

TASIS TODAY

Fall 2018

A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of The American School In Switzerland



The Creative Class of 2008

WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL OF OUR ALUMNI

Our annual recap of life at TASIS and among many of our alumni is an important milestone, as time seems to accelerate in a world with so many devastating problems. The challenge is ever greater for TASIS, to remain faithful in its search for excellence in the formation of our students: to live up to the great trust parents have in TASIS, and the noble memories of many of our alumni.

My mother, Mrs. Fleming, certainly had this drive and inspiration, and we at TASIS work hard to maintain her vision and legacy. I am particularly gratified when alumni visit and comment on the beautiful major campus improvements, but also on sensing that the special TASIS community ethos is still alive.

Our summer programs are particularly alive with the TASIS spirit. I get great joy in seeing our summer musicals, with children 6-18 from countries around the world dancing and singing their hearts out in English, and crying when they leave the magical summer experience. Many parents are TASIS alumni who want this special experience for their children, and fondly remember their own TASIS experience and how it shaped their lives.

As the world confronts one horror after another, much of it caused by human egotism, idiocy, and inhumanity, TASIS must stand as a bastion against degradation, ignorance, and foolishness, a place where **Verum, Bonum, Pulchrum** – truth, goodness, beauty – as written over our library portal, should thrive.

A key element of my mother's life and vision was **noblesse oblige** – or, as the Gospel puts it: **"From those to whom much has been given, much is expected"** (St. Luke 12:48). Certainly our students are blessed with privilege. Living in a truly charitable, caring community, and through our Global Service Program, many of our students are transformed and learn to live out how important it is to help and serve others, partly in order to fulfill oneself. It is an old lesson, but ever new when learned and experienced personally.

One of my mother's favorite adages was: **Times change; values don't**. We try to stay the course of maintaining and extending the TASIS Mission and Paideia.

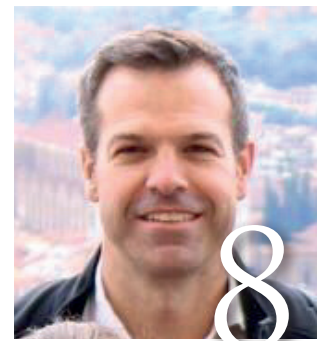
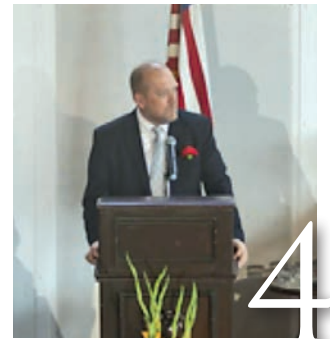
I am grateful for our fine new Headmaster, Christopher Nikoloff, our Faculty, Staff, and Board,* for working together to continue my mother's dream and legacy into the future. Thank you, our dear alumni, for your support.

With every good wish and blessings to our extended TASIS Family,



Lynn F. Aeschliman
**Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63,
Chairman of the Board**

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THE SPARK THAT IGNITES TASIS VALUES

*Headmaster Christopher Nikoloff on his first year
and the School's plans for the future*



It is not without some trepidation and a generous amount of awe that I write, upon the completion of my first year as Headmaster, to introduce myself to the TASIS alumni community, now numbering over 21,000 around the world.

I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to write to you. For the past year I have worked to become better acquainted with the values of TASIS, but you, as alumni, have lived them. I have endeavored to understand Mary Crist Fleming's vision for the TASIS student, but you, as alumni, have been directly shaped by her vision. I have tried to become a spokesperson for those values and vision, but you, as alumni, are the best expression of them.

My wife and I recently walked to a local TASIS favorite, Bellavista, to pick up an order of pizza that was to serve as a second dinner for my three boys thanks to the robust day they had spent attending the wonderful Summer Programs. It seems that the TASIS Summer Programs still know how to get the best from their students, continuing the tradition of Swiss Holiday founded by Mrs. Fleming in 1955, the spark that ignited TASIS.

While waiting at the restaurant I saw an alumna from 2018 who kindly approached me to offer

greetings and inform me of her impending departure, with a fellow 2018 alumna from TASIS, for Ethiopia. This will be their second trip, the first having occurred under the Opsahl Global Service Program, during which this alumna discovered her passion for serving young children in an educational setting. In this brief exchange I saw many of TASIS's values sparkle, not least of which were civility, service, and internationalism.

I came to TASIS because I was attracted to its core values, such as civility, service, beauty, goodness, the best of Western Civilization and internationalism, the heart of Europe as a classroom, and the hope that students can come together in a beautiful setting to learn, grow, and make the world a better place. One of Mrs. Fleming's favorite quotations was by HG Wells: "Civilization is a race between education and catastrophe." I believe that Mrs. Fleming viewed TASIS as a formidable opponent of catastrophe in this race.

Regarding schools, Mrs. Fleming said, "Thus the only concern of a good school should be with growing stronger, with becoming more contagious in its commitment to excellence and high standards." TASIS is at a unique point in its history to build upon its tradition of excellence, particularly in the classroom. In the years to come we will focus not only on keeping our core values alive but, in the words of Mrs. Fleming, making our commitment to high standards even more contagious.

Some of the academic initiatives include beginning a three-year review of our curriculum to achieve clear articulation of the PK-12 academic content across our three now-mature divisions.

We are launching a revised teacher development and evaluation program, inspired by the work of Kim Marshall, to promote the best learning experience possible in the classroom. We have also revamped our Elementary School curriculum to increase instruction in English, science, and Italian, as well as combining the Italian and American homerooms to facilitate greater social cohesion. We have added more class time to our higher-level IB courses and our AP math and science courses.

These plus other initiatives are designed to continue and deepen our high standards for the classroom experience. TASIS was founded to stretch our students not only in the classroom but as people, to be a force for good in a world that at times appears beset by many dissipating vectors. I think we can sometimes take for granted the special community that TASIS provides, a vision of what the world could and should be, impossible to achieve without the hard work and dedication of so many.

I am honored to work with our Chairman of the Board Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, daughter of Mrs. Fleming and founder of the Elementary School, whose capable stewardship, along with the caring and capable Board of Directors whom she directs, will keep alive Mrs. Fleming's vision for generations to come.

Thanks to Lynn, the Board, the Administration, faculty, staff, personale, students, parents, and you, our alumni, the TASIS community is giving education a fighting chance to take the lead in its race against catastrophe. Many thanks to all of you, and I look forward to getting to know you better in the coming years!

A LITTLE WISDOM FROM TRIBAL ELDERS

Commencement speaker Rev. Dr. William Wallace Schumacher on why our relationships with others, in whatever capacity, are essential to a happy and fulfilling life



Much of what I know about being a successful human I learned in Africa. I learned these proverbs in the Setswana language, but wisdom is not the property of one single people. These words, and this wisdom, are for all of us.

Motho ke motho ka motho yo mongwe. In case your Setswana is a little rusty: **“A person is a person by (or by means of) another person.”** What that means is that you need other people if you are going to become human in the fullest sense of the word. Your relationships with other people are not just an optional way for you to get the love, affection, and friendship you want. You literally need the people around you—family, friends, teachers, and all the rest—to become the person you ought to be.

And those people also need you. That’s how being human works. We are in this together: a person is a person by another person. Other people matter, and you matter to them, too, maybe in ways you cannot always understand.

And here is the second: *Mafura a ngwana ke go rongwa.* **“The fat of a child is to be sent.”** When the Tswana people

celebrate they eat. The adults get the tastiest portions. Once in a while the adults will call a child to do something for them or run an errand. “Get more wood for the fire.” Or, “Take the bucket and get water.” Now I’ve never met a young person who thought it was wonderful to run errands and do chores while the grown-ups sit around and eat all the best food. But at times like that one of the elders will quote this proverb: “The fat of a child is to be sent.” The proverb isn’t really about food at all; it’s about privilege, and there is wisdom here, too.

A good life, a happy life, a life rich with satisfaction and meaning, is never a life of simple self-indulgence. To make a really delicious life, you need to serve something bigger and better than your own appetites. The best part of your life—the greatest privilege—is not what you want, but what and who needs you.

I think some of you, at least, have had a taste of that, perhaps through your service learning projects: the real satisfaction of going where you’re needed, and doing something worthwhile for others, even though it is not the most comfortable, enjoyable experience for yourself. The best

part of life—your life’s greatest privilege—is being useful and doing what needs to be done.

Kgosi e ja morago. “The chief eats last.” Remember I said the Tswana people like to eat? Every celebration has to have plenty of good food. And at a big feast, the most important person in the village does not go to the front of the line and help himself to all the best bits. The chief waits until everyone else has been fed and has a proper portion, and then he eats. Literally, the chief eats last.

I think this is one of the wisest and truest things anyone ever said about status and importance. Being in charge of other people, being important, is not about elbowing your way to the front of the line and grabbing what you can. It matters more to make sure others are taken care of first. Some of you will be leaders—some of you already are—and you need to remember that a leader makes sure everybody else is provided for first. Don’t worry: the chief won’t go hungry. The wisest man I know said it this way: “The first will be last, and the last will be first. Whoever wants to be great among you must be your servant.” The fact is, people will notice if you put others first, and they will respect that. If you’re looking for the chief, start looking at the back of the line. *Because the chief eats last. Kgosi e ja morago.*

Well, there you have it: the secrets of a full and meaningful and happy life. These will take you far—and you are definitely ready to go very, very far!

Rev. Dr. William W. Schumacher is Professor of Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, and the husband of long-time TASIS EAL teacher Tamara Schumacher. Starting his college studies as an engineering student, he transferred to Iowa’s Wartburg College, where he majored in German Language and Literature and graduated Summa Cum Laude. He also studied at the University of Bonn as an exchange scholar. After ordination as a Lutheran Christian minister, he took a Divinity degree at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Then he and his wife Tamara spent eleven years, 1985-1996, as Lutheran missionaries in Botswana, with their three young children.

Subsequently Will took M.S.T. and Ph.D. degrees at Concordia Seminary, where he has taught and been a senior administrator since 1996. During these last twenty years he has also spent a great deal of time teaching at seminaries in Africa (Kenya, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Ghana, and South Africa), as well as in Brazil, India, and Germany. Son of an international agronomist and brother of two Ph.D. physicists, he is a published scholar who has also served some of the poorest and most vulnerable people on earth, in remote and dangerous places. His three grown children all worked in TASIS summer programs.

TUTTO L’AMORE CHE HO

TASIS was delighted to hear the Collina d’Oro Representative Francesco Hurlé read the lyrics at Graduation for “Tutto l’Amore Che Ho” (All the Love I Have) by Lorenzo Cherubini, Michele Iorfida, and Riccardo Onori, made popular by Italian singer Jovanotti.

Le meraviglie in questa parte di universo
Sembrano nate per incorniciarti il volto
E se per caso dentro al caos ti avessi perso
Avrei avvertito un forte senso di irrisolto

Un grande vuoto che mi avrebbe spinto oltre
Fino al confine estremo delle mie speranze
Ti avrei cercato come un cavaliere pazzo
Avrei lottato contro il male e le sue istanze

I labirinti avrei percorso senza un filo
Nutrendomi di ciò che il suolo avrebbe offerto
E a ogni confine nuovo io avrei chiesto asilo
Avrei rischiato la mia vita in mare aperto

Considerando che l’amore non ha prezzo
Sono disposto a tutto per averne un po’
Considerando che l’amore non ha prezzo
Lo pagherò offrendo tutto l’amore

Tutto l’amore che ho
Un prigioniero dentro al carcere infinito
Mi sentirei se tu non fossi nel mio cuore
Starei nascosto come molti dietro ad un dito
A darla vinta ai venditori di dolore
E ho visto cose riservate ai sognatori
Ed ho bevuto il succo amaro del disprezzo
Ed ho commesso tutti gli atti miei più puri

Considerando che l’amore non ha prezzo
Considerando che l’amore non ha prezzo
Sono disposto a tutto per averne un po’
Considerando che l’amore non ha prezzo
Lo pagherò offrendo tutto l’amore
Tutto l’amore che ho
Tutto l’amore che ho

Senza di te sarebbe stato tutto vano
Come una spada che trafigge un corpo morto
Senza l’amore sarei solo un ciarlatano
Come una barca che non esce mai dal porto

Considerando che l’amore non ha prezzo
Sono disposto a tutto per averne un po’
Considerando che l’amore non ha prezzo
Lo pagherò offrendo tutto l’amore
Tutto l’amore che ho

KHAN-PAGE MASTER TEACHER AWARD GOES TO PATRICK ALAVA



This year's Khan-Page Master Teacher Award winner is a humble person who would never boast or comment on the extensive amounts of work he does for the TASIS community. He is motivated not by recognition. He is motivated by his genuine passion for teaching and love of children.

This year's recipient embodies the Mission and Vision of TASIS. Committed to academic excellence, he spends an enormous amount of time and energy in tailoring his preparation to each class to ensure his students have the best chance of retaining the information. His students look forward to their time with him, both inside and outside the classroom. The students appreciate him, and the feedback from parents has always been very positive.

He is a dedicated and caring teacher and dorm parent. TASIS expects its teachers and administrators to assume in loco parentis responsibility for students, and our recipient is sensitive to the needs of his students along with being empathetic and compassionate. He truly wants his students to succeed academically and socially, and this is reflected in his teaching and interactions with both his present and former students.

He is an educator in all aspects of the word. He takes his responsibilities seriously and ensures he gives his all to every role he plays at TASIS. As a dorm parent, he is an excellent role model for our students. Even when taking students on weekend climbing or skiing trips, he also uses this time for teachable moments to help our students learn to be better people and learn new skills. His impressive style of preparing his advisees for Academic Travel ensures they face their destinations with knowledge of the places we visit and confidence in their ability to travel abroad without their parents.

TASIS recognizes the importance of teaching fitness and healthy habits of living. Our recipient encourages students to participate in a wide range of outdoor and physical activities, leading clubs and activities that challenge and stretch students physically and emotionally.

On top of everything else, our recipient is a wonderful colleague. He is flexible, collaborative, and positive—three traits that reflect his commitment to education and to boarding school life. It is my honor to announce the 2018 Khan-Page Master Teacher Award winner, **Patrick Alava**.



GRADUATION AWARDS 2018

Excellence
in Art:

Yu Ying Chan



The Bertha Seifert
Award for Excellence in Music:

Jiwon Byeon



The Horst Dürrschmidt Award
for Excellence in Photography: Luiz Felipe Melo de Castro



The Kay Hamblin Award
for Excellence in Theater:

Ivan Semashev



Excellence
in Architecture and Design:

Diana Dulina



Excellence in English
as an Additional Language:

Lisa Tregubova



Excellence in
Modern Languages:

Camilla Redmond Costa



The Cynthia Whisenant Award
for Excellence in English Literature:

Tanya Paul



Excellence
in History:

Shu Ye



Ambassador's Cup
for Excellence in US History:

Noah Plues



The Shah Akbar Khan Award
for Excellence in Mathematics:

Shu Ye



Excellence
in Science:

Anastasia Kolesnikova



The Salutatorian
Scholarship Award 2018:

Anastasia Kolesnikova



The Valedictorian
Scholarship Award 2018:

Shu Ye



Headmaster's
Award:

Charlotte Colombo



The ECIS Award
for International Understanding:

Can Basaran



The Jan Opsahl
Service Award:

Asia Martina Roveda



The Michael Ulku-Steiner
Leadership Award:

Nicola Patrick Barbieri



The H. Miller Crist Award,
our top award:

Zoe Raquel Ghilardi



To learn more about this year's winners, visit the TASIS News section on our website.

ENGLISH AT TASIS

The joys & challenges of encouraging young people to read, write, deliberate, and evaluate in today's distracting world

Distractions have long been the adversary of focused study, and consider the myriad distractions facing today's students. Sixty-odd years ago, when Mrs. Fleming founded TASIS, distractions were found in the form of sports, socializing, the odd cigarette behind a tree, board games, books, and magazines. Nowadays we can add countless more to the mix, from Xbox to shopping, Snapchat to the bottomless pit of the internet.

Teaching students who were born after the year 2000 (when our 2018 graduates were born!) has its particular challenges, and spare a thought for our English teachers, who are competing with a world of words that are everywhere, selling and coaxing and telling stories that may or may not be true. Add the era of #fakenews and suddenly our poor English teachers are in a precarious spot.

Has the role of literature changed in the past decade? English Department Chair **Dr. Chris Love**

doesn't necessarily think so. "What I have seen is a world changed such that literature has taken on an almost prophylactic role in the lives of young people," he says. "The sustained attention required by quality reading and writing is sapped by the exponential increase of distractions. We are overwhelmed by information, but deprived of the empathy and focus that helps us understand it."

One of the most important roles that the TASIS English Department plays in the lives of our students is to counter this inattention with a love for reading, writing, deliberation, and evaluation. For decades, TASIS has offered juniors and seniors the opportunity to take advanced literature courses via honors, AP, or IB curriculums. In 2014 the Department added an Honors World Literature course, and in fall 2018 a 9th Grade Honors English class was added to ensure all underclassmen could engage with literature at a higher level. The innovative coursework is



Dr. Chris Love meets with the students in the Dante Club

memorable; for example, the 10th Grade Honors students are asked to write a Modern Adaptation, where they are the protagonist of their own Dante-esque voyage. They write their own canto and workshop their writing.

For her Modern Adaptation, **Aurelia Dochnal '19** chose to combine ancient Chinese philosophy with the Polish anti-communist movement, her greatest interests. Although writing it was challenging, she thought the research and consideration necessary to write it were unforgettable. "I remember sitting at my desk, typing at my computer at 2 AM, deep in exploration of my own values and ideas. I hadn't had this opportunity before: to evaluate my view on life and discover something more about my greatest interests." Aurelia achieved a perfect grade on her Canto.

The Dante Club

Indeed, Dante has become quite trendy at TASIS. Three years ago, after Chris's 10th grade Honors class finished reading Dante's *Inferno*, they asked to form a club where they would continue reading the entire *Divine Comedy*, a request to warm any English teacher's heart. They began *Purgatory* the following September, and in spring 2018 they began *Paradise*. As **Alexander Secilmis '19** says, "The way Dr. Love has guided us through Dante has made virtually everyone in our class join the Dante Club. He has an analogy-based way of explaining things that simplifies the text while simultaneously adding another layer of meaning."

For Chris, the club's success is a delight. "To see this merry band of Dante fans meet each month to discuss the intricacies of a profound but challenging epic is a testament to the importance of great literature in the lives of our students," he says. "Dante forces us to ask the big questions, and he brings the full force of his erudition and his intellect to the task of formulating and pursuing ends rather than means. In wrestling with this forceful but subtle early Renaissance mind, my students understand the stakes of humanistic pursuit, but they also understand the disciplined delight of such an encounter."

The Dante Club is now a 10th Grade Academic Travel trip. Chris chaperones students to Florence where they walk the streets Dante walked some 650 years ago, see original manuscripts, and tour the city from which he was eventually exiled. "We get to understand him in a political and cultural context," he says. "Students can touch on the physical, tangible markers that are found throughout the text."

The soul of this trip echoes the crux of what the entire TASIS English program is about. "One of our central missions at TASIS is to stretch our students," Chris says. "Their studies, sports, artistic pursuits, and social lives tax their time and energy. Why do they make time to read and discuss an early 13th-century epic about the afterlife? It's a question I can't ignore. I think they make time for Dante because he forces them to seek meaning in life, and it's this meaning that goes beyond the shallow exigencies of social media, predefined careerist ambition, and mere happiness."

Literature Outside the Classroom

The English Department does its best to support English scholars with a variety of literature- and writing-based events. For example, the "Mini-Saga" contest celebrates microfiction: stories of exactly 50 words (not including the title, which may be up to 15 words) that must have a beginning, middle, and end. Winners are given special privileges.

The Jacob Fund, donated in honor of alumna **Linda Buchanan Jacob '66**, helps to develop the poetry program at TASIS through a biennial poet-in-residence program and an annual Poetry Prize. Student writers also feature in the Arts Festival each May where they are able to read and share their work with an audience, demonstrating their understanding and creativity in literature and film. Some are also asked to contribute to the TASIS Blog and *TASIS Today* with interviews, essays, and stories about their experiences at TASIS.

A great strength of TASIS is its global community, and the English Department exploits this by frequently including works of literature from around the world.

Diana Khassanova '19 appreciates this aspect of the Department, noting that it “provides an opportunity for all students to contribute their cultural background to our discussions.” Diana is a particular fan of the international poetry unit, where students share a poem that is important to their culture. They present the poem in their mother tongue and then their translation in English, and discuss the significance of the poem. “It was interesting to compare the poetry from multiple countries and cultures, especially for lovers of poetry like me,” Diana says.

Assignments like this force students to give presentations—important for those planning to take the IB examinations, as oral exams constitute nearly half of the score—but also encourage students to consider various viewpoints and ideas. “I really learned to process text through the combination of analysis of the author’s background with the historical context,” Diana says. “I’ve learned to discover patterns and symbols and connect them, which contributes to my overall comprehension of literature. I am encouraged to challenge my thought and imagination to attain a better understanding of a text.”

The Department also frequently employs the Harkness model. Developed at Phillips Exeter

Academy, this student-led, discussion-based teaching method encourages students to ask, analyze, respond, and discover each other’s interpretations of texts. English faculty employ this method once a week as it helps students take control of their learning. “Students don’t depend on the teacher to deliver analysis,” Chris says. “As they continue in life they will succeed or fail based on their ability to produce original thoughts and develop these ideas. Harkness discussions provide a wonderful forum for this kind of thinking out loud.”

It is a standout feature for **Aurelia Dochnal '19**. “Our lessons are not lectures; they are wide, thought-provoking discussions,” she says. Of her Honors World Literature classes, she recalls, “I remember after our Harkness classes we students would gather on the Lanterna stairs for a few minutes to share our thoughts on the discussion, as everyone was eager to further explore an idea that piqued their interest. I’ve never been in a class of such passionate students, with a passionate teacher leading us.”

A Solid Foundation for Inspiring Students

English classes and teachers consistently rank among student favorites. “Luckily we are a highly collaborative department filled with people



Dr. Chris Love's Dante-loving literature students in Florence

passionate about literature,” Chris says of his team, which includes longtime TASIS faculty **Matthew Federico, Peter Locke, and Anna Kavalauskas Schwartz**. “My specific strategy is to outsource as much bureaucracy as possible to technology so we can free up our department meetings for discussion of how to improve our teaching and instill a love of literature in our students.” He often observes literature classes filled with students who say “incredible things.” Recently, the Italian, German, and Russian IB Literature courses have been welcomed under the umbrella of the English department due to their focus on literature; Chris has observed students in these classes give remarkable insights in Italian or Russian. “While it’s always important to infuse essays, projects, and classroom discussions with the life and creativity that are the point and the substance of great literature, I feel the need to broaden the scope of what we do in literary studies,” he says. “When students see that what they read and write spills over into the cut and thrust of their larger world, they see the true power of the word.”

Aurelia has been delighted with the way her English teachers have brought literature to life. “In Dr. Love’s class, I saw myself as a serious scholar. Not only was I allowed to explore a more mature way of self-expression through striving to reach a high standard of expectations, but I was also given stimulating, creative assignments, each with a unique purpose and each highly memorable.”

Alexander agrees. “What made my class so amazing is the way it encouraged you to extend yourself, be it filming a movie or writing an essay, all with the support of a class filled with great companions.”

Chris is proud of the Department. “Literature—and the humanities in general—allows us to formulate vital questions and to do so while grappling with the sense of dilemma and irony that complicate our understanding of human concern.”

Dr. Love’s List

Dr. Chris Love’s wicked grin shines as he discusses how he doesn’t believe in punishment—only in reward. Even as a dorm parent his favorite consequence is poetry. “I give students the opportunity to learn and recite verse,” he says. Failed room inspection? Meet Coleridge or Whitman.

Just as notorious is Chris’s famous “List.” He credits the History department for being “fantastic at incorporating multiple sources” in student work, so he focuses on making a distinction between claims that can be supported by a literary source and those that cannot. A list of stylistic and grammatical advice to prepare students for IB and AP exams and university life beyond, The List encapsulates 37 common errors based on 15 years of grading student work. Marks like GEN (generalization) and CITE (citation needed) also target the “gross generalizations that are the plague of social media;” bravo, Chris! “Students begin hating it with a passion and grow to love it.”

Says **Alexander Secilmis ’19**: “The infamous List has improved my essay writing unlike anything else. It offers a systematic set of rules to make our writing stronger. It has given me a love of language, an attention to detail regarding a word’s connotations, and the added layer of meaning achieved by a certain sentence structure.”

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

“Times change, values don’t.”

Mrs. Fleming’s words, penned in 1976, continue to ring true. This past year is a stellar example of TASIS remaining true to our foundational values. We highlight some of the year’s special moments below.

At a Glance

- 715 students
- 180 ES, 120 MS, 415 HS
- 66% boarding students in the high school (270 students)
- 60 nationalities

Alumni Relations **Yvonne Procyk**, along with videos featuring Mrs. Fleming and performances by TASIS choirs. Each year the assembly ends with students convening on the MCF Piazza, where they enjoy cake and toss yellow rose petals into the fountain in Mrs. Fleming’s honor. The celebration continues with class outings that echo Mrs. Fleming’s frequent trips where she would pack picnic lunches, load students into buses, and head into the mountains. This year’s outings had Middle School students hiking San Salvatore, Monte Tamaro, or to Gandria, and High School students spent the day at Monte Tamaro, Figino, Valle Verzasca, or Alpe Cardada.



High school students pose in Cardada



Middle school students enjoy a hike to Gandria

September

Founder’s Day

Our Founder, Mrs. Fleming, was born on September 10, 1910, and every year TASIS celebrates her life with on-campus events that share her life story and vision with our students. Last year, a special assembly included speeches by Proctors **Charlotte Colombo ’18** and **Maria Veronica Ramos ’19**, Headmaster **Christopher Nikoloff**, and Associate Director of Development and

October

Why We Need Family Weekend

by **Esma Karuv ’19**

Each October TASIS provides a chance for parents to see the daily lives of their children as parents get to attend class and observe how their children perform. TASIS dedicates the following morning to meeting each teacher, where they can discuss any concerns or questions. This feedback is important for both parents

and students, which is why most parents take a flight from across the world for a chance to see their child in action.

Parents are also given the chance to meet new people. The parents of boarding students sometimes know no one, so gathering for a whole weekend gives them a chance to meet their child's friends along with their parents. This gives families more comfort when they leave their child to live independently and without their supervision.

TASIS also organizes an assembly for the parents that consists of speeches from students, as well as a welcoming speech from the Headmaster. Parents enjoy this assembly because it also showcases TASIS's talented musicians. Parents also get to spend time with their child after being apart for six weeks.



Students in A Midsummer Night's Dream



Andrea Baroni in Science class with his son Riccardo '22

It is difficult for boarding students' parents to be away from them for so long. This six-week separation can be a hard adjustment, so Family Weekend is a good a timely opportunity. Most boarding students are checked out and spend the weekend with their parents touring the beautiful sites of Lugano or enjoying some of the many sports played on or near campus. It is clear that Family Weekend is designed to suit both students' and parents' needs, and it is eagerly awaited each year.

November

A Midsummer Night's Dream

The annual tradition of a fall Shakespeare performance continued last November with his 422-year old play *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. From November 17-19 TASIS students and teachers performed what many feel is the playwright's finest comedy, which Director **Valerie Carlson** set in mid-19th century England to explore the role of the class system and the influence of a powerful female monarch (Victoria) within a patriarchal society, as well as to feature music from Romantic composers such as Mendelssohn. Performances can be viewed on the TASIS website.

December

Each December is filled with a flurry of activities that celebrate the Christmas season. This year's events kicked off on December 1 with the annual tree lighting ceremony and the TPA Holiday Market featuring handmade crafts, cakes, and gifts, raising more than CHF 3,300 for our Service Learning program.

On December 10, our community gathered at the church of San Nicolao della Flüe for the annual Christmas Service to celebrate the season with readings and music



The winter wonderland of TASIS

featuring the TASIS elementary, middle, high school, and faculty choirs. Snow began falling during the service and continued for the next 36 hours, blanketing campus for the final week of classes. Students enjoyed sledding down the hill in front of the outdoor theater, building snow forts, and having snowball fights! Please see [tasis.ch/christmas](https://www.tasis.ch/christmas) for videos of TASIS Christmas celebrations.

February

What were you doing on February 1, 2018? If you'd been on the International Space Station (ISS), you'd have experienced code written by a group of TASIS Middle School students! Khan-Page Master Teacher Award-winner **Amy Bloodworth** has pioneered bringing coding and robotics to TASIS and got her students involved in the Mission Zero project, a collaboration between the European Space Agency and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. The students were asked to write code in the Python programming language that measured and



Teacher Amy Bloodworth and her students show off their Mission Zero project certificates

displayed the ambient air temperature on the ISS, as well as displayed a short greeting to the crew.

The group submitted their code in November and soon after Christmas their code was approved and ran on February 1. The children each received a certificate signed by an ISS scientist including the time and position of the ISS when their code ran.

"I know they are only in seventh and eighth grade, but what these students have done is a big achievement," Amy says. "This is something that will still look impressive on a college application in five years time. Not many kids have run code on the International Space Station at the age of 12. I'm impressed with them."

The International Week Food Fair by Esma Karuv '19

The International Week Food Fair at TASIS provides an immediate excuse to abandon your diet and workout routines, as it is time to indulge in an outburst of flavorful food from all over the world. I await this week all year!

I began in Brazil. The *brigadeiro* and *Pao de Queijo* relieved my mind of its craving. After Brazil I stopped in Italy, where there was pasta, pizza, lasagna, tiramisu, and much more. Italian food can never go bad or taste bad. I ate a little too much at the Italian table, and later I realized that it would become challenging to continue consuming.

After Italy, I went to the United States. I was happy to go there since foods like mac and cheese, Rice Krispie treats, and fried chicken are not really offered in Lugano.



Students enjoy myriad food offerings during International Week

I then made a quick stop in Canada, where I tried some crepes that were offered with maple syrup.

My next stop was Turkey. I immediately eyed the *lahmagine*, then *pide* and a few Turkish Delights. I devoured everything in an instant, and although I craved a second serving, I had to move on. I was not participating for leisure and had to remind myself that I was on the job and no matter how great the craving became, I had to push through.

I stopped quickly in the section with Polish food: *sledz*, a traditional Polish fish; *faworki*, a fried dough with powdered sugar (ate a little too much of that!); and Polish sausages called *kielbasa* and *kabanosy*. These foods were fantastic, and I loved the sweets, too. I took some caramel candy home to try later, which was an incredible distraction during study hall.

After Poland, I levitated straight to Japan. Sushi will forever remain a favorite and will always be the food I will eat anytime. I took three sushi rolls and they were amazing. I had never tried homemade sushi before, and the taste is just as good as any other sushi I've tried. I won't lie...I went back for more.

After the Japanese table, I reached the point of the night where there was no possible way I could eat any more. I couldn't fathom the Russian or Mexican delights.

The whole food fair was a success. There was a huge variety of food, and each table was distinctive. The room truly represented internationalism. Food comes from history and tradition, and the International Food Fair is a beautiful way for students to experience culture from the many countries represented at TASIS.

March

Senior Humanities Program

This year's Senior Humanities Program brought four more fascinating people to campus to work with and inspire our seniors and postgraduates. In September, sustainability expert and University of Michigan professor **Joseph Trumpey** gave an engaging address centered

on sustainability and the role of creativity in our future as sustainable citizens. He also met with groups of students to discuss environmental issues.

In October, TASIS welcomed **Natasha Tsakos**, a Geneva-born conceptual director, interactive designer, and motion and visual performance artist whose work explores the symbiosis of technology and live performance. In 2016, she became an Ambassador to the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Youth 2030 Project. Natasha was featured in a special assembly and met with drama students, challenging them to give themselves "permission to be out of the ordinary!"

November brought activist and speaker **Brie Mathers**, who has presented to more than 100,000 teens worldwide through her multimedia event *Love the Skin You're In*. She spoke to our community about body image, mental health, media literacy, and mindfulness and visited a number of health classes during her days on campus.

The final speaker was **Susan Middleton**, an esteemed artist, photographer, author, and educator specializing in the portraiture of rare and endangered animals, plants, sites, and cultures. Ms. Middleton delivered an interesting address to the senior class before spending time with all seven TASIS photography classes and two science classes.

April

The High School delighted audiences with three outstanding performances of *Annie Get Your Gun*,



The cast of *Annie Get Your Gun*



Children's author Bruce Hale meets ES students

the classic American musical based on the life and legend of Wild West sharpshooter Annie Oakley and featuring songs by the incomparable Irving Berlin.

Book Week

This year the Elementary School celebrated its third annual Book Week in April, with each day featuring activities designed to build enthusiasm for reading and writing. Activities included a discussion of *We're All Wonders*, the illustrated version of the remarkable book *Wonder*, a Community Read day featuring families, teachers, staff, and other members of our community, and a special visit from acclaimed children's author Bruce Hale. Mr. Hale explained the various stages of the writing process, traced his own development as a writer, and emphasized the importance of exploring one's interests through writing.

"Hearing from a published author about his own process validated the work students are doing in class and made their own work seem more authentic," said **Erin Fitzgerald**, ES Reading Specialist, who this year has implemented a new writing workshop in grades K–5 that focuses on persuasive, narrative, and expository writing. "His visit was the major highlight and brought together the key elements we hope to accentuate during Book Week—a love of reading, a love of writing, and a celebration of the stories that connect us."



Scenes from the impressive event at the Palazzo dei Congressi

May

Students Give Inspired Performance at Palazzo dei Congressi

TASIS vocalists, instrumentalists, and dancers had the incredible opportunity to collaborate with renowned conductor Andrea Cupia, the Lyric Choir of Lugano, and the Opera ViVa Orchestra at the "Music Without Borders: From Bach to Bernstein" concert in Lugano's beautiful Palazzo dei Congressi Concert Hall on the evening of May 15. A video of the performance can be found on the TASIS website.

Cum Laude Society Inductees

Eight outstanding scholars have been inducted to the TASIS Cum Laude Society chapter: **Raffaella Alencar Barros '19, Aurelia Dochnal '19, Anastasia Kolesnikova '18, Noah Plues '18, Zeydan Rahman '19, Alexander Secilmis '19, Minjoon Seo '19, and Mariko Yamada '19.**

Summer

Coding

Summer vacation was delayed for three Middle School students as they competed in the World Robot Olympiad (WRO) in Aarburg, Switzerland, on June 10. **Giovanni Barbieri '23**, **Lukas Heuchert de Camargo '22**, and **Jane Wilson '22** accompanied TESIS Middle School Science and Coding teacher **Amy Bloodworth** to the competition.

The WRO, a non-profit organization that promotes robotics in STEM education worldwide, involves more than 22,000 teams from more than 60



TASIS students compete in the World Robot Olympiad

different countries in the competition. This year's theme focused on food, and the mission was to create and program a robot that could gather data on the soil quality in the fields of different farms and use this data to plant different seedlings. The team placed a respectable 23rd out of 44 teams - not bad considering this was the first time TESIS has competed, and everything was done in German!

Summer Global Service Trips

In June, four Global Service trips scattered TESIS students around the globe to learn, grow, and give back. Summer trips took students to Cambodia, where they worked with two NGOs that

support families and young people in Siem Reap. Members of the Hope and Homes for Children group worked with the Romanian government on a variety of infrastructure projects to help improve the conditions of children's homes as well as providing activities for the youth in the homes. Serving Southern Africa focused on the challenges of development and economic growth in rural Africa and spent time working with rural and urban communities in Zambia over the course of two weeks.

Finally, Understanding Ulgii (Teaching in Mongolia) took TESIS students to a city in western Mongolia



The Understanding Ulgii group poses with new friends

where they taught lessons to children and delivered school supplies. They also worked on environmental initiatives.

TASIS Summer Programs

This year's TESIS Summer Programs welcomed over 750 children to campus from 62 different nations. New offerings for students included Lean Startup, a class aimed at young entrepreneurs, new trips to Bologna and the new Fico Eataly World for MSP students, and Munich for TSP students. We also welcomed longtime performing arts teacher **Michael Rosenbaum** as Summer Director of the Performing Arts.

THE OPSAHL GLOBAL SERVICE PROGRAM CHANGES LEADERSHIP



Zach Mulert, Jan Opsahl, and Danny Schiff

It is rare that a teacher is able to transform hundreds of lives in five short years. But as Director of the Opsahl Global Service Program, **Zach Mulert** was able to help create and guide this unique program, impacting both TASIS students and the countless people involved in the organizations supported by the Global Service Program (GSP).

Six years ago, former headmaster **Michael Ulku-Steiner** approached Zach and asked him to envision his dream service learning program. “I was in rural Kenya on my own that summer visiting one of our current GSP partners, WISER,” Zach recalls. “it became rather clear to me that if we could get students out into the developing world to work hand-in-hand with local partners, we might stand a better chance of understanding the world’s needs.”

Zach thought this to be a theoretical exercise which would help buttress the current Service Learning Program; instead, his vision was combined with that of Michael and benefactor and visionary **Jan Opsahl '68** to create the Program we know today.

Five Years of the GSP

Five years in, it is gratifying for Zach to see the GSP ranked as the most excellent program at TASIS in the annual senior surveys. “I didn’t want to inflict our students with the notion that they had something more, or superior, to give through their service,” Zach says. “We’ve come to realize that the success of this Program relies on the mutuality of service and shared experiences with our partners. Students are learning to serve instead of falling in the trap of voluntourism.”

One of the greatest measurements of their collective success is seeing students continue their commitment to serving others after graduation.

Recent examples include **Tennessee Hildebrand '17**, who was so inspired by his service learning trip to India his senior year that he chose to return to Odisha for two months in winter 2017 and again in early 2018 and produced an exceptional documentary about Gram Vikas. **Camilla Redmond Costa '18** spent the winter holiday of her senior year as a volunteer in Zambia. “I really hope that what I have done inspires people to put in additional effort because even though what we do through TASIS is great, sometimes we need to take another step and do more,” she said. Recent

graduate **Asia Roveda '18** spent the summer after graduation volunteering in Ethiopia. Zach finds this inspiring; “These students are just some examples that the legacy is real,” he says.

The Next Five Years, and Beyond

Zach leaves the GSP in the capable hands of one whom he calls “an incredible leader”, **Danny Schiff**. Math teacher and longtime Hadsall dorm head Danny came to TASIS in 2010 and has been involved with the Nepal and Cambodia service trips. “The chance to continue as Director in Zach’s shoes with leadership and influence over this program is an amazing responsibility which I am ready to sink my teeth into.”

Service has been integral to Danny’s life; he has been involved in service trips abroad since college, including stints in South and Central America working on humanitarian projects. He has led service and outdoor trips around the world for 14 years. “I am without a doubt a more grounded, appreciative, patient, and present trip leader, teacher, and friend,” he says of the effect these experiences have had on his life.

The Nepal trip in particular has made its mark on Danny. “It feels like the pinnacle of my professional career, as it involves so many of my passions—service, the outdoors, travel, and immersion with a community of Tibetans whom we live alongside for a week. To get to experience this alongside students has made for incredible experiences.”

Danny hopes that in the future he can further the transformative nature of the GSP for students and partners alike. I think that TASIS has the potential to be a leader in service education throughout the world and a benchmark for other schools to see what is possible.”

TASIS is incredibly fortunate to have a program that is endless in scope and potential. “I am so grateful to the many faculty and student leaders who have continually shaped the development of the Program, to the Board committee that has helped guide its decisions, and above all, to Jan Opsahl for thinking long and hard about how he could best help the world as a humanitarian and philanthropist,” Zach says. “I think it’s important to continually question the nature of one’s service. For as much as we at TASIS are all quite privileged as far as the standards of the world go, it’s imperative to recognize the universal humanity that bonds us all and follow that golden rule of loving one another.”

Bryan Soh '18 contributed to this story. Zach and Danny are featured on the first ever TASIS podcast, available at SoundCloud (search for TASIS Stories).



TASIS students with their Cambodian partners

TASIS GLOBAL VILLAGE EXPANSION

VALZONICO: NEXT STEP FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



The new building for the TASIS Elementary School takes its name from the two adjacent properties previously occupying the site. Just as it unifies the names Valsecchi and Rezzonico, the building integrates six large classrooms and a science laboratory into a compact, graceful building set into the hillside and contiguous with the Hadsall property (with which it will eventually be joined in the master plan). In a way a kind of *dépendance* to the Hadsall villa, it is both related in character and color and yet distinct.

The building negotiates the sloping terrain with a main entrance loggia set a half floor above the top level of classrooms; two floors of three classrooms each follow the sloping terrain, with the bottom floor and its single classroom opening onto a secluded court. Each level is directly accessible from the adjacent grade, facilitating student access to outdoor play space. Each floor's windows have a distinct configuration and character, making each classroom unique. The character of the

facades is influenced by Venetian architecture, recalling the noble origins of the Rezzonico name; the typical Venetian grouping of windows facilitates the distribution of differently-sized classrooms.

In the spirit of all the buildings in the TASIS master plan, Valzonico's construction will be durable, ecological, and energy efficient. While traditional in character, the building is absolutely modern in its systems, from classroom lighting to the science lab fittings.

This new addition to the TASIS campus and the Collina d'Oro will add much-needed new, large classroom space, improve the usability of its land, and contribute another piece in the long-term project of harmonizing the school's historical and new buildings into the most beautiful campus environment in the world.

*David Mayernik, FAAR and FRSA
Master plan and campus architect*

TASIS SPRING GALA RAISES CHF 110,000

Everything aligned for a perfect night as 178 guests arrived for the TASIS Parent Association's "Building the Future" Spring Gala on the evening of Saturday, April 21.

Aperitivi on the lawn outside the Palmer Center and Palestra were followed by an elegant dinner upstairs in the beautifully decorated Palestra. Throughout the evening guests enjoyed live music performed by TASIS students, members of the Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana, and the band of Elementary School music teacher Melody Zaneccchia.

A live auction was conducted by the incomparable Edward Rising including items from private jet flights to driving a McLaren through the Alps. All proceeds will help support the construction of Valzonico.

A big Thank You to the TASIS Parent Association – especially the Gala Committee of Laura Colombo, Lorenza Fiori, Francesca Notarbartolo, and Brunella Pignaton – for their dedication and hard work in organizing the **Building the Future** Gala to launch the campaign for the new ES building.



1. *The Palestra in glittering festive mode*
2. *Parents Giammaria and Sabrina Giuliani arrive for the Gala*
3. *Donald MacDermid '61 and Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63*
4. *Aperitivi are served on the Piazza*
5. *TPA President Laura Colombo with husband Simone Ballerini*



THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE GALA AND PARTICIPATED IN THE "BUILDING THE FUTURE" AUCTION

Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63
 Giulio Antonello '86
 Bettina Audemars
 Carolin Engelhorn Badaracco
 Andrea Baroni
 Sarah Maas Bearden
 Gretchen & Pietro Gussalli Beretta
 Michele Bertini
 MJ Breton
 Ilaria Calcagno
 Vincenzo Campanale

Francesca Varano & Corrado Capacci
 Sara Rosso Cipolini
 Renato Cohn
 Franco Colombo
 Laura Colombo
 Roberto Condulmari
 Theresa Cullen-Hill
 Nicolas Giroto
 Giammaria & Sabrina Giuliani
 Kim Goldsworthy
 Andrea Grassi

Paul Greenwood
 Carol Hinchliff
 Roberto Italia
 Julia Loer
 Nilda Lucchini
 Vittoria Marazzi
 Melanie Tekock & Michael Mesaric
 Kim Mikkelsen
 Natalia Milani
 Chris Nikoloff
 Roberto Pagliano

Valentina Porti
 Ray & Lenita Robbins
 Stephen Setterberg
 Achille Severgnini
 Howard Stickley
 Emilia Vocca TAlamo
 Zuleika Tipismana
 Marianne Odfjell & Lars Titland
 Pelin Toksoz
 Cristina & Luca Ugolotti
 India Vannini



THE GIULIANI AND GUSSALLI BERETTA FAMILIES • JULIA LOER • VITTORIA MARAZZI

KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

*So say countless people who find themselves working in their family business.
It's part of their nature, something they were born to do.*

We don't have to look far to find an example. In 1913, the Swarthmore Grammar School in Pennsylvania made a decision to change from co-ed to all boys. Haldy Miller Crist and his wife Frances Leavitt Crist were two teachers working at the school. Believing in girls' education, and with a three-year-old daughter themselves, they left the grammar school and founded the Mary Lyon School, a boarding school for girls up to grade 8. By the early 1930s, the Crists' daughter, Mary—better known as MCF—had graduated from Radcliffe College, Harvard University, and became Assistant Director of Mary Lyon from 1933-1943.

By 1944, Mary was ready to start her own school, and founded Frog Hollow Country Day School in Lansdale, Pennsylvania, which she directed until 1955, when she decided to take Frog Hollow abroad. A year later, in

1956, she founded TESIS. Mrs. Fleming's three children, **Tom '61, Gai '59, and Lynn '63**, were in the first class at TESIS.

In 1996, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman became the third generation to commit her life to education when she became Executive Director of the TESIS Schools. In 2005, she followed in her mother and grandparents' footsteps by founding TESIS Elementary School. She continues to serve as Chairman of the Board of Directors in Lugano.

This sort of multigenerational legacy is not uncommon for TESIS graduates. Indeed, many students have left TESIS and gone on to join the family business. While this may seem a clear-cut decision and an easy opportunity, it does not come without a burden of responsibility.



Ferit '83 and Diana Şahenk with daughter Defne '16

Choosing to join the family business can be a daunting decision for teenagers who are surrounded by opportunities that lead elsewhere. “I heard doubts from many of my friends while studying at TASIS,” says **Alessandro Scavia ’16**, who is the fourth generation to work for the luxury jewellery firm bearing his last name. Alessandro, however, graduated from TASIS at age 17 knowing he wanted to carry on the family tradition which began in 1911. Since he was young he had “a great aptitude for designing, painting, and carving,” and spent his high school summers studying gemology at HRD Antwerp, receiving a professional certificate before becoming an official part of Scavia. “The aspect of the work that attracts me the most is the artistic side: designing, creating the jewelry, and finding the best stone for a piece,” he says, and his role has evolved into conceiving and designing new lines and helping with exhibitions, public events, and private visits for VIP clients.

“It was not much of a choice, really!” says **Ferit Şahenk ’83**, Chairman of Turkey’s Doğu Holding conglomerate, who feels he grew up inside his father’s business. “My dad made me a part of his construction site visits, as well as his company meetings. My interaction with my father’s business colleagues continued even at home when they showed up for dinner. Business and social life has always been inseparable for us.” In fact, Ferit’s years at TASIS and at Boston College were his only time away from the family business. “I wanted to pursue an MBA; my father replied, ‘You will be doing your master’s of business inside the company.’” Indeed, his father made sure Ferit was inspired at all times, and placed his son in a number of training positions, where “I was treated equal to everybody else. I still remember extra-long waits at doors of business unit leaders.”

But joining the family business wasn’t the first choice for **Hiro Rupchandani ’03**, who is in charge of Research & Development and Purchasing for his family’s import/export business. “I probably would have joined at some

point,” he says, “but I would have preferred to first work elsewhere and in a business that concentrated on something different.” After graduating from university, Hiro joined his cousin at the Caribbean office of the company and spent four years there, improving both his knowledge of the company and his confidence, before moving back to Nigeria, where he grew up and still lives.

Luke Toole ’00 spent most of his 20s in New York working for, as he puts it, someone else. “It became a more appealing idea, working for myself and having the chance to build and create something according to my own vision rather than someone else’s—all the while helping and supporting my family, and that was a big factor in the decision.” His family’s business dates back to the 1920s and currently owns and operates four hotel properties in Massachusetts and will be opening a Florida property next year. “I saw the opportunity and advantages of joining the business and continuing what my father had started,” Luke says.

Respecting the Past, Innovating for the Future

It is this idea—continuing what has already been started—that can result in a clash of old and new. While change is inevitable for all businesses, it can also be the cause of tension in a family business where the decision-makers may span generations and memory runs deep.

Luke’s family business has its roots in insurance and real estate and spent the early 90s through mid-2000s on various business pursuits before focusing solely on hotels—a decision that has been positive for the company. “The period 2008-2010 was a big turning point for us. The crisis of 2008 had hit and the economic landscape of the future was uncertain, as was the future of the business. It was also around this time that my siblings and I started to take a more



Luke Toole '00

active role in running the business,” Luke recalls. “The difficult economic time forced us to think hard about where we were going and who we wanted to be as a company. We had gotten rid of several assets including a restaurant, a small inn, and other commercial and rental properties. This gave us the chance to turn the focus back to our hotels, and for the last decade that focus has been entirely on improving our properties, developing a strong and talented management team, and looking for opportunities to grow our portfolio with new properties.”

Hiro’s family business had to change in order to survive. His father and uncle moved from India to Lagos, Nigeria in the late 1960s and started their company at a time when Nigeria had just gained its independence from the United Kingdom and many people were unaware of global trading. “Since that time, and until a few years ago, the Nigerian economy was heavily dependent upon imports,” Hiro explains, and with the onset of the internet the business had to adapt their product line and strategies. “We have to keep thinking of innovative ideas when introducing a product to the market,” Hiro says, though he appreciates the challenge this brings. “The family business comes as a package deal with family sentiments and different opinions from family members. It creates a huge challenge in any type of decision-making, especially when there is risk involved.”

When Ferit joined Doğuş, construction was the company’s focus, but Ferit enjoyed numbers and was drawn to the financial services industry—at the time, new territory for the company. “I started with my first initiative in capital markets and set up Turkey’s first asset management company (Garanti Asset Management) as well as the second investment bank (Garanti Investment).” His role of CEO cemented both his entrepreneurial and leadership skills.

Ferit feels that innovation and expansion are a matter of survival. “It is critical for any business to innovate;



Alessandro Scavia '16

linear thinking days are over. These are times of exponential growth, disruption, curiosity, getting out of the comfort zone, speed, and implementation. Innovation must be embedded in the [company] culture. It is not easy, but it is a must.” Ferit adds, “I should emphasize that TASIS did a great job at the high school level to open up our vision at young ages, where we got our lifelong formation.” Indeed, Ferit’s vision has led Doğuş to extend into the automotive, construction, media, tourism, real estate, energy, and food and beverage sectors with further investments in technology, sports, and entertainment.

For Alessandro, change is a trickier animal. “Certainly we have to consider taking some risks,” he admits. “When my great-grandfather opened the shop in our historic headquarters on Via della Spiga in Milan’s Quadrilatero della Moda, the business focus was mainly Milan. Then we expanded throughout Italy, and now we’re worldwide. Life is all about choices and the choices we make will affect our present and future, determining our success or failure,” he says. He has begun considering new production technologies that ensure both standards and competitiveness are maintained and has begun designing lines to attract a younger generation who will be tomorrow’s customers. “When it comes to a family business there is no difference other than increasing one’s responsibility when making these choices,” Alessandro says.

The Weight of the Past and Influence of the Family

Early in Ferit’s career he received some advice from an MIT professor and advisor to the Rockefellers about corporate governance. “He told me, ‘treat your dad just as other business leaders do. Make an appointment, go make a presentation. Give key performance indicators and milestones about your business unit. Be professional about the whole thing. He is your leader’. This was one of the milestones in our relationship, and him positioning me,” Ferit recalls.



Alex Jones '98



Hiro Rupchandani '03

It was during Ferit's early CEO years that he lost his father, who remains a steadfast presence in Ferit's life. "[My father] is our founder and eternal Chairman. He will always be. We try to keep his legacy alive by translating his values into today's environment," he says. "I have had to take fast and difficult decisions over my 20-year tenure, and my mother and my sister have been nothing but the best shareholders. They have been behind me at great times, at difficult times, at all times. This [support] is invaluable."

Luke also feels a responsibility to his family legacy. Along with managing the family's hotel, he also is in charge of revenue and asset management for all of the family properties. "Being a part of a small business means I am involved with basically everything. I think this is especially common in family-owned businesses."

Hiro feels a distinct advantage having family around. "During tough times, the knowledge and guidance of an experienced family member are of great importance," he says. It's a deeper relationship than a boss supporting an employee to get a job done. And as the family grows, the business can expand and take risks with new ventures." That said, Hiro realizes that patience can be tested; "There are usually several decision-makers in the business and not everyone's point of view is the same. It is necessary to be able to discuss any matters with a cool head and try to incorporate opinions of different members for any decision."

D. Alexander Jones '98 is a trusts and estate attorney based in San Francisco whose firm helps family businesses with succession planning. "Transparency and clear governing documents are crucial," Alex says. "Oral agreements and handshake understandings lead to problems." One of his most frequent pieces of advice is to clearly document all transactions and

clearly articulate strategies and structures for all ventures, big or small.

Alex also feels that future-proofing a family legacy may need to involve external help. "Third-party consultants who are removed from the inherent biases of everyday business dealings can identify prospective issues long before internal management often can," he says.

A Healthy Balance

For now, Hiro is happy; "I have passion for this job and I can see myself continuing to work in the family company into the future with great energy and enthusiasm," he says. Alessandro is the same. "I strongly believe that the family business is a way of life and should be embraced by those who have a passion and commitment for tradition," he says.

"It's hard to imagine working anywhere else," Luke says. "I love my job. In the end I probably work much harder and dedicate much more time and energy to the job than if I worked somewhere else, but I enjoy every minute of it."

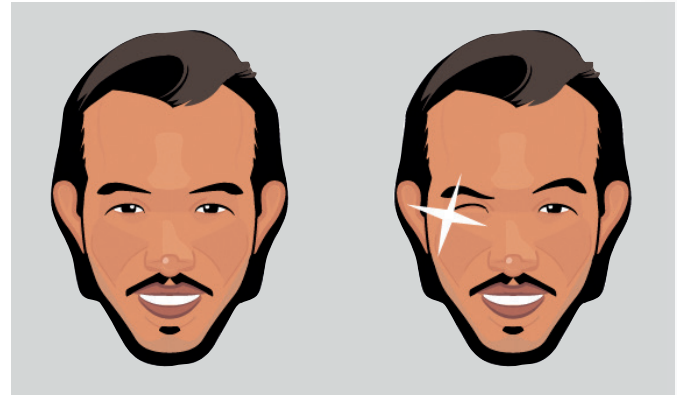
Despite being the only Şahenk in a conglomerate of over 35,000 people, Ferit still sees Doğuş as a family business. "It has been run with highest corporate governance structure and solely by professionals from all around the world. We have around 35 nationalities represented on four continents. Yet, we are a family," he says. "We feel the dynamics of a family. And I believe this an amazing part of our culture." He is preparing his daughter **Defne '16**, who is currently studying at Babson College, for the business. "I am proud of her already and of her good formation at TASIS." But his father's legacy remains, and Ferit's goal echoes that of many in family businesses: "We are trying to keep a healthy balance between the past and future."

BMOJI ME!



Real estate magnate **Emir Bahadır '10** has taken the family business to a different level. After graduating from NYU, he opened an extension of his family's real estate business in New York City, building on five generations of success in Turkey, Europe, and the Far East. As Principal and Founder of Bahadiring Realty NYC, he has taken the leadership and business skills he learned from a very young age and translated them into his own multi-billion-dollar property development, construction, and sales management firm.

Emir's charismatic persona both in person and on social media has made him something of a lifestyle connoisseur, and his entrepreneurial spirit jumped on this accidental fame to branch out into luxury products including fashion, skincare, and technology. His most recent venture is called **Bmoji** - a platform that lets users create their own emojis and avatars based on what makes each user unique.



Bmoji is a personalized app that customizes and creates accurate emoji applications of the users' faces, allowing users to express emotion with their Bmojis in texts, emails and comments on social media. They strive to personalize digital experiences and restore the humanity of communication. Users create a profile, select a package and preference for their Bmoji, and upload three photos. The Bmoji team designs and codes a bespoke app for each user.

A graduate of NYU, Emir boasts nearly a million Instagram followers (@emirbahadir) and his own hashtag (#bahadiring), which began as a joke between friends but has evolved into the umbrella concept for his luxury brand.

Emir is well aware of his privilege and is keen to help motivate other young entrepreneurs no matter what their background. He was part of the UK Channel 4 series "Rich Kids of Instagram", which he chose to do to change perceptions. "Coming from wealth does not necessarily mean that I am an arrogant and wasteful human being," he told The Quintessential Gentleman last fall. "I am a hard-working entrepreneur who is always happy to take risks and start new businesses. I feel that the audience got the message and the feedback showed I was motivational to the younger generation." He frequently advises young entrepreneurs who contact him via his various social media platforms and is keen to pass on that if you believe in yourself, you can achieve your goals.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS 2017-18

DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM JULY 1, 2017 TO JUNE 30, 2018

IN GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

A big thank you to the alumni, parents, faculty & staff, and friends of TASIS who have contributed to the School this year, supporting either the Annual Appeal, the Endowment, the "Building the Future" Gala, or another fund. Your support makes a difference and is greatly appreciated!

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Curtis McGraw Webster '75 (Board member), in honor of the Class of '75

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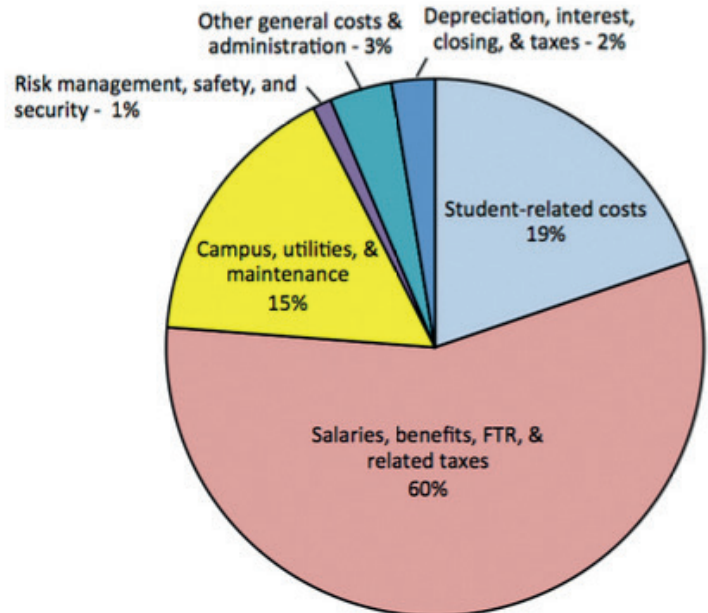
With immense gratitude to Jan Opsahl '68 for his dedication and ongoing generous support
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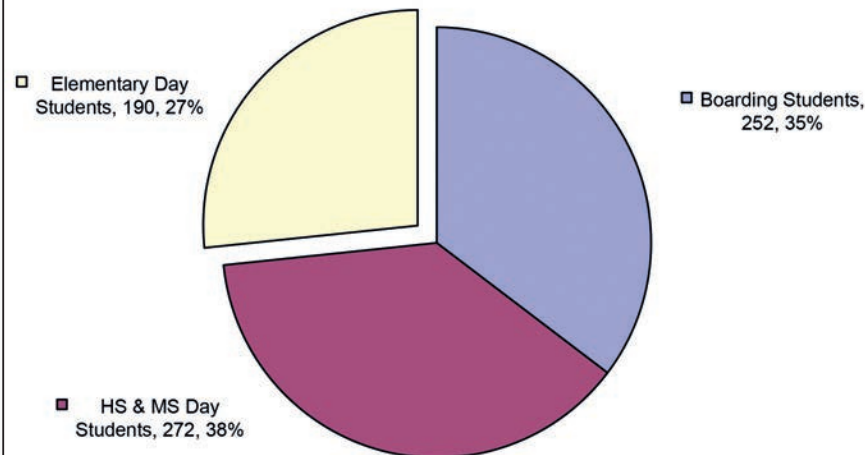
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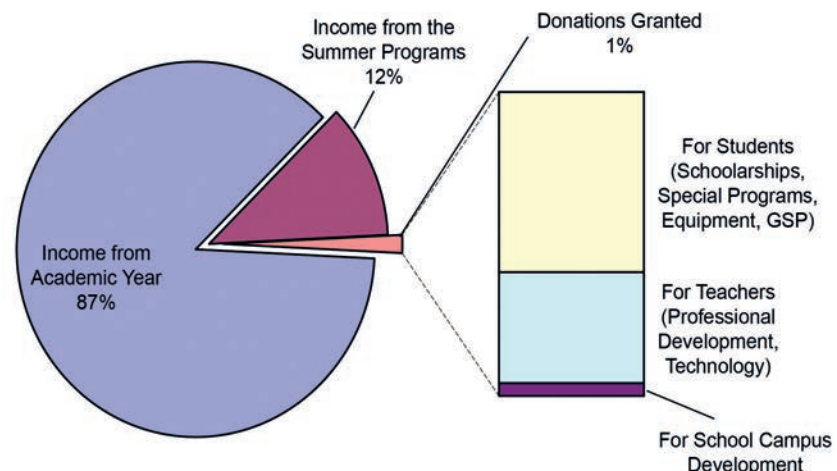
TESIS Operating costs - June 30, 2017



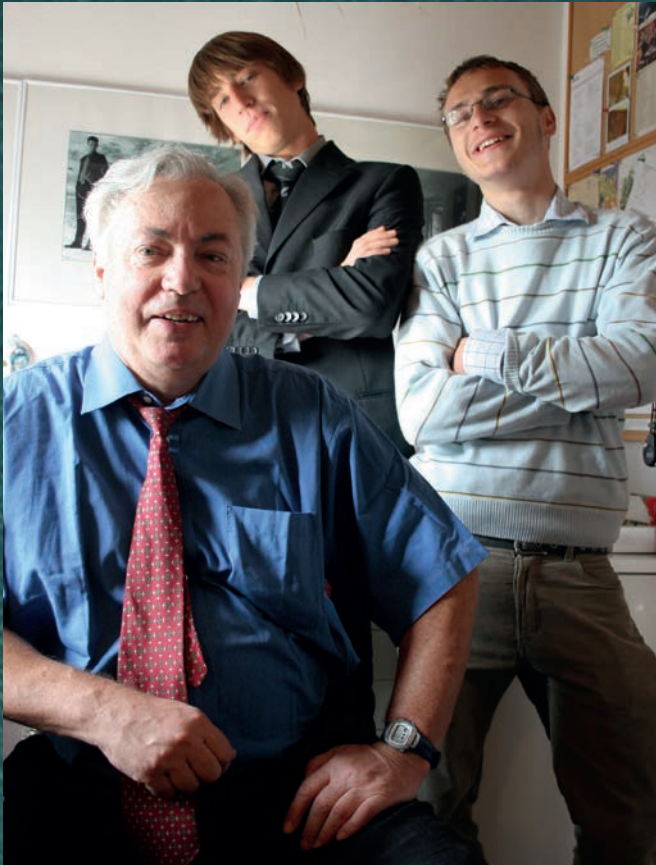
TESIS Students 2016-2017, total number 714



TESIS Operating Income and Fundraising 2016-2017



A DECADE OF CREATIVITY



Horst Dürrschmidt with Robin Gilli and Simon David in 2008

Of course every TASIS class has its share of creative types, many of whom go on to carve interesting and important careers in the arts. But the **Class of 2008** have made a particular mark creatively, having spent the past decade finding their feet in careers spanning from fashion design to sculpture. They're leaving

their mark on Los Angeles, London, New York, Rome, Beirut, and dozens of other urban arts scenes around the world. What's even better is that many of them are still in touch and continue to inspire and support one another despite the distance between them.

Of note is the number of working photographers who are 2008 graduates. The ones profiled for this issue all mention the incomparable influence of Master Teacher **Horst Dürrschmidt**, who taught decades of fledgling TASIS student photographers how to hone their craft. Horst remembers his H-period photography class from 2007-2008 fondly:

In all my years of teaching I never had a class quite like that - the dynamic was incredible. They worked together, pushed each other, and were so creative. It was interesting to get to know them as individuals and as artists, learning how they worked and teaching them how to focus their ideas and their energy on how to make their best work. I am not surprised that so many of them are working as photographers now.

The success of the Class of 2008 is undoubtedly due to personal drive, focus, and ambition, yet the influence of the teachers, environment, and spaces that TASIS provided has helped to shape these young artists as well.

LEARN ABOUT SOME OF THE BRIGHTEST STARS IN THE ARTS

EMILY BODE

Fashionistas will be familiar with Emily Adams Bode's eponymous label Bode, which debuted in July 2016 at New York's Men's Fashion Week. Emily's unique designs are made using vintage and rare fabrics, and many of her pieces are one-off creations hand-tailored at her workshop in New York City. Sourced from the northeastern US, UK, Europe, India, and beyond, her fabrics seem to spark a story told through clothing design.

Emily's love of vintage fabrics is rooted in a childhood spent antiquing and going to flea markets with her mother and aunts near her home in Atlanta and summer home in Cape Cod. Since she was a child, she has been collecting fabrics which evoke nostalgia, whether a piece of 1970s upholstery, a vintage feed sack, or a quilt from 1910. She remains in contact with antique dealers throughout the US who reach out when they find pieces that might work for her collections.

After leaving TASIS, Emily studied menswear design at Parsons School of Design and philosophy at Eugene Lang College. She worked at Ralph Lauren and Marc Jacobs before striking out on her own, with

a vision of creating pieces for discerning collectors who appreciate exclusivity. She also includes a few full-size runs with each collection.

Her time at TASIS has undoubtedly influenced her life. She frequently tells interviewers about the creative courses she took, and has cited old photographs of Herman Hesse, showcasing his style and way of life in Ticino, as a major inspiration.

Her designs challenge the cut and look of traditional menswear, featuring florals, stripes, and distinctive patterns and engaging color schemes. Emily often says that history is embedded in each garment, reflecting past experiences and memories that the look and feel of each piece evokes. This, combined with the exclusivity of having a handmade garment and the whimsical nature of her pieces, has given her garments a timeless quality that has been embraced by men around the world.

bodennyork.com



GIANNA DISPENZA

Place has driven **Gianna Dispenza's** decade of work since graduating from TASIS. The painter and sculptor studied at four universities, eventually graduating from the San Francisco Art Institute, and spent a few years in Beirut before moving to Portland, Maine for a year, where she worked on a series of paintings, and to London this past August.

Gianna's time in Beirut included developing educational programs for Syrian and Palestinian refugees alongside producing and exhibiting her work in Lebanon. "Beirut has a pretty lively art scene," she says of her time there, where she was featured in five group exhibitions and curated one solo exhibition.

Gianna continues to recall her TASIS days when creating her work. "It's fair to say that my time in Ca Gioia, where Mr. Koppe taught me to paint, pointed me

to the career I have now as a painter and sculptor," she says. "Friends from TASIS are still some of my closest... In so many ways they remedy the stress of parting with communities I've had elsewhere. They're family."

giannadispenza.com



JON HARRIS

Travel has been the instigator for much of **Jon Harris's** life. The London-based filmmaker and photographer focuses mainly on commercial projects and spends his free time shooting personal projects around the world, most recently traveling for two months in the Himalayas and backpacking around California and Utah.

Jon studied International Relations and Italian at the University of Leeds and spent his third year living in Bologna. He took advantage of the long summers to experience the world, taking a road trip up the Pacific coast, camping in the Norwegian arctic circle, driving to Morocco, and visiting the remote valleys of north India. "All those trips were perfect opportunities to push my photography skills and build a portfolio," he says. He shot everything on 35mm film cameras from the 1950s and 60s and a 1950s 16mm Bolex. "It was such a commitment to the medium, being in such remote beautiful landscapes and not even knowing if your photo would come out. Those experiences led me to working with Lonely Planet and some of my favorite independent magazines in London."

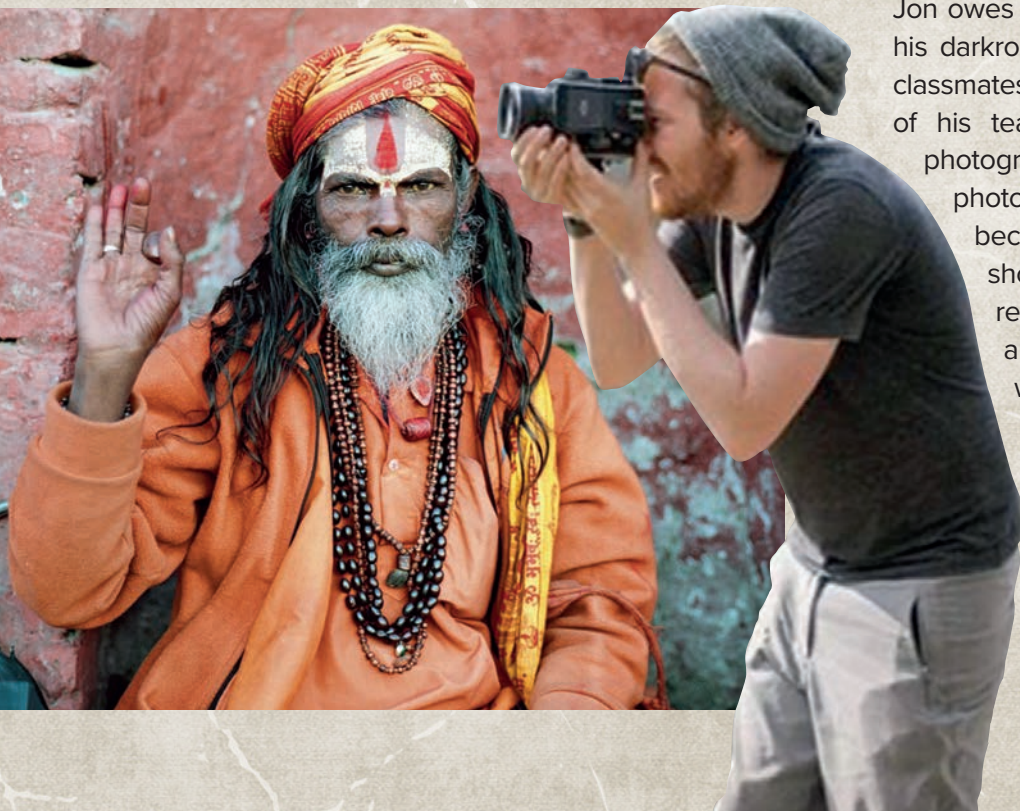
After graduating from Leeds he spent a summer studying cinematography at NYU's Tisch School of

the Arts. He moved back to London and landed a job at Academy Films, working his way up from coffee guy to working shoulder-to-shoulder with Oscar-winning directors. This has led to a successful freelance career working with brands such as Beats by Dre and some of the world's best athletes. "The film industry is such a collaborative environment – so it's been a fantastic education to continue working alongside such talented people for the past five years."

Jon's ease of working in myriad environments has its roots at TASIS. When he arrived, he remembers "feeling pretty isolated and alone – nobody supported my football team or listened to my favorite bands. I arrived from a traditional British schooling system and everything came as a big culture shock." But then it clicked. "I realised that in order to break down those boundaries I needed to open myself up to other people. I shared a Hadsall dorm room with a Serbian, an Azeri, and an Italian - and just hearing their stories alone blew my mind. I truly came away from TASIS with an international outlook, and suddenly my world wasn't so small. That totally shaped the way I see the world today."

Jon owes a huge amount to Horst Dürrschmidt and his darkroom photography class. "Not only are my classmates now my best friends, but the principles of his teaching completely shaped my style of photography. There truly isn't a better way to learn photography than in a darkroom. Every shot becomes the decisive moment when you shoot on film – as the stakes are so high. That resonated with me and the trips I was taking all over the world after I graduated. Travelling with old cameras meant that images might have light leaks, be slightly out of focus or overexposed – but I've never found a medium that has come even close to feeling more like a memory. To this day I still shoot on film and I make a really conscious effort to evoke a sense of feeling in my images."

jonharris.co [sic]



SIMON DAVID



After studying at the School of Visual Arts in New York, University College Falmouth, and the Node Center in Berlin, **Simon David** began working with galleries and auction houses including Flowers Gallery, Christie's, and The Photographers' Gallery before founding Galleria Ramo in 2016. "I'm currently spending my time scouting and researching young emerging artists for our current online project InRoads, which is incredibly gratifying as I am able to see various artists' studios and exhibitions, meet curators and travel," he says.

Galleria Ramo debuted in Lugano and is focused on temporary 'pop-up' spaces away from urban centers, usually in forgotten spaces filled with history and past lives. The gallery does not directly represent any of the artists, but rather works on curated exhibitions. "We provide a platform for artists to express creative freedom, and develop new forms of dialogue between local and international artists," he says. They are currently looking to expand to a permanent space

in Rome where the gallery will continue supporting the careers of emerging artists.

During his time in London, Simon shared a flat with classmates Jon Harris, Luca Marziale, and Roberto Falangola which Simon calls "an amazing experience. We still bounce ideas and keep in touch with one another, sometimes even creating projects together." Indeed, Fiona Struengmann '05 and Luca Marziale have both exhibited with Galleria Ramo.

"TASIS definitely shaped me as a person, more than just educationally but through shared values and goals, especially those in our year," he says. "Horst Dürschmidt really inspired me and is without doubt the reason I progressed to follow a career in the art world today. I have dedicated myself to the contemporary art world which is sometimes challenging but extremely fulfilling."

galleriaramo.com

LUCA MARZIALE



Stirring and vast, **Luca Marziale's** landscapes capture our world with a poignant, almost wistful touch. The patterns and colors seem other-worldly, playing with the viewer's imagination.

Luca's signature style began after a trip to Iceland where he created his first series, Testament. He was quickly discovered by TBD Independent Project, a Miami-based gallery, and went on to take part in art fairs in NYC, London, Basel, and Miami, where his work began to sell. "It helped confirm that photography could be a way of life," Luca recalls.

After the success of Testament, he began researching other locations with extreme landscapes. His second series took him to Yellowstone National Park in the US during winter. "I loved the contrast between the sub-zero temperatures and the fiery geothermal world underneath." Two series emerged from his time there, Unearth and Studies, both of which exhibited in London, New York, Miami, Basel, Lugano, and Amsterdam. His newest series explore Ethiopia and will feature in a joint exhibition with the NASA space program in Madrid.

Luca lives in London and is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York City. His first job was working for Vanity Fair photographer Todd Eberle where Luca learned more about the magazine industry; "it was an eye-opener. Getting the chance to assist photographing

celebrities and political leaders was a big responsibility and incredibly rewarding and it forced me to grow up faster than I had anticipated."

Trying to stay creative, ambitious, and positive can be challenging for Luca. "I think being an artist is a strange job. There are no rules; there is no one telling you what to do; you are constantly on the edge of either creating art or trying to sell it," he says. "This lifestyle can be quite lonely. Keeping yourself engaged and creative can be hard. I remind myself that when you do something you love for a living, you must make sure you nurture that creativity."

Luca was diagnosed with dyslexia at a young age and was failing his education in the UK when he came to TESIS. "Maybe it was the environment, the mentality, or even the energy, but it gave me a second chance," he remembers. "Two particular teachers in my time at TESIS never gave up on me and constantly pushed me to try harder and do better. Mr. Laurence Koppe and Mr. Horst Dürschmidt are the two mentors in my life that have helped shape the way I view the world and myself. It was great getting to study under two very different people and personalities. I tried to inherit the characteristics that I admired in both of them."

Luca also reaches out to his TESIS classmates. "When you have friends in the same field it gives you that extra vote of confidence that you are not alone and that it can be done," he says. "Almost 13 years ago we were all kids sitting in photography class learning how to use the camera as a tool and now the roles have reversed and I am very grateful to get that opportunity. Each of us is in a different field in the art world but we all have to juggle between being an artist and a businessman, so being able to learn from each other's experiences has been super beneficial and helpful.

"We all inspire each other to get out of our comfort zones and go explore a new side of the world or try a new experience. I am extremely grateful to have those friends in my life because they have unknowingly shaped who I am and the way I think."

lucamarziale.com

STEPHAN JEANPIERRE

Edgy and provocative, **Stephan Jeanpierre's** work spans photography, videography, animations, and visual effects. Stephan has worked for a number of international clients including Nike and lives in San Francisco. "The biggest challenge I have faced was establishing myself as a self-sufficient artist, which was much easier said than done," he says. "In a city like San Francisco and starting with a few disadvantages, it has been an uphill grind to get to the present day. My career has had a ton of ups and downs, successes and failures, frustrations and revelations throughout the years," he says, "and I find that I am a much better person as a result of the many trials and tribulations I have faced."

Stephan attended the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where he studied visual effects and motion graphics and began freelancing as a student. "I found that I knew just enough to be dangerous," he said, and dropped out after

three years of study. "Having no financial support but all the determination in the world, I spent the next five years struggling to feed myself and keep a roof over my head as I worked as a freelance filmmaker and photographer," he recalls. "These were the toughest years of my professional career. The uncertainty of whether I would be able to make a career out of film and video really tested my mettle."

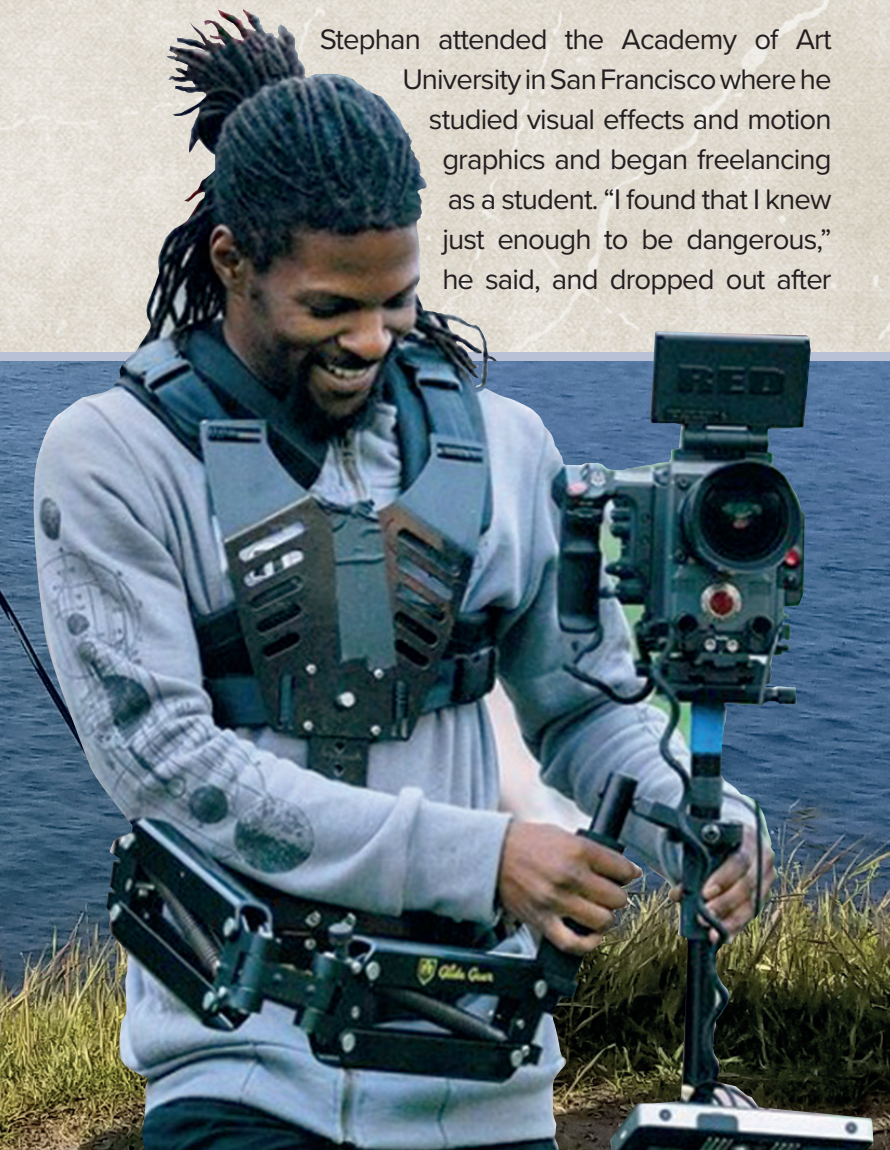
It was this tenacity that kept him at the top of his game. He invested more time and money in his craft and by 2016 he broke even. "In my mind, failure was not an option," he says. His mother convinced him to return to school and he graduated with a degree in animation, all the while sustaining himself as a freelancer. "The degree didn't help me a ton," he admits, "but it did give me even more focus in what I wanted to do."

Last year he also began working for Appdynamics, one of the fastest growing software companies in the world. This role has him traveling the world and handling internal messaging for the company, and allows him to continue his freelance work.

Stephan is still in touch with his classmates and enjoys seeing their successes. "TASIS has certainly shaped me into the person I am today," Stephan says. "The exposure I received in terms of culture, discipline, and overall independence allowed me to persevere through the tough times.

"I also learned how to interact with different people from all over the world. Being a well-spoken, well-traveled black American is very uncommon. To be among them has been quite the privilege as it has afforded me opportunities not often presented to people like me," he says. "I think the relaxed nature of a boarding school environment helped me come into my own."

vizualjockey.com



ROBIN GILLI



Storytelling has always been at the core of **Robin Gilli's** work. His favorite images are those he's taken of people in remote places around the world, communities "that now, in our time, we don't realize still exist." Robin delights in finding the most remote and unbelievable communities and sharing the stories that line the people's faces.

Robin graduated from Art Center College of Design in Los Angeles and moved straight back to his home village of Emmetten, Switzerland four days after graduation; "College made me realize I don't want to live in LA!" He graduated with a Photography and Imaging degree, which focused not just on creating images but also techniques and manipulation. "It was a good experience, but a lot of work," he remembers. "Much of the degree was purely technical. But I learned how to take a good photo under any circumstance." In other words, Robin doesn't have to wait until the muse strikes.

After graduation, Robin didn't pick up a camera for over half a year. He took his ski instructor examination and lived in the mountains, reconnecting with his country and taking time away from the lens. "Then it came back, and wasn't a chore anymore," he says, and he

started taking trips again, to places like Morocco and Norway. He took an overland trip from Dakar to Switzerland through the Sahara and took startling images of nomads. "This showed me that what I want to do is take photos of people who are not normally photographed. I still think about the people I connected with on these trips."

It was during these trips that Robin realized the need to find the right people to take him to find the communities he seeks. "During past trips I got a few good photos by chance rather than design," he says. "I hope to get better quality shots, and more of them, by finding the right people who take me into very sketchy places sometimes, but these are the communities that are interesting to me."

Last year, Robin took a trip to Cape Town to do photography for an NGO, an unpaid role he funded himself. He immediately connected with the people he met and found it a remarkable experience, one he hopes to replicate in Morocco later this year.

Robin freelances for a number of clients on photography projects and supplements this by teaching a pre-K class and continuing his work as a ski instructor in winter, swapping to mountain bike guide in summer. "I'm at the point where I work until I have enough to take a few weeks and work with an NGO," he says. Using his skills to teach the world about a marginalized community is fulfilling work for him.

He has TASIS to thank for everything—"totally, all of it," he says. He was always interested in digital imagery but thought he might be more keen on film until he began photography classes at TASIS. "Thanks to Horst Dürrschmidt, I started really getting into it. TASIS was such a creative environment." Does he ever wonder about film? "No; I like that photography allows you to create something tangible."

robingilli.com

MILO ZANECCHIA

If you've seen a recent Visit Ticino advertisement with sweeping views of the mountains and lakes defining the region, chances are you've seen **Milo Zaneccchia's** work. He is an in-demand photographer and videographer who works with a variety of international clients on marketing content, alongside his work with a subsidiary of Getty Images producing outdoor content.

Milo studied geopolitics at the University of Edinburgh and, halfway through his degree, he realized he wanted to pursue a career through a lens. He started freelancing in Scotland while finishing his degree and his Master's, then spent his time between California,



Scotland, and Lugano, helping to launch the Opsahl Global Service Program at TASIS and documenting their trips around the world (Milo's videos can be found on the TASIS website). He also took an incredible summer-long Trans-Asia overland expedition from Lugano to Mongolia, supported by The North Face. Three years ago, Milo's freelance work became sustainable and he now focuses entirely on his photo and video work.

"The biggest challenge has by far been finding balance between investing in my own business and disconnecting from work," Milo says. "I'm grateful to have turned my hobby and passion into my career, but it also consumes most of my energy trying to navigate making clients happy and hiring other artists and trusting them to deliver."

He continues to lean on his TASIS friends for support. "We regularly critique each other's work the same way we did in H-period photo class," he says. "It's what helps make us better at what we do because we can trust each other to give honest advice."

His time at TASIS helped boost Milo's confidence. "TASIS showed me how small the world is and how similar we all are regardless of where we live. It prepared me to be able to travel anywhere and talk to anyone without fear or reservation."

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A HOME FOR THE DIGITAL NOMAD

“It’s surreal.”



Robin Gilli '08, Milo Zanicchia '08, Ivan Brkljac '10, Luca Marziale '08, and Jon Harris '08 at Mokrin House, August 2018.

Ivan Brkljac '10 laughs as he describes the projects his classmates are working on. “One did a big promo video from Mercedes. Another did something for Beats by Dre. It’s so interesting to get together and see us taking care of ourselves and doing such good things.” And Ivan, too, has started a very good thing.

Mokrin House is a coworking and coliving space in the north of Serbia, near the Hungarian and Romanian

borders. Founded in mid-2016, the modern, immaculate space has quickly become a sought-after location for corporate retreats and freelancer workspaces. It provides three homemade meals a day, large desks, comfortable beds, and plenty of activities to ensure visitors keep up their work/life balance.

It was an interesting path to take for Ivan, who went to university in London and spent time in Spain

and Budapest before returning to Serbia to work in marketing, tech, and social media. After two years in a corporate environment the pace of decision-making and adapting to change began to frustrate him, so he went freelance.

Ivan's family bought the land surrounding Mokrin House in 2008 thinking they might build a country house, but weren't really sure what they would use it for. "I used to go there to focus," Ivan says, "and at one point I began to think that a coworking and coliving space could be successful here."

A global workshop

In the ensuing years, Mokrin House hosted events that substantiated Ivan's idea, and by May 2016 the space was ready to accept digital nomads from around the world. Since then, it has hosted more than 3000 people and held over 200 events.

One of these events is a week-long workshop called **Through the Lens**, which began in 2011, long before Mokrin House became what it is today. Ivan brought classmates **Luca Marziale '08**, **Milo Zanecchia '08**, **Jon Harris '08**, and **Robin Gilli '08** to be the instructors, and the rest is history. "The guys don't charge fees. I don't charge fees. Mokrin House covers accommodation. There's no profit involved," he says of the course, which is aimed at local young people. "We try to cut the cost so anyone who is interested can attend."

A global community

Looking back, Ivan's years at TASIS were a strange time. He went from having a lot of freedom as a teenager in Serbia to a school with rules that had to be followed. "I came as this kid who didn't know anything about the world. I was put in a room with boys from Nigeria, Taiwan, Japan, and Korea. It was a big learning curve."

This commitment to community extends deeply through the Mokrin House ethos. "The village of Mokrin isn't

lacking in funds—it's a cultural town on fertile land—but there's one cafe and a betting shop and that's really it," he says. Mokrin House has become a community hub. "We've tried to create cultural and educational motivation in this small community," he says.

Ivan is also attacking their space limitations creatively. "We are renovating empty homes in the area," he says, "refurbishing them to our standards and then renting them from the owners. Our goal is to create the first global village within a community."

A global nomad

Ivan's enterprising initiatives have been recognized by a number of external organizations. He frequently serves on international panels discussing digital nomads and coworking, and in November 2017 Ivan was invited by the Serbian Prime Minister to become Counsellor for Creative Industries, helping to brand Serbia as an excellent place for investment in the creative industries.

For this generation, flexible and location-independent working is a true possibility in many industries. "In the future, I see a special visa regime for digital nomads. It will become easier to obtain long-term visas and these could be supported by hubs like Mokrin House," he says.

Countless excellent reviews exist for Mokrin House. Of note is this from digital nomad expert Chris the Freelancer, who has over 50K subscribers to his YouTube channel: "If you can combine a highly productive workspace with comfortable living and interesting members, then you've created something special...spaces like Mokrin House allow smart people to come together, live together, share ideas and get work done and that's why Mokrin is now on my list of top nomad destinations."

It's this lifestyle that Ivan is striving to achieve. "Everyone who is working for and with us considers it their home," he says. "It's really a community."

GIN FOR GIANTS

What do you get when you cross wanderlust, wildlife conservation, and the hippest drink around?



Tessa Wienker Gerlach '05 and her husband Robin Gerlach spent time exploring the African continent, which introduced them to a variety of interesting botanicals and plants they hadn't seen in Europe before. They were also charmed by 'sundowner moments'. "After

a day out in the African bush, whether at the end of a game-drive, working in conservation, or climbing in the Drakensberg mountains, we found ourselves invited to traditional 'sundowners,'" Tessa says. "The sundowner is a celebratory drink during sunset overlooking the majestic

African landscape while reminiscing about the beautiful nature and animals you were able to see during the day. And more often than not, the drink comes in the form of a gin and tonic.”

Their time in Africa also opened their eyes to the realities of elephant and rhino poaching. “I became more interested in wildlife conservation, and Robin was playing around with the idea of creating a gin that captures the spirit of Africa that we could share with our friends back home,” she says. This combination of passions led to a little side project they named Elephant Gin. It took over two years to develop the brand and the recipe alongside working challenging jobs in London, but after Elephant Gin broke even (and despite exhaustion from juggling work and their hobby) they were able to quit their jobs to drive the business forward.

A Giant Cause

A key component of Elephant Gin is in the name: the company donates 15% of all profits to a number of charities devoted to preserving elephants. Tessa’s passion for elephants can be traced to a night in Thonga Village, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa in 2011 when she met Digs Pascoe, CEO of South African charity Space for Elephants. “At an evening campfire in an otherwise pitch black night, he started talking – about elephants, his love for the African wildlife, the wonders of the African bush and the plight, the dangers and challenges that will cause the extinction of elephants and rhinos in 10 to 15 years if poaching continues at this rate. I had never heard anyone speak with such passion about the intelligence of these animals, their importance in the ecosystem and the intricate ivory trade...I even saw his eyes well up with tears, which broke my heart,” she remembers. “I doubt I will ever meet someone again who will leave such a mark on me as Digs Pascoe did that evening. I truly believe that I left the campfire a different person, and this encounter changed my whole life as since that day I have been determined to help support Space for Elephants and wildlife conservation not only on a personal, but a business level.”

Supporting Space For Elephants was a natural development after that night, and Elephant Gin has since been able to allocate funds to projects where it is most needed. The strategy of Space For Elephants is to get communities involved by creating employment opportunities and making them aware of the value of wildlife by educating and showing them how to earn a living by working in conservation. Elephant Gin has been funding an education center focused on the threats elephants face, the ecological role of elephants, and the demand for conservation, and is run by members of the Zulu community.

Tessa also wanted to support a project in Kenya called the Big Life Foundation’s Ranger Fund. “They do the most incredible anti-poaching work, from daily foot patrols to tracking and arresting poachers, protecting two million acres of wilderness in the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem of East Africa,” Tessa says. The rangers work tirelessly to protect elephants, rhinos, lions, and other animals, and Elephant Gin has been able to support the salaries, rations, and equipment for 35 anti-poaching rangers.

At the end of 2017 Elephant Gin released miniature bottles of the spirit which gave the company another chance to support a charity. They partnered with the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and its Orphans’ Project, helping to support round-the-clock specialist care of the orphan elephants with proper nutrition, veterinary care, a human family of full-time keepers, and well-constructed and maintained stockades for safety and shelter at night. In addition, Elephant Gin currently fosters 21 orphaned elephants, whose names can be found on the miniature bottles. These elephants have been raised by the DSWT from infancy and are now living wild. By donating 15% of profits to these organizations, Elephant Gin has donated in excess of EUR 350,000.

A Giant Spirit

Of course, the goal of donating profits to elephants means nothing without the product. And Elephant Gin is an excellent product. Indeed, the gin has won a slew of

awards, from “Best Gin” at the World Gin Awards to Golds at the International Spirits Challenge. This past spring Elephant Strength Gin was crowned with a Double Gold and Elephant London Dry Gin and Elephant Sloe Gin both received Golds at the 2018 World Spirits Awards.

The gin is made in small batches and produced using the traditional method of copper still distillation. Each custom-made bottle is adorned with handwritten labels that are named for the elephants they are trying to protect. Fitting marketing, but Tessa’s goal is to “first and foremost produce premium hand-crafted gin products with a mix of botanicals that are unlike any others out there,” she says. “If people find out or ask us about the cause, then it is surely an additional positive factor, but they need to first like the gin for what it is.”

According to Tessa, the secret is in the plants. “We wanted to find a way to make use of the many exciting botanicals we came across on our travels,” she says. “African buchu, for example, has an extraordinary flavour; it smells of mint, but on chewing it, you get notes of blackcurrant and eucalyptus. Quite something!” Africans make tea and brandy from the leaves, so gin was a natural progression. Devil’s Claw, Lion’s Tail, African Wormwood and Baobab

similarly found themselves into the final recipe. “We also wanted to pair the African ingredients with those that are natural to our home country Germany. The north is known for its fresh apples and after trying and trialing they are now the second biggest ingredient after juniper. Together with some other more traditional ingredients, our final mix consists of 14 botanicals.”

Giant Goals

Currently, Elephant Gin has a route to market in 26 countries – including Switzerland! – and is exploring beyond this. The gin became available in the US last spring. They recently released a limited edition Elephant Aged Gin in Europe, which has been aged in oak for about a year. They are also looking to roll out miniature bottles in more countries, with a special focus on airlines and hotel mini-bars. Finally, they are building a new visitor-friendly distillery to open doors in 2019.

Tessa’s optimism and ambition is linked to her years in Montagnola. “TASIS has given me a global outlook on life that has become ingrained in my everyday work and thinking. When distributing Elephant Gin, I never thought about just focusing on one market, but always wanted to share it with people all over the world. Every country’s



culture and laws are surely different, which meant thinking of different strategies for introducing the brand to these markets,” she says.

The friendships she made at TASIS have also helped her in her professional life. “Through TASIS, I built friendships with people from seemingly every corner of the world and these friends still are my biggest support system today, offering advice on a professional level yes, but even more important, on a personal level. We all share the same appreciation for traveling, seeing more than one side to a problem, and looking at life with a bigger horizon than we knew existed before TASIS.”

It’s been a quick rise to the top for Tessa’s “hobby”, and the results are worth it for her. “Seeing Elephant Gin on the shelf - whether at Harrods or a small wine-store around the corner - will always excite me as it re-assures me in my work. It is not only absolutely satisfying to know that people are enjoying the product but also realise that the challenges over the last years were well worth it.”

Enjoy your own “sundowner” experience!

Elephant London Dry Gin + premium tonic + a slice of fresh apple

A Special Knighthood



Buckingham Palace isn’t the only place where one becomes knighted. We congratulate **Yu Chen Lin ’96** on her recent Barolo Knighthood, bestowed upon her by the Ordine dei Cavalieri del Tartufo e dei Vini di Alba for services to the promotion of Barolo wines and truffles. For the past five years, Yu Chen and **Harris Ma ’95** have owned a wine bar in Taipei called Winebay, and Barolo wines are a customer favorite.

Yu Chen considers her time at TASIS to be the stepping stone that led her to where she is today. “When I first arrived at TASIS, I couldn’t even raise my hand in class,” she remembers. “TASIS provided me with the best time of my studying life. The In-Pros, weekend getaways with faculty members, ski trips, and (thanks to my prefect privileges) personal trips built my confidence and made me the responsible person I am today. I learned to be independent and to have faith in myself. Because of my years at TASIS, I learned I had a voice.”

A Delicious Retirement



Back in 2014, we shared the story of a retirement dream featuring **Steve Heising ’64**. Steve was just over two years into achieving his dream of distilling whiskey from his home on Whidbey Island, Washington, just across Puget Sound from Seattle. His father had taught him how to distill in bathtubs during Steve’s childhood in Saudi Arabia, and on a whim he and his wife Bev decided to see if they could make it happen. At that point Steve and Bev had nearly mastered juggling licensing requirements, state and country approval, and finding a still that met their requirements (they didn’t—so Steve invented one!). Now, seven years on, the Whidbey Island Distillery is home of some of the highest-rated fruit liqueurs in the world, including blackberry, loganberry, raspberry, and boysenberry. Their Bunker Rye “whidskey”—named for the building where it is distilled—is flying off the shelves. “I started this as a serious retirement hobby,” Steve says, “but it is growing as fast as we can keep up!”

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SWISS-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MEETS AT TASIS



TASIS was honored recently to host a dinner to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Ticino chapter of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce! On Friday, September 7, the Palestra was transformed into an elegant venue fit for such an occasion. Guests included the Swiss Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ignazio Cassis, who was the keynote speaker at the event.

Other remarks were delivered by Sergio Ermotti, CEO of UBS and Chairman of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce, and Franco Polloni, Chairman of the

Ticino Chapter of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce. Current US Ambassador in Bern, Edward T. McMullen, Jr., rounded out the line-up of speakers.

The Swiss Foreign Minister and the US Ambassador took full advantage of the occasion to schedule a private meeting on campus prior to the festive dinner, which included delicious food and time for discussions about US-Swiss relationships, and how TASIS continues to bring the spirit and longtime values of America to our little corner of Montagnola.

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AWE: THE ARTS & WELLNESS EXPERIENCE IN SOUTHERN FRANCE

by *Lucy Hadsall Hedrick SH '64 and Co-Director Fernando Gonzalez*



We are all familiar with Mrs. Fleming's recipe for a school: find a setting of natural beauty conducive to learning; attract passionate, inspiring teachers; design a program to stretch students; add a generous sprinkling of love and care. This formula recently proved successful with Art & Wellness Experience (AWE), a 10-day, TESIS-style program created specifically for adults. It took place in the idyllic 17th-century hamlet of Les Tapiés in the Ardèche in France, which AWE co-director Fernando Gonzalez has been lovingly restoring for the past 45 years into a remarkable art center with studios and spaces for creating.

Led by TESIS veterans **Fernando Gonzalez**, **John Smalley** and **Perrin Tingley**, AWE brought together 17 participants, including six alumni, and seven staff from around the US and Europe. Daily activities included yoga and mindfulness, visual arts experiences including oils, acrylics, pastels, woodcut printing, photography, collage, and creative writing. Chef Chris Goss not only fed us bountifully but also ran French Cuisine cooking and wine-tasting workshops.

Excursions included visiting a winery and chocolate factory in Aix-en-Provence, seeing an 11th-century Cistercian Abbey, and attending evening classical concerts in country town churches. We also enjoyed the Sunday market in the nearby village of St. Pierreville, where artwork from Les Tapiés student programs was displayed in the Town Hall.

But most of all, we immersed ourselves in the creative arts and developed new interests that our hectic daily lives do not

allow us sufficient time to pursue. The diversity of the group and the tight-knit community we created was a special dimension. The participants, ranging in ages from 35 to 75, included four art teachers, an ER doctor, two artists, two architects, a nurse, an occupational therapist, a real estate broker, a writer, and an ex ice-hockey professional who played against Wayne Gretzky. The presentations and surveys confirmed that every participant felt challenged and developed new skills and interests. The program went beyond expectations and the only major concern was that it was not long enough!

The experience is best summed up in the testimonial of one participant who said: "This piece of heaven gave me a true chance to reset, reconnect with myself, and time to determine the best way forward for my life. AWE provides the break from life we only dare to dream exists. The program restores and inspires your whole self with exceptional individual instruction, divinely prepared meals, insightful and healing yoga, and time to laugh, cry, listen, and be you. I never had such a soul-filling experience. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did these past 10 days to support, inspire, and care for me."

Plans are already in motion to build on the success of the first summer by extending the program by two days during the first two weeks of August 2019. Come join us in 2019 to reconnect with your TESIS experience, share with other like-minded adventuresome individuals, discover interests and develop new skills, and connect with a part of you that you were unaware existed.

ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN WASHINGTON DC, NOVEMBER 17, 2017



1. Ellen Doscher Terpstra '69, Michael Esman '69, Peggy Keshishian '69, Pam Carrillo Jackson '69, Pam Springer Bryant '68, Martha Freed Breunig '69. **2.** Bill Eichner, Director of Institutional Advancement. **3.** Eugenia Marghella '11, Francesca Brogгинi '10, Isabella Brogгинi '12, Yulia Gusarova '12. **4.** Grace Wei '02, Daniela Einik '02, Mike Cichy '02, Frank Klein. **5.** Pauline Bigombe Jacquet '02, Robert Hux '99, Maudie Glore PG '67 taking their photo. **6.** Mei-Ling Klein (former staff), Mary Winer, Mosina Jordan Wright '89. And MCF in cookie form! **7.** Uranus Iranbomy, Ali Massoudi '74, Bahram Solhjoui '75. **8.** Takashi Hashimoto, Natalia Megas TH '92, Erika Megas (former TH staff). **9.** Christine and Iskender Besen '88. **10.** Mary Jarvis Duerson PG '67, Christine Flaherty Yorke PG '67, Susan Mayer Enos PG '67. **11.** Young-Shin Kim '14, Virginia Mattingly '13, Pam Carrillo Jackson '69. **12.** Frank Klein (former staff), Yvonne Procyk.

Visit the alumni section of www.tasis.ch to see more photos!

ALUMNI REUNIONS

ALL-CLASS REUNION IN LOS ANGELES, MARCH 24, 2018



1. Diane Honingberg Steinberg '83, Jim Carroll '83, Yvonne Procyk. **2.** John Shaw, Shirin Amini '75, Marianne Tapper, Andrew Tapper '75, Roubik Aftandilians '74, Darby Hinton '75. Gordon Kirkpatrick '69. **3.** Yvonne Procyk, Dorinda Dorsey '68. **4.** Jim Campbell (former faculty) and family, Briana Fountain '07, Melissa Eichner (TASIS faculty), James Eichner '07, Bill Eichner. **5.** Sabrina Herman TE '12, Dawn Bramhall, Matt Popesco '11, Chelsea Pollard. **6.** 80s alumni having fun! **7.** Sheetal Gandhi, Tamas Lobo '94, Michele Josue '97, Ava Klein '97. **8.** Frederick Morris '62, Yvette Vartanian Baroian '73, Tania Shetabi Nordstrom '82. **9.** Roubik Aftandilians '74, Randy Sabusawa '73. **10.** Ava Klein '97, Masha Tivyan '96, Anna Josue '00. **11.** Hadi Maghzi, Jessica Mejia '04, Fabiana Saad '05. **12.** Berfin Ataman '09, Meagan Vincent (CDE director), Briana Fountain '07. **13.** Bill Eichner, Jami Baldwin PG '84, Steve Mauro PG '84

Visit the alumni section of www.tasis.ch to see more photos!

PG '67 – 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION MOAB, UTAH, SEPTEMBER 28–OCTOBER 1, 2017



A dozen PG'67 classmates made the journey to Moab, Utah, for a house party to celebrate a big anniversary. Things kicked off on Thursday evening, and even though most of us had not seen each other in 50 years, we immediately jumped into conversations, trying to catch up. Everyone picked right up where we had left off, as if no time at all had passed, and there was a lot of laughter and memory sharing. Friday morning we had breakfast at our house and then headed to a canyon for a hike. While a few of us walked on, Ariel Moody took a dunk in a slick rock pool and others hung out in the shade.

That night we had a catered Italian dinner and two friends of mine who speak Italian served us and pretended they spoke no English. It was very fun and festive, with lots of candles, Italian table clothes, toasts, and Tiramisu for dessert. The dinner was followed by two slide shows put together by Ann Mullins and Rick Standish. We had a lot of laughs and

spent most of the slide shows trying to remember who people were.

The next morning turned rainy, but most of us set out anyway, and once the rain let up we did a short hike in another area. Florie Duvall, Leigh Schweppe, and her husband walked to a nearby creek and canyon and saw some petroglyphs while the rest of us hung out and Jay Noyes worked on barbecuing our supper. Early evening, we all headed up to Dead Horse State Park and arrived just as the sun set. We had cocktails on a cliff overlooking the labyrinth of canyons and river hundreds of feet below, followed by supper in a picnic shelter as we watched the beautiful sunset. The next morning we had a continental breakfast and all too soon people began departing, armed with wonderful memories of many friendships renewed. Let's not wait so long to do it again.

Darcey Brown PG '67

PG '67 – 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 17-18, 2017



Five ladies converged on Washington, DC, to celebrate a Big Anniversary—50 years, no less! This wasn't the first reunion of the PG '67 class: Susan Lo Forti and Ruthie Bowman Russell also enjoyed reconnecting in Lugano in June, and a dozen alumni got together in Moab, Utah, at the end of September.

The All-Class Reunion at the Smithsonian Castle on Friday provided a perfect appetizer for the weekend, followed by the main course on Saturday at La Chaumiere, a favorite French restaurant in Georgetown. As Maudie Glore said, "It was a great weekend and we all just sort of fell into our TESIS talk."

Maudie brought her beautifully prepared album of photos to share, and Renee Dodson Ranson (better known as Sandy when at school) had the commencement booklet and other souvenirs. The scanned albums of Rick Standish's photos and the 100-page travelogue prepared throughout the past year by Jay Noyes and Andy Dodge provided many jumping-off points for reminiscences and fun memories.

Thank you to everyone who worked to reconnect the class over the preceding year or more, especially to sleuths Jay and Andy, who found numerous classmates whose info was missing from the School's database.

CLASS OF '88 – 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 20-22, 2018



Nineteen alumni from the Class of 1988 gathered in New Orleans to celebrate their 30th anniversary over the weekend of April 20–22.

Laura West Presnol, Holly Benton Durham and Penny Sidik researched ideas and opportunities and did a great job getting their classmates on board and organizing the weekend. The alumni office in Lugano sent a box of TASIS goodies to New Orleans, including a big bag of paprika chips. Laura waited until everyone had had a drink or two on the first evening and then produced them—everyone went wild. They also especially loved the MCF pins.

The group based itself on the outskirts of the iconic French Quarter for the weekend and enjoyed some classic New Orleans outings: riding a trolley, eating beignets, strolling by the Mississippi, hanging out in the vibrant French Quarter, and observing the spirited street life.

Not everyone from the class could make it to NOLA to join the reunion, but those who *were* there made sure to include their classmates so that they could boast of a 100-percent turnout—even if some of them were just stick figures. All agreed it was impossible that 30 years had gone by and picked up friendships right where they had left off when they graduated, as if they had never been apart.



CLASS OF 2008 – 10TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION LUGANO, JUNE 1-3, 2018



The love that we have for each other, and for the place where we all met, brought the Class of 2008 back to Lugano in June to celebrate our special anniversary! Classmates from all over the globe flew in, and over 40 of us gathered on Friday afternoon to begin what would become an incredible weekend. We had planned out a number of events, including dinner and drinks on Friday night at Auberge Lugano, and a cruise to relive our boat dance memories on Saturday.

By Saturday evening, we were entirely immersed in our TASIS life again, and couldn't wait to get back to campus to revisit our stomping grounds. The TASIS

community welcomed us with open arms and we visited our old classrooms, our dorm rooms, the "Turkish Table" where we sat for hours of our time at TASIS, and more. We then had a lovely dinner at Casa Fleming, where we got to see our class yearbook again, and couldn't stop laughing at our 18-year-old selves. And then, in true TASIS fashion, we danced the night away at Club Seven.

This was more than just a reunion - it was a sweet escape back to our bubble, and a reminder of how fortunate we are to have met each other, and to have forever become a part of the TASIS community.

Oriana Zoghbi-Harb '08

CLASS OF '98 – 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION LUGANO, JUNE 8-10, 2018



John Procter and Travis Belgard wish to thank TESIS for inviting the class of 1998 back to campus for our 20-year class reunion. We kicked off the weekend with a lovely reception hosted by Toby Muhlhofer at his family's home in Castagnola. Thanks Toby!! The following morning a bunch of us boarded a boat and took a leisurely cruise around Lago di Lugano while some others opted to head up to San Salvatore and take in the view and enjoy a hike. Saturday evening we had a stroll down memory lane as we



toured the campus. So much fun looking around at what has and has not changed. After the tour we dined in Casa Fleming – one of the places that has NOT changed and is as welcoming and beautiful as ever. Sunday the group assembled for one last meal where we all agreed not to wait another 10 years to do it all again! Thank you everyone that made the trip so great – it was fun reconnecting and meeting each others' families. Thanks also to our gracious hosts Mrs. Aeschliman, Yvonne Procyk, and Bill Eichner.

BASQUE COUNTRY HIKE FOR TESIS ALUMNI AND FRIENDS JUNE 10-19, 2018



Twenty-two people met up in the southwest corner of France on June 10 to start an alumni hiking adventure in the French Basque Country and discovered that this little-known area is a real gem. Well-kept villages with the trademark white and red houses plus beautiful lush hillsides peppered with herds of sheep, grazing ponies, and a handful of goats delighted this group of alumni and friends during their 10-day adventure—and were much photographed!

The hike started off in little Biriadou and finished up in bustling St. Jean Pied-de-Port, where multiple trails of the Way of St. James converge and then continue over the border into Spain and on toward Santiago de Compostela.

Peter Boynton '69 had planned a trip that included exploring trails to discover the nature of the area during the day and then being coddled in comfort and fine dining in the evenings. At lunchtime, picnics "al fresco" were the rule—Mrs. Fleming would certainly have approved. More than one of these hotel restaurants had a Michelin star, and the dishes were often a work of art—inspiring many to photograph their plates when they arrived at the table.

Peter's three assistants did an excellent job of scouting the trails and giving updates at dinner time about the next day's hike. The weather was cool and often rainy, and although not ideal, most agreed it was preferable to scorching heat. As with Peter's previous trips, an à la carte structure provided opportunities to shorten the hiking day and ride in the van to the hotel while the strongest hikers could elect to continue with the full itinerary, allowing all to tailor their day according to their mood and preference. Everyone elected to join the trip to a winery to discover the local Iroulégué wine, which met with great approval.

Thank you to Peter and his team for creating another memorable trip!

TASIS HELLENIC CLASS OF '88 – 30TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION KIFISSIA, JUNE 28-29, 2018



The bonds between classmates and teachers were on display in Athens as TASIS Hellenic celebrated the Class of 1988 anniversary on June 28–29.

A dozen people congregated for dinner and drinks on Thursday, and then about 40 students and teachers gathered the next evening at Escoba for a drink and great conversations about the past and present. June 29 was indeed a night to remember, as alumni came from as far as the US (Angelo & Papayioti), Germany (Kirk), Switzerland (Basil), Crete (Tara), UK (Michelle), and even Melissa

(Nabil) to get together and toast the best class TASIS Hellenic has ever seen. (Not that Tom is biased – Ed.) TASIS friends from the 80s through '92 rounded out the lively group; even Alex from the Class of 1987 could not resist an evening of fun, laughter, and endless joking.

For those who could not attend from the Class of 1988...we will gather again soon. To those who don't remember the evening...cheers and well done!

Tom Letsos TH '88

TASIS HELLENIC CLASS OF '98 – 20TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION KIFISSIA, JULY 15, 2018



July 15 was a very special day for all of us—not only because it was the day of the World Cup final but because it was the day we would see our old friends from school. Twenty years may have passed, but it seemed as if time had stood still. The chats were endless as we were taken back in time remembering our wonderful years at high school.

We were joined by friends from the classes of 1997 and 1999 as well, which made the event even more special. It's wonderful that we are so diverse

in our professions — our class has lawyers, teachers, financial directors, engineers, entrepreneurs, digital specialists, chefs, and so many others! It was exactly like our years at TASIS Hellenic—where we grew up in a diverse, international environment meeting people from different cultures.

We hope to see everyone at our next reunion—30 years since graduation! (Or maybe celebrate your 25th?? – Ed.)

Roberto Scilipoti TH '98

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TASIS “CIRCA 1971” REUNION CLEVELAND, OH, AUGUST 3-4, 2018



The Cleveland, Ohio reunion was a blast! Ten of us alumni met and relived our TASIS experiences, and the little VW buses sent from Lugano were a big hit, creating a lot of nostalgia. Since our initial reunion in 2001 in New York City the classes of 1970, '71, and '72 have held joint reunions periodically. This year the attendees were Charles Hodgkins '71 with wife Kathryn Munn, Jeff Myers '70 with fiancée Kathy Zepp; Tracey Stephens '71 with husband Jack Cauffari, Debbie Billingsley Lichtenberg '71, Robin Thomas '71, Penny Payakaniti Johnston '72, Jana Swanson Miller '72, Peter Belkin '72, Nathan Anderson '72 with wife Patty Hayden, and myself Chuck Burkert '72 with wife Susan Clouston.

On Saturday we toured the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum then in the evening we had a dinner cruise on Lake Erie, which reminded us of Lake Lugano cruises. It took a while to recover from all the partying!

Charles has volunteered to organize the next reunion in California in 2020. As soon as the date is announced I will highlight my calendar and keep the dates open – and I recommend that the rest of the ca. '71 group does the same!

Chuck Burkert '72

REUNION CALENDAR

All-Class Reunion in New York

The Yale Club, 18:30-21:30

Friday, November 16, 2018

All-Class Reunion in Houston

Manor House at the Houstonian, 18:30-21:30

Saturday, April 6, 2019

TASIS All-Class Reunion in London

Swiss Embassy, 18:30-21:30

Friday, November 1, 2019

TASIS All-Class Reunion in Athens

Celebrating the 40th anniversary
of the opening of the TASIS Hellenic campus

Saturday, July 27, 2019

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 2009 – 10th Anniversary Reunion

Lugano, June 13-16, 2019

Alumni from 2006-2012 are also invited!

Email Serge Bollag at contact@sergebollag.com

to find out more and to get on the WhatsApp list.

Class of 1999 – 20th Anniversary Reunion

Lugano, July 2019

Contact Sofi Rasini at

sofiarasini@hotmail.com for more info.

Class of 1969 – 50th Anniversary Reunion

Chico Hot Springs, Montana

September 15-20, 2019

Contact Yvette Brault Rogers or Peggy Keshishian at

margaretkeshishian@gmail.com to find out more.

Are you planning a reunion that isn't on this list? Please email us at alumni@tasis.ch to let us know!

ALUMNI *News* FEATURES

“LANGUAGES SHAPE THE WAY WE THINK.”

Rumen Stefanov TH '93 on how speaking four languages has been the secret behind his success

My journey began on a nice sunny summer day almost 30 years ago, when I crossed the Greek border with my parents for the first time. It was also the first time I left Bulgaria. Back then I was just a 13-year-old boy, with all the issues of a growing teenager, who spoke Bulgarian and just a bit of Russian and English. I did not know what to expect.

I was a bit nervous as it was “all Greek to me”, and that’s when I started at TASIS Hellenic.

Back in the early 1990s I was one of the first and few Bulgarians, even one of the few Eastern Europeans, to attend TASIS Hellenic. I had no model to follow or to relate to, and the first day was not easy. But on the second day I met my first friend, who was Irish, and by the end of the week I had so many new friends that I was looking forward to going back to school again. TASIS gave me the unique opportunity to grow in a multicultural environment – with Greeks, Americans, Brits, Canadians, Swedes, French, and many more. Each one of us brought the specifics of his or her culture and enriched the group, and each of us took from that diversity. I think this is one of the unique things that make TASIS so special.

Going to TASIS Hellenic was one of the most positive steps in my formation: from a rebel-without-a-cause teenager and an average-grade student I turned into an exemplary student. It was through the competency, professionalism, and understanding of my teachers that I began to expand my knowledge and improve my grades; it was through the example of my friends that I learned to soften my teenage temper. Now I had a model to follow.

Often I advocate that a new ‘nation’ is being born – the third party nation: born in one country, raised in another, and building their career in a third. They easily adapt to local customs and quickly integrate with local community. But what makes it so easy?

I think this is language itself, on one hand. Languages shape the way we think, and the way we appreciate the world around us. The more we are exposed to other languages the more we are open to

appreciate other cultures around us, as language holds the code to that culture.

On the other hand, this is the previous exposure to a multicultural environment, and TASIS gave me that unique chance to grow in a multicultural environment. It also gave me the opportunity to grow multilingually. I speak several languages: Bulgarian is my mother-tongue; at home we speak Bulgarian; I mostly think in Bulgarian. Bulgarian is my key to other Slavic languages. English is my working language; this is the language I use in my daily work. I hold a master’s degree in English and American literature. I read most of my books in English. Greek is the language of my friends which I am happy to speak with them. Sometimes I dream in Greek. I also use French and Russian. The plan for the next couple of years is to invest in my French, and should we stay in Switzerland long-term, I hope to improve my German which I briefly studied during my university years.

Languages have shaped my professional career. In the mid-1990s I started as an interpreter in English, Greek, and Bulgarian. I have helped organizations like Arthur Andersen and the Danish Energy Agency, but the most memorable is the evening I translated for the Greek singer Alkistis Protopsalti and the musicians from Goran Bregovich’s band. Then I pursued different roles such as language editor and IP portfolio manager where languages played an essential part. Now, I work for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva.

Where the journey that started on the sunny summer day some 30 years ago will end I don’t know but I know that TASIS gave me amazing opportunities to grow in a multicultural and multilingual environment, and to become the person I am. I hope I can give the same opportunity to my kids.



FROM ATHENS TO SOUTH AFRICA IN FORTY YEARS

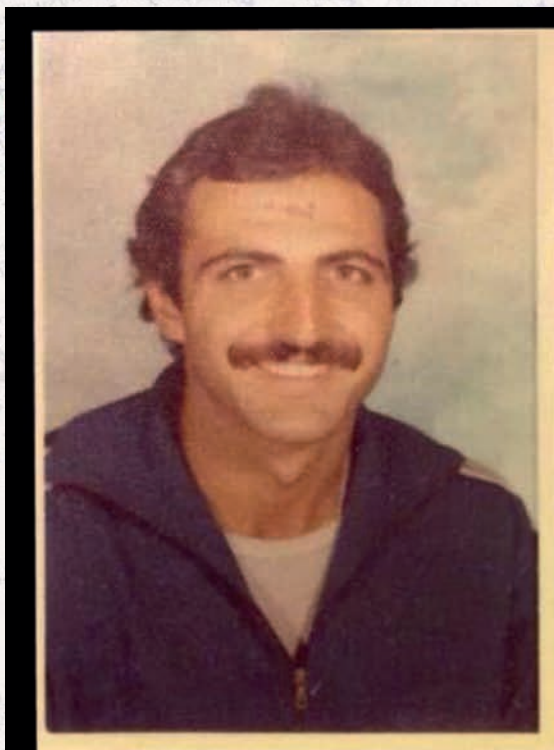
Student favorite **Kostas Papadopoulos** retires after over 40 years as an educator and coach

Kostas Gabriel Papadopoulos was 24 when he began teaching and coaching at teaching and coaching at HIS—later TASH Hellenic—in the fall of 1977. He took the place of a good friend of his, Tim Mavrelis, who was moving back to the United States. Kostas worked in Athens until 1980 when he received a three-year sports scholarship to study sports psychology at California State University-Northridge, then returned to Greece and TH from 1983-1986.

Kostas then began a world tour of international schools, beginning with the American School of Kuwait, where he worked for ten years before moving to the International School in Manila, where he spent six years. Next up was Abu Dhabi at the American Community School from 2002-2009, then the American International School in Chennai, India (2009-2013), and finally ending his career at the American International School in Johannesburg (2013-18) this past spring. He's looking forward to spending more time with family in Greece and San Diego, California.

"Every place I taught was special to me," Kostas says, "but the first and last are always in my heart. South Africa was amazing, both the place and the people." But particular things at TASH remain clear in his mind. "I always remember the VW van we had to take kids to the games," he recalls, "a 12-seater occupied by many more students when we had games at ACS or Campion."

For the past decade, Kostas and some friends, including **Kay Athanasi**, have hosted an annual gathering for TASH alumni in Kythnos. In 2017 they hosted around 40 former HIS and TASH students. This year Kostas will have to skip the event as he is renovating his home, but next year he'll be back – with a lot of retirement time to spare!



OUR COACH



A collage created by Kostas Gabriel Papadopoulos's students.

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN BEINGS

What we are doing, or at least attempting to do, is to create not international schools but international human beings, men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth, people who do not have to overcome the barriers of prejudice or even unfamiliarity in communicating with their fellow human beings, no matter what their backgrounds.

Mary Crist Fleming

by Ekaterina Plotnikova '18



It is a wonderful experience to become friends with people who come from different parts of the world. Eventually we will leave TASIS to find our own paths, but there will always be a familiar person in every part of the world. When visiting new countries, many of us will be familiar with the social aspects of a place, as TASIS has already taught us some of the spiritual and cultural traditions of people who come from different parts of the world. We

also know a couple of words in many foreign languages, as students enjoy teaching each other the basics.

We will never be lost while traveling because there will always be someone we know from Switzerland! TASIS creates an international community as we all share our common knowledge. A TASIS student is often aware of the social, environmental, and economic issues that are present in many countries simply because his or her closest friends come from those countries. It is very important for the TASIS student to show a high regard for ethical issues, as it is not difficult to offend people who do not all have the same ethnic background.

Specifically, every person in the community has a different understanding regarding social and political topics. At TASIS, students learn how to avoid conflicts, respect each other's cultures, and be lenient toward other students' opinions. In a large school community, it is important to hold on to kindness, compassion, and integrity. It is vital to respect one another. Sometimes the things people say become offensive unintentionally because words can easily offend people's

beliefs. Even if this behavior takes place, it's never too late to apologize and learn how to handle diverse cultural conflicts for the rest of our lives.

I have become an international student through uncovering all the shared cultural aspects I have been exposed to. At TASIS, it is not difficult to try new foods and learn about someone's favorite topics to chat about. However, TASIS is not just about learning about somebody else—it's also about finding yourself and feeling proud of who you are and where you come from. Many international students cannot easily identify "home," as their hearts are shared among many different cultures and countries.

When you become international, it's crucial to identify different cultures and adapt to them by losing some of the pride within oneself. It is completely natural to feel nationalistic and express compassion toward your own country, but it is not acceptable to judge other countries and their decisions. We do not choose where we come from, but we should know that there are beautiful souls all over the world, and they are definitely all around us at TASIS.

CONGRATULATIONS, TEAM HUEY!



Alicia Brauns '82, Steve Maloney PG'61, and Jeanie Cunningham '75



Congratulations are in order to the *Take Me Home, Huey* team whose film keeps winning awards! In August 2018 **Steve Maloney PG'61**, **Alicia Brauns '82**, and **Jeanie Cunningham '75** accepted an Emmy award for arts for their film alongside the team from PBS SoCal. Alicia and production partner Christine Steele created the film which focused on Steve's US Army Huey helicopter sculpture which toured the US as part of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Vietnam War.

The film has featured on US networks PBS and ABC, and its interviews with veterans who flew a Huey bear witness to the power of art to heal. The phrase "Take me home, Huey" evoked a feeling of relief from soldiers on their way home, and the sculpture and film sensitively reflect this. We're so proud of this team of TASIS alumni!

GREEK COWBOY

George (Jreidini) Serentini TH '84 keeps the cowboy spirit alive

The sun was waning on the TASIS Hellenic reunion in Athens in July 2017 when I met **George Serentini TH '84**. He asked where I was from, and I said "Wichita" - a response which often elicits a "where?" - but George said, "Ask anyone who lived there in the late nineties. They'll all know me."

George spent eight years in my hometown attending Wichita State University and tearing up line dance floors across the city. He chose Kansas for a few reasons; his older cousin was living in nearby Olathe, which was key for his parents as he left Athens at age 17. But he also wanted to realize his life's dream: "to experience the country life and all that it had to offer."

George grew up loving Westerns. "I was fascinated by the daring pioneer spirit of the new settlers searching for a better way of life despite all the dangers and hardships they had to face," he says. "I also discovered my passion for wild nature and horses, which were all encompassed by the country way of life."

It didn't take long for a young Greek cowboy to find his scene. "I was always quite the socialite, and being in a such hospitable 'Southern Comfort' place like Wichita meant that in a couple of years I became very popular and had many friends." He studied hard and played hard; he would often go to nightclubs to dance and meet people. He even won a Sexiest Voice contest by uttering the words "Oh baby, I know that's right" and won two tickets to an Oak Ridge Boys concert—a story he still delights in sharing with friends today.

George's time in the former Wild West came to an end but his commitment to the lifestyle lives on. He started an organization called Greekcowboys & Country Girls (GCCG) originally as a hobby for himself and his friends who shared his interests in country music, line dancing, and the western lifestyle—and this group now includes over 1800 members! "I had no idea it would grow so big, nor did I intend for it to come so far! But it is still going strong and growing with time."

GCCG events include a monthly event

where partygoers dress in their cowboy boots, bolo ties, and hats and teach line dancing to new members or visitors, and put on an annual Country Music Showdown featuring live bands. Their line dancing team puts on a show at every event. They also co-organize the annual Moonshine Festival at a ranch site an hour from Athens. Events include live bands, family-friendly activities, and even a mechanical bull ride. They also sponsor Junior Country events for young children. "We are regularly invited to appear in events and festivals where we entertain people and where other country lovers discover us," George says.

George's day job is with the Greece Ministry of Tourism and while balancing the two can be tricky, he has a great team by his side to help as GCCG continues to grow. He's also found the love of his life, **Tina Grammas TH '86**, "who appeared out of nowhere from my high school years at TASIS. She gives me amazing support, not to mention a new vision for the club."

--Kristin Pedroja



Find Greekcowboys & Country Girls on Facebook.

BILLION DOLLAR BUSINESS

How **Permele Doyle '05** is leading the Influencer economy



Permele with co-founders Edward East (r) and Thomas Walters (l)

Advertising and marketing aren't what they used to be. Meet the world of the influencer, where consumers inform other consumers about brands. "Influencers" are public figures who usually have a specific style, ethos, or vibe. Their "followers" trust their choices, which for brands means big business.

Billion Dollar Boy is a global influencer marketing agency with offices in London and New York focusing on fashion, beauty, and lifestyle brands. They have worked with clients including The Estée Lauder Companies, L'Oreal, Bentley, Chopard, Armani, and Diageo.

TASIS alumna and Billion Dollar Boy co-founder **Permele Doyle '05** serves as President of the New York office. We caught up with her to learn how she got to be working in this fascinating field of marketing and social media.

Can you give us a brief timeline of what you've done since graduation?

After two very happy years at TASIS I thought I should spend some time back in the US so I accepted an offer at The University of Virginia in Charlottesville. I was thrilled to get in "out of state" and they had a fantastic English program, but I wasn't sure if it would be too American for me. I ended up having an incredible four years there and majored in English Literature. Upon graduation I had the opportunity to move to London and work at a music publishing company and boutique PR firm. I had so much fun being back in Europe, seeing lots of TASIS friends in London and beyond. Unable to get a visa to stay, I moved home to New York and was hired to join the Global Communications team at Tom Ford Beauty, which is part of The Estée Lauder Companies. I had trained as an intern at the company two summers during school. I worked for Tom

Ford Beauty for five years helping to launch their cosmetics brand, oversee digital communications, plan global launch events, and also develop their first social media strategy and influencer activations. It was an incredible experience but I knew that branding on Instagram was the direction everything was going - especially in the fashion and beauty world - and I knew I wanted to work exclusively in that digital space as I found it so exciting.

How did you meet Billion Dollar Boy founder Edward East, and when did you decide to get involved with the company?

Ed and I were best friends at university! We were even roommates my senior year. Ed was always way ahead of everyone else when it came to digital media - he had a blog in college before anyone knew what a blog was. We remained friends after school and he often came to me for insights when I

was at Tom Ford as he had the brilliant idea to launch the first blogger database while he was working in the film industry in Los Angeles. We joked about working together on this agency and those jokes then became a very interesting opportunity. I left Tom Ford Beauty to become a founder of Billion Dollar Boy along with Ed and Thomas Walters and opened the US office in September 2015. I now oversee our growing US operations, campaigns, and business development while working closely with Ed and the London team.

The term “influencer marketing” may be new to some of our readers. Can you explain what an “influencer” is and why utilizing them is a viable and proven alternative to traditional advertising?

An influencer is a creative individual with a substantial and engaged social media following who creates and shares content about their interests with their follower base. They can be traditional bloggers, photographers, entrepreneurs, artists, etc.

Influencer marketing enables a brand to harness the creativity of an individual in order to seamlessly deliver memorable messages to their audience. Instead of a brand buying an ad in Vogue, they are now securing space on an influencer’s social media feed. It is “word-of-mouth” advertising combining content creation and distribution.

Influencer marketing allows brands to reach customers in a much more targeted and authentic way than traditional advertising. It is also trackable. Statistics show that around 75% of people trust social networks to guide them to purchase decisions. People are more likely to buy a brand’s product if it is presented and recommended by a person they can identify with (in comparison to billboards, magazine ads, etc.).

Billion Dollar Boy combines data and creativity to thrive as a full-service influencer agency. We combine our personal relationships, industry knowledge, and proprietary tech to develop bespoke creative strategies and execute campaigns. We are very lucky to work with a roster of top aspirational brands across global markets.

You’ve mentioned in interviews that one of Billion Dollar Boy’s biggest challenges is to target males; what sort of things have worked?

Male audiences like to be either educated or entertained. Just having pretty pictures

does not work for them! We look into the audience demographics of the influencers before recommending them to clients and also ensure they are producing the highest quality content that audiences will engage with.

How tricky is it to balance content with your influencers to ensure the authenticity remains? Is the goal to be seamless in product “placement” or does it matter to followers/communities if a post feels like an ad?

The influencer staying authentic is definitely key to ensure that their audience engages with the content. Though we have a very detailed briefing process where we provide a creative brief and mood board and approve content ideas, ultimately we carefully select influencers for their individual aesthetic and trust them to know what type of content and messaging resonates best with their audience.

How much of the content do you manage?

We sit on the brand side and engage the influencers and content creators to fully produce that content. The influencers we work with are publishing around 200 to 300 branded pieces of content a month.

Your “Matchmaker” system which connects brands with influencers sounds a bit like online dating. Tell us about this and how it works for the agency.

It could be! Matchmaker is a platform which offers a variety of tools. It allows us to identify influencers by their audience demographics, social media statistics, content categories, and information. We can also track and save all content created by our influencers and measure the success of a campaign with our fully customizable social analytics dashboards. Clients say these are the best campaign reporting tools they have seen.

How did your time at TASIS influence what you do in your daily life?

TASIS set me up incredibly well to work for a global company that services global brands and engages global influencers. I would not trade my time there for anything. It was hugely influential in shaping my taste and perspective.

I know that your former advisor and friend Kay Hamblin was a huge influence on you; do you continue to hear her voice in your head during challenging times?

Kay was indeed an enormous influence on me, and a great friend. While I was

moderating a Social Media panel last month I remembered her telling me to “*en-un-ci-ate!*”. She definitely taught me the importance of confidence and having a presence in front of others. There is no way that presenting at a big pitch meeting at Estée Lauder was not influenced by being on stage in all those Shakespeare plays.

Are you still in touch with your TASIS friends?

Yes, though not enough lately! Nearly our entire class came back for our 10-year reunion three years ago which was a total and utter blast. I am lucky to see **Mollie Toole** and **Skyler Gross** in New York and **Alex Weinig**, **Mark Hansen**, **Tessa Wienker**, and **Marie-Christine Molitor** in London and abroad. It was such an amazing asset after I graduated that in any city in the world, there was most likely a TASIS friend you could call and see.

www.billiondollarboy.com



Permele leading a panel at Social Media Week 2018 in New York

HE'S ACTING UP

*Suddenly, **Antonio Marziale '10** is everywhere!*

"I like stories that evoke a curiosity in me," says **Antonio Marziale '10** on his life as an actor. And lately he's found quite a few stories to tell. He stars as Isaac Bancroft in the current Netflix hit *Altered Carbon* and played Daryn Boston in season 12 of *Supernatural*. But his impressive performance as Elliot in the original Netflix film *Alex Strangelove* has propelled him into the global spotlight.



Born in London, Antonio and his family moved to Lugano when he was 10 years old. He, brother **Luca '08**, and his mother took frequent trips to London to see West End shows which sparked his interest in the performing arts. He moved to the US when he was 14 to attend a performing arts high school in Boston and then studied acting at Carnegie Mellon University.

Antonio's creativity spans into photography as well. Over 81k people follow his Instagram account (@tonimarz) to see an eclectic stream of posts. "It is important for me to have a creative outlet separate from the industry," he says, as it gives back the control that is often lost to directors, producers, writers, and others in the acting game.

We caught up with Antonio to ask him a bit about his life.

You've been acting professionally for five years; when did you decide this was what you wanted to do?

I think I always knew it was something I was passionate about. I was drawn to the camaraderie of theater and using performance as a way of storytelling. I remember at TASIS a few of the teachers would be in the Shakespearean plays, and that was always really special, getting to connect with a teacher outside of the classroom, usually dressed up in some kind of Venetian garb. All ages were embraced in the theater program at TASIS which supported the idea in my mind that theater is community-driven.

You've been particularly busy these past couple of years. Is this a case of nailing it at an audition and suddenly everybody wants Antonio in their shows?

I wish! To be honest most of the time I don't think there is much rhyme or reason as to why you get a job or why you don't, it's so random in this industry. Having so little in your control can be disheartening, but it can also be very liberating. It is important to focus on the artistic process and the passion towards the craft. But when the stars align and you do get the job, it's definitely an amazing moment!

How are you handling this new-found fame? Have things changed?

Not really. Sometimes people will recognize me, and it's usually people just excited and wanting to share a moment with you. I like meeting new people. I'm always happy to hear that a project that I was involved in has affected someone in a positive way.

Netflix obviously loves you; is your involvement with them deliberate? Do you think that they are able to push boundaries and be more creative than the traditional networks and film studios?

Netflix is very hands-off which is why I think so many young directors and creatives are gravitating towards them.

With studios there is so much input and they are always on set putting in their two cents. Netflix is not like that at all, they really want to give full creative control over to whoever they hire which usually results in new and innovative stories.

What can we see you in next?

There are a couple of really exciting things in the mix, nothing I can talk about just yet, but definitely on the grind!

COMING HOME

Yulia Gusarova '12 *wins architecture award based on Lugano series*

Growing up in Russia, **Yulia Gusarova '12** immersed herself in reading books about World War II and was particularly moved by Erich Maria Remarque's writing about eating cherries in Switzerland and throwing the pits across the river to Italy. The idea of this border, this meeting of cultures, intrigued Yulia enough to propel her to TASIS, where she studied with **Mark Aeschliman** and graduated with an IB Diploma.

Yulia spent a few years immersing herself in architecture, including courses at the Pratt Institute School of Architecture in NYC and summer courses at Franklin University in Lugano. In 2013 she began studying for an architecture degree at the Rhode Island School of Design while also pursuing classes at Brown University. She spent her summers working with firms such as Zaskorski & Notaro Architects and NBBJ Design in New York City, Giraldi Iacomoni Architetti in Pisa, and Artpole in Moscow. In 2017 she graduated with a BFA and in 2018 she added a Bachelor of Architecture degree to her name.

Yulia was recipient of the architecture prize at graduation for a thesis which focused on Lake Lugano. Her breathtaking collection of drawings, sketches, architectural plans, 3D models, and photographs allowed her to feel immersed in the atmosphere of the region while being far away. Below is an excerpt from her statement.

When we cross borders, we are used to moving horizontally. Here, the journey one takes to get to the border is vertical. As one moves through these folds of the earth, the geology, the colors, the climate, and the language keep changing, and every few steps you open a new season. Seasons of the soul, and there are more than four, of that I am sure now. These layers come together as an atmosphere of immense energy.

Yulia worked as an architect at STV in New York City until this fall, when she began the MA program at Università della Svizzera Italiana Mendrisio's Accademia di Architettura, joining **Ekaterina Ikonomova '12** on the architectural path. She says, "Lugano remains a huge inspiration in my design and paintings every single day."

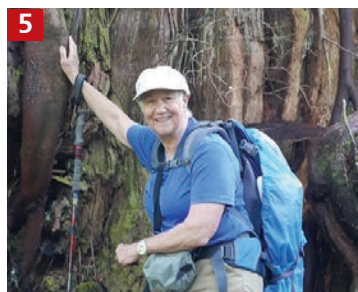
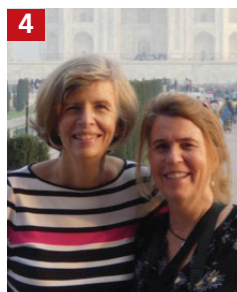
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ALUMNI *Class News*



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Gai Fleming Case enjoys receiving *TASIS TODAY* and is very impressed with the accomplishments of our present *TASIS* students. She loves to read through alumni news and hope we all continue to stay in touch the way that we do!

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Class Agent: John Gage gage.john1@gmail.com

61

Class Agent: Rick Mayne fhmayne@optonline.net

Jan Beuttell Cook and her husband Carey live in Vero Beach, FL. They spend summers in Boise, ID where their middle son lives. They have three sons, six grandsons, and last December they welcomed a little girl, Presley, to the family. Jan and Carey continue their efforts to improve literacy on their free website, myvocabulary.com.

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Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Rob Sears is retired and lives in Manila, Philippines. He continues to stay busy with several NGOs. "I would love to hear from any old-timers!"

63

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

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Class Agent: Joe Cook jacook4646@yahoo.com

Judy Meyerhoff Yale writes, "We are busy with a new puppy. She's adorable!"

• **Marta Holsman Babson** and her sister, Henrietta Holsman Fore were delighted that their grandfather's invention, a 1904 Holsman Runabout, was awarded the coveted Chairman's Trophy at the 2017 Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance. "We had an amazing day sharing the story of our grandfather, Henry K. Holsman, with countless automobile enthusiasts from all over the world. It was a memorable day!" **1**

• **Joe Cook** has a new hobby – amateur genealogist! "Recently I joined AncestryDNA to learn more about my heritage. Turns out I am 51 percent British and the rest Western European. Very pleased with those results. I have even been in contact with a first cousin. So exciting to know there are people alive that share my DNA."

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Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Russell Parks wrote in October: "Just read latest addition of *TASIS Today*. To correct **John Bachechi's** view of history (never his strong suit), the *TASIS* basketball team played a game in Milan the day JFK was assassinated in 1963, and we learned the news at the Chiasso border with **Coach Gil Shasha** on the way back to school. Memory fails me as to who was on the team, or whether we won or lost. But I certainly remember the incredible Swiss empathy as to JFK. I am doing well in the DC burbs. Still working at Akin Gump. I have four kids and six grandkids to date. We do lots of international travel for fun. I was sad to acknowledge we lost **Ford Barrett SH '59.**"

• **Marcia McCormick Davenport** continues to live in Donegal, Ireland in her 1850 traditional farm cottage with a large Golden Retriever named Bear. "I do some part-time 'supply' work for the Diocese of Derry & Raphoe, travel as much as possible, and visit my children and grandchildren in the winter months in the US. Donegal has been named one of the most beautiful places in the world!"

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Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman ckitsman@aol.com

Debby Webster enjoyed being in Hawaii last winter. She took on a position as a sales representative for the Nina McLemore clothing company out of NYC and it keeps her life very full.

• **Tracy Schornagel Orleans** works as a health philanthropist, and helped introduce an anti-smoking program in the 70s or 80s. She credits *TASIS* and **Robert Wilson** with influencing her life and choices.

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Class Agent: Chuck Kitsman ckitsman@aol.com

Chuck Kitsman expressed interest in contacting members of the 1960s classes for memories of their favorite teachers. "For my part there would be **Henriette Raoul** (Latin), **Gerry Martin** (Biology), **Mr. Scott** (Chemistry, Geometry), **Robert Wilson** (English), **Fernand Brunschwag** (Physics), and **Ray Robbins** (Headmaster). More than a few of us found our academic horizons much expanded through the faculty Mrs. Fleming brought on to campus. It was a very accomplished group and they sure knew what to do to get our attention."

• **Leslie Hughes Pierpont** had a great visit with **Susan Stover Hill** in

Roanoke, VA in late May. She shares a picture of herself with husband Dick and Mike Keiser at Cabot Cliffs, Nova Scotia. **2**

• **Virginia Brooks** shares: "My husband passed away in December after a long illness and I am now designing a new life for myself. Arizona has been my home for the last 33 years and the Southwest has stolen this New Englander's heart. My home and studio are in the small town of Carefree, north of Scottsdale. Painting is my full-time profession, and I also teach one-on-one private painting lessons. I'm grateful to have a job that I love and will continue to work as long as I can stand at an easel." **3**

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Class Agent: Pamela Springer Bryant ohsaycanuc@cox.net

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Class Agent: Pamela Carrillo Jackson pjackson@tectron.net

Celeste Clement writes, "I am the last of my family standing, and am wanting to get my toes wet traveling. I would really love to hear from any and all familiar faces from school and ARTE friends and faculty. Most of my adult life has been spent taking care of an ill parent, and now it's time for me to start learning again. What better way than travel and tea-time with old pals? Cheers!"

• **Michael Army** runs an environmental non-profit organization called Leonard Academy. "We help organizations and corporations quantify their current environmental impacts and develop sustainability practices to enhance their environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and economic

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prosperity.”

• **Leslie Tolbert** shares with us: “My husband, Paul St. John, and I have just retired after 30 years as neuroscience professors at the University of Arizona. It feels wonderful! We’ve loved all aspects of our jobs – research, teaching, and administration – and now we look forward to having more time to spend with our kids and grandkids, several volunteer efforts, and traveling for fun. Last year, I joined Harvard University’s Board of Overseers, who provide oversight and advice on far-ranging issues, with a special focus on how to maintain and grow Harvard’s superb academic and research programs. That work involves many trips to Boston each year, and I thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with my (and Mrs. Fleming’s!) alma mater. To jumpstart our retirement travel, Paul and my sisters, **Kim ’70** and Paige, and I went to India this spring, visiting, among other places, the house I grew up in in Delhi! It was a spectacular trip. We look forward to connecting again with many TASIS friends at the Class of ’69 reunion being planned for September 2019 in Montana!” **4**

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Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Tricia Daum is retired and living in Vancouver, Canada. She travels each year to hike and bicycle in Europe and skis winter in Sun Peaks, BC. “I attended TASIS in 1968 so if anyone is out there I hope to hear your news.” **5**

• **Victoria Bartlett Donaldson** was at TASIS for her 9th grade year and went back this spring – almost 50 years later – with her daughter who is working in Lausanne. She is retired from the NYC

Department of Education where she was an ESL teacher and has relocated to Florida. “Was so happy to see all the wonderful things going on at TASIS. It is a special place.” **6**

• **Catherine Badin** is enjoying the charm, colorfulness, and creativity to be found in Portland, Oregon.

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Class Agent: Scott Whittle incal@earthlink.net

Tom Wyllie writes: “Attached is a picture of my wife, Keith, and me at our daughter’s Florence wedding. The Villa Cora was a great venue for an intimate, family wedding, and their staff made it superbly special. I was a teacher of literature and life for a little over 30 years, and we do like art in this house. My youngest daughter graduated last spring from VCU Arts, took some time off, and joined her sister in Bozeman, MT in September and her dream job fell into her lap. She now is director of a contemporary art gallery in Bozeman, and she gets to take her wolf dog to work!” **7**

• **Rio Helmi** visited Lugano in May and enjoyed an impromptu visit of the Villa Negroni, thanks to Valentina Luccheschi of the banking school, which operates out of the villa. “We were lucky enough to run into a lovely woman who very kindly showed us around. It was a bit nostalgic; I was sad to see the grounds had been divided up and the huge roundabout down below leading to the St. Gotthard tunnel. But the buildings still have their charm.” **8**

• **Joyce Paton** and **Kristen Lowman ’70** met up for dinner and a catch-up in June. “We shared a great conversation and promised to meet up more often than once every year, which is our pattern now!”

• **Robin Hamilton-Brooks** writes: “I

enjoyed seeing the pictures from the recent alumni hike in France led by **Peter Boynton ’69**. We have great memories of our TASIS Alpine Hike in 2011. The friends we invited along on that trip have become great traveling buddies! We take a trip with them every year and have been to England & Wales, Denmark, Scotland, and the Virgin Islands. Michael and I are enjoying our retirement and trying to make the most of it while we are still able! I still keep in touch with friends from my high school days in Montagnola – amazing to think that we have been friends for 50 years!! What great memories we share!”

• **Becky Boynton Norton** is sorry to have missed the Circa ’71 reunion in Cleveland this summer: “We have our daughter and son-in-law coming from the Czech Republic during that time. They have five children, so we will be busy in Maine along with a trip to Ithaca, NY to visit my mom who is still with us at age 95! It would be wonderful to see any of you, if you ever come to the Maine mid-coast area.”

72

Class Agent: Patricia Mullen-Rempen TrishRempen@gmail.com

Robert Wright is sorry to have missed the Circa ’71 multi-class reunion in Cleveland this summer but unfortunately his work demands at the US Embassy in Belgrade made the timing impossible.

• **Dennis Cockrell** and Vicki continue to love living in northern Idaho. “I am starting to think about retirement, hopefully in December 2019. That will give us more time to visit our three grandchildren, and travel to National Park sites, among other things. So far, I have visited 238 of the 417 sites on the official NPS Units list, so I am more than halfway to visiting them all. I love

to continue to learn about our history. I recently visited the Oklahoma City Memorial and Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, both powerful experiences. The courage and determination of the nine students in Little Rock is inspiring! I also visited Hot Springs National Park and enjoyed the therapeutic bathing experience that the Buckstaff Baths has been performing since 1912. Experiencing the historic bath therapy was a treat. I highly recommend it.” **9**

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Class Agent: Wendy Barton Benson wlbarton3299@gmail.com

Wendy Banning is still in NC, and is Director of Learning Outside. “Still outside teaching every day on a beautiful nature preserve where I’m totally at home whether it’s sunny, raining, stormy, freezing cold, or we’re slogging through mounds of snow. Still feel connected to TASIS through dear friends I made there and have held onto. And still would love a chance to come back and visit, regardless of how much I know it has changed since I was there. On the home front, it has been a hard year, health-wise, for one of my youngsters but she’s standing tall and we are all still upright, which feels pretty darn worthy of celebration right now.” **10**

• **Andrea Simitch** was recently appointed Chair of Cornell University’s Dept of Architecture, where she has worked since 1986. She has also been awarded the Stephan H. Weiss Presidential Fellowship, Cornell’s highest honor, as well as receiving a residency award for the Baer Art Center in Hofsos, Iceland, and being named

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Outstanding Educator for the Merrill Presidential Scholar at Cornell three times.

74

Class agent: Kathy Gamble Pilugin dulcinea_q1@me.com

Larissa Shmailo shares: "I am so grateful for my TASIS experience and to be in touch with classmates **Zarira Charlesworth**, **Dan Higgins**, **Kathy Gamble**, and **Jennifer Greene**. My news is that I now have literary works (poetry, a novel, performance videos, and translations) in the libraries of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, NYU, the Museum of Modern Art and many other schools and museums. As I age, this institutional curation becomes important to me, in the hope that my work will be remembered after I'm gone. I am shopping my second novel, *Sly Bang*, and working on my fourth full-length collection of poetry. I have appearances this year in Philadelphia and Boston and next spring in Portland, Oregon, so if any TASISites are there, let's connect." **11**

• **Dan Higgins** writes: "Hi TASIS! Since the Big Bang Reunion in 2014 on campus, our 70s group has been on the move with reunion after reunion. I hope a core group can return to Lugano and Lake Como next summer. **Denise Rainero** and I went to London last December and attended concerts almost every night. I went to Dublin recently and had a blast. A highlight was photographing Gorillaz at Malahide Castle. I'm still shooting as house photographer for Hard Rock Live Orlando, as well as conventions and events. I miss the thrills of youth, but must say this is a very exciting time in my life. My TASIS roots remain in my DNA forever!" **12**

• **Anne Arnold Guthrie** moved back home to New Orleans last year. "It

was a long three years away from the Big Easy but it feels great to be back! My brother **Chip Arnold '71**, was generous and patient enough to drive me and my two pups from Reno, Nevada to New Orleans and help me settle in. Our first stop was in Las Vegas where **Carole Riordan** was kind enough to put us up. Lots of fun catching up! Since returning I have had the pleasure of seeing **Davis (Davy) Tucker '73** during the annual French Quarter Festival, **Daisy Bilbao '76**, and **Denise Rainero** who stayed with me for The Jazz and Heritage Festival, **Yvette Vartanian Baroian '73** who was in town for a wedding, and **Shirin Amini '75** who was spending a few days in New Orleans with her husband John on their way to see family in Mississippi! Always happy to see my TASIS friends and looking forward to our 70s reunion in Panama which **Amelia Eilers '77** and her husband Greg are so graciously hosting this October."

• **Roubik Aftandilians** and his wife Karineh had a wonderful time celebrating **Yvonne Procyk's** birthday with **Yvette Vartanian Baroian '73** and her husband, Mimo in March in Pasadena. He also attended the All-Class Reunion at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, CA. It was, as always, wonderful to meet many old and new friends. **13**

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Class Agent: Linda Jaekel Avery Averylin@aol.com

Steve Barr shares: "It's hard to explain how much TASIS meant (and still means) to me and my family. That was perhaps the best year of my life. I have many fond memories of my time there. I've connected with many friends from TASIS on Facebook, including

Radi and **Humayun Mirza** and **Jane Schaefer '76**. My brother, **Dennis '77** is fine. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Natick, Massachusetts. I live with my wife and 20-year-old son. I sub as a teacher and special education aide in two local school districts. I recently finished teaching reading at Lindamood-Bell in Sacramento. My best friend, Marcel deLannoy, teaches French at TASIS England. He was in my class in 1980-1983 when I got a Masters in Teaching at UC Berkeley. That was after getting a BA in Sociology at Pitzer College in Southern California. While at Pitzer, I met some of Dennis's friends from Vezia: **Gina Milano '77** is a Facebook friend and went to Pitzer when I did. I'm also in touch with **Peter O'Neill '77** and **Suze and Jeni Price '77**. Sending my best to all at TASIS. Everyone in my family benefitted from TASIS that year."

• **Carolyn Clark** tells us: "In my recent pseudo-retirement I have found time to publish poetry and help edit books for others, including a book by **Rich Mitchell**, former TASIS teacher. His history book, *Strawberry Lodge*, is a true wonder and magnificently illustrated. I have also published two books of poetry since 2013, including *Mnemosyne: The Long Traverse* (Finishing Line Press) and *New Found Land* (Cayuga Lake Books). My current project involves another former TASIS teacher, **Florence A. Clark**, my mother. Her excellent poetry and prose, some published already, has not yet started circulating on the internet. You can see an interview about that and more by checking 'About the Authors' at cayugalakebooks.com. My sister, **Elizabeth Clark**

Goldsmith '68, is a well-known French historian who specializes in women's studies. Beth did her junior year at TASIS and is now Professor Emerita at Boston University. Her opus is titled *The Kings' Mistresses*."

• **Tom Junker** reports: "We are currently living in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia having moved here in early 2018 from Costa Rica. My daughter **Natalie** attended the TASIS Summer Program this year and we are thinking about enrolling her in the academic year in fall 2019. I am hoping to have a second TASIS alum in the family come 2022, 47 years after I accepted my diploma from Mrs. Fleming." Tom won't be able to make the 70s reunion in Panama in October but hopes to catch another reunion soon.

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Class Agents: PK Fields pkfields@earthlink.net and **Daisy Bilbao** daisybilbao@bellsouth.net

Daisy Bilbao and **David Trapp** reconnected in Miami in January and sent a photo. **14**

• **Hernan de Elejalde** shares: "This life, like graduating from TASIS, is confusing. I remember **Mr. Page** fondly, and I wonder what the wonders who came after me were like. I was voted MC of the Senior Banquet, once upon a time, and I have led a very interesting life these 40 years. TASIS was a breakwater for me, a before-and-after, if you know what I mean."

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Class Agent: **Rick Mullen** rdmullen@verizon.net

Amy Eilers moved to Panama two years ago and is loving it! "We

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initially settled in Panama City for about 10 months, getting to know the culture and the language. We then decided to move to a small island, Isla Colon, one of many that make up the Bocas del Toro archipelago. This island is inhabited by native Indians, the Ngobe, as well as Panamanians, and a large collection of expats from all over the world, mostly retired. Bocas del Toro is situated on the Caribbean coast. It is about a 45-minute flight with Air Panama from Panama City. Bocas Town is a small, quaint place, reminiscent of Key West about 50 years ago. Not a world city by any means." Amy regularly makes us envious with the beautiful photos she shares on Facebook!

78

Class Agent: Heidi Nickels
heidiv29@gmail.com

Valerio Leone writes: "After 37 years, I left my job with bicycles and moved to Monaco. Now I work in real estate. Finally I have more free time, which I use for travel and photography. In September I took part in an event for historic F3 race cars in Zandvoort, Holland. It was the first official FIA Eurocup Historic F3 and the winner was rewarded at a gala in Paris attended by all FIA champions, including the next F1 champion."

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Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Jennifer Mathiesen Ito shares: "I have recently retired from my admissions position at Punahou School in Honolulu to make time

to travel to and from the mainland. My youngest has followed in my musical theater footsteps and is attending the University of Michigan School of Music Theatre and Dance. I must be available to see her perform and it's a long trip to Michigan from Hawaii! More travel to the mainland makes it more probable that I can connect with friends! I visited **Liz Lustig Beer** on a trip to SoCal and almost got to Toronto last month to see **Corina Kiefert Chester**. I have only seen one classmate, **Brenda Danforth Fleckenstein**, pass through Honolulu in the past few years. Where is the class of 1979 anyway? Photo from the 2018 Make-A-Wish Fundraiser at Ko'olina Four Seasons Resort!" 15

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Class Agent: Antonella Noseda
anoseda@swissonline.ch

Menno Ploeg dropped in to visit TASIS in fall 2017 en route from the Italian Riviera to Germany. He moved around a lot after attending the School in the late 70s: "After TASIS I went to school in Gstaad, then to college in the States, and then to Holland, back to the States, and then to Holland again but for good that time, since 1991. It was time to finally settle down."

• **Rick Coker** serves as Senior Mechanical Engineer for B&P's Government design group. His experience covers projects for the Department of Energy, Department of Defense, US Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Veteran Affairs, and the Department of Military Affairs. He's been married to Dianna for 28 years and has a son, Brandon. 16

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NouNou Taleghani nounou@stanford.edu

Nounou Taleghani would love to hear from **Tana Bertram**, **Syndi Hodges**, **Liz Lustig Beer '79**, **Toddie Lewis**, all the El Paso crew, and the Persian Crew. "I'm living in the San Francisco Bay Area. I've been working at Stanford University for the past 22 years, teaching and advising in the medical school and seeing patients in the Emergency/Trauma center. I would love to hear from all my TASIS friends who were there between 1976 and 1979."

• **Tom Mullen** was honored with an international wine writing award (*Parole di Vino*, or 'Words of Wine') in May 2018, and traveled to Abruzzo, Italy to receive it from Il Consorzio di Tutela dei Vini d'Abruzzo. Congratulations Tom, we love your blog! vinoexpressions.com.

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Class Agent: Tania Shetabi Nordstrom tsnordstrom@yahoo.com

Tania Shetabi Nordstrom enjoyed the LA reunion in March: "I was fighting a cold and was going to pass on attending. My TASIS friends gave me a really hard time so I came thinking I'd stay a short time and not touch anyone. Of course, I had a blast! It was another memorable evening where I met and spent time with new TASIS alumni! Thanks to the TASIS team for a spectacular evening, and for providing those *adorable* MCF cookies."

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Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more

about taking on this role.

Mohammad Bonakdar lives in CA and is an optometrist. He remembers **Ferit Şahenk** very well and is in contact with many of his Iranian classmates. They have their own reunions in California.

• **Marina Arsan** shares: "In September 2015 I moved to Manno, outside Lugano, and started managing a dance school. I spent some time understanding and studying the market in Ticino and then I was also able to start rewarding collaborations with various organizations. I specialize in offering specific courses for associations, municipalities, and schools."

• **Stephen Brooks** and his wife Shelli recently celebrated their 29th wedding anniversary and continue to work, travel, and enjoy their life residing in a suburb of New Orleans, Louisiana. When not in New Orleans, the couple often travels to visit their sons, Connor and **Gaven '16**, who both attend LSU in Baton Rouge, LA. Connor is a senior studying textiles, merchandizing, and fashion, while **Gaven**, is a junior studying performing arts and business. 17

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Class Agent: Jeff LaDriere jeff@ladrierebuilding.com

Karim Saleh went to Duke University and then on to Bangladesh, Malaysia, and now lives in Thailand with his family. His wife teaches the IB in an international school. Karim is currently on a sabbatical year. They were in Europe for three weeks driving to Portugal, France, and Austria. He and his lovely family

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paid us a visit in July and they loved spending time on campus.

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Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Jonathan Radin writes: “I have continued my career in higher education administration and am celebrating my 20th year in this career path that has been rewarding and meaningful. My last eight years have been in Academic Medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and am currently the Director of Clinical Strategy and Program Development for the Department of Surgery. I continue my photography business along with career coaching for all levels of professionals. My wife Holly is enjoying a very successful career as a physical therapist with the University of Colorado Hospital and specializes in sports medicine along with other treatments. Since moving to Denver in 2006 we continue to love life in the Rocky Mountains and enjoy all of the related activities with our son Alex, now 13. I continue to be an avid cyclist and am riding several significant organized group rides this summer including the Courage Classic charity ride that supports Children’s Hospital Colorado. Even though I was only at TASIS for my junior year, I have wonderful memories of my time there that truly changed my life.”

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Class Agents: Maggie Hammad



Boyle maggie_boyle@yahoo.com and **Denise Mobley** dmobley415@comcast.net

Maggie Hammad Boyle and her husband **Jeff** did not have an easy 2017. “In August, our home was hit by the floods of Hurricane Harvey. We had to evacuate by kayak when it was evident that the water was going to take over our home in Katy, TX. We were fortunate enough to move really important things to a higher floor but otherwise lost everything on our ground floor. We lived out of our home for about six months and are finally done with our renovations. Things are all put back together but it was devastating and expensive. 2018 has also been a year to celebrate our 50th birthdays. **Denise Mobley, Debbie Anderson Rupert, Kelly Stoddard Wood,** and I met in NYC with our daughters to celebrate Debbie’s birthday in December, and we surprised Kelly in Sonoma for her birthday too. We will continue the celebration with all of them coming to our (new!) home in the Houston area in October. Our daughter Gabi is 19 and just finished her freshman year as a chemistry major at the University of Texas at Austin. Our son Jacob is 17 and just finished his junior year in high school and wants to major in cybersecurity after he graduates in 2019. Jeff is starting a new business venture by opening a Massage Heights in the Cross Creek area outside of Houston. I am involved in my last year of school volunteering by heading up the Project Graduation event for Jacob’s senior class. We are always excited to see other TASIS alums. The girls and I had dinner with **Andrea Cabada**



Strebin in NYC. We also saw **David Zappa** and **Eric Imhoff ’85** at our crawfish boil in May. 20

- **Kristen Tobin Risk** is still living in Scottsdale, Arizona. “My children are grown (18 and 21) and I am working as co-founder and VP of Marketing Communications at Frankly Organic Vodka, which launched in July 2018. We are the first spirits company to be transparent with an ingredient list and a nutritional label and also the first functional spirits company with turmeric, ginger, maca root, and wild cherry bark, all organic of course. Our product is distilled in Austin, Texas. My husband Philip and I celebrated our 22-year anniversary this June. My leisure time is spent cooking, horse riding, playing with my cocker spaniels, hiking the Sonoran Desert and learning to be present, mindful, grateful, and fully aware of the world we live in today. 22

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Class Agent: Alex De Bruin adebruin1@live.com

Sean Fleischman shares, “I’m a professional homemaker to two wonderful daughters. I’m married to a United States Naval Bandmaster. Home is wherever the Navy sends us.”

- **Victoria Waxman Kowalski** shares, “My little family is doing well in Houston, TX. We currently have 3 teenagers who keep us busy. My oldest son just finished his first year at college. My second oldest son will be a senior this fall. And my youngest will start high school. I enjoy my time as a stay-at-home mom, going to the gym, riding horses, hanging with



friends, and managing my family.”

24

- **Patricia Andreu** writes: “Our family has moved to Providence, RI. My husband is working at Brown University and I’m writing a column called Women In Action for the Providence Journal.”

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Class Agent: Laura West Presnol Lpresnol@hotmail.com

Laura West Presnol wrote in January: “I am going to Nashville with **Geleah Free York** and **Lori Romero Ketter ’89** at the end of the month. **Dava Nunley** lives there so we will be seeing her! Very excited!”

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Class Agent: Lori Ketter Romero loriketter@q.com

Genevieve Astrelli-Godson shares: “I was actually in Lugano this summer with my 7-year-old and really wanted to visit TASIS but my father passed away recently so I was spending a lot of time with family. I hope to come and visit next time. I am usually in Lugano every other summer so my son can be immersed in an Italian-speaking environment. He attends La Scuola International School in San Francisco.”

- **Danielle Fidler** has moved to New York State, and is excited to be living just a mile away from **Toni Clayton Hine** and not too far from **Lara DeVido!** Danielle and Toni have already started thinking about an anniversary reunion in 2019 – stay tuned for more info!

- **Cricket Cooley** is a proud teacher at School of the Future in New York. She shares with us the

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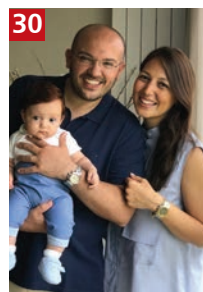
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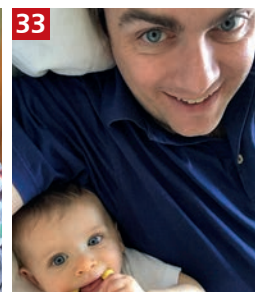
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31



32



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joys of teaching and offers some very sage advice to new teachers in her bio on the SoF website (www.sof.edu). **25**

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Class Agent: Franca Marena Gullett fmarena@aol.com

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Class Agents: Kristina Malcolm kmalcolm44@gmail.com and **Gina Jose Heydari** ginajose@hotmail.com

92

Class Agent: Miki Schroder Nava miki@mikinava.com

Monique Bushore Ruyle got married on August 18, 2018. **Asmat "Oz" Noori** was a bridesman at the wedding. "This is a photo of us at TASIS for our 25th reunion recreating a memory from the TASIS '92 yearbook of which we were co-editors in chief. My oldest daughter **Nicolasa** will be attending the TASIS Summer Program in 2019." **26**

- **Matt Lossing** and his family moved to Austin, Texas in early July. New Jobs, new schools, and old friends. **27**

- **Miki Schroder Nava** writes: "Last year we moved to Milan, Italy. After living in a small Italian village Milan has been great for me and we are loving it. My daughters adore city life but also love coming back to the village over the weekends to enjoy the lakeside. Gaja (almost 6) will be starting school in September and Soraya (4) is in kindergarten. I am slowly trying to establish my online business (www.twolittlepiggies.com)

ch) where I sell artisanal products and tell the story of the artisan on my blog, www.mikinava.com. I regularly hold events in Lugano, Zurich, London, and hopefully soon in Paris, so please be in touch if you are in those areas."

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Class Agent: Paula Quijano quijano.paula@gmail.com

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Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

95

Class Agent: Nicole Pearson pookiefruitz@hotmail.com
Jeremy Moncho quit the rat race to become a social worker in Geneva. He currently runs a state-subsidized marketing agency that employs nearly 100 disabled people with talents in graphic design, editing, video editing, web development, and journalism, providing a meaningful, inclusive work environment.

96

Gina van Hoof gvanhoof@gmail.com and **Francesca Nicotra** mf.nicotra@gmail.com

Nicole Dusang decided to go for her Ph.D. at Brown in electrical engineering (because of her military experiences) and would like to work on sensory feedback for neuroprosthetics. Brown offers a wonderful program called Braingate, which enables advancement in the field of prosthetics using sensory signals.

Once she completes her Ph.D. and post-Ph.D. work, she hopes to become a professor. Nicole visited us in August 2017 and chatted with **Naomi Butler '86**, who was also in town visiting us! **28**

- **Yu Chen Lin** received a Barolo Knighthood from L'Ordine dei Cavalieri del Tartufo e dei Vini di Alba, to honor her work promoting Barolo wines and the Tartufo (more on page 45). For the past five years she and **Harris Ma '95** have a wine bar in Taipei called Winebay. **29**

97

Class Agent: Kevin McMenamin sincap2@gmail.com

Polat Gulman got married to Ekin Karaevli in August 2016 in Bodrum, Turkey. They had a son named Eren in February 2018. **30**

98

Class Agent: John Procter johnoprocter@gmail.com

Marcio Siviero visited TASIS with his wife Alessandra and two boys. They live in Boca Raton, FL. He attended Northeastern U. in Boston and there, through classmate **Bruno Dualibe '01**, was introduced to his wife, Alessandra. Marcio is VP of Global Procurement for XPO Logistics in CT. He was sorry to miss the class reunion in June, and is in touch with **Ted** and **Joe Rippey '97** who live in CA. Ted is VP in sales for the auto parts company 1800 Radiators. **31**

- **Taren Taylor** welcomed her son, Alexander, to the family in April. His big sister, Annika, is thrilled to have a sibling. Taren was sad to miss the 20 year reunion in

Lugano but loved seeing the pictures! **32**

99

Vacancy for class agent – contact alumni@tasis.ch to learn more about taking on this role.

Rebecca Tilles writes: "On January 31 I began my new position as Associate Curator of 18th Century French and Western Fine and Decorative Arts at Hillwood Estate Museum & Gardens in Washington, DC. I look forward to seeing as many friends as possible, and please do let me know if you plan to visit Washington. It would be a pleasure to show you the collections at Hillwood."

00

Class Agent: Tatiana Lucchini talucchi@hotmail.com

01

Class Agent: Caroline Rothstein caroline.rothstein@gmail.com

Elliott Doyle reported in fall: "I am studying for a Masters in International Security and Diplomacy at the Baker Institute at Rice University. William Elliott Doyle, II was born on October 29, 2017. **33**

- **Caroline Rothstein** has much to tell us: "All is well with me. I'm currently working on a memoir and spent some time shaping the chapter about my brother's death. It included some paragraphs about my friend **Kat Webb PG '02**, who was a PG with me at TASIS and then went on to Oxford, England, that spring semester with me, and became one of my best friends. You may recall she died shortly after we

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got back to the States, six months before my brother died."

- **Oliver Rizzi-Carlson** presented at the SGIS conference in March 2018.
- **Nikko Karki** and his wife had a baby girl, Alaska Rose, in February 2018. **34**

02

Class Agent: Daniella Einik daniellaeinik@gmail.com

Christian Staubach and his wife Maya had a baby girl this year. Calu was born on January 23. **35**

- **Natalia Bonilla Maldonado** wrote this summer: "I currently reside in Vienna, Austria, and work as a research analyst for the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the International Atomic Energy Agency. I got married in 2012 in Jordan, and my husband Samer and I now have a 4-year-old son (Sergio Omar) and a 1 year-old daughter (Sofia Lamees)." Natalia, **Richard Mitchell**, and **Manuela Reyes** reunited in Vienna, Austria, in 2017! **36**

03

Class Agent: Remington Franklin rfranklin@resolution-ent.com

04

Class Agent: Masa Yo masa.yo@gmail.com

Stephanie Zirculis updated us in fall 2017: "I moved to Zurich about a year ago from New York for work and all is going good, I think I'll be here a while!"

- **Supanika Ordonez Ackerman** is working as an Early Learning Specialist at the Department of Education & Early Development in Alaska. The Pre-Elementary program recently received a budget increase

from the legislature to expand high-quality early learning programs across the state. "Bought a house in Juneau and would love to have people come visit! Alaska reminds me a lot of Lugano!" **37**

05

Class Agents: Eda Aksoy edaksoy@gmail.com, **Maitri Shila Tursini** maitri.tursini.09@ucl.ac.uk

Rita Lysenko visited campus in September 2017 and shared a photo of herself and **Billy Zane '84**, taken in France at a 20th anniversary reunion and celebration for the cast of *Titanic*. **38**

- **Tessa Wienker Gerlach** is working with elephants and gin! The unusual combination came about so that the proceeds from the gin production could fund Tessa's passion for conservation and protection of elephants. Read more on page **42**.

• **Fiona Struengmann** exhibited her photos in Lugano in October 2017 at **Simon David '08's** Galleria Ramo.

- A mini-reunion of the class of '05 took place in Munich in January, with **Alex Weinig**, **Can Doganci**, **Tomris Ozkul**, **Fabian Fichtner**, and **Josef Filser '04**. They are launching the idea of a reunion in Portugal in 2020 for the 15th anniversary. Mark your diaries! **39**

• **Ninah Mars** writes: "Lots going on lately in my world! Michele and I just bought our first apartment and also got engaged last October, so as for right now we are doing renovations in the apartment and organizing the wedding! In addition, I'm starting the year with two exhibitions in Rome and will be releasing a new song with a band from San Marino. The year is off to a good start and that has me pretty happy!"

- **Kira Yeomans Wadsworth** writes:

"I just got married. I also just started a compost business in Keene, NH!"

- **Shila Tursini** shares some lovely news: "Baby Marianne joined our family on September 22, 2017. She is curious, active and super-cheeky and we are both so in love with her."

06

Class Agent: Hailey Parsons Minder haileyparsons@gmail.com

Andrea Cabrera reports, "I'm happy to announce I'm a real estate broker in Miami, working for a top luxury developer called Dezer. We just built the first Porsche Design Tower on the beach and now finishing our latest new development, Armani Casa, both truly spectacular. I'm also a business event planner providing business programs for those interested in this area. My daughter, Asai Aaradhya, is 5 years old. I can't wait to take her to TASIS. "

07

Class agent: Denise Chiang Denise731@gmail.com

Evan Elbersen is in NYC working in advertising, and a little over a year ago started a small side business where he helps people write wedding speeches, with an emphasis on Best Man speeches. www.bestspeechbestman.com

• **Kaan Aydogan** married **Beray Goktug** at the Grand Tarabya hotel in Istanbul, Turkey on June 23, 2018. Over 30 TASIS alumni from all over the world joined to celebrate with the couple! **40**

- **Tatiana Mattar** got married to **Cadu Battersini Pereira** at her family estate in Brazil on September 30, 2017. Another great occasion for a TASIS reunion! **41**

- **Gabriela de Souza** started her

own design agency in Rio de Janeiro two years after graduating from the Art Institute of Boston. **Bee Design** started with one client but has grown to be an up-and-coming boutique agency that has delivered projects for over 70 clients. **42**

- **Korab Luka** and his wife welcomed their third child into their beautiful family on July 3, 2018. **43**

• **Celeste Lai's** baby, Luna, turns 2 this September! **44**

- **Kieran O'Donnell** stopped by for a visit this past summer. He was happy to be back and hopes to return! **45**

08

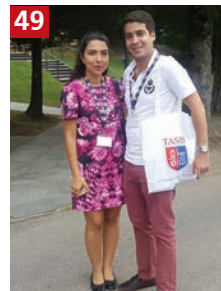
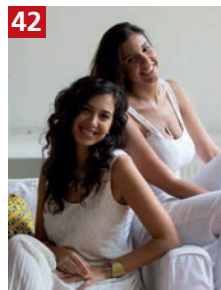
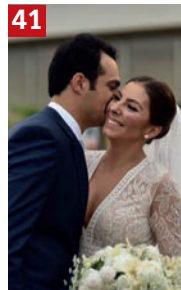
Class Agents: Chingiz Aliyev caliyev90@gmail.com, **Oriana Zoghi** orianazh@gmail.com and **Consuelo Marzi** consumz@hotmail.com

Oriana Zoghbi happily writes: "I moved back to Boston to work on a healthcare start-up venture at the Harvard Innovation Launch Lab, and this year successfully sold the company! I'm now working on my next venture, and I recently got engaged at Lake Como just before our 10-year reunion." **46**

- **Laura Loizaga** got married on June 16 in Segovia, Spain and **Consuelo Marzi** and **Oriana Zoghbi** were her witnesses. In this photo are **Oriana Zoghbi**, **Tugce Temel**, **Laura Loizaga**, **Consuelo Marzi** and **Denise Chiang '07**. **47**
- **Simone Garbagnati** was recently married and shares a photo with us. **48**

• **Stefan Gyax** was hired by a neuro-biotech company in Australia as a Materials Scientist, but as his work-visa process was taking so long, he found a temporary job in Polynesia with the Tetiaroa Society. The main Tahiti newspaper ran a short article on him in February.

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• **Sofia Nobis** is an architect working on a project in Piazza San Marco, Venice.

09

Class Agents: **Serge Bollag** contact@sergebollag.com, **Stefano Cremasco** stefanocremasco@gmail.com and **Diane Salimkhan** diane.salimkhan@gmail.com

Ben Aydin continues to garner attention with high-profile fashion shows for his Les Benjamins brand.

• **Sally Prentice** moved to Zurich in June to take up a new position as a nurse in a private clinic. She's enjoying the new challenge!

• **Timour Karaman** popped by campus with his girlfriend. After TASIS, he went on the Glion Hospitality Management School and is now working in a hospital in Istanbul. Timour and his girlfriend enjoyed the campus tour and even got to visit his old room in Hadsall.

49

• **Maurice Michel** writes: "My girlfriend and I recently moved to Hamburg where we both continue our medical training. I'm currently on my rotation in internal medicine at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf. When I'm not involved in patient care, I enjoy teaching ultrasound and pharmacology to fellow students. If we get some time off, we like to

travel. Two years ago we visited TASIS for the 60th anniversary. It was exciting to see the campus and the changes in past years. We had a great weekend in Lugano, and I was reminded of all the good times at TASIS. Best wishes to everyone!"

50

10

Class Agents: **Sylvie Coll** scoll1@mac.com, **Anna Shabalova** annashabalova@yahoo.com

Jacob Hibbard is the Regional Field Coordinator for the Leadership Institute, directing projects in the US Northwest: "I assist college students in planning, executing, and capitalizing on public programs and activism on their campus."

11

Class Agents: **Mark Pate** swisscheese007@gmail.com, **Marco Rosso** marcorosso@me.com and **Katya Brovkin** katerina.brovkin@gmail.com

Natasha Estevez is living in Denver, CO and working in advertising.

• **Elizabeth Mong** finished high school at a US boarding school in New Hampshire, earned her bachelor's in psychology at St. Edward's University in Austin, TX, and is currently in the last year of her Masters where she is studying theology and ethics. She will be

teaching high school once she graduates in May, and hopes to attend law school 3-5 years from now. "From my class, I am still in touch with **Pippa McCully** and **Zara McCully** as well as **Ana Paola Garcia**. Ana and I both actually ended up going to St. Edward's at the same time. It was a joy to see her again so many years later! It's really a small world."

• **Lucrezia Nessi** tells us: "A few years after graduating from TASIS, my boyfriend and I launched a start-up of luxury wooden and stone sunglasses called Bambood. The name Bambood comes from the combination of Bamboo + wood. For every collection precious woods like ebony, rosewood, black sandal, wengee, walnut, and of course, bamboo are used. We also recently launched a new collection of stone sunglasses, which are surprisingly very light (22 gr) because we combine a multilayer of wood with a thin layer of stone. The polarized lenses we use enable an increase in contrast of colors and eliminate flashes and reflection. Most importantly, the lenses protect the eyes notably well since they are made of seven layers (2x-anti-scratch, 2x-UV protection, 2x-polarized filter, lens)." Lucrezia was generous enough to donate one of her products to our TPA Gala Auction, and the glasses were a hit!

12

Class Agents: **Blair Darrell** bkdarrell@gmail.com and **Mark Schrotter** jmschrotter@gmail.com **Georgy Kobakhidze** writes: "After TASIS I graduated from UCLA and now I'm working in NorCal at a tech company."

• **Kilian Gygax** loves his position as ski instructor at the Cardrona resort in New Zealand.

• **Jorge Otaola** graduated from business school in Montreux and is living in the Lake Geneva area, playing the markets while looking for a permanent job in Switzerland to allow him to settle here. He enjoyed a return to campus in June: "TASIS is timeless. I didn't feel as if I was visiting, I felt as if not a day had gone by and I was still a student, especially since the staff have maintained the positive attitude which I remember so fondly." 51

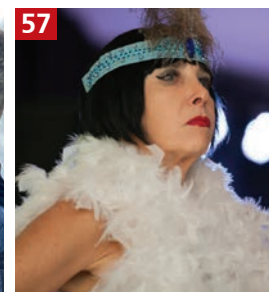
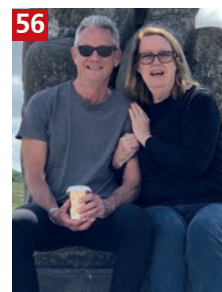
13

Class Agents: **Samantha Hercules** sami.hercules@gmail.com and **Sarah Wyler** sarah.wyler13@gmail.com

14

Class Agents: **Ryan Osgood** ryanleeosgood@gmail.com and **Giacomo Braglia** giacomobraglia@ticino.com

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Giacomo Braglia put on his first solo photo exhibition, "Conversation with Ethiopia", at ContiniArtUK Gallery in London from October 6-21, 2017. Congratulations!

• **Matheus Campos** visited us in January after spending three weeks in Milan taking a course at Marangoni. Matheus completed a degree in advertising at the university in Florianopolis, Brazil, and is about to move to Sao Paulo to launch his own clothing brand. Congratulations Matheus – we look forward to seeing your creations!

• **Andrea Ubovic** shares: "First I must admit that nothing compares with life in TASIS. After graduation in 2014, I decided to stay in Switzerland. I was interested in pursuing a hospitality degree and I was deciding between EHL and Glion. Glion reminded me much more of TASIS since my room view was over Lake Geneva. I decided that Glion was the best option as the studies were as organized as in TASIS - highly educated teachers, small classes, tutoring options, etc. There are many students from TASIS at Glion, some of whom are recent graduates."

• **Jake Figi** finished his second year of medical school at University College London. His brother, **Lucas '16**, just finished his second year at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

15

Class Agents: **Nathaniel Brener** nbrener@mac.com and **Tomson Carroll** tomsoncarroll1996@gmail.com

Isadora Archilha Souza is studying business at FGV in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She keeps in touch with many classmates and remembers TASIS fondly. **52**

• **Daneesha Lewis** writes: "I'm currently working on starting online schooling while working in Haiti alongside my mom at the US Embassy."

• **Rishar Ramazanov** visited campus in June and also met up with **Monica Landoni**, **Benedetto Santoboni**, and **Giacomo Braglia '14**. Rishar has great memories of his time at TASIS and its beautiful campus. He now works in a bank in London, but loves coming back to Lugano. **53**

16

Class Agents: **Edo Italia** eitalia27@gmail.com and **Pablo Tello** pablotellozulu@gmail.com

Gaven Brooks is the lead singer of a group named *Leaving Letters* which released a single in January, "Angel There," available on Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon, Google Music, Spotify, and a host of other outlets. They can also be heard and seen performing a popular cover song on their YouTube channel. The news came from proud dad **Stephen Brooks '83**.

• **Eyyub Yagubov** is transferring to Miami this fall to study economics after completing two years at Franklin University Switzerland.

17

Class Agents: **Raid Husni-Bey** raidbey1@gmail.com and **Aida Loggiodice** aidamercedes99@gmail.com

John Gage has begun his path of becoming a member of the US Marine Corps.

• **Gabriele Capacci** came by in March 2018 to say hello to **Alec Ogilvie** and **Tamara Schumacher**.

18

Class Agents: **Nick Barbieri** nicolab441@gmail.com and **Shiva Mirchandani** smirchandani.18@gmail.com

Postgraduate

61

Class Agent: **Mimi Trieschmann Nesbit** jtnesbit@att.net

Patricia Elson Altorfer shares: "Don and I married in 1967. For the past 17 years, we have been fortunate to split our time between Springfield, FL and Naples, FL. We have two children and five grandchildren. Lori's family is in Ohio and Scott's family is in Houston."

• **Jane Terrell Neer** updated classmates via **Steve Maloney**: "Nineteen years ago, I married a widowed engineer, Ernie, who has two daughters, now both married with children of their own. We traveled and had a good life. Nine years ago, we moved into a 5-star retirement community that has 900 residents and 700 staff. We love it here and glad we made the move when we did."

62, 63 and 64:

We would like to appoint class agents for these classes. Are you interested in helping out? For more info, email alumni@tasis.ch.

65

Class Agent: **Rick Bell** rickbell@delawareinc.com

66

Class Agent: **Ned Lynch** nedleigh@gmail.com

Cindy Crabtree shared a lovely photo of **Charlie James** and his wife in fall 2017. **54**

• **Mary Seyfarth** has been expanding her eclectic collection of bird sculptures for a site that includes a 30-ft tall dead ash tree, from which her owl sculptures can see Lake Michigan. She's pictured

with Ravi of the Ravines. **55**

• **Sherry Pray Peregrin** writes: "This photo is from a family trip in Ireland with my brother, his family, and my children. We are based in Oughterard, which is situated in the Connemara. We enjoy climbing mountains, riding horses, and all that this area of Ireland has to offer. Continue to have fond memories of Lugano and our PG year abroad." **56**

• **Kneeland Taylor** shares: "After more than 50 years, out of the blue arrives an email from **Lyn Mattei '66** (Lyn's sister is **Ayn Mattei**). I had a crush on Lyn back then. I immediately called Lyn and we had a great talk for at least an hour. Turns out we have followed similar career paths, from ski bum to lawyer. Lyn sent me a picture of her and Ayn at their debutante ball in 1966 at which the band was none other than the Grateful Dead. Lyn is in Bend, Oregon and Ayn is living in Arizona."

67

Class Agents: **Geoff Parker** gspkr@mac.com and **Susan Lo Forti** +1 415 860 6401

Susan Lo Forti has traveled a lot in the past year, including to India and Lugano, where she completed a film project focusing on the Charleston, which gave her a chance to demonstrate her fine dance abilities. **57**

• **Renee Dodson Ranson**: "Back from a rewarding dive trip and now a quick turn around to Salt Lake City, then six weeks sampling wine, hiking, kayaking, jet boating, hot air ballooning around Oregon with some art museums, music, and Shakespeare Festivals thrown in with my husband. The year at TASIS was a seminal one for me, one which propelled me into my linguistic career and all of

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58



59



60



61



62

the other opportunities that were derived from it. Since that time, Europe and the ocean have been a constant source of intellectual stimulation, fulfillment – and just plain fun.”

• **Nan Purdy O’Pray** wrote: “Hard to believe 50 years ago we were crossing the Atlantic making port at Naples and working our way north to Villa Negroni, Lugano-Vezia for the most fabulous year of my life. Thanks to our recent move, I discovered all the pictures, letters and postcards I saved and have since been re-living that year – though the memory is a bit fuzzy in places! I recently re-connected with **Terry Foremen Felts**, one of my three roomies, who helped make my year so special. It was as if 50 years had never come between us and our few days together was like one of our many weekend adventures!” • **Maudie Glore** enjoyed getting together with her classmates to celebrate their 50th anniversary: “It was a great weekend and we all just sort of fell into our TESIS talk.” She also sent us a cute and festive photo with her grandchildren. “The year has been very busy as I celebrated my 70th. The boys joined me the week of July 4th at Camp Wipigaki, our former summer home in WI. It’s a special place for all of us. We went on safari in September and were in Montana in between. My boys have been busy this year. Ben had a little boy in May, William had a little girl in October, and Robert having a baby as well. We have exploded!” 58

• **Kelsey Kenfield** was pleased to see the travelogue prepared by classmates **Jay Noyes** and **Andy Dodge**. “It brought back

memories of fellow students I had forgotten. Just recently in touch with **Susie Niven** and **Nan Purdy**. Just flashes: the child beggars in Casablanca, the best curry chicken I’ve ever eaten in Barcelona, the David in Florence, my birthday on the Spanish steps (my arms filled with flowers), Christmas Eve services at a church in in Andermatt (am not religious), trying to be cool by smoking but finally giving up, seeing Richard Nixon in the Moscow airport, pommes frites and pastries from street vendors in Paris, La Scala, tulips in Holland, the GUM, etc. Two years later I spent a year at TESIS as a non-academic faculty member. Maybe I’ll be able to attend the next reunion. Living in Livingston, Montana now after 10 years in Boston, 27 in the San Francisco Bay Area, and 14 in Denver.”

68

Class Agent: Kathy Sanders-Phillips ksandersphillips@aol.com

***From 1972 onwards, the High School Class Agents serve the PGs as well.**

84

Jaqueline Kemper Hill writes: “I have one son, Alexander, who graduated high school in June and will be attending George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia, for computer science.”

94

Jean-Francois Belisle wrote: “After working in the US (New York and Palm Beach), Paris and

Bangkok, I have been back in Canada for about a decade now. Over the past 5 years, I have started a contemporary art foundation called Arsenal Contemporary Art (now with venues in Toronto, Montreal and New York), sold that venture, and now head a well-established fine arts museum just outside of Montreal (Musée d’art de Joliette - MAJ). Been a lot of fun, and you might see some of our shows in your part of the world as most of our exhibitions travel nationally and internationally. On the personal side, I am now married with two kids. If you come to Montreal (or attend any of the international contemporary art events like the Biennale or the fairs), let me know. Would be great to meet up with old classmates.” 59

00

Najla Buhatem Maluf graduated in political science at the University of South Florida where she lived for six years after TESIS. Back in Brazil she went to law school and has been working in the maritime and foreign affairs field. She also integrates the family law firm in her hometown, Sao Luis. She enjoys kite-surfing, cooking, human development, and family gatherings! 60

Fleming College

70

Sandy Grant Bingham was happily remarried August 2018. She was widowed 11 years and is now delighted to have found her partner, Ron. She is living in Cheyenne, WY at Terry Bison Ranch. 61

Fleming College Florence

75

Jacira Harper Paolino (formerly known as Teresa or Teri) is looking to reconnect with FCF classmates! She wrote us last year: “In summer 2017 I saw three former classmates: **Kristen Darnell**, **Sheree Kendrick**, and **Anne Monteleone**. Would love to have info on other classmates, like **Claudia Burr**, **Anna Morton FCF '77**, **Duffy McDermott**, and more. I am loving Lisbon and would enjoy seeing any other fellow FCF friends who come through town – please get in touch!” jacira@jacira.com 62

Summer Programs

MSP

10

Giulia Pintea is happy to report: “I am currently participating in the Research in Industrial Projects for Students program at University of California at Los Angeles this summer. In the meantime, I am a rising senior at Simmons University and I am double-majoring in Biostatistics and Psychology with a minor in Mathematics.”

TSLP / TSP

82

Arianna Arisi Rota is a professor of history and diplomacy at the University of Pavia, Italy, and reconnected with us in January. “I’ve begun the academic training to enter

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the diplomatic service, my dream at the time I came to TASIS. I then chose an academic and research career, which I am deeply involved in at the moment, matching it with internationalization, academic fundraising, and public engagement activities. I have a good friend from that summer experience who lives in Miami, Florida, **Wendy Ellen Rust**. We have been in touch and visited each other for more than 35 years now!"

84

Samantha Daniels has a matchmaking company in New York and Los Angeles and writes about romance in a NY newspaper. She was the inspiration behind the NBC TV series *Miss Match* and is author of *Matchbook*. www.samanthastable.com

85

Dimitris Parasoglou visited campus in February 2018. He has an import-export business in paints, and hopes that his daughters will have a TASIS experience before long!

86

Alexandra Mariam Alidrissi Baldwin has a daughter named Tatiana who is 10 years old. She moved to the US and then to Europe in 2010 and is currently living in Sweden. She graduated MBA and works in telecommunications. She would love to connect with friends: yaza.mariam@gmail.com. **21**

87

• **Fadi Al-Idrissi** currently lives in Ontario, Canada and is single with great enthusiasm towards marriage. Fadi graduated in chemical engineering from the University of Ottawa. **23**

93

Ipek Kotan writes: "I've been living and working in Amsterdam for two years. I am a ceramic artist and designer and exhibit my works internationally. Before moving to the Netherlands I lived in Switzerland, Austria, the UK, Indonesia, the US, and Turkey. Feel free to look me up and visit me if you're ever in Amsterdam!" www.ipekktan.com. **63**

96

Nicolas Sursock writes, "After working in banking, I am now working in the music business. I started a philosophy blog based on music: SoundSirius.blog. I remember TASIS very often. Cool people and great campus. Thanks!" **64**

00

Elena Isella updated us in January: "I'm in Rome and am the Vatican producer for EWTN News Nightly. The TASIS Summer Programs are dear to my heart. I attended CDE, MSP, and TSLP for four summers. I then returned as a counselor at CDE for four summers. Wonderful memories! Last year I got to see two TASIS friends.

Meg Pendleton (former CDE staff) came to visit me in DC over the summer, and in October I went to Italy for a week and saw **Francesca Tagliaferri CDE '99** in Florence. We had the best dinner ever! Both are doing great."

05

Laura Bevevino Beldi visited us in April 2018 with her parents and brother. She was very happy to have a campus tour and remembered some wonderful summer moments. **65**

08

Nikolay Likhachev lives in Russia

where they had a day off for Women's Day on March 8, so he and his girlfriend came to Lugano for a long weekend. He works in his father's company working with alternate forms of energy. **66**

17

Luciano Consolini visited us in June with his family so his siblings could see for themselves the TASIS campus. They hope to come next summer! **67**

TASIS Hellenic

81

Janice Colon-Mahoney relocated to Colorado Springs, CO to work at Colorado College. "My son attends the US Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs and I wanted to be closer to him – proud mama here! Moved in December 2017 and loving it!" This photo is with **Bettina Zachariou De Young TH '94** and her children." **68**

83

Kim Maurer Oriotis teaches aerobics and aqua gym near her home on the Athens Riviera, and is currently writing her thesis to complete her Ph.D. in psychology.

87

Tina Hill Matteson has been married to Pete Matteson for 26 years and has 3 children: "We work as music directors at St. Andrew's United Methodist Church in Findlay, Ohio." • **Leigh Boussios** lives in Athens and has two kids, aged 15 and 13. He works as an IT project manager. He remembers teachers like **Gary Jervis** and **Kathryn Cairncross** very fondly, who influenced his love for chemistry

and physics. Their teaching methods always questioned the ordinary and gave him an understanding of why it was so important to be inquisitive about the world.

• **Diana Antoniadis Patel** has two kids and lives in the UK with her husband, who is a dentist. Diana is a science teacher and enjoys what she does.

89

Erika Nelson has been a flight attendant with United Airlines since November 1997. She spent the early part of her career flying international routes out of Washington, DC but is now based out of Denver, happily flying much shorter trips to be closer to home. She's still in touch with a few of her classmates via Facebook and someday hopes to attend a reunion!

94

Sophia Bakun had an amazing opportunity to reunite with former faculty, **Mr. Demos Laskas**, recently and it reminded her of the beautiful days of TASIS."

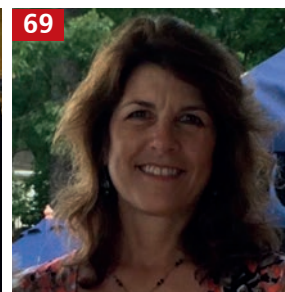
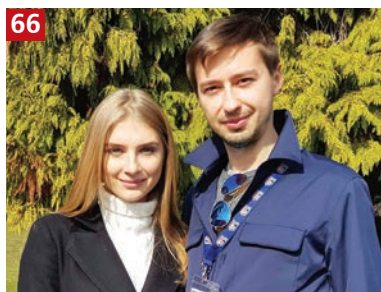
98

Evangelia Patsoura Larkin went to college in the US and has a Bachelor of Arts in music education and Master of Music in vocal performance.

99

Mary Valiakas wrote: "You know what made TASIS the best place in the world? For a moment in time, it offered the most unbreakable sense of togetherness and belonging. It was a bubble within a bubble, full of care and laughter. Having tasted what an ecosystem based on love and nurturing feels like, I'm on a mission to develop

ALUMNI *Class News*



some human ecosystems of my own – for the benefit of all involved.”

TASIS Cyprus

84

Lilian Abraham Schumacher writes: “I graduated from TASIS Cyprus in 1984 after starting at TASIS Hellenic in 1981. To this day, the positive influences of both **Mrs. Fleming** and **Dr. Ruth Clay**, who was my Headmaster, have lived on in me. I remain in contact with faculty from TASIS. It was a wonderful experience that Mrs Fleming started and that still lives on today! After graduating from TASIS Cyprus, I went on to Allegheny College in Meadville, PA where I majored in economics and met my now husband of 29 years. As a University President today, I still attribute my experiences while attending the TASIS schools as one of the primary reasons for my success. I grew up during that experience, away from home, and met friends for a lifetime. Most importantly, I learned the immeasurable significance of valuing difference and celebrating our uniqueness. I am so proud of my high school for teaching me the foundation upon which I have lived my life ever since. Thank you for this. I have two amazing daughters: Allison who is 23 and a 3rd grade teacher, and Elizabeth who is 20 and attending Allegheny College. My husband is interim president of Terra State Community College and previous to this served in the higher education and health care environments for 30 years.”

85

Janal Gonsalves Cummings works at the Oregon Health and Science University, and gave a presentation in

March on the TASIS Boarding Schools, based on her experiences in Greece (1983) and Cyprus (1984-85). “My main focus was on campus life and what it was like. I think it would be interesting for everyone to know what the cost was back then for boarding school, and what it is today.” For the record, it was around \$12,000 in Cyprus at that time, but in Switzerland – with its high cost of living and strong Swiss Franc – it is now around \$85,000!

Former Faculty and Staff

Chris Ahn reports: “I can’t believe it has already been four years since our TASIS visit. Our son, Alex, is a rising junior and has his driver’s license. Our daughter, Romy, is a rising 9th grader – so we’ll have two in high school next year.”

Tom Bendel updated us in November: “**Jenny** and I are fine, and once again re-living the experience of moving to a new country with all the concomitant highs and lows: the excitement of discovery and the frustrations of not really quite knowing how to navigate a lot of the normal parts of our day-to-day lives. That experience is made a bit more frustrating by the fact that Indonesia is...let’s say a bit less organized than Switzerland. Nonetheless, we are in our house and have our driver, and work permits, and housekeeper, and bank accounts and cell phones, and are sorting through the rest of all that. The school is also in some ways just a school like any other (kids, curriculum, parents, staff) and in others completely foreign. On the plus side, I will have no problem filling my resume up with all the things that I will need to become pretty expert on pretty quickly!”

Chris Fish has been busy since leaving TASIS in 2007: “I started a family, and have been teaching for 10 years at Alleyn’s, one of the UK’s leading private schools, where I’m Head of Academic Music. I am also a senior examiner for A-Level Music and have just written one of the textbooks for the new A-Level music. My barbershop quartet recently had a lot of fun recording a number of my compositions and arrangements and we released an album, *A Little Bit of Christmas Love*. We donated all proceeds to Bliss, a UK-based premature baby charity which has been very important to my family. The album is available to stream and download on many different sites or via www.barbershopogram.co.uk.”

Fabienne Levett Gattoni gave up teaching a few years ago but is thinking of returning to it, and would especially like to teach dyslexic children.

Max Gygax writes: “**Melissa** and I are chugging along with our boarding house project for underserved high school students from the remote islands of Polynesia (www.otiaore.org). We had the honor of being selected as finalists among 850 projects by the Department of Overseas Territories of France, which decides whether we could get technical and some financial help from the government. Through online voting, our project came in second in our category, and therefore we will be retained by the government for technical and financial support.”

Bill O’Brien came back for a short visit in June to join the Class of ‘98 for their reunion, and immediately reacquainted himself with the Lugano area by joining **Paul Greenwood** for a bike ride. After two years teaching

in Lausanne, Bill is heading for a new position at the Green School in Bali in August.

Anna Aeschliman Sabin (TE’98 and former Lugano staff) updated us in April: “I wanted to send you a quick update. I’ve recovered very well from recent surgery. After 3½ years in our beloved home in Springfield, IL we moved in mid-April. We found a beautiful three-bedroom, 1½-bath brick home built in 1910 with an enormous backyard for our dogs. We have a guest room in our new place and would love to welcome friends as our guests!”

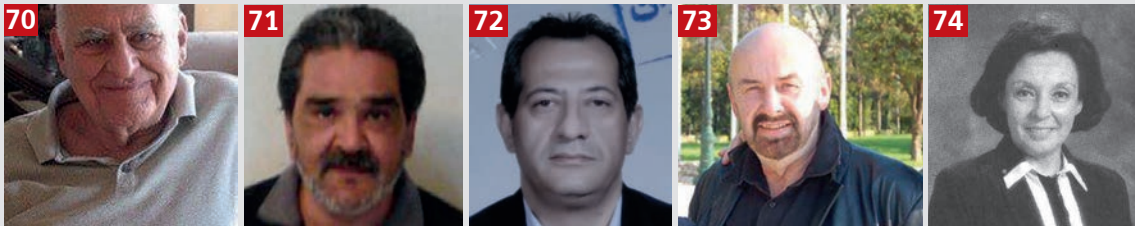
Peter Stevens writes: “We are well. Had a wonderful trip in May to the UK to spend time with our kids and our two grandsons (young Peter was born to daughter Abby in October!), and some excellent hiking on the coast of Devon and Dorset, plus a week in Wales. Does not get much better than that.”

SueAnn Walentuk has shown her artwork in a number of exhibitions this year. In February her series *Nature’s Abstractions* was on show at Cacace Fine Art in the Pineapple Grove Arts District of Delray Beach, FL. Check out SueAnn’s work on her website, www.sueannwalentuk.com.

69

Julia Wilkins writes: “I just started my second year as a doctoral candidate. I am studying creativity and generative design. I also was accepted into a special leadership cohort, so I have two research groups going on at the same time. All of that and teaching second grade is a lot, but I try to remain a bit Swiss and keep as organized and efficient as possible!”

ALUMNI *Class News* - IN MEMORIAM



Bill Akers '75 passed away on March 7, 2018. The news came from Bill's brother **Phil '78**, via **Linda Jaekel Avery '75**. "He fought cancer for 11 months longer than the doctors thought possible. He kept the TASIC spirit alive, adventuring through life, exploring new places, meeting new people, learning new things, right up until the very end. He was a great father, a wonderful husband, a dear brother, and a right good man all around. His athleticism was to be envied, his deep love for family and friends treasured, his wit to be experienced with glee. He will be missed."

Larry Barr, TASIC Headmaster in the 1970s, passed away on January 12, 2018 at the age of 91. The news came from **Steve Barr '75** who wrote: "I said goodbye to Larry Barr, my father, on Friday. I've had a charmed life to have had his love, strength, wisdom, generosity, playfulness, and joy in my life for all of my 60 years. He loved being part of TASIC. In the 90s, he founded and ran a private school in Santa Fe, New Mexico called Desert Academy. I already miss him terribly, as I'm sure will the many people whose lives he touched during his 91 years. Rest in peace, LB." **70**

John Cerni TH '83 died in June 2018. The news was shared by **Janal Gonsalves Cummings TH/TC85**.

Mardi Fay Cone '64 passed away in July 2017. The sad news came to us from **Judy Meyerhoff Yale '64**: "It is with great sadness that I report the passing of our dear friend Mardi on July 19, 2017. She was a balloonist and humanitarian living in Corrales, New Mexico. She will be missed terribly by her classmates, especially **Judy Meyerhoff Yale, Jane Weihman Block '64** and **Barbara Swanson Sherman '64**. Born in October 1946 in Cincinnati, Ohio, Mardi moved to Brussels, Belgium as a teenager with her family and attended TASIC. She returned to the US to attend the University of Cincinnati, then traveled to London where she met her husband and raised a family. Mardi spent her later

years in New Mexico, piloting her hot air balloon across the desert. She is survived by her husband Lance and her children, Tina and Ryan. Among the many sentiments from her classmates: **Joe Cook '64**: "She was a very popular classmate and made a difference to all of us. She will be missed."

Alex Gaus '76 passed away on September 5, 2017. The sad news came from **John Luttrell '75** who has fond memories of making music with Alex, **David Veirs '75** and **Philip Buch '76** during their time at TASIC. Alex was beloved companion of Tandy Ellender and the loving father of Christina Gaus and Alfonso Gaus. Alex was a traveler and began his travels at a very young age. He was born in Peru and throughout his life visited Spain, Venezuela, Africa, Arabia, and Europe as well as the US. Much of his childhood and part of his young adult life was spent in Thibodaux, LA. He loved the beaches and his studies in Switzerland and Texas. He graduated magna cum laude in English, and will be remembered in Houma, Louisiana as the Ice Cream Man. He would always ensure to drive past underprivileged areas and deliver ice cream to poverty-stricken children and their hard-working parents. "Alex loved with a heart of gold." **71**

Dennis Kosanke '61 (1942-2018) died after a fall May 14. He is survived by wife Suzanne, children Nicole and Matt, and mother Grace Jean (age 96).

Cornelia Lowerre '05 passed away from cardiac arrest on March 25, 2018. **Fabian Fichter** emailed us to share the very sad news. Cornelia's family and friends, including her classmates, were in shock to lose her in such an untimely and unexpected manner. She graduated from the Hewitt School in NYC and Hamilton College in Clinton, NY with a BA in Anthropological Archaeology. She went on to attend the Rosensteel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science at the University of Miami, graduating with a MS in Marine

Affairs & Policy. Cornelia was also a diving instructor in the US and Mexico.

Jafar Mohajeri '79 passed away in December of 2017, succumbing to cancer after a battle lasting four years. The sad news came from **Daryoush Kouhdar '80**. Jafar attended university in the US and returned to Iran in 1989 to work in the family business: the first travel agency in Iran, which had been founded by his father. Jafar is buried in Tehran. **72**

Allen Trask PG '62 died peacefully on July 13, 2018. After his year in the TASIC Postgraduate program Allen attended the Sorbonne, Paris, and Wilmington College. Following this he set up a number of industrial supply businesses, pursuing a long domestic and international career in industrial quality control inspections and consulting. Allen also worked as a disaster relief contractor, where he was commended by the State of Louisiana for his efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Allen's many lifetime passions included small wing aviation; traveling, hunting, and fishing with his many cousins and friends; and spending time with his family.

Richard Pye '82 died of pancreatic cancer in August 2016.

Fritz Renken (former headmaster) passed away on September 8, 2017 at the age of 91. The sad news came from his son Stefan who lived upstairs from his dad, which helped Fritz to remain independent despite the challenge of living with osteoporosis.

Peter Rose (former TH faculty) died on September 22, 2017 from cancer. Peter taught drama at TASIC during the 80s and 90s and was responsible for many epic productions involving students and faculty. He was a friend, a mentor, and an inspiration to so many. The news came from **Anna Xydeas** who added "I know that I'm not the only one who will miss so very much. We will miss his artistic talent, his wit, and his friendship. He chose

not to have a funeral, and his body will be sent to Bulgaria for cremation. Rest in Peace, dear Peter." **73**

Penelope "Pitsa" Roupa (former TH faculty) passed away unexpectedly on November 6, 2017. Pitsa had battled cancer for some years, but succumbed to pneumonia which she contracted because her immune system was compromised. Pitsa continued to work until the week before her untimely death, despite having officially retired in 2000. She had many friends and colleagues among faculty and alumni, who miss her dearly. **Mary Rogers TH '83** wrote, "I met Ms. Pitsa when I was 12. She was the epitome of grace and elegance. She was the prime example of a lady. She cared about all of us! I am glad to have seen her at the reunion in the summer after 17 years. We sat, chatted, and reminisced. I am still trying to grasp the news. May she rest in peace." **74**

Tom Skelly '67 passed away in December 2017 following a fall at his home. His wife Valerie told us: "It is with great sadness that I write to tell you of the passing of my dear husband Tom Skelly, on December 23rd. I know Tom was sorry to have missed the TASIC reunion in New Orleans last year. He had so looked forward to meeting up with old friends." **Chuck Kitsman**: "Tom was a very good man, bright and always a little smile on his face. My memories from first meeting him are a little cloudy after all these years, perhaps because he was so humble. But I quickly learned from sitting in class with him that there was something pretty special about him. Tom was one of the greatest intellects I've ever known, he was so very bright but he had a way of not seeming superior, with a ready smile as he spun out something, which the rest of us weren't really considering. In fact, I can't recall him any other way in high school than smiling."

Ariane de Wilde TH '87 died in 2011 of cancer. While some people knew at the time, the news was shared this summer in the TASIC Hellenic Facebook group by her brother **Pieter-Jan de Wilde TH '90**, leading to a great outpouring of sympathy as many had not heard the sad news until now. Ariane was the TASIC valedictorian in '87. She went on to study medicine in Maastricht and got her Ph.D. She was happily married and a wonderful, kind and loving person.

WAYS OF GIVING BACK TO YOUR ALMA MATER

What we are doing, or at least attempting to do, is to create not international schools but international human beings, men and women who are capable of moving easily in any society and any civilization on the face of the earth. - M. Crist Fleming

Support the TASIS Global Village

The Global Village (see pg. 20) is an ongoing challenge through 2028. Naming opportunities are available for upcoming projects, and donations are always welcome to complete our Global Village.

Annual Appeal

Contributions to the Annual Appeal allow program expansion above and beyond our planned operations. Projects funded in recent years include a state-of-the-art language lab, new equipment for our athletics and photography departments, and classroom sets of library books for our MS and ES.

The M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership

This special fund supports international service projects, the Senior Humanities Program, student scholarships, and professional development for teachers.

The M. Crist Fleming Legacy Society

Naming TASIS as a beneficiary in your will, trust, or retirement asset provides a future source of support for students, faculty, and programs. Contact the Development Office for more information.

We are grateful for the following announced or received bequests:

Paulise & Rick Bell PG '65

Chris Draz '70

Maude Glore PG '67

Richard Jensen '73

Ned Lynch PG '66

Nicholas Major PG '68

Dieter Metzger '74

Nick & Maggie Miles

John E. Palmer '64

If your name should be on this list, please contact us so that we can celebrate your generosity during your lifetime.

Awards or Scholarships

Set up an award or scholarship to reward students for achievements in a given field, or to inspire students in a particular discipline. Currently, two annual awards for juniors are provided by the Pritzlaff Fund and the Cathy Clark Memorial Fund, while the Jacob Memorial Fund supports a biennial poetry residence program and an annual poetry award.

Alternative Donations

Other ways to give include corporate matching gifts and corporate stock, contributions through a life insurance policy, a Charitable Remainder Trust, or a non-cash gift in kind.

Time and goodwill are always valuable and welcome gifts!

Thank you for all that you do for TASIS!

HOW TO MAKE YOUR DONATION:

- by credit card online at www.tasisgiving.com

- by check to the TASIS Foundation, Inc.,

107 S West St. Suite 957, Alexandria, VA 22314

For wire transfer information, or any other questions,

please contact: yvonne.procyk@tasis.ch

Donations to the US TASIS Foundation, Inc., a Section 501 (c)(3) non-profit educational organization, as well as to the Swiss Foundation, are tax deductible to the extent allowable in their respective countries.

Informational booklets available online (www.tasis.ch/support-tasis) or in print: The TASIS Global Village:

Trajectory 1996-2028, and Making a Difference:

Supporting TASIS Past, Present, and Future

TASIS SUMMER PROGRAMS 2019

LUGANO (AGES 4½-18)



- English, French, and Italian for ages 4½ to 18
- Courses for ages 14-18 include Intro to IB, Architecture & Design, Fashion & Textile Design, Italian Cooking, Lean Startup, and Fine Art Portfolio
- Outdoor sports include lake, mountain, and creative activities
- Many excursions explore the best of the heart of Europe
- Located on the picturesque, award-winning TASIS campus with stunning views of the Alps

TASIS ENGLAND SUMMER PROGRAM (AGES 10-17)



- Courses in Geometry, Writing & Speaking Enhancement, Middle School Skills, Debate & Public Speaking, British Council-accredited English as an Additional Language, SAT Review & College Admissions, TOEFL Review, IELTS Review, TV Production, the Magical World of Harry Potter, London Through a Lens, Fashion & Textile Design, and Sketching & 3D Design
- Sports and activities
- Weekend travel throughout Britain
- Located on a beautiful campus 18 miles southwest of London

LES TAPIES ART & ARCHITECTURE PROGRAM (AGES 14-18)



- Hands-on study in architecture, painting & drawing, and photography
- Excursions draw on the cultural richness of France
- Idyllic location in a beautifully-restored 17th-century stone hamlet
- Intimate artistic community for talented students

TASIS DORADO SPANISH SUMMER PROGRAM (AGES 12-18)



- Intensive Spanish program for ages 13-18
- Marine Life & Environmental Studies course associated with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ambassadors of the Environment Center
- Located on the TASIS Dorado campus in beautiful Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico, with ample opportunities to interact in Spanish
- Excursions explore the cultural riches of the island

Parting Shot

We found this gem in the TESIS archives...the styles and prices might have changed, but the message is still the same!



REUNION in LUGANO
JUNE 14th to 18th 1972

(instead of Thanksgiving at the Harvard Club!)

TESIS wants to host all the alumni who can possibly ...



Verzasca ... S. Salvatore ... Gandria ... Morcote ... Como ... Via Nassa ... Federale



all your old haunts...

nostalgic kilometers of spaghetti,
litres of Merlot del Ticino.

... only \$ 7 a week from now till June, means
you can "youth fare" to Milan or Zurich!



Plan to get **all** your classmates together. There's a enough grottos for every class to have
its own Reunion **within** a Reunion!

TESIS wants you as its guest for four fine fun days **back on campus** —
a great starting point for any short or long junket into Europe in June '72.



*Let us know
that we can count
on welcoming
you back...*



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL
IN SWITZERLAND

Founded in 1956

UPCOMING REUNIONS

All-Class Reunion in New York

The Yale Club

Friday, November 16, 2018, 18:30 – 21:30

All-Class Reunion in Houston

Manor House at the Houstonian

Saturday, April 6, 2019, 18:30 – 21:30

TASIS All-Class Reunion in London

Swiss Embassy

Friday, November 1, 2019, 18:30 – 21:30

TASIS All-Class Reunion in Athens

Celebrating the 40th anniversary of the opening of TASIS Hellenic

TASIS Hellenic campus (now ISA)

Saturday, July 27, 2019

CLASS REUNIONS

Class of 2009 – 10th Anniversary Reunion

Lugano, June 13-16, 2019

Class of 1999 – 20th Anniversary Reunion

Lugano, July 2019

Class of 1969 – 50th Anniversary Reunion

Chico Hot Springs, Montana

September 15-20, 2019