

INSPIRING **GLOBAL** THINKERS

*Celebrating*



SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION OF SYA MAGAZINE

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This commemorative publication celebrates 50 years of SYA and chronicles the 50th Anniversary Celebration that took place on July 24-25, 2015, in Boston, Massachusetts.

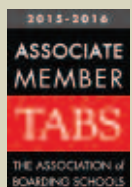
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## FROM THE HONORARY CO-CHAIRS



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the commemorative publication of SYA's 50th Anniversary Celebration!

Since opening its first door in 1964, SYA has inspired 7,500 young men and women to become leaders by developing cross-cultural understanding, empathy and the confidence to navigate the unfamiliar.

The July 24-25, 2015 celebration was a special opportunity to celebrate half a century of SYA history and look ahead to its next 50 years. We were thrilled to present the first-ever Global Thinkers: Distinguished Alumni Speakers presentation. The six alumni speakers represent diverse fields and each exemplifies the qualities of a “global thinker” that SYA helps to foster in its students. And we were proud to feature so many members of the SYA community: resident directors, faculty, alumni musicians and actors, young alumni volunteers and more.

On Saturday morning we honored two extraordinary former faculty members and recognized them with SYA's inaugural Honorary Alumnus Award. We also presented the inaugural Distinguished Alumni Award to 11 very special pioneers, the original “schoolboys” of SYA Spain 1965. On Saturday evening, guests were treated to a memorable Reader's Theatre performance during the Anniversary Reception.

We are grateful to our young alumni event hosts who guided guests and shared their SYA experiences. We are also grateful for the generous support from our corporate sponsors, including Diamond Level sponsorship from Cambridge Travel, and for the generous contributions of alumni family wines and a commemorative poster. Special thanks also to our honorary committee for their leadership in the SYA community.

To those who attended — thank you! We hope that you enjoyed your time with alumni, parents, faculty and friends with whom you share something quite special in common — the truly extraordinary experience of School Year Abroad. To those who couldn't attend, we hope that the photos and stories that follow help to paint the picture of an incredible celebration of SYA. Please also check out select videos from the event at [sya.org/SYA50](http://sya.org/SYA50).

Sincerely,

Natalia Bulgari ES'86

Margaret Conklin FR'74

Co-Chairs, 50th Anniversary Honorary Committee



## FROM SYA LEADERSHIP

Dear SYA Community,

For half a century, SYA has been the gold standard in high school study abroad. On September 9, 1964, 11 students bound for Barcelona departed on the *MS Aurelia*; we are inspired to see how their 10-day journey launched SYA on a course to become the leader it is today.

As we commemorate our founding, we are proud of the many accomplishments we have celebrated over the past 50 years. Today SYA operates four schools, serving approximately 240 students annually, and summer programs at each of our schools, serving 120 students annually. We attract some of the most talented faculty members world-wide and maintain close relationships with a vast and important community of host families. We have 43 member schools, and this year our students come from over 140 individual high schools. We have many valuable partnerships throughout the global community. None of this would have been possible without the leadership and vision of SYA's founder, Clark Vaughan. Beginning in 2015, we celebrate Founder's Day annually on September 9.

In recent years, SYA reached several notable milestones, including:

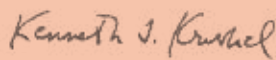
- Earning accreditation from the Commission on Independent Schools of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).
- Dedicating *Villa Alvarez*, SYA's first building purchase and permanent home of SYA France, in 2007 after raising \$1.3 million, and then dedicating *Casa Foster 64*, SYA Spain's permanent home in Zaragoza, in 2012 after raising more than \$2.5 million.
- Celebrating 20 years of SYA in China. The school opened with 18 students in August 1994. Since then, over 1,000 alumni have studied at SYA's school in Beijing.
- Hosting First Lady Michelle Obama and China's First Lady Peng Liyuan during an historic visit to Beijing in March 2014.
- Reaching an historic record of over \$1.4 million in the Annual Fund last year.

With all this history to celebrate, we believe SYA's future will be brighter still. Looking forward is essential to ensure we continue to grow and respond to the needs of high school students. As we conscientiously prepare for the future, these core ingredients will continue to define the SYA experience: quality language study and cultural immersion, homestay and directed educational travel.

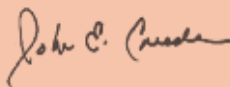
This golden anniversary is an appropriate moment to reflect, celebrate and honor the dedication and hard work of so many leaders and supporters with the conviction and the vision that brought us to today. Throughout the weekend celebration each of us heard the same inspiring refrain: SYA influences change, a maturity and expanded autonomy, and a redefined sense of self. Never before have these qualities been more important for citizens and leaders — locally and globally — to embrace and to rely upon when seeking solutions to the world's complex challenges.

Thank you for being part of SYA's family, and here's to its continued stellar success in the next 50 years. We are thrilled that you are part of this exciting journey.

Sincerely,



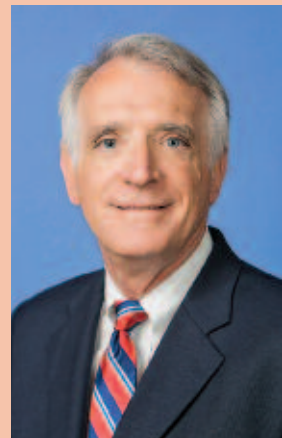
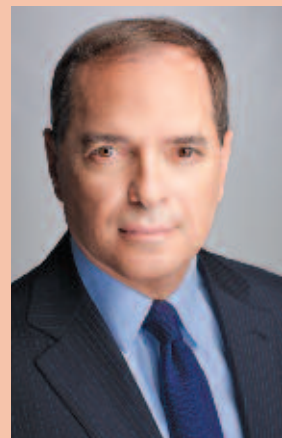
Kenneth J. Krushel ES'68  
Chair, Board of Trustees



John E. Creeden  
SYA President



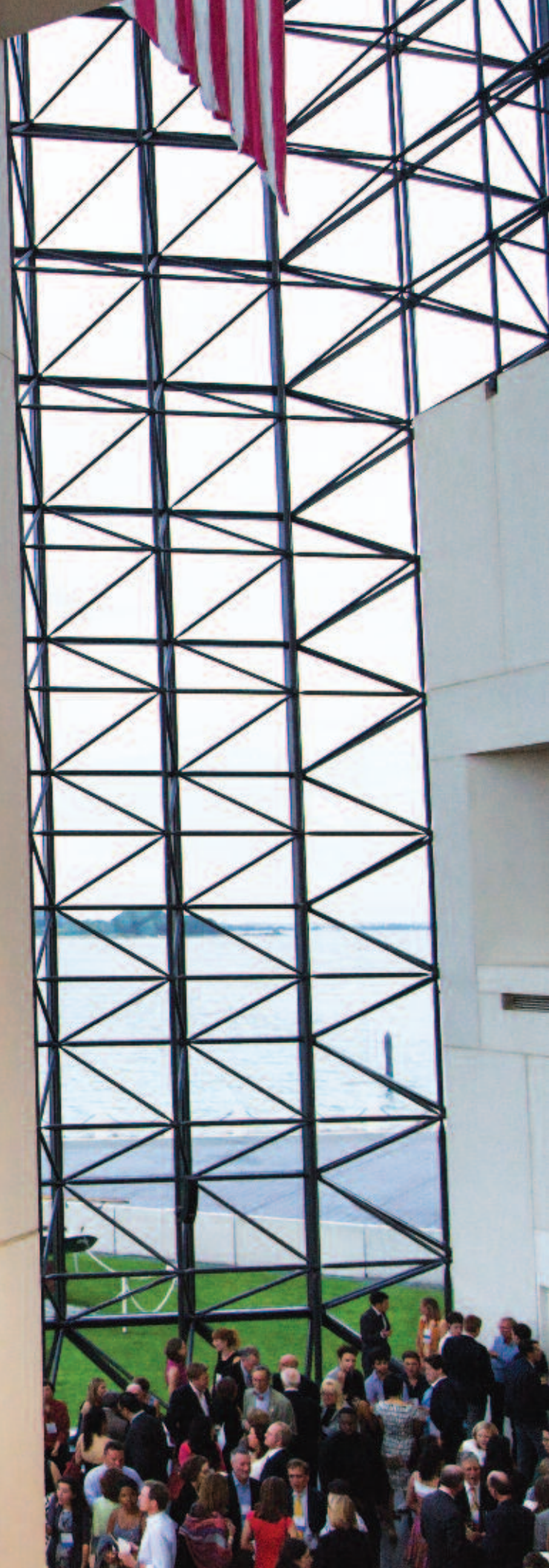
Eileen Kelly-Aguirre  
SYA Executive Director





SYA

1965-2015







# 50 YEARS

## OF SYA MILESTONES

Schoolboys Abroad was conceived by Clark Vaughan, then a Spanish teacher at Wilbraham Academy (MA). Daniel Olivier, then head of the French department at Germantown Friends School (PA), helped Vaughan set up the program. Pauline Vaughan, an amateur silversmith, modeled an emblem with a circle representing the world and four interlocking points representing the four corners of the world.

In 1963, Wilbraham Academy planned to launch Schoolboys Abroad and had processed at least 20 applications for that fall. An emergency expenditure put the program on indefinite hold. Vaughan brought the idea to Phillips Academy (MA), where then Headmaster John Kemper backed the program. The first office of Schoolboys Abroad was located on its campus, which was occupied by Schoolboys Abroad's first executive director, Col. Edward M. Harris, a science teacher at Phillips Academy.

1964



11 boys travel by ship, the *MS Aurelia*, to Barcelona with Resident Director Clark A. and Pauline Vaughan, along with Daniel and Ellen Olivier (Daniel taught English) and Ted and Deena Hammond (Ted taught math). The Instituto de Estudios Norteamericanos is the location of SYA's first school.

1964



Ángel Vilalta, a lawyer in Barcelona, becomes the first local hire for SYA Spain. He was the first host family coordinator and taught art history for SYA Spain until his retirement in 1998.

1965

During the summer, Daniel Olivier heads to Rennes, France, to meet with Adjunct Mayor Victor Janton, president of L'Institut Franco-Américain, and chooses the site for the next school, SYA France.

1965

Phillips Exeter Academy (NH) becomes co-sponsor of Schoolboys Abroad.

1967



Forty-two boys sail to Rennes, France, with SYA France's first resident director, Harris Thomas. The school is located at L'Institut Franco-Américain.

1968

St. Paul's School (NH) becomes Schoolboys Abroad's third sponsor.

1970

Schoolboys Abroad changes its name to School Year Abroad when the first girls arrive at SYA Spain.

1971

SYA France becomes co-ed.

1971

SYA Germany opens in Langenhagen as an exploratory program with Resident Director George Smith and 17 students.

1973



SYA Spain moves from the Instituto de Estudios Norteamericanos to its own space on Rambla de Cataluña.

1974

In the third and final year of SYA Germany, Resident Director Joseph Wennik and eight students head to Göttingen.

1975

SYA becomes a fully independent, nonprofit 501 (c)3.

1980

Woodruff W. Halsey II begins his 31-year tenure, first as resident director of SYA France.

1981

During the summer, SYA France moves from L'Institut Franco-Américain to its current home, 5, allée Ste. Marie.

1986

Woodruff W. Halsey II is named executive director.

1989

SYA celebrates its 25th anniversary with an all-class reunion in Washington, DC. All 11 members of the Class of ES'65 are together again with founder Clark A. Vaughan and SYA Spain faculty member Ángel Vilalta.

1991

During the summer, Woodruff W. Halsey II travels to China with Phillips Academy faculty to explore possibilities for SYA China.

1992



Francesca Piana becomes the first female resident director of SYA Spain.

1994



SYA China opens a semester program with Resident Director Charles Miller, Assistant Director Gillian Recesso and 18 students.



1960s



1970s



1980s



1990s





1998

Ángel Vilalta, SYA's most senior teacher, retires after 34 years with SYA. A two-day celebration in his honor is held in Barcelona in April.

1999



SYA Spain moves from Barcelona to Zaragoza, the capital of the Aragón region.

2001

SYA Italy opens in Viterbo with Resident Director Jeffrey Bradley (St. Paul's School) and 47 students.

2006

SYA Summer China opens in Beijing.

2007



Executive Director Woodruff W. Halsey II is named SYA's first president.

2007



SYA dedicates *Villa Alvarez*, a permanent home in Rennes for SYA France, after raising \$1.3 million from alumni, parents and friends.

2008

SYA Summer France opens in Rennes.

2008

SYA opens a semester-long experimental program in India with Resident Director Philip Billings with 25 students.

2009

Following the sustainable development curriculum set in SYA India, SYA Vietnam opens as an exploratory program in Hanoi with Peter Esty as resident director with 16 students.

2010

SYA Summer Spain opens in Zaragoza.

2010

SYA opens an exploratory program in Ichinomiya, Japan, with Resident Director Mika Fukutomi and 25 students.

2011



Woodruff W. Halsey II retires after 31 years with SYA. The Board of Trustees appoints John E. Creeden as SYA's second president.

2011

*The Halsey Fund*, SYA's first named scholarship endowment fund, is established with a lead \$1 million gift and generous support from alumni, parents and friends.

2011



SYA Summer Italy opens in Viterbo.

2012



SYA dedicates *Casa Foster 64*, a permanent home in Zaragoza for SYA Spain, after raising

over \$2.5 million from alumni, parents and friends.

2014



SYA China celebrates its 20 year anniversary in Beijing. First Lady Michelle Obama and China's First Lady Peng Liyuan visit SYA China.

2014



Eileen Kelly-Aguirre appointed as SYA's first female executive director.

2015

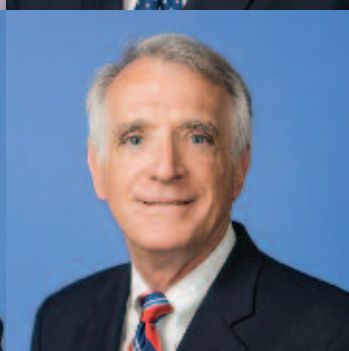
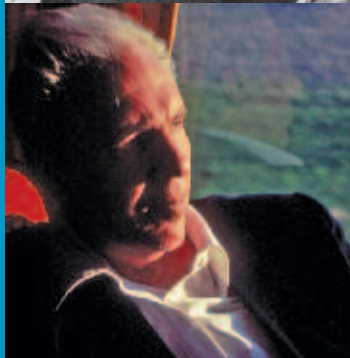
SYA celebrates 50 years of inspiring 7,500 global thinkers.



2000s







# 50 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

## PRESIDENTS

2007–2011 Woodruff W. Halsey II  
2011–2016 John E. Creeden  
2016– Thomas E. Hassan, president-elect

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

1964–1972 Col. Edward Harris (Phillips Academy)  
1972–1973 Daniel Olivier (Phillips Academy)  
1973–1974 Robert Thomason (Phillips Academy)  
1974–1976 Crayton Bedford (Phillips Academy)  
1976–1986 Harrison McCann (Northfield Mount Hermon)  
1986–1989 Woodruff W. Halsey II  
1989–1990 Harrison McCann  
1990–2007 Woodruff W. Halsey II  
2007–2014 Nelson K. Chase  
2014– Eileen Kelly–Aguirre (The Gunnery)

## RESIDENT DIRECTORS

### SYA SPAIN

1964–1968 Clark A. Vaughan (Wilbraham Academy)  
1968–1971 John Tomlinson (Phillips Academy)  
1971–1986 Edward Sainati (Phillips Exeter Academy)  
1986–1989 Harrison McCann  
1989–1990 Charles Whitehead (Sidwell Friends School)  
1990–1992 Harrison McCann  
1992–1997 Francesca Piana (Phillips Academy)  
1997–2002 John Rosen (Milton Academy)  
2002–2011 Griffin Morse (Milton Academy)  
2011–2012 John Rosen  
2012–2014 Griffin Morse  
2014– Virginia Invernizzi (Deerfield Academy)

### SYA FRANCE

1967–1971 Harris Thomas (Phillips Exeter Academy)  
1971–1974 Crayton Bedford (Phillips Academy)  
1974–1977 Georges Krivobok (Phillips Academy)  
1977–1980 Daniel Olivier (Phillips Academy)  
1980–1986 Woodruff W. Halsey II (St. Paul's School)  
1986–1991 André Vernet (Phillips Exeter Academy)  
1991–2000 Geoffrey Bird (The Thacher School)  
2000–2007 Donald Austin (Collegiate School)  
2007– Denis Brochu (Phillips Exeter Academy)

### SYA GERMANY

1971–1973 George Smith (St. Paul's School)  
1974–1975 Joseph Wennik (Phillips Academy)

### SYA CHINA

1994 Charles Miller (American School in Japan)  
1995 Thomas Trethaway (The Hotchkiss School)  
1996–1999 John McLoughlin (Boston College High School)  
1999–2006 Jeffrey Bissell (Marquette University)  
2006–2007 Hope Staab (Punahou School)  
2007–2010 Jeffrey Bissell  
2010–2011 Frances Fremont–Smith (FutureGenerations/China)  
2011– Hilde Becker (SYA China)

### SYA ITALY

2001–2004 Jeffrey Bradley (St. Paul's School)  
2004–2005 Peter Esty (Greens Farms School)  
2005–2015 Patrick Scanlon (Albuquerque Academy)  
2015–2016 Bradley C. Park (Episcopal High School)  
2016– Patrick Scanlon

### SYA INDIA

2008 Philip Billings (Anglican International School)

### SYA VIETNAM

2009–2010 Peter Esty  
2010–2012 Vu–Doc Vuong (DeAnza College; San Jose City College)

### SYA JAPAN

2010–2011 Mika Fukutomi (Global Kids Academy)

## SUMMER PROGRAM DIRECTORS

### SYA SUMMER CHINA

2006 Jeffrey Bissell  
2007–2008 Andrea Geyling (Milton Academy)  
2009–2010 Mary Ellen Friends (Deerfield Academy)  
2011 Hilde Becker (SYA China)  
2012–2013 Mary Ellen Friends  
2014– John McLoughlin (Brooks School)

### SYA SUMMER FRANCE

2010– Pascal Montéville (SYA France)

### SYA SUMMER SPAIN

2010– Marta Escartín (SYA Spain)

### SYA SUMMER ITALY

2011– Eleonora Trucca (SYA Italy)



# 50th Anniversary

## AT A GLANCE

### Friday, July 24

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

#### Welcome Reception

Marriott Courtyard Boston Downtown

### Saturday, July 25

8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### Morning Program

Marriott Courtyard Boston Downtown

- Classes with Resident Directors
- All-School Meeting
- Global Thinkers: Distinguished Alumni Speakers
- Awards Presentation

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

#### Back to School with Mme Marie-Cécile Heurtin FR'68-'09F

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

#### Anniversary Reception and Reader's Theatre Performance

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

School Year Abroad welcomed more than 400 alumni, parents, faculty and friends to Boston to join SYA's 50th Anniversary Celebration on July 24-25, 2015. Guests traveled from across the globe to attend the anniversary weekend to honor SYA's founders and leaders, reconnect with classmates, learn about SYA today, hear from distinguished experts in our alumni community and look ahead to SYA's role in the future of global education.

## Adam Guettel FR'82

### Performer

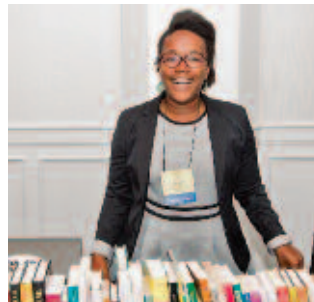
Adam Guettel is a composer-lyricist of musical theater and opera. Early works include award-winning *Floyd Collins*, a 1996 musical about the Kentucky cave explorer who died underground in the 1920s. In June 2005, his musical *The Light in the Piazza* received six Tony Awards, including two for Guettel: Best Original Score and Best Orchestrations. Additional awards for Guettel include the Stephen Sondheim Award (1990), the ASCAP New Horizons Award (1997) and the American Composers Orchestra Award (2005). In addition to current projects, Guettel has provided scores for films, documentaries and albums and teaches master classes and seminars in musical theater performance and songwriting. Guettel attended SYA France as a junior from Phillips Exeter Academy (Exeter, NH) and graduated from Yale University.



# July 24-25, 2015 **Boston, Massachusetts** ary Celebration



Adam Guettel FR'82 and President Jack Creeden lead guests in a surprise happy birthday song for Polly Vaughan Fleischer ES'69P, widow of SYA founder Clark Vaughan.



Jamaica Yancy FR'03 invites guests to the alumni and faculty author table.

## WELCOME RECEPTION

The weekend opened with a cocktail reception featuring a musical performance by Tony Award-winning composer Adam Guettel FR'82. President Jack Creeden gave a toast to SYA's past and future with wine generously provided by alumni families.

Guettel, along with guest pianist Adam Ben-David (associate music director of *The Book of Mormon*), delighted the crowd with works from his powerful 1996 musical *Floyd Collins* and his romantic 2005 musical *The Light in the Piazza*, as well as selections from new works.

Throughout the evening, guests browsed tables including books by alumni and faculty authors and SYA yearbooks representing five decades; learned more about networking through LinkedIn and SYA's alumni mobile app; and shopped at SYA's newly launched online store ([sya.org/shop](http://sya.org/shop)). Alumni, faculty and friends enjoyed snapping photos in front of the red carpet wall.

Before the night was over, Guettel and Ben-David surprised Pauline Vaughan Fleischer ES'69P, widow of SYA founder Clark Vaughan, with a happy birthday performance in honor of her 88th birthday.



Board of Trustees Chair Kenneth Krushel ES'68, Malú Alvarez FR'00P, former President Woody Halsey FR'96P FR'97P CN'99P FR'01P IT'04P and former Trustee Carlos Alvarez FR'00P



Honorary Alumnus Award recipient Marie-Cécile Heurtin FR'68-'09F is flanked by former students Richard Ward FR'71, John Gaebler FR'71 CN'05P CN'12P, Doug Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P, Dave Davenport FR'71 and Trustee Jamie Broderick FR'71.



Tscharnier Hunter FR'01 and Alex Tonelli



Spain Resident Directors Francesca Piana ES'93-'97RD, Virginia Invernizzi (current), and Hal McCann (also former executive director) '77-'86ED ES'87-'89RD '90ED ES'91-'92RD and Becky McCann ES'87-'88F ES'91-'92F.



Former Spain Resident Director Griffin Morse ES'04-'11RD ES'13-'14RD checks in at registration.



Marie-Cécile Heurtin FR'68-'09F, Maggie Levine FR'82, former President Woody Halsey FR'96P FR'97P CN'99P FR'01P IT'04P, Sharon Hamilton FR'82F, Adam Guettel FR'82, Joe Reiter IT'02F, current SYA France faculty member Jean-Philippe Lemée and Andy Rebele FR'82 CN'13P



## BACK TO SCHOOL CLASSES

On Saturday morning, resident directors and current faculty members led classes that were interactive, lively and quiz-free.

### SYA CHINA

**Hilde Becker**, Resident Director

**Zhang Tong**, Mandarin Language Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator

Guest students listened intently to Resident Director Hilde Becker describe how, while China has undergone a great deal of transformation since 1978, it remains in a continuous state of revolutionary change. This class took a look at the last 35 years of reform in China in both a global, comparative perspective and an historical one. According to conventional wisdom, China's model of transformation has two key components; on the one hand, its development-oriented state unwaveringly has followed market-conforming policies, while on the other, the ruling communist party indomitably has resisted political pluralism. Becker concluded that neither of the two attributes can explain the China model. Prior to the history lesson, faculty member Zhang Tong gave the class a quick refresher course on Mandarin by focusing on two prominent phrases that have gained popularity on the internet. After the all-too-familiar drill exercises, Zhang Tong explained its different usages in various contexts, especially highlighting its newly acquired meanings in contemporary Chinese.

### SYA FRANCE

**Denis Brochu**, Resident Director

Resident Director Denis Brochu took guest students on an exploration of the world through the realm of senses using three distinct voices: a passage from Camus' *L'Etranger*; an interview with a blind journalist; and "Correspondances," a poem from Charles Baudelaire's *Les Fleurs du Mal*.



SYA France Resident Director Denis Brochu



SYA China Resident Director Hilde Becker



SYA China faculty member Zhang Tong captivates the audience

### "Correspondances"

La Nature est un temple où de vivants piliers  
Laissent parfois sortir de confuses paroles;  
L'homme y passe à travers des forêts de symboles  
Qui l'observent avec des regards familiers.

Comme de longs échos qui de loin se confondent  
Dans une ténébreuse et profonde unité,  
Vaste comme la nuit et comme la clarté,  
Les parfums, les couleurs et les sons se répondent.

Il est des parfums frais comme des chairs d'enfants,  
Doux comme les hautbois, verts comme les prairies,  
— Et d'autres, corrompus, riches et triomphants,

Ayant l'expansion des choses infinies,  
Comme l'ambre, le musc, le benjoin et l'encens,  
Qui chantent les transports de l'esprit et des sens.

— Charles Baudelaire



## SYA ITALY

Patrick Scanlon, Resident Director

Santo Sammartino, History and Latin Teacher

Longtime history and Latin faculty member Santo Sammartino, with Resident Director Patrick Scanlon, led a class on understanding Italy through opera: the beauty of the language and the drama of the people. Opera combines all arts: singing, acting, writing and visual composition. Opera celebrates the musicality of the language and puts onto stage the main dramatic characteristics of the Italian people: gesticulation, creativity, and emotional involvement with each other. The class explored how opera is reflected in the everyday life of the Italian people and ended with the class singing a rousing chorus from “La traviata.”



SYA Italy faculty member Santo Sammartino leads the class in singing opera



Participants enjoy class

## SYA SPAIN

Virginia Invernizzi, Resident Director

Resident Director Virginia Invernizzi walked the class through one of Federico García Lorca’s poems, “Romance de la luna, luna.” Lorca incorporates elements of Spanish folklore and Gypsy culture in this extraordinary poem about the death of a Gypsy child. After reading the poem together, the class was divided into small groups to discuss the imagery and symbolism conjured up by the

poem. After group work the class came together to further analyze the meaning behind the work.



SYA Spain Resident Director Virginia Invernizzi leads class in poetry reading

### “Romance de la luna, luna”

A Conchita García Lorca

La luna vino a la fragua  
con su polisón de nardos.  
El niño la mira, mira.  
El niño la está mirando.

En el aire conmovido  
mueve la luna sus brazos  
y enseña, lúbrica y pura,  
sus senos de duro estaño.

Huye luna, luna, luna.  
Si vinieran los gitanos,  
harían con tu corazón  
collares y anillos blancos.

Niño, déjame que baile.  
Cuando vengan los gitanos,  
te encontrarán sobre el yunque  
con los ojillos cerrados.

Huye luna, luna, luna,  
que ya siento sus caballos.  
Niño déjame, no pises,  
mi blancor almidonado.

El jinete se acercaba  
tocando el tambor del llano.  
Dentro de la fragua el niño  
tiene los ojos cerrados.

Por el olivar venían,  
bronce y sueño, los gitanos.  
Las cabezas levantadas  
y los ojos entornados.

Cómo canta la zumaya,  
¡ay, cómo canta en el árbol!  
Por el cielo va la luna  
con un niño de la mano.

Dentro de la fragua lloran,  
dando gritos, los gitanos.  
El aire la vela, vela.  
El aire la está velando.

— Federico García Lorca

## ALL-SCHOOL MEETING



Former President Woody Halsey FR'96P FR'97P CN'99P FR'01P IT'04P addresses guests during All-School Meeting

The 50th celebration weekend brought together alumni, alumni parents and many former faculty and senior administrators who met for the first time in decades to reconnect and exchange memories. “You all know that what is at the heart of any good school are faculty and academic leadership,” said President Jack Creeden. “We are fortunate to celebrate a rich history of

dedication and commitment from those men and women.”

Creeden invited former President Woody Halsey FR'96P FR'97P CN'99P FR'01P IT'04P, who served SYA for 31 years, to speak. Halsey paid homage to those who led SYA in its early years, including founder Clark Vaughan, former resident directors, executive directors and faculty. He spoke of the courage of the first faculty, like Vaughan and his widow, Pauline Vaughan Fleischer, as well as Daniel Olivier and his wife, Ellen, who left the “familiar” to live and teach abroad for a full academic year. Halsey said, “Polly played an active role during her time abroad, as all faculty spouses do. One of the things that I always remember about Polly is that she designed SYA’s logo, which is a brilliant summary of what SYA is all about: it’s a circle that represents the globe and its interwoven links represent the corners of the globe.”

Creeden acknowledged SYA’s founding member school, Phillips Academy, and founding charter member schools Phillips Exeter Academy and St. Paul’s School. Creeden said, “The combined support of these schools has been invaluable. Together

they have sent over 1,500 students to study with SYA.” Today, there are 43 schools in SYA’s member school consortium. Attendees were reminded that the pillars of SYA’s mission statement — inspiring academic excellence, facilitating second language mastery, deepening cultural awareness and global understanding, and offering exemplary college preparation — have guided us from the very beginning.

Guests enthusiastically rose to thank the more than 450 volunteers who give their time to SYA in various roles and thanked those who give their treasure by supporting the Annual Fund and other integral fundraising projects. “I can’t go on until I recognize one of SYA’s most generous and loyal supporters, Carlos Alvarez, a former trustee, and his wife Malú. Their daughter Carla is a member of the Class of SYA France 2000 and their other daughter, Malú, while not an SYA alum, is a talented photographer whose works were on display in the breakfast area this morning, and will be on display once again this evening. SYA’s purchases of *Villa Alvarez* and *Casa Foster 64*, our permanent homes in Rennes and Zaragoza, would not have been possible



President Jack Creeden gives a round of applause to SYA’s volunteers



without their extraordinary generosity,” said Creeden.

“Also in 2011, SYA received its largest gift to date of \$1 million from the Bulgari family, which served as a lead gift to establish *The Halsey Fund*, a permanent endowment for a scholarship named in honor of Woody Halsey, awarded each year to a high school student who demonstrates exceptional academic ability, financial need, and a substantial interest in global studies, understanding cultural differences and developing language proficiency. Having interviewed each of the four recipients personally, I can vouch for their exemplary qualifications for this prestigious scholarship,” Creeden added.

And in celebration of a more recent milestone, Creeden shared, “Just a few weeks ago, SYA’s Annual Fund hit an historic record with a total of over \$1.4 million. You — our alumni, parents, faculty and friends — enabled SYA to reach this landmark level. You met and exceeded the \$250,000 match. And young alumni from the classes of 2003 — 2014 engaged in the first-ever young alumni country participation competition, from which SYA

partner schools and the world at large,” Kelly-Aguirre remarked. “Some of what we are doing at SYA is new and might surprise you — pleasantly, we trust. And while remaining open to innovation and evolving best practice in education abroad, we are heartened to read in year-end surveys, year after year, that the foundational pillars of our success remain structurally sound.” The pillars that Kelly-Aguirre references include SYA’s talented former and current faculty and host families — the people who empower and embolden the students in ways few educational experiences can.

Kelly-Aguirre also spoke of new curriculum opportunities, including global studies, social science and environmental



Executive Director Eileen Kelly-Aguirre speaks at All-School Meeting

science. SYA is helping our students develop more deeply in terms of their intercultural competence, or “intercultural intelligence.” Kelly-Aguirre added, “SYA is in the vanguard of both its original research on the intercultural skill

SYA students join lessons for a week in a local Spanish school while living with a host family, has inspired similar experiences in Italy and China. Over the past three years, SYA has continued to offer opportunities for students across each of its four schools, to interact, discuss and observe issues of global importance. These have included students presenting together at the annual Model United Nations conference in Geneva, and more recently at the Global Issues Network conference in Milan. Separately, SYA Italy and SYA France students have traveled with their respective teachers to Lampedusa and to Calais, refugee center locations, to witness firsthand the migrant crisis impacting the European Union.

Kelly-Aguirre closed by reminding attendees that one of the greatest obstacles to deep cultural immersion and personal transformation is the “bubble” that young North Americans create for themselves to ease the strain of cultural adaptation and linguistic mastery and to avoid discomfort. “At SYA,” Kelly-Aguirre noted, “we are increasingly attuned to this phenomenon and are making efforts to help our students become aware of this tendency and to work through it sooner. We are confident that the improvements we are making will not only strengthen our curriculum, but will better prepare young people for the global careers and communities they will seek.”



**SYA is committed to preserving the heart of the program but also being nimble and visionary enough to adapt to evolving needs of our students, our partner schools and the world at large.**

— Eileen Kelly-Aguirre

China emerged victorious. Thank you all!”

Executive Director Eileen Kelly-Aguirre, looking forward, addressed the SYA of today and tomorrow. “SYA is committed to preserving the heart of the program but also being nimble and visionary enough to adapt to evolving needs of our students, our

development of students as well as the intentional integration of best practice into its program.”

SYA is always looking at new ways to facilitate connections between its students and local peers. The “Cinco Días En” (Five Days In) experience in Spain, which sees



## GLOBAL THINKERS: DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI SPEAKERS

SYA fosters a culture of curiosity, independence and empathy that prepares students to make a difference in their communities and careers. On Saturday morning, guests heard from featured alumni speakers who, as leaders in their fields, serve as inspiring examples of global thinkers and the diverse outcomes of an SYA education. The session was emceed by Gabriela D’Addario IT’05 and Mimi Crume Sterling FR’94.



### GABRIELA D’ADDARIO IT’05

Inspired by her year with SYA, D’Addario majored in Classics and Italian cultural studies and works in business development at BuzzFeed Motion Pictures. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Fiorello H. LaGuardia Foundation and served on SYA’s Philanthropy Council.



### MIMI CRUME STERLING FR’94

After graduating with a double major in French and Italian, Sterling worked with both Missoni and Donna Karan in Italy. She continued her career at Hermès, Assouline and Hearst Magazines and is now VP of Communications at Neiman Marcus. Sterling serves on SYA’s Philanthropy Council. She has traveled to over 41 countries and attributes her international curiosity to SYA.



### NOAH RICKERICH IT’12

York High School  
Dartmouth College

Noah Rickerich captivated the audience with his presentation that featured stories representing his year of personal growth and reflections on finding community and family abroad and wrestling with difference.

Rickerich grew up in rural Maine, with the same friends for many years. Up until that point, seeing the “world” meant venturing into Boston. Even though his mother is an alumna and the concept of SYA was part of his youth, actually attending SYA was an abrupt departure from his comfortable community. When Rickerich was accepted

with a merit scholarship, he faced the challenge of leaving all the comfort of home behind. Arriving in Viterbo, Rickerich was eagerly welcomed by two younger Italian brothers. Rickerich remarked, “When you first arrive abroad, a new world is swirling around you, and the firm footing on which you had been so reliant in the past is just not there. However, once you find a new foothold, the swirling slows down and the world starts to make sense — and it is a new, rich world, open for the first time to you. Finding that new foothold is not easy: you must find family and community.”

Rickerich is a senior at Dartmouth College studying math, philosophy and economics, and is a James O. Freedman Presidential Scholar research assistant studying collusion in natural gas markets. Interested in moral philosophy, he studied in Edinburgh, Scotland on an exchange program in 2014. He would like to pursue a PhD so he can apply the theoretical aspects of what he studies to the economies of developing nations.

Reflecting on his SYA year and subsequent experiences, Rickerich concluded, “In America, we value our own communities, but we aren’t often pushed to become members of different, completely foreign ones. We learn to think critically in our own disciplines in a truly extraordinary way, but we don’t grapple with cultural differences as frequently and the ambiguities that surround that. However, these types of learning, these types of lessons, are absolutely vital to the world we live in today.”



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## EMERY N. BROWN ES'74 ES'16P

Phillips Exeter Academy

Harvard College

Harvard University

Harvard Medical School

Computational neuroscientist and anesthesiologist Emery N. Brown explores one of medicine's big mysteries — exactly what happens to your brain under anesthesia? Brown believes the answers to this question could have profound implications, addressing everything from the nature of consciousness to improving the specificity of anesthetic drugs and leading to new treatments for chronic pain, depression and insomnia. Now 40 years after SYA, Brown lectures on this topic across the globe.

Brown is the Edward Hood Taplin Professor of Medical Engineering and Computational Neuroscience at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Warren M. Zapol Professor of Anaesthesia at Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital, where he is also an anesthesiologist. Working at large urban medical facilities, he often has patients who are Spanish-speaking. Brown commented, "We still don't have the translation facilities that we should have for all the languages spoken by patients and it can even be difficult to take care of Spanish-speaking patients, as incredible as it may sound, in a major hospital like Mass General. When I take care of my Spanish-speaking patients, people often remark, 'Wow, you speak Spanish!' Yes, there are people who speak more than one language, and I think more of us should do that."

Going through the SYA experience, Brown learned the value of cultural competency and sees how it relates to his profession as medical teams try to work better together. "The cultural competency that we talk about now, at least in the hospital, often has to do with learning to respect the other person's position, which is very difficult if you can't find a way to put yourself in that position. I think that all of us would agree that this ability is an important skill that SYA has given us," he said. "When we have bickering matches at work this little bubble goes off over my head, as I see colleagues having difficulty seeing other points of view, and I think to myself, 'you guys clearly didn't do School Year Abroad.'"

Videos of speakers  
and full biographies  
can be found at  
[sya.org/sya50](http://sya.org/sya50)



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## LAUREN BURKE CN'01

Amherst Regional High School

Connecticut College

New York University School of Law

Lauren Burke is the co-founder and Executive Director of Atlas: DIY, Developing Immigrant Youth, an incubator of education, empowerment

and community for undocumented youth and their allies.

Burke's work focuses on immigrant youth, specifically Chinese immigrants who have been forced into labor. She founded Atlas as a way to confront the outdated model of nonprofits that failed to address her clients' needs. Creating a safe place allows for affected youth to receive legal services and provides them with the tools to build self-esteem, to self-advocate and to be less vulnerable. In addition to its bricks and mortar facility in Brooklyn, Atlas provides online services to reach a greater population of youth in need. Burke was an adjunct professor at Brooklyn Law School and worked in numerous social justice roles before opening Atlas.

Burke finds inspiration working with people who have been told they are worthless and teaching them to recognize their self-worth. Burke credits SYA with putting her on the path to global consciousness and a belief in the impossible. "One of the things I think we learn at SYA is that there is no one way of being in the world. And if there's no one way of being in the world, then that means that the possibilities are endless. And if the possibilities are endless, that means that some of the possibilities haven't even been discovered yet."



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## DOUGLASS CASSEL ES'65 ES'11P

Phillips Academy  
Yale University  
Harvard Law School

Doug Cassel traced his career as a globe-trotting lawyer and professor of international human rights law at Notre Dame Law School back to his SYA roots in Barcelona. He recalls sitting in class as a sophomore at Phillips Academy when a faculty member asked, “Who would like to go to Spain next year?” Cassel’s hand was up before the sentence was finished. He said, “I wouldn’t be doing today what I’m doing, and what I’ve been doing now for decades, if it hadn’t been for a year with SYA.”

A professor of law and Notre Dame Presidential Fellow at the University of Notre Dame, Cassel is a scholar, author and practitioner of international human rights, international criminal and international humanitarian law. His work includes several amicus curiae briefs in the United States Supreme Court, involving the rights of prisoners at Guantanamo, and accountability for human rights violations under the Alien Tort Claims Act. He represents victims of human rights violations in Colombia, Guatemala, Peru and Venezuela, and he appeared as an expert witness in cases before the Inter-American Commission and Inter-American Court of Human Rights. Cassel credits longtime SYA Spain faculty member Ángel Vilalta, who opened his eyes to a world of injustice — and inspired struggle against it — as one of his leading teachers of human rights.



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## PAULINE CHEN FR’82

Loomis Chaffee School  
Harvard University  
Northwestern University Medical School

Surgeon and author of the national best-seller *Final Exam; A Surgeon’s Reflections on Mortality*, Pauline Chen puts her practice to print in her popular *New York Times* column as she examines the relationship between doctor and patient. A frequent lecturer, Chen conveys a larger medical message by weaving descriptive stories of her work as a physician with research on challenging issues affecting healthcare, like end-of-life care, access to care and the education and training of future doctors.

Chen believes that global education is relevant to science and the practice of medicine, as study abroad creates more well-rounded individuals, and more well-rounded individuals end up as more compassionate physicians. Furthermore, Chen stated, “The mere act of placing oneself wholly into a new culture, of challenging one’s beliefs and perceptions, and of living in a place



**Global education is as much about people and the connections students make as it is about the classes and subjects they are taught. It is about the remarkable bond that develops when individuals from different cultures come together to learn from one another . . . it is about the world of change that can be born of a school year abroad.**

where it takes work and a good dose of humility to survive, can give young doctors the insight and the courage they need to make medicine better. Global education is as much about people and the connections students make as it is about the classes and subjects they are taught. It is about the remarkable bond that develops when individuals from different cultures come together to learn from one another . . . it is about the world of change that can be born of a school year abroad.”





## CLAY PELL ES'99 CN'01

The Thacher School  
Harvard University  
Georgetown University Law Center

Clay Pell believes that every School Year Abroad graduate knows the value of international and world language education. Major corporations recognize this experience, too, as economic growth continues to accelerate most quickly beyond U.S. borders.

Yet the percentage of Americans studying a world language has not kept up, and only a tiny fraction of U.S. students study abroad. After explaining some of the facts and statistics that shape this reality, Pell encouraged fellow SYA alumni to make a difference. “All of us at SYA have had our lives transformed by this experience, and I believe we have a special responsibility — as an institution, as a community, and as individuals — to make this experience possible for others.”

Pell is a passionate advocate for public service and public policy that makes a difference in people's lives. Having served on President Obama's national security and education teams, he brings a unique view to global and domestic issues — and the connections between them. In 2014, Clay was a candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor of Rhode Island. A first-time candidate in a multi-candidate race, he received approximately 27 percent of the vote and mobilized one of the most diverse campaigns in the history of the state. Prior to seeking public office, Pell served as director for strategic planning at the National Security Council and deputy assistant secretary for International and Foreign Language Education at the U.S. Department of Education.



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## RHEA WONG FR'96

The Thacher School  
McGill University

Rhea Wong serves as executive director of Breakthrough New York (BTNY) and has a decade of experience working with talented students from high-poverty New York City schools. BTNY is a 10-year, tuition-free success program focused on getting kids to and through four-year colleges. BTNY provides after-school tutoring and summer enrichment programs to some of the best and the brightest students, providing them on an ongoing basis with the academic preparation, guidance and mentoring they need to be able to attend selective four-year colleges and break

their cycle of poverty. In 2014, 100 percent of its students attended a four-year college.

Crossing borders for SYA students means stepping into different countries. For students like Wong's, it means crossing 125th Street in Harlem. The experience of negotiating new worlds where cultural norms are often implicit, and unspoken, is not second nature. Students of both these worlds need guidance from teachers. Wong sees many similarities between being an American teenager in Rennes and being a scholarship student at a private school in NYC.

“Given that all of us have had the experience of crossing borders I would submit that we are most uniquely in a position to understand how to guide these border crossers with empathy, and with understanding, because after all we, too, have benefited from those who have decoded the world for us and have been generous with us when we didn't speak with the fluency of a native.”



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## HONORARY ALUMNUS AWARD

The Honorary Alumnus Award was established in 2015 to honor individuals who have made significant contributions toward SYA's welfare, reputation, and/or prestige, and/or toward its students, faculty and/or alumni.

Two former long-term faculty members received this prestigious award at the celebration: Ángel Vilalta (SYA Spain) and Marie-Cécile Heurtin (SYA France). Both of these teachers gave extraordinary and valuable contributions of time and efforts to SYA, and demonstrated their depth of loyalty, involvement and commitment to SYA's mission time and time again.

### Ángel Vilalta

SYA Spain Faculty 1964-1998

Ángel Vilalta was SYA's first non-U.S. hire and was critical to the creation and early success of SYA. He opened the eyes of his students by impressing upon them the fundamental importance of culture, in all its manifestations, in their lives. His passionate teaching and compelling lessons have remained in the hearts of SYA Spain alumni throughout the years. Former students Tom Dey ES'83 and Andrew Loo ES'83 visited Vilalta in Barcelona in June 2015 and recorded a short video to show at the celebration, as Vilalta was unable to attend in person. Loo introduced the video by saying, "Our recent conversations were amazing. He was never anything less than lucid, inspiring, wise ... he reminded us of all of the memories and the thoughts we had carried with us for the better part of thirty years — they are still true and even more so now. I realized, again and again, that great teachers don't just teach you the facts; they lead you to a place where you are a more compassionate, thoughtful young adult. Ángel delivered on all of that and more." In his acceptance of the award, Vilalta said that being a part of SYA "was one of the best things" in his life.

### Marie-Cécile Heurtin

SYA France Faculty 1967-2009

SYA's longest-serving faculty member, Marie-Cécile Heurtin, was honored for her extraordinary legacy with SYA France. Throughout her years of teaching she enlightened hundreds, if not thousands, of students on the art of French literature. Heurtin was always known as a thoughtful, supportive and inspiring teacher. She was presented with her award by classmates Douglas Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'00P IT'05P ES'10P and John Gaebler FR'71 CN'05P CN'12P. "We all have such vivid recollections of the individual teachers and that's what really stands out and distinguishes SYA," said Renfield-Miller. "Mme. and M. Heurtin also were the first teachers many of us encountered that were politically and culturally engaged in the local community." Remembering his introduction to Albert Camus in Heurtin's class, Gaebler referred to a letter that Camus wrote, shortly after receiving the Nobel Prize, to a high school teacher who had encouraged and inspired him. "It is fitting to recognize the encouragement of our teachers," said Gaebler. "To this end, in tribute to the contributions that you have brought to SYA and to us, your students, it is with great pleasure that we invite you to join our ranks by distinguishing you with the title of Honorary Alumnus. From all of us, thank you."



On Saturday afternoon, over 75 attendees joined Mme. Heurtin for a special class during which she taught the poem "Les Regrets" of Joachim du Bellay.



Ángel Vilalta ES'65-'98F



Andrew Loo ES'83 introduces a short film in which Vilalta accepted the Honorary Alumnus Award



John Gaebler FR'71 CN'05P CN'12P and Doug Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P honor Marie-Cécile Heurtin with the Honorary Alumnus Award

Videos from the  
award presentations  
can be found at  
[sya.org/sya50](http://sya.org/sya50)



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

SYA's alumni make a profound impact in their careers and communities. Within our alumni community, certain individuals have risen to extraordinary heights in their professional and/or volunteer endeavors and in their contribution and leadership within the SYA community. The SYA Distinguished Alumni Award was established in 2015 to recognize these outstanding alumni leaders.

The 11 members of the inaugural class, SYA Spain 1965, are the first-ever recipients of this award. Each of these "schoolboys" is one of SYA's original brave pioneers, and it is because of their giant leap of faith that SYA came to be. In the fall of 1964, these students left their familiar surroundings to take a 10-day journey on the *MS Aurelia* across the ocean to the yearlong adventure that awaited them. In doing so, they led the way for 7,500 students to follow over the next 50 years. Their commitment to the elements of SYA's mission; mastering a second language, displaying aptitude in academic challenges, cultivating cultural awareness, and becoming global citizens — established an extraordinary foundation for SYA's growth and development.

These classmates have distinguished themselves in a multitude of ways, illustrating that SYA serves as a launching point for life. Many speak more than two languages and collectively have lived in 17 countries since their time at SYA. They have found successful careers in law, human rights advocacy, education, construction, architectural design, consulting, financial services, journalism, art, manufacturing, media, publishing, teaching and more. They've earned PhDs, JDs and MBAs, and have made a difference with their entrepreneurship and leadership in philanthropy and volunteering. Among them are a Fulbright Scholar and a "Jeopardy!" Hall of Famer and two classmates have had a hand in shaping SYA today through service on SYA's Board of Trustees.

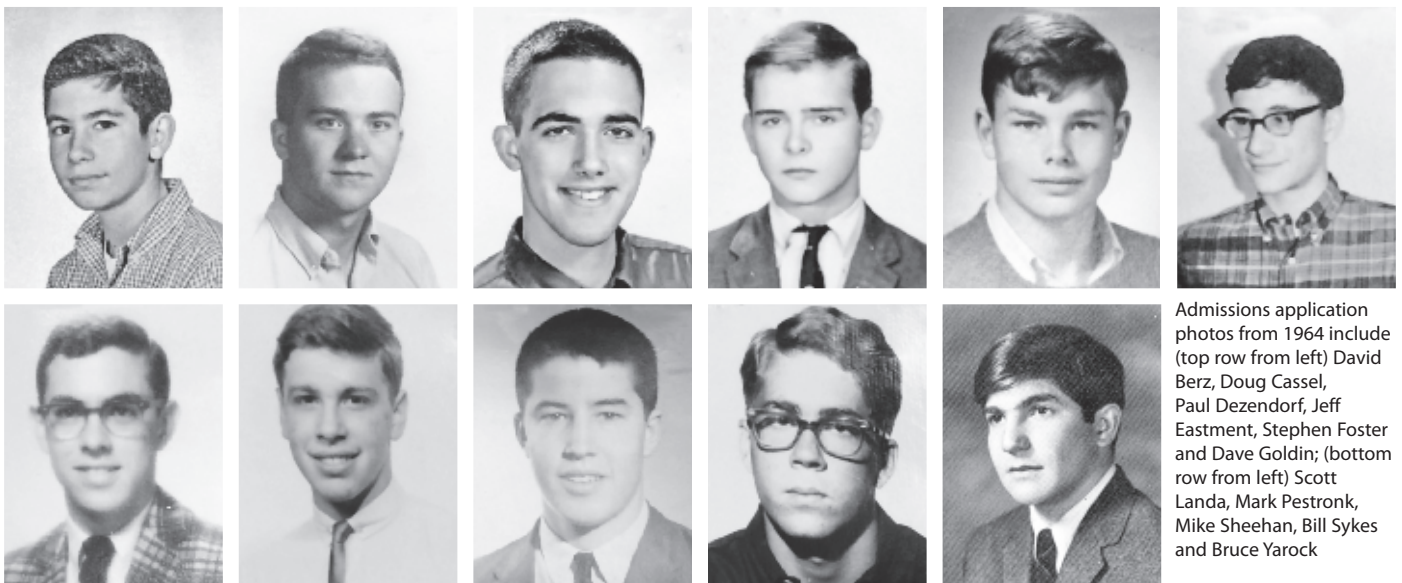
In April 2015, nine of the 11 classmates celebrated their 50th reunion in Barcelona and Zaragoza, and six classmates attended the 50th celebration in July. The class set a high bar for subsequent 50th reunion classes, reaching a first-ever 100 percent participation in the Annual Fund.



Members of the class celebrating their 50th reunion in Zaragoza in April 2015 include, from left to right: Bill Sykes, David Berz, Mark Pestronk, Stephen Foster, Jeff Eastment, Dave Goldin, Doug Cassel, Mike Sheehan and Scott Landa



President Jack Creeden with members of SYA Spain 1965 Distinguished Alumni Honorees: Mark Pestronk, Jeff Eastment, Bill Sykes, Bruce Yarock and Stephen Foster



Admissions application photos from 1964 include (top row from left) David Berz, Doug Cassel, Paul Dezendorf, Jeff Eastment, Stephen Foster and Dave Goldin; (bottom row from left) Scott Landa, Mark Pestronk, Mike Sheehan, Bill Sykes and Bruce Yarock



## 50th ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

Trolley buses transported guests from downtown Boston to the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum for the pinnacle event of the celebration weekend — the Anniversary Reception.

A projection of SYA's 50th anniversary logo in the Pavilion provided a dramatic focal point against the stunning backdrop of the Boston harbor as guests arrived. In the lobby, alumni, faculty, parents and friends enjoyed reminiscing with their SYA yearbooks, connecting with SYA through the mobile app and LinkedIn, chatting with representatives from the reception's Diamond Sponsor Cambridge Travel and purchasing SYA apparel from the newly launched online store. Guests enjoyed a culinary trip across the world with food stations inspired by SYA's schools in China, France, Italy and Spain, and clinked glasses of wine donated by Shane Benson, The Corley Family ES'81 IT'10 ESS'15 ES'16, Ted Lemon FR'75, Michael McCarty FR'70, Stuart Randall FR'74, Martin Sinkoff FR'73 and The Turley Family FR'09.



SYA China faculty and alumni from over the years



ES'68 classmates Bruce McMillan, Rob Hughes FR'95P FR'98P, Vincent Pasternak and Board of Trustees Chair Kenneth Krushel



SYA twins Margaret Conklin FR'74 and Alice Conklin FR'74 FR'07P and Alex Alger FR'79 CN'12P and Hilary Alger FR'79





Alice Collins FR'14 shares the experience with her parents Anne Childs and Chip Collins FR'14P



Carlos Alvarez FR'00P, Natalia Bulgari ES'86 (honorary co-chair), Margaret Conklin FR'74 (honorary co-chair) and Malú Alvarez FR'00P



Francesca Piani ES'93-'97RD, Emery Brown ES'74 ES'16P, Virginia Andradas ES'16P and former SYA Spain staff member Marisa Sainati



President Jack Creedon (center) with Diamond Sponsor Cambridge Travel staff (left to right) Weimeng Chen, Helen Wang, Janet Jiang and Yifan Bai



Guests share their SYA experiences over cocktails and conversation





FR'71 classmates Scott Thompson, Richard Ward and Trustee Jamie Broderick



Peter Esty FR'77F ES'82P IT'05RD VN'10RD, Hal McCann '77-'86ED ES'87-'89RD '90ED ES'91-'92RD, Becky McCann ES'87-'88F ES'91-'92F, Crayton Bedford FR'68F FR'72-'74RD '75-'76ED, former President Woody Halsey FR'96P FR'97P CN'99P FR'01P IT'04P and Happy Esty ES'82P IT'05F VN'10F



SYA France faculty from throughout the decades gather for a red carpet pose



Carrie Gaebler CN'05, Will Scharer and Peter Scharer IT'16 enjoy French cuisine



FR'08 classmates Charlie Aidinoff, Becca Engel, Tolly Taylor, Will McLaughlin and Eddy Santana





Gabriela D'Addario IT'05 is joined by her parents Katherine LaGuardia and Patrick D'Addario IT'05P



Former Trustee and President-elect Tom Hassan (left) with Gold Sponsor David Wolowitz and his wife, Susan, representing McLane Law Firm



Executive Director Eileen Kelly-Aguirre, Nathan Costa, Trustee Aimeclair Roche, head of The Bishop's School, and Trustee Peter Levin CN'03P



Michael McCarty FR'70, one of the generous wine donors, raises a glass in celebration



ES'83 classmates Eliza Eager Van Peski, Michael Riddle, Andrew Loo, Dana Patterson Solomon, Ellen Pignatello Regenstreif ES'13P and Martha Turner



FR'84 classmates Scott Parker and Bart Quillen





Polly Vaughan Fleischer ES'69P, widow of SYA founder Clark Vaughan, and son Chris Vaughan ES'69



Posing with SYA Italy faculty member Santo Sammartino are Susanna Sprague IT'07, Melissa Schwenk IT'07 and Ned Henningsen IT'04



Noah Faison CN'15 and Louise Ambler Osborn FR'80 CN'09P ES'13P



Trustee Kristin Lund Vosmik FR'81 FR'16P, Natalia Bulgari ES'86 (honorary co-chair), Gabriela D'Addario IT'05 and Margaret Conklin FR'74 (honorary co-chair)



Rhea Wong FR'96 and Trustee Jenny Wanger CN'04



Claire Simmons FR'03 and Carolyn Hofley FR'15





Guests peruse decades of SYA yearbooks



ES'13 classmates Nina Regenstreif, Zach Barragan and Sharron Bockman



Ed McGuinnis IT'04 joins his mother, Ruth Ann Gillis ES'71 IT'04P, and her classmates Rick Miller ES'71 and Sam Heath ES'71



Chatting with Diamond Sponsor Cambridge Travel staff are Andy Rebele FR'82 CN'13P (left), Fernando Salas FR'74 (right) and his wife, Patricia Fonseca (second from right)



Alice Collins FR'14, Lauren Maymar ES'14 and Danny Shleifer FR'14



## READER'S THEATRE PERFORMANCE



Board of Trustees Chair Kenneth Krushel ES'68 welcomes guests

A special performance helped alumni to relive their SYA experiences and gave parents a deeper understanding of their child's journey, both external and internal. Five alumni readers — Margaret Austin FR'11, Daniel Dozier FR'00, Noah Faison CN'15, Sam Heath ES'71 and Sarinda Parsons Wilson FR'83 FR'13P — accompanied by guitarist Vincent Pasternak ES'68, celebrated the SYA experience through authentic student recollections and reflections.

The script was compiled from firsthand alumni accounts submitted to SYA over 50 years. Poignant and humorous vignettes chronicled a student's preparations for the year, first impressions, the triumphs of even the smallest accomplishments and reflections on cultural traditions and of SYA's lifelong and life-changing impact.



Vincent Pasternak ES'68 performs original music



Margaret Austin FR'11



Daniel Dozier FR'00

*Am I insane? Am I really leaving everything to study French?*

*I am so surprised by how small everything is in Viterbo. The cars, streets and houses all seem tiny in relation to what I'm used to in Jersey.*

*So much to remember! Kiss on both cheeks, in addition to shaking hands ... obey curfew, conserve electricity, take quick showers, minimize laundry piles ...*

*It never occurred to me that I would have something to say but no way to say it.*





Alumni readers pay tribute to 50 years of SYA through vignettes while Vincent Pasternak ES'68 sets the tone with classical Spanish guitar.



Noah Faison CN'15 portrays a student getting ready to depart for a year abroad.



Sam Heath ES'71



Sarinda Parsons Wilson FR'83 FR'13P

Once, while telling my family that I like to fish, instead of using pescare, meaning "to fish," I used pisciare, which is a vulgar word meaning "to go to the bathroom."

It's amazing what salt and olive oil can do.

On the third day of school, my host mother determined I was ready to ride the bus alone. People were pushing past me. Without my small, spunky host mother leading the way, I landed up wedged between a fat businessman, a woman with crazy red hair and a metal pole. I forgot to count stops and missed mine ... I had to squeeze my way to the front and finally managed to get off the bus. With my heart pounding and sweating profusely, I actually found my way back to school! I was 20 minutes late and failed the tingxie (character quiz). But, I had my first taste of victory!



A captivated audience

*My French father would clarify that he was not my father, and then he would give me fatherly advice. My host family was classically French – every Sunday we attended church, followed by an elaborate dinner. Life had a rhythm that was both comforting and beautiful.*

*My host mother's home-made nem are the best! Every Sunday night we would set up an assembly line for the eggrolls where my host sister and I would roll them, my host mom would fry them up, and then the whole family would wolf them down.*

*I love morcillas! They're sausages made from coagulated pig's blood and rice and are served sliced and fried. I'm starting to worry that my rabbi will find out how radically un-kosher my diet has been.*

*I kept trying to liken the Italian psyche to that of Americans. The hardest pill to swallow was that Italians are ... not Americans.*





Alumni readers Noah Faison CN'15, Sarinda Parsons Wilson FR'83 FR'13P, Daniel Dozier FR'00, Margaret Austin FR'11 and Sam Heath ES'71 take a bow.



Guests enjoy dessert and conversation after the performance

*I am still a stranger but  
I no longer feel foreign.  
I am one step closer to  
belonging and calling this  
culture home.*

*One night in Chuxi village, I lay in  
bed with a headache, shivering in  
the unheated room and staring at  
the spiders crawling over sacks  
of rice. I longed for a warm,  
comfortable bed, and someone to  
take care of me. A familiar home-  
sick feeling crept over me, but  
not for my American bed. I  
wanted my Beijing room.*

*I learned not to  
wish away hardship,  
frustration,  
homesickness,  
failure and fear,  
because without  
those, success is  
not nearly as  
meaningful.*

*My high school taught  
me to read, write and  
think; but SYA taught  
me what to read, write  
and think about.*

# SYA 50th Anniversary Celebration

## Corporate Sponsors

SYA is grateful to its important and longtime business partners for their sponsorships.

### DIAMOND

*Exclusive sponsors of the Anniversary Reception*



Cambridge Travel

### GOLD

*Sponsors of Saturday morning's breakfast and coffee break*



### SILVER



### BRONZE



### FRIEND



## Wine Donors

SYA is grateful to its alumni families and friends for their generous wine donations.



**New York Vintners**  
Shane Benson



**Corley Family Napa Valley**  
The Corley Family ES'81 IT'10 ESS'15 ES'16



**Littorai Wines**  
Ted Lemon FR'75



**The Malibu Vineyard**  
Michael McCarty FR'70



**Bayfield Importing**  
Stuart Randall FR'74



**Frederick Wildman and Sons, LTD**  
Martin Sinkoff FR'73



**Turley Wine Cellars**  
The Turley Family FR'09

### 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE POSTER

Back cover image: 50th anniversary commemorative poster generously donated by Roger McNamee FR'74, designed by John Mavroudis with art direction by Chris Shaw ([www.moonalice.com](http://www.moonalice.com)). The artist's interpretation captures the journey of our students through SYA and beyond.



Looking back on SYA's 50th year:

**\$1,429,748**

raised from **1,401**

**alumni & parents**

in the  
**Annual Fund**



**234** students in  
the class of 2015  
clocked up 3,704,408  
air miles last year



**7,500+**  
alumni living  
and working in  
65+ countries



**403** attendees at SYA's  
50th Anniversary celebration



*Because  
of* **You.**

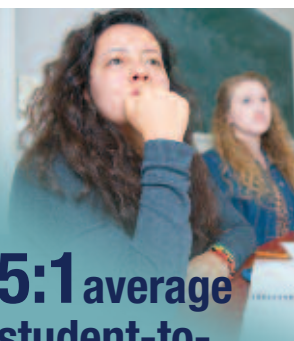
**Spain 1965** set a record of  
100% participation in the Annual Fund



**55%**  
of students  
received financial  
aid totaling  
**\$3,208,488**



**5:1** average  
student-to-  
teacher ratio  
at each of our  
4 schools



**150** leadership  
donors of \$1,500+



**sya.org**

 **SYA**

SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD



CELEBRATING



ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND, JULY 24 & 25, 2015

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

MAVRUDIS