



LEYSIN AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

2013 EDITION

panorama

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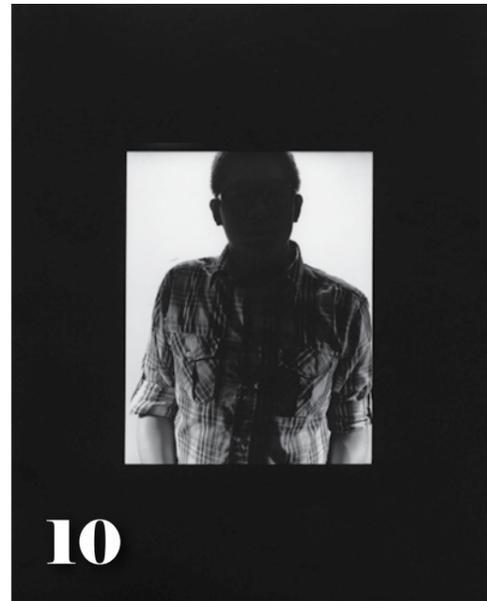
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2013 Edition

On the Cover: Thom Padick, our Digital Imaging Instructor here at LAS, snapped this photo while on the ToK trip to Rome, Italy in October 2012.



panorama

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LAS admits qualified students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in its admissions policies or practices.

Mission Statement:
"Developing innovative, compassionate and responsible citizens of the world."

PHOTO: BRIAN YANG '13



The LAS National Honor Society sponsors an annual Terry Fox Run in Leysin. This past October over 100 students and faculty participated on the warm, sunny afternoon. Students traveled to Zurich to personally donate the 7,600 CHF raised at the event to the University Children's Hospital.

Letter

from our Head of School

Dear Alumni, Parents, & Friends of LAS,

LAS continues to be an amazing school: a school where fundamental aspects do not change but innovations flourish. We embrace change to meet the needs of high school graduates of the twenty-first century. This Winter Break was a time during which I, as Head of School, was able to reflect on 2012 and to plan for the future.

Twenty-twelve saw the generational transition in leadership continue at LAS. My brother, Christoph and I now jointly carry the responsibility of operating the school as Managing Directors. My mother, Doris continues to oversee the Human Resources Department and is President of our Swiss Foundation. My father, Steven continues to oversee the Business Office and remains Chairman of the LAS Board. While their day-to-day roles have changed, my parents continue to welcome visiting families and alumni to LAS. My grandmother, Sigrid, co-founder of LAS, continues to contribute to her school, by addressing students at special events, meeting visiting families, and, most importantly, sharing wise counsel with my brother and me.

This past year, the school had several innovative achievements. Throughout the year, we made significant progress with the ALTAS program (Advancing Technology at LAS). In just the second year of the program, we provide laptops equipped with standardized software to all faculty and students and we are seeing an increased positive impact on teaching and learning. In the spring, the ATLAS program particularly impressed the 5-year accreditation team during their visit. As expected, LAS remains in good standing with its accreditors MSA-CIS (Middle States Association and Community of International Schools). Being accredited for over a quarter century is solid proof of the ongoing excellence in education at LAS. Finally, this summer, we entered a partnership with technology giant Samsung. Presently, LAS serves as one of twenty-five pilot schools worldwide. We are testing their tablets, interactive whiteboards, and educational software in two of our classrooms. It is an exciting opportunity is allowing LAS to impact the future of individualized learning around the world.

Looking to the future, we continue to make good progress in achieving the goals of our 5-Year Strategic Plan. In summary, the plan is to build on the ever-increasing sustainable quality of the school and move away from a growth model. The plan considers two aspects: 1) the continued development of the application pool for admission so as to become more selective and 2) the continued strengthening of the finances of the school through the implementation of a fully-fledged development program.

The first aspect will allow the quality of student we accept to grow, which in turn, will allow us to continue to raise the bar for graduation requirements. Ultimately, we hope all junior and senior students will study at the Belle Époque Campus and completing three or four IB certificates. The second aspect will allow LAS to do things like funding an endowment, undertake new capital projects, and increase our scholarship support without drawing from our current finances. Like the Independent Schools and Colleges of North America and the United Kingdom, we envision a development program that supports continued growth of our programs and innovation at LAS.

There is no doubt LAS – your school – is heading in the right direction. Student and faculty retention is the highest ever. The number of students enrolled in the full IB program continues to increase along with our IB scores. Our ESL program is stronger than ever. Our alumni, parents, and friends continue to show their belief in our mission and efforts with a growing number of donations. And perhaps most importantly, we continue to strengthen our alumni network through events, communications, social media, and personal visits.

Finally, I would like to thank you - the alumni, parents, and friends of LAS - for your advice, belief in our mission, and support of our efforts. The school has been able to strengthen the scholarship program, complete the renovation of the Belle Époque Campus, develop new programs, and plan for an exciting future thanks to the generosity and support of alumni, parents and friends. Thank you for your loyalty and friendship!

Cordially,



Marc-Frédéric Ott, Ed.D.
Head of School



ALUMNI Q&A



PHOTO: THOM PADICK

Q&A

with Blaise Hefti '99

>>> **Panorama:** Your family has a unique connection to LAS – the family business, Hefti Sports, is an important partner with the school, you and your mother worked at the school, and you graduated from the school. Which relationship is most meaningful for your family?

>>> **Blaise:** Growing up, I always viewed LAS as this unique and unreachable place where students from all around the world would come to study. The day my parents decided to send me there, my mind, heart and person opened up to a world I was unaware of until then. During my 3 years of studies, I made the best friends of my life, discovered new cultures, discussed world topics and realized how small my life used to be. Since then, I have taken over my family business and have continued to develop this special relationship with the school both in a business environment as well as personal. Today, the school means many things to me but it is this feeling of family, friendship and mix of cultures that remains the basis of my relationship with this institution.

>>> **Panorama:** You have seen a lot of LAS students over the years, what makes LAS students unique?

>>> **Blaise:** I believe that living amongst over 50 nationalities, sharing your daily life and learning from one another's cultures creates the citizens of the world that graduate from LAS.

>>> **Panorama:** What is your favorite LAS memory?

>>> **Blaise:** One of my best memories was my trip to Morocco during my senior cultural trip for a Peace Corps project. It really was special to be in such a remote setting with all my friends.

>>> **Panorama:** What advice would you give future LAS graduates?

>>> **Blaise:** LAS really gives you the potential to do great things in life. I would therefore encourage every future graduate to live these years to his or her fullest by having fun, studying hard, sharing and learning from one another.

>>> **Panorama:** Do you still wake up on snowy mornings and get excited it might be a "snow day"?

>>> **Blaise:** I wish!!! Today, I generally wake up to a snowy day thinking of a busy day at work.

>>> **Panorama:** Okay, what's the best sales advice you've learned from Hefti Sports?

>>> **Blaise:** Believe in what you sell. ♦



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LAS gets SOCIAL

Make sure to keep up with what's happening here at LAS!

LAS is tweeting, liking, posting, pinning and you should join in! Over the summer, LAS' social media presence underwent a drastic overall. So here's what's new...

Facebook: In order to consolidate information and prevent confusion, there is now only one official "Leysin American School" Facebook page. All other sub-pages, such as "Leysin American School Official Alumni" and "LAS Ambassadors" have been turned into Facebook groups. If you are an LAS Alumni, make sure you join the Alumni Facebook group. This group provides updates on upcoming Alumni events to ensure you're "in-the-know."

Pinterest: We now also have a Pinterest page where you can check out various boards such as "Dorm-friendly recipes" and "Educational Infographics."

Twitter: In the realm of Twitter, LAS is tweeting educational articles as well as LAS updates. Are you one of our nearly 2,000

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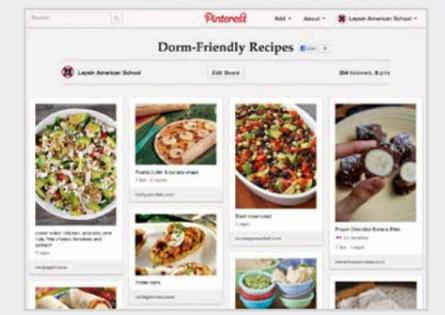
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followers? If not, you should be!

YouTube: Our YouTube page has been updated and videos are being continuously added. Make sure to check out our latest video which focuses on the Ski Season here at LAS. If any alumni or current students would like their videos posted on our "Student Playlist" on YouTube, please email them to bhowes@las.ch.

Official Website: New students can now apply online via www.las.ch. It is a simple process that eliminates the print, fax, scan, and email ordeal. Just click "Apply Online" under the "Admissions" tab. As simple as that! We are also blogging regularly, which you can read at www.las.ch/news.

These various social media platforms are enabling LAS to promote events, receive feedback, and start conversation with alumni, families, and friends. Providing real-time updates to our audience and interacting within our global community is vital in this digital age. LAS will continue to update you on athletics, academics, fine arts, and special events while also highlighting the hard work of our faculty and students so make sure you're following us. ♦

Do you have feedback or suggestions regarding LAS social media? If so, please email bhowes@las.ch. We look forward to hearing from you!



This photo, as well as the one to the right, was submitted as part of Brian's portfolio to Carnegie Mellon University.

Q&A

with Brian '13 USA/Taiwan
By Natalia Musielak, Waterloo Co-op

Brian has been a student at LAS for four years. He will be graduating this year and attending the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

>>> **Panorama:** What made you decide to apply to Carnegie Mellon University?

>>> **Brian:** The academic curriculum. Personally, I am interested in a more open curriculum and I like that they encourage interdisciplinary studies: how things relate to each other and work together. I also like their focus on hands on learning, which is the way I learn best.

>>> **Panorama:** Were there any other schools or programs that you took into consideration?

>>> **Brian:** I also considered the University of Rochester for the same reasons. Actually, something very interesting about Rochester is the "Take 5 Scholars Program". You can do an extra semester or year tuition-free and pursue other studies that interest

you besides your major.

>>> **Panorama:** Tell us a bit more about the program that you were accepted into?

>>> **Brian:** I got accepted into the Design Program. Design is about the interactions we have with the objects around us to better improve our lives. A good example is user interfaces, as many aspects of design are present in them.

>>> **Panorama:** What was the admissions process like?

>>> **Brian:** You have to apply to the school in general as well as apply to the specific program. The general application is standard: you submit the common application, write an essay, and fill out the application supplement, etc. For the Design Program, I submitted a portfolio with my photographic work and corresponding pages from my IB sketchbook. I also attended the optional interview for general admissions and a portfolio review with the design program faculty.

>>> **Panorama:** Since you were given early admission, I understand you had to commit to the school. What made you decide this program was the right choice for you?

>>> **Brian:** Yes, I applied under binding early decision. Since it is binding, it means I can't change my mind. I have been there to visit three times in the last year. With every visit, I was able to learn new things about the school that interested me. Besides famous alumni, knowing some alumni personally deepened my interest. It just felt right.



I like the title "Imagineering". It really has the dream come true factor that I have grown up with.

>>> **Panorama:** Is it true that they only took four students? How do you feel being one of those lucky four?

>>> **Brian:** That's what the statistics say. I am not sure if it is actually true but I feel very happy. I was very excited to get the letter. It's a funny story actually, they said they would notify me before December 15th and I got the letter six hours before I was going to leave LAS to travel home to Taiwan on December 14th. I hesitated a little before opening it but when I finally did I thought, "Yes, success!"

>>> **Panorama:** Can you describe your visit to the university? What did you like most about the school/campus?

>>> **Brian:** I really like the campus and the location is perfect being just on the edge of Pittsburgh. I was lucky enough to visit not only during the summer but also during the school year so I got to peek into the classrooms and see the facilities. I really like the vibe from the faculty and student body, as well as, the extracurricular activities that are available to students. Everyone there is a "nerd" in their own area and I find it very interesting to talk to people who are experts in their field and be able to share that information in ways you never imagined.

>>> **Panorama:** What is your motivation for wanting to continue education and pursue postsecondary studies?

>>> **Brian:** I like learning and find it very interesting and fun. I learn a lot from the Internet and through doing research. Everything I know about photography is mostly self-taught from the Internet. The real reason for attending university and higher education is to have the ability to work with others and live in a community where people have common goals and are heading in the same direction. Being in a community like this also offers me a chance to work in student government, as it has always been my interest. I have been working in the LAS Student Council throughout the four years I have been here.

>>> **Panorama:** Do you have any career aspirations for the future – maybe a dream job?

>>> **Brian:** I keep changing my mind but I think my dream job would be to work for Disney in designing the theme parks. I like the title "Imagineering". It really has the dream come true factor that I have grown up with.

>>> **Panorama:** How did LAS help to fuel or strengthen your interest in design, photography?

>>> **Brian:** Before I came to LAS, I did not have much interest in photography. At LAS, I got to explore painting, drawing, sketching, music and photography. Once you find something that you are passionate about here there are people who will help you find the resources you need and help you grow and expand.

>>> **Panorama:** Do you have any advice for other LAS students who might want to pursue a similar path, or university in general?

>>> **Brian:** Research is important. If you do that you will definitely find one that is the right fit for you. Each university has their own personality and you will be able to find a school culture that will fit your personality and academic needs, which will allow you to excel.

>>> **Panorama:** What will you miss most about LAS?

>>> **Brian:** Ski season is definitely a great thing and the close relationships we have with teachers are a plus. But what I will miss most is the small community. Being in a little village with few

distractions enables you to discover and learn things you never knew about yourself. It helped push me in photography. In big cities, like New York, there is always something going on. In Leysin, there isn't that much happening. I know a lot of people who have a camera here and dropped photography thinking that the only thing to photograph is the landscape. This has pushed me into looking for and focusing on the smaller things that are frequently overlooked by people. Recently, I have been carrying my camera everywhere I go. I am working on a photo book about the boarding school life that will be completed later this year. ♦

PHOTO: PETER HOWARD





Learning at LAS:

Where innovation meets compassion and responsibility...

>>> Stephen Dexter, Jr. | Principal

Put a Ukrainian, a Venezuelan, an American and a Canadian together and what do you get? Shakespeare of course. This fall, seniors Joey A., Carlos P. and Kevin M., and sophomore, George M. captivated audiences in Leysin with their humorous, physical, and creative interpretation of Shakespeare's works. All of them. In less than two hours. Their condensed versions of both comedy and tragedy engaged their diverse audience with the appeal of any great story that cuts across linguistic and cultural lines. Their director, Ms. Carolyn Swanson did what any great teacher does; she put the actors in a position to succeed and in roles that brought out their best talents.

Accessibility, engagement, story. Are these not the same themes of a good education? Taking universal themes and

making them relevant to wider audience is exactly what Joey, Carlos, Kevin, and George did so well and what makes Leysin American School relevant in the new century. Education for centuries, far too long, had been focused on all the things that we were bad at, things that others told us that we "needed to know" in order to succeed. And worst of all, the content was stagnant, outdated, and unquestioned. How could this environment engage an audience let alone a student? Self publishing and blogging broke down barriers and made writing accessible to large audiences. YouTube made overnight sensations of people singing in their living rooms, and Twitter allowed small uprisings to overthrow governments. Now it is education that is looking into the crevasse of change.

When the Belle Époque building



PHOTO: MARTA KRAUSE

was redesigned in 2009, the Ott family understood this changing paradigm and worked with architects to capture the beauty of the past and connect it to the future. Classes were built with collaboration in mind: glass walls that invited a seamless connection of space, and an integration of technology that sought to enhance creativity rather than control it. In 2011, laptops were provided to all students, the schedule was restructured to allow 90 minutes a week for teacher collaboration, and course requirements on the Savoy Campus were reduced to six to allow built in time for reflection and to build upon these themes around access to learning.

The stage has been set.

On the second night of the condensed Shakespeare performance, Carlos called out to me in the audience to participate. For most people, including me, this is the stuff of nightmares. But with his guidance, humor, and confidence I soon found

not just accessing information but using it in a way to tell their own unique story, regardless of the topic.

With a population of over fifty different nationalities, expression is vital to our learners, both adult and child. The seventh period that was created on the Savoy Campus will allow students to reflect on the learning goals as they see them and create their own expression that will be accessible, innovative, and engaging.

Just like a good performance.

We want to ensure that our students understand that participation in learning is as important as learning to access content. In an article that I shared

“Classes were built with Collaboration In Mind, glass walls that invited a seamless connection of space, and an integration of technology that sought to enhance creativity rather than control it.”

myself uninhibited by what I did not know about Shakespeare and I was able to use what limited acting ability I had to engage in the performance. Shakespeare had become accessible.

This does not mean, however, that everything we do should be condensed, shortened or limited. Our library is a great example. Mr. Glenn Kantz, in his second year as librarian, has worked hard to make the Savoy Campus library an inviting place to learn, engage, and access. He has embraced technology and created an engaging and accessible library web page while making sure that students are provided quiet and comfortable spaces just to read a book and reflect. His next initiative is to lead the staff with a dialogue around good writing practice and the creation of an acceptable framework that will cut across grades and disciplines. Through the use of Google apps as a platform, Mr. Kantz is working to make writing an accessible tool that will improve student expression so that students are

with staff written by Jason Ohler, a self proclaimed 'digital humanist,' he stated, "Focus on expression first and technology second and everything will fall into place." ("Orchestrating the Media Collage," Jason Ohler, Educational Leadership, March 2009, Vol. 66, No. 6. pp. 8-13). Ohler's premise is the reason why we spent the first year of our weekly collaboration time for technology working and agreeing upon a set of learning goals, what each student must know and be able to do at grade level. Not content. And, in order to make these goals accessible and doable for students, they will be asked to create something from their own experience in the form of a digital portfolio. The assessment will be completed by their audience,

maybe a group of their peers and teachers, who will not judge, but rather inquire, ask, and engage. The inspiration for this performance comes from the highly successful IB art show that takes place each spring at LAS. Their ability to engage others, to make their learning accessible and to tell their story will be the experience. Just like Joey, Carlos, Kevin, and George did with their audience.

We are excited about these innovations at Leysin American School. Innovations that adapt not only technology but the need for expression, accessibility, and



Mr. Stephen Dexter, Jr. has been the Principal since 2009. He started his career in 1995 in the public school system in the U.S. and has served as a social studies teacher and assistant principal prior to moving to Leysin. He brings with him his wife Stephanie who is the health center manager and his two children Ian (12) and Zoe (6).



Learning ABOUT Learning

Text by William Johnson | Dean of the Belle Époque

It's close to midday in Rome. The hot sun is beating in through the high windows at the Galleria Borghese as my heels tap the wood floors of the empty rooms. I poke behind Bernini's Aeneas and check the colonnade, places where she could easily have disappeared. At last, I find her tucked in a window ledge, staring up at a Caravaggio's David and Goliath and filling her notebook. Come on, it's time to go. Ms. Cooper is waiting outside.

For LAS seniors, Fall Culturals are just another week of ToK.

ToK - Theory of Knowledge - has been a central component of the IB Diploma for decades, though explaining what it is can be challenging: so much of our education prior to university is based on a relentless acquisition of basic knowledge, be it about chemical reactions or irregular verb conjugations or dates in American history. ToK steps back from this ceaseless building process and asks students to reflect about their learning, and to consider the nature of knowledge acquisition itself. Students synthesize their learning in all other classes by asking the basic questions of what knowledge is and how it functions.

The expansive nature of ToK can be either a blessing or a curse for the teacher. How many times can we remember our teacher ending class with instructions like, "read Chapter 4 for homework and answer the questions?" There is no such ease for the ToK teacher since there is no ToK textbook.

Curriculum?

In History it might encompass 19th Century Europe or in Math single variable Calculus. But in ToK there is no limit to the topics that can be covered since the purpose is not at all "what?" but strictly "how?" and "why?". There is no standard for cultural literacy in ToK, no

university degrees in ToK, and no "quiz nights" asking ToK questions, even though the subject lies at the core of all we do in education. It takes a particular type of teacher to teach ToK, and a particular set of classroom experiences to make "learning about learning" effective. Fortunately, at LAS we have these teachers.

For several years, Patti Cooper and Daryl Hitchcock have been building a strong ToK tradition at the Belle Époque Campus. They are joined this year at Savoy by Hugh Kelly in continuing to challenge our students to learn about learning and reflect on their processes as students.

I knew that Patti and Daryl were using ToK to do something special from the moment that one of Patti's blindfolded students walked into me in the corridor. No apologies from either that student or the non-blindfolded one that was meant to be guiding, because that would have been against the rules. I followed the pair into the dining hall where I watched the "blind" and "deaf" student receive guidance in finding sugar cubes, carry them to a table, and use them to construct an impressive white ziggurat. And they cleaned up after themselves. Clearly what appeared to be a game became an effective talking point back in the classroom for our use of our senses in giving and receiving stimuli.

Another casual visit to our ToK classrooms revealed students engaged in a movie - not a Hollywood blockbuster, but a little-known Scandinavian film in which an elderly Swedish man sits in a high umpire chair in the kitchen of an elderly Norwegian man, observing day and night to test the latter's culinary efficiency. The students watched as the

two men squared off, with Daryl stopping the tape every few minutes to gather the students' reflections and ask pointed questions. What appeared to be an "easy" day of teaching was actually a starting point for understanding multiple complex ideas, from international understanding between stereotypically similar peoples to the observer effect that recurs in physics, information technology, the social sciences, and our everyday lives.

Of course, the annual keystone activity of the ToK course is the Fall Cultural to an Italian destination: Rome for Patti and her students, Florence for Daryl and his students, and this year

with no students scoring below a 'C' (on the A-E scale) in 2012. More telling, however, is the overwhelmingly positive feedback from the students, with many praising the teaching of Daryl and Patti, carrying their discussion of knowledge issues out into the hall after class, and even with one student dressing up like Daryl for Halloween. (He won top prize in the costume contest). LAS's diverse population - allowing students from over 50 nationalities to enter a classroom and ask questions of each other that challenge learning - sets a strong baseline for our ToK success, but it has been the skill of these teachers that has brought the course to life.

“This success of Daryl and Patti in exploiting the potential of ToK for their students lies in their own individual pursuits of knowledge.”

Venice for Hugh and his students. I had the pleasure of picking up the trail with Patti as we weaved through the maze of history and culture in the Eternal City. I was impressed with the unique project that was to be the week's work for the students: a series of journal entries on artistic perception, using multiple pieces from around the city. I watched for five days as our students used Rome as their personal learning laboratory, reflecting on their own engagement with layers upon layers of cultural stimuli around them and using each other, and their teacher, to make sense of at least some fraction of Rome.

The electric environment of ToK learning with Daryl and Patti has had amazing results for our students. Scores in the IB ToK assessment have risen consistently for the last several years,

This success of Daryl and Patti in exploiting the potential of ToK for their students lies in their own individual pursuits of knowledge. A casual walk around their classrooms reveals artifacts that attest to the varied and sometimes odd nature of their pursuits: a copy of *Lord of the Flies*; a framed Christ from the Hagia Sophia; a linguistic map of Asia; Kissinger's *Diplomacy*; a Barbie doll trapped under Plato's Republic; a decorative call to prayer; a Shakespeare bobblehead; a Kazakh flag; a wall clock that ticks backwards ("that's SO ToK!").

More seriously, both have been challenging themselves to be lifelong learners for life. Patti is originally from Tennessee, where she earned her Bachelor's in Linguistics at Knoxville. She has taught the gamut of courses in the social studies department during her decade at LAS, and was voted Teacher of the Year in 2009. In spite of such



PHOTO: PETER HOWARD



Daryl Hitchcock's ToK class in Florence, Italy
PHOTO: BRIAN YANG '13

experience and laurels, Patti chose to go back to school in 2010, spending two years earning a second Master's in Military History from Norwich University. She spends a fair amount of her time off the mountain in Chile with her husband's family, engaging consistently in informal cultural studies.

Daryl hails from Washington state, but crossed the country to do his Bachelor's in History at the University of Southern Maine. Daryl has wide-ranging interests and is an avid reader of articles

students. Our world is changing, and so is the nature of education. Online learning is exploding and challenging the traditional model of teacher and classroom. At LAS, as around the world, chalkboards have given way to smartboards. Information, or what we might have previously termed "knowledge," is more and more widely available at lower and lower costs. As we continue to be exposed to such volumes of material, true knowledge, now more than ever, becomes training in sorting, critiquing, and synthesizing information rather than simply acquiring it. Hence, it is increasingly the role of education to develop students who are adept in this process. Citizens of the world, those that are able to effect change in the people and ideas around them, will be those who are sensitive to active learning, who can discern quality information from lacking information, and those that can use their reflective capacity effectively in building true knowledge. Patti and Daryl are giving our students exactly this head start towards becoming this true citizen of the world everyday in their

“She hurries along, past the embassies and the Roman traffic, to take part in the LAS ToK experience: learning from the world to take learning into the world.”

related to politics, education, current events, and anything international. Much of this he retains to an amazing degree. On our train ride from Leysin to Italy he rattled off unemployment figures for the past decade in Europe and used them to make insightful comments about the state of the current economics crisis. His students would agree with me that he can weave an excellent story.

These two share some strong intellectual points: both are avid travellers, avid readers, international-minded, curious, knowledge-hungry, and excited to share their wealth of continuously growing intellectual experience. And, perhaps most importantly, they are a great team. They recognize in each other a great resource and perhaps an inspiration. To our faculty this is no secret. It is common to see them at the lunch table sharing ideas and arguing about whose activity best cut to the heart of the relevant knowledge issue in their ToK class. Patti and Daryl, in teaching ToK and in their own intellectual endeavors, are modelling every day the LAS Mission of educating innovative, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world.

The value of ToK, and of these teachers' inspirational approaches, is a cornerstone of building reflective capacity in our

ToK classrooms and out of their ToK classrooms.

The young lady, fascinated with Caravaggio, stands up and walks down the steps at the Galleria Borghese. Patti and the class are already halfway down Via Veneto on their way to Santa Maria della Vittoria to debate the nature of pleasure and pain in the life of St. Teresa, to be followed by a close study of Trajan's Column under the umbrella pines of Piazza Venezia. She hurries along, past the embassies and the Roman traffic, to take part in the LAS ToK experience: learning from the world to take learning into the world.

Mr. William Johnson is the Dean of the Belle Époque campus. He began his teaching career in the NYC Public schools system. Most recently, he worked in an international school in Rome developing the IB Programme. He arrived in Leysin this year with his wife, Sara.



PHOTO: PETER HOWARD

AVENUE Q

PHOTOS: BRIAN YANG '13





At the start of the Winter Semester at LAS, the hills of Leysin come alive with the sound of music. You might think it is from the skiers and snowboarders yodeling their way down the mountain in pure excitement but you would be wrong. The hills of Leysin come alive because the Winter Semester marks the start of rehearsals for the annual LAS spring musical.

For the past five years, Performing Arts teacher, Ms. Carolyn Swanson has made a tradition out of the LAS spring musical. She uses the opportunity to push her performing arts students to new heights and to realize their potential as performers. At the same time, the spring musical allows Visual Arts teacher and Department Head, Mr. Neal Hanowitz, to push his visual art students to realize their potential as set builders, prop makers, and theatrical technicians. The productions also have the effect of bringing members of both campuses together to work toward a common goal.

This past year, Ms. Swanson's performance selection put those five years of experience and the entire LAS community to the test. Despite facing unexpected challenges, frustration, and the occasional feelings of doubt, one hundred LAS students, faculty, staff, and volunteers came together and passed Ms. Swanson's test with flying colors.

When deciding which musical production to stage in the spring, Ms. Swanson was looking for a Broadway production that did not have the "spectacle" that one would expect from a typical Broadway show but still had the substance. She found that in *Avenue Q*.

The multiple Tony Award winning Broadway musical, *Avenue Q*, is not your typical high school theatrical production. It is a coming of age story about



“Puppets? Yes, puppets and that is where the real story lies.”

the anxieties and difficulties faced by young adults as they enter full adulthood and it was only recently adapted for high school audiences. *Avenue Q* uses the innocence of Sesame Street style puppets to confront themes of anxiety, racism, stereotypes, and other taboo subjects - with a sense humor.

Puppets? Yes, puppets and that is where the real story lies.

After determining that *Avenue Q* would be the spring performance, Ms. Swanson began her typical process of preparation. She bought the script, planned its production, and, in this case, contacted the corporation that leases *Avenue Q*'s famous puppets. All seemed in order until the corporation replied to Ms. Swanson. They were willing to lease her the puppets but they would not allow them to leave the United States. Ms. Swanson was at a crossroads.

After much discussion with Mr. Hanowitz, never one to shy away from a challenge, they decided they could produce the puppets, all 35 of them. They quickly began researching puppet making. To their surprise, the art of making large Sesame Street style puppets was a tightly held secret and generic puppet making patterns were inadequate for their needs.

After studying the small number of *Avenue Q* clips on YouTube, Mr. Hanowitz headed off the mountain on a mission to purchase the supplies needed to make his first puppet. He returned with dowels, foam, glue, cotton filling, and a laundry list of other supplies. After several unsuccessful attempts, he successfully created three puppet designs. Puppet production would begin immediately.

Over the next few weeks and months, the Belle Époque art

studio transformed into a small puppet making factory. Students, faculty, staff, and volunteers spent countless hours assembling and testing puppets. Two IB students even decided to incorporate the puppets they made into their final IB art portfolio.

As the puppets rolled off the production line they were incorporated into the rehearsal of the play. This meant that some actors were not able to rehearse with their puppets until the week before opening night. Not the ideal situation as the actors needed to learn how to channel their energy and acting through their puppets while making themselves virtually invisible to the audience. Everyone was up to the challenge.

In the meantime, Mr. Hanowitz enlisted his Savoy Campus art students to construct the set and resolve the technical aspects of the play. As the actors rehearsed, the set was literally built around them. LAS was collaborating as never before. Academics and extra-curricular activities merged, IB and High-School diploma programs integrated, and students and faculty worked as peers towards a common goal.

When opening night arrived, the student actors had mastered their puppets, the set was finished, and the entire campus let out a sigh of relief. What initially seemed impossible

had not only been achieved but at the highest standard possible.

As the student actors took their final bow on closing night, it was clear that the applause were not just for them. Thanks to those puppets, the entire LAS community had come together and made that final night a reality. ♦



Athletic Roundup

>>> Ethan Harris | Athletics Director



PHOTO: BRIAN YANG '13

The LAS Goats can hold their heads high looking back on a successful sports season this past Fall. Of course, there is always a team or two in a rebuilding phase, missing the presence of those senior students who have graduated, but other teams improve and even thrive with returning athletes and the addition of new students or coaches.



The strong and talented **Boys Soccer team**, under the guidance of new coach Jason Murphy, maintained their high level of play this Fall by outscoring their adversaries 22-4 in regular season play. They once again reached the ADISR semi-finals before bowing out.

The **Girls Soccer team**, coached by Donald Cameron-MacKintosh, played well enough at the SGIS Indoor Championships to get third place, which was the highlight of their season.



The **Boys Basketball team** had a terrific season under the leadership of several seniors and first-year coach James McKenna. They won a couple of very close games against powerhouse teams and clinched second place in the ADISR league, qualifying for the finals for the first time since 2009.



The **Girls Basketball team**, with coaches Jessica Pine & Victoria Engelmann, had a successful season by earning bronze medals at the SGIS Championship and placing second overall in the ADISR league. The team had only one loss during the ADISR season; that loss was by just 3 points.

The **Boys Volleyball team**, with veteran coach Daryl Hitchcock, may not have enjoyed their usual top rankings, but still managed to earn fourth at the SGIS Championship and the fourth overall in the ADISR league.



The **Girls Volleyball team**, under the tutelage of Kristin Montgomery (sadly in her final year with LAS), had a young core of players that excelled in the younger-age tournaments. They took gold at the SGIS Category B Championship in Basel and finished the season by winning the ADISR Div. B league.

The **Swim and Tennis teams** continue their seasons this Winter and Spring semester. The swimmers are some of our most dedicated and talented athletes. Besides several individual medals, they placed second as a team at the Neuchâtel meet in December and fifth at the highly competitive meet in Basel. In Tennis, our players were able show off their skills at the singles and doubles Open Tournaments in Leysin last Fall, but the main events are coming up in the Spring.



All in all, it's been a successful year so far. The Athletic Department has been fortunate to recruit such dedicated and talented student-athletes to represent LAS in its true colors. Our players continue to win with pride and accept defeat with grace and dignity, knowing they did the best that they could do in the spirit of competition.

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Friends, respect, leadership and *fun*

Text by Paul Magnuson | Director of SIS and Professional Learning

This summer will be my fourth with the LAS summer school, Summer in Switzerland, and my twentieth year working for a camp or school in the summer months. Along the way, I've learned a bit about summer programs, and the *raison d'être* of it all...

Students come back summer after summer because of friends. I'm not saying that they don't enjoy the activities, life in the residential hall, the excursions, and the academic classes – they do. Our end-of-program surveys show that they enjoy all parts of their busy days during the summer... but what makes summer programs so special are the friendships.

SIS participants make the sort of bond where friends hug each other and cry with each other when they have to go home even though they didn't know each other just a few weeks earlier. These are friends who stay up together after lights out and discuss everything: their families, their schools, their fears, and their dreams. These are friends who will search for photos of each other in their SIS Memory Book long after the summer is over. These are friends who will stay in touch for years, and sometimes, a lifetime.

The friendships made in summer school are strengthened by the relatively short duration of a summer session. At SIS, students can arrive, enroll in three or four courses, participate in several activities, travel on seven excursions, stay overnight in a mountain hut, rehearse and perform in a play or a musical, and board the bus to the airport for their homeward journey all in



(Photo Below) Marty and Catherine Schwebel, Marty proposed to Catherine on a bench near the Nid d'Aigle in 1992. It will be their fifth summer with SIS in 2013.



just three weeks. A summer session is intense. That intensity extends beyond mental and physical learning to a deep sense of belonging to something bigger, the sense of belonging to each other, the sense of having met a lifelong friend. The same is true for staff. Some folks – probably those who haven't worked in a summer school or summer camp – ask me how I do it, working in such an intense environment during the summer months, when the majority of the school staff has left on vacation. Again, it's the friendships.

“These are friends who will stay in touch for years, and sometimes, a lifetime”

because of the trust that true friendships support. Watching such a diverse set of people grow into a trusting team so quickly gives me, at the risk of sounding cheesy, hope.

Sometimes, those friendships result in deeper relationships. I can think of more than a few couples who first met during a summer program, including Marty and Catherine, the SIS staff members who were engaged while at SIS in 1992 and who returned to SIS last summer to celebrate their twentieth anniversary. For that matter, I think of my own wife, Chris: we met at a language immersion summer camp in the northwoods of Minnesota.

What else have I learned? Respect. Respect and how respect is what each and every one of us hopes for from others. At SIS, we survey students at the end of each session, asking whether they felt respected by the other students and by the staff members. The results are encouraging but there is always room for improvement. Students sometimes feel overlooked by their peers, perhaps because of cultural differences or perhaps because of things that as adults we know are less important - how cool you are, what clique you belong to, how you dress, or how you talk. Students also sometimes feel that the adults haven't been as respectful as we could be. It is true that we sometimes fall short. When we are at our best, we learn from them. In turn, the students learn from us as we model respect, all of us together navigating the multicultural, whirlwind setting that is summer school.

What else? Leadership. This is not just what I personally learn each summer from the huge amount of talent – and occasional challenges – a staff of eighty brings to the program, but also from watching staff and students manage their work and play. From recent LAS graduates returning to Leysin as newly minted SIS

“Summer programs may be **short** but their impact is **long**”



staff members to the multi-year veterans with advanced degrees, from timid students in their first days of the program to returning students in their fifth or sixth summer, everyone has a chance to lead. Observing how leaders appear and shape the program is fascinating. In a short frame of time, leaders get their start and leadership is practiced in many different ways.

There's more, of course. More lessons learned and more programs have taught me, possibly, is the importance of having fun. Fun is not trivial. Fun takes time. Fun can be a bit of work. But, fun makes all the difference in the world.

Making friends, learning respect, and practicing leadership are all made easier by fun. In the summer, we feel that we have permission to relax, to goof around, to experiment with new ideas, to push ourselves in areas outside our comfort zone. If we consider the short list of permissions given to us by the expectation that summer programs should be fun – being relaxed, playful, inquisitive, and allowed to take risks – we discover what a rich environment for learning summer programs offer. “We had so much fun,” students tell their parents at the end of each summer session. As staff, we would like to add, “And you learned so much because of it.”

Summer programs may be short but their impact is long. In my case, summer programs have shaped my entire career. It will be twenty years of impact for me this summer, and who knows, maybe there are twenty more to come. ♦



Paul Magnuson has a PhD in curriculum & instruction and an MA in teaching English as a second language. During the academic school year he leads teacher professional development. During the summer, he leads the LAS summer school, Summer in Switzerland, or simply, SIS.

LAS Alumni - SIS Staff

We like LAS alumni to be involved in SIS. You can contribute to our SIS scholarship fund or apply to work a summer of fun and friends in Leysin. Contact pmagnuson@las.ch, www.las.ch/summer.



Daniele Brusaferrero '11

“ Coming back to Leysin as a member for the SIS staff was like coming home after a long time away. Working SIS was a great experience because I was so familiar with all the places we went and because I got to become close and work with staff members who were once my teachers. ”



Ian Yeats '10

“ Working SIS was an eye-opening experience for me. Leysin and LAS hadn't changed all that much, but it was like being backstage at a show: I got to see some of how it all worked. This was exciting and refreshing for me because it made my experience in Leysin feel as though it had come full circle. ”

“ **Camille Betts '10** The transition from student to SIS staff member came quite naturally. I thoroughly enjoyed watching the students grow throughout their three weeks like I did during my three years at LAS. To be able to 'pay it forward' and experience their challenges and achievements from the perspective of a mentor was very rewarding. ”



“ **Thomas Keen '09** Working at SIS as a former LAS student provided a brief view of the other side of the coin. This change in focus was refreshing and an easy transition as I had all my previous experience with Leysin and LAS at my disposal. ”



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“ We had so much fun”, students tell their parents at the end of each summer session. As staff, we would like to add, “and you **learned,** so much too.”

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November 20, 2012
Student/Faculty Basketball Game
Photo: Sergii Slepkan



September 2, 2012
Berneuse Challenge
Photo: Thom Padick



September 2012
Dorm Olympics
Photo: Brian Yang

{SNAP-SHOTS} {FROM LAS}

*Here's a glimpse of what's been happening
on the Magic Mountain*



November 24, 2012
Rock School Concert
Photo: Brian Yang



September 13, 2012
Sigrid Ott's 96th Birthday
Photo: Daniel Lozano



December 4, 2012
Winter Concert
Photo: Brian Yang



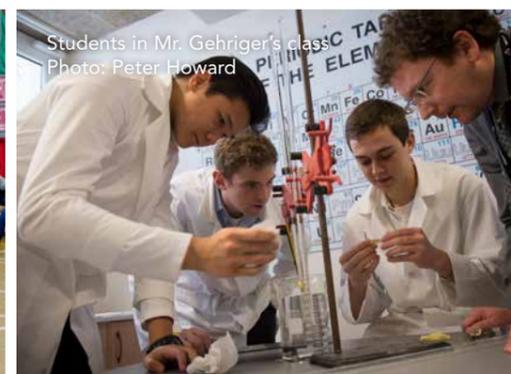
October 2012
8th grade Cultural Trip to Crans-Montana
Photo: Andie Flett



December 13, 2012
Snowy view from Belle Époque
Photo: Graydon Hazenberg



September 20, 2012
Dodgeball Tournament
Photo: Brian Yang



Students in Mr. Gehriger's class
Photo: Peter Howard

Development Update

>>> Benjamin Smith | Director of Development

The development program – alumni relations, communications, and fundraising – continues to grow. The number of visitors to Leysin continues to increase. The number of alumni and parent events organized independently or in conjunction with LAS continue to increase. The number of social media comments, messages, and likes have increased exponentially. And, the number of donations from alumni, parents, & friends of LAS continue to increase too. All of these combined are contributing to the building of a strong foundation for future success of LAS. A future you can be proud of as an LAS alumni, parent, or friend.

Efforts continue to be made to build our global network. Ultimately, we want any student to have an alumnus at the college or university of choice to speak to before making their decision where to enroll, any alumnus to

have another alumnus to speak to when they need career advice, and any alumnus in the professional world to have other alumni with whom to strengthen their professional network. We also would like our parents to have access to the same network. As all LAS alumni and parents know, the LAS experience is extremely unique and creates a bond like no other. The first step in making this vision a reality is to improve the contact and personal information we have in our database.

This past year, LAS spent significant time exploring different solutions to address our alumni database needs. With a global family like ours, it is very important to keep up to date contact information. In the past, we utilized an online directory in combination with our student database. Unfortunately, as social media grew in popularity, we saw an equal decline in the popularity and usage of our online directory. Once we identified a database solution, *Generations*, we discontinued our alumni

directory in favor of the significantly more popular, social media.

The advancements in social media - Facebook, Pinterest, LinkedIn, and YouTube – have allowed LAS to better position itself to communicate, share, and broadcast itself around the world. We are now much more easily able to identify which alumni attended which colleges or work in which industries. Organizing an event or sending a communication is just a click away. You no longer need to login into three or four different interfaces to find that long lost roommate or future business

partner. This means that our global network, discussed above, can become a reality. We just need your participation friend us, like us, or pin us.

Finally, LAS would like to express its gratitude for all the alumni, parents, and friends that responded to our request for donations this past year. These gifts made a direct impact on

current and future generations of LAS students. They provided support for academic & extracurricular programs, scholarships and grants, professional training for our faculty, and began establishing a base for our next capital project, the Performing Arts Center referenced in the last two *Panorama* magazines.

As we make progress in our fundraising efforts, we will continue to stress the importance of the alignment of these efforts with our mission – “Developing innovative, compassionate, and responsible citizens of the world.” In the profession of fundraising this approach is referred to as “mission centered fundraising”. It has been found to be the most meaningful for donors and successful for institutions. The next time you receive an appeal letter, a visit from or to LAS, or you are browsing the website, please consider how your gift from will help support our mission. ♦



PHOTO: BRITTANY HOWES



Samsung - When LAS was approached to be the first school in Switzerland, and one of twenty-five globally, to test Samsung’s new Samsung Smart School Solution in its classrooms, Dr. K. Steven Ott, LAS Chairman of the Board, immediately saw the benefit of the pilot program for LAS. A partnership such as this would allow LAS students and teachers to benefit from the latest academic technology while providing input for that technology’s improvement and future development. Potentially, LAS could help impact the future of education delivery across the globe. The partnership was formally announced in late October by Samsung Electronics Switzerland after the Samsung Smart School Solutions had been integrated into two of our classrooms. Both Samsung and LAS are evaluating the technology and sharing their findings with each other. To learn more about the partnership visit: www.las.ch/news.

BEYOND Tomorrow - In the wake of the March 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami, a group of Japanese World Economic Forum Davos “Young Global Leaders” decided it was time to give back to their country. They founded the NGO BEYOND Tomorrow with the purpose of supporting the young victims of tragedy in achieving their dreams. Specifically, they partner with international boarding schools to arrange scholarships for the victims in a safe, supportive, and nurturing environment so they can personally develop the skills they need to make their dreams a reality. LAS connected with the BEYOND Tomorrow through the Swiss Embassy and is one of only two schools in Switzerland to become a Scholarship Partner. As a Scholarship Partner, LAS is providing a full scholarship and covering the expenses for one of the victims: a young girl who tragically lost her family. In addition, this past September, LAS organized and hosted an event in Tokyo to raise awareness and support among our alumni and parents for BEYOND Tomorrow. The event was a success for all. To support the LAS/ BEYOND Tomorrow partnership, please contact development@las.ch. For more information about BEYOND Tomorrow visit: beyond-tomorrow.org.



Credit Suisse Sailing Cup
Zug, Switzerland
PHOTO: MARTA KRAUSE

Credit Suisse - With responsibility as one of the pillars of our mission, the partnership with Credit Suisse for LAS students to participate in their “Invest in Your Future” program and Regatta for Swiss Boarding Schools was a perfect fit. The programs taught our students about responsible decision-making, leadership, and networking in a fun and competitive environment. The programs were very popular and a great success. Our students even brought home the 2nd place trophy in their first year competing in the Regatta. For more information on Credit Suisse visit: www.credit-suisse.com.

Upward Bound

University and College Counseling at LAS

>>> Benjamin Smith | Director of Development



The Class of 2012 continued the tradition of excellent College & University acceptances. When given the acceptances list in advance of graduation, Chairman of the Board, Dr. Steven Ott remarked, "This is the best list of acceptances I can remember." That was quite a compliment to our students and College Counseling staff as it came from a two time Stanford graduate and the son of the founders of LAS. The Class of 2012 will join its predecessors by continuing their educational pursuits in North America, the United Kingdom, Europe, South America, and Asia.

LAS would like to recognize the decade of commitment and service Mrs. Mary Galbraith, Director of Counseling, provided to our students. From organizing college admission representative visits to chasing down teacher recommendations to complete applications, she was a true professional. Mrs. Galbraith, who returned to the USA, will be greatly missed. The Class of 2013's acceptance list will be a testament to the strength of the program she built and team she assembled. Thanks Mary, congratulations Class of 2012 ♦

Top Universities & Colleges: Acceptances in 2012

US News & World Report

National Universities: USA

World

Top 25:

7. University College London (UCL)
11. Stanford University
15. McGill University
20. University of Edinburgh
23. University of Toronto

Top 50:

27. King's College London (KCL)
29. University of Manchester
30. University of Bristol
31. University of Melbourne
50. University of Warwick

Top 100:

51. University of British Columbia
61. University of Illinois - Urbana
70. Boston University
72. University of Sheffield
84. Georgia Institute of Technology
85. Purdue University
94. Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)
95. Durham University
97. University of St Andrews
99. Dartmouth College

Top 25:

5. Stanford University
11. Dartmouth College
13. Johns Hopkins University
23. University of Southern California

Top 50:

29. Tufts University
35. University of Rochester
36. Georgia Institute of Technology
38. Lehigh University
38. University of Miami
45. Pennsylvania State University (Penn State)
45. University of Illinois - Urbana
50. Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Top 100:

53. Boston University
53. Fordham University
58. Texas A&M University
62. Northeastern University
62. Syracuse University
62. Purdue University
62. Worcester Polytechnic Institute
71. Virginia Polytechnic Institute (Virginia Tech)
82. American University
82. University of Denver
94. University of Colorado - Boulder
94. University of Massachusetts - Amherst
97. University of California - Riverside

Liberal Arts: USA

Top 25:

1. Williams College
2. Amherst College
3. Swarthmore College
4. Pomona College
5. Middlebury College
6. Carleton College
6. Wellesley College
17. Hamilton College
21. Colgate University
24. Oberlin College
25. Bryn Mawr College

Top 50:

27. Colorado College
28. Barnard College
29. College of the Holy Cross
29. Mount Holyoke College
42. Pitzer College
49. Skidmore College

Alumni Induction Speech

Delivered to the Class of 2012

>>> Richard Campanaro '95 | Social Science 2002-2007

"**Bonjour**, Leysin American School!" Do you really start off every assembly like that? Brave man (Mr. Dexter).

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow alumni, congratulations.

Now, I have been to one or two... or six of these dinners in my time and I have heard more alumni induction speeches than you can shake a stick at. After much thought, I have determined that if there's one theme that links them all together, it's this: I don't remember any of them.

I had a great speech all lined up for you today on failure and success, beauty and ugliness, and all the things that make life wonderful. It was a real dandy, full of the wisdom of the ages. And wouldn't you know it, now that I'm here - with you - it just doesn't seem all that important.

Instead of getting all philosophical and turning this into a lecture series, I'll just cut to the chase. The most important thing right now... is right now. You've done it. You've made it. You're leaving.

I'm so, so happy for you; and I'm so, so sorry.

You see, even though I graduated from the Magic Mountain one year after most of you were born, I think I know something about what you will go through

in the next few days and weeks... and months. You see, the devil knows because he's the devil, but he knows more because he is old.

You will have no more casual trips into the woods on the weekend to do... whatever it is that you do in the woods on the weekend.

You will no longer pray for a ski day only to have your hopes crushed when that ski day is not called - despite the perfect snow and weather.

You will no longer be called "loser" by Mr. Skove while

knowing, deep down, that he doesn't mean it... most of the time.

You will have no more breakfasts and lunches and dinners and study halls and classes and assemblies

with most of the people sitting around you right now.

It is wrapping up, my friends. The end is nigh.

You see, that's what I remember about each of these speeches. Not the wise words and the deep thoughts, not the bad puns (if there is such a thing) or the good jokes (which are completely alien to me). I remember a slow and creeping realization that, for better and for worse, it really is the end of things.

I'm not telling you this to get you down. I just want you to know that you are not alone. Everyone who's passed through this

place has felt it - whatever it is: a feeling of joy and sadness that lifts you up and drags you down all at once; something that makes you feel, in the immortal words of Bilbo Baggins, "like too little butter spread over too much toast."

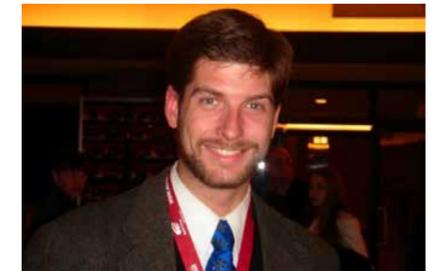
It's the true mark of a former LAS student. Welcome to the club.

The next few days are a whirlwind. Trust me, they fly by. If I give you any advice in this speech, let it be this: revel in each other for the next few days. Go to the Eagle's Nest. Go up the mountain. Go to Croissanterie. But, do it together.

And there you have it. That wasn't too painful, was it? A little sad at the end, but endings and beginnings are always the saddest.

On behalf of all the alumni who've come down this road before, congratulations. You are in for a wonderful time, so enjoy it - together.

Au revoir, Leysin American School." ♦



Richard Campanaro '95



PHOTO: DANILO BERTAZZO



Left to Right: Richard Calderini, Denis Rime, Marie-Jose Julmi, Jean-Marc Udriot, Mayor, Martine Ruchet, Jean-Jacques Bonvin, Communal Secretary.



Commune De Leysin

The Municipality Executive Council is composed of five members, a president who bears the title "Mayor" and four Municipal Councillors. The Executive Council members are elected for five years, from 2011 to 2016, by the people of Leysin according to the majority system. The Executive Council is entirely renewed at the same time as the Municipal Council ("Legislative Council"). The Executive Council meets weekly, on Monday afternoons, at the Maison de Commune. Minutes of the meetings are kept by the Communal Secretary.

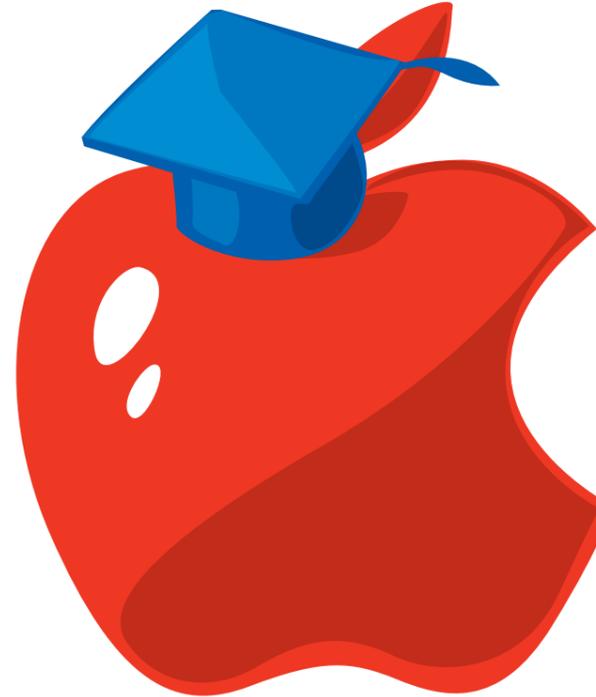
For questions or comments, please contact the Commune by email at info@leysin-commune.ch.

The Executive Council's main task are:

- The execution of decisions made by the Legislative Council
- Oversight of public notices, reports, project budgets for the municipality, which are subject to the Legislative Council
- Enforcement of regulations
- The direction of municipal administration and the appointment of public servants
- The management of communal lands, buildings, and the finances of the municipality
- Public safety.

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From the Alumni Desk

Visitors to Leysin and LAS

>>> Mr. Fred Sharp and Mr. Benjamin Smith

Again this year, we have had a regular stream of alumni visit us. Some dropped in for a few hours, others planned a three or four day holiday, and others - from the classes 1999-2002 - attended a well-planned reunion on the Magic Mountain.

Early in the year, Elliott Barcikowski '99 paid us a visit, followed by James McKeage '92, who brought his daughter to see the village where he went to school. Former student, Elena Ivanova visited us with her husband, Eugene and baby daughter, Anna. Elena works as an accountant for the defense company, Rostechology.

In March, Kathy Strickland-Rankin '90 visited with her husband, Dave. Kathy is a high school



Far left: Kathy Strickland-Rankin '90 and her husband, Dave.



Far left: Hiroki Nakijima '99, Machiko Kitano, wife of Yohei Kitano '97, Doris and Steven Ott

literature teacher. In April, Kitano '97 came for a four-day holiday with his wife, Machiko. Juan Ribas-Cadle '02 and Caroline O'Neill '03 stopped by the school. Juan continues to do complex things with ships and boats, and remains an inveterate traveller.

Other April visitors included Megan Birchfield '04 and Stephanie Wisner '04 and their boyfriends. Megan, Stephanie and their boyfriends continued their vacation in Italy. Before leaving, Stephanie was astonished to learn that I still had her Florence Cultural Journal. I never throw anything away. She used it to guide the group through Florence.



Juan Ribas-Cadle '02 and Caroline O'Neill '03



Daria Malyavina '07, Joe Haden '07, Roxanne Wisner '07, and Erica Hemmy '95

During the summer, Stephanie's sister, Roxanne '07, paid a visit to Leysin with Joe Haden '07. Joe lives in Texas and works as Environmental Coordinator for



Cong-Yi Wang '07 and his fiancée BeiBei

Bechtel. As I was walking to meet them, I literally bumped into Erica Hemmy '95. Erica still works for the US Military and is stationed in Germany. She decided to spend a quiet few days in Leysin. She was, I am sure, the first LAS girl to gain entry to West Point. Her brother, Killian '97, also works for the US Government. To add to the coincidences, Daria Malyavina '07 was also in town that same day. Daria is studying at the Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne.

Cong-Yi Wang '07 and his fiancée BeiBei spent a few days vacation in Leysin in June. They were married

in Bali in November. During their visit, Ian Cooper '05 dropped by to join us for a delicious homemade Chinese meal.



Eric Blumhagen '93 and his wife and daughters visited Leysin.

Shortly after, Eric Blumhagen '93, and his wife and daughters visited Leysin. Eric now works as a Manager, Regulatory Compliance, for Jensen Maritime Consultants.



Friend Mirta, Jan Groneman '88 and, and Zlatin Balevsky '97

Further visits from Jan Groneman '88 and friend, Mirta, from the Netherlands and Zlatin Balevsky '97.

New Year's Alumni Reunion in Leysin: December 28th 2012 - January 3rd 2013

On 28th December almost a dozen alumni travelled large distances to meet up again in the village where they spent their senior High School years. They came from Tokyo, Lagos, Toronto, Baltimore, Karachi, as well as Croatia, Hungary and Switzerland. What greater tribute is there to the bonds that are formed by students who spent their final High School years at on the Magic Mountain?

The alumni who attended were: Milena Vassileva '00, Suzanne (McDougall) Kponton '00, Adriana White '00, Elizabeth LaBella '00, Leslie Paisley '00, Takeshi Fujikawa '99, Gabor Szekely '00, Shahriar Ahmad '00, Miran Macesic '99 and girlfriend Enea.

Other participants included Tomek Celerak '00, Benoit Schumacher '02, Blaise Hefti '99, former student Brock Fiedler, Skye Fiedler '96, and Vanessa Sidwell '02.

First evening, all were invited to Mr Squier's annual birthday party in the Valley View Room. There they met some of their former teachers: Mr. Sharp, Ms. Oppenheim, Mr. Skove, Mr. and Mrs. Fiedler, Mr. Hansen, Ms. Stewart, and Mrs. Schmalz-Ott. Leysin resident alumni, Brock and Blaise '99, joined the group at this party.

Second evening, the group had a dinner at the Fromagerie. We were finally asked to leave at about midnight.

Third evening, we all met at the Belle Époque campus for a tour and reception. A welcome addition to the group for this evening was Tom Celarek '00 and his parents. Mr. Benjamin Smith, the school's Director of Development, took the group on a tour of



the campus followed by a reception in "the Cave" where we were joined by Dr. Steven & Mrs. Doris Ott and Head of School, Dr. Marc-Frederic Ott and raised our glasses to toast the reunion. That evening the whole group had dinner at the Lynx, the restaurant they all remembered as 'La Grotta'. Again, we were the last to leave.

The Fourth evening, New Year's Eve, Blaise '99 invited the group to a pot luck dinner at his apartment to ring in the New Year. Vanessa '02 and Benoit '02 joined us for the evening.

The final evening, we dined at the igloo restaurant at Lower Sporting following an afternoon at the tobogganing park.

Everyone at the reunion repeatedly commented on what a thrill it had been to see each other after twelve long years. The idea of holding an alumni reunion in Leysin seems to be catching on. Tina Mamukashvili '03 is trying to persuade the Class of 2003 to re-unite in Leysin some time this summer. ♦

LAS Official Alumni Gatherings

By Benjamin Smith

TOKYO - The alumni event season kicked off with a very special Alumni Weekend in Tokyo. The main event of the weekend was the LAS-BEYOND Tomorrow Gala Dinner and Auction. The auction benefited a current LAS student who was orphaned by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. Alumni who attended the Gala Dinner and Auction included Ipei Tanaka '92, Keiko Yoshimura '04, Yuki Yoshizawa '00, Chika Kanno '01, Yohei Kitano '97, Rintaro Koike, Taro Itoh '91, Fumi Maekawa '95, Naoko Kiriya '94, Naoto Saga '01, and former student Shigehiro Sugita. Mr. Sharp and Hiroki Nakajima '99 were also attendance.



LONDON - The next alumni event was the annual London Alumni Dinner. For the third year in a row, we gathered at the Rubens Hotel near Buckingham Palace. This was another wonderful gathering with many faces that we had not seen in previous years. In attendance for the event were: Jennifer Smith '01, Wonny Lee '00, Kristen Kesonen '08, Ioana Nedelcu '08, Mattias Horseman '10, Bart Dujcznski '95, Nick Ang '08, David Cloux '06, Gauri Khindaria '94, Andrei Bumbacea '06, and Jemima (Bush) Benning '96. Also, in attendance were Mr. Sharp and former teachers Mr. Wieland and Mr. Clelland.



NEW YORK CITY - The New York City Alumni Holiday party was smaller than expected but a beautiful loft space donated for the event by Andrea Mitchell '89PG and hand-made chocolates donated by Justine Pringle '91 and Nunu Chocolate made the event a success. Making the effort to join us were: Thomas Keen '09 (in town from Texas), Jayan "Jay FK" Fazal Karim '09 (stopped by before work), Kenan Borekci '01, Mark Yoshida '01, and Admission Director, Paul Dyer '06P.

By the end of the academic year, we will also have held Alumni Ski Weekend in **Leysin** and alumni events in **Houston** and **Boston**. There were many other informal alumni gatherings around the globe. When you get together, please send your photos - it is great to see everyone reconnect and staying in touch. We also had several alumni gatherings centered around our admissions efforts and travel.

Thank you to everyone who attended or hosted one of these events.

If you are planning a gathering, event, or holiday together, please let us know. We are happy to assist in whatever way possible. Contact us at alumni@las.ch.

Class Notes

1960s



This year marks the 50th anniversary of the production of the first LAS Yearbook. LAS graduated twenty-eight students that year. If you are a member of the Class of 1963, please send your news.



Alumni gathered in Vail, Colorado in August 2011 to support **Ron Huxley '66's** son, Anthony, a lead dancer for the New York City Ballet. **Front: Katie Gaylor '67**, Anna Huxley, **Mark Sandvig '69**; **Second Row: Kathy Galvin '67, Debbie Diffenderfer '67, Jeanne Hines '66**, Cindy Williamson, **Drew Williamson '66**, Sandra Hitt Brooks; **Back row: Charles Fallon '67, Carol Florell Fallon '67, Tom Wilson '67, Ron '66.**

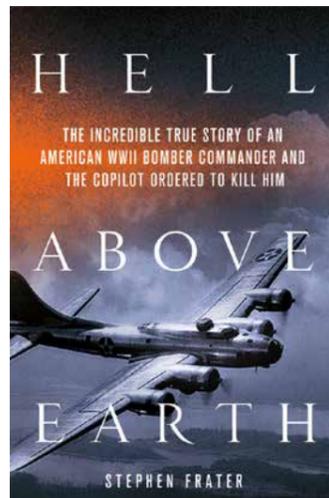


Linda Orell Greene '66, was happily reunited with a copy of her yearbook. Her copy never made it home with her when she left Leysin.

1970s

Stephen Frater '72, Class President

St. Martin's Press released Stephen's book, *Hell Above Earth*, on March 13, 2012. *Hell Above Earth* tells the story of two World War II American bomber pilots and their enduring bond with a twist. In researching the book, Stephen uncovered a half-century old secret that has far-reaching and deeply personal repercussions for the pilots, and profound consequences for the FBI and the "Mighty" Eight Air Force. Stephen's book is receiving great reviews and is available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other major booksellers. Signed first editions are available on Stephen's website: www.stephenfrater.com.



1980s

Brad Wyman '80

Posted this photo of the back of car to the Alumni Facebook Group on October 1st. LAS is still receiving requests for stickers. Unfortunately, our collection of stickers ran out in November.



The photo that started it all.

Janice Talbert '86

Four years ago, Janice took over a nearly bankrupt home health agency and pharmacy. Since then, she has worked hard to turn the business around. The company is in the "black" for the first time in its nineteen years of business. Janice changed careers when she came to the business, leaving behind the team environment in which she had always worked. Janice says, "It has been humbling and given me a great satisfaction to accomplish this in a short period of time." Janice lives in Orlando, FL.

Beatriz Monserrat '87

Teaches High School and operates her own business with her mother and brother. She has two children, Jose Maria (16) and Alex (13), from her first marriage and she is happily re-married. After graduating, she spent time in Montpellier, France and London. Beatriz reports that senior year was the best year of her life. "Everyday, doesn't matter what, I think about it! What beautiful and unforgettable memories."

Isabelle (Chessin) Pryor '88

Since leaving Leysin, Isabelle has kept busy with a multi-generational household full of pets and people. Settled in Virginia, Isabelle has been married for nineteen years to Chris, her college sweetheart. They have two daughters and a son: Emile (18), Reine (14) and Philip (12). She spent the holiday season in England experiencing short, dark days and fun get-togethers with extended family. Isabelle enjoys keeping up with



other alumni and completed her first marathon with "help" from Ron Duran '87. Ron and Isabelle would love to be joined by other LASers at the 2013 Air Force Marathon in September.



Fernando Casado-Caneque '89

Founded and directs The Centre for Partnerships for Development. The Centre brings together his twenty years' experience working with international organizations, private companies and governments in the development field to promote private sector development. Fernando has worked as strategic advisor to a variety of international organizations including UNDP, UNIDO, UNDSO, UNEP, OECD, IADB and the World Bank. He also worked as a Senior Consultant in the Department of Sustainable Development and Social Responsibility at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in New York. Fernando has authored several books, articles and directed documentaries on development issues and social injustices. He is a Master Trainer of the IFC-SME Toolkit of the World Bank, professionally accredited partnership broker (Partnership Brokers Accreditation Scheme) and certified with the GIZ Capacity Works framework.

Jason Lockwood '89

After graduating from LAS, Jason earned a degree in Visual Arts at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Jason has since returned to Switzerland and he works in the pharmaceutical industry in Basel. Jason is the Thought Leader for Usability & Design for IMS Health in Switzerland and he recently won the prestigious Perceptual Edge Dashboard Design competition. Outside of work, Jason still produces art and exhibits 1-2 times per year. Jason comments, "Leysin definitely left its mark as I continue to be a passionate skier (telemark) and travel to the mountains as often as possible."



1990s

Richard McShee '90S

Recently, received his Master's in Quantitative Finance from the London School of Business and moved back to Switzerland to work as a commodities trader in Geneva. Richard previously worked in Switzerland as



Caption: Richard McShee celebrating Swiss National Day at 4545m.

an investment banker. When he is not working he is a "nut for cycling and mountaineering". Richard said, "For some reason, I am happiest doing things that involve massive amounts of physical pain and high altitudes. It hurts, but the views are nice!" Richard plans to race

in the amateur version of the Tour of Flanders and the Liege-Bastogne-Liege classics in 2013.

Maki Kato '91, Ippei Tanaka '92, and Toshiatsu Tabata '92

Met Mr. Sharp for dinner in advance of the LAS - BEYOND Tomorrow Dinner and Auction in Tokyo. Maki is married and she works for Reuters in Tokyo. Ippei and Toshiatsu are working for the same system integration company. Toshiatsu is married with three young boys.



Alumni Highlight

Justine Pringle '91

>>>Nunu Chocolates

Life can be sweet, especially when you are a chocolatier. However, for Justine Pringle '91, the path to the sweet life was not as straightforward as it might seem. Yes, as a four-year student from South Africa, she was exposed to a lot of chocolate at LAS but it didn't develop into a passion until years later. In truth, Justine and her husband and business partner, Andy Laird, a musician, stumbled into the chocolate profession.

After graduating from LAS, Justine studied Environmental Management & Technology at the University of Sunderland. Her studies led to an internship with European Federation of Environmental Engineers in Brussels, Belgium and then an internship at Barton Creek Country Club in Austin, Texas. After setting up Barton's waste management program, she decided to move to the Big Apple. It was after moving to New York that chocolate entered the equation.

When Justine and Andy decide to sell something "different" from the merchandise table at his shows, chocolate became the solution. Their custom chocolates were definitely different and quickly became popular. Before long, Justine was a student of the "Ecole Chocolat" and their new business venture, Nunu Chocolates, was under way.

The couple started small but took their business very seriously. They continued to sell chocolate at Andy's shows, make weekly appearances at the Brooklyn Flea, and eventually opened a storefront in Brooklyn. From the beginning, they decided that they wanted the best chocolate from the closest source. Justine and Andy traveled to Columbia and met with planation owners and tasted chocolate until they found the one they liked best. They have been buying their chocolate direct ever since; it has paid dividends.

Bon Appetite magazine named Nunu Chocolates to their list of "Best Chocolate in America" last Valentine's Day. They have a 25 rating from Zagat and a 4-star rating on yelp.com. And, their chocolates are available nationally at fine food stores including Whole Foods Markets in Connecticut, New Jersey and New York.

Next time you are craving something sweet, check the Nunu Chocolates webpage for the location it is sold closest to you. You will not be disappointed. www.nunu-chocolates.com

LAS would like to thank Justine and Andy for donating their delicious Salted Caramels for the LAS Alumni Holiday gathering in NYC this past December. ♦



Christian Petri '93

Visited campus with his wife, Heidi and mother in August. After graduating, Christian attended Embry-Riddle and is now a commercial pilot. Christian and Heidi live in The Woodlands, Texas.

Anton Fric '93

Visited campus and spoke to students about his work at the UN – Geneva. Anton has since returned to Slovakia.

Dina Hammam '95

Visited Leysin with her parents and sister at the end of March 2012. She reported that she was planning to attend Jill Hodges '95 wedding in San Francisco.

Jill Hodges '95

Married Robert Moreno on August 22nd. It was a multi-generational occasion as several LAS alumni were in attendance including Jill's mother, Judy (Wilson) Vanderhorst '64.

Bryan Ho '97 and Mr. Sharp.



Takeshi Fujikawa '99

After graduating from Kwansai Gakuin University in Japan in 2005, Takeshi worked for Keyence Corporation. In 2009, he started his own raw materials import/export business. Takeshi spends a lot of time between Jakarta, China, and Singapore. www.argos-corporation.com.

2000s

New Year's Reunion organized by the graduates of the late 90s/early 00s.



Shahriar Asdar Ahmad '00

Studied Political Theory and History at the University of Toronto before receiving his law degree (LLB) from the University of Warwick. Shahriar recently returned to his hometown of Karachi, Pakistan, where he is working for the Lyceum School.

Tomek Celarek '00

Tom's recent visit to Geneva coincided with the New Year's Reunion in Leysin. Tom is free-lance photographer and presently lives in Adelaide, Australia. You can view his work at www.tomekphotography.net.

Adriana (White) Hebert '00

Lives in Ontario, Canada with her husband, Kelly and two young children (aged 1 and 2).

Suzanne (McDougall) Kponton '00

Graduated from Suffolk University in Boston with a degree in Business Management. She currently lives in Lagos, Nigeria with her husband, Sanvi and two children (aged 4 and 1).

Elizabeth LaBella '00

Recently moved back to the United States after living in the Middle East for over seven years. Elizabeth still travels and works throughout the Middle East with the US Military.

Wonny Lee '00

Lives in London and is working as a paralegal for Bristows.

Miran Macesic '00

After LAS, Miran earned a Bachelor's in International Relations at Syracuse University. He then moved back to Rijeka, Croatia where he attended law school at the University of Rijeka. In 2011, he was admitted to the Croatian Bar. His girlfriend, Enea accompanied him for the New Year's Reunion. They have been together since 2009.

Gabor Szekely '00

After LAS, Gabor earned a degree in Business Administration in Hungary. He now has his own business distributing for a Swedish work-wear company. Gabor lives in Budapest.

Milena Vassileva '00

Lives in Sofia, Bulgaria and she works in advertising. She was the main architect of the New Year's Reunion.

Don Stader '01

Is making a movie. He is currently one of the leading members of a team of physician/filmmakers who are trying to create a documentary on the history of Emergency Medicine. The project is called the EMRA Legacy Initiative. Don and his team hope to have the documentary on US television in late 2013 or early 2014. You can find a trailer for the film on YouTube, listen to a radio interview from NPR Charlotte at www.wfae.org/history-emergency-medicine, and "like" the project on Facebook. You can also support Don's efforts at www.emra.org/donations.aspx.

Raya Tchakarova Burla '01

Was Doris Ott's special guest for the Alumni Induction Dinner for the Class of 2012. Raya gave birth to her daughter just seven weeks later on July 19th.

Aditya Kapoor '01

Is the Managing Director of Puneet Resins Ltd. Forbes selected the company as one of Asia's and Australia's top 200 companies under a billion dollars. Aditya's company is the smallest in the group but they are growing fast. Aditya and his wife, Radhu are the proud parents of Arjun, who celebrated his 1st birthday on October 2nd.

Chan-Jae Park '02

Teaches special education P.E. for handicapped children. Chan-Jae comments that the job is hard but it brings him happiness. He is also a snowboard and scuba diving instructor.



Iker Reyes '02

Is currently pursuing his Master's of International Relations at the University of Melbourne. He received his Bachelor's in Political Science and Public Administration from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. While studying, he had an internship in the Mexican Embassy in Washington DC and he worked for the Secretary of the Interior in Mexico City. Upon completing his degree, Iker served as the Deputy Director of International Relations for the Social Security & Social Services Institute (ISSSTE) for 4 years. As Deputy Director, he facilitated an agreement between ISSSTE and the International Social Security Association and he opened North and Central American liaison offices. In 2012, he left his position to join the presidential campaign of the political party New Alliance (Nueva Alianza) as the event's logistic coordinator for presidential candidate Gabriel Quadri de la Torre. Iker shares that he is still in touch with most of his friends from LAS and they are now his best friends. "LAS changed my life and opened my eyes to an international world."



Benoit Schumacher '02

After LAS, Benoit completed his Bachelor's Degree in Information Systems. He now builds websites as a Webmaster and travels widely to the USA, Mexico, South Africa, and Canada. Benoit reported to Mr. Sharp that he is now the proud owner of his house in Ollon, Switzerland.

Laura Malta Gildersleeve '03

Met with Paul Dyer '06P, during one of his recruiting trips for LAS, for dinner with her husband, Dan Gildersleeve, SIS staff '09, and two children, Enzo and Kadu. Paul reports the two boys are bundles of energy. Laura and Dan make their home in Houston, Texas.

Tiko Mamukashvili '03

Lives in Tbilisi, Georgia and is a Marketing Communications Manager at TBC Bank.

Asami Amesaka '04

Lives in Taipei, Taiwan with her husband and two children. Asami is a housewife and an independent business owner. She is a regular on a local television show. Asami comments, "I am putting all my efforts into trying to keep in touch with my friends from LAS, but it is not easy with five year old and two year old children."

**Meghan Birchfield '04**

Got engaged. (Below)

**Anthony Mignano '04 and Sarah French '04**

Were married on March 24, 2012 in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Mr. Sharp attended the wedding along with **Romy (Holzer) Backus '02**, **Danu Hankins '04**, and **Alan Ingalls '04**.

**Sarah Muller '04**

When Fred Sharp asked Sarah to share what she had been doing since graduating she replied as follows:

"When Mr. Sharp asked me to write a few words about what I have been doing since I left LAS, it really made me think about what I have been doing these past nine years.

I did my undergraduate degree at NYU. I went from Journalism, to Econ, to Biology, to Dance. I ended up majoring in Psychology. After graduation, I landed an HR job recruiting for a young tech company in NYC. A couple weeks later, my boss quit, leaving me with all her responsibilities. I still don't know if it was bliss or a burden. I stayed with the company for a year and then returned to Brazil, where I took up an HR position at an architecture firm.

By this point, I had been gone from Brazil for seven years. Adjusting proved to be rather difficult, especially in the workforce. I had developed different values from the ones held by my own culture. In NYC, efficiency is your number one performance goal. In Brazil, the bureaucracy, lack of commitment, and lack of faith the company had in its employees was a constant struggle. I had been hired to develop their HR department but I wasn't successful because I grew increasingly frustrated. I also knew that this was not where my heart was, so I took a leap of faith and went to culinary school.

Culinary school was fun and challenging. I fell in love with all things chocolate: studying it, visiting factories and cacao plantations, talking to key people in the industry, learning about issues that cacao growers face and how we can alleviate those, as well as the potential that cacao agriculture has for reforestation. It became an obsession and it led me to work with Valrhona, in their corporate sales department.

I did this until my husband was accepted into business school and we moved back to the US. By this point, I knew that I wanted to start my own chocolate company. Moving to Philadelphia brought uncertainty. We still have no idea where we will move to upon my husband's graduation. However, I have started a Master's in Sustainability and Food Studies, and plan to use this program to help me kick start my chocolate business and also delve into some other ideas that link restaurants and the current food system, which is highly unsustainable.

When I decided that I wanted to work with chocolate and pursue a career in the field, often, I felt lost and anxious about accomplishing something meaningful in my life. I felt I hadn't really tapped into my full potential and that I had wasted my undergraduate degree in a field that did not mean much to me. But now, I see that they were the building blocks to where I am headed today. Sometimes, you need that extra courage to leave everything you know to be safe and comfortable behind, and to dig in to what you really believe you are in the world for."

Laurent Stevenart '04

Began work as a Consultant in Sales & Marketing at Michael Page International, Belgium in 2012.

Stephanie Wisner '04 and Meghan Birchfield '04

visited campus in April during their European Vacation with their fiancés. Stephanie is pursuing her MBA at Harvard Business School.

**Joelle Schulthess '05**

Graduated from Knox College in 2009 and moved to Mumbai, India. After working as a PR & Marketing Manager for a little more than three years, she decided the job was "not challenging my creative side" and left. She is presently living in Dubai, UAE and completing an online degree in Graphic & Web Design. You can view her work at behance.net/scutlez and scutlez.tumblr.com. Sadly, Joelle's sister passed in 2011. Each year on her birthday, Joelle honors her memory by writing down a special memory, pairing it with a gift, and hiding it for a stranger to find. She hopes her sister's joyful spirit will live on in the person who finds it. Joelle also reports she has met the man of dreams.

**Ibby Ramsey '07S**

Reported to Mr. Ted Groom that she has been accepted to William & Mary Law School.

Marcelo Hinojosa '08S

After LAS, returned to Mexico to finish high school. As the result of his, "great experience in Europe", he decided to pursue his Bachelor's in International Business in London. Marcelo shares, "Through the years, I have had the great opportunity to meet new people from all around the world, live great experiences, and become a more international person. My perspective on life has definitely changed since I attended LAS, but my bases and values remain from my Mexican background. I hope to graduate within the next year and then go on and try a new city, most likely in the USA."

Kristen Kesonen '08

After graduating from LAS, Kristen attended Pepperdine University in Malibu, California and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's in English Literature. She now lives in London and she is completing her Master's in Victorian Studies at Birkbeck, University of London.

Iona Nedelcu '08

Is now a published Barrister at Law. She is living in London and returns to Switzerland almost every winter for a ski holiday.

Jose Garcia-Planas '08

Launched TonightVIP, a website that allows users to RSVP on guest lists, VIP tables and organize private parties at partnered clubs in Boston, New York City, and Barcelona. Not only does his site guarantee you won't have to wait in line, but that you will get admitted at a reduced rate. Jose plans to expand to Madrid, London, Miami, and Los Angeles in the near future. www.tonightvip.com

Zubaida Akbar '09

Was married in 2012. After graduating from LAS, she was accepted at Mount Holyoke College and the American University in Kabul. Since then she has been working as a photographer, reporter, interpreter, and project manager in the media and gender sectors within Afghan civil society. She has worked with both governmental and non-governmental organizations, and she worked for a year and half at the Afghan President's Government Media and Information Center (GMIC). Zubaida is also a member of Hadia Group, a self-led volunteer group working for social reform in Afghanistan. Hadia Group works to empower women and children in orphanages, prisons, and shelters.

Send news, photos and upcoming dates to
alumni@las.ch

Fares Boulos '09

"LAS was a great way to prepare and acquire the skills and knowledge to achieve, prosper, and connect with any environment around the globe." Since leaving LAS, Fares has been able to construct his own path and discover the "secret talents that the universe" had in store for him. Those talents include acting, singing, dancing, and rapping. Two shows he wrote, produced, and directed received awards. He was the lead actor in a CLOSEUP toothpaste commercial and he plays a role in the recently released feature film "Turning Point", which is playing in select cinemas in Arica, Europe, and North America. Fares made his music video debut on YouTube with, "One Day" by Farastafari, which has over 45,000 views. "At LAS, I was taught to dream big and to create positive impact on this earth, and, as alumni, I cherish every moment that I spent there."



Amanda Pekar '09

Will be graduating from the University of Miami in May 2013. Her parents, Jay and Sandy, have moved from Florida to New Orleans.

2010s

Pauline Germano Cavalcanti '10

Helped move her sister, Petra '13, into the dorms during Fall Orientation. Their brother, Jose also attended LAS in 2010.

Hanchen YAO '10 & Mengdi LU '10

Are engaged to be married August 10, 2013 in Diao Yu Tain in Beijing, China.

Zach Fine '11S

Was selected as one of two winners of the annual Jacklyn Potter Young Poets Competition. Karren Alenier designed the competition, for Washington DC area high school students, in 1988. In 2006, the competition was renamed, "The Jacklyn Potter Young Poets Competition" to honor the long-standing director of the Joaquin Miller Cabin Poetry Series. For more information, please visit: www.wordworksdc.com/young_poets.html.

Jan Joost Droge '11, Kuba Mardusinski '10, Greg Marks '11,

Christian Ehret '11, Kerman Arriola '11

(not pictured), and Claudia Chudzik '10S (not pictured) visited campus during the first week of Spring Semester 2013.



Jimmy Beck '12

Returned to Leysin as the first "official" alumni visitor from the Class of 2012.

Former Faculty & Staff

Jim Strickland, English

Jim and his wife, Sara Best are proud to announce the birth of their son, Nolan David. Jim reported that Nolan weighed 7.8 pounds at birth and that, "Mom and son are both doing great".



Sam Oglesby, History

McNally Jackson has published Sam's fourth book, *Wordswarm*. The book describes the changes that have taken place on his street and "the wider world beyond his barrio" in New York City during the past twenty years. His books can be purchased at <http://www.mcnallyjackson.com/shop>.

Michael & Collette Marquis, IT and French

Proudly announced the birth of their grandson, Milo Marquis Saaf, from "Point Sebago in the State of Maine" on September 29, 2012. Michael & Collette also reported that Milo, his mother, Denise Marquis Saaf, former Admissions Associate, were in good health. Denise and her husband, Jason live in Portland, Maine.

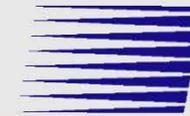


Tim Miller, Admissions

Tim and wife, Ritsa proudly announced the birth of their son, Maximos Dimokritos Miller on May 10, 2012. Mother and son were doing well at the time of the announcement.



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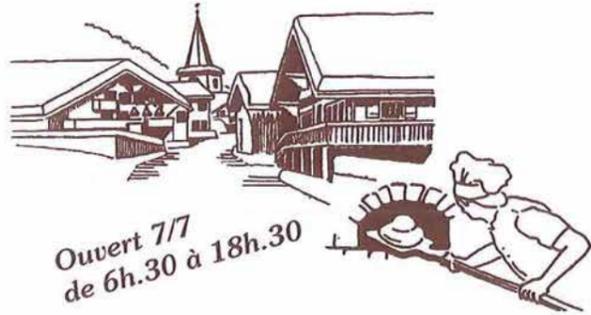
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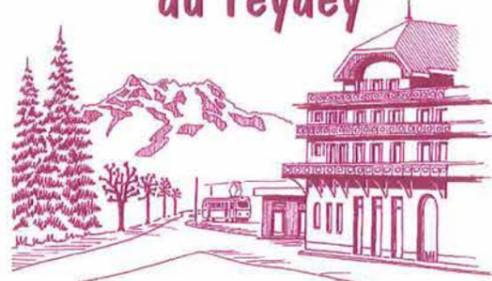


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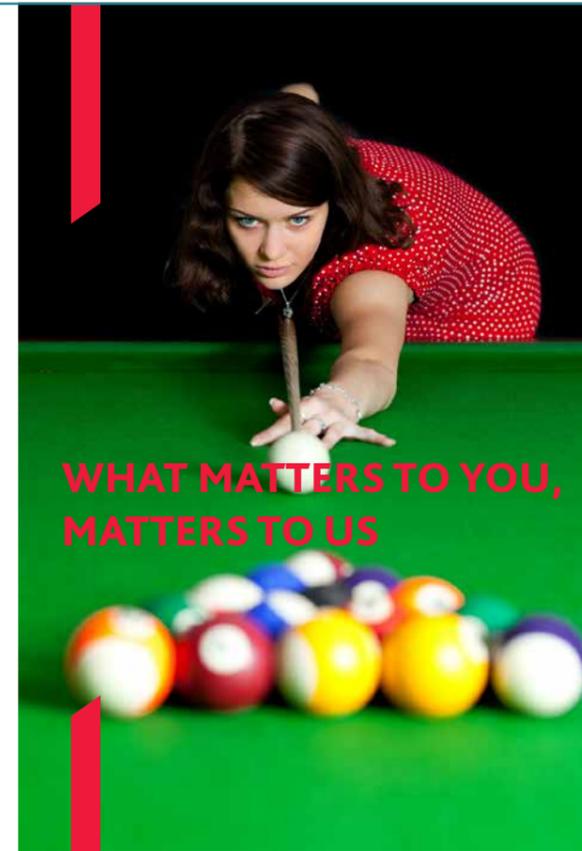
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Closing Words

Help Us to Help a Syrian Teenager

>>> Dr. K. Steven Ott | Chairman of the Board

The Leysin American School in Switzerland ("LAS"), an international co-educational boarding school, offering both US High School diploma and the International Baccalaureate diploma, is seeking to identify a deserving teenage refugee from Syria to receive a full Humanitarian Scholarship...

Our mission statement, "To develop innovative, compassionate and responsible citizens of the world," defines LAS.

Leysin American School was founded over fifty years ago by my parents. It is presently managed by my sons and has an enrollment of 340 students. These students, in grades 8 to 12, come from over sixty countries with a majority completing the IB diploma and continuing their education in some of the most competitive universities in the world.

Being a 'citizen of the world,' through international understanding, is a cornerstone of our educational philosophy. Our students share rooms, classes, travel programs, and team sports with friends from the four corners of the world.

'Compassion' is another tenet of our educational beliefs. As

boarding education in Switzerland is very expensive, the majority of our students come from the leading affluent families of the world. It is imperative for those students to learn that they must be responsible for those less fortunate than themselves. While there are endless programs with the objective of developing compassion, we have found that living and making friends from different socio-economic strata in a close environment is the most effective way.

As a result, we started a program to offer scholarships to deserving students who could not otherwise afford the cost of attendance. Within this program, we offer Humanitarian Scholarships. These scholarships focus on teenagers who are being faced with virtually insurmountable obstacles towards developing their own personal potential.

Several years ago, we provided a Humanitarian Scholarship to a teenage girl from an Afghan refugee camp in Pakistan. During the time spent at LAS, she learned to trust, rather than fear, those with whom she interacted. She also developed a deep self-

confidence that helped her fully realize her potential.

After attending a prestigious all female college in the United States, she returned to Afghanistan to help improve the lives of other women and children there.

On March 11, 2011, my son, Christoph, and I were in Tokyo recruiting students when the Great East Japan Earthquake

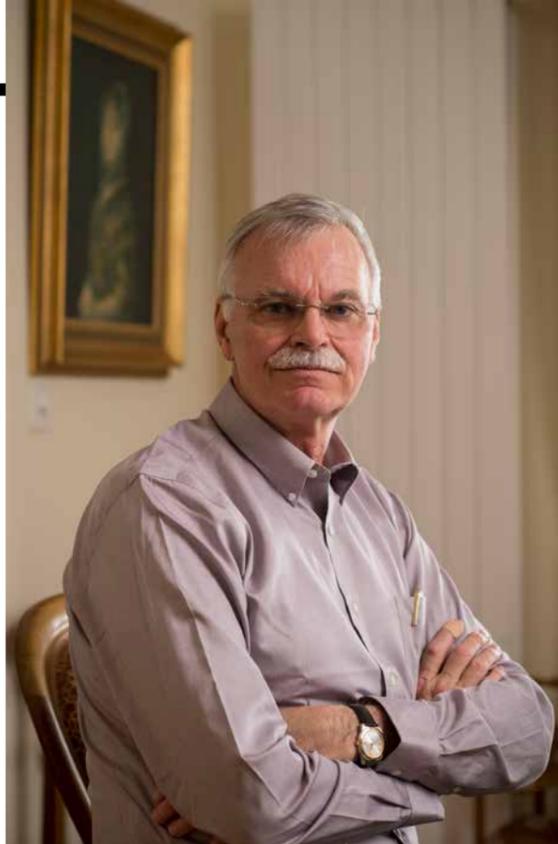
and tsunami devastated the country. As we watched the horrible news unfold on CNN, we immediately decided to provide a Humanitarian Scholarship to one of the teenage victims.

It was not long before the Swiss Embassy put us in contact with NGO

'BEYOND Tomorrow.' BEYOND Tomorrow helped us identify an exceptional young woman who had been orphaned after trying to save her mother from drowning under the debris of their collapsed house before having to abandon her attempts to save herself.

It has been a little over a year since she arrived in our tucked-away alpine village and her healing has begun. Thanks to the peacefulness and beauty of our surroundings and the gentle caring of her classmates and her teachers, a smile has returned to her face. She has also gained the confidence to start giving presentations in conjunction with BEYOND Tomorrow in hopes of helping other victims of the tragedy.

As I watch and read the news, I am compelled to offer this opportunity of support again. The opportunity to assist a young Syrian to heal from the psychological and possibly physical wounds of war is too compelling to ignore. ♦

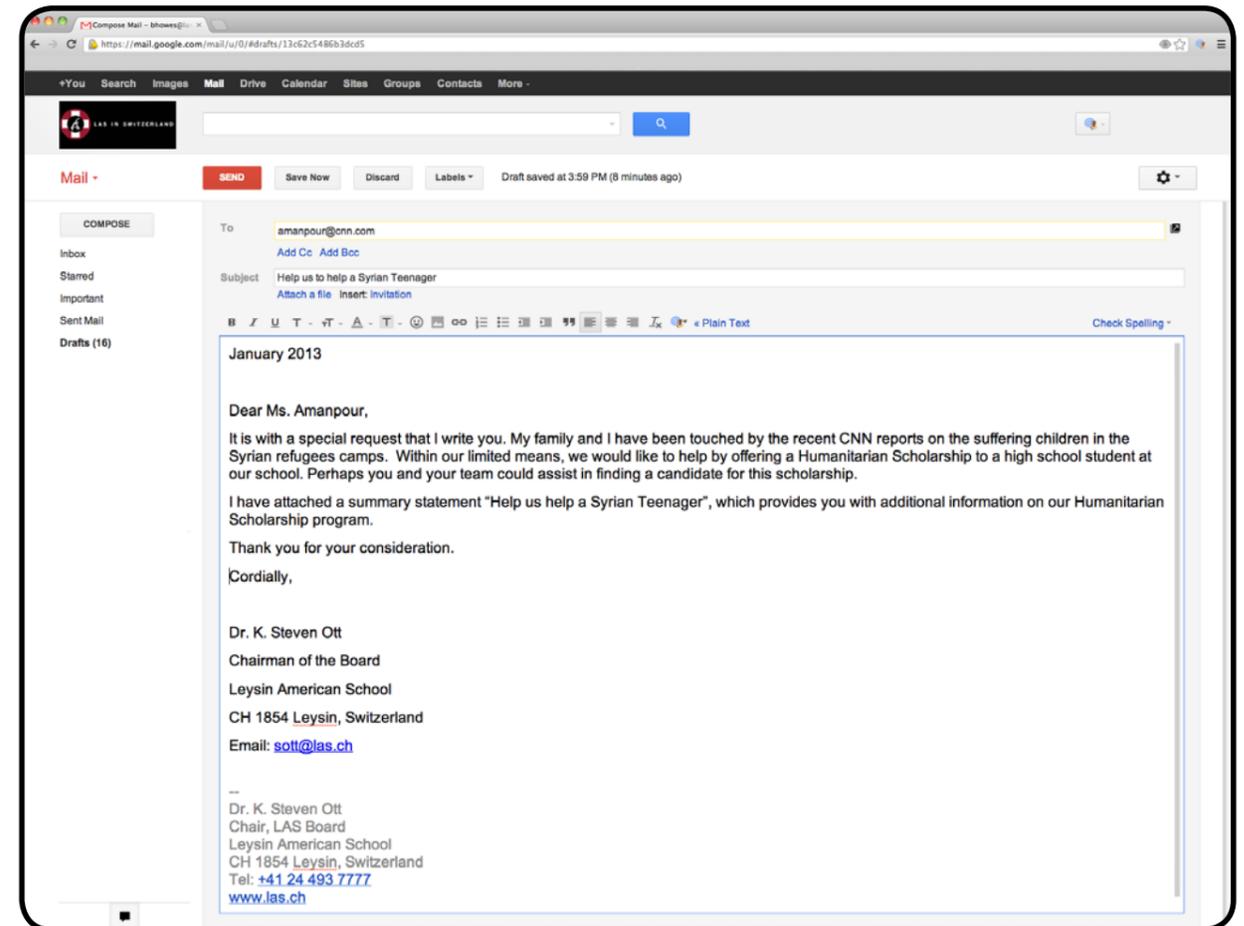


“ The opportunity to assist a young Syrian to heal from the psychological and possibly physical wounds of war is too compelling to ignore ”

... Nominees should have a basic knowledge of English, a passion for learning, and the desire to continue studies at the University level. Moreover, the nominee should have a deep-set desire to contribute to making the world a better place for coming generations. If you know an individual who meets these criteria, please contact me by email at sott@las.ch.

The scholarship consists of up to four-years full tuition, room & board, and all ancillary expenses including, travel expenses, pocket money, and vacation costs. This opportunity would not be possible without the generous support of a Syrian alumnus, his family, and other alumni, parents, and friends who support our scholarship program on an annual basis.

Dr. K. Steven Ott's E-mail to CNN



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