

SYA

MAGAZINE

SYA
MAGAZINE



SPRING 2011



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Spring 2011

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SYA Magazine chronicles the professional and personal lives of SYA alumni, faculty and staff, and provides current news from the home office and our schools in Europe and Asia. We appreciate receiving your news, photographs and suggestions for articles to broaden the scope of this publication.

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ON THE COVER:

Alex Covert FR'11 (Episcopal High School, Alexandria, Va.) photographed her classmates as part of a school project that coincidentally provided the framework for the theme of the magazine's cover, "The Faces of SYA France." Among the class of FR'11 is the familiar face of a man who, like this year's students, considers Rennes to be part of his heart and soul. As we bid Woody Halsey adieu, bon chance et bon santé, we pay tribute to his illustrious 31-year SYA career, which began in Rennes in 1980.

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Photo courtesy of Robin Hauser Reynolds FR '92



ince I announced my retirement back in the fall, the question I've heard most often from friends, colleagues and members of the greater SYA family is: "What do you plan to do?" I'm still energetic, I believe as deeply as ever in the value of language learning and international exchange, and my love of travel and discovery of new cultures is unabated, so one day I may indeed "do" something. We'll see if any opportunities present themselves. For now, though, I'm thinking more about what I will "not do" for a while.

I won't lose sleep over what every uptick in the value of the Euro costs SYA; I won't worry (not quite as much, anyway) about the safety of our kids on the road or their success in the college-application sweepstakes; and I probably won't even hear about the latest story for the "I-thought-I-had-seen-everything" file.

Instead, I'll be able to focus on my own children and grandchildren, helping the youngest of them to learn French and Chinese, even as I reactivate my French and get back to studying Spanish and Italian. Maybe I'll learn a little Neapolitan dialect so I can better understand my favorite songs. Maybe I'll do some translating for someone.

Most of all, I look forward to the gift of time. Time to read. Time to reflect. Time to get involved with the twins' school, time to walk to the café, time to ride a bike to the *épicerie* and to the *boulangerie*.

Oh yes, the first chapter of this new phase of my life will open where my SYA adventure began 31 years ago: in France. This time *la famille* Halsey will be in the south, probably Avignon, but the pace and patterns of life that I loved so much in Rennes will be much the same. Only the weather will be different! I hope to join a community of new French friends and I hope to find a house with a guest room so many of you can come to visit.

As I contemplate leaving the work and the organization that have defined my life for so long, I'm relaxed and serene for two key reasons.

First, the superb SYA professionals whom I have been privileged to work with for so many years are not leaving with me. Long after I'm gone, they'll still be skillfully delivering the life-changing educational experience that SYA is famous for.

Second, I know that Jack Creeden, who introduces himself elsewhere in these pages, has the skills to ensure that governance and management at SYA continue always to improve, the imagination to create innovative programming in response to changing student demands and world needs, and the wisdom to "hold fast to that which is good."

Welcome, Jack! Farewell to all who read these lines. I hope you will stay in touch.

W. W. Halsey II
President

It is a distinct pleasure to have the opportunity to write to you as part of this edition of *SYA Magazine*. I was honored to accept appointment as the next president of SYA, and view with great respect and admiration the marvelous organization that Woody Halsey and others have built during the last 40-plus years. Anyone who has been involved with secondary schools and global education knows that SYA has set the standard for high quality and authentic overseas study.

Since the announcement of my appointment, I've had productive and highly informative conversations with members of the Board of Trustees, Woody and the senior members of the staff. Under Woody's leadership and guidance, the transition will proceed smoothly and efficiently. I am energized by the incredible opportunities ahead for SYA, and am eager to get started on July 1.

My own experience with study-abroad programs began early in my career when I served as assistant dean at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. One of my responsibilities was to work together with a faculty committee to select students for Wisconsin's program in France. As an associate provost at Rutgers University, I spent a year as the director of Rutgers Study Abroad in the United Kingdom, teaching English literature at the University of Sussex and coordinating the academic programs of our students at 10 universities in the U.K. Our children attended British schools and we made lifelong friends in our neighborhood in Lewes. Nothing beats living and working abroad in terms of truly understanding and experiencing a different culture.

As headmaster of two independent schools during the last 15 years, I've both sent students abroad through SYA and helped to advance international exchange programs and global studies curricular innovation. Some of my most educationally rewarding experiences have been with students while we studied and traveled in China, Italy and Israel.

But you know all this because of your relationship with SYA. It doesn't matter if you are an alum, the parent of an alum or a loyal supporter of SYA. You understand the critical importance of world language proficiency, cultural immersion through daily experiences, and the transformational impact on a young person's life that SYA can have.

The opportunity to educate today's adolescents so they view the world with a global perspective is daunting, but SYA has a long tradition of challenging students in their most formative years to see people, traditions, cultures and values from a different perspective. SYA was far ahead of the rest of the educational establishment in creating immersion experiences that tested the abilities of American teenagers to think about themselves, their country, their language and their preconceived notions of "others." Who among us who have lived and studied abroad do not count our overseas experiences as a defining moment in increasing our understanding and appreciation for differences?

Advances in technology have made sharing information easier and more efficient across the globe. Every day we see evidence of how interdependent we are on one another. Though technology has increased the speed with which we communicate, it has not replaced the essential task of learning about one another's history and culture in a way that promotes respect and understanding. SYA makes use of the latest technology so we can all stay in touch; but the fundamental and time-honored principle of immersing oneself in the language, culture and customs of a different country for an extended period of time remains a constant. Even the most innovative 21st-century technology will never replace the value of human beings interacting on an everyday basis while living and learning together. SYA offers the finest example of traditional and experiential learning in the American educational system, and we do it better than anybody else.

As I begin my tenure as the next president of SYA, I hope to have the opportunity to meet and speak with many of you. I'm interested in hearing your "SYA story" as a way to help me understand more fully the history and rich heritage of our program. As members of the SYA community, we must honor the past that has brought us to this point, and engage fully in the challenges that are ahead. I look to the future with great confidence because of the wonderful history on which we can all draw.

Jack Creeden
President elect



Meet SYA President-Elect John E. Creeden

After unanimously accepting the recommendation of the Search Committee, the SYA Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that John E. Creeden has been selected to be the next president of School Year Abroad, effective July 1, 2011.

Jack Creeden is an educator of deep experience and many professional and personal talents and has held significant leadership positions at both the university and K–12 levels. He has developed strategic plans, created innovative curricula, supervised faculty and staff, expanded global programs and successfully completed a major capital campaign. Jack and his family are internationally minded: the family lived in England for a year and both of his children have participated in foreign language immersion and homestay programs.

Most recently, Jack was headmaster of Providence Day School (PDS), in Charlotte, North Carolina, a highly regarded independent school of more than 1,500 students in grades TK–12. There, notably, Jack coordinated PDS's strategic planning effort and directed the creation of a Mandarin-language program in the Lower School. For 12

years before PDS, Jack was headmaster of Fountain Valley School, in Colorado, an independent boarding and day school of 235 students in grades 9–12. There, he increased enrollment, improved student quality and energized fund-raising.

A 1974 graduate of Holy Cross with a B.A. cum laude in English, Jack went on to the University of Wisconsin, where he earned an M.A. in English literature and a Ph.D. in educational administration. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin, Rutgers University, the University of Sussex (England) and the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) National Institute for New Heads. Among his university assignments were associate dean of the college, coordinator of minority and disadvantaged students and associate provost for Student Affairs. He also served as resident director of Rutgers' Study Abroad in Great Britain.

Jack is currently vice president of the NAIS Board of Trustees and is the former chair of its governance committee. In those positions he has been instrumental in envisioning NAIS strategies and services to its 1,400 member schools as they look to the

future. It is worth noting that approximately 60 percent of SYA students come from NAIS schools.

Responding to his appointment, Jack said, "I've always regarded SYA as the pre-eminent school — the gold standard — for catalyzing the kind of immense personal and intellectual growth that can come to high school students grappling with the challenge of learning a foreign language in the context of its culture. But during the interview process, through my discussions with a cross section of SYA alumni, trustees and staff, I came to realize just how profound and life-changing SYA is. I can't wait to start work!"

SYA President Search Committee

Denis Brochu, *Resident Director, SYA France*

Paul Chapman, *Trustee, Former Head, Head-Royce School*

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Lynn Nathanson, *SYA Director of Development*

Doug Renfield-Miller FR'71, *Board Vice Chair*

Rob Schiller FR'69, *Co-chair, Trustee*

John Rosen Named Interim SYA Spain Resident Director



Executive Director Nelson Chase is pleased to announce that John Rosen, SYA Spain Resident Director 1997–2002, will return to Zaragoza to serve as interim RD for the 2011–12 academic year. "We're delighted John has accepted this position," said Chase. "We're confident he will seamlessly fit into a role he knows inside and out. I'm thoroughly confident that our students and faculty will be inspired by his leadership and supported by John's warmth and compassion." John will temporarily replace current RD Griffin Morse, who will be on sabbatical leave.

John graduated from the University of Colorado with a B.A. in political science and

holds an M.A. in Spanish literature from New York University. He began his teaching career at The New Hampton School. He later joined Milton Academy as a Spanish teacher and was appointed department head.

Since leaving SYA in 2002, John has lived in Barcelona with his wife, Inés Trías, a native of the city, who taught art history, history and Spanish literature at SYA from 1987 until 2002. After leaving Zaragoza, John and Inés continued their interest in study-abroad experiences for college-bound Americans by founding and co-directing El Casal, a gap-year program in Barcelona.

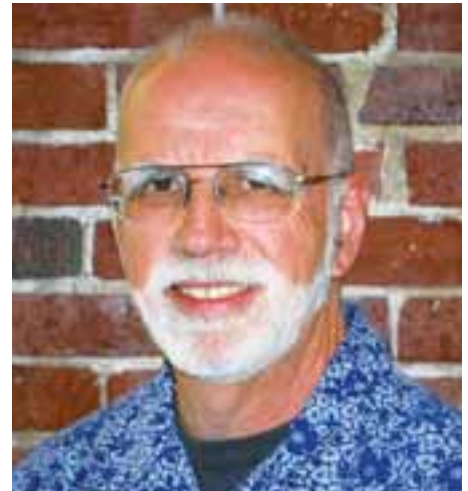
John Willard Receives Presidential Teaching Award

John Willard, SYA France math instructor, was named a winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The award is the nation's highest honor for teachers of mathematics and science, recognizing outstanding K–12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

President Obama named 103 mathematics and science teachers as recipients of the prestigious award. The educators received their honors earlier this year at an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington,

D.C., during an awards ceremony. They also enjoyed several days of educational and celebratory events, including visits with members of Congress and science agency leaders.

John hails from Colchester High School, on Lake Champlain in Vermont, where he has been teaching all levels of mathematics for the past 11 years. He served as principal of the school for the previous dozen years. John holds a master's in mathematics from Rutgers University and a master's degree in special education as well as a Certificate of Advanced Study in school administration from the University of Vermont.



Meet SYA's Admissions Road Warriors



Led by Director of Admissions Rachel Keegan Kelley, this intrepid group of five (four of whom are alumni) visited more than 300 independent and public high schools during the 2010–11 recruiting season. After dozens of hours spent practicing their presentations, they hit the road in mid-October, sweeping through almost 40 states in three months! Enrollment contracts continue to roll in, but it's safe to say that diligence and passion for the SYA mission have played a big part in what will be close to a 100 percent-enrolled class of 2013.

Pictured, from left:

Ameerah C. Phillips ES'05 graduated from Amherst College as a political science major with a concentration in Middle Eastern studies. She is fluent in Spanish and conversational in Arabic after spending a year studying in Jordan. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, dancing, traveling and cooking.

Eric Bibl FR'06 graduated from Wake Forest University with bachelor's degrees in English and French studies with a concentration in French business. Eric is an avid traveler, sailor and chess player.

Lauren Jerr earned her bachelor's degree from Salve Regina University. After college, she lived in Copenhagen and loved being part of the international community there. She is currently working on her master's in education at Northeastern University. When not working or traveling, she spends much of her time playing rugby for Boston Women's RFC.

Gabriela D'Addario IT'05 earned her bachelor's degree in classics from Columbia University in 2010. Gabi is fluent in Italian and Portuguese; along with learning languages, she enjoys playing competitive volleyball and traveling.

Leah Boch ES'04 earned a bachelor's degree in social anthropology from Harvard College. She has interned in Chile, studied abroad in Brazil and taught fifth-grade math and science at a bilingual school in Costa Rica. Leah is fluent in Spanish and dabbles in Portuguese. She enjoys rock climbing, scuba diving, playing ultimate Frisbee and knitting.



MORE THAN FINDING MY WAY

By Veronica Houk CN'11, Deerfield Academy



In my American family, I am not known for my ability to read maps. In fact, I'm probably lower than our Jack Russell terriers on the "directions" hierarchy, but I'm not positive because I've never actually been asked for directions. My family has never been that desperate.

Even they would be impressed with how lost I was during my first week in Beijing. It was the third day of school, and somehow my host mother and I decided I was ready to ride the bus by myself. We were naïve.

It never occurred to me before that I had to earn my spot on the bus. Men and women rushed and elbowed their way onto the vehicle before sidling toward the back and, without my small, spunky mother to lead the way, I did not earn a prestigious spot. Finally I wedged between a round-bellied businessman, a petite woman with electric red hair, and a metal pole. I forgot all about counting stops (I had never learned the name of my final station) and instead peeked out the window at the buildings we passed. I stared without a clue as we arrived at and passed my bus stop. Two stations later I realized my mistake, but I wasn't close enough to the door to get off. By the time

I made it off, I was sweating heavily from heat and panic. Why hadn't my family warned anybody here about my limitations!

Don't worry, I ended up fine. I was 20 minutes late to class and failed the *tingxie* (character quiz), but I found my way back to school — all by myself! Was I crazy to view this as a victory?

Well, eight months later, I still do. This year represents much more than the ability to orient myself in a foreign city. It's more than knowing the difference between a Gansu and a Guangdong accent, how to make the best vegetarian dumplings, and that my puns are far more successful in Chinese. It's more than the memory of the first time my host aunt told me I was at home (I had said it a hundred times in English to classmates, but hearing it in Chinese made me understand it) or that I realized I was happy here.

If I had to describe this year in one word, the only one I can think of is in Mandarin: 给力, *geili*. It translates roughly to "give strength," or "awesome." Did I mention this year is more than knowing colloquial Chinese terms?



SYA Q&A

What surprised you the most when you first arrived in China?

The most surprising thing I noticed was the population. I had always heard about the huge population but I never would have guessed there would be this many people. In Chinese, the term for “huge crowds” translated literally is “mountains and oceans of people.” I wouldn’t describe Beijing or China in any other way.

What was the most challenging adjustment?

The most challenging thing I had to get used to was my commute to school. I came to SYA China from St. Paul’s, a private boarding school, where school was a two-minute walk from my dorm. I went from a two-minute walk to a 40-minute commute on the bus.

Choose three words to describe your first bike ride to school.

Well, I didn’t have a first bike ride but I did have a first bus ride, so *crowded*, *boiling hot*, *noisy*.

How have your language skills improved?

My language skills have definitely skyrocketed since I got here. I went from not being able to understand my host mom at all to being able to talk to her about democracy and China’s population problem.

What food have you grown to like that you never thought you would enjoy?

I’ve come to love everything my host mom makes. But the one thing that I would never have guessed I’d grow to love are “tree ears.” They’re a type of mushroom unlike any other. They’re black, thin, curly and delicious!

With only half a year left in China, what do you hope to accomplish?

With the other half of my year in Beijing, I plan to really put my language skills to work, and get to know the city and its people. I’ve already gotten to know most of the famous places, but I want to visit all the lesser-known parts of Beijing.

What have you learned from your host family?

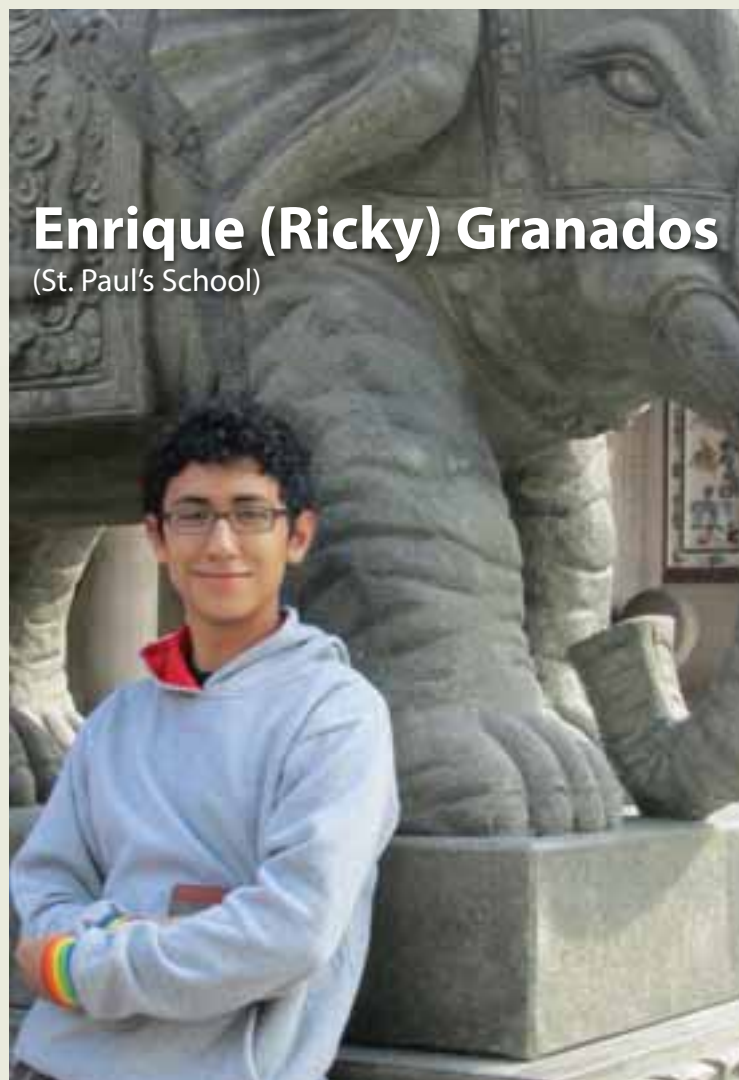
My host mom has taught me so many things. She taught me how to pick the best vegetables in the market, how to pick the best silks and how to make the best kinds of dumplings.

What is your most embarrassing cultural mishap?

My most embarrassing cultural mishap was when I was on the bus. It was so hot I had the window open with my elbow out. All of a sudden I hear the bus driver yelling. I said to myself, “Boy, whoever’s getting yelled at must have done something really bad.” Well, little did I know that the person was me! Then all of a sudden everyone on the bus turned around and stared at me. Even the little kids sitting at the very front stared. The bus driver was screaming at the top of his lungs: “Get your elbow inside!” I yanked my elbow in and closed the window. After that, I just slouched in my seat for the rest of the ride, embarrassed.

Will you return to China to visit, study or perhaps live here one day?

I will definitely come back to China at some point. Maybe not to live, but Beijing has become too much of a home for me not to come back at all. I would definitely consider coming back with some sort of study program.



Enrique (Ricky) Granados
(St. Paul’s School)

What will you miss the most about living in China?

I will definitely miss the food the most. Specifically, I’ll miss the boiled dumplings from across the street, at Taiping Jiaozi Guar.

One piece of advice you would give to a new SYAer is . . .

I would say go out and explore Beijing. Don’t let it slip through your fingers. A year may seem like a long time, but in Beijing the time flies. Also go out and talk to the locals, because most of the time your most cherished memories will be with those people.

Why would you recommend SYA China?

I would recommend SYA China because it gives you a clear insight into all aspects of Chinese culture. You will learn about China and its culture from people who live it and breathe it every day.

What would you say to an interested student to convince him or her to study abroad with SYA?

It will open your mind to the global community around you. Going abroad will change the way you think for the better. It’s kind of like taking the window from which you view the world and tearing it down and putting in a door.

What would you say to an interested student to convince him or her to study abroad with SYA?

Do it, it’s fantastic!





BRIDGING CULTURES AND GENERATIONS

By Lydia Davenport FR'11, The Chapin School



Isn't it crazy that we're given just a single year here? It's really only a matter of months, and we're constantly struggling to cling to all the pieces of our experience and establish some sort of permanence, long-lasting things that we can point to later, after leaving France.

As I was considering this idea one night at dinner, my host family and I stumbled across the idea of setting up the Maisons de Retraite project. It would be an opportunity to create a connection between our school and a part of the city that could extend longer than simply the rest of the year. This could be a way for people to achieve a sense of personal confirmation of their time here. Perhaps we could create a relationship that would endure for future SYA generations to come. And then just like that, I got incredibly lucky as it turned out that my neighbor is a coordinator of one of the Rennes nursing homes. After some discussion with us, she has made it possible to launch the project into which we have tried to incorporate an essential SYA theme — the exchange of cultures.

Every Wednesday, a group of students visit a different nursing home in Rennes, and each visit has three components. First, we present a slide show of things “typically American.” These range from pictures of the American flag and the White House, to McDonald's

and Philly cheese steaks, from a western cowboy to Gérard Depardieu (the only French actor Americans seem to know). Next, we break up into small groups so that each student can conduct basic “English lessons” for the nursing home residents. These lessons involve the standard “Hello, how are you?” but also such informal idioms as “See you later, alligator” and “I have butterflies in my stomach.” Last, we all come back together for a *goûter*, an afternoon treat consisting of various Breton cakes and coffee. In this way, we get a little taste (no pun intended) of their culture. Over a typical French snack, this component is an opportunity for more-personal moments with the residents. At an average age of 80, they all certainly have interesting insights to share. The encounter provides perspective to which we might not otherwise have been exposed, on both the French and the American cultures.

Our initial meetings at the Raymond Thomas nursing home were really successful and we've been invited to come back. We look forward to our next meeting, which will be at the Champs Manceaux nursing home. We hope that what we've begun to do here will mark the beginning of a lasting SYA connection to the people of Rennes.



Margaret Austin

(St. Ann's School)

SYA Q&A

What surprised you the most when you first arrived in France?

I was shocked by how warm everyone was, and how interested they were in the United States.

What was the most challenging adjustment?

Other than having to speak French all the time at home, adjusting to a whole new city and having to learn how to navigate around were pretty difficult for me.

Choose three words to describe your first trip to school.

Nerve-racking, confusing, exciting

How have your language skills improved?

At the beginning of the year I could hardly understand French, but now I can understand just about everything. In terms of speaking, I find myself being able to talk without having to stop and think about each word, which is a pretty satisfying feeling.

With only half a year left in France, what do you hope to accomplish?

I'd really like to take advantage of being in France and explore as much of the country as I can and, of course, get as close to fluency as possible.

Three phrases that describe SYA France are:

Second home; rewarding new experiences; adventure

What have you learned from your host family?

They encouraged me to speak French regardless of how well I could, which really helped me with the language.

What is your most embarrassing cultural mishap?

This is more of a linguistic mishap, but when I was trying to solicit sub-

missions for the school literary magazine, I made an announcement telling everyone to "*soumettez*." One of the teachers responded by saying that we were no longer under an absolute monarchy; I was literally telling everyone to submit to me.

Will you return to France to visit, study or perhaps live here one day?

I will definitely return to visit, and I would love to study and/or live here as well.

What will you miss the most about living in France?

The bread! The French have got it down.

One piece of advice you would give to a new SYAer is . . .

Don't be embarrassed to speak the language at first; just try to as much as possible. In doing so, not only will your language skills improve, but you'll be able to immerse yourself more into the culture as well.

Why would you recommend SYA France?

There's nothing like it! I don't think there's any other program that allows high school students to be able to continue their American studies but still have the chance to have almost all of their classes in French.

What would you say to an interested student to convince him or her to study abroad with SYA?

Why wouldn't you want to spend a year abroad? You get to meet new people, become strong in a second language, gain a second family and home, learn about a whole new culture and visit some really amazing places.

One French word to summarize your experience thus far . . .

Phénoménal!



SENTIMENTAL SICILIAN JOURNEY

By Maya Mariner IT'11, The Pike School; Lindsay Hong IT'11, The Grier School; Share Chen IT'11, The Grier School

We took our spring trip to Sicily again this year, and continue to marvel at the vast layers of history on top of which the island sits. We dedicate this trip to Mr. Sammartino, our ancient history teacher, who organized and led the way. Each picture here has a corresponding “classic Sammartino” quote, one that all alumni will recognize for its content as well as its voice! We hope to bring back memories of the various places you studied and visited and will hear the one and only Santo Sammartino, who has provided the soundtrack for many moments this year for everyone who has passed through SYA Italy.



“Perhaps for your spiritual and intellectual growth?”



“I feel the Byzantine, the Norman, the Arab culture on my skin, you know — until I take a shower.”



“Eating is so unfashionable these days, especially at your age.”



“Dai! Forza! Ragazzi! Su!”



“Maybe . . . not.”



“The early Romans were FARMERS!”



“Careful now”



Miles Ward
(The Hun School of Princeton)

SYA Q&A

What surprised you the most when you first arrived in Italy?

The thing that surprised me the most when I arrived, and still surprises me today, is how small everything is compared to America. The cars, streets and houses all seem tiny in relation to what I'm used to back at home in New Jersey.

What was the most challenging adjustment?

The most challenging adjustment was simply living in a city. Coming from the countryside, all the different smells, people and cars took some getting used to.

Choose three words to describe your first trip to school.

Nerve-racking, exciting, memorable

How have your language skills improved?

They have improved incredibly. I'm so happy with the progress I've made so far. Going from absolutely no comprehension to understanding almost everything makes me feel great about my language-learning skills.

What food have you grown to like that you never thought you would enjoy?

Fish that still looks like a fish on your plate, and all kinds of vegetables. My host grandmother is a fantastic cook, and it's amazing what salt and olive oil can do to a plate of spinach or cauliflower.

With only half a year left in Italy, what do you hope to accomplish?

I hope to visit many more parts of Italy, especially the island of Elba, off the coast of Tuscany, because the lady whom I live with was born there and she always talks about how wonderful it is.

Three words that describe SYA Italy are . . .

Unique, life changing, gratifying

What have you learned from your host family?

Patience. Communicating completely in another language can sometimes be frustrating, but my family was always patient and attentive. They really showed me how pleasant and helpful patience can be to somebody who's in an unfamiliar situation.

What is your most embarrassing cultural mishap?

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."

Will you return to Italy to visit, study or perhaps live here one day?

Absolutely. I love the country, the people and the food; I wish I didn't have to leave.

What will you miss the most about living in Italy?

My Italian family and the friends I've made. They've really made this experience something I'll never forget.

One piece of advice you would give to a new SYAer is . . .

Be prepared for your life to change completely, and always be open to trying new things and meeting new people.

Why would you recommend SYA Italy?

I would recommend SYA Italy because it really opens your eyes to a whole new language, country and way of life that you'll never be able to experience at home or on vacation.

What would you say to an interested student to convince him or her to study abroad with SYA?

This opportunity is not something you come across every day. It's really an amazing experience that will change your life for the better and make you a more mature, accomplished person.

One Italian word to summarize your experience thus far . . .

Perfetto





A CHILLINGLY SACRED RITE OF PASSAGE

By Tyler Dillard JP'11, Phillips Academy

On Tuesday, February 15, I was running down the middle of the street with hundreds of men wearing nothing but a loincloth and thin cloth shoes. This is possibly the most anticipated event in Inazawa, the town I live in. It's called the Hadaka Matsuri (which literally translates to "naked festival") and centers on the Kounomiya Shrine, about four blocks from my house. I was excited and having a great time, even after receiving several texts from Japanese friends all telling me "Good luck! But don't die, please!"

On the day of the festival, my host father, Kazuyuki, and I went to a friend's house, where we ate a huge meal and then showered to purify ourselves for the *fundoshi*, or loincloth, which is considered a sacred garment. The loincloth itself is a long white sheet, that is brought around the waist and between the legs and ends up wrapped very tightly around the abdomen.

It was noontime, it was freezing cold and the wind was howling when we stepped outside. About 60 people from my neighborhood were participating, parading around the neighborhood carrying a bamboo tree wrapped in red and white cloth. Why, I never found out. We made frequent pit stops at small shrines in the area, where the proprietors would hand out a little food and lots of hot sake, or rice alcohol. Unable to drink sake, I was left with only the thin loincloth for warmth.

We reached the shrine and brought the tree down to the parade ground — about 150 yards long and 10 yards wide. The crowd watching was gigantic: there were close to 2,000 people around the parade ground alone, not to mention the streets of the city. We handed the tree off to the priests at the main shrine building and began to wait, watching other neighborhoods carry their trees.

We were waiting for the main event. A completely naked priest, selected by the shrine, was going to run down the middle of the parade ground, and I was supposed to touch him for good luck. The problem was, all of the hundreds of other men in loincloths were supposed to touch him too. I suddenly realized what I had gotten myself into, and, shivering in the biting wind, I seriously contemplated praying.

Then, in the blink of an eye, the naked man appeared. Ice-cold water was being thrown over the crowd in buckets. I was "lucky" enough to be close to him when he started running, and I immediately



began sprinting toward him. It wasn't because I wanted good luck — I was running away from certain death, the hundreds of other men behind me. I hurled through falling bodies and touched the naked man's head. And then hundreds of other people crushed me.

I lost my cloth shoe in a matter of seconds, and my foot was immediately torn up under the weight of other men. Sometimes, I literally could not breathe. But I was lucky: some people were falling and getting underfoot. It took me close to 20 minutes to get out of the crowd, elbowing and being elbowed, stomping and being stomped on. Swimming through people is quite an ordeal; when I got outside of the crowd, I was bruised, bloody and gasping for air.

Talk about a rite of passage.



SYA Q&A



Kiara Valdez
(Phillips Academy)

What surprised you the most when you first arrived in Japan?

There are no locks on any of the room doors except the bathroom and the shower! I was really shocked at first, but I quickly learned it was not a problem, since it's an established rule in my house that one should always knock before entering.

What was the most challenging adjustment?

I could say communication, but I feel that it's already known that communication is always a challenge when adjusting. In Japan, a foreigner always has to adjust to the stares. I've learned to just smile at the person until he or she looks away!

Choose three words to describe your first trip to school.

Confusing, convenient, surprising

How have your language skills improved?

My listening skills have improved tremendously. I can understand much more than I did before I came here and I don't have to translate it into English in my head. I can sometimes even understand my grandmother, who speaks rapid-fire Japanese!

What food have you grown to like that you never thought you would enjoy?

Mushrooms.

With only half a year left in Japan, what do you hope to accomplish?

I have to work really hard to improve my speaking skills. Often I find myself in a situation where I understand what the Japanese person is saying but I can't find the words to respond.

Three phrases that describe SYA Japan are . . .

Strengthening challenges

Protective nest

Culturally beautiful

What have you learned from your host family?

I've learned too many things to list, but one of the most important things I learned is to always be kind. Although I'm already assimilated into the family and not a stranger, I'm still awed by their kind actions. Their kindness makes me think about how I myself can become a kinder person.

What is your most embarrassing cultural mishap?

In Japan, aside from the younger generation, it's very rare to see people exchange friendly hugs or kisses on the cheek. Early in the year, my mom had come to pick me up from the train station near school. I gave all my friends a hug, including one of my guy friends. My mother asked me if I was dating that guy friend. I laughed and explained that in America, hugging is perfectly fine between friends.

Will you return to Japan to visit, study or perhaps live here one day?

Yes, I want to major in Japanese and I have to do my best to master it. I'm planning to do another school year abroad program during my junior year in college.

What will you miss the most about living in Japan?

The clean air, clean environment, food, polite attitudes; I'll miss everything so much. I think what I'll miss the most is the language. I've become used to hearing and even speaking it, so suddenly going back to my routine of constant English and Spanish will be hard.

One piece of advice you would give to a new SYAer is . . .

Enjoy every single minute you have in the country you're in; time flies. Forget about all the drama that might be happening back at home, and although it sounds harsh, don't constantly speak to your friends. Trust me. Your friends will still be your friends when you get back but your host family will not continue to be your host family after you return to America.

What would you say to an interested student to convince him or her to study abroad with SYA?

Go! Just forget about everything and take the chance! I'm sure you won't regret it! Going abroad not only teaches you a new language, but it also lets you live a new life with new ideals. It's up to the individual to decide whether he/she will take these ideals back to America but I know I will. If you study abroad with SYA, you'll grow as a person and learn things about yourself you couldn't have learned in America.

One Japanese word to summarize your experience thus far . . .

平和/ (へいわ) *heiwa: peace*





CREATING A NEW LIFE

By Krista Sonia ES'11, Ángel Vilalta Scholar, Sanborn Regional High School

It is strange to think that it was only a year ago that I was back in New Hampshire waiting anxiously for what I hoped to be an acceptance letter to SYA Spain. Now I have experienced a year I could never have imagined, full of adventure, transformation and growth, that was made possible to me by the Ángel Vilalta Scholarship.

One thing I have realized quite clearly during my time here in Zaragoza is that what I expected to gain from my year with the SYA program and what I actually got are two completely different things. I came into the program with fairly simple goals of learning the language, meeting new people and seeing a new part of the world. However, this year I did not just learn the language, I lived the culture; I did not just meet new people, but instead I made friends; and I did not spend a year living in Spain, I created a new life here.

There are so many great things that I will never forget about this year, everything from los Pílares, to the many educational trips I have taken, and even just day-to-day life. However, I think more than anything I am going to remember all of the amazing people whom I have come to know during my school year abroad, all of my new friends and my amazing host family. They have all been very supportive of me and have taught me everything I know about life here in Spain, from where the good tapas bars are to why it is essential to wear shoes inside the house.

I turned 18 in February this year, but passing the date is not at all what has made me more adult. The experiences I have had here with SYA Spain are what have really helped me to grow. Reflecting back on my year, I am able to see that so much has changed. I am no longer afraid to take a bus, or to walk down a street I don't know well for fear of getting lost. I have learned to travel and to do things myself without constant guidance from my parents or teachers. I do not need a friend to come with me to a job interview (even one that is in Spanish!). They all seemed insignificant details at the



time but so do centimeters when you measure your height. It feels to me as if I just realized that I am suddenly five-and-a-half feet tall even though it seems like just yesterday I was playing the role of a Munchkin in the *Wizard of Oz*.

I do not know what would have happened if I had not attended SYA Spain but I do know that I am exceedingly happy that I did and that the Ángel Vilalta Scholarship helped me get here.





What surprised you the most when you first arrived in Spain?

Whenever I walked to school, I would always end up walking alongside the same very old man smoking a thick cigar and pushing a newborn baby in a little stroller. That always surprised me.

What was the most challenging adjustment?

The combination of the time difference between Hawaii and Spain and the three days of travel that it took to arrive in Zaragoza proved to be very disorienting. Other than that, all of the teachers helped us a lot by letting us know what to expect, like turning out the lights when you leave a room and remembering to wear slippers inside the house.

Choose three words to describe your first bus ride to school.

Frustrated bus driver

How have your language skills improved?

Although I still haven't mastered that pesky subjunctive, I can comfortably have a conversation on any topic and feel confident in my Spanish-speaking ability.

What food have you grown to like that you never thought you would enjoy?

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

With only half a year left in Spain, what do you hope to accomplish?

I would like to be able to read an entire book in Spanish without having to pick up a dictionary.

Three words or phrases that describe SYA Spain are:

These kinds of questions are the toughest. How am I to choose just three words? *transformational, unforgettable, not nearly long enough!*

What have you learned from your host family?

My host family took me in and completely included me in the fabric of their life. My host mother, especially, made it her job to make sure I felt like I was home. Through her, I've learned how supportive and generous one can be to someone who is, at first, a complete stranger.

What is your most embarrassing cultural mishap?

I've been lucky enough not to have any embarrassing mishaps that I can think of offhand. I've become lost in some interesting places, though. I

was looking for a bus stop one day and I ended up outside an elderly home having a conversation with the most wonderful little old *abuelita* about how asparagus grows. We weren't able to come to a conclusion.

Will you return to Spain to visit, study or perhaps live here one day?

There's no doubt in my mind that Spain will always feel like a second home to me. During college I'll try to come back and study, but my real dream would be to look for my future wife in the south of Spain.

What will you miss the most about living in Spain?

Spaniards are really caring and generous people. I'll miss asking a woman in a store how to get to the bus stop and receiving a hand-drawn map showing me how to get there.

One piece of advice you would give to a new SYAer is . . .

Aprovecha el maximo de tu tiempo en España. Make the most of every day you have in Spain. And never be afraid to introduce yourself; there isn't enough time to be shy!

Why would you recommend SYA Spain?

The SYA Spain program has a wonderful variety of subjects and the best teachers I've had in my high school career. Second, Spain is a country infinitely rich in culture and history and also happens to be the birthplace of the Spanish language, the second-most-spoken language in the United States. Last, SYA Spain wouldn't be the same without our director, Griffin Morse. He has been like a father to all of us, and always strives to help us make the most of our year abroad.

What would you say to an interested student to convince him or her to study abroad with SYA?

A year abroad, in any of the SYA schools, opens doors that you never knew existed. You are willingly putting yourself into what will be the most challenging, rewarding, and valuable experience you have had thus far. SYA is a gift that I'll be forever thankful for.

One Spanish word to summarize your experience thus far:

SYA presents you with an opportunity that will be available to you only once in your life. In a matter of months, you'll learn a new language, fall in love with a new culture and immerse yourself in a new and exciting world. Therefore, one word to describe my experience thus far? *Invalido: Invaluable.*



GREEN PROJECT AT VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

By Ted Godfrey, SYA Vietnam faculty, AP Environmental Science



When arriving at our school site in Hanoi, one has to walk through a gate into an enclosed, walled-in area of Vietnam National University. This is the French Department of the College of Foreign Languages, where our classrooms are nestled. To reach our building, one has to walk past a “pond” of sorts that was built decades ago. The walls, bottom and edges are all made of concrete and there is a bridge that crosses a narrow portion. This is an area with seating under plumeria trees for students of the university. It’s a potentially beautiful spot to hang out, eat lunch, study or talk.

In the fall, there were a few lily pads and lotus flowers that would greet us in the morning. Over the past several months, however, the pond has lost most of its water to evaporation and lack of rain; it has been very dry. The pond is also the recipient of all types of litter that is either intentionally thrown in or, more likely, blown in by the

wind, thus detracting from its beauty. Strangely, there is a similar but smaller pond behind our building with all its water and even at least one fairly large fish! It soon became obvious that such a public place could use a little face-lift as well as provide me with an on-site aquatic “lab.”

Our group of students is working to collect some baseline data on the pond before we try to restore it. We have already mapped the pond and measured its depth at various locations. We will measure the dissolved oxygen, the temperature, the pH and the turbidity and investigate the benthic macro-invertebrates living in this challenged ecosystem. These “bottom bugs” are key indicators of water quality. We’ll then collect the same data on the healthier back pond and make comparisons.

We are collaborating with members of the English Club and the Student Association in our efforts to pick up litter in the French Department area and pond. This has provided an informal way for our students to make new friends and practice their Vietnamese while giving the Vietnamese students an opportunity to practice their Eng-



lish. These students are also interested in revitalizing the pond and cleaning up the area. We are hoping they can help with moving garbage cans to more appropriate spots as well as coming up with a Vietnamese slogan not unlike the “Give a Hoot, Don’t Pollute” slogan from the 1970s.

After researching what types of organisms would thrive in this pond, our plan is to fill it with water and then add plants and fish that can coexist and perpetually maintain a healthy pH and dissolved oxygen level. The timing of the pond research and restoration project coincides with the AP Environmental Science curriculum study of water use and pollution. It presents the opportunity for students to work as environmental scientists: to identify a problem, gather information, propose solutions, carry out a proposal and, it’s hoped, leave a place better than it was when we arrived.



SYA Q&A

What surprised you the most when you first arrived in Vietnam?

Without a doubt, it was how friendly people were, and how little hostility they bear toward my friends and me because of the American War. Before I left, when I was telling my friends and family about going to Vietnam, everyone's first question was about the war. Americans, for better or worse, always thought of the war first when I mentioned Vietnam. That is simply not the case here.

What was the most challenging adjustment?

At first everything was just so different I didn't even have time to think about it: different language, different family and friends, different culture and a different environment. All that was overwhelming, and my reaction to it was less of an adjustment than reconciliation. The adjustments that I made were in small things. The biggest of those small things for me was crossing the street. Traffic has a different composition here (mostly motorbikes) and the traffic rules are quite different in that there seem to be no rules whatsoever.

Choose three words to describe your first trip to school.

Exciting, of course. Somewhat *intimidating*. But above all else, *sur-real*.

How have your language skills improved?

When we got off the plane, none of us spoke any Vietnamese beyond some very basic phrases. It's still rough going; Vietnamese is, in a word, difficult. Pronunciation in particular is tongue-twisting and frustrating. But learning Vietnamese is wonderfully rewarding: most people here have never met foreigners who speak the language and so are utterly delighted to talk with us. Personally, because my host family speaks no English, learning Vietnamese enables me to get to know them better and better, and they're always eager to practice and chat with me.

What food have you grown to like that you never thought you would enjoy?

My host parents call it *con sò*, which basically translates as "living animal." It's a type of shellfish, whether mussel or scallop or oyster, that's alive and quite literally drowning in lime juice when you suck it out of its shell. I'm not much for seafood, but I like it.

With only half a year left in Vietnam, what do you hope to accomplish?

Right now I'm really enjoying Vietnamese, and I make small gains every day. I would love to attain a degree of true proficiency by the end of the year.

Three words that describe SYA Vietnam are:

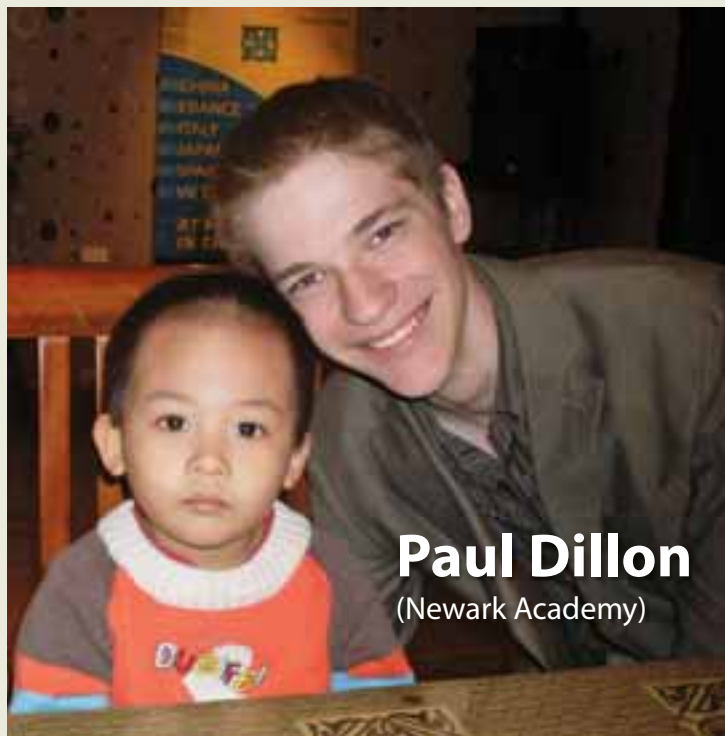
Adventurous, unpredictable, fulfilling

What have you learned from your host family?

In the pragmatic sense, whatever skill in Vietnamese I have now I owe in large part to them, and to their patience and humor. Beyond that, they've taught me how to be a decent older brother and a more considerate friend and, maybe, son. And I've never not been able to laugh at myself, but they've sure given me a lot of practice.

What is your most embarrassing cultural mishap?

I feel like I offend someone every day in every little way; Vietnam has both a complex and a completely unfamiliar etiquette and social system. Nothing too embarrassing has happened yet, at least nothing that can't be remedied by a smile and a laugh. Fingers crossed and all that.



Paul Dillon
(Newark Academy)

What is the most challenging part of your service learning project?

I work for PSI, an international health NGO, in its Hanoi office writing analysis reports and editing documents for its communications department. PSI works mostly in HIV/AIDS prevention and control. As a function of what it does, in its communications and conversations it makes liberal use of a library of acronyms and jargon. One man in the office referred to a document as "alphabet soup." It's an interesting milieu, but frustrating to have people assume I can understand and then inevitably fail to.

What's the most rewarding part of your service learning project?

When my boss says "Good job," or when I make friends at the office, or simply feeling like I'm helping an organization that does good things.

Will you return to Vietnam to visit, study or perhaps live here one day?

I will absolutely return to visit. A developing country like Vietnam is bound to be completely different in a decade or so, which is going to be fascinating. I probably won't come back to study, as Vietnamese universities have a lot of problems. With luck, I could live in Hanoi again; this city really feels like my home. But all of that is a long way off.

What will you miss the most about living in Vietnam?

I'm definitely going to miss the pace of Hanoi, alternately fast and slow. One moment I'm trying to dodge my way through the stream of motorbikes on my bicycle or frantically clambering onto a bus as it leaves the station and the next I'm sipping green tea with my grandparents while incense slowly fills the room.

One piece of advice you would give to a new SYAer is . . .

Jump in with both feet. *Carpe diem*.

Why would you recommend SYA Vietnam?

First and foremost, it seems to me the road less traveled.

What would you say to an interested student to convince him or her to study abroad with SYA?

It's an adventure, something you'll feel proud of, and I can guarantee you won't regret it.

One Vietnamese word to summarize your experience thus far?

Tốt (good)





W SYA: Woody Halsey's Life and Love

by Russell Martin ES'69

When you hear Woody Halsey reminisce about how at SYA France long ago he would encourage students to be “politely aggressive” as they came to terms with the French penchant for cutting to the front of a queue, you can’t help but think, that’s *it!* There’s the nutshell explanation of how he has accomplished so much during his three decades with the organization he says has been “my life and my love.” Tall and gentle, forceful and caring, demanding and optimistic, W. W. Halsey II has been “politely aggressive” on School Year Abroad’s behalf since the summer of 1980, when he became the program’s fifth resident director in Rennes. And you can’t help but suspect, too, that Woody’s particular brand of polite aggression has been the leadership quality that’s enabled SYA not only to survive but also to thrive and grow during his 25 years as SYA’s executive director and president.

A life of teaching — one focused on independent secondary education, in fact — was almost a given for him from the outset, he says. His father taught classics and his mother art at The Thacher School in California from the time he was born until he turned 15, years during which his best friend was SYA’s current executive director, Nelson Chase, whose own father was Thacher’s head of school. Woody remembers how unhappy he was to leave behind his friend, school and hometown when his father assumed the position of head of the Upper School at Washington’s Sidwell Friends School; but he’s aware, too, that the big move from idyllic Southern California to the nation’s capital offered him life-shaping perspectives akin to the School Year Abroad experiences he would later come to value and espouse so passionately. For example, he remembers watching an ambulance carrying the body of John F. Kennedy speed through the city’s rain- and grief-soaked streets in November 1963, then standing in line all night with thousands of others so he could pay his respects beside the coffin of the assassinated president.

Three years later, following his freshman year at Princeton, he found himself on the Île d’Oléron, off the west coast of France, where he believed he had secured a job as a summer-camp counselor. He spoke only a few words of French; a job wasn’t waiting for him, he was starchily informed, and he quickly had to contend with the unexpected in a land that was not his own — something he’s been doing virtually ever since. He ultimately talked himself into a camp job and delighted in his weeks on the island, and before the summer was out, he had fallen utterly in love with the French language, culture and food.

Back at Princeton, as a member of the Press Club, he reported for newspapers in the New York metropolitan area, and at least briefly gave some thought to a journalism career. More than anything, though, he says, he “caressed the dream,” as the French say, of returning to France to live and to teach.

En route to that goal, he completed his master’s in French literature at Middlebury, taught French at St. Paul’s School in New Hampshire and worked as director of admissions and director of the boys’ school at the Crystal Springs and Uplands School in California. In 1980, the Francophile’s

dream materialized, when he was offered the position of resident director of SYA France, which he accepted eagerly.

Married by now and the father of an infant daughter (three more children would follow during their years in Rennes),



Woody raises a glass in honor of SYA Spain's 40th. Key figures in photo include former ED and RD Hal McCann (left), David Berz ES'65, right, and Ángel Vilalta (back to camera).

Woody and his wife Katherine, also a French teacher, dove headlong into their new lives in Rennes, relishing the challenges of ensuring that the 60 students under his care each year had the kind of transformative experiences for which SYA had by then become renowned, while adapting to their host families, learning to speak and write accurately — and making sure they never lost their proper place in a line at the post office.

Woody loved his six years in Rennes and says he now considers the city his “second hometown.” If Brittany's weather was all too heavily influenced by the nearby English Channel, Rennes was a city that was quintessen-

tially French, a place where the few *étrangers* who called it home were made to feel very welcome, and he remembers happily accepting dinner invitations at least a couple of times a week throughout his six-year tenure.

In 1980, the French program was housed in the city's Franco-American Institute — an arrangement that was often problematic, not least because an autocratic *femme de ménage* insisted that the place be empty by four o'clock each afternoon so she could clean for the institute's evening classes. At the end of his first year, Woody managed to move the school to a promising location across town in a beautiful *hôtel particulier*, the building that SYA eventually purchased and which continues to house SYA France today. But he takes even more pride in the remarkably talented and stable staff he built. “Essentially,” he says, “we simply hired wonderful teachers, and they stayed forever.” A few of the teachers, in fact, continue to teach more than 30 years after they came on board, and the current combined tenure of the Rennes faculty is close to 200 years.

By 1986, the Halseys were ready for something new, as was SYA's then-executive director, Hal McCann, who had held the position for the previous decade. Determined not to lose two of its finest educators, the SYA board approved McCann's move to Barcelona, where he became resident director of SYA Spain, and named Woody his replacement as executive director in Andover, where the program's home offices were located. Except for a sabbatical in 1989–90, it's a position he's held ever since — and will until June 30, when he officially steps down after a quarter of a century on the job.

If perhaps you're better at languages than you are at numbers, it's worth noting that School Year Abroad is now just three years

shy of celebrating its 50th anniversary, which means that Woody Halsey has been at its helm for more than half its existence. It can't be surprising, then, that the organization now so profoundly reflects his temperament, his bedrock beliefs, his energy and his vision for constant renewal and adaptation.

When Woody took over the organization's reins, in 1986, he was its sole full-time employee. SYA remained under the control of Phillips Academy, Phillips Exeter Academy and St. Paul's School, and Woody spent virtually all his time focused on admissions. The Spanish and French programs required the enrollment of more than 100 students per year in order to remain operational, and his three principal duties in that regard were, he says, “promotion, promotion and promotion.”

Early in SYA's history, a German program had been briefly introduced, and although it hadn't proved successful and was suspended, Woody was increasingly convinced that SYA should expand beyond the two well-established programs in Spain and in France, which by then were approaching their 20th anniversaries. He believed strongly that SYA should consider expanding into Asia, and that there would be great value in opening a program in a developing country as well. Yet it wasn't until he spent an “electrifying” month in China in the summer of 1991 as part of a Phillips Academy tour that a fire began to burn in him to open a program there. China was Asia's most important country; it was developing at an astonishing pace, and to fully meet its mission to produce “well-trained and broad-minded citizens of the world,” SYA really had to have a presence in a country comprising 20 percent of the world's population.

In the company of Andover Chinese instructor Ni Xiao-Min, Woody returned to China and searched from Harbin in the north to Kunming in the south for the perfect city in which to locate a school. In the end, Beijing's communications, travel, financial and educational infrastructure made it the clear first choice — as well as the fact that in China's capital, SYA students would be learning Mandarin, the language spoken by more people than any other in the world.

Although Chinese officials initially expressed concern about SYA's plans to house American students with host families, Woody remained optimistic, persistent and “politely aggressive.” Everything was in place by the fall of 1994 for the arrival of SYA China's first students, who would spend a single semester in a dormitory at Beijing's prestigious Middle School #2.

In 1995, SYA's students became the first ever to spend an entire semester with Chinese host families; and in 1998, Woody's vision for the new school was fully realized when the China program expanded to two semesters.

Yet SYA's successful expansion into Asia fueled new imaginings and conversations about still more programs in new locations and Woody was always among those who believed



Woody signs historic cooperation agreement with Principal Lin of Beijing's Middle School #2 in 1994.

well-considered and well-planned expansion was not only wise but also essential to SYA's long-term survival.

On the heels of a comprehensive home-city search led by Natalia Bulgari ES'86, an innovative Italy program — one focused on ancient history and the study of Latin and Greek — opened in Viterbo, a small and historic city north of Rome, in September 2001. And although the events of that month in New York and Washington suddenly made the world a very different place, Woody was foremost among those who passionately believed that SYA's mission was now more vital than ever. The new Viterbo program was an instant success, enrollments in the already established schools in China, France and Spain barely dipped in the years following September 11, and under his leadership SYA's renown and its reach around the world continued to increase in an era of profound international uncertainty.

By the mid-2000s, Woody had successfully charted SYA's structural independence from Phillips Academy, its founding institution, the move of its offices from the Andover campus to its current home in a restored mill in nearby Lawrence, the establishment of a consortium of more than 40 "member schools" around the United States that helped supply the program's insatiable need for students, and a much debated but ultimately successful move of the Spanish school from Barcelona to Zaragoza, where Castilian Spanish, rather than Catalan, is the predominant language.

Much remained to be done, however, from the perspective of the captain of the SYA ship. Increasingly convinced that School Year Abroad must remain a language program but not *solely* a language program, in 2008 the SYA Board of Trustees gave Woody the charge to pursue the creation of programs focusing on environmental science and sustainable development. To give him the time and support to reach those goals, the board selected a new executive director and named Woody SYA's first president, a position in which his obligations shifted from the day-to-day administration of the four international schools to a focus on developing new centers and raising funds.

The shift in emphasis brought renewed energy to the man who by now had become utterly inseparable from SYA in the eyes of thousands of staff, faculty and alumni. Notwithstanding the fact that Woody was now also raising twin daughters with his second wife, SYA alumna, surgeon and author Pauline Chen FR'82, his travel schedule continued to swell, as did SYA's international footprint. In the summer of 2008, a pilot school offering academic focus on economic development opened in Visakhapatnam, on the eastern coast of India. In the fall of 2009, a similar program was inaugurated in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, and in 2010 a more traditional language-focused program opened in Ichinomiya, Japan. All three new programs (the India program was suspended following the October 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai) were the direct result of Woody's lifelong passion for taking on sometimes immensely challenging tasks, then accomplishing them politely, aggressively — and rather brilliantly.

Small wonder that Woody has become known as Mr. School Year Abroad, observes SYA board chair Peter Esty. "Throughout his remarkable tenure, Woody has been the perpetual hard-working, stalwart leader — graceful, seemingly unflappable and thorough — while engaging with the issues, problems, challenges, joys and woes of the now-six SYA schools."

When Woody offers a more modest self-assessment, you watch him pause to capture his words before he speaks, then you hear him express quiet pride in having been "nimble," as he puts it, as he's done the work that's been more gratifying than he could have imagined back in 1980. He's proud of his role in leading SYA to every corner of the globe. He's proud, too, of the

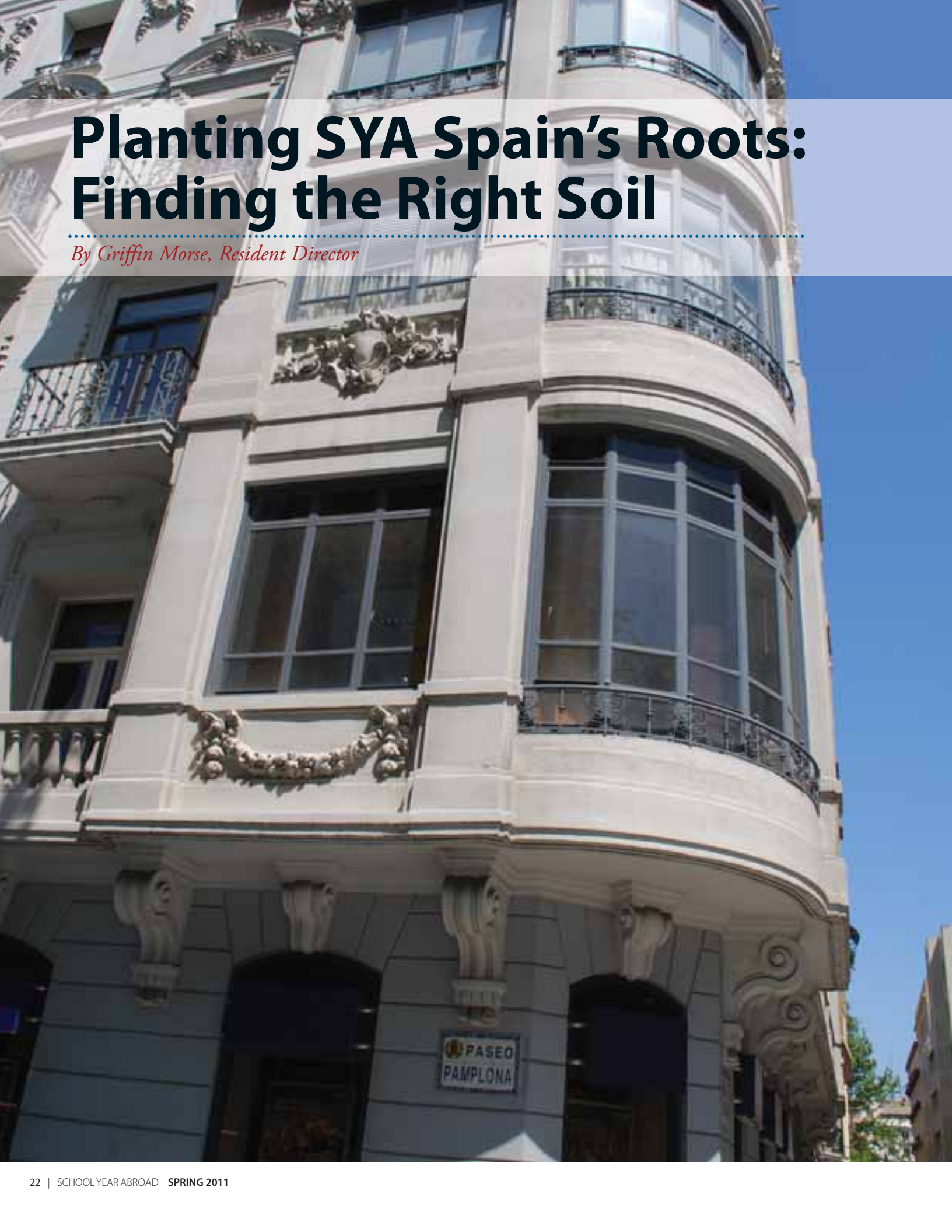


At work in Visakhapatnam, India with Jayshree Hatangadi in 2008.

clear eye he's had for hiring remarkably talented teachers and administrators, then getting out of the way as they go on to transform young lives, as SYA has done since its founding.

He has realized those great accomplishments "nimble" — yes — and when SYA trustee Bruce Stewart, retired head of Sidwell Friends School, says "I know of no one in American education who has done more to advance the notion of secondary language proficiency and world cultural understanding than Woody Halsey," you can't help but instantly and aggressively agree. 🍷

Russell Martin ES'69 is a producer and co-writer of the award-winning documentary film Two Spirits and an award-winning, internationally published author of two critically acclaimed novels, The Sorrow of Archaeology and Beautiful Islands, as well as many nonfiction books. He has written for Time, the New York Times, New York Times Magazine, and National Public Radio. His nonfiction book Beethoven's Hair has been published in 21 translated editions and is the subject of a Gemini Award – winning film of the same name. His highly acclaimed book, Picasso's War, has been published in seven international editions; and A Story That Stands Like a Dam: Glen Canyon and the Struggle for the Soul of the West, won the Caroline Bancroft History Prize. He is based in Los Angeles, and welcomes every opportunity to spend time in Barcelona.



Planting SYA Spain's Roots: Finding the Right Soil

By Griffin Morse, Resident Director

What traveler who has reached Spain hasn't strolled the fabled Rambla de Cataluña, that internationally recognized smorgasbord of life on an uninterrupted mile of pedestrian boulevard that's anything but pedestrian? Yes, everyone wants a piece of that Barcelona and its culture surrounding the Rambla — markets, Gothic cathedrals, tapa bars, restaurants and, alas, the cramped quarters of the original SYA in the American Institute. My own strolls through Las Ramblas and the nostalgic versions of the many SYA alums we have hosted played through my mind for the seven years I searched for the right place to have SYA Spain plant its roots. We have taken all this into account and sought to build on what we remember best of Barcelona and cherish most about Spain for our students to experience.

Today, we're a much bigger school (averaging 65 students a year who live in 65 Spanish homes) in Zaragoza, still very much in an urban context with commutes and complexity to consider when evaluating logistics for students to find their way around this city of almost a million residents, Spain's fifth largest. We have learned in our 14 years (almost a third of SYA Spain's 46 years!) here in Zaragoza that our setting at Plaza de Aragón and Plaza de Paraninfo is the ideal logistical crossroads of the city, through which almost all buses and the new tram pass to and from our host families.

As we move from our home here of 13 years to our new location a block and a half away, we will continue to thrive with the advantages we have enjoyed in the central

crossroads of downtown Zaragoza: we're within walking distance of two schools where our students can use their free periods to do community service in English classrooms; we're an eight-minute walk to our dining hall; we're on the main parade and procession route for all major events throughout the year; we move closer to the largest public library, now two blocks away; our chartered buses for school trips leave from the plaza in front of the school; buses to the bus/train station stop at our front door; and everything a visiting family from the United States would like to see while in town is within walking distance of our front door, which, by the way, like the building itself, is on the Registry of Historical Landmarks.

We have found and are nestling into one of the great properties of Zaragoza, which breathes the vintage and grandeur of SYA in its founding days of Barcelona, plus it meets or exceeds all the practical, logistical demands of the school on a daily basis.

The advent of the AVE, Spain's bullet train, has changed the national infrastructure in dramatic ways that benefit SYA's choice of Zaragoza as its home and the nation's logistical hub (MIT's Sloan School of Management offers a one-year master's degree in supply-chain management only here, at its Zaragoza campus). We can be in downtown Madrid or Barcelona in an hour and 20 minutes regardless of traffic! On top of that, we can ride "the white bus" into the Pyrenees and be skiing an hour and a half after leaving downtown Zaragoza (the bus stop is just two blocks from the school). The fact that NASA uses the Zaragoza airport in the event of problems on a shuttle flight



Griffin Morse, Resident Director

explains why it has become so commercially interesting and active — it has the longest twin runway in all of Europe.

Like SYA itself, Zaragoza is a little giant in many circles, and we benefit from them all — it offers an endearing small-town charm with big-city connections and infrastructures.

Have a look at the exterior image of the new property — you have to pinch yourself to realize that you're not back in the original SYA Spain in '64 with a robust swath of Spanish cultural life waiting in the streets below, the ultimate urban campus abroad. The Spanish spirit is very much alive in the school today, and we are extraordinarily fortunate to have the chance to move forward with the best of our founding roots outside with a modern, high-technology school inside.

To learn how you can be a part of this historical moment, please go to www.sya.org and click on The Campaign for Spain. 🇪🇸

The Campaign for Spain Committee

Carlos Alvarez FR'00P, Trustee,
Honorary Chair

Diane Atwood Reilly FR'05P, Trustee,
Co-chair

Natalia Bulgari ES'86, Trustee,
Co-chair

Jonathan Cole ES'82

Stephen Foster ES'65, Trustee

Celia Imrey FR'81

Griffin Morse, SYA Spain Resident Director



Meeting with the architect (left) are from center, right: Natalia Bulgari ES'86, Jonathan Cole ES'82 and Stephen Foster ES'65.

Event Highlights

SYA Homecoming

July 22, 2010

As the summer sun set over the Boston Harbor, President Woody Halsey welcomed nearly 250 SYAers to the annual Homecoming held at The John K. Kennedy Library and Museum. Faculty, alumni, parents and new students gathered to welcome Resident Directors back to the U.S. and to hear updates from each school. "Tonight we gather to celebrate our deep understanding of the power of a global education and the continued growth of SYA," said Halsey in his opening remarks. "If we need proof that there's 'strength in numbers,' we need look no farther than this room. More than strength in numbers, we have strength in people. Our Resident Directors lead our faculty and students with extraordinary passion, dedication and focus. Our more than 6,000 alumni live and work in 65 countries throughout the world. We all share the same goals, you and I, and we share the same commitment to providing our students with the educational experience of a lifetime."



Spain RD Griffin Morse is flanked by Heather Winters IT'11P and Sarinda Parsons Wilson FR'83.



Resident Directors Vu duc Vuong (VN), Patrick Scanlon (IT), Denis Brochu (FR), Frances Fremont-Smith (CN) and Griffin Morse (ES), who is sporting the Spanish flag painted on his cheeks in celebration of the World Cup victory



ES'10 classmates Amanda Bennett, Melanie Silverman, Carolyn Lee, Loxley Bennett, Hank Bowen, Jack O'Leary, Christina Schwertschlag and Jennifer Pulver



Tess Lagor FR'11, sister Hannah, mom Jen, and Trustee Tom Hassan, principal of Phillips Exeter Academy



FR'85 alumnae celebrating their 30th reunion are Susanna Blake Murphy, Elsa Woodaman, Alex Katz, Laura Hildesley Bartsch and Suzanne Lyon Lehman.



Emily Font ES'05 with parents Gale Glazer and Louis Font



Annie Osborn CN'09, middle, is surrounded by her parents, left, Pell Osborn and Louise Ambler Osborn FR'80 (proudly wearing her vintage SYA T-shirt!), and grandparents Peter Ambler and Lindsay Miller FR'80P ES'82P CN'09GP.

An Evening with Ambassador Rivkin in Paris

September 27, 2010

Alumni and parents traveled from near and far to attend a gathering at the embassy residence in Paris with U.S. Ambassador to France and Monaco Charles Rivkin FR'79; his wife, Susan Tolson; and Chief of Staff for the Residence Daniel Dozier FR'00. Opening remarks by the Ambassador and President Halsey amid the backdrop of this historic home set the tone for a dazzling evening.



James Aronson FR'70, Robert Rubin FR'70 and Susan Silverman Liautaud FR'81



Carolynn Rockafellow FR'77 and Deborah Zurkow FR'75



SYA France Resident Director Denis Brochu, Susan Tolson, Ambassador Charles Rivkin FR'79 and SYA President Woody Halsey



Rebecca Evarts, James Evarts ES'68 and SYA France Resident Director Denis Brochu



John Finlay FR'68, John Thomas FR'68 and Susan Thomas



SYA Director of Development Lynn Nathanson, Daniel Dozier FR'00, Princess Khaliya Aga Khan FR'94 and Daniel Gates FR'86



Jessica Green FR'85, Daniel Dozier FR'00, SYA France faculty Marie-Cécile Heurtin and William Iselin FR'76



James Evarts ES'68, Paul Diamond ES'89 and David Diamond ES'85



Jessica Green FR'85, Trustee Carlos Alvarez FR'00P, Don Kivowitz and Stacey Dorfman Kivowitz FR'79



Richard Babson FR'75 and Daniel Dozier FR'00



John Thomas FR'68, Bruce Mee FR'71 and John Finlay FR'68

Event Highlights

SYA in NYC

November 4, 2010

More than 100 SYAers gathered at Michael's New York for the second annual reception in New York City. Trustee Billy Gridley FR'75 gave a moving toast to President Woody Halsey for his 31 years of service to SYA.



Matt Salinger FR'77 and President Woody Halsey



President Woody Halsey, Alice Smith Victor (daughter of Germany 1973 Resident Director and France 1978 faculty George Smith) and co-host Michael McCarty FR'70



Wanda Mann ES'89 and Jean-Briac Perrette ES'89



Sam Bloom FR'83, Seth Sutel FR'83 and Celia Imrey FR'81



Elaine Monchak FR'75, Trustee Billy Gridley FR'75 and Christian Oberbeck FR'77



Rhea Wong FR'96 and Alice Ng FR'10



Christy Goldfeder FR'90 and Sang Lee FR'90



FR'00 alums Jean Keenan, Endre Boksay, David Temple and Andrew Schwertfeger

SYA in Santa Monica

February 9, 2011

Seventy SYAers gathered in the Garden and Terrace Room at Michael's Santa Monica, co-hosted by Michael McCarty FR'70, for the West Coast event. President Woody Halsey welcomed the group, spanning alumni from 1967, former faculty and current parents, to the tropical setting where the restaurant's motto, "Great Food! Great Drinks! Great Party!" was enjoyed by all.



Vanessa Branch FR'89,
President Woody Halsey
and Director of Alumni
Relations Susan McLean



Jeff Locker FR'88, Ann Diederich FR'88 and
Gabi D'Addario IT'05



ES'08 alums Ryan Cobbs, Jenna Reidy, Stasi Clarke,
Charlotte Day-Reiss and Annie Demarest



Lee Dralle ES'84



Nicole Melas FR'02, Mike Bird, Geoff Bird (SYA
France RD 1991–2000) and Eli Winingar FR'10



Rick Newberger ES'67, Gayle Newhouse and
Bill Gladstone ES'67



Meredith Miller
FR'01 and Kaitlin
Solimine CN'97



Madeline Fuhrman FR'10 and Christina Bryan FR'10



Leslie Howes FR'84 and David Lena FR'81

SYA in Beijing

April 22, 2011

A full day of activity for alumni included SYA China's TEDx conference and dinner with faculty to welcome SYA Associate Director of Development Katie Kozin to Beijing.



Pictured from left are John Gordon CN'98,
Wilson Hailey CN'06, Markisha Berrien CN'06
and Trace Ostergren CN'09.

Media Milestones



Baby and Other Stories, written by **Paula Bomer ES'86**, one of "15 Books to Watch For in January 2011" in *O, The Oprah Magazine*, is a collection of "10 raw and angry stories," according to *Publisher's Weekly*. "Bomer flays the idea of happy little families, giving readers an assortment of emasculated and discarded husbands; brooding, unfulfilled wives; and the poor children — destined for therapy — unlucky enough to bind them. The characters spew many ungracious thoughts, but these are forthright, hilarious, and honest."



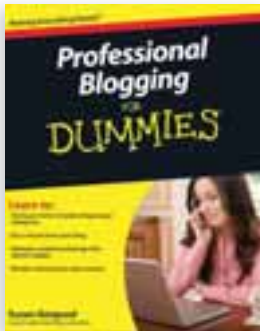
Lake Bell FR'96 adds *No Strings Attached* to her growing Hollywood résumé; she teamed with Ashton Kutcher again (*What Happens in Vegas*), this time as his love-starved boss. Bell was also featured on the cover of *Town & Country's* January 2011 issue as one of its "101 people you must meet in 2011" feature. This summer she returns as Bryan Greenberg's kvetching ex-girlfriend in HBO's *How to Make It in America*.



In Too Deep: BP and the Drilling Race That Took It Down, co-authored by Bloomberg reporter **Alison Fitzgerald FR'86**, covers BP's troubled history and examines the risk-taking culture at BP that led to the disastrous oil spill of April 2010.



"Where did the toys come from? What were they made of? What would they look like after spending more than 15 years as castaways? What kinds of people make flotsam hunting their favorite pursuit, and how are the battle lines drawn between conservationists and environmentalists, litterbugs and industrial polluters?" (*New York Times*, February 2011) Learn how **Donovan Hohn FR'89** solved the mystery of the missing rubber ducks in *Moby-Duck: The True Story of 28,800 Bath Toys Lost at Sea and of the Beachcombers, Oceanographers, Environmentalists, and Fools, Including the Author, Who Went in Search of Them*.



Susan Getgood FR'79's book *Professional Blogging for Dummies* teaches the fun-loving blogger how to get serious about using a blog to implement advertising, sponsorship, partnerships and affiliate marketing options to turn a hobby into extra income or even a full-time career. In fall 2010, Getgood joined BlogHer Inc. as VP of sales and marketing. In this role, she promotes the many unique opportunities for advertisers to engage with the BlogHer community and works with brands to develop creative and effective cross-platform marketing programs to reach the BlogHer audience.



Jason Blum FR'86's recent release of *Insidious* opened to rave reviews. Starring Rose Byrne and Patrick Wilson, *Insidious* tells the familiar tale of a young family moving into a haunted house, with a new twist: "It's not the house that's haunted, it's your son."



Beautiful Faces, a documentary film produced and directed by **Russell Martin ES'69** (Say Yes Quickly Productions) is a compelling new film about a Mexico City hospital where young lives are transformed. According to Martin's website, "*Beautiful Faces* is an intimate portrait of one of the world's most remarkable hospitals, the disfigured young patients to whom it offers new lives, and the team of surgeons, physicians, and medical professionals who believe that it's the best place in the world to practice their unique, life-transforming craft." The film's premiere is scheduled for January 2012.

Alessandra Tuzi's love of learning inspires SYA Italy students



In 2001, as SYA sought to establish a presence in Italy, Alessandra Tuzi turned out to be the perfect local connection for the program's start-up.

"When Woody Halsey and then-Resident Director Jeff Bradley from SYA went to the mayor of Viterbo seeking someone to help them find host families, my friend Alessandra Corsi, who was the mayor's assistant, recommended me," recalls Tuzi. "She knew how much I loved the United States and thought I'd be great for the job."

Tuzi was teaching English to students in Viterbo, an ancient walled city in central Italy where she had grown up. Her lifelong familiarity with the town helped SYA establish important local associations. "The town inside the walls is really pretty and the atmosphere is very nice; almost everyone knows each other," she says. "We were able to create very good relationships with the citizens and shopkeepers — they came to know and like our students, who often spend time talking with them while they're having a cappuccino or a snack."

When she first came to SYA, Tuzi served as coordinator for the host families as well as the resident director's assistant. "Setting up the school was a lot of work, but every goal that we reached was a gratifying experience for us," she says. Tuzi began teaching in 2005 and currently serves as the Italian II language skills teacher.

Tuzi's importance to SYA, as a teacher and a mentor, continues to grow. Not only has she earned accolades for her classroom presence; her compassion and kindness have affectionately earned her the unofficial title of "school mom" among SYA students as well. In

many ways, her success can be traced to her genuine interest in the well-being of her pupils.

"Being among the students, enjoying their different personalities and their affection, has been the best experience possible for me," she says. She also has high praise for SYA administrators who, she says, "always express their appreciation" to staff members, including her.

Tuzi's instructional style is best described as a beneficial exchange between teacher and students. "I try to create an atmosphere where everyone can freely express his or her ideas or opinions and always be respected. Building a good and respectful relationship with my students is always my first goal," she says. "A lively and positive atmosphere, one in which students are consistently encouraged to think openly and independently, gets both the kids and me to enjoy the learning process."

In helping her students to get the most out of their Italy placements, Tuzi focuses on promoting their familiarity and comfort with the native language as soon as possible. "For this purpose, my classes are usually very fast, regardless of whether I'm teaching beginning, intermediate or advanced learners in Italian language skills," she explains. "It's important that they feel at ease with Italians as quickly as they can."

In addition to language skills, Tuzi gets students up to speed on arts and culture by providing insights on Italian clothing, traditions and history. "This helps to give them a better understanding of Italian lifestyles and customs," she says. "It's interesting for the kids to see the differences and similarities between Americans and Italians. And I encourage them to see differences as an enrichment of their experiences rather than as a limitation." Toward this end, she constantly seeks Italian novels, songs, poems, DVDs and even games to use to stimulate students' interest and awareness about her home country.

Tuzi furthers this cultural literacy by encouraging her pupils to do homework with their host families, which, in effect, also serves to "tighten the relationship, which is one of the most important parts of their [SYA] experience," she says.

Outside of the classroom, Tuzi enjoys dining out, cooking dinner for friends and attending the local cinema. She lives with her dog, Holly; her mother, brother and sister-in-law live nearby, on the same block.

Looking ahead, Tuzi hopes to build on her skills as an SYA teacher. "Next July, I will complete my master's degree in teaching Italian to foreigners," she says. "After that, I would like to expand my knowledge about teaching methods for students with learning disabilities."

Meanwhile, Tuzi's dedication is apparent with each student's quick adaptation to Italian society. "I love it when they enjoy being in Italy because they can freely converse with Italians," she says. "I feel successful when my students have learned a lot from me not only about the Italian language, but also about life." 🍷

James Galbraith FR'69 reflects upon his SYA year of change



In many ways, 1968 was a year of dramatic social change, as evidenced in America by antiwar protests and the assassinations of political leaders Robert Kennedy and Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and the riots that followed King's murder. Nineteen sixty-eight was also a year of significant change for James Galbraith, now a globally respected economist, thanks to his participation in School Year Abroad.

As a sophomore at Phillips Academy, Galbraith was no stranger to foreign travel. The son of the legendary economist John Kenneth Galbraith, he had traveled extensively in Europe and India. But Galbraith's School Year Abroad placement in France, which began in the fall of 1968, soon proved to be a far different experience from his previous journeys.

"By our standards, Brittany was not prosperous at the time," Galbraith recalls. "The area was still, to a degree, recovering from World War II." France was also dealing with that era's winds of change — only months previously, the country had seen a

near-revolutionary upheaval of students and workers.

The chaos had eased, however, before Galbraith met his host family in Rennes. "They were not deeply rooted in the area, which [outside of Rennes] was pastoral with farms and seacoast. They were a middle-class family with the father coming from Lille and the mother a returnee from Morocco, and three sons in my age range," recalls Galbraith.

"Family, town, culture: I absorbed everything I could about life in that region of France," says Galbraith. "It was an enormous spur to my language development." In school, he enjoyed matching his foreign-language skills to his French-taught language, history and literature classes. He also engaged in arts and theater studies and, to some degree, sports (he played on the SYA basketball team).

To this day, Galbraith treasures his SYA opportunity. "It was an incredibly rich year," he says. "I gained a sense of independence and a sphere of knowledge that I never had previously — and probably wouldn't have without that year in School Boys Abroad [as SYA was then known]."

He especially cherishes the friendships and connections that resulted. "I maintain contact with my host family and have visited them several times, including last summer," says Galbraith.

He even enjoys what he calls a "certain minor celebrity status" in France. "The French are delightfully impressed when someone can speak their language," he says, laughing. When visiting, he is featured on radio and television as well as at academic seminars; one Web comment following a TV appearance congratulated him on "the incredible quality of his French." In 2010, Galbraith was awarded an honorary degree from the Université Pierre Mendes-France, in Grenoble.

Over the years, Galbraith has followed SYA's development and continues to be pleased with his alma mater's progress. "I'm

glad to see placements taking place in China," he says.

Galbraith's exposure to the international scene, coupled with his political activism, led him to follow his father as one of the world's leading economists.

Unlike traditional economists, who are focused primarily on academia, Galbraith chose early on to make economic studies relevant to everyday life. It was a decision based partly on his interest in politics. "My political involvement started at Andover, when I volunteered for the presidential campaign of [U.S. Senator] Eugene McCarthy. The Johnson family [relatives of U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson] — whom I've gotten to know at the LBJ School, have been very forgiving," he says.

In 1975, as a staff member of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Banking, he helped rescue the City of New York from bankruptcy and organized oversight hearings on monetary policy.

As the Lloyd M. Bentsen Jr. Chair in Government/Business Relations at the LBJ School of Public Affairs, located within the University of Texas at Austin, Galbraith has been an outspoken critic of policy in the present financial crisis. For example, he maintains that national leaders should have "applied the law as it stood toward those banks threatened with insolvency in early 2009. Under such circumstances, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation [FDIC] takes over banks when they fail and ensures their orderly resolution."

Instead, the national government opted to bail out such institutions. "This, in effect, sanctioned suspect and misguided practices," he says.

As to the future, Galbraith leans toward pessimism, but he believes national policies should focus on concrete problems: long-term unemployment, sustainable energy and climate change. "There is no easy way out," he says, "but by focusing on commonsense policies, we can accomplish something. Perhaps." ■

Celia Imrey FR'81 and the pursuit of architectural beauty

For Celia Imrey, the personal growth attained during her year in Rennes would influence both her individual and her professional choices.

Her SYA experience eventually led to a career as a museum designer, with clients such as the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York; the Smithsonian Institution's Museum of American Art in Washington, D.C.; and the Louvre.

Upon arriving at the home of her host parents, Isabelle and George Fresneau, Imrey immersed herself in the culture. "I learned French as quickly as possible," she recalls. "With everyone at SYA already speaking the language, I had a lot of catching up to do."

In helping with this transition, the Fresneau family developed a bond with Imrey that continues to this day. "They were extraordinary in many ways," Imrey says. "Their generosity was amazing."

She developed a strong friendship with her host father, then a professor of French history at the nearby university. "He would clarify that he was not my father or parent, and then he would go about offering fatherly advice," she remembers.

Imrey also enjoyed the local traditions. "My host family was classically French — every Sunday we attended church, followed by an elaborate dinner. There was a week-long preparation for Easter that included making our own chocolates for the holiday," she says. "Life had a rhythm that was both comforting and beautiful."

"There was a widespread appreciation and commitment to aesthetics and beauty," she says. "From place settings for dinner to store displays and architecture — it was easy to get swept up in the attractiveness of the way things were accomplished."

And "swept up" is exactly what happened to Imrey as the influences of her SYA placement eventually carried her into an architectural career with a concentration in public buildings. "It fostered my own deep commitment to public museums and libraries, for example, as purveyors of visual and intel-

lectual beauty," she says.

Imrey first practiced this commitment as a fine arts major at Brown University. For her thesis, she designed and arranged for the installation of a public fountain on campus. Following graduation, she relocated to West Berlin, where, as a guest professor at the Hochschule der Kunst, the main arts university, she directed a play with the East German playwright Heiner Müller. "He suggested that I pursue a career in architecture," she says, laughing. "You see, I had constructed the play instead of letting it be acted out. He wisely pointed me away from a future in theater."

Imrey came back to the United States to get her master's degree in architecture at Yale, after which she worked for the firm of the architect I. M. Pei. "It was a fascinating experience that gave me a feel for the nuances of museum design," she says. "Working on the galleries of the Miho Museum in Japan was my first experience in the design of museum architecture."

Imrey started her own practice in 1998. Her current firm, Imrey Culbert, which she founded with her husband, Tim Culbert in 2001, focuses on public architecture design. Culbert, although an American, is fluent in French and a licensed architect in France. Raising two sons who are bilingual, the family lived in Paris for six months in 2006 to start up their sister office, Imrey Culbert Architectes, sarl.

Asked about her most cherished design principles, Imrey says: "It's important to know the client well — architecture has to resonate with the client's mission and purpose. It's also important to give users or visitors choices of how they use a building: they need to be able to move through spaces in a nonlinear way and have the freedom to select where they want to go."

Among Imrey's recent achievements is her firm's selection, along with Saana of Japan, to design a satellite museum for the Louvre. The new museum, currently under construction in Lens, France, will house art that is



now on display in the Paris museum, but within the new context of contemporary architecture. The Louvre Lens museum is scheduled to open to the public in late 2012.

Imrey Culbert participated in a highly exclusive international competition for the contract. "It was a great honor to be selected," Imrey says. "The opportunity to give a new identity to this world-renowned collection, currently on view only within a historic palace, is incredibly exciting. And it's an extraordinary return to my initial experience, visiting the Louvre for the first time as a teenager at SYA." 🌐

Taylor Ruggles ES '85 and the humanizing of U.S. diplomacy



Like many students accepted into School Year Abroad, Taylor Ruggles looked forward to immersing himself in another culture. However, he had the bonus of a brand-new family dynamic as part of his SYA experience.

"I'm the youngest among my siblings," says Ruggles, "but with my host family, in Barcelona, I was the oldest of four other children." Ruggles soon realized that his placement was not by chance.

"My host mother was a widow, and an older male influence in the family was something she very much wanted," Ruggles says. "It was definitely a new experience for me — especially when it came to being a big

brother to the only son in the family."

Ruggles gladly accepted his status, as he did with every other aspect of his SYA placement. "I just soaked up the entire culture," he says. "Everything from enjoying strong Spanish coffee to gathering around the dining room table for a typical late-night dinner with my host family — it was a wonderful experience." He also traveled a great deal, taking trips to Madrid as well as throughout northeast and southern Spain.

Ruggles was especially impressed with the sense of collective pride that was emerging at the time. "Under the former dictatorship, the people of Barcelona and the rest of the Catalan region were restricted to speaking only Castilian Spanish. But as democracy began to take hold in Spain, it was fascinating to witness a growing sense of cultural awareness and nationalism among the Catalan people."

Ruggles keeps in touch with his host family and returns to Barcelona as frequently as possible. Among his visits, he was present at the weddings of his three Spanish sisters.

Along with his exposure to the local culture, Ruggles learned a great deal about himself. "I grew as a person," he says. "Having to navigate around a foreign country allowed me to become more self-reliant and independent. In many ways, it opened my eyes to the world."

Indeed, Ruggles's SYA opportunity proved to be highly influential in his choice of career. "Resulting partly from all the political and current-events discussions that I had with my host family and friends in Barcelona, I decided to enter into a career with the U.S. Foreign Service," he says.

Following his SYA experience, Ruggles broadened his skills with an intensive French-language course in college and spent his junior year living in France. When he eventually took the U.S. State Department's entrance exam, his overseas experience and language abilities were instrumental to his acceptance into the foreign service. In his

first posting, in Honduras, his strong command of Spanish, he says, "served me very well in becoming familiar with the cultural nuances of that country."

Today, Ruggles serves as the special advisor for Europe and Eurasia at the Office of the Vice President. "My role is to keep U.S. Vice President [Joseph] Biden informed about political developments and current events in that region of the world," he explains.

Ruggles often points to SYA and other foreign experiences as providing him with unique career insights. "For instance, I recently met with the Spanish ambassador and was able to speak with him in his native Castilian language — such little touches help to humanize what would otherwise be just a formal diplomatic occasion," he says.

In considering the role of SYA in his own life, Ruggles emphasizes the importance of personal immersion within another society. "There's no question that I had a head start on my classmates in college thanks to SYA," he says. "And in today's increasingly global society, firsthand familiarity with foreign cultures can provide an even greater competitive advantage, both in the classroom and in other aspects of life."

He cites a U.S. State Department visit he made to Sakhalin Island, a part of Russia off the coast of Japan, where he spoke with two local students who were recent participants in an exchange program with the United States. "It was overwhelming to see how much they differed from their classmates," he recalls. "You could clearly see how their time overseas had contributed to their outspokenness, self-confidence and comfort with their English-speaking skills."

Similarly, Ruggles would like to see more students take advantage of what he views as School Year Abroad's opportunity for change. "SYA is a wonderful program that offers the type of exposure to other cultures that is truly transformative — it's an experience from which many students can benefit," he says. 🇺🇸

Barton Quillen FR'84 reflects on SYA's artistic inspiration

During his SYA placement, Barton Quillen not only engaged in cultural exploration but also discovered much about himself — including the basis for his own professional passion.

In fall 1983, Quillen began his SYA experience in Rennes, France. “I was placed with a host family headed by a divorced mother,” recalls Quillen. “She worked as a hospital administrator and was struggling to help her three adult children, all of whom lived in Paris and were having a tough time because of the recession.” Later, a nephew came to live in the household.

Quillen remembers his SYA placement as “an amazing, wonderful year. Finding your place in a family that is not your own is very empowering to a sixteen-year-old boy,” he says. Trips to Paris and throughout Brittany, an opportunity to teach English to seven-year-old students, sharing ideas with adolescent peers in local cafés, and a sense of the challenging economic times all left a strong impression.

“People were unemployed; students stayed in school because of so few job prospects. I remember thinking what a hard place this must be for many people,” he says.

Beyond such adversity, Quillen saw beauty in the local landscape — a perceptiveness that had life-changing implications. “The grayness of the rain, typical of some North Atlantic climates, was shocking to me,” he says. “But while it was bleak outside, family life inside the home was colorful, vibrant and warm. I was blown away by the culinary culture, with its rich tastes, textures and odors.”

As he speaks, you can imagine how such cultural contrasts inspired this 16-year-old's emerging sense of color and fashion, so it's easy to understand why Quillen eventually pursued his passion as a professional collector and dealer of European craftsmanship: specifically Czech-made furniture and decorative arts.

During college, he took time off to work in Spain and England. Following his 1990 graduation from Princeton, Quillen faced a

recessionary economy — echoes of hard times he witnessed as an SYA student — so he turned to Eastern Europe. “With the fall of the Berlin Wall, I realized that a huge swath of opportunities existed in that region of the world,” he says.

The Velvet Revolution — Czechoslovakia's peaceful transition from a Communist regime to a democratic society — proved especially appealing. He found a job teaching English in Budweis, a Czech city near the German and Austrian borders, where the original Budweiser beer was brewed, and stayed for five years.

During this time, he tried his hand at broadcasting. “A musician and former political dissident was amazed at my extensive CD collection,” Quillen says. He soon became a volunteer host at the musician's radio station.

Quillen's hobby offered him a degree of celebrity: “I'd be talking with friends at a train station, and people would say to me, ‘I know that voice’ — there was a real appreciation for all things American in those days,” he says.

His immersion in Czech society enabled him to become familiar with the country's largely unrecognized and underappreciated design heritage, including the craftsmanship during the Communist era of the 1950s and 1960s. “The furniture of that period is remarkably sturdy and well made,” he says. “It has an economy and elegance, with quirky qualities and an elongated organic design, that's very appealing.”

The compelling beauty of Czech goods stayed with Quillen even after his return to the United States. In 2005, an Italian business colleague suggested partnering with him to start up an import firm that would specialize in Czech design. Quillen eventually agreed to the concept, and Prague Kolektiv was born.

Soon after the 2006 opening of a storefront gallery in Brooklyn, New York, it became apparent that Prague Kolektiv was a good idea. New Yorkers were responsive to the prospect of decorating their homes and businesses with classic Czech crafts, from



glassware to lighting and furniture.

Quillen's business model has proven solid despite the current recession. “We've had to adapt by closing the storefront and ending our retail operations,” he says. “Fortunately, however, we were able to build a steady client base of designers and architects who have remained loyal to us.”

Quillen eagerly anticipates the future, an outlook he traces, in part, to his SYA experience. “It goes all the way back to Rennes, where I developed a strong sense of optimism for the next challenge,” he says. “Since then, my attitude has always been ‘Let's bring it on, let's make something big, powerful and exciting happen.’ And it continues to serve me well.” ■

CLASS NOTES

ES'65

Class Correspondent

Jeff Eastment

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Doug Cassel spent time in Spain this fall giving lectures at universities around Madrid and Santiago.

ES'66 45th REUNION 2011

Class Correspondent

Leslie Reizes

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Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

ES'67

Your class will soon be in its 45th reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class correspondent, class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

ES'68

Class Correspondent

Vincent Pasternak

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Class Agent

Kenneth Krushel

kkrushel@earthlink.net

If you haven't recognized the tunes, the background music on *The Campaign for Spain's* second video is by our own **Vince Pasternak**. **Graham Faiella** writes, "Invited to dinner at Cambio de Tercio, a Spanish restaurant here in London, with trustees **Natalia Bulgari ES'86** and **Margaret Conklin FR'74**. Terrific evening, excellent conversation and supremely charming company."

FR'68

Class Correspondent

David Rubin

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Michael Lamensdorf writes, "It's hard

to believe that a year has gone by since **Tom McCarty** and his lovely wife, Julie, spent a week here in Sarasota. We had a great time together. We lucked out with some terrific bike-riding weather." **Rusty Miller** writes, "My husband, Ken Nimblett, and I traveled twice to France in recent history — in October 2009 we visited one of my French sisters and her family outside Paris and in June 2010 we went to Brittany. The second trip happened because my other French sister invited us to come and celebrate her marriage, so we spent a festive weekend in the Rennes area and then traveled around the rest of Brittany by car for 10 days. It was great to reconnect with my French family and get to know the younger generation. We had a terrific time and will certainly be back. At the moment, though, we're headed to New Zealand for three weeks — my first trip anywhere outside North America and Europe."

Marco Cuniberti works for the State Department in the Office of Allowances. The Alumni Office caught up with Tom McCarty at the SYA event in Santa Monica in February.

ES'69

Class Correspondent

Peter Kaplan

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Marc Emory writes that he is "still plugging away in Dusseldorf." Read about documentary producer/director **Russell Martin** in Media Milestones, page 28.

FR'69

Class Correspondent

Tolly Taylor

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Class Agent

Carter Eltzroth

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None of us have been in much doubt about which of us schoolboys abroad would become a rock star. Last spring,

Perry Fine and the Original Blue Healers played a benefit concert in Washington, D.C. Several devoted groupies among our classmates were in attendance, one of whom described the experience as his greatest thrill since the CRS baton charge on the Place de la Mairie when de Gaulle came to town. Among those attending (the concert, not the baton charge) were **Walter and Barbara Burgin**, **Carter Eltzroth**, and **Gordon Dale**. "Ripper" writes: "The Burgins led the group onto the dance floor, rocking the night away with what looked like a blend of disco *rennais* and *danse bretonne*." Also at this memorable concert were **Bruce Robson** and his then fiancée — and now blushing bride — Susan Sturgis. *Félicitations de nous tous*, Bru! The wedding this past January took place among friends and family in a lovely restored church overlooking the Nanticoke River. Bruce says he and Susan dream of holding a big celebratory party this summer to which, he assures us, "you shall all be invited." *Chouette!* In other news: **Rob Calihan** writes that life is better and busier than ever, with three daughters in college and Rob himself starting a new law firm. "I finally followed a dream long held, leaving the firm where I had spent the last 25 years to start my own firm. So far, I've been extremely lucky, with major clients following me and much new work. I'm focusing on domestic and international disputes and employment discrimination claims, primarily representing plaintiffs. I've never had so much fun. We continue to see **Rennie** and Sarah **McQuilkin** when they're in Rochester visiting their daughter Eleanor." **Jamie Galbraith** has been granted an honorary doctorate by the University of Grenoble. Read more about Jamie on page 30. **Jim Goldberg** writes, "My son Jasper took a semester off from Swarthmore to study at the University of Haifa, in Israel. The school was evacuated during the Mount Carmel wildfire, but he was in Cairo at the time, so as parents we were in the ironic position

of thinking Cairo was safer for once. Interestingly, Jasper speculated that it would be virtually impossible to stage an uprising in Cairo because the streets were so crowded with vehicles. So much for that prediction! Maybe the next beachhead for SYA should be in the Middle East!"

ES'70

Can you volunteer to be a class correspondent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'70

Class Correspondent

Timothy Lydgate

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Doug Wilkins FR'70, his wife, Laura, and Doug's French family, André and Giselle Busson, enjoy a bike tour of Forêt de Rennes.

Doug Wilkins writes, "Laura and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary (and the 40th anniversary of my 'graduation' from SYA France) this summer by joining the Bussons for a stage of the Tour de France in the Alps and for several days at the Bussons' home in Fouillard. We also biked to the home of M. and Mme. Jouault, who had fond memories of **Ben Miller** and **Alex Beam** and SYA students from later classes — mostly they remembered that Ben and Alex liked to talk! They are in relatively good health and even got off a blistering lawyer joke at my expense. Still recovering few months later, I was appointed a justice of the Massachusetts Superior Court."

Class Correspondent

Neil Ryder

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Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Fulton Armstrong recently resigned from a major executive-branch foreign affairs agency and now works for Senator Kerry on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, yet another notable distinction in a long and stellar public service career in matters international. **Diane Runyon Bech** traveled last year to Jordan to visit her daughter who was teaching at King's Academy (a boarding high school founded by King Abdullah), and got to see Petra, Jerash and the Dead Sea — all amazing. [The SYA connection is never far removed: Diane's daughter overlapped at King's Academy with former SYA China faculty **Stephen Morison**.] **Carlos Buhler** writes: "Kids Julia, 5, and Manuel, 3, are skiing lots, both cross country and alpine, sledding, and building snowmen . . . I will be leading a trek this spring in Nepal for World Expeditions through the Langtang area." From his blog you can see his amazing photos, hear clips of presentations and read about his journeys: carlosbuhler.wordpress.com. **Doug French** reports from Oaxaca: "I changed my career business to manufacture Scorpion Mezcal. I have shipped 10 brands of mezcal (I help other indigenous producers who do not know how to do global logistics) to 14 countries around the world. I buy bottles and other supplies from six different countries. My business is growing slowly but surely." Learn more at scorpionmezcal.com and oaxacanstuff.com. **Michele French** writes, "This last year my son graduated from college, finally. Doug's daughter got married. I got to go to Barcelona and spend some time with a friend I have from when we were at SYA. Otherwise I spend time making my jewelry: michelefrench.com." Argentina and Uruguay have become an annual trip for **Ruth Ann Gillis** and her husband, Michael McGuinnis. She writes, "Tom Sutherland introduced us to the treasures of Buenos Aires (a city so much like the Barcelona we knew in '71) five years ago and we've been back every year since." **Julia Harte Widdowson** was "harte" to reach but we finally found her running a highly-acclaimed organic restaurant and organic farm in the Hudson Valley. Here's a link to an article about the restaurant: <http://tinyurl.com/reddevon>. **Sam Heath** reports: "Had a visit from Jack Foley last fall. I have been teaching

Spanish at Exeter High School for the last couple of years. Living with my aging but still kicking parents (**Jack Heath**, SYA Spain faculty '67-'68) at the family homestead in Exeter, N.H." (We are unable to locate Jack, who was last reported back from London and living in Connecticut.) **Ellen Hoitsma** writes, "I speak Spanish to my third-graders when they are REALLY not paying attention, and you should see their heads swivel toward me! I'm still running, happy to see my sons growing up and living pretty normal lives post-Afghanistan deployment. One's working at Quantico Marine Corps Base, one's back at Washington College and the youngest is writing for *Inside Lacrosse* magazine." **Bill Keegan** continues to divide his time between New York and Barcelona with his talented painter wife, Pam. Bill continues to provide expert computer network to major financial institutions from wherever his keyboard will plug in . . . ES'71 35th reunion—goers will always recall his expert and energetic role in lining up a wonderful series of events in Barcelona, including an actual field trip on a bus, with **Ángel Vilalta** on board providing historic commentary, and we were allowed to drink wine! (It was a winery tour in Penedes.) **Jim Nash** continues writing, covering federal workplace safety issues for a major publishing and consulting consortium. He was in a bad bike crash on the streets of D.C. (not with a car, thankfully), and got bashed against the pavement, but is now more or less over it. Jim would like to help with organizing a 40th-year reunion. **John Kiyonaga**, plays polo and hunts, and sometimes goes to the office to represent clients. He writes, "My dogs Parker and Elsie have developed into remarkable hunters, supplying the entire neighborhood with pheasant, quail, frog, cat, etc." John is regularly chosen by the Federal Court in Alexandria to take on highly challenging criminal cases, including capital murder cases, with international and diplomatic ramifications, and got one such case up to the Supreme Court last year, not for the first time. **Tom Killiam** writes, "I recently took up work at the Department of Education, Office of Federal Student Aid, Foreign Schools Team. I get to have drinks with Kiyo, Nash and Fulton sometimes." **Emily Nicklin** writes: "I guess the SYA bug got into my DNA, because it is sort of expressed in Luke (who has studied in Cairo and Jerusalem; he's an Arabic scholar) and Anna (who can't get enough of China; she's a linguistic major in her third year of college, with ongoing studies of Mandarin, Portuguese and Spanish). They're both at the University of Chicago. Work-wise, I'm stuck stateside; that's the geo-

graphic limit of the practice of law." **Neil Ryder** writes, "I still run my own active real estate development company as a dual broker, but I have also recently been lured back to the larger company where I started my real estate career 26 years ago, helping get sales back on track, mainly with 'green' houses to compete with the 'shorts' & 'REOs.'" **Tom Sutherland**, inveterate



Tom Sutherland ES'71's recent trips to Kenya and Silk Road journey through Khiva in Uzbekistan

world traveler, has had some exciting adventures: first the migration in the Masai Mara, which he said was "amazing, but a bit like a massacre for the zebra and wildebeest." Then, in February, from Bangladesh he writes: "Greetings from Dhaka. I came here for the Chobi Mela Photography Festival and have been traveling around the country for a few weeks. Last year following parts of the Silk Route through Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, and Syria, and after visiting Scott's hut in Antarctica, I got involved in the campaign to raise funds to save the historic buildings there." Tom also traveled to Cuba and Buenos Aires and is planning a trip to Mongolia. **John Tait** is a noted researcher and teacher in advanced genetics. He writes, "My two daughters, Hannah and Gwen, (identical twins) are now in the fourth grade. My wife, Katherine, continues to write and publish; I'm a professor at the medical school of the University of Washington in the department of laboratory medicine, with a clinical focus on genetic testing. I also recently became vice chair for academic affairs in my department." **Doug White** writes, "This past fall I moved from Washington, D.C., to New York City to accept a new position as academic director of the Heyman Center for Philanthropy at NYU (read the announcement here: <http://tinyurl.com/academicdirector>), to prepare students — most of whom are in mid-career — for fundraising

and management responsibilities. I also published my third book, which addresses issues in philanthropic world (read more here: <http://tinyurl.com/nonprofitchallenge>."

Class Correspondent

Dave Davenport

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Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.



Doug Renfield-Miller FR'71 aboard his boat Thales in the Oyster Newport Regatta

Doug Renfield-Miller captured first overall in the Oyster Newport Regatta, with his boat *Thales*, in a two-day race from Newport, R.I., to Cuttyhunk, Mass., to Edgartown, Mass.

DE'72

Class Correspondent

Andrew Holtz

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Your class will soon be in its 40th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

ES'72

Class Correspondents

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Spencer Dick

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Your class will soon be in its 40th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'72

Class Correspondent

Ted Pease

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Your class will soon be in its 40th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Ruth “Perky” Finch writes, “How lovely to hear from you and how timely . . . I was just wandering down the street in a small Alpine town with my partner . . . and I was remembering the little town we were all in for Christmas in France . . . Does anyone remember this? We had been skiing (I think **David Harsch** may have been involved) and we had gotten lost. But then, as it was getting quite dark, around a turn, there was below us a beautiful white-lit snowy little village, actually, my idea of a perfect Alpine village. So I just said to my dearest, ‘This village reminds me of that village’ and I told him the story.” **Jim Brooke** checks in regularly from Moscow, where the former *New York Times* reporter—cum—real estate mogul—now—Voice of America correspondent is holding the former Soviet Union together. **Kim Sloane** writes, “I’m living happily in Brooklyn, working as assistant chair of foundation (First Year) at Pratt Institute, a job that combines teaching and administration. I’m still drawing and painting and showing every so often. I still have my house in New Jersey, where we go weekends, which is a real luxury! My son, Sam, graduated from the University of Vermont last June and is a great kid who does me proud, always.” **Laura Heery Prozes** writes, “My husband and I are just making our way back from Paris and Toronto to Connecticut through snowstorms, and we’ve rerouted through Boston and are now driving. Our bags have been lost at Charles de Gaulle airport since Dec. 19! Nevertheless, we’re enjoying reading *Paris to the Moon*, by Adam Gopnik. Andy is just about to depart from LexisNexis after working there for 10 years and which fortunately included sojourns in France to check on with Juras Clesseur, the legal publishing group owned by LN. Our next excuse to return to France is to accompany the fifth-grade class of my niece, Georgia Heery, in June.” **Neil MacFarlane** is the Lester B. Pearson Professor of International Relations at St. Anne’s College. He writes, “After five years, I finally dumped the department headship and caught the first plane out of the UK (that was when planes flew out of the UK) to Georgia — not your Georgia, but the real one. I spent three months there on leave. Now back and contemplating what to do with three more years of leave. Also contemplating how things could be getting warmer and colder simultaneously. The latest riff on this: Warming causes shrinking ice caps. That produces more evaporation and hence precipitation. This all falls as snow on Siberia. The snow’s reflectivity cools the air around it. This diverts the jet stream, bringing Arctic air southward. That gets us lots of

snow and other bad weather, closed airports and collapsing football stadia. An attractive explanation, not least because we can blame the Russians for this too.” **Caitlin Owen Hunter** continues to make the most amazing *chèvre* at her place in Appleton, Maine (check out appletoncreamery.com) while holding it together as a computer tech for the Lincolnville School District. **Libby Langworthy** endures in the nation’s capital, where she is (what else?) a lawyer. She writes, “My husband, Jon, and I are happy empty-nesters. We had the chance to visit Paris, Lyon, Chamonix (with side trips to Verbier and Courmayeur) and Grenoble last February when our oldest son, Wes, spent a semester abroad in Grenoble. It was a wonderful trip with fabulous food, some new places we hadn’t seen before and great skiing. We really enjoyed meeting Wes’s host family — with my rusty French, I at least made myself understood, but it wasn’t pretty. Wes will graduate from Bowdoin this spring with a double major in history and French, and the near-term career plan of being a ski bum in Utah or Jackson Hole — still deciding where. Sam is a sophomore at the U (of Utah!), majoring in biology with a minor in environmental studies. He plays club soccer, is on the cycling team, sails his windsurfer on Utah Lake with the old guys in the fall and spring (maybe you’re out there too?) and has a season’s pass to Brighton for the winter. (As Wes said when he first toured colleges over spring break in 2006, “College is great: no parents, three meals a day and you just have to study a little.”) Although my French is rusty, I continue to develop the cooking skills I learned from Louise Renault. I love collecting and reading old cookbooks, and the ones by Samuel Chamberlain are among my favorites. There’s a page about Le Val-André (Perky: This is the mystery village!) from his *Bouquet de France*, first published in 1952 by *Gourmet*. **Virginia Griffith Frank** writes, “This has been quite the year for me. Just as I was thinking that getting kids into and through college would be the greatest challenge facing me for a while (Griff is a senior at UCLA and Rachael a first-year at UC Berkeley — go Bears!), my encounter with stomach cancer (and a side of melanoma on my right arm) has proved to be a bit mind blowing, to use the vernacular. I seem to have luck on my side, though, as my oncologist and surgeon are excellent physicians and have brought me through with flying colors. Being pronounced ‘cancer-free’ after a complete gastrectomy following nine weeks of chemo, I have four more weeks of postsurgery chemo and then can go on

with my life, whatever that means at this point. I plan to gradually return to work as a physical therapist, focusing on teaching the Alexander Technique and incorporating my work with trauma healing, and make more time for art and traveling. Living without a stomach is a journey in itself but I’m learning how to eat in a different manner, eating small amounts of food and chewing very carefully and slowly. At times it feels a bit too disciplined and measured for me — I daydream about large bowls of pasta or cake and ice cream. So, I’m not sure that I feel *toujours jeune* at the moment but some kind of transformation is taking place and I don’t feel completely old. I feel pretty lucky, though, and very happy to meet each day and have energy to hike the mountains of Topanga and enjoy the love of family and friends. I’m sad that **Seth [Kaplan]** is no longer with us but was very happy to have found **Lee Fonvielle** again, at least via e-mail. So happy New Year to all.” **Daniel Wolf** and wife Maya Lin



Daniel Wolf FR72 and his wife, Maya Lin, at the White House dinner for China’s president, Hu Jintao

were spotted by the Alumni Office in a photo in the *New York Post* attending the White House dinner for China’s president, Hu Jintao, this past January. **Bill Waller** is high atop the world of Canadian finance in Ottawa. **Jay Markell** writes, “My wife and I have had a quiet holiday at home in Connecticut. I continued my duties as the unofficial U.S. ambassador to France. I picked up a granddaughter of my French family who flew into JFK for a visit to New York City. After bringing her and her friend to their hotel in Tribeca, I arranged to meet them the following evening for dinner. It was fun giving my French a workout, although my wife was starting to get tired of trying to follow and of the endless praise for my fluency. I reminded her that the payoff will come on our next trip to Europe, when I’ll cash in my IOUs for *bon accueil*. My warmest greetings to you and to all my SYA classmates.” **David Harsch** is raising dogs back east somewhere. **Laura Rodriguez** sends down dogs and namaste from D.C., where she’s an analyst at the U.S. International Trade Commission. She writes, “My main update is that I expect to have my yoga

book (*Yoga at Home: Gain Energy, Flexibility, and Serenity in 20–30 Minutes a Day*) in print in February 2011 through CreateSpace, which is part of Amazon.com. My daughter is in her last year at the University of Virginia and getting ready to enter the ‘real’ world. My son is enjoying his first year of high school along with skateboarding a lot with his buddies. I’m also looking forward to a cruise in the Caribbean in exchange for talks about famous female pirates, how to write a travel journal, and mystical beliefs of the Caribbean. People can check out my yoga blog as well: www.laurasathomeyoga.com. **Chick Lindsay** writes, “I’m teaching middle-school ELL students in western Wisconsin.” **Abigail Owen Read** is a serious Ice Maiden — a member of the Belfast Curling Club, which competes nationally. There’s a story in *Downeast* magazine (www.downeast.com/magazine/2011/february/chess-ice) but the link doesn’t have a great shot of Abber flinging the stone (or whatever it’s called!). Also . . . Abigail was part of the Wellesley College Jewett Art Gallery’s recent exhibit exploring how a work of art begins with an encounter between an object or image and the artist. She’s been a mixed-media artist for many years, working in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional media. A few years ago she learned techniques in the book arts: how to properly make a book as well as the various processes that go along with it. Read now uses her own paste papers in her work, which deals more with assemblage than with book arts. And finally, the “Enormous Clochard” himself, **Ted Pease**, is still



Ted Pease FR72 deciphering la langue des poissons.

doing missionary work in Utah, trying to corrupt Mormons and others in his role as head of the journalism department at Utah State University, up in the mountains 80 miles north of Salt Lake City. More than 16 years! How the heck did that happen? He and his long-suffering wife have a multitude of kids and grandkids whom they ignore, having abandoned them to their own lives and happily subsisting on dogs. They also own a home on the far-northern California coast in the redwoods, where they hide out as often as possible, pursuing yoga, golf, salmon and sloth. Ted’s communication consulting business plods along, currently trying to palm off photography (<http://peezipix.blogspot.com>)

along with sage but overpriced advice on strategic media communications. The daily e-mail, Today's WORD on Journalism (<http://tedsword.blogspot.com>), now in its 16th year, continues to torment people (including many of you, you saps!) on five continents. Sorry if I missed anyone. Shoot me an e-mail at ted.pease@gmail.com and/or friend me on Facebook. Meanwhile, *milles baisers*, et . . .

DE'73

Class Correspondent
Andrew Holtz
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ES'73

Class Correspondent
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Class Agent
Eric Weaver
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In February, **Burton Lee** presented to the European Parliament in Brussels as an invited speaker on the subject of EU innovation policy.

ES'74

Your class needs you! Can you volunteer to be the correspondent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'74

Class Correspondent
Carol Weston
carol@carolweston.com

Salut, tout le monde. And *un enorme merci* to all for giving to the wonderful scholarship fund in honor of **Peter Greer** and in memory of **Charles Hamblet**, **Bill Riordan** and **Clay Thomas**. More on that later, but here's a newsy roundup, some of it plucked from recent emails . . . After much group sleuthing, **Jan Johnston** was able to locate Clay Thomas's widow, Diane. To quote Jan, "What a delightful person. She said Clay was the 'love of her life.' She and Clay had two children, who are now 21 and 23 years old. Diane lives in Indianapolis and is the president and CEO of The International Center of Indianapolis. She is herself half French and half American and met Clay in France. She said SYA was a huge part of Clay's life." **Tom Breunig** took his family to Paris and Provence last summer and saw the Pont du Gard. Says Tom, "We got there blissfully early on a sunny morning, and all was peaceful, and we waded in the river before all the tourists got there." (Ahhh . . .) In December, **Scott Menge** was also

headed to Paris. Rob and I flew west and had dinner in December with **Mary Sloane** and her family in Santa Fe. Mary was supposed to go to Morocco the next day but "got stuck at JFK in that crazy blizzard. . . . We wanted the kids to have an adventure and that they did! They and our friends' teenagers were all real troopers, but it's a weird feeling to have missed an entire experience and to come home with such a different set of stories and memories." **Jane Durgin Hoffmann** sent a funny holiday card that included this line: "Arnold and Jane are still happy to be together, even though Al and Tipper became available." My former neighbor **Sylvia Wolf** was in New York from Seattle recently. Her husband, Duane Schuler, was the lighting designer for *The Importance of Being Earnest*, which got a rave in the *New York Times*. Speaking of the *Times*, on January 10, **Roger McNamee** was quoted *avec une photo, dis donc*: "Facebook's Google Effect." **Ian Woollen** is doing great and, like many of us, finding empty-nesting bittersweet. **Jan Johnston** welcomed a German girl into her Louisville nest: "My *petite allemande* is now skyping her parents . . . what a difference 37 years makes!" Rob and I are dining this week with **Seth Aidi-noff** (now an Upper West Sider!), and last November, Seth and Lucie came for dinner *chez nous* with **Norma Jabbur** (visiting from Beirut) and we served wines selected by **Stuart Randall**, whose wine tasting we reunion attendees enjoyed at Pine Mountain. (Keep those order forms coming, Stuart!) More recently, I gave **Ken Callaway**'s youngest son my famous one-hour tour of the Metropolitan Museum. He's got his dad's southern charm and told me of a trip his family took to Cabo, where they saw **Fernando Salas**. Fernando now owns and operates a boutique hotel, Hotel Guaycura, in Baja California in Todos Santos, an hour north of Cabo San Lucas (www.guaycura.com.mx). **Glenn Atkinson** writes, "My wife, Sonya, and I return to empty nest part deux. Shortly after the youngest moved out, Sonya's mother, Anna, moved in with us, to allow us to care for her in her progressive dementia. After many happy years, at the age of 95, Anna passed away quietly, still in our home, in her sleep." Glenn adds, "One SYA-related note is that, several years ago, I made the mistake of realizing that my wife might actually like France's traditional, but disgusting, *marrons glacés*. It is now my husbandly duty to locate and secure vast quantities of the loathsome fruit candy each year throughout the holiday season." His hot tip: La Maison du Chocolat. In

London, **Margaret Conklin** stays in



FR'74 alumnae Hannah Judy Gretz, Jan Johnston, Margaret Conklin and Alice Conklin met up in Chicago.

touch with **Toni Lowe** and **Phil Fletcher**, and Margaret and **Alice Conklin** flew to Chicago to see their parents. **Jan** flew in too and they all got together with **Hannah Judy Gretz**, and, says Jan, "talked non-stop." (Girl talk? *Je suis jalouse, moi!*) **Peter Greer** has been bird-watching in Honduras and climbing mountains (including Misery Ridge in Oregon). **Barbara Tsairis**, a.k.a. the former "Mrs. Greer" (who was all of 23 years old back in Rennes), told Jan about having cofounded a micro-lending effort called World Class in Ghana. "We've loaned to more than 300 women, built two wells and a latrine, and are currently building another well . . . I'm really proud of the difference we've made with limited dollars and a very focused, no-frills effort! Visit worldclass-ghana.org." She also gave to our own amazing FR'74 scholarship fund. **Carol Hamblet** did too, as did Peter Greer, and our actual class participation is astonishing . . . and touching. Carol Hamblet added, "Peter Greer has sent me and our family several beautiful letters about our time together at SYA and our long friendship that has lasted 40 years. Each letter filled me with emotion — good emotion of wonderful memories. I have also received thoughtful messages from SYA students. I have saved and appreciated every message that I've received." *Bon, chers amis, je vous laisse* on this lighter note: On a recent morning, I was heading north on Broadway and **Doug Taylor** was racing south — and eating on the run. (Very New York.) I called out, "Doug!" and, having caught him mid-bite, politely said, "Bagel?" He answered, "Croissant!" We both cracked up. Doug and I now plan to catch Roger and Ann's band on April 2 at the Brooklyn Bowl and/or April 6 at Sullivan Hall in Manhattan. www.moonaliceband.com. You come too and we'll make it a mini-reunion! And if you missed *News & Views*, the alumni e-newsletter, you also missed the news of Alice Conklin's new book: *Modern France and Its Empire Since 1870* (Oxford University Press).

DE'75

Class Correspondent
Andrew Holtz
holtzreport@juno.com

ES'75

Class Correspondent
Sabrina Hewett Matteson
sabrinam@fb.org

Constance Carpenter Deans writes, "I'm still on sabbatical from my job teaching Spanish. In the past year I've traveled to Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and the Galápagos Islands to continue my quest to learn more about Spanish-speaking cultures."

FR'75

Class Correspondent
Deb Zurkow
deborah@zurkow.com

ES'76 36th REUNION 2011

Can you volunteer to be a class correspondent, agent, or part of a reunion committee? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'76 35th REUNION 2011

Class Correspondent
Matthew Judson

Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Will Iselin writes, "2011 brings good news: My girlfriend, Therese, and I got engaged. My work as an antique dealer continues to be rewarding financially and intellectually. My family is gradually heading back across the ocean with my eldest son already at Wesleyan and the next one headed to Columbia in September."

ES'77

Your class will soon be in its 35th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class correspondent, class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Heidi Hunter writes, "I still live in Farmington, Conn., and teach at the elementary school in town. I love my job and it also allows me to have the summers off, which is wonderful. My children are now 21 and 19. Emily is a senior at UNC in Wilmington and Aly (Alexandra) is a sophomore at Tulane. After a divorce four years ago, I got engaged last summer and we're planning to elope in a destination unknown. All good!"

FR'77

Class Correspondent

James Barrett

PO Box 81, E. St. Johnsbury, VT
05838

Your class will soon be in its 35th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Hugo Patterson writes, "I'm living in Silicon Valley with my wife, Lee Ann, and two daughters, Kira, 14, and Eliza, 10. I've been pursuing the Silicon Valley dream as a high-tech engineer and have now experienced the full life cycle: layoff, startup, IPO, and buyout. Hopefully, that doesn't mean layoff is coming around again." **Chris Oberbeck** writes, "The first news is that I miss you all and the time we had together, such great and vivid memories! I still keep in touch with my French family, even e-mails with my French brothers. Our whole family has visited them as well. I was able to impress our children with my play at the pinball machine based on the high-quality education I received in Rennes. Our youngest son, August (15), just decided to go to Deerfield, and I was thinking of our dear professor [Peter] **Esty** (who made us promise to read *Macbeth* again when we turned 45 — does the film count?) as we toured the Deerfield campus. Our son Conrad (17) is a junior at Brunswick School, where we live in Greenwich, Conn.; son John Eric is a sophomore at Brown; and son Christian is a junior at Harvard. My wife, Lizzie, has published a novel, *The Dressmaker*, which is set in France. It's a good read and keeps *la vie française* alive and well. I've been working in midtown Manhattan in private equity at Saratoga Partners and would welcome a reunion at the New York Alliance Français . . . my best to all!" **Liane Hellerich** writes, "Our second daughter, Shanti, has just begun university studies in Capetown, South Africa, and Sita, our first, lives in New York City after finishing her master's at Christies. Since we're not bound to school vacations anymore, we've also decided to make a move, and have bought a place on the Spanish island of Mallorca, which is being renovated this spring. After 25 years in Germany, it will be nice to learn a new language again! We still go to India twice a year to see to our project in Tamil Nadu. Hope everyone is still happily growing and moving onward and inward." Last April **Spanda Bhavani** [Sharon Pezdirtz] and her fiancé visited France and Châtel, "where we [SYA] skied 34



Spanda Bhavani FR77 and her fiancé in Paris and Châtel

years ago. The volcano ash delayed our return by six days, so we made the trip to Rennes, where I found my old house, new residents; the old school, now the Franco-American Institute; the new school, closed for the holiday; and my favorite *pâtisserie*." Faculty member **Carl Williams** is 90 years old and still the ski coach at Salisbury School!

ES'78

Class Correspondent

Diana Root

dianaroot@mac.com

Lily Leonard Goodale writes, "We'll be moving to Cuenca, Ecuador, at the end of June. My children, ages 11 and 13, will attend an Ecuadorian private school."

FR'78

Class Correspondent

Andrew Wilson

awilson@grier.org

Liz Berry lives with her husband and children in South Africa. She writes, "We've had an amazing year here; the highlight was the World Cup, of course. Lots of interesting visitors and travels around South Africa and the region." **Jeffrey Gratton** writes, "I'm delighted to report that I'm a team member in the Supplements Department at Whole Foods Union Square [New York City] — the busiest vitamin store in the country. I speak French every single day. How grateful I am for my SYA year in Rennes!" **Brian Hogan** has just completed two years in the Turks and Caicos as the chief executive officer of the National Health Insurance Board. **Joyce Schoenheimer Oleshansky** writes, "I'm thrilled to report that my husband and I visited Zaragoza, Spain, with two of our kids to visit our oldest son, **Jacob**, who is studying with SYA Spain. Certainly

brought back a lot of memories when we heard stories of independent travel and exploring their new home city. My 11-year-old daughter is ready to sign up for SYA a.s.a.p. Otherwise, life in Hawaii continues to be magical. We would love to see some SYA alums in Honolulu." **Laura Sacchi** writes, "My life (in short) . . . got my real-estate license and am a sales associate with Big Sky Sotheby's International Realty in Big Sky, Mont., where I have been living full time since 2001. I also run Morningstar Learning Center, a not-for-profit early-education and child-care facility that I founded almost six years ago. My daughter, Helen, is 10 and my son, Benji, is 5. Both are avid skiers, hikers, golfers, snowshoers and wildlife spotters, and participate in the other activities that go with being a kid in the northern Rockies. I have a guest cabin that I rent through VRBO. Wishing everyone a great 2011!"

Dennis Whittle writes, "At the end of 2010, I retired as CEO of Global-Giving, which I started with my wife, Mari, 10 years ago after leaving the World Bank. GlobalGiving.org allows any community group in the world that is doing good to post a project and attract funding from donors. We have mobilized \$45 million for 3,600 projects in 110 countries from about 140,000 donors and from many leading companies. Before launching a new venture, I'm going to take a couple of months off and recharge my batteries." **Andrew Wilson** writes, "Life as headmaster of Grier School in Pennsylvania suits me. The school is doing well with 247 students. When I arrived to teach Spanish in 1986, we had 107! I'm still traveling extensively and wishing that at least one of my three daughters might take an interest in study abroad!"

ES'79

Class Correspondent

Katie Eiden

eiden.katie@gmail.com

Susan Canning writes, "Last August my family and I went to Barcelona and I saw my Spanish family after 30 years. It was amazing!"

FR'79

Class Correspondent

Eve Nelson

Evenelson1@gmail.com

Class Agent

Carolyn Millstein

cmillstein@mac.com

Allyson Cornish writes, "I recently celebrated my 10th-year anniversary with the State Department. I've transferred from Kuala Lumpur to San José,

Costa Rica. Although my Spanish isn't nearly as good as my French, this will be a good opportunity to learn the language. I will be in San José until 2013, so there's plenty of time for former classmates to plan a visit! I love my job with the State Department, and a side benefit is that my 14-year-old son has become the perfect global citizen. I would love hearing how others have used their French skills throughout the years. I can be reached at allysoncornish@gmail.com." **Susan Getgood** writes, "Started a new job in September as the VP of sales marketing for BlogHer, and I published my first book, *Professional Blogging for Dummies*. **Alex Alger** writes, "The SYA cocktail party in New York City in November was great fun and packed to the gills with alums from every class — except ours! **Amy Jedlicka** and I were the only two to show up. Next year, be there!"

ES'80

Can you volunteer to be a class correspondent, agent, or part of a reunion committee? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'80

Class Correspondent

Vin Bankoski

vbankoski@gmail.com

Class Agent

Wendy Williams

wddwmail@earthlink.net

ES'81



30th REUNION 2011

Class Correspondent

Ned Hoyt

eahoyt@aol.com

Rob Marlowe writes, "I married my long-term partner, Almut Trinius, on October 4, 2010."

FR'81



30th REUNION 2011

Class Correspondent

Scott Aiges

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Read the profile on **Celia Imrey** on page 31.

ES'82

Class Correspondents

Walker Bardsley

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Lydia Middleton Reed

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Your class will soon be in its 30th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

It's never too early to start planning for a reunion! Our class has tough acts to follow based on the outstanding turnouts in 2002 and 2007. **Wendi Goldsmith** got the ball rolling regarding Reunion 2012 being held in Spain. We have excellent interest already; **David Bunn**, who has not been able to attend the prior two gatherings, has expressed keen interest in Spain. **Jonathan Cole**, who helped SYA Spain decide on Zaragoza as its Spain location, has expressed interest in assisting with the planning for 2012 and is encouraging our group to split its time between Barcelona and Zaragoza; there is a high-speed train that now conveniently connects the cities. My [**Walker Bardsley**] wife, Anita, and I are making plans already with our two daughters, who will be 8 and 9 at that time. It will be their first trip to Europe, and Anita has an aunt who has lived in Barcelona since the early '80s. Who knows, we may have eaten next to her at Comidas Economicas a few times back in the day! **Der-rick Broome** was in the Bay Area in October, and we had some cocktails. He continues enjoying his native Ohio and has risen through the ranks at Pacer International Transportation. He has traveled to Mexico often in a professional capacity and has used his Spanish to further the commerce opportunities of Pacer. **Tod Oliva** also reports in from Ohio. He is running his second company, having sold a window-manufacturing company last year. His older son is now a senior at Andover and likely will be attending Ohio State next fall. **Doug Foster** has done a swell job of setting up an "SYA Spain 82" site on Facebook and last I looked we had 15 classmates as members and one random gal from Mexico City reporting on her weight loss! Does anybody know her?! **Lydia Middleton** and I will be contacting everyone this spring with the dates for Reunion 2012 — our 30th reunion — so we'll all have well over a year to put it on our calendars. ¡Hasta entonces!

FR'82

Class Correspondents

Jason Bernhard

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Stefan Winfield

stewin@shaw.ca

Your class will soon be in its 30th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@syd.org.

ES'83

Class Correspondent

Tris Dashti-Gibson

tris.dg@sbcglobal.net

After four years in Argentina, **Harris Donovan** and his family have returned to the States and settled in Taos, New Mexico.

FR'83

Class Correspondent

Nicole Alger

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Class Agents

Sam Bloom

sam_bloom@hotmail.com

Steve Werber

stevewerber@gmail.com



Jeffrey Sullivan FR'83 and his wife, Kate, welcomed the arrival of Rosalie Christine in February 2011.

Sam Bloom writes, "I moved back to New York (where I got my PhD at Columbia 10 years ago) and started teaching a French class at Barnard last winter/spring. I teach French grammar and literature at Barnard as well as at Fordham. I see **Seth Sutel** from time to time. He's the editor of financial news for the Associated Press."

ES'84

Class Correspondent

Marybeth DiNubile Barber

gibbonj@aol.com

FR'84

Class Correspondent

Brooke Ackerly

brooke.ackerly@vanderbilt.edu

Read about **Bart Quillen** on page 33.

You may not notice, but sometimes there is little news in our class notes. This time, **Jamie Friedman** writes, "I traveled to Paris with my wife, Alison, for our anniversary and took a food walking tour of Paris and a champagne cruise. The mayor applauded me for my 'courageous effort to speak French.'" We also have to report that our first attempt at a class reunion was a roaring success if measured by how much we recognized in each other and

realized that our memories had become only those stories we repeated and no longer included a lot of what we shared. I tried to get **Matthew Connolly** to take over as your devoted class secretary; he said no, you will be sorry to learn after you read excerpts from his recording of how our reunion got planned. He did say that I could share his account with you (which I do because it captures him, and so many, in our adult versions of our 17-year-old selves. We planned this event "wiki" style and the result was a brunch, a walk, a dinner, and a Sunday morning in Central Park. It was superb. We missed you. We now have a Facebook group; email me [**Brooke Ackerly**], brooke.ackerly@vanderbilt.edu or **Leslie Howes**, howesla@gmail.com, and we will get you hooked in. You should have received the full letter by mail; too long to print. What we learned from our reunion is that we all remember different things. So I urge you to share with your classmates your memories of our reunion events. And now for Matthew's [abbreviated] summary of events: "We had a proxy brunch in **Melissa Biggs Bradley's** honor, the

way medieval monarchs had proxy marriages. She missed the brunch because she had to go to Turkey. Next time, with any luck, it will be a presence brunch. I apologize to you, our classmates, in advance about these notes; they are incomplete. They are incomplete in the traditional, prosaic sense that in the swirling events I did not talk to everyone, so cannot make a universal report. But much more simply, these notes are inadequate because I am not sure what they are about. I am not sure what I am trying to describe, or what happened among the 'lot' of us, to cop a Dillon phrase. These notes are, therefore, more of a draft for future notes. In the future, obviously, all things will be made clear. Or maybe that's just a hack belief of prelates. *Reunion* is too tawdry a word, too tried and tired. Under the stimulus of a strong, present emotion, words are generally dross. My dear friend over many years Jill [**Rosenfeld LaGattuta**] wrote, 'Kind of like family you didn't know u had.' You can see that she has mastered the new generation's use of single letters for homophone words. Well, mastered it incompletely — 'you' and 'u' in a single message? Plus I



Members of FR'84 celebrating their 25-year reunion in New York City in October. In top photo: Sarah Comey Cluff, Brooke Ackerly, Leslie Howes, Sean Wood, Nicole Channing, Cory Dunham, Jill Rosenfeld LaGattuta, Talbot Welles and Sarah Yeates Arnold. In bottom photo, from top left: Talbot Welles, Leslie Howes, John Burkhardt, Sean Wood, CC Gachet, Bart Quillen, Sarah Yeates Arnold, Sarah Comey Cluff and Matthew Connolly

thought that one-letter style was for texting, not e-mail! Sometimes those many years creep to the surface; in our inability to be technically hip, in my not being able to resist poking good-natured fun at Jill! **Penny Wilson** called it a 'wonderful night reconnecting.' But reconnecting to what? She added, 'It's amazing that this whole chunk of my life has been kind of stored away. I'm so glad it was re-explored again.' What was clear from the start was that it was something no institution owned. It wasn't really the home office that was summoning us. Leslie wrote, 'And it should be noted that we are not a sleekly-organized institutional event, for what it's worth. We are making decisions by loose consensus and then by whoever is willing to follow through.' **Liz Gill** responded, 'Salut les mecs! Thanks for the invite. Did we ever imagine we'd grow up?' From the deep recesses of the not-totally-forgotten, images began to emerge. Brooke commented on a photo Leslie had posted: 'Leslie, I'm pretty sure that is from our hitchhiking. Remember the bus, crawling over or under that chain fence and then, thumbs up. I think the first guy stopped. And did we meet a mariner from Poland who was trying to sell venison to a restaurant, or was that you, **Talbot [Welles]**? I remember we were so wet from the rain and sea spray.' On August 25, **Greg Dillon** weighed in, adding momentum, his contagious energy and some fresh ideas concerning Breton venues. 'I've had a summer with surf-induced ruptured Achilles, three surgeries, and now a crazy wound infection. I'm all in for our reunion dinner. As catch-up, wife Sam and I have daughter Reed (5) and son Clive (16 months). I'm an addiction shrink, ironic. By the way, your pic looks unchanged and great. Will hopefully be spry and off crutches by reunion. Also there is a surprisingly great Breton brasserie on 30th and 5th, Bar Breton, which I think is the obvious call for *galettes* and *cidre*.' Saturday evening we convened at Bar Breton. It's good to know that the Bretons are more than their towering, sugar-white lace caps and have managed to found their *galetteries* in San Francisco and New York. As **Sarah Yeates Arnold** would say, after the event, 'Amazing to realize how much I don't remember from 26 years ago in France. I absolutely cannot remember the woman who took over French lit for the nefarious Mme Nebout!' And I have to admit, I don't remember Mme Nebout at all. Wasn't Monsieur Nebout our history teacher? Didn't we have to open all the French windows with their clunky, gallows handles to the cold, gray, infectious air just to cleanse the sinuses of his overpowering

cologne? Cologne. Do Americans wear it? Maybe we're too far from the city in Germany. Does it clash with deodorant? Maybe that is why he clearly wore no deodorant. The man came to class in tennis gear. He said to the entire class — are you with me on this? Do you remember? — he said that he did not have time to shower after tennis. And he was married? There was a Madame in all of this, a second Nebout? I don't remember any of that. But Sarah apparently remembers it all. She remembers Madame Nebout and the fact that the tennis cologne superhero had a spouse. Sarah forgot the part about the woman who replaced Madame Nebout. And it is in that light that the nature of our event begins to make some sense." Look for the rest in the mail!

ES'85

Class Correspondent
Whitney Shugrue Hermann
whermann@sya.org

Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Marc Pierrat writes, "Still living in Westlake Village, Calif., and loving it. My wife, Julie, and I visited Hawaii in August; never left Kauai, hiked the Napali coast and pretended to be on *Lost*. My daughter Zoe was in the Rose Bowl parade on the Dole float. She's a sophomore at Viewpoint School. She recently took the SATs at the Thatcher School. When I went there, I was surprised to see so many SYA bumper stickers until I remembered the association between Thatcher and SYA. I spoke with Michael Mulligan, the head of the school, about SYA, my experiences, and how much it means to their students." **Taylor Ruggles** writes, "I'm on loan from the State Department to the Office of the Vice President, where I work as Vice President Biden's special advisor for Europe and Eurasia." See page 32 to read more about Taylor.

FR'85

Class Correspondent
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Class Agent
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ES'86 25th REUNION 2011
Class Correspondent
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Class Agents
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Read about author **Paula Bomer** in Media Milestones on page 28. **Christina Kramlich Bowie** welcomed the arrival of son Charles Grayson Bowie in September. **Natalie Poon Tarnopolsky** writes, "In L.A. with three boys: Max (7), Benjamin (5) and Evan (3). Doing finance strategy and HR with Wells Fargo. Come see us if you're in town (natalietarno@hotmail.com)."

FR'86 25th REUNION 2011
Class Correspondent
Laurie Goldman Smithwick
Laurie@leapdesign.com

Class Agent
Dan Gates
danielwgates@gmail.com

Eve Bridburg was recently named one of *Boston Magazine's* Top 50 Powerful Women. And if you didn't see the March edition of the *News & Views* e-newsletter, you missed reading about **Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak's** book. Read about her in Media Milestones, page 28. **In Too Deep: BP and the Drilling Race That Took It Down.** **Jason Blum's** new movie, *Insidious*, recently opened. Read about it in Media Milestones (page 28).

ES'87

Class Correspondent
Darcy Ellsworth Yow
dEllsworthYow@mcids.org

Your class will soon be in its 25th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Steven Nezhad writes, "I returned to Barcelona this past summer for the first time since 1987 and visited with my host family. Definitely the highlight of my trip!"

FR'87
Class Correspondent
Sara Pinto
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Class Agent
Duncan Van Dusen
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Your class will soon be in its 25th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

John Boit writes, "My wife, Kate, and I are still in the D.C. area. It seems like we're celebrating all kinds of birthdays: our little boy, Oliver, turns 4 this year, and is the joy of our lives. My public relations firm, Melwood Global, just passed its five-year mark and is going strong with offices in Boston and D.C. And I hit the big 40 recently with a surprise weekend trip from Kate to . . . wait for it . . . Paris! No greater fun than living the routine suburban life one day, then playing boules in the Tuileries 24 hours later with a gang of old friends!" And last but not least, I have some exciting baby news to report: Both **Jennifer (Sawyer) Carlsson** and **Hilary Lambert** wrote



Hilary Lambert FR'87 snuggling with daughter Izzy

in to announce the births of their daughters! Hilary and husband Randall Batinkoff welcomed Izzy (Isabel) on May 10, 2010. She writes that she's keeping busy taking care of Izzy and running her business (American Sportsbra.com). And Jennifer and husband Robert welcomed Summer Payton Carlsson on September 24, 2010. Jennifer writes, "She is a beauty and we all adore her, especially her two big brothers, Blake and Sawyer." Faculty member **Carl Williams** is 90 years old and still the ski coach at Salisbury School!

ES'88
Class Correspondent
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FR'88

Class Correspondent

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Class Agent

Breck Knauff
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ES'89

Class Correspondents

Wanda Mann
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Lisa Walinski
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¡Hola, amigos! It's been way too long since we've had *noticias* from our class! Please drop me [**Wanda Mann**] an e-mail so I can include more of you in the next update. I'm happy to announce that we have several new future SYAers in our family. **Louise Derbes** and her husband, Mauro, live in London with their son, Claudio. **Jean-Briac Perrette** lives in New York City with his wife, Amy, and their son, Ansel. **Ali Petschek** is a newlywed and lives in New Rochelle, N.Y., with her husband, Charles, and their son, Liam. It was great catching up with **Mark Ramsey** during one of his business trips to New York. He and his partner, Ron, live in Chicago with their pooches, Charlie and Leonard. Recently, they all embarked on an unforgettable road-trip vacation that took them to 11 states, including Georgia and Florida, in 18 days. **Ellen (Skowronski) Polito** lives on Long Island, New York, with her husband, Angel, and their three daughters. They've been dreaming of more southern latitudes and hope to take the family to Spain or Angel's native Argentina in the next few years. Even though we live in the same city, I don't get to see nearly enough of **Michele "Buffy" Drysdale**. Buffy lives in Brooklyn with her husband, Victor, and their son, Jai, who's now in the second grade. She's changed course from running an after-school program to pursuing her passion for dance and music. She teaches yoga, water aerobics, Afro-Cuban dance, Zumba and postnatal exercise and performs with various Afro-Cuban groups as a drummer, singer and dancer. Whew, just writing that made me exhausted! *Hasta la próxima.*

FR'89

Class Correspondent

Micah Singer
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Read about author **Donovan Hohn** in Media Milestones, page 28.

ES'90

Class Correspondents

Courtney Drohan Monnich
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Lisa Miller
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Amila de Saram
amiladesaram@yahoo.com

Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Nicole Maxwell wrote to say that she's a naturopathic primary-care practitioner in Washington state. She writes, "I have a website in progress at www.drnicolemaxwell.com people can check out. My son, Julian, is 3½ and daughter Elizabeth is 1. My Spanish is super rusty since there's no one to speak with here on the island, so people, come visit!" **Miriam Vega**, with whom I've [**Amila de Saram**] been in touch over e-mail, is vice president of the Latino Commission on AIDS in New York City. She lives just outside the city with her husband and adorable little boy. I live in Sri Lanka, where I work as a communications consultant for the UN and other development organizations. Like Nicole, I don't get to practice my Spanish a whole lot. Sandy beaches and warm weather year-round, come visit!

FR'90

Class Correspondent

Aria Yow
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Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Sonali Elefante Bedi was born to **Amy** and Vivek **Bedi** on July 18. Sonali weighed 7 lbs., 8 oz., and was 20.5" long. I [**Aria Yow**] can testify that she's adorable! In fall 2010, **Daria Saraf's** son, Shaia (5 years old), started French American International School kindergarten. Her daughter, Aja (4), is in preschool. Daria is still studying circus arts, including static trapeze. She describes her hobby as "very fun and vaguely French." Daria misses Paris and Rennes. I know exactly how she feels. How time flies! As of this writing, **Katrina Kaposts Smith** and Cameron Smith's kids are now 8 (Cameron), 6 (Teddy) and almost 2 (Ellija). They live in Portola Valley, Calif., where their backyard pool sees almost daily use for about 8 out of 12 months of the year. Among Katrina's recent major accomplishments is "getting my two sons to volunteer (!) to attend a San Francisco Opera performance with me." Katrina is still the prin-

cipal of the Northern California Latin School. **Christina Siegfried Rampe** and husband Kevin live in New Hope, Pa., where they'd been busy with their three children, William (9), Matthew (6), and Lily (3); then their lives became even busier with the birth of their fourth child in early December. **Sara Raymond** and her husband bought a house in Castro Valley, Calif., at the end of 2009. Sara is practicing family law in San Francisco. I was so glad when **Esther Conrad** finally moved back to California in September 2010. That fall, she started a PhD program at UC Berkeley. Esther is in the Environmental Science, Policy, and Management Department at Berkeley studying policy responses to climate change. **Tom** and Mayra **Cramer's** son, Finn, is in fourth grade and daughter Bellamy in first. Their daughter Waverley is 3 years old. In the summer of 2010, Tom and Mayra were in Madrid during the World Cup soccer finals, and they helped Spain celebrate its victory. Tom writes, "That 'Paul the Octopus' sure can call them." *Merci à tous!*

ES'91

Class Correspondent

Allison Amend
allison639@yahoo.com

Dana Gryniuk married Mahesh Patbhiraman on October 29, 2010, in a South Indian Tamil wedding ceremony.

FR'91

Class Correspondent

Shannon Keating
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ES'92

Your class will soon be in its 20th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class correspondent, class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'92

Class Correspondent

Hilary Taylor Comerchero
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Your class will soon be in its 20th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

ES'93

Class Correspondent

Lexie Greer
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FR'93

Class Correspondent

Amy Atlas Deutsch
amy.deutsch@us.army.mil

Amy Atlas Deutsch writes, "We'll be moving to the Baltimore area this year and hope to see some of you this summer."

ES'94

Class Correspondent

Meredith Glah Coors
meredithcoors@gmail.com

Lisanne Edwards Norman lives in Cambridge, Mass., while working on her PhD in African and African-American studies. **Katie Smith** writes, "I'm in San Francisco; drop a line if any of you are ever nearby. I've had Gaudi and Butifarra on my mind for months now." **Meredith Glah Coors** writes, "We moved to L.A. about a year and a half ago with our four kids for my husband's job and I've really let this responsibility slide while getting settled here. I recently attended the SYA alumni event in Santa Monica with my husband, and although we didn't see anyone else from our year, we saw a girl from my high school and had a nice time."

FR'94

Class Correspondent

Lori Gaines Freund
lori.gaines@gmail.com

Class Agent

Mimi Crume Sterling
mimicrume@rocketmail.com

Mimi Crume Sterling just got back from an amazing honeymoon in Cambodia, where she spent the days scuba diving, eating, discovering Angkor Wat and other temples around the country. **Nate Brown** also tied the knot. He got married in July and at the celebration were many SYAers, including **Mimi Crume**, **Heather Watson**, **Chris Brown ES'98**, **Sean Brown ES'02**, **J. D. Haddon ES'08** and Nate's French family.



Nate Brown and his bride, Michelle Parikh, are flanked by his French parents, Germain and Maryvonne Girault, J. D. Haddon ES'08, Sean Brown ES'02, Mimi Crume FR'94, Chris Brown ES'98, Heather Watson FR'94 and his French sister Marie Girault.

CN'95

Class Correspondent and Agent
Clinton Wu
clinton_wu@hotmail.com

Malcolm McVay, who hasn't been back to China for several years, lives in Los Angeles with wife Dana. He writes, "I'm working at a company that provides technology for electric cars and Dana is an artist. We like the West Coast a lot, and if any of you guys are in town, let me know." **Shannon Cao** also lives in California and recently moved to Torrance. She writes, "Our son, Anthony, is already 15 months old, and is in a private day care. Having a kid is a lot of work, but it's very rewarding. We enjoy watching him grow slowly. We recently took Anthony to Hawaii and Vegas." I [**Clinton Wu**] am working in Beijing and recently attended **Andrew Vuong's**



Clinton Wu CN'95, right, shared in the celebration of classmate Andrew Vuong's wedding.

wedding in Vietnam. Andrew held two wedding receptions, one in Ho Chi Minh City and the other in Los Angeles. Andrew met his wife, Angel, while working in Vietnam for the past two years. He is the VP of sales for an American company in Shanghai.

ES'95

Class Correspondent
Claudia Cruz
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Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

¡Saludos, amigos! Hope this winter season has been bearable for all of you. One person who's used to the cold is **Lea Miner**, who has lived in Homer, Alaska, for the past 11 years. Lea reports that she sold her first house and bought a second this year. Lea also married James Manchester Miller on August 29, in Gloucester, Mass. ¡Felicidades! The couple welcomed a puppy named Penny and are very happy in their new home in Homer. **Natalie Gordon** writes that she's getting married on April 2, 2011, to Josh Gordon



Natalie Gordon ES'95 married Josh Gordon this spring. No need to change the monogram on the bathroom towels, not to mention Natalie's passport!



Justin Beal ES'95, right, with his sister Sophie Beal ES'99 and new brother-in-law Francis Shen

(no relation, well, not at the time of this writing) and then the newlyweds will travel to Costa Rica for their honeymoon. ¡Enhorabuena! **Alex Dunev** and his wife will welcome their first child in April. They moved to Westport, Conn., after a few years in Southern California. "I haven't seen anyone from SYA in a while, so I hope that an East Coast reunion can get scheduled soon," Alex writes. If the Dunevs need a midwife, they could consider **Stephanie Etienne**, who updates us that she just finished midwifery school last fall. Her first job as a certified nurse midwife will be in the Bronx. And our little SYA family just got bigger! **Sloane Starke de Caloca** and her husband, Francisco, welcomed William Elias de Caloca into the world on December 21, 2010. Sloane, who lives in Mexico City, chronicles her time there in www.sloaneandpuffy.com, where you'll find funny anecdotes and wonderful pictures of Sloane, baby and daddy. I had the pleasure of seeing Sloane with her belly last September in Mexico City. She and Francisco gave me a quick tour and we had a delicious taco dinner. Recently, I spent time with **Paulo Carminati**, whom I managed to see in San Francisco and not in New York before I moved. Paulo has left the wine-distribution industry and has shifted his focus back to his first love — music. Check out his site, www.paulocarminati.com. **Michael Ellsberg** married the love of his life, Jena la Flamme, last July in New York City. His first book, *The Power of Eye*

Contact, came out last year from HarperCollins, and his next book, *Self-Educated Millionaires: Success Secrets You Won't Learn in College*, is coming out from Penguin this fall. Via Facebook, we learned that **Shulamite Shen** got married on Valentine's Day to Steve White in San Francisco. As for me [**Claudia Cruz**], last June I moved to Mountain View, Calif., to serve as the editor of the local online news site *Mountain View Patch*. It's a lot of work to edit, write, report and manage but the weather makes it all worth it. Stay in touch!

FR'95

Class Correspondent
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Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Corinne Burrows Schuster writes, "We had our second child, Sophia, before we moved to San Antonio."

CN'96

Class Correspondent
Emily Hanson
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ES'96

Class Correspondent
Markus Stadler
stadlermark@gmail.com

Katrina Berg writes that she lives in Uganda. **Robert Trainer** lives with his wife, Carrie, and son Browning in Houston. **Melissa Arminio** writes that she's a project architect at Centerbrook Architects, in Connecticut. Her firm has worked on many of the private school campuses that participate in SYA. At the same time, she and her fiancé, Dan Kops, are renovating a rambling, three-family Victorian on the Quinnipiac River in New Haven. **Lara Landrum** announces the birth of her daughter, Rose Elisabeth, in June 2010. They're busy exploring the world around them while spending a lot of time outdoors and are planning on moving back to Missouri in the near future. **Saul Mercado** is a professor in anthropology at Vassar. **Sonya (Blessner) Streeter** is busy with work and two daughters (2½ years old and 9 months) in Washington, D.C. **Kala Maxym** writes that she's in Santiago, Chile, pursuing a career as an opera singer, studying to be a Spanish/English translator, and starting an online networking community for opera lovers. **Kate (Marinero) Pascuzzi** is a tax attorney and lives in Houston with her husband and their first child, Lluisa, born on October 20, 2009.

Claudia Pineda-Ball and her husband, Jesse, live in Hilo, Hawaii. They welcomed son Osai on November 28, 2009. **Naima Lilly** received her master's degree in educational leadership, politics and advocacy from NYU's Steinhardt School in May 2010; she recently met with **Kelley Hicks**, who also lives in New York. And I, **Markus Stadler**, am still in Buenos Aires after five years.



Tom Sutherland ES'71 and Markus Stadler ES'96, both students of Angel Vilalva, met in Buenos Aires at the Yacht Club Argentino.

FR'96

Class Correspondents and Agents
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Adam Rees
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Comfort Halsey Leckerling writes, "I'm still at The Mountain School, teaching AP French and hanging with my fabulous kids, Rowan (3) and Cedar (1)." **Elizabeth Sturges Cosentino** writes, "I'm still a teacher in Brooklyn and loving it." Read about actress **Lake Bell** in Media Milestones, page 28.

CN'97

Class Correspondents
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Your class will soon be in its 15th—reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Annie Rollins was awarded a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship to China in theater and will spend the entire 2011 year studying Chinese shadow puppetry. **Rob Watts** writes, "Although enjoy living in Japan with Alden and Chip, the USS *Fitzgerald* and I spent most of the fall conducting exercises in the Philippine Sea, Yellow Sea and Sea of Japan." Robert checked in with the alumni office after the earthquake to report that he and his



Rob Watts CN'97 and his son, Chip, welcome newest family member Pete.

family are fine (see below). He also shared the news of the arrival of his second son — Peter Shields Watts, who was born March 2 at Yokosuka U.S. Naval Hospital. **Alumni office update:** Rob checked in after the earthquake with this: “Alden, Chip, and Pete went to Okinawa for about a week and then made their way back home to Kansas. The USS *Fitzgerald* spent the last several weeks off the coast of northern Honshu with other U.S. and Japanese ships to help as we could. We are in port for a short break and will likely return to the mission shortly. It is good to have the chance to contribute, as Japan has become our home as well.”

ES'97

Class Correspondent
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Your class will soon be in its 15th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'97

Class Correspondent
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Class Agent
Andrew Sullivan
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Your class will soon be in its 15th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Elizabeth Russo wrote earlier, “I still work for the U.S. Navy in Annapolis, and recently got engaged!” Her wedding was on a beach in Florida this April.

CN'98

Class Correspondent
Tinsley Anderson
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Babies abound with three future SYAers to announce: **Jen Yu Hardy** is

expecting baby number two with husband Brent. Now back at home in Atlanta and in a new house, they should give Luke a little brother sometime this summer. **Becca Neagle** and her husband are looking forward to becoming first-time parents in July. **Ellen Walton Neibauer** and her husband, Adrian, are planning on giving son Oliver a little sister in March. In more news: **Jara Bagdasarova** is a research fellow at the Siberian Studies Center, Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology, in Halle, Germany, until later this year. She doesn't know what she's going to do after but is currently enjoying “new passions: tango argentino, street combat, tarot, and mystical concepts in Chassidism.”

Maria Placht still works for the Army Corps of Engineers in water-conflict resolution in D.C. She and her boyfriend just finished the huge project of fixing up a row house that they bought together. Maria is lucky enough to have the time to go to Italy this summer to see **Jenny Sou** get married for the third time! Actually, all weddings have been with the same person. She married her husband almost two years ago now but they had a small ceremony in Zurich, where the groom is from, with his family, and another event in New York with Jenny's family and friends. Now, they plan to celebrate their union with everyone who can possibly make it on a beautiful estate in Italy. I [**Tinsley Anderson**] am extremely envious but will likely be moving and starting my residency at that time. I graduate from medical school in May and will be starting a residency in general surgery July 1, somewhere (I'll know after this goes to print). I'm exploring the freedom of my final year by enjoying the delights of Cambodia and doing a surgical rotation in Shanghai, after a four-year absence from the country where we all met. Our infamous *laoshi*

Jon Reilly reports that he's enjoying married life to Qingyan (Vivian) Li in Guangzhou. They just had their first anniversary and are planning on moving to the States this year. **Stuart and Nicole Remensnyder** have settled in Amherst, Mass., with daughter Maddy (6½) and son Ben (3). Nicole is an oncology nurse and “Rem” runs a trekking and mountaineering company. Rem writes, “Always looking for adventurous people to join us on treks and climbs, and big discounts to SYA alum! Check out www.field-touringalpine.com for all the latest. It's a strange thing to be on a satellite phone with a climber in Pakistan on K2 while cleaning up spilled juice, dropping off kids at school and doing laundry.” Despite the domestic duties, it all sounds exciting.

ES'98

Class Correspondent
Courtney Fry Lerch
courtneyfry@gmail.com

Michelle Arazoza lives in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn and works for a craft-beer distribution company in Manhattan. **Shana Simmons** recently moved from New York City, where she started her legal practice at Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP, to Cleary's London office. Her practice focuses on corporate and financial transactions. She hopes to catch up with any SYA alumni in the London area. After six amazing years at Equinox Fitness Clubs, **Litania Colon** has decided to move on and pursue a new venture. She is now an associate at Glocap Search, a premier search firm dedicated to serving the specialized recruiting needs of clients across various industries. As an associate within the administrative/support practice, she specializes in placing administrative professionals at all levels from basic reception roles to high-level executive and personal assistants. She hopes to catch up with SYA alumni in the New York area, so please reach out! **Michael Seckman** continues to teach eighth-grade English at St. John's in Houston. He will be in Barcelona this summer from mid-June to mid-July and would love to meet up with anyone of you who find yourself there at that time. **Emmy Smith Ready** continues to work on her PhD in Spanish at NYU. She also teaches at NYU, and she has enjoyed having several SYA alums in her classes. In addition, she has started a Spanish-language services company called ReadyLanguages, where she does translation, interpretation and editing and also holds private classes. **Courtney Fry Lerch** has a son, William, who is now 18 months old. She continues to live in Houston with her husband, Eric.

FR'98

Class Correspondent
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CN'99

Class Correspondent
Samantha Buckingham Noonan
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Sarah Burton, who works in Beijing, proctored SYA's China SAT in October. She bumped into **Liza Clow Lawrence** and **Jack Yeh** in Beijing and hadn't seen them in 12 years. **Sarah White** lives in D.C. and works for the State Department.

ES'99

Class Correspondent
Emilie Paschal
emilie.paschal@gmail.com



Enjoying a quiet moment are newlyweds Sophie Beal ES'99 and Francis Shen.

Sophie Beal writes, “**Logan Schmid, Ryan Abernathy** and I had a chance to hang out in New Orleans in January when Logan was in the city for work and Ryan was gallivanting around the Big Easy. I got married in October 2010 to Francis Xavier Shen. To get to know the state we call home, we spent our honeymoon in rural Louisiana amid armadillos and alligators.”

Katharine Bernstein writes, “I'm in my first year of a PhD in clinical psychology at St. John's University.”

Laural Bellante writes, “My husband, dog and I moved to Tucson in August so I could pursue my master's in Latin American studies at the University of Arizona. So far so good, though we desperately miss the food and community in Chiapas, where we were living previously. That said, it's good to be back in school. I'll be traveling to Chiapas over the summer to do my thesis research on a network of organic farmers. To balance the pressures of school life, I continue to play music with my husband, Kiri, have bunches of fun with the six puppies at home (boxers, just a month old), and am interning for a local foodways group, Sabores Sin Fronteras. All in all, life is good. I would love to attend a reunion with you all at some point, but if nothing else, contact me if you're traveling through Tucson. *Saludos a todos.*”

Nora Delsol writes, “I've moved to Austin, which despite my qualms about Texas is a rockin' town. Tons of music and outside venues, generally lovely weather and really eclectic people. I'm playing around in furniture restoration and selling some pieces. So far so good!” **Bay Love** is at Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill and will move to Atlanta or Miami for a summer internship in management consulting. Call him for more details — he'd love to catch up.

Corinne Onetto moved to San Francisco in May 2010 and enjoys the new city. She writes, "I work in solar and, predictably, don't use my Spanish nearly enough." **Lydia Searcy** writes, "Hubby and I will be celebrating our fifth anniversary this year. I'm finishing my first year of med school and trying to stay fabulous, flossy and fly while med school slowly consumes my life." **Sabrina Singh** is a program officer at the Gimbel Foundation and lives in Brooklyn. **Elizabeth (Pope) Smithgall** writes, "Well into my third year working in corporate communications for AT&T in Atlanta, and I love it, never a dull moment in the world of technology. Coming up on my five-year wedding anniversary (April 22, 2011) to my amazing husband, Jason. It's hard to believe how time flies! In my spare time, I've taken on the role of being a Big Sister (with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta) to a little girl named Jennifer. Her family is Guatemalan and they don't speak English, so I've been able to practice my Spanish with them. It's been a rewarding experience for me and Jennifer, as it's pushed me to get creative in planning outings that both an 8-year old and a 29-year-old will enjoy. We're headed to Greece this summer with a bunch of friends and I'm looking forward to being back on the Mediterranean (even if not in my favorite country). That's about all that's new for now. Hope to run into some SYAers soon (somewhere besides FB)!" And I, **Emilie Paschal**, recently got engaged to my boyfriend, Brian Hatch, and am working with middle school students at a school outside of Boston. Life is good!

FR'99

Class Correspondents
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Lisa Petzold
 lisa.petzold@gmail.com

Margaret Aiken writes, "After grad school at Tufts, I moved to Minneapolis and am working in the professional development department as the science house coordinator at the Science Museum of Minnesota. I met up with **Liz Melchor** in San Francisco in December. We had *galettes* and *crêpes* at Ti Couz. Still chat with **Will Frazier** when he gets a chance to lift his head from the law books." **Catherine Pitt** is getting married this spring in London.

CN'00

Class Correspondent
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Class Agent
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ES'00

Class Correspondent
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Can you volunteer to be a class agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Yam Ki Chan graduated last May from Columbia University-SIPA with a master's in international affairs. After graduation, he moved to D.C. and joined the Department of the Treasury's International Affairs group. As the Central America desk economist, he confused the region's Ministers of Finance when he spoke Spanish with a lisp. Starting in 2011, he joined the Investment Security office working on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS).

Raquel Moreno (Leonard) got married in June 2010 and is doing local food and farm promotions work in the Philadelphia area. She urges fellow SYAers around the world to buy and eat locally organic food, as "it's for your own good and that of the planet."

McKenzie Bezates (Kamp) is making a brave career switch that may include going back to school or a complete industry change from her job as a "high-stress" public accountant. She's enjoying her newfound freedom as a "domestic engineer" by doing some traveling, learning how to cook and spending time with her "awesome husband." **Peter Frykman** reports that his company, Driptech, just launched retail sales in India, so small-plot farmers can now buy directly from the company's local partners in the states of Maharashtra and Karnataka. **Carolyn Cavaness** will graduate in May 2011 with a master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. She recently started working at George Jackson Academy, an all-boys school in the East Village, as director of development. Last, I, **Ifeolu Babatunde**, your dutiful class correspondent, write to you from London, where I'm currently on exchange at the London School of Economics. I'll be here until March (and welcome all and any visitors) before returning to my full-time program at the Kellogg School of Management, from which I'll be graduating with an MBA in June 2011. ¡Saludos!

FR'00

Class Correspondent
Susannah Volpe
 susannah.volpe@gmail.com



Celebrating Carla Alvarez's wedding are FR'00 classmates Jean Keenan, Crystal Bourbeau and Elissa Brown.

Carla Alvarez got married this summer to John Brozovich. **Elissa Brown**, **Jean Keenan** and **Crystal Bourbeau** were there for the wedding, and Elissa and Jean were both bridesmaids. **Daniel Dozier** is still the chief of staff at the U.S. Ambassador's residence in Paris and writes, "Come visit!"

CN'01

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Class Agents
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ES'01

Class Correspondents
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Kelly Stiller Titchener, **Sheree Campbell**, **Chelsea Bauch**, **Nafeesah Allen**, **Sandy Stonesifer** and **Jae-Won Lee** got together in D.C. last spring.



ES'01 alumnae Kelly Stiller Titchener, Sheree Campbell, Chelsea Bauch, Nafeesah Allen, Sandy Stonesifer and Jae-Won Lee at a mini-reunion in Washington, D.C.

FR'01

Class Correspondent
Kaitlin McCann
 kaitlin.j.mccann@jpmchase.com

Renee Hwang started graduate school at USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. **Jason Wu** was an answer on *Jeopardy!*, which aired on March 29.

CN'02

Class Correspondent
Sara Bernstein
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Your class will soon be in its 10th—reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Julia Ruedig works for Blue Marble Biomaterials in Seattle.

ES'02

Class Correspondent
Alexandra Garrison
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Your class will soon be in its 10th—reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Greetings! I enjoyed hearing from those of you who shared your updates with me. **Adam Pasulka** writes, "I'm still managing *Frank151* magazine (www.frank151.com) in New York City. I've also been taking improv classes at the Upright Citizens Brigade for the last four months, which I love." **Elena Stewart** got married on October 2 to 1st Lt. Patrick V. Turevon (USMC) in Oyster Bay, N.Y., where she grew up. She still works in Washington, D.C., for Booz Allen as a sociocultural consultant for defense intelligence organizations, and she would love to see anyone who's in the area or passing through. **Robin Young** is still in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. She graduated with her MBA from Florida International University in October and was given the Excellence in Leadership award. She still works for CIEE Santo Domingo as resident coordinator and internship coordinator. In January she began teaching an introduction to sociology undergraduate course at Unibe/FIU's satellite program. **Gabby Berger** writes, "I recently became engaged to my longtime boyfriend, Nicholas Sainati, whose sister is **Cristina Sainati ES'05**. Nick and I will be getting married this June in Chicago. We also spent the past fall applying to

MBA programs and were recently admitted to the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. We're very much looking forward to getting married this summer and starting grad school together in the fall." Please keep in touch! *Abrazos.*

FR'02

Class Correspondent
Yrinee Michaelidis
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Your class will soon be in its 10th—reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

We are deeply sorry to announce the passing of **Jonathan Brilliant** to cancer in January of 2011. Jon was every ounce fitted for his name. At SYA France he was the lead in our play, an outstanding Lancelot that year. His French was so good he went on at Columbia to translate an academic book into French with his professor. At Columbia he began his studies of Mandarin, which unsurprisingly he spoke simply superbly. Jon also studied German, Arabic and Spanish. After graduating, he studied art history in China with a Fulbright grant, and went on to graduate work at Oxford. His list of accomplishments and talents puts him in a very small and accomplished coterie, and his passing is truly a loss. If you would like to send a note of condolence to his family and/or make a memorial donation in Jon's name, please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org for more information.

IT'02

Class Correspondents
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Your class will soon be in its 10th—reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.



Bride Victoria Perez is flanked by her sister Melissa and IT'02 classmates Akeli Hunter, Muireann Simpson and Cora Piselli

Victoria Perez married Wilson Diaz. **Akeli Hunter**, **Muireann Simpson** and **Cora Piselli** were her bridesmaids. **Peter Stetson** recently became engaged to Shannon Mullen. **Brett Larkin** is developing video games and works in New York City. Aaron Hollander, who is in grad school in Chicago, writes, "This past September I moved to the wild (mid)west, to begin my PhD program in inter-religious relations at the University of Chicago Divinity School. Can't believe it's ten years since Italy."



Aaron Hollander IT'02 (right) and his host brother Michele Moscatelli on the Brooklyn Bridge.

CN'03

Class Correspondents
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Class Agent
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We were all saddened to learn that **Ben Darrington** passed away on January 10, 2011. If you would like to send a note of condolence to his family, please contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

ES'03

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Alana Rigal does internal marketing for the Americas region of a global company. She got her master's in broadcast journalism last year from City College and lives in New York City. **Sarah Coe Paden** lives in New York City. She works for the National Association of Episcopal Schools and is acting in various New York theater productions.



Evan Orenstein FR'03 reuniting with his French family including host sister Tiphaine Dachy, host father Yvan Dachy, host brother Quentin Dachy-Desclos, host grandfather Eugene Desclos, host mother Annie Desclos and host grandmother Madeleine Desclos.

FR'03

Class Correspondents
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IT'03

Class Correspondent
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Nora Superfine is in Oakland, Calif., teaching grades 1–5 with the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation as a bilingual after-school instructor. She lives with our own **Laura Browne**, who is with Americorps, working for Habitat for Humanity. **Alexa Siroy**, after receiving a BA in classical civilization from Boston University in 2008, is working on a second degree, a BS in nursing, at Simmons College. For the past year, **Jackie Bergen** has been stationed in Okinawa, Japan, with the U.S. Marine Corps. She's been doing a lot of traveling around the Pacific for her job — and loving every minute of it. **Pavle Milekić** has been at the International Finance Corporation in Moscow since 2009. He says he'd be delighted to see or host anyone passing through Moscow. **Zoe Mindell** writes, "I'm still in Philadelphia, where I moved last year to work for a rare-book dealer. I've been in touch with **Jessy Brody** and **David Stiffler**." As for me, **Dylan Rogers**, I'm officially a PhD student at the University of Virginia in classical art and archaeology. Summer 2011 for me holds many archaeological adventures: Bologna, Palermo, Ragusa, Turkey, Rome and Viterbo!

CN'04

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Britton Nyce writes, "I live in New Orleans and work at the accounting firm of Ernst & Young while pursuing a CPA license."

ES'04

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¡Hola, mis compañeros! **Danielle Valner** is studying for her master's in education at UCLA. **Leslie Heimer** recently moved back to Seattle after a few months in southern Oregon working for a job employment program for youth doing trail work and environmental education and working as a biological woodsman in Virginia learning how to use draft horses for sustainable forestry. In Seattle, Leslie works as a greenhouse manager at Cascadian Edible Landscapes, a company that turns lawns into gardens and sells plant starts both wholesale and at farmers' markets through CSAs. She also volunteers as captain of a small schooner that delivers produce by wind power across Puget Sound, and is training with a draft horse farmer on the Olympic peninsula. Leslie is hoping to get a degree in sustainable education at Portland State University. **Desiree Golen** recently founded Grubly, a company that connects people who love to cook with people who love to eat. For Grubsters (their eaters), it's an exciting new way to discover food and support local chefs. For Grubly chefs, it's a great way to expand their user base, gain some "street cred" and get feedback from Grubsters. When Desiree is not tasting delicious culinary creations from Grubly chefs and meeting awesome people in the local food movement, she runs a roller soccer league in Mountain View, eats as much as possible and is learning to garden. Desiree is on the lookout for a food stylist and photographer in the Bay Area, so let me [Sally] know if you know anyone. Also in the Bay area, **Georgina Blackett** is in her second year as a Teach for America Corps member in San Francisco, teaching Spanish immersion. **Sofia Warner** is completing her premed classes at the Goucher Post–Bac Premed program to apply to medical school. She lives in Baltimore and will be back in the

Boston area after May. Sofia went out to L.A. and saw **Tess Kenner** last August, saw **Yasemin Gunday** in New Orleans last May and hopes she will be traveling to Spain this summer with her family. **Nicole Nolan** is the news editor at the *Shoshone News-Press*, in North Idaho, and enjoying the great outdoors in her spare time with her canine sidekick, Guinness. In August she became engaged to Joseph Clayton Moore, wedding date to be determined. She recently ran into some old photos of our time in Spain and looked back on those days fondly. **Lila Holzman** lives in D.C. and works at a solar startup. She writes, "It's been a great learning experience, but I'm getting ready to leave within the next year and am applying to the Peace Corps. In February I planned a trip to visit **Yesenia Vargas** and **Maddy Mitchell** in Boston." As for me, **Sally Stuart**, I still work for Infosys Consulting in New York, and enjoy taking advantage of weekends and vacation time to travel. I went to Tokyo this February and skied in Park City during March. Hope everyone is well. *jBesos!*

FR'04

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IT'04

Class Correspondents

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Judy Joslow recently got engaged. A wedding is being planned for June 2011 on Block Island. She hopes to share the day with her Viterbo host parents and sister, Sofia. **Noelle Eichenold** will be one of her bridesmaids. **Emily Hoppe** is in nursing school at Johns Hopkins. **Annie Hubben** graduated from NYU in medical anthropology and has been working various jobs, including caretaker alongside the parents of autistic twins, while she's taking this year to prepare for the MCAT in hopes of attending medical school.

CN'05

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Mary O'Loughlin spent 10 weeks training at Quantico Marine Base for work.

ES'05

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Sydney Townsend lives in London and works at Phillips de Pury & Company as an editorial assistant. She received her master's in art business from Sotheby's Institute of Art in London at the end of October. **Anna Pierson** is doing public health research at Altarum Institute in Portland, Maine. In May she'll switch gears and enter a nurse practitioner program at the University of Southern Maine. **Ali Shaker** is finishing her master's in psychology at the New School for Social Research and plans to start a PhD program in clinical psychology in September 2011. **Annie Pope** just returned from spending five months in Buenos Aires, where she interned for the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives. She lives in Washington, D.C. **Patton Bushong** is in Houston with Teach for America.

FR'05

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Alison Randall lives in Lyon, France, and teaches English at a public middle and high school. **Molly McKeon** writes, "I graduated in the spring and worked all summer as a whitewater kayaking instructor outside of Montreal. Funny how the kayaking really came full circle from me learning to roll at a kayaking club in Rennes to me actually teaching kayaking classes to the French Quebecois!" Molly headed to India and Nepal to travel, study Nepali, do some paddling and decide if she wants to do graduate work there.

IT'05

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Shannon Cummins will be going to medical school in the fall. **Merritt Moore** was a member of the Boston Ballet Company last semester, and was named one of the Top Ten College Women for *Glamour* magazine. A video clip is posted to SYA's Facebook page. **Melissa Nozell** is teaching at an international school in Abu Dhabi. **Charlotte Renfield-Miller** is teaching in Kigali, Rwanda. **Stefanie Surchev** is moving to Israel for graduate school to work in the world of art business. **Katherine Visconti** graduated from Johns Hopkins University and is on a Princeton in Asia Fellowship working at the Philippines' largest broadcasting network. She has been living in Manila for six months.

CN'06

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Zander Pease is headed to China this summer with a student engineering group to build a prototype of their product design. **Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga** is interning for the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission at Congress. **Mary Lane** is on a Fulbright Journalism Fellowship in Berlin. She just finished writing for the Associated Press, covering topics from German-Chinese disputes over rare earths to Berlin Fashion Week. She just started with the *Wall Street Journal*, where she'll finish her Fulbright in July. **Mirielle Eaton** is still in Paris and would love to see anyone who comes by. She'll be graduating from her master's program in international security in May 2011. **Rickisha Berrien** is studying Mandarin Chinese at Beijing Normal University this year on a Chinese government scholarship. She's also interning at Caixin Media Company Ltd., a Beijing-based media group that provides financial and business news.

She received her bachelor's degree last June and was awarded the 2010 Asada Eiji Undergraduate BA Prize in Social Sciences there for her thesis, "Anti-African Prejudice in Modern China: Beyond the Racial Construct of Discrimination." **Elizabeth Cayne** is finishing her final semester as an undergraduate at Washington University, majoring in East Asian studies with a minor in Chinese language and culture. She is also completing her senior honor's thesis, and continuing her yearlong position as teacher's assistant for two freshman programs: the International Leadership Program and the China in the Global Context Program. She also looks forward to guest-lecturing for a class focusing on Daoism this semester.

ES'06

5th REUNION 2011

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Class Agents

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Jessica Acosta graduated from Harvard last spring. She reunited with her host family at Christmas. She works as a legal analyst for a law firm in New York City. **Naakai Addy** is an Iberian studies major at Wesleyan. She works at an arts center and sings in her spare time. After graduation, she plans to hightail it out of the United States (again). **Ashley Allison-Goodin** is a senior at Tufts and says she's loving life. She spent last spring in the Dominican Republic and last summer working in Angola. Once she graduates, she plans on moving back to New York City. **Carolyn Brennan** will be graduating in May from Washington University with majors in Spanish and philosophy, neuroscience and psychology. She plans to teach English in South America next year. **Charlie Brennan** will be graduating from George Washington this spring with a double major in international affairs and geography. He did a semester NOLS course last spring in New Zealand. **Kristen Brooks** is graduating with an Iberian studies major/environmental studies minor from NYU. She visited with Ángeles Errazu and stayed with her host family over the holidays. She applied to teach English in Spain next year. **Sarah Caplan** is graduating in May from NYU with a degree in art history (and thanks **Álvaro** for that). She started an internship with a fashion startup called JOOR in Feb-

ruary. **Dana Deaton** graduated this December from George Washington. She works at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars. Last fall she studied abroad in Buenos Aires. She misses Spain (and Trujas). **Auriona East** is a senior at the University of Florida studying Spanish and Arabic. She's also an outdoor program leader. She intends to return to Spain and to teach English in the Middle East after graduation. In February, **Berkman Frank** was snowed in in Chicago, majoring in English, eating chocolate-covered espresso beans and watching *30 Rock* until an apple pie comes out of the oven. **Sarah Gardner** will be graduating from Canisius College this May with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and French languages. She is interning with a company called EPIC, translating materials into Spanish. In May, **Nora Godkin** graduated from the American University of Paris, where she studied international relations and international law. She works in Thailand with ethnic minority women from Burma and will study law at Oxford. **Eliza Gordon** is a senior at Wesleyan University. She hopes to go south next year to teach bilingual preschool. **Anna Hughes** is studying Spanish and sociology. She plans on going to the Dominican Republic after graduation to work for an HIV/AIDS prevention program. She went back to Zaragoza last fall. **Corinne Hughes** is graduating in May from Trinity, where she studied geoscience, urban studies and sociology. She's been interning at an oil and gas company and hopes to continue until grad school. **Evan Jones** is a film studies major and philosophy minor at the University of Vermont. She'll be moving to Southern California after graduation to audition and continue working on the screenplays she's writing. **Jin Su Joo** says SYA feels like it happened in a different life, almost. She graduated from Yale last May, and is now pursuing a PhD in sociology, well, still at Yale. **Eric Ketcham** is in his senior year at Northeastern. He applied to grad school for a PhD in sociology. He saw Jin Su this fall. **Julia Lemle** is an English major at Yale and loving it. She's studied French there, which has killed her Spanish, but luckily she will be spending spring break in Colombia. **Lindsay Levinson** graduated from Princeton last spring and is currently working at a startup in New York City that just launched a website featuring arts and entertainment events: www.beaconpass.com. **Evan Matsuda** is at USC studying international relations, Middle East studies and psychology and law. Before college, he spent half a year in Japan learning Japanese and half in Beijing learning Mandarin. **Curtis Maynard** is

graduating from Tulane University with a history/political science major. He studied in Cairo last year. He plans to teach English and work with a development organization in Cairo next fall. **Jesse Mills** graduated from George Washington in December. He is interning with the Tampa Bay Rays in Port Charlotte, Fla., working mostly with the team's Latin players. He went to **Leigh Swiger Moynihan's** wedding this summer. Leigh graduated from Rhodes College last May, then married Greg Moynihan. They moved to California, and she's now a library assistant. She's pursuing her master's in library and information science. **Isabel Nassief** is in Beirut for the semester. Next year she'll continue to be a liberal artist at Bowdoin, where she'll probably do an independent study on Hezbollah or some other naughty paramilitary/parliamentary organization. **Kietrie Noe** is a senior at Barnard College and hopes to stay in New York next year. This summer she'll be leading a group of high school students on a trip to Senegal. **Cheyenne Noel** says, "Ran into



Recent weddings for ES'06 include Cheyenne Noel [Chun] (top) and Leigh Swiger Moynihan.

Baruch/Burke on campus recently. Graduating this year too, married in '09, coordinating a festival for the spring. Encouraging some of my students to apply to SYA." **Maggie Nyce** is graduating in May from the University of Pennsylvania, where she studied modern Middle East studies, French and economics. She spent fall 2009 in Morocco. **Samantha Rawlins-Pilgrim** is graduating with a Spanish major from Yale in May. She'll be tutoring at a high school in Boston and applying to medical school next year. **Emmalyn Smith** will be graduating in May with a double major in sociology and Spanish. She plans to move to Albu-

querque after graduation. She ran a half marathon in the fall. **Amy Trainer** is graduating in May with majors in Spanish and economics from Boston University. She studied abroad in Argentina, Madrid and London. She'll be moving to Chicago in August. **Kate Waller**, a senior at Rice, is writing a thesis on cannibalism and totalitarian political systems. She has applied to graduate schools but is also considering working in the Northeast after graduation. **Elena White** is a junior at Rice. She spent the fall working on her father's Texas gubernatorial campaign. She's writing papers about measuring the social impact of nonprofits and corporations and teaching at KIPP Houston.

FR'06 5th REUNION 2011

Class Correspondent

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Class Agent

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We were saddened to report **Rachel Swett's** passing away in June 2010 from injuries sustained during a skiing accident in New Zealand. Rachel had been studying there with the Institute for Study Abroad in Christchurch. **Teresa Moore** is a first-year graduate student at Duke, where she began a dual PhD in French and Italian. **Rhiannon Archer** is in her final year at Oxford University majoring in French and Italian. Her junior year was spent in Bologna and Paris.

IT'06 5th REUNION 2011

Class Correspondents

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Class Agents

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Marcus Strong is in his senior year at Yale, majoring in political science. He has continued studying Italian and returned to Italy after his freshman year. He's applying to jobs and law schools on the East Coast, but hopes to return to Europe this summer for the first time in two years. After graduating from Stanford, **K.C. Simon** works at Tesla Motors in Palo Alto, Calif. **Aleja Ortiz** graduated from Wellesley and is studying at the MIT-WHOI joint program for marine geology for her PhD. **Abby Wager** finished the Marine Corps marathon in

honor of her brother, who is serving in Afghanistan. **Colby Mills** is a cultural anthropology major at the College of Wooster. Her senior thesis is "The Changing Role of the Horse in Amish Society." She looks forward to traveling back to her Italian family this summer after graduation. **Lindsay Dioguardi** graduated from Villanova with a bachelor's degree in art history and minors in business and Italian. **Nahin Jorgge** graduated from Yale in May.

CN'07

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Class Agents

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Your class will soon be in its 5th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Will Ford is now on his fourth exchange or job to China since he first went to Beijing. He has a Mellon Foundation grant to do environmental research on youth attitudes in China and Hong Kong. He worked for an environmental NGO this summer and has spent the fall semester there in a Middlebury program.

ES'07

Class Correspondents

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Your class will soon be in its 5th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be a class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Elias Kohn recently published *And That World Is Gone Forever*, a book about societal transformation that focuses on living with the environment.

FR'07

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Your class will soon be in its 5th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Noah Goldrach returned to Wesleyan University after spending the fall semester in France, where he ran into **Frances Hardy** and **Haley Bruns**.

Frances is in Madagascar for the spring semester doing a program on biodiversity and natural-resource management with the School for International Training. This summer she plans to complete a 500-mile, weeklong charity bike ride with her dad to raise funds for Anchor House, a nonprofit home for runaways in Trenton, N.J. **Katherine Wolf**, also at Wesleyan, is studying art history (thanks to JP) and German studies. She's having a blast on a year-abroad program in Berlin, though she misses France. **Peter Truog**



Peter Truog FR'07 spent time in Beijing with his brother Eric CN'11 (top) and Eric's host family.

returned stateside after taking the fall semester off from Harvard to work at the USA Pavilion at the Shanghai 2010 World Expo. He spent two months traveling around China with **Kay Cadena**, who interned at an art gallery. Peter also stayed with the host family of his younger brother **Eric**, who is at SYA China this year. **Rachel Christiansen** works at the New York Theatre Workshop as the production management assistant on *Peter and the Starcatcher*. **Paulina Rojek**, a junior at

Mount Holyoke, is double-majoring in chemistry and French. A member of the varsity squash team, Paulina is looking forward to studying in Avignon this summer. **Kate Measom**, a double major in French and psychology at Vanderbilt, spent the fall semester in Aix-en-Provence. While abroad, Kate reunited with Katherine and Frances, and visited Rennes for a weekend. **Isabelle Letaconnoux**, who spent the fall semester in Shanghai, is in Paris studying with NYU and taking classes at Sciences Po. This summer she will intern in Washington, D.C., at an investment-consulting firm. **Corianne Holmes** was also in Shanghai last semester and is now studying in Aix-en-Provence. She will spend the summer in New Zealand and plans to graduate from Wellesley in 2012. **Genevieve Wollenbecker** loved living in London last fall and managed to visit **Meg Dougherty** several times in Edinburgh, where Meg is studying history. Genevieve is studying painting in Venice and looks forward to graduating from Boston University next winter.

IT'07

Class Correspondent

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Class Agent

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Your class will soon be in its 5th-reunion year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Annie Winters is participating in a new nonprofit business called the REACT (Reclaiming Essential Artistic Community Today) Collective, in Chattanooga. She writes, "We're focused on providing free and low-cost art classes to underprivileged children whose schools don't have any funding for the arts. Our blog is react-collective.wordpress.com." **Charlotte Kies** and **Martha Cullen** both dropped by SYA Italy speaking "awesome Italian." Martha is spending a semester via NYU in Florence; Charlotte will study music next year in Vienna. **Alix Peabody** is completing her junior year at Dartmouth. **Anna Hinck**, a junior at Hobart & William Smith College, is spending the spring semester in Rome.

CN'08

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Isaiah Schulze is enrolled at Fudan University in Shanghai. He visited SYA Vietnam, which his sister **Eliana** is attending. **Camila Marquez** will begin an internship with General Motors in Michigan this summer. She's in her second year of electrical engineering at Virginia Tech. **Sam Schultz** is a sophomore at Skidmore and is returning to Beijing for the 2011-12 school year.

ES'08

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An overlapping theme from School Hugs Abroad (a.k.a. ES'08) is the pursuit of maintaining fluency in Spanish and fostering relationships with the community. **Kaela Duff** is busy jet-setting off to South America to study abroad and teach English, as well as maintain her Spanish in Quito, Ecuador, and Cuzco, Peru, for the semester. **Jack Marston** took a year off after his senior year to backpack through South America. He's now at Skidmore, where he's a representative and advocate for environmental issues on- and off campus. **Melina Harris** just completed an internship in a bilingual preschool on New York City's Upper West Side, in which the curriculum is 90 percent Spanish; she enjoyed learning from the students and the teachers alike. **Samantha Bondaryk** will be taking classes at the University of Alicante, and she's planning to do the Camino de Santiago. **Alexa Stevens**, along with her mother, walked the Camino de Santiago starting from St.-Jean Pied-de-Port, in the south of France, and walked 500 miles (800 km) over 39 days to San-tiago de Compostela. **Jennifer**



Alexa Stevens ES'08 scaling the Pyrenees during her walk on the Camino de Santiago.



Alexa Stevens ES'08, her mom and their "Camino familia" enjoying time in Melide while on their journey on the Camino de Santiago.

Piperno is keeping herself busy as one of three students in an advanced Catalan class at Columbia. **Annie Demarest** was fortunate enough to travel to Madrid over spring break to visit **Juli White** while she was studying abroad through Sewanee. **Annie Cutler** spent this last semester road-tripping throughout the United States. **Ainhua Maiz-Urtizberea** had the opportunity to visit Spain two summers ago with **Emme Ackerman**, and continues to maintain a strong relationship with her host family. She plans to study abroad in São Paulo, Brazil, or at the London School of Economics next year. **Ryan Cobbs** transferred to the University of Southern California, and frequently coordinates mini-reunions among **Wade Vaughn**, **Anastasia Clarke**, **Charlotte Day-Reiss**, **Annie Demarest**, **Jenna Reidy** and **Drew Connick**.

FR'08

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Guy Horgan finished his first year at George Washington University and then opted for a gap year. Over the summer he first spent time with a



Guy Horgan FR'08 and a group of his students at Learning Enterprises, an NGO in Mauritius



Guy Horgan FR'08 and his friend Winslow Marshall (brother of Sophie Marshall ES'10) on a recent trip to Copenhagen.

friend whose sister is **Sophie Marshall ES'10**, in Denmark, Sweden, Belgium and France. He continued on his own and visited Amsterdam, Antwerp, Berlin, Krakow, Bratislava, Budapest and Belgrade, then to Mauritius via Rome to work for Learning Enterprises, an NGO, teaching English. He writes, "I had a wonderful month and a half teaching English and seeing the jaw-dropping beautiful country." From there he went to Madrid for a month of traveling around Spain, with the goal of learning Spanish.

Annabelle Baylin writes, "I'm taking a second gap year, studying Indian music at an ashram in upstate New York. I'll start college in the fall." **Eddy Santana** writes, "I was accepted into the Institute of International Policy."

IT'08

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Class Agents

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Brendan Kopp writes, "I'm still at Harvard, having a good time. Concentrating in government and Italian. Boston is fun but cold. I'm campaigning for the 2012 Games in sailing, and we just came off a great winter season down in Miami, where we had some of our best finishes yet. This summer I'll be coaching sailing again in Connecticut — one more summer of living the dream before the (inevitable?) desk job." **Jesse Glicker**

writes, "Ciao, ragazzi. I'm in D.C. studying international affairs, and hopefully next year I'll be in Australia for one semester and then Argentina or India for the next, and maybe Israel this summer. Other than that, school is school. I'm also training for a marathon that I plan to run in May. Still working off all the pasta. I did some traveling in Europe last summer and stopped by Viterbo with **Cordelia Newbury**. Hope you guys are all doing well. Really miss everyone. Can't believe it's been so long!" **Clare Amari** writes, "At Oxford for the year continuing classics. It's very rainy. Went backpacking around Europe for a few weeks with **Charlotte Dean** last December — we went to Viterbo and ran into **Rixon Rouse!**" **Olivia Crookston** writes, "I'm in Brussels studying business administration. Life is good overall and I'm hoping **Thom Sharon** will come and visit me if he's ever not too busy in London. My sister will be at SYA Italy Summer Program, so I'll visit her sometime in July."

Carrie Darrington writes, "I'm taking a semester off from Mount Holyoke to take improv classes at UCB Theatre in Los Angeles. I'm raising rabbits and free-range chickens until I leave for L.A." **Eliza McDuffie** writes, "I'm at Emory studying women's studies and Italian. I like it! Hoping to go to South Africa next semester." **Mary Patricia Leslie** writes, "Last June I got engaged to my wonderful fiancé and high school sweetheart, Quincy. He's getting his degree in engineering while training to be an officer in the Air Force. I'm still at American University in D.C. I celebrated July 4 with **Aliza Goldberg** and **Mallory Owen** in Boston. In September, I visited **Aliza Ellis Greene** at Smith." **Mac Parsons** writes, "I'm at Skidmore studying economics and philosophy. I've started up a lit/art/music magazine with my friends here, run a music blog (along with **Jack LeMay**: squeegiesounds.com) and DJ as often as I can. I haven't been back to Italy since SYA but I hope to go this summer or earlier next year, as I plan to study abroad in London. Hope everyone's well." **Aliza Goldberg** writes, "I'm finally at Barnard after taking a gap year. I celebrated New Year's Eve with **Abi Pollokoff**. I'm a staff writer for the *Columbia Journal of World Travel Now!Here*, and my essay for the last issue was about Viterbo. If you're ever in New York City, let me know!" **Giulia Millon** writes, "I'm still at the University of Colorado at Boulder and I'm double-majoring in Italian and sociology. I'll be studying abroad in Spain spring semester of my junior year. I was back in Viterbo over Christmas break and it was great to see my host family and old friends." **Abi**

writes, "Where did we leave off? I visited Viterbo for a couple of days in May — totally surreal in a great way! The *pizza bianca* was still extraordinarily delicious. Over the summer, the **Lokkes** came into the coffee shop where I worked. I also recorded an album under my stage name **Abi Aronson** — look for me on iTunes and CDBaby.com. I'm officially an English, French and Italian major and loving my time at Tulane. Over winter break, I participated in a Birthright Israel trip that was incredible. Other than that, I'm having fun with my classes, the literary magazine on campus, New Orleans itself, and getting ready for my first Mardi Gras."

CN'09

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Gavin Cook is volunteering in Shanghai with disabled children and will head to Princeton in the fall. **George Ligon** was in Beijing with Wofford College for the month of January, studying Chinese. **Nick Sas** is finishing his first year at Yale and will return to Beijing this summer with Princeton in Beijing

ES'09

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Korey Morgan is in Pamplona, enrolled in the private university there through Washington & Jefferson College. **Katherine Steinman** will be studying at the University of Cantabria in Spain this summer.

FR'09

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For those on their gap years, our class is doing some amazing things! **Mike Deasy** bicycled across Europe and **Mike McGreal** spent a semester at SYA Vietnam. **Whitney Turley** worked in Bordeaux and Paris and went to Asia in the spring to volunteer and travel. **Sanam Aghdaey** volunteered and lived with a host family in Senegal during the fall term. Before starting at Middlebury in February, **Hannah Bristol** and **Austin Nalen** were both in South America. Hannah spent the fall working for Camino Seguro and lived in Antigua and Guatemala City; Austin volunteered and traveled. **Francesca Murray**, now at Boston University, spent her first semester in Greece and visited **Harper Wayne** at the University of Maryland.

WE WANT YOUR NEWS ...

Please send word of your latest employment, travels, or personal celebrations in one of the following easy ways:

✉ e-mail alumni@sya.org or your class correspondent or online at alumni.sya.org

AND PHOTOS ...

To submit your high resolution digital photos, please e-mail us an attachment to alumni@sya.org.



100,000 Strong Initiative with First Lady Michelle Obama

On January 19, 2011, 12 SYA China alumni were special guests at the 100,000 Strong Initiative event with First Lady Michelle Obama. Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga CN'06 was selected to sit on stage with the first lady, who captivated the audience at Howard University by talking about the importance of study abroad. She said, "The fact is, with every friendship you make, and every bond of trust you establish, you are shaping the image of America projected to the rest of the world. That is so important. So when you study abroad, you're actually helping to make America stronger." Pictured in the photo with Chen Naiqing, wife of Chinese Ambassador to the U.S., are Caroline Flax CN'10, Claire Mufson CN'10, Braxton Bridgers CN'10, Angela Sako CN'10, Doug Proctor CN'06, Julian Fu CN'06, Hollyann Vickers CN'06, Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga CN'06, Thomas Fantis CN'08, Albert Chiang CN'08 and Kevin Fong CN'08. Missing from the picture is Kyle Churchman CN'09.

Harper returned to Rennes in February. **Abby Mitchell** is at Columbia, with **Gigi [Grace] Gibson** nearby (studying at Barnard) as well as **Lelia Symington**, who is studying acting at NYU's Tisch School. **Jesse Steere**, studying French, Italian and social anthropology at St. Andrews, returned to Paris in February, after having spent two months there this summer, to see **Julia Wilcox** and Whitney. Julia (Bennington College) spent seven weeks interning in Paris in January and February. **Daniella Kim** and **Jiezheng Wu** see each other often at Wellesley and were able to see **Rachel O'Driscoll** for the Harvard-Yale football game. **Lilly Corning** sees Daniella often in Cambridge and also saw **Nick Nardelli** for Oktoberfest. **Bismah Rahmat** interned with African Banking Corp. after having gone to the World Cup in South Africa this past summer. She recently started the Emory Economic Development Initiative with her classmates. **Maggie O'Brien** is studying French at Michigan, where she's a member of Alpha Gamma Delta. She'll be studying abroad in France this summer. **Darrell Seeney** is at the University of North Dakota majoring in air traffic control and airport management. **Lela Wuslin** (Colorado College) visited **Danielle Thompson** (Boston University) in Hawaii this summer. **Stephen Russell** is at St. Louis University.

IN'09

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Brooke Loughrin IN'09, left, meeting with an Iranian college student as part of a United Nations Association delegation that spent three weeks in Iran

Brooke Loughrin spent three weeks in Iran with a delegation from the United Nations Association. During her trip, she met privately with a variety of Iranians, including university students from Tehran and Shiraz Universities, young Revolutionary Guard soldiers, artists and poets from Tehran's House of Artists; and student protesters from the Green Movement. **Victoria Sanchez** is involved with an organization at Yale called New Haven Host Families. The program pairs up students with families in New Haven and "builds bridges where there are

none." She writes, "Though this is not an international program, the parallels to SYA are evident."

IT'09

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Jennie Lummis is finally warm in California and having an awesome time at Stanford. She plays on Stanford Superfly, the Women's A Team for Ultimate Frisbee, and is continuing to study Italian, as well as Japanese; she's probably going to spend spring quarter of her sophomore year in Kyoto and at least one quarter back in Italy (Firenze). *Mi mancate gli altri SYAers, vi voglio bene.* **DK** [Duncan Kessler] had lunch with **Julia Caffrey** in Georgetown. **Mia Reynolds** is attending Skidmore, where in her spare time she helps make costumes

for the theater company and cohosts a radio station with her roommate (94.1 WSPN Skidmore College Radio). She's taking courses in psychology, exercise science, literary studies and intermediate Italian, and a course on French films. This past summer she volunteered on a farm, where she tended to the animals, crops and gardens, as well as assisted in selling the produce. **Anna Baker** is out in Washington state. Over winter break, she went back east to be with family. She saw Mia and **Sandie Knuth** (separately) and both times they went to Eately in New York City. It's a great place to reminisce about Italy. **Fraser Ball** is currently traveling throughout the East Coast visiting schools and friends. While in Philadelphia, she'll get to see **Katie Cortes** and **Elliot Rambach**. She's hoping to meet **Renee Eid** for coffee while she's in the D.C. area. She hopes to transfer in the fall, and is studying nursing. She's also heading back to Europe to visit a friend in May. **Nicolas Littler [Baird]** is studying ecological/evolutionary biology and comparative literature in French, English and Spanish at Brown. After taking a dance class and performing for the first time in Italy, he decided to pursue dance! Now he's in a modern dance company and loving it. He's also helping out as an art editor for a scientific/literary/art journal at Brown.

CN'10

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Mariam Dingilian is at Mount Holyoke. She enjoys her continued studies in Chinese and modern Chinese history. She's also studying dance, and performed in Mount Holyoke's Fall Faculty Dance Concert. **Sally Deng** writes, "Finishing up college apps and drawing a lot to prepare my portfolio for Art Center College of Design, one of the schools I'm applying to." **Kyle Nowak** writes, "... planning for college and doing lots of homework. I'm still writing for the Chinese music blog unknown-artists.org." **Margie Tanner** writes, "I've been working on plays, continuing Chinese classes and stage man-

Reunion Update

**Classes ending in
2s and 7s
will celebrate
reunion milestones
in the
2011-2012 year.**

aging, and finished all my college apps. Hoping that I'll be spending the next few years abroad at one of the colleges I applied to." **Anthea Viragh** writes, "I'm currently enjoying my second semester living in Bangkok as a high school junior. I've also been traveling a lot around Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia) and working on lots of different charity projects. I've also been playing a lot of tennis and taking lots of photos. (My blog is www.antheavonviragh.blogspot.com.) Although I wish I was going to college next year, I guess it's still nice to have a family around me all the time. I miss SYA." **Ian Rhee** writes, "I love being a second-semester senior. Still working at Banana Republic, planning a trip to Beijing and Hong Kong with friends, and snowboarding in Oregon for spring break." **Danny McMurtrie** writes, "I'm training for Notre Dame's 'Bengal Bouts' charity boxing tournament and am the community service coordinator for Dillon Hall, which houses more than 330 people. I'm also working as a director and branch head with the microfinance company my friends and I founded, Micro Investment Initiative International (Mi3). **Angela Sako** and **Caroline Flax** have started a branch at Sidwell as well." **Ben Sinvany** writes, "I've been swimming a lot and championships are in the next couple of weeks. I was in the fall drama at my school and will be trying out for the musical in the spring. I've been taking Chinese classes at Ohio State University, but they're nothing like SYA's classes. At the end of May, a friend and I are going to hike a section of the Appalachian Trail." **Eric Giray** writes, "I've finally gotten back from studying in Turkey and am at Brandeis. So far it's been awesome. When I was in Turkey, I did a lot of dancing and now I'm in the hip-hop crew at Brandeis. I also joined a big brother organization. This summer I'm definitely going to China." **Elizabeth Goullaud** writes, "Since SYA China, I've spent my time enjoying senior year and reaping the



In Memoriam

Michel Breton, SYA France faculty

Jon Brilliant FR'02

Ben Darrington CN'03

Rachel Swett FR'06

benefits as a second-semester senior. I still row, but due to the immense amount of snowfall and a run-in with mononucleosis, I'm not currently rowing. I'm co-directing, producing and scripting a film for my fourth-quarter project. The original film is full of comedy (I didn't make up the jokes, don't worry) and a splash of romance. I'm really looking forward to it. I'm still waiting to hear from colleges, but am hoping to be located in Vancouver, British Columbia, this September. Of course, I miss SYA China and all my classmates every day, and my time spent in Beijing and everywhere we all went has proved to be the best experience of my young adult life. I hope you're all well and 毛主席万岁!" **Jon Brozdowski** writes, "I've been incubating. Social and academic frustrations of first semester gave way to the relief and cabin fever of second semester. I look forward to college, very likely the University of Chicago, but for now I'm student-teaching East Asian studies and pondering over new hobbies of chess and rock climbing.

And of course, I can't wait to get back home." **Elisheba Odei** writes, "I'm at Williams College and have considered too many majors in my short time here: economics, Asian studies, English and now psychology. I'm part of a West African dance and drumming company named Kusika. I love it! Hopefully I'll see some of my SYA family in China this summer." **Dylan Kaplan** writes, "Since SYA: took a class at Georgetown, worked on two political campaigns in D.C., worked on a farm in the Deep South, studied in Kunming for one month and am now in Beijing working at a Chinese-English language newspaper." **Zach Sherin** writes, "Since SYA, I've come back to the United States to an easier Chinese class, a lot of math and science, and an unfortunate realization that my second-semester senior relaxation has to wait until after the APs. I'm now leading the new robotics club and the wrestling team and working on some side projects. I'd love to be back in Beijing rocking out with some of my music-scene friends." **Blythe Hewitt** writes, "I've been enjoying senior year and taking classes that weren't previously offered, such as psychology and photo. My tennis team did really well; we made it to second in North Coast Sectionals Division 2. I've been applying to many colleges, so we'll hope for the best!" **Annsley Lucas** writes, "Since I've been back, I spent a majority of my time being involved with extracurriculars at my school. I'm currently one of the sitting presidents of my school's Asian Cultures Club: F.O.F.E. (Far Out Far East). It's been a lot of fun teaching classmates about Chinese culture and the year I spent abroad. This summer, I'll be a part of a monthlong philan-

thropy class that will be teaching Westminster students about the history of philanthropy in America and Atlanta."

ES'10

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David Mayer writes, "I love Richmond University and look forward to visiting Spain again soon."

FR'10

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Congrats to **Amanda deBerardinis** on her acceptance to the University of St. Andrews; **Alec Aldrich** to Vassar; **Sophie Burnham** to the University of Edinburgh; **Briana Foley** to Reed; **Eric Falcon** to Georgetown Univer-

**Honor the past
Look to the future**



You are cordially invited to the
annual SYA Homecoming

*Join us as we celebrate
Woody Halsey's 31 years and welcome
Jack Creeden, SYA's next president*

July 20, 2011
The JFK Library and Museum

6:30-7:30 P.M.
Meet the Resident Directors

7:30-9:30 P.M.
*Relive your SYA memories with old friends,
chat with students who have recently returned
from their year abroad and with those who
will soon leave for distant shores*

Be part of an SYA tradition

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sity; **Michael Jahng** to NYU; **Kristina Dungan** to Case Western Reserve University (with a \$10,000 scholarship!); **Samantha Selldorff**, **Rebecca Chen** and **Holly Stevens** to the University of Pennsylvania; **Carolyn Andrew** to Lawrence University; **Juwan Mimes** to Wheaton; **Anisa Holmes** to the University of Chicago; **Kit Mocarski** and **Beau Gaughran** to Sarah Lawrence; **Maddy Maxey** to Parsons; **Courtney Gill** to Cambridge; **Alex Eynon** to Columbia University; and **Kiki Ochieng** to Yale. Needless to say, **Sean Marris** and **Lara Adekoya** worked diligently on their applications; so did **Julien Moreau-Giroux**, who says “life is great.” **Stephanie Millner** loves Babson, and our new daredevil **Christina Bryan** has gone skydiving! **Sasha Cantrelle** passed the French Certification Test. **Ottara Pyne** is an intern at a tattoo parlor (we all saw that coming), and **Alice Ng** is interning with a human rights organization called Equality Now! Although our year in France is over (for everyone but **Ola Wojdakowska**, who’s still there until the end of this school year), that hasn’t stopped **John Ambler**, **Carolyn**, **Rebecca Chen**, **Eli Wininger** and **Eliza Carter** from going back to France or venturing on amazing study-abroad opportunities in the future. **Morgan McGuire** bumped into **Victoria Miller** while walking to school in New York City, and not yet hit by senioritis, let’s praise **Francesca Clifford**, who is taking three college classes during her senior year. **Caroline Yost** and **Claire Stanton** (Clairoline) are roommates for their senior year. **Jake Lewis**, as far as Facebook shows, is still madly in love with Bryn, and **Lucas Hamren** continues to surprise us all with his exceptional vocals (check his videos!). Also progressing with her music, **Madeline Fuhrman** is in preproduction for her album and has been playing gigs all over L.A. **Melissa Shohet** saw Lara when she was in Hawaii for winter break. **Anya Slavinsky** has been accepted to the National Security Language Initiative for Youth. **Forrest Penny-Brown** is still as mysterious as he was in France because we have no news from him.

IT’10

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Emily Blevins was awarded a merit scholarship to attend Laguna College of Art and Design.

VN’10

Class Correspondent and Agent

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Alex Dowling is at Dartmouth, not too far from **Aliza Goldberg**, who is happily attending Barnard. In January, Aliza participated in the Columbia University Dance Marathon on behalf of the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation. Perhaps next year she’ll be joined by **Betsy Ray**, who has decided to attend Columbia. Betsy might be expecting a visit from her host family this summer. **Cole Newcomb** took a trip from Utah to New York City. **Dujon Christopher Smith** is at Pepperdine University, in beautiful Malibu, studying international business. He plans to travel to Fiji for a medical mission in May, then to the Prague Choral Festival in July, and finally to China to study in Shanghai for his sophomore year. **Helene Dick** is delighted that she escaped the New England weather and loves the warmth in Texas at Rice. Her major is “confused” but she’s involved with the debate team and is going to California for an alternative spring-break trip to counsel at a YMCA camp. She also had a great lunch with **Sara Blanchard** and her father when she was in town. **Julia Hodges** is at USC studying fine arts. She’s a member of the Delta Gamma sorority and also works with inner-city children on behalf of Teach for Los Angeles. **Ramzi Babouder-Matta** has enjoyed meeting up with Julia Hodges, Jack Hanly and Aliza this past year. He loves Tuft, and is involved with the Arab Students Association along with a Boston outreach and active citizenship program that harkens back to his service learning days in Vietnam.

Congratulations to SYA’s Class of 2010 AP Scholars!

CHINA

AP Scholar with Distinction

Hannah McMurry

AP Scholars with Honors

Toshia Fries

Parker Seagren

AP Scholars

Jon Brozdowski

Sarah Eck

Matthew McKinney

Ashley Miyasaki

ITALY

AP Scholars with Honors

Carryn Barker

Matthew Chupack

Ben Kersten

AP Scholars

Andrew Cabaniss

Caroline Ferguson

Nicky Swett

SPAIN

AP Scholars with Honors

Thomas Knutson

Seth Merrifield

AP Scholars

Audrey Larkin

Carolyn Lee

David Mayer

Stephen O’Leary

Schuyler Robinson

Elinor Silverman

Melanie Silverman

FRANCE

AP Scholars with Distinction

Deanna Arthur

Eliza Gentzler

Morgan McGuire

AP Scholars with Honors

Elle Crandall

Cicely Hazell

AP Scholars

Eric Falcon

Laura Patterson

Samantha Selldorff

Caroline Yost

AP Scholar with Distinction: Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken **and** scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. **AP Scholar with Honor:** Granted to students who receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken **and** scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. **AP Scholar:** Granted to students who receive scores of 3 or higher on at least three AP exams.

Thirty-one Years of **Woody Halsey**
Resident Director, Executive Director, President



**Calling all
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parents,
faculty
and
friends!**

Over the course of 31 years, Woody has devoted his heart and soul to bringing SYA from a modest program, tied to its founding schools, to a vibrant and independent program, exemplified by thousands of alumni who are forever at home in the world.

We invite you to share your messages, memories and well wishes with Woody.

Please email your note to alumni@sya.org with "Woody tribute" as the subject line. Be sure to include your name and SYA affiliation.

Your gift
makes a
difference!

謝謝您 *Merci Danke Grazie धन्यवाद Gracias cảm ơn* ありがとう *Thank you*

“Having spent my entire life living in the same city — in fact, the same house — I saw SYA as an opportunity to branch out. I decided to spend a year in Spain because I hoped to become fluent in Spanish and to learn about a new place and a new people. I even dreamt I would spend countless afternoons eating paella while soaking up the Mediterranean sun. Absolutely no one could have prepared me for the immense change my life would under-go. My year in Spain was transformative! Not only did I learn about Spanish culture and language but, much to my surprise, I also discovered myself. I figured out how I wanted to live my life and what I expected of myself as a global citizen.”

— Ameerah C. Phillips ES'05

I give to SYA's Annual Fund because I want other students to have the same opportunity I had. The support I received from SYA — financial, academic and emotional — shaped the person I am today.





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the CAMPAIGN *for* SPAIN

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Turn to page 22 to read more.