The American School in London Accents

Fall '10

#### **Cover portrait:**



#### **Bonny Astor '10**

Tanya, 2010 Oil on paper

Bonny was a student at ASL from when she joined K1 in 1996, making her a "lifer" in the Class of 2010. She has a younger brother, Alfred '13.

#### Accents, Fall '10

© The American School in London The American School in London One Waverley Place London NW8 ONP United Kingdom T +44 (0)20 7449 1200 F +44 (0)20 7449 1350 alumni@asl.org www.asl.org

The magazine is mailed without charge to current parents, alumni and former faculty and staff, and to many parents of alumni and friends of the School.

#### Editor: Wendy Robinson

Contributors: Cathy Adams, Diana Adamson, Andrew Bentley, Joanna Bielska, Robyn Chapel, John Clark, Martin Drexler, Dervla Flynn, Tina Fox, Greg Gerken, Chris Goff, Frances Hall, Buck Herron, Erin Herzeelle, Coreen R. Hester, Anna Higgins '09, Laurie Hindley, Anna Ho '10, Mary Jordan, Alex Knaster, Alice lacuessa, Donne Lancia, Tosh Lee, Sandy Lloyd, Peter Lutkoski, Patrick Mahany, Peter Mahoney, Mike McKeen, Annabel Lucy Smith, John Smithies, Yolandi Strydom, Traci Tucker, Bill Voge

Photography: Craig Prentis, Astonleigh Studio, Phil Sayer, Erin Herzeelle, Jonathan Root, Wendy Robinson, Peter Mahoney, Lesley Yeo

Feature illustrations: Jacinta Sullivan

Design and art direction: Powell Allen Ltd

Printer: Finlay Printing, USA

The American School in London, founded in 1951, is an independent, non-profit,

college preparatory day school for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. The student body comprises 1,350 boys and girls who represent more than 50 nationalities.

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

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







The anatomy of curriculum Director of Curriculum and Instruction Robyn Chapel examines curriculum review

I think, therefore I am... a scientist, a poet, a musician Science teacher Chris Goff Peter Lutkoski, Head of Performing follows the progress of the Arts, looks at disciplinary thinking robotics program at ASL and the Music Tour



**Commencement 2010** Commencement for the Class of 2010 at Westminster Central Hall



Gallery	3
Letters to the editor	4
Trustee news	Ę
Spotlight on London	22
Class notes	30
Family notes	39
Faculty notes	40
Events	42
In memoriam	4



Drama

Megan McGilchrist: work in print **2010 Bergeron Fellow Nii Parkes** A shining example: ASL launches Hot off the press: Perspectives **Global Festival** Nirvana: A connection in India con

Haiti appeal raises £20,816 Athletics



**Robots among us** 



	24
	24
	24
Saturday program for local students	25
	25
	26
tinues	27
	27
	29
	29

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

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

Michael P. Spies, Vice Chair Mark E. Sohn, Company Secretary Coreen R. Hester, Head of School Hassan Alaghband Robert D. Bandeen Lisa H. Bennett Andrew M. Bentley Hyman K. Bielsky Alison L. Blood Karen L. Brush **Caroline Clark** Michael R. Ericksen Lori E. Fields Alexander M. Knaster Donna M. Lancia Karsten N. Moller Sanjay H. Patel William A. Plapinger Victoria K. Robertson William H. Roedy Mark E. Sohn Michael P. Spies William T. Tucker William H. Voge

#### Advisor to the Board of Trustees Richard A. Bailey

#### The American School in London Foundation

William A. Obenshain, President Coreen R. Hester, Head of School Albert D. Angel Daniel F. Coughlin Timothy Craighead John R. Farmer David E. Fife '89 William C. Mules Barry M. Sabloff William L. Scheffler '66 Ellen R. Stofan R. Philip Wheeler Susan Wilen

**Ex Officio Members** Cathleen Wolfe '86, President,

Alumni Association The American School in London

Foundation (UK) Limited William A. Obenshain, President Hyman K. Bielsky Karen L. Brush



#### Letter from the Head of School

This issue of Accents celebrates the wonderful, multi-faceted life of ASL and delves into the heart of how we look at the School's educational program—the curriculum.

In many ways, curriculum can be defined as anything and everything that happens for students during a school day. The central experience of the living mission statement is in the classroom. But what we "teach" and what students "learn" happens not only in the classroom but also on the athletic fields, in the concert hall, at the rehearsals, during a collaborative project, in our laboratories, and on our many extraordinary trips. Anytime and all the time.

And because time is so precious, ASL educators keep the important guestions front and center: What should students know, do, and understand? Educator and psychologist Jerome Brunner clearly states in The Process of Education, "We might ask, as a criterion for any subject taught in school, whether, when fully developed, it is worth an adult's knowing, and whether having known it as a child makes a person a better adult." And what is our answer to that question when we consider that our current students will be in full career stride in 2040 and beyond?

In this issue, Robyn Chapel, our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, answers these, and other, questions in her article about curriculum review. She reports on the educational philosophy and methods we are using to educate ASL students for the future. It's a compelling task, and we love it. They do, too.

Other related features include an article on the role of performing arts, in particular the Music Tour, from Head of Performing Arts Peter Lutkoski; a look at how the Robotics program has evolved, by Grade 8 science teacher Chris Goff; and a report on the Commencement exercises for the Class of 2010.

Warm regards,

Cour R. Astu

Coreen R. Hester Head of School

Left: Harrison Lake '21 Head of School. 2010. mixed media Harrison joined the School in 2007 in K1, although his family has been part of the ASL community since 1999. and a sister. Katherine '15.

#### Below: Max Bueno '17 Cobalt. 2010. pen, fluorescent marker and iridescent ink

Max created this insect by borrowing body parts from a variety of other insects. He He has a brother, Spencer '13, was inspired by the artwork of Mark Fairnington, who creates huge, lifelike paintings of insects based on collections at the National History Museum. Max started at ASL in Grade 5 in fall 2009.





November 2009



#### Dear Editor,

It has been years since I last trod upon any ASL grounds, and I am sure that things are much different now than they were when I was there (1977-85). I felt that the article in the Fall '09 Accents on third culture children was incredibly meaningful to me and probably to many past and present students. While I spent only seven years at ASL, I had lived merely the first six months of my life in the United States when I returned to Houston, TX, for university in 1991.

The world has gotten smaller since then, but the cultural challenges that one faces when coming "back" can be considerable. It is more than simply explaining, "Where are you from?" but also dealing with people with less knowledge and acceptance of other cultures.

Since landing back in the States in 1991, I have yet to move city, let alone country, but still the wanderlust developed in my youth rears itself frequently with a desire to get off this continent.

Russell Adams '91

### Trustee news

#### Four new members of the Board of **Trustees were appointed in the** 2009–10 school year.

In June 2009, alumnus Andrew Bentley '83 was elected to the Board. Andrew and his wife, Fiona Garland, have two sons, James '10 and Matthew '13. The family joined ASL in September 2006, after Andrew retired following a successful career at Glencore AG. Currently, he is working towards a BA in graphic design from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, where he has just completed his second year final project. Andrew says, "As a parent and an alumnus, I feel privileged to be an ASL trustee. The School is a unique institution that provides a first class education within a caring and supportive community." Andrew holds a BA in economics with honors from Harvard.

Donna Lancia, parent of William Brummette '17, joined the Board at the October 2009 board meeting. Donna and her husband, Jeffrey Brummette, are

long-time London residents. They joined the ASL community in the fall of 2005. She was co-chair of the PCA Auction, Spr!ng Forward, that took place in March 2009. Donna enjoyed a successful 15-year career in the financial markets in New York and London. She holds an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business and a BA with Honors from Syracuse University. Donna says, "It is a privilege to have joined the ASL Board. I look forward to further supporting our remarkable school, and helping to ensure its sound future so it can continue to provide an inspirational education for our children."

In March 2010, Alexander M. Knaster became a member of the Board. He and his wife, Irina, are parents to four children, including Rachel '09 and Ellie '17. The family joined ASL in January 2002. Alex is chairman and CEO of Pamplona Capital Management, an investment management firm with private equity, hedge fund and fund-of-funds operations. He has a PhD in economics from the Russian Academy of

**Clockwise from top** William Voge Alexander M. Knaster Andrew Bentley Donna Lancia



Science, an MBA from Harvard Business School and a BS from Carnegie-Mellon University. Alex says, "I believe ASL is unique in offering an American experience, but at the same time it is a very cosmopolitan school offering first class education. I am excited about joining the Board and helping the School continue on its path."

William Voge, partner in the London office of Latham & Watkins, joined the Board in May 2010. Bill has been with Latham & Watkins since 1983 and is a member of the firm's Executive Committee. Bill and his wife, Jami, arrived in London in 2008 along with sons Michael '11 and Paul '13. Bill and Jami have three other children in the USA: Emily, who starts law school in fall 2010; Henry, who just graduated from the University of Notre Dame; and John, a junior at Boston College. Bill holds a JD and an MBA from UC, Berkeley; and a BS from California State University, Fresno.

# 

HE meeting ends late afternoon after a 90-minute discussion about ASL's K-12 science program following a long day of teaching. Still, teachers linger. They have papers to grade and lessons to plan, but they remain involved in enthusiastic intellectual exchange. They cluster in groups of three and four and debate possible changes to the academic program. What if we move that unit to Grade 3 so students are taught more physical science? How does that fit in with their nonfiction reading? How can we deepen our students' conceptual understanding of important scientific concepts? Those are just some of the key questions science teachers at ASL are seeking to answer as the School engages in a formal curricular review of its K-12 science program.

As a matter of course, ASL teachers continually reflect upon what they teach, and how they teach it. However, a full curriculum review is an opportunity for teachers from across the three divisions— by excellence, creativity, and depth." Lower, Middle and High school—to examine an area of the academic program in depth, make changes to the curriculum, purchase resources to support those changes, and seek out professional development opportunities. As the Director strategies, any review of our program of Curriculum and Instruction, my chief responsibility is to lead that process.

reflection of program and practice, and



this is certainly the case at ASL. Moreover, research demonstrates that a guaranteed and viable curriculum is the single most important factor that positively impacts student learning. For that reason, in the School's newly adopted strategic plan, the first desired outcome of assuring an outstanding educational program is that "our students experience a cohesive, dynamic curricular program characterized

#### What is curriculum?

Because a school's curriculum is composed of three components: learning objectives, assessment, and instructional requires that we examine all three parts of this puzzle. Learning objectives, or Excellent schools practise collaborative what we want students to learn, require us to ask: What should students know,

be able to do and understand? The answer lies in the standards we choose to guide what we teach for each subject area. We must also informally and continually assess whether students are able to demonstrate that understanding. Finally, notwithstanding individual teacher autonomy, expertise and creativity, we know that there are methodologies, informed by current best practices and research on how people learn, that ensure the intended learning happens.

#### **Excellence, creativity** and depth

At ASL, we seek excellence. We have the freedom to be creative, and we believe that students should study a subject in depth rather than have only a superficial knowledge. In the early part of the 20th century, students were simply urged to acquire knowledge, and today we still want students to acquire specific information. However, acquisition alone is no longer sufficient. In today's world, students must also develop their own understanding of a subject and then use that understanding in a completely different context. They must be able to apply what they have learned.

As an example, High School students might analyze the water quality of the Thames by examining data and make recommendations about improving it. They then should be able to speak engagingly to a lower school student and an expert on the same topic, and







Learning **Objectives** What do we want students to know, be able to do and understand?



intended learning and create understanding?

speak and write well enough in another language (French, for instance) to be capable of learning from locals about the water quality of the Seine. Thus, our standards are selected based on the belief that students must experience depth in a subject, have multiple opportunities to create their own understanding of it, and then demonstrate the ability to transfer that knowledge in an authentic manner outside of the classroom.

#### A snapshot: selecting science content and skills standards

In the science review, we began by looking at current best practices in the field of science. As part of the review process, we looked both inward at our own program and also outside at exemplary schools and research institutions. We created an anthology of key articles for the Science Review Committee (SRC), composed of nine teachers across the three divisions, to read and analyze. We then examined the standards proposed by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and the National Research Council (NRC), both of whom have reflected on the United States' less than stellar performance recently in science education and sought to raise the bar. Additionally, a group of 10 faculty members attended the NSTA's annual conference in Philadelphia last March. The committee then met to share its thoughts and findings with the entire school's science faculty. Two experts in the field of science education also offered the Learning Institute at ASL, and took

8

their perspectives on our work throughout the year.

#### Instructional methodologies

What are the key instructional strategies that teachers should use to cause the intended learning? Recent brain research has influenced seven key ideas about learning, illustrated in the diagram opposite.



ASL is moving towards a more inquirybased approach in the teaching of science that reflects these learning principles. Part of the success of the implementation of a revised academic program rests with the professional development and support the teachers receive. Thus, in addition to going to the NSTA National Conference, ASL science teachers attended our summer institute,



courses on new developments in brain research and its implications for the classroom or the Global Learning Studio on creating understanding. As well, teachers will have attended professional development courses this summer at the Lawrence Hall of Science at the University of California, Berkeley, and collaborated on revising the specific learning objectives at each grade level.

While the science program was the first discipline to undergo a curricular review, the K-12 social studies program began its process this past spring. Additionally, both the physical education and visual arts departments have begun to review their curricula, and the librarians are mapping out a scope and sequence of vital information literacy skills for students that we will integrate into the regular program.

In short, the ASL administration and faculty are working diligently to provide an outstanding educational program the true measure of ASL's value as an academic institution.

Robyn Chapel joined ASL in 2009 as previously served as high school principal at two international schools in Mexico and, most recently, Spain. A native of Washington, DC, Robyn holds a B.A. from the University of California at Santa Cruz and an M.Ed.

#### Resources

Brain Rules (2009) by John Medina, How People Learn (2001) by Bransford, J&Brown, A&Cocking, R. editors. National Academy for Sciences, 2001. Instructional Strategies, Deborah Welch, ECIS Conference, Hamburg, Germany, November 2009 Betts, Bambi, The International Educator, The Principals' Training Center, 2005.

Learning principles

> Students must be given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning.

**Teachers need to adjust** instruction to meet each student's level of readiness to learn, interest and individual learning styles.

Accents Fall '10

Learning is a social process. Human beings learn best in a group and must engage in collaborative work. **Classrooms need to be** more student-centered. The days of students sitting passively and receiving information from a teacher in front of the room are over.

Motivation and cognition are linked. Simply put, students learn more when they are engaged and learn much less when they are not. **Knowledge is central** to the learning process and in order to develop understanding, students must internalize their meaning of that understanding.



Learning takes place best in context, Students need to connect new knowledge to previous knowledge to make sense of complex concepts.

Students must take their knowledge and apply that knowledge to novel situations. Only when they have done that successfully have they really learned.

9

6

I think, therefore I am... a scientist, a poet, a musician

HEN I walk in ASL's hallways, looking through classroom windows, it is fascinating to see the great variety of activities students are engaged in. White lab coat and goggle-clad students huddled over an experiment in the science lab, others discussing hidden narratives in a complex Turkish novel, a choir deciding the best vowel to end a musical phrase on... Our school sometimes seems like a self-contained city, with everyone concertedly going about their work, representing all the various disciplines one would find in any human society. It is invaluable for students to learn by doing—by creating their understanding and participating actively in their learning. preparation, and performance has been

Through all the different experiences offered an ASL student, disciplinary thinking is core. Students learn about science by *thinking* like a scientist. They learn about the expressive possibilities of dance by thinking like a dancer, and what it means to be a poet by experiencing the *thinking* of poet. These experiences become part of their identity, and form who they are. When we are presented with new opportunities or challenges in life, we use these different perspectives, as if we were putting on a set of eyeglasses to see the world in a different way. Disciplinary understanding becomes our toolbox for an intellectual and truly global life. Thinking like an artist has driven the huge amount of student work and success in the performing arts at ASL this year. The scope and variety of engagement,

#### BY PETER LUTKOSKI. HEAD OF PERFORMING ARTS

vast. Students have performed with actors and musicians in Aberdeen, Rome, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Ankara, Berlin, Dubai, Istanbul and, of course, London. The outstanding middle school play. A Midsummer Night's Dream, and high school musical, All Shook Up, brought to our own school stage real actors, in the form of ASL students. The lower school concerts have been exceptional displays of artistic and cross-disciplinary thinking. High school jazz musicians performed sophisticated and intricate contemporary music, under the cover of pine trees overlooking the hills of Rome. Elise Kibler '10 wrote, produced, and directed a play, Tangled, which inspired audiences with its creative vision. Student-initiated arts projects are one of the strongest hallmarks of a vibrant artistic culture in a school, and Elise's work is a wonderful symbol of how creative thinking is part of the identity of ASL.

When Grade 5 percussion students discuss the precise combination of instrumental textures in the piece they are composing, they are thinking in exactly the same way as professional musicians. To hear Buck Herron coaching his actors on elements of character and intent, one could be eavesdropping in any West End rehearsal room. Jane Coulston's high

**1–4** Scenes from the 2010 Music Tour to Berlin

**5** Performing arts teacher Keith Montgomery conducts the Concert Choir

school dance class explores what it means to communicate an artistic message through physical movement, making complex choreographic and creative decisions. Through these experiences, students learn not just about acting, music and dance, but to be actors, musicians, and dancers.

One moment, from the high school Music Tour to Berlin in February, stands out and crystallizes the school's approach to creating real artists. All 130 students in the high school choir, orchestra and band traveled to Berlin for five days of performing and cultural excursions. The goal of the trip was to deepen our understanding of the host city, and to learn in practice what it means to present an engaging musical experience for an unfamiliar audience. We endeavored to incorporate community service into our performance schedule, and the high school ensembles performed three fundraising concerts in support of the restoration of the local cathedrals where we played. We also performed at an arts magnet school in the small village of Wettin, about two hours south of Berlin. Our students had the opportunity to meet and talk with the local Wettin high school students, to overcome language barriers, and to learn about each other's favorite music, school subjects and pastimes.

On the night before our final concert, the chaperones decided it would be interesting to try a little experiment and see how the students would respond to taking on all of the responsibility for the final concert. That morning, we told the students that due to an unforeseen conflict, the music teachers would not be able to travel with them to the performance venue. The students would be responsible for everything required to put on the concert. The music teachers would only be able to arrive at the last minute and conduct the ensembles in performance. We needed to do a Skype interview with a middle school principal candidate, we said (never to be believed again). So, with just a few chaperones in the background for any emergencies, the buses pulled away as the music teachers waved them off from the hotel lobby. We knew what the students needed to do at the venue, and had a deep trust in their abilities, but there was no guarantee it would not be embarrassing disarray when the audience entered the cathedral at six o'clock. We knew the students would need to map out the venue, finding changing and instrument storage rooms; they would need to decide how to arrange the ensembles, determining if it was manageable to have all groups on stage at once, or if a formal walk-on would be needed; the students would need to determine the repertoire to perform, and if any pieces were less appropriate for the

cathedral's acoustics; they would need to

warm-up and rehearse, deciding on a

had enough time.

rehearsal schedule so that each group







The more we thought about it, the more this seemed like perhaps it might not have been the best idea. There were so many things that could go wrong. How will they remember to set up so that each group can use the string bass? Can they really arrange the percussion section so that it does not cover the choir but still be heard by the band? Is there even a chance they will remember to clear their bags and coats from the pews? After such a successful and fulfilling tour, we were not in control of their final musical experience. Three hours later, we left for



the venue having no idea what kind of concert we were walking into.

I will never forget the scene in that cathedral as we entered, shortly before the doors opened to the public. In this beautiful expansive space, the ASL Concert Choir was singing, arranged in three rows in the front of the altar, perfectly aligned in formal concert attire. Their ethereal sound resonated throughout, and they were conducted by one of the student choir members, Alex DeLuca '11. The band and orchestra were seated patiently in the front pews, all equipment, chairs and stands set up for each ensemble. Some came to update us on what would happen. The choir would start the program from the back of the hall, followed by a formal walk-on. The band and orchestra repertoire was chosen, we were told, based on what would work in the space. Some of the parts had been re-written because of a few specific tuning issues. All of a sudden our jobs seemed a lot easier.

The concert was excellent. Every student was fully engaged and making real music, taking pride in every detail. They also decided it was important to them to be successful.

Just as in any community, the students in our school grow as musicians, actors, poets, scientists and engineers by thinking like them. They stretch themselves by taking risks and working with difficult tasks where the stakes are real. They apply their understanding, knowledge and experience in unfamiliar and novel situations. In their lifetime, they will be presented with challenges requiring them to see the world through the lens of a scientist, or an artist. And so, on our return from Berlin, and indeed throughout all the performing arts classes in the Lower, Middle and High schools, we endeavor to nurture students who think of themselves as artists, so they may use that as one more way to see the world. ■

#### Mosso legato

what it means to be a musician.

the audiences and each other with the high level of their musical performance, and with their ability to manage the logistics of each event. It was chaos, but chaos that somehow instantly transformed into a serene, beautiful pre-concert peace as the doors were opened for the audience. A warmly-lit cathedral, chamber music played by our string quartet, and our high school musicians in formal concert attire around the perimeter of the hall welcomed the local audiences as they took their seats; a very different scene from just five minutes earlier.





Moving around as a group of over 130 people, including a huge amount of equipment, is a massive logistical task. We have to plan where we stand. The group is too large to fit on the sidewalks. For the performances to be successful, every element must be in the right place: all of the 100 instruments must work, same color shoes, etc. The only way for the group to accomplish such an intricate challenge, involving work as mundane as distributing folders to communicating



BY CHRIS GOFF, GRADE 8 SCIENCE TEACHER

T'S 10 o'clock on Saturday night on the last weekend of February Break, and the lights are on in the **Gym Foyer. Twenty pizza-fueled** high school students from ASL and local state school Quintin Kynaston, two bleary-eyed teachers, and an engineer from Imperial College are putting the final touches on "Chachi 4: Back For More," the 120-pound robot designed to compete in the **2010 FIRST Robotics Competition.** With the shipping deadline fast approaching, the pressure is on to get Chachi ready for action.

Welcome to the ASL/QK Robotics Team, also known as the Griffins Team 1884. Founded in 2006 by ASL alumnus Eric Fredrickson '06, the Griffins' growth and success has elevated robotics at ASL to the status of a team sport and helped spur the creation of curricular additions in the High School related to the so-called STEM subjects—science, technology, engineering and math.

Little did Eric know that his participation in middle school science teacher Colin McCarty's LEGO Mind-storms physics project, funded by a Parent Community Association mini-grant, would evolve into a program involving 90 students in the Middle and High schools spending inordinate amounts of time in the evenings and on weekends leading up to the annual goal—meaningful participation at the FIRST Robotics competition, a program initiated in 1992 by New Hampshire resident Dean Kamen that promotes the study of STEM subjects and lures 7,000 students from around the world to regional and national competitions. FIRST borrows from the playbook of sports to produce a team-oriented robot game, and emphasizes the concepts of gracious professionalism and "coopertition".

Preparation for the 2010 regional competition in Boston began with a kickoff video on Saturday, 9 January, and was followed by six intense weeks of work. Working from 4 to 8 pm on school days, 10 am-3 pm on Saturdays, and full-time during February Break, 36 students planned, built, programmed and tested our robot; blogged on our website; created a 3-D animation video; designed logos, shirts, banners and badges; and somehow managed to squeeze in classes and homework (as well as music, sports, NHS, and college apps!) on the side. All of this led up to a three-day robot extravaganza during Spring Break at the Agannis Arena at Boston University.

Back in 2006, three obstacles stood in the way of the Griffins' participation in FIRST competitions: travel, money and the



lack of a metal shop. The money and the

travel were not insurmountable, but the lack of a metal shop was a problem. When Eric presented the facilities problem, and informed me that QK has a metal shop, the big idea was hatched. We would form a joint ASL/QK FIRST Robotics Team. QK would provide the facilities, design technology teachers would supervise, and ASL would provide



the funding. Students from both schools would work together.

After making some initial contacts with QK administrators and design technology teachers, we set our sights on the biggest obstacle: the money. As a student-initiated team, it fell to Eric to pitch the program to then Head of School Bill Mules. With Colin McCarty, HS/MS Tech. Coordinator Don McNamee and me sitting with Bill in



the Boardroom in July 2006, Eric delivered his presentation over iChat from Wisconsin, as I flipped the PowerPoint slides he had produced. Bill was bowled over, and agreed to the funding of the program for two years using the New Initiatives Fund.

FIRST involves practical application of physics concepts, systems design, and collaborative project management. However, FIRST is not just about mechanics. The program also involves web page design, marketing, video production, graphic design and 3-D animation. To encourage the development of communication skills and self-confidence, teams are also expected to seek corporate sponsorship. As the team grew, and the operating costs in three out of five years of competition. and travel expenses increased, we knew we would need to provide some of our own funding. Head of School Coreen Hester agreed to fund the bare-bones budget, and the sponsorship team would raise money for the program. Thanks to ASL parent and former trustee Andy Sukawaty, and his colleague Vijay Jois, Inmarsat has been our key corporate sponsor for four years running. Team members also applied for and won grants from the London Tigers for the last two years.

Our success in gaining support has certainly been aided by our triumphs in our five years of competition. With Steve Alaniz's experienced guidance during our first year, the founding members of the team miraculously put together an outstanding rookie robot to compete in the Aim High challenge. The Griffins shocked the NASA-sponsored



#### With the success of the high school program, FIRST has spread like a wildfire throughout the School.

field in Houston, Texas, finishing in 9th place out of 54 teams, and becoming an alliance captain in the championship rounds. We also picked up a prestigious Judges' Award recognizing the multinational collaboration of our two schools. We went on to qualify for the quarterfinals

In 2009, a PCA mini-grant funded a new initiative to create the Griffins Fellowship to encourage graduate and undergraduate engineering students to work with the students. The program was a great success, and our engineering students (including three team alums) have helped us greatly increase the technical sophistication of our robot, guided and organized our design process, and inspired many of our team members to pursue engineering in college. This year, the Griffins Fellowship has been funded by a PCA Community Service Grant. Securing long-term funding for the program remains a distinct goal.

With the success of the high school program, FIRST has spread like a wildfire throughout the School. In 2008, a FIRST Lego League program (FLL) in the Middle School was initiated.

Buoyed by our initial experience with FLL, ASL hosted a London Regional FLL

competition in December 2009, fielding three teams: two Grade 5/6 teams and a Grade 7/8 team. With a year of experience under their belts, the Grade 6 Griffin Cubs team advanced to the regional finals, losing in the play-off match to a much older team from Surrey. The Grade 7/8 Griffin Sprogs brought home a trophy for the research Project Award.

In the Lower School, a robotics program for Grades 3 and 4 was introduced by Ania Driscoll-Lind in 2009 as part of the annual Summer Program, with support from several of the high school participants. This has continued into the Lower School After-School Program, and has become a fixture of the Summer Program. Future plans include a Lego Robotics night for parents, and perhaps even a junior FIRST Lego League event for other schools in London.

Quantifying the benefits of the robotics program at ASL is difficult, but it is clear that it has been expanding to fill a demand for hands-on design technology activities, and has opened the eyes of many students to possible future careers in STEM areas. If nothing else, it is a lot of fun (and hard work).



Anna Ho '10 talks to Accents editor Wendy **Robinson about her four**year involvement with the robotics program

#### What's your role on the team?

One of my roles is on the build team, on which there are programmers and builders, but I chose to build because it's different and I feel it's more rewarding I'm also on the sponsorship team, which raises funds by preparing presentations to various companies to pitch our ideas. We tell them what the team is all about and what we'd like to achieve. To build a robot or be a scientist requires someone to buy into your ideas. You have to persuade people that what you are seeking to do is worthwhile, and for that you need funding. A lot of people may not appreciate the many skills you learn by being involved in robotics! There's a lot that you don't learn in a regular classroom experience.

#### Can you explain the design process?

It's tempting in the first week to start building right away—try something, put it together, it doesn't work, take it apart but it's far more effective to wait. Rushing in is not what a real engineer would do. We are essentially trying to mimic the approach of a professional. ASL parents who are engineers come on to the team to trouble-shoot and give advice. We are encouraged in the first couple of weeks to design and plan rigorously before reaching for the tools. When we know



what we're doing, only then do we build. The parents help out in other ways as well—they feed us on the long nights we spend in preparation for competition!

#### What do you get out of it?

It's the only chance at ASL to do something that involves physically building something. It's well known that ASL's strengths tend to be in the classroom and with that type of learning, so this is a fabulous opportunity. You get restless after a day in the classroom and so building something and getting your hands dirty and seeing something you created actually work is wonderful.

#### Tell me about selling the robotics program to other students.

It's not hard to sell the program as it speaks for itself. I always thought it was cool (as someone who loves science), but there are people on the team who are not into science at all. Robotics has the label of being for math and science nerds. If students are not strong in those areas, they tend to shy away. We try to put out the word that it's not just about math; there's lots to do that involves creativity and different skills. There are those on the team who never touch the robot!



beginning, they were sitting on one side of the room and we were sitting on the other-I guess we were kind of scared of each other. We didn't know who they were, and they didn't know us. Most of the preconceptions on both sides are completely wrong. In reality, the QK robotics kids have different backgrounds to us, but they're interested in the same things and hope to study similar subjects to us in college. I've made good friends.

#### What are your plans for the future and will they involve robotics?

This fall, I'm going to MIT. I'm looking forward to it very much. They have a car that runs on solar power that they enter into competitions—I'd love to get involved with that. I plan to major in the Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences from which I could go into biomedical engineering, or build machinery to perform surgery, there's a lot of opportunity for robotics. I know that the skills I learned at ASL can be applied anywhere, no matter what I do in the future.



ESTMINSTER Central Hall was the setting for the commencement exercises for the Class

of 2010 on Friday, 18 June. In a break with tradition, rather than being played on the organ, Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 was performed by a quartet of faculty on two pianos. The graduating class processed to the musical talents of music teachers Keith Montgomery and Gordon Graham, high school math teacher Doug Poggioli and accompanist Julia Wallin.

After welcoming everyone, Head of School Coreen R. Hester recognized the Class of 2010 as a group of individuals who support each other. She encouraged them to reflect on the defining moments in their lives—whether a life-changing team-talk from a coach or sudden illumination from a piece of art. Graduation, she reminded them, is a moment to remember.

Lori Fields, Chair of the Board of Trustees, declared the graduates a very impressive class. She offered her formal congratulations as a trustee, and her

personal best wishes as a parent, before Councillor Judith Warner. The Concert Choir followed with two songs conducted by Keith Montgomery.

Valedictorian Anna Ho and Salutatorian Sameer Arya delivered a well-received, two-handed speech that questioned the concepts of space and time, and reflected their shared love of math and science. Their address included a brief interlude when the Vocal Ensemble performed a memorable rendition of Lennon & McCartney's In My Life.

ASL parent and trustee Bill Roedy, Chairman of MTV Networks, gave the commencement address. Mr. Roedy has been a member of the Board of Trustees for 15 years and is an award-winning campaigner for social justice. He was recently named Global Citizen of the Year by the UN Correspondents Association for his HIV/AIDS outreach work.

Mr. Roedy related that the room in which the ceremony was taking place had played host to Ghandi, Churchill, de Gaulle, and the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1946, all leaders in global thinking and a fitting correlation

with the Class of 2010. He advised the introducing the Lord Mayor of Westminster, class to think global, travel a lot and stay curious. "With strength and commitment," he said, "you will be successful."

> The diplomas were presented by Mrs. Hester and Ms. Fields. Among the 115 students to graduate were nine "lifers," who had attended ASL since Grade 1 or earlier: Bonny Astor, Yorkor Baffour, Rachel Brouwer, Ian Harriman, Alec McKechnie, Michael Nakan, Alexandra Pigott, Devin Risinger and Rhys Smith.

> Following the presentation, High School Principal Paul Richards thanked the faculty and staff, parents and grandparents. He invited the members of the Class of 2010 to move their tassels from the left to the right to signify their new status as graduates and alumni of the American School in London.





# Feature



#### Class of 2009 "lifers"

We apologize that the list of "lifers" in the Class of 2009, which appeared in the fall 2009 issue of Accents, was incomplete. We are happy to rectify this oversight and print the full list here: Catherine Breña, Caroline Gaines, Noah Guiney, Anna Higgins, Sara Kushma, Coleman LaMaster Christopher McMahon, Tristan Mead, Michael Molinaro, Thomas Plapinger, William Sohn and Cosima Travis.





#### Life after ASL for the Class of '10

Noora Aboukhater	Boston College	Elise Kibler
Mohammad Ahmed	University of Exeter	David Landis
Kristina Ali	Princeton University	Alexander Langstaff
Megan Armstrong	Johns Hopkins University	Eliza Learner
Sameer Arya	Stanford University	Blanca Lepach
Bonny Astor	University of Exeter	J Lind
Yorkor Baffour	Case Western Reserve	Sofiya Mahdi
	University	Tatsuya Matsumoto
Rosemary Bell	Boston University	Jordan Matyiku
Nathanael Bengio	Syracuse University	McKim Mauel
James Bentley	University of Chicago	Lauren Mayer
Margaret Bertasi	Princeton University	
Gunita Bhasin	University of California at	Lucy McCray
	Berkeley	Alec McKechnie
Kyle Bloomster	Whitman College	Rovena Mehta
Lara Boushehri	Emerson College	Francesco Melpigna
Taylor Boyd	University of Missouri,	Allison Meyer
	Columbia	Dalia Mnaymneh
Rachel Brouwer	Queen Mary,	Alison Moran
	University of London	Zoya Mufti
Nicholas Brown	The College of Wooster	
Michael Buckner	Colorado State University	Lesley Murray
David Burke	Brown University	Elisa Naini
James Cook	Bowdoin College	Michael Nakan
India Cowles	Vanderbilt University	Benjamin Noelle
Victoria DeClaris	Southern Methodist University	James Oppenheimer
Eliza Deissler	Tufts University	Emily Ovaert
Shannon Dixon	Fordham University	Campbell Owens
Christopher Douglas	Johns Hopkins University	Sophia Palenberg
Alston Edwards	University of Virginia	Toma Paro
Stephanie Feder	Emory University	Alisha Patel
Marcio Fernandes	Queen Mary,	Alexandra Pigott
	University of London	Stephen Potter
Keith Fowler	Lehigh University	Reed Rathvon
Courtney Gans	University of Pennsylvania	
Nikhil Ghorpade	University of Miami	Devin Risinger
Tanya Graham	University of Southern	Katherine Rittenhou
	California	Sarah Robertson
Katherine Guarino	University of Wisconsin,	Lucas Rocha
	Madison	Marc Rosen
Zreh Gupte	Rollins College	Rachel Rosen
Katherine Hardiman	Duke University	Maxence Ryan
lan Harriman	Gap Year	Justina Salinas
Ryan Healy	Boston University	Aaron Saunders
Alexander Henderson	College of Charleston	Jonathan Schey
Micaela Henderson	Cornell University	<b>Claire Sheehan</b>
William Herrick	Kenyon College	Caitlin Simpson
Robert Herring	Beloit College	
Anna Ho	Massachusetts Institute of	Rhys Smith
	Technology	Montgomerie Steele
Molly Horgan	Pomona College	
Kylie Hosken	University of Michigan	Megan Sullivan
Nael Jaber	Imperial College of Science,	Katherine Thomas
	Technology, and Medicine	<b>Ronald Thompson</b>
Douglas Jakobi	The George Washington	William Tucker
	University	Hilary Udow
Apurv Jhawar	Babson College	Samantha Varvel
James Jones	Stanford University	Emil Veltchev
Palmer Jones	Loyola Marymount University	Thomas Wacker
Andrew Kaiser	The George Washington	Ariane Walder
	University	Timothy Wertz
Kaitlin Kelly	University of Southern	Eirian Yem
-	California	Osman Youness
Sarah Kerr	Hamilton College	Angelica Zollo
	<u> </u>	

Accents Fall '10

	New York University
	Trinity College
ff	Colorado College
	Princeton University
	University of Notre Dame
	University of Bristol
	Boston University
0	TBD—Japanese University
	Plymouth State University
	University of Notre Dame
	Indiana University,
	Bloomington
	University of Edinburgh
	Northwestern University
	Boston University
ano	University of Pennsylvania
	University of Miami
	Columbia University
	Furman University
	The George Washington
	University
	Washington State University
	Cornell University
	Johns Hopkins University
	Northeastern University
er	University of Puget Sound
	University of Michigan
	University of Virginia
	Duke University
	University of Leeds
	Harvard University
	Bowdoin College
	Duke University
	University of Southern
	California
	Middlebury College
use	University of Chicago
430	Georgetown University
	Boston University
	Vanderbilt University
	Barnard College
	Stanford University
	Santa Clara University
	The College of Wooster
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	Emerson College
	Elon University
	The George Washington
	University
	University of Toronto
le	University of Southern
	California
	Yale University
	Mount Holyoke College
	Georgetown University
	Connecticut College
	Columbia University
	Brigham Young University
	Middlebury College
	Colgate University
	Oberlin College
	Duke University
	TBD—UK University
	Georgetown University
	Bard College

#### **Houses of Parliament**

Thanks to ASL alumnus Charles Walker '86, MP, and his private secretary, Carol Allan, Grade 7's trip to Parliament has become an annual event. The trip enhances the social studies curriculum in many ways. The development of the current constitutional monarchy, the Houses of Parliament and the events that occurred on these grounds are studied throughout the year. Students even act as historically accurate MPs in a simulation of the Long Parliament of 1640. Viewing this historical and politically relevant building is a highlight of our study of British history.

.............

\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\* \*\*

This year was no different, and as we entered the building through the Sovereign's Entrance you could see the looks of awe and wonder on the students' faces. Following in the steps that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II takes every year when she opens Parliament was not lost on any of us. The students enjoyed seeing the names of the historical MPs that they will emulate, and one whispered to me, "Ms. Tucker, do you think that we could give our speeches here instead of in the classroom?" I guess it wouldn't hurt to ask!

TRACI TUCKER, GRADE 7 DEAN & TEAM LEADER



# **Spotlight on London**

# News

#### Strategic Plan 2010

Earlier this year, the School presented the Strategic Plan 2010. The plan is the culmination of 18 months work by representatives of the Board of Trustees, the administration, the faculty, the staff and the parents, who gathered information, debated alternatives, set aspirations and considered ways in which ASL should evolve to meet future needs and challenges. The Strategic Plan 2010 identifies areas that are priorities for the School in the next three to five years and recommends specific initiatives that can be undertaken to strengthen and enhance ASL. Visit the About Us section of asl.org to read the document.

The American School in London Strategic Plan

2010







#### **Megan McGilchrist:** work in print

High school English teacher Megan McGilchrist had a book published in December. The Western Landscape in Cormac McCarthy and Wallace Stegner: *Myths of the Frontier* looks at Stegner's and McCarthy's focus on the western American landscape and its environment, and how its spiritual, narrative, symbolic, imaginative and ideological force is central to their work.



#### **2010 Bergeron Fellow Nii Parkes**

The Bergeron Writing Fellowship is an annual writer-in-residence program that was established by HS English teacher Keith Millman in 1996. It was endowed in 1999–2000. The fellowship is named for former HS English teacher Luke Bergeron, who taught at ASL from 1973–91. Mr. Bergeron passed away in October 1993.

The Bergeron Fellow spends a week working with a middle or high school English class on a particular genre of writing, as well as holding workshops for English teachers, and delivering the Bergeron Lecture. All members of the community are invited to attend the Bergeron Lecture, which is part of the ASL Speakers Series.

This year's Bergeron Fellow was author and poet, Nii Parkes. Born in the UK and

raised in Ghana, Nii Ayikwei Parkes was a 2005 associate artist-in-residence with BBC Radio 3. In 2007, he was writer-inresidence at California State University, and became one of the youngest living writers to be featured in London's Poems on the Underground program for his poem Tin Roof. Tail of the Blue Bird is his first novel for which he was nominated for the 2010 Commonwealth Writers' Prize, in the Best First Book category, South-Asia

In February, in addition to presenting the annual Bergeron Lecture to the ASL community, Mr. Parkes spent time with middle and high school students on a variety of creative writing pieces. He worked with Ms. McGilchrist's class on writing from a new perspective—the second person—"you" rather than the usual first- or third-person narrative voices. Ms. McGilchrist says, "The aim is to free up the imaginative process, and judging by what the students produced, it certainly worked. My Grade 9 students had a very stimulating time working with Nii, and the teachers learned a lot too."

#### A shining example: **ASL launches** Saturday program for **local students**

BY LAURIE HINDLEY, ASSOC, DIR, OF ADVANCEMENT, AND SHINE TEACHER

computer labs and performing spaces lay fallow every weekend, think again. Each Saturday morning for 16 weeks students from Quintin Kynaston, Paddington Academy, St. **George's and Westminster Academy** made their way to Waverley Place to SHINE. an enrichment program created and taught by ASL faculty and staff. SHINE (Support and Help IN Education), a not-for-profit organization founded in 1999, funds programs in independent schools like ours "to open their superb facilities to enrich and expand the core curriculum for local children unlikely to receive extra educational support at home."

The program content focused on environmental sustainability, and teaching technological and media literacy skills. Students were taught in small groups by a varied group of ASL educators who rotated throughout the program. From collecting insects in the St. John's Wood churchyard, to creating personal blogs and podcasts, to conducting science experiments, to crafting mixed-media art projects, SHINE students explored a broad range of subjects and skills, all tied together by the "green theme."

In this, SHINE's first year at ASL, the program opened doors, both within and outside our school. ASL employees from and made some new friends along the

Accents Fall '10

If you thought ASL's fine classrooms, all divisions and many departments met as early as June 2009 to formulate the curriculum; eight high school students worked around their busy academic and social calendars to volunteer each week as classroom assistants: the tech department shared equipment and set up the technology lessons; BaxterStorey (ASL's caterer) donated and prepared snacks each week; and the transport office offered to donate a bus for a group outing. For one journalism lesson, dozens of ASL faculty, as well as volunteers from admissions, advancement, security and academic advising, gave their Saturday to be questioned occasionally grilled—by eager students honing their interview techniques. SHINE offered a meaningful opportunity for ASL to serve our local neighborhood, while also exemplifying the "Community" plank Amy Buschini of ASL's Mission Statement: "The active Eileen Cancella involvement of students, families, alumni, Laurie Hindley faculty and staff creates the energy and enthusiasm that characterize the ASL experience. Our community participates Maida Shivik wholeheartedly in the extensive

> More than 70 proud students, families and teachers attended the closing ceremony on 20 March. SHINE students tell us that over their months at ASL they learned new skills, feel more inspired in school, enjoyed themselves,

#### Hot off the press: **Perspectives**

This spring saw the first issue of a new publication, Perspectives, from the ASL center for global studies and community partnerships The magazine was created to capture some snapshots of all that's going on in the school's work in the local and global communities. If you would like a copy, please contact Annabel Lucy Smith, annabel\_lucy\_smith@asl.org, or visit the new ASL Global Center.



opportunities found in London..."

way. Local student Sarah Bucinca, who attended the SHINE sessions, says, "I absolutely loved SHINE. I learned so much more about the environment and how to help protect it. I would definitely recommend the sessions to those who are interested as it is something worth going to on Saturdays." We also hope that through participating in the SHINE program, ASL students, faculty, staff and administrators learned new skills, feel more inspired to work here, enjoyed themselves, and made some new friends along the way.

ASL faculty & staff participants Diana Adamson & Pete Lutkoski, Program Coordinators Daryl Wells, Lead Teacher Monica Bernardo Peter Mahoney Lawrence O'Rourke **Roger Smith** Reinhardt Sosin



Scenes from the ASL Global Festival in March

**ews** 





#### **Global Festival**

The Global Festival on Sunday, 21 March, organized by the PCA's International Community Committee, was a huge success! Nearly 2,000 students, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends attended this wonderful community event. The Festival, coordinated by parents Cindy Feder and Alke Schulkes and their vast band of willing volunteers, started with a spectacular opening ceremony in the School Center, followed by a variety of children's activities, and the celebrated Food Fair in the Farmer Family Gymnasium. Thank you to everyone who contributed to make this event such a success and to those who came along to support an exciting ASL cultural tradition. The Global Festival is a biennial event held every other year to the PCA Auction. This year's Auction takes place on 4–5 March 2011.













## Nirvana: a connection in India continues

BY JOHN SMITHIES, LOWER SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

One of ASL's ongoing community partnerships is with The Nirvana School in Pondicherry, India. Visiting the school for periods of between 10 days and three months, ASL teachers have supported student learning, offered training and guidance to Nirvana's teachers and administrators, and created links between students in Pondicherry and our own Lower School. Established in 1994, The Nirvana Trust supports the local fishing community beyond the provision of education for its children. Clean water, an eye clinic, the regular feeding of stock, and the distribution of clothing and food during times of need such as the tsunami disaster in 2004 are just some of the ways in which the trust supports those who live near the school. Adult education classes aimed at developing vocational skills for members of the district are a recent addition to the trust's initiatives.

ASL's continued connection with The Nirvana School and Trust represents our commitment to partnerships across the world. Through student connections we hope to maintain strong links that exemplify the nature of our global perspective.

Accents Fall '10





#### Haiti appeal raises £20,816

When news of the devastating earthquake in Haiti broke, ASL responded quickly. Initially a week was set aside for raising money and awareness, with jars placed throughout the School and requests sent out for support from the whole community. Students made posters, organized assemblies, and gave up treats such as Starbucks and lunch on the high street. The middle school Roots and Shoots Club organized a huge letter-writing campaign, a couple of high schoolers started busking outside the Dr. Richards' office, and lower school students heard from a parent who had spent several years living in Haiti.

The week ended, but the efforts continued. Perhaps the most original was senior Lesley Murray's brilliant idea to challenge the men on the faculty to a sponsored beardgrowing event, which raised more than £2,500! Another fundraiser took place before Spring Break an Open Mic night organized by Angelica Zollo '10.

Thanks to everyone who worked so hard for people in such desperate need; our community raised £20,816.







#### Athletics

The 2009–10 year in ASL athletics was one of new beginnings and old traditions. Spearheaded by new-but-experienced Athletics Director Sandy Lloyd, the athletics program continued to strive towards excellence, both on and off the athletics fields. With a focus on sportsmanship and character, ASL teams began to learn how to combine these life lessons with their competitive drive for success. Throughout the year, our teams demonstrated this high caliber of competition. In the fall, the boys volleyball team won the Division II ISST Championship, while the junior boys cross-country also earned a first-place showing. In the winter, the boys basketball team finished second at the ISSTs in Paris and the swim team had their best finish in recent years. The spring team also demonstrated this second place at their respective ISST tournaments. With an increased number of participants in the Middle School, ASL is primed to continue and improve upon its culture of distinction in 2010–11.

# Drama

In February, the high school Advanced Acting: TV and Film course, taught by Buck Herron, was presented with a rare opportunity: to visit the set of a film, Harmony, being produced in Notting Hill. Aside from the fantastic window it would provide into the world of professional acting, this trip was also important because the class was about to begin a short-film project. The students were extremely grateful to ASL parent Ofir Kedar P '08 '11, producer of the film, for this opportunity. Liz Harrison '12 says, "I felt so privileged to be there, seeing the amount of work that goes into the making of a movie." Anneliese Rinaldi '12 added, "This glimpse of a real life set was extremely beneficial in our study of film."

The spring team also demonstrated this tenacity with both golf and tennis claiming second place at their respective ISST tournaments. With an increased number of participants in the Middle School, ASL is primed to continue and improve upon its culture of distinction in 2010–11. Prior to visiting the set, the students had spent two class periods reading and discussing the script. The film revolves around Mia, a woman in her late twenties, who relives her life and has a chance to correct terrible mistakes she made in the past. When the class arrived on set, the students met Mr. Kedar who explained the plot and the process of producing a film.



Annie Tipple '12 says, "While standing in the cold by numerous trailers, my classmates and I learned about the importance of continuity from one take to the next, and how crucial it is for a movie to look good and consistent." The class also learned that the filmmaking process is incredibly slow. On average, only four minutes of footage per day end up in the final cut. Mr. Kedar also gave the students a tour of the hair and make-up, and actors' trailers.

After observing detailed folders containing pictures of every costume for each of the actors and taking a look inside the trailers of the main characters, the students traveled the short distance to where the cast was filming for the day. The set was a traditional pub converted for the sake of the film to a jazz club. In small groups, the students were able to go inside and watch the actors film a few takes. There was absolute silence outside and inside the bar as each shot was filmed. The students were within 10 feet of the actors and held their breath during each take. It gave them a real appreciation for the work they undertook later, acting in the 10-minute screenplays written by the Film and Literature students, and filmed and edited by the Film and Animation class. The students thank Mr. Kedar for giving them such a fabulous opportunity to experience filmmaking outside of the classroom.

has two locations and is staffed by at-risk youth with the purpose of guiding them into productive careers.

While raising two kids in the Boston area, Elizabeth "Libby" Eustis found the time to travel back and forth to New York City in order to attend the Cooper Hewitt Museum and study for her masters in decorative arts. She continued studies and obtained her doctorate from Bard Graduate Center with a clear expertise in the history of printed images of gardens from the 15th century to 1820. Libby published an article on French garden prints in the Stanford University catalogue The Changing Garden. Additionally, Elizabeth co-authored an exhibition catalogue for New York's Morgan Library spring show, a collection of work about romanticism and landscape design which she also co-curated. Libby's children share her passion for design and research; her son, Peter, is a senior history major at Kenyon College, and Libby's daughter, Edith, graduated with an art history degree from Oberlin and now works in the bidding department at Sotheby's.

Alicia Fortinberry and Jean Walsh recently connected online and realized that they are both living in Sydney, Australia.

Kenneth Hamer and his wife live in Norfolk, where he has his own computer and technology support company that serves more than 1,000 local customers. His son, Jesse, attended Cambridge University and now designs digital signal processors for communication satellites.

with her husband from their ridgetop home in Dunrobin overlooking the Ottawa River and Gatineau Hills. When not traveling, Jennifer enjoys spending time with her children (Patrick, a high-tech sales engineer, and Paige, a teacher) sewing, baking, donating her time to a women's service organization, and planning Paige's fall wedding.

Sandra Ripa and her husband live in Bethlehem, PA, where her husband is a professor in the theater department at Lehigh University. Sandra teaches painting at a number of colleges and exhibits her own work. Her two sons both attended Lehigh and pursued careers in law. Her eldest is a lawyer in Washington, DC, and the youngest is in his first year of law school. Because of the long-time rivalry between Lehigh and Lafayette, Sandra reckons that she and Tom Brown, who attended Lafayette College and lives in Easton, PA, crossed paths while tailgating and cheering from different sidelines at the annual football games.

**Jennifer Henry** is enjoying retired life



Our mission is

each student by

outstanding Ar

TELEPHONE

#### Henry MacLean was selected to be a member of Boston's Green City team, a group of architects and engineers selected to strategize the renovations for Boston's City Hall in an economical and environmentally friendly way. The team's plan was praised in Preservation magazine for halving the building energy use, adding 20% more usable space and preserving the unique modernist expression of the building. In addition to this project, Henry has undertaken numerous home, commercial and historical renovations as the principal architect of Timeless Architecture in Milton, MA.

Winslow Martin is a photographer and lives in Boston with his wife and 7-year-old son.

Graham Nicholson celebrated his 55th birthday by retiring from Suntrust after a 27-year career. His wife, Gay, is taking a breather from teaching so that they can spend time together and with their two children, Ford and Grace, who are both in high school. Graham is looking forward to his class's next reunion in 2012 and wishes everyone well.

Amy Bouton encourages anyone in the Charlottesville, VA, area to drop her an email, ahb8y@virginia.edu.

Faith Duncan's little brother, William **Duncan '81**, introduced her to ASL's online community where she wrote, "Finished graduate school at U. of AZ

Accents Fall '10



in 1992 with Ph.D. in anthropology and geosciences. I live in Alaska now and work for the federal government. My husband is retired and I have two stepdaughters, both lovely, intelligent, 27 and 30 respectively." Faith is particularly interested in connecting with her former art teachers especially "the ones that took us to Amsterdam, and the folks in the plays who took us to Paris."

Former student council president Martin Hummel visited ASL for the first time since graduating. Martin lives in Chelsea, London, and works in advertising.

Rondi (Frey) Sizensky returned to London this January while dropping off her daughter for her semester abroad program at the University of London. She shared that, "It was one of the coldest days on record for London, but the city still takes my breath away!" Rondi mentioned that her parents still live in Chelsea so she feels connected with all things ASL, but is hoping to connect with 1973 alumni that are passing through Connecticut, where she lives.

#### **'74**

As a professional collector of stamps, coins, banknotes, books and medals, George Eveleth travels around the world

# Class notes

this company was recently acquired by a UK-based consultancy. John has come full circle back to his London roots. John's eldest son is working at Columbia University's physics lab and is applying to graduate school, while his youngest son is currently a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts. Amherst.

After a 13-year career as a television news anchor in Miami, FL, Barbara Cox launched her own production company specializing in medical marketing and video work for law enforcement and government agencies. However, when Barbara moved to Richmond, VA, with her husband and two children, Katey and Zack, she returned to school, obtained her VA teaching license and now teaches high school English part-time, which allows her to contribute to freelance TV production work.

Colleen Crone lives in Texas with her three sons, granddaughter Gracelynn (and another on the way) all nearby. Colleen or Nurse Cruella, a term of endearment that her colleagues used to describe the tenacity with which she advocates for the children, has worked as a school nurse for the last 20 years. Because of the grants she has written, community forums she has led, free clinics she has established, and court appearances she has made, Colleen was named by her peers as one of the "Great 100 Nurses". Colleen is also known around town as the "Sno Cone Queen" for the confection business of 125 gourmet flavors of shaved ice that she and her sons created. The business now

#### **'59**

Classmates Jerry Sandham and Susan **Skramstad** reunited for the first time since leaving ASL. Jerry traveled with his daughter from New Jersey where he works as a chauffeur and his daughter is transitioning from fashion design to teaching. Susan and her husband recently moved to Colorado from New Mexico in order to be closer to their daughter and grandchildren. Susan and her husband have their own consultancy business supporting non-profit's strategic planning and brand development.



**'6**9 Thomas Brown was sad to have missed his class's 40th reunion in Vegas but was proud to be with his son on his wedding day, with his sister Lisa '76 and wife of 31 years Jacqui. Thomas is a senior trial counselor for Wood, Brown and Gray PC.

John Bottom's work as a transportation consultant has led him to live in France, Algeria, Morocco, the Ivory Coast, Greece, the US, the Philippines, Thailand, China, Qatar and Indonesia. His most recent job brought him and his family back to the US where he worked for a Boston-based economics consulting firm; ironically,



Jerry Sandham '59 and Susan Skramstad '59 2 Henry Maclean '72, left 3 Martin Hummel '73 4 George Eveleth '74

5 Tim Kingston '77





for various exhibitions and forums related to his work. While in London for the Islington Stamp Festival, George and his wife toured ASL.

#### **'76**

Joanne Henk writes in to say that she has "enjoyed a season as a school psychologist in the Redding Schools in California and have had interest in outreach in a ministry appointment through the Bethel School of Ministry. There is opportunity for those inclined to travel in outreach and ministry at ibssmtrips.org with involvement in Mexico and Ecuador at this time." Joanne is looking forward to her summer of visiting friends and family in Los Angeles.

Tim Kingston wrote in to thank former teacher Don Trudell (ASL 1969-90), "the man I ineptly try to channel when teaching these students." While Tim works full time as a freelance writer and communications consultant, he recalls his former teacher, Mr. Trudell, when volunteering as a writing coach for high school students in the Bay area. For his work with WriterCoach Connection, Tim was recently featured in the East Bay Express and found creative muse for a self-written reflection published in The Monthly.

Laura Lewis spent her sabbatical from teaching sociology at James Madison University in London so that her son could experience London and ASL. Laura participated in numerous on-campus events such as Community Service Day and contributed numerous photos and memories for the archives project.

1 2 **3** Richard Gazala '79 Imn

4 Geoffrey Notkin '79 5 Dan Rhodes '79 Jane Fleet Nicolay '79, Tina Glavin 6

Laura Lewis '77

Di Scipio '79, Margot Smit '80 and Linda Beeler '79

Book of poetry by Shelia Black '78

- 7 Robin Weiss Saunders '80 8 Linda Hurcombe '81
- and Elisabeth Myers '81
- 9 Fritze Barbe '82
- **10** Karen White '82
- 11 Julie Redfield '87 and Stephanie Westdal '87
- **12** Michael McCabe '89
- **13** Charlotte Rademaekers Binns '92





















**The American School in London** 

#### 778

Sheila Black was especially keen to share the news of her recent publication with ASL because of the profound influence her former teachers Keith Millman (ASL 1974-present), Don Jesse (ASL 1964–91), Linda Hurcombe (ASL 1968-92) and Hoos Gregory (ASL **1971–80)** had on her becoming a writer. Sheila published her second book of

poetry, Love/Iraq; her first collection, House of Bone, was released in 2007.

**Dean Tiratto** came to ASL for the first time since leaving the School in the 70s. Dean and his son, Sam, made the trip from Tennessee where they live and Sam attends the seventh grade.

#### **'7**9

Richard Gazala published his first novel, Blood of the Moon, a political action thriller set during the 2016 presidential election. Richard was honored with the Rising Star Award for excellence in writing from publisher iUniverse.

Philip Maise lives in Hawaii where he owns a bed and breakfast, and just recently purchased a sailboat. He is currently sailing around the South Pacific and plans to start a charter dive business. He hopes to eventually sail to London, "perhaps in 2014," he writes.

**Geoffrey Notkin** is the co-star of the Science Channel's Meteorite Men. As a science writer, columnist and researcher of meteorites, Geoffrey has appeared in numerous television documentaries for Discovery, the History Channel, PBS, A&E, National Geographic and the Travel Channel.

Dan Rhodes stopped by ASL while visiting London with his daughter and son. Dan had fond memories of his days on the basketball and volleyball courts which included an ISST championship.

Alumni in the Niwot, CO, had a mini reunion. Those in attendance included Jane Fleet Nicolay, Tina Glavin Di Scipio, Margot Smit '80 and Linda Beeler.

#### **'80**

Mona Reinhardt is living and working in Northern Virginia, which has always been home no matter where she traveled. She hopes to reconnect with anyone who shares her vivid memories of ASL in the early 70s at Gloucester Gate in the experimental multi-level Grade 2, 3 and 4 classes.

Since she was an active member of the choral and madrigals groups during her

Accents Fall '10

time at ASL, Robin Weiss-Saunders and her family particularly enjoyed seeing the music rooms during their tour.

#### '81

Graeme Menzies contributed to this year's 2010 Winter Olympic Games as communications director for the Vancouver Olympic Committee (VANOC).

#### Elisabeth Myers and former English Teacher Linda Hurcombe (ASL 1962-92)

reunited in London. Both contributed to the drama program at ASL and were impressed with the recent renovations to the School Center. Elisabeth continues to celebrate her passion for the arts as a member of numerous choral ensembles in the DC area.

After waiting for more than three years, Fritz Barbe and wife Valerie were able to bring home their new daughter adopted from Nanchang, China. Two-year-old Michelle joins eight-year-old Katie to complete the family who live in Arizona.

Karen White '82 adds a twelfth book to her shelf of publications. Published in May, On Folly Beach debuted on the New York Times trade paperback bestseller list at #34, climbing one spot to #33 for the next two weeks. While she is excited by her devoted readers and their praise of her newest novel. Karen wrote that the real thrill has been hearing from and running into fellow ASLers, including Vanessa Danley '82 and her mother, Ann Danley P '82, who visited Karen on the Pawleys Island, SC, stop on her previous book tour. To read more about Karen, On Folly Beach and to see a complete schedule for her May–June book tour, visit karen-white.com.

Tom Bosworth and his family toured ASL while visiting London during his sons' spring break. Tom fondly remembers his days on the rugby team including carrying his teammates up Primrose Hill for conditioning training.

#### **'84**

Sarah Barth visited ASL with her husband while on holiday from Washington, DC, where they live and work. They were happy to see that ASL was thriving.

Luann (Flood) Mantooth "cannot believe that High School was so long ago My oldest daughter is going to graduate

from high school this year. I have been married to James Mantooth for 22 years. We have three amazing children: Caitlin is 17, Brianna is 10 and Andrew is 7. We live in Conroe, TX, which is outside of Houston. I saw some ASLers a while back at Jill Bain Carpenter '85 and Terry's wedding in Oklahoma. It was neat to see that some, if not all, of us had actually grown up."

#### '85

During his stopover in The Netherlands from Kazakhstan to Abu Dhabi, lan Davies '86 visited Stefanie Hatzfeld and her husband in Belgium where they live. Ian and Stefanie shared a picture on the grand staircase of the beautiful town hall of Leuven, where they enjoyed lovely Belgian food and ate lots of Belgian chocolate, reported Stefanie.

#### '86

Cathleen Wolfe is in her second year as Alumni Board President. While we discussed some business during her most recent visit to the UK, Cat caught up with **Christine Rudolph (ASL 1989-present)** and chatted with Aneesa Higgins (ASL 1980-present) about her days learning French. Before heading back to Chicago where she works for Radio Disney, Cat took her first trip to Ireland.

Julie Redfield and Stephanie Westdal met in the hallways at ASL and have been best friends ever since. Julie and Stephanie created their own "Alternative" this November when they traveled to Istanbul together.

#### '88

Megan Asdorian spent the last year and a half working in Kabul, Afghanistan, for the Economic Growth and Private Sector Strengthening Program for USAID.

#### **'8**9

Michael McCabe visited ASL while traveling to London for work. Michael currently lives and works in New York City.

#### **'91**

**Lizabeth Vine** writes from Singapore where she and her family have been living for the last three years and "loving it." Their daughter, Madeline, is 15 and attends a German European school, while their son, Rory, is at Singapore American

Alumni

#### Charlotte Rademaekers Binns

School, and their 3-year-old daughter,

Vanessa, is enjoying the toddler years.

co-founded a new web marketing company Call2Action. As co-founder and CEO, Charlotte has certainly called on a number of her classmates. **Maha Chehlaoui** serves as the company's director of outreach and **Chris Young** is a member of Call2Action's advisory board.

#### **'93**

'92

**Coye Nokes** had great success in launching her own line of work-appropriate, fashionable and comfortable footwear for women. Her shoes have been featured on numerous fashion websites, including the *Daily Candy* and *Gilt* as well as written up in *Self* magazine and the *New York Post*.

#### **'94** Margaret Mellon P '94, '95, '98 writes, "Gretchen Mellon Aubuchon and husband Will welcomed second son Burke Henry Aubuchon in November. Burke, two-year-old Liam, Gretchen and Will are all flourishing in Worcester, MA. The Kroms are also doing well; Kourtney Krom has three children, and Fran Krom '98 has a little girl."

Lara Paul created New York City's first iPhone application for parents. iKidNY directs parents to the nearest playgrounds, kid-friendly restaurants, subway stations with elevators and more that allow for easy traveling within the five boroughs with children in tow.

David Stevenson was stunned to see that his skateboarding ramps have been replaced by climbing boulders and a jungle gym on the middle school playground during his recent visit. David, his wife, and his mother Marilyn Stevenson P '86 '87 '92 '94, toured the School while visiting London from Utah where they live with their four children.

#### **'95**

**Russ Benghauser** ran into classmate and ASL's HS social studies teacher **Becky Mason (ASL 2009–present)** during his recent visit with his sister, **Holly Ford '88**, and niece, Holly's daughter, MacKenzie.

Philip Eshelman announces his engagement to Jennifer Smith.

Margaret Mellon P '94, '95, '98 also reports, "Courtney Mellon DuBois and husband Michael welcomed their second child, a little girl in February."Margaret adds, "**Julie Guion Hubbard** just gave birth to her first child, a son, Jacob Clayton Hubbard, who we saw recently in Annapolis, MD."

#### **'96**

**Charles Elliott**, pictured right with his "powerful Iraqi moustache" as his family jokingly referred to his additional facial hair, recently completed a six-month tour in Iraq. Having served the US Navy Reserve for four years as an intelligence officer, Charles has since returned to Washington, DC, and works as an executive for the defense company BAE Systems. He and his wife, Sarah, hope to move back to the UK in the next year.

**Saeed Farouky** spoke at the Grade 7 service learning assembly on behalf of Amnesty International. Saeed has been a speaker for Amnesty since 2006 and often incorporates Amnesty campaigns and research into his professional career. Saeed is an award-winning documentary director whose work focuses on human rights and social justice.

**'97 Keith Cartmell** and his wife celebrated the birth of their son, Jack Noah, on 13 May 2010.

**Brooke (Davidson) Lenneman** and husband Fritz welcomed their first child, Brogan James Lenneman, on 17 August 2009.

#### **'98**

**Brian Drab** passed through London and visited ASL with his girlfriend, Angela, during their trip to visit her family in Croatia. Brian caught up with his former science teacher **Bill Kenney (ASL 1990–present)** and former babysitter **Christine Rudolph '85 (ASL 1989– present)**. Brian lives in Aspen, CO, where he is the club concierge manager for the Ritz Carleton.

Kathleen Mellon Cozzi and husband Paulo were expecting their first child in June.

**Katie Price** was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in May 2009 to continue her graduate research on Bhutanese refugees. Katie is now living in Nepal and conducting research on Bhutanese refugees in collaboration with the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). Katie's brother, **Nick Price '01**, recently visited her in Nepal and both are pictured, right, at Annapurna Base Camp.

Amy Reep toured ASL with her husband

while traveling through Europe. They live in Minnesota where her husband works as a lawyer and Amy manages fundraising and event planning for a local non-profit.

Andrew Stewart married Lisa Gallagher Stewart on 17 October 2009 in Wilmington, Delaware. Andrew's brother, Thomas "Ted" Stewart '00 and sister Alanna Stewart '03 joined in the festivities along with Andrew's classmates Nick Leader and Pat Benz.

#### **'99**

Jon Bartolozzi was profiled in the *Wall* Street Journal for his work in Afghanistan running the relief efforts for Umcor, the humanitarian aid organization of the United Methodist Church.

**Timothy Prueter**, who moved from Ontario to Abu Dhabi to pursue a teaching opportunity, stopped by ASL with his girlfriend who was visiting him from Canada.

#### '00

New York and People magazines recently featured commedienne and writer **Elna Baker's** first book, *The New York Regional Mormon Singles Halloween Dance*, an actual event in New York City. The book captures her transitions to independent living, the dating scene and life in New York City, while reconciling her Mormon upbringing.

Melanie (Tilden) Chiknagi sent us a picture from her September 2008 wedding to Piscal Chiknagi. Many of her ASL classmates celebrated with them.

#### '01

Abbey Duncan visited ASL with her brother, Christopher, who was too young to attend ASL at the time the Duncan family was in London. Abbey lives and works in New York City as a project manager for Mayor Bloomberg's office.

**Keating Simons** is studying for her masters in nutrition at Boston University.

#### '02

Kate Manthos married Clayton Fuller on 10 October 2009 in Notting Hill, London. Classmates Jeremy Dworken, Max Jenkins, Luke Stillman and Fiona Tarazi were all in attendance to share this special day with the happy couple. Catharine Tack and Christine Blashford served as bridesmaids and Kate's sister, Sophie Manthos '97, was maid of honor. Clayton and Kate met at Cornell University in 2006 while Kate



















- 1 Coye Nokes '93
- 2 Lara Paul '94's iPhone app
- 3 Russ Benghauser '95
- 4 Brooke Davidson Lenneman '97's baby. Brogan
- 5 Charles Elliott '96
- 6 Saeed Farouky '96
- 7 Brian Drab '98
- **8** Katie Price '98 and Nick Price '01
- 9 Amy Reep '98
- **10** Ted Stewart '00, Andrew Stewart '98 and Alanna Stewart '03
- **11** Jon Bartolozzi '99
- **12** Timothy Prueter '99
- **13** Elna Baker '00
- **14** Melanie (Tilden) Chiknagi '00











1 

Imni

Kate Manthos '02 and Clayton Fuller '02 3 Kanawa Sayato '02 and Vicky Hamadache

Abbev Duncan '01

- 4 Megan Donovan '03
- **5** Christopher Dugan '03, Michael Ford '03 and Andy Roehl '03
- 6 Patton Hindle '04
- 7 Elizabeth Wolfers '04 and Joe Chodl Marisa Wilson, Meg Bailey,
- Rodrigo Ideus '05 and Carolina Forero P '05
- 9 Kayla Janssen '05
- **10** Dorian Dyer-Westacott '06
- **11** The record company of Lizzy Plapinger '06 **12** James Keenan '07, right
- **13** Sue Lawrence and Julia Simons '09
- **14** Holly vanderMolen and Ruby Kaye '11























**The American School in London** 

was finishing her bachelor's degree, and Clayton was completing a master's degree in public policy and management. After obtaining his law degree, Clayton recently joined the US Air Force as a first lieutenant. They will be moving from Lookout Mountain, GA, to Montgomery, AL, for their first military posting.

Kanawa Sayato caught up with Spanish and French teacher Vicky Hamadache (ASL 1985-present) on his recent visit to the School. Kanawa, who makes advertisements for Bridgestone, was in London for a commercial shoot.

#### **'03**

Meghan Donovan's lifestyle blog WIT & Whimsy was featured in Business Week, Marie Claire and USA Today. The popularity of her fashion, travel, technology, cooking and beauty writing, reviews and tips is not surprising especially since she highlights talented designers like Coye Nokes '93. In addition to blogging, Meghan is the San Francisco fashion scene editor for Examiner.com, a contributing editor for Gal's Guide and an ambassador for Glamour magazine in San Francisco.

Christopher Dugan, Michael Ford and Andy Roehl visited ASL in November. Chris and Andy both attended George Washington University. After graduating in 2007, Chris moved to New York City and took a position with FBR Capital Markets. He has since transitioned to the financial advisory and private equity start up Highhurst LLC and lives in Connecticut. Andy remained in the Washington DC area post-graduation and works as a paralegal with aspirations to enter the law enforcement field. Andy and Michael share an apartment in DC. After graduating from Ohio University, Michael secured a position as program director at the Performance Institute.

#### **'04**

Eleanor Dowling graduated summa cum laude in 2008 from Emerson College with a BA in media. She now serves as the editor and community leader for an environmental outreach organization changeavents.com.

Completing her first marathon, Patton Hindle ran this year's Boston Marathon in support of G-ROW, a charity that supports young women in the Boston public school system by tutoring them after school and teaching them to row, a skill Patton learned at ASL and was recruited by Boston College to compete at the D1 level. Patton wasn't alone on the streets of Boston; fellow classmate

Alexander Robinson also completed his first marathon in Boston.

Jaclyn Hummel graduated from Elon University in 2008 and is now living and working in New York City.

Allie Simons is living in Boston and studying graphic design at the Massachusetts College of Art.

Having just moved back to London from the South of England, Elizabeth Wolfers was thrilled to return to campus and visit with HS Dean Joe Chodl (ASL 2001-present).

#### **'05**

Rodrigo Ideus and his mother, Caroline Forero P '05, returned to campus to share his silver medal from the 2010 South American games with Meg Bailey (ASL 1990-present), his first rowing coach, and Marisa Wilson (ASL 2002-present).

Kayla Janssen is back on campus serving as ASL's assistant coach to the high school dance team, a group that she helped to create as a student. Kayla is extremely busy on the dance circuit. In addition to her coaching, Kayla teaches classes at Pineapple Dance Studios and maintains her own performance schedule.

#### **'06**

Dorian Dyer-Westacott graduated from Cambridge University in June 2009 and is now working at Hogar El Alba, a children's home just outside Buenos Aires, as part of Latin Link's Stride program—a program that seeks to place Christians in areas of need in Latin America. Dorian has set up a computer room for the home and is teaching basic computer skills to the children, among other things.

#### **Stephanie Hummel** is studying international relations at Emory University.

In addition to her studies and extracurricular activities at Vassar College, Lizzy Plapinger has launched her own record company, Neon Gold Records. The company name is true to word as Lizzy and her partner only manufacture vinyl single for artists that they represent, including Passion Pit, Marina and the Diamonds, and Yes Giantess.

#### **'07**

James Keenan visited ASL during a long weekend break from his study abroad program in Italy. After the fall semester program, James returned to Fairfield University to finish his junior year.

#### **'08**

#### Zoe Mercer-Golden stopped by ASL to see Señora Hamadache (ASL 1985-

present), who taught her Spanish while at ASL. After spending a gap year in China teaching English at a refugee center, Zoe began her freshman year at Yale University where she continues to build upon her work in China with numerous volunteer projects.

Michael Phelps will be living in Santiago, Chile, this summer for a co-op with Bechtel.

#### **'09**

Margaret Jennings stopped by ASL to say that she is loving New York and Bard College

During her winter break from Macalester College, Grace Fowler visited her family in London and friends at ASL.

Julia Simons began her freshman year at Colby College in Maine by spending the first semester in Salamanca, Spain. Julia was stunned to discover that one of her friends from the program was an alumnus of ASL from her own class, Nicholas Bethlem. When Julia and her parents, Richard and Pam P '01 '09, visited ASL, they were thrilled to reconnect with teacher Sue Lawrence (ASL 1991present) and MS Assistant Principal Sunny Neutze (ASL 1984-present).

When she isn't studying for her seven AP classes or leading her peers as yearbook editor, Tasha Bock is meeting with the accessories editor at Teen Vogue magazine about her line of headbands. She started designing the headbands to jazz up her school uniform and when her classmates kept requesting to buy them the buzz built from there.

#### 711

**Ruby Kaye** visited with her former teachers Holly vanderMolen (ASL 2000-present) and John O'Toole (ASL **1991–present)** when she stopped by ASL with her mother, Eugenia P '09 '11. Ruby and her family live in New York City where she is in the 11th grade.

#### 114

Austin Robert had lunch with his former classmates while passing through London on his way to Kenya for a safari. Austin and his family now reside in Newport Beach.

Alumni



#### Save the Dates for Reunion '11

London 27-30 May 2011 Celebrating the 50th, 25th and 5th Reunion classes—2006, 1986 and 1961

#### Chicago 14–16 October 2011

۲

0

Celebrating the 45th, 40th, 35th, 30th, 20th, 15th and 10th Reunion classes-1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1991, 1996 and 2001

Based on alumni preference, ASL will stage class-specific reunions on a consistent basis commencing in 2011. Although all alumni from any class and former faculty are welcome at either or both locations, particular attention will be paid to individual classes celebrating traditional reunion years.

Complete details to follow, via snail mail, email and www.asl.org. See you here. Or there.



## **Family notes**

Eileen Hummel P '04 '06 stopped by ASL while in town for the National Football League's (NFL) Patriots vs. Buccaneers game at Wembley. Eileen was thrilled to run into Vicki Hamadache who knew both of Eileen's daughters Jaclyn '04 and Stephanie '06 and chaperoned Stephanie's Alternative trip to Lisbon. Stephanie is studying international relations at Emory University and Jaclyn graduated from Elon University in '08, and is now living and working in NYC.

Former trustee Mark Kogan P '11 '13 appeared in season 6, episode 16 of ABC's hit show Grey's Anatomy. In his debut television appearance, Mark played a lawyer for the hospital (pictured right.)

Paul and Kate Santoro P '17 '19 welcomed twin girls Lucy and Riley on August 15, 2009. Ryan '17, Grace '19 and Will are great helpers.



The alumni website might look different but its mission is still the same—helping alumni, parents of alumni, and former faculty and staff connect with each other and the School. In addition to an updated design, new features include:

 Class pages that allow you and your classmates to have targeted discussions

- An improved directory, allowing you to easily find and reconnect with your friends
- A Class Notes module for submitting up-to-the-minute news
- Online yearbooks

#### American Memorial Collection



Celebrate a teacher, coach, graduate or friend by naming a book in the Mellon Library collection in his or her honor. The American Memorial Collection (AMC) 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.

All members of the community for whom we have email addresses received an email with a username and password. If you did not receive a message with log-in information, please email alumni@asl.org to register today.

- **1** Michele and Ed Elliott, far right
- 2 Anne Lederhos and family
- 3 Mark Wilson and Stan Ratoff
- 4 Elisabeth Myers '81 and Linda Hurcombe
- **5** Joe McEvov's new book
- 6 Tosh Lee and Sergei Khrushchev 7 Chuck Dodson, Bill lacuessa and Roger Corrigan

## **Faculty notes**





Former guidance counselor Michele Elliott (ASL 1971-84) and her husband, former Grade 8 social studies teacher Ed Elliott (ASL 1972–2009), were invited to Chile by the Fondo de Cultura Economica to promote the Spanish translation of Michele's latest book, Intimidacion. Their 11-day visit consisted of lectures, workshops, media appearances, dinners, receptions and book signings in Santiago.

Kevin Schroedter (ASL 2006–07) had lunch with Meg Bailey (ASL 1990present) and caught up with Jack Kurty (ASL 2000–10) while visiting from California where he now lives and teaches.

Anne Lederhos (ASL 1980-83) stopped by with her family during a visit to London. As a former LS art teacher, Anne was impressed by all of the artwork on display.

Former LS teacher Mark Wilson (ASL **1981–90)** stopped by the School and caught up with former colleagues and friends Jill Chase (ASL 1978-present), Trevor Jones (ASL 1993-present). Sunny Neutze (ASL 1984–present) and Stan Ratoff (ASL 1982-present).





#### Former English teacher Linda Hurcombe (ASL 1962–92) and Elisabeth Myers '81

reunited in London and ASL this winter. Both contributed to the drama program at ASL and were impressed with the recent renovations to the School Center. Linda lives in Northern England and has been busy writing; she published her first book last year and is simultaneously writing her second, third and fourth novels.

Former science teacher Joe McEvoy (ASL 1975-85) added to his list of publications with the release of A Brief *History of the Universe*, under the name J.P. McEvoy.





#### John Wilson



#### **Khrushchev** returns to lowa

Tosh Lee (ASL 1975–98) was part of an interesting event in her hometown of Coon Rapids, Iowa, last summer.

In 1959, Nikita Khrushchev, then leader of the Soviet Union, visited Coon Rapids during a tour of the US. Her father, Roswell Garst, a leading hybrid seed developer, had met Khrushchev twice previously during visits to Russia, and Khrushchev requested he visit Roswell and his family at the Garst farm during his tour. Khrushchev's son, Sergei, accompanied his father on the landmark 12-day US tour of 50 years ago. So what more fitting way to mark the anniversary of Khrushchev's visit to Coon Rapids than for his son to return to the Garst farm. Sergei's lowa visit prompted statewide

celebrations spread over three days. Mrs. Lee writes, "There were main street activities which were very lowa. One was a parade of antique farm machinery that was especially fun for me as I got to ride with Sergei in an open 1939 Lincoln to lead the parade. I felt like the homecoming queen I never was, albeit with wrinkles. People waved at us as we passed by and we waved back. It was a hoot. One of the big moments of the original visit, and an event which was highly publicized across the country at the time, was when my dad threw silage at reporters because they were coming so close he couldn't show Khrushchev what he was trying to show him. So to commemorate that there was a silage throw, which was pretty funny.

"A big media moment took place at my parents farm, the place where I grew up. The farm has been named to the National Registry of Historical Places and was dedicated that day. Guests sat in front of the house on bales of hay. Both Sergei and I spoke, and I presented Sergei with a bunch of Iowa flowers. It was my moment in the sun. Great fun."



#### **Happy Hour "Old Timers"**

BY ALICE IACUESSA (ASL 1979-2000) AND CATHY ADAMS (ASL 1974–2005)

According to Mike McKeen (ASL 1973-97), the gathering of former ASL "Old Timers" on 8 March 2010 was a great success, with about 40 people popping in for a pint and a chinwag. Mike started the tradition in 1999. He had been retired for two years and missed seeing his old mates, especially at faculty meetings, so he organized his own gathering at the Freemason's pub on Downshire Hill, Hampstead. The retired faculty and staff met there once a year for a few years until the place expanded into a gastropub. After that, they moved down the hill to the Garden Gate pub in South End Green, where they met most recently.

This time, they were joined by a few who are still working at ASL: Joyce Anderson (ASL 1980-present), Roger Corrigan (ASL 1971–2010), Buck Herron (ASL 1998-present), Alice Leader (ASL 1975-2010) and John Wilson (ASL 1971–2009) still pad the sacred halls to some degree. Recent retirees included

and you'll receive:

LA, and more

and alumni news

Manananan

Ruth Heuman (ASL 1973-2009), Lois St. Pierre (ASL 70's-2009), Bob Carter (ASL 1969–2006) and Anthony Linick (ASL 1984-2002).

Familiar faces from the Lower School were Frances Hall (ASL 1972–2002), Mary Louise Barker (ASL 1977-2003), Jackie Fryer (ASL 1966–89), Janel Reina (ASL 1999-2003) and Helen Blum (ASL 1967–2000). Middle school people in attendance were Hazel Culbert (ASL 1975-99), Hazel Simpson (ASL 1969-2006), Tony Marlowe (ASL 1964–96) and Sally Marlowe (ASL 1964-95), Cathy Adams, John Lutz (ASL 1971-2000), Karen Sellars (ASL 1968-2004), David Sox (ASL 1974–93), Donna Hirsch (ASL 1974-2006) and Mike McKeen. Former high school faculty included Tosh Lee (ASL 1975–98), Mike Colloms (ASL 1972-2000), Bill and Alice lacuessa, Madame Foss (ASL 1965–91), Dave Sutherland (ASL 1970–98), Linda Hurcombe (ASL 1968–92), Suzanne Brooks (ASL 1972–99), Sarah Brouwer (ASL 1998–2009), Patricia Barry (ASL 1972-2003), Linda McKeen (ASL 1975-2003) and Chuck Dodson (ASL 1973–2001). The Library was represented by Molly McClure (ASL 1979–2008) and Chris Siegfried (ASL 1961-98).

Chuck Dodson came the greatest distance, from Nevada; followed by Bill and Alice lacuessa from the East coast, and Chris Siegfried from Corfu. Much to everyone's surprise, Freddie Baker (ASL 1964–89) did not appear! She telephoned the next day and gave a good excuse, so the retired teachers decided not to keep her after school after all.

wwwww



Keep in touch! Make sure we have your up-to-date email and address, London Calling: the monthly alumni e-newsletter Regional Reception Invitations: events in NYC, London, Access to the Online Directory: find classmates and friends Reunion Announcements: celebrate in the UK and US Accents magazine: biannual magazine with school updates Send us your details! Email alumni@asl.org.



### LONDON BOSTON WASHINGTON, DC SAN FRANCISCO NEW YORK CITY

Thank you to the 300-plus alumni, former ASL parents, current and former faculty/ staff and friends who attended alumni receptions in London, Boston, Washington DC, San Francisco and New York City. Special guests **Judy Kisor (ASL 1990present)** and **Bill Kenney (ASL 1990present)** lent their expertise in art history and science respectively to guests and friends enjoying the EARTH: Art of a changing world exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. **Mark Littles '01** hosted the Boston event from the top room at the Liberty Hotel, where a spectacular view was appreciated by all. Enjoying a reprieve from the tremendous snowfall that DC endured this winter, all guests relished the warmth of space and spirit at the Metropolitan Club thanks to hosts **Jessica and Collins Roth '88**. Brother-sister duo **Patrick Sullivan '86** and **Suzanne (Sullivan) Harrison '82** literally wined and dined guests at Cellar360 with a wine-tasting overlooking the sunset on San Francisco Bay. **Forth Bagley '98** shared not only his passion for architecture but also a sample of his work during the ASL reception at the Skyscraper Museum in New York City. **1A (London)** Melanie (Tilden) Chiknagi's husband Pascal Chiknagi, Melanie (Tilden) Chiknagi '0

Nusband Pascal Chikhagi, Melanie (Tilden) Chikhagi '00, James Elliott '00, Georges Stacey '00, Jessica Hartogs '00, Felix (guest), Marine Hartogs '02 and Alana Madden (guest)

**1B (London)** O

 Jessica Hartogs '00 and HS
 science teacher Bill Kenney

 (ASL 1990–present)
 N

**2A (Boston)** Jeff Paquette '82, Juliana McGovern P '83 '84 '85, and Arlene and Edward Paquette P '81 '82 '83 '85

2B (Boston) Miriam Brody P '01 '03 (ASL

Nirram Brody P 01 03 (ASL 1995–2005) and Doug Neuman (ASL 1996–2000)

**2C (Boston)** David Costin P '16 '18, Martha Whitman P '16 '18 and Kathy Gillett P '06 '09 '12 '18

2D (Boston)

Miriam Brody P '01 '03 (ASL 1995–2005), LS Principal Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–present) and Ashleigh Finn '01

**2E (Boston)** Stephen Boxer '78 and Chris Aghjayan '76 Mal **4B** Ken Ste



#### 2F (Boston)

Kolby Foss Brown '90, Alice lacuessa (ASL 1979–2000), Greg Frost '88, Paige Frost (wife of Greg Frost '88) and Eric Brown (husband of Kolby Foss Brown '90)

#### 2G (Boston)

Kathleen Mellon Cozzi '98 and Courtney Mellon DuBois '95

#### 2H (Boston)

Liz Kennedy '01, Todd Ryan '01, Mark Littles '01 (host), Kate Penrose '00, Sheila Barry '01 and Shane Kennedy (guest)

#### 3A (Washington, DC)

James Bexfield '61 holding his ASL letterman jacket

**3B (Washington, DC)** Betsy Dakin '81 and Elisabeth Myers '81

**3C (Washington, DC)** Courtney Allen '99 and Kiera Hart-Mendoza '98

#### 4A (San Francisco)

Ti Aguirre P '18 (ASL 1997–2005), Jaime Dominguez P '18 (ASL 1997–2005), Chris Bright (ASL 1993–2001), Jana Bright (ASL 1998–2001) and Patrick Mahany (ASL 1999–present)

#### 4B (San Francisco)

Kenneth Buck '89 and Stephanie Snyder '89

#### 4C (San Francisco)

David Schwind '71 and Head of School Coreen R. Hester (ASL 1995–97, 2007–present)

#### 4D (San Francisco)

Suzanne (Sullivan) Harrison '82 (host), Chuck Dodson (ASL 1973–2001), Jin Choo (ASL 1996–98), Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–present), Bill Ryan (husband of Julie Ryan), Rachel Kellerman P '06 '08 and Kristen Lee (ASL 1994–96)

#### 5A (NY)

Dan Sharon '99, Jill Bottomley '01, Lisa Bottomley '03, Shane Kidd '01, and Dan Meade '94 and Kaja Meade (wife of Dan Meade)

#### 5B (NY)

Bill Tierney P '98 '03, Sarah Horne (guest of Will Grose '98) and Will Grose '98

## **Homecoming** '10

Despite London snow and postponed festivities, Homecoming 2010 was a wonderful celebration. A great crowd of more than 250 fans came to cheer on the varsity basketball teams who were both triumphant in their games against Rota from Spain. The halftime entertainment included the traditional alumni versus faculty/staff basketball game. Greg Marcoux '06, Chris McMahon '09, Sam Plotner '09, **Damon Hatheway '09, Kolin Smialek** '09, Tim Cirenza '07, Dan Hughes '08, and David Preddy '09 played for the alumni against the faculty/staff team of Rod Anderson (ASL 2008present), Philip Brannan '04 (whose alumni status is in question as he elected to play for the faculty/staff!) Greg Gerken (ASL 2009-present), CT Henry (ASL 2005-present), Matthew Hilmer (2009–10), Garret Hinebauch (ASL 2001-present), Jimmy Markham (bastketball coach), Erik Niemi (ASL 2007present) and Fay Wheatley (2009present). In overtime, the faculty/staff team squeaked out an 18-13 win.





- 1 The faculty/staff and alumni teams with Eagle before the game
- 2 Sam Plotner '09 scores for the
- **3** The HS dance team provided
- 4 A fan poses with Eagle
- **5** The final score board showing







to report that Kathleen Benz '03 died on 30 May 2010 due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident in Anchor Point, Alaska. Kathleen, a resident of Washington, DC, was on of one of her Georgetown University classmates. At the time of her death, Kathleen served as Georgetown's assistant to the associate provost.

During her 10 years at ASL (1993– 2003), Kathleen excelled as a student service projects and arts programs. She was an amazingly warm and engaging woman with a contagious smile to match. Our condolences to her parents, Peggy and Thomas, and '95, Patrick '98, Michael '00, and Kevin '05.

A book in the Mellon Library Collection was dedicated to each member of the ASL community whom we lost this year. For more information, please contact the American Memorial Collection (AMC), amc@asl.org.





The ASL community is deeply saddened We are sorry to report that former Lower School teacher Joan Simpson, ASL 1976–94, passed away on 14 February 2010, following a long illness. Joan was an inspired and dedicated teacher and mentor, and a great friend. holiday in Alaska to attend the wedding A celebration of Joan's life took place on 1 May, which was attended by many of Joan's friends and colleagues from ASL. She will be greatly missed.

Lars Anderson '82 perished in an and contributed to numerous community auto accident on 23 January 2010 in New Jersey. While at ASL, Lars was an extremely active member of the student body; he sang in the choir and was a three season athlete-volleyball, basketball and baseball. The ASL five brothers—Thomas '93, Christopher community extends its heartfelt sympathy to his wife Donna, children Paige and Kurtis, siblings Eric '84 and Lori '86 and mother Corda Beth P '82 '84 '86.



#### **The American School in London**

15 Roszel Road Princeton, NJ 08543 USA CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED Non-Profit Org U.S. Postage PAID Permit #21 New Britain, CT

