

TASIS TODAY

Spring 2010

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



Tribute to
Kay Hamblin

Dear Alumni and Friends of TASIS,

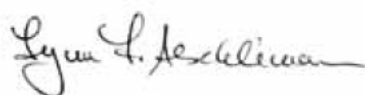
Many wonderful things are happening at your alma mater. Excitement is building for the grand opening of the John E. Palmer Cultural Center in May, when we expect many alumni to join us in celebrating this important milestone, made possible by very generous alumni donations. The first real theater on campus finally complements the rich panoply of theater productions at TASIS over the past forty years and provides the perfect setting to continue this great tradition. Sadly, Kay Hamblin, our finest theater director ever, is retiring, but her inspirational spirit will live on at TASIS and in the hearts of her many students, as you will see in their tributes.

My mother Mrs. Fleming's spirit also lives on at TASIS in the many wonderful people working hard to continue her great legacy. I am delighted to welcome two devoted alumni from the '60s, Rick Bell PG '65 and Jan Opsahl '68, to our Board of Directors. I am grateful for our Board of committed, experienced, and very talented Directors, who in turn are grateful for our very fine and dynamic Headmaster, Michael Ulku-Steiner.

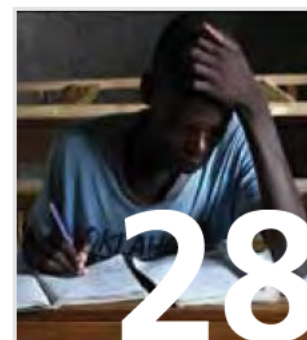
Life on the Collina d'Oro is as vibrant as ever as the campus is transformed, with new buildings climbing up the hill, and the children in the elementary school moving into high school classrooms as we add new classrooms for the high school. Students are working hard to do their best in classes, getting ready for IB and AP exams, and making the most of our re-invigorated Academic Travel and Service Learning – all part of the very special TASIS experience.

It was fun tracking down 'TASIS Trios' from around the world from the past five decades and hearing from them and other alumni about all of the wonderful activities they are involved in. We are proud of our alumni, as I hope you all are proud of your alma mater. Stay in touch and come back to visit your home on the Collina d'Oro.

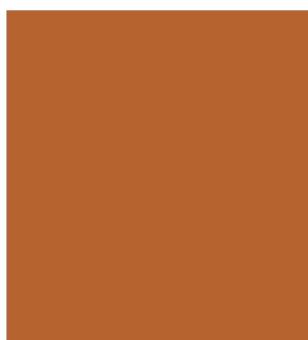
With every good wish to each of you,



Lynn Fleming Aeschliman
Chairman of the Board



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Greetings from Sunny Montagnola to Our Alumni and Friends Around the World!



Your memories of TESIS are likely fewer and sweeter with every passing year. As I know from your posts on Facebook and the stories at alumni reunions, your glory days at TESIS are burnished in the golden light of memory. Gone is the acne. Banished is the adolescent insecurity. Forgotten are the complaints about chicken and potatoes, that uncomfortable dorm bed, the hours of homework.

This process of whitewashing the past is, of course, a natural trick of human memory. But I think there's something else at play here. With each year after graduation and each step away from the Collina d'Oro, our graduates recognize the extraordinary privilege they enjoyed at TESIS. Where else could they be exposed to such beauty? Where else have they encountered such talented and caring teachers? Where else did they so effortlessly make friends from across the globe?

At the age of 18, these privileges are difficult to see. Spring is blooming in Montagnola, and our Seniors are itching to escape the campus, spread their wings, and discover the world. The time is right for emancipation.

At age 28 or 38 or 68, however, the unique privileges and pleasures of TESIS are easy to see. "Why was I so eager to leave this place?" said a young alumna while strolling the campus last fall.

Indeed, once we move into the big and complicated world, we recognize how few are lucky enough to benefit from a TESIS education. Nearly 100 million children on earth have no schools at all. Only one in 100 of those who go to school has access to the kind of education offered at a school like TESIS.

So what do we do with all this privilege? How do we use a TESIS education to improve the world for the next generation of children? How can we endow our students with so much beauty that they can't help but create more of it in the world? How can we push teenagers to escape the narcissistic bubbles that imprison us all? How can we give our young people the will and the tools to change the world?

These are the questions that we ask ourselves at TESIS – questions that Mrs. Fleming started asking 54 years ago.

They are answered every time a TESIS student struggles in a class and perseveres. Every time a friendship is forged between people from different continents. Every time a beautiful song, a powerful story, or a poignant service project pulls a student away from selfishness and toward the experiences of others.

We teachers do not forget that we are here primarily to nurture courage, compassion, integrity and other virtues – habits of the mind and heart that will serve our students longer than their test scores and bring more sustaining happiness than their university acceptance letters.

Lest we forget why we are here, you alumni (far-flung and years away from your time at TESIS) will keep reminding us. Your memories keep us focused on what matters. Your gratitude helps us realize our privilege. Your lives – and the virtue with which you live them – make our work meaningful.

With warm regards and an open invitation to come back to your alma mater,

Michael Ulku-Steiner
Headmaster

KAY HAMBLIN

Take a Bow



The sound of applause bursts across campus, echoing through the mountains. It's curtain call for another TESIS show, and as the audience stands and the actors blush with pride, Kay Hamblin stands quietly in a corner, arms folded, a proud smile on her lips.

Since 1996, Ms. Hamblin has been a fixture on the TESIS campus. Along with teaching AP English and Drama, she has served as Yearbook Advisor and was a dorm parent for nine years – but that's not how she'll be best remembered. It's the productions that all students – not just those in her classes or in her dorm – will remember.

Shakespeare

Perhaps the most important legacy Ms. Hamblin will leave is her dedication to Shakespeare. "In the beginning, when I first came to TESIS, I tried to encourage some Shakespeare and we did *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*," she says. "I did a very physical production with the men in tuxedos and the women in evening gowns. They looked great and it was an interesting production, but the students at the time weren't ready or interested in taking on 'real Shakespeare'." At the cast party for the show, Lynn Aeschliman asked Ms. Hamblin if she was planning to direct 'real' Shakespeare in the future; Ms. Hamblin took on the challenge, promising *The Taming of the Shrew* in the fall. And so it began, a yearly Shakespeare production in the fall: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Twelfth Night*, *As You Like It*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Comedy of Errors*, and *The Tempest*.

It's the rare high school drama teacher who will take on Shakespeare, and Ms. Hamblin has given this gift to fourteen years of TESIS students, both in Lugano and in her decade of summers at TESIS England with the ShakespeareXperience program. "It's very exciting and it's very satisfying, not only to



Capitignano, *Much Ado About Nothing*, 2007

the director but also to the participants and the actors," she says. "For everyone involved, to hear the lines and to actually learn Shakespeare, there is no way to learn it better than by saying the lines on stage as they were meant to be said."

She admits the language can be challenging at first. "It's about getting over the fear of Shakespeare, because it is so readable, and has such beautiful cadence and rhythms. The difficulty is time constraints." The plays are performed during Family Weekend, which gives the cast around five weeks to rehearse. "I use the original text, not a watered-down text that has been cut for school groups. However, I make some deletions to make it possible to watch a Shakespeare play. When you go to Shakespeare in London, it can be four hours long."

Along with learning lines, the actors must also create their characters, and here is where costumes become important. Ms. Hamblin's relationship with the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) costume department has taken characterization to another level. "For our first production (*The Taming of the Shrew*), we worked with local tailors to do the costumes, and the cost was enormous. The costumes were attractive but not properly weighted for the stage and they didn't have the right flair." The RSC doesn't often lend costumes to high school groups, but Ms. Hamblin made it happen. "When you put on a costume you become another character, and if you put on a well-made costume that's been tailored to fit you, so that you know you look good and you feel good, then you are free to move out onto the stage with full confidence." And it worked; no matter where the performance took place, the beautiful, elaborate costumes helped transport the audience to another time and place. "I feel the kids deserve those costumes because they work so hard," Ms. Hamblin says.

Student Involvement

It's a testament to Ms. Hamblin's prowess that her productions were continually flooded with interest from students. "I constantly have students approach me, saying 'I don't think I can act, but I'd like to work backstage'. Of course, I'll put them on stage anyway," she grins. "Most students who start out backstage will be on stage within six months, so we might as well start them out on stage and get them used to it. Because that's where they really want to be, they just don't know it yet."

And she's right. Not only did Ms. Hamblin get students to commit to Shakespeare in the fall, she also challenged them to find their singing voices for the traditional spring musical. Dodging Academic Travel, Spring Break, and exam schedules, Ms. Hamblin designed memorable productions of classic musicals, preferably by request. If Mrs. Fleming said she would like to hear *Kiss Me, Kate*, Kate got kissed. When *Camelot* was named Mrs. Fleming's favorite musical, out came the chain mail and broadswords. The rich repertoire has also included



Fame, 2002



Much Ado About Nothing, 2003



As You Like It, 2005

Oklahoma!, *Fame*, *Oliver*, *Working*, and *MCF - What a Life!* by Todd Fletcher. Ms. Hamblin's collaborations with Mr. Fletcher and with singing Master Jonathon Morris resulted in memorable, high-quality productions. She partnered with Mr. Morris, as with many inspiring TESIS musicals, for her final musical production, *South Pacific*, in March 2010. "Jonathon did his usual wonderful job of getting everyone to sing – and anyone who thinks they can't sing, he gets them to sing."

No matter what the musical, songs were whistled and hummed between classes and in dorm rooms across campus long after the final curtain. For many students, these songs defined their spring. For others, it served as a recruiting tool for the next year of shows, when a shy student would approach Ms. Hamblin and offer to work backstage.

And Ms. Hamblin always welcomed student interest. "We are a school, not a professional organization, so the goal is to help students grow and challenge themselves. They can join in any of the productions, Shakespeare or the spring musical, if they have an interest – that's all that matters. The interest comes first, and then it's my job to make sure that it works."

And she does make it work. She gets a strong level of commitment from her actors, and most of them raise their grades despite hours of effort onstage in rehearsal and performance. "Being onstage creates a new level of self-awareness; it breeds confidence," Ms. Hamblin says. "Acting requires discipline and a working knowledge of time management."

That's not to say things go perfectly all of the time. Kay fondly remembers the near-disasters throughout the years. "Every time we approach a dress rehearsal, I go into it thinking, 'Oh, this is not ready...we are never going to make it.' And then we have a miraculous dress rehearsal. Occasionally, we have a horrendous dress rehearsal, but between the dress rehearsal and opening night, it fixes itself." Even then, performances are never flawless. "Something goes wrong, and the art of theater is making the necessary adjustments. You cover for the error so it doesn't show. The actors often



Bye Bye Birdie, 2005



Oklahoma!, 2006



Romeo and Juliet, 2006



Kiss Me, Kate, 2007



Camelot, 2008



South Pacific, 2010

have to do it themselves, on stage.”

Herein lies the beauty of teaching students theater: the subtext of learning how to deal with unpredictable, often stressful situations. “I think the skills the students develop in the theater stay with them their whole lives. To be able to speak well and to feel comfortable in front of other people, to learn how to work with people and to support one another, and not wanting to outshine one another. All those things you take with you when you leave.” She also credits the social experience of theater. “There is a lot of camaraderie and fun that goes on backstage and after rehearsal, and the challenge of working together on a final project that is a shared effort. The skills developed working on a production last long after the applause has softened and the lights have dimmed.”

Changes

In her 14 years at TASIS, Ms. Hamblin has watched the Drama Department outgrow the small confines of the Hadsall top floor, the Tent, Bora de Besa, the Student Lounge, and Aurora 6. “[Hadsall] was overcrowded, hot, stuffy, without good sight lines, but people loved the cabaret atmosphere. A big post had been put up right in the middle of the stage to prevent the roof from potentially sagging. So we would try to use this post, pretending it was a tree, or leaning against it. Something always goes wrong, but you make it work, so it looks like you planned it that way.”

It is fitting that Ms. Hamblin’s final productions are in the brand-new John E. Palmer Cultural Center, with its purpose-built theater, excellent acoustics, and space on stage for the actors to move. Her last musical production, *South Pacific*, was much different from the 2003 production in Hadsall. “We performed it with the sailors practically sitting in the laps of the audience,” she remembers. Her final Shakespeare production, *The Tempest*, was staged in fall 2009. “It isn’t a comedy, but it does have light-hearted moments. It’s not a tragedy, either. It’s a play that is difficult to define. It has often been assumed that it is one of Shakespeare’s goodbyes as a playwright. Many of the lines refer to that, such as, ‘We are such stuff as dreams are made on...’ All of these things were wonderful to bring into the new theater, for the new beginning of theater here at TASIS.”

To read the complete interview *A Leading Role* and the article *Performing with Excellence*, please see www.tasis.com.





Tributes to Kay

The Tempest, 2009

Oh Kay, Okay, Kay...How will we get along without you? During my time at TASIS, I can count several close theater director friends—Bob Wilson, Todd Van Amburgh, Kay Hamblin. We have covered a lot of European ground: In-Program travel trips, personal weekend trips, and many, many picnics. My fondest memories of trips with Kay are to Sorrento/Capri, Colmar/Basel, Capitignano, Venice. The immediate supervisory situation was always there; we had to take care of the kids. But the rapport always extended well beyond the chaperonage, and lo, those 14 years ago, it became abundantly clear that we shared similar tastes in visual art, architecture, novels, and Shakespeare. The true test of friendship at TASIS is whether one can spend an entire evening together without “talking school”. This is what Kay, Simone, and I do on a regular basis...true independence! Our friendship will extend well beyond TASIS, and freedom has come to characterize our time together: a kind of mutual admiration society. Among other things, I’ve learned a great deal about how to be a professional from Kay. Words that come to mind for her are demanding, unsatisfied with mediocrity, inquisitive, pushing students to achieve, classy, offbeat, graceful. A new chapter? Now you will finally have the time to write *The Book of Kay!* Your departure will be a major blow to me, to Simone, and to Hilary. Oh Kay, goodbye to your TASIS life, but hello to your Hamblin family! (How many bedrooms did you say you have in Point Reyes?) We love you.

Mark, Simone, & Hilary Aeschliman

Working with Kay Hamblin during the summers at TASIS England was one of the greatest joys of my teaching career. We attended plays together, chaperoned student trips to London and Stratford, and co-directed performances at TASIS and at the Globe Educational Centre Theatre in London. The loyalty she won from her students was legendary and fully deserved. To be in the room with Kay was to be in the presence of greatness, and everyone knew it. I had so many delightful times with her, and I learned so much from her – so it is with immense fondness and gratitude that I wish her well as she moves on from TASIS.

David Jepson
Head of Upper School, TASIS England
Artistic Director, ShakespeareXperience
summer course

I was never a student of Kay’s, but she was the best teacher I ever had. She taught me x-ray vision to see through the clutter and discover what life is all about: wonderful people. What fun we’ve had with Kay, hiking up and down Tuscany, and wining and dining in Puglia. I don’t want her to go to California but to move in with us!

William Doyle, Alumni parent

I’ll miss you very much. Together, we have been to *Camelot* and to *South Pacific*, and throughout the world of Broadway shows. A more professional and fine teacher, an inspirer of young students, I don’t think I will ever find again. It’s very hard to say good-bye; I hope it’s merely *Auf Wiedersehen*.

Jonathan Morris
Maestro di Canto, TASIS Musical Director



“I’m just a girl who CAN’T SAY NO!
To the fact Ms. Hamblin is GREAT!
She always puts on the best show,
Thank you for being first rate!”

Hailey Parsons '06



South Pacific, 2003

Tributes to Kay

You made it!

TASIS celebrates the grand opening of the theatre building, exactly at the point in time when you retire. It's the happy ending. It's wonderful that your contribution to the education of so many was eventually rewarded in this way. The home of TASIS theater and drama wasn't ever the physical space where performances happened; it was Kay. Drama at TASIS was important for me, whether a role in Shakespeare or a small part in *Plaza Suite*, where my role was minimal but my dress was beautiful. And our London trips will never be forgotten! I am grateful that I had the opportunity to meet you as a teacher, a surrogate mother, and a wonderful person and friend.

Patricia Schmidt '04

If you walk into the old theatre in Hadsall, you'll enter what appears to be a big empty black room. If you are there alone, that's all it will be, but put into the hands of someone like Kay, this room becomes something more. For the three years I was a part of the theatre program, every day that I walked through the door to that room, I would be coming somewhere new and would get to be something different. Kay let me flourish in there in any way that I wanted to. The theatre was my magical home, free of all the rules and restrictions. Kay has a remarkable ability to connect with people. By forging these strong bonds, she is able to bring together different groups of people to her shared vision on the stage.

Sue Ordonez '04

Most Inspiring and Encouraging

Whenever I think back to my years at TASIS, two images immediately spring to mind: a snapshot of the sweeping panorama from the TASIS campus over Lake Lugano to the snow-covered mountains in the distance, and Kay, giving directions for a song in a musical, hosting a crowd of students in her diminutive apartment in Casa Norma, or half-laughing/half-fuming because of the stunt we pulled in Barcelona during Yearbook Camp. Of all the supportive educators at TASIS, at college, and at graduate school who had a strong influence on my life, Kay was the most inspiring and encouraging. She always knew her students' obvious weaknesses and not-so-apparent strengths, and squeezed every ounce of potential out of them. She cajoled, scoffed, laughed, and criticized openly, but she never preached. She was a free spirit, a child of the 60s who never stifled students with petty restrictions. She tolerated the students' attempts to push the envelope, but she also taught them the importance of respecting the rules of living in the bubble of a small enclave. Unlike many of her students over the years, I did not choose teaching, acting, or singing as my career, but I thank Kay for teaching me the skills of confident, clear ("Lower your voice!"), and persuasive delivery every time I have to give a presentation to clients or team members, or address celebrities or members of the press at premieres, gallery openings, the BAFTAs, or sustainability conferences. The lessons she taught me in musical theatre productions still resonate and set me apart from many other competitors.

Since leaving TASIS in 2003, I have returned to campus at least once a year, and each time, Kay has found the time to meet me, discuss my progress and career choices, and to encourage me when my spirits needed boosting. Her departure from TASIS this spring puts an end to a long, wonderful chapter in my life, much more so than my departure upon graduation did. I will sorely miss her when I next return to Lugano.

Stephanie De Vos '03

Kay was one of the best teachers I had at TASIS. Her influence made me love musicals and singing, and I thank Kay and TASIS for the opportunity to feel inspired.

Jo Imada '08

Zany Manner of Passing on Wisdom

"My mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars shall bitterly begin his fearful date with this night's revels some vile forfeit of untimely death. But he that hath the...the uh, the – line please."

"The steerage of my course."

"Right, that's it. Ahem, but he that hath the steerage of my course –"

"Stop. Take it from the top. Rehearsal will not continue until you can recite the whole monologue without screwing up."

"Fine. My mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars shall bitterly begin his fearful date with this night's revels some vile forfeit of untimely death. But he that hath the, the uh – oh boy, line please."

"The steerage of my course. If you mess this up one more time I'm going to give you an untimely death."

"Okay I got it – the steerage of my course. My mind misgives some consequence yet hanging in the stars shall bitterly begin his fearful date with this night's revels some vile forfeit of untimely death. But he that hath the, the uh..."

I looked up just in time to see Kay's playbook flying towards me. "Uh-oh."

I ducked just in time and the book whizzed over my head. Kay

began to yell at me but I couldn't understand a word she was saying because I was shocked and frozen in fear. All I could see was her red hair, dancing in a wild frenzy as she bombarded me with insults. But don't get me wrong, Kay is not an evil woman, I simply didn't have my lines memorized and opening night was only a week away.

I met Kay when I was six years old, and in the past fourteen years I have had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with all sides of her wonderfully unique and unforgettable personality. When I was a child she was my second mother, and when I was a student at TASIS she was my advisor, teacher, and director. But most importantly she was, and always will be, a great friend. I can't begin to count the ways she has influenced and shaped my life and all of the fun times we have shared over the years. All I can say is that I know she will be greatly missed by the TASIS community; she is undoubtedly one of the kindest, funniest, and fuzziest women I know, and I speak for all of us when I wish her the best in the new chapter of her life. I'm sure that living with her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren, Zoe and Max, in sunny California, along with spending her days taking long walks on the beach, is going to be hard to get used to, but I could not think of a more perfect way for Kay to end her time at TASIS. And for Zoe and Max, who will be fortunate enough to grow up in the presence of

Kay's zany manner of passing on wisdom, I have two pieces of advice – remember to duck and when in doubt, give Kay a bear hug.

James Eichner '07 (left, on left)



Kay Hamblin has the ability to reach inside people and pull out a part of them that forgets insecurities and makes them want to dance, to sing, and pour everything they know about life onto a stage. I cannot thank her enough for

reminding me to feel and experience the world around me instead of just trying to manage it. Her mark on TASIS is a blessing and will never be overlooked.

Evan Elberson '07 (left, on right)

Tradition of Excellence

I kissed Romeo, pushed the dagger into my heart, and closed my eyes. With my back to the audience, I smiled as another show, the culmination of my career as an actress on the TASIS stage, came to a close. When I came to TASIS my freshman year, I got involved in theater to make friends and try something new. The first time I met Kay Hamblin, she was running late to a rehearsal for *Much Ado About Nothing*. She burst into the tent (our makeshift rehearsal space) and ordered everyone to their places for the scene. "You with the glasses, quit flirting with my actor so we can start this scene." Kay is not subtle, and she doesn't have time for nonsense. She praised us when we correctly conveyed the meaning behind



Shakespeare's brilliant and often perverse words, and she barked at us when we did not.

In my four years at TASIS, I knew Kay as an advisor, as a teacher, as a director, and as a friend. In each of these roles, she taught me something. She always had the best advice, simple and practical: "If you don't go to class, you will fail." "If you speak while looking at the ground, nobody will hear you." "Just be yourself. Don't try to put on a show outside the theater." She treated us as adults, gave us the confidence to make our own decisions, and gained our respect and adoration.

As a director, she commanded our attention as she scurried about the stage, her red hair flying about her head as she showed us the proper way to walk as a woman playing the role of a man or as a man playing the role of a lover. Kay celebrated a tradition of excellence, portrayed in all of the shows she directed. She will be dearly missed by the TASIS community, and her legend will live on in the hearts of all those who had the privilege of working with her.

Nola Seta '07 (above)

How do you instill in a generation of students a passion for theatre? How do you get them to walk for a time in someone else's shoes, and portray views vastly different from their own? How can you show them the sense of accomplishment that results from a collaborative effort to put on a great show? TASIS found one resounding way: introduce them to Kay Hamblin. In 8th Grade, I watched TASIS students perform *The Taming of the Shrew* and found myself intrigued by the ludicrous story, the diverse cast, and a sense that those involved were having the best of times. So I tried out the following year, but it was my discovery of Kay's dedication and enthusiasm that kept me – and many others – involved in every production until graduation. She has the ability to bring the characters inside Shakespearean verse alive, uncovering Mercutio's relentless wit and Duke Orsino's abstract obsession with love. Kay challenged us to see a world beyond our own and to bring out the best in each other. A generation says thank you to our teacher, mentor and friend. Your heart's desires be with you!



*Damian Kastil '07
(right, with John Pate '08)*

Tributes to Kay

Kay Hamblin's ability manifested itself in the confidence, passion, dedication, and creativity of those she taught. I arrived at TASIS as many new students do – somewhat uncomfortable with myself and not entirely sure of my talents. Like other teenagers at TASIS, I often needed guidance and support. Kay, through her uncanny ability to recognize and channel the raw talent of youth, tirelessly worked to provide this guidance. She was a lot more to me than a yearbook advisor or theater director. Kay made us believe in ourselves and appreciate that we all had something great to offer. I will be forever grateful for this gift.

Trevor Martin '01

Kay Hamblin's contributions to TASIS have been priceless. Her experience in theatre has given many students incredible insight into acting, and her ability to bond with students as a mentor and friend as well as a teacher has proven a key asset to our School. Kay's dedication to TASIS is evident through her drive of developing a performing arts program that will be a beacon of excellence for years to come. I feel privileged to have taken part in a few of her performances and also to have been her advisee in my senior year. I wish Kay a happy retirement and although TASIS is going to be sad to see her go, I know that the work she has done for the school will be remembered and cherished.

Julian Moloney '07

Film star Steve McQueen once said, "I'm not sure that acting is something a grown man should be doing." His great rival Paul Newman said, "To be an actor, you have to be a child." While unfortunately I may have later followed McQueen's thinking, Kay Hamblin gave me a fitting memory of Newman's quip. Her skillful direction turned me into Pablo Picasso for a week at TASIS, and our production of *Picasso* at the Lapin Agile was as memorable to me as any moment during my years at TASIS. Combining patience, clear teaching, and years of experience, she made me into an actor for those weeks. The ability to transfer her passion to others, especially students with many other things in mind, is true talent. Sir Laurence Olivier reflected, "We have all, at one time or another, been performers, and many of us still are, even politicians, playboys, cardinals and kings." I am sure all her students, whatever they are doing now, took great things from performing and learning under her direction. Thank you, Kay!

Mark Hansen '02



*Mark Hansen '02, Permele Doyle '05,
Elliott Doyle '01*

My memories of TASIS are many, and drama class and theatre, under the auspices of Kay Hamblin, are memories I call upon with warmth and joy. Kay was integral to my experience at TASIS, as she embodied three roles I sought in a tutor at boarding school: as a teacher, she showed interest in my academic results; as a director, she instructed me on how to do better; and as a friend, she cautioned me and showed compassion. When I came to Lugano as a junior, the theatre quickly grew to be my favorite place on campus – a creative outlet and setting from which I drew strength, where I could explore personal depth through different characters, and benefit from interacting with friends and peers on another level. Kay's unique educational, personal, and artistic qualities are what made this experience of drama at TASIS so exceptional. The success of her plays and the cherished memories left with us are a product of her passion for the art of theatre and care for her students. Both mentor and friend, Kay has the ability to inspire confidence in students to appear on stage and excel as actors. I am sad to know she will no longer be running the show on the Collina d'Oro and wish her a rewarding and eventful retirement!

Constantin Sprengel '03 (above)

To put it simply: Kay made TASIS for me. I signed up for anything with her name on it. I asked her to be my advisor (the most lucrative and perhaps notorious group in the School); I took every drama and English class she taught, acted in every play she directed, and went on any In-Pro trip she led. My two birthday parties consisted of ten kids and Kay. For if Kay was there, there was no way it could be a bad time. She has the most wonderful magnetic quality. She makes everyone she touches completely mesmerized and forever her follower. I owe Kay for so many things. She was my advocate, my mentor, my role model, and my friend. She instilled confidence in me by putting me on the stage (and finally making me enunciate); she sparked my interest in the writers of 1920s Paris. I came to her with my problems and left with answers. Her generosity touched everyone she met, and spanned any age group, nationality, or background.

Permele Doyle '05

"I want you to be Juliet – just audition." At the time, I had never worked harder in my life academically and I certainly had no interest in adding months of Shakespeare rehearsals into an already sleepless schedule. There was little persuasion needed, however, before I found myself graduating with not one, but three Shakespeare roles under my belt. My experience with





Kay served as a rebirth of inspiration for creative excellence. She challenged the limits of my potential and revealed to me a community of trust and comfort, both on and off the stage.

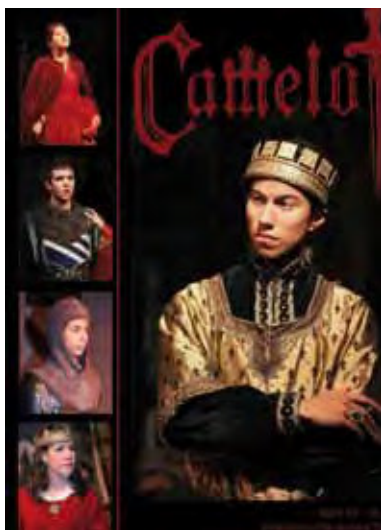
Each play was a masterpiece reflection of the ambition, excitement, and sincerity that she stimulated within her students, and because of that, each production was an enchantment both for the audience and behind the scenes. I learned best from Kay, not simply because she taught me theatre skills, but because her passion for art is reflected in all facets of her life. From my first semester at TASIS to my last, I saw her as both a trusted friend and deeply admired mentor – for whom my gratitude still remains unmatched. Still today, many of my fondest memories are in the company and guidance of that great friend and teacher. Kay will be profoundly missed at TASIS, but as rightly spoken, and isn't it always so: "parting is such sweet sorrow."

Gianna Dispenza '08 (above)

Kay taught me to love Shakespeare. And the way she did it was by putting students in the boots and garments of the Elizabethan era, dropping us in Tuscany, and giving us swords to quarrel with. Nothing could ever beat learning *Romeo and Juliet* or *Much Ado About Nothing* in a place that feels and looks exactly like what you imagine Shakespeare's world to be when reading it off the page. As we were surrounded by farms and vineyards, it was likely that food and wine played an important role in teaching us how to fully enjoy the culture of Shakespearian days. To me Kay never fully fitted the category of 'faculty' at TASIS; something about the way she treated people felt more like how a true theatre director treats actors: outspoken, direct, and occasionally explicit.

One of Kay's most valuable strengths as a drama teacher was her ability to bring out the best, unique qualities of individuals and make them shine, together, throughout every production. This is why Kay Hamblin's plays never get old; they were always colorful and original in their own way. As Kay was my advisor I look up to her not only as a teacher, but also as a friend, and to me that's probably the best relationship an actor and a director could ever possibly share.

Edward Haschke '08 (right, as King Arthur)



The TASIS performances we did in 1997 were much like an English sitcom – low budget, packed with laughs and irony. I was fortunate to work with Kay in 1998 where we used a small loft-conversion in Hadsall for a theater, with passion, luck, wit, and charm to get us through two tough plays and a musical. There was a real sense of camaraderie. Kay provided the stitching to keep it together through her enduring patience, entrepreneurial spirit, and never-say-die attitude. On some occasions we thought the world was falling apart beneath us, but we always managed to pull it off in the end. Enjoy your retirement, Kay. I'm sure you are in desperate (and deserving) need of some rest, relaxation, peace, and quiet!

Andrew North '98 (right, on left)



Larger-than-Life Character

My relationship with Kay began well before she arrived on the TASIS campus. As English chairperson, I was in touch with Kay while she was still teaching in Tanzania in order to welcome her to the school, provide a sense of where her talents fit into our grand scheme of things, and then gently sketch for her how wide-ranging her responsibilities would be. Kay, the drama teacher, was to become Kay, the dormitory resident, Advanced Placement English teacher, yearbook advisor, Christmas Service planner, and, of course, drama teacher, producing major plays and musicals. She would travel not just for In-Pro, but also at the weekend, taking students to Venice for *Carnevale* and mask-making or to Stratford for drama. Each year her AP English class produced a volume of creative writing based on Kay's method of "sponning," or spontaneous writing. I watched Kay move seamlessly from Bronte to Beckett to Eliot during my class visits. The degree of involvement Kay had in the lives of the students brought us together both as colleagues and friends because we shared the notion that each student deserved the chance to be special, to be encouraged, to develop self-confidence, and to feel supported as human beings while adolescence raged. Kay and I laughed together, worried together, worked to keep students in school, and then worked to get them into college. Kay worked tirelessly as a bridge to families of her students, and she garnered incredible loyalty from parents during her years at TASIS because of the quality of those relationships. Kay has been a larger-than-life character in a boarding school drama because so many creative outlets have been her purview and such a vast number of adolescent lives have been shaped by her remarkable involvement in their high school careers.

Cynthia Whisenant (above) TASIS English Teacher, College Counselor, and former English Department Chair, 1973-77, 1984 - present



Tributes to Kay

Meaningfully Engaging Students

I first had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Hamblin as an overwhelmed, somewhat frightened newcomer to TASIS in 2001.



Karl McNamara with Patricia Schmidt '04

Her vibrant and outgoing nature was a steady, guiding force during my immersion and adaptation to boarding school life. She was my teacher, dorm parent, trip leader, director, Community Service Project leader, mentor, and friend.

Her passion for the performing arts was contagious. Through her I developed a strong and persistent love of the theatre, which

had a formative impact on my TASIS education and beyond. Her ability to meaningfully engage students proved a much-needed source of stability and compassion in the complex life of a boarding school student. Equally, if not more importantly, her captivating personality, her notorious sense of humor, and her alternative perspectives provided a refreshing lapse in the routines of everyday TASIS life.

Ms. Hamblin is a TASIS institution, one who inspired students to embrace their individuality and realize their full potential. I know I am not alone in saying her presence at TASIS will be dearly missed, and that her essence at TASIS and in the theatre can never be fully replaced.

Ms. Hamblin, I cannot thank you enough for all your years of service and the truly significant impact you have had in the lives of countless students. I feel privileged to have been your student and actor, and I wish you only the best in the future.

Karl McNamara '04

Kay Hamblin. Your name is synonymous with the rare talent you have to combine a no-nonsense, nothing-but-the-best attitude with a sly wink that promises a whole lot of fun. For over a dozen years, you have toiled and troubled in Lugano winters and Thorpe summers to create theatrical miracles with your students. Most performances have resembled storms of energy that have left thespians exalted, parents proud, and audiences cheering. *Bravissima!*

It is altogether fitting that your career be crowned with the dedication of the new theater, a splendid facility that you played a pivotal part in inspiring. Given the triumphs you and your successive troupes have achieved under far more modest conditions, we are now left to smile in awe.

I join countless others in thanking you for memories of pure joy, the reward for intense individual effort, productive teamwork, and your boundless faith in us. As you assume new roles in your life, may you experience similar joy. Harken...that sounds like waves of applause, everlasting...they must be for you!

*Michael Horak
(your erstwhile partner in crime)*

Brought to You by the Letter 'Kay'

The letter K is an extraordinary letter. Its most common use is producing the 'voiceless velar plosive', the sound in *kindness* and *thank*. Both beautiful words; both made with a sound that most languages don't have.

What really makes the 'K' distinctive, however, are its silent properties. Sometimes it is there, in plain sight, yet invisible to our tongues. Other times, its presence changes the meaning. The darkest, dullest *night* becomes a chivalrous *knight*.

Often, the letter C intrudes and imitates the fair K, as in *counterfeit* or *clone*. But add an E and C fails in its mimicry. Take the ubiquitous adjective *nice*: replace the C with K and end up with the Greek goddess of victory.

K's power is not limited to mere words. Place it before a unit of measure in the metric system and increase a value a thousand-fold. K represents a scientific unit; zero K is the temperature at which the laws of the universe cease to function. Yes, life without K is difficult to fathom.

And like the letter, life without our K(ay) is difficult to fathom. A mainstay on campus for the past 15 years, Kay's direct and indirect influence is evident in the creative minds of her diverse students. For many, her dynamic courses and inspired drama productions are among the most memorable TASIS moments.

It's no coincidence that Kay teaches both English and Drama, two subjects that would collapse into confusion without the letter K. And although it may seem TASIS will have 'zero K' from next year, the laws of thermodynamics will ensure that her legacy continues. For there is now a silent and invisible K at TASIS that will never cease to exist. The TASIS experience is forever changed by Kay, as thousands of students, faculty members, staff, and parents will know. I am one of those students. I continue to be influenced by this silent Kay.

Was it chance that my final year at TASIS was Kay's first year? Maybe that's how it was always supposed to be; after all, my name ends with a K as her name begins with one.

Kay Hamblin, may your new beginning be as incredible as the teaching career you are leaving behind. Best wishes for your retirement. Thank you!

Patrick Matta '97

What can I say about Kay that anyone who knows her doesn't already know? That she's an incredible director? That her students love her and knock themselves out for her? That her productions are marvelous? We all already know these things. But I had it even better; I had the good fortune to work with Kay for 10 summers at TASIS England – awesome, unforgettable summers of matinee and evening jaunts to plays in the West End and the South Bank of London and to Shakespeare sites and RSC theatres in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Kay and I shepherded our tyros to matinee and evening performances via TASIS van, train, bus, underground, taxi, and weary feet. We ate more sack lunches than either of us cares to remember and traded Penguin Bars, fruit, crisps, and yogurts for personal favorites. We took our wild woollies to meet Molly Ringwald backstage and ran into Patrick Stewart with them in the park behind the Swan Theatre in Stratford. Together we fell in love with Sam West as Hamlet and almost walked out on Colin Redgrave as King Lear. Too often, after a late night production at Shakespeare's Globe, we found ourselves racing the walkway along the Thames to make the last train from Waterloo Station and then shuttling, in shifts, our sleepy charges from Virginia Water back to school via TASIS van – one of us driving and the other shivering and minding leftover students at the station.

I got to know Kay for those things we all already know about her, but, I got more, an awesome and unforgettable friend – and memories to die for. Thanks, Kay.

Nancy Chism, TASIS England

Kay was one of my best friends and mentors. She pushed and guided me through three important years of my life, the years I began to grow up. There is no way to repay her for everything she has done for TASIS and for everyone who was lucky enough to cross her path. I can't imagine TASIS without her and know she will be missed. Kay, even though this doesn't even begin to sum up my gratitude, thanks for everything.

Skyler Gross '05 (left)

How to Put on a Show

I had worked at TASIS for several summers when I returned in the winter of 2003 to help out with a production of *South Pacific*. I was back to teach, but little did I know I'd be learning as much from Kay Hamblin as I'd be teaching. I'd had the pleasure of working with Kay previously in the summer of 2000, when I was back to direct the musical *MCF - What a Life!* in celebration of Mrs. Fleming's 90th birthday. During that time, I got to know "the quiet Kay." She would sit in

the back of the Palestra during rehearsals, quietly observing. Just as quietly, she would slip me written notes with her observations during breaks and after rehearsals. Her comments on the performances were so astute that I encouraged her to give her notes to the actors directly. Directors don't encourage this sort of thing unless they have very good reasons. My very good reasons were that Kay could see things I couldn't see and could usually elicit an improvement more cleverly, gracefully, and efficiently than I could.

Imagine my surprise upon returning to TASIS three years later to find that the quiet Kay wasn't the only Kay. In fact, the Kay most people know is not someone who sits in the back of the theater quietly taking notes, but rather someone who stands in the front of the theater resolutely taking the bull by the horns, stretching her charges to perform at a level they had previously never imagined possible. In addition to knowing how to get results from actors and run a rehearsal, Kay is also famously a brilliant caster of actors. Does she wait around for the 'Drama Kids' to show up to auditions? No. She ventures into the belly of the beast – Detention! – where, as she sees it, there is a room full of bored kids waiting to be discovered. It's there, from among this unlikely group of unhatched thespians, that she has developed some of her most impressive leading men and ladies, dancers and sword fighters.

She's as tough as she needs to be, but she's also caring and generous. Her combination of task master and mama figure, someone with whom kids feel comfortable discussing the widest array of subjects, is a large part of what makes her so special.

I will always cherish the challenging and fun and wild and inspiring collaborations, the hours-long "debriefings" after rehearsals, and especially the on-the-job training I've received from my dear friend and mentor Kay. I will be forever grateful for having learned so much from her – as much as I've learned from anyone I've ever worked with – about how to put on a show.

Todd Fletcher (above)

Todd Fletcher is a composer, writer, director, and educator. He began his career as an educator in 1988 at TASIS' Le Chateau des Enfants summer program. In addition to creating nine one-act musicals for TASIS summer programs, he also wrote and composed *MCF - What a Life!*, an original musical based on Mrs. Fleming's life.





Remembering Mrs. Fleming

large family, with MCF at the helm.

During my three years at TASIS, MCF was in many ways like a second mother to me. Certainly she and my TASIS experience have had an enduring positive impact on my life. Who I am was shaped in immeasurable ways by those years.

From MCF I learned the value of cultures and languages other than my own, of art and architecture, of beautiful surroundings, of travel and broad exposure to the world around me. I learned about *savoir-faire* and *noblesse oblige*. Under MCF's tutelage, my brother, then 16, also learned the art of making a good gin and tonic and a tasty manhattan! She had a constant vitality and a domineering presence when she walked into a room. But when she spoke to you, she made you feel like you were the most important person in that room.

She had a way with words and with people that I've rarely seen matched. In those early days, we only knew bits and pieces of what it took to keep TASIS going. Was she really being courted by a count...or maybe a duke or prince? She made us believe that anything was possible if you set your mind and heart to something. In the fall of 1958, we were amazed when green grass arrived by truck and was spread over the dirt in front of the newly constructed pavilions – modular buildings – that became our dorms. The grass was brought in so we could take publicity pictures showing the grounds and buildings at the newly restored Villa Soldati in Lugano. It was a cold fall day when we took those pictures, but you'd never know it by looking at them! I was forever impressed by her ability to deal with people, to get them to willingly do what she thought needed to be done.

To my dear friend Lynn, to Tom and Gai and their families, I send my love and condolences. I hope you find comfort and strength in her legacy of TASIS and all that it has become. I am so thankful that the classically beautiful library was completed and



Kathy Pitner in her TASIS uniform
(second from left, bottom row)



Kathy Pitner with Mrs. Fleming

In My Mind She Is Immortal

I see her spirit in the beautiful buildings and grounds of the Montagnola campus. I hear her voice in the multitude of student languages. I feel her presence as I sit down to a lovely meal at Casa Fleming. She will always be present for me, a constant reminder of the possibility of world peace through educating young people from around the world. In my life's work as teacher and mediator, I see a foundation created by my exposure as a young girl to MCF.

I met her in the summer of 1957 when I was an impressionable 12-year-old. My family was newly arrived in Switzerland. My father's job had brought us, and my mother, brother, and I were looking at schools for the fall. In the old-world charm and grace of her Locarno home below Villa Verbanella Alta, she won our hearts and minds in a very short time. In September of that year, my brother Bill and I became two of the 29 students enrolled in the second year of TASIS. My first experience at boarding school was like being a part of a rather

dedicated to her during her lifetime. It is a worthy reminder of all that she has meant to me. Mrs. Fleming, I thank you for your significant role in shaping who I am today. I feel great sadness at your departure but am grateful that for me you will always remain immortal.

Kathy Pitner
TASIS student, 1957-60

Love, Blessings, and Baci

How fortunate I have been to have known Mrs. Fleming and to have been so inspired and encouraged to widen my dreams and my horizons at the young age of 18. I was lucky to have kept in touch as I worked and visited Lugano over the years as a CDE and MSP counselor. I even have had the pleasure to celebrate a few summer birthdays, Fleming-style. The most incredible experience, of course, was “being” MCF for these wonderful, intense four days in *MCF - What a Life!* These performances and my PG year were the two momentous TASIS milestones in my life.

I am glad I was able to see her in March 2006, clad in signature black, bejeweled in gold, with perfectly coiffed hair. Her passing ends the era of 1940s elegance, of white gloves and cocktail stops on the autostrada, of great halls and lavish indulgence, with a firm eye on the goal of educating young people through beauty, culture, and travel – her impeccable ‘recipe’! Mrs. Fleming will always be remembered as an incredible missionary and visionary, and her legacy, through her adoring students, will carry on with her spirit. How fortunate for her that she left us knowing that her daughter, with new visions, will continue to focus on the future, creating smaller and smaller worlds of communication, love, and understanding. Mrs. Aeschliman’s is a different, although no less visionary approach as she begins the dream for even younger pupils. TASIS remains in my prayers as you forge one of the greatest mysteries, and blessings, of life.

Love, Blessings, Baci
Elisabeth Crawford
PG ‘66



Thank You, Mrs. Fleming: from a European

Some words of thanks to Mrs. Fleming. There is hardly a day without a thought of gratitude for [Mrs. Fleming] and her country. The way across wheat fields, a small forest shaped like a green cathedral, birds singing in the trees opening up to a green meadow, cow bells tuned for peace, a farm, a red poppy shining in the green, green grass of home. Fresh, juicy pastures in the sun under a blue sky. Children laughing, playing, a school, a fountain with flowers. Peace! A lifetime of peace!

D-Day! Thank you Mrs. Fleming, once again, for sending your daughter Lynn (13 years old in 1959) along with other students to Omaha Beach and Utah Beach in Normandy. May they remember, thanks to you, Mrs. Fleming. May they never forget the sea of white crosses and just say “Thank you, America” – thank you for peace. Arromanches, Juno Beach, Sword Beach, Gold; thank Britain, Canada, thank the Allied Forces who freed Europe and the World.

Thank you, Mrs. Fleming, for letting children know that freedom and liberty are not granted to all, that Europe received the beginning of peace on June 6th, 1944, thanks to the first assault of determined youngsters at Omaha Beach that cost 80% of young American lives.

Thank you, Mrs. Fleming, for teaching us the price of freedom. Thanks for sending us Swiss Holidayers to the beaches of Normandy where ten thousand young braves gave their lives for a few hundred yards of Normandy beaches, along with millions more around the world from the holes of Iwo Jima to the shores of Tripoli, Gualdalcanal, Burma, Okinawa, Omaha, so that your free and cheerful students could sing a song like: “We have joy, we have fun, we have seasons in the sun.”

Mrs. Fleming, you did not forget your schoolgirl travels through Europe. Thank God, you were “Fording” Europe in the 1930s, you sent your students “blue-busing” across Europe. In your book you wrote that roads were terrible in Yugoslavia in 1930.

Remembering Mrs. Fleming



Well, 20 years later in the 1950s, after a world war in between, roads had not improved, but thanks for sending us there to see Sarajevo, the Mostar bridge, a dancing bear with nose ring in the Pic market place, the earthquake in Skopje, Tito's dictatorship. You had seen Soviet Russia; thanks for letting us see Soviet tanks during the Berlin crisis, just after visiting Nefertiti in the Dahlem museum. Thanks for Cordoba, Granada, Toledo, the valley of the fallen built with slave labor; thanks for Goya, El Greco, Velasquez, the Prado, the Escorial. Thanks for showing Swiss Holidayers that in Franco's Spain, gypsy women

with bare feet used to build the roads we drove on, carrying stones by hand and baskets filled with gravel. In your book you write that you couldn't go to Spain because of the Civil War. Later, you did not hesitate to send your students into a dictatorship to visit Guernica and Gaudi's cathedral.

Education was your goal for children – from the Louvre, the Loire valley castles, Florence, the Vatican, Verdi in Verona, Rossini in the Scala, Mozart in Salzburg, Stephansdom in Vienna, Sainte Sophie turned into the Blue Mosque, all visited on camping trips in blue buses – students gathering knowledge, opening minds. Athens, the Greek islands, Corsica, Napoleon's hometown, the Cairo museum, Luxor, Aswan, and much more. Eye openers, mind openers, thanks to your dream come true, Mrs. Fleming. Thanks above all to America – without the courage, the determination, the sacrifice of all who gave their lives for us to live and travel in peace, Flemingland might not have been so successful.

In your book you tell us that in 1936 the military was everywhere in Germany. Hitler was in power. The Olympics were in Berlin. You, Mrs. Fleming, were in Berlin in 1936, so was my father, fencing on the Olympic Swiss fencing team. That year, Jesse Owens, a Black man, won all his Olympic gold medals for America, and my father's team said: "Thank you, America!"

Since then, a book could be written with thanks for America. Thank you Mrs. Fleming – thanks for being an eye-opener, thanks for being our mentor, thanks for showing us kids that an easy life is not due to us. Thanks for showing Swiss Holidayers Omaha Beach, showing us how lucky we had been to be born in freedom and peace and liberty. Let us not forget!

Marco Hauert

Swiss Holiday counselor in the 1960s

A Part of Her Vision

The impact Mrs. Fleming has had on Sharon's and my life is immeasurable; we met at TASIS, and our lives were brought together by the dream of a gregarious and thoughtful, caring and determined woman – a visionary.

Professionally, Mrs. Fleming has enabled me to grow as a teacher. I have been able to make a difference in the world because TASIS has drawn out talents and skills which would have remained untapped, had I not found this wonderful school. Mrs. Fleming possessed a warmth of character and a unique quality of making everyone she met feel special and important. One feels truly fortunate to have been, in a small way, a part of her vision for TASIS.

Rob Hudgens

MS History & Latin teacher, TASIS England, 1985-present

Classic Mrs. Fleming!

My first contact with Mrs. Fleming was a telephone call in December 1970 asking me to meet her in the lobby of a hotel in Washington, DC. I was interviewing for an Art History teaching position at TASIS Lugano. "You'll recognize me," she



began, "as the lady wearing the mink coat and gold bracelets. It's only an old one though, my dear, you understand." Classic Mrs. Fleming – direct, honest, stylish.

She was full of life and energy, a strong, independent woman with a wicked sense of humor and a twinkle in her eye. She inspired many to challenge ourselves to find that spark which makes each one of us unique. She shared in our excitement at the discovery of our gifts.

Mrs. Fleming was deeply interested in the lives of all those she knew in all the schools she founded. Each of us felt included in her vision – teachers, cleaners, students, gardeners, secretaries, cooks. She always had an encouraging word for us, and we were all part of her extended family. And most importantly she trusted us to live out her dream.

Mrs. Fleming was American, and proud of her country, but she loved our international communities in Thorpe and Lugano and valued the many different nationalities here today. Her challenge was for us to be fully human with each other, to be real, concerned, as part of the extended family of TASIS.

How do we live this vision? Keep curiosity alive, and keep a sense of humor. Take more interest of others than yourself. Thank the kitchen staff when they hand you lunch. Compliment the gardener on the spring flowers. Listen patiently to your friends. Share others' successes. Challenge yourself, and don't be satisfied with mediocrity. Be fully yourself – be unique. That is what she lived for.

Marcia Page

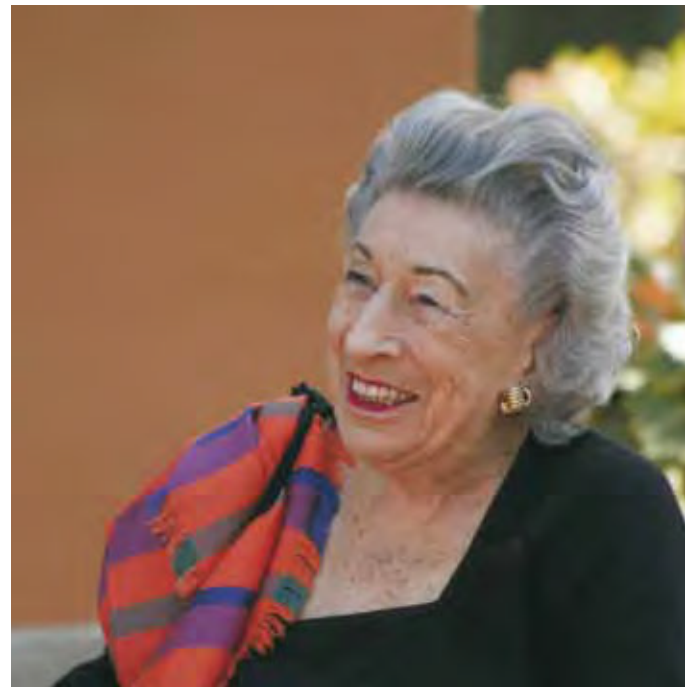
Upper School Humanities & AP Art History
TASIS 1971-76; TASIS England 1976-present

She Made the World Her Stage

Mrs. Fleming was a woman of such exceptional character she made the world her stage. Few people have that magic ability to beckon to so many different individuals from so many diverse cultures, nationalities, and backgrounds – through charm, intelligence, and enormous strength of sheer being. I remember what my father said after meeting her, many years ago in a world far less global. He admired her and said to me, "Don't forget you are going to a school where a single woman, in a world where few women, no matter how accomplished, can succeed, has created a place where education is foremost, but the value of what she has created has no boundaries. She is remarkable and you are lucky to be part of her dream." I never forgot what he told me. He was quite right: The happiest years of my life were living her dream.

Love to you, Lynn, and all those who were part of Mrs. Fleming's "dream."

Beatrice Maresi '66



September 10th is TASIS Founder's Day. Mark your calendars!

Starting this year, 2010, September 10th will be celebrated throughout the TASIS community as TASIS Founder's Day. Both TASIS and Mrs. Fleming were "born" on September 10th – she in 1910 (yes, this year is her 100th birthday!) and TASIS in 1956. People on campus will participate in a spirit day. Plans for the wider TASIS community are in the gestation period. More news to follow via email.

If we don't have your email address, be sure to send it to us at alumni@tasis.ch so you can join in.

Do you have suggestions for ways the TASIS community worldwide can mark this day to remember MCF and the special experience of TASIS?

Email us: alumni@tasis.ch.

Cherries in the Snow

We hope you enjoyed the fresh graphics of this year's alumni mailings, and we thank local graphic designer Patrizia Pfenninger for her ability to translate our vague intentions into striking and memorable designs. Did the red accent color remind you of anything? The shade is that of Mrs. Fleming's lipstick. MCF used Revlon's Cherries in the Snow from its launch in 1953 till the end of her life. And who among us has not had traces of Cherries on both cheeks following a Fleming triple-kiss?

Board Developments



TASIS Board of Directors (left to right): Fernando Gonzalez, Gianni Patuzzo, Riccardo Braglia, Berkley Latimer, Alexandra Heumann Wicki '80, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63 (Chairman), Jan Opsahl '68, Jennifer Brogini, Curtis Webster '75

TASIS is very fortunate to have an outstanding group of competent and professional individuals on its Board of Directors who are dedicated to improving and strengthening the School. We are grateful for the loyal service of John Pritzlaff '72 and Stefano Borghi, who stepped off the Board this past year and will be replaced by new Board Directors Jan Opsahl '68 and Rick Bell PG '65.

The work of the Board is spread over Committees led by the following Chairmen: Academic – Michael D. Aeschliman; Board Policy Co-Chairs – Alexandra Heumann Wicki and Berkley Latimer; Campus Development – Lynn F. Aeschliman; Community Relations – Riccardo Braglia; Finance – Gianni Patuzzo; Headmaster Evaluation – Fernando Gonzalez; Risk Assessment – Alexandra Heumann Wicki; Strategic Planning – Fernando Gonzalez.

New Directors Appointed to the Board

Our First International Student, Jan Opsahl '68

We are grateful for the dedication, service, and generosity of devoted TASIS alumnus John Pritzlaff '72, who served on the inaugural TASIS Board of Directors from 2005 to 2009. At its October 2009 meeting, the Board formally accepted Mr. Pritzlaff's resignation, thanking him greatly for his years of service and contributions. With the approval of the TASIS

Foundation Board, the Board appointed a new Director, alumnus Jan Opsahl '68, to replace Mr. Pritzlaff.

Arne Jan Opsahl was born in Hamar, Norway, and moved to Switzerland with his parents in 1965. As a native Norwegian, he was accepted at TASIS as the first international high school student with English as a second language. He served as Class President and graduated with honors in 1968. Mr. Opsahl attended Dartmouth College, then Dartmouth's Amos Tuck School of Business, where he received his MBA in 1973.

Mr. Opsahl started his business career in New York City at the headquarters of the Singer Company before moving back to Europe as Chief Financial Officer for Singer's operations in the Nordic countries. In 1978 he moved back to Hamar, Norway, to manage the family business of hotel interior design.

His main interest has always been sports, both participating and managing. He was Chairman of the Board of the town's largest sports club, which encompassed 15 different activities, and was particularly involved when Hamar was co-host for the 1994 Winter Olympics. As a member of Rotary International Club, Mr. Opsahl encouraged and partially fund the Club's support for eye clinics in remote areas of Nepal.

After several years of frequent travels to Lugano to support his aging parents, Mr. Opsahl sold the Norwegian business and, at the end of 2007, with his wife Birgitta moved back to Lugano where he manages the family estate.

Newly appointed to the TASIS Board, Mr. Opsahl has expressed his excitement at once again being involved with TASIS. "The learning environment at TASIS is unique. When I was here I was made aware of and given the possibility to realize my potential, and through support by faculty, students, and management, I developed skills needed for my later education, work, and social life. Now, with a wide international student body, this learning environment is even stronger."

Alumnus Richard H. Bell II, PG '65, Joins the TASIS Board

Chairman of the Board Lynn Fleming Aeschliman announced in February that after extending invitations over several years to alumnus Richard H. Bell II to consider joining the TASIS S.A. Board, he had finally felt free to do so. He will replace Stefano Borghi, who has moved with his family to England, but whose service was very much appreciated and who will remain a friend of TASIS and occasional advisor.

Rick Bell was born and raised near Columbus, Ohio, the only boy among five children. His mother was an elementary school teacher and his father was for many years the chief executive officer of the outstanding children's educational magazine *Highlights for Children*, having started out as Sales Manager. He served at *Highlights* from 1955 until his death in 2009. In school, in the Columbus suburb of Grandview Heights, Rick was active in theater and wrestling, and served as Vice President of the Student Council, President of the Booster Club, and Advertising Manager of the school paper, enormously increasing its ad revenue. He carried newspapers and mowed lawns, but was particularly involved with the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), 1951-1964, which had great importance in his life: though he never reached the rank of Eagle Scout, he says he still greatly admires those who have done so. Much later in his life, as a parent volunteer, he served in leadership positions in the Scouting movement in Delaware, in which his sons Richard and Michael participated. "Nearly all my life," he writes, "I have been a supporter of the BSA and their right to provide their program undiluted to the youth of our country and the world. I consider the Boy Scout Oath and the Scout Law my baseline code of ethics."

In September 1964, after graduating from high school, Rick boarded ship in New York to sail to Europe to participate in the TASIS PG Program for what he subsequently called "an experience that would change his life and enlarge his perspective." He returned to TASIS in the summer of 1966 to serve as a Junior Counselor in Swiss Holiday.



Richard Bell and his wife, Paulise, with Mrs. Fleming in 2003

Rick attended Ohio Wesleyan University, where he majored in Philosophy, but he spent his junior year abroad in Rome in the Loyola University (Chicago) program. He moved to San Francisco in 1969. By 1970 he had become the first National Circulation Manager of *Rolling Stone* magazine, a position in which he boosted its circulation in one year from 15,000 to 350,000. Subsequently in California and Delaware, he had great success as an entrepreneur, building successful companies. Since 1981 he has been President and sole owner of Harvard Business Services, Inc., which currently serves as agent to thousands of companies in Good Standing, including Ticino companies. He is regularly in Lugano, where he is a trustee of Franklin College, of which his daughter Christina is a graduate (she is also a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Emory University) and currently directs Franklin's Writing Center.

In Delaware, Rick ran as the Republican candidate for Sussex County Recorder of Deeds and, in a heavily Democratic year, won the election, serving a four-year term (1998-2002) as Recorder. He was unsuccessful in his candidacy as a Republican for the Lieutenant Governorship of Delaware in 2000. He has served on several important civic and business associations, including the Delaware Governor's High Tech Taskforce and the Delaware Governor's International Marketing Committee.

Rick and his wife Paulise have four children and three grandchildren. Rick writes that his son Michael "attended TASIS for Mark Aeschliman's summer program in 2002 [and] in September enrolled as a Junior at TASIS and attended TASIS for two years, graduating in 2005. Did it change his life? You bet."

Throughout the years, Rick has been a generous alumnus, recently donating money for the upper outside terrace of the new John Palmer Cultural Center, which he asked to be named in honor of Kay Hamblin. He got to know Mrs. Fleming well in her later years and has written eloquently to Lynn Aeschliman about the life-changing experience he had at TASIS: "Even as a student here at TASIS I realized I would never be the same" again, and since that time "my perspective has been global and my playing field has expanded." Before Mrs. Fleming's death he was pleased "to demonstrate my appreciation and desire to give back to the school" and as a new Board member he looks "forward to helping build TASIS."

TASIS is glad to have him back.

At 17, Richard's "first day at TASIS" as he embarked on the Holland American Line in New York bound for Europe



On top of *the alps*

Suddenly the mountains open up. Just a few more turns and you get the first glimpse of the sky-blue shutters and the distinctive turrets of the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains *St. Moritz* ❁

It's a grand building with a *rich tradition*. But the mood changes – gently and unobtrusively – once we say Hello. Bright, warm light seems to reflect in smiles, somewhere you notice a friendly laughter, the Concierge's radiating smile stays with you and the Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains' uncomplicated attention is our way of spoiling you and saying Hello.

Lugano -St. Moritz 2^{1/2} hour



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Financial Summary

The 2008-2009 financial year confirmed the strong position of the School. The increase in the day student population compensated for the small decrease in boarding students. During the financial year we started two major capital projects and expanded the campus:

- The John E. Palmer Cultural Center, financed by generous donations from our alumni and parents, is now complete.
- Fiammetta, with four new classrooms, is also complete. This much-needed building represents the first phase of the larger Global Village development which encompasses Lanterna.
- Lanterna, a dorm and classroom building, will be completed in September 2010 with 38 beds, apartments for two teachers and the Headmaster's family, the Health Center, and four more classrooms.

• Casa Figini in Gentilino was purchased and renovated. It comprises four spacious apartments for TASIS teachers.

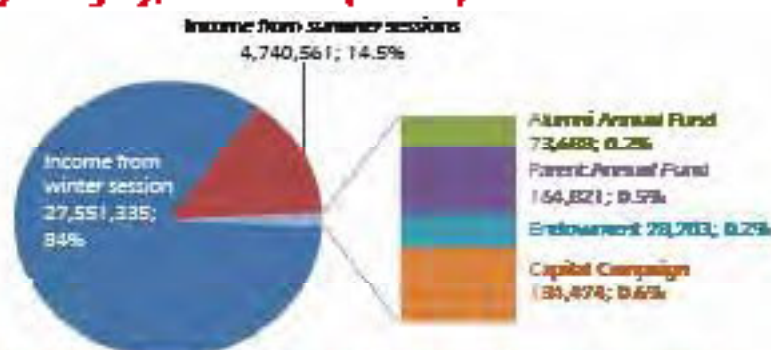
Financial resources continue to be allocated to improve compensation and the quality of life for faculty, and to upgrade fire safety on campus.

Contributions from alumni and parents continue to provide funds for the improvement of the education of our students. A special thanks to all our donors.

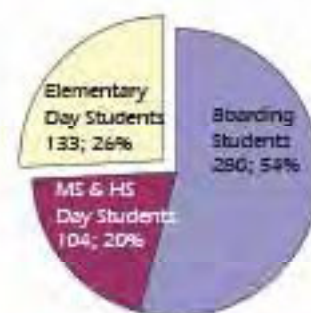
The Capital Campaign for the theater has been successfully completed and the result is a magnificent new theater – the Palmer Cultural Center. The next Capital Campaign will be for six new science laboratories in the Campo Science Center.

Gianni Patuzzo, Financial Director

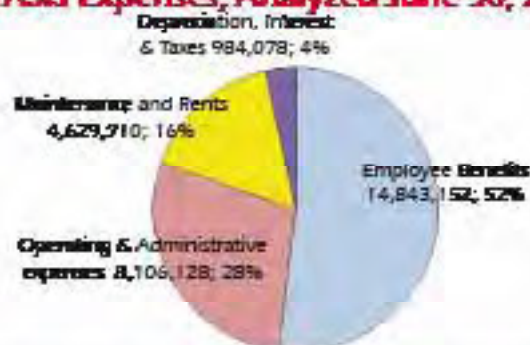
TASIS Operating Income and Fundraising by category, 2008-2009 (in CHF)



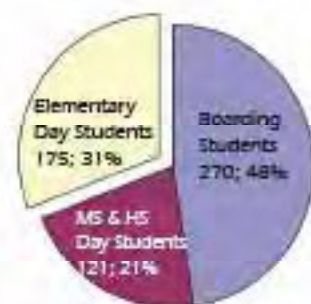
TASIS Students 2007-2008



TASIS Expenses, Analyzed June 30, 2009 (in CHF)



TASIS Students 2008-2009



Operating Income and Expenses (in CHF)	2007-2008	2008-2009
Tuition Income (Summer and Winter)	29,521,808	32,291,897
Financial Aid	-1,187,671	-1,184,839
Scholarships	-569,920	-499,935
Other Gains/Losses	-525,725	-1,115,738
Net Operating Revenues	27,238,492	29,491,384
Employee Benefits	13,959,849	14,843,152
Operating & Administrative expenses	7,499,798	8,106,128
Maintenance and Rents	4,138,377	4,629,710
Depreciation, Interest, & Taxes	1,048,773	984,078
Total Expenses	26,646,797	28,563,067
Net funds available for other program/campus enhancements	591,695	928,317

Income Highlights (net increase by 8%)

- Enrollment increased by 9%
- Elementary Students increased by 31%
- Day Students in MS/HS increased by 16%
- Boarding Students decreased by 4%
- Academic fees increased by an average of 3.2%

Expenses (net increase by 7%)

- Employee benefits increased by 6% remaining at 52% of total operating costs
- Operating and Administrative Expenses increased by 8%
- Maintenance and Rents increased by 12%
- Depreciation, Interest, and Taxes decreased by 6% (includes exchange rate differences)



Class of 2009

Graduation Awards 2009

Excellence in Art
 The Bertha Seifert Award for Excellence in Music
 The Horst Dürrschmidt Award for Excellence in Photography
 The Award for Excellence in Theater
 Excellence in English as an Additional Language
 Excellence in Modern Languages
 Excellence in English
 Excellence in History
 The Shah Akbar Khan Award for Excellence in Mathematics
 Excellence in Science
 The Scholarship Cup – Salutatorian 2009
 The Scholarship Cup – Valedictorian 2009
 The Headmaster’s Award
 The Headmaster’s Award
 The ECIS Award for International Understanding
 The Service Cup
 The Service Cup
 The Leadership Award
 The H. Miller Crist Award

Berfin Ataman
 Morgan Alexander
 Christopher Nelson
 Tommaso Rinaldi
 Natali Ugrimow
 Sarah Mattar
 Jennifer Tollefson
 Mariana Munoz Garcia
 Mariana Munoz Garcia
 Michael Kaiser
 Sarah Mattar
 Mariana Munoz Garcia
 Christian Griman
 Sarah Mattar
 Gaby Feijoo Carillo
 Morgan Alexander
 Ryoan Ko
 Salome Shaverdashvili
 Jennifer Tollefson



Commencement Speaker: Dr. Rose A. O. Odhiambo's story is inspiring. Born in the remote village of Muhuru Bay, on the shores of Lake Victoria, Kenya, to a polygamous family numbering 52 siblings, Dr. Odhiambo lived a childhood filled with serious health threats and routine female circumcision, yet she was always fascinated by learning. She soon became the top student in her class despite pressure from her family and peers. After running away from home to escape an arranged marriage, Dr. Odhiambo struggled in a Nairobi slum while finishing her degrees. Along with earning her Ph.D., she married and raised four sons. Now, she serves as Director of the Institute for Women, Gender, and Development Studies at Egerton University in Nakuru, Kenya, and is a consultant for the Kenyan government on many issues relating to gender. She is also transforming the community where she grew up as co-founder of WISER (Women's Institute for Secondary Education and Research), an all-girls' boarding school and Kenyan NGO that continues a close relationship with TASIS. (See article on Service Learning, p.28.)



Carolyn Heard Wins the Khan-Page Master Teacher Award

Ask any TASIS English-as-an-Additional-Language (EAL) student from the past decade which teacher they remember most, and the likely answer will be Carolyn Heard. Known for her challenging classes and high standards, Ms. Heard stretches the abilities and horizons of her students.

Ms. Heard first joined TASIS in 1984, when she spent two years teaching French and Italian. After a few years in New York receiving her M.A. and teaching at New York University and the City University of New York, Ms. Heard returned to TASIS in 2000 to teach EAL and run the EAL Department. She has worked at the TASIS England, TASIS France, and TASIS Spain summer schools teaching English, French, and Spanish, and is fluent in six languages. Here is the text from Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner's remarks at the 2009 TASIS Celebration, where Ms. Heard received her award.

"It's now my great pleasure to start a new tradition at TASIS. This is one of dozens of ways that the TASIS Foundation and Board of Directors are striving to support and encourage the faculty as the heart of the TASIS experience and the center of our improvement in the coming years.

To be given once a year, the Khan-Page TASIS Master Teacher Award is named after two outstanding teachers who taught for many years in both TASIS schools: the late Akbar Khan (in Mathematics) and Max P. Page (in English). The award recognizes an outstanding teacher who represents a high standard of professional pedagogy, subject-area knowledge, a capacity to convey the joy and importance of learning to students, and fundamental sympathy with the aims and goals of TASIS as expressed in the Paideia.

The recipient receives 5000 CHF from the TASIS Foundation's M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership, to spend in any way the recipient chooses. Each candidate must be a full-time teacher and may come from any grade level, pre-K to PGs, but must have taught at TASIS for at least five years.

I am so pleased to present the inaugural Khan-Page TASIS Master Teacher Award to an educator who (to use one of Mrs. Fleming's favorite words) seeks always to "streeeeetch" the abilities and the horizons of her students. This teacher's high standards – particularly for classroom behavior and essay writing – have won her a reputation as that strict, tough teacher into whose class everyone wants to transfer, and after whose class everyone feels grateful. As one of her students told me in the fall, "I learned two or three years worth of English in two semesters with her."

This teacher's pedagogical power reaches outside the classroom to her colleagues as well. For more than a decade, she has labored intensely to improve the curriculum, train and unify her departmental colleagues, bolster our Summer Programs, expand the language homestay options for Academic Travel trips, and design placement and achievement tests that help students move as quickly as possible to fluency. As a result, the English-as-an-Additional-Language Department is one of TASIS's most productive and important – a central reason why the 60% of our students who are non-native English speakers are transformed into 100% who leave TASIS prepared to succeed with university classes taught entirely in English.

Tonight's theme of passion fits our award winner well – for she loves languages and Shakespeare and opera passionately, enjoys the beauty of the written word passionately, cares passionately about the progress of her students, and – like Mrs. Fleming herself – believes that the daily labors of a teacher (whether diagramming sentences on the blackboard or grading essays through the weekend) can transform lives. With great pleasure I present the first Kahn-Page TASIS Master Teacher Award to Carolyn Heard."



Celebration May '09

TASIS faculty, alumni, parents, and friends from around the world came together on Saturday, May 9, 2009 to celebrate and honor the work of TASIS Faculty and the life of TASIS Founder, M. Crist Fleming. The evening included dinner, dancing, an art exhibition, a silent auction, and a special performance of scenes from the musical MCF - What a Life!. Proceeds benefitted the TASIS Foundation and M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership.



Cocktails on the Piazza



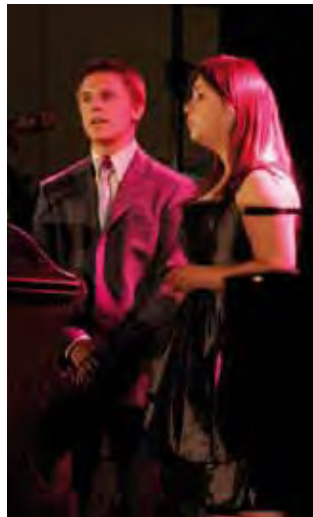
Lima Guggiari '09



MCF - What a Life! Erica & Mike Cali, Dan Krass (l), and Sam Lipppa (r)



Parents Stefano Corsi, Gioia Bonomi, and Monica Corsi



Richard Parsons '10 and Jennifer Tollefson '09



TPA members Peggy Glaser and Karen Pelly



Nilda Lucchini, Ornella & Bob Gebhardt



Lyle Rigg, Interim Headmaster



The Wienker Family - Gerhard, Tessa '05, and Sabine



Jeremy Birk, 12th Grade Dean



Michael and Lynn Fleming Aeschliman

TASIS Passes Its Biggest Test in a Decade: Re-Accreditation

TASIS recently celebrated the news of our full reaccreditation by NEASC and CIS. This distinction followed a year-long self-study process involving detailed reports from 25 committees and a week-long visit by international school leaders from around the world.

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) is the oldest of the six regional accrediting agencies in the US. The Council of International Schools (CIS), founded originally in 1965 by a cohort of international school leaders including Mrs. Fleming, is an independent, non-profit organization of approximately 500 schools. About 280 of those schools have been granted accredited status following comprehensive self-studies and rigorous evaluations by visiting teams.

Our visiting team left TASIS with two overarching impressions, stated in the preamble to their Accreditation Report:

- “TASIS has made significant strides to re-define the role of its Board from the proprietary model of the past to the new reality of a school with its own Board operating within the Foundation. The Board has begun to reduce its executive functions and to allow them to be carried out by the Headmaster.”
- “After a decade of heavy faculty turnover and the coming and going of three heads... there is a sense of hope and confidence among all the constituent groups (Board, administration, faculty, parents, and students).”

Included in the team’s 130-page report were the following “major commendations”:

1. Philosophy and Objectives – the Steering Committee, administrators, teachers and staff that participated in the Self Study for their forthright, candid, and thorough work.
2. Curriculum – the teachers of TASIS for their passion, dedication, and professionalism in a boarding school setting that places great demands and expectations on them.
3. Governance and Management – the Chair of the Board for her vision of the Global Village. The Headmaster for his successful management of a school in transition. The Faculty and Staff for their collective support of the Headmaster during a critical time of change.
4. Student Support Services – the medical staff for its exceptional health care and record keeping for the students and staff at TASIS.
5. Resources – the cleaning and maintenance staff for the remarkable job of keeping the extensive grounds and interior spaces of the campus litter free, clean, and beautiful.
6. Student and Community Life - the administration and

teaching staff for providing a myriad of on-campus and off-campus trips, activities, and clubs that lead to greater cultural understanding and a rich student life.

The visiting team also shared three “major recommendations” for improvement in three areas:

1. Philosophy and Objectives – the Administrative Team develop an empirical process for determining the degree of success in putting the School’s philosophy and objectives into practice.
2. Curriculum – the Academic Dean and faculty ensure that the curriculum is fully documented. The Headmaster initiate the development and dissemination of a professional development plan to include curriculum development, differentiation of instruction, accommodation of different learning styles, support for EAL students, and the use of technology to support student learning.
3. Governance and Management – the Board develop a formal program for its own training and self appraisal. The Board and Headmaster develop a new strategic plan that updates and incorporates all aspects of the School’s operation.

Work on that strategic plan has already begun. In March, faculty and staff in all divisions prioritized their goals for school improvement. In April, parents and students contributed their input. In May, the Board of Directors will discuss and approve a number of strategic objectives. By December 2010, the school will have a detailed road-map for transforming the “hope and confidence” noted by the accreditation team into sustained programmatic excellence.

Michael Ulku-Steiner



Students from the Class of 2010 celebrate at the Boat Dance. From L to R: Federico de la Rosa, Julia Costa de Miranda, Nikolay Dimtchev, Marcella Malczewski, Emir Bahadir, Rosty Levenberg, and Luca Cambria

A View of Teaching of History at TASIS



The M. Crist Fleming Library

As part of the recent re-accreditation process, the academic departments were asked to describe their guiding principles as they relate to the distinctive identity of TASIS. Below is the response of the History Department.

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

History has a uniquely important role in supporting the School's mission, and it is the only academic area explicitly mentioned in the TASIS *Paideia*, a foundational document of the school: "To a degree perhaps unmatched, TASIS has made its natural and cultural setting in Europe its classroom. This is the School's signature. Consequently, the priority of TASIS's academic and travel programs is a deep and informed appreciation for European culture and history and its worldwide influences" (sec. 7, emphasis added). More generally, TASIS Lugano defines itself as the flagship institution of a "consortium of educational institutions and programs sharing a common culture rooted in classical ideas and Western civilization." In comparison with many schools operating today, TASIS is distinguished by "a profound respect for the past" (*Paideia*, introduction).

Aristotle argued in his *Poetics* that poetry offered profound and universal truths, while history could tell only what a given person did or suffered. Cicero had a much grander view of history. For him it was the *testis temporum, lux veritatis, vita memoriae, magistra vitae, nuntia vetustatis* (witness of time, light of truth, life of memory, the teacher of life, and messenger of antiquity). Historians, conscious that everything in the present comes from the past, naturally tend to prefer Cicero's view to Aristotle's. The History Department aims to complement the teaching of poetry and other important subjects, and to support the mission of the School in educating integral, thoughtful, flourishing persons whose understanding of the present has been shaped by a generous and discriminating appreciation of the past.

In line with the School's emphasis on Goodness and character education, we believe that teachers should stress the "power of one," or the pivotal role of single individuals in shaping history, as distinguished from that of impersonal "forces". While recognizing that everyone is conditioned by his environment, we reject the notion that all outcomes are "determined" in advance, wholly independent of the

individual's will and character. Hence in exploring with their students the various aspects of the historical record, teachers are urged to call attention to biographical details, and especially to individual acts of heroism or exceptional performances of the cardinal and theological virtues (*Paideia*, introduction) as exemplars and sources of inspiration.

The emphasis on Beauty that is characteristic of the School's identity (*Paideia*, sec. 2) is apparent in the prominence that the Department gives to Art History, requiring it as a graduation requirement for all students not in the IB Diploma program, and offering it as a standard-level option to IB students. This is unusual for a school of this size and type, but has become one of the distinguishing features of the School. This emphasis is owed largely to the founder's almost Platonic philosophy of education, which gives a transcendental value to Beauty along with Truth and Goodness. It could also be said to support indirectly the theistic thrust of the School's mission (*Paideia*, sec. 3: "to promote a due reverence for God and his creation"), inasmuch as beauty in many cases seems to point beyond itself. Or as Abbot Suger (12th cent.) put it in speaking of religious architecture: "The dull mind rises to truth through that which is material."

There is much in history which is true, but whose beauty and goodness is by no means apparent. Despite the School's emphasis on beauty and on the positive accomplishments of six thousand years of civilization, our devotion to Truth demands that students should not be spared a look at the harsher side of history as well. Along with the glories of the Acropolis were the miseries of the silver mines. Along with universal literacy and health care was the barbarism of the Gulags. One of the cardinal virtues TASIS tries to instill in its students is a reverence for "justice" (*Paideia*, introduction). Students will come to see that the course of history exhibits more than a small share of injustice. Although those who have hungered and thirsted for justice are to be praised (and imitated), the simple fact is that the good guys have not always won. Many, through no fault of their own, were doomed to a life that was "poor, nasty, brutish, and short," and not infrequently ended in violence. While some may object that taking cognizance of injustices throughout history may undermine the theistic thrust of the school's mission, we believe this is not necessarily so. History merely affirms, as the critical theorist Theodor Adorno argued, that if there is no Afterlife, then God is unjust.

The concerns of theodicy are treated briefly in our philosophy course (Theory of Knowledge). Issues of justice also play a role in our political science courses (International Relations; US Government) and in our AP and IB Economics courses. The Department is therefore multi-disciplinary, but unified to the

extent that its curriculum is "content rich" and centered on European civilization, its offshoots and influences. This does not mean that other cultures are disparaged. On the contrary, we are solemnly bound by the School's mission to foster "mutual respect" among cultures and nationalities. This is to be distinguished from mere "toleration," and entails the civil and courteous (but honest) treatment of all, including students with beliefs and values that may not be shared by their teacher. Not believing that education is synonymous with indoctrination, we condemn in the strongest terms the ridiculing or disparagement, whether overtly or subtly, of those students whose religious, cultural, or political opinions or values may differ from our own. This is not to be understood as a capitulation to relativism, nor does it mean that certain historical subjects should be treated as taboo, but rather that all care should be taken to encourage at all times a climate of "courtesy" (*Paideia*) and true "mutual respect" (Mission Statement).

Finally, although issues of Goodness and Beauty are by no means ignored, the Department's primary concern is with Truth. "All men by nature desire to know," as Aristotle famously observed. That desire, which in the earliest grades leads one to distinguish between fairy tales and history, in later grades leads students ideally to distinguish between history and propaganda, and to be sensitive to political, cultural, religious, and anti-religious bias in both primary and secondary works. Students need not become Hegelians in order to see that "ideas have consequences" (alas, often tragic), nor elitists to predict that history will continue to be made chiefly by creative minorities. In Theory of Knowledge, we are committed to a "critical realist" stance that is incompatible with Pyrrhonism, solipsism, or a thoroughgoing relativism. On a more general level, this emphasis on the objectively real also helps to explain why, in the traditionalist spirit of the Core Knowledge Curriculum, the Department tends to stress content over process, and knowledge acquisition over social activism. Marx's dictum about the priority of changing the world plays less of a role here than at many schools because we feel that children first need to understand the world – no simple task. A content-rich world with thousands of years of written history demands a content-rich curriculum based on Cicero's premise that "to be ignorant of what occurred before you were born is to remain always a child."

Excerpt from the 2009 Re-Accreditation Self Study Report, TASIS History Department

Noblesse Oblige

It's difficult to walk around the TASIS campus without seeing bright posters and flyers educating students about recycling, promoting a No Dress Code Day, or advertising an upcoming bake sale. From reading with TASIS Elementary School kids to building with Habitat for Humanity in rural Portugal, TASIS students are making their mark on the world. This spirit of service was important to Mrs. Fleming's vision for the school. As she wrote in *MCF - What a Life!*, "It's rather like *noblesse oblige*. If you receive a privilege you are supposed to return it in some measure."

Community Service

Service has always been a fundamental part of the TASIS experience. For nearly 60 years, students have been expected to not only embrace TASIS and all it offers, but also to give back to the world. This can be traced back to the TASIS founder, who believed in the power of individual human beings to change the world. Michael Ulku-Steiner, TASIS Headmaster, feels service was integral to Mrs. Fleming's vision. "Decades before people were talking about globalization or multicultural education, she dreamed of students coming to TASIS from all over the globe. She imagined them learning about truth and beauty and goodness and each other. She envisioned them get-



Science teacher Howard Stickley helps local women from Simoa, Zambia, crush nuts to make cooking oil. Summer service trips are popular with TASIS students

ting real practice with that world-changing during their time at TASIS. This is why campus and community service has been part of TASIS from the beginning."

This vision took the form of the Community Service Program (CSP), which encouraged students to help others in a variety of ways. Some students assisted teachers in the photography lab, some helped with baby-sitting the children of faculty members, and others served on Student Council. Projects were available to suit many student interests.

Environmental Club has been a mainstay on campus for many years, educating students about recycling and limiting consumption.

Since 2006, IB Coordinator and UK College Counselor Howard Stickley has regularly chaperoned groups of students to Africa for a service trip, where students have taught at an elementary school, led leadership seminars, and visited rural villages benefiting from TASIS-donated mosquito nets and clothing. HIV/AIDS Awareness, originally Assisting Children with AIDS (ACA), a club founded at TASIS in 2001, has since grown into a global charity, with the help of the TASIS community. Proud achievements, indeed.

TASIS has always fostered creativity in students with a philanthropic spirit. TASIS alumna Masa Yo '04 founded Cancer And Malaria Educational Organization, or CAMEO, in his Junior year. "I was lucky to have Mr. Stickley as my advisor, and he and his wife Loretta often hosted advisor dinners at their home. Her death in 2002 really affected me, and I wanted to help raise awareness about cancer." As this is a relatively well-funded disease, it was suggested that Mr. Yo also focus on malaria, as it needed both attention and funding. In Mrs. Stickley's memory, and with the help of Mr. Stickley and his friends, Mr. Yo was able to launch the project. Still active on campus, the club has now been narrowed to focus on malaria and mosquito nets.



Senior Emir Bahadir teaches a 5th & 6th Grade class at Sankandi Primary School in Zambia during the 2009 Summer Service Trip

Service Learning

In the spirit of this foundation of service, TASIS has recently adopted EMBRACE: Educational Methodology to Build Respect and Awareness through Community Empowerment. New to the 2009-2010 academic year, the program carries on from the tradition of the TASIS Community Service Program (CSP) and aims to foster a lifelong dedication to service in each student.

A growing trend on US university campuses, Service Learning uses a cross-curricular approach that connects classroom content to community needs. It aims to give students practical application of their academic skills while fostering an environment of teamwork and leadership. "Research has shown that, over time, this approach develops a more sustainable devotion to service in students," says Kelly Teagarden, Service Learning Coordinator. "The focus on education inspires awareness of the deeper underlying issues and challenges that different communities face."

Targeted to High School students, Service Learning begins in 9th Grade, when students discover service and develop an understanding of Service Learning. In 10th Grade, students develop a deeper involvement in service and begin to explore opportunities for future leadership. Eleventh Graders begin to engage in leadership opportunities in their chosen field. The final year at TASIS expects seniors to embrace long-term dedication to service as they mentor younger leaders. All students are expected to be a member of a Service Learning group, participate in at least three activities during the academic year, and write responses each semester summarizing their experience with service. It's not about checking off hours; it's about the overall experience.

Students explore service opportunities in various realms. The TASIS Community includes peer educators, Student Weekend Activities Team (SWAT), and the Proctors. The Local Community includes Casa Elisabetta, a Lugano domestic violence shelter and orphanage. The Inter-School Community includes Model UN. The International/Global Community includes Operation Smile and the Kenya-based Women's Institute for Secondary Education and Research (WISER). "We want our students to engage with the idea that service can be reading to an Elementary student or traveling abroad to build a house," Teagarden says.

For some Global Community-focused groups, their Service Learning trips coincide with Academic Travel. In February, the Habitat for Humanity club spent four days working on a house



*Habitat for Humanity student volunteers Mara Goodman, Zahra Masters, and Viktor Behrens mix concrete.
Photo by Jacob Mulligan '10*



*Elyse Guizzetti adds concrete to a foundation wall.
Photo by Jacob Mulligan '10*

Service Learning



WISER student volunteers pose with a group of local children in front of a VCT (Voluntary HIV Consulting & Testing) clinic in Muhuru Bay, Kenya

in Braga, in the north of Portugal, building walls and creating a home for a local family.

Students involved with WISER visited Muhuru Bay, Kenya. They participated in projects with a sustainable agriculture NGO and spent one-to-one time with students attending WISER.

The response has been positive. Junior Claudia Wyler was on the WISER Kenya trip. "This trip made our discussions real," she says. "We could put faces to the WISER girls, and everything just became so personal." Senior Laura Roca Massana agrees, and was moved by the importance of the project. "One of the girls at the school, Elisabeth, said that education is the path to make people free and reach their dreams."

This firsthand experience is crucial to Service Learning. "It's about making service opportunities relevant," Teagarden says. "Students need to see where their time and money is going, and to wholly understand the issue. This motivates kids to want to do something to help. It's focusing on education, not just fundraising."

In the fall, students are asked to rank their top three SL choices, based on a first-come, first-served basis, then on seniority. Students join their weekly group in the fall and stay all year, which promotes consistency and commitment to the cause. Some of the 21 groups are larger than others; WISER, for example, has 35 students involved; HIV/AIDS Awareness, Malaria Education, and Operation Smile have 20 students each, and Casa Elisabetta includes 12 students. "The point is that the

students are interested and involved," Teagarden says.

This vibe of service has trickled down to the Middle and Elementary Schools, too. After discussing the recent earthquake in Haiti, children in the 8th Grade Modern History class planned a January 28 Bake Sale and January 29 No Dress Code Day to send support to Direct Relief International, a charity that was dealing directly with the disaster. The Elementary School also did their part, also planning a January 28 Bake Sale and January 29 Dress Down Day. All four school-wide events raised an impressive 6,000 CHF.

"This year is mostly about creating the program, and getting students familiar with the expectations and the ideas behind Service Learning," Teagarden says. "Next year we hope to have more faculty involvement and to create more school-wide events to unite the student body." Groups will host Advisor Dinners where they raise awareness for their chosen issue, and will be encouraged to be creative in their fundraising and involvement.

The idea is that this motivation continues as students make their mark on the world. Teagarden agrees. "Truth, beauty, goodness, international understanding and humanitarian action are the values of a TESIS education. We're focused on creating global citizens for the world as they graduate and head off into the world and make their own path." Mr. Ulku-Steiner feels that this spirit of service is an important element of the TESIS Diploma. "We are striving now to give our students the most potent practice, and the most memorable learning, possible as they serve the campus, our neighbors in Lugano, and the world beyond this potentially-isolating hill of gold."



The majority of the schools in Muhuru Bay, Kenya do not have access to electricity; students are forced to limit their study hours to times when the sun is bright enough to feed into the classrooms and naturally illuminate their tattered workbooks. It is rare to see as much concentration in an older student's body language, alone in his private studies, as demonstrated by this boy. Photo by Bridget Larson '10

Service Learning Opportunities

The TASIS Community

Peer Mediators. Trains students in the art of mediation and negotiation through conflict resolution techniques.

Peer Educators. Students learn to facilitate discussions about various topics and lead small-group discussions for younger students. Topics include friendship and dating, stress, healthy living, and bullying.

Student Weekend Activities Team (SWAT). Students plan and organize creative, fun, and innovative weekend activities for the campus, and particularly for boarding students.

Proctors. Proctors are seen as campus leaders and role models by liaising between dorm parents and dorm residents. They work to foster a strong sense of community.

Peer Tutoring. Top students in different areas of study tutor students who are struggling in certain subjects.

Reading Buddies. Students work with TASIS Elementary School students and read with them once a week, focusing on building mentoring skills and friendships with younger students.

E-Club. Environmental Club focuses on sustainability issues on every level. The club creates podcasts and short documentary films to help raise awareness.

Student Council. Elected members act as liaisons between the students and the administration, and represent the student body's interests.

MS Service Learning Program. Works with Middle School students to help develop a Service Learning Experience.

Yearbook. Students are in charge of every aspect of this publication, from writing and editing to photography and design.

SCREAM. Supporting Children's Rights through Education in Arts and the Media focuses on enabling young people to express themselves through drama, creative writing, music, and the visual arts.

The Local Community: Montagnola and Lugano

Casa Elisabetta. Students volunteer at this domestic violence shelter and orphanage in downtown Lugano.

Tea Time. Students meet with members of the Al Pagnolo Retirement Home throughout the year, where they play board and card games and spend time talking with elderly Lugano residents. Along with good Italian language practice, this gives students different insights into life in Lugano.

The Inter-School Community

Model UN. Students attend conferences around Europe to simulate the United Nations. Students discuss and debate global issues and work with students around the world to create possible solutions to current global crises.



The inaugural WISER students singing a special song in a 'W' formation. They are performing at a special Goodbye Ceremony for TASIS student volunteers and chaperones

The International/Global Community

WISER. WISER is the first all girls' boarding school in Muhuru Bay, Kenya, a small, rural fishing village on Lake Victoria in a province with the highest HIV/AIDS and malaria rates in Kenya. TASIS students discuss issues of girls' education, female empowerment, poverty and HIV/AIDS awareness as well as how these issues are connected. A group of club members travel to Muhuru Bay to visit WISER for Spring Academic Travel.

HIV/AIDS Awareness. HIV/AIDS Awareness is an adapted version of ACA. Instead of focusing just on Romania, students focus on the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a global problem.

Habitat for Humanity. This international nonprofit Christian organization seeks to eliminate poverty and homelessness and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action.

Malaria Education. Students will raise funds for mosquito nets in Kenya and Zambia and help cancer research in the local area of Ticino.

Operation Smile. One of more than 500 student clubs internationally focused on awareness of facial deformities such as cleft lips and cleft palates.

Phillip House. A safe house in Romania for orphans and homeless children.



*Tea Time:
TASIS students Franz-Xaver Noelle
and Yvo Zanev play Tambola,
a version of Italian Bingo,
with elderly Lugano residents*

Global Village Master Plan Development



Lanterna includes dormitory rooms, faculty apartments, classrooms, and a new Health Center; below, Fiammetta classrooms



Southeast view: The M. Crist Fleming Library, Monticello, and the Palestra with Fiammetta and Lanterna rising above



Northeast view: Capannone, the covered sports pavilion; the Palmer Cultural Center; the Palestra; the M. Crist Fleming Library; Fiammetta and Lanterna above

Last summer I spent a few hours with a group of TASI alumni who had returned to Switzerland for a 10-day hike, from St. Moritz to Lugano, in memory of Mrs. Fleming. They ended in Casa Fleming, and several of them had not been back to TASI since they graduated in the 1970s or 80s. They were amazed at the growth of the campus, and they weren't even talking about the new construction. For them, TASI was only De Nobili, Hadsall, Casa Fleming, Casetta, and a few dorm rooms in Certenago. There was no Monticello, and on the hillside that now holds Gioia, Alba, Belvedere, Del Sole, and Aurora, there were only neighbors in their villas annoyed by the racket made by TASI students. Even Ca Pietra – current home of the Health Center, IT, and Admissions offices – was a shepherd's cabin outside the fence of the campus – with

actual sheep grazing on what is our only on-campus athletic field. Only since the 1980s did the school come to include the Monticello area and the buildings on the hillside.

It's worth reminding ourselves that Mrs. Fleming herself was a Master Planner, acquiring buildings that made sense for the campus and expanding our programs over the years. Had she not bought and renovated the Coach House, for example, we likely wouldn't have the photography program we have today. Had she not planned, funded, and built Monticello, we'd probably be packed into classes in Ca' Pietra. And had her daughter not decided to devote her life to building and strengthening TASI, we wouldn't have the Palestra, and the students wouldn't have their favorite hangout on campus – the snack bar.

DEDICATED IN GRATITUDE TO
JOHN E. PALMER
1946—2007
TASIS CLASS OF 1964

FOR HIS GENEROSITY IN GIVING THIS CULTURAL CENTER
TO THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF TASIS, IN THE HOPE
THAT THEY WOULD HAVE THE ENNOBLING EDUCATIONAL
EXPERIENCE THAT HE RECEIVED AT THIS SCHOOL



The new theater in the Palmer Cultural Center



The Curtis McGraw Webster '75 Upper Lobby

The Vision

David Mayernik and Lynn Fleming Aeschliman have spent nearly 15 years collaborating to make this campus one of the best in the world. Inspired by the beauty and humane lifestyle of Tuscany, Mr. Mayernik and Mrs. Aeschliman have sought to build an Italianate hill village – an urban cluster of buildings, piazzas, fountains, and stairways surrounded by colorful villas and open spaces. This approach maximizes the School's potential on a small quantity of land, increases the amount of usable green space, and fosters a sense of humane community. As such, and with features like geothermal heating and cooling in all the new buildings, the Global Village offers our students and the world a useful example of sustainable development.

The Global Village Master Plan began with the dream of replacing a cramped, uninsulated, noisy plastic bubble with the Palestra, a beautiful, versatile space that boasts the best basketball court in Ticino and hosts assemblies, PE classes, exams, banquets, concerts, and more. Next came the M. Crist Fleming Library, which created an elegant tranquil space for reading and, simultaneously, the most beautiful piazza on the campus. Then Aurora, which houses some of our best classrooms, has played host to several years of theater

Fiammetta



Classrooms

2010

Lanterna



Classrooms, dormitory rooms, the Health Center, and faculty apartments

2010

M. Crist Fleming Library

2004



productions, and is designed flexibly enough to be classrooms, dorm rooms, offices, or faculty apartments as the school's needs change in the coming years. Newcomers take these buildings for granted, but TASIS veterans know firsthand how they have allowed us to move from cramped spaces to suitable facilities.

Family Weekend 2009 marked the opening of the John E. Palmer Cultural Center with a performance of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. At the beginning of March, the Fiammetta building opened immediately above the Palestra, with four new purpose-built classrooms which will help relieve the intense crowding in our schedule and allow a few more faculty

Palestra

Sports Center

1999



members to do all their teaching in one classroom, rather than wandering up and down the hillside. And when we return from summer break, we'll have four more fully-equipped classrooms – and a lot more. Lanterna, already well under construction at the top of the hill, will be the largest building the school has ever built. Thirty-eight students will live there, in rooms with spectacular views of the lake, rooms that will allow us to move out of our oldest and most cramped dormitories. The Health Center will move from its tiny basement space to a clean, spacious, and fully-equipped clinic. Of course, students will have to walk up the hill to get excused from class, so maybe school attendance will go up.

Palestrina / Arte



Practice Gymnasium and Art Center

Palestrina 2012
Arte 2016

3

9

John E. Palmer Cultural Center



2009

On the Horizon

TASIS is proud of its liberal arts tradition, and with that in mind, we are eager to strengthen the other essential arm of liberal arts: the sciences. After years of negotiations with the Comune and dozens of draft plans with Mr. Mayernik, and with the help of the Global Village Deposits, Campus Enhancement Fees, and fundraising, we will find a way to build much-needed sports and science laboratory spaces. In fall 2010, we plan to begin construction of a practice gymnasium (eventually adding photography, ceramics, painting, and drawing studios above), then a year later begin construction of the Campo Science Center, which will include six purpose-built laboratories, three classrooms, and an IT center. After Campo Science, the next challenge will be an underground parking lot with a synthetic sports field above, and outdoor basketball courts.

Even amidst the excitement of all these construction projects, we know that ultimately it's not the buildings that matter at

Aurora



Classrooms

2005

Campo Science



Science laboratories, classrooms, IT Center

2014

TASIS. Our students will become magnificent not because they've wandered through pretty piazzas or studied in high-tech science labs. They will become magnificent through human interactions between students and teachers, between students and students, between their studies and the real world outside the walls of our campus. Our buildings set the scene for those interactions, and the campus will improve the quality of those interactions.

TASIS strives to change students, so that they, in turn, can change the world. As Mr. Mayernik says, "TASIS is contributing something to the world, and making the world a better place." Our architect sees his profession in this way, and our job as educators is to prepare students to do the same, whatever calling they choose to follow.

Adapted from Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner's remarks at Family Weekend, November 2009

Academic Travel Reborn: Europe as a Campus

Those who travel about England for their pleasure, or, for that matter, about any part of Western Europe, rightly associate with such travel the pleasure of history; for history adds to a man, giving him, as it were, a great memory of things – like a human memory, but stretched over a longer space than one human life. It makes him, I do not say wise and great, but certainly in communion with wisdom and greatness.

Hilaire Belloc, 'The Old Things', in *First and Last* (1911)

Alumni often say that school-related travel is among their fondest TASIS memories. Throughout the years, students have had the opportunity to explore European capitals, tour Mediterranean islands, and romp across the mountains of Switzerland as part of the School's extended curriculum. In keeping with Mrs. Fleming's vision and the spirit of travel as enrichment, this year TASIS 're-invented' In-Program Travel as the Academic Travel Program.

A logical evolution from In-Pro, Academic Travel adds broader knowledge and focus to an already strong program. It is now more directly connected to course work. "A travel program is an excellent opportunity to complement classroom learning, to expand a young person's mind and intellect, and ultimately to form well-rounded human beings," says Natalie Philpot, who has served as In-Pro and now Academic Travel Director for four years. Along with the Academic Committee, she has spearheaded this change, aiming to create a travel curriculum that reflects the School's curriculum objectives as a whole. All Academic Travel trips are directly linked to a class, a sport, or a service-learning club. "This takes coordination, but will ultimately enable student growth," Philpot says.



Students in the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence



Berkun Zorlu and Oguzhan Gulcaaglayan check their notes in Venice

Highlights from Fall 2009

Photography and Music in Venice

Annika Palvari led a trip for her Photography students that included mini-projects where students shot in both daylight and at dusk. Upon returning to TASIS, students selected their best photographs to exhibit in De Nobili. Mario D'Azzo and Tamara Schumacher shared the musical legacy of Venice with students. Their itinerary included tours of the Museo della Musica and the Teatro La Fenice. Students attended the opera *The Barber of Seville* and took in a Vivaldi concert at the church of San Vidal. Both groups of students participated in mask-making workshops and visited the islands of Murano, Burano, and San Michele.

Physics at the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) and in Bern

Matthew Knee led this trip to allow Physics II students to see practical applications of the physics concepts learned in class. They visited the labs of the Space Research & Planetary Sciences and Climate and Environmental Physics sections of the Bern Physics Institute and took a tour of the Bern National



Students visit CERN

Stadium to see their solar panels project. A day-trip to Geneva included a guided tour of CERN and a visit to the Global Science Museum. Students also got to visit the Einstein house.

Writing and Photography near Lake Geneva

Focused on nurturing creativity, this trip included writing- and photography-based assignments over the four-day trip. Students wrote responses to photographs, created a travel brochure, photographed places they wrote about, and took part in an Alphabet Challenge where they photographed their interpretations various letters throughout the week. Optional assignments included work on street photography and creating a monologue response to Lord Byron's poem about Francois Bonivard.



The cast of The Tempest in front of Fienile, Capitignano

Drama in Tuscany

For many years, Drama teacher Kay Hamblin has brought the cast of the fall drama productions to Capitignano, a beautiful Tuscan estate. In 2009, students rehearsed Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and participated in workshops with Derick Chappel, theater technical manager at TESIS England. Time away from the pressures of TESIS life enriched the cast's knowledge of the play and, ultimately, strengthened the production, staged during Family Weekend.

IB Biology in Italy and Switzerland

Integral to the curriculum of IB Biology, students are engaged in focused fieldwork, including setting up pitfall traps using the Simpson's Index Exercise (a measure of biodiversity) and identifying the collected organisms. Students participated in a freshwater ecology study along the Ticino River and a land use study in the Parco del Ticino.



Spanish Homestay students on the roof of the Salamanca Cathedral in Spain

Soccer Teams Coached by AC Milan in Northern Italy

Training with one of the best European football (soccer) clubs in the world is a thrilling opportunity for any soccer fan. Athletic Director Betta Hansen took a group of future World Cup stars from the TESIS girls' and boys' soccer teams to Verona and Mantova where they trained with coaches from the AC Milan staff.



IB Biology students measure the width of the stream and estimate the stream flow in Airolo, near the headwaters of the Ticino River. Students compare water quality between two locations of the Ticino River; Airolo and in Besate, near Milan

Academic Travel Reborn: Europe as a Campus

Senior Humanities Program in Geneva

As part of the Senior Humanities Program, Seniors and PG students attended seminars about the Red Cross, UNHCR, and World Vision, and led and participated in a Case Study Roundtable discussion of Education as a Human Right. Within assigned small groups, the students produced research assignments covering important issues in Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and India.

Highlights from Spring 2010

Juniors Visit UK Universities

Students interested in attending a UK university joined IB Coordinator and UK College Counselor Howard Stickley to tour universities in England and Wales, including King's College, City College London, University College London, Westminster, Bristol, Oxford, and Cardiff. Along with exploring British university towns, students visited historical areas and got to know parts of England and Wales.

Modern History in Poland

To help strengthen their understanding of the harrowing events of the Second World War, students visited Auschwitz-Birkenau, the Krakow Jewish quarter, and a Warsaw ghetto. They spoke with an 82-year-old survivor of four camps, including Auschwitz, and were moved by her stories and sense of optimism in the face of evil. "The students were emotionally shaken, but were thankful that they were able to [see evidence of] this atrocity as eyewitnesses, rather than just from a book," says Brody Fredericksen, History teacher and chaperone. "It was a life-changing experience."

Ancient and Medieval History in Greece / TOK in Greece

This trip brought the past alive to Ancient and Medieval History students, who had studied ancient Greece in class. Students visited the Acropolis, took side trips to Cape Sounion and Delphi, and participated in a traditional Greek dancing lesson. The group also visited Olympia and spent time on the site of the original Olympics. IB Theory of Knowledge (TOK) students also visited Greece. Led by Laurence Koppe (PG '83) and Dr. Thomas Mauro (PG '80), students participated in focused daily itineraries which included The Greeks and Their Islands (Hydra, Portis, and Aegina); The Birth of Greek Philosophy; The Temples of Greek Religion (including the Agora and the Acropolis); Athens (including temples and museums); and The Greeks and the Irrational (Delphi).



TASIS Middle School students visit Pompeii



Senior Denitsa Anastasova with a feathered friend in Budapest

Marcos Sacal Cohen, Vanessa Hardman Virgolino, and Marija Aleksic at one of the sites of the Warsaw Uprising in Poland



Art History in Istanbul

Mark Aeschliman led a group of Art History students as they explored the archeological and architectural treasures of Istanbul. The ambitious itinerary included visits to the Topkapi Palace, the Basilica Cistern, the Archeological Museum, the Sultanahmet Mosque (Blue Mosque), the Chora Church, the Sebançi Museum, and the Hagia Sofia. The group also traveled up the Bosphorous by boat to Bebek and watched the whirling dervishes at Sirkeci Station.



Mark Aeschliman guides a group of students in Istanbul

Homestays for Language Learners: Salamanca, Sicily, and Paris

Spending time with native speakers is one of the best ways to improve language skills. Students were placed with local families to learn more about daily life and culture. They were also given opportunities to explore unique characteristics of each culture, including Flamenco classes for the Spanish students, a cooking class in Sicily for the Italian students, and afternoons exploring Paris neighborhoods for the French students.



Italian Homestay students at a cooking class in Sicily



Model UN students in St. Petersburg

Model United Nations in St. Petersburg

Taking on the roles of United Nations delegates from Haiti, Turkey, and Iraq, TASIS students attended the St. Petersburg International Model United Nations for the first time in March. They proposed resolutions, debated, negotiated, and compromised in their assigned committees with other international students until reaching consensus for approval to present their respective Committees' resolutions to the General Assembly. Students visited Catherine's Palace, Yusupov Palace, and the Hermitage as well as participating in social events for a challenging and rewarding six-day adventure in Russia.

10th Grade Leadership Course with Outward Bound

This highlight of the sophomore year serves as a bonding experience for the class and challenges the students to participate in events that push their limits. Outward Bound activities include a ropes course, snowshoeing, hiking, and a group expedition to 'the hut', an isolated lodge in the mountains which veterans say is the most memorable experience of the trip.



Outward Bound students in the sunny Swiss Alps

College Counseling at TASIS

Life Beyond, Moving Forward



Senior Anul Maksut investigates universities

The College Counselling Office is a bittersweet destination for TASIS students. Not only is it the first reminder that their TASIS life will one day end, but it also signifies the anticipation of life beyond the Collina d'Oro.

Explaining the TASIS experience to the uninitiated is difficult; every year our juniors and seniors face the challenging feat of writing application essays and personal statements that reflect their academic, extracurricular, and individual high school experiences. In September, our seniors and PGs took part in a mandatory essay workshop with David Hautanen, Director of Admissions at Northeastern University. Through real-life examples of various essays, Hautanen discussed common

strengths and weaknesses and even met one-on-one with applicants to Northeastern. This experience proved invaluable to our seniors. We hope to continue this type of participatory workshop in years to come.

Along with the PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and TOEFL, TASIS is now offering the ACT, an alternative examination for American university applicants. The College Counseling Office offers preparatory courses throughout the year for each of these tests and strives to ensure that each student feels prepared and confident.

During Family Weekend in November, the College Counselling Office hosted a panel featuring admissions representatives from Oxford University, Parsons Paris, Northeastern University, Glion Institute of Higher Education, New York University Abu Dhabi, and Cornell University. This provided parents and students the opportunity to explore and clarify the various components of the admissions process and to ask questions at the close of the panel.

Also in November, nearly 500 guests attended the TASIS/Collegio San Carlo/Council of International Schools Fair in Milan. The Fair featured a variety of European, Asian, and American institutions, including Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne, Boston University, and Northeastern University. As a co-host, TASIS was able to include all of our 11th Graders and many of our 12th Graders and

PGs. The event exceeded expectations, and TASIS will be asked to again co-host this event in 2010, where we hope to double the number of universities in attendance.

Building on the work and initiatives of College Counselor Stacey Einhorn, who returns to the States this summer, TASIS is delighted to welcome Greg and Carroll Birk to our College Counselling team. Mr. Birk joins us with nearly 15 years of experience as a College Counselor at The Webb School in Knoxville, Tennessee, and The Kinkaid School in Houston, Texas. He serves on the College Counselor Advisory Group for the acclaimed *Fiske Guide to Colleges* and has presented at numerous conferences. Mrs. Birk has worked with children since 1992. She spent over a decade working in the College Counseling departments of The Kinkaid School and The Emery/Weiner School in Houston, Texas. She is also fluent in German. The Birks are known for their open-door philosophy and commitment to shepherding each student from Freshman to Senior years, focusing on individual needs and desires. They come highly recommended from their respective institutions and we know they will be excellent assets for the School.

Moving forward, the College Counselling Office will continue to develop relationships with admissions officers from around the world. Thanks to a generous gift from a parent donor, our staff has been able to visit numerous campuses and build the TASIS profile for our future graduates. We now provide academic counsel regarding curriculum selection for all juniors, seniors, and PG students. Course selections are reviewed in the spring of the junior year, in the fall of the senior year, and again at the interim and midterm, which ensures wise choices that are attractive to admissions officers. Providing both guidance and inspiration is important as our students make the shift from TASIS into the college world, and we are honored to work with such special young people.



College Counselor Stacey Einhorn leading a group of seniors

An Exemplary College Essay

Surgeon-to-be Henry Weiss's ('09) college application essay was selected for publication in the *American Colleges and Universities Magazine*.

"*Me enfila los cuchillos, por favor,*" I used to tell Don Rafael, the gardener. I asked him to sharpen the kitchen knives early in the morning before I left for Karate classes on Saturdays, so that upon my arrival the knives were ready. When he gave them back to me to give to Lucia, the cook, I would hide two of the sharp knives under the porch. I then waited impatiently for my dad to arrive from the farm with the fresh fruit that would later become my patients. As soon as I heard the gate, I would run down the stairs, say hello to my father, and pretend to help him unload the miniature papayas, melons, and lemons from the pick-up truck. I would store some of the fruit in the tool shed near the garden and leave it there, hoping the ants and other insects would find their way into the melons, and especially the papayas.

Every day, I checked their progress to see what symptoms the patients were presenting; I always hoped they would have a white slime mold infection, but that was not always the case. Eventually the fruit got to that point, but sometimes it took as long as two weeks for the fruit to rot, especially in the dry season. Once my patients were in that state, I would then get a pair of gloves my grandmother used to spray and remove the dry leaves from the sensitive violets in the house and would then proceed to surgery. I started by making an incision in the overripe side of the papaya or melon and hoped a small worm or maggot would jump out. I would then carefully open the cut and spend hours examining the anatomy of my patient's body; and would also remove all of the seeds, which I

pretended were malignant tumors. My favorite part of surgery, however, was looking at the maggots enter on one side of the papaya and suddenly appear on another side as they traveled inside the "tissue." Finally I would cut the maggots open and predict how large the fly would be and proceed to stitching.

Five years later, I really discovered that I loved looking at, exploring, and analyzing animate objects, hypothesizing different ideas for the causes of their state. In grade school, I remember all of my classmates getting excused from performing dissections in class, and instead they worked on other written assignments related to the subject. I was the only one who would stay after class with Ms. Paz dissecting frogs, owl pellets, piglets, bats, and even a cow's heart. Now, in my last year of high school, the decomposition rate is not being tested on miniature papayas, but instead on a cow's liver, where the differences of the growth rates of maggots in the cow liver when exposed to the sunlight and when not exposed to any light at all are being tested.

I hope to establish a strong foundation as an undergraduate science major so that I can continue on to more important, worthwhile investigations as a surgeon. I am eager to put my curiosity to a more important task than dissecting fruit!

Henry is currently studying pre-med at Xavier University.



Our Own MVP!

Congratulations to senior Nils Weinker '10 (pictured left, with Sports Director Betta Hanson), midfielder for the TASIS Boys Soccer team, who was voted Most Valuable Player by tournament referees at the Swiss Group of International Schools' (SGIS) Fall 2009 Soccer Tournament, hosted by TASIS.

Building the Magnificent Community: Young TASIS Economists to Be Awarded in Bern

Three students in the AP Microeconomics class, taught by TASIS Business Manager and faculty member Max Gygax, were recently selected as award winners in the Swiss National Bank's Annual Iconomix competition. Iconomix is an educational tool created and produced by the Swiss National Bank (SNB) and intended for use by teachers and students at Swiss upper secondary schools. The objective of the program is to help improve the basic economic literacy of the population at large.

From among the thousands of entrants, three TASIS scholars will accompany Mr. Gygax to Bern for the awards ceremony on May 8:

- Fabian Zech, for his work on "Counter-Urbanisation Policies as Development Strategies in South Africa".
- Allison Kohl, for her paper "Should the World Return to the Gold Standard?"
- Richard Haschke, for his answer to the question "What interest rate range should be selected by the Swiss National Bank for the upcoming three-month period?"

M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership

The M. Crist Fleming Endowment was established in 2008 through a \$500,000 bequest from TESIS alumnus John E. Palmer '64. This seed money was subsequently augmented by a generous gift of 100,000 CHF from the Grindfors family, which funds the TESIS Senior Humanities Program under the auspices of the Endowment. The Endowment is growing through donations from other TESIS alumni, parents, and friends who wish to honor the life and accomplishments of TESIS Founder M. Crist Fleming. The Endowment supports student involvement in international service projects (pertaining, for example, to refugees, immigration, homelessness, health, and environmental sustainability), funds the TESIS Senior Humanities Program, and aims to cross linguistic, ethnic, and national borders among our students through theater and music, for which we already have an admirable tradition. The Endowment also provides resources to invite distinguished

guest speakers and attract and retain excellent teachers – the soul of the TESIS experience. It will be used to fund student scholarships, as well as for the professional development of our teachers.

The Endowment does not finance capital projects. It is managed by the TESIS Foundation, a Swiss non-profit educational foundation. Donations to the TESIS Foundation for the Endowment Fund are tax-deductible in Switzerland or in the United States, depending on the residency of the donor. Gifts to the M. Crist Fleming Endowment for International Understanding and Leadership honor our Founder and will help continue to bring her dream to life for current and future generations of TESIS students.

If you are interested in making a donation to the Endowment in Mrs. Fleming's honor, please contact the TESIS Development Office at alumni@tasis.ch or call +41 91 960 5300.

Donations July 2009 to March 12, 2010

Gift of \$10,000 or more

Mrs. Mary Dell Pritzlaff

Gifts of \$5,000-9,999

Mrs. Gioia Bonomi

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Gebhardt

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Grindfors

Gift of \$2,500-4,999

Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Bunford

Gifts of \$1,000-2,499

Bulgari Lugano

Mr. Todd Fletcher

Mr. Robert Gebhardt '96

Mr. David V. Hicks

Ms. Maureen Hyde

Mr. Ned Lynch PG '66

Ms. Maryanne Mott PG '60

Ms. Diana Rader Moyle '69

Class of '86, '87 & friends

Mr. A. Jan Opsahl '68

Mr. & Mrs. Ettore Petrini

Ms. Kathryn Pitner '62

Gifts of \$500-999

Anonymous

Autolinee Regionali Luganese

Ms. Judy Callaway Brand '63

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Dr. & Mrs. Berkley Latimer

Mr. Luca Mommarelli

Mr. & Mrs. Gianni Patuzzo

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Smith

Mr. Roberto Vaglietti

VF International SAGL

Gifts under \$500

Anonymous

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Dear Mrs. Aeschliman,

I have often thought of [Mrs. Fleming];...while time has passed, my admiration for [her] has not diminished.

To me she was a great example of a strong woman; a woman who was equally inspiring to me in her later years. When Jennifer Haldeman '83 and I visited several years ago, we both commented on her remarkable *joie de vivre*. Her health failing even then, she still filled the room with life and spirit.

Enclosed is a small contribution to the leadership endowment established in her honor. I wish it could be more. I like the idea behind the endowment and believe the world needs more care and thinking in this manner. I confess the bulk of my leisure time and disposable income currently goes to an orphanage in Haiti, a school my husband and I visited before the recent earthquake, a school that endeavors to educate the poorest with the hopes of giving them a chance for a life different than the one they now have. I think Mrs. Fleming would approve.

I wish you and your family the very best in the coming years.

Stephanie Niblock Cohen '83

TASIS Senior Humanities Program Inspires

The Senior Humanities Program promotes truth, beauty, goodness, international understanding, and humanitarian action.

Inspiration is easy to find when walking the TASIS campus, surrounded by beautiful buildings, stunning scenery, and blossoming young minds. But inspiration can also be found in the stories of other lives and other places, and the Senior Humanities Program (SHP) was created to bring the world to TASIS.

The SHP was developed for Seniors and PGs by drawing on the best elements of the TASIS identity: truth, beauty, goodness, international understanding, and humanitarian action. Through discussions, trips, lectures, tours, and films, students are provided with an enhanced intellectual experience that is inspiring and thought-provoking. The year-long program also helps convey a clear message to seniors and PGs about what the School hopes and expects from them after they leave TASIS.

The program is proving popular with students. "It's great. It brings some of the most interesting speakers from around the world to tell us their stories," says Senior Arne Van Hauwemeiren. "Guests like Jamie Andrews, a quadruple amputee, really open our eyes to the world and show us the strengths within us all."

This unique educational experience is possible thanks to generous donations from TASIS parents and support from the Board of Directors.



Jamie Andrew

Senior Humanities Program, 2009-2010

Goodness. September 9, 2009

Featuring Scottish mountaineer Jamie Andrew, who despite losing his hands and feet in a climbing accident, continues an active sporting life, including achieving Iron Man status. He spoke with students about leadership, overcoming obstacles, and facing challenges. Students will remember his story for years to come.

Humanitarian Action, International Understanding. October 27-30, 2009

SHP sponsored an Academic Travel trip to Geneva to expose students to international agencies such as the UN and the Red Cross, and participated in a roundtable exploring Education as a Human Right.

Truth. December 2-9, 2009

The first SHP film festival featured American documentary filmmaker Erin Hudson, who hosted the event. The weekend event featured seven films on the themes of The Creative Process, The Storyteller, and Using Camera Angles.

Humanitarian Action. January 20-21, 2010

Born into Brothels won the 2004 Academy Award for Best Documentary Feature. Focusing on the children who live in Calcutta's red light district, the film includes photographs taken by the children, which provide distinct impressions of their everyday lives.

International Understanding, Humanitarian Action. February 24, 2010

Dr. Michael Aeschliman, Professor of Education at Boston University and Università della Svizzera Italiana, spoke about Swiss businessman, author, and social activist Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross and winner of the 1901 Nobel Peace Prize. Mr. Dunant's legacy lives on in his writings and philosophy, and the organization he founded. His story of successes and failures throughout his lifetime is inspiring and thought-provoking.



Dr. Michael Aeschliman



Beauty. April 14, 2010

Dr. Cammy Brothers, TASIS PG '87, specializes in Italian Renaissance Architecture. The author, professor, and lecturer spoke to students about Renaissance theories of architecture, aesthetics, and Michelangelo. See page 55 for her award-winning book on Michelangelo.

Dr. Cammy Brothers PG '87

In Gratitude for Your Generosity!

Thank you to the Alumni and Parents who have generously contributed to the Alumni and Parent annual appeals

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10th Graders Angela Freker and Madeline Thomas relax between classes

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to the Pritzlaff Fund

The boys soccer team celebrates a win



TASIS Trios Over Five Decades

Mrs. Fleming seemed to believe in threes – her own three children, Gai, Tom, and Lynn, for whom she started TASIS; three schools; and three husbands – her third, her beloved German shepherd Saxon. She particularly appreciated the families who had three or more siblings attend TASIS, and claimed that she had “thousands of children.” Here we feature seven of these special “trio” families, spanning five decades, in their own words. They joined us from the US, Taiwan, Japan, Mexico, Austria, and Italy. We look forward to hearing from other TASIS trios.



Sears (USA), The First TASIS Trio

We were the first TASIS triple play, and we all graduated from TASIS. I have always enjoyed saying that I was top male graduate in my class ('59); I was also the only male graduate, along with Hanny (Laura) Newman and Gai Fleming, who now lives near me in the North Carolina foothills.

I remember the remarkable Mrs. Fleming, and my teachers, Dr. Paul, Virginia Berry, and Warren MacIsaac. I remember beans on toast for breakfast, the school vans, a backfired suspension that gave me a nice ski vacation, Da Emilio restaurant in Locarno, Andermatt classes, frequent trips to Italy, and following classmate and girlfriend Hanny Newman to Colby College where we both graduated in 1963.

Shortly after graduating with a B.A. in Economics I joined the US Air Force. Four years later I completed my military service as a Captain, after tours of duty in France, Thailand, Vietnam, and North Carolina, where I met my wife Mary-Hugh. We have two children, son Knute and daughter Nancy, who now both live in the Seattle area. Daughter Nancy enjoyed the TASIS summer program in France one year.

After my time with the US Air Force, a year of graduate school in Political Science, and marriage, I went to work for IBM and spent most of my career overseas in a variety of countries: Germany, Iran, Hong Kong, Singapore, India, and the USA. My last posting was as country systems engineering manager for India. I retired at the age of 52 to Hilton Head, South Carolina, but, for the next 10 years, spent over three months every year

Robert, Diana, and Fred Sears

doing volunteer Information System and Management work in Ethiopia, Uganda, Bolivia, and Paraguay.

Frederick Sears '59

Living in Tuscany

Thinking of TASIS brings forth a surge of memories. I remember General Jac Rothschild (who taught biology), and Mr. Absalom (who knew Russian and had a real Cossack shirt), and Nan Brooke reading *War and Peace*, and the Asian Flu, and the two De Luca sisters (Nina and Lucia), and the Wolfe siblings...and how many we have all forgotten. Claire Maroney married the Frenchman (he spoke little English and she no French). Dr. MacIsaac wanted to become someone important in literature or academia; he was a fine teacher – as was Virginia Berry.

The last time I saw Mrs. Fleming was at the US Consulate in Florence, where we were both renewing our passports. It was about seven years ago, and she looked just as I remembered her. She was an amazing lady, with great initiative and purpose.

Diana Sears '60

After graduating from Wellesley College in 1964, Diana pursued a Master's degree in Italian at Middlebury College and its program at the University of Florence, where she eventually met her husband, Dr. Emiliano Panconesi, while teaching English to a group of doctors in Florence. In 1979, she taught Italian at Florida State University in Florence for one year. Diana has two children, daughter Margherita and son Steve. She lives in the Tuscan countryside and works as an Italian-English translator.

Fond Memories

It is now years since I last saw Mrs. Fleming, a truly great lady. I still hold many fond memories, such as swimming in the lake in Locarno, Mrs. Fleming's big old convertible, Da Emilio



TASIS Trios Over Five Decades

restaurant, the family atmosphere, and Andermatt skiing. I still remember some of my teachers, in particular my French teacher, Mrs. Hausmann, and our Italian teacher, Miss Riva.

My commitment to living and working overseas was certainly influenced by my time at TASIS during my high school years. Since 1990, I have been working in the Philippines at the American Chamber of Commerce.

Robert Sears '62

Robert graduated from Colby College in 1966 with a degree in Business Administration. After college, he served in the U.S. Air Force from 1966-1970 where he obtained a Bronze Star during the Vietnam War. From 1970-1990, he was with Merrill Lynch International and worked in seven countries. In the Philippines, he worked as a Vice President of Merrill Lynch International and the Retail Branch Office Manager. Since 1990, he has been the Executive Director of the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, founded in 1902. He is also a Founding Trustee of the American Chamber Foundation.

Mullen (USA), Savoring Every Moment

My time at TASIS was unique and came at an important developmental period: ages 13-17. Coming to TASIS from an all-boys' Catholic School in Ireland gave me the appropriate perspective to savor every second of my four years there: my friendships, the intimate and small classes, the beautiful geographic setting of the school, and the opportunities to travel. One of the things I took away from my time at TASIS was an ability to get along with just about anybody. Many of the jobs that I have had since then have seen me living in sometimes austere environments with my working teammates: run-down apartments in college, months on ships in the military, camping above the Arctic Circle in Norway, a small fire station in the hills above Malibu, a hut in Afghanistan. I've always been able to forge productive working relationships and friendships that last for years afterwards.

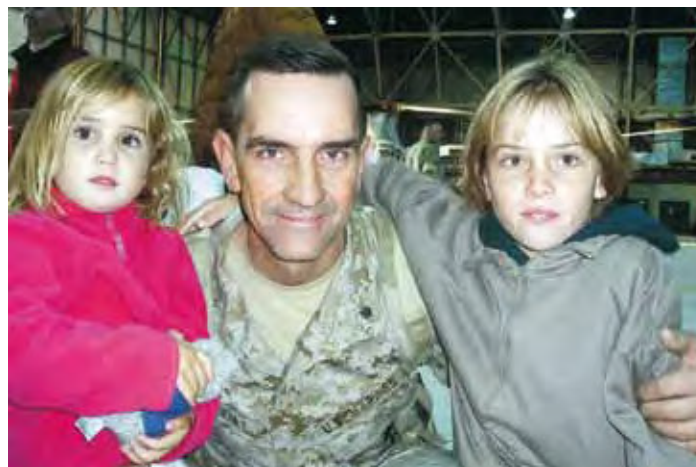
The other thing about my time at TASIS was to appreciate where you are and to get the most out of it. My buddies and I followed the Thoreau principle of "live deep and suck out the marrow" during our time in Lugano. Consequently, when I left, I had no regrets. I haven't always hit that mark as I did in Lugano, but I always aim for it, wherever my path takes me.

Academically, I took away a deep appreciation for *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, and remember when the two stories entered my bloodstream and became a foundation for my outlook on life – as they are the foundation of Western literature. There are many lessons contained within both tales which can guide

you through life: pay homage to the gods (be appreciative of the good things in your life); don't be drunk with victory and let your guard down; beware of Trojan horses; and remember, it is the Odyssey, not arriving at your own Ithaca, that makes your life what it is.

I am now preparing my two children for their own life Odyssey. As a family, we are thankful for all the wonder around us. I am also extremely grateful for having spent those four very important teen years at TASIS. I think it has a lot to do with who I am. Fortunately for me, I met my wife there (Jenny Ball, daughter of TASIS Librarian Joyce Ball) so she understands my time there and what it meant to me.

Rick Mullen '77



Rick graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in Journalism. He spent eight years as a US Marine Corps helicopter pilot and served in the Gulf War in 1991. After leaving active duty in 1991, he got married to Jenny Ball (TASIS Class of '79) and moved to Malibu, California. He worked as a photojournalist and was a military reservist until 1999 when he joined the Los Angeles County Fire Department. He continued to serve as a reservist and was recalled to active service twice after 9/11 and deployed to Afghanistan in 2004 as a helicopter squadron commander. Rick and Jenny have two children: Marshall, 16, and Tatiana, 8. They still live in Malibu where Rick works in the fire department and serves as a public safety commissioner.

Steve Mullen '79

Steve Mullen graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder with a BS in Business in 1984. From 1984-1987, he worked as a financial manager and banker at various institutions in Denver. In 1987, he attended the Officer Candidate School, US Marines. During his 20-year career, he was deployed to Operation Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Restore Hope in Somalia, the LA riots, and Operation Iraqi

Freedom in Iraq. Steve received an MS in Logistics Support Management from the Naval Postgraduate School in 2002 and his Master's in Military Science in 2003. He retired from the USMC two years ago and is currently a GS15 working with the Marine Corps in Program Management in Quantico, Virginia. Steve and his wife Cindy live in Manassas with their two children, ages 15 and 17.

Enduring Friendships

TASIS affected my choices in life in different ways. I learned to appreciate English while at TASIS – first during Chris Frost's 9th Grade English class, then in sophomore and senior English classes taught by Mark and Michael Aeschliman. These were the foundation for my enjoyment of writing, and I have since had various magazine articles published. I have also self-published a book about how the rivers that the explorers Lewis and Clark traveled on have changed over time.

From the TASIS In-Pro trips, I learned to appreciate the need to have a focus for my explorations of the places I visit. TASIS courses gave me a great appreciation for ancient architecture and art. I have returned to Italy numerous times and always try to visit sites that are significant because of their deep history.

My teachers were also memorable. Shah Akbar Khan gave me a great respect for, and understanding of, geometry. Mark Aeschliman provided me with immense respect for art and art history. Michael Aeschliman provided me with respect for John Milton, and for the truth that English was about far, far more than just words. Chris Frost exposed me to the writings of Frost, Harper Lee, and Longfellow. Mrs. Pfisterer taught of ancient civilizations, which formed a solid basis for understanding the roots of how civilizations emerged, and what constitutes a civilization. Mr. Metzler made physics interesting, and Horst Dürschmidt gave me the room to explore photography independently.

My most memorable experiences at TASIS:

- Photography. I loved to wake up early on Saturday or Sunday mornings to wander, photograph, and then return to the dark-room to develop and print photographs before lunch began (and sometimes before classmates woke up).
- In-Program travel. I fell in love with the cities of Vienna and Venice. I spoke with Sicilians who recalled the Americans landing on their island during World War II, which meant little to me at the time, but becomes more significant with age.
- Weekend mountaineering in Andermatt, skiing in Zermatt, Oktoberfest in Munich, and independent travel to Pieve Ligure on Italy's Ligurian coast.
- St. Moritz skiing. The *signalbahn* cable car, drinks on the

porch in the sun at the Radi restaurant, night tobogganing, skiing to Celerina.

- Friendships that endure. This summer, our class will be organizing its own reunion in New York City. Last year, about 35 of us (classes of '81, '82, and '83) met for a fabulous weekend in Las Vegas.

Tom Mullen '81

After graduating from TASIS, Tom Mullen studied civil engineering at the University of Colorado, then worked in Colorado and Wyoming. In 1989, he moved to Malawi as a Peace Corps volunteer. He spent 12 years working on water supply projects throughout Africa, in Dubai, and in Panama and Guatemala. He then spent several years consulting on water resource and environmental projects while based in Laguna Beach, California. In 2009, he took a year's leave to study for an MBA at the University of Durham in the UK.



Patricia Mullen Rempen '72

Patricia spent several years living and working in Liberia and Tehran. She then became Director of Pan American Airlines in Geneva, Switzerland, before she and her husband moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, to begin a business importing and distributing area rugs. She now lives in Albuquerque and manages her business. She has three sons.



Inamoto (Japan), International Relations

TASIS affected my choices in life in so many ways: I did a summer program and a semester abroad in Italy while in university and intensively studied Italian and European art history. The decision was entirely influenced by my experience at TASIS – learning to speak some Italian, taking art history classes, and going on numerous In-Pro trips or weekend trips to Italy.

I chose to major in International Relations at the University of Pennsylvania. My experience of meeting people from so many different countries at TASIS led me to want to learn more about interactions and relations among different countries – politically, economically, and culturally. I took a year off a couple of years ago and traveled through Asia for 11 months. I decided to explore Asia because I had the opportunity to see so much of Europe while I was at TASIS and, therefore, also wanted to see other parts of the world.

TASIS Trios Over Five Decades

I had memorable experiences at TASIS, such as skiing in Crans Montana after a huge snowstorm. The ski lessons were cancelled as there was too much snow and many of the lifts were not operating, but I went to the mountain with a small group of friends and enjoyed the deep and fresh powder snow. I also enjoyed going to the Venice *Carnevale* my senior year. A group of friends went for the weekend and it was a blast. The party started at the Lugano train station (shhh to the faculty), and went on throughout the weekend.

It would be unfair to single out one teacher, but I'd like to mention three: Ms. Whisenant, even though not my advisor, gave me so much support both academically and personally. Her senior year English class was tough, but I learned a lot in her class as well as outside of the classroom. Mr. Eichner was my advisor during my junior and senior years. I enjoyed his casual attitude and being able to informally stop by his office for a chat. Mr. Dürrschmidt's photography classes were fantastic. I went on a couple of photography trips with him, also to Venice, with a small group of students. Black and white photography was a novelty to me, and I truly enjoyed learning how to take photos and to develop them in the dark room under his tutelage.

At present, I am focusing on figuring out my next steps. I would like to be able to apply my international background in a truly meaningful way to what I do in life. I currently work at an advertising agency in New York as a project manager. Recently, I have been offered a position in London and will most likely take the offer, so that I can be closer to Europe and, more importantly, visit Lugano, of course!

Dan Inamoto '96

A Global Citizen

TASIS affected me fundamentally; not only did TASIS give me new opportunities, but it also gave me the confidence to do the things that I have done in my life. The fact that TASIS was so international allowed me to be a true 'global' citizen after I graduated.

Being at TASIS was fun but also challenging for our family, because we were away from each other at such a young age. But because of that, I now feel that I need to and want to keep a close tie with my family. While at TASIS, I learned the importance of unconditional support of a family.

TASIS gave me confidence to be on an international stage. I work at an international agency and travel quite a bit to work with people

from different countries. Had I not had my experience at TASIS, I would probably not be working on such an international scale.

Mr. Dürrschmidt introduced me to the world of photography as art. Europe was a wonderful classroom, and photography was an excellent way to document a chapter of my life. Ms. Guanieri, a young ESL teacher, was very nice and patient. Although we weren't the best kids and gave her a lot of hard times during her first year at TASIS, she always had a smile and cared about us and about what she did.

I am now focusing on two things: my family and my career. I have a wife and a 20-month-old son. Having a family gives me a whole new level of responsibility and the kind of love that I never felt I had. Professionally, I am happy with what I do. In the future, I'm planning to start my own company and am looking forward to doing something that hopefully makes this world a better place – even if only slightly.

Rei Inamoto '92

Rei has been working in the advertising industry for over 10 years, and is now the Chief Creative Officer of an ad agency called AKQA. He has won numerous awards in the industry and is one of the judges at the Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival this year. He currently lives with his wife, Amy, and son, Kai, in New York.

Yu Inamoto '92

Yu has been studying at the Harvard Graduate School of Design for the past two years and will be finishing his Master's degree in June 2010. He has his own architecture studio in New York. He and his wife, Paola Martinez '93, live in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and they had a baby boy named Luca in February 2010. They will also be moving back to New York

Hong (Taiwan), The Time Machine

As my friends and teachers from TASIS will probably remember, I was passionate about maths and physics. But they did not know it was all to do with my secret plan, the ultimate project I knew I would one day unveil to re-live my dreams – a Time Machine!

Having sold my soul over the last nine years by working for two Swiss banks, the time will soon come that I will call it a day and embark on travel through time and space. Destination? September 1991, Lugano! Life was full of bright colors then. White snow, green varsity jerseys, dim yellow lights and the pink solutions in the photography darkroom. The red carnations you sent to your secret valentine. All the laughter, friendships, and youth life has to offer; where else other than TASIS?



*The Inamoto brothers:
Twins Yu and Rei and brother Dan.*



The Hong family

Amongst the many teachers, Mr. MacCallum was the one I admired the most. As a cross-country running coach, he showed me perseverance and the power of will over body. As a science teacher, he taught me we are all students of the mysterious order weaving the universe. He did so by practicing humility, curiosity, and spontaneity himself. And I realized it's pretty cool being eccentric!

George Hong '92

If someone asked, "What was your most memorable experience at TASIS?", I think of skiing in St. Moritz, weekend getaway trips, In-Pros (and the white paper lunchbags), the nights at Bora or Piccolo's, the Belvedere stairs. I don't recall how many steps there were, despite the fact that I counted them numerous times when I lived there. They are just steps, but they remind me of the precious time I spent with my friends at TASIS, and those moments are priceless.

My life at the moment is fulfilled with my two precious girls, my family, and work. But every now and then, friends from TASIS get together and, occasionally, we visit each other on the other side of the world. Somehow, we can always pick up where we left off, whether it has been 3 months or 3 years. That's the magic of TASIS: friends we met long ago remain close at heart, even though they are thousands of miles away.

Among many wise teachers I had, I see and miss Mr. Eichner the most. Not only because he was my advisor for two years, but also because he has taught me to enjoy life and to live in the moment. It's difficult finding words to describe the effect TASIS had on my life. If George's "Time Machine" really works, I would love to ride along, and go back to any day I had spent at TASIS, just any day.

Yulun Hong '94

I still have dreams about TASIS, so vivid that I wonder if I should jump off my bed, and go to get my favorite sandwich at Angelo's. Ten years after graduation, some of us from TASIS still remain closest friends. I always see smiles on their faces when we talk about our life at TASIS because it has been such an important part of our lives.

After a few years of soul searching, I have decided to pursue my Master's degree in visual development in San Francisco. I never had an art class in Taiwan because art wasn't a subject in the high school entrance exam. Thanks to Mr. David Badgley and Mr. Dürschmidt's encouragement, I was able to find the path for myself.

I still remember, among so many other things, snowboarding in Crans Montana, all the In-Pro trips, Arts Festivals, and competing with other schools while shouting "Let's go TASIS, let's go!"

Chao Chieh Hong '00

Martinez (Mexico), Taking Me Out of My Bubble

Attending TASIS opened my horizons and took me out of my 'bubble'. This later helped me decide to go to college abroad and move to NYC for a job opportunity. TASIS prepared me to take on these challenges and to know that, no matter how hard the situation, I can see the positive side of things.

Most memorable are the friendships I made at TASIS. The bond you create with friends is so strong that even after years apart, you still feel close to them. In particular, I enjoyed meeting my best friend and future husband, Yu Inamoto '92.

There were so many teachers I liked, but the standout for me was Mrs. O'Connor. She was my ESL teacher, my advisor, and my dorm resident during my first year at TASIS. She helped me very much, making the transition of leaving home to adapting to TASIS smooth and easy. She also taught me confidence.

Currently I am learning how to be a mom. We just welcomed our first little one in February, Luca Sei Inamoto-Martinez. He will keep me very busy for the next years to come, unless TASIS starts boarding Kindergarteners...

Paola Martinez '93

Good Friends Forever

TASIS made me an independent person. It gave me the opportunity to interact with different cultures and take responsibility for my actions. This will always have a great influence on my life. My best memory are the friends I made at TASIS. We created strong bonds with each other and will forever remain good friends.

There are many teachers I remember, in particular David Miller, who was my dorm parent and volleyball coach. He was always there to give me advice and listen to me when I needed it.

I live in Lisbon, Portugal, and recently got married to a Portuguese. My TASIS friends Tara Sinfield, Erika Cook, and Dan Inamoto were present at my wedding. Currently, I am working in the marketing department of a company that provides innovative technology for the hotel industry, GuestCentric Systems. In January, I attended a mini TASIS reunion in Madrid where I met Arianne Lejarza, Silvia Perotti, and Nora Iribecampos.

Karla Martinez '97

TASIS Trios Over Five Decades

A Secret Group

After TASIS, in 2002, I went to Boston and attended Suffolk University for a degree in Communications. Now I am in New York, doing a second degree in graphic design at the School of Visual Arts. I still have one more year of school in New York.

One of my most memorable experiences at TASIS was my first independent travel weekend during my senior year. I went to Florence with my friends. We'd rented a van due to a train strike, and felt so grown up.

One of the teachers I remember most is Mr. Shields. He was the kindest person and my advisor in my senior year. He was always there, helping with everything.

Michelle Martinez '02



Karla, Paula, and Michelle Martinez

Muhlhofer (Austria), A Vibrant Oasis of Tranquility

Lunch on the sun-soaked terrace of the Villa De Nobili; a stroll around the narrow streets of Certenago; a gaze at the spectacular vista from the terrace of Monticello. TASIS is unique in shaping the minds and hearts of young people. It is a vibrantly active oasis of beauty and tranquility, and it is this combination that so well describes the TASIS philosophy, which has been instrumental in shaping us as people.

Like other schools, TASIS excels at imparting knowledge and skills to make students successful. But what made the TASIS experience so invaluable was the environment of beauty, on the campus itself, as well as within the larger campus of Europe, and the activities that the School offered. Whether in sports (for Veronika), music (for Toby), or theater (mostly for Mathias, but to some extent for all three of us), TASIS taught

us – and shaped us as individuals – outside the classroom as much as inside.

Today all three of us are successful individuals.

Mathias is an active real estate developer in Vienna, Veronika is a sports event manager in Zurich involved in the world's top international competitions, and Toby is a professor of finance, researching and teaching at Indiana University in Bloomington, and currently a guest professor at the University of Texas at Austin. We were fundamentally shaped by the late Mrs. Fleming's vision and its realization in TASIS, and we are grateful to TASIS's role in making us who we are.

Mathias '95, Veronika '97, and Tobias '98 Muhlhofer



Mathias, Veronika, and Tobias Muhlhofer

Rasini (Italy), A Strange and Wonderful World

TASIS was a safe haven, a place where I felt special and appreciated. TASIS was focused on the individual: each of us was encouraged to express our individuality, to be 'different,' and also to be tolerant toward difference. Seeing difference as a strength, and not a weakness, affected my attitude toward the world and toward myself.

It is difficult for non-TASIS graduates to believe me when I tell them that my high school encouraged us to give speeches during assembly and to dance on a boat in Lake Lugano. They don't understand that my school took us skiing in the winter and on week-long trips to Florence and Capri. But the memories I cherish most are grounded inside the TASIS theatre. The feeling of working with a group of special people on this huge and wonderful work of art, the way we transformed Hadsall's former balcony into a mysterious and exciting place: those are the moments I most remember. And the cast parties at Casa Fleming that would go on well past our check-in time.

In the classroom, I remember Jim Campbell – he just had a way of getting you to understand US History that fascinated me. Brigitte Hartzell not only taught me French but also opened a window into French literature and culture. I remember John Levett's sense of humor and jokes during PE. Cynthia

Whisenant was a wonderful advisor, attentive to all aspects of my life, listening without judging and treating me like an adult. My math teachers, starting with Stephen Prentice and ending with O'B (Bill O'Brien) were fantastic – they made me love mathematics. I still remember some of Bill Eichner's lectures during Middle School In-Pro, and Mr. Aeschliman, who made me understand and love Art History.

If I hadn't had the opportunity to do theatre at TASIS, I probably would not have ended up making it in my profession. Candace Owen-Williams and Kay Hamblin were my first drama teachers, and although my true education in drama came later on, the foundation that was set in those years was very important. Now, when I teach improvisational comedy classes, I think about all the improvisation we did in Kay's class in 10th grade, and when I go to high schools and teach young people about Shakespeare, I still think back to the first play I was in at TASIS, *Macbeth*, which was my first exposure to that strange and wonderful world.

Ollie Rasini '99

We Can Always Return Home

My first few steps on campus were into Villa de Nobili, the year before I entered TASIS as a seventh grader. During my six years at TASIS, the labyrinth of De Nobili became the theater for much more than meals. My class-mates and I may have walked in to De Nobili from Italy, Japan, or Saudi Arabia, but we left as part of TASIS. By the time I left, it seemed normal to me to know about the rest of the world, to want to travel further away every time, because I knew of people that came from those places, and those places were realities, not just concepts.

Though I graduated from TASIS 11 years ago, I am still learning from it. It was precisely the way we were taught by most of the faculty members that made me grow up with certain ideas about the future, to see an array of possibilities ahead. The dedication of some teachers who have spent much of their careers at TASIS blurred the lines between their own families and the students. It was never strange when I found myself snowboarding with the Stickley family, at dinner at Frost's house, or having geometry explained by Mr. Prentice while his son Leo was jumping on a trampoline. We were allowed into their families. David Badgley, Horst Dürschmidt, Cynthia Whisenant: They have kids across the globe that have now turned into friends and who, when in need, still mentally summon their conversations or creative advice given years ago.

Most kids won't be eased into reading Shakespeare after meditating at the beginning of English class. Most aren't as fortunate as I was to spend two weeks of the year on top of a

mountain, and the rest on a hill in a little haven of perfectly sensible ideals. Most don't return 10 years after leaving school and find themselves, once again, over dinner at the Eichners' home, feeling at ease like back then. And just think that we may have grown up and have come into ourselves, but can always return home.

Sofia Rasini '99

The Common Goal of Excellence

As the youngest of the family I was actually involved in TASIS life longer than the rest. I spent six years at TASIS as a student, but felt the spirit three years before I started as my older sisters were always involved in TASIS activities. Our mother worked on the theater sets, and often brought me to campus, so I already knew about the snack bar and Rosemary's cookies with Nutella.

Once I started at TASIS, I met Ms. Whisenant, who was my dorm parent and advisor for many years. She supported me and put up with my teenage rebellion – as did Ms. Lucchini, who always had something to say about my behavior.

My most treasured TASIS memories are connected to travel: In-Pro to the four corners of Europe, one unforgettable trip to Jordan, and long drives in the TASIS vans with the soccer team, and La Moubra in Crans-Montana, my favorite weeks of the year.

I grew up inside the TASIS community, and now, eight years after my graduation, I appreciate the true effects of my TASIS past. TASIS gave me a great understanding of a multicultural world, and that it is possible to create unity while maintaining differences. TASIS gave us freedom of expression, especially in the arts, and the opportunity to try so many different things, to look beyond borders, and to be part of a community whose common goal was to push us to excel in whatever we might decide to pursue.

Thea Rasini '02



Thea, Ollie, and Sofia Rasini

Alumni & Teacher Profiles

Snaps in Time

Photographs by Chih-Kang Tou '94

"Photography and other forms of art reveal the craftsmanship and philosophy of the world of an artist," says Chih-Kang Tou, TESIS '94, and two-time winner of the prestigious Golden Tripod award for his photographic work for *Rhythms Monthly* magazine. Since graduating from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1994, Tou has had his work showcased in magazines and galleries throughout Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

Tou's photography has taken him around the world, from the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and Aceh, Indonesia, after the tsunami to the sparsely populated island of Sakhalin, off the Russian coast. "There are many memorable moments from my travels," he says. "I recall being in the middle of a plain in Mongolia, with more than a hundred kilometers of grass in front of me, behind me, to my left, and to my right. There are no mountains, creeks, or sea – just grass, that feeling of space. It cannot be captured or described, even through photography."

Tou was introduced to photography during his sophomore year at TESIS, where he was inspired both by his teacher, Horst Dürschmidt, and by the lack of cultural and racial barriers. "TESIS was truly a school where the Arts were flourishing. I remember exhibitions in the hallways, the arts festivals, musicals, and performances – and, of course, being in Europe was influential."

Tou credits his awareness of his art as key to his success. "I'm always proudest of the next piece to come. Every upcoming project or assignment is what I consider most challenging." He maintains a healthy detachment from his finished pieces, and is constantly rethinking his approaches to various subjects. "During the process of pursuing a dream, an artist becomes more aware than the person he was in his past. He betters his



craftsmanship and reflects his awareness and philosophy to his next piece."

Tou recently quit his day job to go freelance and now devotes his time to his own projects. He has just started documenting the harrowing story of stray animals that are put to sleep in government animal shelters, and he is amid another work focusing on the life of an impoverished 12-year-old girl from a drug-addled background who performs ballroom dancing with her two brothers to earn money. "I aim to awaken human awareness," he says of his current projects, "and as I grow, my craftsmanship gets better and I develop a more solid philosophy of life."

Photographs by Chih-Kang Tou '94



Left page, top: Tokyo, 2004. TESIS mother (Hiroko Otsuki '93) Mrs. Otsuki prepares for a traditional Japanese tea ceremony before receiving her guests. *Middle:* Mekong Delta, Vietnam, 2007. A factory worker sorts and packs the rice harvest. *Bottom right:* Mekong Delta, Vietnam, 2007. A man rinses fruit from his boat as a boy swims beside the boat. *Bottom left:* Aceh, Indonesia, 2005. The devastation of the December 25th tsunami, one week after the event. A Meulaboh woman returns to where her village once was, confused by the chaotic backdrop.

This page, top: Ulan Bator, Mongolia, 2006. Opening ceremony preparations for the annual Nadam Festival. *Bottom:* New Zealand, 2007. Tami Iti, a controversial Maori activist, wears a traditional Moko facial tattoo, which shows rank, status, ferocity, and virility. *Right:* Mekong Delta, Vietnam, 2007. The mighty Mekong River provides a trading platform for a floating market.



Dancing on Ice

The Olympics are always exciting, and this year's Vancouver Games was no exception, especially with one of TESIS's own in the thick of it. Called 'an innovator and legend in his sport', Victor Kraatz '90 was brought back into the spotlight as the Games descended upon his adopted hometown, where he served as a CTV on-air analyst for ice dancing.

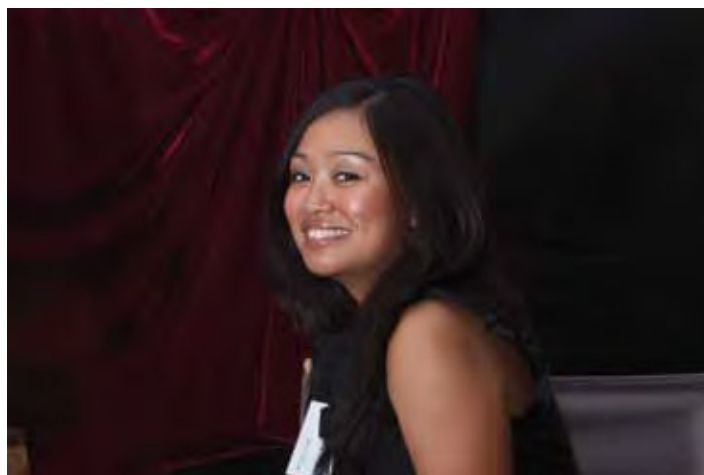
Mr. Kraatz was born in 1971 in West Berlin, West Germany, and began skating at the age of nine. He grew up in Switzerland, where he attended TESIS from 1985-86. He and his mother then moved to Canada, where he met partner Shae-Lynn Bourne. The pair became the darlings of Canada, winning 10 Canadian Championships (1993-2002), the World Championships in 2003, silver at the 2002 World Championships, and bronze at four consecutive World Championships (1996-99). They also participated in three Olympic Games, finishing 10th in Lillehammer, 1994; 4th in Nagano, 1998; and 4th in Salt Lake, 2002. He retired at the end of the 2003 season.

Mr. Kraatz's former coach, Natalia Dubova (grandmother to TESIS 8th Grader Alex Dubova), stresses the popularity of the pair. "At our first Canadian Championships in Edmonton I realized how much the Canadian fans loved him. In a country where the press always writes about hockey, ice dancing became just as important because of him and Shae-Lynn." She speaks fondly of her former athlete. "He came to me already a star, and it's always difficult for a star to deal with a strong Russian coach like me! But he was willing to start over and work on the foundation. And we kept winning."

Mr. Kraatz met his wife, Finnish ice dancer Maikki Uotila, in one of Ms. Dubova's skating groups. The couple coach in Vancouver, where they are ice dancing directors at the BC Centre of Excellence and have a three-year-old son. "His character makes him a good coach," Ms. Dubova says. "He follows my method – he is strong and patient and disciplined. He is a good sportsman, which shows he's a very good person."



Ice dancer and former TESIS student Victor Kraatz '90 with partner Shae-Lynn Bourne and Russian coach (and TESIS grandmother) Natalia Dubova.



Michele Josue '97

Lights, Camera, Action

It's been nearly a decade since Michele Josue '97 began capturing the magic of TESIS on film. Smaller projects about TESIS paved the way for this year's ambitious web video series that documents all aspects of TESIS life, from academics, sports, and travel to more intimate portraits about dorm life and favorite dress-code outfits. The series also documents the Global Village vision and includes a touching piece entitled *Remembering Mrs. Fleming*.

Ms. Josue attended TESIS for six years, where she first discovered her passion for theater and the arts. She went on to study film and video at Emerson College in Boston. After graduation, she relocated to Los Angeles, where she has written and directed a number of independent short films and documentaries. She has worked with Disney, Fox, and ABC on various films and TV shows, and still finds time to return to her alma mater to shoot. "I have been making videos for TESIS on and off since I was a junior in film school," she says. "In fact, my Senior Banquet speech was about how one day I wanted to make a film about what it meant to live in a place like TESIS, a place that meant so much to me."

Chronicling the evolution of the campus, especially the purpose-built Palestra and John E. Palmer Cultural Center, is among Ms. Josue's favorite aspects of filming the series. "I really like the videos featuring Global Village architect David Mayernik and his philosophy on the power of architecture and its influence on shaping experiences, a sense of community, and memory." As a former student, she also enjoys shooting dorm tours with the kids and learning about what it's really like being at the School now. "Documenting the changes to the campus is tremendous, as I remember when the school had the infamous Bubble and when we performed plays in a small room in Hadsall."

The video series also includes alumni-focused pieces, including one about the different alumni reunions all over the world. Her goal is to create a video series that TESIS students of the past, present, and future can all relate to and enjoy.

Visit www.tasis.ch or <http://www.tasisvideos.blogspot.com/>.

Book Corner

Authoring Beauty

Cammy Brothers, TASH PG '87, is an internationally respected historian, specializing in Italian Renaissance Architecture. She attended Harvard for her undergraduate and Ph.D. programs and received her M.A. from the Courtauld Institute, University of London. Currently serving as Professor of Art History (Italian Renaissance) at the University of Virginia School of Architecture, Dr. Brothers also lectures on the architecture of Rome, Venice, Istanbul, and Mediterranean architecture. Specialized seminars have considered such topics as Architecture and Urbanism in Renaissance Rome; Architecture and Painting; Venice; Ruins in the Renaissance; Renaissance Drawing; and Theory and Methods of Architectural History. In April, 2010, she shared some of her wisdom with TASH students as a featured Senior Humanities Program speaker.



Ms. Brothers has been the recipient of fellowships from the US Fulbright Commission, the American Academy in Rome, and the Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies, where she will be a Senior Fellow in 2010-11. She has researched and published papers on architectural drawing, artistic exchange around the Mediterranean, Renaissance theories of architecture and literature, and interaction between the practices of painting, architecture and sculpture. In the spirit of the latter, Ms. Brothers wrote *Michelangelo, Drawing, and the Invention of Architecture* (Yale University Press, 2008), which

gives a fresh perspective on the great master's work. Called 'fascinating', 'refreshing', and 'recommended', the book argues that Michelangelo's architectural designs are best understood in the context of his experience as a painter and sculptor. This innovative treatise has recently won Brothers the distinguished Charles Rufus Morey Book Award for 2010 from the College Art Association.

An excerpt from the award announcement:

"When one considers the vast bibliography on Michelangelo, it is a tribute to Cammy Brothers that her book is such a readable and masterful work of new scholarship and substantial insight into both the artist's working methods and his modes of thinking. Remarkably erudite, [the book] marshals compelling visual evidence along with literary, historical, and philosophical support on behalf of a fresh and persuasive argument."



Children's author Sharon Creech on her new book, *The Unfinished Angel*, set in Casa Fleming.

'I'd been trying to write the story of an angel since 2003, when my then two-year-old granddaughter told her first 'story'. It was very short and it went like this: "Once upon a time in Spain there was an angel, and the angel was me. The end." I was so intrigued; I wanted to know more about that angel. Over the next few years, I tried expanding that story, without success. I needed the voice of the angel, and that escaped me.

And then my husband, Lyle Rigg, accepted a one-year interim headmaster position at TASH, where we had spent the first two years of our married life, 1982-84. We immersed ourselves in re-learning Italian and arrived in Montagnola in September of 2007. We found ourselves talking strangely and comically, mixing English and Italian, our verb tenses and grammar clashing and clanging. We weren't making much sense in either Italian or English.

I had always been intrigued by the tower of Casa Fleming, and early during our return, Tom Fleming gave us a tour of it. I knew immediately that that was where the angel might live, and finally I could hear the angel's voice...a garbled mix of Italian and English. "Peoples!" the angel was saying, mimicking our own daily frustrations. "Are you knowing what I am meaning?" Mrs. Fleming was living in Casa Fleming during that year that I wrote *The Unfinished Angel*. When I told her that I was going to write about an angel in the tower of her home, she said, "One day I will be that angel!" Questions which plague the angel include 'What is my mission? What am I supposed to be doing?' I like that this echoes the questions our students ask themselves while they are at TASH. On one level, *The Unfinished Angel* is about dualities: the small and the large; the petty and the noble; sorrow and joy; ugliness and beauty. It is about the angelic qualities of humans and the human qualities of angels. The story explores, as other books of mine have, how often young people refresh us and lead us to what is important. It is a story, I think, of kindness and hope.'

(continued on page 57)

lomocubes

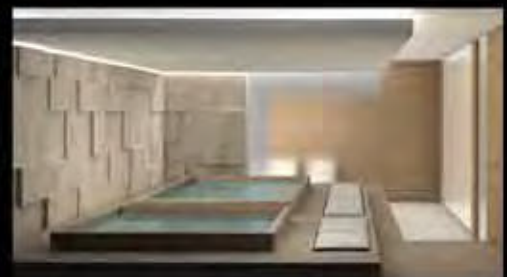
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Book Corner

Ms. Creech has dedicated *The Unfinished Angel* to Mrs. Fleming. Ms. Creech explained this100 dedication on her blog on December 10, 2009:

'Mary Crist Fleming: 98 years old, the founder of the TASIS schools in Europe. She was a charismatic educator, my husband's and my boss, friend, and muse for the past 30 years. She lived in the villa attached to the tower in which the Angel

lives in *The Unfinished Angel*. Mrs. Fleming was living in that villa while I was writing the book, and she told me, "I will be that angel some day, and I will live in the tower." I bet she is there now.'

Sharon Creech, wife of TASIS veteran Headmaster Lyle Rigg, taught English Grades 9-12 on both campuses: TASIS England 1979-82 and 1984-88, and TASIS Switzerland 1982-1984.

The Master

Genteel designs, sympathetic colors, and careful detailing. The TASIS Master Plan architect David Mayernik's creative portfolio includes forays into urban planning, the fine arts, applied arts, and, of course, campus design.

Mr. Mayernik's talents have been honored by numerous organizations and awards worldwide. He is a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, winner of the Gabriel Prize for Research in Paris, and winner of the Arthur Ross Award from Classical America. The M. Crist Fleming Library won a Palladio Award from Traditional Building magazine. He has executed fresco commissions for the American Academy in Rome, private clients in New York, and the Church of San Tommaso in Agra, near Lugano. Currently, he serves as Associate Professor at the University of Notre Dame's School of Architecture.

Mr. Mayernik's book *Timeless Cities: An Architect's Reflections on Renaissance Italy* (Westview Press, 2003) continues to delight and impress readers and travelers from around the world. It was recently featured on the blog of author Frances Mayes (*Under the Tuscan Sun*), read by thousands around the world. Ms. Mayes calls his book "one of the best companions I've found" to Rome, Venice, Florence, Siena, and Pienza. She writes: "Knowing architectural connections, not just landmarks and their individual histories, gives you the power 'to be able to read the whole city as a comprehensible story'. The city as a book – I love that concept."

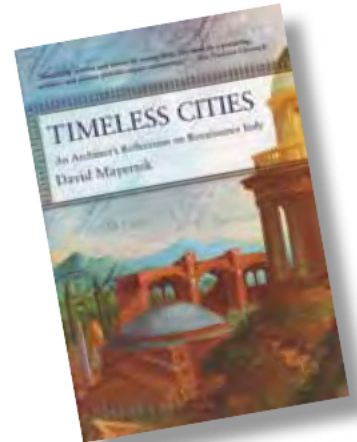
In Pursuit of Excellence

We all have dreams, but only those with true vision persevere through challenges, learn from mishaps, and look back with humor and dignity. Growing pains and pinnacles are a part of the lives of people and of organizations, and it is amid life's tests that we show true spirit and strength. *In Pursuit of Excellence* was created to commemorate 50 years of TASIS Switzerland and 30 years of TASIS England. Written by students, teachers, and Mrs. Fleming herself, this beautiful and fascinating book gives a pictorial and written history of TASIS from those who lived it, in pursuit of excellence.

MCF - What a Life!

It's difficult to remember when the world was smaller; when air travel was a privilege and foreigners a curiosity. Travel was for those with pluck and fortitude, for those with the gumption to see beyond narrow political and social mores. Perhaps the most poignant stories in the delightful book *MCF - What a Life!* are those of her time before she built the School, when she was exploring Culture, earning Wisdom, learning Knowledge, and discovering her Truth. Mrs. Fleming's writing sheds light on her story, and the story of TASIS. Told in her own words and in the words of those whose lives she touched, *MCF - What a Life!* explores nine decades of the life that brought us all together. The book is an inspirational keepsake to forever remind us of Mrs. Fleming's spirit and joy.

Expand your library and support your alma mater! As a special offer to *TASIS Today* readers, we are offering both *In Pursuit of Excellence* and *MCF - What a Life!* for \$85. *In Pursuit of Excellence* can be purchased alone for \$65. All prices inclusive of postage. Contact alumni@tasis.ch to place your order.



TASIS Reunions 2009-2010

PG Class of 1966

October 2009

Twenty-two people from the PG Class of '66 got together for a class reunion in Fountain Hills, Arizona, October 23-26, 2009. This amazing number of people is largely thanks to Ned Lynch who kept track of everyone throughout the years. Cindy Crabtree was able to provide the use of a resort for free, which was helpful for those on a budget, and Kate Woodward was also there to join in the fun. Everyone had a great time exchanging memories and updates while enjoying group dinners, outings in the desert landscape, or simply relaxing in a shady spot. Even though Arizona's landscape and trademark cacti don't look like Ticino, the company of old classmates made everyone feel closer to that Villa Negroni home. The 45th Reunion is being planned for 2011. Stay tuned for details!



*Paula Minnick Peterson, Larry Weckbaugh, Laura Bradley, Robin Leech, Cindy Crabtree, Kneeland Taylor, Kathy Doyle, Madeline Burnham, Dave Beebe, Laurie Bushbaum
Front row: Elizabeth Acer, Linda Adelman, Mary Seyfarth, Charlie James*

Class of 1984 August 1-3, 2009



The Class of '84 held their 25th reunion in Laguna Beach, California, in August 2009. We were a small but mighty group, and it was a blast! Hope you get a laugh out of the 'before 1983 and after 2009' photos. Thirteen alumni attended, plus partners and kids. Alumni were Taya Bascom Paige, Seana Goddard Lee, Jami Baldwin PG '84, Jimmy McGrath, Mike Grim, Andrew Grim, Yvonne Bonpua Stier, Wendy Barber Robinson, Nazli Ghazzemi, Kristi Alger West, Rachel Palkendo Dougan, Taric Akkad, and Costantino Bertuzzi '86.

Class of 1989

July 31-August 1, 2009

The Class of 1989 reunited for some good times in Seattle, Washington, in August of 2009. We started with a meet and greet on Friday night, then it was off for a tour of the city on Saturday followed by lunch. Saturday night concluded our reunion with a formal dinner and saying farewell, until we meet again! Thanks so much to all who attended. It was wonderful to see everyone again.

- Lori Ketter, Class of 1989 representative

Get in touch by looking me up on Facebook or email loriketter@q.com.

L to R: Michelle Jack Jiyamapa, Lara De Vido Ramakrishnan, Cheryl Grassit Miller, Tai Larson, Lori Larson, Leslie Coen Harris, Kay Lee Brinker, Lori Romero Ketter, Toni Clayton Hine, Claudio Bonometti, Jay Killpack

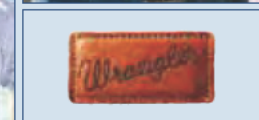
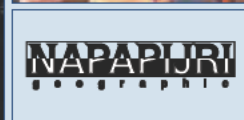
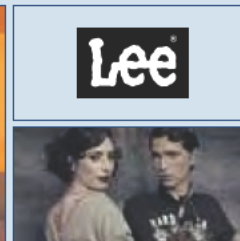
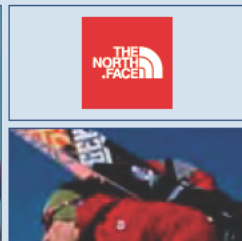


Class of 1999

November 20-21, 2009

A group from the Class of '99 got together for their 10-year reunion in New York in November 2009, setting the scene with a dinner at a Swiss restaurant in NYC and joining the All-Class Reunion.

Kerry Murray, Christina Miles '00, Jen Colberg, Sage Wyly, Anna-Marie Josue '00, Rebecca Tilles, Adrien Aeschliman, and Robert Hux



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Class of 2004 June 12-14, 2009

The Class of '04 held its 5-year reunion in Lugano in June 2009. The weekend fun included dinner at Grotto Flora, a trip to Valle Verzasca on a picture-perfect day, dinner at Casa Fleming with an extensive tour of campus, and checking out Lugano's clubs. L to R: Alexander Katz, Charlotte Tosch, Marko Jokic, Nadine Weber, Riccardo Kestenholz, Stefanie Sklenak PG'04, Sandra Crugnola, Michael Ulku-Steiner, Sandra Kurzlechner and friend, Vesna Kuljic, Fabio Magrelli, Shiva Jada Raju '07, Bill Eichner, Front: Friend and Patricia Schmidt, Lea-Sophie Richter PG'04, Charlie Minor Perez '06. Not pictured, Amanda Adams Louis, Evgeniy Kazarez, Patrick Gerber, Masa Yo.



All-Class Reunion Group Photo



Masha Tivyan '96, Ben Stout



Kamil Khayat '78,
Mehrdad Dabbagh '79



Bradley Solheim '05, Abigail Pfeil '05, Alexander
Disenhof, Tessa Wienker '05, Ali Batterjee '03



Levi Chen '81, Bill Eichner,
Uuganja Chen



Robert Gebhardt '96, Ron De Angelis '96,
Ava Klein '97



Marianne Tapper,
Andrew Tapper '75



Jen Granville '94, Tamas Lobo '94,
Hansoo Lee '92, Anna Josue '00



Michele Josue '97, Jen Granville '94

New York November 21, 2009



Alex Meers, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63



Dayle Hansen, Joyce (Motylewsky) Hansen, Mary A. Winer, Robert Winer



Jacqueline (Kemper) von Rohrscheidt PG '84, Stephen Mauro PG '84, Mary Karst PG '84



Christof Zanechia '04, Michele Josue '97, Karl McNamara '04



Adrien Aeschliman '99, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, Robert Hux '99



Jason Nagashima '01, Janine Polak, Alessio Puricelli '01



Veronica Kennedy '98, Jason Flynn



Edward Turowski, Lynn Fleming Aeschliman '63, James Baclawski '04, Diana (Baclawski) Turowski '01



Robin Fink '00, Michele Josue '97, Evan Elbersen '07, Daniel Ciraldo '01, Christina Miles '00, Anna Josue '00



Betsy Newell with her CDE Summer Program staff



Headmaster Michael Ulku-Steiner, Bill Eichner, alumni, and former staff crowd into the photo booth



Bill Eichner, Michael Wilson '94, Paula Quijano '93, Jim Campbell



Robert Gebhardt '96, Michele Josue '97, Adrien Aeschliman '99

Miami February 27, 2010



Joe Barnes, Susan (Schreider) Barnes '75, Bill Eichner, Ned Lynch PG '66



David Rollins, Sherri Hungate, Phillip Hungate '77



Elsie Akrawi, Firas Akrawi '88



Doug Pinard '78, Alessandra Baraldi Vergani '79



Sergio Gonzalez, Patricia Andreu '87, Bill Eichner



Anton Grishakov '07, Abigail Pfeil '05, Nikolay Grisakov '08, Melanie Saltzman



Paula Marnie Fulton '85, Pamela Jackson '69, Bill Eichner



Yvonne Procyk, Michael Dettmer PG '95



Michael Fountain '07, Ash Anand, Briana Fountain '07



Carlo Cabrera, Cynthia Violet Cabrera '97, Anna Marie Josue '00, Christina Miles '00, Michele Josue '97

MCF Memorial Hike

In a fitting tribute to our Founder, Mrs. Fleming, a group of TASIS alumni met in Pontresina, near St. Moritz, last August for ten days of hiking, picnicking, and cultural visits in the spirit of fondly remembered school trips during youthful days at TASIS. Mrs. Fleming would have approved of the civilized and elegant accommodations, and the daily ritual of meeting at 7pm for drinks before the convivial group dinner. The comfort was also a welcomed reward after the daily exertions on the trails. Along with beautiful vistas and exhilarating paths in the glorious Engadine valley, village chalets intrigued us with their stories in *sgraffito* (etched stucco walls), *trompe d'oeil* paintings on their brightly colored façades, and our graciously guided private visits to the Engadine Museum in St. Moritz and the Ciäsa Granda Museum (dedicated to Giacometti) in Stampa, Val Bregaglia, were fascinating. The Engadine, Switzerland's easternmost valley, boasts some of the country's most interesting and beautiful provincial architecture, cozy villages, and a tree line so low that hikers are afforded panoramas of immense proportion. Our hiking hubs were Pontresina and Maloja; from each we made three loops and one walking day connected the two. After eight days above 1,800 meters / 6,000 ft, we negotiated the rapidly descending switchbacks of the Maloja Pass and headed for Lago di Como, which we crossed on a lake steamer on the most beautiful mid-summer day imaginable. Then onward to Gandria on Lake Lugano for a boat ride to lunch in Morcote before the final hike up from Carabietta to Montagnola and TASIS itself.

- Peter Boynton '69



The next Alpine Adventure is planned for July 30-August 7, 2010, in the Bernese Oberland. Contact Peter Boynton: peterboynton@gmail.com

Pictured relaxing on a boat on the way to lunch at Morcote and the final ascent up to Montagnola, L to R: Amy Hall Ruggeri '79, Peter Boynton '69 (trip creator and leader), Michael Ruggeri, Michael Reeser, Jonathan Reeser '78, Ellen Doscher Terpstra '69, Lisa Runnells Markham PG '72

Grand Opening of the John E. Palmer Cultural Center TASIS campus, Montagnola, May 7- 9, 2010

We invite you to join us in celebrating this wonderful, long-awaited occasion with your TASIS family and friends! Among those present will be alumni who have made their careers in the Performing Arts, as well as the drama and music teachers who inspired them. This event is free of charge to alumni, donors, and faculty.

Serata Ticinese

*Friday, May 7, 2010
An Evening of Music, Merlot,
and Risotto for Alumni*

- 18:30 Drinks and Dinner at Villa De Nobili
- 21:00 Dessert at Casa Fleming

Dress: Smart Casual

RSVP to Yvonne Procyk at
alumni@tasis.ch
or call +41 91 9605300



Grand Opening of the John E. Palmer Cultural Center Saturday, May 8, 2010

- 18:00 **Honoring Our Theater Donors,**
New Composition by Todd Fletcher
- 19:00 **Cocktails and Hors d'Oeuvres**
*Serving Mrs. Fleming's Signature Drink,
the Bourbon Old Fashioned*
- 20:00 **Black and White Gala Dinner, Palestra**
*Celebrating Our Honorees
~ Music and Dancing*

Dress Black and/or White Formal Attire

Gala Evening Price: CHF 150
Alumni, Donors, and Faculty are Guests
of the TASIS Foundation

Coming Up

Reunion Calendar 2010-2011

Istanbul

March 25, 2010 – All-Class Reunion with Swiss Learning

Sao Paulo

April 15, 2010 – All-Class Reunion with Swiss Learning

70s Reunion

New Orleans, April 16-18, 2010
Contact Anne Arnold Guthrie '74,
annewguthrie@bellsouth.net

Grand Opening of the John E. Palmer Cultural Center

May 7-9, 2010, Montagnola
Free attendance for alumni and donors.
Don't miss this very special alumni event!
Information and reservations at
alumni@tasis.ch

Class of 2000 – 10-year reunion

Lugano, May 7-8, 2010, and possibly another reunion on the other side of the

Atlantic. Contact Anna Josue
ajosue@hotmail.com for more info.

Class of 1985 – 25-year reunion

Lugano, June 18-20, 2010. Contact Jim Frederick at jaf@gdldlaw.com.

Alpine Adventure

July 30-August 7, 2010 (with optional extension to August 9)
Discover nature and culture while hiking the beautiful Swiss Alps. Suitable for Alumni and Friends of TASIC of all ages. Participants limited to 20. Don't miss out! Sign up with Peter Boynton by May 15 at peterboynton@gmail.com, or phone +1 831 656 0485 (Pacific time)

Class of 1990 – 20-year reunion

October 9-10, 2010, Palm Beach, Florida, Further event, accommodation, and travel details to follow this summer.
Reunion contacts: Francaarena Gullett

fmarena@aol.com & Ken Tobe
ken.tobe@nihonshokuhin.co.jp
All faculty and alumni from other classes are also welcome to join!

Los Angeles

Fall 2010 (September or October, TBD) – All-Class Reunion

New York

November 20, 2010 – All-Class Reunion with Swiss Learning

Washington, DC

Spring 2011, TBD – All-Class Reunion

For further information or questions, please contact the Alumni office at alumni@tasis.ch



Dear TASIC Alumni,

Greetings from the Alumni Office! This has been a busy year at TASIC, as always. There are changes happening on campus all the time, yet the presence of key buildings, such as De Nobili with its checkerboard façade, helps keep it recognizable. Last August we moved our office into Casa Fleming where we are now at the very heart of the campus. Mrs. Fleming would have loved hosting the alumni community in her house, just as she did on so many occasions in the past.

It is always great to reconnect and find out what you're doing. Thanks to everyone who joined us at one of our reunions. We enjoyed seeing you and look forward to more fun events in the future. It is especially wonderful to welcome alumni home to campus, and we hope many more of you will find time to drop in throughout the coming year. In the meantime, we'll "see" you on our facebook page, TASIC Lugano. Keep in touch!

Yvonne and Zuleika, TASIC Alumni Office

TASIC is going green

You can now receive alumni news, special invitations, and even *TASIC Today* by email. Please send your updated email address to Zuleika Tipismana at alumni@tasis.ch.

Tell us your story

TASIC Today is published once a year and sent to all alumni, parents, and friends of the School.

Story suggestions or Letters to the Editor should be sent to alumni@tasis.ch. Alumni News information should be sent to Zuleika Tipismana at alumni@tasis.ch. To submit a photo electronically for the Alumni News, please use the following guidelines:

- 300 dpi jpeg, eps, tiff or high-resolution picture
- Send to alumni@tasis.ch
- Include caption information

Class Agents for 2010

Thank You to Our Class Agents!

This is an important role supporting TASIS in its attempt to keep in touch with the alumni community, however far away you are and however often you move. Class agents have their 'ear to the ground' so to speak. They keep in touch with their classmates and pass on address updates to the alumni office when necessary. They solicit news for the alumni magazine, organize class reunions, and encourage their class to show up en masse at all-class reunions. We are grateful to everyone who has served as a class agent. Below is our current list.

As you see, we have a few vacancies. If your class does not currently have an agent and you would be willing to step into this role or would like more information, email us at alumni@tasis.ch. We'd love to hear from you!

1960	John Gage jcgage@sbcglobal.net	1988	Laura West Presnol lpresnol@starbucks.com
1962	Kathy Pitner rdlnkp@juno.com	1989	Lori Romero Ketter loriketter@q.com
1963	Judy Callaway Brand OurBrand@webtv.net	1990	Franca Marena Gullett fmarena@aol.com
1966	Ned Lynch nedleigh@aol.com	1991	Kristina Malcolm kmalcolm44@gmail.com and Gina Jose Heydari ginajose@hotmail.com
1968	Pamela Stevie Springer Bryant ohsaycanuc@cox.net	1992	Sophie Desplaces sopiedesplaces@gmail.com
1969	Pamela Carillo Jackson pjackson@tectron.net	1993	Paula Quijano paula@mctbold.com
1971	Scott H. Whittle jncal@earthlink.net	1995	Nicole Pearson rothko333@yahoo.com
1972	Patricia Mullen Rempen TrishRempen@gmail.com	1996	Gina Van Hoof gvanhoof@gmail.com
1973	Wendy Barton Benson wendybbenson@aol.com	1997	Kevin McMenamin mcmenamin@hotmail.com
1974	Kathy Gamble Pilugin dulcinea_q1@yahoo.com	1998	John Procter jprocter@gibraltar-llc.com
1975	Linda Jaekel Avery Averylin@aol.com	2001	Caroline Rothstein cercal@aol.com
1976	P.K. Fields pkfields@earthlink.net	2002	Daniella Einik daniellaeinik@gmail.com
1977	Richard Mullen rickmullen@compuserve.com	2004	Masa Yo masa.yo@gmail.com
1978	Heidi Nickels Pace heidi.pace@asd20.org	2005	Eda Aksoy eda55555@hotmail.com and Maitri Shila Tursini 82546shila158@hotmail.com
1980	Antonella Nosedo Quadri anoseda@swissonline.ch	2006	Hailey Parsons haileyparsons@gmail.com
1981	NouNou Taleghani nounou@stanford.edu	2008	Chingiz Aliyev morr25@gmail.com and Consuelo Marzi consumz@hotmail.com
1982	Tania Shetabi Nordstrom tsnordstrom@yahoo.com	2009	Stefano Cremasco stefanodcremasco@gmail.com and Diane Salimkhan diane.salimkhan@gmail.com
1985	Boris Bakovic bbakovic@mac.com		
1986	Maggie Hammad Boyle Maggie_boyle@yahoo.com and Denise Mobley dmobley415@comcast.net		
1987	Kristen Norton or Kurt Abrate kurt.abrate@eufintrade.ch		Bob Horner PE'68 is class agent for all four Project Europe (PE) years, bhorner30@yahoo.com

Look who is sponsoring the Lugano Hockey Team



ALUMNI class+news

60 **John Gage** reports, "I gave up my planned trip to Nepal and Tibet for a pilgrimage to Mount Kailash due to my wife Amy's concern about the risks of altitude issues so soon after the stroke I had in early December. Various doctors supported her concerns, and I accepted the disappointment of not going. We had an adventure of a different kind earlier this year in Santa Barbara that coincided with a series of lectures by the Holiness the Dalai Lama. Amy has been on the board of a nonprofit involved in exploring Tibetan medicine with western parameters. We hosted the Dalai Lama's older brother, who has his own nonprofit project to expand objective information coverage of Tibet to the world. He also has had an extremely interesting life as a result of his relationship to the Dalai Lama and has acted as something like a secretary of state to the Tibetan government in exile, negotiating with the Chinese and other world leaders. At the same time, he remains a simple but very personable gentleman who avoids the limelight. Soon after, Amy and I attended my 45th reunion at Pomona College, which was an adventure of a yet a different kind."

62 **Kathy Pitner** wrote to tell us of her experience on a Native American reservation in September: "Our trip to South Dakota was very interesting and educational, especially for me. Unlike my husband Bob, I haven't spent a lot of time on a reservation. Bob interviewed several tribal members in order to write a history/memoir of early housing on this reservation for the tribe. I helped with the interviews and we talked to some fascinating people. The most memorable was a 92-year-old Native American named Johnson Holy Rock who was a Tribal President, head of the housing authority in the early days, and instrumental in getting funding for the first government housing during President Kennedy's time. But the reservation and its housing situation today are depressing. There is little work on the reservation, and the problems that go with poverty and unemployment are prevalent."

63 **Martin Vogt** is the recently retired Vice President, Human Resources for International Markets with Alcon Laboratories in Ft. Worth, Texas. He has since accepted a four-month consulting assignment to oversee and provide a full range of human resource services including staffing, needs assessment analyses, training programs, organization development, job evaluation, and performance assessment programs for the rural Health Development Ministry, Al Gharbia Medical Region, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

• **Pauline (Brock) Houghton** writes, "I'm living in Cambridge, Massachusetts and teaching art at a local private school. I try to get to my ceramics studio as much as I can. I have one granddaughter, Nina, and two sons, Brock and Nick, who live in Los Angeles and are both in the film business. I would love to hear from **Bill Pitner**, **Dick Armstrong** and **Sue Naylor**. Life is going so fast."

64 **Lindsey Green** reports, "I work as a graphic designer and teach elementary school art two days a week. I am currently learning how to make websites on Dreamweaver at Rhode Island School of Design. I love dogs and take my dogs to nursing homes to mingle with the residents. I was in touch with **Ann Hedlund** not long ago. I live in Bristol, Rhode Island, a beautiful town on Narragansett Bay."

• **Marianna (McLaughlan) Gibbons** visited TASIS in October for the first time since 1964. She marveled at today's campus and delighted in pointing out some of the differences to us. Many of the older buildings were recognizable to her even where they had been expanded and their use changed, and of course the view has changed little. Most of all she was impressed that the new theater, still very obviously a construction site, was due to host its first performance a week later!

65 **Marcia McCormick-Davenport** writes, "My husband Bob (a Presbyterian minister) and I have retired and live in a cottage in Bruckless,



County Donegal, in Ireland. I have acquired my Irish citizenship and Bob is now a resident. We are happy 'country bumpkins' – there is always a wall to build or a bush to plant. I am helping out in the small local Church of Ireland parish. We continue to be missionaries to Uganda, raising funds for the education of our beloved HIV/AIDS orphans. We visited Kasese, Uganda in November where Bob painted the classroom buildings of our 'adopted' school, Kamaiba Primary School, and I collected data on secondary and boarding schools in the area. Many of the students we sponsor (via St. John's, Tampa and The Bishop Masereka Christian Foundation) will soon begin secondary school. We are the proud, though broke, sponsors of five students, including our beloved Fiona, now our 'foster' daughter, whom we hope to bring to Ireland; Morris, a wonderful AIDS victim whose spiritual journey inspires me; and three others. We also saw the source of the Nile, a first, and then spent two weeks in South Africa visiting my brother Peter, who works for Lufthansa. Peg is building on to our house with her own little bunkie so she will be coming in the summers. Stop by and visit – the couch is open!" marciarev@aol.com

• **John Palter** retired at the end of 2009 after a 25-year career in information technology at Fireman's Fund Insurance in northern California. His wife of 33 years, Gerry, will be joining him in retirement in a few years. They plan to remain in California and look forward to annual trips to England to see her family. Their daughter is finishing up a Ph.D. in microbiology.

67 **Claire Ingalls Baur** lives in beautiful Boulder, Colorado with her husband John. She is semi-retired after 30 years as a civil engineering/land development drafter/designer. Her children, Lauren, 25, and David, 22, are both out in the world and doing well. Claire and John enjoy skiing, hiking, golf, and camping in southern Colorado. **1**

68 After TASIS, **Danae (Hutchinson) Michael** graduated with a Bachelor of Science in nursing and biology. She attributes her success in college to former teacher, Mrs. Kavanaugh. Danae has been unable to travel for the past year, but she often looks at pictures of Lugano online.

• **Peter Soli** visited TASIS in August 2009 with his three daughters. He hopes to relocate to Lugano soon. He looks forward to the addition of the new John E. Palmer Cultural Center on the TASIS campus. **2**

69 **Celeste Clement** is living in Pennsylvania. Her first children's storybook, *Little Stories for Little People to Leaf Through...Read, Hear, and Doodle* will be published soon. Celeste knew Mrs. Fleming well and remembers key figures such as Mr. Woods and former Headmaster Tim Robbins. Pennsylvania had a very heavy winter this year, and it reminded Celeste of being in St. Moritz. She remembers her TASIS experiences fondly and is grateful for the adventures.

ALUMNI class news

- **Ellen (Doscher) Terpstra** lives in Alexandria, Virginia. She worked with the Bush Administration in the Department of Agriculture, and enjoyed returning to Switzerland annually for the World Economic Forum in Davos while in that position. She was back in Lugano in August, this time to join the Memorial Hike, and enjoyed revisiting her old De Nobili dorm room on the TASIS campus. She will attend the Class of '69 40th Reunion in Hawaii in the fall.
- **Peter Boynton** was delighted to return to Switzerland in August to lead the Memorial Hike which he designed in Mrs. Fleming's honor. As well as walking, the ten-day trek included visits to places of cultural interest such as the Engadiner Museum and the Giacometti House, elegant accommodations, and picnics which Mrs. Fleming would have enjoyed. He apologises to Mrs. Fleming for not cutting his hair before the trip.
- **Rick Matters** is a rector of an Episcopal Church in Carmel, California, whose mission includes a Pre-K-8 day school. He serves as chaplain at the school two days a week.

70 Catherine Badin writes, "I am currently working freelance as a writer and photographer for the *Cedar Street Times*, a local weekly newspaper here on the Monterey Peninsula. I write about and photograph local business owners. In addition, I am still creating my own art. I recently went to the UK and made a CD of original songs, and I continue to write short stories and poems. I am also an avid photographer." catherinebadin@yahoo.com **3**

- **Sarah Spitz** continues in her 27th year as publicity director, program guide editor, producer, and on-air fundraiser at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica (www.kcrw.com) and is learning to navigate the new social media landscape. She recently served as executive producer of *McCabe's at 50*, a three-hour documentary about a legendary Santa Monica guitar shop and concert venue. The program won the International Clarion Award and the Gabriel Award. The station itself was named as best secular radio station by the Gabriel Awards committee, the first time this award has been given. Sarah's 91-year-old mother, who is legally blind and has dementia, is under Sarah's care and lives in an adjacent unit to Sarah's Santa Monica condo. Sarah graduated in 2006 from the Los Angeles County

Master Gardener Program, and continues to educate herself and volunteer for the program, which works with low-income families and community gardens. Her chard, kale, beets, spinach, green onions, carrots, tomatoes and lettuce are thriving in containers on her tiny brick patio. **4**

71 Deborah Schoch writes, "I started a new full-time job on February 1, 2009 as senior staff writer with the newly established USC Center for Health Reporting. Our role is to team up with newspapers and other media outlets throughout California to produce in-depth articles on local health care issues. These are tough times for newspapers, and for US journalism in general. Many news outlets in California and across America have experienced severe staffing cuts, leaving fewer journalists to cover specialty beats such as health care. So we work in their newsrooms, assisting in reporting and editing projects of their choice. I left the *Los Angeles Times* in mid-2008 after 18 years to join the USC Center's pilot project. During the pilot phase, editors at five California newspapers invited us into their newsrooms, and we co-produced seven projects on topics such as uninsured children, the lack of doctors in the San Joaquin Valley, and mental health challenges arising from the home foreclosure crisis. Those newspapers included *The Merced Sun-Star*, *Santa Cruz Sentinel*, *Fresno Bee*, *North County (San Diego) Times* and the *Redding Record-Searchlight*. Now we're gearing up to work with a host of other news outlets at a time when improving health care is a top priority nationwide. This means a lot of traveling and deadlines, but it's rewarding and a great deal of fun. I still live in Long Beach and would enjoy hearing from any old TASIS friends." **5**

- **Robin Hamilton-Brooks** continues to enjoy living in Raleigh, North Carolina with her husband of 25 years and working with children with special needs. She has stayed in touch with friends from those 'good old days' at TASIS: **Nancy Hubbard Carty**, who lives nearby, **Carol Wuerthele Garbarino**, and **Hilarie Horne**. Robin's son, Alex, traveled to Chile for his 2010 Winter Term and visited with Hilarie and her family. TASIS connections stretch far and wide. She hopes the class of '71 is due for another reunion soon.



72 Trish (Mullen) Rempen writes, "I'm in New Mexico, in an old adobe. After living and working in numerous countries, I love being here. I own and run a rug import company (www.foreign-accents.com) and still travel often – including to Switzerland! I have three sons ages 17, 20, and 23, all of whom went to Château des Enfants. Three of my brothers also went to TASIS." **6**

- **Dennis Cockrell** shares, "I started 2009 with a prostate cancer scare. The good news is that we caught it early – thanks to an annual physical – and I had successful surgery in February. Even though it was major surgery, thankfully it did not slow me down too much. I was able to continue an annual ritual of climbing Mount Hood the last weekend of April with my climbing partners. One highlight of the year was climbing Mount Rainier in July. It was my fourth time to reach the summit

and probably the most enjoyable time I have had on a climb. Good friends, perfect weather, and a very scenic route with a number of spectacular crevasses and snow bridges to navigate through. Vicki and I still love living in Idaho and we get out in the woods and mountains as often as possible. We had another close encounter with a grizzly bear in Glacier National Park during the summer, which makes two so far. This one was more Vicki's close encounter than mine. The bear came within 20 feet of her, and I was a bit further down the trail. We both love to hike in Glacier. We practice good safety behavior in bear country and are always cautious, which has served us well. Professionally I continue to grow and learn – I achieved a Certified Compensation Professional (CCP) designation after two years of effort that required nine courses and passing a certification exam for each course. I am now working

Enjoy reading about fellow classmates and where they are in the world? Be a part of the TASIS community and send us your news and photos for the next issue of 'TASIS Today'.

Do we have your most recent postal and email addresses? Spread the word, and let us know if classmates have moved or changed contact information.

Send us your updates, and we'll make sure YOU stay updated on all our news and events!

Email alumni@tasis.ch or find us on Facebook (TASIS Lugano).



8



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on the Certified Benefits Professional (CBP) coursework. Vicki and I enjoy spending time with our children and first grandchild. We had a great family reunion this summer, camping in the Columbia River gorge for four days.” **7**

• **Jan Nicholas** tells us, “I am getting married on November 9, 2010 to my boyfriend of five years, the artist Reid Winfrey. This is the second marriage for both of us. We live in the Santa Cruz village of Capitola, voted the most beautiful town in America by *Sunset Magazine*. We live with my two children, Emily (age 19) and Hudson (age 13). We are planning on spending most of the year in the States and three months in the summer in Costa Rica, where we have a home. My daughter is a registered dental assistant and attends Cabrillo College. My son will be entering high school in the fall. He has been an honor student since the 3rd Grade and is a highly advanced mathematics geek. He is planning on becoming a particle physicist and attending Stanford for his undergrad and CERN in Switzerland for an advanced degree. This has been his plan since he was nine!” **8**

73 **Diana Barshaw** has been in touch with Debbie Triplin and Ellen Watson, her old roommates. Diana has been living Israel for more than 20 years now. She is married and has two sons. www.dianabarshaw.com **9**

• **Alan Coogan** writes, “It’s been years – maybe decades – since I shared news about myself. Before I retired in 2005, I practiced law and worked in banking in Portland, Oregon. My partner Frank H. Hilton, Jr. (Palm Springs High School ‘59, Stanford ‘63, University of Oregon School of Law ‘66) and I have been together for 28 years. We were married in Canada in 2003. Frank and I have been dividing our time between our cabin in the mountains of Idaho, near McCall, and our boat, the 46-foot *Nordhavn Salvation II*, which will come up if you Google it. The previous owners took *Salvation II* around the world, but we’re content to spend our summers cruising in British Columbia, with monthly jaunts on the Columbia River during the winter. Travel is one of my passions. Since retiring, I’ve been to Sri Lanka and Ethiopia with the Stanford Alumni Association’s Travel/Study Program. Having majored in anthropology at Northwestern with an emphasis in archaeology, I was eager to do archaeological fieldwork again. I also wanted to revisit South America, the continent of my birth. I was fortunate to spend six weeks as a member of the Harvard Archaeological Field School at Tiwanaku, Bolivia, at 14,000 feet on the Bolivian altiplano in 2006. We cruised in BC again during the summer of 2009. In the fall of 2009, we visited Ecuador, where we spent a week in the jungles of the Amazon basin, saw Quito’s charming colonial district, and cruised

the Galapagos Islands. If the internal and international situation stay stable, I plan to visit Iran with Stanford Travel/Study in 2010.” **10**

• **Wendy Banning** writes, “One of my happiest reconnections this year has been with **Don Ingraham**, a great friend from my TASIC years, who contacted me after reading the Spring 2009 Alumni News. It’s wonderful to have an opportunity to reconstruct the paths we have each traveled since our time together in Montagnola. Another great event was a recent trip back to Europe. It was my first opportunity to show my own kids why I love Europe so dearly. We spent a nice chunk of time hiking, exploring, eating and delighting in the wonders of Italy, joined by my sister Terry Banning ‘71 as well as her husband and one of her daughters.” **11**

• **Gordon Golding** writes, “The local YellowScene Entertainment and Dining magazine, which covers the Denver, Colorado area, just did a feature on local singles (<http://yellowscene.com/2010/02/10/single-minded/>). I’m far right on the first picture, center in the last picture, in the olive shirt. A full-page photo of me is also on the front page of the printed magazine – a great photo, and pretty darn good advertising, huh?” **12**

74 **Shellie (Ruston) Munn** writes, “After TASIC, I returned to Europe for another five years to get a DEUG at the law school in Nice. I also spent time in Geneva with the United Nations before finishing law school at the University of Denver. I had a small law firm until I married. We have two sons, aged 12 and 15. I continue to practice law for select clients. Recently, I earned an AJP from the Gemological Institute of America in California and hope to expand my law practice to include the Law of International Gems.”

• **Kent Oztekin** writes, “My wife Cacky and I look forward to attending the New Orleans reunion. My curious classmates will finally meet the woman who married me! My eldest Claire starts college next year...where does the time go?” **13**

• **Diana Putman** and her husband, Adam Messer, and daughter Clarissa, age 12, are enjoying their second year living in Stuttgart, Germany where Diana is on loan from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to work with the US military at the US Africa Command. This summer, Clarissa enjoyed attending the summer program in Lugano where she got to live in De Nobili and climb Andermatt. Just prior to Christmas, they joined **Kate Woodward** and her husband Roger for a holiday meal in London. **14**

• **Dieter Metzger** writes, “My big news is that I got married in October of 2009. I waited for perfection, and she finally came along. (That and the fact that the single life wasn’t too bad either.) But it is indeed wonderful sharing life’s daily ups and downs. The reception was at The National Arts Club in Manhattan. My good friend **Jane Goldman** was there with her husband Dr. Ben Lewis to help us celebrate. My wife Maggie and I had a wonderful ten-day honeymoon in Tuscany. It couldn’t have been more perfect. Other than that, I spend most of my time in New York City and a couple

ALUMNI class news



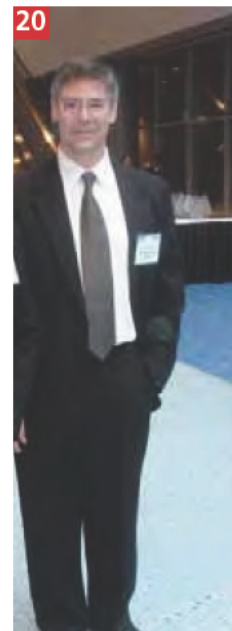
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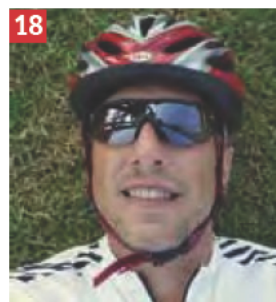
of days a week at my home in the Pennsylvania countryside. I do some public relations consulting and am gradually getting into the real estate business. Maggie works in the executive offices of *Sesame Street*. I'm occasionally in touch with Carol Riordan and **Katie (Wetzel) Murphy**. I would love to hear news about some of my old friends like **Danny Grandmaison**, **Dan Higgins** and **Elizabeth Schweinfurth**." 15

• **Kelly McQuilliams** writes, "I would like to express my sadness at the passing away of Mrs. Fleming. Her vision and dedication to education helped provide me with an amazing experience and friends that I still keep in touch with, some 37 years later. What we share is the TASIS experience, something unique. No doubt the education at TASIS helped shape my sense of identity and the drive to set and accomplish many goals in my life." Kelly has a son, 21 and daughter, 18, who are both at college. Kelly lives in Dallas, Texas but spends a large part of her time traveling.

75 **Hans Figi '75**, **Sharon**, **Jake '14** and **Lucas '16** left TASIS in the spring of 2009. Hans is now the director of development at Charterhouse, one of the top schools in the UK, founded in 1611 (www.charterhouse.org.uk). Besides attending school from 8:30 am to 9 pm six days a week, Jake is playing squash and field hockey and learning karate. Lucas turned out to be a shooting prodigy and is on the pistol and rifle teams at Aldro, his prep school and one of the top shooting schools in England. He's also playing rugby and cricket. Hans and the family attended former TASIS EAL teacher **Kristin Pedroja's** wedding in Inverness, Scotland in August 2009 (see picture) along with many TASIS friends. 16

• **Tom Junker** writes, "A friend and I drove our motorcycles 7000 km (4300 miles) from the west coast to the east coast of Australia. The ride across Australia started in Perth on the Indian Ocean and ended in Sydney on the Pacific Ocean. The route skirted the Southern Australian coast most of the way. We arrived in Sydney 14 days later, including a four-day side trip to Tasmania. Along the way we passed through the Nullarbor, which is 1,250 miles of flat with no towns, built-up areas, or services other than the occasional road house (gas station) located every 125 miles or so. 'Nullarbor' is Latin for 'no trees' and whoever gave it that name knew what they were talking about. Besides the nothingness of the Nullarbor, we saw spectacular views of 100-meter-tall cliffs where the Southern Ocean meets the Australian land, the winding mountain roads in Tasmania, and lots of grain fields. On the trip, we managed to visit five of the six Australian states and the Australian Capital Territory plus the major cities in each state and Canberra." 17

76 **Christoph Scheurich** reports, "I still live in Santa Cruz, California with my wife and two teen daughters. I retired from my long-time Silicon Valley job in early 2007 and have since enjoyed myself with old and new hobbies, projects, adventures, and travel. I especially enjoy sailing and did a three-week sail from California to Hawaii in 2008 with three friends. Recently I initiated contact with my senior year roommates, **John Gaynor**, **Arti Haroutunian**, **Hernan de Elejalde**, **George Bramhall**, **Mohssen Ghiassi**, **Shahram Solhjoui**, and **Victor Roman**. We are working on a little west coast get-together in late spring." 18



18



19

• **Sydney Roberts** is looking to forge a new career as a back-up singer in a kirtan band. So far, it is just an after school activity, but who knows where it will lead?

77 **Gholi Soltani** lives in Washington, DC and plays a lot of soccer. He is enjoying life. 19

• **Mike Hauner** writes, "After I graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1981, I joined my family's company making custom ceramic tiles. We had just moved to Vancouver, and the company quickly became known for both design and innovation. We screen printed designs on tiles, giving each project we worked on a unique look. Interior designers would come to us with the wallpapers and colors they were using on their projects, and we would come up with a matching tile. In 1983, a friend approached us with a unique question. He unloaded all the railcars of glass that came into Vancouver and wondered if we could do anything with the remnants of broken glass. As we had recently brought one of the first continuous kilns to North America and were using it to fire our screen-printed tiles, I knew we could slump the glass into different shapes, but decided to print our ceramic colors on the glass to see if it would work. By 1984 we had

produced the first fused glass tile on the market. Today we have over 100 employees at our factory in Vancouver and ship our glass tiles all over the world. In this photo, I am standing at the new Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre (which was used as the media centre for the 2010 Olympics). The mosaic was designed by a local artist, Derek Root, and has over 500,000 pieces of 1"x1" glass tiles that were hand assembled to create this floor." 20

• **Greg Goldstein** shares, "We made a family trip to the Vancouver Olympics with my wife Bess, son Brett, and daughter **Brenna**, who attended the TASIS summer program in 2009. While in Vancouver we found the Swiss House, where we bought raclette, and the Granville Market, where we bought ham and soft Bel Paese cheese. I was able to celebrate my 51st birthday picnicking on the raclette with Angelo Specials (ham and cheese sandwiches). Unfortunately the Swiss were not able to bring any Feldschlösschen into Canada."

• **Shahab Navab** has a textile company based in New York and travels frequently to Europe on business. He visited the campus in October 2009 and enjoyed reminiscing with Angelo about his *panini*. He hopes to send his 8-year-old son to a TASIS summer program in 2010.



21 **Cristiane (Biondi) Cunial** writes, "I have been living in Melbourne, Australia since 2005 and am loving it. My eldest son Giordano is studying theater design at IUAV in Venice, Italy, and is very happy. My son Josh is at university here in Melbourne. My daughter Maddalena is in 12th Grade and my youngest son Sasha is going into 4th Grade. They keep me busy. Work-wise I am very happily working for a large NGO nonprofit managing community services programs in southeast Melbourne, with a focus on helping disengaged youth transition to education, employment or training." **21**

• **Valerio Leone** shares, "In 2009 I raced in the Historic Interserie Formula 3 Championship and won. The competitors included drivers from all over Europe and America. The photo is of me in action on the circuit of Monza in June 2009. I will probably retire from work at the end of 2010 and will dedicate a big part of my free time to traveling and taking pictures of nature, animals, and people. I hope to make careers out of my hobbies." **22**

• **Karen (Howell) Keith** recently got in touch and writes, "I was happily married for 25 years before my husband Don died of a heart attack in 2006. We have two beautiful kids; our daughter is married and lives outside of Abilene, and the mom of a three-year-old, and



our son is married and living in Amarillo. I opened up Back Home Café in the little town of Grandfalls, Texas in November 2007 and have been having a great time with it. I have six regular staff and many who work part-time. I've tried dating again, but really don't have the time to dedicate to any one thing except the café. I don't even get to see my kids enough. Look forward to visiting with all of you good folks!" **23**

• **Sharon (Sexton) McNeerney** is living in Winnetka, Illinois with her family. **24**

• **Cindy (Clark) Lancaster** writes, "After 21 years of living in Mexico working in church ministry, coordinating medical campaigns, and nonprofit work, my husband Mike and I decided to return to the US. We have enjoyed living and working in Mexico but it was time to come home. Our two sons, Tyler and Tanner, grew up in Mexico, traveling throughout the country with us as we worked in a various locations. Mike and I are currently at a Uranium Enrichment Facility in the US. Once our contract with the company is complete, we will return to Texas, where we call home. We are building a beautiful home in what is fondly known as the Texas Hill Country. I found out that **Lisa Fyfe** lives within an hour of us and I have also been in contact with **Maria Rivelli** over the last few years. It is always good to hear from people that share a special time in your life. TESIS



was a special moment in time. I would like to return to Switzerland for an extended visit one day."

• **Jon Reeser** is an authority on sports medicine and published a book about it in 2003. He is working as a radiologist in Wisconsin. He took time out in August to bring his 8-year-old son Michael on the Memorial Hike, and hopes to join one of the reunions this year.

79 **Clare (Buchanan) Lowery** lives with her husband and 15-year-old on the central coast of California. They have been there for two years and love it. Clare has an acupuncture practice and her husband is a golf pro. www.clarelowery.com.

• **Jennifer (Mathiesen) Ito** writes, "I continue to work in admissions at Punahou School in Hawaii. My husband's law practice is thriving and my three girls are plugging away in school. My oldest, Caitlin is applying to colleges for entry in September, 2010. Right now her top of the list is USC. My freshman, Alexa, is working on her social life, and my youngest Erica, is thrilled with *The Lightning Thief* book series, Harry Potter, and saving her pennies so she can one day visit Harry Potter World in Florida."

• **Amy Hall Ruggeri** is an obstetrician in St. Louis, Missouri. She took an (unheard of) three weeks out of the office to have vacation in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, and in Switzerland to hike in Mrs. Fleming's memory from St. Moritz to Montagnola. Her son Michael accompanied her on both trips. While touring the TESIS campus, she kept on the lookout for the items featured on TESIS Facebook picture challenge.

• **Sandra (Harrison) Walters** recently returned to the TESIS campus for the first time in 30 years, and found it much changed and amplified. She enjoyed reacquainting herself with familiar sights such as the view down the lake from



the dorm in Certenago and the ever-present armor in the dining room, and was impressed with the new additions to campus. Sandra works part-time as a lawyer in her husband Phil's law studio.

80 **Cathy Gibson** met with **Graham Bonnet** last Thanksgiving in Texas. **25**

• **Alexandra Heumann Wicki** and **Rula Peinado** met up with their families in Zürich a year and a half ago for a lovely Italian dinner (pictured). **26**

81 **Toddie Lewis** writes, "I live in Virginia and am still teaching. It's my sixth year of teaching 4th Grade, and I've been teaching for nearly a decade. I was divorced at the end of last year and very happy to be back to my maiden name... hence Toddie Lewis. I got re-connected and rekindled with a guy I dated and lived with over 10 years ago and currently we are making it work through a long distance relationship. It's a challenge but it'll be worth the wait of being together someday. I had a blast last May getting to Las Vegas for an unofficial reunion of TESIS graduates from 1981, 1982, and 1983. I got to see **Lynne Sawyer Cobb**, **Tom Mullen**, **David Grove**, **Russ Sindt**, **Lee Chen**, **Kamran Tehrani**, and **Cody Ramsey** from the class of 1981. Wow! Time sure has flown by since our graduation. We're hoping to entice more people to make it to the next unofficial reunion in NYC this summer, the last weekend in June. I'm working on my Master's Degree online so between a full time job and grad school I do keep busy. I hope all are well and I'd love to hear from more people...check me out on Facebook!"

• **Lisa (Hoskins) Nicholls** visited the campus in August 2009 to consider a PG year for her son. While here, she met with Bill Eichner.

ALUMNI class news



27 • **James Willard** tells us "It has been a few years and several employers since my last post. After working for Tybrin Corporation for nine years, I left in 2005 and worked for Lockheed Martin for three years. I am now with my third DOD contractor, a company called IDSI, working as a tech writer in Panama City, Florida. My wife Kay and I will be celebrating our 10-year anniversary next June. Our oldest, Kyle, will be 22 in January, and gets to spend his birthday at Ft. Hood preparing for a year-long deployment to Kuwait with his Army National Guard unit. His status as a combat medic will keep him busy in 2010. Lauren, our middle child, is 17, and graduates in 2010 from her mom's alma mater, Rutherford High School. She is very involved with school activities and will start Gulf Coast Community College next fall. And Kory, our youngest, and tallest, at 6'1", turned 15 recently and is a freshman at Rutherford. He's the drummer in a band with a two of his friends. Kay is very busy with her Mary Kay business as she endeavors to grow it with unlimited potential. My mom passed away last year, and I decided to finish my Master's, so I'm back at the University of West Florida working toward a software engineering degree."

82 **Alicia Brauns** is the executive producer of Los Angeles-based Free Flying Films, and writes "I have been working in the film business for over 27 years. My most recent project, a documentary short called 'Hummingbird Magic', has been doing very well on the film festival circuit. It won Best Documentary Short at the 2009 Washougal International Film Festival in Washington and also won a Special Jury Award at the 2009 Yosemite International Film Festival. 'Hummingbird Magic' is an Official Selection of the 2009 Blue Planet Film Fest in Santa Monica and



the 2009 Taos Mountain Film Festival. It is also an Official Selection of the 2010 Blue Planet Film Fest in New York."

84 **Wendy (Barber) Robinson** is living in North Carolina. She recently got in touch with us via Facebook. **27**

85 **Michelle (Harto) Caldwell** writes, "Still living in Alaska, but ready to move. I spent most of 2009 in Florida. My mom was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and passed away in November. Now I am back to work at small private school in Alaska where I work as a vice principal. I never thought I would be a disciplinarian...yikes! All three kids are doing great. Cailee is a junior at the University of Rochester, still swimming and studying biomedical engineering. Jordyn is a junior in high school and enjoys swimming. Collin, 8, is now a blue belt in karate. My husband, Jim, works for DHS. He stays busy. That's life in a nutshell."

• **Joanna Moore** is keeping busy with her two kids, a 4-year-old boy and a 2-year-old girl. She tries to keep in touch with old TASIS friends. **28**

• **Sammy Eitouni** is living in Saudi Arabia in an apartment which is far too big for one person (with eight rooms!). He returns to Montagnola and to campus a couple of times a year, and spends time in the fascinating city of Istanbul whenever possible.

86 **Annette (Roetger) Rossi** tells us, "I still live in Lugano. I have been happily married for almost eight years with a wonderful man from Milan. I have 3-year-old son and expecting a baby girl in May. My family is my full time job. Due-date permitting, I will attend the Gala in May and hope to see many old friends." **29**



• **Denise Mobley** writes, "I am still living outside Baltimore, Maryland, busy raising my 9-year-old son and 6-year-old twins. I happily keep in touch with many classmates from TASIS 1986. I traveled to Dallas recently for **Sue (McRae) Stover's** wedding, where I saw classmates **Rob Lazar, Maggie (Hammad) Boyle, Kelly (Stoddard) Wood, and Jeff Boyle**. A great time! Looking forward to taking the kids to Disney this spring. I'm a practicing attorney in my spare time."

• **Holly Musgrove** is still working as a family practice physician and living in Asheville, North Carolina with her husband and three sons. They love to go hiking and camping in the beautiful mountains. Holly would love to hear from any of her fellow classmates. **30**

• **Mouna (Smith) Eitouni** recently had a baby girl. She helped put together a charity fundraiser for the Swiss Multiple Sclerosis Society.

87 **Holly Wood Brown** graduated in May 2009 with a degree in physical therapy. She's currently working at a local hospital and covering another when needed. She's staying busy and loving all the updates from TASIS classmates on Facebook.

• **Brett Radmin** appeared on cable channel HGTV's most popular show, *House Hunters International*, in October 2009. Seven years ago, Brett, his mother Nancy,

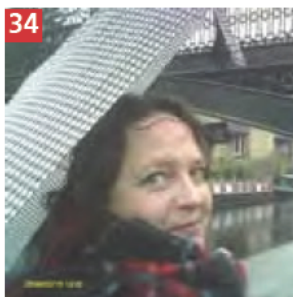


and brother William started a real estate and vacation rental business in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, Mexico (www.PuertoRealEstate.com).

• **Ed (Galen) Crader**, who lives in Atlanta, and **Brett Radmin** see each other often in New York, Atlanta, and Mexico, where Ed has visited the Radmin family numerous times, including once as a headlining performer for the Puerto Blues Fest in 2007. Ed has also penned a novel about his experiences at TASIS. He's currently looking for a publisher if anyone has any good connections. Keep in touch and up to date with Ed (Galen) by visiting his website: (www.galencrader.com). **31**

• **Alessandro Lo Monaco** still lives in Lugano and is building luxury apartments. His daughters regularly attend TASIS in the summer. **32**

88 **Arnaud Lemaitre** writes, "I have been living in St. Maarten for the past 17 years (the longest I've lived in one country) and therefore, call it home. I work for an international gaming group with its head office in St. Maarten and with operations in the Caribbean and Italy. I'm product manager for slot machines and marketing manager for the Caribbean region, with nine casinos. I live with my partner, who is from Holland, and our daughter Hanneke. For those who knew him, my dad passed



away in 2006, just six months after my daughter was born, but I'm so happy that they got to meet. My mom also lives in St. Maarten." **33**

• **Tiffany Griggs** is married and living in Taylor, near Austin, Texas, where she owns and runs an auto repair business, Boyar Automotive (www.boyarautomotive.com). She went back to college in 2007 and is graduating in May with a finance degree from Texas State University. Tiffany would love to get in touch with old friends. tj1158@txstate.edu **34**

89 **Cricket Cooley** had a baby girl, Ciaran Alexandra, on September 13, 2009. They are doing fine!
 • **April (Garren) Pritchard** writes, "My youngest son, Jake, is two, John Jr., the oldest, is nine and James is six. I am currently a stay-at-home mom busy with sports, school and so on. My husband John was recently promoted to Senior Director of Investments at Oppenheimer. I am enjoying getting back in touch with so many TASIC friends through Facebook and hope to get to the all class reunion in Miami next month!" **35**
 • **Tisha Illingworth** has moved with her family to sunny Arizona. She has a new addition to the family, making the total of three boys. She misses the good old TASIC days but is planning a trip with **Beatriz Raguan** this summer and catches up with **April (Garren)**

Pritchard and others on Facebook.

• **Jessica Marsh** is engaged to Lee Peterson and is getting married on August 21, 2010. Jessica is living in Las Vegas and works for a general practice firm specializing in family law, corporate litigation and probate law. Her fiancé is a contractor. She has reestablished connections through Facebook with **Lori (Romero) Ketter** and others.

90 **Linus O'Brien** is enjoying raising his 2-year-old son Elvis. Linus and family are likely moving to Tokyo in June for two years, and they are glad they will be much closer to **Ken Tobe** and his family.

• **Ken Tobe** writes, "I would like to inform everyone that **Sebastian Cordero** won a Jury's prize at the 2009 Tokyo International Film Festival for his third film, *Rabia*. After the festival, Sebastian visited my home in the northern island of Hokkaido (photo of Sebastian, Ken and Ken's two daughters Emma-Luisa and Kei-Luella at a Japanese-style hotel)." **36**

• **Diana (Fisher) Bloom** tells us, "I am doing great. I have been married for 16 years to my husband Dave. We live in Julian, Pennsylvania. I have three kids, a girl and two boys. I work full time in the Bald Eagle Area School District. I am a para-professional for special needs children and help teach reading and math to students. My free time is spent doing the activities my kids are involved in. In the summer we go camping often. It's nice to have summers off with the kids."

• **Charlotte (Bushroe) Barney** reports, "I got divorced last summer and spent time working for Leysin American School. It was great to be back in Switzerland! I just completed five years with my current job as a French and Spanish high school teacher at a public school in Maryland. I'm

now working on adding ESOL to my certification. I did the CELTA program in Barcelona the summer of 2008."

• **Eric Amundson** writes, "The Amundson family has been doing very well. We've expanded to four with the addition of Clara Genevieve in April 2009. Our son Ethan is five, and he insists he wants to be a hockey player when he grows up. This may well suit the Washington, DC climate with the amount of snow that has dumped on us this year. We are looking forward to the 20-year TASIC class reunion in Florida in October and can't wait to see everyone!" **37**

91 **Kristina Malcolm** writes, "After spending nine years in San Francisco, working on hotel design and renovation projects all over the world, I decided to change gears a year and a half ago. I left both the industry and San Francisco behind, landing in the Washington, DC area to pursue graduate education and employment opportunities in the arena of sustainable international development and humanitarian aid. As focused as I was on my new direction, I somehow managed to get steered onto a slightly different course when I met Charles Griffith, who is now my husband. We got married in a tiny ceremony, backcountry skiing in Telluride, Colorado, and are expecting a little boy in May. We are living a few hours south of DC, in Norfolk, Virginia, and enjoying a slightly milder winter than the snowbound capital. Life has been a whirlwind of moving, marrying, preparing, renovating, and it will likely become even more topsy-turvy in May, when the baby arrives, but we are very excited to meet the little guy. Once things settle down, I plan to balance family life with my goals to make the world the best place it can be, in any way I can. As for TASIC connections, living in the DC area and

staying in Virginia has given me a chance to spend a great deal more time with my mother, **Elisabeth Malcolm** (former TASIC faculty member), which has been wonderful! Until now, we hadn't been less than 3,000 miles apart since my first year in college when she took the year off to be in the States. She's very excited about becoming a grandmother for the 11th time. I have also stayed in very close touch with **Kathy (Nicholson) Duang**, who is living in San Francisco and doing wonderful work with The Hewlett Foundation. We just got together again on my last trip to San Francisco at the beginning of February, after barely missing each other in Park City during the Sundance Film Festival, which Kathy attends every year. I have been in touch with **Genevieve Astrelli '89**, who also lives in San Francisco with her husband, Alex, and they just had a baby boy, named Nigel, in January. In addition, I ran into **Holly Morse Caldwell** on Christmas Day. She has two beautiful little boys that I had the pleasure of meeting as they romped in the fresh DC snow. As it turns out, in the small world way of TASIC, Holly and her family live only a block away from my sister-in-law in Georgetown. On a different note, the 20-year reunion - unbelievably - for the Class of '91 is coming up a year from now and **Gina Jose** and I will be getting word out to our classmates to start the planning. If anyone would like to suggest a location or wants to be involved in the planning, please contact me:

kmalcolm44@gmail.com. **38**

• **Sarah Warner** tells us, "**Jean-Francois Hardy '90** and I are living in Boulder, Colorado, with our two kids, Sophie, who is 8, and Felix, who is 6. Life is busy and constantly evolving. I have my own business but I still miss teaching and would love to teach again during the TASIC summer program."

• **Michelle (Brauner) Salazar** is living in Selangor, Malaysia with her husband

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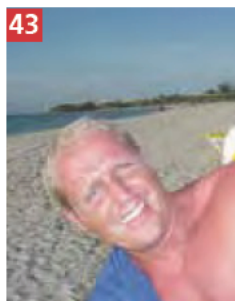
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Jorge Salazar. 39

92 Hulya Sen was able to meet up with **Cristina Rigomonti**, **Miki Schroder**, **Jimmy Narang** and **Michael Krause** in 2009. Cristina, Jimmy and Mike were all in Istanbul for different occasions so it was nice to catch up. **40**

• **Monique (Bushore) Ruyle** shares, "My daughters are 6 (Nicolas) and 3 (Jesse Dakota). Ed and I have been married for eight years. I am currently the director of a hospice & palliative care program and recently became the acting executive director over our Home Care division. We have about 450 staff serving patients in two counties here in the Seattle area. I love reconnecting with other TESIS alumni via Facebook." **41**

• **Sophie Desplaces** had a reunion with Miki Schroder and Rahul Narang during her holidays in Dubai. **42**

93 **Aaron Kaupp** won Top General Manager of a Luxury Hotel back in December. This award is the Oscars of the hotel industry. <http://www.luxuryta.com/tradeshows/winners-luxury-travel-advisors-awards-excellence-2009-announced> **43**

• **Stephen Surpless** is living in Lugano with his wife and daughter. He works for a hedge fund that is based in Lugano.

94 **Leonardo Silveira** and his wife, Ana Paula, are expecting their second son, Luca, in July. Leonardo is currently living in Brazil.

• **Erica (Rogers) Maggi** had a baby girl named Juliet Rose on January 12, 2010.

• **Brandon Royal** wrote in January: "In April, I married fellow TESIS grad, **Anna Marutollo '93**, and it's all very exciting. I am living and teaching at a college in Toronto, and things are going well. Anna and I are thinking about teaching in the TESIS England summer program, which would be terrific."

• **Alejandra Lejarza** writes, "After TESIS, I returned to Mexico finish high school and then went to Paris for a year to study French. Then I returned to Mexico to do my Bachelor's Degree in marketing. My first job was in Avon Cosmetics as a brand analyst. I've also worked in direct sales in companies at Avon, Fuller, and Tupperware as brand marketing chief. This has all inspired a passion for beauty and I plan to start my own spa business. I love travelling and meeting new people. Recently I've spent time living in Australia, Canada, and Boston. I still keep in touch with some TESIS people like **Rei** and **Yu Inamoto**, **Paola Martinez**, **Sean** and **Wesley Kim**, **Yukiko** and **Makiko Sato**, **George Hong**, and **Francisco Diaz '91**. TESIS was one of the best

experiences I've ever had in my life. I will definitely send my children there." **44**

95 **Lizzie Jarvis** writes, "My daughter Ella, 4, started school in September, just as my son Frank turned 1. I combine my stay-at-home mum role with a 'portfolio career' which includes running, coaching and personal development workshops, and some youth project work. I also won two TV game shows at the end of 2009! In November I visited **Margo McClimans** in Italy; we had a great time as always." **45**

• **Nina (Skunca) Lama** was married in October 2009 to Osvaldo Lama, and on the 8th of January 2010, she gave birth to a baby boy named Matteo. They all live happily in Geneva.

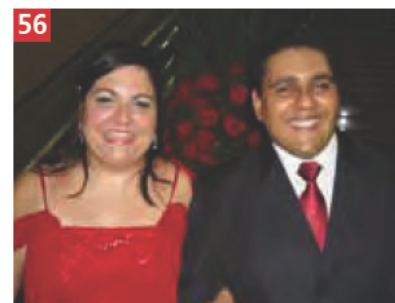
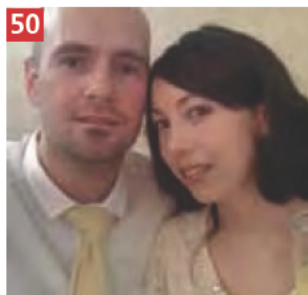
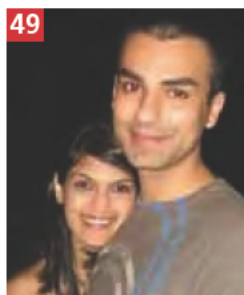
• **Martin Bowie** lived in Lugano until the end of 2008 and then moved to London with his partner Veronica and daughter Victoria. He is a senior manager at a corporate service provider company. **46**

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• **Terence Lloren** currently lives in Shanghai, China and eagerly awaits this year's World Expo. In his past three years there he has been visited by **Robert Gebhardt** and **Gina Van Hoof**. He has a new baby daughter, Olivia, and is really enjoying life. He has become a freelance sound recorder/sound designer since 2009 and has recently self-published a book of soundwalks called *Growing Up in Shanghai*, where he has recorded local Shanghainese talking about their memories in locations around Shanghai.

• **Francesca Nicotra** is studying for her MBA in Milan. For a project, she brought a team to TESIS to shoot photos for a brochure of men's clothing. The campus was the ideal location for their needs. Francesca writes, "We're tired of seeing craftsmanship, quality, and elegance being put in second place by 'lure brands' with their high, often unjustified prices. As part of the launch for this business plan, one of my colleagues has written a book on this subject, getting into the details of how to choose cuts, fabrics and styles of suits depending on occasion and structure."

• **Christian Nagy** writes, "I have relocated from London to Budapest for two reasons: One is to live with my



partner, and the other was to start my sports and art management consultancy in Budapest. I have managed to sign a two-time Olympic Champion and World Champion Hungarian water polo player. Hence I stayed true to the times when we used to have a water polo team at TASIS!" **48**

97 Kavita (Srinivasan) Nijhawan was married last year. She and her husband moved to Dubai from New York City. Her husband is a banker and Kavita is involved in economic research. **49**

- **Su Ling Gyr** got engaged to Simon Polheimer and is getting married next winter in a Swiss ski resort. Su is working on various design and book projects. She had an art exhibition in November in Berlin last year which was very successful. Su still lives in between London and Berlin. **50**

- **Francesco Rapetti** is currently a pop singer in Italy. He has had many hits in Italy and has appeared on various radio shows.

- **Gaby Nader** got married four years ago and is now living in Sao Paulo, Brazil. She has a three-month-old baby named Beatriz. **51**

98 Andrew Wylly is finishing his movie *Bloodshot*. **52**

- **Veronica Kennedy** writes, "I am living in Alexandria, Virginia. I moved into a new apartment this past summer. I have a lovely time at the TASIS reunion in November in NYC. I went with **Veronica Liskiewicz**. I talk to her and **Veronica DiFeo** regularly. They are both well. Veronica L. is working for Estee Lauder as a senior events coordinator, and Veronica D. is working as a freelance production manager. Both are living in NYC. I met up with **Ellen Kristensen** (staff, '92-99) back in October. It was the first time we'd seen each other in 15 years and it was wonderful to catch up with one of the people who made TASIS so memorable for me. Ellen was my advisor, and we became so close that my nickname for her became 'Mom'. We had a lovely time catching up and reminiscing on our encounters with the force of nature that was Mrs. Fleming. Ellen's doing well (and looks fantastic!) and works as an ER nurse in Orlando, FL. My sister, **Mary Kathryn Kennedy '93** recently moved to Los Angeles, California. She's now the vice president of production for NBC. She's loving LA and her new job. She's recently been in contact with **Paula Quijano '93** and **John Newman '93**." **53**

- **Nina Sander** has a two-year-old daughter named Layla. Nina owns a designer toy store and art gallery. Last year, her art gallery was voted as best

new gallery in Sao Paulo. **54**

- **Joy Conway** writes, "Mike and I bought our first house in Chantilly, Virginia last summer and we are expecting our second child, a boy, in the spring. Our daughter, Sofia, is 7 years old now and everyone is happy, healthy, and excited for the new baby! My contact info is the still the same. Some of you may have already heard that my husband Mike and I have started a blog. We review wines that cost less than \$10 and we swore to keep things light and funny. We're total anti-wine critics. I'm trying to put the word out so I'd love for you to check it out sometime. I've created a Facebook page to promote it and you can access the site through there or you can go directly to www.wineforthecheap.com. Let me know what you think! If you have any wines you'd like us to review, let me know! And if you find the blog entertaining, join our FB page for updates and help us spread the word to all the wine lovers you know out there. Thanks!" **55**

- **Rebecca Gebhardt** writes, "I was married in October last year. Some TASIS folks were present: **Giorgia Di Lenardo** and **Simona Simoncello**, from our year, and **Erika Cook '96** and of course my brother **Robert Gebhardt '96**. I am still in London, working for a dot-com (kind of, but it sounds better than an information management platform developer), and very content

with it all." rcgebhardt@googlemail.com

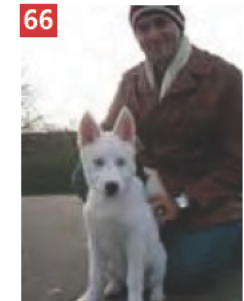
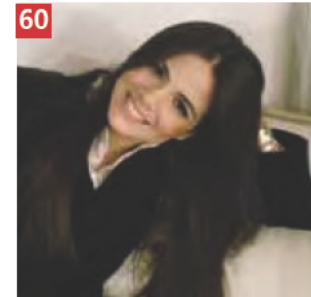
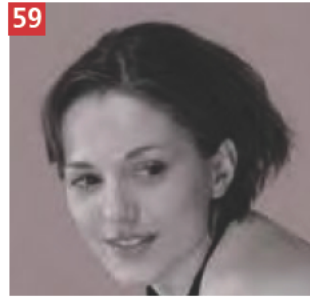
- **John Procter** reports, "My wife Vanessa and I recently celebrated **Andrew Wylly's '98** 30th birthday over a January weekend in Dallas. We see **Sean Kim '99** and **Wesley Kim '97** as often as we can here in Washington. The PR firm had a great year in 2009, with some great new clients and staff. We capped off the year with a nomination for *PR Week's* Public Affairs Campaign of the Year award, with the awards ceremony in March in New York City."

- **Ana Carolina Machado Cavaloti** writes, "I just graduated from law school this past year, however I'm not practicing law. Nowadays I teach English for kids at two private schools here in Itanham (Brazil). This year I started college again, a new course called Translation and Interpretation of the English Language. I want to become a public translator. In April I married the love of my life, Netto." **56**

- **Ebru Buyuksahin** is working in a medical company as an executive assistant. It's hard work but going well. She can't wait for the next reunion in Istanbul.

00 Eun-Soo Woo misses her time at TASIS and wrote to tell us that she is working in an art gallery in Korea. She recently went to Venice as one of her represented artists had an exhibition there.

ALUMNI class news



• **Su Yi Chao's** son is a year old. She and Chia Wei Yang (who are now married) can't wait to arrange a family trip to Lugano. **57**

• **Julie Rammal** tells us, "I have been in Lebanon and travelling around this year. I went to California last year and completed ayurveda, yoga, reflexology, and other fitness studies. In addition I am still running my own private home and corporate fitness company (www.fitness-outlook.com). I miss Europe a lot, and hope to visit TASIS soon. My future plans are to open a specialized fitness facility including all of my domains of study: pilates, yoga, ayurveda, reflexology, personal training, specialized classes and training, teacher training, and detox programs in Lebanon or the Middle East." **58**

• **Evangelina Ciffiganec's** book *Happy Something* has recently been pursued by film production studios for a film adaptation, and if talks run smoothly, next year it will be made into a film. **59**

• **Camila Lanhoso Bicalho** writes, "Last year I visited TASIS with **Cemil Somnez '01** and his wife. I was very pleased to see that the school is continuing to grow. I believe that TASIS, however short the time was for me, was a very significant time in my life. When I see my friends from school I am glad to see that they are all successful. TASIS, for us, is more than a school. It was where we could live with people of different nationalities and

learn to have much in common, especially the value of friendship and respect for human beings. We created very strong ties that we will maintain for many years to come. Last year I visited Europe twice to meet with friends. I'm now working as a contributing editor for *Vogue*. I've also written for newspapers. I miss Mrs. Fleming. She will remain immortal in all of us." **60**

• After living and working in various locations around the world, **Tatiana Lucchini** married Montagnola native Lorenzo Balmelli at St. Abbondio on October 10, 2009. Numerous TASIS friends were in attendance.

• **Robin Fink** is based in New York and working in ophthalmology in the field of artificial eye transplants.

01 Aleksandra Milosevic writes, "I have been working for EUObserver.com as a conference manager and have been organizing high-level political events (conferences, seminars, roundtables, etc.). After TASIS, I attended Vesalius College (VUB and Boston University) in Brussels with a degree in International Management and a minor in Communications. I also finished an MBA at the United Business Institutes (UBI) in Brussels with a concentration in leadership and change management. After the MBA I started a DBA (Doctorate of Business Administration) at the UBI, which I should finish in May 2010." **61**

• **Sharon Divino-Leffler** visited TASIS in September with husband Brett Leffler. She enjoyed showing him where she spent her 9th Grade year in '97-'98 and wrote, "Marilyn was very gracious in showing us around the campus. It sure has changed in the past 11 years! The school looks great! Brett and I also visited the Cote d'Azur, Provence, and Bellagio for our one-year wedding anniversary." **62**

• **Oliver Rizzi-Carlson** reports, "I am currently in New York working on the peace platform of the campaign of the Green Party candidate for mayor. I finished my studies in peace education at the University for Peace in July." **63**

02 Alex Zanecchia is working as an Apple software consultant for Shoulders Corporation in Washington, DC, where he advises on new and current technologies and supports various government contracts. He enjoys working remotely from Charlottesville, Virginia and continues writing and producing as much music as he can. His talented girlfriend, **Lizzy DiMattia**, whom he met almost three years ago, recently graduated with a Masters in Education from the University of Virginia and plans to teach high school history. They are planning European travel in 2010. **63**

• **Tanya Arditi** is living in Washington, DC and shared with us her very entertaining blog (<http://seeninpassing.blogspot.com>). **64**

• **Huberta Bauer** is now working for Gift-Library.com, an online luxury shop for women, men, baby, home, beauty and indulgence. She is living in London. **65**

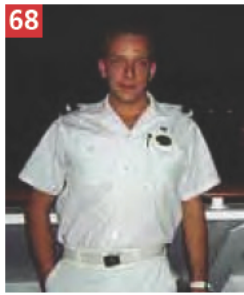
03 Ali Batterjee writes, "I've moved back to Saudi Arabia and I've been working my way up the family company. At the moment I am the finance officer of AM Batterjee Group; I have completed my MBA, and I have established Batterjee Water Solutions in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). BWS is a company that focuses on finding solutions to people's needs here in the GCC. We have clients ranging from private homes to beach resorts and hotels. We are starting to enter hospitals and universities." **66**

• **Vasil' Vavilov** proudly shares with us, "I became a professional rally pilot and I regularly take part in the Russian Rally Championship. Of course I show my TASIS pride by having a patch sewn on my racing suit, as a tribute. I wear it to all my races (not to mention all the pictures and shots from TV and magazines). I'm proud of it. I also got married in September 2008." **67**

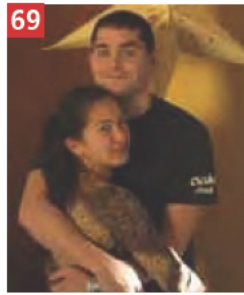
04 After graduating from hotel management school, **Riccardo Kestenholz** worked and traveled in Switzerland, Sri Lanka and Ireland. In October 2009 he was appointed



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Junior Assistant F&B Manager on Princess Cruises. Currently, he is the only Swiss Officer serving in the US Civil Navy on the Sea Princess. He says hi to all his TASIC friends and hopes to see them at the Grand Opening of the TASIC theater. **68**

• **Simi Serianni** writes, "I moved to Barcelona in 2006 and worked for Citibank for three years as a senior security administrator. That was pure luck, but as it turned out, I was really good at my job. Due to the economy, I was made redundant and so were 50,000 other employees worldwide. It was hard finding a job and I found myself accepting one on a cruise ship for Costa Cruises as an international hostess for all English-speaking passengers. I was on board for half a year on the Costa Concordia, dealing with complaints, fires, bombs, lots of boat drills, and even a 'man overboard' situation. It's impossible to get bored on a ship. They say you need to expect the unexpected and it's entirely true! I disembarked at the end of November '09, and decided to keep the experience as an experience (and not turn it into a career), so am now back in Barcelona. Whoever is passing by my way, make sure to contact me, I'm on Facebook!"

• **Sue Ordonez** is finishing up her second year of the Pearson Teaching Fellowship. She is getting married this summer to Timothy James Ackerman of Juneau, Alaska. Her sister, **Isabela Ordonez '09** took her engagement photos. **69**

• **Christof Zanecchia** is living and working

close to New York City at Maggiano's while playing gigs at Arctica Bar where his live-mix performances are webcast. Christof is considering job offers within the corporate music scene in NYC while remaining dedicated to his singing, guitar playing and songwriting. His girlfriend, Carolyn, who works at Goldman Sachs, took time out to visit with the family this summer. www.chriscade.net

• **Pascual Scavone** is engaged to his girlfriend of three years, Tara Nolan, and they are living and working in London. Pascual is currently a supply manager at TradingPartners, an e-sourcing company that reduces procurement costs. The wedding will take place in either Italy or Portugal sometime between spring and summer 2011. Tara has met many TASIC alumni and has visited the campus a couple of times. They constantly meet up with several alumni living in or visiting London.

05 **Melanie Saltzman** is studying architecture at Harvard University.

• **Enrique Perrella** lives in Daytona Beach, Florida and is going to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where he's finishing his multi-engine/commercial pilot rating. He's graduating in May with an aviation business administration degree, and a minor in flight. Since he left TASIC, he has wanted to go back every year, although it hasn't been possible. He looks forward to visiting

this coming Fall 2010. **70**

• **Can Doganci** is sorry to miss the Grand Opening of the Palmer Center on the TASIC campus, but the date coincides with his graduation from Northeastern University. He's studying marketing and management information systems. He wrote, "I'm excited to graduate in May. I will most likely be staying in the US and looking for jobs, or I might come back to Europe if I find a job over there. However, staying in the US is not a problem for me anymore, because I have permanent residency."

06 **Hailey Parsons** graduated from Lewis & Clark College with a BA in religious studies and another in international affairs. She's now looking for a job in wastewater treatment or research related to that field. She's currently traveling in Italy working on farms and vineyards.

• **Manny Gfoeller-Volkoff** writes, "Since graduating from TASIC in 2006, I have been attending the United States Military Academy at West Point in New York. Over my time at the Academy, I have studied academics during the school year, learning about everything from English literature to philosophy, and Russian to physics, while also majoring in international relations. During the intermittent summers I completed multiple sessions of mandatory military training at West Point, training in the basics of being an officer in combat. During the summer of my junior year I was in charge of training ten members of the incoming Class of 2012 as a squad leader. I have also attended the US Army's Airborne School down at Fort Benning, Georgia, earning my 'Airborne Wings', and I completed French Commando School in the Pyrenees of southern France earning the 'Commando' badge. During my time at the Academy I have also visited Korea, Spain, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, France, the Netherlands, Mexico, China, Australia and travelled the US. I have been a member of the West Point Model United Nations Team since I was a freshman and I've had the opportunity to travel extensively with them and meet many of my college peers. It's been a really fun and diverse experience so far, and I have added to the diversity of West Point since I am one among few that have spent most of their lives overseas, and the only TASIC alum. I am now a Cadet Lieutenant in G Company, 1st Regiment, United States

Corps of Cadets, and in my final semester at the academy. I am set to graduate on May 22, 2010 with a Bachelor of Science in International Relations, and a minor in Computer Science. The same day of my graduation I will be commissioned as a US Army 2nd Lieutenant in the infantry, assigned to the prestigious 10th Mountain Division (light infantry) at Fort Drum, New York. After attending infantry officer's basic course (IOBC) and ranger school at Ft. Benning, Georgia, I will report to my unit most likely in the early months of 2011. Depending on which brigade combat team I am assigned to, I will probably deploy with the 10th Mountain Division to Afghanistan as an infantry platoon leader within 18 months. That's all I know for now, and knowing the Army, things can change, but it's been very exciting and rewarding so far. I am serving with some of the smartest, most honorable young men and women in America, and I wouldn't have it any other way. I hope all is well back in Lugano." **71**

07 **Luca Stickley** worked for the TASIC summer programs in 2009 during his break from Reading University in the UK, where he is enjoying his psychology classes.

• **Zainab Tinubu** and his sister **Habibat '09** are both enjoying college in the US. Habibat is at Emerson College, and Zainab is at Suffolk University.

• **Nola Seta** is a junior at Notre Dame. She visited campus with her entire family in August, including her adorable one-year old twin brothers. Future TASIC students, we hope!

08 **Eric Polakiewicz** is enjoying his college experience. He is studying business at FAAP, a college in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He has bumped into many TASIC alumni in Brazil, and is looking forward to the next alumni reunion.

• **Milo Zanecchia** (www.milozanecchia.com) is in his second year studying Politics and Geography at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He is working as a professional photographer for an events website. He loves his spacious apartment with three Irish/English roommates on The Meadows near Arthur's Seat in the picturesque medieval city of Edinburgh.

• **Jo Imada** is in Tokyo studying English Linguistics at Sophia University. He's having fun singing gospel music at his university.

ALUMNI class news



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POST-GRADUATE PROGRAM

66 Betsy (Goldsmith) Grajeda retired in June 2009 after 39 years of teaching. She is now a docent at an Orange County museum, attends classes at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, volunteers her time at a local organization to assist the needy, and still has time for two book groups, two Bunco groups, and Mahjong. Her three children and their partners continue to keep the family close. Lilli (23 months) and Oliver (4 months) are her loves, and grandchildren are definitely the 'dessert of life!' • **Elisabeth (Acer) Crawford** writes, "I continue to teach music, drama and dance in French to K-3 students in Greenwich, Connecticut, but I've moved to North Stamford. My children and I bought a house with an acre in the country with deer, coyotes, foxes, owls, and no street lights for moonlight walks with nature's music. I'm working on a documentary to present my integrated method of teaching. Sarah, 27, is teaching Italian/Latin/Ceramics at Brunswick School in Greenwich after three years and a Masters in Italian in Italy. Andrew, 30, having left the Navy (after Annapolis and a six-year career as submarine officer), is at Oxford for his PPE before Yale Law School next year. Sarah and I visited Andrew at Oxford this March. My rescue Airedale Terrier, Gelert, keeps me quiet company. My PG '66 classmates and I enjoyed a delightful October reunion in Phoenix with visits to Sedona, Taliesen West and Arcosanti. Thank you again TASIS for such a special year and for changing our lives!"

68 Kathy Sanders-Phillips reports, "I am currently a professor of pediatrics at Howard University College of Medicine and Children's National Medical Center at the George Washington School of Medicine. I finished my Ph.D. in developmental psychology at Johns Hopkins in 1977 and spent more than 20 years on faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at the King/Drew Medical Center and at the UCLA School of Medicine. I moved to Washington, DC in 2001 to develop research programs in drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. I do a fair amount of work in South Africa that feeds my brain and my soul. I love it there! My husband, who also received his Ph.D. in engineering from Johns Hopkins, remains in Los Angeles where he is curator of the Aerospace Museum at the California Science Center. Since he is from Baltimore, he comes this way frequently. We have two daughters, aged 28 and 23, who both live in New York. The oldest received her B.F.A. in Dance from the Alvin Ailey Program at Fordham University. She is currently the assistant director for a program titled 'Pathways to the Arts' that conducts after-school arts programs in New York public schools. The youngest graduated from my alma mater, Mount Holyoke, in 2006 where she majored in English and Political Science. She aspires to be a journalist and is writing for *Beyond Race* magazine. While both are happy, they are always looking for that 'big break' that will launch them into 'the best job ever' (anybody got a great job opening in New York?). I was thrilled to find that I live in a condo building here in DC with Ellen Proxmire, who is the mother of **CiCi Proxmire** who went to TASIS with me. I remember when her dad, Senator Proxmire, came to the school to talk with us. One of my colleagues and friends from South Africa recently moved with his family to Geneva. The parents decided to enroll their daughter

in school there and asked what I thought about the decision. I told them that my time in Switzerland changed my life. I believe that I was the first African American at the School. What I learned from the teachers, students, and people of Europe shaped who I have become. I applauded the courage of my friends, and my parents, for introducing us to the world outside of the US. My love of travel and awe of Africa was nurtured at TASIS. I have tried to provide this for my children as well. I am looking forward to re-connecting with old TASIS friends. I am particularly interested in locating **John Kunstadter, Kendall Smeeth and Janet Leister.**"

72 Lisa Markham joined the Memorial Hike in August 2009. She lives in Chicago and is involved in many interesting projects, including finance, dealing in antiques, and the worldwide distribution of Indian grocery products. She misses living in Europe and comes back to visit as often as possible.

85 Amy (Porter) Stroh moved from Grosse Pointe, MI to her hometown of Washington, DC with her 5-year-old daughter. She is now running the Porter Family Foundation. **72**

86 Christina (Powers) Smith writes, "I have been married for 12 years to Brian and have three great kids. Tristan is 11 years old, Ainslee is 9, and Leland is 7. We moved to Rolla, Missouri three years ago from Dallas, Texas. I haven't taught elementary school since I was married and I do miss it. When we get a chance we like to travel and are planning a cruise to Mexico this spring. I visited TASIS about 15 years ago and I could not believe how it had changed. It looked great! I have recently caught

up with just a few of the alumni thanks to Facebook. It's wonderful to see that TASIS just keeps getting better and that so many students are able to enjoy its beauty and history." **73**

87 Fadi Alidrissi went to Ohio State University and graduated as a chemical engineer. He now lives in Canada. **74**

93 Carolina (Escobar) Chao was married to Anthony Chao in 2007. **75**

96 Catalina Llinas and Joana Sommerkamp '99 recently met in London after 12 years of not seeing each other. Catalina lives in southern California. She has been there for the past five years and is vice president of an asset management firm. Her job takes her twice a year to Europe and she tries to meet with TASIS friends when there. **76**

TSLP

85 Alexandra Kolb visited the campus in October 2009 with her husband Arne and sons Julius and Killian, for the first time since the '80s. She has vivid memories of the four weeks she spent at TASIS and hopes her sons will attend a summer program and have similarly intense and memorable experiences. The family is considering a move to Milan in 2010.

86 Enrica Poma shares, "I had a very difficult 2009, with a breast cancer operation. Fortunately we detected it on time. I did chemo and radiotherapy, and now I'm clear. My daughter Margherita is three years old and she's



FORMER FACULTY

• **Yasmine Rana** shares, "I have been fortunate to have a creatively productive and consistent career in theatre in the US and Europe. I still teach ESL and drama and have become a qualified drama therapist and New York State Creative Arts Therapist. I have to say TESIS opened the door to me in terms of travel and Europe." Yasmine thinks of TESIS fondly and the first summer in 1998 when she first came as summer staff. YBRana@aol.com

• **Catherine Nigro** writes, "I got married in 2001, and I have a wonderful little boy, named Pathua, who was born in 2006. I've lived in many areas of the US over the last 10 years, teaching science in both private and public schools and working as the education director for a non-profit group dedicated to bird-of-prey conservation. I am working on getting a second Masters in Speech and Language Pathology. Currently, I reside in Williamsburg, Virginia." **79**

• **Theo Brenner** continues to work with the Moving Alps Foundation. His wife Vivienne works in Lugano and enjoys her job. They live in Novaggio and are lucky to be able to enjoy watching the kids ski on the slope opposite the house and the birds forage around all the birdhouses for food.

• **Elizabeth Malcolm** reports, "I still live in Alexandria, Virginia where we are enjoying (or hating) a winter of record-breaking snowstorms, one storm after another since before Christmas. It creates beautiful landscapes but treacherous road conditions; schools seem to have been closed more than open so far this year. I hope to visit TESIS in October or November and, hopefully, for the Arts Festival 2011."

• **Chris Carlsmith** (Faculty 1989-92) is Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell where he teaches courses in Renaissance History and Western Civilization.

Accompanied by his three-year-old daughter Margaret, one-year-old son Peter, and wife Laura Fuller, he is living in the hills above Florence and studying the history of education in sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Italy. His first book was published in February 2010 about education in the Italian city of Bergamo, a city he first discovered while teaching at TESIS. To date he has not found a Renaissance equivalent of Mrs. Fleming, but he continues to look through the sources in the hopes of finding such a person. **80**

• **Bob Lehmann (Faculty 1989-91)** lives in Concord, Massachusetts with his two boys, William and Matthew, and his wife Anne. Bob worked for Fidelity Investments in Boston for many years, and recently began a new job as vice-president at Fuld & Co. in Cambridge. He and his family frequently visit Maine, where they have a summer house.

• **Susie Osborne** writes, "I was the school nurse at TESIS Lugano in 1980-81 with De Haven Fleming, and at TESIS Greece in 1981-82. I was very close friends with Helen Kochenderfer who was alumni officer. Later in 1982, I got married but was widowed the following year and spent my first Christmas as a widow with Helen and her family in California. We have since lost contact but I would so much like to renew that friendship again." **81**

• **Chris and Sasha Rehm** are doing well. Chris enjoys his role as Dean of Residential Life at Blue Ridge School. He coaches golf and soccer, and they both live in the dorms as a family. They love the campus. Sasha is finishing her Ph.D. in Education at UVA and is teaching one class. She spends most of her time chasing their two energetic children, Caleb and Lily. **82**

• **Joyce Motylewski** Hansen is deputy general counsel at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York where she has worked for 30 years. In June she enjoyed a lovely visit to Montagnola together with her

husband, and marvelled at the changes on campus with all the new and planned buildings. It was also fun to relive the memories of 1974-75 by looking at the yearbook.

• **Jeremy Birk** has thoroughly enjoyed returning to university in 2009-10, and taking on the challenges of Columbia University's school leadership program.

IN MEMORIAM

• **Jean Michel Maestrelli '86** passed away in Switzerland (canton Vaud) in January 2010, leaving no next of kin. He attended TESIS as a day student for six years (1980-86), after which he went to college in the US before returning to Europe to live in Italy.

• **Susan Sheldon Hargrove '62** died on October 27, 2009 of complications from lung cancer. She is survived by her husband Tom Hargrove of Galveston, Texas, her sons Miles and Geddie, both in Dallas, and a grandson, Everett, recently born to Miles and his wife Emily. After TESIS, she returned to the US where she attended Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. In 1967 she married Tom Hargrove, a self-described farm boy from the West Texas town of Rotan where Susan's family had roots. They lived in the Philippines for 19 years before moving to Cali, Columbia. In 1994, her husband was kidnapped by members of FARC, a Marxist-inspired band of narco-guerillas who held him for almost a year while Susan negotiated his release. This experience was the basis for the movie *Proof of Life*, although the true story is much more incredible and exciting. After Tom's release, the family returned to Texas where they purchased Galveston's historic Lucas Terrace, and Susan set to work refurbishing the three-story, 8,000-square-foot apartment building into a spectacular and unique home where she lived the remainder of her life. Susan's ashes are interred at the Hargrove Family Cemetery near Rotan, Texas.

attending nursery school. I miss TESIS a lot. I hope to come and visit TESIS soon. I would like to receive news from all my friends from TESIS!" **77**

94 **Didem Dilara Yildiz** has been living in London for the last 15 years. She has a degree in E-Commerce. After working for a couple of years for a business technology company, Didem decided to leave that sector and pursue her dream job of being a jewelry designer. She now owns her own company. **78**

FLEMING COLLEGE FLORENCE

68 **Stephen Gould** and **Marcus Liuzzi '74** made contact in fall 2009 and decided to set up a website for their alma mater, Fleming College Florence (<http://www.flemingcollegeflorence.com>). The site launched on the first anniversary of Mrs. Fleming's passing, January 27th, 2010. Stephen and Marcus are gradually developing the website as word gets around and contributions are received from fellow alumni and former faculty. If this is you or you know a FCF alum, spread the word! Everyone at TESIS is delighted at this initiative, and we look forward to assisting wherever possible.

TASIS Schools & Summer Programs



TASIS The American School in Switzerland offers a challenging college-preparatory academic-year program on its Lugano campus to day students grades Pre-K-13 and boarding students grades 7-13. Boasting over 50 nationalities, TASIS takes advantage of its location in the heart of Europe to provide an outstanding educational program with an international dimension. In addition to a strong American college-preparatory curriculum, TASIS offers the International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and EAL courses, along with many travel opportunities. A winter highlight is the annual January Ski Week when the School relocates for skiing, snowboarding, and ice-skating to Crans-Montana, Switzerland.



TASIS The American School in England, frequently cited as the premier American school in the UK, offers an American college-preparatory curriculum to day students from Pre-K through 12 and to boarding students from Grades 9 through 12. Located 18 miles southwest of London on a beautiful 35-acre estate of

Georgian mansions and 17th-century cottages, TASIS England combines an excellent academic program with exceptional facilities for art, drama, music, computers, and sports. TASIS also offers the International Baccalaureate, a full ESL course of study, and Advanced Placement courses in all disciplines.

TASIS Dorado is a coeducational day school with English as its language of instruction in grades Pre-Kindergarten through the Twelfth Grade. It is located in Puerto Rico and offers a top-quality academic program within the most modern physical facilities and attractive natural surroundings.



TASIS Summer Program (TSP)
The TASIS Summer Program for Languages, Arts, and Outdoor Pursuits, based on the campus of The American School in Switzerland in Lugano, offers intensive language courses in English as an Additional Language, French, and Italian for

14 to 18 year olds. Besides language courses, the program offers courses in Digital Photography, Painting Ticino, and Art History. The Program includes artistic activities, a wide choice of sports, alpine activities, and weekend excursions in Switzerland and Italy. Four-week and three-week sessions.

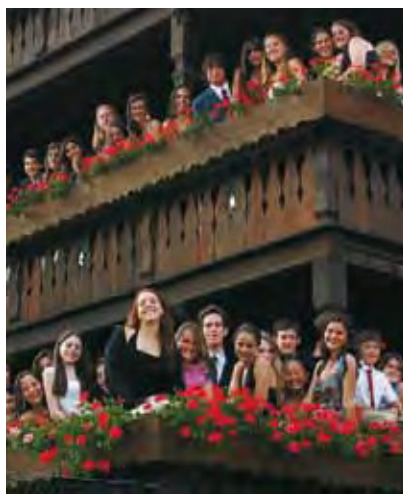
The Middle School Program (MSP), on the Lugano campus and at Château-d'Oex, is specifically designed for students aged 11 to 13 to study English as an Additional Language or French. The program provides appropriate academic challenges and recreational activities for this



transitional age group within a warm and caring community. On the Lugano campus, students choose special workshops to attend two afternoons a week from Music and Drama, Art, Special Sports, or Tennis. During the remaining afternoons, students participate in other activities, sports, and excursions. Four-week and three-week sessions.



Le Château des Enfants (CDE) is a summer program of learning and fun for 4+ to 10 year olds. Sharing the Lugano campus with TSP and MSP, but with its own separate living and dining facilities, the Program teaches English, French, or Italian through lessons, games, activities, sports, and art in a close-knit, caring, family-style community specifically tailored to younger children. Picnics, excursions, and camping trips are also offered. Four-week and three-week sessions. 4+ to 6 attend as day students only.



The TASIS French Language Program (TFLP) offers an intensive four-week session for students aged 14 to 17. The Program is based in Château d'Oex, one of the most scenic alpine regions of French-speaking Switzerland, with the fourth week spent in Paris. During an optional fifth week students and teachers relocate to Nice to explore the French Riviera.



The TASIS Spanish Summer Program

(TSSP) is an intensive one-month Spanish course for high-school students ages 13 to 17. The Program is based in the beautiful city of Salamanca, center of the historic kingdom of Castile and home of one of Europe's oldest universities. Six levels of

Spanish are offered from beginning to advanced, and all classes have a small student/teacher ratio. The Program includes travel to Madrid, Granada, Toledo, and the Alhambra. All students and teachers relocate to the Costa del Sol for the Program's final week.



Les Tapies Arts & Architecture Program

offers an intensive 3-week design and cultural experience for students ages 16 to 19. It is a hands-on study of French vernacular architecture and the functional/aesthetic relationship it shares with the landscape. The Program is for mature students who have a strong interest in the arts or who are considering a

career in architecture, art, or design. Les Tapies' ideal location just north of Provence provides extensive opportunities for excursions which draw on the cultural richness of this fascinating area.



TASIS English Language Program

(TELP) is based on the TASIS England campus. It offers intensive English as a Second Language for students ages 12 to 18 along with sports every afternoon and optional weekend trips to Wales, Edinburgh, and Paris. Students share accommodation with TESS students and consequently have many opportunities to develop their English-language skills in a relaxed setting as well as in the

classroom. Four-week, three-week, and seven-week sessions with an optional week at the Edinburgh Festival are offered.

The TASIS England Summer School (TESS)



, based on the TASIS England campus, offers courses for students ages 12 to 18 in English Literature and Composition, SAT and TOEFL Review, International Business, Middle School Skills, and most high school mathematics courses which include IB Preparation components. Samples of course titles are:

ShakespeareXperience, Reading for Success, Writing Enhancement, Theater in London, Art in London, Movie Animation, and Lights Camera Action. Sports take place every afternoon, and weekends include trips to Wales, Edinburgh, and Paris. Seven-week, four-week, and three-week sessions with an optional week at the Edinburgh Festival are offered.

Application Procedure

For more information, please contact:

TASIS The American School in Switzerland, Admissions Office

CH-6926 Montagnola-Lugano, Switzerland

Tel: +41 91 960 5151 - Fax: +41 91 993 1647 - 100

email: summer@tasis.ch or: admissions@tasis.ch for academic year applicants

TASIS Schools and Programs, 1640 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007, USA

Tel: +1 202 965 5800 - Fax: +1 202 965 5816 - e-mail: usadmissions@tasis.com



MISSION STATEMENT

TASIS is a family of international schools that welcomes young people from all nationalities to an educational community that fosters a passion for excellence along with mutual respect and understanding.

Consistent with the vision of its founder, M. Crist Fleming, TASIS is committed to transmitting the heritage of Western civilization and world cultures: the creations, achievements, traditions, and ideals from the past that offer purpose in the present and hope for the future.

Seeking to balance the pursuit of knowledge with the love of wisdom, and promoting the skills of lifelong learning, an appreciation for beauty, and the development of character, each school combines a challenging academic program with opportunities for artistic endeavor, physical activity, and service to others.

Believing in the worth of each individual and the importance of enduring relationships, TASIS seeks to embody and instill the values of personal responsibility, civility, compassion, justice, and truth.

*

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