



**The
American
School in
London**
Accents

Fall '15

This issue of Accents includes photographs and references to Kevin Spacey in our article on the opening of the School Center who has since been accused of sexual misconduct. As these are sensitive topics, please proceed with care.

**CENTER
STAGE AT ASL!**

Cover:

Crazy Hair, 2015
by Vittoria Di Meo '24

Artist Vittoria joined ASL in Grade 2 in 2013. Her favorite subjects are music and art. She says, "I like to express my feelings and thoughts in art class; I like to be creative." Outside of school, Vittoria enjoys ice-skating (even though she finds it scary!), climbing trees, writing stories, drawing, and exploring London.

Lower school visual arts teacher **Robert Davis (ASL 2015–present)** writes, "Grade 4 artists have been exploring line, shape and form—concentrating on lines being the building blocks for our ideas. The students were asked two questions: 'What does a line look like?' and 'How do we make line express movement?' They recorded their responses in their journals and used their findings as guidelines for our first activity: Crazy Hair Day! Using hair as a subject, they focused on repeated patterns, variety and creative line expression. For inspiration, the students looked at the contemporary sculpture of Ai Weiwei, Chris Burden and Marcel Broodthaers—artists who use non-traditional materials in their art. Discussion followed on what makes a sculpture a sculpture. Our discussions helped introduce their found sculpture project. The students used material usually tossed aside (used markers, broken pencils, etc.) to build their small creations. They had to construct their works to enable them to stand without support, and record their designs in their notebooks. This actively engaged their problem-solving and critical-thinking skills."

Accents, Fall 2015

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

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Design and illustrations: Powell Allen Ltd

Printer: Empress Litho Ltd

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

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

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

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Above:
Daniel Phillips '21
Mrs. Hester, 2015



Letter from the Head of School

It seems like yesterday. Our new School Center for Education and the Arts opened in late 2007, and our inaugural ceremonies featured a wonderful set of middle school music concerts and a spectacular ribbon-cutting event with Kevin Spacey, until recently artistic director of the Old Vic Theatre. The entire Center was filled to the brim with people who had responded enthusiastically to the invitation to see and hear Kevin at ASL—and who better to christen our new facility than a well-known American actor promoting the arts in London?

The whole high school cast of *West Side Story* was on stage behind Kevin as he kept us riveted with stories about acting, his career, and the importance of theater in a young person's life. The highlight of such a memorable evening? When Kevin Spacey performed a soliloquy from *Henry V* for the students. And what trumped the highlight? As Kevin uttered the final lines, the ASL theater students—on the spot—recited the prologue from *Henry V* right back to Kevin. He was so stunned—and impressed—he fell to the stage in a convincing swoon in homage to our ASL thespians! And truly, it seems like yesterday.

In this issue of *Accents*, you will feel as if yesterday has come alive! Never before published pictures of the Elton John concerts from 1973—thank you, Paul Svensson '75!—and wonderful reminiscing from a long chorus line of talented, dedicated directors, actors, musicians, and dancers. And how fun to feature ASL alumna Elna Baker '00 as our 2015 graduation speaker. Her reputation as a comedienne was reinforced that day, judging by the laughter and applause from all in attendance.

As I write, I have just arrived home from this fall's high school production—*High School Musical*—which plays to sold-out performances this week. The arts are alive at ASL!

Warm regards,

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

Below:
Eden Schulkes '16
The Debacle
Oil on canvas, 2015

Artist Eden writes, "I moved to London in 2008 from the countryside in France, and have been at ASL since then, starting in Grade 5. I consider myself Dutch even though I have never lived in The Netherlands, and I speak Spanish, Dutch, and used to be fluent in French, but unfortunately lost the language after years of not using it. I am a triplet, and both of my sisters are just as passionate about art as I am, following in our mother's footsteps who

used to be a graphic designer. Although drawing and painting is one of my favourite activities, I am also extremely fascinated by science. Therefore, my current favourite classes are AP Physics and AP Chemistry, despite their arduousness. With the pressure of these classes I deeply value my AP Art class for providing me with an opportunity to release my stress in painting. Additionally, outside of class I enjoy participating in community service organised by my school. Last year, I was also a mentor for the Middle School Robotics team, which helped me acquire the confidence to join the High School Robotics Team this year, and hopefully I will continue exploring both art and science in university."

HS art teacher **Martin Drexler P '23 (ASL 1995–2001; 2008–present)** says, "This painting was produced in our Advanced Studio Art class, a yearlong course involving a semester working on still life, followed by another learning the art of portraiture. First, students study the proportions of the face, and work at blocking in shadow shapes. Their first sketch is in charcoal, followed closely by a second work in black and white oils. The final piece is created with a limited palette in oil on canvas. It's the individual student's decision on whom to paint. Some choose to do self portraits, while others elect to portray someone else."



- 1 *The King and I*
- 2 *The Philadelphia Story*
- 3-10 *Seussical Jr.*



In the School's illustrious 65-year history, the performing arts have always had a huge role to play at ASL. From the early days when Mildred Buhler, mother of Fred Buhler '58, led square-dancing classes for ASL's male-only population, alongside female partners from local schools, the need to break out of the classroom to flex acting muscles, sing like nobody is listening, and dance the light fantastic have been urges generations of ASLers have found hard to resist.

After speaking to a number of alumni directors, we learn that by far and away the most popular memories for returning ASL alumni, whether from the Class of 1965 or 2015, are those from the productions they starred in, the choir concerts they performed in, and the friends they made along the way.

Nothing resonates with ASL students more than taking to the stage.

Performing Arts Department Head **Bronwyn Harrison P '25 '29 (ASL 2001-present)** tells of a flourishing program today in the performing arts across the divisions. "I'm thrilled to report that we have more students than ever setting off on Music Tour this year. And our drama classes are attracting students K-12—and not just those who want to act. Drama workshops with London-based group 'Perform' are highlights for all grade levels."

On the subject of dance, Bronwyn continues, "Our lower school students recently welcomed an expert on Victorian dance as part of their unit on all things Victorian. An African dancer spent time with middle schoolers this year, and a Bollywood specialist shared her skills with middle and high school students. We seize every opportunity to bring the performing arts to life at ASL."

The School's performing arts history is awash with faculty members whose fervor for their subjects transformed the lives of the students in their charge, and helped fan the flames of lifelong passions in those who took their classes.

Jan Mikrut (ASL 1974-98), former director of theater arts at ASL—now working at the Spence School in New York City—explains the philosophy behind the program during her tenure. "Theater is an organic art that requires the cooperation, creativity and skills of an ensemble. Theater skills and appreciation were developed by students' active involvement in the design and building of all aspects of a production. Learning by doing."

In her 24 years at the School, Jan directed countless productions with ASL students. She has warm recollections of many performances, but standouts for her are Rodgers & Hammerstein's *The King and I*, staged in ASL's Annenberg Theater in 1979; *The Philadelphia Story* by Philip Barry, from 1984; and a unique performance of *Jason and the Golden*

Fleece by Dominique Vaughan, in 1985. Jan explains, "During a trip to Vienna, we were invited to give an impromptu rendition of 'Jason' in St. Stephen's Square in thick, falling snow!"

According to Jan, *The King and I* was a magical production. "The cast did an incredible job, and the teachers involved worked well together and with the students. **Audrey Moskowitz (ASL 1971-96)** created outstanding costumes, **Ray Ruehl (ASL 1978-93)** designed the sets, **Mary Miller '79** developed the choreography, and **Mary Louise Barker (ASL 1977-2003)** organized the music. We did it because we loved it!"

Jan remembers an amusing moment during a very romantic scene in *The Philadelphia Story*, featuring Solange Weinberger '85, now MS languages teacher **Solange Kidd (ASL 1996-present)**. "Beautifully staged in moonlight and formal wear, the ingénue, played by Solange, floated across the stage in a stunning black evening gown—with a three-foot-long piece of loo paper clinging to her dress with static electricity!" A great lesson was learned in checking for costume glitches.

Middle school drama teacher **Stan Ratoff (ASL 1982-present)** has amassed a wealth of experience since he joined the School in 1982, making him one of the longest-serving current faculty members. To Stan, drama is a vehicle for developing self-expression,



1-3 *Midsummer Night's Dream*
 4-6 *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
 7 *Avenue Q*
 8-18 *The Drowsy Chaperone*

Overleaf:
 1-6 Winter concerts in the School Center
 7 *A Light in the Darkness*
 8-10 *Prettiest Friend*
 11-14 Kevin Spacey on set of *West Side Story*



“Although it appears in many ways to be a comedy, audience members find themselves juxtaposed with accepted norms. This had a deep and profound effect. The challenge for the students was to raise their skills to unify the puppet and their character to be seen as one, which is not an easy thing to do. The students managed it to incredible effect.”

self-awareness, social skills and communication. He adds, “At the same time, students learn how to play. And through playing they learn stage presence and acquire story-telling skills, which is a bonus in other areas of their education. It’s important to afford them space to explore and ‘let go.’ Ultimately, they learn to work together.”

It’s a tough call to ask Stan for favorite productions, but after some consideration, he cites *Seussical Jr.* by Stephen Flaherty and Lynn Ahrens, Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s*

Dream and *Lockers* by Jeremy Kruse.

Lockers brings back happy memories for Stan because of the unusual staging. “The actors promenaded around the School, delivering monologues and moving on. And it had such a relevant message for middle school kids. It was ground-breaking and very well received.”

Stan recalls *Seussical Jr.* as a fun and creative production. He says, “The students rose to the challenge and convincingly created the fantastical world of Seuss at ASL. There was a wonderful atmosphere on stage.”

Like any Shakespearean play, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* presents its trials, but the middle school actors were undaunted. Stan explains, “I was thrilled that the students delivered such a magical, humorous performance. The cast was very strong, and so was the support we received for set and costume design. I think the forces came together.”

He continues, “Of course, former HS English teacher **Keith Millman (ASL 1974–2014)** was delivering Shakespeare in the hallways long before our performance!” And more than rumor has it that **Don Jesse (ASL 1964–91)** was

bringing to life the Bard of Avon in his classroom well before Keith!

High school drama teacher **Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present)** has directed hundreds of ASL students in his career. Singular projects for Buck are *The Laramie Project* by Moises Kaufman, *Avenue Q* by Jeff Whitty, *Antigone* by Sophocles, *The Drowsy Chaperone* by Bob Martin and Don McKellar, and *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde/Neil Bartlett.

Antigone was Buck’s first production at ASL after taking over from Jan Mikrut at the helm of the drama department. The text was being studied in an English class and the crossover appealed to the newly appointed drama teacher. Buck says, “I love the play’s symbolism. Our production was ambitious and the scale of it was enormous. I remember we had a drawbridge and a Greek chorus in tableau.” And it’s said that former English teacher **Mimi Flood (ASL 1997–2010)** shed a tear in appreciation.

Buck remembers *The Laramie Project* and the electricity of the production. “We integrated film into the piece, which was very powerful. It gave the sensation of watching the action in real time, which added such gravitas to an already emotive story.”

Of *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Buck comments, “The material was so edgy, I had to do it!” Having seen the play at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, Buck was charmed by the piece. It transpired that the production would not move on to the National Theatre, as planned, and so Buck approached the play’s adaptor, Neil Bartlett, to ask if he could bring it to ASL. Bartlett readily agreed and the rest is history. “The adaptation reads like a film script—there are more than 27 scene changes,” admits Buck. “We used lights and sound and minimal furniture, and it worked!” The play’s shocking conclusion made this a truly memorable piece of theater in ASL’s celebrated back catalogue.

Of the more recent productions, Buck holds great affection for *Avenue Q*, a play that saw puppets play a major role in the success of the performance for the first time at ASL. Buck says, “Although it appears in many ways to be a comedy, audience members find themselves juxtaposed with accepted norms. This had a deep and profound effect. The challenge for the students was to raise their skills to unify the puppet and their character to be seen as one, which is not an easy thing to do. The students managed it to incredible effect.”



Performance at ASL today

Today, the performing arts are just as important a part of the curriculum as they ever were. The departmental philosophy is to cultivate creativity and expression by fostering the development of outstanding performance skills and aesthetic awareness in all our students through high-quality experiences in dance, music and drama.

Our youngest students enjoy an experiential program, involving singing, playing, listening, creating and moving, with a focus on participation, enjoyment and creative expression. At the same time, an understanding of the role of music in world culture is encouraged.

Having worked their way up from recorders to ukuleles in the lower grades, the middle school program is designed to develop students' understanding through ensemble participation. Students work on developing instrumental and vocal technique, reading music fluently, and becoming comfortable and confident performers. There is a strong emphasis on rehearsal skills and teamwork.

In the High School, it's time to specialize. Offering a depth of curriculum rarely seen outside of specialist performing arts schools, ASL's program

encourages meaningful artistic expression, while providing a hands-on approach in drama, music and dance, and adding to the richness of students overall educational experience.

At ASL, the study of dance addresses the use of the human body and physical movement as an expressive art form. Students explore a wide variety of genres and styles during their studies—from hip-hop to ballet. They learn through observation, physical expression and choreography.

Music for our older students brings the much-anticipated reward of the long-established annual Music Tour; this year, our students are off to Bonn, to spread the wealth of what they have learned with audiences in Germany. Former tours have taken students to Paris, Madrid, Athens, The Hague and Prague.

Students also participate in a number of International Honor festivals, including Band, Choir, Jazz Band, and Orchestra, which bring together students of exceptional ability from around the globe for several days of rehearsal and performance.

Only recently, the School played host to the AMIS International Boys' Honor Choir. The end-of-festival concert took place on Saturday, 17 October, after three days of rehearsal. The School Center resounded to the swell of nearly 100 voices raised in song at an event that

packed our biggest performance space to the rafters. AMIS (Association for Music in International Schools) was founded by former ASL teachers **Dick and Georgia Bassett (Dick, ASL 1974–96; Georgia, ASL 1974–95)** and is now directed by another former ASLer **Keith Montgomery (ASL 2001–14)**.

As they enter high school, our drama students mature in discipline through technical skills that foster deeper expression in voice and movement, while tapping into the emphatic inner life of creating character. Students practice their art by acting in scenes and full dramatic works. Scene work using film scripts lends a modern approach, as students examine content and technique appropriate to this media, resulting in heightened communicative and overall presentational skills.

The community looks forward to the upcoming fall production of *High School Musical*, directed by Buck Herron. And in February, middle school students will come together for an eagerly anticipated performance of Shakespeare's much-loved tale of star-crossed lovers, *Romeo and Juliet*, directed by Stan Ratoff.

Leading lights in London

No article about the performing arts at ASL would be complete without mentioning the perennial star of the show, London itself—arguably, the arts capital of the world. Our students, like those who came before and those who will come after, enjoy the richness that London has to offer.

As Buck Herron wrote recently, "London provides a rich, dynamic and creative cultural education for our students." He acknowledges that our capital offers an abundance of experiences in drama, dance and music.

In 2003, Buck remembers 10 of our female students working as the angelic voices in *Bright Young Things* with director Stephen Fry.

In 2008, as a result of the successful *Fulfilling Great Expectations* capital campaign, the restructured Annenberg Theater was unveiled as the new School Center for Education and the Arts, complete with improved acoustics, a state-of-the-art sound and lighting system, and seating for 450. The Old Vic's creative director at the time, Academy Award-winner Kevin Spacey, addressed the community on the set of *West Side Story* as part of the celebrations!

Stephan Potchatek's (ASL 2004–present) Dramatic Literature and Performance class attended several plays as part of their coursework, including Sam Shepard's *True West* at the Tricycle Theatre, Ibsen's *Peer Gynt* at the Barbican Centre, and *Electra* at the Old Vic.

Buck is keen to emphasize the benefits of bringing London's finest to Waverley Place. He says, "Over the years, we have invited guest practitioners to teach master classes, including Jonathan Leverett, stage combat instructor at RADA and the Royal Shakespeare Company; Bruno Zeni, Commedia dell'Arte artist from the Royal Opera House; and West-End playwright Leo Richardson, who wrote a play in collaboration with ASL actors." The outcome from the latter was the play *Prettiest Friend*, a moving piece of theater about the complicated nature of friendships within a high school.

He continues, "Our actors learned about both the acting and writing components of a production."

Buck is thrilled to share that Leo will return to ASL in spring 2016 to work with a group of students to build another play from the ground up. The students and the playwright have met already and plans are underway for what promises to be a must-see production during semester II.

This summer, **Michael Benz '00**, who cut his acting teeth in *A Circus*, directed by Stan Ratoff, played a lead role in Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being*

Earnest at the Vaudeville Theatre. He completed the run in early November, making an appearance at an alumni and parent of alumni celebration at a nearby venue on the last night. And comedian and author **Elna Baker '00** returned in June to deliver the commencement address to the Class of 2015 at Central Hall Westminster.

Buck continues, "Regularly, opportunities arise in our own back yard. In November 2014, our St. John's Wood neighbor, Eva Schloss, Auschwitz survivor, author and stepsister of Anne Frank, spoke to our middle and high school students after each performance of *A Light in the Darkness*, a play based on her life. The chance to hear Eva's story as one of the last Auschwitz survivors living in Britain and the final link to Anne Frank, was a valuable experience—and some 900 of our students saw the production. Hopefully, those same students will share their memories of the encounter with their own children some day, and keep Eva's hope for a peaceful world alive for another generation."

At ASL, we continue to explore the power of art in students' lives, examining our humanity through our experiences and effecting change in others and ourselves. London is the perfect place for us to pursue this discovery. ■



Primrose Hill

This is a familiar sight for ASL alumni. For some years, graduating seniors have gathered as a class to watch the sunrise from Primrose Hill just days before graduating from ASL—their high school days over and on the cusp of the adventures to come.

Grade 7 students in the Outdoor Games and Fitness elective use this landmark space for competitive games, three times a cycle. Enthusiastically led by PE teachers **Rich Harris (ASL 2011–present)** and **Grant Hiller (ASL 2014–present)**, and Grade 7 Aide **Sean Ross (ASL 2009–present)**, students leave the bounds of One Waverley Place, at a run, to enjoy the great outdoors on our doorstep.

Mr. Harris reports, “The boys and girls love leaving the ASL campus during the school day. They treat each other well and there’s a great sense of sportsmanship among the whole group. We focus on a positive team spirit and the kids respond brilliantly. After we’re done, we run back to ASL all the better for time spent in the open air.”

Photo: Sean Ross

Commencement for the Class of 2015

ON Friday, 12 June, the commencement exercises for the Class of 2015 took place at Central Hall Westminster. This year, 122 graduates gathered to receive their diplomas, signifying the successful completion of their ASL education and high school careers. This is the beginning of their journey beyond One Waverley Place, and it's a privilege to witness this important step for our newest alumni. Among them were 16 lifers—students who have attended ASL from Grade 1 or earlier: Zoe Alberts, Aditi Bhalla, Jasmina Ćorić, Tarush Gupta, Emma Hatheway, Karan Khaitan, Katherine Lake, Danyal Mahmood, Louisa Phillips, Vikram Prasad, Jack Roth, Ian Scoville, Lizzie Shaffran, Erik Skattum, Elijah Spies and Christopher Vann.

Head of School Coreen R. Hester issued a generous greeting and congratulated the Class of 2015 warmly. She went on to introduce the Lord Mayor of Westminster, who addressed the gathering on behalf of the city.

David Novak P '18 '20, attending his first commencement ceremony as board chair, welcomed the Class, and asked for ASL alumni present to stand and be recognized; the assembly applauded our former students enthusiastically. Mr. Novak offered his congratulations on behalf of the ASL Board of Trustees.

Alumna **Elna Baker '00** presented an amusing and very personal commencement address. Read about Elna's presentation to the graduates, opposite.

High School Principal **Jack Phillips P '27 (ASL 2013–present)** offered sound advice to the graduating class, before introducing Salutatorian Douglas

Heynderickx and Valedictorian Veronica Lim.

The ceremony was punctuated by accomplished musical selections by the High School Concert Choir, ASL Senior Choir and Senior String Ensemble, with a duet on viola and piano by graduating seniors Elijah Spies and Emily Richter.

Following the formal part of the ceremony, the presentation of high school diplomas, Dr. Phillips declared officially the students graduates of the American School in London's Class of 2015.

Then it was hats in the air in fine ASL tradition, before a reception for family and friends to round off this most auspicious event in the school calendar.

Congratulations, Class of 2015!



Commencement speaker Elna Baker '00

BY LIBBY JONES, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

AS an ASL student, she was an aspiring thespian, mentored by Stan Ratoff (ASL 1982–present) and Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present), trying to find her place in the world (and make it through AP US History). Fifteen years later, author, comedian and alumna Elna Baker took to the podium at Central Hall Westminster to impart wisdom and laughter to the Class of 2015.

“I am your future,” she declared to the students bedecked in caps and gowns. “You will never make any money, but you will have a Wikipedia page.”

Elna moved to London from Washington State in 1995 and spent four years at ASL (with a stint back in the US as a freshman and sophomore). After graduating in 2000, she studied at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she honed her craft as a writer and a performer. Elna's memoir, *The New York Regional Mormon Singles Halloween Dance*, was published in 2009 to rave reviews. A contributor to *This American Life* and BBC Radio 4, Elna regularly performs with The Moth, at the Upright Citizens Brigade and at numerous other comedy clubs in New York City, and is now at work on her second book.

So what of her sage advice to the Class of 2015? “There's a lot of hullabaloo to graduating,”

Elna started. “But it's scary.

Beginnings and endings are always the hardest.” Offering comfort to those who might be wrestling with self-doubt, she remarked, “...for any late bloomers in the audience, don't worry: most of life happens after high school—trust me.”

Elna described how she struggled initially as a new student at ASL among her self-confident, talented peers. Unhappy and insecure, her English teacher and dean **John Carpenter (ASL 1998–99)** encouraged her to start writing. By the end of the year, Elna had earned the Grade 11 English Award and had found a supportive community.

“I am forever grateful for that teacher who helped me believe in myself when I didn't,” she recalled. She also lauded Mr. Herron for helping her write her first stand-up routine. “He taught me that I had something incredibly valuable to offer: my own perspective,” she said. Elna told graduates that wonderful things lay ahead for all of them. “You have so much to look forward to,” she promised. “So many more chances to figure out and prove yourselves.”

Elna recounted how she was ready to prove herself, post-college, and achieve her dream of becoming a comedian but had no idea where to begin. “It wasn't like high school,” she said. “There was no structure, no classes I could take or assignments to fill out. Just this empty space of possibility.”

A lucky encounter with comedian Jon Stewart in a Manhattan park, however, motivated Elna to discover and initiate her first steps towards a performing arts career. “I took what I learned at ASL about structure and assignments and, with no one telling me to, I made up my own.”

Summing up her experience, Elna encouraged each graduate to make a choice about what s/he wants to do and go for it—even if it ends up being the wrong choice. “You'll learn that on the way,” she reasoned. According to her, ‘making it’ involves a combination of effort and time. “If you want big guns, do push-ups,” she shrewdly offered.

Underscoring the importance of chasing your dreams, Elna reminded the Class of 2015 that they only have one shot at life. “So do something you love, be it robotics, or dance, or being a mother, or a dog-walker, and you will be a much happier, more fulfilled person. Because you'll want to work. Because it's your passion. And this work will bring you closer to knowing and figuring out who you are and helping others do the same.”

Elna's concluding remarks elaborated on the art of failure, and why we shouldn't be afraid of it. “The world needs innovators,” she urged. “You won't be an innovator if you're too focused on being good or liked, or a constant success story.” Rather than avoid failure, Elna advised that this generation avoid distraction. “There is an entire culture now being built on distraction, from our own lives, our inner voice, and from the voices and struggles of so many people who aren't nearly as lucky as you are,” she explained. “They need you to be brave and to stand up for them.”

Elna repeated the counsel that her father always told her: “When much is given, much is expected.” Emphasizing that the expectations of parents and teachers are soaring, Elna assured, “It just means you're worth believing in, Class of 2015.” ■

1 Elna Baker presenting the commencement address at the graduation exercises for the Class of 2015

2 Class of 2000 tube station photo: Elna, front center, with a star on her sweater. “I knew then I'd be a star!” she joked in her speech.



Life after ASL for the Class of 2015

Check out the ASL website to view full coverage of the commencement exercises for the Class of 2015, www.asl.org/commencement.



Mohammad Adnan	Princeton University
Tara Advaney	Georgetown University
Amnah Ahmad	Barnard College
Zoe Alberts	University of Exeter
Lynn Albright	Smith College
Ahmed Alramli	The New School Lang — Eugene Lang College
Kjersti Anderson	Cornell University
Alec Ashley	Tufts University
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Krsana Asnani	Elon University
Andrew Bake	Santa Clara University
Julia Barlow	New York University
Zoe Barnes	Tufts University
Max Barnett	Tufts University
Katherine Bell	Northeastern University
Leila Ben Halim	Princeton University
Aditi Bhalla	Syracuse University
Monica Brendsel	University of Southern California
Rebecca Brunsberg	Columbia University
Tristan Burke	University of California, Berkeley
James Callaway	Georgetown University
Alexandra Campili	University of Chicago
Alessandro Cavarretta	Politecnico di Torino
Adele Cohen	University of Southern California
Jasmina Ćorić	University of Warwick
Carly Craig	University of Edinburgh
Kendel Craig	Colorado State University
Claire Daly	George Mason University
Isabel Daly	Barnard College
Alexandra Dell'Anno	The George Washington University
Connor Dell'Anno	Northeastern University
Alexandra DeOrio	Barnard College
Marisa Etre	Boston College
Michaela Etre	Boston College
Michael Fares	Tufts University
Jamie Fass	Barnard College
Anton Foy	Babson College
Kevin Fribley	George Mason University
Alisha Gandhi	Northwestern University
Constantinos Gazidis	Duke University
Felicia Grable	Bryn Mawr College
Tarush Gupta	Johns Hopkins University
Georgina Hanigan	James Madison University
Emma Hatheway	Middlebury College
Savannah Henry	Louisiana State University
Douglas Heynderickx	Imperial College London
Alexander Hogenhuis	Middlebury College
Nikolas Huth	Columbia University
Paola Kalb	Elon University
Karan Khaitan	Babson College
Emma Kollek	University of Pennsylvania
Caroline Kopfler	Boston College
Angelina Kukielski	New York University
Katja Kukielski	University of Miami
Katherine Lake	Wake Forest University
Brendan LaScala	Wake Forest University
Veronica Lim	Columbia University
James Lituchy	Kenyon College
Katherine Liu	University of Virginia
Stefano Longo	University College London
Emily Lovett	University of Chicago
Danyal Mahmood	University of St. Andrews
Zainab Mahmud	McGill University
Arthur Malin	New York University
Nicolas Maman	Tufts University

Tamara Masri	Georgetown University
James McClure	Wake Forest University
Phoebe Merrick	University of Virginia
Celia Mitchell	Pomona College
Ziyad Mourad	Syracuse University
Eliza Moyle	American University
John Murphy	University of Oxford
Noemie Nathan	Skidmore College
Maria Nebreda	New York University
Sean Norris	California Institute of the Arts
Temiloluwa Otedola	University of Bristol
Paula Paddack	Cornell University
Houston Parke	Syracuse University
Je'Anna Parnell	The University of Alabama
Louisa Phillips	University of Denver
Margareta Poler	Amherst College
Simone Prasad	Princeton University
Vikram Prasad	University of Chicago
Vivek Prasad	University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Isabelle Preddy	University of Chicago
Andre Purits	University of Southern California
Anton Purrmann-Charles	Goldsmiths College, University of London
Julianne Pyron	Rhodes College
Milo Rechler	University of Southern California
Jeffrey Renner	Baylor University
Mir Riaz	Trinity College
Emily Richter	Lawrence University
William Roberts	Auburn University
Lillian Roos	University of Southern California
Lauren Rossiter	University of British Columbia
Jack Roth	Yale University
Gabriel Ruimy	University of Pennsylvania
Peter Ryan	Wesleyan University
Christopher Saltzgaber	University of Miami
Olivia Sanabria	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Caroline Schneider	The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Ian Scoville	Georgetown University
Elizabeth Shaffran	Lehigh University
Nicole Shishkhanova	Northeastern University
Bjorn Sigurdsson	Pomona College
Erik Skattum	Bates College
Brooke Smith	The New School Lang — Eugene Lang College
Elijah Spies	Eastman School of Music of the U of Rochester
Megan Stracener	Texas Christian University
Cameron Swanson	Colgate University
Gabriela Tanaka	Skidmore College
Christopher Vann	Cornell University
John Victor	University of Wisconsin — School of Music
Alexander von Daehne	The New School Lang — Eugene Lang College
Amin Wafa	New York University
Nicholas Wilson	University of Michigan
Dariusz Yazdanpanah	Trinity College
Risako Yoshioka	King's College London
Alexandra Zirinis	Davidson College
Samuel Zorek	Rice University
Sophia Zorek	Rice University
Adam Zschach	Tulane University

News



Harold T. Cruikshank Award

On Friday, 11 September, the Board of Trustees recognized the dedication of **Hattie Hartman P '15** to ASL community service by presenting her with the Harold T. Cruikshank Award at the annual trustees' reception for faculty and staff at the Underglobe, beneath Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. The award is given for extraordinary service and contribution to the School. Board Vice Chair **Julie Skattum P '12 '15 '17** presented the award to Hattie on behalf of the Board.

Julie said, "Hattie's dedication, vision and low-key approach created a wonderful dynamic and strengthened our community partnerships. Her many years of leadership established a firm foundation for service learning at ASL. Hattie's inclusive attitude and effortless diplomacy are her legacy to the community."

Hattie's involvement has been integral to the success of ASL community service days for the past three years. Her calm demeanor and professional attitude have motivated many to join in to help others. Hattie demonstrates a quiet, unassuming commitment to doing the right thing. She is described by colleagues as being generous with praise and a hardworking diplomat who opens her arms to all volunteers.

1 Board Vice Chair Julie Skattum with Hattie Hartman



PCA Auction

This past March, the PCA Dream Big, ASL! Auction—a two-day extravaganza—arrived at ASL. The Farmer Family Gymnasium was a sight to behold, beautifully bedecked with bunting, and hundreds of yellow and blue balloons to celebrate this special occasion in the ASL calendar. Parents, students, faculty, staff, grandparents, alumni, parents of alumni and friends came together to enjoy a community brunch, a silent auction, live entertainment and a kids' party, and to lend their support to our biennial auction.

This all-school event is the PCA's primary fundraiser to support its programs and projects for a two-year period. The Dream Big, ASL! Auction raised funds to support the landscaping and development of the outdoor area at ASL to form Waverley Park, bringing much-needed space for our students for PE and outdoor recreation. The auction was expertly led by intrepid duo **Erin Crawford P '20 '23** and **Heidi Black P '20 '23**, ably assisted by a trusty band of willing volunteers—truly, a team effort!

The auction was topped off with an evening gala event at London's Guildhall, with its traditional live auction. Erin and Heidi said, "What incredible community spirit. Thank you for dreaming big for ASL! You have made a lasting impact on our school, and we are so thankful."

NEW FRONTIERS *Our Promise. Our Future.*

Making a difference

Our *New Frontiers* capital campaign has gone from strength to strength. So far, we have raised more than £20M toward the goals of growing endowment for student financial assistance, and providing top-flight facilities that support an outstanding educational program. We look forward to moving into the new Community Arts Building, on the corner of Waverley Place and Grove End Road, in January 2016. Next fall, all our students will have use of the Aquatic and Fitness Center, which features a 25-meter, six-lane swimming pool and flexible gym space, and our middle and high school students will be in the new and renovated science labs. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this transformational moment for our school. Don't despair if you haven't had a chance to join in—there's still time to participate and make a difference!

Visit asl.org/giving to be a part of ASL's biggest campaign in its 65-year history. We couldn't do it without you!



117 alumni visits

Class of 2014, youngest donor

Class of 1961, oldest donor

Hurray for the Annual Fund!

Your commitment to ASL saw our Annual Fund goal surpassed. Our parent participation had a strong showing of 65 percent, we had an increase of 34 percent in alumni donors and our current faculty and staff reached 84 percent participation—the highest in the school's history!

As you know, the Annual Fund is our top fundraising priority as it helps to cover an annual shortfall of 5 percent in our operating budget. In 2014–15, we raised £1,732,211 to bridge the gap between tuition and what it costs to bring an outstanding American education with a global perspective to every ASL student.

Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to making the 2014–15 Annual Fund a success!

A hearty thank you to our alumni class agents, our parent class captains, our canvassers and divisional chairs, and our wonderful parent 2014–15

Annual Fund co-chairs, **Annette and Shaun Dreyer P '16**, for their time, hard work and dedication to the School.

To lead our 2015–16 efforts, we are delighted to have parents **Stacey and Ali Towfighi P '18 '20 '23** co-chair our Annual Fund! We hope we can count on your participation and continued support as we embark on this year's Annual Fund endeavors.

Gifts from alumni, parents of alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends, ensure that we can continue to offer the very best to our students.

You are welcome to make your gift in USD (\$) or in GBP (£). Please use the envelope above to send in your gift or visit the ASL website and make your online gift today, www.asl.org/giving.

Auf wiedersehen, adieu...



JUNE 2015 saw the departure of no less than 11 of our longest-serving faculty and staff. The School honored our leavers in a celebratory luncheon on Thursday, 11 June, in the Farmer Family Gymnasium, where tears and laughter played a huge part in the farewells to much-loved colleagues.

“Mostly, I’ll miss the student trips, as well as the innate cheerfulness and fun of being with middle school kids.”

At the start of her ASL career, like so many others, **Joan Dyer-Westacott P '06 '10 (ASL 1987–2015)** joined the School for “just one year”—in her case, to cover a leave of absence for **Chris Siegfried (ASL 1961–98)**. After taking **Marcia Servente’s (ASL 1984–2001)** role for a further two years, Joan took up a permanent position in the Mellon Library in 1991, serving as library department head until 1999. Joan’s abiding memories of the School are the author visits. In particular, she remembers, “Lynne Reid Banks was a tough customer, who brought along the cupboard from her famous book and was brilliant with the students; Richard Peck, who was great and worked with Grade 6 students on many occasions; and the late, unforgettable Paula Danziger, with whom it was fun to hang out both at school and out and about!” The thing Joan will miss most after leaving One Waverley is the incomparable access to books. After moving to Devon this summer with husband Hugh—and if

she can’t secure a job with her local chocolatier—Joan plans to write her tell-all potboiler and to learn to tap dance.

Hired straight out of college in 1977, **Linda Benson (ASL 1986–2015)** joined ASL as an art intern for one year, working with **Ray Ruehl (ASL 1978–93)**, **Jan Mikrut (ASL 1974–98)** and **Suzanne Guest (ASL 1971–91)**. After a stint working in British primary schools, an experienced Linda returned to the School initially to teach art and ceramics with **Alan Heath (ASL 1973–2007)** and **Sally Marlow P '76 '79 (ASL 1964–95)**. She moved to Grade 5, where she remained until her departure. Linda has happy recollections of team teaching with **Sunny Neutze (ASL 1984–2011)** for many years. Abiding memories for Ms. Benson always include the people, the Grade 5 teams over the years, the

fun and the laughter—only now we must say Mrs. Watson... We are thrilled to report that Linda married long-term partner and former ASL woodwork teacher **Tim Watson (ASL 1973–2007)** this summer. She apologizes to all the fifth graders over the years who volunteered to serve as bridesmaids!

Margaret Turton (ASL 1991–2015) joined ASL as a middle school language teacher from neighboring school Northbridge House in Camden Town to fill a leave of absence. At the time, the Middle School was looking to expand the language program and Margaret found herself with a full-time position from 1993. She remembers fondly former middle school principal **Tony Marlow’s P '76 '79 (ASL 1964–96)** ‘starlight room’ Friday afternoons when the middle school faculty would relax together in

Center: Lee Phifer
Clockwise from top:
Joan Dyer-Westacott;
Linda Benson;
Margaret Turton with
Alan Heath (ASL 1973–2007);
Ken McKinley;
Sita Littlewood;
Steve Cary;
Graham Bracey;
Marsha Miller;
Mary Jordan;
Jean Hughes



“I love giving books to kids and sharing their excitement. I have the best job in the world!”

the art room for an hour with wine and snacks. She says of leaving ASL, “Mostly, I’ll miss the student trips, as well as the innate cheerfulness and fun of being with middle school kids.” The future holds a great deal of gardening for Margaret as well as refurbishing her home. She promises to continue her Welsh language studies and to do a lot of walking.

The American International School of Zurich’s loss was ASL’s gain when **Ken McKinley (ASL 1991–2015)** came to 2–8 Loudoun Road (ASL’s address back in the day) to teach high school history. Ken has continued to teach generations of high school students for the past 24 years, and is a three-time recipient of the James McGovern Award for outstanding teaching. His earliest memory is of sharing space in Middle Blue with languages teacher **Victoria Hamadache (ASL 1985–present)**, ceramics teacher **Spencer Namyst (ASL 1974–2001)** and English teacher **Linda Hurcombe P ’96 (ASL 1968–92)**. Ken says, “I’ve always enjoyed working in a close and cohesive department in the High School. I will miss the students and teaching. This year’s class has been one of the best, so it’s great to go out on a high.” Ken plans to be more creative in his garden and to explore everything London has to offer.

Sita Littlewood P ’16 ’25 (ASL 1991–2015) was hired in 1991 as a French and Spanish teacher in ASL’s Middle School. Over the years, she has served as team leader, and worked alongside many middle school principals, including **Tony Marlow** and **Ronni McCaffrey (ASL 1995–2006)**. Her abiding memories of ASL are of her students and being part of a wonderful team. Sita says, “It was a creative experience to development curriculum together as a team, rather than as a group of individuals.” Sita is looking forward to taking advantage of the many opportunities London has to offer—maybe exploring one of her early passions of dance. But first, a month in Jamaica en famille was high on her list of priorities for the summer!

An invitation to cover faculty absences in the performing arts drew **Steve Cary (ASL 1991–2015)** to the School in 1991. A year later, the lure of Grade 3 was too much to resist and Steve began an eight-year stint with lower school students. **Ronna Frank’s (ASL 1979–2000)** departure left an opening to teach LS music and Steve was the man for the job. Guiding our younger students in their musical studies kept Steve busy until 2006 when he switched paths to become lower school assistant librarian, a role that completes his ASL career. “I love my job,” he asserts. “I love giving books to kids and sharing their excitement. I have the best job in the world!” Steve admits that he’ll miss the wonderful students and parents, as well as his beloved colleagues. He says, “The caliber of fellow faculty and staff and the interactions I’ve enjoyed over the years have made me a better person.” Moving on from One Waverley, Steve hopes to read lots of books, develop his bookbinding skills, travel to India, do more canal boating, visit family and friends, and enjoy London.

Lee Phifer (ASL 1992–2015) joined ASL to teach Grades 2–4, computer and science in the Lower School. He took a sabbatical in 2004–05 to study outdoor education programs before returning to One Waverley Place to pilot and lead the lower school outdoor/environmental education program. Since that time, Lee has been a popular fixture at the school’s playing fields in Canons Park, overseeing the Honeypot Lane Garden and bringing the delights of nature to a generation of our youngest students. Lee describes the project as “an attempt to keep students’ curiosity about nature alive and to allow them to continue to develop their innate affinities for nature and all it has to teach.” Lee will miss the time he spends with our lower school classes, introducing the children to the dirt and the outdoors he enjoyed while growing up.

Graham Bracey (ASL 1992–2015) was brought in to service the mechanical plant that supported the utilities that kept the School’s infrastructure functioning successfully. In those days, there was no air conditioning and the system ran on

compressed air. Of late, Graham has supervised the maintenance team—trouble shooting technical issues and carrying out project work. He will miss his colleagues greatly, although whether or not they’ll miss his famous practical jokes remains to be seen! Graham plans to spend time following his passion for vintage motor racing. Prior to his ASL years, he served as a fire marshal at Brands Hatch motor-racing circuit, where he once helped the late, great Brazilian driver Ayrton Senna push his car off the track. Graham has three grandchildren who will keep him busy in the years ahead, and there will be time spent in the workshop at the bottom of his garden and more travel in the UK and beyond.

Our K–Grade 6 educational psychologist, **Marsha Miller (ASL 2004–2015)**, leaves the School to return to her home in Pennsylvania. She says, “I’m grateful for the opportunities I’ve had during my time at ASL; I’m so appreciative of the people—the students, the families, the faculty and the administration. It’s been a wonderful experience, but I miss my family.” Marsha plans to continue to travel extensively, to spend time with her four grandchildren (with another on the way!), to read a lot of books, and to plan what comes next.

A chance meeting with former lower school principal **Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–2013)** brought **Mary Jordan GP ’14 (ASL 2000–04; 2009–15)** to the School to teach art to our youngest students. Mary went on to serve as department head from 2009 to 2014. Mary says, “I grew as an art teacher because of how ASL supports the arts. I’m going to miss the students and their incredible creative spirit, as well as the ASL community and all that London has to offer.” Having built a studio at her home in northern Arizona, Mary is keen to spend time drawing, painting and sewing. She also plans to spend time with her grandchildren and visit friends.

Jean Hughes P ’06 ’08 ’12 (ASL 2004–12; 2013–15) wore many hats at ASL, from administrative assistant in the Lower and Middle schools, to associate dean of admissions. And Jean saw all three of her sons, **Dave ’06**, **Dan ’08** and **Pete ’12** graduate from ASL, with Pete receiving the Endurance Award for attending ASL from first to last. A recent high point (literally!) for Jean was scaling Kilimanjaro with British Military Fitness in 2014. Jean leaves ASL to explore other avenues in London, conquer more peaks, and spend time with her many friends and family in the US. ■



30 years of Ms. Hamadache!

At the beginning of each school year, we recognize our long-serving faculty and staff when they reach milestone anniversaries. This year, high school world languages and cultures teacher **Victoria Hamadache (ASL 1985–present)** celebrated 30 years at ASL! We asked her to reflect on her time at the School by sharing stories and favorite memories from her long history at ASL. Here’s a taster, but read the entire interview in the news section of asl.org.

Describe your ASL hiring story. How did you come to work here?
Many, many years ago, my mother, Patricia, was working at the American Embassy. During a visit to the bathroom, she overheard a conversation about a language teacher at ASL who wasn’t planning on returning to school after a maternity leave. The

School where I had been teaching was due to close, and Mother knew at once that this was a golden opportunity for me! Having availed herself of the salient facts, she booked me on the first plane from Devon to Heathrow, where my father awaited with my interview gear. After what seemed a very short conversation at ASL, I was awarded the job—and I have not looked back since!

Your alumni fan club is always growing. What is the best compliment you’ve received from a former student?
I was invited to meet a would-be fiancée to give my approval. Needless to say, she was adorable!

Favorite ASL tradition?
Prom, which I organized for many years

Outside of teaching French and Spanish, what are your hidden talents?
Quiz shows, amazing dancing (as anyone at prom will confirm!), helping out my family, and talking more that I can breathe! My jokes are pretty awesome, too.

What’s the most memorable Alternatives trip you’ve chaperoned?
Malta with the late **John Otterpohl (ASL 1974–2000)**, a legend!

What’s the strangest thing that’s happened during one of your classes?
It was at least 20 years ago. Without me noticing, a very tall young man slithered out of the classroom without permission. He returned within eight minutes, having purchased a McDonald’s meal for every person in the class, me included. Some sort of senior prank!!



Alumni return to ASL!

On Thursday, 17 September, a special group of alumni gathered in the Boardroom for a celebration breakfast. Some 22 of our former students have returned to One Waverley Place as parents at ASL, many years after attending the School themselves. In addition, 12 ASL alumni are employed at the School. And three of our former

graduates are both ASL parents and employees!

“I wanted to organize this breakfast because I feel that parents, faculty and staff, who are also ASL alumni, have a special connection to the School,” said **Marika Ison ’07**, interim director of alumni relations. “We want to ensure that we recognize this special connection and bring this group together.”

Head of School Coreen R. Hester led the event and took a few moments to present information on ASL by the numbers. She reminded the group that we have an incredible 14,901 alumni in 79 countries around the world. Memories were shared as the gathering enjoyed coffee and breakfast.

Welcome back, ASL alums. It’s great to have you on board!



Trustee news

Since our last issue of Accents, there has been a number of changes to the ASL Board of Trustees. **Lori E. Fields P ’08 ’10 ’14**, pictured, stepped down after seven years as board chair, and 12 as an ASL trustee. We thank Lori for her many years of hard work and unstinting commitment to the School.

Five other trustees retired from the board in the past year: **Alex Knaster P ’09 ’17**, **Mary Marsh P ’08 ’09 ’11 ’14 ’16**, **Tori Robertson P ’08 ’10 ’12 ’14**, **Joanna Shields P ’17**, and Board Vice Chair **Michael Spies P ’12 ’15**. We are grateful to all of these individuals for their dedicated service to ASL.

David Novak P ’18 ’20 has been appointed as chair of the board, while **Julie Skattum P ’12 ’15 ’17** takes over the role of vice chair.

In the past months, we have welcomed five new members to the Board: **Cynthia Bake P ’15 ’17 ’20 ’25**, **Rebecca Manuel P ’17 ’21**, **Liad Meidar P ’23 ’26**, **Erin Roth P ’15 ’16 ’21**, and **Chris Whitman P ’19 ’20 ’22**.

Read more about the ASL Board of Trustees on asl.org > [About](#).

Keep in touch!

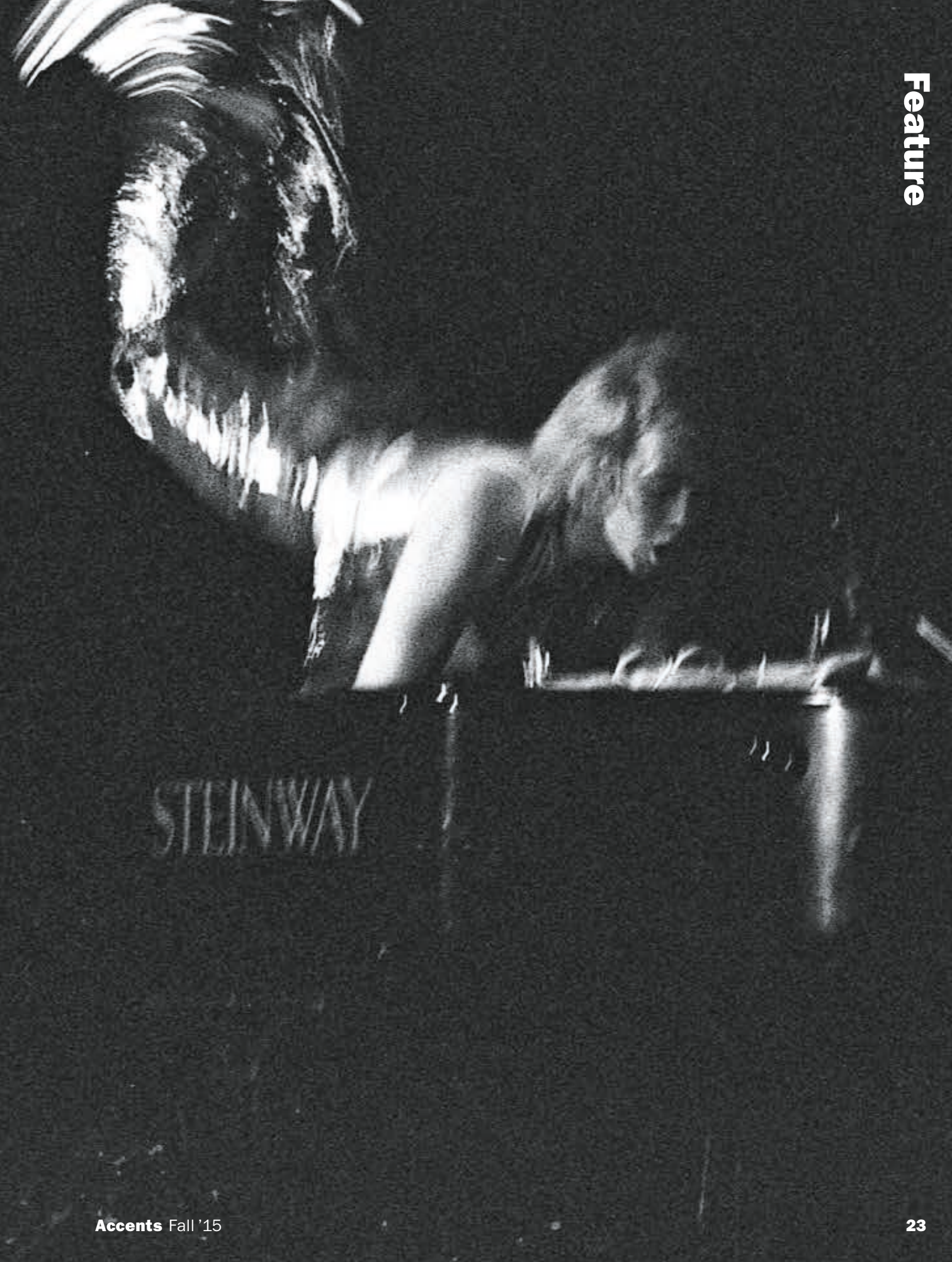
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CROCODILE ROCK

IN ASL'S GYM!

WITH INCREDIBLE PHOTOGRAPHS BY
PAUL SVENSSON '75!

BY ALICE IACUessa (ASL 1979-2000) &
CATHY ADAMS (ASL 1974-2005)



ONE of the most exciting and somewhat legendary tales in ASL's distinguished history is that internationally renowned singer/songwriter Sir Elton John performed (twice!) in ASL's very own gym in 1973. Alice and Cathy discover the true story—to some extent—first hand from those who were there and made it happen.

Why Elton? **Bear Van Wyck (ASL 1972–85)**, art teacher and Yearbook faculty advisor, is keen to share how the man with the big glasses came to play in St. John's Wood. "We wanted to have some color pages in the Yearbook and this required funding. We weren't interested in endless bake sales; we thought one big event was a better idea. A concert in the gym was what we had in mind. The next decision to be made was who. In the *Melody Maker*, I saw that Elton had a number one album in the US, but surprisingly, wasn't in the charts in the UK. I called his agent, Dick James, and set up an appointment. I went to his office in Mayfair and spoke to Dick and Elton on speakerphone and told them our idea. We came up with a date: 24 March (the day before Elton's birthday), and I signed the contract, agreeing to pay £1,000 for Elton and £250 for the support act."

Bear recalls booking the gym in the usual way; he went to the high school office collected the forms, and got them signed—no big deal. He continues, "Our first problem was the coal miners' strike, which provoked regular blackouts throughout London. We needed to find a guaranteed electricity supply. Someone came up with the idea for a generator, but this was a rare commodity. We finally sourced one from a circus in Scotland!"

"About 90 minutes before the performance, I was told that the piano was out of tune! We needed a tuner and quick. One of St. John's Wood's finest sent a police car to Steinway and brought back the tuner. As he worked his magic on the concert grand, I asked the tuner if we were going to be okay. He commented dryly, 'It's good enough for rock and roll!'"

Since the gym was in constant use for PE classes, the stage had to be built the day before the concert. Predictably, woodshop teacher **Tim Watson (ASL 1973–2007)** was in charge of construction: "I persuaded a scaffolding company, run by two guys I went to school with, to build a platform across the full width of the gym, 20 feet wide and about 5 feet 6 inches high. Elton was adamant that there should be no means of access from the front, so he wouldn't be mobbed by the audience. This meant that the

rented concert grand piano from Steinway had to be carried down the bleachers and lifted onto the stage, which we did with a team of students hired for the occasion." A Herculean task if there ever was one!

Bruce Coffman '74, who played a role in the organization, enlisted the help of a host of students to assist at the event. **Robert Eringer '73** and **Paul Svensson '75** were asked to greet Elton and his girlfriend when they arrived—in the star's Rolls Royce according to Paul; but it was a black limo if you ask Robert! Paul recollects a polite and interested Elton who asked lots of questions about the School.

Robert remembers Bear set up the theater as a kind of VIP lounge for Elton, his band and entourage. The senior had been assigned to interview Elton for the school newspaper, *Spungo*. The subsequent article is available to view on Robert's blog, *Eringer: The Columns*. As it was Elton's birthday, Bear had organized a surprise birthday party and Robert was charged with supplying a half-dozen cheesecakes from his parents' cake business.

Robert recalls that Elton entered the theater, looked around with a smile on his face, and commented, "Well, this is nice!" Robert explains, "He was right! Elton sat down—front row, center—facing the stage. He seemed relaxed and happy. Shyly, I asked him if he minded being

1 L-R: Yoav Shapiro '75, Eric van Uchelen '76, Paul Svensson '75, Mark Gregg '76, Elton's roadie, unknown, Bruce Coffman '74, Jay Burnett '74





The American School in London



Accents Fall '15



interviewed for the school paper. He readily and gracefully agreed. Others gathered around as I asked questions. I took notes on white paper plates! I used about five of them for the entire interview. Others chipped in with questions of their own, and Elton seemed to enjoy himself enormously.”

Before the concert began, there was a last-minute panic about tuning the piano. Not surprisingly, Bear and Tim have conflicting memories, but as Elton played at ASL twice, both accounts may hold some truth! Bear recalls, “About 90 minutes before the performance, I was told that the piano was out of tune! We needed a tuner and quick. One of St. John’s Wood’s finest sent a police car to Steinway and brought back the tuner. As he worked his magic on the concert grand, I asked the tuner if we were going to be okay. He commented dryly, ‘It’s good enough for rock and roll!’”

Tim’s version involves Elton’s insistence that any piano he played during a concert had to be tuned no more than 45 minutes before the performance. Tim says, “The tuner we had booked was late because he got confused coming out of the tube, which is hardly surprising as he was blind and had a guide dog that was not used to crowds. When he eventually arrived, about 10 minutes before the show was due to start, we hoisted him and his dog onto the stage, got the piano tuned, and lifted him off. By that time, Elton’s manager was having a tantrum, insisting Elton wouldn’t play the piano because it had thousands of hand prints all over it!”

Tim and a couple of students retrieved polishing cloths and methylated spirits from the woodshop, and did a fantastic French polish in no time at all. Tim adds, “From that point on, whenever I taught a technique called ‘spiriting off,’ I’d tell the kids that story!”

According to Tim, “The gym was very crowded. High School Principal **Dick Ayling (ASL 1972–74)**, who was technically in charge that evening, was a nervous wreck. Maintenance manager **Victor Everett (ASL 1965–83)** had steam coming out of his ears and our electrician couldn’t get the ventilation to work!”

But the concert did go on. Rock band Longdancer opened with a short set and then Elton came on to perform. Appropriately, his first song was *Teacher, Teacher*. Later, the audience sang *Happy Birthday*. **Roger Corrigan (ASL 1971–2010)** remembers Bear giving Elton a big Teddy bear, which the singer seated next to him at the piano. **Dave Sutherland (ASL 1970–98)** and **Chris Siegfried (ASL 1961–98)** have vivid memories of Elton singing *Crocodile Rock*. Dave says,

“I thought the bleachers were going to collapse and walls were about to crack during this song!”

Student journalist Robert Eringer, now wearing his crowd-control hat, was in the frontline. He says, “I was among the line of people who linked arms to prevent teeny-boppers from storming the stage. It was pure pandemonium! But in a good way.”

Laura Lewis ’77, whose journal helped identify the timings of Elton’s visits enjoyed both concerts and shared an image of her ticket stub. **Wendy (Rea) Lawless ’76** posted a photo of her concert ticket on Facebook in May 2013, which spawned a plethora of responses from those who were there, and those who wished they had been! **Cindy Cole Rouse ’78** said it was her first concert. **Julie Orse Odermatt ’78** was in the front row and managed to shake Elton’s hand: “Didn’t wash it for three weeks, age 13!” **Coe Rost ’75**, who was on the stage crew lowering amps and equipment via ropes from the top of the bleachers, enjoyed the concert up close. **Kevin Martin ’80** was there; he complains that people never believe that Elton John played at his high school!

According to former dean of students **Bruce Balas P ’82 ’84 ’87 (ASL 1971–95)**, “The speakers were piled up in an enormous array at the sides of the stage. As a result, the music was so loud I could feel the beat of it pounding against my chest. Also, so many people were trying to get into the concert; the narrow streets around the School were jammed with cars. The neighbors coming home from work couldn’t get to their driveways and were not happy with us.”

Mary Durr, Roger Corrigan’s sister, was thrilled to be able to attend. She recalls, “Crocodile Rock was big at the time. When he sang it, the crowd went crazy and someone threw a stuffed crocodile onto the stage. He put on an awesome performance. The opening act, Longdancer, played *If It Was So Simple*. I bought their album while I was in London and still have it—along with all of Elton’s records, of course. I was stunned that ASL had Elton John playing in its gym to raise money for Yearbook. I was used to car washes and bake sales for that sort of fundraising!”

All in all, Bear felt it was a very successful night. “Elton was so pleased with his experience that Dick James called to say that Elton would like to play again. He liked the acoustics of ASL’s gym and enjoyed performing for a mostly American audience. Understandably, I agreed to a second concert.”

The release of *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road* on 5 October 1973 was a pivotal

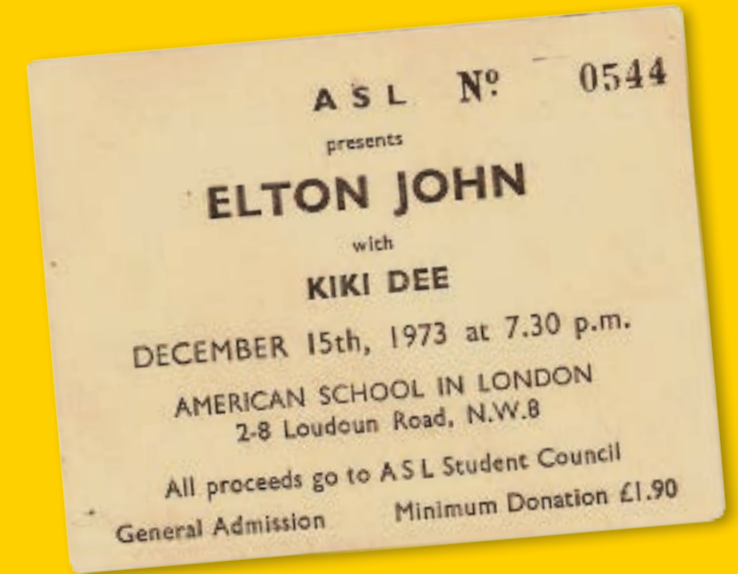
point in Elton John’s career. It brought him a number one album in the US and in the UK, turning the former Reginald Dwight from Pinner, NW London, into an international superstar. But Elton honored his commitment to the School and returned to Loudoun Road in December 1973 for his second and final appearance at ASL.

Mary-Louise Barker (ASL 1977–2003) and Bear have been friends since 1964. On a visit to London to see Bear, Mary-Louise and her brother, Paul, attended the second Elton John concert on 15 December 1973. Mary-Louise says, “Wow! What a show. Kiki Dee was the opening act, but the overwhelming star of the show was Elton.” Paul adds, “Elton played the whole of his new album with its fantastic opening number, *Funeral for a Friend*, which builds to a crescendo. The audience went wild. To be on the edge of the stage was a unique experience. Why couldn’t I have gone to a school like this?!”

Bear reflects, “The music at the second concert was great, but we were lucky there wasn’t a major disaster!”

ASL’s second head of school, **Jack Harrison (ASL 1971–86)**, shares a behind-the-scenes drawback to Elton’s second visit. “As with the first concert, we created tickets in-house, but someone beyond our community produced and sold a huge amount of counterfeit tickets. Too many people were allowed in for the concert, and there was almost a riot outside, which required the police.”

In light of the ticket issue, Bear recalls a revision to school policy on putting on similar events going forward. He says, “The School realized concerts needed to be scaled down in future.” He adds ruefully, “This was a shame...three



weeks after Elton’s final ASL concert, Dick James called and ask if we would could accommodate Pink Floyd before the start of their American tour. They wanted to perform *Dark Side of the Moon!* ■



Bear van Asch van Wyck provided a great deal of the content for this article—for which we are very grateful. Bear lives in Washington, CT, with his wife of 49 years, Sue. After leaving ASL in 1985, Bear and Sue started Black Swan Antiques. Their two children, Jan and Jennifer, live close by with their families.

Our wholehearted thanks to **Paul Svensson ’75** for providing photographs we didn’t know existed and agreeing for us to use them in this article.

Since leaving ASL, Paul moved back to Stockholm, Sweden, where lives with his wife, Marita. Paul is purchasing director for a telecommunication company and today mainly take pictures of his family and especially his four grandchildren.

ALL THE

WORLD'S A

STAGE!

ALUMNI IN THE

PERFORMING

ARTS

BY LIBBY JONES,
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



LONG before current high schoolers mastered choreography for this fall's production of *High School Musical*, ASL students and the stage have belonged together like *Guys and Dolls* (2004), *Romeo and Juliet* (1992) and *Jason and the Golden Fleece* (1985). With London as a backdrop, the school's campus has been a veritable venue for chamber orchestras, touring concert choirs, advanced dance troupes and original dramas. No wonder our arts program has yielded so many creative, talented performers. Here's a look at some alumni who, years after joining our ranks, continue to captivate audiences everywhere.

Kathleen Turner '72, actress
Before the Golden Globe Award-winning star turned heads on screen in *Romancing the Stone* and earned a Tony nomination for her portrayal of Martha in Broadway's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*, Mary Kathleen Turner was a typical teen at ASL, "terrorizing the school" with her friends, trying her hand at writing plays, and performing in high school productions of *The Boyfriend* and *Lovers* in the early '70s. "You are so fortunate to live in this city," she told students during a return visit to campus in 2006.

Kiki Snodgrass '02, actress
Kiki often jokes that she is the first graduate of the 'Buck Herron School of Drama' because her four years of high school coincided with the first four years of **Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present)** teaching at ASL, and she took every class he taught. From the Annenberg Theater to stages in New York, Amsterdam and



Melbourne, Kiki is now at home in Stockholm, where she stays busy touring with several theater groups in addition to teaching and event planning. "My theater training under Buck made me the person I am today in so many ways," she gushed recently.



Patrick (Raymond) Himmler '86, executive creative director
Based in LA, a typical work day for Patrick at Brand New Media, a global content company specializing in video content and responsive advertising, involves managing a team of producers and production professionals, assessing on-camera talent and directing photography during shoots. He's also acted in TV shows such as *Seinfeld* and *Blossom*. But once upon a time, Patrick was a wide-eyed pupil of **Jan Mikrut (ASL 1974–98)**, taking her Play Production course and dreaming big. "She was my first mentor," he explains. "She allowed me to realize the very best version of myself."

Lauren Buglioli '05, drama teacher
Her film credits include *Unstoppable* with Wesley Snipes, and Stephen Fry's *Bright Young Things*. She recently performed in a short film, *A Burial Hymn*, with fellow alumna **Lauren Fales '03**. For now, however, Lauren Buglioli is

chasing her passion teaching Pre-K and drama at Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa, Florida. "Seeing three-year-old kids put on their first play, or watching middle schoolers make major breakthroughs towards becoming more confident on stage has given me a different sense of purpose," she discloses. Like many of her ASL peers, Lauren caught the acting bug from **Buck Herron** and worked in theater, film, TV and radio after studying theater and early childhood education at NYU. Her acting pursuits developed alongside her teaching experience, from overseeing a lower school classroom at Avenues in New York to coaching ballet in LA to children with Down's syndrome. "I'm so engrossed in teaching and find that it's been more rewarding than I could have imagined," explains Lauren. "I'm motivated to make a difference in the lives of my students."



4



Lynsey Beauchamp '78, actress

From shooting a commercial in Cape Town, to improvising a scene in the Moroccan desert alongside Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett in *Babel*, Lynsey has led a diverse acting career that spans television, stage and film. Her training began at 17, shortly after graduating from ASL—"a very cool place in the '70s," describes Lynsey. Not only did her biology teacher **Lorna Claerbout (ASL 1975–79)** play Bob Marley during lessons, **Patricia Barry (ASL 1972–2003)** introduced her to both Shakespeare and *Spare Rib*, a second-wave feminist magazine. "Ms. Barry never underestimated me," Lynsey says. Splitting her time between London and Norfolk when she's not touring, Lynsey finds the unpredictability of her profession to be its greatest reward. "You have to be committed in your bones to do this," she cautions. "Don't do it unless you have to, and if you do, do it unflinchingly and never complain."

Adam Bond '99, actor

In the past year alone, Adam has played the roles of a medieval artilleryman, a bodyguard, a swordsman, a trumpeter, an assassin, a Viking and a pilot. "The total variety is my favorite part about this work," he enthuses. 2014 also saw the 33-year-old land the part of Jesus Christ in CNN's series, *Finding Jesus: Faith, Fact, Forgery*. What's more, Adam's debonair, bearded mug was displayed on a Times

Square billboard to promote the show. Recollecting his high school days, Adam still laughs about the mischief and horror-movie screenings he instigated with Class of '99 pals **Matt Krukowski**, **Joey Latkiewicz** and **Conor Gillespie**. But perhaps the best legacy of his ASL experience was the life lessons he learned from math teacher **Suzanne Brooks (ASL 1972–99)**. "As an actor, my tools are my body and my voice," he expounds. "What Ms. Brooks instilled in her students was the necessity to take the time to articulate clearly so as to be understood. As her other students can attest, 'um' is not a word!"

Elaine Harris '04, actress

The life of an actor, according to Elaine, is like a game of Snakes and Ladders (or Chutes and Ladders if you're American)—"You make gains quickly and rapidly," she explains, "and fall backwards just as fast." Still, acting is her passion, and she wouldn't have it any other way. The New Yorker recently left the Big Apple to be part of a San Francisco production of Jean Giraudoux's *Ondine*, where the stage was set amid the dreamy ruins of 19th century bathing houses in the National Park District's Sutro Baths: an ideal spot for whale watching while rehearsing. "It was a wonderfully rewarding experience, artistically and personally,"

Elaine comments. She credits former ASL English teachers **Amanda Christy (ASL 2001–04)** and **Catherine Harada P '92 '94 (ASL 1993–2005)** for inspiring her career in storytelling. She adds, "Whether it was from having my heart broken watching *Leon* or writing creative essays about made-up Greek gods, they planted the seed that these stories can encourage reflection and change."

Stewart Copeland '71, drummer and founding band member of The Police

The son of a CIA officer, Stewart grew up in Egypt and Lebanon. He and his family moved to London when he was 14, where he spent a semester at ASL before attending boarding school in Somerset. A self-described "quiet kid who sat in the back of the room," Stewart wasn't in a band back then ("my drums wouldn't fit in our tiny flat," he told an ASL reporter in 2007). According to former faculty member **Paul Morton (ASL 1963–97)**, he was something of a troublemaker. Post-college at UC Berkeley, Stewart returned to the UK and performed with an old-wave band for a few years. Ready to do his own thing, he called up a bass player he knew and convinced him to leave his group in Newcastle to try a new sound with Stewart in London. That bass player is now known as Sting, and the rest is history.



Olivia Ancona '07, dancer
"My path has been filled with unexpected experiences, people and cultures, unfolding in ways I could not have anticipated," marvels Olivia. Raised in Portland, Oregon, she moved to London and ASL for part of middle school—a chapter that inevitably shaped her desire to dance professionally. While in the UK, Olivia did a stint with the London Children's Ballet, and from that moment on was bound for a life on stage. "If you have an uncontrollable passion to move and perform, you have to go for it," she opines. Once back in the US, Olivia took part in summer programs with the Boston Ballet and the American Ballet Theatre before landing at New York City's Juilliard School. In 2010, Olivia was offered a place in the BatSheva Ensemble in Tel Aviv—an exciting, rigorous company that demanded six-day work weeks and 200 annual performances. Olivia continued to dance and teach in Israel, New York, Paris and Stockholm, and even co-founded a company of her own, L-E-V, in 2014. These days, you can find Olivia back in Tel Aviv when she isn't on tour in Japan, Brazil or Australia, among other countries. She summarizes, "I am thankful I can share a part of myself with audiences everywhere, and in return taste good food and espresso in many corners of the globe."



Stephen "Steve-O" Glover '92, performer and comedian

Before his raunchy, harrowing stunts made him the hero of MTV's *Jackass*, TV personality Steve-O was a charming ASLer who wasn't afraid of stirring up trouble. From London, he made his way through Clown College (really!) and started to hawk his home videos to Hollywood producers. His antics eventually caught the eye of *Jackass* creator Jeff Tremaine, and Steve-O landed on the reality show when it premiered in 2000. These days, you can subscribe to his YouTube channel (along with his 3 million fans), and catch him on tour with his comedy act, or even on campus! He stopped by ASL in February 2015, skateboard in hand, to say hello to students and teachers. We're certainly glad he did.

Keira Hart-Mendoza '98, managing and artistic director, UpRooted Dance

You could say that Keira is a Renaissance artist, hailing from a different school than Michelangelo, but nonetheless multitasked, creative and professionally versatile. She manages a small arts company but could just as easily hold the titles of marketing director, fundraiser, costume designer, Pilates instructor and den mother. Serving the DC, Maryland and Virginia area, Uprooted Dance performers have appeared twice on the Millennium Stage at the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center. They also put on a show for ASL alumni during the DC reception in September, commanding attention with their energizing moves and Japanese drumming. For Keira, creating dance is like speaking a secret language. "We have to figure out how to read each other on stage, gauge each other's movements and collaborate on bringing a creative vision to life," she explains. The friends she made through softball, cheerleading and English with **Jim McGovern P '83 '84 '85 (ASL 1974–98)** are lifelong ones, and she encourages aspiring dancers like herself to stay resilient. "Never stop growing and gaining new skills," she advises. "Don't let setbacks get you down."

Pat Victor '84, singer-songwriter

As a member of the folk trio Brother Sun, Pat helps create a sound that's warm, stirring and sincere. Fusing folk and blues

with pop and jazz, the group performs more than 100 gigs a year, and their album "Some Part of the Truth" was the #1 CD on the Folk-DJ chart in 2013. "I never expected to be part of a #1 record," Pat admits. He spent the early years of his music career supplementing his income in numerous ways, including dressing as an elf and inadvertently making an on-air announcement in broken Spanish for a Telemundo broadcast. Being able to play his own music—and getting paid to do it—means everything to this ASL alumnus and former Jazz Band member, who still remembers how **Paul Nossiter (ASL ?–1984)** gave him the license to improvise, or how **Ethan Higgins P '07 '09 (ASL 1979–2009)** introduced him to the music of jazz guitarist Pat Martino. "ASL propelled my lifelong love of jazz," he adds gratefully. ■

Previous spread:

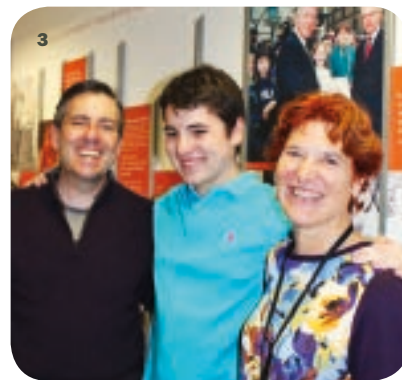
- 1 Kathleen Turner
- 2 Kiki Snodgrass
- 3 Patrick (Raymond) Himmler with Jan Mikrut (left)
- 4 Lauren Buglioli

This spread:

- 1 Lynsey Beauchamp
- 2 Adam Bond
- 3 Elaine Harris
- 4 Olivia Ancona
- 5 Stephen "Steve-O" Glover with Bhupendra Patel (ASL 1998–present)
- 6 Pat Victor



4 Class notes



'61
Jim Bexfield is still working and splits his time between Albuquerque, NM, and his apartment near the Pentagon in DC. Business frequently takes him to Lebanon, and he recently vacationed in India.

Susan (Savage) Cavenagh writes, "My husband, **Bob Cavanagh**, and I celebrated 50 years together in January 2015. We met in algebra class with **William Curry (ASL 1959-63)** in 1959—I tripped over Bob's feet!"

'63
John Ehrlich sends a hello to fellow ASLers from the mid '60s. "Maybe we can meet at a London reunion someday," he suggests.

'67
In June, **Andrea (Rhodin) Tebbets** enjoyed a meal out in New York with **Andy Bates, Mary (Samler) Williams '72** and **Alison (Samler) Williams**.



'69
An update from **Libby Eustis**: "I wrote two chapters, one on 19th-century seed and fruit-tree selling in the United States and the other on North American botanical discovery for *Flora Illustrata*, a book published by the New York Botanical Garden and Yale University Press. My husband, Fred, and I have sold the Eustis Estate which is to become a house museum. Now we are building an off-the-grid house in Westport, MA, where we can grow vegetables and flowers, and raise chickens. We have two happy and healthy grown children, one high-powered in NYC, the other a little more laid back in North Carolina. We'll soon be welcoming a step-grandchild by marriage; we're hoping for more too."

'71
Stephen Hall is in Washington, where he works at the US Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry & Security in export controls. He was pleased to see fellow ASLers at the DC reception in November 2014.

'72
Mary Brazell visited campus with husband Merrill Richmond and son Ben. Mary recalled her days on staff of *Spungo*, the school's now defunct political journal. She was part of the Margaret Thatcher protest and laughed when she saw she quoted Bob Dylan in her yearbook. Mary

and her family moved to London from New York when her dad's job at Texaco Iran uprooted them for the third time (first to Texas from Tulsa, then to New York). Mary went on to study at Radcliffe College (now Harvard) and recently relocated from Pleasantville, NY, to Portland, OR.

In March, **Carmel (Dowd) Paxson** stopped by ASL with her daughter Kate, a freshman at Bradley University. They were visiting from Chicago, where Carmel raised her four kids. She started at ASL in Grade 7, when the school was located near Baker Street, and moved back with her family to New Jersey before returning to London for high school when her dad's job with Exxon brought them across the pond again. She was part of the first graduating class in the current building: "One of 99 students," she recalled.

'76
Kathy O'Dell shares, "My husband, Steve, and I still live in Denver. We love our beautiful state and enjoy bicycling, especially in the mountains. Our daughter, Holly (23), is getting her master's in social

- 1 Andy Bates, Mary (Samler) Williams, Andrea (Rhodin) Tebbets and Alison (Samler) Williams
- 2 Kate and Carmel (Dowd) Paxson
- 3 Mary Brazell, Merrill Richmond with son Ben
- 4 Sally (Hohman) Thomas and family
- 5 Pamela Starke-Reed with husband Aaron in Venice
- 6 Dan and Meredith Croghan
- 7 Meighan (Corballis) Dutt with son Jack



work and wants to counsel women, and our son, Nick (21), is taking a year off from school and is working in Ft. Collins, just north of Denver. I am still substitute teaching, and I love it."

Sally (Hohman) Thomas brought her husband and daughter Kate, a Denison University student studying abroad in Spain, to visit ASL in the spring. The family lives in Dallas.

'77
While on vacation in Venice with her husband, Aaron, in May, **Pamela Starke-Reed** took in the sites of the city with special guest Eagle! Eagle also accompanied the couple to Cape Town earlier in the year, when they visited their daughter Abby during her semester abroad from Wesleyan University.

'78
Dan Croghan and his wife, Meredith, paid a visit to ASL. An engineer, Dan's work trip to Bristol meant he could tag on

- Overleaf**
- 1 Scott Mason, Tom Dickson, Mark Pearson, Raul Biancardi, Michael Cottle, Dave McCloskey, Chuck Rhea
 - 2 Cathy Mehtens
 - 3 Kim and Mark Dixon
 - 4 KC (McClain) Kelem and family
 - 5 Stephanie (Warner) Moss with husband Steve in Spain
 - 6 Christine Rudolph and Jasper Weener
 - 7 Greg Van Court
 - 8 Holly Mullikin and Jeff Majka



a few days of sightseeing in London. The couple lives in DC with their 3-year-old daughter and hope a London job transfer could be in their future.

'79
Meighan (Corballis) Dutt visited ASL in June with her youngest son, Jack. She and her family live in Newtown, CT, not far from her childhood hometown of Weston. Meighan's family moved to the UK because of her dad's job with Pitney Bowes. She started at Berkhamsted School before joining ASL for her senior year. She met one of her best friends, **Mallory (Maynard) McGrath** (twin sister of **Allison (Maynard) Devaux**), in a calligraphy class taught by **Suzanne Guest (ASL 1971-91)**. Among Meighan's favorite memories is studying English Literature with **George Weyant (ASL 1972-96)**, who took the class to meet David Niven while the star was filming *A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square*. She and her classmates were also part of a focus group during the production of *Foxes*. Following their tour of campus,

Meighan and Jack were on their way to check out Harrods, where Meighan worked fitting Eton and Harrow boys for their uniforms.

Ricard Gazala reports exciting news about his writing career: "My submission, *Kiss Him for Me*, was honored as a finalist from more than 300 entries in the short story category at the 2014 William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition in New Orleans. I'm currently working on my third book, *Blood of the Moon*, and my short story collection, *Trust and Other Nightmares*."

Suzanne (Portnoy) Noble writes, "I've been living in London since 1983, along with my parents and one of my brothers. I moved back after graduating from the University of New Hampshire and spent almost a decade working in film production before running a PR firm with my husband. I have two boys, aged 21 and 23, both living in London. The eldest is now working with me on my latest project called Frugl, an app that provides information about all things fun to do for £10 or less in London. I'm enjoying the challenge of starting again at 54! I do keep in contact with a few ASLers, especially **Laurie Stras** and **Kim Jennings '78**."

Marta Satin-Smith writes, "Our youngest is in college, our middle child recently kayaked down the Mississippi and our eldest lives in NYC. We are enjoying being empty nesters. I recently joined the board of our children's hospital."

In February, seven ASL alumni rugby players flew from the four corners of the Earth to watch Ireland play Italy at Rome's Olympic Stadium during the 2015 rugby Six Nations Championship. **Scott Mason, Dave McCloskey '80, Michael Cottle, Chuck Rhea '80, Tom Dickson '80, Mark Pearson '80** and **Raul Biancardi '80** had a weekend to remember. It was a particularly poignant moment for Raul as his father, Raul Sr., had represented his country in that very stadium during the 1960 Olympic Games. The match itself was only a small part of the weekend's entertainment, as the group took full advantage of the city's many



'81

After a distinguished 30-year career, Captain **Evan Piritz** retired from the United States Navy in January. In San Diego to witness the ceremony were his brother **Jerry '82** and **Mike Carroll**. Jerry is an engineer for Chevron working in Kuwait, and Mike is a pilot for Delta Air Lines.



'83

Over the summer, **Kim Dixon** and brother **Mark '85** visited with Mark's two children. Kim competed on the championship varsity volleyball team in 1982, while Mark played rugby. Mark and his kids were visiting from Chicago, and Kim is based in Santa Rosa, CA. Kim was looking forward to the ASL reunion in Chicago in July.

KC (Karen McClain) Kelem visited One Waverley Place in June 2015 with her family, including father **David McClain (P '81 '83)**, husband Marty, and children Zack, Kenzie and Reese. KC attended ASL in the late 70s with brother **John McClain '81**. KC was thrilled to find a framed photo of the 1979 production of "The King and I," in which she played a dancer, directed by **Jan Mikrut (ASL 1974-98)**. KC has fond memories of a note to the cast from Yul Brynner, star of the 1956 film version who was starring in the West End at the time, expressing his sorrow at being unable to make the ASL performance.

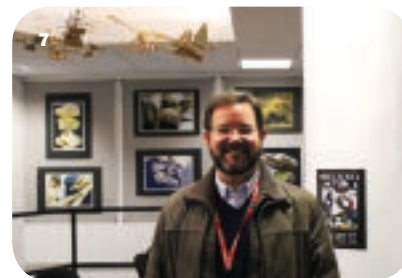


'84

Stephanie (Warner) Moss writes, "Greetings to all from southern Spain! My husband, Steve, and I retired in 2012 to Jimena de la Frontera in Cadiz after almost 30 years in Denver. Some of you may remember Steve from Baker Street, the pub in the station that he ran for a short time in summer 1984. We had a pub in North Finchley called the Green Man, but left London for Colorado in 1985 for a 'five-year-adventure.' Denver ended up becoming home, and now we're in Spain! We'd love to hear from any alumni passing through."

'85

During her seven-month trip around the world, School Center Manager **Christine Rudolph (ASL 1989-present)** is exploring countries from Sri Lanka to Australia and is catching up with several ASL alumni along the way. She and **Jasper Weener '97** met up in Dubai in June.



'87

Greg Van Court visited ASL in January during his first trip to London since returning to the UK for the wedding of **Andrew Kidd** and **Solange (Weinberger) Kidd '85 (ASL 1996-present)**. Greg and his alumna wife, **Sandra Delvoie '88**, live in Austin, TX, where Greg works as a pastor. The couple met at an ASL reception in Texas!

'89

Jeff Majka visited campus with partner Holly Mullikin in July. Jeff lives in Alexandria, VA. Following their London visit, the couple was headed to Paris.

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Learn about upcoming alumni events?
Have an update to share?*

Contact your Class Agent!

Email alumni@asl.org for more information.

2015

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2013

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Vivek Jois
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Will Tucker
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1998

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1997

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Doug Gilbert
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Bob Kail
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1961

Jim Bexfield
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culinary hotspots, sampling some of the best food and wine that Italy has to offer. The wine fueled much storytelling, and one by one, each player recounted crazy anecdotes and wild adventures experienced both on and off the rugby pitch during their years at ASL.

'80

Congratulations to **Carol John**, who sold three art pieces to the permanent collection of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA. Carol has exhibited at the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, the Quinlan Art Center and the University of Georgia, among other galleries. She lives in Athens, GA, and remains grateful for the arts foundation ASL provided her, particularly under the direction of **Bear Van Wyck**

(**ASL 1972-85**) and **Suzanne Guest (ASL 1971-91)**.

Cathy Mehrtens returned to campus for the first time in nearly 35 years while on a business trip to London in March. Cathy lives outside of San Francisco, where she is director of business development at a global law firm and raises two kids. She enjoyed touring the old classroom pods and checking out the gym, home to many of her volleyball games with coach **Dave Sutherland (ASL 1970-98)**. She also managed to have coffee with former physics teacher and basketball coach **Joe McEvoy (ASL 1975-85)** while she was in town.



- 1 Michael Meyer's Grade 2 class photo, 1979-80
- 2 Michael Meyer's Grade 3 class photo, 1980-81
- 3 Glenn Richter with wife Kyra
- 4 Josh Adler, Brandon Bakshi and Ramsay Jallad
- 5 Tarek Malouf, Katura Jensen, Brandon Bakshi and Heather Ogren
- 6 Amer Samhoun and family
- 7 Dennis Wu wed Didi Lin



In September, **Margaret (Farmer) Pringle** returned to ASL as associate director of advancement for annual giving. Margaret moved to London from Rome with her husband, Duncan, and their two children. Her daughter, Marley, has joined Grade 1 at ASL, and her son, Callum, is 2. She joins eight other alumni staff and faculty members and 25 alumni who are also ASL parents in our current community!

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

'90

Michael Meyer reconnected to ASL to share some lower school class photos he recently unearthed, dating back to 1979-81! He fondly remembers his Grade 3 teacher, **Helen Bentson (ASL 1971-93)**, who taught him calligraphy. Michael currently lives in Rye Brook, NY.

'91

Class of '91 reunion! In July, **Brandon Bakshi P '27, Katura Jensen, Tarek Malouf** and **Heather Ogren** got together for a festive lunch at the Enterprise. Tarek is founder and CEO of London's Hummingbird Bakery, Katura stays busy as a fashion and music photographer, and Heather was visiting from Boulder, CO, where she works as a public librarian. Brandon is still at Broadcast Music, Inc, and is also an ASL parent.

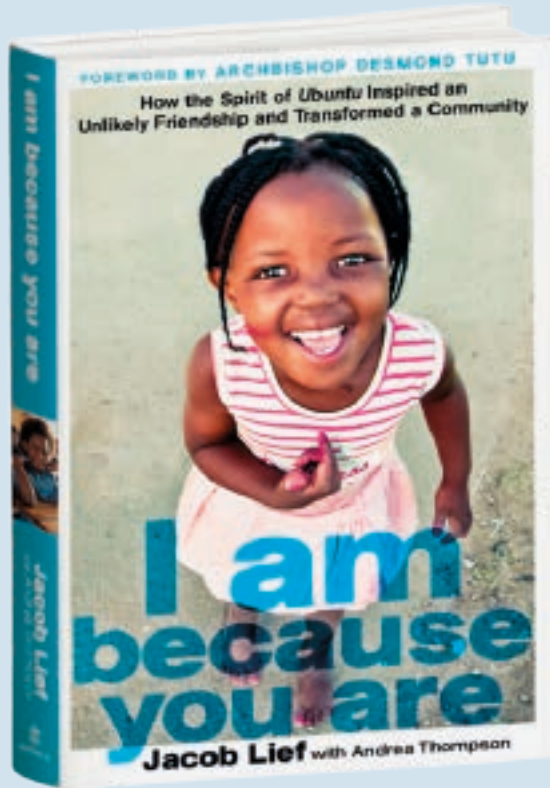
Over the summer, **Brandon Bakshi P '27** also lunched in Fitzrovia with pals **Josh Adler** and **Ramsay Jallad '93**. Josh recently transferred to Goldman Sachs' headquarters in New York, while Ramsay works at JP Morgan in London.

'92

Amer Samhoun brought his family to campus while on vacation in London last spring. An Endurance Award recipient, Amer had not been to ASL in many years and was excited to show his wife and kids, Leya (12), Safy (11), Khaled (7), Sarya (6) and Omar (2) where he grew up. Amer and his wife, Rasha, started their family in London before moving to Doha and then Dubai, where they settled in 2005. Amer still considers his Grade 7 teacher, **Alice Leader (ASL 1975-2010)**, an inspiration during his years at ASL.

Dennis Wu wrote to share the happy news that he was married on 4 January 2015 to Didi Lin. The couple met on a plane in 2009. After a wonderful honeymoon in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, Dennis and Didi returned to their home in Los Angeles. "I would love to hear from fellow ASLers!" Dennis remarked.

1



'94

Exciting news for author **Diane Cook!** Her collection of short stories, *Man vs. Nature*, was published in August. Hailed as “perfectly pitched” and “astonishingly bold,” this work explores the boundary between the wild and the civilized. *Man vs. Nature* has been shortlisted for the *LA Times* Books Prize 2015 and was a *San Francisco Chronicle* Notable Book of 2014.

Brett Dakin is now general counsel at the Child Mind Institute, an organization dedicated to transforming mental health care for children everywhere. Brett provides legal advice and strategic guidance to the executive leadership and board of directors on a range of issues.

'95

In October, **Jacob Lief**, founder & CEO of Ubuntu Education Fund, returned to ASL to meet with high school students to discuss his work supporting vulnerable children in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He also presented a Speakers Series event to the community based on his new book, *I Am Because You Are*.

'96

Lindsay (Botts) Gruhl got together with three of her closest ASL friends and their families, **Julie (Iacobescu) Doernte**, **Katy (Doggett) Burgess** and **Brett Wesoky**, on the west coast. The foursome met at ASL back in Grade 6!

'97

In March, **Tara (Samuell) Friez** returned to ASL with her husband while vacationing in London. They are raising their family in Midland, TX. Tara enjoyed catching up with classmate **John Farmer (ASL 2012–present)**.

'99

Two weeks after they got engaged, **Betsy Ebersole '99** and her fiancé, Adam Cole, visited ASL. Elizabeth hadn't returned to campus since graduation. The couple lives in DC, where Betsy works as senior product director at *The Atlantic*. She still keeps in touch with some ASL classmates and was thrilled to be back.



'01

Jill (Bottomley) Kunkes and husband Matt welcomed their daughter, Cecilia Dylan Kunkes, on 31 August 2013.

'02

The Maine wedding of **Carolynn Crabtree** and Julius Rose in August 2014 was the perfect occasion for classmates **Cory Zimmerman**, **Fiona Tarazi** and **Britlese Thomas** to get together and celebrate. The newlyweds live in Cambridge, MA, where Carolynn works for Cornerstone Reputation, a company she founded to help students with their online presence (visit www.cornerstonereputation.com to learn more).

Amanda Granum visited ASL shortly before Thanksgiving in 2014, when she was in London for the wedding of her older sister, **Alexis '98**. Amanda lives in Philadelphia, where she teaches art at Abington Friends School. She earned her B.A. at Boston University and still remembers studying art history with **Judy Kisor (ASL 1994–2014)**, one of the best teachers she ever had.

- 1 Jacob Lief recently published a book, *I Am Because You Are*
- 2 Adam Cole and Betsy Ebersole
- 3 Cory Zimmerman, Fiona Tarazi, Carolynn Crabtree and Britlese Thomas

- 4 Julia Iacobescu, Lindsay Botts, Katy Doggett and Brett Wesoky
- 5 Jordan Marton with wife Melissa
- 6 Brian Quinn



During their ten-hour layover in London while traveling to Cape Town, **Jordan Marton** and his wife, Melissa, visited ASL. After earning his B.A. in electrical engineering at Tufts, Jordan worked in Boston and is now studying at Columbia Business School. He and Melissa met playing ice hockey. Jordan spoke highly of former crew coach **Meg Bailey (ASL 1990–2014)** and teacher **Judy Kisor (ASL 1994–2014)**.

Ellen Willett married Crissy Camerota in September 2013.



'04

Jack Lowey is still living in Chicago and is joining the Class of 2017 at Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management this fall. He writes, “In June, I got engaged to Kaitlin Arntz on a trip to Paris. I hope to visit London and ASL soon!”

'05

After losing their beloved son **Rudy** to a rare brain cancer in 2013, **Vidhu** and **Som Menon P '05 '09** started a foundation in his honor. Visit www.rudymenon.org to learn more about supporting research for Gliomatosis Cerebri.

'06

Congratulations to **Lindsay Hodge**, who finished 16th in the women's division of the Paris Marathon in April with a time of 2:45:30.

'07

Leigh Ercole writes, “I am currently a third grade teacher at a traditional public school in the South Bronx. I am continually inspired by memories of my ASL experiences with amazing educators.”

Brian Quinn visited campus this summer. He has lived in Boston since studying at Boston University post ASL, graduating from the College of Communication in 2011. Brian co-owns a real estate and concierge company.



After years of being scattered all over the world, everyone in his family has made Massachusetts their home.

Marika Ison is working as interim director of alumni relations at ASL! Her appointment follows a successful year at the School as campaign assistant. Marika is thrilled to be back at One Waverley Place!

'11

In his final semester at Stanford, **Patrick Cirezza** was asked to take part in the White House Summit on Cybersecurity and Consumer Protection held at the university in February.



'12

During her spring break from University of Texas at Austin, **Caroline Garcia** paid a visit to ASL. She happily said hello to former teachers **Vicky Hamadache (ASL 1985–present)**, **Becky Mason '95 (ASL 2009–present)**, **John Reilly (ASL 2011–present)** and **Tony Bracht (ASL 2002–present)**. Currently a senior, Caroline is a business major and interned with BP in 2014.

Well done to **Ryan Tveter**, who finished ninth in the second race of a tripleheader for the FIA Formula 3 European Series at Zandvoort, The Netherlands, in July. Learn more about the 21-year-old's exciting racing career through his website, ryantveter.com.

'13

Courtney McClure continues to enjoy life at Syracuse University, where she is a junior.

Brendan Ware is a junior at Purdue University.

'15

James McClure is a freshman at Wake Forest University.

Ian Ware graduated from C.D. Senior Hylton High School in northern Virginia. He is a freshman at the University of Virginia, double majoring in international economics and global development.



Faculty News

In October, **Martin Drexler P '23 (ASL 1995–2001; 2008–present)** exhibited paintings at London's Leighton House Museum. The exhibition, *The Craft of Drawing and Painting: celebrating tradition today*, showcased artists who have worked within the atelier tradition.

We're proud that **Buck Herron (ASL 1998–present)** was highlighted in the alumni magazine of his alma mater, St. Mary's College of California, for being a force in the performing arts field. "Directing has been the most creative part of my career," Buck reported. "I'm working so much more consistently and creatively...I'm very fortunate for that."

Former faculty member **Ruth Heuman (ASL 1970–2009)** recently toured the National Press Club in Washington, DC, with past colleagues **Holley** and **Doug Adcock (ASL 1970–93)** and the Belkind family: **Yael '90**, and **Myron and Rachel P '90 '93**.

Jaime Dominguez P '18 (ASL 1997–2005) writes, "Ti and I are still in San Francisco with our three children. Antonio '18, who went to ASL for K1, is a sophomore. A number of ASL alums have stopped through, including several who have ended up substitute teaching at my school, Stuart Hall for Boys, including **Kevin Benz '05**, **Lili Katz '06** and **Emily Oakes '03**.

Bill and **Julie Ryan (ASL 1994–2013)** paid a visit to **Cynthia** and **Steve Wasley (ASL 1975–2008)** at the Wasleys' home in Pacific Grove, CA.

Director of Alumni Relations **Libby Jones (ASL 2012–present)** and husband Huw are thrilled to announce the arrival of their son, William "Liam" Robert Jones, born 14 September.

Photography teacher **Erik Niemi (ASL 2007–present)** exhibited a series of photographs at Hoxton's Red Gallery in September 2015. The exhibition, *Objectify*, showed the work of three artists whose art examined the importance of objects as keys for social and emotional memory, as fascinating and mysterious companions to our lives.

- 1 Ryan Tveter competed in the FIA Formula 3 European Series in the Netherlands
- 2 Caroline Garcia with boyfriend Akos Furton
- 3 Patrick Cirezza took part in Stanford's Summit on Cybersecurity
- 4 Ruth Heuman with Holley and Doug Adcock and Yael, Myron and Rachel Belkind
- 5 Julie Ryan, Steve and Cynthia Wasley

Not last orders!

On Thursday, 10 September, some of our beloved former faculty gathered together on a sunny afternoon for a "faculty meeting" at The Garden Gate pub in Hampstead. Former middle school science and math teacher **Mike McKeen (ASL 1973–97)** has been arranging such meet-ups and gatherings for former faculty and staff for a number of years. Mike likes to take attendance at these once-or-twice-a-year events, and was delighted to see **Marika Ison '07** arrive, representing the School in her new role as interim alumni director. The afternoon saw a great turnout, including former colleagues who were in town visiting from the US. Fond memories were shared and glasses were raised among old friends. Guests included: **Doug Adcock (ASL 1970–93)**, **Joyce Anderson (ASL 1980–2012)**, **Roger Corrigan (ASL 1971–2010)**, **Jude Bailey (ASL 1981–2007)**, **Alice Leader (ASL 1975–2010)**, **Helen Blum (ASL 1967–2000)**, **Mary Louise Barker (ASL 1977–2003)**, **Jackie Fryer (ASL 1966–89)**, **John Lutz (ASL 1971–2000)**, **Dave Sutherland (ASL 1970–98)** and wife Chris, **Sue Ellen Wilder Johnson (ASL 1969–74)**, **Lois St. Pierre (1978–2009)**, **Holley Adcock (ASL 1970–93)**, **Cathy Adams (1974–2005)**, **Linda McKeen (ASL 1975–2003)** and **Chris Siegfried (ASL 1961–98)**.

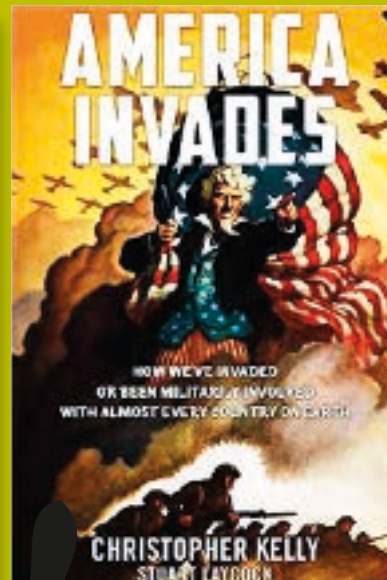


Family News

In June, **Paul and Shelley Larsen P '09 '11 '15 '21** visited ASL with their children, **McKay '21** and **Madeline '15**. The family lives in Utah.



Alumni News



Alumni in print

We are proud of the newest ASL published writers in our midst! Check out these two intriguing debut books from alumni who share a passion for the US military and storytelling.

Green on Blue, **Elliot Ackerman '98**

Sparks have certainly flown since the distinguished ASL alumnus published his first novel, *Green on Blue*, this past February. Set in war-torn Afghanistan, where Elliot served intermittently from 2008 to 2011, the book's narrator is a young Afghan boy who joins a US-funded militia to save his severely injured older brother. Crafting the story from the perspective of an Afghan soldier was the greatest challenge for Elliot, who spent 18 months writing (and rewriting) it. "In the earlier drafts, I had constructed the novel to have the Afghan soldier telling the story to an American," Elliot explained. "As I got deeper in, I realized that if my ambition was to render the war from an Afghan perspective then that construct would dilute the story. I had nothing to hide at that point."

You could say Elliot's writing career was fated: his mother is a best-selling novelist who raised her family around books, and he went on to study English literature and history at Tufts University. Perhaps more surprising was the 35-year-old's decision to join the Marine Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) back when he was in college. His eight-year tenure in the military included tours of Iraq, Afghanistan and relief work in New Orleans, post-Hurricane Katrina, not to mention earning the honors of a Silver Star, a Bronze Star for Valor and a Purple Heart. What of his time at ASL? "My arrival was somewhat jarring," Elliot admitted. "I was 9 years old and had only lived in LA, and it was strange to go from the beachy sprawl of southern California, running in a sprinkler, to the urban crunch that is London." But acclimating to life at ASL came quickly to Elliot, who fondly remembers teachers **Paul Morton (ASL 1963–97)** and **Mary Louise Barker (ASL 1977–2003)**, trips to Stonehenge and Greece, and woodworking with **Tim Watson (ASL 1973–2007)**—his parents still use a coffee table he made in that class. "Living in London helped me form a broader view of the world," he acknowledged gratefully.

America Invades, **Chris Kelly '77 P '14 '18**

On 13 October 1812, militia major general and native New Yorker Stephen van Rensselaer III launched an ill-fated attack against the British in Canada, leading to the first major battle in the War of 1812. This story, among others of American warfare, was the stuff of great intrigue for Chris, a relative of van Rensselaer and self-proclaimed history buff (an original letter from Benedict Arnold relaying the details of the 1812 skirmish to General Wooster hangs in his bathroom at home). Chris's military history fervor inspired him to co-author a book on the subject, aptly titled *America Invades: How We've Invaded or been Militarily Involved with Almost Every Country on Earth*.

"It's deliberately provocative," explained Chris, adding that his work is by no means a celebration of war or imperialism. "When I say invasion, I'm trying to be neutral. I want the reader to decide." Covering Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, *America Invades* explores the scope of US military invasions and involvement around the world—a broad reach, according to Chris's research. Andorra, Bhutan and Liechtenstein are the only three countries exempt from some form of American intervention. "This was the most surprising thing I learned," shared Chris. His yearlong fact-finding quest took him to the port of Whitehaven, Cumbria, in northeast England as well as inside the ASL community: Vietnam War veteran Bill Funk, husband of former middle school principal **Cathy Funk (ASL 2011–15)**, was one of his primary sources, and current parent **Hassan Elmasry P '12 '14 '16** provided some context to the book's chapter on Egypt.

Originally from California, Chris moved to London in 1970 for his father's sabbatical at the BBC. Chris eventually made his way back to the west coast to earn his B.A. in philosophy at UC Berkeley and, following in his dad's footsteps, worked in the TV business in Seattle. Ten years ago, he moved his family to London so his children could enjoy the same international experience he had. In fall 2014, he set off on a 36-state book tour that involved an *America Invades* branded van and numerous NFL tailgates. He also got to cross off Little Bighorn, Montana, on his list of battle sites to explore. "You have to be determined to get there," he admitted. ■

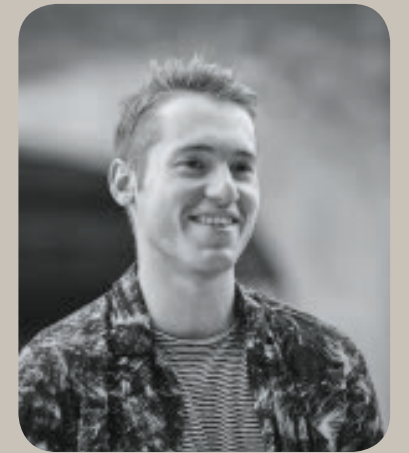
Peace, coconuts and love

Zack Nathan '13 **launches snack** **company**

The summer after he graduated from ASL, Cornell-bound **Zack Nathan** sampled a treat his mom whipped up in the kitchen: toasted coconut flakes seasoned with cinnamon and salt. "They were absolutely delicious," the 20-year-old recalled. "I thought about what I could do with these flakes and came up with other ideas."

Brainstorming and creating have always been second nature to Zack. At ASL, he spent time developing an iPad app in his independent study, combining what he learned in AP Computer Science and art class with **Martin Drexler**. "I'm interested in systematic learning—building models and testing them in the real world," he explained. "ASL gave me freedom to do all these different things."

Confronted with limited food choices during a summer art course at UPenn, Zack started to explore the science behind food, and whether he could make a positive change in the food system—starting with those yummy coconut flakes. He was certain he could create his own path and develop a healthy product if he put college on hold, he just needed to convince his parents. Terms and limits were



negotiated, and soon Zack was back home in London researching, networking and exploring all things coconut and food-industry related.

"I had no idea what I was doing," Zack recalled. But with persistence and a few lucky breaks, the Ape company was born. Or more specifically, Coconut Curls were born. Ape's first snack is available in two flavors and is on sale at Planet Organic and As Nature Intended stores. What's more, Coconut Curls were sold at this year's Glastonbury Festival!

"I'm most excited about finally sharing the curls with the world," Zack enthused. "We have some really big and ambitious plans, so it's great to see our team achieving them!" ■





Fazeelat Aslam '03: Documentary filmmaker & journalist

After graduating from ASL and Wellesley College, Fazeelat returned to her native Pakistan to launch her career as a journalist and filmmaker. Producing work for PBS Frontline, Channel 4 UK, Al Jazeera and HBO, the 29-year-old filmmaker's distinguished credits now include co-producing the Oscar-award-winning documentary *Saving Face*, depicting the trauma and resilience of Pakistani acid attack survivors. Her latest project, *Tomorrow We Disappear*, premiered at the 2014 Tribeca Film Festival and was named by IndieWire as one of the "20 Best Documentaries of 2014." Fazeelat is currently based between LA and New York, where she is helping to start BuzzFeed's video news division. Fazeelat spoke to Alumni Director Libby Jones about her rising career.

LJ: Where did you discover your passion for storytelling? I hope it was at ASL!

FA: At ASL, I was exposed to so many perspectives, nationalities and cultures. One of my English teachers, **Patricia Barry (ASL 1972–2003)**, is someone I will cherish and value for the rest of my

life. She is a wonderfully spirited, strong feminist who taught with a lot of humor and knew how to engage her students. Ms. Barry made me feel like I could achieve my goals. She made me feel smart. I was inspired to be independent; to be myself. And I took that with me to Wellesley, where I met some amazing professors who continued to open my mind and help shape my perspective in a different way. I ended up majoring in gender studies and media studies and was happy to be pointed in the direction of viable career options in film.

What motivated your move to Pakistan, post college?

I was born in Pakistan, and have always identified as a Pakistani. When I graduated from Wellesley, I felt incredibly empowered with nowhere to go. Pakistan had entered a time of conflict, and I felt, professionally, that it was my duty and responsibility to go back and contribute to my country in a way that might help. I spent six years there, not only reporting on Pakistan's issues, but also interacting with survivors and heroes on the ground, who deserved a spotlight and often needed moral, financial or political support.

From Pakistan to New York, you and your work have earned several impressive awards. Of which accolade are you most proud?

The Oscar for *Saving Face* was an amazing accomplishment, of course. It puts your work on an incredible platform. But my greatest accolade is from my most recent documentary, *Tomorrow We Disappear*, which I co-produced. It's about an artist colony in India full of India's last traditional artists: magicians, fire breathers and puppeteers. The premise



of the film is that these artists' homes are being threatened so that developers can build a skyscraper. The film explores what it means to lose your home, what it means to be an artist, and how architecture influences art. I found out just this week that the redevelopment of the colony is being put on hold, and that the artists have a say in their future. This is what you dream of; to go into a community, to be invited into their lives, to gain their trust, to build bridges and connections with people you wouldn't otherwise meet, and to express their story. And then to create impact that helps people understand each other—that, to me, is the biggest achievement.

What's the greatest challenge that you face as a filmmaker?

Sometimes getting the best story means risking your safety or even your life. I have worked in conflict areas; I've worked with the Taliban. But the hardest part, for me, is trying to avoid the common and exploitative practices which, unfortunately, can be the nature of this job. Journalism is changing, and there's a lot of flexibility, so it's a challenge to find a code of ethics that journalists across the board can abide by and agree on. That's why I love working at BuzzFeed, it's a company that breeds empathy and I find that incredibly inspirational.

Any advice for budding ASL journalists and filmmakers?

One: watch a lot of documentaries. Two: start getting hands-on experience. Three: there's no shortcut for hard work. It doesn't matter who you know or who you're connected to. In the long run, taking shortcuts will catch up with you. Finally, you have to love this job, because it won't necessarily pay you. If you're lucky enough to have financial support, that is great!

To learn more about Fazeelat or her work, visit her website, <http://www.fazeelataslam.com/>

CHICAGO



Chicago Reunion: A weekend to remember

Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of **Class of 1980** pals **Ned Campbell, Andy Reed** and **Paul Snead**, 120 ASL alumni representing **Classes 1978** through **1987** descended upon Chicago for an unofficial reunion in July. Eagles travelled from as far as Morocco to be part of the revelry. Weekend activities included catching a Cubs game at Wrigley Field, enjoying a Chicago riverboat cruise and dining out with friends old and new. The main event took place on Saturday night, when everyone was invited to enjoy dinner and drinks at a downtown Chicago restaurant. Following the celebration, **Elisabeth Myers '81** commented, "ASLers are unique and dynamic game-changers. I am happy to be associated with such fine citizens of the world."

- 1** Mike Bishop, Allison Evans Richardson, Sue Katzen and Adam Becker
- 2** Elizabeth (Betsy) Dakin, Cindy (Thomas) Faatz, Nicolette (Nordin) Heavey, Christine (Cowdrey) Flowers, Josephine Eke, Mary-Ann (Eastlake) Savage
- 3** Scott Mason, Dave McCloskey, Andy Reed, Scott Elliott
- 4** Ned Campbell, Caitlin McGee, Ken Halbert, Cindy Thomas Fatz, Rick Dixon, Scott Stevens, Josephine Eke, Scott Elliott, Andy Reed

Save the dates!

Please join us for an ASL alumni event in 2016!

8 Jan: ASL Homecoming (London)

29 January: Boston

1 February: New York

15 February: San Francisco

16 February: Los Angeles

Visit the alumni events calendar online for more details and updates (www.asl.org/alumni)



The ASL community was saddened to hear of the death of **Mildred Weinstock**, who passed away in January 2015. As a former teacher and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Mildred cared passionately about education. She made regular annual gifts to ASL throughout the course of her life. Her daughter is a long-serving and popular former ASL faculty member. Mildred's fondness for ASL endured because ours was the school that allowed her daughter to flourish as a teacher. Mildred remembered ASL in her estate plans. Our students will benefit from her generous bequest and we are eternally grateful.



Always ASL celebrates the tradition of generosity at ASL and promotes a connection from one generation of ASLers to the next. Always ASL recognizes individuals and families who have given consistently over a long period of time to our school, or have included the American School in London in their estate plans.

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

A bequest

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

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

In memoriam

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

Alumni and parents of alumni

Bob Black '64 passed away on 21 January 2015.

Casey (Thorsten) Biliouris '78 died on 2 May 2015. She is survived by her husband, Aaron.

Robert Bradshaw '81 died in July 2015.

Mark Cook '80 died on 22 January 2015 in London.

Mary Freeman P '08, mother of **Joanna Freeman '08** and wife of **Varel Freeman P '08**, passed away on 11 May 2015.

Tomas Harari '10 passed away in August 2015.

Helene Kennedy P '14, mother of **Kate Kennedy '14**, died on 30 March 2015. Helene is survived by husband **Mark Kennedy P '14**.

Zoe Leader '68 died on 3 March 2015.

Andrew Maloney '97 died on 31 July 2015.

Steven Seligson '82 passed away on 11 March 2015.

Former faculty and staff

Suzanne Guest (ASL 1971–91) Suzanne Guest passed away on Wednesday, 17 June 2015. Suzanne worked in ASL's art department and served as head of art for 20 years. Former Grade 2 teacher **Laura Bradshaw (ASL 1989–2003)** remarked about Suzanne, "She was one of the first people I met at ASL, and she completely changed my outlook on life!" In 2005, Suzanne was a well-deserved recipient of the Stephen Eckard Award for inspiring and dedicated service to education. Her superb calligraphy work can be seen around the hallways of ASL today. Suzanne is sorely missed by her family and many friends at ASL.

Edward Hoffman (ASL 1973–91)

Edward "Ed" Hoffman passed away in June. Ed taught high school social studies for many years and served as head of the social studies department. As described in the 1974 ASL yearbook: "From New York, Mr. Ed Hoffman has lived most recently in Brazil, but is at home in several worldwide communities."

John Wilson (ASL 1971–2009), Ed's colleague, remembers how much time Ed invested in preparing his lessons, and how committed he was to improving his students' expository writing skills. Another colleague, **Peter Rezendes**, recalls Ed's "discerning eye for beauty." A service of Thanksgiving for Ed's life was held in Kilburn in late July.

Cynthia Stirrup (ASL 1980–86)

Former ASL librarian Cynthia Stirrup passed away on 2 February 2012. A graduate of Pretoria University, Cynthia arrived in the UK in 1966, where her son, Hadley, was born in 1968. She enjoyed a highly successful career as a librarian in London schools, after which she worked for Voluntary Service Overseas in West Africa, setting up school libraries. In 1999, Cynthia became 'Granny' to Hadley's son, Louis, a role she assumed with her characteristic passion. After a successful battle with cancer in the mid 2000s, lifelong lover of travel Cynthia and her partner, Lindsay Davies, toured extensively before cancer returned, tragically, in 2011. Cynthia is survived by Lindsay, her family and her many friends.

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

American Memorial Collection

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



The American School in London

One Waverley Place

London NW8 ONP

