-needed strand of our physical education program. What's more, £10M of the £23M raised is held in endowment to enable ASL to attract talented students, regardless of their financial situation.



To honor the dedication of our Head of School, the covered space at the foot of the Community Arts Building has been named the Coreen R. Hester Courtyard.

Students and teachers alike have embraced the new spaces that have enhanced our curriculum, and together with growth in our endowment, *New Frontiers* solidifies ASL's resolve to provide an outstanding American education with a global perspective. Each student benefits—every day. "I am delighted that the *New Frontiers* campaign enabled us to grow our endowment for student financial assistance. At ASL, we are a diverse group of individuals who share a love of learning. Being able to expand our applicant pool to engage talented students from different backgrounds is a vital component of academic excellence. And seeing our students making the most of our new spaces every day at ASL, I'm proud to be a part of a community that believes in our school and made all of this possible. Truly, it's been transformational for ASL."

- COREEN R. HESTER P '02 '04 (ASL 1995-97, 2007-PRESENT), HEAD OF SCHOOL

"Our new swimming pool is a wonderful environment to work in, and has had an immediate impact on our curriculum and the student experience. The whole Aquatic & Fitness Center has the potential to offer a multitude of opportunities for the wider ASL community, and it will be exciting to see it fully developed."

 KATE NEWNS (ASL 2012-PRESENT), PHYSICAL EDUCATION

> "The new Aquatic & Fitness Center has exceeded expectations. Not only is it a beautifully designed space, it also enhances our school's program and offerings in countless ways. Practically all of our athletics teams are using the various facilities regularly, taking advantage of the spaces and equipment, allowing for more diverse training and conditioning, as well as being able to have a swim program for the entire school community. I'm thrilled for our students to have this new facility, and I'm proud of our school and its community for making this extraordinary concept become a reality. As an alumnus, I really hope other alumni will come back to ASL to see this miraculous addition to our already outstanding school."

 JOHN FARMER '97 P '29 (ASL 2012–PRESENT), DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS

Accents 2016–17







"There is so much more space in the labs. Students are no longer on top of each other while doing experiments and investigations, so they have more room to spread out and focus on their work, rather than worry about getting into somebody else's space. The new middle school science hallway has become an extension of the science labs, with students able to perform physics experiments without blocking traffic. From the students' perspective, if they are looking for their teacher, or need extra help and their teacher is not available, having all of the science teachers in one location is advantageous. What's more, with our labs proximity to the MILL, we've all taken advantage of the space in order to help integrate more of the engineering standards into our lessons."

- BELLE HAYWARD (ASL 2007-PRESENT), MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT HEAD

> "New Frontiers enabled fundamental changes for ASL. Beyond adding essential space for art, science and fitness, the Community Arts Building, Waverley Park and the new MS science rooms and HS facade work together to unify the southern end of our campus. When recess is taking place on the playgrounds, and art and science classes are in session, both excitement and learning are on display from all viewpoints. I hope that these spaces are used and enjoyed for many decades to come."

- JIM HEYNDERICKX P '15 '17 (ASL 2007-PRESENT), DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

"The new Community Arts Building offers students rich opportunities to engage with the visual arts in classrooms that are designed for flexible and diverse use. Traditional art-making studios and cutting-edge technological suites exist side by side along with the multi-use Gallery to showcase student work and host events. This is a real community centerpiece for the ASL campus, and we're only just beginning to develop its potential."



- ERIK NIEMI (ASL 2007-PRESENT), VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT HEAD





My ASL Family and Other Animals

AST spring, The Durrells, a TV series set in 1935 and based hour and then re-boarded the plane. A on the memories of a 10-year**old Gerald Durrell living in Corfu** to Tony. The pilot's voice over the tannoy with his impulsive and boisterous family, aired in the UK. The story focuses on Louisa Durrell, a widow, and her four impetuous children— Larry, Leslie, Margo and Gerry. The series was shown in the US last fall.

Gerald Durrell, the youngest of the brood, went on to become a celebrated naturalist, conservationist and author. In 1959, he established the Jersey Zoo, now the flourishing Durrell Wildlife Park. 'Gerry' believed that zoos have a responsibility to save endangered species from extinction. The park's philosophy states, "We are the champions of all animals...including the 'little guys,' the inconspicuous creatures that are just as crucial to the ecology of the planet as the more appealing ones. We speak up for animals that other people forget." At the Durrell Wildlife Park, these species breed and recover in number, while conservationists observe them to determine what steps should be taken to introduce them back into the wild.

So what is the ASL connection? Beginning in the late 60s, Wally Foster (ASL 1968–74), head of the science department, organized a series of ASL middle school trips to Jersey, which included a visit to Durrell's zoo, and the naturalist made a return visit to ASL to address students in the gym. Sally Marlow (ASL 1964-95) and Tony Marlow (ASL 1964-96) went on several of these successful excursions, even though things didn't always go to plan. The first ASL group took a bus to Southampton and then boarded a small plane for the short flight to Jersey. Almost immediately, things went wrong. Five minutes into the flight, the pilot reported engine problems and the need to return to Southampton. Sally, a reluctant flyer, wanted to climb under her seat but was desperate to be a good role model to the 20 students in the rows behind. Back in

Accents 2016–17

BY ALICE IACUESSA P '82 (ASL 1979–2000) &

Southampton, the group waited for an smooth take off..."Phew!" she whispered did not inspire confidence, "Well, I'm not sure we've fixed the problem entirelyit might still be an issue—but we'll soldier on and see what happens!" How Sally managed the rest of the flight is lost to history.

Happily, the group made a safe landing in Jersey and went on to enjoy visiting the zoo, castle, tide pools, and lots more. To this day, Sally remembers that flight and wonders if any of those students remember it too?

Karen Bachant Sellars (ASL 1968–2004) was on the same trip, but since she was even more petrified of flying than Sally, she agreed to go only if she could travel by boat! She sailed, sleeping overnight on the floor of the Jersey ferry, and eventually made her way to meet the group, having missed all the excitement of the flight.

Dave Sutherland (ASL 1970–98)

accompanied Wally Foster on several trips to the Jersey Zoo. Anyone who has read Gerry Durrell's memoirs of living on Corfu knows that he gave endearing names to the animals he collected. There was Augustus Tickletummy, a





spade-footed toad, who liked to lie on his back and have his stomach massaged; and Lampedusa, an owl given to him by the reclusive Countess Mavrodaki. This penchant for giving animals colorful names continued into Durrell's adulthood, and was a feature at the zoo. Dave remembers a variety of these animals with their unusual personalities: Chumley the Chimp was an animal that Durrell bought in Cameroon. It smoked cigars and apparently thought it was human. In Jersey, the ape became very eccentric and developed the habit of mixing his



I am chumley the chimp

faeces with straw and rolling this mixture into balls, which, when provoked, he threw at visitors! Some of the students knew of this habit and would take novices to see Chumley, goading him until he threw his missiles, the experienced students hiding behind the first-time visitors.

The students also had an unusual experience with Pedro the Spectacled Bear. Pedro was the first of what is now a successful program of breeding spectacled bears and reintroducing them back into the wild. Wally and Dave were taking a group of about 15 students around the zoo one morning and their first stop was Pedro's enclosure, which was on a large uphill slope with a little hut in the middle; there was no Pedro in sight. Wally started to explain how these bears were endangered, when Pedro emerged from his hut; the students yelled their approval at his appearance. Wally

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continued his talk explaining that money was needed to get Pedro a mate, only for Pedro to begin to urinate. He must have been coming out of hibernation because he urinated until a little river was flowing toward them at the bottom of his enclosure. Wally was still chirping on, but the students were no longer listening; they were mesmerized by the yellow stream heading swiftly in their direction!

Eventually Pedro finished and sat back on his haunches facing the group in full-frontal pose. Pandemonium ensued; students were laughing to the point of convulsions; others were hiding their eyes; and all the while Wally continued to pontificate about mating schemes, endangered species, and much-needed funds. If there had been smart phones and YouTube in the 70's, the footage would have gotten millions of hits.



Frisky the Mandrill was a special project taken on by the Middle School. Students rallied to raise money for housing and finding a mate for Frisky. Of course, when the students visited the zoo they wanted to see Frisky and would stand outside his cage and yell his name. This spooked the mandrill so much that it hid continuously. Dave is not sure the students ever got to see their beneficiary.

Although the encounters took place more than 40 years ago, many former students treasure their memories from visits to Jersey and talks by Durrell at ASL.

Beth (Lause) Simpson '78 was inspired by her trip to Jersey. She my life to animals and have a very successful training business—thanks to Mr. Durrell for starting me off on the

Laura Benson '76, who took a trip to Durrell's zoo while in Grade 8 at ASL recalls, "We went to Jersey to further our studies of animal conservation.

It was an incredibly inspiring trip, which grew out of a sense of commitment to

David Turner '76 has fond memories of visiting Jersey. He says, "In addition to visiting the wildlife park, I remember the drive from the airport and back, during which we were given an overview of the island's history. As I recall, we were told of a legend that in the medieval era: criminals were thrown from a cliff, but pardoned if they survived (I do not know whether there is any truth to this legend). The wildlife part itself was, of course, the highlight of the trip and indeed a highlight of the three years I spent at ASL."

Jamie Burnett '77 attended the talk at ASL and made the journey to Jersey in was sparked at ASL. Jamie relates, "I was a huge Gerald Durrell fan and had all of his books. I was also a member of the World Wildlife Association and a member of the young zoologist club at the

For Karen Sellars, the connection with the Jersey Zoo lasted long after the school trips. She was inspired by Gerry Durrell's philosophy. Jersey Zoo's conservation ideas stand out in her memory as a reaffirmation of her own view on environmental teaching: handson, out-of-the-classroom learning and conservation. This became part of the ASL science ethos in the years to come. She credits Gerald Durrell's Jersey Zoo with influencing ASL's middle school thinking and contributing much to the environmentally focused trips the Middle School made in later years.

ASL's connection with Gerald Durrell went beyond the zoo. Gerald Durrell was a friend of Marlene Dietrich's daughter, Maria Riva, and she sent several of her sons to ASL, one of whom was David **Riva '79**. He remembers how his family, Gerald Durrell and founding headmaster Stephen Eckard (ASL 1951–71) were close. When David grew up,

he became a lifetime member of the Jersey Zoological Trust, thanks to his engagement with Gerald Durrell as a boy. David spent time with Gerry and wife Jacquie over a period of 30 years. He visited the zoo more than 100 times, traveled extensively with Stephen Eckard, and even rented the cottage owned by Eckard and Peter Waller (ASL 1951-71) on Corfu. This same cottage was purchased some years later by Chris Siegfreid (ASL 1961-98) and Dick Tener (ASL 1969-98). On one trip, David and his family stayed in a little



house not far from where Dr. Theodore Stephanides resided, Gerry's early scientific inspiration, who guided him in all things entomological. At one point, David retraced Gerry's early adventures on Corfu.

David describes Gerry, "He was quite simply a wonder. He was a simple man with grand ideas and a penchant for life. He crisscrossed the globe, following his passion and love for animals. His books are full of humor, life and chaos—just as he was. His zoo is a haven for some of the world's most endangered species, and despite his death in 1995, the work continues in earnest. Gerry's commitment to education and his deep friendship with Peter Waller and Steven Eckard led him to ASL, where he found a good number of us students, eager to delve into the natural world that he had described in his early books. His visits to the School were always a high point. Not a day goes by that I don't miss Gerry, Stephen, and Peter. The three of them inspired and shaped me."





I am Frisky the Mandhill

Durrell was charming and funny, self-deprecating. He told great stories and didn't talk

Grade 6 had the run of the top floor.

I was already a big fan of Gerald

Durrell. When we first moved to London,

I went to a British girls' school and the

teacher read to us every afternoon from

My Family and Other Animals. My mother

and I loved all of his books, so I already

I don't recall how many sixth graders

went on the trip, but it was a big groupmost of the class, I think. One of my most

distinct memories is just being at Gatwick

knew about the zoo and some of the

animals that Durrell had collected.

down to us.



Alumna and past parent Felice Hawley School, then residing at York Gate, where '76 P '13 visited Durrell's zoo in 1970 along with her Grade 6 peers. Here she recalls her happy memories of the trip:

I remember that year, 1969–70, all us Grade 6 students were very active in the World Wildlife Fund (WWF, now the World Wide Fund for Nature). In fact, a chapter of the charity was created just for ASLcomplete with our own button badge, depicting a buffalo head. No doubt at all, we were animal lovers!

A WWF official visited the Middle

Airport—we flew to Jersey and back in a day. It was my first time at Gatwick and it seemed empty, cavernous and very quiet. Every time I go there now and feel how crowded and busy it is, I remember that spring trip to Jersey!

It was still cold and gray at home, and the island seemed so lovely and warm in comparison, with wildflowers growing in the stone walls lining the lanes. The air smelled of flowers.

At the zoo, there was a lot of running around. The mandrills were the big favorite—lots of giggling at the colorful bottom of one specific male. I'm not sure if it was then or later that our class adopted the mandrill-making him 'ours.' And I always had a thing for owls and there were a few of those.

It was an attractive place, and felt more 'natural' than London's zoo, certainly; smaller, with more unusual animals.

After visiting the zoo, in the late afternoon, we headed for the beach. We didn't swim, but we took our shoes off and had a ball trying to catch little white crabs, and running in and out of the waves. As the sun went down and it started to get cold, I felt something move beneath my bare feet. I screamed, and some of the boys— Michael Maisonpierre '76 and Danny Posen '76—made fun of me for squealing. But when I bent down to take a look, I realized it was a good sized, grown up, red crab!

We had a big discussion about how I was going to get a live crab back home. Somehow we managed it, because the crab eventually ended up in formaldehyde, on display in our science classroom-my first donation to ASL!

A couple of years later when I was in high school, a much smaller group went on a biology trip to Jersey. This time, we stayed overnight in a B&B. I roomed with Darcy Dowd '76 and spent time with Charles Francis '76, who later became a naturalist himself. He was one of the 'big brains' of our year.

We spent a whole, blustery day at the zoo—it was freezing. We each had to pick an animal and write it up.

A year after my first visit to Jersey, Gerald Durrell visited ASL. My mother was jealous! He drew pictures in the original gym in what was the 'new' school on Loudoun Road.

Durrell was charming and funny, self-deprecating. He told great stories and didn't talk down to us.

- Marlene Dietrich







The American School in London

- Roger Jones '59 and classmates at
- ASL ninth grade graduation, 1956 Bob Carter with Janet Warren '72
- **3** Clay Michels '74 with wife Lacey
- 4 Richard Johnson '77 and mom
- Stefanie Hite '80, right with daughter Cori
- 6 Maureen Fossum '78 reunites with Cynthia Butler '78 at an alumni event in April
- 7 Jennifer, Robert and Brennan Brandorff

Class notes



'58

ASL's first student, **Bob Crawford**, was interviewed by a Standard reporter about his experience as one of eight pupils meeting for lessons in Stephen Eckard's flat in the school's inaugural year. Studying science and other subjects atop Eckard's dining room table, his favorite memories are the numerous field trips he went on, from the British Museum to St. Paul's Cathedral.

'59

Roger Jones recently contacted us to share photos of his Grade 9 ASL graduation in 1956, when former President Truman attended the ceremony.

'61 During his visit to ASL in October, on his way home to Washington from Lebanon, Jim Bexfield regaled the advancement office with stories about his childhood in London, where he lived while his dad, an Air Force colonel, was stationed as the lead planner for the Mediterranean fleet. During the Lebanon Crisis in 1958, his dad disappeared for six weeks to put an

action plan into place. Jim credits ASL for turning him into a good student and fostering his love of math. He was especially impressed with the new MILL and to learn of our thriving robotics program, which is directly related to the work he does in irregular warfare modeling and analysis.

62

After teaching stints in Wisconsin, West Africa and New York, Roger Brown resigned from everything and moved to France. He writes, "I've been looking for classmate Nick Brewer for more than 50 years!"

'72

Janet Warren and husband Paul visited the School during a week-long trip to London. They stayed near Regent's Park and saw lots of shows. Janet shared the story of her good friends Rod Bell and Susan MacLeod, who were married in 2007. Rod had first contacted Sue through a letter he sent her through the ASL alumni office. She almost threw it away-but luckily, she opened the letter, met up with Rod and fell in love! Janet had fond memories of theater at ASL and currently works in the arts, fundraising for a theater organization in Vermont, where she and Paul live. She also remembers a high school trip to Greece, which Bob Carter (ASL 1969-2014) accompanied. She had to take a boat to Athens to take her SATs at the American School there.















'74 In September, Clay Michels returned to ASL with wife Lacey. The couple was visiting from Oklahoma. Clay spent his first year of ASL at the Working Men's College near Camden before moving to the current campus, and vividly remembers Margaret Thatcher's controversial visit. He was cast in the movie Baxter! starring Scott Jacoby (and filmed in the ASL library!), which proved to be the first of many celebrity encounters while living in London. During art class with **Bear Van Wyck** (ASL 1972–85), prospective parent Julie Andrews walked in. Over the winter break, Clay stocked shelves at Panzers, a favorite haunt of Paul McCartney. He later saw his second Beatle while flipping burgers at an American diner near Harrod's. Still, Clay considers his most memorable experience to be the night he was arrested in Vienna following his track meet final, and John Lockwood (ASL 1967-2007), Bob Carter (ASL 1969–2014) and Eddie Hufford (ASL **1967–2005)** had to bail him out!

'75 Jeff Lazo visited ASL with his wife in early May 2016.

'77 Richard Johnson writes, "I have completed 11 years as a religion professor at East Texas Baptist University. My wife, Susan, and I just celebrated our 34th anniversary."

'78 Maureen (Schumacher) Fossum P '14 and husband Marty attended the opening of the Community Arts Building in celebration of Founder's Day, and ASL's 65th anniversary.

'80 Stefani Hite and her daughter Cori spent time in Germany, Switzerland and France prior to visiting London and ASL. Stefani was keen to see how the School has changed since she graduated. Cori, who is studying environmental geology at the University of Pittsburgh, was impressed with the new science labs.

An ASL engagement

Polynomial equations weren't the only things adding up in Charles Chadwick's (ASL 1975–94) Algebra II class in the winter of 1979. For new students John Pepper '81 and Susan (Shephard) Mitrev '81, love was part of the curriculum too. The pair fast became two peas in a (Top Green) pod, kindling their romance on their commute through St. John's Wood tube station, and even in Frankfurt Airport, where they were stranded all night after Sue's lost passport prevented her from returning to London with the rest of her Alternatives trip. "I stayed with her because she was so freaked out." recalled John. Thirty-five years later, and 5,000 miles from their Austin, TX, home, John took Sue back to the SJW tube station to ask for her hand in marriage. "I was completely surprised," Sue gushed. "It was so romantic and perfect for me." Accompanied by Sue's sister Caryn (Shephard) Francis '82 (secretly assigned to capture the proposal with her camera), the couple made their way to campus for a celebratory tour of the School. John and Sue will say "I do" in June 2017 in the Texas Hill Country. Lucky for them, they share their engagement anniversary with both Founder's Day and the Queen's birthday! "I feel so lucky to have reconnected with John after 30+ years," Sue said. "He truly is the best man I know." Here's to ASL's 65 years, Her Majesty's 90, and many, many more for our newest ASL sweethearts.

'81

Brennan Brandorff stopped off at ASL during a vacation to London with his wife, Jennifer, and their son Robert. The family was visiting from their home near Denver. ASL was a must-see on their trip, according to Jennifer, as she had been waiting their whole marriage to see Brennan's beloved alma mater! Brennan talked fondly of being coached by **Bob Carter** and winning the soccer ISSTs. He still has a scar on his hand from climbing over the Bruce House fence to retrieve a ball! Brennan is a teacher at Red Rocks Community College in Colorado.





"Grit-lit" author Karen (Sconiers) White

published her 21st novel in May, Flight Patterns, about a young heroine who has to confront her past and family secrets during a return visit to the Florida coast. Look for her latest book, The Guests on South Battery, due out in January.

Susan (Armacost) Fisher and her son Chris '16 stopped by ASL to see the Lower School. They were in town as a special 18th birthday treat for Chris.

'84 In May, Scott Berk visited with wife Diana from Norway, Maine. An oil brat, Scott spent five years in London and at ASL, where he got stuck in the heavymetal music scene and played rugby. He also discovered his love of rock climbing with the help of Eddie Hufford (ASL **1967–2005**), who hired him as a gym janitor (giving him free rein to abseil along





the gym's climbing walls at all hours of the day-or night). He also fondly recalled the Space Invaders arcade game that provided much entertainment in the Commons. Scott stays busy as owner of a boutique coffee shop, the Nomad Cafe.

'85

Oonagh Stransky recently translated Pope Francis's book, The Name of God is *Mercy*. Published internationally, the work received significant praise from major literary critics. This is Oonagh's 10th book-length literary translation. Visit her website for more information, www. oonaghstransky.com.

'87

Jeremy Arnold shares exciting news about the publication of his book, The Essentials: 52 Must-See Movies and Why They Matter. It's a companion to TCM's ongoing, weekly "Essentials" franchise that highlights the most significant and influential films ever made.

'89

Over the summer, Jeff Majka visited campus with his partner, Holly Mullikin. Jeff lives in Alexandra, Virginia. Following their London visit, the couple was headed to Paris.

In December 2015, Glenn Richter came to ASL with wife Kyra. They live in southwest Michigan, not far from Chicago, where the couple works in the nuclear power industry. When Glenn isn't busy mitigating cyber threats to plant and public safety, he likes to build motorcycles, play soccer in a local league, and blog about preparing fancy meals.











'90

For the past seven years, Nicole Friederichs has been teaching at a law school in the Boston area, where she has been living since attending Mount Holyoke College. She and her partner, Elizabeth, have two adopted children, Ella (5) and Benjamin (3). Elizabeth is working on her Ph.D. dissertation on equal access to college education through Brandeis University.

During a tour of the facilities, former lower school student Robert Mozeleski was amused to find his photo on the history timeline display. He and his family live in northern Virginia, where Rob works for Charon Technologies.

'91

Brandon J. Bakshi P '27 '30 reported that Kevin Benz '05 recently joined his BMI office as an executive. Additionally, Matt Backer '78 is a singer/songwriter.

Goli Metghalchi recently opened up a new yoga studio, Total Chi, on London's Baker Street. Visit the studio's website to learn more, www.totalchi.com.

In 2011, Rhodie (Laurie) Lorenz co-founded JoyRide Cycling Studio,



www.joyridestudio.com, in Connecticut's Fairfield County."

'92

Maha Chehlaoui's New-York based company, Noor Theatre, received a highly coveted Obie Award, which honor excellence in off-Broadway theater. The company, founded by Maha in 2009, is dedicated to developing and producing the work of Middle Fastern artists.

Conor McGowan visited ASL with wife Liz and his former teacher and tutor Lois St. Pierre (ASL 1978-2009). The couple lives in Auburn, Alabama, where Conor works at Auburn University.

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- **1** John Pepper '81 and Susan (Shephard) Mitrey '81 on their Alternatives trip in Bramberg, Germany in 1980
- **2** John Pepper '81 and Susan (Shephard) Mitrey '81. moments after they got engaged at SJW Tube!
- **3** Scott Berk '84 and wife Diana Arcadipone
- 4 Robert Mozeleski '90 discovers his photo on the history board!
- **5** Rhodie (Laurie) Lorenz '91, leading a class at JoyRide
- 6 Conor McGowan '96 with wife Liz and Lois St. Pierre
- 7 Roy Ray '96 and wife Kathy
- 8 Sarah Zachariah '97
- 9 Sara Wisnieski '98 with her family

'97

Roy Ray stopped by campus with his wife in August. They live in Michigan, where he works for an energy corporation that specializes in infrared technology.

Sarah Zachariah couldn't wait to return to the School Center stage when she visited ASL during a work trip in June. Her drama classes with Jan Mikrut (ASL 1974–98) and Buck Herron (ASL **1998–present)** were very formative for her. Sarah has recently started her own company and is a special educator for blind children. She has worked with children around the US, most recently in the Seattle public school district, where she is based.

Ium

3.

- Alexandra Sophie Lander, daughter of Isabelle Stransky '98 2 Viggo Oakley with new brother Oscar
- 3 George Ellis
 - 4 Francis Dahl '03 helped produce an award-winning interactive game for Nickelodeon
 - **5** RD Van Scoy '04 with fiance Kelsey and **Kevin Conatv**
- 6 Lauren Talmor '07 and Tsafrir Livne
- 7 Kelly Anderson '08 with Buck Herron







'98 Isabelle Stransky (ASL 2004–13) and husband Clint Lander welcomed Alexandra Sophie on 21 August. Yes, her initials are ASL! The family of three lives in Sydney, Australia.







In June, Sarah (Tierney) Wisnieski stopped by ASL for a tour with her whole family: sister Lauren '03, mom Barbara, husband George, son William, and daughter Genevieve.

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Jessica (Hartogs) Oakley joined the panel of journalists who presented on the media's coverage of the US presidential election as part of ASL's Speakers Series. She and her husband, Harry, welcomed their second child, Oscar, on 25 August, who joins big brother Viggo!

After earning degrees at McGill University and University College London, Andrew Wade is studying at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.



'01

Earlier this year, Nick Price visited campus with new wife Jen. In fact, they were on their honeymoon, making their way to Portugal via London. Nick left ASL in middle school but has vivid memories of his time here. His sister Katie '98 lives and works in Africa, while Nick works in real estate in San Diego.

'02

Tomas Bretas stopped by ASL during a visit to London to see his sister and her husband, who live in Leytonstone. He is based in Madrid, where he works as a video game translator, translating English games into Portuguese. He is originally from Brazil. After graduating from ASL, he studied at London's Regent's College, eventually returning to Brazil to earn a degree in animal husbandry.

Meghan (Rathman) Ellis and husband Mike welcomed their beautiful baby boy, George Edward Ellis, on 21 October 2015. George joins big brother Henry, and the family lives in San Francisco.

'03

After receiving the 2015 Princess Grace Award Apprenticeship, Josh Brody took up residence at the La Jolla Playhouse, where he directed, The Last Tiger in Haiti. The play enjoyed a run at the Berkeley Repertory Theatre too. Prior to earning his MFA at UC San Diego, Josh studied at Yale.

Congratulations to Francis Dahl and his team at Nickelodeon International for winning the prize for Best Online Interactive Experience at the Cynopsis Kids Imagination Awards. Francis, who lives in New York, helped produce a Spongebob Squarepants search-and-find game praised for its engaging, challenging fun.

'04

In June, Jack Lowey visited ASL with his parents, Mark and Ann, sister Liz '07, and fiancée Kaitlin. They caught up with Pete Lutkoski (ASL 2003present), who nurtured Jack's passion for the drums. The Loweys also said hello to Terry Gladis P '27 '30 (ASL 1998–present), Jodi Warren (ASL 1988-present), Bhupendra Patel (ASL 1998–present), Salma Raza '93 (ASL 2005-present), Stan Ratoff (ASL 1982-present) and Lorraine Davis (ASL 2002-present). Jack is enjoying his MBA program in Chicago and also volunteers for a nonprofit music school for underprivileged children. Mark and Ann moved back to LA after eight years in Saudi Arabia and almost two decades outside of the US.

R.D. Van Scoy and fiancée Kelsey stopped by ASL to say hello to Kevin Conaty (ASL 1991–present) and Bill Kenney (ASL 1990-present). The couple was in town meeting up with a few of R.D's ASL class-mates who were collectively celebrating their 30th birthdays. The couple, who will marry in April, live in Austin.

'06

Luciana Inglis visited campus with brother George '10 and mother Anna to see the new facilities. The Mellon Library brought back fond memories for Luciana, who proudly remembered librarian Jude Bailey (ASL 1981-2007) telling her that she had checked out more books than anyone else. After studying at William & Mary, Luciana earned her master's in library science at the University of Maryland and now works as an analyst for the Department of Defense. George lives in Atlanta and is completing the third year of a PhD program in genetics.

'07

Lauren Talmor paid a visit to ASL last December and had lunch with Marika Ison. After graduating from ASL, Lauren returned to Israel and completed two years of army service, followed by law school. She wants to continue her studies as a PhD candidate in the US. UK or Canada. In May, Lauren married Tsafrir Livne in Israel.

Want to connect with ASL? Learn about upcoming alumni events? Have an update to share?

Contact your Class Agent! For more information,

email alumni@asl.org.

2015

2013 Deirdre Ely

2011

2010

2006

2004

2002

2000

2005

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1999

1998

The American School in London

'08

In September, Buck Herron's Advanced Acting class welcomed back Kelly Anderson. The alumna offered her top tips about how to break into the film production industry. Based in LA, Kelly works as an executive assistant at Chernin Entertainment.

On 2 October, NFL quarterback Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts took on the Jacksonville Jaguars at London's Wembley Stadium. Andrew was a lower school student, 1995–98. After signing a new six-year-contract with the Colts this summer, he has become the highestearning player in NFL history.

'10

Colleen Oberg works as an account manager for an advertising agency in New York. Thanks to Erik Niemi's (ASL **2007–present)** class, she has a soft spot for her team's "creatives" and still remembers the mock ad for a Gray's hockey stick she designed in his class. Colleen also said a special hello to Bill Kenney (ASL 1991–present) and Derek Fleming (ASL 2000–present), who tirelessly counseled her in science. Currently applying for MBA programs, the



1997

1994 Doug Gilbert

1991

1967

Andrea Tebbets

1964

1962

1961

LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

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

- London Calling: the alumni e-newsletter
- Invitations to events in DC, London, Connecticut, New York and more

mmmmmmm

- Access to ASL Switchboard, our new networking platform
- Send us your details! Email alumni@asl.org.

Colgate grad keeps drawing on her ASL experience for the essay prompt, "What are the benefits of a diverse community?"

***111** Jesse Bandeen is living in San Francisco and working as an account executive at TriplePoint, the video game PR firm that turned Pokémon Go into a global phenomenon!

'12

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Iumni

Over the summer, **Lars Skattum** moved to Chicago to begin his job as an investment banking analyst for William Blair.

'13

Sophie Rittenhouse is making waves at William & Mary, where she is a senior. After competing for a spot on Great Britain's swim team at the Olympic trials in Glasgow last May, her record-breaking race made her the fastest backstroke swimmer in William & Mary history.

In January, **Natalia Sollecito** traveled to Nicaragua on a medical and dental service trip, bringing healthcare and aid to rural communities. The experience brought to mind her service learning trip to Mexico while at ASL.

'14 Issy Kelly interned at Warner Brothers Studio in LA, working in the film's music rights department.

Lights, camera, action! **Ben Konigsberg** appeared in a season 2 episode of *Orange is the New Black*. In addition, he was cast as the lead in *Quitters*, a film that appeared in the 2015 South by Southwest film festival. Ben played Glenn Close's son in the film *Anesthesia*, a Tribeca Film Festival entry.

Peter Skow had the starring role in Dartmouth College's production of *King Lear* last fall.

Chris Fisher '16 with mom

'1.5 Last summer, **Hanna Barakat** returned to ASL with best friend **Thomas Brooks**. The pair met at ASL in elementary school and have remained best friends ever since, despite the long distance. Thomas is a college sophomore in Michigan, and Hanna is at UCLA. She was in London completing an internship at UCL in the leukemia research lab, while Thomas was gearing up for an abroad program in Norway.

After spending a gap year in Spain and Italy, studying Spanish and art history, **Alexandra Zirinis** is now a freshman at Davidson College.

'16

Ethan Coffey and his mother, **Holly**, came to campus during a recent trip to London. Their family lives in Oklahoma, where Ethan is studying electrical engineering at college. A former lower school student, Ethan enjoyed catching up with **Patrick Lee (ASL 1995–98: 2002–present)**.

Susan (Armacost) Fisher '82

Faculty News

After a sequence of incredible coincidences, former high school vice principal **Dr. Richard Ayling** (ASL 1972-74) and former woodwork teacher **Tim Watson** (ASL 1973-2007) got together for an impromptu lunch at Hall & Woodhouse Brewery in Blandford St. Mary, Dorset, last summer. Richard was thrilled to share that for the first time in his life (he had just turned 80) he had scored less than his age on a round of golf!





- 1 Girls volleyball, one of the teams the won gold in the ISSTs
- 2 The late Eddie Hufford

Overleaf

- 1 Christine Rudolph, kneeling up at LS Field Day
- 2 Christine posing for HS Prom in 1984 with Mark Mueller '84
- 3 Christine
- 4 Coreen Hester, Buck Herron, Charlie Diamond '08
- 5 L–R Mark Sikes, Elna Baker '00, Nick Trotta '07, Buck Herron and Fiona Tarazi '02
- 6 Coreen Hester with panelists Bill lacuessa, Joyce Anderson, Roger Corrigan, Bob Carter and moderator John Farmer '97

Alumni NGXS

ASL wins 2015–16 Eddie Hufford Trophy

What could be better than a recordbreaking year of ISST victories? Having the trophy to prove it! In September, ASL won the 2015–16 Eddie Hufford Trophy, awarded to the school with the best overall ISST results. To quote the plaque that now resides proudly in Director of Athletics John Farmer '97's office, this award is presented to the school that best "...reflects the high standards of sporting excellence that has always been a fundamental principle of ISST participation." This is the third time that ASL has won the trophy since its inception in 2006, breaking Cobham's four-year winning streak and announcing a new, triumphant chapter for ASL

athletics. "This award is for everyone: coaches, varsity athletes, the Middle School and JV players who start there and work their way up," John declared recently. "It speaks to the strength of our overall program and the values of hard work and enthusiasm that all of our coaches work to instill in our student athletes." Considered "the Godfather of ISSTs." the late Eddie Hufford (ASL 1967-2005) was a beloved mainstay of ASL's PE department for more than 30 years. His vision for a competitive league of international high school teams became the foundation for the modern ISSTs, which celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2007. "He was the man!" John lauded, adding that Mr. Hufford taught him PE in Grade 4. Alumni the world over feel the same way and still talk about Mr. Hufford's humor and his stories.



WELCOMES its

ISST friends

Thanks to the outstanding efforts of ASL's athletic program, Eddie's legendary legacy lives on—in our hearts and in our trophy case. Well done, Eagles. You've done Eddie Hufford proud!

lumni

Christine Rudolph '85! Lower school troublemaker, Old Vic Theatre intern, globetrotter, alumna, recipient of no less than three awards: the Endurance, the Uplift and finally upon her departure, the Sunny Neutze. After 39 years in the ASL fold, School

Take a bow,

Center Manager Christine Rudolph '85 (ASL 1989—2016) has added one more title to her eclectic, accomplished mix: former staff member.

Seizing the opportunity to be a country-home caretaker (thanks to Sue Cielinski P '08 '12!), Christine has traded London for Suffolk—and the backstage for the great outdoors. "The aim was to leave the city, and this fell right into our laps," Christine explained.



The same could be said for her ASL career, which she began unassumingly after she studied at Bradley University and moved from Illinois to Londonagain. The first time was in 1972, when her dad, Frank Rudolph (ASL 1972-2000), an educator in Chicago, accepted a Grade 7 teaching position at ASL and took his family abroad. Christine was five years old. "I was a naughty, mischievous kid even in kindergarten," she admitted with a laugh. Frank once overheard several teachers ranting about a student in the staff lounge. As soon as they saw him, they immediately fell quiet, because the student they were complaining about was his daughter. "That probably

always in trouble." Nearly two decades later, Christine was the subject of another discussion between faculty members when Media Coordinator Keith Bing

happened a lot," Christine said. "I was

(ASL 1981–2003) asked Frank what Christine's post-college plans were. "Lying on the couch eating potato chips," Frank wryly responded. Keith was in need of a new technician and wanted someone with institutional knowledge to join his team. Christine fit the bill.

"I wasn't looking for a job, I was just found," Christine remembered. For the next 20 years, Christine could be found in the library with Keith, Bruce Yudoff (ASL 1990–95), and Chris Clark (ASL **2003–14)**, gaining and growing with the expanding needs of the AV department. By the time she took the reins of the brand new School Center in 2009, the 16mm films used to enhance lessons had been replaced by videos and DVDs, to say nothing of the iPads and plasmas used today.

In preparation for her new job, Christine took a sabbatical to study up on theater technology, from lighting design and staging to health and safety and management. The highlight of Christine's time off was a six-week apprenticeship at the Old Vic Theatre, where she rubbed shoulders with Kevin Spacey and Rosamund Pike. "The level of professionalism at the Old Vic was really impressive," Christine said. "It gave my work at ASL greater focus."

Last year, Christine took another time-out from ASL, this time to travel. Her seven-month circumnavigation included several pit stops with fellow ASL alumni and past staff: Jasper Weener '97 in Dubai, Patrick Benz '98 in Bali, Nicole Graf '85 in New Zealand, Alison (Balas) Braun '87, Isabelle Stransky '98 (ASL 2004-13) and Reinhardt Sosin (ASL 2007–12) in Australia, Catriona Moffat (ASL 1990-94) in Santiago, and former colleague Keith Bing and his wife, Sharon Bing (ASL 1994-2003) in Florida.

And while this fourth departure from One Waverley Place might be her last, this next chapter will most certainly include the ASL community. "I'll miss the people the most," Christine reflected recently, adding that the manner in which her colleagues relate to one another has always been friendly, caring and considerate. "I've been very lucky," she said wistfully. As has ASL, for counting this alumna/staff member as one of its own, with so many hats, for so many years.











their creative contribution."



The American School in London

Accents 2016–17

join Buck Herron and **Coreen R. Hester for** brunch in New York

representing ASL's past," Buck remarked about the brunch. "We should all be so proud of them and continue to celebrate



Performing arts alumni See how far we've come!

Spirits (and views) were high in April 2016, as members of the ASL community convened on the top floor of the new Community Arts Building for our "see how far we've come" Founder's Day event. Nearly 100 alumni, parents of alumni, and current and former faculty and staff gathered in the HS art studio to celebrate ASL's 65th birthday. The highlight of the evening for many was a much-anticipated former faculty Q&A panel. Panelists included long-serving coach, PE teacher, athletics director and Summer Program director **Bob Carter** (ASL 1969–2014), teacher, coach and technology director Bill lacuessa P '82 (ASL 1979–2000), computer and math teacher Joyce Anderson (ASL 1980-**2012)** and social studies teacher and tennis coach Roger Corrigan (ASL 1971-2010). Moderated by alumnus, parent and Director of Athletics John Farmer '97 P '29 (ASL 2012-present), the panel shared many funny, moving and surprising stories, from Bob's numerous field trip adventures, to Joyce's recent encounter with a former student who recognized her in a supermarket car park! Guests really did have the opportunity to see how far we've come, as they enjoyed stories from ASL's past and admired the view from top floor windows of the Community Arts Building as the sun set over our brand new Waverley Park playground.



Save the dates!

Please join us for an ASL alumni event in 2017!

- 3 March: Washington, DC
- **1** April: Springfest (London)
- 23 April: Connecticut
- 24 April: New York
- Stay tune for more details and more events!
- Visit the alumni portal on the ASL website for more details and updates (www.asl.org/alumni)



Save the date for the Auction: 10-18 March 2017

The auction is a biennial community event and one of the most anticipated in the school's calendar. This year's One of a Kind Auction is set to fund not only the PCA's two-year operating budget, but also to advance next-generation learning opportunities at ASL. Stay tuned for how you can get involved!

For more information on this year's event, visit www.asl.org/auction.







estate plans.

In our Annual Report, we are honored to include the names of those in our community who leave a bequest to ASL, or who are members of our Ten-year and Twenty-year societies. With gratitude, we acknowledge their loyalty to our school.

A bequest

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

If you are thinking about including the School in your estate plans, and would like to explore the best options for you and your family, please contact Director of Advancement Beth Crutcher, +44 (0)20 7449 1260 or beth_crutcher@asl.org.

In memoriam

Alumni and parents of alumni

Daniel Coughlin P '79 '81 '83 '89, ASL Foundation Board director

Janet Minden '74 '75 '76 '76 '78, the first woman to serve on ASL's Board of Trustees, on 27 March 2016

Former faculty and staff

Helen Blum (ASL 1967–2000) passed away on 27 April 2016. Helen was a beloved LS teacher, who taught Grades 3 and 4 at ASL for 33 years. Hired by founding headmaster Stephen L. Eckard (ASL 1951–71), Helen's ASL career began at York Terrace, and she taught at Gloucester Gate before moving to the school's current location in St. John's Wood. Helen is dearly missed by her many friends and former colleagues.

Anne Clay (ASL 1968–2006) passed away on 29 January 2017. Anne served the School for 38 years, and will be remembered as "the voice of ASL" for her work as chief telephonist and information and facilities coordinator. Since her retirement, Anne lived in Cyprus. She was predeceased by partner Mark, with whom she was interred in her local village. Anne is survived by her children, Louise and Richard, and will be missed by the many friends and colleagues from her time at ASL.

David Sox (ASL 1974–93) passed away at his home in Palm Springs, California, on 28 August 2016. He died of cancer. In addition to teaching in the Middle School, David was a published author and historian. He also served as the assistant chaplain at Cranbook School in Michigan, where Mitt Romney was one of his pupils.

American **Memorial** Collection

Celebrate a teacher, coach, graduate or friend by naming a book in the Mellon Library Collection in his or her honor. Friends of the Libraries (FOTL) invites you to write a personalized inscription, select a title, and dedicate it to an ASLer of your choice. A gift card acknowledging the donation is sent to the recipient; however, recognitions can also remain anonymous if desired. The inscribed book is a lasting gift to the permanent collection of the Mellon Library.

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



The American School in London

One Waverley Place London NW8 ONP



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