A close-up portrait of Robin Appleby, a woman with short, curly, light brown hair and blue eyes. She is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a red cardigan over a black top and a silver necklace with small round beads. She has small blue stud earrings. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**The
American
School in
London**
Accents

2018

8

Robin Appleby
ASL's eighth
Head of School

Cover:

Robin S. Appleby
ASL's eighth Head of School

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

Accents 2018

© The American School in London

The American School in London
One Waverley Place
London NW8 0NP
United Kingdom
T +44 (0)20 7449 1200
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: Robin Appleby, Lydia Condon, Beth Crutcher, Dervla Flynn, Marika Ison '07, Anna Jakubcova-Coles, Libby Jones, Sandy Mateus, Margaret Pringle '91, Steve Townsend

Photography: Astonleigh Studio, Lydia Condon, Di Holmes Photography, Tara Moller Photography, Craig Prentis Photography, Wendy Robinson

Design: Powell Allen Ltd

Printer: Empress Litho Ltd

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.

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

Contents

6

Robin Appleby, ASL's eighth Head of School

Learn about Robin's experiences in her first year at ASL

8

The MILL: A Place for Design Thinking at ASL

Problem-solving using a human-centered approach to innovation

&

News

Gallery	3	24, not out for Chris Almond!	15
Spotlight on London	4	Graduation for the Class of 2017	16
Class notes	28	Graduation for the Class of 2018	18
Former faculty news	35	Trustee News	21
Alumni news	37	Trustees' Reception at Christie's	21
In memoriam	41	First endowed chair established at ASL	22
		The Ghandour Family supports High School Student Art Gallery	22
		Because ASL is One of a Kind!	22
		What's your story? Global Festival 2018!	23
		Annual Fund Impacting Excellence	24
		A Trip Back in Time to Victorian London	26

**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. Robert Wood Johnson,
Honorary Chair

David Novak, *Chair*
Julie G. Skattum, *Vice Chair*
Robin S. Appleby, *Head of School*

Cynthia Bake
Luca Bassi
Erin Crawford
Daniel Hajjar
Priya Hiranandani-Vandrevala
Virginia Keener
Alison LeMaire
Sherine Magar-Sawiris
Rebecca Manuel
Liad Meidar
Elaine Proctor-Bonbright
William H. Roedy
Erin Roth
Stephanie Schueppert '89
Ramez Sousou
Nikos Stathopoulos
Stacey Towfighi
Chris Whitman

Advisor to the Board of Trustees

Richard A. Bailey

**The American School in London
Foundation**

Barry M. Sabloff, *President*
Robin S. Appleby, *Head of School*
Albert D. Angel
Alison Blood
Timothy Craighead
Linda Ely
Brad F. England
John R. Farmer
Lori E. Fields
David E. Fife '89
Margaret Grandy
Diana H. Greene
William C. Mules
Janet Newkirk
William A. Obenshain
William A. Plapinger
Stephen Potter
William L. Scheffler '66
Susan J. Wilen

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

Barry M. Sabloff, *President*
Mary F. Marsh
David I. Stillman

ASL Enterprises Limited

Caroline Clark
Tori Robertson
John Robinson
Michael Spies



Greetings from One Waverley Place!

Dear ASL Community,

I joined ASL with the same sense of gratitude and responsibility with which my wonderful predecessor departed; in Coreen Hester's last Accents letter, she wrote, "It's been an honor to represent ASL and to give voice to our mission and core values." I began my tenure at ASL one year ago with those mission and values firmly in mind; in fact, it was students' authentic knowledge and understanding of our core values—Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Integrity, and the Courage to Act—that truly drew me to the School during my earliest visits. Over the course of my first year, it was inspiring to see the ways in which students, faculty, staff and parents bring our shared values to life.

ASL continues to thrive in our wonderful home city of London. As our founder, Stephen Eckard, intended, our programs benefit from the rich cultural offerings; I think of London as the best "learning playground" in the world! It has also been rewarding to discover how integrated ASL is in the fabric of our neighborhood, our council and wider London. While we sometimes refer to the "ASL bubble," I see daily evidence of the ASL community breaking that bubble, which is also important in giving our students the broader perspective they will need for the future.

We head into the new year with much excitement. Our campus has never been better resourced, our enrollment is robust, and our faculty and staff are truly dedicated to their important work. We have new initiatives underway in many areas, including computational thinking, diversity, equity and inclusion, and well-being. We will engage in a community-wide review of our mission this year in the first stage of what will be ongoing strategic design work. Personally, I look forward to learning even more about ASL through this process.

Thank you all for the very warm welcome, and for your commitment to ASL.

Take care,

Robin S. Appleby P '24
Head of School



Melanie O'Leary (ASL 1997–present), LS art teacher, reports that K2 students have relished exploring the artwork of Jasper Johns, painter, sculptor and printmaker. The class took a trip to the Jasper Johns exhibition at the Royal Academy and were intrigued by the artist's use of numbers and layers. The children returned to ASL excited to try out Johns' various techniques in their own creations.

Melanie explains, "Inspired by our visit to the Royal Academy, we made some mixed media numbers by rubbing pastels over sandpaper and used watercolor over newspaper to obtain a variety of textures. The students embraced the opportunity to use multiple techniques, and were fascinated by using everyday objects in their artwork."

Above:
**Numbers inspired by the
work of Jasper Johns**
by K2
mixed media



It has become an August tradition in the High School for returning and new students to get to know each other while exploring London. Before returning to school from summer break, students are eager to share stories and make new friends while making the most of the cultural opportunities in the UK's capital, especially if the weather holds! During the last full week of August last year, our oldest students embraced "Livin' London." Activities included exploring the local neighborhood and taking in the spectacular views atop Primrose Hill; tubing to the West End and eating out in Chinatown; bowling in Bloomsbury, plus Karaoke, ping-pong and pool; and walking along the Thames to enjoy the Palace of Westminster, the Millennium Bridge, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre and Borough Market.



Robin Appleby, ASL's eighth Head of School

In July 2017, ASL was thrilled to welcome its eighth head of school, Robin Appleby. Following a smooth handover from Coreen Hester, Mrs. Appleby took the reins at One Waverley Place, and shortly after, moved into Bruce House with husband John Leavey and daughter Eden '24.

Robin's experience in international education is wide and varied, having spent more than 20 years working in independent American and international schools in the US, Europe and the Middle East. She is a passionate promoter of global citizenship and intercultural understanding. Robin believes that strong school-community partnerships enhance experiential learning for students and advance understanding of diversity in all its forms. In short, she is tailor-made for a school like ASL.

Her resume is impressive; prior to joining ASL, she was director of the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and superintendent of Dubai American Academy. Robin's international career started at The American School of The Hague, where she served as high school principal. She has held leadership roles at Hathaway Brown School, Ohio, where she was upper school director, and at the Nichols School, New York, serving as senior dean and as a teacher of English.

Robin was immediately at home in the UK, having spent time in Scotland during a protracted school trip in her teens, and a year at University College London during her undergraduate days. She is elated to be living in London, one of the most diverse capital cities in the world. Robin is making the most of her time here, getting to know the out-of-the-way places,



and uncovering the plethora of culture on offer. What's more, she knows to take an umbrella whenever she ventures out!

This former teacher of English made her mark on the School from the get-go. Robin is no royal-circle observer when it comes to participation in the arts. In opening week last August, Robin



appeared in not one, but two surprise mini-musicals for students—in the Middle and High schools. Students were delighted to discover they had a head of school who could sing and dance—at the same time!

Settling in quickly, Robin was eager to reach out to all of the school's constituents. She established a theme for the year—What's *your* story? Keen to learn as much as possible about everyone she met, she encouraged the sharing of stories to help bring people together. In her first year at ASL, she attended alumni gatherings in Connecticut, Washington, DC, and New York. Her energy is inspiring, and she appreciates and celebrates the history and culture of ASL. Robin's heartfelt laughter is often heard ringing through the hallways at ASL when she is amused by a student's comments or a colleague's recollection.

Last fall, at the traditional opening assembly, in which the entire school gathers in the Farmer Family Gymnasium, Robin shared her hopes for the upcoming year at ASL; "This will be a time of discovery, fun and learning; of building a community in which we can be our best selves."

She continued, "There are lots of ways to share a story—with your voice, your pen, your music, your invention, your art. However you do it, I hope you'll share your story, starting today." In a community of students who represent more than 70 countries and speak more than 50 languages, it's proving to be an exciting journey, and the stories are many and diverse. This year's Global Festival adopted the theme "Share your story" and was a resounding success as a day of celebration of our community's story and the individuals that make up the chapters.

The assembly drew to a close with the faculty-staff choir singing the Beatles' Hello Goodbye, with our new head of school joining the ranks enthusiastically with her new colleagues.

Robin's educational philosophy is clear and direct: to develop creative, engaged learners who will grow up with the flexibility to succeed in a future of professional work we cannot easily envision—and to ensure the



advancement of a global economy and society, all without sacrificing their own cultural identity.

In an increasingly interconnected, global world, Robin is acutely aware of the ethical responsibility to create educational environments that also foster empathy, social intelligence, inclusiveness, and an appreciative understanding of diversity in all its forms.

While acknowledging that there is no singular formula for successful outcomes, she employs six rules of thumb to pave the way to educational excellence:

1. Students' needs come first
2. Vision is a community endeavor
3. Collaboration is both a responsibility and an opportunity
4. Communication is essential to building trust
5. Courage and kindness are equally important
6. Leadership is about giving.

Robin has made a strong and positive impact in her first year at our school. She is present at learning celebrations, parent gatherings, open-house events, alumni get-togethers, board meetings and social occasions—and the occasional field trip, head of school duties permitting.

It's therefore no surprise that she chose to join our high school students during their Alternatives trips, joining colleagues **Miles Dunmore P '06 '07 (ASL 2001–present)**, **Shahira Moola (ASL 2014–present)** and **Bambi Thompson P '25 (ASL 2008–09; 2011–present)** on a French retreat to embrace the rejuvenating practice of Zen!

She also joined the lower school team,

advancing to represent London, at the annual Halloween Parade, and lent her vocal skills once again to celebrate the season of goodwill at the faculty and staff holiday party.

In March, the School received notice of an imminent visit from the Ofsted inspectors, a challenge to which Robin rose with aplomb, working alongside colleagues across the School to introduce UK regulators to the many best practices in education which ASL employs. The ensuing report that deemed the School "Outstanding" in all areas is testimony to the educational philosophy and the richness of the relationships within the community that Robin espouses.

As she looks ahead to her second year at One Waverley Place, Robin reflects, "This past year has been a wonderful time spent listening and learning about ASL's community and culture. I am honored and excited to be working alongside such passionate educators, supportive parents, and inspiring students. The ASL story continues in 2018 with a community review of our mission, exciting work that will bring us all closer together as we acknowledge our history, celebrate our success, and plan together for the future."

Robin holds a BA in English literature from Dartmouth College, an MA from SUNY at Buffalo, and an MS in organization development and analysis from Case Western Reserve University Weatherhead School of Management. She sits on the Board of Trustees of the National Association of Independent Schools

The MILL: A Place for Design Thinking at ASL

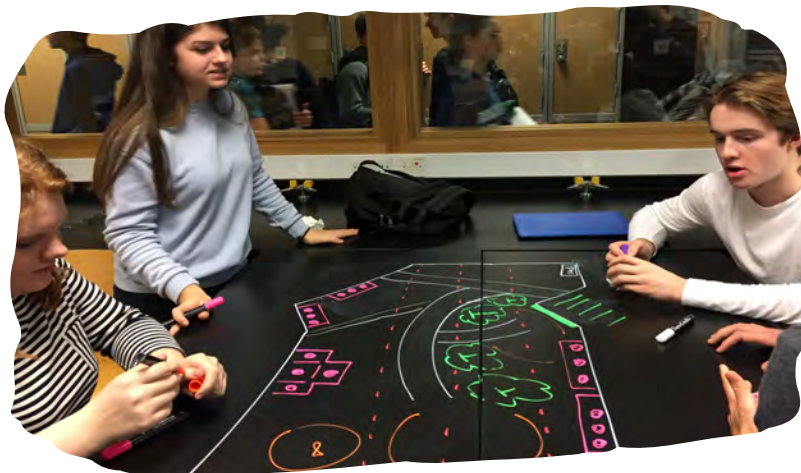
BY ROBYN CHAPEL P '20 '30 '32
(ASL 2009–11; 2015–PRESENT),
DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

THE spiritual home of 21st-century design thinking at ASL is the Make Innovate Learn Lab (the MILL), a first-rate, flexible space that allows students to dive deeply into relevant and engaging problems. Inaugurated in August 2016 as a result of the successful *New Frontiers* campaign, the MILL was born of the desire to create a place in which students and faculty could engage fully in the design thinking process and actually build the solutions that they envision to global and community problems. While design thinking can (and should) take place throughout the campus, the physical space and tools in the MILL are especially designed to facilitate the thinking, collaborating and prototyping at its heart. The new facility enjoys state-of-the-art equipment and offers unprecedented opportunities for rapid prototyping. In addition, the 2017 PCA auction, *One of a Kind*, raised welcome funds for equipment that graces this popular space. Presenting the perfect opportunity for hands-on design thinking and learning, the MILL is a fabulous resource for our school, and available to students and faculty alike.

Leaning over their mortar sandwiches, a group of Grade 2 students are deeply engaged in building walls after learning about the challenges of construction through an engaging story, *Yin Min's Great Wall*, from the curricular program, *Engineering is Elementary*. The story served as a context for the students' second dive into the design thinking process. After learning about a young girl's experience with the Great Wall in China, the seven- and eight-year-olds engaged in a wall walk around the neighborhood. Led by Grade 2 teachers **Amy Merritt (ASL 2014–present)** and **Catalina Cuadrado (ASL 2010–present)**, and Lower School Science Teacher **Elaine Robertson P '03 (ASL 1991–present)**, they closely observed and documented the walls around them. Back in the MILL, the young engineers used their photographic evidence and detailed notes to guide their wall building. They thought through what kinds of earth materials to use for mortar, built model walls, considered why engineers test to failure, and then carried out their own experiments with a wrecking ball designed by MILL co-teacher **Colin McCarty (ASL 2001–present)**. The curious explorers now are refining and revising their mortar mixtures based on the evidence they collected in the demolition. The infectious enthusiasm and sheer joy of the students is palpable. Will their creations be stronger and withstand greater force from the wrecking ball next time? This is design thinking in action.

So what does design thinking really look like? In an earlier article written in 2015, it was noted that design thinking originated at the international design firm IDEO, where CEO Tim Brown defines it as “a human-centered approach to innovation that draws from the designer's toolkit to integrate the needs of people, the possibilities of technology, and the requirements for business success.” Starting with a question, students first must collect data to understand human needs before delving in to find a solution. Students are prompted to work together to gather information. Asking questions along the lines of ‘why,’ ‘where’ and ‘how’ gives valuable insight into the task ahead, and enables students to gain deeper understanding of potential pitfalls. Bringing a fresh set of eyes and ears to an issue that is puzzling a peer offers a plethora of benefits.



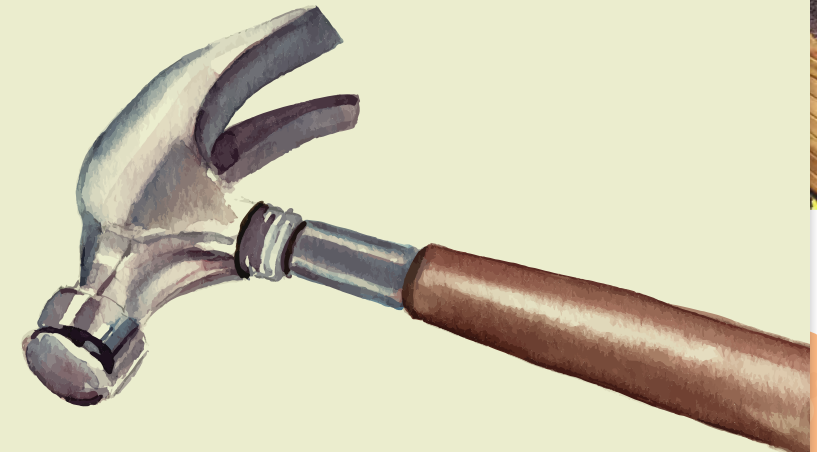


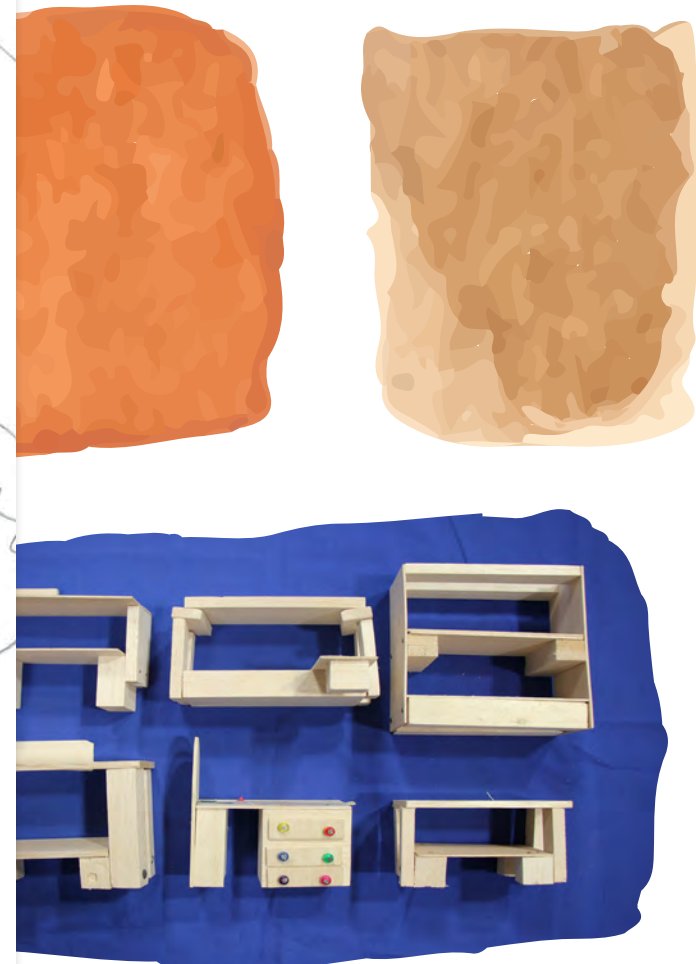
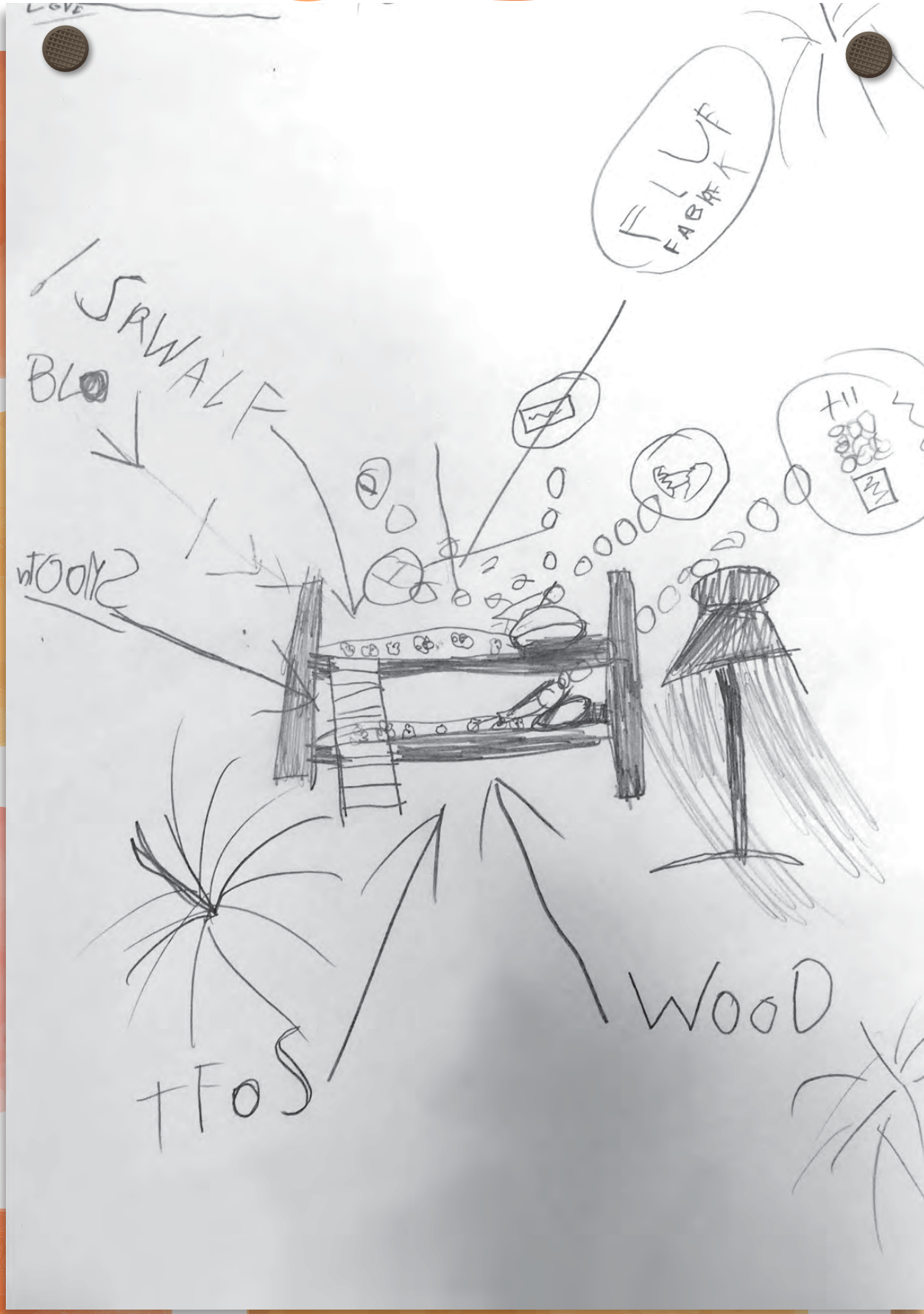
For example, last year, the students in **Jude Ruff's (ASL 1991–present)** high school Ecology class wanted to engage with nature and provide a flexible space for learning in the atrium in front of the lower school science and art classrooms. They had an abundance of imaginative ideas and wanted to set about implementing them without delay; however, in collaboration with Ms. Ruff, art teacher **Robert Davis (ASL 2015–17)**, Elaine Robertson and Colin McCarty, they were encouraged first to conduct a needs analysis and to interview users and future users of the space to figure out what people sought in an outdoor space and ascertain the challenges that led to its underuse. Once the high school students more deeply understood the problem, they rethought their central question. As noted educational design thinker Ewan McIntosh states: we often solve for the wrong problem. While it sounds straightforward, effective design thinking is not to be rushed. Identifying the need is more complex than it appears; digging deeper for the reasons behind the problem takes time, with emphasis on asking the right questions to elicit the most helpful feedback. It's not unusual for design thinkers to move back a step to re-examine outcomes from earlier stages. Middle School Science Teacher **Janet Bradshaw P '09 '11 (ASL 2002–present)** opines, "It's tough getting the kids to slow down. They're keen to jump to the end solution. We try to get them to put down ideas on paper, then create solutions in playdough, and then with mixed materials." In the example of the Ecology class, once the students slowed down and thoroughly understood the problem, their thinking shifted and they developed a statement of need to identify the problem and isolate the 'why.' What are the goals and desires to formulate an outcome? What feelings and motivations are being presented? And what part of the experience does the person facing the problem not see? The need statement served as a touchstone from which they assessed all future design decisions.



Once the statement of need is in place, it's 'ideation' time; an opportunity to throw caution to the wind, and formulate and pitch as many ideas as possible—nothing is off the table. A great way to work on this stage of the process is to make available post-it notes in abundance—a note per idea—a method that makes the individual notions easier to redistribute on the blank canvas of design. And ideas can take the form of a word, a phrase, a sketch; everything and anything goes. There is no such thing as a bad idea, and contributions are not judged. In fact, 'wild' ideas are positively encouraged—a key ingredient in the mix. Using the tools available in the MILL, Ms Ruff's students constructed physical and virtual models of the space to explore options, while another group gathered evidence about the light and physical features of the space to decide where to place plants, etc. In other words, the design choices were also scientifically data driven. After a time of reflection, it was time to 'iterate,' based on the research and discussion that has been animating the classroom, with the most feasible solution generating even more

discussion, in order to present a solution. The ecology students had to determine which of the models was the one they deemed the most likely to succeed and every discussion went back to the original needs statement. In other words, does this plan help us create the oasis for reflection and learning we are seeking to build? Next comes the 'build and test' phase. The solution that merits further inquiry is isolated and enters this crucial stage, which may involve model making, more elaborate illustration, and further discussion—with the idea being built upon and revised continuously. Students utilized this model-making process to write a PCA grant application to fund the renovation of the lower school atrium space. Grant approved, this previously concreted plaza was transformed into an inviting green space, which significantly changes the experience of lower school science and art students whose classrooms face the courtyard. Ms. Ruff recalls the actual nature of the interactions among the students being incredibly different from those in a typical group project. The students had to create an inclusive community in which all ideas counted. They needed each other because the hurdles they encountered were real and they had to work together to move over them. It is the authentic nature of design thinking that causes deeper and long-lasting learning. Even today, ecology students are connected to the ongoing maintenance and development of the space.





The design thinking that flourishes in the MILL has been fundamental to the implementation of the engineering practices that are integral to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which ASL has adopted and implemented. In ASL's Reggio-inspired kindergarten, one class of K2 students moved from studying animal nests to exploring the concept of 'home.' They sketched and designed their own living space and built model bedrooms with wood, hammer and nails. They then critiqued each other's designs to assess which ones were more successful in engineering terms: a truly authentic way to learn science and engineering as laid out in NGSS! The wall-building students in Grade 2 learned to think and act like engineers through the construction and testing of their models—just one example of the many projects in which lower school students are engaged through the leadership of Elaine Robertson and Colin McCarty, as well as their classroom teachers. And, of course, these opportunities to engage in design thinking and to develop engineering practices carry on right up through Grade 12.

The use of design thinking in classrooms across disciplines also connects to our MSA goal of 'Writing and Investigation,' that by 2023 students will improve their ability to investigate and analyze meaningful ideas and to express them effectively through written and digital communication forms. Think of the skills the ecology and the Grade 2 students were developing. They posed questions, conducted research through observation, reading and interviews, determined the research's validity, envisioned and tested innovative solutions and implemented the best of the possibilities through the willingness to take risks, make mistakes and reflect upon and learn from those mistakes. They most definitely were learning to investigate, analyze and express ideas. Importantly, students were the drivers of those ideas. And let's not forget that failing to solve the issue is also okay. There is no perfect solution, which can be frustrating at times, but great lessons can be learned. Students gain immensely throughout the experience; the process is empowering, and the learning is authentic. Students remember because they dug deep and clearly appreciated the complexity involved. Design thinking in action!



Middle School Science Teacher **Jennifer Towleh P '22 '23 (ASL 2002-present)** has visited the Nueva School in San Francisco, CA, on two occasions to garner deeper connection to the concept of design thinking, and hopes to make the process more ingrained across the divisions at ASL. "It's not appropriate for every problem, but it's a valuable tool to have at our disposal, and know we can employ the model whenever there's a need." This past year, two cohorts of K-12 ASL teachers have been engaged in an online Project Zero course, Thinking and Learning in the Maker-Centered Classroom, offered by Harvard's Graduate School of Education. Through their collaboration, these 13 teachers have been involved in reading and discussion that excites them about how to ensure that all ASL students have the opportunity to fully engage in design thinking both inside and outside the MILL.

One might assume that the MILL is a better resource for math and science classes, however, only recently, a World Civilizations class stopped by to develop a symbolic representation of Islam. And on the student-led conference run by the Human Rights Seminar, students reserved the MILL as a space to develop thinking that emerged from the learning that day. "It's great for social studies and other humanities students to venture out of the classroom," says MILL resident-in-chief Colin McCarty, before adding, "Come visit and take advantage of us!"



In June, we said goodbye to four long-serving members of the faculty and administration. We celebrated their lengthy ASL careers at a leavers' lunch on a sunny Friday afternoon in Waverley Park.

As ASL's longest-serving administrator in the school's history, Director of Finance **Chris Almond (ASL 1994–2018)** leaves ASL after 24 years. Read more about Chris's ASL story opposite. Middle School and High School Librarian, and popular swim coach, **Lindsey Schubert (ASL 2002–18)** has moved to Myanmar with husband Gavin to take up a new role at Myanmar International School Yangon. Lower School Guidance Counselor **Aerian Gray (ASL 2003–18)** left the School to continue her charitable work with the school she helped found in Sri Lanka. And High School Social Studies Teacher **Nina DeSimone (ASL 2005–18)** departed One Waverley for new adventures with husband Andy at the American Community School in Abu Dhabi.

24, not out!

As he leaves the School, Director of Finance Chris Almond P '09 '18 (ASL 1994–2018) shares insights on nearly a quarter of a century at ASL

Accents editor Wendy Robinson asked Chris to elaborate on his experiences at ASL since joining the School in 1994. Having served four heads of school, overseen three capital campaigns, had two children attend the school, and held down one key role at ASL, Chris shares his thoughts on ASL's past and his hopes for the future.

If you can cast your mind back all those years to 1994, what are your recollections of your hiring process?

I remember being interviewed by a host of people, including head of school at the time **Judith Glickman (ASL 1992–98)**, with whom I immediately got on well; current Foundation Board Chair **Barry Sabloff P '00 '05**; and then board chair **John R. Farmer P '91 '94 '97 GP '27 '29 '31 '31**. I don't remember many of the conversations, but there was a good sense of shared experiences and goals.

What are your earliest memories of ASL in the 1990s?

I recall entering a very joyful environment for the children; there was lots of student art on the walls and the kids looked happy. I remember thinking, they celebrate children here. The adults weren't so joyful, but this was a time of change at ASL and things got so much better.

Four heads of school...talk us through working with some of the great personalities in ASL's history?

It's been an amazing privilege to work with four heads of school during my tenure, from **Judith Glickman to Bill Mules (ASL 1998–2007)**, from **Coreen Hester P '02 '04 (ASL 2007–17)** to **Robin Appleby P '24 (ASL 2017–present)**. International schools tend to go through heads much quicker than ASL, but there has been a stability of leadership since I started in 1994.

Working with Judith at the beginning was all about building trust—among the parents and the school's employees. ASL was in a poor financial position, so our work together was also to get some solidity around the school's finances early on. With big changes in the administration, things eventually settled to provide some consistency to the School.

Bill was lively, friendly and funny, and he had the privilege of coming into a stabilized school, with a solid foundation.

His role was to maintain momentum—and to raise money. Those were happy days, with lots of laughter. He built relationships and encouraged a culture of fun among the adults.

Coreen lived by the Roland Barth quote, "The quality of adult relationships within a school has more to do with the quality and character of the school and with the accomplishment of students than any other factor." And while the adults were now happy, Coreen was hired to strengthen and bring clarity to what was going on in the classroom. Her depth of knowledge of curriculum brought something special to ASL, coupled with her emphasis on character as well as intellect.

Robin is great! Having a new head of school during my last year at ASL was potentially difficult, but I've really enjoyed working with her. She came into the School determined to get to know and understand our community—and she has done just that. I'm leaving with sadness in a sense, because I won't have the opportunity to get to know her better.

How has ASL changed since those early days?

The physical environment has changed beyond compare. As the culture of the School and the relationships within it have strengthened, the focus was allowed to shift to our facilities—something we couldn't have done until the people aspect had been addressed. I've been fortunate to work through the three major capital campaigns for ASL—*SchoolWorks*, which brought us the High School extension over the gym; *Fulfilling Great Expectations*, making possible the School Center for Education and the Arts and our first endowment for faculty and staff support; and latterly *New Frontiers*, which allowed us to bring new opportunities in the arts, science and PE, as well as reinforcing our commitment to student financial assistance through our second campaign for endowment.

What have you learned from the School over the years?

The 24 years I've spent at ASL make up a vast proportion of my career! I treasure everything I've learned through the opportunities presented by ASL. It's been an honor and a privilege to work with the plethora of volunteers who are so committed to the School. The Board is an extraordinary group of people, bringing specialist skills and experience—in their own time—to benefit ASL. I've learned so much from so many, whose philosophy and leadership, particularly on the fundraising front, have been inspirational.

The Senior Leadership Team has changed much over the years—in name

I've learned so much from so many, whose philosophy and leadership, particularly on the fundraising front, have been inspirational.



as well as composition! I have learnt a lot from them as well about team dynamics and managing change.

What are your experiences of being a parent at ASL?

Wearing two hats wasn't always easy, but it was good for me to see things from a different perspective; however, it did feel that there was no let-up from the ASL experience!

As you move on from the School, what will you find yourself yearning for in the years to come?

The day-to-day interactions are what I'll miss the most; the commute and the early mornings, I will not! The people and the buzz of ASL are things I'll never forget.

What are your plans for all the spare time you will have on your hands?

I'm looking forward to spending time with my family—I'm a grandparent and we are fortunate that all our parents are still alive! There haven't always been enough hours in the day and so it's important now for me to make up for lost time. I would like to support Becky, my wife, more in terms of her plans and

aspirations. I'll be spending more time dedicated to the charity I helped found in Africa, Friends of CME and doing other voluntary roles. And I hope I'll have a chance to be back in St. John's Wood to watch some cricket!

What legacy are you leaving at the School?

I like to think that I leave a team legacy for the future ASL. I've been a part of a team for the past 24 years that has made the School a stronger institution financially, and we've focused on incorporating the ASL core values of respect, responsibility, kindness, integrity and the courage to act. I'm leaving a kinder and safer school than the one I arrived at in 1994. I hope our least visible employees feel more valued and part of our community. Through our emphasis on global perspective, the students and the staff today have a broader view of the world. My heart remains with the under-privileged of the planet, and I believe the students at ASL are aware of the needs of those far beyond our school community. I hope they will use their privileges to make the world a better place.



Graduation for the Class of 2017
 Another fine London day saw the commencement exercises for the Class of 2017 take place at Central Hall Westminster on Saturday, 8 June 2017. The commencement address was given by novelist and writer **Elliot Ackerman '98**, and the ceremony was punctuated by musical interludes by the Senior String Ensemble, the High School Concert Choir, and a break from tradition, a senior farewell tribute. Valedictorian **Roxanne Sammons '17** and Salutatorian **Abigail Ball '17** made inspired presentations to rapt audience of families, faculty, staff, and friends.
 Those in the class who had remained at ASL from first to last—our lifers—were recognized: Magnus Allan, Luke Bandeen, William Brummette, Sarah Brunsberg, David Charow, Martha Collins, Olivia Halsted, Rebecka Henrikson, Ben Hewett, Ankit Mehra, Katherine Morris, Kiran Rajguru, Jonathan Shaffran, Nils Skattum, Tania Veltchev, Jonathan Wang and Luke Zeigler.

- Members of the Class of 2017 are attending the following institutions:**
- | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Babson College | Harvard University | Tufts University |
| Barnard College | Haverford College | Tulane University |
| Bates College | Imperial College London | United States Naval Academy |
| Berklee College of Music | King's College London | University College London |
| Boston College | Kingston College | University of California, Berkeley |
| Bowdoin College | Massachusetts | University of California, Davis |
| Brandeis University | Institute of Technology | University of Chicago |
| Brown University | McGill University | University of Exeter |
| Carnegie Mellon University | Middlebury College | University of Miami |
| City University of London | New York University | University of Michigan |
| Colby College | Northeastern University | University of Oxford |
| Colorado State University | Pitzer College | University of Pennsylvania |
| Columbia University | Pomona College | University of Richmond |
| Cornell University | Princeton University | University of Surrey |
| Dartmouth College | Queen's University | Vassar College |
| Davidson College | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute | Virginia Tech |
| Duke University | Rice University | Wake Forest University |
| Emory University | Southern Methodist University | Washington University in St. Louis |
| Fordham University | Syracuse University | Wheaton College MA |
| Georgetown University | Texas A&M University | Yale University |
| Goldsmiths, University of London | Trinity College | |



To be **curious** or to be **furious**: that is the question

NAWAL NOUR '84 DELIVERS COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS TO THE CLASS OF 2018

You could say that **Dr. Nawal Nour** was an intimidating choice for the keynote speech at ASL's commencement on 9 June. A graduate of ASL, Brown, and Harvard Medical School—where she now teaches—Dr. Nour is a physician at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston who oversees its Global Obstetrics and Gynecologic Health Program. What's more, she won a MacArthur "Genius" Grant for founding the African Women's Health Center, the first and only clinic in the US to serve the specific reproductive and health needs of refugee and immigrant women. But in spite of her illustrious CV, Nawal's address was funny, honest and humble—much like herself. She shared with graduates what she considers to be her most critical skill: "It is knowing, truly knowing, when to be curious, and when to be furious." Curiosity, she explained, is what drives her to ask the right questions, and to find solutions when challenged by issues that make her furious. Among the things that fill her with fury today: the prevalence of gun violence in our schools, that gender equity persists as an aspiration and not a practice, the senseless trauma that the refugee women in her care have suffered. Still, Nawal countered, "I recognize that I cannot simply be furious, I have to do something about it." Quoting Liberian Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee's caution that "You can never leave footprints that last if you're walking on tiptoes," she urged the Class of 2018 to go forth with confidence. "I believe we do not have the luxury of tiptoeing," Nawal said. "We must stand and march together in our fury towards social justice." In conclusion, she left the Class of 2018 with a final piece of real advice. "Have fun today, enjoy this moment, be curious, be furious and celebrate." Congratulations, graduates! And thank you, Dr. Nour, for empowering us all to use our voices to question, to defy and to make a difference.



Members of the Class of 2018 are attending the following institutions:

Bard College	Lehigh University	University of California, Berkeley
Baruch College of the CUNY	Loyola Marymount University	University of California, Los Angeles
Bates College	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Cambridge
Boston College	McGill University	University of Chicago
Brown University	Michigan State University	University of Denver
California Institute of Technology	Middlebury College	University of Maryland, College Park
College of the Holy Cross	New York University	University of Miami
Columbia University	Northeastern University	University of Oxford
Cornell University	Phillips Academy	University of Pennsylvania
Davidson College	Queen's University	University of Rochester
Duke University	Rhode Island School of Design	Southern California
Elon University	Rochester Institute of Technology	University of St. Andrews
Emory University	School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London	University of Toronto
Escuela Superior de Administración y Dirección de Empresas	Swarthmore College	University of Virginia
Fordham University	The Gunnery	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Georgetown University	The Taft School	Villanova University
Georgia Institute of Technology	The University of Texas, Austin	Virginia Tech
Goldsmiths, University of London	Trinity College Dublin	Wake Forest University
Harvard University	Tulane University	Wellesley College
IE University, Madrid	University College London	Wesleyan University
Imperial College London	University of Bath	Williams College
King's College London		Yale University



Graduation for the Class of 2018
 Saturday, 9 June, saw a return to Central Hall Westminster for the graduation ceremony of the Class of 2018—the first for Head of School Robin Appleby—where ASL alumna **Nawal M. Nour '84**, MD, MPH, gave the commencement address. Salutatorian **Honor Thompson '18** and Valedictorian **Graham Brantley '18** addressed the gathering, giving impassioned speeches to honor their peers. Musical interludes by the High School Concert Choir, and a rousing senior farewell tribute, were well received.
 Endurance Award winners (lifers), who attended ASL from Grade 1 or earlier, numbered a record-breaking 26! Congratulations to Olivia Abrams, Noa Bengis, Iman Bouhara, Graham Brantley, John Carrafiell, Ryleigh Cornelius, Sourna Daneshvar, Nicolas Demetris, Alex Ferragamo, Will Fox, Kelyn Howell, Gabi Janssen, Ali Kamran Ahmed, Marco Kelly, Julia Muoio, Harry Nevins, Ethan Novak, Rohan Prasad, Jacob Proctor-Bonbright, Georgina Scoville, Jonny Sheves, Mairead Simpson, Mariam Sousou, Malcolm Tisdale, Charlie Victor and Caitlin Welch.



Trustee news

In the past year, the Board of Trustees has welcomed six new members, who bring a great deal of experience and expertise to their new roles: **Luca Bassi P '24 '27**, **Erin Crawford P '20 '23**, **Daniel Hajjar P '20 '23 '27**, **Sherine Magar-Sawiris P '16 '23 '25**, **Stephanie Schueppert '89 P '24 '26** and **Nikos Stathopoulos P '21 '23**.

We also said farewell to nine trustees: **David Abrams P '14 '16 '18**, **R. Derek Bandeen P '07 '11 '12 '17**, **Caroline Clark P '07 '09 '12**, **John J. Edwards III P '19 '22**, **Chris Finn P '10 '14 '21**, **Ivan Gazidis P '15 '17**, **Donna Lancia P '17**, **Dwight M. Poler P '14 '15 '25**, and **Bill Tucker P '10 '12 '14**.

We offer sincere thanks for their years of dedication to ASL.



Trustees' Reception at Christie's

The annual gathering of faculty and staff, hosted by the ASL Board of Trustees, took place at Christie's Auction House on Friday, 15 September 2017. Head of School Robin Appleby, in her first month in charge, welcomed everyone to the reception and expressed her delight to be leading the School at this moment in its history. She went on to share how much she was enjoying getting to know the diverse group of individuals that make up the ASL community, and hearing their stories.

Following Mrs. Appleby, it was the turn of Board Chair **Dave Novak P '18 '20** to take to the famous auctioneers' podium to address the gathering. He grasped the opportunity to issue a warm welcome to all, and especially to our new head of school. Opening his remarks, Mr. Novak examined the concept of legacy; what

makes a legacy important, and how we measure it. Noting that there are "headline" legacies, such as those left by key figures, and there are equally important "everyday" legacies, etched on the consciousness of those left behind by our teachers, families and friends.

Mr. Novak observed that "Schools are in such a unique place when we think about legacy, because they catch people at a young age, when they are still forming their views, learning about appropriate behavior, and what values are important to believe in and fight for." And with a nod to the school's seventh head, Coreen R. Hester, Mr. Novak opined that her greatest legacy to the School would not be the new learning spaces made possible by the *New Frontiers* campaign, but her mantra that prompted hundreds of students to treasure the words, "Be kind, be kind, be kind."

In closing, Mr. Novak reminded the audience of the entreaty of Fred Rogers (Mr. Rogers) when he won a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 1997 Emmys. "Mr. Rogers" asked his audience to "take 10 seconds to think of the people who have helped you become who you are,



those who have cared for you and wanted what was best for you in life." Mr. Novak asked the same, and set the timer.

"Important legacies," he said, "are not reserved for people with big titles, public roles or lots of money...Important legacies are everyday acts that help a child become a curious learner, thinker, explorer, collaborator, innovator and communicator." In short, someone who embodies the school's core values of Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, Integrity and the Courage to act. Mr. Novak concluded his address with a thank you to the school's faculty and staff for the invaluable, unhistorical acts that they carry out for our children—the legacies of everyday.



- 1 Katerina Skordidi P '27, Jen Rothman P '27 '30, Marika Ison '07, Ifigenia Dalglish P '23 '26, Laura Angelidis P '27, Karina Kalb P '15 '17, Irene Zia P '29, Kira Roberts P '22 '25 and Sonia Torrenco P '23 '27
- 2 Derek and Bonnie Bandeen, with Roger Smith, right
- 3 Hadia Ghandour with Head of School Robin Appleby
- 4 Global Festival chairs Heidi Rosenwald and Christina Christodoulou

£940,716

Because ASL is One of a Kind!

The ASL One of a Kind Auction took place in March 2017, led by Auction Chair Laura Basili Angelidis P '27 and her team. This much-anticipated date in the school calendar was a great success, raising £940,716.

Historically, the money raised from the Parent Community Association's (PCA) biennial auctions has helped fund major building and endowment projects that enrich our school, as well as supporting the PCA's program for two years. The allocation from the 14th PCA auction helped support Next Generation Learning at ASL.

Projects enabled by these funds include the building of an eco-classroom at Canons Park for K1 to Grade 4 students to learn about ecology and the environment, new state-of-the-art machines and supplies for the Make Innovate Learn Lab (MILL), and advanced equipment for student research and experimentation in our recently completed high school science labs.



First endowed chair established at ASL

In June 2017, family, friends, and ASL faculty and staff gathered to celebrate the creation of the school's first endowed chair, The Bandeen Family Endowed Chair in the Specific Learning Differences Program, made possible through the commitment and generosity of long-time ASL parents **Bonnie and R. Derek Bandeen P '07 '11 '12 '17**. The establishment of this chair, the first of its kind at ASL, honors the dedicated leadership of our faculty, and the caring and personalized education provided to our students through the Specific Learning Differences Program.

Former trustee Derek said, "Bonnie and I are privileged to support an endowed chair as we appreciate the importance of an endowment to the ongoing success of a program." Bonnie added, "Our children have benefited immensely from SLD and it's an honor to give the opportunity to others."

Bonnie and Derek, left, are pictured with outgoing SLD Chair **Roger Smith (ASL 2003-17)**.

The Ghandour Family supports High School Student Art Gallery

With great vision comes great generosity. Among the visionary ambitions for our *New Frontiers* capital campaign, launched in 2013, was a purpose-built facility that could meet the growing demand of middle and high school students pursuing art, and provide new studios and spaces that inspire creativity, divergent thinking and problem solving. Today, the four-story Community Arts Building stands majestically on the south side of campus, the embodiment of a 21st-century visual arts program. We wish to recognize the leadership and support of **Hadia and Marwan Ghandour P '18 '23** for believing in this vision for ASL, and for helping our community realize its goal. The Art Gallery is a flexible area for showcasing student talent and innovation. What we envisioned for the future is today the home of ASL's artists and dreamers, and we are grateful.



What's your story? Global Festival 2018!

More than 1,800 people attended the PCA/ICC Global Festival 2018 on Sunday, 25 March, as the hallways and spaces at ASL were transformed into a glorious, colorful fusion of cultures and traditions from all around the world. This year's theme was "Share Your Story."

More than 50 countries were represented at individual tables, each dishing up delicious treats and samples of the unique cultures within our community. An entertainment stage in the Farmer Family Gymnasium included taiko drums, flamenco dancing and a Mexican folklore group, while the entertainment stage in the Commons showcased Australian storytelling, MS drama performances, and Chinese singing and instrumentalists.

"The ICC Global Festival was ASL at its best," said Head of School Robin Appleby. "Thank you to all of our fabulous volunteers who worked for months to make this year's Festival so special. Under the leadership of **Christina Christodoulou P '21 '25 '27** and **Heidi Rosenwald P '21 '23**, parents, students, faculty and staff contributed their time, talent and energy to bring us together to share the stories of our lives, and the food, dance, music and play of our cultures."



Annual Fund Impacting Excellence

Why giving matters

ASL's ability to provide the highest level of educational and extracurricular programming year after year is made possible by the generosity of our world-wide community. Charitable support allows ASL to offer unparalleled programs to develop the intellect, character and curiosity of our students who will help shape our world. Donations—at any level—signify belief in an ASL education.

Why your gift counts

Participation is key. All gifts are valued and appreciated. The percentage of participation demonstrates in the clearest and most effective way that the ASL family is dedicated to the School. This commitment shows those new to our community that they are joining a school that cares passionately about accomplishing its goals for student growth.

How to give to ASL

You are welcome to make a secure online gift, www.asl.org/makeagift

Each donation not only represents a contribution of spirit, but also provides the means to make every day extraordinary for our students. We are grateful to receive gifts of any amount.



"We wish we could have gone to a school like ASL. We hope that our gift makes it possible to continue the ASL standard for an amazing school journey."

—SUSIE AND ALEX ALGARD P '25 '27 '29

"ASL fully prepared me to succeed both in college and now the professional world. For the connections and lifelong friends I have made as a result of my years at ASL, I will be forever grateful."

—STEFAN NEALIS '12

"ASL is a special place to work. I'm happy to contribute to keeping things going in terms of broadening our horizons of cultural and socio-economic diversity."

—ELAINE ROBERTSON P '03 (ASL 1991–PRESENT)

"Even though we leave ASL after the 2017–18 school year, we want to support the school's trajectory for continued growth and enrichment of the next generation of passionate learners and leaders. Once an Eagle, always an Eagle!"

—BETH AND BRAD BURK P '22 '25



World-class faculty and staff



Band, choir and orchestra



Cultural opportunities



Visual arts



Diversity and financial assistance



Classroom equipment and technology



Faculty salaries and professional development



Performing arts



Sports and athletics

A TRIP BACK IN TIME TO VICTORIAN LONDON

ASL's founder and first head of school, Stephen L. Eckard (ASL 1951-71), famously decreed that all ASL students should take a field trip at least once a week. And every venue that has housed the School since its founding in 1951 has been perfectly placed to allow our students to explore the UK's capital, taking in all the culture and diversity that London has to offer. Mr. Eckard was also known to drive the bus himself!

Today's students are not so far removed from their peers back in the 1950s, when the School was growing swiftly from a single classroom in our founder's flat. Today, donations to ASL's Annual Fund enable students in all divisions to make the most of the school's proximity to the rich history that surrounds us at every turn.

Grade 3 students at ASL learned about Victorian London as part of their social studies classes, and took part in a number of activities outside the classroom to supplement their studies.

On Tuesday-Wednesday, 6-7 March, all four classes took turns traveling down to Southwark to take part in a special Victorian walking tour field trip.

Guided by Kim Dewdney, a Blue Badge Guide from the Institute of Tourist Guiding, students visited places of interest from the Victorian era.

The tour began outside the ruins of Marshalsea Prison. Students discussed some of the Victorian era's most famous figures—"Charlotte Bronte! Anthony Ashley Cooper! Joseph Swan!"—until they got to Charles Dickens. They learned that Charles' father, John Dickens, was incarcerated in that very prison for debt in 1824; a story that became the inspiration for Charles' novel, *Little Dorrit*. "I felt angry when Kim told us that if you owed money, you went to prison!" exclaimed Elise '27.

The walk continued on to the Red Cross Garden, an award-winning park honoring the original Victorian layout of the

surrounding cottages. It was on this very spot, students were told, that social reformer Octavia Hill built the properties and garden in 1886 to demonstrate the importance of improving housing for the poor, and the need for meaningful occupation for poor workers.

The next topic on the agenda was education. Kim led the group to the Mint & Gospel Lighthouse Mission, known as 'the ragged school' to locals, to share the story of Lord Shaftesbury.

Students squealed and squirmed as they learned how children their age would be sent to work in factories in dangerous conditions, until Shaftesbury, president of the Ragged School Union, pursued changes in legislation to take children out of the factories and into education instead.

Next stop was a railway bridge, to learn about steam trains; the River Thames, to learn how Joseph Bazalgette revolutionized the London sewage network; and an old Victorian property, to discuss the life of Charles Booth and his pioneering investigation into the living and working conditions of residents of London.

When asked how they felt about what they'd learned about Londoners during the Victorian era, Kyrah '27 explained, "I felt sad for them, I wish I could have helped them. I couldn't help but notice the horrible conditions people lived in." Devin '27 commented, "I felt bad for people who got cholera from the water in the Thames, and for the poor children who had dangerous jobs. I'm glad I don't live in the Victorian times and that I live in the modern age!"

Talia '27 agreed, "I'm so happy that I was born in 2009 and not in Victorian times!"

Ariana '27 summed up the day by saying "I felt sad because all of these children had hard lives, but I also felt grateful that there were people who helped a lot. It was good that Kim could tell us about all of this, and that we could learn lots!"

"The walking tour is a great way to complement the students' learning,"

explained Grade 3 teacher **Nancy Lau (ASL 2014-present)**. "They began by studying British history, then focused on London and the Victorian era. In discussing whose stories are (and aren't!) told from this period, we found that, historically, the rich have always been the ones writing the history books, and perhaps not everyone's stories are being told, so it's important to seek those out."

On Thursday, 8 March, there was a special treat in store for Grade 3 students and teachers. LS Technology Coordinator **Peter Cassidy (ASL 1996-present)**, supported by faculty members from the art and music teams, put on a special 'Victorian Hour' presentation with students, to share how their Victorian studies have traversed departments.

Supported by K-12 Visual Arts Department Head **Luchy Harrold (ASL 2017-present)**, a group of students proudly displayed some Victorian optical illusion artwork to their peers, while others led the way into a group singalong of 'Daisy Bell' and 'I'm Called Little Buttercup' with performing arts teacher **Bronagh Coakley (ASL 2017-present)**.

Students were also treated to a piano performance from high school math teacher **Doug Poggioli (ASL 1999-present)**, who played his favorite piece of Victorian music.

The icing on the cake, however, was a special visit from Jack Fawdry, from Pollock's Toy Museum.

Founded by his grandmother, Marguerite Fawdry, during the 1950s, the Fitzrovia-based museum displays a broad collection of Victorian toys, including dolls, teddy bears, puppets and soldiers.

Jack brought in a selection of toys to share with Grade 3, and the students took great delight in asking questions about the age, name and history of each one.

A huge thank you to the Grade 3 students, faculty and staff for the wonderful history lesson!



- 1 ASL Grade 6, 1957
- 2 Devon Brandorff '75 with daughter Brennan
- 3-4 Lisa Thomson '80, Kathy Selgas '80 and Colleen O'Hare '80 at choir practice in 1979 and at Lisa's wedding in 2017
- 5 Madeline Siefke '80, Lisa Grogan '80 and Suzanne Grogan '82
- 6 1979 rugby team
- 7 Rugby reunion with Tim Sickinger '80, Chuck Rhea '80, Mark Pearson '80, Dave McCloskey '80, Scott Mason '79, Mike Cottle '79 and Todd Scorch '79

44 Class notes



'63
Bill Hall got in touch from his home in Portland, OR, to share a photo from spring 1957, which he took at 13 Grosvenor Square with his Kodak Brownie camera. He recalls some of the names of his Grade 6 classmates depicted, Patsy or Patty, Diane or Diana, and Edward. Can you shed any light on the identity of any of these 1950s ASL students? Bill has great memories of ASL and his year at the School with sister **Sally '60**, 1956-57, and promises to write about

his recollections of ASL's early years. Watch this space!

'69
 After 22 years as executive director of Texas Nonprofit Theatres (TNT), **Linda M. Lee** retired in June 2017. She is a past president of the American Association of Community Theatre and a member of the AACT College of Fellows. Linda continues her work in the arts, serving in a volunteer position as treasurer for Texans for the Arts and in the same



capacity for Live Theatre League of Tarrant County. Her former employment includes six years as an actor, teacher, composer, dean of school and costumer at Casa Manana Musical in Fort Worth, followed by 15 years with the Creative Arts Theatre & School in Arlington, TX.

'70
 We hear that **Alan and Betsy Claassen**, ASL sweethearts, recently relocated to British Columbia, where Alan serves as minister of St. John's United Church and Betsy is teaching in an elementary school.

'75
 In June 2017, while visiting the UK to attend a wedding in Bath, **Devon (Brandorff) Alexander** and her daughter Brennan visited ASL for the first time since she graduated. Devon now lives in Houston.



'77
Robyn (Husband) Bradford writes that she lives in Dallas, TX, and works as executive producer and CFO with a commercial film company.

'78
 Congratulations to **Steven Yates**, who published his second book, *Not That Anyone Asked: An Autobiography and Essays by a Child of the 60s and 70s*. Previously, Steven worked as an engineer.

'79
 In spring 2017, **Mike Cottle** married **Lisa Thomson '80**. A number of ASL classmates attended the wedding, including **Kathy (Selgas) Chester '80** and **Colleen (O'Hare) Hyman '80**.



A rugby reunion for Classes of 1979 and 1980
 Almost 40 years since they learned to scrum and tackle under the direction of coach **John Lockwood (ASL 1967-2007)**, friends and former teammates from the Classes of 1979 and 1980 reconvened in the UK for a February weekend of reminiscing, revelry and rugby. **Mike Cottle '79**, **Scott Mason '79**, **Dave McCloskey '80**, **Mark Pearson '80**, **Chuck Rhea '80**, **Todd Scorch '79** and **Tim Sickinger '80** met in London for a few days before traveling to Edinburgh to watch Scotland compete against France in a Six Nations fixture. Crossing the pond from as far away as California and Canada, the men's London stop included a visit to ASL. For some, it was their first time in the building since their graduation! They were thrilled to see the changes that have taken place at One Waverley Place—although it was 2-8 Loudoun Road in their day. They reminisced over favorite teachers, including **Soledad Sprackling (ASL 1977-2000)**, **Roger Corrigan (ASL 1971-2010)**, **Dave Sutherland (ASL 1970-98)**, **Joe McEvoy (ASL 1975-85)**, **Jim McGovern (ASL 1974-98)**, **Dick Clothier (ASL 1973-80)**, **Tim Watson (ASL 1973-2007)**, **Luke Bergeron (ASL 1973-91)**, **Alice Leader (ASL 1975-2010)**, **Sam Lauron (ASL 1964-99)** and **Paul Morton (ASL 1963-97)**. Visiting during parent-teacher conferences, the group was astounded to see the new MILL, with all its latest technology, a hive of activity with students—on their day off!—busily preparing for the upcoming robotics championships. And it was iPhones at the ready when they spotted the rugby banner in the Farmer Family Gymnasium, proudly announcing ASL as ISST champions in 1979 and 1980! Elated to have reconnected with their alma mater, they departed happy, and promised to return before too long.

The group had fun reliving old memories (and recreating old photos!)

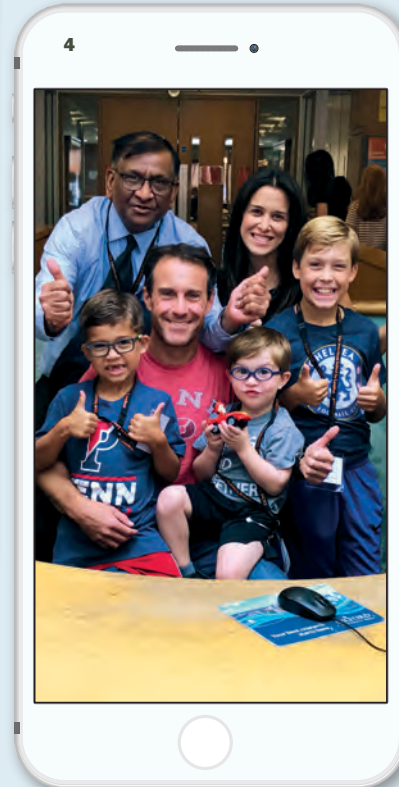
'80
Madeline (Siefke) Estill, **Lisa (Grogan) Sams**, and Lisa's sister **Suzanne**

(Grogan) Lipscomb '82 visited ASL during a vacation to London. They were thrilled to see the new facilities, shared fond memories of their teachers, many of whose names they found displayed in the Mellon Library. Lisa and Madeline met in Grade 5 at ASL and have remained friends!

Bhupendra selfies

A campus tour, a trip down memory lane and a selfie with Bhupendra Patel

When ASL alumni, alumni parents and former faculty and staff pay their alma mater a visit, the first stop on the tour is Waverley Place Reception to take a selfie with Access Control Officer **Bhupendra Patel (ASL 1998–present)**. Here's a gallery of our recent visitors, and you can see more selfies on our Facebook page. Let's give two thumbs up for being once an Eagle, always an Eagle!



- 1 Lars Skattum '12
- 2 Hana Yoshino '99
- 3 Jerry Sandham '59
- 4 Peter Bond '93 and family
- 5 Kara (Boehm) Molenhouse '79

'81

Remember Jake, from State Farm? First aired in 2011, this commercial from State Farm Insurance became a pop culture sensation that generated memes, 30,000 Twitter followers, Halloween costumes and even a parody from Dan Aykroyd and Jane Curtin on *Saturday Night Live*. Fun fact: this ad was written by creative director and ASL alumnus **Barton Culberson**. Bart lives in Chicago with his family.

Tracey (Pera) Sanders and her husband recently moved to Memphis. "Any ASL alums in the area, especially from the early '80s, are encouraged to contact me, tpsanders@yahoo.com."

'84

Last fall, **Sylvia (Elefteriou) Knox** stopped by campus with her two children, Maria and Matt. Maria had spent the semester studying at City University in London. This was Sylvia's first trip back since 1983, when she left in the middle of Grade 11. The family lives in Ohio.

Kirk Semple has been a reporter for *The New York Times* since 2001. He is currently based in Mexico City as a correspondent for Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean.

'85

As an ASL student, **Dan Slott** was a lively kid who found his home on stage. Today, he is a comic book writer best known for his work on *The Amazing Spider-Man* series. He visited campus in the fall and had the chance to catch up with classmate and ASL teacher **Solange Kidd**.

'86

Congratulations to PBS Newshour correspondent **William Brangham**, whose documentary, *The End of AIDS?*, won an Emmy for Outstanding Science, Medical and Environmental Reporting.

As of January 2018, **Jonathan Schwartz** is serving as executive director at the Modell Performing Arts Center at The Lyric, a venue that provides arts programming to the greater Baltimore community.

'89

Executive coach and leadership consultant **Scott Taylor** has launched a summer learning experience program for high school students, American Journeys. This civic rite-of-passage aims to build students' confidence and deepen their values while



- 6 Brandon Bakshi '91, Toby Spill and David Rosenwald '90
- 7 Class of 2000 friends reunite in NYC

'91

While heading to Nashville on business, **Brandon Bakshi** made a stop in Miami to visit **David Rosenwald '90** and Toby Spill, who participated in ASL's summer camp in 1989. "Thanks to ASL, we are lifelong friends," remarked Brandon.

Congratulations to **Tarek Malouf**, founder of London's Hummingbird Bakery, who was awarded a MBE by the Queen for his services to baking and confectionery.

'92

Sara (Fuller) Hutchinson lives in Park City, UT, and has a great life with her husband, Matt, filled with skiing, hiking, biking and yoga. She works at a non-profit in town, the Park City Education Foundation. She has two great kids. She remembers her days in London fondly.

'93

After six wonderful years in London, including two at ASL with her children, **Jessica (Spiegel) Egan** and her family have moved to the Bay Area in California.

Jeannine Saba has launched and published a new magazine for Covent Garden. Now in its third year, *The Covent Gardener* promotes the neighborhood's history, culture and local businesses.

'94

Natasha Jouhl is living in London and working as a professional opera singer who has performed at the Royal Albert Hall. Learn more at www.natashajouhl.com



- 1 John Jensen '97 with John Farmer '97 shortly before addressing the Class of 2018 at the Senior Send-Off in June
- 2 Suraya Amal, daughter of Valerie Marquez '01
- 3 Emily Kolb '01 and son Thomas
- 4 The Kennedy family
- 5 Megan O'Brien '02
- 6 Margaret Bennett '05 weds Kyle Pearson
- 7 ASL represents at the wedding of Jack Lowey '04
- 8 Dave Hughes '06 and wife Kate
- 9 Katie Cielinski '08 and Aaron Regunberg



'95

Jason Saretsky is now in his 12th season as director of track and field/cross country at Harvard, overseeing both the men's and women's teams. Last year, he earned the distinction of being named the 2017 Ivy League Women's Outdoor Track and Field Coach of the Year.

'97

On 31 January 2017, **Claressinka (Anderson) Pugliese** joyfully welcomed baby boy Lucian Wynn Anderson Pugliese to her family.

In March, **Alexandra (Haggiag) Dean** returned to London for the premiere of a movie she directed, *Bombshell: The Amazing Story of Hedy Lamarr*. Alex is an Emmy-award-winning documentary and news producer. In partnership with her brother **Adam '01** and actress Susan Sarandon, Alex founded Reframed Pictures in 2014.

John Jensen is now dean of career and professional development at Washington & Lee University. He and his family have lived in Lexington, VA, since 2011. In June, while in London for business, John stressed the value of the ASL alumni network at the Senior Send-Off.

Jessica Sutton married Brian Lochner on 14 January 2017. They currently reside in Austin, TX.

'98

Mark Dodson recently took a position as a business development officer at Wells Fargo Bank. He and wife Laaila live in Redondo Beach, CA, and celebrated their fifth wedding anniversary last summer.

'99

ASL lifer **Whitney Hintz** is an art consultant and curator of the Hiscox art collection, buying art for the insurance company's corporate offices around the world. A Barnard graduate, her passion for art history was inspired by **Judy Kisor (ASL 1994-2014)**.

'00

Claude Deering starred in *12 Deadly Days of Christmas* for YouTube RED and Blumhouse TV. In other good news, Claude's first son, Henry Keaton Deering, was born on 25 March 2016.

Steven and Alicia (Ferro) Kelly welcomed their second child, James Dennis, on 24 September. James joins



Sign up to Switchboard!

Are you looking for a place to live in New York? Do you need internship advice or job leads? Join Switchboard, www.asl.switchboardhq.com, our online network for alumni, parents of alumni and former faculty/staff. Part Craigslist, part LinkedIn, Switchboard lets you ask the ASL community for what you need and offer what you have. Sign up today!

big brother Grant, and the family lives in Brooklyn. Steve writes, "**Michael Benz** assures us that he will be around to help raise the child, even though he failed to do so for the first one."

We hear from **Jess (Hartogs) Oakley** that she and her classmates had a reunion in NYC last fall: **Maggie Martin, James Elliot, Andrew Williams, David Clark, Alicia Ferro, Michael Benz, Steve Kelly** and **Annie Kaempfer** enjoyed an ASL-centric dinner. In January 2018, Jess joined LinkedIn as the UK/US news editor.

Kate Reid is living in San Francisco and working at Visa. She recently had the chance to spend two months in Mumbai for work and loved it. Kate has enjoyed catching up with other classmates in the SF area: **Emily Wasley, Stephanie Long** and **Andrew Wade**.

'01

While on their honeymoon in London, newly-weds **Matt Christoph** and **Destiny** visited ASL. They are both attorneys and live in Boston.

Emily (Kolb) Forswall and her four-year-old son, Thomas, stopped by ASL in November. They had just arrived in London from their home in Houston and were staying with friends in Kensington. Emily is a high school social science teacher in Houston. She lives with her husband and two kids.

Sheila (Barry) Kennedy and her husband, Shane, were happy to welcome their daughter Saoirse to the world in June 2017. She joins big sister Ciara, 3. Sheila writes, "Hopefully one day soon we can make the trip from San Francisco

to London to show the girls how great ASL is!"

Valerie (Marquez) Altahawi shared the happy news that her third baby, Suraya Amal, arrived on 13 August 2017. The family is doing well, and both big sisters are absolutely in love with their newest sibling.

'02

In October, **Megan O'Brien** visited ASL during a vacation to London. She lives in New York, where she works for Rag & Bone clothing.

'04

In October 2016, **Jack Lowey** married Kaitlin Arntz in Omaha, NE. The wedding was a mini-ASL reunion, with groomsmen **Greg Waters, Garroch Neil**, bridesmaid **Liz Lowey '07**, and guests **Elisabeth (Schwab) Myerson** and **Elizabeth (Mooney) Miller**. Also in attendance were the groom's parents, **Ann and Mark**, as well as other ASL parents **Daniel Waters P '01 '04, Alan and Victoria Neil P '88 '04, Mark Simundson and Loretta Sevier P '08 '11**, as well as family friend and ASL alumnus **Baron Bustin '78**. Jack and Kaitlin live in Chicago and caught up with other ASLers at our Chicago event in October.

'05

Feeling thirsty? Consider kicking back with a Brooks Dry Cider. The Sonoma, CA, beverage company was founded by **Brooks Bennett**. Visit www.brooksdrycider.com to learn more.

Margaret Bennett married Kyle Pearson on 9 September on Squam Lake in New Hampshire. The couple, who both attended Tufts University, met post-graduation through friends.

JD Leonard shares that he moved to Cleveland. He is currently a freelance web development consultant and CEO of Copperly, a merchant services comparison site. Check it out, www.copperly.com.

'06

Congratulations to **Dave Hughes**, who married Kate Murphy on 29 April 2017. The wedding party included brothers **Dan '08, Peter '12, Zach Phillips** and **Connor McGinnis**. **Jay Cohen** was also in attendance.

'08

Katie Cielinski married **Aaron Regunberg** on 19 August 2017 in Bristol, Rhode Island. The couple met at Brown University and both graduated in 2012. Katie is in her final year at Harvard Law School, where she is co-editor-in-chief for the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. Aaron, a legislator, is running for lieutenant governor of Rhode Island. Many alumni celebrated Katie and Aaron's special day, including classmates **Molly Berkemeier, Joanna Freeman, Taylor Maddalene, Sophie Ong, Ashton Page** and **Jess Phippen**, as well as **Al Harvey '07, Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present), Anne and Mike Rosen P '10** and **Donna and Jeremy Preddy P '07 '09 '12 '15**.

In Denver, **Garrett Kidd '08** sources specialty coffee beans from northern Thailand to produce and sell his cold brew Forest Coffee (www.forestcoffeetrading.com) all over Colorado.

As part of her job at *National Geographic*, **Taylor Maddalene** supports wildlife conservation programs, including the Big Cats Initiative, and helps to raise awareness for big cat conservation and protection among British, American and African students.

'09

Last fall, **Alex Larsen** and his wife popped in for a tour of the School and the new facilities, and to catch up with **Terry Gladis (ASL 1998–present)** and **Doug Poggioli (ASL 1999–present)**. He has fond memories of ASL, especially of playing Lieutenant Shrink in *West Side Story*.

'10

Margaret Bertasi is hoping to compete in the 2020 Summer Olympic Games as a member of the US National Rowing Team. We wish her luck in her training!

Gunita Bhasin is CEO and founder of Showcased, a new social network that connects people with passions in common.

Inspired by the Ubuntu service-learning trip she took her senior year, **Lucy McCray** earned her master's in development studies from the London School of Economics. She has been living in Northern Thailand for the past two years, working for The Freedom Story, a trafficking prevention organization that helps at-risk students in Chiang Rai. If any students or alumni would like to come visit, volunteer, or are in the area, please let her know! She can be contacted at lucy@thefreedomstory.org.

After finishing her English literature degree with honors at New York University, **Eirian Yem** finished her master's degree and has started a DPhil at Oxford University.

'11

Haley Marten recently stopped by ASL during a two-week trip to London and Copenhagen. After majoring in psychology at Roanoke College, she has been working in PR in New York.

Dylan Yem attended Pepperdine University and then the SAE Institute, majoring in sound engineering. He is now a musician and also works for Live Nation, a large musical events company in Los Angeles.

'12

Until recently, **Peter Hughes** was living in Burkina Faso while serving in the Peace Corps. He blogged about his unforgettable experience—www.peterhughes.com.

After graduating from Notre Dame, **Morganne Howell** spent a year as a paralegal and is now working as a research assistant in Chicago.

Professional race driver **Ryan Tveter** is on the ladder to compete in Formula 1. His ambition: to race in the F1 and become the first American-born F1 World Champion since 1961!

'13

William Kennedy is working at the NASA Johnson Space Center as an engineer for the international space station.

'15

Zoe Barnes spent 2015–16 in southern Brazil participating in Tufts' 1 + 4 Bridge Year program. She is currently in her sophomore year at Tufts.

As a student in **Axel Forrester's (ASL 2009–15)** class, **Kendel Craig** took part in a graphic design contest. Now her winning project is the cover of a book published by the Museum of Natural History.

'16

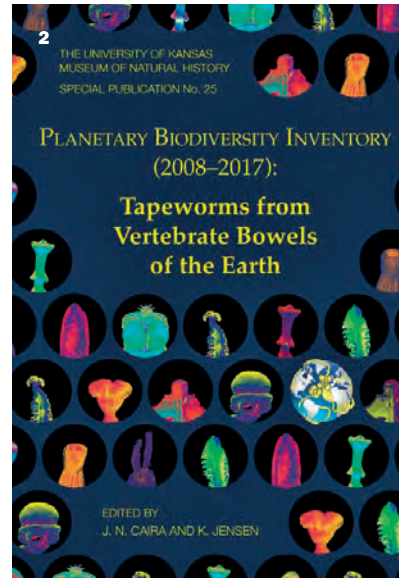
UC Berkeley student **Katherine Blesie** is part of a group that is hoping to be the first college team in history to fund, design and launch a rocket into space—hopefully in July 2018!

'19

Molly Jones is living in Chicago with her family. She came back to visit ASL for the first time with a group of friends, including fellow alumna and classmate **Naomi Norden**. Naomi is studying at South Hampstead School.

'24

Myles King and sister **Verity '28** miss their ASL friends very much. Myles is in Grade 6 at Sidwell Friends School and Verity is in Grade 2 at the Sheridan School.



- 1 Lucy McCray '10, working in action at The Freedom Story
- 2 Winning book cover design of Kendel Craig '15
- 3 Claressinka Anderson '97 with Lucian Wynn Anderson Pugliese, born 31 Jan 2017
- 4 The Floyd family
- 5 Keith Montgomery, Graham Brantley '18 and AMIS honor band conductor Travis Cross



Former faculty news

Last summer, **David and Megan Floyd (ASL 1990–92)** visited ASL with their sons, Liam and Rhys. This was their first time back since they left ASL. Both were Lower School teachers. David was also the girls varsity basketball coach and remembered coaching **Margaret (Farmer) Pringle '91**. The family was en route to a vacation in the South of France, where their eldest son, Connor, was completing a Fulbright Scholarship.

As co-founders of the Association for Music in International Schools (AMIS), former music teachers **Georgia and Dick Bassett (ASL 1974–96)** took the Honor Band and Choir Festival they started in London and grew it into a thriving, international organization that creates numerous performance opportunities for young musicians at international schools all over the world. Parent and alumnus **Michael Brantley '86** and his sister, **May '83**, were avid participants in the pioneering festival years, an extraordinary experience that Michael can now share with his children, **Graham '18** and **Lauren '20**. At the AMIS High School Honor Band & Orchestra Festival held in Singapore in March, Graham was part of the ensemble that premiered "Zethus," a special commissioned work. AMIS brings the Brantleys full circle!



Annual Fund
Impacting Excellence

Give it up for the ASL Giving Committee!

The newly-formed ASL Giving Committee is a dedicated team of volunteers who partner with the alumni office to grow support for the Annual Fund, promote alumni goals and enhance our school community. With the help of these enthusiastic Eagles, the #GivingTuesday alumni participation challenge resulted in 126 alumni and alumni parent Annual Fund gifts and more than £34,000 raised. Thank you, AGC! Want to get involved? Contact Alumni Director Libby Jones, libby_jones@asl.org

ASL Giving Committee

- John Jensen '97, Co-chair
- Vivek Jois '11, Co-chair
- Jim Bexfield '61
- Jessica (Spiegel) Egan '93
- Deirdre Ely '13
- Doug Gilbert '94
- Vicki Hamadache (ASL 1985–present)
- Spencer Hodge '11
- Marika Ison '07
- Karina Kalb P '15 '17
- Diana Lazareva '04
- Charles Scudder '64
- Alison (Aronson) Sherman '76

What is your favorite ASL memory?

“Taking volunteer math tutoring lessons from my favorite teacher, Mr. Curry (ASL 1959–63) in the summer between my junior and senior year.”

— JIM BEXFIELD '61

Why do you give back to ASL?

“I give back to ASL because the School gave a lot to me! It’s that simple.”

— JESSICA (SPIEGEL) EGAN '93

What is your hope for ASL’s future?

“I hope that ASL can continue to innovate and excel.”

— DOUG GILBERT '94

What advice do you have for current ASL students?

“Take advantage of all the opportunities that living in a cosmopolitan city like London affords: traveling to different countries, meeting people from all over the globe, expanding your world view. Most people don’t get to experience these until much later in life, if at all, so savor it!”

— DEIRDRE ELY '13

Why do you give back to ASL?

“While at ASL, I benefitted from being part of a community that invested in creating a one-of-a-kind student experience. I want to make sure our community’s commitment to excellence continues.”

— SPENCER HODGE '11

Why do you give back to ASL?

“I want to support the School in attracting and retaining the stellar teachers that my children had the privilege to learn from.”

— KARINA KALB P '15 '17

What is your favorite ASL memory?

“Hands down, Elton John playing in the gym!”

— ALISON (ARONSON) SHERMAN '76

Alumni News

“Celebrate we will, 'cause life is short but sweet for certain.”

—DAVE MATTHEWS BAND

Class of '97 20th reunion

With Dave Matthews Band ringing in their ears and the sight of their former dean, **Mr. Conaty (ASL 1991–2017)**, evoking fear that they may get caught skipping class, members of the Class of 1997 came back to where it all began for a memorable June 2017 weekend in London. The group of 15 alumni gathered from every corner, including Cambridge, California, Minnesota and Singapore. Many classmates brought along partners and children. The reunion kicked-off with a friendly, on-campus basketball game, evidently to settle some old scores between **John Jensen** and **Nick Ingrassia**. Other participants and bystanders were **John Farmer**, **Kim Hillenbrand** and **Alex Caparros**. Following the match, additional classmates reported to One Waverley Place for a campus tour, and the group happily bumped into their former principal, **Coreen Hester (ASL 1995–97; 2007–17)**, who retired as head of school a few weeks later. They also caught up with **Vicki Hamadache (ASL 1985–present)** and **Bill Kenney (ASL 1990–present)**.

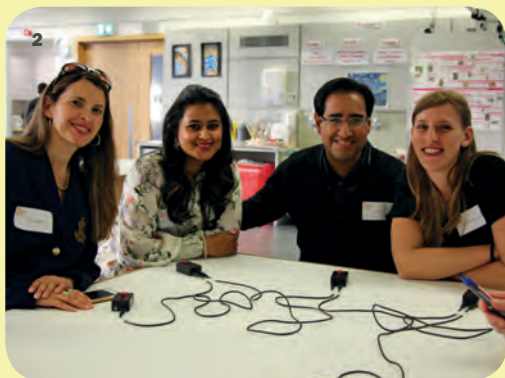
After numerous stops down memory lane (and just as many photo-ops!), the Class of '97, accompanied by **Kevin Conaty** and **John Wilson (ASL 1971–2009)**, made their way to the Salt House for toasting and reminiscing. Reflecting on the reunion, Athletic Director **John Farmer** commented, “It was so much fun to catch up with old friends and talk about the incredible experience we all had at ASL. Equally, it was great to see my classmates’ reactions to the new facilities and opportunities ASL has. Everyone was blown away by the school.” Special thanks to John for organizing a successful weekend of hoops and hullabaloo for his '97 peers!



Alumni, advice and all that jazz: ASL reception in Chicago

In October, members of the advancement office returned to the Windy City to host a special evening for alumni, alumni parents, and former faculty and staff. Representing Classes from 1979 to 2012, Eagles gathered at the University Club of Chicago to hear a presentation from University of Chicago lecturer, author and ASL alumnus **Christopher Takacs '01** about the secrets to a successful college experience. Some of his top tips: don’t sit out orientation week, get to know at least one professor and choose to live on campus. Following Chris’s talk, guests had a chance to share their favorite ASL memories and a raise a glass to their alma mater. A special thanks to Chris for his enlightening lecture and to **Bill Obenshain P '92 '92** for hosting us at the University Club.





Alumni Back-to-School Night

In May, nearly 60 alumni, current and former faculty and staff came back to campus—and back to class—for our inaugural Alumni Back-to-School Night event. Guests toured new facilities (with special guide and trustee **Bill Tucker P '10 '12 '14**), caught up with old friends and former teachers, and heard from Head of School **Robin Appleby P '24 (ASL 2017–present)**, who warmly welcomed the spirited group before directing them to report to class! The “course list” included Quiz Bowl led by **John Wilson (ASL 1971-2009)** and **Terry Gladis P '27 '30 (ASL 1998–present)**, Improv with **Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present)** and Class Debate moderated by **Alice Leader P '98 '00 (ASL 1975–2010)**. Thank you to everyone, and especially to the alumni representing Classes 1974–2016, for helping to make our first Back-to-School night so special.

- 1 Vivek Jois '11, John Wilson and Will Tucker '10
- 2 Zemar Dajani '87, Shristi Mittal '05 and husband Raj Behl, Danielle Vande Voorde '07
- 3 Russell with his wife, Pam, and daughters, Lucinda and Parker



Cracking business school admissions and beyond: an interview with MBA admissions consultant Russell Davis '81

Alumnus **Russell Davis** spent more than a decade working in admissions at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. Now a director at Duke Kunshan University in China, Russell still helps prospective MBA students land their dream school as an admissions consultant. Here are his top tips for impressing admissions committees:

“Consider the why. I always tell applicants, your application is full of *whats*—what your major was, what activities you were involved in, what internship or job you had, from what school you graduated. But what makes an application compelling is the *why* or the *how* behind those *whats*. Why did you choose that major, that college, or join that company? Why is that hobby, activity or community involvement interesting or gratifying to you? How did you grow as a result of that involvement or experience? How did that experience shape you or your perspective? Admissions committees love to understand the inspiration for the choices you make and the passions you have. Let them know what inspired or shaped your values, your interests and the choices you have made in your life.

Don't be afraid to disclose your mistakes. Talking about failure is okay because it makes you vulnerable and real. As the saying goes, we learn more from our failures than we do our successes. Admissions committees don't fall in love with profiles—they fall in love with people. If you give an application reader a chance to know you as a person and not just an applicant, and they like you, they will fight for you in committee. Ultimately, let the committee know who you are, and what that unique perspective is that you bring.

Think globally. ASL students are getting a truly global educational experience, and this experience is always going to be attractive to an admissions committee. But what will get the committee really excited is when the applicant can share how that international experience shaped him or her. It's fine to say that you went to ASL and had a great time, but what's going to be more valuable to an admissions committee is if you convey how that ASL experience informs your view of the world, and how you relate to other people as a result. How did it change you? How does it shape your goals for the future? Why or how is your perspective different? How will that influence you in the years to come? Let that insight come through in the application.”

JOEY GOLDMAN '12

UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE CHAMPION

It was a legendary stand-off that would rival the dual between Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr, the intensity of the Harvard-Yale football game, the great contest between Coke and Pepsi.

Oxford vs. Cambridge. Great Britain vs. Canada.

Eric Monkman vs. **Joey Goldman '12**: ASL graduate and fount of trivia knowledge. On the 2017 final of *University Challenge*, the beloved BBC quiz program that pits college teams against one another, and whose illustrious past contestants include Sebastian Faulks and Stephen Fry, our alumnus Joey took home first place—to Balliol College, Oxford, and to ASL, where he was first introduced to the world of quiz competition. Here, an interview with the winning team's captain about his ASL years, the truth behind his beef with Jeremy Paxman, and his new found fame as a *UC* champion.

You joined ASL in Grade 6. What were your first impressions?

It was so much bigger than my previous school. My parents are South African, but I was born in London and spent a lot of time traveling around the US. The international aspect of the school was really appealing, so we decided to give it a try. It was intimidating at first.

But it became a good fit?

Yes! I loved it. I played rugby in middle school and made some good friends. I think I frustrated my teachers because I did well in class but was not so great with homework. That persisted.

When did you discover your talent for quiz competition?

As a freshman, I took part in the HS Quiz Bowl that was organized by **John Wilson (ASL 1971–2009)**. **Lars Skattum '12**,

Stephen Herring '12 and I were on the same team, and we beat the others fairly easily.

Editor's note: Lars recalls that he came through with the answer to the tie-breaker question, which was about Norwegian fjords.

What were your favorite ASL classes?

AP Physics with **Keith Reimer (ASL 2010–12)** was a great course. Mr. Reimer made physics a joy to learn. He moonlighted as a stand-up comedian, so he wove that into his teaching. My English teacher, **Jon Ingram (ASL 2002–12)**, was also really encouraging. He was the one who told me I could attend any university I set my mind on, and recommended books to me. I ended up applying to read computer science at Oxford because of **Richard Eisenberg (ASL 2008–11)** and his AP Computer Science class. As a sophomore, I doubled up in Geometry and Algebra II so I could accelerate through the math program. Mr. Eisenberg was impactful on my interests, my approach to math and my understanding of quantitative thinking.

From ASL, you landed at Oxford as a philosophy and computer science major. How did that happen?

Well, ASL turned me on to computer science, and I had an interest in philosophy, and Oxford is one of the few universities where you can marry those subjects. Balliol College offered me a place, and I took it. In my second year, I swapped computer science for theology because I grew tired of the problem-set style of learning. Turns out, I much preferred computer science at ASL than at university!

What's Balliol's reputation as a college?

It's one of the oldest Oxford colleges and quite academic. It's considered politically progressive too. And we do very well in the intercollegiate quiz bowls—we've won nine in the past 20 years.

Is that how you became involved in the collegiate quiz scene?

After winning the ASL bowl in Grade 9, I started doing some research into quiz tournaments and participated in a few as a senior. I also grew up watching *University Challenge* with my mom and always had an interest in being on the show. I decided against playing for Balliol before this year because I wanted to be as strong a player as possible.

Between your opponent Eric Monkman (the Canadian from Wolfson College, Cambridge, whose hysteric fandom is known as #monkmania) and your purported sass towards Jeremy Paxman, this University Challenge final was really hyped up on social media. What it's like to be a celebrity?

It's pretty weird. We filmed the final long before it aired, so as Eric's popularity grew, my teammates and I were nervous about how people would react when they discovered that he lost. In some ways, we were the villains of the show. But the experience has been rewarding. I'm glad we could do something good for Balliol. My teammates and I are now very good friends, which is the best outcome of doing the show. They are all great people whom I otherwise wouldn't have known.

Congratulations, Joey! We're proud to have an Oxford scholar, quiz bowl champion and cult TV star in our fold.





Long-serving faculty member Steve Cary is including ASL in his estate plans

From the moment Steve Cary was drawn to ASL to cover a faculty absence in 1991, he became a mainstay of our school. Throughout a 24-year career at ASL, involving teaching performing arts, Grade 3 and finally keeping things running smoothly in the Lower School Library, his focus was on optimizing the learning experiences of our students. At the time of his retirement in 2015, Steve commented, “Over the years, my relationships and interactions with faculty, staff, parents and students helped me develop both as an educator and as a global citizen.” While enjoying the freedom to explore London, travel and read all the books he desires, Steve hasn’t forgotten his days at ASL, and the students who spent time in his care. “Since I’m privileged to live in London, I’m happy to continue my association with ASL as a substitute teacher in the Lower and Middle schools, which enables me to access the phenomenal resources in the Mellon Library!” We are honored to report that Steve has included a gift to ASL in his estate planning. For your generosity and service to the School—thank you, Steve.



The Bruce House Society recognizes individuals and families who have included the American School in London in their estate plans. Named for ASL benefactor and former US Ambassador David K.E. Bruce, the Bruce House Society celebrates the tradition of generosity at ASL and promotes a connection from one generation of ASLers to the next.

In our Annual Report, we are honored to include the names of those in our community who leave a bequest to ASL. With gratitude, we acknowledge their loyalty to our School.

A bequest

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

If you are thinking about including the School in your estate plans, and would like to explore the best options for you and your family, please contact Senior Associate Director of Advancement Sandy Mateus, +44 (0)20 7449 1446 or sandy_mateus@asl.org.

In memoriam

We are saddened to report the loss of the following members of our community:

Alumni and parents of alumni

Roger Dickinson-Brown '62, on 13 April 2015

Mary Hinton P '06 '08, on 6 December 2016

Marc Koyanagi P '19 '22, on 11 September 2017

Lynne Marks P '09 '10, on 26 August 2017

Douglas Nordlinger P '05 '09, on 16 May 2017

Thomas Okamoto '75, on 17 August 2017

Kerry (Landreth) Reed '91, on 6 December 2017

Steven Rose '75, on 29 June 2018

James Saft P '18, on 16 October 2017

Sarvesh Sarup P '14 '17, on 4 March 2018

Allison Shearmur P '20 '26, on 19 January 2018

Jill Smialek P '00 '03 '08 '09, on 29 December 2017

Rodney Stevenson '87, on 20 June 2017

Former faculty and staff

Iris Beushaw (ASL 1975–93) During her long career at ASL, Iris served as registrar for admissions and later as manager for transportation, cleaning and ancillary services. Iris passed away on 28 October 2017.

Lucie Eckersall (ASL 2001–05; 2006–12) Following a short illness, Lucie died on 11 December 2017. Lucie taught Grade 8 and high school mathematics during her time at the School. Known for her joie de vivre, sharp intellect and ready wit, Lucie is much missed by her former colleagues and friends at ASL.

Michael Miller (ASL 1998–2008) Director of advancement at ASL for a decade, Mike led the School through its first two capital campaigns, *SchoolWorks*, and *Fulfilling Great Expectations*, raising much-needed funds for major construction projects and faculty/staff endowment. An expert in his field, Mike enjoyed a 45-year career furthering the institutional advancement of international schools, which saw him share his wealth of knowledge across several continents, receiving many awards along the way. Mike died on 2 April 2017.

Diana Murdoch (ASL late 1960s–late 80s) Diana served the School as secretary to the Board of Trustees for nearly 20 years, having begun her tenure while ASL founder Stephen L. Eckard was headmaster. Diana died in May 2017.

Paul Nossiter (ASL 1973–83) Music teacher and jazz band leader Paul died on 4 March 2017, in South Yarmouth, MA. Paul was a renowned and talented jazz musician, who performed all over Cape Cod. A graduate of Fieldston Ethical Culture School, Paul played in many fundraising events to benefit the arts and social causes.

Peter Rezendes (ASL 1972–90) HS math teacher Peter is fondly remembered by former colleagues at ASL, many of whom attended his funeral and celebration of his life at Christ Church with Saint Laurence Brondesbury, shortly after his death on 16 September 2017.

William Vaughan (ASL 2011–16) Former director of advancement William died in Hawaii on 8 August 2017. William led the School through the *New Frontiers* campaign to grow our endowment, and create top-flight facilities for science, visual arts and physical education. A staunch supporter of the arts in every city in which he lived, William cared deeply about theater, opera and ballet.

Alan Walker (ASL 1983–94) Former business manager Alan passed away on 26 November 2017 after a lengthy illness. Representing his former regiment, the Royal Marines sent a bugler to play the last post following his interment at his village church.

American Memorial Collection

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

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



The American School in London

One Waverley Place

London NW8 ONP

