

The American School in London

Accents

A portrait of Matt Horvat, a middle-aged man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a patterned tie. He is smiling and standing in front of a bookshelf filled with books.

*Introducing
Head of School*
Matt Horvat

Summer **2023**

The American School in London empowers each student to thrive as a lifelong learner and courageous global citizen by fostering intellect, creativity, inclusivity and character.

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Accents, Summer 2023

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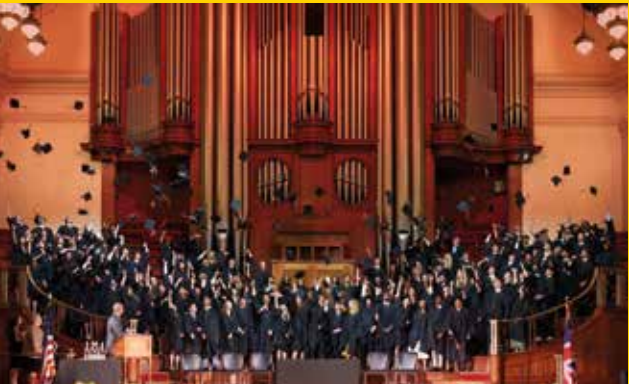
The American School in London is an independent, college-preparatory, preK-12 day school, providing an exceptional American education to an international student body in the heart of London. Innovation and individuality are celebrated, and outstanding academic success is applauded. Students thrive amid high expectations and the joy of authentic learning experiences. Through the lens of intercultural competency, we inspire students to engage with others across lines of difference in a changing world.

Contents

Gallery	6
The Power of Orange: <i>Continuing a tradition of philanthropy</i>	16
Spotlight on London	18
Waverley Place news	
Speakers Series	20
ISSTs, but not as we know it!	22
WorkX	23
Farewell to two ASL legends	23
PCA auction: <i>Better Together!</i>	24
Class notes	26
Alumni parent news	32
Faculty news	32
One Waverley Fly-bys	33
Alumni news	34
ASL then and now: <i>A history of Student Council</i>	37
In memoriam	41



4 **Introducing Matt Horvat, our ninth head of school**



8 **Graduation for the Class of 2023**



12 **Giving back to ASL: A celebration of our volunteers**

Letter from the *Interim Head* of *School*

In one of my last duties at ASL, I am delighted to share with you the latest edition of *Accents* magazine.

Within these pages, you will read stories of how volunteering and giving back run through the veins of our school, the Commencement exercises of the Class of 2023, and what's been happening at One Waverley Place. Around the world, our alumni are always keen to share updates on their lives and how this school helped mould their futures and influenced their careers. Check out Class notes and Alumni news for tales of life beyond ASL. From these stories, it's evident that friendships abound and we are the better for them.

During my three stints at our school, I have grown to appreciate the importance of the bonds of connection, woven from our experiences at the School and extending to the greater ASL family. Anywhere on the planet, our community can come together in a chance encounter and uncover a host of shared adventures and common values. That's long been the ASL way.

While I am sad to depart from this remarkable school, I know I leave it in the safe hands of those who remain, and I am confident that our new head of school, Matt Horvat, will take ASL to new heights in the years ahead, with his enthusiastic and warm approach. I will be watching with great interest from the US, where I look forward to embarking on a new chapter and spending time with my family, especially my grandson, Eoin Weston Hagan, born this past November. A special joy and an active retirement!

There is much to miss: working alongside educators, who care passionately about their students and their well-being; embracing the thriving school-home partnership with our talented and supportive parents; hearing our hallways ring with the sound of students in fervent debate; and seeing those in our charge joyous in their learning. Our future leaders and game changers—caring for each other, the planet, and themselves. May they use what has inspired them at ASL to make the world a better place. Together, we have lived our mission, striven for educational excellence, and supported each other during challenging times. This is an exceptional school, and I have been privileged to play my role. Truly, it has been an honor to serve this community.

There will be forever a place in my heart for ASL and those who, like me, think of it as home. Farewell for now. And I hope to see you at an ASL gathering in times to come.

Warm regards,

Coreen

Coreen R. Hester P '02 '04



Coreen speaks at the Better Together auction, March 2023



Head of School, 2010, by Harrison Lake '21



Coreen and Eagle greet students on the first day of school, August 2022

Be kind, be kind, be kind!

ASL says adieu and thank you to Coreen R. Hester

With a great deal of gratitude, the community bids farewell—for a third time—to Coreen R. Hester, ASL's seventh head of school. Coreen returned to One Waverley Place in March 2022 to lead ASL as interim head as the School undertook a worldwide search for its next permanent head of school. In years past, Coreen served as head of school at ASL from 2007 until 2017, and as high school principal from 1995 to 1997, when she was joined at ASL with her children, Tyler '02 and Molly '04.

Coreen's accomplishments during her time at ASL are many and admirable. We have enjoyed hearing her "be kind" philosophy back in the hallways of ASL—where her infectious laugh heralds her impending arrival way ahead of her actual appearance!

During her decade-long tenure as head of school, Coreen was instrumental in leading ASL through strategic initiatives in curriculum, service learning, STEM and intercultural competency, and identifying ASL's cores values, defining our Portrait of a Learner, growing our financial aid program, and seeing the School transform as a result of the *New Frontiers* capital campaign.

Frequent visitors to Coreen's office will recall her laminated quote from renowned educator and thought leader Roland Barth, which she firmly believes underpins the fabric of a good school: "The quality of adult relationships within a school has more to do with the quality and character of the school and with the accomplishments of students than any



other factor." Indeed, she holds dear that when adults are on the same page, students learn the value of intellectual curiosity, the importance of integrity, the joy of service and the relevance of responsible leadership.

She likened teaching to robust athletic exercise rather than a sedate game of chess. "Teaching is not," she opined, "for the faint of heart." Another firmly held tenet is that we should ask often: What could we be doing better?

Passionate about recruiting and retaining a first-class faculty, and considering it a primary aim as a successful head of school, Coreen took great pains and pleasure in seeking out intelligent, creative and flexible individuals, always with a good sense of humor! According to Coreen, "An excellent teacher connects with students and changes lives."



Other endorsements include dedication to the school-home partnership, an investment in professional development, a commitment to student well-being, and the value of a diverse and inclusive community. And always encouraging students to build their leadership muscle and make a difference in the world around us.

Coreen's steadfast belief in ASL as a top-notch school, full of creativity and energy, and based in one of the world's most exciting cities has not wavered. Going forward, we know she will be tracking our course from afar, wishing only the very best for our school and our students.

One of her last undertakings was to ease the transition for our new head of school, Matt Horvat. The two spoke regularly as Coreen handed over the reins of ASL, and Matt credits her with providing "superlative support."

Lunchtimes will never be the same for those lucky enough to find themselves in the her company on one of her rare breaks from running the School. She is the go-to person for what plays to see, what books to read, and what historic sights to visit, and initiates the most entertaining and good-natured debates on grammar and punctuation—ever the English major. We will miss you, Coreen!

While we are sad to bid a final farewell to Coreen, we know that she is looking forward to spending more time with her family, including new grandson Eoin (ASL class of 2041 should he find himself in London!)

We wish you well in your next adventure, Coreen. And thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your dedication and commitment to our school. Ciao for now, but come back and visit often. ■

1 Coreen addresses the community at the Global Festival, March 2016

2 Coreen, high school principal, with high school students, June 1997

Introducing Matt Horvat



ASL's ninth head of school

In October 2022, we were delighted to announce that Matt Horvat would become ASL's ninth head of school, and take the helm at One Waverley Place in summer 2023. The head of school search committee, led by trustees Hahnah Seminara P '24 '27 '30 and Kavi Thakrar P '29 '31, was confident that Matt possessed the relevant experience and personal characteristics needed to successfully lead ASL into our next exciting chapter.

The appointment followed a worldwide search, lasting a number of months, which saw three candidates visit ASL in the final interview stage. All constituencies, including parents, employees and students, had an opportunity to hear from the candidates, before providing feedback to assist the committee in its important task. The committee was unanimous in its decision to offer the role to Matt Horvat.

Our new head comes to ASL from The Overlake School in Redmond, WA, a grade 5-12 independent school, where he served as head for 11 years.

During his first visit to ASL, Matt praised our students' enthusiasm and passion for ASL, and described his meetings with students as "particularly inspiring." Matt was also impressed by how much joy our students experience from the friendships they have nurtured at ASL. He believes that "our relationships are what lead us to learn, to feel a sense of belonging and trust, and to thrive."

Matt returned to ASL the week before Spring Break, attending a leadership retreat with the Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team, and spending a great deal of time meeting parents, employees, and of course, students. Middle and high schoolers enjoyed their own divisional lunches with our incoming head and had lots of opportunity to engage with Matt about his new role. At an informal tea for employees in the Mellon Library, Matt reported that he had spent a very happy stint at Overlake, and only a school such as ASL would have been able to tempt him from the Pacific Northwest.

Parents enjoyed morning and evening

events to welcome Matt, and student journalists from the middle school newspaper, *The Scroll*, and the high school newspaper, *The Standard*, seized their time with Matt to ask him about his move to London and the challenges and opportunities ahead.

Matt shared that he was eager to return to an international school that serves students across 14 years, K-12, writing in a letter to the community in November 2022, "It's mind-boggling to think about the growth that takes place for each individual over these many years, whether in their physical transformation or how they develop as readers, thinkers, writers, problem solvers, and so much more."

After his visit in April as incoming head, Matt commented, "I've thoroughly enjoyed my time at ASL this past week, and I'm eager to return this summer with my family to take my place as the head of ASL. The welcome I have received has been warm and inviting, and, as expected, the most challenging questions have come from the students! I'm looking forward to joining this collaborative,

inclusive and diverse community and making a difference at this wonderful school. So long, ASL—I'll be back!"

Matt's credentials are stellar and varied. He earned his undergraduate degree in history from the University of Pennsylvania, and followed up with a master's degree in mathematics and teaching from Boston University. Matt has also completed significant coursework in nonprofit management at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University.

Prior to his time at Overlake, Matt served in administrative positions at the Collegiate School and Browning School in New York City, before taking on the role of high school principal at University of Chicago Laboratory School. Additionally, Matt has significant teaching experience in mathematics and information technology at independent schools, both nationally and internationally, including Taipei American School. Ever the teacher, Matt reports that he thoroughly enjoyed teaching Grade 7 algebra at Overlake during his time as head. His professional associations include board service for the National Merit Scholarship Corporation and the Northwest Association of Independent Schools.

Members of the search committee were impressed with Matt's track record with intercultural competency work, informed by a deep understanding of Overlake's community, and are confident



that his considered approach will be equally as successful at ASL. Given his extensive knowledge and experience of curriculum, accreditation, strategic planning and implementation, finances and fundraising, Matt is perfectly equipped to take our school into its next chapter.

Matt has a proven reputation as an excellent listener, strong collaborator and insightful decision maker, grasping a solid understanding of all perspectives before settling on an appropriate course of action. As well as embodying our

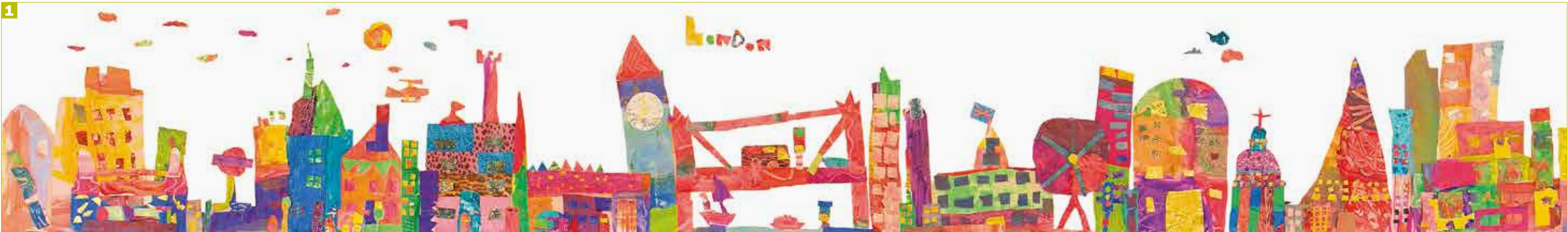
mission and core values, and fostering a culture of innovation, Matt brings inspirational leadership skills to ASL and a deep commitment to student learning.

An accomplished rower, marathoner and triathlete, Matt looks forward to exploring London and getting know the ASL community. Matt has two sons, Alex and Matteo, and is joined in London by his wife, Susan Fine, herself an educator.

Welcome to ASL, Mr. Horvat! From an Overlake Owl to an ASL Eagle—we are so happy to have you join our community. ■



Gallery



Creative space

Walking into the lower school artroom is always a delight. The prevailing calm belies the abundance of creativity produced by our youngest students.

As well as guiding our artists in individual works of art, since 2017, the lower school art team of **Luchy Harrold (ASL 2017-present)** and **Tina Fox (ASL 1999-present)** has led countless Grade 2 students in an annual project that spans disciplines and encourages collaboration. Each year, students explore their imaginations to choose the topic, and then work together to communicate their ideas by creating a large-scale collage in which everyone has input on planning and execution. This provides the students with an opportunity to solve problems creatively and think critically, as well as to evaluate their work and make adjustments along the way.

For their inaugural project, students chose “London” as their topic and put together a colorful interpretation of what our capital city brings to the community. Last summer, two artworks were prepared, depicting “Candy Land” and “Space.” And this past fall, students designed a “Museum” and an “Outdoor funfair” filled with something for everyone.

To begin, students create texture using a variety of artistic techniques with paint on paper. Once dry, the raw material is cut into shapes to build the collage. The end results are worth all the hours of hard work!

We look forward to what our students are planning for their 2023-24 project this fall.



- 1** London, mixed media
- 2** Candy Land, detail
- 3** Get Outdoors, detail
- 4** Museum, mixed media
- 5** Creating texture for the collage project



Hats off to the Class of **2023!**

It was celebrations all the way as the Class of 2023 gathered at Central Hall Westminster on Saturday, 10 June, to carry out their commencement exercises to round off their time at ASL. Following the traditional procession of high school faculty and staff, the graduating class entered the historic hall to the familiar notes of Elgar's Pomp & Circumstance, March no. 1, and took their places in the choir stalls of this celebrated venue—home to ASL graduations on the majority of occasions since 2006!

In one of her last official engagements as interim head of school and rounding off her long association with ASL, Coreen R. Hester issued a warm welcome and reminded us of the import of the ceremony and the impact of the Class on the School and its community.

Mrs. Hester had sought the input of teachers and leaders in the High School to paint a picture of the Class of 2023. They were described as exceptionally thoughtful and thoughtfully exceptional—a multi-faceted group who embrace a global mindset and epitomize the courageous global citizens of our mission. They share a love for and a commitment to each other, and show leadership and grit in their sporting pursuits. The Class is renowned for its humility and will be remembered for creating the Community Action Council, and raising much-needed funds for those affected by the devastating earthquakes in Syria and Turkey in February. On behalf of the high school leadership, Mrs. Hester thanked the Class for their commitment to the growth and development of the High School.

Mrs. Hester introduced the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Patricia McAllister, who issued a greeting and shared her pride in having ASL reside in the city of Westminster. She acknowledged the school's core values of respect, responsibility, kindness, integrity and the courage to act. "These qualities," she opined to the Class, "will put you in good stead for the future."

Erin Roth P '15 '16 '21, chair of the ASL Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone to the assembly and centered her greeting around gratitude—"the foundation to our sense of well-being." She thanked the faculty and staff who have steered the Class throughout their ASL journeys, and extended her appreciation to the school's leadership.



In particular, she praised Coreen Hester for bringing progress and stability to our school. Mrs. Roth invited any ASL alumni present to stand and be recognized, and expressed her sincere gratitude to those who have encouraged the class and "loved them into being"—family, siblings and friends.

High School Principal **Devan Ganeshananthan (ASL 2018-23)**, in his last official outing before departing ASL, introduced the High School Concert Choir, who sang *Seeking Light*, featuring senior soloists **Kiki Agyei** and **Apollina Barattieri di San Pietro**.

Evelyn Snizek introduced the commencement speaker, ASL alumna, author, activist and CIA veteran **Amaryllis Fox '98**, who shared how her ASL teachers embraced an openness that helps her in her work to this day. "They went the extra mile to help me, with patience, kindness and love," she explained, and encouraged the Class to amplify this investment in them to benefit the human family. "When the celebrations



are done, set your moral compass true north and listen for your purpose—and work at it with everything you've got. Choose kindly and choose bravely."

The Senior String Ensemble played *Ashokan Farewell*, before Devan Ganeshananthan returned to the lectern to address the Class.

"How do you seize this moment of uncharted territory in time?" he enquired, and introduced the concept of "flow," which he defined as a state in which people are so involved in an activity that nothing else matters. Mr. Ganeshananthan recommended the Class find their "flow" state: "This takes courage, soul and being a very good listener." That way, he explained, the graduates will find their own definition of success. He advised the Class of 2023 to: "Find yourself, trust yourself, listen to yourself, and find your flow and passion." To finish, our high school principal offered these parting words: "I am proud of you. I love you a lot. And I wish you all the best."



It was then the turn of the salutatorian and valedictorian speakers, both of whom were introduced by Mr. Ganeshananthan, with much valuable feedback from the students' teachers.

Salutatorian **Willa Blair** shared details of a conversation in Grade 10 that brought them to realize that "having the courage to act is about being myself and being comfortable in my identity." They went on to relay that in the ensuing years, "I've actively tried to find my own identity and take the risk to exist fully in it." Willa continued by explaining how a reference from their recent driving test perfectly epitomized the high school experience: Prepare, observe, maneuver. In conclusion, Willa turned to the Class and affirmed, "As we journey forward, inevitably sometimes on the wrong side of the road, or going round and around roundabouts, I ask you to find your way of having courage. And I hope it involves being comfortable in your own identity."

After the High School Concert Choir sang *The Road Home*, which featured senior soloist **Maya Mokhtarzadeh**, it was time for Valedictorian **Campbell Lazar** to deliver her address.

Campbell shared her heartfelt gratitude for the small acts of kindness that make a huge difference. From a fist bump from a member of the security team to a friend



saying, "Well done," when you know you don't deserve it. The repetition of a departing greeting within her family—"Have a great day; do a great job!"—had had a lasting impact, enabling her to enjoy the high school process and embrace the journey. And there will be many exciting moments to come, she assured. She urged the Class to find their people: "They're out there waiting to meet someone just like you." And she stressed the importance of seeking out those who personify the values of ASL: "Then you'll be well equipped to face the challenges ahead." And using a phrase she has heard every day of her high school career, her final advice to the Class: "Have a great day; do a great job!"

In a surprise addition to the program, the entire Class then joined together to sing Billy Joel's *Vienna*, which received an appreciative response from the audience.

It was then time for Mrs. Hester to present the 136 graduating students with their high school diplomas, ably assisted by Mr. Ganeshananthan, Dean of Students **James Perry (ASL 2014-present)**, and the high school team.

When everyone had received their diploma, and with the excitement rising, Mr. Ganeshananthan invited the Class to move their cap tassels from the left to the right to signify their new status as graduates of the American School in London. Then it was caps in the air as Kool and the Gang summoned us all to "Celebrate good times!"

Congratulations, Class of 2023! We are proud of you and welcome you to the ASL alumni family. ■

1 Members of the Class of 2023

2 Coreen Hester, Councillor Patricia McAllister, Devan Ganeshananthan

3 Erin Roth

4 High School Concert Choir

5 Campbell Lazar

6 Willa Blair

7 Evelyn Snizek

8 Amaryllis Fox '98

9 Ruksana Murtaza, Shahira Moola, James Perry, Kristie Toothman



Valedictorians and salutatorians

In the Class of 2023, eight students attained the status of valedictorian or salutatorian.

Valedictorians:

Elena Alexander

Campbell Lazar

Darren Morris

Ella Podurgiel

Salutatorians:

Luke Baxter

Willa Blair

Dexter James

Ava Porter

Congratulations to these eight students on their accomplishments. Thank you to Campbell (valedictorian) and Willa (salutatorian) for speaking at commencement.

Endurance award: Celebrating our ASL "Lifers"!

This year, we celebrate 22 students achieving the Endurance Award and graduating as "Lifers"! These students attended ASL "from first to last," having joined the School in Grade 1 or before. Our 2023 Lifers will see their names added to the commemorative plaque in Waverley Place Reception:

Raaghav Aaditya

Joshua Berner

Ruhan Bhasin

Ozan Cetin

Katherine Demetris

Corey Dubin

Finn Eichenberger

Madeleine Hatzmann

Chloe Howell

Ella Jackson-Drexler

Dexter James

Ritesh Kapur

Io Kennaugh

Julia Laxer

Karina Medvedeva

Gabrielle Meidar

Ella Podurgiel

Arthur Sadrian

Faustina Tavassoli

Jasper Towleh

Lucas van Hese

Anand Vandrevalla



Giving back

is at the heart of everything we do

*A tradition of volunteerism is woven into the fabric of ASL. Since those early years when a small group of parents encouraged founding headmaster **Stephen L. Eckard's** (ASL 1951-71) dream to create an American school in the heart of London, our community never failed to step forward to uphold the mission of the School and to help maximize the experience of the students in our care—lending a multitude of talents and hundreds of thousands of hours of volunteering to support ASL.*

Giving is at the heart of everything we do and everything we do must benefit our students. From the moment families enter the School, they are encouraged to give back in a way that feels appropriate for them. The Parent Community Association (PCA) offers a plethora of choice when it comes to lending a hand for the greater good.

President for the past two years **Nancy Pace P '22 '25** is perfectly placed to give an insight into what stirs our parents to raise their hand to offer their precious time. "I find the whole experience fulfilling—being around for my children as well as having the opportunity to build relationships with staff and teachers outside the classroom. These people are deeply invested in our school and working alongside them in various activities is incredibly rewarding." Nancy notes that coming to ASL draws families into a ready-made fun and welcoming community. Often the non-working parent will have a host of skills and the time to get involved outside the home. Our PCA organizes a wealth of activities to engage the community, led by a dynamic executive committee.



Abby Khatiblou P '25 '27 heads up the Booster Club team and will take over from Nancy as PCA president for the 2023-24 school year. The Booster Club provides volunteer support to build a greater sense of community and school spirit at ASL, managing the concession stand for and hosting a number of school events, including robotics and athletics activities, across all three divisions. Abby says, "I volunteer at ASL because I believe in the power of building a strong community and I appreciate the unique perspective that comes from being a part of my kids' school journey."

The FIND (Families, Integration Diversity) team, led by **Lenka Kohli P '27**, is responsible for the huge number of gatherings that celebrate the rich diversity of our community, including welcome coffees, lunches embracing various global cuisines, well-being sessions, book clubs and cultural activities. Last year, the team created a family cookbook, which proved hugely popular across constituencies, and sold out on its first print run! 2022-23 presented an abundance of opportunities to collaborate to help others and benefit

our community. FIND Turkiye responded immediately in identifying effective ways to support those impacted by February's devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

From employees to parents, ASL is full of incredible people who are there to support our kids and create the most meaningful student experience. The energy and strength of the ASL community are unparalleled, and it's so rewarding to be a part of it.

In April, FIND sponsored a successful community Iftar, a joyous, after-sunset meal to break the daily Ramadan fast. ASL community members from all backgrounds and faiths came together during the holy month to break bread, connect and celebrate with our Muslim community. FIND was also instrumental in supporting students organizing South Asia Night, the flagship event of the high school South Asia Club, which included a fun-filled night for all the family of music, dance, food and lively Desi culture!



When asked for her thoughts on what fuels her commitment to ASL, **Ifigenia Dalglish P '23 '26**, who heads PCA communication, opined, "I have so much to say about how amazing the people at ASL are and what a fulfilling experience it has been for me. It's hard to put it into a couple of sentences! Let's just say, I feel very privileged to be able to give back to such an active, welcoming and diverse community. I am inspired by how invested everyone is. From employees to parents, ASL is full of incredible people who are there to support our kids and create the most meaningful student experience.

The energy and strength of the ASL community are unparalleled, and it's so rewarding to be a part of it."

Stefanie Lawrence P '28 '31 leads the community events team, which includes the Grants Committee that invites proposals for innovative projects that will enrich the School and broaden perspective, promote ethical citizenship and facilitate service to the community beyond ASL. All constituencies of the community can submit their ideas and funds are available for individual projects of up to £2,000. Examples of grants approved this past year include funding to support the traditional ASL Film Festival move the event off-site for a truly cinematic experience, and support for a high school student who would like to produce an ASL science magazine.

Stefanie's area of responsibility also includes overseeing the annual SCOOP event (School Community Orientation and Outreach Program) for new families, making sure our Halloween festivities go with a pop in the Lower School, running family Bingo! day, and organizing the ever-popular PCA Quiz Night.



Stefanie comments on the impetus behind her dedication to ASL: "I believe a strong sense of community benefits us all. One of my favorite things about the School is its friendly, can-do spirit and I love helping to connect people through our tried-and-true annual events. Likewise, it is inspiring to help students, employees and parents make continuous innovations and improvements to our school through the grants program."

I believe a strong sense of community benefits us all. One of my favorite things about the School is its friendly, can-do spirit.

Judy Kasper P '31 '33 '34 is the parent behind community engagement, which covers our school's outreach beyond Waverley Place, organizing various events and drives that benefit others in our local neighborhood and beyond. Community service days have been appearing on the school calendar for nearly 30 years. Judy says, "These service days are opportunities for our community to help out by repairing, tidying and decorating at a number of charities' London-based facilities. High school students take the lead on these site ventures, while parents help safeguard and assist. Lower school children are encouraged to sign up with their parents. It's a great learning experience for all." Other activities this past year include senior citizen teas, with music and entertainment provided by ASL students; the annual coat drive, in conjunction with WrapUp London, provided a whopping 372 coats for those in need; and the Giving Tree around the winter holiday saw 226 children from community partnerships receive a holiday gift, thanks to the help of the high school



Community Action Council. A new initiative this past year was Be the Change, which provides active support at Soup Kitchen London.

Getting involved at ASL is important to Judy. She comments, "It has been a pleasure to be a part of the community engagement arm of ASL. I have really enjoyed working with parents, students, teachers and staff alike. I remember when we were touring the School as a prospective family, this dynamic part about the School grabbed my attention—I really perked up. All community engagement comes from the same place: kindness and empathy. It's very important that I model that for my kids and I am grateful that ASL recognizes that importance, too!"

Friends of the Libraries (FOTL) is led by **Scott Dinwiddie P '28**, and the team's stellar work in support of the Mellon and Lower School libraries is noteworthy. From book drives to birthday book clubs, this intrepid group of volunteers encourages our community to be lifelong readers and champions the written word.





Sara Shahidi P '20 '20 '23 leads the way for the school-parent liaison team, proving a valuable link in the school-home partnership. The PCA Grade Rep Program fosters effective two-way communication between school and home. Working with the divisional administration teams, grade reps help identify issues of interest to all families and act as a sounding board for administrative initiatives, working to best serve students and the ASL community.

“I love ASL. I love the mission and all that the School stands for and is doing. It’s most definitely where my family belongs.”

As an alumna and a parent, **Stephanie Gladis '94 P '27 '30** is doubly invested in all things ASL. She heads the Friends of the Arts (FOTA) team, which supports artistic expression across the School. Stephanie has also served as a grade rep coordinator in the past and cites this as an opportunity to gain great insight into how decisions are made at the School and brought her an appreciation of the care and consideration that the administration puts into how things need to work at ASL. On volunteering at her alma mater, Stephanie says, “I got so much out of

being a student at ASL and I am incredibly grateful that my children are able to enjoy a similar experience. The least I can do is give my time and serve as a resource. As a working mom, I choose my volunteer roles carefully, but it’s important to our family to model giving back to benefit others.” The PCA Executive Committee is lucky to be assisted by the talents of **Emily Turner P '24 '24**, treasurer, and **Shannon Ashton P '18 '21 '25**, who serves as secretary—both have been busy behind the scenes providing valuable support to all aspects of the work of the PCA.

These generous volunteers are not alone, and enjoy the commitment of a raft of fellow volunteers who make the magic happen at ASL. Without these willing parents, the special moments that exemplify the ASL experience would simply not take place.

As a parent recently shared, “When we joined the School, we were aware of the expectation, so to be able to give back in the way we have been able this year, has been a special experience and one, as a family, we will never forget.”

Welcoming new families to our school is a huge part of what makes ASL so special. Around 200 families join our school every fall, and in June a group of PCA volunteers spends a great deal of time matching new families with a current family to make the transition as smooth as possible. Care is taken to align the grades of the students, and we hear time and again how important the program is in easing the way during what can be a difficult time for families. Play dates can be arranged for the summer and having a resource to answer questions and provide reassurance is invaluable. An increasing number of our families are already resident in London, but we have learned that these families also benefit from this buddy program just as much as those moving from overseas.

Alumnus **Vivek Jois '11**, principal at Centerbridge Partners L.P., has served, since graduation, on the ASL Alumni Giving Committee and has

volunteered for round-table discussions, attended alumni meet-ups on both sides of the Atlantic, and teamed up with fellow alumni to tackle **John Wilson’s (ASL 1971-2009)** challenging Quiz Nights! Centerbridge is a participant in ASL’s WorkX Program and is hosting two high school students this summer for an immersive week in the world of private equity and distressed debt investing. (Read more about WorkX in the News section.) Vivek credits his own participation in the WorkX program as igniting a lifelong passion for corporate finance. He shared, “ASL laid the foundation for my life. The incredible community—teachers, classmates, friends and the vast network of parents and fellow alumni in the finance industry—has helped me develop as a person and a professional and navigate the first decade of my career. It is a pleasure to give back to ASL and help it provide a world-class education to young women and men who will go on to make a lasting impact in their communities and the world.”

“All community engagement comes from the same place: kindness and empathy.”



Two of the biggest events on the school calendar are the PCA Auction and the Global Festival (formerly the International Festival), which take place on alternate years—COVID permitting! This past March saw the fabulous *Better Together* Auction raise £1.17M, to support the Eagle Scholar program, improvements to our gyms, and fund the PCA for the next two years. This community-building celebration requires the time and expertise of hundreds of volunteers, who so willingly give of their talent. Led by **Eve Share Banghart P '31 '34** and **Maria Thakrar P '29 '31**, this two-day extravaganza in March included live and silent auctions, class basket raffles, a kids’ party and a gala evening at the Natural History Museum. Co-chair Maria was humbled by the dedication of the auction team, which made the event such a success.

She says, “I really felt that the School needed a big community-building event to bring everyone back together to prove we are truly ‘better together’—that we actually are a strong community that can

achieve amazing things. I wanted to be a big part of that.” Maria goes on to share her reason for giving back: “I love ASL. I love the mission and all that the School stands for and is doing. It’s most definitely where my family belongs. I believe that being involved in the School sets a good example for my kids. It’s one thing to say how much you care about the School and the community but nothing actually shows that more than getting involved and volunteering.” We couldn’t agree more!

And our parents can be seen at every turn at ASL: volunteering in the libraries, serving a mystery readers in the classroom, acting as guides at admissions open houses, and chaperoning the host of field trips that take place during the school year.

Our employees are also eager and willing to give of their time outside of their regular roles at ASL: donating experiences and items for the PCA auction, organizing book clubs around author visits, and spending time with and creating exciting events for alumni.

Giving back to benefit the School and its students is the foundation stone of being a part of the ASL community. However the ASL family chooses to lend support, they know they are assisting our future thinkers, explorers and communicators—in their time at ASL and on their journeys ahead.

Thank you to all our volunteers in their roles, big and small. You make a difference every day, and for that, we are enormously grateful. ■

Supporting the Annual Fund

Each year, our Annual Fund benefits from the group of volunteers who serve as divisional co-chairs to assist in outreach and education around this vital initiative. Giving back ensures that ASL’s mission and core values continue to educate, inspire and engage each and every student.

In 2022-23, **Lesley & Barrie Davison P '29 '33** (lower school), **Emma & David Rhodes P '25 '27** (middle school) and **Kate & Steve Albrecht P '26 '26** (high school) stepped up to the plate in support of ASL’s foremost fundraising initiative, the Annual Fund. They shared why it’s important to give back to our school in this way, “From faculty and staff salaries and financial aid to school trips, technology, athletics, and the performing and visual arts, our community’s participation has helped to provide the immediate resources and the highest level of academic and extracurricular programs that make ASL the special place it is. Thank you for investing in the program and in the people, and for making a difference.”



- 1 Lesley & Barrie Davison P '29 '33
- 2 Emma & David Rhodes P '25 '27
- 3 Kate & Steve Albrecht P '26 '26

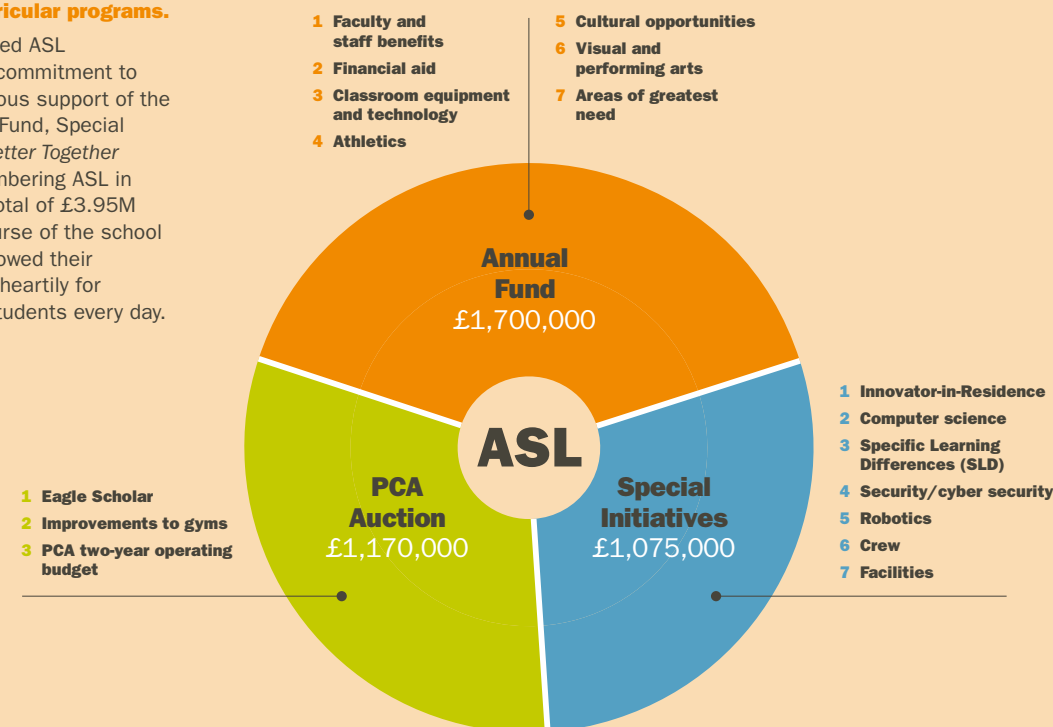
The power of orange

Continuing a tradition of philanthropy

Together, we can ensure excellence in teaching and joy in learning.

Giving back ensures that ASL's mission and core values continue to educate, inspire and engage each and every student. The culture of philanthropy and engagement are valued tenets within the ASL community. Thanks to the annual generous support of our families, alumni, employees and friends, ASL students have been able to thrive in an innovative, collaborative and supportive learning environment, and to enjoy the highest level of academic and extracurricular programs.

In 2022-23, our extended ASL community showed their commitment to our school through generous support of the ASL Foundation's Annual Fund, Special Initiatives and the PCA *Better Together* Auction, as well as remembering ASL in their estate planning. A total of £3.95M was donated over the course of the school year. To everyone who showed their dedication, we thank you heartily for making a difference for students every day.



ASL Bruce House Society *The Bruce House Society is a planned legacy giving program, which recognizes those who have made arrangements to include ASL in their estate plans or have given a portion of their estate to our school. Established in 2006, the Bruce House Society is named for ASL benefactor David K.E. Bruce, US Ambassador from 1961 to 1969, who was instrumental in helping ASL acquire and develop the St. John's Wood campus.*

Society members play an essential role in ensuring ASL's mission continues to thrive in all that we do—from our financial health to our tradition of academic excellence. With a planned legacy gift, you can make an impactful contribution to ASL today and to future generations of students. All individuals who share their intentions to include ASL in their estate plans are recognized with membership in the Bruce House Society.

We are grateful to the following people who support ASL in this meaningful way.

Mike Baldock
Steve Cary
Michelle Fish '81 & Bob P. Fish '81
Frances Hall
Libby & Craig Heimark
Donna Hirsh
Elizabeth & Maurice E. McLoughlin, Jr.
Beverly & Ray Mentzer ♦
Eileen E. Penman
Jo Ellen Richardson '80
Elizabeth & Philip Ryan
Lila Afshar Sampson & Gerald P. Sampson
MJ (Maryjane) Stout '73
Michelle A. Strathman '92
Mildred L. Weinstock †

♦ denotes 10+ consecutive years of giving
† Deceased

To signal your planned legacy giving and be recognized in the Bruce House Society, or if you would like to learn more, please contact Sandy Mateus, +44 (0)20 7449 1446 or sandy_mateus@asl.org.

Create your will for free

To help you write your estate plan for free in 20 minutes or less, the American School in London Educational Trust Limited has partnered with Farewill in the UK and the American School in London Foundation has partnered with FreeWill in the US. To learn more about this service, visit asl.org/giving.



L-R, Nathan Mentzer '07 with son Charlie, Beverly and Ray Mentzer, Nate's wife Mandy, Rebecca (Mentzer) Redfield '12 and husband Jordan

Giving back to ASL: A community of lifelong learners

The Mentzer family moved to London from Houston, Texas, in 2000 when parents **Beverly and Ray Mentzer P '07 '12** took up new engineering assignments in London. Along with their children, **Nate '07** and **Rebecca '12**, they stayed for four years.

Ray shares his memories of the family's time in London: "We enjoyed exploring the city and touring the UK, as well as traveling farther afield to Africa. Nate joined the rugby team, a sport he enjoyed through college. He spent his 12th birthday in Greece! Rebecca loved drama and took advantage of London's museums."

When asked what they miss most about those ASL years, Ray is quick to respond, "The wide variety of diverse cultural experiences both within the School and in London, which enabled us to connect with parents from a host of countries and cultures." He adds, "We gained a deep appreciation for the experiences of people from different backgrounds, and a better understanding of the American culture as seen through the eyes of others. As a family, we found volunteering at the American Church Soup Kitchen incredibly rewarding, and both our children developed empathy for the homeless—something they carried forward into adulthood. Nate met his wife through a church group ministering to the needs of others, and Rebecca has traveled far and wide helping the less fortunate lift themselves out of poverty."

The family has generously included ASL in their estate planning. Ray explains why: "We give back in appreciation for all our children learned and experienced at ASL. Our daughter gave the graduation speech at her Houston high school and our son was co-recipient of the outstanding senior engineer award at a large US university. I attribute their success to study skills, work ethics and appreciation for diversity and inclusion instilled at ASL." ■

Spotlight on London

Last November, students in Alissa Mears' (ASL 2015-present) British Literature class withstood the late autumnal chill and misty conditions and spent a productive day "mudlarking"* on the foreshore of the Thames.

In the classroom, they had been studying the history of London's celebrated waterway and how it has been portrayed in literature across the centuries. The students' knowledge of famous mudlarkers, and the reasons

behind their pursuits, served them well as they collected objects left after the tidal ebb. They were eager to analyze their finds and attribute them to various periods from history. Artifacts from the medieval, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian eras were in evidence on their "finds table." A walk to a preserved Anglo-Saxon pier topped off a perfect day on the river.

Back in the warmth of ASL, and inspired by their time foraging for history along with the notes they made

in their journals during the trip, the students set about writing essays that portrayed an imaginary walk around "their London." The pieces transcended time and space and students dug deep into their imaginations to bring a great deal of creativity to the assignment. ■

* The concept of "mudlarking" emerged in the 18th century, to describe the activities of various groups and individuals, who combed the river at low tide looking for items to sell.

*"The river glideth at
his own sweet will."*

William Wordsworth, Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802

Speakers Series flourishes in its 22nd year

Every year, ASL brings distinguished visitors to speak or perform at the School under the auspices of Speakers Series. Inaugurated during 2001-02, the School's 50th anniversary year, Speakers Series hosts eminent individuals from a wide range of fields and scholarship.

Of late, the program has expanded to include panel discussions, with experts from within the community and without, on topical subjects, from politics to journalism to artificial intelligence. ASL regularly welcomes educators and psychologists as speakers on parent education, including Robert Evans, Michael Thompson and Diane Frankenstein. These, too, have been brought under the umbrella of ASL Speakers Series.

The program follows the current priorities of the School, and talks are generally held at ASL in the early evening and last for approximately an hour, followed by a half-hour question-and-answer session and informal discussion.

2022-23 was a flagship year for ASL Speakers Series, in which we held six well-attended events—including taking the program on the road to DC!

In October, we checked the politics box with a panel discussion with journalists on the US midterm elections, involving Chip Cummins of the *Wall Street Journal*, and ASL parents **Jim Yardley P '21 '23** of the *New York Times*, and Pulitzer Prize winners **Steve Coll** and **Eliza Griswold P '31**.



1 Coreen Hester, Mary Jordan, Kevin Sullivan

2 Eva Schloss and Director of Student Advising Anne Richardson



In November, former and inaugural ASL Innovator-in-Residence **Kwame Alexander P '26** held court in the Mellon Library as he presented the Diana H. Greene History Lecture. Kwame shared the story behind his latest book, *The Door of No Return*. A writer of poetry and children's fiction, Kwame is the creator and executive producer of the Disney+ series based on his Newbery medal-winning novel, *The Crossover*.

In the same month, we took Speakers Series outside the UK for the first time, and hosted a panel discussion at the University Club in Washington, DC, facilitated by Coreen R. Hester, with *Washington Post* reporters and former ASL parents **Mary Jordan and Kevin Sullivan P '09 '13**. These renowned Pulitzer Prize winners regaled a group of 50 with stories from their recent assignments on the US midterm election campaign trail, the war in Ukraine, the death of Queen Elizabeth II, and so much more.

Back in London, in March, our Bergeron Fellow, Paul Yoon, delivered the Bergeron Lecture, which took the form of a lively literary conversation with former ASL Bergeron Fellow Ralph Sneeden, around the themes of mentorship, the writing life, a sense of place, a desire to want to capture the world in their writing, and other art forms that inspire them. Paul Yoon is the award-winning author of four works of fiction and is the recipient of a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation. Paul is a senior lecturer in English at Harvard University.

Later in March, Eva Schloss, longtime friend of ASL, Holocaust survivor and Anne Frank's stepsister, held her audience rapt in the Commons for a showing of her film, *Eva's Promise*, which included a book signing. The film focuses on the story of Eva's brother, Heinz Geiringer, and her promise to him on the train to Auschwitz that she would retrieve his artwork and poetry from floorboards should he not survive, in order to preserve his story. Heinz was a remarkable, talented young man, whose passions were impeded by the Nazi invasion and antisemitic persecution, like many Jewish people during World War II.



There was no let up as the year drew to a close. In May, we held a second panel discussion around the topic on everyone's mind, artificial intelligence. Facilitated by ASL Director of Technology **Nadjib Aktouf (ASL 2016-present)**, the panel comprised: Harvard-educated lawyer and thinker Tonik Matthews, who specializes in the ethics of young programmers; our 2022-23 Innovator-in-Residence, Francesco Tamburrino; Head of Social Studies **Chris Wolf (ASL 2014-present)**; Head of Computer Science **Livia Piloto (ASL**

2015-present); principal scientist at Amazon **Ari Weinstein P '32 '35**; and high school students **Campbell Lazar '23** and **Edward '24**.

The evening around this fascinating field of research and growth played out before an engaged audience in the School Center for Education and the Arts.

There are lots of plans in the pipeline for another successful program in 2023-24. Watch *Take Note* and *London Calling* for news of what's to come with ASL Speakers Series. ■



The Diana H. Greene History Lecture

The lecture, given in honor of **Diana (Dinny) Greene P '99 '02**, a former trustee with a passionate interest in history, forms part of ASL Speakers Series. In April 2004, author Claire Tomalin inaugurated this lecture series. Subsequent speakers include writer and broadcaster Bonnie Greer; journalist and author Sarah Lyall; former US Vice-President and recipient of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize Al Gore; and most recently, former ASL Innovator-in-Residence **Kwame Alexander P '26**, who read from his latest book, *The Door of No Return*.



1 US midterm election panel

2 Artificial intelligence discussion panel

3 Head of High School Mathematics David Hill, Kwame Alexander, Middle School Assistant Principal Erica Jones

4 Ralph Sneeden and Paul Yoon

The Bergeron Writing Fellowship

The fellowship is an annual writer-in-residence program, established in 1996, named for former high school English teacher **Luke Bergeron (ASL 1973-91)**. The Bergeron Fellow spends a week working with a middle or high school English class on a particular genre of writing, as well as holding workshops for English teachers, and delivering the Bergeron Lecture as part of ASL Speakers Series.

Past Bergeron Fellows include essayist Phillip Lopate, novelist and screenwriter **Justin Haythe '91**, slam poet Taylor Mali, novelists Jacqueline Woodson and William Fiennes, former US Poet Laureate Billy Collins, magazine executive Veronica Chambers, and poets Mimi Khalvati and Nii Parkes. This year's Bergeron Fellow was author Paul Yoon.



It's ISSTs, but not as we know it!

This year, ISSTs (International Schools Sports Tournament) celebrated 50 years of bringing schools together in competition across a host of sports. What more perfect time to rethink the way we interact with like-minded schools to maximize the student experience—in athletics and other areas ripe for collaboration?

The time-honored model, involving 23 schools, which proved a logistical challenge, is being replaced by a league of European international schools: the International School of Brussels (ISB), Frankfurt International School, the American School of The Hague, Munich International School, the American School of Paris, the American International School Vienna and Zurich International School, along with ASL. Athletics Director **John Farmer '97 P '29 '31 (ASL 2012-present)** reports, "These schools are aligned in terms of size, resources and facilities, which will make scheduling competitions much simpler, moving forward. Competition will now include Grade 8 students, as well as JV and varsity teams, which benefits our younger athletes as they hone their skills and embrace the pressures of competition."

And it's not only our athletes who are benefitting from the collaboration. Various groups are branching out to work with fellow schools on musical performance, robotics, debate and esports, including gaming. Computer Science Department Head **Livia Piloto (ASL 2015-present)** shares, "The high school Gaming Club expressed a desire to enter into competition with schools with similar interests. A practice tournament was arranged, which took place recently, involving ASL, ISB and also St. John's School International School, Belgium. There is so much potential moving forward." And what's more, esports have made their way onto the Olympic schedule for Paris 2024. And who knows who we'll see competing in Los Angeles 2028!

Adults in the community are seeking new opportunities within this consortium of schools; heads of school, principals and HR teams have met to share ideas, discuss best practice and support each other. We look forward to more collaboration in 2023-24. Here's to the next 50 years! ■



1&3 Students in the high school Gaming Club participate in esports

2 Swimming ISSTs at ASL in May 2023. This event was held in the Aquatic & Fitness Center, a top-class facility made possible by the *New Frontiers* campaign



WorkX: a powerful resource for students

The aim of our work experience program, WorkX, is to provide our high school students with productive, varied and thoughtful learning experiences in the real working world—and the program has run successfully since 2010!

Dr. Joanna Shearer P '30 '32 (ASL 2020-present) of the office of student advising (OSA) and **Mousumi Chatterjee P '20 '25** of the PCA's WorkX committee jointly manage ASL's work experience program, which includes speakers, workshops, workplace visits as well as summer work experience opportunities.

Companies worldwide have offered 1- to 3-week slots for high school students, in Grades 10-12, in a variety of fields, including: the Courtauld Institute, a center for teaching and research of art history; Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit working to eradicate housing poverty and homelessness; Hektoen Institute of Medicine, a nonprofit health service, educational and research organization; HOK, a global design, architecture, engineering and planning firm; the London Basketball Association, a charity with a mission for social change; and McGraw Hill, a US educational publishing company.

This year, 73 employers in 16 industries—from hospitality to real estate—offered more than 150 placements to 168 students, which, according to Joanna, is back to pre-pandemic levels.

Joanna adds, "WorkX is invaluable in giving students access to some amazing

opportunities to experience very diverse industries. In every placement, students gain and improve upon skills and qualities such as problem-solving, initiative, organization, responsibility and respect in a real-world working environment. The true benefit is seen when students reflect upon their characters, and the strengths and capabilities they can showcase in these new situations. Additionally, WorkX placements allow students to consider early on what kinds of workplaces will suit them in their future careers."

These placements offer a chance for our students to learn transferable skills and we are incredibly grateful for the kindness of these companies in offering invaluable opportunities that provide a window into the world of work. If you have a connection to a company that may be able to provide an opening for a high school student to gain some on-the-spot experience, while giving back to the institution, please contact WorkX@asl.org. We'd love to hear from you! ■



Farewell to two ASL legends



This summer saw the departure of two of ASL's longest-serving employees. Financial Manager **Shailesh Popat (ASL 1982-2023)**

worked in the accounts office for 41 years, a near record for longevity at ASL! Shailesh shares his thoughts on moving on from ASL: "My 41 years at ASL have flown by. I have seen much change, but always for the better. Working among like-minded colleagues and supported by the administration, for me, ASL has been the most stimulating place to have spent the majority of my working life." With lots of spare time on his hands, Shailesh hopes to continue his countryside voluntary work (assisting those in need of help with financial matters), traveling with his wife, Mita, and playing golf.

Dean of Admissions **Jodi (Coats) Warren (ASL 1988-2023)** has spent 35 years at the School, in various roles within the admissions office.



Reflecting on her time at ASL, Jodi shared, "ASL has been so much more than a job for me. I have truly found a home here, working with amazing colleagues, students and parents. This is such a bittersweet moment; I'm really looking forward to retirement and yet I can't imagine what it will be like not to be a part of ASL every day." Jodi hopes to spend more time traveling, cooking and sailing with husband John.

We thank Jodi and Shailesh for their decades of dedication to our school. Both were celebrated at our traditional end-of-year leavers' lunch on Friday, 16 June. ■

Better Together



At ASL, we're Better Together!

March saw the welcome return of one of ASL's most joyous traditions: the PCA auction! It had been four long years since the last auction, *Live Well, ASL!*, and 28 since the first of its kind at our school, *The Sky's the Limit* auction in 1995.

As a community, we were more than ready to prove the claim behind the name of this year's event—*Better Together*—a fabulous community-building celebration, which raised £1.17M to benefit the School. Led by co-chairs **Eve Share Banghart P '31 '34** and **Maria Thakrar P '29 '31** and an incredibly supportive team of willing volunteers, the auction took place over two days, beginning with a community lunch on Friday, 17 March, in the Farmer Family Gymnasium, which was accompanied by a silent auction, and followed by a lively kids' party and live class basket raffle. Saturday, 18 March, saw the event move to the Natural History Museum, which played host for the first time to the auction gala evening.

This spectacular gathering included a formal dinner and culminated in a live auction followed by an after-party.

Funds raised go toward covering the PCA's operating expenditure for the next two years, as well as funding key areas at ASL. The PCA auction traditionally champions projects that fall outside the scope of the school's operating budget. *Better Together* focused on raising funds for:

- The Eagle Scholar Fund, an initiative that supports students from UK schools local to ASL, who have the potential to thrive in the challenging and nurturing environment of our school, regardless of their family's financial situation
- The refurbishment of PE teaching and learning spaces, and mobile accessibility of the changing rooms

Congratulations to Eve, Maria and team on a successful auction! ■

1 Maria Thakrar and Eve Share Banghart

2 ASL student musicians

3 Live auction



Opposite page: Friday's community lunch, silent auction, class basket raffle and kids' party

This page: Saturday's gala dinner, live auction and after-party

CLASS NOTES

1 The Class of 1972 celebrated its 50th reunion in October 2022



The Class of 1972 celebrates its 50th reunion

On 3 October 2022, 50 years after earning their high school diplomas, members of the Class of 1972 returned to their alma mater to mark their half-century ASL reunion. Organized by **Marla Petal** and **Peter Spiers**, nearly 20 classmates, along with spouses and partners, made the trip to London for a busy weekend of sightseeing and celebrating. In addition to Marla and Peter, alumni in attendance were: **Rod Bell, Kevin Browne, Susan**

(Michels) Conway, Susan (John) Ford, Betsy (Fredericks) Giannuzzi, Pat (Relf) Hanavan, Vicky (Sanderlin) Hand, Brooke (Roberts) Learmonth, Patricia Leonard, Andy Lubin, Mark Mackey, Susan (Barker) MacLeod, Greg McCullough, Peter Menzies, Sue Souls and **David Wicks**. The group hailed from California, Colorado, Canada, Texas and the East Coast of the US. Highlights of the reunion included lunch with current high school students who

represented the Social Justice Council, the *Standard* newspaper and the Sustainability Council; a grand campus tour and an ASL-sponsored happy hour at the nearby Clifton pub. Reflecting on the reunion, Marla shared, “This was an amazing and very moving experience for all of us. It will take some time to digest both the new memories we made and the many memories this trip has churned up during our jam-packed, wonderful time in London.”

1979

Stephanie White is working as a global service manager for a precision optics company in Rochester, New York. A widow, Stephanie is a proud grandma to two handsome grandsons. “If anyone is visiting the Western New York area, please give me a shout!”

60s

1966

Erik Tarloff's fifth novel, *Tell Me the Truth About Love*, was published last October.

70s

1974

Former educator and essayist **Todd R. Nelson** wrote an article for the *Ellsworth American (Maine)* about how he stays connected to his high school best friends, **Marc Bernard '72** and **Jeff Preston '73**. His book, *Cold Spell: The View from a Maine Peninsula*, was published last fall.

80s



1980

A big thank you to **Ned Campbell, Claire (Engelhart) Garza '79** and **Cheryl (Chachere) Lancaster** for organizing an ASL reunion in Austin, Texas, last May. More than 80 people, including alumni representing Classes from 1967 through 1994, as well as special guests, helped “Keep Austin Weird” during a weekend of reminiscing and revelry that included feasting on barbecue, pub crawling, cheering on Liverpool and Chelsea in the FA Cup Final and lots of laughter.

1984

Farid Gargour lives in London and is now an ASL parent to **Lily '25** and **Victor '30**. His brothers are doing well: **Rajah '86** lives in Seattle (look him up at his excellent restaurant, Cafe Munir!) and **Taher '88** lives between London and Egypt. “All three of us are in touch with ASL schoolmates and are always happy to hear from others,” he shared.



1985

We learned from **Alice Iacuesa P '82 (ASL 1979-2000)** that her former student **Eric Angel** has been appointed as the chief of staff to Jenny Yang, the director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) at the Department of Labor. Eric and his classmates, **Greg Gibb, Avner Shapiro, Ed Greenfield, Jeff Nachmanoff, Nicholas Wodtke, Jay Grant** and **Beth Berliner**, recently enjoyed a reunion on Nantucket. We love seeing old friends making new memories together!

Check out the debut book of **Eric Cole**. Recently retired from Washington DC's Reagan National Airport, where he was an air traffic controller for 25 years, Eric pursued his passion for writing and published a fantasy coming-of-age book, *Swords Against the Fallen (Book One: Awakening)*, available on Amazon.



1986

Jerry Brown wrote to share that he and his wife, Angie, will be visiting London and ASL this summer. “I haven't been back since 1984 and Angie has never been to the UK,” he explains. The couple will visit One Waverley Place before setting off on a two-week driving tour of England and Wales.

1987

Heather Ehret-Faircloth lives in Denver, Colorado, where she works in residential real estate. Both of her sons graduated from West Point and are now married with children. Her daughter is studying hotel management at Cornell and is also on the lacrosse team. Heather's brother, **Bobby '88**, lives in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. Her sister, **Holly '92**, is in Scotland, and her parents, **Bob and Kitty P '87 '88 '92**, are in Evergreen, Colorado. Heather occasionally sees ASL friends **Laura (Pearson) Hurley '88** and **Prentiss Donohue '88**, also Colorado residents.

1989

In January, while at a Grade 8 basketball game against ACS Cobham, **Colin Bridgewater (ASL 2000-present)** bumped into alumna and parent of alumni **Kyra Kentopp '89 P '17 '19 '22**, who is a math teacher at Cobham. Torn between her competing affiliations, Kyra ensured she represented both the Eagles and the Cougars.

90s

1995

Jordan (Schmidt) Kurella has written a book, *I Never Liked You Anyway*. This debut novella was inspired by Jordan’s late English teacher, **Tosh Lee (ASL 1975-1998)**, and her teaching of *The Odyssey*.

00s

2000

Michael Benz recently starred in Hulu’s musical romantic comedy series, *Up Here*, with Mae Whitman.

Steve and Alicia (Ferro) Kelly welcomed their third child, George Osbourne Kelly, on 13 February 2023. George joins his older brothers, Grant (8) and James (6), and the family lives in Garden City, New York.

2002

Congratulations to **Lloyd Sam**, who joined the Major League Soccer Season Pass broadcast team. Lloyd, who played professional soccer for 19 years, spent the 2022 season as the analyst for Charlotte Football Club’s English language broadcasts in Charlotte, North Carolina.

2003

In May, **A.M. Dupee** married Anastazia Adamidou in Rome, Italy. ASL friends and family in attendance included the **Landsbergers: Mike, Justin ’05** and **Morgan ’08; Ramy Basaddiq, James Tobin, Rory Buck ’04, Adam Bielsky ’04, Dorian Dreyfus, Chris Sousa, Charlotte Dauphin, Dave Clark ’00, Farris Al Naqeeb ’00, James Elliott ’00, Hayden Nadler ’14, Ahsan Kahlon ’93** and **Zach Schiff-Abrams ’93**. The couple lives in London.

Class of 1992 30-year reunion

Last July, six members of the Class of 1992, representing four countries and three continents, gathered at One Waverley Place to celebrate 30 years since graduating from ASL. The group enjoyed a campus tour, where they took in the new facilities, reminisced in the

colored staircases and classroom pods and then raised a glass together at the nearby Clifton pub. Pictured L-R, **Gholam Bakhtiar ’91, Rita Farhi, Anis Adel, Akiko Ehara, Lawrence Morroni, Diana Noueihed** and **Adrien Ong**.



1 A.M Dupee ’03 and Anastazia Adamidou
2 Eoin Weston Hagan
3 Dylan Oliver Lazareva Curtis

2004

Welcome to the world, Eoin Weston Hagan, son of Brandon Hagan and **Molly Hester**, and first grandchild of interim head of school **Coreen R. Hester** (whose grandmother name is Noni). Eoin was born on 1 November 2022. “Eoin has been such a precious gift of joy and celebration for us,” Molly wrote recently. “We are completely in love.” (As is Noni!) The family lives near Boston.

Diana Lazareva writes, “Dylan Oliver Lazareva Curtis made his superstar entrance into this world on 9 July 2022, delighting family and friends with his beautiful, infectious smiles ever since!” Diana, Dylan and husband Kevin recently moved to Barnes and look forward to seeing you at future ASL events.

2007

The Nap Dress comes to London! In May, the alumni office was thrilled to see **Nell Diamond** at the launch of *hillhousehome.co.uk*, a UK-based website of her lifestyle brand, Hill House Home. Armed with beautiful flowers and gift cards, Nell and her team greeted Hill House fans in Sloane Square to mark the special occasion.



1 Nell Diamond ’07, Libby Jones and Jay Bhandal

2008

On 4 June 2022, **Graham Robertson** married Kerri Richardson in Locust Valley, NY. The couple lives in New York City.



2009

Isabel Bernstein is happy in Portland, Oregon, where she works as a primatologist in charge of the social and environmental well-being of 500 macaque monkeys at the Oregon National Primate Research Center. She lives with her partner, Mitchell Melville, who owns two marvelous book stores: *Melville Books* and *Parallel Worlds*. Her younger sister, **Anna ’12**, lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she works as one of the world’s first AI prompt engineers. She is also a published poet, and her work can be found at *annabernstein.com*.

Alison (Johnston) Foster joyfully announces the birth of her son, Clayton Duke Foster, “Duke,” who was born on 12 October 2022.



3 Clayton Duke Foster

Arjun Menon and his wife, Rosanna MacHarg, live and work in London. They were recently married in Athens, Greece—a place special in their hearts.



10s

2011

On 15 April, **Jesse Bandeen** married Walker Henderson in Napa, California. “It was a gorgeous weekend of festivities!” gushed **Bonnie Bandeen P ’07 ’11 ’12 ’17**. “And there were so many ASL families—it felt like a reunion.”

Antigone Phili graduated from Hofstra University with a PhD in clinical psychology.



4 Arjun Menon ’09 and Rosanna MacHarg
5 Jesse Bandeen ’11 and Walker Henderson

2012

Jordan Plotner '12 and his wife, **Lindsey**, are living in Portland, Oregon, where they perform as the folk duo, *Ned and Wendy the Band*! Check out the website, www.nedandwendytheband.com.

After completing her master's in psychology at University College London, **Tori Sasaki** works as a mental health counselor for Mind UK in London. Younger brother **Clayton '14** married last year and also finished a master's—his in atmospheric science at the University of Washington in Seattle.

2014

Check out the trailer for season three of *Ted Lasso*, one of the projects of **Jake Fallin**! Jake is a trailer editor with *Tiny Hero* in Burbank, California.

2015

ASL sweethearts **Simi Prasad** and **Cameron McClure** were married on 13 August 2022 on Shelter Island, New York—surrounded by family, friends and a flock of Eagles special to the couple. High school teacher **Mark Mazzenga (ASL 2010-present)** had the honor of marrying Simi and Cameron. The newlyweds live in Los Angeles.

2018

After graduating from UC Berkeley, **Rohan Prasad** moved to Taiwan to teach English and continue his study of Mandarin, which he began in middle school at ASL with world languages and culture teacher **Ting-Chi Li (ASL 2010-present)**. Over winter break, while Rohan was on an extended cycling trip through Taiwan, he ran into Ms. Li. “He has grown up and achieved so much,” she said of her former student. “Rohan truly embodies ASL’s Portrait of a Learner.” Learn more about Rohan’s Taiwanese adventure on his blog, rohanprasad.org.

Adam Romeih is studying at Georgetown. He took a “COVID” gap year to work at a charity in Thailand.

- 1 Rohan Prasad '18 and Ting-Chi Li
- 2 Rita '19, Becky, Jake '22 and John Edwards
- 3 Newlyweds and 2015 classmates Cameron McClure '15 and Simi Prasad '15 with officiant Mark Mazzenga

2019

Rita Edwards recently graduated from Parsons School of Design and is currently working as an assistant at Galerie Lelong in New York. Her brother, **Jake '22**, just finished his freshman year at NYU and is majoring in media, culture and communication. Parents **John and Becky P '19 '22** now live in New York too, and the whole family enjoyed an ASL tour over winter break.



20s

2020

Joanne Fowler P '20 '27 shared that **Olivia Salvage** is a junior at Washington University who is spending her spring semester in Toulouse, France. **Ella Fowler '27** is enjoying Grade 8 in New York City.

2021

Kieron Windless '22 enjoyed his post-graduate year at Spire Academy, a sports performance training and education academy in Ohio, where he was a point guard for Spire's basketball team.

Once an Eagle rower, always an Eagle rower! In May, five ASL crew alums reunited at the Eastern Sprints Regatta held in Worcester, Massachusetts. As collegiate competitors, the group represents different teams now, but they'll always have ASL pride. Well done, **Jack Wilkin** (UPenn), **Connor Eaton** (Cornell), **Leyth Sousou '22** (Harvard), **Anna Duffy** (Cornell) and **Mia Goldstein** (Cornell).



- 1 Kieron Windless '22
- 2 ASL alumni rowers at the Eastern Sprints Regatta, L-R: Jack Wilkin '21, Connor Eaton '21, Leyth Sousou '22, Anna Duffy '21 and Mia Goldstein '21

Alumni parent NEWS

The latest novel from award-winning writer **Joanne Leedom-Ackerman P '95 '98**, *Burning Distance*, is a thrilling mystery whose protagonist moves to London as a teenager and attends an American school. The book was published in March.

In June 2022, alumni parents and film producers **Barbara Broccoli P '10** and **Michael Wilson P '86 '97** each received the Commander of the Order of the British Empire medal (CBE) at Buckingham Palace in recognition of their services to film, drama, philanthropy and skills.



In May, **Erin Crawford P '20 '23** met up with former advancement associate **Laurie Hindley (ASL 2006-15)** for a boat cruise around Long Island Sound. Erin and Laurie are now both Long Island residents, and Laurie is the director of development at the Hewitt School in New York City. Naturally, the name of Erin's boat is *London Calling*.

Somnath and Vidhu Menon P '05 '09 recently moved back to London. They continue to stay busy with the Rudy Mission, the foundation they started in honor of their son **Rudy '05**, who died of a rare and inoperable form of brain cancer in 2013 at the age of 26. Ten years on, the Menons continue to host the 'Walk Around the World for Rudy,' which supports research for rare brain cancers. To learn more about this event and the Menons' work, visit rudymenon.org.



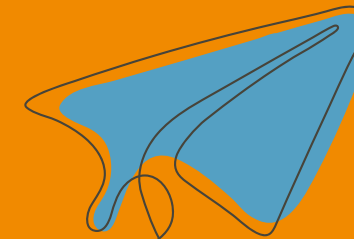
Faculty NEWS



In April, four former lower school teachers had the chance to get together in Auckland, New Zealand: **Suzanne Lituchy P '12 '15 (ASL 2004-16)**, **Bronwyn Harrison (ASL 2001-17) P '25 '29**, **Jude Griffiths (ASL 2004-10)** and **Jo Kember (ASL 2003-13)**. The theme of their photo: "Thanks, Julie!"—in appreciation for former lower school principal **Julie Ryan (ASL 1994-2013)**, who hired them all.

The alumni office received a heartfelt letter from former teachers **Richard and Louita Clothier P '79 '81 (ASL 1973-80)**, who are enjoying retirement in Lamoni, Iowa. The Clothiers initially taught music in the High School; Richard was later appointed as the high school assistant principal, and Louita started the orchestra program. "We have wonderful memories of London and ASL," Richard wrote.

Former faculty held their annual gathering at the Garden Gate pub in Hampstead in April. There was a record turnout and every kind of weather! It was a joyous celebration, with those who worked at ASL in seven decades! ■

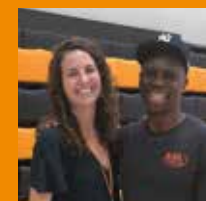


ONE WAVERLEY FLY-BYS

Welcome to One Waverley Fly-Bys, where we feature alumni, alumni parents and former faculty who visit campus throughout the year. Since August 2022, we have welcomed back nearly 100 alumni visitors. Follow ASL on @asinlondon, to see the latest fly-bys, and email alumni@asl.org to book your next visit.



After getting married in December, **Erica Greve '94** and husband Bob Hazelett visited London and ASL in March—a second honeymoon. Erica is the founder of *Unlikely Heroes* and lives in Nashville, Tennessee. She was floored by the success of the ASL crew team, which has come a long way since she was a founding member!



In August, **Micaela Henderson '10** stopped by campus and happily bumped into her former varsity basketball coach, Jimmy Markham. Michaela lives in San Francisco, where she works as a manager of corporate sponsorships for the Golden State Warriors.



Yael Belkind '90 and her parents, **Myron and Rachel P '90 '93** visited ASL in October. Myron, a veteran journalist who was foreign correspondent and London bureau chief of the Associated Press, spent time with some of *The Standard* editors in the design lab. A few weeks later, Yael was kind enough to give Ms. Hester and members of the advancement office staff a tour of the White House!



During the PCA *Better Together* auction celebration lunch in March, **Stephen Hall '71** and his wife, Urath, had the chance to visit campus for the first time in decades.



In summer 2022, **Caroline Harada '92** visited One Waverley Place with her family. Dr. Harada is a geriatrician at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Her medical career was inspired by **Bill Kenney P '03 '22 (ASL 1990-2022)!**



Spencer Jawitz '95 had the chance to catch up with classmate **Becky Mason '95 P '32 '35 (ASL 2009-present)** during his visit to One Waverley Place in April. Spencer helps coordinate events that are part of the global Star Wars convention.



In the fall, the **Nicholson family** included a stop at ASL during their trip to London. A highlight of their campus tour for **Debbie, Tim, Kyle '01, Ryan '02** and **Danny '05** was catching up with outside porter **Ahmed Ahmadi (ASL 1990-present)**, who remembers them all fondly!



Former lower school student **Peter Stevenson '05** visited ASL in April; the first time since 1996! Peter is now a senior political producer for *The Washington Post* and was interviewed by the *Standard* Editor-in-Chief, **Clara '24**, during his visit.

ALUMNI NEWS

Alumni parents party

On 24 October, ASL's incredible flock of alumni parent Eagles convened for the annual alumni parents party, hosted by **Duncan (ASL 2016-present) and Margaret (Farmer) Pringle '91 (ASL 2015-22) P '27 '31**. This group of 31 ASL parents have children who span from K2 to Grade 12. Their Class years cover more than three decades and are raising the next generation of ASL alumni! Guests in attendance had the opportunity to compete in ASL Guess Who.



Parents of alumni holiday social

Once a (parent) Eagle, always a (parent) Eagle! On 5 December, more than 50 parents of alumni were welcomed back to Bruce House for an evening of fun and festive cheer. Hosted by **Julie and Dag Skattum P '12 '15 '17** and **Coreen Hester**, the party included parents whose children's graduating Classes range from 2003 to 2022. "It was a GREAT gathering!" remarked **Farah Asemi P '11**. Middle school teacher **Julie Spurr (ASL 1998-present) P '20 '22** shared a similar sentiment: "The evening was a great trip down memory lane and a super opportunity to catch up on current lives." **Peri Bassatne P '12 '20** also enjoyed the party. "It was nice to hear the wonderful updates from the School and about the students' achievements," she enthused.



- 1 Coreen Hester, Helen Jackson '79 and Margaret (Farmer) Pringle '91
- 2 L-R: Gabe Marcotti '91, Duncan Pringle, Becky Mason '95, Jen Marcotti, Stephanie (Dodson) Gladis '94 and Terry Gladis
- 3 Sangeeta Sadarangani, PK Sinha, Nadia Malik and Sanjay Sadarangani
- 4 Lori Robertson, Jodi Warren and Julie Skattum
- 5 Dave Covey, Robin Covey and Rod Anderson

London alumni happy hour



- 1 Nao Yoshino '98, Marie Ogino '20 and Duncan Pringle
- 2 Laura Brown, Mara Richard '05, Tabby Khan and Shristi Mittal '05
- 3 Jed Alberts '16, Mark Barsoum and Tony Bracht
- 4 Vanessa Figueroa '20, Elena Stathopoulos '21, Zein Blanks '22 and Victoria Figueroa '22

More than 70 alums, faculty and staff, and friends gathered at the Warrington pub in Maida Vale for an evening of reminiscing and laughter on 13 January. The event was attended by an extraordinary mix of alums from the Class of 1970 up to the Class of 2022. Among the faculty present were: **John Wilson (ASL 1971-2009),**

Duncan Pringle (ASL 2016-present), Tony Bracht (ASL 2002-present), Mark Mazzenga (ASL 2010-present), Mark Barsoum (ASL 2008-present), Julie Spurr (ASL 1998-present) and Laura Brown (ASL 1995-present). Former editors of *The Standard* and *The Scroll* had a blast reconnecting with advisors **Lousia Avery (ASL**

2019-present) and **Colin Bridgewater (2000-present).** "Such a fun event for the alumni community," remarked **Carol Ogden '93**. Among the guests were mother and son duo **Marie Eckstrom '70 P '08** and **James Eckstrom '08**. Visiting from LA, the two were delighted to connect with the ASL network during their trip to London.

A New York state of mind

In April, nearly 100 alumni, alumni parents and guests showed up for our ASL social in Manhattan. Eagles representing Classes 1979-2018 caught up with friends and heard the latest One Waverley Place news from Interim Head of School **Coreen R. Hester**—the last alumni social of her tenure! It was a terrific send-off, and a lasting reminder that “Once an Eagle, always an Eagle” will forever ring true for the ASL flock, however far-flung.



- 1 Matt Tucker '14, Dan Tucker '12, Coreen Hester, Bill Tucker and Will Tucker '10
- 2 Julia Muoio '18, Sourna Daneshvar '18, Kenzie Wilkin '18 and Emily Glaser '18
- 3 Newlyweds Nicole Rawald '11 and Ryan Carlin

- 1 Libby Jones, Diana Lazareva '04, baby Dylan, Kevin Curtis, Jess Hartogs '00 and James Elliott '00
- 2 Barrett Buddies: John Carroll '80, Edward Carroll, Liz Bailey '85, Stephen Coloney '77 and Lance Frey '80
- 3 Giorgio Mandelli '91, John Wilson, Gholam Bakhtiar '91, Terry Gladis, Gabe Marcotti '91 and Margaret (Farmer) Pringle '91



Alumni Quiz Night

The stakes were high for the Class of 1991's defending championship team, the Italian Job. On 2 May, 30 alumni, representing four countries, gathered in the Commons and organized into five ambitious teams. Three rounds turned into four, and a tie-breaking fifth and final round. The winners: Barrett Buddies! Many thanks to **Terry Gladis P '27 '30 (ASL 1998-present)** and **John Wilson (ASL 1971-2009)** for hosting yet another incredible quiz!

THEN AND NOW

A history of Student Council

Student Council (StuCo) has been the voice of ASL students, the advocate for change, the organizer of dances and protests, and a leading influence at ASL. The Council's members, for more than 60 years, have faithfully served their constituents as participants in one of ASL's most formative extracurricular activities. Here, StuCo alumni and former advisors recall the highlights, hiccups and hallmarks from their council experience.

“It was a special group of kids who wanted to be there after school on Fridays to talk about how to make the high school experience better for their peers. StuCo taught me the value of developing strong, genuine relationships as the critical foundation for any team, and certainly for any leadership position.”

—Morganne Howell '12, student council president 2011-12

1960s

ASL graduated its first Class of seniors—a group of 12—in 1960, and Student Council was one of several clubs available to middle and high school students. **Bob Cavenagh '61**, who served as vice president in the 1959-60 school year, recalls meeting and talking with the other council members before retiring to Camden with some upperclassmen and women for a coffee. “I don’t recall any big issues,” Bob wrote. Similarly, former student council president **Charles Scudder '64** remembers his leadership role as one of many commitments. With the council’s help, the administration sponsored a Sadie Hawkins dance in 1962 and put clocks in the library and lunchroom. Charles’s classmates, **Jim McConkie** and **Dan Sanders**, were elected president and vice president of the junior class in 1962-63.



Dan Sanders, center left, shakes hands with running mate Jim McConkie, shortly after they won their student council election

1970s

If the first decade of Student Council was quiet and routine, the tumult of the 1970s offered plenty of opportunity for civil discourse and student activism. On 1 December 1971, to celebrate the opening of ASL’s new and permanent campus in St. John’s Wood, the School hosted a dedication ceremony. Amid much controversy, the guest of honor was former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, then Secretary of State for Education and Science. A group of high schoolers, including student council rep **Martin Hummel '73**, staged a walkout to protest Mrs. Thatcher’s appearance and was subsequently suspended for his actions. “My parents feared deportation for our family,” Martin recounted.



Margaret Thatcher dedicates ASL’s new building in 1971 despite some dissenting students



Martin Hummel, right, in a StuCo meeting in 1972

The following year, Martin served as president, and petitioned for an indoor smokers’ lounge “with a stereo system” on behalf of the student body. Remarkably, the lounge was granted. For fellow council member and president **Kevin Browne '72**, the most urgent protest of his time wasn’t over Margaret Thatcher, but the administration’s decision to replace the upper school director. In response to this teacher’s departure, Kevin led a student walkout during school that lasted for three days, resulting in an emergency board meeting during which Kevin brokered a deal so that students would return to class. Although he and others felt heard, their movement was outmaneuvered, and the council’s demands were ultimately dismissed. “The grown ups played hardcore politics with us,” Kevin explained. “It was an important lesson in realism.”



Kevin Browne, 1972

Still, there were other lessons to be gained from participating in student government. For **Dave Wicks '72**, serving his class infused him with self-assurance and compassion that helped inform his business career. Other council veterans, such as **Nathan Birnbaum '74**, have adapted a new perspective with age and feel softer towards the administration they once battled with. Learning how to negotiate and clearly communicate are among the benefits cited by numerous student council alums, such as **Lesley Boucher '78**. The issues she and her peers tackled ranged from stocking the soda machines ("to pay for our dances!") to having open campus at lunch—a high school privilege still enjoyed today. **Cindy Butler '78**, president for one semester, believes her initiation into peacemaking started with serving on a panel to resolve hostility between ASL students and those of a neighboring school. Cindy shared, "I remember wearing a navy blue suit—my standard wardrobe when I later appeared in court as an attorney!"

Adam Rose '78 believes a key takeaway from his time in student government was learning Robert's Rules of Order, the standard procedure for running a meeting with motions and seconds. His council also participated in a protest, with some faculty and parents, over changes to the admission policy announced in 1976, culminating in a march to the US Embassy that attracted international media attention.



ASL students and parents march to the US Embassy

1980s

Student Council maintained responsibility for the social life of the School, and the 1980s ushered in a spectacular live music showcase that carries on today: Battle of the Bands (BOTB). **Dan Seligson '85** is still impressed that his council landed the Morrissey McMullin band to perform one year, and that BOTB expanded to include other schools. But the most memorable event of that era, according to **Alice Iacuesa (ASL 1979-2000)**, who oversaw Student Council from 1983 to 1984, was the talent show featuring **Avner Shapiro '85's** rendition of *Roxanne*. "My clearest memory," she concluded. "Anyone who was there will never forget it."

In 1984, new high school social studies teacher **Anthony Linick (ASL 1984-2002)** was asked to be the council's faculty advisor, a position he held for 15 years. Dr. Linick recalls two important initiatives the council undertook during his tenure: the launch of the Senior Award for Excellence in Teaching, which was given annually for almost 30 years; and creating the Student-Faculty Judiciary Committee. Council members weighed in on other issues, from whether to change ASL's colors (no!) to redesigning a letterman jacket—a keepsake Anthony wore to Thanksgiving last year.



Dr. Linick wears his ASL varsity letter jacket, November 2022

The weekly Friday afternoon meetings he presided over, during which students learned to think on their feet and Dr. Linick steered everyone towards "the art of the possible," were time well spent for Dan Seligson. "I so enjoyed the banter and the wit of our young people, and I learned a lot," he explained. Former president **Chad Ruble '89** recalls, "Our relationship with the administration was very collaborative. Our proposals felt taken seriously, and their support of student advocacy gave me confidence, in college and beyond, for navigating

administrative structures." **Jacques Soenens '89** served with Chad, as VP. He shared, "Student Council gave me my first take at how to build community." Jacques now serves as a director on the American School in London Foundation Board alongside **Bill Scheffler '66**. While Chad and Jacques appreciated the opportunities they had to step into leadership, representing the student voice on various advisory committees with faculty and school leaders, he might argue that the 1988 Halloween dance is their council's greatest legacy. "Somehow, we were able to procure a truck full of Hollywood props—tombstones, fake blood and a professional cobweb machine—to transform the Commons into a haunted house!"



VP Jacques Soenens, left, and the Student Council during an offsite meeting in 1989

1990s



Students were once permitted to smoke in an outdoor area known as the pit

For years, one of the most divisive issues between school leadership and the Student Council related to cigarette smoking, first on campus, and then during school hours. The indoor smoking lounge of the '70s was eventually replaced with an outdoor space called the pit, where students took cigarette breaks in between classes. When smoking on campus was prohibited, Student Council proposed the pit be transformed into a

senior lounge. In 1995, with the arrival of new high school principal **Coreen R. Hester (ASL 1995-97; 2007-17; 2022-23)**, came a new policy that officially banned smoking during the school day. Naturally, this was not welcome news to many students. Former StuCo treasurer and president **John Jensen '97** remembers this indignant outrage. "Now, it is crazy to think that smoking during school could have ever been sanctioned," he mused. Former vice president **Brock McCormack '98** stands by Mrs. Hester's decision. "Banning smoking was the biggest controversy of the year," he remembers, "but clearly was the right call."



"I think our greatest victory was extending the hours of the tuck shop!" wrote **Oli Wiener '96**. Mrs. Iacuesa recruited him to Student Council as a freshman in 1992, as a means to help grow his public-speaking skills. "From working to gather support from different constituents, to creating an action plan and then implementing it—I carry those lessons with me to this day." John Jensen wholeheartedly agrees. "Being voted president by the student body remains one of the biggest accomplishments in my life," he said. John learned how to advocate for what he felt was right, make a persuasive case, demonstrate autonomy and earn others' respect. "Dean of Students **Kevin Conaty (ASL 1991-2017)**, Mrs. Hester and other administrators were willing to engage in open dialogue with us," John explained. "This is just one of the many ways ASL stands out and prepares students for life. From presenting to the Board of Trustees to defending open campus, I gained the confidence to lead from the front. I wouldn't be where I am today without Student Council."



The Student Council in 1994

Interfacing and collaborating with adults was a formative experience for Brock McCormack. For him, it was less about the issues they faced than it was the chance to feel like a grown-up who had a seat at the table. "I thought of myself as mature and responsible to be included in adult meetings," he said. "I'm thankful I could be part of something that really impacted the School."

2000s

High school math teacher **Tony Bracht (ASL 2002-present)** has been student council advisor since 2009. A veteran of student government in high school and college, Mr. Bracht was president of his own high school class, so supporting student government is a strong priority for him. "When you look back through the meeting minutes in the '70s and '80s, you find that a lot of conversations repeat themselves over time," he explains. "Do students have enough space, and are we using it effectively? Is student voice represented in decisions that stakeholders make?" To Mr. Bracht, the overarching theme that informs each council's agenda, proposal, debate and dispute is the reach of student influence in a distributed leadership model. "The goal is always for students to have input," he said.



Mr. Bracht, front row left, poses with the math department in 2003-04

Former president **Morganne Howell '12** advocated for students to have a say in the plans for ASL's campus expansion, set forth by the Board of

Trustees and the New Frontiers capital campaign. "My goal for the 2011-12 school year was to expand the scope of the council beyond social events." Consequently, Morganne and the other officers: vice president **Sophia Jennings '12**, treasurer **Taylor Lambert '12**, secretary **Julian Nebreda '13** and PR rep **Elizabeth Robertson '14** attended meetings and several external events, including representing ASL when former US President Obama delivered a historic speech to Parliament. "This was an absolute highlight of my time in London," Morganne gushed.

Senior Sunrise and Senior Sunset also began under Morganne and her council—two events that still serve to meaningfully bookend the senior experience for Grade 12 students.

Student Council today

Now more commonly known as StuCo, Student Council has 24 representatives; six per grade. The council votes on the officers, and presidential candidates present speeches to the whole student body but are not chosen by popular vote. Meetings are no longer held on Friday afternoons, as they did under Dr. Linick; they now meet on Thursdays to accommodate athletes who wouldn't be able to participate in Friday meetings or activities because of sports.

The Battle of the Bands has greatly evolved from the concerts in the Commons of 20 years ago, too. "Bangers and Bash" is a high-school wide, half-day event held at Canons Park in June, where student musicians perform on a live stage. "Some of these musicians have gone on to pursue professional careers," Tony Bracht shared. In an effort to be more inclusive, StuCo events, such as prom, are free of charge. A public Instagram account, @hsstuco, helps promote council activities, reports on meetings and seeks feedback from peers. ■

FOOTNOTE

This is an abridged version of an article that appears on our website. To read the original piece, and more news about ASL alumni, visit asl.org/alumni/alumni-news

ASL CONNECTS

Want to connect with ASL alumni?

We are proud to offer *ASL Connects*, a space for alumni, parents of alumni and former faculty/staff to easily connect with one another. Here, you can gain advice about jobs, networking, graduate school, moving cities—anything and everything!

What is it?

ASL Connects is a networking platform that works like Facebook but just for ASL affiliates. You can post on the feed, share photo albums, create groups, offer to be a mentor, post a job, apply for jobs and much more! Through *ASL Connects*, Eagles can leverage their status as ASL alumni to gain valuable professional and personal connections—anytime, anywhere.

How do I join?

It's easy. Sign up with your preferred email address or connect via your LinkedIn or Google account. We'll verify your affiliation with ASL, and then you can start posting and connecting.

Still have questions?

Ask us! We're happy to help. For technical issues, contact Graduway. For everything else, email our alumni team: alumni@asl.org.

Tell us what you think about *Accents*!

We welcome your feedback on our annual magazine, so please scan this QR code to fill out a short survey on what you enjoy about *Accents*. Thank you for taking the time to let us know what you think. Fill out the survey for a chance to win a £100 Amazon gift voucher.



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Access to the ASL alumni network

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Email alumni@asl.org

In memoriam

We are saddened to report the loss of the following members of the ASL community

Alumni and parents of alumni:

Matthew Armstrong '99
19 September 2022

Anne (Kershnik) Blake '02
16 December 2020

Ray Brunsberg P '15 '17
23 April 2023

Marcia Crabtree P '91 '94 '98 '02 (ASL 2001-03)
16 December 2022

Sheila Stott Gourlay '63
18 August 2022

Alice Leader P '98 '00 (ASL 1975-2010)
13 February 2023

Michael McNulty P '85 '87 '89 (former trustee)
16 March 2023

Rev. Dr. George Pera P '80 '83 (former trustee)
17 January 2023

Jane (Meredith) Reilly '65
3 March 2023

Scott Simpson P '10 '14 '18
28 May 2022

Norah Vincent '86
6 July 2022

Former faculty and staff

Joe Belle-Isle (ASL high school science teacher 1970-2000)
January 2023

Marcia Crabtree P '91 '94 '98 '02 (ASL learning specialist 2001-03)
16 December 2022

Jonathan Crawley (ASL bus driver, 1994-2022)
17 September 2022

Dr. Alan Galbraith (ASL school doctor, 1982-2001)
29 May 2021

Alice Leader P '98 '00 (ASL middle school English and social studies teacher, 1975-2010)
13 February 2023

Paul Morton (ASL middle school math teacher, 1963-97)
14 September 2022

