

SYA

M A G A Z I N E

SYA China

Celebrating 20 Years
Historic Meeting of First Ladies

Leadership Changes

Farewells & Welcomes

Curriculum Update

Science & Humanities



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Thanks to all our student photographers

SYA Magazine chronicles the professional and personal lives of SYA alumni, faculty, students 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.

Please send your contributions to alumni@sya.org.

Please direct comments about SYA Magazine to magazine@sya.org.

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www.sya.org



ON THE COVER:

Sunset over the ancient walled town of Pingyao in the Shanxi province of China.

Alex Wade CN'14 (Phillips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire)

LEFT PHOTO:

SYA Spain students in San Sebastián, Spain

Emily LaFrance ES'14 (Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Massachusetts)

Contents

- 6** A Meeting of Firsts
- 8** New Executive Appointments to Senior Team
- 10** Farewell to Griffin Morse
- 14** Science and Humanities
- 20** Celebrating SYA China's 20th Anniversary
- 24** Student Stories
- 30** Event Highlights
- 36** Faculty News
- 38** Class Notes

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of SYA is to provide challenging educational programs abroad that inspire academic excellence, facilitate second language mastery, deepen cultural awareness and global understanding, and offer exemplary college preparation.

(approved by the Board of Trustees, March 2013)

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Jack speaking with SYA China students during assembly

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends of SYA,

As I write this introductory note for the *SYA Magazine*, it is difficult to believe that another year has come to a close. Once again we enrolled a capable and intellectually curious group of students who saw real value in courses that would take them well beyond the traditional boundaries of the American secondary-school curriculum. Based on their end-of-the-year evaluations and my conversations with them when I visited our schools, SYA has met and even exceeded their expectations.

The year was, as always, filled with exciting moments for students and faculty. In late March, Michelle Obama, her daughters and the First Lady of China, Peng Liyuan, visited our school in Beijing and interacted with our students. Mrs. Obama spoke eloquently about the value of more Americans studying abroad, especially in China. I think you will enjoy the pictures and accompanying stories on our webpage (www.sya.org) and in the magazine. It was indeed a historic moment, and a privilege.

A week later the Board of Trustees and some 300 people gathered in Beijing to celebrate our 20th anniversary as a school in the People's Republic. Several of the members of the first China class were present, as were faculty, staff and alumni from other graduating classes. Throughout the weekend we heard heartfelt and inspiring stories of what motivated students to go to China for a year, long before learning Mandarin was popular or anyone had heard about global studies. Those early faculty and students were true pioneers, establishing a school that remains unique among American study-abroad programs in China.

In 2013, when the Board of Trustees was developing the Strategic Plan, we engaged in a robust debate about the role of science in the SYA curriculum, long missing from our catalog of offerings. The Board called for new science courses in its recommendations. As a result, in fall 2014 we will begin to teach environmental science in France and Spain, in the local language, and in China as an AP class in English. I encourage you to read "Science and Humanities," on page 14, which explores the role of science in our curriculum and in the professional lives of our graduates.

At the end of June, we will complete our 2014 Annual Fund campaign, the backbone for recruiting and retaining the very best faculty to teach the members of the class of 2015. We've had increased requests for financial aid, and this year we distributed almost \$3 million in need-based aid to 50 percent of the class. If you haven't made your gift yet, please do so today (giving.sya.org). Our students and faculty need your support.

As we look ahead, excitement is building around our 50th anniversary celebration, which will be held next year on July 25, 2015, at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. During the day, SYA faculty will lead classes and alums will conduct workshops on relevant issues; in the evening, we will come together as a community to celebrate half a century of SYA history. Please plan to join us, and mark your calendars now! We will distribute details about the event starting in the fall.

Thank you for your interest in and support of SYA. I look forward to seeing you at one of our regional gatherings, or in Boston for the milestone 50th. Until then, take good care and travel safely.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jack Creedon".

Jack Creedon

2014 Halsey Scholar: Recipes for crossing cultural boundaries

Just like the perfect bowl of pasta, the SYA experience is a mixture of various ingredients which combine to form just the right recipe. Throughout my year abroad in Viterbo, Italy, I've gathered the fresh ingredients and formulated the parts of my recipe for my very own special bowl of pasta. The most important ingredient for a plate of penne arrabiata, my favorite dish, is the kick of spice that brings the familiar taste of pasta to life. I found my spice and vitality within the many communities I've had the fortune to be a part of this year.

The SYA community, for one, has continually fostered my cultural curiosity and for that, I am a better and stronger individual. I have stretched past my American and Mongolian identities and learned more about my character in these past six months than in my entire lifetime.

My Viterbese community has shown me an overwhelming amount of the hospitality and kindness for which Italians are so renowned as well as the nooks and crannies of Viterbo's dialect and the melodious Italian language.

The community of friends I've made here, whether Italian or American, has taught me that the unforgettable relationships and tear jerking memories are what lasts when you have the best year of your life.

All in all, I want to thank School Year Abroad, Mr. Halsey and the generous alumni for creating such a wonderful institution that allows students like me, ones who are insatiably curious about the world, to each make their own unique bowl of mouthwatering pasta.

— Nomuundari Batdelger, *SYA Italy (Schurr High School, Calif.)*



Briana Hoek Named 2015 Halsey Scholar



School Year Abroad (SYA) is pleased to announce that Briana Hoek has been named the third Halsey Scholar. Hoek, a junior from West Milford High School in New Jersey, will attend SYA France in the fall.

Hoek's passion for learning languages as well as her curiosity for study abroad is palpable when you meet her. From a Dutch background, she has a history of travel to Europe, and is eager to experience life in France, as a resident. Her SYA interviewer described her as "a very dedicated, very motivated student with a real passion for travel and for experiencing other cultures."

A student who stands out among peers and adults, Hoek has consistently earned straight As in extremely challenging courses, including four AP courses this past year. Hoek is currently in French 3, is fully fluent in Dutch and plans to learn Arabic in college. Her aspiration is to work in international aid or reporting in the Middle East. In the top one percent of students

at her school, Hoek's teachers describe her as someone who always goes above and beyond any requirements or expectations.

In addition to her academics, Hoek leads her high school's Model UN team as the chief of staff. Following Hoek's second conference held at Columbia University, her Model UN advisor noted that Hoek "exudes a maturity beyond her years, gives sound advice, and brings a cultured world-view to the club. She is also active in fundraising and is instrumental in keeping the club running."

An avid stage producer, she also serves as the stage manager for the school theatre department, where she is responsible for organizing and leading a group of 15 of her peers. Her most recent production was "Peter Pan."

"A motivated, reliable, creative, high-achieving and well-rounded student, Briana is an ideal candidate for SYA," said SYA President Jack Creeden. "We are proud to count her among the students in the Class of SYA France 2015."

Class of 2013 Boasts 66 AP Scholars

AP Scholar: 37

AP Scholar with Honor: 17

AP Scholar with Distinction: 12

(including 3 AP International Diploma recipients)

China

Scholars with Distinction

Jean-Paul R. Angieri
Suzanne F. Holcomb
Alison M. McFarland
Anne C. Sommer

Scholars with Honor

Miranda Bass
Emily W. Hannan
Charles A. Reid

Scholars

Michael Chavez
Timothy J. Clancy
Lyra Y. Cooper
John R. Danly
Ryan W. Friedman
Zachary C. Naimon
Jacob A. Pagano
James A. Perona
Radhika Sharma
Vanessa M. Shrestha
Ethan F. Weinberger
Benjamin M. Xavier

France

Scholars with Distinction

Rachel M. Farrow*
Peregrine W. Lang
Aidan F. Pongrace*
Zhehui Zhang

Scholars with Honor

Jasmine J. Curry
Kari A. Hill
Grant E. Sprainer
Eleanor M. Womack

Scholars

Melanie K. Biles
Jennifer L. Bryan
Laura Cassidy
Marisa G. Ferguson-Hyams
Charlotte M. Foley
Matthew T. Kelson
Maria A. Munoz Otalvaro
Deimante Tankus

AP Scholar with Distinction: 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:** average score of at least 3.23 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams. **AP Scholar:** scores of 3 or higher on 3 or more AP exams. ***AP International Diploma:** scores of 3 or higher on five or more AP exams in three or more subject areas. *Please note, this list may not be complete, as it only contains information sent to SYA.*

Italy

Scholars with Distinction

Katherine Kneuper*
Natalia Perina

Scholars with Honor

Laura L. Barber
Maxwell Cembalest
Marisa P. Clery
Reyna Fa-Kaji
Rebecca R. Glazer
Jeremy Paula

Scholars

Althea R. Merrifield
Phebe T. Miner
Wyatt L. Stevens

Spain

Scholar with Distinction

Theodora P. Frangakis
Dylan R. Johnson

Scholars with Honor

Emma Molz
Antonia M. Smith
James W. Symington
Emily I. Woolway

Scholars

Sharron L. Bockman
Alexander M. Browne
Carlie E. Enzerra
Rex Fortgang
Lauren B. Giurata
Kaitlyn A. Kabbash
Gabrielle T. Mirando
Jonathan A. Sadeghi
Sally E. Schwartz
Leah M. Shorb
Jasper P. Stallings
Colin V. Stievater
Wade P. Warren
Cassady R. Williamson

Viterbo Hosts Faculty Meeting

"A Clear Picture"

Whitney Shugrue Hermann ES'85

College Counseling Coordinator and Registrar; SYA Summer Programs Director,
SYA Italy College Counselor (2013–14)



SYA faculty from all four schools meet in the *salone* of SYA Italy

Last spring in Zaragoza, home of SYA Spain, a long-desired plan was put into action: faculty and administrators from all four schools and the Home Office came together for a three-day workshop called Utilizing Technology in the Classroom. This first "all-faculty" meeting was so helpful and energizing for the entire SYA community that a tradition was born.

This year, the second annual SYA Faculty Conference was hosted by SYA Italy, in Viterbo, again consisting of SYA faculty from around the world. The topic under discussion was Intercultural Competence.

On the first night, energy and excitement crackled through the *salone* at the reception. What a wonderful coincidence that the conference took place at the SYA school where I happened to be working as college counselor for the year. As an alumna of SYA Spain '85 and a 13-year SYA employee, I was gratified to finally meet so many of the faculty whose names I'd heard over the years. As we introduced ourselves, I was sure I'd be the one with the longest history with SYA but not at all! In fact, there was a teacher from France who has worked for SYA since before my feet ever touched down in Barcelona all those years ago. Wow. SYA's incredible fac-

ulty-retention rate says a great deal about the institution, the students and the overall experience.

The next two days were packed with workshops. The primary one was led by Aric Visser, former SYA Spain faculty member, who recently completed an extensive study measuring how much students "grow" over the course of their SYA year compared to a control group back at the home schools. His report, "A Clear Picture," was the springboard for much debate, reflection and the sharing of ideas regarding how well we do what we say do in our Mission Statement [see sya.org/mission].

I don't think there's a student, parent, teacher or outside observer who would deny the "transformational powers" of SYA. Probably the most common word used by all parties is changed, as in "SYA changed my life" and "Joey changed so much." But the question is: Do students become more interculturally competent while at SYA? The results of Visser's study indicate only a small amount of intercultural change — a shocking and, for many, dismaying discovery. How is that possible? As the disbelief settled, Visser took us through the findings and explained the concept of the "SYA bubble" —

a term used by current SYA students.

Similar to the process described in James L. Citron's "US Students Abroad: Host Culture Integration or Third Culture Formation?" (in *Rockin' in Red Square*, Nana Rinehart, Walter Grunzweig, and Skye Stephenson [eds.], 2002), SYA students reported in interviews and surveys taken by Visser that although they thought that had adapted to the local culture, they continued many of their American habits. They felt they had morphed into a new being that was neither local nor American. This hybrid, the "SYA bubble," is the result partly of the technology umbilical cord, partly of normal clustering around the familiar and partly SYA.

Yes, SYA is an exceptional immersion program, but it's also a US school with certain requirements and obligations to fulfill in order for its students to earn credit at their home schools. For many years, we assumed that if you plunked down a student in a foreign country and placed her or him with a local family to live for nine months, that person would automatically take on the new culture. What we learned from Visser's report is that we need to be much more intentional when it comes to fulfilling our mission: we can't expect intercultural competency to happen on its own.

Another subject that was passionately debated was how to teach "global understanding," as mentioned in SYA's Mission Statement. Are SYA's courses, in fact, global? Or do our courses usually focus on the local history and culture? We wrestled with methods for teaching global understanding by rolling up our sleeves and brainstorming in small groups, reporting back and then hammering out specific plans and ideas that would lead our students to greater intercultural competence as well as a deeper global understanding.

It was inspiring to see such intense collaboration among educators representing different fields and varied cultures.

Executive Director Nelson Chase Named Peace Corps Country Director in Nepal

After seven years as Executive Director, Nelson Chase is leaving School Year Abroad to become the country director for the Peace Corps in Nepal. He and his wife, Cynthia Strawbridge, will be relocating to Kathmandu this summer.

Chase earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of California Los Angeles, then received a master's in social work from the University of Minnesota and his MBA from the University of Colorado Boulder.

In the late 1980s, he and Cindy spent four and a half years bicycling around the world. Mirroring his passion for international adventure, Chase's career has revolved around working with youths and volunteers in a multitude of settings across the globe. He has worked with inner-city students, high schoolers in experiential learning programs and Peace Corps volunteers ranging in age from 22 to 75. Chase's history with the Peace Corps spans decades: from the early 1970s as a volunteer to the director of operations for Moldova (1994-1996), then for Albania (1996-1997), and finally for Slovakia (1997-2000). In 1997, Chase was recognized for exemplary leadership in the safe evacuation of the entire Peace Corps contingent from Albania when the country descended into political strife and violence.

From his work as teacher, director and chief operating officer of the Colorado Outward Bound School and executive director of the Odyssey School, Chase brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to his position at SYA when he was named Executive Director in July 2007. In addition to directing operations at all of the SYA schools, Chase's role involved communicating with 44 member schools across the United States, hiring the American faculty and directing four summer programs.

"I'm grateful to Nelson for his support of our students because he truly understands the value of living abroad and having unconventional educational



experiences," said SYA Italy Resident Director Patrick Scanlon. "He guided SYA to provide more authentic experiential opportunities and thereby to lay out even more ways for our students to benefit from their year abroad. I speak on behalf of all of us in our schools abroad when I thank him for his dedication to our mission, and, of course, we all wish him and Cindy happy trails, literally and figuratively."

During his seven years with SYA, Chase oversaw several curricular innovations and introduced courses in environmental sciences, politics, economics and international relations. His strong knowledge of experiential learning also led to the implementation of SYA China's Integrated Learning Project (ILP) across all of SYA's schools in Europe as well.

Even as he praises Chase's work with SYA and expresses reluctance to see him go, SYA President Jack Creeden acknowledges Chase's passion for the Peace Corps. "Personally, I'll miss Nelson's wise counsel, steady approach to all operational issues and keen understanding of adolescent behavior," he said. He also understands, however, that the opportunity for Chase to return to the Peace Corps in a leadership role is, as Chase himself puts it, "the chance of a lifetime."

A Meeting of Firsts



SYA China students witness the historic meeting of China's First Lady Peng Liyuan and First Lady Michelle Obama

The first stop on First Lady Michelle Obama's recent historic trip to China was Middle School #2 Attached to Beijing Normal University, home of SYA China. Her itinerary reflected the importance of cross-cultural learning and study abroad and promoted the power of education in the lives of young people in both the United States and China. SYA China students and faculty were privileged to be able to share their study-abroad experiences with Michelle Obama and Peng Liyuan, the First Lady of China.

Excitement filled the air as faculty, staff and students prepared for the visit. “We were honored that Mrs. Obama chose to visit School Year Abroad in Beijing as part of her efforts to support more American students studying in China,” said SYA President Jack Creeden. “This spring SYA celebrated its twentieth anniversary in Beijing as the leading overseas study program for American secondary school students and the first American school granted permission by the People’s Republic of China to allow students to live with a Chinese family for an entire academic year. First Lady Michelle Obama’s visit reminds us of the meaningful work of our schools in China, France, Italy and Spain to immerse students in a different language and culture in order to increase cross-cultural understanding.”

The First Ladies toured a robotics class, played Ping-Pong and painted in a traditional calligraphy class. Audrey Fritz (Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.) was one of the calligraphy students: “Having the opportunity to meet the First Ladies of both China and the United States was an amazing experience that I’ll never forget,” she said. “Mrs. Obama talked with us about our home stays and life in China, and told us that studying abroad will be a significant factor in both our future and the future of America. She also reminded us that we represent the United States while we’re in Beijing, just as we’ll represent China’s views to

the best of our knowledge once we return to America. Being able to meet Mrs. Obama gave my SYA year an even deeper meaning, as she emphasized the importance of what we’ve been doing here for the past eight months.”

Classmate Maya Dornbrand-Lo (The College Preparatory School, Calif.) said, “It was a fantastic experience to see Ms. Peng Liyuan and Mrs. Obama in Beijing during their first meeting together. A public appearance of the Chinese First Lady is rare. It was special to be a part of the moment and to be able to share it with our Chinese peers from MS #2. Only SYA China could’ve given me this opportunity. Being a part of SYA has been life changing.”

During her travels in China, Mrs. Obama took time to answer questions about studying abroad through CNN iReport. When asked “What lasting benefit does study abroad have on students once they return to the U.S.?” Mrs. Obama’s response could easily have come from an SYA alum:

“The benefits of study abroad are almost endless. First of all, it’s going to make you much more marketable here in the United States, because more and more companies are realizing that they need people with experiences around the world, who can speak different languages, who can transition easily into other cultures and people who bring to their jobs a sensibility and a sensitivity for other people.

“It will also make you more compassionate. We could always use more compassion, young leaders out there in the world, people who are willing to step outside their comfort zones and be open to wiping away misconceptions.

“Especially for U.S. students, it’s very hard to stay in your comfort zone when you’re living in another country. When you’re struggling with a language, new foods, learning directions, being forced to make friends and do things that you wouldn’t normally do, that’s going to set you up for a lifetime of value. It’s going to make you a better parent. It’s going to make you a better human being.”

We couldn’t agree more.

Highlights from First Lady Michelle Obama’s Trip to China

Beijing March 20 – 23

- Visits SYA China and MS #2 plays Ping-pong, practices calligraphy, takes photos, and speaks with students
- Visits the Forbidden City with First Lady Peng Liyuan
- Speaks to students at the Stanford Center at Peking University
- Visits the Summer Palace
- Meets with staff and families of the United States Embassy
- Climbs the Great Wall of China

Xi’an March 24

- Visits the Terracotta Warriors Museum
- Visits the Xi’an City Wall

Chengdu March 25 – 26

- Meets with staff and families of the United States Consulate in Chengdu
- Speaks with students at the Chengdu #7 High School
- Visit the Chengdu Panda Base

Watch the White House video:

On Board: Travels with the First Lady in China, Day One



First Lady Michelle Obama tells SYA China students that studying abroad will be a significant factor in their future

SYA Strengthens its Senior Team with Three New Appointments

Bicultural backgrounds, bilingual capabilities and significant time spent living and working overseas are the common threads that weave through the lives of School Year Abroad's most recent senior appointments.

Incoming Executive Director, American Eileen Kelly-Aguirre spent almost 10 years working and teaching in Spain. Fellow American Virginia Invernizzi, SYA Spain's new Resident Director, was born and raised in Uruguay until age 11 before moving to the United States. Jacquie Kane, in the newly created role of Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications, was born of Scottish and German parents, raised in Scotland and lived in China for four years.

All three are internationally-minded individuals bringing extensive knowledge, deep experience and expertise of teaching, and

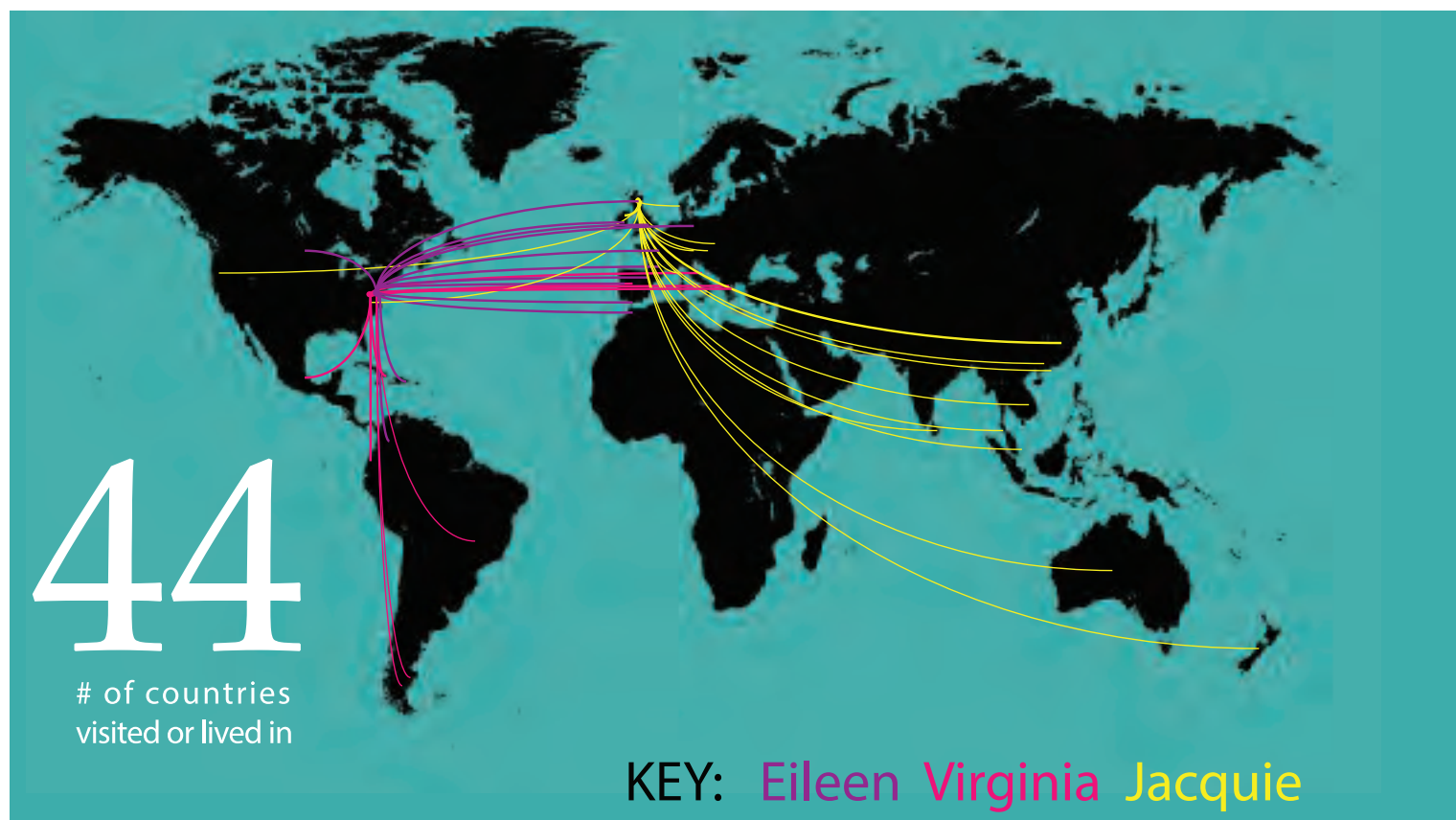
acquiring, practical intercultural and foreign language skills overseas.

At the core of all SYA programs is to teach high school students to master a second language through homestay with a robust curriculum that emphasizes language acquisition in the context of culture, politics, science and the history of their host country. This is supported by rigorous academic standards and preparation for the best U.S. and international colleges and universities. Many SYA alumni matriculate at Ivy League and Oxbridge universities. Immersion in more than one culture prepares SYA students to experience personal transformation, increase self-confidence, adaptability and independence in readiness for future success at college and beyond.

Eileen Kelly-Aguirre joins SYA from The Gunnery, a co-educational boarding and day

school for grades nine to 12 in Washington, Connecticut where she was Associate Head for Strategic Partnerships and Global Programs. During her 22-year tenure, she held posts of increasing responsibility initially as a faculty member teaching Spanish language and literature, then rising to Academic Dean, Director of Curriculum, Dean of Faculty and Assistant Head of School.

Kelly-Aguirre's key achievements include introducing Mandarin to the curriculum; being a leading contributor to the development of a mission-centered, co-curricular strand on ethical engagement and citizenship; chairing the New England Association of Schools and Colleges re-accreditation committee; and securing the first round of International Baccalaureate candidate school status for The Gunnery. Additionally, she has served on committees of the Con-



necticut Association of Independent Schools and is a member of the Global Education Benchmark Group.

The mother of two bicultural children raised in Europe and the United States, Kelly-Aguirre spent almost 10 years in Spain in various roles including as an interpreter and translator for global private equity firm Warburg Pincus and as Assistant Director at Middlebury College in Madrid, with summers spent supporting the graduate program at Middlebury's Spanish School in Vermont.

Kelly-Aguirre received her BA in government and Latin American studies at Wesleyan University. She earned her MA in Spanish language and literature from Middlebury College and completed her doctoral coursework, ABD in education leadership at Central Connecticut State University.

Born in Uruguay and raised in the United States, SYA Spain Resident Director Virginia Invernizzi has deep-rooted bicultural ties to both countries. She joins SYA from Deerfield Academy, an independent co-educational school for grades nine to 12 in Massachusetts where she teaches Spanish language and literature, and was a former department chair.

During her 20-year tenure, Invernizzi established, led and planned the curriculum for the biannual Deerfield in Uruguay and Spain summer programs where students spend a month in Montevideo or Madrid. Additionally, in partnership with a student, she created internships for program alumni with the Embassy of Uruguay in Washington, D.C., as further experiential learning and introduced an exchange program for Uruguayan students to visit Deerfield.

In the intervening years, Invernizzi spent three summers as Adjunct Professor of Latin American literature at Middlebury College. She has held positions as Assistant Professor at Mount Holyoke College, and as Graduate Teaching Assistant of Spanish language courses at the University of Virginia. An accomplished lecturer on contemporary Latin American literature, co-editor and translator

of a book about one of the world's most well-read Spanish-speaking authors, Chilean Isabel Allende, Invernizzi is finishing a year-long sabbatical in Uruguay and Argentina.

Invernizzi graduated from the University of Virginia where she earned her BA, MA and PhD in contemporary Latin American literature.

Born into a Scottish-German family and raised in Edinburgh, Jacquie Kane spent summers visiting family and friends across Germany, Switzerland and the Netherlands. This early exposure to a culture other than her passport country ignited a curiosity for exploring the world, speaking a second language and living abroad.

Kane brings over 13 years of marketing and PR experience managing clients through agency and in-house work as well as being a freelance consultant. Over the

cated to Shanghai to complete a four-year assignment with his employer, a U.S. firm, the same one that has brought them to Massachusetts. While in China, in addition to working at Edelman, she was Head of Marketing at Dulwich College Shanghai, a co-ed K-12 independent international educational institution comprising three day schools serving the children of expatriate executives. This diverse community of faculty and students represented up to 42 nationalities at any given time. Prior to joining SYA, Kane owned and operated a freelance public relations business in Scotland serving internationally-based clients.

Kane received her BA (Honors) at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, part of the University of Dundee (Scotland) and her MS in public relations from the University of Stirling (Scotland).

Fun Facts

- Eileen once owned and operated a restaurant in Madrid
- Virginia is an avid Tango dancer
- Jacquie is a trained sculptor

years many of her clients have been involved directly in education. Her first overseas sojourn was as an undergraduate teaching art at a Boys & Girls Clubs of America summer camp in Kingston, New York. After contemplating becoming a teacher, a professional career in communications and marketing beckoned. Subsequently, she held positions at the *Daily Record & Sunday Mail*, Scotland's largest circulation newspaper; at Pagoda PR, an independent public relations and public affairs consultancy; and with leading global public relations firms Weber Shandwick and Edelman both in the U.K. and China.

In 2007, Kane and her husband relo-

Commenting on the new hires, SYA President Jack Creeden said, "On behalf of the entire SYA community, I'd like to welcome Eileen, Virginia and Jacquie. All three are firm believers in the transformative effects of sustained language and cultural immersion, central elements of the SYA experience to be at home in the world. Collectively, they bring an inherent appreciation for the value of living and studying abroad, truly understanding and identifying with multiple cultures demonstrating through their own successful careers the benefits this brings in learning to function completely and comfortably in cultures different from their own."

THE Aragonese countryside is dotted with olive trees, which spread their roots wide in order to thrive in the dry and mountainous environment, and once a young tree has succeeded in grasping at this harsh terrain, it can live for 500 years, a continuous cycle of pale yellow flowers and branches bending under their weight of fruit.

In 2002, when Griffin Morse arrived in Zaragoza with his French-American family to become the new Resident Director for SYA Spain, the school in many ways was still putting down new roots, having moved to Zaragoza just three years earlier. In

GRIFFIN MORSE

Returning to His New England Roots

by Kimberly Baker, SYA Spain faculty member

his dozen years at the helm, Morse established SYA's physical presence not only in the form of a state-of-the-art permanent facility, but also in the school's relationship with the community and with the faculty who call Zaragoza home.

This fall, Morse moves on to become the headmaster of Pinkerton Academy, in New Hampshire, in many ways returning to his own roots in the Northeast, where he attended school and began his career.





With ES'03 students Bill Welsh, Jason French, Rowan Morris and John Mittermeier



With ES'08 advisees Samantha Bondaryk, Grace Fulmer, Racquel Figueroa, Carolyn Ganon and Claire Drummond



At the Mezquita en Córdoba with faculty members Todd Lengacher ES'04F, ES'05F, Álvaro Ávila and Oriol Bastardes



With ES'06 advisees Isabel Nassief, Bella Moschen, Abigail Ehrlich, Mike Beckett and Eliza Gordon at the Colegiata in Alquézar

A testament to Morse's dedication to our faculty lies in the simple fact that almost all of the teachers who were at SYA when he arrived are still here today, and have been witness to the great transformation of SYA Spain. Veteran literature teacher Ángeles Errazu remembers the day Morse arrived: "It was a hot summer day and Griffin's family walked up to their new home on Sanclemente with looks of exhaustion on their faces and a house full of furniture in tow," Errazu recalls. "Griffin came over to me and, even though he barely knew me, handed me Pierre, who slept in my arms as we walked into the house."

The decision to apply for the Resident Director position was an easy one for Morse. "Raising Pierre and Sophie just in the United States didn't seem to complete the picture of what I hoped to have for our children's education," he says. "The idea of coming over to Spain was to give them a European experience." Professionally, he adds, after running a high school and spending two decades in the Spanish classroom, the transition seemed quite natural.

Putting down strong roots began with Morse's desire, almost immediately upon arrival, to find a permanent home for SYA in Zaragoza. The school spent its first year sharing space with the Liceo Europa and then moved to rental space in Plaza Aragon, but, says Morse, there was an uneasy feeling among the faculty that the program was itinerant and that it would keep moving. "I think I kind of exacerbated that," he says, "because as soon as I got here, I began to look for a permanent location for the school rather than renting again at Plaza de Aragon."

After years of searching, fundraising, designing and planning, the result is the state-of-the-art *Casa Foster*, named after Stephen Foster ES'65, a member of SYA's first class, first alumni

trustee and member of *The Campaign for Spain* committee. The spacious new school overlooks Plaza Gran Paraiso and the University of Zaragoza's historic medical school, the crossroads of a modern and ancient city with thousands of years of rich history. Although it's just around the corner from the old location, Casa Foster gives students the space and comforts they need to focus on their learning in authentic ways.

According to Morse, the building has been a hit with alumni as well. "The new home for SYA Spain gives a sense of rootedness — a sense of belonging. All of the alumni who were at the old school come back and are ecstatic about this setting and the property itself, the lighting and the way the school functions."

Finding a permanent home for SYA Spain is certainly an accomplishment, but that's only one of many projects and improvements that were championed by Morse during his tenure. He believes his charge was to take a classical program and to provide opportunities that would ensure that every student would have a unique experience. "My big theme for the twelve years," he says, "has been to individualize the involvement and to take the big institutional travel and the big institutional experience of visiting monuments and museums in cities and break them down into closer, more focused experiences that begin in the classroom."

The list of improvements is long, but some of the highlights are core to what it means to attend SYA Spain. In the fall of 2003, SYA began sending students to Toledo for a five-day immersion program in a Spanish high school there. Two years later, students were also immersing in high schools in Madrid, Seville and Burgos. Fast-forward to today, when the "Five Days in . . ." program sends students to every corner of the country, giving them a feel for the

life of a Spaniard their age. They return home with stories and reflections as diverse as the country itself.

Also in 2003, Morse embarked on a relationship with a number of Zaragoza high schools to find ways for SYA students to spend more time with local peers. The result was “Joven Erasmus,” a seminar that meets once a week with eight students from SYA and eight from local high schools. Members of the group, led by pairs of American and Spanish students, take turns running discussions. American students must speak in Spanish and their counterparts must speak in English, which ensures that everyone in the room is challenged. Morse not only designed the course but also taught it 10 out of the 12 years.

Another way Morse set out to provide a full-immersion experience was through the “One day here, one day there” program, which sends SYA students to shadow students in local high schools followed by a visit by local students to SYA Zaragoza. The visits themselves are enriching, but these exchanges provide an even greater value: the friendships that evolve and build on SYA’s strong reputation in the community.

Morse leaves an impressive mark on SYA Spain, as he planted deep roots and instituted important programs. But it is fitting for this hands-on educator that his most significant impact is on the students who were the focus of his work.

Says Paul Treadgold ES’05, “Griffin Morse made SYA feel like home. With his warm and nurturing personality, he made himself readily available to students and always offered to help with anything he could. He was a perfect Resident Director and helped make my time in Spain an especially amazing and rewarding experience.”

Sharron Bockman ES’13 appreciated the little touches of home. “Some of my favorite memories of Spain are of baking chocolate-chip cookies with my Mitos y Leyendas class at Señor Morse’s apartment. It

was an odd but welcoming mix of Spanish and American culture,” she says. “I hope to return to Zaragoza, but visiting SYA will seem strange without him.”

Tylie Cramer ES’05 remembers that Morse was available in her time of need. “Griffin was a caring and wonderful director,” she says. “When I was ill and hospitalized, he even took time from the school trip to Andalucía to make sure I was all right. Throughout the years, his compassion has shined through in all his correspondence and support of my achievements. My time in Spain was a year of incredible growth — personal, linguistic and emotional.”

As for Morse, there are so many personal stories that he has a difficult time telling any of them. The students are clearly his top priority, and though it’s unlikely that he’ll share his own tales, he did say this: “At the end of every year, when we leave for the Madrid airport, I look around and think that I’ve had private conversations with every single one of these students for one reason or another, because a lot does happen in nine months, and not just to our students, but to their friends and families back home as well. In many ways,” he said, “they’re living a double life that stretches them in really healthy ways but also challenges them. Being able to be part of that and helping them celebrate the joys and survive the tragedies is always an unexpected challenge.”

What he thinks he’ll miss most about SYA, Morse says, is “the culture of Zaragoza and our small school community. It’s a very intimate scale of life, an intimate scale of learning, and a very large family feeling that no other school can accomplish . . . I’m going to miss very deeply the Spanish faculty who have been constant and intimate friends for a dozen years, and whose families and relatives have become part of my family.” 🍷



Three Kings with faculty members Álvaro Ávila and Neil Carstensen
FR’79F FR’98F IT’02F FR’05F ES’06F



At the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao with the Class of ES’03 students Whitney Sparks, Terry Rowe, Tina Previl, Larnies Bowen, Monica Gomery and Norva Gaye Hall



Judging the traditional tortilla de patata contest with faculty members Soledad Gutiérrez, Liz Hirsch (ES’03-06F) and Oriol Bastardes



Griffin with his children Pierre (l), Sophie (r) and niece Kristen during a recent visit to Seattle

Whether today's students go on to become **artists, doctors, engineers, politicians, teachers** or **writers**, the challenges they face will demand creativity and innovation.

Science and Humanities

Both Have a Place at SYA

Whether today's students go on to become artists, doctors, engineers, politicians, teachers or writers, the challenges they face will demand creativity and innovation. Science courses present the tools to invent the future; courses in the humanities inspire the imagination. A recent review of SYA's curriculum called for the addition of science and the integration of technology at all of its schools, without losing its core of a humanities-based education. Author Rich Salit explores the science vs. humanities debate through SYA's lens. Highlighted are a handful of our many alumni who have careers in science and technology who share how language acquisition and the study of the humanities through SYA provided them with a well-rounded education.



Merritt Moore IT'05

As we celebrate the successes of our first 50 years, the Board of Trustees approved a strategic plan that increases the role of science and technology and lays the foundation for the next generation of SYAers. For most of its history, SYA has been a bastion of humanities courses, offering few if any classes in science and limited use of technology.

All that will change starting in the fall, when environmental science, a staple of secondary school curricula across the country, will be taught in the local language in France and Spain. In China, the course will be taught in English on an Advanced Placement level. Already this year, SYA Italy introduced archaeology as a way to incorporate science.

In the past, some have argued that science was antithetical to the humanities-centric

philosophy of SYA and the goal of immersion in another culture through language fluency and homestay. Today's leading scholars see a humanities-based education as essential training for future scientists, business leaders and technology experts.

"Today's students don't see such a sharp divide between their interests in science and their humanities courses," says SYA President Jack Creeden. "In the last two years, we've heard repeatedly that students wish we offered a class in one of the sciences."

The strategic plan calls for SYA "to integrate the use of technology into all aspects of the program as a learning tool as well as to provide wide student access to online programs," and it urges exploring "the best practices of online and distance learning tools to make appropriate use of technology in the curriculum."

The Board of Trustees, senior administrative leaders, Resident Directors and faculty believe there's a place for science and technology within study abroad. This generation of students sees and understands science as

an integral part of its worldview. Science and technology permeate everyone's daily life, and students make use of both science and the humanities to understand today's global challenges and then to work to create solutions.

The American

philosopher and educator Martha C. Nussbaum believes the humanities play a critical

"It's all about thinking differently. If it's just science and you're just sitting there, creativity can be lost — that way of questioning things, of looking at things with different perspectives. Part of my motivation is to prove that it's possible to pursue the arts and be a scientist."

— Merritt Moore IT'05



Burton Lee ES'73

role in the education of tomorrow's scientists and technology leaders. In her 2010 book, *Not for Profit: Why Democracy Needs the Humanities*, she explores the interdependent nature of that relationship.

"Critical thinking is a very important part of a healthy business culture," she writes. "Moreover, the literary and artistic humanities are essential to cultivate the capacity for creativity and innovation."

Nussbaum's book attracted worldwide notice and was on its way to being translated into 12 languages when it caught Creeden's attention, and her richly developed themes struck a chord.

"The humanities have us ask critical questions about life. What's important? How does one prioritize and make commitments to societies and people?" he says. "We need to apply those questions when engineers and scientists make discoveries. In an ethically centered society, we have to ask, 'What's the value of this? How does this contribute to the quality of life for all people?'"

"To argue that students intending to pursue a university education in business, engineering or science would not be interested in SYA is false," he says. Indeed, the long list of SYA alumni who found their professional lives in those disciplines is testimony to the validity of that statement.

Burton Lee ES'73 is a professor at one of the nation's premier technology meccas, Stanford University, and an international expert on technology entrepreneurship. Ask him about the value of an education rich in the humanities and Lee instantly takes you back to his SYA days in Barcelona, when he had to learn not only a foreign language but also how life is lived under a dictator, in his case General Francisco Franco.

"At that time, speaking Catalan in public was prohibited," he says. "There were police everywhere, kind of like an occupation army. It was a very repressive environment. To come from a sheltered suburb outside Boston, it was a big change. For the first time we talked about big ideas: anarchism, political oppression, socialism, communism, religion."

With degrees from Brown, Cornell and Stanford, Lee regularly jets around the world for his business and academic pursuits. From Europe to Asia to Latin America, he takes advantage of his skills in Spanish, German and French, as well as his familiarity with world cultures, to better understand and teach about business startups and innovation.

"I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing today if I hadn't participated in SYA," he says. When it comes to environmental, health and business challenges, he says, "you need the creative and critical-thinking skills you get from studying the humanities to solve world problems."

— Burton Lee ES'73



Jan Johnston FR'74 ES'13P

Count **Jan Johnston FR'74 ES'13P** as another SYA graduate who believes that her classes abroad were essential to her success in the field of medicine. After growing up

speaking English and Spanish, she learned a third language when she attended SYA France.



Nathan Matsuda CN'02 with his wife, Jen Sharber Matsuda (I) and mom Sheila Matsuda CN'02P ES'06P

In 2006, Johnston became an internist at a Louisville, Kentucky, health clinic for political refugees. “I speak Spanish every day,” she says. “They give me the Cuban patients. I also speak French with patients from the Republic of Congo. When I speak the language they understand, I believe I can take better care of them, and they trust me. I have a connection with them, and it’s much more fun for me.

“In medicine,” she says, “you could be a very good technician but you still need to relate to a patient as another human being.”

Two other SYA alums, representing a younger, tech-savvy generation, have been blending the sciences and the arts in interesting ways.

Nathan Matsuda CN’02 graduated from Northwestern University with a degree in computer science. After an internship with world-renowned Pixar Animation Studios, he decided to pursue a career in Hollywood in computerized special effects.

Soon he landed a job with Zoic Studios, and has worked on numerous well-known TV shows and movies, among them *WALL-E*, *The Fast and the Furious*, and *Prison Break*. He has served as both a compositor, one who uses technical skills to manipulate real images, and a supervisor, in that role acting as a liaison between compositors and artists to bring creative visions to life.

“I’ve always been someone who was strongly drawn to STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) fields,” says Matsuda. “A lot of the areas a liberal-arts education focuses on I wasn’t attracted to.

“Critical thinking is a very important part of a healthy business culture. Moreover, the literary and artistic humanities are essential to cultivate the capacity for creativity and innovation.

— Martha Nussbaum, author

When I was a kid, I was always working on some electronic program when I wasn’t at school. As I grow older, though, I’ve been increasingly thankful I was in an environment in which I learned the value of the liberal arts, because I wouldn’t have been studying them on my own. I think you want to have the best of both worlds because no matter what you’re doing, you can’t avoid interacting with technology or with people.”

Merritt Moore IT’05 is on something of a mission to prove that her lofty scientific and artistic pursuits complement each other.

Moore has been studying physics for years, first as an undergraduate at Harvard University and now as a doctoral candidate at Oxford. Throughout her years devoted to understanding how the physical world works — on both the molecular level and the universal level — she has also succeeded in performing with some of Europe’s most



Merritt Moore IT’05

prestigious dance companies.

Not all of her science colleagues have understood.

“Most of the time I feel I have to hide the dancing so they don’t think I’m occupied by something else,” says Moore. “The science community doesn’t allow as much freedom to pursue the arts or give time to being creative. There’s a lot of pressure to do it this way

because everyone else has, which I find very frustrating.”

But Moore says she’s in good company, citing examples of some of the world’s most accomplished physicists. “Einstein played the violin; Richard Feynman played the bongos,” she says. “My mom is Korean and we would discuss this a lot. In Korea, you learn by rote and you can really do well the

GLOBAL CURRICULUM

Integrated Learning Project (ILP)

Each of SYA’s schools requires a capstone project that involves college-level interdisciplinary research. Students work in teams to organize research and fieldwork, conduct interviews with local citizens and then present their project to fellow students and faculty at the end of the school year.



CHINA

People, Power and Politics: The History and Organization of China

AP Environmental Science

Inside China: Economic and Political Perspectives on China in a Fast-Changing World



FRANCE

Global Issues and International Relations

Political Science: Contemporary Issues and Current Events

Environmental Science



ITALY

Excavating the Past: Archaeology in the Mediterranean

Art History: Seeing and Understanding Italy through Its Art and History

Ancient History and Its Influence on Modern Times



SPAIN

Economics: Macroeconomics and the Global Consumer

Political Science

Environmental Science

Join the conversation!

Tell us your thoughts on how SYA helped prepare you for your career at sya.org/because

first few years because it's just facts. When you look at the Nobel Prize winners, however, they're from the Western world, where they're allowed to be creative."

Moore continues, "It's all about thinking differently. If it's just science and you're just sitting there, creativity can be lost — that way of questioning things, of looking at things with different perspectives. Part of my motivation is to prove that it's possible to pursue the arts and be a scientist."

While at SYA, Moore knew that when she returned home she would go into physics. Thus, with the help of some of the faculty, she was able to supplement the Italy-program curriculum by taking calculus and AP Calculus. "They totally tailored it for me," she says.

In its 2013 report, "The Heart of the Matter," the National Academy of Arts and Sciences echoed Professor Nussbaum's findings and extolled the value of study in the traditional liberal arts.

"The humanities remind us where we have been and help us envision where we are going," its authors wrote. "Emphasizing crit-

ical perspective and imaginative response, the humanities . . . foster creativity, appreciation of our commonalities and our differences, and knowledge of all kinds."

Among the many recommendations the report makes is to encourage undergraduates, much like SYA students, to have "a significant international experience."

"We move students from a cognitive understanding of differences to an empathic level of understanding," Creeden says. "SYA students sit across from their Italian mother or Spanish father for a year exchanging views and hearing a different worldview. They come to see the world from another's perspective."

At the center of SYA are unique experiences that help prepare students for what Creeden calls an increasingly "interdependent, interconnected world."

The problems of the 21st century require an interdisciplinary approach. A pandemic in China can spread from continent to continent; economies in France, Spain and Italy have a huge impact on the European Union; turmoil in Africa plays a role in immigration and ethnic tensions throughout the Mediterranean region. Each of these issues has scientific, political, environmental and economic components. SYA is uniquely positioned to create a diverse curriculum across multiple disciplines to prepare students to solve the increasingly complex problems of the multicultural and interdependent world in which they will lead their adult lives.

"Nothing happens in isolation," Creeden says. "We don't study global; we live global. But it's not simply 'Can you navigate the Paris *métro*' or 'Can you identify the characteristics of high Renaissance art?' This generation of students has to understand multiple cultures, to have cross-cultural competency and understanding."

In the years since his time in Franco-era Spain, Burton Lee has developed some impressive credentials in the world of high tech. He has served as an innovation expert for former New Mexico governor Bill Richardson's presidential bid and as an advisor to NASA on space policy. He created the Japanese parliament's first website and cofounded Spaceport America, whose goal is to build a commercial spaceport in New Mexico. Now, in addition to consulting work for high-tech start-ups, Lee teaches European entrepreneurship at Stanford's engineering school and travels the world lecturing on innovation.

Lee says he wouldn't have the résumé he boasts today if not for his studies in the liberal arts and travel abroad. "It's really important to have softer skills, people skills, to understand these issues of culture," he says.

"A lot of the companies we grow here, after the first couple of years, the first market they go to is Europe," Lee says. "If your team doesn't have multicultural footing, if it's just a bunch of American engineers who have no training in language and have never lived overseas, it's much more difficult for those start-ups to expand because they don't have experience outside the American context."

"Companies can make very big mistakes," he says. "It's a real shortcoming that most Americans don't have the language skills and they also don't understand those political and cultural differences."

Lee, Johnston, Matsuda and Moore are examples of how SYA and its alumni have incorporated all aspects of a well-rounded education into a formula for success. And starting in the fall, the curriculum will offer both humanities and sciences, which will put our students at an even greater advantage. 🌐

“Today’s students don’t see such a sharp divide between their interests in science and their humanities courses. In the last two years we’ve heard repeatedly that students wish we offered a class in one of the sciences.”

— SYA President Jack Creeden

National Academy of Arts and Sciences

Read the “The Heart of the Matter” report



See the video



READ MORE ABOUT

Burton Lee ES'73 on page 40

Jan Johnston FR'74 ES'13P on page 45

Nathan Matsuda CN'02 on page 54

Merritt Moore IT'05 on page 59

SAVE THE DATE!



July 25, 2015
Boston

Celebrating SYA China's



Commemorative watercolor by
SYA China faculty member Cui Yingkui

Ping-pong players became first Americans to officially visit China since the establishment of the People's Republic of China (PRC)

April 1971

President Nixon visits Beijing, Hangzhou and Shanghai

Diplomatic relations established with the US; Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping visits Washington, DC

January 1979

US and PRC establish embassies in Beijing and Washington, DC

March 1979

President Reagan and Premier Zhao Ziyang make reciprocal visits

1984

President Li Xiannian visits the US, the first such visit by a PRC Head of State

July 1985

Stock markets open in Shanghai and Shenzhen

1989

SYA Executive Director Woody Halsey explores possibilities for an SYA school in China while on a Phillips Academy faculty trip led by Ni Xiaomin to Beijing

1991

20th Anniversary

On March 29, 2014, just a week after First Lady Michelle Obama's visit to SYA China, 300 attendees including trustees, faculty, staff, students, alumni, parents, host families, local dignitaries and representatives from Middle School #2 Attached to Beijing Normal University (MS #2) gathered to celebrate SYA China's 20th anniversary.

During scouting trip to Beijing, Ni Xiaomin connects Woody Halsey with Shi Lili, who becomes one of the first staff members of SYA China

1993

Headed by Resident Director Tom Trethaway (The Hotchkiss School), SYA is the first American high school study abroad program granted permission by the PRC to place students with host families for an entire academic year

August 1994

August 1995

August 1996

Trustees vote to offer SYA China as a full-year program

February 1997

August 1998

SYA China opens as a semester program in Beijing hosted at MS #2 with Resident Director Charlie Miller ES'86F (Phillips Academy, The American School Japan) and Assistant Director Gillian Recesso (The Loomis Chaffee School) leading the pioneer class of 18 students who lived in dormitories

Resident Director is John McLoughlin (Boston College High School)

SYA China begins as a full-year program in addition to the semester-long program with Resident Director John McLoughlin



Alex White ES'00 and his wife Ping Zhang



Guests enjoying a tour of the Forbidden City led by SYA China faculty and students



Alumni speaker Kaitlin Solimine CN'97 and her baba (Chinese father), Chen Guanmiao



Student Andrew Medina performs a piece from Peking opera



Members of the first SYA China class Gabe Seydewitz CN'95 (l) and Clinton Wu CN'95 (r) with SYA China Host Family Coordinator Shi Lili



Board of Trustees Chair Douglas Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P presents Cao Baoyi, principal of MS #2, with a bonsai tree on behalf of SYA



MS #2 Principal Cao Baoyi presents a carved, red lacquer plate to SYA President Jack Creeden

As a symbol of the two-decade-long relationship with its host school and the importance of cross-cultural education, the event was held in MS #2's library. SYA China Resident Director Hilde Becker welcomed the group in both Mandarin and English, then talked about the role of SYA as a cultural bridge between China and the United States.

Douglas Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P, chair of the Board of Trustees, noted the importance of the occasion: "For twenty years," he said, "Middle School #2 has been instrumental in the success of SYA. We couldn't be here tonight to celebrate this anniversary without the support of and our wonderful relationship with Middle School #2." On behalf of SYA, Renfield-Miller presented a bonsai tree to

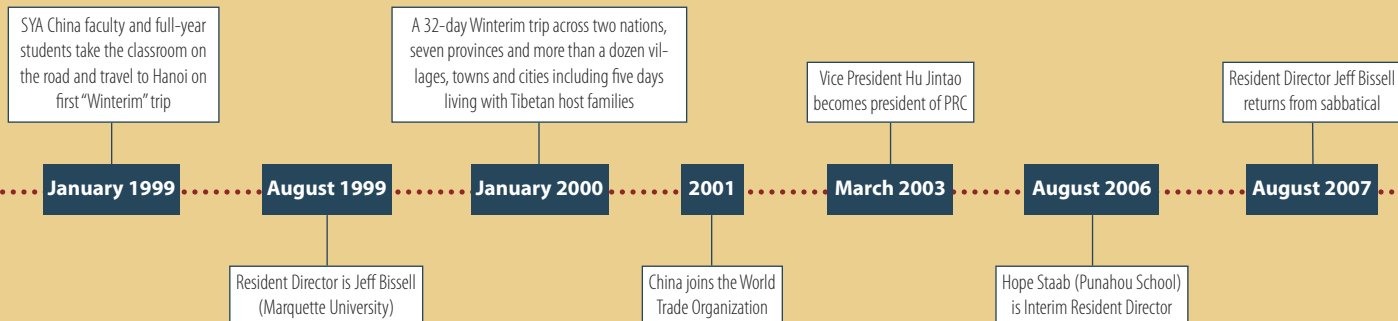
Cao Baoyi, principal of MS #2, in appreciation of the longstanding support of SYA and in recognition of MS #2's former principal Lin Fuzhi, who initially forged the relationship. SYA President Jack Creeden then accepted, on behalf of School Year Abroad, a carved red cinnabar plate, a gift from Principal Cao and his school.

Creeden spoke of the founding of SYA China, dating back to the summer of 1991, when then president Woody Halsey joined a Phillips Academy faculty trip to Beijing led by Ni Xiaomin. There Halsey explored possibilities for an SYA school in China. In 1993, Halsey again scouted in Beijing and found what would become the home for SYA China: MS #2.

It was also through Ni Xiaomin that Shi Lili, host-family coordinator, was intro-

duced to SYA. Shi Lili began as a volunteer and has worked with SYA China since its opening in August 1994. Creeden paid tribute to the trio and presented each with a framed watercolor of the 20th-anniversary commemorative artwork. Said Creeden, "Without the extraordinary commitment of Woody Halsey, Ni Xiaomin and Shi Lili, SYA China would not exist today. Each of these committed educators worked tirelessly to make the dream of SYA China a reality. We're forever in their debt for such outstanding and visionary efforts."

Two of the pioneer students from SYA China's first class, Gabe Seydewitz and Clinton Wu, were in attendance, and former president Halsey acknowledged them and others. "It was a great pleasure to reconnect with families, colleagues and stu-





Student Alex Wade plays the guzheng, a traditional Chinese stringed instrument



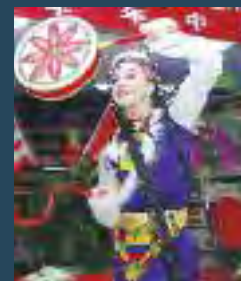
SYA China Host Family Coordinator Shi Lili with Michael Disner CN'00 and his wife, Nora, and children Jackson, Reagan and Samuel



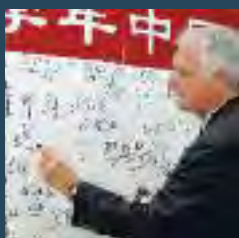
Jean and Board of Trustees Chair Douglas Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P with son Carrington CN'01 and his wife Carla



SYA China faculty member Li Xuedong interprets for host mom Liu Suhong



Jong May Urbanya CN'12 performs a Tibetan dance in traditional costume



SYA President Jack Creeden shares a message on the anniversary banner



From left, Ivy and Matt Tang CN'99, Miguel Payano CN'99 and SYA President Jack Creeden



From left, SYA President Jack Creeden, former President Woody Halsey, Ni Xiaomin, SYA China Host Family Coordinator Shi Lili and SYA China Resident Director Hilde Becker

dents who never fail to say how much SYA has meant in their lives,” said Halsey. “What else could a teacher ask for?”

The sense of family permeated the room as host parents met up with their SYA children or with the parents of their SYA children and alumni greeted their host siblings. Liu Suhong, Chinese mom to Josie-Dee Seagreen CN'09, Anna Hewitt CN'10, Victoria Chen CN'11, Nia Hamilton CN'12, Sophia Bremer CN'13 and Maya Dornbrand-Lo CN'14, spoke to the crowd on behalf of all host families as she fondly recalled her experiences parenting the girls. Since SYA opened its doors, nearly 1,000 alumni have studied in Beijing and more than 425 Chinese families have hosted SYAers.

Kaitlin Solimine CN'97 flew in from

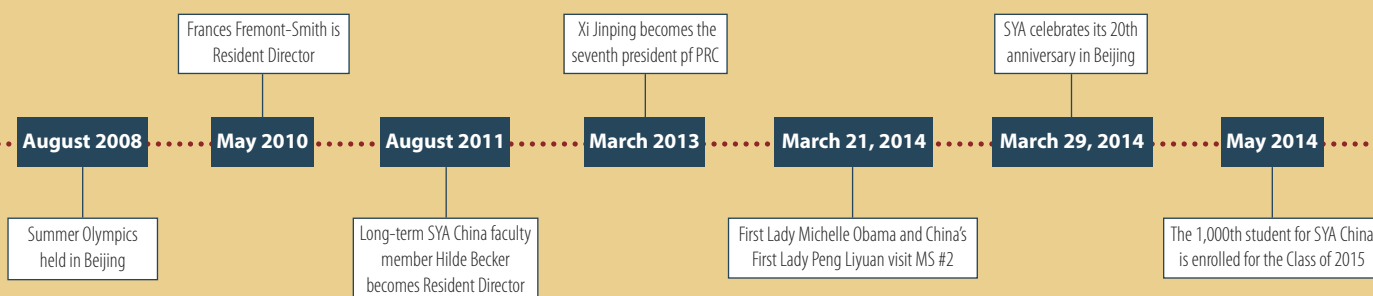
Singapore to participate in the evening's program. She and her Chinese sister, Chen Xi, talked eloquently about their lifelong relationship and being a part of each other's milestones. Kaitlin's proud *baba* (Chinese father), Chen Guanmiao, beamed from the audience as he listened to his daughters.

Students Conrad Young and Meghan Murphy spoke on behalf of their fellow classmates. Alternating between English and Mandarin for the benefit of everyone in the audience, they thanked their teachers and host families for helping them to understand the language and the culture of Beijing and, more importantly, for broadening their global horizons.

The crowd was entertained by Jong May Urbanya CN'12, who performed a Tibetan

dance in full costume. Current students also shared their talents. Alex Wade, son of Charlene Ying FR'81, played the guzheng, a Chinese stringed instrument, and Andrew Medina performed a piece from Peking opera, a form of traditional Chinese theater that combines music, song, mime, dance and combat. Student and campus photographer Michael Chen presented a slideshow he had put together of images that provided memories from SYA China's earliest days.

As the evening concluded, Creeden said, “Tonight we celebrated the vision and tenacity needed to establish SYA China. It's wonderful to see how the groundbreaking, cross-cultural associations formed in 1994 are stronger than ever twenty years later, in 2014. We look forward to many more years of collaboration.” 🇺🇸





Mrs. Obama's recent visit to China focused on the importance of studying in another country. During her speech at the Stanford Center of Peking University, she said, "In studying abroad, you're not just changing your own life . . . you're changing the lives of everyone you meet."

In what way has her statement described your experience?



Conrad Young

SYA China (Hawken School, Ohio)



After the much anticipated meeting between First Lady Michelle Obama and First Lady Peng Liyuan at our school on the Middle School #2 campus, Mrs. Obama talked to us outside the main academic building door. She took pictures with us, wished us luck while studying Chinese and most prominently said, "Make us proud." Although a common enough

saying, hearing it from Mrs. Obama made me consider the greater implications that studying abroad has to offer, not only for me but also for the larger communities of which I am a part.

I certainly never imagined that in my decision to study abroad, I had the responsibility to make "others" proud; I saw it merely as an experience for me to improve my language skills and try something out of the ordinary but after spending this year in China, I have begun to understand the larger picture: studying abroad not only widens and challenges your identity and global awareness; it also has the power to bring unique perspectives and experiences to any community you are a part of when you return home.

Now I realize that the leap of faith I took to study abroad was just the beginning of a whole year in which I was challenged to look past what I was comfortable with and learn to think independently and open-mindedly. I am confident that as I go on through not only college but also the rest of my life, I will be using what I learned in China in a myriad of ways that are simply inconceivable in the moment.



Madeline Kim

SYA France (Roland Park Country School, Maryland)



Studying abroad in France has been an absolutely remarkable, life-changing experience. Since coming here, I have felt as if my head was filled to the brim. I can only explain the sensation this way: learning another language and absorbing another culture are serious mental exercises. I am on a never-ending quest to fill in the holes in my French, to discover concepts inexpressible in English and to stop being a bumbling tourist. SYA has broadened my perspective of the world, and has given me the opportunity to expand that of others around me.

As a foreigner here, I represent my country. My job is not only to observe my surroundings while in France but also to serve as a link between the two nations. Through my host family, for example, I have learned so much about French customs, food, politics, and so on, but I have also shared some of my own culture, such as the awesomeness of mac and cheese. In the end, though, there are more similarities than differences between French and Americans. Realizing that we are all more alike than different is an important step toward understanding others and becoming a global citizen.



Kyle Watson

SYA Italy (The Williston Northampton School, Massachusetts)

As Mrs. Obama's words echo in my head, I reflect on my experience in Italy. The change can be found even over a simple cup of coffee. Breakfast back home was a big deal. I would wake up to the smell of pancakes and sizzling bacon beckoning me to the kitchen. My breakfast in Italy consists of *un caffè* or cappuccino and some freshly baked biscuits, a different but equally enticing beckoning.

On the walk to school, I stop in my favorite coffee bar and order cappuccino and a chocolate treat. I hear the clink

of my mug as it hits its saucer. I look up, make eye contact with the barista and ask, "Come stai?" "Bene,"

Nadia says with a smile.

We talk about Berlusconi and about the unrest in

Ukraine. We talk about where we are from:

I'm from western Massachusetts,

she's from Ukraine. Nadia expresses her concern for her sister still there. This small exchange is in a language we now share, Italian, and over a simple cup of coffee.

Mrs. Obama is right. I've changed. It's not the breakfast that's important; it's the conversation that takes place over a cup of coffee.



Katherine Spry

SYA Spain (Lakeside School, Washington)

Over the course of my study with SYA Spain, I have undergone immense personal growth — absorbing a new culture, becoming more proficient at another language, being exposed to different viewpoints — that has changed my perspective on the world forever. It is easy though to overlook the impact my time has had, and will continue to have, on the lives of those around me.

This experience has opened up cross-cultural communication via a newly interconnected group of diverse people. I feel as if I have become a bridge that unites my Spanish and American friends, serving as a link that enables the culture, values and ideas I brought with me to pass freely from one side to the other. There's a great sense of accomplishment every time I have a successful conversation about Spanish and American politics with my host family or explain the nuances of Spanish meals to an American friend.

My year in Spain has been transformative, creating a bicultural self, but it has also changed my host family and my Spanish friends. This new bicultural self has found numerous cross-cultural possibilities that I'll be able to benefit from long after the year is over.



CALLING ALL ALUMNI:

In what way does Mrs. Obama's statement describe your experience? Let us know at sya.org/change. **Your** response could be included in the next issue of *News&Views*, SYA's enewsletter.



TIME MOVES QUICKLY

By Tati Doyle CN'14

Head-Royce School, California



When I decided to go to China, I never expected to enjoy it this much. I've never experienced as many new things as I have here. Days pass more quickly than I can believe; when I arrived in this country, I felt as if a year stretched out at my feet, impossibly long and full of novel experiences. Now, I feel as if the experiences that are left are

speeding past me like the infinite neon advertisements projected onto the walls of the Beijing subway.

Since coming to China, I've gone a full 24 hours speaking aloud only Chinese. I've given local students English names. I've improved my Chinese at an incredible rate. I've walked farther in one day in one city

than I could ever have fathomed. I've visited Daoist, Confucian and Buddhist temples. I've attended a day of classes with Chinese students in Datong. I stood in a park at 7:30 a.m. with a large group of elderly Chinese people and attempted to do a form of tai chi

that involves a flexible Ping-Pong paddle sort of object, a ball and an abundance of dexterity, which I

discovered myself grievously lacking. I've bargained with vendors in Chinese, making new friends by the end of the transaction.

Could I have had any of these experiences without leaving America? I'm absolutely sure I couldn't have. To go to SYA China is undoubtedly one of the best decisions I've ever made!

“I've gone a full 24 hours speaking aloud only Chinese. I've given local students English names. I've improved my Chinese at an incredible rate.”



THE ART OF DISCOVERY

By Abigail Hunter FR'14

Albuquerque Academy, New Mexico

Some moments abroad are rough; I won't lie to you. These are the moments when you stumble over the pronunciation of a word five times before you render it comprehensible, or when you feel lonely or depressed.

Learning the language is an integral part of studying abroad, and I don't devalue that, but what I've truly learned during this year is to scrutinize everything — from art to film to politics — in a different light, because pictures are nothing compared to the world in person and because I understand myself more deeply than I would have otherwise.

One thing I've noticed since I came to France is that I view all works of art, not just paintings, with a more analytic eye. Everything, from film to sculpture, is now subject

to analysis when once I took it for granted. This, I think, is due in part to the course in art history, but also to the world around me in a way that I find hard to explain. I see more effectively now, with eyes that are not only willing to find flaws but also are better at understanding the nature of creativity as it applies to architecture, painting, graffiti and anything else we call art. From the Thabor Gardens on my first day to the Musée d'Orsay only recently, France has bombarded me with art and beautiful objects since my arrival.

It's a big claim, saying that you'll "understand yourself" by virtue of simply packing up your possessions and moving to another country. It's the act of removing yourself from your context that's important. You exist and define yourself by your ties to places, people and ideas. By spending a year abroad, I cut all those ties and allowed myself to forge new, fresh, and stronger ones. I was forced to discover myself out of my setting and free from my own definitions. The prospect was terrifying, but now I see it as beautiful and important.

“It's the act of removing yourself from your context that's important. You exist and define yourself by your ties to places, people and ideas.”





FINDING MY VOICE

By Waverly Jones-Pouliot IT'14

St. Paul's School, New Hampshire



Italy is great. I've said that a thousand times, and that stands as a testament to its validity. The worst thing about Italy, how small it is, is the best thing about Europe. You can take a train to any other country you want while you're here, and in the process become a full-fledged world citizen. SYA Italy works with students to help us explore as many exotic locales as our hearts desire: ancient-site seeing in Italy, café-hopping in France and skiing in Switzerland. The program opens our eyes and enables us to see everything — people, ideas, news — from a wider perspective than just an American point of view.

Speaking a language is the first step to entering the mind-set of a population, and Italian is the language of a passionate people. Learning Italian has helped me to discover my own voice, even when expressing it through my hands. Italians don't express themselves with just their hands and exclamations, though; they're also pretty big fans of food, which is the best in the world! Each time the amazing pasta tastes more and more like home and warmth.

My host family has become as dear to me as my "real" one, and my friends here have earned "bestie" status because they've had the same experiences and understand the changes we've undergone together. I won't be the same person when I return to America as I was when I jumped on the flight to Italy, but I'll return with two families and twice as many friends.

What if I hadn't taken the risk to spend the year in Italy? I'd have missed the best year of my life!

“The program opens our eyes and enables us to see everything—from a wider perspective than just an American point of view.”



SURPRISES EVERY DAY

By Sarah Tucker ES'14

Charlotte Country Day School, North Carolina



When we first got to SYA Spain, everything was new and strange and life didn't feel real. And I loved it. Every day something surprised us as we were yanked out of the comfortable bubble that had developed during freshman and sophomore year. There were so many new things to do and feel that we didn't know where to turn. It was actually a bit strange to have an abundance of things to do instead of fighting boredom. A whole other world of opportunities opened up and I couldn't get over that I was strolling down a street hundreds of years old to my favorite café, much less the fact that I had a favorite café, and in another country. It was the honeymoon phase and it seemed impossible that this life could ever be dull.

“The simple things are what make SYA special: reading Borges on the bus home, listening to old men argue, telling the barista how your vacation was and discussing travel options with your favorite teacher.

Time passed and life got comfortable. People started to stay at school during *descanso* and complaints turned from “I can't understand this” to “English class threw me off for the rest of the day.” We were assimilating to the foreign, making it our own reality.

But it was when we got to the point at which Spain is the everyday that the true experience started. We were making ourselves part of the rhythm of life here. For a time, however brief, we're part of Zaragoza's world.

The simple things are what make SYA special: reading Borges on the bus home, listening to old men argue, telling the barista how your vacation was and discussing travel options with your favorite teacher. It's not the crazy or outlandish things that make SYA Spain remarkable; it's the fact that it can make us residents in a foreign world.

Event Highlights

2013-14 Events

SYA Homecoming

July 18, 2013

New York City Parent Reception

November 5, 2013

Hosted by Board of Trustees Chair Douglas FR'71 and Jean Renfield-Miller CN'01P IT'05P ES'05P

Boston Parent Reception

November 13, 2013

SYA in NYC

January 9, 2014

Co-hosted by Michael McCarty FR'70

SYA in DC

January 15, 2014

Co-hosted by SYA Trustee and Head of Sidwell Friends School Tom Farquhar

Young Alumni in DC

January 15, 2014

Young Alum Committee: Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga CN'06, Julian Fu, CN'06 and Zoe Stathopoulos IT'05

Young Alumni in Boston

January 23, 2014

Young Alum Committee: Trustee Jenny Wanger CN'04, Paul Minnice FR'04, Tolly Taylor FR'08 and Kaye McKean FR'11

SYA in La Jolla

February 3, 2014

Hosted by SYA Trustee and Head of The Bishop's School Aimeclair Roche

SYA in Los Angeles

February 5, 2014

Hosted by Stephanie and Harold Bronson FR'12P, Leslie Danelian FR'07P, and Louise Danelian FR'07GP

SYA in San Francisco

February 6, 2014

Co-hosted by Holland Goss Lynch FR'86, Hugo FR'77 and Lee Ann Patterson ES'13P and Tschanner Hunter FR'01

SYA in London

February 10, 2014

Hosted by Trustee Natalia Bulgari ES'86

SYA in Portland

April 15, 2014

Hosted by former Trustee Carlos and Malu Alvarez FR'00P

SYA in Seattle

April 16, 2014

Hosted by Mark ES'81 and Anne Corley

Young Alumni in NYC

April 24, 2014

Young Alum Committee: Charlie Aidinoff FR'08, Chinua Green ES'05 and Jamie Silverstein FR'08

SYA in Chicago

May 7, 2014

Hosted by Clarisse Perrette ES'86

SYA Homecoming July 18, 2013

Alumni, parents, faculty and new families attended the 8th annual SYA Homecoming at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. Together we celebrated successes, showcased student talent and welcomed the newest members of the SYA family. Student panelists were Radhika Sharma CN'13, Wes Livingstone FR'13 CN'14, Phebe Miner IT'13 and Leah Shorb ES'13. IT'13 classmates Phebe Miner, Rose Zilla-Ba and Lydia Dick sang in Italian; Acacia Nunes ES'13 read her poem in Spanish, and Michael Chavez CN'13 played a piece on the *erhu*, a traditional Chinese stringed instrument. SYA is grateful to former Trustee Carlos and Malu Alvarez FR'00P for their generous donation of wine for the evening's festivities.



Student panelists Leah Shorb ES'13, Radhika Sharma CN'13, Phebe Miner IT'13 and Wes Livingstone FR'13 CN'14



IT'13 classmates Phebe Miner, Rose Zilla-Ba and Lydia Dick serenaded guests in Italian



Michael Chavez CN'13 played the *erhu*, a Chinese stringed instrument



FR'71 classmates Jay Coburn, Board of Trustees Chair Douglas Renfield-Miller CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P and John Gaebler CN'05P CN'12P

SYA in NYC January 9, 2014

The Garden Room at Michael's New York overflowed with SYAers at the annual reception co-hosted by Michael McCarty FR'70.



ES'84 classmates Jeff Mellow, C.C. Steele and Geoff Scott



Rick and Mary Bradt CN'14P with SYA Board of Trustees Chair Douglas Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P



Martha Cassidy FR'73, Lisa Posey Krakowsky FR'79 and Amy Jedlicka FR'79 FR'12P

SYA in DC and Young Alumni in DC After Party

January 15, 2014

SYA Trustee and Head of Sidwell Friends School Tom Farquhar co-hosted this year's D.C. reception. Young alums headed to Cactus Cantina for an after party thanks to event committee members Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga CN'06, Julian Fu CN'06 and Zoe Stathopoulos IT'05



Maude Fish-Charo FR'14P, hosts Mary Farquhar and Trustee Tom Farquhar (Head of Sidwell Friends School), James Figetakis FR'78 and Patricia Langan



David McKean FR'74 FR'11P, Trustee Carolyn MacIver Millstein FR'79 and Ericka Berry ES'95F IT'11F



Clockwise from left, Emily Barge FR'06, Rafael Notario, Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga CN'06, Stephanie Grimes IT'05, Paige Morency-Brassard IT'06 and Zoe Stathopoulos IT'05

Event Highlights

Young Alumni in Boston

January 23, 2014

Young alumni gathered at Dillon's in Boston thanks to event committee members Trustee Jenny Wanger CN'04, Paul Minnice FR'04, Tolly Taylor FR'08 and Kaye McKean FR'11.



Ellie Kennedy FR'11, Lawrence Hazen FR'12, Kaye McKean FR'11, Tricia Woodcome FR'11



CN'09 classmates Gabrielle Fortier, Ben Kaplan and Kara Panzer



SYA Admissions staff Cheryl Cooper, Tolly Taylor FR'08, Ali Battat CN'08 and Haley Bruns FR'07

SYA in La Jolla

February 3, 2014

SYAers enjoyed a lovely evening at the home of SYA Trustee and Head of The Bishop's School Aimeclaira Roche.



Bryon Kibildis, Gayle Newhouse, Chau Lai ES'93 and Bill Gladstone ES'67



Laurie Peterson ES'05P, host Trustee Aimeclaira Roche, SYA President Jack Creeden and Kim Peterson ES'05P



Tina Tong CN'13P, Hanaa Henersky CN'13SP, CN'15P, Marilee Chancey FR'14P, Ken Breuer FR'14P and Jean Roche

SYA in Los Angeles February 5, 2014

SYAers gathered at the home of Stephanie and Harold Bronson FR'12P along with co-hosts Leslie Danelian FR'07P and Louise Danelian FR'07GP.



Hosts Stephanie Bronson FR'12P and Leslie Danelian FR'07P



Nina Regenstreif ES'13, Ellen Regenstreif ES'83 ES'13P, Jim Singleton ES'14P, Emily Woolway ES'13 and Bob Woolway ES'13P



Jean-Louis Velaise FR'13P, Jeffrey Hartsough CN'06P and Gayla Kraetsch Hartsough CN'06P

SYA in San Francisco February 6, 2014

SYAers gathered at the Pacific Heights home of Holland Goss Lynch FR'86 and K.C. Lynch along with co-hosts Hugo FR'77 and Lee Ann Patterson ES'13P and Tschanner Hunter FR'01.



Hosts Hugo FR'77 and Lee Ann Patterson ES'13P, K.C. Lynch and Holland Goss Lynch FR'86, Tschanner Hunter FR'01 with SYA President Jack Creedon



Laurie Schlesinger ES'14P, Maria Martinez ES'14P and Ken Walker ES'14P



Suzi Hiza IT'05, Peter Esty FR'77F ES'82P IT'05RD VN'10 RD, Kai Paine IT'05 and Happy Esty ES'82P IT'05F VN'10F

Event Highlights

SYA in Portland April 15, 2014

SYAers enjoyed a lovely evening at BridgePort Brew Pub thanks to former Trustee Carlos and Malu Alvarez FR'00P. Guests also enjoyed a short presentation by filmmaker Lydia Smith ES'81 about her documentary *Walking the Camino*.



Tom Breunig FR'74, Peggy Reid ES'86, Lydia Smith ES'81, Susan Reid ES'83P ES'86P CN'13GP and Tonada Koch ES'09



Holly Jander Williams FR'75, Larisa Sharifi FR'95, Bryan Renzi and Andrew Holtz DE'73



Richard Jenkins FR'72, Jonathan Durning CN'12P, Emma Ronai-Durning CN'12 and Melanie Ronai CN'12P

SYA in Seattle

April 16, 2014

Hosts Mark ES'81 and Anne Corley opened up their home for a wonderful gathering of SYAers in the Seattle area.



Host Mark Corley ES'81, Heather Redman CN'13SP ES'14SP CN'15P and SYA President Jack Creeden



Alice Birch FR'83, Dwight Whiting FR'74 FR'08P, Alexa Whiting FR'08 and Mary Whiting FR'08P



Welcome to new students Lizzie Friesen FR'15, Jing Redman CN'13S ES'14S CN'15, Peter Kranwinkle IT'15, Isabel Swope CN'15 and Cecile Roche IT'15

Young Alumni in New York City April 24, 2014

Young alumni gathered for a casual evening at Heartland Brewery thanks to event committee members Charlie Aidinoff FR'08, Chinua Green ES'05 and Jamie Silverstein FR'08.



Clockwise, FR'08 classmates Christopher Gellert, Charlie Aidinoff, Harper Gany-Beitler, Julian Moore, Cherrie Angeles, Celia Rostow and Jamie Silverstein



Claire Moskowitz IT'07, Kristen Nozell IT'07, Aliza Goldberg IT'08 VN'10 and Melissa Nozell IT'05



ES'07 classmates Jammy Penjor and Cecilia Schechter

SYA in Chicago May 7, 2014

Clarisse Perrette ES'86 welcomed alumni, parents and new families at a reception at her home.



Ameerah Phillips ES'05, Host Clarisse Perrette ES'86, John Ellis ES'73, Lauren Elpern Love ES'93, Martha Turner ES'83 and Ben Ranney ES'90



New family Laure Leplae-Arthur CN'15P, Timothy Leplae-Arthur CN'15 and Emmanuel Arthur CN'15P



Elle Sullivan CN'09, Sara Fontes FR'11, Jamie Manley CN'09 and Kevin Meehan CN'98

Current Faculty News



SYA Spain art history teacher
Alvaro Ávila

In September, veteran SYA Spain art history teacher **Álvaro Ávila** will present a talk, entitled “Transferring Process: Reassessment and Scientific Integration between the Philippines, the Americas, and Europe 1480–1850,” at the 17th annual International Congress, Between Spaces: Latin American History in a Global Context, organized by the Association of European Historians of Latin America (AHILA) and the Freie Universität Berlin.

SYA Spain history and literature teacher Oriol Bastardes’ theater class is designed to complement the literature curriculum. The objective is to combine the study of Spanish dramatic literature culminating with a student performance on a local stage for peers, faculty, Spanish families and members of the Zaragoza community. The spring production of “Agarrados en el Aire” by José Maue Arias and “Mujeres Con Historia” by Javier Gil Díez-Conde” this year celebrates the 25th performance by Oriol’s ever-popular theater class.



SYA Spain history and literature
teacher Oriol Bastardes



SYA China math teacher Ernie Chen and his father, Chester, at the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian

Ernie Chen, SYA China math teacher says he is excited to be back teaching math with SYA China next year. This summer he will improve his Chinese-language skills by attending SYA China Summer language classes and then plans on traveling, as he puts it, “somewhere in the world.”

At the time of this writing, **Zhang Tong, SYA China language coordinator**, was busy preparing students for the Chinese Speech Festival.



Zhang Tong, SYA China language coordinator

Chris Czapleski, SYA France math teacher, and her husband, Thomas Hohler, enjoyed accompanying students on a five-day trip to Paris. During spring break, Chris and Tom traveled through Poland, Austria and Germany to visit with relatives and a former student.

Yvonne Mazurek, SYA Italy art history teacher, last year earned her master’s degree in the valorization and conservation of cultural heritage at the Università degli Studi di Viterbo. Her research took her into the inner workings of Giotto’s Scrovegni Chapel, Leonardo’s *Last Supper*, the Vatican museums and Palermo’s Palatine Chapel. Her thesis proposed a sustainable management model that balances conservation, microclimate control, tourism, education and community outreach. She writes about other changes in her life as well, “While chatting with students in the *salone* one day, my daughter Jadzia realized that many students from SYA come from a delightful world called boarding school. Two years later, Jadzia has chosen Episcopal High School, in Virginia, to begin her high school career, following in the footsteps of her role models at SYA.” Yvonne will be taking a leave of absence to facilitate Jadzia’s transition. Their travels begin this summer when they are on the staff of a teen program run by Thich Nhat Hahn and the Plum Village community, near Bordeaux, France.



Brad Park, SYA Italy English teacher (Episcopal High School, Va.), Yvonne Mazurek, SYA Italy art history teacher; Jadzia Tedeschi (Yvonne’s daughter), Jenny Mok IT’14 (Episcopal High School) and Aidan Cron IT’14 (Episcopal High School)

Pascal Montéville, SYA France political science and international relations coordinator, throughout the year has brought SYA students to the Global Issues Network Conference, in Luxemburg; to the Model U.N. Conference, in Lyon; and to Brussels, where students visited the EU Parliament and attended a special session with Isabelle Oury, a French media correspondent whose beat is Eastern European affairs. He also shares that his daughter, Misty, is studying at member school Phillips Academy, in Andover, Mass., after receiving the Kemper Scholarship. She heads to Sciences Po in the fall.

Li Yan, SYA China language teacher, is working on a Chinese-language textbook for beginners. She’ll use SYA student experiences as examples, to give the book real-life content and context.

Former Faculty News

Crayton Bedford FR'68F FR'72-'74RD '75-'76ED writes, "After leaving the academic world, I was excited by my research on the intellectual development of teens and ultimately returned to the classroom with a mission to reform the teaching of mathematics. University High School (UHS), in San Francisco, happened to be looking for someone like me and I was thrilled to go and live and work in that incredibly beautiful city. I had a six-year hiatus in my teaching career when I got a couple of graduate degrees and for a short time became a psychotherapist. I discovered that doing therapy was a lot harder than teaching and went back to UHS, to end my teaching career there. In 2003, sated with life in the San Francisco Bay Area, I longed for a slower pace, four seasons and a home closer to my family. My daughter Alison was then living in North Carolina and daughter Debbie was in Germany, where she had been since graduating from college. Debbie is married to a German and has three children. So, I moved to North Carolina, and I've lived in Asheville for the last decade, surrounded by the beauty of the mountains and rivers that remind me of my Vermont childhood. I teach tai chi, am active in my Quaker Meeting, and have started painting. My trips to France have become infrequent, as most of my traveling abroad has been toward Germany."



Crayton Bedford's painting of his home in the Ardèche

Gary Crossman ES'08F writes, "Laurie and I are still in Portland, Ore., and hope more of you will come through the great Northwest for a visit. We are still teaching but this may be Laurie's last year. Our kids got married within six months of each other, in 2012-13. We have been back to Zaragoza every other year or so and plan to continue that pattern. Laurie and [SYA Spain faculty member] Ángeles Errazu still communicate regularly, so we are up to date on the latest. Our 2007-08 year seems like yesterday!"

Peter Esty FR'77F ES'82P IT'05RD VN'10RD writes, "At age 76, Happy and I sold our treasured house in Sausalito and purchased an apartment in a retirement community, now under construction but not ready for occupancy until November. So what will we do for nine months? We have purchased a used, cozy, accommodating (on a new scale!) camper van. In mid-February we left the San Francisco Bay Area for New England with stops in Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, Louisiana and Florida before heading north through Georgia, the Great Smokies, and the Blue Ridge, Skyline and Shenandoah Drives. We each have a college reunion in western Massachusetts in late May, and then we will prowl among old friends and families in familiar areas of New England. Somewhere we will park the camper van and our trusty dachshund, Luke, for most of September as we head out of the country. Then we're back, in October, to begin our meandering way west across the northern states. If you want to check in on us during our travels, we will be building a blog of pictures and minimal text, visit interlude76.blogspot.com."



Keith Hilles-Pilant FR'95F ES'02F JP'11F IT'12-'13F

Keith Hilles-Pilant FR'95F ES'02F JP'11F IT'12-'13F is about to start a part-time position as executive director of Math for America Boston, a program that identifies talented STEM majors and gives them fellowships and training to teach in inner-city schools.

Becky and Hal McCann '77-'86ED '90ED ES'87-'89RD ES'91-'92RD write, "We love our surroundings here in the Low Country of South Carolina. Although retired, the calendar is full and fulfilling." Hal is involved with the Harbormasters, a barbershop chorus, as well as his quartet, Tidal Fource who sing for civic groups and in hospitals and nursing homes. Becky is an interpreter for the courts and the Department of Social Services. Golf, book clubs and volunteer work also keep them busy. In September, they went to Israel for two weeks and this spring to Spain, including a visit to the new home of SYA in Zaragoza. "The welcome mat is out for all SYA alums and colleagues," they write. *Mientras tanto, salud y buen camino a todos.*"

Steve Morison CN'08-'10F writes, "Emily and I are doing very well. After four years at King's Academy, in Jordan, where Steve launched and now is the director of Arabic Year, we are moving on to Italy. We will be teaching at St. Stephen's School in Rome."

Tim Pettus CN'02F CN'04-'12F enjoyed playing in a North American Bridge Championship tournament in Dallas at the end of March.

Francesca Piana ES'93-'97RD spent last summer in Quito, where she was visited by **SYA Executive Director Nelson Chase** and his wife, Cindy. Back in Boston in September, she continued with her monthly book group meetings at the Boston Athenaeum on literary conversations, world history and ethics. During the fall, she met with Catherine Tousignant, Phillips Academy faculty member, to help develop a course on Latin American literature in translation. In the winter Francesca led an eight-week seminar on Don Quixote at the Beacon Hill Seminars in Boston. She plans to spend the spring in Europe and the summer back in Ecuador.

Christine Robinson FR'86F writes, "I live in Ogunquit, Maine, close to the Atlantic Ocean. I went to Jordan two years ago to teach at King's Academy."



Steve CN'08-'10F and Emily Morison

CLASS NOTES

ES'65

Your class will celebrate its 50th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Mark Pestronk still practices travel law, representing travel companies both nation- and worldwide in travel-business matters, and speaking frequently at travel-industry events. He still writes the weekly legal-advice column for the newspaper of record in the travel industry. He and his wife live in Nashville. They also have a home in Puerto Vallarta, so he stays fluent in Spanish. He has two grown sons, Matt and Mike, and two grandsons, Max and Zac.

ES'66

Class Correspondent
Leslie Reizes
reizes@bellsouth.net

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

ES'67

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Des Runyan is the Jack and Viki Thompson Professor of Pediatrics and executive director of the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. In September, he gave a keynote address on international variations in harsh child punishment and child abuse at the eighth Latin American Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, in Viña del Mar, Chile. This fall he'll be scientific co-chair for the XXth International Congress on Child Abuse and Neglect, in Nagoya, Japan.

Bill Gladstone reports the release of his latest novel, *The Power of Twelve*, in October. It's not a pure sequel to his international bestseller *The Twelve*, but it does develop themes from the earlier novel. Bill is well in Cardiff, Calif., where he runs his literary agency, Waterside Productions. He's off to Barcelona in June to celebrate the wedding of his daughter Tara, who is marrying a Catalan architect, in Salvador Dalí's summer retreat town, Cadeques. Bill attended the recent SYA reception in La Jolla and continues to interview students for this year's programs. He encourages any alumni visiting the San Diego area to e-mail him, at bgladstone@waterside.com, and to check out his blog: williamgladstone.org.

Phil Clinton writes, "The past couple of years have been ones of transition. I left my post as director of Lincoln School in Kathmandu in spring 2012 and decided to take a year's position as a consultant with Dipont Educational Management, in Shanghai. Until then, I'd never been to China, so this seemed the perfect opportunity. Shanghai is magnificent and, as part of my job, I got to travel extensively to other large cities (e.g., Hong Kong, Dalian, Beijing, Tianjin, Changchun and Chengdu) to consult with English-language schools whose graduates were looking to matriculate in American colleges and universities. In August 2013, I began my work as the director of a small "school" serving the depend-

ents of the expatriate staff of the Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Company, which has a huge copper mine near Arequipa, Peru. We currently have 30 students between the ages of five and 17 and are housed on the campus of a large Peruvian dual-language private school. After all these years, I'm finally living and working in a Spanish-speaking environment, and it's wonderful. I return to Barcelona at least once a year to be with my Spanish family. Papá (Dr. Moisès Broggi) passed away a year ago at the age of 104. My son Greg and his wife have two absolutely adorable sons. My son Nate, Greg's twin, was married last summer in San Francisco and I was honored to preside at the ceremony."

Hal Hubener writes, "Last summer I vacationed in Barcelona with my wife, son, daughter-in-law and 10-year-old granddaughter. My granddaughter had so much fun that by the fourth or fifth day she was saying she didn't want to go back home. One morning, while walking the Ramblas, we paused at the Fuente de Canaletas. I told her that according to the legend, she would return to Barcelona if she drank from the fountain. We all took a sip, and for good measure my granddaughter insisted on drinking from the fountain again a few days later. My Spanish mother died about five years ago. My Spanish father, now 93, is sharp as a tack, and still smokes his pipe! I visit him and his two sons every time I'm in

Spain. There are memories from almost 50 years ago, and new ones made with each visit." **Jorge Gaskins** is a husband, father of three and grandfather of three with another grandbaby on the way: in Buenos Aires in July. He has lived in Puerto Rico for the past 40 years and is employed in an aquaculture start-up that will cultivate saltwater micro-algae and raise tilapia and shrimp in parallel poly-culture ponds.

ES'68

Class Correspondent
Vincent Pasternak
vpasternak@aol.com

Class Agent
Kenneth Krushel
kkrushel@earthlink.net

FR'68

Class Correspondent
David Rubin
dh.rubin@verizon.net

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Michael Lamensdorf writes, "My wife, daughter and I have obtained an apartment, La Musique, in the 3e of Paris. We've made it a habit to go each year for St. Valentine's Day and Memorial Day. I hope that all are well. And yes, La Musique is available through Parisperfect.com."

ES'69 45th REUNION

Class Correspondent
Peter Kaplan
peter.kaplan@pnc.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

"One morning, while walking the Ramblas, we paused at the Fuente de Canaletas. I told my granddaughter that according to the legend, she would return to Barcelona if she drank from the fountain. We all took a sip, and for good measure my granddaughter insisted on drinking from the fountain again a few days later."

— Hal Hubener ES'67

FR'69 45th REUNION

Class Correspondent
Tolly Taylor
txtayl@wm.edu

Class Agent
Carter Eltzroth
celtzroth@helikon.net

Thanks to your generosity and continued dedication to the SYA ideal, the class of France 1969 scholar **Mackenzie Possee FR'14** is currently enjoying a wonderful year in Rennes. I (**Tolly Taylor FR'01P CN'03P FR'08P**) hope to see her when I'll be in Rennes for a short visit to see my French mother, who sadly lost her husband of 60+ years this winter. In early January, I enjoyed a superb lunch and afternoon with **Bruce Robson ES'09P** and his wife, Susie, at their beautiful riverside home outside of Salisbury, M.D. Bruce is doing very well. The only physical change I could discern was that he seems to have dyed his curly hair with streaks of gray, probably in order to make me feel better for being the one who no longer looks like we did in our 1968 class photo, taken in the institute courtyard. Many of you may also have seen the photo **Rob Schiller** sent around recently of de Gaulle's memorable visit to Rennes in 1969. Some of us had encounters with the CRS in the "manifestations" that followed. Please send me any memories or photos you have of that day, as I hope to make a collection for the reunion. If you haven't seen the one Rob discovered, let me know and I'll e-mail it to you.

ES'70

Your class will celebrate its 45th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

FR'70

Class Correspondent
Timothy Lydgate
alumni@sya.org

Your class will celebrate its 45th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Mark Lyon writes, "I just won le Prix de la Photographie from la Fondation des Treilles here in France. It entitles me to a three-month residency in Provence at Domaine des Treilles and a stipend. My project includes working in several locations in the Mediterranean basin. Also of note is my documenting one of my classmate's curatorial projects, **Bob Rubin's** recently restored *Fly's Eye Dome*, a Buckminster Fuller visionary prototype that traveled to France this past year to alight on the banks of La Garonne during Le Festival international d'art de Toulouse."



John Echeverria FR'70 visited with former SYA President Woody Halsey during a recent trip to France



Tom Sutherland ES'71 competing at the Engadin Ski Marathon in St. Moritz

ES'71

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Tom Sutherland competed in his second Engadin Ski Marathon and was 24 minutes faster than last year. Congrats, Tom!

FR'71

Class Correspondent
Dave Davenport
david.s.davenport@verizon.net

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Douglas Renfield-Miller CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P had dinner with **Rich Ward** and his family when they were in New York City in September. He also crewed on **Paul Kueffner's** boat for the overnight Faulkner Island race. By using the new alumni mobile app, he discovered that his upstairs neighbor of many years **Jeffrey Berenson** is SYA ES'67! After 12 years with PAREXEL, **David Davenport** has decided to leave the working world and move on to a new adventure—building a house with his husband on their land in Hawaii. SYA guests are welcome to visit, particularly those from FR'71.

DE'72

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

ES'72

Class Correspondents
Sarah Cleveland
sarah.cleveland@comcast.net
Spencer Dick
sdick@tigerstop.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

FR'72

Class Correspondent
Ted Pease
ted.pease@gmail.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

The class of FR'72 pulled off a mini-Maine reunion last September. They had perfect weather: a beautiful fall weekend but still warm enough that many took a swim in Panther Pond. Special thanks to **Tom Walker FR'06P** and his wife, Katy, who hosted the group at Katy's family camp. **Jim Brooke IT'09P** writes, "After eight winters in Russia, including having just covered the Ukrainian revolution and the Sochi Winter Olympics, I escaped Moscow for Bangkok. So, after studying in Rennes and working in French West Africa and in Quebec, I'm now back in La Francophonie, Phnom Penh. I recently took over as editor-in-chief of the *Cambodia Daily*, a newspaper/website with an editorial staff of 50. The *Daily* has a dual mission: training post-Khmer Rouge generations of Cambodian journalists and giving a start to the new generation of American Indochina hands. I'm also editor-in-chief of the *Burma Daily*, a new website. Phnom Penh, my new home is on the Mekong, the water road from Vietnam to Angkor Wat. I hope France SYAers who are coming to this part of the world will look me up. Drop me a line at my new e-mail address: jimbrookecambodia@gmail.com."

"I just won le Prix de la Photographie from la Fondation des Treilles. It entitles me to a three-month residency in Provence at Domaine des Treilles and a stipend. My project includes working in several locations in the Mediterranean basin."

— Mark Lyon FR'70

Around the World and Outer Space

Burton Lee ES'73



Burton Lee ES'73 (front, left) in Dublin with Irish Prime Minister Brian Cowen (center) and fellow members of the Irish National Innovation Taskforce

Burton Lee isn't one to stay put for long. He's constantly traveling for work, he's traveled extensively as a student and he's even delved deeply into space travel.

Today, Lee is a renowned expert on technology and innovation who teaches European entrepreneurship at Stanford University, manages a firm that advises tech start-ups and governments and delivers lectures around the world.

More than four decades ago, though, he was a teenager who arrived for his 1972–73 year in Spain after quite a biking adventure.

"I was not your usual SYA student," Lee says. "I was in Europe that summer with my family. I biked from Dover, England, to Barcelona. I showed up having just biked over the Pyrenees. At the end, a lot of students went home. Instead I got a summer job at a hotel in Sitges as a receptionist."

Lee says he took the job at the Hotel Don Pancho to make some money, improve his Spanish and meet tourists from all over the globe.

Even though the country was in the grips of an oppressive regime and Lee came from what he describes as "a sheltered suburb outside Boston," he thrived during his year in Spain. He had always focused more on math and science, but at SYA he embraced class visits to museums, cathedrals and cloisters.

"It just blew me away. I loved that stuff," he says. "I have a deep love of architecture, art and European history and politics."

After returning to the United States, Lee went on to earn degrees in physics and economics at Brown University. After spending three years advising the prime minister of Jamaica, in Kingston, he crossed the country to Stanford University, where he got a doctorate in mechanical and electrical engineering. His last academic stop was back on the East Coast at Cornell, where he obtained an MBA in finance and entrepreneurship.

Lee has worked on many projects to advance space travel, among them, in 1990, co-founding Spaceport America, a venture to develop a commercial spaceport in Las Cruces, N.M. Lee wrote the initial business and strategic plans and raised \$1.4 million in seed money through earmarks from Congress. Construction of the facility was finally completed in 2012, at a cost of \$209 million, with Virgin Galactic as an anchor tenant.

Also in New Mexico, Lee served as an adviser on innovation for Gov. Bill Richardson's bid for the 2008 presidential nomination.

As managing director of Innovarium Ventures, based in Silicon Valley, Lee provides financial, strategic and technical advice to start-ups, investor groups and universities in

the United States, Europe and Latin America.

With his extensive experience in Germany (he's fluent in the language, as well as in Spanish) and other countries on the Continent, Lee has carved out a niche as a leading global expert on European entrepreneurship and innovation. That's the subject of a course he teaches at Stanford's engineering school, where he's now in his sixth year as a lecturer. He's also worked for some major companies, such as Hewlett-Packard, GE and Daimler.

"I'm first and foremost an industry guy," he says, "but I'm also a part-time academic. I advise European companies and Latin American government science, technology and innovation agencies."

Basically, he says, "I wear a lot of hats."

And wears out a lot of shoes. Lee frequently flies overseas to speak at conferences and to consult. In 2013, he racked up 142,000 miles, with visits to Colombia, Germany, France, Russia, Bulgaria, Finland, the Netherlands, Poland, Latvia and Estonia.

"I'm Stanford's expert on the European innovation scene," Lee says. "It's really fun and very meaningful to help Europe solve some of its critical economic challenges." Lee acknowledges his SYA Spain teachers Ed Sainati (Resident Director), Ángel Vilalta and Spanish history teacher Josep Termes, who were major influences for Lee and his work today.



Members of FR72 enjoying a mini-reunion in Maine



Jim Brooke FR72 IT'09P in his new home city, Phnom Penh

DE'73

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

ES'73

Class Correspondent
Brook Sulloway
sulchiro@yahoo.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Randy Torres writes, "Es abuelo por segunda vez. Su nieta Lava Z Blackman nació el 28 de enero del 2014 para la gran alegría de su hermanito Dagger W. Blackman que con 2 añitos ya es todo un señorito."

Read about **Burton Lee** in the feature on page 14 and profile on page 40.

FR'73

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

ES'74 40th REUNION

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org

FR'74 40th REUNION

Class Correspondent
Carol Weston
carol@carolweston.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

I (**Carol Weston ES'05P ES'08P**) recently published my latest middle-grade book, *Ava and Pip*. In attendance at the New York City launch party at The Corner Bookstore were classmates **Stuart Randall** and **Seth Aidinoff FR'07P FR'08P**, as well as **Emme Ackerman ES'08** and **Charlie Aidinoff FR'08**. **Alice Conklin FR'07P**, a professor of history at Ohio State University, also published a book, *In the Museum of Man: Race, Anthropology, and Empire in France, 1850–1950*. **Hannah Judy Gretz** threw a wonderful reunion! A great *soirée chez elle*, Saturday lunch, Art Institute with **Sylvia Wolf** as docent, gala club dinner with **Stuart Randall** pouring and many toasts, and Sunday morning *crêpes* at Ragdale Foundation. Such fun — and those who missed the 40th vowed to make the next *réunion* in



FR72 classmates Jim Brooke IT'09P, Jerry Weil, Jay Markell and John Cooper at the NYC reception



At the NYC reception are FR74 classmates (l-r) Jan Johnston ES'13P, Margaret Conklin, Carol Weston ES'05P ES'08P, Daria Becker, Hannah Judy Gretz, Carol's husband Rob Ackerman ES'05P ES'08P, Seth Aidinoff FR'07P FR'08P and Kate Weil

"After eight winters in Russia, including having just covered the Ukrainian revolution and the Sochi Winter Olympics, I escaped Moscow for Bangkok. So, after studying in Rennes and working in French West Africa and in Quebec, I'm now back in La Francophonie, Phnom Penh as editor-in-chief of the *Cambodia Daily*."

— Jim Brooke FR'72 IT'09P



Flanking Carol Weston FR74 ES'05P ES'08P are Stuart Randall FR74, Seth Aidinoff FR74 FR'07P FR'08P, Charlie Aidinoff FR'08 and Emme Ackerman ES'08

Cabo. Keep your passports up-to-date because late 2015 is not too far away and **Fernando Salas** is getting ready for us.

On a terribly sad note, we lost our beloved **Peter Greer FR'74F FR'80P ES'93P** in December. He'd been our young English teacher and champion, and he taught us well about literature and life. For many of us, he went from mentor to friend. We were blessed to have Peter and Barbara with us in Rennes, and Peter and Dale with us at our 35th in Atlanta. I cried when I learned that Peter had died, and I think of him often. He lived his 73 years well and left an impact on so many of us and so many other lucky students as well. We'll never forget our beloved Mr. Greer and are grateful that our year abroad was as important to him as it was to us.

Read about **Jan Johnston ES'13P** in the feature on page 14 and profile on page 45.

DE'75

Your class will celebrate its 40th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

ES'75

Your class will celebrate its 40th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Sabrina Hewett Matteson passed away on December 21, 2013, at her home in Washington, D.C., in the arms of her loving husband, Gary, and surrounded by the rest of her family. Her too-early death followed a two-year battle with cancer.

As my (**Cary Weil Barnett**) redheaded bookend from SYA, Sabrina and I remained stalwart friends for 40 years, and I will be forever in awe of her extraordinary and self-made life. She built her own business on an anemone (the flower) farm in New Hampshire, homeschooled her three boys and achieved success by any measure at both. She provided the world with three remarkable people and future leaders. Later, through her work at the American Farm Bureau, she inspired young and beginning farmers with her ingenuity, joyful creativity and drive. Sabrina was an inspiration to many, with her work ethic, her attitude and a dizzying list of personal and professional accomplishments. Sabrina and Gary were also the ultimate do-it-yourselfers. They did everything themselves, including the restoration and preservation by hand of their cherished 100-year-old family lake house in Vermont.

Six years ago Sabrina and Gary moved from New Hampshire to Washington for second careers in agriculture policy. During this time, they adopted an adult refugee from Rwanda and brought her and her young daughter into their Capitol Hill home to mentor and to provide for as members of their family. Though cut short by an uncompromising illness, Sabrina's was an exemplary life, led with purpose, with courage, and with gusto and love to the end. Rest in peace, dear Sabrina.

FR '75

Class Correspondent
Deb Zurkow
deborah.zurkow@allianzgi.com

Your class will celebrate its 40th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Richard Dallett was in New York at the end of December and says he had the pleasure of dining with three relics from yore: the indefatigable **Billy Gridley**, the always amused **Elaine Monchak CN'13P** and the ever contrary **Henry Finkelstein**. Richard says his daughter, Lucia, negotiated him down from a full SYA experience, sadly for him. As a result, for one semester she's with a family in a little village on the outskirts of . . . randomly . . . Rennes! **Olivia Garfield's** daughter, **Lizzie Newkirk CN'14**, is attending SYA China and having the time of her life.

ES'76

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

FR'76

Class Correspondent
Matthew Judson
MATT9006@yahoo.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

After 13 years as the head squash pro at the Sports Club/LA, in Washington, D.C., **Hunt Richardson** is now head pro at the family-friendly McLean Racquet and Health Club, where a lively juniors program is growing fast. **Chuck Curran FR'81**, a member, plays squash there.

ES'77

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Contact alumni@sya.org.

FR'77

Class Correspondents
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Katherine Pharibe Wise
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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

ES'78

Class Correspondent
Diana Taylor Root
dianaroot@mac.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

A flurry of e-mails was exchanged among classmates, including this from **Whit McNulty**, a grandfather twice over, who was getting ready to see Sting: "54 is a ridiculous concept, ¿ay que si? Haven't seen you all in 36 years . . . meet you down at the Cafe Zurich. We'll laugh and cry and hug and I'll go look for some chocolate in Barrio Gótico . . . Señor Vilalta—what an inspiration . . . Ed Sainati and Ms. Atkinson such great people. What a time that was!" **Brooke Sherpick Mohr** writes, "Charlie and I live year-round on Nantucket after a short, mistaken adventure to North Carolina at the end of 2012. We love being close to Charlie's daughter and her husband,

who will present us with our second grandchild in May. Our daughter turned 21 in December, a harsh reminder that we must be getting older, too. Yikes! I remain close with **Ellen Hale Humpert** and touch base with **Keith Moskow** periodically. I'm still amazed by the beauty of the Sagrada Família and feel lucky to have been able to see it in person. Cheers to all." **Chris Schmidt** writes, "I could never persuade any of my children to go to SYA, but my oldest has followed my lead in living abroad. Liza has been living in El Carmen de Viboral, outside of Medellín, Colombia, for the past year. She will return in June speaking Spanish better than I ever did. I'm still in St. Louis and still in the same job." **Lee Kanter**, living up the road from me (**Diana Taylor Root**), in Virginia Beach, writes, "All is well. My son Luke went on a SYA summer program in Beijing a number of years ago and is graduating college after having spent six more months in China as a junior. He's won a prestigious State Department scholarship to study this summer in China. Go SYA with the foresight to open China to American high school students!" As for me (Diana), my husband retired in 2012. I continue teaching Tae Kwon Do. We have four grandkids from our older boys, living in D.C. and San Francisco. Our girls are 15 and 11, and we travel with them as much as possible. This summer we're going to Greece; to Alnwick, England (where Lee and I lived in 1993–94); and to Barcelona for four nights. I'm very excited to show my husband and girls all our favorite spots in the city, and I relive memories as I plan our trip.

FR'78

Class Correspondent
Andrew Wilson
awilson@grier.org

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

James Figetakis and wife Patricia spent their summer holiday and Christmas through New Year's in France and with James's French family. In July they crisscrossed France for four weeks, visiting friends and family in Paris, Strasbourg, the Brittany seaside villages of Le Croisic and Saint-Briac (where James's French family now has three seaside homes) and Gordes. They then spent three weeks during the year-end holidays at a big family reunion in Paris that included his French family. James and Patricia moved from Washington, D.C., to Old Town Alexandria, in Virginia, and love it. **Lorena Galván de Valdes** finds herself wondering how life has gone on so quickly. She writes, "Eduardo and I have three graduates already! Our eldest, Raúl, is a doctor in Mexico City and married last year. Mauricio is studying for his master's in marketing and Elsitia, who's graduating with a bachelor's in nursing, will begin her social service this summer in Monterrey. I continue to teach ESL in La Salle High School and to executives. So life goes on as I patiently await grandchildren!" **Liz Berry Gips** is back in Washington, D.C. Most recently she lived in South Africa, where her husband was the US ambassador, and worked on education programs for USAID. Before that they lived in Boulder. Two of their three boys are now in college and their youngest son is a junior in high school. She writes, "It is hard to believe that we're almost empty-nesters."



James Figetakis FR'78 and his wife, Patricia, on an extended summer holiday with James's French family

ES'79 35th REUNION

Class Correspondent

Katie Eiden

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*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.*

FR'79 35th REUNION

Class Correspondent

Susan Getgood

sgetgood@getgood.com

Class Agent

Carolyn MacIver Millstein

cmillstein@mac.com

Paul Kunkel reports that life is good in Harrisburg. He's still practicing surgery after 22 years and enjoying every day. His daughter, Samantha, is doing SYA Summer in Zaragoza this year and he's hoping that leads to a full year abroad for her senior year. **Kate King Klein** will be in New York quite a bit over the next year and would love to



Kate King Klein FR'79 then (in Rennes) and now

see SYAers. Her husband, Peter, just started working for William Morris Endeavor and will be based in New York, so she will be coming East regularly. She is with Microsoft on the Skype Social Good team, working with teachers and school districts to help increase awareness of the ways Skype can leverage resources and expand opportunities in the classroom. Her two sons are in college, and the oldest will graduate this May. A Seahawks fan, Kate met up with **Alex Alger CN'12P** while in New York for the Super Bowl. She included a couple photos in her update to show "*Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose.*" **Harry Alter IT'12P** still lives in Berkeley and works at the trauma center in Oakland, which you can check in *The Waiting Room*, a documentary about the health-care safety net. He also runs a research institute that explores social emergency medicine (levittcenter.org). He has three teenaged kids and his partner, Dee Dee, has one, so, he says, "our heads are kind of always spinning." The eldest – **Isabel Alter IT'12** – started Wesleyan in the fall, which she loves. Another is on tenterhooks as she waits for word from colleges, and

he reports that "yet another will tolerate me on a college tour of the Northeast next month." Harry also gave a brief update on his cousin **Charlie Rivkin**, who has moved on from his four-year stint as ambassador to France and is now an assistant secretary of state. Harry would love to catch up with anyone passing through the Bay Area. **Amy Jedlicka FR'12P** had a great time catching up with **Gail Aidinoff Scovell** and **Lisa Posey Krakowsky** at the January New York SYA soiree, where she also met some of her daughter's SYA classmates. Speaking of reunions, Alex and Amy are thinking of co-hosting a 35th (!!!) reunion cocktail party at Amy's place in the city this year, and would love feedback on when might be best for folks. Replies to her e-mail (amyjedlicka@gmail.com) would be great. **Betty Carey** has been living in London since the mid-'90s. She's married to a Brit and has two children (11 and almost 8), both born in London (dual passports, of course). She reports, "The years fly by and I find myself on the treadmill of school terms and vacations (or rather 'holidays'). Unfortunately, none of my kids is learning French. Instead it's German and now Latin for one. I learned German in college and then lived a year in Germany, so I can help with the homework." Although she doesn't get back to the States much these days, except to see her parents, she enjoys reading everyone's news and sends best wishes to one and all from France '79. **Angel Lillard** is still enjoying life as a professor of developmental psychology at the University of Virginia. Her daughters, Chaney (21) and Jessica (19), are at UVA and BU, respectively. She reports that she and Jessica had a lovely week in Paris last March, staying in the 7th and experiencing Paris's biggest snow in 30 years! She and her husband recently became the owners of a cottage/island in the northern reaches of Georgian Bay (Ontario), and look forward to spending summers there. She extends an invitation to come visit. **Blake Swensrud** writes that in 2008 he sold some businesses he'd built over the years, bought a sailboat and took the family on an extended around-the-world sail for a year: across the Pacific to Australia, across the Mediterranean and then the Caribbean up to Maine. **Tim Davis** joined him for the first leg, from Vancouver to San Francisco. He's trying to sell *Mustang* now that the trip is over (bit.ly/1lywVVC). Back in the United States in 2010, he started Device Cloud Networks, which he describes as "a company providing a global solution to connect machines to the Internet via cellular, known as Internet of Everything or Machine to

Machine." He reports that the business is just scaling now, two and a half years later, and "entrepreneurship in one's 50s is more challenging." He's happily married to Melissa and they celebrated their 20th anniversary last summer. Kids Spencer (16), Parker (14), and Blakey (10) are all doing well. Spencer studies Mandarin; the others, Spanish. Spencer won't go abroad with SYA, as he's a vital member of St. Albans football team and much looking forward to playing next year as a senior. Blake muses that perhaps the younger boys will end up in Barcelona. He recently saw Amy, and invites anyone passing through Bethesda to look him up. Lisa is doing a second master's at General Theological Seminary in preparation for ordination in 2015. New Yorkers, through May 26, the Narthex Gallery at St. Peter's Church (619 Lexington at 54th) will host an exhibition of her quilts. As for me (**Susan Getgood**), I still live in Bridgeport, Conn., with my son, Douglas, who'll be in high school this fall, and work for BlogHer in New York. Not traveling as much as I used to, but I'll be out west in late July for the 10th Anniversary BlogHer Conference in San Jose, where I'll be speaking on a panel about making money with your blog and generally hanging out with the great people in our community. *A bientôt!*

ES'80

Your class will celebrate its 35th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Janet Romberg Pollack writes, "After 24 years of staying home to take care of my family, I returned to the workforce last summer, as a narrator at the Panda Exhibit at the San Diego Zoo. My husband, Larry, and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary in July and in November took a cruise through the Panama Canal to mark the occasion. The past few years have seen some pretty great milestones in our lives. Our daughter, Rachel, graduated college in 2012. She lives in Minneapolis and is a workshop coordinator for a software company. Our son, Ben, student-teaches and will graduate from the University of Colorado, with a degree in music education, in May. As always, if anyone needs a vacation in San Diego, we have lots of room (especially now that the kids are gone!) and I'd love to reconnect with old classmates."



Janet Romberg Pollack ES'80 and her husband

FR'80

Class Correspondent

Vin Bankoski

vbankoski@gmail.com

Class Agent

Wendy Williams

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Your class will celebrate its 35th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

ES'81

Class Correspondents

Ned Hoyt

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Class Agents

Mark Corley

mark_corley@hotmail.com

Allison Temple Bacon

allisbac@aol.com

Mark Corley writes, "I've spent the last year launching Centrik, a start-up to help professionals find and develop opportunities using their networks (www.centrik.me). We just got into the Apple App Store and I'd be happy to let any SYAers in to the early-access program. It's been great being on e-mail and the phone with other ES'81 folks about a possible reunion in the Bay Area in 2015." **Greg Crowe Lewis** gave up running but became a power cyclist and rode two centuries. He vicariously entered middle school through son Casey (he has another two years for son Ian) and says that it's still awful. He started working part time and in the meantime sold his house, bought another house and raised money for epilepsy and women's education.

FR'81

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Birgit Ferran-Basque writes, "The most important event in 2013 was the birth of my second grandson, Adrià Joaquim. I still work mornings as an educational technologist at the Catalan Department of Education and teach a couple of blended English classes in the afternoon. My eldest son, Sven, is an aeronautical engineer for Airbus in Bremen, Germany. My youngest son, Jonas, is putting his skill with foreign languages to work in a hotel here in Barcelona. I try to make it to the States several times a year to visit my mother. If anyone is planning a trip to Barcelona, I'd love to show you around. **Susan Benesch** was here last spring. I enjoyed catching up with her and taking her to some of my favorite spots. Then we met again last August when I was in D.C."

ES'82

Class Correspondents

Walker Bardsley

wwbardsley@yahoo.com

Lydia Middleton

lydmiddleton@gmail.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Wendi Goldsmith writes, "My daughter, Sylvie, graduates from high school this year and is expressing wanderlust to plan a gap year in Peru. Where does she get that travel and language interest from, I wonder? My son, Alexei, is a sophomore. He excels at math and science is already planning college and career in IT. Although he's good at Spanish, he's not a devout linguist. I'm in the final throes of completing a PhD in climate change—resilient urban infrastructure, and recently published a book on a related topic. I've seen **Ned Cabot** in recent years, and Facebook (and the odd phone call) keeps me in touch with other SYA pals." **Clemens Timothy Galban** writes, "Last summer I got permission to take a couple of years to study in Rome, so I live at the Basilica di San Silvestro in the heart of the city near the Spanish Steps and study church history at the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce. Italian is coming along; at almost age 50, languages don't come quite so quickly, though it's getting better. To already speak Spanish is an advantage, as in some respects they're amazingly similar. Unfortunately, my Spanish is deteriorating because of it as well. All the best to everyone. If you're in the area, please look me up."

FR'82

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Walden Browne writes, "I still live in Orinda, Calif. My son, **Alex ES'13**, spent last year in Spain with SYA, and over the New Year we visited my French family (the Memins) in Rennes. I'm still practicing as a pathologist with Kaiser in the East Bay. In what little spare time I have, I hike with my wife, try not to spoil our new silver Standard Poodle, and enjoy the fledgling Dante book club I started, as well as the two Proust book clubs I attend that function like early-20th-century salons." **Lisa Mellow** moved to Boston in 2013, and says she'd love to connect with any SYAers in the area.

ES'83

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

After 18 years as a director with Ridley Scott and Associates, **Tom Dey** joined Native, where he's crafted a series of spots for JC Penney's "Stop the Retail Madness" campaign. His most recent directorial work in films was *Marmaduke* in 2010. Outside of advertising and feature films, Tom has been directing a documentary, called *A Better Chance*, on the integration program his father helped create in the 1960s. The Alumni Office learned that **Zack Grey**, his parents and close friends recently had a reunion with his host family. He's returning to Barcelona in July for *La Boda*.

FR'83

Class Agents

Sam Bloom

sam_bloom@hotmail.com

Steve Werber

stevewerber@gmail.com

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Robert Angres writes, "I continue to practice law, with an emphasis on criminal appeals, in Fresno. I typically argue in front of the various California courts of appeal, but in January I had the privilege to argue before the California Supreme Court, in San Francisco. I try to keep up my French, and my 9-year-old twins, Garrett and Isabel, are taking French at the local Alliance Française. They want to speak French like their daddy. I hope all is well with the other SYAers from France'83."

ES'84



30th REUNION

Class Correspondent

Marybeth DiNubile Barber

gibbonj@aol.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

My family and I (**Marybeth DiNubile Barber**) now live in Hingham, Mass. My jewelry business is in boxes waiting for me to unpack them. In October, I met up with classmates **Sarah Wood** and **Ken Goldberg** when they came up from Orlando with their son Jacob to visit son Nat at Harvard. Twin son Sam, also at Harvard, was away on a geology expedition. My daughter, Brierley, now 7, and I spent a delightful day at the Museum of Fine Arts with them. I'm delighted that I'm

back in touch with **Lynne Pinkney**. She's been a pediatric radiologist at NYU for 14 years now and has two daughters and a son. **Martha Kesler** tells me she still teaches English at Wayland Academy, in Wisconsin, and is the swim coach as well as the director of the school's plays. This spring it will be an adaptation she and a colleague wrote of the novel *Glory for Me*, about veterans returning from war who have trouble becoming civilians again. She still spends her summers at Cape May. **C.C. Steele** and her family have moved back to New York City from Colombia, but she still teaches in Bogotá occasionally. **Andy Lilienthal** still lives in South Portland, Maine, where his wife is a pediatrician. He runs Camp Winnebago. Their sons, Levi and Rafe, are now 11 and 5, respectively. Andy interviews prospective candidates for SYA and says it keeps him "remembering the wonderful year in Barcelona." **Karla Delgado** writes, "I just completed an MFA in creative writing at the City University of Hong Kong. In February, I visited India for the first time to take a course on energy healing. I loved India and think this will be the first of many visits. Also in February, I climbed Mt. Pulag with my husband, Leon, daughter, Kai (17), her boyfriend, Chris, and Chris's dad. Looking back, I can't have imagined traveling with my parents and my boyfriend at age 17 (the age we were in Barcelona!), so I'm glad we're able to have these awesome experiences together. Waking up at 4:30 a.m. and stepping out of the tent to see a shower of stars up above and the outline of the mountains around us was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. In my mid-40s, I'm on a spiritual path, with a daily meditation practice. Our family advocacy is planting indigenous trees. Please like our page on Facebook: Plant a Philippine Tree. *Besos y abrazos.*" Several of us have been discussing our 30th reunion, which will likely take place in early 2015. If you have any ideas on where we should hold it, please let me know.

"I'm studying in Rome and live at the Basilica di San Silvestro in the heart of the city near the Spanish Steps and study church history at the Pontificia Università della Santa Croce. Italian is coming along; at almost age 50, languages don't come quite so quickly, though it's getting better. To already speak Spanish is an advantage, as in some respects they're amazingly similar."

— Clemens Timothy Galban ES'82

Like Mother, Like Daughter

Jan Johnston FR'74 ES'13P

In Jan Johnston's family, SYA is becoming a tradition.

She says her experience studying with the class of '74 in France was so rewarding — in terms of what she learned and the lifelong friends she made — that when she herself had a daughter, she knew Antonia “Annie” Smith would one day participate as well.

“Annie was spoon-fed SYA since she was a baby,” says Johnston. “She met my friends from there and was very interested in having that same experience.”

Growing up in Venezuela and then nearby Aruba, where her American expatriate father worked in the oil industry, Johnston came to the United States to attend boarding school at Abbot Academy (now Phillips Academy). Within a year, she was making plans to go back abroad, this time with SYA.

“I have the wanderlust bug,” she says, laughing.

Because she was already fluent in Spanish as well as English, Johnston wanted to learn a third language.

SYA France was the perfect choice.

“I had two years of high school French,” she says, “which wasn't very much, so I struggled with the language for about six months. But my friends and I got through it, and they're still my closest friends today.”

Back in the United States, she was accepted by Georgetown University, in Washington, D.C., and saw herself becoming a foreign diplomat. Then she had a change of heart. Her parents and brother had moved to the Sunflower State, where her father had grown up, so she decided to attend the University of Kansas.

“I had missed seeing my family for the prior three years and wanted to go to a big liberal arts school where I could do anything,” she says. “That's when I decided to go to medical school. Although nobody in my family was a doctor, in the back of my mind, I thought that if I became a physician, I'd always be able to be of service to people anywhere in the world.”

After getting her degree from Kansas, she completed a residency in internal medicine in Honolulu, and then moved to Los Angeles to undertake a second residency, in emergency medicine. That took her to her first job as an emergency physician at the Kaiser Permanente Santa Clara Medical Center, where she stayed for 15 years.

In 2006, her husband's job took the family to Louisville. There, she says, she had the good fortune to land a job that combined many of her passions and skills, in languages as well as medicine. Her new position is as an internist at a clinic for political refugees, and she's there still.

“This is a job I feel was made for me,” she says. “We serve patients from 96 countries, so it's like traveling the world without leaving Louisville. They bring their culture

“I believe it was so valuable to my life that I wanted my daughter to have that gift for hers.”



Jan Johnston FR'74 and her daughter Annie Smith ES'13 in Zaragoza

with them, and their language. Every day, it's fascinating to hear the stories of their escape, their flight.”

Johnston says she thanks SYA for giving her the foundation for so much of what has enriched her life. So last year, she supported her daughter's dream to study in Spain.

“I wanted Annie to share the experience with me,” Johnston says. “In a sense, I could relive it through her, but mostly I believe it was so valuable to my life that I wanted my daughter to have that gift for hers.”



Scott Parker FR'84 and his children Noah and Talia recently visited with Solange (l) and Claude (r) de Bridiers, his French host parents

FR'84 30th REUNION

Class Correspondent

Brooke Ackerly

brooke.ackerly@vanderbilt.edu

Class Agent

Susan Truman

truman.susan@gmail.com

Scott Parker and his family recently visited with his host family in Tours. **Alexander Palenzuela** married Eduardo on August 5, 2013, in San Francisco's City Hall in front of the bust of Harvey Milk. Although the marriage is not yet recognized in Florida, where they live, he says it won't be long now. He started his own law firm in July 2012 and is on the list of French-speaking attorneys with the French consulate in Miami. He recently heard from his French sister, who was born a few years after his time in Rennes. Congrats, Alexander!

ES'85

Class Correspondent

Whitney Shugrue Hermann

whermann@sya.org

Your class will celebrate its 30th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Whitney Shugrue Hermann writes, "I love my year in Viterbo. My dream? To bounce from one SYA site to another for the rest of my career. For all of you with kids in high school, if you can't get them to do the yearlong SYA, think about sending them to the five-week summer program. The SYA experience is still as amazing as you remember."

FR'85

Class Agents

Nick Brumm

nick.brumm@gmail.com

Ad Hardin

ashnyva@gmail.com

Your class will celebrate its 30th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Buzz Harris writes, "My partner, Noel Rosenberg, and I are celebrating 10 years of marriage equality in Massachusetts! It's also, not coincidentally, been ten years since we married legally. I'm about to make a midlife career transition, from training nonprofits and NGOs in fund-raising and management into journalism. Looking forward to it."

ES'86

Class Agents

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Natalia Bulgari

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Clarisse Perrette

clarissep@mac.com

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.



Marc Connelly ES'86 on a scuba-diving excursion in Alaska

Marc Connelly is still a surgeon at the Alaska Native Medical Center. He recently celebrated his 46th birthday scuba-diving in Prince William Sound.

FR'86

Class Correspondent

Laurie Goldman Smithwick

Laurie@leapdesign.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Kristen MacLeod writes, "My family and I are still located out in Reno near

the beautiful Sierra Nevada/Lake Tahoe area. I'm putting together a coordinated child-abuse medical program and my husband, Peter, is an orthopedic trauma surgeon. We have twin 11-year-old boys and a 12-year-old daughter. We had the pleasure of seeing the **Halseys** last summer in Maine, where Woody's twin girls and my twin boys take sailing lessons together. Next time we see them, I hope it's in Provence! My daughter and I will get back across the pond this summer, as she's participating in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in August."

ES'87

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Dave Thompson writes that he often wakes up surprised by the fact that he's in his 15th year at Hotchkiss, that he has a 9-month-old (usually the reason he wakes up) and a 5-year-old (who wakes him up if he's fallen back to sleep) and that 1987 is ancient history to the students he works with to send abroad. One of the highlights of the last year was having **Dennis Hartigan O'Connor** speak with science students about the work he's doing in his lab at the University of California Davis on responses to HIV, and spending a week in Tahoe with Dennis and his family during the summer. **Steven Nezhad** returned to Barcelona in 2010 for his parents' 50th wedding anniversary and says he couldn't believe the changes. He visited his host mother and the five of six siblings who dropped by to say hello. He married Aimee Whitlock on January 1 in Vieques, Puerto Rico. In February they welcomed their daughter, Annalee Yvonne Whitlock, into the world.

FR'87

Class Correspondent

Sara Rabinowitz Pinto

sara.pinto@me.com

Class Agent

Duncan Van Dusen

duncan.vandusen@gmail.com

John Boit and wife Kate are thrilled to report the September arrival of their daughter, Zoe, who joins big brother

Oliver (7). Give him a shout if you're ever in D.C., or send him an e-mail: jboit@melwoodglobal.com. **James Hadley** and wife Dee relocated to Boston last summer. He says he looks forward to warmer weather so he can start sculling again. **Gudrun Thompson** is still in the countryside near Chapel Hill with her husband of 11 years and their lovely 8-year-old daughter. She's an attorney with the regional nonprofit Southern Environmental Law Center by day and, as she puts it, shamelessly practices her "now pitiful French with hapless wine-distributor reps at free tastings around town" by night. Speaking of wine, **Tim Froggatt** has left the world of wine and started an exciting venture in oil and gas, based in Shanghai, which helps feed his travel bug. He plans to send his oldest, Alex, to boarding school in New England this fall and is already thinking about SYA for him. **Hope Horton** moved to the San Francisco area a year and a half ago to run the clinical aspect of a private sports-medicine practice for a progressive and inventive surgeon (stoneclinic.com). She says she loves the area and enjoys riding her bike over the Golden Gate Bridge to work. **Duncan Van Dusen** is based in Austin with his wife and daughters (12 and 9). He reports that his health education and technology company, Tango, continues to grow and won a patent last year for an innovation on health savings accounts. **Jade Chao** is busy with a new biotech startup out of Stanford University that has her traveling frequently to Asia. If any SYA folks are in Beijing, Taipei, Osaka or Tokyo, she'd love to get together and catch up (Jadec0606@gmail.com). After seven years in Paris, **Dan Fields** has moved to London with his wife, Tara, and their children, Ella and Noah. He continues to run Global Markets for Société Générale and loves being in London. As for me (**Sara Rabinowitz Pinto**), I'm back in the United States (Jacksonville, Fla.) for a trial year, testing out the American educational system on my 15- and 13-year-olds. My daughter Livia is now 2 and it's great to be near family and get a break from Italy for the first time in more than a decade.



Sons of Katy McLaughlin ES'88

Duncan Van Dusen FR'87's health education and technology company, Tango, won a patent last year for an innovation on health savings accounts.

ES'88

Class Correspondent
Shirley Quirt
sjquirt@yahoo.com

*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.*

Katy McLaughlin checked in with what she's been up to since we scattered: "I went to Barnard for college and stayed in New York City for 20 years. I worked for HBO as a programmer and producer, though in my spare time I became deeply involved in the world of flamenco. I actually spent a lot of time in Seville, first studying flamenco and then producing a dance company of Gypsy flamenco artists for a show I was trying to put on Broadway. It didn't end up on Broadway; it ended in litigation . . . ¡Ay caramba! Then I became a journalist and have worked for the *Wall Street Journal* for the last 12 years, first writing about food and now about real estate. I've done lots of reporting on Spanish chefs and on the South American real-estate market, so my Spanish has helped in many ways throughout my life and career. Married to a Uruguayan man and have two sons, 6 and 7, who go to a bilingual public school and are fluent in Spanish; we live in Los Angeles."

FR'88

Class Correspondent
Jennifer Browne Gaylord
jennpb@hotmail.com

*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.*

Jeff Locker is happy to report after almost 15 years in Asia, life as a "new" actor in Hollywood is finally starting to pick up. He's currently in Syracuse starring in *Chinglish*, which was a recent Broadway hit written by David Henry Hwang and is now making its way into regional theaters. He's also producing and starring in a web series called *Saving Face*, which is a comedy centering on Asian Americans. Although most of his days are filled with auditions, he did get to do a fun, crazy gig on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* and spend the day with the band KISS.



FR'88 classmates Jeff Locker and Rachel Raabe

He's recently started writing and producing, focusing on US-China co-productions. He writes, "I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the reunion *fantastique* we held in the fall in New York City for our — gasp! — 25th! It's insane we never managed to get together before, but it was sheer joy to see everyone and reconnect. What a beautiful group of people with whom to spend such an amazing weekend!"

ES'89



25th REUNION

Class Correspondent
Lisa Walinski-Cruz
lwalinski@comcast.net

Class Correspondent and Agent
Wanda Mann
wanda@wandamann.com

Miguel Martin, his wife, Alison, and their three children, Will, Jack and Katie, live in Richmond during the school year and the coast of Maine during the summer. Miguel says he's just reconnected with **Matt Hoidal** and looks forward to seeing him and his family (with six kids) this summer. **Kristan Haywood Vaughan** lives in Chicago with her husband, Kevin, and their four sons. They own and operate Irish Pubs—they have six pubs now and plan a seventh later this year. Their 14-year-old son is studying Mandarin. **Mark Ramsey** and his husband, Ron, are enjoying life in New York. Mark now works as counsel in the banking department at Skadden. **Mark Bibro** lives in New York City and is married with a 4-year-old daughter, Alexis. He's a partner at the law firm Early & Strauss LLC, where his practice centers on asbestos litigation. He occasionally sees **Tony Arther**.

FR'89



25th REUNION

Class Correspondent and Agent
Micah Singer
micahsinger@yahoo.com

Nina Pozzi-Batista writes from Oaxaca, Mexico, where she lives with her two children, Inoa, 12, and Caio, 9, and teaches art and English both

TJ Buttrick FR'90 finished a year as commander of the International Military Student Office at Fort Benning. His office was responsible for coordinating more than 1,000 visiting students from 93 countries during their studies with US Army soldiers and officers.

privately and in a school setting. **David Douglas**, based in Chicago, has continued his serial entrepreneur ways; he started another interesting company, called yolobe.com, which connects teens with communities of interest. David has earned his chops learning about teens while raising his three daughters, now 22, 18 and 11. **Jude Hoffner**, in Sonoma, is forging his own professional path as well running a market consulting practice and raising another future SYAer, 7-year-old Claire, with his lovely wife, Marcia. Claire is already in a dual immersion charter school, learning in Spanish and in English. **Chad Curlett** is neck deep in child rearing with three youngsters. He started a legal practice in his hometown of Baltimore some years ago (Levin Curlett) and continues to work hard for his clients. **Hillary Burgin Murnighan** lives in the Boston area and is on a break from her work as a physical therapist while raising three kids (10, 8 and 5). She keeps in touch with **Jennifer McQuaid**. As for me (**Micah Singer**), my family and I have had the good fortune to spend considerable time with **Miranda Spieler** over the past several months. Miranda is an historian with a recent award-winning book called *Empire and Underworld: Captivity in French Guiana*. She's teaching at the American University in Paris and raising emerging-polyglot Althea, 3, who's a friend and frequent partner of my son, Zeke, 7, on the playgrounds of Paris. My wife and I are on a sabbatical visit to France and trying, like many of you, to introduce a second language to our child.

ES'90

Class Correspondents
Courtney Drohan Monnich
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Lisa Miller
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Your class will celebrate its 25th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.*

Amila de Saram-Larssen is still in Sri Lanka, where she freelances as a writer covering Sri Lankan politics and the economy. She also started teaching English as a foreign language part time at the British Council.

FR'90

Class Correspondent
Aria Yow
aria.yow@stanfordalumni.org

Your class will celebrate its 25th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.*

In winter 2014, **TJ Buttrick** finished a year as commander of the International Military Student Office at Fort Benning, Ga. His office was responsible for coordinating more than 1,000 visiting students from 93 countries during their studies with US Army soldiers and officers. "Having the experience of living overseas and speaking another language was key to my selection to the job," TJ writes. "We had a big scare in November [2013] as Typhoon Yolanda (as they called it in the Philippines) made landfall over the village in which my in-laws live." Thankfully, TJ's in-laws weren't hurt. TJ's family, including 3-year-old Erica, are thriving. **Esther Conrad** is writing her PhD dissertation on California's water policy, and hopes to complete her studies at UC Berkeley in May

Miranda Spieler FR'89 is an historian with a recent award-winning book called *Empire and Underworld: Captivity in French Guiana*. She's teaching at the American University in Paris.

2015. Esther and her husband, Renjit Mathew, enjoyed a summer Christmas in Perth, Australia, where they were visiting Renjit's family. I always enjoy hearing about **Daria Saraf's** adventures. In 2013, she writes, she "turned 41derful as I'm sure many of you all are. I ran into **Apollonia Morrill** at Bar Jules [a San Francisco restaurant] over the holidays. We each agreed that we look exactly the same." Daria and her family still live in San Francisco. Her kids, 9 and 7, attend the French American International School and "happily order *moules frites* when they're able." Daria adds, "I'm trying to work on my handstand . . . I may never make it to the circus . . . I'm perfecting my pavlova, minestrone, and *tarte au citron*, and working on improving my goodminton game (a slo-mo version of badminton that uses a feather birdie)." Way to go, Daria!

ES'91

Class Correspondent
Allison Amend
allison639@yahoo.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Allison Amend published her third book (second novel), *A Nearly Perfect Copy*, with Nan A. Talese/Doubleday (an imprint of Random House) last spring. It came out in February in paperback. She's a professor at Lehman College in the Bronx, and lives in Manhattan.

FR'91

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Charlie Davis writes, "I live and work in Beijing, where my wife, Bridget, and I are Foreign Service officers at the embassy here. Our 5- and 7-year-old daughters are stronger Chinese speakers than I ever was a French speaker, but it's fair to say the seeds of this peripatetic life we lead were sowed during SYA France. I've connected with several SYA China alums, notably **Matthew Reichel CN'05** and **Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga CN'06**, both of whom have provided invaluable direction and background on China and Northeast Asia, the focus of my position in the embassy's political section. I'd love to hear from any SYAers who are coming through China or who'd like to know more about the Foreign Service."

ES'92

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Contact alumni@sya.org.

FR'92

Class Correspondent
Hilary Stokes Taylor
hilstokes@yahoo.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Mazy Dar writes, "My wife (Valeh Vakili) and I welcomed our third child in August, a daughter named Ava. She has two brothers, Zand (5) and Giv (3). Last year Zand was in the same class as **Todd Clapp's** daughter Charlotte at Chelsea Day School. A coincidence, and a great way to reconnect with Todd. I've recently gotten together with **Amber Oliver**. First we ran into each other at a supermarket in Turks and Caicos, then it turns out we're living not far from each other in Manhattan and are both working on start-ups. I showed up at the SYA in New York City in January, hoping to reminisce with classmates, and was the only one from FR'92." **Manfreid Chua** and I (**Hilary Stokes Taylor**) also reconnected with two days of fun in the sun in San Diego this January, with his wife, Sharon, their twin girls, and my daughter, before the Chuas flew to Singapore to start a new chapter in their lives. Here in California still, Sadie is almost 5 and asks me to speak to her in French, Spanish and Hebrew (but she's way better than I am at that one). Future SYAer? I hope so. To everyone out there, may the rest of 2014 be wonderful!

ES'93

Class Correspondent
Lexie Greer
lexieleegreer@gmail.com

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Asa Piyaka writes, "I live in Washington, D.C., with my wife, Hoa. We have two sons, Leo Satya (almost 2½) and Arun Morningsong, who was born in December. I work for USAID as a humanitarian policy advisor, behind the scenes on humanitarian responses to a number of ongoing crises. My wife works on human-rights programs for a grant-making foundation. Other than family and work, I spend most of my mental energy thinking about athletic endeavors (currently running and triathlon racing) and strategizing ways to be outdoors. I miss the simple adventures of youth in Barcelona."

FR'93

Class Correspondent
Amy Atlas Deutsch
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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.



ES'94 classmates Chris Hall and Zev Salomon with daughters Roxanne and Noa

ES'94 20th REUNION

Class Correspondent
Amy Smith
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Class Agent
Christopher Barraza
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Zev Salomon toured the West Coast over Labor Day with his wife, Michal, and little girl, Noa. They stopped in L.A. to see **Chris Hall** (with his wife and their daughter, Roxanne) and then in San Francisco to visit with **Amy Smith** (and her daughter, Chloë; see below). Zev is based in Chicago working in real estate. **Leon Kirkland** and wife Barella welcomed a baby boy and launched their own company, Pelzer's Pretzels. The shop location is in Brooklyn, but the online store is live, so now you can get your hands on these delicious pretzels whenever you want. **Bernadine Ileteo** wrote to say she last saw the facade of the old SYA Spain in March 2011 when she and her husband took a vacation from their jobs at the time in Liberia. In December they had their second child, Mariela, who joined big sister Coralee (2). **Louise Conrad** is taking a short leave from her fisheries biologist position with the state of California to enjoy her newborn son, Emmett, and her toddler son, Rowan. Amy and 2-year-old Chloë live in San Francisco. All that time spent working on Oriol's class play "*Maribel y la extraña familia*" has come in handy, as Amy acts as a horror hostess, Ms. Monster, with six new episodes slated for release on ROKTV this year (she also has a day job in finance). **Cristina Birks** is in Montreal working as a commercial litigation lawyer, traveling abroad whenever she gets the chance. **Lisanne Norman** is married, lives in Cambridge and is almost finished with her dissertation at Harvard. **Emily Irish Kohler** welcomed daughter Anna Kohler in June. Anna's brother, Jack, is 2.



ES'94 classmates Amy Smith and Zev Salomon with their daughters Chloë and Noa

"I live and work in Beijing, where my wife and I are Foreign Service officers at the embassy. Our 5- and 7-year-old daughters are stronger Chinese speakers than I ever was a French speaker, but it's fair to say the seeds of this peripatetic life we lead were sowed during SYA France."

— Charlie Davis FR'91

Class Correspondent
Lori Gaines Freund
 lori.gaines@gmail.com

Class Agent
Mimi Crume Sterling
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Lori Gaines Freund FR'94's future SYAs

Lori Gaines Freund writes, "I got my degree in special education and then went on to Columbia University's Teachers College, where I earned a master's in special education. After that, I headed to San Diego, where I taught kids with severe emotional and behavioral disorders. I spent much of my time advocating for my students to get more services, so the next stop was the University of San Diego Law School to become an official advocate for kids with special needs. I met my husband while in San Diego and moved back east to be closer to our families. We got married in New York City; **Eleanor Assa** was in attendance. Now I'm a special-education attorney in New Jersey (at the Shore, where I grew up), representing kids with disabilities in disputes with their school districts over appropriate educational programming. I have four kids . . . wow. Our daughter, Emersyn (Emmy), just started kindergarten and is almost 6. Our son Dashiell will soon be 3. I received a huge shock last summer when I found out I was pregnant with twins! Hunter and Hartley were born in February. My husband and I are super busy with our full-time jobs and our litter of children and we love every minute." **Ann Lewis** writes, "I have two master's degrees: one in healthcare administration and the other in nursing with an acute-care specialty. I'm a board-certified advanced holistic nurse, a certified nurse educator, and a board-certified acute-care nurse practitioner. I'm also a PhD candidate at Rutgers, completing research in spirituality and health-promotion behaviors, which I hope to finish just as soon as my husband and I stop adding to our litter, which is at four at the moment, all boys: Brent (8), Eric (6), Scott (3) and Ryan (15 months). I'm quite involved in the life of the college

and the community at large, and feel like I'm settling in to the path that I've called to follow." **Megan Seltz** is a psychologist in New York City and performs expert evaluation in legal cases. She's also the mother of three wonderful children: Leo, Naomi and Hannah. **Audrey Richert** writes, "In 2000 I almost finished a BA/MA in international policy, but had an abrupt career change of heart. After completing the prerequisites, I finished my BSN at San Jose State University in 2005 and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Army. The two highlights of my Army career so far are my deployment to Iraq in 2009 and completing my master's as a critical-care/trauma clinical nurse specialist at the University of California San Francisco in 2012. I'm a senior captain stationed at Joint Base San Antonio, teaching in a critical care/emergency nurse fellowship program. My first opportunity for promotion to major occurred in August; the results will be released in November. I enjoy CrossFit and the single life! **Jonathan Bender** has been back to Rennes several times, and is still in touch with the Ronarc'h *chevalier* of Thorigné-Fouillard! This was in part because of his work at Air France for four years, before moving to Dubai with Emirates 10 years ago. **David Sullivan** lives with his wife in central Washington state, where he works as a pediatrician for the Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic. They have two kids, Anna (3) and Felix (1 month). **Charles de Saint-Aignan** writes, "Oddly enough, I have a cousin (actual; not SYA cousin) who decided to get married near Rennes, at the church of Piré-sur-Seiche, a town southeast of Rennes. I jumped at the opportunity to stay with the Bernardini family, who welcomed me with open arms, almost 20 years to the day. I quickly fell back into old habits, with three-minute showers and three-hour meals." [The Alumni Office adds that a small-world coincidence connected Charles with **SYA President Jack Creeden** in Los Angeles. At the airport, Charles spotted Jack's SYA

luggage tag.] After college, Eleanor went to New York City to work for Clinique and then Paris to work at Parfums Christian Dior. After three years, she headed back to the United States for business school. While in Paris she met her future husband ("Yes, French, I know," she writes, "so predictable!"). The couple married in New York; Lori and Jonathan were there. Eleanor and her husband then moved to London, and they've been there for almost nine years. She continued her career in cosmetics working for several brands in marketing and digital roles, and now has two boys. After Rennes, **Dana Haigh** went to Drew University and studied French literature and art history. She and her husband then moved back to Massachusetts, where she worked in various art-related jobs until she began having kids. She's now a happy mom of three children: 6, 3 and 2. **Jenny Engels** writes, "After Rennes I stayed on for another year as an au pair before muddling my way back to and through col-



Jenny Engels FR'94 and family

lege, eventually getting degrees in geology and international studies at Oregon State. In 1999 I studied geophysics in graduate school at the University of Hawaii, and after a lifetime of constant rain in Oregon and Rennes, I fell in love with the islands. I married in 2003 and my husband and

I returned to Oregon (that lasted just 18 months!) before settling on Oahu for good. I tried environmental consulting briefly before returning to the University of Hawaii to teach geology. Our daughter, Hannah, was born in 2009, Samuel came along in 2011, and I've been happily working part time as research faculty and full time as mom since then." **Eddie Lin** headed off to Macalester College, in Minnesota, for East Asian studies (he spent some time in Kunming, China). Now he's back in Seattle, working as a real-estate attorney, and is married with two boys (9 and 4). **Juan Gonzalez** writes, "I'm in Bangkok working for a refugee rights NGO. I've been meandering my way through the legal profession since graduating from law school in 2007, and spent time in Texas, California, China and now Thailand." **Annie Stilz** is still in touch with the kids from her French family (the Joubrels) and is sad to report that Françoise (her French mother) passed away a few years ago. She writes, "I went to UVA for college, then from there to graduate school in political science at Harvard, and now I teach political theory at Princeton. Along the way, I learned some German and spent 2005-06 in Berlin. Somehow learning another language made my French much worse! My husband, Hillel, and I got married in 2010, but no kids yet. **Mimi Crume Sterling** had quite a surprise when she was in a presentation among 200 people and saw **Fiona**



Mimi Crume Sterling FR'94 and family

Smith Singer's face flash on the screen. It turns out that Fiona is the model for the Videoliscious company, owned by her husband, which Mimi's digital team was talking about! Mimi is married to a wonderful chef named Ulrich Sterling, who's working on developing a few cooking shows, and they have two kids: Genevieve (Veva; almost 2) and Murphy (7 months). **Nate Brown** is Veva's godfather. Mimi works at Hearst in PR for *Harper's Bazaar*, *Town & Country*, *Good Housekeeping*, and *Food Network Magazine*. She's been back to France many times, having worked for several French companies such as Hermès and Assouline.

"I'm a Chinese teacher in Pittsburgh at Shady Side Academy. I'm also the dean of Concordia Language Villages' Chinese Language Village, Sen Lin Hu, during the summer. Olivia Heckbert CN'12 studied Chinese with me the year after she returned, and I just hired Giles Bischoff CN'13 to work at camp this summer."

— Jeff Lamb CN'95

CN'95

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 20th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Jeff Lamb writes, "I'm a Chinese teacher in Pittsburgh at Shady Side Academy. I'm also the dean of Concordia Language Villages' Chinese Language Village, Sen Lin Hu, during the summer. **Olivia Heckbert CN'12** studied Chinese with me the year after she returned, and I just hired **Giles Bischoff CN'13** to work at camp this summer." **Clinton Wu** and **Gabe Seydewitz** attended SYA China's 20th Anniversary in Beijing.

ES'95

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 20th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

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FR'95

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.



A mini-reunion for FR'95 classmates

Diane Carr Boulay writes, "I've been living in France for the past five years, working at UNESCO as an education analyst. My husband and I welcomed our second child, Julia Fleur Boulay, born in November. I'm looking forward to attending the wedding of my French sister, Charline LeClainche, to be held this summer in Saint-Malo. In November 2012 a handful of FR'95 alums happened to be in Paris. **Aubin Dupree** organized our mini-reunion and it was wonderful seeing him as well as **Heather Chaffin**, **Hannah Fischer-Baum** and **Will Rawls** after almost 18 years. Our memories of SYA were still vibrant, with feelings of wistful affection shared by all and the recognition of the profound impact that year had on our lives."

CN'96

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Emily Hanson was appointed to the board of Yinghua Academy, a Chinese-immersion charter school in Minneapolis.

ES'96

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.



Patrick Oppmann ES'96 with his family in Cuba

Patrick Oppmann and his wife, Alexandra, welcomed the birth of their son, Nicolas Patrick, last year. Their 2-year-old daughter, Alma, is enthusiastic about baby Nicolas's arrival and her new role as a big sister. Patrick and

"It's been a fascinating experience to be one of the few American reporters living in Cuba and witnessing the gradual opening of a closed society. I've covered a papal visit, hurricanes and international diplomacy."

— Patrick Oppmann ES'96

family have now spent two years in Havana, where Patrick is based as a correspondent for CNN International. He writes, "Journalists often talk about how we're privileged to have a front-row seat to history being made. It's been a fascinating experience to be one of the few American reporters living in Cuba and witnessing the gradual opening of a closed society. I've covered a papal visit, hurricanes and international diplomacy. Although living and working in Cuba presents many challenges, it's also provided me and my family with some unforgettable adventures."

FR'96

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Virginia Brumby has opened a second office of her Singapore-based lifestyle and marketing company, Survival Chic (www.survivalchic.com) in Phnom Penh. She and her husband, Christophe Ferreira, would love to hear from any SYAers moving to Singapore or Cambodia.

CN'97

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ES'97

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Corey Lazar writes, "I have the cutest 9-month-old, Josephine James Persinko, who was born in May 2013. I live in Washington, D.C., and still lawyer for the US government. I'm in good touch with **Amy Berliner Carson** (who I hope will share news of her daughter, born just a few months before Josephine) and in semi-regular touch with **Jonah Burke**. Otherwise, I'd love to see and hear from any SYAers who happen to be living in/visiting the nation's capital. **Ricky Radaelli-Sanchez** writes, "We took our family to India for Diwali last November (my wife's father is Indian) and this summer we're headed to Germany (my wife's mother is German). My German is now actually better than my Spanish, as that's what we speak to the kids." **Will Hixon** writes, "I'm nearing six years back in



Daughter of Corey Lazar ES'97

"I've been living in France for the past five years, working at UNESCO as an education analyst."

— Diane Carr Boulay FR'95

Gwen Floyd ES'97 co-founded Soko, an online store that connects consumers to global makers and handcrafted jewelry from the developing world. She was recently featured in *Fast Company*.



Lycia Grant Alderin
FR'97's son has already
been bitten by the
travel bug



Tim Harrington FR'97's future SYAer



Amy Berliner Carson ES'97 with her family

Houston, and I continue to shirk responsibility through bachelorhood. I play lots of tennis and travel frequently." **Cliffe Killam** writes, "I've been living in Laredo for three years since moving from Houston. I focus my time on oil/gas, real estate, and my new tech investment (www.citizen-shipper.com). I co-taught a business law college course in the fall, part of a four-course accounting certification program I helped create at Texas A&M International. I also initiated a petroleum engineering program at Texas A&M International (which included soliciting and raising \$2.1 million). I'm very much interested in catching up with anyone from SYA and also new people involved in tech start-ups." **John Davis** writes, "The major update is that my wife and I are expecting our second daughter at the end of March, and we're eagerly awaiting her arrival." **Gwen Floyd** co-founded Soko, an online store that connects online consumers to global makers and handcrafted jewelry from the developing world. She was recently featured in *Fast Company*. **Natalie Benjamin** writes, "I recently started a medical clinic at the Sacramento Native American Health Center. I got married over Memorial Day weekend, on a farm in West Sacramento. I live in Davis, which is idyllic in almost every way. And I get to ride my bike to work all through the winter (when it's not raining)." **Adam Mendelson** writes, "I got married in September 2012 in Bozeman. My wife, Aida, and I live in San Francisco. I left the renewable energy project finance world a couple of years ago and started a company called Mortar & Mash; it will be an event space and restaurant in San Francisco with a co-located distillery.

We're hoping to open in early 2015." Amy writes, "I'm living in Los Angeles but probably not for long. My husband is finishing up his general surgery residency at UCLA and we'll likely be moving this summer, but we don't know where yet. We had a baby girl in February 2013, and she, along with my part-time job as assistant principal of an elementary school, has been keeping me very busy." **Serena Moss, Becka Schultz, Gwen, Zannah Straw-Gast McDevitt and Rebecca Cohen** all got together in rural Maine for the better part of a week in 2012. Gwen and Zannah live five miles from each other in Oakland.

FR'97

Class Correspondent
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Class Agent
Andrew Sullivan
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Lila Dupree writes, "I recently closed a five-month run of a mad comedy here in L.A. called *El Grande de Coca-Cola*. It's Monty Python meets a bad Mexican cabaret. We had a lovely sold-out, extended run and the producers are now looking to transfer the show Off-Broadway. I also have a short film called *Walk the Light* (which I wrote and produced) that's just finishing the festival rounds and did rather nicely; it went to about 30 venues and won a few jury awards. It stars Michael Richards and is about two guys who

live and work in the walk/don't walk box of a traffic light." **Lycia Grant Alderin** joined the banking group at White & Case (New York) at the end of October and relocated to the Paris office in April. Her son, Maksim, turned two on February 1 and she's excited about immersing him in Parisian culture. **Bronwen Halsey Murch** welcomed her third child in October: Phoebe Luella Murch. She was born on the farm, just like her brothers before her, and her father before that! The Bolinas farming life is full of magic, she says, and she encourages any fellow SYAers who are in the Bay Area to come "*nous rendre visite*." **Tim Harrington** and his wife, Jessica, live in California. Tim works for Google as a green-energy lawyer. They have a young son, Luis, and a new daughter, Josephine. **Terna Tilley-Gyado** writes, "I'm in Boston, back in school (third master's, thinking I'll go for the doctorate this time) studying counseling psychology and global mental health." **Mao Fujisaki Hughes** lives in Stamford, Conn., with her husband, Tom, and two kids: Teddy, 4, and Maya, 2. She works at Design Republic, an architectural firm in New York City, mainly on luxury retail and commercial projects.



Mao Fujisaki Hughes FR'97's children, Teddy and Maya

CN'98

Class Correspondent
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Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Our fearless group has been embarking in droves on a new adventure: parenthood. In the last 12 months at least four of our original 40 have reproduced. **Taj Frazier** wrote that he and his wife welcomed son Seu Romare Frazier on May 22, 2013. **Kyle Armstrong's** family doubled in size with the addition of twins Catriona Nessa (aka "Catwoman") and Graden Geard Esmael on October 16. Yasmine and Kyle are doting parents already dressing their kids up in Hoya gear. The Andreadakis household grew in November as **Becca Neagle** and her husband welcomed Trey. Big sister Bella seems thrilled. More recently, **Luke Durkin** and wife Shanna fell in love with daughter Gabriela on February 24. Luke's host family notes, "She's born in the year of the horse—it is said that the person born in this year is energetic but impatient, smart but fickle." Sounds like a handful! The rest of us have our hands and lives full with other endeavors. **Kevin Meehan** moved with his cocker spaniel to Milwaukee, where he's a program manager in the automotive field. He's been living in different cities in China, primarily Shanghai for the past 10 years. Welcome home! He says he's happy with his move but looking forward to some warmer weather. **Conor Huseby** is a criminal defense attorney representing, for the most part, individuals facing the death penalty. **Catriona**

"I have a short film called *Walk the Light*, which I wrote and produced, that's just finishing the festival rounds and did rather nicely; it went to about 30 venues and won a few jury awards. It stars Michael Richards and is about two guys who live and work in the walk/don't walk box of a traffic light."

— Lila Dupree FR'97

Scott is an energy analyst in London, where she lives with her husband and their daughter, Aurelia. **Ryan Tucker** is doing corporate strategy and business development for GE Capital, focused on emerging markets, and lives in Connecticut. **Jessica Ewing Harmatys** works in International Student Services at the University of Wisconsin Madison and runs a program called Bridge. The rest of her life is occupied by her 3-year-old. **Beth Goldberg Hartman** and her husband are foreign service officers at the State Department. **Kate Moore Davenport** is the director of business development for a zero-waste organization that does post-consumer recycling and composting. She's in Minneapolis, as is **Joshua Tanz**. **Jaroslava Panakova Haliganda** is a social anthropologist, professor and documentary-film maker. She'll be working in Paris for the next year. **Luke Willis** is moving around, currently in Istanbul but dividing his time among Japan, New York and San Francisco for work. **Alena Graedon** is still in New York City and just published a novel, *The Word Exchange*. I (**Tinsley Anderson**) am still a general surgery resident at the University of Arizona in Tucson, slowly moving up the ranks.

ES'98

Class Correspondent
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FR'98

Class Correspondent
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Caroline Frost runs her private psychotherapy practice, Live Well Therapy, in Los Angeles and lives in nearby Silver Lake. **Sarah Mehta** moved back to New York City from Detroit and lives in Fort Greene. She's still an attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union working as an investigator with the Human Rights Program. **Ashleigh Garza Byrne** recently moved to Salt Lake City and is thrilled to have welcomed a baby brother, Brooks, for her son Caden. **Kate Shawver** is the proud new mom of a charming little girl named Luna and has moved with her family to Lima. **Julia Diamond** works for The Music Center, the performing arts hub of Los Angeles County, as the director of programming for Grand Park. **Mariah Levin** is also a new proud mom: daughter Virginia (Vira)



Vira, daughter of Mariah Levin FR'98

was born in November. She and **Nadine Waldman** see each other regularly, though her family has temporarily moved to eastern Ontario while she's on maternity leave. **Susanna Emmet** is delighted to announce the arrival of her daughter, Flora, born in July. She lives in L.A., enjoying the sun and the outdoors. **Annie Porter** got married in September to the love of her life, an environmental biologist and fellow tristate transplant. They live in a small rural town in central Maine. At the time of this writing, they were expecting their first child, a son. After years of commuting long distances, Annie says she's excited to be a full-time "mum." As for me, (**Gabriela Herman**), I'm engaged to Tyson Evans, and we're planning a June wedding on Martha's Vineyard.

CN'99

*Can you volunteer to be your class agent
or class correspondent? Contact
alumni@sya.org.*

Greg Pan married Maryann in 2012 and works as a licensing attorney in Marvel Entertainment under the Walt Disney Company. He works closely with Disney's China offices and has also been part of the team putting an *Iron Man* attraction into Hong Kong Disneyland. This will be Marvel's first permanent attraction in a Disney park.

Clay Pell ES'99
CN'01 is running
for governor of his
home state of
Rhode Island.



Greg Pan CN'99 and his bride



*Sam Buckingham Noonan CN'99's daughter,
Natalie*

ES'99

Class Correspondent
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*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.*

Maya Smith has settled nicely into her new life in Seattle and her job at the University of Washington. She's happy to report that she bought her first home and that even with her new career, she's able to travel. Maya saw fellow SYAer **Michelle Hulme-Lippert**, who was passing through town—the first reunion in 13 years. **Sophie Funkhouser Beal's** daughter, Simone Victoria Shen, was born on Halloween and joins older brother Gabriel. Sophie's book *Brazil Under Construction: Fiction and Public Works* (Palgrave Macmillan) was published in September. **Katharine Bernstein** got married last June. She's in her fourth year of a PhD in clinical psychology at St. John's University. **Clay Pell CN'01** is running for governor of his home state of Rhode Island. Good luck, Clay!



Sophie Beal ES'99's children

FR'99

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*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Please contact alumni@sya.org.*

Marc Anthony Brigolin writes, "After living and working in Dallas for the last several years, I decided to make a major move . . . in all aspects of life. In the last year and a half, I married my longtime girlfriend, Kelli, resigned from my corporate career, and relocated across country to Ann Arbor. I now work at the University of Michigan managing technology and financial operations. After the whirlwind year, Kelli and I are thrilled that we're expecting our first baby." **Lisa Petzold** and **Vanessa Janowski** recently ran into each other in Bangkok, where they were both on business. Vanessa is based in New York City and works for a tech company.



FR'99 classmates Lisa Petzold and Vanessa Janowski in Bangkok

CN'00

Class Correspondent
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Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

We have three new members of our class community since our last class news. **Jordan Caswell Dolfi** and her husband welcomed their son Malachi in March 2013. **Shani Senbetta** and her husband welcomed a daughter in October and all are doing well in Addis Ababa. She would love to see any SYAers who are in the area. **Jory Eisenberg** and his wife welcomed a daughter, Zoe Katherine Eisenberg, in February. Jory and I (**Emily Trower-Young**) caught up at the SYA reception in New York City in January and he was eagerly awaiting Zoe's arrival, with the hope of having her fluent in Chinese within a year. Best of luck!

Sara Novak Hepburn writes that she and her husband, Ash, live in Boston, where she recently started managing a project on multi-drug resistant tuberculosis at Harvard Medical School. Her previous job, at Tufts, gave her abundant traveling time in Africa, particularly to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia and Rwanda. **Sam VanVolkenburg** finished law school and is now practicing in his wife's hometown, Atlanta. He laments that the only time he uses his Chinese is while reading the insides of fortune cookies. In true **Adam Morley** fashion, he says that he's touring Europe as the hype man for Def Leopard. Sounds like quite the Morley kind of life! **Dash Pierce's** mom, Kathleen, wrote me a few months ago with thanks to everyone who has been in touch with her regarding Dash. She sends best wishes to all of us. As for me, Emily, I'm still based mostly in New York City, although my business has me traveling throughout New England. I'd love to see anyone who's in the city.

ES'00

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 15th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Hola, compañeros. It's been a busy year of baby-making! A number of our classmates have welcomed *hijos y hijas* into their families. In January 2013 **Suzanne Conklin** and her husband, Adam Tabor, welcomed Madeleine Isabelle Tabor into this world. In October, Suzanne started a job as director of government relations and public policy for the University of Baltimore. **Carrie Mathers-Suter Robbins** and her husband, Hugh, had a baby boy, Cortland Whitcomb Robbins ("Whit") on November 7. **Elizabeth Marshall Leeds** and her husband, Jeffrey, welcomed their daughter, Charlotte Sunderland Leeds, on November 23. Baby Charlotte already has her passport and is ready to explore the world. As for other good news, **Elina Sarkisova** got married to



Elina Sarkisova ES'00 on her wedding day with classmates Canby Wood (l) and Joy Schwartz (r) and Andra Mocanu ES'04

Nahuel Velazquez Viard on August 24, 2013, in Argentina. A few SYAers, **Canby Wood**, **Joy Schwartz** and **Andra Mocanu ES'04**, attended. Elina recently moved back to the United States from London, where she was working for the Center for Global Development. She and her husband are in Washington, D.C., where Elina has just started a job at the Gates Foundation. Canby is living in Alexandria, Va., with her husband, Richard, and their bulldog puppy, Wally. She recently launched Global Discovery Direct, a legal staffing agency focused on providing translation and foreign-language-document-review services (globaldiscoverydirect.com). She would love to connect with other SYAers in the D.C. area, and if you need translation services (or would like a job), contact Canby! On a serious note, **Chloe Temtchine** was recently diagnosed with a rare and life-threatening illness, pulmonary hypertension, but this amazing woman is still smiling and singing. Her current goal is to bring as much awareness as possible to the disease and raise money in an effort to find a cure. On March 29, she released a song she wrote titled "Be Brave," and is asking everyone to help spread the word. Half the proceeds will go to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. Here's a video (bit.ly/Mcn4ch) that will give you a personal look into Chloe's work and her amazing efforts to raise awareness about the illness.

Also check out chloetemtchine.com. In other news, **Andrew Broeckelmann** writes, "I moved to Singapore in January and am two months into my one-year MBA program at INSEAD. It's absolute madness, and I'm having a blast. I'll be in Singapore until June, then back to our campus in Fontainebleau and maybe do a quick exchange to Wharton for a semester. It's going to be a very busy year!" **Diana Caba** writes: "I'm due to graduate this May from Columbia SIPA. I'm a candidate for a master's degree in international affairs, focusing on urban and social policy and management. I spent the summer working with social entrepreneurs in Rio de Janeiro, and have been working on a capstone project with a community-development bank network based in Fortaleza, Brazil." **Azita Habibi** has also taken an interest in Brazil. She writes: "I'm still at Wharton, finishing up my second year and most likely heading to San Francisco post graduation, but not before hitting up the World Cup in Brazil over the summer. I spent the summer between year one and year two in São Paulo, working for a start-up while learning Portuguese. Awesome to have another immersion experience; I'd forgotten what it's like to "lose myself" temporarily while learning how to communicate and express myself in the local language. Ahhh, the memories from Zaragoza!" As for my news, I, **Ifeolu Babatunde**, am still in Brooklyn, working for an ad agency in Manhattan. Life is good, polar vortex and all . . .

FR'00

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 15th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Matthew Pagett writes, "I received my PhD in French studies from the University of Pennsylvania in August and live in Philadelphia." **Daniel Dozier** has moved back to Washington, D.C., and is still managing his boutique fund-raising and public-affairs firm, Cinq&Co. (www.cinqandco.com), which works on projects in the realms of charity and governmental affairs. He caught up recently with classmates **Crystal Bourbeau** and **Chloe Peterson** in Los Angeles and spent time in France last fall with classmate **Chanel Duncan**. He says he's happy to report that his French sisters are pregnant with their third children, so

by year's end he'll be an "American uncle" of six.

CN'01

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Clay Pell ES'99 is running for governor of his home state, Rhode Island. Good luck, Clay!



CN'01 classmates Paul Garaud, Xiao Hui Chin, Ik Jae Jeong and Teresa Chan in NYC

ES'01

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

Elena Stewart Turevon writes, "In 2010 I married Patrick and am now a PhD student in cultural anthropology at Duke. I'm thrilled to report that this May I begin 15 months of fieldwork in the Peruvian Andes, where I'll study illegal miners and mountaineers to learn how people both produce and suffer from climate change and how global warming changes societies. Be sure to reach out if you're in Peru." **Vanessa Ramirez** is director of the KIPP Alumni Association. She's also the director of education for Houston: reVision, a nonprofit organization that works to transform the lives of at-risk and gang-affected youth by connecting



ES'01 classmates Leah Freeman-Haskin, Nafeesah Allen and Katie Coon in Los Angeles

From the Computer Screen to the Big Screen

Nathan Matsuda CN'02



Chances are you've seen Nathan Matsuda's work, if not at a movie theater, then very likely on your TV screen.

His career has been about as noticeable as one can get. Since 2008, Matsuda has worked on visual effects for a slew of well-known Hollywood productions.

Ever hear of a little animated movie called *Wall-E*? It was only the fifth-largest opening weekend for a Pixar movie and won an Oscar for Best Animated Feature . . .

How about *The Fast and The Furious*, the immensely successful action-movie franchise?

Visual effects that Matsuda and his team created appear in these movies as well as in such popular television shows as *Prison Break*, *CSI*, *V*, and *Once Upon a Time* (for which he was nominated for an Emmy in 2012).

"Like one episode per season we'd be in the credits," he says, "but I was on the credits for *Wall-E*. I was quite lucky to be there and to get placed on that film."

Matsuda, who is now 29, began working as compositor, someone who combines various visual elements into one image, which these days is accomplished through computer graphics.

"You take the footage filmed on set and computer-generated models, and you put them together to make it look like they're in the same environment," he says. "The industry is challenging. You can work thirty days in a row, fourteen-hour days, and occasional all-nighters. The actual work, though, is very interesting."

Matsuda eventually moved up to compositing supervisor, the person who serves as a liaison between the artists and the effects technicians. He found that position more gratifying, he says, as he could apply his technical know-how and his artistic side while heavily interacting with other people.

Matsuda has long been moved by visual experiences, he says, including the time he spent with SYA in China.

"The strongest memories are from the trips we took around the country. I had my camera kit with me and took more than a thousand slides," he says. "It's sort of like a way to view the world, with a consistent experience. I've heard people say you shouldn't take a picture because then you won't really remember it. The experiences are more cemented in my memory when I do that, though, and that has continued into my professional life."

That year with SYA, he says, "remains part of me. It left an indelible mark."

After five years working in the visual-technology industry for Zoic Studios, in California, Matsuda decided to return to his alma mater, Northwestern University, where in 2008 he earned an undergraduate degree in computer science. This winter he moved to Chicago with his wife and two cats and is now pursuing a doctorate in computer science.

He may stay in academia, but the applications for Matsuda's research could be useful in a variety of industries. He'll be specializing in computational photography, developing algorithms for reconstructing images.

In other words, he says, "I'm researching new ways to design cameras. Before I got complacent, I wanted to go back to school. I wanted to delve a little further into these fields. My main goal, on a broad scale, is to increase my diversity of experience and learn more."



“That year with SYA, he says, “remains part of me. It left an indelible mark.”

On the red carpet at the 2012 Emmys with Nathan are his wife, Jen Sharber Matsuda (left), and mom Sheila Matsuda CN'02P ES'06P

them to positive adult role models. In November she gave a TEDx talk. You can watch it at tinyurl.com/lzxc2t. **Claire Noelle Frost** just launched Bliss Bites: Creating Space for Your Dream Life! (clairenoellefrost.com/blissbites) an in-depth clutter-uprooting e-mail training series. **Leah Freeman-Haskin** and **Katie Coon** recently moved to Los Angeles; I (**Nafeesah Allen**) visited them there this January. We had a blast doing an art-gallery crawl that put us in the same room as Patricia Arquette. I'll be going to Mozambique to take on my next assignment at the US Embassy in Maputo.

FR'01

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*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
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Monica Hortobagyi writes, "My husband, John, and I had our first child, Sebastian Gabriel Siniff, on Christmas Eve."



Future SYAer: the son of Monica Hortobagyi FR'01

CN'02

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*Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
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I (**Sara Bernstein Graham**) am managing and teaching for the new Mandarin Immersion Program at Punahou School, in Honolulu. It's exciting: we use nontraditional, play-based activities to teach Mandarin. As usual I find our classmates all over the world doing interesting things. Here are some notes from them. **Nathalie Johnston**'s latest job is director of exhibitions for TS1 Gallery in Yangon, a new cultural pop-up project founded by Ivan Pun. She writes, "Myanmar is opening up and we're bringing its artists to the international level, right here in Yangon. I've also co-founded the Myanmar Art Resource Center and Archive. We're planning to host the Asia Art Archive Mobile Library late this year in Yangon and Mandalay." **Katerina Pozzi** lives in Portland, Ore., where she's finishing

her fourth of five years in a master's program in classical Chinese medicine. She also heads up a blog called Della Terra Wellness (dellaterrawellness.com) and teaches yoga. **Joseph Rome** lives in New York and works on international-dispute resolution at a law firm. **Meghan Skaer Thomason** got married last year to Emily Thomason. She received research funding to travel to Utrecht University, the Netherlands, for four weeks last May.

Read about **Nathan Matsuda** in the feature on page 14 and his profile on page 54.

ES'02

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FR'02

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Nicole Melas writes, "I spent 2013 mostly traveling, starting in Rennes with my French family and *nos profs de SYA*. Then I meandered through Portugal, Morocco and Ireland, where I got to stay with **Adri Fiorentino** in Dublin. Stateside, in the summer, I caught up with **Rob Streicker** during my first visit to D.C. since our five-year SYA reunion. During the fall, I drove from my hometown, L.A., to Maine, where I now live (in Portland). It's great to be back in Maine, where I attended college (Bowdoin), and back on the East Coast within reach of so many old friends. I'd love to reconnect, so feel free to drop a line (nicolemelas@gmail.com), especially if you plan to be in Maine, or would welcome my visiting you!"

IT'02

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Jess Bell started her PhD program, had her first two papers accepted for publication, visited Thailand, Paris and Australia, and booked a trip to Italy with her boyfriend for this June (first time back in 10 years). **Faye Galant** left the frozen north to eat Ethiopian food in D.C. with **Doug Gates**, got her master's in public administration from the University of Alaska Southeast, and is still living in a cabin with no running water and an outhouse. Doug is leaving the Navy in June, getting married in July, reactivating in the Navy as a reservist in August, and then going to law school in fall '15, location TBD. **Akeli Hunter** and **Cora Piselli** went to St. Maarten together and slept in hammocks on the beach. Cora is engaged! **Hilary Lenina Kirk** is waiting to hear if she's been accepted to the University of Washington Seattle for master's and PhD work in Scandinavian studies with a focus on culture and politics. **Ian Temple** got married, started an online music-education start-up, beat **Akeli** at Just Dance 4 on Wii like 100 times, and made blueberry vegan pancakes with **Victoria Perez Diaz** and **Cora**. **Lou Kosak** is a software engineer at Airbnb in San Francisco, and in the last year hung out with **Peter Stetson** in Austin, held a mini-reunion with **Bryce Ritzel**, **Roddy Lindsay**, and **Alex Reid Ennis** in San Francisco and went on a 500-mile bachelor-party bike trip on the Outer Banks with Ian. **Esther Lee Naikal** graduated from the University of Maryland with a master's in economics and works at the World Bank in Washington, D.C. **Brittany Toscano** got married in May; her maid of honor was **Brett Larkin**.



IT'02 classmates Brittany Toscano and Brett Larkin

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Ruth Monteleone writes, "I live in West Chester, Penn. After many years in the hospitality industry, I'm now settling into my career as a financial advisor at Citadel Credit Union. My son, Dominick, is 4 and will be starting kindergarten this fall. I'm looking forward to a reunion with my SYA classmates; it's tentatively planned for late this spring or early summer in New York City."

FR'03

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Amy Hobbs Bradlow and her husband, Harrison, welcomed Josephine Day on February 27. She joins big sister Lillian Chaia, who was born in April 2012.

"Myanmar is opening up and we're bringing its artists to the international level, right here in Yangon. I've co-founded the Myanmar Art Resource Center and Archive. We're planning to host the Asia Art Archive Mobile Library late this year in Yangon and Mandalay."

— Nathalie Johnston CN'02



Amy Hobbs Bradlow FR'03's children

IT'03

Class Correspondent

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Class Agent

Catherine Benvie

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Jacqueline Bergen Petrisevac is working on her master's in elementary education at Adelphi University; she's also expecting her first child, a daughter. **Alyssa Panning** lives in Denver and works for a community health association. She married Lincoln Pac in September; her Italian host parents, Patrizia Trucca and Paolo Raponi, attended, as did **Gavin Kirk**. As for me (**Dylan Rogers**), I'm a regular member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens for the year, traveling throughout Greece and working on my dissertation.

CN'04



10th REUNION

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ES'04



10th REUNION

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Class Agent

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After two years in Bogotá working for Ashoka in social entrepreneurship, **Mirielle Eaton CN'06** is now program manager in the field of executive education and has moved to Geneva

with her fiancé, Juan Felipe Rodriguez, a medical doctor from Colombia whom she met several years ago in Paris, where both were finishing their studies. **Maddy Mitchell** writes, "I moved to Colorado at the end of last summer to start an MSW program at the University of Denver. My dog, Bo, and I are enjoying the awesome weather and all the outdoor activities Colorado has to offer." **Tyler Sadwith** lives in San Francisco, after stints in Portland and Baltimore. He works for the Department of Health and Human Services, helping California implement the Affordable Care Act. He says he tries to *platicar en español cuando pueda*. **Will Faulkner** writes, "I'm at the end of a month-long trip back to the United States (from home base in São Paulo). During the trip, I checked in with **Tommy Gaffney**, who's doing his MBA at NYU and will soon be moving to Seoul. Also, during the trip I accepted a job offer at a small monitoring-and-evaluation consulting firm, which means I'll be moving back to the United States. Between April and August, I'll be based out of Taos, N.M. After that, I'll be telecommuting from a new home base (TBA)."

FR'04



10th REUNION

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IT'04



10th REUNION

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Class Agent

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After working in the Admissions Office at SYA, **Ned Henningsen** is looking forward to teaching English at Miss Porter's School (Farmington, Conn.) for the next two years, as part of the Penn Residency Master's in Teaching Program. He'll be between Boston and New York, so he invites you to invite him to an Italian dinner in the cosmopolitan center known as Hartford.

CN'05

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Class Agent

Alyssa Chong

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Your class will celebrate its 10th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Robin Peckham and wife Venus Lau welcomed Lillith Lau-Peckham to the world on February 26 in Beijing.

ES'05

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Ameerah Phillips

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Your class will celebrate its 10th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Peter Denny started graduate school in Los Angeles. He's studying film and television production at the USC Peter Stark Producing Program. **Morgan Brown** lives in Berlin until July, when he'll begin an internship with Sumall. He was in a master's program in computational logic, but decided to leave the program and enjoy Berlin. **Alex Perry** graduated from the University of Rochester in 2010 with a degree in international relations. He was all set to work for the State Department, but instead took a rain check on jumping into a career and moved to Aspen. He spent 2½ years exploring the West, which took him on a surfing trip from Seattle to Mexico, to working on a ranch in Wyoming, to teaching high-level skiing in Aspen for a few winters. In April 2013 he left for Central America and led adventure backpacking trips throughout Latin America for seven months. He's says he's loving life and is now an associate brand rep for Patagonia in its sales/marketing training program for the Midwest and New England territories. **Anna Pierson** lives in Portland, Maine, and is finishing up her master's

degree at the University of Southern Maine. She'll graduate as a family nurse practitioner in May. She's still in close touch with **Annie Pope**, **Ali Shaker** and **Sydney Townsend**. In May, Annie and Anna went to Ali's wedding, which they say was beautiful. **Mariel Nunes** also lives in Anna's hometown, so it's been fun to have a few mini Zaz reunions. Sydney lives in London and works in sales at White Cube gallery. **Tylie Cramer** moved back to the United States in the summer of 2013 after a long stint in Scotland and then two years in Uruguay. She's in a dual-master's-degree in international education and TESOL at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. Although she says she misses life abroad, she loves the international focus of the graduate program.

FR'05

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Class Agents

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Allison Silverstein

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Your class will celebrate its 10th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Taro Kuriyama has been traveling in Japan and studying computer science after four years at the New York Stock Exchange. He'll soon begin work at a quantitative trading firm in New York, and says he looks forward to catching up with **Alina O'Brien** and other SYAers. **Allison Silverstein** enjoyed spending time with **Nicole Dongara** in Sydney while working for L.E.K. Consulting. She then volunteered for TechnoServe, a nonprofit that promotes business solutions to poverty in East Africa. After spending the summer in France, Alli is pursuing an MBA/MA in international studies at the University of Pennsylvania. **Hayley Moore** enjoys work at an organic-foods store, and is shocked that her daughter, Annabelle, will turn 2 in June. September will mark her 10th year in France, and she hopes to come to the United States with her family soon. She says she was thrilled to see **Gwynne Hogan** on a recent visit. She also caught up, over Skype, with **Flora Campos Lara Pereira**, who recently completed studies at the Berkeley School of Law. Hayley celebrated her birthday with **Annie DeSaussure** and

her host sister. She welcomes visits and says she misses speaking English. As for me (**Kelin Hall**), after three years providing legal services to low-income immigrants, I'll be pursuing an MSW. I look forward to staying with **Kate Dworkin** in New York City and **Lisa Krauss** in Austin during school visits. Kate is moving in the fall, when she enters the master's program in learning and organizational change at Northwestern University.

IT'05

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Class Agents

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Your class will celebrate its 10th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Christopher Garis is in Orlando working for a private equity fund investing in late-stage start-ups, but this summer he'll be moving to Asheville, N.C. If anyone lives there, please get in touch with him, christopher.garis@gmail.com. In September, **Suzi Hiza** attended the SYA reception in San Francisco and says she was excited to see some familiar faces.

Kai Paine and **Peter FR'77F IT'05RD VN'10RD** and **Happy Esty ES'82P** were all in attendance. Such fun to catch up with them and hear stories from other SYAers as well. **Alex Kubal** is working at the e-commerce start-up Man Crates. She lives in the Mission in San Francisco and has recently taken up rock climbing. She says she'd love to connect with any SYAers in the Bay Area and that she misses Viterbo. Her e-mail is alexkubal@gmail.com.

Melissa Nozell, now volunteering with Syrian refugees in Jordan, spent a wonderful few weeks with her host family last summer: several days in Viterbo, then on holiday with them in Spain. **Joanna Fariss Weadon** and her family went to Italy last spring and visited her host family. She called that one of the highlights of the trip. Her second baby, Judah, was born January 9. He's happy and healthy. The family are now in the Bay Area, as her husband accepted a job there.

Read about **Merritt Moore** in the feature on page 14 and her profile on page 59.



Suzi Hiza IT'05, Peter Esty FR'77F ES'82P IT'05RD VN'10RD, Kai Paine IT'05 and Happy Esty ES'82P in San Francisco

CN'06

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The children of Joanna Fariss Weadon IT'05



IT'05 classmates Olivia Hunt, Travis Wong, Willa Vail, Didi Shea and Anna Howarth at a recent mini-reunion

Mary Lane lives in Berlin, and is now the *Wall Street Journal's* main European art correspondent, breaking news on everything from who bought a \$58 million giant Clifford-like steel dog to Nazi art-restitution stories. **Rosa Tu** plays music and works for the Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation in New York City as a UN representative.

Wilson Hailey just returned from his first trip to the States in five years. In March, he moved to Shanghai to set up an artist collective and an investment immigration company. **Stone Yu** is back in Beijing after a seven-month stint in the United States and becoming an American. He now lives with **George Massey** in Siheyuan and continues to freelance in video production. George moved to Beijing from Taipei via Boston in October to start a job managing a family office. **Luke Hein** returned to the United States after eight months in Chengdu, where he was teaching English. **Nnenna Okoye** is enjoying medical school and will likely be in California in June.

Shana Crandell is an aspiring meta-physician and is getting a PhD in philosophy at the University of Chicago. **Doug Proctor** works on climate-change policy and finance at the World Bank in D.C., and has taken up beekeeping. **Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga** has moved back to the States after completing his dual-degree master's program in Beijing and London, and now lives in D.C. with SYA classmate **Julian Fu**. He's a research fellow at the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission (working with SYA classmate **Rickisha Berrien-Lopez**), focusing on Chinese foreign policy with an emphasis on China-North Korea relations. **Devan Shea** lives in D.C. and works in global women's health. **Tyler Perry** enjoyed winter in Chicago as a first-year law school student at Northwestern. **Kimberly Shastid** is competing in the Miss Moorea Pageant in French Polynesia. She has taken a four-month leave of absence from her job as a flight attendant for Hawaiian Airlines to go back to Tahiti to dance competitively, pursue photography and make a music album. **Jeff Hartsough** started a new job in San Francisco as a product manager for an LED manufacturer, a position that took him back

to China for the first time in three and a half years. He ran his first marathon and still does calligraphy. **Mark Frykman** got engaged and lives in San Francisco. He's doing a mix of mechanical design, ops and manufacturing for Boosted, which is going to take him back to Shenzhen in the near future. **Lola Boatwright** is living in Marrakech. Next year she plans to pursue an MBA at INSEAD, in France. After two years in Bogota working for Ashoka in social entrepreneurship, **Mirielle Eaton ES'04 CN'06** has taken a new job as program manager



Mirielle Eaton ES'04 CN'06 with her fiancé on the coast of Brittany

in the field of executive education and has moved to Geneva with her fiancé, Juan Felipe Rodriguez, a medical doctor from Colombia who she met several years ago in Paris where both were both finishing their studies. **Jess Seok** lives in the Nob Hill area of San Francisco. She works at Cornerstone Research and completed a teacher training course and will teach yoga on the side. **Kevin Vichyastit** moved to Singapore to work for an impact-investing/private-equity firm called LeapFrog Investments. He helps cover its Southeast Asia operations. After a year in Oakland, **Claire Shaw** moved to San Francisco, where she's working at a tech start-up. **Avery Chaplin** works in his family's real-estate business. **Anthony Iacono** is pursuing his master's in public administration with a focus on international development at the Monterey Institute of International Studies. **Dan Lesser** works in Boston for a market-research firm that tracks global sales of computers, tablets and phones. He travels frequently, internationally and domestically. **Marc Duquette** works in Ho Chi Minh City. He's been traveling around Asia for the past two and half years and plans to return to the States within the year. **Elizabeth Cayne Rosen** was promoted to a senior assistant director of undergraduate admissions at Washington University. In September, she visited high schools, including SYA, in Beijing for work, and had dinner with her host family. **Nathan Thost** works with the Saudi Arabian Embassy in D.C. He's been serving as a community college, test-prep, and academic-affairs coordinator for the King Abdullah Scholarship Program, which

Mary Lane CN'06 lives in Berlin, and is now the *Wall Street Journal's* main European art correspondent, breaking news on everything from who bought a \$58 million giant Clifford-like steel dog to Nazi art-restitution stories.



A mini-reunion of CN'06 classmates in San Francisco

administers more than 108,000 Saudi citizens' higher education in various countries. He recently started his own entertainment company, National Institute of Bass. **Julius Taranto** writes, "I'm in law school at Yale and have ended up doing a bunch of China-related stuff here. I'm starting a scheme to visit Beijing, if only to dust off the ol' *zhongwen*. I've seen a few of you recently, but not enough."

ES'06

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Christi Cobo Mazzei was married in January. SYA classmates **Emmalyn Smith Gaertner** and **Leigh Swiger Moynihan** were in attendance, as was her sister, **Camille Cobo Skaer ES'08**. Christie is a Spanish teacher in the world-language department at Albuquerque Academy. Leigh, a reference librarian at Soka University of America, in Orange County, Calif., is in charge of developing and maintaining the Spanish Language and Literature Collection at the Ikeda Library. Through her latest collection-development project, she expanded the Spanish fiction and literature collections and added many titles she had studied during her year in Zaragoza. In 2012 she graduated from Drexel University with a master's in library and information science with concentrations in youth services and library and information services. In June she'll be moving to Monterey with her husband, Greg, a captain in the Marine Corps, who has orders there for a two-year program to earn a master's degree



Christi Cobo Mazzei ES'06 on her wedding day with sister Camille Cobo Skaer ES'08 and classmates Emmalyn Smith Gaertner and Leigh Swiger Moynihan.

in management from the Naval Postgraduate School. This spring **Jessica Acosta** finished her EdM in higher education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She attended the young alumni SYA reception in Boston with fellow SYAer **Ashley Allison**, and they ran into **Naakai Addy** and **Baruch Frank. Sarah Caplan** writes, "In June I moved from New York City to Santa Monica to be a product manager at a tech company here, and now **Kristen Brooks** lives only a few blocks from me!"

FR'06

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Karen Kirk writes, "Last May, **Stephanie Yang**, **Teresa Moore** and **Schuyler Weinberger** flew to North Carolina to spend a whirlwind weekend in the mountains at Lake Lure. It was the first time since France that all four of us had been together, and we shared good wine, good cheese and good SYA memories. This fall I started a master's in public health, with a concentration on international

health, at Boston University. I hope to promote health care and access to health services, specifically for women and girls, in (francophone) Africa." Stephanie graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School. She's working in Minneapolis and says she's plotting ways to get back to France.

IT'06

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Brooke Kingsland writes, "I graduated from Duke University with a degree in visual and media studies in May 2011 and since then have been based in Boston, working in the strategy and operations division of Deloitte Consulting. After our tearful good-byes in Rome, I've visited my host family three times and also saw my host cousin in Madrid during her own year abroad. Stateside, I've met up with friends from our class all over the country. When I was in still in school in Durham, I saw **Ben Greenlee** in Chapel Hill when he was home (thanks for all the moving help!). Now, **Cecilia Nardi** and I have frequent *Homeland* marathons and pasta nights in Boston, **Marcus Strong** and I get together yearly in Boston or New York City, **Margaret Clark** and I saw live music in Austin, **Camille Fordy** and I walked all over D.C., and I even spent a weekend with **Colby Mills** in Portland, OR, where we stumbled on an Italian festival! You're all close to my heart."



IT'06 classmates Brooke Kingsland and Colby Mills

CN'07

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Jackson Boyar recently left his job in consulting and founded an education company, Shearwater International, which uses mentorship and a soft skills development curriculum to help international students integrate culturally and thrive during their study abroad. Contact Jackson, at Jackson@shearwaterintl.com if you're interested in getting involved.

ES'07

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent?
Contact alumni@sya.org.

Austin LaPoten writes, "I graduated from the Chaplin School of Hospitality at Florida International University in April with a degree in hospitality management. I was one of fewer than 10 American students chosen to attend the Young Hoteliers Summit in Lausanne, in March, at the top hotel school in the world, the École hôtelière Lausanne. I was also accepted by the Sofitel School of Excellence Management Training Program and am waiting to find out in which hotel I'll do my management training." In 2012 **Xavier Williams** graduated from Swarthmore College with a degree in political science. He's in his second and final year at Parsons the New School in the Theories of Urban Practice master's program. His research focuses on temporary-use projects. **Eileen Guo** founded Afghanistan's first digital media agency, Impassion Afghanistan (<http://impassion.af>), and has been living in Kabul for the past year and a half. She does a lot of work around social media, citizen journalism and the upcoming presidential elections. **Robyn Wolochow** graduated from Washington University with a double major in

Balancing Physics and Ballet

Merritt Moore IT'05



I was motivated to learn fearlessly . . . we discovered rather than memorized knowledge.

It's the stuff of a Hollywood romp.

A young physics researcher refuses to cave in to pressure from family and fellow scientists to quit her other passion — the ballet.

So between twice-a-day performances of *The Nutcracker*, she rushes off to conduct research at her Ivy League physics lab, stretching all the while to stay loose. She hastily removes her make-up in the taxi and hurriedly

reapplies it when she hops back in a cab to return to the Opera Hall.

Surely something will go absurdly and comically wrong, right? A lab coat left on in place of a leotard when she gets on stage? A physics experiment botched, causing time and her harried existence to come to a standstill?

Fortunately, nothing has gone tragically awry for Moore, who is finding extraordinary success in both her study of physics and her pursuit of dance — not that everything has gone perfectly smoothly.

"It may seem like I'm on a streak, but in fact I fumble through," says Moore, who whimsically compares herself to Scrat, the frenetic and accident-prone squirrel from the animated movie *Ice Age*, and to Dora, the lost fish who nevertheless keeps swimming in *Finding Nemo*. "The behind-the-scenes of Merritt Moore can be juggling mayhem!"

There was a time when Moore was rather unsure about herself. Before her junior year in high school, in Los Angeles, she felt burned out with ballet. She hadn't started until she was 13 and had to work tirelessly to catch up to girls who began dancing soon after their toddler years.

"I was thinking about quitting," she says. "I had lost the passion and any sort of inspiration. I was a bit lost. I wanted a new experience."

So when Moore learned about SYA and its program in Italy, she saw it as just the change she needed.

"It was challenging, especially the language," she says. "I was motivated to learn fearlessly. SYA is wonderful because as students we *discovered* rather than *memorized* knowledge. I was surrounded by the artwork and literature of the greatest masters in history. I was encouraged to think outside the box, and I was inspired to be the best I could be as a unique individual, not pressured to be a cookie-cutter, perfect applicant for colleges."

By the time her year was up, she was ready to dance seriously again, and spent the summer traveling to dance programs in Europe.

"I came back and was extremely passionate and motivated," she says, "so different from how I felt when I left."

Moore went on to Harvard, where she decided that her strength in math would set her up nicely to study physics.

"I had a feeling I would love physics because I always liked puzzles and math, and physics is practical to the real world," she says. "The quantum physics, the weird stuff, it's like a magic trick. No one knows the answers and yet these phenomena happen. It makes me have goose bumps. There are so many questions and so many mysteries."

Moore didn't give up on dancing, though, and seized every opportunity she could to pursue ballet. During her junior year she decided to take time off and try to join a professional dance company — an idea, she says, that gave her father pause. But, she says now, she didn't want "to look back with regret" at never having made the attempt.

"I did twenty-four auditions," she says. "I got rejected twenty-three times."

Then an offer came from the Zurich Ballet, and she took it.

"Performances were four or five times a week," she says. "I had massages every day; it was brutal but glamorous."

Back at Harvard, she finished up her physics degree and for six months performed with the Boston Ballet. In a single month, she took part in 40 performances of *The Nutcracker*, dancing twice a day and working in the lab in between.

Her achievements caught the attention of *Glamour*, prompting the media company in 2010 to name her one of its "Top 10 College Women."

Since then, Moore has continued to make quantum leaps in her education and her dancing. After graduating from Harvard, she went to Oxford University to pursue a doctorate in physics; she's nearing the end of her second year.

Just like during her SYA days, she says, "I wanted to be in a different country, get a different perspective."

Moore isn't sure what she'll do when she gets her PhD.

"Perhaps I could be a science advisor to world leaders," she says, "informing them about what's important, translating the mathematical formulas and equations into something the politicians and other people making policy can understand so they make smart decisions."

As for dancing, she says, laughing, "I have two performances this week."

On the horizon are performances at the Barbican in London, at summer galas with Covent Garden Dance Company, and at a major venue in Los Angeles with Ballet RED.

"Perhaps I'll audition for a major ballet company again," she says. "Maybe I'll direct something. Who knows?"

architecture and environmental studies. She studied abroad in Copenhagen and traveled extensively around Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. She's working toward her master's degree in architecture at the University of Michigan, expecting to graduate in May 2015. **John Riggins** graduated from Amherst College in 2012 and last year worked with City Year tutoring and mentoring high school students. He's in his first year of medical school at Albert Einstein Medical College, in the Bronx. **Kathryn Suarez-Quijano** graduated from George Washington University with a degree in speech and hearing sciences. She works for a tech start-up in the flower industry, H. Bloom, which coordinates all of the floral displays for clients across D.C., among them major hotels, restaurants and luxury businesses. She's also a barre3 instructor and recently started a blog (www.dailyloveaffair.com) on which she writes about food in the D.C. area. In May 2012 **Chelsea Cannon** graduated from Bowdoin College with a bachelor's in biochemistry. She works in Denver as a professional research assistant in the division of endocrinology at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. **Marlee Crossen** graduated from University of Virginia with a double major in history and politics and a concentration in American government. She lives in Richmond and works for MeadWestvaco Corporation as an account representative for the tobacco and food-service units. Her sales territory is Latin America, and her biggest accounts are in Brazil and Mexico. **John McClure** graduated from Haverford College with a bachelor's degree in psychology, with a concentration in neuroscience. He's in his second year of graduate school at Rutgers University, working toward a PhD in behavioral neuroscience.

FR'07

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Marc Aidinoff works at the White House, where he's on the vice president's domestic-policy staff. **Corianne Holmes** writes, "After spending almost two years working in the admissions office at SYA as the France country manager, following my graduation from Wellesley College, I'm moving to Christchurch, New Zealand, to pursue a master's degree in business management at the University of Canterbury. I'm looking for friends and connections, so if you know any people there, please ask them to send me an e-mail: coriannenicole@me.com." **Katherine Warren** was recently named a Rhodes Scholar, graduating from Harvard with a concentration in anthropology. She also co-founded and co-directed the Akili Initiative, a global youth-for-youth-health project that serves 25 NGOs and that has won awards from the Clinton Global Initiative and Ashoka, and co-founded and co-directed the Athena Program mentoring underserved high school women in Boston. She is a Truman Scholar and is now an Albright Fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services doing work on women's and Native American health issues.

IT'07

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Jenna Matecki is a digital strategist at The Glover Park Group focusing on PR strategy and messaging for international clients and public-affairs campaigns. She lives in Brooklyn with her boyfriend and they're heading to Mexico this summer. Lately she's been concentrating on learning Spanish but says Italian is still her first love. She misses Sara and Mauro (her host family) every day. In 2012 **Stephan Grundy** graduated with a biochemistry degree and is now working for Shandong Jiaotong University, in Jinan, China. **Ariel Royer** is working in Jordan in communications and refugee response with the Orthodox Initiative. She saw **Kristen Nozell** while she was there visiting her sister **Melissa Nozell IT'05**. Ariel says visitors are always welcome. **Julia Scheier** is excited to join the Peace Corps in June. She'll be serving for 27 months in Micronesia, teaching English to elementary and middle school students and living with a host family.

CN'08

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Ali Battat stopped by MS #2 while in China. She's studying Tibetan in Lhasa.

ES'08

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Anna Williams and **Annie Cutler** graduated from Connecticut College in May 2013. Anna's degree is in international relations; she plans to attend nursing school in the fall. Annie's degree is in history. **Claire Drummond** began a dual master's in global affairs and business at the University of Toronto Schools of Munk and Rotman.



ES'08 classmates Anna Williams (l) and Annie Cutler (r) at their graduation from Connecticut College

Katherine Warren FR'07 was recently named

a Rhodes Scholar, graduating from Harvard with a concentration in anthropology. She also co-founded and co-directed the Akili Initiative, a global youth-for-youth-health project that serves 25 NGOs and that has won awards from the Clinton Global Initiative and Ashoka, and co-founded and co-directed the Athena Program mentoring underserved high school women in Boston. She is a Truman Scholar and is now an Albright Fellow at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services doing work on women's and Native American health issues.



SYA France Resident Director Denis Brochu (center) with FR'08 alumni Helene Dick (VN'10), Charlie Aidinoff, Sarah Lockwood, Will McLoughlin, Alexa Whiting, Guy Horgan and Tolly Taylor at SYA Homecoming

FR'08

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Charlie Aidinoff worked on the election campaign of Bill DiBlasio, the new mayor of New York City. **Cherrie Angeles** is a senior majoring in public policy with a concentration in education policy at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She has interned at KIPP Schools in New York City and Education Pioneers in Chicago.

Christopher Gellert recently received a grant from NYU to write twin short

stories in English and French, each with same narrative but expressed differently, each rooted in its particular language. This past summer he had an editorial internship at *Marianne*, now *Le Nouveau Marianne*. He is working on his thesis, provisional title: "*L'Aliment interdit et la gastronomie insalissable dans La recherche, et leur union qui nous révèle et nous libère.*"

Samantha Tharler is settled in New York and developing her clothing business, kokeshiicustomdesign.com. She tries to maintain her French by attending events at l'Alliance Française and being a passionate member of a French-book club. **Laura Pulver** graduated from Gettysburg College. She'll be marrying Paul Kramarz, a college classmate, on December 20 and moving to Newport, R.I. In August **Chris Brozdowski** made the transition to San Diego, where he's pursuing his doctorate in language and communication disorders.

IT'08

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Julia Scheier IT'07 is excited to join the Peace Corps in June. She'll be serving for 27 months in Micronesia, teaching English to elementary and middle school students and living with a host family.

CN'09 5th REUNION

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George Ligon graduated from Wofford College with a degree in Chinese and government. When the Arab spring began, **Kara Panzer** transferred from AUC Egypt to Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and is now a junior. She has interned at *Kugelmass*, a journal of literary humor, and the *New York Times*. Her creative writing has appeared in many publications, including Ducts.org, a division of the New York Writers Workshop, Marco Polo Arts Mag, NY ____ (pronounced *underscore*), Word Riot, and Punchnel's. **Josie-Dee Seagren** graduates from Wellesley College in May 2015. She's a Chinese major and an economics minor, and has spent a total of nine months in China during college studying abroad, interning and visiting SYA. This past summer she lived again with her host family in Beijing. She's looking into starting her career as a consultant. **Michael Reddy** is at Ohio State economics and graduates this spring. **Dan Alford** writes, "I just got back from a terrific semester abroad in London. I'll be graduating from Amherst College in the spring as a history major. I'm looking forward to working at either the law firm I worked for this past summer or Teach for America for a couple of years and then to attend law school" **Kyle Churchman** graduated earlier this year with a BA in international affairs and Chinese from George Washington University, and is interning at the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission. In December he'll be in Taipei to study Chinese at the National Taiwan Normal University on a Taiwanese government scholarship. While there, he'll intern at various think tanks and Taiwanese government agencies to learn more about the politics there and about Cross-Strait relations. **Stephanie Lasch** graduates this spring from the US Naval Academy with a degree in Chinese. She's been back to China

twice since her year in Beijing. **Jamie Manley** writes, "I returned to Beijing in 2011 for a University of Chicago language program and then to Shanghai in 2012 for a language program funded by the State Department's Critical Language Scholarship. I'm graduating from the University of Chicago with a BA in environmental studies and East Asian studies in June. Not sure what the future holds, but I'm definitely trying to get back to Asia." **Sterling Weiser** graduated from The Ohio State University in the winter of 2012 with degrees in Chinese and international relations and diplomacy. He writes, "I interned on Capitol Hill between undergraduate and graduate school for Senator Portman (R-Ohio). I'm in my final year of grad school in the university's Chinese Flagship program, researching Chinese medicine and the laws and policies surrounding it. At the moment, I'm spending the year in China studying at Xiamen University after receiving a full ride from OSU. I'm applying to law schools to begin in the fall of 2014. Since leaving Beijing, **Warren Vierheller** has been back to China a few times. He studied in Korea for a year, finished college and is now back in China. He's working for the Lexington Brewing and Distilling Company, and will be graduating from the University of Louisville. **Catherine Hultgren** attends Trinity College. She spent her junior year at Fudan, in Shanghai, and studied in Paris for her senior fall at a Trinity program attached to Sciences Po. Last spring **Annie Osborn** conducted research on Caribbean spiny lobster larvae on the SSV *Corwith Cramer* in the Sargasso Sea. She's continuing the research at Stanford and plans to graduate in 2014 with a BS with honors in earth systems. She's been back to Beijing twice since SYA. **Patrick Benstead** is studying futures studies at the University of Hawai'i Manoa while pursuing a career in the fitness and martial-arts industries as a mixed martial arts coach at the UFC Gym BJ Penn in Honolulu. **Trace Ostergren** is studying at Zhejiang University for the fall semester of his junior year at Valparaiso University. This past summer, in Shanghai, he worked on a research project that focused on the Shanghai-Jewish refugee population during the Second World War and the prominent Sephardic Jewish families already established in Shanghai during that time who contributed resources to the incoming, destitute Jewish refugees.

ES'09 5th REUNION

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ES'09 classmates Carolyn Balk, Zak Martellucci and Zubin Sharma at a recent mini-reunion

Amanda Nogalski never left Spain; she's in Madrid at the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos studying early-childhood education and working in a preschool teaching English to 3-year-olds.

Tonada Koch spent her spring 2013 semester at the Universidad de Alicante, and graduated from Lewis & Clark College this spring with a bachelor's in Hispanic studies and a minor in religious-Islamic studies. "I miss everyone from SYA; there isn't a day that goes by during which I don't think about SYA or someone who shared it with me." **Katherine**

Steinman graduated from the University of Miami with degrees in Latin American studies and fine arts. Her family is moving to Madrid for the 2014–2015 school year. She visited the new SYA Spain school last summer and raves about it. **Alex Anapol** plans on traveling to Zaragoza this summer after graduating from Lehigh University and before starting his new job at W. L. Gore Engineering. **Carolyn Balk**, who graduated from NYU in December, held her first photo show, "Cambodia Today," about the nation's economic and social changes, displaying work produced over the summer with help from her Gallatin Global Human Rights grant. She's back in Cambodia from February to May researching youth social movements in Phnom Penh and then goes to the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau in June to teach English in the Peace Corps. Also in Asia, **Korey Morgan** is a Fulbright teaching assistant as an English-as-a-foreign-language instructor in Mokpo, South Korea. **Adam Lerner** graduated from Cornell University and is part of the



ES'09 classmates Maddy Wilson and Paige Garrett in Santa Monica

Henry Luce Scholars Program, through which he's working at *Caravan Magazine* in New Delhi. He also does freelance work for the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. **Zubin Sharma** is in India working with the education-empowerment NGO SEEKHO, which he founded, helping to train teachers and expand literacy. Learn more at www.seekhoindia.org. **Tom Allen** is in acting school and performing stand-up all over Los Angeles. **Mike Sherman**, also in L.A., graduated from the University of Southern California this spring and will begin work at a new performance-rights organization, Global Music Rights. **Maddy Wilson** and **Paige Garrett** spent an afternoon together at the beach in Santa Monica at the end of January. In October, **Laura Perea** ran her first half-marathon in Long Beach as Carolyn cheered her on from the sidelines. A few days later, Carolyn and **Maddie Szkobel-Wolff** met up for coffee and pancakes in Berkeley. Maddie graduated from Vassar College and is perfecting the arts of home brewing and bread making. **Erin Kavanaugh** graduated from Tulane University in December and is working at a start-up incubator in New Orleans for the semester, then moving to San Francisco in the summer. **Ulysses Bissell**



ES'09 classmates Erin Kavanaugh, Lianne Ramos, Zak Martellucci, Carolyn Balk and Sophie Domanski

graduated from University of Redlands and moved to New York, where he's a sales representative for a beer distributor based out of Brooklyn. **Drew Zieff** has been pursuing adventure, enjoying his last days at Colorado College writing his thesis about US-Mexico-Colombia foreign policy and, as he says, "shredding that Colorado powder whenever possible." In May **Aaron Tyler McGee** graduated from Dartmouth College with degrees in economics and Spanish and a minor in international studies. He'll begin work at JPMorgan Chase this summer.

Katie Cummings graduated from Boston College and moved to New York City to work as a real-estate agent and actress, and is in her first feature film, *Tom's Dilemma*, coming out this summer. **Zak Martellucci**, a tour guide for Museum Hack at the American Museum of Natural History, graduated from NYU with a BA in environmental studies and a minor in Spanish and politics this spring, and is interning at the United Nations Global Compact with the Women's Empowerment Principles team. Zak, Erin, Carolyn, **Lianne Ramos** and **Sophie Domanski** met up over curly fries in October. Zak, Carolyn, Zubin and **Ethan Webman** got together in December to hear all about SEEKHO's success. **Danielle Bern-**

stein graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and will start at Bank Street Graduate School of Education in a program for childhood special and general education in the fall. Also graduating UPenn, **Lucie Read** finished her honors thesis about the 16th-century Spanish economic crisis and will be moving to New York City in the fall. **Matthew Álvarez**, who graduated from Wesleyan University, wrote his comparative senior essay on queer culture in Spain and Italy. **Victoria Torres-Vega** will graduate from Boston College with a master's in social work in 2015. She works at MIT in substance abuse and drug counseling. **Victoria Rivera** graduated from Clark University with a bachelor's degree in sociology. She'll continue there in a master's program in professional communication while working for Community Healthlink in central Massachusetts. **Tim Antrim-Cashin** worked as a rock-climbing guide in Vermont last summer. In February, Tim and **Kristian Moore** hiked the 12-mile Camel's Hump, in Vermont, in six hours with three feet of snow covering the ground. In Washington, D.C., **Raphaella Baek** is an editorial intern at the *Washington City Paper* and interned at the NPR business desk last summer. **Sophia Bernazzani** graduated from George Washington University in December and works in online education. **Will Robson** still lives in Argentina, and might move to Colombia or Venezuela in December. **Charlie Nesler** ES'09 has been awarded a Fulbright Fellowship. He will spend the 2014-2015 academic year assisting in the teaching of American Studies, including English language studies, at a German school. Charlie will graduate in May 2014 from Macalester College, with degrees in Economics and German Studies. He has been elected to Phi Beta Kappa and is a member of Omicron Delta Epsilon, the national Economics honor society. He recently received the 3M

Kyle Churchman CN'09 is interning at the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission. In December he'll be in Taipei to study Chinese at the National Taiwan Normal University on a Taiwanese government scholarship. While there, he'll intern at various think tanks and Taiwanese government agencies.

Scholar Award for outstanding academic achievement in the field of economics. He also received the Evelyn Albinson Award for academic excellence in the study of German language and literature.

FR'09 5th REUNION

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Katie Henry writes, "I just completed the first year of my PhD program in the Center of Language and Speech Processing at Johns Hopkins and will be spending the summer interning with Apple."

IN'09 5th REUNION

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Brooke Loughrin, a Boston College Presidential Scholar, was the first U.S. Youth Observer at the United Nations. Read more at sya.org/brookeloughrin.

IT'09 5th REUNION

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Dylan Kaplan CN'10 and his Chinese parents during a visit to D.C.

CN'10

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Your class will celebrate its 5th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Dylan Kaplan took a gap year, interned in China at a Chinese English-language newspaper, volunteered with the Mother Teresa mission in India and worked on a farm in Louisiana. After that he attended American University for two years. He also began working with Pakistan's former ambassador to the United Kingdom as a researcher and assistant for the book *The Thistle and the Drone: How America's War on Terror Became a Global War on Tribal Islam* with the Brookings Institute. Dylan is now a junior at Georgetown University. He hosted his Chinese family last summer and showed them around the D.C. area. **Aaron Kaiser-Chen** will head to grad school in the fall. **Laura Lachman** is in her junior year at Emory, majoring in Chinese language and literature and minoring in global health. She spent the summer in Ghana as a public-health volunteer. This summer she's going back to China, four weeks in Nanjing and three weeks in Beijing, and also applying to medical school. **Mariam Dingilian** is pursuing a BA in dance with a minor in Chinese language at Mount Holyoke College (MHC). During her junior spring semester, she went back to Beijing and attended the Associated Colleges in China (ACC), on a partial Fulbright scholarship. This spring, Mariam co-produced the MHC Senior Dance Concert, and choreographed and performed an original solo work entitled *Curtain Call*. In April, she will present *Curtain Call* at the MHC Senior Symposium, discussing her independent-study research and performing. **Rebecca Montgomery** has been with the US Air Force for the past few years. She recently married Mick Anderson, and this summer will move to New York City to attend Columbia. **Dafina Bobo** is a theater studies major, with a minor in economics minor, and is considering working in the fashion

industry, specifically as a merchandiser. She recently started a blog, theprincesssoffemme.wordpress.com, on which she comments on style and beauty trends and gives style tips. **Annsley Lucas** returned from fall-semester study abroad, on full scholarship provided by the Chinese Scholarship Council at Beijing Normal University. **Marjorie E. Tanner** was there on the same scholarship, and they even had some classes together.

ES'10

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Jazzmyne Washington graduated from MIT with an SB in management science from the Sloan School of Management. She'll be moving to Philadelphia to work for the Vanguard Group in its Accelerated Development Program. **Amanda Bennett** writes, "I'm graduating from the University of Chicago this year and starting a master's in global policy studies at the University of Texas Austin starting in the fall. If you're in Texas then, I'd love to meet up." **Morgan Askew** writes, "I loved getting together with **Karina Altamirano** in Zaragoza last fall. It was great to see my host family, visit the new school (for the first time since its completion), catch up with teachers and meet the wonderful current students. I'm looking forward to seeing the art-history group in Paris (where I live)."



ES'10 classmates Morgan Askew and Karina Altamirano during a recent visit to Zaragoza

FR'10

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Anisa Holmes is in the midst of her dual-degree program at Brown University and RISD and enjoying her time in Providence. **Courtney Radcliffe Gill** is in her third year at Cambridge University and is captaining its golf team. This summer she'll be working as an investment banking analyst with Bank of America Merrill Lynch in London and has been named a finalist for UK Undergraduate of the Year, sponsored by Rolls-Royce. **Madeline Fuhrman** released her latest single, *The Alchemist*, and is looking forward to releasing a lot more music in the coming year.

IT'10

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Please contact alumni@sya.org.

It seems that nobody can get enough of study abroad . . . **Matt Chupack** is studying film and business at Columbia, but he's abroad in Paris fine-tuning his French. **Tori Hill** is living in Tokyo. **Myles Hooper** never really left Italy; he's a student at John Cabot University, in Rome. **Penny Bailey** is concentrating in art history at Brown and is studying abroad again, this time in Paris. **Maggie Musty** is studying in Oaxaca, Mexico, this spring, and was abroad last year in Trieste, Italy. **Caroline Ferguson** will be working at the North and South Poles this year with a Stanford Polar

Oceanography Lab. **Lisa Anton** will be traveling to Texas in April to compete in the finals of a national business-case competition. She'll also be interning with Deloitte in New York City, and plans to study for a semester at Università Bocconi, in Milan, in the fall.

Sydney Perkins is working on a project investigating the role of invasive mussel species in the food chain on the Florida coastline. She'll be studying abroad in New Zealand this fall. **Eunice Son** is in Taichung, Taiwan, where she's learning Mandarin. **Alana DelVecchio** has been learning Arabic these past three years, culminating in her study in Palestine last summer. **Steve Carlson** is in Kansas studying automotive restoration. In January he studied art history in Florence. Now, he says, he would sail across the ocean in a lifeboat with a tiger just for some Romagnolo food. **Sara Bonafair** is in Verona this spring, and has already made several trips to Viterbo to visit old friends. **Nikki**

Banton has been studying abroad for a while now: she took a survey of international economics course in Shanghai last June, an archaeological fieldwork course at the Field School at Tel Kabri, Israel, last July, and spent the fall semester in Seville, Spain, with the CIEE International Business and Culture program. **Avery Peyton** is at Wesleyan working on her psych degree and participating in music organizations such as an a cappella group and a gamelan ensemble. She's also running the Adelpic Educational Fund, which brings speakers and performers to campus. Last fall she studied in New Zealand. This semester **Collin Wiles** is in Bologna, where he's been eating a lot of *tagliatelle al ragu*. He'll be back at Brown in the fall, where he's concentrating in Italian studies and neuroscience. **Charlotte Hanselmann** is enjoying her time at Loyola Chicago, where she studies accounting. She intends to pursue her CPA after graduation. **Jessica Noelle Fett** is living her dream as a scuba instructor in Hawaii. **Nash Wagner** will be graduating from Pratt this May with a degree in photography. He recently opened his thesis exhibition, which you can see on his website (nashwagner.com). **Emma Badger** will be graduating from the University of Tampa in December, and hopes to pursue a PhD in sociology. She's currently hanging out with Sydney Perkins in Florida.

VN'10

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Your class will celebrate its 5th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact alumni@sya.org.

Dujon Smith writes, "I'll be working with Deloitte's US corporate tax group in London this summer, and I just started a mobile app company called College Bounty that should be in the App Store by the time you read this. I spent last summer in London working for in the House of Commons for Philip Davies MP. I also worked on a service trip to Uganda and Rwanda and then in December went to Haiti to build a recreational field for a church compound."

CN'11

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Jason Lau stopped by MS #2 when he was in China in September. He has enrolled at Qinghua University. **Oskar Singer** writes, "I'm working on an undergrad thesis in Chinese natural-language processing at UMass Amherst's School of Computer Science. I'll be a software-development intern with a machine-learning team at Amazon for this summer, so I'll be living in Seattle for a while." **Nathan Resnick** recently cofounded the company YesManWatches, which makes watches that inspire their wearers to make the most of their day and pursue their dreams. These watches will be available in April and can be purchased at www.beayesman.com.



Brooke Loughrin IN'09 with former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice

Brooke Loughrin IN'09, a Boston College Presidential Scholar, was the first U.S. Youth Observer at the United Nations. Read more at sya.org/brookeloughrin.

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Joanna Martin writes, "In the past six months, I've been a French tutor at the local college and as a bilingual French aide at Head Start. Who would have thought that in a non-culturally diverse town of 90,000 there would be opportunities to use my French — and get paid for it?"

IT'12

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Giles Bischoff was hired by SYAer **Jeff Lamb CN'95** to work at Concordia Language Camp this summer. Read "It's Always Spring" by **Lily George** on page 65.

ES'13

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ES'13 classmates Bri Springs, Leah Shorb, Acacia Nunes and Julia Hickey during a mini-reunion in Boston

James Symington is a film major at the University of California Santa Barbara. **Acacia Nunes** writes, "Over Christmas break **Julia Hickey** (from Colorado) and **Bri Springs** (from Texas) visited **Leah Shorb** and me in Boston. The four of us have kept in constant contact since last May, and being together again was the best Christmas present I received. Leah lives in Lincoln, Mass., so we spent time in the woods, and I live in Cambridge, so we also showed them the city. We even did some college applications together and realized that most of our answers about 'influential times' were about one another and our year spent together in Spain." Leah writes, "I graduated early to work as an English teacher for the NGO Safe Passage, which provides education, support and health to empower the poorest, most-at-risk families living in the Guatemala City garbage-dump community. I live in Antigua, and plan to stay for at least six months." **Carlie Enzerra** writes, "I've had the travel bug since leaving SYA. The most notable trip this year was an independent travel to Montreal with fellow SYA alums **Maria Martinez FR'13** and **Linda Kengne IT'13**. In the summer I'll be returning to Spain to either teach English in Sevilla or intern at a hostel in San Sebastian. I met up with **Laura**



ES'13 classmates Sophie Lovett, Caroline Armstrong and Caroline Craddock on Caroline C.'s family farm

Vicinanza twice in the summer, and we went on vacation in Miami with her family. In January I got together with Laura and **Tricia Merlino** in New York City and we visited MOMA." **Zach Barragan** is going to Wheaton College in the fall. He met up with **Ella Van Deventer** in Hawaii and **Phoebe Rogers** in New Hampshire. **Natalie Soloperto** has spent her fall at NYU China in Shanghai and writes, "I love China, I love Asia; this is the best place ever." **Sophie Lovett** went to Houston with **Caroline Armstrong** to visit **Caroline Craddock**. They biked around the downtown, ate Mexican *taquitos* for breakfast (ordered them in Spanish, of course), had a fiesta with paella and visited Caroline Craddock's family farm. One weekend **Lauren Giurata**, **Julia Hickey** and Caroline A. came to Charleston with Sophie. They toured the capital in a horse-drawn carriage, ate classic shrimp and grits, watched *The Untouchables* (only SYA friends would be okay with watching a movie in French), shopped on King Street and walked to The Battery to see the Cooper River and some of the city's historic homes. **Will Osborn** writes, "In the fall I directed a play called *Almost, Maine*, about love and the lack thereof in a not quite-a-town in northern Maine. Seeing the first of four shows (and sounding quite self-congratulatory here), I was pleasantly surprised that what had started out as a supremely difficult directorial debut (each scene has only two people in it and I had to guide high-schoolers to portray convincing romantic relationships) had become a very good, very sweet play." **Heather Frew** is a theater-arts major at Marymount Manhattan College, New York City, with a concentration in directing, management and producing. She spent New Year's with **Theo Frangakis** and watched the ball drop in Times Square. **Alex Browne** is in San Francisco training to be an EMT. Over winter break, he met up with **Daniel Buchman**. Alex will be at Middlebury College in the year.



ES'13 classmates Lauren Giurata, Julia Hickey, Caroline Armstrong and Sophie Lovett in Charleston



ES'13 classmates Carlie Enzerra and Laura Vicinanza



ES'13 classmates Heather Frew and Theo Frangakis ringing in the New Year in Times Square



ES'13 classmates Zach Barragan and Ella Van Deventer in Hawaii



ES'13 classmates Zach Barragan and Phoebe Rogers in New Hampshire

SYA Homecoming

July 17, 2014

BOSTON

REGISTER ONLINE:
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FR'13

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Rachel Farrow is at Cornell University and majoring in engineering. She joined the Delta Delta Delta sorority and is also a caving instructor. **Wes Livingstone** CN'14 says he's having a blast studying at SYA China, and he feels as though he's actually Chinese.

Emily Asinger will be attending William & Mary in the fall. She's waiting to hear from the St. Andrews/William & Mary Joint Degree Program to see if she'll be attending St. Andrews for two years as an undergraduate. **Clemencia Garcia-Kasimiowski** got into George Washington University through Early Decision 2. She was also accepted into the Elliott School of International Relations there and says she's super-excited to begin studying in the fall. **Laura Borruso** will be attending Scripps College.

IT'13

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Rebecca Glazer will attend Colorado College in the fall, **Liza Ayres** will be going to Vassar College, **Marisa Clery** will be attending Georgetown University, and **Amarissa Crescenzi** will be at Smith College. **Lydia Dick** will be at Rice University. Her family has been hosting a student from Rome this year. **Shelley Hutchinson** is at Tulane University, double-majoring in marketing and management at the AB Freeman School of Business. **Nikki Schoen** interned in New York after her year abroad and says she's looking forward to graduation.



In Memoriam

Virginia Griffith Frank FR'72
 Peter Greer FR'74F FR'80P ES'93P
 Laura L'Esperance FR'83
 Sabrina Hewett Matteson ES'75
 Jonathan Mudge FR'74
 Hope Staab CN'07RD

It's Always Spring 有花有酒春常在，无灯无月也自明。

Lily George CN'13, Phillips Exeter Academy (New Hampshire)



Lily (r) with classmate Shirley Ariza

Of all the sentences I've heard in however many languages, this line of verse, attributed to Pu Songling of the Qing Dynasty, is my favorite. Here's my translation:

With flowers and wine it's always spring; when it is dark and moonless, you are what shines.

But perhaps the most elegant translation comes from Herbert A. Giles:

With wine and flowers we chase the hours,

In one eternal spring;

No moon, no light, to cheer the night,

Thyself that ray must bring.

It takes me back to my Thanksgiving in China. We didn't get school off (turns out China doesn't celebrate Thanksgiving), and my classmates and I were disappointed by Beijing's lack of turkey and our host families' lack of ovens. As we sat down to a school assembly that week, our classroom chilled by gusts of Beijing air coming in through an open window, our teacher announced that we would be having an all-class Thanksgiving celebration. "But we weren't able to find enough turkeys," she said. "So we'll be having roast duck."

We didn't know how to feel. We wondered if roast duck could really fulfill our cravings for the meals we had every year of our lives up to that point, and if this school event could fill the aching space in our chests where families around dinner tables should be.

There was an air of giddiness surrounding us as we filed into the restaurant, a line of foreign teenagers all in bright blue Chinese school uniforms. We took our spots around the Lazy Susans, speaking happy nothings with our friends. We tore the plastic wrappers off our plates, we rinsed our chopsticks with tea. The ducks came, not quite Quanjude, but enough to make us smile. We laughed and took pictures and when someone suggested we go around and say what we were thankful for, we realized how much we had to list.

Later that night, I went to my adviser's house for a group dinner. The lights in his kitchen went out just as people were arriving, and the oven broke when we tried to turn it on. My adviser, ever the innovator, put on a headlamp, pulled out a frying pan, and cooked up, in his words, "the jankiest, most 'bachelor' Thanksgiving dinner ever."

At the end of the night, as my friends and I walked in the cold back to the bus stop, watching our breaths blow back in our faces as we scurried through the hutong, someone said, like a revelation: "That was the best Thanksgiving ever." With flowers and wine it's always spring.

For me and my friend Ashley, watching movies after school had become a tradition. We ate at the same restaurants before the evening show each time—black bean sliced noodles, every day. The workers in the theater gave us discounts, they learned our names, they commented every week on how good our Chinese was getting. *Study well and life will get better every day.*

Sometimes we went multiple times a week. We saw almost every movie that came out until we left. Some had English subtitles, but soon enough we stopped asking and stopped wondering—it had ceased to matter. Our Chinese was so good

we didn't need subtitles. And even if we did, we already learned the art of watching and understanding without words.

The dark theater. All the fruit we snuck in. We realized we had to go back to America soon. No more sliced noodles every day. No more Chinese movies after school. Back to New England, Boston, Exeter. Living on campus: returning to white-walled dorm rooms after classes; darkness outside; dining hall food; the grind.

We learned about a movie store hidden behind the underwear shop. *Classic China*. And yet I love it. We bought all the movies. We stocked up. We finally loved Chinese things. We had so little time left, how could we have hated it before? Do you remember? *I've decided I don't like Beijing*. And yet look at us now, crying at the thought of leaving. No more street food for lunch every day. No more Saturday morning Tiananmen, giggling at the stiff-backed guards, seeing who could make them smile first. One time I got three in a day. No more 798 and climbing the statues like they were monkey bars. (People yelled at us, but I think that's what the red monkey bar dinosaur was made for.) No more dumplings. No more floured hands and giggles around the dinner table.

There was a time limit. Why did we have to leave, right after we had fallen in love?

It is dark and warm, and I am nestled in the puffy white blankets, asleep on a hard cot, surrounded by people arranged in blocks. I can hear the wheels beating against the tracks. On the middle cot above Ashley, a family is whispering, cooing their baby daughter to sleep. My neck is sore from sticking my head underneath the nightstand between us to gossip, the white tablecloth hiding us from the teachers stalking the walkway between the bunks. The blankets are pulled up to our chins.

Then I woke up and realized that the beating of the wheels was just the heaters acting up again, the rattling of a creaky window. The whispering was just the girl across the hall from me talking to her parents on the phone. This was not China. SYA was over and I was back at school in the States, alone in my dorm room in rural New Hampshire, once again in darkness. I squinted at what had now become my mantra, which I had scribbled on a small piece of paper and taped up on the wall next to my pillow:

No moon, no light, to cheer the night,

Thyself that ray must bring.

When we're enveloped in darkness, we ultimately must find solace within ourselves. We can't rely on anything beyond what we carry within us to make us happy or fulfilled — these are fleeting, like the light of a lamp or of the moon, the warmth of visiting a friend or the rumble of a train beneath you. There comes a point where the lights dim too low, the conversation lulls, the nostalgia becomes too much, and it is then that you are alone. It is then that you choose for yourself whether or not to be happy with the essence of things, with what you're given, and to leave everything quietly illuminated by the hazy gaze of a satisfying memory.

For me, SYA was and is so many things — beyond those three words, beyond "It's a school, it's a year, and it's abroad," SYA is hot tea, thick with blooming chrysanthemums. It is launching fireworks with Baba and watching them ricochet off the sides of apartment buildings, their reflections sparkling in the windows across the street. It is being rocked to sleep by a train bound for Yunnan. It is cheering for the Chinese boys playing basketball (and their subsequent surprise). It is the smell of incense still in your hair hours after you've left the temple. It is hearing an old man singing to himself outside your window and taking it as a serenade. It is crisp watermelon by the spoonful.

It is over. This is hard. But it is when things are hard that one must remember that with flowers and wine it's always spring, and that SYA isn't over.

Yes, the year is over. Time trudges on. But SYA is more than just a year—SYA is the summation of innumerable moments that stay with you. Because these moments are carried with you, these memories never end. So in a way, that year never ends. You'll always have the sound of your host mom calling you to breakfast ringing in your ear. The fireworks are eternally bouncing against the apartments across the street, then splattering and disappearing on the asphalt. The train tracks go on infinitely.

You have the memories. They're there, within you, everlasting — and that's all you need. With flowers and wine it's always spring.

Because of SYA



"The skills and values I learned at SYA helped make my company successful worldwide. Our international client base benefits from my genuine appreciation for other cultures and customs"

— Parker Harris FR'85
Co-founder of salesforce.com



"SYA's passionate and supportive teachers helped me break out of my shell . . . to my eventual path of pursuing a PhD in physics."

— Merritt Moore IT'05
Physicist and ballerina



"My whole career, writing about international finance and economics, has its foundation in my year at SYA."

— Alison Fitzgerald Kodjak FR'86
Senior Finance and Investigative Reporter
for the Center for Public Integrity
Co-author, *In Too Deep: BP and the Drilling Race that Took it Down*

Each alumnus has a story to tell of where they are today because of SYA. These stories are made possible through the generosity of our donors to the Annual Fund.

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Why I Give

“SYA taught me the resiliency and the global perspective that remain essential to who I am over thirty years later. This year, I see my son Alex at SYA China trying new things, widening his outlook and becoming aware of how Americans are perceived by other cultures. I give to SYA every year because I believe it is important for high school students to have the same opportunities for personal growth and an expanded world view that I experienced then and my son is experiencing now.

— Charlene Ying FR'81 CN'14P



Alex Wade CN'14



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JULY 25, 2015

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SYA is turning 50!

Plan to join us at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum in Boston to celebrate our shared past, accomplishments and contributions to the world.

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Contact events@sya.org to provide us with your preferred email address.