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M A G A Z I N E





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Spring 2013

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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.

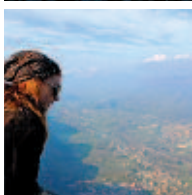
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ON THE COVER:

Front Cover photo by Katherine K Kneuper IT'13 (St. Mary's Hall, Texas)

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(asterisk indicates charter member of the consortium)

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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



SYA Spain students and Jack out on the town during his visit to Zaragoza.

Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends of SYA,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and perhaps enjoying a slightly slower pace during the summer months. At SYA, the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students have been busily engaged in developing a new Mission Statement and Strategic Plan that will carry us forward for the next three years.

We wanted to make this process as inclusive as possible, so we collected feedback from alumni, heads of school, SYA coordinators at member schools, faculty, staff and current and alumni parents. We spoke in person to members of the classes of 2012 and 2013. At their March meeting in Zaragoza in 2012, the trustees agreed to an overall structure and analysis.

We began reviewing data and forming preliminary plans during the summer of 2012, and reviewed a first draft of the plan in October. I worked with a steering committee, led by trustees Paul Chapman and Jaye Morency FR'04P IT'06P, to hone in on key

issues, clarify language and complete a final draft. In March of this year, the board approved the documents that are included in this edition of *SYA Magazine* (pages 8–9). You can also find them on our website (www.sya.org).

The Mission Statement and Strategic Plan reaffirm our deep commitment to language proficiency, cultural immersion and the sense of discovery that have characterized SYA for almost 50 years. Our careful and disciplined attention to financial matters has resulted in a healthy balance sheet. By almost any measure, we can say that SYA is in good shape.

At the same time, the board recognizes the multiple challenges and changing environment that color the study-abroad landscape of the 21st century. Today's students view the world and its problems as interconnected and interdependent. They're interested in acquiring knowledge that will help them develop the intercultural competencies they need to assist in the resolution of global problems that none of us anticipated five decades ago. In addition, now it is not uncommon for independent and public schools to offer some form of overseas study to their students. SYA stood alone in the overseas-study business 50 years ago; that is no longer the case.

Our revised Mission Statement reminds us of the most important components of an SYA education. As we make decisions about our future, we must always return to the Mission Statement and demonstrate how any new initiative or decision is mission-driven. In these times, characterized as they are by uncertain economic, political, environmental and societal systems, we will find consistency and predictability by being true to our mission.

I'm excited by the possibilities the Strategic Plan presents to us. As we approach our 50th-anniversary celebration, we can proudly affirm the core values that have made us the premier study-abroad program for secondary schools and look with confidence to the future, and to the curricular and programmatic modifications we will make to continue to meet the needs of today's students.

Thank you for your support of SYA. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please get in touch with me at jcreeden@sya.org.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jack', is written over a light blue circular background.

Jack Creedon

2013 HALSEY SCHOLAR BIDS FAREWELL TO RENNES

“As my year in Rennes comes to a close, I realize that my time here has meant more to me than I could ever have imagined. I’ve been challenged not only in classrooms at school, where my French dictionary became my best friend, but also at dinner parties that lasted until midnight, at the soirées with my host sister and her friends and even at the bus stop when strangers started up a conversation. I’ve met some amazing people while exploring France, learning a foreign language and developing my own character and ideas. I can’t believe my year abroad is coming to a close, but I’ll never forget the incredible relationships and memories I made here. Thank you to everyone at SYA — specifically to the donors who gave to the Halsey Scholarship. Thank you for enabling me to live my dream and for giving me the best year of my life.”

— Manuela Araque FR’13
Charlotte Latin School, North Carolina



Nomuundari Batdelger Named 2014 Halsey Scholar



Nomuundari Batdelger, an eleventh-grade student at Schurr High School in Los Angeles, is the recipient of the 2013-14 Halsey Fund Scholarship, a fully-funded scholarship that includes tuition and round-trip airfare to the SYA school of enrollment.

Nomuundari ranks 12 of 826 in her school and is a member of the National Honor Society. She is the captain of the volleyball team, a track and field competitor, a photographer for the school’s newspaper and a representative in student government. For the past seven summers, she has attended the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

“My curiosity has opened doors that I never knew existed,” she said. “It has given me a drive to pursue the unknown, a characteristic that I believe the SYA community will value.”

Nomuundari is the daughter of Maydagmaa Sukhbat and Batdelger Shiiterdorj, who emigrated from Mongolia to the U.S. in 2001. She lives with her parents and her older brother in East Los Angeles. She will depart for SYA Italy in late August.

“I choose Italy because I really wanted to stretch outside of my comfort zone,” said Nomuundari. “My parents instilled in me a deep commitment to understand other cultures and after being raised in a Tibetan Buddhist community, the idea of living less than an hour from the heart of the Christian faith really sparked my interest. The history, the art, the food — I can’t wait to experience all of it!”

“We’re delighted and proud to welcome Nomuundari to the SYA community,” said SYA President Jack Creedon. “She’s bright, enthusiastic, and has an instinctive interest in studying diverse cultures and languages — truly a perfect fit for SYA!”

Class of 2012 Boasts 58 AP Scholars

AP Scholar: 34

AP Scholar with Honor: 12

AP Scholar with Distinction: 12

(including 3 AP International Diploma recipients)

China

Scholars with Distinction

Sasha Benincasa*
Johann D. Gaebler
Noelle C. Herring
Gregory Howard
Julia Najafi

Scholars with Honor

Benjamin C. Eysenbach
Evan Lee

Scholars

Fiona Harnischfeger
Denny Kang
Samuel R. King
Kyle A. Laracey
Samuel S. Moore
Thomas Rodde
Shianya Thao

France

Scholars with Distinction

Celia Coll
William C. Wood*

Scholars with Honor

Amanda C. Kimm
Emery A. Melville
Emily A. Michelson

Scholars

Brooke W. Adams
Maxwell G. Barab
Samuel L. Burkett
Yung Ching Chang
Yoonseok Choi
Joanna M. Martin
Ruby Stenhouse
Ellen L. Taylor
Megan C. Zuckerman

Italy

Scholars with Distinction

Karina A. Casey
Mariah M. Dawson*
Ivy Olesen
Noah W. Rickerich

Scholars with Honor

Leyton M. Cassidy
Isabelle Greene
Alden W. Parker
Samantha H. Robinson

Scholars

Michaela R. ben Izzy
Sean E. Coffey
Kevin Ensuncho
Grace C. Farese
Emma L. Genesen
Clarissa G. Hunnewell
Alexandra A. Kyman
Derek J. Makous
Kyra G. Noonan
Eleanor B. Runde
Leo Z. Trotz-Liboff
Erika N. Weiskopf

Spain

Scholar with Distinction

Marina Davila

Scholars with Honor

Christopher R. Hamlin
Sarah E. Rind

Scholars

Jillian B. Banner
Elise K. Guarna
Spencer G. Jeffrey
Bryce Kopp
Mia R. Rosenberg
Harrison A. Tanchuck
Grace L. Weber

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.

Measuring the Transformative Experience



Aric Visser, international education researcher and University of Zaragoza doctoral candidate

Aric Visser, an independent researcher in the field of international education and a doctoral candidate at the University of

Zaragoza, is conducting a study of the cognitive effects of study abroad on creativity, intercultural competence and self-concept. Visser presented an overview of his research and discussed data he's evaluated thus far at the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS) Annual Conference, held in Philadelphia in March.

"Study abroad has always been described as a transformative experience, and it is," says Visser. "Since 1964, SYA students have immersed themselves in the culture of their

chosen host countries and emerged as thoughtful, well-spoken and mature young men and women. Their home schools often comment that SYA students return home as 'different people,' not only linguistically, but also intellectually. While it's easy to rely on anecdotal evidence of student growth, our objective is to look in depth at the experience at SYA and find out how and why students are changed by it."

Throughout the 2012–2013 academic year, 210 students are participating in a combination of evaluations, survey research and activities aimed at discovering what aspects of the "SYA experience" make the biggest impact on intellectual development. The students were split into two groups, one composed of students currently enrolled at SYA Italy and SYA Spain and a "virtual school" of junior- and senior-level students currently studying at U.S. independent schools.

Qualitative and quantitative information gathering for the study consists of student, faculty and host-family focus groups and pre- and post-testing using the Torrance Tests of Creative Thinking (TTCT), the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) and the Tennessee Self-Concept Scale (TSCS).

"Our goal is to engage in a study of the SYA experience that provides a measure of student growth in the areas of creativity, intercultural competency and self-concept," says Visser. "We believe that measuring growth in these areas is consistent with the goals outlined in the SYA mission statement."

Visser lives with his wife, SYA Spain English teacher Kim Baker, in Zaragoza, where the couple's children regularly bring his research to life, growing up as Americans immersed in the Spanish culture. Visser is a veteran educator with experience in teaching and curriculum design in both public and independent schools, most recently at Lake Forest Academy in Illinois. While there he developed a foreign-language program based on the importance of service learning in language acquisition. He was the recipient of the Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence and was named the Huss Endowed Chair in the Humanities.

He has spoken on the topics of international education, study abroad and service learning at several conferences and roundtables, among them the Conference of the Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) and the GYLI Global Education Conference (Costa Rica.)

The Ángel Vilalta Scholar

Reflection of a Culture in a Cast-Iron Pan

Dylan Johnson

Lake Forest Academy, Illinois

Realizing that it's May, my last month in Zaragoza, my host mother's Sunday-afternoon paella, always a delicious rice dish, takes on new meaning. As I taste Pilar's food, I visualize the farmers gathering rice near the home of the family who welcomed me to Valencia for a week. There I attended public school and explored the aquatic center and city with my host sister, Claudia, and her friends. I see fishermen pulling their nets filled with shellfish, and women collecting the fragile, deep orange stigmas from purple crocuses that, when dried, will transform into the aromatic saffron spice that colors and enhances the flavor of the paella with its yellow-orange pigmentation. Adding to the color, texture, and flavor of the rice, Pilar mixes in red peppers and other garden vegetables, tender chicken and fresh seafood as the land and the sea join in the *paellera*, a carbon-steel pan heating over the olive-wood fire. The taste and texture of the sea lingers in the prawns and clams, whose coarse exteriors, like the façades of Spanish buildings that hide an ornate interior, conceal a small morsel of meat so delicious that one cannot help but slurp it out of the shell.

Once the paella has taken on the golden yellow and red of the Spanish flag and the rice has acquired a crusty texture on the edges, still simmering the paella is first served to *Abuela* (who joins us once a week, enlivening our meal with entertaining stories and anecdotes from the past) and in turn to my host dad, Javier, and all the other family members and guests. Like Spain, surrounded by abundant sea life, the large pan is encircled by seafood.

Seated amid my extended family, I recall the welcoming nature of the Spanish people, the tradition of large, communal celebrations and SYA gatherings, our travels through the Spanish landscape and history, our inaugural excursion and baptismal foray into the pool under the waterfall and ancient rocks decorated with prehistoric art,

the Thanksgiving banquet we prepared and served to our peers and Spanish friends, lunch with the American consular attaché, the visit to the Cloisters of San Juan de la Peña, camping in the snow-covered mountains and natural preserve of Gavín and I realize that paella is far more than a dish of rice. It is an iconic Spanish experience. It is the yellow and red, the coming together of extended family and friends, abundant local produce, seafood, and poultry all resting in the steel pan that evokes our group visit to Sevilla, transporting me to another era, to the heart of Spain, to a time of bravery and noble spirits when the monotheistic religions coexisted and flourished.

Spain is a land of high plains, mountains and sea, a true crossroads of civilizations, evoked by my host mom's paella and this special city, Zaragoza. As I pronounce the city name, derived from Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, I recall early strolls with my host dad through the city past the city's Roman ruins. Passing the enduring theater on our way to the city walls, the Seo Cathedral rises up from the site of the Roman forum — celebrating the city's multicultural heritage in the interwoven layers of Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque, Modernist and Mudejar architecture. We cross the Plaza de Pilar and the Baroque basilica of the same name that welcomes visitors across the river, illuminating and serving as a monumental backdrop for the Ebro River and the bridges that enter the city and frame the plaza, restaurants, tapa bars and specialty stores that line the plaza and streets of the old heart of the city.

Turning toward the window, I discern the outline of the Ebro, which has nourished the city since the time of the Iberians. Gazing over the city buildings, I visualize the Aljafería Palace, with its imbricate influences of Christian and Muslim architectural



motifs, the interlaced courtyard arches and intricate mosaic woodwork, and the Plaza de Toros, whose structure imitates that of an old Roman aqueduct.

As I taste the saffron and rice, Spanish words of Arabic origin, I sense the exotic flavors that color Spain and this culinary creation, the paella, that draws on, envelops and perpetuates Spain's abundance, multicultural traditions and festive life, bringing together the people of Spain and the entire SYA community in celebration.

As we have all gleaned from the words, examples and indefatigable dedication of Sr. Morse and our SYA instructors, who have encouraged and challenged us throughout the year, with hard work we have all learned to speak fluent Spanish. Even more important, though, we now have something to say, and the desire and confidence to say it. Through our shared immersion in the Spanish language and Spain's culture, art and history — life-altering experiences that we will always draw from and build on — SYA has instilled in us passion and confidence, providing us with a sensitivity to and appreciation of cultural nuance.

Like most of my peers, I was familiar with the word *paella* long before I arrived, but over these nine months, paella, Spain and my place in our more and more complex and interconnected world have taken on deep contextual meaning.

Zaragoza Technology Summit

Flipping the Classroom

By Resident Director Patrick Scanlon, SYA Italy

Taking advantage of the richness and variety of the instruction in our schools, which are in four sites, School Year Abroad brought together teachers from China, France, Italy and host country Spain to explore the myriad ways teachers can utilize technology to

enhance teaching and learning at SYA. Although it is our deeply held belief that the in-country experience at each of our schools is our unique and unconditional strength, we recognize that we have opportunities before us that can help us take advantage of trends in an ever-changing educational landscape and provide our students with a 21st-century experience.

The enthusiasm and delight of meeting our colleagues and counterparts from a world away set the tone for our valuable time together. Pascal Montéville (SYA France) shared stories and swapped ideas with Oriol Bastardes (SYA Spain). Between them, they have 40 years of experience teaching SYA students, and both are as eager as they've always been to provide for their needs. Alessandra Tuzi (SYA Italy) and Zhang Tong (SYA China) traded lessons and ideas about how to teach language to beginners as well as accelerated learners. Despite the differences in the languages they teach, the two saw endless similarities in the challenges they face, and in what technology can do to assist them.

Any observer of our seminar in Zaragoza would have noticed from the faces alone what an eclectic group of people comprise our personnel. Our faculty members are at the core of what we do. United for that moment by English — the language that enabled us to communicate and learn from one another — we rediscovered the joy each of us experiences at having the opportunity to teach in an exciting school like SYA. Our goal was to find new and efficient means by which cutting-edge tools let us collaborate among ourselves, communicate with our students and prepare them for the global challenges that await them in college and beyond.

Our presenter was Hans Mundahl, director of technology integration and art instructor New Hampton School, in New Hampton, New Hampshire. He came to Spain to direct us in the three-day



Hans Mundahl, director of technology integration and art instructor, New Hampton School, New Hampshire

workshop, which put us all back at desks while we assumed the role of students once again. We had forgotten that learning could be so much fun. The tools at our disposal were laptops, iPhones, iPads, a wireless signal and a hunger to know how the Web and the devices that bring it to our pockets can make us more effective teachers. At times, I confess, it seemed more daunting than helpful. As often happens when becoming familiar with new surroundings and unfamiliar devices, we began to utilize photos and put together videos accompanied by voiceovers. We mapped our locations using Google maps. We left our desks and wrote a multimedia blog, which we called “Welcome to Zaragoza,” and began to understand that those iPads, iPhones and laptops were the modern gadgets we can now use to record, to document and to present the personal connections we make. The sky really is the limit.

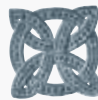
The meetings did what a good conference should: They jump-started our thinking about how technological tools can, for example, link our schools to one another. Empowered with the know-how, we asked ourselves, “What’s the best practical application for flipping our classrooms?” Using appropriate platforms, we wondered, “Can students with feet in, say, France and China share their concepts of revolution with each other?” and “Who is positioned in global education better than SYA, with four distinct schools in Spain, France, China and Italy?” On a practical level, we asked, “Can we save paper (and the environment) by turning our English classrooms into virtually paperless learning spaces?” Kim Baker, our English teacher in Spain, is already realizing that objective.

Kim and the other members of the Spanish faculty stayed; the rest of us flew home to share the ideas with our colleagues in France, China and Italy. Our classrooms are already better places, and the teachers’ minds are turning over ideas, building on the momentum that began in Zaragoza.



From left: SYA France Resident Director Denis Brochu, SYA China language teacher and coordinator Zhang Tong and SYA Spain art history teacher Álvaro Ávila.

Strategic Plan



SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD

At home in the world since 1964

We are pleased to present the new Strategic Plan for School Year Abroad. At a time when the world is increasingly interconnected and interdependent, the need has never been greater for an outstanding study abroad program for American students. With SYA's 50th anniversary soon to be celebrated, we wanted a new strategic plan to guide our continued growth.

The Strategic Plan was carefully developed over a year and a half, based on a systematic review of our current position and future opportunities. The process was led by a Board of Trustees steering committee headed by Paul Chapman and Jaye Morency FR'04P IT'06P, supported skillfully by former head of Shady Hill School Bruce Shaw FR'93P, guided by sound research and recommendations from senior administrative staff in Massachusetts and our four campuses abroad, and grounded with the perspectives offered by many members of the SYA community through surveys, interviews and focus groups.

The new plan focuses our efforts on four key goals that will:

1. Strengthen program offerings and pedagogy to meet 21st-century students' needs.
2. Create a cohesive marketing/communications action plan to support SYA in a unified way.
3. Diversify the revenue stream to provide deep and dependable support for all aspects of SYA programming.
4. Bolster financial operations to achieve long-term financial stability.

A detailed action plan will guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan and will provide regular updates to the community on our progress.

We invite you to read the SYA Strategic Plan and, as always, we welcome your observations and questions. And we appreciate your continued support of School Year Abroad!

John E. Creeden
President

Douglas Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P
Chair, Board of Trustees

Strategic Plan

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We believe that School Year Abroad creates a life-changing experience within and outside the classroom for students by having them live and learn in a different culture. Our students are encouraged to challenge assumptions, explore the unfamiliar and in the process develop self-reliance, resourcefulness, adaptability, respect for difference and self-confidence.

We believe that our students will take from SYA a humble appreciation for the complexity of the world's challenges, and a genuine awareness that cultural values and national traditions lead countries to approach those challenges differently.

We believe that our students will experience an emotional attachment to a new culture, the result of immersion in their host family, city and country, and for those who fully embrace the experience, they will be personally transformed.

We believe that our students will work hard to master another language, for some perhaps a third or fourth language, while adapting to life in a host family, and that the skill and the self-confidence they gain from the effort will allow them to function competently and comfortably in cultures different from their own as they continue their educations and continue through life.

We believe educating SYA students to become citizens of the world bolsters intellectual capabilities, promotes global understanding, and fosters individual growth and development.

Approved by the Board of Trustees
March 24, 2013

STRATEGIC PLANNING AT SYA: PROCESS OVERVIEW

SYA launched community-wide strategic planning at the Board meeting held in Zaragoza, Spain, in March of 2012, and continued the process at a summer retreat and at the Board of Trustees meeting in October of the same year.

At the beginning of the 2012–13 school year, enrollments were robust, departure meetings had gone well, orientation programs in each country were carefully planned and organized, and classes were in full swing in all four schools. The programs in China, France, Italy and Spain have capable and experienced Resident Directors, and the faculties in each school are well trained in their disciplines and genuinely care for students. Following the closing of Japan and Vietnam, enrollments have exceeded projected budgets in each remaining school, and reached maximum capacity in Italy and Spain (2012–13). Reports back from Zaragoza continued to praise the high functionality and aesthetics of the building. Finally, surveys of various constituents indicate high degrees of satisfaction with a program that remains best in class.

Despite these strong indicators, there are also consistent warning signs as SYA faces multiple challenges. While enrollment is strong, applications have declined steadily since 2002. The program of study is centered on the humanities and does not make use of some of the more recently-developed pedagogies or technology commonly found in many independent schools. Prospective students especially, but also their parents, have begun to focus on what will need to be given up during a

year away rather than what will be gained. In this era of résumé building, they worry that SYA's program — despite its other enormous advantages — will put students at risk during the college admission process. High costs represent a barrier for many, as do the explosion of shorter, less-expensive programs, often conducted during the “off” summer months. Member Schools, pressed for money in a difficult economy, have started to question the cost-benefit relationship with SYA. None of these challenges presents a crisis for SYA, but in the aggregate, should engender a sense of urgency in finding ways to address them.

The goals and steps outlined below represent a strategic positioning more than the traditional, multi-year plan. Global conditions are changing rapidly, and SYA needs to remain nimble in order to adapt its business model advantageously while staying faithful to its mission. Its parts are inextricably linked: robust admissions will promote financial sustainability; marketing and communications are key, but so is reshaping program; SYA must strengthen Member School relationships, just as those schools need to perceive the benefits of membership; access and affordability need to be addressed; facilities must keep pace with needs; and while achieving stability in an uncertain global environment is deeply important, SYA cannot abandon its aspirational vision, which might lead to new campuses, income-producing auxiliary programs, new or renovated facilities, and ambitious fundraising plans to provide new resources. Strong governance must sustain these operations at all times.

These outcomes can only be achieved when board and administrative leadership attend to the following major areas:

- Strengthening program/curriculum to enrich the SYA experience for students, provide increased professional opportunities for teachers and maintain a curriculum that is fresh and innovative.
- Creating a cohesive marketing/communications action plan to strengthen admissions, bolster fundraising and revitalize Member School relations.
- Diversifying the revenue stream to provide dependable support for all of SYA's programming.
- Bolstering financial operations and increasing the endowment and Annual Fund to achieve long-term financial stability.

The explosion of shorter programs, a diminished number of high school students wanting to spend an entire year overseas, and the tendency toward résumé building represent more than challenges; they represent real threats to organizational survival. Prospective students and their parents need to perceive SYA's programs as up-to-date, innovative and exciting. Diversifying revenue sources can only happen when SYA concentrates entrepreneurially on developing auxiliary programs that are mission driven, are fully integrated into overall operations, and represent new areas of vitality and strength. Great programs continue to be great only when they are able to shift and adapt to vastly changing conditions. Many of these changing conditions are not within SYA's control; how it responds to them is.

The planning process recognized the need to stabilize enrollment and finances as a strategic imperative, even while setting in motion planning for future expansion. Embracing stability should not be seen as a defensive move. Rather, it represents the first step in securing SYA's future in a world that is much altered since its founding nearly 50 years ago. The overall goal should be to stabilize and invest.

GOAL I

Strengthen program offerings and pedagogy to meet students' needs and remain relevant in the market of study abroad programs.

1. Curriculum

Explore and adopt curricular and cocurricular changes that will enrich the SYA experience focusing on the addition of science and social science courses, service learning, local school exchanges, and community involvement.

2. Technology

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. Become familiar with the best practices of online and distance learning tools to make appropriate use of technology in the curriculum.

3. Pedagogy

Initiate strong professional development opportunities and incentives to shape programmatic evolution and teaching methods to meet current students' needs as well as teachers' professional ambitions, including in the area of technology. Consider how best to utilize the expertise of faculty at Member Schools, and in turn, how SYA faculty might contribute to the curricular initiatives at Member Schools.

GOAL II

Create a cohesive marketing/communications action plan to support SYA in a unified way.

1. Communications

Evaluate and improve the targeted messaging and communication plan to all constituencies to ensure admissions target goals and to support philanthropy. Improve the quality of the SYA narrative with enhanced multimedia strategies.

2. Admissions

Use targeted communications and marketing to increase the number of applicants, strengthening the fit between SYA programs and the enrolled student body.

3. Member School Relationships

Reframe the Member School relationship in order to infuse the applicant pool with highly qualified candidates and to underscore the advantage of membership for schools.

4. Long-Range Development Plan

Create a long-range development plan, with measurable goals for annual giving, endowment, planned giving, and investments, to provide needed support for SYA operations, and develop effective communication strategies to achieve these goals.

5. Alumni Relations

Assess and revise the current alumni program establishing benchmarks and goals to strengthen the program, increase participation in and support for SYA, and leverage the celebration of SYA's 50th Anniversary in 2014–15.

GOAL III

Diversify the revenue stream to provide deep and dependable support for all aspects of SYA programming.

1. Auxiliary programs

Expand current and/or create new auxiliary programs to enhance the SYA brand, broaden the appeal of SYA to potential applicants, parents and educators, introduce non-traditional students, increase the value proposition of the SYA Member Schools, diversify and contribute net revenue to the organization.

2. Integration of programs

Determine how to fully integrate auxiliary programs with the year-long program so that these programs serve the long-term objective of achieving financial sustainability. Ensure that auxiliary programs are given appropriate status in the overall organizational structure by developing appropriate staffing models so that auxiliary programs are fully resourced.

3. Exploration of new and/or expanded campuses

Initiate the multi-year planning process that would position SYA for the successful opening of new campuses or expansion of existing campuses for the full-year program if and when the Board deems this to be desirable.

GOAL IV

Bolster financial operations to achieve long-term financial stability.

1. Finances

Utilize strong fiscal management to secure long-term financial sustainability, ensuring that SYA's finances are predictable and that the program is available to a broad range of students financially.

2. Financial modeling

Develop and utilize a financial model driven both by existing policies as well as new Strategic Plan policies and goals, designing long-term scenarios, generating and optimizing a dynamic long-term plan and driving the annual budgetary process.

3. Tuition

Develop a comprehensive policy on tuition pricing based on appropriate pricing benchmarks and considering the differing cost structures for SYA's different schools.

4. Financial aid

Develop model financial scenarios that assume varying levels of financial aid contributions to SYA from Member Schools. Identify the potential impact a change in our Member School Agreement would have on overall enrollment and net tuition, and develop a plan in relation to that potential impact.

2012-13 Events

SYA Homecoming in Boston

July 19, 2012

Boston Parent Reception

October 11, 2012

Co-hosted by the SYA Board of Trustees

SYA in NYC

January 9, 2013

Co-hosted by Michael McCarty FR'70

SYA in Richmond

January 13, 2013

Hosted by Trustee Kristin Lund Vosmik FR'81 and Chip Vosmik FR'81

SYA in DC

January 15, 2013

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

SYA in London

January 28, 2013

Hosted by Trustee Natalia Bulgari ES'86

SYA in Santa Monica

February 5, 2013

Co-hosted by Michael McCarty FR'70

SYA in San Francisco

February 7, 2013

Co-hosted by Holland Goss Lynch FR'87 and Hugo FR'77 and Lee Ann Patterson ES'13P

New York City Parent Reception

April 16, 2013

Co-hosted by Trustee Margaret Conklin FR'74

SYA in Hong Kong

April 30, 2013

Hosted by Alexa Bator Chae FR'90

SYA on the North Shore (Chicago)

May 21, 2013

Co-hosted by Linny and Mark Freeman ES'73

SYA Homecoming

July 19, 2012

Alumni, parents, faculty and new families attended the seventh annual SYA Homecoming at the JFK Presidential Library and Museum in Boston. Highlights included presentations by Kyle Laracey CN'12, Annie Jones FR'12, Kayla McLaughlin IT'12, Elise Guarna ES'12 and Andrew Sanborn VN'12. SYA is grateful to former Trustee Carlos and Malu Alvarez FR'00P for their generous donation of wine for the evening's festivities.



From left, SYA Spain Resident Director Griffin Morse, Kyle Laracey CN'12, SYA China Resident Director Hilde Becker, Elise Guarna ES'12, Executive Director Nelson Chase, Andrew Sanborn VN'12, Annie Jones FR'12, SYA France Resident Director Denis Brochu, Kayla McLaughlin IT'12, SYA Italy Resident Director Patrick Scanlon



SYA Italy Resident Director Patrick Scanlon surrounded by SYA Italy alumni.



Former SYA China Resident Director Jeff Bissell (left) toasts colleague Tim Pettus's retirement after 10 years of teaching math at SYA China.



From left, Eric Bihl FR'06, former Trustee Stephen Foster ES'65 and Ira Crowe ES'67 ES'02P



Father and son duo Thomas Rodde CN'12 and Tom Rodde DE'75 CN'12P



From left, FR'92 classmates Carole Reid Bird and Nikki Greene



ES'87 classmates Liz Coolidge Nassikas and Dave Thompson



From left, Dana Rickerich ES'82 ES'12P, Noah Rickerich ES'12, Donna and Jeffrey Fitzgerald CN'12P



SYA siblings Carolyn CN'05 and Hans CN'12 Gaebler

Event Highlights

SYA in NYC

January 9, 2013

SYAers gathered at the annual SYA in NYC reception co-hosted by Michael McCarty FR'70.



From left, FR'79 classmates Susan Getgood, Charlie DeBevoise FR'12P, Alex Alger CN'12P and Gail Aidinoff Scovell



From left, CN'00 classmates Matt Lemieux, Jory Eisenberg and Emily Trower-Young



From left, Olivia Stoker IT'06, David Davenport FR'71 and Marcus Strong IT'06



FR'73 classmates Lyn Perlmuth and Martin Sinkoff



From left, FR'08 classmates Bella Ruggiero, Jamie Silverstein, Andree Dean, Charlie Aidinoff, Rachel Beardsley and Cole Newcomb (also VN'10)



FR'74 classmates Seth Aidinoff FR'07P FR'08P and Trustee Margaret Conklin

SYA in DC

January 15, 2013

SYA Trustee and Head of Sidwell Friends School Tom Farquhar co-hosted this year's D.C. reception.



From left, Catherine Cooke Benvie IT'03, Julia Cooke IT'05, Carol Cooke IT'03P IT'05P with SYA President Jack Creeden



From left, Barbara and Walter Burgin FR'69F, Chip Dale FR'69 FR'08P, Nick Dale FR'08 and Carter Eltzroth FR'69



From left, Carolyn MacIver Millstein FR'79 and Agnès Tabah CN'10P

From left, Paul Kiyonaga ES'80, former SYA Spain Resident Director Charlie Whitehead, Trustee Tom Farquhar, Mary Grady and Michael Park ES'02



SYA in Santa Monica

February 5, 2013

SYAers enjoyed a lovely evening at Michael's Santa Monica thanks to co-host Michael McCarty FR'70.



From left, Jennifer Velaise FR'13P, Carol Kelson FR'13P and Carl Moor FR'78 IT'13P



From left, Louise Danelian FR'07GP with Harold and Stephanie Bronson FR'12P



From left, FR'04 classmates Lizzy Tooke, Dylan Stoker and Pam Alvarez



Jeffrey and Gayla Hartsough CN'06P



Eli Kogan ES'12 with his parents Mark and Betsy

SYA in San Francisco

February 7, 2013

SYAers gathered at the Pacific Heights home of Holland Goss Lynch FR'86.



Co-hosts Lee Ann and Hugo Patterson FR'77 ES'13P surround Sally and Brian Biles FR'13P



From left, FR'92 classmates Alex Jermyn, Jonathan Gruhl and Steven Hahn



Co-host Holland Goss Lynch FR'86, center, with her classmates Jon Anderson and Tacy Trowbridge

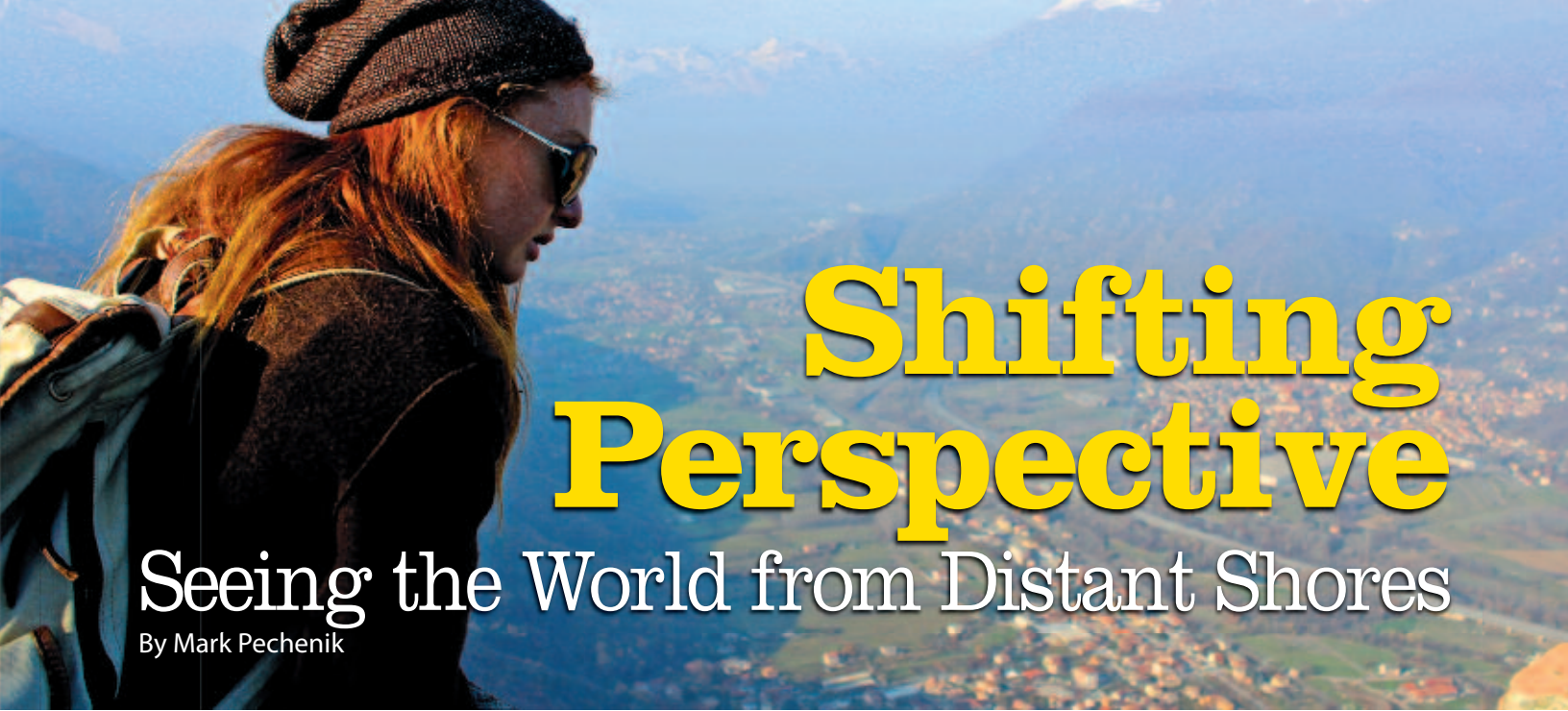
SYA in Hong Kong

April 16, 2013

Alexa Bator Chae FR'90 hosted several SYAers at her home to welcome SYA President Jack Creeden to Hong Kong.



From left, Eve Patton CN'03P CN'07P, Carol Reid Bird FR'92, Alexa Bator Chae FR'90, Joanne Tsao ES'88, Alec Stuart FR'81, Ned Levin CN'03 and Jack Creeden



Shifting Perspective

Seeing the World from Distant Shores

By Mark Pechenik

David McKean FR'74 FR'11P: Advocating the Power of Diplomacy



Reviewing his 30-year career in public service, David McKean often reflects on the course of his life had he not participated in School Year Abroad.

"I wouldn't have been as adventurous," he says. "SYA was one of those life-changing experiences. After my year in France, I wanted to see more of the world."

Presently serving as a senior advisor to newly appointed U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, McKean traces his global awareness to SYA.

While he was at Phillips Exeter Academy, he says, "I had traveled to Europe on vacation. but this was different. I was seventeen years old, on my own, yet surrounded by good friends. It was exciting."

Living with his host family in

Rennes, McKean enjoyed the cafés, traveled and became fully immersed in French culture.

"Sunday lunches with my host family, in particular, were very special," he recalls. "They'd invite over good friends, and the meals would go on for four or five hours. Then we'd take a long walk, pretending to exercise."

During this time, McKean was also introduced to international politics. "The Vietnam War was still ongoing," he says. "Occasionally my French father, Tanguy, and I discussed America's involvement in it."

McKean was aware of France's history with Vietnam. In addition, Tanguy was the son of a military officer who had served in the Algerian conflict when that French colony was fighting for its independence.

"Because he came from a military family, I think he felt America was probably doing the right thing in Vietnam," says McKean. "We usually agreed to disagree."

Back home, as a Harvard student, McKean became interested in politics and during his junior year interned for U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas of Massachusetts. Tsongas was calling on universities to divest from companies doing business with South Africa's brutal regime of apartheid. "I became interested in what was taking place in that country, and the senator told me, 'You need to go see for yourself,'" recalls McKean.

A teaching position at the Waterford Kamhlaba School in Swaziland, from 1981 to 1982, followed. "It was an extraordinary place because it was one of the few racially integrated schools in the South African region," McKean says.

He was captivated by the school's highly charged political atmosphere. Many of his students were children of South African rebels fighting the oppressive, white-led government. "I guess that's when I decided

I wanted to have a role in trying to have an impact on foreign policy," he says.

He prepared himself by studying law at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

McKean met Kerry in 1987 and has worked for him on and off for the last 25 years. He became his chief of staff in 1999, and was Kerry's first staff director when the senator became chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 2009.

As director of policy planning in the Department of State, McKean now holds a position created under Secretary of State George Marshall.

"Our office tries to look over the horizon and present a picture of what's likely to transpire on the international scene in the future," he says. "The goal is to provide a long-term strategy, and we work to provide the secretary with various options."

Currently, his office is examining what he calls "the phenomenon of failed states," such as Syria, and what the United States can do to prevent fragile countries from spiraling out of control.

McKean echoes his boss, who believes we should be building our nation's capacity to engage in more effective diplomacy. "We spend a million dollars per year for a soldier to fight in Afghanistan," he says. "The American people need to understand that diplomacy saves lives, and is more cost effective than having our young men and women shipped around the world to fight in wars."

McKean is optimistic that more Americans are starting to see the value of negotiations rather than conflict.

"Programs like SYA have a lot to do with this change," he says. "With more young people traveling and studying abroad, the next generation will have a better grasp on global issues and that, I hope, will result in fewer worldwide hostilities."



Along with traditions and customs, politics inevitably leaves a lasting impression on School Year Abroad students. This is especially true for these nine alumni.

Not only did these alums take note of the political environment within their host countries, but their observations also led to lifetime careers in public service. In many cases, their sensitivity to governmental influences also compelled them to review the realities of the U.S. political system.

Perhaps this is no more apparent than in the SYA experience of Rob Streicker FR'02. Because his trip to Rennes was delayed ten days due to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Streicker's entire year was colored by one of the most devastating incidents in American history.

Eventually, as an aide to U.S. Senator Jack Reed, Streicker often found himself explaining U.S. international positions, much as he did as an SYA student in France less than a decade ago.

For Robert Rivkin FR'77 ES'13P, there's a direct connection between his experience and his role as general counsel to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood. Rivkin even credits the French proficiency he gained as an SYA student to his negotiating expertise with French Canadian air carriers.

Others, too, point to SYA as life-altering, and as a career-orienting agent of change.

As director of policy planning for the U.S. Department of State, David McKean FR'74 FR'11P cites long conversations with his host family's father about the United States' involvement in Vietnam as having a great influence on his political aspirations.

For Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun ES'97, now assistant cultural affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid, SYA provided the basis for, she says, "confidence, the ability to negotiate one's own culture and perspective with those of another culture, and foreign-language fluency."

For Clay Pell ES'99 CN'01, perceptions about global connections made during his SYA studies have proved invaluable to his work as the White House staff's director of strategic planning.

Meanwhile, the observations of Patrick Stephenson ES'90 and Beppe Lovoi FR'00 about key differences among world cultures led to thriving careers, as a speech writer for NATO General Secretary Anders Fogh Rasmussen and as sustainability development officer for the United Nations, respectively.

Similarly, SYA alums Jonathan Bender FR'94 and Myesha Jackson ES'97 both saw — and appreciated — the differences within global societies that have translated into high-level opportunities within international air travel (Bender) and, for Jackson, California state government.

Although their career paths varied, these SYA alums share the bonds of lessons learned through SYA. Their resulting political acumen has had a lasting impact on cultures and communities throughout the world.

Robert Rivkin FR'77 ES'13P: Seeing the World from a Global Perspective



Seeking to measure up to his own expectations, Robert Rivkin felt compelled to participate in School Year Abroad.

"My father had been ambassador to Luxembourg and Senegal, both French-speaking countries," Rivkin says, "but although I did well in French class in school, I felt sheepish about not being fluent in the language."

Little did he realize that his SYA experience would be the basis for a career in which language and cultural immersion were essential to his success.

Upon arriving in Rennes, France, Rivkin questioned whether he'd made the right decision. "I entered during second semester — something that isn't done with today's programs — and was

immediately thrust into a student production of the *Marriage of Figaro*. It turned out to be a good experience," he says: "I had no other choice but to become a strong French speaker as quickly as possible."

Rivkin soon settled into the life of a French teenager. "I didn't think as much about French culture as much as live it," he says now. "I joined a group of friends and we'd play pinball in bars, ride mopeds and eat amazing pastries."

He especially enjoyed trips with his host family, the d'Arcimoles, to their summer house on the southern coast of Brittany. "Everybody would be wearing sweaters, and we would go sailing during the day and then stay up all night playing board games," he remembers.

The lasting impressions of his SYA experience eventually steered Rivkin toward a career in international politics and government.

After graduation from Harvard College, he worked for the British Parliament and the European Commission, in Brussels.

It was while attending Stanford Law School and working for a summer at a law firm in Paris that Rivkin had what he calls "a minor epiphany."

"It struck me that even though practicing law in Paris would be wonderful in many ways, I just wasn't that interested in work like negotiating leases for U.S. companies seeking office space abroad," he says. Instead, he wanted to learn how to try cases, and, he says, "get involved in issues affecting my own country."

The first step in realizing that goal came with his appointment as an assistant U.S. attorney, battling fraud, corrupt politicians and gangs in Chicago. He then became director of programs and policy for the city of Chicago's Law Department, and then partner in the Chicago law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP. Subsequently, he successfully took on the formidable chal-

lenge of serving as general counsel for the Chicago Transit Authority, from 2001 to 2004.

In his current position as general counsel of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Rivkin is chief legal officer and adviser to Secretary Ray LaHood, with the authority to resolve all legal questions surrounding the department's programs and policies.

Rivkin played a major role in the development of the so-called Cash for Clunkers program. By paying motorists to trade in their older cars for new models, this initiative sought to boost the U.S. automobile industry during the height of the recession.

"We injected three billion dollars into the economy in one month at the depths of the 2009 downturn," says Rivkin, "retiring old gas-guzzlers and allowing consumers to put 700,000 safer and more fuel-efficient cars on the road."

Rivkin has also been prominent in the development of several DOT traveler protection rules, such as the highly publicized mandate that airline passengers be allowed off planes grounded on the tarmac after three hours of waiting. "Our goal is to make sure airlines are treating their customers fairly," he says.

It's in work with airlines that Rivkin's SYA experience seems to have come full circle. "We do a lot of international work on airline alliances, route approvals, regulatory harmonization, open-skies agreements and matters before the International Civil Aviation Authority (ICAO)," he explains.

"Early in my tenure, I had to settle an issue involving Canadian air operations," he says. "I opened negotiations by greeting the Canadian representatives in French. It helped to create a cooperative atmosphere to address our concerns. That's just one example where I'm constantly reminded of the importance of seeing the world from a global perspective."



Patrick Stephenson ES'90: Embracing Global Transformations



Patrick Stephenson likes to sum up his SYA experience in one word: change. “It didn’t just change my views; it changed my life, very literally and completely,” he says.

Now a speechwriter for NATO General Secretary Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Stephenson’s journey of change began with curiosity about the world.

“I was a sophomore at Deerfield Academy,” he says, “and I’d never been outside of the United States — rarely before Deerfield had I gone far outside of my home state, Kentucky. The simple desire to go abroad and see the world may have been the main reason” for his decision to go to Spain with SYA.

In the beginning, Stephenson focused on finding his way within a culture quite different from his own. “I was so young that it was less a question of what impressed me the most than what confused me the least,” he says. “I probably communicated with the horses in Kentucky better than I did with the Spaniards during those first few months.”

Eventually, however, Stephenson managed to, as he puts it, “clamp down and focus on amateur theater and my studies.” In particular, he took note of citizens’ views about the United States.

“They were more skeptical than I had expected,” he recalls. “I remember having an intense discussion with a Spaniard about the Iran-Contra Affair. I didn’t understand much of what he said. At the

end, I managed to say in Spanish something to the effect that I like to hear different perspectives, and that was the end of it.”

Nevertheless, Stephenson soon discovered that his exposure to international realities was reshaping his identity. “When one is confronted with a different world, and a completely different view of the world, the usual reaction is either to reject the experience and forget about it or to absorb it and let it work all sorts of slow but substantial changes inside you,” he says.

He continues: “I absorbed it. The lasting impression was one of freedom, discovery and cultural possibility, with all the turbulence those things tend to inspire. There’s no doubt that it changed my life for the stranger, and also for the better.”

This change proved so compelling that Stephenson actively sought it out even years after his SYA experience: “There was a moment in my late twenties when I realized that I had lost the sense of freedom and discovery I’d found in Spain, and I decided I wanted to get it back,” he says, “so for my second year at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, I decided to go to the Bologna Center, in Italy.”

Following graduate school, he embraced the idea of working for an international organization.

“It felt natural to head to Brussels to pursue a career as a civilian at NATO. I also began teaching on the side as an adjunct in economics and political science at the University of Maryland in Europe,” he says.

In his role with NATO, Stephenson focuses on presenting the Secretary General’s views in ways that are both compelling and informative. “The goal is to reproduce what the Secretary General wants to say, and to do so in a way that makes for an effective speech or editorial,” he explains.

Aside from the Secretary General, says Stephenson, the key to speechwriting success is to satisfy several constituencies.

“You have to get it right with the Secretary General and with others who provide content. A speech is much fought over; it’s the ‘gold’ of political communication, so everyone wants a piece of it. It’s not easy, but by the final draft we come up with something that works,” he says.

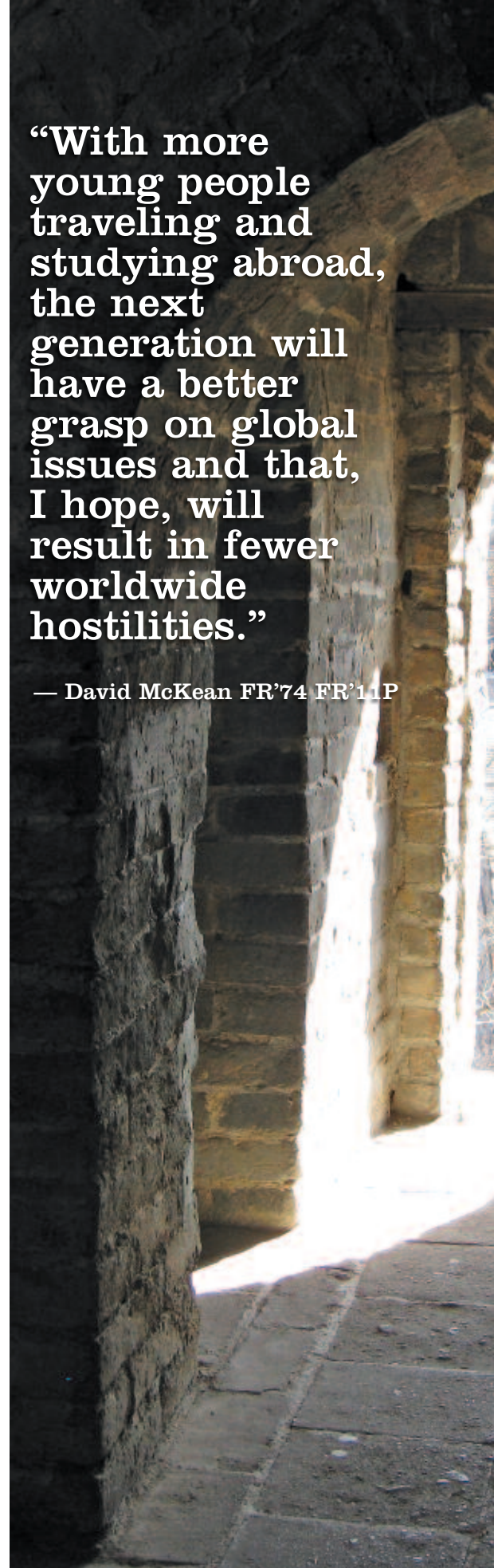
Stephenson has strong views about how to correct American views about foreign issues.

“This is about education,” he says. “Many of the misconceptions that U.S. citizens have about global politics — both positive and negative — would be greatly alleviated if more high school students had the opportunity to study abroad.”

Looking ahead, Stephenson hopes to continue with career pursuits from a global perspective. “Speechwriting is really a rite of passage,” he says, “although I’m not sure where the passage leads, probably somewhere in Pasadena or, if I’m lucky, Hawaii.”

“With more young people traveling and studying abroad, the next generation will have a better grasp on global issues and that, I hope, will result in fewer worldwide hostilities.”

— David McKean FR’74 FR’11P



Jonathan Bender FR'94: Seeing Beyond Borders



Looking back, Jonathan Bender traces his passion for world cultures to a moment during his French graduate studies at Canada's McGill University. "Something clicked and I got very distracted by the world outside," he recalls.

"In order to get some real-world grounding and some extra cash, I took a summer job at Air France," he says. "There, I could speak French and hop on planes on a whim. It was perfect."

Eventually, Bender's global wanderlust led him to his current position, manager of Global Customer Relations for Emirates Airlines. It's a journey for which Bender credits his School Year Abroad experience almost two decades earlier.

"I was a student at the Hotchkiss School in Connecticut, and I was very drawn to French," says Bender. "With encouragement from my French teachers, I applied to SYA and soon found myself in Rennes, France."

Although he was excited by this opportunity, Bender also feared that it would end before it really began. "After two years of high school French, landing in an immersion environment was a rude awakening," he says.

Indeed, he says now, his host family's three-year-old daughter "seemed to have a better grasp on expressing herself than I did. The small children motivated me to communicate better, faster, crisper."

The result was an experience

that went far beyond mastering another language. "I remember weekends being very long," Bender says. "My host family could spend hours with each other, just eating, drinking, enjoying life: Saturday lunch, Sunday Mass, all the hallmarks of France."

He continues: "Time seemed to have a very different meaning. I think it was in France that I learned how to really read — the kind of reading in which you digest every word, every page."

Such awareness and appreciation of a society different from his own fundamentally changed Bender's outlook on life and, he says, on the world around him.

"It's simple: SYA freed me from mental constraints about being tied to geographical borders. Conquering the fears and surmounting the challenges I faced as a young student in France really stuck with me," he says now.

"Upon returning home," he says, "I realized I was blessed with a gift that few would ever have, the ability to see beyond borders. I could get on a plane and go anywhere, see anything, and not be afraid."

"SYA instills in its students the concept that the world does not revolve entirely around our country. Only through learning another language and conversing with people in their language can one truly understand globalization. It's like holding up a mirror to the planet," he says.

In the years since SYA, Bender's perceptions about the world — especially as it relates to the role of the United States within the changing international scene — have grown even deeper.

"We're not the only ones who matter. America's economic and military might get us to the table, but that doesn't mean we're good listeners," Bender says. "People envy us, our success, our freedoms, but the freedoms and democracy we enjoy were not built overnight, nor were they born cleanly and neatly."

This awareness and sensitivity to global realities has translated into global success.

Leaving Air France after industry problems resulting from the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Bender was recruited by Emirates Airlines. "Even ten years ago, everyone knew Emirates. It set the standard for the art of travel, and it was a good employer in an interesting place," he says.

Bender has served Emirates in a variety of capacities, among them executive positions within the airline's training, airport and commercial divisions.

He currently manages a team of 130 people in 16 countries dedicated to customer relations. "We examine service failures and try to get customers back," he explains. "We also focus on compliance with regulatory matters in various markets."

It's this daily international focus that has served to expand his views on global politics, especially when it comes to world conflicts.

"More people need to travel, learn languages, seek new ideas and previous unexplored solutions," he says. "More than anything else, we need to take the time to talk to one another, not kill each other."



“Many of the misconceptions that U.S. citizens have about global politics — both positive and negative — would be greatly alleviated if more high school students had the opportunity to study abroad.”

— Patrick Stephenson ES'90

Myesha Jackson ES'97:

Using Global Expertise to Help the Less Fortunate



As a School Year Abroad student from San Francisco studying in Spain in 1996, Myesha Jackson remembers when she became aware of the political climate in her host city, Barcelona.

“I was walking down to the port with classmates, and I could tell that some important political figure was in town,” she remembers. “There were military police officers standing around holding semiautomatic weapons. It was very jarring to see such a strong military presence with everyone else conducting business as usual.” On the other hand, she also took note of the many announcements on the subway in Catalán, “a language the government had banned for many decades,” she says.

These experiences are just a

couple of reminders of Spain’s slow transition from the iron rule of General Franco’s dictatorship, which had ended just some 20 years earlier, to a more open society.

On a lighter note, Jackson recalls being amused by local citizens’ reactions to her native Californian background. “They wanted to know if I knew any movie stars,” she says. “I’d explain that California is a very big state and, honestly, there weren’t many movie stars from the northern part of the state, which is where I grew up.”

After graduating from Dartmouth College with a major in Romance languages, Jackson headed home with her heart set on assisting vulnerable populations. Her lifelong desire to help people led to a position with a nonprofit agency advocating for nursing-home reform.

She soon found that her advanced language skills were invaluable as she helped Spanish-speaking families of patients in nursing homes and translated some of the organization’s publications.

Jackson says witnessing how a regime change could transform an entire nation left a lasting impression. That, coupled with her major in languages, eventually brought her to a career in California’s political arena.

As a result of her nonprofit lobbying efforts, she grew increasingly intrigued by the public-policy process and decided to pursue a career in government in Sacramento. “I was determined to work in the capital,” Jackson recalls. “I had to walk around with thirty résumés and thirty cover letters because at the time I had very few connections.”

Then, in 2005, she was contacted by Latina State Senator Nell Soto’s office. “I had worked with her staff on a few pieces of legislation,” Jackson says, “and they asked if I was still looking for a job — they had an opening for a legislative aide focusing on

long-term-care and education issues. Of course, I gladly accepted.”

In Senator Soto’s office, Jackson’s advanced Spanish skills paid off in many ways. “In particular,” she says, “they gave me the opportunity to hear a more honest and unfiltered story from our Spanish-speaking constituents.”

Jackson eventually became the human services and veterans affairs policy consultant for Senate President pro tem Darrell Steinberg. In October 2012, Jackson’s growing legislative expertise earned her a position as chief consultant for the Human Services Committee of the California State Assembly.

“Our office provides analyses on human-services bills that come before the assembly, and we facilitate informational and oversight hearings to shed light on policies — and implementation of those policies — for legislators, staff and the general public,” she says.

“Many of the bills that help California’s most vulnerable populations make their way through the human services committee,” she says. “Whether we’re discussing foster youths who need permanent family connections, parents who are struggling to feed and clothe their children and find jobs, or people living with disabilities who strive for opportunities to improve their quality of life, we’re very fortunate to be able to play a role in shaping life-changing policies.”

Reflecting on her continuing legislative career, Jackson is quick to give significant credit to her SYA experience. “Studying overseas, you can’t help but develop an expanded global perspective,” she says, “and I think seeing and understanding the larger picture gives you a stronger ability to deal with [social] problems.”

Looking ahead, Jackson plans to continue with her career in government service. “It’s a great feeling when your work makes an important, positive difference in people’s lives,” she says.





Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun ES'97: Embracing Multicultural Perspectives



Cultural differences and the sweep of history not only left a lasting impression on Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun; they also proved to be an inspiration for her career as a foreign services officer.

"I hadn't known that so many regional differences existed in Spain," says Martin-Shukrun, commenting on what surprised her most about her SYA experience. "For example, studying in Catalunya, we didn't have much exposure to flamenco and bull-fights. Instead, we could see people doing the sardanyes, the regional folk dance, in front of the cathedral on Sunday mornings."

She continues: "Although my family spoke Castilian Spanish at home, I picked up a few words of Catalán to speak in the shops. It

was interesting that such cultural traditions could differ in one country, especially a country so much smaller than the United States."

Equally eye-opening for Martin-Shukrun was the influence of the events that had formed modern Spain. "In our English class, we read *Homage to Catalonia*, by George Orwell, in which he describes battles among partisan Republican groups during the [Spanish] Civil War," she says. "I remember reading that book and then walking down the Ramblas and seeing some of the buildings that were described as part of the battle.

"Here, we tend to focus on the future, not the past, and we pride ourselves on the way our country constantly reinvents itself," she says. "Seeing how modern Spanish politics and institutions were formed and are still feeling the impact of the Spanish Civil War, sixty years earlier, drove that lesson home and helped explain other complex political situations in Europe and beyond."

Such appreciation and awareness of international politics, both past and present, caused Martin-Shukrun to gravitate toward the life of a diplomat.

"There's no doubt that my SYA experience played an enormous part in my decision to pursue the U.S. Foreign Service as a career," she says. "It opened my mind to the differences among cultures and gave me a hint of the rush that you can get from having all your preconceived notions challenged through experience in a foreign country."

She adds: "My year with SYA provided me with the three tools that are essential for a diplomat: confidence, ability to negotiate one's own culture and perspective with those of another culture, and foreign-language fluency." These tools helped Martin-Shukrun launch her career in diplomacy, and continue to serve her well in her current role as assistant cultural affairs officer at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid.

Determined to follow the example of her grandfa-

ther, who enjoyed a decades-long career in the foreign services, in college Martin-Shukrun studied comparative literature with a minor in international relations.

While seeking her degree, she studied in Strasbourg, for a year, which, along with her SYA background, she says, "sealed my interest in working and living abroad, and specifically representing the United States."

From her diplomatic posting in Spain, Martin-Shukrun is responsible for bringing speakers and experts from the United States to address topics related to U.S. foreign-policy priorities. "We do outreach to Spanish youths, especially through embassy speakers visiting universities and high schools to discuss American culture and history," she says. "We support many English teaching programs and make contact with Spanish civil society organizations and minority communities."

Among her achievements, Martin-Shukrun cites a three-day summit in March 2012 that brought together Spanish and American leaders in social innovation and community service. "At a time when Spain is struggling economically, the event provided an opportunity to share ideas on how nongovernmental organizations, government and the private sector can work together to engage citizens in solving some of the greatest problems facing the country," she says.

Two months later, Martin-Shukrun served as one of the liaison officers for the Spanish delegation to the NATO summit in Chicago. The summit, she explains, helped "chart a way forward for the [NATO] alliance on several important issues, including Afghanistan."

From a personal standpoint, this occasion was particularly significant for Martin-Shukrun.

"Being able to show off my beautiful hometown and its hospitality while representing my country and serving as a bridge between Spain and the United States," she says, "was definitely one of the proudest moments of my career."



“SYA instills in its students the concept that the world does not revolve entirely around our country.”

— Jonathan Bender FR'94

H. Clay Pell ES'99 CN'01: Appreciating Global Similarities



As a student at SYA China, Clay Pell's first assignment was to acquire a bicycle. He bought the simplest one he could find, but paid the extra yuan for a bell.

With that bicycle he explored an ancient city, bypassing its traffic and ringing that bell, usually to no effect, as he crossed some of the largest thoroughfares on earth in search of understanding a place that was, to him, entirely new.

No quest was too small or too great. Riding to class past buildings that rose overnight. Crossing town to find an ancient mosque and a church that had stood the test of time and dramatic change. Loading the bike on a bus to a distant village, free of the city's rush and silent except for laughter.

Pell arrived at SYA China without a word of Chinese but worked through all levels of SYA's language classes — among the first for our program at the time. Pell credits his experience at SYA Spain two years before. “Languages are different,” he says, “but understanding how one works is enormously helpful when learning another.”

Pell's two years with SYA not only gave him two new languages, but they also set the course for his life.

He enrolled at Harvard, where he earned a degree in social studies with an emphasis on development. “I wanted to understand how economies and societies change and grow,” he explains.

He also earned a citation in Modern Standard Arabic. “I was part of a wave of Arabic students following 9/11,” Pell says, “and I wanted to understand this ancient region and its diverse people as much as possible.”

Although Pell focused on international issues, he wanted to understand how America connected and could lead in a rapidly changing world. His thesis was on the social and economic effects of globalization on his home state, Rhode Island.

“As an American, I didn't want just to see what other countries were doing. I wanted to learn from them and see where we could invest in the future.”

Following stints with the State Department and the CIA during and after college, Pell went to law school at Georgetown. There his interests lay in international law, and he studied overseas, including in Argentina and in China.

He wanted to leverage these international skills for the United States. Following law school, Pell joined the U.S. Coast Guard. “I was drawn to the mission,” Pell says. “The Coast Guard has an exceptional international-law practice and, like other JAG programs, provides lawyers with unparalleled responsibility and courtroom experience.”

Pell followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who had been in the Coast Guard. “There's been no higher honor than serving with the U.S. Coast Guard,” he says.

During that period, Pell applied to be a White House Fellow. The fellowship program selects leaders in various fields to expose them to the top levels of the federal government.

Pell not only ended up in the White House, but also met his future wife, Michelle, in the application process. The two recently wed. “I have the most incredible wife in the world,” says Pell. “Married life has been wonderful.”

Today, Pell is director for strategic planning on President Obama's National Security Staff. “Working for the President,” he says, “is an exceptional honor, something you feel every time you walk through the White House gates.”

Pell believes for his current job, some of the most important lessons he learned were at SYA. “I came to realize that whether it was in America or Spain or China, people everywhere have many of the same questions and challenges,” he says. “I picked up a visceral understanding of the importance of working with other people, the sense of accomplishment that comes with breaking down barriers, and the confidence to search for a point of common ground.”

As to the future, Pell remains concerned about this country's global leadership role, in foreign policy and in investments the nation will make for coming generations. “Nothing is more important than education,” he says. “As individuals and as a country, that's where we need to continue to invest in the future.”

May 7, 2013: The U.S. Department of Education announced the naming of Clay Pell to deputy assistant secretary for the office of International and Foreign Language Education.



Joseph “Beppe” Lovoi FR’00: Developing a Sustainable World



Reflecting on his career in international diplomacy, Beppe Lovoi, the sustainability development officer for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, is quick to credit lessons learned from School Year Abroad.

“Having that exposure to diverse perspectives early — something that was only possible by living and learning in another country — proved to be invaluable,” he says. “It’s been key to my effectiveness, by allowing me to be extremely culturally sensitive.”

An outspoken advocate for sustainable development, Lovoi was one of the architects of Rio+20, the 20-year review conference of the 1992 Earth Summit that has effectively helped set the standard for transitioning to a new worldwide green economy. Given his growing influence in 21st-century economics, it’s difficult to believe that Lovoi’s life could have followed a very different course.

“My application was rejected when I applied to School Year Abroad, at the start of my third year at St. Paul’s School, in Concord, New Hampshire,” he recalls. Refusing to turn away from his desire for “exposure to the world,” as he puts it, he applied again the next year, and was accepted.

Lovoi admits he left for the program in Rennes, France, with several preconceptions. “It was the usual stereotypes — that French people were pretentious and

focused on material wealth,” he says.

He soon found out the error of his views: “The warmth and friendliness of the people of Rennes was truly special,” he says.

Indeed, their sincerity was what impressed Lovoi the most about his SYA experience. “It really struck me how very different it was to forge friendships in France,” he says. “I live in New York City right now and it’s easy to be social and connect with people, but many of these friendships don’t last. Even though it can take awhile to make friends in France,” he says, “those are friendships for life.”

The lasting impressions of these relationships served Lovoi well in his role as a United Nations tour guide, a position he secured after graduating from American University, in Beirut, and Bard College, in New York.

“I was hired for my language skills,” he says. “I was brought on to do the Arabic tour and I also knew three other languages: French, English and Italian, which I spoke at home.”

A promotion to the U.N. Department of Political Affairs, from 2007 to 2011, soon followed. “I was part of a mediation team that facilitated a peace process between the government of Uganda and the rebel Lord’s Resistance Army,” he says. During this same period, Lovoi’s team also worked to ensure the fairness of elections in war-torn Iraq.

Now, Lovoi’s job entails helping developing societies, as well as industrialized countries, have access to what he calls the “three pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, social development and environmental stewardship.” For example, he says, “in the political realm, we work with nations to promote agreements and policies that make sustainable technologies — everything from wind power to biomass energy — accessible to governments.”

In the economic realm, Lovoi and his team promote the the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. Many of these strategies came together at the Rio+20 Conference.

“We had more than fifty thousand participants,” says Lovoi, “and it featured not only governments but also other stakeholders, such as indigenous peoples, businesses and trade unions.”

The summit’s intention, Lovoi says, was to spark ideas that could be put into play for sustainable development. “If governments can be exposed to the most progressive ideas in the business, like those that came up during Rio+20, then they’re more inclined to make sensible policy choices at the national level,” he says.

To a great degree, Lovoi points out, the success of these concepts depends on the ability to listen — really listen — to the cultural perspectives of different societies. “For me,” he says, “this means going back to what I absorbed at School Year Abroad: the ability to understand, synthesize and appreciate views that can be very different from your own.”

“Studying
overseas, you
can’t help but
develop an
expanded global
perspective”

— Myesha Jackson ES’97



“In effect, we had become U.S. ambassadors. It was a lot of responsibility trying to explain our nation’s position to the French, but at the same time we felt special about being in such a position.”

— Rob Streicker FR’02



Rob Streicker FR’02: Negotiating the Post-9/11 World



For Rob Streicker, his introduction to world politics coincided with one of the most jarring moments in U.S. history.

“We were scheduled to leave for Rennes, France, on September 12, 2001,” recalls Streicker, but as a result of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, everything changed.”

Delayed ten days due to the grounding of U.S. flights following the terrorist strike, Streicker and his classmates were quickly immersed in a strange new world.

“It was very odd being in a place far from home when your own country was preparing to go to war,” Streicker says. “A keypad was installed on the school’s front gate, and because we clearly stood out as Americans, we began to view our-

selves as potential targets.”

Nevertheless, they took comfort in the initial reactions of residents in the Rennes community, which was home to SYA’s French program.

“They proved to be supportive of us, as Americans,” he says. “Ordinary people would come up and tell us how grateful they were for our nation’s support during World War II, and then they’d how very sorry they were about what happened to our country.”

As the United States began to prepare for the Afghanistan and, later, Iraq conflicts, however, local consensus shifted. “People would say that what happened to us wasn’t right, but that it also wasn’t right that our country was moving toward war,” he says.

It was through such interactions, says Streicker, that he began to develop an understanding, and an appreciation, for the complexity of international politics.

“In effect, we had become U.S. ambassadors,” he says. “It was a lot of responsibility trying to explain our nation’s position to the French but at the same time we felt special about being in such a position.”

Perhaps nowhere was their unique situation more apparent than during the Memorial Day 2002 service Streicker and his classmates attended.

“We were invited to Normandy to attend a service in a small church with French and American dignitaries,” he recalls. “President [George W.] Bush was seated less than five rows ahead of me, right next to [French President] Jacques Chirac.”

In college, Streicker decided to major in religion: “I liked political science but I felt that religion provided a more fundamental way of understanding what was happening in the world,” he says.

A summer internship in the Office of U.S. Senator Jack Reed soon followed. Then, during his senior year, he was offered a permanent position as a staff assistant.

“My first duties basically involved driving the sen-

ator to different appointments in my twelve-year-old Volvo,” Streicker says, laughing.

Soon enough, though, he began to conduct policy research. “This usually involved trying to find answers to constituents’ questions about Social Security and other government programs,” he says.

Enjoying such investigative challenges, Streicker readily accepted a position within the senator’s office as an information-technology specialist. “It was all about efficiency,” he remembers. “My goal was to use technology to reach out and help constituents.”

Through such work, Streicker pursued his interest in foreign affairs: “It wasn’t unusual to work on issues such as international adoptions, foreign aid and, because Senator Reed was a member of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, military policy.”

Streicker says he tapped into his SYA experience in the course of his duties, and recalls an impromptu presentation he made to a group of foreign military officers visiting Washington, D.C., as part of a U.S. Naval War College training program.

“I answered a lot of questions about our form of government, the civilian dominance of the military and, given the upcoming 2008 election, how the Electoral College could possibly be considered democratic,” Streicker says.

“In a real way,” he adds, “there I was, right back in my role as an SYA student explaining American foreign policy to French people.”

Streicker is now working for Deloitte, a global professional services firm, consulting on technology projects for government clients. “I really enjoy it,” he says, “and I’m always looking for opportunities to work on overseas projects. Going back to France would be almost like going home again.”



Understanding the Roots of Political Systems

Antonio López-Piña

At the start of each of his classes, SYA Spain faculty member Antonio López-Piña makes a statement that, in many ways, defines his approach to teaching.

“I tell them that at the beginning, I don’t want their opinions,” he says. “Not until close to the end of the class, when they have the tools for knowledge, do I want to hear what they have to say.”

It’s through these tools that López strives to create an understanding of — and an appreciation for — Spanish politics and culture.

A graduate of Madrid’s Universidad Complutense y UNED, where he earned a master’s degree in teaching, López has brought to SYA Spain a wealth of life experience and scholarly expertise in philosophy, experimental theater, soccer and political science.

It’s in the area of political science, though, that López especially seeks to have students grasp fundamental concepts that have helped to shape societies, both in Spain and beyond.

“The goal of my teaching is not to have students learn what President Obama is doing or even what’s happening in Spain at that moment politically,” López explains. “Instead, I want my students to understand why people do what they do in forming and carrying out the philosophies that are at the heart of political movements. I want them to realize that what and why certain events happen can be a complicated scenario.”

Consequently, in López’s instructional approach, he says it’s more important that his students “be able to understand and compare the ideologies behind fascism and communism, for example.”

In reaching out to his students, López often draws on personal history. He grew up in a Spain that struggled to make the sensitive transition from autocratic rule, instituted by the late dictator Francisco Franco, to a constitutional monarchy.

“There was a great deal of change at the time,” he says. “As a result, the Spanish people, in general, went through a considerable

amount of reflection. There was a lot to take into our minds and understand.”

At the same time, however, López wants his students to understand the richness of Spanish politics beyond the Franco era. “We examine not just the last forty years,” he says, “but rather more than two hundred years.

“For example, not many of my students realize that Spain had one of the first melting-pot type of cultures in Europe,” he says, referring to his country’s strong diversity of minority populations. It also has, he says, one of the first constitutions in mainland Europe.

There’s no question in López’s mind that the SYA experience figures prominently in his efforts to have students comprehend Spanish society and culture.

“They’re here, they see how our institutions work, firsthand, and that type of exposure is invaluable,” he says. “In this way, they can compare and draw their own conclusions about the political systems of the United States and Spain.

“In essence,” he says, “their views of life and the world are broadened and their intellectual comprehension is boosted.”

When not in the classroom, López enjoys taking students on tours. Such excursions form a large part of his art history curriculum, as his classes visit the country’s wealth of art museums and buildings rich in architectural significance. “There is no better way to learn and understand a society than to go to the cities and towns and explore and watch,” he says.



He also encourages self-exploration.

“SYA students can be very focused,” he says, “so when it comes to free time, it’s not uncommon for them to wonder, ‘Okay, what do I do now?’”

In response, López encourages them to get in contact with the world around them. “I emphasize that they need to fully immerse themselves in order to appreciate the culture of where they’re living,” he says.

Currently on leave from SYA Spain, López is teaching at Deerfield Academy, in Massachusetts. Even here he champions the value of an overseas education through School Year Abroad. “I’m always stressing the importance of going away, of experiencing learning and life outside of the United States,” he says. “It’s a new world that I’d like more students to explore.”



FINDING FAITH: AN EXPERIENCE IN IMMERSION IN CHINA'S GANSU PROVINCE

By *Jessie Dalman*

St. Paul's School, New Hampshire



It's approximately 6:30 a.m., and I'm standing on a shallow stone step, just to the side of the constant stream of pilgrims rushing past, urgently walking along the monastery to my right. Before me stretches about a mile of prayer wheels, each glowing in the early-morning light, each being spun by the pilgrims as they amble on. Mountains stretch for miles, gray-blue, even black shades against the horizon, and the frigid air catches my breath and freezes it in place. In my turquoise coat, Fair Isle hat, pink gloves and childish braids, I look wildly out of place, a blemish of sorts against the cool, tranquil scenery: a girl not only lost in translation but also lost to understanding.

I've been raised in an entirely different culture, and have never witnessed conviction of this depth or magnitude; how am I to understand the reverence that compels these people walking by to wake up at odd hours of the morning and venture out here, into the cold, each day, to pay their respects in this way? Standing in front of the intimidating stretch of wheels, I feel at once intrigued and afraid, as well as perhaps a little bit suffocated. What am I doing here? Who am I to be standing here, stewing in my ignorance?

Pause.

The above situation is a snapshot of one of my experiences on our trip to Outer Tibet, and I feel that it's representative of SYA as a whole. We've been here in China for almost two months now, and it's been, without a doubt, the biggest culture shock of my life. Just as in the example above, in which I struggle to fathom the reverence and the depth of emotion that seem to be almost instinctual for the Lanzhou pilgrims, I've struggled throughout much of the SYA experience thus far to reconcile my Westernized mind-set with many of the foreign, almost contradictory traditions and perspectives we frequently encounter here in China. China is an eternally captivating place, but at times I feel as if I've been hit by a truck and can't get up: Sometimes, I feel as if I don't belong in this culture, and never will.

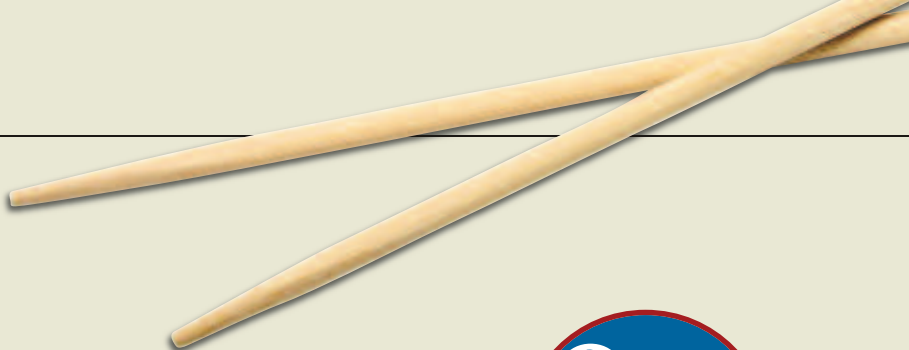
However, I've also found that this feeling never lasts. SYA is a unique experience, but it's most extraordinary because it forces you to adapt, to stop hesitating and to just sink your teeth into things, so to speak. You learn to give in to the unknown, and in doing so, you absorb ideas and information from your environment, things that in turn change your perspective as well as you as a person.

My experience on the Tibetan trip was no exception. That morning, I felt wildly out of place, but after I caught my breath and stopped focusing on my lack of factual knowledge, I realized that I could feel their reverence intuitively — a feeling born out of pure observation. That feeling prompted me to join in the pilgrimage, and I'm proud to say that on this morning, I walked around the monastery, spinning every prayer wheel along with the pilgrims.

Un-pause.

I'm still staring at the townspeople spinning the prayer wheels in the dusky morning, but instead of feeling suffocated, I'm gradually feeling more confident in myself, and in my presence at this monastery. My heart rate is slowing, my breathing is more even and somewhere deep within my gut a feeling of understanding, more visceral than conscious, is growing. I may not understand exactly why these villagers are awake this early, or why they are embarking upon this frosty journey, but by watching the pilgrims, some measure of understanding is beginning to coalesce in every fiber of my being. Inhaling a deep breath of the clear, cool morning air, I smile and begin to walk alongside the pilgrims, falling into line. I'm still a stranger to most of those people, but I no longer feel like a foreigner: I'm one step closer to belonging. I'm one step closer to calling this life, this culture, home.





Describe the moment when you truly felt “at home” in your host city.

It was a beautiful afternoon and one of the first weeks of school when three of my newly made friends and I decided to **ride our bikes to a nearby hutong** — typical Chinese streets, usually narrow, where you can find neat things. We bonded as friends, talked about the lives we left back home and enjoyed the early breezes of autumn.

In what ways have your language skills improved?

Never speaking a word of Chinese before studying with SYA, as George, my classmate says, **we went “from zero to hero.”** We can now have conversations with Chinese people, order food and read *hanzi* (Chinese characters). The Chinese host families are essential to SYA and also give students the ability to practice their language skills at home.

Play the movie of your year in Beijing in your mind and list three highlights.

The first was most definitely our spring trip to **Yunnan**. The weather was beautiful and sights were breathtaking. One of the pluses was living with two minority host families — an experience no other foreigner can live unless she or he is with SYA.

Second was having the most caring and loving host parents. They make all the difference, supporting me and being my second set of parents.

Third was the **lifelong friends** I found here. I can't imagine this year with any other group of people. This crowd was always full of surprises.

Why would you recommend a student to spend a year with SYA China?

Not only do you grow as a person, but **studying with SYA will influence your view on the world** and its countries as well. Exposing yourself to the culture will clear up your misunderstandings of stereotypes, and you'll learn to appreciate what you have at home. Talk a lot, make mistakes: that's the best way to learn.

What will you miss when you return home?

I'll miss **using chopsticks every day**, because it's become a habit since day one and using a fork is just . . . weird.



Sophia Bremer

Patch American High School, Stuttgart, Germany



A PERFECT CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

By *Melanie Biles*

Woodside Priory School, California

1. **Begin** with a traditional French lunch. Linger over it with your family. Talk about the differences in your lives and laugh when your host sister starts singing at the top of her lungs and both of her parents join in with harmony. Allow the salmon, rice and tomato salad to settle in your belly as you sip water, tear off a hunk of bread and leisurely consume a clementine.
2. **Accept** when your host mom extends an open invitation to bake. Discuss which dessert would be best. Ultimately decide on the two-ingredient recipe found in a yellowed, handwritten book in the very back of a cabinet. Gently flip through the pages, marveling when you find some of the same recipes you use in America.
3. **Help** clean up the kitchen while everyone chatters about plans for the afternoon. Realize that you can actually understand French.



4. With a bit of water, **melt** an American brand of chocolate in an American brand of microwave in a French kitchen. Close your eyes and smell the sweet goodness as you transfer the bowl to the table and stir vigorously, mixing the water and chocolate into one in the same manner you now mix French and English, *tout le temps*.
5. **Crack** a lot of eggs and separate the yolks from the whites the same way you can separate people into categories — French and Not — when you see them on the street. Unceremoniously dump the yolks in the chocolate bowl and discuss with your host mother the various levels of egg quality in America. **Realize** that white eggs are not popular in France. **Learn** something new for the millionth time that day, the trillionth time that week, the way you constantly do.
6. Vigorously beat the egg whites into submission, until they form perfect snowy peaks. **Watch** in awe when your host mom tests readiness by flipping the bowl upside down, shaking it and telling you that if they weren't ready, they'd have fallen out.
7. Gently **mix** the chocolate-yolk concoction into the egg-white foam. Wonder if you're somehow messing up the easiest recipe ever created when the mixture in the bowl starts to resemble dirty soap bubbles. Be reassured when your host mother peers over your shoulder and tells you it looks delicious in the same casual tone she used to tell you your French is actually pretty good. Just like with that conversation, the simple compliment means far more to you than she could possibly know.
8. **Ladle** the mixture into little mousse bowls and put them in the refrigerator. Somehow manage to pass the time until evening. Say more than you would ever have thought possible in French during dinner. Be proud when your host mother brings out the tray of mousse and smile when you hear the delighted chorus of grateful, excited *mercis*. **Look around the table as everyone happily digs into the dessert you created and realize that you're part of the family.**
9. Continue to spend every minute wondering if you're dreaming.
10. You're not.





Cole Beecher

Sidwell Friends School, Washington, D.C.



Describe the moment when you truly felt “at home” in Rennes.

One was when my parents came to visit. I didn’t feel at home just because my family was with me, although that was nice; that came when I was showing them around the city and introducing them to my friends. As I took them on the bus, on the metro, walking around, and taught them the ways of “Les Rennais,” I had this thought: “Hey, I really know my way around here, these really are my stomping grounds, this is my home.”

This was a very interesting feeling, one that gave me a whole new outlook on the city and on my time here.

What have you learned from living with your host family?

I’ve learned a lot, but the main thing they have taught me is that **French and American families aren’t so different**. They’re always ready to hear a new fact about America or learn new things about American life.

What’s your favorite French meal?

That’s **pumpkin soup and raclettes**, this amazing dish made from melted cheese, deli meat and potatoes. This is a meal best eaten in winter.

What one piece of advice would you give a new SYAer?

Talk to as many French people as possible. **Make French friends**. If you do, you’ll (a) be part of the French high school social circle that’s fun and (b) you’ll master the language. The only path to a good, strong grasp of the language is to speak it every chance you get, and having French friends is an easy way to accomplish this.

What French word or phrase summarizes your SYA experience?

Magnifique!

How has spending a year abroad changed your outlook on life?

It’s made me a much **more independent** person. I also feel a lot **more mature**. This year has really changed me. I’ve **learned many lessons** that most people don’t learn until much later in their lives, and I’m very grateful for this.



NONNA

By Nicole Schoen

Phillips Exeter Academy, New Hampshire

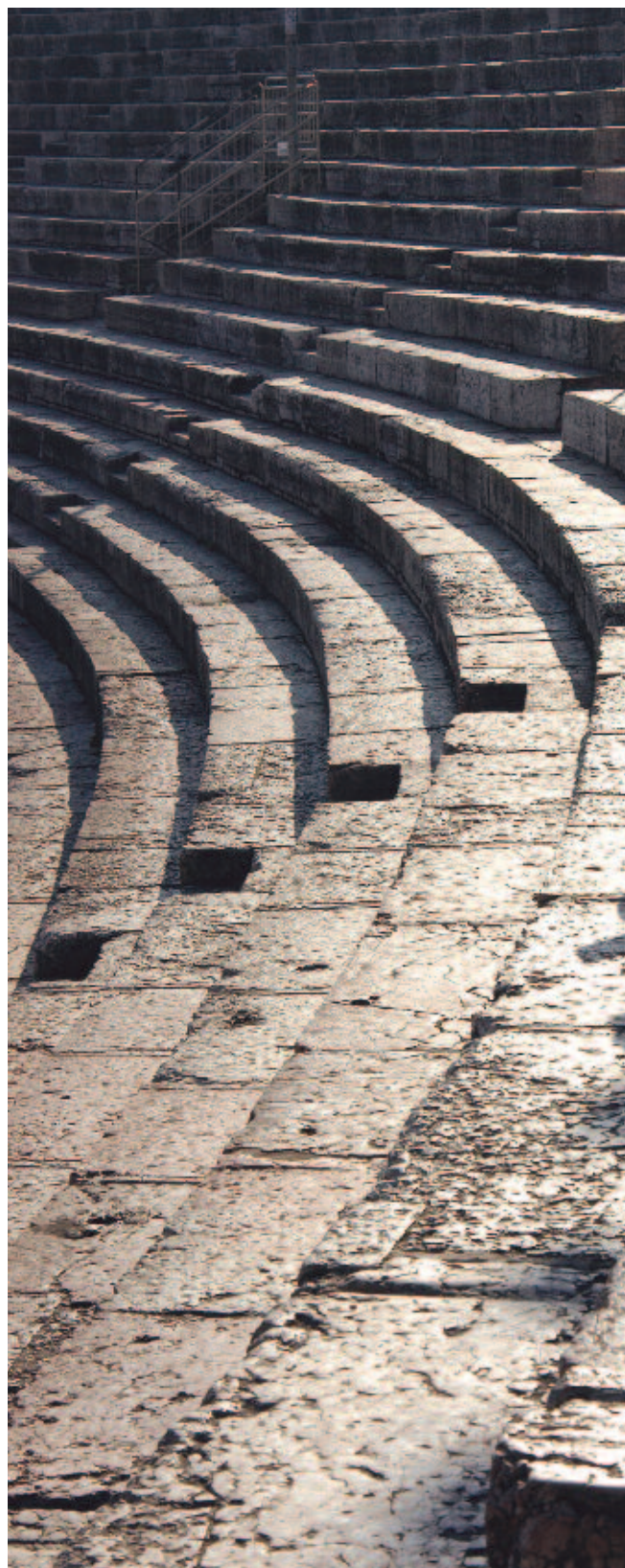


My youthful impatience is one of the many traits I have yet to outgrow, so when I received birthday gifts from family in America last week, a few days premature, it didn't take long before the wrapping was scattered across the floor and every present laid out on my bed. This, however, left nothing for me to open on my birthday. I had come to terms with that fact, as I must every year, by the time the big day arrived.

My birthday dinner of homemade pizza with my host family and friends, however, was more than satisfying enough to replace any gifts, as was the homemade chocolate cake. After the meal, though, as I chatted with a friend, my host nonna set a package on my lap. She flashed a quick smile, then backed away shyly into the crowd of my Italian family. I was so surprised even to receive a gift that I hesitated before tearing apart the shiny plastic.

Inside was a beautiful knit bag. I rubbed my fingers along the stitches and examined the multicolored pattern. It was perfect. As I was appreciating the satchel, my host sister leaped onto the couch next to me. Beaming, she informed me that the bag was hand-knit by Nonna. My eyes darted to my nonna, who was smiling sheepishly across the room. I was so overwhelmed with gratitude that I almost cried. Every stitch of the bag took on a whole new meaning once I found out that each had been executed just for me.

"*Ti piace?*" Nonna asked as I flitted to her side. I hugged her and kissed both cheeks, and realized that although it was one of the few presents I opened on my actual birthday, it was the best.



Describe the snapshot of Viterbo that will always live on in your mind's eye.

My “snapshot” is one of taking a *passeggiata*, or a stroll, through San Pellegrino in *fiore* (bloom) — it’s when beautiful flowers are placed all around the heart of Viterbo’s medieval center.

Describe the moment when you truly felt “at home” in Italy.

That happened when I came back to Viterbo after Christmas break, having seen my family members in Spain. I arrived home and found the house empty, but when my host family came back from errands and greeted me, everything seemed just like any other day. I caught up with my Italian family and played games with my host brother.

What was your favorite meal?

My favorite Italian meal is polenta. It’s probably one of the most filling Italian meals ever . . . but aren’t most of them? I enjoyed it mostly because it reminds me of one particular lunch I had with my host family on a cold winter day.

What does it mean to live with a host family?

It’s all about living with people who at first seem like **strangers** but by the end of the year they’ve become your **real family**. It may be difficult at first, but it’s about adapting to their way of life and spending time together.

What one Italian word summarizes your experience?

That word is *spensieratezza*, which means “care-free” in English but is better translated as “without having a thought in mind.” It sums up my experience because during this year’s open mic, I sang an Italian version of “Be Our Guest,” from *Beauty and the Beast*, and it was such a difficult word to pronounce. Finally, when the show came around, I was able to sing the word loud and clear without thinking about it.



Jeremy Paula
The Hotchkiss School, Connecticut



THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION: A VIEW FROM AFAR

By Natalie Soloperto

Lincoln-Sudbury High School, Massachusetts

Throughout November, I watched a country breathe a sigh of relief. Spain was pleased to see Mitt Romney head toward political oblivion — to Spaniards, the choice between the two candidates was clear. I also watched a country hold its breath as America rapidly approached the fiscal cliff.

I talked briefly with an SYA China student, and he described a lack of freedom in his tightly controlled government and said trying to get through the Chinese firewall was a “major pain.” We share a sense of isolation from news, but I have no doubt that the extent to which we’re isolated differs enormously.

I pondered the differences between my experience here and that of the SYA China students, and then compared them with my life in America. This was triggered after my interview with an American expat from Georgetown University, who had asked me if I believed Americans to be apathetic and the government bloated. During election season, from afar, however, I saw a country rich in freedoms whose people were exercising a right for which thousands have laid down their lives, in Syria, in Egypt, in Libya . . . I see the opposite of apathy: I see the American spirit as alive and well. Maybe our government is bloated and our politicians are polarized, but it’s the job of the people to move the pieces, rather than walk away from the chessboard, and when they vote, they do just that.

I saw this with our elections, with our debates, with the people who made up facts to fit this side or that. If we’re going to improve, we have to be willing to work with what’s on the board. In Spain, when I don’t understand something, I can’t just walk away, I’ll be living here for the next several months. When we’re tired or homesick and miss the comforts of familiarity, we have to keep moving forward, and that’s the wonder of this experience.

Here we learn how to be grown up, and SYA teaches us the most important lesson: how to improve. If you’re not happy with the way something turns out, or with your-

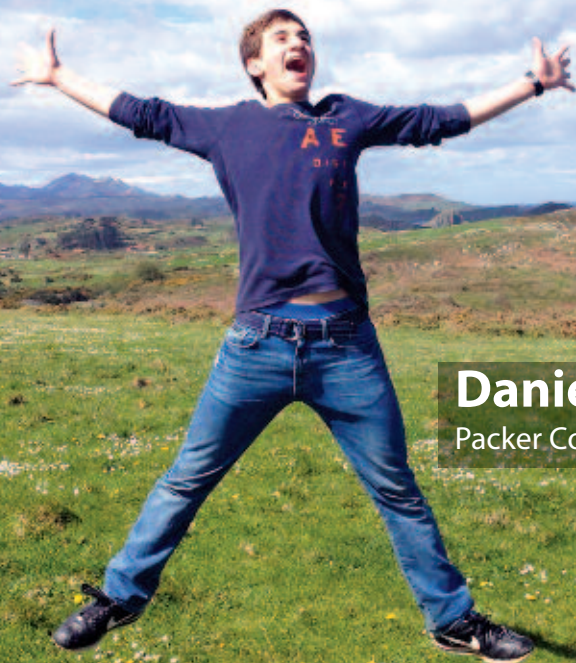


self, you’re the one who’s responsible. It’s easy to assign blame: Romney didn’t win because of Hurricane Sandy, or because Colin Powell endorsed Obama. The government is corrupt because of the Republicans in the Senate; the economy crashed because the big banks are evil. What I’ve learned from SYA, something I can apply to my life at any moment, is that when something doesn’t turn out as I’d hoped, I’m responsible for my individual choices and actions.

In the case of the government, we all have the responsibility to vote; therefore, we share the responsibility for the results. When the going was good, nobody complained, nobody questioned the bookkeeping. Now it’s time to pick ourselves up and stop blaming George W. Bush, stop blaming the big banks, stop blaming the government. If we want them to do our work, we have to demand it. America is a beautiful place, and the last thing I want her people to be is apathetic.

This is what I took from the elections, a view I’d never have had living in Massachusetts: an outside perspective.





Daniel Buchman

Packer Collegiate Institute, New York

What was the most challenging adjustment?

In New York I had a network of friends and relatives I could always count on. When I came to SYA, I had no one. I had no choice but to **come out of my shell and actively get to know people, Spaniards and Americans alike**. When you only have nine months, you realize quickly that waiting for people to come to you will never be an option.

In what ways did living with a host family enhance your SYA experience?

In every way imaginable. Linguistically, there's nothing more helpful than having someone you trust be honest with you and correct you in his or her native language. My host parents also **became my mentors** and taught me many things about life and about themselves that my real parents would never even think to talk about with me. My host parents have a different way of looking at the world and that **new perspective** has opened my mind in ways I didn't think were possible.

What will you miss when you return home?

When I return to the United States, I'll miss the people I met here, the relationships I built here and the memories I made here. This year still seems like a bit of a fairy tale, and to be honest, there's nothing I won't miss. **Sipping a café con leche** at the local bar during *descanso* every day and **driving up to the pueblo** with my host family on the weekend will remain among the many things I can't imagine living without.

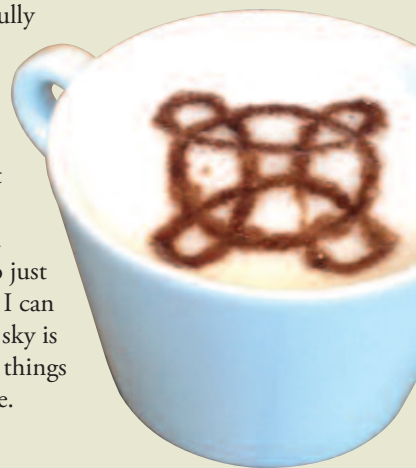
What was the best part of your year in Spain?

The best part of spending a year in Zaragoza was that it changed my life and **opened me up to a world much larger than my own**. I truly believe I'll never *live* in New York again after my senior year. I realize now how much there is to see in this world and how little time I have to see it. **I must get going!**

I'll never forget the people I met here. The fundamental reason I love learning languages is to make new friends, meet new people, and hear new stories. In Spain I had the opportunity to do just that. **Everyone I've met has had an impact on my life in very different and profound ways**. I'll never forget them.

How has spending a year abroad changed your self-perception?

Before I left for Spain I was confident that I'd finished growing. I thought my identity had been fully established. I knew who I was. Now I don't. I understand, now, that **I'm a work in progress, and always will be**. The day will never come that I stop changing, growing and reevaluating the way I see just about everything. I've also stopped seeing myself as an American. **I now call myself a global citizen**. I never want to tie myself to just one place, and for the first time in my life, I can see myself living and working abroad. The sky is my limit. I believe in myself enough to see things that before seemed impossible as achievable.



CLASS NOTES

ES'65

Class Correspondent
Jeff Eastment
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ES'66

Class Correspondent
Leslie Reizes
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ES'67

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Rick Newberger writes, "Still married to Judy (31 years); still living in Southern California (but not for much longer). Four years into building a 21st-century 'hospitality music' business with my entrepreneurial 26-year-old son, Bradley, and having a blast. Been back to Barcelona the last couple of years (it feels more like home than home) and hope one day to retire there for at least half the year . . . if and if."

ES'68 45th REUNION

Class Correspondent
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Class Agent
Kenneth Krushel
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FR'68 45th REUNION

Class Correspondent
David Rubin
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ES'69

Class Correspondent
Peter Kaplan
peter.kaplan@pnc.com

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

I [**Peter Kaplan**] call it "El Milagro de **Jordi Sales**." Our class lit up this spring as many of us shared our SYA memories and what we've been doing since. Given the amazing amount of material we shared, the following note is just the first of a series. The rest of our notes will appear in future SYA newsletters.

Mike Tuts has been a professor of physics at Columbia, specializing in experimental particle physics, for 30 years. Last year he and his team made a breakthrough discovery. **Bill Walton** is in San Diego and has returned to being a photographer, after teaching photography and philosophy at Prescott College for 25 years. Find Bill's work at bwalton.phanfare.com. **Clark Mitchell**, who lives in Sonoma County, is an artist who does landscapes in both oils and pastels and maintains a strong interest in horticulture. His website is cgmitchell.com. Speaking of horticulture, **Brian Shivers** is the chairman of the Dallas Arboretum, a very successful botanic garden in his home city. He has three grandchildren. On February 7, 2013, Brian Shivers welcomed his second granddaughter, Alice. Congratulations, abuelo. Another grandfather is the



Bob Thoenen ES'69 with his grandchildren

ever-faithful **Bob Thoenen**, who has seven (!) and recently celebrated his 35th wedding anniversary. Bob continues to work on his lifelong passion of manned space flight at United Technologies in Connecticut. Farther into the heavens, **Greg Bloomquist** is a professor of theology at Saint-Paul University in Ottawa. **John Johnston** still owns the Castillo de San Lorenzo, a hotel in Salta, Argentina, which he describes as "paradise, really." **Russ Martin**, probably our most famous classmate, continues to write and produce documentary films. His latest, *Beautiful Faces*, is about a clinic in Mexico that performs amazing plastic surgery (www.beautifulfacesfilm.com). **Steve Jorgenson** lives in St. Paul. Although he never returned to Spain, his entire family (wife and four kids) are fluent in Spanish! He and one of his sons are building a timber-frame house on 40 acres north of St. Paul. They're striving for complete self-sufficiency at their new home. After a career in the venture capital business, **Wayne Willcox** ended up in New Orleans as chief financial officer for an



Wayne Willcox ES'69 and his wife, Cintra, on a recent trip to Spain.

international carbon-processing company. He and his wife have built their dream house there and Wayne is now director of administration at St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church. He's working on a biography of Edward T. Stotesbury (1849–1938), the richest partner at J.P. Morgan & Co., in his spare time. **Marc Emory** and his wife are empty-nesters in suburban Düsseldorf. Marc says he has to travel to Barcelona every six weeks or so for work. He joined Heritage Auctions in 1975, then a Boston-based



Marc Emory ES'69 with President Obama

firm with a few 20-somethings, which is now based in Dallas and is the third-largest auction house in the world, behind Christie's and Sotheby's. Although now geographically removed from the American political scene, he keeps involved. Howard Dean remains a personal friend, and he still occasionally gets invited to meet with a government official or two.

FR'69

Class Correspondent
Tolly Taylor
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Class Agent
Carter Eltzroth
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Your class will celebrate its 45th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Lots of news from the *Soixante-Neufards'* e-mail list, much more than I can include here. If you're not on the e-mail list and would like to be, let me [**Tolly Taylor**] know. *Et maintenant, les nouvelles:* **Gordon (Chip) Dale** and I were in Rennes in December and had a crêperie lunch with our first **Class of France 1969 Scholar, Danielle**. She's having a wonderful year and thanks us all for the scholarship we made possible. **Steve Krebs** and family were in Brittany and Normandy last year and saw the Tall Ships in Saint-Malo. He lives in Ohio but spends a lot of time in the South working with nurseries on plant adaptation to warmer climates. **Peter Olberg** says he's working

mostly in health-care and community-development law, but that he speaks French almost every day with French clients. **Harry Langenberg** lives in St. Louis and writes about his memories of our glorious SBA *équipe de football*. Our bruising center-forward, **Bruce Robson**, traveled with wife Susan and daughter Janey to Argentina after Christmas to visit son **Will ES'09**, who's studying in Buenos Aires. **Tad Paul** remains in close touch with the Bonsart family, with whom he regularly spends a week walking the *sentier côtier* around Brittany. *Félicitations à Jamie Galbraith*, who has received the great honor of being elected to the *Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei*, the world's oldest academy of science. He and daughter Emma visited the *famille* Huet last year. **Rob Rand** works in soundscape creativity and consultation. He's an expert on the infrasonic acoustic pressure pulsations of industrial wind turbines, the source of a growing health problem worldwide. He and **Walter Newman** initiated a moving conversation on the list about their fathers' roles in "the Greatest Generation," to which **Harris Loeser**, **Conrad Skinner** and Chip also contributed. Walter visited Normandy with his father in 2009 to celebrate the 65th anniversary of D-Day, when his father was awarded the *Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur*. **Rob Calihan** announces his plan to return to Rennes this spring to celebrate his French brother's recent retirement. (I [Tolly] will be there too, celebrating my French father's 91st birthday.) **Jim Goldberg** writes about his sons' studies and service projects in Uganda and Israel and urges us to arrange another reunion in Rennes: "if not in 2014, then 2019." That would be our 50th. To this end, perhaps Calihan and I will see if Rennes' crêperies might be willing to reduce their current prices (14 euros for a *jambon-oeuf-fromage!*) back to 1969 prices (2.50 francs) in our honor.

ES'70

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

FR'70

Class Correspondent
Timothy Lydgate
831-462-3710

ES'71

Class Correspondent
Neil Ryder
neilryder@comast.net



Tom Sutherland ES'71 cycled to the summit of Mt. Ventoux.

Tom Sutherland checked in after he participated in the Engadin Ski-marathon, the largest cross-country-skiing event in the Alps, and then cycled to the summit of Mont Ventoux.

FR'71

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

Read **Doug Renfield-Miller's** article on page 34.

DE'72

Class Correspondent
Andrew Holtz
holtzreport@juno.com

ES'72

Class Correspondents
Sarah Cleveland
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Spencer Dick
sdick@tigerstop.com

In response to our very unconventional survey, we learned:

- Some of us are considering two or three career changes before we retire
- Many remembered the Basque town bar on the spring trip
- Three-quarters of us have been in Barcelona since SYA
- Some of us still have children at home
- More than 55 percent have given up eating McDonald's French fries

We have addresses for 36 of out of 43 and:

- Almost one-third of us live in the western part of the United States
- The most popular state is New York (7) and then California (6)
- Six of us live outside the continental United States (Ecuador, Hong Kong, Russia, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Alaska)

We wish we'd received more personal news, but we know **Mac Shattuck** lives in Newport Beach, Calif., is a real-estate developer and travels extensively. **Judy Van Wyck Maurer** and her

husband, Johan, teach English in Moscow, and Judy previously helped fund-raise for a domestic-abuse-prevention organization. **Michele Morris** has just finished her first novel and lives in the Rockies, and her sons share her wanderlust; one lives in Argentina and the other in Africa. **Sarah Cleveland** works in institutional investment



Sarah Cleveland ES'72 with daughter, Ruth Narode (left), at the Junior World Rowing Championships in Bulgaria. Ruth rowed for the US Jr. National Team and won silver in the straight four.

consulting, focusing on sustainability, and has a 21-year-old son as well as a daughter in high school who will be rowing for Stanford's women's crew next fall. **Spencer Dick** has had his



Spencer Dick ES'72 with his wife Mary and children Elizabeth and Nathaniel on Christmas Day during a recent family trip.

own firm, TigerStop, for many years, manufacturing precision wood-cutting equipment. He lives in Portland, Ore., with his wife, Mary. He writes, "I'm still making sure the West Coast remains a confusing place for East-erners. I ticked one off of the bucket list this Christmas: taking the family to the Galápagos for a cruise through Darwin's Bedroom. My daughter, Elizabeth (22) is a graduate of NYU and works in New York City and at best scraping by on her first job. My son, Nathaniel, graduated from Denver University and works with us as an entry-level mechanical engineer. He could be living in the basement, if we had one; fortunately, we don't, so have exited him to a small — and I do mean small — apartment in downtown Portland. Neither kid is thrilled with first job salaries. I remember not being terribly thrilled either. Mary and I have been doing a bit of traveling: we successively biked Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. We're busy and healthy and life is fun; there are days, though!" We would love to reconnect with each of you. We encourage you to add your

home and work contact info as well as some personal news at a direct link the SYA Alumni Office has created for our class: www.sya.org/es72update. What's one thing you're planning to do in 2013 for fun?

FR'72

Class Correspondent
Ted Pease
ted.pease@gmail.com

Jim Brooke is still in Russia as the bureau chief for *Voice of America*.

DE'73



40th REUNION

Class Correspondent
Andrew Holtz
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ES'73



40th REUNION

Class Correspondent
Brook Sulloway
sulchiro@yahoo.com

Class Agent
Eric Weaver
EWeaver829@aol.com

Brook Sulloway writes, "I took a bunch of Spanish students to Barcelona and other parts of Spain last year and took another group to Guatemala this past fall. What a joy to revisit the old stomping grounds! My son number three has applied to SYA for next year. We hope we can find a way to afford it." **Jim Troup** writes, "On October 6, 2012, I married Michele Hill (the lady I've been with for the last nine years). She has two teenaged kids. Life is more than good. My boys are doing great. Hunter graduated from San Diego State last year and Campbell is a second-semester junior at UNR and recently got a paid internship at a local CPA firm (the best words a son can say to his father: 'Dad, I got a job'). Both are aspiring accountants." **Burton Lee** is in his fifth year of teaching European Entrepreneurship & Innovation (<http://mc421.stanford.edu>) at Stanford. He was recently appointed to the advisory board of the German Silicon Valley Accelerator.

FR'73



40th REUNION

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

At Home in the World . . . and on the Sea

Douglas Renfield-Miller FR'71 CN'01P IT'05P ES'10P, Chair, SYA Board of Trustees

We all need dreams, especially as we get older. My “bucket list” included sailing an extended offshore passage. I was inspired partly by Bernard Moitessier’s memoir, *La Longue Route*. In 1968, Moitessier sailed in the first single-handed circumnavigation race, the *Sunday Times*’s Golden Globe. He would have won, but after seven months at sea, instead of heading for the finish in England, he altered course and just kept on sailing, eventually ending up in Tahiti.

Moitessier is renowned for his mystical relationship with the sea and revered by the French. They treat their sailors as national heroes. Just last month, more than 300,000 spectators turned out on a rainy day to cheer on 20 single-handed sailors as they departed Les Sables d’Olonne for the Vendée Globe, the successor of the Golden Globe race of Moitessier’s era.

Cruising the coastal waters of New England and the United Kingdom had given me a taste of the sea and a sense of what Moitessier felt, and I was hungry for more. As the old adage goes, be careful what you wish for.

This past October I found myself listening to lines strain and praying that Hurricane Sandy’s storm surge didn’t wash away the dock as I rode out the gales in Hampton, Virginia. I was alone aboard my boat *Thales* (Thales was a pre-Socratic philosopher who believed that water was the arche from which all other elements derived). Sandy had delayed my crew from joining me to prepare for the Caribbean 1500 rally, which was scheduled to depart for Tortola, in the British Virgin Islands, on November 4. They finally arrived less than 24 hours before rally organizers advised us to put to sea in order to avoid another storm that was forming.

We left the dock at 1:35 p.m. on Saturday, November 3, and, as instructed, motor-sailed south as fast as possible. It was chilly that first night as we cleared Cape Hatteras but by dawn we were fully into the 84-degree waters of the Gulf Stream. With sails unfurled and the motor off, we proceeded on a direct course for Tortola, 8 to 10 days ahead.

I’d assumed that I’d paid my dues riding out Sandy. Our weather router had forecast a smooth and fast passage across the Gulf Stream and beyond, with winds abaft the beam. However, the second evening out, about 200 miles offshore, we found ourselves overtaken by a freak storm. On radar it looked like a squall that would pass to the northeast. It turned out to be a major storm that just wouldn’t let go. We saw it as a wall of blackness coming at us just after sunset. It hit us like a sledgehammer.

Within minutes, the seas were boiling and visibility was reduced to a couple of hundred yards as rain and hail pelted down and lightning bolts hit all around. We were thankful for having reefed the sails as the anemometer recorded wind gusts over 60 knots and drove *Thales* sideways at 6 knots while heaved to. I kept checking the radar to see if things would abate but we always appeared to be stuck smack in the middle of a storm that kept growing bigger. At its peak, I was startled to see the lights of another sailboat less than 100 yards off. We avoided colliding with it only to come upon a third sailboat! It felt like something out of the *Twilight Zone* — three boats caught in a vortex, barely under control and dancing around one another.

The storm eventually released us and we never saw the other boats again. In Tortola, we learned that most of the 36 boats in the rally had been hit by the storm, but none recalled seeing another vessel: eerie.

After the fact, I don’t recall how long the storm held us in its embrace. It seemed like an eternity. It did pass, though, followed by strong winds



Me enjoying our last day at sea, when the wind died

and seas on the quarter that propelled us toward Tortola. Days and nights settled into a routine: standing watches, trimming sails, rigging checks with an occasional repair; eating and reading or just staring out at the sea and sky. We passed just four commercial vessels during the passage and only occasionally saw another sail on the horizon; most of the time we were simply alone with the sea.

I had the 3-a.m.-to-6-a.m. watch. Night watches offshore can be magical: I recall one clear night gazing on high as the crescent moon and Jupiter rose above the horizon. Under a steady breeze with her sails trimmed, *Thales* hummed along. Hundreds of miles from the nearest land under a brilliant canopy of stars and the Milky Way immediately brought to mind Blaise Pascal’s famous *pensé*, “*Le silence éternel de ces espaces infinis m’effraie*.”

Eight days out from Hampton we finally sighted the mountains of Tortola. We were the seventh boat to cross the finish line, beaten only by larger vessels. We ended up placing fourth on corrected time out of the 14 boats in our class. We were fortunate in that *Thales* didn’t suffer any serious damage and stayed dry below throughout the passage. Many rally boats sustained some damage and *Thales* was among the few that managed to stay dry belowdecks. There were no serious injuries among rally participants, however, and all 36 boats eventually made it to Tortola.

Walking the docks the day after arriving, the fleet surgeon asked me if I would you do it again. I hesitated, whereupon he immediately said: “It’s like childbirth; you need to gain some distance from the experience.” Talking with a fellow rally participant a couple of days later I learned that he had completed the passage 15 times without ever encountering conditions as tough as we’d all just experienced.

On balance, I’m glad I was able to realize my dream. I’ve officially joined the fraternity of true bluewater sailors and now can confidently say I’m at home both in the world and on the sea.

Will I do it again? Not for a while. The current plan is to sail *Thales* in the Caribbean for at least a couple of seasons. I’m looking forward to being back aboard with my family over the holidays for some warm, line-of-sight, trade-wind sailing, mooring each evening in a protected anchorage where we can watch the sun set and be rocked gently to sleep. I have some more items to check off my bucket list, including renting an apartment in Paris for at least six months. More to come . . .

ES'74

Your class will celebrate its 40th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee, be the class correspondent or class agent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Juanita Fenton Donnelly writes, "I'm enjoying teaching eighth-grade English at The King's Academy, in Sunnyvale. I have 120 students in five classes. In addition, I'm recovering from bilateral complete hip replacement surgery in December. I'm very grateful to be able to walk again but it's a difficult recovery, in case anyone's thinking about having both hips replaced at the same time." **David Wright** is professor of art history in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of Guanajuato, Mexico. He participates in networks whose goal is to recover native historical memory in central Mexico and to promote the linguistic rights of indigenous peoples (www.paginasprodigy.com/dcwright/).

FR'74

Class Correspondent
Carol Weston
carol@carolweston.com

We're planning our 40th reunion! **Hannah Judy Gretz** and **Nancy Wilder** are co-chairing, and you don't want to miss it! Please put October 4, 5 and 6 on your calendar and come to beautiful Chicago. Plans include a dinner hosted by Hannah, a wine-tasting led by **Stuart Randall**, maybe an art tour guided by **Sylvia Wolf** and perhaps a crêpe lunch and walk on the prairie of Ragdale Foundation. **Peter Greer** is planning to attend and we've gotten an inspiring number of RSVPs. *Eh oui, ça va être formidable.* Speaking of fun getaways, **Kevin Shushtari** and his family visited their daughter **Hannah** at SYA France, and **Jan Johnston** and her husband visited their daughter **Annie** at SYA Spain. Jan just informed me of an easy-peasy way to find out which of us have kids abroad: Google "SYA in the DNA." How cute is that? And how great that Hannah loves Rennes and Annie loves Zaragoza. In other news, Secretary of State John Kerry has appointed **David McKean** as director of the Policy Planning Office of the U.S. State Department! *Sacré bleu!* The author of three books, our very own David joined the Department of State in April 2012 as a senior advisor to Secretary of State Clinton for the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review (QDDR). In 2011, McKean was a public-policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Before that, he was CEO of

the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, in Boston, and the staff director for the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was chief of staff in Senator Kerry's personal office from 1999 to 2008. And from 1973 to 1974, he was hanging with us *en Bretagne! Chapeau*, David. See page 14 for an article on David. See you all in October in Chicago . . . unless you're passing through New York City, in which case say *Bonjour! À bientôt, alors*. A special public P.S. to Barbara "Muff" Ganley. I [**Carol Weston**] sure loved seeing you not once but twice in Middlebury, Vt., this January. Come say hi to the rest of us in Chi-town. There are still too many FR '74ers whom we haven't seen in all too long. (Well, *quarante ans*, but who's counting?) Join us this fall, *sup*.

DE'75

Class Correspondent
Andrew Holtz
holtzreport@juno.com

ES'75

Class Correspondent
Sabrina Hewett Matteson
sabrinam@fb.org

Ted Exstein writes, "Moved to Germany, near Heidelberg, and work for the Army. Went to Santiago de Compostela in February and enjoyed using Spanish for a change." **Constance Carpenter Deans** writes, "I continue to use my Spanish through teaching and traveling. I've taught seventh-grade Spanish for 13 years now and last summer traveled to Peru and Machu Picchu."

FR'75

Class Correspondent
Deb Zurkow
deborah@zurkow.com

Class Agent
Olivia Garfield
oliviagarfield@att.net

ES'76

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

The Alumni Office learned of the passing of classmate **Juan Miguel Piedra**. He died at his home in El Escorial, Spain, on November 12. He is survived by his son, Jared, and his daughter, Lucila. There will be a celebration of his life in Woodstock, Vt., on August 3.

FR'76

Class Correspondent
Matthew Judson

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

On March 29, **Tom Cassel** and **Alan Borst** attended an event remembering former faculty member **Charlie Pratt** and his poetry. It was held at New York City's Poets House.



FR'76 classmates Tom Cassel and Alan Borst reminisce with Joanie Pratt at a memorial poetry reading celebrating the life of former faculty member Charlie Pratt.

ES'77

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'77

Class Correspondent
James Barrett
P.O. Box 81, E. St. Johnsbury, VT 05838

Tara Waters Lumpkin writes, "Phillip Gibbs and I were married on May 25, 2012, and then set off for a three-month honeymoon house-sit on the island of Nevis, in the Caribbean. In mid-July, we suffered a home invasion by two Glock-toting thugs, but, happily, survived and now are almost healed from our injuries. Never a dull moment." See page 15 for an article on **Bob Rivkin**.

ES'78

35th REUNION
Class Correspondent
Diana Root
dianaroot@mac.com

Hope this finds all of our class doing well as we start our 50s. **Christopher Smith** writes, "After 14 years in Hong Kong, I've moved to London. Would love to catch up with any of y'all if you pass through this city of cold rain and warm beer." And from **Richard Pinney**: "My dog, Kya, and I are alive and fairly well in Sugarloaf Key, Fla. I've recently deluded myself into thinking I should be able to ride the unicycle again, and after several false starts, it seems that maybe I can. Woo-

hoo! I got about 30 feet and ran out of practice area and had to stop. My target destination is the tiki bar about a mile away. If one day I can ride there, have a couple of beers and ride back, I'll say I can still ride. Other than that, not much exciting going on here, but that's okay; I think I can handle it." As for me [**Diana Root**] and my family, we just bought a home at Croatan Beach here in Virginia Beach, so we're starting the process of getting ready to move this summer. I earned my 3rd Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. Lee and I celebrated our 20th wedding anniversary in September and he retired in December. We celebrated with a trip to Atlantis in the Bahamas with the girls in January, and are taking them and their cousins to London and Paris for spring break, mainly to see the band One Direction. Busy year already; hope to hear from more of you next time.

FR'78

35th REUNION
Class Correspondent
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ES'79

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 35th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'79

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Class Agent
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Your class will celebrate its 35th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

First, I [**Susan Getgood**] am sorry to report that this year we lost two of our classmates. **Donald Suggs**, who spent a lifetime engaged in progressive causes, died of a heart attack on October 5 and **Tony Nicosia** died on January 2, after a courageous 20-month battle with cancer. I'm looking forward to catching up with everyone's news as class correspondent. I did a stint way back when, and enjoyed hearing what everyone was up to. At that time we were starting our careers, getting married and so on, and now we're getting dangerously close to an age when it'll be our children doing so.

Ouch! To the news. I caught up with **Alex Alger**, **Gail Aidinoff Scovell** and **Charlie DeBevoise** at the SYA reception in New York City in January. Among other things, we chatted about our children's obsession with the game Minecraft. I imagine those with tween-age children (especially boys) will nod your heads in silent recognition. My note-taking during the evening was less than stellar, but I can tell you that Gail is counsel to the president of Hunter College and Charlie is a partner at reality-TV production house NorthSouth Productions (*Say Yes to the Dress Atlanta*, *Double Divas*, *Impractical Jokers*, the list goes on . . .). And Alex and Charlie have children who are SYA alums! Think on that for a minute . . . I can do slightly better with **Lisa Posey Krakowsky's** news. She got her master of divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary last spring and is teaching a class there called Art and Interfaith Dialogue. An almost empty-nester, with her son in college and her daughter at Phillips Academy, she and her husband moved back to New York City in April. **Betty Carey** has been living in London since 1996. Her children, Isabel (10) and Charlie (6), are growing up as Londoners. At the time of this writing, she was in the secondary school scramble for her daughter. **Allyson Cornish** has spent almost three wonderful years working for the Department of State in Costa Rica. "My next assignment is Haiti," she writes "We'll move in August. Looking forward to the many new opportunities to make a difference in Haiti." As for me, I'm in the tri-state area, working for the women's blogging community BlogHer in New York City and living in Bridgeport, Conn., with my almost-13-year-old son.

ES'80

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or agent? Please contact Susan McLean at smclean@syia.org.

Janet Romberg Pollack writes, "In the past year we celebrated our daughter Rachel's college graduation (cum laude!) and kvelled as our son Ben's album with the CU Buffoons came out in the spring (it's called *Under the Arches* — check it out on iTunes, Amazon or Spotify). I took up wood-working and last spring finished my first instrument, a ukulele. I'm hoping a guitar is in the offing. I continue to run the gift shop at our synagogue as well as sit on a bunch of committees. I just finished staging our annual Purim spiel: This year it was "Fiddler Off the Roof." After 13 years, with the last two as past president, in June I'll leave the board of trustees. I try to get back to



Janet Romberg Pollack ES'80 and family at Balboa Park

Colorado a few times a year to see my family (and now our son, who's a junior at the University of Colorado). My husband, Larry, and I will celebrate 25 years of marriage in July 2013. We're planning an amazing trip through the Panama Canal in November.

FR'80

Class Correspondent

Vin Bankoski

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Class Agent

Wendy Williams

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C'est trop longtemps . . . 33 years now . . . Wow. First, I'm [**Vin Bankoski**] sorry to share the very sad news that our classmate **Bob Hawkins** passed away on September 24, 2012, after a long battle with cancer, at the age of 49. He was a loving and devoted father, son, brother and friend; lawyer; and avid baseball and hockey fan. Read his obituary here: <http://tinyurl.com/bob-hawkins>.

I'm sitting in my office at home snuggled in the 'burbs between D.C. and Baltimore, listening to one of the enduring soundtracks from my year *en France* — *Dark Side of the Moon*. Following are the notes of those of our comrades that submitted scratches to me by the deadline. **Wendy Williams** writes, "**Chris Bailey** and I just got



FR'80 classmates Wendy Williams and Chris Bailey at the SYA in San Francisco reception

together at the SYA gathering in San Francisco. I talk to **Scott Nagle** on occasion. He hasn't changed. He sells life insurance in New York. As for me, I'm in Berkeley, teaching yoga to people with special needs, rowing and taking acting classes for fun. I also

work with the Center for Ecoliteracy, a nonprofit that fosters 'education for sustainable living.' Our work encourages systems thinking in K-12 schools, such as integrating school gardens into the curriculum, rethinking school lunch programs, writing student guides for films such as *Food, Inc.* My daughter, Morgan, is a high school freshman with purple hair. I'm hoping she'll consider SYA." **Liz Kopp** writes, "**Chase Robinson** was on the 'lost' list



FR'80's Liz Kopp during one of this year's New England blizzards

forever but then he turned up at **Carol Lee Rawn's** block party in Cambridge, Mass; seems he lives down the street from her. I can't remember the last time I sent in my news, so I'm probably going to be boring and repeat myself. I got remarried four years ago (I was widowed in 1999) to a wonderful man named Michael Keohane. He has worked on Wall Street for more than 20 years and recently started a 'second' career as a financial advisor at Merrill Lynch in the Fairfield, Conn., office a mile from our house. I'm still working as a scientist at Yale (which at the time of this writing was for the first time in 20 years 'officially' closed for two days due to the huge snowfall). I'm currently trying to identify the cellular receptors responsible for triggering an allergic response. My two sons, who are SYA grads (**Brendan IT'08** and **Bryce ES'12**), are doing great. Brendan graduated from Harvard last May with a government major. He was the captain of the varsity sailing team, a collegiate All-American in sailing, a winner of Academic All-Ivy, and the runner-up for the scholar-athlete award for his graduating class. He also continued taking Italian in college and earned a citation in Italian at graduation for his proficiency. He is now working as a business associate for Sears Holdings in Chicago. Bryce graduated from Fairfield High School last June and is a freshman at Connecticut College. He is also continuing to take Spanish. He made the varsity sailing team and absolutely loves school." (Mom just had to brag . . .) **Julie McCashin** writes, "After almost 20 years in Houston, we packed up the family and moved back to the Northeast and are living in Etna, N.H. My older son, Ryan, is a freshman at Dartmouth and

my younger son, Brendan, is a freshman in high school playing jazz clarinet in every free moment. I've continued my role as vice president of health services at International SOS and my husband has joined the faculty at the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth. Despite it being a small town, we have yet to run into our son on campus, which is just how he likes it, reserving family visits for the school break." And, finally, my [Vin's] own, random notes. **Leslie Thomas Fois** sent me a link for what looked like cool stories: sadly, I couldn't open it. (Sorry, Leslie.) I was in contact with **John Fawcett** out of the blue more than two years ago now; he was alive and well in living with wife and daughter (now 15?) in Brooklyn. **Johanna Schlegel** was in touch in July, inquiring about our clan. The inimitable **Dale Dewey** got married in Maui on 12/12/12; bride, Nathalie, and groom are reportedly well and living in a bungalow somewhere off the beach around Santa Barbara. His new book, *The Man in the White Pickup Truck - A Guide to Retirement by 35*, can be found on Amazon.com. **Charlie Terry** lives the life I envy most, honing his expertise with both the hammer and the ax (read: guitar) on Martha's Vineyard. **David River** appears to be living in Japan (if one believes Facebook) and shares musings from time to time. This April will be the 15th anniversary of **Ms. B's** passing, though in many ways it still feels like yesterday. As for me, I've been in the D.C. area for going on eight years now. I've been working for Erickson Living Management, a company that develops and manages CCRCs (continuing care retirement communities) across the country. I'm the associate executive director for our flagship property, just outside of Baltimore. Motorcycling is my favorite pastime; my most recent adventure was a four-day trip around the Great Lakes last July (swam in all five in 51 hours). My wife, Andrea and I celebrated our ninth anniversary . . . two cats, no kids. Normandy. November. Nineteen Seventy-Nine. *Toussaint*. Gray drizzle skies. Grand Marnier. Mischievous lads. And *Dark Side of the Moon*. Just some of the happy memories that linger from my French adventure. If you want to share your memories, contact me at the e-mail address above. I'd love to hear from you.

ES'81

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Well, as we all are poised one side or the other of the half-century milestone, the reports from the front include a wide variety of changes, generational shifts and the impact of passing time and passing storms. And an untimely departure. Sadly, as I [Ned Hoyt] think you all know, **Curt Winsor** passed away in December at the age of 49. Many of you shared memories of Curt, and of the many



Ned Hoyt ES'81 (l) and family visited classmate Townsend Haig and his wife, Jean, on Bainbridge Island.

threads through that flood of emails, I think it's fair to say that even in this hyper-connected age, many of us felt out of touch and lamented the lost opportunity to reconnect, or to cultivate the kinship born of our shared but diverse experience in Barcelona. Some of you had been in regular touch with Curt, and could provide a far richer portrait of him than I can, but the common image of him from your notes is that of a true gentleman, a generous and community-minded man who enjoyed considerable success in life and lived it with gusto. While Curt was not the first of our number to leave us, I venture to say that his untimely death came as all the more of a shock as we begin to ponder just how much faster time passes now. **Ambler Moss**, for instance, writes, almost as an afterthought, "I'm starting a doctoral program this summer, before I turn 50. I'm planning on being a late bloomer. Like I have a choice at this point." He doesn't say how that will fit with the responsibilities of being director of an international school in Tel Aviv, Bucharest, Budapest or Colombo, all posts for which he is interviewing. And then there is the question of the subject matter, but I guess Ambler will divulge that in another update. Spanish, he reports, is part of everyday life for him in Southern California, for it is "now near native and the language of my home,

comfort zone." Hence the desire to chart new territories beyond the pale of Hispanic civilization. **Anne Brownstein** provides news of herself and **Anne Hartwell**, writing: "Annie Hartwell and I are cooking up a tie-dye sheep's wool scheme now that she has gotten married and moved to a farm with actual sheep." Of course, Anne B. offers more about recent events in her life, but has sworn me to secrecy, so I can't say more about how she weathered the unwelcome visit of Sandy to the Greater New York Area. I'll leave the rest to your imaginations, but to allay any concerns that may arise, Anne writes, with characteristic cheer laced with irony, "[i]t sure has been an adventure, but it's all good." As for Annie H., well, we do want to hear what life on the farm is all about. **David Lena** also writes from Southern California that his daughter, Maggie (13), goes to soccer practice where the LA Galaxy play several times a week, and they work on her 8th grade Spanish during the drive. So perhaps in a few years, David will experience himself what our parents felt that moment when they saw us off on the flight to Barcelona. I know I have started to wonder about that now that my daughter, Deidra (nearly 13), continues with Mandarin. In our largely bilingual Spanish/English household, Didi relishes being able to stump us all with Chinese. She'll go on a school trip next spring with her class, I confess under the watchful eye of my wife Anne (who herself last visited China in the late 1970s), and we'll quietly encourage her to keep going with Chinese, together with her other abiding passion, ballet. David's mention of the LA Galaxy reminded me of DC United's ill-fated post-season career last fall. My son Alex (10) and I watched DC lose to the Houston Dynamo, and so of course he had to root for LA to beat Houston in revenge, and indeed that's the way it played out. Alex has become quite the fan of the English and Spanish leagues, which he watches on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Given what he knows about the teams at his tender age, I'm sure it would not be hit-or-miss for him if he played the weekly soccer pool or *quinielas* as many of us did back in Barcelona. I can remember the shouts of delight: "I can't believe I won!" Lastly, **Margaret Bracken Thompson** writes that she has recently remarried and lives in Seattle, where she has been working in international public health for many years, it sounds like. Margaret has the perspective of seeing her daughter Betsy (24) and two step-children, who are slightly older, begin their professional careers. Again, the international dimension is apparent, as Betsy is focusing on Middle Eastern studies. I

wish I had known, Margaret, you were in Seattle. On my swing through there last summer, I saw **Haig Townsend** and his wife Jen, and got a glimpse of their son, on a visit to idyllic Bainbridge Island for the Fourth of July parade. Our visit was too short, but enough to see that time hasn't passed quite so quickly on Bainbridge as it has elsewhere. This was the small-town and family parade of decades past; it was like stepping into a Norman Rockwell canvas. Well, that's all I can report for now. I'm pleased to say that I am back on track with the updates after a few missed deadlines. Last year was too hectic, but this year has fortunately begun quietly, and with any luck I'll be able to stay in better touch. *Un abrazo a todos.*

FR'81

Class Correspondent
Scott Aiges
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Our old friend **Adam Rugo** — well known to us all as a dedicated young musician when we were in Rennes — has been enjoying an exciting career in St. Louis. In addition to becoming an extremely accomplished African drummer (he's a master of the djembe, and he visited New Orleans last March as a featured guest at an event my organization produces called the Congo Square New World Rhythms Festival), he's working on a number of exciting arts education programs for kids. Most recently, he became music director for Circus Harmony, a professional youth circus in St. Louis. In January, the group wrapped its yearly series of fund-raising shows with a cast of 30 young circus performers accompanied by a seven-piece live band (with Adam on guitar). Adam writes, "We're about to go into the studio to record a circus-benefit CD of my compositions and world folk music. Please check out our live performance videos on the Circus Harmony YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/user/CircusHarmony)." Of course, to any of our other classmates who may be headed to New Orleans, please look me [Scott Aiges] up! **Barry Whittle** writes, "I recently relocated to Myanmar, of all places, but enjoying it very much so far. A truly fascinating country going through remarkable changes. SYA will be happy to know that I'm taking my Burmese-language lessons seriously."



Jon Cole ES'82, his wife Angels and their 11-year-old daughter Clara met Catalunya's President Artur Mas and his wife in Barcelona

ES'82

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Jon Cole ES'82 was enjoying Sant Jordi's Day with his Catalan wife Angels and 11-year-old daughter Clara in Barcelona when he came across a television crew filming Catalunya's President Artur Mas and his wife greeting the booksellers and rose vendors. After Jon got the President's attention with a remark that there are many Americans who support him and Catalan independence, President Mas stopped to speak in his perfect English with Clara about her background and had this picture taken.

FR'82

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ES'83



30th REUNION

Class Correspondent
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FR'83



30th REUNION

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ES'84

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 30th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be your class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

FR'84

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 30th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

ES'85

Class Correspondent
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I [Whitney Shugrue Hermann] will be bringing my family to Viterbo, Italy, where I'll be the SYA college counselor in 2013–14. I'm thrilled to be headed overseas again . . . and to induct my husband and 6-year-old son into the SYA family.

FR'85

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ES'88 25th REUNION

Class Correspondent
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¡Hola, amigos! I [Shirley Quirt] hope this finds everyone well and happy as we mark 25 years (!) since our time in Barcelona. A couple of reports this round, from near and far. Keep the news coming. Eric Lazo took a break



Eric Lazo ES'88 and his wife Wendy on the mushing trail.

from watching the start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race to check in. He writes, "I live in Anchorage and work in marketing for the local phone company. My wife, Wendy, is a ceramic artist. No kids, just two dogs we treat freakishly like little humans. We've been renovating an abandoned crack house for the last year. Been fun to finally get a livable first floor." Elena Reilly Madsen writes, "Mimi Maloney came to visit me in San Francisco in October, along with her Spanish husband and two charming sons. My husband, Todd, and I have two daughters, ages 9 and 11, who are both studying Spanish in school and finding opportunities to test their language skills during our trips to Mexico. My husband has an open ocean fish farm on the Big Island of Hawaii, and I started my own communications firm in December, after 13 years with Stone Communications. Busy times, indeed!"

FR'88 25th REUNION

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ES'89

Class Correspondents
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Your class will celebrate its 25th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be your class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

I [Wanda Mann] approach this class update with a heavy heart in response to the news that our classmate Claudia de Quesada Rogers passed away suddenly on December 15. With the passing of Lenise Hightower last year and of Earl Bethel in 2000, our Barcelona family has lost three very special people. I'm sure we all have memories of Claudia's vivaciousness and confidence, Lenise's quiet elegance, and Earl's endearing smile and musical talent. May they all rest in peace. My recent brunch with Buffy Drysdale and Mark Ramsey in New York City felt even more special in light of these losses. Mark decided to make his temporary transfer to New York a permanent one, and he and his husband, Ron, are settling into their new Manhattan apartment with their pooches. When we met, Buffy was preparing to go on the road with her husband and son for a special performance at Brown University: she dances (Afro-Cuban) and her guys form part of the drum ensemble. Congrats to Cheo Hodari Coker. Not only was he honored with a NAACP Image Award for Best Writing in a Dramatic Series for his work on *Southland*, but he was also included on *Ebony* magazine's



Cheo Hodari Coker ES'89 after receiving an NAACP Image Award

Power Player list. He's a supervising producer for *NCIS: Los Angeles*. On the family front, Lisa Walinski was married in October. Louise Derbes welcomed her second child last July and lives with her husband and sons in London. Alexandra Petschek is also married with two young sons; they lives in New Rochelle, N.Y. Please send your news for the next issue. ¡Gracias!

FR'89

Class Correspondent
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Your class will celebrate its 25th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be your class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

ES'90

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Rob Stokes ES'90 with his children Clive and Benton.

Rob Stokes writes that he and his family are still based in Austin. He continues to work at Frog Design and has been meditating a lot over the past year. He's also a big fan of Hatha Yoga. Rob recommends www.innerengineering.com/SadhguruLive for anyone interested in learning more about yoga. Angela Stoddard wrote from south of San Francisco, where she lives with her husband and two kids, Aiden (5) and Sol (2). Aiden loves kindergarten this year and Sol keeps Angela very busy as a raging 2-year-old. The family is planning a trip to Goa this Christmas to spend time with family in the village where her husband grew up. Nicole Maxwell still lives on Vashon Island in Oregon. She has her own medical practice (drnicolemaxwell.com) and her kids, Julian (5) and Elizabeth (3), keep her laughing. Nicole is thinking of moving to San Diego and would love to hear from anyone out there. Patrick Stephenson is a speechwriter in Brussels and does some amateur acting on the side. He's discovered

Crossfit training and is now hooked. Judging from photos on his Facebook page, it works! (See Patrick's profile on page 16.) **Lisa Miller** writes that she



ES'90 classmates Lisa Miller's two oldest children, Arianna and Teigan, with Angela Stoddard's sons, Aiden and Sol, during a recent visit to London

and her family moved back to the States last summer after almost three years in London. Lisa is still with the State Department but taking a year off to spend more time with her kids: Arianna (6), Teigan (4) and Liam (9 months). It was great to hear about her meeting in London with Angela and family last time they were on their way back from Goa. Lisa wants to know if there is anyone else in the D.C. area. I [**Amila de Saram**] still live in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where I work as a freelance writer/researcher. I write for a variety of international publications on Sri Lankan humanitarian news, economics and politics.

FR'90

Class Correspondent

Aria Yow

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ES'91

Class Correspondent

Allison Amend

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After 10 years as an account manager for Frito Lay, **Megan McNees** took the past year off. **Matthew Krichman** lives in a log cabin in the woods outside of Durango, Colo. He spends his days chasing three very happy dogs through the snow. Still in the Foreign Service, **Cris Dilworth** is working at the White House on visa security policy. Oddly enough, he works just down the hall from **Quentin Palfrey**. He'll be at the White House until this summer, when he begins training for his next overseas assignment. He and his family will be assigned to Warsaw in 2014. Although he finds it hard to get out of the building for five minutes, come this summer he'll be looking at a lot of free time and would love to see some SYA classmates. As for Quentin, he says he spent "a thrilling (and surreal) few minutes with the president and my family in the Oval Office as I left the

White House [one afternoon]. It's been an incredible honor to serve in his administration." **Ben Russell** writes, "I live in Vermont with my wife and two boys, 6 and 8. I'm a partner in a financial advisory firm. We love life here and are beginning to travel the world with the boys. Visited The Netherlands in April and heading to Guatemala next summer." **Dana Gryniuk** still lives in Miami and is general counsel for three local health insurance plans under one corporate umbrella. She went in-house after the birth of her daughter, Maya Aahana, who just turned 1. She hopes Maya's first language will be Spanish. ¡Viva España! **Sagit Maier-Schwartz** is a licensed marriage and family therapist living in Los Angeles with her husband and 6-year-old daughter. They're moving to Santa Monica in June to be closer to the ocean and good schools. She's trying to get her first book published with the help and support of fellow alumna and published author **Allison Amend**. **Lee DuBose** writes, "My real-estate career is taking off and I'm becoming a much more proactive Realtor. I had a wonderful winter holiday and spent my birthday in Seattle, then drove to Vancouver. I spent a weekend in Whistler Blackcomb, which is simply amazing. I plan on going to Florence in July, so any travelers, let me know of your itinerary and we'll connect. I once met **Dustin Boone** in London years after SYA, so everything's possible." **Josh Davis** is excited to be transitioning from academia into neuro coaching and looking forward to being fully transitioned by June. His new website is www.NeuroCoachPhD.com, where you can see what he's up to. **Joanne Fredericks** is still in Connecticut working as a scientist for Unilever. Her son, Alex, is a junior in high school and starting the college process. She writes, "Can you believe it? He's the same age as many of us during our SYA year. We're also expecting a third in May (another boy). Our daughter, Natalie, starts kindergarten in September. Life is good in the Fredericks-Saintelus household." **Enrique Von Rohr** writes, "I live in St. Louis with my wife, two kids, a dog and now a cat. I'm in grad school (Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts at Washington University in St. Louis) for design management, so I might be looking for a new career adventure in a couple of years, though I love my current work teaching design and doing work at the intersection of design, research and strategy in education and many other disciplines. After a year of living and working in Yosemite, **Jen Jackson** is traipsing around Argentina and Chile vagabond-style with her husband, Roger. She writes, "We

learned tango for two weeks in Buenos Aires and are now trekking in Patagonia. I'm often asked what I do/did for work and it's hard to give a pat answer because I don't know what's next, though likely I'll dive back into water-pollution issues when the time comes. Happily, many more months of travel in the United States and Europe lie ahead, possibly even a visit with my *familia española* with whom I've kept in touch through the years." **Allison Amend** is teaching creative writing at Lehman College, in New York City. Her third book, *A Nearly Perfect Copy* (Nan A. Talese/Doubleday), was published on April 9 and is available on www.amazon.com.

FR'91

Class Correspondent

Shannon Keating

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ES'92

Can you volunteer to be your class correspondent or class agent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Arian Giantris Clements continues to work in refugee resettlement and language-access services in Portland, Maine, where she and her husband are also happily raising two daughters, Olive (2½) and Sophie (7 months). Arian says enjoys connecting with her Spanish family via phone and Facebook.

FR'92

Class Correspondent

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.



Caroline and Lucy, daughters of Christina Wright Bohanek FR'92

Bonjour! Voici quelques nouvelles françaises: **Christina Wright Bohanek** writes, "Lucy was born on March 30, 2012 — a day before my birthday. I've been lost in a haze ever since. Taking care of two kids is kicking *mes fesses*." **Elle Becker** is also kicking fesses: "I was grateful for my ability to speak French when I was in Mali during the coup d'état last year, though it was having picked up some of the local

language that really helped me when an army official banged on my window with a machine gun." **Lori Hinnant Sigal** writes, "I moved to Paris with my husband and two children and enrolled the kids in the public school down the street. I had my wallet (and *carte de séjour*) stolen on the métro and fought my way through French bureaucracy to file a police report. We live on a market street above a *boulangerie* and a *boucherie*, and my children have gone native enough to complain when the baguette isn't warm at dinnertime. I'm a correspondent for Associated Press here. I had dinner with Anne-Cecile Joubert, **Melanie Neal**'s host sister, who remains as lovely as ever." As for me [**Hilary Stokes Taylor**], I got to practice my rusty written French in a Haitian-history class taken for fun here at Cal State San Marcos. My 3-year-old asks me, "How do babies cry in French?" and other such linguistic puzzles. Last, **Mike Pignatello** is back in D.C. after various overseas adventures lasting nine years!

ES'93



20th REUNION

Class Correspondent

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FR'93



20th REUNION

Class Correspondent

Amy Atlas Deutsch

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ES'94

Class Correspondent

Meredith Glah Coors

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Your class will celebrate its 20th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be your class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Zev Salomon became a father when his daughter Noa was born on May 24, 2012.

FR'94

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Class Agent
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Your class will celebrate its 20th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sysa.org.

I [**Mimi Crume Sterling**] have started a new job at Hearst Magazines as executive director of public relations. Veva is 13 months old, and by the time you read this, baby #2 will be here. Busy, busy!" Read the article on page 17 about **Jonathan Bender**.

CN'95

Class Correspondent and Agent
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Sara Cusimano Perkowski is based in New Jersey and often travels to China for work and to see her father, Jack. We all met Jack during that unforgettable trip to the Five Star beer factory back in 1995. Five Star and Qingdao merged, in 2000, to form the largest brewery in China. Sara works at her father's investment-management business focusing on China. I (**Clinton Wu**) recently visited **Gabe Seydewitz** in Taipei and he took me on a tour of the hottest clubs in town. He practices corporate law during the day and DJs at night on a part-time basis. He spends the weekend playing flag football and taking care of his adorable daughter. **Andrew Vuong** lives in Ho Chi Minh City and is the sales VP for a multinational industrial-products company. He spends his vacations in places like Thailand and Taiwan. I've visited Andrew often during the past three winters and love to hang out at his new apartment. I'm (**Clinton Wu**) still based in Beijing but find time to travel to Korea, Vietnam, Taipei, Hong Kong and other interesting places around Asia. I haven't been back to the United States for many years but plan to visit L.A. and New York City later this year. If anyone lives in these areas and would like to have a gathering, please e-mail me.

ES'95

Class Correspondent
Claudia Cruz
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¡Meu amics! I [**Claudia Cruz**] have to apologize to our classmate **Colette Rhodes**, whose update I forgot to include in the last issue. She still lives in London, to her, as she puts it, "shock and amusement." She hoped to start a master's program in psychoanalytical observational studies. At the time, she volunteered as a mental health counselor with adolescents one day a week and worked with families in a small school for children with emotional and behavioral difficulties. She writes, "I want to believe in therapeutic work as essential and one that can exist alongside the educational and practical learning that comes with life . . . There's no soul in politics anymore, only pontification. Phew, I'll get down from my soapbox now, shall I?" **Olivia Chao Ku**, a Los Angelino, works as an architect. She teaches her 18-month-old Spanish and Catalan with the storybooks sent to her by her host parents in Barcelona, with whom she remains in steady contact. She writes, "They're adamant that I teach her the 'correct' animal sounds." I'm ecstatic to report that **Tricia Taitt** is on tour with the *Fela! 2013 Tour* and she's



Tricia Taitt ES'95 with Rev. Jesse Jackson following a performance of Fela!

been all over the country. **Daryl-Lynn Johnson** and I caught her at the Los Angeles show in May. I remember dancing with Tricia in Barcelona and it's a pleasure to see her fulfill her dreams. You go, girl! I'm glad for those who've joined the Facebook group SYA Spain 1994–1995. Stay in touch everyone. Turn to page 18 to read an article on **Myesha Jackson**. *¡Adieu!*

FR'95

Class Correspondent
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Carmen Babb Cherry writes, "Took a great 12-day road trip with my son, Zephyr, over Thanksgiving. Some highlights were the Kennedy Space Center, a Duke basketball game, Williamsburg and Washington, D.C. Look us up if you're headed to Maine."

CN'96

Class Correspondent
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Catherine Pearl and Louise Marie, daughters of Alys Spensley CN'96

It's exciting to report several bits of good news. **Alys Spensley** and Drew Lebkuether are enjoying parenthood, having welcomed twin girls, Catherine Pearl and Louise Marie, on October 8. Living just outside D.C., they enjoyed a visit from **Lara Fox** and her family last summer. Alys and Drew are headed to Taiwan for their next assignment with the State Department in summer 2013; they're excited to return to Asia. **Mollie Dowling** and Nichole McClelland were civil unionized in Chicago on October 19. Quentin Zhihan Klein 李志瀚 was born to **Lucas Klein** and Shenxin Li on January 12. **Jay Brown** welcomed the arrival of his daughter Kiran. She was born in Kunming, Yunnan, on July 5 and she seems to be having a great time being alive. Congratulations, everyone!



Quentin Zhihan Klein, son of Lucas Klein CN'96

ES'96

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After five years in Hong Kong and elsewhere in Asia, **Chris Burtch** now works for Standard Chartered Bank in New York and travels extensively across the country. He sees **Sean Dougherty** on occasion and is up for meeting SYAers for beer or dinner, so give him a call. Speaking of SYAers in New York City, **Jackie DeAngelis** has been our star CNBC business journalist for the past eight years. She transitioned to on-air reporting in 2010, when she traveled to Bahrain to help launch the first bureau in the region and cover the Arab Spring. Jackie is back in New York covering Wall Street; check her out on TV. **Kaitlin Solimine** and **Annie Rollins** Skype regularly while making egg salad and gossiping about the shadow-puppet world (how common!). Kaitlin met up with **Caitrin McKiernan** in Santa Barbara over Christmas. Caitrin is another super-star lawyer in New York City and, interestingly enough, her brother **Seamus McKiernan CN '01** is now Kaitlin's *Huffington Post* editor — go figure! Kaitlin has blossomed into an exceptional writer and is reworking her first novel, *Empire of Glass*, an excerpt of which won the 2012 Dzanc Books/Disquiet International Literary Award. Visit www.kaitlinsolimine.com or www.hipporeads.com to find out more about her literary-based media start-up, HIPPO Reads. She's off to China to participate in the Shanghai Literary Fest with her piece "Unsavoury Elements and Other True Stories of Foreigners in China," published by Earnshaw Books. **Rob Watts** writes, "My family and I live in Norfolk, Va., where I'm an operations officer on the USS *Monterey*, a guided-missile cruiser. I'm deployed for most of 2013 providing ballistic missile defense to US forces and allies in the Middle East." **Phil Gambone**, our venerated SYA teacher, next year will complete his

40th year in that career. Congratulations! He teaches at Boston University Academy and **Melody Ko** is on the same campus. He's writing a memoir about tracing his father's route with the 5th Armored Division during World War II. Phil says a big hello to all of us. As for yours truly [**Menna Demessie**], I'm excited that **Josh Friedman** is now in D.C. and the biggest Georgetown Hoyas fan on the planet. We're going to check out David Mamet's play *Race* this week and it'll be good to catch up again. In addition to teaching political science and international relations at the UC Washington Center, I'm still working as a senior policy analyst for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and have been working on voting rights, family economic success and juvenile justice — just did a radio segment on the sequester with Rep. Keith Ellison and have recurring dreams of Congress getting its act together, holding hands and singing "Can't we all just get along." In other news, who's up for a summer 2013 reunion weekend in New York City? Hit me up if you want to be part of the planning committee; we'll need help. It's time to make it happen!

ES'97

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John Davis ES'97 with his wife Olivia and daughter Alexandra

John Davis writes, "My wife, Olivia, and I are celebrating our seventh wedding anniversary this year. We had our first child, Alexandra, in August 2011 and are enjoying family life. We're trying to make an SYAer out of her by keeping our travel schedule busy. If anyone's in the D.C. area, it'd be great to reconnect." Read the article on page 19 about **Elizabeth Martin-Shukrun**.

FR'97

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Ana Christa Boksay is working at Cleary Gottlieb in Paris. In the small-world category, she met **Daniel Dozier FR '00** through one of her colleagues. Daniel is an SYA classmate of Ana Crista's brother **Andre**. Ana Christa and Daniel planned a trip to Rennes to visit their respective host families.

CN'98

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ES'98

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FR'98

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Angelita, daughter of Victor Jung FR'98

Victor Jung is in Switzerland, has a new job at an investment firm called Partners Group and says he's the happiest dad in the world. **Sylvia Saracino Koodrich** lives in Seattle with her husband, Jake. She's the director of partnerships for Teach for America Memphis. **Julia Diamond** is back in Los Angeles after finishing her master's and has started an amazing job as the programming director for Grand Park/The Performing Arts Center of Los Angeles County. **Campbell Bromberg** lives in New York after 10

years in Paris, still working in fashion as vice president of production at KCD Worldwide. **Jos Saldana** is in Chicago and growing his strategy consulting company in the area of international business between the United States and Latin America. **Alyssa Condon Corry** moved to Nantucket full time with her husband. She was recently promoted to member-services manager at the Nantucket Chamber of Commerce. She's also helping to organize this year's Nantucket Comedy Festival, which is a charity to help Stand Up and Learn — a program that teaches kids confidence and public-speaking skills through comedy. **Christina Morris** received her master's degree in international sustainable tourism last May and has interned in Costa Rica and Mexico. She's hoping to open her own business in the next few years but is currently the business manager at an upscale boutique in San Antonio. She's getting married to her fiancé, Bill, in June with a small family wedding planned on the beach in Playa del Carmen. They just bought a house in San Antonio. **Katie Mullen** is living in Dallas, where she works for the Boston Consulting Group doing strategy work in retail, apparel and travel. She and her husband just had a daughter. **Grace Lee** is in New York running a company she founded during business school called Nine Naturals, an all-natural, safe beauty line for pregnant women. You can find her products online at www.ninenaturals.com. She lives in Tribeca with her husband and one-year-old-daughter, Charlotte. **Monica Lira** is in Dallas, where she opened up an immigration law firm a couple of years ago. She recently got married; the couple honeymooned in Paris, Rome and Venice. **Rochelle Evans Edwards** lives in the San Francisco area with her husband, Corry. She's a user research manager at Electronic Arts. **Liza Trafton** lives in Brooklyn with her fiancé and is in her second year of graduate school in landscape architecture. **Natalia Wodnicka Eva** and her husband, Tim, live in

New York City. She's finishing her doctorate in French literature at NYU; her dissertation is on contemporary French and Francophone theater. **Annie Porter** lives in Maine with her fiancé, Jason. She's a senior analyst doing money management/financial strategy work for Athena Health, a young electronic medical records company. **Kelly Young** has bounced around from D.C., to Santa Barbara, to Aspen. She's the group sales manager for Sky Hotel. **Laurel Dudley** and **Emily Lee** both live in Oahu. Emily is pursuing the art of ceramics, among other things, and Laurel is running a medical-device distributorship with her husband.

CN'99

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

ES'99

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

Emilie Paschal Hatch writes, "After a long run as class correspondent, I would like to thank **Andrea Halverson** for taking over the role. It was so much fun to serve our class and hear your news firsthand. I know Andrea will do an amazing job and be a welcomed fresh face. As for my news, I married Brian Hatch on July 7, 2012, in Kennebunkport, Maine. We just returned from a delayed honey-



Emilie Paschal Hatch ES'99 and her husband, Brian, on their wedding day in Kennebunkport, ME



Clay Pell ES'99 CN'01 and Michelle Kwan on their wedding day in Providence.



Katherine Block ES'99, husband, Max, and son Maximiliano



Maya Smith ES'99 at her doctoral graduation from UC Berkeley



Kitt Stephenson ES'99 in Kyoto

moon in Thailand, which was a long-overdue reminder of how much I love to travel. Hoping to plan another trip abroad soon, perhaps to Zaragoza?"

Clay Pell married Michelle Kwan on January 19 in Providence. Clay Pell married Michelle Kwan on January 19 in Providence. Clay was recently named deputy assistant secretary for the office of International and Foreign Language Education and former Olympian skater Michelle is at the State Department. (Read more about Clay on page 20.) **Katharine Bernstein** is in her third year of a clinical psychology PhD program at St. John's University, Queens, N.Y. She works primarily with adolescents and families, and has been able to put her Spanish skills to use with clients from Latin America. Katharine writes, "The only downside is that my *acento castellano* has disappeared." She has plans to marry David Lockner in June in Lake Tahoe. **Laurel Bellante** is in the first year of a PhD program in geography and development, and is playing music as much as possible. **Maya Smith** received her PhD in romance languages and linguistics from UC Berkeley. She'll be an assistant professor in the French and Italian

Department at the University of Washington Seattle in the fall. She's currently working for the nonprofit start-up The 1947 Partition Archive, as well as teaching at Berkeley. **Sabrina Singh** lives in Brooklyn and is a senior program officer at the Gimbel Foundation. She got married in late May.

Katherine Block lives and works as a veterinarian in Portland, Ore. She welcomed baby Maximiliano in November 2012. Katherine and her husband, Max, enjoy hiking, biking, fishing and brunching in the Pacific Northwest. Katherine writes, "If anyone is planning a trip out here, get in touch; we love to have guests." **Kit-tredge Stephenson** is wrapping up a year and a half in Kyoto and will be transitioning to Albany for a clinical psychology internship during the coming academic year. **Ryan Abernathy** recently accepted a faculty position at Columbia University in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. In June, he's getting married in Italy, after having spent the past year in San Diego. In September the couple will be moving to Manhattan, just around the corner from **Logan Schmid**. **Dean Hudson** com-



Mateo, son of Logan Schmid ES'99

pleted his MBA at Dartmouth's Tuck School last May, and moved to Seattle to work at Amazon. I [**Andrea Halverson**] am in the first year of a PhD program in organizational behavior at Instituto de Empresa, in Madrid.

FR'99

Class Correspondents

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Lisa Petzold

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Your class will celebrate its 15th reunion next year. Can you volunteer to be your class agent or part of a reunion committee? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Hunter Hardin writes, "I finished law school at Northwestern in 2011 and am working for a law firm (Pillsbury Winthrop) in New York City. I'm in a niche practice group that works on global outsourcing and technology transactions. I'm enjoying it so far. I caught up with **Julien Vernet** recently and occasionally see **Ned Shepard**." **Vanessa Janowski** writes, "I just moved back to New York City — excited to be here again. Would love to reconnect with any other SYAers in the city."

CN'00

Class Correspondent and Agent

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Class Agent

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We thank **Dominique Frega** for her years of dedication as our class correspondent and welcome Emily in her dual role as class correspondent and class agent. Happy Chinese New Year! Our class has certainly been busy. Last year, while traveling on the West Coast, I [**Emily Trower-Young**] got to spend some time with **Wendra Liang**, **Chris Babayan**, **Heather Spearmint** and **Jeff Bissell** in San Francisco and **Tom Martig** and **Khaila Gonzales** in Seattle. Having recently graduated from Stanford, Wendra is practicing with an environmentally focused law firm. Chris has moved back to the Boston area to pursue new opportunities. Heather lives in Boulder Creek, Calif., with her husband, Alden, and 2-year-old son, Gavin, and works for the Mountain Parks Foundation. **Dr. B** is the head of school at the Chinese American International School. **LeeAnn Bissell** sends her love to everyone. They're both very much enjoying living in San Francisco and it was such a treat to sit in their kitchen and tell old stories. In Seattle, Tom is working as a project and systems engineer at Boeing; Khaila is the executive director of a nonprofit called Save Habitat and Diversity of Wetlands. She's also very involved in local urban farming initiatives. The East Coast also has its share of SYAers. **Thanh Nguyen** and **Conor Harrington** are in D.C. Thanh is a litigation attorney at Clifford Chance and is engaged to another attorney with plans to marry during summer 2014. Conor continues to work for the U.S. Department of Commerce and often finds himself in Beijing for business. In Boston, **Christina Anderson** is engaged and working as an engineering manager at Oracle. **Jordan Caswell Dolfi** was expecting her first



Emily Trower-Young CN'00 visiting her Chinese family, the Maos, including her dad, mom, grandmother and sister.



With her Chinese family is Katie Fetter Stitch CN'00 and her husband

child at the time of this writing and lives in Asheville, N.C., with her husband, Jairus. In January, I was excited to see **Matt Lemieux** and **Jory Eisenberg** at the New York City SYA alumni event. **Matt Lemieux** lives and works in Greenwich, Conn., with his wife, Fang Fang, and their daughter (see inside back cover for photo). Jory works at a hedge fund in New York City. **Katie Fetter Stitch** couldn't make the event but writes, "Still working in finance and living in New York City with my husband and now two kids (Liesel is almost 3, Miles is 5 months). Never a dull moment. I did make it back to China in May 2012 for the first time in a decade, and got to see my host family." My recent trip to Beijing enabled me to catch up with **Adam Morley** and **Unique Song** (**Dash Pierce's** host brother). Both are married, and Unique is now the proud father of a little boy. He would love to see anyone who's in the city. **Shi Lili** and **Lao He** also send their greetings. Adam said he'd seen **Darren Platt**, who lives in Hong Kong primarily and heads to Alaska for the annual fishing season, as he owns a commercial boat there. **Alex Montgomery** says he, too, still lives in Hong Kong, with his wife. **Lewis Keyte** writes that he's doing well in Singapore, despite being in the

dreaded process of moving apartments. **Sea Jin Oh** writes that he's working as a business analyst at Standard Chartered Bank in Seoul and hopes to start his own business in the near future. **Shani Senbetta** writes that she had her wedding in January and is adjusting to married life. She still works at South-West Energy, in Addis Ababa. As for me, I'm readjusting to life in America after spending a month with my host family in Beijing for the New Year celebrations. I'm based between Martha's Vineyard and New York City, and stay busy producing a line of handmade organic skin-care products called Sustainable Shanti. Sadly, I would be remiss in not noting the one-year anniversary of Dash's passing. In his honor, one night Adam and I talked at length over beers and shared our memories of Dash's incredible exuberance for life, his inspiring command of the Chinese language and even his famously stinky feet. He's certainly missed by many. It's been wonderful to reconnect with so many of you in the past year. If you haven't been in touch, please send me an e-mail and let me know where you are in the world. I hope this year of the snake brings you happiness, prosperity and good fortune.



Carly Wood ES'00 with her husband (above) and with classmates Ife Babatunde and Elina Sarkisova (below)



Joining Kate Hitzbusen Berry ES'00 at her wedding were her Spanish mom Maria Jose and Spanish sister Sara.

ES'00

Class Correspondent
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¡Hola, compañeros! “La vida es para vivir,” and so many of our SYA classmates have been doing just that. **Peter Frykman** was featured on Forbes.com in the article “Businesses Without Borders: Three Entrepreneurs Who Launched Abroad.” Read it here: bit.ly/Z9iMYI. **Azita Habibi** is at Wharton/Lauder pursuing a dual MBA and MA in international studies (Spanish and Latin American studies). She plans to go to Brazil this summer in hopes of starting a business. As they say in Portuguese, *Muito legal, Azita*. **Kate Prichard**’s New York City–based tutoring company, Bee Tutored, has expanded to Madrid and Barcelona. They work with many international families who want to send their children to US boarding schools and universities and provide general academic support in all subjects in English, Spanish and Catalan. **Scott Rickards** writes: “My second son, Samuel, was born in November last year in Montreal. His older brother, Thomas, was born in Dubai in 2010. My wife, Dominique, and I are still adjusting to the freezing temperatures after moving to Canada from the Middle East. I started a company called Waterfund, which just partnered with IBM to launch the Rickards Water Cost Index. My goal is to measure the real cost of water in every major city in the world. SYAers **Andy Broekelman** and “Nacho” **Alex White** have been co-conspirators from time to time and we remain in touch. *Saludos* to everyone.” **Maria Perez Martinez** will have her first short story published in an anthology entitled “Holiday Magick: 20 Holiday Stories with a Twist”, to be released in May by Spencer Hill Press.



Maria Perez Martinez ES'00 and her family

She and her husband and two kids live in Connecticut, where they purchased their first house last summer. She's also the operations manager for the Athena Film Festival, at Barnard College. Last year **Carrie Mathers-Suter Robbins** bought a house in Los Angeles, where she lives with her husband, Hugh. **Cecilia “Cecy” Ramirez** has had a successful year running her own event-planning company in New York City and says she'd love to catch up with any local SYAers. **Kate Hitzhusen Berry** got married in July and her host mom, Maria Jose, and host sister, Sara, came over for the wedding. In August she accepted a position as development manager for Make-A-Wish of Central & Western North Carolina. She loves her role there and has found it to be a fulfilling change. Her husband, Carter, is getting his PhD in biology at Wake Forest University. **Canby Wood** got married in June with **Elina Sarkisova** and me [**Ifeolu Babatunde**] as two of her ladies in waiting. She and her husband are still practicing law in D.C. and moved to Alexandria, Va., in February. They would love to catch up with any local SYAers. **Canby and Elizabeth (Marshall) Leeds** joined me in South Beach for my 30th birthday celebration in January. *Un abrazo, Ife*.

FR'00

Class Correspondent
Susannah Volpe
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Daniel Dozier is back in Paris after being on the campaign trail for President Obama at the convention in Charlotte in September 2012. With an office on the Champs-Élysées, Daniel has launched his public relations firm, Cinq and Co. (www.cinqandco.com). He specializes in assisting French creative companies with international communications via social media, bridging his experience with international public relations and technology to the French private sector. Daniel is now splitting his time among Paris, Brittany, and D.C., where he's recently joined the board of directors for the international nonprofit Advocates for Youth (www.advocatesforyouth.org). In the small-world category, Daniel met **Ana Christina Boksay FR '97**, sister of **Endre Boksay**, through a mutual friend. Together they traveled to Rennes to visit their respective host families. Turn to page 21 to read the article on Beppe Lovoi.

CN'01

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Clay Pell married Michelle Kwan on January 19 in Providence. Clay Pell married Michelle Kwan on January 19 in Providence. Clay was recently named deputy assistant secretary for the office of International and Foreign Language Education and former Olympian skater Michelle is at the State Department. (Read more about Clay on page 20.) **Julia Ruedig** is a combined MBA candidate at Ross School of Business and MS candidate at the Erb Institute Program, both at the University of Michigan.

ES'01

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FR'01

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At a recent talk at the ICA in Boston are Director of Alumni Relations Susan McLean, Jason Wu FR'01 and Director of Development Katie Kozin.

CN'02

Class Correspondent
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Drew Stock graduated from the Copenhagen Institute for Interactive Design. He and his fiancée, Bronwyn Stippa, plan to marry in June.

ES'02

Class Correspondent
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¡Hola amigos! **Michael Park** is completing his master of management degree in clinical informatics at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, where he works with Dr. Amy Abernethy to develop what he calls a “rapid learning health system.” Their goal is to provide doctors with analytics to extract knowledge on a real-time basis from aggregated data from their patient interactions. **Alisa Gragert** writes that she's still in Argentina pursuing “a simpler, more hands-to-the-earth lifestyle.” She makes yogurt from fresh goat milk, tends to the garden, rides her bike, sings, and barters. Three years ago, **Julia Anderson** moved to San Francisco, where she's reconnected with **Melissa Vickery**. Julia recently applied for graduate programs in international relations and will decide which to attend later this year. In August 2012, **Katie Dalton** married Rob Rose in Vermont. They both teach at Stratton Mountain School and look forward to visiting Zaragoza soon. **Kristen Ardani** left Washington, D.C., and now lives in Boulder, where she continues working with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. **Gabby Berger** wed Nick Sainati on June 12, 2011, at the Art Institute of Chicago. Since 2011, they've been earning their MBAs at the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. They are currently spending a quarter studying in Hong Kong. After graduation in June, Gabby will begin working in corporate strategy for Nordstrom at its headquarters in Seattle.

FR'02

Class Correspondent
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Natalie Archibald writes, “I'm working at the *New York Times* in advertising sales. I finished my master's in French literature from Hunter College in New York.” Read the article on page 22 about **Rob Streicker**.

IT'02

Class Correspondents

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In late February, former faculty member **Joe Reiter** visited SYA Italy and was able to see how the program has grown since the 2001–2002 school year. His visit coincided with one of the country's historic moment: the first time there was no pope and no government.

CN'03



10th REUNION

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ES'03



10th REUNION

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10th REUNION

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IT'03



10th REUNION

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Nora Superfine teaches first grade in a dual immersion school in Oakland, and is finishing her master's in urban education and social justice. **Jackie Bergen**, recently engaged and promoted to captain in the US Marines, will be moving to Richmond, where in the fall she'll start a master's program in elementary education. Also in Richmond is **Alexa Siroy**, who is a cardiac nurse at the V.A. hospital there. Down in Miami is **Palmer Heenan**, an assistant public defender. **Catherine Cooke Benvie**, still in D.C., works in policy development for Child Nutri-

tion Programs at the USDA while completing a master's in social work. **Pavle Milekic** works for the IFC in Russia and recently ran into **Richard Hagerty** on the streets of Brazil. Having recently finished her master's in international development and global health, **Alyssa Panning** is in Kampala, Uganda, working on family planning at a nonprofit. She returns to the States this summer to get married. **Abigail Reibman** is in the third year of her PhD at the University of Edinburgh, focusing on food and identity in southern Italy during the fourth to second centuries BCE. **David Stifler** just earned his master's in ancient history at Florida State and is waiting to hear back from PhD programs. **Tori Bush** lives in New Orleans and works for New Orleans Airlift, developing funding and international policy. **Spike McCue**, with a master's in interactive technology, is a user experience designer in New York. **Helen Cespedes** is just about to graduate from Juilliard's drama division. **Zoe Mindell** works for a rare-book dealer in Philadelphia and was recently elected an associate member of the Anti-quarian Booksellers Association of America. **Foster Itter** teaches preschool at an international school in Baku, Azerbaijan. **Annie Myers** lives and works in Vermont, running the harvest crew on a four-season organic-vegetable farm. **Tristan Shepherd** is a composer/experimental musician/installation artist in Brooklyn. **Alex Schechter** is a travel writer, writing travel guides and blogs and reviewing hotels. He recently visited **Jaye Spangler**, who is a Montessori school teacher in Poland. **Olivia Spradlin** works for the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program in Lexington, KY. **Maggie Bordonaro** is finishing her master's in art history at NYU's IFA, concentrating on 15th-century Italian paintings. **Jenny Wasson** is also in New York, in her fourth year of her PhD at Columbia in classics. As for me I [**Dylan Rogers**] am in my fifth year at UVA in classical archaeology and am in the middle of my dissertation, which is on Roman water-displays. Next year, I'll be a member of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens.

CN'04

Class Correspondents

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Our 10-year reunion is only 400 (or so) days away! We'll be sending out polls for a date and time soon; get excited! Our classmates have been busy and many congratulations are in order

for new jobs, new companies and new families! **Machada Smith** lives in New York City and is as an education and advocacy specialist for Stony Brook Children's Hospital. She's doing just about everything to keep its programs running. Congrats on her engagement, and we can't wait to see wedding pictures with two of her bridesmaids, **Brandie Mask** and **Laurie Richards**. After finishing her Romanian Peace Corps stint, **Juli Johnson** is getting the coolest degree ever, in war and psychiatry, from King's College London. **Reuven Shapiro** founded Spectem Technologies, a financial software company that focuses on prediction engines for trading in global financial markets. **Suzie McLellan** started a new job this fall as a drama and English teacher at a school in Lexington, Mass. Congratulations to **Drew Soaring-Eagle Strellis** as well; he heard wedding bells this last August. Go say hi next time you're in Chicago. **Megan Fishman Jeffrey** will be short on sleep soon, as she and her husband have their first baby on the way (due in June). They've bought a beautiful house outside of Baltimore, and Megan still works at the Peabody Institute in International Programs. With her *libai* Chinese, **Rachel Vandenberg** is having no trouble working for Radio Free Asia in its Chinese newsroom. As for your lowly class correspondent, I [**Jenny Wanger**] continue to plan the National Charter Schools Conference, and next year will be headed to MIT Sloan for my MBA.

ES'04

Class Correspondents

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

Sofia Warner writes, "I'm in my first year of medical school at Harvard. Last summer, before starting, I spent a few weeks in Spain. I saw **Marta Escartin**, **Griffin Morse** and **Angeles Errazu** at the new school, which is gorgeous, and stayed with my host family. My parents and I also did the Camino on road bikes with friends of friends from Bilbao — it was a great trip." **Cat Coombes** decided, after three years of working in art museums and galleries, that she didn't want a career in art history. She returned to Rice University in pre-med in May 2012. **Maria Lokke** lives in Brooklyn and is a photo editor at *The New Yorker*. **Thomas**

Gaffney is in his second semester at NYU's Leonard N. Stern School of Business and plans to graduate in 2014. He's still ballroom dancing. **William Faulkner** is working for a small private research company in São Paulo on a one-year contract, but is thinking about trying to extend it until after the World Cup. Long-term plans may include a PhD. He writes, "If you know of anyone in southern Brazil before November (and maybe after), let me know." **Ryan Tyler Sadwith** recently moved from Baltimore to San Francisco. He's working for the US Department of Health and Human Services implementing the Affordable Care Act. After a six-year hiatus, he's resuming capoeira. He writes, "Hit me up if you're ever in the Bay Area. ¡Echale!" **Halley Caldwell** lives in Hong Kong and works at a global technology fund. Outside of work, she's hiking, boating, biking and traveling around Asia. In New York City, **Laura Wasserson** recently launched a jewelry brand called WXYZ Jewelry (www.wxyzjewelry.com), and loves it. She designs and produces the collection at her studio in Brooklyn. Laura recently bumped into **Georgina Blackett** in Brooklyn (after a year ago bumping into her in San Francisco!), reconnected with **Jenai St. Hill** at a high school gathering during Thanksgiving in Philadelphia, and is awaiting her next visit with **Yessenia Vargas** after a recent dinner together in Providence. Georgina lives in San Francisco and teaches first grade at a Spanish immersion school (which she says makes her think about SYA often). Although she loves the Bay Area, she's contemplating a move back home to New York for the near future. **Shannah Hampton** will be starting a rigorous, 14-month bachelor of science in nursing program at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. She can't wait to be a registered nurse and to wear scrubs. **Will Van Heuvelen** is baking bread for a small artisan bakery, Hungry Ghost Bread, in Northampton, Mass. He would love to see some SYA folks up his way. **Rachel Nimmons Sanatoria** graduated from Brandeis in 2009. She lives in Chicago with her husband, Gonzalo, and works at PepsiCo. As for me [**Sally Stuart**], I live in Charlottesville, VA, and am in my first year at the Darden Graduate School of Business. ¡Besos!

FR'04

Class Correspondent

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IT'04

Class Correspondents

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

Clara Shea got married in September 2012; **Judy Barr** and **Annie Lewine** served as bridesmaids. Clara also tells us that Judy became engaged in February and the proposal involved a Roman numeral/Latin cryptogram and an Etruscan-inspired ring. Judy had to decode the Roman numerals, which revealed themselves to be a poem that Mike, her fiancé, had had translated into Latin, which she then had to translate back into English. **Anna Tsui** spent almost three years in Beijing, where she founded a health start-up called Wokaishi. Now she's back in Beantown. **Erin Coleman** is engaged to a fellow Georgetown alum; their wedding is planned for August in Boston. She'll also be graduating from Georgetown's communication, culture and technology program. **Martha Wingfield** writes, "I'm getting married this June at my parents' farm in Hanover, VA., and moving back before the wedding." Martha and her fiancé have been teaching science at a school in Idyllwild, Calif., for the past two years. **Alison Mattox** writes, "I'm a ninth-grade language-arts teacher in part because of the influence of my SYA teachers and in part because of my desire to be an SYA teacher some day!" **Elisa Prosperetti** has been traveling in Brazil and Argentina. She's applying to history PhD programs in the Northeast. We also know that **Ned Henningsen** is working for SYA out of the home office, as an assistant director of admissions. He's recruiting students for SYA Italy! Ned will be heading back to Viterbo in mid-June to mix work with pleasure. *Non vede l'ora di mangiare al Monastero e alla spaghetteria. E probabilmente andra' al best pub in town.* I [**Beth Woods**] am going on year four of living in north-eastern coastal Maine (think rural) working at a small nonprofit that focuses on education and access to social services for the migrant farm-worker and Latino populations in our area. Still loving the farm food and outdoor playground Maine has to offer. I welcome any and all visitors. That means you! *A presto.*

CN'05

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Class Agent

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Maximilian Dunn (finally) left China in 2009, and is back in the States studying for his master's in economics and China studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He's looking for summer work and waiting to hear back from the Federal Reserve, the US Treasury and JPMorgan Chase. He graduates in December. **Chloe Mae Loop** works in Chicago for Nokia and is a product marketer for Asia Pacific maps, traveling to Singapore for the job. During her free time, she volunteers in Chintown teaching English to the elderly. She says she feels lucky to continue pursuing her passion at a professional level: she dances with Latin Rhythms Dance Company, performing at Chicago Bulls games, and will be performing in Atlanta in April. If she travels through your area, she'd love to reconnect. **Alden Gatt** graduated in 2010 from the Eastman School of Music, where he studied piano with Professor Barry Snyder. He lives in New York City and performs frequently as a soloist and collaborator. Alden is the music director and assistant conductor for the New York Opera Exchange, teaches piano privately and works extensively with opera singers as coach and accompanist. He'll be going to Italy this summer to play for an opera festival, and to Salzburg to study solo piano at the Mozarteum Academy.

ES'05

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FR'05

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Allison Silverstein

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Allison Silverstein recently spent time in Tanzania working as a Volunteer Consultant for TechnoServe focusing on 'business solutions to poverty'. The program allows professionals with a financial services or management strategy consulting background to work with the organization on projects lasting three months to a year. By imparting critical skills and knowledge, consultants like Allison will help entrepreneurial men and women capitalize on business opportunities. Part of her project includes working on The Connected Farmer Alliance, developing mobile technology solutions that hold potential to unlock agriculture market opportunities and to increase income and food security for over 500,000 smallholder farmers in Tanzania, Kenya, and Mozambique.

IT'05

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Anna Barden left Christie's Antiquities Department to join the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. **Taylor Buono** recently returned to the D.C. area after six months working in Qatar. She says she's happy to be home but misses the warm sun. **Gabi D'Addario** was an assistant director of admissions for SYA from 2010 to 2012 and was responsible for the enrollment of SYA Italy. She really enjoyed the job, and while she was there, SYA Italy enrolled more students than ever before. This fall she moved into a house in Santa Monica with four of her best friends from summer camp (keep an eye out for their sitcom, coming soon), and in November she began working on the media partnerships team for Google+. The weather there, predictably, is unbeatable, and now she and I [**Kai**

Paine] are within an hour's flight of each other. **Sean Horan** will be moving to Cura di Vetralla (about 15 minutes from Viterbo), where he lived and commuted during his SYA. He's bought a home with some land and will be living there to complete his dissertation research. **Alex Kubal** has moved back to the San Francisco and is working at the start-up Man Crates. **Melissa Nozell** and **Merritt Moore** caught up over lunches and study breaks during spring 2012, when they found themselves overlapping for a semester in Cambridge, Mass. They were reunited with **George Karandinos** one evening when he was in Boston.

CN'06

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Morgen Chang and her two sisters visited **Berta Gonzalez de March** in Barcelona this past January, part of their tour through Europe. They strolled around Poblenou and had the chance to enjoy some *pa amb tomaquet* and great wines of the region. **Doug Proctor** graduated from Georgetown last spring and is working on climate finance at the World Bank in D.C. After graduating from Georgetown, **Jess Seok** moved to California to do research at Stanford Law School. She instantly fell in love with the Bay area and plans to stay next year, doing consulting. Over Christmas break, Jess visited Beijing and briefly saw **Wilson Hailey** and **Stone Yu**. She also saw **Zander Pease** and **Ryan McMorro** while they were in San Francisco and has lunch with **Mark Frykman** from time to time. She'd love to connect with other SYA China alums in the area — feel free to send Jess a note at h.jess.seok@gmail.com. **Nathan Beauchamp-Mustafaga** is a master's candidate at the London School of Economics (LSE) completing the second year of his LSE-PKU dual-degree master's in the international affairs program with Peking University. After graduating from George Washington University in 2011, with a bachelor's degree in international affairs and Chinese language and literature, Nathan attended Peking University last year for his first master's, focusing on Chinese foreign policy and specifically China-North Korea relations. He will complete his second Master's at LSE late this summer while

interning for The International Institute for Strategic Studies. He is also co-authoring two book chapters on China-Korea relations and attending several academic conferences this summer.

ES'06

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Colby Mills spent last summer as an intern with Mercy Corps but took time out to rendezvous with her Italian family during a trip to Disney World.

CN'07

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Can you volunteer to be your class agent? Contact Susan McLean at smclean@sya.org.

Elias Kohn writes, "I graduated from USC and worked in Santa Fe for a permaculture design company focusing on rainwater catchment and land restoration. I moved back to Pennsylvania and am applying for law schools and interning at a public interest law center."

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Anna Hinck graduated magna cum laude from Hobart & William Smith College last May. She's working at Whitney Partners, in New York City. **Chavi Moskowitz** writes, "Finally turned in my thesis for my master's in global communications from The American University of Paris. I've lived in Tel Aviv since the end of last summer and work at the *Jerusalem Post*. I'll head back to Rome for June, and will most certainly be visiting

Viterbo. Spending the rest of the summer studying Yiddish in Poland and Lithuania before moving back to New York, after almost eight years abroad." **Alison Rittershaus** writes, "I'm in my first year in the University of Michigan's PhD program in classical art and archaeology and love it. I'll be back in Italy this summer working at the archaeological excavations of the Gabii Project for the third time and then creating an open-air walking tour of the Roman material culture built into exterior walls of a small town in southern Italy. As always, I'll be visiting my old host family in Viterbo for a few days, and I think often of my first archaeological field trips to Vulci and Cerveteri back when we were all together. They mean more to me now than ever. I think I owe **Ms. Mazurek** a huge thank-you." **Kiki Fox** writes, "I'm pursuing my master's in classical archaeology at Oxford University." **Melissa Schwenk** writes, "I graduated last May and moved to Evansville, Ind., where I work as a process engineer."

CN'08

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

Nico Barragán has been selected to become a pilot in the US Air Force. In May he'll be commissioned as a second lieutenant and travel to Laughlin Air Force Base, in Texas, for undergraduate pilot training.

FR'08

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Josie-Dee Seagren writes, "I was back again in China this year for six months in Shanghai, and visited SYA at Erfuzhong."



From left: ES'09 classmates at the SYA in NYC reception at Michael's included Tim Antrim-Cashin, Alex Anapol, Sophie Domanski, friend Daniel Borowski, Carolyn Balk, Lianne Ramos and Zak Martellucci.



Enjoying a night in NYC are ES'09 classmates (from back, left) Alex Anapol, Tim Antrim-Cashin, Carolyn Balk, Sophie Domanski, John Garett Stoker, Catherine Corbett, Lianne Ramos, (from front, left) Mike Sherman, Joey Bahng, and Uly Bissell.

ES'09

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In December 2012, **John Garett Stoker**, **Joey Bahng**, **Carolyn Balk**, **Catherine Corbett**, **Tim Antrim-Cashin**, **Mike Sherman**, **Alex Anapol**, **Sophie Domanski**, **Lianne Ramos**, and **Uly Bissell** got together to catch up over Indian food. In January 2013, **Alex Anapol**, **Lianne**, **Sophie**, **Carolyn**, **Tim**, and **Zak Martellucci** attended the SYA reception at Michael's Restaurant. **Will Robson** has been living in Buenos Aires for the past two years as he attends Universidad de Buenos Aires studying history. In fall 2012, **Ellie Stone** and **Collier Searle** studied abroad in Buenos Aires as well. **Hannah Bardo** was close by in Salvador, Brazil, where she improved her *capoeira* dancing, a hobby she began in Zaragoza. This semester she's studying in Rio de Janeiro. **Sophia Bernazzani** is excited to see Hannah back at George Washington University next year. Sophia works in government affairs and public policy at an anti-smoking foundation. Also in D.C.,

Raphaella Baek, at Georgetown University, is interning at the Under Secretary's office at the International Trade Administration. **Sophie D.** is studying at the University of Edinburgh this spring, and will return to work at the University of Pennsylvania Infant Language Center studying language acquisition in babies. **Catherine**, studying in Bordeaux, and **Erin Kavanagh**, studying in London, along with **Sophie D.** met up in Oslo in March. **Lucie Read** studied in Barcelona this past fall, and returned to Zaragoza to visit her host family. **Charlie Nesler** is studying at the University of Vienna this semester and still plays flamenco guitar. He's also a volunteer EMT-B in Minnesota, Montana, and Illinois. **Lianne** spent the 2012–2013 academic year in Jordan, at both the University of Jordan, where she lived with a host family, and the Jordan Institute of Diplomacy. **Laura Perea** is learning Arabic at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem to further her studies about identity, nationalism and ethnic tension in the region. **Laura** and **Lianne** have met up multiple times in Amman, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. **Pesha Magid** studies Arabic in Egypt while teaching English. Last year, she worked at a newspaper in Tunis called *Tunisia Live*, covering the constitutional process. **Zak** just returned from studying sustainable development abroad in Costa Rica and major in environmental studies at NYU. Also at NYU, I [Joey] went to Thailand last summer to study shrimp aquaculture. I [Carolyn] just returned from Cuba with NYU, where I studied the embargo and its effect on Cuban society and policies, and **Maddie Szkobel-Wolff** was headed to Cuba in March to study farming sustainability. **Paige Garrett** spent part of spring

2012 in Australia studying its environmental initiatives. **Kristian Moore** studies ecology and conservation at UVM, working at a tree nursery, and writes, "*Todavía hablo como un maño en mis clases de español.*" **Drew Zieff**, who recently returned from five months in Central America studying social justice, proudly still has the lisp he cultivated in Zaz. **Tim** is fundraising to install a rock-climbing wall at Bucknell University, where he's a junior majoring in English. **Katherine Steinman** is double majoring at the University of Miami in Latin American studies and fine art, and after mastering Spanish is studying Portuguese. **Ellie** is a junior at Skidmore College majoring in Spanish and art history with a studio-art minor concentrating in photography, painting and fiber arts. **Zubin Sharma**, while taking a semester off from UPenn, founded the nonprofit S.E.E.K.H.O. to revitalize village education in Bihar, India. *Seekho* means "learn" in Hindi and the acronym stands for Sustainability, Empathy, Empowerment, Knowledge, Hope and Ownership. He plans to return to India this summer, during which time he will help S.E.E.K.H.O. expand and scale up. Also this summer, **Carolyn** is headed to Cambodia with a \$5,000 Human Rights Fellowship grant from NYU to work on sustainable drinking-water initiatives in villages outside of Siem Reap. **Vicky Torres-Vega**, who will be attending Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, will be working in Guatemala this summer advocating for the human rights of undocumented workers. **Korey Morgan** hopes to teach English in South Korea or Japan next year with either the JET or the Fulbright program. He recently returned from an intersession trip to

Japan, which he said was "an awesome experience reminiscent of my SYA days." **Ricky Davila** has been working for several film-production companies in Hollywood, and was the actor Bradley Cooper's assistant. He's also worked for the producers of the *Twilight* series. He's now in the process of leveraging his film contacts to create a media start-up that will focus on emulating East Asian video technologies to change the way American fans interact with music. **Ethan Webman** is back at NYU studying and starting a production company after taking a leave of absence last semester to produce a couple of comedic Web series in Los Angeles; take a look at "JewDate — Web Series" on Facebook to check out his most recent project.

FR'09

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

Allen Rowe writes, "I'm teaching English in Martinique through the TAPIF program for the 2012–13 school year."

IN'09

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

IT'09

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CN'10

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I [**Amanda Bennett**] am studying at the University of Chicago and on a bachata team that performs locally and internationally. I teach bachata and salsa at the university. I'm writing my thesis on the historiography of Islamic monuments in Spain. **Karina Altamirano** is a sophomore at New York University at Gallatin studying international business, international relations and Chinese. Currently studying in Spain at NYU Madrid, she hopes to study in London in the fall and Shanghai next spring. She says she loves studying languages and traveling as much as possible. I [**Heather Clagett**] still run track for The College of William and Mary. **Danielle Heinlein** attends USC and majors in international relations, with a minor in Spanish and business law. She's made the dean's list every semester. She interns at a law firm in downtown Los Angeles and hopes to spend a semester in Santiago, Chile, next spring. **Jordan Kaneshige** is at university in Tokyo. **Mary Lachapelle** lives in New Orleans and attends Tulane University, majoring in philosophy and digital-media productions. She was accepted for an internship through the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival in May. She plans to attend graduate film school. **David Mayer** is studying at the University of Richmond, is in the Army ROTC, is a member of Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity and is an RA. He interned last semester on Capitol Hill. He'll be spending a semester in the fall "studying abroad," as he puts it, at American University while working for the government. Next year he commissions as an officer and starts his MOS training, probably in combat engineering. I [**Abigail Nover**] am majoring in sound design at Carnegie Mellon University School of Drama. **Jenny Pulver** is studying communications and applied economics and management at Cornell University. She may be going to Berlin next spring. **Jessie Serrino** has applied to study in Madrid through Tufts for next semester, and got an internship with Microsoft in Boston for the summer. I

[**Raquel Stratton**] am a sophomore public health premed major at Johns Hopkins University. I'll be studying in Argentina and Chile next year and will likely attend the World Cup in Rio. **Sasha Ward** transferred to the University of Virginia. This spring she's going on a trip with the JDC to the Ukraine to help Jewish teens fix up a community center outside of Kiev, and this summer she's doing an international-reporting and foreign-correspondence program in Istanbul. **Jazzmyne Washington** is still studying economics at MIT and will be interning this summer as a business analyst for Target in Minneapolis. **Luke Lorentzen** is at Stanford majoring in film studies. Last summer he worked with award-winning filmmakers Carlos Sandoval and Catherine Tambini on a feature documentary entitled *The State of Arizona*. He works for Dogpatch Films, a documentary production company based in San Francisco. He spent two weeks in January in Patagonia, Chile, filming a documentary about the community and preservation of the Futaleufú River. Now he's working on a documentary about Santa Cruz del Isote, where he's exploring the traditions and culture of this tiny Colombian island's densely populated, tight-knit community.

FR'10

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Libby Chick completed a marketing internship in Paris last summer and is an officer in the Panther Belly Dancers group. **Melissa Shohet** took last semester off to work on the Obama campaign in New Hampshire. **Courtney Gill** is picking up a British accent at Cambridge University, and will be a volunteer teacher at a farm school in Thailand during the summer. **Sophie Burnham** is pursuing a bachelor's in acting at Syracuse University. **Caroline Yost** joined a sorority, and says she's never been happier. **Sola Elkallassi** will be interning with Partners in Healthcare in Boston this summer. **Katherine Mullaney** transferred to Brown after studying in Edinburgh last summer. **Julien Moreau-Giroux** is specializing in medical microbiology at the University

of New Hampshire and will probably be doing research at Dartmouth College. I [**Alice Ng**] will return to France to spend another junior year abroad studying in Paris. I [**Madeline Fuhrman**] continue to record music; my latest single, "Something Beautiful," was the cover video for *Nylon* magazine's online page in March. In addition to launching her apparel brand, Madison Maxey, **Maddy Maxey** was a Thiel Fellowship finalist and works in the tech industry in New York City, where she interns at Enstitute. Her entrepreneurial spirit has led her to head yet another company, Meld (www.meld.me), which is scheduled to launch in 2014. Meld is a software technology that will computerize up to 80 percent of garment manufacturing.

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Oskar Singer accepted an internship in Chinese and English text analytics with a software company called Lexalytics.

BOSTON

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Katya Handler writes, "Having an awesome time at George Washington University, majoring in economics and minors in mathematics and systems engineering. Visited **Katie Cohen** at Dartmouth." Katie writes, "I'm in my first year at Dartmouth and plan to major in government and economics with a minor in Russian. I'm thrilled to be spending this summer in St. Petersburg on a study-abroad program. **Chanel Branch** writes, "I just transferred to the University of South Car-

olina as a chemical engineering major."

I [**Taylor Spratt**] am taking a year off before school. I've been working and traveling. Just finished Baha'i religious pilgrimage in Haifa, so I've been traveling in Jordan and Israel. Soon I'll move to Buenos Aires to nanny for a few months." **Lisa White** is studying public health and Spanish translation at American University. Next school year she'll be studying in Thailand and Denmark. **Nick Richard** writes, "Last semester I took Portuguese, which was thrilling, and now I'm struggling with an existential crisis of whether to stick with my psych major." **Nina Poole** spends most of her time drawing and taking photographs outdoors, surrounded by nature. "I think North Carolina is where I belong," she writes. **Hannah Smith** is at Bard College. She writes, "I'm living it up in the snow. I spent last semester in Berlin with a school Bard owns; it was really awesome: like SYA but instead of kids from all over the country speaking Spanish, it was people from all over the world speaking English and learning philosophy. I loved it! I haven't declared a major but am taking bio, linguistic anthropology and Latin American literature." **Maxi Holtzman** is living the Cali dream. **Lizzie Hartson** writes, "I'm on the premed

track, doing great at Trinity. I'm involved with the Prowlers dance team on campus and I'm thinking about rushing next semester." **Phil Wilkinson** writes, "I love Yale more than I could have hoped. I joined The Yale Spizzwinks(?), an all-male capella group. This year we're touring California, Oregon, Ohio, New York, Florida, the Bahamas, Thailand, China and Burma. Last week I found out I received one of Yale's Light Fellowships for intensive language study in East Asia. Starting in mid-May, I'll live in Beijing fully funded for seven months studying Mandarin Chinese. Every chance I get, I grab meals with the Spanish students here at Yale to practice my Castellano. Last summer I returned to Zaragoza to visit my host family, Los Baselga; my friends; and my teachers. I miss all my SYA friends and teachers deeply and hope to see them again soon." **Victoria Pearson** writes, "I attend the United States Military Academy at West Point. I'm planning to declare kinesiology as my major. I'm on the racquetball team and a manager for our women's volleyball team. I'm also a member of the international medical fraternity Phi Delta Epsilon, Kappa Chapter. We're a group of med school hopefuls working with past and current med school students

to help us through the process. In addition, I'm part of the National Society of Black Engineers." **Fiona Nugent** writes, "I love the SoCal life as a first-year at Pitzer College. I'm an intended double-major in psychology and Spanish. This summer I have tentative plans to work at the World Bank and to intern at a Spanish publication in Madrid." **Jackie McLenaghan** writes, "Focusing on school; applied to Shanghai University of Finance and Economics for a semester and taking Mandarin classes right now." **Porter Hahn** writes, "I just finished applying to return to Spain in the fall to study international business in Madrid. This summer I'll be volunteering at a camp that sends chronically ill children to camp." **Holden Jaffe** writes, "Living in New York, playing music with a new band. It's awfully cold here. Still mingling with 'Jacobo' [**Jacob Ole-shansky**] once in a while. Still have the Pilar bracelet." **Dixy Yong** writes, "I'm doing lots of good southern things: preparing for Kappa Delta rush; working at a gastro-pub, South of Beale, which was just on Food Network's *Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives*; and watching lots of Grizzlies basketball." **Marjorie Addonizio** writes, "I'm studying hard. Premed is no joke. I'm hoping I can study next semester in

Brazil." I [**Angelica Mercado**] am at George Washington studying international affairs, and am considering doing study abroad again, either back in Spain or in St. Petersburg. I was taking Russian here, which was quite possibly the craziest thing I've ever done within US borders, and next year I'm going to take it up again and try Portuguese as well. **Eliza Kellman** writes, "I'm at Vassar having an amazing time. I'm thinking about studying linguistics, which is an independent major. I miss everyone from SYA." **Mark Hensel** writes, "I'm keeping busy with school (majors in biology and psychology), research at UNC's Kidney Center, and lots of clubs around campus." **Caroline Cadieux** writes, "I'm almost halfway done at the University of Vermont and can't figure out where the time's gone. I love it here and I adore Burlington. I'm moving to my own place in a few months and couldn't be more excited about it. I study public communication and minor in Spanish and applied design. Last summer I interned at the fashion house of Oscar de la Renta in New York City and loved the experience but hated the job. It redirected me and now I'm doing PR at a music studio called Signal Kitchen in Burlington (check us out and follow us on Instagram and Facebook) and am running its social media. Writing this has made me realize I absolutely need a *tortilla española*. Much love to everyone and best wishes." **Pierre Royce** writes, "I'm living it up in Boston, about to do a six-month internship in New York City in the music industry. Northeastern University has been a blast so far." **Tuere Lawton** has been studying at Skidmore College, working on her art and finishing the *Tao of Wu*, and has joined a vagabond-found-object percussion instrument band. **Sharika Tharani** writes, "I'm a new member of the Beta Tau chapter of Delta Gamma at the University of Miami. During recruitment, my studying in Spain really helped me stand out that much more and bring something different to our member class, MC '13. Also, I'm getting a new puppy." **Maria Santangelo** writes, "I had a great first semester at George Washington. I love living only two blocks from the White House, as well as the offices of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Studying in D.C. enables me to see my SYA friends fairly often as well. I started studying Chinese this semester, and find the language absolutely fascinating. I hope to study in China for my junior year." **Helen Bourdeaux** writes, "I love Tufts; I couldn't have found a better fit. I hope to find an internship this summer in Boston and see some SYAers too." I [**Sophia Can-**

tizano] am studying at the University of Virginia and will be working at a D.C. restaurant, Open City, over the summer. Before I return to Washington, though, I'll be going to Argentina for three weeks to work on some of the vineyards in Mendoza. **Shawneice Floyd** writes, "I was recently elected joint board senator representing my residential cluster in the student government association here at Grinnell College. I'll be returning to Spain this summer working as an international camp counselor with the Leaders for Youth program." I [**Ngoc Nguyen**] am having a great time in Georgetown and am very excited to return to Spain for a semester in Madrid. I'm taking Mandarin classes and was accepted to a six-month program in Shanghai for 2014. Planning a trip around Southeast Asia for May and June. Anyone interested?

FR'11

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Emilie Trehu writes, "I'm studying art history and classics at St. Andrews in Scotland." **Shannon Young** writes, "I'm studying at Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and am pledging

Kappa Kappa Gamma. I'm also going on a British Isles study-abroad program next fall." **Ava Hoffman** decided to defer going to college and take a gap year through Global Citizen Year. Since September, she's been in the state of Bahia, Brazil. She's been living with a host family, learning Portuguese and doing volunteer work with a local NGO in line with economic and professional development for youth. Ava will return to the United States in April and in the fall will be joining the class of 2017 at Princeton, where she plans to study international relations as a part of its Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

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In Memoriam

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Juan M. Piedra ES'76
Carla L. Stenzel FR'89
Donald M. Suggs, Jr. FR'79
Carl Williams FR'77F FR'87F
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— Matt Lemieux CN'00”



Matt Lemieux CN'00 and Dr. Jiafang Xie with their daughter Hannah



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